

The role of truck drivers in the perpetration of children and adolescent sexual exploitation

Abstract

This study aimed to investigate relationships between variables associated with the life and profession context of truck drivers and their involvement with Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC). Three hundred thirty-seven truck drivers were interviewed, all male, aged between 21 and 71 years ($M = 42.03$; $SD = 10.82$). Sixty-three participants (18.7%) reported their own involvement with CSEC, constituting the perpetrators group, which was compared to the group of non-perpetrators ($n = 274$; 81.3%). Involvement with CSEC was associated to circumstantial factors such as drug use, involvement with sexual commerce during break times, as well as to specific attitudes, e.g., male chauvinism and agreement with CSEC. However, more similarities than differences between perpetrators and non-perpetrators were found. Implications for planning on prevention and confrontation actions are discussed.

Key-words: Truck drivers; Sexual exploitation; Children; Adolescents; Sexual commerce.