



Gang Criminal Activity Expanding Into Juvenile Prostitution

Intelligence Report

31 January 2012

NATIONAL GANG INTELLIGENCE CENTER & FBI'S CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN UNIT

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Intelligence Report

SUBJECT: (U) Gang Criminal Activity Expanding Into Juvenile Prostitution

Key Findings:

- (U//FOUO) Juvenile prostitution is expanding as an additional source of income for many gangs, primarily for its high and steady financial rewards and perceived low risk of apprehension and punishment.
- (U//FOUO) Gang members and associates target young, vulnerable, and often runaway girls to recruit them into prostitution, while also sexually exploiting female gang member associates to capitalize on financial opportunities. Gang members and associates recruit and exploit juveniles at detention centers, public housing units, shopping malls, schools, flea markets, sporting events, and through telephone chat lines.
- (U) Gang control techniques include the use of violence, sexual assault, branding, and manipulation of victims in furtherance of their enterprise.
- (U//FOUO) Consistent with current trends in juvenile prostitution, gang members use the Internet to recruit, advertise and exploit victims of juvenile prostitution through modern technology due to the perceived anonymity of cyberspace.

DETAILS:

(U//FOUO) The National Gang Intelligence Center (NGIC) and the FBI's Crimes Against Children Unit (CACU) assesses with medium confidence^a that gang activity is expanding towards juvenile prostitution primarily for its steady financial rewards and perceived low risk of law enforcement interaction. Historically, prison, street and outlaw motorcycle gangs profit from drug distribution and have recently become involved in non-traditional criminal activity such as mortgage fraud and identity theft. Some gangs appear to be diversifying their income by reducing or eliminating drug trafficking activities in favor of juvenile prostitution.

^a (U) **High Confidence** indicates that judgments are based on high-quality information or that the nature of the issues makes it possible to render a solid judgment. **Medium confidence** generally means the information is credibly sourced, but can be interpreted in different ways and lacks additional support or information to warrant a high level of confidence. **Low confidence** generally means that the information is scant, questionable, or fragmented; that it is difficult to make solid analytic inferences; or there is a significant concern or problems with the source.

- (U//LES) October 2011 FBI reporting indicates that some sets of Crips in Portland, Oregon, are expanding from drug trafficking to incorporate sex trafficking and prostitution for profit. In September 2011, a Crips leader and drug dealer in Portland was arrested for prostituting minors.¹
- (U//LES) According to October 2011 FBI reporting, a 'Starz Up' street gang member in Sacramento, California, was charged with pimping adult females for prostitution. The gang is also suspected of exploiting two additional juveniles for prostitution.²
- (U//LES) June 2011 FBI reporting indicates that local gangs in San Diego, California, are engaging in prostitution operations as a secondary source of revenue and believe that it is less risky to prostitute girls than deal drugs.³
- (U) In April 2011, 38 suspected Crips gang members and their associates were indicted for operating a prostitution ring involving minors and adult females, as well as attempted murder, robbery, and drug trafficking, according to open source reporting.⁴

(U) Gangs Involved in Juvenile Prostitution

Bloods
 Crips
 Folk
 Gangster Disciples
 Latin Kings
 Mara Salvatrucha
 Starz Up
 Sur-13
 Hells Angels

*The above list only contains documented reporting over the last several years of gang involvement in juvenile prostitution.

(U//FOUO) Consistent with current trends seen in juvenile prostitution, gang members in several jurisdictions target juveniles some as young as 12 years old, forcing them into prostitution. While many victims are recruited at detention centers, public housing units, shopping malls, schools, sporting events, and through telephone chat lines; gang members will also sexually exploit female gang member associations to capitalize on financial opportunities.

