



What is the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)?

“It’s not a choice, no one just wakes up and wants to do this. You can’t just walk away...”

- CSEC Survivor



CSEC is....

The commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is:

- **Sexual activity involving a child in exchange for something of value**, or **promise thereof**, to the child or another person or persons.
- Treating a child as a commercial and sexual object.
- A form of violence against children.



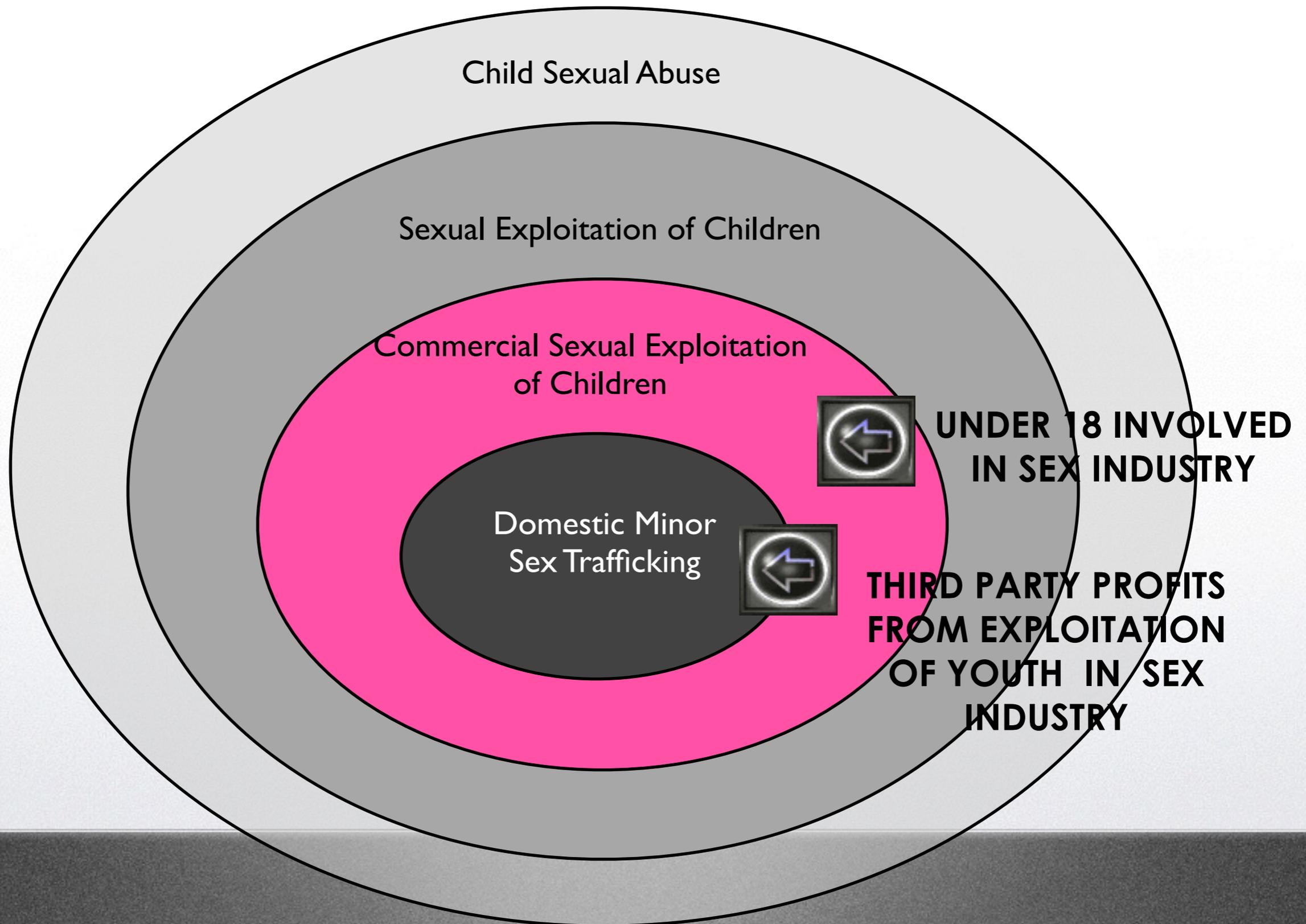
CSEC includes:



