



TREASURES

# SEX INDUSTRY & TRAFFICKING STATS

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THERE ARE MORE WOMEN IN THE SEX INDUSTRY THAN ANY OTHER TIME IN HISTORY.<sup>[1]</sup>

**70%**



of female trafficking victims are trafficked into the commercial sex industry, including porn, stripping and legal brothels. [2]

**4.8 MILLION**

people are trapped in forced sexual exploitation globally [3]

of victims in the commercial sex industry are women. [4]

**99%**

Whether or not they were trafficked or entered by “choice,” research shows that women working in the commercial sex industry experience higher rates of drug addictions, [5] sexually transmitted diseases [6] violent assaults [7] and mental health challenges [8] than the general population.

**95%**

Up to 95% have a history of childhood sexual abuse. [9]

# PTSD



They experience Post Traumatic Stress Disorder at rates equivalent to veterans of combat war. [10]

**89%**

want to escape, but see no other means for survival. [11]

# DEMAND

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**\$97  
BILLION**

Worldwide sex industry sales for 2006 were reported to be \$97 billion. [12]

In 2006, at \$13.3 BILLION, the commercial sex industry in the U.S. brought in more revenue than the NFL, NBA and MLB combined. [13]

It is estimated that there has been a 50% decrease in revenue produced since then, [14] not because people are consuming less, but due to access to free porn.

70-80% of porn sites are free. [15]

# PROSTITUTION

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## PROSTITUTION & DEMAND

When it comes to prostitution, 98% of those being bought are women [16] and 99% of those buying sex are men. [17]

Estimates on the percentages of men who have paid for sex vary widely, ranging from 16-80%. Dr. Melissa Farley, director of Prostitution Research and Education, notes that “ninety-nine percent of the research in this field has been done on women in prostitution, and 1 percent has been done on johns [buyers].” [18]

Profile of the Average Sex Buyer:

- Average age: 30 with a range of 18-84. [19]
- Over ½ of sex buyers are married. [20]
- Most buyers purchased sex for the 1st time before the age of 21. [21]
- Tend to believe in prostitution and rape myths. [22]
- Far more likely than non-sex buyers to watch pornography on a regular basis. [23]

About 1 in 8 buyers believe that the rape of a call girl was not possible and that the concept of rape does not apply to call girls. [24] Most buyers believe that the money [25] exchanged cancels out the harm of buying sex and entitles the man to do whatever he wants to the women he buys.

Reasons given for purchasing sex include: pressure from other men, male bonding experience, the convenience, the thrill and power, a distaste for “normal” relationships with women and the desire to carry out a sex act that their partner had refused. [26]

Men who have purchased sex report that the most effective deterrent to purchasing sex would be placement on a registry of sex offenders or some form of public exposure, such as having their names posted. Most agreed that greater criminal penalties such as large fines or jail time would deter them, but they were not convinced that the laws would be enforced by police or politicians. [27]

## PROSTITUTION & ARRESTS

One study showed that about 92% of prostitution-related arrests in Boston were women and only about 8% of arrests were men. Similarly, 89% of arrests in Chicago were women, 9.6% were men and 0.6% were pimps. [28]

## PROSTITUTION & VULNERABILITY

Up to 95% report having been sexually assaulted as children. [29]

In one study, 70% of women interviewed noted that childhood sexual abuse had an influence on their entry into prostitution. [30] 49% of women in prostitution have histories of childhood physical assault. [31]

It is well-documented that women in prostitution are disproportionately impoverished, undereducated, ethnic minorities and those with few marketable job skills. [32]

One study revealed that 71% of prostituted women showed “clinically significant symptoms of dissociation,” a psychological defense against trauma in which a person splits or detaches from the rest of their self in order to deal with overwhelming fear and pain. [33]

According to several studies, women in prostitution experience higher rates of substance addiction than the general population. [34]

75% of women in prostitution have been homeless at some point in their lives. [35]

