

# Introduction to Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Understanding and Supporting Male Survivors



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# CSEC Overview



- Street prostitution
- Survival sex
- Internet-based exploitation
- Pornography
- Gang-based prostitution
- Stripping
- Erotic/nude massage
- Escort services
- Phone sex lines
- Private parties
- Interfamilial pimping
- Child sex tourism



## What is Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)

**Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)** refers to a range of crimes and activities involving the sexual abuse or exploitation of a child for the financial benefit of any person or in exchange for anything of value (including monetary and non-monetary benefits) given or received by any person.

Examples of crimes and acts that constitute CSEC:

- child sex trafficking/the Sexual Exploitation (prostitution) of children;
- child sex tourism involving commercial sexual activity;
- commercial production of Child Sexual Abuse Material (Child Pornography);
- online transmission of live video of a child engaged in sexual activity in exchange for anything of value.

CSEC also includes situations where a child, whether or not at the direction of any other person, engages in sexual activity in exchange for anything of value, which includes non-monetary things such as food, shelter, drugs, or protection from any person.

# Fundamental Concepts



Below are some key concepts, terminology, and information you need to know when discussing CSEC:

- Survival Sex
- Gay for Pay
- Commercial Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM)
- Sextortion
- Rape vs Unwanted Sexual Contact/Experience(s)
- “Johns”/”Janes” vs Abusers/Exploiters/Traffickers
- “Underage Sex Worker” vs Victim of Sexual Abuse
- Survivor/Trafficked vs Lived Experience
- Stereotypes
- Apps
- Digital Currencies (Crypto)
- In-Game Currencies



# Myths and Facts



Boys and Men are being exploited in the commercial sex industry but are left out of the conversation because of

- Gender stereotypes
- Myths of male sexual abuse
- Failure to acknowledge male victimization

Studies in Canada, Norway and Sweden have found similar rates of exploitation amongst males and females

Young men are 3x as likely to trade sex for a place to stay compared to females





# CSEC/Trafficking Myths & Facts

- Gender Stereotypes
- Sex trafficking only happens overseas to young girls
- Minors who are commercially sexually exploited or trafficked for sex are recognized as victims of crime and abuse
- People who buy sex with minors or engage in the sale of sex with minors are caught and punished for these crimes
- It is easy for professionals who interact with minors to recognize victims, survivors, and youth at risk of commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking



## CSEC/Trafficking Myths & Facts

- Help is readily available for victims and survivors of commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking
- Only happens in impoverished communities
- Victim choose to be a “Sex Worker”
- Young men are 3x as likely to trade sex for a place to stay compared to females
- Studies in Canada, Norway and Sweden have found **similar rates** of exploitation amongst males and females

# LGBTQIA+ Homelessness



Too many LGBTQ youth still face significant challenges during adolescence and early adulthood, fighting discrimination, misconceptions, and abuse by peers, family members, and others in their communities.

Up to **40%** of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ. Of these:

## Sex Trafficking and LGBTQIA+ Youth

- **46%** ran away because of family rejection
- **7.4x** more likely to experience acts of sexual violence than their heterosexual peers
- **3-7x** more likely to engage in survival sex to meet basic needs, such as shelter, food, drugs, and toiletries
- **8x** more likely for Transgender youth than non-transgender youth in New York City to trade sex for a safe place to stay

<https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/serving-our-youth-lgbtq/>

<https://nationalhomeless.org/factsheets/lgbtq.html>

<https://www.library.ca.gov/crb/homeless-youth/>

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/sites/default/files/Homelessness,%20Survival%20Sex,%20and%20Human%20Trafficking%20-%20Covenant%20House%20NY.pdf>

Quintana, N. S., Rosenthal, J., & Krehely, J. (2010). On the streets: The federal response to gay and transgender homeless youth. *Center for American Progress*. as cited in Dank, M., et al. (2015). Surviving the streets of New York: Experiences of LGBT youth, YMSM, and YWSW engaged in survival sex.

# Trauma Bonding



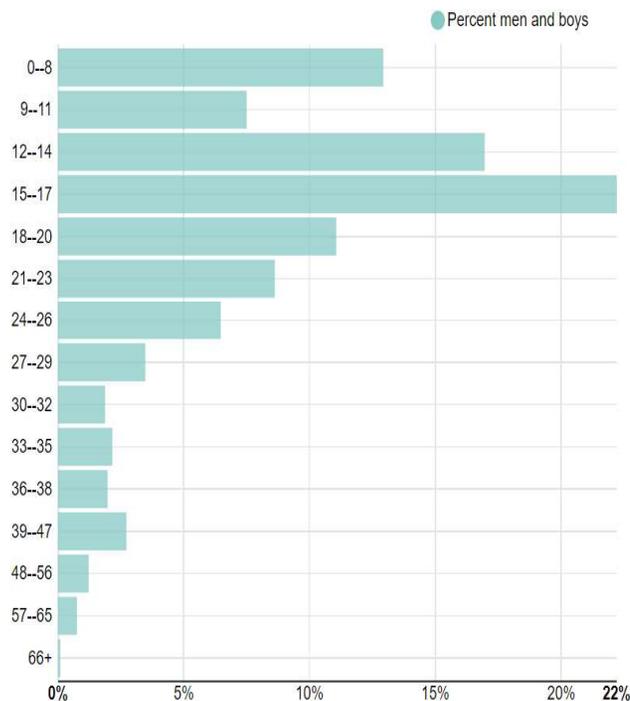
A trauma bond is an emotional attachment that can form in an abusive relationship, specifically the connection the victim feels toward the perpetrator.

A trauma bond is characterized by cycles of negative reinforcement interspersed with occasional bursts of positive reinforcement; this so-called intermittent reinforcement makes it very difficult to leave an abusive relationship. But with support, healing is always possible.

