

WAYS YOUTH CAN BE VULNERABLE

- Want to look good, be noticed, get attention.
- Want to be heard, to have someone take the time to listen to them.
- Want to be affirmed, to be valued and their development recognized, even if it is inconsistent and sometimes looks funny.
- Have many invalidating conversations (self talk) within themselves.
- Are particularly attractive or wholesome, which has predators invent creative ways of trapping them.
- Not aware of signals that indicate they are being set up.
- Are not trained to be strong, shrewd or keep themselves safe and in control.
- Have low moments where what they are up to, no longer seems worth it and they are in a mood to give up.
- Want to be independent of parents and rules, desire to be self expressed.
- Have a yearning for an adventure even though it may involve grave risks.
- Have the conversation within themselves that no one really cares about them.
- Believe themselves to be invincible, that they can handle anything that happens.
- Hang out in public places (malls, video arcades, non-alcoholic bars, roller rinks, schools, colleges, church gatherings, state fairs etc) where predators lie in wait.
- Carry within them secrets so they have their attention on how they are keeping the secrets rather than on what this person, who is a stranger is up to!
- Don't set limits or they allow others to cross their boundaries.
- Carry within them unaddressed trauma which is affecting them but not necessarily noticed by them. This woundedness is obvious to a sharp eyes of predators.
- Have no strong male figure in their lives who is affirming them and valuing them.
- Are socialized to be nice to strangers, to talk to them, to not hurt their feelings, to listen for their needs and to meet those needs, a need to be helpful, serving.
- Are inexperienced with life and therefore susceptible to those who notice that and come along with bigger visions, better answers, and "authoritative" common sense.
- Live with an underlying sense in their lives: "I am stupid" or "I am bad" or "I am not worth anything" etc. Once discovered the predator will use this against them.
- Believe they must serve others when asked and must talk to others when talked to.
- Associate love with touch, affection, with sex, fun-loving with safety.
- Feeling rejected in some way now has them secretly hunger for acceptance.
- Do not check out risky situations and make sure accountability is in place.
- Naïve about life, evil, human nature. Trusts people without checking them out.
- Influenced by chemicals, so defenses are not properly working.
- Away from home, food, shelter, people who care. Immediate physical needs will set them up for risky behavior they wouldn't try otherwise.
- Bitter about broken promises made by parents and others. Open to be' influenced.
- Open to hear promises of wealth, glamour, easy living, without being realistic.
- Not aware of mind control techniques. Let themselves be affected by strangers.
- Willing to trust anyone who appears to be friendly.
- Do not have the courage or ammunition to keep out of compromising situations.
- Don't recognize that being charmed, made to feel good can lead to being entrapped.
- Do not listen and pay attention to their intuition or gut feelings within them. Disregard warning signs. Don't value their alarm systems. **GUT** God's **U**nspoken **T**hought.
- Natural adolescent tendency to experiment can be used against them.
- No set limits about chemicals or sexual activity, hard to say "No" to someone.
- Family dysfunction undercuts sense of stability and confidence, so is open to others.
- Use of chemicals or willing to try chemicals set them up to be controlled by drug dealer or pimping person.

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