



Covenant House



Homelessness, Survival Sex and Human Trafficking: As Experienced by the Youth of Covenant House New York

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****For questions on the use of the trafficking screening tool discussed in this report or anything else related to the substance of the study, please contact study author, Jayne Bigelsen at jbigelsen@covenanthouse.org***

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Introduction

In recent years, the plight of human trafficking victims has received a great deal of attention among legislators, social service providers and the popular press. This attention is overdue, as for years, youth forced to engage in prostitution were at best ignored, but more often were treated with contempt, labeled as prostitutes and charged with crimes. Youth forced into labor servitude were routinely overlooked altogether.

As society begins to learn more about the growing problem of domestic trafficking, some questions remain, including even the most basic question: How many people are currently being victimized by trafficking right here in the U.S.? Answering this question is not an easy task, because victims are often reluctant to come forward and seek help. This reluctance is partly because perpetrators frequently convince their victims that if they attempt to seek help, no one will believe them; instead they will be thought of as criminals or prostitutes. Victims' previous experience with law enforcement often only reinforces that belief. Additionally, a lack of any central system to identify and count victims of trafficking leaves policy makers with inaccurate data on the number of domestic trafficking victims, making it difficult to budget and promote appropriate public policy. In order to prevent trafficking and assist survivors, we must first learn to identify the victims.

At Covenant House New York (CHNY), we have seen firsthand the difficulty in identifying victims. As New York City's largest provider of services for homeless youth ages 16-21, we provide comprehensive care including shelter, food, clothing, counseling, medical and legal assistance, case management, job training and education services to over 3,000 youth each year. And since we opened our doors in 1972, we have always known that traffickers and other exploiters seek out vulnerable youth to recruit and victimize. Yet young people do not arrive at the doors of our shelter stating "Help, I have been trafficked." Instead they say, "Help, I need food and a place to sleep."

Although we were certain that there were large numbers of trafficking survivors among our clients, we were having difficulty identifying them due to the reluctance of young people to disclose their experience. For this reason, we sought out the assistance of the Applied Developmental Psychology Department at Fordham University to help us develop and scientifically validate a screening tool to better identify trafficking victims among our youth. In addition to developing the tool, we hoped to learn more about the type and amount of trafficking our youth have experienced to better inform both our practice and our advocacy. Using the tool we developed, we surveyed a random sample of 174 youth between 18 and 23 years old.

Key Findings¹

- Before they arrived at CHNY, 14.9% of the youth in our random sample experienced some form of trafficking victimization, consistent with the definition under federal law, (TVPA). An additional 8%, all of whom were over the age of 18, engaged in survival sex. This means that approximately one in four of the youth either was a victim of trafficking or had engaged in survival sex at some point in his or her life. CHNY serves over 3,000 youth each year; as a result, it is possible that CHNY annually serves as many as 700 youth that have experienced trafficking or survival sex.
- Of the youth who experienced trafficking, just over a third were designated trafficking victims because they traded sex for something of value involving no apparent coercion prior to age 18. Over a third received the designation because they were victims of compelled sex trafficking, involving force, fraud or coercion, either before or after age 18. Almost 3% of the sampled youth were forced into labor servitude.
- The youth who experienced compelled sex trafficking reported experiences of violence, intimidation and/or gang rape. Four participants in this category reported being kidnapped before being forced into prostitution, and several youth described repeated unsuccessful attempts at escape. The traffickers were often family members, friends of family, or boyfriends who at first pretended to love and care for the homeless youth, but later abused them and forced them into prostitution.
- Shelter was the number one commodity traded in return for sexual activity. Of those who engaged in commercial sex activity, almost half – 48% in total - said they did it because they did not have a place to stay. Participants explained how traffickers loiter in areas where homeless youth are known to gather and then tell them that the shelters are full and offer them a place to stay in lieu of sleeping on the streets.
- Risk factors, in addition to homelessness, include prior childhood sexual abuse, the lack of any caring supportive adult in a youth's life, and the lack of education or any means to earn an income. Pimps and other traffickers specifically look to recruit youth with these risk factors.
- Although there is a significant legal distinction between sex trafficking and survival sex, our results demonstrated a great deal of fluidity between the two. What started initially as survival sex frequently turned into coercive and violent trafficking experiences. Whether it was survival sex or compelled sex trafficking, all youth regretted the experience.
- Four out of four of the transgender participants reported having engaged in commercial sex activity. Two gay male youth and one bisexual/questioning gay male youth reported commercial sex activity, with one instance being a case of compelled sex trafficking. A perceived lack of constructive employment opportunities for the transgender youth led to the belief that commercial sex activity was the only available option.
- Prior studies have found that the initial age of entry into commercial sexual activity is between 12 and 14. However, possibly due to the older age of our participants, 44% of the sampled youth who experienced commercial sex activity traded sex for something of value for the first time when they were over the age of 18. This may be because for many CHNY youth, homelessness occurred only after the age of 18 when they signed themselves out of foster care or were kicked out of a family home.
- The use of our newly developed screening tool was found to be effective in the identification of trafficking victims among homeless youth. We successfully validated the long form of the human trafficking assessment measure (HTIAM-14) developed for this study. However, the results demonstrate that despite the rigors of science and validation, trafficking survivors will only disclose their experiences when he or she is ready to do so and will only disclose them to people they feel comfortable with. We therefore urge caution that if a youth does not answer any of the questions in the affirmative, one cannot be assured that they have not experienced trafficking. Instead, when using the tool for the purposes of identification and service provision, instead of for research, the questions may need to be asked at a different time, and perhaps by a different staff member, once trusting relationships have had a chance to develop.

1 Please refer to the text box on the subsequent page for the definitions of legal and technical terms.

TERMINOLOGY

Human Trafficking: In this report when we refer to human trafficking we are using the definition from the U.S. Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000²:

The term “severe forms of trafficking in persons” means A) sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age or B) the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery.

Commercial Sex Act: This term is also derived from the TVPA of 2000 and is defined as “any sex act on account of which anything of value is given to or received by any person.”

The Interpretation of “Human Trafficking” and “Commercial Sex Act”

Using the above definitions, when we reference the term “human trafficking,” we will be referring to both sex and labor trafficking (unless otherwise specified). In the context of sex trafficking, we include anyone who engaged in a commercial sex act prior to the age of 18 and anyone at any age who engaged in a commercial sex act compelled by the use of force, fraud or coercion. Consistent with the TVPA, labor trafficking requires force, fraud and coercion regardless of the age of the victim.

As the term “sex act” is not defined in the TVPA, we looked to an interpretation provided by the Office of Refugee Resettlement,³ which states that “Victims of trafficking are forced into various forms of commercial sexual exploitation including prostitution, pornography, stripping, live-sex shows, mail-order brides, military prostitution and sex tourism.” We therefore included all of these forms of commercial sexual exploitation in our definition of a sex act.

Survival Sex: Consistent with popular usage, we defined survival sex as involving individuals over the age of 18 who have traded sex acts (including prostitution, stripping, pornography, etc.) to meet the basic needs of survival (*i.e.*, food, shelter, etc.) without the overt force, fraud or coercion of a trafficker, but who felt that their circumstances left little or no other option. Please note that those trading sex acts without the force, fraud or coercion of a trafficker prior to the age of 18 are designated as victims of trafficking in our study, consistent with federal law. However, their experiences will also be discussed in the section on survival sex.

Although “human trafficking” and survival sex are the main terms featured throughout this document, there will be times when we choose to focus on only certain subsets of these populations. For example, “**victims of compelled sex trafficking**” will only include those trafficking victims who have experienced force, fraud and coercion from their trafficker, and will exclude sex trafficking victims who traded sex acts prior to the age of 18 but did not experience force, fraud or coercion, even though they are trafficking victims under the federal definition.

Those who engaged in “**commercial sex activity (CSA)**” (*e.g.*, the trading of a sex act for something of value) will include both sex trafficking victims and those who have engaged in survival sex.

Terms Related to the Study:

Known Victims - Include 11 youth who had previously reported experiences of trafficking prior to the study. These youth were administered the CHNY trafficking questionnaire for pilot and validation purposes and were not included in prevalence statistics. However they were included in statistics related to inducing factors and descriptive experiences.

Random Youth - Include 174 Covenant House youth whose trafficking experiences were unknown prior to the study. These youth are included in all statistics.

