



The Statewide Response to Human Trafficking in Minnesota

Caroline Palmer, JD, MPH March 13, 2024

Tribal-State Relations Acknowledgment

The state of Minnesota is home to 11 federally recognized Indian tribes with elected tribal government officials. The State of Minnesota acknowledges and supports the unique status of the Minnesota tribal nations and their absolute right to existence, self-governance, and self-determination. The United States and the State of Minnesota have a unique relationship with federally recognized Indian tribes, formed by the Constitution of the United States, treaties, statutes, case law, and agreements. The State of Minnesota and the Minnesota Tribal governments significantly benefit from working together, learning from one another, and partnering where possible.

This partnership, through a government-to-government relationship, with the eleven tribal nations of Minnesota has the potential to effectively address inequities and build trust that will lead to better outcomes for all of Minnesota.

- 2005: Anti-Trafficking Laws Passed
- 2006: Human Trafficking Task Force Established
- 2009: Increased Penalties for Sex Trafficking
- 2007-2011: Reports from Advocates for Human Rights, Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center, Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition informed the statewide response
- 2011-2014: Safe Harbor Law passed, No Wrong Door Model, Enactment, Public Health model
- 2016: Safe Harbor eligibility raised through age 24

NO WRONG DOOR REPORT

NO WRONG DOOR



A Comprehensive Approach
to Safe Harbor for Minnesota's
Sexually Exploited Youth

January 2013



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

No Wrong Door Values

- Training to identify sexual exploitation
- Youth who are sexually exploited are victims of crime
- Victims should not feel afraid, isolated or trapped
- Trauma-informed care
- Services that are responsive to the needs of individual youth

- Services are offered statewide
- Youth have a right to privacy and self-determination
- Positive youth development principles
- Sexual exploitation can be prevented

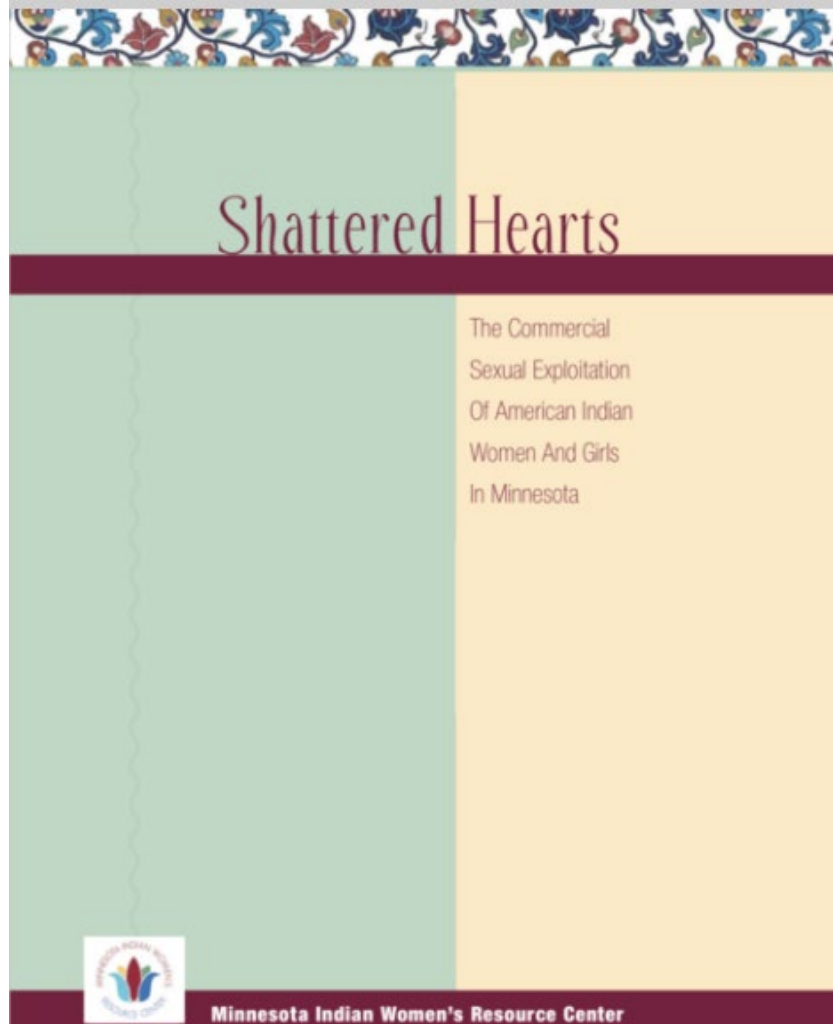
KEY REPORTS



Garden of Truth:
The Prostitution and Trafficking of Native Women in Minnesota


By
Melissa Farley
Nicole Matthews
Sarah Deer
Guadalupe Lopez
Christine Stark
Eileen Hudon

