

Senate Bill 2341

Home on the Range

Commercially Sexually Exploited Children

3-6-23

Laura Feldmann LCSW, Executive Director, Home on the Range

Home on the Range-

- ▶ Qualified Residential Treatment Program
- ▶ Established 1950
- ▶ Licensed by the state for 36 youth
- ▶ Boys and girls ages 12-19
- ▶ Working cattle ranch
- ▶ Trauma informed programming
- ▶ Drug and alcohol programming
- ▶ Bottom up programming to address significant trauma and self regulation deficits
- ▶ Family therapy options
- ▶ Experiential programming-
 - ▶ Canine Assisted Therapy
 - ▶ Equine Assisted Therapy
 - ▶ Adventure Therapy



This IS a North Dakota problem-

- ▶ A drug seeking mother sells her 16 year old daughter to her drug dealer. The man injected her daughter with methamphetamine and then performed sexual acts with her daughter while the mother was in the same room. Later the mother was given the drugs in the parking lot of the hotel as payment. This young lady grew up and took her mothers place in the trafficking world as a recruiter.
- ▶ A 15 year old girl “dating” a 27 year old male felon who provided her with a place to stay and drugs. The man took her to Las Vegas, and when done with her, abandoned her high on meth at a gas station.
- ▶ A 14 year old girl was sold by her mother to obtain propane to heat their home over the winter. This was a generational issue, the grandmother, and great grandmother also sold their daughters for propane.
- ▶ A 13 year old girl who had “lots of daddies” that her mom “gave” to her. She was living with a 22 year old “daddy” prior to treatment. She talked about a game she and her “daddy” would play where he would hog tie her and she would try to get out of the ropes.

-Vignettes of actual HOCR youth.

