

# Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors

*A Bibliography*



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## **Scope**

This bibliography lists publications covering a wide variety of issues related to trafficking and sexual exploitation of minors including law, prevention, and intervention. International publications in English are included.

## **Organization**

Publications include books, book chapters, reports, research briefs, and articles. Publications are listed in date-descending order from 2020 – 2000. Links are provided to publicly accessible publications.

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# Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors

## A Bibliography

Hampton, M. D., & Lieggi, M. (2020). Commercial sexual exploitation of youth in the United States: A qualitative systematic review. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse, 21*(1), 57-70.

Homeless, runaway, and transgender youth are at high risk for commercial sexual exploitation in the United States. Research examining this phenomenon is growing but requires synthesis to facilitate its use by professionals who serve this population. The purpose of this review was to aggregate the qualitative evidence regarding commercially sexually exploited youth (CSEY) in the United States. The search included published and unpublished qualitative studies with current or former CSEY who reside in the United States. There were 19 studies included in the review with a total of 795 participants. Eight themes were identified and grouped into three broader categories: experiences that preceded sex work entry, experiences that facilitated sex work continuation, and experiences that facilitated sex work exit. Understanding the barriers and facilitators of commercial sexual exploitation can inform the development of interventions that address the needs of CSEY and youth at risk for exploitation. The results of this review highlight the social and economic influences as well as the role of positive and negative reinforcements involved in sex work entry, its continuation, and exit. Needs for services, research, and advocacy are also discussed.

Barron, C. E., Moore, J. L., Baird, G. L., & Goldberg, A. P. (2019). Domestic minor sex trafficking in the medical setting: A survey of the knowledge, discomfort, and training of pediatric attending physicians. *Journal of Human Trafficking, 5*(1), 13-24.

Domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) is a severe manifestation of sexual abuse and a major domestic health issue. The adverse health consequences of DMST bring victims into contact with health institutions and medical providers frequently, providing the opportunity for identification and intervention. Youth at risk or involved in DMST, however, are difficult to identify and often go unrecognized during health care visits. Little is known about the knowledge, comfort, and training gaps of physicians in identifying and managing patient victims of DMST. Our objectives were to assess (1) reported training and experiences; (2) perceived knowledge, comfort, and barriers; and (3) performance on medical decision-making questions regarding the identification,

screening, and management of DMST in a population of pediatric attending physicians. An anonymous electronic survey was sent to pediatricians in Rhode Island from November 2014 through January 2015. Voluntary participants were 109 Rhode Island general pediatric and pediatric subspecialist physicians. Overall, participants perceived having limited knowledge, comfort, and training and reported barriers that corresponded with inaccurate answers on medical decision-making questions. These findings identify the impediments and obstacles to the care of DMST patients and inform the need for standardized education and training for pediatricians on this issue.

Dell, N. A., Maynard, B. R., Born, K. R., Wagner, E., Atkins, B., & House, W. (2019). Helping survivors of human trafficking: A systematic review of exit and postexit interventions. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse, 20*(2), 183-196.

Human trafficking is a global problem and results in deleterious psychological, social, and physical effects on the lives of those who are trafficked; however, it is not clear how to best intervene with survivors. The purpose of this review was to synthesize the evidence of exit and postexit intervention programs for survivors of human trafficking to inform practice and research. Systematic review methods were used to search, select, and extract data from published and unpublished experimental, quasi-experimental, and pre-experimental studies that assessed the effects of any exit or postexit interventions for victims of human trafficking. The authors searched eight databases, reviewed bibliographies, and conducted forward citation searches from relevant reports and prior reviews to find studies authored between 2005 and 2015. The search yielded six eligible studies that included 155 female and 6 male survivors from four countries. Interventions were diverse, with three using a trauma-informed approach. Authors measured a myriad of outcomes, including mental health, social network, community reintegration, and employment; however, the quality of most studies was poor. Evidence of effects of exit and postexit interventions is sparse, and much of the research is poorly designed and executed; however, the needs of trafficking survivors are complex and effective interventions are desperately needed. Implications for practice and research are discussed.

Fedina, L., Williamson, C., & Perdue, T. (2019). Risk factors for domestic child sex trafficking in the United States. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 34*(13), 2653-2673.

Despite increased effort to respond to human trafficking at national and state levels, very little empirical research has been conducted on domestic child sex trafficking. This study retrospectively examines associations between multiple risk factors and domestic child sex trafficking (i.e., entry into the commercial sex industry under the age of 18) in a sample of individuals aged 16 and older currently involved in the commercial sex industry ( $N = 273$ ). Two primary research questions are addressed: (1) What set of risk factors, prior to entering the commercial sex industry, are associated with domestic child sex trafficking and (2) what group differences, if any, exist in risk factors between current or former domestic child sex–trafficking victims and non-trafficked adults engaged in the commercial sex industry? A cross-sectional survey was administered using Respondent-Driven Sampling (RDS) in five cities in one Midwestern state. Overall, 115 participants (48.3%) were identified as current or former domestic child sex–trafficking victims. Bivariate results suggest that childhood emotional and sexual abuse, rape, ever running away from home, having family members in sex work, and having friends who purchased sex were significantly associated with domestic child sex trafficking. Multivariate results indicate that domestic child sex trafficking victims were significantly more likely to have ever run away and to be a racial/ethnic minority than non-trafficked adults engaged in the commercial sex industry. Findings can inform state-level policies on human trafficking and assist child protection and juvenile justice agencies in developing prevention and intervention responses to commercial sexual exploitation.

McCoy, M. (2019). Measurements of vulnerability to domestic minor sex trafficking: A systematic review. *Journal of Human Trafficking, 5*(1), 1-12.

Domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) is one type of human trafficking, in which a minor American citizen or resident alien is commercially sexually exploited within United States borders. One of the areas of DMST inquiry that may benefit from additional attention are the domains of vulnerability and risk. The risk factors that are often named in the literature as predictive of DMST include youth runaway status, homelessness, involvement with the child welfare system, belonging to a sexual or racial minority group, and a history of child physical or sexual abuse. However, none of these named factors has yet achieved predictive validity in the literature, and the field appears

confused about how to position and validate these hypothesized risk factors into a DMST vulnerability measurement tool. Within the present systematic review, a search for relevant publications occurred within numerous databases. A full text review of the articles that met inclusion criteria revealed that none of the empirical articles within the sampling frame utilized a validated measurement of DMST vulnerability. The articles, however, provided insight into the associations between risk factors and DMST victimization. The results of this review fill a sizable gap in the literature by assessing available publications for an operationalization of youth vulnerability to DMST. The review concludes with recommendations for the next steps that are required for the development and implementation of a DMST vulnerability measurement tool with predictive validity.

O'Brien, J. E. (2019). "What does it matter how we define it?": Exploring definitions of DMST among service providers and victims/survivors. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 5(2), 91-108.

Domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) is one of the most prevalent yet hidden forms of child abuse in the United States. DMST victims are diverse in age, race, and socioeconomic status. Many DMST victims are involved in state-level systems including the child welfare and/or juvenile justice system. State-level systems are federally mandated to identify children who are at risk or survivors of DMST. Unfortunately, DMST victim/survivor identification is inconsistent and often ineffective and is based on service providers' and DMST victims'/survivors' de facto definitions of DMST. This study presents exploratory, qualitative findings regarding service provider and DMST victim/survivor de facto definitions of DMST. In addition, it explores how these definitions are different from and/or similar to extant federal and state legal definitions. Content analysis revealed three key qualitative themes, including force/fraud/coercion, commercialization, and DMST as a form of child sexual abuse. Importantly, DMST victim/survivor and service provider definitions of DMST are different, which may be contributing to ineffective DMST victim/survivor identification protocols. Furthermore, there are several important differences between participants' definitions of DMST and extant federal and state legal definitions. Implications for policy and practice are discussed.

Sobel, M., Friedman, B., & Johnston, A. (2019). Sex trafficking as a news story: Evolving structure and reporting strategies. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 5(1), 43-59.

This quantitative content analysis uses sex trafficking as a case study to understand how news reporting techniques evolve as a social problem emerges on the public agenda. Results indicate that as news organizations became more experienced in covering trafficking and the public made more aware of trafficking as a social issue, journalists moved from routines that favored official perspectives and frames that concentrated on individuals, to the sociocultural level, in which knowledgeable sources attempted to explain why trafficking occurs, and to an institutional level, in which strategies for intervention were proposed and debated. In this way, the newsworthiness of trafficking is sustained.

Ladd, S. K., & Neufeld Weaver, L. (2018). Moving forward: Collaborative accompaniment of human trafficking survivors by using trauma-informed practices. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 4(3), 191-212.

This article proposes a paradigm shift that redefines the implementation of trauma-informed care for human-trafficking survivors. Written from the multidisciplinary perspective of the authors, the article will develop and apply four strengths-based Trauma-Informed Practices (TIPs) that service providers, academics, and policy makers can utilize in improving response to all forms of human trafficking. The TIPs envision collaborative accompaniment as a way of creating safety and reciprocity with, for, and among survivors and those who accompany them. The purpose of this article is to demonstrate that antitrafficking response should give human-trafficking survivors something to move towards, not just something from which to “escape”.

Powell, C., Asbill, M., Brew, S., & Stoklosa, H. (2018). Human trafficking and HIPAA: What the health care professional needs to know. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 4(2), 105-113.

As health-care-professional awareness about human trafficking rises and clinicians recognize their role as first responders to human-trafficking victims, they are thrust into in a unique position at the intersection of health and law. Recent literature indicates that health-care providers have a role to play, but some are reluctant to become engaged. One reason may be a lack of clarity about matters related to patient privacy as delineated by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

This article lays out key questions and answers, as well as a simple algorithm, to assist the United States-based health-care professional in caring for trafficked patients while complying with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. The article uses four case scenarios to illustrate real situations faced by clinicians when caring for potential human-trafficking patients followed by questions and answers and, where appropriate, quotes from the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

Powell, C., Asbill, M., Louis, E., & Stoklosa, H. (2018). Identifying gaps in human trafficking mental health service provision. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 4(3), 256-269.

Human trafficking is a global concern resulting in complex, long-lasting mental health consequences for survivors. The U.S. nongovernmental sector has emerged as a key service provider in facilitating and directly providing comprehensive services for survivors, including crucial mental health services. This study aimed to better understand barriers to and potential improvements for human trafficking survivor mental health service delivery by applying a deductive framework analysis to semi-structured interviews with 15 U.S.-based nongovernmental organizations. Analysis of interview data underscored key challenges, including extensive and complex human trafficking survivor mental health needs, limited service provider capacity, and a fragmented multisector response. Themes for strategies to improve mental health service delivery included improved multisector collaboration as well as increasing mental health professional capacity through human trafficking-specific training. Implications and recommendations to improve comprehensive, trauma-informed, and client-centered human trafficking survivor care, including future research directions, are discussed.

Reid, J. A. (2018). Sex trafficking of girls with intellectual disabilities: an exploratory mixed methods study. *Sexual Abuse*, 30(2), 107-131.

Few researchers have examined sex trafficking of girls with intellectual disabilities (IDs). Drawing from 54 juvenile sex trafficking (JST) cases, this exploratory, mixed methods study compared 15 JST cases involving girls with ID with 39 JST cases involving girls without ID. Findings revealed a disproportionate risk for exploitation in JST for girls with ID, endangering circumstances creating vulnerability among this population, as well as the perpetrator-victim dynamics that complicate prevention and intervention. Complicating dynamics included victim lack of awareness

of exploitation and its endangerments, inability of victims to self-identify, and the relative ease with which traffickers manipulated these girls. The disproportionate risk faced by girls with ID substantiates the need for enhanced safeguards to prevent sexual exploitation of girls with ID including stiffer penalties for those who exploit and buy sex with youth with disabilities.

Ahern, E. C., Sadler, L. A., Lamb, M. E., & Gariglietti, G. M. (2017). Practitioner perspectives on child sexual exploitation: Rapport building with young people. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse, 26*(1), 78-91.

Young people suspected of being sexually exploited are unlikely to have made prior disclosures before being approached by authorities, and this can make them especially uncomfortable when involved in investigations. Semistructured interviews were conducted with frontline social workers and law enforcement practitioners about their experiences interacting with youth during child sexual exploitation investigations. The findings provided some tentative insights into the processes by which practitioners sought to establish rapport with young people who have been exploited and establish themselves as trustworthy abuse disclosure recipients. Practitioners reported that rapport building in child sexual exploitation cases not only occurred over lengthy periods of time (e.g., months or years) but also required repeated contacts between the practitioners and young people, during which practitioners minimized their roles as authorities and maximized their authenticity as caring people. Practitioners mentioned the importance of dependability, lightheartedness, and having a casual demeanor. Findings have implications for managing reluctance and understanding rapport building when working with possible victims.

Anderson, V. R., England, K., & Davidson, W. S. (2017). Juvenile court practitioners' construction of and response to sex trafficking of justice system involved girls. *Victims & Offenders, 12*(5), 663-681.

The commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is a growing domestic health and policy concern. Exploited girls may be at heightened risk for entering the juvenile justice system. The purpose of this study was to explore the needs of CSEC victims and resources available for system-involved girls. The data from this study included semistructured interviews, case discussions, and residential placement meeting observations with juvenile justice personnel. Findings revealed labeling issues related to (1) how court workers construct female victims of CSEC through

exploitation myths, (2) the importance of trauma history and relational contexts, and (3) system-level barriers. Recommendations for practice are discussed.

Berry, L. J., Tully, R. J., & Egan, V. (2017). A case study approach to reducing the risks of child sexual exploitation (CSE). *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse, 26*(7), 769-784.

The risk of child sexual exploitation is a growing concern, both within community and child care settings. Within community services working with vulnerable young people, the risks of exploitation are pervasive and present a constant management problem for professionals. This makes the need for focused educational interventions within such settings all the more vital. This case study aims to describe the assessment, formulation, intervention, and outcomes of a young female considered to be at risk of sexual exploitation. It was hypothesised that, after completion of a psychoeducational group designed to enhance knowledge and skills around child sexual exploitation, positive outcomes would be seen in psychometric assessment, risk-taking behavior, and risk awareness. Results demonstrated no clinically significant change for measures of impulsivity, resourcefulness, or self-reported difficulties. A significant increase was seen for self-reported self-esteem, and all outcomes revealed a positive direction of change. Observational accounts of behavioral and attitudinal change produced more positive results, revealing an increase in prosocial behaviors and a reduction in risk-taking behaviors. Outcomes are discussed in relation to the individual's history and the residential care environment. Implications for future research and practice are outlined, and the study limitations are considered.