- street prostitution
- pornography
- stripping
- erotic/nude massage
- escort services
- phone sex lines
- private parties
- gang and organized crime-based prostitution
- familial pimping
- forms of Internet-based exploitation



Intersections of Abuse





Sex Trafficking

MYTH:

- Trafficking is defined by the **crossing of state or national borders**.
- Only **foreign nationals** can be victims of trafficking.



Sex Trafficking

FACT:

- CSEC victims are victims of sex trafficking in children when there is **a third party exploiter who profits from the exploitation.**
- Victims of human trafficking can be **men and women, adults and children, and U.S. citizens and foreign nationals.**



CSEC in the U.S.



- At least **100,000** to **300,000** youth are at risk for commercial sexual exploitation annually in the U.S. (Estes and Wiener, 2001)
- “At least **100,000 children** are used in prostitution every year in the U.S.” (The National Report on DMST: America’s Prostituted Children, 2010, Shared Hope.)
- The most common age of entry into the commercial sex industry in the U.S. is **12-14** years old. (US Department of Justice, Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section)



Trafficking Problem

- 12-14 average age of girls to be forced into commercial sex trafficking.
- 11-13 average age of boys to be forced into commercial sex trafficking.
- \$150,000 - \$200,000 amount trafficker can make on a child per year.
- 76% proportion of sex transactions for youth conducted via internet.



CSEC in the U.S.



The National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway (NISMAART) children estimate that **1.6 million children run away** from home each year in the U.S.

Advocates estimate that **1 in 3 teens** will be approached by an exploiter **within 2-3 days** of becoming homeless.

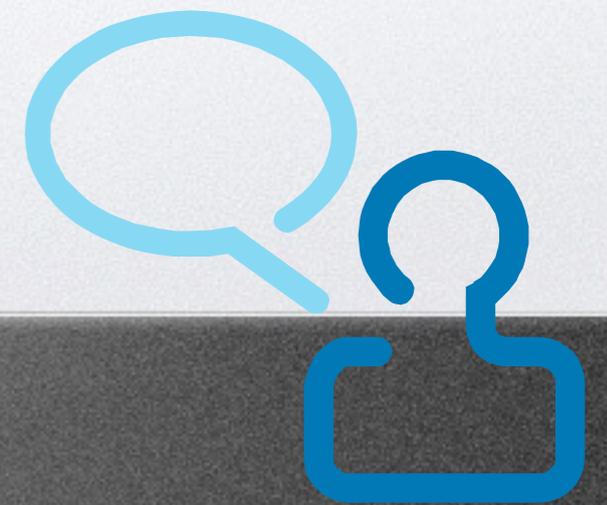


Addressing Demand



If at least **300,000** children are estimated to be at risk for CSEC in the U.S....

who do you think is buying children for sex?





Pedophile

An adult who over a period of at least six months, has recurrent intense sexual urges and sexually arousing fantasies involving sexual activity with a prepubescent child or children (generally age 13 or younger).*

