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The Importance of Intervention
After the ACEs of Abuse or
Juvenile Detention

With Dr. Kisha Roberts-Tabb and Laura Ng

Wednesday Feb 23
2 -3:30 PM EST

JUST

WEBINAR SERIES

The Importance of
Intervention After the ACEs
of Abuse or Juvenile
Detention

February 23, 2022 | 2 PM ET

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All attendees are on MUTE

This session is being recorded

If you'd like to ask a question, type it into the question box so our moderators can ask the panelists on your behalf

Please NOTE: We will receive more questions than we have time for, so we will not get to all of the questions provided by the audience. We appreciate your patience.

Ask a Question:

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Attendees: 2 of 501 (max)

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Law Enforcement & Demand: Wednesday, 4/29/2 - 3:30 PM

We'll be starting shortly. Thanks for joining us!

Type your question here.

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Our story began in 1998 when U.S. Congresswoman Linda Smith traveled into the heart of the brothel district in Mumbai, India. The brutal sexual slavery and exploitation of women and children she witnessed there inspired her to establish Shared Hope International to help bring healing to devastated lives. Our dynamic story of prevention, restoration and justice initiatives has continued unbroken for over 20 years.

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Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Adverse childhood experiences, or ACEs, are potentially **traumatic events** that occur in childhood (0-17 years). For example:

- experiencing violence, abuse, or neglect (*including CSA*)
- witnessing violence in the home or community
- having a family member attempt or die by suicide

SOURCE: <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/fastfact.html>



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Consequences of ACEs

According to a Florida study, conducted between 2009 and 2015, trafficking abuse reports were highest among children with an **ACE score of six or greater**. Children with a sexual abuse history in connection with a higher ACE score had an increased chance of exploitation by traffickers. According to a 2017 study, **sexual abuse was the most reliable predictor of a person's exploitation by traffickers**.

SOURCE: Toney-Butler TJ, Ladd M, Mittel O. Human Trafficking. [Updated 2021 Jul 27]. In: StatPearls [Internet]. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2022 Jan-. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK430910/>

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Research gathered by the Westcoast Children's Clinic showed that sexually exploited youth had been exploited for **two to three years** before there was a referral to specialized CSEC services

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Screening for Risk of Human Trafficking =
Screening for History of ACEs

- Housing and caregiving
- Prior abuse and trauma
- Physical health and appearance
- Environment and exposure
- Relationships and personal belongings
- Signs of current trauma
- Coercion
- Exploitation

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Only 22 percent of the 192 cases we responded to with CSEC/HT-specific services in FY21 were referred to ChicagoCAC with an allegation of human trafficking.

Most of the other 78 percent were referred with an allegation of CSA.

The Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline: The Girls’ Story

2015 Report released by Human Rights Project for Girls, Georgetown Law Center on Poverty and Inequality, and Ms. Foundation for Women

- **sexual abuse is one of the primary predictors of girls’ entry into the juvenile justice system** including those who are arrested on prostitution charges
- **girls’ common reactions to trauma are criminalized and exacerbated by involvement in the juvenile justice system, leading to a cycle of abuse and imprisonment**
- **routine procedures, including the use of restraints and strip searches, as well as the isolating, punitive environment itself, can be particularly harmful to victims of trauma by triggering their traumatic stress symptoms.**



Violence and Justice

- “Violence against girls is a painful American tale. It is a crisis of national proportions that cuts across every divide of race, class and ethnicity.”
Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline
- Averaging around 30% girls are the fastest growing population for imprisonment on a national scale.
- Nationally Girls confinement increased by over 80 % while 20% decrease among boys.
- Illinois there has been a significance of confinement with in the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice.
- 38% of girls were arrested for domestic violence (against a family mem
37% were arrested for simple assault, and 70% for misdemeanors including arrest warrants.





VIOLENCE & JUSTICE

2016 Annual Report of the Illinois Court

- 19,943 juvenile cases
- 16% of detained juveniles were girls.
- 136 girls admitted to the Cook County JTDC during 2018

Victimization as primary pathway for African American and Latina girls into Juvenile Justice Systems girls.



Trauma Impct to Justice Pipeline

- Adolescent female delinquent behavior has been criminalized within a system has failed to;
 - Recognize or treat traumatic issues
 - Prevent the re-victimization of minority girls
 - Identify their victimization as the primary pathway into the Justice System
- Both African-American and Latin males and females are most like to be affected.
 - Girls in the juvenile system are more likely to have a history of the following
 - Physical and sexual abuse
 - High rate of psychiatric disorder
 - Exposure to multiple ACEs
 - Boys in the juvenile system are more like to
 - Deny a history of physical and sexual abuse
 - Earlier on set of abuse
 - Unaddressed psychiatric disorder



Identified Feeders Significant to Entry into the Justice Systems

- Child Welfare
- Status Offenses
- Education
- Mental and Physical Health
- Interpersonal Violence
- Housing Policies
 - Government Provided Housing
 - Grant Funded Housing Programs
- Residential Instability




Sex Abuse and Violence

- Youth who experience sexual abuse are more aggressive than youth who have not been victimized.
- Girls who experience sexual and or physical abuse are often justice involved due to infliction of violence on another individual.
(Conrad, S., Placella N., Tololu-Shams,M., Rizzo, C., and Brown, L. 2014. Gender Difference in Recidivism Rates for Juvenile Justice Youth: The Impact of Sexual Abuse. Law Human Behavior.)
- Researchers have found stronger links between girls who experience sexual and physical abuse and involvement in the justice systems among girls of color.
(The Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline: The Girls' Story.
<https://csjjusticecenter.org/youth/publications/the-sexual-abuse-to-prison-pipeline-the-girls-story/>)
- ACEs related to sexual abuse, violence, homelessness, and low educational achievement has been identified as clear pipeline to court involvement.




