And Boys Too

A discussion paper by ECPAT-USA

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Federal Definition: Human Trafficking

Human Trafficking: 18 U.S.C. § 1591 makes it illegal to recruit, harbor, transport, provision, obtain, *patronize, or solicit* a person or to benefit from such activities knowing that the person will be caused to engage in commercial sex acts **where the person is under 18 or where force, fraud or coercion exists**. This statute does not require that either the defendant or the victim actually travel.

Commercial sex act means any sex act on account of which anything of value is given to or received by any person. This includes:

- Prostitution
- Exotic dancing/stripping
- Erotic/nude massage
- Sex tourism
- Pornography
- "Survival sex"
- Phone sex lines
- Gang based prostitution
- Internet based

- Trafficking Victims Protection Act

Methodology

- Literature review
- Interviews with trafficking service providers
- Interviews with other experts in the field

Literature Review Takeaways

- Boys have largely been left out of both the academic and service provider CSEC discussion.
- What research does exist in the U.S. is mainly focused on RHY.
- When included, researchers have mainly viewed boys as active participants - not victims/survivors- of CSEC. Moreover, research has been almost completely void of intervention or prevention strategies.
- The international community, specifically the UK and Canada, seem to be ahead of the U.S. in regards to action for CSE boys with far more published reports, studies and available services.

Prevalence Rates of Commercial Sexual Exploitation among Homeless and Runaway Youth by Gender

Author	Date	Sample Size	Ages	Location	Research Findings for Males	Research Findings for Females	Research Findings for Transgender Youth
Ferguson et al.	2016	601 homeless young adults	18-24 years of age	Los Angeles, Austin, Denver	**5.5%** reported trading sexual favors in exchange for money, drugs, shelter, food or other things of value	**6.5%** reported trading sexual favors in exchange for money, drugs, shelter, food or other things of value	n/a
Roe-Sepowitz, et al.	2014	246 homeless young adults	18-25 years of age	Arizona	**21.8%** reported a sex trafficking experience	**24.8%** reported a sex trafficking experience	**19%** reported a sex trafficking experience
Gwadz et al.	2009	80 homeless youth	15-23 years of age	New York City	**35.9%** reported that they had traded sex for money, food, drugs, other	**31.7%** reported that they had traded sex for money, food, drugs, other	n/a
O'Grady and Gaetz	2004	360 homeless youth	Youth up to age 24	Toronto, Ontario	**25%** reported having sex with someone for money sometimes or daily **10%** reported escort service work **13%** reported exotic dancing	**27%** reported having sex with someone for money sometimes or daily **12%** reported escort service work **22%** reported exotic dancing	n/a
Halcon and Lifson	2004	203 homeless youth	15-22 years of age	Minneapolis, MN	**19.6%** reported that they had received money, food, drugs, clothing or shelter for sex at some point	**23.8%** reported that they had received money, food, drugs, clothing, or shelter for sex at some point	n/a

Prevalence Rates of Commercial Sexual Exploitation among Homeless and Runaway Youth by Gender, cont.

Author	Date	Sample Size	Ages	Location	Research Findings for Males	Research Findings for Females	Research Findings for Transgender Youth
Whitbeck et al.	2001	974 homeless and/or runaway youth	12-21 years of age	Seattle, Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas	**3.4%** reported that they had "prostituted for money" **3.8%** reported that they had ever traded sex for money or drugs **4.8%** reported that they had traded sex for food or shelter	**2.5%** reported that they had "prostituted for money" **4.7%** reported that they had ever traded sex for money or drugs **4.2%** reported that they had traded sex for food or shelter	n/a
Greene, Ennett & Ringwalt	1999	631 youth in shelter 528 youth staying on the street	12-21 years of age	Nationally Representative	**11.1%** of males in shelter sample reported engaging in survival sex **28.2%** of males in street sample reported engaging in survival sex	**8.3%** of females in shelter sample reported engaging in survival sex **26.3%** of females in street sample reported engaging in survival sex	n/a
Anderson, Freese & Pennbridge	1994	610 street youth	13-21 years of age	Hollywood, CA	**51.5%** reported engaging in survival sex	**32.3%** reported engaging in survival sex	n/a
Pennbridge, Freese & MacKenzie	1992	446 male street youth	14-23 years of age	Hollywood, CA	**27.1%** involved in prostitution in the last 3 months	N/A	n/a
Yates, et al.	1991	620 runaway and/or homeless youth	10-24 years of age	Los Angeles, CA	**32%** reportedly involved in prostitution	**68%** reportedly involved in prostitution	n/a

