



RACIAL & GENDER DISPARITIES IN THE US 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 women represent 40% of sex trafficking victims, though Native people are only 8% of the population.ⁱⁱ
- In Hawaii, 83% of sex trafficking survivors are female and 64% are all or part Native Hawaiian.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 Connecticut, the Department of Children and Families reported that 73% of referrals for trafficking were children of color and 87% were girls.^{vi}
- In Louisiana, 49% of child sex trafficking victims are Black girls, though Black girls are only 19% of Louisiana's youth population.^{vii}
- In Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 55% of sex trafficking victims are minors, 97% of victims are female, and 65% are Black, though Black people are only 27% of the population.^{viii}

SEX BUYERS ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY WHITE MEN

- In King County, Washington, 80% of sex buyers are white men.^{ix}
- In Pennsylvania, 74% of sex buyers are white men.^x
- 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.^{xi}
- In a 2012 study of men who use the internet to buy sex, researchers found that virtually 85% of the buyers were white men.^{xii}

BLACK WOMEN AND GIRLS BEAR THE BRUNT OF PROSTITUTION ARRESTS

Survivors of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation, particularly those of color, are often 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, 70% of prostitution arrests are for selling sex, while only 30% of arrests are for purchasing sex.^{xiii}
- Women account for 62% of adult prostitution arrests.^{xiv}
- Black people account for approximately 42% of adult prostitution arrests—more than any other racial group.^{xv}
- Girls account for approximately 71% of juvenile prostitution arrests.^{xvi}
- Black children account for nearly 51% of all juvenile prostitution arrests—more than any other racial group.^{xvii}



- ⁱ Bureau of Justice Statistics, [Characteristics of Suspected Human Trafficking Incidents](#), 2008-2010 (April 2011), p.6; The National Center for Victims of Crime, [NCVIRW Resource Guide](#) (2013), p.24.
- ⁱⁱ Danielle Ferguson, Argus Leader, "[Law enforcement, Native Communities focus on sex trafficking prevention training](#)" (Aug. 27, 2016).
- ⁱⁱⁱ Dominique Roe-Sepowitz & Khara Jabola-Carolus, Arizona State University & Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women, [Sex Trafficking in Hawai'i: Part III. Sex Trafficking Experiences Across Hawai'i](#). (2020)
- ^{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); Charles Puzzanchera, Anthony Sladky & Wei Kang, [Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2017](#) (2018).
- ^{vi} Yvette Young, Bree'Ana Johnson, Christopher Bidorini & Erin Williamson, HART HELPS, [Let's Talk About Race & Human Trafficking](#). (2019), p.1.
- ^{vii} Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services, Human Trafficking, Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes and Commercial Sexual Exploitation: Annual Report (2018), p.6; Charles Puzzanchera, Anthony Sladky & Wei Kang, [Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2017](#) (2018).
- ^{viii} Medical College of Wisconsin, [Estimating the Magnitude of Sex Trafficking Risk and Victimization of Juveniles and Young Adults](#) (March 2018); U.S. Census Bureau, [Quick Facts Milwaukee County, Wisconsin](#) (2017).
- ^{ix} Val Richey, OJJDP Online University, [Reducing Demand for the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors in Your Community](#) (May 2017).
- ^x Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law, [Report on Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Pennsylvania, Spring 2020](#) (2020), p.13.
- ^{xi} 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).
- ^{xii} Demand Abolition, [Facts About Men Who Buy Sex](#) (2017).
- ^{xiii} Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law, [Report on Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Pennsylvania, Spring 2020](#) (2020), p.10.
- ^{xiv} Federal Bureau of Investigation, [Crime in the United States 2019](#), Tables 38, 40.
- ^{xv} Federal Bureau of Investigation, [Crime in the United States 2019](#), Table 43C.
- ^{xvi} Federal Bureau of Investigation, [Crime in the United States 2019](#), Tables 38, 40
- ^{xvii} Federal Bureau of Investigation, [Crime in the United States 2019](#), Table 43B.