

TOYNBEE
HALL



For a future without poverty

Statistics on prostitution in London and the UK

June 2009

Introduction and aims:

This project aims to explore existing sources of research and data to build up a bank of information related to women who sell sex on the street in Tower Hamlets and London as well as highlighting UK-wide data where local data is not available. The project aims to understand what is already known (and not known) by mapping the sources of existing research and information related to this project area.

The ultimate goal will be for the data to feed into the following key areas of work:

- **Fundraising:** to demonstrate need and potentially support proposals for project work in specific areas as well as feed into current reporting to funders.
- **Communications:** general project communications as well as providing evidence for influencing practice and the policy debate.
- **Project development:** to investigate possible areas for future resourcing by understanding the gaps in current data sources.

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Notes:

Some findings are reported from studies with fairly small numbers of respondents. Percentages are given where there are over 100 responses analysed, otherwise numbers are stated. Generally studies with less than 50 women have not been included.

Researchers of prostitution have noted, it is not possible to obtain a random sample of people currently prostituting. A variety of techniques are used to learn about the experience of prostitution. Smaller numbers of interviewees limit the ability to generalise results, hence, sample sizes and locations are clearly indicated alongside results.

1. General characteristics and demographics

Prevalence:

Finding	Reference	Study details	Ref
Approximately 250 women are estimated to be involved in prostitution on the streets of Tower Hamlets.	Tower Hamlets Drug Action Team Aug 2005	Police estimate	1
Approximately 90 women are estimated to be working on the streets of Newham	Women on the street 2 – Newham Dec 2005	Police estimate	2
The main areas of on-street prostitution were in the following 10 London boroughs: Camden, Croydon, Hackney, Haringey, Kensington and Chelsea, Lambeth, Newham, Tower Hamlets, Wandsworth & Westminster (See Table 1a)	Dickson, POPPY Project, Aug 2004 and Bindel & Atkins, POPPY Project, 2007	Met Police, CO14 and SITC	3, 4
Around 80,000 women were estimated to be in prostitution in the UK, ten years ago.	Kinnell, EUROPAP 1999		5
UKNSWP estimated that there were between 50,000 and 80,000 female sex workers in the UK, of whom 28% were street workers (14,000 to 22,400).	Violence and Sex work in Britain, Kinell 2008	Mapping exercise carried out in 2005/6, referenced UKNSWP 2008. No further details of mapping.	6

Table 1a: Key boroughs for street prostitution

Source	Camden	Hackney	Haringey	K&C	Lambeth	Newham	Tower Hamlets	Westminster	Croydon	Wandsworth	H&F	Islington
Met	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES				YES
CO14	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES		
SITC	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	

Bindel & Atkins, Eaves, The POPPY Project, Streets Apart: Outdoor Prostitution in London, 2007

Age began prostitution:

Finding	Study	Details	Ref
The average age at entry into sex working was 20, although almost half (24 out of 55) began before the age of 18	May et al, London South Bank University 2001	Assessment data on 100 women & interviews with 55, Kings Cross, London,	7

		June 2001	
3 out of 4 women in prostitution become involved aged 21 or younger, and 1 in 2 aged 18 or younger	Hester & Westmarland Home Office 2004b	Based on 122 women in Hackney, Hull, Kirklees, Manchester, Stoke-on-Trent.	8
30% became involved before they were 18. Of those, 38% were under 16	Campbell 2002	70 women in Merseyside	9
Half (33) became involved in prostitution before they were 18	May et al, Home Office 1999	67 women working in three cities in the UK	10
63% of women became involved in prostitution before they were 20	Faugier and Cranfield 1994	250 women in Manchester	11
More than half became involved in prostitution before they were 17	Kinnell 1993	115 women in Birmingham	12

Ethnicity:

Finding	Study	Details	Ref
The majority of women on the streets of Tower Hamlets are White British with a few Black British women	Tower Hamlets Drug Action Team Aug 2005	Brick Lane Police	1

