

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND THE ALEXANDRIA AAUW INITIATIVE

July 27, 2019



“You can choose to do nothing, but you can never again say that you did not know” William Wilberforce, 1780

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The U.S. Government defines human trafficking as:

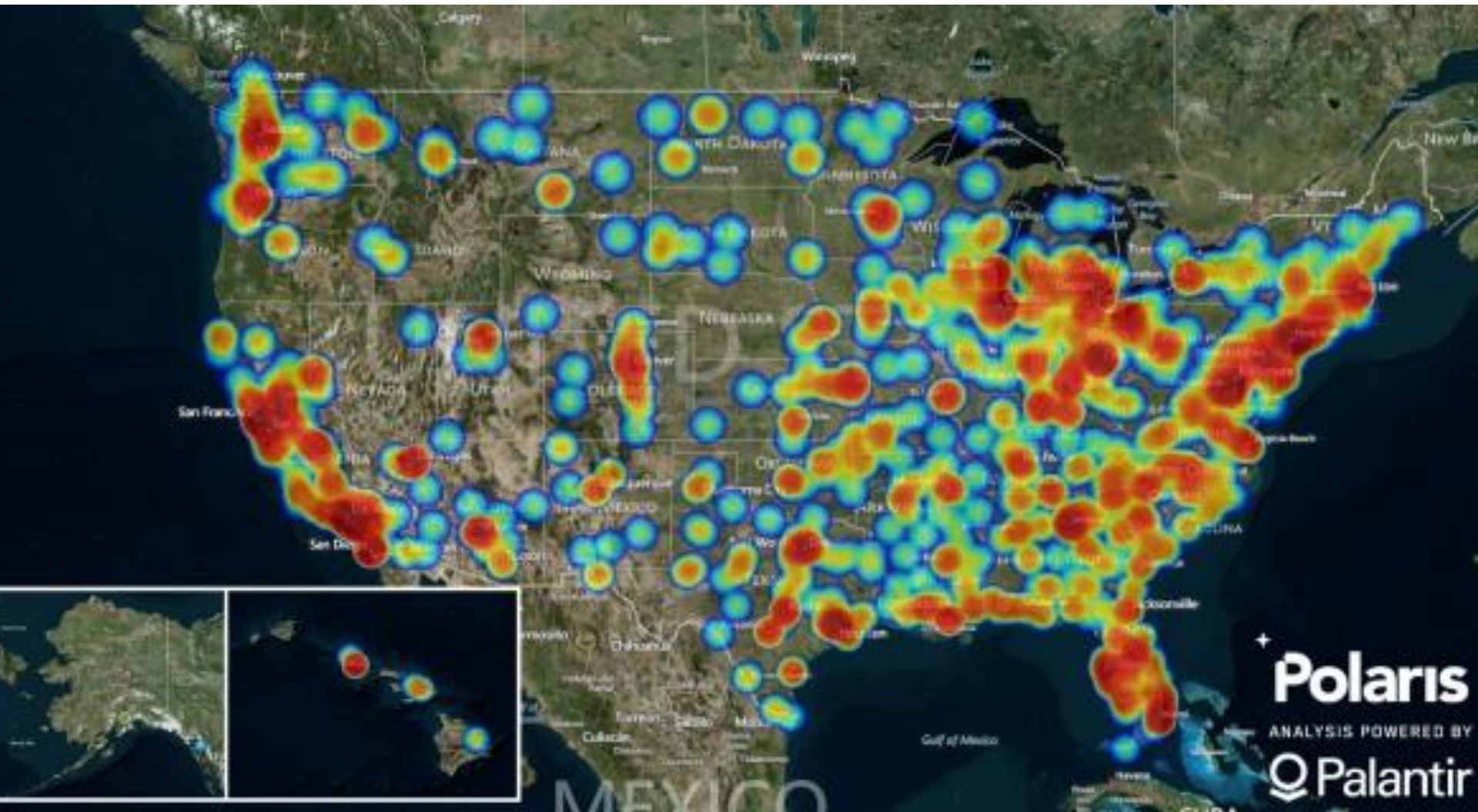
Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age.