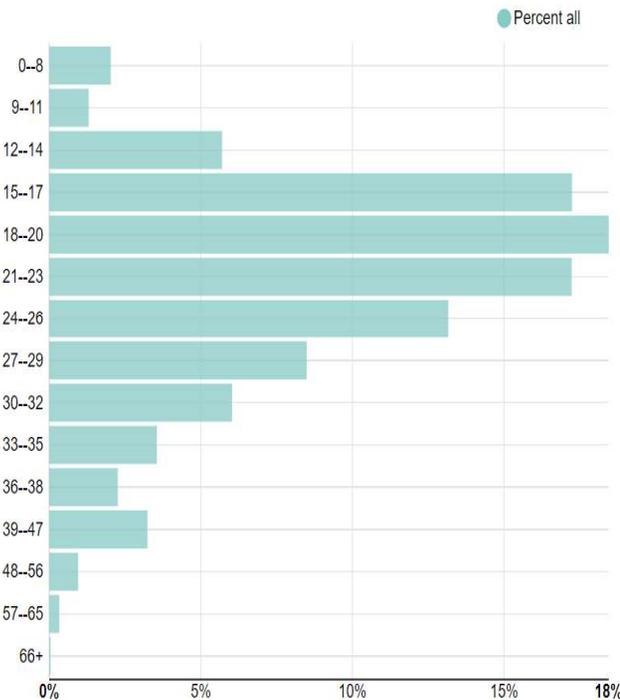
# Fundamental Concepts



AGE OF MEN AND BOYS TRAFFICKED INTO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



AGE OF ALL VICTIMS TRAFFICKED INTO SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



## First Incident of CSA

Ages of CSA	Number of cases	%
1m to 4yrs old	n = 16	40 %
5yrs to 8 yrs old	n = 15	37.50 %
9yrs to 11yrs old	n = 4	10 %
12yrs to 17yrs old	n = 3	7.50 %
18yrs and above	n = 2	5 %

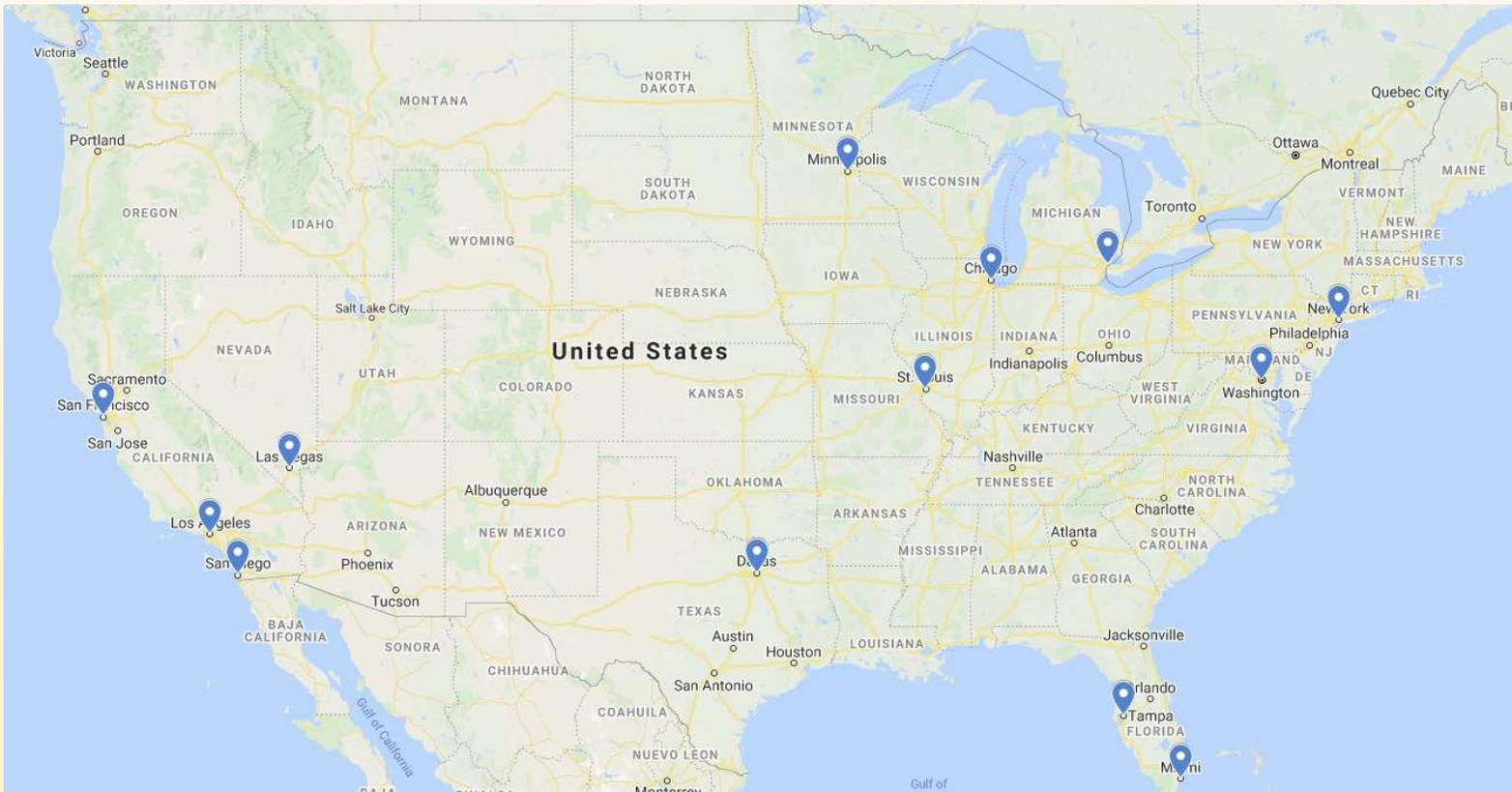
87.50% of male victims under the age of 8

# Fundamental Concepts



Between 50% and 90% of child sexual exploitation survivors in the United States have been involved in the child welfare system at some point in their lives.

# CSEC in the United States



The FBI has identified 13 major hubs for CSEC in the United States.

