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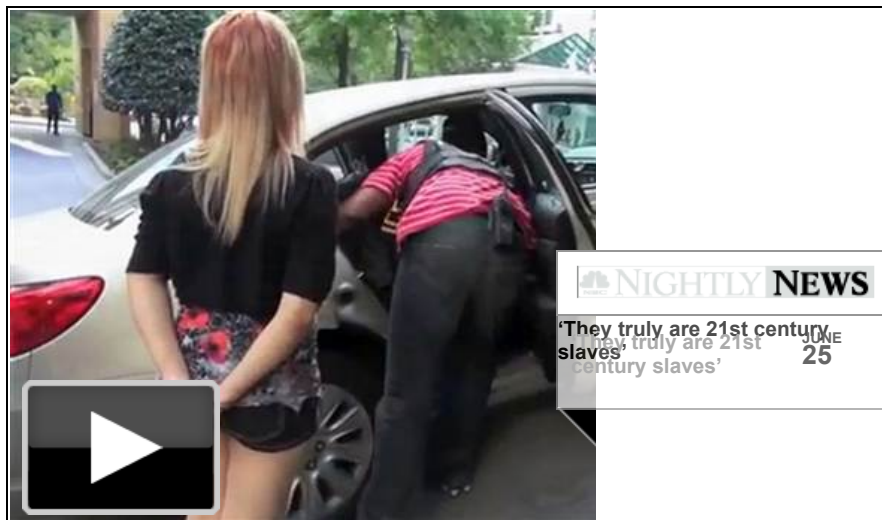
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# 79 teen prostitutes taken off the streets in nationwide crackdown, FBI says



FBI Operation Cross Country has rescued 79 children, victims of child prostitution and arrested 104 pimps nationwide.

By Jeff Black, msnbc.com

A three-day sweep by police agencies across the country has led to the removal of 79 teenagers from a life of prostitution and the arrest of more than a hundred pimps, the FBI reported on Tuesday.

Hundreds of FBI agents and thousands of state and local law-enforcement officers targeted the

Internet as well as such places as truck stops, casinos and "tracks" where prostitutes are known to walk the street in the crackdown.

The teenagers -- 77 girls and two boys -- ranged in age from 13 to 17. They are being held in custody until they could be placed with child welfare organizations, Reuters reported.

The FBI said 104 suspected pimps were arrested during sting operations in 57 U.S. cities including Atlanta, Sacramento, and Toledo, Ohio.



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It was the sixth nationwide sweep -- called Operation Cross Country -- organized as part of the FBI's Innocence Lost National Initiative to address the growing problem of child sex trafficking in the United States.

Information gleaned from those arrested often uncovers organized prostitution rings, the FBI said.

"It is clear that child prostitution and sex trafficking do not just occur somewhere else on the other side of the world," Ernie Allen, president of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, a partner in the effort, said in a news release. "These insidious crimes are occurring in American cities and the victims are American kids."

The average age of a child targeted for prostitution in the United States is between 11 and 14 years old, FBI assistant director Kevin L. Perkins told the Senate Judiciary Committee in March.

### **Police: Mother forced daughter into prostitution**

The youngest victim ever recovered through Innocence Lost was 9, FBI spokesman Jason Pack told msnbc.com.

Since 2003, Innocence Lost task forces and work groups have taken more than 2,200 children off the streets, leading to 1,017 convictions, the FBI said.

Perhaps the highest profile case was the 2005 "Precious Cargo" investigation that targeted pimps involved in sex trafficking of children and female adults at trucks stops in Harrisburg, Pa. More than 150 victims were identified, 45 of whom had been identified as being exploited as children. In all, 18 people were indicted on federal crimes in that investigation. The ring leaders, Terrance Williams, aka "Sleazy T," and Eric Kays, aka "International Ross," were both sent to prison for more than 35 years.

People can report suspected sexual exploitation of children at [cybertipline.com](http://cybertipline.com), or call 1-800-843-5678.