2 <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/laws/61124.htm>

3 <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/resource/fact-sheet-sex-trafficking-english>

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OBJECTIVES

There were two primary objectives of this study: 1) develop and scientifically validate an assessment tool that will enable CHNY staff, and potentially other runaway and homeless youth service providers, to better identify victims of trafficking among homeless youth; and 2) gain essential information regarding the trafficking experiences of CHNY youth in order to a) enhance services and practices to better prevent trafficking among homeless youth and assist survivors of trafficking and b) provide empirical data that is lacking in the anti-human trafficking field to inform policy at all levels of government.

METHOD

Development of the Assessment Tool: Questions from previously designed trafficking screening guidelines (including tools designed by the VERA Institute of Justice, the Department of HHS/ Rescue and Restore Campaign, and Covenant House Nine Line) were amended and combined with additional questions in order to create a new assessment tool (Human Trafficking Interview and Assessment Measure/HTIAM-14) designed specifically to assess trafficking victimization among the CHNY population. The tool was then administered to 11 known victims of trafficking who had reported trafficking experiences to case work staff prior to tool administration. These youth provided feedback on the tool, and further revisions were made in response to this feedback.

Research Team: The research team was led by CHNY's Director of Anti-Human Trafficking Initiatives and a Fordham University Applied Developmental Psychology PhD candidate under the supervision of doctoral-level faculty. Twenty additional staff members and volunteers were trained to administer the tool for the study.

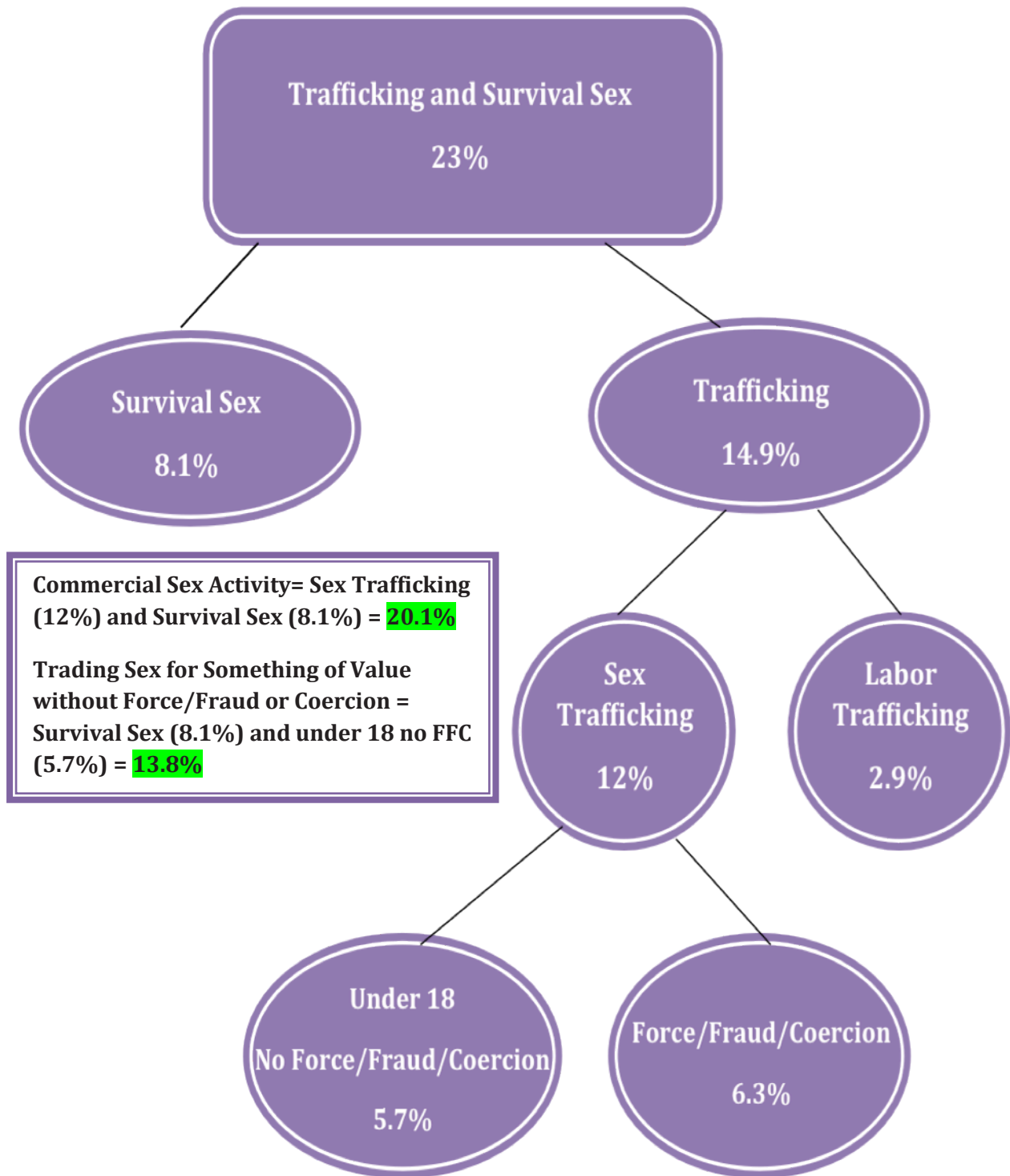
Participants: The participants included 185 young people between the ages of 18-23. A majority of youth were from CHNY's Crisis Center and Drop In programs (176), with three known victims from the NYC Asian Women's Center and six additional youth surveyed through CHNY's outreach van program. The sample included eight known victims of sex trafficking or survival sex, three known victims of labor trafficking and 174 random CHNY clients (of unknown trafficking status). The participant gender breakdown was: 130 female, 51 male and four transgender (male to female). CHNY casework staff, without knowledge of any of the youth's trafficking histories, recruited the random sample of youth. Interviews took place from November 2011 to September 2012.

Research Protocol: For the first 60 random participants, all youth answered the questions on the full HTIAM-14. Youth whose scores indicated suspected victimization were interviewed about potential trafficking experiences by a lawyer or a law student who did not see the participant's score on the HTIAM-14. The lawyer/law student made an independent determination as to whether the youth had experienced trafficking, based on any applicable definitions in federal law. The determination of the lawyer/law student was compared to the finding of the tool for the purposes of tool validation. After 60 random youth, the tool was found to be effective (see results section), and legal interviews were no longer conducted. After the 60th random client the researchers began using a shortened form of the HTIAM-14 to prescreen participants. For many of the youth, the prescreen was added to an unrelated study on legal needs among homeless youth. Youth who answered any question in the affirmative on the shortened form were administered the entire survey. In all phases of the study, any youth who indicated potential victimization was administered a supplemental screening form to elicit qualitative information on risk factors and life history. All youth who completed the full HTIAM-14 received a \$25 American Express or Visa Gift Card in compensation for their time. The research procedures were approved by the Fordham University Institutional Review Board.

Prevalence statistics were comprised from the random sample of 174 CHNY clients unless otherwise noted. Data on risk factors and other information relating to commercial sexual activity was gathered by using the full sample of trafficking and survival sex victims (43), which included both random and known victims.

Limitations: It is important to note that this study involves only the homeless youth population seeking services at CHNY. It therefore makes no attempt to be representative of the entire population of trafficking victims in the United States.

Breakdown of 174 CHNY Youth Experiences



RESULTS and DISCUSSION

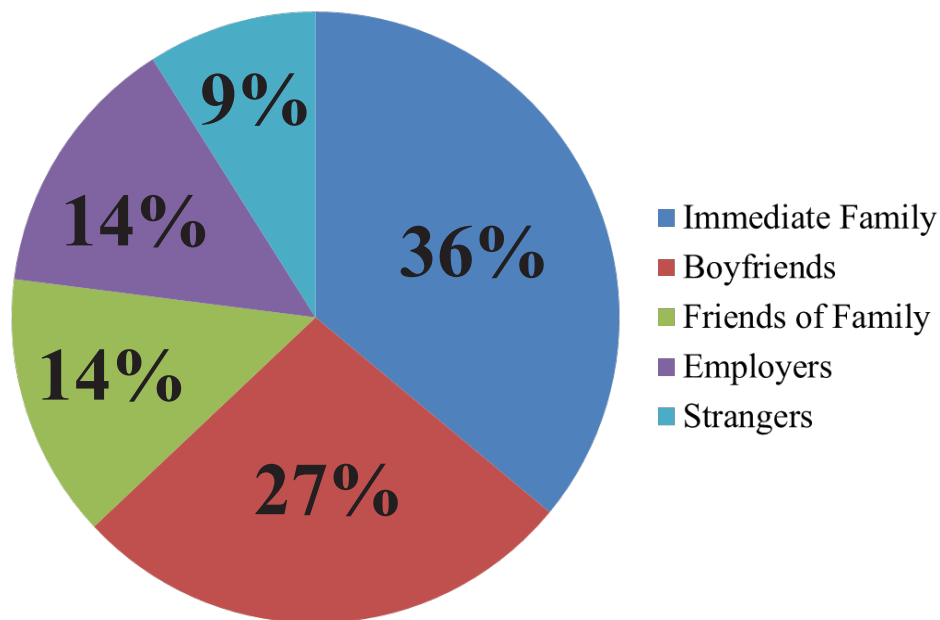
After the conclusion of 174 interviews in the random sample, we found that 23% had either experienced trafficking or engaged in survival sex. If that number were projected for the entirety of the over 3,000 youth we see each year, then we could infer that CHNY serves approximately 690 youth annually that have experienced trafficking or survival sex.

