

# Breaking the Cycle of Abuse

# The Seed



# The Seed



# The Seed





**Human Trafficking Victims**

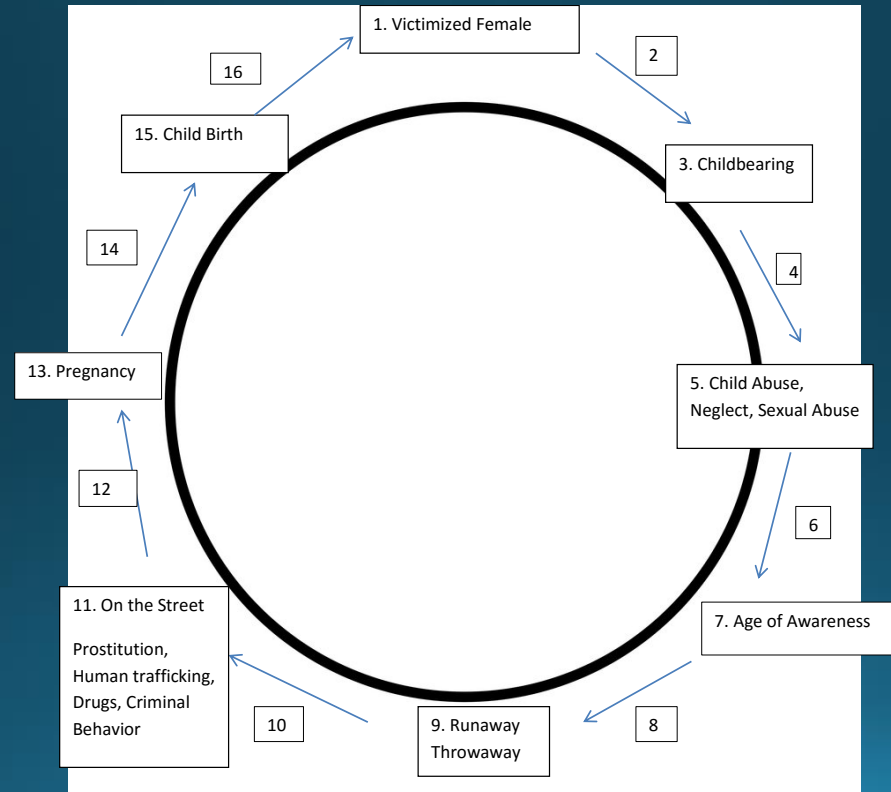
**Throwaways**

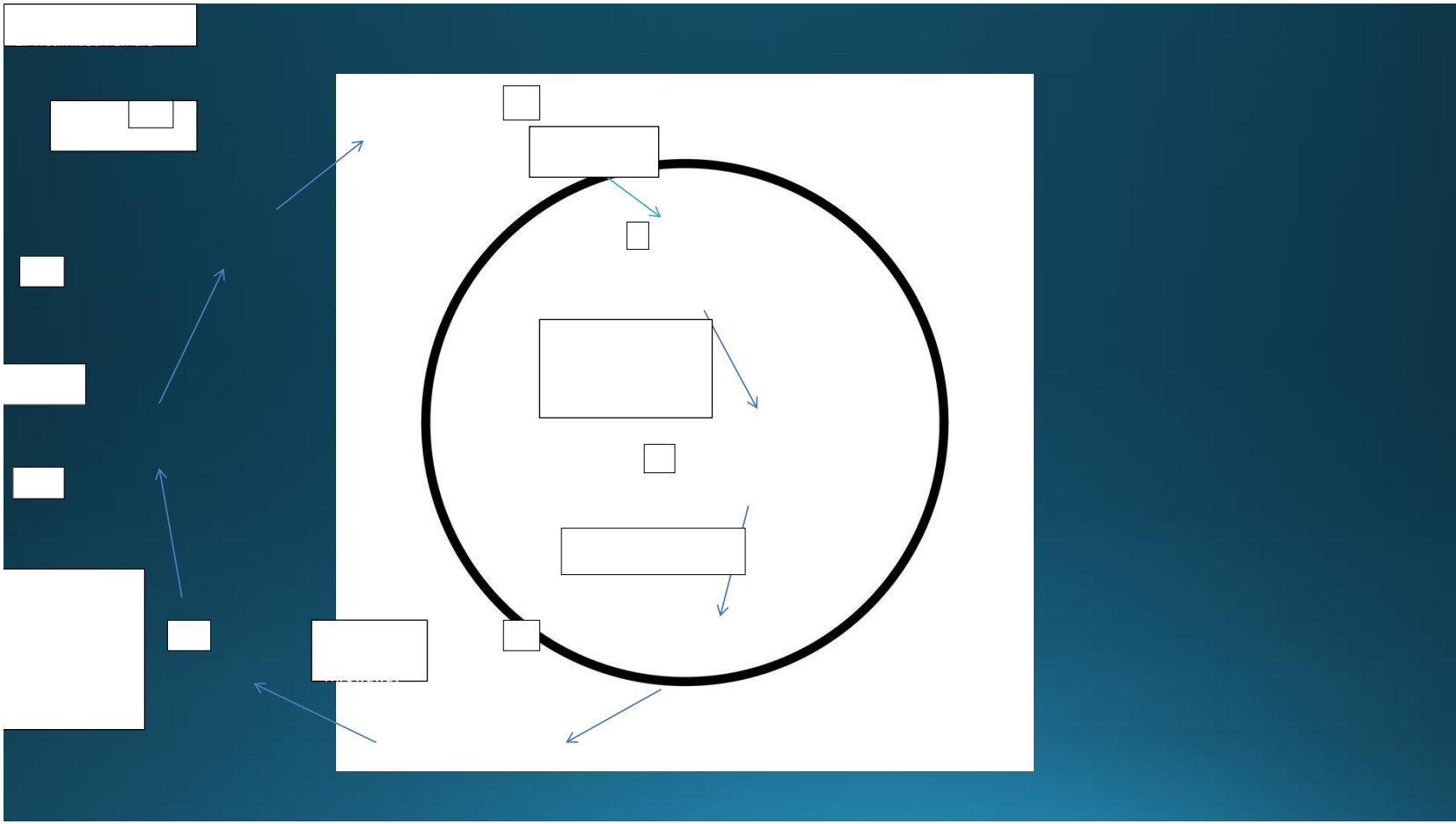
**Runaways**

**Incest**

**Child Sexual Abuse-  
Perpetrator  
known to family**

## Cycle of Abuse





## Victimization- many pathways

Abuse

Domestic abuse-1 in 3 women

Sexual

Emotional

Drugs and Alcohol

Mental Illness

History of childhood physical abuse, neglect, sexual abuse



## Pregnancy- many reasons

Bonding – “he won’t leave me”

Protection- “he will treat me better”

Unconditional love

Someone to nurture them

Special attention

## Childbearing-

- Are more likely teen at time of first birth
- Poor prenatal care
- Lack psychological, emotional and financial resources to care for her children
- High rate of poverty

2 vs 3-4 children- break point for working


# Child Abuse, Neglect and Sexual Abuse

- Teen Pregnancy
- Larger families
- Low education
- Low self worth
- Poverty
- Oklahoma- over 14,000 cases of proven abuse and neglect

## Sexual Abuse

- Usually tell someone/often not believed
- Up to 96% of abusers are relatives or an adult known by the family
- 30% of sexual abusers are family, <age 6 it is 50%
- Child often feels trapped
- Confused sexual boundaries

## Sexual Abuse

- More common with teens moms
- **Maternal age** was a greater predictor of abuse when compared to social, economic and personal factors
- Lack of emotion involvement  online grooming