Table 1b: Ethnicity of women involved in street prostitution

Ethnicity	Hackney 2004-5 *	Hackney 2005-6 *	5 projects across UK 2004 **
White - British	37	12	83%
Caribbean	6	-	11%
White - Other	5	1	Not broken down
Black/ Mixed Race	5	1	Not broken down
Other	1	3	6%
Total	54	17	100% (304)

* Bindel & Atkins, The POPPY Project, Streets Apart: Outdoor Prostitution in London, 2007

** Hester & Westmarland Home Office 2004b

Other characteristics:

Finding	Study	Details	Ref
Children: Nearly half (49%) of the women involved in prostitution had children. They were most likely to be living away from their children (65%) than with them (33%), and a few alternated (2%).	Hester & Westmarland Home Office 2004b	Based on 221 women in Hackney, Hull, Kirklees, Manchester, Stoke-on-Trent in July 2004	8

Table 1c: CURRENT age of women involved in prostitution – snapshot

Age	Hackney 2004-5 *	Hackney 2005-6 *	5 projects across UK 2004 **
20 or younger	3	2	16%
21 to 30	24	7	62%
31 to 40	23	8	17%
41 to 50	4	-	5%
51 to 60			<1%
Total	54	17	100% (288)

* Bindel & Atkins, The POPPY Project, 2007

** Hester & Westmarland Home Office 2004b

2. Violence

Finding	Study	Details	Ref
<p>At least three-quarters of UK women in prostitution have been physically assaulted. More than half have been raped and/or seriously sexually assaulted.</p> <p>(See Table 2a)</p>	Hester & Westmarland Home Office 2004b	Based on 140 women in Hackney, Hull, Kirklees, Manchester, Stoke-on-Trent in July 2004	8
<p>73% of women said they had been attacked by punters in the previous 12 months, 60% had been badly beaten or raped. 42% had been attacked on more than three occasions, in the past 12 months.</p>	Dodd (2002)	Multi-centre survey of 110 street workers, in 18 towns and cities (for Channel 4 TV)	13
<p>81% of women involved in street prostitution had experienced client violence (compared to 48% of indoor workers)</p> <p>(See Table 2b)</p>	Church et al, 2001	115 women, Leeds, Edinburgh & Glasgow,	14
<p>Three quarters of women in street prostitution report being subjected by clients to physical, sexual or other forms of violence.</p>	May et al, Home Office 1999	67 women working in three cities in the UK	10

Data on deaths, murders and trials:

Finding	Study	Details	Ref
<p>Women involved in prostitution had a mortality rate 12 times the normal rate for women in the same age group.</p> <p>68% of street workers had experienced physical assault.</p>	Ward et al (1999)	402 prostitutes recruited from 1985 to 1991, 320 were followed up to 1994, West London.	15
<p>118 sex workers died or disappeared in circumstances that did lead to a homicide investigation between 1990 and 2006, an average of 7 per year.</p> <p>Street soliciting is the biggest risk factor in</p>	Kinnell, 2008, Violence and Sex work in Britain Chapter 13: Murder of sex workers, pgs 159 – 179	Analysis of press information from 118 murder investigations	6

<p>sex workers risk of homicide (78% were street workers, 22% indoor workers)</p> <p>Between 2004 and 2007, the current toll of homicide of sex workers ran at an average of 9 per year, that's an average of one every 6 weeks.</p>	Pg 48	<p>between 1990 and 2006 (104 in England, 13 in Scotland and 1 in NI). Working method was known for 111 victims</p> <p>See note *</p>	
<p>83 out of the 118 homicide cases (1990-2006) were brought to court (70%)</p> <p>66 cases resulted in a homicide conviction (56% of the 118 homicides) See note **</p> <p>No charges are known to have been brought in 30 of the 118 homicides (25%). London & the SE has the highest number of cases where no suspects have been identified.</p>	Kinnell, 2008, Violence and Sex work in Britain pgs 202-208	Analysis of press information from 118 murder investigations between 1990 and 2006	6
<p>Female sex workers are 18 times more likely to be murdered than women of similar demographic characteristics</p>	Potterat et al, 2004	information on prostitute women identified by police and health department surveillance in Colorado Springs, Colorado, from 1967 to 1999	16

* In the absence of official data, media reports, internet searches and information from local sources used. Without access to police data, and fewer internet reports relating to early 90s, it is likely to under-represent the true scale of the problem. Note also that many other sex worker homicides may be hidden in the figures for "missing persons".