- (U) In January 2012, a SUR-13 gang member was arrested and accused of prostituting juvenile runaway girls in Prince William County, Virginia. Additional reporting indicated the SUR-13 gang member forced a juvenile into prostitution by choking and beating her until she was unconscious. In one instance, the SUR-13 gang member ordered the juvenile victim to have sex with two men and in return the victim received half of the earnings.⁵
- (U//LES) In November 2011, a Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) member in Fairfax, Virginia, was sentenced to 24 years in prison for sex trafficking runaway juvenile females as a part of his prostitution ring. A 15 year old juvenile victim was recruited by the MS-13 pimp while on the run, while another juvenile victim was recruited through the MS-13 pimp's associate.⁶ The prostitution ring serviced clients throughout the northern Virginia, Washington, DC, and Maryland metropolitan area.⁷

- (U//LES) August 2011 FBI reporting indicates that gangs such as the Bloods, the Crips, the Latin Kings, and MS-13 control prostitution operations in different areas of New York City, and employ various operational tactics to recruit victims. Gangs recruiting members within their neighborhood, typically favor the “snatch and grab^b” technique. Whereas, Crips gang members recruit victims outside their neighborhood and use traditional grooming techniques.⁸
- (U//LES) July 2011 FBI reporting indicates that Folk gang members in Toledo, Ohio, are involved in juvenile prostitution and have “run trains^c” on an identified 12 year old victim of prostitution. The gang has a history of involvement in juvenile prostitution and the area has been targeted as a high street level recruitment area for juvenile prostitution.⁹
- (U//FOUO) In June 2011, an alleged female Bloods gang member in Toledo, Ohio, employed telephone chat lines to recruit other juveniles to engage in prostitution.¹⁰
- (U//LES) Gangster Disciple members in Chicago, Illinois, are operating sex trafficking and juvenile prostitution rings, according to December 2010 FBI reporting. Members recruit underage females from local public housing units in Chicago and employ violence to ensure their continued compliance.¹¹

(U) Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Juvenile Facts

(U) Juveniles who are involved in the commercial sex industry are viewed as victims of severe forms of trafficking in persons, which is sex trafficking “in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age”.

- A history of physical and sexual abuse is often common among victims.
- One study estimates as many as 325,000 children in the United States, Canada, and Mexico are at risk each year for becoming victims.
- The overwhelming majority of runaway, homeless, abused, and at-risk children are approached by pimps and drug dealers within 48 hours of landing on the streets.
- The average life expectancy of a juvenile after getting into prostitution is seven years, with homicide or HIV/AIDS as the main causes of death.
- Sex Trafficking need not involve actual movement of the victim.
- Pimps may earn hundreds of thousands of dollars every year from selling minors.
- Seventy-five percent of juvenile victims engaged in prostitution are under the control of a pimp.

Open Source Article; “Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: A Fact Sheet”; 01 March 2010; available at http://www.missingkids.com/en_US/documents/CCSE_Fact_Sheet.pdf.

Open Source Article; “Know the Facts”; Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation; 01 January 2009; available at http://fdff.org/docs/case_facts.pdf.

^b (U) Snatch and grab is a recruitment technique where pimps kidnap victims of prostitution whom are already working ‘the track’, have been groomed, and taught ‘the game’.

^c (U) “Run trains” refer to several different men having sex with one girl, one right after the other.

(U) As observed with traditional pimps, gang control techniques include the use of violence, sexual assault, branding, and manipulation of victims to commit other crimes in furtherance of the gang. Gang members provide security, transport the victims to the dates, and schedule appointments often exploiting the victims for free sex. As part of efforts by the pimp to remove himself from direct prostitution operations and shift culpability away from himself, juvenile victims – some of them female gang members and associates – may be forced to advertise for the business, solicit customers, schedule appointments, and collect money for the gang.

