



A Village For One

Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSEC) Fact Sheet

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What is CSEC?

Any activity where a minor is treated as a commercial and sexual object to be used, sold or traded in exchange for something of value

*Can happen to adults also, legally must involve force, fraud, or coercion

** Exploiters would not exploit if there was not a demand from buyers of sex/sexual material or an acceptance of sex as currency*

Who is exploited?

- Average age someone first experiences CSEC is 12-14
- Survivors are often assumed to be female but male, trans, and non-binary individuals are also exploited

What can CSEC look like?

- Exchanging/being asked for explicit pictures/videos
- Adults having a sexual relationship with a minor
- Pornography
- Strip clubs
- Parents/family member receiving drugs or money in exchange for others having sexual involvement with their child
- Exchanging sex for basic needs (“survival sex”)

Risk factors

- History of abuse or neglect
- Running away from home
- History of involvement with Child Welfare or Juvenile Justice System
- New group of older friends/partners
- Inconsistent or no school attendance
- Increased sexualized behavior
- Substance use (including within family or peers)
- Housing instability

CSEC exists in our neighborhoods.

246 victims in Oregon were identified through 485 signals to the National Human Trafficking Hotline in 2021

Challenges that make it hard to leave:

<p>Lowered self-esteem/not feeling deserving of being loved and respected</p> <p>Decreased ability to understand, put in place, and enforce personal boundaries</p> <p>Force, fraud, coercion</p>	<p>Trauma bonding (emotional survival bond with exploiter)</p> <p>Psychological manipulation</p> <p>Substance use dependency</p> <p>Lack of natural/social supports to exit/live differently</p>	<p>Social stigma/lack of understanding about CSEC/trauma</p> <p>Difficulty developing relationships without harmful imbalances of power in place</p> <p>Threats and violence from exploiter</p>
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