



Under the Radar: The Sexual Exploitation of Young Men-Western Canadian Edition

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preface

Over the past 15 years, much of my research has been focused on young people involved in the sexual exploitation trade. This research extends primarily through three interconnected pieces of work.

The first piece of interviewing took place in 1991-1992, and was released as my PhD dissertation in 1994 entitled The Youngest Profession the Oldest Oppression. During that time, I interviewed 50 young people in Calgary. This involved 41 females and nine males, 25% of which were Aboriginal. This research found 82% of this population had experienced sexual abuse prior to their entrance into the sexual exploitation trade. It also demonstrated professionals had both ignored and failed to recognize the abuse this population had experienced prior to their entrance into the trade. In fact, many had failed to act while young people were being sexually exploited in front of them. Given this failure to intervene, it was in fact a form of state-supported sexual abuse. In the end, this research resulted in raising both social and political attention in The City of Calgary and The Province of Alberta.

Over time, I observed the growing acceptance of youth involved in prostitution as a form of sexual abuse. I watched The City of Calgary and The Province of Alberta embrace this paradigm shift, subsequently resulting in policy, legislative and program changes. This paradigm shift slowly spread across the country as the term 'youth prostitution' was replaced by the term 'sexual exploitation.' Today these two terms are used interchangeably.

The second piece of research was initiated by two former youth I had interviewed in 1991-1992, who challenged me to revisit the same questions I had originally asked ten years earlier, in order to see what had and had not worked.

I took the challenge, and in 2002 a retrospective longitudinal study titled **Strolling Away** was released.

At that point, I had accounted for and interviewed 38 of the original 50 people I had interviewed 10 years previously. Some of the women had worked in the United States: primarily Las Vegas, California or Hawaii. Two women from this group ended up working in Japan for up to six months and found it difficult to escape back home. The men seemed to work primarily throughout Canada.

In this study, I learned both young women and men could survive this experience; however, the painful scarring remains. We also learned that for young women, the value of producing a child, or the desire to produce children, brought with it both family and state support. Eighty-two percent of women from this study had in fact produced children.

On the contrary, the physical birthing of a child was not an option available to young men. From our male sample, we learned they enter the trade younger and stay twice as long. Childbirth was not a viable exit opportunity for young men as it was for young women. We also learned through interviewing the same men ten years later that we tend to view sexual exploitation of children through a female lens only. Young men inquired as to why we still asked them questions from a 'chick perspective'.

This second piece of research made it apparent that we as professionals and as a society knew very little about young men entering the sexual exploitation trade. Why and how do they enter? How do they work? How long do they stay? What is the lifestyle? How do they exit?

This lack of knowledge was the impetus to begin the following connected piece of work entitled *Under the Radar: The Sexual Exploitation of Young Men.* It was apparent that looking at only one geographic site would be unfair. The plan was to examine independently the provinces of: Alberta, British Columbia, -Saskatchewan and Manitoba. The Alberta report was released in June 2005. The British Columbia Report was released in December 2006. The reports for Manitoba and Saskatchewan were released in 2008.

This report overviews the four western provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, summarizing and comparing similarities and differences amongst each of the Western provinces. It also aims to answer some important questions, hopefully enabling service providers to be better equipped to assist young men with specialized support services in order to help them live safe, healthy, meaningful lives.

acknowledgements

This research was made possible with the support and energy of Covenant House Vancouver who provided guidance through many stages of this project, as well many individuals, anonymous donors and the National Crime Prevention Centre, The Province of British Columbia, Ministries of Children and Family Development, Community Services, Education and Public Safety and Solicitor General. The Province of Alberta Ministry of Children's Services, and the Calgary Health Region. The Province of Saskatchewan Departments of Justice, First Nations and Métis Relations and Community Resources. The Province of Manitoba Ministries of Family Services and Housing Children, Education and Citizenship.

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- AIDS Saskatoon
- · AIDS, Vancouver Island
- Alberta Youth In Care & Custody Network
- · Avenue Community Centre
- AWM Aboriginal Community Development Consultant
- · Boys & Girls Club of Calgary
- Boys R' Us, Vancouver
- Calgary Drop-In & Rehab Centre
- Calgary Rockyview Child and Family Services
- · Children's Advocate Office Saskatchewan
- · Covenant House Vancouver
- Crossroads
- · CRU Youth Wellness Centre
- Edmonton Catholic Social Services
- Gathering Place, Vancouver
- Gay and Lesbian Community Services and Support Association (Calgary)
- HUSTLE: Men on the Move Outreach Support Services
- Inner City Youth Housing Project
- John Howard Society, Lower Mainland
- · Kindred House
- Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth
- · Manitoba Family Services and Housing
- Métis Child and Family Services
- Mount Royal College
- Native Women's Transitional Centre Inc.
- NDINAWEMAAGNAG ENDAAWAAD
- New Directions
- Niji Mahkwa School
- · PEERS, Vancouver
- · PEERS, Victoria
- RESOLVE Manitoba
- Resource Assistance for Youth Inc (RAY)
- · Saanich Police, Vancouver Island
- · Salvation Army Winnipeg
- Saskatoon Communities of Children
- · Saskatoon Foster Families Association
- Street Culture Kidz Project
- The City of Calgary Police Services
- The City of Regina Police Services
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- Vancouver Vice Police, Vancouver
- White Buffalo Youth Lodge
- Winnipeg Police Service
- Woods Homes
- · Youth Launch-Nutana Collegiate

dedication

This project is dedicated to the young men who encouraged me to listen to their very compelling personal stories. They challenged my previous research as being too "chick focused", believing there was an imbalance to looking at the issue of sexual exploitation of children solely through a female lens. This was a fact I had to face, and address. It was this challenge that drove my determination to have an independent story told of the sexual exploitation of young men.

Thank you Fadi, Pytor and Zac who gave freely of their time to make sure this material moved toward a male perspective. You have created a lens so the voices of sexually exploited males can now be heard.

To the Alberta Youth In Care and Custody Network, thank you for ensuring that the language used in the questionnaires was youth friendly.

From British Columbia, I would like to thank Sandy Cooke and Laurie Hearty who supported me throughout the project.

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From Manitoba, thanks to Wendy Scherich who coached and provided me support during the entire project. Thanks to Dan Biggs who worked as an Interviewer, Project Coordinator and M.S.W. Practicum Student. Dan provided his support across all four provinces for this study.

To all of the Research Assistants who embraced the value and need for such a study, I am eternally grateful. Each one of you provided the much needed energy, time and commitment to interviewing and supporting the 157 young men interviewed.

I also want to extend a special thank you to the 20 interviewers:

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To the 157 young men who took the time to share their stories with the Research Assistants, thank you for your time and honesty.

Finally, to the spirit of Ms. Adventure who continues to inspire and motivate my personal commitment towards helping sexually exploited youth.

the researcher

With over 20 years experience in the non-profit, public and private sectors, Dr. Sue McIntyre has developed a unique set of skills and expertise.

As a scholar and educator, Dr. Sue McIntyre is well recognized for her expertise in the areas of child sexual abuse and prostitution. She has made over 100 workshop presentations and keynote addresses to provincial, national and international conferences.

As an international research and policy advisor, Dr. McIntyre appreciates the relationship between research, the law and social policy in the development of social programs.

As a social service practitioner, she has combined her human service background with entrepreneurial business flair. She clearly understands the social sector's challenge to meet mission goals, and helps them integrate mainstream business practices and accountability into their daily operations.

As a leader in effecting organizational change and development, she has established a strong track record in identifying and meeting the needs of an organization.

As a fundraiser, her ability to provide an analytical, business approach towards matching a company's community interests to high priority social issues have earned her the respect of Calgary's foundations and corporate sector. Her broad fundraising experience includes approving foundation grants, applying for foundation grants and securing sponsorship from numerous leading national and international corporations.

As an entrepreneur, she was responsible for the start-up of 25 operations in both the private and public sectors, guiding them from concept through to the stages of implementation and evaluation.

Her pioneering work in designing a management service to partner the expertise of Calgary's corporate community with non-profit organizations is just one example of her work in this regard.

As a community volunteer, Dr. McIntyre has proven her personal commitment time and again. As a strong community advocate, she has co-chaired numerous volunteer committees and task forces involving justice, social services, health services and education.

As a professional who has devoted much of her life to helping sexually exploited youth, Dr. McIntyre's commitment to helping us better understand the sexual exploitation of young men is commendable. This important body of research is long overdue.

foreword

Hello friends, I am very grateful to have been given this opportunity to reflect on a process and journey that has brought me here today. The chance to take stock of the many changes and tremendous growth that has taken place in my life over a short period of time by sharing some of my experience, strength and hope with you.

When it comes to the issue of men involved in sex work, I find myself today wearing a few different hats. (Thank goodness I have the ability to accessorize!)

I am a 38 year old experiential gay man. I was born and raised in Ontario and moved to British Columbia in 1996. I became involved in the sex industry in Vancouver where I would stay for just over 6 years, working both as a male escort and cross dressing transsexual worker, both on and off the street.

As an adult in my late thirties, I have come to realize I have struggled with my sexual identity throughout my entire life.

I come from a good home with a healthy family dynamic where I learned strong morals and values as a child. When it came to the acceptance and belief in self, my childhood development was stunted and became dysfunctional. Based on information that was available at the time (or missing), I developed some very seriously negative core beliefs with respect to self worth and esteem. I would spend several years that followed looking for acceptance and validation outside of me. Life became a problem that needed to be solved rather than an adventure to be embraced.

I suppose by society's standards, I was not your typical hustler. I entered into sex work late in life, when I was 31. I still recall the day I was waiting tables and one of my regular customers, a man much older than myself, expressed interest in spending some 'quality' time with me after work, ensuring me that he would make it 'worth my while'.

The notion that another man found me sexually desirable enough to want to pay me was overwhelming. The flattery that I felt was more intoxicating than any high I have ever experienced. I believe from that moment on that I was 'hooked', and the role I was to assume in the hospitality industry for the next several years took a drastic turn.

My very first date was for the most part, a gentleman. There would be many others that followed who were not.

If my experience in sex work has taught me anything, it is this; there is no one reality that can adequately define or represent men in sex work. Rather, there are many realities out there for the men, both young and old, who are involved in sex work. Each brings with them very unique lives and experiences.

No doubt, at the end of the day there is common ground between all of us, namely the element of survival; however, from my own personal experience, and as the research herein supports, it is the difference in the method and motivation of why we sell our bodies for money that results in men working 'Under the Radar'.

One man who became my companion and friend for a brief, but defining period in my life once said to me, "hustling is what I do, it is not who I am". The truth of this statement still resonates with me. For many young men involved in the sex industry, their identities are determined by necessity, which can change from moment to moment, hour to hour, and day to day depending on the constant ebb and flow of basic daily needs and personal survival. Add to this a shame-based society that imposes labels which serve only to further stigmatize these young men, it is little wonder they prefer to remain invisible.

I have now successfully exited sex work for almost three years. Realizing that after years of personal abuse and neglect I had hit my spiritual bottom, I made the choice to be found again both inside and out.

Once I decided to improve the overall quality of my life, doors swung open and people were there to love me until I could love myself again.

It was through the help of PEERS Vancouver that I found the unconditional positive regard and support necessary to facilitate positive changes in my life. It was also within the walls of PEERS that I met another young man who became my best friend and confidant. While our experiences in sex work were vastly different, we shared many common denominators that bonded us together. We truly are survivors.

Throughout our process of self discovery it became clear that the majority of supports and services offered for sex workers in the community were constructed through a female lens; and therefore, were gender exclusive, and only effective to a point. We recognized the need for an increase in front-line supports and services, specific to men involved in sex work. As a result, we created 'HUSTLE: Men on the Move'.

HUSTLE: Men on the Move is an outreach and support program designed and implemented by experiential men who understand that our experience is a valuable tool and transferable skill that can be most effective in supporting the vital and amazing population of young men involved in sex work. Over time, we intend to create a sense of community, thus increasing the overall health and safety of the men and youth who are on the streets of Vancouver.

HUSTLE can help build relationships that foster trust and respect, and be there to facilitate change if, and when they choose to reconnect. We acknowledge the tremendous healing power in one human being acknowledging the existence of another with an empathetic ear and smiling face.

I would like to thank Dr. Sue Mcintyre for her continued efforts in bringing the reality of young men involved in sex work and sexual exploitation to the forefront of our minds.

Her courage and conviction to dialogue and educate others about this issue motivates me to use my voice and experience to raise awareness and increase health and safety for the many young men who are impacted by sex work and sexual exploitation.

My hat goes off to those men who took time out of their lives to participate in this research. Your voices and experience are the most valuable resources we have in educating the broader society of the realities men face who are involved in sex work. Simply put, at the hands of a society that is too often harsh and judgmental, fear compels these young men to hide away from themselves and others in society. We need to reach into our hearts, and out to those in need. The more time we spend together, the less we are alone.

Peace.

executive summary

Under the Radar: The Sexual Exploitation of Young Men - Alberta, was completed in 2005. This was followed by the release of the British Columbia report in 2006, and Saskatchwan and Manitoba in 2008.

Now that these four studies have been completed, we have valuable research that can provide insights into the lives and experiences of 157 individuals from various regions and backgrounds.

Under the Radar: The Sexual Exploitation of Young Men-Western Canadian Edition compares and contrasts findings from the previous four provincial studies, focuses on similarities and differences; and identifies the types of supports required by this unique population.

Hopefully this research will enable policy makers, service providers and families to give the necessary support and interventions required to meet the ongoing needs of this population that lives 'under the radar' more effectively in the future

Characteristics of Respondents

- 61% of this population are of Aboriginal heritage
- · 55% had involvement with child welfare services
- · 35% had completed high school
- · 83% had a history of running away
- 51% had been thrown out of the house they were living in
- · 75% had been sexually violated
- 85% had been physically violated
- 86% witnessed aggression while growing up
- 69% began hustling because they needed a way to make quick cash
- 51% were introduced to the trade by a friend
- 73% entered the trade under the age of 18 years of age
- 11% entered the trade over the age of 20 years of age
- · Males enter the trade younger and stay longer than young women
- 62% had been hustling for at least 6 years
- · 64% experienced staying in shelters
- · Almost everyone felt no one should do this type of work
- · The fear of gay-bashing exists
- · Drug use is extensive
- Exiting the trade is a long process, usually attempted more than once
- Almost everyone has, and does, access HIV / STD testing

Summary of Discoveries

- · Young men have comparable histories of sexual and physical abuse as young women
- · Young men in this study were gay, heterosexual and bisexual
- Young men create a construct to be able to achieve a level of performance
- · The issue of young men in the sexual exploitation trade creates a sense of discomfort
- · Young men begin younger and work in it for a longer period of time
- A significant portion enter the trade over the age of 18
- · Young men live 'under the radar' of most service providers
- · Young men have service needs that are different than young women
- · Public education on condom use and HIV testing has worked
- The connection between the street and drug use is longer and greater in the variety of drugs for young men
- These young men have strained and distant relationships with their family
- Running away often triggers an entrance into the sexual exploitation trade

Summary Recommendations

- 1. That we publicly acknowledge both young men and women are being exploited in the sexual exploitation trade, and that we provide services to help them exit.
- 2. That staff working with young men in the sexual exploitation trade be provided with gender non-conformity training.
- **3.** That service providers create the opportunity for young men involved in the sexual exploitation trade to tell them about the services they require. We should not assume that one service will fit all.
- 4. That a series of detox and rehabilitation beds be established for young men exiting the trade. Years of extensive drug consumption requires an intervention that will provide them with temporary accommodation while detoxification and rehabilitation takes place.
- 5. That safe affordable accommodation is provided for this population once they have completed drug detoxification and rehabilitation. This population requires safe, supportive living arrangements. Coupled with this, they need help seeking alternative employment. Close to half of this population had completed high school and some college and university; however, they have limited employment skills and experience. Standard employment assistance programs will be required to assist them in supporting a successful exit from the sexual exploitation trade.
- **6.** That we approach the issue of customer demand equally for both young men and women who are being sexually exploited. Like women, these men require our assistance.
- 7. That prevention information be directed towards both young men and women. We should support, not ridicule them.
- 8. That the community-at-large recognize the damaging effects of 'sugar daddy' relationships on this young, vulnerable population. An awareness of the economic disadvantages facing young males involved in the trade must be taken into account and considered as a symptom of the differential power relationship existing in sugar daddy relationships.
- 9. That we develop mentoring connections for the population that is exiting. An experiential voice can assist individuals in the process of exiting the sexual exploitation trade. This type of service could be set up formally in an agency that works directly with this population, or informally within the volunteer community network, consisting of formal face to face meetings, telephone or online support.
- 10. That a review of prevention, intervention and re-integration materials be completed and adjusted to speak to the sexual exploitation of youth regardless of gender. Materials must recognize differences facing young women and men. Education for both genders needs to be covered in these materials, emphasizing that the trade is a risk for both genders.
- 11. That an evaluation take place of harm reduction approaches such as distributing bad date sheets and mobile support services for sexually exploited youth. An opportunity exists to move into a more direct approach to intervention; while ensuring that the ultimate goal remains moving someone out of the trade.
- 12. That the National Youth In Care Network embrace the topic of sexual awareness. There is a need to ensure that youth from care have the same knowledge base as the general youth population. This information could be delivered through DVD, booklets or lectures.
- 13. That we develop and pay closer attention to youth who are running away. We need to recognize this as the early warning system for possible entrance into the sexual exploitation trade for both genders. For youth, service providers and professionals, the opportunity to successfully support and stabilize a situation is more likely to occur prior to years of abuse and drug use on the street.
- 14. That we make a concerted effort to focus on young men in the sexual exploitation trade. We need to place them front and centre with young women who are being sexually exploited. They are all our children. We need to focus our attention on young men and remove them from under the radar. It is paramount that we recognize, address and safeguard against the often homophobic reaction this population can stir. A need exists to train people to

understand and dialogue with young men about this and to ask questions.