Ephebophilia/Hebephilia

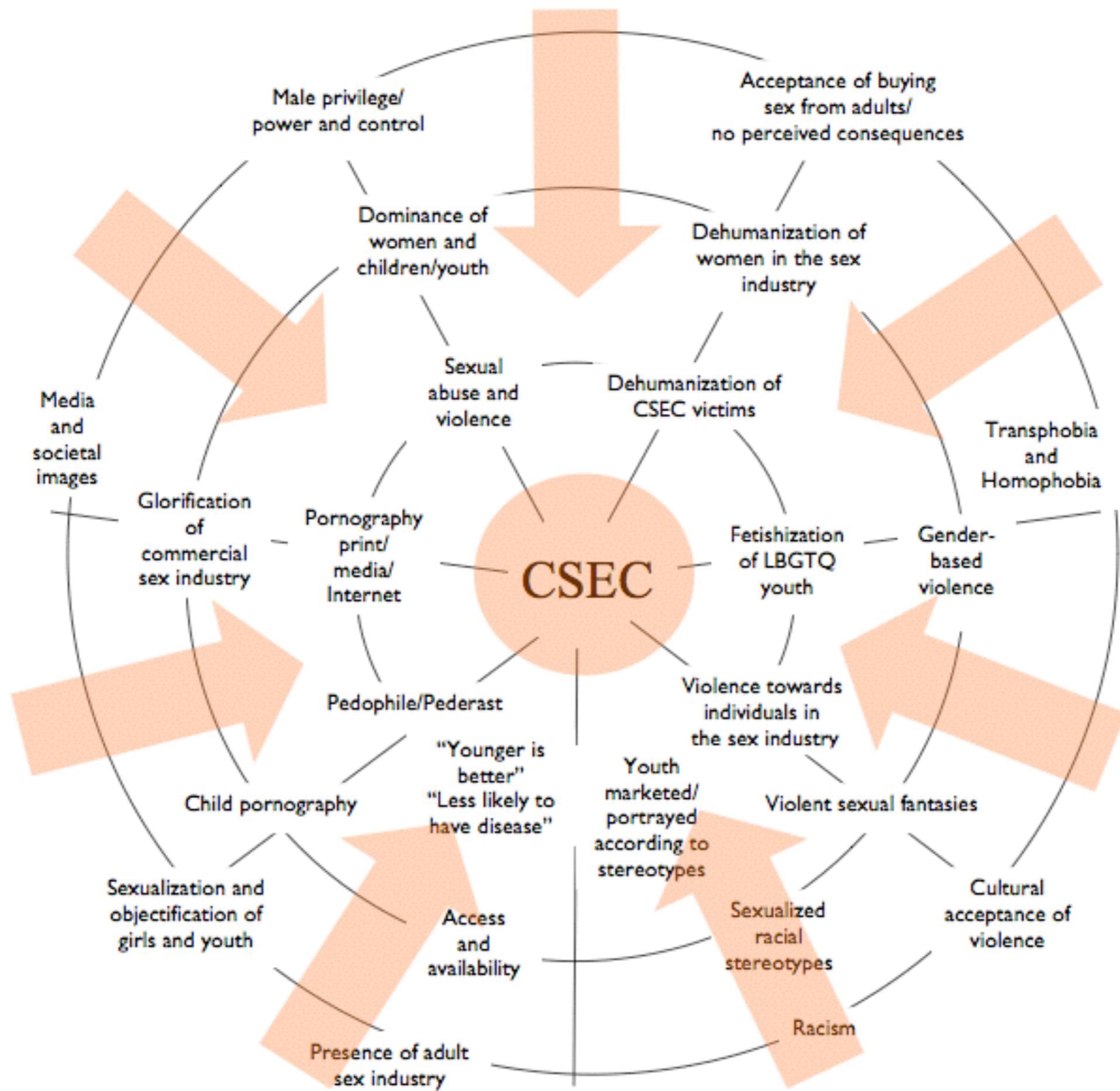
Adult who has a strong or exclusive attraction to post-pubescent child/adolescent.



Situational Abusers

Adults who use children for sex not because they have a predisposition to do so but **just because they want to or find themselves in a situation where it is possible**. Such men engage in the criminal activity of sex with minors (under-18s) without necessarily feeling any real sexual attraction towards them.

May be family men with regular partners and in every way 'normal' lives. For this reason they are particularly difficult to identify and **often are protected by those around them** who find it impossible to accept that 'Mr. Normal' next door - or their husband/brother/son - could possibly have sex with children.





