

**Building stronger  
urban communities**

in partnership with North Minneapolis

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**Driven to Discover<sup>SM</sup>**

# **Sex Trafficking of Juveniles in Minneapolis: A Discussion of “Mapping the Market”**

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The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

# MN Statewide Legislative Context

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## **Safe Harbor for Youth Act (passed 2011)**

- a) Decriminalize youth in prostitution
- b) Increase penalties for purchasers and facilitators

## **No Wrong Door (implemented 2014)**

- a) A state-wide system and service model to identify, screen and refer youth to services
- b) Public health response

# Basic Assumptions of the Research

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1. The commercial sex trade is an industry.
2. As such, it is subject to market forces.
3. Sex trafficking operations must respond to those market forces to generate a profit
4. Like other markets, the market for sex with juveniles responds to the priorities and purchasing power of specific market segments (categories of “customers”)

# Interviews with 1<sup>st</sup> hand adults

LAW ENFORCEMENT



**9**

INTERVIEWEES

ADOLESCENT HEALTH  
PROFESSIONALS



**10**

INTERVIEWEES

YOUTH ADVOCACY /  
SERVICES



**70**

INTERVIEWEES

## Law Enforcement Case Files 2008-Oct. 2014

1. Minneapolis Police Department (N=86)
2. Hennepin County court cases (N=39)

## Media Coverage 2007-2014

1. Juvenile sex trafficking case stories (N=69)
2. Stories on the overall issue (N=40)

# Analysis

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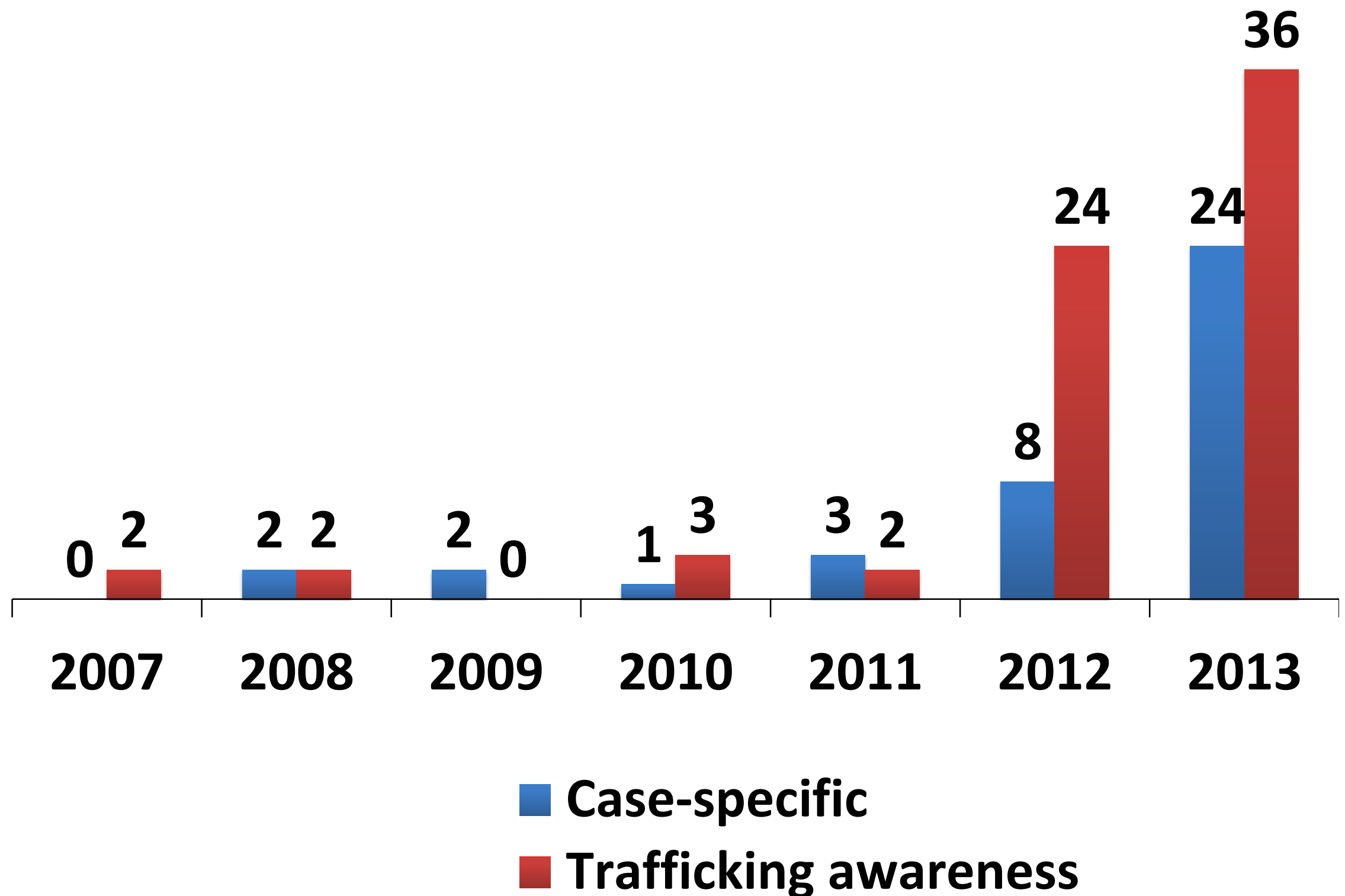
- Triangulate 4 different data sources (law enforcement, court, interviews, media)
- Code for themes within and across sources
- Look for patterns within and across those themes

