



Human Trafficking Near Public Schools

Houston | April 12, 2018

children
at Risk

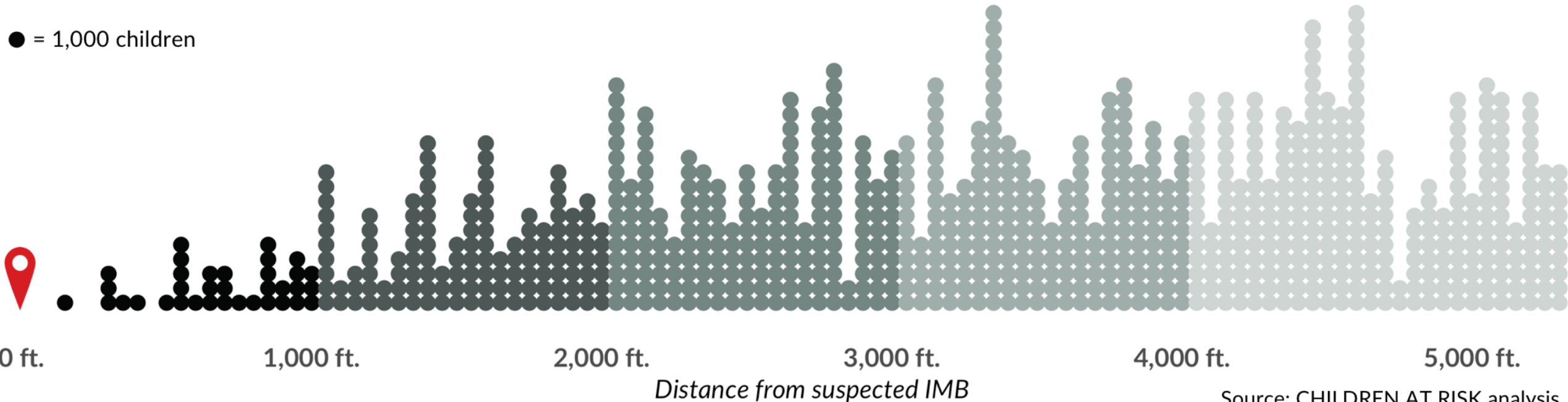
Human trafficking near public schools

35,000 Texas children attend school within 1,000 feet of a suspected illegal massage business (IMB)

900,000 children attend school within a mile of a suspected front for human trafficking

children
atRisk

● = 1,000 children



Source: CHILDREN AT RISK analysis
of data from RubMaps.com

children
atRisk

What is a suspected IMB?

- Massage establishments illegally selling sexual services
- Most are unlicensed
- Human trafficking operations: Women trapped through force, fraud, and coercion
- **Methodology:**
 - *RubMaps.com*: “Yelp” for commercial sex at massage businesses
 - Users exchange reviews and feedback on IMBs
 - We identified all businesses listed as open, not listed as “non-erotic,” and had at least 1 review

Sample reviews from RubMaps.com

So she's rushing me the whole time til finally I tell her look, if you keep stopping I'm never going to finish. So, I know these girls hate it rough, but now I'm just ready to go....

-Review of Sunny Massage Spa in Houston, 12/13/2017

The price is high for a good reason: the service is good and you can get pretty much whatever you want, within reason.

-Review of Urban Lux in Houston, 1/20/18

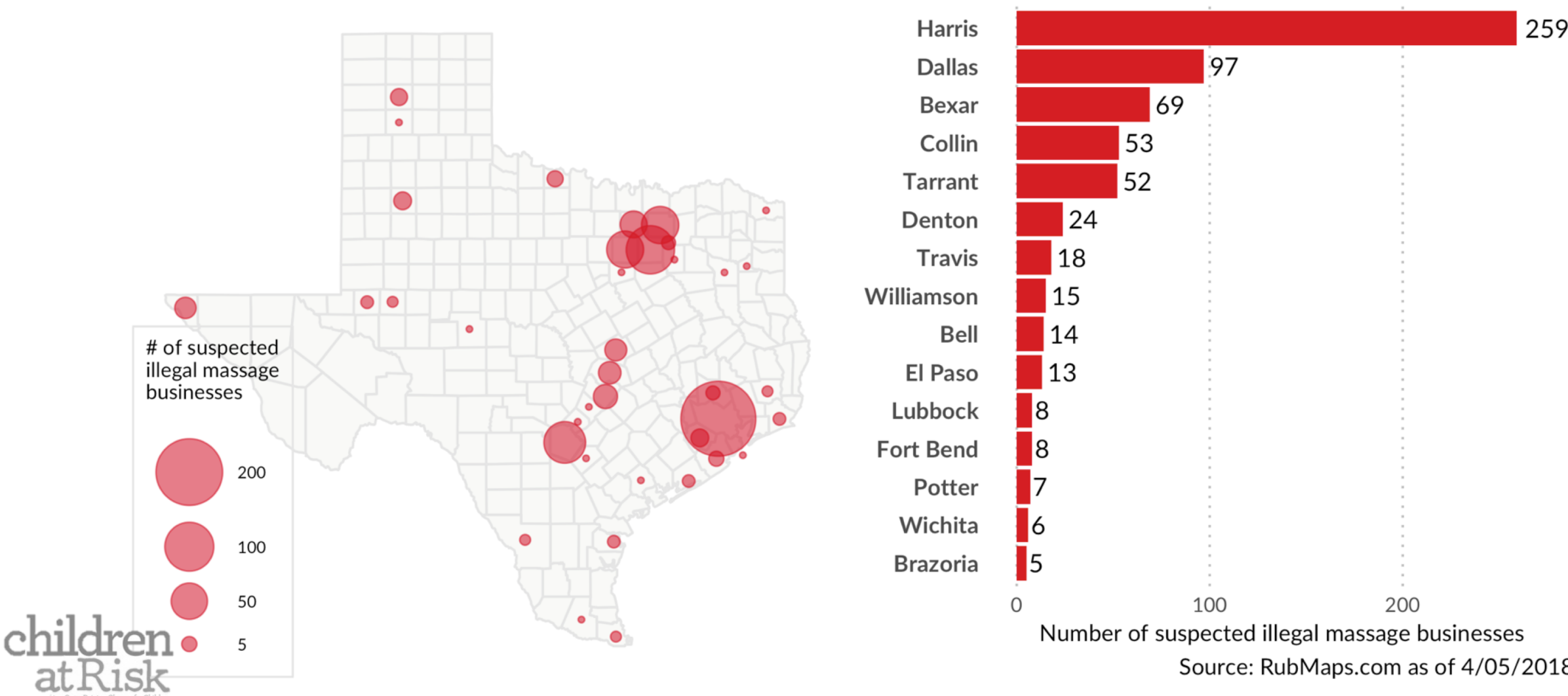
I got a few minutes of action outta her...it was a good time, I left the tip and got outta there with my head up high, very recommended.

