



*SUPPORTING TEENS EXPLOITED BY
PROSTITUTION
(STEP)*

Lane County, Oregon

Survey Results

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SURVEY RESULTS

DESCRIPTION OF PARTICIPANTS

During the summer of 1999, 105 young people from five providers in the Eugene, Oregon, area completed a survey developed by a Task Force of Supporting Teens Exploited by Prostitution (STEP). Of those 105 respondents, 93 (89%) were female, with an average age of 16.9 years. Twelve respondents (11%) were male, with an average age of 16. Youths ranged in age from 13 to 22 years old. A total of 55 girls 17 and younger, 38 girls 18 and older, 11 boys 17 and under, and 1 boy 18 or older responded to the survey. In the first section of this report, data are reported for the entire sample of participants. In subsequent sections, subgroups of female respondents are described, including minors (17 and under), youths (18 and under), and teenagers (19 and under), to illustrate the prevalence of the activities for these specific groups. A total of 17 females age 19 and older participated, as did 12 males age 18 and under. No male age 19 or older responded to the survey.

Providers participating were the Department of Youth Services Intake and Detention (DYS), Planned Parenthood (PP), Looking Glass New Roads [support program for homeless youth] (NR), Looking Glass Station 7 youth shelter (SS), and Willamette Family Treatment Services girls program (WF). The survey was voluntary and the participants were a convenience sample of youths receiving services from the five providers. While youths may receive services from multiple community providers, 100% of the respondents indicated that they had not previously completed the survey. Of the total 105 respondents to the survey, 15 (14.3%) were from Department of Youth Services, 12 (11.4%) New Roads, 60 (57.1%) Planned Parenthood, 9 (8.6%) Station 7, and 9 (8.6%) Willamette Family. A copy of the survey is attached.

Participants were asked how many days per week they used alcohol or other drugs. Females reported using drugs or alcohol an average of 3.4 days per week. Males reported similar use patterns, with an average of 3.6 days per week. In addition to drug use frequency, respondents were asked questions designed to indicate participation in, or knowledge of, activities relating to prostitution and other high-risk behaviors.

Most of the survey questions were worded to obtain a YES or NO response. For the entire population, the proportion of affirmative responses for each of these questions ranges from a low of 14.3% for "Has anyone ever tried to pimp you?" to a high of 59% for "Have you ever run away?" Therefore, a minimum of 41% of kids did not respond affirmatively in any one category.

There were 11 questions on the survey that asked about the respondent’s involvement in or knowledge of others’ involvement in high-risk behaviors (including questions about working in various areas of the sex industry). Of the entire sample, 12.9% of youths did not have any experience with the high-risk behaviors, that is, they responded “no” to all 11 questions. Of the 85 participants responding to the “knowledge of or involvement in” questions, 23 (27%) reported 0-1 of the behaviors or experiences, 23 (27%) reported 2-3 of the behaviors or experiences, 34 (40%) reported 4-8 behaviors or experiences, and 5 (6%) reported 9-11 of the behaviors or experiences.

When looking at individual questions, the majority of respondents answering “yes” were females, with percentages ranging from 84.6% to 100%. However, females were a much larger proportion of the total sample than were males. For the female respondents, the most common risk activity/experience was running away, with 61.3% of this group answering “yes.” The least common risk activity/experience was “Has anyone ever wanted you to have sex with other people?” with 15.1% of female respondents answering “yes.” The most frequent affirmative response from males was in reply to “Do you know anyone who works as an exotic dancer/stripper?” at 66.7%. For males, the fewest “yes” responses were in response to, “Have you ever had sex with someone because you were afraid of them?” and “Did you get counseling or help afterwards” [if hurt by someone in a sexual way], with 0% each. Three of the 105 respondents answered “no” to all questions.

A profile of the Department of Youth Services respondents follows. This profile indicates the percentage of all participants from the Department of Youth Services who responded affirmatively to each of 14 survey questions.

