



Abductions and Trafficking on the US Southern Border

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Numbers

- Deaths along this part of the U.S.-Mexico border are increasing, especially among women.

Numbers

- Each year between 450 – 550 people are known to die while attempting to cross between the United States and Mexico
- These are cases discovered or reported in the United States
- Numbers of those who die while still in Mexico are not known

Numbers

- The *Arizona Daily Star* maintains a database of border deaths recorded by the Pima, Santa Cruz, Cochise, and Yuma County medical examiners.
- They stated that, *"With no official record-keeping system, the exact number of illegal entrants who have died along the Arizona stretch of U.S.-Mexican border has never been known"*.

Numbers

- The number of dead border crossing migrants per year in Arizona increased from nine in 1990 to 201 in 2005;
- About 80% of the dead migrants were under 40 during 2000-2005, with an increasing number younger than 18.

Parental Kidnappings

- Mexico is the number one destination for international child abductions from the United States and the United States is the number one destination for children abducted from Mexico
- As much as 65% of all outgoing international parental abductions from the United States to Hague Convention countries are to Mexico, and that 41% of all incoming international parental abductions to the United States are from Mexico

Narco Trafficking and Violence

- Mexican cartels are recruiting high school students to "support their drug, human, currency and weapon smuggling operations on both sides of the US - Mexico border," according to the Texas Department of Public Safety and the Border Sheriff's Association

Narco Trafficking and Violence

- Teenagers along the border provide unique compatibility to the cartels.
- They're U.S. citizens, they speak Spanish, they're able to operate on both sides of the border and they're expendable labor.
- From 2008 through 2013, 978 minors were caught by the CBP and charged with drug trafficking in the San Diego sector alone.

