



## National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month: Some San Diego County Statistics

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery where perpetrators profit from the sexual exploitation and/or forced labor of other individuals. According to the San Diego County District Attorney’s Office, California is one of the nation’s top four destination states for trafficking of human beings and San Diego has been identified by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as one of the top 13 high-intensity child prostitution areas.<sup>1</sup> With January recognized nationally as being National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention month, this CJ Flash highlights data regarding human sex trafficking from the Substance Abuse Monitoring (SAM)<sup>2</sup> program, as well as a local analysis of North County Lifeline’s program Project LIFE (Living in Freedom from Exploitation) aimed at underserved victims of human trafficking.<sup>3</sup>

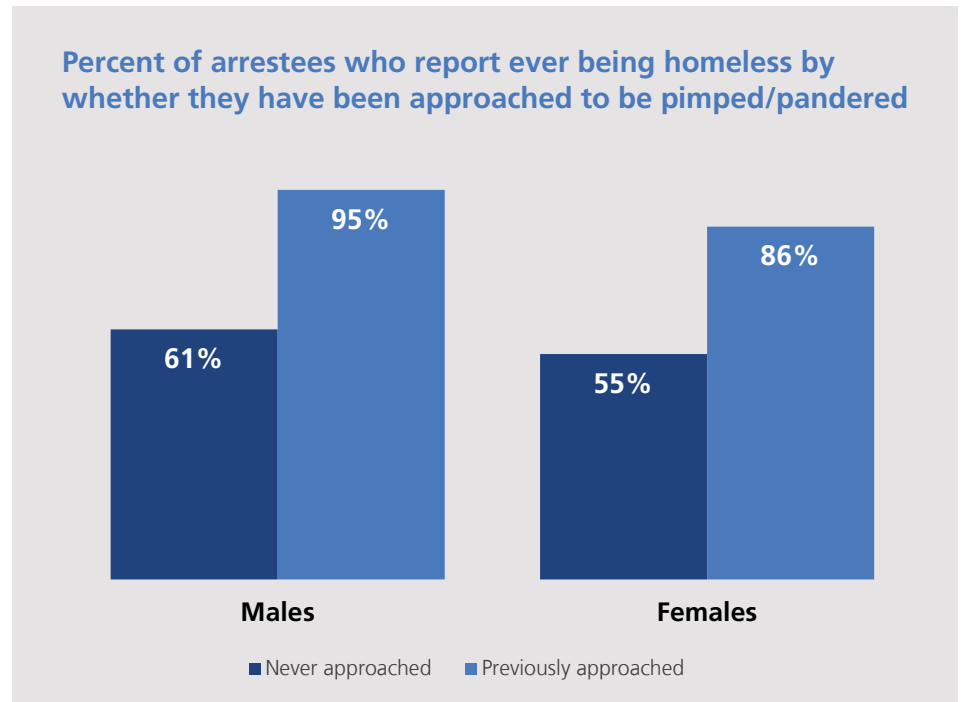
**Fact 1** While there is no single profile of a trafficking victim, a common denominator is some form of vulnerability,<sup>4</sup> including runaway and homeless youth and individuals with substance abuse issues. Consistent with this profile, almost 1 in 5 (17%) of adult arrestees overall in 2018 reported they had ever been approached by someone to pimp/prostitute them, with females significantly more likely to report this (36%), compared to males (7%).<sup>5</sup> It is important to note that while fewer males reported this history, the U.S. Advisory on Human Trafficking<sup>6</sup> notes that boys and men are an underserved population and they represent one of the groups that Project LIFE is targeting services toward.