-Review of Rainbow Foot Massage in Houston, 3/3/18

The screenshot shows the RubMaps.com website interface. At the top, there's a search bar with a suggestion for 'Erotic massage Houston, Asian massage Houston'. Below the search bar, there's a navigation menu with links like 'ADVANCED SEARCH', 'FORUM', 'SLANG', 'MPHOBBYIST', 'ESCORTS', and 'ESCORT R'. The main content area is titled 'Message parlors Houston TX » CQ Massage'. On the left, there's a sidebar with 'Other locations' and a list of 'Houston massage parlors' including 'Perfect Massage Spa', 'A1 Foot Spa', 'Pine Tree Spa', 'Wild Rose', 'Holistic Thai Massage', 'Spa 713', 'Herbal Essence Foot Massage', 'H Bath House', 'Victoria Nails And Spa', 'Nine Hair-Nails Spa', 'Diamond Spa', 'Yellow Rose Spa', 'J&P Massage', 'K Spa', 'Empress Of China Massage & Reflexology', 'Rong's Asian Massage', 'G H Asian Massage', 'Maple Massage', 'Revitalize Spa', and 'A & A'. The main profile for 'CQ Massage in Houston, Texas' features a 17-review rating, a 'LEAVE A REVIEW' button, and an 'ADD TO FAVORITES' button. The profile details include the address '520 E 20th St, Houston, Texas 77008', major streets 'E. 20th @ Oxford st', phone number '713-802-0811', and hours 'Open now Daily 11:00am - 10:00pm'. A map shows the location at the intersection of E 20th St and Oxford St. The bottom of the page has tabs for 'MP reviews (17)', 'Comments', and 'Texas Forum'.

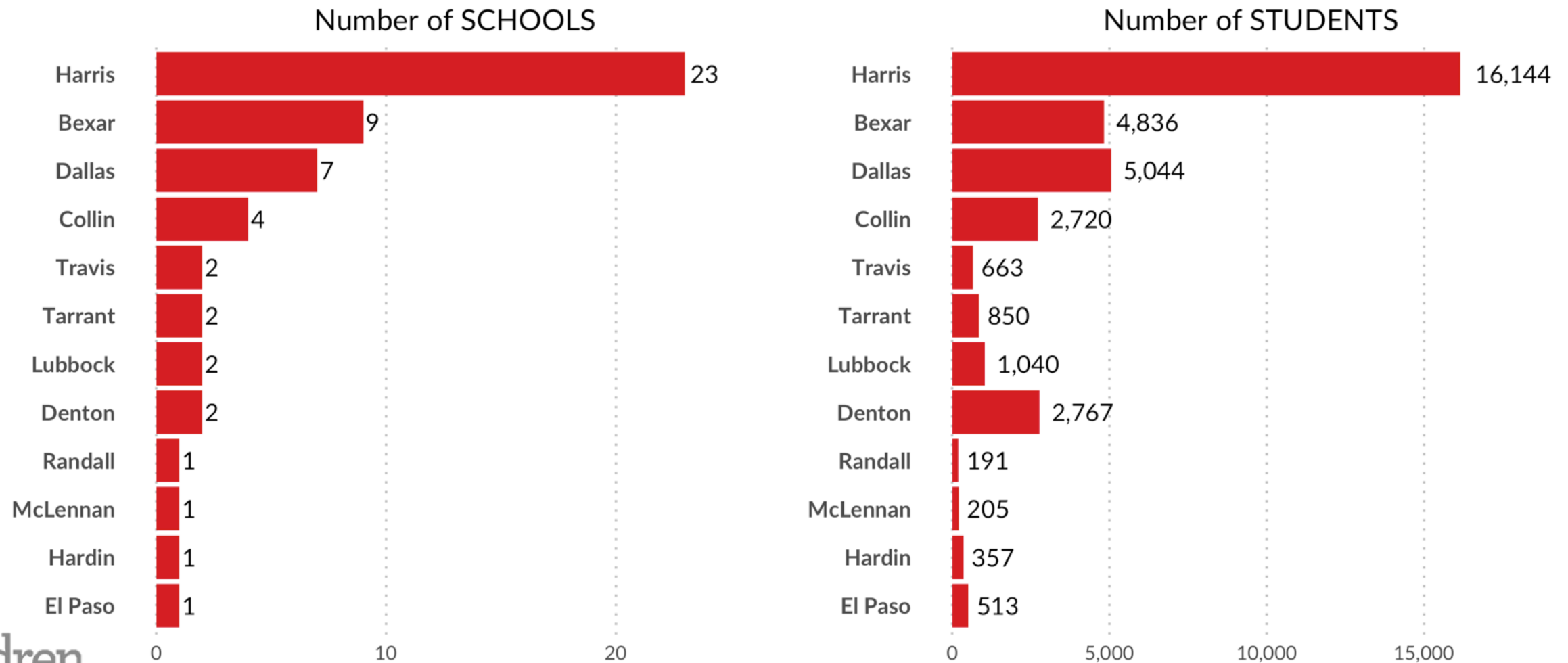
Harris County has the highest concentration of suspected IMBs

