Human Trafficking in the United States: Foreign and Domestic Victims

By Deborah Converse

4 CE Hours

Learning objectives

- Explain the difference between human trafficking and human smuggling.
- List and describe five “push” and “pull” factors that contribute to human trafficking.
- Identify five reasons why some states have a high number of human trafficking victims.
- Describe the psychological factors affecting trafficking victims.
- Discuss the factors that make children vulnerable to sexual exploitation and trafficking.
- Identify six locations where human trafficking for sexual exploitation may occur.
- Identify six locations where human trafficking for labor exploration may occur.
- Identify six locations where human trafficking victims take to arrive in the United States.
- List 10 types of physical abuse that trafficking victims endure.
- Identify 10 signs that may indicate human trafficking is occurring.
- Discuss three types of intervention that is used to address human trafficking.
- Describe the psychological factors affecting trafficking victims.
- Identify three national resources for information, rescue and support to address human trafficking.

Introduction

Human trafficking is one of the fastest growing criminal industries, prompting the U.S. government, the United Nations and academic researchers around the world to work to eradicate this modern form of slavery.

While many agencies and local and state law enforcement are working to determine the number of trafficked persons and interrupt the flow of victims into the United States, experts believe the effort must include people from all walks of life.

Targeted training for people outside of law enforcement on how to recognize human trafficking and what you can safely do about it has been recommended for many professionals whose work environments include contact with the general public.

It is a subject that you will likely find horrific and a world apart from your life and the lives of your clients. Much of the sordid sex business and economic slave networks are underground and shrouded in darkness.

How widespread is human trafficking?

Current data indicates the total number of human trafficking victims in the U.S. has risen to hundreds of thousands when estimates of both adults and minors, and foreign and U.S. resident victims of sex and labor trafficking are combined (Polaris, 2012).

A recent study by the Polaris Project, the nationally funded anti-trafficking organization, estimated that between 100,000 to 300,000 children are victims of sex trafficking in the United States.

But it will take people like you, with the knowledge and awareness that this exists and day-to-day contact with the public, to recognize that something seems wrong in a situation – and not ignore it. As a caring person, someday you could be in a position to save a life and make a significant, positive impact on the effort to stop these troubling practices and help their victims.
States each year, with thousands more at risk of becoming victims every year. There is no data to accurately estimate the number of adult victims in the sex trafficking industry or the number of men, women, and children entrapped in labor trafficking.

Victims come from around the world but many are exploited in the United States. Victims are male, female and other-gendered, and all ages, cultures and ethnic groups.

Prevalence

The International Labor Organization, an agency of the United Nations, and the Polaris Project estimate that more than 27 million people around the globe are forced into slavery, and 12.3 million people around the world are involved in forced labor, bonded labor, forced child labor and servitude. The human trafficking industry generates 32 billion dollars globally.

These reports determined the factors that draw traffickers and victims to a particular area, called “pull” factors, include the following:

- Existing markets for human trafficking.
- Demand for sexual and labor services.
- A sizable population of foreign-born persons.
- High numbers of children ages 12 to 17 who are at risk for child sex trafficking, including runaways, throwaways, homeless youths, and other factors that make them vulnerable.
- History of inconsistent response to trafficking victims.
- Evidence that first responders to human trafficking lacked sufficient training in human trafficking.
- Customers who had purchased youths previously received minimal charges and rarely were prosecuted; traffickers also received minimal consequences.
- Inconsistent laws and penalties for human trafficking throughout the U.S.

In 2011, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) hotline received calls from every state, the District of Columbia, American Saipan, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and more than 25 other countries. Callers made reports of potential human trafficking in every state and the District of Columbia except Alaska and South Dakota.

Since Polaris Project began operating the hotline in December 2007, the NHTRC has received increased reports of potential human trafficking in every state. The NHTRC noted that as state governments and agencies increase engagement, training, and awareness of human trafficking and the NHTRC hotline, there is a corresponding increase in credible reports about human trafficking in those states and increased opportunities for victims and survivors to access services to escape their captors.

The following list contains the states with the highest reported numbers of human trafficking cases as reported by the NHTRC:

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<th>States with most reports of trafficking</th>
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The left side of the table lists the locations with the highest number of reports of human trafficking cases and victims in 2011, and the right side shows the top 10 caller locations in 2011.

The NHTRC considers all of the states listed to have moderate to high levels of state engagement to address trafficking. The list emphasizes the relationship between increased engagement in a state and the high frequency of informed and effective calls and reports of potential human trafficking cases in a state.

However, the committee and research team noted that because of the clandestine nature of human trafficking, it is impossible to identify the exact number of victims during a specific time period.

Human trafficking defined

Human trafficking is a crime against a person brought into the country by force, fraud, or coercion and is the second-largest illegal enterprise in the world. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) passed by Congress in 2002 addressed domestic and international victims of labor and sex trafficking in the United States. The TVPA defined human trafficking as:

1. Recruiting, harboring, transporting, supplying, or obtaining a person for labor or services using force or fraud or coercion for the purpose of involuntary servitude or slavery.
2. Sex trafficking where a commercial sex act is induced by force or fraud or coercion when person is induced to perform sex acts under 18 years of age. A commercial sex
act is defined as any sex act where anything of value is given to or received by any person. As interpreted by the government, this means that a trafficker, profiteer, pimp, purchaser, “John,” or anyone else that receives something in exchange for sex or who harbored, provided transportation, or “provision” may be subject to federal trafficking charges.

Data from the Polaris Project National Trafficking Hotline in 2011 shows the following breakdown of reports:
- Labor trafficking: 18 percent.
- Labor exploitation: 30 percent.
- Sex trafficking: 52 percent.

TVPA provides that foreign nationals trafficked into the U.S. for the purpose of sex or labor are viewed and treated as victims who are provided government support instead of criminals to be arrested and deported. This was not always the case in all states, according to human trafficking authorities.

The TVPA also has led to a change in the language used to discuss those involved with trading, buying, and selling human beings in the United States. Youths who were labeled as juvenile prostitutes under TVPA are called victims of “commercial sexual exploitation” or victims of “child sex trafficking.” Individuals procuring a child or adult for illegal sex trade are known as “traffickers” under the federal law.

“First, I got to find out the secrets of pimping. I really want to control the whole whore. I want to be the boss of her life, even her thoughts. I got to con them that Lincoln never freed the slaves.”

“Iceberg Slim,” pimp

The Polaris Project in its “Condensed Guide for Service Providers and Law Enforcement” lists examples of the use of force, fraud and coercion against victims of human trafficking. Methods of force include beating, sexual assault, confinement and torture; fraud methods include deceitful behavior and lies, blackmail and preying on a person’s desperation and poverty. Methods of coercion include threats of harm, intimidation and humiliation, emotional abuse and control tactics.

**DOMESTIC SEX TRAFFICKING**

The U.S. is currently the world’s second largest destination country for women and children trafficked into the sex industry (Mizus, Moody, Provido, and Douglas, 2003). A study of eight human traffic reports conducted by Logan (2009) outlined various types of human trafficking in the United States. The reports noted that sex trafficking can be found in the following activities and places:
- Street prostitution.
- Hotel prostitution.
- Exotic dancing.
- Pornography and live cybersex sites.
- Sexual entertainment in adult bookstores.
- Sexual servitude in individual homes.
- Servile marriage.
- Sexual services through massage parlors.
- Sexual service through nail and hair salon including street hair braiding.
- Escort and hostess club services.
- Karaoke bars.
- Residential brothels.
- Truck stops.
- Sex services at conventions.
- Asian, Latino and other gang affiliations.

The report also includes labor trafficking, which can be found in the following activities and places:
- Factory work in sweatshops.
- Agricultural work.
- Restaurant and other food industry work.
- Hotel work.
- Begging or selling trinkets.
- Landscaping and garden labor.
- Agriculture farm work.
- Casino servers.
- Magazine peddlers.

