Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Teens

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Introduction and Purpose

I would like to give my sincere thanks to Dr. Alexis physical, emotional, or sexual abuse. The study also found that many girls who are CSEC victims experience and 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 showed 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.

Purpose of the Study

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 to understand the girls that enter into prostitution in hopes to understand the risks of being a CSEC victim and witness the 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.

Methodology

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 (DJS). The girls were asked questions from the Center for Disease Control's Risk Behavior Survey, the survey developed by Owen and Bloom (2000), and the GIRLS Initiative Workgroup convened by DJS. 130 girls were interviewed by graduate students from the Department of Criminal justice and were supervised by Dr. Alexis Kennedy. To understand the risks of behavioral, a quantitative study was conducted polling a variety of behaviors.

Girls were asked about there history if they had ever traded sex for items and if so what kinds 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, heroine, 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.

Acknowledgments

I would like to give my sincere thanks to Dr. Alexis Kennedy for being a great mentor and ensuring my success in pursuing my research topic.

Literature Cited


Officer and other individuals who help or come in contact with other CSEC victims should be trained to educate communities and providers on how to help CSEC victims and make special efforts to help them. Many times they become addicted or involved with parents and drug addicts. They are also involved in environments where they may experience abuse being at risk of them to be in an environment where they are not protected. When treating victims or children who have been pimped and forced to prostitute themselves in places where there may be risks of drug use, and psychological problems. CSEC victims already experience high sexual risk and it is hard to help them. The victims are forced to use multiple drugs and some are introduced to drugs by their pimping (Grace et al., 2012). Once a trafficker has introduced the girl to drugs they make her dependent on them for the drug and force them to work for them (Luty, 2016). Drug use will make a teenager more in risk for being victims of prostitution (Luty, 2016). 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 by parents that are addicts. Studies found that many adolescents used drugs and alcohol and even self-mutilation as coping strategies and 23% to 96% of the girls involved in prostitution used drugs and alcohol (Hellemann & Santhiveeran, 2011).

Many girls are physically, mentally, and sexually abused while being prostituted. Girls may choose not to report the abuse that they endure during a prostitution because they may fear retaliation, being arrested for prostitution, or being put back in their undesirable home situations (Grace et al., 2012). Some girls may exhibit Stockholm syndrome and feel as though their pimps are a giving and loving person and they will become in denial about there abuse. This makes it difficult for service providers to help those who are sexually exploited.

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 pivotal to include victims under 18 who have been forced or not as victims of trafficking (Menaker & Franklin 2013). Some states have “Safe Harbor” laws to decriminalize prostitution amongst minors and offer other programs for teens (Menaker & Franklin 2013).

Results

The results showed that there was a significant difference between those who were involved in prostitution were once a CSEC victims and had not witnessed domestic violence (t=9.88, p<.05). The results also showed that there was a significant difference between whether the girl was a CSEC victim or not (t=21.11, p<.05). These results were not significant on whether girls had a history of sexual abuse (t=.19, p=.511). According to Anderson many girls get involved in prostitution because they are not involved in prostitution. This study may also give people a better insight into the girls that enter into prostitution in hopes to understand the risks of behavioral, a quantitative study was conducted polling a variety of behaviors.

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Learning how to identify whether a youth is a CSEC victim is possible and something that many people such as schools officials can be taught to identify. However, not all CSEC victims or non-CSEC victims are seen as victims of trafficking. Instead of offering them help, these victims continue to be in danger. CSEC victims and non-CSEC victims are two different things and need different forms of help.

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