CSEC Breakdown by Gender, cont.

Gender Breakdown Among Minors Reporting CSEC

Author	Date	Sample Size	Ages	Location	% Males	% Females	% Transgender
Swaner, et al.	2016	949 youth who self-reported that they have had sex for money	13 to 24 years of age	Six sites: Atlantic City, the Bay Area, Chicago, Dallas, Miami, Las Vegas	**36%** of the sample were male	**60%** of the sample were female	**5%** of the sample were transgender (4% trans female, 1% trans male)
Curtis, et al.	2008	249 youth who self-reported participating in CSEC markets	Under the age of 18	New York City	**45%** of the sample were male	**48%** of the sample were female	**8%** of the sample were transgender

Nationally Representative Literature Regarding the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children by Gender

Author	Date	Sample Size	Ages	Location	Overall Findings	Research Findings for Males	Research Findings for Females
Edwards, Iritani & Hallfors	2008	13,294 American Youth	7th through 12th grade	Nationally Representative	**3.5%** of all youth reported that they had exchanged sex for drugs or money.	**67.9%** of youth who reported they had exchanged sex were male.	**32.1%** of youth who reported they had exchanged sex were female.

Antecedents to CSE for Boys

- Like girls, exceptionally high rates of past physical and sexual abuse have been found among male CSEC victims.
- Also like girls, the vast majority of CSE boys report that they have extremely limited family support.
- Again like girls, homelessness and/or lack of basic necessities render boys vulnerable to CSE.

Entry Into CSE for Boys

- As is the case with many girls, studies have found that boys often participate in transactional sex in order to meet basic needs and obtain goods. Reported goods and services obtained include: shelter, money, food, drugs, transportation and clothing

- Research indicates that boys are often recruited by friends/peers involved in “the life”. This is not to say that boys are never pimped/controlled/coerced.

Pimp Control?
Force, Fraud of Coercion?

- Anecdotally, we consistently heard reports of some boys being forced and/or coerced into CSE by:
  - Organized sex trafficking gangs
  - Members of their family
  - "Street families"
  - Pimps
- As is the case often with girls still in "the life," it is possible that boys may think of, and refer to, pimps/exploiters as romantic partners.

Buyers/"Johns" and the "Market" for Buying/Selling Boys

- Studies suggest that male buyers are usually white, middle or upper class, white collar, and often married.
- The vast majority of buyers seem to be men although there are consistent reports of some female buyers as well.
- As is the case with the trafficking of girls, areas with large numbers of men in transit (truck rest stops, conventions, etc.) are "hot spots" for demand for boys.
- Buyers find boys in virtually all the places they find girls: the street, the internet, call services, clubs and bars, etc. although these markets are often male specific.

Sexual Orientation

- Compared to the U.S. population as a whole, disproportionately high numbers CSE boys identify as sexual minorities.

- In most studies however, the majority of CSE boys identified as heterosexual.

Mental and Physical Health Outcomes

- Similarly to girls, boy's participation in transactional sex dramatically increases the likelihood of physical and sexual assault at the hands of a stranger.

- CSE boys experience disproportionately poor health outcomes including: increased rates of drug use, STIs (including HIV), increased rates of depression, and increased rates of suicidal ideations and attempts.