Compelled Sex Trafficking (through force, fraud or coercion)

6.3% of the youth surveyed experienced sex trafficking that was compelled through force, fraud or coercion and included enduring violence, threats of violence and sexual abuse. Although their individual stories and childhood backgrounds were diverse, these participants shared a common narrative of gang rapes, sexual assaults, violent beatings and/or threats against their loved ones, which were all used as means to compel them into sexual servitude.

Their paths to sexual slavery varied, and so did the profile of the traffickers who led them there. However, their traffickers fell into several main categories: parents and other immediate family, friends of family, boyfriends, employers, and others, which included smugglers working in collaboration with the victims' parents and clients of strip clubs. All of these victims were forced into commercial sexual activity against their will.

Who are the Traffickers?



n = 22 victims; 8 labor and 14 sex trafficking including 6 known victims

For example, Participant #57 was 19 years old when a man she considered her boyfriend tried to force her to prostitute herself. She refused. He pushed her up to a car where the driver threatened her at gunpoint and forced her into the car before driving her out of state. By her second day in captivity, she was having sex with strangers for money. Participant #57 was one of four participants (including known victims) who reported being kidnapped and held against his or her will prior to being forced to engage in prostitution. Other participants may have more willingly entered the commercial sex industry (through love or deception), but eventually they felt forced to continue and afraid to leave. Four participants explained how failed efforts to escape were met with further violence, and Participant #217 reported that she tried to escape three times before successfully fleeing on her fourth attempt.

As with Participant #57, in many cases the trafficker is a man who cultivates a relationship in which he pretends to be the youth's boyfriend. He may start by flirting and complimenting the young person and then professing love and offering a safe place to sleep. The victims explained how pimps sought out homeless and runaway youth, often masquerading as boyfriends who promised to care for them, and waited until the youth were dependent on them, before they began using violence, threats and sexual assault to compel prostitution.

Participant's #2 trafficker was not her "boyfriend," but rather her mother. She was five years old when her drug-addicted mother initiated what she thought was going to be a fun game of dress-up; instead, her mother allowed a man to sexually abuse her in exchange for money. At age 11 Participant #2 ran away from home to escape the sexual abuse only to run straight into the arms of a pimp.

For most of the victims, the trafficking was an ongoing experience. But for other CHNY youth, the trafficking victimization was a one-time occurrence. For example, Participant #64's mother, worried about not being able to pay for food and rent, allowed a friend to have sex with the daughter of his choosing in exchange for \$500. He chose Participant #64, then 12. She was never forced to have sex for money again, but the traumatic memory remains. It has only been in recent months, when she became comfortable with CHNY staff, that the participant was able to disclose the experience for the first time. She is now receiving psychological services at CHNY to help her cope with the trauma.

If the 6.3% number is projected to the over 3,000 homeless youth that CHNY serves annually, CHNY could expect to serve approximately 200 youth who have experienced compelled sex trafficking. Although not demonstrated by the results, it is our suspicion that for the general population of youth who live on New York City streets, this number is extremely low. This is because abusive pimps use methods of control and violence over their victims, making it unlikely that they would come into contact with social service agencies at all—or at the very least until law enforcement has become involved. Agencies such as Girls Educational & Mentoring Services (GEMS) or court programs such as the Wise Program in the Midtown Community Court receive frequent law enforcement referrals of clients who have been abused and forced into prostitution. In speaking with our interviewees, we also know that there are a large number of pimps who hang out and recruit near bus and train stations and specific shops and fast food places where homeless youth are known to congregate. If pimps are actively recruiting vulnerable young people, it is logical to deduce that these young people are being trafficked at a higher rate than those who manage to survive, escape, and make it to the door of our shelter.

Survival Sex: Desperation and Homelessness Leading to Commercial Sex Activity

The numerous cases of compelled sex trafficking we uncovered illustrate only one dimension of the problem. In our sample, young people reporting that they traded sex for something of value out of desperation in order to meet basic needs of survival were twice as common as young people reporting compelled sex trafficking.

13.8% of the random sample of youth reported trading sex for something of value, without overt force, fraud or coercion. However, 5.7% were under the age of 18 when the event occurred and hence are counted as victims of sex trafficking, leaving approximately 8% in the survival sex category.

Youth most frequently reported exchanging sexual acts for shelter or a place to sleep (48%). Other commonly-reported commodities that youth traded sexual activity for included money for food, toiletries, drugs, and clothing, and money to support children or younger siblings. Many reported being kicked out their homes, off of their friend's couch or out of a shelter, and in a panicked state made the decision to find a "sugar daddy," an ex-boyfriend with whom they had a history of abuse, or anyone who would let them stay in their home, and off the street, in exchange for sexual activity.

Of the 24 youth who traded sex for something of value without force, fraud or coercion, 48% percent engaged in overt prostitution, (i.e. exchanging sex for money with multiple partners to meet basic needs), 28% found one person, usually an older male, whom they could call occasionally when they needed food, money or shelter which they exchanged for sex, and for 12% the sex work was limited to stripping in clubs. The remaining 12% traded sex for something of value on only one occasion when in a desperate state.

Of the 48% who engaged in overt prostitution, many explained how they initially resisted it and opted instead for other commercial sex activity, such as stripping, which seemed safer and less violating, but that could still help with the cash

needed for food and shelter. For nine participants, stripping and other sex work led directly to outright prostitution. According to Participant #217, "I went in on my own, thinking escorting was legal. But one thing led to another. Ok maybe he can touch me a little just this one time."

Youth over the age of 18 who engaged in survival sex do not fit the U.S. federal definition of trafficking (8% of our sample). Yet, many of these youth stated that due to their life circumstances, they felt they had no other choice. For example, according to Participant #204, a transgender female, "The situation was forcing me. I couldn't do the homeless thing. I couldn't be on the streets." Participant #47 stated, "When your family isn't talking to you, you don't have any choices."

If we include both sex trafficking and survival sex victims, one in five of the random CHNY youth we sampled at some point engaged in commercial sex activity. If that number was projected for the entirety of the over 3000 youth we serve each year, then we could deduce that CHNY serves over 600 youth annually who have at some point engaged in commercial sex activity.

Notably, as will be discussed in the section of the report relating to the screening tool (p. 17), there was a significant drop off in the number of youth reporting trading sex for something of value in the second part of the study. We believe this is due to a change in procedure where youth were administered the trafficking prescreen at the end of a lengthy survey on an unrelated topic. We believe this deflated the survival sex numbers and predict that the true number of CHNY youth who engaged in survival sex would be significantly higher.

Although beyond the scope of this report, we suspect that for samples of homeless youth outside of CHNY, the numbers of young people who have engaged in survival sex may be even higher. Staff members at other homeless youth organizations have offered anecdotal evidence suggesting that the number of youth forced to trade on their sexuality in exchange for food, shelter or money at some point in their lives, may be as high as 80% to 90% of youth who live on the streets. As many youth arrive at CHNY without having ever lived on the streets (and instead have worn out their welcome on friends' and families' couches), our number may be significantly lower than it would be for a population comprised of youth who have spent years fending for themselves on the streets.

Relationship between Sex Trafficking and Survival Sex

Usually sex trafficking and survival sex are discussed as two different entities. And legally, there is a significant difference, with trafficking requiring force, fraud or coercion or underage commercial sex. Some have therefore argued that sexual activity in exchange for something of value between consenting adults over age 18 is morally acceptable.

Yet our study results demonstrated that whether the youth engaged in survival sex or were victims of sex trafficking, they regretted their commercial sex activity and desired something better for their lives — and the lives of other youth. When asked what advice she would give to younger girls considering prostitution, Participant #18 stated: "Don't do it. It's not safe." Participant #48 stated, "Girls think it's so easy to strip, but it's hard up there, you get damaged. I hated feeling like a piece of meat... I want to live nice and average. I just want an hourly pay check -- a normal life."

