

What is Sexual Exploitation?

Sexual Exploitation is the exchange of sex or sexual favours (like a blow-job or hand-job) for money, shelter or goods such as, food, or drugs.

- **Sexual exploitation of youth is a form of sexual abuse**
- **If you have been sexually exploited, it is not your fault**

Sex and especially trading sex can be personal and private topic for youth

It is likely that more youth are sexually exploited than these numbers suggest:

• More than one in three youth (37%) reported ever trading sex for money or goods

• 5% of the youth in this survey reported getting money from the sex trade in the last 30 days



Sexual exploitation of youth is against the law. It is a form of abuse, and is NEVER the fault of the young person involved!

Want to talk?

Children of the street
www.childrenofthestreet.com
Information, support and Resources
1-877-551-6611
Fax: 604-525-0024

NOW Canada www.nowcanada.ca
(New Opportunities for Women)

Facts of Life Line
1800-SEX SENSE or 604 731 7803

Sexual Assault and Family Crisis Line
Victim Information Line
1-800-563-0808

Onyx - www.plea.bc.ca
Phone 604 708 2647
Services for sexually exploited youth residing or frequenting: Richmond, Vancouver, North Shore, Sea to Sky, Sunshine Coast, Powell River, Bella Coola, and Bella Bella.

Other Fact Sheets from Against the Odds:
Sexual Health
Substance Use
Moving On
Mental and Physical Health

Available at www.mcs.bc.ca

Sexual Exploitation



Youth living in homelessness, living on the streets, living in an abandoned building, a tent or car. Youth who are willing to trade sex for drugs, money, clothes, food or shelter. Youth who are using or selling drugs on the streets, or paying for sex. Youth who have recently moved from any of these situations into a more stable environment.

Against the Odds

A profile of street involved and marginalized youth in BC



The McCreary Centre Society

This information is from:

Against the Odds – A profile of marginalized and street-involved youth in BC

Lots of people have the wrong idea about why some youth are street involved.

This research was done to learn about what life is like for street involved youth. And to give youth a chance to voice their opinions and concerns.

762 youth from nine communities in BC participated in the Against the Odds survey in 2006

Youth included in this survey were those who are:

- Homeless
- Living on the street
- Couch surfing
- Staying in a: tent, car, abandoned building, or squat
- Using or Selling Drugs on the street
- Involved in the Sex Trade
- Or anyone who has recently moved from these conditions to a more stable environment

McCreary Centre Society

www.mcs.bc.ca

Sexual exploitation

Can happen in many different places: cars, trick pads (rooms or apartments controlled by a pimp), hotels, massage parlours, private homes, on the internet and many other places.

Spotting

is watching over or looking out for someone in the sex trade.

E.g. taking down the license plate of stranger's car when a friend gets in to trade sex.



More than one in five youth, (23%), said that they had “spotted” for someone

Nearly 2 out of 3 youth who said they had spotted for someone had *also* experienced sexual exploitation themselves

Sexual Exploitation is not just a concern for female youth



4 in 10 males in this survey said they had been sexually exploited

Youth are often lured into the sex trade by “pimps”/recruiters
Recruiters can be male or female

How Does Sexual Exploitation Start?



The person approaches a youth

• He or she promises: parties, romance, support, drugs, romance or an increase in popularity

The person sells the youth on the “glamour of street life”

• He or She may take them drinking, partying, give them drugs, and tell the youth that they love them

The person will send youth out to work in the sex trade

• They may use threats, guilt -“you owe me”, “if you really love me...” be emotionally and/or physically abusive to the youth

1 in 5 youth were still living with their family when they entered the sex trade

1 in 8 were living on the street