

6 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT EXPLOITATION OF YOUTH IN ONTARIO COUNTY

1 Are There Really Exploited Youth in Ontario County?

Yes. Commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) occurs when any child under the age of 18 exchanges a sexual act in exchange for money, gifts, food, shelter, clothing or drugs.

CSEC is a criminal activity with recorded cases nationwide – even right here in Ontario County towns and villages.

2 What Does Exploitation Look Like?

CSEC occurs through various methods including:

- Images of child sexual abuse
- Interfamilial pimping
- Prostitution
- Online commercial sexual exploitation
- Exotic dancing / stripping
- Trading sex for drugs
- Street peddling
- Pornography

3 Are There Common Clues To Identify Exploited Children?

Some of the warning signs that might indicate exploitation include:

- Visible signs of abuse such as unexplained bruises, cuts or marks
- Behaviors including fear, anxiety, depression, tension, and/or nervousness
- Tattoos (“branding”) indicating ownership
- Signs of substance abuse
- Sudden change of behavior
- Frequent running away, skipping school
- Family dysfunction (family violence, history of child abuse/neglect, alcohol/ drug abuse)

4 What Is Typical Profile Of An Exploited Youth?

No child or youth is exempt from falling prey to manipulative tactics associated with exploitation. Victims can be boys, girls, and transgender people of all races.

5 Why Don't Victims Ask For Help?

Due to the fear, coercion, and threats, youth who may have experienced exploitation, will generally NOT:

- Identify as a “victim” or “survivor”
- Identify as a victim of sexual assault or human trafficking
- Disclose abuse during the initial contact(s)

6 What Can I Do?

Ontario County Office of Children and Family Services is networked with numerous agencies that can provide information and assistance 24 / 7. Resources are listed on the reverse side. ▶

WHERE TO GET HELP

IMPORTANT RESOURCES

If you know someone you believe may be a victim of exploitation, please reach out to the resources below.

Ontario County Hotline
1-800-247-7273

National Human Trafficking
Resource Hotline
1-888-373-7888
or
Text "Help" to BeFree (233733)

National Center for Missing and
Exploited Children
1-800-843-5678

Download Ontario County's Stamp It Out App!
It's free and loaded with helpful information.
Now available where smart phone apps are offered.

#STAMP
exploITation
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This information was made possible by funding from New York State Office of Children and Family Services and the Ontario County Youth Bureau.