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January 8, 2008

To: Ramsey County

From: Robbie LaFleur, Director

According to our records, the following legislation mandated your agency to produce a report:

Cite: 2006 Minn. Laws Chap. 282 Art. 13 Sec. 4(b)
Topic: Report on the results of the safe harbor for sexually exploited youth pilot project
Due date: January 15, 2008

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**Safe Harbors Youth Intervention Project
Report to the Legislature**

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Introduction

Background and Purpose

In May 2006, the Minnesota Legislature passed a supplemental appropriations bill (S.F. 2915) granting Ramsey County funds to implement the Safe Harbors Youth Intervention Project (SHYIP), a pilot project to address the needs of sexually exploited youth. The target population included homeless, runaway or truant youth in Ramsey County who have been sexually exploited.

The purpose of SHYIP is to initiate and promote closer coordination and better communication among all agencies to improve services for the target population. Agencies include County criminal justice, human service and public health departments, social services, schools, law enforcement agencies and healthcare providers. SHYIP is focusing on intervention and prevention methods (protocols) as identified by this multi-disciplinary collaborative and will be used as a model for implementation across the state.

The SHYIP protocol is modeled on the work of the Ramsey County Adult Sexual Assault Response Protocol that was initiated in 1997. The adult protocol is a very successful collaboration of many organizations that focuses on victim-centered approaches to sexual assault response. The adult protocol handbook is used throughout Ramsey County and has become a model for other communities across the country.

Target Population

The project focus on sexual abuse and exploitation among homeless youth is connected to findings from Midwest Children's Resource Center (MCRC) who serve as the area's premier resource for assessment and treatment of child victims of physical and sexual abuse and neglect. In 2006, MCRC reported 770 cases of sexual abuse in youth ages 7 to 19. Nearly 200 of these were teens who were runaways, average age 13 to 14. The majority of these youth were from the metro area, with the highest number from the East metro. In addition to the MCRC data, area hospitals (Regions, United & Children's) reported conducting 57 sexual assault evidentiary exams on youth ages 13 to 17.

Sexual Offense Services (SOS) of Ramsey County reports providing advocacy services to 71 sexual assault victims under the age of 17 in 2005. These 71 youth were seen for evidentiary exams at area hospitals. (These numbers are included within the total of those reported by the hospitals.) SOS also reports providing advocacy services to 91 youth/adults victims of sexual assault between the ages of 18-29 years in 2005. In addition to the SOS data, Breaking Free reports providing advocacy services to 27 victims of sexual violence (includes both youth and adults.)

According to the Minnesota Student Survey, 11 percent of Ramsey County 9th grade girls and 5 percent of boys reported "yes" when asked, "Has any older person outside the family touched you sexually against your wishes or forced you to touch them sexually?" Of the 12th graders, 7 percent of girls and 4 percent of boys reported "yes" to the question. Wilder's research (2006) tells us that roughly a third of homeless young people (29 percent) have been sexually abused. Additionally, one in eight (14%) had traded sex for shelter, food, clothing, or other essentials.

Organizational Structure and Protocol Process

Leadership

Saint Paul – Ramsey County Public Health Department contracted with Partners for Violence Prevention to initiate, lead and coordinate the SHYIP pilot. An independent facilitator guides the work of the full group as well as several of the protocol-writing committees; two part-time co-coordinators (from Sexual Offense Services of Ramsey County and Partners for Violence Prevention) provide administrative and organizational support. An independent evaluator leads the measurement and evaluation efforts.

Membership

In September, 2006, agencies from across all service areas gathered at an information-sharing, SHYIP “kick-off” meeting. A half-day workshop to frame the work of SHYIP and introduce the protocol process was held in October, with more than 50 participants in attendance. The full SHYIP team meets monthly, and committees have met as needed to research and write the SHYIP Community Needs Assessment Report, and to develop discipline-specific protocols. More than 40 agencies have actively participated in SHYIP.

Protocol Development

SHYIP is following an eight-step protocol development cycle to develop a coordinated, youth-centered response to runaway and homeless sexually exploited youth. Throughout this process, team members have made significant commitments of time, energy, and agency resources.

This process was first used in Ramsey County in 1997 when Ramsey County and five other Minnesota communities served as test sites in the *Model Protocol Project* to develop multidisciplinary, victim-centered sexual assault protocols. The *Model Protocol Project* sought to identify aspects of an improved response to sexual assault victims, and the factors that lead to its sustainability. This group is called the Ramsey County Adult Sexual Assault Response Protocol Team (SAPT). Similar to the SHYIP, and also led by Partners for Violence Prevention, the adult team brought interested agencies including law enforcement, prosecution, victim advocacy, medical services, mental health agencies, and ethnic and social service agencies together to complete the following eight-step cycle. The eight-step cycle is described fully in the book, *Improving Community Response to Crime Victims* (Boles & Paterson, Sage 1997).

1. Inventory of Existing Services
2. Victim Experience Survey
3. Community Needs Assessment
4. **Interdisciplinary / multi-agency protocol writing***
5. Formalized agency adoption of the protocol
6. Implementation training
7. Systems monitoring
8. Evaluation

**SHYIP is currently in the final stages of this phase for the project.*

Progress to Date

The SHYIP team spent the first several monthly meetings on clearly defining the project's target population, identifying roles and responsibilities of participants, establishing common terms and vocabulary, articulating a common vision and understanding of SHYIP efforts, addressing the need for cultural competence in developing protocols, and learning about the eight-step protocol development process.

During this time, committees were formed to undertake an inventory of existing services, a youth experience survey, and to conduct provider focus groups. The work of these committees culminated in the SHYIP Community Needs Assessment Report, an investigation of the services available and those needed to serve sexually exploited homeless, runaway, or truant youth in Ramsey County. *See enclosed Report.*

Over the past few months, several discipline teams have presented their draft protocols for review and input by the full SHYIP team. These include the Medical, Advocacy, and Shelter/Outreach/Drop-In protocol teams. Presentations in the coming months will be offered by Outreach, Schools, Juvenile Corrections/Delinquency, Prosecution, Mental Health, and Law Enforcement protocol teams.

A Cultural Considerations team has also shared their extensive progress identifying and articulating the needs and considerations particular to ethnic and/or socially diverse populations. These populations include African American, Cognitively / Physically Disabled, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Hmong, Somali, Male Youth, Latina/Latino, Native American, and Youth. This landmark effort will be shared widely beyond the SHYIP team, as the cultural considerations – developed by participants from within each community – have far-reaching implications for providers of all types of services to youth.

Community Needs Assessment Key Findings

The preliminary findings below are articulated in the SHYIP Community Needs Assessment Report, included with this progress report.

- **There are not enough adequate shelter services in Ramsey County to respond to the target population.**
 - Services for homeless, runaway or truant youth are described by service providers and youth alike as inadequate, unavailable, or inappropriate, especially regarding cultural diversity.
- **Lack of communication and continuity between agencies limits services provided.**
 - As a “system” of services, providers cite lack of communication between agencies (and often within agencies) as highly problematic. Continuity was also perceived to be lacking, with many youth “on the books” of multiple service providers. Correspondingly, unnecessary overlap or duplication of services was another problem identified by providers.
- **For services to be effective, trust and rapport must be developed with youth.**
 - Developing rapport/relationships with youth, through patience and demonstrated non-judgmental attitudes, was cited by both youth and service providers cited as key to success in working with youth.
- **Education for parents/guardians and service providers is essential.**
 - There is a need to increase knowledge among parents/guardians as well as service providers regarding processes and resources, particularly in the areas of mental health, sexual assault/exploitation, and cultural diversity.
- **Untold numbers of sexually traumatized runaway or homeless youth do not engage available resources.**
 - According to youth-serving agencies, countless young people do not access police, legal, or medical services that could help them, either because they are unaware of the resources available, or they might not trust the “system”.
- **There is a profound need for culturally relevant services.**
 - Providers and youth alike expressed concern about the lack of specific, relevant services for many of Ramsey County’s distinct and diverse populations. Cultural barriers include a lack of printed information in the child’s/parent’s language, a lack of adequate interpreter services, as well as differences that are specific to cultural communities, such as the increased risk of exploitation for homeless/runaway LGBT youth.

Additional Products and Outcomes

In addition to the SHYIP Community Needs Assessment Report, the SHYIP team has realized some interesting and inspiring outcomes of this work.

Police Questions

The St. Paul Police Department has instituted a protocol of asking 10 questions of runaway or homeless youth that they encounter. These questions can lead to better care, placement and referrals to appropriate services for the youth. The questions are:

1. Why did you leave home?
2. How long have you been away from home?
3. Who have you been staying with while away from home?
4. Has anyone hurt you or tried to hurt you while you were away from home?
5. Has anyone touched you in a way you did not like? If so, who? Describe the incident.
6. Did you get injured or have any health issues that you need to see a doctor or nurse for?
7. Are you ever afraid at home? If yes, why? Will you be safe at home? *Use a 1 – 10 scale to quantify safe feelings – 1 not safe to 10 being very safe at home.*
8. Do you have someone you can talk to at home or school?
9. Do you drink or do drugs?
10. Are you a gang member or do you associate with gang members? *(10 point criteria)*

Featured Providers

At the monthly meetings, a “featured agency” from among SHYIP participants has presented information about their organization – the clients they serve, what they do, how they do it, and other relevant information. This ongoing cross-discipline education – and the ensuing conversations – has led to a better understanding of the scope and types of services available, an appreciation of others’ methods and services provided, improved communication between agencies, and increased collaboration around specific cases or types of cases. The final SHYIP protocol and subsequent trainings will heighten these positive outcomes among all service providers.

Potential for New Services in Ramsey County

An exciting outcome of the SHYIP process has been the attention given by County leadership to the Findings and Recommendations of the Community Needs Assessment Report, specifically, the need for emergency shelter services for youth. A committee of key stakeholders has assembled to explore the development of an emergency shelter and attending services.

Next Steps

Protocol

The SHYIP team continues to work toward a final protocol document. The discipline-specific committees are making great progress toward completing their protocols, and we expect these to be finalized in spring 2008.

The Cultural Competence committee will present their document for review in February, with a finished protocol section anticipated in spring as well. In addition, a section detailing youth culture and consent and confidentiality laws will be developed.

The compiling, editing, and review process for the protocol document is anticipated to be completed in summer 2008.

Training

The SHYIP participants will be planning the training activities, using the protocol, through summer of 2008; provider training is expected to begin in the fall.

Measurement and Evaluation

Measurement and evaluation of the process and outcomes of SHYIP efforts have commenced and will continue in concert with the trainings. An independent evaluator has begun work on the elements and indicators of success for the measurement and evaluation component.

Continued Funding

Initial funding from the Minnesota Legislature is expected to support the current work underway through spring of 2008. We are now pursuing funding from area foundations to continue the work begun with the generous support of the Minnesota Legislature. (The adult Sexual Assault Protocol Team spent over two years developing and finalizing their initial protocol document, and the following year implementing training and their evaluation activities.)

Concluding Remarks

The Safe Harbors Youth Intervention Project has demonstrated the capacity to work as a collaboration of agencies in addressing the needs of runaway and homeless, sexually exploited youth in Ramsey County. The success of the SHYIP protocol development process can be attributed to the passion and expertise of dedicated SHYIP participants. County criminal justice and human services departments, social services, victim advocacy, schools, law enforcement agencies, and healthcare providers have united with a shared vision – to improve services for sexually exploited homeless/runaway youth and to make them more accessible. Outcomes of this important work include a reduced incidence and impact of sexual exploitation, improving the lives of potentially vulnerable Ramsey County youth. SHYIP participants and the agencies they represent continue this work with the sincere belief that all youth deserve safety, food and shelter, respect of their bodies, security, and happiness. The SHYIP journey continues.

A report from the
**Safe Harbors Youth Intervention Project
(SHYIP)**

Community Needs Assessment

*An investigation of the available and needed
services for sexually exploited homeless,
runaway, or truant youth in Ramsey County*

November 2007

Safe Harbors Youth Intervention Project (SHYIP)

November 2007

Project Initiated By:
Sexual Offense Services of Ramsey County
Ramsey County Attorney's Office – Juvenile
Division
Midwest Children's Resource Center

Funding Provided By:
Minnesota Office of Justice Programs

Project Coordination By:
Partners for Violence Prevention

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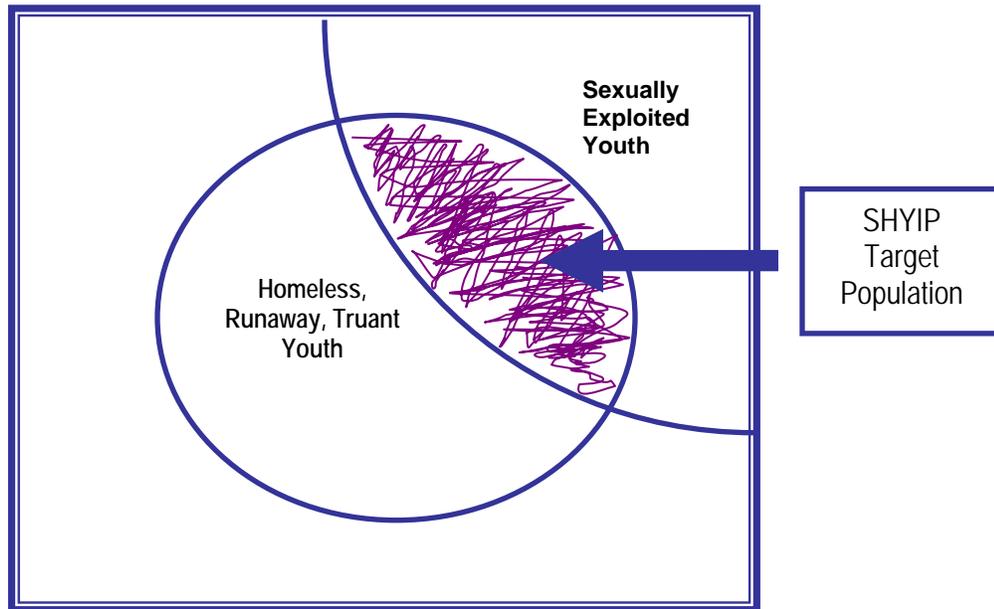
Safe Harbors Youth Intervention Project (SHYIP) Community Needs Assessment Report

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I. Background Information

In May 2006 the Minnesota Legislature passed a supplemental appropriations bill (S.F. 2915) granting Ramsey County funds to implement the Safe Harbors Youth Intervention Project (SHYIP), a pilot project to address the needs of sexually exploited youth. The target population includes homeless, runaway or truant youth in Ramsey County who have been sexually exploited.



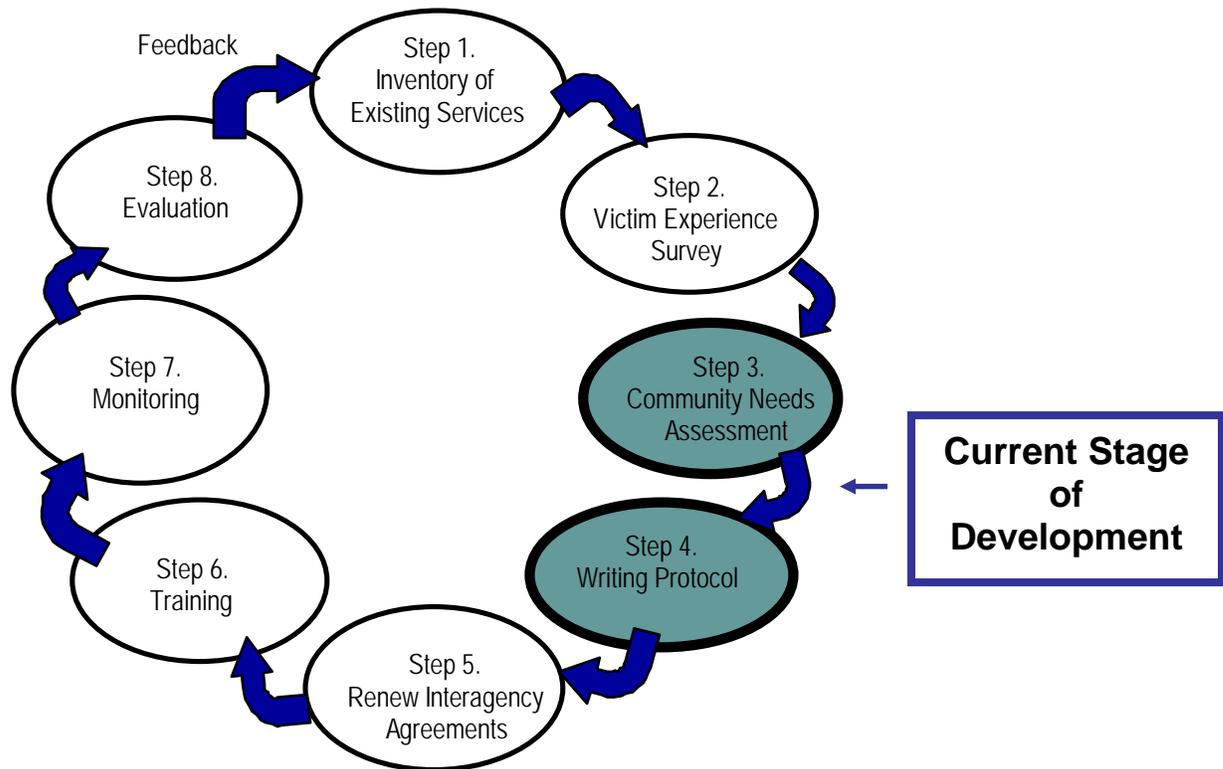
The purpose of SHYIP is to provide and promote closer coordination and better communication among all agencies to improve services for the target population, including County criminal justice and human services departments, social services, schools, law enforcement agencies and healthcare providers. SHYIP is focusing on intervention and prevention methods (protocols) as identified by this multi-disciplinary collaborative and will be used as a model for implementation across the state.

