

# SEX TRAFFICKERS AND SEX BUYERS PUT EMPLOYERS AND THEIR BUSINESS PARTNERS AT RISK



## WHAT IS SEX TRAFFICKING?


(a) prostituting a minor and/or (b) using force, fraud, or coercion to compel a person into sex work

## IS IT A PROBLEM?

At least 300-500 youth are prostituted in greater Seattle.<sup>1</sup> In the U.S., the typical age of entry into prostitution is 13-15 years old.<sup>2</sup>

## 1 ISSUE: EMPLOYEES ARE SOLICITING SEX FROM TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

- An initial study suggests that a peak time people are procuring sex online is **2:00pm**.<sup>3</sup>



- 63%** of prostituted people said that they met clients on company properties.<sup>4</sup>

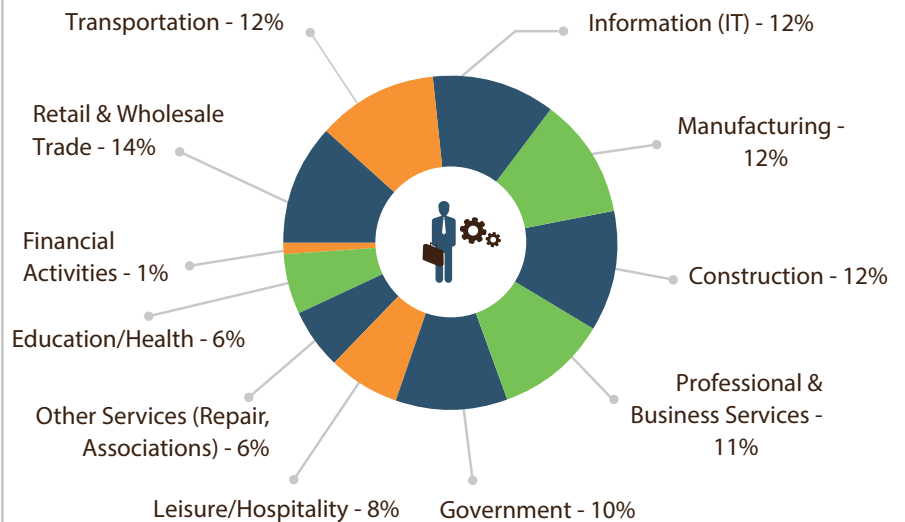
- In one 24-hour period in Seattle, an estimated **6,847** people solicited sex on one of the 100+ available websites.<sup>5</sup>

- An estimated **15-20%** of American men report having solicited sex.<sup>6</sup>

- King County prosecutors are shifting from charging prostitutes and pimps, to charging the buyers.

Of 104 people charged with soliciting sex from children in King County, the majority work in local businesses, in a variety of industries:<sup>7</sup>

### Industry Sectors of Sex Buyers (with minor victims)



## 2 ISSUE: SEX TRAFFICKERS & BUYERS USE BUSINESS PREMISES



Hotels



Shopping malls



Apartments



Parking Lots



Restaurants



Massage Facilities

ARE ALL USED IN SEX TRAFFICKING.



A 2012 study found that **63%** of trafficking incidents involved hotels, ranging from economy to luxury hotels.<sup>8</sup>



Teenage girls visiting shopping malls have been targeted and approached by pimps within **45 minutes** of their arrival.<sup>9</sup>

### 3 ISSUE: SEX TRAFFICKERS USE BUSINESS PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

#### TRAFFICKERS USE



TO FACILITATE THE SALE OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

! Your business reputation is at risk every time a trafficker or buyer uses your core services.

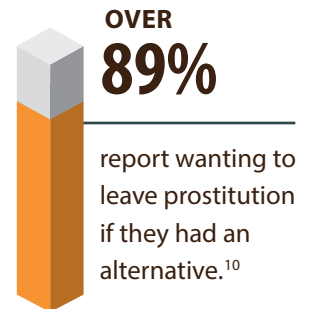
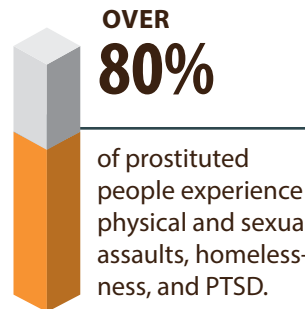
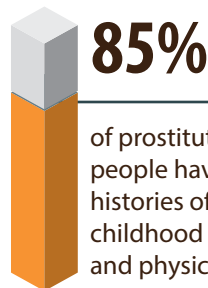


#### FACT: YOUR BUSINESS IS AT RISK

- Public reputation
- Hostile work environment
- Decreased work productivity
- Legal risks
- Financial risks



#### FACT: SEX TRAFFICKING CAUSES SEVERE HARM TO CHILDREN & WOMEN INVOLVED



**Business leaders have the power to change attitudes and actions that harm businesses and exploit women and children.**

- Ensure that **ORGANIZATIONAL POLICIES** explicitly prohibit the buying, facilitating, and selling of sex.
- Address **INTERNAL CULTURE**, communicating corporate values & empowering employees to identify and report suspicious behaviors.
- **TRAIN STAFF** to act safely and responsibly if witnessing suspected trafficking first hand.
- **DRIVE CHANGE**, by raising the issue of trafficking with suppliers, customers and partners.
- Make a **PUBLIC COMMITMENT** to stand against trafficking and become a recognized leader.

<sup>1</sup>All references are listed online at [www.bestalliance.org/bcreferences](http://www.bestalliance.org/bcreferences)