Suspected illegal massage businesses by county

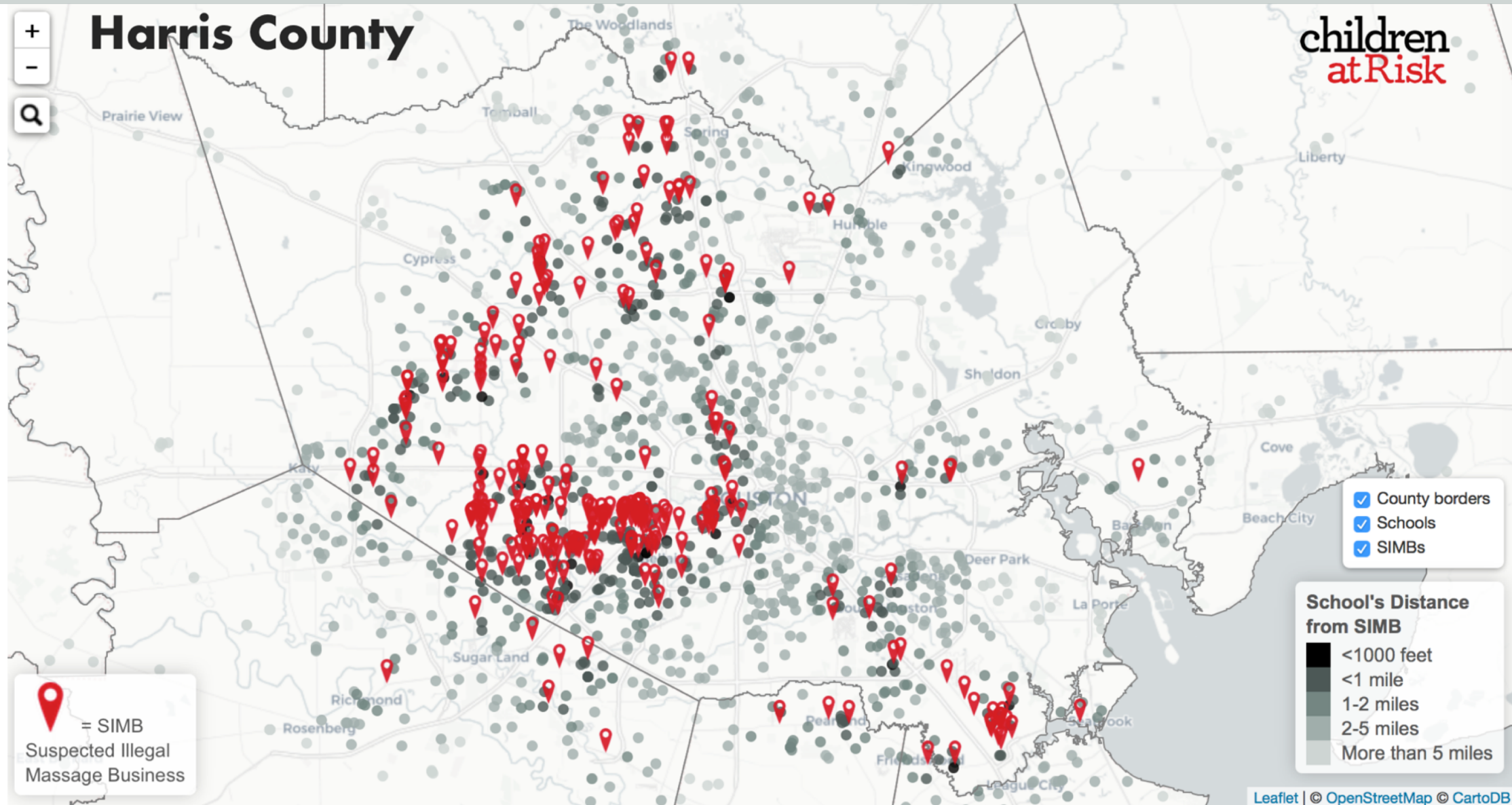


Over 16,000 children in Harris County attend school within 1,000 feet of a suspected IMB

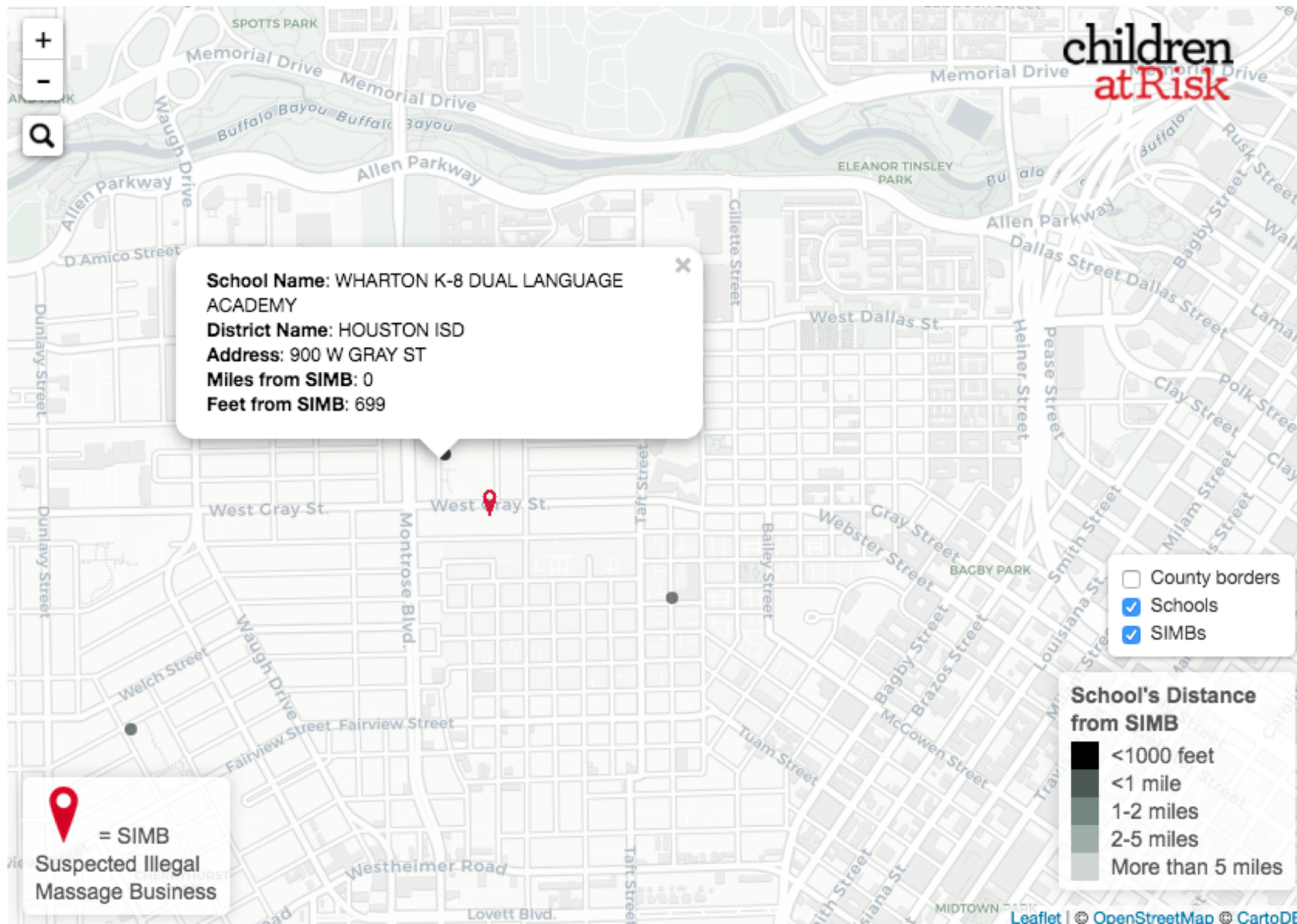
Schools and students within 1,000 feet of a suspected illegal massage business



Over **300,000** Harris County students attend school *within a mile of a suspected IMB*