# PROSTITUTION & VIOLENCE

The death rate of prostituted women is 240 times higher than any other profession. [36]

During their time in prostitution, violence is the norm. 82% of women report being physically assaulted (types of assault include being punched, strangled, slashed with razor blades and burned with cigarettes), while 83% have been threatened with a weapon. [37]

Women in prostitution are “the most raped class of women in the history of our planet,” with 80% having been raped at least once [38] and 73% have been raped more than five times. [39]

One study revealed that 95% of prostituted women sustained traumatic head injuries along with acute or chronic symptoms from either being hit with objects or slammed into objects. [40]

Research on legal brothels shows that “legalization does not protect prostituted women from the violence, abuse and psychological and physical injury that occur in illegal prostitution.” [41]

95% of women in prostitution experience sexual harassment that would be legally actionable in another job. [42]

# PROSTITUTION & TRAFFICKING

In a study of prostitution and trafficking in 150 countries, it was concluded that on average, countries with legalized prostitution had greater inflows of human trafficking. [43]

Legalized Prostitution in Nevada has led to an increase (not decrease) in the state’s illegal sex trade. In fact, Nevada has the highest rates of illegal sex trade in the country, adjusted for population. It is 63% higher than the next highest state of New York and double that of Florida. [44]

84% of women in prostitution are under third-party control or pimped or trafficked. [45]



# PORN

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## PORN & DEMAND

Porn sites receive more regular traffic than Netflix, Amazon & Twitter combined. [46]

85% of young men and nearly half of young women watch porn on a regular basis based on the results of one study. [47]

The results of another study revealed that:

- Roughly two thirds (67%) of young men and one half (49%) of young women agree that viewing pornography is acceptable.
- Nearly 9 out of 10 (87%) young men and nearly one third (31%) of young women reported using pornography. [48]

77% of online visitors to adult content sites are male. Their average age is 41 and they have an annual income of \$60,000. 46% are married. [49]

The United States is the largest producer and exporter of hardcore pornographic DVDs and web material. [50]  
Hollywood releases 11,000 adult movies per year – more than 20 times the mainstream movie production. [51]

## PORN & VIOLENCE

In a content analysis of the 50 top selling porn movies:

- 88.2% showed physical aggression towards women, primarily spanking, gagging and slapping.
- 48.7% showed verbal aggression, primarily name-calling.
- The majority of perpetrators were male with 94.4% of the aggression directed towards women and girls. [52]

A 2015 meta-analysis of 22 studies from seven countries found that internationally the consumption of pornography was significantly associated with increases in verbal and physical aggression, among males and females alike. [53]

Men who view pornography are more likely to show an increased behavioral intent to rape and are more likely to believe rape myths. [54]

Among perpetrators of sex crimes, adolescent exposure to pornography is a significant predictor of elevated violence and victim humiliation. [55]

Data collected from interviews with women in a battered women's program indicated that pornography use by their partner significantly increased the odds of women being sexually abused by their abusers. When their abuser used both alcohol and pornography, the odds of sexual abuse increase by a factor of 3.2. [56]

## PORN & INDUSTRY CROSSOVER

The results of a Treasures client survey revealed that 75% of women who have worked in porn also report having worked in prostitution and escorting.[57]

According to the same survey, 83% of women who have worked in porn report having also worked in strip clubs.

## PORN & VULNERABILITY

A study [58] that examined the mental health of female porn performers in California revealed that women in porn experience the following:

- Child victims of rape: 37%
- Foster care as children: 21%
- Rape as adults: 27%
- Met criteria for Depression: 33%
- Lived in poverty in the past 12 months: 50%
- Domestic violence in the past 12 months: 34%

One study showed that women in prostitution experienced a statistically significant increase in rates of PTSD when pornography was made of them and/or they were coerced into imitating pornography. [59]

## PORN & TRAFFICKING

Watching porn increases the likelihood that the consumer will hire a prostituted person. [60]

49% of women who have worked in prostitution report being filmed by their traffickers or johns. [61] This is just the percentage of women who knew they were being filmed.