Cohen, J. A., Mannarino, A. P., & Kinnish, K. (2017). Trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy for commercially sexually exploited youth. *Journal of Child & Adolescent Trauma, 10*(2), 175-185.

Commercially sexually exploited children and adolescents (“commercially exploited youth”) present numerous clinical challenges that have led some mental health providers to question whether current evidence-based treatments are adequate to address the needs of this population. This paper 1) addresses commonalities between the trauma experiences, responses and treatment challenges of commercially exploited youth and those of youth with complex trauma; 2) highlights the importance of careful assessment to guide case conceptualization and treatment planning for

commercially exploited youth; and 3) describes strategies for implementing Trauma- Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for complex trauma specific to these youth.

Dubowitz, H. (2017). Child sexual abuse and exploitation—A global glimpse. *Child Abuse & Neglect, 66*, 2-8.

The view of what constitutes child abuse and neglect is dependent on the laws, cultural context, local thresholds and the availability. Since 1982, the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) has conducted surveillance of child mal-treatment and child protection every two years, published in *World Perspectives on Child Abuse*. It is hoped that up to date information will inform the development of laws, policies and programs to better address child abuse and neglect. This article is based on data on child sexual abuse and exploitation from 73 countries gathered online in 2015-16 for the 12 edition of *World Perspectives*. Respondents were key informants who were knowledgeable professionals in the child protection field. They were encouraged to consult with colleagues so as to provide accurate information. Countries were grouped into different regions of the world and into income level categories. The findings focus on definitions of abuse and neglect, laws, policies and programs to address and prevent maltreatment and barriers to prevention. It is evident that there is considerable variability across regions and country income categories, and that programs and services need to be considerably strengthened, even in high income countries. © 2017 Published by Elsevier Ltd.

Fedina, L., & DeForge, B. R. (2017). Estimating the trafficked population: Public-health research methodologies may be the answer. *Journal of Human Trafficking, 3*(1), 21-38.

Inevitably, there are a great number of methodological challenges and limitations to estimating the extent of human trafficking, which are largely due to definitional issues and the hidden nature of the trafficked population. To date, most national and global estimates of the problem have been discredited for using flawed, nontransparent, or nonexistent research methods; however, researchers have previously suggested that methodologies from public health, including those used to estimate hidden and transient populations, might also be useful to estimate the trafficked population. Specifically, research design, sampling strategies, and measures commonly used to estimate hidden populations in public health research may hold promise for future human-

trafficking studies, reducing bias and resulting in more narrow and precise range estimates of victims. This article presents examples of studies using public-health research methods to estimate various hidden and stigmatized populations (e.g., injection drug-users, homeless and runaway youth) and proposes a set of strategies that might be considered for future prevalence studies on human trafficking. Recent prevalence studies on human trafficking that have successfully implemented public-health research methods, such as Respondent-Driven Sampling and Venue-Based Sampling, are also discussed.

Gerassi, L., Nichols, A., & Michelson, E. (2017). Lessons learned: Benefits and challenges in interagency coalitions addressing sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 3(4), 285-302.

Over the last few decades, service providers and community members have organized and created interagency coalitions to address issues of sex trafficking. Such efforts include grassroots and government-funded coalitions, which typically provide education, training, and awareness about sex trafficking and encourage collaboration and coordinated services among community partners. However, the benefits and challenges of such coalitions within local contexts remains understudied. The current study draws from an inductive analysis of 24 interviews with coalition members representing 18 organizations in one Midwestern city whose service populations included those involved in commercial sex through trafficking, exploitation, or sex work. Findings suggest benefits of coalitions included increased service collaboration and heightened public awareness. Tensions revolved around conflicting viewpoints of commercial sex and competing service populations. Interrelated challenges also involved competition over funding, funding restrictions, and altered funding streams, which resulted in coalition fragmentation. Recommendations for community-based interagency coalitions to replicate benefits and to address tensions and challenges are provided.

Goldberg, A. P., Moore, J. L., Houck, C., Kaplan, D. M., & Barron, C. E. (2017). [Domestic minor sex trafficking patients: a retrospective analysis of medical presentation](#). *Journal of Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology*, 30(1), 109-115.

The study objective was to describe the clinical characteristics of patients referred for domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) to improve identification and intervention. Design: Retrospective

cohort study. Setting: The Lawrence A. Aubin, Sr Child Protection Center at Hasbro Children's Hospital where patients are evaluated by child abuse pediatricians in outpatient, emergency department, and inpatient settings. Participants: A total of 41 patients younger than the age of 18 years referred for the evaluation of DMST involvement between August 1, 2013 and March 30, 2015. Interventions and Main Outcome We collected demographic, social-environmental, medical, and psychiatric variables from the medical records of patients referred for evaluation who have self-disclosed, been reported with evidence, and/or have histories that place them at high risk for DMST involvement. Children had frequent contact with medical providers, with 81% seen in the year before referral for DMST. Childhood maltreatment and family dysfunction were identified (sexual abuse, 21/37 or 57%; parental substance abuse, 22/37 or 60%) in the 41 patients. Children had medical problems (eg, sexually transmitted infection, 13/41 or 32%), psychiatric needs (eg, acute suicidality, 8/41 or 20%; at least 1 previous psychiatric admission, 19/41 or 46%), and substance use (36/41 or 88%). Although 26/41 (63%) had runaway and 17/41 (42%) lived in a group home placement, 28/41 (68%) currently lived at home and 29/41 (71%) presented with a parent/guardian or relative. Children referred for DMST present frequently to physicians and have complex medical and psychiatric needs. Medical providers' increased awareness of this health issue would inform victim identification and intervention.

Greenbaum, J., Bodrick, N., & COMMITTEE ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT. (2017). Global human trafficking and child victimization. *Pediatrics*, *140*(6), e20173138.

Trafficking of children for labor and sexual exploitation violates basic human rights and constitutes a major global public health problem. Pediatricians and other health care professionals may encounter victims who present with infections, injuries, posttraumatic stress disorder, suicidality, or a variety of other physical or behavioral health conditions. Preventing child trafficking, recognizing victimization, and intervening appropriately require a public health approach that incorporates rigorous research on the risk factors, health impact, and effective treatment options for child exploitation as well as implementation and evaluation of primary prevention programs. Health care professionals need training to recognize possible signs of exploitation and to intervene appropriately. They need to adopt a multidisciplinary, outward-focused approach to service provision, working with nonmedical professionals in the community to assist victims. Pediatricians also need to advocate for legislation and policies that promote child rights and victim

services as well as those that address the social determinants of health, which influence the vulnerability to human trafficking. This policy statement outlines major issues regarding public policy, medical education, research, and collaboration in the area of child labor and sex trafficking and provides recommendations for future work.

Harteringer-Saunders, R. M., Trouteaud, A. R., & Matos Johnson, J. (2017). Mandated reporters' perceptions of and encounters with domestic minor sex trafficking of adolescent females in the United States. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 87(3), 195-205.

This is the first study to explore whether mandated reporters who work with adolescent females, ages 10 to 17, recognize domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) and associated risk factors. Because mandated reporters are required by law to report child abuse, neglect, and child exploitation, lack of specific DMST training or not believing DMST exists in communities continues to place young females at risk for revictimization. Results indicate that 60% of mandated reporters in the sample ( $N = 577$ ) had no specific training on DMST. Furthermore, almost 25% of respondents did not believe DMST existed in their communities. Implications for practice are discussed.

Hopper, E. K. (2017). [Polyvictimization and developmental trauma adaptations in sex trafficked youth](#). *Journal of Child & Adolescent Trauma*, 10(2), 161-173.

Human trafficking in children is often part of a larger constellation of childhood adversity. Many trafficked youth have been exposed to multiple layers of traumatic stress, including physical, sexual, and/or verbal abuse; witnessing violence; emotional neglect; and family dysfunction. This paper is a qualitative analysis of the charts of 32 youth who were sex trafficked as minors, including both foreign national and domestic youth. It explores their history of early adversity and poly-victimization and reviews common coercive strategies used by the traffickers, including manipulation of these children's unmet physical and emotional needs. It identifies developmental trauma adaptations in these youth, including affect dysregulation and impulsivity; alterations in attention and consciousness; issues in interpersonal relationships; and impairments in self-perception and attributions. It concludes with recommendations based on these findings, including the development of developmentally and culturally appropriate trauma-informed services for sex trafficked children and youth.

Houston, T. (2017). A gender integrative approach to the anti-CSEC movement in Georgia. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 3(3), 193-210.

Human-trafficking scholars are beginning to highlight the ways social, political, and economic forces interact to influence anti-trafficking activism. Previous research has accounted for how carceral politics, white supremacy, and the neoliberal global economy have shaped campaigns against trafficking. However, there are still movement dynamics that require further investigation. Drawing on 48 in-depth interviews and over a year of participant observation with anti-Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) activists in the state of Georgia, this article argues gender functions at an institutional and interactional level to shape anti-CSEC activism. First, the types of workers with whom exploited youth come in contact operate within highly segregated occupations. Second, the organizational structure of anti-CSEC organizations allows for “family friendly” work policies that provide flexible work hours and emotionally and socially supportive work environments creating opportunities for women to work and volunteer. Finally, a gender essentialist ideology permeated activists’ beliefs about anti-CSEC activism. These institutional and interactional gendered processes reinforced one another to structure anti-CSEC activism and, in the process, to reproduce gender difference.

Landers, M., McGrath, K., Johnson, M. H., Armstrong, M. I., & Dollard, N. (2017). Baseline characteristics of dependent youth who have been commercially sexually exploited: findings from a specialized treatment program. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 26(6), 692-709.

Commercial sexual exploitation of children has emerged as a critical issue within child welfare, but little is currently known about this population or effective treatment approaches to address their unique needs. Children in foster care and runaways are reported to be vulnerable to exploitation because they frequently have unmet needs for family relationships, and they have had inadequate supervision and histories of trauma of which traffickers take advantage. The current article presents data on the demographic characteristics, trauma history, mental and behavioral health needs, physical health needs, and strengths collected on a sample of 87 commercially sexually exploited youth. These youth were served in a specialized treatment program in Miami-Dade County, Florida, for exploited youth involved with the child welfare system. Findings revealed that the youth in this study have high rates of previous sexual abuse (86% of the youth)

and other traumatic experiences prior to their exploitation. Youth also exhibited considerable mental and behavioral health needs. Given that few programs emphasize the unique needs of children who have been sexually exploited, recommendations are offered for providing a continuum of specialized housing and treatment services to meet the needs of sexually exploited youth, based on the authors' experiences working with this population.

Litam, S. D. A., & Bach, J. E. (2017). "Otis": A case study of an online attempt to purchase children for sex. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 26(7), 806-817.

The researchers analyzed court documents to develop a case study of an individual convicted of buying sexual services from exploited children. Findings indicate that the subject deviates from preexisting victim selection processes and demonstrates characteristics inconsistent with existing sexual offender typologies that likens offender behaviors to the hunting techniques and behaviors of predatory animals. As evidenced in the case study, the individual perceived the victims solely as a means of deviant sexual satiation and did not participate in traditionally established victim acquisition techniques. In addition, the researchers propose adopting terminology that adheres to the term consumer rather than buyer as it better represents some offenders' disconnect and lack of empathy in the victim acquisition process.

Miller-Perrin, C., & Wurtele, S. K. (2017). Sex trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children. *Women & Therapy*, 40(1-2), 123-151.

In recent years, the problem of child sex trafficking has become a topic of international discussion and concern. Child sex trafficking can include many forms of commercial sexual exploitation such as prostitution, pornography, and child sex tourism. Children who fall prey to these forms of sexual exploitation are of particular concern because of their vulnerable status and the impact these experiences have on their development. This article provides a comprehensive review about what is currently known about child sex trafficking by examining definitions, estimates of the problem, child risk factors and consequences, and approaches to protection, prosecution, promotion of recovery and reintegration, and partnerships for promoting collaboration and cooperation.

Mitchell, K., Moynihan, M., Pitcher, C., Francis, A., English, A., & Saewyc, E. (2017). [Rethinking research on sexual exploitation of boys: Methodological challenges and recommendations to optimize future knowledge generation.](#) *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 66, 142-151.

Research and policies on child and adolescent sexual exploitation frequently focus on the sexual exploitation of girls and fail to recognize the experiences of sexually exploited boys, including their potentially unique health care and social support needs. This oversight limits the ability of health care and social service providers to offer both targeted and evidence informed care to sexually exploited boys. As a first step in a larger grant to understand the experiences of sexually exploited boys and to develop interventions for this specific population, we conducted a systematic review to address the question, “What is the state of the research on sexually exploited boys internationally?” As we undertook this review, we faced a number of significant challenges that made the process more difficult than anticipated. In this paper we discuss four key methodological challenges we encountered: lack of a consistent definition of child and adolescent sexual exploitation, difficulties in differentiating sexual exploitation as a specific concept within child sexual abuse, failure to disaggregate data usefully across multiple variables, and limited epidemiological studies to inform prevalence. We reflect on how these challenges limited our ability to systematically analyze, synthesize, and interpret the available research. We conclude by making recommendations to improve the state of the research regarding sexually exploited boys with the aim of better informing future policy and practice.

Moore, J. L., Houck, C., Hirway, P., Barron, C. E., & Goldberg, A. P. (2017). Trafficking experiences and psychosocial features of domestic minor sex trafficking victims. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. Online ahead of print. DOI:10.1177/0886260517703373.

Domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) is an increasingly recognized traumatic crime premised upon the control, abuse, and exploitation of youth. By definition, DMST is the “recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act” within domestic borders, in which the person is a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident under the age of 18 years. The present study described the demographics, psychosocial features, and trafficking experiences (e.g., environments of recruitment, relationship to trafficker, solicitation) of DMST victims. A total of 25 medical records of patients under the age of 18 who

disclosed their involvement in DMST to medical providers between August 1, 2013, and November 30, 2015, were retrospectively reviewed. The majority of patients were female, and the mean age was 15.4 years old. Most patients lived at home and/or were accompanied at the evaluation by a parent/guardian. High rates of alcohol or substance use/abuse (92%), being placed in a group home or child protective services (CPS) custody (28%), a history of runaway behavior (60%), and/or exposure to other child maltreatment (88%) were identified. Our data indicated variation in reported trafficking experiences; however, patients commonly reported an established relationship with their trafficker (60%) and recruitment occurred primarily as a result of financial motivation (52%). Patients were prevalently recruited in settings where there were face-to-face interactions (56%), whereas the solicitation of sex-buyers occurred primarily online (92%). Victims who disclosed involvement in DMST had complicated psychosocial histories that may have rendered them susceptible to their exploitation, and reported a variety of DMST experiences perpetuated by traffickers. Although preliminary in nature, this study provided empirical evidence of the predisposing factors, motivations, and experiences of victimized youth uniquely from the perspective of patients who sought medical care.

Naramore, R., Bright, M. A., Epps, N., & Hardt, N. S. (2017). Youth arrested for trading sex have the highest rates of childhood adversity: A statewide study of juvenile offenders. *Sexual Abuse, 29*(4), 396-410.

A history of childhood adversity is associated with high-risk behaviors and criminal activity in both adolescents and adults. Furthermore, individuals with histories of child maltreatment are at higher risk for engaging in risky sexual behavior, experiencing re-victimization, and in some cases, becoming sexual offenders. The purpose of the current study was to examine the prevalence of individual and cumulative adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) reported by 102 offending youth who were arrested for trading sex and 64,227 offending youth who were arrested for various other crimes, using Florida's Positive Achievement Change Tool. Youth with violations related to sex trafficking had higher rates for each ACE as well as number of ACEs, particularly sexual abuse and physical neglect. These findings have implications for identifying adverse experiences in both maltreated and offending youth as well as tailoring services to prevent re-victimization.

O'Brien, J. E., White, K., & Rizo, C. F. (2017). Domestic minor sex trafficking among child welfare-involved youth: An exploratory study of correlates. *Child maltreatment, 22*(3), 265-274.

Our research team used the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being II to explore relationships between demographic factors, domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) status, and several psychosocial dependent variables for children and youth in the child welfare system who affirm that they have been paid for sex within the past 6 months. The sample included a total of 814 children and youth, 38 of whom reported DMST victimization. Results revealed that youth with a history of DMST victimization were more likely than their nonexploited peers to report runaway behavior, demonstrate externalizing behaviors, and test in the clinical range for a substance abuse problem. Research and practice implications are discussed.

Perkins, E. B., & Ruiz, C. (2017). Domestic minor sex trafficking in a rural state: Interviews with adjudicated female juveniles. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal, 34*(2), 171-180.

Domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) is defined as the “recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act” (TVPA, 2000) where the person is a citizen of the U.S. and under age 18 years. The purpose of this study was to gain a more informed understanding of the scope of the problem of DMST for adjudicated juvenile females, to identify factors associated with DMST for this vulnerable population, and enhance our understanding of the pathways in and out of DMST from the victims’ perspective (especially rural vs. urban). Qualitative interviews were conducted with 40 adjudicated juvenile females in a southern, rural state. Results indicate a significant number of adjudicated female youth are engaged in sex trafficking, often to obtain drugs, and that a significant number feel forced to perform sex acts in exchange for drugs and/or for a place to sleep which is also highly correlated with being a victim of sexual abuse. Early intervention for juvenile females who fit the noted vulnerabilities needs to be implemented in time to prevent our youth from being victimized. Suggestions for future research are addressed

Roby, J. L., & Vincent, M. (2017). [Federal and state responses to domestic minor sex trafficking: The evolution of policy](#). *Social Work*, 62(3), 201-210.

Domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) is a rapidly growing problem in the United States, yet legislative efforts to address victim needs have begun only recently. DMST is an issue that spans several areas of social work practice, as emerging research shows that most children and youths exploited in commercial sex have typically experienced prior abuse, neglect, or other forms of trauma. Many have been involved with the child welfare and juvenile justice systems and are often lured by promises of love, security, protection, and belonging. Policy development to address DMST is still relatively new and evolving at both federal and state levels, but the general trend is to recognize such minors as victims rather than perpetrators of sex crimes. In this article the authors trace the development of legislation addressing DMST at the federal and state levels, with a particular focus on states' "safe harbor laws" that provide limited or total criminal immunity and a varying range of services to victims. Although space limitation precludes a detailed discussion of specific state laws, comparative analysis of representative provisions are discussed, highlighting social work application and further policy and research implications.

Todres, J. (2017). [Physician Encounters with Human Trafficking: Legal Consequences and Ethical Considerations](#). (Commentary). *AMA Journal of Ethics*, 19(1), 16-22.

There is growing recognition and evidence that health care professionals regularly encounter—though they may not identify—victims of human trafficking in a variety of health care settings. Identifying and responding appropriately to trafficking victims or survivors requires not only training in trauma-informed care but also consideration of the legal and ethical issues that arise when serving this vulnerable population. This essay examines three areas of law that are relevant to this case scenario: criminal law, with a focus on conspiracy; service provider regulations, with a focus on mandatory reporting laws; and human rights law. In addition to imposing a legal mandate, the law can inform ethical considerations about how health care professionals should respond to human trafficking.

Andretta, J. R., Woodland, M. H., Watkins, K. M., & Barnes, M. E. (2016). Towards the discreet identification of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) victims and individualized interventions: Science to practice. *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law*, 22(3), 260.

The purpose of the present study was to build on the extant Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) screening options available for use in the juvenile justice system, where screenings must be brief, objective, and nonintrusive. Our goal was not to develop a system to identify CSEC victims, but instead to objectively discern *CSEC risk* in youth to be further examined through a referral process. Risk factors or indicators of risk for CSEC victimization have been proposed, and used to develop semistructured interviews intended to inform clinical judgments. We propose an objective, quantitative decision-making system for determining CSEC risk called the Sex-Trafficking Assessment Review (STAR © 2015 District of Columbia Courts). Participants included 901 youth (95.34% African American; 45.17% female; *Mean age* = 15.44, *SD* = 1.50) arrested in Washington, DC. A codebook was developed to aid scoring of STAR items, and kappa interrater reliability coefficients were developed to assure adequate agreement in STAR scores among screeners. An Item Response Theory (IRT) model was applied to STAR scores, and 3 CSEC risk statuses were identified: (a) High Risk, (b) Moderate Risk, and (c) Low Risk. Consistent with the CSEC literature, STAR statuses were associated with depression and other clinical symptoms as well as perceptions and attributions known to be common in sexual abuse victims. Also in keeping with theory, STAR statuses were associated with gender, but not age. Results are discussed in the context of service provision in a juvenile court system, including the implementation of the STAR.

West, A. (2017). Child trafficking and child welfare. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 3(2), 125-135.

The purpose of this article is to gain an increased understanding of the role of child welfare in relation to the child-trafficking population. Fifteen service providers, from multidisciplinary backgrounds, working in the community with victims of child trafficking were interviewed through individual, semi-structured interviews. Exploratory in nature, this study employed a phenomenological methodology. The coding and analysis of data was conducted through Atlas.ti.

The findings in this study suggest that there are barriers between service providers and the child welfare system that are experienced in a lack of identification of victims and in the areas of collaboration and funding of services. Recommendations for practice, policy, and research include transparency, education between system and community, shared input in case decision making, and future exploration of the experiences of caseworkers.

Baca, A. L., & Lopez, M. M. (2016). [Law enforcements perceptions regarding domestic minor sex trafficking and the involvement of social workers in these cases.](#) California State University, San Bernardino.

Domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) is a significant issue that affects children, families, and communities throughout the United States. Due to the illegal nature of the problem, it is difficult for law enforcement to identify victims of DMST and when they are identified it is challenging to provide them with services. Because law enforcement often encounter DMST victims through first response calls or within juvenile hall, it is important to understand the collaboration efforts between social workers and law enforcement in order to provide effective services for this population. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to gain an understanding of the perceptions of law enforcement officers regarding the involvement of social workers in DMST cases. This study used a qualitative design by collecting data through face-to-face interviews with 10 law enforcement officers from Los Angeles County and San Bernardino County. This design allowed participants the opportunity to provide a more in-depth explanation regarding the involvement of social workers in DMST cases. The study found that there is a need for social workers to collaborate with law enforcement agencies to provide and advocate for services for victims of DMST. The study also indicated the need for transitional housing or other placement options for youth because the current alternative is incarceration.

Barnert, E. S., Abrams, S., Azzi, V. F., Ryan, G., Brook, R., & Chung, P. J. (2016). Identifying best practices for “Safe Harbor” legislation to protect child sex trafficking victims: Decriminalization alone is not sufficient. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 51, 249-262.

Several states have recently enacted “Safe Harbor” laws to redirect child victims of commercial sexual exploitation and child sex trafficking from the criminal justice system and into the child welfare system. No comprehensive studies of Safe Harbor law implementation exist. The nine

state Safe Harbor laws enacted by 2012 were analyzed to guide state legislators, health professionals, law enforcement agents, child welfare providers, and other responders to the commercial sexual exploitation of children on the development and implementation of state Safe Harbor laws. The authors conducted 32 semi-structured interviews with Safe Harbor experts in these states. Participants conveyed that Safe Harbor legislation signified a critical paradigm shift, treating commercially sexually exploited youth not as criminals but as vulnerable children in need of services. However, Safe Harbor legislation varied widely and significant gaps in laws exist. Such laws alone were considered insufficient without adequate funding for necessary services. As a result, many well-meaning providers were going around the Safe Harbor laws by continuing to incarcerate commercially sexually exploited youth in the juvenile justice system regardless of Safe Harbor laws in place. This was done, to act, in their view, in what was the best interest of the victimized children. With imperfect laws and implementation, these findings suggest an important role for local and state responders to act together to protect victims from unnecessary criminalization and potential further traumatization. Published by Elsevier Ltd.

Bouche, V., Farrell, A., & Wittner, D. (2016). [Identifying effective counter-trafficking programs and practices in the U.S.: Legislative, legal, and public opinion strategies that work.](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice.

After more than a decade of sustained efforts to combat human trafficking in the United States, it is necessary to step back and examine the effectiveness of key anti-trafficking strategies. Utilizing a multi-method approach, we examine 1) the effectiveness of state-level human trafficking legislation to determine what specific legislative provisions are most effective for obtaining desired outcomes, 2) the characteristics of state prosecutions for human trafficking offenses to determine how state laws are being used to hold offenders accountable, and 3) what the public knows about human trafficking, why the public holds the beliefs that they do, and what the public expects from government anti-trafficking efforts. Together the three parts of the study inform efforts to develop effective counter-trafficking programs and practices for legislators, law enforcement, the courts, anti-trafficking agencies, and the public.

Cole, J., Sprang, G., Lee, R., & Cohen, J. (2016). The trauma of commercial sexual exploitation of youth: A comparison of CSE victims to sexual abuse victims in a clinical sample. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 31*(1), 122-146.

This study examined the demographic features, trauma profiles, clinical severity indicators, problem behaviors, and service utilization characteristics of youth victims of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) compared with a matched sample of sexually abused/assaulted youth who were not exploited in commercial sex. Secondary data analysis and propensity score matching were used to select a sample of 215 help-seeking youth who were exploited in prostitution (n = 43) or who were sexually abused/assaulted but not exploited in prostitution (n = 172) from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network Core Data Set (NCTSN CDS). Propensity Score Matching was used to select a comparison sample based on age, race, ethnicity, and primary residence. Statistically significant differences were noted between the groups on standardized (e.g., UCLA Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Reaction Index [PTSD-RI], Child Behavior Checklist [CBCL]) and other measures of emotional and behavioral problems (e.g., avoidance and hyperarousal symptoms, dissociation, truancy, running away, conduct disorder, sexualized behaviors, and substance abuse). This study provides useful insight into the symptom and service utilization profiles of youth exploited in commercial sex as compared with youth with other types of sexually exploitive experiences. Targeted screening and event-sensitive measures are recommended to more accurately identify youth exploited in commercial sex. More research is needed to determine if and what modifications to trauma therapies may be required to address the more severe symptomatology and behavior problems associated with youth exploited in commercial sex.

Cunningham, K. C., & Cromer, L. D. (2016). Attitudes about human trafficking: Individual differences related to belief and victim blame. *Journal of interpersonal violence, 31*(2), 228-244.

Human trafficking is believed to oppress millions of people worldwide. Despite increased media attention and public awareness campaigns in recent years, no empirical research has examined public attitudes about human trafficking. The present study examined gender, sexual trauma history, and attitudes about human trafficking as they related to belief of a sex-trafficking scenario and willingness to blame the victim for the situation. Undergraduate students (N = 409) at a large private university in the Northeastern United States completed measures in which they responded to a vignette portraying sex trafficking in the United States. Participants also reported their

personal trauma history and completed a Human Trafficking Myths Scale. Results indicated that gender and human trafficking myth acceptance, but not sexual trauma history, were significantly related to participants' belief of the sex-trafficking scenario and their perception of the victim's responsibility. Potential implications and directions for future research are discussed.

Gotch, K. (2016). Preliminary data on a sample of perpetrators of domestic trafficking for sexual exploitation: Suggestions for research and practice. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 2(1), 99-109.

Trafficking for sexual exploitation is one aspect of human trafficking and, in recent years, there has been an increased awareness of and focus on domestic trafficking for sexual exploitation within the United States; however, very little is known about the psychological characteristics or criminogenic (i.e., causing or likely to cause criminal behavior) risk/need factors of the perpetrators who profit from domestic trafficking for sexual exploitation. In an attempt to expand the scope of known data on perpetrators of domestic trafficking for sexual exploitation, descriptive statistical analyses looking at factors hypothesized to be related to the psychological characteristics, criminogenic risk/need factors, and potential treatment interventions were conducted on a sample of 28 adult male offenders with an arrest, charge, and/or conviction of street-level domestic trafficking for sexual exploitation behavior in their history. The results provide preliminary data regarding the developmental/environmental factors, psychological characteristics, and criminogenic risk/need factors of this offender population, as well as support the hypothesis that perpetrators of domestic trafficking for sexual exploitation behavior appear to be a unique offender population requiring specialized management and therapeutic interventions. Suggestions and implications for practice and research are also provided.

