

Source Documents

Prostitution and Trafficking in Nine Countries : an update on violence and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder by Melissa Farely, Ann Cotton, Jacqueline Lynne, Sybille Zuubede, Frida Spiwak, Maria E Reyes, Dinovah Alvarez and Ufuk Sezgin

Escaping the Devil's Bedroom by Dawn Hertzong Jewell

TABLE 1. Age, Age of Entry, and Length of Time in Prostitution

	9 Country Summary (N = 854)	Canada n = 100)	Colombia (n = 96)	Germany (n = 54)	Mexico (n = 123)	South Africa (n = 68)	Thailand (n = 166)	Turkey (n = 50)	USA (n = 130)	Zambia (n = 117)
Mean age (SD)	28 (8)	28 (8)	31 (10)	26 (10)	27 (7)	24 (5)	26 (7)	29	31 (9)	27 (7)
Age range	12-68	13-49	14-58	15-68	18-60	17-38	14-46	16-55	14-61	12-53
Mean age entered prostitution (SD)	19 (6)	18 (6)	17 (4)	19 (6)	20 (4)	20 (5)	21 (5)	Unknown	20 (8)	17 (4)
Years in prostitution (SD)	9 (8)	10 (8)	14 (8)	7 (8)	7 (8)	4 (4)	5 (4)	Unknown	11 (9)	10 (7)
Percent younger than age 18 at entry	47% (353)	54% (54)	59% (56)	41% (22)	32% (38)	40% (27)	32% (28)	Unknown	42% (53)	68% (75)

TABLE 8. Responses to "What Do You Need?" Asked of 854 People in Prostitution

Needs	9 Country Summary (N = 854)	Canada (n = 100)	Colombia (n = 96)	Germany (n = 54)	Mexico (n = 123)	South Africa (n = 68)	Thailand (n = 116)	Turkey (n = 50)	USA (n = 130)	Zambia (n = 117)
Leave prostitution	89% (699)	95% (89)	97% (93)	85% (33)	68% (81)	89% (58)	92% (82)	90% (45)	87% (111)	99% (107)
Home or safe place	75% (618)	66% (63)	74% (71)	61% (33)	87% (107)	72% (46)	59% (64)	60% (30)	78% (99)	94% (105)
Job training	76% (600)	67% (64)	57% (55)	63% (34)	92% (113)	75% (48)	56% (61)	46% (23)	73% (93)	97% (109)
Drug/alcohol treatment	47% (356)	82% (78)	15% (14)	48% (26)	38% (47)	46% (29)	44% (33)	6% (3)	67% (85)	37% (41)
Health care	61% (480)	41% (39)	56% (54)	46% (25)	67% (82)	69% (44)	41% (45)	38% (19)	58% (74)	88% (98)
Peer support	51% (393)	41% (38)	41% (39)	65% (35)	36% (44)	58% (37)	49% (53)	24% (12)	50% (64)	63% (71)
Individual counseling	56% (431)	58% (54)	34% (33)	69% (37)	43% (53)	61% (39)	66% (72)	46% (23)	48% (61)	53% (59)
Self-defense training	45% (340)	49% (47)	29% (28)	46% (25)	35% (43)	60% (39)	59% (64)	12% (6)	49% (62)	41% (46)
Legal assistance	51% (366)	33% (31)	43% (41)	37% (20)	50% (61)	58% (37)	57% (62)	Unknown	42% (54)	54% (60)
Legalize prostitution	34% (251)	32% (30)	20% (19)	35% (19)	51% (62)	37% (24)	27% (30)	4% (2)	44% (56)	8% (9)
Child care	44% (335)	12% (11)	49% (47)	7% (4)	36% (44)	48% (31)	44% (48)	20% (10)	34% (43)	87% (97)
Physical protection from pimp	23% (157)	4% (4)	6% (6)	6% (3)	15% (19)	33% (21)	20% (22)	Unknown	28% (36)	41% (46)

1. 95% of those in prostitution experienced sexual harassment which in the United States would be legally actionable in a different job setting.
2. 65% to 95% of those in prostitution were sexually assaulted as children.
3. 70% to 95% were physically assaulted in prostitution.
4. 60% to 75% were raped in prostitution.⁴
5. 75% of those in prostitution have been homeless at some point in their lives.
6. 89% of 785 people in prostitution from nine countries wanted to escape prostitution.
7. 68% of 827 people in several different types of prostitution in 9 countries met criteria for PTSD. The severity of PTSD symptoms of participants in this study were in the same range as treatment-seeking combat veterans, battered women seeking shelter, rape survivors, and refugees from state-organized torture (Bownes, O'Gormen, & Sayers 1991; Houskamp & Foy, 1991, Kemp et al., 1991; Ramsay, Gorst-Unsworth, & Turner, 1993; Weathers et al., 1993). Severity of symptoms of PTSD was strongly associated with the number of different types of lifetime sexual and physical violence. A Covenant House study of homeless adolescents, many of whom were prostituting, found a similar association between PTSD severity and history of violence (DiPaolo, 1999).
8. 88% of those in prostitution experience verbal abuse and social contempt. Verbal abuse in prostitution has rarely been discussed as one of its harms.

Similar findings suggest that the severity of trauma-related symptoms were related to the intensity of involvement in prostitution. Women who serviced more customers in prostitution reported more severe physical symptoms (Vanwesenbeeck, 1994). The longer women were in prostitution, the more STDs were reported (Parriott, 1994). A number of studies document the greatly increased risk among prostituted women as compared to nonprostituted women, for cervical cancer and chronic hepatitis (Chattopadhyay, Bandyopadhyay, & Duttagupta, 1994; de Sanjose, Palacio, Tafur, Vasquez, Espitia, Vasquez, Roman, Munoz, & Bosch, 1993; Nakashima, Kashiwagi, Hayashi, Urabe, Minami, & Maeda, 1996; Parriott, 1994; Pelzer, Duncan, Tibaux, & Mebari, 1992).

Vanwesenbeeck (1994) noted that poverty and length of time spent in prostitution were each associated with greater violence in prostitution. Like Vanwesenbeeck, we concluded that those women who experienced the most extreme violence in prostitution were not represented in our research. Because of this limitation, it is likely that all of the estimates of violence reported here