Research by
Minnesota Indian Women's
Sexual Assault Coalition
and
Prostitution Research
& Education



Shattered Hearts



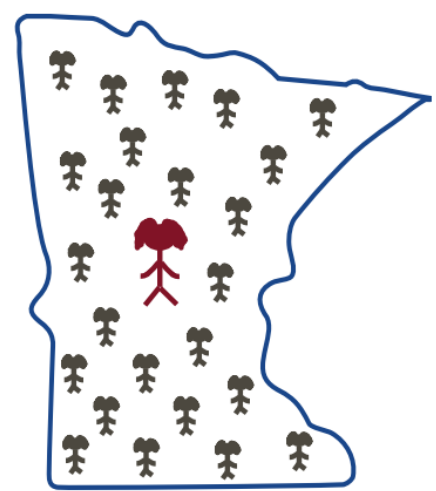
The Commercial
Sexual Exploitation
Of American Indian
Women And Girls
In Minnesota



Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center

**Early Intervention to Avoid Sex Trading and Trafficking of Minnesota's Female Youth:
A Benefit-Cost Analysis**

Executive Summary



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- Protocol guidelines for responding to sexually exploited youth (MNCASA and Ramsey County Attorney's Office)
- Protocol guidelines for responding to labor trafficking (The Advocates for Human Rights)
- Law enforcement protocol for responding to labor trafficking (Bureau of Criminal Apprehension)
- Local protocol teams
- Next protocol technical assistance provider TBD
- Evolving into overall Human Trafficking Prevention response

Safe Harbor and Human Trafficking Response History

- 2016-present:



- Federal funding (OVC in USDOJ)
- Labor trafficking grantees (+ state funding in 2023)
- Tribal grantees
- Safe Harbor for All
- Child welfare response
- Minnesota Student Survey question (2019 and 2022)
- MN AGO (expungement, conviction review unit, prosecution)
- Strategic Planning in 2024 and 2025
- Trainings (hotels, health care, and coming soon: substance use and human trafficking)
- Input to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Task Force and Partnership with Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Office, service on the Gaagige-Mikwendaagoziwag Reward Account Advisory Group

Safe Harbor Statewide Services



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

- Regional Navigators and Specialized Services
- OVC Expansion Grant: Labor Trafficking and Protocols & Tribal Partners
- Training & Technical Assistance
- Youth Outreach Materials
- Data and Evaluation Report
- Strategic Planning
- Identification Toolkit (MYTEI)
- Safe Harbor for All
- Trainings (Hotels, Health care, substance use, etc.)
- Minnesota Student Survey



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

- Specialized Housing/Shelter
- Youth Outreach
- Child Protection/Child Welfare
- Vulnerable Adult Protection
- Training & Technical Assistance
- 2024 – shift to new Department for Children and Families

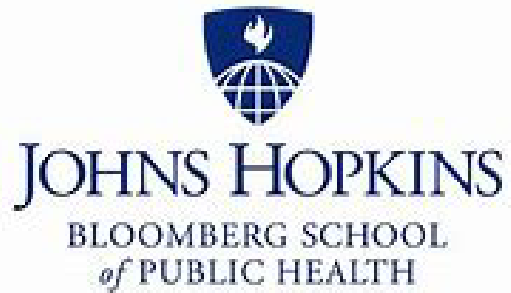


- Missing and Endangered Persons
- Internet Crimes Against Children
- Regional Task Forces
- Statewide Task Force run by the BCA: 24/7 reporting 651-793-7000
- Training/Consultation for Law Enforcement
- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Office
- Missing and Murdered Black Girls and Women Office



- Dedicated prosecutors on human trafficking
- Wage Theft investigations (in coordination with MN Department of Labor and Industry)
- Expungement of criminal records (helpsealmyrecord.com)
- Conviction Review Unit

Additional Partnerships



The Safe Harbor Response: Grantees (2023-24)