** Slight confusion in this percentage as reported in the book as 67%?

Data on low reporting by women:

Finding	Study	Details	Ref
<p>Only 16% of Ugly Mugs reported by street workers to the London Ugly Mugs List stated that the police had been informed. See note ***</p>	Kinnell, 2008, Violence and Sex work in Britain	Analysis of reports of 142 attacks on street workers from	6

		the London Ugly Mugs List (Sep 2000 to April 2005)	
<p>69% of women interviewed said they reported no or hardly any attacks to the police</p> <p>Reasons for non-reporting included not believing the police would be sympathetic, fear to identify themselves to the police, and being deterred by the amount of time it will take.</p>	Dodd (2002)	Multi-centre survey of 110 street workers, in 18 towns and cities (for Channel 4 TV)	13
<p>Only one third of women in prostitution reported client violence to the police. (44% of street workers compared to 19% of indoor workers)</p> <p>Reasons for this include concerns about anonymity and disbelief that the criminal justice system will be effective in prosecuting perpetrators.</p>	Barnard et al, 2002	115 women, Leeds, Edinburgh & Glasgow,	17

*** Some analysis the 142 attacks is described in Chapter 7 of the book Violence and Sex Work in Britain, Kinnell 2008, however reliability of findings is noted as an issue. Possible reasons given are due to waves of police action against street prostitution leading to different methods of street working (women working off mobile phones) and under-reporting to the Ugly Mug List (women not wanting to sit down and fill in an Ugly Mug Sheet for many reasons).

Table 2a: Experiences of violence and abuse

Experience	5 projects across UK 2004 ** %	number
Experienced physical violence	74%	140
Perpetrators of physical violence:		
kerb crawlers	63%	104
boyfriend/ pimp/ partner	60%	104
local residents	10%	104
Experienced sexual violence (rape/ indecent assault)	53%	133
Perpetrators of sexual violence:		
male clients	81%	70
boyfriend/ pimp/ partner	23%	70
Ever feared for their lives while involved in prostitution	52%	132

** Hester & Westmarland Home Office 2004b

Table 2b: Experience of physical and sexual client violence

Experienced client violence	%
Yes	81%
Yes, experienced in past 6 months	50%
Slapped, punched or kicked	47%
Threatened with physical violence	39%
Robbed by clients	37%
Attempted rape	28%
Beaten	27%
Attempted robbery	26%
Held against will	25%
Threatened with a weapon	24%
Raped (vaginal)	22%
Strangulation	20%
Kidnapped	20%
Forced to give client oral sex	17%
Attempted kidnap	12%
Slashed or stabbed	7%
Raped (anal)	5%
Total	100% (115)

Source: Church et al, 2001 (115 outdoor prostitutes, Leeds, Edinburgh & Glasgow)

3. Substance mis-use

Finding	Study	Details	Ref
73% were using crack cocaine, 53% were using heroin. (See Table 3a)	May et al, London South Bank University 2001	Based on 100 women in Kings Cross, London	7
88% of women in street based prostitution were using heroin, 68% were using crack. (See Table 3b)	Hester & Westmarland Home Office 2004b	Based on 242 women in Hackney, Hull, Kirklees, Manchester, Stoke-on-Trent	8
93% of women in street prostitution use illegal drugs (compared with 69% of women working in indoor prostitution). (See Table 3c)	Church et al, 2001	115 women, Leeds, Edinburgh & Glasgow,	14
63% of women working in street prostitution report that they are doing so to fund an illegal drug habit.	Barnard et al, 2002	115 women, Leeds, Edinburgh & Glasgow,	17
The number of women with multiple health problems associated with crack cocaine use was noted to be increasing. These problems include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unwanted pregnancies requiring late terminations • sexually transmitted infections (STIs) • depression • widespread social problems * See also notes below	Green et al, 2000.	Project working with women involved in prostitution in London	18

