Wisconsin State Facts

Criminalization of DMST

1. Trafficking of a child is a distinct crime in Wisconsin making the exploitation of a minor under the age of 18 in a commercial sex act or sexually explicit performance a felony offense without regard to use of force, fraud, or coercion.

Criminal Provisions Addressing Demand

2. Wisconsin's human trafficking law can be applied to buyers, but does not prohibit a mistake of age defense, leaving buyers to assert they did not know the age of the child in defense to prosecution.

Criminal Provisions for Traffickers

3. In July 2010, Nicholas Harrison and his father, Todd Carter, became the first Wisconsin residents to be convicted in federal court for commercial sexual exploitation of a child. Carter trafficked six minors, keeping the girls working for him through violence and intimidation, once threatening, "I know where your mom and grandma live. I will blow up your grandma's house." Harrison was sentenced to six years in prison while Carter was sentenced to 25 years and both are required to register as sex offenders.[1]
4. Derrick Avery, aka "Pimp Snooky," is charged with federal sex trafficking of minors for recruiting children at bus stops and on the streets, luring them with the promise of expensive clothes and jewelry, and then beating and torturing them to perform commercial sex acts. He controlled the girls through violence and fathered several children with his victims.[2]
5. In August 2010, Paul Ketring of Verona, Wisconsin was charged with child sex trafficking under the state law after offering a local woman $50 in exchange for providing him access to an 8-year-old girl for sex acts. Search warrants for his home revealed extensive amounts of child pornography that led also to federal charges and a sentence of 90 months and a lifetime of supervised release for possessing child pornography. Also found were a stun gun and a refrigerator magnet that read "unregistered sex offender."[3]

Protective Provisions for Child Victims

6. Prostitution offenses are not limited in application to adults and do not identify a minor engaged in prostitution as a victim of sex trafficking, leaving minors vulnerable to arrest and detention for prostitution instead of protection and specialized treatment.
7. In August 2011, one community educator reported coming into contact with at least 100 youth in Milwaukee over the year who fit the definition of a sex trafficking victim and a street outreach worked in Milwaukee reported seeing at least 50 children engaged in prostitution in a six week period.[4]

Criminal Justice Tools for Investigation and Prosecution

8. A recent study showed that only 7% of justice system agencies and 39% of service providers have had some form of training on human trafficking.[5]

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[1] http://www.fbi.gov/milwaukee/press-releases/2010/mw073010.htm
[2] http://www.lb7.uscourts.gov/documents/WIED/09-1963.pdf
[3] http://www.fbi.gov/milwaukee/press-releases/2011/mw021811.htm
[4] http://www.wisconsinwatch.org/2011/08/07/human-trafficking-in-the-heartland/
[5] Hidden in Plain Sight: A Baseline Survey of Human Trafficking in Wisconsin, pg. 14. ftp://doaftp04.doa.state.wi.us/doadocs/Human_Trafficking_Report_Final.pdf