- (U) As of November 2011, MS-13 gang members would prostitute victims, whose ages ranged from 15 to 17, on numerous occasions while providing other gang members with free sexual encounters. The gang members also manipulated the victims into obtaining clients, scheduling prostitution appointments, transporting juvenile females to appointments, and collecting money.¹²
- (U) In October 2011, an MS-13 member in Springfield, Virginia, was arrested for operating a prostitution ring involving juvenile runaway girls. The MS-13 member, who allegedly recruited customers and provided security for their appointments, is also accused of threatening the girls and physically assaulting them if they did not want to have sex with clients. He also carried a machete for security duties and had sex with the juvenile girls free of charge.¹³
- (U//FOUO) According to June 2011 FBI reporting, MS-13 gang members in the Washington, DC metropolitan area branded^d their prostitutes' bodies with "M" and "S" gang symbols using knives and razors to show ownership.¹⁴
- (U//LES) In December 2010, a suspected Bloods gang member in Toledo, Ohio, allegedly prostituted a 14-year old juvenile female member of the Bloods gang, and girlfriend of the Bloods member. The Bloods member reportedly hosted parties at his home where he forced the victim to have sex with other partygoers, while assaulting the victim and preventing her from leaving.¹⁵

(U//FOUO) Consistent with current juvenile prostitution trends, gang members and pimps are using the Internet to recruit, advertise, and exploit their victims.^e Some authorities suggest that gangs are enticed into Internet prostitution by the potentially large profits derived from forcing their victims to prostitute themselves online, in addition to the convenience and anonymity of cyberspace, which often makes prostitution difficult for authorities to detect. The ease of Internet advertising and the use of smart phones have also afforded gangs a larger clientele and recruitment base.

- (U) In November 2011, two members of the Crips gang in Oceanside, California, were sentenced to 10 years in federal prison for the sex trafficking children – mostly runaways - and forcing them into prostitution. Senior members of the enterprise directed junior

^d (U) Branding is an identification technique used by burning or tattooing a victim to indicate ownership.

^e (U) For years, gang members used Internet websites to advertise the sale of their victims. However, recently several Internet sites including Craigslist have eliminated their erotic services personal advertisement sections.

level members often times from a prison cell. The gang used Internet websites such as Facebook, Twitter, and Craigslist to advertise their victims and find customers.¹⁶

- (U//FOUO) As of November 2011 an identified Gangster Disciples pimp, with a violent criminal history, recruited juvenile victims through facebook.com, and advertised them on backpage.com, a known escort website.¹⁷
- (U//LES) February 2011 FBI reporting indicates that several pimps allegedly associated with the Bloods, are operating an underage sex trafficking and prostitution ring in New Orleans, Louisiana and Memphis, Tennessee. The pimps photographed female juvenile victims and posted their photos on Internet websites and message boards to attract customers. The websites included myredbook.com, backpage.com, poshlistings.com, myproviderguide.com, mypreviews.com, cheatingboards.com, and cityvibe.com.¹⁸

OUTLOOK:

(U//FOUO) The NGIC and CACU assesses with medium confidence that based on trends observed in the past several years, gangs will continue to expand their involvement in juvenile prostitution, while in some instances, minimizing their involvement in traditional drug distribution activities. The NGIC and CACU further assesses with medium confidence that rival gang members will likely cross jurisdictions and collaborate with each other when motivated by the financial gain incurred from juvenile prostitution activity. The exploitation of juvenile victims for prostitution will likely continue to be popular with gang members in as much as gang members are opportunistic criminals. However, proposed changes in legislation to increase the punishment from a misdemeanor to a felony for solicitation of a minor, as proposed in Virginia, may impact gang involvement in this type of criminal activity.

