

Statistics for Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking

- One study estimates as many as 325,000 children in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico are at risk each year for becoming victims of sexual exploitation. (R. Estes and N. Weiner. Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. University of Pennsylvania, 2001, page 144.)
- We know this number is growing due to a recent news that the Border Patrol has detained more than 46,000 children and youth under 18 years traveling without an adult, a figure that is more than 60% to the figure recorded 12 months ago and that by some estimates could reach 70,000 next September.
- A 2002 Justice Department study suggested that more than 1.6 million American juveniles run away or are kicked out of their home each year. Ernie Allen, a former president of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, has estimated that at least 100,000 kids are sexually trafficked each year in the United States. (The New York Times Article "When Emily Was Sold for Sex", FEB. 12, 2014 by Nicholas Kristof)
- An estimated 30% of shelter youth and 70% of street youth are victims of commercial sexual exploitation. They may engage or be coerced into prostitution for "survival sex" to meet daily needs for food, shelter, or drugs. (Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, op. cit., n. 4, page 131. See also J. Greene, S. Ennett, and C. Ringwalt. (1999) "Prevalence and correlates of survival sex among runaway and homeless youth." American Journal of Public Health. 89(9) page 1406.)
- Pimps may earn hundreds of thousands of dollars every year from selling minors. One teenage girl was forced to meet quotas of \$500 a night, seven days a week and gave the money to her trafficker each night. This particular pimp controlled three other women. Based on these numbers, Polaris Project estimates the pimp made \$632,000 in one year from four young women and girls. (D. Hughes. The Demand for Victims of Sex Trafficking. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of State. 2005, page 20.)
- 75% of child victims engaged in prostitution are under the control of a pimp. (Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, op. cit., n. 5, page 60.)
- Every 10 minutes, one person is trafficked into the U.S. (Florida Freedom Partnership)
- In the United States, 300,000 children are forced into child prostitution and child pornography each year. In Washington DC alone, trafficking innocent children is a \$100 million industry. (U.S. Department of State)
- After drug dealing, human trafficking is tied with the illegal arms trade as the second largest criminal industry in the world, and it is the fastest growing. (Department of Health and Human Services)
- Experts estimate that at least 100,000 American juveniles are victimized through prostitution in America each year (with numbers as high as 300,000). Domestic minor sex trafficking is child sex slavery, child sex trafficking, prostitution of children, commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC), and rape of a child. (Shared Hope International, 2009)
- Over 1.68 million American children run away each year. 1 in 7 endangered runaways reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children in 2013 were likely sex trafficking victims. (National Center for Missing & Exploited Children)
- Of the children reported missing to NCMEC in 2013 who were also likely child sex trafficking victims, 67 percent were in the care of social services or foster care when they ran. (National Center for Missing & Exploited Children)
- State and local law enforcement agencies involved in Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces reported a 230 percent increase in the number of documented complaints of online enticement of children from 2004 to 2008. (The Loft)
- ICAC Task Forces noted a more than 1,000 percent increase in complaints of child sex trafficking from 2004 to 2008. (The Loft)
- As of March 2014, the CyberTipline has received more than 2.3 million reports of suspected child sexual exploitation since it was launched in 1998. (The Loft)
- Oregon studies show that children from rural communities in Eastern, Central and Southern Oregon are the ones most often lured and forced into prostitution. Resort towns are a high trafficking area (supply and demand). Services and funding are much scarcer in rural areas (The Loft)

- “Child prostitution in the United States is widespread and indiscriminate. The size of the city or town doesn’t matter. It’s anywhere and it’s connected - it’s networked. Enforcement is highly problematic.” (Drew Oosterbaan, Chief of the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section of the Department of Justice.³⁴)
- According to some estimates, the average age of entry into prostitution or the commercial sex industry in the U.S. is 11-13 years old. (Human Trafficking Into and Within the United States: A Review of the Literature By: Heather J. Clawson, Nicole Dutch, Amy Solomon, and Lisa Goldblatt Grace, August 2009)
- “Our data establishes that 39 percent of the offenders identified and prosecuted have had images of children younger than 6. 19 percent have had images of children younger than 3. The demand is for younger and younger victims and the images are becoming more graphic and more violent. [Child pornography] is an exploding problem that America and the world don’t understand.” (Ernie Allen, President and Chief Executive Officer, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Remarks by Ernie Allen at the MTR-CSECA conference. April 3, 2006.)
