

Pathways of Entry Case Study 1

Bethany: 12-year-old Caucasian female

Bethany's mother, Fran, was only 15 when she gave birth to her. Bethany's father was an older man from Fran's neighborhood who had sexually abused her since she was 11 years old. Fran believed that they had a 'real' relationship and was devastated when she got pregnant and he completely rejected her. Fran slowly realized that she had been abused, and often took out her hurt and frustration on Bethany—the product of her abuse—by yelling at her and occasionally beating her with a belt. When Bethany was seven, Fran began a relationship with a man who introduced her to heroin; within a few months, Fran was completely hooked.

Fran often exchanged sex for drugs or money with neighbors and friends. After a few months, sex became her primary source of income. As her addiction increased, Fran found that the money wasn't supporting her habit. She began to rationalize that Bethany wasn't much younger than she was when she started having sex with a neighbor, and minimized the abuse she'd suffered. Fran began to sell Bethany when she was nine years old—primarily in their house, but occasionally in the street. She found that men were willing to pay more for Bethany than for her.

Bethany initially was scared, but soon discovered that her mother was pleased with her when she made money. Bethany didn't like what was happening to her, but still wanted to make her mother happy. She felt like if she could make enough money, her mother would eventually get better, and they could be a proper family.

When Bethany was 11 years old, she told the school nurse that using the bathroom was hurting her. Bethany was diagnosed with two STDs, and the doctors noted extensive genital trauma. Bethany was removed from her mother's home and placed in a group home. Staff told her that she was "loose" and "fast" and that she "thought she was grown." Other girls in the group home called her a "ho" and made fun of her constantly. Bethany started staying out at night to avoid coming home to the name-calling and harassment. One night, hanging out in the street, Bethany saw an older man that she recognized as one of her "johns." He offered her a place to stay, and Bethany gratefully accepted. Within a few weeks of moving in with the man, Bethany was making pornographic videos, which the man sold on the Internet. The man was happy when her videos sold online and would give her small amounts of money. Bethany often visited her mother and gave her any money that she'd earned to try to help her.

Pathways of Entry Case Study 2

Yesenia: 16-year-old Latina female

Yesenia's mother and father split up when she was three years old. Yesenia grew up in Macon with her mother and grandmother, and her father moved to Atlanta. Her father visited her occasionally, and they spoke every few months on the phone. Although Yesenia had a close relationship with her mother when she was young, as she entered adolescence, it seemed like all they did was argue. Boys, clothes, phone calls, money—they argued about everything, and Yesenia grew more and more resentful of her mother's 'controlling ways.' Yesenia began to fantasize about living with her father, who was far more lenient. One night in an argument, Yesenia called her mother names, and her mother slapped her in the face. Yesenia decided that she hated her mother and that she would go live with her father. Her father agreed that she could come and stay for a while and let things calm down. Yesenia's mother felt that she should find out for herself that living with her father wouldn't be that much better.

Yesenia took the bus to Atlanta and arrived late in the evening. Her father had given her directions to his house, but the MARTA was confusing. Since there were two lines with the same stop, she just guessed and got off. Yesenia walked around for a few minutes before she realized that she was lost. She stopped at a store to ask directions and a young man approached her. He was handsome and very helpful. He asked for her phone number and offered her a ride. Yesenia was flattered that he was interested in her and grateful for the ride. He told her he needed to make a few quick calls to borrow his friend's car and so he took her to McDonalds and bought her food while he went outside to make calls. Within 10 minutes, a van pulled up and he introduced the driver as his cousin who would drive them. Yesenia felt that something funny was happening, and as she hesitated, she was grabbed her by neck and forced into the van. Yesenia was petrified and didn't understand what was happening. The men told her that if she tried to leave or call for help, they would kill her. The driver moved a rag off the console to show her a gun. Her 'friend' went through her bag and found her ID. He read her mother's address aloud several times and put the ID in his pocket. The man told her that now he knew where her family lived, and that he would kill them all if she escaped. Yesenia sat crying in the car as they drove on.