Hebert, L. A. (2016). Always victimizers, never victims: Engaging men and boys in human trafficking scholarship. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 2(4), 281-296.

Although human trafficking is recognized under international and domestic law to encompass a wide range of sexual and nonsexual forms of forced labor, with available measures applicable to victims of any gender, the sexual exploitation of (heterosexual) females has been set apart as an especially egregious harm. Media and activist campaigns have been instrumental to the narrow framing of human trafficking as female sex trafficking, but this article argues that academic

scholarship on trafficking has, as well, reflected and reinforced popular and political narratives of human trafficking. Building on a content analysis of 651 trafficking-related law reviews and peer-reviewed journal articles published between January 2005 and June 2013, this article documents how gender is made visible in the trafficking literature almost exclusively in relation to females, with men most commonly engaged as traffickers and consumers of (coerced) female sexual labor. As a consequence, trafficking scholarship is characterized by significant saturation in some areas and vast gaps in our understanding of the intersecting structural forces that propel individuals to migrate, increase opportunities for exploitation, and leave many victims unprotected by anti-trafficking laws and policies.

Mapp, S., Hornung, E., D’Almeida, M., & Juhnke, J. (2016). [Local law enforcement officers’ knowledge of human trafficking: Ability to define, identify, and assist.](#) *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 2(4), 329-342.

Local law enforcement officers have been identified as key figures in the fight against human trafficking, yet training has lagged, and their preparation to fulfill this role is unknown. Thus, 175 U.S. local law enforcement officers completed a survey assessing their ability to define human trafficking and to identify and assist its survivors. Approximately 17% of officers reported receiving training on human trafficking, while two thirds relied on mass media for information about human trafficking. Answers indicated confusion between human smuggling and human trafficking and a lack of knowledge of the elements of trafficking and who potential victims are. A substantial minority struggled to identify signs that a person might be a survivor of human trafficking and methods for intervention. Having received training and receiving information on trafficking from an official source significantly increased officers’ knowledge base. These results strongly support the need for formal training of local law enforcement officers and provision of knowledge from law enforcement sources in order to be able to effectively combat human trafficking.

Marcus, A., Sanson, J., Horning, A., Thompson, E., & Curtis, R. (2016). [Pimping and profitability: Testing the economics of trafficking in street sex markets in Atlantic City, New Jersey.](#) *Sociological Perspectives*, 59(1), 46-65.

Human trafficking has been identified as the second or third most profitable illicit business on the planet. Underlying these claims and billions of dollars in policy funding since the 1990s is an economics of human trafficking built heavily on two assumptions. The first is that nonconsensual labor is more profitable than consensual labor with minors being particularly profitable due to their ubiquity and inability to effectively consent. The second is that, unlike illicit narcotic and weapons sales, human trafficking involves a uniquely renewable and nearly limitless source of profit. This article uses empirical data collected from street sex markets in Atlantic City, New Jersey in 2010–2012 to test some of the assumptions of the economics of human trafficking and puts particular focus on U.S.-based domestic minor sex trafficking by exploring market practices and understandings of young sex workers and pimps/third parties who have opportunities to benefit from the sexual labor of minors. Consistent with broader literature by economic historians and labor process scholars, findings do not support the assumptions of trafficking economics, suggesting the need for trafficking economists and policymakers to give more consideration to local political economies of sex in the design of antitrafficking policy.

Miller, C. L., Duke, G., & Northam, S. (2016). Child sex-trafficking recognition, intervention, and referral: an educational framework for the development of health-care-provider education programs. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 2(3), 177-200.

The purpose of this Delphi study was to obtain consensus among an international, multidisciplinary panel of child sex-trafficking experts and child sex-trafficking survivors on the most important elements needed in a comprehensive, interdisciplinary health-care-provider education program on the recognition, intervention, and referral of child sex-trafficking victims and survivors. A two-round Delphi method was utilized to identify the most important elements of a child sex-trafficking health-care-provider education program. A content validity index score was utilized to determine consensus and order importance of each element. Eight content areas including 63 subcontent areas were identified by an international panel of 23 subject-matter experts representing clinical professions, law enforcement, academia, and community support organizations as important for inclusion in comprehensive health-care-provider education

programs. Three content areas and 19 subcontent areas were identified by 10 survivors as important for inclusion in comprehensive health-care-provider education programs. The Individual Content Validity Index (I-CVI) was utilized to determine consensus and rank importance. The findings of this Delphi study provide the first scientifically based framework to guide the development of comprehensive, interdisciplinary education programs for health care providers on the recognition, intervention, and treatment and referral of child sex-trafficking victims and survivors. The use of the I-CVI allows the program developer to tailor the education-program components to the time and scope of the program under development.

Rafferty, Y. (2016). Challenges to the rapid identification of children who have been trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 52, 158-168.

Child trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) is a complex phenomenon, requiring multifaceted programs and policies by various stakeholders. A number of publications have focused on preventing this heinous crime. Less attention, however, has been paid to the recovery and rehabilitation of children who have been traumatized as a result of being trafficked for CSE. This article focuses on the first step in the protection and recovery process, which is to ensure that procedures are in place for their identification, so that they might access timely and appropriate assistance. It highlights three situational and two child-related challenges to identification. In addition, it describes the additional victimization experienced by children who are wrongly arrested for crimes associated with prostitution or illegal border crossings, rather than being identified as victims. An extensive literature review was conducted, and included academic publications, as well as government and non-governmental reports. In addition, field-based qualitative research was undertaken in South and Southeast Asia, and involved interviews with representatives from United Nations and governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and aftercare recovery programs. © 2015 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

Sapiro, B., Johnson, L., Postmus, J. L., & Simmel, C. (2016). Supporting youth involved in domestic minor sex trafficking: Divergent perspectives on youth agency. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 58, 99-110.

Domestic-minor sex trafficking (DMST) continues to affect youth in the United States; however, lack of empirical evidence for interventions and the complex sociopolitical discourses surrounding sex trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) hamper delivery of effective services to this population. To explore perspectives on best practices with these young people, 20 in-depth interviews were conducted with key stakeholders whose work provides them with a unique vantage point on the needs and experiences of survivors of DMST in New Jersey. Notes from interviews were coded and analyzed for emergent themes. While key stakeholders generally agreed on best practices, there were several important areas of dispute that emerged regarding how best to serve youth involved in DMST, specifically with regard to youth running away from services, models of service provision, and the use of technology by these youth. Findings suggest that professionals from diverse backgrounds may disagree about the extent to which youth involved in DMST possess agency in their decision-making capacities as adolescents. This study explores these areas of dispute, and discusses the implications for the many different professionals and systems that must work together in providing services to this population. © 2016 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

Shandro, J., Chisolm-Straker, M., Duber, H. C., Findlay, S. L., Munoz, J., Schmitz, G., ... & Wingkun, N. (2016). [Human trafficking: a guide to identification and approach for the emergency physician](#). *Annals of Emergency Medicine*, 68(4), 501-508.

Human trafficking is a significant human rights problem that is often associated with psychological and physical violence. There is no demographic that is spared from human trafficking. Traffickers maintain control of victims through physical, sexual, and emotional violence and manipulation. Because victims of trafficking seek medical attention for the medical and psychological consequences of assault and neglected health conditions, emergency clinicians are in a unique position to recognize victims and intervene. Evaluation of possible trafficking victims is challenging because patients who have been exploited rarely self-identify. This article outlines the clinical approach to the identification and treatment of a potential victim of human trafficking in the emergency department. Emergency practitioners should maintain a high index of suspicion when evaluating patients who appear to be at risk for abuse and violence, and assess for specific

indicators of trafficking. Potential victims should be evaluated with a multidisciplinary and patient-centered technique. Furthermore, emergency practitioners should be aware of national and local resources to guide the approach to helping identified victims. Having established protocols for victim identification, care, and referrals can greatly facilitate health care providers' assisting this population.

Smith, C. K. (2016). [No quick fix: The failure of criminal law and the promise of civil law remedies for domestic child sex trafficking.](#)

Wachter, K., Cook Heffron, L., Busch-Armendariz, N. B., Nsonwu, M. B., Kammer-Kerwick, M., Kellison, B., ... & Sanders, G. M. (2016). Responding to domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST): Developing principle-based practices. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 2(4), 259-271.

Over the last decade, modern slavery has emerged as a major social-justice issue. Many new organizations in the United States have begun serving survivors of domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST), while others have expanded their services to include this vulnerable population in their mission. This qualitative study describes the principle-based practices that emerged from structured interviews with staff employed at five well-established organizations in the United States whose missions include providing direct services to DMST survivors. Thematic analysis identified five guiding principle-based practices for working with DMST survivors: nurture the humanity and dignity of clients; contextualize the needs of survivors within a broader social-justice framework; prioritize the immediate and practical needs of clients; support of the dynamic nature of survivors' healing; help identify and engage community and professional partners who are essential to the work of serving DMST survivors and ending sex trafficking. This research enhances the field's understanding of principle-based practice with DMST survivors and encourages those working with DMST survivors to critically consider the principles behind their practice. The findings are particularly important given complex vulnerabilities and needs, and the significant rise in the number of untrained organizations providing services to survivors.

Duger, A. (2015). [Focusing on prevention: The social and economic rights of children vulnerable to sex trafficking.](#) *Health & Human Rights: An International Journal*, 17(1), 114-123.

The commercial sexual exploitation of children (“CSEC”) is an egregious human rights and public health violation that occurs every day across the US. Although there has been positive change in the US to bring attention to CSEC and to reform laws and policies to assist CSEC victims, scant attention and resources have been dedicated to prevention efforts. This paper critiques current US strategies to address CSEC and highlights the limitations of an interventionist framework that narrows its focus to anti-trafficking efforts. As an alternative, the paper proposes a human rights-based approach focusing on the fulfillment of economic and social rights of children as a prevention strategy in the US.

Edinburgh, L., Pape-Blabolil, J., Harpin, S. B., & Saewyc, E. (2015). [Assessing exploitation experiences of girls and boys seen at a child advocacy center.](#) *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 46, 47-59.

Sexual exploitation is a severe form of child abuse that has profound effects on the immediate and long-term physical and mental health of youth. In this paper, sexual exploitation is defined as the exchange of sex for some type of consideration, including but not limited to: money, housing, food, clothes, transportation or a mobile phone. Exact numbers of sexually exploited youth are difficult to estimate (Stransky and Finkelhor, 2008) but given the number of youth who endorse having exchanged sex for goods in surveys of homeless youth and in school-based surveys (Saewyc, Drozda, Rivers, MacKay, & Peled, 2013), more information is needed regarding the context in which youth are first exploited, their exploitation experiences, co-occurring risk behaviors, and trauma symptoms. Child Advocacy Centers are one setting where youth who have been exploited can be interviewed, identified and receive comprehensive health care.

Fedina, L. (2015). Use and misuse of research in books on sex trafficking implications for interdisciplinary researchers, practitioners, and advocates. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 16(2), 188-198.

Recent articles have raised important questions about the validity of prevalence data on human trafficking, exposing flawed methodologies behind frequently cited statistics. While considerable evidence points to the fact that human trafficking does exist in the United States and abroad, many

sources of literature continue to cite flawed data and some misuse research in ways that seemingly inflate the problem, which can have serious implications for anti-trafficking efforts, including victim services and anti-trafficking legislation and policy. This systematic review reports on the prevalence data used in 42 recently published books on sex trafficking to determine the extent to which published books rely on data estimates and just how they use or misuse existing data. The findings from this review reveal that the vast majority of published books do rely on existing data that were not rigorously produced and therefore may be misleading or at minimum, inaccurate. Implications for practice, research, and policy are discussed, as well as recommendations for future prevalence studies on human trafficking.

Finklea, K., Fernandes-Alcantars, A. L., & Siskin A. (2015). [\*Sex trafficking of children in the United States: Overview and Issues for Congress\*](#). CRS Report No. R41878. Washington DC: Congressional Research Service.

Gibbs, D. A., Walters, J. L. H., Lutnick, A., Miller, S., & Kluckman, M. (2015). Services to domestic minor victims of sex trafficking: Opportunities for engagement and support. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 54, 1-7.

Human trafficking of young people is a social problem of growing concern. This paper reports selected findings from an evaluation of three programs serving domestic minor victims of human trafficking. Participants in this study were funded to identify and serve male and female victims of sex or labor trafficking who were less than 18 years old and were U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents. Programs provided case management and comprehensive services, either directly or through community collaboration. Evaluation data included data on client characteristics, service needs and services delivered; key informant interviews with program staff and partner agencies; and case narrative interviews in which program staff provided in-depth descriptions of clients' histories. All clients served were known or believed to be sex trafficked. The majority of clients needed crisis intervention, safety planning, educational support, mental health services, and employment services. Although they were diverse in terms of demographics and circumstances, two common patterns were of homeless young people exchanging sex to meet survival needs and young people were emotionally engaged with their trafficker. Key findings include the diversity of trafficked minors, the challenge of initial and continued engagement with service delivery, the

structural and resource barriers to long-term support for young people, and the potential contribution of programs specifically addressing trafficked minors. A framework linking services to young people's circumstances and outcome areas is proposed. © 2015 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

Orme, J., & Ross-Sheriff, F. (2015). Sex trafficking: policies, programs, and services. *Social work, 60*(4), 287-294.

Sex trafficking (ST), a contemporary form of female slavery, is a human rights issue of critical concern to social work. The global response to ST has been substantial, and 166 countries have adopted anti-ST legislation. Despite considerable efforts to combat ST, the magnitude is increasing. To date, the majority of anti-ST efforts have focused on criminalization policies that target traffickers or purchasers of sexual services, who are predominantly male; prevention programming and services for predominantly female victims have received less support. Therapeutic services to assist pornography addicts and purchasers of sexual services are also necessary. In this article, authors examine current anti-ST policies, programs, and services, both domestically and globally, and present an innovative paradigm that addresses social inequities and emphasizes prevention programming. They conclude with a discussion of the paradigm's implications for social work policies, practices, and services.