The SHYIP protocol will be modeled on the work of the Ramsey County Adult Sexual Assault Response Protocol that was initiated in 1997. The adult protocol is a very successful collaboration of many organizations that focuses on victim-centered approaches to sexual assault response. The adult protocol handbook is used throughout Ramsey County and has become a model for other communities across the country. For the purpose of writing a multidisciplinary youth protocol, SHYIP has used the following definition of protocol: "The product of negotiations in which agreements are made and documented to create guidelines and assign roles and responsibilities for community interagency council [SHYIP] participants in responding to victims of crime" (Patterson & Boles, 1992, chap. 2, p. 8 in Boles and Patterson, 1997, p. 48). This protocol is an eight-step process, expressed in further detail in appendix 5.

Protocol

"The product of negotiations in which agreements are made and documented to create guidelines and assign roles and responsibilities for community interagency council [SHYIP] participants in responding to victims of crime."

The Eight-Step Process:



II. Target Population - Overview

According to the 2000 census data, there are 75,439 youth ages 10 to 19 (of a total population of 511,035) in Ramsey County. By race/ethnicity, Ramsey County is predominately White/non-Hispanic (73.1%), followed by Black (9.3%), Asian (9.1%), people who identified themselves as of Hispanic/Latino origin (6%), and American Indian (1%).

Why The Need for SHYIP?

According to Wilder Research (Overview of Homelessness in Minnesota 2006), an estimated 550 to 650 Minnesota youth age 17 and under and 1300 young adults age 18 to 21 are homeless on any given night. These are young people on their own, not those who are homeless with their parents. The Saint Paul Police Department received 940 calls for missing/runaway youth under age 18, and took into custody 1,945 runaway youth ages 10 to 17 in 2006.

Runaway and Homeless Youth

Both Wilder and Saint Paul Police report that the number of homeless/runaway young people who are of color is disproportionately high relative to the general population. According to Wilder, 78 percent of metro area homeless young people were Black, Asian, American Indian, Hispanic, or of mixed race. Among runaways taken into custody by Saint Paul Police, three-quarters were identified as minority populations: Black (47%), Asian (15%), American Indian (5%) or "other" (8%). Similarly, 70 percent of police calls for missing/runaway youth were from minority populations: Black (49%), Asian (17%), American Indian (4%).

Truancy

For the 2005-06 school year, Saint Paul School District reported 5,742, or 32 percent, of junior and senior high school students as "habitual truants." (Habitual truants are defined as those who were absent for any part of the day on more than seven days.) This figure does not represent suburban Ramsey County school students. However, according to the Minnesota Student Survey, Ramsey County data (administered to students in 6th, 9th, and 12th grades in 2004), four percent of 12th grade girls and boys self-reported skipping school 6 to 10 times *during the previous 30 days*.

Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation

Midwest Children's Resource Center (the area's premier resource for assessment and treatment of child victims of physical and sexual abuse and neglect) reported the following:

- **770 cases of sexual abuse in youth ages 7 to 19 in 2006.** Nearly 200 of these were teens who were runaways, average age 13 to 14. The vast majority of these youth were from the metro area, with the highest number from the East metro.
- In addition to the MCRC data, area hospitals (Regions, United & Children's) reported conducting 57 sexual assault evidentiary exams on youth ages 13 to 17.

Sexual Offense Services (SOS) of Ramsey County reports providing advocacy services to 71 sexual assault victims under the age of 17.

- These 71 youth were seen for evidentiary exams at area hospitals in 2005. (These numbers are included within the total of those reported by the hospitals.)
- SOS also reports providing advocacy services to 91 youth/adults victims of sexual assault between the ages of 18-29 years in 2005.
- In addition to the SOS data, Breaking Free reports providing advocacy services to 27 victims of sexual violence (includes both youth and adults.)

According to the Minnesota Student Survey, 11 percent of Ramsey County 9th grade girls and 5 percent of boys reported "yes" when asked, "Has any older person outside the family touched you sexually against your wishes or forced you to touch them sexually?" Of the 12th graders, 7 percent of girls and 4 percent of boys reported "yes" to the question.

Wilder's homeless research (2006) suggests that roughly a third of homeless young people (29 percent) have been sexually abused. Additionally, one in eight (14%) had traded sex for shelter, food, clothing, or other essentials.

III. Understanding Youth and Provider Experiences and Perceptions

To understand more about the local target population, from the perspectives of both the youth and the service providers, SHYIP conducted a Youth Experience Survey (YES) and Provider Focus Groups. A total of 137 homeless, runaway, or at-risk youth responded to the YES, with an over-sampling of non-Caucasian youth and females (in an effort to ferret out culturally relevant information and the needs/perspectives of girls, who might be more likely targets of sexual exploitation). Youth were surveyed throughout the metro area, with the understanding that they regularly cross city and county borders and that their needs and perspectives are not specific to a particular geography. Nearly 200 providers participated in 18 focus groups of service providers organizations in Ramsey County.

SHYIP Youth Experience Survey

The YES was divided into two sections: experiences with specific agencies, and general questions not related to any specific agency. The majority of youth had contact with police, medical providers, school social workers and organizations that help youth. Organizations that help youth had the most positive responses, and police the least positive. Generally, respondents who were not asked what they needed by agencies also reported that their needs were not met. Some youth responded that although the information was available to them in their language, they didn't understand what they were being told, perhaps indicating a communication problem more complicated than language barriers. Following is a summary of comments about each of the agencies identified in the survey and responses to the general questions.

Youth Experience Survey Agency Specific Responses

Police	The majority of youth reported overall negative experiences with police, and a sense that they were not believed or respected by police. A few respondents identified police experiences as positive, noting actions police took to reach out to them, with the Police Activity League program identified as a positive experience.
Probation	The majority of experiences with probation were also negative, but not as harsh as with police. Control and intimidation issues, and a perception that the probation officers do not really care about them, were recurring themes among respondents. Again, a few youth expressed positive experiences with probation.
County Attorney	The majority of experiences with the County Attorney's office were also negative, and the common theme was about the youth not being listened to and having decisions made for them without their say. Still, more youth expressed positive experiences with the County Attorney's office than with police or probation.

<p>Emergency Room or Clinic Staff</p>	<p>While the majority of the experiences with medical providers were negative, the comments were about process issues (long waits, hectic environments, difficulty with forms, or too many questions) rather than being treated poorly by staff. Positive comments indicated staff as helpful and understanding. Negative comments centered around lack of confidentiality, specifically regarding medical staff asking questions of youth in front of their parents (which resulted in youth lying to protect their personal information).</p>
<p>School Social Worker or Guidance Counselor</p>	<p>Youth experiences with social workers/counselors were fairly evenly divided between positive and negative. Some youth reported their social workers/counselors as helpful (or trying to be helpful) and understanding. Others shared negative comments, such as that they felt pressured or that social workers/counselors merely pretended to care about them.</p>
<p>Organizations that Help Youth</p>	<p>An overwhelming majority of youth reported positive experiences with organizations they found helpful. They generally expressed feeling treated with respect and support, being included, and able to share their information openly.</p>

Key Responses from the Youth Experience Survey

Youth were asked why they initially sought help, to which many reported they sought help because they were homeless or had been kicked out of the house, or because they needed support, or to “get their act together.” Others said they were forced by the court to seek help.

Youth were also asked questions about their knowledge of existing services, if they knew who to contact for help, and if safety or confidentiality was a concern. Though most knew who to contact for help, many said they did not know what services existed. **For the majority, confidentiality was a concern, and some stated that confidentiality or transportation issues might keep them from seeking out services.**

When asked what could be done to help them gain trust in adults and what adults should be sensitive to when working with teenagers, the overarching responses were:

- Youth need to feel like they could trust adults to work effectively with them;
- Being a good listener and non-judgmental was mentioned several times.

When asked who they would turn to for help, youth responded, in descending order, that they would seek out:

- An agency worker or agency;
- Their parents,
- A friend, or no one. Again, trust seemed to be the deciding factor.

SHYIP Provider Focus Groups

Several themes and common observations emerged from the focus groups. Valuable information – as well as attitudes, feelings, beliefs, experiences, and reactions – was elicited regarding the SHYIP target population. It must be understood that information gathered through these discussions is limited in terms of generalizing to the whole population the comments shared by a representative sample of participants. Following are themes, and corresponding recommendations, that arose among the focus groups.

<p>Communication/Data Sharing</p>	<p>Many agencies expressed concern over the lack of communication between agencies and often within agencies, as well as a perceived lack of willingness to share information between agencies. Data sharing practices vary (even within organizations), with differing release of information policies. Among some agencies, there might be confusion as to who is primarily responsible for a youth, or even whether or not a case was open or closed. One focus group member said it best, "Work is best accomplished with everyone on board and working toward a common goal – service to the teen."</p>
<p>Parents/Legal Guardians</p>	<p>There is not enough help for parents when teens run away. Often parents don't know who to call, or must personally go the agency to get help. On the other hand, many parents are disengaged and don't want anything to do with their child, often having been burned out after dealing with a child who is a habitual runaway or truant. Regarding homeless and runaway youth who are in the foster care system, there was consensus that there is not enough training and therapeutic support for foster parents.</p>
<p>Specific Groups</p>	<p>Many agencies noted the lack of specific, relevant services for refugees, Hmong, Somali, African Americans, Hispanic, GLBT, older teens, and teen parents (especially fathers). Cultural barriers include a lack of printed information in the child's/parent's language, a lack of adequate interpreter services, as well as cultural differences that are unacknowledged or not addressed by the provider systems.</p>
<p>Continuous Services</p>	<p>Many agencies stressed the need for one person to follow a child throughout their involvement with the "system". No particular provider is engaged with a child long enough to establish trust and have an influential relationship. Also expressed was the concern that too many agencies are providing similar resources. Many commented they wished there was one place to get or know about all services – a one-stop shopping model.</p>

<p>Assessment Tools</p>	<p>There is a need for more and better assessments in the areas of mental health, chemical dependency, and sexual abuse. Many homeless and runaway youth have multiple diagnoses, which are often overlooked or left untreated. Timeliness is also an issue, with youth often waiting days to get an assessment. Apparently it is difficult to get a mental health caseworker assigned, and a child needs to be quite impaired for this to happen.</p>
<p>General Lack of Resources</p>	<p>There were repetitive comments about the lack of transportation, shelter/housing, staff, and program money. The lack of staff applied to most providers. Nearly every agency noted the lack of housing options for homeless and runaway youth and that the shelters that are available often seem to be dangerous or inadequately staffed. The lack of services at night and on weekends (not limited to shelters) was also an issue.</p>

IV. Preliminary Findings, Recommendations

There are not enough adequate shelter services in Ramsey County to respond to the target population.

Services for homeless, runaway or truant youth are described by service providers and youth alike as inadequate, unavailable, or inappropriate, especially regarding cultural diversity. Housing, transportation, staffing and programming are under-resourced, particularly in the areas of corrections/probation, child protection, law enforcement and shelters/transitional housing – even more so at night and on weekends.

With only six non-county emergency shelter beds for youth, there are not enough appropriate shelter services in Ramsey County to adequately respond to homeless/runaway youth.

Youth bed space is also difficult to access (there are no “self check-in” shelters), potentially dangerous for vulnerable youth, and availability is at a premium. Adult bed spaces are wholly inappropriate and unsafe for young adults (ages 18 – 21) to fill, even when available, and youth under age 18 cannot access adult shelter beds at all.

Lack of communication and continuity between agencies limits services provided.

As a “system” of services, providers cite lack of communication between agencies (and often within agencies) as highly problematic. Continuity was also perceived to be lacking, with many youth “on the books” of multiple service providers. Correspondingly, unnecessary overlap or **duplication of services** was another problem identified by providers. To address these

challenges, there was interest in developing some sort of “one-stop-shopping” model, a centralized “clearinghouse” of information, services referral, and follow-up. This could be very beneficial for the youth, their parents/guardians, and service providers themselves.

For services to be effective, trust and rapport must be developed with youth.

A centralized, systematic model for intake and assessment, needs identification, and appropriate service referrals and/or corrections involvement could greatly enhance and streamline providers’ efforts, reduce youth and family frustrations, and potentially improve outcomes. A centralized system has potential to provide a consistent individual who would be responsible for a youth throughout his or her experience with the “system,” and in whom the youth can trust. Developing rapport/relationships with youth, through patience and demonstrated non-judgmental attitudes, was cited by both youth and service providers cited as key to success in working with youth.

Education for parents/guardians and service providers is essential.

There is a need to increase knowledge among parents/guardians as well as service providers regarding processes and resources, particularly in the areas of mental health, sexual assault/exploitation, and cultural diversity.

Untold numbers of sexually traumatized runaway or homeless youth do not engage available resources.

According to youth-serving agencies, countless young people do not access police, legal, or medical services that could help them, either because they are unaware of the resources available, or they might not trust the “system”. They might have had negative encounters with systems or providers and often are unaware of their own rights. Youth might also be reluctant to get their family into “trouble” even when that family has been abusive.

There is a profound need for culturally relevant services.

Providers and youth alike expressed concern about the lack of specific, relevant services for refugees, Hmong, Somali, African Americans, Hispanic, GLBT, older teens, and teen parents (especially fathers). Cultural barriers include a lack of printed information in the child’s/parent’s language, a lack of adequate interpreter services, as well as differences that are specific to cultural communities, such as the increased risk of exploitation for homeless/runaway GLBT youth.

Summary

While youth and service providers across the spectrum see many problems and shortcomings in caring for this target population, all seem eager to work toward substantive improvements in the "system" that currently serves these youth. A challenge to the protocol development is that many of these systems are highly regulated, government-based, and held to standards of service, accountability, and confidentiality that encumber direct efforts to effect significant change.

The information from the Community Needs Assessment will be used to inform the protocol development process, already underway. SHYIP will work with all service disciplines to determine what systemic and incremental gains are possible, will work from within systems to act on identified opportunities for improvements, and improve to the extent within our influence those systems which are largely immovable.

V. Appendix

A1 Senate File #2915

Appropriation enacted by the legislature of the state of Minnesota for a youth pilot project 2005-2006
S.F. No. 2915

Safe harbor for sexually exploited youth pilot project: 98,000

For a grant to Ramsey County to implement the safe harbor for sexually exploited youth pilot project. The project must develop a victim services model to address the needs of sexually exploited youth. The project must focus on intervention and prevention methods; training for law enforcement, educators, social services providers, health care workers, advocates, court officials, prosecutors, and public defenders; and programs promoting positive outcomes for victims. The project must include development and implementation of a statewide model protocol for intervention and response methods for professionals, individuals, and agencies that may encounter sexually exploited youth. "Sexually exploited youth" include juvenile runaways, truants, and victims of criminal sexual conduct, prostitution, labor trafficking, sex trafficking, domestic abuse, and assault. This is a onetime appropriation. By January 15, 2008, Ramsey County shall report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the senate and house committees and divisions having jurisdiction over criminal justice funding and policy on the results of the pilot project.

