



Human Trafficking – What to know!

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Objectives

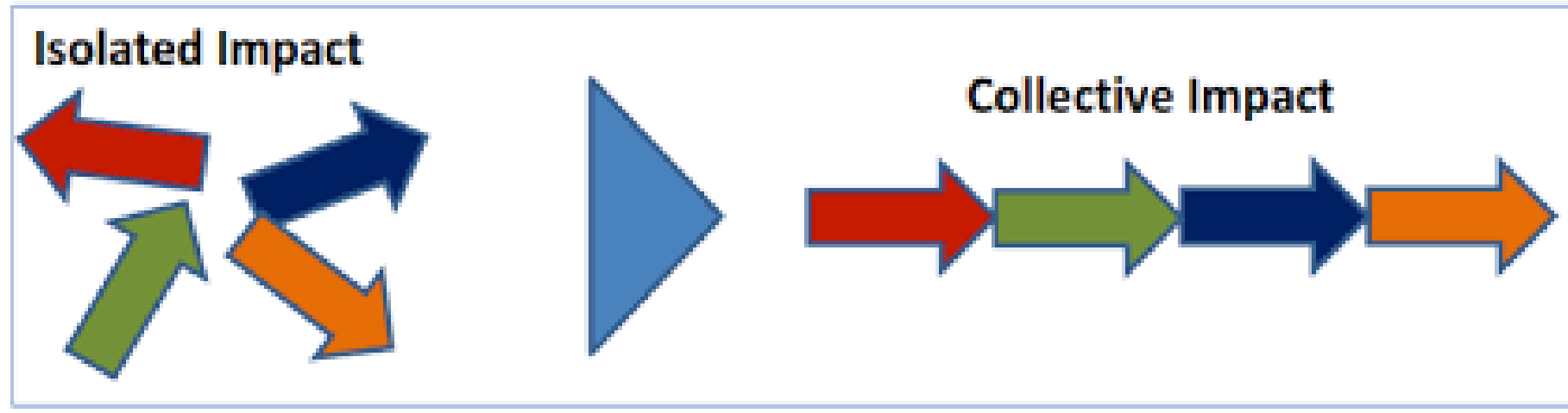
- ✓ Gain key knowledge on human trafficking of minors
- ✓ Understand factors of commercial sex exploitation of children
- ✓ Learn about trafficking cases – Lehigh Valley based
- ✓ Understand the “demand-market perspective” of human trafficking
- ✓ Become an informed and active voice against human trafficking

Who is VAST?

- Valley Against Sex Trafficking
- A community of advocates – like YOU!

Mission: Through collaboration, education, and advocacy, VAST empowers survivors and encourages the community to take action in the anti-trafficking movement

Cooperation, Coordination... Collaboration



5 Pillars: Shared Agenda, Common Measures, Mutual Activity, Continuous Communication, Structural Support

Stanford Social Innovation Review: Kramer & Kania, 2011
<http://www.fsg.org/ideas-in-action/collective-impact>

Overview of Workshop

1. Quick introductions
2. Exploration of terminology
3. Review of Laws & Impact

Human Trafficking Definitions

What is Human Trafficking?

The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of a person, by means of the threat or use of force, fraud coercion, or deception for the purpose of exploitation.

- Trafficking Victims Protection Act (Federal Law)

*Force, fraud and coercion are not required for minors under the age of 18 induced into commercial sex acts

The AMP Model

HOW TRAFFICKING BREAKS DOWN.



ACTION

- RECRUITS
- TRANSPORTS
- PROVIDES
- OBTAINS/ATTEMPTS



MEANS

- FORCE
- FRAUD
- COERCION



PURPOSE

- COMMERICAL SEX ACTS
- LABOR SERVICES

* Force, fraud and coercion are not required for minors under the age of 18 induced into commercial sex acts

What is Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking?

