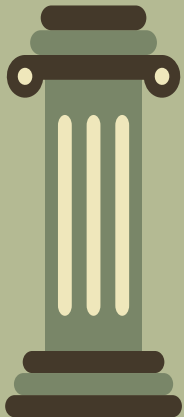


Facts, Myths, and Solutions for Child Sex Trafficking

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Taylor Matook, Esq.

Special Assistant Attorney
General, RIAG

Det. James Thulier

Detective, Portsmouth PD
Task Force Officer, HSI



Overview

01.

Facts & Myths

- General Overview
- Myths vs. Facts
- National Stats and Known Data

02.

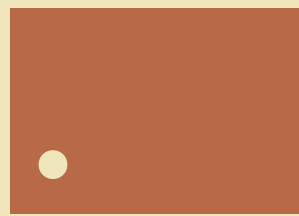
RI Law

- RIGLs
- RI Stats

03.

Solutions

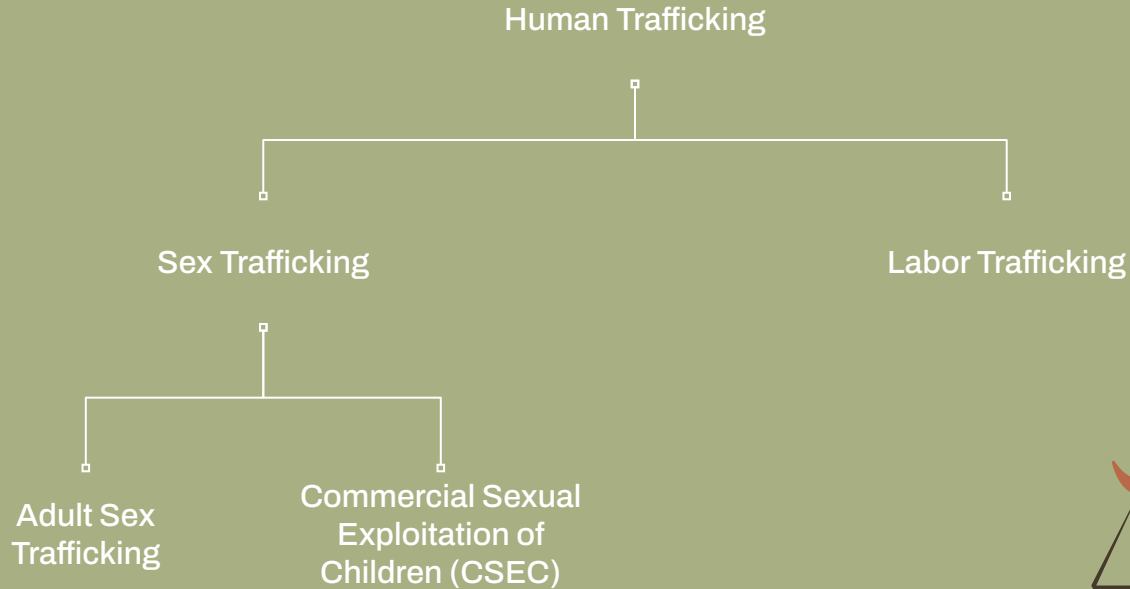
- RI Human Trafficking Task Force
- Human Trafficking Cases
- Proactive Investigations