Dehumanization of Prostituted Women

“They were objects. In my mind, they never had families or anything.”

Joel Rifkin, in a statement to the police in admitting to the murders of 17 prostituted women, many of whose names he could not remember, 1994.



Internet Pornography

There are over 100,000 sites offering illegal child pornography and hundreds of thousands more offering legal 'teen' or 'barely legal' pornography. In 2006, there were over 20 million searches using the words 'teen porn' or 'teen sex'.

<http://internet-filter-review.toptenreviews.com/internet-pornography-statistics.html>

25% of total search engine requests are porn-related. [http://](http://www.healthymind.com/s-porn-stats.html)

www.healthymind.com/s-porn-stats.html



Children at risk for recruitment into

CSEC are children who:

- Are under 18 years old
- Walk to school or to the store alone
- Own or have access to a computer
- Are attracted to consumer goods
- Desire to develop romantic relationships
- Sometimes feel insecure
- Feel misunderstood
- Fight with their parents
- Sometimes feel their parents don't care
- Want more independence
- Test boundaries and take risks

Question:

According to this, who is at risk for recruitment into CSEC?



Multiple studies estimate that...

70 to 90 percent of sexually exploited children have a history of child sexual abuse.

1. Bagley, C. & Young, L. (1987). *Juvenile Prostitution and Child Sexual Abuse: A Controlled Study*. Canadian Journal of Community Mental Health.

2. *Annual Report*. (1991). Council for Prostitution Alternatives. Portland, Oregon.

