Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Teens
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Introduction and Purpose

This research explores whether commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) abuse drugs or face greater histories of abuse than their delinquent peers. This research will evaluate whether girls who are CSEC victims experience more abuse of drugs or experience more physical, emotional, or sexual abuse. The study also explores whether CSEC victims witnessed more abuse than non-CSEC victims. A survey of needs and issues facing delinquent girls was given to 130 girls between the ages of 13 to 18. Questions asked about their drug use, abuse history, and whether they witnessed abuse. This research found that many girls who are CSEC victims experience and witnessed more abuse than non-CSEC victims. The results also showed that CSEC victims and non-CSEC delinquent peers showed no significant difference in drug use.

The purpose of this study was to understand whether girls who were involved in prostitution use drugs such as alcohol, meth, cocaine, and other drugs more than delinquent girls who were not involved in prostitution. This study was also to determine whether girls who were involved in prostitution had a greater history of abuse than those who were not involved in prostitution. This study may also give people a better insight into the girls that enter into prostitution in hopes that it will help identify the resources they need to either never enter prostitution or to leave prostitution. Knowledge about the effects of prostitution on girls and why they enter into prostitution can help service providers offer better community resources to the girls.

Acknowledgments

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Research Methods

From August 2013 to December of 2013 face-to-face interviews were conducted of teenage girls. All the girls were detained in the Clark County Department of Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS). The girls were asked questions from the Center for Disease Control’s Youth Risk Behavior Survey, the survey developed by Owen and Bloom (2000), and the GIRLS Initiative Workgroup convened by DJJS. 130 girls were interviewed by graduate students from the Department of Criminal justice and were supervised by Dr. Alexis Kennedy. To understand the rates of risky behavior, a quantitative study was conducted polling a variety of behaviors.

Girls were asked about their history if they had ever traded sex for items and if so what kind of items. They were asked what age did they trade sex and if they ever had sex for money. They were then asked about their abuse history and whether or not they had been abused or witnessed abuse.

The girls were asked if they used crack, cocaine, heroin, marijuana, alcohol, meth, and other drugs. The girls were also asked if they had witnessed abuse of a family member or been physically and mentally abused themselves.

All of the 130 girls interviewed were between the ages of 12 and 18. Out of the 130 girls 94 were non-CSEC victims and 36 of the girls were CSEC victims. For the remained of the results, the victims were compared to the non-CSEC involved girls.

Several laws have been created to help teens involved in prostitution, such as The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and The Protection of Children from Sexual Predators Act of 1998 (Haller, 2010). The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 has been put in place to include victims under 18 who have been forced or not as victims of trafficking (Menaker & Franklin 2013). Some states have “Safe Harbor” laws that decriminalize prostitution amongst minors and offer other programs for teen (Menaker & Franklin 2013).

Results

The results showed that there was a significant difference between those who were CSEC victims and their delinquent peers with regards to the violence they have been involved in. All the girls who were CSEC victims had not witnessed domestic violence (t=8.938, p< .002). The results found that CSEC victims had significantly higher rate than their delinquent peers for most drugs other than meth and whether a girl is a CSEC victim or not (t=8.82, p< .004). When we evaluated the rate of crack use it was found that they used crack significantly more than delinquent girls and whether a girl was CSEC victim or not (t=8.82, p< .004). When we compared cocaine use we found that the difference was significant (t=9.324, p< .001). The results also showed that CSEC victims had a history of sexual abuse (t=11.697, p< .001). The results showed that girls who were not sold more often who used drugs, they were not using a statistically higher rate than their delinquent peers and it was very difficult to make a significance finding. It was found that CSEC victims were a statistically higher rate than their delinquent peers for most drugs other than meth and whether a girl is a CSEC victim or not (t=8.82, p< .004). When we compared the rates of crack use it was found that they used crack significantly more than delinquent girls and whether a girl was CSEC victim or not (t=8.82, p< .004). When we compared cocaine use we found that the difference was significant (t=9.324, p< .001). When we compared smoking we did not find that there was a significant difference in all demographics who are CSEC victims and those who are not (t=4.534, p< .033).

Discussion

Learning how to identify whether a youth is a CSEC victim is possible and something that many people such as school officials can be taught to identify. However, the problem is most CSEC victims are not a problem until it is too late. Instead of offending these youth will continue to be victim. Las Vegas should offer more resources to teach how to help CSEC victims and other legal fars for them. They should start by passing Safe Harbor laws and then making laws according to instances made of certain CSEC victims. Officers and individuals who help to come in contact with other CSEC victims should be trained and informed how to better help CSEC victims.

Literature Cited


Menaker, J., & Franklin, E. (2013). A study of 222 prostituted individuals in Chicago found that 83% were raised in parents that are addicts. Studies found that many adolescents used drugs and alcohol and even self-mutilation as a coping mechanism. Lutya, T. (2010). Drug use will make a teenager more at risk for being victims of prostitution (Lutya, 2010). Many girls involved in prostitution come from homes where they have a parent that is involved in drugs, too. A study of 222 prostituted individuals in Chicago found that 83% were raised in parents that are addicts. Studies found that many adolescents used drugs and alcohol and even self-mutilation as a coping mechanism. Lutya, T. (2010). Drug use will make a teenager more at risk for being victims of prostitution (Lutya, 2010). Many girls involved in prostitution come from homes where they have a parent that is involved in drugs, too. A study of 222 prostituted individuals in Chicago found that 83% were raised in parents that are addicts. Studies found that many adolescents used drugs and alcohol and even self-mutilation as a coping mechanism. Lutya, T. (2010). Drug use will make a teenager more at risk for being victims of prostitution (Lutya, 2010). Many girls involved in prostitution come from homes where they have a parent that is involved in drugs, too. A study of 222 prostituted individuals in Chicago found that 83% were raised in parents that are addicts. Studies found that many adolescents used drugs and alcohol and even self-mutilation as a coping mechanism. Lutya, T. (2010). Drug use will make a teenager more at risk for being victims of prostitution (Lutya, 2010). Many girls involved in prostitution come from homes where they have a parent that is involved in drugs, too. A study of 222 prostituted individuals in Chicago found that 83% were raised in parents that are addicts. Studies found that many adolescents used drugs and alcohol and even self-mutilation as a coping mechanism. Lutya, T. (2010). Drug use will make a teenager more at risk for being victims of prostitution (Lutya, 2010). Many girls involved in prostitution come from homes where they have a parent that is involved in drugs, too. A study of 222 prostituted individuals in Chicago found that 83% were raised in parents that are addicts. Studies found that many adolescents used drugs and alcohol and even self-mutilation as a coping mechanism. Lutya, T. (2010). Drug use will make a teenager more at risk for being victims of prostitution (Lutya, 2010). Many girls involved in prostitution come from homes where they have a parent that is involved in drugs, too. A study of 222 prostituted individuals in Chicago found that 83% were raised in parents that are addicts. Studies found that many adolescents used drugs and alcohol and even self-mutilation as a cop