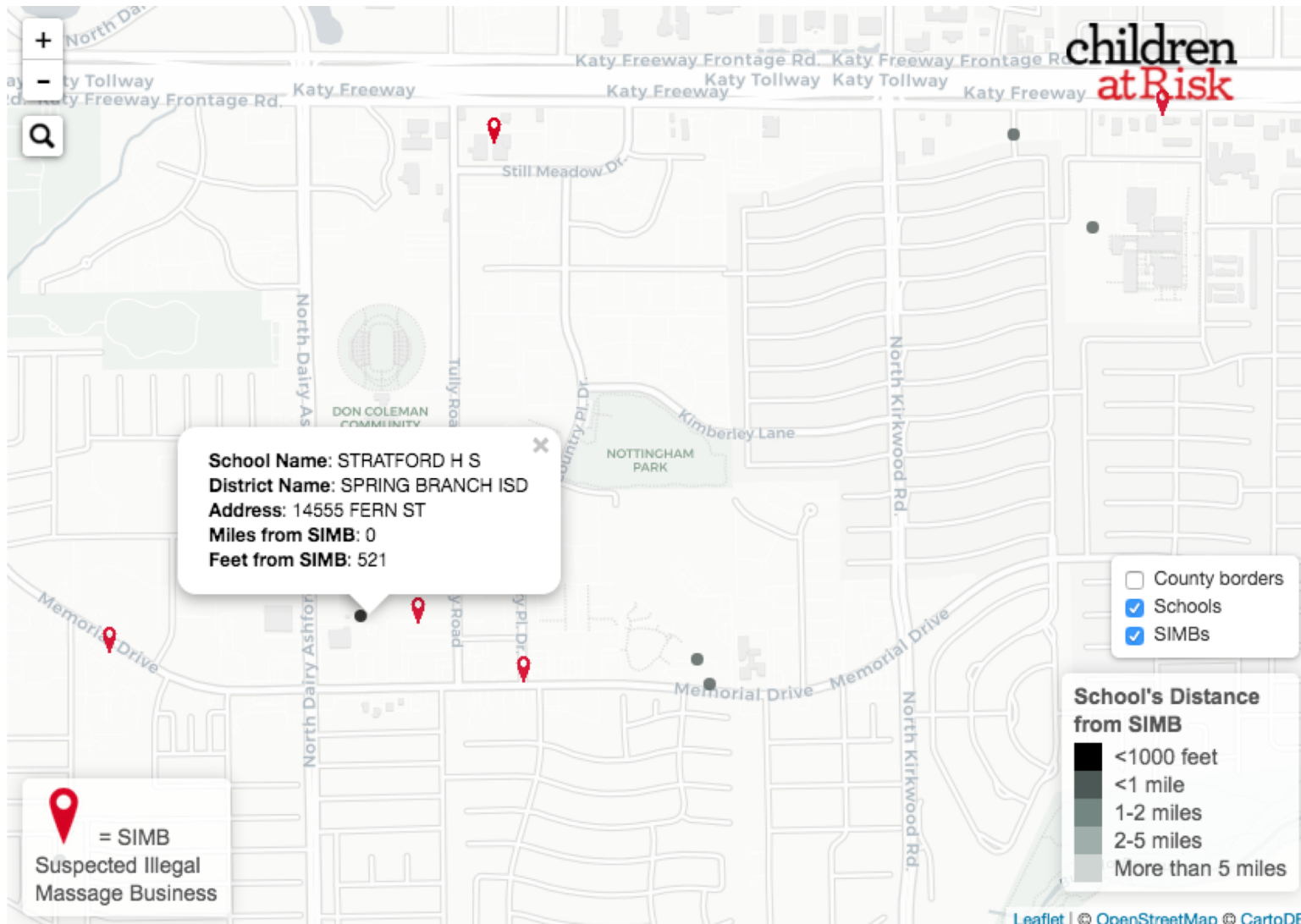


Wharton K-8 Dual Language Academy – Houston ISD



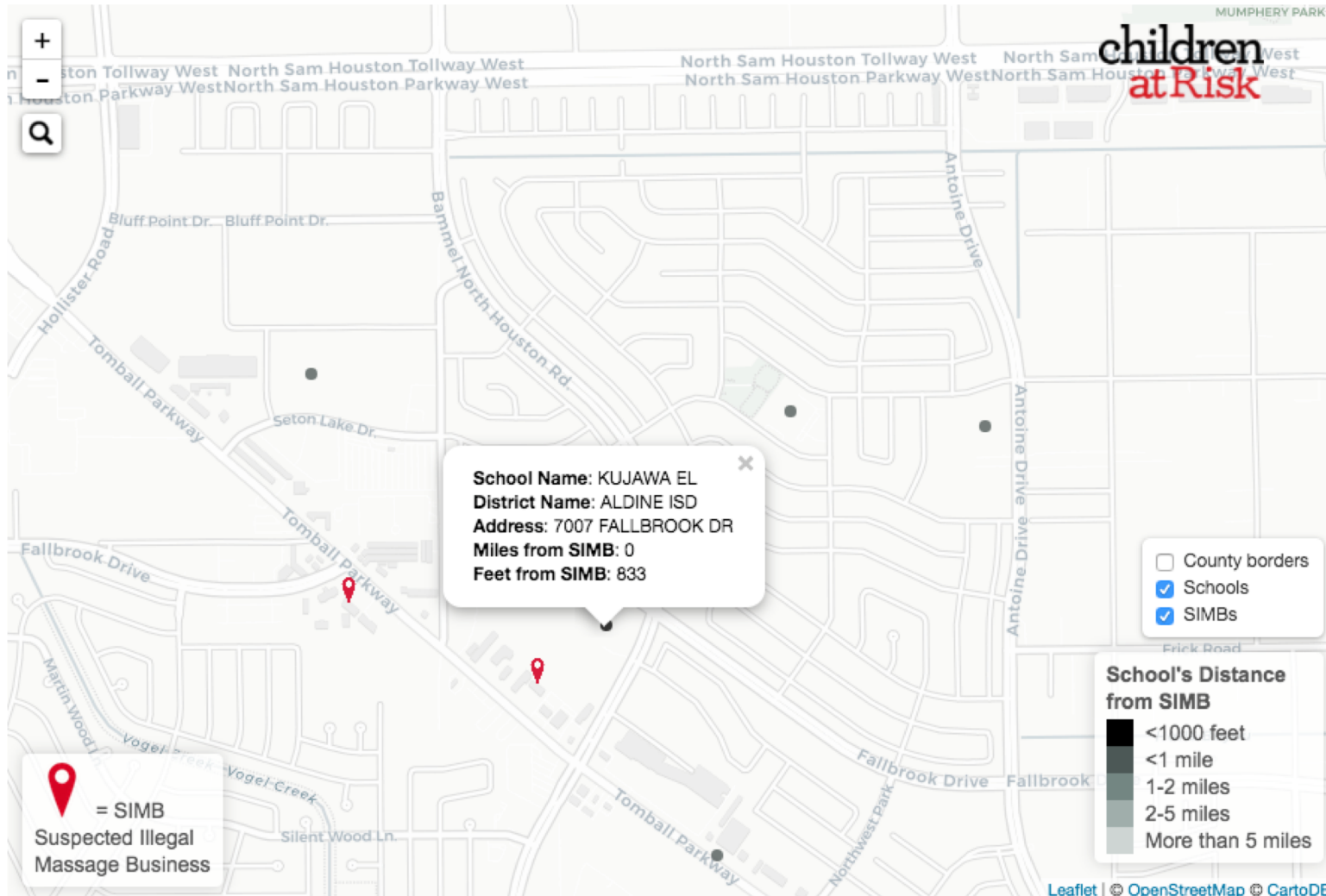
- 699 feet from **West Gray Thai Massage**
- 37 reviews
- Reviews describe **sexual stimulation and groping**