## Age of Awareness

- Sexual Grooming begins before age 5
- Pornography to normalize behavior
- Starts as game with rewards
- Confusion- wrong but emotionally/physically pleasurable
- Age 13-14 there is an understanding of the abusive relationship

## Runaway/Throwaway

- Sexual assault is one of the primary reasons for leaving home
- Emotionally naïve about street life
- 1.5 million runaway each year/ 500,000 not reported

## On the Street

- Average age of entry into prostitution is 13-14
- 75% of girls, 44% of boys report survival sex
- Strong “supply and demand” effect for underage girls due to societal sexualization of girls



## Pathway to Prison

- 93% of girls in the juvenile justice system were victim of physical/sexual abuse
- Mental health services in the JJS are lacking
- Drugs are used to cope with prostitution and street life
- Having sex for drugs is different than having sex for money

## Pregnancy

- Lack of power, need for money and drugs leads to unprotected sex
- 45% of incest survivors have an adolescent pregnancy
- Girls who give birth <17 have 4x rate of sexual abuse

## Pregnancy

- No or fragmented prenatal care
- Baptist 25% test + for drugs
- Increase in Methamphetamine use 400%

## DHS Custody

- Childbirth- victimization begins
  - IUGR, Preterm Delivery
- Neglect, physical and sexual abuse
- 54% of girls in foster care report hx sexual abuse
- Oklahoma 12,000 in foster care
- Most have long term mental health issues

## DHS Custody

In this population of aged out youth:

- 50% will drop out of school

- At age 21, only 25% will still be enrolled in school; only 2% will have earned a 2-year-degree

- 62% will be unemployed 12-18 months after aging out

## DHS Custody

In this population of aged out youth:

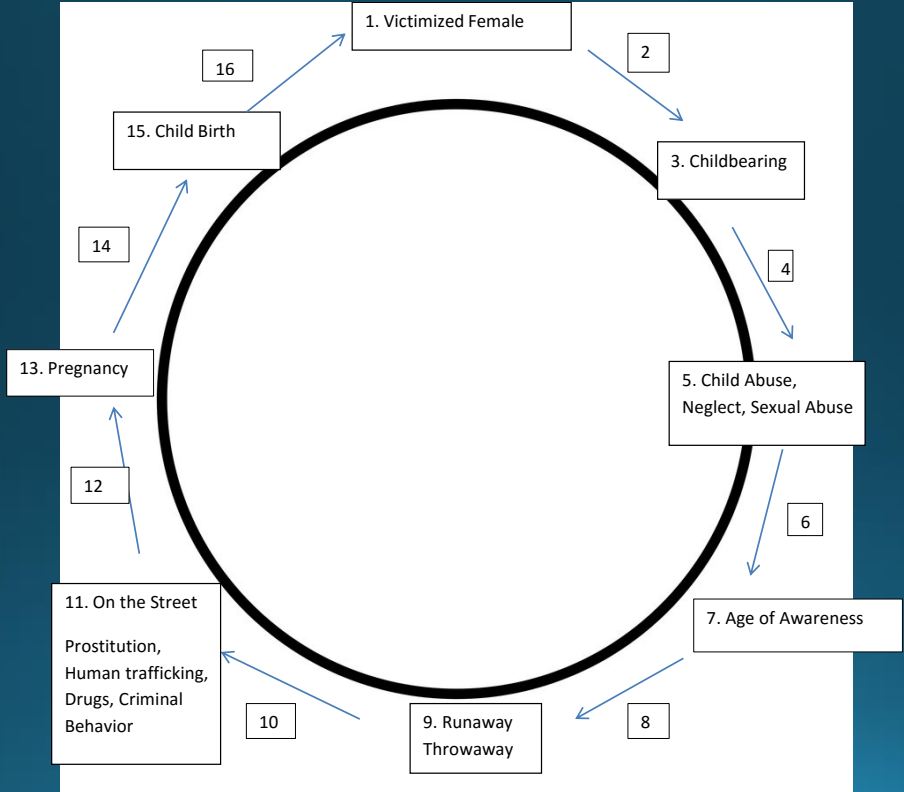
50% will be unemployed at age 21; median yearly income will be \$5,450

