Sex Trafficking & Homeless Youth
In Nebraska:
March 21, 2017
Caveat of Language

“Victim” and “Survivor” are used interchangeably to provide consistency with statutory language and cross-agency terminology.

We recognize that individuals who have experienced trafficking are **survivors at all stages** of their abuse and recovery and are not defined by their victimization.

Shared Hope International, 2015
What do we know?
Human Trafficking

• Human Trafficking 2nd fastest growing criminal industry — just behind drug trafficking — with children accounting for roughly half of all victims. (DOJ)

• Estimates of $150 billion industry worldwide

• Public Health Issue
Scope of the problem

- People of all genders, adults and youth
- Prevalence numbers – estimated guesses
- Creighton Human Trafficking Initiative
Sex trafficking…

• ...is not voluntary or consensual.
• ...happens to all genders.
• ...does not require the geographical movement of a person.
• ...can occur when the trafficker and victim are related or married.

Source: Adapted from The Crime of Human Trafficking: A Law Enforcement Guide to Identification and Investigation
Empirical Data

Backpage Market hub
• 80% of online commercial sex advertising

Child sex trafficking
• Backpage turns over 400 potential minors monthly
2 Gurl show $160 ANYTHING GOES....book now.... - 19
Posted: Saturday, April 2, 2016 10:26 AM

Don't miss us sexy young fresh show bunnies who love to put on a show for u and b.i.o.w ur mind in to extacy

Your • Favorite •. 💓 Secret 🐣إدارة Outcall 💓 Young•💕•!! 🌞hot• dirty blonde🌞 - 19
Posted: Friday, March 4, 2016 4:30 PM

wETT Young Mixed NEW Hottie航空 Real Pictures SMOKING HOTT 🔥🔥 - 18
Posted: Thursday, June 16, 2016 5:05 PM

Special 100:*•NEW GIRL ALERT🔥 • FRESH MEAT🌶欻HoT aNd Eger To PLEasE YoU!Sweet ♥_#1_♥ Treat).
Posted: Tuesday, May 31, 2016 11:25 AM

Reply

!!!!PLEASE NO APPOINTMENTS!!! BE READY WHEN YOU CALL!!!!

Hi my name is 💓キラ Lyn and I’m a hot young black Puerta rico girl that wants to have serious fun with no strings attached. Here are some of my requirements
Individuals Sold for Sex Online

Past 6 months: 618,357

Recent Averages
- 30-day: 208,628
- Weekly: 106,329
- Daily: 42,266
Omaha Snapshot

• **1,846** unique individuals listed on backpage.com Nov 2015– May 2016 in the last 15 months its over **2,200**

• Young
  • 12% are 18-20 years old
  • 48% are under 24 years old

• Evidence of Pimps
  • Average stable size is 2.3
  • 821 girls (54%) share a phone number with at least one other girl
Commercial Sex Across Nebraska
Lincoln by the Numbers

Lincoln averages around 200 unique individuals posted for the sale of sex in a 30-day period.
A Closer Look at Omaha
Nebraska vs. Neighbor States

Individuals Sold for Sex per 100,000 Inhabitants by State

- **Nebraska**
  - Daily Average: 7.3
  - Weekly Average: 19.5
  - Monthly Average: 43.0

- **Iowa**
  - Daily Average: 6.2
  - Weekly Average: 16.0
  - Monthly Average: 33.6

- **Kansas**
  - Daily Average: 5.7
  - Weekly Average: 13.7
  - Monthly Average: 31.0

- **Colorado**
  - Daily Average: 2.7
  - Weekly Average: 9.3
  - Monthly Average: 24.3

- **South Dakota**
  - Daily Average: 11.5
  - Weekly Average: 26.5
  - Monthly Average: 56.8

- **Missouri**
  - Daily Average: 13.5
  - Weekly Average: 29.6
  - Monthly Average: 63.3
# of Unique Individuals Sold For Sex per Month

Nebraska: 797
Omaha: 610
Lincoln: 172
Grand Island: 44
North Platte: 13
Scottsbluff: 28
Nebraska Cities in Comparison

# Individuals Sold for Sex per 100,000 inhabitants

- Omaha: 137 (Daily Avg.), 61 (Weekly Avg.), 22 (Monthly Avg.)
- Lincoln: 63 (Daily Avg.), 27 (Weekly Avg.), 9 (Monthly Avg.)
- Grand Island: 86 (Daily Avg.), 31 (Weekly Avg.), 12 (Monthly Avg.)
- North Platte: 52 (Daily Avg.), 19 (Weekly Avg.), 7 (Monthly Avg.)
- Scottsbluff: 185 (Daily Avg.), 52 (Weekly Avg.), 17 (Monthly Avg.)
An Interconnected Market

Where do they come from?
1. Iowa (15%)
2. Missouri (10%)
3. Colorado (8%)
4. Texas (7%)
5. California (7%)

Where do they go?
1. Iowa (25%)
2. South Dakota (11%)
3. Missouri (10%)
4. Colorado (7%)
5. California (5%)
Circuit Involving Omaha
A Racially Imbalanced Market
Sex Traffickers in Nebraska
Warning Signs of Sex Trafficking

- Unusual Tattoos – such as dollar sign, bar code, pimp name
- Large amounts of cash
- Several cell phones no control over them
- No ID or someone is holding their ID
- Evidence of being controlled:
  - Rarely alone
How do traffickers operate?

