



**SAFE HARBOR
FOR ALL**

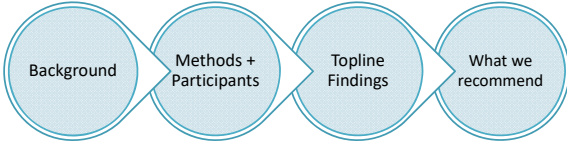
RESULTS FROM A STATEWIDE
STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS IN MINNESOTA

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Presentation Outline



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graph LR
    A((Background)) --> B((Methods + Participants))
    B --> C((Topline Findings))
    C --> D((What we recommend))
  
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Safe Harbor for All Strategic Planning Process:

A legislatively-mandated planning process with recommendations to the Minnesota Legislature to improve Minnesota's response to adult victims of sex trafficking and exploitation.

Final Report with 19 Recommendations

Legislation directed and funded by the Minnesota Department of Health to make an RFP for strategic planning and then to submit a strategic plan (with input from other state agencies) back to the Legislature.

MN Legislation

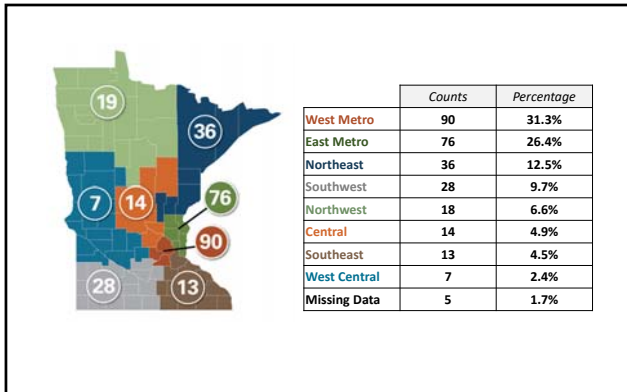
- 2005 MN recognized human trafficking as a crime
- 2011 Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Youth passed
- 2014 Safe Harbor/No Wrong Door came into effect
- 2017 Expanded age eligibility for services up to 24 years
- 2017 **What about all adults?** Legislatively mandated Strategic Planning Process

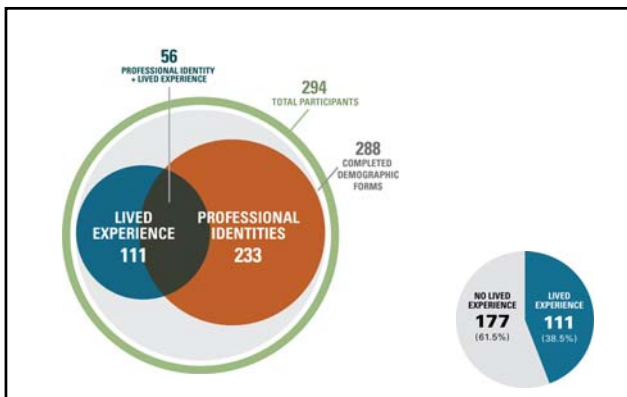
Terminology

- We do not use the term “prostitute”
- Report findings encompass opinions and experiences of and about victims/survivors of sex trafficking and CSE, independent providers, and sex workers
- We refer to this as “lived experience” in transactional sex.

Participatory Methods

- 35-Member Process Advisory Group
- Open, inclusive, and transparent
- Purposeful sampling to include relevant experts across the state (N=294)
- Fast Timeline
 - Planning/design: Nov 2017 – Feb 2018
 - Launched: March 2018
 - Completed: October 2018





Findings in Full Report

- Description of Language and Approach for Adults
- Stigma, Harms, and Oppression
- Harms of Criminalization to People who trade/sell sex
- Policy Alternatives Related to Criminal Liability
- Criminal Liability for Sex Buyers
- Considerations for Implementation (Dignity, Respect, Services, Supports, Housing, Prevention)

Plan for Partial Decriminalization

- Widespread support for decriminalization of sale of sex
- Caveats & concerns
 - Uncertain impacts on investigation of trafficking
 - Uncertain impacts on overall marketplace for sex
- MUST be done in tandem with increase in housing, services and supports

Findings: Its Complicated

- Must consider many experiences
- Bound up in multiple forms of oppression
- Transactional sex is not just one thing
- Lived experience is fluid
- MUST EMBRACE NUANCE TO AVOID HARMS

Prostitution Arrest of People with Lived Experience Causes Harm

- Widespread agreement
- Harms people with lived experience, their families and communities
- Cascade of problems in housing, employment and discrimination
- Downward cycle keeps people in transactional sex, vulnerable to trafficking

Crime Victimization

- Due to fear of arrest, people with lived experience cannot report serious crimes committed against them (harassment, assault, rape, stalking, domestic violence, etc.)
- Viewed as “bad victims”, “they deserve it.”
- Widespread stigma

Stigma, poverty, racism

- Intersectional oppressions (race, class, gender, gender identity, etc.) contribute to harms in transactional sex
- All people with lived experience deserve safety, health, dignity and justice, yet is often denied
- Criminalization of sale of sex contributes to harms

Push Factors/Prevention

- Poverty, housing stability, and economic instability
- These are prevention and intervention
- Connections between gender norms, transactional sex, violence, exploitation, cultural norms, etc.
- Racism and legacy of enslavement and colonization

19 Recommendations

- Approach and Philosophy (#1 & #2)
- Relevant Criminal Issues (#3 - #9)
 - Criminal liability for providing sex (609.324)
 - Criminal liability for purchasing sex (609.324)
 - Criminal liability for trafficking (609.322)
- Prevention/Intervention (#10 - #12)
- Tribal Nations & Indigenous communities (#13 - #15)
- Training, Reform, Evaluation (#16 - # 19)

What we can do now

- LEADERSHIP OF PEOPLE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE
- Reduce negative impact of arrest (expungement & vacatur)
- Focused planning on expansion of services/supports without age restriction
- Change language in statutes
- Reform current systems (CPS, police, housing) to reduce stigma and discrimination
- More respect for autonomy in systems
- More for cultural and community forms of healing

What is next?

- MDH drafted a strategic plan
- The MDH plan + the Strategic Planning full report submitted to the legislature
- Advocacy to promote safety, health, dignity and justice for all with lived experience
- What will you do?

Thank you

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Report Available at: <https://uroc.umn.edu/safe-harbor-all-strategic-planning-process>
