



White Paper: Framing the Problem of Sex Trafficking in Delaware

Overview: Skull Games has been working in counter sex trafficking for years, including the US northeast. We have recently begun to explore sex trafficking in Delaware. Now, we need to expand our influence, train the community, and build a more comprehensive capacity to not only IDENTIFY victims of trafficking but INTERRUPT the cycle of exploitation and RESTORE these women to a life of hope, healing, and renewed opportunity. This white paper will offer statistics and analysis on the scale, scope, and characteristics of sex trafficking in Delaware.

Statistics:

Sex ads:

Various sources are used to inform our assessment of sex trafficking in Delaware.

- Skull Games has access to a software that can count the number of sex advertisements listed for cities throughout Delaware. This is the “haystack” that we start with and then we refine it by looking for sex trafficking identifiers, building out leads and sending them to LE for action.
 - Collected and counted a minimum of Delaware ads- 2017- Present- 505,854 ads
 - With 136,593 different profiles of women for sale
 - 20,300 since 2017 show indicators of being a juvenile
- Dover accounts for 145,772 ads from 41,574 profiles, with 8,400 being suspected juveniles.
- Newark accounts for 55,536 ads from 13,301 profiles, with 1,300 being suspected juveniles.
- New Castle accounts for 22,914 ads from 5,198 profiles, with more than 300 being suspected juveniles.
- Seaford accounts for 6,143 ads from 1,157 profiles, with more than 100 being suspected juveniles.
- Wilmington accounts for 173,840 ads from 57,022 profiles, with 9,300 being suspected juveniles.
- It should be noted that other cities, including Rehoboth Beach are cities where ads are not placed, however can be referenced in the ad, as such 1,587 ads in Rehoboth Beach, may be posted in Seaford.
- As we waded through this mass of ads, we IDENTIFY about 10% with valid trafficking indicators that we focus on and turn into leads for law enforcement.

Illicit massage businesses:

Various websites are used to post sex ads for Illicit Massage Businesses (IMB's), including buyer review boards. It appears that throughout Delaware, a minimum of 150 massage businesses have sex related reviews left by buyers within the last 12 months.



Buyer response:

- Skull Games posted a sex ad in Seaford, which indicated the person engaged in commercial sex would be in Seaford for a week. The ad was posted at 5:43 pm local time. The first individual messaged the decoy ad at 6:01 pm local time. By 6:21 local time a male had already negotiated sex for money and was provided a hotel address to engage in those acts. By 6:24 pm local time, another male was provided the hotel address to engage in sex acts with both an adult and a minor.
- During the first hour following the ad being posted, 6 individuals contacted the decoy number. Of importance, these are 6 individuals that would have to go to a specific “escort” site and do a search for the area cities before finding the ad and sending a text message.
- For a period of four hours, 19 individual sex buyers contacted the decoy ad. These men asked to meet in Seaford, Rehoboth Beach, Georgetown, Easton, Bethany Beach, and were willing to travel from Milford.

Why do traffickers develop circuits around the state?

Reporting from victims, pimps, and Law Enforcement shows that traffickers want to move freely between regional boundaries and jurisdictions and exploit these seams. Many urban areas are viewed as easy on sex crimes with little focus on prosecution by the local district attorneys and traffickers bounce between them. The Interstate and state highway systems within Delaware make it vulnerable to trafficking throughout the entire east and northeast portion of the US, making it accessible to major cities throughout the country.

Final Comments: Trafficking has become part of the national discussion and will gain more attention. With your help, Skull Games is perfectly situated to be a leader in that discussion and lead by example. With cooperation, we can make it clear that Delaware is not a place to sell women and exploit children.

Joseph Scaramucci
Director of Law Enforcement Training and Operations
Skull Games, Inc