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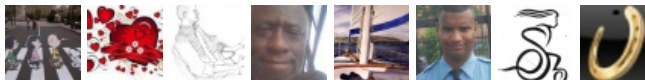
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**[greg berry](#)**

Prostitution is the second profession in our world, The First is politicians, and they are both about the same, SOMEONE PAYS MONEY, and SOMEONE ELSE GETS SCREWED. At least Prostitutes have a better image then our Politicians and can be trusted a lot more then them.

#242 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 12:22 PM EDT

REPLY

**[greg berry](#)**

The US Congress could catch more Prostitutes then the FBI and much quicker, Just pull their phone records and start calling the numbers.

#243 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 12:25 PM EDT

REPLY

**[greg berry](#)**

After 911, and ABSCAM, We really do not have an FBI or even need one. FUMBLING BUMBLING IDIOTS.

#244 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 12:26 PM EDT

REPLY

**[greg berry](#)**

Simple Solution to this one, KILL THE PIMPS of underaged prostitutes. UNDER 21 SHOOT THEM along with the DRUG DEALERS. It would work, TRY IT.

#245 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 12:29 PM EDT

REPLY

**greg berry**

Your Honor, She was 13 going on 30!

#246 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 12:34 PM EDT

REPLY   

**Thomas Youngjohn**

Protecting children. That's what this is about.

#247 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 12:35 PM EDT

REPLY   

**NormaJeana**

Thomas Youngjohn, How is it protecting them when they are incarcerated? Do you not know of the over 17,000 juveniles who were raped while in custody in 2008- most rapes by staff members? How about spending some of that money that we NOW use to arrest and prosecute consenting adult prostitutes and their non violent, non abusive clients to build shelters for and offer real services to run away teens... and ask yourself, why did they run away in the first place? Most likely because they were being sexually abused at home- by a family member.

#247.1 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 6:16 PM EDT

REPLY 

**TheBarnard**

Bravo law enforcement!! Money well spent. The victims hopefully will aid the cops in making more people who do this to other human beings pay a price. Maybe they will have their butts prostituted in prison. Karma.

#248 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 12:40 PM EDT

REPLY   

**NormaJeana**

Money well spent? According to some reports, the cost of these operations is \$250 million a year... and for that we have 79 child victims taken into custody? 2,500 cops and all that money and that's what they come up with? I don't know what school of economics you went to, but where I come from, that is the height of incompetence.

Not to mention that if there were 104 pimps and 79 child victims, either the pimps were sharing victims and they weren't making very much money or the cops are including the 79 child victims in their overall statistics of arrestees. In which case, they busted 25 pimps. Something is very fishy with the report. Even if each pimp had but one underage victim, the cops should have 'rescued' 104 children. But such a business would hardly be profitable for one child victim per pimp. Don't journalists question these stats?

#248.1 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 6:22 PM EDT



**Arizona Tumbleweed**

Wow norma: You sure are backing the pimps, johns and whores. Even though they are molesting children.

#248.2 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 10:54 PM EDT

REPLY 



**Doo-Doo Paper**

Wow. I have something in common with the FBI: we both target teen prostitutes!

#249 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 12:42 PM EDT

REPLY   



**Floyd-1925547**

Alright! A mere tens-of-thousands more to go! Yayyy!

What's that flushing sound?

Oh it's the global economy still collapsing.

#250 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 12:46 PM EDT

REPLY  1  



### **Retired SFC-2541031**

Unfortunately the numbers worldwide are in the millions. This isn't even a drop in the bucket but at least it is a step in the right direction. Those of you who think this story justifies legalizing prostitution fail to account for the fact that the people who look for this kind of service are called pedophiles. They are not Johns in the normal sense. They should be dealt with in a fashion that will tell anyone else considering this kind of activity you will not survive to reap the rewards of your activities.

If you even suspect a child is being exploited or you should find an illegal web site you can report it to [www.cybertipline.com](http://www.cybertipline.com) you can do this anonymously. They will investigate and prosecute should there be a case.