# Commercial Sexual Exploitation of LGBTQIA+



There is an over representation of homeless LGBTQIA+ youth

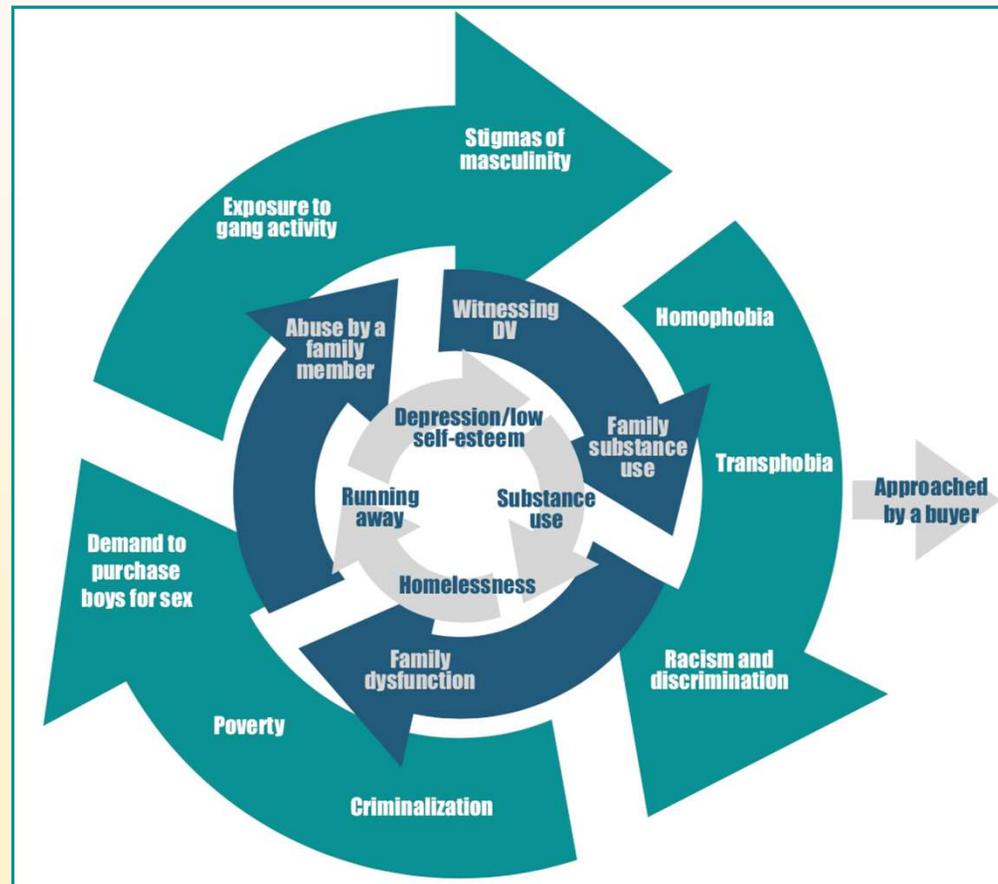
- LGBTQ youth make up 5-7% of the youth population but 20-40% of the homeless youth population
- Transgender youth in New York City have been found 8x more likely than non-transgender youth to trade sex for a safe place to stay
- Most common pathway of entry into CSE/CSEC was through a peer followed by being approached by a buyer

## Co-Occurring Forms of Maltreatment



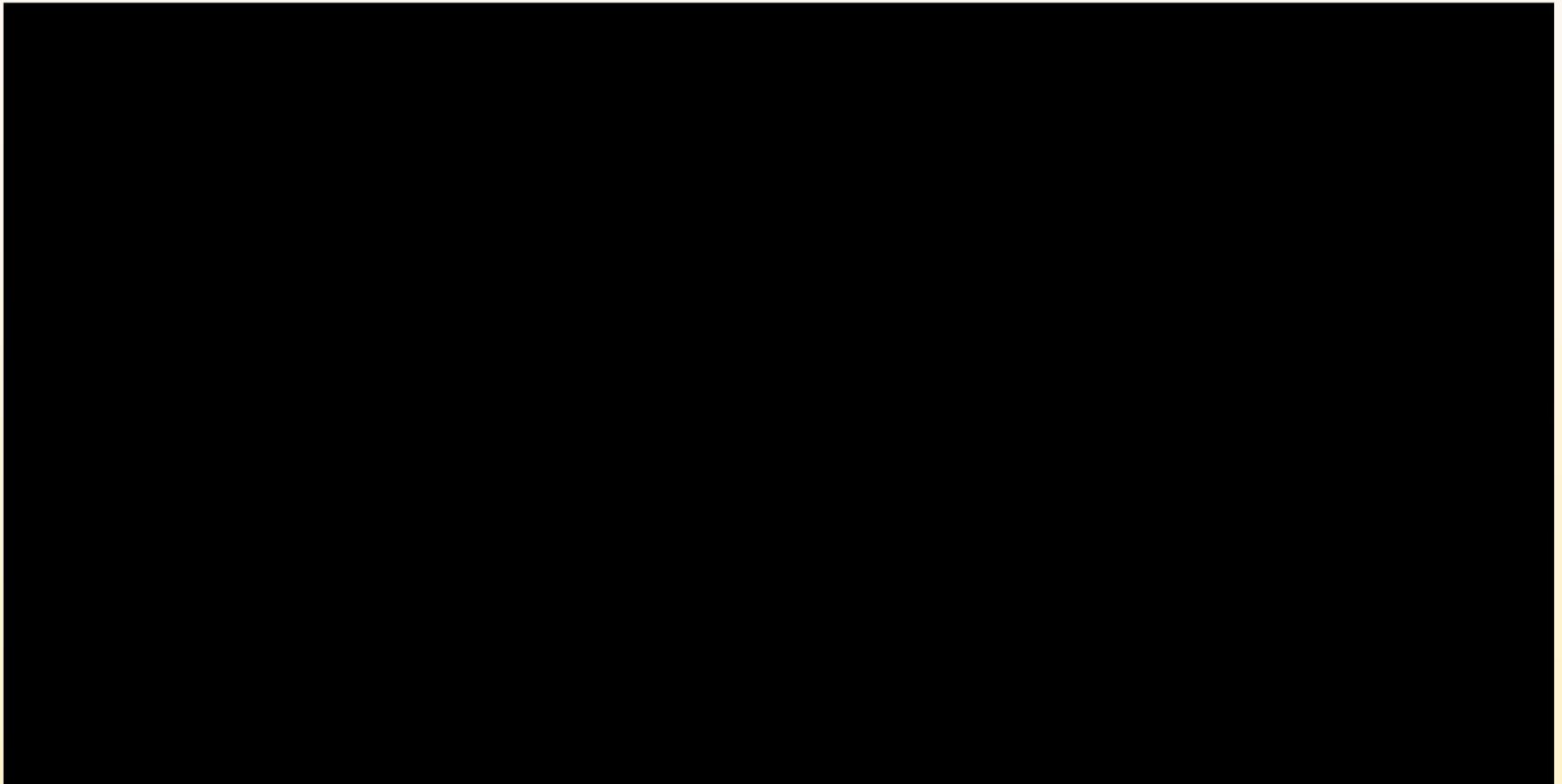
Gibbs, D. A., Aboul-Hosn, S., & Kluckman, M. (2020). Child labor trafficking within the U.S.: A first look at allegations investigated by Florida's Child Welfare Agency. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 6(4), 435-449, <https://doi.org/10.1080/23322705.2019.1594551>