According to Public Law-110-457, domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) is defined as “the commercial sexual exploitation of US and legal alien children, under the age of 18 years of age, within US borders”

-Jordan, Patel, & Rapp, 2013, p. 359

Experts estimate at least 100,000 American juveniles are victimized through prostitution in America each year. DMST includes but is not limited to the commercial sexual exploitation of children through prostitution, pornography, and/or stripping.

-Shared Hope, 2009

Commercial Sex Exploitation

Terminology:

Commercial – refers to industry, trade, money

Sex – any sex act

Exploitation – the use of power, authority or privilege to induce an activity or behavior; akin to force, fraud, or coercion.

Survival Sex

“Girls Like Us” – Rachel Lloyd

What is the difference?

Commercial Sex



Exploitation

- Power
- Authority
- Privilege

Trafficking

- Force
- Fraud
- Coercion

Language Advocacy

Teen Prostitute

Victim of Human Trafficking

Exploited Person

Human Trafficking Laws & Impact

Human Trafficking Laws

1. United Nations – Article 9.5 in the **Palermo Protocol**
 - “to discourage the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons”
2. **Trafficking Victims Protection Act** (Federal)
 - as an amendment to the Violence Against Women Act
3. **Act 105** (Pennsylvania)
 - increases punishments for traffickers
4. **Safe Harbor** (NOT passed yet)
5. **Prostitution Crimes Code** (Pennsylvania)
6. **SESTA** (Federal)

Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act (SESTA)

ckpage



backpage.com and affiliated websites have been seized

as part of an enforcement action by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division, with analytical assistance from the Joint Regional Intelligence Center.

Other agencies participating in and supporting the enforcement action include the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, the U.S. Department of Justice's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California, the office of the California Attorney General, and the office of the Texas Attorney General.

Additional information will be provided at around 6:00 pm EST on Friday, April 6, by the U.S. Department of Justice, and all media inquiries should be directed to the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Public Affairs at 202-514-2007 and press@usdoj.gov.