Important to understand:

This was NOT a prevalence study

# Media Stories, 2007-2013

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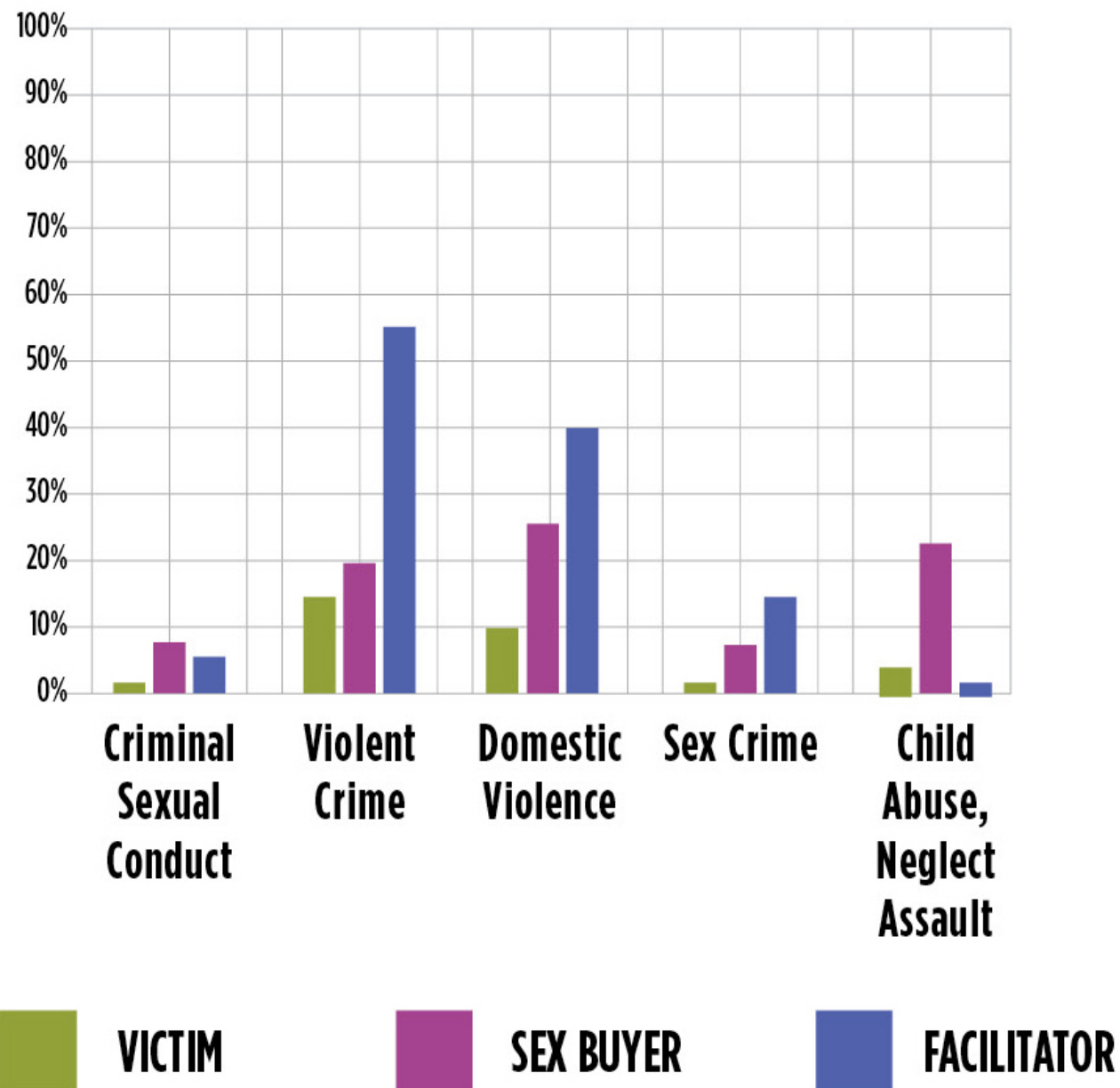
# Ages of people involved in MPD Records