# Risk Factors



4. Klasey, N. (2018). Becoming a Victim. as cited in Klasey, N., & Peck-Soblewski, G. (2018). What Are We Missing?

# Societal Views



# Societal Views



## Description

Artist: Jack Ziegler

Publication: New Yorker

Pub Date: 08/25/1997



# Sexual Exploitation in High School



## Trading Sex and Sexual Exploitation among High School Students

### Data from the 2019 Minnesota Student Survey

This is the first population-based prevalence estimate of high school students who report trading sex for something of value (including trafficking of minors for sexual exploitation). Trading sex presents many harms to young people. In 2019, the Minnesota Student Survey – a tri-annual census of young people in Minnesota’s schools – included a new question for 9th and 11th graders:

*Have you ever traded sex or sexual activity to receive money, food, drugs, alcohol, a place to stay, or anything else?*

NO  YES

1.4% answered “yes”

**At least 5,000** Young people in Minnesota have traded sex<sup>1</sup>

This is likely an underestimate because the MSS is completed by students enrolled in school. It does not include youth who were not in school on the day of the survey or who do not attend school. Young people may also be reluctant to answer “yes” for many reasons, including shame or fear.

<sup>1</sup> This estimate of 5,000 young people is based on the 2018 Census number of 15-19 year-olds in the State of Minnesota. We used this formula  $1.4\% \text{ of } 357,809 = 5009$ .

# Why Aren't Boys Being Identified?



Boys don't come forward and in fact will often deny the CSE - Why:

- Cultural context: women are victims, men are strong
- Fear of being outed as gay or perceived as gay
- May think service providers do not serve males even when they do
- Not believed when they do come forward
- Routine CSEC screenings are often completed with girls only by juvenile justice, service providers, schools, etc.

# Why Aren't Boys Being Identified?



Possible contributing factors include:

- Very few are looking for boys or are not looking in the right places. For example:
  - CSEC/trafficking street outreach teams very rarely reported visiting areas know for male prostitution/“male tracks”
  - Law enforcement may be looking in female specific “markets” - backpage.com female section versus male section, hourboy.com, rentmen.com, etc.
- Researchers and service providers report that boys often experience an extreme sense of shame regarding their exploitation. It is widely speculated that this sense of shame leads boys to redefine themselves as “hustlers”
- A similar attitude can be seen with girls “in the life” who tout the money they make and the lavish lifestyle they lead while embracing terms like “ho” or “bottom bitch.”

# Why Aren't Boys Being Identified?



Estes and Weiner (2001) sum this up best when they state:

“Boys experience a **profound sense of shame** about what they do. As a result, few would discuss with us the specifics of their sexual encounters indicating, instead, that they were able to keep some measure of control over these experiences (and their psyches) by refusing to participate in certain types of sexual acts, e.g., mostly anal intercourse.

At a certain point, many boys redefine themselves as “**hustlers**” and “**escorts**,” rather than “prostitutes” in order to deal both with their own sense of shame and with the omnipresent stigma they experience in their travels” (Adams as quoted in Estes & Weiner, 2001).

Men walk this tightrope where any sign of weakness elicits shame, and so they're afraid to make themselves vulnerable for fear of looking weak. ~ Brené Brown