This footage is often streamed and or later distributed.

A person viewing this type of pornography would have no way of knowing whether or not the person on the other end of the camera is a willing participant. In many cases, she is not.

80% of trafficking survivors report that their customers showed them porn to illustrate the kinds of sexual acts they wanted. [62]

Often, exploiters force their victims to do pornographic videos because they can make more money when they advertise women in prostitution as "adult film stars" who are available as "escorts." [63]

## PORN & RELATIONSHIPS

A review of dozens of studies have shown that that pornography

- Reduces relationship satisfaction.
- Reduces couple commitment.
- Increases the acceptance of infidelity [64]

One study noted that porn has become "a primary source of sexual education" that is embedding new codes of sexual behavior in young men. The more pornography a man watches, the more he needs to conjure images of pornography to maintain arousal and will be more

likely to ask for particular sexual acts with his partner and have concerns over his sexual performance and body image. [65]

Higher pornography use has been shown to be negatively associated with enjoying sexually intimate behaviors with a partner. In other words, the more porn a person watches, the less they will enjoy sex with their partner. [66]

Consumption of pornography has been associated with greater acceptance of objectification of women, which in turn was associated with greater rape myth acceptance and more frequent acts of sexual deception.[67]

Frequent viewing of pornography has been associated with lower levels of sexual satisfaction in couple relationships. [68]

41% of adults admitted they felt less attractive due to their partner's pornography use. [69]

## PORN & MARRIAGE

47% of families say pornography is a "problem" in their home. [70]

Analyses show that persons who view pornography are more than twice as likely as those who do not view pornography to experience a divorce. [71]

According to the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, 56% of divorce cases involved "one party having an obsessive interest in pornographic websites." [72]

Those who frequently consume Internet pornography are less likely to marry, because they see pornography as a marital sexual gratification substitute. [73]

# STRIPPING

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## STRIPPING & DEMAND

There are more strip clubs in the United States than any other nation in the world. [74]

There were at least 3,600 strip clubs in the U.S. as of 2008 [75] with an estimated 300,000 people working as exotic dancers. [76] This is a sharp increase over an estimated 68,000 dancers in 1997 and just 8,000 in 1960. [77]

Between 2013-2018, the Strip Club industry in the US has grown by 1.9% to reach revenue of \$7 Billion in 2018. [78]

According to a market research report, proprietors within the Strip Club industry distanced themselves from the seedy past image associated with clubs. Instead, they marketed their establishments as high-class gentlemen's clubs and cocktail lounges that offer adult entertainment. [79]

The highest numbers of strip clubs can be found in the following states: Texas (214), Florida (208), California (177), Ohio (132), New York (125), New Jersey (125), Pennsylvania (117), Oregon (97- highest number per capita), North Carolina (93), Wisconsin (71). [80]

While there are no strip clubs in the state of Vermont, a local company boasts that they provide sexy “snow strippers” who will “come to you” for private entertainment. [81]

# STRIPPING & INDUSTRY CROSSOVER

According to a Treasures client survey of women working in strip clubs, 54% report having also worked in prostitution or escorting. [82]

According to the same survey, 22.7% report also having worked in porn. [83]

## STRIPPING & VULNERABILITY

The results [84] of a Treasures client survey indicate that women working in strip clubs experience the following:

- Struggles with mental health: 91%
- Depression: 76%
- PTSD: 67%
- Anxiety: 64%
- Substance Abuse Issues: 69%
- Homelessness in the past 2 years: 24%
- History in the Foster Care System: 13.3%

Research [85] has also shown that stripping has the following impact on the women involved:

