

# DOMESTIC MINOR SEX TRAFFICKING IN THE U.S.

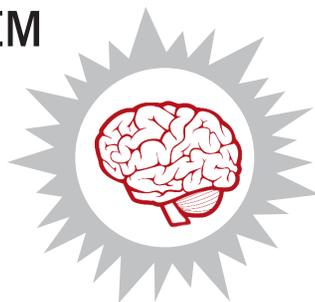
In 2009, under a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, **Shared Hope International** conducted undercover investigations that revealed many of America's children are being used in the commercial sex industry. Children who are exploited through **prostitution, pornography and sexual entertainment** are victims of domestic minor sex trafficking. Due to misidentification, ignorance, or efforts to keep victims safe from traffickers, these minors are often placed in detention facilities. **Growing demand** for sex with young, innocent children is fueled by a glorification of pimping and *normalization of sexual exploitation*.

## AT A GLANCE: THE PROBLEM

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE U.S. IS A **\$9.8 BILLION INDUSTRY**

**100,000+**

At least 100,000 U.S. children are exploited in prostitution every year in America.



Pornography rewires the male brain to become dependent on chemicals. This dependency is linked to negative perceptions, attitudes, and aggression toward women.

**13** YEARS OLD

is the average age a child is first exploited through prostitution.

(For sources cited please visit <http://sharedhope.org/trafficking/faqs/>)

## WHO ARE THE VICTIMS OF DMST?

Kids are especially susceptible to the deception and manipulation of traffickers. Traffickers recruit at locations that commonly attract youth; like schools, malls, parks, even protective shelters and group homes.

**Boys and girls can be victims.**

**1.68** MILLION

Over 1.68 million American children run away each year.

In one New York study, **85%** of DMST victims experienced contact with the child welfare system.

## VICTIM VULNERABILITY: SEVERAL FACTORS

The primary factor of vulnerability: *the child's age*.



**1 out of 5 girls, and 1 out of 10 boys will be sexually victimized by the time they reach adulthood.**

## WARNING SIGNS: TRAITS OF TRAFFICKING

- Significantly older boyfriend
- Signs of trauma (physical or other)
- Travel with older male (not guardian)
- Chronic runaway
- Multiple delinquent charges
- Homelessness
- Special marked tattoos
- Substance abuse



Young girls are commonly trafficked in strip clubs, hotel rooms, and on online sites like *BackPage.com*.



**70%** of DMST victims have experienced physical or sexual abuse in their **homes**.

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INTERNATIONAL

[www.sharedhope.org](http://www.sharedhope.org)

**THE DEFENDERS**  
USA

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# DOMESTIC MINOR SEX TRAFFICKING IN THE U.S.

## DEMAND: WHO ARE THE BUYERS?

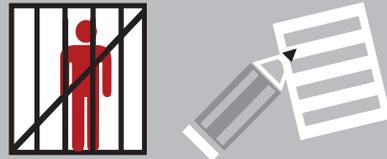
America's fascination with pornography and prostitution is linked to demand. Those who purchase sex or pornography are fueling the commercial sex industry and contributing to the exploitation of American's children. Buyers come from all ages, occupations, and ethnicities.

**21**  
YEARS OLD

Buyers reported that they were an average of **21 years old** when they first bought sex.



**83%** of buyers said jail time and **79%** said a letter sent to their family would be a deterrent to purchasing sex with a minor.



## THE DEFINITION OF DMST

**Domestic minor sex trafficking** (DMST) is the commercial sexual exploitation of American children within U.S. borders. It is the "recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act" where the person is a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident under the age of 18 years.

(For sources cited please visit <http://sharedhope.org/trafficking/faqs/>)

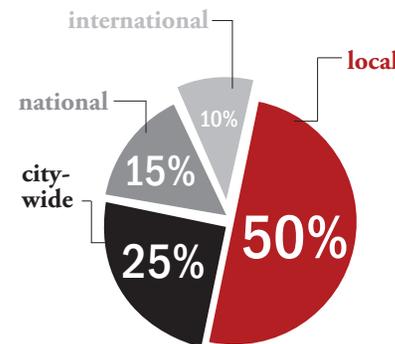
## WHO ARE THE TRAFFICKERS?

