

The Scale of the problem

February 2012

Eighteen And Under & Izzy's Promise

Why bother?

- To explore the scale of the problem
- Gather information and opinions
- Network as widely as possible with agencies, individuals and communities
- Increase our visibility and make people aware of our range of services
- Get to know those involved

Brief look at the literature

- Both boys and girls, some as young as 10 at risk Barnardo's (2011).
- Lack of prevalence studies in Scotland Barnardo's (2012)
- Average age women becoming involved in exploitation is 12, Home Office (2004)
- Research indicates average age of boys getting involved is younger than girls (Palmer, 2001)
- Social stigma of perceived homosexuality and of men selling sex, may mean exploitation of young males is much more hidden (Donovan, 1991)
- Recognised need to give young people knowledge to help make informed choices to stay safe, and also raise public's awareness of exploitation within their communities Dept. of Education (2011)

Areas targeted

- Stobswell
- Lochee
- Douglas
- Fintry
- Hilltown
- City Centre
- Arbroath
- Forfar

Method

- Contact with agencies
- Workshops in school for young people
- Online surveys
- Pilot questionnaire
- High visibility street work
- Semi-structured interviews
- Information provided

Who responded?

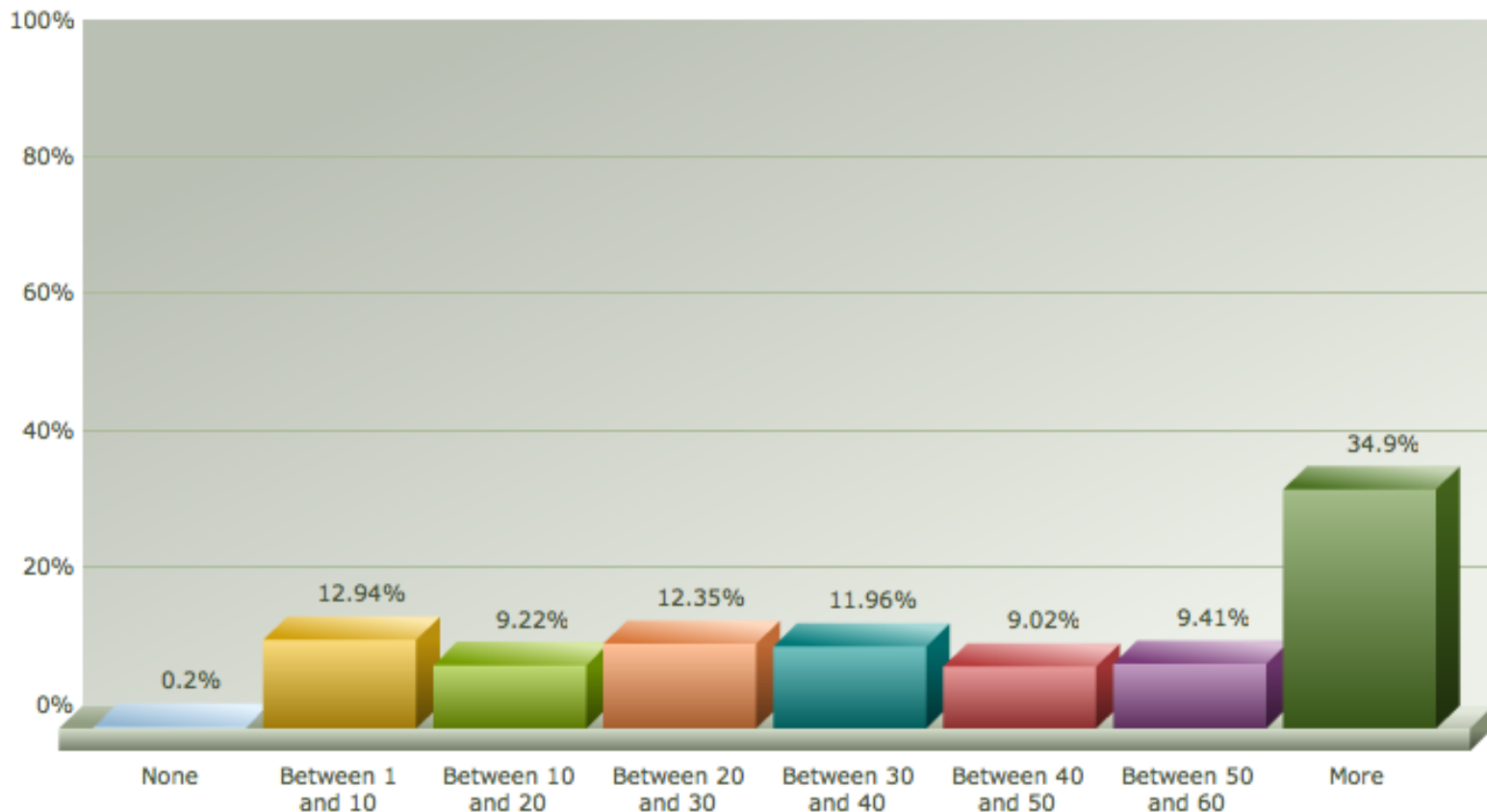
- 5% of general public
- 50% of taxi drivers
- 50% of sex workers
- 100% community businesses
- 100% police officers
- 0 community wardens
- 0 women's services
- (n = 1180)