(Logan, 2009)

Many foreign trafficking victims today are under international law and are not citizens of any country, although the Universal Declaration of Human Rights notes that everyone has a right to a nationality. An estimated 12 million people around the world today are legally without a country, therefore stateless and lacking legal standing in any nation. This may lead them to smugglers and traffickers who promise to help them escape discrimination or government persecution.

These individuals become victims on multiple levels as the problems of statelessness, refugee issues, and trafficking overlap. (U.S. Department of State, 2009). These international trafficking victims may be charged with smuggling because the person is knowingly and willingly attempting to enter the country illegally, which is a crime against the state.

**Human trafficking versus smuggling**

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security defines human trafficking as:
- Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age.
- The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjugation to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery.

Trafficking is exploitation-based, and one or both of the conditions above may be found in human trafficking.
Human trafficking is defined as:
- The importation of people into the United States involving deliberate evasion of immigration laws. This includes bringing illegal aliens into the U.S. as well as the unlawful transportation and harboring of aliens already in the United States.

Smuggling is transportation-based, and smuggling and trafficking are not interchangeable terms. The person being smuggled is generally cooperating, and there is no actual or implied coercion. Smuggling always crosses an international border and involves illegal entry. Once individuals are smuggled into a country, they are free to leave, though they may later indeed become trafficking victims.

Human trafficking across the United States

Around the world there are identified countries that are known to be ripe for recruiting potential victims and countries that serve as destinations for individuals seeking to purchase victims. Some countries serve as destinations and originate recruitment (Farr, 2004).

The United States is a destination country for sex and labor trafficking victims. Individuals born in the United States who become victims of human trafficking may be recruited from origination cities or states and shipped to other destinations, cities and states where they are forced to work or provide sex services. There are identified destination states for international victims of labor and sex trafficking.

Many factors account for the high numbers of foreign-born trafficking victims:
- The ability for victims to be moved easily in and out of the state.
- The growing number of legal and illegal immigrant populations to recruit victims.
- The number of markets open to foreign-born persons.
- Lack of consistency among state laws to restrict human trafficking.
- Lack of awareness, training, and preparation for first responders.
- The demand for particular services that may be provided by trafficking victims.
- Individual characteristics or circumstances that lead to victimization.

International trafficking into the north and Midwest states often occurs along the Canadian border, and the proximity to the border allows traffickers to move victims through Michigan to various markets throughout the Midwest (Davis, 2006). Toronto’s International Airport has been identified as an arrival destination for victims who are trafficked into Canada and moved throughout the United States (Estes & Weiner, 2005).

Foreign-born populations continue to increase, and from 1990 through 2000, these populations increased 30.7 percent. By 2007, foreign-born population increased another 23.6 percent (Migration Policy Institute, 2008). This growth in minority and immigration populations makes it easier to conceal victims of international trafficking within a state (Urbina et al., 2008).

Businesses throughout the U.S. employ migrant labor in poorly regulated industries seeking cheap labor such as textile sweatshops, agriculture, restaurants, construction and domestic crews (Davis, 2006). For example, currently there are at least 130 agricultural businesses in some states listed in the nation’s top 10 highest rates of human trafficking (Lucio, 2009).

There are many businesses that appear legitimate but are actually fronts for human trafficking in the sex trade. For example, when Asian brothels are identified by law enforcement, they are simply replaced by similar businesses, such as spas, clinics, nail and massage parlors, after the owner is arrested and the business shut down (Wilson & Dalton, 2007).

Law enforcement reports show these businesses often have two to nine workers from ages 36 to 57, and victims often come from Thailand and South Korea. They are transported around the country to states such as Texas, New Jersey, California, Georgia, Ohio, Kentucky, and Virginia (Wilson and Dalton, 2007).

Law enforcement data shows highly organized networks operate much like illegal drug organizations. Spas in particular are crime organizations that recruit women from other states and countries then force them into prostitution. These Asian spa organizations can move people rapidly from location to location, yet operate as small “mom and pop” businesses that blend into the community.

The types of state laws, sanctions and enforcement also determine where human trafficking organizations locate. The 45 states that carry serious charges against traffickers are known by the organizations that are aware of the laws and consequences of trafficking in certain states.

In the Midwest, women are trafficked around the region as well as to the East and West Coast, from Minneapolis to Tampa, Memphis, New York, Chicago, Seattle, Denver, St. Louis and Las Vegas. Law enforcement officials in this region report that large numbers of U.S. women are domestically trafficked to other states, because Minnesota laws are stricter than in those states, and the sex businesses have moved to more permissive regions.

Sex trafficking of minors

According to a University of Toledo study in 2007, 77 percent of youths involved in prostitution continue to be exploited as adults. These adults also experienced many physical, psychological and social problems from living and working on the street.
The problems are compounded if children and young adults are under the control of a trafficker. Victims suffer poor emotional and mental health, substance abuse, acute violence, chronic trauma, HIV and other diseases related to unprotected sex.

Studies have shown that commercial sex activity is a gateway crime for women who later commit other serious criminal offenses. More than 70 percent of female inmates in United States prisons were first arrested for committing commercial sexual acts. One study found that for every three women in jail in the United States, one was arrested for prostitution and seven out of 10 women in prison for felony convictions were first arrested for prostitution (Library of Congress, 109th Congress, H. R. 2012). However, the numbers do not contain data on how many of those women were trafficking victims.

In recruitment areas, there is an organized prostitution network operated by traffickers who benefit from the sexual exploitation of children. Though the system is loosely connected, traffickers keep the network operating underground, and local law enforcement has difficulty disrupting this activity. The underground network includes:

- Connectors, who work to develop the links in the trafficking network locations.
- Recruiters, who work to bring individuals into human trafficking.
- Groomers, who teach and prep victims for the sex trade.
- Traffickers, who control and move individuals across state and national lines to the sex and labor markets.
- “Bottoms,” the male or female victims of trafficking prostitution at street level who are forced to use any techniques to bring new victims into the network.
- Watchers, who observe victims to be sure they perform adequately and do not escape.
- “Wife-in-laws,” all of the women who are prostituted by one pimp or trafficker.
- “Tricks,” sexual acts for money.
- Bouncers, the bodyguards or enforcers who control the entrance/exits to the trafficking sites and boarding location of the victims.
- “Johns,” men who hire a victim for sexual exploitation.
- Security guards, hired by traffickers to ensure victims do not escape or that the trafficking site is not compromised.

Each of these roles in human trafficking operations is underground, and only the trafficker knows the entire organization; others act independently as a link in the chain of the child trafficking network. When law enforcement or social service intervention removes one link, it is quickly replaced with another in the trafficking organization (Williamson and Prior, 2009).

Traffickers use many techniques to recruit children into the commercial sex trade. Grooming, or pimping, includes manipulating young girls to make their own decision to enter the sex trade, provide sex and then the money to a trafficker. One technique, called “bait and switch,” manipulates and entices victims with something they need or want as bait to attract their attention and build a relationship with them. Once they have a hold on the victim, the situation becomes one that provides money for the trafficker.

Another violent form of recruitment is “guerrilla pimping,” where a trafficker threatens a youth with physical violence and intimidation to force the person to work in commercial sex activities.

INTERNATIONAL SEX AND LABOR TRAFFICKING

International trafficking may be a combination of sophisticated, organized crime rings and mom-and-pop shops in villages and towns. Human trafficking usually begins in legitimate businesses that serve as a cover in exchange for benefits or money. Victims in these cases may or may not know why they are being brought to the United States, and some believe they will work in legitimate jobs.

Victims may pay to be smuggled into the country illegally, but once in the United States, find themselves victims of human trafficking. Other victims know they will be involved in trafficking and submit because they need to survive or support a family. They agree to a temporary situation that quickly turns into modern day slavery (Farr, 2004).

Because foreign-born victims of labor or sex trafficking are undocumented and stateless, they become indebted to their traffickers, called debt bonding. They may have been promised freedom once their debt is paid, but because they generally can get only substandard wages, they are rarely able to pay their debt.

