

## Statistics

- 80% of child sexual exploitation is hidden indoors.
- 13-years old is the average age that children report their first experience of exploitation through the sex trade.
- Age range is from 8-years to 16-years old.
- 70% to 80% of adults involved in the sex trade were also first exploited under the age of 18.
- 85% - 90% of sexually exploited children/youth are female; 10% - 15% are male.
- On average, individuals make seven attempts trying to escape or leave the sex trade.
- Average education level is grade eight.
- 70% - 80 % are of First Nations - Metis descent. (Street level exploitation.)
- Indoor sex trade is over represented by Caucasian females.
- Immigrant and refugee youth females are at risk.
- Two-thirds of male sex buyers know the majority of women were lured, tricked or trafficked into the sex trade. This knowledge does NOT deter them from buying sex.

Source: Richardson (Berry), Runner, Hal lick, Rocke, & Scheirich.



Envision is a non-profit, community-based organization governed by a volunteer Board of Directors from Southeast Saskatchewan.

Envision helps individuals, families and couples embrace healthy choices to feel empowered, by providing therapeutic counselling, support, in-home services, groups, workshops and education.

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Envision receives funding from the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Services, United Way of Estevan, United Way Regina and the community.



Donations from private groups, organizations, corporations, or individuals are gratefully accepted to assist Envision in serving communities in



[www.envisioncounsellingcentre.com](http://www.envisioncounsellingcentre.com)

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Serving Southeast Saskatchewan since 1994

## Into the Sunshine



**Exploring your options and supporting your decisions**

## What is Into the Sunshine?

Envision Counselling and Support Centre created a publicity campaign designed to bring awareness to the issue of sex trafficking and exploitation.

The campaign, *Into the Sunshine*, is part of an expansion of programming that includes support for those experiencing exploitation and/or trafficking.

*Into the Sunshine: Offering hope to the trafficked and exploited* is a five-year program, funded by the Federal Ministry of Justice that will be based primarily out of Envision's Carlyle office.

Exploitation may include activities, such as offering sex or sexual acts in return for drugs and/or alcohol or rides and/or rent.

Understanding what exploitation looks like and how it impacts individuals living in rural communities is an important step in raising awareness.

Working with community partners, Envision will engage and support individuals who have been impacted by exploitation and trafficking.

Envision provides trained counsellors able to reach out and connect with these individuals to provide hope and help.

This is a long-term program that will involve counselling, legal or educational advocacy, training, and family support.

## Sex Trafficking—It's not what you think

**ASSUMPTION:**

- Hooker/Streetwalker
- Chosen profession
- Doesn't happen here
- It could never happen to me

**VS.**

**REALITY:**

- Sex (or sexual acts) for drugs/alcohol
- Sex in return for rides or rent
- Exploitation on the internet
- Being shared by your partner
- Massage parlours offering sex
  - Human trafficking
  - Escort services
  - Child pornography
- 10 - 15% of those exploited are male



### Offering hope to the trafficked and exploited.

Expanded Programming:  
Into The Sunshine  
[www.envisioncounsellingcentre.com](http://www.envisioncounsellingcentre.com)



"These issues are not just big city issues. There's exploitation and trafficking happening in the Southeast, and we're trying to shine a light on this dark side of our communities."

-Christa Daku, Executive Director of Envision

## Warning Signs of Trafficking in Youth

Learning the potential red flags and knowing the indicators of sex trafficking are key in recognizing exploited youth and offering help.

### Change in Attitude and Accompanying Behaviour:

- Withdraws physically and emotionally from home and family and/or extreme mood swings
- Lying and/or confrontational, aggressive, abusive behaviour or language
- Sexual activities with toys or other children

### Behavioural Changes:

- Extreme secrecy
- Looks for other places to live with more freedom and/or staying out late and/or all night
- Drinking or using drugs
- Skipping school and/or hanging out with older people and/or ignoring rules at home

### Changes in Physical Appearance/Hygiene:

- More provocative dress
- Losing or gaining weight quickly
- Stops regularly bathing or changing their clothing
- Bruises on body (evidence of abuse)

### Other Clues:

- Adopting new slang and/or mannerisms or street names for self or friends
- May use disconnected speech (one or two word codes rather than sentences)
- Unexplained money and/or bringing home new expensive clothing or trinkets with no explanation
- Packing a change of clothes when going out

\*This list is not exhaustive and represents a selection of possible indicators.

Source: Richardson (Berry), Runner, Hal lick, Rocke, & Scheirich.

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