25-33% will become homeless within three years

60-70% will have babies by the age of 21

30% will be arrested between the ages of 18-21

# Cycle of Abuse



## Treatment vs Prevention

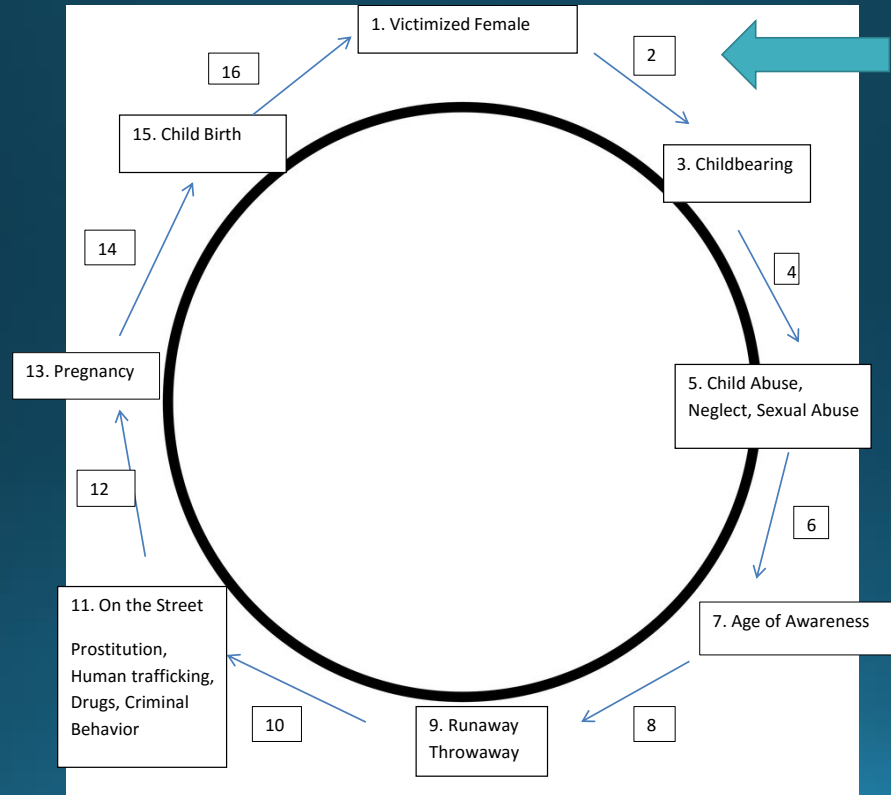
- Foster Care- Comprehensive reforms
  - Aide to stay in school or occupation education
  - Affordable transitional housing
  - Providing sustainable wage employment
  - Long-term healthcare and mental health services
  - Cost- Billions



## Treatment vs Prevention

- On the Street
  - Housing Projects
  - Education and vocational training
  - Providing sustainable wage employment
  - Healthcare of mental health services, drug recovery and street related physical illnesses
  - Cost- Billions

# Cycle of Abuse



## Prevention

President Nixon stated that “unwanted or untimely childbearing is one of several forces which are driving many families into poverty or keeping them in that condition”

## Prevention

- Three ways of disrupting the Cycle of Abuse
  - Delayed Childbearing
  - Strengthening Marriage
  - Instilling a Sense of Future

# Prevention

- Children in Poverty
  - Fall behind in almost all cognitive, behavioral, emotional and health measures
  - Increasing risk for abuse

## Prevention

- Child Poverty-

To decrease child poverty in the United States, the women must first be raised out of poverty, and to do that, delayed reproduction is essential.