Criminal Justice Response

- In past decades boys have represented a small percent of minors who enter the criminal justice system on prostitution charges.

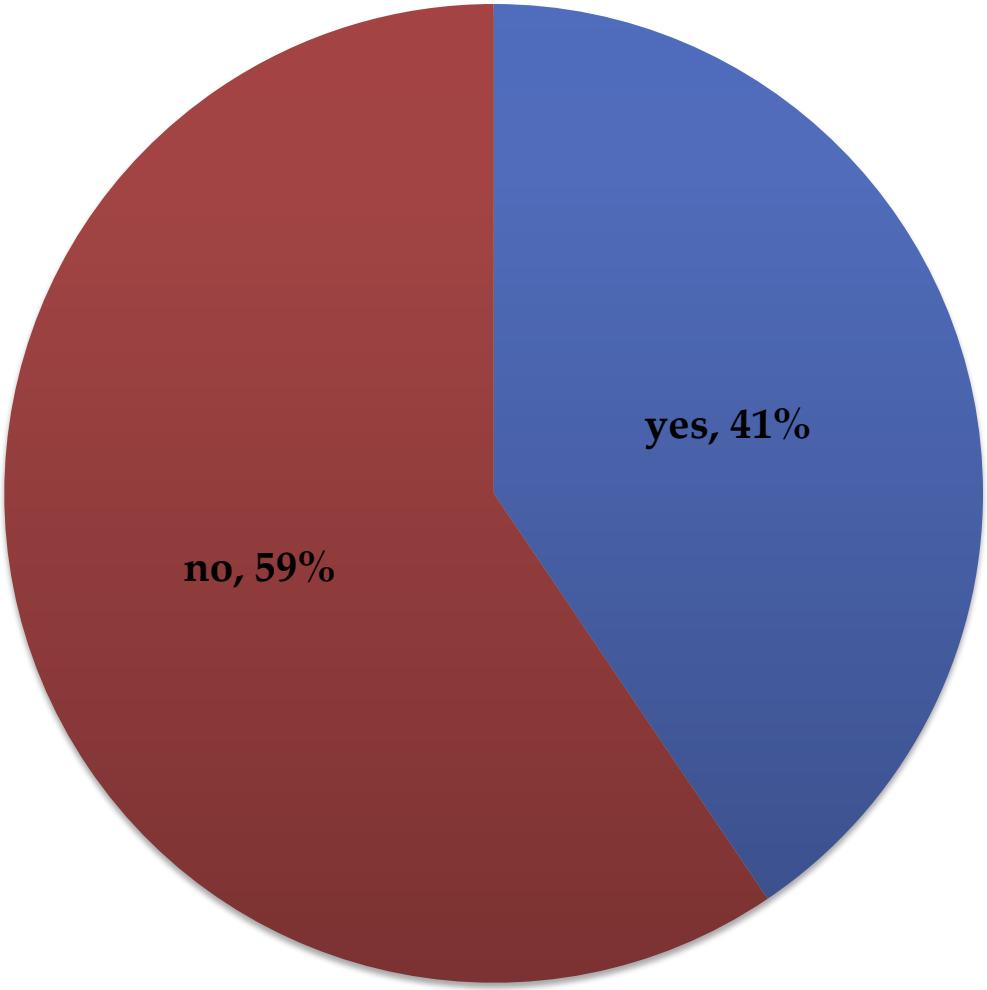
- We consistently heard reports that respondent's local law enforcement rarely refer boys for services and are only looking for "the stereotypical girl" victim.

- We consistently heard reports that respondent's local law enforcement did not believe that boys were pimped and therefore believed they were not in need of services.