Human Trafficking/ Exploitation Prevention and Response

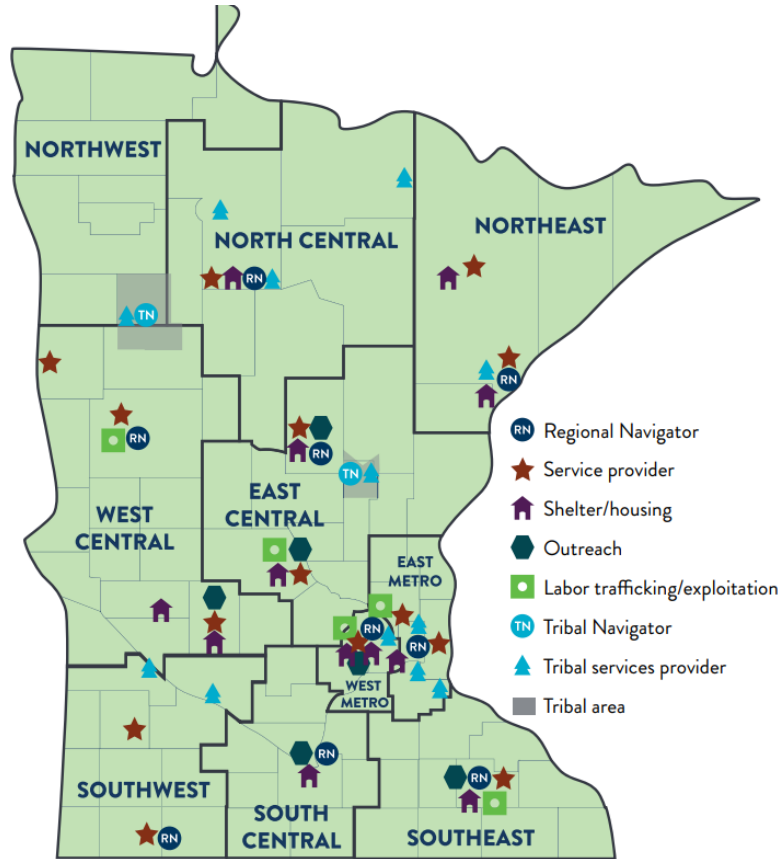
REGIONAL NAVIGATORS, HOUSING, SERVICES, AND OUTREACH PROVIDERS

The Minnesota Department of Health supports a statewide network of victim-centered, trauma-informed Safe Harbor and Labor Trafficking and Exploitation programs. Twelve Regional Navigators serve as points of contact in their communities and provide connections to services for youth. The Minnesota Department of Safety supports shelter and housing providers under Safe Harbor.

**Please note that the shelter and housing programs may take referrals from anywhere in the state.*

To find services statewide, call the Day One Crisis Hotline at 1-866-223-1111 or text: 612-399-9995

Chat/Website: dayoneservices.org



12 Regional Navigators (2 Tribal Navigators)

32 Supportive Services grantees

14 Shelter/Housing/Outreach grantees (DHS OEO)

6 Labor Trafficking direct services grantees (state and federal funds)

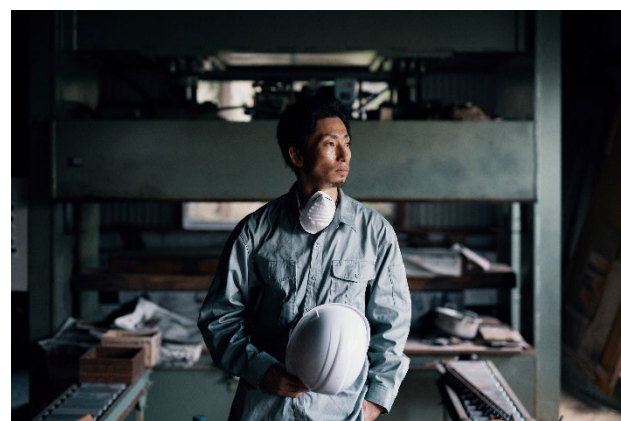
4 Native American serving organizations (Ain Dah Yung, Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center, American Indian Community Development Center, Northwest Indian Community Development Center) (state and/or federal funds)

9 Tribal Nations (state and federal funds)

Note – some agencies have grants in more than one category

Note re: new Labor Trafficking Services grants

- No age restriction on services
- Forced criminality





Minnesota Student Survey

Prevalence of Trading Sex among High School Students in the state of Minnesota

In 2022, the Minnesota Student Survey asked this question for 9th and 11th graders:

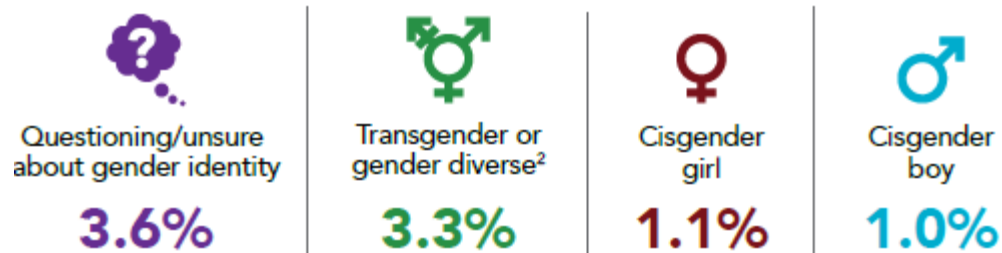
- MDH developed this question
- Estimates at least 4,600 youth have been sexually exploited in the state



Note: 52,428 students answered the question about sex trading; 70% of public school districts participated

GENDER

Students of all gender identities reported trading sex. For example, among students who are transgender or gender diverse, 3.3% reported trading sex.