* Problematic drug misuse can make women vulnerable to violence from clients as their usual self defence strategies, such as working in pairs and negotiating arrangements before entering a car, are less likely to be adhered to if under the influence of drugs (Pearce, 1999; Campbell et al, 1996; McKeganey & Barnard, 1996).

* Women have associated drug or alcohol effects with loss of control, leading to reduction of condom use (Cusick, 1998). Ward et al (2000) have found that women will sometimes make exceptions to their condom rule for a man who is supplying them with crack cocaine or whom they describe as a crack cocaine smoking partner.

Above notes taken from Home Office report, Solutions and Strategies (in references at the end of this document, reference number 30) <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/depsta/law/research/icpr/publications/COI-Sex%20Workers.pdf>

Table 3a

Drug use	Number using	Number using daily	Method
Crack-cocaine	73	45	4 inject, 61 smoke
Heroin	53	38	34 inject, 17 smoke/chase
Prescription methadone	11	11	11 oral
Benzodiazepines	5	5	5 oral
Alcohol	7	5	7 oral
Total	100	100	100

Source: May et al, 2001 (100 women, Kings Cross). 25 women reported using both heroin and crack daily.

Table 3b

Type of non-prescribed drug use	5 projects across UK 2004 **	Hackney
Heroin	88%	12
Crack-cocaine	68%	12
Dual use	57%	Not known
Other drug (unspecified)	10%	
Total	100% (242)	16

** Hester & Westmarland Home Office 2004b
Sample size for dual use (196), Other drug use (212).

Table 3c

Drug use	% street workers	% indoor workers
Used an illegal drug in the past 6 months	93%	69%
Injected in the past month	49%	3%
Heroin	78%	5%
Crack cocaine	32%	4%
Tranquillisers	37%	79%
Amphetamine	11%	30%
Total (base)	115	125

Source: Church et al, 2001 (115 women, Leeds, Edinburgh & Glasgow)

Past convictions

Table 3d

Number of past convictions	5 projects across UK 2004 **
None	9%
1-5	31%
6-10	17%
11-20	12%
21-50	14%
51-100	3%
Over 100	2%
Unknown	13%
Total	100% (202)

Table 3e

Reason for past convictions	5 projects across UK 2004 **
Theft/ handling stolen goods	73%
Prostitution related offences (primarily soliciting/ loitering)	47%
Drugs offences	33%
Fraud/ forgery	31%
Other indictable offences	29%
Violence against the person	27%
Burglary	22%
Criminal damage	15%
Robbery	9%
Total	100% (184)

** Hester & Westmarland Home Office 2004b

4. Health

Finding	Study	Details	Ref
<p>The number of women with multiple health problems associated with crack cocaine use was noted to be increasing.</p> <p>These problems include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unwanted pregnancies requiring late terminations • sexually transmitted infections (STIs) • depression • widespread social problems 	Green et al, 2000.	Project working with women involved in prostitution in London	18
<p>A study in five different countries found that two thirds of women in prostitution met the criteria for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder</p>	Farley et al, 1998	Based on 475 women and men involved in prostitution in five countries (South Africa, Thailand, Turkey, USA, Zambia)	19
<p>68% of women in prostitution meet the criteria for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder</p> <p>... in the same range as victims of torture and combat veterans undergoing treatment</p>	Ramsay et al, 1993	100 survivors of torture and other forms of organised state violence	20