- Isolate victims from friends & family
- Appeal to love
- Physical, emotional, verbal, sexual abuse
- Forced substance use
- Appeal to fear
- Trick victims
Fast Food Bags Contain Evidence
EVIDENCE
What does it look like?

- Prepaid credit cards/hotel room keys and ledger
- Frequent visitor cards
- Cell phones charging
- Luggage for weekend
- Condoms

Weekend bag
What Does it Look Like?
What Does it Look Like?
Healthcare Implications

Warning Signs

• **88% saw a healthcare provider during their victimization**
• Persistent or untreated STIs, UTIs
• Repeated abortions/miscarriages, or no prenatal care
• Evidence of inflicted injury (multiple, old and new)
• Unkempt and malnourished
• Disorientation

Consequences

• Violence - 92%
• Psychological Problems – 98%
• Neurological Problems – 92%
• Rape – 82%
• Substance Abuse – 84%
Risk Factors

- Poverty
- Youth in out of home care and/or in state custody
- Missing youth
- Youth with a history of sexual abuse
- Homelessness
- Language and cultural barriers
- Immigrants
- Intellectual and developmental disabilities
- Members of the LGBT community
- Substance use
- Participation in the sex industry--strip clubs, porn
- Mental Health Issues
37 DCFS youth missing from care

**YOUTH MISSING FROM CARE**

- Boys: 23
- Girls: 14

**RACE/ETHNICITY**

- Caucasian: 9
- American Indian: 8
- Black/AfAmerican: 10
- Hispanic: 9
- Multi Racial: 6

**AGE**

- 17 yrs: 11
- 16 yrs: 4
- 15 yrs: 5
- 14 yrs: 5
- 18 yrs: 12

**DCFS Missing Youth Point in Time 3/13/2017**
Youth Missing From Care - Number of Placements

- 0 to 2 placements: 9
- 3 placements: 4
- 4 placements: 3
- 5 placements: 1
- 6 placements: 3
- 7 to 9 placements: 7
- 10 or more placements: 10
In Nebraska, youth went missing from...

- Parent/Caretaker
- Agency-Supported Foster Home
- Group Home
- Emergency Shelter
- Independent Living
- Kinship Foster Home
- No Prior Placement
- Relative Foster Home
- Detention Center
- PRTF

DCFS Missing Youth Point in Time 3/13/2017

**NEBRASKA**
Good Life. Great Mission.
DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Youth Missing from Care - Number of days missing

- over 365 days: 1
- over 210 days: 2
- over 120 days: 1
- over 90 days: 6
- over 60 days: 4
- over 30 days: 5
- 15 days to 28 days: 7
- 8 days to 14 days: 6
- 5 days to 7 days: 5
HOMELESS

No Family or Support
Health Problems
Could use Some Compassion
Really Need The Help.
HELP

END YOUTH HOMELESSNESS
Child Advocacy Centers
Child Advocacy Centers

• Specially Trained Forensic Interviewers
• Child & Family Advocates
• Referrals for Specialized Services
• Case Coordination
• Educating Multidisciplinary Team members
Nebraska Resources

• Nebraska Emergency Contact– 911
• Nebraska Child Abuse Hotline – 1-800-652-1999
• Nebraska Alliance of Child Advocacy Centers – 402-933-7422
• Nebraska Attorney General’s Office – 402-471-2683
• FBI – Omaha Field Office – 402-493-8688
National Resources

- **Polaris Project** (policy, training, advocacy, National Resource Center)
  - [www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org)
  - 1-888-373-7888 (National Hotline – report tips, receive technical assistance, operates 24/7)

- **National Children’s Advocacy Center** (training, advocacy, find other CAC’s)
  - [www.nationalcac.org](http://www.nationalcac.org)
  - 256-533-KIDS (5437)

- **National Center for Missing and Exploited Children** (search for missing children, cybertipline, training)
  - [www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com)
  - 1-800-THE-LOST (National Hotline, 24/7)

- **Shared Hope International** (training, research, advocacy, policy)
  - [www.sharedhope.org](http://www.sharedhope.org)
  - 1-866-HER-LIFE
If you suspect human trafficking report to

911

Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline
1-800-652-1999 (NE)
1-800-362-2178 (IA)

National Human Trafficking Hotline
888-3737-888 or
Text BeFree (233733)