Facts & Myths



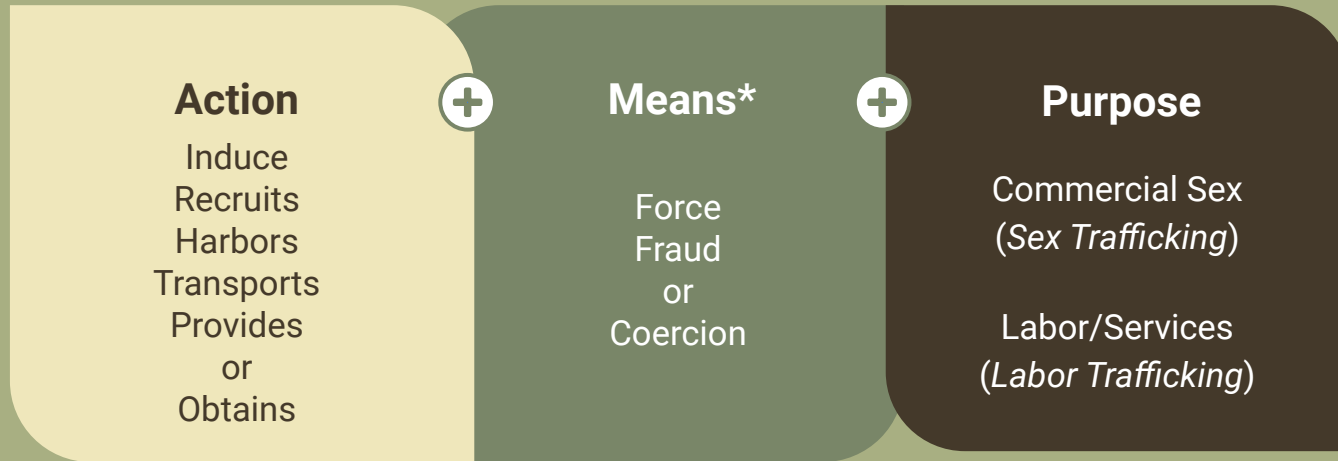
General Overview





The A-M-P Model

Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion* to compel a person into commercial sex acts or labor or services against his or her will.



**It is not necessary to demonstrate the use of force, fraud and coercion when a minor is induced into commercial sex.*

Myths vs Facts



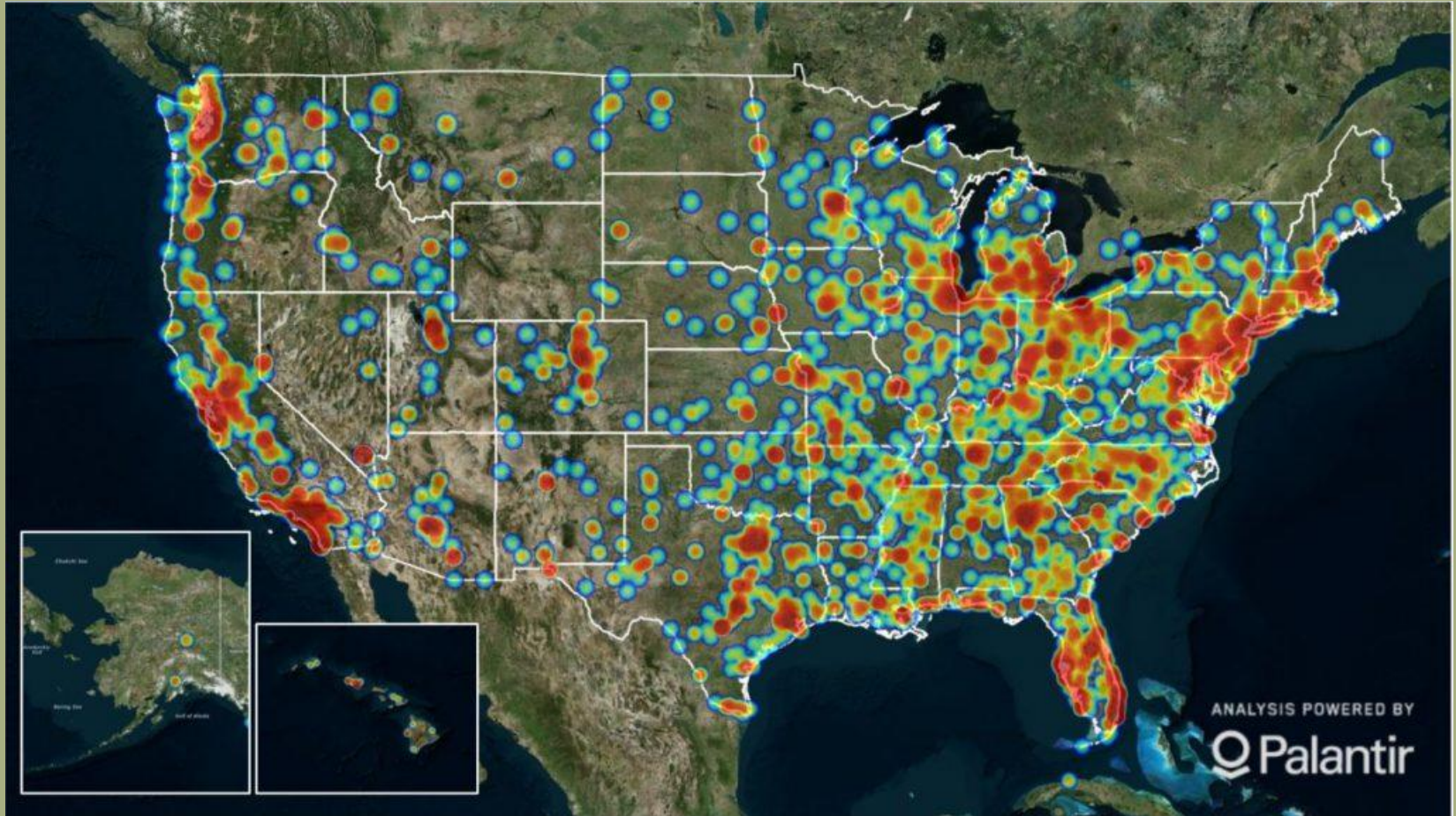
Trafficking primarily occurs in developing countries.

