



**TENNESSEE  
COUNTER-TRAFFICKING  
ALLIANCE**

TRAFFICKED YOUTH | NEEDS AND VULNERABILITIES

# OBJECTIVES

- Define Human Trafficking and Understand Youth Vulnerabilities**
- Learn how to respond to youth who have experienced trauma**
- Provide Resources for Caregivers**

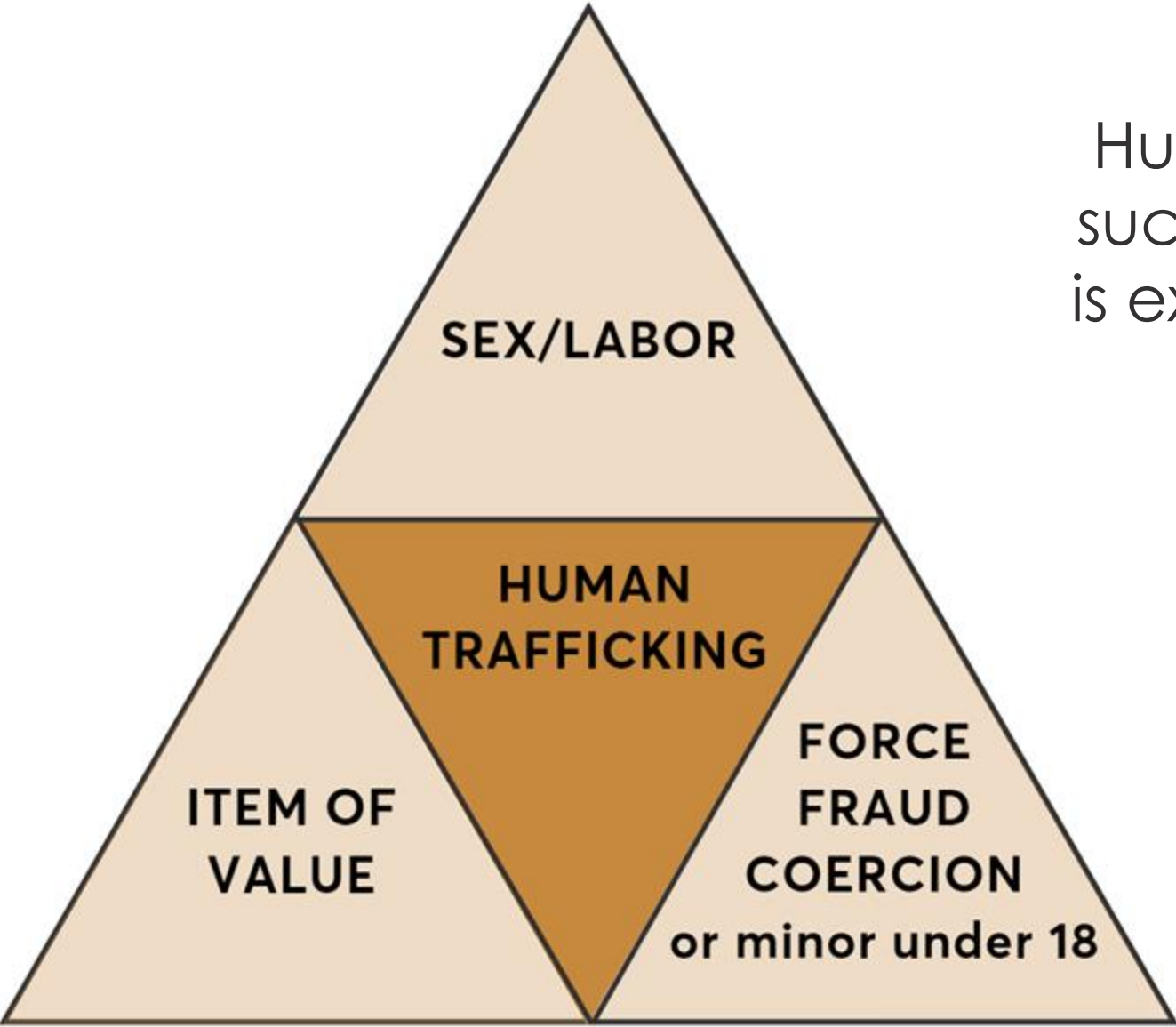
# TRIGGER WARNING

Human trafficking can be an extremely difficult topic to discuss. Some of this material includes references to sexual assault, abuse, domestic violence, exploitation, drug use, self-harm, and loss.

