

The Demanding Justice Project Benchmark Assessment Report by Shared Hope International documents criminal actions brought against buyers of sex acts with children and the outcomes of federal and state arrests, charges and prosecutions of these buyers from 2008 to present. The research goal is to identify changes or trends, as well as forecast change stemming from recent case law holding buyers accountable under the federal sex trafficking law.

## RESEARCH FINDINGS

### Buyer Statistics

- 407 cases of individuals who purchased or attempted to purchase sex from a minor were identified via public information sources from 2008-present.
- 99% (402 cases) of buyers were males; 1% (4 cases) were female.
- Buyer professions varied. Of the 137 cases where this information was available:
  - 77 (18.9% of the total buyer cases) of the buyers' professions involved working with children such as a teacher, sports coach, military recruiter, and boy scout leaders.
    - Teacher or school employee: 34 cases
  - 88 professions (21.6% of the total buyer cases) involved a position of authority or trust, such as attorney, law enforcement, military, or minister.
    - First responder (fire fighter, law enforcement, emergency medical technician): 21 cases
    - Faith community leader (pastor, minister): 5 cases

### Minor Victim Statistics

The 407 buyer cases in this study included 347 known victims from information available within 294 cases that involved an actual victim rather than a decoy.

- The victim's gender (284 known cases) was female: 221 (77.8%); male: 59 (20.8%); both male and female: 3 (.1%) and transgender: 1 (.03%).
- Victim ages ranged from 2 to 17 years old; average of 14.8.
- Of the 247 cases where ages of the victims were provided:
  - 29 cases (9.7%) involved a victim under age 10
  - 124 cases (41.6%) involved victims ages 11 to 14
  - 145 cases (48.7%) involved victims over the age of 15 years

### BUYER:

A person who solicits or engages in, or attempts to engage in commercial sex acts with a minor under the age of 18. This includes buyers arrested as part of a sting operation who believed they were attempting to buy sex acts with a minor, buyers who directly solicited a minor to engage in commercial sex, and buyers who purchased or attempted to purchase sex acts with a minor through a third person.

### COMMERCIAL SEX:

Any exchange of sex acts, including sexual performance, for something of value.



8.4%

Teachers/School Employees



5.2%

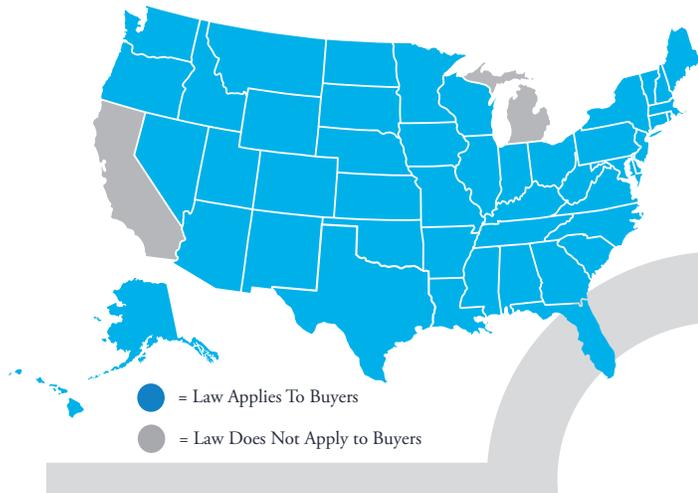
First Responders



1.2%

Faith Community Leaders

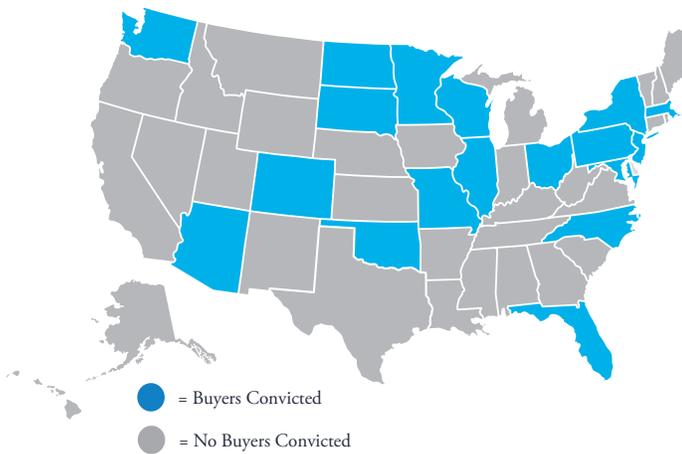
**State Trafficking or Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Law Applies to Buyers**



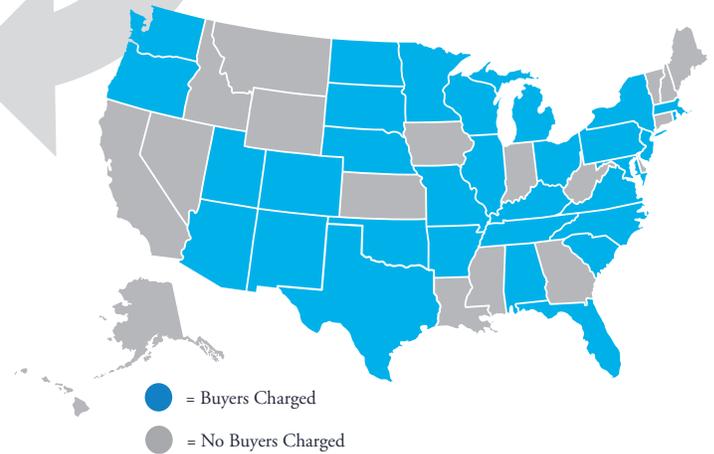
**Arrested: Identified Cases of Buyers of Sex with Children (State or Federal)**



**Convicted: Buyers have been Convicted Under Trafficking or CSEC Laws (State or Federal)**



**Charged: Buyers have been Charged Under Trafficking or CSEC Laws (State or Federal)**



**OVERALL CHARGING TRENDS AND SENTENCING RANGES**

- 407 buyers identified through the research were arrested for their crimes, of these, 368 buyers were charged.
- In 48 cases, the final charge remained CSEC/trafficking.
- The most common charges against buyers were sex offenses (206 cases, 51%) that do not reflect the commercial act of buying a child for sex acts.
- The second most common charge against buyers was commercial sexual exploitation of children (162, 40%), followed by child abuse (39, 9%).
- 194 cases were state prosecutions (77.9% of known cases) and 55 were federal prosecutions (22.1% of known cases).
- Of cases with sentencing information (101), the sentences ranged from 1 or less months to 1200 months (100 years) (M =104.7 months)in jail/prison. Two buyers were sentenced to life in prison.
- 31 cases required the buyer to register as a sex offender as part of their sentence.
- Of known cases (40) that resulted in probation sentences, seven were for lifetime probation while the others ranged from 1 to 15 years of supervision (M =5.4 months).