- Unlike typical contact sexual offenders, online offenders are, on average, younger (20s to 30s), better educated (college), and have less prior criminal history. The majority are male (99%). Many lead stable lives with no known history of substance abuse. (Babchishin, K. M., Hanson, R. K., & Hermann, C. A. (2011). The characteristics of online sexual offenders: A meta-analysis. *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*. 23. 92-123. Seto, M.C. (2012). *Child Pornography Offender Characteristics and Risk to Re-offend*. Prepared for the United States Sentencing Commission.)
- Sex offender research suggests that sexual interest in children (arousal to children, coercive sex), coupled with antisocial tendencies (indicated by criminal history, antisocial traits, antisocial attitudes, and beliefs), can predict contact sexual offenses against children. (Seto, M. (2009). *Assessing the Risk Posed By Child Pornography Offenders*. Paper prepared for the G8 Global Symposium. University of North Carolina. April 6-7.)
- Preliminary research also suggests that a criminal history, self-reported sexual interest in children, and an unstable lifestyle (e.g., substance abuse problems) can help identify which child pornography offenders are more likely to commit a contact sexual offense in the future. (ATSA (2010). *Fact Sheets: Internet-facilitated Sexual Offending. Association and Treatment for Sexual Abusers*. www.atsa.com)
- Studies also indicate that offenders who use child pornography were “more likely than not to have sexually abused children and that they had multiple victims of varying gender and age.” (Bourke, M. & Hernandez, A. (2009). *The ‘Butner Study’ Redux: A Report of the Incidence of Hands-on Child Victimization by Child Pornography Offenders*. *Journal of Family Violence*. 24, 183-191.)
- Other studies suggest that the risk of child pornography offenders committing sexual abuse against children is much greater if a child pornography offender had victims prior to their arrest for child pornography. “Child pornography offending might be a stronger indicator of pedophilia than is sexually offending against a child. People are likely to choose the kind of pornography that corresponds to their sexual interests, so relatively few nonpedophilic men would choose illegal child pornography given the abundance of legal pornography that depicts adults.” (Seto, M. C.; Cantor, J.M.; Blanchard, R. (2006). *Child Pornography Offenses are a Valid Diagnostic Indicator of Pedophilia*. *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*. 115:3. 610-615.)
- While almost two-thirds of child pornography offenders showed equal or greater sexual arousal to children than to adults, many do not display the antisocial tendencies that are found to predict contact sexual offending. (Seto, M. C.; Cantor, J.M.; Blanchard, R. (2006). *Child Pornography Offenses are a Valid Diagnostic Indicator of Pedophilia*. *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*. 115:3. 610-615.)
- The issue of sex trafficking is global and growing. Current statistics estimate that there are an estimated 27 million human trafficking victims worldwide at any time. There are approximately 4.5 million sex trafficking victims around the world; 98% of those victims are women and girls. Trafficking is a \$32 billion dollar a year industry. (California Human Trafficking Report, 2012.)
