

Reno Police Department

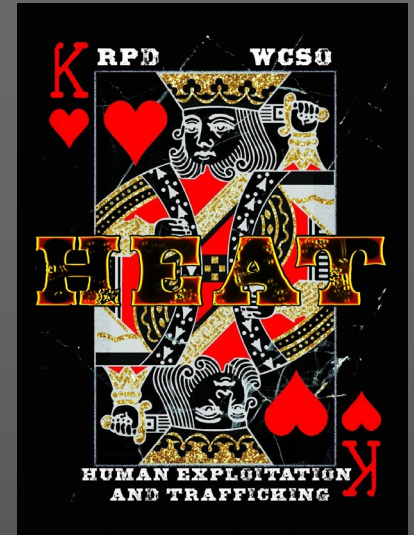
HEAT

Human Exploitation and Trafficking



OUR TEAM

- 1 Detective Sergeant (RPD)
- 4 Detectives (RPD)
- 1 Assigned Victim Advocate
- Regional Unit
- Partner with FBI and ICAC
- Conduct operations regionally in Northern Nevada



OUR APPROACH

Address Supply and Demand

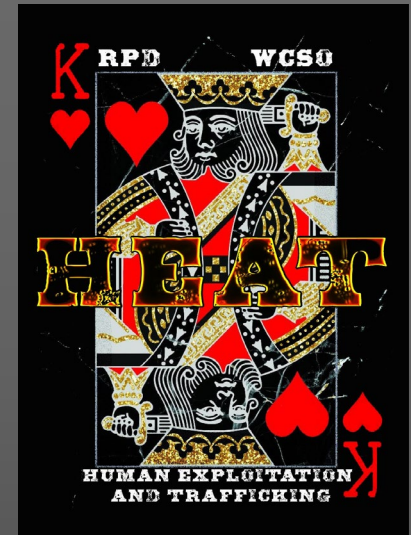
Case Referrals (Reactive)

- Patrol, Community Tips etc

Proactive

- Monitoring of online presence
- Victim identification
- Undercover Operations - Supply/Demand
 - Victim Recoveries
 - John Operations
 - Trafficker Operations

Outreach



OUR CASE FLOW (Real Victim Cases)

Victim ID



Victim Recovery or Self-Report



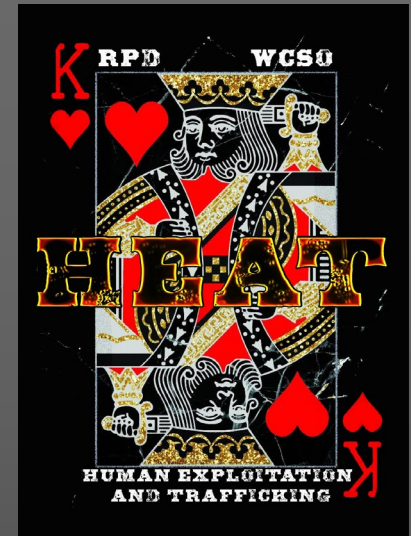
Build Case on Trafficker



Victim Plan - Long Term



Court Case Preparation



VICTIM PATH

Victim ID



Victim Recovery or Self-Report



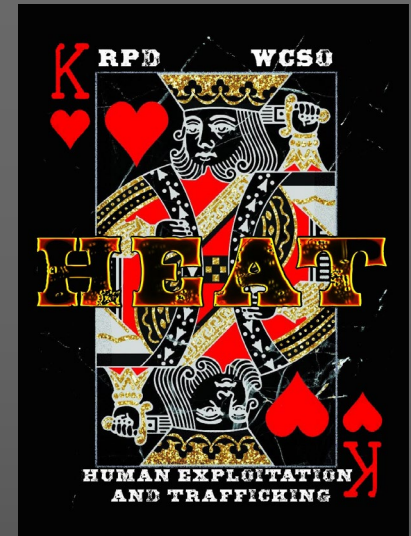
Advocate Involvement from Beginning



Victim Plan - Short Term/Long Term



Court Case Preparation

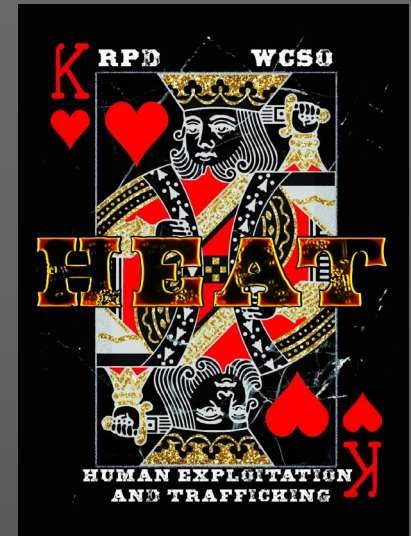


VICTIM PATH

(Services Provided by Advocate)