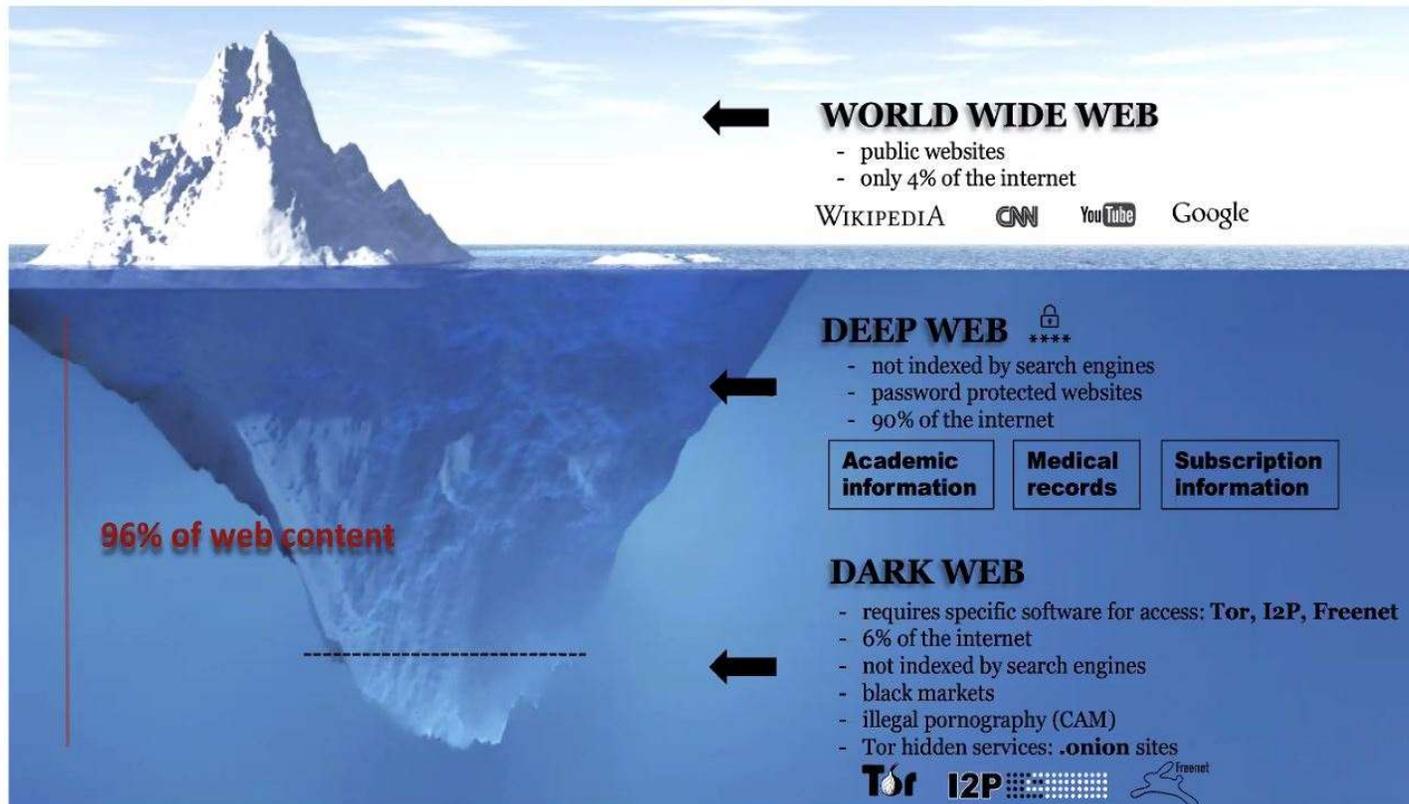
# Societal Views



# The Internet



## Rise of the Internet: Anonymity (The dark Web)





## Dark Web Usage

The Dark Web, in simple terms, is a network available on the Internet. This network requires specific software and an individual's Internet-capable device configured in a way that marks the Dark Web available to their device. At present, the World Wide Web has **5.07 billion users per day**. While the number of daily users on the darknet is estimated to account for only 0.04% of the total number of daily Internet users, this still amounts to around **2.5 million users per day**.

According to the police, the forum had been online for 2 years and, at the time it was shut down, had over **400,000 registered members**. Research conducted in 2015 found there were **900 child sexual abuse forums** like "Redacted" active on the darknet at the time, together receiving an average of **168,152 requests per day**.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11757-023-00790-8#ref-CR5>  
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11757-023-00790-8#ref-CR37>  
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11757-023-00790-8#ref-CR2>  
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11757-023-00790-8#ref-CR26>  
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11757-023-00790-8>

# The Internet





**BoyLinks**  
The Internet's most comprehensive listing  
of boy-related and boylove websites

[Home](#) [Terms of Service](#) [Contact](#) [FAQ](#) [About](#) [Donate](#)

If you find any illegal content in any of the included links,  
please [notify the Webmaster](#) immediately.

Below you'll find recently added links.  
Use the index on the left to browse through all available links.

**Freespirits Fundraiser**  
Help keep boylinks online!

[Submit a New Site!](#)

**Just Added!**

- ▲ [blsafety.net](#)
- ▲ [supreme.findlaw.com - Are Pedophile-Free Zones Constitutional?](#)
- ▲ [Inner Visions: A forum for Imagine Magazine](#)
- ▲ [barefoot boys](#)
- ▲ [Glass Animals - Youth \(Official Video\)](#)
- ▲ [COPENHAGEN ROYAL CHAPEL CHOIR](#)
- ▲ [Heretic TOC](#)  
*Not the dominant narrative*
- ▲ [The Undercover Boy](#)
- ▲ [MAP Accuracy](#)

**Basics**  
[Activism/Advocacy/etc.](#)  
[What is BoyLove?](#)

**Discussion**  
[Boards](#)  
[Chat](#)  
[News Groups](#)

**Literature**  
[Arts & Photography](#)  
[Authors](#)  
[Coming of Age](#)  
[Gay Youth](#)  
[Intergenerational](#)  
[Non-Fiction](#)  
[Poetry](#)  
[Resources](#)

**Movies and T.V.**  
[Actors](#)  
[Actors \(now adults\)](#)  
[Coming of Age](#)  
[Documentaries](#)  
[Gay Youth](#)  
[Intergenerational](#)  
[Resources](#)

**Music**  
[Choirs](#)  
[Musicians](#)  
[Boys to Men](#)  
[Resources](#)  
[Video Clips](#)

**Personal Sites**  
[Art](#)  
[Blogs](#)  
[BoyLovers](#)  
[Boys](#)  
[Pictures](#)  
[Servers](#)  
[Sports](#)  
[Videos](#)

**Resources**

- [Age Of Consent](#)
- [BoyLove](#)
- [Censorship](#)
- [Child Abuse](#)
- [Child Pornography](#)
- [Child Sexuality](#)
- [Fun](#)
- [Gay Youth](#)
- [History](#)
- [Hysteria](#)
- [Involvement](#)
- [Legislation](#)
- [Miscellaneous](#)
- [Pedophilia](#)
- [Podcasts & Radio](#)
- [Privacy & Security](#)
- [Research](#)
- [Surveys](#)

**Onion sites**

- [Message Boards](#)
- [Various Links](#)