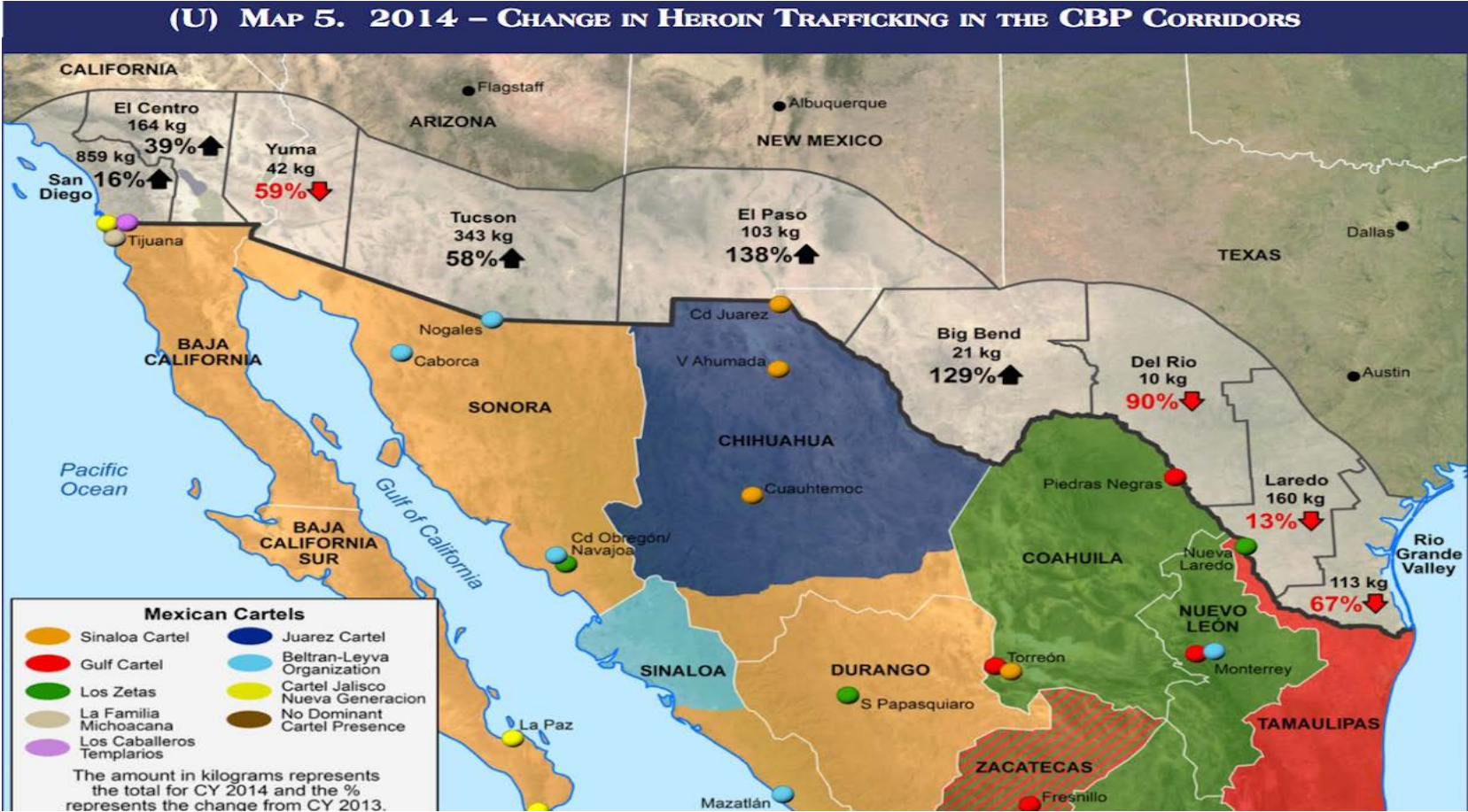
The Cartels

- **Los Zetas.** This drug cartel was founded by a group of Mexican Army Special Forces deserters and now includes corrupt former federal, state, and local police officers.
- This group of highly trained gunmen were first hired as a private mercenary army for Mexico's Gulf Cartel.
- Since February 2010 Los Zetas have gone independent and became enemies of its former employer/partner, the Gulf Cartel.

Sinaloa

- The **Sinaloa Cartel** (Chapo Guzman) is a Mexican drug cartel primarily operating out of the states of Baja California, Sinaloa, Durango, Sonora and Chihuahua.
- The cartel is also known as the Chapo **Guzmán-Loera Organization**- “The pacific cartel, the latter due to the coast of Mexico from which it originated, other names include the **Federation** or **Golden Triangle**.”

Cartel Activity by Region



Cartel Activity (Cont.)

- **El Chapo' Guzmán** had some pretty important business to do in **Ciudad Juarez**: the city was a [key crossing point](#) for the transport of drugs through Chihuahua and into Texas. But it was controlled by VCFDTO (Juarez cartel).
- Solution- Chapo funded a small, young gang to wage war against the Juarez Cartel and destroy its control over the key border town.
- Gente Nueva cartel was formed.

Cartel Activity (Cont.)

- **La Línea** is an enforcer unit of the [Juárez Cartel](#) originally former/active-duty policemen, heavily armed/trained.
- Protect drug traffickers but then set up alliance with [Barrio Azteca](#) to fight off the forces of the [Sinaloa Cartel](#) in 2008, they established a foothold in [Ciudad Juárez](#) as the enforcement wing of the Juárez cartel.
- La Línea has been instrumental in helping [Vicente Carrillo Fuentes](#)' organization hold some semblance in Ciudad Juárez, one of the most

Cartel Activity (Cont.)

[DEA](#) estimates that about 70% of the [cocaine](#) that enters the United States flows through the [El Paso–Juárez](#) border.

- La Línea is linked to some of Ciudad Juárez's and the state's most notorious massacres. Including the massacre of 16 teenagers at a high school party, the shooting that killed 19 patients at a rehab center, and of the cell phone bombing. In 2010.

