

Summary of Under the Radar Presentation

In December of 2002, *Strolling Away* was released. *Strolling Away* represented a longitudinal retrospective study of ten years which looked at young people from the sexual exploitation trade in 1991- 1992 and then in 2001-2002. The opportunity to interview individuals ten years later was valuable. One of the major findings and recommendations from this was that we know very little about young men involved in the sexual exploitation trade. The young men I interviewed commented on how the questions were “chick questions”. It was clear that we have looked at this issue through a female lens. A need existed for a study on young men in the sexual exploitation trade. Interviews for this study “Under the Radar” began in March 2003 and wrapped up in October 2003. Thirty-seven young men were interviewed. Twenty- three interviews occurred in Calgary and 14 in Edmonton.

This presentation will reflect the findings from release of this document which occurred in June 2005.



Background

- 1992 Youngest Profession Oldest
Oppression 41 Females 9 Males
- 2003 Strolling Away Longitudinal
Retrospective 38 original 50
(now 41)
- Why asking us Chick questions?



Characteristics of Respondents

- 54% of this population are Aboriginal
- Over half had involvement with Child Welfare Services
- Over one third had completed high school



Characteristics of Respondents

- 95% had a history of running away
- Close to 70% had a history prior to the street of being sexually violated
- Over three quarters had been physically violated and witnessed aggression while growing up



Characteristics of Respondents

- Close to three quarters began this under the age of 18
- Males enter the trade younger and stay longer than young woman
- 86% experienced shelter stay



Characteristics of Respondents

- Almost everyone felt that no one should do this type of work
- The fear of gay-bashing exists for these young men
- Drug use is extensive with this population



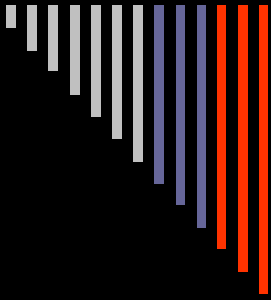
Characteristics of Respondents

- Exiting the trade is a long process attempted more than once
- Almost everyone has and does access HIV / STD's testing



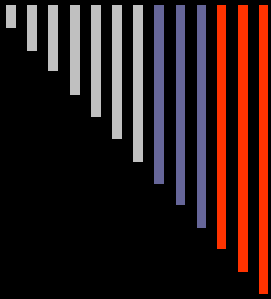
SUMMARY OF DISCOVERIES

- Young men comparable background sexual and physical abuse to young woman
- Young men in this study were gay, gay for pay, straight for pay, bisexual, transsexual



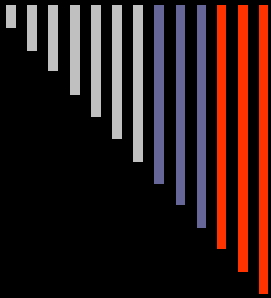
SUMMARY OF DISCOVERIES

- Young men create a construct to be able to achieve a level of performance
- The issue of young men in the sex trade creates a level of discomfort for professionals and general public



SUMMARY OF DISCOVERIES

- Young men begin young and work longer
- Young men fly under the radar of service providers



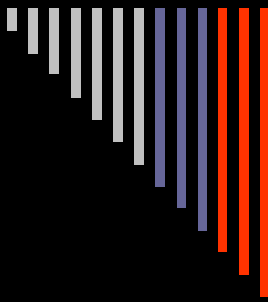
SUMMARY OF DISCOVERIES

- Young men have unique service needs different from young woman
- Public education on condom use and HIV testing has worked



SUMMARY OF DISCOVERIES

- The connection between the street and drug use is longer for young men
- These young men have strained and distant relationships with their family



SUMMARY OF DISCOVERIES

- Running away often triggers an entrance into the sexual exploitation trade