



## Domestic Sex Trafficking (in the United States)

- *Severe Forms of Trafficking in Persons* is defined as “the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act in which the commercial sex act is induced by **force, fraud or coercion**, or in which the person forced to perform such an act is **under the age of 18 years**” where the person is a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident under the age of 18 years. (*TVPA*)
- In 2005, the Department of Justice reported there have been an estimated **100,000 to 150,000 sex slaves in the U.S.** since 2001.<sup>i</sup>
- In 2009, a University of Pennsylvania study estimated nearly **300,000 youth in the United States** were at risk of being **sexually exploited for commercial uses** - "most of them runaways or thrown-aways," said Ernie Allen, president of the NCMEC.<sup>ii</sup>
- Almost **300,000 American children** are at risk for trafficking into the sex industry. (*U.S. Dept of State*)<sup>iii</sup>
- In December 2007, research by the U.S. Department of Justice National Institute of Justice based on interviews with pimps and sexually exploited children in several U.S. cities found that most pimps manage one to three girls at a time and operate as follows:
  - At least half appear to operate at the local level only.
  - At least one quarter may be tied to city-wide crime rings (often engaged in drug sales as well as prostitution) and are constantly looking for new recruits.
  - About 15 percent are tied to regional or national networks that are well financed and organized, in which the pimps communicate easily with one another electronically; provide support services such as recruitment, selection, indoctrination, and movement of new girls; and occasionally assist in locating and disciplining girls who escape from other pimps.
  - About 10 percent appear to be tied to international sex crime networks and, through them, actively participate in the international trafficking of children. Some pimps also are part of international drug networks and may use children to move drugs in to and across the U.S.<sup>iv</sup>

- Justice Department: Record Number of Human Trafficking Cases in 2011. (*The Washington Times*)<sup>v</sup>
- Not Quite a Teen, Yet Sold for Sex at 12 Years Old, (Nicholas Kristof, N.Y. Times)<sup>vi</sup>
- Between **14,500 and 17,500 victims** are trafficked into the **USA** each year (*TVPA*)<sup>vii</sup>; The CIA estimates **45,000—50,000** victims<sup>viii</sup>
- **797,500 children** (younger than 18) were reported missing in a one-year period of time studied resulting in an average of 2,185 children being reported missing each day. (*FBI*)<sup>ix</sup>
- **One in 12** (82 of 1000) **youth** experienced **sexual victimization**, including sexual assault (32 per 1000) and attempted or completed rape (22 per 1000). (*Crimes Against Children Research Center*)<sup>x</sup>
- In the first 21 months of operation, the Human Trafficking Reporting System recorded information on more than **1,200 alleged incidents of human trafficking** between January 1, 2007, and September 30, 2008. Most (83 percent) of the reported human trafficking incidents involved allegations of sex trafficking. (*USDOJ*)<sup>xi</sup>
- In 2009, a three day operation across 36 cities across 30 FBI divisions around the U.S. led to the recovery of **52 children** who were being victimized through prostitution. Additionally, nearly 700 others, including 60 pimps, were arrested on local and state charges. (*FBI*)<sup>xii</sup>
- In 2008, **a mother** and the man she lived with made her a dominatrix and schooled her in the ways of violent sex when she was **only 12**. By the time she reached 14, they had billed her as “Mistress Alisha,” and they offered her online for two years to service the sadomasochistic fantasies of anyone willing to pay. (*USDOJ*)<sup>xiii</sup>
- In June 2008, the FBI Innocence Lost Task Forces in 16 cities participated in the operation by targeting venues such as street tracks, truck stops, motels, casinos and the Internet where children are prostituted. Over 350 law enforcement officers from over 50 law enforcement agencies, joined together. This operation included sting operations in 16 cities across the country, resulting in the **arrest of 356 individuals** and the **recovery of 21 children**. (*FBI*)<sup>xiv</sup>
- In 2009, four men were been indicted—one of which was an Army soldier—for allegedly running a sex trafficking business out of a Millersville, Maryland apartment. Prosecutors say the four used online **classified ads** and **social networking** sites to recruit females for prostitution and to advertise sexual services. The men allegedly arranged for the travel of females, including a **16-year-old girl**, from Ohio to Maryland to engage in prostitution. (*AP*)<sup>xv</sup>

