



## Texas State Facts

### Criminalization of DMST

1. The Texas human trafficking law makes trafficking a minor for purposes of prostitution or sexual performance a crime without regard to force in the commission.
2. The latest Texas statewide data suggests 188 girls under 18 are commercially sexually exploited on a typical weekend night via Internet classifieds websites and escort services.<sup>1</sup>
3. Between January 2007 and January 2011, 369 children have been identified as domestic sex trafficking victims in the state of Texas.<sup>2</sup>

### Criminal Provisions Addressing Demand

1. Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott was one of 51 Attorneys General who signed a letter to Backpage.com calling on the company to disclose its efforts to identify and delete advertisements that facilitate sex trafficking, specifically of minors.<sup>3</sup>

### Criminal Provisions for Traffickers

1. In March 2010, Barry Larnard Davis of Houston was found guilty on federal charges of sex trafficking of a minor, transportation of a minor with intent to engage in criminal sexual activity, as well as coercion and enticement of an adult to engage in criminal sexual activity and sentenced to more than 30 years imprisonment. He controlled a 16-year-old pregnant girl and an adult woman with physical violence, sexual violence and death threats.<sup>4</sup>
2. A conviction for trafficking of persons under Texas law mandates registration as a sex offender and is grounds for termination of parental rights.

### Protective Provisions for Child Victims

1. Although prostituted children are legally defined as victims, between 2006 and 2009, 63 youth were arrested each year on average for engaging in prostitution in Texas.<sup>5</sup>
2. The Texas “rape shield” law fails to apply in prosecutions of compelled prostitution and sex trafficking, leaving testifying victims vulnerable to traumatic cross-examination related to issues of sexual behavior and reputation and could deter victims from pursuing justice against their traffickers.

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<sup>1</sup> Adolescent Girls in the Texas Sex Trade (2010), pg. 12. <http://www.dallaswomensfoundation.org/sites/default/files/CSECNov10TX.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> The Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force Report (2011), pg 3. [https://www.oag.state.tx.us/AG\\_Publications/pdfs/human\\_trafficking.pdf](https://www.oag.state.tx.us/AG_Publications/pdfs/human_trafficking.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.tn.gov/attorneygeneral/cases/backpage/backpageletter.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.fbi.gov/houston/press-releases/2010/ho111210-1.htm>.

<sup>5</sup> Alternatives to Juvenile Justice for Youth Involved in Prostitution (2011), pg. 4. <http://www.tjpc.state.tx.us/publications/reports/RPTOTH201103.pdf>.