### Percent of adult arrestees ever approached to be pimped/pandered

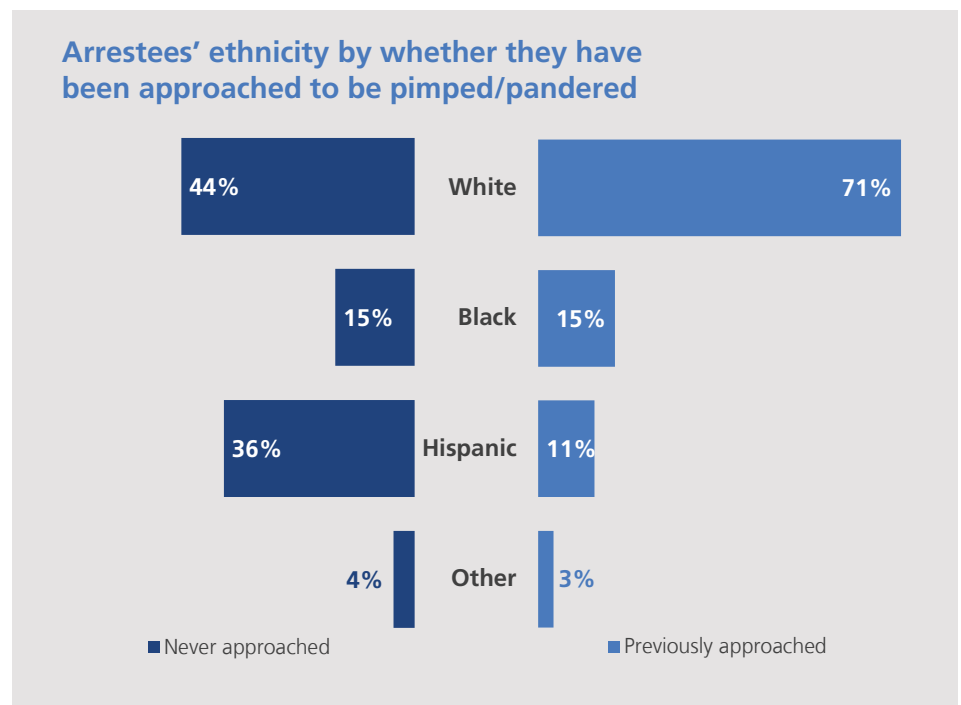


<sup>1</sup> For more information about local efforts to address human trafficking, visit the District Attorney’s website at [sdca.org/preventing/human-trafficking/index.html](https://sdca.org/preventing/human-trafficking/index.html).  
<sup>2</sup> As part of SAM, individuals arrested and booked into a local detention facility are asked to complete a voluntary, confidential, and anonymous interview regarding their drug use and other risk-taking behavior. More information about SAM can be found at [sandag.org/cj](https://sandag.org/cj).  
<sup>3</sup> North County Lifeline’s Project LIFE is an advocacy program that provides critical intervention services to individuals who have experienced sex or labor trafficking, domestic servitude, or commercial sexual exploitation. Project LIFE also provides trafficking prevention services for at-risk youth and trafficking awareness training for community members and professionals who may encounter victims. More information about Project LIFE can be found at [nclifeline.org/project-life-living-in-freedom-from-exploitation](https://nclifeline.org/project-life-living-in-freedom-from-exploitation) and information about the SANDAG analysis can be found at [sandag.org/index.asp?classid=14&subclassid=18&projectid=536&fuseaction=projects.detail](https://sandag.org/index.asp?classid=14&subclassid=18&projectid=536&fuseaction=projects.detail)  
<sup>4</sup> National Criminal Justice Reference Service (2020). *Special Feature: Human Trafficking*. Retrieved from [ncjrs.gov/humantrafficking](https://ncjrs.gov/humantrafficking).  
<sup>5</sup> The 2018 sample size for this study was 463 individuals. Of the 300 males, 20 reported ever being approached for pimping/pandering, as did 59 of the 163 females. These sample sizes and the sensitive nature of this topic should be considered when reviewing these findings.  
<sup>6</sup> United States Advisory Council on Human Trafficking (2019). *Annual Report*. Available online at [state.gov/united-states-advisory-council-on-human-trafficking-annual-report-2019/](https://state.gov/united-states-advisory-council-on-human-trafficking-annual-report-2019/).

**Fact 2** For both male and female arrestees, a history of homelessness was highly correlated with being approached to be pimped/pandered. That is, 95% of males and 86% of females who had been approached to be pimped/pandered reported ever being homeless, compared to 61% and 55% of males and females who had never been approached. Intake data from the Project LIFE evaluation also revealed 58% of Intensive Case Management (ICM) clients were assessed as being in crisis or vulnerable at intake in terms of shelter/housing.



**Fact 3** Arrestees who identified as White represented a greater proportion of the previously approached to be pimped/pandered group (71% versus 44%), while Hispanics represented a smaller percent (36% versus 11%). While previous research has suggested that Whites and Blacks are more likely to be sexually trafficked, and Hispanics and other minorities may be more likely to be labor trafficked,<sup>7</sup> it appears that more data is needed to better inform who is most at risk, as noted by the U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking in their 2019 Annual Report.



According to the U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking, the National Human Trafficking Hotline received an average of approximately 172 calls per day in FY 2017, identified almost 9,000 human trafficking cases, and provided resources to over 10,000 victims. If you have information about a potential trafficking situation, the hotline number is 1-888-373-7888.

<sup>7</sup> Banks, D. and Kyckelhahn, T. (2011). *Characteristics of Suspected Human Trafficking Incidents 2008-2010* (NJC 233732). Washington, D.C.: Bureau of Justice Statistics.