Note of thanks to the legislative sponsors and supporters:

- ◆ Senator Sandra Pappas
- ◆ Senator Julianne Ortman
- ◆ Senator Jane Ranum
- ◆ Representative Michael Paymar
- ◆ Representative Marty Seifert
- ◆ Representative Phyllis Kahn
- ◆ Representative Debra Hilstrom
- ◆ Representative Doug Meslow
- ◆ Representative Judy Soderstrom
- ◆ Representative Steve Smith

Overview of homelessness in Minnesota 2006

Key facts from the statewide survey

March 2007

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Overview of homelessness in Minnesota 2006 Wilder Research, March 2007

Youth and young adults on their own

How many youth and young adults are homeless?

On any given night, an estimated 550 to 650 Minnesota youth 17 and under experience homelessness.

In addition, we estimate there are 1,300 young adults age 18 to 21 who are homeless on any given night. On October 26, 2006, 151 of these youth and 455 young adults were interviewed in shelters, other temporary housing programs, and places not intended as housing.

Young people age 21 and under are some of the least visible and most vulnerable segments of persons who are homeless.

More young people were interviewed in 2006 than in the 2003 study – especially those who were not in shelters. This is in large part due to the efforts of outreach workers. Youth who are homeless and on their own tend to be some of the most difficult to find of those experiencing homelessness. Homeless youth are less likely than adults to stay in shelters, more often staying temporarily with friends or in places not intended for habitation. Thus they are less likely to be found in a one-night survey. Compared to homeless adults and families, homeless youth have fewer shelters available and fewer legal provisions for housing and other basic needs.

Who we talked with—

We talked with young people who were on their own – without their parents. For the purposes of this study and to fit with recent changes in legislations, we describe three segments of homeless persons age 21 and younger.

- **Youth** age 17 and under and not with their parents.
- **Young adults** age 18 through 21.
- **Young people** combines both groups to describe all homeless persons ages 21 and under and on their own.

Data from this study support the observations, made by people who work with homeless youth and young adults, that both groups have similar characteristics and needs. Where differences were found, we describe them in the findings. However, where there were similarities in the responses of youth and young adults, we combine the responses of all “young people” we interviewed (both youth and young adults).

Demographic characteristics

The average age for youth on their own was 16 (19 for young adults). The youngest interviewed in 2006 was 11. Six out of 10 (60%) homeless youth are girls. For the young adults, 61 percent are female, while in the overall homeless adult population 47 percent are female. National studies show that girls are more likely to seek shelter and other services and thus be included in a one-night snapshot.

The number of homeless young people of color is disproportionately high compared to their prevalence in the general population of Minnesota youth. About two-thirds of homeless young people (66%) were

Black, American Indian, Asian, Hispanic, or of mixed race, compared to just 18 percent of all Minnesota youth. In the metro area, 78 percent were young people of color; in greater Minnesota, young people of color comprised 47 percent of homeless youth and young adults.

For homeless youth and young adults on their own:

- The average age they first left home was 16.
- Overall, 13% of youth and 38% of young adults had children of their own; for females, 19% of youth and 49% of young adults had children.
- The vast majority of homeless young people grew up in Minnesota (86% of youth and 67% of young adults).
- Most homeless young people grew up living with biological parents (63%), in a blended family (12%), in a foster family (6%), or in an adoptive family (5%).
- 10% of homeless young people had lived in an adoptive home at some point in their lives (14% of youth and 9% of young adults).
- Slightly over half (54%) of homeless youth and more than one-third (36%) of homeless young adults were interviewed outside of the Twin Cities in greater Minnesota.

Young people's experiences with homelessness

- Over two-thirds of youth and young adults (71%) had been homeless before.
- Almost one-third slept outside at least one night in October 2006 (29%).
- More than one-half were "doubled up" at least one night in October 2006 (51%).
- Three in 10 (30%) had stayed in an abusive situation because they did not have other housing options.

One-third of youth (33%) and 13 percent of young adults had been homeless for less than a month. Twenty-two percent of youth and 34 percent of young adults had no regular place to live for more than a year. Because the study takes place on a single day, people who are homeless for longer periods of time have a greater chance of being interviewed compared to people who are homeless for only a short time, so these figures under-represent the number of young people who are homeless for only a short period of time.

Many homeless youth and young adults come from troubled backgrounds and face multiple challenges

- 1 in 2 homeless young people (49%) report some type of significant mental health problem (54% of youth and 47% of young adults).
- One-third of homeless young people have considered suicide (33%) and 21 percent have attempted suicide.
- 1 out of 2 homeless young people (51%) have been physically or sexually mistreated. Forty-eight percent have been physically abused (53% of youth and 46% of young adults). Twenty-nine percent have been sexually abused (24% of youth and 31% of young adults). About twice as many girls as boys have been sexually abused (39% of girls and 16% of boys).

- 1 in 3 homeless young people had experienced parental neglect (34%).
- 4 in 10 homeless young people had a history of delinquency that resulted in a correctional placement (42% overall, with 34% of youth and 45% of young adults).
- Almost 1 in 5 homeless young people (18%) had been in alcohol or drug treatment (14% of youth and 20% of young adults).
- 1 out of 5 young people (21%) had problems following a head injury (17% of youth and 22% of young adults).
- 1 in 8 young people (14%) had traded sex for shelter, food, clothing, or other essentials. The proportion was slightly lower for youth 17 and younger (12% overall; 16% of girls and 5% of boys), and slightly higher for young adults (15% overall; 12% of females and 21% of males).

SELECTED LIFE EXPERIENCES OF HOMELESS YOUTH 17 AND UNDER, 1991-2006

	1991	1994	1997	2000	2003	2006
Physically abused		47%	54%	42%	47%	53%
Consider self chemically dependent		10%	19%	15%	13%	11%
Told by a medical professional in the past 2 years that they have a significant mental health problem		Not available	Not available	23%	31%	36%
Have children		16%	18%	17%	8%	16%
Sexual relationship that resulted in pregnancy		32%	33%	31%	21%	26%

MULTIPLE RISK FACTORS OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

Total homeless young people surveyed: 606 (100%)

Physical or sexual abuse (Abuse) 310 (51%) total

Mental health issues (MI) 294 (49%) total

Chemical dependency (CD) 114 (19%) total

MI, CD, or Abuse (ANY) 435 (72%) None of these three 171 (28%)

CD & Abuse 9 (1%)

CD only 21 (3%)

Abuse only 111 (18%)

MI only 75 (12%)

MI & abuse 135 (22%)

MI & CD 29 (5%)

All 3 55 (9%)

Homeless young people had high rates of previous out-of-home placements

- 70 percent of homeless youth and young adults had experienced a placement in a foster home, group home, treatment center, or correctional facility
- 2 out of 5 homeless young people had lived in a foster home (40% of youth and 37% of young adults)
- Nearly a quarter of homeless young people had lived in a facility for persons with emotional, behavioral, or mental health problems (22% of youth and 24% of young adults)
- 1 in 3 homeless young people had lived in a group home (33% of both youth and young adults)
- 1 in 3 homeless young people had been held more than a week in a juvenile corrections facility (34% of youth and 37% of young adults)
- 1 in 3 homeless young people had run away from a placement (32% of youth and 31% of young adults)

HISTORY OF PLACEMENTS AMONG HOMELESS YOUTH 17 AND UNDER, 1991-2006

	1991	1994	1997	2000	2003	2006	
Foster care		38%	36%	38%	41%	53%	40%
Group home		22%	33%	29%	27%	29%	33%
Drug or alcohol treatment facility		15%	10%	19%	13%	13%	14%
Detention center or correctional facility		31%	34%	36%	46%	35%	34%
Any institution		Not available	61%	70%	67%	71%	70%

Young people's perceptions of main factors that led to their homelessness

The data show that homeless young people have troubled backgrounds and life experiences including high rates of placement, abuse, and mental health issues. To understand more about youth perceptions of factors that led to their homelessness, homeless young people ages 20 and younger were asked about a list of 17 different items and whether each item was either not a cause, part of the cause, or a main cause that led to their homelessness. Of the items listed in the following table, 58 percent of homeless young people report at least one as a main cause that led to their homelessness. This question was not asked of the 21-year olds.

YOUNG PEOPLES' VIEWS OF FACTORS THAT LED TO THEIR HOMELESSNESS

	Part of the cause or a main cause	A main cause
Fighting frequently with parents or guardians	63%	32%
Someone in home they couldn't stand to be around	62%	30%
Told to leave or locked out	55%	29%
Not willing to live by parents' rules	50%	19%
Delinquent activities by the youth	38%	14%
Neglect or parents not attending to basic needs	34%	13%
Parents' use of drugs or alcohol	33%	11%
Didn't feel safe because of violence in the house	29%	14%
Home was too small for everyone to live there	25%	11%
Youth's own drug or alcohol use	25%	10%
Physical or sexual abuse by someone in the household	24%	14%
Family lost their housing	20%	11%
A parent or guardian had mental health problems	20%	10%
Left foster care or another group placement without a permanent place to live	19%	9%
Criminal activities by someone else in the household	17%	7%
Became pregnant or made someone pregnant	15%	6%
Lack of tolerance of the youth's sexual orientation or gender identity*	7%	3%

Of the 11% of youth who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender, 44% identify lack of tolerance as at least part of the cause, including 25% who identify it as a main cause.

Seventy percent of youth and 50 percent of young adults believe that they would be allowed to return home, if they wanted to. Half of youth ages 17 and under (49%), but only 16 percent of young adults ages 18 to 20, felt that there was a chance they would live with their family again.

Only 28 percent of youth 17 and under would prefer to be in a foster home that they liked, if that were a choice, instead of remaining in their current situation.

A growing proportion of homeless youth 17 and younger are enrolled in school, although many did not attend the day of the survey

A growing percentage of homeless youth are enrolled in school, rising from 52 percent in 1994, to 73 percent in 1997 and 2000, to 84 percent in 2003, and to 89 percent in 2006. One-third of homeless youth report receiving special education services (35%).

Six in 10 homeless youth surveyed attended school the day of the survey (61% of those who had not yet graduated or received their GED). These rates are lower than the rates for children who are with their homeless parents (90% of parents surveyed said that all of their children attended school that day). The main reasons youth report for not being in school include lack of motivation to go, location or transportation issues, and illness.

Comparisons to the general Minnesota youth population

Compared to the general population of Minnesota youth, unaccompanied homeless youth were:

- Five times more likely to have been treated for drug or alcohol problems
- More than five times more likely to have been hit by a date or intimate partner
- Four times more likely to have been physically abused
- Homeless boys are twice as likely to have been sexually abused; homeless girls are four times more likely to have been sexually abused
- Four times more likely to use cigarettes or other tobacco
- Among boys, twice as likely to have attempted suicide
- Among girls, 17 times more likely to have been pregnant

“Most helpful” services for homeless youth and young adults

- Among homeless young people who received services, the following services helped them most:
- Food Stamps (36%)
- Transportation assistance (34%)
- Drop-in centers (18%)
- Food shelves (17%)
- Outreach services (16%)
- WIC (14%)

Eight out of 10 homeless young people (ages 20 and younger) report that they have regular contact with a trusted adult.

Overview of homelessness in Minnesota 2006 Wilder Research, March 2007

A3.1 U.S. Census Bureau, Ramsey County

Subject	Number	Percent
Total population	511,035	100.0
SEX AND AGE		
Male	246,288	48.2
Female	264,747	51.8
Under 5 years	34,956	6.8
5 to 9 years	36,998	7.2
10 to 14 years	36,989	7.2
15 to 19 years	38,450	7.5
20 to 24 years	41,289	8.1
25 to 34 years	76,638	15.0
35 to 44 years	80,271	15.7
45 to 54 years	67,314	13.2
55 to 59 years	21,938	4.3
60 to 64 years	16,690	3.3
65 to 74 years	28,726	5.6
75 to 84 years	21,906	4.3
85 years and over	8,870	1.7

60	33.7	(X)
18 years and over	380,351	74.4
Male	179,345	35.1
Female	201,006	39.3
21 years and over	355,044	69.5
62 years and over	69,061	13.5
65 years and over	59,502	11.6

Ramsey County, Minnesota

People Quick Facts	Ramsey County	Minnesota
Population, 2006 estimate	493,215	5,167,101
Population, percent change, April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2006	-3.5%	5.0%
Population, 2000	511,035	4,919,479
Persons under 5 years old, percent, 2005	7.1%	6.5%
Persons under 18 years old, percent, 2005	24.6%	24.0%
Persons 65 years old and over, percent, 2005	12.4%	12.1%
Female persons, percent, 2005	51.7%	50.4%

Race Demographics

White persons, percent, 2005 (a)	78.3%	89.6%
Black persons, percent, 2005 (a)	9.3%	4.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native persons, percent, 2005 (a)	0.9%	1.2%
Asian persons, percent, 2005 (a)	9.1%	3.4%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, percent, 2005 (a)	0.1%	0.1%
Persons reporting two or more races, percent, 2005	2.4%	1.4%
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, percent, 2005 (b)	6.0%	3.6%
White persons not Hispanic, percent, 2005	73.1%	86.3%

A3.2 Saint Paul Police Department, Missing/Runaways Juveniles, 2006

AGE, SEX, RACE AND ETHNIC ORIGIN OF MISSING/RUNAWAY YOUTH
 Under 18 years of age
 (Includes those who are missing persons and/or runaways)
 Year End 2006

Classification:	Missing	Runaways
	(Male/Female)	(Male/Female)
Under age 10	0 / 0	1 / 0
10 – 12	7 / 6	28 / 19
13 – 14	9 / 22	96 / 164
15	15 / 18	80 / 138
16	6 / 15	66 / 114
17	7 / 10	50 / 80
Total Under 18	44 / 71	321 / 515
White	20	201
Black	59	409
American Indian or Alaskan Native	5	32
Asian or Pacific Islander	19	152
Other	5	47
Total by Race	108	641
Missing Data	2 (Race Missing)	6 (Gender Missing) 2 (Race Missing)
Unknown Race	2	13

Total Missing and Runaway Cases = 956

A3.3 Saint Paul Police Department, Persons Arrested under age 18, 2006

AGE, SEX, RACE AND ETHNIC ORIGIN OF PERSONS ARRESTED
 Under 18 years of age
 (Includes those released without having been formally charged)
 Year End 2006

Classification:	Vagrancy	Runaways
	(Male/Female)	(Male/Female)
Under age 10	0 / 0	11 / 5
10 – 12	0 / 0	83 / 70
13 – 14	1 / 0	214 / 367
15	1 / 1	189 / 284
16	7 / 0	150 / 271
17	4 / 0	125 / 196
Total Under 18	13 / 1	772 / 1193
White	1	481
Black	13	918
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0	96
Asian or Pacific Islander	0	304
Other	0	166
Total by Race	14	1965
Hispanic	0	178

A3.4 StarTribune – Saint Paul School District 2005-2006 Habitual Truants

Saint Paul School District 2005-2006 habitual truants

School	Enrollment	Truant *	Percent
Senior high school			
Arlington	2195	1205	54.9%
Central	2152	626	29.1%
Como	1471	256	17.4%
Harding	2226	956	42.9%
Highland Sr	1459	418	28.6%
Humboldt Sr	960	403	42.0%
Johnson Sr	1730	879	50.8%
Sr. H.S. Total	12193	4743	38.8%

Junior high school			
Battle Crk	708	86	12.1%
Cleveland	512	70	13.7%
Hazel Prk	775	107	13.8%
Highland Jr	823	148	18.0%
Humboldt Jr	542	216	39.9%
Murray	810	92	11.4%
Ramsey	776	149	19.2%
Washington	724	131	18.1%
Jr. H.S. Total	5670	999	17.60%
Total	17863	5742	32.10%

Note: Because Minneapolis and Saint Paul districts tally absences in slightly different ways for these charts, the counts are not directly comparable to each other.

