

PSM NEWSLETTER



Quarterly Newsletter June 2021

Our Mission:

Advocate for injury and violence prevention and promote education and surveillance in Maryland through statewide partnerships.



A Message from Incoming Board President Tom Manion

Greetings PSM Membership!

As incoming Board President, I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself. I became involved with the Partnership a few years ago thanks to a colleague of mine, and I was immediately drawn to its focus on leveraging partnerships statewide to accomplish its goals. Through my work as Director of the Montgomery County Family Justice Center, where engaging public and private partners to serve survivors of domestic violence is a central principle of our operations model, I know that the power of collaborative efforts cannot be understated.

When I think of the potential we have as an organization to continue to forge and facilitate these partnerships throughout the state to promote injury and violence-prevention initiatives, it gives me so much hope for the future. I look forward to building upon the robust foundation put in place by my predecessor, Marianne Gibson, to whom I am incredibly grateful for her support and advice. I'm also grateful to Program Director LaToya Bates and my colleagues on the Board for their dedication to our organization, and to the Maryland Department of Health for their continued support of our initiatives.

In the coming year, the Partnership will be putting out more content than ever before, including statewide training opportunities (many with CEUs available), blog posts from

experts in the field, legislative updates and calls to action, and information sharing for and from our membership. It's going to be a great year, and I'm glad you'll be on this journey with us!

Take good care,
-Tom



PSM August & September Webinars

August - Teen Dating Violence

September - Suicide

PSM's June Webinar Series: Human Trafficking

Child Sex Trafficking in Maryland

By Laura Coleman

Director of Education and Prevention Initiatives

Most people believe that sex trafficking happens in Cambodia, Thailand and the countries on the other side of the world. The truth is that sex trafficking happens in the United States including communities throughout Maryland as well.

Since 2000, with the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, human trafficking of any kind is illegal on American soil. Human trafficking is a criminal industry with an estimated annual profit of \$150 billion. Most of the victims are used in labor trafficking but the majority of the profits, \$99 billion, are made in the sex trafficking industry.

There have been more than 670 survivors of sex trafficking reported to DSS offices across Maryland since 2014 and the majority of those are Maryland residents between the ages of 14 and 17. (University of Maryland, School of Social Work) In 2019, there were 143 reports made to DSS offices of suspected child sex trafficking cases. The majority of cases are reported in Baltimore City however Washington, Prince George's, Baltimore County, Anne Arundel, Harford, Montgomery, and Frederick counties consistently report cases to DSS offices. Every jurisdiction in Maryland has had reported cases of minor sex trafficking.

Many factors can contribute to the vulnerability of a child to this issue. A disconnection from their family, previous history of sexual abuse, chronically missing youth, an intersection with social services and strong online presence can all be factors that increase a child's risk of trafficking. Traffickers are



keenly aware of how to identify the need of a child and provide that need in order to develop a connection of trust. From there every step of the process is intentionally planned to manipulate the child into increasingly exploitive behaviors.

To learn more about the signs of trafficking and where to go for a referral for services, contact Araminta Freedom Initiative at contact@aramintafreedom.org.

WHAT DO I DO IF I SUSPECT POTENTIAL TRAFFICKING?

- **ACT** when you **SUSPECT** that something is wrong
- For a child you know - Call local **CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES**
- Call or text the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline

Call **1-888-3737-888**

Text **"BeFree" 233733**

"I was groomed long before I met my trafficker to believe this is what women were created to do."

Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Victim, Holly Smith. Trafficked at age 14.

@AramintaFreedom

Child Sex Trafficking Stat Sheet

- Between June 2013 and May 2020, there were **679** reports of child sex trafficking screened by Maryland DSS CPS Screening Units.
- In 2019, the last full year of reporting, 143 cases were reported to DSS offices around Maryland.
- Although reports have been made in every county across the state, the jurisdictions with the highest number of cases reported include:
 - 1) Baltimore City
 - 2) Washington County
 - 3) Prince George's County
 - 4) Baltimore County
 - 5) Harford County
 - 6) Anne Arundel County
 - 7) Montgomery County
 - 8) Frederick County
 - 9) Charles County
 - 10) Howard County
- Maryland is not currently a Safe Harbor state which means that anyone under 18 can still be charged with prostitution in spite of the federal law that defines them as a victim in any commercial sex act. There have been 102 minors charged with prostitution between 2013-2019; 17 of those were between the ages of 10-14.
- Based on over 26,000 missing child cases at NCMEC involving possible CST between January 2004 and December 31, 2019:
 - 95.1% - Female
 - 4.9% - Male
 - 75% were in Foster Care and Social Services
 - 24% were with biological family members
 - 40.6% - Black
 - 35.2% - White
 - 11.7% - Hispanic
 - 10.2% - Biracial
 - 1.0% - American Indian
- National Human Trafficking Hotline stats
 - Since 2007 – 17,271 Child Sex Trafficking victims have been identified
 - 13,864 Sex trafficking / 1686 Labor trafficking / 914 Sex and Labor trafficking / 807 Not specified
- The average life expectancy of a female being exploited through sex trafficking is 7 years. Homicide and AIDS are the top two causes of death. (FBI)
- Victims of child sex trafficking report they are given typical quotas of 10-15 buyers per night. (Shared Hope International)

Eastern Shore resources:

Eastern Shore Human Trafficking Task Force:

Ed Tho edtho@comcast.net and Ann Holladay annberryholladay@gmail.com coordinate activities and meetings for this task force. Ed and Ann will be your best resource to connect with partner organizations, resources and supports on the Eastern Shore.

Harriet's House – Director, Julie Crain
julie@harriettshouse.org
website: <https://harriettshouse.org>

Refuge 91, Mobile Unit
Website: <https://refuge91inc.org/about/>