The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

RAW STATISTICS

- 1.5 MILLION SLAVES IN THE U.S.
- VIRGINIA #15 STATE IN THE COUNTRY IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING CALLS TO THE HOTLINE.
- VIRGINIA #6 IN ACTIVE FEDERAL CASES
- MAJOR AREAS: 95 CORRIDOR, 81 CORRIDOR, NO. VIRGINIA, SOUTHERN BEACH AREAS, RICHMOND (#9 NATIONALLY)
- \$163 BILLION INDUSTRY
- OVERTAKING DRUGS AS THE NUMBER ONE ILLICIT ACTIVITY FOR PEOPLE ARE REUSABLE
- OVER 27 MILLION PEOPLE ARE SLAVES- UP TO 41 MILLION MORE THAN DURING THE AFRICAN HOLOCAUST (International Labor Org.)

WHERE IT OCCURS



TYPES OF TRAFFICKING

- SEXUAL- AGE/FAMILY SITUATION/FOSTER/RUNAWAYS /
SURVIVAL SEX
- GANGS
- CYBERSEXPLORATION
- LABOR – IMMIGRANT/FARMWORKERS
DOMESTIC- CHILDREN/ HOUSEKEEPERS
- INFANT
- ORGAN

TRAFFICKER PROFILES

- Single or multiple traffickers (multiple are often in networks)
- Organized crimes and gangs
- “Pimp” traffickers
- Family members: parents, intimate partners, etc.

Top Recruitment Tactics by Sex Traffickers

- Intimate Partner/Marriage Proposition
- Familial
- Posing as a Benefactor
- False Promises/Fraud
- Job Offer/ Debt Bondage
- Pimp Control, Commercial, Escort Services

SEX TRAFFICKING

Average age is 11-14. Oct. 18 article – 3 month old.

73% are 5th to 9th graders

Target locations are foster care, child welfare, malls, schools, parks, sports events, skate parks, libraries, middle school, high school

Original homes are sometimes locations where children are first abused by family, friend, or relative. May start as young as 5 or even younger

Youth lured, tricked, fraud, pseudo-loved.

Average life on the streets is 7 years.

VIEW OF PERPETRATORS/JOHNS

- Single study from Dec. '06 to June '07 – 113 men Average age 39. Age range 21-71
- 79% were college men
- 62% earned more than \$40,000 per year
- 46%-48% want something different sexually but wasn't comfortable asking spouse (whore-Madonna)
- 43% expected paid woman to totally fulfill desire
- 39% watched pornography and wanted to re-enacted.
- 29% had prostitute for 1st sex partner

LGBTQ VULNERABILITIES

- Marginalized, groups, isolated from family, bullied, fear of economic retribution
- Traffickers blackmail, beat, humiliate, lure, befriend
- High suicide rate

GANGS

Gang are 3+ people, who share name, sign, symbol, etc. engaged in criminal activity and act together. Desire respect and status. Women feel part of gang.

Many minders instead of one

24/7 If pimp arrested, must work for bond or sleep with bondsman (Money Bond Clique)

Queen/Bottom girl in control of training and organizing other girls

Sexual acts or beating

Tattoos or branding – symbol of gang, name of pimp, star, crown, knife, roses, goddess, Queen, Princess, diamond, \$, spider, often Gothic design

Many gangs in VA - hats, bandanas, socks (up and out), belts, hand signs, graffiti, artwork

Sex Trafficking increasing as people can be reused and drugs can't.

