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## 2013 Court Profile

The purpose of this brief is to present current information on the children being detained for their involvement in commercial sexual exploitation in Clark County, Nevada. The first source of information is from the Specialty Juvenile Court, the Girls' Court Calendar, which weekly adjudicates all delinquency cases for sexually exploited children (CSEC).

**Dual Involved Youth:**  
At least 32% of youth had

concurrent victim cases with Nevada Child Protective Services. This number may be lower as it doesn't include out of state CPS files and linking CPS files to court files is discretionary as they are 2 different systems.

**Demographics:**

The Girls' Court Calendar had 765 hearings in 2013 involving 199 youth.

**Gender:**

Female: 192  
Male: 7

Ethnicity is presented below. The average age was 16.1 (1 12 year old, 8 - 13, 8 - 14, 33 - 15, 53 - 16, 67 - 17, and 11 18 year olds.

**Charges:**

**Girls:**  
New charges: 160  
Follow ups from 2011 or 2012: 29  
Material Witness Hold only: 3

**Boys:**

New charges: 3  
Follow ups from 2011 or 2012: 3  
Material Witness Hold only: 1

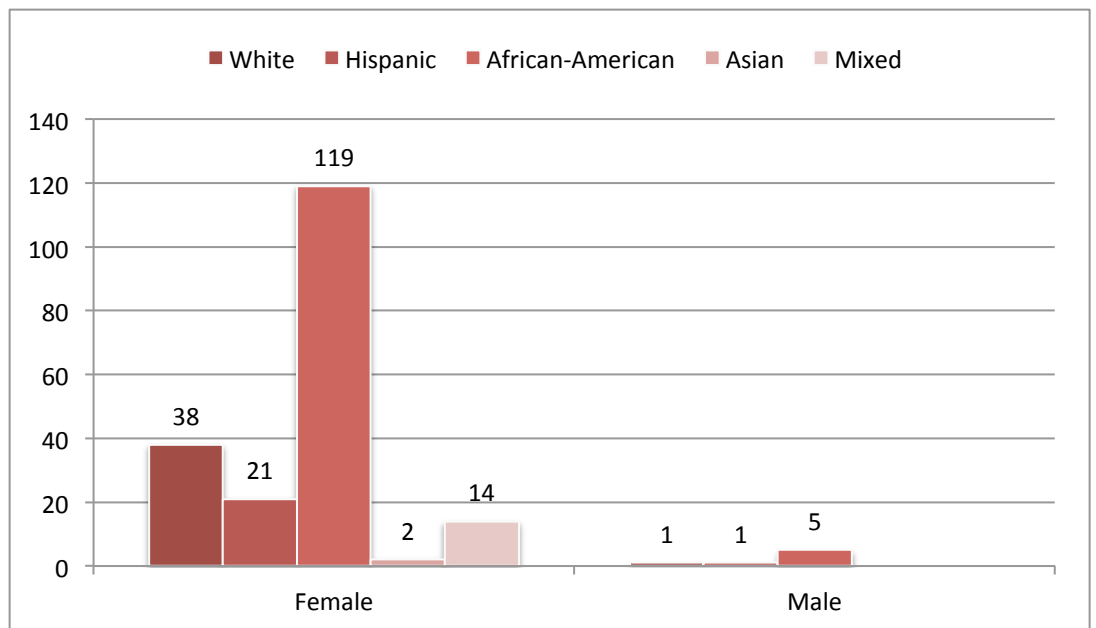
**Definitions:**

- CSEC: Commercially Sexually Exploited Children. The sexual exploitation of children through commercial sexual activity.
- Delinquency Children under the age of 18 who commit illegal acts.

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Note: Hispanic represents White Hispanic. 2 of the 119 African American were Hispanic as well. 4 of the 14 mixed race were Hispanic.

## Charges

It is the practice of the Clark County Family Court Judge William Voy, who presides over the Girls' Court Calendar (CSEC Calendar), to dismiss or amend all prostitution related charges that youth have been arrested for. Despite a paradigm shift in the recognition of these children as victims, the vast majority are still being arrested under prostitution related charges.

### **Arrests for prostitution**

Among a random sampling of 35 children arrested between 2005 and 2013, the vast majority (75% or 26 out of 35) had been arrested on prostitution related charges (i.e., loitering for the purpose of prostitution, engaging in prostitution, solicitation for the purposes of prostitution, etc.). Looking at the more recent arrest (12 from 2012 and 2013) half (6 of the 12 cases) included prostitution related charges. The average age of first arrest in this group was 16.2.