5. Housing and Homeless

Finding	Study	Details	Ref
<p>4 out of 5 women have unmet housing need (after accessing services).</p> <p>The top four reasons for inability to access housing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the chaotic nature of women's lives, 2. the need for housing for their partner too 3. their need being unlikely to be met by existing services 4. hostel providers operating exclusion policies or criteria 	Toynbee Hall, 2006	32 women accessing 3 support services in Tower Hamlets	21
<p>Almost half (49%) of the women in prostitution in Kings Cross were either homeless (28%) or living in temporary accommodation (21%) at the time of the interview. (See Table 5a)</p>	May et al, London South Bank University 2001	Based on 100 women in Kings Cross, London	7
<p>Despite high level of accommodation needs, only 10% of women reported any contact with appropriate agencies or hostels.</p>	May et al, London South Bank University 2001	Based on 100 women in Kings Cross, London	7
<p>22% of those in prostitution were homeless or living in temporary accommodation when they first sold sex.</p>	Home Office, 2003	Sample of 125 (92 women & 33 men) aged 16+ in London (87) , the West Midlands (27) and the Home Counties (11)	22

Table 5a

Housing status/ type	Kings Cross, 2001
Homeless	28%
With friends or family	22%
Living in temporary housing	21%
Private rented	18%
Owner occupier	5%
Other	2%
Total	100% (100)

* May et al, London South Bank University, 2001

Table 5b

Housing status/ type	5 projects across UK 2004 **
Private rented	29%
With friends or family	20%
Homeless	19%
Council tenants	17%
Housing association	8%
Owner occupier	2%
Other	5%
Total	100% (210)

** Hester & Westmarland Home Office 2004b

6. Past history and education

Finding	Study	Details	Ref
Up to 70% of women have spent time in care. 45% report experiencing sexual abuse and 85% physical abuse during their childhoods	Home Office, 2006		23
Two thirds of women involved in prostitution have no qualifications at all. (See Table 6a)	Hester & Westmarland Home Office 2004b	Based on 114 women in Hackney, Hull, Kirklees, Manchester, Stoke-on-Trent in July 2004	8
42 out of 55 young women involved in prostitution were school non-attenders (not on school role). All 55 had a history of intermittent truanting.	Pearce, J. 2002	55 young women in a London Borough and a Northern City, 2002	24
75% of children who become involved in prostitution have interrupted or prematurely terminated educational careers.	Melrose 1999	Children's Society study	25

Table 6a

Highest level of qualification	5 projects across UK 2004 **
None	66%
GCSE or equivalent	21%
Vocational	5%
Further education	2%
Higher education	2%
Other	4%
Total	100% (114)

** Hester & Westmarland Home Office 2004b

7. Reasons for entering prostitution

Finding	Study	Details	Ref
63% of women working in street prostitution report that they are doing so to fund an illegal drug habit	Barnard et al 2002	115 women, Leeds, Edinburgh & Glasgow,	17
28% of those in street prostitution cite household expenses and supporting their children financially as their primary motivation, compared with 74% of women in indoor prostitution.	Church et al 2001	115 women (street prostitution), Leeds, Edinburgh & Glasgow 125 women in indoor prostitution	14

Desire to exit prostitution:

Finding	Study	Details	Ref
One study found that violence from boyfriends/pimps tended to keep women in prostitution (that is, acted as a barrier to exiting) while violence from kerb crawlers was more likely to serve as 'crisis points' leading them to pursue exiting.	Hester & Westmarland Home Office 2004b	Based on 23 case study interviews with women who were in the process of or had attempted to exit from prostitution, compiled with the women in Hull, Kirklees, Manchester and Stoke-on-Trent.	8
The majority of women in prostitution want to exit the lifestyle. One research study found that more than two-thirds of women sought to exit in every continent, from 68% in Mexico to 99% in Zambia.	Farley, M. (2003), Journal of Trauma Practice		26
Nine out of ten prostitutes surveyed would like to exit prostitution but feel unable to do so.	Farley, M. (2003), Journal of Trauma Practice		26