A **trafficker** is anyone who profits by receiving cash or other benefits in exchange for sex with a minor. **These criminals are often called pimps.** Across the United States, family members, friends, and "boyfriends" can be pimps and traffickers.

**20-800** In one Chicago-based study, traffickers sold anywhere from **20-800** individual women in their lifetime.

## BREAKDOWN OF A PIMP

Traffickers operate at the following levels:



**\$400**

Traffickers commonly sell underage girls for \$400 per hour or more.

**90%** Up to 90% of victims are under the control of a pimp.

## ABOUT SHARED HOPE INTERNATIONAL

**Shared Hope International** is a leader in the worldwide effort to prevent DMST, restore women and children, and bring justice. Since 1998, Shared Hope has worked around the world in partnership with local groups to prevent trafficking and rescue and restore the victims of sexual slavery.

Shared Hope International | P.O. Box 65337 Vancouver, WA 98665  
[www.SharedHope.org](http://www.SharedHope.org) 1-866-HER-LIFE  
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## Shared Hope **Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Infographic** Sources Cited:

### General:

- Human Trafficking in the U.S. is a \$9.8 Billion industry. (International Labour Organization. *A Global Alliance Against Forced Labor: A Global Report Under the Follow-up to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work*. Geneva: 2005. <[http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/ilo-bookstore/order-online/books/WCMS\\_081882/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/publications/ilo-bookstore/order-online/books/WCMS_081882/lang--en/index.htm)>.)
- At least 100,000 U.S. children are used in prostitution every year in America. (Based upon expert statements)
- 13 years old is the average age a female child enters prostitution. (Estes, Richard J. and Neil Alan Weiner. *The Commercial sexual Exploitation of Children in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico*. Pennsylvania: University of Pennsylvania, 2001. <[http://www.sp2.upenn.edu/restes/CSEC\\_Files/Complete\\_CSEC\\_020220.pdf](http://www.sp2.upenn.edu/restes/CSEC_Files/Complete_CSEC_020220.pdf)>.)
- Pornography rewires the brain, like drugs such as cocaine and heroin. (see Berlin, Fred S. "Basic Science and Neurobiological Research: Potential Relevance to Sexual Compulsivity." *Psychiatric Clinics of North America* 13.4 (2008): 623-642. <[http://www.psych.theclinics.com/article/S0193-953X\(08\)00084-1/abstract](http://www.psych.theclinics.com/article/S0193-953X(08)00084-1/abstract)>; Struthers, William. *Wired for Intimacy: How Pornography Hijacks the Male Brain*. Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2009.; Hilton, Donald L. "Pornography addiction - a supranormal stimulus considered in the context of neuroplasticity." *Socioaffective Neuroscience & Psychology* 3 (2013): 20767. <<http://www.socioaffectiveneuroscipsychol.net/index.php/snp/article/view/20767>>.)
- Definition of DMST (Trafficking Victims Protection Act 2000 as cited in Smith, Linda et. al. *The National Report on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: America's Prostituted Children*. Shared Hope International, 2009. <[http://sharedhope.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/SHI\\_National\\_Report\\_on\\_DMST\\_2009.pdf](http://sharedhope.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/SHI_National_Report_on_DMST_2009.pdf)>.)

### Buyers:

- The following statistics can be found in Durchslag, Rachel and Goswami, Samir. *Deconstructing the Demand for Prostitution: Preliminary Insights from Interviews with Chicago Men Who Purchase Sex*. Chicago, Illinois: Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation, 2008. <<http://g.virbcdn.com/f/files/40/FileItem-149406-DeconstructingtheDemandForProstitution.pdf>>.
  - 87% of interviewees said some form of public exposure, such as having their name or photo in a newspaper, would deter them from buying sex.
  - 83% of interviewees said jail time and 79% said a letter sent to their family would be a deterrent.
  - 32% of interviewees thought that the majority of women in prostitution entered before the age of 18.
  - 49% of interviewees thought that there were girls under 18 years of age working at strip clubs.
- The following statistics can be found in Farley, Melissa et. al. "Comparing Sex Buyers with Men Who Don't Buy Sex: 'You can have a good time with the servitude' vs. 'You're supporting a system of degradation.'" *Psychologists for Social Responsibility Annual Meeting July 15, 2011, Boston, MA*. Ed. San Francisco: Prostitution Research and Education, 2011. <<http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/pdfs/Farleyetal2011ComparingSexBuyers.pdf>>.