- 15. That we begin to focus on the exiting process in order to reduce harm and limit the time a person is involved in the sexual exploitation trade. While traditional and imperative harm reduction techniques such as needle exchange programs, distribution of bad date sheets and distributing condoms are important, we need to redesign outreach street programs in order to ensure we are achieving the results we desire.
- **16.** That we provide specialized support and training to service providers working with this population, who can then begin the dialogue with the following lines of inquiry and discussion:
 - Why will you leave?
 - When will you leave?
 - How will you leave?
 - How can we assist you in leaving?
 - What did you learn from previous attempts to leave?
 - What will draw you back to the street?
 - What will keep you away from the street?
- 17. That funding and support be provided to create mentoring programs for those exiting the sexual exploitation trade. We now have forty individuals, located throughout western Canada, who have successfully exited for a number of years. Many said they would be willing and able to provide support services to those exiting either by telephone or weekly support meetings. They are also willing to begin the dialogue with those on the street about when and how they will eventually exit.
- **18.** That we allocate resources and energy into keeping people off the street by creating aftercare support services that are separate from inner city outreach programs. Workers in these programs should receive training in:
 - Drug treatment
 - Housing
 - Crisis services
 - Medical services
 - · Post traumatic stress disorder

introduction

Throughout 1991-1992, I researched the sexual exploitation trade in downtown Calgary. My goal was to observe and interact with this population in order to investigate the relationship of sexual abuse with a person's involvement in the trade. Fifty young people were interviewed as part of this study which was titled *The Youngest Profession, The Oldest Oppression*.

In 2001, with the realization that retrospective, longitudinal information on prostitution did not exist anywhere in Canada or the world, I made the decision to track as many participants from this original population to determine if they were still involved in the trade or had exited. In December 2002, this body of research was released, titled **Strolling Away.** This document included interviews that accounted for 38 of the original 50 people interviewed in 1991-1992.

During **Strolling Away** it became clear to me that males face very different challenges than females. It is my belief that for many years this social issue was only examined through a female lens. Through **Strolling Away** it was discovered there are many differences. For example, males enter the sexual exploitation trade younger and stay for a longer period of time.

My personal and professional interest in wanting to know more about this population, and how we can better assist them initiated this project in four Western Canadian provinces. *Under the Radar: The Sexual Exploitation of Young Men – Western Canadian Edition* will hopefully bring this issue out from 'under the radar' to something we as a community can address proactively and effectively in the future.

section 1: impetus & methodology of research

1.1 Impetus for the research

Is there a difference between young men and women who enter into the sexual exploitation trade?

Since the early 1980's, I have been interviewing and working with young men and women involved in the sexual exploitation trade. During that time, I have come to recognize the differences between men and women involved in it.

Often when I speak publicly about my research, *The Youngest Profession, The Oldest Oppression* (McIntyre 1994) and *Strolling Away* (McIntyre 2002), people would say "those poor young women". While this is true, for the past thirteen years I have always had to remind people that this sample includes men as well.

Following the completion and release of *Strolling Away* (2002), it was obvious that a study pertaining to males was needed. In fact, *Strolling Away* recommended that a male study be done. Fortunately, the Alberta Government, along with a series of anonymous donors, also recognized the need to understand this social issue from a male perspective, and the fact both young women and men are sexually exploited.

In early 2005, the first of four provincial studies was released in Alberta, titled *Under the Radar: The Sexual Exploitation of Young Men.* Following its public release, momentum continued to build across Western Canada, ultimately resulting in the completion of similar research in British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Funding for this research was spearheaded by the Federal Government's National Crime Prevention Centre, The Governments of British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba and various anonymous donors.

In December 2006, the study was released in British Columbia. In 2008, the studies from Saskatchewan and Manitoba were released.

Ultimately, the goal of this research is to impact youth involved in sex work at the levels of prevention, intervention and re-integration. To do this effectively, there is a need to have a clear understanding of the unique differences of these too often-ignored males who are involved in the sexual exploitation trade.

While antecedents contributing towards entering and leaving the sexual exploitation trade are similar for both genders, certain unique differences occur in the following areas:

- Entering the trade
- Styles of work
- Location of work
- · Risk factors
- · Patterns of work
- · Duration of work

1.2 Process

Grounded Theory and feminist research principles were used in the design of the Under the Radar: The Sexual Exploitation of Young Men research. The specific interview instrument was designed and reviewed in conjunction with three young men formerly involved in the sexual exploitation trade.

1.3 Methodology

Grounded Theory and feminist research principles were also used in designing the research methodology.

Grounded Theory allowed the opportunity for immersion into the sex worker's life, and the feminist methodology insisted upon face to face interviews, recognizing this would have a direct impact upon the researcher. (McIntyre 1994:6)

The first step was to finalize the questionnaire with three young men formerly involved in the sexual exploitation trade. In order to develop each question, many of the questions used in "The Youngest Profession: The Oldest Oppression" were crafted to fit the male study; however, terminology had to be changed, as did many of the questions, to suit this population. In addition, health authorities indicated a strong interest to include health-related questions.

Early on, it became clear that I could not possibly carry out all of the interviews myself. As an alternative, a colleague recommended that I train others to interview this population for me. Originally, allowing others to do this for me, made me a bit nervous, wondering whether they would be able to interview with the same level of compassion and commitment I had. Would they understand the questionnaire and the method of utilizing the information? I decided that realistically, I had no other option.

Finally, in order to protect the anonymity of interviewees, pseudonyms were utilized in all cases.

1.4 Training

A Request for Proposals for Research Assistants was circulated in each province. The goal was to attract individuals and agencies that already had a level of comfort and connection with this population.

A full day was dedicated to training these Research Assistants and Coordinators in each province. Some of the Research Assistants were experiential, in other words, they had previously been part of the sexual exploitation trade.

Originally in Alberta there was some hesitancy in including experiential individuals in the interviewing process. Those that helped design the questionnaire, and who were themselves experiential, were doubtful that an individual formerly from the sexual exploitation trade could do this interviewing without experiencing discomfort, potentially triggering flashbacks. In British Columbia this was altered and experiential interviewers were brought into the fold of Research Assistants. In total there were 20 Research Assistants. Nine of the twenty were experiential.

At the end of the training in each province all Research Assistants had a level of comfort with the material. Time was then spent reviewing confidentiality and legal requirements, consent forms, tape recording, snowball sampling and storage of interview materials.

1.5 Interviews

I also personally met with Research Assistants who were experiential youth to discuss their personal and professional comfort level with interviewing. Once I had a level of confidence with their ability to interview, they began. In addition, I personally debriefed those who were experiential to establish their personal comfort after the first interview. All experiential youth interviewers were at a minimum of six months removed from the trade.

The use of eight Research Assistants with experiential backgrounds was certainly a bonus. They brought with them a vast knowledge base and understanding of this population. Those who were not experiential also brought with them a level of comfort and understanding of this population. This combined group of Research Assistants and Coordinators brought both professional expertise and comfort to those being interviewed. The breadth and quality of the research interviews was stellar and in-depth. I am grateful to have had such a diverse and committed group.

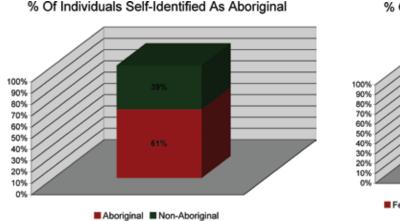
The goal was to interview forty young men in each province, totalling 160 interviews. In Alberta, interviews began in March 2003 and were completed in October. The male stroll in Edmonton had disappeared during this time, resulting in only 37 interviews for Alberta.

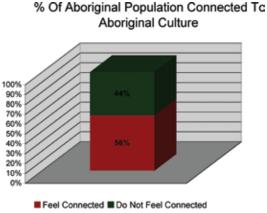
In April 2004, interviews began in British Columbia and were completed by March 2005. Interviews began in Saskatchewan in April 2006 and were completed in December 2006. Interviews began in Manitoba in March 2006 and were completed in January 2007. In total 157 young men were interviewed including forty who had successfully exited the sexual exploitation trade.

section 2: demographics & historical background

2.1 Aboriginal Heritage

The question of Aboriginal Heritage denoted interesting results with 61% of all respondents identifying themselves as Aboriginal. Out of the 61% identifying themselves as Aboriginal, 56% indicated they felt connected to the traditional Aboriginal culture, while 44% said they had no ties to their Aboriginal culture.





Out of the four provinces, British Columbia was the only province that had more respondents identify themselves as non-Aboriginal, with only 40% identifying as Aboriginal. In contrast, 85% in Saskatchewan identified as Aboriginal, 65% in Manitoba and 54% in Alberta.

Of the 96 young men who identified as Aboriginal, 65% had spent some time on a reserve. Specifically, respondents in British Columbia (69%), Manitoba (77%) and Saskatchewan (65%) had spent time on a reserve, while only 45% in Alberta reported this activity.

2.2 Child Protective Services

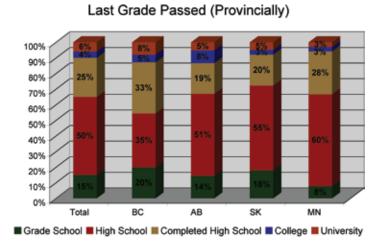
Fifty-five percent of respondents indicated they had a family history with Child Welfare. This means that just over half of those interviewed had experienced some type of provincial system of care as children. As a result, many were not provided with proper information on sexual development.

There is a sense that young men are not encouraged to talk about their physiological changes.

Boys are not encouraged to talk about the changes that are happening to their bodies. They receive less guidance about their reproductive role, despite being provided with information and support around the experiences of puberty. For girls, the onset of puberty often means the placement of restrictions on their freedom. Boys, on the other hand, are generally provided no support or information, are given more freedom, and spend more time outside of the home in unsupervised activities than do girls. (McCreary Youth Foundation, A Moment for Boyz, 2004:5)

There is an assumption that young men have received the knowledge about sexual biology and socialization that they require; however, this is not always the case. This is even less likely if they grew up in government care according to Shauna Parks, the former Executive Director, National Youth In Care and Custody Network.

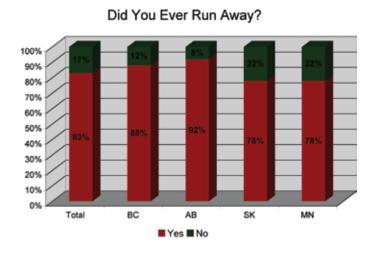
Males are often overlooked when it comes to information about sexual development, especially if they're in care. A lot of times, people who work with these youth assume they have the knowledge or someone else has 'had that conversation' with them. (Parks, 2004)



2.3 Education

Thirty-five percent of all respondents indicated they had, at minimum, completed high school, with 10% having completed either college or university level programs. With only 15% of the total number of respondents indicating they had only completed grade school, it is reasonable to assume the majority of this population is fairly well educated.

Forty-six percent of respondents in British Columbia had completed, at minimum, high school. Alberta had the second highest percentage (35%) of respondents who had completed a minimum of high school, followed by 34% in Manitoba and 28% in Saskatchewan.

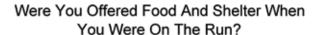


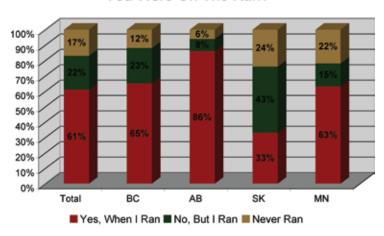
2.4 Run Away

Eighty-three percent of the total respondents indicated that at some point they had run away from home. Alberta had the highest percentage of runaways within their responding population.

Running away was common. Of great importance when asked about running away was a subsequent question that referred to the offer of food and/or shelter while on the run.

Sixty-one percent of total respondents indicated that when they ran, they were offered food and shelter. What becomes important about this finding is that 45% of those who were offered food and shelter had conditions attached, the majority of which were sexual in nature.



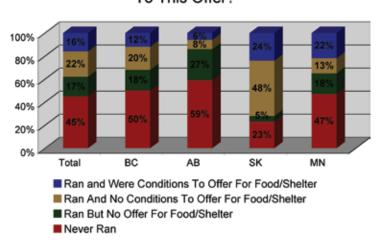


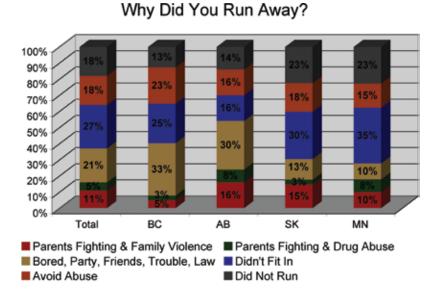
Many of those interviewed described their first introduction to hustling/working in the sexual exploitation trade was while they were on the run trying to survive.

- Sex for food and shelter. (Marcus)
- Put out or get out. (Prentice)
- To a certain degree but I was aware of that. (Raine)
- There are always conditions. (Baylee)

Interestingly, when looking at the data between the provinces, we see that Saskatchewan had a very low percentage of respondents (23%) indicating that while on the run, they were offered food and shelter with some conditions, 24% lower than Manitoba, 36% lower than Alberta and 27% lower than British Columbia. This coincides with the high percentage of respondents in Saskatchewan that indicated that they ran but had no offer of food and shelter (43%) and might also coincide with the fact that there is a much higher percentage of respondents from Saskatchewan that indicate that they had never ran away (24%).

Were There Conditions Attached To This Offer?





Forty five percent identified discomfort fitting in. This is common with young men struggling with their sexual identity. They often feel uncomfortable with their gender non-conformity. If they are not comfortable with their sexual identity, often family and friends are not comfortable with it either.

2.5 Thrown Out

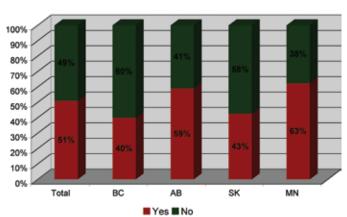
The percentages of total respondents who indicated that they had been thrown out of the house that they had lived in prior to being on the street was 51%. This often resulted in them having to seek temporary accommodation or to sleep in public places.

Two of the four provinces had higher percentages of respondents answering 'yes' to this question (Manitoba and Alberta) and the other two provinces had higher percentages in respondents answering 'no' to the question (Saskatchewan and British Columbia).

Many respondents indicated various reasons for running away.

- Because I wanted to dress like a girl. (Cagney)
- I came home intoxicated and under the influence. (Addison)
- They said leave or we will phone the cops they were on a powertrip. We were arguing. (Toby)

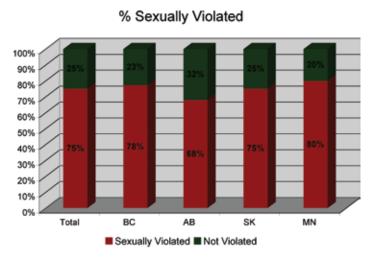




2.6 Sexual & Physical Violation

Seventy-five percent of respondents in all four provinces identified themselves as being sexually violated. In other words, many had a history of sexual abuse prior to the street.

- · Lots of times. (Prentice)
- At a younger age yes. (Haley)

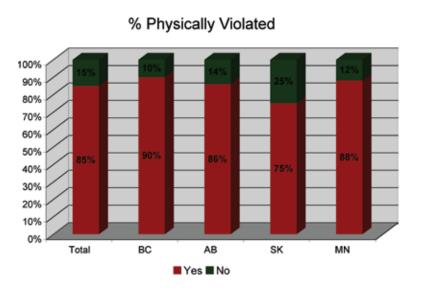


One of the interesting things about this data is that every province except Alberta has an equal or higher percentage of respondents indicating that they had been sexually violated, however, Alberta has a 7% lower response rate on this question.

Eighty-five percent reported a history of physical violation, or physical abuse.

- Fighting and name calling, a cast iron pot to the head and choking. (Raine)
- Depends on who was having the dispute, mainly verbal abuse. Depending who was involved physical. Nothing was resolved. (Zion)

In summary, this is a population with a substantial history of both sexual and physical violation prior to the street.

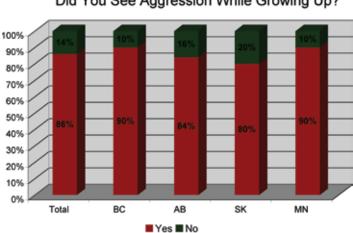


2.7 Witnessing Aggression While Growing Up

While growing up, 86% of the total respondents had indicated that they had personally witnessed aggression.

- Talking turned to swearing and then the fists would fly. (Lane)
- I watched my mom get beat up lots. (Jaden)
- Witnessed alcoholism in the family growing up any social. You could guarantee there would be a fight at some point. (Baylee)
- I would say it would have to be when my father locked my mother in the bedroom for 3 days and just the sounds coming from that room not knowing what was going on, that was the most violent. (Zion)

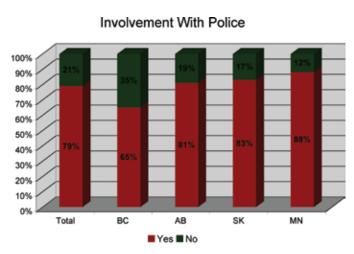
Often, observing aggression can be just as challenging as being a direct victim of it, distorting viewpoints, and instilling beliefs that may not be healthy in the long-term. Between the various provinces, respondents in Manitoba and British Columbia had the highest percentage of respondents (90%) answering 'yes' to the question, and Saskatchewan the lowest at 80%.



Did You See Aggression While Growing Up?

2.8 Police Involvement

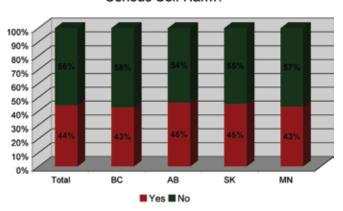
Over 79% of the total respondents interviewed had a history with the police. This included some criminal activities, mainly involving alcohol and drugs, which had brought them into contact with the police. Out of all four provinces, British Columbia had the lowest percentage of respondents (65%) indicating involvement with police and Manitoba had the highest percentage of respondents (88%) indicating involvement with the police.



2.9 Self-Harm

The percentages for this question were fairly similar throughout all four provinces with 44% of the total indicating they had contemplated serious self-harm.

