

Appendix

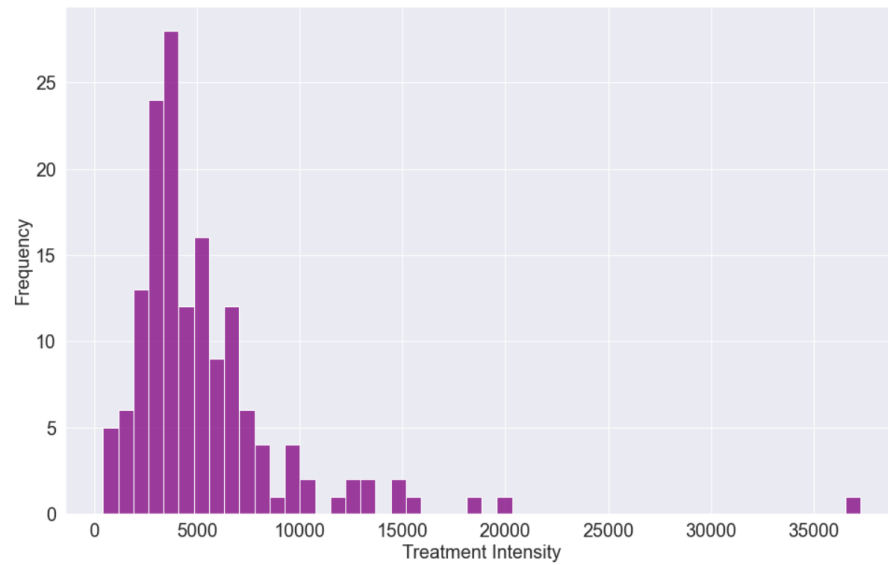


Figure 1 Histogram of the treatment intensity

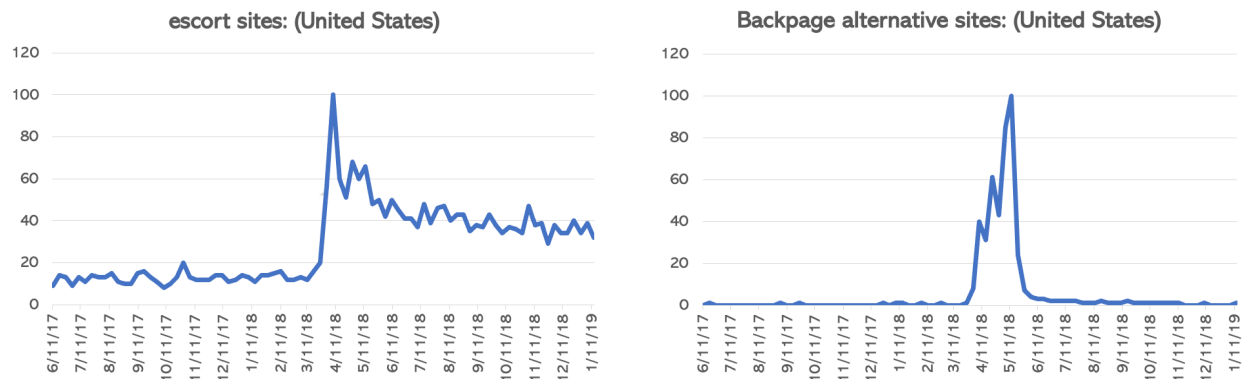


Figure 2 Google Trends search index for "escort sites" and "Backpage alternative sites"

Table A1 Escort advertising sites domain change

Website	Before	After
skipthegames.com	Europe	Europe
eros.com	Europe	Europe
adultsearch.com	US	US
bedpage.com	US	US
cityxguide.com	Hong Kong	Hong Kong
doublelist.com	US	Paris
listcrawler.com	Canada	Panama
tryst.link	US	UK (on 8/10/18)
slixa.com	UK	Paris (on 7/7/18)

