Barriers & Stigma:
Health Disparities Faced by African American Male Survival Sex Workers who Deal with Mental Illness

Research Conducted & Presented by Emmaus Ministries’ Male Prostitution Research Center
In partnership with Illinois Institute of Technology and PCORI
Team Members

Scott Noble
Sill Davis
Libby Trudeau
Sherman Bryant
William Glover
Tijuana Nelson
Anthony Queen
Project Background

Populations who Tend to Have Poor Health Outcomes:

- Men
- African Americans
- People who deal with Mental Illness
- People involved with Sex Work

So What are the Health Challenges for People who Meet all these Criteria?
How we Explored this Question

Health Disparities IIT Grant
(Community-Based Participatory Research)

Methods:
• Surveys
• Focus groups
• Community Partners
What is Community-Based Participatory Research?

**Benefits**
- More Direct Benefit to Community
- More Effective Data

**Challenges**
- Coordination
- Typical Field Collection Issues
Emmaus Ministries

Organization Purpose

Why we Chose this Project
Our Findings . . .
Demographic Information of Participants

Age of Survey Participants

- 18-24
- 25-39
- 40-64
- 65+
Demographic Information of Participants

Regions Where Participants Live

- South Side: 50%
- North Side: 33%
- West Side: 13%
- Other: 4%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South Side SS</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Side WS</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Side NS</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sex Work Activity: Trafficking

What Constitutes “Trafficking”?  
• Force  
• Fraud  
• Coercion  
• Age

Percent of Respondents Who Report Being Trafficked as Adult or Child

- Report Being Trafficked: 37%
- Were not Trafficked: 32%
- Didn’t Answer: 31%
Amount of Sex Work

Sex Work Frequency

- 35%: It only happened a few times
- 30%: Monthly
- 26%: About once a week
- 9%: Multiple Times a week
Mental Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diagnosis</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Approximate Percent of whole</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4.59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bipolar</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>27.55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schizophrenia</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>7.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depression</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>71.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple Personality</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trauma</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>7.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Addiction</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>38.78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2.55%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Number of Mental Health Diagnoses**

- 1 Diagnosis: 51.5%
- 2 Diagnoses: 30.1%
- 3+ Diagnoses: 12.8%
- No Diagnosis: 4.6%
Income & Poverty

Percent Below Poverty Line

- None: 19%
- Up to half the poverty line ($496/month): 8%
- Below Poverty line ($990 per month): 16%
- Over poverty line: 6%
- Social Security: 51%
Housing

Housing Situation

- Homeless
- Temporary housing
- Permanent living with friends or family
- Own housing

(Bar chart showing the distribution of housing situations.)
Physical Health

Percent of Respondents who Report Health Problems in the Past Year

- Physical Injury
- Chronic Illness
Access to Treatment

Access to Treatment

I Know where to Get

I can Afford

Insurance Won’t Cover

Reasons for Missed Appointments
(Answered Agree or Strongly Agree)

- No Insurance
- Insurance Wouldn’t Cover Cost
- Worried about what others would think

Percent Agree

Percent Disagree
Young Demographic

Housing Situation By Age

Getting Current Treatment or Not by Age

Number of Mental Health Diagnoses By Age
Other Findings

• Stability

• Men Told to “Suck it Up”

• Religion
So What?

• Mental Health and Sex Work have a Connection

• Stability is Possible but Possibly at Risk

• Religious Institutions

• Challenges for Younger Men