

WHAT'S NEW WITH KIDS?

October 2013

Child Prostitution

What happens in Las Vegas stays in Las Vegas does not pertain to prostitution because prostitution is illegal in Clark County, where Las Vegas is located. Prostitution is illegal in Nevada counties with a population of 700,000 or more, which means only Clark County.¹ Counties with a population of less than 700,000 can decide whether to legalize the licensing of houses of prostitution. Child prostitution is illegal in all Nevada counties. That does not, however, mean that child prostitution does not exist in Nevada. This *Newsletter* looks at prostitution and commercialized vice arrests of children ages 17 and under in Nevada.

In 2012, there were 56 arrests of children in Nevada for prostitution and commercialized vice, as reported to the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program by participating law enforcement agencies.² This represents 1.5 percent of all prostitution and commercialized vice arrests in Nevada. The Las Vegas Metro Police Department reported 49 arrests, the Reno Police Department reported 4 arrests, the North Las Vegas Police Department reported 2 arrests, and the Henderson Police Department reported 1 arrest.³ Forty-nine arrests were of females, and seven arrests were of males.⁴

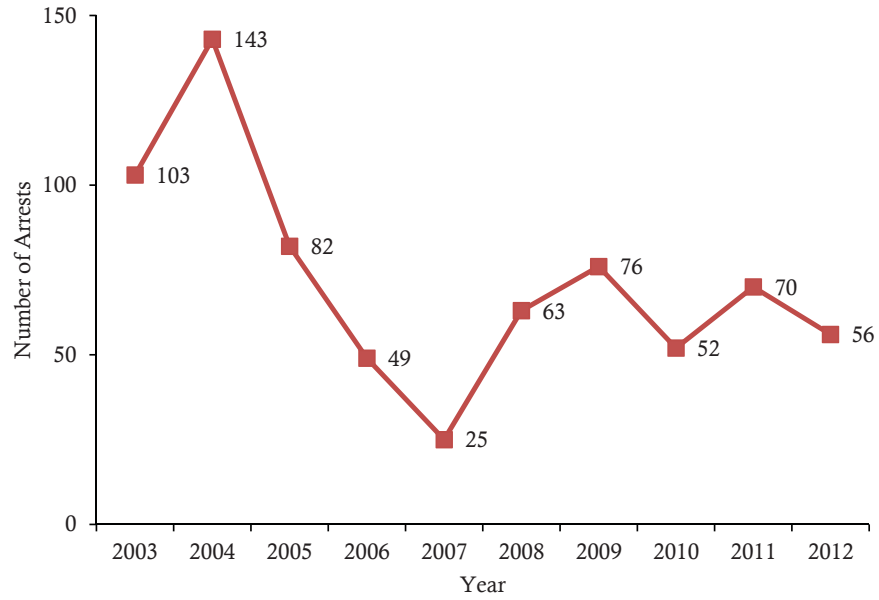
From 2003 to 2012, the number of prostitution and commercialized vice arrests declined by 46 percent, although the population of children ages 17 and under increased by about 19 percent. During the ten-year period, the number of child prostitution and commercialized vice arrests varied greatly, from 25 in 2007 to 143 in 2004,⁵ for an average of 71.9 arrests per year. (See figure on page 2.) Of the 719 arrests, 84.1 percent were of females and 15.9 percent were of males. (See table on page 3.) The majority of the arrests, 55.6 percent, were of 17-year-olds.

The UCR data for 2012 and earlier do not identify who was the arrestee in the prostitution and commercialized vice arrests.⁶ It could have been the prostitute, the trafficker (pimp), or the customer (john). However, the 2013 data will include the number of arrests by type of arrestee.⁷

John L. Smith, a columnist for the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, has written about child prostitution in Las Vegas. In his columns, he reported that Las Vegas Metro police picked up 2,229 minor sex trafficking victims from 1994 to 2012.⁸ The mean age of the victims was 16,⁹ and 68 percent were recruited from Nevada.¹⁰ The latter statistic is an eye-opener.

Note: According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), prostitution and commercialized vice is defined as "The unlawful promotion of or participation in sexual activities for profit, including attempts. To solicit customers or transport persons for prostitution purposes; to own, manage, or operate a dwelling or other establishment for the purpose of providing a place where prostitution is performed; or to otherwise assist or promote prostitution."¹¹

Child Prostitution and Commercialized Vice Arrests Ages 17 & under, Nevada 2003-2012



Source: Nevada Department of Public Safety, *Crime in Nevada*, 2003-2012 reports, online at: <http://nvrepository.state.nv.us/>.

Number of Prostitution and Commercialized Vice Arrests of Children Ages 17 and under: 2003-2012

	9 & under	10-12	13-14	15	16	17	Total
<i>2003</i>							
Male	0	0	0	1	2	5	8
Female	0	1	10	9	20	55	95
<i>2004</i>							
Male	0	0	3	10	10	24	47
Female	0	0	6	12	25	53	96
<i>2005</i>							
Male	0	0	0	0	2	13	15
Female	0	0	0	5	18	44	67
<i>2006</i>							
Male	0	0	0	4	0	9	13
Female	0	1	3	3	8	21	36
<i>2007</i>							
Male	0	0	0	0	1	6	7
Female	0	0	0	5	2	11	18
<i>2008</i>							
Male	0	1	0	2	2	3	8
Female	0	0	7	6	16	26	55
<i>2009</i>							
Male	0	1	1	0	1	2	5
Female	0	0	3	17	13	38	71
<i>2010</i>							
Male	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Female	0	0	3	9	15	24	51
<i>2011</i>							
Male	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Female	0	1	4	12	14	36	67
<i>2012</i>							
Male	0	0	1	1	2	3	7
Female	0	0	3	11	12	23	49
TOTAL							
	0	5	44	107	163	400	719

Note: "The criminal statistics are only those criminal statistics reported to the Uniform Crime Reporting Program by the participating law enforcement agencies."

Source: Nevada Department of Public Safety, *Crime in Nevada*, 2003-2012 reports, online at: <http://nvrepository.state.nv.us/>.

References

¹NRS 244.345: Dancing halls, escort services, entertainment by referral services and gambling games or devices; limitation on licensing of houses of prostitution, <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/NRS/NRS-244.html#NRS244Sec345>, as of 8/29/2013.

²Nevada Department of Public Safety, *Crime in Nevada 2012*, <http://nvrepository.state.nv.us/UCR/2012NVAnnualReport.pdf>, as of 8/29/13.

³Ibid.

⁴Ibid.

⁵Ibid.

⁶Zurita, Brenda, *Children in Prostitution: What to Do?* Concerned Women for America, http://www.cwfa.org/images/content/CWA_Decriminalization-of-Prostitution-for-Minors2012.pdf, as of August 29, 2013.

⁷Ibid.

⁸Smith, L. John, "Teenage Prostitutes Part of Vegas Vice," *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, June 16, 2013, <http://www.reviewjournal.com/columns-blogs/john-l-smith/teenage-prostitutes-part-vegas-vice>, as of August 30, 2013.

⁹Ibid.

¹⁰Smith, L. John, "Young Girls Are Too Easily Targeted by Male Predators," *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, June 5, 2013, <http://www.reviewjournal.com/columns-blogs/john-l-smith/young-nevada-girls-are-too-easily-targeted-male-predators>, as of August 30, 2013.

¹¹U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2009*, p. 2.

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