Early Childhood Trauma to Child Sex Trafficking
Building Better Police Investigations on High Risk Victims

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AGENDA

Early Childhood Trauma to Child Sex Trafficking Building Better Police Investigations on High Risk Victims

- Misconceptions about Sex Trafficking
- Who is trafficked?
- Runaway Laws
- How often does it happen?
- Homeless Kids
- Childhood Trauma and Homeless Youth
- Fight, Flight and Freeze for Victims
- Victim Centered Response
I HAVE TO DO SO MUCH JUST TO SURVIVE

14 YEAR OLD ALBUQUERQUE RUNAWAY
WHO IS TRAFFICKED
The Victimology is more important than the Criminology

- **Girls vs Boys**: 76%
  - Girls make up majority, but boys severely underreport

- **Kids not Living with Primary Guardians**: 94%
  - Who is actually responsible for the whereabouts of the child?

- **History of Sexual and Physical Abuse**: 75%
  - Usually starts by age 4.

- **Severe Childhood Neglect**: 84%
  - Takes the baby. Brain is underdeveloped.

- **Violence in the Home**: 64%
  - Witnessing violence involving guardians.

- **Drug/Alcohol Addicted Parents**: 75%
  - The parents’ attention is divided and usually brings violence and abuse with it
**RUNAWAY LAWS**

Children must be reported missing once their guardian realized they're missing. No required time to wait.

At age 14, juveniles can medically consent to their own treatment.

Emancipation cannot happen until they are 16.

School attendance is mandatory until they are 18 or have a diploma or GED.
HOW MANY KIDS ARE TRAFFICKED

Of the nearly 25,000 reported missing kids to NCMEC in 2017, approximately 1 in 7 were likely sex trafficked.
86% of likely sex trafficking victims were in the care of social services or foster care when they went missing.
Fight, Flight and Freeze

How early childhood trauma can break the mechanism these victims need most.
Victim Centered Response

Put victims on equal footing as a person of authority

Training police and public workers to better identify victims and offer appropriate responses and services

Conduct Trauma Informed Interviews and Techniques

Different levels of care for these victims once they are identified, like safe houses with resiliency training for staff, treatment foster care, etc.

In state long term treatment for victims