Trafficking occurs all over the world, though the most common forms of trafficking can differ by country.



The United States is one of the most active sex trafficking countries in the world, where exploitation of trafficking victims occurs in cities, suburban and rural areas.

2019 Human Trafficking Heat Map (Map Source: Polaris)



The above map is based on human trafficking cases reported through the Polaris-operated U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline. Because the majority of human trafficking cases go unreported, the problem is likely much worse than this map indicates. ([Polaris](#))

Myths vs Facts



Traffickers target victims they don't know.



A majority of the time, victims are trafficked by someone they know, such as a friend, family member or romantic partner.

Means and Methods of Sex Trafficking During the Pandemic

5 Types of Exploiter Types
Polaris Data 1/1/2020 - 8/31/2022

Exploiter Relationship to Victim	% of Victims
Familial	44%
Intimate Partner	39%
Employer	6%
Dealer/Illicit Substance Provider	5%
Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: No Controller	3%

Top 5 Risk Factors/Vulnerabilities for Sex Trafficking

2020 Only

Substance Use Concern
Runaway/Homeless Youth
Unstable Housing
Mental Health Concern
Recent Migration/Relocation

During Covid-19 (1/1/2020 - 8/31/2022)

Substance Use Concern
Unstable Housing
Runaway/Homeless Youth
Mental Health Concern
Recent Migration/Relocation

Myths vs Facts



Only girls and women are victims of sex trafficking.



Boys and men are just as likely to be victims of sex trafficking as girls and women. However, they are less likely to be identified and reported. LGBTQ boys and young men are seen as particularly vulnerable to trafficking.

Trafficking Victims During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Hotline data during the pandemic showed that victim demographics largely followed existing trends.



In situations of sex trafficking, 37% of potential victims were minors.



In situations of sex trafficking, 80% of victims were female.



In situations of sex trafficking where the victims' race or ethnicity was known, victims were:

- 32% White/Caucasian
- 25% Asian
- 21% African American
- 20% Latino/a.

Myths vs Facts



All commercial sex is human trafficking.

ALL commercial sex involving a minor is legally considered human trafficking.



Commercial sex involving an adult is human trafficking IF the person providing commercial sex is doing so against his or her will as a result of force, fraud or coercion.

Top Types of Sex Trafficking

Polaris Data January 2020 - August 2022

Type
Escort Services
Pornography
Illicit Massage, Health, & Beauty
Residential-Based Commercial Sex
Personal Sexual Servitude

Myths vs Facts



Trafficking involves moving, traveling, or transporting a person across state or national borders.