Cross Border Trafficking

- The US State Department estimates that more than 20,000 young women and children are trafficked across the border from Mexico each year.
- Conviction rates remain low.
- Prosecution is made difficult by jurisdictional issues, border violence and fear of retaliation.
- Victims are resistant to coming forward for fear of deportation back to Mexico

Closer to Home

- Human trafficking is not just a problem in other countries.
- Human trafficking has been reported in all 50 states, Washington D.C., and some U.S. territories.
- Victims of human trafficking can be children or adults, U.S. citizens or foreign nationals, male or female.

It Happens Here Too

- According to U.S. government estimates, thousands of men, women, and children are trafficked to the United States for the purposes of sexual and labor exploitation.
- An unknown number of U.S. citizens and legal residents are trafficked within the country primarily for sexual servitude and, to a lesser extent, forced labor.

Why Border Cities?

- Based on interviews of Suspects- they claim too much competition in bigger cities.
 - They referred to cities like Dallas, Phoenix or Houston.
- Task Force received word from the National Human Trafficking Resource Center that a 15 year old girl was possibly being forced into prostitution in the ELP area.
- Task Force found ads posting escorts on a site.
- Number was called and meeting was set up at a local motel.

Why Border Cities? (Cont.)

- Research indicated that the ads featured the girls in over 150 different escort ads outside El Paso.
- The ads stated the girls were 24 and 22 years old.
- Suspects were seen bragging surrounded with 100 dollar bills on their FB page.
- Suspect stated to the Judge “I want to know why I am being charged with this?”
- Suspects are from West Africa, brother of main suspect

Why Border Cities? (Cont.)

- Brother of main suspect arrested in Phoenix in June of 2015 on 11 child prostitution charges.
- Two counts of sexual conduct with a minor
- One count selling drugs o a minor.

Here At Home

backpage.com

Post an Ad

[backpage.com](#) > [dallas adult entertainment](#) > [dallas escorts](#)

[All](#) | [Dallas/Ft Worth](#) | [Denton](#) | [Texarkana](#) | [Texoma](#) | [Tyler](#) | [Wichita Falls](#)

Latina

escorts

search

Images only

view of ads: [full](#) | [brief](#) sort by: [Date](#) | [Photo](#)

Wed. Oct. 27

[SUPER *HOTT! \(**\) 100 100 100 — 100% REAL PICS! \(\(&\)\) GREAT! Reviews! \(IT'S ME OR it's FREE!!\) - 24](#) 📍 (North Fort Worth 820)

[?? 40 Kisses SeXy BBW MiSs H00 vEr VeRy OpEn -MINDED!! - 23](#) 📍 (Arlington GP DFW CRAZY SPECIALS)

[~~~BeaUtiFuL BuSty Latina Mix Great Reviews & SpeCiaLs Sweet Down2 Earth 24/7~~~ - 24](#) 📍 (NorthDallas/Plano/DownUpTown Dallas)

[>100 \\$PECIAL> SEXi NaUGhTY! LaTiNa SchOOL GiRL! >100 \\$PECIAL> COMPLETE "XxX" PLEASURE! >100 \\$PECIAL> - 20](#) 📍 (N. D.)

[Lots of fun in the sun - 30](#) 📍 (Arlington)

Tue. Oct. 26

[📍*E_R_O_T_I_C* 📍 *S_E_X_Y* 📍 Come Explore LATIN AMERICA* 📍 *100/140/200 - 24](#) 📍 (635 North Dallas Private Townhome)

Labor Trafficking

- A form of modern day slavery in which individuals perform labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion.
- EX: situations of debt bondage, forced labor and involuntary child labor.
- Labor traffickers use violence, threats, lies or other forms of coercion to force people to work against their will in many industries.

Labor Trafficking (Cont.)

- Forced to work in homes as maids
- Farmworkers coerced through violence – inhumane conditions
- El Paso example-
 - 64 year old woman convicted of labor trafficking
 - 2 victims for 14 years.
 - <http://www.elpasoproud.com/news/local/el-paso-news/labor-trafficking-victim-shares-testimony>

Labor Trafficking (Cont.)