Stratford High School – Spring Branch ISD



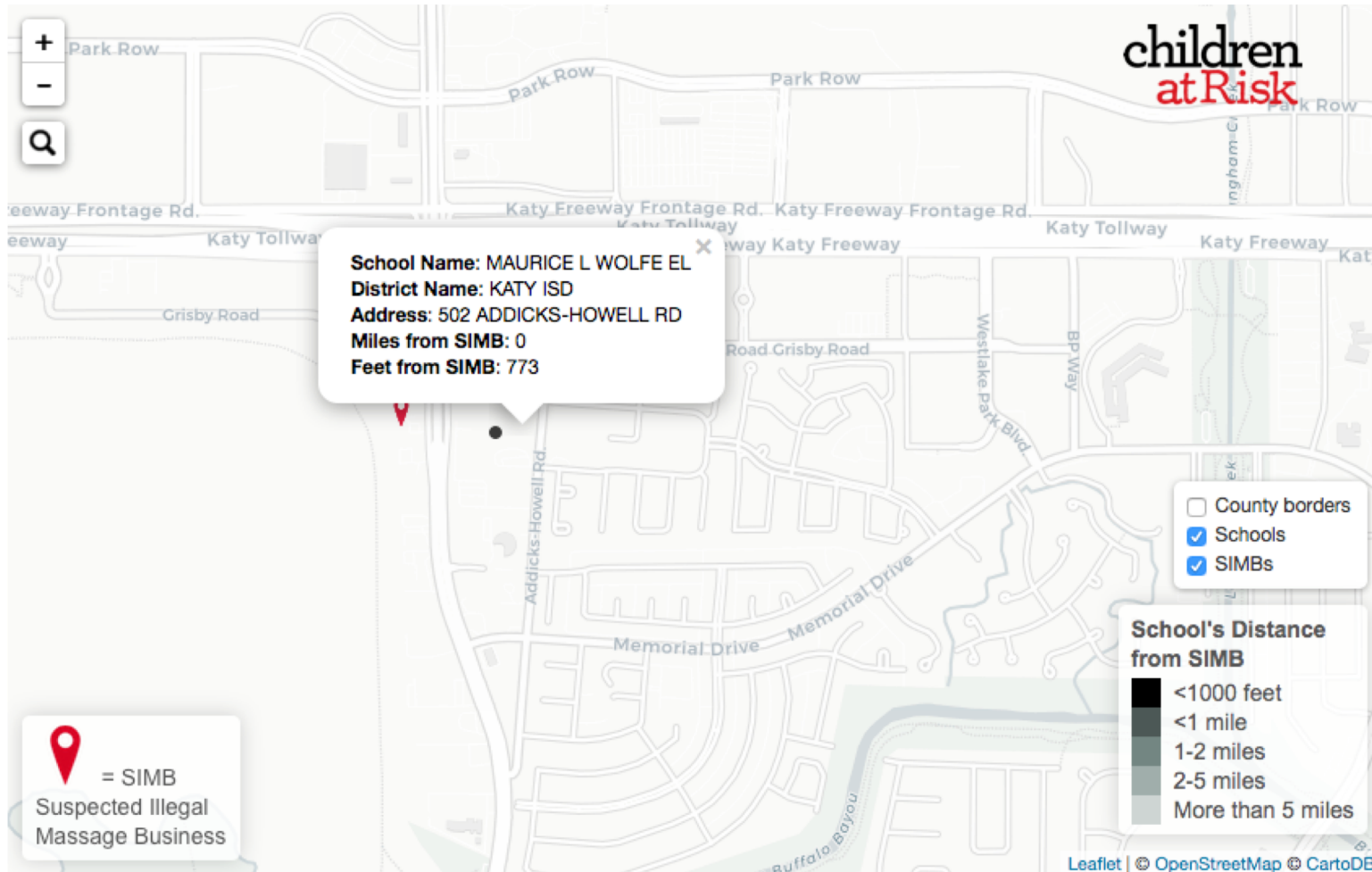
- 521 feet from **Urban Lux**
- 10 reviews
- Reviews describe **vaginal sex, oral sex, sexual stimulation, and groping**