Dec 2020 - Dec 2021 - **144 Victims Referred**

- Initial Placement - safety planning
- Emergency Shelter
- Medical Needs
- Basic Needs - food, clothing etc
- Resource Referral
- Victim Rights
- Court Advocacy
- Treatment Programs
- Relocation/Transportation
- Employment/School Assistance
- Immigration Assistance



LOCAL TRENDS

- **Street Level** – sex workers work the “track” where they solicit purchasers.
- **Casino** – sex workers solicit patrons and often perform acts in adjoining hotels.
- **Online** – sex workers advertise online and often arrange for dates in private locations. (Prolific locally and nationally)
- **Social Media** – often times traffickers locate and groom victims via social media. Workers may also meet purchasers via social media and arrange for dates in private locations. Private chat rooms are hosted where acts are performed in exchange for money.
- **Residential Brothels** – sex workers are kept in private residences or extended stay hotels, where they perform acts.
- **Massage Parlors** - sex acts are performed within business. Additional elements of human trafficking.



RENO DEMOGRAPHICS - 2019-2021

Case Volume Adult vs Juvenile (Real Victims)

Juvenile - 50.5%

Adult - 49.5%

Average Age of Recovered Victims

Juvenile - 15.9 yrs old

Adult - 27.75 yrs old

Youngest Reported Victim Age

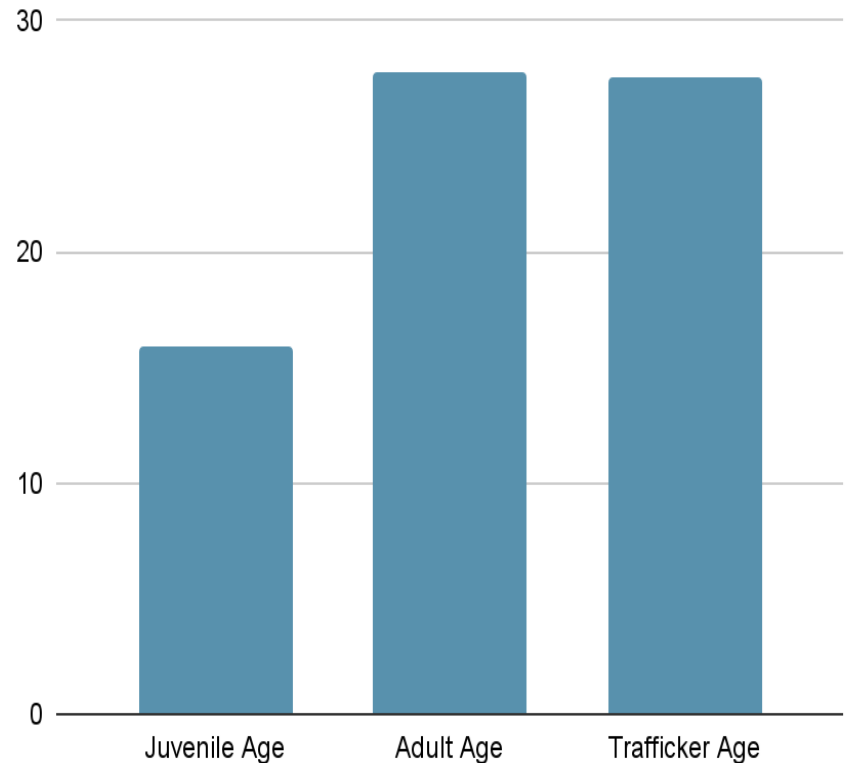
Female - 12 yrs old

Male - 17 yrs old

Trafficker

Average age - 27.6 yrs old

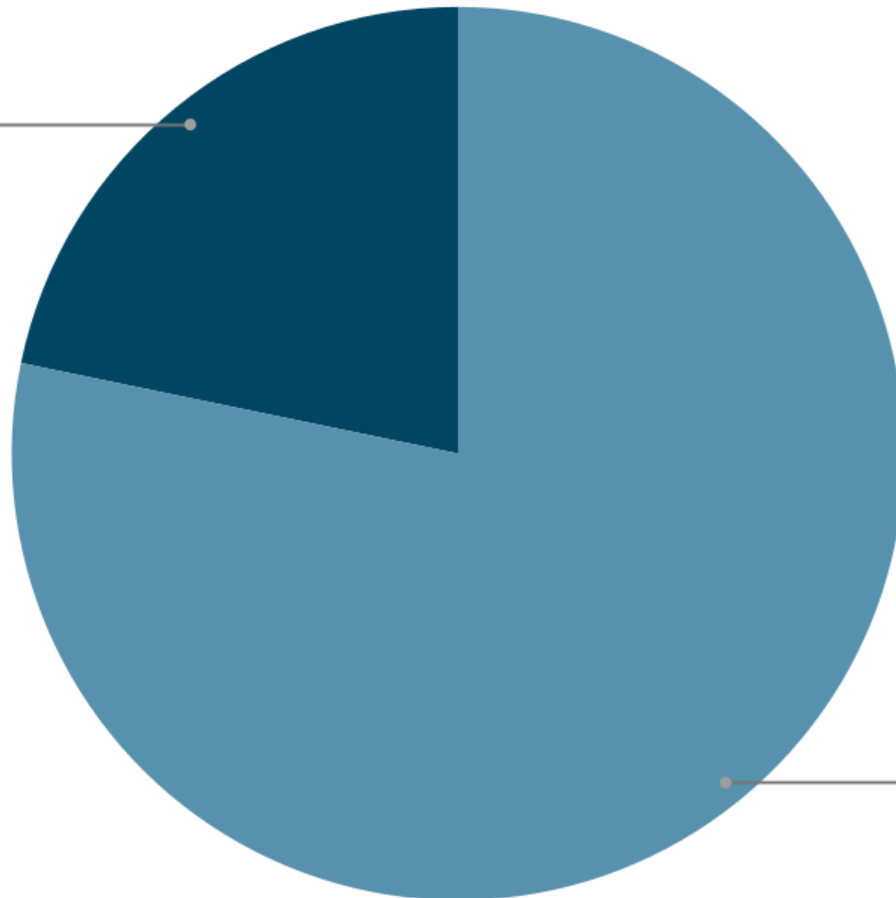
Average Ages



RENO DEMOGRAPHICS - 2019-2021

Traffickers by Gender

Female
21.8%



Male
78.3%

ARRESTS/RECOVERIES

2019

8 - ST of a minor arrests
5 - ST of an adult arrests
2 - Pandering arrests
2 - CP/Lewdness arrests

Total Arrests 17