Victims of human trafficking often suffer serious physical harm, including:

- Beatings, torture, burning, branding or tattooing.
- Concussion, broken bones.
- Stabbing.
- Malnutrition, anemia.
- Rotting teeth.
- Alcohol and drug abuse.
- Acute and chronic health conditions due to poor ventilation, excessive heat or cold and unsanitary conditions.
- Eating and sleeping disorders.
- Untreated chronic illnesses, such as chronic diabetes, tuberculosis, hepatitis and cardiovascular disease.
Those trafficked into the sex trade may suffer additional health issues related to:
- Vaginal and anal tearing.
- Rape.
- Pregnancy.
- Fertility problems.
- Sterility.
- Exposure to HIV/AIDS.
- Sexually transmitted diseases.
- Infections.
- Abortions, hemorrhaging, death.

Psychological damage includes:
- Shame, denial, or grief.
- Depression.
- Panic attacks, anxiety.
- Culture shock.
- Destructive behaviors.
- Eating disorders.
- Effects of sleep deprivation.
- Paranoia, suicide.
- Disassociation, traumatic bonding with their traffickers.

(Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2010).

**Foreign trafficking victims**

The National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline (NHTRC) and the Human Trafficking Reporting System (HTRS) are the two main databases on human trafficking. Since the 2007 reports on domestic servitude and hotel exploitation, many cases of human trafficking have occurred. Many larger cities across the U.S. have had cases of international sex trafficking. Most of the identified international trafficking victims were rescued from massage parlors and brothels.

Immigration Customs Enforcement has identified cases of sex trafficking like the one below; identifying characteristics have been changed to protect the victim. The story of Maria goes from Central America to New York and demonstrates the experience of a young woman who let her guard down, which would cost her several years of enslavement. Here is her story:

Maria was a 20-year-old girl from Central America working in a taco stand when she became friends with a regular client. After several weeks of dating, he said he loved her and wanted to be with her and asked if she would move in with him. As soon as she did, the man’s demeanor changed, and he began beating Maria and would not let her leave or speak to anyone. He started taking her to alleys and sold her for money, and she was forced to stay in the house and watched continuously.

For four years, this continued until her traffickers decided they would make more money in the U.S., so Maria and two other girls were trafficked into the U.S. from Mexico City via a van that took them to New York. There they were delivered to apartments in Maryland, Washington, New York and Ohio and trafficked for sex.

The traffickers kept the money, telling Maria it was for her housing and other expenses, and beat or threatened her and the others when they did not do exactly as they were told. Fortunately, when a customer learned what was happening to Maria, he helped her escape to a safe location, where she currently lives, fearful of the traffickers and deportation authorities.

A study by Clawson, Layne, and Small (2006) researched human trafficking origination countries to the United States. They identified “push” factors in the countries of origin that lead vulnerable victims to human trafficking, which include:
- Poor economic growth or collapse of economic systems.
- Increased war and armed conflict.
- Natural disasters and environmental degradation.
- Family violence.
- Country-specific factors, such as the ease of moving across countries.
- Unemployment levels and inflated cost of living.

The study identified reasons why victim turn to trafficking in a particular state. A subcommittee identified the “pull” factors that would attract traffickers and their victims after they arrive in the U.S., and the study determined the number of undocumented foreign-born persons at risk of being trafficked into labor and sex trade in given states throughout the U.S. These factors have not been empirically tested but are used to provide a measure to build estimates. Those at greater risk are individuals between 12 and 54 years old. The Clawson et al. study determined the three most important pull factors are:
- The presence of markets for human trafficking.
- The demand for sexual and labor services in neighboring states close to the destination state.
- The existence of sizable populations of foreign-born individuals.

The presence of markets for human trafficking

Data shows there are markets in destination states seeking cheap labor with few enforceable regulations. States with agricultural markets such as corn, soybeans and seasonal crops as a major resource may have high numbers of victims.

For example, one Midwest state with high trafficking rates has 130-plus migrant labor camps that employ a majority of individuals from Hispanic migrant labor pools. Agricultural markets along with restaurants, textile industries, landscaping and small factories attract many foreign-born immigrant groups, documented and undocumented, seeking work.

Markets for the sex trade to meet the demand of native-born and foreign-born men are strong, and many states have more than enough strip clubs, sometimes called gentlemen’s clubs, to meet that demand. High numbers of trafficking victims are found in states with the largest number of strip clubs and sex trade markets, which include massage parlors that operate as
fronts for prostitution and markets to serve migrant men, as noted in Operation Cross Country IV (Snyder, 2007).

Research teams located at least one massage parlor engaged in sex trafficking in every major city in the U.S., and many in proximity to highways for easy access to clientele such as truck drivers, businessmen, military men and conventioneers.

**Demand for sexual and labor services in neighboring states and countries**

Traffickers often set up venues to meet the demand of people from neighboring states and countries. Estes and Weiner (2001) found that foreign-born children at risk of being trafficked in the United States most commonly entered from 41 different countries of origin. The study tracked victims found in the United States, where there is a frequent movement of trafficking victims.

The trafficking routes of international child victims often go through major cities like Miami, Orlando, San Diego, New York, Chicago, and Detroit and then out to nearby areas. The reports showed victims trafficked through Detroit or Chicago were from the following countries of origin:

- Burma, Korea, China, Vietnam.
- Somalia, Sudan, Sri Lanka.
- Columbia, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico.
- Bosnia, Poland, Russia Federation, Byelorussia.
- Canada.

The most frequently reported borders used to enter the U.S. are the Southwest and Canadian borders. In the case of Latinos, it is more likely that they are brought in through the Southwest border and travel throughout the U.S. In the case of other non-Hispanic victims, it is likely that they are brought in from the Canadian border. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police estimated that 600 to 800 persons are trafficked into Canada annually, and that an additional 1,500 to 2,000 persons are trafficked through Canada into the United States (Canadian Press, 2004).

Estes and Weiner believe that Korean victims were most often being brought in via Toronto to Detroit, and that Chinese victims were being brought to Chicago and New York by way of Toronto and Vancouver by boat, plane and vans.

Traffickers move victims to more remote areas where they are sold while they are moved across the country. Once the traffickers have an established market demand in a state, the state becomes the direct destination route from the country of origin. The existence of human trafficking in neighboring states becomes a pull factor for the distribution of victims from the destination state.

**The presence of sizable populations of foreign-born individuals**

One state with high trafficking numbers has 11 million residents and is ranked seventh among U.S. states with the most residents (U.S. Census Bureau, 2000). From 1990 to 2000, the Hispanic population in the state increased 54.4 percent, and the Asian population increased 48.5 percent (U.S. Census, 2000, Davis 2006).

In another example, almost half of the foreign-born residents in Ohio came from 10 countries, as reported by the Federation of Immigration Reform (FAIR), 2007:

- Mexico (43,178)
- India (37,009)
- China (27,761)
- Germany
- Canada
- Philippines
- Vietnam
- Korea
- England
- Italy

It should be noted that as a result of changes in trafficking laws, better training for first responders and stricter criminal sanctions for traffickers in 2011, Ohio moved from a state in the top five highest numbers of trafficking to one of the four most improved states in 2012, according to the Polaris Project.

While the FAIR report did not list all the numbers, the Somali population in Ohio has also accounted for more than 15,000, with Franklin County having the second largest Somali population in the United States, followed by Minneapolis (Community Resource Partners, 2009).

The Polaris Project (2010), part of the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, includes a comparison of primary sex trafficking networks in the United States, and some are listed below.

**Asian networks**

- Often run by an older Asian female in Asian massage parlors (AMP).
- Women are between the ages of 18 and 55.
- Classified ads in Asian newspapers, Internet classifieds, phone directories and word of mouth are methods used to attract customers.
- Women who are sexually exploited in the Asian massage parlors earn $60 per hour plus tips – which they must give to the manager.
- Victims must see an average of five to 15 men a day.
- The Johns are often middle- to upper-class working professionals, Asian men in private networks, and some foreign businessmen.
- Victims are often moved by Korean “taxi.”