8. Demand for prostitution

Finding	Study	Details	Ref
Almost one in 10 (9%) of men in London aged 16-44 reported having paid for sex in the past 5 years, compared with 4.3% across Britain	National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles Natsal 2000	Random sample of 4,762 men aged 16-44, resident in Britain.	27
A survey in the mid-1990s estimated the number of kerb crawlers in London in one week to be 7,620	Matthews, R. (1997)	Information collated from the police, local authorities, British Telecom & prostitutes	28
In the 1990s, the number of men buying sex in the UK doubled	National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles Natsal 2000 and NatSal 1990.	Random samples of 4,762 men (2000 survey) and 6,000 men (1999 survey) aged 16-44, in Britain.	27
UK data on men arrested for 'kerb crawling' profiled the average customer as 35 years old, in full time employment with no criminal convictions (See Table 7a)	Hester & Westmarland Home Office 2004b	Arrest data	8

Table 8a: Profile of men soliciting prostitution

	number	Total sample
In full time employment	46	69
Student	8	69
White European	56	96
Married	15	32
Owner occupiers	14	32
First recorded offence	91	125
Had previous convictions	34	125
5 or less	29	34
6 or more	5	34

** Hester & Westmarland Home Office 2004b

Table 8b: Kerb crawling offences in Tower Hamlets, Newham and Hackney, Bindel & Atkins, Eaves, The POPPY Project, Streets Apart: Outdoor Prostitution in London, 2007

Borough	Jan to June 2006	2001 - 2006
Hackney	76	229
Tower Hamlets *	36	211
Newham	11	292

* Commercial Road – 18, Wentworth Street – 15, Quaker Street – 3

Table 8c: Offences by area, Bindel & Atkins, Eaves, The POPPY Project, Streets Apart: Outdoor Prostitution in London, 2007

Ordered by kerb crawling in descending order

Borough	Kerb crawling for prostitution 2001-2006	Soliciting women for prostitution 2001-2006	Soliciting for the purpose of prostitution 2003-2006	Loitering for the purpose of prostitution 2003-2006
Haringey	481	48	33	400
Lambeth	441	30	107	876
Newham	292	3	12	491
Hackney	229	13	7	243
Tower Hamlets	211	29	39	533
Westminster	203	17	58	928
Islington	164	26	28	813
Camden	43	34	39	331
Kensington & Chelsea	43	3	1	3

Table 8d: Age of men arrested for kerb crawling in Hackney, Bindel & Atkins, Eaves, The POPPY Project, Streets Apart: Outdoor Prostitution in London, 2007

Age	2004-5
20 or younger	5
21 to 30	13
31 to 40	14
41 to 50	7
Over 50	3
Total	42

Note, there's some further data on demand in the report It's just like going to the supermarket: Men buying sex in East London, Coy et al, Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit, for the Tower Hamlets Partnership, 2007. However, the majority of men recruited were off street buyers (6 interviews with men arrested for kerb crawling, a further 137 respondents were recruited via newspaper adverts (majority off street buyers)

9. Attitudes to prostitution

August 2008

Source: Ipsos MORI's Second survey of 1,010 adults (473 men, 537 women) aged 18+, for the Govt Equalities Office, August 2008. Source ref – 29.

Table 9a: Is it acceptable or unacceptable..?

	Acceptable			Unacceptable		
		Men	Women		Men	Women
For a man to purchase sex from a woman	39%	47%	31%	52%	42%	61%
If the man purchasing sex is related to you, e.g. your brother, son or father?	29%	39%	19%	62%	50%	74%

Table 9b: Do you think the purchase of sex by men should be legal or illegal?

		Men	Women
Legal	50%	57%	44%
Illegal	43%	35%	50%
DK/ refused	7%	8%	6%

Table 9c: Is it acceptable or unacceptable..?