9 - Juvenile recoveries
9 - Adult recoveries

**Total Recoveries
18**

2020

12 - ST of a minor arrests
7 - ST of an adult arrests
9 - Pandering arrests
38 - Other felony arrests

Total Arrests 66

9 - Juvenile recoveries
6 - Adult recoveries

**Total Recoveries
15**

2021 (as of

12/14/21)

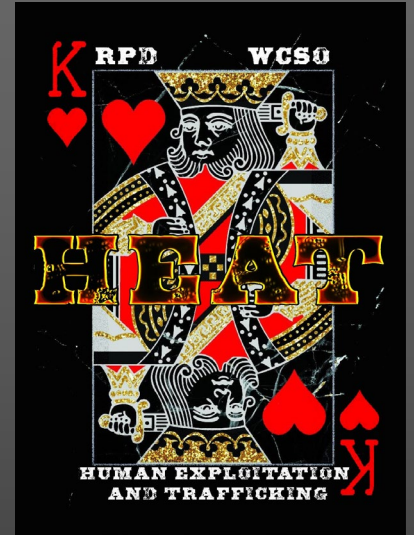
9 - ST of a minor arrests
5 - ST of an adult arrests
4 - Pandering arrests
4 - Solicit adult arrests
19 - Solicit child arrests
19 - CP/Luring arrests
10 - Other felony arrests

Total Arrests 70

4 - Juvenile recoveries
12 - Adult recoveries
**Total Recoveries
15**

PUBLIC MISCONCEPTIONS

- Prostitution is legal
- Age of consent allows for purchase of sex
- Stereotypical “van abductions”



CHALLENGES/NEEDS

- Juvenile Victim Placement - limited options, especially after hours or when guardian is MIA
- Interim care/placement for adult victims until program arrangement
- Victim Resources in General - very limited for Juveniles
- John Enforcement - limited ability to arrest on adult misdemeanor cases - Increase penalty for 201.354?
- UC - ST Cases - change NRS to allow UC to pose
- Live on Earnings - differentiate adult vs child victims (increase penalties?)
- DA caseload bottle neck
- Training for DAs/Judges
- Legal forms of prostitution that do exist
- John penalty funds
- Cultural - RMC 8.21 - Escort Services Licensing (eliminate?)
- Social Media - Resistance, Technology
- Detective Staffing

CONTACT

H.E.A.T. Main

- Office - (775) 325-6470
- Email - HEAT@reno.gov

Detectives Direct

- Sgt Smith (775) 741-6525
- Sgt Cox (WCSO) (775) 233-3442
- Chris Johnson (775) 745-1245
- Brigit McGurk (775) 685-6088
- Wes Leedy (775) 745-5263
- AJ Della (775) 276-8362

Advocate

- Alecia Hardiman (775) 745-3780