The study also found that despite the distinction in the law, the lines between survival sex and sex trafficking are somewhat fluid, as survival sex can lead to trafficking victimization. Participant #219, "Ruby,"⁴ explained how initial experiences of survival sex led directly to human trafficking.

Starting at age five, Ruby was repeatedly raped by her brother's father. By 18, she was on her own and low on money. About once a month when she needed money to pay the rent, she would negotiate with men to exchange sex for money. At 19 she was heading out to a party with what she thought was a group of new friends, when she found herself alone in her room with one of them. The man pulled a gun on her and stated that he was a pimp and that from now on she should call him "daddy." "I remember thinking: Is this real? Pimps are for real? I didn't think pimps existed anywhere but the movies before then." For the following three months, Ruby was forced to sleep with "too many men to count" and was watched every second. At some point she gained the trust of the woman in charge of guarding her, and Ruby was able to make her escape.

4 Names and other identifying information were changed throughout this report.

Ruby's story demonstrates how pimps and other exploiters seek out individuals with the requisite risk factors and those already engaging in survival sex. Our study found five incidents of survival sex, including stripping and independent prostitution, which eventually led to trafficking situations where the young person was forced into continuing these activities for the benefit of a pimp or violent boss. Conversely, we saw three incidents where young women who had escaped violent sex trafficking situations reverted to independent survival sex or to another pimp once they managed to escape. Participant #57 explained how she was eventually able to get away from a pimp who had kidnapped her when he was sent to prison. However, with her sole means of support gone, she was alone and afraid, leading a friend to immediately introduce her to a second pimp. She stated, "I was so messed up in the head that I went with this new pimp." Our study results indicate that many victims, after a period of trauma when forced commercial sex activity became a core part of their daily existence, had trouble reintegrating into mainstream society after their escape. They felt like commercial sex activity was all they knew. Our results therefore demonstrate the multi-directionality of how survival sex can lead to sex trafficking and sex trafficking can lead to independent survival sex.

Labor Trafficking

In our interviews we found five instances of labor trafficking that would meet the U.S. federal definition of trafficking. There was one case of forced begging and four cases of forced drug sales. In two cases, the trafficker was a boyfriend. The other three labor traffickers included a father, a father's best friend, and a stranger who offered a homeless youth an employment opportunity. In the three known labor cases used to pilot the tool, the traffickers were smugglers from China who acted in concert with the youth's family to force illegal travel and ultimate slavery.

The dynamics of labor trafficking appeared very similar to those of sex trafficking, with traffickers exploiting vulnerable people's desperation and isolation. For example, Participant #9 accepted work "delivering packages" at age 17, and her employers provided her with housing. She quickly came to fear the illegality of the activity and wanted to quit but saw "coworkers" beaten and was afraid to leave. She was clear about what would have allowed her to exit the situation earlier: "If someone would have said to me, 'I can make sure you are safe. You don't have to do this. There is a place that is safe where you can stay,' I would have left immediately."

We found two cases where family members or close family friends recruited children to act as drug couriers. One youth was 11 (Participant #44) and was still dealing with the after-effects of the recent murder of his father when a family friend recruited him to run drugs. The other case involved a 14-year-old youth (Participant #68) who was asked to distribute drugs by her father. Although both youths stated that they did not feel forced to conduct the drug activity, they admitted it would have been difficult to turn down the adult's request. The interview team therefore felt strongly that regardless of the participants' statements of willful behavior, their young ages made it impossible to turn down offers to engage in illegal activity and reject the lifestyles of their parents, and we therefore designated them as trafficking victims.

Participant #68 demonstrated the pull she felt to join her parents' illegal activity when she stated: "If your mom was a ballerina, what would you want to be more than anything else in the world? Our parents are the most influential people in our lives, and if they aren't doing the right thing, the kid won't. I never even knew that everyone's parents weren't drug dealers or addicts until I started going to friends' houses at age nine." Participant #44 stated that while he never felt forced to run drugs, this would not be the direction his life would have taken if not for the family friend's encouragement. "If the family friend hadn't appeared when I was 11 who encouraged me to sell drugs, I probably would have never done it. I wouldn't have these felonies on my record. I probably would have done the things that kids do, play sports, etc. and ended up with a normal 9-5 job."

Additionally, we found numerous cases that contained elements or indicators of labor trafficking, but that we were unable to clearly designate as trafficking. Several of the unconfirmed labor trafficking cases involved criminal activities, including shoplifting rings, credit card scams and "delivering packages." Just as in many of the sex trafficking cases, where youth believed they were entering legitimate romantic relationships, many of these youth were not immediately aware that criminal activity was involved. In other cases, youth were misled about the degree of danger and illegality. Most did not get paid what they were originally promised, and several saw "coworkers" physically harmed by the employers, all signs of labor trafficking. However, most of these young people would not admit to feeling any fear or pressure to continue with the illegal activity. For example, when Participant #22 was asked if he was afraid of his employer after

witnessing him hit another employee, he responded “No, I wasn’t afraid, if the boss ever slapped me, I would just slap him back.” As the interviewers did not find any coercion to continue with the work, and the participant felt that he could stop at any time, they did not designate Participant #22 as a trafficking victim. However, the participant did report that he would never have sought out the position if he was initially told of the illegal activity.

This leads us to believe that CHNY youth are experiencing a myriad of exploitative work situations that often involve criminal activity, situations that do not always rise to the level of trafficking, but that do place our young people in jeopardy. These high-risk jobs place youth at risk for later trafficking.

Contributing Factors:

What are the pathways to trafficking and survival sex?

Case Example: Participant #103

At age five, ‘Houley’ was living in Mauritania when her uncle started molesting her and giving her candy after the molestation as a “thank you.” At age 10 or 11, when there was no food in the house and no adult who seemed to care, she went outside and started asking strangers for money and food. A few men offered money, but only if she gave them something in exchange, which led to sexual activity. At seventeen, Houley felt a new optimism, when her father, a legal U.S. immigrant, brought her to the U.S. However, her father continued the uncle’s pattern of physical and sexual abuse toward her. He held onto Houley’s immigration paperwork, making it hard for her to find employment, and eventually she continued with her lifelong pattern of selling sex in exchange for money by seeking men out on New York City streets.

Houley’s story is not atypical in that it demonstrates how multiple risk factors work together toward what seems like an inevitable path to prostitution. The combination of prior childhood sexual abuse, a lack of any caring adult to guide her, and no realistic, legitimate means to earn the money needed to provide food and shelter, kept her in “the life” of prostitution. It was only through securing the supportive services of CHNY and other social service providers that she could transition away from prostitution.

Many of those engaging in prostitution have a multitude of risk factors similar to Houley’s, including the following:

Looking for Love

Not surprisingly, in a sample of homeless youth, running away from abusive and neglectful homes was a commonly-reported occurrence that helped explain how young victims fell into the hands of traffickers—traffickers who initially promised safety and a seemingly better alternative to the abusive homes they were running from, but who later exploited their vulnerability. However, many victims reported that they weren’t just running away from bad situations, but rather they were running toward something: the promise of love. Participant #182 explained that at first she thought her pimp was her boyfriend, and that he would love and care for her. It was only once she was completely “under his spell” and looked to him to be responsible for her care that he began to abuse her and then forced her into prostitution. Despite the abuse and forced daily sex with countless men, he provided her with the love she never had at home; “He was my everything. I couldn’t leave him. I was attached to him.”

The Lack of a Safe Place to Sleep

One of the most commonly reported inducing factors was a lack of a place to stay or any means or opportunity to meet life’s most basic needs. Almost a full half - 48% - of the participants who engaged in commercial sex activity reported that a lack of a safe place to sleep was a main reason for their initial entry into prostitution. These participants consistently stated that if there had been another option or anywhere else to stay except the streets, they would not have needed to sell sex.

Participant #101 explained, “You can’t sleep comfortably in the street. You wake up feeling like you never slept. And you still need something to eat, and I need soap and all that good stuff.” Other participants explained that the streets of New

York City can be a scary place to spend the night, and that when the shelters are full, there is no lack of men who are ready and willing to offer a place to stay. The youth participants explained how pimps loiter in areas where homeless youth are known to congregate and say: “The shelters are full. Where are you going to stay? Why don’t you come with me?”

