



RACIAL & GENDER DISPARITIES IN THE SEX TRADE

SEX TRADE SURVIVORS ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY WOMEN AND GIRLS COLOR

- In Massachusetts, 67% of trafficked youth served by a major survivor-led direct service provider identified as Black, Indigenous, Asian, Latine or multiracial.ⁱ
- In King County, Washington, 44% of all child sex trafficking victims are Black, though Black people only represent 7% of the population.ⁱⁱ
- In LA County, two-thirds of trafficked youth are Black, though only 7.4% of the child population in LA is Black.ⁱⁱⁱ
- In Ohio, 96% of trafficking victims identified were female and 39% were of color, when people of color represent only 20% of Ohio's population.^{iv}
- In 2020, (the last year Florida collected racial data), Black children represented 34% of all verified child sex trafficking cases despite Black people representing only 17% of the state's population.^v
- In Hawaii, 83% of sex trafficking survivors are female and 64% are Native Hawaiian.^{vi}
- In Connecticut, the Department of Children and Families reported that 73% of referrals for trafficking were children of color and 87% were girls.^{vii}
- In Louisiana, 44% of child sex trafficking victims are Black girls, though Black girls comprise only 19% of Louisiana's youth population.^{viii}

SEX BUYERS ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY WHITE MEN

- In Ohio, 85% of sex buyers identified by law enforcement to be connected to sex trafficking investigations were white men.^{ix}
- In King County, Washington, 73% of sex buyers are white men, whereas white people only represent 66% of the state's population.^x
- In Pennsylvania, 74% of sex buyers are white men.^{xi}
- Research indicates that sex buyers in Minnesota are often white, middle-aged, married men who seek out Indigenous women for sex.^{xii}

BLACK WOMEN AND GIRLS BEAR THE BRUNT OF PROSTITUTION ARRESTS

Often survivors of sex trafficking and prostitution, particularly those of color, are not acknowledged as victims and are instead criminalized. By contrast, in many jurisdictions, their buyers face little to no consequences for their role in exploiting vulnerable women and girls. This is true despite many survivors describing extreme violence at the hands of sex buyers.

- In Massachusetts, the ratio of arrests of prostituted people to sex buyers is 9 to 1.^{xiii}
- In Pennsylvania, 70% of prostitution arrests are for selling sex, while only 30% of arrests are for purchasing sex.^{xiv}
- Women account for 62% of adult prostitution arrests^{xv} and girls account for roughly 71% of youth prostitution arrests.^{xvi}
- Black people account for approximately 42% of adult prostitution arrests—more than any other racial group.^{xvii}
- Black children account for nearly 51% of all youth prostitution arrests—more than any other racial group.^{xviii}



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- ⁱ My Life My Choice, Massachusetts, 2022.
- ⁱⁱ “Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children” (2022), King County (WA) Prosecuting Attorney’s Office Commercial Sexual Exploitation Cases, <https://www.kingcountycsec.org/data>.
- ⁱⁱⁱ “Strategies to End Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Youth: A Toolkit for Collaborative Action” (2020), Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, National Center for Youth Law, https://youthlaw.org/sites/default/files/attachments/2022-03/NCYL_Toolkit_0809.pdf, p. 35.
- ^{iv} “Human Trafficking Annual Report 2021” (March 2022), Ohio Office of the Attorney General, <https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Files/Reports/Human-Trafficking-Commission-Annual-Reports/2021-Human-Trafficking-Annual-Report>, p. 8.
- ^v “[Annual Report on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Florida, 2020](https://oppaga.fl.gov/Documents/Reports/20-05.pdf)” (July 2020), Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability Report No. 20-05, <https://oppaga.fl.gov/Documents/Reports/20-05.pdf>.
- ^{vi} 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).
- ^{vii} Yvette Young, Bree’Ana Johnson, Christopher Bidorini & Erin Williamson, HART HELPS, [Let’s Talk About Race & Human Trafficking](#) (2019), p.1.
- ^{viii} “Human Trafficking, Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes and Commercial Sexual Exploitation: Annual Report” (2018), Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services, p.6.
- ^{ix} “Human Trafficking Annual Report 2021” (March 2022), Ohio Office of the Attorney General, <https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Files/Reports/Human-Trafficking-Commission-Annual-Reports/2021-Human-Trafficking-Annual-Report> (March 2022), p. 9
- ^x The King County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office 2022 Data (2022), <https://www.kingcountycsec.org/data>.
- ^{xi} “Report on Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Pennsylvania, Spring 2020” (2020), Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law, <https://cseinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Spring-2020-Report.pdf>, p.13.
- ^{xii} Nicole Martin Rogers & Victoria Pendleton, “Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Task Force: A Report to the Minnesota Legislature” (December 2020), p. 63.
- ^{xiii} “2014 - 2022 Massachusetts State Police CrimeSOLV” (2023), Emma Coalition.
- ^{xiv} “Report on Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Pennsylvania, Spring 2020” (2020), Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law, <https://cseinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Spring-2020-Report.pdf>, p. 10.
- ^{xv} “[Crime in the United States 2019](https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/tables/table-38),” Tables 38 and 40, Federal Bureau of Investigation, <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/tables/table-38>.
- ^{xvi} Ibid.
- ^{xvii} “Crime in the United States 2019,” Table 43C, Federal Bureau of Investigation, <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/tables/table-43>.
- ^{xviii} “Crime in the United States 2019,” Table 43B, Federal Bureau of Investigation, <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/tables/table-43>.