



## Child Sexual Exploitation

Child Sexual Exploitation results in serious, often life-long, even life threatening, consequences for the physical, psychological and social health and development of the child (Zimmerman et al., 2006).

The average age at which children are being lured into commercial sexual exploitation is between 11 and 14 (U.S. Department of Justice, 2007).

### Pornography

Possession, Manufacture, Distribution of Child Pornography

- The majority of individuals arrested for possession of child pornography (55% in a large national study) attempted to, or perpetrated, the sexual victimization of children (Wolak, Finkelhor, & Mitchell, 2005).
- Child pornography-related offenses may be a stronger indicator of pedophilia than sexual molestation offenses against a child (Seto, Cantor, & Blanchard, 2006).

Repeated exposure to pornography is a concern:

- Boys see first pornography by age 11 (Ropelato, 2007).
- Adolescent brains are still developing.
- Violent pornography has negative impacts on socialization, attitudes, and beliefs. (Manning, 2006).

### Prostitution

Children who are Prostituted /Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking

- Depending on the study and definition, the average age at which girls first become victims of prostitution is 12–14, and 11–13 for boys (Estes & Weiner, 2002).
- Youth living on the streets for longer than 7–10 days are at greater risk of resorting to or being coerced into “survival sex” (Estes & Weiner, 2003).

## **Technology**

### Enticement of Children for Sexual Acts Online and Offline

The development of the Internet created unprecedented access to sexually exploitive materials. It removed protective barriers and became another tool for some to commit harmful, abusive and exploitative acts.

- In 2013, the CyberTipline of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) averaged 10,000 reports a week of child sexual exploitation (NCMEC, 2014).
- Since 2002, more than 107 million images and videos of pornography depicting children have been reviewed by analysts at NCMEC in their attempts to identify individuals who have been victimized.
- In nearly 80% of these pornographic images, the children are sexually abused & further exploited by someone they know and trust (Shehan, 2014).
- 30% of these offenses are perpetrated by family members (Shehan, 2014).

### **Sexual Objectification and Commoditization**

Sexual objectification, abuse, and exploitation are seen as normal. ([American Psychological Association Task Force on the Sexualization of Girls, 2010](#)).

Exposure to sexualized images, lyrics, fashion and role models made girls think of and treat their own bodies as sexual objects (e.g, “things for others sexual use”)

Research links hyper- sexualization with:

- Eating disorders
- Low self-esteem
- Depression or depressed moods in girls and women

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