If you feel uncomfortable, overwhelmed, or need a break, please feel free to step away and take care of yourself.

# WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

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Human trafficking is the **exploitation** of humans for purposes such as sexual and labor servitude where **something of value** is exchanged through the means of **force, fraud, or coercion**.

**\*\*For minors under 18, force, fraud, or coercion does not need to be present.\*\***

### Items of Value

-  Money
-  Food
-  Safety
-  Shelter
-  Drugs
-  Basic Needs

# FORCE, FRAUD, & COERCION

## FORCE

physical abuse or assault, sexual abuse or assault, or confinement

## FRAUD

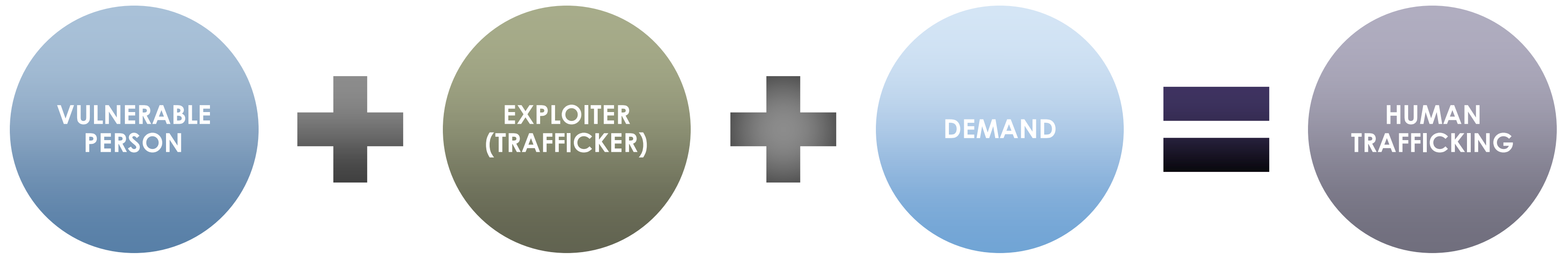
false promises of work/living conditions, withholding promised wages, or contract fraud

## COERCION

threats of harm to self or others, debt bondage, psychological manipulation, utilizing substances or document confiscation



# NECESSARY INGREDIENTS



## Can be experiencing:

- Poverty
- Homelessness
- Food insecurity

## Can be looking for:

- Love
- Community
- Support

## Exploiters can be:

- Parent or family member
- Spouse or partner
- Employer

## Demand for:

- Sex
- Cheap labor or goods

## WHAT DOES HUMAN TRAFFICKING LOOK LIKE IN TENNESSEE?

### **COMPLEX & DYNAMIC**

Human trafficking is complex and dynamic in nature, fueled by power and control dynamics.

### **NOT RANDOM**

The crime is typically committed by someone they love or have a deep relationship with (partner, spouse, family member, etc.)

### **DO NOT IDENTIFY**

Those affected by human trafficking might not recognize they have been exploited.

### **IN OUR STATE**

Human trafficking has been reported in all 41 counties in Middle Tennessee.

### **IN OUR BACKYARD**

Just as likely to occur in rural, suburban areas as it is to occur in urban areas.