**TABLE 1
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES PROFILE**

Questions	Yes
Have you ever run away?	80.0%
Do you know someone who works as an exotic dancer or stripper?	57.1%
Do you know someone who works as a model?	42.9%
Do you know someone who works in porno films?	35.7%
Do you know someone who works for an adult escort service?	42.9%
Do you know someone who works as a prostitute?	46.2%
Has anyone ever offered you one of these jobs?	46.7%
Have you ever had one of these jobs?	33.3%
Are you considering one of these jobs?	33.3%
Has anyone offered you something you needed (like drugs, food, a place to stay, money) and then expected you or guilt tripped you to do something sexual?	60.0%
Has anyone ever wanted you to have sex with other people?	53.3%
Has anyone ever tried to pimp you?	14.3%
Have you ever been afraid of someone you were seeing?	60.0%
Have you ever had sex with someone because you were afraid of them?	33.3%
Have you ever been hurt by someone in a sexual way?	53.3%
Did you get counseling or other help afterwards?	0%

Please refer to Table 2 (page 7) for percentages of all participants responding “yes” to each question, as well as the percentage of the total who are female, the percentage of those females who responded “yes,” the percentage of the total who are male, and the percentage of males who responded “yes” in each category. Table 3 (page 8) looks at this same information, but differentiates between females within age groups 17 and under, 18 and under, and 19 and under.

Table 4 (page 9) illustrates the percentage of affirmative responses from the Department of Youth Services sample compared to samples from the providers with the highest and the lowest percentages of affirmative responses in each category. For example, Table 4 (page 9) shows that 18.8% of respondents from the Department of Youth Services reported knowing someone who works as a prostitute, compared to a high of 31.3% of Planned Parenthood respondents and a low of 9.4% of Station 7 respondents.

FEMALES 17 AND YOUNGER (minors)

The breakdown of female minors by provider was as follows:

Department of Youth Services	14.3%
New Roads	11.4%
Planned Parenthood	57.1%
Station 7	8.6%
Willamette Family Treatment Services	8.6%

Compared to girls 18 and over who participated in this survey, participants 17 and younger were more likely to have run away; more likely to know someone who works as a model; more likely to have been offered a job, or be considering a job in the sex industry; more likely to have held one of these jobs; and more likely to get counseling or other help after being hurt in a sexual way. In fact, in our sample, girls 17 and younger reported a higher percentage of “yes” responses to most of the questions compared to girls 18 and older. See Table 3 (page 8) for a listing of responses to all questions by females age 17 and younger.

FEMALES 18 AND YOUNGER (youths)

Of the 105 total respondents to the STEP survey, 76 (72%) were females 18 and younger. The breakdown of female youths by provider was as follows:

Department of Youth Services	18.4%
New Roads	7.9%
Planned Parenthood	56.6%
Station 7	7.9%
Willamette Family Treatment Services	9.2%

When we look at the “yes” responses of girls 18 and under, we are able to see that changing our age breakdowns from “17 and under” to “18 and under” does make a small difference in the percentage of each group reporting “yes” to many of the behaviors, however that difference is not statistically significant. Complete information for females 18 and younger, by category, is available in Table 3 (page 8).

FEMALES 19 and YOUNGER (teenagers)

There is not a significant difference in the responses of female teenagers (19 and younger) when compared to youths grouped by ages 18 and younger or ages 17 and younger. There is also very little difference seen when comparing the responses of “teenagers” with the group as a whole, which includes participants up to age 22. For example, by comparing Table 2, column 2, which looks at responses by all female participants, with Table 3, column 4, which looks at females age 19 and under, we see that there is very little difference in the percentage of females responding with “yes” to the questions in the survey. This result is not surprising, in that only 7 of the 105 respondents were over the age of 19 at the time of the survey.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE

Drug use is an area we can expect may have an impact on a youth’s participation in other high-risk activities. It is here that the Department of Youth Services respondents show a striking difference from respondents from other providers. Seventy-five percent of respondents at the Department of Youth Services reported using drugs or alcohol 7 days a week, compared to 24% from other providers. It is therefore not surprising that none of the Department of Youth Services respondents in this group reported using drugs or alcohol zero times per week, compared to 21.3% reported by respondents from other providers. A complete listing of frequency of drug use comparing the Department of Youth Services respondents with those from other providers is available in Table 5 (page 10).

SEXUAL ABUSE

A variable indicating sexual abuse was created using a composite of the following three questions:

1. Have you ever been afraid of someone you were seeing?
2. Have you ever had sex with someone because you were afraid of them?
3. Have you ever been hurt by someone in a sexual way?

Of the 104 participants who answered these questions, 71 participants (68.3%) responded “yes” to at least one of the questions, leaving 33 (31.7%) who indicated they had not been sexually abused (answered “no” to the three questions above).