They arrived at a house, and the men grabbed her by the arms and dragged her into the basement. In the basement was a pole with torn pieces of duct tape on it. The men opened a closet and showed her an array of weapons, including nunchucks, swords, knives, more guns, and other scary-looking weapons she didn't know the names of. They told her that this is what they used on other girls who disobeyed them or tried to run away. One man brought another girl from upstairs and they made Yesenia watch as they taped the girl to the pole and took turns beating her with various weapons. That night, they took turns raping Yesenia and told her that "tomorrow she would have to earn her keep." Yesenia decided that she would do whatever she was told, just so that she could stay alive and protect her mother and grandmother too. The following night, Yesenia worked her first night on the track.

Pathways of Entry Case Study 3

Quiana: 13-year-old African-American female

Quiana was five years old when her father walked out. Sometimes she would see him in the street, but he would walk the other way pretending not to see her. Quiana's mother met a new man whom she married when Quiana was 8 years old, and they had two more children. Quiana was often made to feel like she was in the way of the new family. Her stepfather rarely paid attention to Quiana, and when he did, it was normally to yell at her for something he felt like she'd done to her younger siblings. Quiana looked a lot like her real father and heard her mother complain about it a lot. Quiana started to believe that she was unattractive, and worked hard to make the boys at school like her, although they teased her a lot and sometimes made her cry.

Quiana's mother and stepfather both worked late, and her brother and sister were in after-school programs, so during the afternoon she hung out with friends at Atlantic Station. Walking there one evening, a cute guy in his twenties drove up in an Escalade and asked if she'd stop to talk to him. Quiana played shy, but was secretly thrilled that a grown man would be interested in her. His name was Tre. He told her that she was beautiful and asked if he could give her a ride home. Quiana told him that she was nervous to get into his car, but Tre showed her his ID and told her she could write his license plate down if she wanted to. Tre asked her if he looked like the type of guy that needed to force a girl into doing something. Quiana felt silly for being so mistrustful of such a nice, handsome guy and after talking on the street for a while, agreed to get in the car. Tre was a real gentleman and didn't even try to touch her, when he dropped her home, he kissed her hand and called her "sexy." They arranged to meet again the next day, and Quiana walked in the house that night floating on cloud nine.

For two weeks, Quiana met Tre every day after school. Sometimes he would take her to fancy restaurants like Olive Garden or Applebees or sometimes they would just drive around and talk. Tre called her his little princess, and told her he wanted them to be together forever. Quiana lost her virginity with Tre and believed that he would be her husband once she turned 16. Quiana started missing her curfew at home, and eventually stopped coming home at all. Tre had a nice apartment, and she didn't have to deal with her mother, stepfather, and half-siblings. She was so grateful to Tre for helping her get out of the situation and felt that the meals he bought her and the jeans and sneakers he'd given her proved how much he loved her. One night, Tre told her that there was something she could do to prove her love for him too. Quiana readily agreed; there was nothing that she wouldn't do for him. Tre asked her to go to a club with him and dance. He told her that she'd be just like the girls in her favorite music videos and that everyone would see how sexy she was. Tre bought her some heels and a bikini and showed her how to move around in a sexy way. He gave her a few shots to drink so that she would relax and took her to a club. Quiana felt light-headed from the alcohol and the attention from all the guys, but the best thing was watching how happy Tre was when she got dollars from the men. She still felt a bit shy taking off her clothes, but it was worth it for Tre to be proud of her and it would help them build a future together. After a few weeks of dancing, Tre told her that there was one more thing that could make him love her even more. That night, he introduced her to the VIP room.

Pathways of Entry Case Study 4

Daniel: 14-year-old Caucasian male

Daniel was seven when his mother left him in a park to go get high. Daniel sat alone in the park even as it grew dark, until a concerned passerby called the police. DCFS discovered that Daniel's mother had faced neglect and child-endangerment allegations. When DCFS caseworkers had attempted home visits, Daniel's mother had never answered the door; eventually, the case had fallen through the cracks. This time however, Daniel was removed from his mother's custody. Attempts to locate family members willing to care for Daniel proved fruitless; his father was incarcerated, and other family members were simply unwilling to take him in, calling him "unmanageable." Daniel was placed in a foster home, where he was regularly beaten and locked in a closet. After a neighbor called authorities, Daniel was removed and placed in another foster home.

Initially Daniel did well in the new environment, but within a few months, the new foster mother complained to the foster care agency that Daniel was "too angry" and that he was frequently involved in fights at school. She believed that he was becoming a bad influence on the other children in her home and asked for the agency to remove him. By the time Daniel was 12, he had been in seven different foster placements and was finally placed in a boys residential group home.

