Human trafficking near public schools

35,000 Texas children attend school within 1,000 feet of a suspected illegal massage business (IMB)

900,000 children attend school within a mile of a suspected front for human trafficking

• = 1,000 children

Source: CHILDREN AT RISK analysis of data from RubMaps.com
What is a suspected IMB?

- Massage establishments illegally selling sexual services
- Most are unlicensed
- Human trafficking operations: Women trapped through force, fraud, and coercion

**Methodology:**
- *RubMaps.com*: “Yelp” for commercial sex at massage businesses
- Users exchange reviews and feedback on IMBs
- We identified all businesses listed as open, not listed as “non-erotic,” and had at least 1 review
To me this place is kind of like Disneyland, I feel like a big ol kid here. I walk in and ask [mamma-san] for a line up she puts me in the first room on the left and closes the door, she comes back and the first thing I see are 3 naughty girls.

- Platinum Rainbow Spa in Dallas, 3/09/18

The mamasan made her take me to the room, she left me there and came back when I was ready for the action...I kept [redacted] her for a while... trying to control of the pace until I thought it was enough... [the victim] acted... passive the whole time...”

- Hi Butterfly Massage in Dallas, 2/28/18
Dallas County has second highest concentration of suspected IMBs

Suspected illegal massage businesses by county

- Harris: 259
- Dallas: 97
- Bexar: 69
- Collin: 53
- Tarrant: 52
- Denton: 24
- Travis: 18
- Williamson: 15
- Bell: 14
- El Paso: 13
- Lubbock: 8
- Fort Bend: 8
- Potter: 7
- Wichita: 6
- Brazoria: 5

Source: RubMaps.com as of 4/05/2018
Over 5,000 children in Dallas County attend school within 1,000 feet of a suspected IMB

Source: CHILDREN AT RISK analysis of data from RubMaps.com
Over **12,000 children** in North Texas region attend school within 1,000 feet of a suspected IMB

Interactive map shows every suspected IMB and public school in Texas: [www.childrenatrisk.org/human_trafficking_near_schools/](http://www.childrenatrisk.org/human_trafficking_near_schools/)
Prairie Creek Elementary – Richardson ISD

- 299 feet from **Serendipity Therapy**
- 19 reviews
- Reviews describe oral sex, sexual stimulation, and groping
Austin Elementary – Coppell ISD

- 828 feet from Apex Massage
- 7 reviews
- Reviews describe sexual stimulation and groping
Berkner High School – Richardson ISD

- 265 feet from **Bamboo Massage**
- 15 reviews
- Reviews describe sexual stimulation and groping
Tom W Field Elementary in Dallas ISD is within half a mile of 5 suspected IMBs

- 668 feet from Royal Foot Massage
- 4 reviews
- Reviews describe sexual stimulation, and groping

- Half mile from Hi Butterfly Massage
- 54 reviews
- Reviews describe vaginal and oral sex, sexual stimulation, and groping
In Dallas County, suspected IMBs are concentrated in **affluent** neighborhoods.

On average, median household incomes in neighborhoods with suspected IMBs are **$16,000 higher** than those with none.
Policy proposals:
Training for school board trustees

• Schoolboard trustees must be required to undergo human trafficking training.
• A training curriculum for teachers has already been developed by the state but is rarely used as it was not mandated.
• Trustees who know about this issue and the dangers it presents will be far more likely to require that teachers be trained to spot and report signs of human trafficking.
Policy proposals:
Penalties for property owners

• CHILDREN AT RISK passed measures to make it easier for local governments to close IMBs using nuisance and abatement lawsuits.  
  • But provisions that would have held property owners more accountable were weakened by key legislators—including a few from North Texas.

• Proposed steps:
  • Lessen the notification burden when it comes to property owners and nuisance and abatement suits.
  • Other commercial tenants in the same shopping center should be able to break lease without consequences if property owner leases to an unlicensed massage establishment (ME)
  • Registration by property owner with the state, county and city if leasing to ME
  • Whether the business is licensed should be a required question on lease under state law; a false answer should have a criminal penalty attached
Policy proposals:
Deceptive trade practice lawsuits

• A major bill was passed last session (HB 2552) that makes it a **deceptive trade practice** for an unlicensed business to hold itself out as a massage establishment.

• The Consumer Protection Division of the Attorney General’s Office needs to begin enforcing this fantastic new law and suing IMBs.
Policy proposals:
City ordinances regulating massage establishments

• **Dallas’** city ordinances on massage establishments are outdated.
  • Need to be brought into compliance with state laws and enforced.
  • No reference to the state-issued license nor any requirement that an operator even have the state-issued license
  • Under the existing ordinance scheme the entire burden of licensing and investigation is placed on the police department.

• **Fort Worth** has no ordinances regulating massage establishments, other than zoning.
Policy proposals:
Compassionate response to victims

- It is time for Texas to provide a compassionate response to victims and acknowledge that crimes—such as prostitution—committed by victims in the course of their being trafficked are not their fault.
- Texas needs a set aside law to allow victims to vacate convictions and expunge their records if they can show that but for being trafficked, they would not have committed these crimes.
- These women are hostages—not criminals.
Community Response

- Parents and concerned citizens can go to the Texas Department of Licensing and Registration (TDLR), search for suspected IMBs to see whether they are unlicensed, and report unlicensed MBs to TDLR.
- People can also report any disturbances or strange activities outside suspected IMBs to TDLR through their website.

https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/
To learn more and explore the map, visit:
www.childrenatrisk.org/human_trafficking_near_schools/