	Acceptable			Unacceptable		
		Men	Women		Men	Women
For a woman to sell sex to a man	38%	50%	27%	53%	40%	65%
If the woman selling sex is related to you, e.g. your sister, daughter or mother?	22%	28%	16%	69%	61%	76%

Table 9d: Do you think the selling of sex by women should be legal or illegal?

		Men	Women
Legal	51%	60%	43%
Illegal	42%	33%	50%
DK/ refused	7%	8%	7%

Breakdowns also available by age at

<http://www.equalities.gov.uk/pdf/Attitudetowardsprostitutionsurvey%20June2008.pdf>

June 2008

Source: Ipsos MORIS first survey of 1,012 adults (438 men, 572 women) aged 18+, for the Govt Equalities Office, June 2008. Source ref – 29.

Table 9e: Views on prostitution

	Agree			Disagree		
		Men	Women		Men	Women
It should be illegal to pay for sex	37%	34%	39%	47%	50%	44%
Most prostitutes are only in that role because they are victims of exploitation	49%	52%	46%	34%	32%	35%
Prostitution is a perfectly reasonable choice that women should be free to make	59%	63%	55%	27%	25%	29%
Some men need the services that prostitutes offer in order to meet their sexual needs	53%	59%	48%	29%	26%	32%

Table 9f: Imagine you recently found out.... how acceptable is it?

	Acceptable			Unacceptable		
		Men	Women		Men	Women
A spouse or partner had recently paid a prostitute for sex	9%	13%	5%	87%	83%	91%
A female family member had been working as a prostitute	19%	19%	20%	74%	75%	72%

Table 9g

	Yes			No		
		Men	Women		Men	Women
I would feel ashamed if I found out a family member had been working as a prostitute	60%	60%	59%	37%	37%	37%

Table 9h: Some people have argued that if paying for sex were illegal it would reduce the number of women and children being trafficked into this country from abroad and forced into prostitution. **Would you support or oppose making it illegal to pay for sex as part of an attempt to reduce trafficking of women & children from abroad into prostitution in the UK?**

		Men	Women
SUPPORT	58%	57%	58%
Strongly support	44%	41%	46%
Tend to support	14%	16%	12%
Neither support nor oppose	9%	8%	10%

OPPOSE	31%	32%	30%
Tend to oppose	10%	11%	9%
Strongly oppose	21%	21%	21%
Don't know	3%	3%	3%

Breakdowns also available by age at

<http://www.equalities.gov.uk/pdf/Attitudetowardsprostitutionsurvey%20June2008.pdf>

10. Services working with prostitutes

Finding	Study	Details	Ref
Fifteen boroughs have no sexual health outreach provision for women in the sex industry at all *	Dickson, Eaves POPPY Project Aug 2004		3
81% of support agencies in London identified a lack of provision of safe housing for women wishing to exit prostitution or leave violent pimps.	Bindel, Eaves POPPY Project March 2006	28 questionnaires returned from projects that work with women in prostitution, and 4 interviews.	4
Most services currently provided for women in prostitution focus on their sexual health, rather than addressing issues such as prosecuting client violence, housing, drug counselling and education.	Bindel, Eaves POPPY Project March 2006	28 questionnaires returned from projects that work with women in prostitution, and 4 interviews.	4
Research identified gaps in service provision in a number of areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated exiting services • Outreach, for those working on & off-street • Safe temporary & long term accommodation • Single-sex rehabilitation programmes • Outreach counselling services • Mental health services/counselling • Education programmes • Peer support • Community safety strategies 	Bindel, Eaves POPPY Project March 2006	28 questionnaires returned from projects that work with women in prostitution, and 4 interviews.	4

* No outreach support offered in Barking and Dagenham, Brent, Bromley, Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham, Harrow, Havering, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Kingston upon Thames, Merton, Redbridge, Richmond upon Thames, Sutton and Waltham Forest offer no outreach support.

References

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3. Dickson, S. (2004) *Sex in the City: Mapping Commercial Sex in London*, The POPPY Project, Eaves Housing for Women.
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