

EXAMINING THE FACTS

a presentation of findings from :

Barriers to Escape: How Homelessness and Drug Addiction Prevent Women from Escaping Sex Trafficking and Commercial Sex

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Methodology

- The study involved 74 women in Detroit, Michigan, and was conducted by the Detroit-based non-profit Street Outreach Teams.
- The multidisciplinary team, consisting of a physician, medical support staff, a behavioral health specialist, and a social worker, identified patients by setting up temporary clinics in shelters or soup kitchens and by going into areas known for homelessness, such as parks or abandoned buildings.
- The survey focused on specific areas of Detroit, including the Southwest, East Side, and Brightmoor, where there are significant homeless populations.
- The study used a nonprobability, convenience sampling method, meaning the findings are specific to the 74 respondents and not generalizable to a larger population.

Status: Trafficked, Commercial Sex Neither

Status	Respondents Identifying with Status	(N=74)
Trafficked	61%	45
Engaged in Commercial Sex (Voluntary, Not Trafficked)	27%	20
Neither Currently Trafficked nor Engaged in Commercial Sex	12%	9

- Women who fell into the “trafficked” category answered “yes” to the question: “Are you currently involved in sex work?” and answered “yes” to at least one follow-up question, such as:
 - *Have you ever been forced to perform sex for money?*
 - *Were your vital documents ever taken from you?*
 - *Did a “controller” or “manager” ever take the money you received?*
 - *Were you ever compelled to work without pay?*
 - *Did you ever feel that you were not free to leave your workplace?*

Outcome Dimensions

The study compared the three groups across five outcome dimensions:



Challenges with substance drug use and addiction

Experiences with homelessness or unstable housing



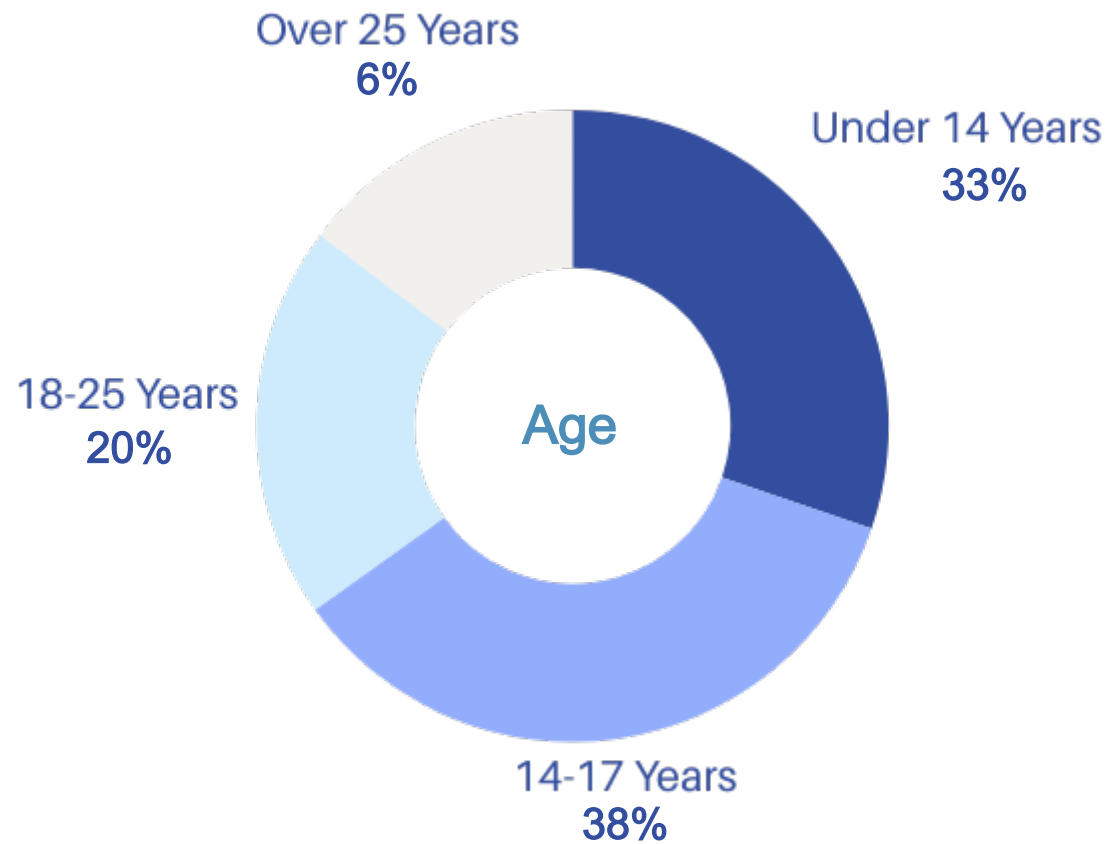
Instances of violence

Interactions with law enforcement



Barriers to healthcare and health-related issues

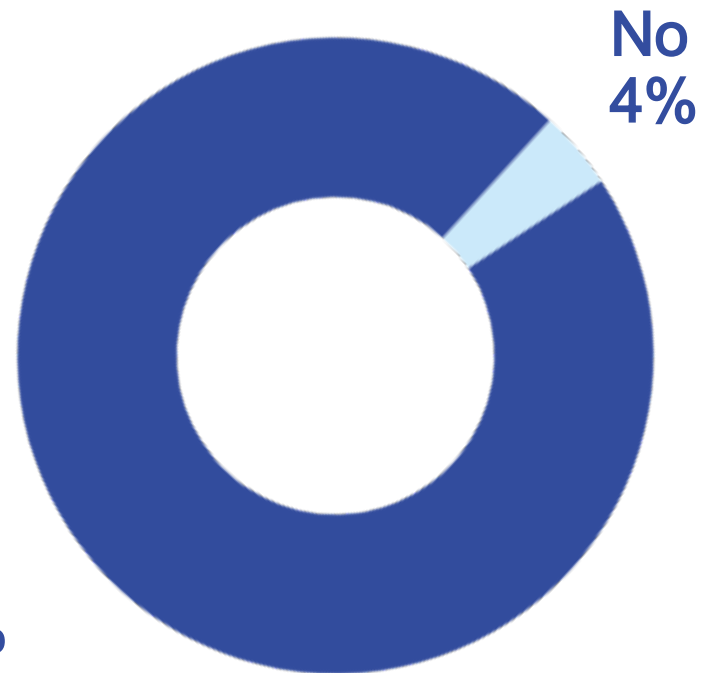
Age at which trafficking victim first used drugs



Trafficking Victims and Rates of Violence

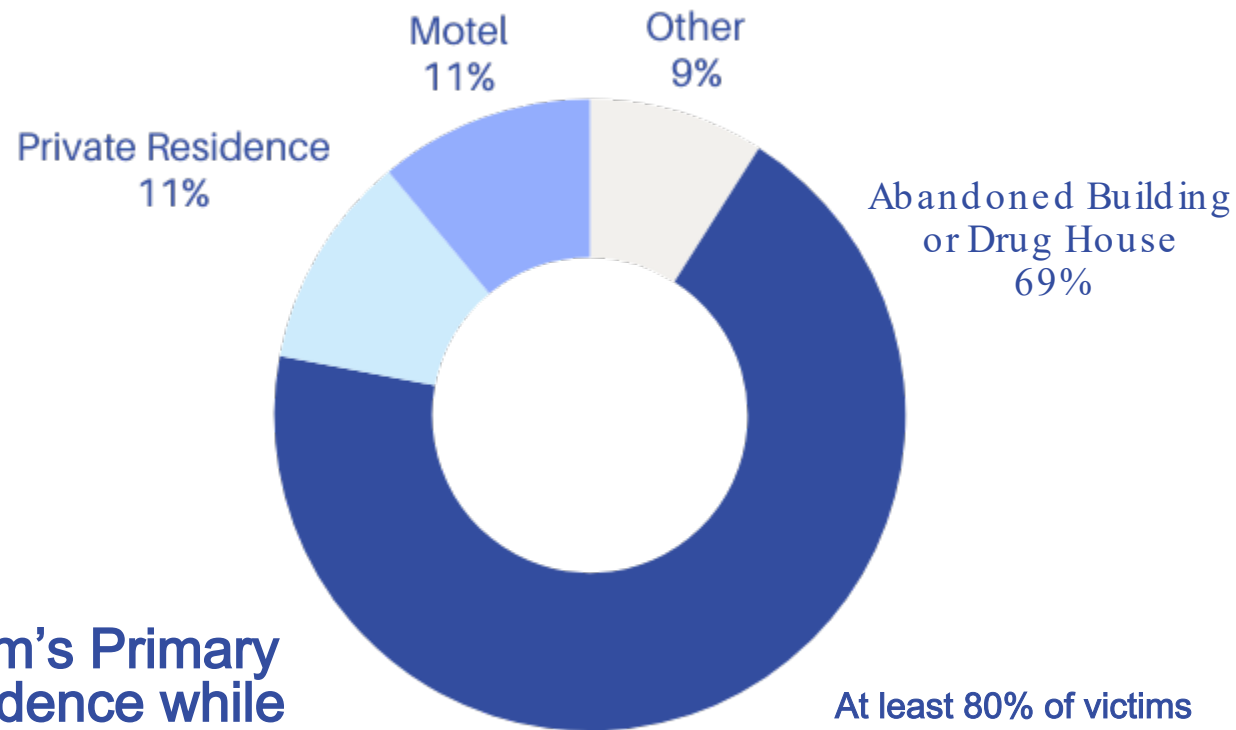
Question Asked:
*"Have you been a
victim of violence?"*

