

How Technology is used to Recruit, Groom and Exploit Victims of Child Sex Trafficking

Thorn: Digital Defenders of Children

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MECP supports state and local law enforcement officers, child protection personnel, prosecutors, medical providers, child advocacy center professionals, and other criminal justice practitioners in developing and strengthening their responses to child victimization.

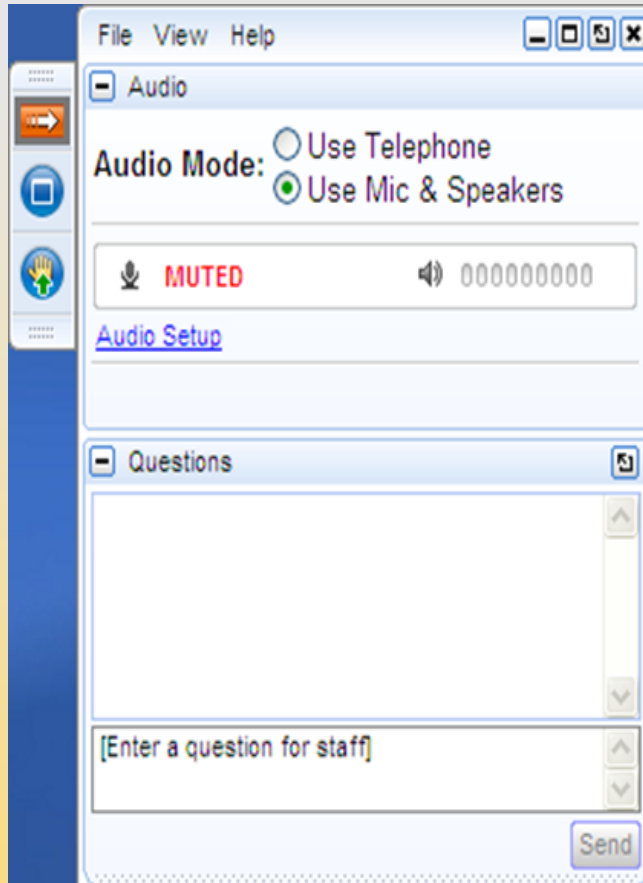
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Background on Survivor Survey



Is the Internet being use to recruit domestic minors for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation? If so, to what degree? What sites are being used?

Is the Internet being used to groom domestic minors for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation? If so, how?

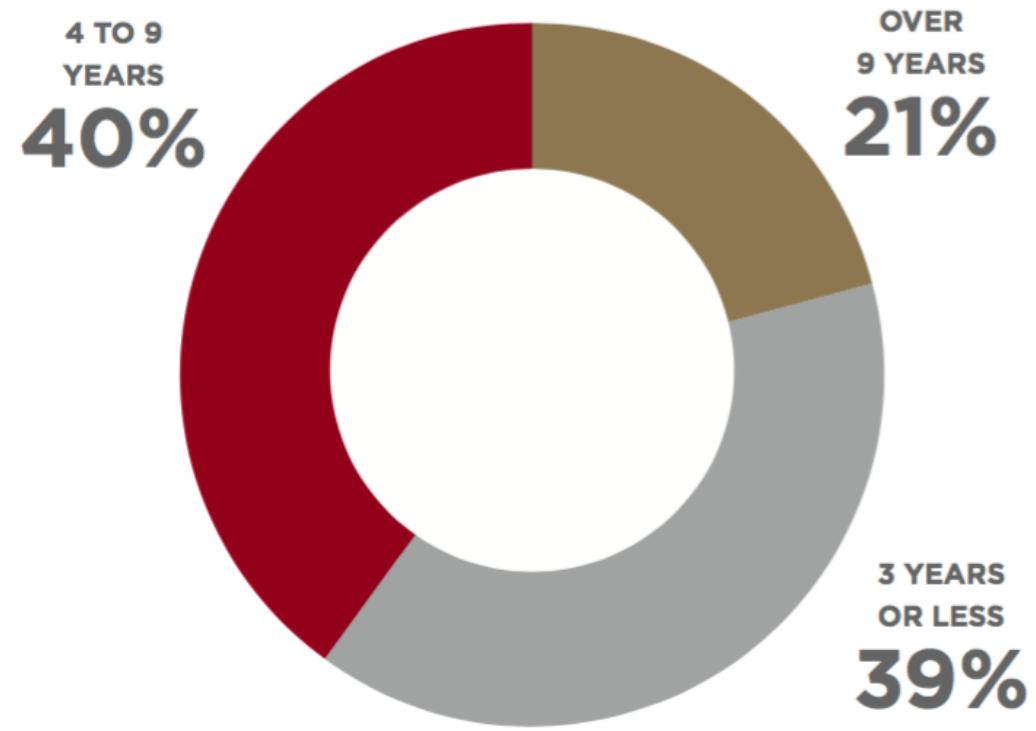
How often is the Internet used to sell domestic minors for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation? Who posts the ads? Who communicates with the buyers? How do they communicate with the buyers?

