

Child Sex Trafficking
Part III
Human trafficking and the LGBTQ population

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Objectives

- Explore the vulnerabilities of LGBTQ youth
- Why LGBTQ trafficking cases are underreported
- Key considerations when working with LGBTQ victims

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The Vulnerability of LGBTQ Youth

- Discrimination and elevated threats of violence
- 73 countries had laws that criminalized based on gender identity
- Family members have ostracized LGBTQ relatives

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The Vulnerability of LGBTQ Youth

- Regularly victimized and bullied
- Have lower self-esteem
- Higher stress, anxiety and depression
- Higher suicide rates

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WHAT IS SEX TRAFFICKING?

Sex trafficking is a form of modern slavery that exists throughout the United States and around the world.



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Sex Trafficking and LGBTQ Youth

- Lack strong support networks
- Facing financial strains
- Experienced violence
- Marginalized by society

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Up to 40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ. Of these:

- 46% ran away because of family rejection
- 7.4 times more likely to experience acts of sexual violence
- 3.7 times more likely to engage in survival sex

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Survival Sex

Survival sex is prostitution engaged in by a person because of their extreme need.

- People who are homeless
- Disadvantaged in society
- Trading sex for basic needs

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LGBTQ Survivor



Ira Baker is a survivor of commercial sexual exploitation

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LGBTQ Survivor



Torri Ramos is a central Florida transgender survivor of commercial sexual exploitation

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Homeless LGBTQ Youth Are Disproportionately Affected By Sex Trafficking

LGBTQ youth are a vulnerable population

- LGBTQ youth are disproportionately affected by sex trafficking
- The system of discrimination is still in place

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How are LGBTQ youth more vulnerable?

- Higher rates of discrimination, violence, and economic instability
- Fewer resources, employment opportunities, or social supports

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Video: His parents abandoned him for being gay. What happens next is all too common.

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How are LGBTQ youth more vulnerable?



Sense of family, protection, or love

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LGBTQ Homeless Youth

- LGBTQ homeless youth are disproportionately affected by human trafficking
- Low number of Hotline reports

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Underreported Trafficking Cases

Why LGBTQ Trafficking Cases Are Underreported

- Fear of Discrimination
- Prejudice
- Violence
- Social Stigma

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Underreported Trafficking Cases

- Fear that their LGBTQ identity may be exposed
- Fear of being discriminated against by service providers

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Underreported Trafficking Cases

Poor Relationships with Law Enforcement



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Types of Trafficking LGBTQ Victims Encounter

- Internet-based Commercial Sex
- Escort/Delivery Service
- Street-based Commercial Sex

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Getting Help

- Stigma surrounding their sexuality or gender identity
- Fear repercussions of reporting
 - Fear of being mistreated
 - Not believed by authorities
 - Arrested for prostitution

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Key considerations when working with LGBTQ victims:

- Victims may not immediately appear to be LGBTQ
- Demonstrate that the task force is LGBTQ-victim friendly
- Identify appropriate services
- Identify peer-to-peer support programs

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How can LGBTQ organizations get involved?

- 1 Join your local trafficking task force or coalition
- 2 Partner with local service providers and law enforcement
- 3 Engage your youth on issues of trafficking and exploitation

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How You Can Help

- 1 Educating others and sharing resources
- 2 Create welcoming, inclusive spaces in the community
- 3 Become an advocate

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How You Can Help



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