



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

### **CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY BLACK GIRLS**

- 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.<sup>v</sup>
- 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.<sup>vi</sup>
- In Louisiana, 49% of child sex trafficking victims are Black girls, though Black girls comprise only 19% of Louisiana's youth population.<sup>vii</sup>
- In Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 55% of sex trafficking victims are minors, 97% of victims are female, and 65% are Black, though Black people comprise only 27% of the population.<sup>viii</sup>

### **SEX BUYERS ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY WHITE MEN**

- In King County, Washington, 80% of sex buyers are white men.<sup>ix</sup>
- 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.<sup>x</sup>
- In a 2012 study of men who use the internet to buy sex, researchers found that virtually 85% of the buyers were white men.<sup>xi</sup>

### **BLACK WOMEN AND GIRLS 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.<sup>xii</sup>
- Women account for nearly 61% of adult prostitution arrests.<sup>xiii</sup>
- Black people account for approximately 37% of adult prostitution arrests—more than any other racial group.<sup>xiv</sup>
- Girls account for approximately 61% of juvenile prostitution arrests.<sup>xv</sup>
- Black children account for nearly 53% of all juvenile prostitution arrests—more than any other racial group.<sup>xvi</sup>



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- <sup>i</sup> 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.
- <sup>ii</sup> Danielle Ferguson, Argus Leader, "[Law enforcement, Native Communities focus on sex trafficking prevention training](#)" (Aug. 27, 2016).
- <sup>iii</sup> Cook County Sheriff's Office, *Buyers and Sellers: A Window into Sex Trafficking* (February 8, 2017), p.6.
- <sup>iv</sup> Women's Fund of Omaha, *Nebraska's Commercial Sex Market* (2017), p.8.
- <sup>v</sup> Val Richey, OJJDP Online University, [Reducing Demand for the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors in Your Community](#) (May 2017); ); Charles Puzanchera, Anthony Sladky & Wei Kang, [Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2017](#) (2018).
- <sup>vi</sup> 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.
- <sup>vii</sup> 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 Puzanchera, Anthony Sladky & Wei Kang, [Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2017](#) (2018).
- <sup>viii</sup> 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).
- <sup>ix</sup> Val Richey, OJJDP Online University, [Reducing Demand for the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors in Your Community](#) (May 2017).
- <sup>x</sup> 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).
- <sup>xi</sup> Demand Abolition, [Facts About Men Who Buy Sex](#) (2017).
- <sup>xii</sup> Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law, *Report on Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Pennsylvania* (2017), p.12.
- <sup>xiii</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, [Crime in the United States 2017](#), Tables 38, 40.
- <sup>xiv</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, [Crime in the United States 2017](#), Table 43C.
- <sup>xv</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, [Crime in the United States 2017](#), Tables 38, 40
- <sup>xvi</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, [Crime in the United States 2017](#), Table 43B.