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An Overview of Other Sex Buyer Arrests in the United States

A Preliminary Summary Based Upon Research
from the National Assessments of Prostitution
and Sex Trafficking Demand Reduction Efforts



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An Overview of “Other” Sex Buyer Arrests in the United States

Most arrests of sex buyers are the result of sting operations using fictional online ads or undercover police posing as prostituted persons. But sex buyers may also be arrested as the result of investigations or enforcement actions in response to offenses against real victims. Some arrests occur on an ad hoc or opportunistic basis, such as when police witness public lewdness or conduct traffic stops, and then learn that the people are engaged in prostitution. Others occur when investigating allegations of prostitution or sex trafficking. Types of scenarios that may provide opportunities to arrest sex buyers that do not involve reverse stings include:

1. Brothel raids
2. Prostitution and sex trafficking investigations
3. Investigations of other offenses (e.g., domestic violence, robbery, drug trafficking)
4. Traffic stops
5. Police or witness observations of suspicious activity or lewd conduct

Tracking the arrests of sex buyers accomplished through means other than sting operations is a recent development at Demand Forum. During the first two months of conducting web searches for such arrests, Demand Forum staff has learned of more than 290 U.S. cities and counties in which they have occurred. The number of communities in which sex buyers have been arrested by means other than sting operations is certainly far greater than what we have documented so far. This document is an interim product, providing a very preliminary report on sex buyer arrests, and will be updated periodically to reflect recent findings.

To access information about specific cases and the U.S. cities and counties in which sex buyer arrests occurred, you may go to www.demand-forum.org, open the “[Browse Locations](#)” window, and then select “Buyer Arrests” from the “Tactics” list. Similarly, the U.S. locations in which other arrests of sex buyer have occurred may be [mapped](#) on Demand Forum by choosing “Buyer Arrests” from the list.

EXAMPLES

Allegheny Township, PA

In April, 2020 a man was arrested and faced felony charges after police alleged that he forced a prostituted woman to perform a sexual act and then robbed her at an Allegheny Township motel. The man had responded to the woman’s online ad, and she agreed to have sex with him for \$80. They met at the motel, had sex, and he paid her \$50 and crack cocaine. They met again the next day for another transaction, and the man held a knife against the woman and forced her to perform oral sex on him. The man then stole her money and left. The woman called 911 just after the man drove away, and gave police a description of what he was wearing as well as the license plate number of his car. When police found the man in the vehicle she had described, and he had exactly the amount of money the woman reported stolen. Police also found the discarded knife the offender had used to threaten the victim. The man was charged with felony robbery and involuntary deviate sexual intercourse by forcible compulsion, as well as misdemeanor counts of theft, receiving stolen property, and patronizing a prostituted person. The man’s identity was included in news reports.

- <https://www.altoonamirror.com/news/local-news/2020/04/holidaysburg-man-charged/> (2020)

Arcadia, FL

In August, 2021, police arrested an Arcadia man accused of following a girl (under 16 years of age) and offering to give her money in exchange for sexual acts. The suspect allegedly followed the young girl for about half a mile while making sexual advances and offering her money, the victim told officers with the Arcadia Police Department. The suspect was not at the scene when police arrived, but he was found the next day and admitted to the crimes, police said. Officers arrested him and he was later

charged with force/compel/coerce another to become a prostitute, contributing to the delinquency or dependency of a child, and stalking a minor. He was held without bond at the DeSoto County Jail.

- <https://www.winknews.com/arcadia-man-accused-of-soliciting-underage-girl-for-sex/> (2021)
- <https://nbc-2.com/arcadia-man-stalked-underage-girl-offered-her-money-for-sex-police-say/> (2021)
- <https://floridanewstimes.com/arcadia-man-accused-of-asking-a-minor-girl-for-sex> (2021)

Winter Haven, FL

In December, 2012, a joint investigation between the Winter Haven Police Department and the Polk County Sheriff's Office resulted in the arrest of a Winter Haven police officer. In September 2012 a confidential source had approached a Winter Haven police officer and alleged that the officer was having sex with a prostituted woman while on duty. A criminal investigation was initiated the following day by the Winter Haven Police Department. The preliminary investigation led the Winter Haven Police Department to request assistance from the Polk County Sheriff's Office, and a three month joint investigation was conducted. The investigation generated evidence leading to the arrest of the officer for "false imprisonment" and "purchase of services of a prostitute - first offense." The officer confessed to detectives that he paid or agreed to pay prostituted women for sex while on duty during the prior year. One of the encounters with a prostituted person resulted in the former officer being charged with false imprisonment. The man was fired from the Winter Haven Police Department and was later decertified by the state as a sworn officer.