- 48% men use pornography once a week or more often.
- On average, men reported that they were 21 years of age when they first bought sex.

#### Victims:

- Warning Signs for Trafficking can be found in Smith, Linda et. al. *The National Report on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: America's Prostituted Children*. Shared Hope International: 2009. <[http://sharedhope.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/SHI\\_National\\_Report\\_on\\_DMST\\_2009.pdf](http://sharedhope.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/SHI_National_Report_on_DMST_2009.pdf)>.)
- 1 out of 5 girls and 1 out of 10 boys will be sexually exploited by the time they reach adulthood. (National Institute of Justice. *Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: What Do We Know and What Do We Do About It?*. Washington, D.C. (2007). <<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/215733.pdf>>.)
- Over 1.68 million children run away each year. (Hammer, Heather et. al. *Runaway/Throwaway Children: National Estimates and Characteristics*. Washington, D.C.: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 2002. <<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/196469.pdf>>.)
- In one New York study, 85 percent of child trafficking victims had experienced some contact with the child welfare system, mostly in the context of abuse and neglect proceedings. (Gragg, Frances et. al. *New York Prevalence Study of Commercially Sexually Exploited Children: Final Report*. Rensselaer, NY: New York State Office of Children and Family Services, 2007. <<http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/reports/csec-2007.pdf>>.)
- 70% of DMST victims have experienced physical or sexual abuse in their homes. (West Coast Children's Clinic. *Research to Action: Sexually Exploited Minors (SEM) Needs and Strengths*. CA: West Coast Children's Clinic, 2012. <[http://www.westcoastcc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/WCC\\_SEM\\_Needs-and-Strengths\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.westcoastcc.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/WCC_SEM_Needs-and-Strengths_FINAL.pdf)>.)

#### Traffickers:

- Up to 90% of victims are under the control of a pimp (Geist, Darren. "Finding Safe Harbor: Protection, Prosecution, and State Strategies to Address Prostituted Minors." *Legislation and Policy Brief* 4. 2 (2012): 67-127. <<http://digitalcommons.wcl.american.edu/lpb/vol4/iss2/3>>.)
- Pimps commonly sell girls for \$400 an hour or more. (Shared Hope International. *DEMAND.: A Comparative Examination of Sex Tourism and Trafficking in Jamaica, Japan, the Netherlands, and the United States*. Shared Hope International, 2007. <<http://sharedhope.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/DEMAND.pdf>>.)
- Pimp percentages (Estes, Richard J. and Neil Alan Weiner. *The Commercial sexual Exploitation of Children in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico*. Pennsylvania: University of Pennsylvania, 2001. <[http://www.sp2.upenn.edu/restes/CSEC\\_Files/Complete\\_CSEC\\_020220.pdf](http://www.sp2.upenn.edu/restes/CSEC_Files/Complete_CSEC_020220.pdf)>.)
- In one Chicago-based study, traffickers sold anywhere from 20-800 individual women in their lifetime. (Raphael, Jody and Brenda Myers-Powell. *From Victims to Victimiziers: Interviews with 25 Ex-Pimps in Chicago*. Chicago, Illinois: Schiller DuCanto & Fleck Family Law Center of DePaul University College of Law, 2010. <[http://newsroom.depaul.edu/PDF/FAMILY\\_LAW\\_CENTER\\_REPORT-final.pdf](http://newsroom.depaul.edu/PDF/FAMILY_LAW_CENTER_REPORT-final.pdf)>.)