Roe-Sepowitz, D. E., Gallagher, J., Risinger, M., & Hickle, K. (2015). The sexual exploitation of girls in the United States: The role of female pimps. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 30*(16), 2814-2830.

The role of women in the sex trafficking of minors in the United States has received limited research attention. Case study analysis of 49 female pimps from federal, state and local cases were analyzed to explore if there were differences in the penalties given to females when compared to their male co-defendants, and cross-case analysis was conducted to identify themes that represent female pimp typologies. Both prison sentence and probation sentences were significantly lower for female co-defendants when compared to their male co-defendant. Five discrete typologies were developed including: Bottom, Madam/Business partner, Family, Girilla, and Handler. Each of these had unique features regarding violence towards their minor victims, co-defendants, actions

during the sexual exploitation of the minor and sentencing outcomes. Implications for practice and future research were recommended.

Salisbury, E. J., Dabney, J. D., & Russell, K. (2015). Diverting victims of commercial sexual exploitation from juvenile detention: Development of the InterCSECT screening protocol. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 30*(7), 1247-1276.

Identifying victims of commercial sexual exploitation in the juvenile justice system is a challenging complexity requiring concerted organizational commitment. Using a three-tiered, trauma-informed screening process, a 3½-month pilot intervention was implemented in Clark County Juvenile Court (Washington) to identify victims in an effort to connect them to community youth advocates and sexual assault resources. A total of 535 boys and girls ages 9 to 19 were screened during intake; 47 of these youth reported risk factors associated with commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) and were subsequently referred to community advocates. Six youth (all girls) were confirmed CSEC victims and were successfully diverted from juvenile detention. Study results suggest that despite the lack of reliable data surrounding the prevalence of CSEC, juvenile justice agencies need to become educated on the risk factors to triage victims to services.

Trznadel, D. J. (2015). [United States federal guidance on witness protection in human trafficking](#). Army Command and General Staff College Fort Leavenworth Kansas.

The United States needs overarching federal guidance on witness protection for human trafficking victims/witnesses in order to enhance their safety and participation in prosecuting their traffickers. The international response predicates itself on a victim-centered approach that works along four distinct efforts to combat the problem: Prevention; Protection; Prosecution; and Partnership. Protection of victims is essential for all victims regardless of their cooperation in anti-trafficking efforts, namely trafficker prosecution. Protection comes in two forms, access to social services and physical protection from human traffickers. A prosecutor's ability to secure vital testimony at trial – increasing the likelihood of conviction – was interrelated to the victim witness receiving protection. Federal guidelines for other components of the fight against trafficking, such as the provision of social services, mirror international advice and practices and are clearly outlined, allowing state and local governments to formulate effective policies in providing support to victims of trafficking. As a result, state and local

governments vary in their approach to the physical protection of human trafficking victim witnesses. The thesis argues that victim witness cooperation is improved when victims receive aid and protection and that offering even minimal physical protection increases the likelihood of witness cooperation.

Varma, S., Gillespie, S., McCracken, C., & Greenbaum, V. J. (2015). Characteristics of child commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking victims presenting for medical care in the United States. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 44, 98-105.

The objective of the study is to describe distinguishing characteristics of commercial sexual exploitation of children/child sex trafficking victims (CSEC) who present for health care in the pediatric setting. This is a retrospective study of patients aged 12-18 years who presented to any of three pediatric emergency departments or one child protection clinic, and who were identified as suspected victims of CSEC. The sample was compared with gender and age-matched patients with allegations of child sexual abuse/sexual assault (CSA) without evidence of CSEC on variables related to demographics, medical and reproductive history, high-risk behavior, injury history and exam findings. There were 84 study participants, 27 in the CSEC group and 57 in the CSA group. Average age was 15.7 years for CSEC patients and 15.2 years for CSA patients; 100% of the CSEC and 94.6% of the CSA patients were female. The two groups significantly differed in 11 evaluated areas with the CSEC patients more likely to have had experiences with violence, substance use, running away from home, and involvement with child protective services and/or law enforcement. CSEC patients also had a longer history of sexual activity. Adolescent CSEC victims differ from sexual abuse victims without evidence of CSEC in their reproductive history, high risk behavior, involvement with authorities, and history of violence.

Brayley, H., & Cockbain, E. P. (2014). British children can be trafficked too: Towards an inclusive definition of internal child sex trafficking. *Child Abuse Review*, 23(3), 171-184.

In research, policy and practice, internal trafficking has been long overshadowed by its international counterpart. Despite the introduction of specific legislation against internal sex trafficking, confusion remains in Britain around how this crime is distinguished from other forms of sexual exploitation. In particular, there have been growing tensions around whether British children can be victims. The need for clarity and consistency has been highlighted by a series of high-profile cases involving British minors being moved within the UK for sexual exploitation. This article brings ongoing definitional debate into the academic arena, exploring the contents and

validity of common arguments against accepting Britons as valid victims. It engages with academic studies, government and third-sector reports, parliamentary debate and legal statute. Additionally, it features arguments raised by practitioners and policy-makers at conferences, training and meetings. It proposes an inclusive and more clearly delineated definition of internal child sex trafficking. The acceptance and application of a standardised definition would facilitate more effective, transparent and consistent multi-agency interventions and data collection. The article will be of interest to practitioners, policy-makers and academics. It focuses on the UK, but contributes to wider international discourse around internal trafficking.

Butler, C. N. (2014). [Kids for sale: Does America recognize its own sexually exploited minors as victims of human trafficking?](#). *Seton Hall Law Review*, 44, 833-937.

Cole, J., & Sprang, G. (2014). Sex trafficking of minors (STM) in metropolitan, micropolitan, and rural communities. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 40, 113-123.

The purpose of the study was to examine professionals' awareness, knowledge, and experiences working with youth victims of sex trafficking in metropolitan and non-metropolitan communities. Professionals who worked with at-risk youth and/or crime victims were recruited from all counties in a southern, rural state in the U.S. to complete a telephone survey. Surveys included closed and open-ended questions, which were theme coded. Professionals' ( $n = 289$ ) were classified into one of four categories based on the counties in which they worked: metropolitan, micropolitan, rural, and all three community types. Although there were many similarities found in trafficking situations across the different types of communities, some expected differences were found. First, as expected, more professionals in metropolitan communities perceived CSEC as being a fairly or very serious problem in the state overall. Consistent with other studies, more professionals in metropolitan communities had received training on human trafficking and reported they were familiar with the state and federal laws on human trafficking (Newton et al., 2008). Significantly more professionals in metropolitan (54.7%) communities reported they had worked with a suspected or definite victim of STM compared to professionals in micropolitan communities (29.8%). There were few differences in victim characteristics, vulnerability factors, and trafficking situations (e.g., relationship to trafficker, traffickers' techniques for controlling victims, transportation, and Internet-facilitation of trafficking) across the community types. There is a

continued need for awareness building of STM and training, particularly in non-metropolitan communities, as well as adoption of screening tools, integration of trauma-informed care, and identification of best practices.

Cecchet, S. J., & Thoburn, J. (2014). The psychological experience of child and adolescent sex trafficking in the United States: Trauma and resilience in survivors. *Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy*, 6(5), 482-493.

To date, little empirical data exists examining the psychological experience of survivors of child sex trafficking in the form of prostitution, nor does current scientific data suggest how American women and children are recruited into the sex trade and sold for sex within the United States. This qualitative research study analyzed the narratives of interviews with 6 survivors of child and adolescent sex trafficking to assess factors that influenced their ability to survive, leave the sex trade, and reintegrate back into the community. Data were analyzed with an ecological systems model and a number of patterns emerged within participants' microsystems, mesosystems, and macrosystems. In the survivor microsystem, participants' insecure attachments led to their vulnerability to recruitment; within the mesosystem unsafe relationships contributed to increased emotional insecurities; in the macrosystem, participants were raised in environments that desensitized them to prostitution. In regard to escape and resilience, in the survivor microsystem participants left the sex trade because of pregnancy or mental health symptoms; in this mesosystem, participants needed safe relationships and increased self-worth; at the level of the macrosystem, once participants left the industry they began processing their traumatic experiences through the mental health system. These data provide unprecedented insights into the psychological effects that the sex trade has on the individuals involved, shedding light on an unexplored issue that has a profound, yet furtive presence in the United States.

Dodsworth, J. (2014). Sexual exploitation, selling and swapping sex: Victimhood and agency. *Child Abuse Review*, 23(3), 185-199.

Drawing on a qualitative study of women involved in sex work in the UK, this paper focuses on the participants who became involved in sexual exploitation or, what some of them saw as, selling or swapping sex for non-monetary 'payment', under the age of 18. A central aim of the study was to develop an understanding of how the meaning ascribed to risk and protective factors influenced

perceptions of victimhood and agency. Findings indicate that the key determinants of pathway outcomes were: whether, and how, the search for approval and affection was resolved; whether feeling ‘different’ led to a sense of defeat or strengthened resolve; whether coping strategies were adaptive or maladaptive; and whether individuals experienced the availability of a secure base. The findings suggest the need for policy which acknowledges the expertise and views of the young people involved, recognises the importance of early intervention, and is holistic in service provision not only for young people who are victims of sexual exploitation, but also for those who perceive that they have exercised agency, albeit from limited options, about their involvement in selling or swapping sex. Copyright © 2013 John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

Epstein, R., & Edelman, P. (2014). [Blueprint: A multidisciplinary approach to the domestic sex trafficking of girls.](#) Center of Poverty and Inequality, Georgetown Law. 47 p.

This report grows out of a conference held on March 12, 2013, that was hosted by Georgetown Law’s Center on Poverty and Inequality; the Human Rights Project for Girls; and The National Crittenton Foundation. The conference, “Critical Connections: A Multi-Systems Approach to the Domestic Sex Trafficking of Girls,” gathered survivors, direct service providers, advocates, and state and federal government officials to discuss the challenges of addressing the domestic sex trafficking of children and the importance of working collaboratively to help identify and support survivors. The first half of this report identifies the core components of a comprehensive and collaborative approach to the domestic sex trafficking of girls. This approach, often referred to as “cross-system” or “multidisciplinary,” requires cooperative work by relevant agencies and experts to identify and assess survivors’ needs and provide the treatment and tools the girls require to heal and to succeed. The second half of this report describes how three jurisdictions have created a multidisciplinary response to the sex trafficking of children, each from a different system perspective: groundbreaking work was initiated in Suffolk County, Massachusetts, by a child advocacy center; in Los Angeles County, by the juvenile justice system; and in Connecticut, by the child welfare system.

Farrell, A. (2014). Environmental and institutional influences on police agency responses to human trafficking. *Police Quarterly*, 17(1), 3-29.

In response to domestic and international concern about individuals being exploited for labor or commercial sex, the U.S. Government passed legislation in 2000, creating a new crime of human trafficking and devoting resources to the identification of victims and prosecution of perpetrators. Since that time, all 50 states have passed legislation criminalizing trafficking of persons, yet law enforcement responses to these new legal mandates have been uneven. Recent research suggests police agencies are generally unprepared to identify and respond to human trafficking incidents in local communities and, as a result, relatively few cases have been identified. Using data from medium-to-large municipal police agencies in the United States, this research examines competing explanations for the adoption of responses in the wake of new human trafficking laws. The findings suggest the importance of institutional explanations including organizational experience with change.

Farrell, A., Owens, C., & McDevitt, J. (2014). New laws but few cases: Understanding the challenges to the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases. *Crime, Law and Social Change*, 61(2), 139-168.

All fifty states and the federal government have passed laws to combat human trafficking, but we know little about their effectiveness. Using data from investigative case records and court files for 140 human trafficking cases in 12 U.S. counties and qualitative interviews with law enforcement, prosecutors, and victim service providers, we examined the characteristics of and challenges to investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases under new state and federal laws. We found that few human trafficking cases are identified by local law enforcement, most cases forwarded to state prosecution are sex trafficking cases involving U.S. citizens, and state prosecutors overwhelmingly charge human trafficking offenders with other, lesser crimes. The legal, institutional, and attitudinal challenges that constrain prosecution of human trafficking are similar across study sites despite varying types of state antitrafficking legislation. Study results suggest prosecution of human trafficking cases is challenging. If new laws are to be effective, then local law enforcement and prosecutors should work collaboratively and adopt proactive human trafficking investigative strategies to identify both labor and sex trafficking cases. There is social

benefit to holding traffickers accountable, but more emphasis should be placed on policies that identify and serve victims.

Klatt, T., Cavner, D., & Egan, V. (2014). Rationalising predictors of child sexual exploitation and sex-trading. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 38(2), 252-260.

Although there is evidence for specific risk factors leading to child sexual exploitation and prostitution, these influences overlap and have rarely been examined concurrently. The present study examined case files for 175 young persons who attended a voluntary organization in Leicester, United Kingdom, which supports people who are sexually exploited or at risk of sexual exploitation. Based on the case files, the presence or absence of known risk factors for becoming a sex worker was coded. Data were analyzed using *t*-test, logistic regression, and smallest space analysis. Users of the voluntary organization's services who had been sexually exploited exhibited a significantly greater number of risk factors than service users who had not been victims of sexual exploitation. The logistic regression produced a significant model fit. However, of the 14 potential predictors - many of which were associated with each other - only four variables significantly predicted actual sexual exploitation: running away, poverty, drug and/or alcohol use, and having friends or family members in prostitution. Surprisingly, running away was found to significantly decrease the odds of becoming involved in sexual exploitation. Smallest space analysis of the data revealed 5 clusters of risk factors. Two of the clusters, which reflected a desperation and need construct and immature or out-of-control lifestyles, were significantly associated with sexual exploitation. Our research suggests that some risk factors (e.g. physical and emotional abuse, early delinquency, and homelessness) for becoming involved in sexual exploitation are common but are part of the problematic milieu of the individuals affected and not directly associated with sex trading itself. Our results also indicate that it is important to engage with the families and associates of young persons at risk of becoming (or remaining) a sex worker if one wants to reduce the numbers of persons who engage in this activity.

Lindholm, J., Cederborg, A. C., & Alm, C. (2014). Adolescent girls exploited in the sex trade: Informativeness and evasiveness in investigative interviews. *Police Practice and Research, 16*(3), 197-210.

