

# 9.8 BILLION

The profit made each year in the US from human trafficking.

# 100,000+

The estimated number of children being trafficked each year.

# 12 YEARS

The average age of entry into the commercial sex industry.

# 7 YEARS

The average life expectancy of a girl once she's forced into the sex industry.

# 2-3 HOURS

The amount of time it takes for a homeless teen to be approached by an exploiter.



## CHILDREN AT RISK

The commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) can happen anywhere. Children at risk for recruitment into the commercial sex industry include children who:

- \*Walk to school or to the store alone
- \*Own or have access to a computer
- \*Are attracted to consumer goods
- \*Want more independence
- \*Like to test boundaries and take risks
- \*Have a desire to develop romantic relationships
- \*Feel misunderstood
- \*Fight with their parents
- \*Feel ignored by their parents
- \*Sometimes feel insecure

Nearly every child between 10 and 17 exhibit these risk factors, but that's the point- **all children are at risk for recruitment into CSEC.** Children can be recruited by family members, through violence or kidnapping, online enticement, false advertisements for modeling, or even be recruited by their own friends at school.



## LANGUAGE IS POWERFUL.

When you hear the term "child prostitute," what image comes to mind? Maybe a young "Lolita" with fishnet stockings dressed provocatively- maybe she's a runaway with substance abuse issues and family problems. The image that doesn't come to mind is that of a young girl from your neighborhood that received a Facebook friend request from a stranger who offered her gifts and told her how beautiful she is.

Both of these girls are victims of commercial sexual exploitation, and to use any other terminology diminishes the amount of coercion, trauma and lack of volition that these children experience during their victimization. Current laws recognize that **any person under the age of 18 involved in the sex industry is a VICTIM of commercial sexual exploitation.** Given that the typical age of entry into the sex industry is 12 years old, most older adults in the sex industry were likely child victims, too.

## IDENTIFYING CSEC VICTIMS

It is crucial for those professionals who work closely with children to learn the signs that a child may be a victim of commercial sexual exploitation. Educators, law enforcement, nurses, and other human service professionals are the front line of response to identify potential victims or even changes in behavior that may put a child at risk. Possible warning signs of commercial sexual exploitation include:

- \*Visible signs of abuse
- \*Exhibits fear, depression or nervousness
- \*Unexcused absences, tardiness, or a history of disappearing for blocks of time
- \*Expression of interest in or has a history of romantic relationships with adults or older men
- \*Repeated phone calls or other controlling/dominating behavior from significant other
- \*Possession of expensive clothing, jewelry or gadgets, or costly hair and manicure procedures
- \*Possession of a cell phone that parents/guardian did not provide
- \*Lack of identification, unwillingness to give personal information, or personal information that changes
- \*History of sexually transmitted infections
- \*Paranoia/hyper-vigilant behavior
- \*Refusal to make eye contact

**IF YOU SUSPECT THAT A CHILD IS A VICTIM OF CSEC, PLEASE CONTACT LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT, THE WI DIVISION OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION, OR THE POLARIS PROJECT NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE AT 1-888-373-7888.**



## CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING

or the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC), has always been around. With increases in technology and social media, exploiters have new avenues for reaching potential victims and customers. Victims of CSEC are sold to others on the promise that they are at the buyer's disposal to perform sexual acts or nude dances, pose for child exploitation material, and other exploitative sexual activities. The commercial sexual exploitation of children is a form of violence against children, and soliciting sex from a minor is both a state and federal criminal offense.

Current statutes in Wisconsin include 948.051, Trafficking of A Child. Violation of this statute is a Class C felony, and perpetrators may get a \$100,000 fine, 25 years in prison, or both.

Federal statutes include 18 U.S.C. § 1591, Sex Trafficking of Children or by Force, Fraud, or Coercion; the punishment for this statute is a minimum of 15 years in prison.

## REQUEST TRAINING

WI ICAC offers training on the commercial sexual exploitation of children. Trainings highlight victim identification, investigative techniques and current trends in the field. Our trainings take a "train-the-trainer" approach, which allows attendees to take the information back to their communities and educate others on the information that they learned. If you are interested in bringing child sex training to your community, contact the WI ICAC Task Force Commander at 608-266-1671.

*For more information on human trafficking, visit the Polaris Project, a non-governmental and non-profit organization leading the fight against human trafficking.*  
[www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org)

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# WISCONSIN INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN TASK FORCE

CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING



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