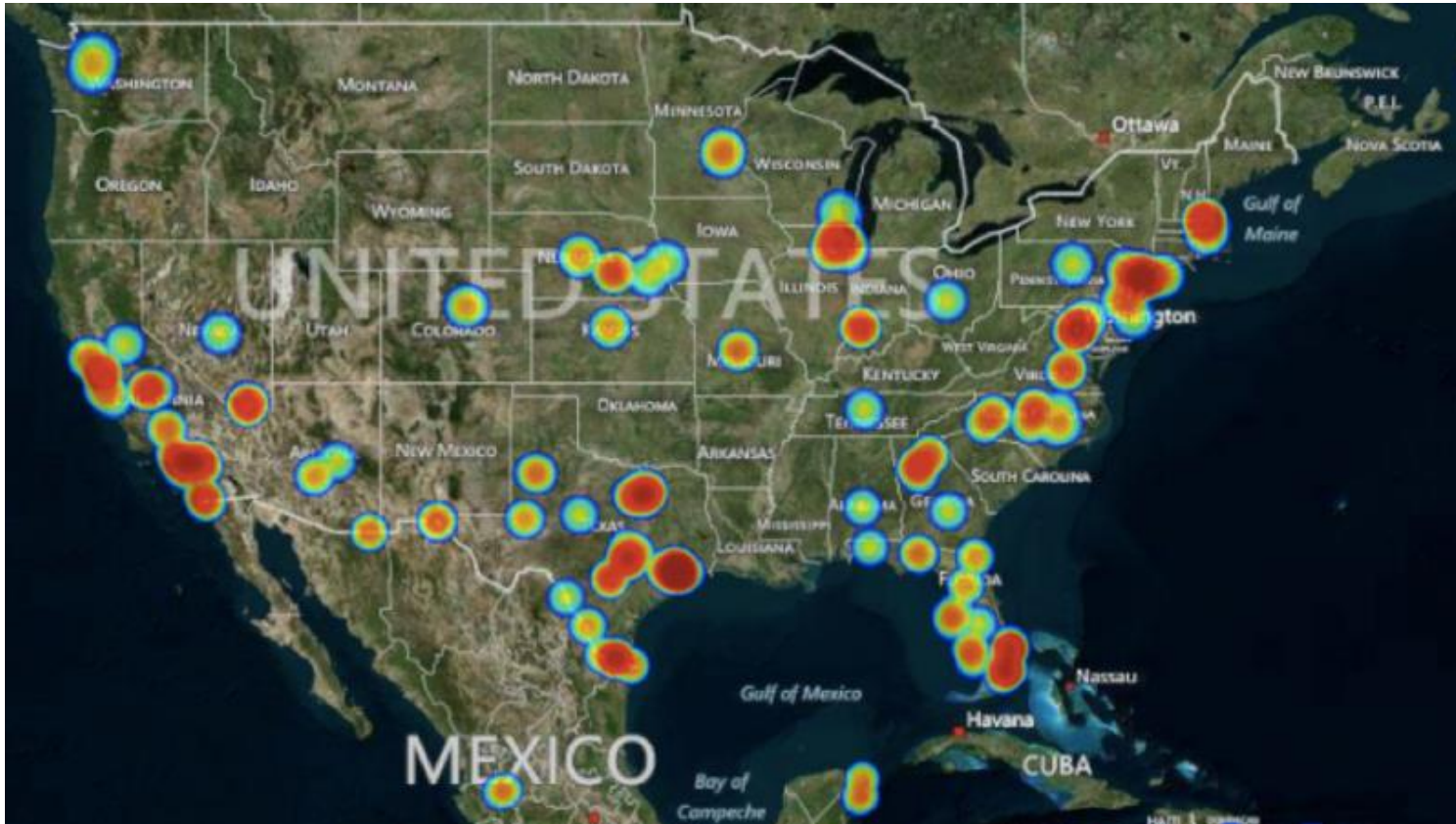
April 6, 2018

Worcester Harrisburg

Impact of Human Trafficking

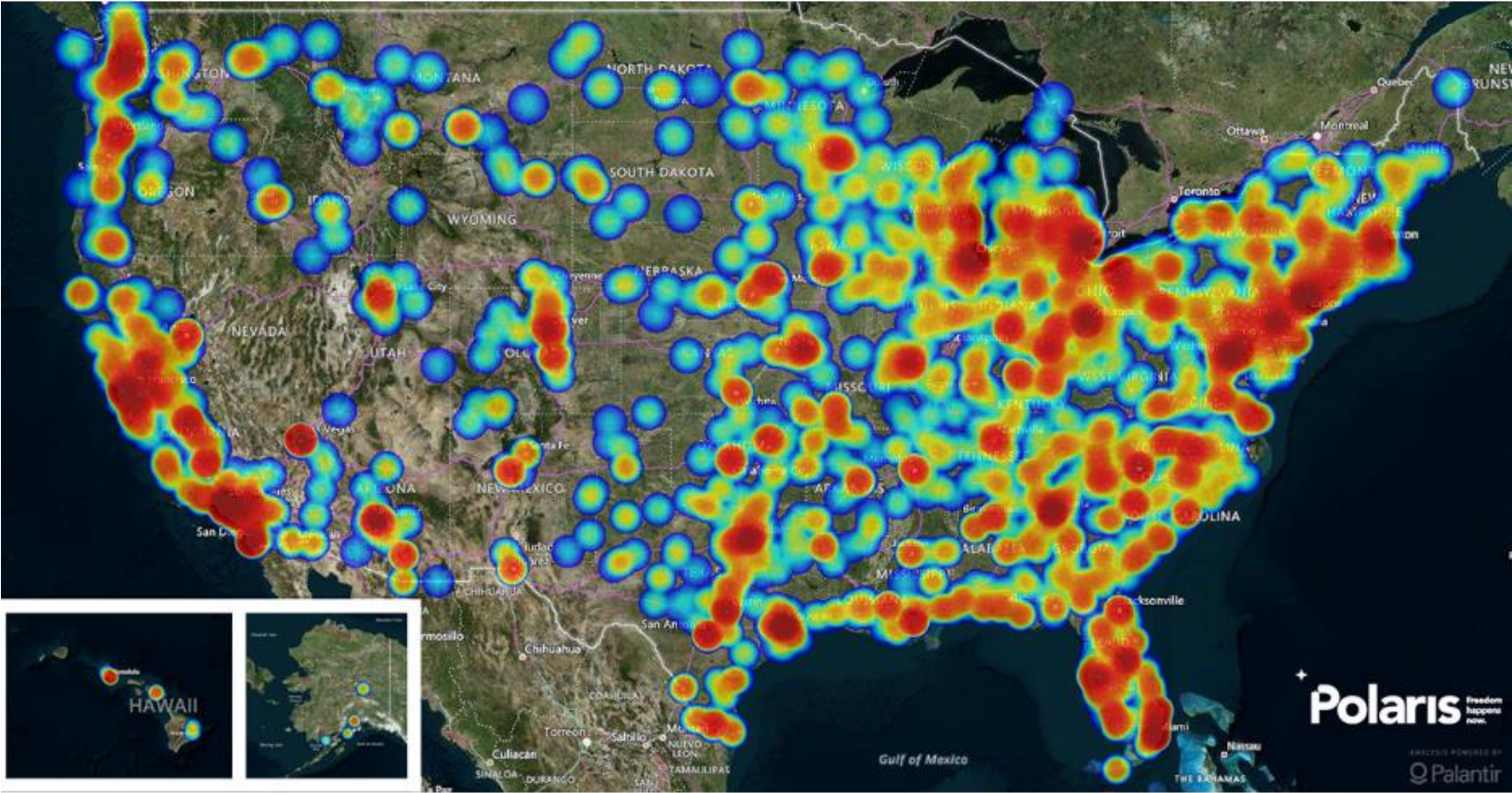
- Fastest growing criminal industry worldwide
- Second largest criminal industry in the world
- 80% of trafficking victims are women and girls
- 50% of trafficking victims are minors (underage)
- 40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ

In the United States - 2016



Polaris Project, 2016

In the United States - 2017



Polaris Project, 2017

Regional Trafficking Flows



Polaris Project, 2016



Indicators & Factors

Lehigh Valley Cases

- Vincent George Jr & Sr, 2012
- Daniel Blount and Deshawn King, 2014
- Isaac Pearson, 2015
- Cordero Cody, 2016



Trafficking Sites

COMMUNITY:

- Street work
- Prostitution/pimps
- Dancers
- Massage Parlors
- Pornography
- Spas
- Trucks stops
- Hotels

INTERNET:

- Backpage.com
- Facebook
- Instagram
- WhatsApp
- Kik
- Tindr
- OK Cupid
- Craig's List

85% of prostitution is pimp controlled

“The United States seems unwilling to recognize that the vast majority of victims of sex trafficking are not foreigners, but girls from next door.
- Julian Sher in *Somebody's Daughter*

Recruitment Tactics

- Seduction and romance
- False job adventures
- Lies about educational or travel opportunities
- Abduction
- Sale by family
- Recruitment through former slaves

Youth Indicators

- ❖ Variable school attendance
- ❖ Traveling to cities/familiarity with transportation from city to city
- ❖ Delinquency
- ❖ Tattooing
- ❖ Excessive & expensive possessions (clothing, shoes, handbag)

2012 Case

- Vincent C. George, Jr. and Sr., father and son, arrested for multi-million dollar sex trafficking ring
- Both men faced possible sentences of 25 years for several counts of sex trafficking
- Neither men were found guilty based on testimonies from prostitutes stating that the men made them feel like family
- The women testifying said they were treated to nice cars, vacations in Florida and affection from their pimps. Some lived together as “family” in a house in Allentown, about 90 miles from New York, and drove in to the city at night to turn tricks for \$300 a night.