Human trafficking is often confused with human smuggling, which involves illegal border crossings. In fact, the crime of human trafficking does not require any movement whatsoever.



In some cases, a child could be recruited and trafficked from their own hometowns, and even their own homes.

In the U.S., trafficking most frequently occurs at hotels, motels, truck stops, and online.

Myths vs Facts



People being trafficked are physically unable to leave or held against their will.



Trafficking can involve force, but people can also be trafficked through threats, coercion, or deception.

People in trafficking situations can be controlled through drug addiction, violent relationships, manipulation, lack of financial independence, or isolation from family or friends, in addition to physical restraint or harm.

Myths vs Facts

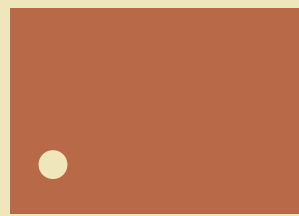


People in active trafficking situations always want help getting out.



Not every victim identifies as a victim.

Every trafficking situation is unique and self-identification as a trafficking victim or survivor happens along a continuum.



RI Law





R.I.G.L. Chapter 67.1:

Uniform Act on Prevention of and Remedies for Human Trafficking



§ 11-67.1-3. Trafficking an individual.

(a) A person commits the offense of trafficking an individual if the person knowingly recruits, transports, transfers, harbors, receives, provides, obtains, isolates, maintains, or entices an individual in furtherance of:

(1) Forced labor in violation of § 11-67.1-4; or

(2) **Sexual servitude in violation of § 11-67.1-5.**

(b) Every person who shall commit trafficking of a minor shall be guilty of a felony, subject to not more than fifty (50) years imprisonment, a fine of up to forty thousand dollars (\$40,000), or both.

(c) Every person who shall commit trafficking of an adult shall be guilty of a felony, subject to not more than twenty (20) years imprisonment, a fine of up to twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000), or both.



§ 11-67.1-5. Sexual servitude.

(a) A person commits the offense of sexual servitude if the person knowingly:

(1) Maintains or makes available a minor for the purpose of engaging the minor in **commercial sexual activity**; or

(2) Uses **coercion** or **deception** to compel an adult to engage in commercial sexual activity.

(b) It is **not** a defense in a prosecution under subsection (a)(1) of this section that the minor consented to engage in commercial sexual activity or that the defendant believed the minor was an adult.

(c) Every person who shall commit sexual servitude of a minor shall be guilty of a **felony**, subject to not more than fifty (50) years imprisonment, a fine of up to forty thousand dollars (\$40,000), or both.

(d) Every person who shall commit sexual servitude of an adult shall be guilty of a **felony**, subject to not more than twenty (20) years imprisonment, a fine of up to twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000), or both.



§ 11-67.1-2. Definitions:

- (8) **“Minor”** means an individual less than eighteen (18) years of age.
- (3) **“Commercial sexual activity”** means sexual activity for which anything of value is given to, promised to, or received, by a person.
- (11) **“Sexual activity”** means sexual intercourse, cunnilingus, fellatio, anal intercourse, or the intentional touching of the victim’s or accused’s intimate body parts, clothed or unclothed, if the touching is for the purpose of sexual arousal, gratification, or assault.
- (2) **“Coercion”** means:
- (i) The use or threat of force against, abduction of, serious harm to, or physical restraint of, an individual;
 - (ii) The use of a plan, pattern, or statement with intent to cause an individual to believe that failure to perform an act will result in the use of force against, abduction of, serious harm to, or physical restraint of, an individual;
 - (iii) The abuse or threatened abuse of law or legal process;
 - (iv) Controlling or threatening to control an individual’s access to a controlled substance as defined in § 21-28-1.02;
 - (v) The destruction or taking of or a threatened destruction or taking of an individual’s identification document or other property;
 - (vi) The use of debt bondage;
 - (vii) The use of an individual’s physical or mental impairment when the impairment has a substantial adverse effect on the individual’s cognitive or volitional function; or
 - (viii) The commission of civil or criminal fraud.

