

HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACTS, STATS AND INFORMATION:

- There are more human “slaves” today than ever before in history
- Human trafficking is the 2nd largest source of illegal income worldwide exceeded only by drug trafficking and is one of the greatest human rights challenges of this century
- U.S. human trafficking is a \$32 billion industry and a \$99 billion industry worldwide
- Human trafficking has been reported in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and in some U.S. territories. Most U.S. human trafficking occurs in New York, California, and Florida.
- Human trafficking is the only area of transnational crime in which women are significantly represented—as victims, as perpetrators, and as activists fighting this crime.
- 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year with sexual exploitation as the most prevalent intention. Women are trafficked to the U.S. largely to work in the sex industry (including strip clubs, peep and touch shows, massage parlors that offer sexual services, and prostitution).
- Countries that rank high as source countries for trafficked victims include Belarus, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Albania, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Romania, China, Thailand, and Nigeria. -- Belgium, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Thailand, Turkey, and the U.S. rank highest as destination countries for trafficked victims
- Brazil and Thailand are considered to have the worst child sex trafficking problems; Japan is considered the largest market for Asian women trafficked for sex.
- Eighty percent of North Koreans who escape into China are women. Nine out of 10 of those women become human trafficking victims, often for sex. If the women complain, they are deported back to North Korea, where they are thrown into gulags or are executed.
- A 2003 study in the Netherlands found that, on average, a single sex slave earned her pimp at least \$250,000 a year.
- Nearly 7,000 Nepali girls as young as nine years old are sold every year into India’s red-light district (200,000 in the last decade). Ten thousand children between the ages of six and 14 are in Sri Lanka brothels
- A human trafficker can realize 20 times what he or she paid for a girl. Provided the girl was not physically brutalized to the point of ruining her beauty, the trafficker-pimp might sell her again for an increased price because he had trained her and broken her spirit which saves the next buyer the hassle. Less than 1% of the worlds’ 21 million victims are identified; 70% of those trafficked are women; more than half are children
- 1 in 7 children receive an online solicitation; traffickers also target victims by telephone, through friends, social media, shopping mall, and in after-school programs
- Human traffickers often use a Sudanese phrase “use a slave to catch slaves,” meaning traffickers send “broken-in girls” to recruit younger girls into the sex trade. Sex traffickers often train girls themselves, raping them and teaching them sex acts.
- The FBI estimates that over 100,000 children and young women are trafficked in America who range in age from nine to 19, with the average being age 11. Many victims are not just runaways or abandoned, but are from “good” families who are tricked or coerced by clever traffickers
- Many times, when a sex slave is arrested, they are imprisoned while their trafficker can afford to buy his way out of trouble
- Sex traffickers “condition” victims by subjecting them to various abuses: starvation, rape, gang rape, physical abuse, beating, confinement, threats of violence toward the victim and victim’s family, forced drug use, and shame.
- 50% of victims are less than 16 years of age; the average age of entry into prostitution is 13 years old. Eighty percent of those sold into sexual slavery are under 24, and some are as young as six (6) years old

- Sex traffickers recruit children because not only are they less suspecting thus more vulnerable than adults, there's also a high market demand for young victims.
- Global warming and severe natural disasters have left millions homeless and impoverished, which has created desperate people easily exploited by human traffickers.
- Family members will often sell children and other family members into slavery; the younger the victim, the more money the trafficker receives.
- The average life expectancy of a female victim of sex trafficking is 7 years with homicide and AIDS being the top 2 killers. Over 71% of trafficked children show suicidal tendencies. An estimated 30,000 victims of sex trafficking die each year from abuse, disease, torture, and neglect
- Sex trafficking greatly increases the spread of AIDS and other STDs. The African AIDS epidemic left many children orphaned, making them especially vulnerable to human trafficking
- 300,000 U.S. teens become victims of sex trafficking every year (83% of confirmed cases are American born citizens); 1 in 3 runaways is approached by sex traffickers within 2 days of their living on the street
- More than 2 million trafficked children are sold an average of 15 times each day; the average cost of a "slave" is US\$90
- Human trafficking is more than just prostitution; 16.4 million victims are forced into labor on farms, in factories and in homes as domestic servants. Victims are lured with false promises of high-paying work, but instead they are held in forced servitude
- \$51 billion is made from forced labor exploitation.
- UNICEF estimates that 300,000 children younger than 18 are currently trafficked to serve in armed conflicts worldwide
- The end of the Cold War has resulted in the growth of regional conflicts and the decline of borders. Many rebel groups turn to human trafficking to fund military actions and garner soldiers. According to a 2009 *Washington Times* article, the Taliban buy children as young as seven (7) years old to act as suicide bombers. The price for child suicide bombers is between \$7,000-\$14,000.
- Human trafficking also includes organ harvesting.
- Human traffickers are increasingly trafficking pregnant women for their newborns which are sold on the black market; profit is divided between the traffickers, doctors, lawyers, border officials, and others. The mother is usually paid less than what is promised her, citing the cost of travel and creating false documents. A mother might receive as little as a few hundred dollars for her baby.

Sources:

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