



Sex Trafficking in Hawai'i

Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz
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Moderator - Melissa Blasing

Project Coordinator

AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program
National Criminal Justice Training Center
of Fox Valley Technical College



Webinar Information

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Poll Questions

- Poll questions may be asked during the webinar.
 - They are asked so we can better understand the audience and provide the most useful information to you.
- As they will only be open a short period of time, please respond promptly.



POLL OPTION: Which of the following best describes your role?

- Investigator (Law Enforcement, CPS)
- Prosecutor, Attorney
- Forensic Interviewer, Social Worker, Child Advocacy Center
- Medical, Mental Health
- Other (type your role in the question box)





**Dominique Roe-Sepowitz,
MSW, PhD
Dominique.roe@asu.edu**

- Associate Professor
- Director – Arizona State University Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research
- Subject matter expert:
 - White House
 - US Department of Health and Human Services
 - SAMHSA
 - Office of Victims of Crime (OVC)
- City of Phoenix Human Trafficking Task Force
- Arizona Governor's Human Trafficking Council

Sex Trafficking in Hawai'i

- Multi-phase study currently being conducted by ASU Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research (STIR)
- Purpose is to expand the understanding of domestic sex trafficking in Hawai'i
 - Sex buyers
 - Sex traffickers
 - Sex trafficking victims
- Webinar will include
 - Findings from the first study on sex buyers
 - Preliminary results of study involving 22 sex trafficking survivors and family members

Funding for this Project is from

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kaimas.org



Definition Human Trafficking:

- The ***Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000*** defined human trafficking as “the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for sexual or labor services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery” (U.S. Dept. of State, 2000, p. 7)
- This webinar will only focus on sex trafficking.

Statistics

- 
- Polaris 2017 report of calls/contacts to the National Hotline since 2007
 - Total calls: 496
 - Total cases: 176
 - Total victims: Moderate - 193
 - Total victims: High - 294

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/state/hawaii>

Polaris 2017

- 2017
 - 72 calls
 - 28 human trafficking cases
- Sex Trafficking
 - 17 cases
 - Included massage parlors, online ads, street prostitution, bars/clubs, and other venues.
- Data mixed with labor trafficking regarding age/race/gender



2018 Street Youth Study

- Conducted by UH Center on the Family, Waikiki Health, and Hale Kipa
- 65 questions
- Targeted street youth
- 151 youth interviewed
- Ages 12-24
- 13.2% reported engaging in survival sex
 - 65% forced to engage in survival sex

Previous Research on Human Trafficking in Hawai'i

- Gleason (2013) exploring human trafficking (sex and labor) through the perspective of service providers.
- Suggested that sex trafficking in Hawai'i has unique features including:
 - Some victims face challenges escaping rural areas; exception is Oahu.
 - Difficulty escaping; feeling trapped due to island.
 - Only way off island is by airplane.
 - Due to the ethnic diversity of the migrant labor force in Hawai'i, finding helpful language and cultural styles has been difficult for service providers.
 - Most resources to address human trafficking are on Oahu.
 - "It isn't happening here" myth. Some service providers including law enforcement are mislabeling sex trafficking victims.

Sex Buyers

- General estimates of the population of sex buyers

See literature review in Invisible Offenders article for citations

- General Social Survey; 14%
- National Health and Social Life Survey; 16%

- Most information about sex buyers come from diversion programs (caught/arrested persons)

- “John Schools” exist in over 70 cities in the U.S.
- <http://www.demandforum.net/author/shivelym/>

Exploring Online Sex Buying in Hawai'i

- Previous research on online sex advertisements
 - Ibanez & Suthers (2014)
 - Used network analysis to explore the origins (area codes) of sex advertisements placed on *backpage.com*.
 - Collected data from online advertisements were for six weeks in early 2013.
 - Explored elements of advertisements looking for indicators of sex trafficking.
 - Explored phone numbers and movements of phone numbers.