This study explores the informativeness of 24 adolescents exploited in sex trade in Sweden when they were interviewed by police officers about their experiences. The questions and responses were analysed using coding types developed for research on forensic interviews. Qualitative analyses of the questions resulting in evasive responses and the court files were also done. The findings show that the adolescents were informative yet evasive, specifically when asked open questions. Experiences of violence and interviews conducted soon after the police intervention may result in higher levels of evasiveness. Concurrently, evasiveness seems to be intimately connected to unique circumstances in each case.

Marcus, A., Horning, A., Curtis, R., Sanson, J., & Thompson, E. (2014). Conflict and agency among sex workers and pimps: A closer look at domestic minor sex trafficking. *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, 653*(1), 225-246.

The dominant understanding in the United States of the relationship between pimps and minors involved in commercial sex is that it is one of “child sex trafficking,” in which pimps lure girls into prostitution, then control, exploit, and brutalize them. Such narratives of oppression typically depend on postarrest testimonials by former prostitutes and pimps in punishment and rescue institutions. In contrast, this article presents data collected from active pimps, underage prostitutes, and young adult sex workers to demonstrate the complexity of pimp-prostitute dyads and interrogate conventional stereotypes about teenage prostitution. A holistic understanding of the factors that push minors into sex work and keep them there is needed to design and implement effective policy and services for this population.

National Human Trafficking Resource Center (2014). [Human trafficking trends in the United States: 2007-2012](#). Washington, DC: Polaris Project.

Since 2007, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC), operated by Polaris, has worked closely with local partners to help tens of thousands of callers connect with the help and services they need. As a result of the calls, emails, and online tip reports fielded by the hotline over the course of our first five years of operation, the NHTRC maintains one of the most extensive data sets on the issue of human trafficking in the United States.

National Judicial College and The Bureau of Justice Statistics (2014). [Human trafficking-What judges need to know: Instructor's Guide.](#) The National Judicial College.

Reyes, J. (2014). Federal guidance to address child trafficking: What advocates should know. *ABA Child Law Practice*, 33(2), 1, 22-25.

VERA Institute of Justice (2014). [Out of the Shadows: A Tool for the Identification of Victims of Human Trafficking.](#) VERA Institute of Justice.

The landmark Trafficking Victims Protection Act made trafficking in persons a federal crime in 2000, but the greatest obstacle to rescuing victims of human trafficking is identifying them. To make identifying these people easier—and subsequently, getting them the services and support they need while also generating evidence against their traffickers—Vera created a screening tool to be used by victim service providers and law enforcement when faced with someone who may be a victim of human trafficking. The tool, a 30-topic questionnaire that was tested by service providers and validated by Vera researchers, is the result of a two-year study funded by the National Institute of Justice.

Bigelson, J., Vuotto, S., Addison, K., Trongone, S., & Tully, K. (2013). [Homelessness, survival sex, and human trafficking: As experienced by the youth of Covenant House New York.](#)

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.

Committee on Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Sex Trafficking of Minors in the United States. (2013). Confronting commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of minors in the United States. <http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2013/Confronting-Commercial-Sexual-Exploitation-and-Sex-Trafficking-of-Minors-in-the-United-States.aspx>

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) and National Research Council (NRC) studied these crimes as they affect U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents of the United States under age 18. The IOM/NRC report offers recommendations concerning strategies for responding to commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of minors in the United States, new legislative approaches, and a research agenda. The report concludes that efforts to prevent, identify, and respond to commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of minors in the United States require better collaborative approaches. These efforts need to confront demand and the individuals who commit and benefit from these crimes. The recommendations in the report have the potential to advance and strengthen the nation's emerging efforts to prevent, identify, and respond to commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of minors.

Davidson, J. O. (2013). Telling tales: Child migration and child trafficking: Stories of trafficking obscure the realities for migrant children. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 37(12), 1069-1079.

Deshpande, N. A., & Nour, N. M. (2013). Sex trafficking of women and girls. *Review of Obstetrics and Gynecology*, 6(1), e22-e27.

Sex trafficking involves some form of forced or coerced sexual exploitation that is not limited to prostitution, and has become a significant and growing problem in both the United States and the larger global community. The costs to society include the degradation of human and women's rights, poor public health, disrupted communities, and diminished social development. Victims of sex trafficking acquire adverse physical and psychological health conditions and social disadvantages. Thus, sex trafficking is a critical health issue with broader social implications that requires both medical and legal attention. Healthcare professionals can work to improve the screening, identification, and assistance of victims of sex trafficking in a clinical setting and help these women and girls access legal and social services.

Dysart, T. L. (2013). [Child, victim, or prostitute-justice through immunity for prostituted children](#). *Duke Journal of Gender Law and Policy*, 21, 255-288.

Felitti, V. J. (2013). [Childhood trauma linked to chronic diseases in adulthood: Implications on the medical and economic burden of human trafficking](#). *Public Health and Social Justice*, 2(1).

Emotional, mental, and physical trauma during childhood are correlated with higher risk for many diseases that occur during adulthood, including coronary heart disease, depression, autoimmune disease, and drug addiction. The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study, a long-term study spanning over a decade representing middle-class urban America, revealed invaluable data linking child abuse to the risk of chronic diseases. Children and adolescents who are victims of sex or labor trafficking experience the same types of trauma, but to a greater extent and are thus at elevated risk for chronic diseases later in life. They are a group to which the ACE Study directly applies and represent a population that will continue to add to the economic burden of chronic diseases on society, if the proper public health attention is not given to this widespread problem.

Fernandez, K. M. (2013). [Victims or criminals: The intricacies of dealing with juvenile victims of sex trafficking and why the distinction matters](#). *Arizona State Law Journal*, 45, 859-890.

This article examines statutes from the states that have decriminalized the offense of juvenile prostitution. It analyzes the various methods that have been used in handling cases of domestic minor sex trafficking and explores the rehabilitative and legal complexities involved in dealing with trafficking victims. The article suggests a statutory change for Arizona, which would decriminalize juvenile prostitution and simultaneously allow a judge discretion on a case-by-case basis when delinquent charges may be necessary. It also considers the formation of a Juvenile Trafficking Court where all advocates handling these cases are trained in the intricacies of commercial sexual exploitation and the long-lasting effects of such abuse. The article concludes by evaluating the goals of the juvenile court system and analyzing whether the current treatment of sex trafficking victims meets these goals.

Fredlund, C., Svensson, F., Svedin, C. G., Priebe, G., & Wadsby, M. (2013). Adolescents' lifetime experience of selling sex: Development over five years. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse, 22*(3), 312-325.

Lifetime experience of selling sex among adolescents was investigated together with sociodemographic correlates, parent–child relationship, and the existence of people to confide in. Changes over time regarding the selling of sex were investigated through a comparison of data from 2004 and 2009. This study was carried out using 3,498 adolescents from a representative sample of Swedish high school students with a mean age 18.3 years. Of these adolescents, 1.5% stated that they had given sexual services for reimbursement and both male and female buyers existed. The adolescents who had sold sex had a poorer parent–child relationship during childhood and had fewer people to confide in about problems and worries. Changes over time were found especially regarding the Internet as a contact source and also immigrant background.

Hardy, V. L., Compton, K. D., & McPhatter, V. S. (2013). Domestic minor sex trafficking practice implications for mental health professionals. *Affilia, 28*(1), 8-18.

Domestic minor sex trafficking is a complex form of oppression and child maltreatment affecting children and adolescents on both the domestic and transnational levels. In the United States, the statistical account of minors who are affected by commercial sex trafficking varies because of the hidden nature of this criminal activity. Symptoms of trauma can result from such factors as forced subjugation, separation from family, and sexual acts with multiple perpetrators. Treatment relevant to this population is necessary for posttrafficking adaptation to society. In this article, we discuss the possible effects of domestic minor sex trafficking, implications for intervention, and directions for future research.

Jordan, J., Patel, B., & Rapp, L. (2013). Domestic minor sex trafficking: A social work perspective on misidentification, victims, buyers, traffickers, treatment, and reform of current practice. *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment, 23*(3), 356-369.

Domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) has been steadily on the rise in the United States, with estimates between 15,000 and 50,000 victims per year. Actual estimates of DMST victims are difficult to determine based on misidentification, conflicts between state and federal laws about age of consent and charges, perceptions of the victim, as well as lack of knowledge regarding the

prevalence and dynamics of sex trafficking of minors. Oftentimes, child victims come from multi-problem homes and have already experienced abuse and neglect, which further complicates treatment and services. This article explores the emerging literature and defines the problem and identifies laws, statutes, and definitions of the problem. It also reviews the literature on victim, buyer, and trafficker characteristics. Organized crime's role in this growing epidemic is explained as well as treatment options and recommendations for future social work practice at the micro-, mezzo-, and macro-levels.

Konstantopoulos, W. M., Ahn, R., Alpert, E. J., Cafferty, E., McGahan, A., Williams, T. P., ... & Burke, T. F. (2013). An international comparative public health analysis of sex trafficking of women and girls in eight cities: Achieving a more effective health sector response. *Journal of Urban Health*, 1-11.

Sex trafficking, trafficking for the purpose of forced sexual exploitation, is a widespread form of human trafficking that occurs in all regions of the world, affects mostly women and girls, and has far-reaching health implications. Studies suggest that up to 50 % of sex trafficking victims in the USA seek medical attention while in their trafficking situation, yet it is unclear how the healthcare system responds to the needs of victims of sex trafficking. To understand the intersection of sex trafficking and public health, we performed in-depth qualitative interviews among 277 antitrafficking stakeholders across eight metropolitan areas in five countries to examine the local context of sex trafficking. We sought to gain a new perspective on this form of gender-based violence from those who have a unique vantage point and intimate knowledge of push-and-pull factors, victim health needs, current available resources and practices in the health system, and barriers to care. Through comparative analysis across these contexts, we found that multiple sociocultural and economic factors facilitate sex trafficking, including child sexual abuse, the objectification of women and girls, and lack of income. Although there are numerous physical and psychological health problems associated with sex trafficking, health services for victims are patchy and poorly coordinated, particularly in the realm of mental health. Various factors function as barriers to a greater health response, including low awareness of sex trafficking and attitudinal biases among health workers. A more comprehensive and coordinated health system response to sex trafficking may help alleviate its devastating effects on vulnerable women and girls. There are

numerous opportunities for local health systems to engage in antitrafficking efforts while partnering across sectors with relevant stakeholders.

McGough, M. Q. (2013). [Ending modern-day slavery: Using research to inform U.S. anti-human trafficking efforts.](#) *NIJ Journal*, 271, 26-32.

McLeigh, J. D. (2013). Protecting Children in the Context of International Migration: Children in migration require greater protection from violence, exploitation, and discrimination. *Child abuse & Neglect*, 37(12), 1056-1068.

Miller, C. L. (2013). Child sex trafficking in the emergency department: Opportunities and challenges. *Journal of Emergency Nursing*, 39(5), 477-478.

The obligation to protect children is widely recognized in national and inter-national law and policy. In addressing the needs of children in the context of migration, however, many countries have struggled with how to ensure children safety and well-being while simultaneously addressing post-9/11 security concerns and challenges brought on by the global economic crisis. As result of these latter concerns, countries have implemented immigration policies and practices that have raised concern about their consequences for children. It is against this backdrop that in September 2012, the Committee on the Rights of the Child's Annual Day of General Discussion (DGD) focused on *The Rights of All Children in the Context of International Migration*. The objective of the DGD was to promote, at the international and national levels, the rights of children in the context of international migration. To better understand why the complex issue of children affected by international migration is receiving increased attention and the potential threats it poses to children's safety and well-being, this essay first provides an overview of changing migration patterns, attempts to estimate the number of children affected by migration, the potential effects of migration on children, and reasons why children migrate. This overview is followed by a cursory review of the body of international law relevant to children in the context of inter-national migration and the specific threats to children's safety and security posed by various policies and practices. The essay concludes with a synthesis of recommendations made by the Committee following the DGD.

Rafferty, Y. (2013). Child trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation: A review of promising prevention policies and programs. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 83(4), 559-575.

Child trafficking, including commercial sexual exploitation (CSE), is one of the fastest growing and most lucrative criminal activities in the world. The global enslavement of children affects countless numbers of victims who are trafficked within their home countries or transported away from their homes and treated as commodities to be bought, sold, and resold for labor or sexual exploitation. All over the world, girls are particularly likely to be trafficked into the sex trade: Girls and women constitute 98% of those who are trafficked for CSE. Health and safety standards in exploitative settings are generally extremely low, and the degree of experienced violence has been linked with adverse physical, psychological, and social-emotional development. The human-rights-based approach to child trafficking provides a comprehensive conceptual framework whereby victim-focused and law enforcement responses can be developed, implemented, and evaluated. This article highlights promising policies and programs designed to prevent child trafficking and CSE by combating demand for sex with children, reducing supply, and strengthening communities. The literature reviewed includes academic publications as well as international and governmental and nongovernmental reports. Implications for social policy and future research are presented.

Reid, J. A. (2013). Rapid assessment exploring impediments to successful prosecutions of sex traffickers of US minors. *Journal of Police and Criminal Psychology*, 28, 75-89.

Critical psychological, systemic, and legislative barriers to the successful prosecution of child sex traffickers who exploit U.S. citizens were uncovered during a rapid assessment conducted in a U.S. metropolitan region considered a high intensity child prostitution area. Information obtained during 34 face-to-face interviews with criminal justice professionals most likely to encounter child sex trafficking victims was supported by the collection of supplementary quantitative data. Findings revealed complex psychological factors that deter victim participation in prosecutions of traffickers such as child victims' denial of exploitation, trauma bonding between victims and traffickers, and frequent flight and revictimization. Existing inadequacies within the criminal justice system were found that may contribute to child sex trafficking persisting as a low risk/high reward crime.

Rigby, P., & Whyte, B. (2013). Children's narrative within a multi-centred, dynamic ecological framework of assessment and planning for child trafficking. *British Journal of Social Work*, 45(1), 34-51.