Before You Hustled Did You Ever Think About Serious Self Harm?





section 3: work life/hustling

3.1 Entering

Throughout the research, many factors presented themselves as possible reasons why an individual enters the sexual exploitation trade. All we know for sure is that it is not the result of any one factor, but multiple factors. Emotional, physical, health, necessity, background and upbringing are just a few highlighted in this report. Often it is a series of circumstances.

No one had the goal to enter the street trade. Over 69% of total respondents saw it as a short-term method to make money so they could survive. Others had a desire to feel wanted and belong to a culture or peergroup. All four provinces had similar responses; however, Manitoba had a higher percentage of individuals that wanted to belong to a group, with almost double the percentage (30%) found in other provinces (11%-17%).

Why Do People Begin Hustling? 90% 15% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% Total BC AB MN ■ Don't Know ■ Shortcut, Easy Money, Income ■ Feel Wanted, To Belong, The Thrill ■ Young, Impressionable, Glamorous

When entering the trade, a variety of factors come into play. We have seen from the previous demographics section that:

- 75% reported a background of sexual violation
- 85% had a history of physical violation
- 83% had a history of running away
- 61% were from an Aboriginal culture
- 55% had a family history of involvement with Child Welfare
- · 25% had completed high school

Most of the respondents indicated their entrance into the activity was merely a short-term means to either get away from something or someone, or to gain control over their own lives. It was seen as a method of survival. Some described their entrance as a way of belonging. As many are often on the run, many find connection and camaraderie with the activity.

- Survival, food, shelter then drugs. (Haley)
- A lot of complex issues behind this. One is self abuse. A possible history of abuse prior to working. (Jace)
- Quick money. They don't want to deal with their lives. (Wyatt)
- Friends and influence. (Finn)
- They feel like an outcast. (Tory)

Most often, respondents indicated that while on the street, they were introduced to the sexual exploitation trade. Eighty one percent of those who had run away were offered food and/or shelter; however, for 45% there were conditions attached to this offer. Most often these conditions were sexual in nature, representing an introduction to and entrance into the sexual exploitation trade.

3.2 Introduction To Hustling/Working

Over the four provinces, respondents varied in their responses to the question "who introduced you into hustling". In total, 51% percent learned about the trade from a friend, and simply followed the process.

Most of these responses indicate that while on the street, friends introduced them to the sexual exploitation trade as a means of survival.

Thirty-four percent of total respondents indicated they learned what was required through observing other people. Fifteen percent ran into a customer, or "trick" that offered them this opportunity. It became a means for survival. The offer was made, and they were able to figure it out.

- · A friend who owed me money. (Marcus)
- · Stumbled onto it. (Prentice)
- Through sexual abuse. My abuser offered me money. (Haley)

One person indicated they had a relative or someone else introduce them into the trade.

100% 90% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 30% 20% 10% Total BC AB SK MN Friend ■ Relative/Someone Else ■ Did It Myself Got Picked Up By A Trick And Figured It Out

Who Introduced You Into Hustling?

3.3 Age Beginning Hustling/Working

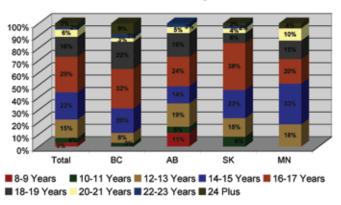
There was a broad range of ages when people began to hustle/work. Ages amongst the four provinces ranged from a low in Alberta where children entered the sexual exploitation trade as young as eight years old (11%), to British Columbia where they had the highest percentage (9%) of individuals who started after they were 24 years old.

Twenty-nine percent of total respondents indicated they started hustling between 16-17 years old. This coincides with the provincial results as well, with the majority of responses, except in Manitoba, indicating that they started in the sexual exploitation trade in this age bracket. Manitoba had more respondents indicate that they started hustling between the ages of 14-15 (33%) rather than 16-17 (20%).

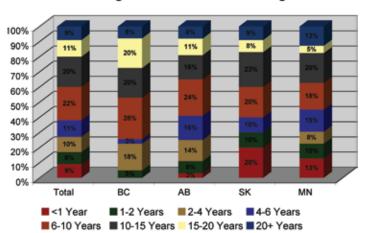
Twenty-seven percent entered when they were adults (18 years+). It became a way to achieve minimal survival, or something they did to survive. It can best be characterized as 'voluntary desperation'. What is important is that the majority of this population had a background of sexual abuse. This finding confirms that sexual violation, or sexual abuse as a child, can affect an adult and often trigger or prompt their entrance into the sexual exploitation trade. The male sexual exploitation trade is not one that just attracts children and youth. Adult young men can be at risk of entering into the sexual exploitation trade too.

In summary, 73% entered the sexual exploitation trade under the age of 18. This could result in Criminal Code Charges 212(4) against abusers who use or attempt to use the services of someone under the age of 18 for prostitution. It is fair to say that no charges were directed at these consumers.

How Old Were You When You First Started Hustling?



How Long Have You Been Hustling?



3.4 Time Hustling/Working

It is important to understand the length of time study participants had been hustling/working. The majority reported a long time (83% longer than 2 years). Only 9% of the total population of respondents had worked less than one year. What is important is that these young men remain out of sight. They are not quickly identified and provided support services; therefore, work in a very clandestine, hidden manner. They are not quick to self identify as someone who just entered the trade. Unfortunately human services do not connect with them until they are ingrained in the sexual exploitation trade.

As was discovered in *Strolling Away* (McIntyre, 2002) males enter the trade earlier and stay longer. This is consistent with this report. Forty-two percent stay in the trade six to fifteen years.

Interestingly, there is a significant percentage across all four provinces of individuals who had been hustling for over 20 years (9% total). This indicates the difficulty of exiting the sexual exploitation trade and the complications and conflicts that arise when one tries to exit, sometimes causing relapses into the trade.

3.5 Work Locations

Various work locations were identified. The majority worked in cars, hotels, and apartments. Others mentioned truck stops, parks and bathhouses.

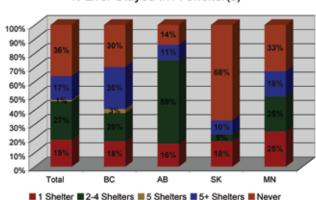
· Chat lines, house parties, bars, lobbies, washrooms. (Jamie)

3.6 Shelter Stays

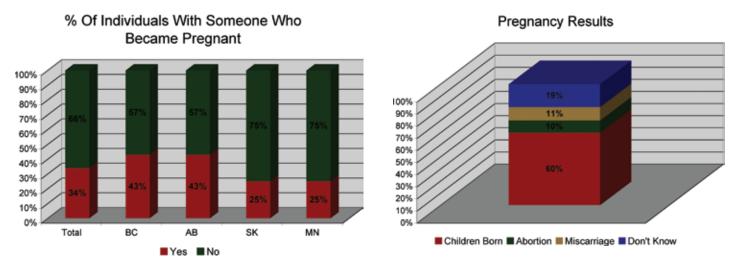
Sixty-four percent of total respondents reported staying in shelters. Usually the only option. Homelessness is a reality for many of them. Their ability to gain government support given their age and personal circumstances is minimal. Often, entrance and continuation in the sexual exploitation trade results in a distinct lack of options. While seen as a viable short-term option, it usually ends up being a long-term victimization with more problems than solutions.

As stated in *Strolling Away*, 82% of young women have given birth to a child. This event brings back family support and can result in government support. This is often not an option for young men. Of the 157 interviewees, 34% had impregnated a woman. This number is fairly close to the provincial responses with both Manitoba and Saskatchewan (25%) indicating a lower percentage than Alberta and British Columbia (43%).

% Ever Stayed In A Shelter(s)



Of the 34% of the total respondents who had impregnated a woman, 60% of the children were born, 10% were aborted, 11% had a miscarriage and 19% of respondents do not know what happened with the pregnancy.



The biological act of conceiving a child does not bring a young man government or family support. The birth of a child brings with it support only for the mother; however, it creates additional responsibility for the young men. The need to provide child support also influenced an entrance into the sexual exploitation trade.

3.7 Feelings While Working And After

It is important to gain some insight into how someone is feeling when they are hustling/working. How is an individual able to prepare for and sustain themselves throughout this activity?

It is clear that the majority of these young men do not like what being part of the sexual exploitation trade which reinforces that this act is out of the need to survive, rather than for enjoyment or choice. Six percent of the total responses indicated that substances such as alcohol and drugs were necessary for them to achieve a sensation of numbness so that they could continue with the act.

Unresolved abuse issues were a clear theme in the quotes of young men discussing their thoughts and feelings while working and after work.

- I mentally would send myself somewhere else, I was there in body and they were doing that to me but I wasn't there in mind. (Scout)
- Fine, I don't pay attention to what I am doing. (Daleny)
- False sense of power. (Prentice)
- It was meaningless, no emotion. (Haley)

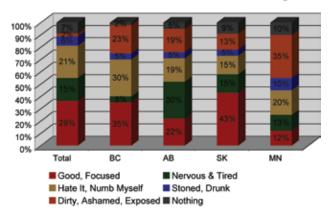
Fifteen percent of the total population indicated there was a clear sense of relief when they finished hustling. Thirty-nine percent interviewed had a sense of guilt and numbness from their experience; 29% indicated they just focus on leaving and getting paid; and 17% were happy because they now have money for drugs. This is not an activity that people do proudly, or with a strong sense of safety. The use of disassociation often enters into this activity.

- I feel sick when I do it. Sometimes gross. (Wyatt)
- · Awful. Full of shame. (Kaelin)

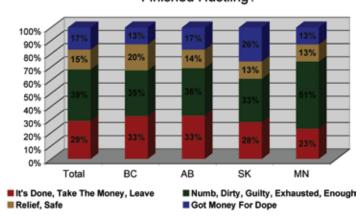
Their need for cleansing is important. The desire to physically wash off the shame is something that was identified. Responses for individual provinces were relatively equal to the total response percentages.

- Drained, low self-esteem. Even suicidal. (Benjamin)
- · Like shit. (Prentice)
- · Horrible. (Russell)
- Very dirty, tired and burnt out. (Haley)
- Relieved its over, feels pretty bad and degrading. (Jaden)

How Do You Feel When You Are Hustling?



How Do You Feel After You Have Finished Hustling?



3.8 Family Relations

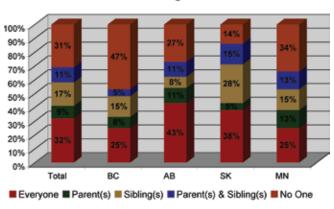
Sixty-nine percent of the population said at least one family member was aware of their activity in the sexual exploitation trade. Although they were able to keep their work secret in the beginning, eventually family members figured out what was occurring. Thirty-two percent believed their family was unaware of their involvement in the trade. Alberta had the highest percentage of respondents who knew that everyone in their family was aware of the fact that they were hustling (43%).

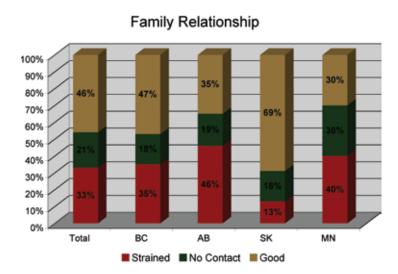
A total of 33% described having a strained relationship with their family. Once the family knows about their son or sibling being in the trade, it can bring about a great deal of familial strain.

Forty-six percent indicated they had a good relationship with their family, while 21% indicated they no longer had contact with their family. With the exception of Saskatchewan, the total percentages are pretty representative of the provincial responses. Saskatchewan indicated a high percentage with good family relationships (69%) and only 13% reporting a strained relationship with family.

- Really bad I don't see them. (Cagney)
- They love me for who I am, they just don't like the fact I work on the street. (Jamie)
- It is no good, my grandfather hates me and I told them all I was bi-sexual and they look down upon me. (Lane)

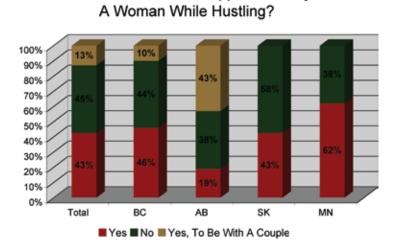
Who In Your Family Is Aware Of Your Hustling?





Forty-three percent of total respondents were approached by a woman. Some were also asked to observe their significant other having sex with the male sex worker, with an additional 13% indicating there was a threesome of either two men or a heterosexual couple. The other 45% were never approached by a woman. Some young gay men were not prepared to involve a woman.

Have You Ever Been Approached By



3.10 Why Men Buy Sex

Those interviewed were very clear about why men purchase sex. Twenty-nine percent indicated that men wanted to try something different or to be with someone that wasn't their wife.

Individual provincial responses varied slightly, with Saskatchewan having the highest percent of responses (40%) indicating that men wanted to try something new, being with a guy, as their main reason behind buying sex.

- · It comes with no responsibility or strings. Things their wives won't do for them that a worker will. (Jace)
- It's taboo it is exciting it's wrong. (Daleny)
- There are no strings attached. (Tait)
- · Because they can't get it elsewhere. Low self-esteem. (Sal)

Laud Humphreys (1970) completed a study on male sexual encounters in public bathrooms. What is important from his

study, and the information offered from those interviewed, is that many of these men are not considered to be gay or bisexual but heterosexual in orientation. His thoughts reflect that many of the male customers of these young men are not seeking a gay relationship just something quick and different.

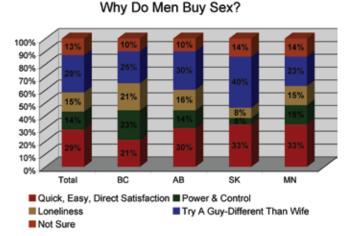
I find no indication that these men seek homosexual contact as such; rather, they want a form of organ-producing action that is less lonely than masturbation and less involving than a love relationship. (Humphreys, 1970:115)

3.11 Tell Someone Entering

All individuals were crystal clear that this activity was something individuals should not do. They were clear about the negative impact of this activity, and strongly suggested people explore other options.

- Don't do it the risks far out weigh any good. (Dylan)
- Don't, not good, harmful and stressful, it's no good. (Wyatt)
- Think about it long and hard because it is a completely different life style. I suggest they don't do it. (Sal)
- Think carefully, it destroys your life. (Jody)
- Talk try to talk them out of it, it's is not spiritually or emotionally sound. (Scout)
- Forget it. Go back to school. Make something out of yourself (Raven)
- Don't do it. Respect yourself. (Des)

This finding is significant because those involved in the trade are adamant that others should be warned of the danger of entering.





4.1 Staying In

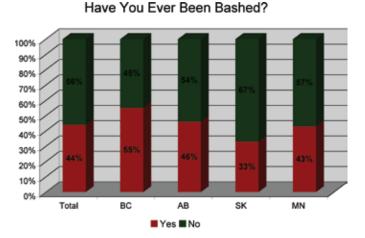
section 4: staying

As we have seen from the previous section, this group of young men stayed in the sexual exploitation trade for an extensive period of time. Eighty-three percent had been in the trade for over two years. Only 9% of the total population had worked less than one year. The average length was nine years. The longest period exceeded 20 years.

4.2 Gay Bashing

Violence is an issue that both genders are subject to while in the sexual exploitation trade. Humiliation and violence from customers and the general community occur daily. Women have reported more violence from customers while males are at a higher risk for homophobia and gay bashing.

The fear of gay bashing is prevalent at all times for all young men involved in the sexual exploitation trade. Furthermore,



44% of the respondents experienced the threat of gay bashing and indicated that while it might not be the worst thing that has happened to them, it has happened to them and it is a significant threat every time they hustle. The highest rate of gay bashing occurred in British Columbia (55%) and the lowest rate occurred in Saskatchewan (33%).

- Yes a few times. (Edan)
- Twice now. (Jade)
- Yes once I was gay bashed, hit on the back when I walked away. (Jamie)

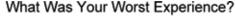
4.3 Worst Date

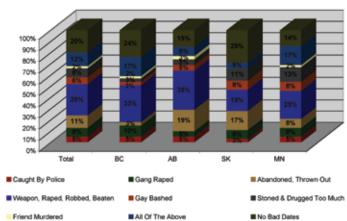
This population was quick to identify the following worst experiences hustling/working. There was a general level of fear they had experienced from bad dates. Twenty percent had not experienced a bad date although they all still lived in fear of such a situation occurring. The other 80% had experienced a bad date.

When looking at the data it is significant to see the higher percentages of individuals reporting 'no bad dates' in both British Columbia (24%) and Saskatchewan (29%). The threat of being beaten, raped or attacked with a weapon is the most prominent worst experience throughout all the provinces with an overall total of 28% reporting it to be the worst experience they had ever had. Significantly, 12% of the total responses indicated the constant fear of all possible violence.

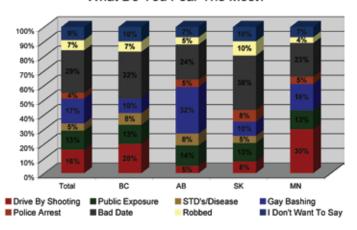
- Not allowed to leave and threatened to kill me if I tried. (Jaden)
- Slipped the date rape drug waking up and I didn't know where I was. (Dylan)
- Kidnapping, left out of town. (Sean)
- People driving by shooting fireworks at us and being raped and run over. (Addison)

4.4 Fear The Most





What Do You Fear The Most?



During the interviews, we asked individuals what they feared most while they were hustling/working. Their fears extended from public exposure to drive-by shootings. Twenty-nine percent indicated that their greatest fear was a bad date, meaning someone that would harm them and potentially kill them.

As a result, the level of fear these young men have is both real and constant. Interestingly, respondents in Saskatchewan indicated they were more fearful of bad dates (38%) than any other province. There was also a significant difference between the fear of drive by shooting responses with considerably higher fears in Manitoba (30%) and British Columbia (20%). Alberta responses indicated a significant fear of gay bashing (32%) although in reality British Columbia experienced the highest reported level of gay bashing.

A total of 85% of those interviewed saw hustling/working in the sexual exploitation trade as always dangerous. They saw, experienced, and lived the reality of this fear and the dangers of the trade.

