Community Conditions that Increase Individual Vulnerability

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Preventing Human Trafficking

Vulnerability at each level compounds risk of entrapment by human traffickers.
Individual Vulnerabilities

- **Inexperience**
  - Language, Cultural Differences
  - Youthfulness

- **Disability**
  - Intellectual
  - Emotional

- **Substance Use**
  - Alcohol
  - Drugs

- **Elevated Exposure**
  - Running Away
  - Social Networks
Family/Peer Vulnerabilities

Family Adversity
- Caregiver Mental Health/Substance Use
- Employment Problems

Exposure to Criminal Environments
- Family/Peers Involved in Crime/Trafficking

Financial Pressure
- Family or Child to Support
- Limited Career Preparation/Opportunity

Family Violence
- Linked to Running Away, Homelessness
Interpersonal Vulnerabilities

- **Maltreatment**
  - Sexual Abuse
  - Physical Abuse
  - Neglect, Abandonment

- **Rejection**
  - Based on Sexual Preference, Gender Identity

- **Legal/Dependency Status**
  - Foster Care
  - Expired Visa/Visa Supported by Trafficker
Most Recognized Profile Among U.S. Domestic Minor Trafficking Victims: “Maltreated Youth in Foster Care”
Similar Profiles Differentiated by Foster Care or by Alcohol/Drug Vulnerability
Distinct Profiles with No/Low History of Sexual/Physical Abuse
Vulnerability: Community Features

Neighborhood Crime
- Prostitution and Drug Problem
- Organized Crime Groups/Gangs
- Fraudulent/Exploitive Employment

Transient Populations/Areas
- Tourism/Sex Tourism, Conventioneers
- Truck Stops, Airports
- International Border Areas

Economy
- Reliant on Sex Industry, Seasonal Workers
- Poverty
- Limited Employment Opportunities
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vulnerability: Community Response</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Criminal Justice</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Inadequate Police Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Limited Prosecutions of Human Trafficking</td>
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<td><strong>Service Providers</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Training Needed</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Weak Social Safety Net for Most Vulnerable</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Inadequate Protective Strategies</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Safeguard Potential Victims</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Lack of Knowledge regarding Danger</td>
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<td>- No Safety Planning with Vulnerable Persons</td>
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Vulnerability: Societal Tolerance

Favorable View of Pimps

Victim Blaming unless “Perfect”

Devaluation/Societal Exclusion
Key Sources

• See Google Scholar, Joan A. Reid
  https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=Df9C-DwAAAAJ&hl=en

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