### **Additional Charges:**

- Violation of Probation
- Providing False Information
- Trespass
- Obstruction
- Curfew Violation
- Being a Minor in a Gambling Institution
- Petit Larceny
- Unlawful Possession (Alcohol or drugs)
- Prisoner who Escapes
- Battery by Prisoner (for spitting on an officer)
- Malicious Destruction (of GPS)
- Tampering with Electronic Device
- Battery
- Grand Larceny
- Crossing Outside of a Sidewalk

*10 of the 35 girls in this subsample were younger than 16. 7 of these 10 were arrested on prostitution charges. Children are being arrested for prostitution before they are even the legal age of consent.*

### **NRS 201.295 Definitions**

As used in NRS 201.295 to 201.44, inclusive, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. "Adult" means a person 18 years of age or older.
2. "Child" means a person less than 18 years of age.
3. "Induce" means to persuade, encourage, inveigle or entice.
4. "Prostitute" means a male or female **person** who for a fee, monetary consideration or other thing of value engages in sexual intercourse, oral-genital contact or any touching of the sexual organs or other intimate parts of a person for the purpose of arousing or gratifying the sexual desire of either person.

## Possible Solutions:

One solution to bring Nevada closer to the federal designation of CSEC as victims would be to stop charging children with prostitution. This could be done by modifying the definition section of NRS 201.295.

Either the definition of "prostitute" could be changed to only include adults. Alternatively a minimum age for offenders could be added similar to the minimum age required in NRS 200.362 Statutory Sexual Seduction (statutory rape) "committed by a person 18 years of age or older".

### **Negative effects of being "arrested for prostitution"**

- Children internalize this label of "prostitute"
- Children have to repeat this charge as they move through the system and are asked about arrest history
- This charge carries a specific stigma more harmful than violating curfew or being a minor in a gaming establishment
- Adults asked to disclose their juvenile arrest history (e.g. applying to join the legal bar) will have to state that they were arrested for prostitution (even if they were not adjudicated as such). Juvenile records are not sealed when applying for certain jobs.

## Department of Juvenile Justice Services Profile - 2013

The Department of Juvenile Justice Services for Clark County conducted a detailed needs assessment of the girls that they were serving. Between August 2013 and December 2013, 130 girls were interviewed by Dr. Kennedy and her trained interviewers from UNLV. Questions asked came from three sources: the Center for Disease Control's Youth Risk Behavior Survey, the survey developed by Owen & Bloom (2000), and questions developed by the GIRLS Initiative Workgroup convened by DJJS in 2007.

The interviews were conducted individually to protect the confidentiality

of the responses provided by study respondents, which promotes honesty in answering questions. Interviewees were not identified by name and were assured that none of the information provided would be linked to their files or shared with staff. Participation was voluntary and 10 of the 140 girls approached declined to participate. A full 30 page report was presented to DJJS. The following is a profile of a sub-group, the 36 girls who disclosed involvement in prostitution.

Exploitation through prostitution was measured in a few different ways. Across four different questions related to trading sex for money,

36 girls (27.7%) disclosed commercial sexual exploitation. Only 15 of the girls responded affirmatively to the question "Do you consider yourself a prostitute?" or **45%** of the girls reporting participation in prostitution.

Twenty-one girls (**58%**) reported having to work for a pimp.

Among the 28 girls who disclosed how many people had paid to have sex with them in the past year, they ranged from 1 to 1000. The average was 57.28 (SD = 175.77) with half reporting under 10 and half reporting over 10

### 36 CSEC Girls

53% African -American  
19% Hispanic  
17% White  
8.3% American Native

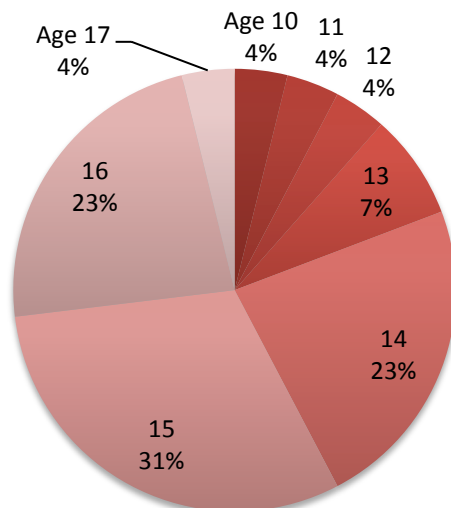
*Average age:* 16.06  
*Range:* 14-17

*Las Vegas Resident:* 83%  
*Born in Las Vegas:* 57%

*Average number of times in Detention:* 3.7

*Living Situation:*  
Parents: 47%  
Other relatives: 18%  
Foster Care or Group Home: 15%  
Homeless/On the run: 9%  
Living independently: 3%  
Live in another state: 6%

### Age first traded sex



*The average age that girls disclosed first trading sex for money, food or a place to stay was 14.*

## DJJS 2013 CSEC Profile

Among the full group of 130 girls in detention, 67% personally knew girls in the sex trade. 80% reported that the CSEC victims that they knew worked for a pimp.

CSEC victims were asked questions about their exploitation. Over half (53%) reported having been prostituted in other cities.