² Transgender is a term that describes individuals whose gender identity differs from social or cultural expectations of their birth-assigned sex. Cisgender is a term for those whose gender identity aligns with their birth-assigned sex.



LGBTQ+2S

8.9%

Native+ students who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans, Queer and Questioning (LGBTQ+) and/or 2-Spirit (2-S)³ report rates far exceeding rates of other youth.

³ "Two-Spirit" or "2-Spirit" refers to a person of a culturally and spiritually distinct gender exclusively recognized by Native American Nations. See our 2022 Native+ infographic brief – <https://hdl.handle.net/11299/254163>

RACE & ETHNICITY

Students from many different backgrounds reported trading sex.

Percentage of youth who answered "yes" within each category.

Native+ ⁵	4.3%
Asian, South Asian, or Asian American	0.5%
Black, African, or African American	1.2%
Hispanic or Latino/Latina	1.2%
Middle Eastern or North African	2.5%
White	1.1%
Multiple Races	1.8%

⁵ This category includes all students identifying as American Indian or Alaskan Native (AIAN) only or AIAN plus additional races/ethnicities or Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (NHPI) or NHPI plus another race/ethnicity.

The MYST Project

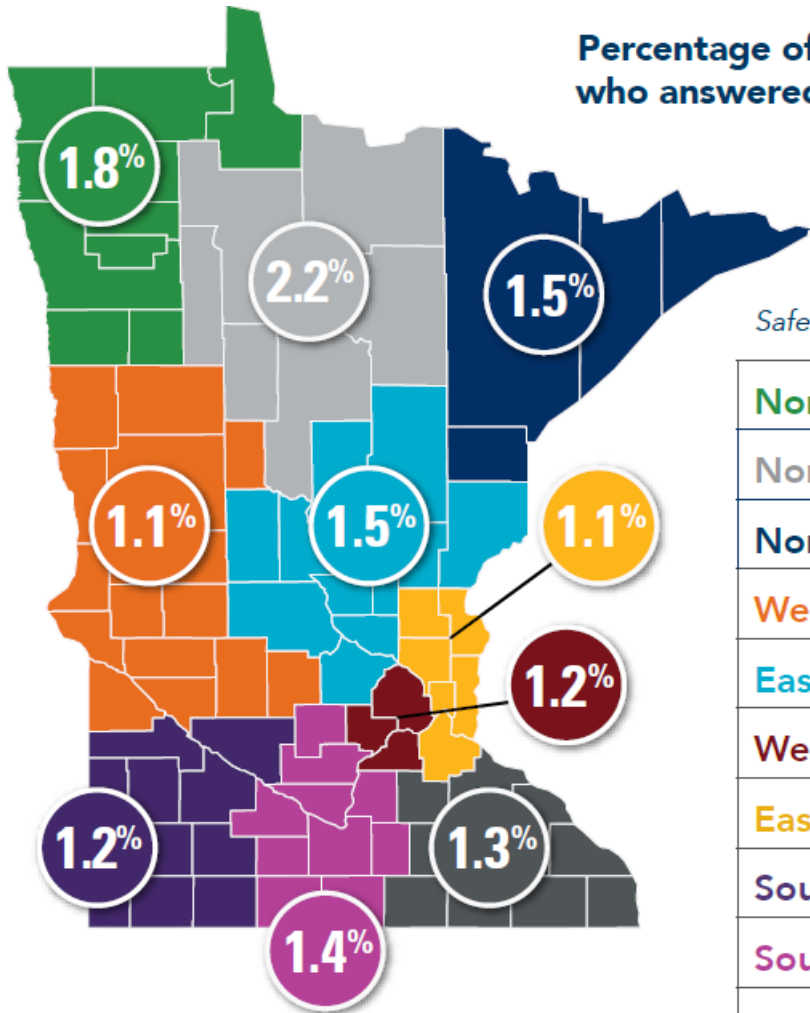


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The Minnesota Youth Sex Trading Project

Percentage of high school students who answered "yes" to trading sex







Safe Harbor Region Answered "yes"

Safe Harbor Region	Answered "yes"
Northwest	1.8%
North Central	2.2%
Northeast	1.5%
West Central	1.1%
East Central	1.5%
West Metro	1.2%
East Metro	1.1%
Southwest	1.2%
South Central	1.4%
Southeast	1.3%

PLANS FOR AFTER SCHOOL

Like all young people, those impacted by trading sex have hopes and dreams for their future. Among those who said "yes" to trading sex, here is what they want to do after graduation:

-  **Higher education – 56%**
-  **Work or career training – 24%**
-  **Join the military – 5%**
-  **Other – 15%**

The MYST Project



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