- As maids at her home and house cleaning business
- Suspect was born in the U.S. and then went to live in Mexico. Came back to the U.S. 2 victims entered illegally at different times.
- Suspect held their fake documents with her at all times.
- Ft. Worth and El Paso- cleaned up to 4 homes per day with no pay.

Targets

- Traffickers target children because of their vulnerability and gullibility, as well as the market demand for young victims.
- Those who recruit minors into prostitution violate federal anti-trafficking laws, even if there is no coercion or movement across state lines.
- Runaways, throwaways, the disenfranchised and children from broken homes are at greatest risk.

Targets

- The children at risk are not just high school students—studies demonstrate that pimps prey on victims as young as 12.
- Traffickers have been reported targeting their minor victims through telephone chat-lines, clubs, on the street, through friends, and at malls, as well as using girls to recruit other girls at schools and after-school programs.

Definitions – What's the difference

- Human Smuggling involves bringing or attempting to bring a person into a country in violation of immigration or other laws.
- Human trafficking is the exploitation of a person for sex or labor.
- Human trafficking does not require movement or transport across borders.

Maria

- Maria was 16-years-old when she was lured into the gang by a young man on the streets of the deadly Mexican border town of Ciudad Juarez.



Juarez

- Since the 1990s thousands of women have disappeared from Juarez.
- Hundreds of bodies bearing signs of rape and sexual mutilation have been dumped in the city.
- Thousands more are missing.



Maria's Story

- She said she had been given presents and promised a job in an office by the man she met while walking from school.
- She later learned that the man was a gang member.
- She was drugged and raped and sold for sex.
- She said the gang held young women in a house on the Mexican border until they were sold to the US as sex slaves.

Maria's Story (Cont.)

- She explained what the gang did to one girl who tried to escape.
- "They took a gallon of gasoline and started pouring it over her," said Maria.
- "One of the men told me 'if you don't do as I say I will do the same to you'. I wanted to look away - but they didn't let me.
- "Even though the girl was on fire they kept hitting her. They were laughing as if they were enjoying what they were doing.

The U.S. Connection

- Maria later told Special Agents with ICE that the gang would prowl the streets of poor areas in Juarez and look for children.
- "They stole the children," she said.
- "One of the gang members took a six-year-old kid. "
- "I had to look after him for three hours. He told me he wanted to see his mommy."

Case Study El Paso

- 2006 EPPD received report reference the kidnapping of a 15 year old female.
- Victim is the Niece of the caller/Reporter.
- Caller was in Calif. and the niece had already entered the U.S. illegally with the smugglers who assisted her
- Victim's family had already paid \$8,000.00 to smugglers
- Victim trying to escape rising violence from MS13

Cases study EL Paso (Cont.)

- Uncle told the smugglers that a family member could meet them hours later at the greyhound station.
- U/C Detective posing as the uncle and agreed to pay an additional \$2100.00.
- One of the Suspects shows up to the Greyhound and met with the UC.
 - Greyhound bus station busy –good place to have UC detectives on alert/standing by.

Case Study El Paso (Cont.)