- According to the U.S. Department of Justice, human trafficking has become the second fastest growing criminal industry — just behind drug trafficking — with children accounting for roughly half of all victims. (USATODAY.com, 1/22/2012. http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2012-01-22-us-human-trafficking_N.htm)
- According to a report from the United States Justice Department’s Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) eighty-three percent of sex trafficking victims in the United States were identified as U.S. citizens. (Juvenile Justice Information Exchange 5/01/2011. <http://jjie.org/justice-department-report-sheds-lights-on-human-trafficking-stats/14355>)
- “Driven by demand and fueled by the ease and secrecy of the internet, we are facing a crisis of child exploitation in this nation.” (Congressman Chris Smith, Congressional Human Trafficking Caucus Chair)

- Due to the hidden nature of the crime of sex trafficking, the exact number of domestic children being trafficked in the United States is unknown, but a University of Pennsylvania study estimated nearly 300,000 youth in the United States were at risk of being sexually exploited for commercial uses. The Justice Department's National Incidence Study reported that 1.7 million children run away or are thrown away each year, with just 357,600 (21%) of them reported as missing to the police. The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) estimates that at least 100,000 children are caught up in the insidious world of child prostitution each year: 55% of street girls engage in prostitution; at least 75% of those work for a pimp. Though statistics vary, experts agree that the numbers grossly understate the problem, as this is such a hidden crime. (Allen, Ernie. National Center for Missing and Exploited Children briefing, 7/21/2009. http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/NewsEventServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US&PageId=4079(Accessed 8/15/2011))
- Demand for prostitution (and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation) of children is steady, and profit to sex traffickers, or pimps, has increased. Together, these factors have helped fuel sex trafficking of children. Pimps/traffickers prey on vulnerable youth (primarily girls) and groom their victims to enter "the life" of prostitution. They manipulate and abuse—physically, mentally, and emotionally—their victims to maintain control. Additionally, technological advances such as cellular telephones and the Internet have facilitated the demand for child sex trafficking. These technologies can rapidly connect buyers of commercial sex with trafficking victims while simultaneously distancing the perpetrator from the criminal transactions. (2011 Congressional Research Service Report)
- Children exploited through prostitution report they typically are given a quota by their trafficker/pimp of 10 to 15 buyers per night...Utilizing a conservative estimate, a domestic minor sex trafficking victim ...would be raped by 6,000 buyers during the course of her victimization through prostitution. (The National Report on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: America's Prostituted Children, Shared Hope International, May 2009, page 20.)
- The average age of U.S. children being forced into child prostitution (i.e. sex trafficking) is 12–14 years old. (US Department of Justice, Child Prostitution: Domestic Sex Trafficking of Minors <http://www.justice.gov/criminal/ceos/prostitution.html> (Accessed 8/15/2011))
- As late as 2009, there were only three homes for minor victims of sex trafficking in the United States with a total of 32 beds, none of them Christian homes. Today, that number has grown to approximately ten homes totaling over 150 available beds, which isn't even enough beds for the children rescued in just the Sacramento area. (Organization and personal experience, CWW research)
- Domestic sex trafficking of minors is a prominent and growing issue in the greater Sacramento area. In the last several years, a local FBI task force has recovered over 300 girls being sold for sex; the youngest was eleven years old. Of the 300 girls rescued in the Sacramento area, a large percentage of them have no home, no family, and no services to support them. (FBI Innocence Lost Task Force)
- Child sex trafficking is a big problem in the State of Hawaii. There are no homes for children rescued out of trafficking in Hawaii. (Organization and personal experience, CWW research)
- Statistics show that only 18 percent of local, county or state law enforcement agencies in the random sample have had some type of human trafficking training, 9 percent have a protocol or policy on human trafficking and only 4 percent have designated specialized units or personnel to investigate these cases. (UNDERSTANDING AND IMPROVING LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSES TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING)
- "It's there. If you scratch the surface, you'll find it. A lot of communities don't want to believe they have the problem." Vincent Cui, Detective Portland Police Bureau.
- "What would make my job easier is a national database that we could look into to see if these girls have been trafficked anywhere else." Vincent Cui, Detective Portland Police Bureau.
- "We don't have any proactive approach to investigating human trafficking crimes." Police Officer wishing to remain anonymous