- Distorts perceptions of money and sexuality
- Encourages them to blur their personal boundaries about previously unacceptable sexual acts
- Teaches them to develop contempt for men
- Reduces their sex drives and causes problems in their intimate partnerships

Women who work in strip clubs often feel tremendous pressure to conform to an image that will gain the most attention from the customers. Typically, a “Barbie doll” image of an extremely thin woman with large breasts. [86]

This pressure becomes so intense that many women working in strip clubs reconstruct their appearance through plastic surgery, develop eating disorders and turn to drugs to stay excessively thin. [87]

Those who cannot afford these methods tend to compensate for their “flawed” body image by taking off more clothing and performing more graphic moves on the stage and floor, stretching their own boundaries to appeal to customers’ personal tastes. [88]

Some research has shown that women who prostitute in strip clubs have higher rates of dissociative and other psychiatric symptoms than those in street prostitution. [89]

A Treasures survey [90] of women who have worked in strip clubs report the following ages of entry:

Under 18:	10%
18-20:	51%
21-24:	24%
25-29:	9%
30-35:	6%

## STRIPPING & VIOLENCE

A study [91] revealed that the women working in strip clubs experience the following:

- Physical assault (i.e. kicked, bitten, slapped and spit on): 100%
- Attempted vaginal penetration with fingers: 61%
- Attempted vaginal penetration with objects such as bottles or cell phones: 33%
- Attempted rape: 17%
- Verbal threats: 44%

The prevalence of assaults ranged from 3 to 15 times during the time of employment in the sex industry, with a mean occurrence of eight incidents. [92]

The same study showed a greater prevalence of physical assaults and unwanted sexual contact occurred in indoor settings (e.g., lap dancing, private booths, and back rooms). [93]

Some research evidence suggests that outdoor prostitution may subject women in prostitution to higher rates of physical violence, but according to several studies, the rates of psychological violence among indoor (ie. strip clubs, motels, brothels and massage parlors) and outdoor prostitution are comparable. In practice, indoor prostitution does nothing to decrease psychological trauma for the prostituted woman. [94]

The social invisibility of indoor prostitution may actually increase its danger.[i]While violence occurs in all venues of the sex industry, severity and frequency and type of violence varied depending on indoor versus outdoor venues. Women working in the outdoor setting report higher prevalence of generalized physical violence; however, the indoor setting is associated with more sexual violence and threats involving weapons. [95]

A study that compared strip club/massage, brothel and street prostitution in Mexico found no differences in the prevalence of physical assault and rape, of childhood sexual abuse, or of symptoms of PTSD. Nor did they find differences in the percentages of women who wanted to escape.

More than half of women working in strip clubs report that they have been threatened with a weapon. [96]

Research studies on strip clubs in the U.S. have found that 100% had been propositioned for prostitution [97], and 75% had been stalked by men associated with the club [98].

Academic research has also linked strip clubs to trafficking, prostitution and an increase in male sexual violence against both the women who work in the clubs and those who live and work in their vicinity. [99]

A 2008 report in London looked at lap-dancing in Camden Town, North London and found that in the three years before and after the opening of four large strip clubs in the area, incidents of rape in Camden rose by 33%, while sexual assault rose by 55%. [100]



# STRIPPING & TRAFFICKING

Based on an analysis of 32,000 cases of trafficking between 2007-2016, it was found that most trafficking in strip clubs involve U.S. citizen and Eastern European women and girls. [101]

In hundreds of research interviews, sex buyers report that they can always find minor girls in strip clubs. [102]

A Treasures client survey of women who have worked in strip clubs revealed that 65% identified as victims of sexual exploitation. [103]

Several of the women who said they were not exploited or “unsure” of whether they were exploited noted that they entered stripping as minors and or had pimps that coerced them into stripping. It is likely that the percentage is actually higher.

The same survey of women who have worked in strip clubs revealed that 31% identified as victims of sex trafficking. [104]

Several of the women who said they were not trafficked or “unsure” of whether they were trafficked noted that they entered stripping as minors and or had pimps that coerced them into stripping.

