

COMMON MYTHS

ABOUT COMMERCIALIZED SEX

MYTH: CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING ISN'T HAPPENING IN THE UNITED STATES.

- FACTS:**
- Domestic minor sex trafficking, which is the commercial sexual exploitation of children through buying, selling, or trading their sexual services, IS happening within our borders. Forms of domestic minor sex trafficking include prostitution, pornography, stripping, and other sexual acts.
 - At least 100,000 American children are being used for porn or prostitution every year.
 - Most prostituted children have a pimp.
 - Investigative research by Shared Hope International reveals pimps commonly sell minor girls for \$400.00 an hour on America's streets.
 - Human rights investigations by Shared Hope International discovered minors were sold an average of 10-15 times a day, 6 days a week, totaling between 9,360 and 14,040 sex acts a year. The girls kept none of the money.

MYTH: ONLY A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE LOOK AT CHILD PORNOGRAPHY OR PURCHASE KIDS FOR SEX.

- FACTS:**
- 12 is the average age of entry into porn and prostitution, but their ages are often mislabeled.
 - 1 out of 5 pornographic images is of a child.
 - The sale of child pornography has become a 3 billion dollar annual industry.
 - Over 100,000 websites offer child pornography.
 - 55% of internet child pornography comes from the U.S.

MYTH: PORNOGRAPHY ISN'T HARMFUL TO ME OR ANYONE ELSE.

- FACTS:**
- Many women in porn admit they've experienced sexual, physical, and verbal abuse and neglect by parents, which ultimately led them to the porn industry.
 - In a study of 932 sex addicts, 90% of the men and 77% of the women indicated that looking at pornography "played a significant role in their addiction."
 - Studies have linked pornography use with violent and aggressive sexual behavior. In one study, 60% of men claimed they would rape a woman "if there were no chance of getting caught."
 - Pornography can influence individuals' attitudes toward women. Those who view porn are more likely to think of women as "eager and willing to accommodate any and every sexual act."

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Sources are available at www.thedefendersusa.org