## RISK FACTORS



**ECONOMIC DISPARITY**



**HOUSING INSECURITY**



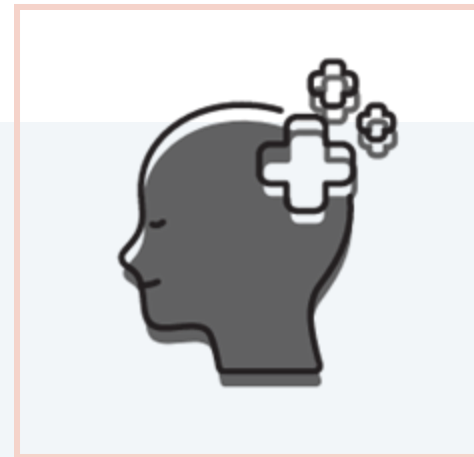
**YOUTH WHO  
HAVE RUN AWAY**



**FOSTER CARE**



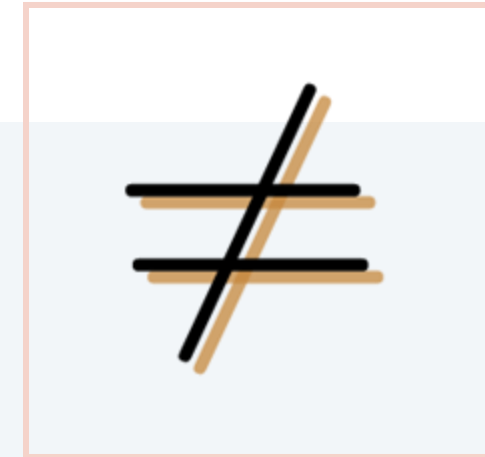
**HISTORY OF CHILDHOOD  
SEXUAL ABUSE**



**MENTAL ILLNESS**



**SUBSTANCE ABUSE**



**SYSTEMIC OPPRESSION**

# Substance Use and Trauma



- Substance abuse as a risk factor for trauma
- Trauma as a risk factor for substance abuse
- ACEs can often be related to a variety of substance misuse and related behavioral health outcomes
- In the National Survey of Adolescents, teens who had experienced physical or sexual abuse/assault were three times more likely to report past or current substance abuse than those without a history of trauma