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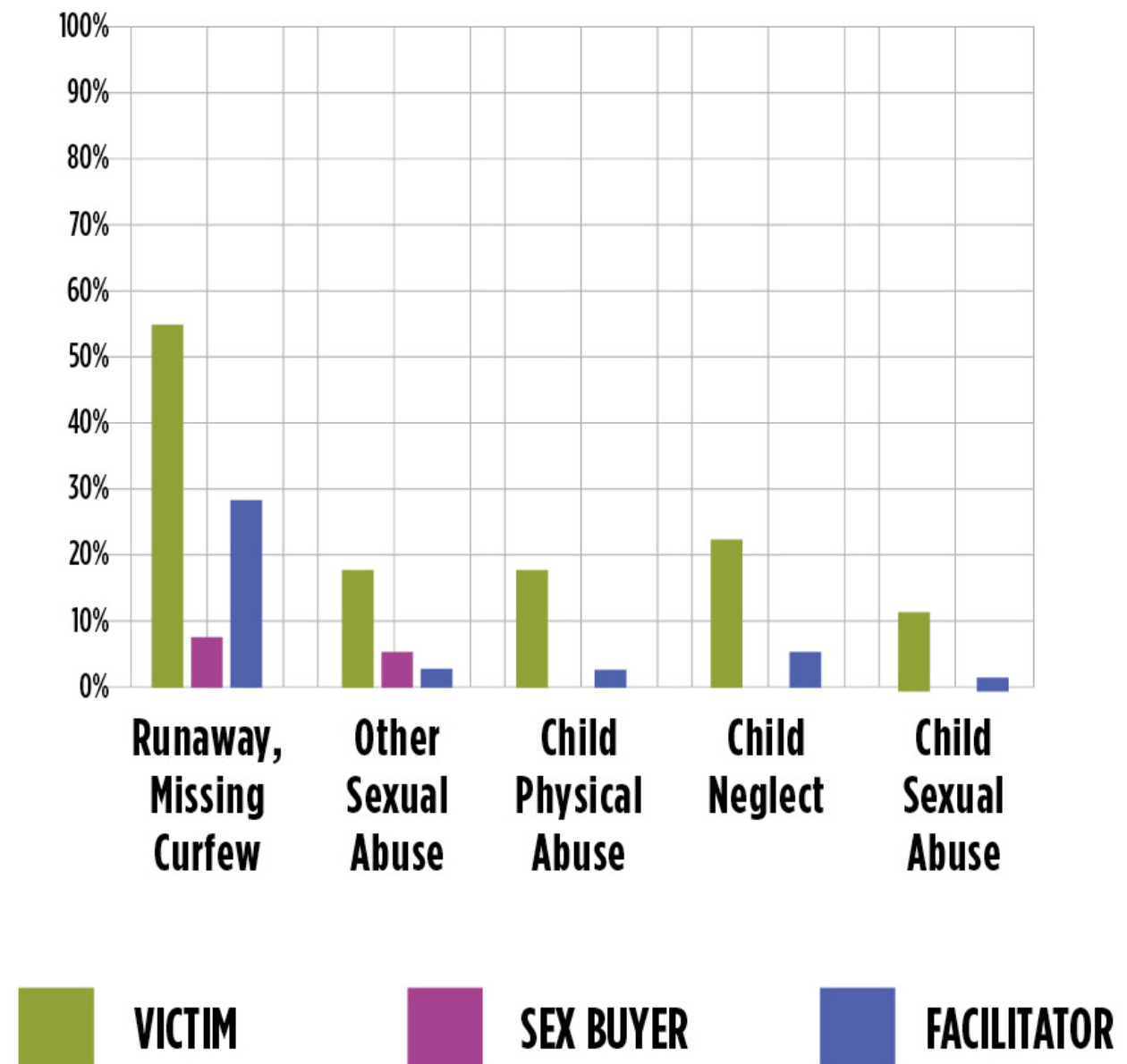
Role in the market	Age range	Average age
<b><i>Facilitators (n=49)</i></b> <b><i>(i.e. Pimps/associates)</i></b>	<b><i>17-55</i></b>	<b><i>31</i></b>
<b><i>Victims (n=73)</i></b>	<b><i>4-17</i></b>	<b><i>15</i></b>
<b><i>Sex buyers (n=23)</i></b>	<b><i>23-65</i></b>	<b><i>42</i></b>

