## *Vulnerable Populations:*

While any child can be targeted by a trafficker, research has shown that traffickers often target children with increased vulnerabilities such as:

- Children who frequently run away
- Children who have experienced childhood sexual abuse, especially if the abuse was unreported or unaddressed, or resulted in the child being removed from the home
- Children with significant substance abuse issues or who live with someone who has significant substance abuse issues
- Children who identify as LGBTQ+ and have been kicked out or stigmatized by their family

### *Societal risk factors include:*

- The glorification of pimp culture
- The objectification of women and girls
- Gender bias
- Widespread use of internet and increased social media presence