Table A2 Regression results

Dependent variable (per 100,000)	Ads volume on other sites	Sex trafficking	Prostitution arrests	Female homicide	Rape
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
$rate_i * month_{-15}$		-2.279e-05 (1.827e-05)	-9.687e-05 (1.467e-04)	1.604e-05 (2.514e-05)	9.937e-07 (1.296e-04)
$rate_i * month_{-14}$		-1.794e-05 (2.035e-05)	-1.193e-04 (7.145e-05)	-4.678e-06 (1.745e-05)	9.563e-05 (1.530e-04)
$rate_i * month_{-13}$		-2.676e-05 (2.365e-05)	-1.007e-04 (9.593e-05)	4.101e-06 (1.481e-05)	1.240e-05 (1.654e-04)
$rate_i * month_{-12}$		-3.573e-05 (2.607e-05)	-9.063e-05 (8.407e-05)	4.674e-06 (1.933e-05)	9.290e-05 (1.365e-04)
$rate_i * month_{-11}$		-3.005e-05 (2.188e-05)	-4.068e-05 (9.995e-05)	2.180e-05 (1.468e-05)	2.166e-04 (2.017e-04)
$rate_i * month_{-10}$		-1.806e-05 (1.742e-05)	-6.154e-05 (7.550e-05)	6.665e-06 (1.726e-05)	7.592e-05 (1.959e-04)
$rate_i * month_{-9}$		-4.622e-05 (2.811e-05)	-1.288e-05 (8.178e-05)	8.634e-06 (2.193e-05)	-2.600e-05 (1.291e-04)
$rate_i * month_{-8}$		-1.624e-05 (2.204e-05)	1.739e-04 (1.496e-04)	4.098e-06 (1.798e-05)	-4.078e-05 (1.592e-04)
$rate_i * month_{-7}$		-2.115e-05 (1.983e-05)	-8.189e-05 (6.214e-05)	-8.514e-06 (2.728e-05)	-5.876e-06 (1.167e-04)
$rate_i * month_{-6}$			-4.587e-05 (6.473e-05)	5.486e-05 (5.021e-05)	1.540e-04 (1.477e-04)
$rate_i * month_{-5}$	-6.309e-04 (5.306e-03)	-2.105e-05 (1.989e-05)	-3.472e-05 (6.389e-05)	1.012e-05 (1.266e-05)	-3.782e-05 (1.404e-04)
$rate_i * month_{-4}$	1.115e-02* (4.915e-03)	-2.658e-05 (2.168e-05)	-1.492e-05 (4.695e-05)	1.108e-05 (1.898e-05)	-5.319e-05 (1.307e-04)
$rate_i * month_{-3}$	6.929e-03* (2.783e-03)	-1.956e-05 (1.937e-05)	2.564e-05 (1.023e-04)	-1.249e-05 (1.759e-05)	1.254e-04 (1.985e-04)
$rate_i * month_{-2}$	5.352e-03* (2.418e-03)	-4.069e-05 (2.783e-05)	1.943e-05 (5.726e-05)	4.284e-06 (1.794e-05)	-1.437e-04 (1.116e-04)
$rate_i * month_1$	7.947e-02*** (1.056e-02)	-2.246e-05 (2.009e-05)	7.603e-05 (6.304e-05)	-1.057e-05 (1.701e-05)	5.624e-05 (1.119e-04)
$rate_i * month_2$	3.019e-01*** (4.726e-02)	-2.902e-05 (2.159e-05)	1.079e-04 (1.079e-04)	3.157e-05 (2.302e-05)	-2.069e-05 (1.351e-04)
$rate_i * month_3$	3.404e-01*** (4.692e-02)	-2.090e-05 (1.975e-05)	-2.295e-05 (7.652e-05)	1.980e-05 (1.713e-05)	2.044e-04* (1.012e-04)
$rate_i * month_4$	3.757e-01*** (6.090e-02)	-2.367e-05 (2.049e-05)	4.342e-05 (8.332e-05)	-3.060e-06 (1.250e-05)	9.621e-05 (1.109e-04)
$rate_i * month_5$	4.560e-01*** (7.607e-02)	-1.534e-05 (1.908e-05)	4.211e-05 (7.139e-05)	1.244e-05 (2.361e-05)	1.653e-04 (1.518e-04)
$rate_i * month_6$	5.872e-01*** (7.728e-02)	-2.672e-05 (2.185e-05)	-8.583e-07 (5.374e-05)	-1.117e-05 (1.753e-05)	6.187e-05 (1.141e-04)
$rate_i * month_7$	7.258e-01*** (9.661e-02)	-2.401e-05 (2.020e-05)	5.143e-05 (7.297e-05)	1.934e-05 (2.349e-05)	1.007e-05 (1.536e-04)
$rate_i * month_8$		-2.019e-05 (1.972e-05)	-7.369e-05 (6.695e-05)	1.405e-05 (1.606e-05)	-1.822e-05 (1.121e-04)
$rate_i * month_9$		-4.193e-05 (2.685e-05)	-3.264e-05 (8.224e-05)	-7.556e-06 (1.755e-05)	7.676e-05 (1.743e-04)
Observations	1800	3358	3528	3312	3408
Clusters	153	146	147	138	142
R-square	0.863	0.212	0.899	0.399	0.946

Robust standard errors clustered at city level in parentheses: *** $p < 0.001$, ** $p < 0.1$, * $p < 0.05$

Table A3 OLS regression results for (3)