Daniel was small for his age and fought a lot with the other boys to prove himself. While he would often lose the fights, he earned begrudging respect from the other boys for "having a lot of heart." One of the older boys, 15-year-old Seth, decided to take Daniel under his wing; the two soon became close friends. Seth took care of Daniel, bought him food and cigarettes, and gave him money to play at the arcade. For the first time, Daniel felt that someone was looking out for him, but he wondered how Seth always seemed to have extra money. There was no allowance at the group home, and without family members to help out, most of the boys hustled drugs or sold cigarettes to make extra cash. One night, Seth confided in Daniel that he had "friends" with whom he did things for money. Seth assured Daniel that it wasn't sex, and that it didn't mean he was gay. He told Daniel that the guys would give up a lot of money for young boys and that they could work together and watch the other's back. Daniel was reluctant and nervous, but he trusted Seth. Daniel figured the work could be a way of getting out of the child welfare system—perhaps they could save up lots of money and get an apartment together. Otherwise, he was going to be stuck in the group home till he was 18.

Seth told Daniel it was easier to get drunk and smoke some weed first—that would make him more friendly and relaxed. Once they were buzzed, Seth took Daniel to (enter name of an area) and introduced him to some old guys. All of them wanted to be first to take Daniel, but Seth showed him how to negotiate the best price possible. Eventually a man in his 40s agreed to \$200: he liked the fact the Daniel was so young. Seth showed Daniel a deserted street and stood watch at the end to make sure nothing bad happened. Daniel felt nauseous afterwards and kept washing his mouth out. Seth told him that it would get easier each time and just to think of the money and a new life. Daniel agreed. Anything had to be better than living at the home, so he decided to stick it out until he could save enough money to be free.

Pathways of Entry Case Study 5

Timothy: 15-year-old Caucasian male

Timothy was the youngest of five boys growing up in Jacksonville, FL. Timothy's father, Mike, worked as a mechanic; his mother, Kate, was a dental hygienist. Mike was a huge sports fan and loved to watch and play baseball and football with his young sons. Timothy's brothers were all sports fanatics too, playing on their school's junior varsity and varsity teams; his oldest brother earned a football scholarship to Florida State University. Timothy, however, was never good at sports—he hated the humiliation of being the worst player on the team and would rather spend time reading, listening to music, or going online alone in his room.

Mike took Timothy's sports failures personally and became harder on him than his brothers, convinced he would "roughen him up." Timothy grew used to being called a "sissy" and being told to stop "acting like a little girl" by both his family and other kids. Mike's tongue-lashings, and sometimes physical abuse, made Timothy withdraw even more. Timothy knew that he felt very different, but wasn't sure why. He knew that he wasn't like his brothers and didn't fit in with any of the groups of boys at school. He liked doing things his brothers called "girly" and often thought that if he had just been born a girl maybe his life would be easier. Kate did her best to protect her youngest son, who she felt was just "sensitive," from his father, but even at school Timothy was bullied and ostracized by his peers who called him a "faggot" and a "queer."

One of Timothy's teachers grew concerned about the constant bullying and harassment and referred him to the school guidance counselor. The counselor told him that he was "bringing it on himself" and urged him to be more like one of the boys. The next day, Timothy asked a girl in his homeroom for a date, but she laughed at him and told all the other students, who mocked him even more. Timothy started staying home from school—his mother knew he was unhappy and would sometimes cover for him. When his father found out, he beat him up for not being man enough, causing him to miss school to cover his bruises. Timothy began to explore online where he opened up to strangers about his loneliness and confusion.

Timothy had always like to play dress-up and to pretend when he was younger, and when he was left alone in the house would still look through his mother's closet or sit at her vanity table. As long as he knew he was definitely alone in the house, he felt more comfortable, even relieved, among these things. One afternoon, while sitting at the vanity and admiring all of the cosmetics lined up against the mirror, Timothy picked up his mother's foundation powder, opened the compact, and began applying the powder to his cheeks. He heard the door handle turn and looked to see his brother in the doorway.

His brother looked at him with disgust and called their parents. Within 20 minutes, Mike came home from work and beat Timothy with his bare hands until he was nearly unconscious. Kate tried to stop the beating, but one of Timothy's brothers held her back.