Previous online sex buyer research by ASU STIR

- Sex advertisement response analysis for Demand Abolition's CEASE Network.
- Regularly placed decoy online sex advertisements in 11 cities (Boston, Seattle, San Diego, Portland, Phoenix, Oakland, Houston, Denver, Dallas, Atlanta, and Chicago).
- Explored other sex buying venues through interviews with law enforcement, prosecutors, survivors, and victim service providers.
- Explored responses to advertisements in each market including features of race, language in advertisement, and forced choice.
- Estimated the scope of demand in each city.

City Estimates (April 2015)

- **Seattle, Washington:**

- 454 other advertisements posted
- range of 5 to 72 unique contacts depending on advertisement type (5 ads were placed)
- Estimated 8,806 sex buyers on that date making contact with online sex advertisements.

- **San Diego, California:**

- 457 other advertisements posted
- Range of 2 to 64 unique contacts
- Estimated 8,142 sex buyers on that date making contact with online sex advertisements.

Invisible Offenders (2016)

- Estimate the size of the online sex buyer population in each city.
- Placed decoy online sex advertisements on *backpage.com* and *craigslist.com* in 15 medium and large cities in the United States.
- Tested capture-recapture model.
- Timed advertisement placement (1 week apart).
- Captured data on Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP).
- “Day of” estimate and general population estimates calculated.

Hawai'i Sex Trafficking Research

- Multi-phase research study
- ASU STIR has partnered with the Hawai'i Commission on the Status of Women
- Explore the issues of sex trafficking in Hawai'i
- Understand the sex buyer market, behaviors of sex traffickers, and experiences of sex trafficking victims
 - Phase 1: Explore the scope of online sex advertisement market in Hawai'i
 - Phase 2: Explore the experiences of domestic sex trafficking victims in Hawai'i

Online Sex Buyers Research in Hawai'i

- Exploring a broad response to a 'normative' online sex advertisement in *hawaii backpage.com*.
- Establishing the size of the online sex buyer population through looking at advertisement response during two 24 hour periods.
- Advertisement designed and placed by Demand Abolition CEASE expert.
- Advertisements used photos with signed consent from subjects.
- Advertisements placed at 5pm Hawai'i time on two Fridays in March 2018 in the Women Seeking Men section.

Study Details

- Contacts: calls and texts collected by a VoIP
- Only texts were transcribed
- **24 hours in Oahu : March 23, 2018 : 58 other ads**
 - 756 contacts, **407 unique**
 - 87 different area codes
 - 286 **(70%)** were from 808 phone numbers
 - 52% calls
 - 48% texts
 - Continuous activity over the 24-hours
 - 20 contacts in the first 5 minutes

Study Details

- **24 hours : Oahu March 30, 2018 : 57 other ads**
 - Easter weekend
 - 430 contacts, **239 unique**
 - 49 different area codes
 - 177 (**74%**) were from 808 phone numbers
 - 59.8% calls
 - 40.2% texts
 - Continuous activity over the 24-hours

What the sex buyers texted..

- Two indicated they were traffickers

“I am a veteran and I would love to help you grow your business”

“I am looking for talent. Great pay for a couple of hours work.”

- Requested high risk specific acts:
 - Full service (vaginal sex)
 - Greek (anal sex)
 - Bare back (no condom)
- Names included: Thomas, Joey, John, Wayne, Fred, Caleb, and Damian

Text information about the sex buyer location ***(where they wanted to meet)***

Kona

Maui

Kauai

Waikoloa Village

Kale Koa

Hilo

Oahu

Lahaina

Honolulu

Waikiki

Kihe

Kailua

Marine Base

Haiku

**Hilton Hawai'ian
Village**

Ko Olina

Puna

Kihei Maui Meadows

Big Island

North Shore

Schofield

Big Island Study Details

- **24 hours in Big Island : March 23, 2018 : 2 other ads**
 - 206 contacts, **113 unique**
 - 18 different area codes
 - 67 (**59.3%**) were from 808 phone numbers
 - 52% calls
 - 48% texts
- **24 hours in Big Island : March 30, 2018 : 2 other ads**
 - 95 contacts, **65 unique**
 - 15 different area codes
 - 67 (**67.7%**) were from 808 phone numbers
 - 47.4% calls
 - 52.6% texts



