EXAMPLE RESEARCH BRIEF

FRAMING THE PROBLEM

Sex work is primarily viewed as:

* Sexuality rights issue
* Human rights issue

Presenting different narratives regarding the problem with current prostitution policy, the most convincing arguments framed it as an issue of crime victimization and public health.

### Crime Victimization Frame

* Criminalizing prostitution make sex workers more likely to experience sexual and physical violence.
* Criminalization makes them more vulnerable to theft, rape, and assault by bad actors because they can’t rely on protections from the law.

### Public Health Frame

* Criminalizing prostitution represent a significant threat to the health of individuals and communities.
* Criminalization increases the risk of unsafe sex practices because police can confiscate condoms as evidence.
* Sex workers often can’t access healthcare because of the risk of being arrested, or due to discrimination and mistreatment by medical staff.

CRIMINALIZATION IS NOT THE SOLUTION

Over 50% of Americans believe people should receive social services, like medical and housing assistance, child support, and educational and vocational training, instead of jail time for prostitution offenses.

Over 50% of Americans do **not** believe criminalization keeps sex workers safe.

## Over 78% of Americans support sex workers’ criminal immunity when reporting crimes.

SUPPORT FOR HARM REDUCTION

When asked about the ideal goal of prostitution policy, the most popular response was harm reduction.

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These findings overall suggest the American public supports a more humane policy response to sex work than criminalization.