That night, Mike threw him out of the house and told him that he only had four sons now. Kate sat crying and didn't say anything. Timothy's brothers cursed at him and told him he was a pervert. At 15, Timothy was homeless and didn't have any friends in his town. Timothy decided to go to Atlanta to try to find some of his online friends—he figured they would accept him. Timothy stood at the truck stop nearest his house to hitch a ride. He was picked up and raped by an older man

who told him to keep quiet and enjoy it. Timothy didn't know where his online friends lived but thought they hung out in Woodruff Park and Little 5Points and within hours of being in the city, Timothy had found a group of transgender youth on the street who listened to his story of being kicked out and feeling like he was trapped in the wrong body. One of the kids told him he needed a "street mother" and took him to the house of an older transgender woman, Lisa. Lots of kids were hanging out there, and Timothy felt at home for the first time. His new "mother" welcomed him immediately and told him that she'd help him be more comfortable as a girl. She gave him a new name, "Tracey," and gave him a few outfits and wigs to try. Timothy was so grateful that when his new mom told him that he'd have to work to support himself, he was more than happy to do whatever he was told. Timothy discovered that lots of men were willing to buy him as "Tracey" and gave Lisa part of his money each night so that he could stay at her house. Once in a while, Timothy/Tracey would call his mother but she would tell him that she wasn't allowed to talk to him and would hang up the phone.

Pathways of Entry Case Study 6

Diana: 16-year-old African-American female

Both of Diana's parents had jobs in pharmaceutical sales and were often away from home, either traveling or working late hours. Diana had two younger sisters, and her mother made her pick them up from school and baby-sit them until someone came home from work. Being at home so much was boring and meant that she couldn't hang out with her friends after school, but all of Diana's friends were on social media, so she hung out with them online. Diana's page had pictures of herself with her friends hanging out at the movies or at school. In her favorite she was wearing her cutest jeans, looking back over her shoulder with her best "sexy" look she copied from celebrities. Diana's friends told her she looked like Rihanna, but sometimes Diana worried that she was too fat. She hated her thighs and wished she could be smaller and sexier like the girls on TV.

When Diana first began using social media, she only interacted with her friends; but some of her friends liked to talk to boys they didn't know, and after a while Diana joined in. Diana would get lots of "friend requests"—some of the guys were old and creepy and some of them were cute and would write nice messages telling her how pretty she was. One of the new guys she added was called Eric and was 23 years old. Eric said he worked in the music industry and said she had "star potential." Diana was really excited—she did want to be famous and have a big singing career. Eric lived in the city and told her how much fun she'd have if she ever came to visit. He told her that he would take her to nice restaurants and even a nightclub. Eric told her that age was "just a number" and that he thought she seemed really mature. Diana liked the fact he took her seriously and was genuinely interested in her life and in helping her start singing. Eric told her that he had set her up with an audition with a real producer and invited her to come into the city.

Diana decided to take a big chance and bribed her best friend to watch her sisters for the day. She wore her prettiest outfit and fixed her hair and caught the bus into the city. Eric picked her up from the bus station in a nice car and drove her to a recording studio. There were a group of guys there, and people were drinking and smoking, but everyone was really nice to her. She recorded her first track over a Beyoncé song, but it seemed like no one was really listening. Eric told her that she needed some real photos taken to show people what a star she was, and he brought out some sexy outfits for her to model in. At first Diana was a bit shy. Eric offered her some weed, which she had never tried before but knew lots of kids at school were trying. Posing in front of the camera and hanging out with older guys felt like a dream, like she was the star in her own movie. Everyone was paying attention to her and telling her how beautiful she was. Before she realized it, she'd missed the last bus back.

Eric told her she could stay the night. The next morning she was too nervous to go back home because she knew her parents would go crazy, so she stayed two nights. Being with Eric and his friends was so cool. She knew she should go back home but didn't want to be grounded, so she figured she'd stay and try and make her music career happen so that her parents would be less mad. After a week, Eric told her that a famous producer wanted to meet her and that she should be really nice to him. He took her to a hotel room and the man asked her to model for him and sing a little bit. The man told he was going to get her a record deal but that she had let him touch her first. After he raped her, another man came in the room and did the same—then five more raped her too. She kept wondering where Eric was, but finally he came in smiling and holding money and said he knew all along that she'd be a star.