

West Alabama Human Trafficking Task Force





Evolution of the Task Force

- January 2017 – TPD placed an emphasis on Human Trafficking for the first time.
- February 2017 – First TPD Human Trafficking Investigation conducted.
 - ❖ Rape/Robbery gone bad at a local hotel.
- April 2017 – First U/C Operations to address the issue.
- Month 2017 - Request granted for adding more TPD Officers to the task force.
 - ❖ 11 - Total TPD Personnel on H/T Task Force
- July 2017 – TPD becomes first police department in Alabama to partner with NJSI.
 - ❖ National Johns Suppression Initiative – Developed by Cook County, IL Sheriff Thomas Dart.
 - ❖ Hotel operation.
- January 2018 – Second TPD partnership with NJSI.
 - ❖ Larger detail with two local hotels utilized.
- February 2018 – TPD Admin. And Lt. Beams formally meet with TCSO, NPD, and U/A.
 - ❖ Discussion to create county wide West Alabama Human Trafficking Task Force
 - ❖ NPD immediately joins followed by UAPD and TCSO.

Task Force Members

Task Force now has

1 TPD Investigator *fulltime*

1 UAPD Investigator *fulltime*

1 NPD Investigator *part time*

3 ICAC Investigators members of Alabama Internet Crimes
Against Children Task Force

25 part time members for training and undercover operations

2019 NJSI National Statistics

- West Alabama Human Trafficking Task Force ranked 4th among all participating NJSI agencies with **67 cases**
- The top 3 participating states were comprised of two or more active agencies
- Among these, Texas had the most arrests with 80 cases
- States ranking above our task force were Texas, California, and Illinois