# Human Trafficking and Substance Use



Substances as a  
method of  
coercion and  
control

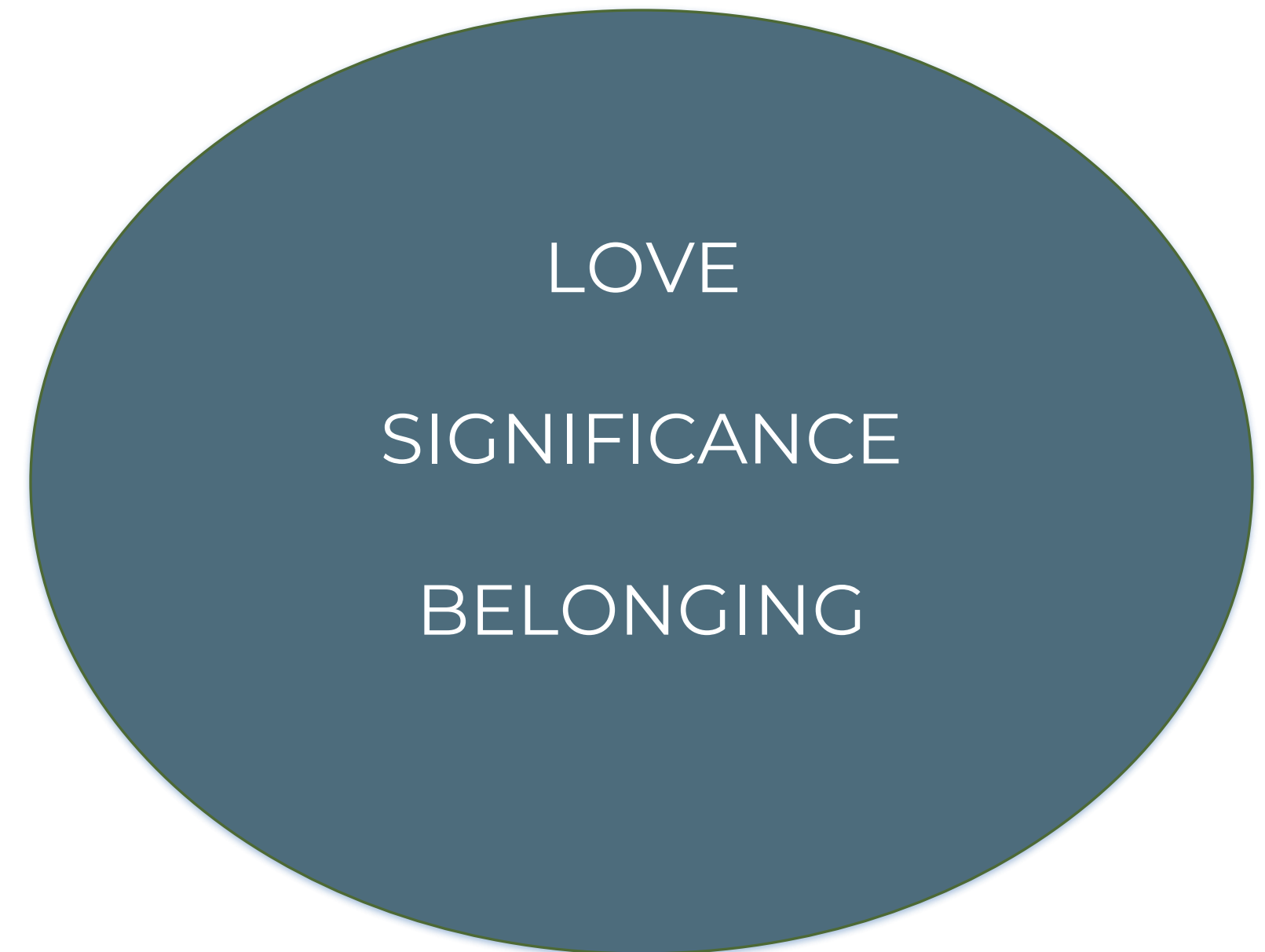
Coping with  
complex trauma

Addiction and  
Mental Health

Opioid Epidemic  
and the impact on  
familial trafficking

## IDENTITY FORMATION | WHO AM I?

- Disengages from family of origin
- Tries on identities like costumes
- Does it feel like me?
- Am I getting feedback that validates it?
- **If one of these fit, they will wear it for a while.**



## EXAMPLES OF SEX TRAFFICKING

### INTIMATE PARTNER TRAFFICKING

- Recruited and groomed through development of romantic relationship
- Perpetrated by spouse or partner (male or female)
- AKA “Boyfriending”
- Provides support and meets needs
- Evolves into quid pro quo situation once a victim becomes reliant

### FAMILIAL TRAFFICKING

- Can begin as sexual abuse
- Perpetrated by parent or family member
- Exploitation can be cyclical and normalized
- Children may be exploited in exchange for resources (ex. housing, money, drugs, etc.)

### EXPLOITATION OF VULNERABILITIES

- Survival sex
  - Minors exchanging sex for resources (ex. housing, food, safety, etc.)
- Recruited and groomed based on knowledge of addiction or disabilities

Source: Polaris Project

## EXAMPLES OF LABOR TRAFFICKING

### MIGRANTS, IMMIGRANTS, & DOMESTIC WORK

- Recruited and groomed through promises of good wages and opportunity
- Domestic work in marriage
- Fraudulent job offers
- Work-sponsored visas

### RECRUITMENT FEES & DEBT BONDAGE

- Recruited and groomed with promises of legal, temporary visa
- Pays/borrows money for visa fees, becomes indebted to employer
- Increasing debt for fees on water, shelter, travel, etc.