What level of access do trafficking victims have to the Internet and other telecommunications devices? To what extent is their access monitored?

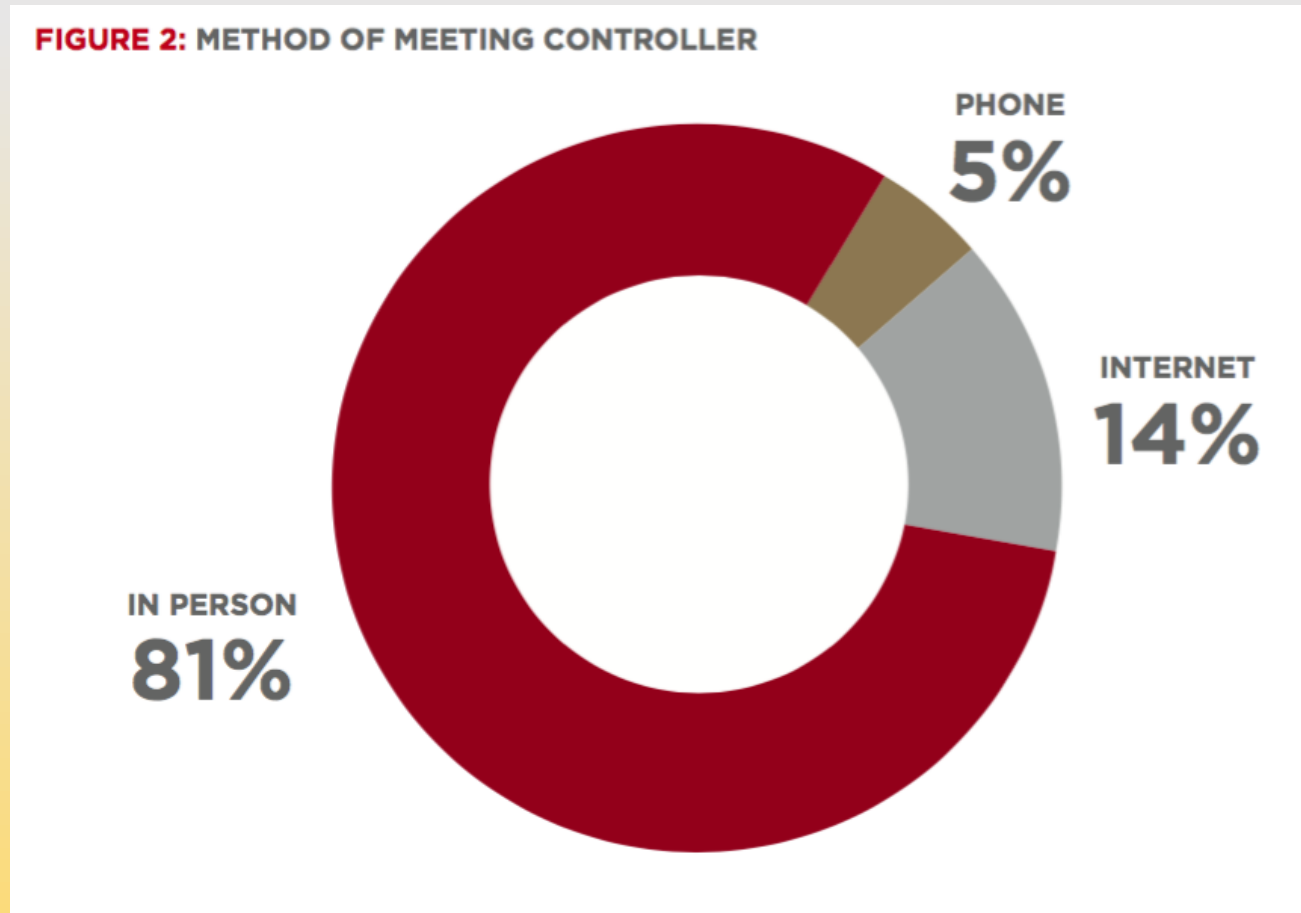
How can the Internet and other telecommunications devices be leveraged to assist victims and help them escape their situation?