2020 NJSI National Statistics

- Winter Detail: 45 arrests
- Summer Detail: Postponed due to the virus

IF PEOPLE STOPPED BUYING
COMMERCIAL SEX

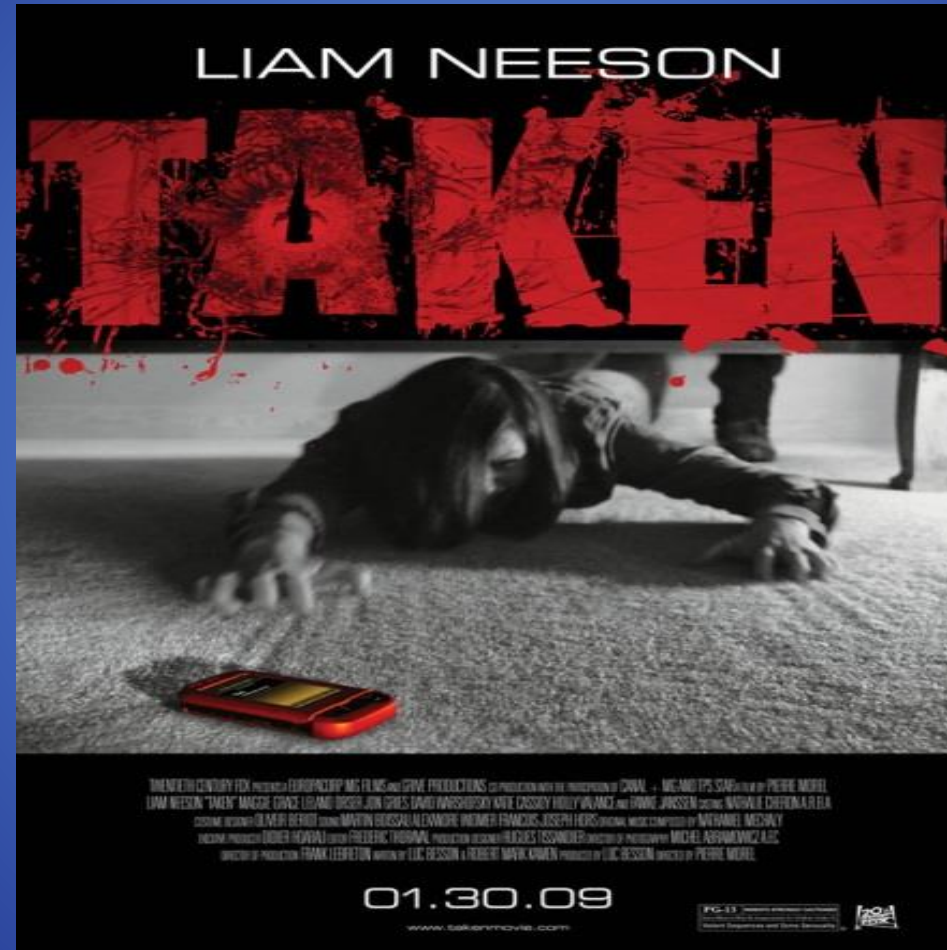
SEX TRAFFICKING WOULD

DISAPPEAR

Task Force Statistics

CHARGE	2017	2018	2019	2020
Soliciting Prostitution (males)	31	79	67	47
Soliciting Prostitution (females)	18	0	3	6
Soliciting Prostitution (no arrest)		11	2	1
Promoting Prostitution			2	2
Human Trafficking Cases	8	9	0	1
Human Trafficking Contacts	8	15	2	3
Rescued to Wellhouse	2	2	1	2
Distribution of Private Images			3	15
Traveling to Meet a Minor	2	0	2	0
Sexual Extortion			14	12
Dissemination of Child Pornography			15	3 (5 arrested)
Possession of Child Pornography			42	33 (4 arrested)

How the media defines human trafficking



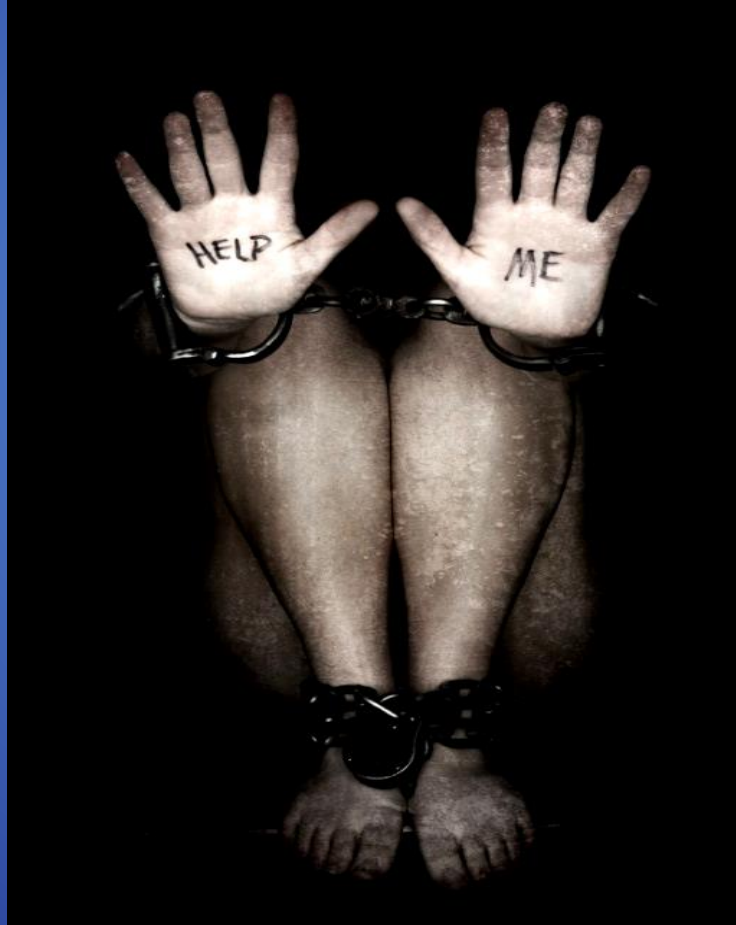
However over 80% of human trafficking in US is home grown.

\$150 BILLION

**Human trafficking is the
fastest-growing criminal
industry in the world,
generating more than
\$150 billion USD
every year.**



Human Trafficking is Modern-Day Slavery



Key words in Human Trafficking

When a person uses:

- Force,
- Fraud, or
- Coercion. . .