An ecological approach to understanding child abuse and working with separated children are not new concepts. This paper proposes a dynamic development of the model for use by front line practitioners that takes account of the movement and exploitation of children caught up in child trafficking, while recognising the primacy of children's narratives when information is difficult to obtain. Adopting a holistic planning and assessment approach utilising dynamic life story work addresses the realities of children's lives as they move around, with the potential for numerous social contacts and influences in home, transit and destination countries. The model recognises not only the physical journey and exploitation of the child, but also their emotional and psychological journey through exploitation and abuse, hopefully, towards healthy and safe outcomes. While such a model recognises the complexities of the lives of children on the move who have been trafficked, its major drawback for professionals is its complexity and the difficulty of obtaining, and making sense of information from the potentially numerous countries, situations and people children have encountered.

[The Child Sex Trafficking Data and Response Act of 2013. H.R. 2744](#)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2013). [Guidance to states and services on addressing human trafficking of children and youth in the United States](#). Washington, DC: Author. 16p.

Walts, K. K., Reichmann, L. R., & Lee, C. (2013). Legal services assessment for trafficked children: Cook County, Illinois case review. Chicago: Center for the Human Rights of Children at Loyola University.

Christenson, K. (2012). [Social work practitioners and the identification of human trafficking victims](#). Master of Social Work Clinical Research Papers. Paper 114.

Farrell, A., McDevitt, J., Pfeffer, R., Fahy, S., Owens, C., Dank, M., & Adams, W. (2012). [Identifying challenges to improve the investigation and prosecution of state and local human trafficking cases. \(2012\).](#) Northeastern University and the Urban Institute.

Finklea, K. M. (2012). [Sex trafficking of children in the United States: Overview and issues for Congress.](#) DIANE Publishing.

Macy, R. J., & Graham, L. M. (2012). Identifying domestic and international sex-trafficking victims during human service provision. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse, 13*(2), 59-76.

Children, youth, and adults of both genders are sex trafficked into and throughout the United States every day. Regrettably, little attention has been given to how human service providers might identify the sex-trafficking victims they are likely to encounter. To address this knowledge gap, the authors review 20 documents with the aim of detecting and synthesizing service identification recommendations in the scientific literature, government reports, and documents produced by organizations working with sex-trafficking victims. The review shows consensus regarding identification recommendations, including (a) trafficking indicators, (b) victim interaction strategies, (c) immediate response strategies, and (d) child-specific information. The review also shows consensus regarding screening questions that are important for service providers to use in identifying sex-trafficking victims. These questions relate to the victims' safety, employment, living environment, and travel and immigration status in addition to specific questions used with children and youth. The review results offer human service providers a preliminary set of screening strategies and questions that can be used to identify sex-trafficking victims in the context of human services. Building on the review findings, the authors offer policy and research recommendations.

Pierce, A. (2012). [American Indian adolescent girls: Vulnerability to sex trafficking, intervention strategies.](#) *American Indian and Alaska Native Mental Health Research: The Journal of the National Center, 19*(1), 37-56.

The Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center offers harm reduction programming to at-risk adolescent American Indian girls, including outreach, case management, advocacy, healthy sexuality education, and support groups. To evaluate program impact, participants are assessed at intake and every 6 months afterward for current vulnerability to commercial sexual exploitation,

violence, and addiction. Evaluation results indicate frequent exposure to sex traffickers and suggest that harm reduction methods can help girls reduce risk of commercial sexual exploitation.

Shively, M., Kliorys, K., Wheeler, K., & Hunt, D. (2012). [A National overview of prostitution and sex trafficking demand reduction efforts: Final report](#). Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice.

Stransky, M., & Finkelhor, D. (2012). [Sex trafficking of minors: How many juveniles are being prostituted in the US?](#) Crimes Against Children Research Center.

Wirsing, E. K. (2012). Outreach, collaboration and services to survivors of human trafficking: The Salvation Army STOP-IT Program's work in Chicago, Illinois. *Social Work & Christianity*, 39(4), 466-480.

Human trafficking is a horrific crime against people and is unfortunately a widespread crime in the United States, as well as abroad. Trafficked persons need support to safely exit their exploitive situations. The Salvation Army has a long history of speaking out against and actively battling against human trafficking throughout the world, committing to fight for the rights of humans to be free from exploitation. The STOP-IT program in Chicago, Illinois, is collaborating with local partners to provide timely and comprehensive services to survivors of human trafficking as well as to support their exit from exploitation and a life after leaving. By providing outreach and training to the local community of professionals, the STOP-IT program is receiving regular referrals of trafficked persons.

Busch-Armendariz, N. B., Nsonwu, M. B., & Cook Heffron, L. (2011). Human trafficking victims and their children: Assessing needs, vulnerabilities, strengths, and survivorship. *Journal of Applied Research on Children: Informing Policy for Children at Risk*, 2(1), Article 3.

Given the increased awareness and attention to human trafficking, including the establishment of federal laws and policies, federally funded task forces that provide law enforcement responses, and specialized victim services, it is important to assess the impact of these procedures and services on survivors/victims of international human trafficking and their immigrant children. By federal definition, certified victims of international human trafficking are eligible for all services provided

to refugees in this country, including reunification with their minor children. This research is based on a qualitative study conducted in Austin and Houston, Texas with human trafficking victims/survivors. The project's goal was to gain an understanding of the needs of human trafficking survivors after their rescue, their overall integration into American life, and the subsequent needs of their immigrant children after reunification. The project objectives examined the factors that either promote or hinder self-sufficiency, the determination of social service needs, and policy and practice recommendations to strengthen survivors, their children and their families living both locally and abroad. For this project, nine (n = 9) in-depth interviews were conducted with adult foreign-born victims of human trafficking. Researchers gathered data using a semi-structured questionnaire that queried about factors that promote or hinder victims' services and needs. Interviews were conducted in participants' homes using bilingual research staff and/or trained interpreters, were digitally-recorded, and subsequently transcribed. Participation in this study was completely voluntary. Specific steps were taken to ensure that the participants' identities were protected. Open coding of data was utilized and the data were subsequently organized or grouped into properties and later developed into contextual themes around the research questions. The findings are grounded with the use of direct quotes from participants. As a result of progressive U.S. policy, many victims of human trafficking are being reunited with their minor children. Immigrant children are one of the largest and fastest growing populations in the U.S. and for a variety of reasons are vulnerable to exploitation. Research also indicates that victims of trafficking are identified by traffickers because of their perceived "vulnerabilities" or lack of opportunities (Clark, 2003). Therefore, it is important that practices and policies are developed to address the unique needs of these families with an eye toward positive outcomes for parent and child safety and well-being. Social service providers are provided a toolkit that may be utilized before and during the reunification period.

Ham, J. (2011). [Moving beyond 'supply and demand' catchphrases: Assessing the uses and limitations of demand-based approaches in anti-trafficking.](#) Bangkok, Thailand: Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women.

This information guide assesses the available online literature on: (1) the demand for commercial sex, (2) the demand for exploitative labour practices, and (3) the demand for migrant labour, as

they relate to anti-trafficking efforts. In addition to accessing public online resources, we have also sought out literature produced by GAATW member organisations. There was a concerted attempt to seek out materials from a wide range of sources, and materials gathered include literature from GAATW member organisations, anti-trafficking organisations, sex workers rights organisations, NGOs, UN bodies, government offices, and academic researchers.

Johnson, A. L. (2011). [A perfect storm: The US anti-trafficking regime's failure to stop the sex trafficking of American Indian women and girls](#). *Columbia Human Rights Law Review*, 43, 617-710.

Pearce, J. J. (2011). Working with trafficked children and young people: Complexities in practice. *British Journal of Social Work*, 41(8), 1424-1441.

This article argues for a review of children's services responses to trafficked children. It draws on findings from research funded by the National Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC), which took place between 2006 and 2009 exploring practitioners' understandings of and responses to trafficked children and young people. Accompanied by an ongoing literature search, the project underwent three stages of data collection. Nine focus groups were run with a generic sample of practitioners from three locations in England. These were followed by interviews with practitioners who had detailed experience of working with trafficked children. A total of seventy-two practitioners took part in the focus groups and interviews. Finally, thirty-seven case studies of trafficked children were analysed. The findings explored in this article highlight variations in practitioners' understanding of the meaning of trafficking; problems with the delivery of child-centred practice; confusions about the distinction between 'trafficking' and 'smuggling'; and the meaning of 'internal' trafficking. Despite excellent examples of service delivery, further training for child-care and law-enforcement practitioners is needed for them to be equipped to respond to the full range of needs of trafficked children and young people.

Reid, J. A., & Jones, S. (2011). Exploited vulnerability: Legal and psychological perspectives on child sex trafficking victims. *Victims and Offenders*, 6(2), 207-231.

While the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 and subsequent reauthorizations defined all minors under the age of 18 involved in commercial sex acts as victims, state and local systems continue to classify prostituted minors who are U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents as offenders. A review of the historical, neurological, and developmental vulnerabilities typical of child sex trafficking victims reveals serious doubts regarding their ability to control their choices or escape from a trafficker. The uniform shielding of all child victims of sex trafficking, whether international or domestic, from legal culpability for the criminal conduct of traffickers is recommended.

Walts, K. K., French, S., Moore, H., & Ashai, S. (2011). [Building child welfare response to human trafficking](#). Center for the Human Rights for Children at Loyola University and the International Organization for Adolescents.

Adams, W., Owens, C., & Small, K. (2010). [Effects of federal legislation on the commercial sexual exploitation of children](#). In Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Bulletin. No. NCJ 228631.

Bernat, F. P., & Winkeller, H. C. (2010). Human sex trafficking: The global becomes local. *Women & Criminal Justice*, 20(1-2), 186-192.

Human trafficking is a significant global problem that impacts hundreds of thousands of people each year who are coerced into forced labor, domestic servitude, or the commercial sex industry. Although the international community is becoming more aware of the scope of the trafficking problem, it is not sufficient for governments to enact anti-trafficking legislation. Trafficking victims are difficult to identify and assist, since these victims are often stigmatized or treated as criminal offenders. Greater efforts need to be made at the local level to develop social services properly trained to assist in facilitating victim cooperation with law enforcement and to handle the particular mental and emotional needs of trafficking victims.

Chacón, J. (2010). [Tensions and trade-offs: Protecting trafficking victims in the era of immigration enforcement](#). *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*, 158.

U.S. anti-trafficking efforts, like the international efforts to protect trafficking victims, have been important in protecting a small (and growing) number of victims, punishing a small number of traffickers, and, perhaps most importantly, raising awareness about the nature and scope of the international trafficking problem. These advances are worthy of recognition. Nevertheless, it is equally important to acknowledge that anti-trafficking efforts in the United States and elsewhere have been heavily constrained by the politics and policies of rigid immigration enforcement. In the end, there is no way to eliminate the scourge of trafficking on the international level as long as cross-border movement is subject to the high degree of regulation and criminalization that characterizes the contemporary global order. More troubling, some efforts to address the problem of trafficking within the framework of heightened border restrictions have the perhaps unintended effect of reinforcing migrants' vulnerability to exploitation. This article seeks to expose some of the tensions and trade-offs between immigration policy choices and anti-trafficking efforts. Part I of this article focuses on the ways in which anti-trafficking advocacy and policies can actually fuel the discourse that drives restrictionist immigration policies. Discussions regarding trafficking – including media coverage of trafficking, law enforcement anti-trafficking-training efforts, and official statements on trafficking – have played into and compounded stereotypes of migrant criminality. Part II of this article explores how growing attention to the trafficking issue (in the United States and internationally) has occurred alongside, and has served as an additional justification for, the increasing reliance on the criminal justice system to manage migration. Section II.A explores the extent to which references to trafficking have been used to justify, among other things, greater law enforcement presence along the U.S.-Mexico border, greater numbers of prosecutors in border districts, and the rapid acceleration of immigration-related prosecutions. This has been the case even though very few of the resulting interdictions and prosecutions ultimately result directly in the protection of trafficking victims and even though the increased policing of the border and criminalization of migration can strengthen the hand of traffickers. Section II.B of this article explores the development of state anti-trafficking statutes and analyzes the extent to which these efforts can be understood as part of the larger trend of states and localities attempting to assert greater legal authority to participate in immigration enforcement.

Fong, R., & Berger Cardoso, J. (2010). Child human trafficking victims: Challenges for the child welfare system. *Evaluation and Program Planning, 33*(3), 311-316.

Since the passing of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act in 2000 and its reauthorization by President George Bush in 2008, federal, state and community efforts in identifying and providing services for victims of human trafficking have significantly improved. However, most of the research and resources for trafficking victims have been directed towards adults rather than children. Researchers agree that there is a growing number of sexually exploited and trafficked children in the United States yet few programs emphasize the unique experiences and special needs of this population. This article examines commercial sexual exploitation of children; differentiates the needs and problems between child prostitution and victims of human trafficking; reviews and critiques current treatment practices; and summarizes challenges and successes in working with child victims of human trafficking, offering practice and policy recommendations.

Halter, S. (2010). Factors that influence police conceptualizations of girls involved in prostitution in six US cities: Child sexual exploitation victims or delinquents? *Child Maltreatment, 15*(2), 152-160.

This study examined how the police conceptualize juveniles involved in prostitution as victims of child sexual exploitation (CSE) or delinquents. Case files from six police agencies in major U.S. cities of 126 youth allegedly involved in prostitution, who were almost entirely girls, provided the data for this inquiry. This study found that 60% of youth in this sample were conceptualized as victims by the police and 40% as offenders. Logistic regression predicted the youths' culpability status as victims. The full model predicted 91% of youth's culpability status correctly and explained 67% of the variance in the youths' culpability status. The police considered youth with greater levels of cooperation, greater presence of identified exploiters, no prior record, and that came to their attention through a report more often as victims. In addition, the police may consider local youth more often as victims. It appears that the police use criminal charges as a paternalistic protective response to detain some of the youth treated as offenders, even though they considered these youth victims. Legislatively mandating this form of CSE as child abuse or adopting a "secure care" approach is needed to ensure these youth receive the necessary treatment and services.

Kotrla, K. (2010). Domestic minor sex trafficking in the United States. *Social Work, 55*(2), 181-187.

