

Talking Points – Sex Trafficking

Sex Trafficking

- Simply defined, sex trafficking is any time sex is traded for goods by force or coercion. Commercial sexual exploitation can take many different forms, and it isn't limited to a specific population.
- Traffickers may target vulnerable young people by pretending to love or care for them before turning and exploiting them and forcing them into prostitution.
- Exploitation can also include survival sex, where minors exchange their bodies for basic needs such as clothing, food, and shelter. It can even include parents or family members forcing their children or relatives to sell sex.
- **Since CARES services launched a year ago, we have serviced over 180 survivors of sex trafficking**

Stats

- 79,000 minors and youth victims of sex trafficking in Texas, according to a IDVSA [study](#)

SAFE CARES

- SAFE has been serving survivors of exploitation for years, but SAFE CARES provides a comprehensive program **specifically designed** for this population.
- Served over **180 survivors** since the program launched a year ago
 - Extreme trauma from abuse by traffickers can make participation in services difficult for survivors. **Trusting relationships** w/adults is key to keeping youth engaged in services that lead to healing and recovery.
 - Anecdotal evidence tells us that young people who have been sexually exploited or trafficked respond best to services specifically designed for this issue.
 - Mission: To provide a comprehensive response for survivors of exploitation by creating opportunities to be, and feel, safe and connected.

Drop-In: A physical location where survivors can access trauma-informed and individualized case management, therapeutic services, connect with other survivors and develop a sense of community

Advocacy: A team of survivor-centered advocates who provide **crisis response** and relational support for survivors in the community to help them feel safe and connected

- Many advocates survivors of trauma and/or exploitation themselves
- Includes safety planning, **assessment and referrals for shelter and housing needs (long and short term)**, referrals for medical care, mental health services, survivor support group activities and mentorship, English language skills and more
- **Mostly see clients in homes and the community, "meeting people where they are"**

SAFEline

- The confidential, 24-hour SAFEline is available to anyone seeking help with sexual or domestic violence, child abuse, human trafficking, or parenting support.
 - SAFEline offers a safe, confidential space to talk, help with determining if a loved one is being abused, assistance with building a safety plan, and connecting to all of SAFE's services
 - Bilingual advocates
 - **Call: 512.267.SAFE (7233), Text: 737.888.7233, Chat: safeaustin.org/chat**