Kujawa Elementary – Aldine ISD



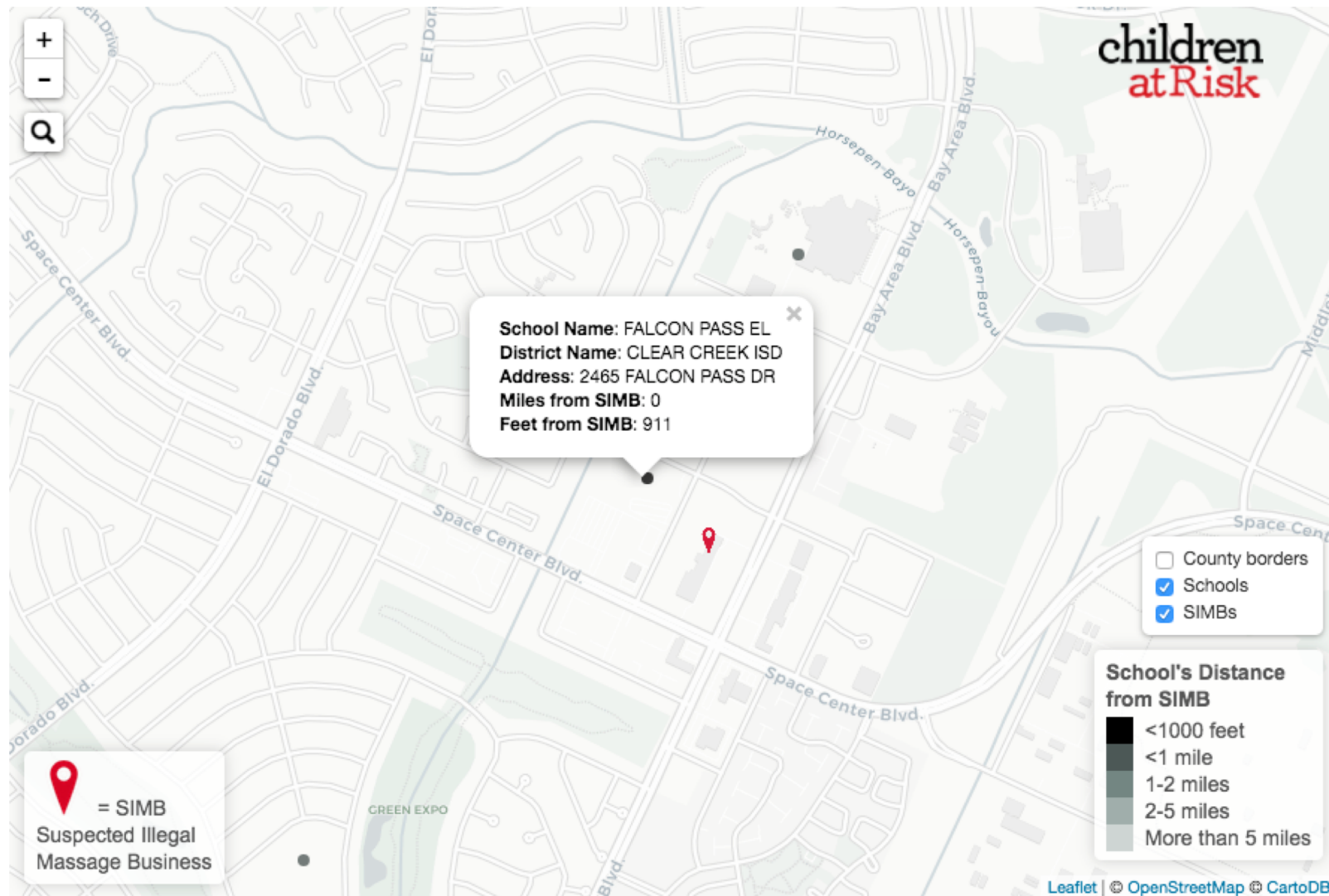
- 833 feet from **Rong's Asian Massage**
- 9 reviews
- Reviews describe **sexual stimulation** and **groping**

Maurice L Wolfe Elementary – Katy ISD



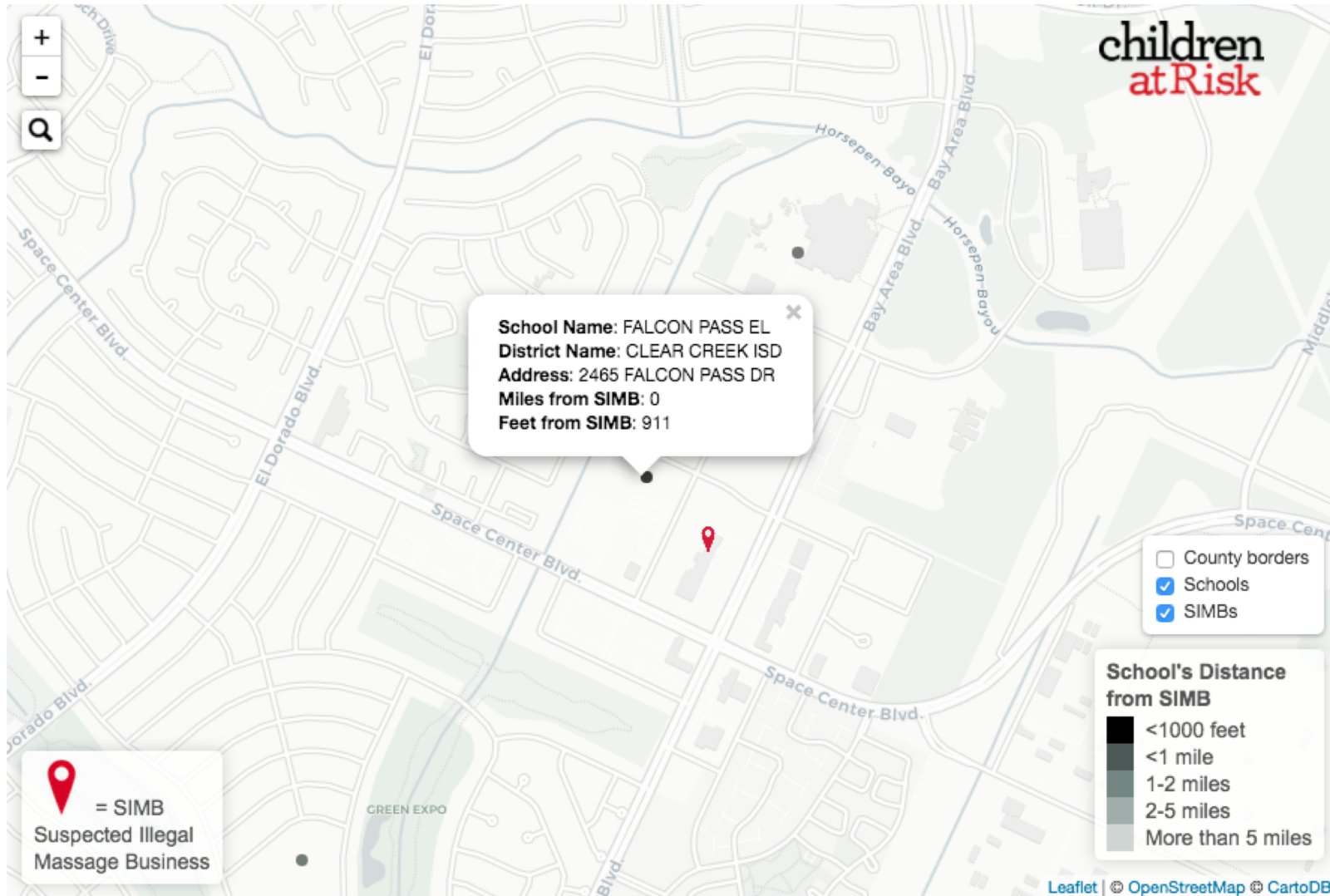
- 773 feet from **#1 Spa**
- 64 reviews
- Reviews describe **vaginal sex, oral sex, sexual stimulation and groping**