# Pathways of Entry

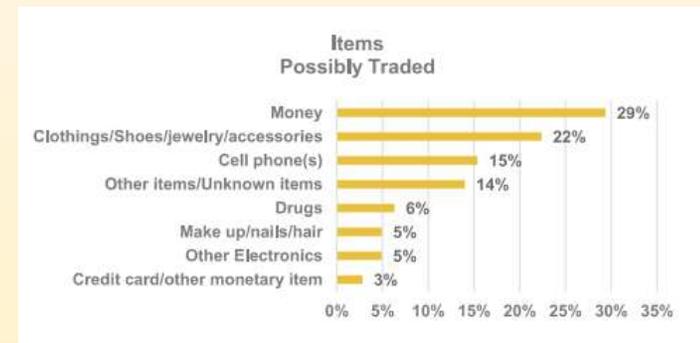
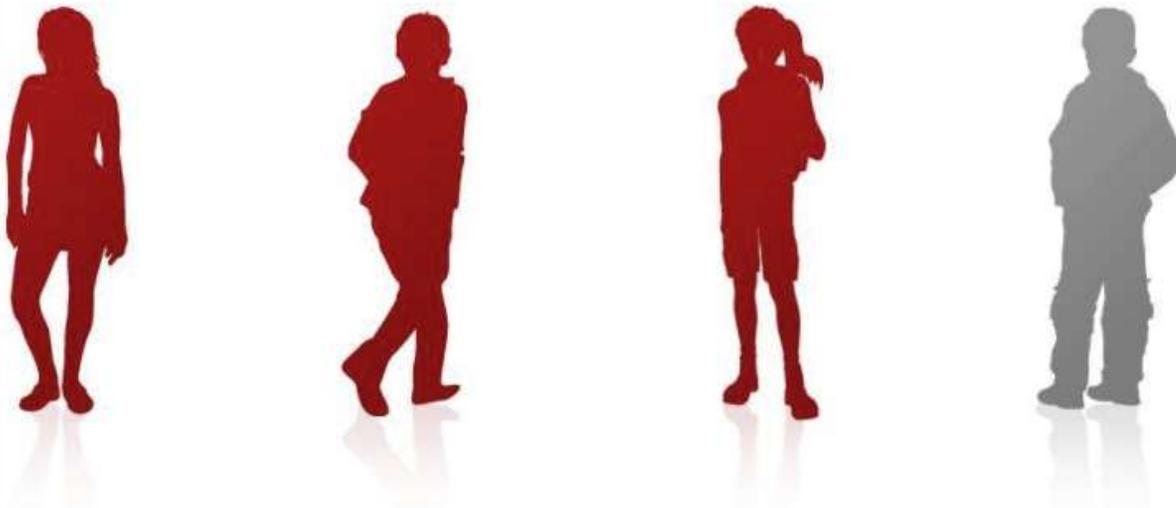


## 3 OUT OF 4 VICTIMS ARE TRAFFICKED ONLINE

Over three-quarters of underage sex trafficking victims we spoke with said they had been advertised or sold online. The Internet simplifies illegal transactions for johns, and helps create new opportunities for pimps who profit from the sexual victimization of children.

Source: Thorn Survivor Survey

Boys comprised about 50% of sexually exploited children in a sample study done in New York.



FOSTER YOUTH ARE AT  
A GREATER RISK FOR BECOMING  
VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

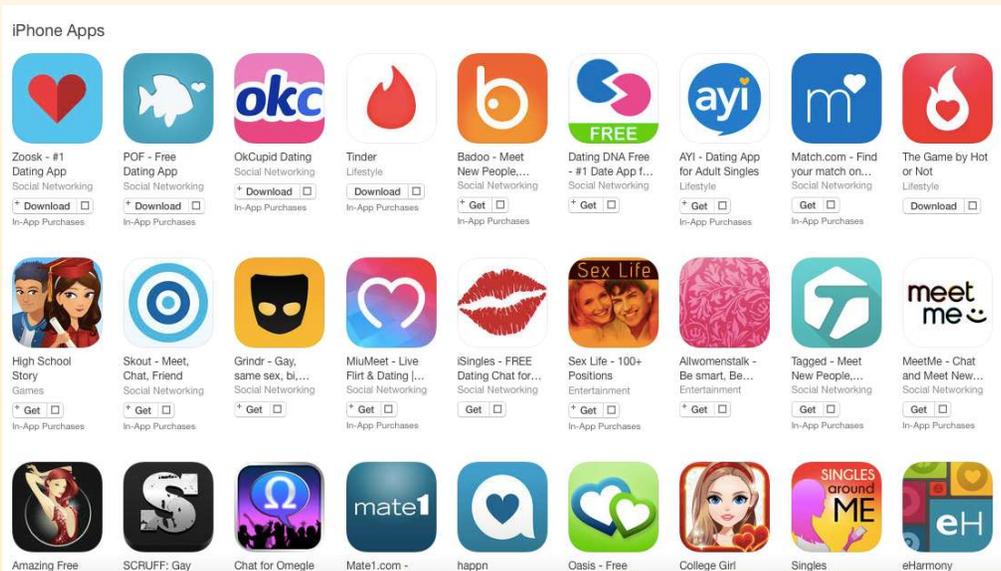
60%

**OF CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING VICTIMS  
HAVE A HISTORY IN THE CHILD  
WELFARE SYSTEM**

NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESOURCE  
CENTER HOTLINE 1-888-373-7888



# Pathways of Entry



# Pathways of Entry



# Familial Pathways of Entry



**65%**

**Trafficked by mother**

**32%**

**Trafficked by father**

**3%**

**Trafficked by other family member**



# Recruitment



- Schools
- Neighborhoods
- The mall
- Outside county buildings
- Group homes
- Foster homes
- Bus stops
- The Internet
- Social Media/Apps
- Homeless shelters