. . .to compel another to work for little or no wages
or engage in acts of commercial sex (sex in
exchange for something of value)

At Risk:

- Runaways: are the most vulnerable. Various organizations report that one-third of all runaways are lured into sexual exploitation within 48 hours of leaving home! This is mainly “survival sex”, trading sex for food, drugs, or shelter.
- Children who: “don’t fit in”. They may be from abusive homes, neglected children, from homes where parents who may be working multiple jobs and no time to keep track of kids, or they may just be children who for whatever reason, don’t fit in.
- Individuals who: are displaced or become homeless due to natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, or tornadoes.
- Domestic Victims: Prior domestic violence or sexual assault victims. Studies show that over 70% of human trafficking victims have been sexually abused as children. (The study also showed that over 70% of traffickers were reported to have been sexually abused as children as well.)
- The Un-educated: People with little or no education. Very prevalent in the Labor Trafficking Industry.
- Individuals who: Are lured by false promises of lucrative jobs, stability, education, or a love relationship.
- Kidnapped: For the purpose of sexual exploitation.

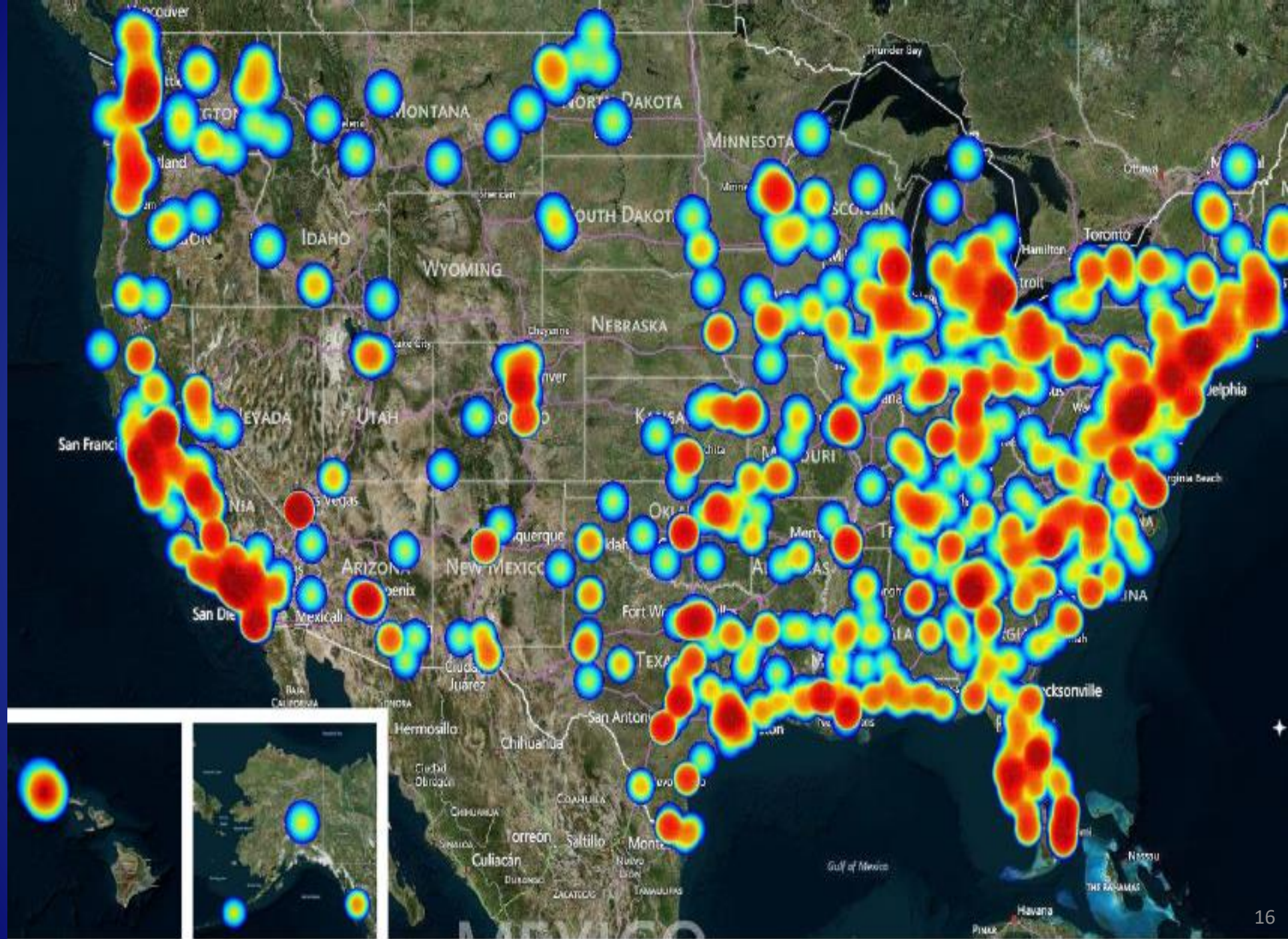
Victimology



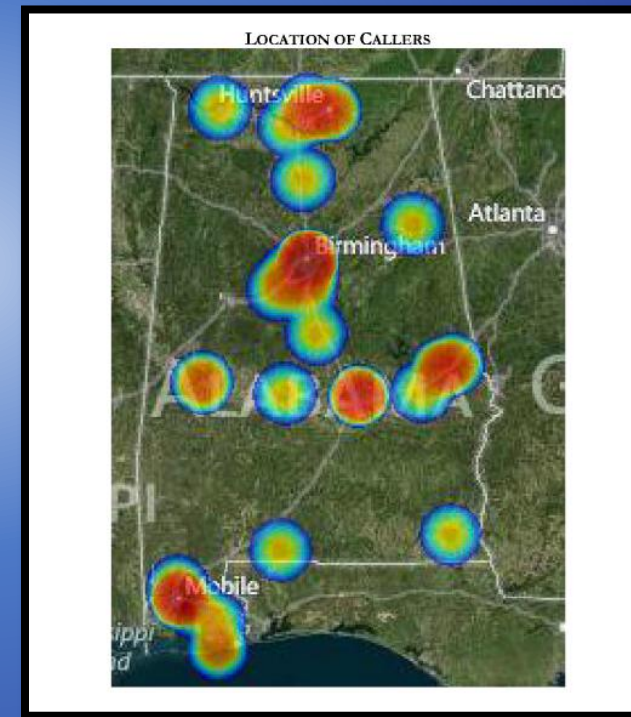
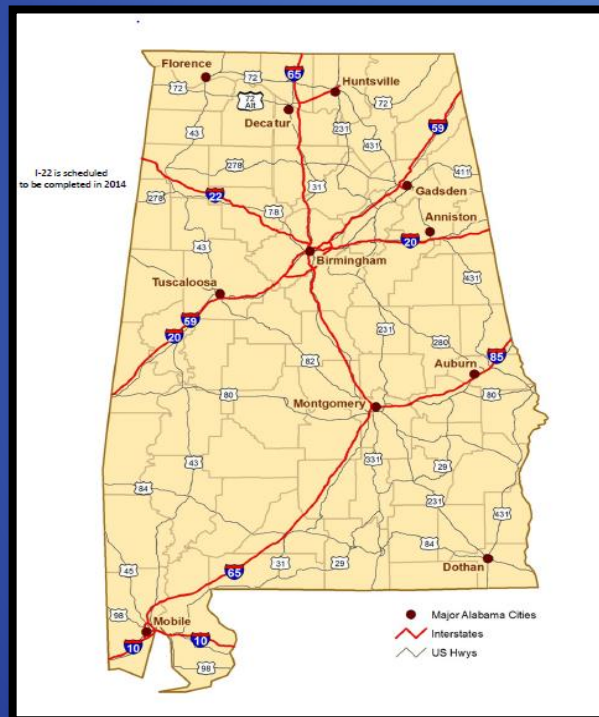
- Multiple victimizations – child abuse, neglect
- Does not identify themselves as a victim
- Does not tell a complete story, or use rehearsed responses
- Identifies with the trafficker
- No personal identification & may not know where she is
- Cannot leave her pimp – physically and psychologically restrained
 - Drug addicted
 - No where to go; no money, no id, no clothes of their own
 - **Average 11 rescues or arrests** before a victim can leave her pimp for good

Profiles:

- Male, female, adults, or children.
 - 80% of human trafficking victims are females.
 - The average age of entry into sex trafficking as a victim is 11 – 14 years of age, and exploitation can continue for years.
 - Experts advise that there are an estimated 300,000 children at risk of being exploited into prostitution each year.
- Diverse ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds.
- Foreign or domestic citizens.
- Documented and undocumented immigrants.