* Absent for any part of the day on more than seven days.
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A3.5 Ramsey County Attorney's Office – Prosecution Statistics
VICTIM DATA

2004	Juvenile Victims w/ Juvenile Perpetrators	Juvenile Victims w/ Adult Perpetrators	Total
Charged	120	82	202
Not Charged	35	120	155
TBD	12		12
Victims w/ no DOB	10		10
TOTALS	177	202	379

2005	Juvenile Victims w/ Juvenile Perpetrators	Juvenile Victims w/ Adult Perpetrators	Total
Charged	93	63	156
Not Charged	31	85	116
TBD	4		4
Victims w/ no DOB	19		19
Successful Diversion	2		2
TOTALS	149	148	297

A3.6 Midwest Children's Resource Center Statistics

MCRC 2006 Statistics

Overview

MCRC saw 1,438 kids for all types of abuse in 2006; 770 cases were seen for sexual abuse issues. 282 were between 7 –12; 218 were between 13 – 19; others were less than 7 years old.

Services Provided

171 teens were runaways - all had a full health care evaluation, abuse questions are asked. The youngest runaway we saw was 11 and we rarely saw anyone over 16 years old. The average age is between 13 and 14 years old. 3 teens were raped by a stranger (as in abducted) 33% were raped by 3 or more people Sex of runaways -- 9 were male, 162 were female The majority of teens brought to MCRC come with a parent/guardian

Race of runaway victims

6.1% multi-ethnic
8.7% Black
1.7% Hispanic
69% Asian
12% White
5.3% Native American
*All other youth did not check a box for race

Sexual Assault Statistics

Almost all sexual assaults occur between people of the same races. The exception to this tends to be the non-Asian kids who if involved in trading sex for money, drugs, etc will have partners of multiple races. We do not track race of perpetrators in a meaningful way that would be statistically accurate.

For all sexual assaults seen at MCRC (not just the runaways)

479 perpetrators were 18 and above
39 were under age 13
164 were between 13 to 17 years old

The majority of youth reporting sexual assaults - the police report went to Saint Paul Police, Ramsey County Sheriff, MGSF, VICE - Saint Paul, Minneapolis PD, Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Richfield Police, North Saint Paul PD, South Saint Paul PD, Maplewood PD, Roseville PD, Scott County Sheriff, FBI, and numerous WI communities. There was 1 report made to Miami, FLA; one report made to Portland, OR; 3 reports made to Chicago, IL; one teen trafficked/adopted from Brazil - no meaningful report was made to authorities in Brazil; additionally, we saw a teen who was abused in Haiti; no meaningful report could be made.

A3.7 Regions Hospital SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examine) Program Statistics

Statistics on teen sexual assault patients seen at Regions Hospital in 2005 and 2006

All patients were female except:

- 1 transgendered
- 1 victim was seen twice-once in 2005 and once in 2006

All assaults were reported to police except 6

2005

Total patients	182
Total patients AGE 13-17	32

2006

Total patients	187
Total patients AGE 13-17	33

2005 Ages of sexual assault victims

5	age 13
10	age 14
6	age 15
9	age 16
2	age 17

2006 Age of sexual assault victims

2	age 13
7	age 14
11	age 15
7	age 16
6	age 17

Key to following charts:

A = Asian or Asian American
C = Caucasian
M = Mixed race
? = not charted

AA = African American
H = Hispanic
NA = Native American
Unk = unknown

Regions Hospital Description for 2005

2005	Victim age	Race of victim	Race of assailant(s)	Police report made to:
1/24	14	C	C	Inver Grove PD
2/13	17	NA	Unk	SPPD
2/19	16	C	C	None
3/18	15	AA	AA	SPPD
4/2	14	C	AA	Woodbury
4/18	13	AA	AA	SPPD
4/27	15	?	?	SPPD
5/9	13	AA	AA	SPPD
5/16	14	AA	H	SPPD
5/17	16	C	M and AA 1 Assailant	Ramsey Co
5/25	15	H	Hx8	SPPD
5/31	16	M	C	West St Paul
6/5	14	C	NA and C 1 Assailant	Ramsey Co
6/13	15	AA	AA	Hennepin
6/15	16	C	Unknown	SPPD
6/27	13	H	H	SPPD
6/30	14	M	Unk x 3 assailants	SPPD
7/4	17	A	H	Ramsey Co
7/18	14	H	M	SPPD
7/26	16	C	AA	None
8/10	13	C	AA	Ramsey Co
8/11	15	?	?	None
8/19	16	C	AA	Oakdale PD
8/20	16	?	?	Farmington
8/27	14	A	Unknown	SPPD
9/11	13	H	Unknown	SPPD
9/13	16	C	C	SPPD
9/18	14	M	C	Mendota Heights
10/23	14	A	A	White Bear Lake
11/29	14	AA	AA	MPLS
12/13	15	H	Unknown	SPPD
12/20	16	C	AA	SPPD

Regions Hospital SANE Description for 2006

2006	Victim age	Race of victim	Race of assailant(s)	Police report made to:
1/23	17	AA	AA	None
1/29	14	M	C	Mendota Heights
1/30	13	A	A	Maplewood
1/30	14	A	A	Maplewood
2/12	16	C	C	Dakota Co
2/14	15	H	H	None
2/22	14	C	AA	SPPD
2/22	15	AA	AA	SPPD
3/2	14	AA	AA	SPPD
4/13	16	H	H	SPPD
4/24	17	?	Ax 2 Assailants	SPPD
5/1	17	C	AA	SPPD
5/7	17	C	NA	SPPD
5/13	16	C	NA	SPPD
5/14	14	NA/C/AA	AA	SPPD
5/28	16	C	1-C 1-M	Roseville
6/9	15	C	AA x 2 Assailants	SPPD
6/10	16	AA	AA	SPPD
6/14	15	AA	AA	SPPD
7/5	13	M	M	SPPD
7/14	16	AA	AA	SPPD
7/18	15	C	C	SPPD
8/8	15	C	AA	SPPD
8/10	15	AA	AA	MPLS
8/12	17	M	AA	SPPD
8/19	14	A	NA/C-1 Assailant	SPPD
9/27	15	C	C	SPPD
10/17	15	M	H x 3 Assailants	None
10/23	16	C	Unknown	Dakota Co
10/31	14	AA	2 Assailants Either AA or M	SPPD
11/3	15	NA/H	H	SPPD
11/10	17	C	C	New Brighton
11/25	15	AA	AA	SPPD

A3.8 United Hospital and Children's Hospital Sexual Assault Exams

Total number of adolescents:

2005 = 35

- Thirty at Children's Hospital
- Five at United Hospital

2006 = 22

- Twenty Children's
 - Four at United
-

2005 Ages of sexual assault victims

1	age 12
3	age 13
13	age 14
6	age 15
6	age 16
6	age 17

2006 Age of sexual assault victims

6	age 13
5	age 14
5	age 15
8	age 16

United Hospital and Children's Hospital, Saint Paul Victimization Descriptions for 2005

2005	Age	Victim Race	Assailant Race	Police Report	Hospital
1/12	17	A	H	SPPD	United
1/27	15	Unknown	Unknown	SPPD	Children's
2/18	17	C	C	SPPD	United
2/19	14	C	C	SPPD	Children's
2/19	17	H	Unknown	SPPD	United
3/12	17	AA	AA	SPPD	Children's
4/20	12	C	C	SPPD	Children's
5/1	14	A	AA x 2	Cottage Grove	Children's
5/10	16	C	A	Inver Grove Heights	Children's
5/11	15	Mixed	AA	None	Children's
5/15	14	H	H	SPPD	Children's
5/31	14	C	C X1 & Hx2	Hastings	United
6/5	14	C	Unknown	Inver Grove Heights	Children's
6/17	13	C	Other	SPPD	Children's
6/17	15	C	Other	SPPD	Children's
6/30	16	C	C	Little Canada	Children's
7/1	17	H	Other	Hastings	Children's
7/4	14	NA	AA	SPPD	Children's
7/5	13	C	Unknown	So St Paul	Children's
7/8	16	Not charted	Not charted	Mpls	Children's
7/13	14	AA	AA	SPPD	Children's
7/16	15	C	C	None	Children's
7/24	13	AA	AA	SPPD	Children's
7/31	16	C	C	Cottage Grove	Children's
8/9	14	AA	Unknown	None	Children's
8/27	14	C	C	Polk County	Children's
9/6	17	C	C	Hurdle WI	United
9/13	16	AA	C x 1 AA x 2	SPPD	Children's
9/17	15	AA	AA	SPPD	Children's
9/26	14	C	C	SPPD	Children's
10/5	16	AA	AA	SPPD	Children's
10/21	14	A	C	Cottage Grove	Children's
10/23	14	C	Unknown	SPPD	Children's
11/18	14	AA	AA x 3	SPPD	Children's
11/19	15	C	Unknown	Hennepin	Children's

United Hospital and Children's Hospital, Saint Paul Victimization Descriptions for 2006

Date 2006	Age	Victim Race	Assailant Race	Police Report	Hospital
1/7	14	AA	AA	Eagan	United
1/20	15	AA	Unknown	None	Children's
2/7	14	C	A x1 Other x2	SPPD	Children's
2/15	13	C	AA	SPPD	Children's
2/25	14	AA	AA	Hugo	Children's
3/7	16	H	Unknown	SPPD	United
3/17	16	AA	AA	SPPD	Children's
4/6	14	Unknown	Unknown	Maplewood	Children's
5/7	16	C	AA	SPPD	Children's
5/21	13	AA	AA	SPPD	Children's
6/3	16	A	H	SPPD	Children's
8/1	16	AA	AA	None	United
8/15	13	A	C	Mendota Heights	Children's
8/17	13	C	Unknown	None	Children's
8/18	16	AA	AA	SPPD	Children's
8/22	15	C	AA	Apple Valley	Children's
9/10	15	C	AA	Mendota Heights	Children's
10/15	16	H	AA	SPPD	Childrens10/29
10/29	13	C	Unknown	SPPD	Children's
11/11	16	C	Unknown	None	Children's
11/12	15	Mixed	H	SPPD	Children's
11/27	14	A	AA	Woodbury	Children's
12/10	15	C	C	None	United
12/15	13	C	C	None	Children's

A3.9 Minnesota Student Survey, Ramsey County Data – 2004

2004 MINNESOTA STUDENT SURVEY

Survey Participation

The 2004 Minnesota Student Survey was administered in the spring of 2004 to public school students in Grades 6, 9, and 12. All public school districts in Minnesota were invited to participate. Of the 342 public operating districts, 301 agreed to participate (88% of public operating school districts).

Student participation was voluntary. Surveys were anonymous. Sixth, ninth and twelfth graders were invited to participate in the survey. Across the state, approximately 77% of public school sixth graders, 73% of public school ninth graders, and 49% of public school twelfth graders participated in the 2004 Minnesota Student Survey.

Overall participation across the three grades was approximately 66%. The majority of schools in the state used an opt-out consent procedure for the survey (meaning that parents could decline to have their children take the survey). A few school districts used an active consent process (meaning parents returned a signed permission slip to school before their children took the survey). Also note that not every student who participated in the survey answered every question.

Items on the Tables

The accompanying set of tables includes the responses for all survey items. Items are grouped within the tables according to meaningful domains; the order items appear on the tables is not necessarily the order they appeared in the survey. A Table of Contents is provided on page IV. The Grade 6 survey version was shorter than the Grade 9-12 version and did not include items appropriate only for older students. Items found on one version of the survey but not the other are identified on the tables.

Year-to-Year Comparisons

The 2004 survey questions were not changed in any way from the 2001 survey, so comparisons between data from the 2004 and 2001 surveys should be relatively easy.

Please note that although these surveys are given repeatedly over time, student populations may change between administrations of the survey.

Validity of Responses

A small percentage of surveys (approximately 3%) were eliminated from analyses because gender was missing, responses were highly inconsistent, or there was a pattern of likely exaggeration.

2004 Minnesota Student Survey

TABLE 1
SAMPLE DESCRIPTION

Ramsey County

		Grade					
		6th		9th		12th	
		N	%	N	%	N	%
Total number of surveys		4,914	100%	4,804	100%	2,828	100%
Gender	Male	2,444	50%	2,281	47%	1,338	47%
	Female	2,470	50%	2,523	53%	1,490	53%
Age	11 or younger	1,357	28%	0	0%	0	0%
	12	3,372	69%	0	0%	0	0%
	13	148	3%	2	0%	0	0%
	14	5	0%	1,473	31%	0	0%
	15	0	0%	3,139	65%	0	0%
	16	0	0%	143	3%	4	0%
	17	0	0%	14	0%	937	33%
	18	0	0%	0	0%	1,786	63%
	19-20	0	0%	0	0%	88	3%
	No answer	32	1%	33	1%	13	0%
Race/ethnicity	American Indian	105	2%	47	1%	12	0%
	Black or African American	559	11%	490	10%	193	7%
	Hispanic or Latino	275	6%	196	4%	88	3%
	Asian American or Pacific Islander	845	17%	885	18%	467	17%
	White	2,354	48%	2,611	54%	1,879	66%
	Mixed race (checked more than one race/ethnicity)	447	9%	399	8%	122	4%
	I don't know / no answer	329	7%	176	4%	67	2%

2004 Minnesota Student Survey

TABLE 2
FEELINGS ABOUT SCHOOL, SCHOOL PLANS, AND TRUANCY
Ramsey County

		Grade					
		6th		9th		12th	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
		%	%	%	%	%	%
How do you feel about going to school?	I like school very much	17%	25%	9%	12%	12%	12%
	I like school quite a bit	34%	37%	27%	35%	26%	32%
	I like school a little	28%	25%	34%	33%	34%	33%
	I don't like school very much	12%	8%	16%	13%	17%	15%
	I hate school	9%	4%	14%	7%	11%	8%
Which of these best describes your school plans?	I would like to quit school as soon as I can	3%	1%	3%	1%	2%	0%
	I plan to finish high school but won't go to college	7%	5%	11%	5%	5%	4%
	I'd like to go to some kind of trade or vocational school	2%	1%	6%	2%	11%	6%
	I'd like to go to college after high school	59%	58%	55%	56%	54%	49%
	I'd like to go to college and then to graduate school	28%	35%	25%	35%	27%	41%
During the last 30 days, how often have you skipped or cut full days of school?	Never	78%	77%	71%	73%	48%	53%
	Once or twice	17%	16%	10%	18%	32%	31%
	3 to 5 times	5%	5%	5%	5%	12%	10%
	6 to 10 times	1%	1%	2%	2%	4%	4%
	More than 10 times	1%	1%	3%	2%	4%	2%

2004 Minnesota Student Survey

TABLE 9
FAMILY COMPOSITION AND PARENTAL COMMUNICATION
Ramsey County

		Grade					
		6th		9th		12th	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
		%	%	%	%	%	%
Which adults do you live with?	Both biological parents	55%	54%	54%	56%	60%	60%
	Both adoptive parents	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%
	Mother and stepfather	4%	6%	4%	5%	4%	5%
	Father and stepmother	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%
	Mother only	18%	20%	20%	21%	17%	18%
	Father only	2%	2%	4%	3%	5%	3%
	Sometimes with mother, sometimes with father	11%	10%	8%	7%	4%	3%
	Other	6%	4%	6%	4%	6%	6%
	No adults or no answer	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%
Can you talk to your father about problems you are having?	Yes, most of the time	41%	27%	34%	19%	36%	25%
	Yes, some of the time	28%	31%	31%	30%	31%	32%
	No, not very often	15%	20%	15%	23%	16%	20%
	No, not at all	6%	10%	10%	15%	9%	12%
	My father is not around	10%	13%	10%	13%	8%	11%
Can you talk to your mother about problems you are having?	Yes, most of the time	56%	58%	41%	43%	44%	48%
	Yes, some of the time	26%	26%	33%	33%	31%	33%
	No, not very often	12%	9%	16%	15%	15%	13%
	No, not at all	4%	5%	8%	6%	7%	4%
	My mother is not around	2%	2%	3%	3%	3%	2%