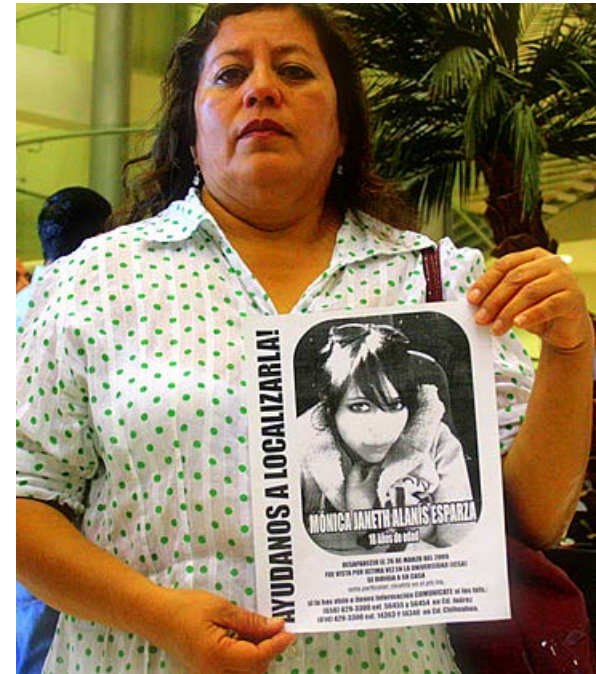
- Brief introduction- suspect asked to see money.
- UC says he wants to see his niece make sure she is ok.
- Suspect then gets on the phone- “Carnal- todo bien ay nos vemos”.
- Within a minute- SUV pulls up and a young girl gets out. UC directs her to take a seat while the UC starts to hand over the money over to the suspect (signal)

Case study El Paso (Cont.)

- Suspect was then taken down.....hard!
- Greyhound station about 3 minutes from the international bridge, mobile units gave pursuit however SUV made it into Mexico.
 - High pedestrian and vehicular traffic simply too dangerous to pursue.
- Victim issued a T-Visa from HSI that was good for 3 years.
 - She testified and fulfilled all her requirements to apply for citizenship.

The Problem Continues

- On October 9th, 2010 Mexico's attorney general offered \$1.2 million for information on 14 children who disappeared from orphanages in 2009, the presumed victims of a child-trafficking ring.
- Seven other children disappeared from group homes in the state of Nuevo Leon



Sex Tourism

- *"On this trip, I've had sex with a 14 year-old girl in Mexico and a 15 year-old from Colombia. I'm helping them financially. If they don't have sex with me, they may not have enough food. If someone has a problem with me doing this, let UNICEF feed them."*
- -Retired U.S. Schoolteacher



Background

- Sex tourism is a very lucrative industry that spans the globe.
- Mexican officials are reluctant to provide an estimate of revenue from prostitution and sex tourism.
- A common ground for these types of violations are sexually oriented businesses.
- Massage parlors and strip clubs for example.

Underage Sex Workers in Mexico

- Mexico has no laws defining or sanctioning child prostitution as criminal activity.
- An estimated 5,000 children are currently involved in prostitution, pornography and sex-tourism in Mexico.
- Nearly 100 children and teenagers a month fall into the hands of the child prostitution networks which are associated with the major drug cartels.

Border Issues

- The US-Mexican border is one of the main centers for child sex tourism.
- Thousands of Americans cross into Mexico daily looking for cheap sex with underage prostitutes.
- Mexican authorities, who admit that about 18,000 minors have been used to produce child pornography, have taken little action.
- Pornography is increasingly funded by drug cartels.

Cartel Involvement

- Border violence is bad for business
- Now cartels smuggle girls 14 and younger into the US.
- Cartels smuggling many young Mexican girls to south Florida and Texas
- US investigators have also apprehended several employees of the California-based Chamblee Agency for trafficking laborers into the US, some of whom were forced into prostitution and debt-bondage.

Survival Sex

- The most degrading and often dangerous work of women and children can be found in prostitution.
- Tens of thousands of Mexican women and girls (as well as men and boys) work as prostitutes in all of the major cities of the country.
- A recent study by the Mexico City government Youth Commission headed by Angeles Correa found that Mexico City had 50,000 prostitutes of whom 2,500 were minors.

Growth Industry

- The Female Association of Tourist Enterprise Executive estimates that 250,000 children between 10 and 16 have been the victims of "sexual tourism" in cities like Guadalajara, Cancun, Acapulco, Puerto Vallarta and Tijuana.
- Recently there have also been reports on child prostitution in Veracruz, Queretaro, and Ciudad Juarez.
- Children in prostitution face constant problems of possible pregnancy, immature childbirth, violence, alcohol and drug addiction, sexual transmitted diseases including HIV-AIDS.