**Latino networks**

- Often run by Latino male controllers, who are known as “padres” or fathers.
- Victims are predominantly Mexican, Central and South American adult women and some minors.
- Advertising methods include fake business cards distributed person-to-person, or word-of-mouth.
- The victims can earn $30 for 15-minute sex acts from an average of 20-35 men per day, with the money taken by the manager.
The Johns are often from closed networks catering to Latino males.
The victims are transported via cargo vans and commercial buses.

Foreign-born victims may not understand the language, culture or laws of the United States, so victims are threatened by the traffickers that if they speak out or try to escape, they will be taken by other traffickers, arrested and deported. Victims have said that even though they wanted to escape, they were afraid the next trafficker or the police could be more brutal. With their current trafficker at least they knew what to expect.

Traffickers tend to move victims, often suddenly without warning, and working and boarding locations are secret. Victims will not be able to establish connections or build trust with someone who might help them if they are moved frequently. They will not have enough time to become familiar with their environment or find avenues to escape or find help from law enforcement or social service agencies.

**Estimates of domestic victims**

Domestic trafficking involves U.S. citizens who are trafficked for purposes of labor or sex and includes paying subminimum wage, overtime violations, being forced to work “off the clock,” break violations, worker’s compensation violations, paycheck disputes, illegal deductions, or retaliation.

These are handled by the Department of Labor, the Employee Rights Center, and other labor advocate organizations. Abuses turn into human trafficking when victims are forbidden to leave or quit their job. In many top 10 states, labor trafficking victims are American-born.

A New York Times series on domestic labor trafficking involved traveling magazine crews. In this form of trafficking, youths are forced to sell magazines across different states. The article focused on a young man who was part of a crew of 20 who took the job so he could see the United States during a six-month period. He worked in 10 states from 10 to 14 hours a day, six days a week and spent the night in cheap hotels with three other workers – one always sleeping on the floor. The crew earned $10 a day or less, but the money was never given to him and instead put “on the books.”

The young man reported seeing others beaten by the manager or his workers and believed he would end up dead. He convinced his manager to let him go because of the many warrants he had received for selling subscriptions illegally across five states. The young man was taken 1,000 miles from home and dropped off with $17 (Urbina, 2007).

Reporters for the Times series interviewed 50 other crew members, who told of debt bonding, violence, drug abuse and physical consequences for not making daily quotas or for too many warrants from the police. The crew members earned $15 per week because traffickers deducted the expense of their room and board. Managers often supplied drugs, and drug abuse was frequent among the crews.

If victims have documents, traffickers confiscate them to keep them from leaving. They are taught to avoid or lie to authorities to avoid physical punishment, and many victims avoid law enforcement law in the U.S. because they suffered from corruption by officials in their home country.

The passage of TVPA resulted in the U.S. government certifying 131 minors and 1,248 adults from 77 different countries who were rescued and received assistance (Polaris Project, Human Trafficking Statistics, 2009).

Immigrant communities may provide conditions that lead to smuggling and human trafficking because victims can be easily concealed within the greater immigrant communities unnoticed. Large immigrant communities become a pull factor for trafficking because potential victims may gravitate there. Large undocumented immigrant groups of Hispanic, Asian, African-Americans and Caucasian trafficking victims are found in established immigration communities across the U.S.

They reported starting work at 7 a.m. and usually worked until 10 p.m. In 1999, the National Consumers League Child Labor Coalition reported that approximately 30,000 youths were involved in these crews. Since the creation of the Human Trafficking Reporting System, more than 1,200 victims have been reported; 63 percent of those were U.S. citizens trafficked into the sex trade and 4 percent were labor trafficking victims. (Trafficking in Persons Report, 2009).

It is difficult to estimate the number of U.S. citizens who are victims of labor trafficking, but they are older, while victims of sex trafficking are usually younger. Children involved in sex trafficking are referred to as “domestic minor sex trafficking” (DMST), and in 2009, it was estimated that 100,000 U.S. children were trafficked into the sex trade. The Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention estimated that 38,600 of the 1.7 million runaway/throwaway children were at risk of sexual exploitation or endangerment (2006). These youths often trade sex for money, food, drugs, or a place to stay, and are easy targets for commercial sexual exploitation known as “survival sex.”

Other routes to commercial child exploitation include:
- Being recruited for pornography.
- Being sold on the Internet on Craigslist.
- Working in massage parlors.
- Recruitment or exploitation through modeling.
- Stripping or exotic dancing.
- Dancing auditions.
- Prostitution on the streets, in truck stops, adult bookstores, “cat houses” (prostitution houses) and conventions.
- Escort services, private parties and conventions.

U.S. adults who are victims of sex trafficking are often arrested and charged with prostitution, loitering or solicitation. Law enforcement may spend little time determining whether these adults are victims of force, fraud or coercion from traffickers,
and the victims usually will not tell them (Schauer and Wheaton, 2006).

The Polaris Project (2010) includes the following details on domestic sex trafficking networks:

- Victims are U.S. citizens, adults and minors, including some Native Americans; the average age of recruitment is 12-17 years of age.
- Johns include men of all backgrounds.
- Victims are advertised through online sex ads, Internet classifieds, local newspapers, phone directories, word-of-mouth, and text messaging.
- Victims have a nightly quota of $200-$1,000 and must service an average of 7 to 15 men per day, with all money taken by the pimps/traffickers.
- They are transported by individual cars or commercial transportation lines.

National investigations of human trafficking include Operation Precious Cargo and Operation Cross Country I, II, III and IV. Operation Precious Cargo began in 2005 in Harrisburg, Pa., and resulted in identifying 151 victims of prostitution. At least 45 were prostituted as children, with the youngest just 12 years old.

Of the 18 traffickers indicted in the Precious Cargo case, 16 were arrested and pleaded guilty, receiving sentences of up to 25 years in prison. Two traffickers were found guilty at trial and receive 35 and 45 years in prison. In addition to the 18 traffickers indicted in the Precious Cargo case, at least six other traffickers have been prosecuted for the sex trafficking of women and children found by other FBI divisions.

The girls from the Precious Cargo cases were all at risk for one reason or another; below is the story of Julie, who was only 12 years old at the time she was trafficked.

Julie was walking down the street when a man in a car stopped to talk and persuaded her to take a ride. She explained, “I really didn’t want to ’cause I was scared, but you know how an older person just comes at you like that and you don’t know what to do. He just said we were going to just sit there for a minute, and then it turned into days. He was acting all nice and buying me whatever I wanted.”

Julie’s home life was chaotic at the time she was approached by the trafficker. She lived in poverty with an alcoholic father, and when he became intoxicated, she was the victim of physical attacks and mental abuse. Julie said she felt stuck, and “I did want to leave because my dad, he’s always drinking and stuff like that, and till this day now, he still does that. Back then, he would slap me and stuff, so I didn’t want to stay, you know, but I did want to leave because of that lifestyle.

“At first I thought it was okay, but after being out there and having to do that…” she stopped without finishing her sentence.

Julie was never really successful in school, was labeled special needs, and not making passing grades. She attended school and hoped to someday catch up with her classmates, but over time, with much convincing from her trafficker, Julie ended up in the car. He persuaded her to go to Harrisburg, Pa., and while there, she was taken to a motel to dress in sexy clothes and driven to a truck stop where she was expected to sell herself. She was taken to various trucks, forced to get in and have sex with truck drivers while her “watcher” waited.

She reported: “He took me to where all the other girls are, because he got like, five other girls, and we were at a motel. We stayed until it got dark around 6, then went out there and worked. I didn’t know it was going to be a truck stop, I didn’t know what to think. I didn’t think I would have to walk up and down in the cold and have nasty old truck drivers touch stuff and me. I didn’t feel right, I gave the girl the money and the girl held my money after every date I had.”