#251 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 12:50 PM EDT

REPLY  1  



### **TX-Calvin**

Legalizing crime is NOT the way to get rid of it. Punishing it is. We do not need TEENS out walking the streets. These Pimps need to be sent to prison and pimped out to the other inmates. They need to feel what it is like to be a male whore forced to have sex for smokes.

#252 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 1:00 PM EDT

REPLY  1  



### **Tiredoflosers**

I can hear it already, "The Private sector, middle class are doing fine and I saved some hookers who George W Bush pimps"

#253 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 1:05 PM EDT

REPLY   



### **ara0128**

I want to agree with those who have made an important distinction--this article is talking about cases of child sex trafficking. Human trafficking is the third largest criminal industry in the world. These children were essentially sold to their pimps--beaten and raped until they were psychologically broken down to the point of sheer survival mode, and then forced into a lifestyle in which they continue to be raped 8-15 times a day. That means that in only a year's time, one single child may have been raped anywhere from 2920-5475 times. And that's just in one year. Is it any wonder they can't escape this lifestyle? Do you know what kind of psychological damage that will do to you? There's no processing the experience. There's only numbing and coping behaviors that the victim can utilize to survive.

There is no consent involved. There is no choosing this lifestyle. There is only fear, helplessness, hopelessness, shame, loss of control, dependency, isolation, and pain. Some may be sold into this lifestyle by parents or guardians. Some may have run away from home and an abusive lifestyle only to find themselves preyed upon by someone they thought they could trust. Then they find themselves locked up and further abused. Some may have been coerced into this lifestyle by the promise of a new life or job to support their family. Some may have been coerced into this lifestyle by threats that someone they love will be hurt if they don't go along with it. None of these children consciously choose this for themselves.

These girls (and boys) have been subjected to a level of degradation, abuse, and horrific acts that you cannot even imagine. Their bodies have been broken down by abuse and disease. They may never be able to have children. It may take years of therapy for them to learn how to trust again. Their chances of having a normal relationship with another is severely diminished. And while in this case we are talking about children, I also want to point out to those who talk about adults in prostitution that 90% of them have been sexually abused as a child. 90% of the time they are actually victims stuck in a cycle of abuse because they feel they aren't worth anything. They feel that they have no other choice because this is the only lifestyle they know. Or they are struggling to reassert a sense of control over their own sexuality that was stolen from them when they were abused as a child.

#254 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 1:21 PM EDT

REPLY   



### **NormaJeana**

The majority of prostitutes are adults and consent. We are NOT 12 or 13 or whatever the abolitionists tell you when we get into sex work. If you all would stop conflating sex work and sex trafficking, maybe there would be a chance

to assist all victims of child sexual abuse, including the 90% who are victims of someone they know and trust- men like Jerry Sandusky- a pillar of the community. Or cops like Jason Elder, who, after pleading guilty to 140 felonies relating to a 14 year old girl, received a three year sentence.

The US Government reports that the majority of predators are NOT those who are seeking to buy the sexual services of children- but are instead family members, babysitters, preachers, teachers, priests, boy scout leaders, and unfortunately law enforcement officers. Google the following:

Pedophile and Child Porn Law Enforcement Agents 2010-2012 to see how very many officers have been caught diddling children- including their own. Upstanding men like former police chief and boy scout master Kenneth Tomlinson, who pleaded guilty to 22 counts of sexual abuse of minors all during the time that he served as police captain of Fredericktown and a Boy Scout leader in the southeastern Missouri town. Officers like John Eric Freeman who recently was sentenced to THREE YEARS in prison for sexually molesting his own daughter throughout her childhood.

Perhaps if you did some research you would find how very many sex workers are out here who are quite capable of speaking for themselves and who will tell you that they are not victims of anything other than societal ignorance and hypocrisy. You want to help victims of child sexual exploitation? Stop arresting consenting adults. Use the resources now spent to arrest and prosecute consenting adult to build shelters for teen runaways. Stop incarcerating child victims of sex trafficking. Stop subjecting those teens to rape at the hands of those who 'rescue' them.