- <https://m.facebook.com/winter-haven-officer-arrested-for-soliciting-a-prostitutea-joint-investigation> (2012)

Eau Claire, WI

In July, 2019, an investigation into prostitution occurring in local massage businesses was initiated in response to community complaints. During the investigation, the course of conducting the search warrants, completing interviews, and collecting evidence confirmed that prostitution was occurring at these businesses. One of the arrests made related to these investigative efforts was a man charged with Patronizing Prostitutes, Wisconsin state statute 944.31. The man's identity was included in a police press release.

- <https://www.eauclairewi.gov/Home/ShowDocument?id=28945> (2019)

Stearns County, MN

In August, 2021, a Glenwood man was charged with three felonies in Stearns County after allegedly soliciting a minor for paid sexual abuse and possessing child sexual abuse materials. According to the criminal complaint, police were called to a home in Avon for a welfare check after the foster parent of a 13-year-old girl said she discovered troubling conversations with adult men on several different phone applications. In one conversation the girl said she met up with a man she met on a chat app and agreed to perform sex acts with him in exchange for \$90. Investigators were able to identify and locate many of the adult men who had solicited the teen for sex. A Central Minnesota Human Trafficking Task Force member allegedly found a conversation between the girl and someone on the TextMe app. Investigators then tracked the phone's IP address and subscriber information registered to a 22-year-old man, who had been told the girl was 15 before he agreed to exchange drugs for sex and asked for nude pictures in exchange for marijuana. The man was charged with possession of child pornography, solicitation of a child to engage in sexual conduct, and prostitution.

- <https://knsiradio.com/man-charged-for-possession-of-child-pornography-and-soliciting-teen-girl-for-sex/> (2021)

Scottsbluff, NE

In August, 2021, a 46-year-old Scottsbluff man was accused of asking a 17-year-old girl to send him nude photos in exchange for money. The man was charged with sex trafficking of a minor, a Class IB felony; possession of child pornography, a Class IIA felony, and attempted incest, a Class IIA

felony. Scottsbluff Police were contacted in December 2020 by a local counselor who had a 17-year-old client who had reported messages that were sexual in nature involving the suspect. The teen said she had been asked by a man on Facebook for nude photos in return for money. The girl admitted to sending photos, though she had covered her “private parts.” The girl said she questioned the identity of the man, believing she had determined the man’s real identity as a family member due to the conversation. Police had previously investigated reports involving the man making sexual comments to the girl. The girl then messaged the man’s actual account, and he sent the girl sexual comments. Police obtained a search warrant and were able to tie both accounts to the suspect’s cell phone. A search of his account also showed multiple screenshots of a nude female with digital markings over portions of her body to conceal them. A warrant for the man’s arrest was issued and he was arrested, then was arraigned in Scotts Bluff County Court and bond has been set at \$250,000.

- <https://starherald.com/news/local/scottsbluff-man-charged-with-sex-trafficking-other-counts> (2021)