2019 Human Trafficking Incident Calls to Polaris Project



Tattoos are often the name of the PIMP/Trafficker



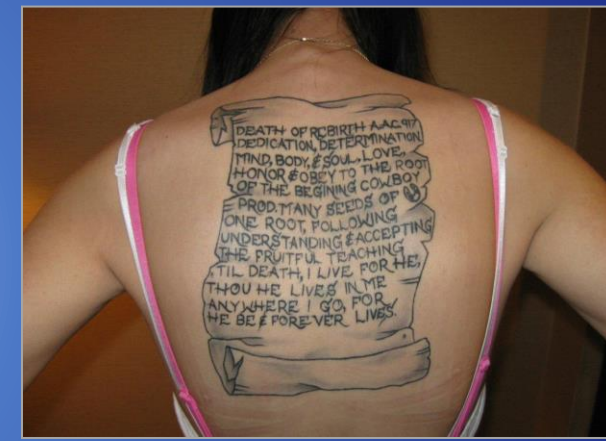
Tattoos: Branding the Victims



Neck



Wrist/Forearm



Back

LOCAL CASE EXAMPLES

A female from Jackson, MS recovered in Tuscaloosa; witnessed her 2 year old baby put in microwave

A female from Montgomery, AL recovered in Tuscaloosa; grandmother's house burned down after refusing to continue working

A female from Memphis, TN recovered at Skyland Blvd convenience store in Tuscaloosa; kids being held in Memphis apartment with 13 year old watching them

TASK FORCE TRAINING

THE EYES CAN'T SEE

WHAT YOUR MIND
DOESN'T KNOW

TASK FORCE TRAINING

- Training highlights include:
 - Training of School Counselors
 - Training of ER/Nursing Staff
 - Hotel & Motel Owner/Staff Training
 - Multiple Night Community Event Training with one night geared toward parents, and the second night geared toward students and children.
 - Age Appropriate Training tailored to middle school, high school & college age individuals.
- 2019 we conducted 45 training programs with over 4125 people trained
- 2020 we conducted 20 training programs with 983 people trained

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

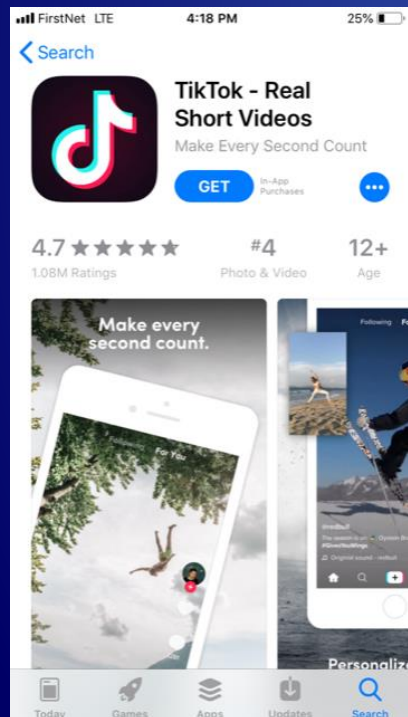
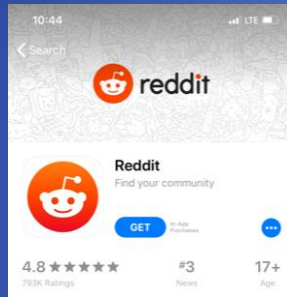
- Law Enforcement training of over a dozen agencies in the State of Alabama, some of which include:
- Tuscaloosa Police Dept and all local agencies
- Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA)
- APOSTC Academy Classes
- Jefferson County Patrol Division
- Birmingham PD
- Montgomery PD

