



# Minnesota HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

## Statistics about Sex Trafficking in Minnesota and the United States

### Victims/Survivors

- A North Minneapolis study of primarily African Americans who had traded sex in the past 5 years found that 50% had first traded sex as a minor at an average age of 13.<sup>2</sup>
- Minnesota studies have found that 14-20% of homeless youth have engaged in survival sex (providing sex in exchange for food, shelter, money, etc.), i.e. have been sexually exploited.<sup>3 4</sup>
- One study that included Minneapolis youth found that 44% of homeless lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth had been approached with money, shelter, food, drugs etc., in exchange for sex (i.e. survival sex). 19% of the LGB youth surveyed had engaged in survival sex, i.e. were sexually exploited.<sup>5</sup>
- Various studies provide evidence that Native American women experience greater risk factors for being trafficked than other racial and ethnic groups.<sup>6</sup>
- In Hennepin County in 2006, Native American women were only 2.2% of the population yet 24% of people on probation for prostitution were Native women.<sup>7</sup>
- In a Minnesota study of Native women in prostitution, 92% reported wanting to escape prostitution.<sup>8</sup>
- One study found that 50% of females in prostitution who were interviewed reported being physically assaulted by purchasers, with 23% experiencing broken bones, and 2% being beaten into a coma.<sup>9</sup>
- An early intervention to avoid sex trafficking of Minnesota's female youth passed a benefit-cost test with a return on investment of \$34 in benefit for every \$1 of expenditure on prevention and intervention by the state government.<sup>10</sup>

### Perpetrators

- A 1992 national survey of U.S. men found that 16% had sexually exploited someone through paying prostituted individuals for services.<sup>11</sup> (note: did not ask about other forms of sexual exploitation)
- One U.S. study found that 59% of men who had paid prostituted individuals for services described themselves as married and/or having a steady intimate partner.<sup>12</sup>
- Of prostitution-related arrests in District 14 of Chicago during 2002, 89% of the arrests were of the prostituted individuals, while only 10% were of the commercial sexual exploiters (i.e. the "John's") and less than 1% were of pimps.<sup>13</sup>
- A 2014 study of the trafficking of minor girls in Minneapolis found evidence that:<sup>22</sup>
  - Facilitators and victims often reside in neighborhoods with high rates of poverty, whereas sex buyers are typically more dispersed across Minneapolis and the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

- Locations where youth are recruited and captured into operations include schools, parks, shelters and youth programming, juvenile detention and treatment facilities, streets, bus stops, libraries, malls, and other places where youth congregate.
- Sexual transactions primarily occur at sex buyers' homes, hotels in the Minneapolis suburbs, and streets easily accessed by commuters.
- Sex trafficking in Minneapolis is conducted by structured business operations, using a variety of business models (street, escort, brothel/brothel-like, and closed sex buyer networks).

### **Strip Clubs, Massage Parlors, and Adult Videostores\Bookstores**

- Various studies provide evidence that strip clubs and bars in rural MN are places where rural Native American women and girls are recruited into stripping, prostitution, and other forms of trafficking.<sup>14</sup>
- Anecdotal evidence shows that child sexual exploitation occurs in strip clubs and other sexually-oriented businesses; not only do children work in the businesses, many are trafficked out of the businesses.<sup>15</sup>
- Customers' online "reviews" of clubs provide evidence that illegal sexual contact, such as lap dances and bed dances, occurs in the clubs.<sup>15</sup>
- Internet discussion boards where sexual exploiters (i.e. "John's") exchange tips and information reveal examples of how trafficking occurs in strip clubs and massage parlors.<sup>16</sup>
- In these discussion boards, the sexual exploiters commonly talk about the race of the women/girls, using terms such as BSW, HSW, etc. [Black street walker, Hispanic Street walker]. The exploiters will write that they want a woman/girl of a specific ethnicity, such as Native American, Indian, Latina, etc.<sup>16</sup>
- A "review" of an experience typically includes descriptions of what the woman/girl looked like (age, race, body), the sex act(s) performed, and how good the experience was. Some exploiters compare women/girls to choices of meat- prime, large slab of beef, overdone burger, etc.<sup>16</sup>

### **Pornography**

- Anecdotal evidence from legal cases shows how exploiters traffic people to use them in pornography.<sup>17</sup>
- A 1990 Minneapolis-based study of prostituted women found that 53% had an experience where the sexual exploiters (i.e. "John's") made pornography of them.<sup>18</sup>
- Eighty percent had experiences where a sexual exploiter asked them to imitate sexual acts from a particular pornographic video.<sup>18</sup>
- A California-based study of the mental health of female adult film "performers" found that 33% met the criteria for current depression, 37% were victims of child sexual abuse, 27% had been raped as adults, 50% reported living in poverty and 34% had experienced domestic violence in the past year. Those percentages for a comparison group of women who were NOT adult film performers were 13%, 13%, 9%, 36%, 6%, respectively.<sup>19</sup>
- A content analysis of best-selling pornography videos found that 88% of the scenes analyzed involved one person, usually a female, being physically assaulted (spanking, gagging, slapping, etc.) by the other person, usually a male. In the majority of the scenes, the female was told to respond to the assault neutrally or pleasurably.<sup>20</sup>
- A common theme in pornography is having women appear/act like an adolescent or "barely legal".