- Seeing a friend leave in a vehicle then finding out she was missing and then murdered. (Haley)
- I have seen people overdose, suicide, murdered and be bashed. I fear being raped and dumped outside the City on winter days. (Addison)
- It's dangerous because you never know what's going to happen, you could go with someone and they could kill you. (Zion)
- It is just a dangerous life for the sellers and the buyers. (Baylee)

4.5 Thoughts When Hustling/Working

Given the length of time most of these young men have been involved in the trade, there is value in understanding what they think about when they are and are not hustling/working.

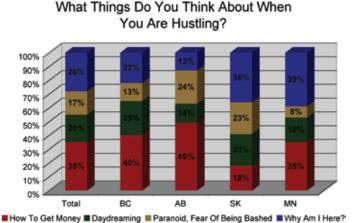
The majority of the respondents think about what they have to do to get this money. This speaks to the continual grind of this type of trade, and the continual need to be able to provide for one's self. Absolutely no one spoke highly of what they were doing.

It is simply a form of survival for many and they are not proud of it. They also acknowledge it is difficult to exit. Significantly, a high portion of the population questions why they are hustling while working which reinforces their lack of

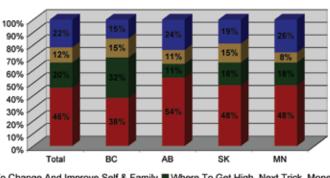
desire to hustle.

- If I ever get out of it. If I'll ever be myself. (Benjamin)
- The next fix. (Russell)
- · Death. (Jace)
- Is someone there with an axe or something? Lots of things. (Toby)
- How soon can I get out of here? (Des)

4.6 Thoughts When Not Hustling/Working



What Things Do You Think About When You Are Not Hustling?



■ To Change And Improve Self & Family ■ Where To Get High, Next Trick, Money
■ Looking For Straight Work ■ Nothing, Staying Away, Being Safe

It is also important to understand what people think about when they are not hustling/working. Most think about a way to change and improve their lives and the lives of their family; they are looking for routes to exit the trade.

Responses were very similar throughout the four provinces indicating a consistent lack of desire across the study population for this line of work.

- My future and childhood dreams. (Finn)
- I think about what I would like my life to be. (Lane)
- I am thinking about money where am I going to get it from and thinking about going back out. Thinking about how to change my life. (Zion)
- I keep my mind occupied and try not to think about drugs. (Jamie)
- Where am I going to sleep? Seeing past clients. (Prentice)
- Sometimes my family and where to get more money. (Wyatt)
- How to get a better life. (Edan)

4.7 Refusing A Date

It was important to understand that only 10% of young men interviewed had never refused a date. The remaining 90% had refused a customer at some point for various reasons.

The main reason for refusing a date was because they had a bad vibe or a bad gut feeling about a person and decided to walk away.

The use of gut feelings and intuition are important protection mechanisms for those in the sexual exploitation trade. This

relates back to the constant fear that surrounds individuals while working/hustling. As shown, 80% of respondents have had bad dates and have a sizeable level of fear associated with hustling.

Outreach and support services can play a critical role in encouraging and reinforcing the use of this gut instinct because it can prevent a bad date.

100% 11% 90% 12% 80% 70% 60% 50% 40% 20% 10% 0% AB Yes-Lack Of Hygiene ■ Yes-Bad Vibe/Gut Feeling Yes-Refused To Wear A Condom Yes-Wouldn't Pay Enough ■ Yes-Too Nice/Naïve Yes-Weird Activity ■ No

Have You Ever Refused A Date?

When asked why people refused certain customers the following responses were provided:

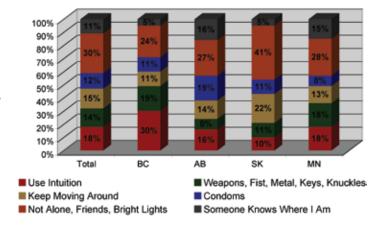
- Yes, they scared me. (Robert)
- Yes, there were too many people in the car and California license plates. (Rafi)
- Yes, because the request would be disgusting, they crossed lines where body fluids some people into shit and vomit. I stayed away from that. (Scout)

4.8 Working Safely

It is important to gain insight into how someone works safely. There are specific techniques young men rely on to keep them safe. These techniques are far from foolproof; however, they allow them a sense of control and safety. It is the best they can do given the circumstances and nature of the sexual exploitation trade.

Thirty percent of the total population indicated that they do not work alone, but have friends close by and are in areas that are safe and well lit. Intuition was another response which garnered considerable response across all four provinces with the highest percentage of responses from British Columbia (30%). Answers across the four provinces varied slightly but, for the most part, they were in line with the overall total responses.

What Protects You While You Are Hustling?

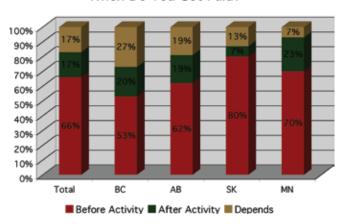


4.9 Getting Paid

Sixty-six percent of total respondents seek payment before the activity to make sure they are paid and not taken advantage of financially. This is similar to women in the sexual exploitation trade. It could be argued that the financial transfer of money motivates young people to close the deal as quickly as possible. Saskatchewan had the highest percentage of respondents reporting they take payment prior to the activity (80%), and British Columbia the lowest (53%) saying it depends on the situation they are in.

- · Cash upfront. I have held onto bank cards. (Russell)
- Before or after. (Xavier)
- At the end. (Robert)
- Sometimes half before and half after or after. (Benjamin)

One young man felt that taking money first made him look weak and vulnerable. He wanted customers to think he could **When Do You Get Paid?**



handle himself if a customer tried to rip him off. Others said payment after the sexual exchange brought a level of insurance that this person was not a police officer. This brought a different form of protection for young men in the trade.

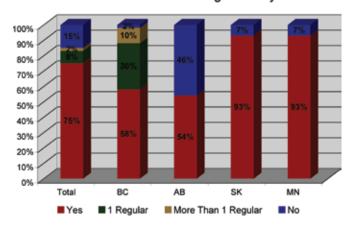
4.10 Sugar Daddy

Young men in the trade often seek out a 'sugar daddy'. This protects them, and has the potential to limit the time and risk they experience on the street. It provides a constant stream of money and material goods in a manner that is perceived 'safe'.

A sugar daddy will seek a public relationship with the chosen young man. It often involves exclusivity and means a live-in role. Seventy-five percent of the total population of men interviewed indicating having a sugar daddy, while 8% of the indicated having only one regular and 2% having more than one regular.

The significant finding from this data is British Columbia was the only place individuals reported having 'regulars' and not just sugar daddies. Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba all indicated they either had sugar daddies or nothing. Another significant piece of information is the low percentage

Have You Ever Had A Sugar Daddy?



of individuals in Alberta who indicated they had a sugar daddy (54%). Forty-six percent of respondents in Alberta had no regulars or sugar daddies, which is quite different from the stereotypical norm. That might be due to a different 'climate' surrounding homosexuality in Alberta. While there might be a significant number of individuals buying services in Alberta, there isn't a desire for exclusivity with males in Alberta as in other provinces.

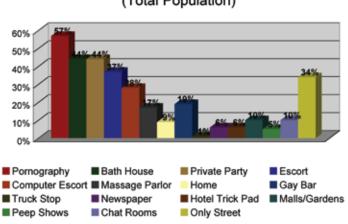
Significantly, in this case, the young man's sexual orientation is gay, as is the sugar daddys'. A sugar daddy will profile the young man he chooses. This often happens in public places or at events.

• Opportunity to have my expenses taken care of for a number of months. (Tory)

A "gay for pay" young man would not seek out such a public display; they are clearly heterosexual but work as a gay young person to earn money. Their sexual orientation is gay only when they are involved in the sexual exploitation trade. They would be more inclined to seek a regular customer in private and have an impersonal relationship with them.

4.11 Types Of Hustling/Work Activities

There is a long list of activities that one involved in the sexual exploitation trade can do. Fifty-seven percent had worked in pornography, while 44% had worked in a bathhouse or at private parties. What is interesting is that 34% only worked on the street.



What Types Of Work Have You Done? (Total Population)

4.12 Hustling/Working & Drugs

The relationship between drug use and the sexual exploitation trade was explored. Often when speaking with those involved in the sexual exploitation trade, substance abuse (drugs and alcohol) entered their lives once they worked in the trade. Some people had histories of partying involving drugs and alcohol; however, it was not their primary focus. Twenty-seven percent of total respondents indicated using a variety of substances while working, while 19% indicated they didn't use any substance. The biggest variation occurred in Saskatchewan where only 6% of respondents indicated they were sober while working, and 42% indicated used alcohol and pot while working.

Many times, once people enter the sexual exploitation trade, drugs become a way of life. They are initially a reward of life on the street because they assist in blocking out or numbing the continual sexual exploitation and humiliation they experience. As time goes on, the relationship between the trade and substance abuse becomes stronger. These two usually mutually exclusive experiences become associated.

• Pretty much we sedate ourselves. (Baylee)

The initial introduction to work can be driven by money to survive; however, this often becomes replaced or adjoined with a need to feed the drug addiction. What is important to understand is that close to half of those interviewed avoid the use of drugs while they are on the street working.

Nearly everyone interviewed spoke of some drug use in their private time. It is clear that drug use in their private life often fuels their need to work.

· For me yes. I wouldn't be out there if it wasn't for the drugs. (Benjamin)

For some, substance use enables them to work in the trade. Potentially, for a limited number, substance addiction drives them and keeps them in the trade, as they work to feed their habit.

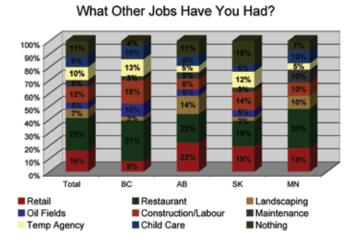
• I was hustling to pay rent and food then it led to drugs. (Scout)

It is important to acknowledge the strong relationship between drug use and the sexual exploitation trade. The possibility exists that the longer someone stays in the trade, the greater and more intense the drug use becomes. Over 57% of respondents indicated they had injected drugs while in the sexual exploitation trade.

4.13 Other Jobs

This population has limited work experience outside of hustling. The opportunity to turn to mainstream, well-paid work is not there. Most tried working either in retail services (16%), restaurant services (25%) or construction (12%). Even though some of this group is educated, there appears to be a gap regarding their education level and employment skills. There is uniformity in responses between all four provinces.

The sexual exploitation trade offered consistent, paying work that allowed for a continuation of a particular lifestyle and habits.



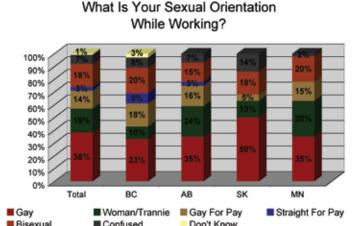
4.14 Charged

Only 25% of this population has been charged with 'Communicating for the Purpose of Prostitution'. To repeat, the average tenure for those in the sexual exploitation trade is eight years. It is significant then, that so few have been subject to Criminal Justice intervention even though they have spent close to a decade on the stroll. If the Criminal Justice system does not respond to these young men, it is logical to say they are not approaching the customers of these young men either. It remains a hidden issue. Customers of these young men are not identified nor targeted for criminal prosecution. Most stings resulting in charges of 'Communicating for the Purpose' involve women and their male customers. Once again, these young men are being sexually exploited under the radar which results in no social support or intervention. Customers escape any legal responsibility, leaving them vulnerable without any detection or support.

4.15 Various Cities

This is a transient population. Over 76% of the population has said that they have moved to other cities than the one they had original begun hustling in. Other cities that were mentioned included small towns in all four provinces, the United States and the Caribbean.

4.16 Sexual Orientation When Hustling/Working



What became clear to this author over time was that there is a difference between how an individual describes their sexual identity while working/hustling as opposed to their private time.

Calgary Sexual Health Centre (formerly CBCA) defines sexual identities in the following ways:

Gay: Men who are emotionally, physically, and sexually attracted to men.

Bisexual: People who are emotionally, physically and sexually attracted to people of either gender.

Heterosexual: People who are attracted to the opposite sex.

Transgender: Refers to individuals whose sense of being a man or a woman does not correspond to their biological sex.

Two Spirited: Refers to First Nations peoples whose sexual and romantic feelings are primarily for the same gender who, historically, were revered as embodying both female and male spirits. (Calgary Birth Control Association, Celebrating Diversity, 2004). Some of these individuals labeled themselves as being 'two spirited'. The following is a specific description that was crafted at a conference in the late 1990's:

The term two spirited has a number of meanings within several different contexts. "Two Spirited" means Aboriginal people who identify themselves as gay or lesbian. The terms gay or lesbian are of European origin. Therefore, "two spirited" is preferred because it is more culturally relevant to Aboriginal lesbians and gays. (Two Spirited People of the 1st Nations, We Are Part of a Tradition, 1998)

There is value in clarifying sexual identities prior to the actual discussion of selecting sexual identities when working/hustling and private, non-work time.

The following hustling/working sexual orientations were identified:

- Gay (38%)
- Gay for pay (14%)
- Straight for pay (3%)
- Tranny (19%)
- Bisexual (18%)
- Confused (7%)
- Don't know (1%)

Gay: refers to a young man who has embraced and accepted a gay (homosexual/ same sex) sexual identity while he is hustling/working.

Gay for Pay: refers to a young man who is heterosexual in his off-street sexual identity; however, to survive he will be 'gay for pay', becoming involved in sexual activities with male customers. This also means that only during the time they are hustling/working will they demonstrate and/or perform gay sexual activities. Often customers find the potential opportunity to alter a young man's heterosexual orientation very attractive.

Straight for Pay: refers to a young man who is gay in his off-street sexual identity; however, to survive he will become 'straight for pay'. They appear as very "macho" young men while they are on the street, and approach customers as straight. Some male customers find it attractive to engage a young straight macho man in sexual activity. Some customers find it very satisfying to think a young straight man would be prepared to alter their orientation to be with them.

Tranny: refers to a young man who has entered the world of being a woman or a 'transvestite'. This means they will dress and conduct themselves as a woman. They wear women's clothing and makeup, and style their hair as a woman. Some of those interviewed appear as women at all times. Others interviewed described themselves as being a Tranny in their personal life but not while working on the street. A total of eleven individuals identified as transgender while they worked. Ten of the eleven individuals were Aboriginal; however, eight individuals identified as transgender in their personal life. All eight that saw themselves as transgender in their personal lives were Aboriginal.

The following quote clearly explains why a person will work straight but has a private identity of transgender. Often it reflects a need for safety, that being it is safer to appear as a male whether straight or gay for pay.

I try to see myself as straight. (Dylan)

Bisexual: This describes a young man who is attracted to both genders. He identifies with both sexual identities. For some young men, seeing themselves as bisexual eased the transition to work with male customers. Some only saw bisexual behavior with men occurring when they worked in the sexual exploitation trade.

• Straight pretty much. (Xavier)

Others lived a full bisexual life while in and out of the trade. Others identified as bisexual even though they were gay as some customers like the opportunity to see that a young man was attracted to women but chose to be with a male customer.

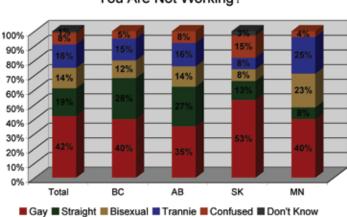
• I believed I was gay and I use to tell them I was bi. I did that for them. (Toby)

Confused: One individual saw themselves as confused or unable to answer about their sexual identity when they were working. They were unclear about where and how their sexual identity could fit while they were working.

The majority of responses were similar over the whole four provinces, however, differences included a higher percentage of respondents in Saskatchewan indicating that while hustling, they identify themselves as 'gay' (50%); 15% higher than British Columbia, Alberta and Manitoba.

4.17 Sexual Orientation When Not Hustling/Working

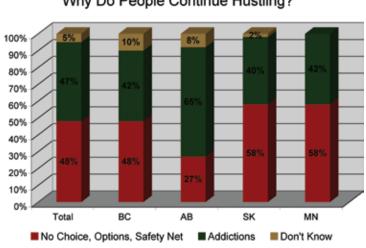
An individual can describe his sexual identity while on the street as being different than that displayed in his private life.



What Is Your Sexual Orientation When You Are Not Working?

4.18 Why People Stay Hustling/Working

To understand why people stay hustling/working in the sexual exploitation trade it is also important to understand why they return. If we are going to be effective in assisting individuals leave the trade for good, then we need to understand exactly what keeps someone in the sexual exploitation trade in the first place.



Why Do People Continue Hustling?

Almost an equal number of individuals indicated that they either have no choice or options (48%), or that their addictions are what keep them hustling (47%).

Responses over the four provinces varied significantly with a much higher response rate in Alberta indicating the need to stay hustling because of addictions (65%).

- To be accepted and for money. (Benjamin)
- They think there is nothing else for them in main stream society. (Haley)
- · Low self esteem, making money, they are accustomed to what they are doing. (Delaney)

- Money, behavior not easy to break out of. (Raine)
- The crack. (Rafi)
- Addictions. (Finn)
- Support themselves, most have drug problems to support, their habit. (Xavier)

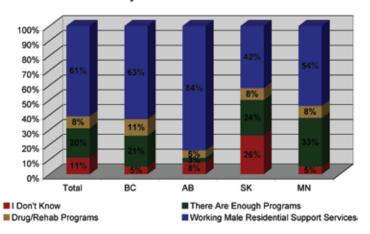
4.19 Services You Wish Existed

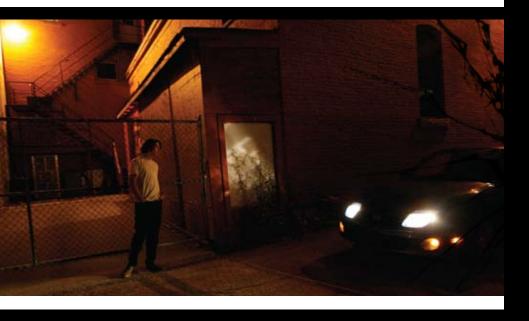
Throughout the interviews, we were curious about the type of services these young men felt should exist. However, there was a clear sense they felt that existing services were more female-oriented.

The delivery of services to young men has been hampered because we know very little about the different working styles or needs of these young men.