Trafficking Service Provider Responses Regarding Serving CSEB

Broken down by general human trafficking service providers and CSEC specific service providers

Is your program willing and able to serve CSE boys/young men?
(all human trafficking service providers)



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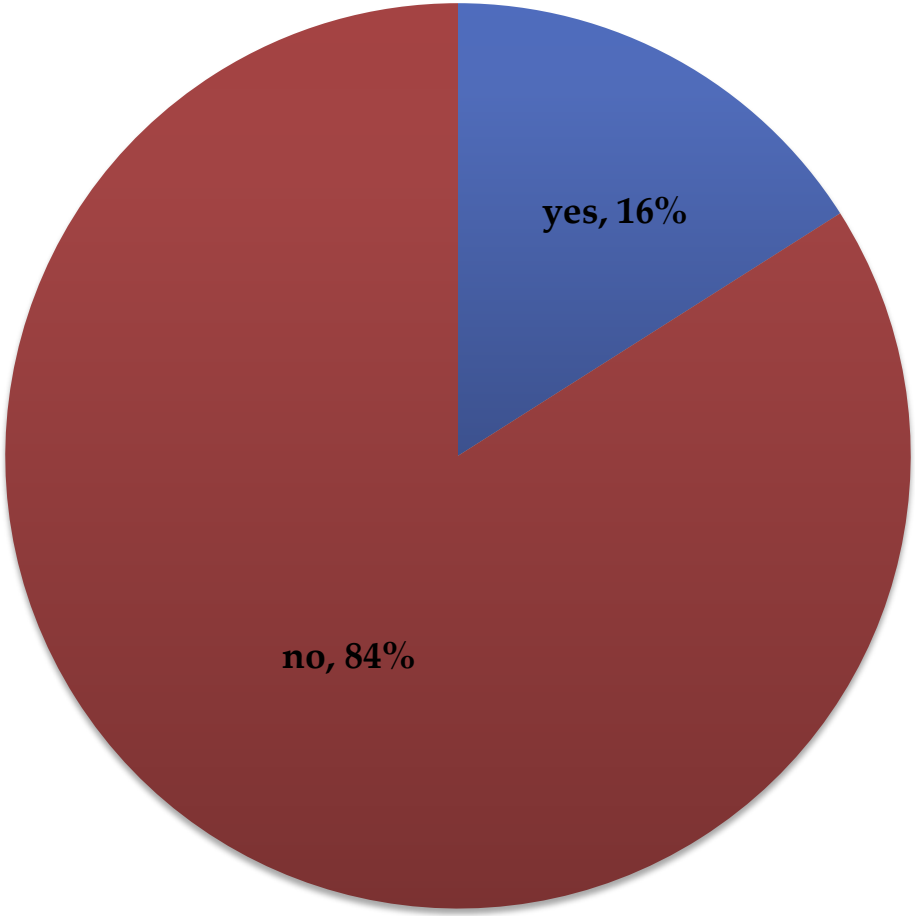
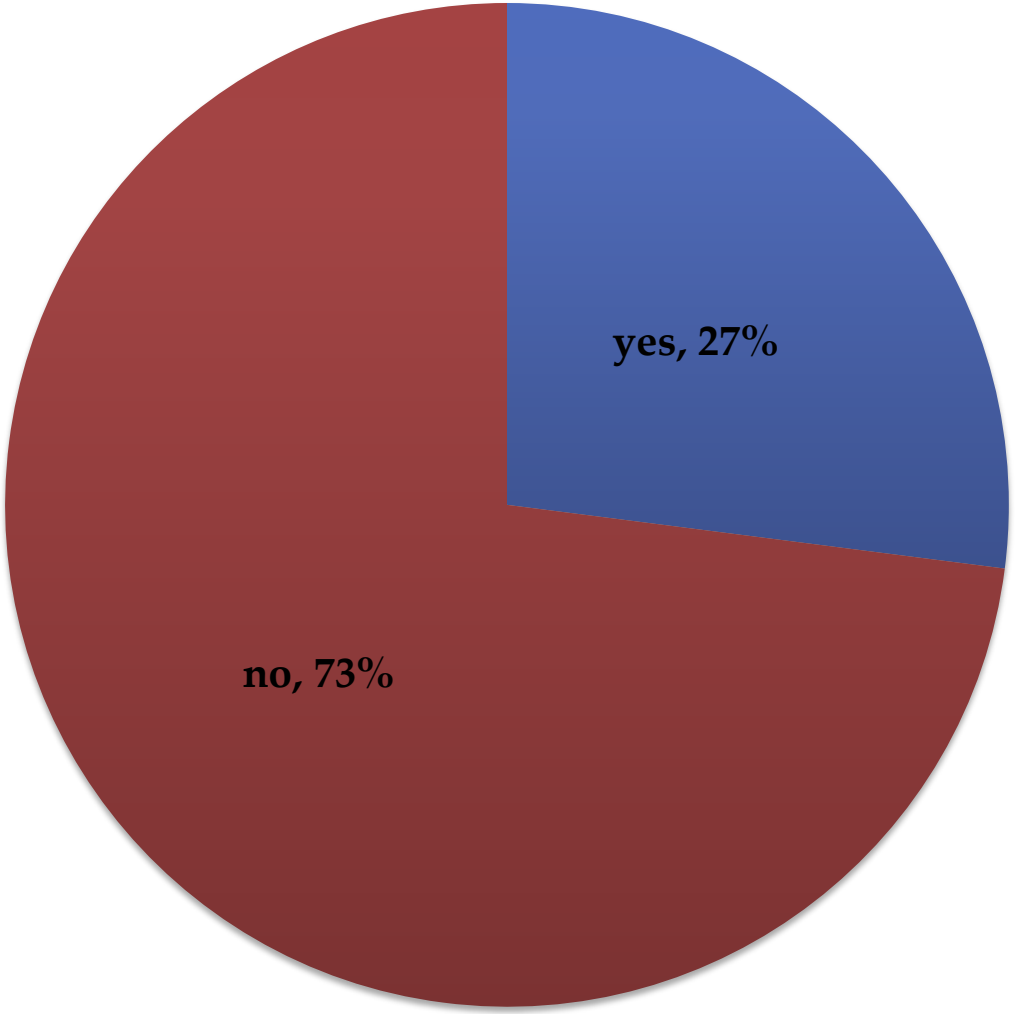