Findings numbers...

- We approached just over 20,000 people on the street
- 1180 people took part in interviews of those...
- 45% were members of the community
- 21% were community businesses
- 11% were taxi drivers
- 6% other (young people, LGBT, homeless)
- 4% were police officers
- 4% charity workers
- 2 % church workers
- 2% sex workers/exotic dancers

Opinions as to numbers involved

How many people do you think are directly involved in sexual exploitation (working as prostitutes) in Dundee?

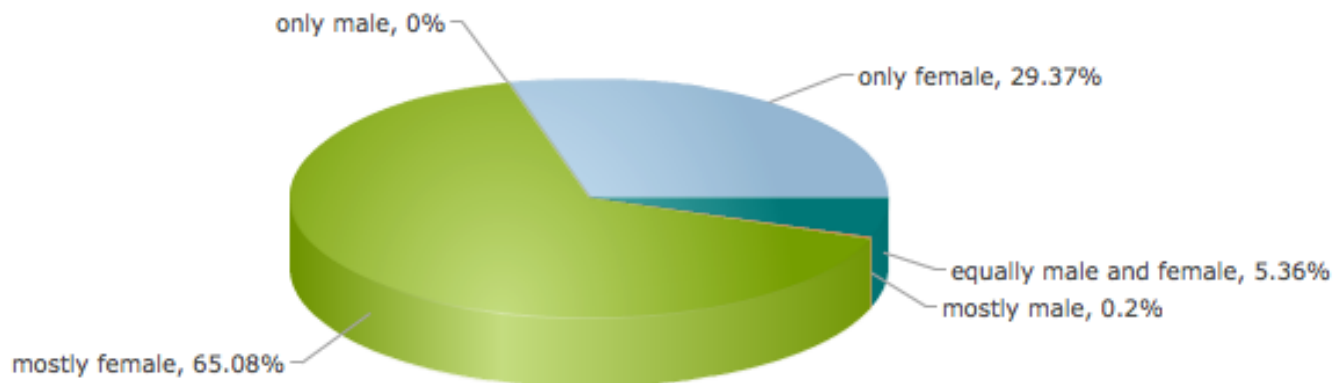


Further analysis

- 492 said they had personally seen that number of people working in exploitation on the streets
- Some personally knew people who were working
- Those who estimated numbers involved to be greater than 60, either lived or worked in areas used by street workers or who worked with drug users or homeless people.
- Those who suggested lower numbers mostly came from interviews conducted in Dundee City Centre, Arbroath and Forfar
- Of those interviewed in Forfar and Arbroath 35% and 32% respectively, believe there is no exploitation in their town.