After three days, with the help of a truck driver and an adult friend also recruited into the sex trade, Julie was able to escape and call the police. With the help of the Innocence Lost Task Force, she was rescued, and the traffickers were prosecuted. (Williamson, 2008)

After her rescue, Julie struggled to resume her life back home. She was bullied at school and called a prostitute, so she eventually dropped out. Her family problems continued, and she would run away periodically. At age 14, she began smoking crack cocaine and became addicted.

Julie knew how to work the streets to get money to support her drug habit from her time as a trafficking victim. She continued to be arrested for solicitation, and finally unhappy with her life, she turned to some social service agencies for help. She made progress over the next two years, but at 18, Julie continues a struggle with sobriety (Williamson, 2008).

Like Julie, many young people are vulnerable to human trafficking. Often young people fall victim to “guerrilla pimping,” as in Katie’s story:

I was walking down the street, and this guy just picked me up and started beating me for no reason, and he told me I was going to be his “ho” and started abusing me and threatening me.

He was in a black Yukon, and he tried to talk to me at first, but I told him how old I was and then he rolled up around the corner and jumped out of the car and just started hitting me. He said if I didn’t do what he said, he was going to hurt my little brothers and sisters and my mom, and I didn’t want that to happen, so I did what he said. (Williamson, 2008)

Operation Cross Country helps rescue and return youths to safety and hope for a normal life. The program involves cooperation and collaboration among federal, state, county and local law enforcement to investigate cases, arrest traffickers and rescue youths who are victims of sex trafficking throughout the United States. The Operation Cross Country investigations have resulted in hundreds of arrests and recoveries of children.

Williamson (2008) noted that children who are gone from home for over two weeks are at increased risk for commercial sexual exploitation. One study of trafficked youths reported they were usually gone for two weeks or longer before being approached by a trafficker or recruiter (Williamson, 2008).
Runaway and throwaway youths are labeled as “endangered runaways,” which means that the child has left home without permission and stayed out overnight at an unknown location. In a report by the New York Times, “Nearly a third of the children who leave or are kicked out of their homes each year engage in sex for food, drugs or a place to stay, according to a number of studies published in academic and public health journals.” (Urbina, 2009).

Sheltered runaway youths throughout the U.S. may have periods of time when they cannot find shelter and so they return to the streets to trade sex for food or shelter.

Factors leading to trafficking of youths

The National Center for Family Homelessness (2009) noted the following data:

- One in 45 children experiences homelessness in America, or more than 1.6 million children each year.
- While homeless, they experience high rates of acute and chronic health problems.
- Constant stressful and traumatic experiences make them vulnerable to traffickers.
- Homeless children are hungry at twice the rate of other children.
- They have three times the rate of emotional and behavioral problems compared to non-homeless children.
- By age 12, 83 percent had been exposed to at least one serious violent event.
- 25 percent have witnessed acts of violence within their families.
- 52 percent of homeless youths have been involved in the foster care program.
- An estimated 30 percent of homeless but sheltered youths and 70 percent of homeless street youths traded sex for money, food or a place to stay.
- 91 percent were victims of abuse.
- The majority suffered from neglect, followed by physical and sexual abuse.
- 57 percent had been raped by someone outside of their family.
- 29 percent were raped by someone inside the family.
- 14 percent were raped by both.

The social networks in which children are involved may influence where and when they will trade sex. Youths who had friends involved in the sex trade were approximately five times more likely to trade sex themselves compared to those with no friends who traded sex (Tyler, 2009).

Homeless youths fluctuated between home, the juvenile justice system, and the child welfare system (Williamson, 2009). The following factors make youths vulnerable to trafficking:

- Family dysfunction and histories of abuse.
- Serious depression.
- Runaway experiences.
- Substance abuse.

- Reoccurring mental illness in the family.
- Lack of education or developmental delays.
- Poverty.
- Families and friends involved in prostitution.
- Communities with pre-existing prostitution markets.
- Neighborhoods with a large number of street youths or gang membership.
- Numbers of sexually unattached and transient males, including military personnel, truckers, conventioneers, tourists.
- Living in communities with organized crime networks.

Some of the trafficked youths discussed their life of poverty, neglect, and abuse:

“We were starving, we had no money, no lights, no gas. One box heater for the whole family. He didn’t want to waste drug money on Christmas presents or birthday presents. He took our toys away when I was 8. He sold them and bought drugs. I started prostituting at age 11. Mom knew about the abuse, but didn’t want to say anything because she wanted to keep her husband.”

Anonymous 17-year-old.

Traffickers prey on vulnerable, at-risk youths because they can be isolated from family and friends, manipulated, exploited and soon become dependent on the trafficker. The women and children are dehumanized and treated like marketable commodities, so they become detached from life and often believe being a victim is their future.

The market for boys in sexual trafficking is very strong, and 95 percent or more of all commercial sex involves boys serving adult males. Half of the adult males who exploit boys are married men, often with children of their own.

Research of boys trafficked between the ages 12 and 17 who are gay, transgender or confused about their sexuality shows they are at high risk for child sex trafficking. Ray (2006) found that at least 10,000 youths in Ohio fall in these categories of sexual identity. Many of these youths are runaways or homeless, which compounds their vulnerability as they turn to prostitution for survival (Raleigh-Duroff, 2004).

Adult women trafficked for the sex trade

It is difficult to identify the number of adult women who may be victims of sex trafficking because these victims are often arrested for prostitution, solicitation or loitering. The data on these arrests often does not address victims who are being controlled by traffickers. There is little public awareness about adult women victims of human trafficking. Most of the public is not aware that prostitution may be a form of modern-day slavery for women who are citizens of the United States.

These women may begin when they are under the age of 18 and continue to be sexually exploited into adulthood. Often, they become victims of substance abuse to relieve pain and trauma, and if addicted, the drug dealer is the primary trafficker.
To combat human trafficking, the U.S. Attorney General’s Office identified a critical need to build public awareness for the health of victimized trafficked women.

In 2002, David Sherman, an adult entertainment industry manager for the Déjà Vu’s Adult Clubs for 14 years, testified about rampant drug abuse in strip clubs, tax evasion, prostitution, underage dancers, and payoffs or “preferred treatment” for many patrons. He testified to the existence of after-hour parties, drug dealing in clubs and money laundering. Sherman detailed how girls and women were recruited and commercially sexually exploited (U.S. Senate Judiciary on Civil Justice, 2002).

## RECOGNIZING THE SIGNS OF TRAFFICKING

How can the public know if someone is a victim of human trafficking or if this is happening in their communities? There are a number of indicators of human trafficking that go unnoticed. The United Nations developed a global initiative to fight human trafficking and developed an extensive list of indicators. According to the U.N., the presence or absence of these indicators neither proves nor disproves that human trafficking is taking place, but their presence should lead to investigation.

### Indicators of human trafficking

The United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (GIFT) provides the most comprehensive list of human trafficking indicators, but not all the indicators are present in all human trafficking situations. One of the most powerful weapons to combat human trafficking is to raise public awareness to recognize the indicators of abuse so authorities can be notified. The presence of any of the indicators should lead to investigation. The indicators are divided into six categories:

#### General indicators

People who have been trafficked may:

- Believe they must work against their will and feel that they cannot leave.
- Be unable to leave their work environment.
- Show signs that their movements are being controlled.
- Show fear or anxiety.
- Be subjected to violence or threats of violence against themselves or loved ones.
- Suffer injuries that appear to be the result of an assault.
- Suffer injuries or impairments typical of certain jobs or control measures.
- Be distrustful of authorities.
- Be threatened with being turned into authorities.
- Not be in possession of their passports or travel documents because someone else is holding them.
- Be afraid of revealing their immigration status.
- Have false identity or travel documents.
- Be found in or in connection with a location often used for exploitation.
- Not know the local language.
- Not know their home or work address.
- Allow others to speak for them when addressed directly.
- Act as if someone else instructed them.
- Be forced to work under substandard conditions.
- Be disciplined by group punishment.
- Be unable to negotiate working conditions.
- Receive little or no payment or have no access to their earnings.
- Work excessively long hours over long periods of time.
- Not have days off.
- Live in poor or substandard conditions.
- Have no access to medical care.
- Have limited or no social interaction.
- Have limited contact with family or others outside of their environment.
- Be unable to communicate freely with others.
- Believe they are bonded by debt.
- Be in a situation of dependence.
- Come from a known trafficking origination country.
- Have their fees for transportation paid for by facilitators whom they must pay back by working or providing services in the destination country.
- Have acted on a false promise.