Kennebunk, ME

In September 2012, a takedown of an exercise studio occurred after an investigation of several months. The operation uncovered a client list with over 100 individuals identified. While it is not unusual to discover client lists in raided brothels, the lists often are not used by law enforcement since they alone do not constitute sufficient evidence that sex exchanged directly for money actually occurred. For example, in an investigation of a very high-volume brothel in the Spokane, Washington, area, a “client list” containing 1,200 names was discovered, but police did not take any action against the men listed. In the Kennebunk “Zumba Studio” case, the list was reportedly supplemented by videotapes and still shots that recorded many of the sexual encounters. Police prepared to charge the men on the list with soliciting prostitution and began to issue summons in early October 2012. On October 15, 2012, the district court released to the public a list of 21 names of men who were all summoned to appear in court on December 5, 2012. The list was the first part of a list that contained between 100 and 150 names, according to news reports. The remaining names were released in batches over subsequent months. In late October 2013, it was reported that the cases were drawing to a close. Prosecutors anticipated no further charges because judges ruled that the woman at the heart of the scandal could not be forced to testify. While as many as 100 to 150 names were on a ledger and “clients” were videotaped, charges were brought against just 68 people charged with soliciting prostitution. There were 61 convictions and one acquittal.

- [“Names of More Alleged Johns in Kennebunk Prostitution Case Could Be Released Today,” *Bangor Daily News*, December 21 2012.](#)
- [“Two More Johns Fined in Kennebunk Prostitution Case,” *Portsmouth Herald*, December 29 2012.](#)
- [“Two More Men Plead Guilty in Kennebunk Prostitution Case,” *Portland Press Herald*, December 31 2012.](#)
- [“Sex, Lists, and Videotape,” *Boston Magazine*, January 2013.](#)
- [“18 Men Who Pleaded Guilty Make Kennebunk Prostitution Witness List,” *Portland Press Herald*, January 17 2013.](#)

Atlanta, GA

In February 2015, a former NFL player was fired from his job as an analyst for the NFL Network (headquartered in Atlanta) several days after being arrested while in Phoenix to cover that year’s Super Bowl. He was booked on one count of soliciting prostitution and two counts of assault, both misdemeanor offenses, according to the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office. According to a statement released by the Phoenix Police Department, officers working security at a downtown Phoenix hotel were investigating a noise disturbance when they were contacted by a woman alleging she had been assaulted. The incident occurred in a guest room at the hotel where an argument ensued over money. The altercation allegedly turned physical, spilling out into the hallway. The sex buyer arrested and

then transported to Phoenix Police Headquarters, where he admitted involvement in the act of prostitution, but denied assaulting either of the two involved females.

- <https://www.nfl.com/news/sapp-fired-from-job-at-nfl-network-following-phoenix-arrest-0ap3000000467830> (2015)

Oneida County, WI

In January, 2021, an Oneida County corrections officer (CO) was charged him with soliciting prostituted women and misconduct in office. He allegedly traded information about drug investigations for sex from an incarcerated woman drug dealer. He was arrested in January by the Department of Justice-Division of Criminal Investigations and Oneida County investigators. The filed criminal complaint stated that on in January, 2018, an inmate told a corrections sergeant that the CO agreed to give her information about a drug task force in exchange for sex. The criminal complaint showed the CO had previous sexual contact with women who had been incarcerated. The Oneida County Circuit Judge agreed to amend the solicitation charge to a misdemeanor count of lewd and lascivious behavior and dismiss the misconduct charge as part of a plea agreement. The offender was ordered to pay a \$2,000 fine and thus avoid prison time after reaching a plea deal with prosecutors.

- <https://www.wausaudailyherald.com/story/news/crime/2021/01/15/oneida-county-corrections-officer-traded-information-sex-records-say/4165242001/>
- <https://waow.com/2021/01/12/update-oneida-co-correctional-officer-faces-solicitation-of-prostitution-misconduct-charges/>
- <https://wausaupilotandreview.com/2021/06/21/former-oneida-co-corrections-officer-convicted-of-lesser-charge-in-plea-deal/>
- <https://www.tomahawkleader.com/2021/01/14/oneida-county-corrections-officer-charged-with-solicitation-of-prostitution-misconduct-in-office/>

McAllen, TX

In April, 2019, investigators arrested a custodian at Sharyland North Junior High after two male students said he touched them inappropriately and offered to pay them for oral sex. A third boy witnessed the incidents. Investigators arrested the man and charged him with two counts of prostitution-soliciting a person younger than 18 years old, a second-degree felony, and one count of making a terroristic threat, a Class B misdemeanor.