YOUTHS WHO ARE KNOWLEDGEABLE OF OR INVOLVED IN THE SEX INDUSTRY

Of the 105 participants in this study, 85 (81%) responded positively to at least one of the 11 questions indicating knowledge of or involvement in the sex industry. Of those respondents, 46 (54.1%) were females 17 and under, 29 (34.1%) were females 18 and over, 9 (10.6%) were males 17 and under, and 1 (1.2%) was a male 18 or older. Of the entire sample, 54.1% of females 17 and under reported knowledge of or involvement in the sex industry, as did 34.1% of females 18 and older. Knowledge of or involvement in the sex industry was defined as having responded “yes” to at least one of the following 11 questions:

1. Do you know someone who works as an exotic dancer or stripper?
2. Do you know someone who works as a model?
3. Do you know someone who works in porno films?
4. Do you know someone who works for an adult escort service?
5. Do you know someone who works as a prostitute?
6. Has anyone ever offered you one of these jobs?
7. Have you ever held one of these jobs?
8. Are you considering one of these jobs?
9. Has anyone offered you something you needed (like drugs, food, a place to stay, money) and then expected you or guilt tripped you to do something sexual?
10. Has anyone ever wanted you to have sex with other people?
11. Has anyone ever tried to pimp you?

Twenty-one percent of the respondents reported having held a job in the sex industry. Potential for holding one of these jobs was determined by responses to five questions (6, 8, 9, 10, and 11). Of the 103 participants who responded to these questions, 77 (74.8%) said “yes” to 1 or more of the 5 questions, thus indicating potential for holding a job in the sex industry.

This study also looked at drug and alcohol use by those participants knowledgeable of or involved in the sex industry. For the 85 participants who indicated they are knowledgeable of or involved in the sex industry, 69 (81.2%) responded to the question asking for the number of days per week they use drugs or alcohol. Of those 69, 11 (15.9%) indicated they do not use drugs or alcohol at all. However, 21 participants (30.4%) indicated they use drugs 7 days a week. Table 6 (page 10) gives a complete listing of drug and alcohol use by all participants knowledgeable of or involved in the sex industry, and offers a comparison with respondents in that category who were females 17 years and younger. The participants who reported being knowledgeable of or involved in the sex industry also reported greater frequency of drug/alcohol use (see Table 7, page 11).

Table 8 (page 11) shows the types of drugs and alcohol reported as being used by all participants. Of the 105 participants, 21 (20%) reported that they do not use drugs or alcohol. For the

remaining 84 (80%) who indicated they do use alcohol and/or drug(s), 18 (17.1%) use alcohol only, 8 (7.6%) use marijuana only, while 26 (24.8%) use alcohol, marijuana and other drugs. A comparison of alcohol and drug use by the Department of Youth Services respondents and respondents from other providers is also included in Table 8 (page 11). For all providers, a combination of alcohol, marijuana, and other drug use is indicated most frequently by participants.

Eighty-four participants responded to the questions indicating knowledge of or involvement in the sex industry and items related to sexual abuse. Of this group, 9 (10.7%) indicated they were not knowledgeable of or involved in the sex industry, nor had they been abused. Of the remaining 75 participants, 18 (24%) were knowledgeable of or involved in the sex industry, but had not been abused. The remaining 57 participants (67.9%) were both knowledgeable of or involved in the sex industry and had experienced sexual abuse.

CONCLUSION

The respondents in this project were all youth accessing services in Lane County. While the survey used a convenience sample, the results clearly illustrate that a large proportion of these youth are dealing with very serious issues. Many of the youth were involved with some high-risk activities, and most of the others knew people who were. The findings provide important descriptive information about risks facing girls in Lane County, and can help service providers prepare appropriate responses for these youths' needs. For example, in this sample, younger girls had more high-risk involvements than older girls, and youth knowledgeable about the local sex industry were also more likely to be users of drugs or alcohol. These compounding experiences for youth impose challenges on Lane County service providers. It is likely that there are other young women and men in the community who are dealing with these issues and who have not yet accessed the social service system. This report offers preliminary information about the scope of youth involvement in high-risk behaviors, and the sex industry in particular, in Lane County.

