

**Mapping the Market for Sex with Trafficked Juveniles in Minneapolis: Select Findings on Juveniles**

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**Basic Assumptions**

1. The commercial sex trade is an industry.
2. As such, it is subject to market forces.
3. Sex trafficking operations must respond to those market forces to generate a profit
4. Like other markets, the market for sex with juveniles responds to the priorities and purchasing power of specific market segments (categories of "customers")

**Research focus:**

**The overall market for sex with juveniles**

- Who is involved? What are their key characteristics?
- Where does juvenile sex trafficking happen?
- What are the structures and processes used by juvenile sex trafficking operations?

**Interviews with 1<sup>st</sup> hand adults**



**Law Enforcement Case Files 2008-Oct. 2014**

1. Minneapolis Police Department (N=86)
2. Hennepin County court cases (N=39)

**Media Coverage 2007-2014**

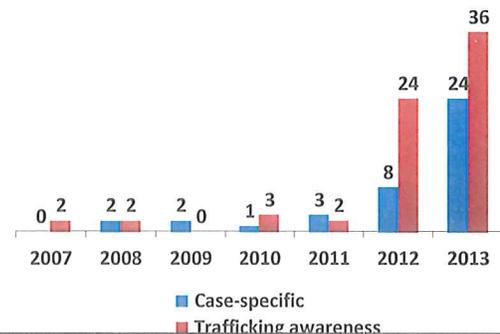
1. Juvenile sex trafficking case stories (N=69)
2. Stories on the overall issue (N=40)

**Analysis**

- Triangulate 4 different data sources (law enforcement, court, interviews, media)
- Code for themes within and across sources
- Look for patterns within and across those themes

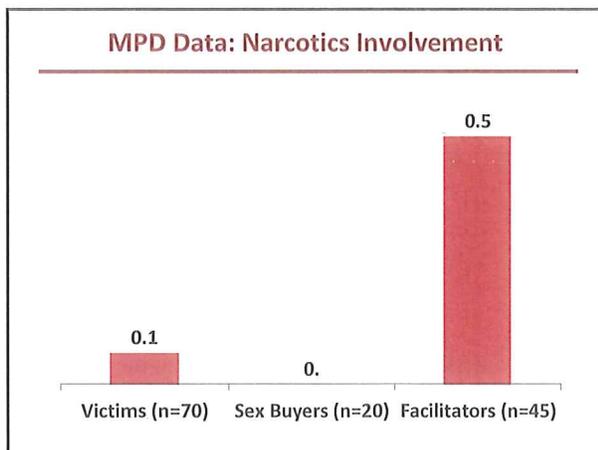
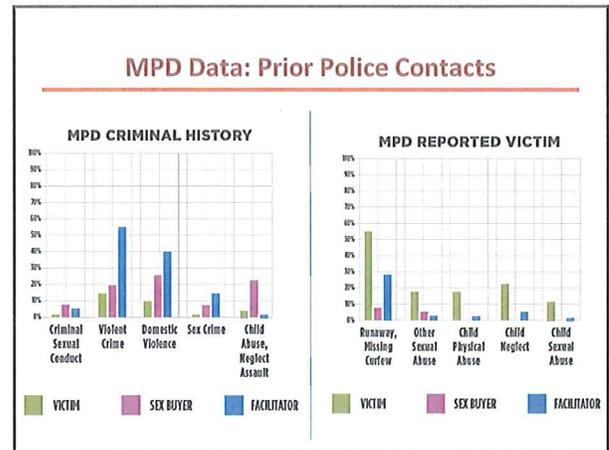
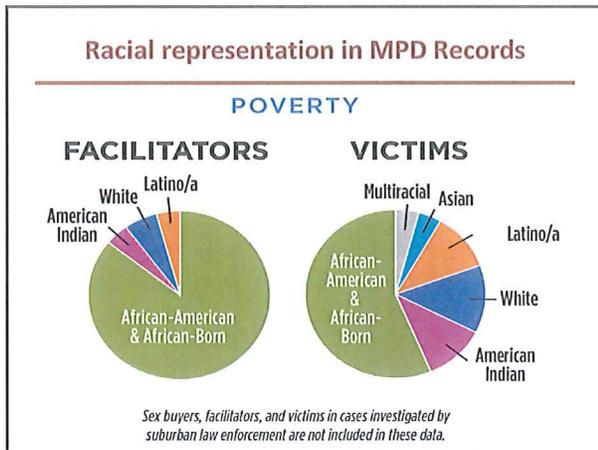
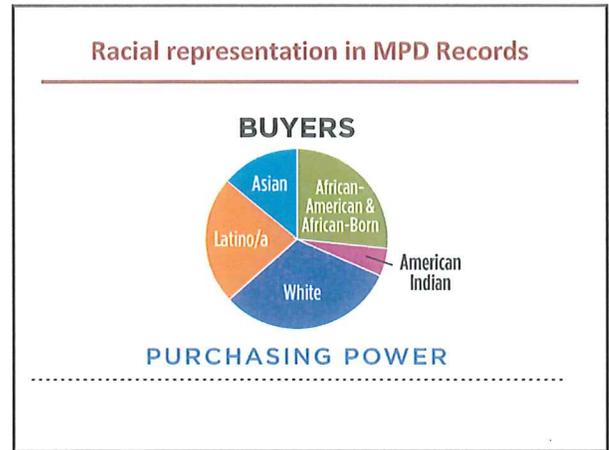
Important to understand:  
This was NOT a prevalence study