It is hoped that this study will provide the needed additional information for all these young men regardless of their sexual identity while working or in their personal lives. Sixty-one percent of the total population thought it would be helpful if there was a working male residential support service available to them. Many of these respondents indicated this would eliminate the need to trade sexual favours for a place to sleep, help them find their independence, and leave the sexual exploitation trade.

Are There Any Services You Wish Existed?







section 5: attempts at exiting

It is crystal clear that people wish to exit the sexual exploitation trade. They do not perceive the trade as a long-term lifestyle for themselves; however, knowing how to leave is a process we need to understand and we must design supports accordingly.

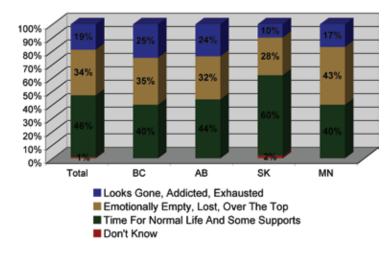
5.1 Leaving

Everyone we interviewed wanted to leave the sexual exploitation trade. No one person spoke of positive benefits or the desire to remain. Twenty-two percent said they were either too tired or old and that there wasn't any benefit in the job. These individuals also mentioned they did not have any of their earned money left and needed to get out. An additional 19% said they left so they could pursue their dreams and goals.

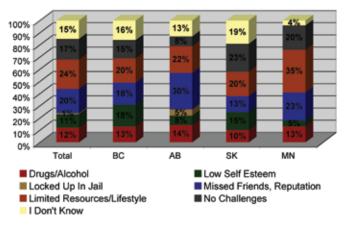
Significantly, all had a reason to want to exit. All of these individuals had taken a time out, but most had slipped back into the sexual exploitation trade.

- Sick of feeling filthy, feeling dirty. (Scout)
- Hard on the mind, emotions, physical body. Loss of friends. (Haley)
- Because it is degrading. (Jaden)
- A violent incident wake up calls. (Jace)
- · Sick and tired of working, they found supports in the community, went back to school. (Kaelin)
- Moved on in the world, it is a dirty job. (Jamie)

Why Do People Leave Hustling?



What Were Your Challenges Leaving?



5.2 Challenges to Leaving

Twenty-four percent said limited resources and absence from a lifestyle they were used to were the hardest challenges in leaving; and were usually the reason they returned. In addition, missing friends, roommates and others they had bonded with was a significant challenge (20%). These respondents did not feel like part of a group once they left, which was a significant challenge. Surprisingly 17% of the total said they did not identify any challenges. Jail was only an issue in Alberta where 5% of that population identified being locked up as a challenge.

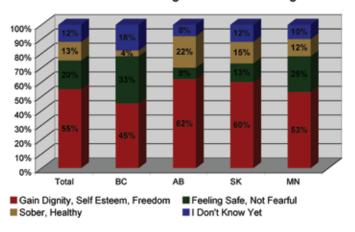
5.3 Best Thing Not Hustling/Working

Only 12% of those who exited could not identify the best thing about not working. Others who had short-term or multiple experiences with exiting were able to quickly identify benefits.

Over 55% felt they were able to gain self-dignity and selfesteem, freeing themselves from the ties that come from being in the sexual exploitation trade, focusing on being the person they wanted to be.

In addition, 20% of respondents said that the sense of fear disappeared and was replaced with a sense of safety. This coincides with the great amount of risks and potentially violent situations that go along with being sexually exploited.

What Is The Best Thing About Not Hustling?



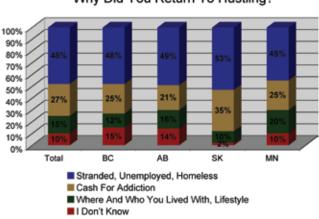
5.4 Returning

Unfortunately, many of those who had exited experienced a sense of relief for only a brief period of time. Almost half (48%) of the respondents felt they returned to hustling/working because they were stranded, unemployed and/or feared becoming homeless. It was the only thing they felt they knew how to do and how to make sure they were not homeless or hungry.

It is important to remember that the majority of these young men had lived either as runaways, or had been homeless and had experience in the shelter system. Some saw that their only option was to return to shelters or to the sexual exploitation trade.

- The cash and the depression set back in. I guess a form of self destruction. (Des)
- Boredom it's like an addiction too. (Jody)
- I wasn't ready to deal with my shit. (Baylee)
- · Drugs and personal problems. (Jade)

Why Did You Return To Hustling?



Fifteen percent realized friends and roommates were significant factors in returning. Although they had decided to stop working/hustling, they still continued to be part of the lifestyle through roommates, etc. Unfortunately, this peripheral lifestyle becomes a slippery slope and most end up re-entering the trade. Twenty-seven percent admitted that returning was out of a need to fulfill their addictions.

- Moved back to Winnipeg, if I didn't come back I wouldn't have started again. (Daleny)
- Alcohol abuse and drugs. (Addision)

5.5 Stress

Sixty-three percent of all respondents had difficulty with stress once they ceased work. This stress most often occurred due to worry about survival. How exactly were they going to survive? Many were concerned with their ability, or lack of ability, to be a provider.

All of the individuals had limited experience with other forms of work. Minimum wage jobs require strength and endurance. Recent experience in the trade did not prepare any of them physically or mentally to return to this type of 'legitimate' work. There was a sense of abandonment and of not knowing.

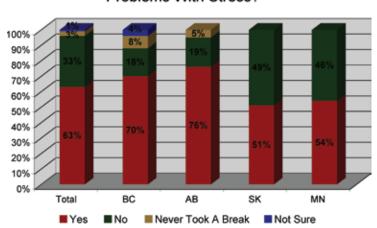
The interesting piece of information is reflected in the discrepancy between British Columbia (70%) and Alberta (76%) responses, and Saskatchewan (51%) and Manitoba (54%) responses indicating 'yes' to this question. A significantly higher portion of respondents in British Columbia and Alberta had problems with stress after they stopped hustling.

5.6 Problems Sleeping

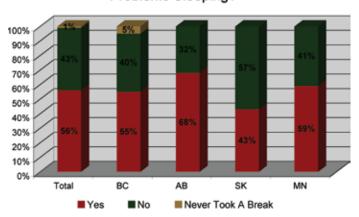
During periods of time when young men exited the trade, over 56% experienced difficulty sleeping. Street life entails long, late hours. It was not just the adjustment to change. Often it had to do with other physical changes from drug withdrawal or sleep disturbances from dreams and nightmares. It was interesting to see that Saskatchewan respondents had a much lower percentage with problems sleeping (43%), whereas, Alberta respondents had a much higher percentage with trouble sleeping (68%).

 Nightmares about going back into working the drug scene. (Marcus)

After You Stopped Hustling, Did You Have Problems With Stress?



After You Stopped Hustling, Did You Have Problems Sleeping?

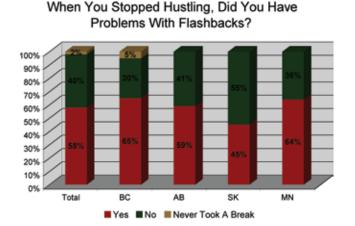


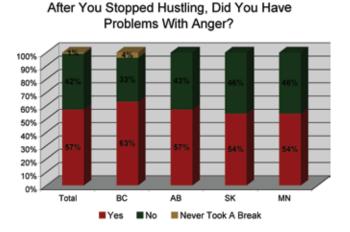
5.7 Flashbacks

Fifty-eight percent of total respondents had experienced flashbacks once they left the street. Often they recalled some of the difficult times that occurred while in the sexual exploitation trade or experienced unresolved issues they suppressed while in the trade.

- Yes, really bad. (Prentice)
- Yes, at first. (Finn)

Saskatchewan respondents had a significantly lower percentage indicating that they suffered from flashbacks than any other province (45%).





5.8 Anger

Fifty-seven percent of those who had exited experienced problems with anger once they left the trade. Some described how they get angry now because they were once so guarded and/or stoned. Previously their anger was buried.

- Yeah but it was the drugs. (Prentice)
- Yes, all from the addictions still. (Xavier)
- It builds up. (Finn)

5.9 Messages For Service Providers

It is important to hear what these young men wanted to tell service providers. An overwhelming number wanted to let them know that it is not easy to leave the trade. As was found in **Strolling Away** (McIntyre, 2002), nearly everyone left at least once. The process of leaving is a challenge; they often do not have the resources to exit. Add to that their level of addiction, lack of employment and limited resources, and a successful exit often includes homelessness and/or shelter stays.

Most males do not have children or child care responsibilities. While the birth and caring of a child often brings with it government aid and a renewed family connection for females, this is not an option for young men.

The young men in this study felt there was a need for service providers to understand them. They did not feel understood by service providers, nor did they believe program options were available to them.

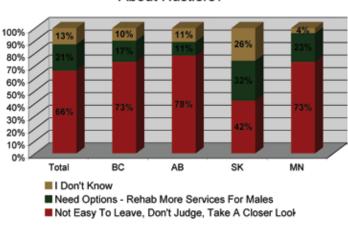
- Treat us fair, we are human beings. (Cagney)
- Ordinary people who are mislead, looking for love. Need basic essentials in life like food and shelter. (Benjamin)
- We are not as bad as society says and views us as. (Tory)
- Stop marginalizing us, its something we do, not who we are. (Kaelin)

Sixty-six percent of the respondents said they would explain the difficulty in leaving the trade, and all the issues that surround leaving the trade for a male. They indicated that there was a need for the service providers, health care providers and the legal system to understand the differences between being a male hustler and a female hustler and the lack of support for young men.

The issue of drug rehabilitation programs was critical. Young men engage in sexual exploitation at a very young age and remain in the trade longer than women. Consequently, they have longer and more intense experiences of drug addiction.

When asking the young men about services and service providers the interviewers often received comments saying they were grateful for this study. Some of those interviewed sent notes directly to us thanking us for doing this study.

What Would You Tell Service Providers About Hustlers?



Finally, they felt their voice about needing services to meet their needs was being heard. Condoms and coffee programs assist but there is a desire for more in-depth services.

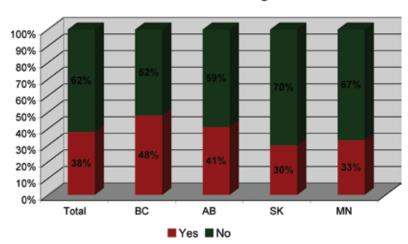
- Shelter for men. Places to talk about things. (Benjamin)
- · People to help me deal with the day to day issues of the street, someone to hear your side. (Carl)
- Yes definitely there needs to be more services like TERF Program a safe house for men, a shelter for men.
 Like the TERF program for women there needs to be similar programs for men, better access to counseling
 because the waiting lists are ridiculous in order to get decent counseling on a regular basis. (Zion)



section 6: health issues

Throughout the four provinces there was a real desire to understand health-related issues with this population. In order to obtain this information, we asked questions about the need to access health services as a result of an individual's hustling/working. Thirty-eight percent have accessed health services as a result of the sexual exploitation trade.

Have You Ever Been To The Hospital/Doctor Because Of Hustling?



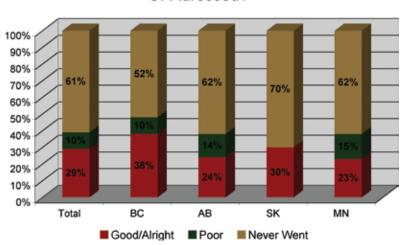
Seventy-five percent of respondents who accessed the services stated they received good services and their needs were addressed.

- Very good. They did a double take when I said my profession. (Marcus)
- They have a job to do and a lot of people waiting. (Baylee)

Unfortunately, not all had positive experiences with the medical community. Fifteen percent of individuals indicated receiving 'poor' services.

• They did not understand or respect me. (Haley)

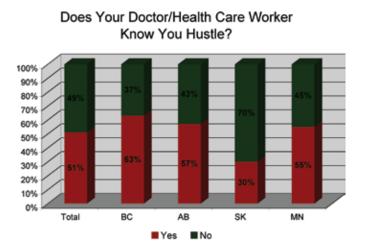
How Well Were Your Concerns Received Or Adressed?

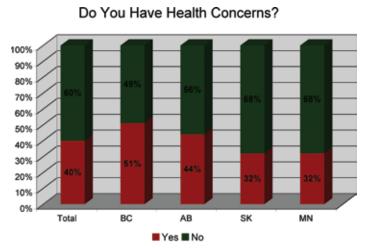


6.1 Health Care Workers Aware of Hustling/Working

We then inquired about their own doctor or health care worker being aware of their involvement in the sexual exploitation trade. Just over half (51%) of the population interviewed had informed health professionals of their hustling/working.

Forty percent of the population identified having a health concern at the time of interview. These ranged from HIV, Hepatitis C, STDs, and mental health issues which were either connected with, influenced by or resulting from their involvement in the sexual exploitation trade.



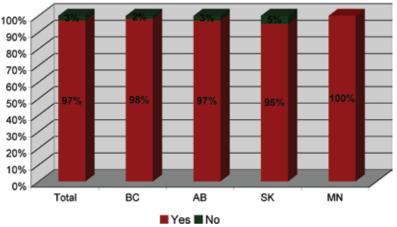


6.2 Testing For HIV / STDs

There was a strong commitment among all individuals interviewed to being responsible with respect to HIV and other STD testing. Only 2% of the population had not been tested.

What is important is that the public education on HIV testing has made a significant impact. People understand the value and importance of regular testing.

Do You Ever Get Tested For HIV Or Other STDs?



6.3 Frequency HIV / STD Testing

When we asked about the frequency of HIV / STD testing, what was important was how regular testing is of value. Seventy-nine percent were tested at least every six months; 66% go to a community or STD clinic; while 17% go to their own doctor. Only 5% indicated they did not go for testing. Each province had very similar results to this question.

Fifty-five percent indicated that having a neutral, confidential, walk-in, anonymous, and friendly atmosphere would make it easier to get tested. The population was equally balanced on their risk for catching HIV. Ten percent were confirmed as being HIV positive. Manitoba had the highest percentage at high risk (58%), and second highest with HIV (14%).

6.4 Condom Use Hustling/Working

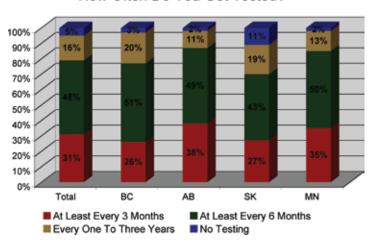
When asked about the importance of condom use while hustling/working, 92% of the respondents indicated that it is always important to use condoms.

Manitoba had the highest percentage of respondents indicating the need to always wear a condom (98%), which coincides with the higher fear in that province of catching HIV (58%). Only 83% of British Columbia respondents indicated the need to always wear a condom. Interestingly, 14% of respondents indicated that they did not wear a condom in their private life because they were in a committed relationship.

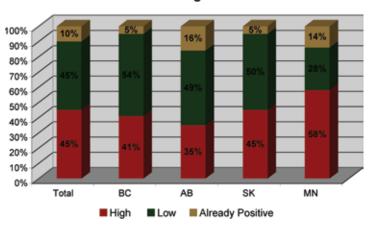
Although we found a majority of respondents always use condoms, there appears to be a need for clarification on the use of condoms when the activity is oral in nature. It appears there is a lack of clarity as to the potential effects of unprotected oral sex.

One question designed by experiential youth used the term 'top' or bottom" boy. This refers to the physical positioning of anal penetration. One who fulfils the 'top' role delivers anal penetration, while the 'bottom' receives it. The majority of respondents are 'both' (42%); and 29% identify themselves as 'top'. This is very similar throughout the provinces.

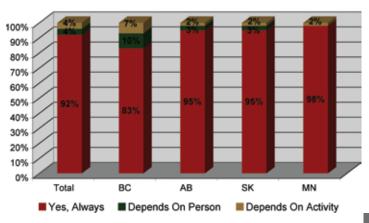
How Often Do You Get Tested?



What Do You Think Your Risk Is For Catching HIV?



Is It Important To Wear A Condom While Hustling?



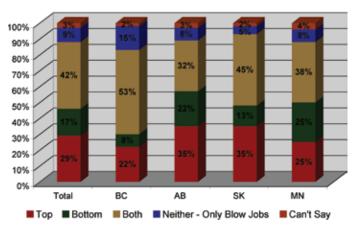
6.5 Condom Use In Personal Life

There is a strong awareness of the importance of condom use in their personal lives as well. We found that 69% of those interviewed will always use condoms in their personal lives. Seventeen percent will use condoms depending on who the person is and only 14% are in a solid relationship and see no need to use a condom.

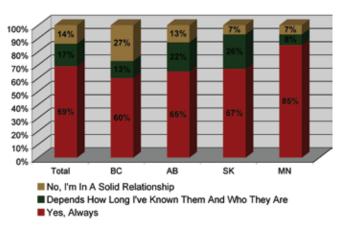
There is clearly an awareness of the need for condom use even in a personal situation.

Overall, what is of importance is that the critical need for awareness and action regarding health protection from HIV and other STDs is on the radar screen within this population. They are aware of the risks, but more importantly these young men are taking action to protect themselves and others. Health and AIDS professionals should be praised for achieving this current awareness and practice, and it is important to keep this information relevant and updated. There is a fear some will see AIDS as being curable and therefore become lax in using condoms. There is a need to keep updated and accurate health information for this population.

Are You On Top Or Bottom When You Hustle?



Do You Wear Condoms In Your Personal Life?





section 7: lessons learned- 40 who left

Under the Radar, the Sexual Exploitation of Young Men includes four Western Canadian Provinces: British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

One hundred and fifty seven sexually exploited young men were interviewed for this research, including ten who had exited from each province. The result is that we now have quantative and qualitative data on forty young men who have successfully exited the sexual exploitation trade.

These forty men spoke of the journey, a journey that many of them took more than one time. Each time they tried to exit, they learned something new and built on it the next time.

Those who provide services to this population need to understand and support this learning process. They need to congratulate each person for every day they successfully exit. They need to applaud them each time they do this. Often we become professionally disappointed when someone re-enters the sexual exploitation trade as opposed to building and reinforcing there learning that will assist them next go around.