2014 Case

Two Admit Role in Allentown Prostitution Ring

The Morning Call, January 13, 2014

Daniel Blount, 31, and Deshawn King, 34, assaulted and raped the women when they tried to leave, kept most of the money the women earned performing sex acts, and withheld drugs to control the women.

“The defendants in this case preyed on vulnerable women, dehumanized them, threatened and abused them, and sold them for profit”, U.S. Attorney Zane David Memeger said in a news release. “These defendants made a living through a horrific form of modern day slavery”.

Vulnerable Youth

Berks part of US crackdown on underage sex trafficking

FBI: 84 minors recovered; 120 traffickers arrested

Lehigh Valley man sentenced for child porn was turned in by his mother

'Furry' party sex trafficker agrees to 30-year sentence 5 charged in 'Furries' child predator sex ring

Man sentenced to 5-10 years in prison in Allentown child abuse case

2 Men Arrested On Charges Of Child Pornography, Sex Trafficking, Sexual Assault

Vulnerability Factors

- Foster system
- Homelessness and “runaway” lifestyle
- Couch surfing (type of homelessness)
- Youth in group home living situations
- Childhood sexual abuse: 90% of trafficking victims have a history
- Poverty – the illusion of breaking the glass ceiling & inability to meet basic needs
- Dope-sickness
- Single motherhood
- Trauma or mental health instability
- Developmental stage/age
- Unstable home environment
- Misidentification
- Glamorization of prostitution

Vulnerable Youth: Strip Club Pipeline

Allentown Case Example:

The Platinum Plus investigation began when the Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement got an anonymous complaint about possible prostitution.

- Champagne room \$300
- Champagne room = lap dances on a couch in a cubicle
- Uncorked bottle = menu of sex acts
- 11 women arrested: 4 of them 18/19 years old

Locations:

