

IMMEDIATE Assessment and Intervention for First Responders

In efforts to educate first responders and lay persons, researchers developed an acronym to assist would-be interveners to recognize child sex trafficking or high risk experiences of teens and intervene by reporting it.

IMMEDIATE ASSESSMENT of HIGH RISK EXPERIENCES

- R** Runaway Runaway behavior was a statistically significant factor for vulnerable youth to come into contact with buyers, sellers, recruiters, and traffickers.
- E** Education Victims and those at high risk for sex trafficking may have difficulty in school with some eventually dropping out .
- S** Sexual Assault A statistically significant risk factor, rape was highly correlated with eventually becoming a victim of child sex trafficking.
- C** Court Appearances Court appearances, the intersection between being arrested (a statistically significant risk factor) and spending time in a juvenile detention facility (another significant risk factor and indicator that youth are at high risk for trafficking).
- U** Using drugs/alcohol. Although few youth reported being addicted to drugs and/or alcohol, the use of alcohol/drugs may place youth in proximity of buyers, sellers, and traffickers and may contribute to impaired reasoning thereby increasing the vulnerability of already high risk youth.
- E** Emotional Abuse This indicator was a statistically significant factor. This type of abuse may stem from parental figures or other adults who degrade, minimize feelings, criticize, verbally abuse, and/or repeatedly disapprove resulting in a lack of youth self esteem, self confidence, and self worth, and even more risky, impaired ability to trust their own perceptions.
- C** Child abuse/neglect Abuse may appear in the form of sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse or neglect.
- H** Homelessness Youth may or may not present themselves as homeless. They may have a home, but because of neglect or family problems they are still worried about where they will sleep or what they will eat on a daily basis.
- I** Influential Others New or old friends or family members engaged in selling themselves, selling others, or in buying sex are in proximity of potential victims.
- L** Loving Someone Much Older Youth at risk of trafficking may be “dating” much older men who first present themselves as caring and loving partners, but who manipulate or force victims into selling sex.
- D** Difficulty Making Friends Youth at risk of child sex trafficking may have a difficult time developing pro-social friendships.