Lack of employment opportunities and/or education frequently corresponds with homelessness and only increases the risk of exploitation. Many of our young interviewees stated that they had no option other than commercial sex activity and that no respectable profession would hire a homeless youth.

For example, Participant #47 resorted to sex work (in this case, stripping) solely for shelter and survival: “I woke up and didn’t have any money. My watch was already sold, and I had nothing left to sell. I always scraped by before, but I just couldn’t anymore. . . .I used to think I would never be one of those girls (a stripper), but when you’re 17, it’s hard to get a job with no address. What do you write for your address on the job application—the corner?” The results of our study demonstrate the youths’ awareness that sex work is one means of income where the employer is not concerned if an applicant has a home or an address, and may even prefer employees without secure homes, families or other support systems.

Our study indicates that once a youth has engaged in commercial sex activity, it can be especially difficult to transition to legal employment, and some youth begin to think of commercial sex activities as their only talent. Participant #217 explained that “no high school diploma and a crappy resume” left sex work her only marketable skill.

Prior History of Sexual Abuse or Other Extreme Trauma

78% of those who engaged in commercial sex activity reported histories of childhood rape or molestation.⁵ In addition to Houley, two other youths reported receiving gifts or candy after the childhood sexual molestation, potentially conditioning them to expect something in return for sexual abuse. This includes Participant #199 who explained how her stepfather used to ask her and her twin sister if they were hungry, and compel them to have sex with him for food.

Youth engaging in commercial sex activity reported a myriad of other prior traumas. These included being abused by parents or an intimate partner. For example, immediately prior to Participant #18’s first experience with survival sex, she was beaten by an abusive boyfriend, resulting in a miscarriage. The abuser was sent to prison, leaving her on her own and grieving. The combination of the beating and miscarriage and the lack of support from her boyfriend in jail led her to initiate prostitution encounters through the Internet. She believes that if not for her traumatized state, she would not have initiated the sexual encounters.

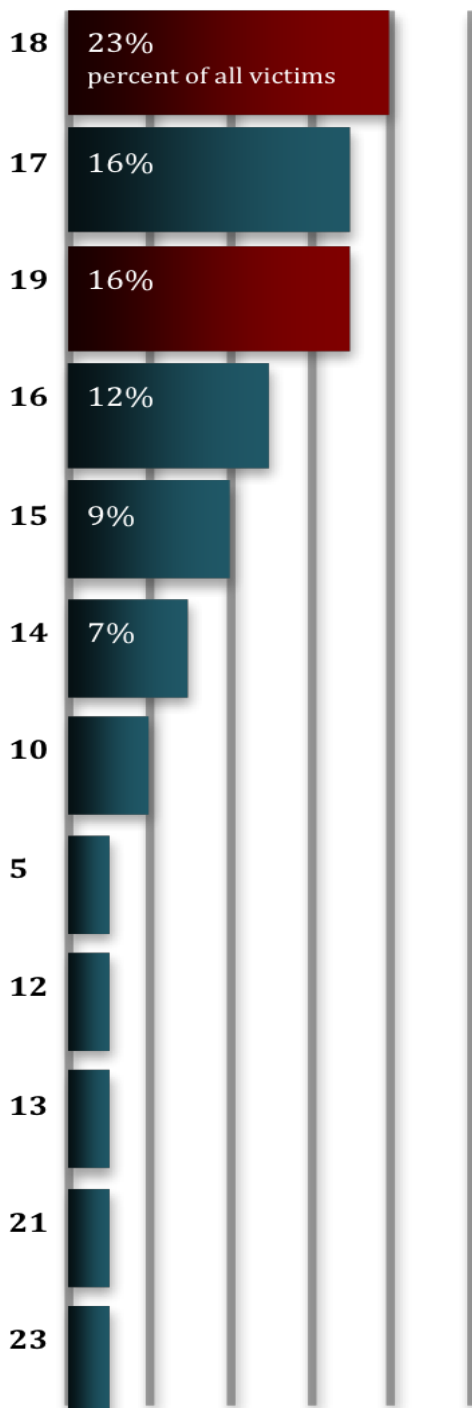
The Lack of Adult Guidance

The absence of at least one caring adult in a young person’s life was another major risk factor for those engaged in commercial sexual activity. When asked what could have prevented her trafficking experiences, Participant #219 replied, “Maybe if I lived a normal childhood. Maybe if my mom cared about me. Maybe if someone actually gave a shit about me.” The wish for at least one adult who would take an interest and offer other life alternatives was frequently expressed by those who had engaged in commercial sex activity. Participants seem frustrated by adults who were supposed to care and ask questions, yet dismissed the warning signs they displayed. For example, Participant #63 stated, “Maybe if one of my caseworkers in my foster care group home would have asked some questions, like ‘Why does this 15 year old have so much cash?’ (from stripping) maybe it would have stopped earlier.” In the cases where an adult was present in the young person’s life, that adult’s involvement was often a negative factor and, in some cases, created an environment that pushed the youth in the direction of commercial sex activity, as in the example of three participants who reported that their mothers were engaged in prostitution—one of whom also had a father who was a pimp.

5 Not all youth were comfortable answering this question. Those that did not answer were not calculated in the statistic.

Average Age of Entry into Commercial Sex Activity

According to a 2010 report by ECPAT USA, “anecdotal evidence and experience suggest 13 or 14 as the typical age of girls entering the life.”⁶ However, perhaps due to CHNY’s older population of youth (primarily ages 18-21), 44% of the sampled youth who experienced commercial sexual activity, traded sex for something of value for the first time when they were 18 or older (for a further breakdown of age of entry please see graph.) One potential explanation is that for many of our youth, homelessness occurred only after they were of age to sign themselves out of foster care or be kicked out of their home.



At CHNY, we have always known that turning 18 can be a vulnerable age, when homeless young people must face the transition from childhood to adulthood without the assistance of supportive adults. Our results demonstrate that when an 18-20-year-old finds him or herself alone and without shelter for the first time, he/she often resorts to desperate actions, including prostitution or other commercial sex activity. It is also possible that in recent years, pimps and other traffickers have become aware of the enhanced penalties for exploiting younger trafficking victims and are seeking youthful appearing 18- and 19-year olds to avoid those penalties.

Transgender and Gay Youth

All four transgender youth (male to female) interviewed for this study had engaged in survival sex. We found no evidence of force, fraud or coercion in their experiences. All seem to be trading sexual activity in exchange for food, money, clothing, or a place to stay. We may need to look deeper to understand the contributing factors facing vulnerable transgender youth, including the lack of constructive employment opportunities. They face many of the same risk factors as the other youth engaged in commercial sex activity, including the absence of caring adults in their lives, estrangement from family, and a lack of shelter and constructive opportunities, but they face the additional burden of discrimination and bullying related to their transgender status.

Two gay male youth reported experiences of commercial sex activity, with one reporting experiences of compelled sex trafficking and one having engaged in survival sex. One bisexual/questioning male youth reported engaging in survival sex, but there were suspicions that his experience could have risen to the level of compelled sex trafficking. The report of compelled sex trafficking was very similar to the reports of heterosexual compelled sex trafficking and involved a pimp who alternated between offerings of love and violence. Similar to transgender youth, gay male homeless youth face the same set of risk factors as the general homeless youth population, in addition to discrimination and bullying for their sexual identity. Participant #193, a young gay male who engaged in survival sex, stated that if he had prior access to a “good support system of people for gay youth to talk to” he might have avoided commercial sex activity.

6 <http://ecpatusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/Who-Is-There-to-Help-Us.3.pdf>

Development and Use of the Trafficking Assessment Tool

In order to validate the 14-item assessment measure, we compared participant scores generated by the measure in the first 60 interviews in the random sample with findings of the participant legal interview and other supplementary information. These data were assessed to determine whether the screening measure was effectively and accurately detecting trafficking victimization. Preliminary data analyses indicate the form is highly effective in identifying trafficking victims, with a discrepancy rate of only 8%. That is, the HTIAM-14 and legal interview determinations were discrepant in only five of sixty cases. In most cases the discrepancy was directly related to lack of clarity in the legal definition of trafficking and not to differing understandings of the youth's experience.

After the initial 60 random interviews, we increased the number of youth interviewed through two means: 1) shortening the questionnaire to include only the top five questions found to be most effective in identifying victims; and 2) adding the questionnaire to an unrelated survey that youth were already undergoing.

This change in procedure allowed us to reach more young people in a shorter period of time, and it enabled us to find 13 trafficking victims who had previously been unidentified. However, on at least two occasions, youth who answered all questions in the negative were later discovered to have engaged in survival sex. This leads us to believe that our prevalence data, especially related to survival sex, might be inaccurately low. For this reason, only the long form of the trafficking tool has been successfully validated.

