
CSEC Demand Study Results

Research Highlights

- 7,200 men account for 8,700 paid sex acts with adolescent females each month in Georgia (about 300 each day).
- Only about 10% of these men are actively, openly, and directly seeking to pay for sex with a female they know to be under the age of 18. The rest “end up” paying for sex with an adolescent female *even though they did not ask that the young female be an adolescent per se*.
- 28,000 men pay for sex with adolescent females each year in Georgia. Nearly 10,000 of these men purchase sex with adolescent females *multiple times per year*.
- Our study shows that men who buy sex from young females represent all adult ages and come from all over the metro area where we posted the ads. The age distribution of study participants was 34% under age 30, 44% age 30-39, and 22% age 40 or over. Geographically, the largest group of men who purchase sex with young females is found in the north metro Atlanta area, outside I-285 (42%). Far fewer men are found in the south metro Atlanta area (23%) and in the metro area’s urban core (26%). The remaining 9% of men who participated in the study reported being in the immediate vicinity of the airport.
- Most men who commercially sexually exploit adolescent females are not necessarily looking for a female they know to be under 18, but rather are looking to pay for sex with “young” females. Some of these men actively avoid any discussion of the actual age of the “young” female they are requesting, while other men ask for a young adult (e.g., a 19-year-old) apparently without realizing that in doing so they put themselves at extremely high risk for soliciting sex from a female who is actually under 18.
- An experiment embedded in the survey showed that after 3 escalated warnings that the female they were about to purchase sex from was under age 18, 53% of these men who seek “young” females decided against purchasing sex from her. The remaining 47% were undeterred—that is, they were explicitly willing to buy sex from a female they knew to be under age 18.
- Craigslist is by far the most efficient medium for advertising sex with young females; ads on this site received 3 times as many responses compared to identical ads placed on other sites.
- At its core, the purpose of this CSEC demand study is to understand how it can be the case that over 400 adolescent females are prostituted each month in Georgia. We wanted to know who is buying sex from adolescent females, how many of these men are out there, and how they do it. To answer these questions, we conducted a covert scientific survey of 218 men responding to ads for paid sex with young females.

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- **How are you able to know how many of these men there are across the state if you only surveyed 218 of them?**

Just like with any scientific poll, when you have accurate information about your study sample and know a few key parameters of the larger population, you are easily able to extrapolate the survey findings out mathematically to the larger population.

- **How are there 7,200 men who buy sex from adolescent females each *month*, but 28,000 per *year*?**

A substantial portion of men who buy sex in a given month are “repeat customers” who do so multiple times per year.

- **What is the difference between a “young” and an adolescent female?**

“Young” is the term most of the men who participated in the study used to reference their desired female’s age. This includes very young adult females, as well as some adolescent females. We use the term adolescent to refer to females under 18.

- **Are you saying that most men who commercially sexually exploit adolescent females do so unknowingly?**

Ignorance is undoubtedly a problem, but the warnings experiment we embedded in the survey shows that about half of men are willing to purchase sex from a “young” female after it has been made abundantly clear that she is under 18.

- **If your study shows that the problem is so widespread among men, what can actually be done to stop the demand that perpetuates CSEC?**

Here again, the warnings experiment we embedded in the survey suggests that about half of men who end up commercially sexually exploiting adolescent females can be prevented from doing so when they are educated that the “young” female they want might be under 18, even though she may look a little older.