TABLE 2
ALL PARTICIPANTS – RESPONSES BY GENDER

Survey Questions	% of Total = YES	% Responses = Female	% Female = YES	% Responses = Male	% Male = YES
Have You Ever Run Away?	59.0	91.9	61.3	8.1	41.7
Do You Know Someone Who Works As An Exotic Dancer or Stripper?	55.9	86.0	54.4	14.0	66.7
..Someone Who Works As A Model?	53.7	88.2	54.2	11.8	50.0
..Someone Who Works In Porno Films?	22.0	90.0	22.5	10.0	18.2
..Someone Who Works For An Adult Escort Service?	28.3	92.3	29.6	7.7	18.2
..Someone Who Works As A Prostitute?	34.8	87.5	34.1	12.5	40.0
Has Anyone Ever Offered You One Of These Jobs?	51.4	94.4	54.8	5.6	25.0
Have You Ever Held One Of These Jobs?	21.0	95.5	22.6	4.5	8.3
Are You Considering One Of These Jobs?	25.0	84.6	23.9	15.4	33.3
Has Anyone Offered To Trade You Something For Sexual Favors?	33.3	97.1	36.6	2.9	8.3
Has Anyone Ever Wanted You To Have Sex With Other People?	47.6	91.8	49.5	8.2	33.3
Has Anyone Ever Tried To Pimp You?	14.3	93.3	15.1	6.7	8.3
Have You Ever Been Afraid Of Someone You Were Seeing?	47.6	94.0	50.5	6.0	25.0
Have You Had Sex With Someone Because You Were Afraid Of Them?	28.8	100	32.6	0	0
Have You Ever Been Hurt By Someone In A Sexual Way?	47.6	96.0	51.6	4.0	16.7
Did You Get Counseling Or Other Help Afterwards?	37.5	100	39.1	0	0

TABLE 3
FEMALE PARTICIPANT RESPONSES
by Age Group

Survey Questions	% Female 17 and Under = Yes	% Female 18 and Under = Yes	% Female 19 and Under = Yes
Have You Ever Run Away?	67.3	60.5	59.3
Do You Know Someone Who Works as an Exotic Dancer or Stripper?	43.7	50.7	53.0
..Someone Who Works as a Model?	57.7	55.2	55.3
..Someone Who Works in Porno Films?	24.0	23.1	20.5
Someone Who Works for An Adult Escort Service?	26.5	27.7	29.7
..Someone Who Works as a Prostitute	34.0	32.3	33.3
Has Anyone Ever Offered You One of These Jobs?	58.2	53.9	55.8
Have You Ever Held One of These Jobs?	30.9	25.0	24.4
Are You Considering One of These Jobs?	31.5	26.7	24.7
Has Anyone Offered to Trade You Something for Sexual Favors?	38.2	35.5	34.9
Has Anyone Ever Wanted You to Have Sex with Other People?	50.0	48.0	47.6
Has Anyone Ever Tried to Pimp You?	21.8	17.1	15.1
Have You Ever Been Afraid of Someone You Were Seeing?	47.3	47.4	48.8
Have You Had Sex With Someone Because You Were Afraid of Them?	29.6	32.0	32.9
Have You Ever Been Hurt by Someone in a Sexual Way?	52.7	52.6	51.2
Did You Get Counseling or Other Help Afterwards?	29.6	36.8	35.7

TABLE 4
ALL PARTICIPANTS - COMPARISON BY PROVIDER

SURVEY QUESTIONS	Percentage of Total Yes Responses				
	DYS	Highest % of Total	Provider	Lowest % of Total	Provider
Have You Ever Run Away?	19.4	43.5	PP	9.7	NR
Do You Know Someone Who Works As An Exotic Dancer or Stripper?	14.0	50.9	PP	8.8	WF
..Someone Who Works As A Model?	11.8	51.0	PP	5.9	WF
..Someone Who Works In Porno Films?	25.0	25.0	DYS	15.0	WF
..Someone Who Works For An Adult Escort Service?	23.1	50.0	PP	0	SS
..Someone Who Works As A Prostitute?	18.8	31.3	PP	9.4	SS
Has Anyone Ever Offered You One Of These Jobs?	13.0	55.6	PP	9.3	SS
Have You Ever Held One Of These Jobs?	22.7	36.4	PP	9.1	WF
Are You Considering One Of These Jobs?	19.2	53.8	PP	3.8	SS
Has Anyone Ever Offered To Trade You Something For Sexual Favors?	25.7	31.4	PP	5.7	SS
Has Anyone Ever Wanted You To Have Sex With Other People?	16.3	49.0	PP	6.1	SS
Has Anyone Ever Tried To Pimp You?	33.3	33.3	DYS	13.3	PP
Have You Ever Been Afraid Of Someone You Were Seeing?	18.0	54.0	PP	0	SS
Have You Ever Sex With Someone Because You Were Afraid Of Them?	16.7	43.3	PP	3.3	SS
Have You Ever Been Hurt By Someone In A Sexual Way?	16.0	46.0	PP	10.0	SS
Did You Get Counseling Or Other Help Afterwards?	0	44.4	PP	0	DYS