Factors Supporting the Child Sex Trade

- The most significant societal factor that pushes children into prostitution is poverty.
- Latin American nations with thriving sex tourism industries are nations that suffer from widespread poverty resulting from turbulent politics and unstable economies.
- Poverty often correlates with illiteracy, limited employment opportunities, and bleak financial circumstances for families.

Factors Supporting the Child Sex Trade

- Children in these families become targets for procurement agents in search of young children.
- They are lured away from broken homes by "recruiters" who promise them jobs in a city and then force the children into prostitution.
- Some families prostitute their children or sell their children into the sex trade.

Role of the Internet

- The Internet has also facilitated the recent rise in child sex tourism by providing a marketing channel.
- Websites provide potential child sex tourists with pornographic accounts written by other child sex tourists.
- These websites detail sexual exploits with children and supply information on sex establishments and prices in various destinations, including information on how to specifically procure child prostitutes.

Role of the Internet (Cont.)

- There are over twenty-five known businesses in the United States that offered and arranged sex tours.
- One particular website promised nights of sex "with two young Thai girls" for what a tank of gas would cost.
- The easy availability of this information on the Internet generates interest in child sex tourism and facilitates child sex abusers in making their travel plans.

Sites

- OpenTravel.com
- Vagablogging.net
- Escapeartist.com
- Headonistworldvactionist.com
- Globalfantasies.com



“The Life”

- Child prostitutes serve between two and thirty clients per week, leading to an estimated base of anywhere between 100 to 1500 clients per year, per child.
- Younger children, many below the age of 10, have been increasingly drawn into serving tourists.



“The Life” (Cont.)

- Child prostitutes live in constant fear;
 - they live in fear of sadistic acts by clients,
 - fear of being beaten by pimps who control their lives,
 - and fear of being apprehended by the police.
- Victims often suffer from depression, low self-esteem, and feelings of hopelessness.
- Suicide rates are triple the national averages

Child Sex Tourist

- While some tourists are pedophiles that preferentially seek out children for sexual relationships, many child sex tourists are "situational abusers."
- These are individuals who do not consistently seek out children as sexual partners, but who do occasionally engage in sexual acts with children when the opportunity presents itself.

Why They Do It

- Some perpetrators rationalize their sexual encounters with children with the idea that they are helping the children financially better themselves and their families.
- Paying a child for his or her services allows a tourist to avoid guilt by convincing himself he is helping the child and the child's family to escape economic hardship.

Why They Do It (Cont.)

- Others try to justify their behavior by believing that children in foreign countries are less "sexually inhibited" and by believing their destination country does not have the same social taboos against having sex with children.
- Still other perpetrators are drawn towards child sex while abroad because they enjoy the anonymity that comes with being in a foreign land.

The Bottom Line

- Sex tourists are no different than child molesters and sex offenders.
- They may rationalize their actions based on the circumstances of the child, the foreign location, etc..
- But at the end of the day, like all child predators, they are motivated by their own need for self gratification.
- The circumstances merely allow them to live out a fantasy not available to them elsewhere.

Cancun Case Study

- A UNICEF report in 2007 said that a 16,000 – 20,000 children are trafficked between the United States and Mexico each year.
- There is also a brisk trade in children across the Guatemalan border to the south.
- The trafficking corridor through Mexico is used to transport children into Canada and the United States to be as prostitutes.
- However, many of these children are kept in Mexico to satisfy the demand from sex tourists.

Bars and Hotels Provide Tourists with Sex with Minors

- The non-governmental organization Global March against Child Labor says that, “The Internet is used by bars and escort agencies in Cancun to promote sexual ‘services’ with minors.
- In addition, taxi drivers and hotel receptionists play an important role as middlemen between the tourists and commercially sexually exploited girls and boys.”