Falcon Pass Elementary – Clear Creek ISD



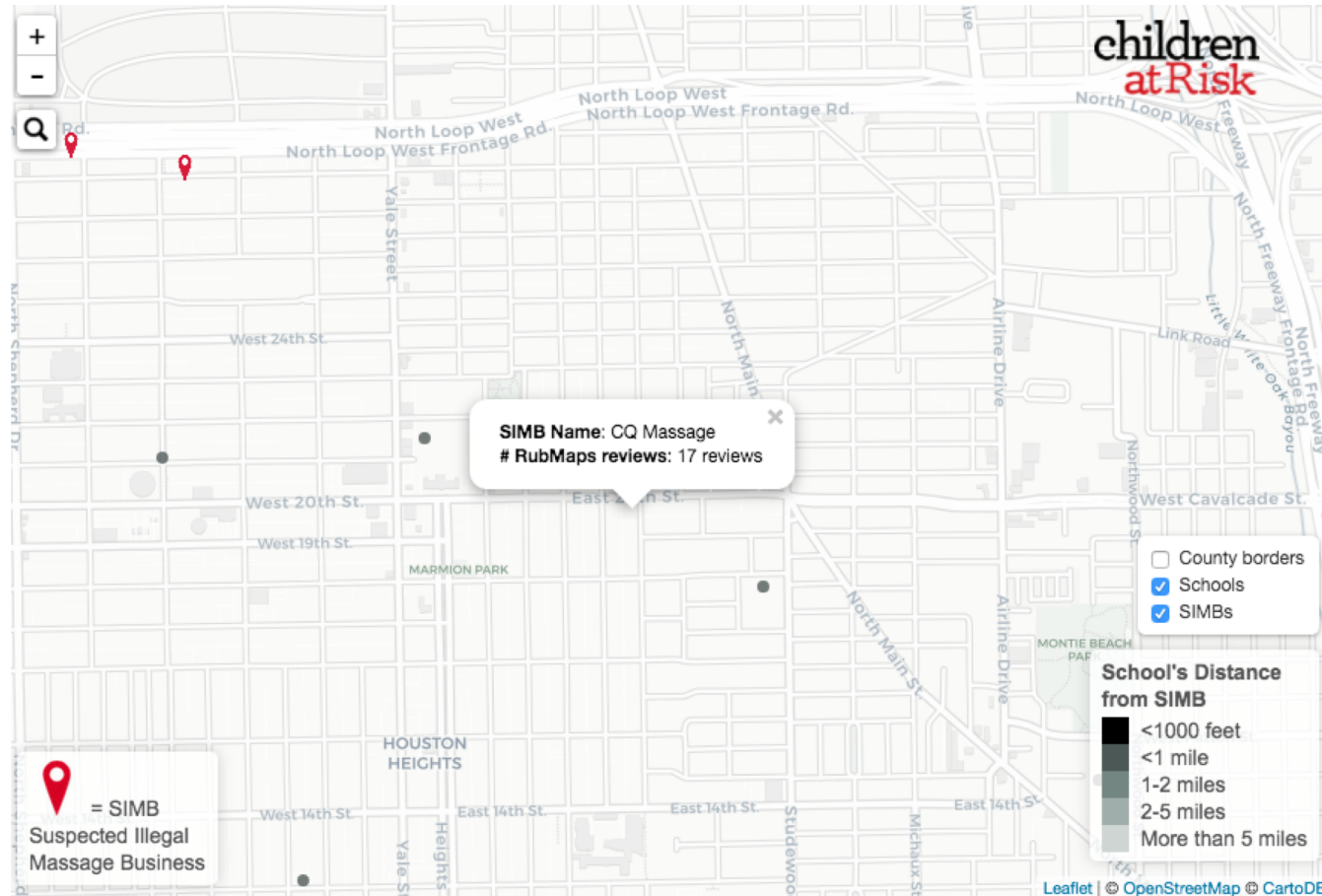
- 911 feet from **5-Star Therapists**
- 25 reviews
- Reviews describe **vaginal sex, oral sex, sexual stimulation and groping**

Falcon Pass Elementary – Clear Creek ISD



- 911 feet from **5-Star Therapists**
- 25 reviews
- Reviews describe **vaginal sex, oral sex, sexual stimulation and groping**