- <https://www.progresstimes.net/2019/04/03/police-arrest-former-sharyland-isd-custodian-accused-of-soliciting-students-for-sex/>

Council Bluffs, IA

In July, 2021, a Council Bluffs restaurant owner was convicted of federal sex trafficking charges for paying to sexually abuse minors. The 71-year-old man was found guilty of four counts of sex trafficking minors, two of sex trafficking adults and two counts of distributing a controlled substance to a person under 21 years of age. He was convicted after a four-day trial. Over the prior 10 years, the offender had exchanged money, drugs and other material goods to minor girls in exchange for acts of sexual abuse at his house. He had also provided access for friends to sexually assault adult women using force and coercion. The investigation was conducted by the Council Bluffs Police Department with the assistance of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

- <https://www.kmaland.com/news/cb-restaurant-owner-convicted-of-sex-trafficking-minors-adults/> (2021)
- <https://www.ketv.com/article/council-bluffs-businessman-convicted-of-sex-trafficking> (2021)
- <https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/council-bluffs-iowa-shop-owner-found-guilty-sex-trafficking-minors-drugs> (2021)

Butte, MT

In December, 2020, a Butte man was arrested and being held on \$75,000 bond in the Butte jail for suspected felony sexual assault and felony patronizing prostitution. According to justice court

documents, the man allegedly subjected a 15-year-old to sexual contact with a 13-year-old female while both were in his vehicle, and also attempted to convince the 15-year-old to allow him to sexually abuse her in exchange for money and drugs. Both alleged offenses occurred in Butte-Silver Bow County. Felony sexual assault is punishable by a term of not less than four years or more than 100 years. The mandatory minimum sentence for felony-level patronizing prostitution is 25 years without parole.

- <https://mtstandard.com/crime-and-courts/blotter/butte-man-arrested-for-sexual-assault-purchasing-prostitution/> (2017)
- <https://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/montana/montana-man-arrested-on-suspicion-of-sexual-assault-and-purchasing> (2017)
- <https://mtstandard.com/news/local/butte-man-jailed-for-suspected-felony-sex-crimes> (2020)

Honolulu, HI

In May, 2016, a Kapolei High School counselor was accused of soliciting prostitution from one of his former students. The man was indicted for allegedly responding to a girl advertised online who was a runaway and a minor. At his house, the man asked the child if she recognized him, then told him who he was and showed her his school identification badge. The accusations against the teacher did not come to light until after the girl was arrested for prostitution in a separate undercover sting. Prosecutors said the victim was sent to a juvenile detention center, where she told a counselor what happened with the teacher. The counselor contacted police. Officials with the state Department of Education said that the man was initially placed on paid leave pending an investigation. The man later was terminated from his employment and pleaded guilty to soliciting a minor for prostitution. In a plea agreement with the prosecutor, the man was ordered to spend 3 months behind bars, but was credited with time served and did not spend another day in jail. He was also placed on probation for five years and required to register as a Sex Offender where he was prohibited from being in close contact with minors at all times, and was not allowed to possess or view pornography. The court also ordered the man to write an apology to the victim and victim's family.

- <https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/kapolei-counselor-indicted-for-soliciting-underage-prostitute/> (2016)
- <https://www.staradvertiser.com/kapolei-high-counselor-arrested-for-soliciting-minor-for-prostitution/> (2016)
- <https://www.khon2.com/former-kapolei-high-counselor-pleads-guilty-for-soliciting-minor-for-prostitution/> (2016)

Kansas City, Mo

In 2016, the Missouri Court of Appeals decidedly unanimously to uphold the conviction of a Kansas City, Mo., police officer who prosecutors say had sex with a woman in return for not arresting her for prostitution and drug charges. In April 2014, a Jackson County jury convicted the man of corruption. He was originally charged with two counts of sexual assault and one count of deviant sexual assault, but the jury convicted him of one count of 'accessing to corruption.' According to prosecutors, Holmes had sex with a prostituted woman in a south Kansas City motel room in the spring of 2012 in exchange for not placing her under arrest. Detectives said an area motel had hired the man as an off-duty security officer to combat drugs, violence and prostitution. The 13-year veteran of the KCPD had been assigned to the South Patrol Division. The evidence presented at trial was clearly sufficient to establish that the man both solicited and knowingly accepted sex from the woman in exchange for his not arresting her for prostitution. The man was sentenced to 15 days in county jail and a \$2,500 fine.