§ 11-67.1-7. Patronizing a minor for commercial sexual activity.

(a) A person commits the offense of patronizing a minor for commercial sexual activity if:

(1) With the intent that an individual engage in commercial sexual activity with a minor, the person ***gives, agrees to give, or offers to give anything of value*** to a minor or another person so that the individual may engage in commercial sexual activity with a minor; **or**

(2) The person ***gives, agrees to give, or offers to give anything of value*** to a minor or another person so that an individual may engage in commercial sexual activity with a minor.

(b) Every person who shall patronize a minor for purposes of commercial sexual activity with a minor shall be guilty of a **felony**, subject to not more than ten (10) years imprisonment, a fine of up to twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000), or both.



§ 11-67.1-12. Statute of limitations.

A prosecution for an offense under this chapter must be commenced not later than **ten (10) years** after commission of the offense.



§ 11-67.1-19. Council on human trafficking.

(a) The council on human trafficking is created in the executive branch. The governor shall appoint the chair and members of the council. Members must include representatives of:

- (1)** Department of the attorney general, the department of health, the department of children, youth and families, the department of behavioral healthcare, developmental disabilities and hospitals, and law enforcement, that have contact with victims or perpetrators;
- (2)** Nongovernmental organizations that represent, advocate for, or provide services to victims; and
- (3)** Other organizations and individuals, including victims, whose expertise would benefit the council.

(b) The state agencies represented on the council created under this section shall provide staff to the council.

(c) The council created under this section shall meet on a regular basis and:

- (1)** Develop a coordinated and comprehensive plan to provide victims with services;
- (2)** Collect and evaluate data on human trafficking in this state and submit an annual report to the governor and legislature;
- (3)** Promote public awareness about human trafficking, victim remedies and services, and trafficking prevention;
- (4)** Create a public awareness sign that contains the state and national human trafficking resource center hotline information;
- (5)** Coordinate training on human trafficking prevention and victim services for state and local employees who may have recurring contact with victims or perpetrators; and
- (6)** Conduct other appropriate activities.



Other Relevant R.I.G.L. Sections

§ 11-37-8.8. Indecent solicitation of a child.

(a) A person is guilty of indecent solicitation of a child if he or she *knowingly* **solicits** another person under eighteen (18) years of age or one whom he or she believes is a person under eighteen (18) years of age for the purpose of engaging in an act of prostitution or in any act in violation of chapter 9, 34, or 37 of this title.

(b) As used in this section, the word **“solicit”** or **“solicitation”** means to command, authorize, urge, incite, request, or advise another to perform an act by any means including, but not limited to, in person, over the phone, in writing, by computer, through the Internet, or by advertisement of any kind.



§ 11-34.1-3. Procurement of sexual conduct for a fee.

(a) A person is guilty of procuring or attempting to procure sexual conduct for the payment of a fee if they engage or seek to engage in sexual conduct for any type of fee and/or pay or agree to pay any type of fee for sexual conduct, regardless of the time, place or location of the procurement, attempted procurement, payment, attempted payment or conduct. Any person found guilty under this section shall be deemed guilty of a **misdemeanor** and shall be subject to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, or to a fine of not less than two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or both.

(b) Any person found guilty of a *subsequent* offense under this section shall be subject to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, or a fine of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) nor more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or both.



RI Statistics

From the National Human Trafficking Hotline

All Time Statistics (Since 2007)

Signals

The Human Trafficking Hotline has received **533** signals since its inception.



Hotline Call: 401



SMS Report: 58



Online Report: 42



Email Received: 22



Web Chat: 10

Cases

Since its inception, the Human Trafficking Hotline has identified **170** cases of human trafficking. **369** victims were identified in these cases.



RI Statistics

From the National Human Trafficking Hotline

Cases Identified in 2023

13

cases were identified in 2023.



24

victims were involved in these cases. Cases can involve multiple victims.



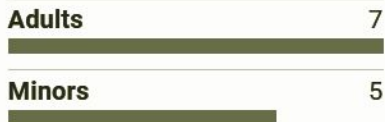
RI Statistics

From the National Human Trafficking Hotline

Case Demographics

The Hotline only collects demographic information for victims and survivors in a trafficking situation when appropriate. These numbers are not cumulative as one case could involve multiple victims and survivors.