- At least 5 times like for long breaks because well I can guarantee you three because I've been in love with 3
 different me in my life and um, and then one doctor I lived with in his condo he lived I his house on the other
 side of the city. (Leo)
- Um I think every morning after I turned a trick. So give or take 365 days of the year, I would say 300 each year for about 7 years so that makes it 2,100 times. (Harry)

1. How many times did you leave hustling (the street)?

It was important to gain an understanding of what made someone leave each time so we can keep our eyes open for opportunities to assist them in a successful exit, and design our outreach programs and services to support these attempts.

Respondents	Value # BC	Value # AB	Value # SK	Value # MN	40 Exiting Interviews Western Canada
1 = Once	2 20%	2 20%	2 20%	1 10%	7/40 17.5%
2 = 2-5	4 40%	6 60%	5 50%	7 70%	22/40 55%
3 = 3-5	4 40%	2 20%	3 30%	2 20%	11/40 27.5%
TOTAL	10	10	10	10	40/40 100%

2. What made you want to square up and leave?

Finding the motivating factor that helped someone depart from the trade is useful. What were the factors that finally provided them with the motivation to exit?

People often hit rock bottom, feeling they had no other option but to escape the lifestyle. They talked about how the work robbed them of themselves and their soul. Issues of danger slowly crept into their minds, fearing harm, destruction, and inevitable death. Slowly they began to forget who they were.

Respondents	Value # BC	Value # AB	Value # SK	Value # MN	40 Exiting Interviews Western Canada
1= Fear Abuse	5 50%	3 30%	3 30%	4 40%	15/40 37.5%
2= Know people cared	3 30%	2 20%	1 10%	1 10%	7/40 17.5%
3= Wanted life had enough	2 20%	5 50%	6 60%	5 50%	18/40 45%
TOTAL	10	10	10	10	40/40 100%

- Friends being murdered and going missing. (Addison)
- I believed at the rate I was going I was probably going to be dead from overdosing not from sex. (Leo)
- Knowing I could be a better person than I was. To know people care about what I do with my life.
 Wanting to have a better life. (Fred)
- I wanted full control of my life. (Cal)
- The whole thing is gross and dirty. I've had it. There's nothing nice about it. You feel like it's your fault. You feel like a loser and pervert. (Harry)
- I was scared I was going to turn violent. (Sid)
- I was dead mentally. (Matt)
- I grew up. (Ace)

3. What made you want to go back each time?

There is a sense of relief when someone exits the sexual exploitation trade, even though they may miss some of the benefits (i.e. cash, excitement, partying and drugs); however, there is also a sense of loneliness and isolation.

Initially when one enters the sexual exploitation trade they begin to distance themselves from their traditional support systems. Their new support system becomes their street peers; hence when they make the attempt to exit, it is not easy because both their traditional and street support systems have been compromised.

As thrilled as people are to have left the street, the urge to return is prevalent. Only 10% of this population never went back once they successfully exited. For men, the distance from their support network is greater.

Homophobia is at the forefront, often resulting in traditional kinship and support sources veering away. In addition, there is a lack of understanding and comfort with witnessing a young man entering into the sexual exploitation trade and lifestyle is difficult to view. Furthermore, the issues of drugs, danger and non-traditional activities are often hard for others to understand.

Once a person exits they are often isolated without financial, social and family supports. The only social supports become their 'street family'.

Respondents	Value # BC	Value # AB	Value # SK	Value # MN	40 Exiting Interviews Western Canada
1= Money	8 80%	6 60%	6 60%	4 40%	27/40 67.5%
2= Never went back	1 10%	2 20%	0 0%	1 10%	4/40 10%
3= Excitement thrill	1 10%	2 20%	4 40%	5 50%	9/40 22.5%
TOTAL	10	10	10	10	40/40 100%

- Excitement, thrill money. (Toby)
- I missed the companionship. I knew I was somebody out there. I knew I belonged to something out there is why I always went back. (Jamie)
- · Drugs, alcohol, and friends. (Addison)
- Lack of finance and support. (Zion)
- I was broke and needed drugs. (Sid)
- · Fast money, anger, resentment, the frustration, unresolved issues. (Billy)
- I still had the drug problem, it was still too easy. (Dermot)

4. What could have prevented you from going back each time?

Respondents	Value # BC	Value # AB	Value # SK	Value # MN	40 Exiting Interviews Western Canada
1= Drug free	1 10%	2 20%	2 20%	1 10%	6/40 15%
2= My friend	2 20%	1 10%	2 20%	1 10%	6/40 15%
3= Better job/ housing	6 60%	2 20%	4 40%	3 30%	15/40 37.5%
4= Moving	0 0%	1 10%	1 10%	0 0%	2/40 5%
5= Only left once	0 0%	2 20%	0 0%	1 10%	3/40 7.5%
6= Nothing	1 10%	2 20%	1 10%	4 40%	8/40 20%
TOTAL	10	10	10	10	40/40 100%

- A crisis line. (Haley)
- More support. Access to formal counseling, and options where I could develop skills to get paid more than minimum wage. (Zion)
- Services, love, understanding, no judgment. (Sid)
- · A job would have helped a lot. That's my problem, if I get bored it triggers me. (Jackson)
- · Having support networks available at the time I needed them as opposed to after the fact. (Forrest)

5. What made you decide it was your last hustle?

It is important to remember that no one entered the trade thinking it would be permanent. They saw it as a short-term solution. No one is looking to remain immersed in the continued abuse and danger. Eventually, everyone seeks a route out. Enough is enough, once they realize their lifestyle is risky.

Respondents	Value # BC	Value # AB	Value # SK	Value # MN	40 Exiting Interviews Western Canada
1= Fell in love	1 10%	1 10%	2 20%	0 0%	4/40 15%
2= Bad date experience	3 30%	1 10%	2 20%	2 20%	8/40 15%
3= Enough was enough	4 40%	5 50%	2 20%	5 50%	16/40 37.5%
4= Health	0 0%	1 10%	1 10%	0 0%	2/40 5%
5= Job/school	0 0%	2 20%	2 20%	3 30%	7/40 7.5%
6= Nothing	2 20%	0 0%	1 10%	0 0%	3/40 20%
TOTAL	10	10	10	10	40/40 100%

- Too much at stake, I was married, I was a father. (Toby)
- Well I had gotten a job I wanted to keep that I'd have to help other kids who were going through the similar things, and I'd had enough. It was time. A friend of mine died of AIDS. I knew where I was headed. That's when I had to make that choice. I chose to live. (Harry)
- Didn't like myself. After being raped I was afraid. (Finn)
- A letter saying I was accepted and approved for school. (Talon)
- I would say probably a course I took on how to take care and love yourself. (Zion)
- I'd rather sell my mind..not my body. (Bob)
- To know what I was doing was wrong I guess. (Dan)
- When a couple of my friends pulled an intervention in my living room. They sat down with me and told me I was ruining my life. They got me into detox. That was two years ago. (Ray)

6. What were the three most important things that assisted you in leaving the street?

First and foremost the desire for a normal life is what usually motivates a person to leave the street. Everyone has a vision or dream of what they want out of life. The street takes away any opportunity to search for those dreams. Often the vision to regain their dreams and regain a normal life is motivates them to leave.

The second key factor is someone that will care for them and support them with the day-to-day issues like housing, employment and drug treatment.

A third factor identified was program support. Programs such as outreach support services and drug treatment programs. Unfortunately, there are very few exiting support services in existence especially for young men. It is important to note that an exit support program be offered in a neutral location out of the inner city corridor where there would be no triggers or reminders of the street life they just escaped.

Respondents	Value # BC	Value # AB	Value # SK	Value # MN	40 Exiting Interviews Western Canada
1= Friends/ relationships	9 30%	9 30%	6 20%	6 20%	30/120 25%
2= Program support	8 27%	7 23%	5 17%	10 33%	30/120 25%
3= Job	3 10%	2 7%	6 20%	2 7%	13/120 11%
4= Health	1 3%	5 17%	2 7%	1 3%	9/120 7%
5= Desire normal Life	9 30%	7 23%	11 37%	11 37%	38/120 32%
TOTAL	30	30	30	30	120/120 100%

- A sense that I wanted more-- and my mom. (Sid)
- The love of my partner, my kids with my partner (his kids) and my family. I love those kids with all my heart. (Matt)
- Wanting to try different things in life. Going back to school. Taking courses. (Thomas)
- Detox, spiritual help, and a door being open when I was ready. (Pat)
- Wanting to live, to get off drugs, a better life and liking myself. (Nicky)
- My family, a job, and the will to survive. (Gavin)
- HIV, HIV, HIV....ya HIV. (Jamie)
- Moving across the country was one. Getting a new group of friends was another.
 Ending up with adults who genuinely cared about me. (Harry)
- Emotional support, peer support and psychotherapy. (Haley)
- My biological family. The reality of what I was doing. My first child was going to be born. (Baylee)

7. What were the three most important things that assisted you in not returning to hustling on the street?

The top three issues identified that prevented someone from returning to a life on the street were the desire to have a normal life, available support programs and friends.

There are few if any programs or services to guide them through this challenging time. As clearly outlined by those who have successfully exited, they need someone to support them and provide them with services. A defined program for those attempting to exit would be a valuable resource.

It is essential that programs remain flexible and support persons in the process of exiting often more than once. Patience and support is imperative, yet not easy to find or secure.

Respondents	Value # BC	Value # AB	Value # SK	Value # MN	40 Exiting Interviews Western Canada
1= Friends relationships	5 17%	15 50%	6 20%	6 20%	31/120 26%
2= Program support	7 23%	8 27%	5 17%	10 37%	30/120 25%
3= Job	3 10%	1 3%	6 20%	2 7%	12/120 10%
4= Health	0 0%	0 0%	2 7%	1 3%	3/120 3%
5= Desire normal Life	15 50%	6 20%	11 37%	11 37%	43/120 36%
TOTAL	30	30	30	30	120/120 100%

- Three month counseling was a lifesaver for me. Probably because I wanted to prove my family wrong. Maybe some spite helped me there. (Dermot)
- Staying clean. Counseling. Reclaiming my identity. (Pat)
- School, acceptance and my connection to the reserve. (Matthew)
- · Alcohol, violence and diseases. (Wil)
- Most importantly the support of my partner. The enthusiasm of personal growth and support from friends. A positive support system is very important whenever you quit anything whether you quit eating. (Leo)
- I'm becoming well now, being valued, having a voice. (Jace)
- · A job, counseling, and occupying my time with things. (Scout)

8. What are the three things you miss from hustling on the street?

Once a person exits from the street they often begin to miss what they saw as some of the rewards they gained from the life.

Most importantly they miss the quick and endless flow of money along with other fringe benefits such as clothes and meals.

Often people exiting the streets find themselves lonely and bored. For many years their life has been the street and the people in and around it. Their friends are on the street. Many have attempted to leave the street but re-enter into the sexual exploitation trade because of strong social ties with their friends. Most say that to successfully exit they must cut ties with their street friends and all street activities.

One third of those who had exited the street said they didn't miss anything, and were pleased to have a new life.

Respondents	Value # BC	Value # AB	Value # SK	Value # MN	40 Exiting Interviews Western Canada
1= Money					
	9 30%	12 40%	8 20%	4 13%	33/120 28%
2= Life edge	5 17%	4 13%	8 27%	1 3%	18/120 15%
3= Friends	5 17%	2 7%	3 10%	6 27%	16/120 13%
4= Ego boost	5 17%	6 60%	5 17%	1 3.3%	17/120 14%
5= Nothing	6 20%	6 20%	6 20%	18 60%	36/120 30%
TOTAL	30	30	30	30	120/120 100%

- Old friends, the old family value, doing whatever the hell you wanted. (Haley)
- Nothing, it was like a nightmare. (Toby)
- · Money, money and money. (Leo)
- The ego boosts, the edgy excitement before I got involved with a group after it got jaded. The feeling you know knowing someone really out of control is going to happen and I'm, part of it. I think I really like the notoriety. I don't want to say this but I think it's true. It was like being a gang member. (Jordan)
- Living on the edge, the money and the other hustlers. (Ross)
- Money, party and the drugs. (Toby)
- Just the overall friendship of the people who were out there. Closeness of knowing they were always keeping an eye out for you. The money was definitely good. (Forrest)
- · Money attention and power. (Jackson)

9. What three things happened to you that almost made you go back to hustling on the street?

Many said that stress, especially the financial stress often could have pulled them back to the street. Some missed the action of the activity on the street and this worked to pull them back in. While their new life was safe, it was boring.

Respondents	Value # BC	Value # AB	Value # SK	Value # MN	40 Exiting Interviews Western Canada
1= Relationship problems	1 3%	4 13%	3 10%	4 13%	12/120 10%
2= Drug addiction	1 3%	3 10%	5 17%	1 3%	10/120 8%
3= Missing action	1 3%	7 23%	5 17%	6 20%	19/120 16%
4= Stress financial	13 43%	7 23%	5 17%	1 3%	26/120 22%
5= Depression	2 7%	0 0%	9 30%	18 60%	29/120 24%
6= Nothing	12 40%	9 30%	3 10%	0 0%	24/120 20%
TOTAL	30	30	30	30	120/120 100%

- There's nothing. I have it set in my head that no matter how broke I am, I'm not going back. (Ray)
- I lost a good job that I really enjoyed. I lost the respect of some of my friends as a result. Spite for other people I was hanging out with at that time. I wanted show them I could do it. Some of the time I wanted to be around the other workers and it was the only way I could. (Forrest)
- The money, the glamour and the fellowship. (Will)
- · Flashbacks of abuse. (Jace)

10. What were the three most challenging lessons you learned after leaving hustling on the street?

Lessons people learn after they leave the street are very important; they realize they are valuable individuals, regaining their self confidence and self-esteem.

Some have a hard time escaping their previous reputation. Those that have exited successfully spoke about the challenge they have in looking someone directly in the face. The shame of the street often results in avoiding personal eye contact. They often avoided any direct physical or visual contact with customers. Those that have exited spoke about learning to establish healthy relationships once they were living a 'square' life.

Respondents	Value # BC	Value # AB	Value # SK	Value # MN	40 Exiting Interviews Western Canada
1= Street joke	1 3%	9 30%	7 23%	7 23%	24/120 20%
2= Reputation hard to lose	4 13%	1 3%	3 10%	2 7%	10/120 9%
3= Look people face to speak	4 13%	3 10%	3 10%	6 20%	16/120 13%
4= I am valuable	13 43%	10 33%	8 27%	15 50%	46/120 38%
5= Health relationship	8 27%	1 3%	3 10%	0 0%	12/120 10%
6= Don't know	0 0%	6 20%	6 20%	0 0%	12/120 20%
TOTAL	30	30	30	30	120/120 100%

- I learned about self esteem, morals and how to appreciate life. (Sydney)
- Life skills, how to communicate my emotions, about my real self. (Haley)
- I'm not alone; I am a person of value. A sense of belonging. (Addison)
- The actual act of quitting drugs was pretty easy. The realization of why I was doing the drugs and why I wanted to use them was a big one. Redefining my sense of worth, getting back into having to answer to someone else, being up at certain hours, being on time. (Thomas)
- One that I did actually like myself. I didn't like that I had fallen into the lifestyle I had. Learning how to fall out of becoming an addict. I can visualize myself taking a hit of coke. If I see someone taking a hit of coke on TV I can feel that rush. But I know I don't need it. Learning to love myself even with all my faults. I still beat myself up. (Dermot)
- To get a good healthy routine, abstain from drugs and sleeping late. (Wil)

11. Since you stopped hustling what do you think about it?

It seems that once someone exits they have time to reflect on it. When asked what they thought about their previous life on the street, they were very clear. Many wanted to stop others from ever doing this. Their advice was "don't start, but if you do, quit as quickly as you can". They also said others need to realize that someone does this to survive, not because they choose to. They also urged us to support those that are out still there.

Respondents	Value # BC	Value # AB	Value # SK	Value # MN	40 Exiting Interviews Western Canada
1= Stop everyone	1 3%	3 10%	1 3%	2 7%	7/40 18%
2= resource for survival	3 10%	1 3%	3 10%	2 7%	9/40 22%
3= Support they need it	3 10%	2 7%	1 3%	2 7%	8/40 20%
4= Street drug challenge	1 3%	1 3%	1 3%	1 3%	4/40 10%
5= People uncomfortable	1 3%	1 3%	1 3%	1 3%	4/40 10%
6= It's child abuse	1 3%	1 3%	1 3%	1 3%	4/40 10%
7= Nothing	0 0%	1 3%	2 7%	1 3%	4/40 10%
TOTAL	30	30	30	30	120/120 100%

- I hate hustling. I want to get everybody off the streets. (Jamie)
- Not a glamorous life. An illusion! It deprives you sexually. (Toby)
- Troubled individuals who need a lot of support out there. I consider the street a dangerous game. If you come out alive you are one of the lucky ones. (Haley)
- I think they are not there by choice; there has to be more services for them, more support and more non judgmental people, so I do not think badly of anyone still out there working. (Zion)
- It enrages and saddens me for the ones still involved. (Jace)
- It's heart wrenching to watch people go down there daily to buy drugs and work. (Ray)
- I don't like it. If I had the choice to live all over again I would say no. (Forrest))
- In some ways I feel dirty for doing it. What was I thinking? (Randy)
- Serious waste of time. (Billy)
- There is a lot of pain involved the people standing out there. (Ross)

12. If someone was getting ready to leave street hustling what would you tell them to expect?

Those that left clearly stated it would be a very bumpy road ahead. Drug withdrawal, loss of income and no real training or experience in handling money were mentioned most frequently. Having a nest egg of money available after exiting is a myth.

Respondents	Value # BC	Value # AB	Value # SK	Value # MN	40 Exiting Interviews Western Canada
1= You will be broke	2 20%	3 30%	2 20%	2 20%	9/40 22%
2= Consequence bumpy road	3 30%	8 40%	4 40%	4 40%	15/40 38%
3= There is stress be strong	5 50%	3 30%	3 30%	4 40%	15/40 38%
99= Unknown	0 0%	0 0%	1 10%	0 0%	1/40 2%
TOTAL	10	10	10	10	40/40 100%

- Expect the cravings, the wanting, and the needing. (Wil)
- You will miss the easy money; takes a lot of interviews to get a job. You will be turned away.
 Just be persistent. (Lawrence)
- Relocate to another city and try to start a new life; there will always be labels in your hometown. (Dan)
- It gets harder before it gets easier. (Pat)
- That you're gonna be broke, miserable and bored. (Leo)

13. What has been the biggest surprise you have encountered since you left hustling on the street?

The biggest surprise for people exiting is that they can learn to trust and respect themselves again.