- A study in 2013 found that 42% of adolescent perpetrators of coercive sex admitted to seeing X-rated materials that depicted physical aggression, while 4% of non-perpetrators admitted to seeing such materials.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Martin, L., M. Hearst and R. Windome. (2010). Meaningful Differences: Comparison of Adult Women Who First Traded Sex as a Juvenile versus as an Adult. *Violence Against Women*, 16(11) 1252–1269.

<sup>3</sup> Overview of Youth and Young Adult Homelessness in Minnesota. Facts and Analysis of Data from the 2006 Statewide Study. Wilder Research. June 2008.

<sup>4</sup> Halcon, L. & Lifson, A. (2004). Prevalence and predictors of sexual risk among homeless youth. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 33(1), 71-80. <sup>5</sup> Van Leeuwen, J., Boyle, S., Salomonsen-Sautel, S., Baker, D., Garcia, J.T., Hoffman, A., & Hopfer, C. (2006). Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Homeless Youth: An Eight City Public Health Perspective. *Child Welfare*, 85, no. 2: 151-170

<sup>6</sup> Pierce, A. & Koeplinger, S. (2011). New Language, Old Problem: Sex Trafficking of American Indian Women and Children. *National Online Resource Center on Violence Against Women (VAWnet.org)*

<sup>7</sup> Marti, L. and Rud, J., (October 2007). Prostitution research report: Data sharing to establish best practices for women in prostitution. Minneapolis: Prostitution Project, Hennepin County Corrections and the Folwell Center.

<sup>8</sup> Farley, M., Matthews, N., Deer, S., Lopez, G., Stark, C., & Hudon, E. (2011). Garden of Truth: The Prostitution and Trafficking of Native Women in Minnesota. *MN Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition*.

<sup>9</sup> Parriott R. (1994). Health experiences of Twin Cities women used in prostitution. Unpublished survey initiated by WHISPER, Minneapolis MN, cited in Farley et al., 2003, Prostitution and trafficking in nine countries: An update on violence and posttraumatic stress disorder, in *Prostitution, trafficking and traumatic stress*. Binghamton NY: Haworth Maltreatment & Treatment Press.

<sup>10</sup> Martin, L., Lotspeich, R., & Stark, L. (2012). Early Intervention to Avoid Sex Trading and Trafficking of MN's Female Youth: A Benefit-Cost Analysis.

<sup>11</sup> Monto, M. (1999). Focusing on the Clients of Street Prostitutes: A Creative Approach to Reducing Violence Against Women- Summary Report. <sup>12</sup> Sawyer, S., Metz, M., Hinds, J., & Brucker, A. Attitudes Towards Prostitution Among Males: A 'Consumers' Report. *Current Psychology: Developmental, Learning, Personality, Social*, Winter 2001-02, Vol. 20, No. 4, pp 363-376.

<sup>13</sup> Hughes, D. (2005). Fact sheet: Domestic sex trafficking and prostitution in the U.S.

<sup>14</sup> Pierce, Sandi. (2009). Shattered Hearts: Commercial Sexual Exploitation of American Indian Women and Girls in Minnesota. *MN Indian Women's Resource Center*

<sup>15</sup> Vieth, V., Anderson, C., & Smith, S. (2012). In the neighborhood: enforcing child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation statutes in strip clubs and adult bookstores. National Child Protection Training Center. CenterPiece, vol. 3, no. 5.

<sup>16</sup> Janson, L., Mann, H., Marro, R., & Matvey, A. (2013). Our great hobby: an analysis of online networks for buyers of sex in Illinois. Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation.

<sup>17</sup> Peters, R.W., Lederer, L.J., & Kelly, S. (2012). The slave and the porn star: sexual trafficking and pornography. *Journal of Human Rights and Civil Society*, 5, 1-21.

<sup>18</sup> Parriott R. (1994). Health experiences of Twin Cities women used in prostitution. Unpublished survey initiated by WHISPER, Minneapolis MN, cited in Farley, M., 2007, Renting an organ for ten minutes: what tricks tell us about prostitution, pornography, and trafficking, in *Pornography: Driving the Demand for International Sex Trafficking*. LA: Captive Daughter's Media.

<sup>19</sup> Gruzden, C.R., Mekker, D., Torres, J.M., Du, Q., Morrison, R.S., Andersen, R.M., & Gelberg, L. (2011). Comparison of the mental health of female adult film performers and other young women in California. *Psychiatric Services*, 62(6).

<sup>20</sup> Bridges, A.J., Wosnitzer, R., Scharrer, E., Sun, C., & Liberman, R. (2010). Aggression and sexual behavior in best-selling pornography videos: a content analysis update. *Violence Against Women*, 16(10), 1065-1085.

<sup>21</sup> Ybarra, M. & Mitchell, K.J. (2013). Prevalence rates of male and female sexual violence perpetrators in a national sample of adolescents. *JAMA Pediatrics*, published online.

<sup>22</sup> Martin, L. & Pierce, A. (2014). *Mapping the Market for Sex with Trafficked Minor Girls in Minneapolis: Structures, Functions, and Patterns*.