Lessons Learned from Tool Development and Validation

The validation process has indicated that the long form of our trafficking screening tool is highly effective in identifying trafficking victims and those who have engaged in survival sex. The data demonstrates that the tool results in very few false positives, that is, instances where the tool designates someone to be a trafficking victim but a lawyer or other source does not. However, despite the rigors of validation, survivors will only disclose their trafficking experiences when they feel comfortable and are ready to talk. After being asked for feedback on the initial tool and if there were other questions we should be asking, one known trafficking survivor responded; "It doesn't matter what questions you ask. If I like you, I will tell you. And if I don't, I won't." Additionally, we found that the more time we spent with an individual youth engaging in casual conversation and rapport building both prior to and during the interview, the more likely they were to open up about their experiences. This may be why we found instances where the short form was ineffective in identifying victims. This further strengthens our belief that the most effective way to identify victims of trafficking is to have continuous, frequent and lengthy discussion between social services staff and young clients.

However, we also know it is an unfortunate reality that it is not always feasible to have lengthy conversations about trafficking with every youth who receives assistance at a social services agency. And because the tool is effective in identifying a percentage of trafficking victims who otherwise would be missed, we strongly encourage the future use of this screening tool among the homeless youth population. However, we urge caution in the manner in which the screening tool is used. When using the tool to identify victims and provide services, as opposed to conducting research, it is essential to remember that even if a young person answers all of the questions in the negative, it does not necessarily mean that he or she has not been victimized by trafficking. Instead the questions may need to be asked at a different time, and perhaps by a different staff member, once relationships have had a chance to develop.

During tool development, we also learned the importance of both the piloting process and the fact that small changes in the wording of a question can make a large difference. For example, when known survivors of sex trafficking answered no to several of the questions regarding fear and lack of control in a "work situation," the interviewers were initially confused. However, we soon learned that the survivors often did not consider their pimp to be their employer and failed to see prostitution as work. We therefore added a definition of work to the interview which included an explanation that an employer can be anyone who makes money off of your efforts and could therefore be a traditional boss, or a family member, friend, boyfriend or girlfriend.

We also learned that softening the questions by adding a nonjudgmental lead-in was of tremendous value. For example, asking “Did you ever have sex for money or drugs or a place to stay?” will frequently lead to false negatives. Therefore we changed the question to: “Sometimes young people who are homeless or who are having difficulties with their families have very few options to survive or fulfill their basic needs, such as food and shelter. Sometimes they are exploited or feel the need to use their sexuality to help them survive. Have you ever received anything of value, such as money, a place to stay, food, drugs, gifts or favors, in exchange for performing a sexual activity?” Phrasing the question in this manner seemed to help youth feel more comfortable with answering the question.

For the above reasons we believe that it is important to tailor any assessment tool to the population answering the questions, and that a pilot and feedback period is essential.

Screening for Social Service and Legal Needs of Trafficking Survivors

Once a trafficking victim has been identified with the help of the HTIAM-14, the work has only begun. Trafficking victims have a variety of legal, psychological and social service needs that must be addressed in order to facilitate healing and recovery. Two of the most frequently reported needs of the trafficking survivors in our study included psychological care and long-term housing placements. Long-term housing is particularly challenging, and young survivors are often placed on waiting lists for placements in long-term programs. For example one of the early participants stated that because CHNY’s Crisis Center was a short-term program, she did not know where she was going to be living in the near future. Her CHNY caseworker was advocating for her placement in a long-term program, but at that time she was on a waiting list. She stated that she left “the life” of prostitution to provide a better future for her young son, but was clear that if the long-term housing placement didn’t come through, she might have no choice but to go back to her pimp.

Interestingly, although many of the trafficking survivors did have legal service needs, these needs did not often entail a specific trafficking-related legal remedy. Instead, many of the survivors had more general legal matters, such as housing and debt, which were affecting their ability to move beyond trafficking and prostitution. As we create new legal service programming for trafficking survivors, it is important to keep in mind that trafficking victims have many legal needs that might not necessarily be directly related to trafficking.

IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICY and PRACTICE

The Relationship between Youth Homelessness and Trafficking

For those who are committed to eradicating domestic trafficking, the contributing factors outlined in this report offer a roadmap to trafficking prevention. As stated above, 48% of the participants who reported engaging in commercial sex activity explained that a lack of a safe place to sleep was a main reason for their initial entry into prostitution or other commercial sex. The participants described how pimps in New York City are well aware that the youth shelters are full and use that to their advantage by alerting homeless young people to the no vacancy status and offering them a place to stay in lieu of sleeping on the streets. Therefore, every time a shelter bed for a homeless youth is lost to budget cuts, pimps are able to operate with greater success. Advocates, policy makers and the public at large must work collaboratively to make sure that pimps and other traffickers have no such advantage by working toward the goal of ensuring that every homeless youth who wants a safe place to sleep has access to shelter and services.

Another main risk factor for young people involved in commercial sex activity was the lack of any caring adult in the young person's life. The victims who participated in this study were in agreement: if only someone had taken the time to care, if only there had been someone to listen, the sex trafficking and survival sex experiences might have never happened. These results call out for a public educational campaign, alerting Americans to the fact that, yes, trafficking does happen in the U.S. And if anyone would like to join the fight to end trafficking, they do not need to travel far; they can stay right here in New York and be the one adult who cares. Mentoring or working with homeless youth would place them on the front lines of human trafficking prevention.

New York State Legislative Fixes to Assist Young Trafficking Survivors

One surprising study finding was that 44% of the sampled youth who were victims of sex trafficking or engaged in commercial sex activity traded sex for something of value for the first time at age 18 or older. Yet these young people would be denied access to much of the government and private funding allocated for sex trafficking victims, because many such grants and funding streams are designated specifically for those under the age of 18. For example, New York's Safe Harbor for Exploited Children Act⁷ provides funding (albeit insufficient) for shelter and services for victims of trafficking only up to the age of 18. Even for the 56% of youth who experienced sex trafficking prior to the age of 18, many did not come to the attention of service providers until they reached CHNY's doorsteps, over the age of 18. Despite enduring years of childhood sex trafficking, which has led to a need for intensive treatment in young adulthood, these youth would also be denied access to any Safe Harbor funding.

The age problem is also apparent in the criminal context where sex trafficking victims are often treated as criminal prostitutes. Numerous states have passed Safe Harbor laws designed to treat youth arrested for prostitution as the children that they are instead of as criminal offenders that the law often perceives them to be. However the law in New York and many other states only offers this protection for youth up to the age of 15. From a policy perspective, it is difficult to comprehend how a person who has been trafficked since childhood suddenly turns from victim to criminal on his or her 16th birthday. New York State needs a legislative fix to ensure that 16 and 17 year- olds arrested for prostitution are treated as victims, and not adult criminal offenders. This is one of many reasons CHNY actively supports legislation proposed by New York State's Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman that would create a special court to handle

7 "New York (2008) enacted the Safe Harbor for Exploited Children Act, which recognized that children in prostitution are not criminals or delinquents but victims of a brutal form of child sex trafficking and child sexual abuse who need specialized services. This watershed law catalyzed passage of similar "Safe Harbor" bills in other states. Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, Ohio, Vermont, and Washington have complete safe harbor provisions by providing either immunity or diversion for children engaged in prostitution and establishing services or plans for services. Connecticut, Michigan, and Tennessee have passed laws that protect minors from prosecution. In Florida, children that have been sexually exploited are included as children in need of services. In addition, the Texas Supreme Court recently ruled that children involved in prostitution are victims, not criminals." From the Polaris Project: http://www.polarisproject.org/storage/documents/policy_documents/Issue_Briefs/issue_brief_safe_harbor_february_2013.pdf: Actual bill text: <http://codes.lp.findlaw.com/nycode/SOS/6/8-A/447-a>

non-violent criminal cases against 16 and 17-year olds.⁸ We also believe that the law must do more to protect adult survivors of trafficking by screening anyone arrested for prostitution for trafficking victimization.

New York State provides less protection for child victims of trafficking than does the US federal law, which provided the definition used for this study. Under New York law, coercion is required to prove the crime of sex trafficking, even when the person trading sex for something of value is under the age of 18. This leaves state prosecutors unable to use the trafficking laws to prosecute someone who is pimping out a 15 year-old (or child of any age) if it appears that the child is acting willingly. As the study demonstrates how trafficking victims are often emotionally bonded to their trafficker, coercion can be difficult to prove. This is one of the many reasons that CHNY actively supports the New York State Trafficking Victims' Protection and Justice Act,⁹ which if passed would bring state law in line with federal law by removing New York State's requirement of coercion in prosecutions for the sex trafficking of children.

