

# Likelihood of Child Maltreatment underlying Sex Trafficking



- ▶ **Child maltreatment rate – 93%** found in study of sexually exploited individuals (Andrea Cimino et al, 2016).
- ▶ **Polyvictimization and cumulative trauma** “Regardless of race and class, both juvenile and adult prostitutes (*sic*) are likely to have a victimization history that includes instances of abuse, maltreatment and neglect” (Hwang & Bedford, 2004; Kuhns & Spatz-Widom, 1996).
- ▶ Most commonly, entrance into prostitution (*sic*) **stemming from sexual abuse** is reported by juveniles who have entered sex work (Allwood & Spatz-Widom, 2013; Chamberlain & Leve, 2004; Hoyt & Scherer, 1998; Roe-Sepowitz, 2012; Zahn et al., 2010).
- ▶ **Miami study** of street-based sex workers: more than half of the participants **reported histories of physical (51.1%) or sexual (53.1%) abuse** as children (Hilary Surratt et al, 2008).

# Sexually Exploited in Relationships



- ▶ NYC sex trade report: 37% (of respondents) reported having relatives in the sex trade. (“Navigating Force and Choice: Experiences in the New York City Sex Trade” (Elise White et al, 2018).
- ▶ Trafficked survivors were more likely to have been in foster care (34%), to have left home at younger age (average age 15.8), to have current housing instability (37%), and to be involved in street-level sex work (79%). (White et al, 2018)
- ▶ **Between 22%** (Williamson & Baker, 2009) **and 40%** (Norton-Hawke, 2004) **of adult women** engaging in sex work report **working under the control of a pimp/trafficker** (Roe-Sepowitz & Hickle, 2014).

# Addiction & Survival Needs



- ▶ Drug use and sex trade are mutually reinforcing for both teens and adults
- ▶ Even for teens, research finds a girl can find herself in a “life of prostitution (*sic*) and petty crime in order to meet her survival needs, which now include food and shelter as well as drugs and alcohol” (Chesney-Lind & Daly, 2006).
- ▶ **50% of women in substance use programs report history of familial sexual abuse, and 80-90% of women in SUD treatment report histories of trauma.**

# Benedict Center



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