PATHWAYS INTO SEX WORK

RISK FACTORS and CRITICAL LIFE EXPERIENCES PREDICTING YOUTH and YOUNG ADULT PARTICIPATION IN TRANSACTIONAL SEX

At-risk youth are differentially exposed to some combination of risk factors that predispose them to participation in transactional sex.

Psychological Factors
- Depression
- Psychosis
- Physical
- Sexual
- Emotional

Social Factors
- Peer Relations
- Pimps
- Authority Figures
- Gender
- Sexual Orientation
- Ethnicity

Individual Attributes
- Frequency
- Substances Used

Abuse

Substance Use

Homelessness

School Dropout

Economic Marginalization

Critical Life Experiences

Transactional Sex Involvement

Exposure to these risk factors, as moderated by critical life experiences, influences the likelihood of young people becoming involved in the sex trade.

Individuals may exit at various stages of this model, but once involvement in the sex trade has occurred it is likely that attempts to do so will be characterized by a cycle of exit and re-entry.

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