- Bethlehem
- Easton
- Lehighton



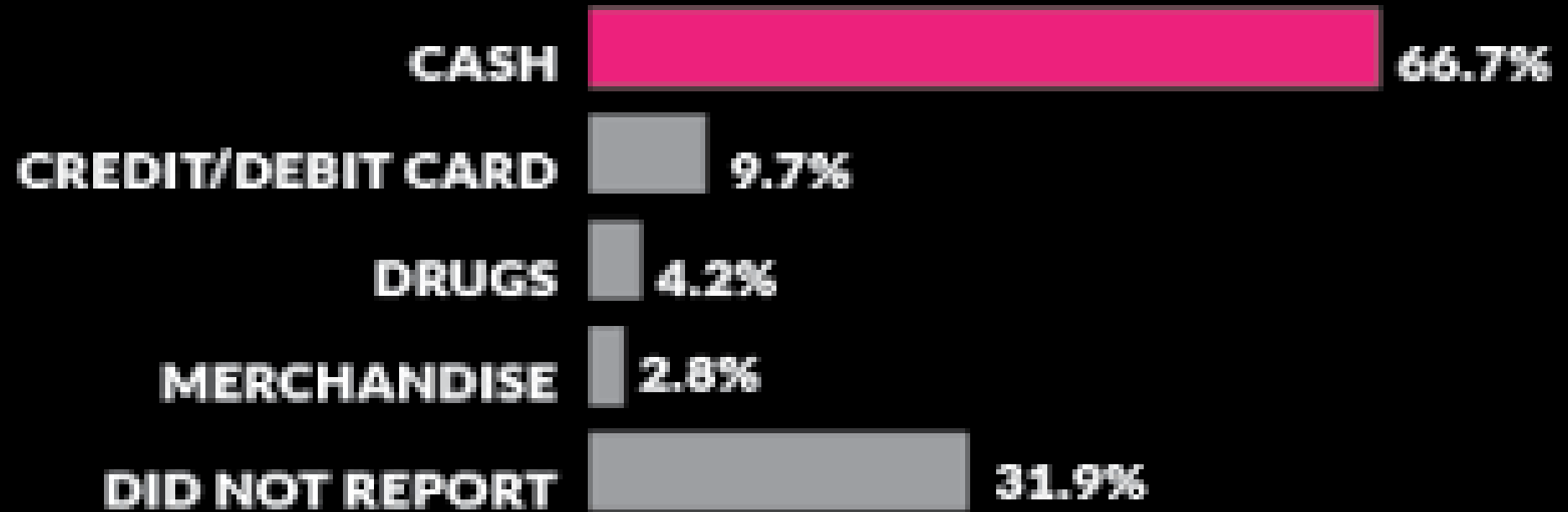
2017 Case

“Female residents also were pressured into sex acts with Edmonds in exchange for heroin, including an encounter with a 16-year-old girl that was recorded on Edmonds' cell phone, police say.”



Cash or Credit?

Pimps operate mostly in cash, but some accept other forms of payment for sex.



URBAN INSTITUTE

Commercial Sex Market – “The Demand”

Basics of Demand

Supply and demand is made up of 3 basic parts, often referred to as the triangle

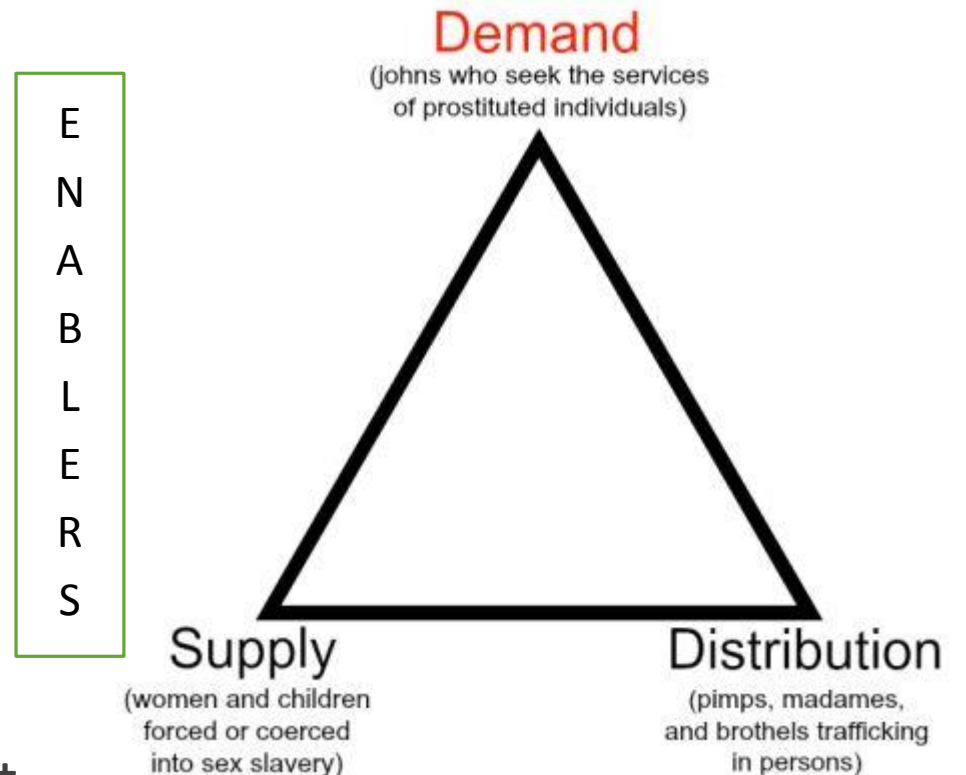
- **Demand:** Individuals buying sex
- **Supply:** Bodies are commodities/raw goods
- **Distribution:** Traffickers