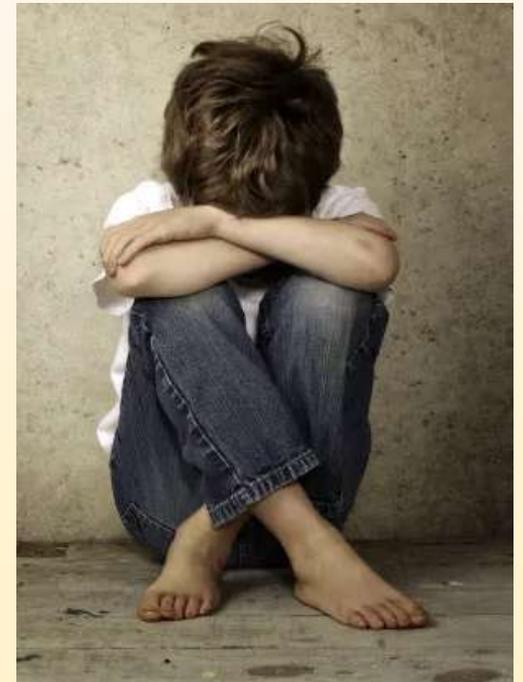


# Child Welfare System



**60%**

of children being sexually exploited have a history with the child welfare system



# The Demand



**21**  
**Average age of buying sex for the first time with a range of 11-49**

**54**  
**Average number of times of buying sex with a range of 1-600**



# Industry

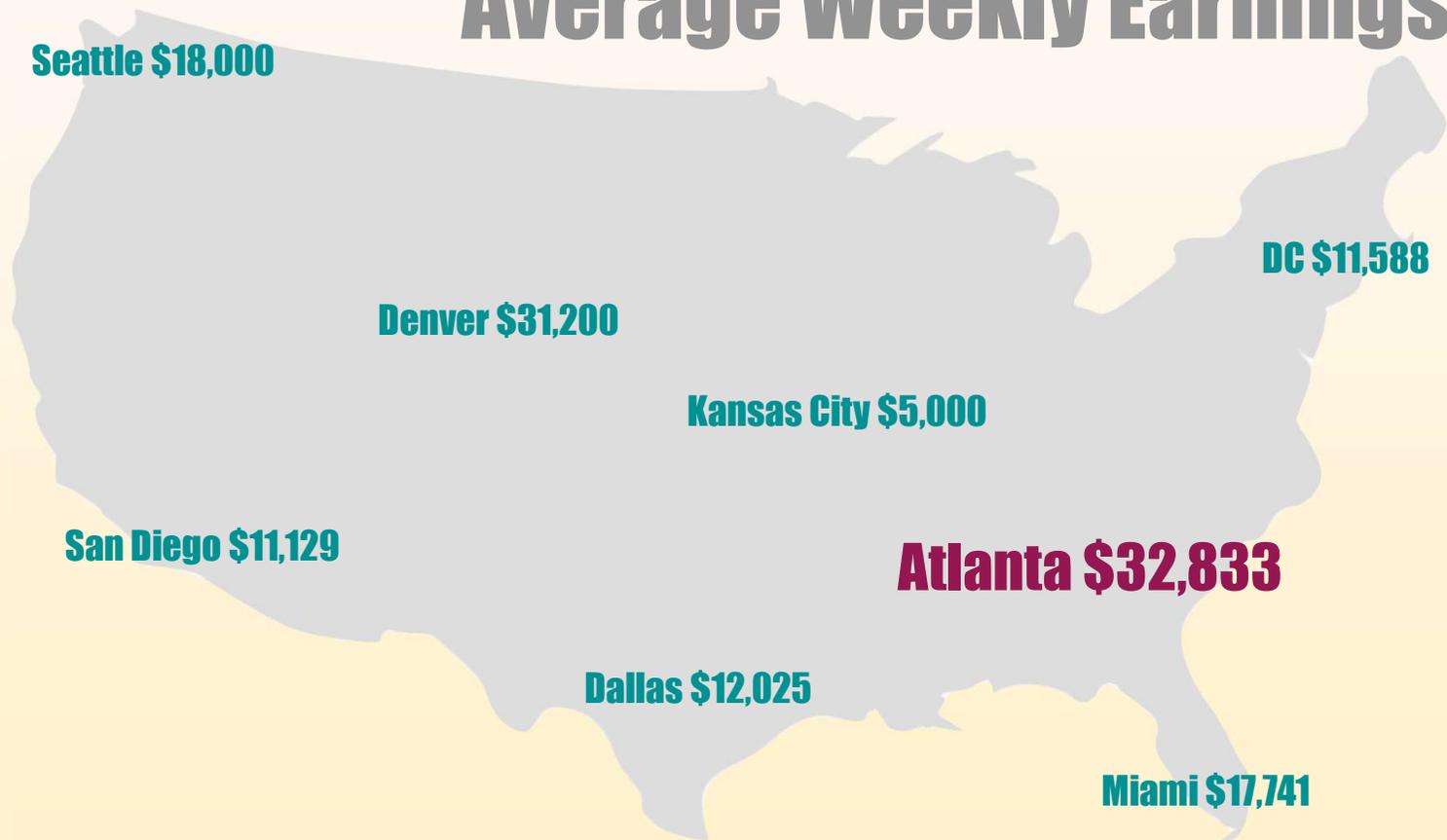


Human Trafficking is a **\$244 billion-dollar global industry**, involving over **100,000 children in the United States**. After Drug Trafficking and Counterfeiting, it is the world's **most profitable** criminal activity. It is estimated that an exploiter may earn as much as **\$650,000 in a year** by exploiting as few as **four children!**

[https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/BTB\\_XXII\\_IIH\\_7.pdf](https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/BTB_XXII_IIH_7.pdf)  
World Bank, 2021 Gross World Product, accessed on 20 July 2023.  
[https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/BTB\\_XXII\\_IIH\\_7.pdf](https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/BTB_XXII_IIH_7.pdf)

