Child sex trafficking has been found in every state in the United States and is a serious public and mental health concern. Victims of child sex trafficking report significant health, mental health, and social problems and their support and treatment needs are complex. Communities have struggled to find the right combination of support and therapeutic services for these child survivors and having a clear idea of their experiences can assist in increasing targeted techniques by law enforcement and implementing better-informed trauma treatment programming.

This report is based on law enforcement reports from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Vice Enforcement and Sex Trafficking Unit. This data was collected and analyzed by the Arizona State University Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research team in a unique academic/ law enforcement partnership.

Police reports, victim/trafficker interviews, evidence reports, and case resolution reports were collected for 833 child sex trafficking cases from 2011 to 2019. These child sex trafficking cases did not include cases where a child and an adult victim were trafficked by the same trafficker (n = 53). Within the 833 child sex trafficking cases, 922 child victims were identified.
RECRUITMENT TACTICS

The child sex trafficking victims were recruited by the sex trafficker through various means. Information on recruitment tactics was provided for 221 cases (26.5%). Tactics included:

- Social Media (n = 65, 7.8%)
- Use of a Friend (n = 56, 6.7%)
- Romantic Relationship (n = 50, 6%)
- Promises of Wealth (n = 15, 1.8%)
- Met in a Public Place (n = 14, 1.7%)
- Promise of Escape (n = 7, 0.8%)
- Use of a Family Member (n = 6, 0.7%)
- Through School (n = 5, 0.6%)
- Promises of Fame (n = 5, 0.6%)

VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILD VICTIM

Sex traffickers perpetrated acts of violence on the child sex trafficking victims in order to force the child into a sex trafficking situation. Sex traffickers also use violence as a means of control to keep the child victim from running away or seeking help. The use of violence was indicated in 215 (25.8%) child victim cases, and included the use of:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Violence, by type (N = 215)</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kidnapping</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>53.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychological violence</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>51.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical violence</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>39.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual violence</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>20.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7% of child victims experienced strangulation (n = 16, 7.4%)

MOVEMENT (N = 107)

Sex traffickers moved child sex trafficking victims across state lines in 107 (49.8%) cases. A known control tactic of sex traffickers is to remove victims from their normal surroundings in order to deter them from running away or seeking help. Sex traffickers moved child sex trafficking victims from their home state to Las Vegas for the purposes of sex trafficking in a popular destination city known for its entertainment and party atmosphere. Child victims were transported by private vehicle and by modes of public transportation, including:

- Car (n = 98, 91.6%)
- Bus (n = 11, 10.3%)
- Airplane (n = 2, 1.9%)
- Train (n = 1, 0.9%)
CASES were identified by law enforcement in a number of ways:

- Vice Sting (n = 377, 45.3%)
- Security Officer alerted police (n = 243, 29.2%)
- Asked for help (n = 50, 6%)
- Family member called for help (n = 50, 6%)
- Patrol car stop (n = 45, 5.4%)
- Domestic violence call (n = 45, 5.4%)
- Healthcare provider identified (n = 16, 1.9%)
- Sexual assault call (n = 14, 1.7%)

The child victims were cooperative with law enforcement during the investigation and prosecution of their sex trafficking case in 28.1% (n = 234) of cases. Cooperation included giving information, participating in interviews, and staying in contact with law enforcement as the case moved through the criminal justice system.

CASE RESOLUTION 2011 TO 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resolution type</th>
<th>#</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Case not filed</td>
<td>574</td>
<td>68.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plea agreement</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case dismissed</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case still open</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conviction (trial)</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case refused by prosecutors</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

14% (n = 117) cases involved more than one sex trafficker

10.6% (n = 88) cases involved more than one child victim

39.7% (n = 329) of cases a sex trafficker was identified

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