
Whatever its legal status, prostitution causes great harm to women.

► In the Netherlands, where prostitution is legal, 60% of prostituted women suffered physical assaults; 70% experienced verbal threats of physical assault; 40% experienced sexual violence; and 40% had been forced into prostitution or sexual abuse by acquaintances.



► In Germany where brothel prostitution is legal, 59% of German women told researchers that they did not think that legal prostitution made them any safer from rape and physical assault.

► Of 845 people in prostitution in nine countries (Canada, Colombia, Germany, Mexico, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey, United States, and Zambia), 71% experienced physical assaults in prostitution and 62% reported rapes in prostitution. 89% percent told researchers that they wanted to leave prostitution but did not have other options for economic survival.



Source: "Bad for the Body, Bad for the Heart": Prostitution Harms Women Even if Legalized or Decriminalized" by Melissa Farley, *Violence Against Women*, Vol. 10 No. 10, October 2004.