Jean Succar Kuri

- Jean Succar Kuri, a Lebanese Hotel mogul used money and gifts to lure poor children to pool parties at his posh villas in Cancun, then sexually molested or filmed them.
- The hotels owned and operated by Kuri had significant internet advertisements for escorts and prostitution on the internet.
- These prostitutes were generally found to be young girls and teenagers.
- He was exposed by a Mexican journalist and arrested in the United States

Jean Succar Kuri



Jean Succar Kuri



Dallas Backpage.com

“Latina”

- **Miss Maria – 18** My name is Maria I have long brown hair. I'm very outgoing and full of energy!! I have a nice body. Cute smile. I like to have a great time. That's always a plus.
- **Jesse****TRUE LATINA BEAUTY*** Time to have fun*****GOOD FOR EVERYONE- THE TRUE MEANING**
- **LATINA!! I STAND A PETITE 5'3"!! WITH FULL PERKY 38c's!! AT A SeXxXy 123 lbs. WITH A NICE JUICY xxx!! IM A VERY NAUGHTY SCHOOL GIRL**

What Do They Have in Common?

- All featured “Latina” girls advertised as 18 years old
- 18 is minimum age for advertising on Backpage.com
- All dressed in school girl clothing, pig tails, etc.
- All had the same contact phone number
- Advertised in three different areas of the city
- Implications?

Josefina

- El Dorado County, CA
- Population 150,000
- Low Crime
- Zero reported arrest for prostitution
- Local drug trade methamphetamines manufactured by Mexican cartels



Contact

- Officers conducting surveillance at local motel suspect drug trafficking
- Surveillance conducted over three nights
- 30 – 35 men a day seen entering the room, staying short periods
- Consistent with drug sales and use; crack house
- Room is registered to Josie Valdez, 18 years from Los Angeles
- Search warrant obtained to search for drugs

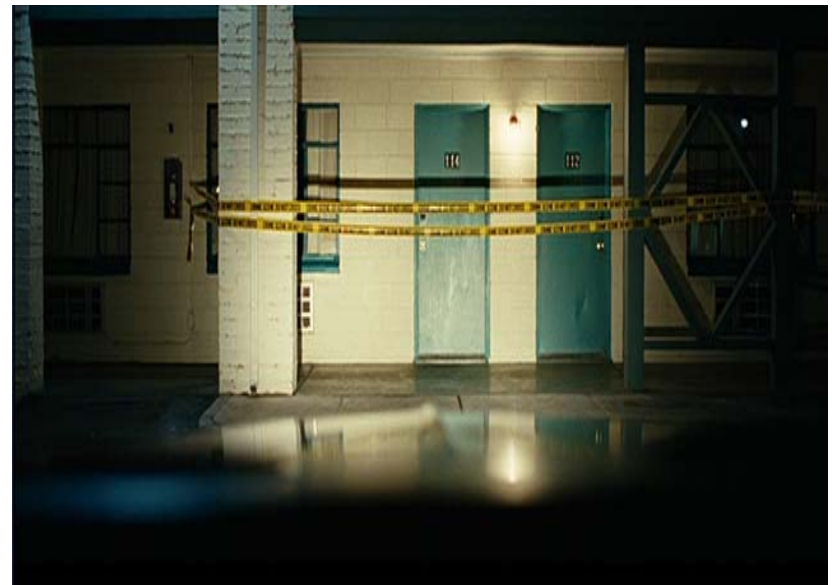
Josefina Garcia

- True name is Josefina Garcia
- 16 years old
- From Tijuana, MX
- 23 used condoms found in room
- Bed sores, syphilis and HIV+
- Estimated 30 customers per day at \$40 each
- Lured by uncle



Ending

- Sentenced to 6 months in detention
- 90 days drug rehab
- Spent a total of 32 days in detention and rehab
- Found murdered 6 days after release
- Killed by a customer



Questions?



References

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