



### Purpose

- Create an electronic flow sheet in EPIC to assist in identifying, treating, and managing at-risk adolescents who present to the Emergency Department with complaints related to sexual exploitation.
- Expand the screening for sexual exploitation in the Emergency Department (ED) at a large, Midwest, 600-bed Children's hospital.
- Educate the appropriate individuals in the emergency department of the signs of human trafficking.



(Grays, 2018)

### Methods

- The first step is creating an electronic flow sheet to help notify staff that a patient flagged positive for sexual exploitation.
- Adolescents who are victims of sexual exploitation will be flagged within this new electronic flow sheet to protect a patient's health records or a deemed high-risk score associated with sexual exploitation.
- Expansion of house-wide training regarding patients provide education regarding signs/symptoms of sexual exploitation
- A forensic nurse will decide if a flag needs to be activated in EPIC.
- Patient confidentiality is assured and maintained at all levels of the care team and organization.
- Policy revisions will address at risk populations more clearly.

### Conclusions/Outcomes

- Educate those who will be affected by this change, identifying patients who are highest at risk for sexual exploitation and setting up automatic triggers in EPIC for follow-up if these patients present again in the emergency room.
- Monthly education may or may not improve emergency room nurses understanding of these at-risk patients. Expansion of house-wide training regarding patients positive for sexual exploitation.
- Although current practice is working, there can be much improvement related to educating and screening from multidisciplinary teams.
- This is an on-going project; there is not a remedy of effectiveness of the electronic flow sheet, EPIC flag for assisting victims of sexual exploitation that enter the emergency department.

### Relevance to Nursing

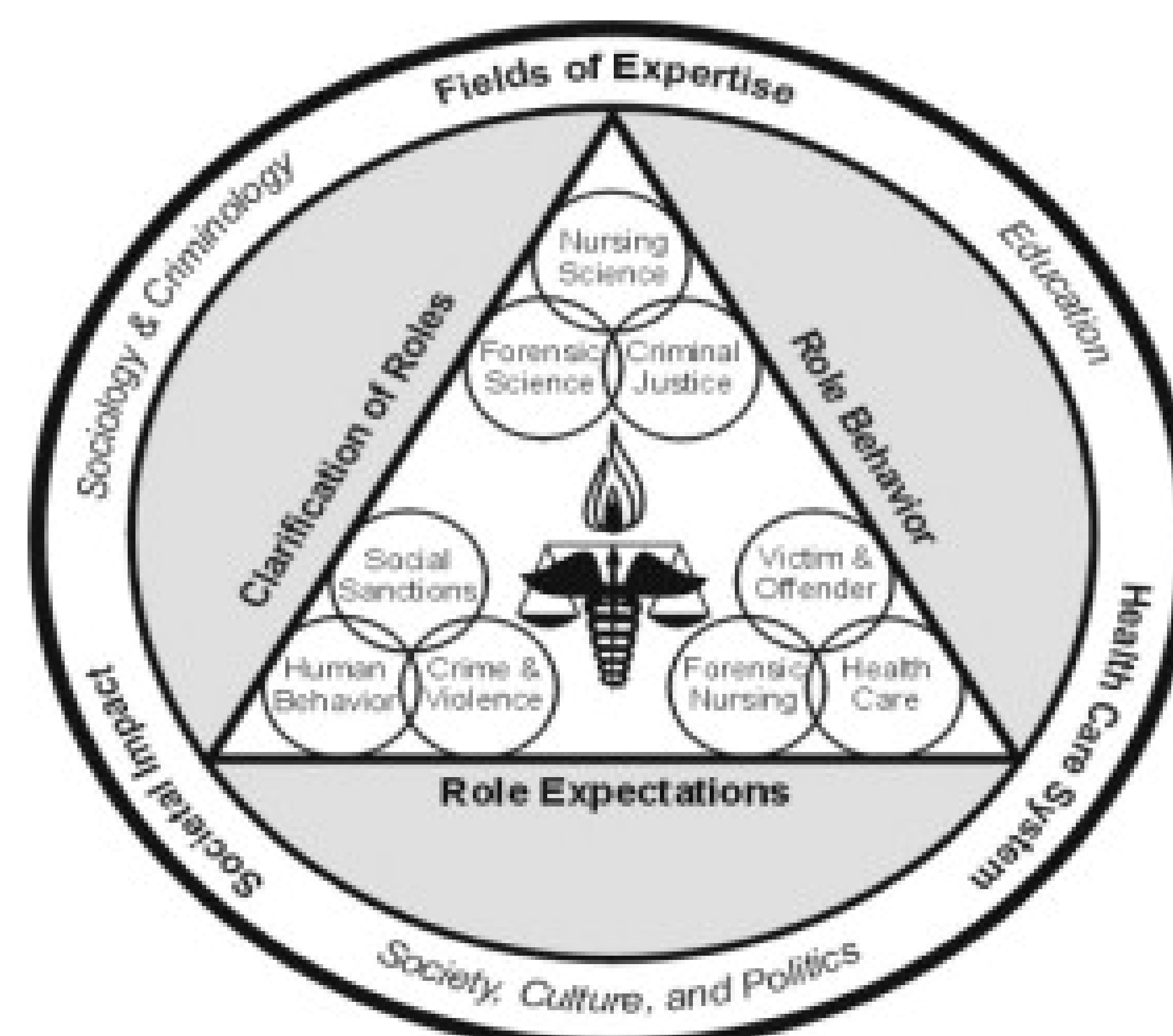
- There is a shortage of forensic nurses. Lavoie (2020) reported that out of 94,000 licensed nurses in VA, only 150 were identified as forensic nurses.
- This project looks particularly at the child victim. This vulnerable population is often overlooked due to their native and innocence at the time of victimization (Todres, 2020).
- The Forensic Nurse Consultant role has the potential to improve health professional understanding, knowledge, and advocacy at the emergency department level.