Community Providers: DYS = Department of Youth Services
 PP = Planned Parenthood

NR = New Roads
 SS = Station Seven WF = Willamette Family

TABLE 5
DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE
BY NUMBER OF DAYS PER WEEK
Department of Youth Services Compared to Other Providers

Number of Days per Week	% Respondents Reporting the Number of Days per Week They Use Drugs and/or Alcohol	
	DYS	Other Providers
0	0	21.3
1	8.3	17.3
2	0	14.7
3	8.3	9.3
4	0	4.0
5	8.3	6.7
6	0	2.7
7	75.0	24.0
TOTAL	100%	100%

TABLE 6
DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE
BY NUMBER OF DAYS PER WEEK
Youth Knowledgeable of or Involved in the Sex Industry

Number of Days per Week	% Respondents Reporting the Number of Days per Week They Use Drugs and/or Alcohol	
	All Participants	Females 17 and Younger
0	15.9	17.9
1	15.9	14.3
2	11.6	12.5
3	8.7	8.9
4	5.8	7.1
5	8.7	10.7
6	2.9	0
7	30.4	28.9
TOTAL	100%	100%

TABLE 7
NUMBER OF DAYS PER WEEK
RESPONDENT USES DRUGS
AND/OR ALCOHOL
For All Respondents
Knowledgeable of or Involved in the Sex Industry

Knowledgeable of or Involved in the Sex Industry	Number of Days Per Week Respondent Uses Drugs and/or Alcohol								
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
No	4	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	9 (11.6%)
Yes	11	11	8	6	4	6	2	21	69 (88.5%)
Total (% Total)	15 (19.2%)	12 (15.4%)	9 (11.6%)	8 (10.3%)	4 (5.1%)	6 (7.7%)	2 (2.6%)	22 (28.2%)	78 (100%)

TABLE 8
DRUGS AND/OR ALCOHOL
REPORTED AS USED
DYS Compared to Other Providers

Drug(s) and/or Alcohol Used	DYS	Other Providers	Total
Did Not Specify	6.7	22.2	20.0
Alcohol Only	0	20.0	17.1
Marijuana Only	13.3	6.7	7.6
Alcohol and Marijuana	26.7	18.9	20.0
Alcohol and Other Drugs (not Marijuana)	0	3.3	2.9
Alcohol, Marijuana, and Other Drugs	33.3	23.3	24.7
Other Drugs Only (not Marijuana or Alcohol)	0	3.3	2.9
Marijuana and Other Drugs	20.0	2.2	4.8
Total	100%	100%	100%
Total Number of Respondents	15	90	105

Youth Risk Questions

NO NAMES PLEASE

Please answer these questions honestly. They are for research only. If you feel uncomfortable with any question, you can skip it. There is room for comments if you have any.

1. Have you ever run away? _____yes _____no
Did you find a safe place to stay?

Comments:

2. How many days a week do you use drugs or alcohol? _____
What drugs?

_____ alcohol	_____ cocaine
_____ meth/crank	_____ heroin
_____ pot/weed/marijuana	_____ downers/valium
_____ acid/mushrooms	_____ huffing

Comments:

3. Do you know anyone who works as an exotic dancer/stripper? ____yes ____no
As a model? ____yes ____no
In porno films ____yes ____no
For an adult escort service? ____yes ____no
As a prostitute? ____yes ____no

Comments:

4. Has anyone ever offered to get you any of these jobs? ____yes ____no
Which ones?

Comments:

5. Have you ever had one of these jobs? ____yes ____no

For how long? _____

Are you thinking about any of these jobs? ____yes ____no

Comments:

6. Has anyone offered you something you needed (like drugs, food, a place to stay, money) and then expected you or guilt tripped you to do something sexual?

____yes ____no

Comments:

7. Has anyone ever wanted you to have sex with other people? ____yes ____no

Has anyone ever tried to pimp you? ____yes ____no

Comments:

8. Have you ever been afraid of someone you were seeing? ____yes ____no

Comments:

9. Have you ever had sex with someone because you were afraid of them?

____yes ____no

Comments:

10. Have you ever been hurt by someone in a sexual way? ____yes ____no
Did you get counseling or other help afterwards?

Comments:

11. Have you ever filled out this form before? ____yes ____no
How long ago? _____

If you want to talk to someone about these issues, please call

SASS, 485-6700 for anonymous, free, 24 hour counseling