

Hand Out

Sex Trafficking: Psychoeducation Interventions Relevant to Parent-Child Attachment

Dr. J. Brooks and Vivian W. France

Introduction

Sex trafficking “the recruitment, harboring, transportation, and provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act” (TVPA, PL 106-386, Par 9, 2000), is a \$150 billion dollar a year industry (ILO, 2017). Trauma occurs as a result of exposure and vulnerability in stressful events (Saewyc & Edinburg, 2010). Juveniles are the most susceptible and sought-after individuals for sex trafficking (Davy, 2014).

This research *proposal* focuses on the risk factors within familial systems and parent-child attachment relationships as leading to the vulnerability of juvenile sex trafficking. Interestingly, a review of the literature suggests that parent-child attachment relationships are indicative of life course dynamics leading to sex trafficking among juveniles (Reid, 2012), wherein various risk factors are realized. Among these risk factors, some are more prevalent as research attempts to investigate links that encourage juvenile sex trafficking (see Figure 1). Moreover, the literature revealed conflicts with parents before sex trafficking victimization increased the odds of a minor becoming trafficked by about 97% (Martin, Hearst, & Widome, 2010). Further, research suggests that minors who are insecure and lack a secure systemic base are at risk for being sex trafficked (Hargreaves-Cormany & Patterson, 2016). Thus, it seems necessary to explore the residual analysis of some treatment modalities for counselors to know what interventions are useful in treating sex trafficked juveniles (see Appendix A Poster Presentation).

Sample

Mental health counselors who work globally with sex trafficked juvenile survivors. Two million children are trafficked globally (international Labor Organization & Walk Free Foundation, 2017; Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention, n.d.).

Discussion

Research supports our *proposal* that it is beneficial to provide counselors with evidenced-based interventions to decrease the trauma juveniles may experience from the inhumane crime of sex trafficking. Interestingly, in considering risk factors and vulnerabilities common among juvenile who are trafficked, various themes emerged that are indicative of pathways that may lead to sex trafficking behaviors. For example, survivors indicated that although there was often sexual, physical, and emotional abuse in their past, it was parental absence that led to their trafficking engagement. “I was bullied...my Mom was never around...When I first met [my trafficker], he looked at me and he took the time to learn my name, he said, “Hello. Hi.” And “I

was just so filled with [hands thrown up indicating excitement]-I loved that feeling so much!” (O’Brien, p. 7, 2018).

Significant risk factors such as child abuse, neglect, and running away from home can evolve from an insecure parent-child relationship (Brumariu, 2015). Outcomes reflected juvenile coping skills, mental health, and other life skills are susceptible to the downstream effects of such factors (Franchino-Olsen, 2019). Conclusively, an analysis of the risk factors and parent-child attachment data warrant a need for *qualitative* investigations for a deeper and better understanding of the counselor’s use of evidenced based interventions with survivors of trafficked juveniles. Thus, employing evidenced based interventions targeting trauma may be beneficial in developing standardize appropriate treatment methods.

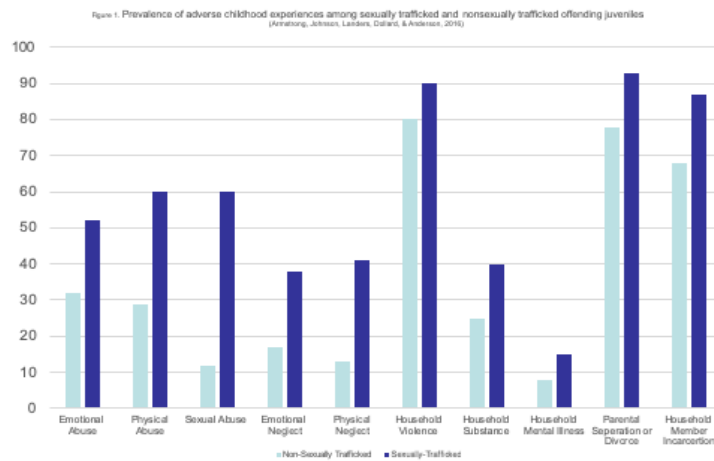


Figure 1. Prevalence of adverse childhood experiences among sexually trafficked and nonsexually trafficked offending juveniles (Naramore, Bright, Epps, & Hardt, 2017)