3 Types:

- Virginia based

- Out of State – Crips, MS-13, Bloods

- Hybrid- most violent for trying to prove itself
mix of Virginia and outside gangs

GROOMING

- Relate to child's need for friends and social/emotional ties.
- Process: (Pimp Games, 1998) Takes 2-3 weeks. Start with lovemaking. Slow Down. Add gifts (nails, makeup, etc.). Raw sex. Victim starts searching for approval and love. Spirit broken. Love/ hate relationship.
- Trauma bonds created – misery and fear, excitement, sexual feelings
- “Love” boyfriend, fear retaliation,
- Lacks of other resources, fear to go, shame, threats, sleep deprivation, drug alcohol addiction, physical/sexual abuse, debt bondage, fear of law enforcement.

GROOMING IN THE HOME

Video games – Minecraft, War of World, many others

Students must attain a degree of success to enter chat room

Think they are talking with friends so open and free

Photos exchanged. One case – man arrived in car after getting boy photo. Family ended up moving.

Boy photo sent to 116,00 viewers, 167,000 viewers, etc.

Another case : father rescues girl as she is getting into predator car

PEERS AND OTHER YOUTH

- Danger in Middle and High School
- Peer grooms student: friend, encourages small acting out, invites to go to party, house, mall with her to give support.
- Student has drink (drugged) or something else.
- Passes out and is raped. Filmed. Threatened to make public if student doesn't do what they want.

PORNOGRAPHY

ENCOURAGES:

Acceptance of violence towards individuals in sex

90-95% physically assaulted

85-95% of girls want to escape, but don't know how

68% suffer PTSD

89% of perps watch web pages

US world's largest producer of hardcore porn

25% pornography looked for on search engines – 68 million hits a day

116,000 hits per day on child person

15% of ages 12-17 purposely looked at x-rated pages

70% of ages 15-17 accidentally looked at something else.

Aged 15 or less

- 86% of pornography content created on webcam
- 90% 3rd party video and images
- 32% of kids intentionally watch.
- 43% of those watch weekly
- 12% parents know about access
- 88% of 12-14 year-olds have access to pornography
- 93% of all boys and 62% of all girls see pornography before age 18.

TOP 5 Risk Factors

1. Recent Migration/Relocation
2. Substance Use Concern
3. Runaway/Homeless Youth
4. Mental Health Concern
5. Unstable Housing

TOP 5 Methods of Force, Fraud, Coercion

- 1. Emotional Abuse
- 2. Economic Abuse includes Recruitment or Debt Bondage
- 3. Isolation - Including Confinement
- 4. Threats
- 5. Physical Abuse

WHY VICTIMS STAY

- Branded, intimidated
- No place to go – foster child (60%), runaway from home, trafficked by relative or family friend, no housing
- Raped
- Beaten, assaulted, threatened with weapons, tortured
- Criminalization, ID
- Drug and alcohol addicted dependency, health, brain trauma
- Isolated, economic abuse, feels love, domestic servitude, no jobs
- Fear, shame, self-blame, hopelessness, no support structure
- Fraud, debt bonded
- As young as 4 – flattered, unaware of different lives

Where It Occurs

SEX	68.96% of Victims
Online Ad - Backstage	9.07%
Hotel/Motel Based	7.97%
Commercial Front Brothel	6.87%
LABOR	18.41% of Victims
Traveling Sales Crews	3.30%
Agriculture/Farms	3.30%
Domestic Work	2.47%

CYBER TRAFFICKING

EXAMPLE From the basement of his mother's house, 26-year-old Lucas Michael Chansler sexually extorted and terrorized hundreds of teenage girls from all across the country.

Of the nearly 109 victims identified in his collection of explicit photos, two young girls were found in the San Antonio area. A new campaign launched by the FBI aims to raise awareness of " sextortion " and to encourage the more than 250 victims still living in fear.

Chansler pleaded guilty last at a court in Jacksonville , Florida to multiple counts of child pornography production and was sentenced to 105 years in prison. Prosecutors said that for more than 3 years he victimized about 350 teenage girls using fake social media accounts to lure and convince them to send him explicit photos of themselves.