2004 Minnesota Student Survey

TABLE 10
PERCEPTIONS OF FAMILY CARING
Ramsey County

How much do you feel ...		Grade					
		6th		9th		12th	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
		%	%	%	%	%	%
... your parents care about you?	Not at all	1%	1%	3%	2%	2%	2%
	A little	2%	2%	4%	5%	4%	3%
	Some	3%	2%	7%	7%	9%	7%
	Quite a bit	8%	6%	14%	14%	18%	15%
	Very much	86%	87%	71%	73%	67%	74%
... other adult relatives care about you?	Not at all	3%	2%	4%	3%	3%	4%
	A little	4%	3%	7%	8%	7%	6%
	Some	7%	7%	14%	12%	16%	15%
	Quite a bit	20%	18%	26%	25%	29%	25%
	Very much	66%	71%	49%	52%	44%	50%
... your family cares about your feelings?	Not at all	5%	5%	7%	7%	5%	4%
	A little	6%	7%	10%	12%	9%	8%
	Some	11%	11%	18%	18%	20%	20%
	Quite a bit	24%	23%	26%	25%	25%	26%
	Very much	54%	54%	39%	38%	41%	42%
... your family understands you?	Not at all	7%	11%	15%	18%	11%	11%
	A little	10%	12%	15%	20%	15%	17%
	Some	15%	18%	23%	23%	28%	28%
	Quite a bit	27%	25%	24%	21%	24%	25%
	Very much	40%	34%	23%	18%	22%	19%
... your family has lots of fun together?	Not at all	6%	6%	11%	11%	10%	9%
	A little	10%	12%	17%	18%	17%	18%
	Some	18%	16%	26%	23%	29%	24%
	Quite a bit	24%	24%	23%	24%	23%	26%
	Very much	42%	42%	24%	23%	20%	23%
... your family respects your privacy?	Not at all	8%	10%	13%	15%	10%	11%
	A little	9%	10%	16%	17%	14%	15%
	Some	15%	15%	20%	22%	22%	20%
	Quite a bit	25%	25%	26%	22%	27%	27%
	Very much	43%	40%	26%	24%	28%	28%

2004 Minnesota Student Survey

TABLE 11
PERCEPTIONS OF OTHERS CARING
Ramsey County

<i>How much do you feel ...</i>		Grade					
		6th		9th		12th	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
		%	%	%	%	%	%
... friends care about you?	Not at all	4%	2%	4%	2%	3%	2%
	A little	11%	9%	11%	8%	8%	7%
	Some	23%	16%	23%	16%	20%	18%
	Quite a bit	34%	27%	38%	30%	39%	32%
	Very much	28%	46%	23%	44%	29%	42%
... teachers or other adults at school care about you? *	Not at all	6%	5%	13%	10%	8%	5%
	A little	15%	12%	22%	25%	22%	19%
	Some	21%	23%	32%	34%	36%	37%
	Quite a bit	29%	32%	23%	23%	26%	28%
	Very much	30%	28%	10%	9%	8%	10%
... church or spiritual leaders care about you? *	Not at all	24%	18%	28%	25%	29%	28%
	A little	10%	12%	15%	14%	15%	14%
	Some	16%	15%	16%	19%	22%	20%
	Quite a bit	20%	22%	22%	23%	17%	20%
	Very much	30%	33%	19%	21%	17%	18%
... police officers care about you?	Not at all	16%	12%	35%	30%	39%	33%
	A little	14%	15%	21%	25%	25%	29%
	Some	18%	16%	22%	22%	22%	25%
	Quite a bit	22%	24%	15%	14%	11%	9%
	Very much	29%	34%	8%	8%	4%	4%
... other adults in your community care about you?	Not at all	12%	10%	21%	18%	20%	19%
	A little	17%	15%	24%	25%	27%	26%
	Some	23%	21%	28%	27%	30%	30%
	Quite a bit	26%	27%	19%	20%	16%	17%
	Very much	22%	26%	8%	10%	6%	7%

* Variations in wording for this item affect year-to-year comparisons.

2004 Minnesota Student Survey

TABLE 12
FAMILY SUBSTANCE ABUSE
Ramsey County

		Grade					
		6th		9th		12th	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
		%	%	%	%	%	%
Has alcohol use by any family member repeatedly caused family, health, job, or legal problems?	Yes	15%	19%	17%	18%	13%	19%
	No	85%	81%	83%	82%	87%	81%
Whose use? (Mark all that apply)	Family alc problems-Parent who lives with me	6%	7%	5%	6%	5%	6%
	Family alc problems-Parent who doesn't live with me	4%	4%	5%	5%	3%	5%
	Family alc problems-Other relative	10%	12%	10%	11%	8%	11%
Has drug use by any family member repeatedly caused family, health, job, or legal problems?	Yes	12%	16%	11%	15%	9%	13%
	No	88%	84%	89%	85%	91%	87%
Whose use? (Mark all that apply)	Family drug problems-Parent who lives with me	4%	4%	2%	4%	2%	2%
	Family drug problems-Parent who doesn't live with me	3%	3%	2%	3%	2%	1%
	Family drug problems-Other relative	8%	11%	8%	10%	6%	9%

2004 Minnesota Student Survey

TABLE 13
FAMILY/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Ramsey County

		Grade					
		6th		9th		12th	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
		%	%	%	%	%	%
Have you ever been the victim of violence on a date? *	Yes			6%	5%	7%	7%
	No			94%	95%	93%	93%
Has any adult in your household ever hit you so hard that you had marks or were afraid of that person?	Yes	15%	16%	10%	16%	8%	11%
	No	85%	84%	90%	84%	92%	89%
Has anyone in your family ever hit anyone else in the family so hard that they had marks or were afraid of that person?	Yes	16%	18%	12%	17%	10%	12%
	No	84%	82%	88%	83%	90%	88%

* 6th grade survey did not ask this question.

2004 Minnesota Student Survey

**TABLE 14
SEXUAL ABUSE
Ramsey County**

		Grade					
		6th		9th		12th	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
		%	%	%	%	%	%
Have you ever been the victim of date rape? *	Yes			4%	3%	4%	4%
	No			96%	97%	96%	96%
Has any older person outside the family touched you sexually against your wishes or forced you to touch them sexually?	Yes	4%	7%	5%	11%	4%	7%
	No	96%	93%	95%	89%	96%	93%
Has any older/stronger member of your family touched you sexually or had you touch them sexually?	Yes	1%	3%	3%	5%	3%	3%
	No	99%	97%	97%	95%	97%	97%

* 6th grade survey did not ask this question.

2004 Minnesota Student Survey

**TABLE 42A
SEXUAL BEHAVIOR ***
Ramsey County

		Grade			
		9th		12th	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
		%	%	%	%
Have you ever had sexual intercourse ("gone all the way")?	No	74%	81%	56%	56%
	Yes, once or twice	11%	8%	12%	7%
	Yes, 3 times or more	15%	11%	33%	37%
During the last 12 months, with how many different male partners have you had sexual intercourse?	None	96%	82%	94%	58%
	1 person	1%	10%	2%	27%
	2 persons	0%	4%	1%	7%
	3 persons	0%	2%	1%	3%
	4 persons	0%	1%	0%	2%
	5 persons	0%	1%	0%	1%
	6 or more persons	2%	1%	2%	2%
During the last 12 months, with how many different female partners have you had sexual intercourse?	None	75%	97%	58%	98%
	1 person	7%	1%	23%	1%
	2 persons	4%	0%	7%	1%
	3 persons	3%	0%	4%	0%
	4 persons	2%	0%	1%	0%
	5 persons	1%	0%	1%	0%
	6 or more persons	7%	1%	5%	0%
How many times have you been pregnant or gotten someone pregnant?	0 times	94%	97%	95%	95%
	1 time	1%	2%	2%	4%
	2 or more times	2%	1%	1%	1%
	Not sure	2%	1%	2%	1%

* 6th grade survey did not ask these questions.

2004 Minnesota Student Survey

**TABLE 42B
SEXUAL BEHAVIOR *
Ramsey County**

<i>SEXUALLY ACTIVE STUDENTS ONLY</i>		Grade			
		9th		12th	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
		%	%	%	%
Have you talked with your partner(s) about protecting yourselves from getting STDs/HIV/AIDS? **	Never	39%	31%	29%	20%
	Not with every partner	18%	16%	15%	12%
	At least once with every partner	43%	53%	57%	68%
Have you talked with partner(s) about preventing pregnancy? **	Never	41%	27%	23%	17%
	Not with every partner	16%	14%	13%	11%
	At least once with every partner	43%	59%	63%	72%
If you have sexual intercourse, how often do you and/or your partner use any birth control method?	Never	28%	28%	13%	12%
	Rarely	10%	8%	6%	6%
	Sometimes	11%	9%	8%	6%
	Usually	13%	11%	12%	11%
	Always	38%	44%	60%	66%
If you have sexual intercourse, how often is a condom used?	Never	15%	9%	11%	17%
	Rarely	6%	7%	10%	13%
	Sometimes	11%	12%	10%	10%
	Usually	10%	18%	20%	18%
	Always	58%	53%	50%	42%
The last time you had sexual intercourse, did you or your partner use a condom?	Yes	67%	68%	67%	57%
	No	33%	32%	33%	43%

* 6th grade survey did not ask these questions.

** In 1998, the percentages for these questions included sexually inactive students who responded to the question. This year, as in 2001, the percentages include only sexually active students. Accordingly, the results for these questions are comparable only to 2001 survey results.

2004 Minnesota Student Survey

TABLE 43
REASONS FOR SEXUAL ABSTINENCE *
Ramsey County

		Grade			
		9th		12th	
		Male	Female	Male	Female
		%	%	%	%
If you do not have sexual intercourse, what factors influence your choice not to? (Mark all that apply)	Reasons not having sex: One or both of my parents would object	45%	58%	40%	49%
	Reasons not having sex: I don't want to have sex	22%	61%	26%	57%
	Reasons not having sex: Most students in my school don't have sex	9%	7%	6%	2%
	Reasons not having sex: My friends don't have sex	23%	32%	14%	18%
	I don't think it's right for a person my age to have sex	40%	68%	29%	45%
	I'm afraid of getting caught	25%	25%	13%	14%
	My religious or spiritual beliefs	24%	33%	33%	41%
	Sex education at school has shown me the advantages of waiting until I'm older	27%	38%	21%	26%
	I don't want to get a sexually transmitted disease	50%	68%	47%	55%
	Fear of pregnancy **	38%	70%	47%	62%
	My parents taught me the advantages of waiting until I'm older	31%	46%	22%	39%
	I have chosen to wait until I'm married	37%	52%	38%	50%

* 6th grade survey did not ask these questions.

** Variations in wording for this item affect year-to-year comparisons.

A3.10 Sexual Offense Services of Ramsey County

Sexual Offense Services (SOS) Statistics 2005 - 2006

Ethnic Background of all ages Primary Victim BY PERCENTAGE	2005	2006
African American	10%	11%
American Indian	2%	2%
Chicano/Latino	3%	3%
Pacific/Asian	11%	13%
Caucasion	25%	26%
Multi-Racial	1%	1%
Other or Unidentified	48%	44%
Primary Victims Served		
Primary Victims	881	736
Secondary Victims Served	593	460
Evidentiary Exams - ages		
17 -12	71	43
18-29	88	138
TOTAL Evidentiary Exams for all ages	247	181
Volunteer Services		
New Volunteers	28	24
Support Group Trained Volunteers	8	0
Hours Donated		
# of Hours	13500	12202
Community Education Presentations		
Presentations	50	31
# of people attended	1200	643
Medical Outreach - ages		
0-11	13	0
17 -12	58	45
18-29	91	97

A3.11 Breaking Free

Services Provided by Breaking Free 1997 to June 2006

From 1997 to June of 2006 Breaking Free has provided services to prostituted women and girls through its women's housing programs. Breaking Free monitors services provided so we can compile statistical data, and measure the effectiveness of our programs. We look at outcomes and revise programs to make them as effective as possible. Each year we spend time rating programs and strategically planning for years to come.

Breaking free is able to reach males through the presentation of the "John's School". We have targeted male offenders to educate them of the harms and realities of prostitution. The US Department of Justice helped us implement this educational program in Ramsey County.

Here is the breakdown of the number of people Breaking Free has served:

- 3,882 women have participated in services, and we have provided Case Management services to 3,855 of those women.
- Breaking Free has provided services to 226 Youth.
- Our Youth Program served 84 minors and enrolled 38 individuals into Case Management services.
- 1, 320 (unduplicated) women have attended our educational/support groups.
- 308 women have received housing.
- 16 youth have received housing.
- Breaking Free has reached 20,967 women and girls through our Street Outreach Program.
- Our "John's School" has had 972 participants since it's inception in 1999.

Racial Breakdown of Women served

- 2610 African American women were served.
- 1038 Caucasian women were served.
- 10 Native American women were served.
- 8 Asian women were served.

***80% of the youth,
and 48% of women
we have served are
in need of housing***

2006 Data - Youth

Breaking Free served 27 youth ages 16-20 years of age during 2006. Of these 27 youth, 15 of the youth identified as African American; 9 identified as Caucasian, and 3 identified themselves as Multiracial.

A4.1 SHYIP Youth Experience Survey Report

Youth Experience Survey Report

Safe Harbors Youth Intervention Project (SHYIP) -- May 2007

BACKGROUND

The Safe Harbors Youth Intervention Project (SHYIP) was created to develop better services for homeless and runaway youth who have been sexually exploited. The goal of the project is to make sure that youth who have been sexually exploited receive good services from police, attorneys, probation officers, doctors, nurses, school social workers/counselors and other professionals.

METHODS

In February and March of 2007, short surveys were distributed to homeless, runaway, or at-risk youth to solicit their input on their experience with various agencies they may have encountered. The surveys were constructed using feedback from agencies who commonly encounter this population. There were a total of 137 responses from youth. The majority of these surveys (n=82) were completed by individual youth. The remaining 55 surveys were completed in 9 informal focus groups. Each respondent was given \$20 for completing the confidential survey.

Agencies serving the targeted youth were contacted by a member of the SHYIP team to solicit respondents. Agencies serving minority teens were over-sampled knowing that many of the homeless and runaway youth are minority, and based on the assumption that there is a lack of culturally appropriate resources for this population. A list of agencies and the number of respondents from each agency can be found in Appendix A. The survey tool can be found in Appendix B.

TABLE 1: Demographic Information

	N	Percent
African American	46	34%
Asian/Pacific Islander	39	28%
Caucasian	12	9%
Native American	15	11%
Latino/Hispanic	9	7%
Other Race	9	7%
Male	53	39%
Female	83	61%
Transgender		
Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual	16	12%
Heterosexual (Straight)	110	80%
Age Range	13-21	n/a

RESULTS

Experiences with Agencies

The survey was divided into two sections. The first section asked youth to comment on their encounters with specific agencies. Table 2 highlights responses to questions about needs and culturally appropriate resources. Not all respondents answered all questions so the rates may be slightly understated.

TABLE 2: Responses – Number ‘Yes’

Agency	Number who encountered this Agency	Did they ask what you needed?	Did you get your needs met?	Was information available in your language?
Police	88	27 (31%)	32 (36%)	59 (67%)
Probation	45	24 (53%)	25 (55%)	35 (64%)
County Attorney	36	18 (50%)	19 (53%)	28 (78%)
ER or Clinic Staff	83	68 (82%)	72 (87%)	69 (83%)
School Social Worker or Guidance Counselor	74	52 (70%)	49 (66%)	53 (71%)
Organizations that help youth	78	73 (94%)	672 (92%)	70 (90%)

The majority of youth had contact with police, medical, school social workers and organizations that help youth. Organizations that help youth had the most positive responses, and police the least positive. Generally respondents who were not asked what they needed by agencies also reported that their needs were not met by the agencies. Some youth responded that the information was available in their language, but did not understand what they were being told. This may indicate that there is a communication problem regardless of language.

Youth were also asked what their experiences were like with the agencies listed in Table 2. Below are some recurring comments about their experiences with these agencies.

Police

The majority of youth reported overall negative experiences with police (55 negative responses, 14 positive responses). Words used by multiple respondents to describe their experience include “horrible,” “scary,” “rude,” “mean,” “intrusive,” “racist,” and “unfair.” A couple youth said they were harassed or physically assaulted by the police. Respondents reported a sense that they were not believed or respected by police. In the words of one youth, they were “treated like a kindergartner.”

There were respondents who identified police experiences as positive. These youth noted the actions police took to reach out to them, such as staying involved in their lives, playing basketball, bringing them candy, and caring about their families. The Police Activity League (PAL) program was identified as a positive experience.

These responses indicate a need for police to increase their relationship development with youth so that youth are treated with respect and feel like police believed them.

Probation

The majority of the experiences with probation were also negative but not as harsh (25 negative, 14 positive). Reoccurring themes seemed to focus on control and intimidation issues with youth making statements such as “very strict”, “controlling,” “used big words,” “take freedom away”, “not fair with the rules,” “yelling,” and “make threats.” There appeared to be a perception that the probation officer does not really care about them, or pay attention to their needs. One person stated, “they do not care about me” and another “they only work to get money.” Another participant stated that the probation officer “did not tell me what I did right, only what I did wrong – it was always about the bad stuff.”