#254.1 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 5:42 PM EDT



REPLY



**gary-3737478**

remove the SHACKLE from the kids!

#255 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 1:34 PM EDT

REPLY



**Midnightridr**

The biggest majority of these kids are into this behavior because they want to be involved in it. Dont play on that underdeveloped bs, they know what they are doing. I have a friend who has a 14 yr old daughter and since she was 12 she has constantly kept a hard dick in both ends of her at the same time or her tongue in a vagina with a stiffy from behind. She looks like a grown woman and lies to grown men and tells them she is 20 yrs old just to get in their pants. She doesn't sell it, she does it because SHE LOVES IT and can't get enough of it, and doesn't care who she does it with. A totally disgusting little slut.

#256 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 1:53 PM EDT

REPLY



**Clicker-785500**

Sounds like you have creepy friends to me if he raised a daughter like that.

#256.1 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 2:01 PM EDT



**Arizona Tumbleweed**

So, You are going to judge the "majority of these kids", because of ONE child?

#256.2 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 2:06 PM EDT



**Midnightridr**

No, that's just one really bad example there are others but not quiet that bad. And as far as raising goes, he's tried everything to help her, it's not always bad parenting, some kids are just born and grow up to be hopelessly out of control. Thats the case here.

#256.3 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 2:44 PM EDT



**Clicker-785500**

Sorry, not buying it. 12 year old girls don't just become whores for no reason. Your friend's daughter was either emotionally or physically abused.

#256.4 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 3:07 PM EDT

**Midnightridr**

You are entitled to believe what you want to, but that is just simply not the case.

#256.5 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 3:50 PM EDT



REPLY

**David PHD-3767138**

Unfortunately, many people are out of work due to corporate millionaires rating the banks along with tarp money. A Roman Emperor once put the Senators wife's up for sale as prostitutes to pay for the city's debt.

Maybe this is something we should bring back for couple years and have the corporate CEOs of AIG for example, hauled her skanky wife's asses so, the average Joe can get his rocks off with her. And pay off the CEO sends for making middle-class and poor class families even poorer.

If that doesn't work, then perhaps Kem, Kardasheean could take over, her mom has made over 55 million pimping her daughter's asses out to the public for viewing.

#257 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 4:13 PM EDT

REPLY

**NormaJeana**

At least in this report they say it like it is- the 'children' who are 'victims' were arrested... taken into custody.... where very often they are raped by either staff members or other inmates. Can anyone imagine the outrage if the cops had arrested Jerry Sandusky's victims? Or the victims of pedophile priests?

And this is very odd- the cops, 2,500 of them, managed to arrest 104 alleged pimps and rounded up- er, rescued only 79 child victims? That means that each alleged pimp only had the services of .75 of a victim- not very financially sound to run a pimping business without their own child sex trafficking victim. Perhaps the truth is that the stats were as follows: the cops, which in the FBI site says there were 8,500 persons involved in this huge haul of pimps and underage prostitutes, arrested 104 persons total, of which 79 were children. But since the Feds are reluctant to admit they ARRESTED the children, they claim to have rescued 79... and the remaining arrestees were pimps or adult prostitutes.

#258 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 5:24 PM EDT

REPLY

**Josephine Smyth**

"Pimps! Those guys are animals...but they dress nice". Billy Blazejewski

#259 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 5:24 PM EDT

REPLY

**realitychuck**

100 Pimps and only 79 prostitutes? Sounds like the same problem I have at my job with too many chiefs and not enough indians. How is it possible that they removed the girls from a life of prostitution like the article says? They can go right back on the street if they want right? I also noticed the cities they targeted had very high black populations for some reason... I have no idea why...

#260 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 6:57 PM EDT

REPLY

**realitychuck**

I think they need to create a position of official Whore of the Planet to satisfy everyone and any of the Kardashians will be a perfect choice.

#261 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 7:09 PM EDT

REPLY







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***Jeff Black***

I'm a senior writer and editor at msnbc.com working on the news team.

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