The majority were also using online sites for prostitution. For example, 58% reported that they had used advertisements on BackPage or Redbook.

Among the 28 disclosing where they worked, the most common areas were:

- Online: 58%
  - Streets: 52.9%
  - Casinos: 50.1%
  - Major Events: 19.5%
- 13.9% reported having to pay someone to allow them to work at their location.

More than half (53%) reported having to share the money they earned with a boyfriend or pimp.

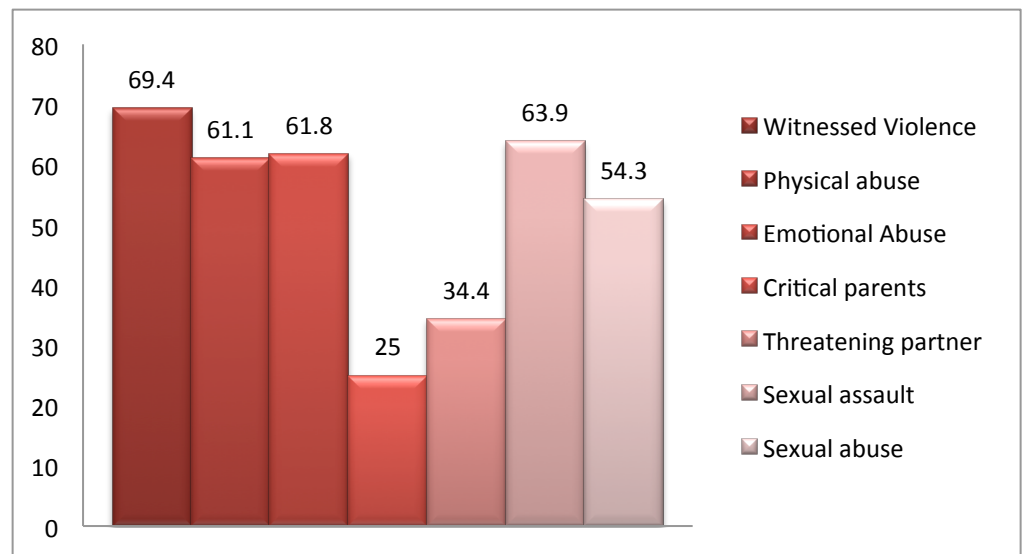
When asked the age of the last person they had sex with, 1 of 28 reported a peer, the rest were adults from 18-65 years old.

### Rates of High Risk Behavior – Sexual Activity

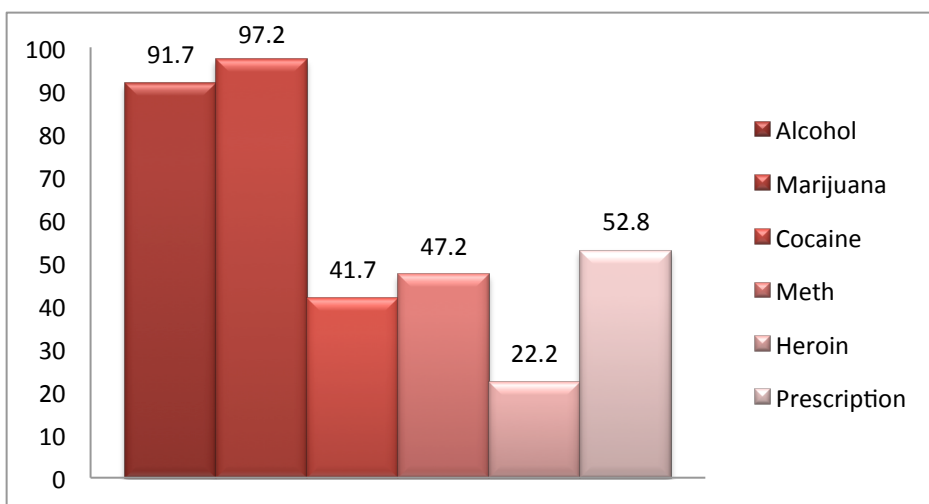
Oral Sex: 83.3%  
Vaginal Sex: 97.5%  
Anal Sex: 36.1%

- Over half of the girls (51.5%) reported having contracted a sexually transmitted infection.
- 85.3% did not have a regular form of birth control.

### Rates of Abuse Experienced



### Rates of High Risk Behavior – Alcohol & Drug Use



For more information, see:

Kennedy, M. A. (2014). *Girls' Needs Assessment Final Report*. Las Vegas, NV: Clark County Department of Juvenile Justice Services.

Kennedy, M. A., Ashby, D. T., Swanson, T., & Pucci, N. (2009). *JDAI Girls Initiative Final Research Report*. Las Vegas, NV: Clark County Department of Juvenile Justice Services.

Kennedy, M. A., & Jordan, M. (2014). *Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children*. *Paradigm*, 18(3), 4-5.

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