Has your program served boys/young men at some point?
(all human trafficking service providers)



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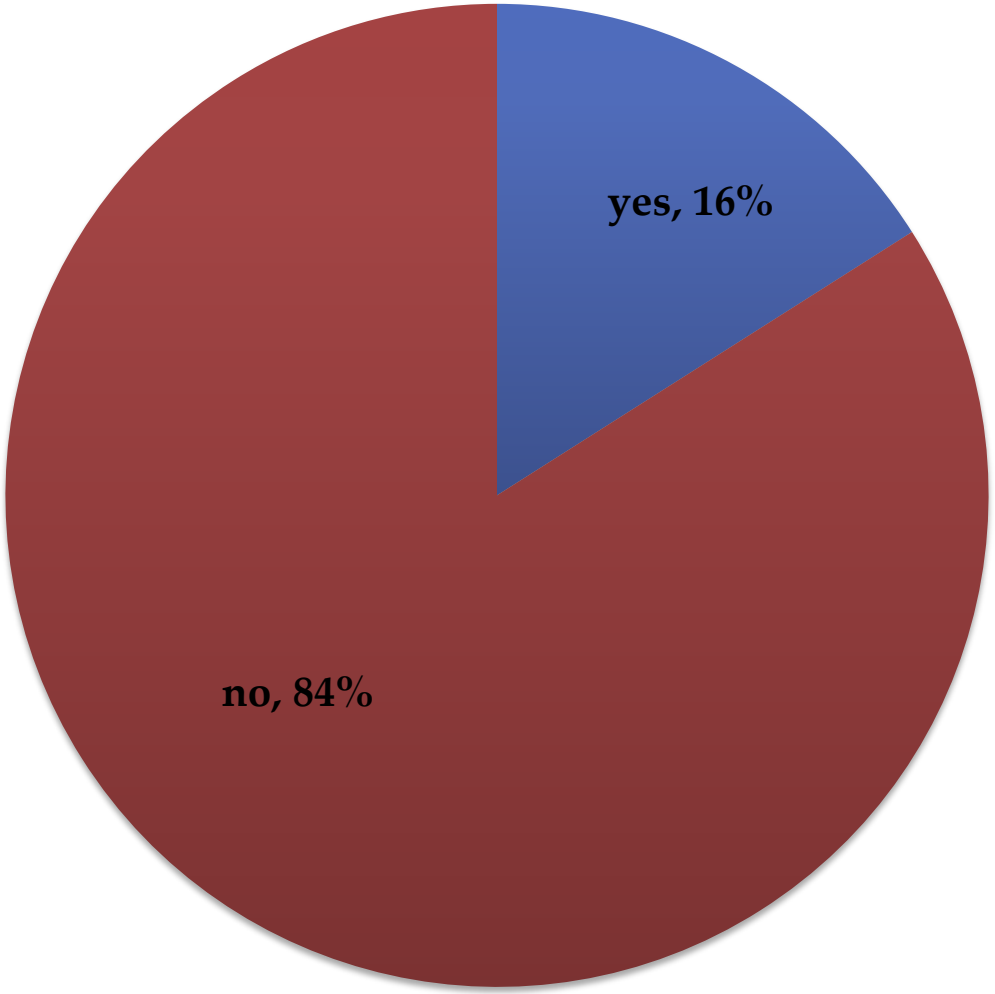
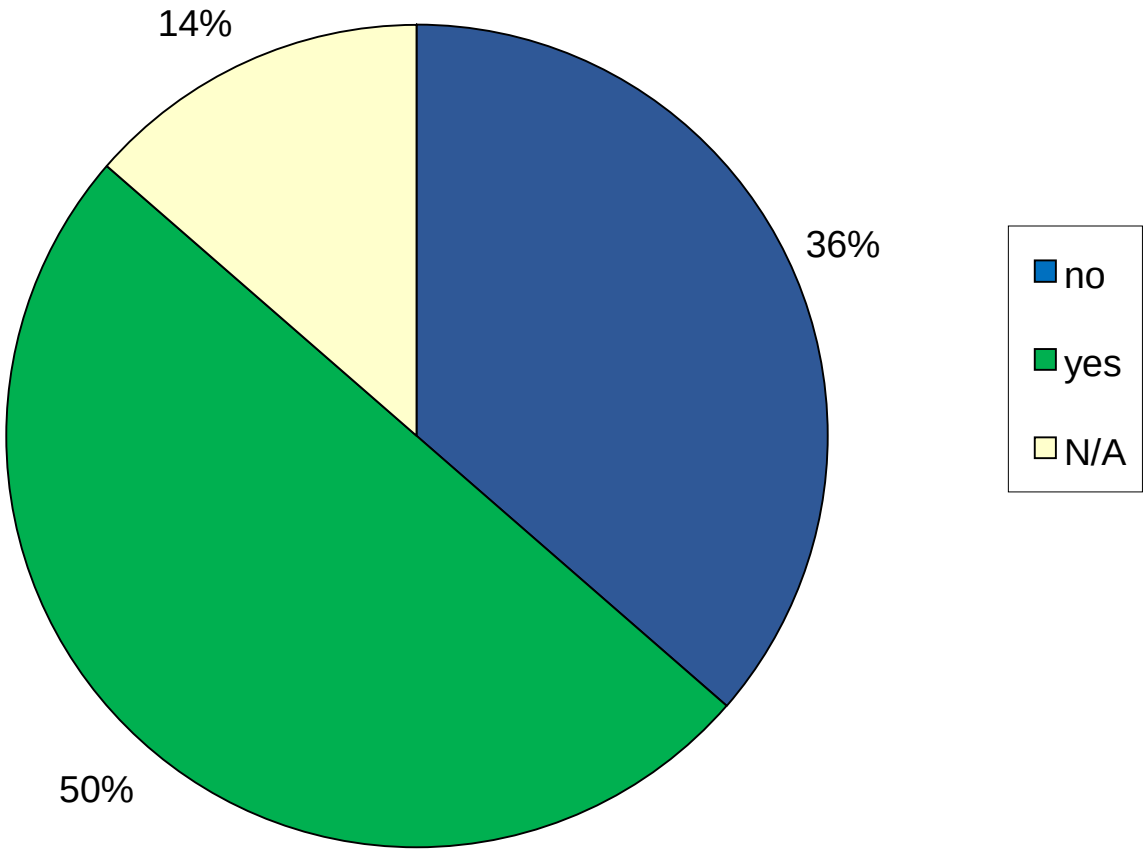