## Norplant

- 1990's- Potential promise by public health officials
- Several states submitted legislation to incentivize woman to use the device
- None of the bills made it out of committee

## Norplant

- Led to charges of coercion
- Argument- "that individuals have a fundamental right to control rather they have children and neither the government nor any individual is entitled to shape or influence a woman's contraceptive choices."



## Alternative View

- Unwanted or mistimed births can have negative effect on the woman as well as others in her care
- It is hard to justify the stance of state non-interference when a person then depends on the state to provide financial support for these births

## Alternative View

- If one is truly committed to raising a woman out of poverty and to increase the chances that her children will have a better life with increase educational and income opportunities, then one must acknowledge society's obligation to help this population achieve delayed reproduction.

## Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARCS)

- Availability- 70% of pregnancies are unintended in single women under 30
  - Multimedia campaigns
  - Easily available- free clinics
  - Free- each delayed birth saves \$24,000
  - Hospital insertions now covered in Oklahoma

## Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARCS)

- Incentives-
  - Increase in welfare benefits
  - Shown effectiveness in keeping teenage moms in school

## Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARCS)

- Conditional-
  - For those who have demonstrated the inability to be able to care for a child
  - Drugs
  - Criminal Activity
  - Proven child neglect or abuse

# Foster Care Schizophrenia

- Foster/adoption parent requirements-

- They must be at least 21 years of age
- They can have no history of child abuse, neglect or sexual abuse
- They must be able to provide sufficient bed and space for the child
- They must be able to manage their income to meet the financial needs of the family
- They cannot have any serious felony convictions
- They cannot have a record of possession, use, sale, or distribution of illegal drugs

# United Nations

- Rights of the Child
  - all children, without exception, have the absolute right optimally to develop physically, mentally, morally and spiritually and to be protected from cruelty, neglect and exploitation.

## Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives (LARCS)

- Benefits
  - More likely to finish her education
  - More likely to be employed
  - Better future for her and her children