Ashley Reynolds was a 14-year-old girl who loved sports and whose parents occasionally monitored her online activity. In 2009 she received a message from Chansler , telling her he had naked pictures of her and threatened to post them on her social media page if he did not provide him with more.

“This could never happen to me,” Ashly told FBI agents during a video interview. “I’m normal. But little did I know that I ended up getting terrorized, is the only way I can think, of it by this guy.”

FBI agent Michelle Lee said they have seen an increase in sextortion cases recently in the San Antonio sector, which includes the Rio Grande Valley .

“Just in the Rio Grande Valley , the number of child pornography cases appears to be on the increase,” Lee said.

Cases involving child pornography are not uncommon. Ruben James Rios, 29, of San Juan was arrested after Homeland Security Investigations agents seized multiple computers and media storage devices from his home in the 900 block of Washington Palm Avenue.

.

Jesus Lopez, of Mission, was arrested after FBI agents along with local task force officers executed warrants at a home in the 2900 block of Copper Avenue, where he admitted to downloading child pornography.

Investigators found Lopez sharing files through an online peer-to-peer network using the user name [anon_4244f837@Lime](#). These networks are common places where child pornographers meet and exchange files. Chansler had nearly 100 different user names and about 40 different email addresses, agents said.

Lee said the best way for parents to keep their children safe from sexual predators is to track their children's online footprint by keeping close tabs of the websites they visit and the people they befriend online. Know the passwords.

VIRGINIA STATISTICS

6th in active cases, 15th in number of calls to the hotline.

HB 1964 & SB 1188 --- Last state to enact Human Trafficking Laws (2015)

C grade (71) from Center for Justice and Advocacy

Minor Victims still receive criminal records for delinquency and prostitution (Class 5 or 6 felony)

Buyers are not prosecuted under Human Trafficking, only under prostitution laws.

Minors who are exploited by buyers without a trafficker are not covered.

FEDERAL LAWS & AGENCIES

- Violence against Women Act– (2013) Congress refused to add LGBTQ, immigrants and Native American women TVPA (2013) passed as amendment dealing with these issues.
- VAWA (2019) HR 1585 Has passed House. Held up in Senate since April 10th, for NRA against its provision on guns when there are domestic violence victims. Native American issue would be addressed.
- Trafficking Victims Protection Act- 2000 (TVPA) -- Made Human Trafficking a Federal Crime, creates anti-trafficking programs (base law)
- Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act 2003, 2005, 2008, 2019 (Frederick Douglas TVPA)

- Presidential Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons
- USAID – US Agency for International Development – created new strategy for protecting survivors
- Dept. of Justice (DOJ) – U Visa, T Visa (both nonimmigrant), Continued Presence -- All three reduced since 2016
- Health & Human Services (HHS) –Certification and Eligibility for benefits. Increased denials and refusals and increased fees to apply since 2016
- Dept. of Interior (DOI) – Indian human trafficking

- Equal Economic Opportunity Commission (EEOC) -- discrimination
- Refugee Programs Bureau Human Trafficking Fact Sheet
- Unaccompanied Refugee Minors program
- Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act – May 2015 – survivors have formal input in HT policy, more criminal penalties, prevent child prosecution.
- NTA – Notice to Appear – refused safety

Executive Orders and Memorandum

- Executive Order 13773 of 2/9/17 -- Enforcing Federal Law With Respect to Transnational Criminal Organizations and Preventing International Trafficking
- Executive Order 13818 12/21/17 Blocking the property of persons involved in serious human rights abuse or corruption
- Executive memorandum – 11/29/2018 -- No non-humanitarian or non-trade related assistance to countries not in compliance of TVPA

- 4/18 Allow States & Victims to fight online Sex Tapes
- Conviction rate increased. Number of convictions and arrests declined since 2017.
- Family border separations create opportunities for traffickers
- US on verge of becoming a Category 2 in the State Dept. “Trafficking in Persons Report” June 2019. Categories are 1 (best), 2, 3. Russia is a 3, as is China.