By now, most social workers are familiar with the issue of human trafficking. However, many are likely unfamiliar with research indicating that youths constitute the most vulnerable group in the United States for becoming victims of sex trafficking and that most women in prostitution actually entered as minors. Some experts are now referring to the sex trafficking of U.S. children and youths as “domestic minor sex trafficking,” or DMST. This article seeks to acquaint readers with what is currently known regarding the extent of DMST, who is at risk for becoming a victim, and implications for the social work profession in addressing this tragedy.

Rand, A. (2010). It can't happen in my backyard: The commercial sexual exploitation of girls in the United States. *Children & Youth Services, 31*(3-4), 138-156.

This article describes the issue of commercial sexual exploitation in the United States and details the risk factors associated with young girls entering the life. The consequences of commercial sexual exploitation are detailed and the barriers to effectively combat this growing phenomenon are investigated. Service providers who work with this population are highlighted, promising practices are discussed, current research is critiqued, and recommendations for developing a comprehensive response to the issue of commercial sexual exploitation are outlined.

Raphael, J., Reichert, J. A., & Powers, M. (2010). Pimp control and violence: Domestic sex trafficking of Chicago women and girls. *Women & Criminal Justice, 20*(1-2), 89-104.

The present study examines the violence and change in violence experienced by domestically sex trafficked women from their pimps since their recruitment. A total of 100 women who currently had a pimp were interviewed, and 71 indicated that they had been recruited into prostitution, many under conditions meeting the federal definition of trafficking. Violence and coercive control were measured at two different points for each woman and compared separately and together. On average, violence had increased since recruitment, and those women who experienced more forms of coercive control generally experienced higher levels of violence from their pimps. The majority of women experienced violence and coercion, thereby meeting federal sex trafficking definitions.

Reid, J. A. (2010). Doors wide shut: Barriers to the successful delivery of victim services for domestically trafficked minors in a southern US metropolitan area. *Women & Criminal Justice, 20*(1-2).

Domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) is the commercial sexual exploitation of U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident children. This study explored the identification of DMST victims and their access to crime victim services. Findings suggest an acute lack of awareness or understanding of DMST among professionals likely to come into contact with victims, resulting in failure to identify DMST victims. Because of their misidentification, few DMST victims were accessing victim services. Victim-centered protocols for child sex trafficking criminal cases were lacking, leading to a failure in prosecution of sex traffickers. Professionals reported encountering complex issues, such as DMST victims' incapacity to break away from traffickers, denial of victimization, high likelihood of flight and revictimization, and reluctance to cooperate with trafficking investigations.

Todres, J. (2010). [Taking prevention seriously: Developing a comprehensive response to child trafficking and sexual exploitation.](#) *Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law, 43*(1), 1-56.

Millions of children are victims of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation each year. Governments have responded with a range of measures, focusing primarily on seeking to prosecute perpetrators of these abuses and offering assistance to select victims. These efforts, while important, have done little to reduce the incidence of these forms of child exploitation. This Article asserts that a central reason why efforts to date may not be as effective as hoped is that governments have not oriented their approaches properly toward prioritizing prevention—the ultimate goal—and addressing these problems in a comprehensive and systematic manner. Instead, efforts to date have been piecemeal and oriented toward dealing with exploitation of children after the harm occurs. This Article argues for refocusing efforts toward the development of a comprehensive, prevention-oriented strategy that addresses the root causes of these problems. The article discusses how certain critical issues—(1) research/data; (2) program design; (3) the dominant principle guiding state responses; (4) stakeholder coordination; and (5) the interrelationship among rights—have been largely ignored in developing responses to child trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. The article suggests that, by focusing greater attention on these issues, governments

and child advocates can develop more effective responses to the trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children, and increase the likelihood that responses to these problems will help prevent such abuse of children.

Bump, M. N. (2009). Treat the children well: Shortcomings in the United States' effort to protect child trafficking victims. *Notre Dame Journal of Law Ethics & Public Policy*, 23, 73-108.

Kalergis, K. (2009). [A passionate practice: Addressing the needs of commercially sexually exploited teenagers](#). *Affilia*, 24(3), 315–324.

This article draws practice expertise from three women who work with an underserved group of victims of human trafficking—teenagers who have been commercially sexually exploited. The women share what they have learned about working with these girls, the similarities between this field and the early days of work in domestic violence, and the importance of empowering these girls to be part of turning their lives around.

Klain, E., & Kloer, A. (2009). [Meeting the legal needs of child trafficking victims: An introduction for children's attorneys & advocates](#). Chicago, IL: American Bar Association.

Kyckelhahn, T., Beck, A. J., & Cohen, T. H. (2009). [Characteristics of suspected human trafficking incidents, 2007-08. Special Report](#). Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics.

This report fulfills the requirements under Title II, Sec. 201 (a) (1) of the Act. It is the first in a series that will describe the number and characteristics of suspected human trafficking investigations and their outcomes in the U.S. Data in this report represent a snapshot of the investigations opened by 38 federally funded human trafficking task forces.

Moosey, R. (2009). [Sex trafficking: Identifying cases and victims](#). Washington, DC: US Department of Justice. NCJ 225758

Polaris Project (2009). [Human trafficking statistics](#).

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2009). [Global report on trafficking in persons.](#)

*A Global Report on Trafficking in Persons* launched by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) provides new information on a crime that shames us all. Based on data gathered from 155 countries, it offers the first global assessment of the scope of human trafficking and what is being done to fight it. It includes: an overview of trafficking patterns; legal steps taken in response; and country-specific information on reported cases of trafficking in persons, victims, and prosecutions.

Williams, L. M., & Frederick, M. E. (2009). [Pathways into and out of commercial sexual victimization of children: Understanding and responding to sexually exploited teens.](#) Lowell, MA: University of Massachusetts Lowell.

Farrell, A., McDevitt, J., & Fahy, S. (2008). [Understanding and improving law enforcement responses to human trafficking: Final report.](#) The Institute on Race and Justice at Northeastern University.

The project addresses four main areas: 1) the perceptions of trafficking held by law enforcement and the preparation agencies have taken to address the problem; 2) the frequency in which law enforcement identifies and investigates cases of human trafficking and 3) the characteristics of those cases investigated by law enforcement and 4) the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases.

Goździak, E. M., & Bump, M. N. (2008). [Data and research on human trafficking: Bibliography of research-based literature.](#) Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice.

This report provides a detailed description of the processes involved in identifying English language research-based literature on human trafficking; the databases searched and the keywords used to identify pertinent references; discussion of the development of the taxonomy used to categorize identified research-based journal articles, reports, and books; and the results of the categorization of the research according to the taxonomy. The report ends with a discussion of research gaps.

Reichel, P. L. (2008). [Cross-national collaboration to combat human trafficking learning from the experience of others](#). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice.

Turkel, A., & Tiapula, S. (2008). [Strategies for interviewing child victims of human trafficking](#). *Update*, 21(5).

Weiner, N. A., Hala, N., & Vera Institute of Justice. (2008). [Measuring human trafficking: Lessons from New York City](#). Vera Institute of Justice.

The groundbreaking Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 made trafficking in persons a federal crime in the U.S. However, reliable data about the scale and character of trafficking in the U.S. is still hard to find nearly a decade later. This is largely because no standardized measurement tools or procedures for systematic data collection, retention, and sharing have been developed. Partnering with a set of diverse local stakeholders, the New York City Trafficking Assessment Project (NYCTAP) developed a screening tool to identify likely victims of trafficking and an accompanying toolkit for service providers to support the administration of the screening tool. In the process, we developed and field-tested protocols for sustainable data collection and retention, which could serve as platforms for the wider sharing and aggregation of data. Employing “action research,” we capitalized on the expertise of our partner agencies to create the screening tool and toolkit and, further, sought to empower them to own and refine these resources to maximum benefit. Our partners included criminal justice agencies, community and faith-based organizations, and social and legal service agencies that have direct experience with obstacles, opportunities, and good practices for identifying likely trafficking victims. Lessons learned in this pilot project are most relevant for service providers likely to encounter trafficking victims; however, they also have relevance for other organizations that work with populations confronting similar or related injustices (e.g., labor exploitation, domestic violence, and sexual assault) or sharing similar characteristics (e.g., people who are recent immigrants, undocumented, or who have limited English proficiency). The screening tool and toolkit should also be useful for law enforcement agencies, the other key set of institutional actors recently charged with identifying victims of trafficking. Lastly, it is hoped that these lessons and resources will give policymakers and practitioners a keener appreciation of the value of

standardized, systematic, and sustained data collection in forming policies and programming to aid persons in the grip of human trafficking. The lessons learned have been compiled into a set of recommendations about how to apply and build upon the work of the NYCTAP.

Albanese, J. (2007). [Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: What Do We Know and what Do We Do about It?](#) Washington, DC: U. S. Department of Justice. National Institute of Justice. NCJ 215733.

Clawson, H. J., & Goldblatt Grace, L. (2007). [Finding a path to recovery: Residential facilities for minor victims of domestic sex trafficking.](#) *Human Trafficking: Data and Documents*, Paper 10.

This issue brief focuses on minors who are victimized by sex traffickers across the United States and is intended to provide practical information about the characteristics and needs of these minors, and describe the type of residential programs and facilities currently providing services for this population. The promising practices discussed here were identified by directors and staff of residential facilities housing and serving minor victims of domestic trafficking, juvenile corrections facilities, programs for runaway and homeless youth, child protective services personnel, and law enforcement.

Goździak, E., & MacDonnell, M. (2007). [Closing the gaps: The need to improve identification and services to child victims of trafficking.](#) *Human Organization*, 66(2), 171-184.

Human trafficking for sexual exploitation and forced labor is believed to be one of the fastest growing areas of criminal activity. The vast majority of victims of severe forms of trafficking are women and children. The particular vulnerability of child victims, related to biophysiological, social, behavioral, and cognitive phases of the maturity process, distinguishes them from adult victims and underscores the necessity of special attention to their particular needs. In the United States, most trafficking victims, but particularly child victims, go unidentified and even fewer gain access to the services developed to help them break free from their traffickers and reintegrate into the wider society. This paper uses a case study approach to examine the inadequacies and service gaps in the system established in the United States to care for child victims of trafficking. The case study is discussed within a broader context of the evolution of the system of care available to child victims of trafficking, including the transfer of care of undocumented children in federal custody

from the former Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) to the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).

Hodge, D. R., & Lietz, C. A. (2007). The international sexual trafficking of women and children a review of the literature. *Affilia*, 22(2), 163-174.

The contemporary international slave trade has received little attention in the social work literature. In keeping with the profession's commitment to social justice and human rights, this article reviews perhaps the most prominent and fastest-growing component of the trade—the trafficking of young women and children for prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation. The role of criminal networks in the globalization of sexual trafficking is discussed, along with the recruitment strategies used by the networks. Suggestions are offered for advocating on behalf of women and children, and information is provided to assist social workers in the provision of services to victims of trafficking.

Kennedy, M. A., Klein, C., Bristowe, J. T., Cooper, B. S., & Yuille, J. C. (2007). Routes of recruitment: Pimps' techniques and other circumstances that lead to street prostitution. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, 15(2), 1-19.

Much of the research on prostitution to date has focused on the risks of working on the streets. However, no research has described the recruitment process for street prostitution. This exploratory study describes some of the main techniques that pimps use to recruit children and women into the trade, including the pretense of love, threats of indebtedness, drug addiction, manipulation, and violence. In addition, social situations that leave women feeling that they have few alternatives to working on the streets are described.

Clawson, H. J., Layne, M., & Small, K. (2006). [Estimating human trafficking into the United States: Development of a methodology](#). Washington, DC: US Department of Justice.

The purpose of this study was to develop and fully document methods to estimate the number of females and males trafficked for the purposes of sexual and labor exploitation from eight countries (Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, and Venezuela) into the United States at the southwest border. The decision to limit the regions of interest for this study to the eight countries of origin and to one entry point into the United States was based on reported

trafficking activity in the eight countries of origin, data limitations, and the need to focus the scope of work to a demonstration project.

Bales, K., & Lize, S. (2005). [\*Trafficking in persons in the United States\*](#). NCJ 211980. Washington, DC: United States Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice.

Lloyd, R. (2005). Acceptable victims. *Sexually exploited youth in the US Encounter: Education for Meaning and Social Justice*, 18(3), 6-18.

The article focuses on the sexual exploitation of children in the U.S. in September 2005. A study conducted in 2001 states that hundreds of thousands of adolescents are sexually exploited annually in the U.S. Several factors have been cited as the cause of youth prostitution. The media also has a role in the celebrity-like status bestowed upon pimps and exploiters. National advocates indicate that the prostitution of adolescents is rampant in New York City.

Chase, E., & Statham, J. (2004). [The commercial sexual exploitation of children and young people: An overview of key literature and data.](#) Thomas Coram Research Unit Institute of Education, University of London.

Hanna, C. (2002). [Somebody's daughter: The domestic trafficking of girls for the commercial sex industry and the power of love.](#) *William and Mary Journal of Women and the Law*, 9(1), 1-29.

Willis, B. M., & Levy, B. S. (2002). [Child prostitution: Global health burden, research needs, and interventions.](#) *The Lancet*, 359(9315), 1417-1422.

Child prostitution is a significant global problem that has yet to receive appropriate medical and public health attention. Worldwide, an estimated 1 million children are forced into prostitution every year and the total number of prostituted children could be as high as 10 million. Inadequate data exist on the health problems faced by prostituted children, who are at high risk of infectious disease, pregnancy, mental illness, substance abuse, and violence. Child prostitution, like other forms of child sexual abuse, is not only a cause of death and high morbidity in millions of children, but also a gross violation of their rights and dignity. In this article we estimate morbidity and mortality among prostituted children, and propose research strategies and interventions to mitigate

such health consequences. Our estimates underscore the need for health professionals to collaborate with individuals and organisations that provide direct services to prostituted children. Health professionals can help efforts to prevent child prostitution through identifying contributing factors, recording the magnitude and health effects of the problem, and assisting children who have escaped prostitution. They can also help governments, UN agencies, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to implement policies, laws, and programmes to prevent child prostitution and mitigate its effects on children's health.

Finckenauer, J. O., & Schrock, J. (2000). [Human trafficking: A growing criminal market in the US](#). International Center, National Institute of Justice. Human Trafficking: Data and Documents. Paper 14.