# MPD Data: Prior Police Contacts

## MPD CRIMINAL HISTORY



## MPD REPORTED VICTIM

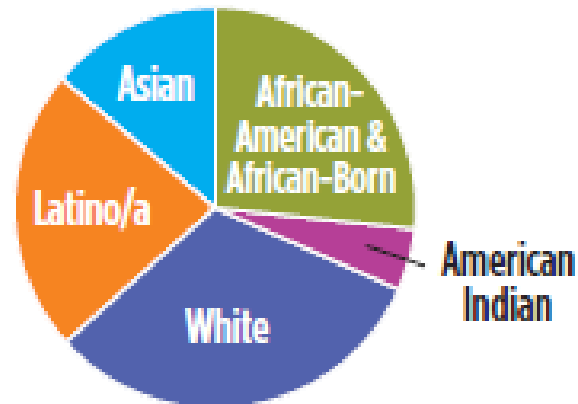




# Racial representation in MPD Records

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## BUYERS

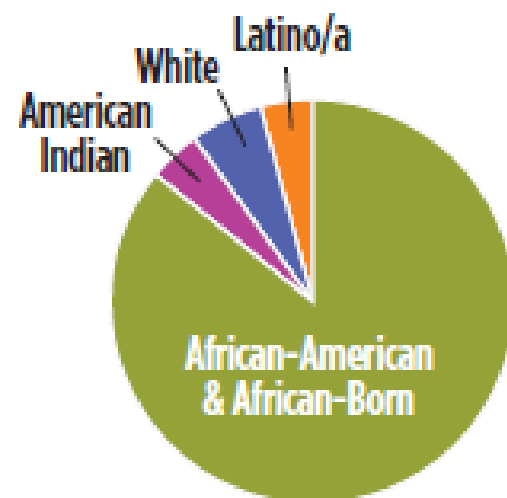


PURCHASING POWER

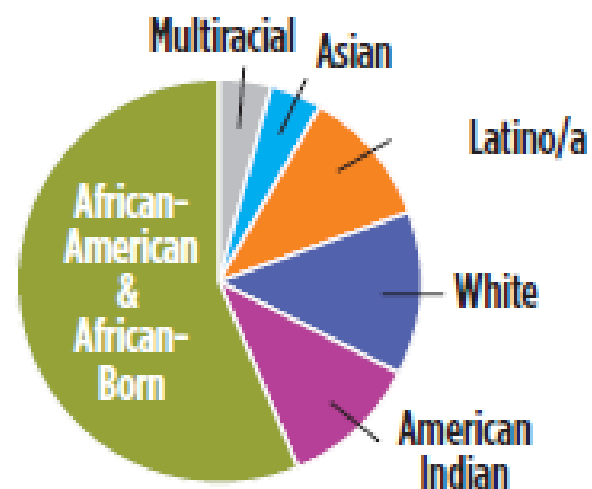
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POVERTY

