



COALITION to STOP
VIOLENCE AGAINST
NATIVE WOMEN

Sex **TRAFFICKING** in **TRIBAL** **COMMUNITIES** Briefing

Sex trafficking is when someone uses force, fraud or coercion to force victims to engage in sex acts for benefit and profit. Anyone under the age of 18 who is forced to sell sex or willing to sell sex for the benefit of someone else is considered a sex trafficking victim.

TRAFFICKING CAN INCLUDE:

- Showing signs of physical/ sexual abuse, torture, confinement.
- Forced or coerced to engage in pornography
- Forced to trade sexual favors for rent, utilities, food, etc.

40%

of individuals involved in **sex trafficking** identified themselves as **American Indian, Alaskan Native or First Nations**, according to a survey of four sites in the U.S. and Canada.

30%

More than **of Native victims** reported being in the **foster care system** as children.

Average age of **sex trafficking victims** is between

14-16

79%

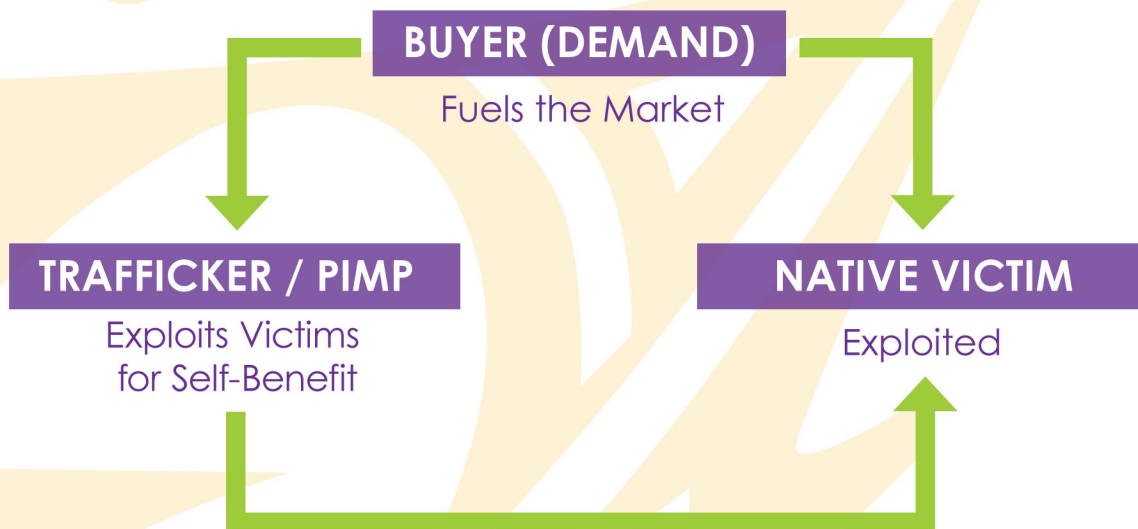
of **Native victims** reported being **sexually abused** as children by an average of **four perpetrators**.

Recommendations

- Support programming that encourages cultural knowledge and practices rooted within early intervention and prevention through outreach and education.
- Support training for community workers, tribal gaming staff, service providers, school counselors, teachers, law enforcement and tribal staff to identify trafficking and refer to services and support.
- Support community education and outreach to increase knowledge about trafficking and available resources in community for victims and survivors.

Sources: Human Trafficking: Trends and Responses across Indian Country. NCAI Policy Research Center, 2016.
Garden of Truth: The Prostitution and Trafficking of Native Women in Minnesota, Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition and Prostitution Research & Education, 2011

SEX TRAFFICKING can happen ANYWHERE



Look for the Signs

- Changes of behavior: emotionally, spiritually, physically and mentally
- Drug/alcohol dependency
- Sexually inappropriate behavior
- Lost of sense in time
- Problems at school/work
- Avoiding the abuser/trafficker
- Being fearful, nervous and anxious.
- Avoids eye contact or conversations.
- Signs of self harm (cutting, burning)
- Conversations of a new older friend/relative and unexplained money or gifts.
- Not wanting to be alone with a specific person.

Where is sex trafficking happening?

- Strip clubs
- Casinos
- Escort Services
- Massage parlors
- Homes
- Man Camps
- Powwows (Gathering of Nations)
- State/Tribal Fairs
- Shopping Malls/Centers (Walmart, Coronado Mall)
- Truck Stops/Gas stations
- Internet or social media (Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat)

Resources

The Lifeline

DIRECT ADVOCACY, SHELTER, LONG TERM TRANSITION PLANNING

505-GET-FREE / 505-438-3733
thelifeline.org

National Human Trafficking Hotline

1-888-373-7888
humantraffickinghotline.org

Strong Hearts Native Helpline

1-877-7NATIVE / 1-844-762-8483
strongheartshelpline.org

First Nations CARES Program

CASE MANAGEMENT, FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL SERVICES
505-697-0039



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Your safety
is sacred.

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