Ages

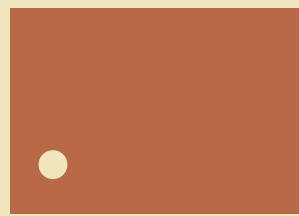


Genders



Citizenships





Solutions



Rhode Island Human Trafficking Task Force



Rhode Island Human Trafficking Task Force

ENFORCEMENT

- Investigate reports of human trafficking
- Assist law enforcement agencies with investigations pertaining to human trafficking
- Conduct proactive investigations

EDUCATION

- Conduct community outreach
- Provide resources to government and non-government entities who interact with victims of human trafficking



Human Trafficking Cases

The RI HTTF receives case leads from multiple sources, including:

- National Human Trafficking Hotline
- Nongovernmental Organizations
- Healthcare Providers
- Law Offices
- Victim Services
- Law Enforcement Agencies



Human Trafficking Cases

- Cases are evaluated for investigative merit
 - Review for statutory elements of human trafficking
 - Confirm jurisdiction within Rhode Island
- Task Force members conduct thorough investigation with the following goals:
 - Identify and provide services to victims
 - Identify and arrest suspected traffickers
 - Identify and arrest patrons of trafficked victims



Proactive Investigations

- In recent months, federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies partnered to conduct multiple large-scale undercover operations
- Contact was made with hundreds of unique numbers
- Multiple defendants arrested for a number of offenses, including:
 - Patronizing a Minor for Commercial Sexual Activity
 - Indecent Solicitation of a Child
 - Procurement of Sexual Conduct for a Fee