Opinion of gender involved

What gender are those who are involved sexual exploitation (working as prostitutes) in Dundee?

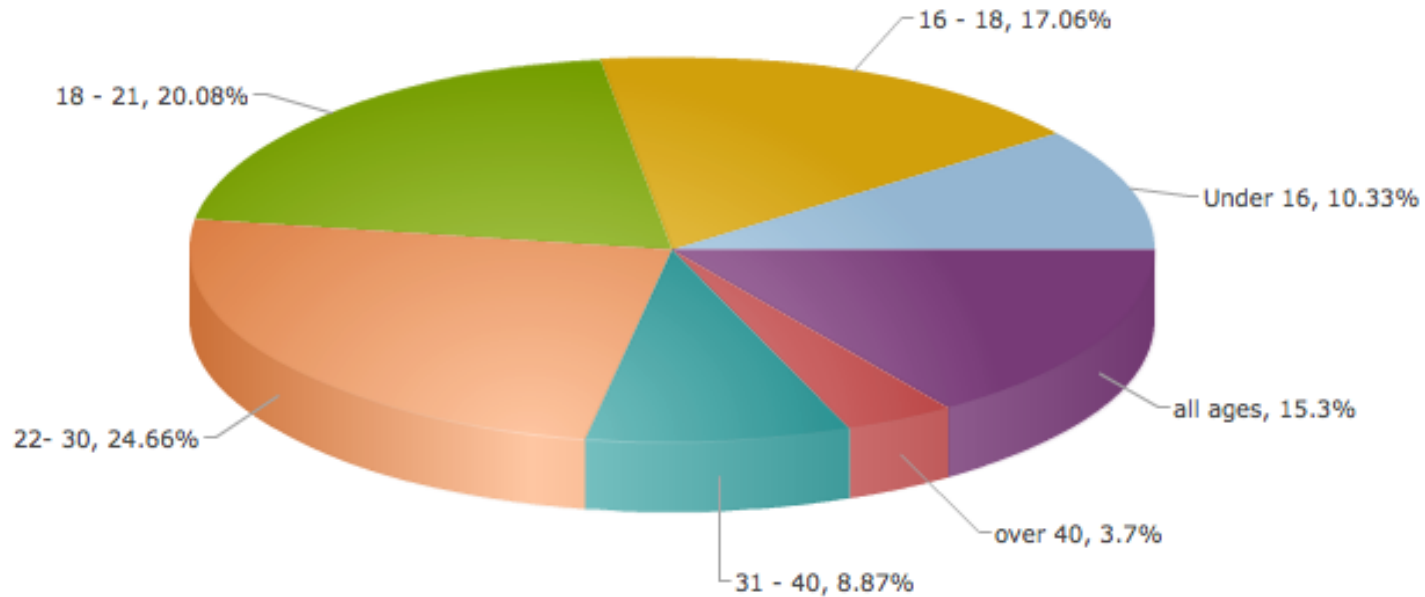


Further analysis of gender

- Those who appear to have a higher awareness, e.g. police, said it was mostly women but males were also involved.
- Some respondents shared personal knowledge of males they know to be involved and the same information was supplied from different sources
- 95% of those who identified as LGBT said it was equally males and females involved.

