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.
- In South Dakota, Native American women represent 40% of sex trafficking victims, though Native Americans are only 8% of population.
- In Cook County, Illinois 66% of sex trafficking victims between 2012-2016 were Black women.
- In Nebraska, 50% of individuals sold online for sex are Black, though Black people comprise only 5% of the general population.

**Child Sex Trafficking Survivors Are Disproportionately Girls of Color**
- In King County, Washington, 52% of all child sex trafficking victims are Black, though Black people only comprise 7% of the general population.
- In Multnomah County, Oregon, Black people comprise less than 6% of the population but represent 27% of child sex trafficking victims, approximately 95% of which are female.
- In Alameda County, California, 66% of child sex trafficking survivors identified as Black girls.

**Sex Buyers Are Disproportionately White Men**
- In King County, Washington, 80% of sex buyers are white men.
- 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.
- In a 2012 study of men who use the internet to buy sex, researchers found that virtually 85% of the buyers were white men.

**Women and Girls of Color Bear the Brunt of Prostitution Arrests**
Often domestic victims of sex trafficking, particularly victims 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.
- Women account for nearly 64% of adult prostitution arrests.
- Black adults account for nearly 38% of adult prostitution arrests—more than any other racial group.
- Girls account for nearly 76% of juvenile prostitution arrests.
- Black children account for 57% of all juvenile prostitution arrests—more than any other racial group.

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

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


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.