### Background

- 1 in 3 young people are recruited by an exploiter within 48 hours on the run (McBane, 2014).
- Youths in the United States are between 12-18 years of age when they are sex trafficked (Vanek, 2016).
- Sexual exploitation includes: recruiting, tempting, sheltering, transporting, providing, obtaining, and maintaining any act that compromises a minor for the purpose of sexual manipulation, and includes any type of sex exchange (e.g. sex for money, drugs or shelter), pornography, and underage marriage (Ulibarri, Ulloa, & Speed, 2017).
- Victims of sexual exploitation often lack resources (Mumma et. al., 2017).

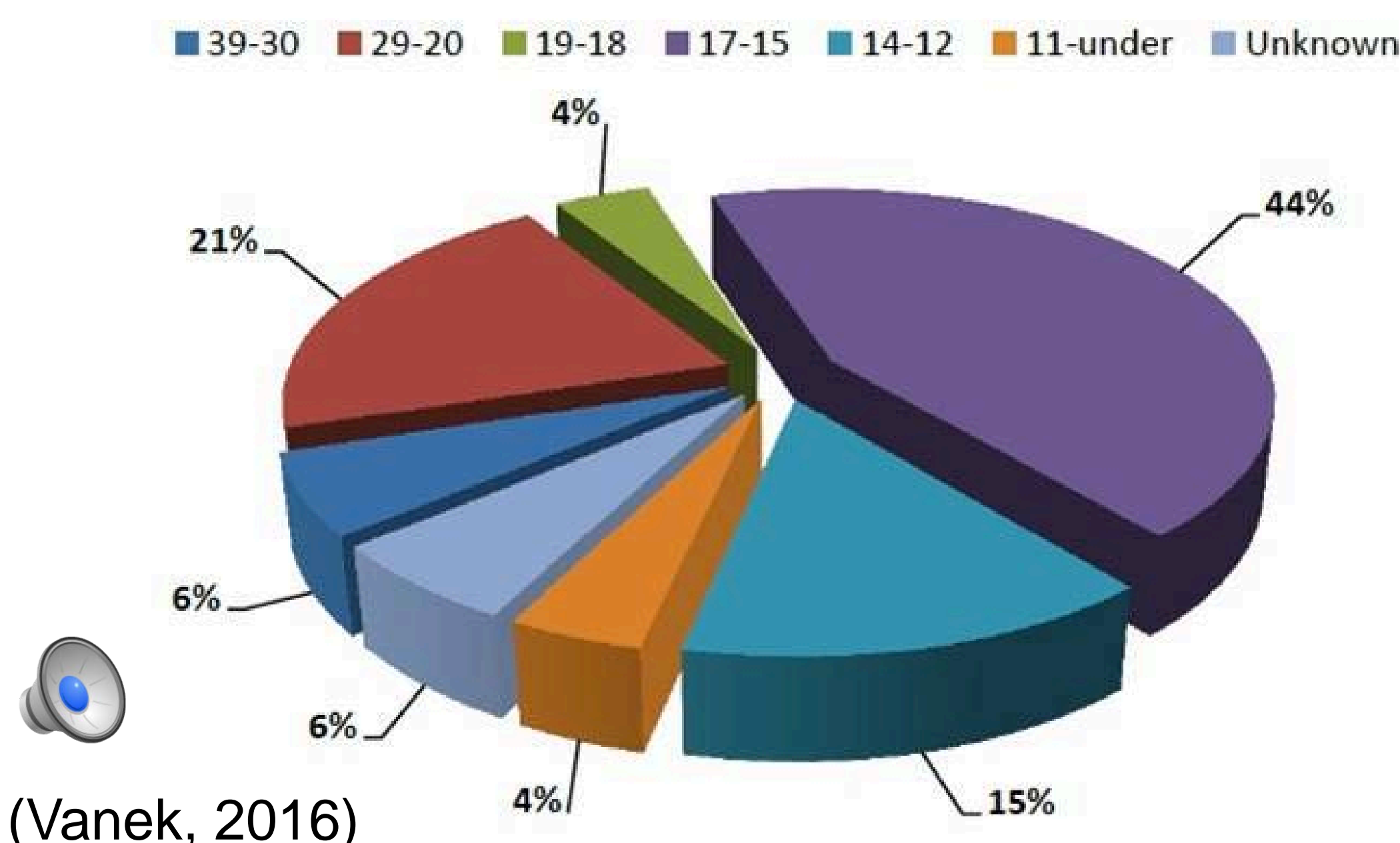
### Conceptual Framework

Virginia Lynch's integrated practice model for forensic nursing science was the conceptual framework for this project.



(Copyright V. Lynch 1990)  
(Lynch, 2011)

### Age First Trafficked/Prostituted



(Vanek, 2016)

### TESTED POSITIVE FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Questions answered "Yes"

1. Have you had more than 5 sexual partners?  Yes
2. Have you ever had a sexually transmitted disease?  Yes
3. Are you using drugs or alcohol?  Yes

Actions taken  
By RN

Safety Screen  
Huddle

Positive Screen for  
Human Trafficking

Forensic Nurse  
Notified

OK Cancel

(Kohorst, 2020)

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