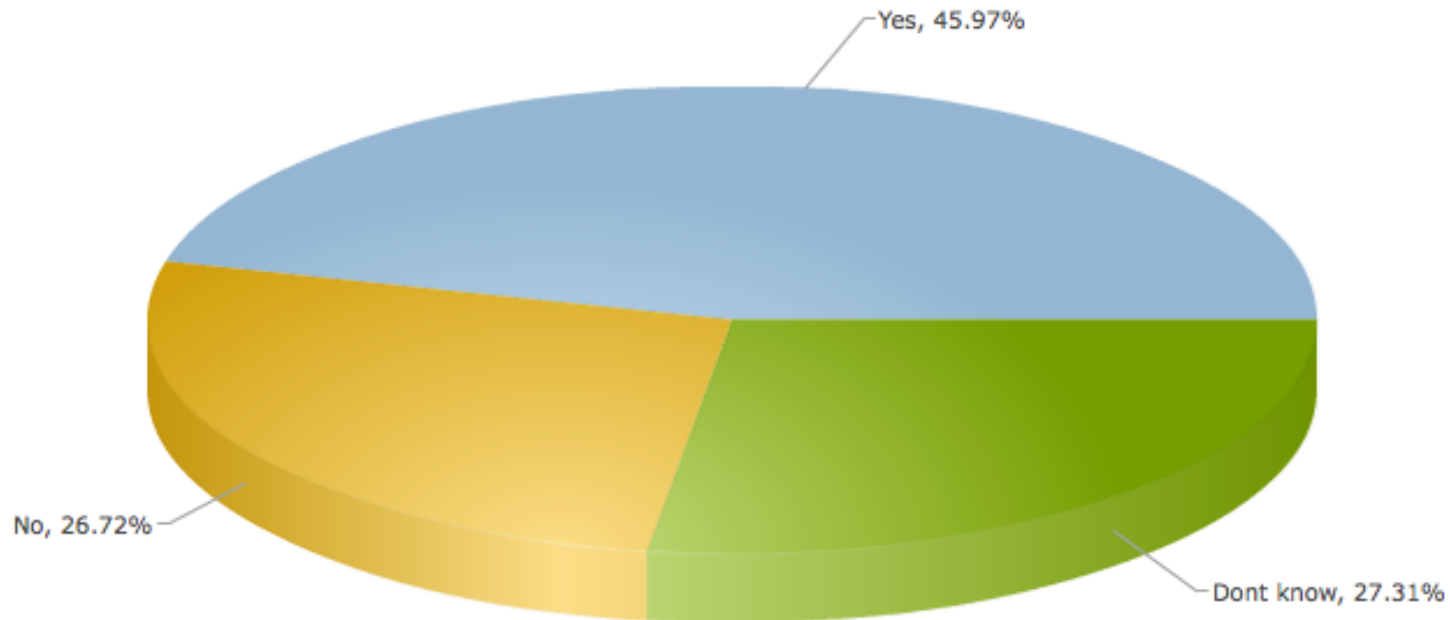
Opinion of ages involved

What is the average age of those involved in sexual exploitation (working as prostitutes) in Dundee?



Opinion of trafficking

Do you think people from Dundee are taken, or go to other towns to work in sexual exploitation (as prostitutes)?