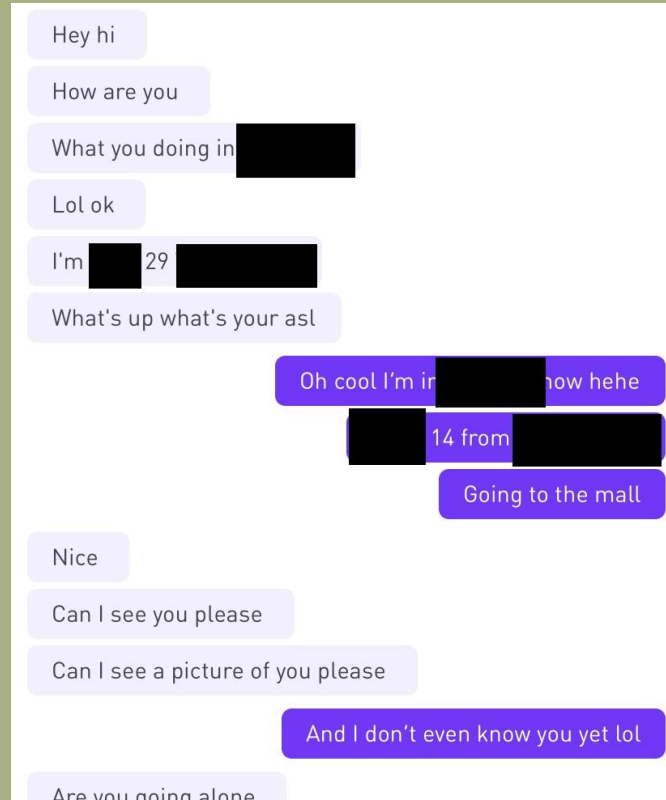


Proactive Investigations

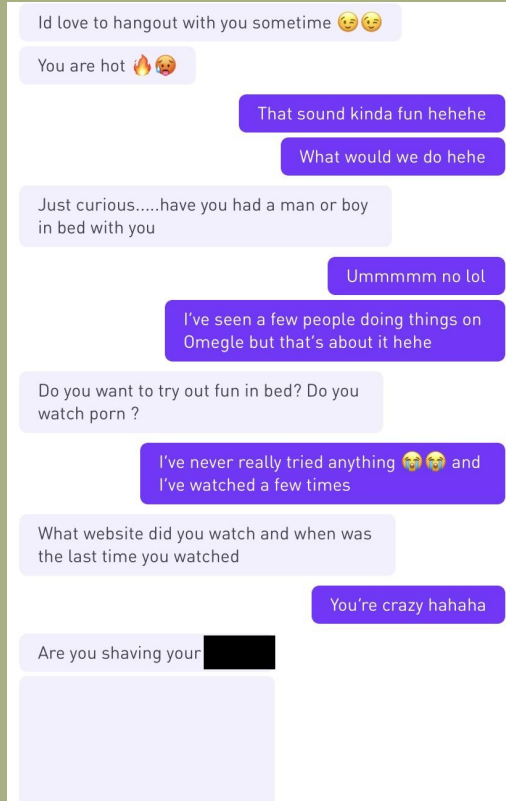
- These operations require large investments in resources
- The investigative team consists of law enforcement officers with different specialties
- Specialized equipment is needed to engage in conversations with potential suspects, and gather evidence effectively
- Host facilities, such as hotels, motels, or other similar areas are also typically required



Undercover Communications



Undercover Communications



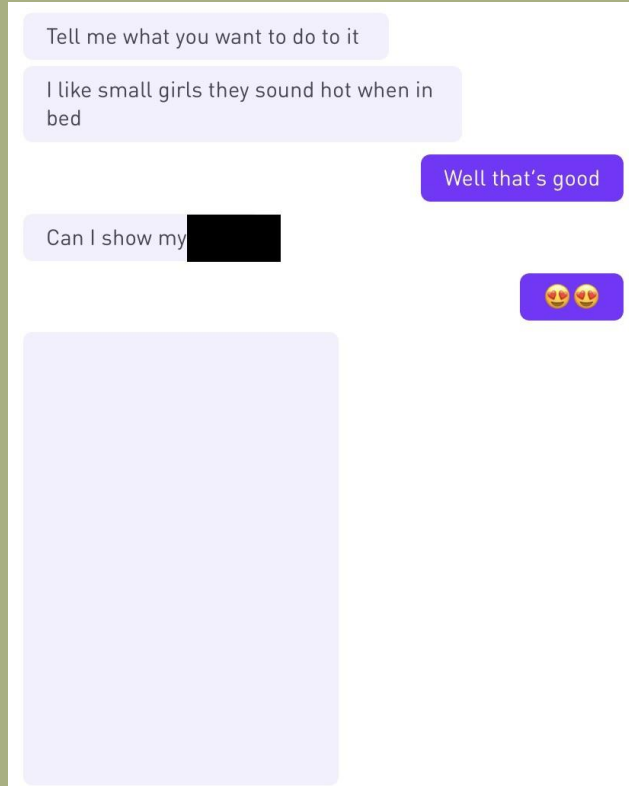
Undercover Communications

What's your bra size

Really? lol

I'm little in mood for sex after seeing how hot you are

Undercover Communications



Undercover Communications

I want to hangout with you and make love in bed that's what I want

😳😳😳 that would be so crazy haha

I think I'd try hehe

Would you like it

Can I lick your [REDACTED]

Awwwww yea hehe

Like an ice cream

Will you kneel down and kiss my [REDACTED]

.....

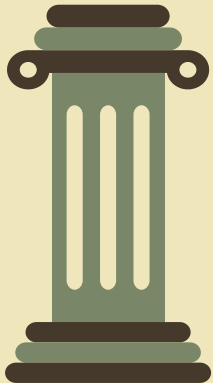
Questions?

Taylor Matook, Esq.

Special Assistant Attorney
General, RIAG
TMatook@riag.ri.gov

Det. James Thulier

Detective, Portsmouth PD
Task Force Officer, HSI
JThulier@portsmouthri.gov



Sources

- Polaris Project
- Give Her a Choice: Building A Better Future For Girls (Save the Children)
- United Nations Office on Drug and Crime
- R.I.G.L.
- National Human Trafficking Hotline