

***THE TRUTH ABOUT
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION***

***IS THAT ABUSERS WON'T
TELL YOU THE TRUTH***

Get the facts
to protect yourself.

Alberta

Some people may believe that prostitution is all about partying, having fun and making money.

The Truth – Prostitution is sexual exploitation.

It's nothing like the glamorous lifestyle you see in the movies or on television. Most youth involved in prostitution never get to see any of the money they make, are often exposed to violence, forced to have unprotected sex which leads to STIs and pregnancy, and may even end up dead.

Over 75 per cent of people working in the sex trade in Canada began working as a child.

"Strolling Away", Susan McIntyre, PhD

PIMPS AND RECRUITERS

Recruiters are people who seek out and bring youth into prostitution. Pimps are people who make money by sexually exploiting youth through prostitution. A pimp can also be a recruiter.

Pimps and recruiters can be anyone, guys or girls. They may pretend to be boyfriends or friends and will try to lure you into prostitution with lies, false promises and drugs. Recruiters will look for new victims in places like malls, parties and even schools.

DRUGS ARE NEVER FREE

Recruiters will supply you with drugs until you become addicted and are dependent on them. Eventually you will be expected to pay them back. That can mean being forced to provide sexual services to hundreds of strangers.

DON'T EVEN TRY IT ONCE

Many teens have fallen victim to prostitution because they needed fast cash, are lured by promises of new clothes, alcohol and drugs. Others run away from bad situations and end up trading sex to survive. Some are feeling confused about their sexual identity or orientation and become involved in prostitution. They thought there would be no harm in doing it just once. But once in, it is extremely difficult to get out. Although they want to leave, some youth never make it out alive.

Sexually exploited youth live in constant fear. They are victims of many forms of abuse and violence.

FACTS

- Prostitution may not be what you think it is — it's not only sex for money, but can also be sex in exchange for clothes, a cell phone, a place to stay, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, and even a ride somewhere.
- The average age of a child involved in prostitution in Alberta is 15.4 years old.
- 11 per cent of the youth served in 2006-2007 were *male*. Many males who become involved are struggling with sexual identity or orientation.

TAKE ACTION

- **If someone is going out of their way to be your friend, like buying you new clothes and giving you drugs and alcohol, find out what they really want and if they are who they claim to be.**
- **Ask questions about what that person is telling you. Don't always take what they say at face value.**
- **If you are suspicious of someone's intentions or think someone is trying to recruit you, or if you feel you are being pressured or blackmailed by someone, don't be afraid to ask for help. Tell a trusted adult or call the number below.**

CONTACT US FOR HELP.

All calls are anonymous. You don't have to give your name and no one will know who you are unless you want them to.

**Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-387-KIDS (5437)
www.child.alberta.ca**

If you or someone you know is being sexually exploited, call the Child Abuse Hotline at **1-800-387-KIDS (5437)** or call your local police department.

For more information on programs and services in your area, visit the Children's Services' website **www.child.alberta.ca**.

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