## FACILITATORS



## VICTIMS



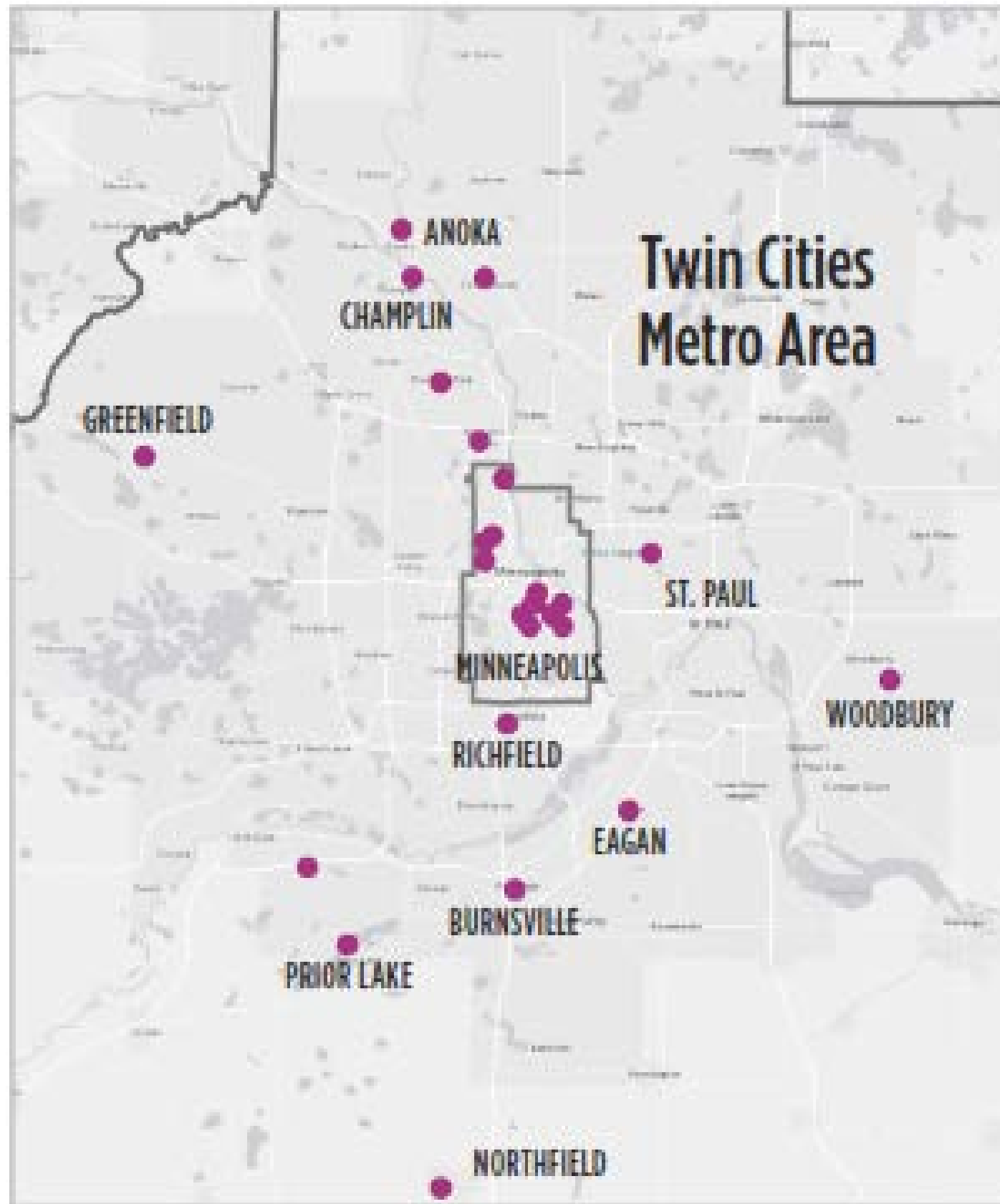
*Sex buyers, facilitators, and victims in cases investigated by suburban law enforcement are not included in these data.*