Positive comments included words like “nice” and “cool”. One respondent said the probation officer was “more fair than the police and JDC.” Another youth stated that their experience was “good, we rarely talk but when we do he encourages me.”

County Attorney

The majority of the experiences with the County Attorney were also negative (21 negative, 13 positive). There seemed to be a common theme about not being listened to and having decisions made for them without their say. Common words and phrases include “confusing,” “I didn’t understand,” “everyone made decisions about me without asking me,” and “didn’t listen” A few respondents said attorney’s were mean or forceful and that they felt betrayed after disclosing information.

Proportionately, youth identified more positive experiences than they had compared to the police and probation officers. These positive experiences included experiences with attorney’s who were “helpful,” “good,” and “fair.” One respondent said “it was a relief to because it was okay for me to talk to them about my problems” and another stated that the attorney “gave choices and told you specifically what you need to do (to stay out of trouble).”

ER or Clinic Staff

The majority of the experiences were negative (29 negative, 18 positive) and mostly involved responses around process issues such as long waits, hectic environments, difficulty with forms, or too many questions rather than being treated poorly by staff. This is important given that there was no mention of ER or clinic staff being rude and that the positive responses were about staff being helpful, warm, and understanding. Some youth identified that staff were “good and made me feel at ease,” “helpful,” and “good experiences.”

In addition to the above mentioned themes, the negative comments included experiences that with lack of confidentiality. For example, a common theme included not having the parents step out of the room when talking with staff. Youth said “Every time I go to the clinic, they ask questions with my Mom there so I lie” and “We cannot be honest with our parents there.”

School Social Worker or Guidance Counselor

Roughly half of the experiences with social workers were positive (27 negative, 21 positive). A number of youth commented that school social workers or counselors were helpful or at least tried to be helpful. Youth said that school social workers were “helpful,” that they had “tried to understand me,” and that they offered a “different way of looking at things”

Yet many youth also identified negative experiences. For example, a couple youth felt that the school social workers just acted like they cared, but they really did not. There were some complaints related to a general dislike of “getting in their business,” “being pressured” and having to involve parents.

Organizations that help youth

An overwhelmingly majority of the experiences with organizations were positive (5 negative, 39 positive). Positive responses centered on youth feeling treated with “respect” and “support,” being “included,” having it be “interesting,” and that they were open to “share stuff.”

Experiences at a couple organizations were said to be “bad”, but they did not elaborate on this. One respondent did report that everything takes too long.

General Questions

The second section of the survey focused on some general questions not related to a specific agency. One question asked **why they initially sought help**. Many respondents sought help because they were homeless or had been kicked out of their home. Others sought out help because they needed support or needed to “get their act together”. Other respondents said they were forced by the court to seek help. One respondent said their “body and mind can’t handle it anymore, pride is gone”.

The youth were also asked questions about their **knowledge of existing services**, if they knew who to contact for help, and if safety or confidentiality was a concern. About half of the respondents said they did not know what services existed. Most knew who to contact for help. However, the majority of youth stated that confidentiality was a concern. Some also stated that transportation or confidentiality issues may keep them from seeking out services.

They were also asked **what could be done to help them gain trust in adults and what adults should be sensitive to when working with teenagers**. The overarching theme was that youth need to feel like they could trust adults to work effectively with them. Many youth responded that adults need to be calm and cool. Being a good listener and not making assumptions or being judgmental was also brought up multiple times.

Eighteen of the respondents named a family member or relative as the first person they would turn to for help if they were in an uncomfortable situation. However, 20 respondents named an agency worker or agency as the first person they would contact. Thirteen said a friend, 5 said no one, and one said God. Again, the issue of ‘someone they could trust’ was brought up multiple times.

There is a belief that the targeted group of youth often does not follow through with appointments. A question was asked about whether or not they missed appointments, and if so, why. The majority of youth did not answer this question, which could mean that they did not often miss appointments. Those who did admit to missing appointments identified barriers with transportation, having something else come up, or lacking comfort with the nature of the appointment.

Limitations

Many of the respondents were brief in their answers, and occasionally did not seem to understand the question. By over-sampling minority youth, we may have inadvertently under represented Caucasian youth. Since agency staff conducted the groups or handed out the surveys, it is possible that youth may

have biased their answers based on the fact that they knew the interviewer. For example, if an agency handed out the survey asking questions about their experiences with that agency, respondents may have been reluctant to report anything negative about their experience.

Recommendations

Youth perception of the services they receive is important to consider in protocol development. The summary data and individual response data can be used to assist in highlighting areas for improvement.

A4.2 SHYIP Provider Focus Groups Report

SHYIP Focus Group Report July 2007

Background

Focus groups are one of the methods SHYIP chose to gather information. Eighteen groups were conducted for the SHYIP with approximately 200 people in attendance in total. "Missing" groups, from whom we would like information, include: judges, children's mental health crisis, and SPPD Family and Sexual Violence Unit. Focus groups were conducted in the early stages of the project. They were used as a complement to the following method of gathering information for this project: Youth Experience Survey, Inventory of Existing Services, monthly Featured Presenters from among SHYIP participating organizations, and others.

The focus groups were discussion with individuals from various organizations in Ramsey County. The goal was to gain information about their views of and experiences with our target population, youth ages 10 to 21 who are homeless, runaway or truant and have experienced or at are at risk for sexual exploitation. For this project, focus groups were chosen as a way to gather information from a variety of provider perspectives about the same topic and gain insights into people's shared understandings of the target population. A key characteristic of these focus groups was the insight produced by the interaction between participants.

The main purposes of the focus groups were to draw upon respondents' attitudes, feelings, beliefs, experiences, and reactions to the SHYIP target population. These attitudes, feelings and beliefs are likely to be revealed via the social gathering and the interaction which being in a focus group entails. Focus groups elicit a multiplicity of views and emotional processes within a group context.

Information gathered is limited in terms of the ability to generalize findings to a whole population, mainly because the relatively small numbers of people participating were merely a representative sample. The interactions of participants were crucial, highlighting their views of the world, the language they use and their values and beliefs about the target population. Interaction also enabled participants to ask questions of each other, as well as to evaluate and reconsider their own understandings of their specific experiences.

The benefits to participants included the opportunity to be involved in the project, to be valued as experts, and to be given the chance to work collaboratively. The focus groups were intended to be empowering for many participants. Not everyone may have experience these benefits, as focus groups can also be intimidating at times.

Focus group research has advantages and limitations. By its nature focus group research is open-ended and cannot be entirely predetermined. The focus groups have to allow for participants to talk to each other, ask questions, and express doubts and opinions.

Individuals are speaking in a specific context, within a specific culture, and can cause difficulty in clearly identifying an individual message.

The focus groups were reasonably easy to assemble, yet required a fair portion of time, attention to detail, and a lot of coordination. We attempted to obtain a representative sample in the focus groups, though we recognize that the population surveyed in the focus groups is merely a representation.

Themes/Conclusions

Many recurring themes came out of the focus groups. Following are some of the more prevalent themes that emerged during discussions.

Communication/Data Sharing – Many agencies expressed concern over the lack of communication between agencies and often within agencies. The lack of follow-up about a particular child or case was a common problem between agencies.

There were also multiple comments about the general lack of willingness to share information between agencies. This applied to more than one agency including child protection, county attorney's office, law enforcement and schools. Data sharing practices apparently can vary even within an organization, with one worker requiring a release of information, and another worker not requiring one. Within law enforcement and child protection, there was often confusion about which unit the case was assigned to, and who was ultimately responsible for the case. A similar situation was noted in probation, knowing whether or not a case was open or closed.

One focus group member said it best, "Work is best accomplished with everyone on board and working toward a common goal – service to the teen."

Parents – There is not enough help for parents when teen runs away. Often parents don't know who to call. Sometimes parents need physically go the agency to get help which only creates an additional barrier. Many parents are unengaged and don't want anything to do with their child. Many parents get burned out after dealing with the child who is a habitual runaway or truant. Many homeless and runaway youth are in the foster care system. There seemed to be a general consensus that there was not enough training and therapeutic support for foster parents, and parents in general.

Specific Groups – Many agencies noted the lack of specific services for refugees, Hmong, Somali, African Americans, Hispanic, GLBT, older teens, and teen parents (especially fathers). In addition, there are either not enough interpreters, or no interpreters involved which leaves parents having to find their own interpreters. Some of the cultural barriers have to do with simply not supplying information in the child's/parent's language. Some of the issues have to do with cultural differences such as the male dominant Lao community.

Continuous Services – Many agencies talked about the need for one person to follow a child the whole way through the process. For example, mental health case managers do not stay with the child long enough to have an influential relationship with the child. There is no continuous access for ongoing medical care.

There was also some discussion about too many agencies providing similar resources. Many agencies stated they wished there was one place to get or know about all services – a one-stop shopping model.

Assessment Tools – Many agencies expressed a need for more and better assessments in the areas of mental health, chemical dependency, and sexual abuse. In addition, many of homeless and runaway youth have multiple diagnoses, which is often overlooked or left untreated. The timeliness of assessments is also an issue, with youth often waiting days to get an assessment. Apparently it is difficult to get a mental health caseworker assigned, and a child needs to be quite impaired for this to happen.

General Lack of Resources – There were repetitive comments about the lack of transportation, housing, staff, and program money. The lack of staff applied to probation, child protection, law enforcement as well as shelters. Nearly every agency noted the lack of housing options for homeless and runaway youth. Also, the shelters that are available often seem to be dangerous or inadequately staffed. The lack of services at night (not limited to shelters) was also an issue.

Recommendations

There appears to be a need to educate parents and agency staff on many issues related to runaway, homeless youth. The areas recommended for training included mental health, sexual assault protocol, and cultural competency.

There were some good suggestions regarding working with the youth. One repeated suggestion was to physically transport youth to their place of referral (referral cards are not very effective). There were multiple suggestions about developing rapport with the youth. Being patient and non-judgmental were key to developing successful relationships with youth.

There was an expressed concern that the system is too corrections-based.

To address some concerns about communication and lack of information sharing, a database to track runaway and homeless youth could be created to assist with this issue. Also, creating websites for youth, parents and agencies would be helpful for information sharing.

Service providers would need to commit to the same goals, and work together as a collaborative among the varied systems.

SHYIP – Agency Focus Group Questions

1. What agencies do you commonly work with? What barriers do you encounter working with these agencies?
2. What agencies do you most often refer to? Why do you refer to these agencies?
3. Are there agencies you avoid making referrals to? If yes, why?
4. What are the gaps in services for the target population?
5. What are the biggest challenges your agency faces in working with runaway/homeless youth?
6. What tips do you have in working effectively with this population? What works best?
7. Is there anything else that you can think of that may help us in developing our protocol?

SHYIP Provider Focus Groups

	Group	Date	Total number of Attendees
1	Advocates for sexual assault survivors - Breaking Free and SOS	January-07	12
2	Guardian Ad Litem	January-07	11
3	Midwest Children's Resource Center and Ramsey County ER SANE managers	January-07	14
4	Saint Paul Public School Social Workers	January-07	8
5	Saint Paul Public Schools - Junior High School counselors	January-07	13
6	Saint Paul Ramsey County Department of Public Health	January-07	8
7	Saint Paul Police Department Juvenile Unit and Student Resource Officers	January-07	22
8	Ramsey County Attorney's Office	November-06	10
9	Ramsey County Child Protection Management	February-07	13
10	Ramsey County Child Protection staff	February-07	6
11	Ramsey County Children's Mental Health Case Manager's	February-07	15
12	Ramsey County Delinquency	February-07	10
13	Ramsey County Foster Care Licensing	February-07	16
14	Ramsey County Juvenile Corrections & County Juvenile Detention Center	January-07	8
15	Ramsey County Suburban School staff	February-07	6
16	Ramsey County Sheriff's Department and suburban law enforcement departments	February-07	3
17	Ramsey County Sheriff's Department Student Resource Officers and suburban law enforcement departments	February-07	11
18	Youth Service Providers	January-07	10

Total: 196

A4.3 SHYIP Inventory of Existing Services

SHYIP Inventory of Existing Services (IES)

Final Report

August 2007

Background Information

One of the first steps in developing the youth protocol is the Inventory of Existing Services (IES). The purpose of the IES is to examine the areas in the community, or existing youth agencies that provide services to runaway, homeless or truant youth who are sexually exploited. This inventory was developed and assessed during 2006-2007 from a comprehensive list of services that included law enforcement, community corrections, health care/medical facilities, mental health programs, victim service organizations, advocacy and shelter/outreach agencies as well as other agencies that provide services to the SHYIP target population.

Purpose of Inventory

This inventory has identified gaps in the above-mentioned services available to or accessible by youth. The inventory addresses services that are needed in the community to serve the target population and implement positive changes that ultimately affect their health and quality of care. The inventory has also identified the quality, quantity, legitimacy, and accessibility of services available to runaway and exploited youth. The information was obtained through an electronic survey; participants were entered into a drawing for a \$50 gift card. The information collected through the IES will inform the protocol development process of the SHYIP initiative.

Results of Inventory

The IES survey was distributed electronically to 120 youth serving agencies within Ramsey County and Hennepin County, Minnesota. Of the 120 agencies, 89 agencies completed the survey, a response rate of 74 percent. The IES identified that of these 89 agencies, 43 percent have 24-hour services and/or a crisis line, 15 percent have a waiting list for services, an overwhelming 57 percent of agencies provide ongoing services, and 28 percent have specific services for LGBT youth. Additionally, 60 percent of youth-serving agencies provide interpreters onsite or the use an outside agency such as Language Line to provide an interpreter for youth.

Ten percent of the responding agencies stated that all of their clientele are youth; the majority of agencies provide services to youth and adults. Agencies described a plethora of services for youth, including: individual, group and/or family counseling/mental health services, outreach services, 24-hour crisis line, life skills training, support groups, bus tokens, transportation, food, housing/shelter, medical care, clothing, chemical dependency services, tutoring/GED, emergency funds, legal assistance, rent assistance, employment placement, interpretation services, child care. Nearly 40 percent of agencies provide referrals to youth in the attempt to connect them with needed services. Regarding how agencies come into contact with youth, 31 percent of agencies' primary referral base are from self or voluntary, others are from schools, parents, other youth agencies, word-of-mouth and/or court-ordered youth.

In addition to identifying the agencies that serve youth, the IES sought to determine how effectively they meet the needs of a culturally diverse youth population. Thirty seven percent of youth seen by participating agencies were White, 26 percent were Black, 13 percent Asian, 10 percent Hispanic, 6

percent identified as American Indian and 3 percent as African Immigrant. Agencies serve youth from a wide range of racial/ethnic backgrounds, demonstrating the need for staff representatives from many communities to represent all youth and cultural backgrounds. According to IES survey respondents (collectively), 16 percent of staff at youth serving agencies speak Hmong, 8 percent speak Somali and 33 percent speak Spanish. The majority of agencies have access to interpreters through Language Line and other interpretation agencies.

Concluding Thoughts

The IES was conducted to determine if there are adequate services available for sexually exploited, runaway and truant youth in the community. The IES will help ensure that a multiagency protocol accurately and comprehensively reflects the agencies and organizations that serve the target population. By examining these existing agencies, the protocol will ensure that agencies are competent to serve the target population in all of its diversity, and provide a comprehensive roster of referral agencies in order to coordinate efforts. This inventory has identified gaps in services as well as identified areas in which additional services are needed to provide effective, comprehensive services to youth.

See Participating Agencies, IES Survey, following pages.