### EXPLOITATION OF VULNERABILITIES

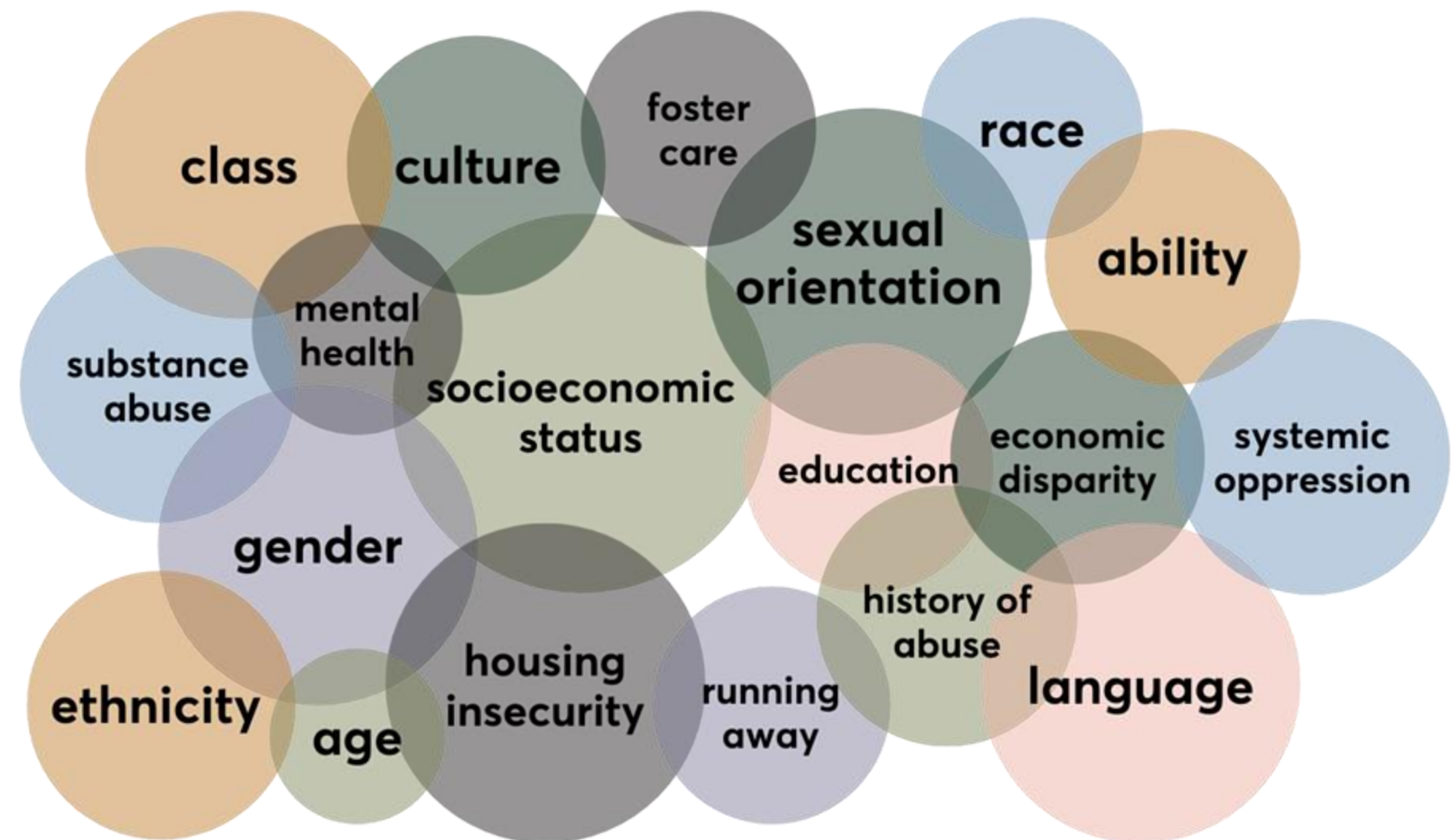
- Recruited and groomed based on knowledge of lack of resources (ex. language barriers, access to culturally specific services, lack of knowledge of US labor laws, and economic and housing insecurity, etc.)

Source: Polaris Project



## INTERSECTIONALITY

The multiple risk factors and systems of inequity that combine to create unique and complex discriminations and victimizations.







## VULNERABILITY ONLINE

### **We become vulnerable online when we:**

- Keep our profiles public and ignore the privacy features
- Chat with strangers
- Post personal information
- Post or send inappropriate photos



## GROOMING

Grooming is when someone befriends and builds trust with a child to gain access to them, time alone with them, and convinces them to agree to abuse or exploitation (often sexual).

**Exploitation: taking advantage of someone in a way that benefits yourself.**

Source: iEmpathize Empower Youth Program

# HOW TO RESPOND TO YOUTH WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED TRAUMA



# MASLOW'S HIERARCHY | WHAT TO DO FIRST



Maslow's hierarchy of needs

You can make a greater impact in your work by focusing on protective factors.

## A FEW PROTECTIVE FACTORS INCLUDE...

-  Supportive adult relationships
-  Positive self-image and strong self-esteem
-  Understanding of healthy relationships
-  Consent and refusal skills
-  Perception of legal rights
-  Knowledge of online safety
-  Usage of strong digital privacy settings
-  Awareness of trafficking
-  Having basic needs met
-  Community connections and availability of extracurricular activities