## NOTE:

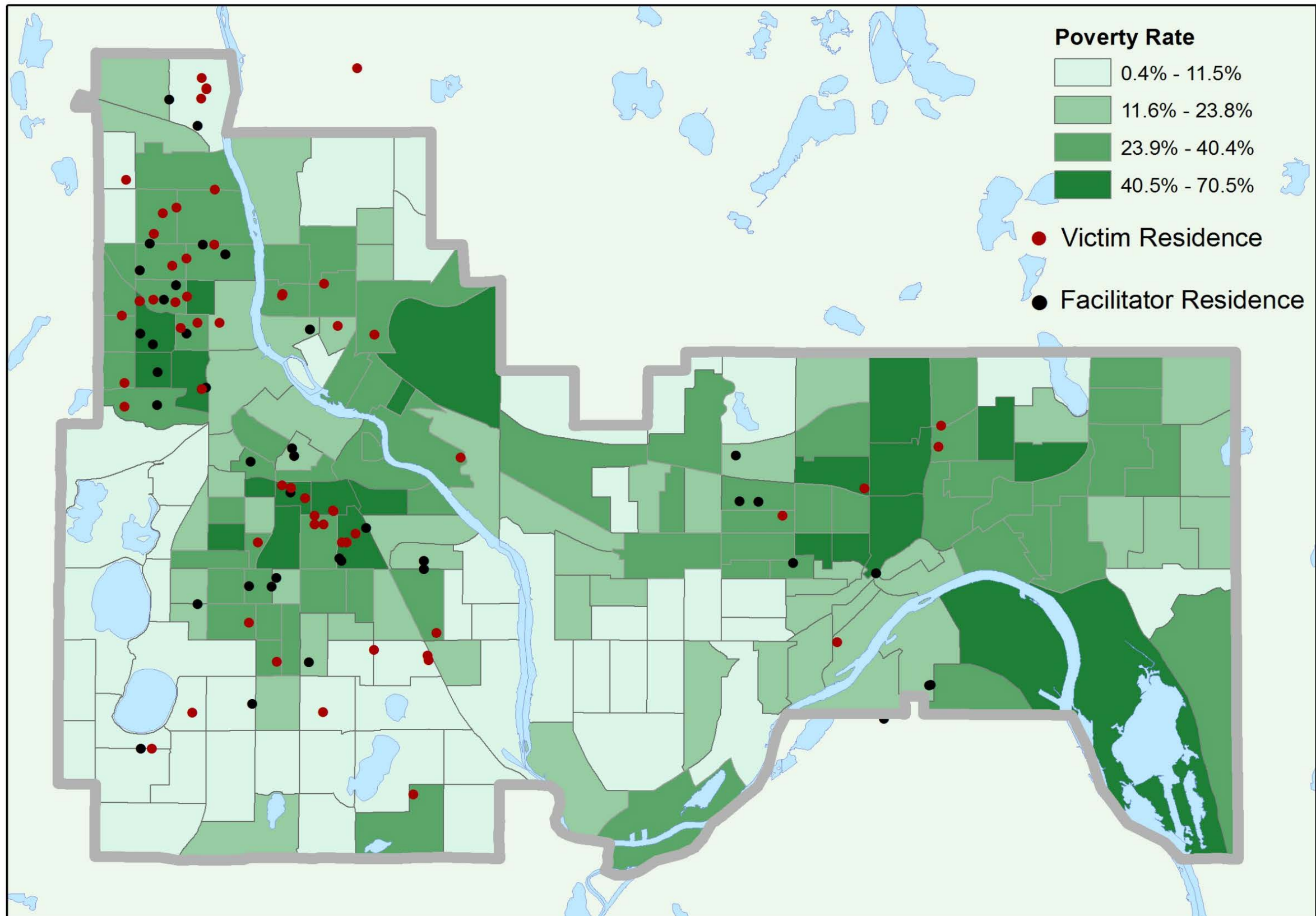
- Police-identified race of the people involved
- Cases only from Minneapolis
- Categories of African-American and African-born are combined in police data.

# Residence of Sex buyers in MPD Cases

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# Residence of Victims/Facilitators in MPD



# Where girls are recruited

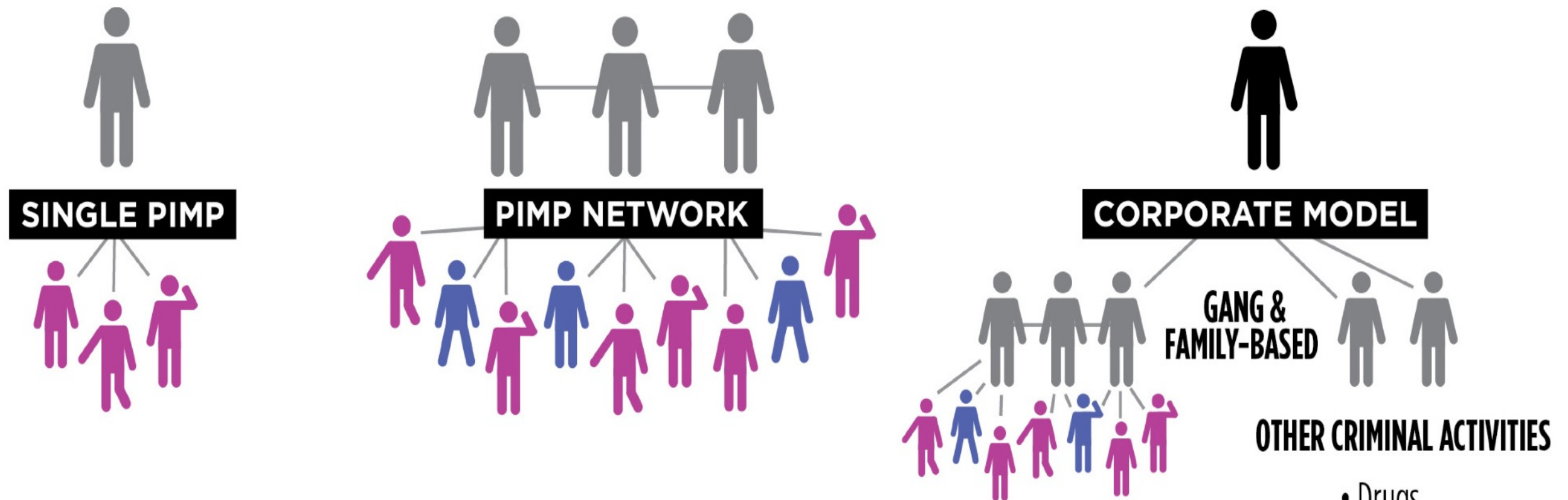
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## RECRUITMENT LOCATIONS