Respondents	Value # BC	Value # AB	Value # SK	Value # MN	40 Exiting Interviews Western Canada
1= I can trust self respect	4 40%	2 20%	2 20%	5 50%	13/40 32%
2= Loss of money	1 10%	1 10%	0 0%	1 10%	3/40 8%
3= I can do it	1 10%	3 30%	2 20%	3 30%	9/40 22%
4= It affected me; I can talk about it	2 20%	3 30%	3 30%	1 10%	9/40 22%
5= AIDS changed it	1 10%	1 10%	1 10%	0 9%	3/40 8%
99= Unknown	1 10%	0 0%	2 20%	0 0%	3/40 8%
TOTAL	30	30	30	30	40/40 100%

- That I can really trust someone and just know that I'm worth loving and worth being a part of somebody's life. (Leo)
- My new life, job, place to call my own and my family back. (Addison)
- The biggest surprise- I never needed to be there in the first place. (Zion)
- That I'm not alone. (Sid)
- How many people were there for me when I thought they weren't. (Dan)

14. Have you carried over any rituals from hustling on the street?

Over half felt they did not carry over any rituals or routines from the street. Some talked about the need to dress and look good. Others spoke about having their street smarts.

Respondents	Value :	# BC	Value	e # AB	Valu	e # SK	Value	# MN	40 Exiting Interview	s Western Canada
1= Looking good look at me	1	10%	3	30%	1	10%	1	10%	6/40	15%
2= Still prepare sex same way	1	10%	1	10%	1	10%	1	10%	4/40	10%
3= Still look to drink and drugs	1	10%	2	20%	1	10%	0	0%	4/40	10%
4= Nothing	6	60%	2	20%	5	50%	7	70%	20/40	50%
5=Overstuff food condoms spend\$	0	0%	1	10%	0	0%	0	0%	1/40	2%
6= Street smarts still exist	1	10%	1	10%	2	20%	1	10%	5/40	13%
TOTAL	10)		10		10		10	40/40	100%

- Family value of the sex trade. (Haley)
- Still wanting to live on the edge. (Ross)
- I am extremely anal about my hygiene. (Billy)
- I got street smarts. (Sydney)

15. How long have you been exited for?

One point to note is that abuse and misuse never leaves a person. While the pain lessens, or disappears, the scars are still present and can quickly be brought to the surface.

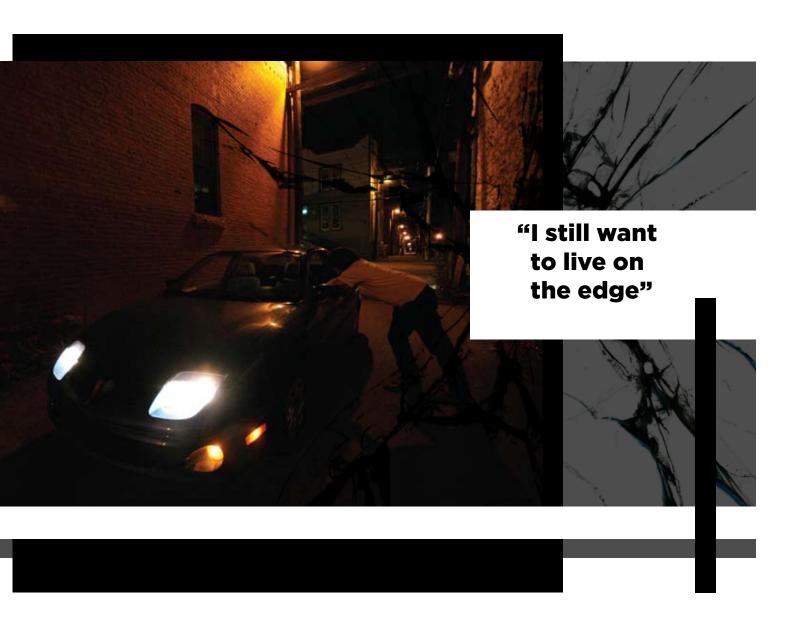
Respondents	Value # BC	Value # AB	Value # SK	Value # MN	40 Exiting Interviews Western Canada
1= 3-6 months	0%	20%	0%	0%	5%
2= 6 months to 1 yr.	0%	20%	0%	0%	5%
3= 1-3 years	60%	30%	0%	4%	32%
4= 3-5 yrs. plus	40%	30%	100%	60%	58%

16. The forty who successfully exited

	STUDY PSEUDONYM	BIRTH ORIGIN	TIME EXITED
1.	Leo	Alberta	2 years
2.	Jordan	Alberta	5 months
3.	Fred	Alberta	7 months
4.	Richard	Alberta	10 years
5.	Jamie	Alberta	2 years
6.	Tony	Alberta	1 year
7.	Harry	Alberta	10 years
8.	Scott	Alberta	2 years
9.	Sydney	Alberta	2 years
10.	Toby	Alberta	10 years
11.	Sid	British Columbia	1.5 years
12.	Jackson	British Columbia	1 year
13.	Matt	British Columbia	2 years
14.	Ray	British Columbia	2 years
15.	Forrest	British Columbia	2.5 years
16.	Nicky	British Columbia	20 years
17.	Thomas	British Columbia	5 years
18.	Dermot	British Columbia	10 years
19.	Randy	British Columbia	7 years
20.	Pat	British Columbia	6 years
21.	Mathew	Saskatchewan	13 years
22.	Kevin	Saskatchewan	20 years
23.	Ross	Saskatchewan	15 years
24.	Curtis	Saskatchewan	13 years
25.	Wil	Saskatchewan	10 years
26.	Gavin	Saskatchewan	4 years
27.	Lawerence	Saskatchewan	4 years
28.	Dan	Saskatchewan	4 years
29.	Billy	Saskatchewan	7 years
30.	Ace	Saskatchewan	10 years
31.	Haley	Manitoba	2.5 years
32.	Jace	Manitoba	3 years
33.	Finn	Manitoba	1.5 years
34.	Rafi	Manitoba	7 months
35.	Addison	Manitoba	6 years
36.	Talon	Manitoba	10 years
37.	Zion	Manitoba	14 years
38.	Baylee	Manitoba	10 years
39.	Tristan	Manitoba	2 years
40.	Scout	Manitoba	24 years

	Total Years Exited	Average Years Exited
Alberta	40.2	4.02
British Columbia	57	5.7
Saskatchewan	160	16
Manitoba	73.7	7.3
Total	330.9	8.2

From the previous chart we can see that over 330 years of exiting experience exists. It is important to take the time to listen and understand the journey these men have been on. The following recommendations in Section 8 are a result of the journey they so wisely shared with us.



section 8: discoveries

#1: Comparable Histories Of Abuse

Both young men and women have comparable backgrounds of sexual and physical abuse prior to their entrance into the sexual exploitation trade. What is key to understand is that these are children with backgrounds of abuse who have entered into the sexual exploitation trade. For young men, this background of sexual abuse was prominent. Eighty percent reported sexual abuse and 90% reported being or witnessing physical abuse.

#2: Creating A Construct

It was clear that many young men created an image or construct that allowed them to work while in the trade. A number of different methods to create constructs existed.

Young men strive to create a construct to achieve a level of performance while on the street because they are placed in the position of needing to achieve sexual satisfaction (i.e. an erection and/or orgasm) for their customers. According to many of the young men I spoke with, many talked about the pressure, need or outcome to demonstrate physical arousal whether they were the receiver or the deliverer.

Even if they are taking the lead in giving a customer a blow job, there is an expectation that some form of excitement, that is an erection, can be sighted. This becomes very challenging for a young man particularly if he identifies himself as heterosexual. Young men are expected to demonstrate 'buy-in'; whereas, women have the advantage of 'faking it'. Men must show some physical evidence of being sexually authentic so they select a construct in which they can achieve what is expected of them from customers.

As a result, a variety of different constructs exist, ranging from:

- Gay for pay
- Straight for pay
- Tranny for pay
- Bisexual
- Gay

#3: Male Prostitution Fear Factor

During the years I have been involved with the topic of sexually exploited youth, I have often spoken of the original 50 youth I interviewed in the early nineties. There seemed to be a pattern emerging that focused on the 'poor young women'; however, often I would have to clarify that nine of the original 50 were young men.

The issue of young men in the trade made many uncomfortable. To ease this feeling, people would presume that those nine males worked with female customers. However, when I advised them that the majority of young men were involved with adult males, there was a great level of discomfort and angst.

It has been a challenge to gain an understanding as to why and how we are able to so readily accept young women in the sexual exploitation trade and not young men. There is a sense that as long as the activity is heterosexual, it is therefore 'normal'.

The issue of adult men purchasing sexual services from other young men raises discomfort with both the general public and service professionals. This level of discomfort is raised even higher when it is pointed out that not all customers are themselves gay men. Many are closeted married men. When we speak about young men in the trade we are asking people to stretch outside of their heterosexual comfort zone.

#4: Begin Young & Work Longer

Seventy percent or 28 individuals interviewed began work under the age of 18 years. Twenty of those, or fifty percent of the young men interviewed had begun work under the age of 16.

This means that criminal charges could have been laid in seventy percent of those cases under Section 212(4) of the Criminal Code of Canada, which prohibits anyone from 'attempting, or purchasing the services for the purposes of prostitution of someone under the age of 18'. To my knowledge, no single case involving males was brought into the criminal justice system.

A group of 12 young men entered the trade over the age of 18 years. They were hard pressed to find alternative options, selecting this lifestyle as a short-term solution.

Young men averaged eight and half years working on the street. Forty percent of these young men had been involved in the street trade for over 10 years. Seven of these young men had been involved for over 15 years.

Overall, young men enter the trade younger and work longer as part of this lifestyle of voluntary desperation. Young women are often handed a lifeline of support. A significant majority of women from **Strolling Away** (McIntyre, 2002) had birthed children. Young men do not have the option to physically birth a child and as we have seen, if they father a child they are often separated from any benefits.

Nearly every young man in this study had at one point or another spent time in a shelter or spent time couch surfing.

The voluntary desperation of the street can often only be replaced by life in homeless shelters. Life in the trade is often their only option to being homeless.

#5: Flying Under The Radar

What became clear to me is that many of the young men in this study had and continue to fly 'under the radar' of most service providers.

The lack of awareness of males is two-fold. Some fly under the radar to avoid contact and interaction with professionals because of their backgrounds in care and drug use. Many avoid contact with family and friends. Others are harder to identify, given the difference in demeanor and working styles of young men and women. Males do not wear short skirts or stiletto heels, nor do they circle around corners when working. They are more mobile.

#6: They Have Unique Service Needs

This research provided an opportunity to listen, hear and view the service needs for young men. Clearly, they were frustrated with the services they presently receive. They feel these services are an add-on to services provided for young women in the sexual exploitation trade, are minor in scope and reflect a female lens.

#7: Public Education On Condom Use & HIV Testing Has Worked

It is refreshing to hear about the awareness and safety knowledge this population has gained through public education. They understand the need for condom use and have become committed to using them while working. The message has been clearly understood. The only time they consistently identified the lack of condom use was when they were in a long-term, committed relationship with the same person.

A strong awareness exists about the need and value of consistent HIV testing. The majority realize that consistent testing is both a preventive and self-protection tool.

Again, public education on condom use and consistent AIDS/HIV testing has worked with this population. Public education around the prevention of HIV/AIDS has also resulted in a significant level of awareness amongst this population. There does however, appear to be a lack of clarity around the issue of choosing to use or not to use a condom when oral sex is involved. A need exists to gain a clear medical opinion on this issue in order to provide an appropriate platform for any public education awareness campaign. A great deal of inconsistency exists on this issue between service providers, clients, and other professionals in the community.

#8: Connection Between Street & Drugs Is Longer And More Intense

Young men are spending a greater length of time on the street than young women. For many young women, they spend less time on the street and often take breaks to birth children. Hopefully, in most situations these breaks also disrupt drug use. The birth of a child can often work as a catalyst to disrupt, alter and cease drug use and street involvement. Again, young men do not have this opportunity. In many cases, this results in greater and more extensive drug use. It is possible that given the second stigma role of 'gay for pay' these young men feel both a greater level of shame and therefore drug use increases.

#9: Family Ties

The greater the length of time a person spends in the sexual exploitation trade, the greater likelihood it stresses and alters family relations. Seventy percent of those interviewed had either a strained or non-existent relationship with their family. This strain and stress often results from a family's awareness of their son being in the sexual exploitation trade. Only 35% of those interviewed said that no one in their family was aware of their working. Many individuals kept their work a secret and they either had no contact with their family or just kept the secret. The fear of family awareness is high given the family roots in the province.

#10: Run Away Programs

Over seventy seven percent of this population had run away. What is important from this finding is that 80% of those who had run away were offered food or shelter with sexual conditions attached to the offer. Running away plays a vital role in the potential entrance into the sexual exploitation trade. Often it is the trigger that initiates entrance into the trade.



section 9: concluding discussion & recommendations

Young Men In The Sexual Exploitation Trade

In 2002, it was recommended in **Strolling Away** that a national study on males in the sexual exploitation trade would be of value; however, it was felt that the attempt of gaining an inclusive national study would be both onerous and time consuming. As a result, a decision was made to precede one province at a time.

The Province of Alberta took the lead. They supported the need and provided the necessary funds required for such a study. They were joined by a series of anonymous donors.

Shortly thereafter, Under the Radar: The Sexual Exploitation of Young Men caught the attention of the Province of British Columbia. As a result, we were able to move the study into British Columbia, working closely with Covenant House in Vancouver, The Federal Government National Crime Prevention Centre (NCPC), The Governments of British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan and some anonymous donors.

Under the Radar: The Sexual Exploitation of Young Men In Western Canada provides the opportunity to design, enact, implement, review and complete a study on young men in the sexual exploitation trade. It also provides an opportunity to understand this issue from a male perspective, from the design of the questions, to the printing of this document. As males enter the sexual exploitation trade younger and remain longer, it is important that we gain as much information about young men involved in the sexual exploitation trade as possible.

Abuse Services

A minimum of 78% of both young men and women had a history of sexual abuse before entering the sexual exploitation trade. Seventy-eight percent with previous abuse histories means that unresolved abuse could act as an antecedent to entrance into the trade. As found in **Strolling Away** (McIntyre, 2002), often when attempting to or actually exiting the trade, unresolved original abuse resurfaces. The issue of a history of being violated in a physical manner prior to entrance into the sexual exploitation trade was 90%. It is fair to say that the majority of these young men in the sexual exploitation trade had background histories of both physical sexual abuses before slipping into the lifestyle.

Recommendation #1:

That we publicly acknowledge both young men and women are being exploited in the sexual exploitation trade, and that we provide services to help them exit.

In over three-quarters of cases, both young men and women have a history of sexual and/or physical abuse. They are children who have been abused and are now being sexually exploited.

There is a need to ensure that children who are sexually and physically violated have the option to access treatment.

It is critical that we have services available for those exiting the sexual exploitation trade. Remember, for these young men, they have been in the sexual exploitation trade longer and the issue of homophobia circles around them. We must offer long-term clinical services to the populations who have escaped under the radar for far too long. As was discovered in "Strolling Away" once an individual exits the sexual exploitation trade, former memories of abuse before and during the trade often flood individuals. There is a need to provide ongoing clinical support to this population during their reintegration back into mainstream life. This will increase the likelihood of a successful departure from the trade.

Gender Non-Conformity Training

A need exists, for program staff that provide support services to this population, to gain a greater level of knowledge and comfort with this population, especially regarding how they construct their own often fluid gender roles. Workers are often confused, uncomfortable or unaware of the profiles of young men in the sexual exploitation trade. We live in a culture that presumes heterosexuality as the norm.

These young men have stepped outside societal norms in order to survive. No one wants to see a young woman in the sexual exploitation trade, yet there is a greater understanding of this as it is heterosexual in nature.

As we have seen, young men create a 'construct' to be able to survive in the sexual exploitation trade. Staff involved in programs and services need to understand and accept the constructs these populations have used to survive. Training and information is required in the following constructs:

- · Gay for pay
- · Straight for pay
- Tranny for pay
- Bisexual
- Gay

Recommendation #2:

That staff working with young men in the sexual exploitation trade be provided with gender non-conformity training. As discussed, there is often a level of discomfort, overtones of homophobia and a general lack of awareness and comfort amongst program staff.

Awareness of Services Needed For Males

We need to look for and provide services specifically designed for young men. It is important that we understand they work differently than young women. Young women in the sexual exploitation trade work from a heterosexual framework.

Even when young women are under the influence of a pimp it is heterosexual. Young men, regardless of their own personal sexual orientation, do not work in the sexual exploitation trade from the dominant heterosexual framework.

Service providers need to take the time to let a group of young men explain the types of services that would be of assistance to them. It is important that in designing such services we recognize the need to reflect both their work and personal sexual orientation. In other words, a young man who had to work as 'gay for pay', but is heterosexual in his private life will have different service needs than a young man who works and lives as a gay young man.

Services provided by Boys R'Us in Vancouver predominantly attract young men who are gay or transgender. A 'gay for pay' young man would not feel he fits into this service design. We need to take this into consideration in the support and treatment of this population. A young gay man interviewed had nothing but sympathy for 'gay for pay' young men.

It is important that we understand there are many young men who are being sexually exploited in the trade. We need to get these young men on our radar screen and talk to them about their service and support needs. We need to stretch outside our standard heterosexual comfort zone.

Recommendation #3

That service providers create the opportunity for young men in and out of the sexual exploitation trade to tell service providers about the services they require. We should not assume that one service will fit all. This type of information could be discovered through focus groups and individual interviews with young men from the sexual exploitation trade. A neutral facilitator would be a critical step. The use of experiential youth could also facilitate in attaining accurate needs.