**Media Stories in the Twin Cities, 2007-2013**

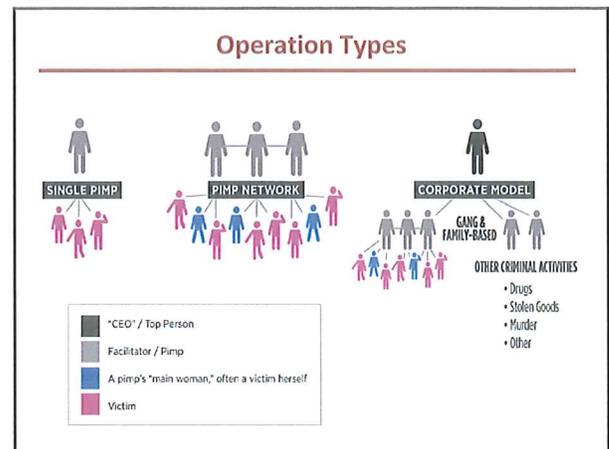


### Ages of people involved in MPD Records

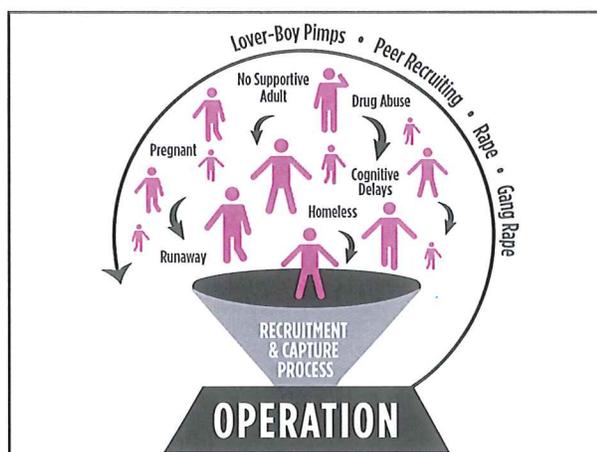
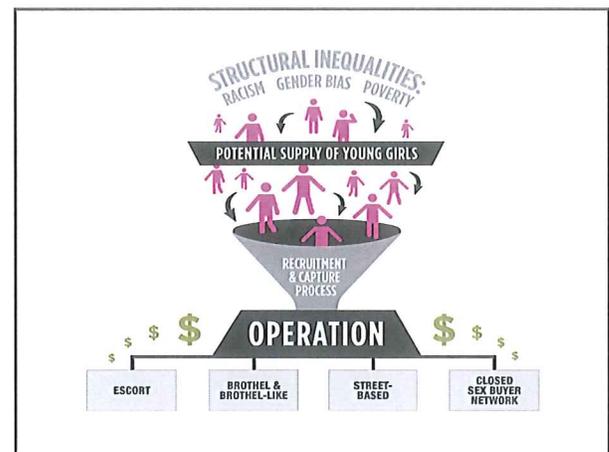
Role in the market	Age range	Average age
Facilitators (n=49) <i>(i.e. Pimps/associates)</i>	17-55	31
Victims (n=73)	4-17	15
Sex buyers (n=23)	23-65	42



- ### Mapping of residential locations
- Sex buyers came to Minneapolis from all over the state, engaged in sex with trafficked girls there
  - Facilitators (pimps and their associates) lived in the same neighborhoods as their victims
  - The neighborhoods where facilitators and victims lived are characterized by high levels of poverty



- ### Business Models in Juvenile Trafficking
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- Escort (in-call, out-call, mostly Internet-based)
  - Street-based
  - Brothel/brothel-like (fixed location, choice of women/girls)
  - Closed sex buyers' network (parties, events, gatherings)



- ### Accessing the "supply"
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- Highly strategic targeting of vulnerabilities
- "Loverboy" pimping (offering love, glamour, self-sufficiency)
  - Trap houses, "train" parties – pre-arranged rape and sexual assault (brothel-like)
  - Bait and switch (adolescent girls offered \$ to "model" or "just dance" at hotel parties, then forced/coerced to prostitute)
  - Peer recruitment

### Turning “raw materials” into “products”

- Promoting an emotional bond to the pimp
- Psychological manipulation to increase self-doubt, uncertainty, dependency
- Strategic, calculated, and brutal violence arbitrarily alternated with kindness and special treatment
- Using children and loved ones as leverage
- Keeping the victim in a constant state of fear and uncertainty

### The importance of social forces

Two main social forces feed market operations:

1. Social endorsement of men’s right to the kind of sexual “entertainment” they want, when they want it, without obligation when they pay for it (FEEDS DEMAND)
2. Social attitudes that sex is something that people can use to get money and other things that they want (FEEDS SUPPLY)
3. Poverty is the main driver that links the two.

### Formal and Informal Markets

- The overall market functions through systematic and strategic violence against girls.
- When we pull the lens back, we see that sex buyer preferences and priorities drive the market.
- The formal market draws on an informal market, in which environmental forces encourage youth to use sex to achieve goals, meet needs

### Things to consider

- A heavier focus on operational structures and their use of multiple business models
- New strategies to detect and investigate men’s closed sex buyer networks
- “Dating violence,” “domestic violence,” and “sexual assault” reports as possible sex trafficking
- Traffickers’ use of young men and women to access and recruit minor girls in their social circles
- The reciprocal relationship between trafficker innovation and sex buyer demand for new “adventures”

### Questions & comments?

Full report can be found at:  
[UROC.umn.edu/sextrafficking](http://UROC.umn.edu/sextrafficking)

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