#### Children

Children who have been trafficked may:

- Have no access to their parents or guardians.
- Seem intimidated and behave in a way that does not correspond with typical behavior of children their age.
- Have no friends of their own age outside of work.
- Have no access to education.
- Have no time for playing.
- Live apart from other children in substandard accommodations.
- Eat apart from others in the family.
- Be given only leftovers to eat.
- Be engaged in work that is not suitable for children.
- Travel unaccompanied by adults or in groups with persons who are not relatives.
- Have child-sized clothing typically worn for doing manual or sex work.
- Be present when toys and children’s clothing are found in inappropriate places, such as brothels or factories.
- Be referred to as an unaccompanied child that the adult has “found.”
- Be unaccompanied children carrying telephone numbers for calling taxis.
- Be cases of illegal adoption, smuggling or kidnapping.

#### Domestic servitude

People who have been trafficked for the purpose of domestic servitude may:
- Live with the family.
- Not eat with the rest of the family.
- Have no private space.
- Sleep in a shared or inappropriate space.
- Be reported missing by their employer even though they are still living in the employer’s house.
- Never or rarely leave the house for social reasons.
- Never leave the house without their employer.
- Be given only leftovers to eat.
- Be subjected to insults, abuse, and threats of violence or sexual exploitation.

**Sexual exploitation**
Victims may:
- Be of any age, although ages often vary by location and the market.
- Move from one brothel to the next or work in various locations.
- Be escorted wherever they go.
- Have tattoos, brands, or other marks indicating ownership by the traffickers.
- Work long hours or have few, if any days off.
- Sleep where they work.
- Live or travel in groups, sometimes with others who do not speak the same language.
- Have very few items of clothing or clothes that are commonly worn for doing sex work.
- Only know how to say sex-related words.
- Have no cash of their own.
- Be unable to show identification.
- Have evidence of unprotected sex.
- Have evidence that they cannot refuse sexual exploitation.
- Have evidence that they have been bought and sold.
- Be groups of women who are under the control of others.
- Have been placed in brothels or similar places offering the services of women of a particular ethnicity or nationality.
- Be sex workers who provide services to a clientele of a particular ethnicity or nationality.
- Not smile.

**Labor exploitation**
People who have been trafficked for the purpose of labor exploitation are typically made to work in sectors such as agriculture, construction, entertainment, service industry and manufacturing in sweatshops. People who have been trafficked for labor exploitation may:
- Live in groups in the same place where they work and rarely leave those premises if at all.
- Live in degraded, unsuitable places, such as agricultural or industrial buildings.
- May be dressed inadequately for the work they do, such as no protective gear or warm clothing.
- Be given only leftovers to eat.
- Have no access to earnings.
- Have no labor contract.
- Depend on their employer for work, transportation and accommodations.
- Work excessively long hours, with few or no breaks, seven days a week.
- Have no choice of accommodation.
- Never leave the work premises without their employer.
- Be unable to move freely.
- Be subject to security measures designed to keep them on the work premises.
- Be disciplined through fines.
- Be subjected to insults, abuse, threats or violence.
- Lack basic training and professional licenses.
- Work where notices have been posted in languages other than the local language.
- Work where there are no health and safety notices.
- Have employers or managers unable to show documents required for employing workers from other countries.
- Have employers or managers who are unable to show records of wages paid to workers.
- Have health and safety equipment that is of poor quality or is missing.
- Use equipment that is designed or has been modified so that children can operate it.
- Work where there is evidence that labor laws have been violated.
- Work where there is evidence that they must pay for tools, food or accommodation or that those costs are being deducted from their wages.

**Begging and petty crime**
People who have been trafficked for the purpose of begging or committing petty crimes may:
- Be children, elderly or disabled migrants who tend to beg in public places and on public transport.
- Be children carrying or selling illicit drugs.
- Have physical impairments that appear to be the result of mutilation.
- Be children of the same nationality or ethnicity.
- Move in groups while traveling on public transportation. For example, when traveling on a train, they may walk up and down the length of the train.
- Be unaccompanied minors who have been “found” by an adult of the same nationality or ethnicity.
- Be children of the same nationality or ethnicity who move in large groups with only a few adults.
- Participate in activities of organized criminal gangs.
- Be part of large groups of children who have the same guardian.
- Be punished if they do not collect or steal enough.
- Live with members of their group.
- Travel with members of their group to the country of destination.
- Live as gang members with adults who are not their parents.
- Move daily in large groups over considerable distances.
- Be involved in new forms of gang-related crime appearing in the area.
- Be involved in a group of suspected victims that has moved over a period of time to a number of countries.
- May have been involved in begging or in committing petty crimes in another country.

(United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, 2012)
Psychological barriers to escape

In addition to the physical barriers previously discussed, there are a number of psychological factors that may keep victims locked in the world of sex trafficking because of their thought and belief patterns:

- The victim may have paralyzing fear of harm to a loved one, threats of arrest, and death.
- Cultural factors from their home country may lead to shame, self-blame, and low self-esteem. Victims may believe that even if they could escape, their family or friends would never accept them. In some countries, they would be killed by their families for dishonoring them, which is called honor killing.
- It is known that victims often experience serious psychological trauma that can lead to dissociation and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which affects their view of the world.
- After a long period of dependence, exploitation and trauma, victims may give up hope of escaping and a normal life and so are resigned to their fate.
- The Stockholm syndrome may occur, and victims begin to identify with their captors, settling in to their life as a dependent victim.
- They may be so traumatized that they lose all hope of finding anyone to help them and believe no one will care anyway.
- Isolation, control of their every movement and basic needs for survival, including all monetary resources, lead victims to complete dependency and helplessness because they have lost all skills for autonomy or independence.

Federal laws

Human trafficking, also known as trafficking in persons (TIP), is a modern-day form of slavery and a crime under federal and international law. Individuals procuring a child or adult for illegal sex trade are known as “traffickers” under the federal law. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 was the first comprehensive federal law to address trafficking of persons and provided a three-pronged approach that includes prevention, protection and prosecution.

The TVPA was reauthorized through the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Acts (TVPRA) of 2003, 2005 and 2008. Under U.S. federal law, “severe forms of trafficking in persons” includes both sex trafficking and labor trafficking:

- Sex trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purposes of a commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age, (22 USC § 7102; 8 CFR § 214.11(a)).
- Labor trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purposes of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery, (22 USC § 7102)

State law

Human trafficking is not a crime in every state, but state legislators have appointed committees to develop human trafficking legislation in all states. This is critical because it gives states the responsibility and freedom to write laws that are comprehensive and victim-centered specifically for their state. State legislation can address community awareness and increase local media attention, increase training for law enforcement, educators, health care professionals and community members to increase victim identification, protection, referral for services, and prosecution for traffickers.

While there is strong federal legislation in the form of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, states have a critical role in the prevention of human trafficking. The Polaris Project’s U.S. Policy Program works to enact legislation at the state level by partnering with local advocacy organizations, state and local task forces and coalitions, and grassroots advocates and locally led anti-trafficking legislative campaigns.

Polaris programs include:

- Tracking all pending state legislation related to human trafficking.
- Drafting and analyzing legislation, providing model laws and guidelines, lobbying, and providing and presenting testimony.

