The systematic quantification of the number of people sold online for sex is a critical first step in documenting local commercial sex markets in Massachusetts. By analyzing patterns within these markets, important inferences can be made about sex selling and buying trends. The following results are from a study that tracked online sex selling in target regions of Boston and Worcester from March 1st to May 31st, conducted in collaboration between RIA house, the Imagine Foundation, and William James College.

2015 Fact Sheet

• Total number of ads for commercial sex: 16,997
• Average price per hour listed: $200
• Estimated revenue in 3-month period: $7,701,750

• Top 20 sub-locations mentioned
  o Cambridge
  o Brookline
  o Camb/Brook
  o North Shore
  o South Shore
  o Merrimac
  o Waltham
  o Quincy
  o Dorchester
  o Saugus
  o Braintree
  o Revere
  o Peabody
  o Framingham
  o MetroWest
  o Malden
  o Lowell
  o Northwest Hwy
  o Chelsea

• Top out-of-state area codes
  o Rhode Island
  o New York City, NY
  o New Hampshire
  o Maine
  o Miami, FL
  o Connecticut
  o Oakland, CA
  o Broward County, FL
  o Las Vegas, NV

• Demographics of persons being sold
  Race
  o White 42.53%
  o Black 18.11%
  o Asian 16.37%
  o Hispanic 13.6%
  o Other 8.66%

  Gender
  o Female 90.65%
  o Transgender 7.28%
  o Male 2.07%

• Identifiable features

  In total, 49% of overall postings that included photos had the person’s face shown, while 51% had the person’s face not shown or blurred. With transgender postings, 96% had face shown.
Most frequently mentioned sub-locations

Top out-of-state area codes

Dates with spikes in number of ads posted

Distribution of ads by day of the week