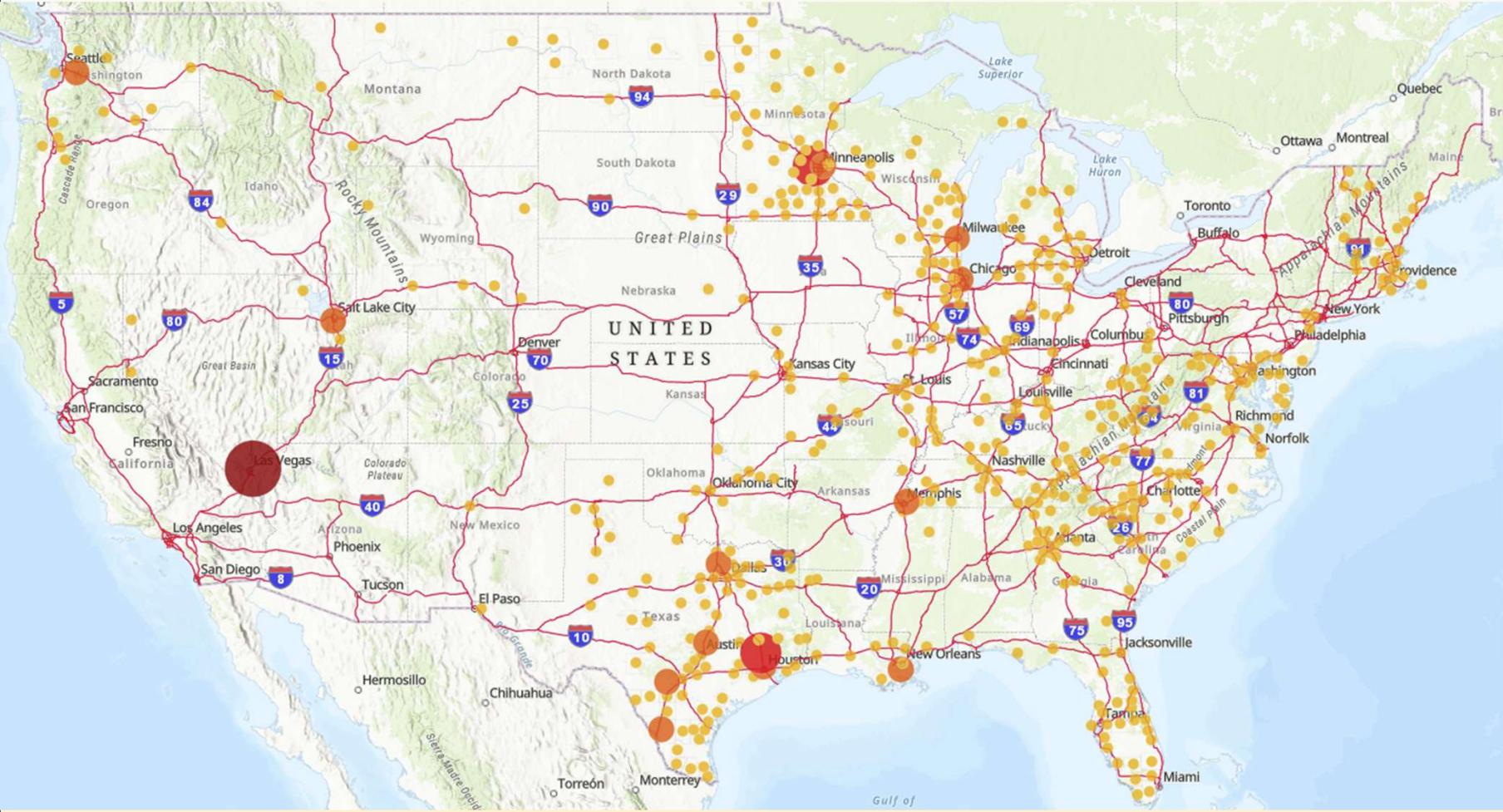
# The Profit

## Average Weekly Earnings



8. Dank, M., et al. (2014). Estimating the size and structure of the underground commercial sex economy in eight major US cities..

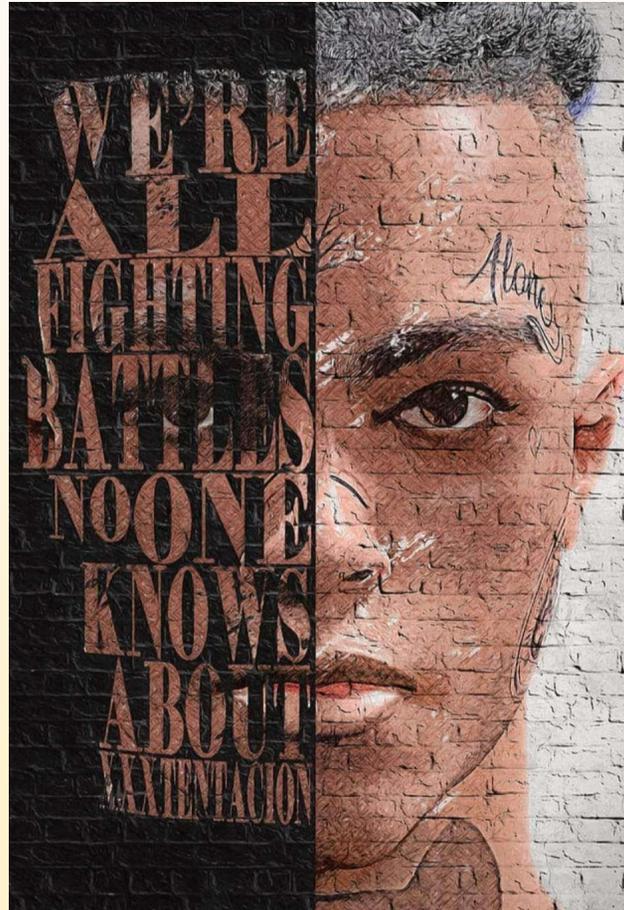
# Convicted Trafficking Cases in US (2021 - 2022)





**The United States has the second largest concentration of past and current trafficking victims, and Washington state is currently the 6<sup>th</sup> largest epicentre of sex trafficking in the United States.**

# Conclusion



# Conclusion



*The main reason boys aren't getting  
the services they deserve is because  
they're not being identified as  
**CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING VICTIMS***

Questions?



[MaleSurvivor.org](http://MaleSurvivor.org)