Has your program/org. considered serving CSE boys/young men?

(trafficking service providers who reported they do not currently serve boys)



Why does your program not serve boys and young men ?

- Program rarely receive referrals for boys and young men or calls from boys and young men and therefore does not see a significant need.
- Program is already full or over capacity with girls and thus there is no room for boys and young men in the program.
- Program needs more training regarding CSE boys and young men and/or they feel ill prepared to serve this population.
- Boys and young men are not pimped/controlled and/or enter prostitution through different pathways than girls.
- Program has a gender specific curriculum.

Why Aren't Boys Being Identified?

Possible contributing factors include:

- Boys don't come forward and in fact will often deny the CSE
  - Cultural context: women are victims, men are strong
  - Fear of being outed as gay or perceived as gay
  - May think service providers do not serve males even when they do
  - Not believed when they do come forward

- Routine CSEC screenings are often completed with girls only by juvenile justice, service providers, schools, etc.

- Very few are looking for boys or are not looking in the right places. For example:
  - CSEC/trafficking street outreach teams very rarely reported visiting areas know for male prostitution/"male tracks"
  - Law enforcement may be looking in female specific "markets" - backpage.com versus rentboy.com, hourboy.com, rentmen.com, etc.

Why Aren't Boys Being Identified? Cont. Hustler, not CSEC?

- Researchers and service providers report that boys often experience an extreme sense of shame regarding their exploitation. It is widely speculated that this sense of shame leads boys to redefine themselves as "hustlers"

- A similar attitude can be seen with girls "in the life" who tout the money they make and the lavish lifestyle they lead while embracing terms like "ho" or "bottom bitch."

Estes and Weiner (2001) sum this up best when they state:

"Boys experience a profound sense of shame about what they do. As a result, few would discuss with us the specifics of their sexual encounters indicating, instead, that they were able to keep some measure of control over these experiences (and their psyches) by refusing to participate in certain types of sexual acts, e.g., mostly anal intercourse. At a certain point, many boys redefine themselves as "hustlers" and "escorts," rather than "prostitutes" in order to deal both with their own sense of shame and with the omnipresent stigma they experience in their travels" (Adams as quoted in Estes & Weiner, 2001).

Call to Action:

- Acknowledge the existence of CSEB, and their need for services
- Establish screening and intake systems for CSEB
- Encourage agencies to include boys and ensure that gender-inclusive language is used in programming and appropriations for services for sexually exploited or trafficked youth
- Establish male-focused anti-trafficking agencies and/or male specific outreach teams
- Include boys in law enforcement recover efforts
- Further research on the pros and cons of gender-specific or co-ed service agencies
- Encourage collaboration among organizations that address CSEB and for wider recognition among the public