Continue to Work Collaboratively to Reduce the Demand for Trafficking Victims

Coalitions of advocates have done tremendous work in recent years in educating both law enforcement and the general public on the relationship between prostitution and sex trafficking. They have been clear that to end trafficking we must end the buying of prostituted men, women and children. A small minority of individuals/organizations has been critical of these efforts, maintaining that the consensual selling of sex by adults has nothing to do with trafficking. The study results demonstrate some of the problems with the buying of sex, even when consensual, and reveal a clear relationship between prostitution and trafficking, including:

- Both trafficking victims or those engaging in survival sex were in agreement that they regretted their commercial sex activity and found them degrading and traumatizing. A buyer of sex further fuels that trauma and regret.
- When one purchases sex it is impossible to be certain that the seller of sex is a consenting adult. Pimps force girls to lie, both about their age and about their independence. (Participant #219 explained how her pimp told her to tell all clients found through Backpage.com that she was working on her own).
- Purchasing sex increases the demand for prostitution and trafficking. The use of force (including the four kidnappings) and the recruitment of vulnerable youth provide evidence that there are more people willing to purchase sex than those willing to sell it consensually. If large sums of money could not be made through the selling of sex, these tactics would not be necessary.

Advocate for Additional Employment and Educational Training Programs for Homeless Youth

A common theme throughout the interviews was that a lack of education and job opportunities left youth with no choice but to resort to commercial sex activity, the one means of income that did not care if they had an address or resume. Youth who had already been engaged in commercial sex activity for some time found it even more difficult to transition out of it because sex work was now their only work experience. Job training and educational programs are therefore essential to allow homeless young adults access to constructive employment opportunities.

Additionally, the study found that a number of homeless youth were lured into labor trafficking scenarios through promises of legitimate job offers that turned out to be dangerous and involved illegal activity. Employment training programs targeted for homeless youth should therefore include a component on how to differentiate between legitimate and illegitimate offers of employment.

8 <http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?sh=printbill&bn=A03668&term=2013>

9 http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?default_fld=&bn=A02240&term=2013&Summary=Y&Memo=Y&Text=Y

Increase Services for LGBTQ Youth

Four out of four of the transgender young women interviewed for the study engaged in survival sex. And two gay males and one bisexual/questioning male were either sex trafficking victims or engaged in survival sex. The transgender youths all had expressed a belief that there were no other more constructive means of support. We therefore need to do more to increase services and support for LGBTQ youth, with a special emphasis on increasing employment opportunities for transgender youth.

Advocate for the Enactment of State Legislation Allowing Victims to Vacate Convictions Involving Labor Trafficking

In 2010 New York became the first state in the country to pass legislation allowing for the vacature of prostitution convictions when they are directly related to a history of trafficking¹⁰. Removing survivors' convictions is pivotal in enabling trafficking survivors to move forward with their lives without being burdened by criminal records that impede employment opportunities. As our study found trafficking cases of forced drug sales and forced begging, and suspected trafficking cases involving credit card scams and shoplifting rings, we propose that a similar law be enacted regarding labor trafficking. Although some might fear that anyone convicted may try to claim they have been trafficked, the burden of proof would be on the individual seeking vacature to demonstrate that the criminal activities were carried out by force, fraud or coercion and would thereby rise to the level of trafficking.

CONCLUSION

The HTIAM-14 has been proven to be a useful and effective tool in identifying trafficking victims that would have otherwise been overlooked. However, identification is only the first step in helping a survivor to heal and reach his or her full potential. It is important that all survivors are provided with the vast array of social services needed to rebuild traumatized lives.

As agencies learn more and begin to identify larger numbers of victims, policy makers, the private sector and non-profits need to work collaboratively to ensure that there are comprehensive and holistic services, including long-term shelter, psychological and medical services, and job training for all those who need them. It is also essential that we work together to reduce the contributing factors outlined in this report to prevent the trafficking of our most vulnerable youth.

10 <http://open.nysenate.gov/legislation/bill/A7670-2009>

APPENDIX-HTIAM-14¹¹

Human Trafficking Interview and Assessment Measure

INTERVIEWER CODING INSTRUCTIONS

Read through measure thoroughly before administering. Only administer Section B to individuals who do not hold U.S. Citizenship. Carefully read introductory comments as well as “Definition of Work” and “Definition of Sexual Activity” statements written in bold typeface to individual. Ask questions in bold typeface and follow item-response instructions listed beneath each question. Carefully read italicized “Notes to Interviewer” comments that follow each item, and use to guide further probing as necessary. Many questions include a “Please explain” prompt that may be substituted with similar phrases (e.g. “Could you tell me more about that?”). As many questions address sensitive subjects, use clinical judgment in deciding when to preface a question or prompt with appropriate phrasing (e.g. “If you feel comfortable, could you please provide an example?”). Use line space provided to record individual’s response to open-ended questions, including as much detail as possible. At the end of each item, code for the likelihood that item response indicates evidence of that item variable. Responses that indicate trafficking activity should receive a minimum score of 2.

e.g. Evidence of unsafe/coercive work environment: 0 1 2 3

0 = No evidence
1 = Slight evidence
2 = Moderate evidence
3 = Strong evidence

Introductory Comments:

This is an interview about your experiences that have led you to Covenant House. I ask that you be as honest as you can in answering questions. I understand that some questions may be very sensitive and difficult to answer, and you are under no obligation to answer anything you do not want to. If you feel uncomfortable at any time, you can take a break from the interview or withdraw from the study. Everything you say during the interview will be kept completely confidential, and nothing you say here will be disclosed without your permission, unless you describe a scenario where you or someone else is in immediate danger, including a scenario where a child is at risk for abuse or neglect. Whether you have experienced any of the things we will ask you about or not, by answering the questions honestly, you are helping us help others who have experienced exploitation and trafficking. Before we begin, you should know that we are grateful that you are sitting down and taking the time to answer our questions. Remember that everything you say is voluntary, anonymous, and confidential. Do you have any questions?

11 The HTIAM-14 was the measure designed and used for the presented research study. For use in applied settings to identify victims, the coding scheme and introductory comments may be modified and the scoring boxes on the last page may be deleted. Any client who receives a score of 2 or more on any question and any client for whom the interviewer believes there is a potential of trafficking victimization, should be seen by someone with expertise in working with trafficking survivors. As stated in the report, negative responses do not necessarily mean that the individual is not a victim of trafficking, but rather that the questions may need to be asked again at a later time once relationships have had a chance to develop further.

Section A – Personal Information

- A1. [PI_AGE] Age _____
A2. [PI_GEN] Gender _____
A3. [PI_ETH] Race/ethnicity _____
A4. [PI_EDU] Highest level of education _____
A5. [PI_USCIT] U.S. Citizen _____
A6. [PI_CHLD] Children _____

Section B – Immigration Status [Mig]

Only administer Section B if individual is not a U.S. Citizen.

B1. [Mig_FORCMIG]

Did you arrange your own travel to the United States?

If YES → Score 0.

If NO → **Did anyone force you to migrate or travel to the United States? Or was there a time during your journey where you didn't want to continue and wanted to return home but weren't allowed to?**

If NO → Score 0.

If YES → **Who brought you? Can you describe your journey?**

Notes to Interviewer: Look for signs of fear or involuntary participation in migration process. If migrated as infant/ young child, not a sign of forced migration. If sought migration or migrated willingly; not a sign of forced migration.

Notes: _____

Evidence of forced migration: 0 1 2 3

B2. [Mig_MISLED]

Sometimes young people travel to the United States because they are promised work or an education, only to find out when they get here that they won't be doing what they expected. Did you come to the United States because you or your parents were promised work or an education?

If NO → Score 0.

If YES → **Was the work and payment that you received the same as you were originally promised?**

If YES → Score 0.

If NO → Please explain what was different than expected?

→ **Did you feel forced or threatened to do the work anyway?**

If NO → Score 0.

If YES → **Please explain.**

Notes to Interviewer: Look for evidence that work or payment was different than expected, probe for how it was different. Look for fraud, deception, compulsion or fear in doing work. Note that needing to do work simply for money is not necessarily an indication of trafficking.