Online Statistics

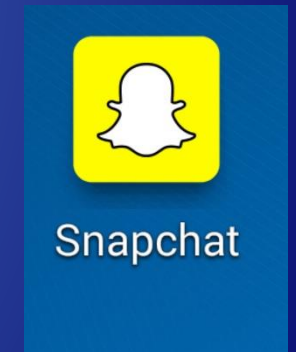
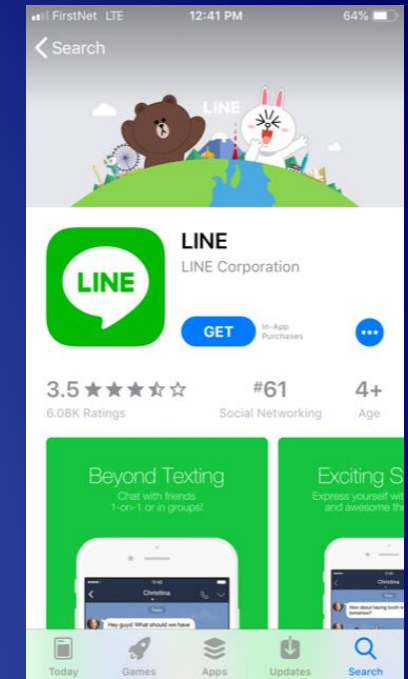
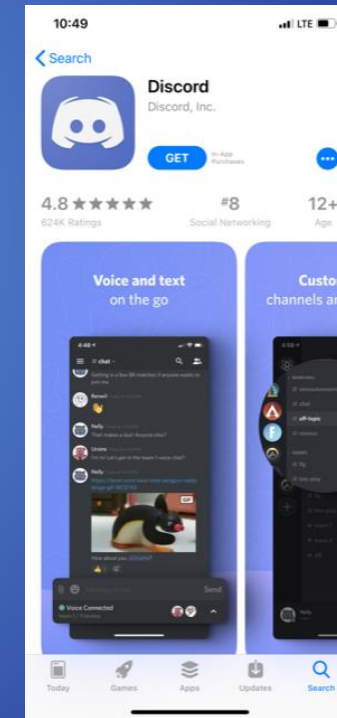
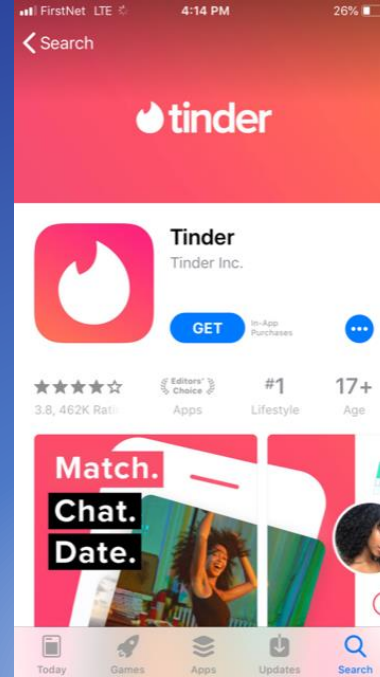
- 44% of teens admitted they've watched something online their parents wouldn't approve of (only 28% of parents were aware of this)
- 22% of teenage girls say they posted nudes or semi-nude photos or videos of themselves online
- Only 15% of parents are "in the know" about their kids' social networking habits
- 70% of children 7-18 years old have accidentally encountered online pornography, often through a web search while doing homework
- 90% of children ages 8-16 have seen online pornography
- The largest group of internet porn consumers is children ages 12-17

Online Statistics

- 86% of girls claimed to be able to conduct online chats without their parents knowing, 57% could read their parents' e-mail, and 54% could conduct a cyber relationship
- 20% of teenaged internet users have been the target of an unwanted sexual solicitation (requests for sexual activities, chat, or information)
- 41% of unwanted sexual solicitations, 29% of unwanted exposure to sexual materials, and 31% of harassment occurred when children were online with their friends
- 69% of teens regularly receive online communications from strangers and don't tell a parent



TikTok: Strangers can comment on kids' videos
 Users have reported sexual abuse
 Inappropriate content is rampant



Snapchat: Messages disappear
 Can reveal a user's location

Questions ???

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