ENABLERS

- Sex Trade – Commercial Sex Industry
- Pornography
- Pop Culture
- Platforms & Advertisers

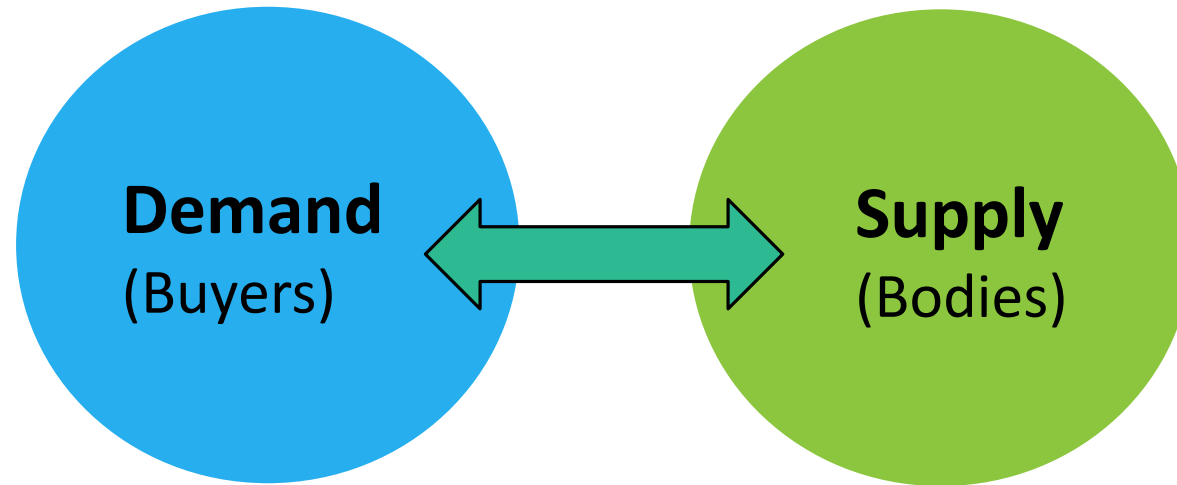
Major vehicle in trafficking economy is the internet

- 76% of victims are recruited and groomed online



Social-Sex Economics

Men who buy sex do not value women*



Supply: Raw Goods, Materials, Commodity

The Law of Demand

“the higher the price of a good, the less people will demand that good”

Supply – Victims' Social Vulnerability

- Foster youth
- "Runaway" youth
- Youth in group home living situations
- 90% of victims have a history of childhood sexual abuse
- Poverty & glamorization of prostitution – the illusion of breaking the glass ceiling
- Dope-sick victims
- Single mothers

Demand – Buyers' Social Context

47% of prostitutes in one study said they had been harmed by men who tried to force their victims to do things the men **had seen in porn**

--Melissa Farley (2009)

“Men who buy sex: Who they buy and what they know”

16% of men in the U.S. have paid for sex

49.2% of sex buyers in one sample had never discussed their buying of sex with anyone else