Estimating the Size of the Demand

- Oahu: 18,614 potential sex buyers looking for sex online in March 2018.
- Big Island: 178 potential sex buyers looking for sex online in March 2018.

Capture-recapture

Apply the estimated number of sex buyers to the exposed population of Hawai'i (adult male residents) =
559,309

Apply the Chapman N formula

$$\hat{N} = \frac{(n_1 + 1)(n_2 + 1)}{m + 1} - 1$$

Estimate

- Reduce to remove the non-808
 - 28% of unique contacts
- Assumptions
 - All men over age 18 in Hawai'i are potential sex buyers.
 - The advertisement was normative and not detected as a decoy.
 - The sex buyers called the other sex ads during the 24 hours the decoy ad was posted.
 - The timing of the advertisement placements were average Fridays in March 2018.

Final Sex Buyer Estimate

- Final estimate: 53,541
- 9.6 % of adult male residents of Hawai'i are online sex shoppers
- 1 out of every 11 adult male residents of Hawai'i are online sex shoppers

Why is this important

- Sex traffickers respond to the demands of sex buyers.
- If there are over 400 callers per advertisement, there is a clear message that there are not enough sex sellers in Oahu and sex traffickers will act to fill that gap.
- There were 50 sex buyer arrests by the Honolulu Police Department from January 2017 to June 2018.
- There is a crisis of priorities.
- There are historical and cultural barriers to changing the mindset of persons being bought and sold for sex.

Q&A

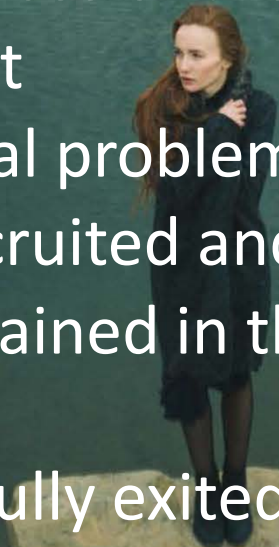
POLL OPTION: Do you currently work with or provide services to sex trafficking victims in your community?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure



Part 2: Exploring Experiences of Domestic Sex Trafficking in Hawai'i

- Qualitative interviews of domestic sex trafficking victims and family members
- The purpose of the study is to explore the childhood and lifetime experiences of the victim
 - child maltreatment
 - mental and medical problems
 - how they were recruited and sold by sex traffickers
 - how they were retained in the sex trafficking situations
 - how they successfully exited the sex trafficking situations (if able)

