

Understanding Human Trafficking

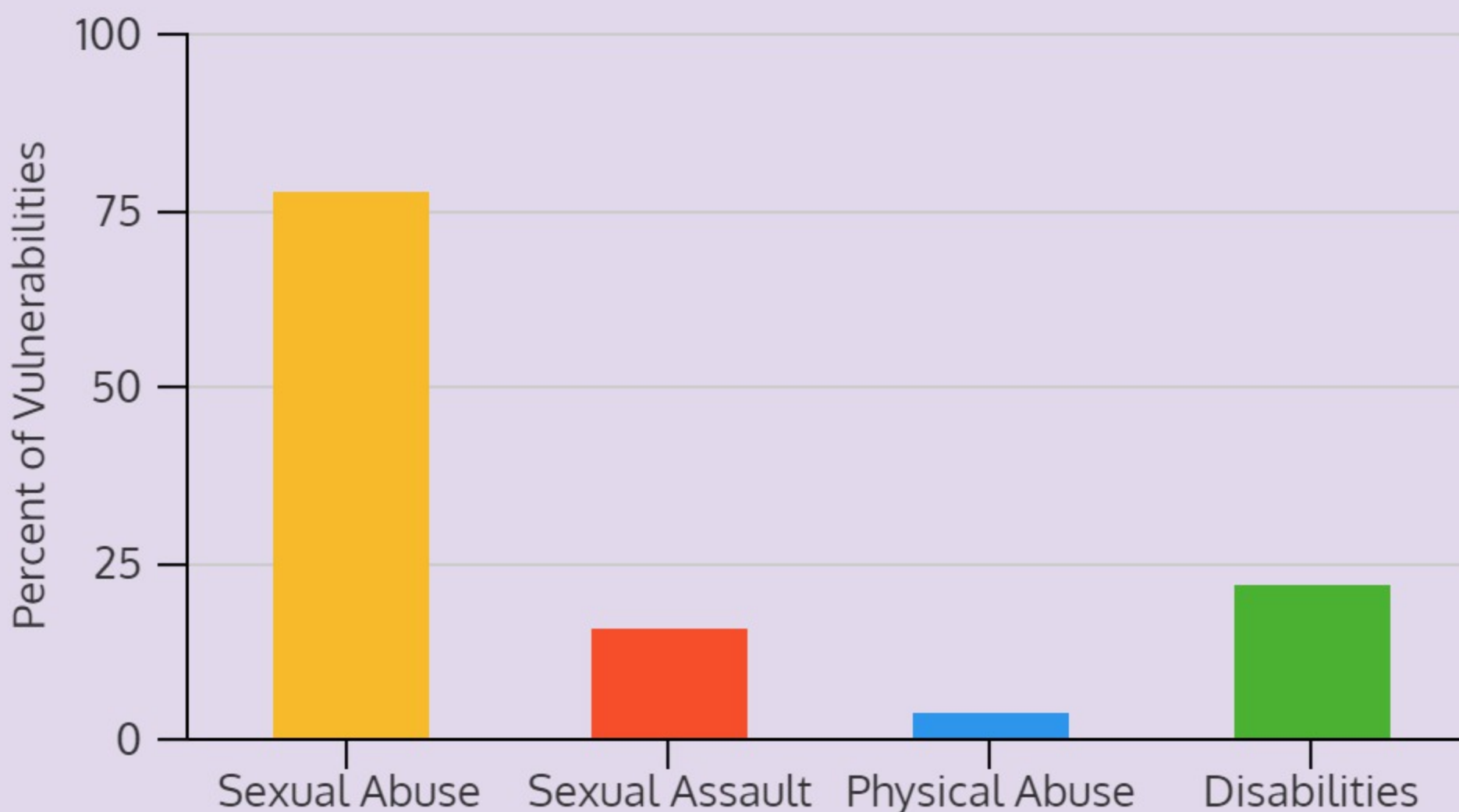
WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human trafficking is the recruitment, transportation and harboring of an individual for commercial exploitation for sex or labor. For individuals aged 17 or younger, an offender does not need to use force, fraud or coercion for it to be deemed human trafficking.

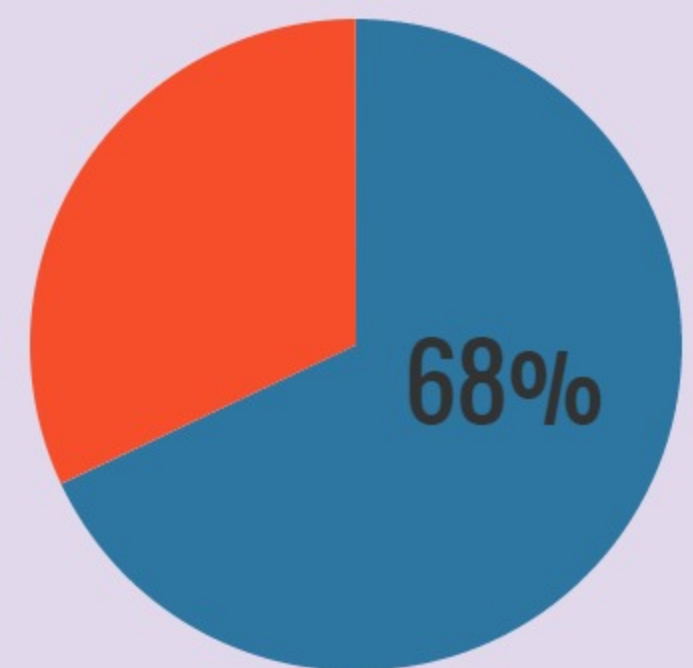


WHO DOES HUMAN TRAFFICKING AFFECT?

During the 2015 Fiscal Year, Baltimore Child Abuse Center provided services to 1,073 youth who were at risk, and had identifying vulnerabilities, of being sexually trafficked.



1 in 6 runaways in 2014 were likely sex trafficking victims as compared to 1 in 7 in 2013.



■ In Social Services or Foster Care
■ Not in Social Services or Foster Care

WHY SHOULD WE CARE? THE EFFECTS OF TRAFFICKING



Trafficking victims are at greater risk for multiple sexually transmitted infections, broken bones and burns, pregnancy, abortions and substance abuse.



Human trafficking victimization often leads to a host of mental health issues, including but not limited to, Depression, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and Bipolar Disorder.



Individuals who have been trafficked may experience Trauma Bonding (Stolckholm Syndrome), polyvictimization (i.e. history of multiple victimizations such as sexual abuse and witness to violence), fear and anxiety, and isolation or threats to self and loved ones.



Human Trafficking is the 2nd highest grossing criminal enterprise with two-thirds of the profits (estimated billions/year) made from sex trafficking. It involves dirty profits and huge costs and there is often limited prosecution of the buyer.



Trafficking victims often do not complete school and experience higher rates of truancy and lower rates of literacy.

SO WHAT CAN WE DO?



Learn More

Become more aware of this crime. Familiarize yourself with how trafficking affects youth aged 17 years and younger and know how to respond.

Remain Judgment-Free

In the past, victims of trafficking have been arrested for prostitution and have been shamed. We must remember to look at these individuals as victims of a crime who need support and resources.



Take Action

If you suspect that a child has been trafficked, report it to your jurisdiction's Child Protective Services or Law Enforcement. For an adult trafficking victim, make a report to Law Enforcement. Become connected with local community resources who are combatting this crime (see www.Mdhumantrafficking.org).

Sources:

1. Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force
2. National Center for Missing & Exploited Children



Contact Baltimore Child Abuse Center
for more information
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