Trafficking Cases in North Dakota



-North Dakota Human Trafficking Task Force

Identified in-
Rural

Urban

Along I 94

Off I 94

Well policed areas

Not well policed areas

Oil country

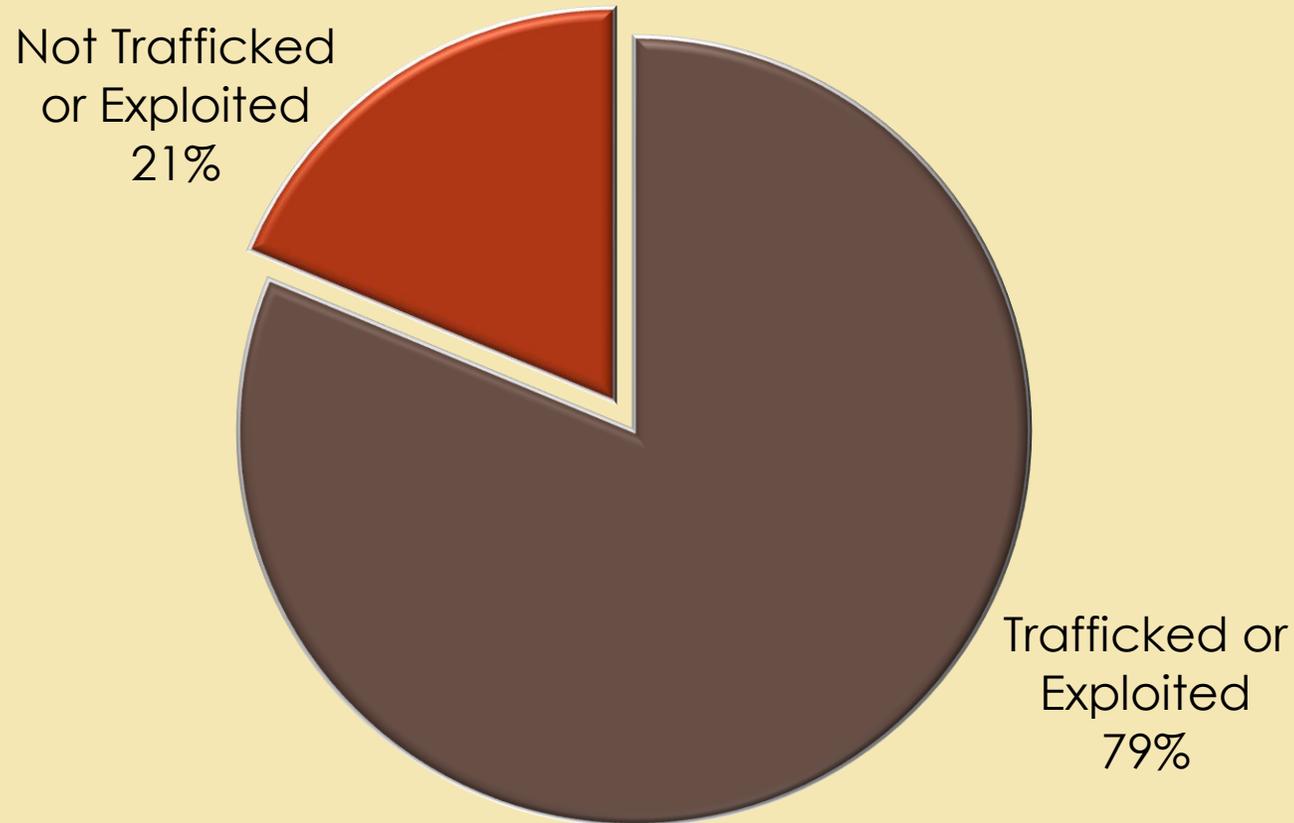
Non oil country

Reservations

Off reservations

HOTR admission Data 2019- 2022

Home on the Range
Sexually Exploited or Trafficked Admissions Data



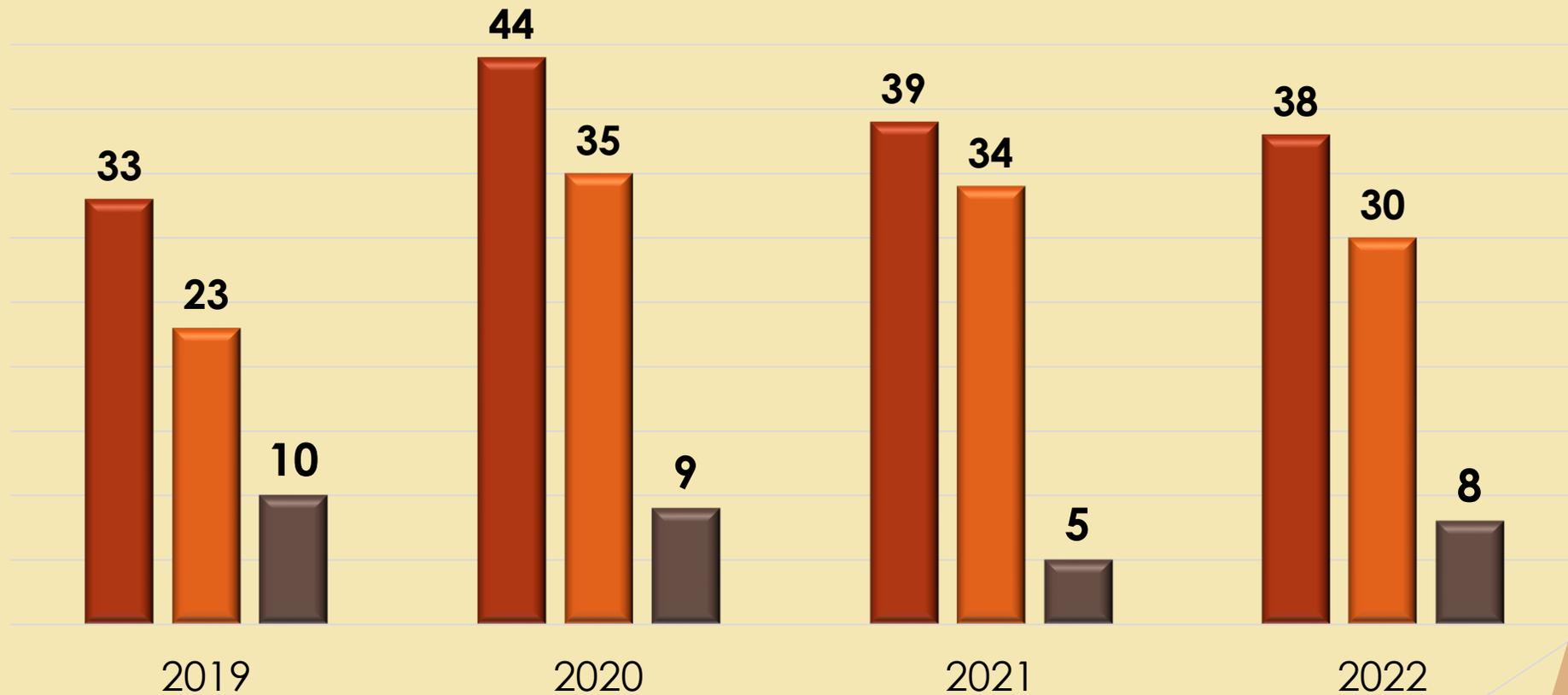
Total Youth- 154

Non-Trafficked/Exploited- 32

Trafficked/Exploited - 122

Home on the Range Admissions Data-

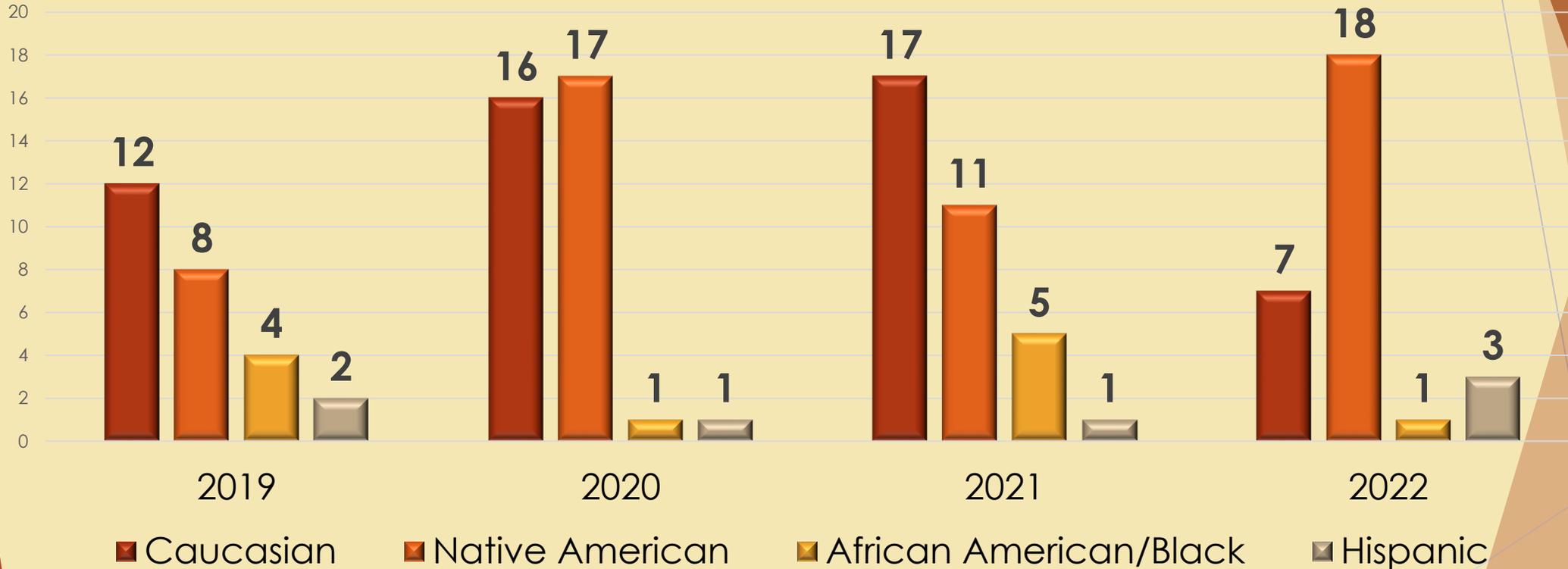
Home on the Range Female Population Data by the Year



■ All Female Admissions ■ Trafficked or Exploited ■ Not Trafficked or Exploited

Home on the Range Trafficked/Exploited Female Youth By Race-

Home on the Range Female Exploited/Trafficked Race Data



*US Census Bureau/ ND 2020 Census-
White alone/combonation-88%
Native American alone/Combination- 7.2%
African American/Combination- 4.4%*

Home on the Range Female Re-admission Data-

HOTR Female Re-Admissions

88% of all girls who had repeated stays were exploited or trafficked.