Data on every state is available on the Polaris Project website, including pending legislation and enacted laws and penalties. It is important to study the data at the Polaris Project website to understand the difficulty in eliminating human trafficking because of the lack of consistency among states in anti-trafficking laws, penalties, enforcement and data sharing systems.

INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION

The Trafficking in Persons Study Commission Prevention, Education and Outreach Subcommittee recommends a multiple approach to improve the knowledge of the general public, vulnerable populations and targeted professional communities. They recommend the following strategies:

- Public awareness campaigns, which would include a series of TV and radio public service announcements (PSA). The subcommittee put together Ohio PSAs following the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Look Beneath the Surface campaign. These materials can be obtained from the National Human
Social media campaigns: Social media strategies, including a Facebook page on human trafficking, YouTube sites and use of Twitter, have been developed. Social media campaigns are especially effective for youths and college populations, and there are a growing number of campus organizations interested in promoting these strategies.

A University of Dayton study states that social networking may be the simplest, most cost-effective method of reaching younger generations as well as supplementing methods of communicating to older generations.

Anti-trafficking nonprofit organizations across the nation already have recognized the importance of utilizing social media networks. For example, Free the Slaves has more than 1,000 Twitter followers and more than 3,300 Facebook followers. The Polaris Project has more than 2,500 Twitter followers and 4,700 Facebook followers; and the Not For Sale campaign has more than 12,000 Twitter followers and 1,600 Facebook followers. These organizations use social media to send messages, information, and announcements to a variety of global audiences quickly and effectively.

Social networking websites are easily created, accessed, updated and maintained at virtually no cost. Organizations working against human trafficking have demonstrated that social networking can disseminate information and inspire activism to an enormous audience at lightning speed. Some benefits of the use of social media include:

- **Facebook**
  - Has the flexibility of independent websites.
  - Has the potential to reach the widest possible audience.
  - Is able to review each potential members’ comments when they post.
  - Can be created or maintained at no cost.
  - Users may update via mobile devices, such as smartphones and iPads.
  - The Trafficking in Persons (TIPS) commission page is easily promoted.
  - Users can post events, hyperlinks, images and videos to disseminate information.
  - Posts are open for user comments, encouraging active dialogue between commission members, social service organizations, law enforcement and the general public.

- **YouTube**
  - Serves as a centralized, no-cost form for all visual media.
  - Helps public service announcements reach the widest possible audience.
  - Videos are easily shared by forwarding through YouTube hyperlinks.
  - Allows the TIPS commission to network with other anti-human trafficking organizations.

- **Twitter**
  - Provides constant updates to an unlimited audience.
  - Allows users to update via mobile devices.

The Polaris Project website on human trafficking contains national, state and regional resources that offer information, expertise, speakers and public service announcements (PSA). Educational awareness resource guides can be ordered or downloaded, and many of these websites and resources are included in the resource section at the end of the course.

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unintended Pregnancies has promoted programs to build youth participation in creating videos, blogs, and social media campaigns and strategies aimed at reaching youth.

The number of human trafficking awareness and prevention campaigns viewed by youths would increase if they had input in government-produced social media and PSAs. Inclusion in the development process would provide teens a chance to use their creativity and talent to design social media and public awareness ad campaigns on the youth trafficking issue.

Reaching target professional audiences

The TIPS law enforcement and education subcommittee provided a system for training law enforcement officials to recognize and deal with human trafficking cases. This training system is not available to the public, but many people in the professional community could have a significant, positive impact on this issue. Too often, though, they have little knowledge or skills for recognizing, intervening, and helping to provide services for victims of human trafficking.

Target training and networking for non-law enforcement professionals should be used to inform them about trafficking issues, identifying victims, protocols for assessing victims, and rescue and assistance programs. These professional groups include:

- Education professionals.
- Health care professionals.
- Social workers, counselors, child welfare professionals.
- Homeless and housing professionals.
- The legal community, including judges, attorneys, guardians ad litem, clerks of court.
- Volunteers and court-appointed special advocates.
- Restaurant and health inspectors.
- Massage, cosmetologist and nail professionals.
● Agricultural inspectors.
● Migrant labor inspectors.
● Workplace or OSHA inspectors.

Human trafficking prevention often overlaps other prevention efforts, such as sexual intimate violence, domestic violence, sex education, alcohol and drug prevention, runaway/homelessness, health screenings and screenings done at hospitals in emergency rooms.

Information about the trafficking system, indicators, and the effects of trafficking on victims should be included in all programs and services for youths and adults in the community where trafficking promoters live and work.

Controlling, monitoring, and eliminating pornography and sexual entertainment establishments should be a major focus because of their influence on social norms, sexual markets, sexual addiction and behavior and the local economy. These businesses are a driving force in the demand for commercial sex trafficking.

Prevention of human trafficking requires collaboration and networking information gathered from community organizations, educators, youth mentors, health and mental health providers, social services agencies, and faith and law enforcement communities.

Best practices for prevention programs include:
● Programs to educate youths on the harm and risk of pornography, prostitution, runaways, human trafficking, sexual addiction, and behavior and the local economy. These businesses are a driving force in the demand for commercial sex trafficking.

Johns’ school first offender programs

This is an example of an innovative program to address sex trafficking demand at the source of the market at the street level. The Ohio Attorney General’s Office has developed a first offender diversion program, referred to as Johns’ schools. There are four Johns’ schools operating in Ohio. Each has its own structure and can work on the specifics in the community to educate individuals to avoid commercial sex and sexual exploitation of others.

The Johns’ schools in Ohio are based on the model developed by the Standing Against Global Exploitation project (SAGE project). It was developed to educate individuals who purchase sex about the negative consequences of their actions, and covers six content areas:
● Prostitution law and street facts.
● Health education.
● Effects of prostitution on victims.
● Dynamics of pimping, recruiting and trafficking.
● Effects of prostitution on the community.
● Sexual addiction.

Program evaluation found that 98 percent of men who participated in the Johns’ schools were rehabilitated (Fisher, Wortley, Webster, and Kirst, 2002). Another evaluation revealed that Johns reported a significant increase in awareness of negative impacts of purchasing prostitutes and in understanding the adversity facing those women. Cincinnati, Columbus, Dayton and Toledo conduct Johns’ school diversion programs for those arrested for purchasing sex.

In addition to paying a $300 fee, the Johns’ cars are impounded with a $150 charge if they are caught soliciting from their cars. Participants must answer pre-and post-tests and receive mandatory rapid HIV testing. Their records are expunged upon successful completion of the course. To track recidivism, their records are checked one year from the time of arrest to see whether they have abstained from commercial sex.

Other strategies for deterrence include:
● Naming and shaming tactics such as website, TV and newspaper listings including their photographs and city of residence.
● Letters are sent to the men’s homes warning members of the household of the health risks the men have been exposed to when purchasing sex.
● Reporting on law enforcement websites.
● Vehicle impoundment.
● Restrictions on entering certain parts of town where the sex trade is prevalent.

Proponents believe these methods are effective deterrents, but they are controversial because of harm done to innocent family members and the Johns’ reputations. Opponents believe that public exposure and humiliation may lead to purchasing sex again because the arrest was made public so they have nothing to lose.
Law enforcement agencies investigate and shut down businesses that provide cover for commercial sex and sex ad websites like Craigslist on the Internet, making access to commercial sex more difficult. The Craigslist murders are an example of the ease of arranging sex through the Internet and what can happen when desperate, vulnerable women turn to sex to survive.

**Enforcement of labor laws and consumer education**

An estimated figure of $19 billion is illegally withheld from workers in America in unpaid overtime, minimum wage violations, and labor trafficking of migrant workers who are illegal aliens (Levine, 2010).

Enforcement of labor laws is important to victims because the activity remains undetected by authorities unless the employer is reported or the victim escapes. The practice of supporting businesses that refuse to benefit from selling products that contribute to human trafficking as well as fair trade options for consumers has been used to decrease human trafficking.