INTERNATIONAL LAWS

1. Decriminalize Prostitution vs Legalize Prostitution
2. Universal Declaration of Human Rights
3. International Violence Against Women Act
4. UN Commission on the Status of Women
5. Universal Declaration of Human Rights
6. European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights
7. International Megan's Law to Prevent Child Exploitation and Other Sexual Crimes Through Advanced Notification of Traveling Sex Offenders. Informs other countries when sex offenders go to their countries.

IF YOU SUSPECT

- CALL 911 IF YOU SEE SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS
- CALL NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING CENTER: 888-373-7888
- TEXT: 233733
- LEARN ABOUT THE ANGEL ALERT

WHAT FAMILY CAN DO

- Talk to your children about sex trafficking and sexual abuse. Describe human trafficking as modern-day slavery, where people are captured and treated inhumanely. Awareness is the first step in preventing it;
- Restrict use of the computer to the living room or other area of the house where other family members are present;
- Know your child's screen names and passwords, even if you have your child write them down and put them in a sealed envelope. If anything happens, you will be able to access your child's accounts to trace who he or she has been communicating with;
- Use the parental control settings on your computer to check the Internet history. Look for warning signs in your children, such as: mood swings and anxiety; new friends who are significantly older; and new gifts, pre-paid credit cards, clothes or cell phones that you did not purchase.
- Let your children know that they can talk to you, or a trusted adult, about anything that makes them uncomfortable.

STUDENT PLEDGE

Sign the Pledge for Online Safety I, _____,
pledge:

- NEVER to share inappropriate pictures of myself;
- NEVER to accept a “friend” request or other type of request from a stranger;
- NEVER to agree to meet with someone I’ve met online, or share personal information, such as my home address, school name, or phone number;
- To tell an adult immediately if a stranger uses a social media site, email, or other form of communication to express love or admiration for me, promises me a ticket to another location, or promises to make me a star; and
- To remember that I can talk to my parents, or a trusted adult, about anything.

Signature _____ Date _____

Cut out this pledge, and tape it to your computer as a reminder of your commitment to online safety.

AAUW of Alexandria's Human Trafficking Initiative

Three-pronged Approach with:

- Education
- Advocacy
- Research and Development of Angel App.
How it will work.

Educational Awareness

- Building Community Partnerships and Coalition
- Yearly Human Trafficking Intervention Conferences
 - March 2019 Conference with Northern Virginia Community College's Braden's Women's Center and John Carter, a Producer and Film Maker
 - Future Online Conferences

Advocacy

- Annual Lobby Days
- December 2019 Virginia Crime Commission's Recommendations
 - <http://vscc.virginia.gov/Sex%20Trafficking%20Presentation%202018.pdf>
 - Recommendations start on Slide 33

Research and Development

- AAUW Angel App
- AAUW Angel Alert
- Partnerships with Community Groups and Law Enforcement, such as Police Chief Michael Brown and Commonwealth Attorney Bryan Porter

What You and Your Branch Can Do To Help!

- Partner with AAUW of Alexandria for the AAUW National Community Action Grant this summer (for the AAUW Angel App and Angel Alert)
- Publish information in your branch newsletter about the human trafficking intervention initiative and events
- Help AAUW of Alexandria expand the app and alert throughout Virginia after the pilot in Alexandria
- Participate as much as you choose!

**TEXT US RIGHT NOW WITH
YOUR BRANCH NAME, YOUR
NAME AND CONTACT NUMBER**

**CONTACT US AND LET US KNOW
THAT YOU WILL WORK WITH US**

- **Dr. ELIZABETH HENDRIX 816-
248-0793
mhendrix1105@gmail.com**
- **DIANE SCHRIER 352-209-3094
Diane.Schrier@gmail.com**