Yes
96%



No
4%

Housing Insecurity among trafficking victims

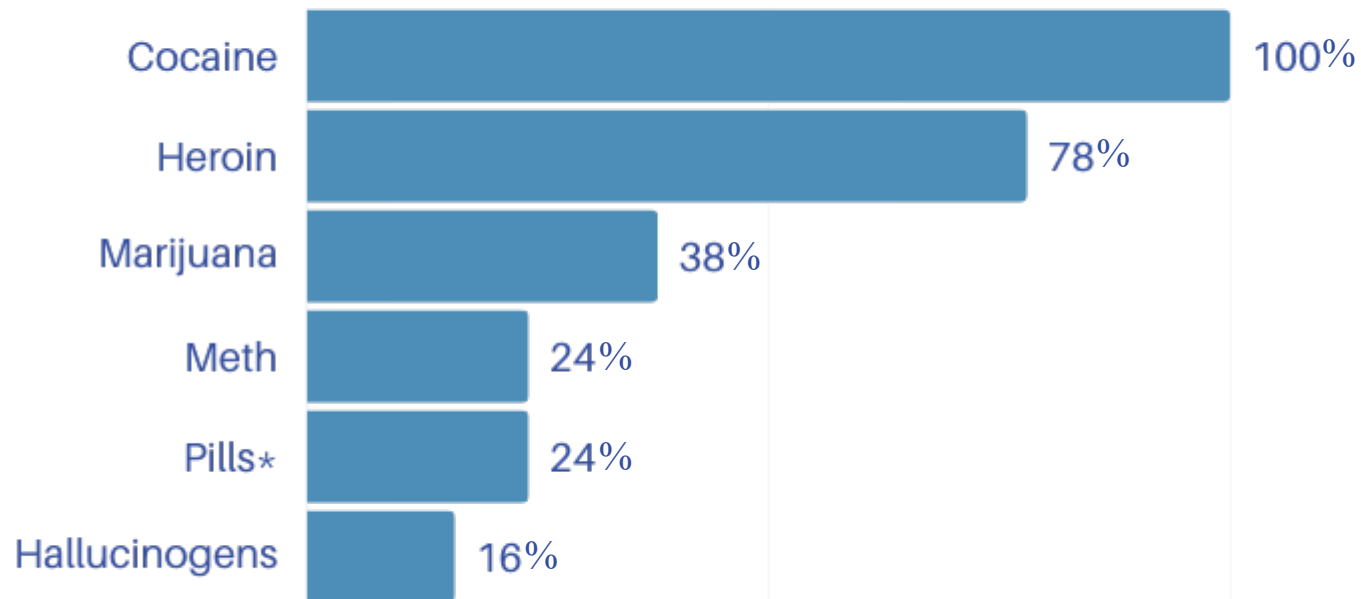


Victim's Primary Residence while Being Trafficked

At least 80% of victims experienced some type of housing insecurity.

Types of drugs used by trafficking victims

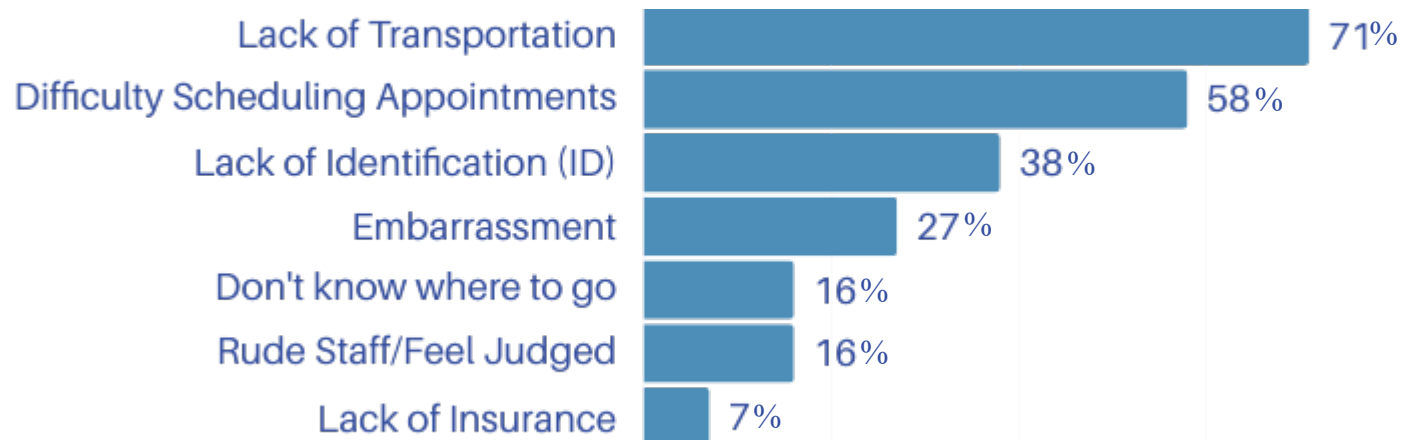
Drug Use by Percent



*Pills includes Opiates, Benzos, and Others

Trafficking Victims' Barriers to Healthcare

Question Asked: *“What are the barriers to your ability to receive healthcare?”*



Trafficking Victims & Commercial Sex Workers: What do they have in Common?

Trafficking Victims



80% experienced housing instability.



80% had children.



96% had been a victim of violence.



100% reported substance use.



96% have been arrested at least once.



100% desired to be on a different path than the one they were on.

Commercial Sex Workers



65% experienced housing instability.



75% had children.



80% had been a victim of violence.



100% reported substance use.



100% have been arrested at least once.



100% desired to be on a different path than the one they were on.