- <https://fox4kc.com/news/conviction-upheld-for-kcmo-police-officer-who-had-sex-with-prostitute/> (2016)

Lawrence, MA

In July, 2021, a man was arrested for raping young girls and coercing them to allow his sexual abuse in exchange for food, shelter, alcohol and drugs. The 49 year old man was charged with 19 criminal counts, including rape, aggravated rape, human trafficking, involuntary manslaughter and providing

illegal drugs. His purported victims include three women and seven girls under the age of 18. He was held without bail at Middleton Jail. A mechanic and drug dealer, the man preyed on vulnerable young girls, giving them alcohol, drugs, gifts and food, then raping them, demanding nude photos and more. On May 20, 2019 a 13 year old girl spent time at his Bellevue St. apartment, and that night the offender and another girl dumped the victim's body at Lawrence General Hospital and left. The girl was pronounced dead and an autopsy listed her cause of death as acute intoxication from a combination of fentanyl, cocaine, an antihistamine, and ethanol.

- <https://www.newburyportnews.com/Lawrence/rape-manslaughter-human-trafficking-case-drugs-on> (2021)

Lufkin, TX

In March, 2013, a man was arrested and booked in Angelina County Jail for solicitation of prostitution as a result of civilian reports on two separate occasions within the same week. According to reports, a woman was walking her dog along the Azalea Trail (a local walking trail), when she passed a man who began following her, who then started saying sexual comments to the woman. The second instance occurred five days later where the same man was running along the trail and passed a woman, only to turn around and start saying sexual comments to her. The woman told police that as she was running away from the offender, he offered to pay her for sex. The same offender was arrested later that same year, in July of 2013, for indecent exposure after he exposed and touched himself provocatively while telling a woman to look. The offender was sentenced to 120 days in jail. In 2014, the offender once again exposed himself as he was masturbating while riding his bike in Kiwanis Park. A woman reported the incident to the Lufkin Police Department. According to officials, the offender was arrested and charged with public lewdness and criminal trespass. The sex offender had a criminal trespass warning against him barring him from being in any city park after the 2013 incidents. The offender's identity, photo, age, location, and charges were released by local news sources.

- [“Lufkin Police Arrest, Charge Suspect in Azalea Trail Incident,” *Lufkin Daily News*, March 22 2013.](#)
- [“Man Serving 90 Days for Incidents on Azalea Trail,” *Lufkin Daily News*, March 27 2013.](#)
- [“Lufkin’s Azalea Trail Flasher Taken to Jail after Kiwanis Park Incident Today,” *Lufkin Daily News*, June 30 2014.](#)
- [“Man Arrested for Flashing Women on Azalea Trail Again,” *Nacogdoches Daily Sentinel*, June 30 2014.](#)

Ooltewah, TN

In July, 2021, a man was arrested and charged with aggravated rape after he allegedly picked up a prostituted woman in downtown Chattanooga, then took her to his home in Ooltewah and told her she was going to be his “sex slave.” The man was charged with aggravated kidnapping, two counts of rape, aggravated assault, patronizing prostitution and possession of drugs without a prescription. The woman said he held her captive for an 18-hour period in the incident, and said that he drugged her and violently raped her repeatedly until she was finally able to get away. A mail carrier spotted her leaving the residence, and he took her to a nearby church where she called the Sheriff's Office. The woman was taken to a hospital and was found to have suffered numerous physical injuries. Detectives corroborated details of the women's version of the events after getting a search warrant and entering the suspect's residence.

- <https://www.chattanooga.com/2021/7/26/Ooltewah-Man-Charged-With-Rape> (2021)
- <https://www.wrcbtv.com/story/ooltewah-man-charged-with-aggravated-rape-and-kidnapping> (2021)