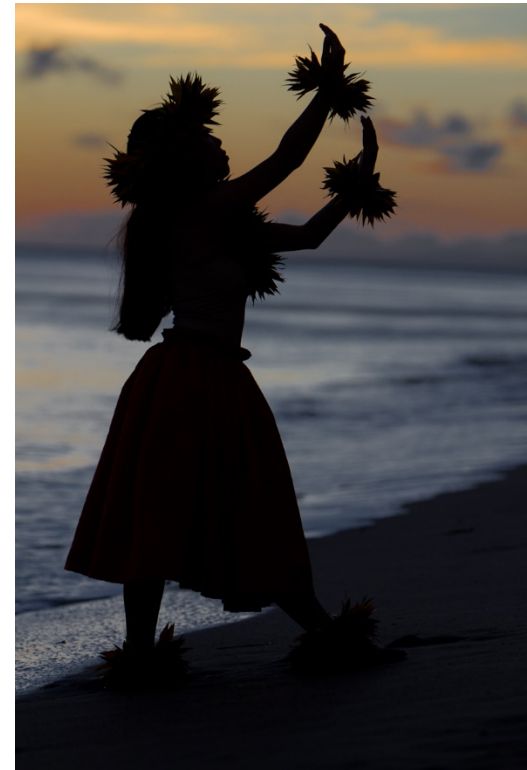


Study Outline

- Conducted 5 interviews with domestic sex trafficking victims on 2 Hawaiian Islands.
- Conducted 2 focus groups in the Women's Community Correctional Center and six individual interviews on Oahu.
- Conducted 8 interviews with family members of domestic sex trafficking victims on 2 Hawaiian Islands.
- All non-WCCC interviews were recorded.
- All participants completed a life history survey and the Adverse Childhood Experience Questionnaire.
- Participants were asked about their service needs (or those of their family member) and what helped and what didn't when exiting.

Preliminary Findings – 22 Interviews

- 72.7% (16) identified as Pacific Islander.
- All of the domestic sex trafficking victims were women.
- Family interviews were held with 3 mothers, a mother and step-father, a father, an aunt, and a grandfather.
- Age range of the domestic sex trafficking victims was 15 to 63 ($M = 34.23$, $SD = 15.17$)
- No minors were interviewed, only family members of minors.



Veltri, Jessica, 2010, flicker.com

Childhood Experiences

- 21 (95.5%) reported a history of running away before age 18.
- 16 (72.7%) reported having problems in school resulting in suspension or expulsion.
- 9 (40.9%) had been enrolled in special education classes.

Childhood Maltreatment Experiences

Maltreatment	#	% of total
Physical Abuse	13	59.1%
Witnessed Domestic Violence	11	50%
Emotional Abuse	11	50%
Removed from Family and placed in foster care	9	40.9%
Sexual Abuse	15	68.2%
Teen Dating Violence	18	81.8%

Life Experiences :

- Age at first drug use experience: 8 - 17 years old
($M = 12.73$, $SD = 2.03$)
- Addiction to drugs: 17 (77.3%)
- Age at first sexual abuse experience: 1 - 16 years old
($M = 8.23$, $SD = 4.38$)
- Adverse Childhood Experiences Score: ranged from 0 to 10, ($M = 5.95$, $SD = 2.40$)
- How long since they were sex trafficked: ranged from still in the situation to 41 years ($M = 8.73$, $SD = 10.8$)

Sex Trafficking

- Age when first sex trafficked ranged from 11 to 20 years ($M = 14.68$, $SD = 2.64$)

Methods and Locations of Sex Trafficking in Hawai'i	#	%
Street prostitution	15	68.2%
Selling sex out of a strip club	11	50%
Bar prostitution	10	45.5%
House parties (rural and in cities)	8	36.4%
Backpage/craigslist internet advertisements	8	36.4%
Game room	5	22.7%
Pornographic photos or films	5	22.7%
Telephone call girl/escort	5	22.7%
Brothel	5	22.7%
Massage parlors	3	13.6%
Webcam	2	9.1%

Sex Trafficking

- Of the 19 cases with details about their first trafficker

Relationship to the Trafficker	#
Boyfriend	9
Drug dealer or friend with drugs	6
Stranger (with a place to stay)	3
Friend	1

Next Steps

- Continue to analyze the interviews and surveys completed by the 22 participants with a report release anticipated in January 2019.
- Explore the recommendations of the participants regarding what they needed and what was and was not available for them for supports.
- Work with the Hawai'i State Commission on the Status of Women to apply the research to develop data-driven recommendations.

Q&A



Dominique Roe-Sepowitz, MSW, PhD
Dominique.roe@asu.edu

Thank you for your participation!

For assistance, please contact us:



AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program (AATTAP)
(877) 712-6237 | askamber@fvtc.edu | ncjtc.fvtc.edu/AMBER

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