Sex Trafficking in the United States

**Definition**
- The Trafficking Victims Protection Act categorizes **sex trafficking** as a severe form of human trafficking. It is defined as:
  - a commercial sex act that is induced by force, fraud, or coercion
  - or a person who has been induced to perform such acts that has not yet reached the age of 18
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*Trafficking In Persons Report, 2013*
What Lies Beneath the Surface of Sex Trafficking?

Commercialization of sex
Demand
Supply
High Profit
Low-Risk

www.freepages.geni.com/rootsweb.ancestry.com
Human trafficking in the United States

Human trafficking incidents were opened for investigation by federally funded human trafficking task forces in the United States between January 2008 and June 2010.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Victims in confirmed sex trafficking cases</th>
<th>Suspects in confirmed sex trafficking cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ages 17 or younger</td>
<td>Ages 18 to 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ages 18 to 24</td>
<td>Ages 25 to 34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African-American</td>
<td>African-American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>Latino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. citizen</td>
<td>U.S. citizen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undocumented immigrant</td>
<td>Undocumented immigrant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Female: 432
Male: 27
Ages 17 or younger: 248
Ages 18 to 24: 142
White: 102
African-American: 161
Latino: 95
U.S. citizen: 345
Undocumented immigrant: 64

Male: 314
Female: 71
Ages 18 to 24: 145
Ages 25 to 34: 105
White: 22
African-American: 219
Latino: 89
U.S. citizen: 269
Undocumented immigrant: 39

Source: U.S. Department of Justice
Gazette graphic
Acts of Deception

Young female interested in becoming part of a thriving $9.5 billion industry.

What if you were given the opportunity to experience life like you never have before? Join us on this journey. Travel abroad, live in a new city, and meet new people.

What are you waiting for?
Can now take this opportunity.

Young female to be sold, exploited, and forced into the $9.5 billion sex trade.

What if you were a victim of human trafficking? It would not result in any personal economic gain, human rights would be stripped against your will, and your health would diminish until you were no longer useful to your employer.

What are you doing about it?

www.fightslaverynow.org
Profitable Industry

- The fastest growing criminal industry in the world
- The industry is ranked second behind drug trafficking in terms of total profits made
Myth #1

Sex trafficking doesn't happen here

Myth #2
Trafficked persons can only be foreign nationals

Myth #3
Trafficking is the same as smuggling

Myth #4
Sex trafficking is the only form of trafficking

Myth #5
Only females are trafficked into the sex industry
HUMAN/SEX TRAFFICKING
DOES THIS LOOK LIKE A FOREIGN PROBLEM TO YOU?

NEVADA
435
#OF PIMPS ARRESTED

CALIFORNIA
559
POTENTIAL VICTIMS

WISCONSIN
200
IDENTIFIED CASES OF
SEX TRAFFICKING

TEXAS
119
#OF MINORS
EXPLOITED FOR
COMMERCIAL SEX
IDENTIFIED BY THE
DALLAS POLICE DEPT

NEW YORK
36
#OF VICTIMS IDENTIFIED

LOUISIANA
100
#VICTIMS SERVED
NEW ORLEANS AREA

teentrack.com
Myth #2

Trafficked persons can only be foreign nationals (Polaris Project, 2013)
Foreign trafficked persons are always undocumented migrants

(Polaris Project, 2013)
Myth #3

 Trafficking is the same as smuggling  
(Polaris Project, 2013)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trafficking</th>
<th>Smuggling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legal, illegal, or no border crossing</td>
<td>Requires illegal border crossing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coercion, deception, or force used</td>
<td>Voluntary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal is exploitation</td>
<td>Goal to enter country illegally; may turn into exploitation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal or illegal documents</td>
<td>Illegal papers (false or stolen)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted movement</td>
<td>Movement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime against a person</td>
<td>Crime against the state</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Myth #4

Sex trafficking is the only form of trafficking

(Polaris Project, 2013)
Myth #5

Only females are trafficked into the sex industry

(Trafficking in Persons Report, 2013)
What is choice?

Situation #1
"Obviously he made you do it"

Situation #2
A woman had too much alcohol to resist her male partner’s attempts to engage in unprotected sexual intercourse. Was she raped?

Situation #3
Why a woman says she is a prostitute.
Situation #1

"Obviously he made you do it"
Reply #1: “No, I made the decision to sell the drugs myself. It wasn’t anyone else’s fault. I could have said no.”
Reply #2: “Yes, it’s true. If he hadn’t threatened me, I never would have sold those drugs. I had to do what he said if I didn’t want to end up in the hospital again.”
Situation #2

A woman had too much alcohol to resist her male partner's attempts to engage in unprotected sexual intercourse. Was she raped?
Reply #1: “No, what he did was wrong, but it wasn’t rape. I could have stopped drinking. It was my responsibility to watch out for myself and I wasn’t careful.”
Reply #2: “Yes, you’re right. Just because I was drinking does not mean this guy is entitled to do what he wants with me. It is still my body, and I never wanted or consented to unprotected sexual intercourse.”
Situation #3

Why a woman says she is a prostitute.
Reply #1: “I am a prostitute because I would rather do this work than be on welfare or sell drugs or make minimum wage at a burger joint. I make good money, I take care of my child, and I don’t contribute to the drug problem in my neighborhood.”
“I am a prostitute because I have no other choice. I had a child after my foster father raped me, I never had an opportunity for a good education, and besides my pimp would come after me if I took off. I can’t leave, even though I might want to. Where would I go?”
Myth #6

Trafficked persons will immediately identify themselves and ask for assistance
Myth #7

Physical force, restraint, or bondage must be present in trafficking cases

(Polaris Project, 2013)
Myth #8

If a person consented to their initial situation they cannot be considered trafficked  (Polaris Project, 2013)
Myth #9

Trafficked persons are criminals

(Trafficking in Persons Report, 2013)
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