Based on the fact that most victims of sex trafficking do not self-identify, the number is likely higher. [105]

Women who were trafficked in strip clubs report that their traffickers were: [106]

Boyfriend:	33.3%
Agent/Manager:	33.3%
Friend:	13.1%
Family:	8.1%
Stranger:	8.1%
Employment Recruiter:	4%

A vertical, black and white close-up photograph of a person's eye, looking slightly to the left. The eye is highly detailed, showing eyelashes and the iris. The background is dark and out of focus.

# TRAFFICKING

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72% of trafficking victims in California are California residents. [107]

Gangs and other criminal enterprises have learned that the sex trade and prostitution provide higher profits with a lower penal and detection risk than drug or weapons trafficking. [108]

Human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal enterprise of the 21st century. [109]

According to a 2014 report from the International Labor Organization, commercial sexual exploitation earns profits of roughly \$99 billion a year for traffickers. [110]

While only 19% of trafficking victims are trafficked for sex (versus labor), sexual exploitation earns 66% of the global profits of human trafficking. [111]



# OUR CHILDREN

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By Federal definition, when a minor is used in a commercial sex act, it is considered sex trafficking, regardless of whether or not force, fraud or coercion can be proved. [112]

A 2016 study found that between 8,900 and 10,500 children, ages 13 to 17, are commercially exploited each year in the United States. [113]

Between 60 [114] and 86% [115] of domestic sex trafficking victims have been in foster care.

In 2017, it was estimated that 1 in 7 endangered runaways reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children were likely sex trafficking victims. 88% were in the care of social workers or foster care when they went missing. [116]

Early adolescence is the most frequently reported age of entry into any type of prostitution. [117]

The United States hosts more child porn than any other nation. [118]

Based on data analyzed through their hotline, most victims are 11 and under (59%) while a staggering 31% are between one and five years old. [119]

624,000+ child porn traders have been discovered online in the U.S. [120]

1/3 of total daily searches on porn sites are for “teen porn.” [121]

A study of 14- to 19-year-olds found that females who consumed pornographic videos were at a significantly greater likelihood of being victims of sexual harassment or sexual assault. [122]

In 2018, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's Child Victim Identification Program received 18.4 million reports of child cyber exploitation of children.

Between 2002-2018, the program has reviewed 273 million images and videos of children and law enforcement has identified more than 16,700 child victims. [123]

There was a 774% increase in the number of child pornography images and videos reviewed through the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's Child Victim Identification Program between 2005 and 2011. (1.98 million images/videos in 2005 to 17.3 million images/videos in 2011). [124]

# THE CHURCH

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A Barna Study revealed that: [125]

- 68% of church-going men view porn on a regular basis.
- Of young Christian adults 18-24 years old, 76% actively search for porn.
- Most pastors (57%) and youth pastors (64%) admit they have struggled with porn, either currently or in the past.
- 21 percent of youth pastors and 14 percent of pastors admit they currently struggle with using porn.
- More than 1 in 10 youth pastors (12%) and 1 in 20 pastors (5%) said they're addicted.

A survey reported 50% of all Christian men and 20% of all Christian women are addicted to pornography. [126]

93% of pastors see porn as an increasing problem in the church, but only 7% have any plan to deal with it. [127]



# ABOUT TREASURES

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## WHO WE ARE


We are a survivor-led, trauma-informed outreach and support group for women in the sex industry, including victims of trafficking.



## GET TRAINED

We believe that you have what it takes to make a difference in the lives of women who have been affected by sexual exploitation and trafficking.

We want to empower and equip you to reach and care for them effectively! No need to reinvent the wheel; we will share almost two decades of hard-learned lessons and resources with you!



Whether you want to start an outreach in your city or to become more equipped as an ally or service provider, check out our trainings!