Survey Participants

FIGURE 1: NUMBER OF YEARS SINCE RECRUITMENT

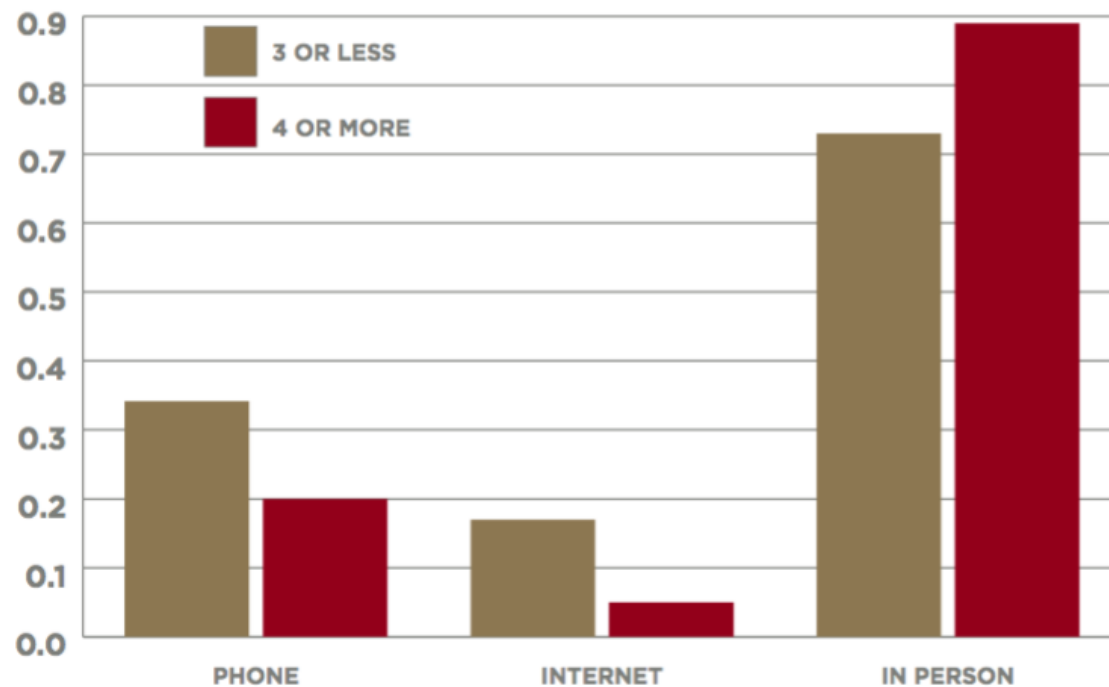


Role of Technology to Recruit



Role of Technology to Groom

FIGURE 3: COMMUNICATION METHODS USED TO DEVELOP A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CONTROLLER BASED ON THE NUMBER OF YEARS SINCE THEY WERE RECRUITED



In the beginning he made me feel like I was walking on clouds. And then he started beating on me, and started making me feel bad, like low. Then when I started selling my body, I was just like, wait. This is not – I felt really dirty and stuff like that, but I mean, through all of that, I still felt like I loved him.