Dependent variable	Sex trafficking per 100,000 population				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
$rate_i * After_t$	-4.276e-07 (2.680e-06)	-7.658e-07 (5.621e-06)	1.052e-07 (6.146e-06)	-1.096e-06 (4.557e-06)	4.627e-07 (2.153e-06)
Constant	1.050e-01*** (5.579e-03)	1.686e-01*** (1.183e-02)	1.932e-01*** (1.344e-02)	1.063e-01*** (9.102e-03)	7.587e-02*** (4.670e-03)
Cities with at least 1 sex trafficking case reported	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Cities with at least 2 sex trafficking cases reported	No	No	Yes	No	No
Right-censoring the treatment intensity to 15,000	No	No	No	Yes	No
Including cities with population size greater than 50,000	No	No	No	No	Yes
Observations	3,358	2,093	1,771	3,358	5,152
Clusters	146	91	77	146	224
R-square	0.208	0.206	0.206	0.208	0.195
Back-of-Envelope Calculation	-2.518%	-3.730%	0.207%	-6.107%	0.877%

Robust standard errors clustered at city level in parentheses: *** $p < 0.001$, ** $p < 0.01$, * $p < 0.05$

Table A4 OLS regression results for (3)

Dependent variable	Prostitution arrests per 100,000 population				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
$rate_i * After_t$	5.326e-05 (3.210e-05)	6.483e-05 (3.900e-05)	6.610e-05 (3.940e-05)	8.019e-05 (5.228e-05)	3.500e-05 (2.232e-05)
Constant	2.669e+00*** (6.410e-02)	3.056e+00*** (7.916e-02)	3.103e+00*** (8.047e-02)	2.622e+00*** (1.002e-01)	1.993e+00*** (4.664e-02)
Cities with at least 1 prostitution arrest reported	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Cities with at least 2 prostitution arrests reported	No	No	Yes	No	No
Right-censoring the treatment intensity to 15,000	No	No	No	Yes	No
Including cities with population size greater than 50,000	No	No	No	No	Yes
Observations	3,528	3,072	3,024	3,528	5,400
Clusters	147	128	126	147	225
R-square	0.899	0.898	0.898	0.899	0.878
Back-of-Envelope Calculation	5.733%	6.983%	7.127%	8.575%	3.8%

Robust standard errors clustered at city level in parentheses: *** $p < 0.001$, ** $p < 0.01$, * $p < 0.05$

Table A5 OLS regression results for (3)

Dependent variable	Female homicides per 100,000 population				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
$rate_i * After_t$	-8.409e-07 (5.787e-06)	-8.241e-07 (5.810e-06)	-9.851e-07 (5.916e-06)	-9.820e-07 (6.303e-06)	5.947e-06 (6.423e-06)
Constant	2.917e-01*** (1.099e-02)	2.938e-01*** (1.100e-02)	3.018e-01*** (1.124e-02)	2.920e-01*** (1.188e-02)	2.675e-01*** (1.256e-02)
Cities with at least 1 female homicide reported	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Cities with at least 2 female homicides reported	No	No	Yes	No	No
Right-censoring the treatment intensity to 15,000	No	No	No	Yes	No
Including cities with population size greater than 50,000	No	No	No	No	Yes
Observations	3,312	3,288	3,192	3,312	5,040
Clusters	138	137	133	138	210
R-square	0.391	0.390	0.386	0.391	0.248
Back-of-Envelope Calculation	-1.603%	-1.550%	-1.882%	-1.880%	8.556%

Robust standard errors clustered at city level in parentheses: *** $p < 0.001$, ** $p < 0.01$, * $p < 0.05$

Table A6 OLS regression results for (3)

Dependent variable	Rape incidents per 100,000 population				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
$rate_i * After_t$	3.911e-05 (5.508e-05)	3.911e-05 (5.508e-05)	3.911e-05 (5.508e-05)	4.222e-05 (5.981e-05)	-4.088e-05 (3.901e-05)
Constant	1.058e+01*** (1.037e-01)	1.058e+01*** (1.037e-01)	1.058e+01*** (1.037e-01)	1.058e+01*** (1.117e-01)	1.103e+01*** (8.154e-02)
Cities with at least 1 rape incident reported	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Cities with at least 2 rape incidents reported	No	No	Yes	No	No
Right-censoring the treatment intensity to 15,000	No	No	No	Yes	No
Including cities with population size greater than 50,000	No	No	No	No	Yes
Observations	3,408	3,408	3,408	3,408	5,492
Clusters	142	142	142	142	229
R-square	0.946	0.946	0.946	0.946	0.486
Back-of-Envelope Calculation	2.005%	2.005%	2.005%	2.149%	-2.081%

Robust standard errors clustered at city level in parentheses: *** $p < 0.001$, ** $p < 0.01$, * $p < 0.05$