The Minnesota-based Men’s Action Group is an example:

Businesses, public and private organizations, and municipalities have modified their meeting facility policy to clarify that meetings and conferences will be held in facilities that do not offer in-room, adult pay-per-view pornography, and travel policies have been amended to reimburse employees lodging costs only when staying at hotels that do not offer in-room adult pornography. In this way, the organization has removed support for the mainstreaming of sexually violent material and has begun to change the environment that supports violence against women, girls and boys.

Many nonprofit organizations that work to combat human trafficking have promoted the sale of fair trade items made by survivors of trafficking as a way to support victims and to offer products that consumers can trust were produced ethically. An example of a global nonprofit fair trade organization is Ten Thousand Villages.

**U.S. Customs and Immigration Enforcement**

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) works with various U.S. and foreign law enforcement agencies to stop criminal networks that drive human trafficking globally. ICE works by stripping away assets and profit incentives, collaborating to attack and destroy human trafficking networks worldwide.

Working in partnership with nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), they identify, rescue and assist trafficking victims. The ICE program uses a victim-centered approach because successful investigation and prosecution of traffickers depends on victims who are free from fear and intimidation to be effective witnesses.

This approach places equal value on identification and rescue of victims along with the prosecution of traffickers. ICE has more than 300 victim/witness coordinators who work to provide victim services. Short-term immigration relief is provided to certified victims of trafficking in the form of continued presence (CP).

The Polaris Project, which is part of the National Center for Human Trafficking, is one of the largest anti-trafficking organizations in the United States and Japan, offering a comprehensive approach to human trafficking, leading the United States and Japan in combating all forms of human trafficking. It serves both U.S. citizens and foreign national victims, including men, women, and children globally.

The Polaris Project employs a holistic approach to conduct direct outreach, victim identification, social services, transitional housing, advocates for tougher state and federal legislation, and energizing community and national grassroots efforts. It offers an extensive list of resources on tips, referrals, reports, and training.

In a case of immediate danger or emergency, it advises people to always call the local emergency number 911 and never try to intervene in any trafficking situation. By calling 911, a patrol officer will be sent to the scene, and even if the officer is not trained to respond to the specific needs of trafficking cases, an officer is best for emergencies that require an immediate law enforcement response.

The Polaris Project has developed training for law enforcement along with training programs and guides for service providers and others who may come in contact with trafficking victims. The Polaris Project includes:

- Direct outreach and victim identification.
- Social services and transitional housing to victims.
- Operating the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC).
- Advocating for stronger state and federal anti-trafficking legislation.
- Engaging community members in local and national grassroots efforts.

The Polaris Project website at [www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org) includes information on statistics for human trafficking for every state along with resources for information on service providers and assistance for victims.

If there is no immediate emergency, the Polaris Project recommends a list of national resources to call if human trafficking is suspected:

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**Footnote:** Levine, J. (2010).}
RESOURCES

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)


- Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-3737-888
- Toll-free and national in scope.
- 24-hour capacity.
- Non-law-enforcement.
- Call to report a potential case of human trafficking; connect with anti-trafficking services in your area; or to request training, technical assistance or general information on human trafficking.

U.S. Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons at http://www.state.gov/g/tip.

National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233

- Toll-free and national in scope; 24-hour availability.
- Ability to make local referrals to crisis shelters in cities and towns across the U.S.

Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAIN)

- 1-800-656-Hope (4673).
- Toll-free and national in scope.
- 24-hour capacity.

National Runaway Switchboard

- 1-800-Runaway (786–2929).
- Toll-free and national in scope.
- 24-hour capacity.

Covenant House Nine line

- 1-800-999-9999.
- Toll-free and national in scope.

Innocence Lost Campaign (FBI Human Trafficking Initiative) at www.fbi.gov/pi/hq/cid/civilrights/trafficking_initiatives.htm.


- The FBI works to end human trafficking worldwide and to free its victims.
- Its efforts are focused on combating the exploitation of individuals who work in labor industries and who are forced into prostitution or slave labor.


- 1-888-428-7581.
- Toll-free and national in scope.
- Directs call to federal law enforcement.
- Operates on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern time.
- Call to report potential cases of human trafficking and crimes against children.


- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign estimated in 2007 that 800,000 men women and children are trafficked across international borders each year.
- Free posters, pamphlets, pocket cards, and public service announcements available in 12 languages through USDHS.
- To report suspicious activity or potential human trafficking, call 1-866-347-2423.

Free the Slaves at www.freetheslaves.net/

- Free the Slaves liberates slaves around the world and helps them rebuild their lives.
- It conducts research in real-world solutions to eradicate slavery using world-class research and compelling stories from the front lines.
- It works to develop programs and funding to end slavery

International Justice Mission (IJM) at www.ijm.org. IJM is a human rights agency that secures justice for victims of slavery, sexual exploitation and other forms of violent oppression. Its four goals are:

- Victim relief.
- Perpetrator accountability.
- Victim aftercare.
- Structural transformation.

IJM lawyers, investigators and aftercare professionals work with local officials to ensure immediate victim rescue, prosecute perpetrators and promote functioning public justice systems.

Anti-Slavery International

- Works at the local, state and international levels to eliminate all forms of international slavery.


- 1-800-843-5678 (1-800-THE LOST)


References

1. Some “pull” factors in human trafficking include:
   a. Existing markets for human trafficking and the demand for sexual and labor services.
   b. A sizable population of foreign-born persons in the state.
   c. High numbers of children ages 12 to 17 who are at risk for child sex trafficking that include runaways, throwaways, homeless youth, and other factors that make them vulnerable.
   d. All of the above.

2. Human trafficking is a crime in which a person is brought into the country by:
   a. Force, fraud or coercion.
   b. Physical smuggling, underground passage and coercion.
   c. A choice to evade detection by U.S. Customs.
   d. None of the above.

3. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act:
   a. Still fails to view juvenile prostitutes as victims.
   b. Has a more lenient view of “Johns” than previously held, and considers them victims.
   c. Includes recruiting, harboring, transporting, supplying or obtaining a person for labor or services using force or fraud or coercion.
   d. Excludes activities associated with transport of persons to serve as laborers.

4. Sex trafficking can be found in which activities and places?
   a. Street prostitution and hotel prostitution.
   b. Exotic dancing, pornography and live cybersex sites.
   c. Massage parlors, nail and hair salons, including street hair braiding.
   d. All of the above.

5. How many people in the world today are estimated to be legally without a country and thereby stateless and lacking legal standing in any nation?
   a. 2 million.
   b. 7 million
   c. 12 million.
   d. 25 million.

6. Victims of human trafficking often suffer serious physical harm, which may include all of the following EXCEPT:
   a. Beatings, torture, branding or tattoos.
   b. Malnutrition and anemia.
   c. Depression and anxiety.
   d. Alcohol and drug abuse.

7. Routes to commercial child sexual exploitation other than prostitution include:
   a. Being sold on the Internet on Craigslist.
   b. Recruitment or exploitation through modeling.
   c. Dancing auditions.
   d. All of the above.

8. People who’ve been trafficked for the purpose of domestic servitude may do the following EXCEPT:
   a. Eat with the rest of the family.
   b. Have no private space.
   c. Sleep in a shared or inappropriate space.
   d. Are reported missing by their employer even though they are still living in the employer’s house.

9. Psychological factors that may keep victims locked in the world of sex trafficking because of their internal thought and believe patterns include:
   a. A sense of fearlessness.
   b. Cultural factors that celebrate sexual freedom.
   c. Experiencing serious psychological trauma that may lead to dissociation and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which affects their view of the world.
   d. None of the above.

10. The following statements are true about the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Human Trafficking Resource Center EXCEPT:
    a. It has a toll-free Human Trafficking Hotline, toll-free.
    b. It is national in scope.
    c. Provides law enforcement services.
    d. Persons can call to report a potential case of human trafficking; connect with anti-trafficking services in their area; or request training, technical assistance, or general information on human trafficking.