CQ Massage – 20th St



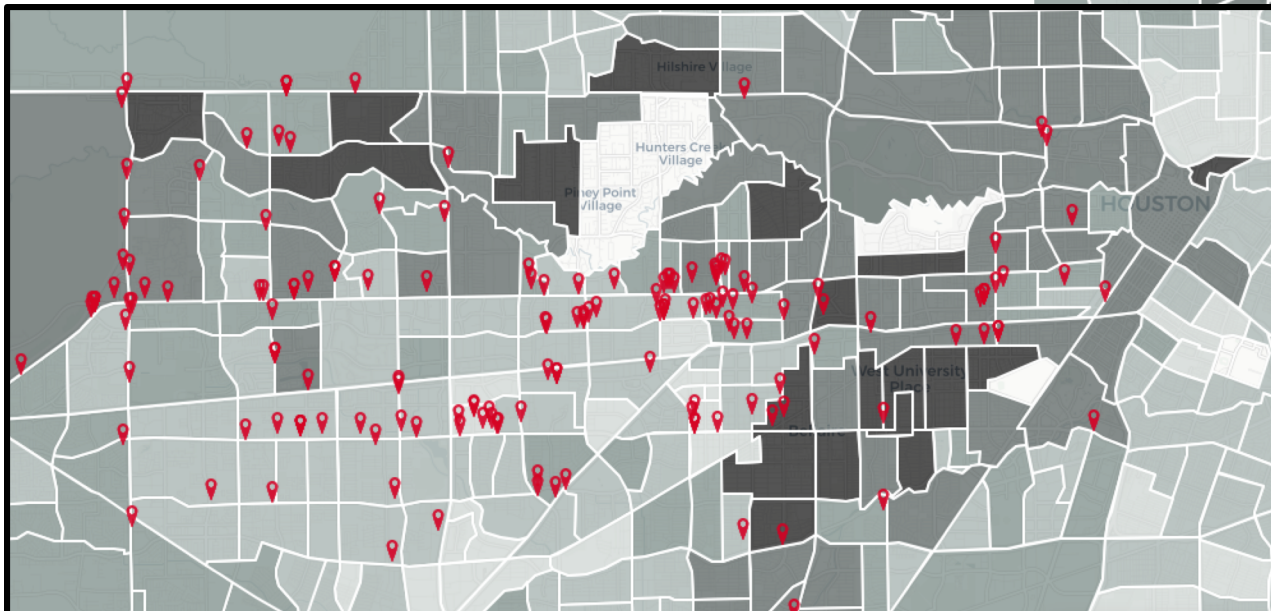
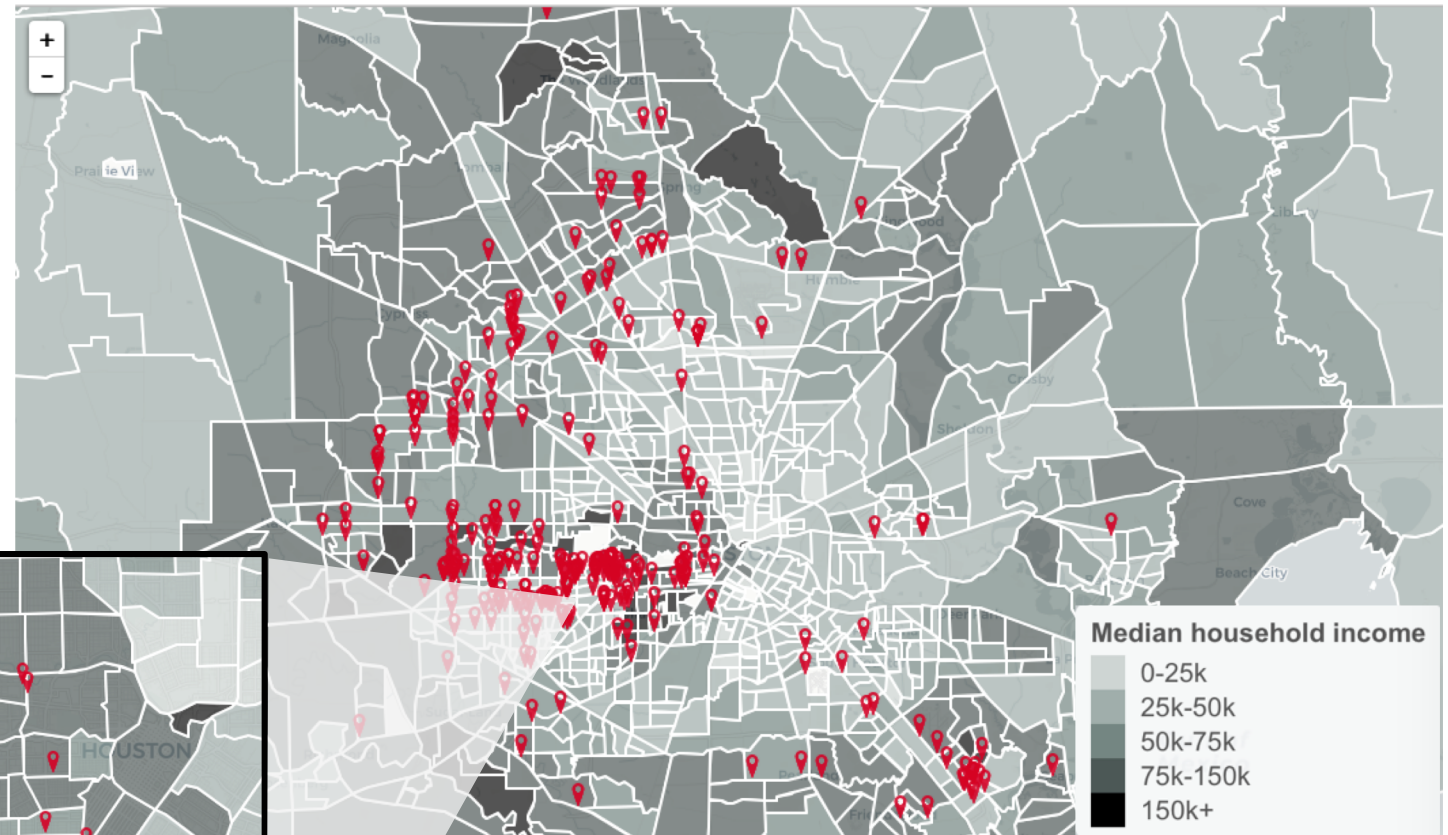
"I stopped at the bus stop closest to the place and walked the rest of the way to the parlor. **My ex girlfriend wanted me to pick up her kid from preschool but I had some time to kill before I had to go so I went here.** [She] and I kissed as soon as we entered the room. She liked it[but] It was close to 2:30 which meant I needed to be over at that damn preschool soon."

- CQ Massage, review 7/18/2017

- 1,317 feet from **Field Elementary**
- 2,002 feet from **Hamilton Middle**

In Harris County, suspected IMBs are concentrated in **more affluent** neighborhoods

On average, median household incomes in neighborhoods with suspected IMBs are **\$7,000 higher** than those with none.



Policy proposals:

Deceptive trade practice lawsuits

- A major bill was passed last session (HB 2552) that makes it a **deceptive trade practice** for an unlicensed business to hold itself out as a massage establishment.
- The Consumer Protection Division of the Attorney General's Office needs to begin enforcing this fantastic new law and suing IMBs, getting restraining orders against them, and hitting them with statutory damages.

Policy proposals: Penalties for property owners

- CHILDREN AT RISK passed measures to make it easier for local governments to close IMBs using **nuisance and abatement lawsuits**.
- However, when it came to the **property owners**, some lawmakers refused to even consider meaningful action. It is clear the legislature must act, otherwise, property owners will just continue leasing to traffickers.
- Proposed steps:
 - Lessen the notification burden when it comes to property owners and nuisance and abatement suits.
 - Other commercial tenants in the same shopping center should be able to break lease without consequences if property owner leases to an unlicensed massage establishment (ME)
 - Registration by property owner with the state, county and city if leasing to ME
 - Whether the business is licensed should be a required question on lease under state law; a false answer should have a criminal penalty attached

Policy proposals:

Compassionate response to victims

- It is time for Texas to provide a compassionate response to victims and acknowledge that crimes—such as prostitution—committed by victims in the course of their being trafficked are not their fault.
- Texas needs a **set aside law** to allow victims to vacate convictions and expunge their records if they can show that but for being trafficked, they would not have committed these crimes.
- **These women are hostages—not criminals.**

Policy proposals:

Training for school board trustees

- Schoolboard trustees must be required to undergo human trafficking training.
- A training curriculum for teachers has already been developed by the state but is rarely used as it was not mandated.
- Trustees who know about this issue and the dangers it presents will be far more likely to require that teachers be trained to spot and report signs of human trafficking.

Policy proposals:

Greater local resources

- The City of Houston and HPD are taking this problem very seriously and are doing all that they can to close IMBs.
- But they need more resources. This may mean a tax increase to provide HPD and city departments with more personnel and overtime hours.

Policy proposals: Ending demand

- Again **there would not be Illegal Massage Businesses without BUYERS.**
- First time sex buying (NOT selling) should be a state jail felony.
- If we want to end human trafficking and if we don't want these places near our children and families, we must get serious!

Community Response

- Parents and concerned citizens can go to the Texas Department of Licensing and Registration (TDLR), search for suspected IMBs to see whether they are unlicensed, and **report unlicensed MBs** to TDLR.
- People can also **report any disturbances or strange activities** outside suspected IMBs to TDLR through their website.

<https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/>



To learn more and explore the map, visit:
www.childrenatrisk.org/human_trafficking_near_schools/