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Appendix A Poster Presentation

Sex Trafficking: Psychoeducation Interventions Relevant to Parent-Child Attachment

Liberty University

Dr. Jeanne Brooks and Vivian France, MA, NBCT, LPC

Introduction	Sample	Discussion						
<p>Sex trafficking "the recruitment, harboring, transportation, and provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act" (TVPA, PL 106-386, Par 9, 2000), is a \$150 billion dollar a year industry (ILO, 2017). Trauma occurs as a result of exposure and vulnerability in stressful events (Saewyc & Edinburgh, 2010). Juveniles are the most susceptible and sought-after individuals for sex trafficking (Davy, 2014).</p> <p>This research proposal focuses on the risk factors within familial systems and parent-child attachment relationships as leading to the vulnerability of juvenile sex trafficking. Interestingly, a review of the literature suggests that parent-child attachment relationships are indicative of life course dynamics leading to sex trafficking among juveniles (Reid, 2012), wherein various risk factors are realized. Among these risk factors, some are more prevalent as research attempts to investigate links that encourage juvenile sex trafficking. Moreover, the literature revealed conflicts with parents before sex trafficking victimization increased the odds of a minor becoming trafficked by about 97% (Martin, Hearst, & Widome, 2010). Further, research suggests that minors who are insecure and lack a secure systemic base are at risk for being sex trafficked (Hargreaves-Cormany & Patterson, 2016). Thus, it seems necessary to explore the residual analysis of some treatment modalities for counselors to know what interventions are useful in treating sex trafficked juveniles.</p>	<p>Mental health Counselors who work globally with Sex Trafficked Juveniles 2 million children are trafficked globally (International Labor Organization & Walk Free Foundation, 2017; Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention, n.d.).</p> <p>Statistics</p>  <p>Results</p> <p>Risk Factors (O'Brien, 2018; Roe-Sepowitz, 2012)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="521 787 706 808">Community</th> <th data-bbox="716 787 901 808">Environmental/Family</th> <th data-bbox="911 787 1096 808">Parental</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="521 814 706 955"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual Gender Age Demographics Sexual Orientation Mental Health </td> <td data-bbox="716 814 901 955"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dysfunctional Family Environments Domestic Violence Intimate Partner Violence Family Conflict Abuse & Neglect </td> <td data-bbox="911 814 1096 955"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drug Use/Addiction Sexual Assault Single Parent Divorced-Parent Homes Death of a Parent Emotional Abuse Verbal Abuse Physical Abuse </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Community	Environmental/Family	Parental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual Gender Age Demographics Sexual Orientation Mental Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dysfunctional Family Environments Domestic Violence Intimate Partner Violence Family Conflict Abuse & Neglect 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drug Use/Addiction Sexual Assault Single Parent Divorced-Parent Homes Death of a Parent Emotional Abuse Verbal Abuse Physical Abuse 	<p>Research supports our proposal that it is beneficial to provide counselors with evidenced-based interventions to decrease the trauma juveniles may experience from the inhumane crime of sex trafficking. Interestingly, in considering risk factors and vulnerabilities common among juvenile who are trafficked, various themes emerged that are indicative of pathways that may lead to sex trafficking behaviors. For example, survivors indicated that although there was often sexual, physical, and emotional abuse in their past, it was parental absence that led to their trafficking engagement. "I was bullied...my Mom was never around...When I first met [my trafficker], he looked at me and he took the time to learn my name, he said, "Hello. Hi." And "I was just so filled with [hands thrown up indicating excitement]-I loved that feeling so much!" (O'Brien, p. 7, 2018).</p> <p>Significant risk factors such as child abuse, neglect, and running away from home can evolve from an insecure parent-child relationship (Brumariu, 2015). Outcomes reflected juvenile coping skills, mental health, and other life skills are susceptible to the downstream effects of such factors (Franchino-Olsen, 2019). Conclusively, an analysis of the risk factors and parent-child attachment data warrant a need for qualitative investigations for a deeper and better understanding of the counselor's use of evidenced based interventions with survivors of trafficked juveniles. Thus, employing evidence based interventions targeting trauma may be beneficial in developing standardize appropriate treatment methods.</p>