## Sex Trafficking Around the World

- Human trafficking is the second largest crime worldwide. (*U.S. Department of State*)
- **1.2 million children** are being trafficked every year; this is in addition to the millions already held captive by trafficking (*UNICEF*)<sup>xvi</sup>
- The average age of a trafficked victim is **12-14 years old** (*U.S. Department of Justice*)<sup>xvii</sup>
- UNICEF reports approximately **30 million children** have lost their childhood through sexual exploitation over the past 30 years (*IAST*)<sup>xviii</sup>
- The International Labor Organization—the UN agency charged with addressing labor standards, employment, and social protection issues—estimates that there are at least **12.3 million** adults and children in forced labor, bonded labor, and commercial sexual servitude at any given time. Of these victims, **1.4 million** are victims of **commercial sexual servitude**. Also, 56% of all forced labor victims are women and girls. (*ILO*)<sup>xix</sup> In the case of all forced labor, 40-50% of persons exploited may be children. (*ILO*)<sup>xx</sup>
- People are trafficked from 127 countries to be exploited in **137 countries** (*UN*)<sup>xxi</sup>
- The total market value of illicit human trafficking is estimated to be in excess of **\$32 billion** (*UN*)<sup>xxii</sup>
- The average victim is forced to have sex up to 40 times a day. (*U.S. Department of Justice*)

- 
- i U.S. Department of Justice. *Report on Activities to Combat Human Trafficking Fiscal Years 2001 – 2005*. 2006. Pg. 9. [http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/trafficking\\_report\\_2006.pdf](http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/trafficking_report_2006.pdf)
- ii National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. Human Trafficking Briefing by Ernie Allen. (21 July 2009). Web: [http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/NewsEventServlet?LanguageCountry=en\\_US&PageId=4079](http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/NewsEventServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US&PageId=4079)
- iii U.S. Department of Justice Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section. (Nov 2009). Web: <http://www.justice.gov/criminal/ceos/trafficking.html>
- iv U.S. Department of Justice Institute of Justice. *Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: What do we know and what do we do about it?* (Dec. 2007). Web: <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/215733.pdf>
- v Justice Department: Record Number of Human Trafficking Cases in 2011. Jerry Seper. *The Washington Times*. (March 15, 2012). Web: [http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/mar/15/justice-department-record-human-trafficking-cases/?utm\\_source=RSS\\_Feed&utm\\_medium=RSS](http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/mar/15/justice-department-record-human-trafficking-cases/?utm_source=RSS_Feed&utm_medium=RSS)
- vi *Not Quite a Teen, Yet Sold for Sex*. Nicholas Kristof, *New York Times*. (April 18, 2012). Web: [http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/19/opinion/kristof-not-quite-a-teen-yet-sold-for-sex.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/19/opinion/kristof-not-quite-a-teen-yet-sold-for-sex.html?_r=1)
- vii U. S. Department of State, Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act 2000: Trafficking in Persons Report, July 2004. Web: <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/34158.pdf>
- viii Center for the Study of Intelligence DCI Exceptional Intelligence Analyst Program. *An Intelligence Monograph International Trafficking in Women to the United States: A Contemporary Manifestation of Slavery and Organized Crime*. (Nov 1999). Web: <https://www.cia.gov/library/center-for-the-study-of-intelligence/csi-publications/books-and-monographs/trafficking.pdf>
- ix Federal Bureau of Investigation. Press Release. (22 Nov 2006). Web: <http://www.fbi.gov/page2/nov06/missing112206.htm>
- x Crimes Against Children Research Center. (viewed 27 Sept 2010) Web: <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/statistics/index.html>
- xi US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Special Report: Characteristics of Suspected Human Trafficking Incidents, 2007-08 (Jan 2009) Web: [http://files.meetup.com/1160329/Post\\_on\\_Site.pdf](http://files.meetup.com/1160329/Post_on_Site.pdf)
- xii Federal Bureau of Investigation Press Release. (26 October 2009). Web: [http://www.fbi.gov/pressrel/pressrel09/crosscountry\\_102609.htm](http://www.fbi.gov/pressrel/pressrel09/crosscountry_102609.htm)
- xiii Office of the U.S. Attorney. News Release. (12 May 2008). Web: <http://kansascity.fbi.gov/dojpressrel/pressrel08/humantrafficking051208.htm>
- xiv Federal Bureau of Investigation. Web: [http://www.fbi.gov/innolost/cross\\_country.htm](http://www.fbi.gov/innolost/cross_country.htm)
- xv Associated Press. (29 Sept. 2009).
- xvi UNICEF. (23 Sept 2009). Web: [http://www.unicef.org/protection/index\\_exploitation.html](http://www.unicef.org/protection/index_exploitation.html)
- xvii U.S. Department of Justice. Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section. (viewed 27 Sept 2010). <http://www.justice.gov/criminal/ceos/prostitution.html>
- xviii Salvation Army Initiative Against Sex Trafficking. (viewed 27 Sept 2010) Web: <http://www.iast.net/thefacts.htm>
- xix International Labor Organization, *A global alliance against forced labour*. (2005).
- xx International Labor Organization. *ILO minimum estimate of forced labour in the world*. (2005).
- xxi United Nations. Press Release Note No. 6152. (2 June 2008). Web: <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2008/note6152.doc.htm>
- xxii United Nations. Press Release Note No. 6152. (2 June 2008). Web: <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2008/note6152.doc.htm>