

CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING

Facts and Figures

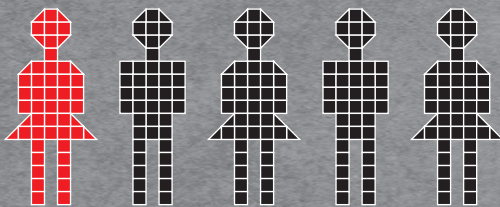
What is Child Sex Trafficking?

The issue of child sex trafficking is complex. Today, children are being sold for sex on the streets, in hotels and in casinos; and, with the growth of the Internet, traffickers have a seemingly unrestricted reach into an online marketplace where they can groom and sell children for an alarming profit. Traffickers target vulnerable children, such as children in the child welfare system. Online classified sites allow traffickers to remain anonymous and use prepaid credit cards to purchase ads. Children are often being moved quickly around the country to meet the demand of customers and are forced to endure countless days and nights of abuse, torture and violence.

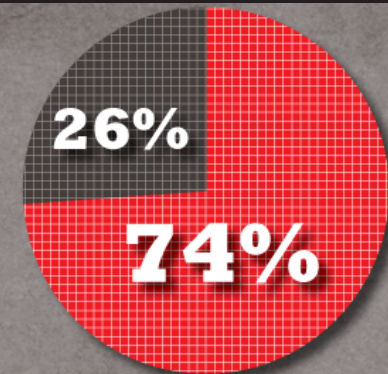
As the congressionally-authorized resource center on missing children and child sexual exploitation, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) has learned a great deal about child sex trafficking. We receive reports regarding child sex trafficking through the intake of missing child cases, requests for analytical assistance from law enforcement and through reports to our CyberTipline, the reporting mechanism for child sexual exploitation. In 2015, NCMEC assisted with approximately 11,800 reports regarding possible child sex trafficking, but this is only a fraction of suspected child sex trafficking victims in this country.

NCMEC continues to look for ways to address this issue. Since 2003, NCMEC has partnered with the FBI and the Department of Justice in the "Innocence Lost National Initiative." NCMEC also provides specialized analytical and technical assistance services and training resources to law enforcement investigating these cases; case management support for missing children victimized through sex trafficking; and Hope Bags providing survivors basic items they need for the first few hours after they are recovered.

1 IN 5 ENDANGERED RUNAWAYS REPORTED TO NCMEC IN 2015 WERE LIKELY SEX TRAFFICKING VICTIMS



74% of these likely sex trafficking victims were in the care of social services or foster care when they went missing.



We are seeing evidence that traffickers are targeting teens. **Today**, the average age of child sex trafficking victims reported missing to NCMEC is only fifteen and a half.

Boys are also victimized through child sex trafficking. Historically, boys made up less than 1% of child sex trafficking victims known to NCMEC. However, in 2015, we saw this reach 4.3%.

Please contact NCMEC's Office of Legislative Affairs with any additional questions or needs at legislativeaffairs@ncmec.org.