# Operation Types



“CEO” / Top Person

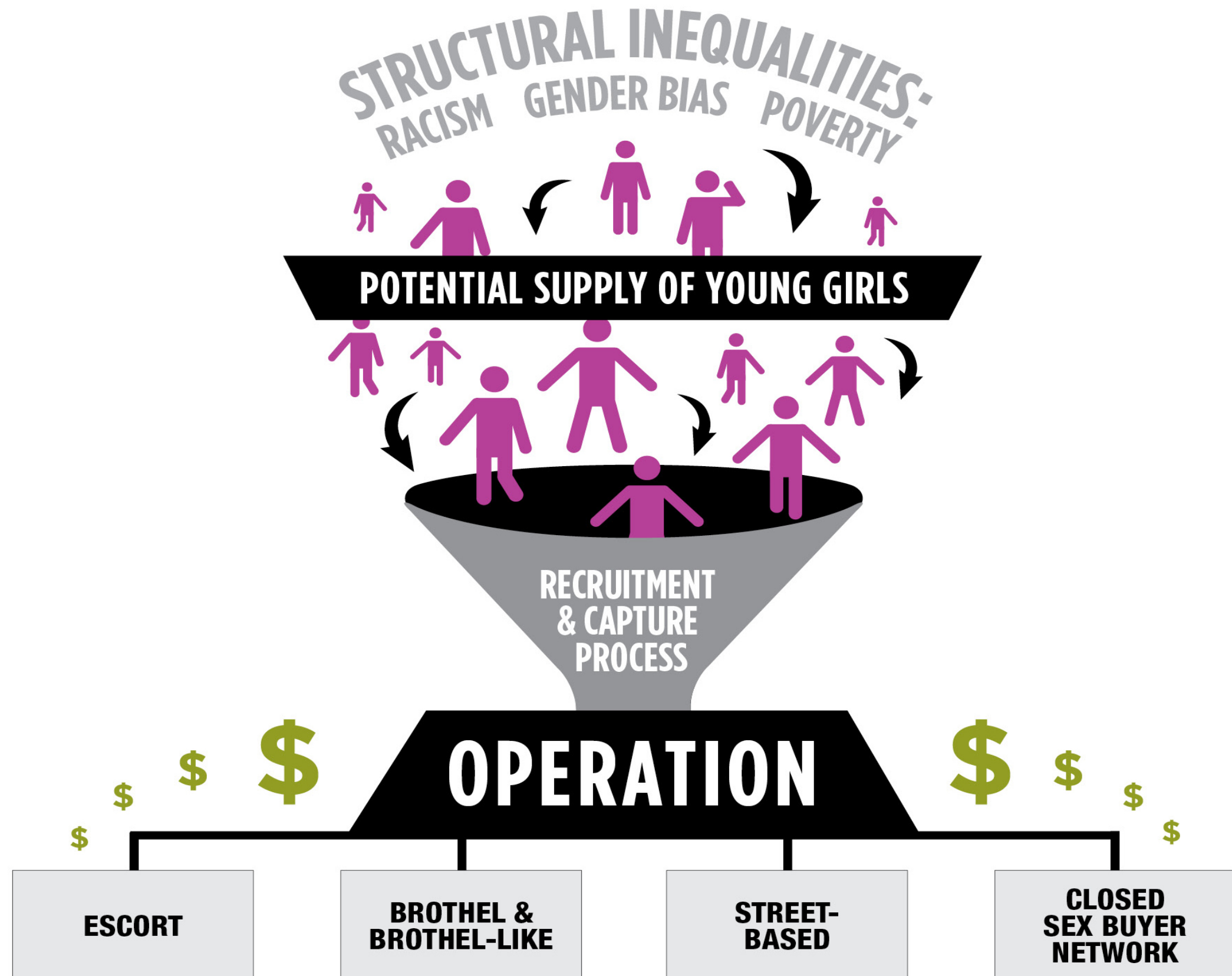
Facilitator / Pimp

A pimp’s “main woman,” often a victim herself

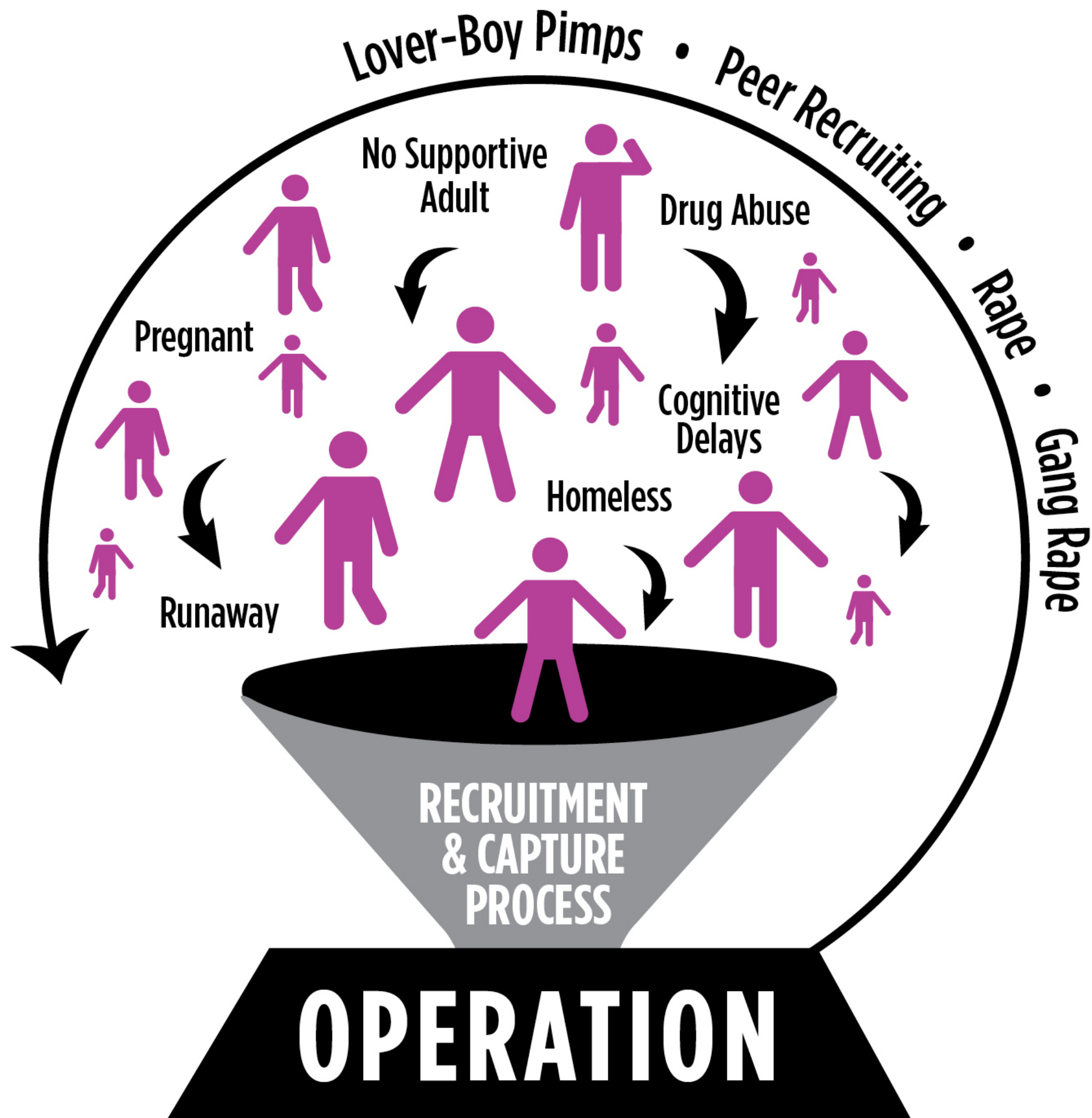
Victim

## OTHER CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES

- Drugs
- Stolen Goods
- Murder
- Other







# Conclusions

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- The overall market functions through systematic and strategic violence against girls.
- When we pull the lens back, we see that sex buyer preferences and priorities drive the market.
- The formal market draws on an informal market, in which environmental forces encourage youth to use sex to achieve goals, meet needs



# What can we do?

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- Schools (middle) are an ideal location for prevention and intervention
- Everyone working with vulnerable youth should be trained to identify signs of survival sex and sex trafficking
- Focus on disabling trafficking operations as well as on identifying victims
- Increase law enforcement focus on sex buyers

# Questions & comments?

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Full report can be found at:  
[UROC.umn.edu/sextrafficking](http://UROC.umn.edu/sextrafficking)

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