

COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND SEX TRAFFICKING OF MINORS IN THE U.S.

ARE COMMONLY OVERLOOKED, MISUNDERSTOOD, AND UNADDRESSED FORMS OF CHILD ABUSE

ESTIMATES RANGE FROM

1,400 • 2.4 million

There is no true estimate of these crimes in the United States.

Instances have been reported in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.



Many professionals who interact with youth are unaware that this abuse occurs in their communities.

HOW ARE WE

PREVENTING, IDENTIFYING, AND RESPONDING TO

COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND SEX TRAFFICKING OF MINORS?



SCHOOLS

Teachers and school personnel are uniquely positioned to **recognize changes in behavior and appearance** — which may be a sign of underlying problems — among the youth they interact with each day.

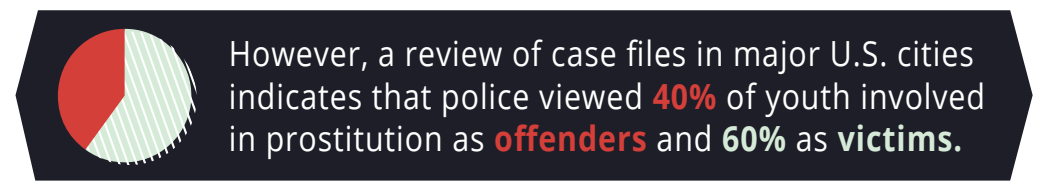
WHAT COULD HELP?

- Appropriate training and established protocols to identify vulnerable youth and to intervene early.
- Broadening the understanding of child abuse to include commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of minors.



POLICE

Law enforcement personnel often are the **first to respond** to commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking cases. This means that their ability to identify victims, investigate cases, and make appropriate referrals is crucial.



WHAT COULD HELP?

- Dedicate a unit or personnel to handle commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking cases.
- Train officers about trafficking.
- Develop protocols for trafficking cases.
- Participate in human trafficking task forces.



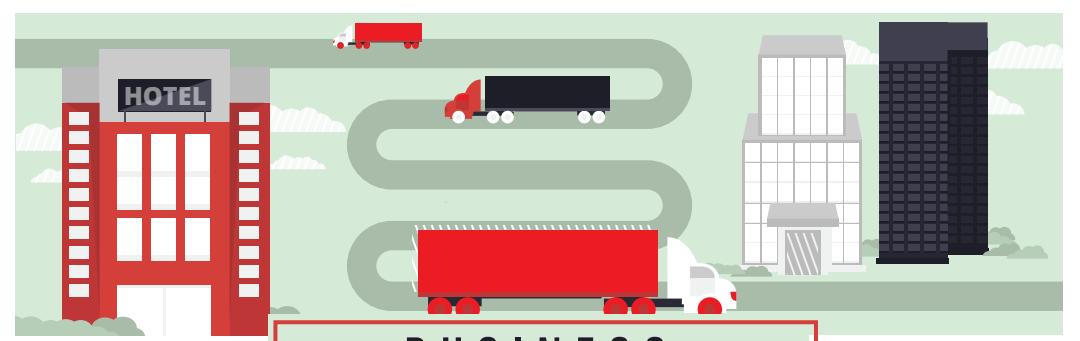
VICTIM SERVICES

Victim and support service providers are likely to be working with youth vulnerable to and victimized by commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking.

However, **there are too few services available** to meet current needs of victims and survivors. The services that do exist are unevenly distributed geographically, lack adequate resources, and vary in their ability to provide specialized care.

SERVICE PROVIDERS CAN:

- Help prevent commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking among those they serve.
- Identify and assist victims and survivors who are in their care.



BUSINESS

Businesses, which are sometimes used to facilitate commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of minors, can also **fight against these crimes**.



HOTELS

Hotels and hotel chains can adopt policies and train employees to help prevent commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of minors at their hotels.



FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS/BANKS

Matching purchasing patterns of exploiters to credit card transactions can alert law enforcement to these crimes.



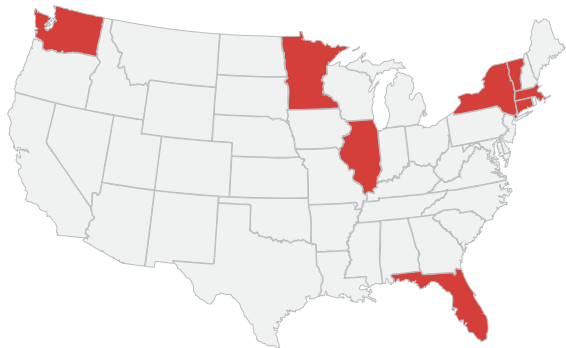
TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY

Employees can be educated about the dangers and warning signs of these crimes, which may occur at truck stops or involve the use of transportation services.

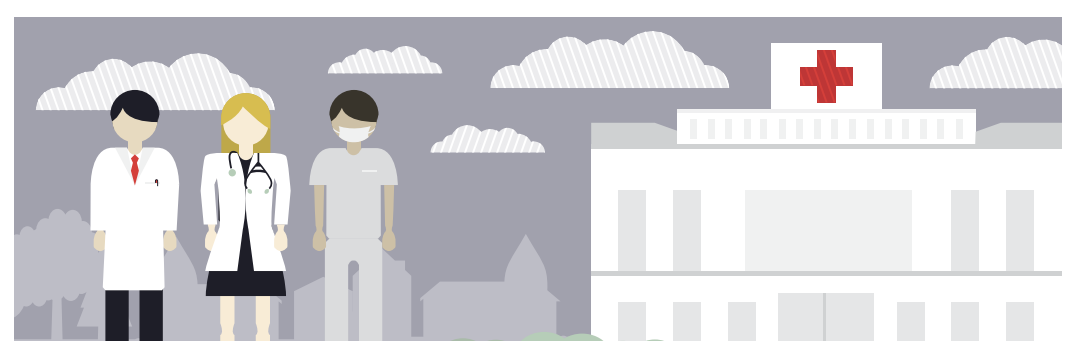


JUDGES, COURTS, AND LAWYERS

In 2013, **just 8 states** had laws to redirect victims away from the criminal or juvenile justice system and into systems or services that are equipped to meet their needs.



- With the attorney-client privilege, defense attorneys may be instrumental in identifying and assisting young people.
- Judges have considerable discretion and authority over the outcome and treatment of the minors involved in these crimes.



HEALTH CARE

Health care professionals may **encounter victims who are seeking treatment** for injury or illness in emergency departments, urgent care, clinics, and community health centers.

- However, health care professionals may not recognize youth in their care who are at risk of or are victims of these crimes.
- A health care workforce with appropriate training could help prevent further exploitation and negative health consequences.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO

PREVENT, IDENTIFY, AND RESPOND TO

COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND SEX TRAFFICKING OF MINORS?

COLLABORATION AMONG ALL OF THESE GROUPS IS ESSENTIAL IN ORDER TO:

- Increase awareness and understanding**
- Strengthen research**
- Support information sharing**
- Strengthen the law's response**
- Support collaboration**

ACCESS MORE RESOURCES FROM THE IOM/NRC REPORT

CONFRONTING COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND SEX TRAFFICKING OF MINORS IN THE UNITED STATES

AT WWW.IOM.EDU/SEXTRAFFICKINGMINORS