Role of Technology during Trafficking

FIGURE 7: COMMUNICATION OPTIONS WHILE BEING TRAFFICKED

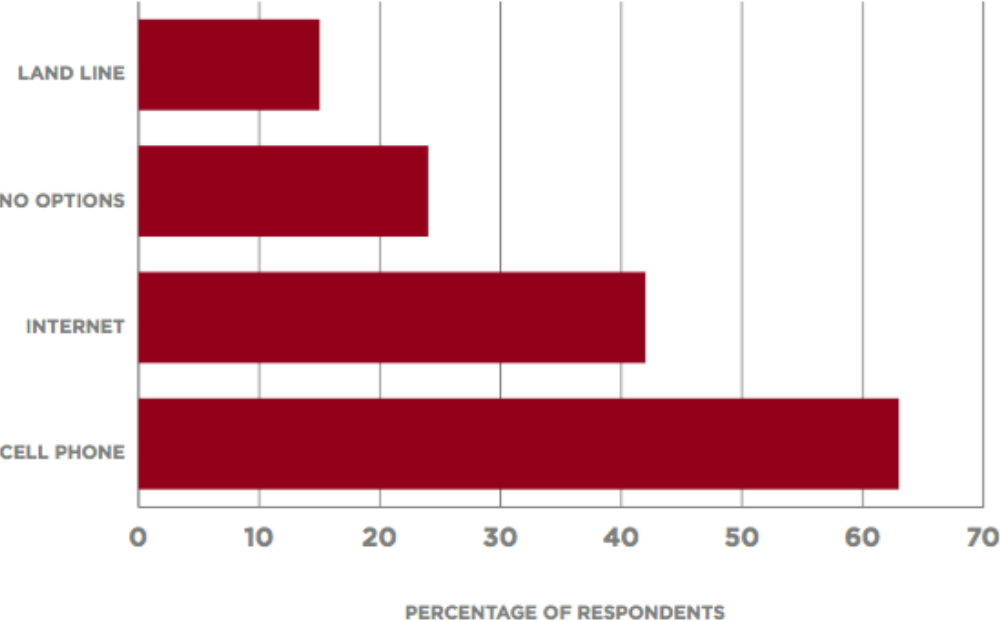
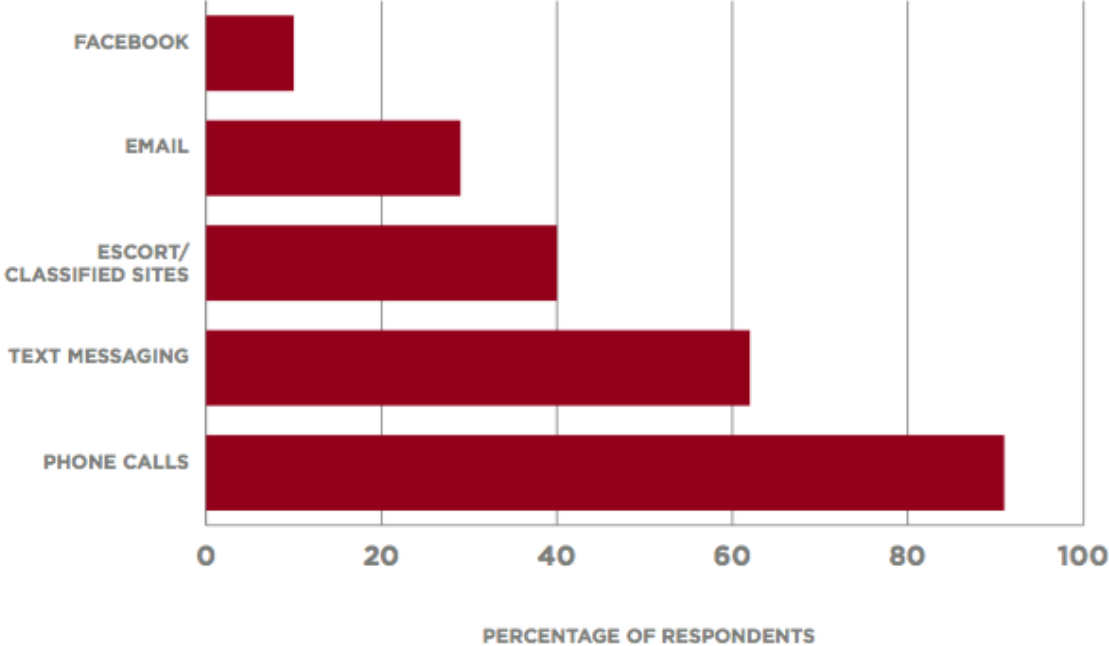
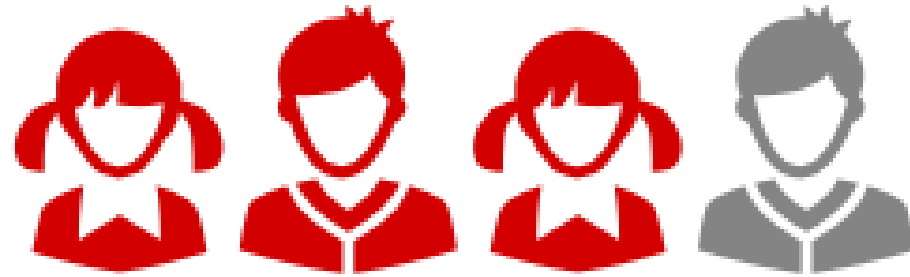


