

Sex **TRAFFICKING** in **TRIBAL COMMUNITIES** briefing



Sex trafficking occurs when a trafficker uses force, fraud, or coercion to sexually exploit victims for benefit or profit. Sexually exploited people under the age of 18 are automatically considered trafficking victims.

40%

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

79%

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

More than 30%

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

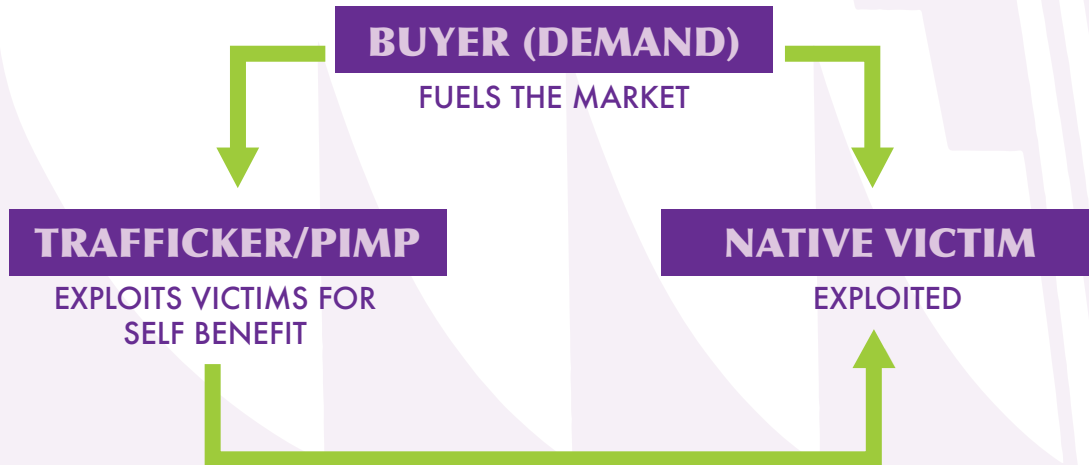
Average age of **sex trafficking victims** is between **14-16**

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?

- Tribal Communities
- 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)

The Lifelink

Direct advocacy, shelter,
long term transition planning
505-GET-FREE/505-438-3733
www.thelifelink.org

National Human Trafficking Hotline

1-888-373-7888
humantraffickinghotline.org

RESOURCES

First Nations Community HealthSource's Education and Advocacy against Sex Trafficking (EAST)

EAST program provides advocacy, prevention education, and essential case management services to victims by linking them to resources and services that protect their safety.
505-515-3924

First Nations CARES Program

Case management, free & confidential services
505-697-0039

Strong Hearts Native Helpline

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

CSVANW

4600 Montgomery Blvd NE, Ste 202B
Albuquerque, NM | (505) 243-9199 csvanw.org

YOUR SAFETY IS SACRED