Inventory of Existing Services—Participating Agencies and Contact Information

Acute Psychiatric Services

701 Park Ave South Minneapolis MN
Phone: 612-873-3161
Website: www.hcmc.org/depts/psych/cic.htm

Ain Dah Yung (Our Home) Center

1089 Portland Ave Saint Paul
Phone: 651-227-4184
Website: www.aindahyung.com

Annex Teen Clinic

4915 42nd Ave. North Robbinsdale, MN
Phone: 763-533-1316
Website: www.teenhealth411.org

Anoka County Community Corrections

325 East Main Street Anoka MN
Phone: 763-712-2900
Website: www.co.anoka.mn.us/v2_dept/comm-corr/index.asp

Arlington House

712 East Larpenteur Ave. Saint Paul, MN
Phone: 651-771-3040
Website: www.arlington-house.org

Booth Brown House (BBH)

1471 Como Ave. West Saint Paul, MN
Phone: 651-646-2601
Website: www.thesalary.com/bbh.htm

Breaking Free

770 University Ave. Saint Paul MN
Phone: 651-645-6557
Website: breakingfree.net

Carver County Public Health

600 East 4th Street Chaska MN
Phone: 952-361-1329
Website: www.co.carver.mn.us

Community Action Council-Eagan Lewis House

4345 Nicols Road, Eagan MN
Phone: 651-452-7466
Website: www.communityactioncouncil.org

Community Action Council's Sexual Assault Services

4345 Nicols Road, Eagan MN
Phone: 651-405-1500
Website: www.communityactioncouncil.org

Crisis Connection

PO Box 19550 Minneapolis
Phone: 612-852-2200
Website: www.crisis.org

Community University Health Care Center (CUHCC)

2001 Bloomington Ave South Minneapolis MN
Phone: 612-638-0700
Website: www.ahc.umn.edu/cuhcc/aboutcuhcc.html

Family & Children's Service

4123 East Lake Street Minneapolis MN
Phone: 612-339-9101
Website: www.everyfamilymatters.org or
www.fcsmn.org

Family & Children's Service

6900 78th Ave North Brooklyn Park, MN
Phone: 763-560-4412
Website: www.fcsmn.org

Family Tree Clinic

1619 Dayton Ave Saint Paul, MN
Phone: 651-645-0478
Website: www.familytreeclinic.org

Fremont Community Health Services

3300 Fremont Ave, Minneapolis MN
Phone: 612-588-9411
Website: www.fremonthhealth.org

Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery

5400 Glenwood Ave. Golden Valley, MN
Phone: 763-591-0400
Website: www.crisisnursery.org

Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC)

701 Park Ave Minneapolis MN
612-873-2244
Website: www.hcmc.org

Hmong American Partnership

1075 Arcade Street Saint Paul, MN
Phone: 651-495-9160
Website: www.hmong.org

Home Free Shelter

3405 East Medicine Lake Blvd. Plymouth MN
Phone: 763-559-9008
Website: www.homefreeprograms.org

Human Services Inc. (HSI)

6451 East Point Douglas Road, Cottage Grove
MN
Phone: 651-458-4116
Website: www.hsicares.org

Jewish Community Center

1375 Saint Paul Ave. Saint Paul MN
Phone: 651-255-4767
Website: www.stpauljcc.org

Jewish Domestic Abuse Collaborative

13100 Wayzata Blvd. Minnetonka MN
Phone: 952-542-4833
Website: www.jfcsmpls.org

La Familia Guidance Center, Inc.

155 S. Wabasha Street Suite #120 Saint Paul
Phone #651-221-0913
Website: www.lafamiliaguidance.org

Lao Family

320 University Ave East Saint Paul MN
Phone: 651-221-0069
Website: www.laofamily.org

LifeCare Center East

891 White Bear Ave. Saint Paul
Phone: 651-776-2328
Website: www.lcce.org

**Lutheran Social Services (LSS) Metro
Homeless Youth Programs**

501 Asbury Street Saint Paul, MN
Phone: 651-644-7739
Website: www.lssmn.org

Midwest Children's Resource Center

347 North Smith Ave Saint Paul, MN
Phone: 651-220-6750

Minnesota Department of Health

85 East 7th Place, Saint Paul MN
Phone: 651-201-3627
Website: www.health.state.mn.us/youth

**Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault
Coalition**

1619 Dayton Ave. Suite #303 Saint Paul, MN
Phone: 651-646-4800
Website: www.miwsac.org

MN Coalition Against Sexual Assault

161 Saint Anthony Ave Suite #1001 Saint Paul,
MN
Phone: 651-209-9993
Website: www.mncasa.org

MN Family Planning and STD Hotline

Phone: 1-800-78-FACTS
Website: www.stdhotline.state.mn.us

N.I.P. Community Clinic

2431 Hennepin Ave South Minneapolis MN
Phone: 612-374-4086
Website: www.neighborhoodinvolve.org

Neighborhood Involvement Program

3333 North 4th St. Minneapolis
Phone: 612-276-1522
Website: www.neighborhoodinvolve.org

New Horizons Crisis Center

109 South 5th Street Suite #40 Marshall MN
Phone: 507-532-5764
Website: www.newhorizonscrisiscenter.org

North Saint Paul Police

2400 Margaret Street North Saint Paul MN
Phone: 651-747-2406
Website: www.ci.north-saint-paul.mn.us/

Northwest YMCA/POINT Northwest

7601 42nd Ave. North New Hope MN
Phone: 763-592-5567
Website:
www.ymcatwincities.org/locations/pnw_main

Nucleus Clinic

1323 Coon Rapids Blvd. Coon Rapids MN
Phone: 763-755-5300

Office of Justice Programs, Dept. of Public Safety

444 Cedar Street Suite #100 Saint Paul MN
Phone: 651-201-7350
Website: www.ojp.state.mn.us

OutFront Minnesota

310 East 38th Street Suite #204 Minneapolis MN
Phone: 612-822-0127
Website: www.outfront.org

Partners for Violence Prevention

340 Walnut Street Saint Paul MN
Phone: 651-241-8529
Website:
www.partnersforviolenceprevention.org

Pillsbury United Communities, Pillsbury House

3501 Chicago Ave South Minneapolis, MN
Phone: 612-824-0708
Website: www.puc-mn.org

Planned Parenthood - Minneapolis Clinic

1200 Lagoon Ave. Minneapolis MN
Phone: 612-823-6300
Website: www.ppmns.org

Ramsey County Attorneys Office

50 West Kellogg Suite #315 Saint Paul, MN
Phone: 651-266-3222
Website:
www.co.ramsey.mn.us/attorney/index.htm

Ramsey County Child Protection

160 East Kellogg Blvd. Saint Paul
Phone: 651-266-4850
Website: www.co.ramsey.mn.us

Ramsey County Community Corrections

25 West 7th Street Saint Paul, MN
Phone: 651-266-5300
Website: www.co.ramsey.mn.us/cc/index.htm

Ramsey County Department of Public Health

555 Cedar Street Saint Paul, MN
Phone: 651-266-1263
Website: www.co.ramsey.mn.us

Ramsey County Department of Public Health Teen Parent Program

70 West County Road B-2 Little Canada MN
Phone: 651-766-4062
Website: www.co.ramsey.mn.us

Ramsey County Human Services

160 East Kellogg Blvd. Saint Paul
Phone: 651-266-4444
Website: www.co.ramsey.mn.us

**Ramsey County Human Services, Children's
Mental Health Case Management**

160 East Kellogg Blvd. Suite #7000 Saint Paul
Phone: 651-266-4492
Website: www.co.ramsey.mn.us

Ramsey County Juvenile Detention Center

25 West 7th Street Saint Paul, MN
Phone: 651-266-5300
Website: www.co.ramsey.mn.us

Ramsey County Sheriff's Office

425 Grove Street Saint Paul
Phone: 651-266-9333
Website:
www.co.ramsey.mn.us/sheriff/index.htm

Rape and Sexual Abuse Center

2431 Hennepin Ave Minneapolis MN
Phone: 612-374-3125
Website: www.neighborhoodinvolve.org/rsac

Regions ER Crisis Program

640 Jackson Street Saint Paul, MN
Phone: 651-254-1000
Website: www.regionshospitals.com

Roseville Police

2660 Civic Center Drive Roseville, MN
Phone: 651-792-7008
Website: www.usacops.com

Regions Hospital SANE Program

640 Jackson Street Saint Paul MN
Phone: 651-254-1611
Website: www.regionshospital.com

Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Program

201 East Nicollet Blvd. Burnsville, MN
Phone: 952-892-2714
Website: www.sane-sart.com

Sexual Assault Resource Service

701 Park Ave South, Minneapolis MN
Phone: 612-873-5832
Website: www.sane-sart.com

Sexual Offense Services of Ramsey County

1619 Dayton Ave Suite #201 Saint Paul, MN
Phone: 651-643-3006 (24 hour)
651-643-3022 (Business Line)
Website: www.ramsey.mn.us/ph/yas/sos.htm

Sexual Violence Center

3757 Fremont Ave. South Minneapolis MN
Phone: 612-871-5100
Website: www.sexualviolencecenter.org

Sojourner

PO Box 272, Hopkins MN
Phone: 952-933-7422
Website: www.sojournerproject.org

Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services

166 East 4th Street Suite #200 Saint Paul, MN
Phone: 651-222-5863
Website: www.smrls.org

Southside Community Health Services

4730 Chicago Ave. South Minneapolis MN
Phone: 612-822-3186
Website: www.southsidechs.org

Saint Croix Family Medical Clinic

5640 Memorial Ave. North Suite B Stillwater,
MN
Phone: 651-430-1880
Website: www.southsidechs.org

Saint Paul Public Schools

360 Colborne Street Saint Paul
651-603-4944
Website: www.spps.org

Saint Paul Youth Services

2100 Wilson Ave. Saint Paul MN
Phone: 651-771-1301
Website: www.spys.org

StreetWorks

2219 Oakland Ave South Minneapolis MN
Phone: 612-252-2735
Website: www.streetworksmn.org

TAMS—Teen Age Medical Services Clinic

2425 Chicago Ave. South Minneapolis MN
Phone: 612-813-6844
Website: www.childrensmn.org

The Bridge for Runaway Youth, Inc.

2200 Emerson Ave South, Minneapolis MN
Phone: 612-377-8800
Website: www.bridgeforyouth.org

United/Children's Hospital SANE Program

4050 Coon Rapids Blvd. Coon Rapids, MN
Phone: 763-236-7142

United Way 2-1-1

180 East 5th Street Saint Paul MN
Phone: 211
Website: www.211unitedway.org

White Bear Lake Police Department

4701 Highway 61 White Bear Lake, MN
Phone: 651-429-8550
Website: www.whitebearlake.org

Wilder Southeast Asian Services

450 North Syndicate Ave Suite #285 Saint Paul MN
Phone: 651-647-9676
Website: www.wilder.org

Women of Nations

73 Leech Street Saint Paul, MN
Phone: 651-222-5836
Website: www.women-of-nations.org

Women's Advocates, Inc.

588 Grand Ave Saint Paul MN
Phone: 651-227-9966
Website: www.wadvocates.org

Youth & AIDS Projects

428 Oak Grove Street Minneapolis MN
Phone: 612-627-6820
Website: www.yapmn.com

YouthLink

41 N. 12th Street Minneapolis
Phone: 612-252-1200
Website: www.youthlinkmn.org

SHYIP - INVENTORY OF EXISTING SERVICES QUESTIONNAIRE

(Provided electronically by Survey Monkey, November 2006)

1. Agency Contact Information

Agency _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

OFFICE (Main) Telephone _____

Email Address of DIRECTOR or SUPERVISOR: _____

AGENCY website: _____

2. Field Offices/ Branch Locations

Does your organization have field offices or branch locations? Yes No

If yes, how many of them serve youth? _____

a) Location _____

Hours of Operation _____ to _____ or 24-Hrs

Number of blocks to public transportation: _____

Accessible to individuals with disabilities? Yes No

What type of disability services can you provide?

Blind/Visually Impaired

Developmental Disabilities

Deaf/Hard of Hearing

Mental Illness

Physical Disabilities

Other (Please Specify) _____

Languages spoken by staff: _____

Can your agency provide interpreters? Yes No

What is the average wait time for a youth to access your services? _____

b) Location _____

Hours of Operation _____ to _____ or 24-Hrs

Number of blocks to public transportation: _____

Accessible to individuals with disabilities? Yes No

What type of disability services can you provide?

Blind/Visually Impaired

Developmental Disabilities

Deaf/Hard of Hearing

Mental Illness

Physical Disabilities

Other (Please Specify) _____

Languages spoken by staff: _____

Can your agency provide interpreters? Yes No

What is the average wait time for a youth to access your services? _____

3. Services Provided:

a) What primary services do you offer to youth?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Counseling/Mental Health Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Life skills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Counseling | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing/Shelter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Counseling | <input type="checkbox"/> Child care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Assistance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Support Groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Referrals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chemical dependency services | <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employment support/Job Placement | <input type="checkbox"/> Tutoring/GED |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food | <input type="checkbox"/> Clothing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 24-Hr Crisis Line | <input type="checkbox"/> Translation services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Funds | <input type="checkbox"/> Eviction Prevention Funding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bus tokens | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Month's Rent Funding | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify) _____ | |

c) Does your organization charge youth for services? Yes No
If yes, what arrangements are available to assist clients with limited resources?

d) What is your referral process?

- | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Self/Voluntary | <input type="checkbox"/> Parents | <input type="checkbox"/> Word-of-Mouth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Court Ordered | <input type="checkbox"/> Police | <input type="checkbox"/> Schools |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Youth Agency Providers | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | | |

e) What is the demographic base of the clients you serve?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> African-American | <input type="checkbox"/> Latino/Hispanic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian | <input type="checkbox"/> Immigrant (specify origin) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian/Pacific Islander | <input type="checkbox"/> Mexico/South America |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caucasian | <input type="checkbox"/> Middle East |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-racial | <input type="checkbox"/> Africa |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LGBT | <input type="checkbox"/> Asia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other/Unknown _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Europe |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other/Unknown _____ |

Who is eligible to receive your agencies services? (Example: certain geographical area (Ramsey County), Age, Income Level, Court Ordered, Culturally Specific or no restrictions) Please List:

4. Would your organization be willing to consider asking current or former clients to participate in a focus group about services. Yes No

Contact person: _____ Phone #: _____

Thank you so much for taking the time to fill out this survey.

A4.4 SHYIP Participating Agencies

Ain Dah Yung
Booth Brown House
Breaking Free Inc.
College of St. Catherine
District 202/Street Works
Domestic Abuse Project
Face To Face
Family Tree Clinic
Health Start
Hmong American Partnership
Mercy Hospital
Midwest Children's Resource Center
Minnesota Department of Health
Minnesota Department of Human Services
Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition
Minnesota Office of Justice Programs
Mounds View Schools
North Saint Paul Police Department
Partners for Violence Prevention
Project Pathfinder
Ramsey County Attorney's Office
Ramsey County Commissioner, District 6
Ramsey County Community Corrections
Ramsey County Human Services
Department:

- Child Protection
- Children's Mental Health
- Delinquency
- Foster Care

Ramsey County Juvenile Probation
Ramsey County Sheriff's Department
Regions Hospital
SAFE Program
SafeZone
Department
Sexual Offence Services of Ramsey County
Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services
Saint Anthony Police Department
Saint Paul Public Schools
Saint Paul Youth Services
Saint Paul-Ramsey County Public Health
Saint Paul Domestic Abuse Intervention Project
Saint Paul Police Department
StreetWorks Collaborative
The Bridge
United & Children's Hospitals' SANE Program
Wilder Foundation
Women of Nations-Eagle's Nest
Youth Link

A5 Eight-Step Protocol Development Model, adapted from *Improving Community Response to Crime Victims*, Sage Publications, © 1997

The 8-Step Protocol Development Cycle -- Summary

SHYIP is following an 8-Step Protocol Development Cycle to develop a coordinated, victim-centered response to youth who are truants and/or runaways and sexually assaulted. Through this process, team members make significant commitments of time, energy, and agency resources toward this effort.

This process was first used in Ramsey County in 1997 when Ramsey County and five other Minnesota communities served as test sites in the *Model Protocol Project* to develop multidisciplinary, victim-centered sexual assault protocols. The *Model Protocol Project* sought to identify aspects of an improved response, and the factors that lead to its sustainability. In Ramsey County, this group is called the Sexual Assault Adult Protocol Team (SAAPT). Similar to the SHYIP, the adult team brought interested agencies including law enforcement, prosecution, victim advocacy, medical services, mental health agencies, and ethnic and social service agencies together to form a multidisciplinary team to complete the 8-step cycle.

