



RACIAL & GENDER DISPARITIES IN THE SEX TRADE

SEX TRADE SURVIVORS ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY WOMEN OF COLOR

- In a two-year review of all suspected human trafficking incidents across the country, 94% of sex trafficking victims were female, 40% were Black, and 24% were Latinx.ⁱ
- In South Dakota, Native American women represent 40% of sex trafficking victims, though Native Americans are only 8% of population.ⁱⁱ
- In Cook County, Illinois 66% of sex trafficking victims between 2012-2016 were Black women.ⁱⁱⁱ
- In Nebraska, 50% of individuals sold online for sex are Black, though Black people comprise only 5% of the general population.^{iv}

CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY GIRLS OF COLOR

- In King County, Washington, 52% of all child sex trafficking victims are Black and 84% of youth victims are female, though Black girls only comprise 1.1% of the general population.^v
- In Multnomah County, Oregon, 95% of youth victims are female, and 27% of child sex trafficking victims are Black, though Black people comprise less than 6% of the population.^{vi}
- In Louisiana, 49% of child sex trafficking victims are Black girls, though Black girls comprise only 19% of Louisiana's youth population.^{vii}

SEX BUYERS ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY WHITE MEN

- In King County, Washington, 80% of sex buyers are white men.^{viii}
- A 2017 study on sex buyers in Minnesota found that the majority of buyers in their state are white, middle-to-upper class, married men.^{ix}
- In a 2012 study of men who use the internet to buy sex, researchers found that virtually 85% of the buyers were white men.^x

WOMEN AND GIRLS OF COLOR BEAR THE BRUNT OF PROSTITUTION ARRESTS

Often domestic victims of sex trafficking and survivors of sexual exploitation, particularly those of color, are not acknowledged as victims of crime and are instead arrested for prostitution-related offenses. By contrast, in many jurisdictions, buyers face little to no consequences for their role in exploiting vulnerable women and girls.

- In Pennsylvania, 78% of prostitution arrests are for selling sex, while only 22% of arrests are for purchasing sex.^{xi}
- Women account for nearly 61% of adult prostitution arrests.^{xii}
- Black adults account for approximately 37% of adult prostitution arrests —more than any other racial group.^{xiii}
- Girls account for nearly 61% of juvenile prostitution arrests.^{xiv}
- Black children account for nearly 53% of all juvenile prostitution arrests—more than any other racial group.^{xv}



ⁱ Bureau of Justice Statistics, [Characteristics of Suspected Human Trafficking Incidents](#), 2008-2010 (April 2011), p.6; The National Center for Victims of Crime, [NCVRW Resource Guide](#) (2013), p.24.

ⁱⁱ Danielle Ferguson, Argus Leader, “[Law enforcement, Native Communities focus on sex trafficking prevention training](#)” (Aug. 27, 2016).

ⁱⁱⁱ Cook County Sheriff's Office, Buyers and Sellers: A Window into Sex Trafficking (February 8, 2017), p.6.

^{iv} Women's Fund of Omaha, Nebraska's Commercial Sex Market (2017), p.8.

^v Val Richey, OJJDP Online University, [Reducing Demand for the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors in Your Community](#) (May 2017);); C. Puzzanchera, A. Sladky and W. Kang, Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2017 (2018), *available at* https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/asp/profile_display.asp.

^{vi} Christopher Carey & Lena Teplitsky, Portland State University, Memo regarding the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) in the Portland Metro Area (August 3, 2013), p.3.

^{vii} Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services, Human Trafficking, Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes and Commercial Sexual Exploitation: Annual Report 6 (2018); C. Puzzanchera, A. Sladky and W. Kang, Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2017 (2018), *available at* https://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezapop/asp/profile_display.asp.

^{viii} Val Richey, OJJDP Online University, [Reducing Demand for the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors in Your Community](#) (May 2017).

^{ix} Lauren Martin, Christina Melander, Harshada Karnik, & Corelle Nakamura, University of Minnesota & Women's Foundation of Minnesota, Mapping Demand: Sex Buyers in the State of Minnesota (2017).

^x Demand Abolition, [Facts About Men Who Buy Sex](#) (2017).

^{xi} Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law, Report on Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Pennsylvania (2017), p.12.

^{xii} Federal Bureau of Investigation, [Crime in the United States 2017](#), Tables 38, 40.

^{xiii} Federal Bureau of Investigation, [Crime in the United States 2017](#), Table 43C.

^{xiv} Federal Bureau of Investigation, [Crime in the United States 2017](#), Tables 38, 40

^{xv} Federal Bureau of Investigation, [Crime in the United States 2017](#), Table 43B.