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<p>Research Question & Methodology</p> <p>Problem. There is a need to explore parent-child attachment relationships and the associated risk factors that are linked to the vulnerability of juvenile sex trafficking and to provide interventions that offset the trauma experienced by the juvenile. Question. Does employing evidenced-based psychoeducation interventions and other interventions benefit sex trafficked juveniles? Method. The purpose of this poster is to provide a PROPOSAL for qualitative exploration of the evidence-based interventions that are applicable to treating trauma in sex trafficked juveniles survivors.</p> 	<p>Psychoeducation & Other Interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trauma-Focused CBT Creative-Based Interventions Group Counseling 		<p>References</p> <p>Aronson, R. (2018). <i>Class Hiding Adolescents</i> (Report) [Specialty]. Connecticut: CHNCC. (Final Study - Progress Report)</p> <p>Bryman, J. B. (2015). Parent-child attachment and emotion regulation: New Directions for Child and Adolescent Development, 185(148), 51-61. doi:10.1177/0192513115581148</p> <p>Davy, D. (2014). Understanding the experience of trafficking in child sex trafficking in Thailand and Cambodia. <i>International Journal of Technology and Social Policy</i>, 10(1), 70-83. doi:10.1108/IJTS-12-2013-003</p> <p>Franchino-Olsen, E. (2019). Vulnerability related to commercial sexual exploitation in National Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: A systematic review of risk factors. <i>Trauma, Violence, and Abuse</i>, 15(2), 161-175. doi:10.1891/1524-5993.15.2.161</p> <p>Graham, R., & Callahan, A. (2012). The role of social stress in trauma counseling. <i>Journal of Mental Health Counseling</i>, 34(3), 254-268. doi:10.1177/1043986212458152</p> <p>Lewis, S. D. A. (2017). Home sex trafficking in America: What counselors need to know. <i>The Professional Counselor</i>, 11(1), 61-61. doi:10.1039/110117</p> <p>Milgram, Y. J., Delgado, C., & Dool, A. T. (2019). The value of trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy (TF-CBT) in addressing the therapeutic needs of trafficked youth: A case study. <i>Cognitive and Behavioral Practice</i>, 26(1), 103-113. doi:10.1016/j.cbpr.2018.08.001</p> <p>Moran, L., Hines, M. O., & Wilkins, R. (2019). Mismatched differences: Comparison of adult victims who first met sex as a juvenile versus an adult. <i>Violence Against Women</i>, 15(12), 1200-1209. doi:10.1177/177457391987771</p> <p>Nguyen, R., Singh, M. A., Ghee, Y., & Bhat, N. S. (2017). Youth arrested for trafficking sex have the highest rates of child sexual abuse: A national SAMHSA study. <i>Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment</i>, 29(4), 396-408. doi:10.1177/0891246517706804</p> <p>O'Brien, E. L. (2018). "My trauma, my truth, my healing": A qualitative study of empowerment relationships in the lives of domestic minor sex trafficking survivors. <i>Child Abuse & Neglect</i>, 71(1), 46-55. doi:10.1016/j.chab.2018.03.003</p> <p>Roe-Sepowitz, D. E. (2012). Exploring the lives of state-specific, trafficked and sex trafficked females of color: Applying life course theory to victimization in trafficking in South America. <i>Journal of Interpersonal Violence</i>, 27(1), 177-201. doi:10.1177/0886260511423280</p> <p>Roe-Sepowitz, D. E. (2012). Juvenile entry into prostitution: The role of maternal abuse. <i>Violence Against Women</i>, 18(1), 50-59. doi:10.1177/1524599311423280</p> <p>Saewyc, S., & Edinburgh, L. (2010). <i>Running healthy: Developmental trajectories for youth, physical and mental health</i>. In <i>Running healthy: Physical and mental health</i>. Journal of Adolescent Health, 46(2), 100-108. doi:10.1016/j.jadohealth.2009.12.005</p> <p>Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act (TVPA) of 2000, P.L. 106-386, 114 Stat. 1844 (2000).</p>					