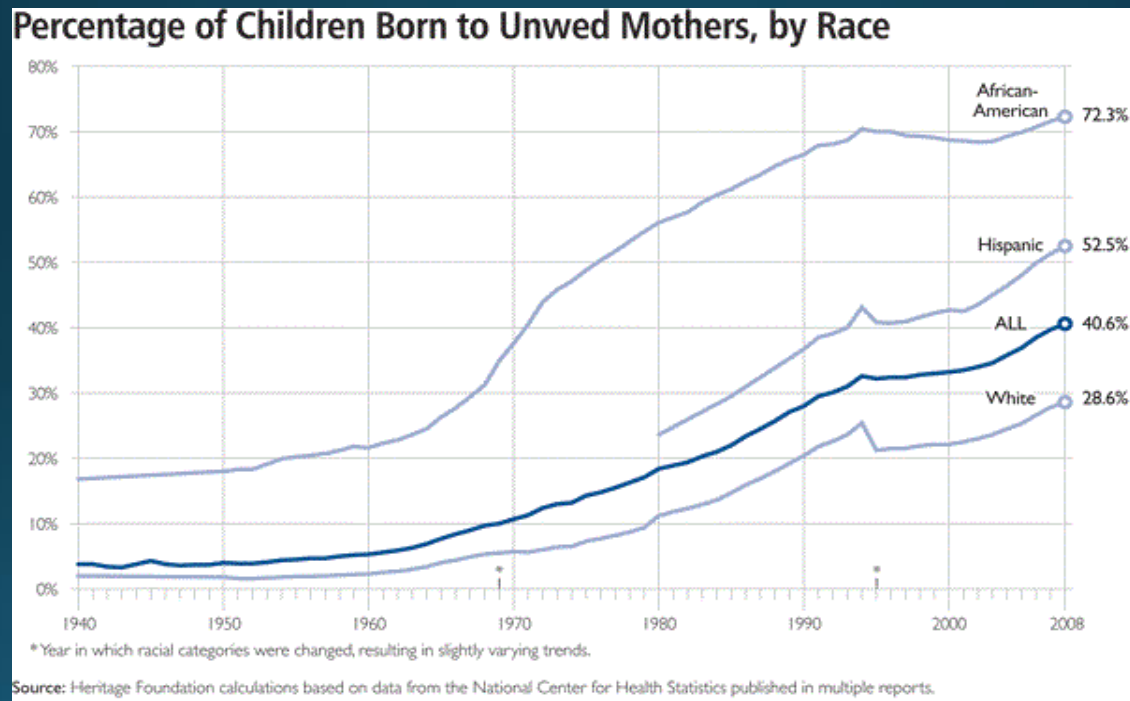
## Push Back

- Against the fundamental right of nature to reproduce and is an issue of sexual privacy
- Society regulates issues of privacy and sexuality- determines minimal ages for marriage, regulations against rape, prostitution, incest and consanguineous marriage.
- Court ordered disulfiram (Antabuse)- in persons convicted of alcohol related offenses to aid in the maintaining compliance and abstinence from alcohol

# Medicaid Changes

- Tubal Ligations
  - Remove 30 Day waiting period
  - Remove age restrictions

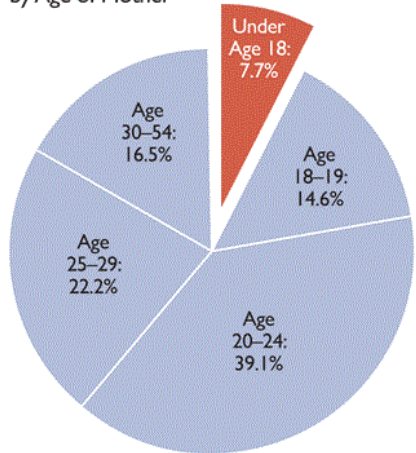
# Marriage



# Marriage

## Few Unwed Births Occur to Teenagers

Percentage of Out-of-Wedlock Births by Age of Mother



Source: Centers for Disease Control, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics Report, "Births: Preliminary Data for 2008," April 6, 2010, Table 7, at [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr58/nvsr58\\_16.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr58/nvsr58_16.pdf) (September 13, 2010).

# Marriage

- The collapse in the Middle Class norms concerning marriage and of having children has been a societal catastrophe
- Attraction → Relationship → Deepening Bonds → Marriage → Children

# Marriage

- Low income women tend to reverse the traditional pattern for childbearing

Children → Find or Build Stable Relationship →  
Possible Marriage

# Marriage

## Gender Distrust-

“they don't trust men to remain faithful, to stay working, to pay their share of the bills, to not beat them or abuse their children, to stay out of trouble with the law, and to stay free of addiction to alcohol and drugs.”

# Marriage

Middle Class Millennials-

also avoiding marriage but without having children



# Marriage

- Fathers Income- would raise about 66% of single mothers out of poverty
- Congress- reduce the marriage penalty in means tested welfare programs
- Government should provide information on the benefits in the form of a multiple media campaign.

## Two Caste System

### Upper Third

Marriage

Education- College

### Lower Two Thirds

Single

High School or less

- Marriage has the equivalent effect on reducing poverty as adding 5-6 years of education to a parent

## Sense of Future

Sense of future- belief that the future holds possibilities and expectations of a better and more fulfilled life. It is the idea that there is something to look forward to that has potential for bettering one's life situation

## Sense of Future

- This is lost with Generational Poverty
- Johns Hopkins 30 year study- "The implication is where start in life is where you end up in life."

## Sense of Future

- Low income single mothers commonly view their children as the source for all that they see that is positive in their lives and typically depend on the children as a means of bringing order, companionship, purpose and validation to their often disordered life.
- Children are seen as giving meaning to their lives when meaning can be found nowhere else.

# Probability of Success

- Delayed Childbearing
- Strengthening Marriage
- Sense of Future
- Good
- Possible
- Low Probability
  - Without changing the first two