

## **AB 811: Sexual Exploitation and Child Abuse Statistics**

Parental/caregiver neglect was found to be the most common experience, shared by most if not all of the child victims. This neglect drives many youth to seek out and connect with others (pimps/traffickers and johns) to fulfill their basic needs such as food, shelter, and clothing.

Escaping abuse is the number one reason given by 40% of the girls and 30% of the boys who run away from home.

Research has shown that the majority of child prostitution victims come from homes where they have been abused, or from families that have abandoned them.

Victims cite the presence of existing adult prostitution markets and their or their family members' drug dependency as leading factors contributing to their involvement in sexual exploitation of children in the United States

The majority of American victims of commercial sexual exploitation tend to be runaway or thrown away youth who live on the streets who become victims of prostitution.

Runaway, throwaway and homeless children are at the highest risk of sexual exploitation, especially its commercial forms--i.e., pornography, juvenile prostitution

More than half of the girls (57%) involved in prostitution stated that they were sexually abused by someone outside of the family.

Nearly 30% reported sexual abuse by someone in the family; and 14% disclosed sexual abuse by both someone within and outside of their family.

Parental neglect and absence were often due to addiction to chemical and substance abuse dependency; 64% of girls in one study revealed one or both parents were addicted to drugs or alcohol.

An estimated 10-15% of children living on the streets have been sexually exploited.

Approximately 55% of homeless girls engage in formal prostitution; of the girls engaged in formal prostitution, about 75% worked for a pimp.

Many youth who live on the streets are lured or forced into child prostitution. Most of the time, they are recruited by someone who knew them (through their friends, from around the neighborhood) or sometimes by someone who knew of them but they have never met.

It is estimated that about 293,000 American youth are currently at risk of becoming victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

1 out 3 teens on the streets will be lured into prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home.

The average age at which girls first become victims of prostitution is 12 to 14. For boys and transgender youth, the average age into prostitution is 11 to 13.

**Source: Estes, Richard J. and Neil A. Weiner. *The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico*. The University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work: 2001. Study funded by the Department of Justice.**

Among children and teens living on the streets in the United States, involvement in commercial sex activity is a problem of epidemic proportion. Approximately 55% of street girls engage in formal prostitution.

Victims are becoming younger, largely because exploiters are concerned about victims having HIV or AIDS

A pimp can make \$150,000-\$200,000 per child each year and the average pimp has 4 to 6 girls.

**Source: U.S. Department of Justice**

Of all human trafficking victims, runaway teens are most at risk, especially if they've left homes roiled by domestic violence or child abuse.

70 to 90 percent of victims have a prior history of physical or sexual abuse in the home or by extended family. In some cases, the first trafficking experience is initiated by a drug-addicted parent

These children generally come from homes where they have been abused, or from families that have abandoned them

The majority of minors who become involved in prostitution are runaway or thrown away children from abusive or otherwise dysfunctional homes. They are often lured into prostitution by sophisticated criminals who convince them not only that they will earn money to survive but also that they will be taken care of and have the secure loving environment that they lacked at home. These promises are often honored only in the breach - pimps take the money a child earns on the streets and pimps engage in severe physical abuse to build a relationship of dependency.

The average victim may be forced to have sex up to 20-48 times a day.

**Source: Polaris Project**

## Crimes to which AB 811 surcharge is applied

Human Trafficking

Patronizing prostitutes

Soliciting prostitutes

Pandering

Keeping a place of prostitution

Solicitation of drinks prohibited

Sexual assault of a child

Engaging in repeated acts of sexual assault of the same child

Physical abuse of a child

Causing mental harm to a child

Sexual exploitation of a child

Trafficking of a child

Causing a child to view or listen to sexual activity

Incent with a child

Child enticement

Use of a computer to facilitate a child sex crime

Soliciting a child for prostitution

Sexual assault of a child placed in substitute care

Sexual intercourse with a child age 16 or older

Sexual assault of a child by a school staff person or a person who works or volunteers with children

Exposing genitals or pubic area

Exposing child to harmful material or harmful descriptions or narrations

Possession of child pornography

Child sex offender working with children

Registered sex offender and photographing minors