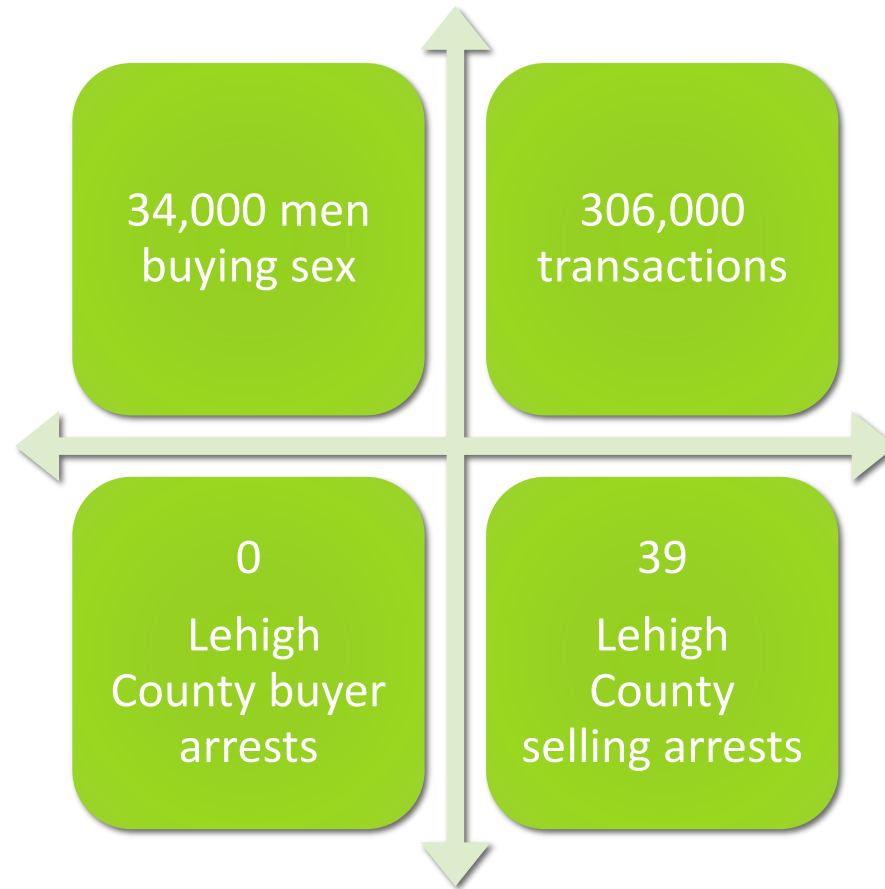
--(Demand Abolition.org)

Demand Economy

- ❑ 1 out of 7 men
- ❑ 743,000 PA who purchase sex or continue to purchase sex
- ❑ 18-23 first experience buying
- ❑ 75% Occasionalists, less than 3x a year
- ❑ 20% Regulars, upwards of 15x a year
- ❑ 5% Habituals, 75+ transactions a year

County or Region's Adult Male Population X .14 = best estimate of annual sex buyers

Demand in the Lehigh Valley



Demand in the State



Wrap-Up & Keys

Underlying Issues

- Sexualized culture & objectification
- Myths about prostitution & normalization
- Booming pornography industry

“There isn’t always a sex trafficker, but there is always a sex buyer”

– Autumn Burris, Founder, Survivors 4 Solutions

Trauma & Development in Youth

How to Respond!

Interactions:

- Be casual
- Isolate when possible
- Ask careful questions related to indicators
- Don't call/text without explicit permission
- Check YOUR choices!

Victim-Centered Approach:

- Reassurance of help
- Build trust & rapport
- Be conscious — *they are NOT criminals, but don't identify as victims*
- Relationship patience
- Advocacy for collaboration – unified!

Messages:

- We are here to help.
- Your safety is our first priority.
- You have a right to live without being abused.
- You have rights.
- Help is available.

Takeaways!

Advocacy

Mutual: The relationship between the client and the advocate is reciprocal, interdependent, joint, and equal; they exchange ideas and plans together, proceeding in an agreed-upon direction. Included in the term, *mutual*, is also the notion of *empowerment* that not only enables the clients to carry out an activity, but also motivates them and teaches them skills required to interact with the environment

Social Work Encyclopedia



Opportunities to Act

- **Connect with the closest coalition in your COUNTY!**
- **Join us on Facebook & Twitter: [VASTCoalition](#)**
- **Start raising awareness: [thevast.org](#) - [VAST Solutions](#) → [Awareness Social Media Activism](#)**
- **Put the [National Human Trafficking Hotline](#) in your phone!**
- **Inform yourself: [CSE Spring 2017 Report](#), found on [thevast.org](#)!**