Justice Involved Experience

- Youth with offences related to their history of running away reported being beaten stabbed and raped. (Majority being girls.)
 - 15% of girls are arrested for felonies
 - 70% of girls are arrested for misdemeanors
 - 17% detained
(Finkelhor,D. Shuttucj, Turner, H., Hambly, S. 2014. The Lifetime Prevalence of Child Sexual Abuse and Sexual Assault Assessed in Late Adolescence. The Journal Adolescent Health, 329-333)
- 14% of girls who are incarcerated were involved with Department of Children & Family Service (DCFS).
- 7% of boys who are incarcerated are also involved with DCFS
(Children and Family Justice Center. (2017). Incarcerated Girls and LGBTQ Youth. Community. Safety & the Future of Illinois' Youth Prison Illinois' 4, 1-16.)
- 41% of youth in care were arrested for delinquent behavior
(Sherman, F., Balick, A. 2015. Gender Injustice: System-Level Juvenile Justice Reforms for Girls.)



Criminalization Based on Gender and Race

- African-American Girls are more likely to be arrested at 30 times the rate of both Caucasian boys and girls.
- Although boys of color dominate entry into the justice system, girls involvement is increasing including those who also identify as girls.
- Females are more likely to be injured in the commission of the offense arrested. Reports show injury from hand, fist, or foot contact.
 - 14% report carrying weapons for protection or by force
 - 42.5% report having a physical fight one to five times within a calendar year
 - 10.4% report two or three incidents of physical aggression or attack with in a calendar year



- **Adulteration of Black Girls**
 - *African-American girls 14-15 were seen as less innocent than other races*
(Epstein, R., Black, J., Gonzalez T. 2017. Girlhood Interrupted: the Erasure of Black Girls' Childhood. Georgetown University Law Center. Center on Poverty and Inequality, 38.)
 - *African-American girls are more vulnerable to ACES due to negative perceptions of their innocence.*
 - Less likely to be seen as victims
 - Susceptible to severe discipline
 - Denied Service that could have incepted exposure to ACES
- *African-American girls are viewed as more disobedient 2.5 time Caucasian girls*
 - Involved in Justice System at Higher Rates
 - Detained Longer
 - Receive Harsher Sentences
(Phillips, J. 192015) Black Girls and the Possibilities of Victim Trope: Intersectional Failures of Legal and Advocacy Interventions. in the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors in the United States. UCLA Law Review (1642:1675)



Then 13-year old African American female came to ChicagoCAC as a possible victim of sexual abuse in after she was located at a hotel after being on run. This was the child's second time at ChicagoCAC after an allegedly false allegation made two years prior.

Child's mother reported that child was an A and B student and was doing well until two years ago when her grandmother passed away and then got worse one year later when her mother was diagnosed with diabetes.

Caregiver also shared that she is unaware of how child has a cell phone.



In person visits began between writer and child as well as between the therapist and child. This occurred at the child's home until she was hospitalized after another elopement incident and visits with both professionals then took place at the hospital.


During each of these visits, child would share her goals regarding her relationship with her family as well as goals she had for herself including basketball, academics and after-school programs.



Case Study – Involvement in Juvenile Justice Sys.

Over the next few months, however, child would continue to cycle through incidences of fighting with her mother and running away from home.

Eventually, child was placed in the custody of the juvenile temporary detention center (JTDC) and placed on electronic monitoring (EM). EM was later terminated and she was placed with her father.




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Case Study – Human Trafficking Investigated

Within one month, child had gone on run again and, after missing for one month, was located by law enforcement and brought to the ChicagoCAC late for a new allegation of victim of human trafficking. Afterwards, she was transferred to JTDC due a warrant.

Child is currently staying with her grandmother and has been thriving ever since including graduating from middle school last year and becoming a mentor to younger students.



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Case Study – Discussion

Risk factors:

- Loss of family members; fear of loss of additional family members
- Coming out and not feeling accepted
- Financial insecurity at home
- *Previous allegation of sexual abuse*

Protective factors:

- Family
- School
- Goal-oriented
- Professionals who met her where she was at



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Stay in touch!

Laura Ng, MSW, Human Trafficking Specialist, Chicago
Children's Advocacy Center
LNg@ChicagoCAC.org

Kisha Roberts-Tabb, PhD, Human Trafficking Gender
Responsive LGBTQ Specialist, Cook County Juvenile
Probation
kisha.roberts@cookcountytill.gov