Comments

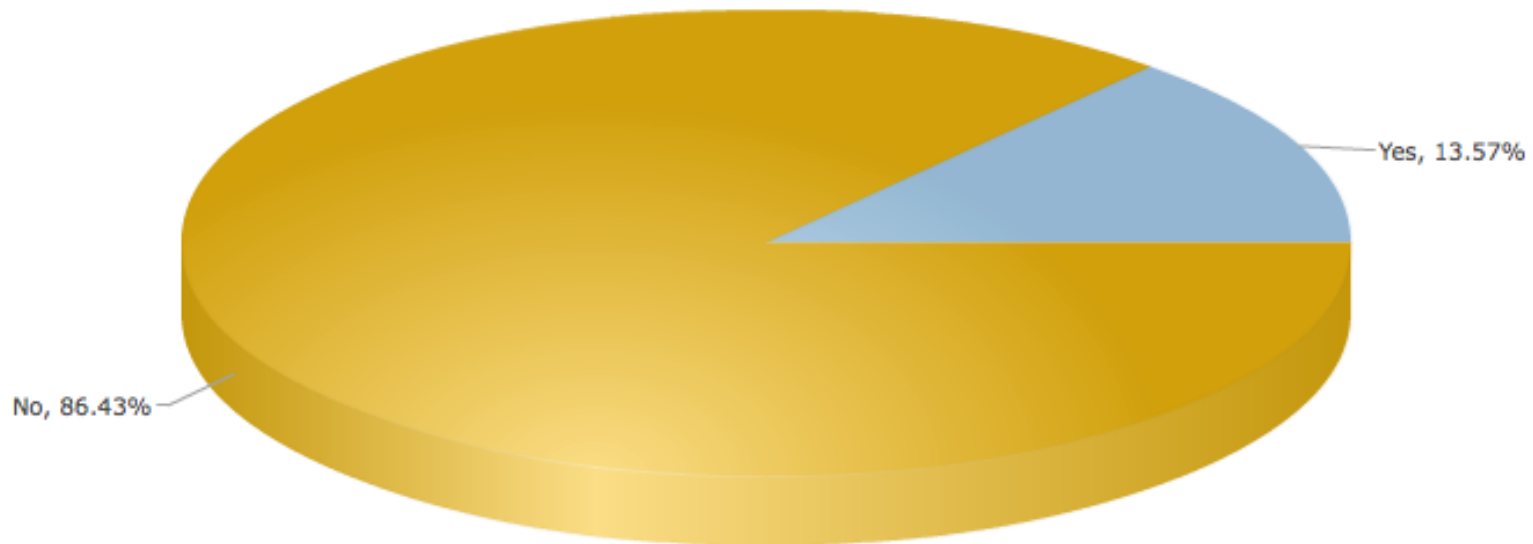
- From a parent, “...it happened to my daughter.”
- From a young person, “...and my pals went to Glasgow with guys for it.”
- From a worker, “because we hear from prostitutes that say they have clients outwith Dundee who will travel here and take them back...”
- From several members of the community in Stobswell, “...you see them then they disappear for a while, then they return..”

According to Anti Slavery International

- If a woman is trafficked into prostitution, she may know she is going to work in the sex industry, but not that she is going to be deprived of her liberty or her earnings. This is trafficking.”
- A sex worker who spoke to us described instances where this had happened to her and other women.

Knowledge of services

Do you know of any services working in Dundee to end or prevent exploitation (or prostitution)?



Services more specifically

- 29 people mentioned police
- 24 people mentioned No-1 (no one)
- 15 people mentioned Vice Versa
- 6 people mentioned church groups
- 3 people mentioned women's groups
- 2 people mentioned drugs agencies
- 2 people mentioned the Corner
- 2 people mentioned the Web
- 1 person mentioned Action for Kids
- 1 person mentioned the Shore
- 1 person mentioned Victim Suppor.

Discussion

- Many people were keen to be involved
- Most eager to save time and resources by sharing openly what they were doing and planning.
- Many agencies had different remits and ideologies, but most saw importance of avoiding competition or duplication.
- Most people were encouraging of everyone working together to try to find solutions to a growing problem.
- Some agencies did not engage at all.
- Huge concern expressed for welfare of street workers
- Some raised the issue of child sexual exploitation and over 10% of respondents believe children under 16 are involved
- Young males are involved in sexual exploitation but few agencies are even looking in that direction so it remains hidden

Observations

- During extensive street work, we observed what was going on and began to build up a picture.
- We found demand for sex far higher than supply, with women getting out of one car and, within minutes, getting into another.
- We saw the same cars cruising looking for women and we also found some evidence of pimps working with women.
- We found some not going away in cars but having sex in the streets.
- Many women avoided us at first but after seeing us regularly on the streets, around half of those approached were happy to talk with us.

Recommendations

- All agencies should work together
- More research needed
- Support services for males
- Direct services to suit most vulnerable
- Regular on-going consultation
- Evidence based prevention work in schools and with those most at risk

References

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