3. Murphy, Patricia. (1993). *Making Connections: Women, Work, and Abuse*. Paul M. Deutsch Press, Florida.

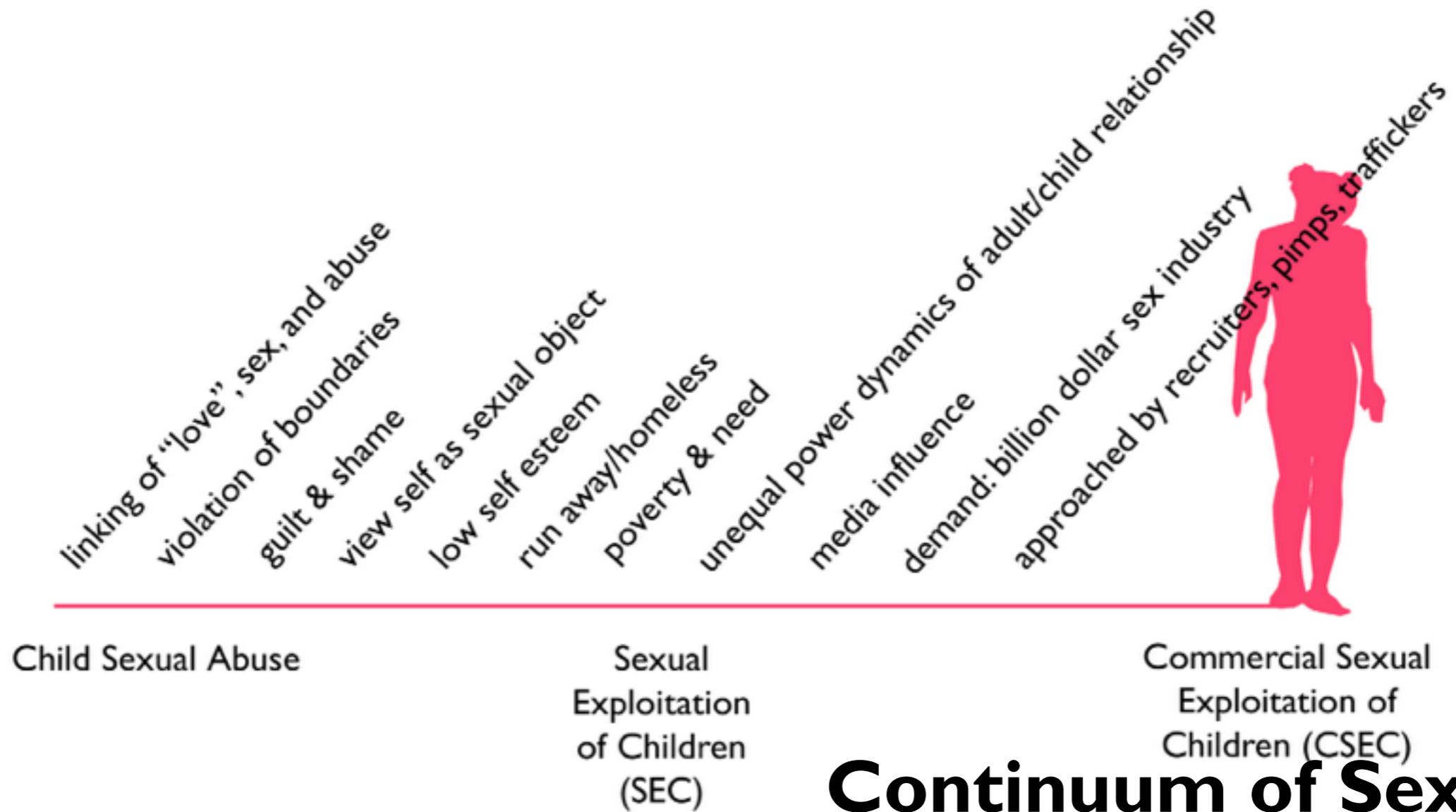


Pathways to Entry

Ways recruitment can happen:

- Parents selling children
- Violence and force
- Kidnapping
- Seduction and coercion
- False advertising for “modeling,” “acting,” or “dancing” opportunities
- Peer recruitment
- Internet enticement through chat rooms or profile-sharing sites

Continuum of Sexual Abuse, SEC, & CSEC



©Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS)

Continuum of Sexual Abuse



CSEC...



- Impacts the local economy
- Decreases safety in neighborhoods
- Links to other types of crime: guns, drugs, organized crime
- Promotes negative images for children
- Creates demand, a need for supply, and increased recruitment of children
- Directly exposes children to CSEC locations
- Creates danger for children
- Costs resources of social service and healthcare systems
- Costs resources of law enforcement and court systems
- Contributes to long-term impacts of prostituted adults and costs to systems

Studies of adult women in the sex industry

report that...

63% of respondents had been **raped** in prostitution

71% had experienced **physical assault** in prostitution

75% were currently or formerly **homeless**

89% stated that they wanted to **escape** prostitution immediately, but lacked the means to do so.

68% met the criteria for PTSD

78% of 55 women who sought help from the Council for Prostitution Alternatives in 1991 reported being **raped an average of 16 times a year by pimps, and were raped 33 times a year by johns.**



Now try to imagine trying to cope with all of this at once...



- Constantly having to lie about your age
- All of your identification is taken away
- Having to change your name
- Constantly moving wherever someone else wants to
- Being kidnapped
- Being raped, repeatedly
- Being beaten for not making enough money
- Having to give all the money you make away
- Having threats made against your family
- Having to completely change your appearance
- Getting a tattoo on your neck of the name of the person who constantly abuses you
- Being constantly threatened with violence
- Living with a group of people you call “family” who you could never depend on for support
- Feeling trapped in an abusive and violent situation



- Not being allowed any contact with the world outside of your abusive situation
- Not being able to make eye contact with men other than the one who abuses you
- Having to call a man who is not your father, who abuses you, “daddy”
- Being punished and beaten when someone else breaks an abuser’s “rules”
- Having to meet a nightly quota based on how much money you make for having sex
- Having to compete for attention from your abuser with five other girls
- Having sex with strangers every night
- Getting an STD
- Getting arrested again and again
- Having to trade sex with a police officer in exchange for not getting arrested
- Being beat up by a group of 5 pimps for looking one in the eye

...at only **13** years old.