# TRAUMA RESPONSIVE CARE

**Society asks:** “What’s wrong with that child?”

**We ask:** “What happened to that child?”





# TRAUMA INFORMED CONVERSATIONS

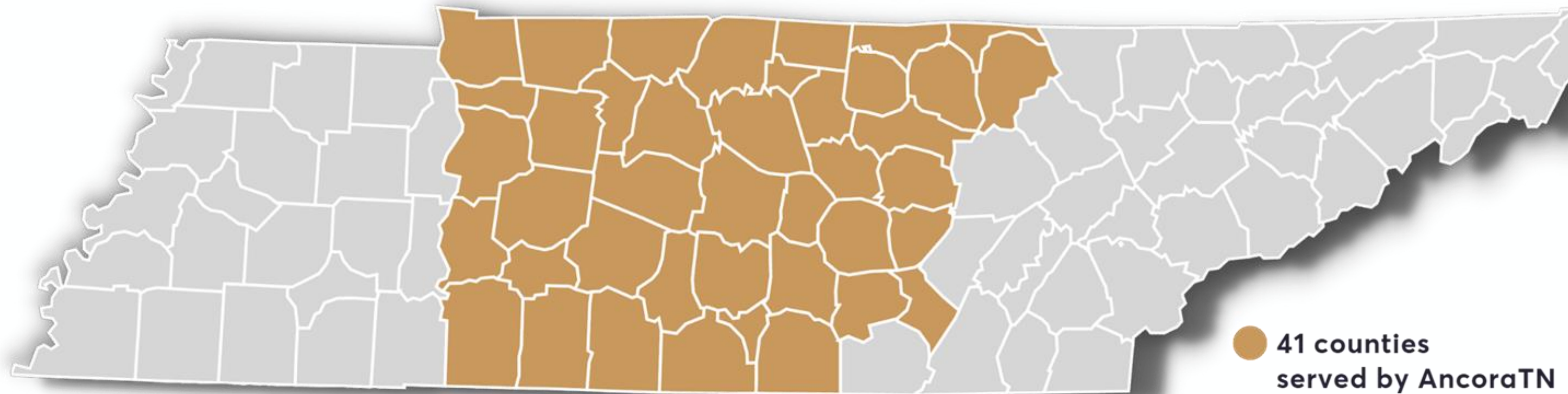
## RECOGNIZE THE STRESS INDUCING AND TRIGGERING ENVIRONMENT

- Respond to victims in the context of their trauma responses
- Mirroring the language of a potential victim can be a helpful first step
  - Example: if the potential victim refers to her trafficker as her boyfriend, referring to that person as a “pimp” or a “trafficker” may have a negative impact
- Recognize your own bias and judgements
- Ask open-ended questions
- Do not expect logical narratives

# RESOURCES FOR CAREGIVERS

## WHO ARE WE?

- Tennessee Counter Trafficking Alliance
- Designated by the Governor's Public Safety Subcabinet as the regional point of contact for 41 counties in Middle Tennessee for victim referrals.





# Annual Snapshot | 2022



**927**  
REFERRALS FOR SERVICES

A white icon of a telephone handset with signal waves emanating from it, set against a blue background.

**587**  
SURVIVORS SERVED

A white icon of three stylized human figures, set against a blue background.

**25,000+**  
UNIQUE SERVICES PROVIDED

A white icon of a hand holding a heart, set against a blue background.

**308** MINOR SURVIVORS REACHED  
**86** EMERGING ADULT SURVIVORS REACHED  
**380** ADULT SURVIVORS REACHED

# STATEWIDE RESOURCES | TCTA

## **West Tennessee: Restore Corps**

- -Referral line: (901) 410-3590 ext. 104
- -<https://www.restorecorps.org/>

## **Middle Tennessee: AncoraTN**

- - Referral line: (615) 806-6899 ext. 1
- - [Ancoratan.org/services](https://Ancoratan.org/services)

## **East Tennessee: Grow Free Tennessee**

- - Referral line: (865) 292-0285
- - <https://growfreetn.org/>

## **Tennessee Counter Trafficking Alliance**

- <https://www.tncountertraffickingalliance.org/>





A hand is shown holding a black telephone receiver, with the cord extending towards a desk phone. The background is a dark, slightly blurred image of the phone and the hand.

**TENNESSEE HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE**

**(855) 558-6484**

**OR TEXT "BEFREE" TO 233733**



# YOUTH SERVICES

## **Prevention:**

- Psychoeducational sessions around increasing safety and addressing risk factors
- Family support and education
- Crisis intervention and on scene response
- Assistance meeting basic needs

## **Case Management:**

- For youth identified as a victim of human trafficking, we provide coordination of services.

## **Therapy:**

- EMDR; TF-CBT; Motivational interviewing; Nature Therapy



# HUMAN TRAFFICKING SERIES | TCTA

**1. Human Trafficking Overview**

**1. Trauma Bonding and Trafficked Youth**

**1. Crisis Intervention and Safety Planning**

**1. Self-Care and Building a Network of Support**

**1. Trafficking Specific Resources**