## GET SUPPORT

If you have been involved in the Commercial Sex Industry, we are here for you! They can visit the "Industry Girls Only" section of our website for a FREE care package and more info about our support groups, mentoring and other resources!



  
**TREASURES**  
WWW.IAMATREASURE.COM

**@TREASURES.LA**





# MAKE A DIFFERENCE

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## 1 END DEMAND

Refuse to participate in the demand. Get help if you need it.

## 2 PRAY

Refuse to participate in the demand. Get help if you need it. Click [HERE](#) to join our prayer team.

## 3 SUPPORT

Support the vulnerable and exploited by giving of your time, talent or treasure. Click [HERE](#) to get involved.

## 4 GIVE RESTITUTIONALLY

If you have participated in the demand, you can redirect those funds to support women in their recovery from exploitation and trafficking through our restitution fund.

**GIVE NOW**

# RESOURCES

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INDUSTRY/EX-INDUSTRY GIRLS

SEX AND PORN ADDICTION

SPOUSES

PARENTS WITH TEENS

HELP FOR CHILDREN

National Center for Missing &  
Exploited Children  
Internet Crimes Against Children

KEEPING YOUNG CHILDREN SAFE

KidsSmartz  
KidsWatch  
Families Managing Media

Software

Qustodio  
Norton Family Premier  
ESET Parental Control for Android

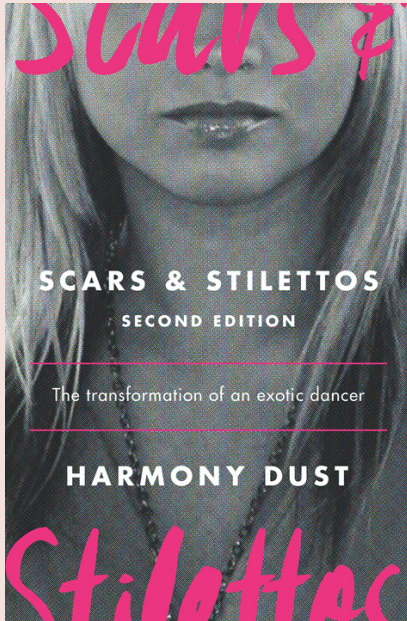
Clickable  
Links



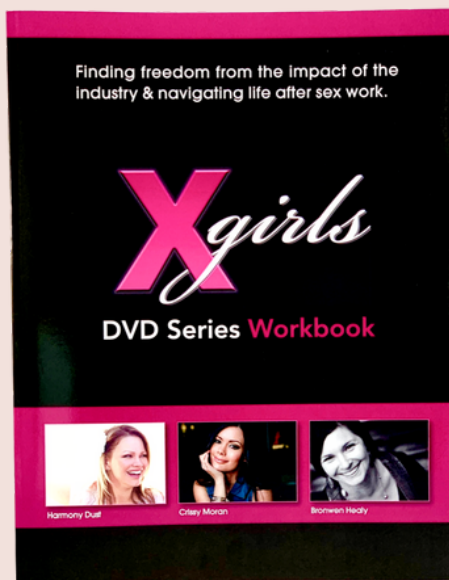


# RESOURCES

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At thirteen, after being abandoned by her mother one summer and left to take care of her younger brother, Harmony becomes susceptible to a relationship that turns out to be toxic, abusive and ultimately exploitative. She eventually finds herself working in a strip club at the age of nineteen, and her boyfriend becomes her pimp, controlling her every move and taking all of her money. Ultimately, she discovers a path to freedom and a whole new life.



If you have been involved in the commercial sex industry or are an ally, mentor or loved one to someone who has, we made the X Girls video series and workbook for YOU! With this Workbook and DVD Kit, you'll be able to guide participants through a series of topics based on a survey from hundreds of fellow survivors to find common threads that each of us have had to deal with, navigate and unpack after having been involved in the commercial sex industry.

**ORDER NOW**

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