

Four Years of **FOSTA/SESTA**

by Bella Robinson



Call Off Your Old Tired Ethics, Rhode Island (COYOTE RI)

is a group of current and former sex workers, sex trafficking survivors, and our allies working towards policy for increased health and safety for people in the sex industries.

About The Survey

- The Four Years of FOSTA is **Participatory Action Research** - that means it was designed and interpreted by the same people it is studying, and it is research designed to understand and lead to the solution to a problem. Participatory Action Research prioritizes the people closest to the problem as being closest to the solution.
- Four Years of FOSTA was a follow up from our 2018 survey immediately following the passage of FOSTA/SESTA.
- It ran for 6 weeks in July and August of 2022.
- 332 people started to take the survey and 227 finished it. All responses of all qualified participants were included.
- We used the data in our Amicus Brief in the case to overturn FOSTA - this is the Action part of Participatory Action Research.

FOSTA Increased Sex Trafficking

Question	All	Trafficking survivor: force, fraud, coercion	Trafficking survivor: entered industry as minors	People with Disabilities	Men	People of Color
TRAFFICKING N=	248- 215	56-48	26-25	90-79	17-16	69-60
Reported an increase in force or coercion	40%	64%	56%	51%	29%	43%
Reported an increase in fraud	37%	58%	48%	54%	38%	43%
Reported an increase in recruitment by pimps (not trafficking)	55%	56%	56%	46%	13%	43%

FOSTA Increased Dangerous and Exploitative Work Conditions

Question	All	Trafficking survivor: force, fraud, coercion	Trafficking survivor: entered industry as minors	People with Disabilities	Men	People of Color
DANGEROUS EXPLOITATIVE WORK CONDITIONS						
N=		245-238	56-55	88-86	16-15	67-64
Reported an increase in violence from clients or those posing as clients, including stealth condom removal	39%	67%	52%	53%	13%	34%
Reported increased pressure to provide services outside of their boundaries	54%	66%	68%	67%	31%	59%
Lowered rates	35%	44%	31%	46%	25%	33%
Offered new services that they weren't comfortable with	41%	47%	42%	52%	31%	43%

FOSTA Increased Vulnerability in Work Conditions

Question	All	Trafficking survivor: force, fraud, coercion	Trafficking survivor: entered industry as minors	People with Disabilities	Men	People of Color
INCREASED VULNERABILITY - WORK CONDITIONS						
N= 53-52		228-221	26-24	87-78	15	65-63
Turned to street-based work	11%	17%	24%	21%	0%	12%
Did not use blacklists before FOSTA	20%	13%	8%	17%	67%	25%
Did not use blacklists right after FOSTA	39%	44%	29%	38%	73%	47%
Currently aren't able to access blacklists	30%	28%	28%	25%	80%	36%

FOSTA Increased Vulnerability in Networks of Support

Question	All	Trafficking survivor: force, fraud, coercion	Trafficking survivor: entered industry as minors	People with Disabilities	Men	People of Color
INCREASED VULNERABILITY - NETWORKS OF SUPPORT						
N= 25-24		226-225	53-52	81-79	15	64
Less knowledge of local colleagues	55%	60%	60%	52%	33%	55%
Less likely to help new worker with safety info now	43%	33%	50%	43%	27%	34%
FOSTA prevented them from networking LOCALLY	71%	77%	76%	72%	53%	70%
FOSTA prevented them from organizing/attending a conference	42%	52%	48%	47%	27%	38%

Question	All	Trafficking survivor: force, fraud	Trafficking survivor: entered industry	People with Disabilities	Men	People of Color
INCREASED VULNERABILITY - HOUSING						
N=		228-93	25-8	81-40	15-3	65-35
53-25						
FOSTA caused homelessness	10%	11%	8%	14%	13%	9%
FOSTA caused unstable housing	28%	34%	28%	37%	7%	40%
<i>Of those who became homeless or unstably housed:</i>						
Were offered housing by a pimp	20%	36%	38%	25%	0	9%
Had children living with them at the time	18%	16%	25%	15%	0	17%
Offered housing by someone trying to exploit them for free sex	43%	64%	50%	55%	0	37%
Received help from non exploitive client	34%	20%	38%	30%	0	43%
Shelters discriminated against them because of sex work	22%	24%	63%	25%	0	20%

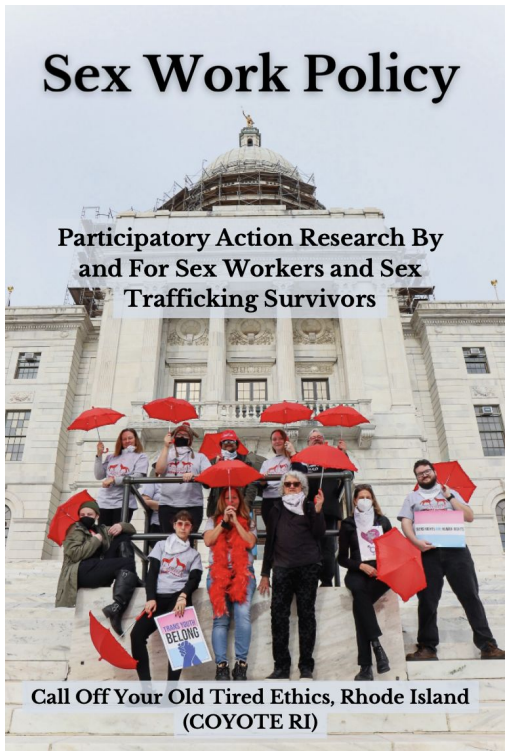
FOSTA Decreased Public Safety

Question	All	Trafficking survivor: force, fraud, coercion	Trafficking survivor: entered industry as minors	People with Disabilities	Men	People of Color
PUBLIC SAFETY						
N=	225-221	52-51	24-22	80-79	15-14	64-61
Less likely to go to police if assaulted now	70%	63%	78%	67%	52%	63%
Less likely to go to police if client brought child porn	50%	57%	77%	54%	14%	48%
Reported a crime and	3%	4%	4%	3%	7%	8%*

Thanks For Coming

Sex Work Policy

Participatory Action Research By
and For Sex Workers and Sex
Trafficking Survivors



Call Off Your Old Tired Ethics, Rhode Island
(COYOTE RI)

Sex Work Policy Book:

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0DBR2TMPR>

COYOTE RI's website:

<http://www.coyoteri.org>

Email me:

bella@coyoteri.org

research@coyoteri.org

Four Years of FOSTA: The Survey

<https://tinyurl.com/4hwvbk97>

CoyoteRI AMICI FOSTA Appeal 2022

<https://tinurl.com/3wwwwhn?i>