FIGURE 13: METHOD OF COMMUNICATION WITH THE BUYERS



Online Sex Market Environment

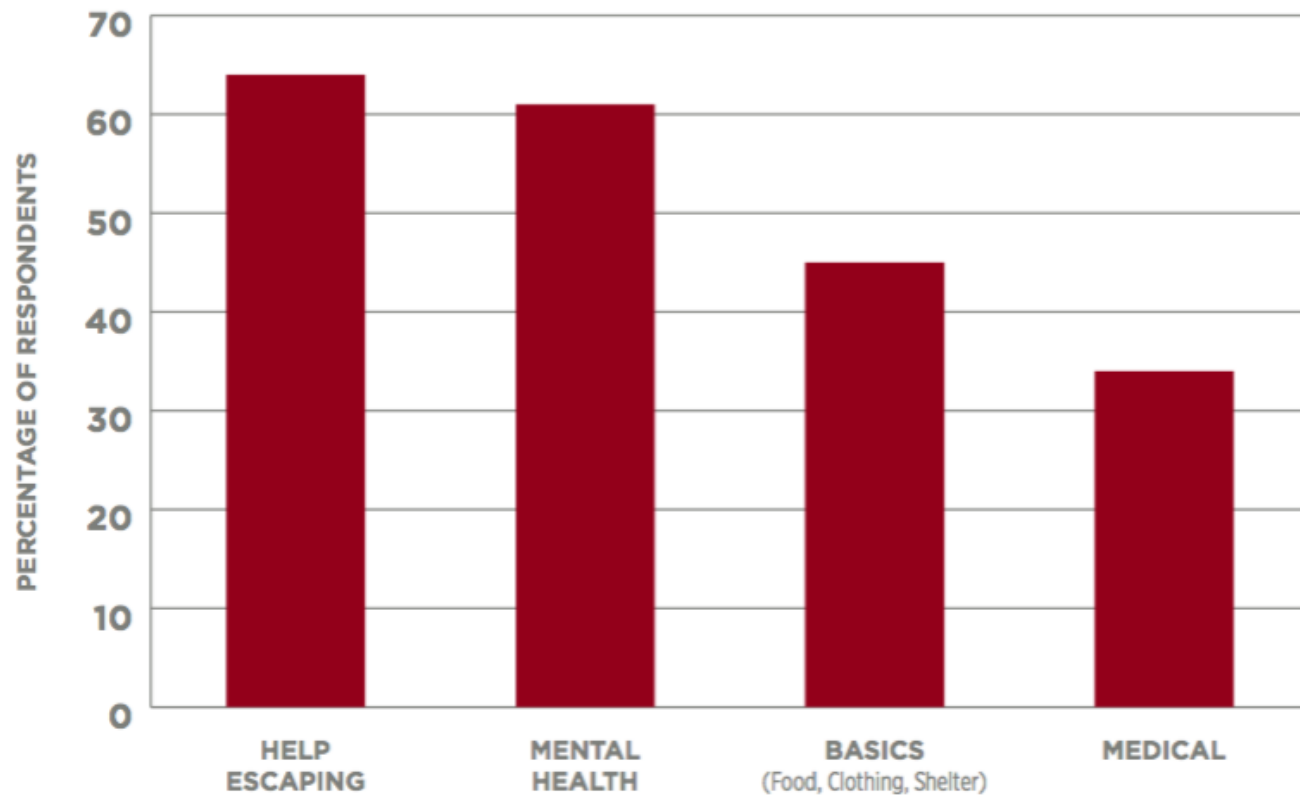


3 OUT OF **4**

OF THE UNDERAGE SEX TRAFFICKING VICTIMS SAID
THEY HAD BEEN ADVERTISED OR SOLD ONLINE.

Help and Assistance

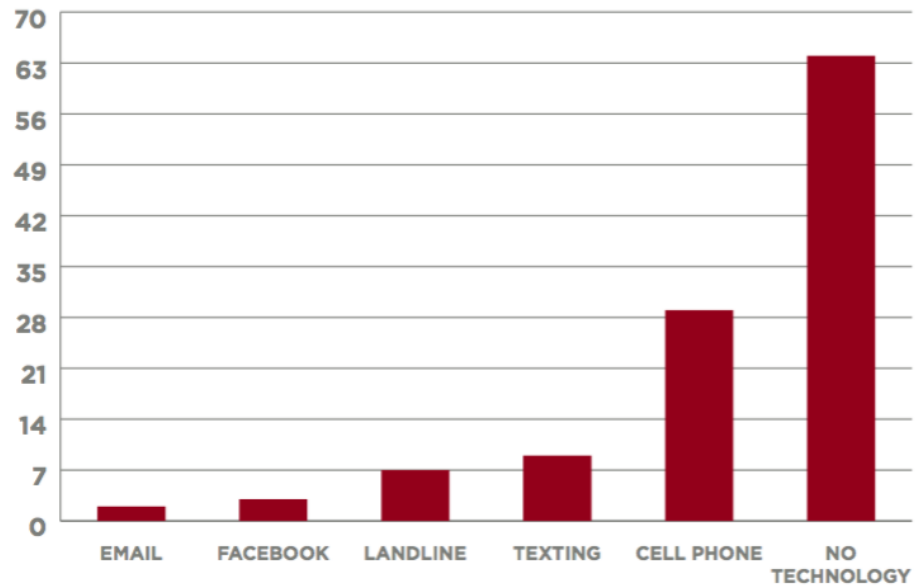
FIGURE 15: PERCENT RESPONDENTS WANTING DIFFERENT TYPES OF HELP



When he almost killed me, or whatever. One time he was beating me up with his hands, with a bat or whatever, and this time not even no, it wasn't even a bat, that was before, he was hitting me with a [sic], from the thing, he kept hitting me, hitting me with it, and I was like crying, I was like [sic] then kicking me, kicking me, kicking me, so he made me, he put the water mad hot, and made me put my feet in it, you know like scalding hot water, and told me to stay with my feet in it, and I kept saying ouch or whatever, I was really, I was just really hurt.