Notes: _____

Evidence of misleading work expectations: 0 1 2 3

B3. [Mig_DEBT]

Sometimes when young people travel to the United States, they make an agreement with the person or people who organized their travel. Did you or your family owe something to the person or people who helped you come to the United States?

If NO → Score 0.

If YES → **Were the services or the amount of time it took to repay the debt different than what you expected?**

→ **Were you or your family threatened or told that if you did not repay the debt you or your family would be harmed?**

If NO to both → Score 0.

If YES to either → **Please explain.**

Notes to Interviewer: Look for signs of forced work as a means of repaying migration debt, and for signs that exploiter added to/extended original terms debt (e.g. debt bondage).

Notes: _____

Evidence of debt bondage: 0 1 2 3

B4. [Mig_DOC]

Has anyone ever held your ID or other legal documents without your consent?

If NO → Score 0.

If YES → **Please explain.**

Notes to Interviewer: Look for signs indicating that ID/documents are being kept from them against their will. Does not include parents holding documents for their children.

Notes: _____

Evidence of withholding documentation against will: 0 1 2 3

Total Score Section B: _____/12

“Definition of Work” Statement:

Many of the questions I will ask you involve work situations. When I say “work”, this means anything you have done where you or someone else received something of value, such as money, food, clothing, a place to stay, protection, drugs or gifts in exchange for your work or efforts. Using this definition, “work” could mean a more typical job such as working in a store or restaurant, but it could also mean stripping, prostitution, shoplifting, running drugs, or anything where your efforts were exchanged for something of value. Aside from a typical employer, someone you worked for could include a family member, a friend, boyfriend or girlfriend, or anyone you lived with or were in a relationship with.

Section C – Psychological/Financial Coercion [Coer]

C1. [Coer_WRKENV]

It is not uncommon for young people to stay in work situations that are risky or even dangerous, simply because they have no other options. Have you ever worked in a place that made you feel scared or unsafe?

If NO → Score 0.

If YES → **Were you, your family, or coworker(s) ever threatened by the person or people you worked for?**

→ **Did you ever witness another employee being hurt or threatened?**

→ **Did the person or people you work for ever threaten to report you to the police or authorities?** [If immigrant; to immigration].

If YES to any of the above → **Please explain.**

Notes to Interviewer: Look for a response of “yes” to any of these questions, and an indication of a threat to their personal safety or well-being, or the personal safety or well-being of others.

Notes: _____

Evidence of unsafe/coercive work environment: 0 1 2 3

C2. [Coer_FORCE]

In thinking back over your past experiences, have you ever been tricked or forced into doing any kind of work that you did not want to do?

If NO → Score 0.

If YES → **Please explain.**

Notes to Interviewer: Look for signs of external pressure or coercion, where individual felt obligated to comply. Fear of getting fired and/or needing money do not qualify as “force.” Gently probe with “who” questions.

Notes: _____

Evidence of forced work/labor: 0 1 2 3

C3. [Coer_EXPEC]

Sometimes people agree to work/payment arrangements only to find out that what they are being asked to do, or what they are being paid, is very different than what they expected. Have you ever been promised work where the work or payment ended up being different than what you expected?

If NO → Score 0.

If YES → **Aside from needing the money, did you feel forced or pressured to continue with this job?**

If NO → Score 0.

If YES → **Please explain.**

Notes to Interviewer: Look for a response of “yes” to last question, and an indication of external coercion, lack of agency or involuntariness in continuing with work. Misleading expectations alone and/or needing the money are not enough to indicate trafficking.

Notes: _____

Evidence of continued work despite misleading work/payment expectations: 0 1 2 3

C4. [Coer_QUIT]

Sometimes people are prevented from leaving an unfair or unsafe work situation by their employers. Have you ever been afraid to leave or quit a work situation due to fears of violence or other threats of harm to yourself or your family?

If NO → Score 0.

If YES → **What did you think would happen if you tried to leave?**

→ **Did you ever see anyone who tried to leave or quit harmed or threatened?**

If YES to either → **Please explain.**

Notes to Interviewer: Look for a response of “yes” to either question, and an indication of a coercive or unjustified threat to the personal safety and well-being of themselves or their friends and family upon leaving. Probe with “who” questions to learn who was pressuring or preventing the individual from leaving. If needed, remind individual that a work situation can involve a boyfriend or significant other who is earning money off their work.

Notes: _____

Evidence of fear of quitting/leaving: 0 1 2 3

Total Score Section C: _____/1

Section D – Control [Ctrl]

D1. [Ctrl_FIN]

Some employers think that in exchange for the work their employees do, they can pay them in other ways even though they’ve never gotten their permission. Has someone you worked for ever controlled the money you earned, or kept money you earned in exchange for transportation, food or rent without your consent?

If NO → Score 0.

If YES → **Please explain.**

Notes to Interviewer: Look for evidence that the individual was not provided proper payment and that the provision of housing, meals, etc. at unjust rates was offered as an excuse for keeping their earned money.

Notes: _____

Evidence of improper payment: 0 1 2 3

D2. [Ctrl_ISOL]

Have you ever worked for someone who did not let you contact your friends or family, or the outside world, even when you weren’t working?

If NO → Score 0.

If YES → **Please explain.**

Notes to Interviewer: Look for signs that employer/trafficker kept individual isolated, deprived of social support or external resources, and/or fostered dependency on employer/trafficker.

Notes: _____

Evidence of isolation: 0 1 2 3

D3. [Ctrl_LIE]

Sometimes employers don't want people to know about the kind of work they have young employees doing. To protect themselves, they ask their employees to lie about the kind of work they are involved in. Have you ever worked for someone who asked you to lie when speaking to others about the work you do?

If NO → Score 0.

If YES → **Why did they ask you to lie? Please explain.**

Notes to Interviewer: Look for signs that indicate that lies are used to cover illegal work, to protect employer/trafficker, to or prevent individual from getting caught/leaving.

Notes: _____

Evidence of concealed work: 0 1 2 3

Total Score Section D: _____/9

"Definition of Sexual Activity" Statement:

These last few questions I will ask you about have to do with earning something of value in exchange for sexual activity. "Sexual activity" could mean dancing, stripping, posing for photos, or having any kind of sex, including oral sex, with someone in exchange for something of value such as money, food, clothing, a place to stay, protection, drugs, gifts or favors. Remember, an employer could be anyone who you worked for, including a family member, a friend, boyfriend or girlfriend, or anyone you lived with or were in a relationship with.

Section E – Sexual Exploitation [SxExp]

E1. [SxExp_COMMSEX]

Sometimes young people who are homeless or who are having difficulties with their families have very few options to survive or fulfill their basic needs, such as food and shelter. Sometimes they are exploited or feel the need to use their sexuality to help them survive. Have you or anyone else ever received anything of value, such as money, a place to stay, food, drugs, gifts or favors, in exchange for your performing a sexual activity?

YES (3 points)

NO (0 points)

If NO → Stop; score 0 on both E2 and E3.

If YES → **If you feel comfortable, could you provide an example of this?**

→ Ask E2 & E3

Notes: _____

E2. [SxExp_LEGALDEF]

Did you feel that someone was encouraging, pressuring, or forcing you to do this?

Notes to Interviewer: Look for evidence of involuntary / nonconsensual sexual activity in exchange for something of value. Probe for presence of coercive boyfriend/trafficker in example provided. Note degree of force (e.g. "encouraging" yields a score of 1, threats to physical safety yields a score of 3).

Notes: _____

Degree of force, fraud or coercion in commercial sexual activity: 0 1 2 3

E3. [SxExp]_AGE]

How old were you at your first encounter? _____

- V (Under18) Legal Adult (18 or older)

Total Score Section E: _____ /6

If "YES" with score of "0" on E2 and at least 18 years of age, check here: **SURVIVAL SEX**

INTERVIEWER NOTES: NONVERBAL INDICATORS

SCORING BOX

**If Section B Administered
(Non U.S. -Citizens):**

Total Score Section B: _____ /12
Total Score Section C: _____ /12
Total Score Section D: _____ /9
Total Score Section E: _____ /6

Total Score: _____ /39

**If Section B NOT Administered
(U.S. Citizens):**

Total Score Section C: _____ /12
Total Score Section D: _____ /9
Total Score Section E _____ /6

Total Score: _____ /27 V

Do you believe this person is a victim of human trafficking? 0 1 2 3

Type of trafficking: (Check all that apply)

- Non-Victim
- Victim: Labor
- Victim: Sex (all ages; force, fraud, coercion)
- Victim: Sex (under 18; no force, fraud, coercion)
- Survival Sex (over 18; no force, fraud, coercion)
- Other _____