The complete 8-Step cycle is described in the book, *Improving Community Response to Crime Victims* (Boles & Paterson, Sage 1997). The 8 steps are:

1. Inventory of Existing Services
2. Victim Experience Survey
3. Community Needs Assessment
4. Interdisciplinary / multi-agency protocol writing
5. Formalized agency adoption of the protocol
6. Implementation training
7. Systems monitoring
8. Evaluation

A6.1 Definitions

Child Sexual Exploitation

CSE reflects a continuum of abuse ranging from child sexual abuse to child sexual exploitation to the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

Commercial Sexual Exploitation

Exploitation of children entirely, or primarily, for financial or other economic reasons...exchanges may be either monetary or non-monetary. (Howard Davidson, Director ABA Center on Children and Law)

- The act of engaging in sexual intercourse or performing other sex acts with a child for money, clothing, food shelter, drugs, or other considerations. (World Health Organization, 2001)
- "A practice by which a person, usually an adult, achieves sexual gratification financial gain or advancement through the abuse of exploitation of a child's sexuality..."Estes & Weiner.
- The sexual exploitation of children entirely, or at least primarily, for financial or other economic reasons. The economic exchanges may be either monetary or non-monetary (i.e., for food, shelter, drugs) but, in every case, involve maximum benefits to the exploiter and an abrogation of the basic rights, dignity, autonomy, physical and mental well-being of the child.
- The act of engaging in sexual intercourse or performing other sex acts with a child in exchange for money, clothing, food, shelter, drugs, or other considerations (World Health Organization, 1996).

Domestic Trafficking

The recruitment, transportation or receipt of children through deception or coercion for the purpose of prostitution, other sexual exploitation or forced labor only within their own country. Children may be trafficked domestically either voluntarily or involuntarily.

- a. Voluntary domestic trafficking involves the movement of children voluntarily across state lines for the purpose of bringing financial gain to either the children or the traffickers, or both. The majority of children trafficked in this way are required either to pay fees to or to perform services, including sexual services, for their traffickers.
- b. Involuntary domestic trafficking involves the movement of children involuntarily across intra-national (e.g., state) lines for the purpose of bringing financial gain to the traffickers. The majority of children trafficked are held in servitude and are forced to pay trafficking fees through a combination of indentured services, including commercial sexual services.

Exploitation

Unfair, if not illegal, treatment or use of somebody or something, usually for personal gain.

Habitual truant

A child under the age of 16 years who is absent from school without lawful excuse for seven school days if the child is in elementary school or for one or more class periods on seven school days if the child is in middle school, junior high school, or high school, or a child who is 16 or 17 years of age who is absent from school without lawful excuse for one or more class periods on seven school days and who has not lawfully withdrawn from school

Homeless youth

A person 21 years of age or younger who is unaccompanied by a parent or guardian and is without shelter where appropriate care and supervision are available, whose parent or legal guardian is unable or unwilling to provide shelter and care, or who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

The following are not fixed, regular, or adequate nighttime residences:

1. A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations;
2. An institution or a publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations;
3. Transitional housing;

4. A temporary placement with a peer, friend, or family member that has not offered permanent residence, a residential lease, or temporary lodging for more than 30 days; or
5. A public or private place not designed for, nor ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings. Homeless youth does not include persons incarcerated or otherwise detained under federal or state law.

Also:

Youth age 21 and younger who have no stable place of residence and who have run away from their homes (or alternative care placements) or been kicked out of their homes (Smollar, 2001). One national study found that being homeless for more than 30 days was the single most determinative factor causing youth to turn to prostitution (Hofstede, 1999).

Legal custody

The right to the care, custody, and control of a child who has been taken from a parent by the court.

Parent

The birth or adoptive parent of a minor. For an Indian child, parent includes any Indian person who has adopted a child by tribal law or custom.

Promotes the prostitution of an individual

Any of the following wherein the person knowingly:

- (1) Solicits or procures patrons for a prostitute; or
- (2) Provides, leases or otherwise permits premises or facilities owned or controlled by the person to aid the prostitution of an individual; or
- (3) Owns, manages, supervises, controls, keeps or operates, either alone or with others, a place of prostitution to aid the prostitution of an individual; or
- (4) Owns, manages, supervises, controls, operates, institutes, aids or facilitates, either alone or with others, a business of prostitution to aid the prostitution of an individual; or
- (5) Admits a patron to a place of prostitution to aid the prostitution of an individual; or
- (6) Transports an individual from one point within this state to another point either within or without this state, or brings an individual into this state to aid the prostitution of the individual; or
- (7) Engages in the sex trafficking of an individual.

Presumptions regarding truancy or educational neglect

A child's absence from school is presumed to be due to the parent's, guardian's, or custodian's failure to comply with compulsory instruction laws if the child is *under 12 years* old and the school has made appropriate efforts to resolve the child's attendance problems; this presumption may be rebutted based on a showing by clear and convincing evidence that the child is *habitually truant*.

A child's absence from school without lawful excuse, when the child is *12 years old or older*, is presumed to be due to the child's intent to be absent from school; this presumption may be rebutted based on a showing by clear and convincing evidence that the child's absence is due to the failure of the child's parent, guardian, or custodian to comply with laws

Prostitute

An individual who engages in prostitution.

Prostitution

Engaging or offering or agreeing to engage for hire in sexual penetration or sexual contact.

Also:

The act of engaging in sexual intercourse or performing other sex acts in exchange for money or other considerations (e.g., food, clothing shelter, affection, etc.).

Also:

Use of a woman's [or girl's or boy's] body for sex by a man; he pays money, he does what he wants. The minute you move away from what it really is, you move away from prostitution into the world of ideas ... Prostitution is not an idea. It is the mouth, the vagina, the rectum, penetrated usually by a penis, sometimes hands, sometimes objects, by one man and then another and then another and then another and then another. That's what it is. A prostituted woman (cited in Dworkin, 1997)

Runaway

Unmarried child under the age of 18 years who is absent from the home of a parent or guardian or other lawful placement without the consent of the parent, guardian, or lawful custodian

Running Away

An estimated one to one and a half million children leave home each year. These children may be runaways, youth under the age of 18 who leave home without the permission of their parents or legal guardian, or "throwaways" – those youth who are forced to leave home or who are not actively sought after when they do leave home. In the United States, a child is thrown away from home every 26 seconds (Flowers, 2001; Robertson & Toro, 1998; Whitbeck & Hoyt, 1999; Schaffner, 1999).

Sexual abuse

Subjection of a child by a person responsible for the child's care, by a person who has a significant relationship to the child, or by a person in a position of authority to any act which constitutes a violation criminal sexual conduct in the first, second, third, fourth or fifth degree. Sexual abuse also includes any act which involves a minor which constitutes a violation of prostitution offenses; or threatened sexual abuse.

Sexual contact

Includes any of the following acts committed without the complainant's consent, except in those cases where consent is not a defense, and committed with sexual or aggressive intent: (i) The intentional touching by the actor of the complainant's intimate parts, or
(ii) The touching by the complainant of the actor's, the complainant's, or another's intimate parts effected by a person in a position of authority, or by coercion, or by inducement if the complainant is under 13 years of age or mentally impaired, or
(iii) The touching by another of the complainant's intimate parts effected by coercion or by a person in a position of authority, or
(iv) In any of the cases above, the touching of the clothing covering the immediate area of the intimate parts

Sexual contact includes fondling, touching intimate parts and sexual intercourse. Sexual abuse also includes the use of a child in prostitution or in the production of sexually explicit works, or knowingly allowing a child to engage in the activities described in this paragraph. Sexual abuse also includes threatened sexual abuse.

Any of the following acts, if the acts can reasonably be construed as being for the purpose of satisfying the actor's sexual impulses:

- (i) The intentional touching by an individual of a prostitute's intimate parts; or
- (ii) The intentional touching by a prostitute of another individual's intimate parts.

Sexual contact with a person under 13

The intentional touching of the complainant's bare genitals or anal opening by the actor's bare genitals or anal opening with sexual or aggressive intent or the touching by the complainant's bare genitals or anal opening of the actor's or another's bare genitals or anal opening with sexual or aggressive intent

Sexual Exploitation

A practice by which a person achieves sexual gratification, financial gain or advancement through the abuse or exploitation of a person's sexuality by abrogating that person's human right to dignity, equality, autonomy, and physical and mental well-being; i.e. trafficking, prostitution, prostitution tourism, mail-order-bride trade,

pornography, stripping, battering, incest, rape and sexual harassment (Hughes, 1999).

Sex Industry

The collection of legal and illegal businesses and single and multi-party operations that profit from the sexual exploitation of women, children, and sometimes, men in trafficking, organized prostitution, and/or pornography; e.g. brothels, massage parlors, bars, strip clubs, mail-order-bride agencies, prostitution tour agencies, "adult entertainment," "adult" bookstores, pornographic web sites, etc. (Hughes, 1999)

Sex trafficking

Receiving, recruiting, enticing, harboring, providing, or obtaining by any means an individual to aid in the prostitution of the individual.

Sexual violence

The use of sexual actions or words that is unwanted by and/or harmful to another person. It can include assault, rape, harassment, voyeurism, and other noncontact abuse

Solicit

Commanding, entreating, or attempting to persuade a specific person in person, by telephone, by letter, or by computerized or by other electronic means

Survival Sex

Many youth involved in the exchange of sex for money or other considerations (e.g., food, shelter, drugs, etc.) do not perceive themselves as engaging in prostitution but rather as doing "whatever is necessary" to ensure their survival. Researchers typically consider "survival sex" and "child prostitution" to be the same phenomenon and use the terms interchangeably.)

Throw-away

A child who has been kicked out or locked out of home and told not to return. Also refers to a runaway child who is not actively sought by parent(s) after the child has run away.

Trafficking

The transport, harboring, or sale of persons within national or across international borders through coercion, force, kidnapping, deception or fraud, for purposes of placing persons in situations of forced labor or services, such as forced prostitution, domestic servitude, debt bondage or other slavery-like practices. Agreement exists that the concept applies whether a child was taken forcibly or voluntarily

Truant

When a peace officer or probation officer has probable cause to believe that a child is currently under age 16 and absent from school without lawful excuse, the officer may:

- (1) transport the child to the child's home and deliver the child to the custody of the child's parent or guardian,
- (2) transport the child to the child's school of enrollment and deliver the child to the custody of a school superintendent or teacher or;
- (3) transport the child to a truancy service center or
- (4) transport the child from the child's home to the child's school or to a truancy service center.

Truancy

A child who has been expelled from school or is no longer interested in pursuing an education is at a high risk for becoming involved in prostitution (National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, 2002). Unsupervised, unguided, and unmotivated, these children view prostitution as an easy way to make money.

Youth at risk of homelessness

Any person 21 years of age or younger whose status or circumstances indicate a significant danger of experiencing homelessness in the near future. Status or circumstances that indicate a significant danger may include:

1. Youth exiting out-of-home placements;
2. Youth who previously were homeless;
3. Youth whose parents or primary caregivers are or were previously homeless;
4. Youth who are exposed to abuse and neglect in their homes;
5. Youth who experience conflict with parents due to chemical or alcohol dependency, mental health disabilities, or other disabilities; and
6. Runaways.

Relevant statutes --

Minnesota Statutes: www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us

- 260C - 260C.007 RELEVANT MINNESOTA TRUANCY STATUTES IN CHAPTER
- 260C.143 PROCEDURE; HABITUAL TRUANTS, RUNAWAYS, OFFENDERS
- 518B.01 DOMESTIC ABUSE ACT
- 609.321 PROSTITUTION
- 609.341 DEFINITIONS
- 609.342 CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT
- 609.352 SOLICITATION OF CHILDREN TO ENGAGE IN SEXUAL CONDUCT
- 626.5561 STATUTE GOVERNING THE REPORTING OF PRENATAL EXPOSURE TO CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES
- 626.556 REPORTING OF MALTREATMENT OF MINORS
- MINNESOTA RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH ACT
- Federal law 18 U.S.C. §2251

A6.2 Supporting Information

Counties confront sexual exploitation of children

By Charles Taylor, Senior Staff Writer

National Association of Counties NACO.org: October 2006

From Georgia to Minnesota, counties are taking aim at the problem of commercial sexual exploitation of children and, increasingly, they're hitting their target.

Just a few years ago, in suburban Atlanta's Fulton County, it was a misdemeanor to prostitute underage girls. Thanks to legislation backed by the Fulton County Commission, the Georgia legislature made it a felony offense, punishable by up to 10 years in jail and a fine of up to \$20,000.

Ramsey County, Minn., seated in Saint Paul, recently received a \$98,000 grant from the state to conduct a "Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Youth Pilot Project."

Both communities have seen first-hand the devastating effects of child prostitution. Seven years ago, Minneapolis-Saint Paul authorities busted a multistate, family-run prostitution ring, trafficking in girls as young as 14.

In Fulton County, the juvenile court sees an average of 12 girls a month who are victims of sexual exploitation, usually ranging in age from 10 to 14, according to staff of Angela's House, a residential treatment facility for former juvenile prostitutes, which is supported in part by county funding.

In 2001, federal authorities cracked a juvenile prostitution ring in the Atlanta area using the federal RICO racketeering law, resulting in 15 convictions and sentences of up to 40 years in prison.

"When I learned the extent to which this kind of abuse of our young girls was occurring in our community, it took my breath away," said Fulton County Commissioner Nancy Boxill, who also has a Ph.D. in child psychology. "Because, as someone whose professional career has been devoted to child advocacy, I did not know the extent to which this was going on in the community. And I just believed in my heart and in my mind that if I didn't know it, as active and attentive as I am, then other women didn't know."

Atlanta/Fulton County has taken a three-pronged approach to the problem, Boxill said, involving public education, fundraising and treatment, and legislation.

Her advice for communities looking to tackle sexual exploitation of kids is: "Develop a plan that includes the broadest range of people in the community that they can possibly imagine. The second step would be to understand what laws are governing the punishment and incarceration of these persons who exploit the young girls, and then to develop a strategy that enhances or highlights or energizes public education: one that addresses legislation and certainly a strategy that includes treatment for the children." For example, Angela's House can accommodate six girls for 120 days of treatment, including emergency therapy, medical and psychological assessments, and a long-range care and treatment plan.

Ramsey County is also taking a multidisciplinary approach with its Safe Harbor project, said Emily Huemann of the Saint Paul-Ramsey County Department of Public Health - "bringing together service providers who are working with sexually exploited youth and youth who are running away."

"We're going to bring them together and have them invest in working together to find out what's going on in our community: what the victims are saying, what their parents are saying, what the service providers are saying." The goal is to develop protocols that can be used by all agencies that work with kids who are runaways/throwaways, victims of sexual exploitation, or both.

The project developed an eight-step process that started with doing an inventory of existing services and conducting focus groups with victims.

The efforts in Ramsey and Fulton counties are designed to serve as models for other communities in their states.

At the national level, NACo is doing its part. It teamed up with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) earlier this year in a public awareness campaign against child sexual exploitation called "We're here because they're out there." Since then, a number of counties have signed on to the effort, passing local resolutions to form task forces to develop a multidisciplinary strategy to address child sexual exploitation.

"It's not just a local issue, it's a neighborhood; it's a community; it's a state - it's a nation, it's a worldwide problem," said NACo President-elect Eric Coleman, an Oakland County, Mich. commissioner.

His county has formed a task force, chaired by Coleman, which is in the initial stages of "establishing a framework for a comprehensive prevention strategy." Participants include representatives of the family court system, Sheriff's Office, victim service agencies, community organizations and other agencies.

NCMEC is making resources available to such stakeholders to help communities understand the role the normalization of child sexuality has in promoting exploitation. Cordelia Anderson, an NCMEC board member currently on leave to serve as a consultant to the board, said she is working on resource materials - a CD, PowerPoint and talking points - that can be used to educate the public and professionals.

"What this piece does," said Anderson, who was a presenter at NACo's recent annual conference, "is take on more the social trend in the mass culture that has come to normalize some of these behaviors and attitudes and practices that are exploitive, and we believe, harmful.

"When you paint being a pimp or a prostitute or a porn star as a glamorous, sexy way to be, we believe that's a problem. Plus we've commodified sex to the point where kids aren't thinking it's that big a deal to take pictures of themselves and send them to people, or have somebody send money to do a sexual act."

While the issue of sexual exploitation of children often gets posed as a women's issue, Anderson said: "It's all of our issue. Engaging males as leaders in prevention" is important. "Men have a key responsibility and a role in making a difference, especially in speaking to other males."

Boxill added, "fathers and uncles and grandfathers and brothers and husbands É want to participate in stopping this."

(For more information about efforts in Minnesota and Georgia, contact Cordelia Anderson at cordelia@visi.com and Fulton County, Ga. Commissioner Nancy Boxill at district6@co.fulton.ga.us)