■ Total re-admitted girls ■ Exploited or Trafficked ■ Not Exploited or Trafficked

Research recommendations for treatment-

- ▶ Collaboration and central contact case manager
- ▶ Multidisciplinary Team Approach (MDT)
- ▶ Treatment is only possible if the youth engage and form relationships
- ▶ Providers need to understand trauma bonding, human trafficking dynamics and CSEC in ND
- ▶ Survivor informed/support/lead
- ▶ Focus on harm reduction
- ▶ All interventions be trauma informed, client centered and strengths based
- ▶ Furthering education and employment skill development options
- ▶ Comprehensive training
- ▶ Specialized programming- mental and physical health, crises intervention, safety planning, CSEC support groups, creative treatment strategies (art, equine, etc.)
- ▶ Awareness and planning for youth running away and relapsing
- ▶ Length of stay 18-24 months
- ▶ Staff secure facility to help youth feel safe
- ▶ Medical services and screenings
- ▶ Family or support involvement



Home on the Range can meet the research recommendations-

- ▶ We have a central Case Manager/Clinician for each youth.
- ▶ We collaborate statewide with North Dakota Multidisciplinary Teams, services providers, and authorities.
- ▶ All HOCR staff are trained in trauma informed care. Additionally, we have hosted 17 CSEC specific trainings in the last 3 years.
- ▶ HOCR partners with survivors to consult on programming and collaborate with Youthworks to provide CSEC specific programming. We join with Youthworks, and NDHTTF Human Trafficking Navigators to mentor and guide our youth through the treatment, and post treatment process.
- ▶ HOCR utilizes a harm reduction approach to substance abuse, exploitation and trafficking behaviors.
- ▶ HOCR has an on site GED program, credit recovery options, and a self contained classroom. We also have access to the day treatment and mainstreamed school in Beach, North Dakota.
- ▶ HOCR also offers our youth work crew options- Basic landscaping, ranching (cattle, calving, horses, feeding), basic carpentry, mechanics, and small engine repair etc.
- ▶ Accept, and expect re-referrals.
- ▶ 24/7 access to nursing.
- ▶ 24/7 access to clinical crisis intervention.

We also provide-

- ▶ Family therapy -
 - ▶ In person
 - ▶ Equine Assisted Therapy
 - ▶ Zoom
 - ▶ Family Workshops across the state
- ▶ Additional Services -
 - ▶ Community partnerships and network
 - ▶ Regular Psychiatrist Telehealth assessments, visits and med management services
 - ▶ Expert consultant
 - ▶ 6 month follow up care

- ▶ Research to further guide our practice-
 - ▶ March 2023 – Project planning with NDSU on a research project involving the equine component HOTR has added to Ending the Game.
 - ▶ Rhythmic Ride- NDSU Doctoral student dissertation research project – 2022
 - ▶ Canine program – NDSU Doctoral student dissertation research project - 2015
 - ▶ Equine program collaborative research project with HOTR and NDSU-2015



How HOTR addresses trauma & relationship wounds.

▶ To address complex trauma-

- ▶ Healing the brain and skill building emotional regulation utilizing bottom up interventions-
 - ▶ Rhythmic riding
 - ▶ Self Defense
 - ▶ Trauma informed yoga
 - ▶ Biking

▶ To improve relationship skills with self and others-

- ▶ Equine therapy
- ▶ Canine therapy
- ▶ Adventure therapy
- ▶ Eco therapy
- ▶ Spiritual development

▶ Best practices/Promising Practices/Evidenced Based

- ▶ Ending the Game
- ▶ My Life My Choice
- ▶ Cognitive Behavioral Interventions for Substance Abuse
- ▶ Girls Circle
- ▶ Social Emotional Learning
- ▶ GEMS (Girls Educational and Mentoring Services) Trained Nurse



What hope looks like at Home on the Range-

- ▶ The 17 year old that was sold by her mother for drugs, and now has taken her mothers place as a recruiter- While at HOTR this young lady was able to complete her GED, despite not having been in school regularly since 6th grade. She also did a formal job interview to work in dietary on campus and was hired. She was employed and earned a hourly wage. The GED, job skills and experience are things she was able to take with her after discharge.
- ▶ Our 15 year old who was left in Las Vegas- This young lady was able to pass two GED tests during her two stays at HOTR. She was described in her discharge paperwork as a role model for other girls. She was involved in prayer group as well as Native Development group and was working to reconnect with her culture.



- ▶ Our 14 year old girl was sold by her mother for propane- This young girl learned how to establish boundaries, develop safe relationships and eventually was able to allow herself to be cared for.
- ▶ A 13 year old girl who was living with a 22 year old “daddy” prior to treatment- This young girl learned at HOTR that it was possible to feel safe. She learned she could develop relationships that were mutual, and that she was a person who deserved to be treated with respect.



HOME on the *Range*

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