Drug Addiction

Young men are remaining in the sexual exploitation trade much longer than young women. They are unable to physically birth children, so this exit route, which can often lead to family and state support, is unavailable to them.

Pregnancy often leads to a decrease, if not a total elimination of drug consumption. Males cannot physically carry a child so often the drug intake is not interrupted.

As we found, young men are averaging six to nine years in the sexual exploitation trade. We know that this is associated with extensive and multiple drug use. The attempt to mask pain is managed through long-term self-medication.

Recommendation #4

That a series of detox and rehabilitation beds be established for young men exiting the trade. Years of extensive drug consumption requires an intervention that will provide them with temporary accommodation while detoxification and rehabilitation takes place.

Housing & Training

Nearly every individual interviewed had spent time living in shelters. This included shelters for adults and youth. Shelter living is challenging. Often extensive stays and involvement in the sexual exploitation trade becomes a solution to homelessness. This group has experienced shelter stays and found this type of living extremely difficult. Once an individual is identified as working in the sexual exploitation trade, this label sticks.

In addition to detoxification and rehabilitation, we need to provide the opportunity for low-income affordable housing, as well as employment training and support.

This group has very little traditional work experience however, close to 50% has completed high school. The challenge they have faced is in the transition from school to work. The challenge becomes even greater at this point, considering many of them have been in the sexual exploitation trade for an average of nine years. Assistance with basic employment skills training, and the option of trade tickets and apprentice programs is essential.

Recommendation #5

That safe affordable accommodation is provided for this population once they have completed drug detoxification and rehabilitation. This population requires safe, supportive living arrangements. Coupled with this, they need help seeking alternative employment. Close to half of this population had completed high school and some college and university; however, they have limited employment skills and experience. Standard employment assistance programs will be required to assist them in supporting a successful exit from the sexual exploitation trade.

Supply & Demand

As was discovered in **Strolling Away** (McIntyre, 2002), we place most of our attention on the supply end of the equation, meaning we put our energy into those young persons working in the sexual exploitation trade.

From this research it became apparent that our attention, minimal prevention materials and intervention are directed towards the supply of youth involved in the sexual exploitation trade. Outreach programs and secure treatment are designed to support or contain young people who have entered the trade. These forms of intervention are directed at keeping the individual who is involved in the street, safe.

It is clear that if we are going to conquer this issue, a demand approach must be part of the equation. We need to educate with the goal of affecting and deterring present and future customers. A need exists to alter the demand for such services. During these interviews, both male and female sex workers spoke about the continual flow of customers wanting to purchase their services. This presented a challenge for those trying to escape the trade (*Strolling Away*: McIntyre, 2002:37)

We have not kept sexually exploited young men on the radar screen. We have ignored them. By ignoring them, we have also not addressed the demand side, that being the customers. Again, we have ignored both the supply and the demand side of sexually exploited young men.

The criminal justice system pays minimal, if any, attention to the customers of young men. If 'communicating for the purpose' charges occur, they are most often directed towards customers of women in the sexual exploitation trade. In other words, police undercover sting operations are directed towards charging the male customers of young sexually exploited women. The reverse is also true. Young sexually exploited women are more likely to be detected by the police and charged with 'communicating'.

Our view of the trade is classically heterosexual. We are prepared and comfortable to intervene both from a social and legal perspective with young sexually exploited women and their male customers. This is the traditional lens, or vision we have of the sex trade and the manner in which we intervene. It is a patriarchal, heterosexual view. We are uncomfortable and reluctant to intervene with young men who are being sexually exploited by adult men. The reality is, men are having sex with boys and paying for it.

Recommendation #6

That we approach the issue of customer demand with an equal balance for both young men and women who are being sexually exploited. Like women, these men are young people who are in need of our assistance.

Peer Education

A need exists to educate peers that the road out of the sexual exploitation trade is challenging.

Both genders who have exited the trade identified challenges in this process. They attempt to return to their communities after exiting the sexual exploitation trade; however, many feel different, separate and outside their original peer group. They are often ridiculed, teased and challenged by their peers.

For young men, the ridicule of stretching outside the traditional heterosexual framework for an extended drug-addicted time can haunt them.

Recommendation #7

That prevention information be directed towards both young men and women. We need to provide information that both young men and women in the sexual exploitation trade experienced sexual abuse in their part. We should support, not ridicule them.

Community Responsibility

Sixty percent of young men in the sexual exploitation trade had the experience of having a "sugar daddy". Many of the young men interviewed were clear that these relationships were sexual in nature and included an older gay man seeking a relationship with a younger adolescent. This relationship often occurred in public.

The sugar daddy uses the public arena to display the relationship he has with the young man, who often serves as a status symbol for the sugar daddy. Numerous gifts and financial rewards are attached to this often temporary role. Many of the young men interviewed spoke about being fired or replaced by a new younger adolescent as they began to age.

While there are numerous relationships where age differences occur among both genders, the sugar daddy relationship is particularly damaging because the exploitation occurs in such a young and vulnerable population of young males. (Eric Berndt, November 2004).

An awareness must be created in all communities that exploitative relationships should not be tolerated. Given the nature of the male sexual exploitation trade, this awareness is particularly important in the gay community as this is an arena where sugar daddy's 'parade' their adolescent partner.

Recommendation #8

That the community-at-large recognize the damaging effects of sugar daddy relationships on this young and vulnerable population. In addition, an awareness of the economic disadvantages facing young males involved in the trade must be taken into account and considered as a symptom of the differential power relationship existent in sugar daddy relationships.

Transitioning Support

The transition from the street into the community is one that is difficult for young persons exiting the sexual exploitation trade. As we have noted, young men remain in the sexual exploitation trade longer than young women. Often young women leave the trade because they have birthed, or desire to birth children. This is neither a motivator, nor an opportunity for young men to exit. During the exiting process from the sexual exploitation trade, there is an inherent danger in socializing with peers who are still in the trade. There is the risk of slipping back into the lifestyle, which involves drug consumption. Little "formal" community support exists for this population. Often I and my researchers transitioned into support people answering questions for those exiting the trade. Nothing formally exists for helping this population exit the trade.

Recommendation #9

Develop mentoring connections for the population who are exiting. A need exists for those exiting to have support from those who have exited. An experiential voice can assist an individual who is in the process of exiting the sexual exploitation trade. There are many questions, and those who have been through such a journey can better answer challenges facing those who are exiting.

This type of service could be set up in a formal structure through an agency that works with this population or informally within the volunteer community network. This network could be set up in formal face to face meetings, telephone or online support.

Public Education

When we speak about the issue of youth prostitution or sexually exploited youth, we often see this as focused around young women. The prevention, intervention and support materials are primarily if not exclusively targeted to young women.

Recommendation #10

A review of prevention, intervention and re-integration materials be completed and adjusted to speak to the sexual exploitation of youth regardless of gender. Materials must recognize the differences facing young women and men in the sexual exploitation trade. Education for both genders needs to be covered in these materials, emphasizing that the trade is a risk for both genders.

Harm Reduction

The methods used in harm reduction approaches to drug abuse have been adopted for youth in the sexual exploitation trade.

As was noted clearly in *Strolling Away* (McIntyre, 2002), it was suggested by experiential individuals that outreach services and professionals should directly offer respite and exiting support. There is value in offering condoms and bad date sheets; however; the offer to discuss exiting is of greater value to those working in the sexual exploitation trade. The ultimate goal must always remain moving someone out of the trade.

Recommendation #11

That an evaluation occurs of harm reduction approaches such as distributing bad date sheets, mobile support services to sexually exploited youth. The opportunity exists to move into a more direct approach to intervention. The ultimate goal must always remain moving someone out of the trade.

Youth In Care

Over 50% of those interviewed for this study were under government care. As noted by Shauna Parks-Denton, a former Executive Director of the Alberta Youth in Care and Custody Network and a Board Member of the National Youth In Care Network, "often youth from care have gaps in their sexual knowledge and education." This is even more pronounced with young men from care.

Recommendation #12

That the National Youth In Care Network embrace the topic of sexual awareness. There is a need to ensure that youth from care have the same knowledge base as the general youth population. This information could be delivered through DVD, booklets or lectures.

Running Away

We have seen that 88% of this population had a history of running away prior to their entrance into the street. What is important is the majority of those that had run away from home had backgrounds of physical and sexual abuse. While on the run, 75% of those were offered food or shelter from a stranger with conditions attached, often sexual in nature. This often became a means for an individual's entrance into the trade.

Recommendation #13

That the National Youth In Care Network embrace the topic of sexual awareness. There is a need to ensure that youth from care have the same knowledge base as the general youth population. This information could be delivered through DVD, booklets or lectures.

Recommendation #14

Focus on Young Men

We need to make a conservative effort to focus on young men in the sexual exploitation trade. We need to place them front and centre with young women who are being sexually exploited. They are all our children. We need to focus our attention on young men and remove them from Under the Radar. All street, community and social services need to pay attention too, recognizing these often hidden young men. It is paramount that we recognize address and safeguard against the often homophobic reaction this population can stir. A need exists to train people to understand and dialogue with young men about this and to ask questions.

Recommendation #15

Outreach Services Switching the Harm Reduction Approach

We can reduce the harm by switching our approach to focusing on the process of exiting. The goal is to provide harm reduction by affecting and limiting the time a person spends in the sexual exploitation trade. The traditional and imperative harm reduction techniques such as needle exchange, bad date sheets, condom distribution etc still need to exist. We are suggesting altering the dialogue, and focuson the goals and processes needed for exiting. We are suggesting shifting the service design of outreach street program to future visioning.

Recommendation #16

Focus on Cumulative Learning Successful Exiting

We need to provide support and training to individuals working with this population in order to gain a better understanding of these young men. We need to professionally assist in opening up the dialogue for those on the street to begin to vision and think of a new future. We need to make people aware that rarely does someone leave just once, that it is often a cumulative learning experience. They need to begin the dialogue with the following lines of inquiry and discussion:

- When will you leave?
- How will you leave?
- What will you need to leave?
- Why will you leave?

- What can we assist with in your leaving?
- What did you learn from your other leaves?
- · What will draw you back to the streets?
- · What will keep you away from the street?

Recommendation #17

Support Mentoring Groups

That funding and support be provided for the creation of mentoring programs for those who are exiting. We now have a population of 40 in the four western Canadian Provinces who have exited for number of years. Many mentioned that they would be willing and able to provide support services to those exiting. This could be done in an informal way by telephone support or weekly support meetings. This population is also willing to begin the dialogue with those on the street about when and how they will exit.

Recommendation #18

After Care Support Services

Create Aftercare Support Services that understand the challenges in exiting. That these services be separate from inner city outreach programs. The goal is to have outreach programs focused on new futures. This recommendation speaks to putting resources and energy in keeping people off the street. These workers would be trained in assisting with:

- Drug treatment
- Housing
- Crisis Services
- Medical Services

- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Employment
- Education
- Counseling
- Relapse Prevention and Intervention

Background Prior Sexual Exploitation Trade (males only)						
	Average Age First Trick	Total Years on the Street	Sexual Abuse	Physical Abuse	In Government Care	Aboriginal Descent
Total 38 Interviews Strolling Away	14 yr.	260 yr. Avg. 7 yrs.	84%	79%	61%	26%
Strolling Away 33 Females (87%)	15 yr.	200 yrs. Avg. 6 yrs.	82%	78%	61%	24%
Strolling Away 5 Males (13%)	12 yr.	60 yrs. Avg. 12 yrs*	100%	100%	60%	40%
Under The Radar (AB) 37 males (100%)	15 yr.**	322 yrs. Avg. 8.7 yrs.	68%	86%	51%	54%
Under The Radar (BC) 40 Males (100%)	15 yr.*** 17 yr.***	372 yrs. avg. 9.3 yrs.	78%	90%	46%	43%
Under The Radar (SK) 40 Males (100%)	15 yr.	358 yrs Avg 9.1 yrs.	75%	75%	63%	85%
Under The Radar (MN) 40 Males (100%)	15 yr.	342.5 Avg. 8.5 yrs.	80%	90%	55%	67.5%

^{*} Sample size includes only 5 males

^{* 48%} commenced street work under the age of 16 (18 individuals)

^{73%} commenced street work under the age of 18 (9 individuals)

^{27%} commenced street work as young adult that being 18 years of age and older (10 individuals)

^{***} The age of 15 was found for those 25 individuals that began under the age of 18. When including the 15 outliers the average age was 17.

glossary

BAD DATE

When a customer/trick harms and/or rips off a sex trade worker. This often involves physical abuse and sometimes weapons.

BISEXUAL

This refers to an individual that is physically, emotionally and sexually attracted to individuals of either gender.

BLOW JOB

Oral sex/fellatio that a sex trade worker gives to a customer/trick. Male sex trade workers will often allow a customer/trick to give them a blow job. "French" is another term used for blow job.

BOTTOM

This term refers to the physical positioning of anal penetration. The individual referred to as bottom will be the individual who is being anally penetrated.

BUDDY

Customer/trick who purchases a man for sexual purposes in exchange for money.

CONFUSED

This refers to an individual who is confused about their sexual identity. They do not see themselves as being straight, gay or bisexual.

CONDOMS

Safe sex, sheiks, rubbers, prophylactics and covers are other terms used for condoms.

DATE

Customer/trick who purchases the man for sexual purposes in exchange for money.

DOPE PUSHER

An individual who sells non-prescription or prescription drugs illegally.

FEMINIST RESEARCH

"Feminist Research investigates the aspects of women's oppression while seeking at the same time to be part of the struggle against it." (McIntyre, 1995:15)

GAME

Slang term used for the activity of prostitution.

GAY

This refers to a male who is emotionally, physically and sexually attracted to the male gender. They have accepted and embraced a gay sexual identity in their personal life.

GAY BASHING

Is an activity that usually involves straight males whose homophobia results in violence towards gay males or those who appear to be gay in the sexual exploitation trade.

GAY FOR PAY

This refers to a young man who is heterosexual in their private sexual orientation, however will interact as gay strictly for pay in the sexual exploitation trade.

GLORY HOLE

This refers to a secluded private booth where a man can insert his penis and he is stimulated by a hidden individual.

GROUNDED THEORY

"At the beginning of the research, interviews usually consist of open-ended conversations during which respondents are allowed to talk with no imposed limitations of time. Often researchers sit back while the respondents tell their stories". (Feminist Research, Glaser & Strauss, 1967:76)

HAND JOB

Sex trade worker masturbates customer.

HIGH

The physiological and mental reaction to drugs.

HUSTLER

Term most often used for male sex worker.

IOHN

The customer who purchases a man for sexual purposes in exchange for money. They are also referred to as "customer", "trick", "buddy" or "date".

LINES OF INQUIRY

The method of open-ended questioning on a specific topic.

MAINSTREAM FOLKS

People who are not involved in prostitution.

PCHIP

The Protection of Children Involved in Prostitution (PChIP) was enacted in 1999 in Alberta. This legislation recognizes that children involved in prostitution are victims of sexual abuse and require support. Police and/or the director of Child Welfare may apprehend and confine a young person in a Protective Safe House.

PROSTITUTION

An individual who engages in sexual activity for the exchange of money or products.

PUMP

The energy, activity and unpredictable nature of street life described by sex trade workers on the street.

REGULAR

A consistent, repetitive customer who will interact with the same sexually exploited young man.

RITUALS

A pattern of behaviour that occurs in specific situations.

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION TRADE

Profession where youth engage in sexual activities with adults for money or products.

SNOWBALL SAMPLING

Results when persons interviewed tell others about the research and/or identify others to be interviewed.

SHELTERS

Large temporary accommodation that houses numerous individuals in the community.

SQUARE

A person who is not knowledgeable about the street.

STRAIGHT PEOPLE

In this case, it does not necessarily mean heterosexual. This refers to people not involved in prostitution.

STRAIGHT FOR PAY

This refers to a young man who is homosexual in his private sexual identity. For survival, this young man will perform heterosexual sexual activities for pay.

STROLL

Area where someone works on the street. Known as the 'stroll' because the sex worker walks up and down it. This constant movement was necessary historically because of the old Vagrancy charges. There is a distinction of "high stroll", meaning more expensive sex workers, like "high track". "Low stroll" is the same as "low track" meaning less expensive sex workers.

SUGAR DADDY

Refers to an older gay man who seeks a relationship with a younger gay man. This often involves sexual activity. The young man is rewarded with presents and necessities. The younger male is also often the exclusive 'ownership' of the older gay man in public places. A gay for pay young man would not seek out a sugar daddy relationship.

TOP

This term refers to the physical positioning of anal penetration. The individual referred to as top will be the individual who is anally penetrating.

TRACK

The street where you work is known as the "track" or "stroll". No one knows for sure why it is called the track. Some relevant connotations are: that it is the wrong side of the tracks; track marks up and down arms; often by railway tracks; people drive up and down like they are on tracks. "Tracks" are sometimes seen as high and low.

TRADE

Slang term used for the activity of prostitution.

TRANNY FOR PAY

This refers to a young man who is either gay or heterosexual in their sexual orientation who presents as a transvestite while working in the trade.

TRANSSEXUAL

An individual who has a consistent overwhelming need to live their life as a member of the opposite gender.

TRICK

Customers who purchase the man for sexual purposes in exchange for money. The customer is also known as 'buddy', 'john' or 'date'.

TURNED HIM

Refers to action with a customer. It means that the money is exchanged and the sex act is complete. 'Turned a trick' is another term for 'turned him'.

TURNED OUT

Refers to when a sex trade worker first began working.

TURNED A TRICK

When a sex trade worker completes a transaction with a customer. Also known as 'turned him'.

TWO SPIRITED

Aboriginal people who identify themselves as gay or lesbian. The terms, gay or lesbian are of European origin, therefore, 'two spirited' is preferred because it is more culturally relevant to Aboriginal lesbians and gays.

WORKING

If a worker considers themselves to be transsexual they will say they are working. The term "working" is one that women also use in the trade.

YOUTH IN CARE

An advocacy organization for youth who are in the care of government. Adults who were youth in the care of government now manage this organization.

YOUTH PROSTITUTION

A youth who enters the sexual exploitation trade.

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