

Fact Sheet

Pimps in the United States

Pimps' Violent Methods

Pimping is a form of slavery

Pimps use violence and intimidation to control women and girls and coerce them into prostitution.

86% of victims are physically abused -- 50% of them assaulted frequently or daily

80% of victims are sexually assaulted

71% of victims are controlled by drugs

69% of victims are isolated, confined, or restrained

61% of victims have weapons used against them

34% of victims have death threats to them or family

Criminal Earnings

Pimps take all of the money from their victims. They set a quota that must be earned each night to avoid beatings, rapes, and being left out in the cold

In Oakland, police identified 218 minors, aged 11-15, being prostituted by 155 pimps in 2002. Each girl had a quota of \$500 a day, which went to the pimp. Total annual earnings equaled \$32,700,000 or \$211,000/year/pimp.

Pimps engage in money laundering and income tax evasion

Arrest and Prosecution of Pimps

In Chicago, pimps make up less than 1% of prostitution related arrests

Pimps openly advertise their criminal activity in newspapers, tabloids, and on the Internet

Age of Entry into Prostitution for Girls and Young Women

In Chicago

35% entered prostitution before age 15

62% entered prostitution before age 18

87% entered prostitution before age 21

In San Francisco

68% entered prostitution before age 16

78% entered prostitution before age 18

Victimization of Women and Girls

Women in prostitution are 18 times more likely to be murdered than women of similar age and race.

Women and girls in prostitution are subjected to constant violence from pimps and "johns"

80% sustained bruises; 35% sustained broken bones

47% sustained head injuries; 53% sustained mouth and teeth injuries

86% felt depressed; 41% felt hopeless

64% felt suicidal; 63% have hurt themselves or tried to commit suicide

68% of women in prostitution meet criteria for diagnosis of posttraumatic stress disorder

In Chicago

25% of the women in drug houses, hotels, and on the street were raped more than 10 times

21% of the women in escort services were raped more than 10 times

"Johns" – men who purchase sex acts -- were the most frequent perpetrators of violence

Victims Want Out of Prostitution

88% of the women want to escape prostitution

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The Players' Ball

What is The Players' Ball?

The Players' Ball is a public celebration of violence and slavery-like practices by a criminal subculture.

The "Players' Ball" is a celebration for pimps. The annual gatherings include the women they control and community supporters.

The first Players' Ball was held in Chicago in 1974. Players' Balls are now glorified by a "pimp culture" that is promoted by music, videos, and the media.

Trophies and awards are given for "No.1 International Pimp of the Year," "No. 1 Super Player," "No.1 Boss Player," and "Pimp of the Year."

Are they Criminals?

Real pimps participate in the Players' Balls. They support themselves through criminal activity.

In Atlanta, a videotape of the Players' Ball was used as evidence in a federal case against 13 men and one woman charged with prostituting children, racketeering, and providing drugs and false identification cards to juveniles.

In Minneapolis, police infiltrated the Players' Ball and videotaped the pimps bragging about their illegal activities and wealth garnered from prostituting women and girls.

In Las Vegas, the LVPD ran ID and background checks on the attendees. They arrested pimps that had outstanding warrants for arrest or had escaped from custody.

In Their Own Words

Commercial videos, such as "Pimps Up, Ho's Down," and "American Pimp" include footage of Players' Balls and interviews with pimps. They describe how they control victims:

"Hanger whupping" and "stick whupping"

"You have to control a woman's mind without physical abuse by selling her a dream. Besides, if you beat a woman and destroy her face, how can she get your money?"

"You've gotta tell the woman that she's only good for one thing."

"I'm the boss, the daddy. She brings the money home."

"Most of [the victims] have been abused sexually by their parents. Been raped so many times that they feel they might as well get money for it. Well, it's my job to teach them that it's better to get paid for it than to do it for free."

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