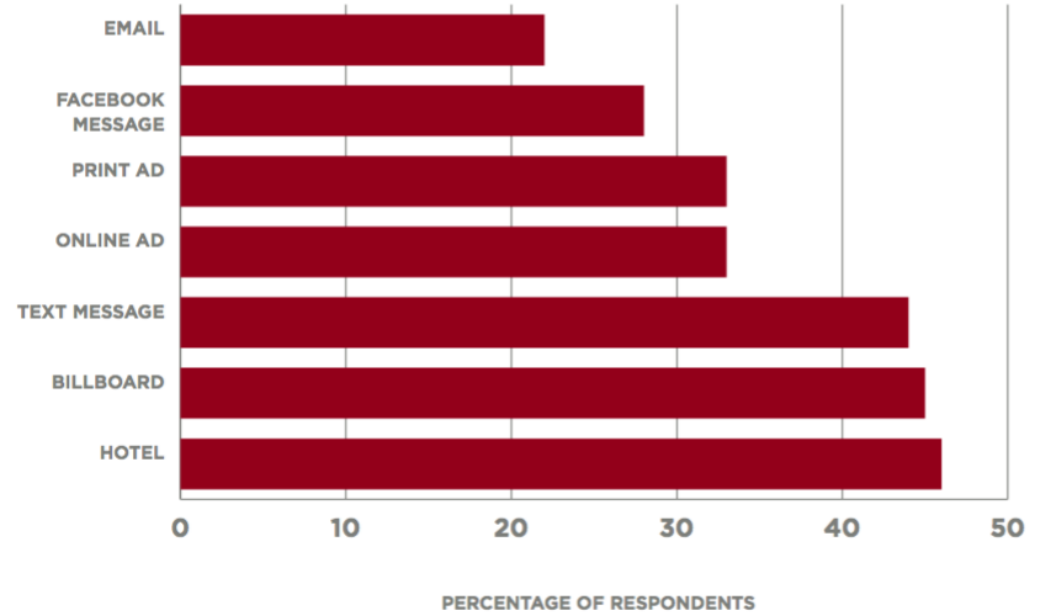
Role of Technology to Exit the Life

FIGURE 19: USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO ESCAPE

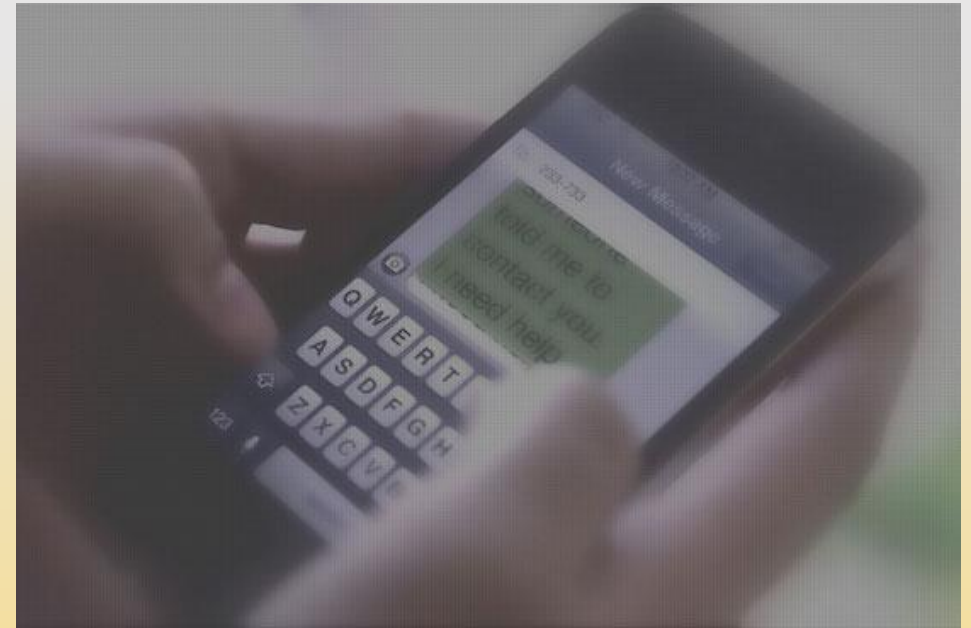


I think that the person who is being trafficked should contact you. Because if you try to step in, they're going to think that – they feel like you can't help them even if you want to. Even if they want the help they'll want to be stubborn. So I would say like a billboard, phone numbers, Internet sites. Let them come to you. If they want help they're going to be looking for like signs and things on the way.

FIGURE 18: MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS TO COMMUNICATE HELPLINE INFORMATION



What has come out of survey?



SPOTLIGHT

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