

Evaluation of Services for Domestic Minor Victims of Human Trafficking

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This article presents information regarding the identification of victims and services provided to victims of sex and labor trafficking of minors. It is noted that trafficked youth and these programs' staff participated in this assessment with the intention of exploring the service needs, the experiences of affected youth and staff, and the programs' efforts to support and strengthen the community's response to youth involved in sex trafficking. The main findings of the original report were to bring awareness of the diversity of trafficked minors, shed light on the mixed results for programs, and the challenges in engaging survivors.

Information at a Glance:

- Standing Against Global Exploitation Everywhere (SAGE) Project, located in San Francisco serves youth and adults through life skills, advocacy, counseling and case management for girls, including those in the juvenile justice system.
- Salvation Army Trafficking Outreach Program and Intervention Techniques (STOP-IT) program, located in Chicago serves foreign trafficking victims and domestic youth engaged in the sex trade.
- Streetwork Project at Safe Horizon, located in New York City serves homeless and street-involved youth with drop in centers, a residential program, counseling, health care, legal advocacy and other services.

Proposed Program Solutions:

Researchers developed recommendations for how to improve responses to young trafficking survivors in seven categories, which include: coordinated community responses, initial and sustained engagement with victims, service delivery, support for program staff, law enforcement and juvenile justice response, child welfare response, and education response. Ultimately, the article suggests referencing three models: SAGE, which provided effective group and individual support through diversion and transitioning from juvenile justice involvement; STOP-IT, which engaged young people after arrest charges on prostitution and transitioning; and the Streetwork program, which created support for runaway and “throwaway” youth.

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