(U) Endnotes

- ¹ (U//LES) FBI; Situational Information Report; 21 November 2011; 01 October 2011; “Portland Crips Shift from Narcotics Trafficking to Sex Trafficking”; UNCLASSIFIED//LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE.
- ² (U//LES) FBI; Situational Information Report; 5 October 2011; 01 September 2011, “Starz Up Street Gang Exploiting Juvenile Prostitution”; UNCLASSIFIED//LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE.
- ³ (U//LES) FBI; Domain Intelligence Note; 10 June 2011; 10 June 2011; “Intelligence Related to Violent Crimes”; UNCLASSIFIED//LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE.
- ⁴ (U) Online Newspaper Article; Traci Tamura; *CNN News*; “Gang Sex Trafficking and the Internet”; 29 June 2011; <http://backstory.blogs.cnn.com/2011/06/29/gang-sex-trafficking-and-the-internet>.
- ⁵ (U) Online Newspaper Article; Emily Babay; *Washington Examiner*; “Virginia Gang member arrested in sex-trafficking cases”; 1 January 2012; <http://www.Washingtonexaminer.com/local/crime-punishment/2012/01/va-gang-member-arrested-sex-trafficking-case/208631>.
- ⁶ (U//LES) FBI; FD-302; 18 October 2011; 19 October 2011; UNCLASSIFIED//LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE; Source is a victim of prostitution.
- ⁷ (U) Online Newspaper Article; *NBC4Washington*; “Over 24 Year Sentence for Gang Member Who Pimped Teen Prostitutes”; 4 November 2011; http://www.nbcwashington.com/new/local/24-Year-Sentence-Gang-Member-Pimp-prostitution-ring-authorities/2011/10/26/gIQAvAdvJM_blog.html.
- ⁸ (U//LES) FBI; Intelligence Note; 11 July 2011; 11 July 2011; “(U//LES) Child Prostitution Activity Significant in New York”; UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.
- ⁹ (U//LES) FBI; Situational Information Report; 24 October 2011; 01 January 2011; “Folks gang involvement in child prostitution in Toledo, Ohio”; UNCLASSIFIED//LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE.
- ¹⁰ (U//FOUO) FBI; IIR 4 214 3221 11; 01 June 2011; September 2011 “Use of telephone chat line to possibly facilitate prostitution by a juvenile victim of prostitution, an alleged Bloods gang member, in Toledo, Ohio”; UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.
- ¹¹ (U//LES) FBI; Situational Information Report; 20 December 2010; 20 December 2010; “Gangster Disciples Operating a Commercial Sex Trafficking and Child Prostitution Ring”; UNCLASSIFIED//LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE.
- ¹² (U) Online Newspaper Article; *NBC4Washington*; “Over 24 Year Sentence for Gang Member Who Pimped Teen Prostitutes”; 4 November 2011; http://www.nbcwashington.com/new/local/24-Year-Sentence-Gang-Member-Pimp-prostitution-ring-authorities/2011/10/26/gIQAvAdvJM_blog.html.
- ¹³ (U) Online Newspaper Article; *The Washington Post*; “MS-13 Gang Leader Ran Underage Prostitution Ring”; 26 October 2011; http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/crime-scene/post/ms-13-gang-leader-ran-underage-prostitution-ring-authorities/2011/10/26/gIQAvAdvJM_blog.html.
- ¹⁴ (U//FOUO) FBI; IIR 4 214 2736 11; 21 June 2011; 01 July 2011; “Use of MS-13 Gang Symbols to brand and tag prostitutes by MS-13 gang members”; UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.
- ¹⁵ (U//LES) FBI; Situational Information Report; 12 July 2011; 15 August 2011; “Identification of Possible Bloods Gang member Involved in the Prostitution of a Juvenile in Toledo, Ohio”; UNCLASSIFIED//LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE.
- ¹⁶ (U) Open Source Newspaper Article; Associated Press; *North County Times*; “Oceanside: Two Men Get 10 Years for Sex Trafficking of Children for Gang run Prostitution Ring”; 7 November 2011 <http://www.nctimes.com/news/local/oceanside/oceanside-men-get-years-for-sex-trafficking-of-children-for/article>.
- ¹⁷ (U//FOUO) FBI; Electronic Communication; 28 November 2011; 28 November 2011; UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY; Source is a juvenile victim of prostitution.
- ¹⁸ (U//LES) FBI; IIR 4 214 1816; 16 February 2011; February 2011; “(U//FOUO) Identification of Juvenile Victims Engaged in Prostitution and use of Websites by Pimps to Facilitate Their Exploitation as of February 2011”; UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY; Source is a juvenile victim of prostitution.

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