

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING: IT HAPPENS HERE

Human Trafficking is tied as the **SECOND LARGEST** and **FASTEST** growing criminal industry in the world, generating roughly \$150 billion per year, <sup>1</sup> and it's **HAPPENING IN INDIANA**.

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**Since the initiation of the Indianapolis Task Force and the Julian Center's Trafficked Persons Assistance Program in 2006, at least:**

- 134 human trafficking cases were opened by law enforcement.
  - 123 victims & their dependent family members participated in the victim assistance program.
- Numerous other individuals received consultations and referrals for services in their communities.

Human Trafficking occurs when people are recruited to work or provide services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. There are two types of human trafficking: **1) Sex Trafficking**      **2) Labor Trafficking**

**According to the U.S. Dept. of State:**

- **27 million** men, women, and children are victims of human trafficking <sup>2</sup>
- **800,000** people are trafficked across international borders every year <sup>3</sup>

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### Human Trafficking Affects Youth in the United States

**100,000 to 300,000 U.S. children** are at risk of becoming victims of commercial sexual trafficking each year. <sup>4</sup>

**12-14 years old** is the average age of entry of U.S. children into commercial sex. <sup>5</sup>

**83%** of sex trafficking victims found in the U.S. were U.S. citizens, according to one Justice Department study. <sup>6</sup>

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**Professionals working in schools and youth-serving organizations are important partners in the effort to identify and recover underage human trafficking victims. The following are some guidelines to help professionals identify potential victims and know how to respond appropriately.**

“Sex traffickers target children because of their vulnerability and gullibility, as well as the market demand for young victims. Those who recruit minors into prostitution violate federal anti-trafficking laws, even if there is no coercion or movement across state lines. The children at risk are not just high school students—studies demonstrate that pimps prey on victims as young as 12. Traffickers have been reported targeting their minor victims through telephone chat-lines, clubs, on the street, through friends, and at malls, as well as using girls to recruit other girls at schools and after-school programs.”<sup>7</sup>

**Human Trafficking reaches every culture and demographic, but common risk factors include:**

- Youth
- Poverty
- Homelessness
- Desperation and/or a need to be loved
- Homes in countries torn by armed conflict, civil unrest, political upheaval, corruption, or natural disasters
- Family backgrounds strife with violence, abuse, conflict

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<sup>1</sup> International Labour Office, Profits and Poverty: The Economics of Forced Labour (2014), available at [http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms\\_243391.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms_243391.pdf); Dept. of State <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/fs/2014/227663.htm>

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Dept. of State Trafficking in Persons Report (2013), available at <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2013/index.htm>.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Dept. of State Trafficking in Persons Report (2010), available at <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2010/index.htm>.

<sup>4</sup> *Testimony of Ernie Allen* (July, 2010), National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, available at [www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/NewsEventServlet?LanguageCountry=en\\_US&PageId=4312](http://www.missingkids.com/missingkids/servlet/NewsEventServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US&PageId=4312).

<sup>5</sup> Some research indicates that the average age of entry for U.S. girls is 12 to 14, while the average age for U.S. boys and transgender youth is 11 to 13. See Amanda Walker-Rodriguez and Rodney Hill, *Human Sex Trafficking*, FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin, (March, 2011), available at [http://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/publications/law-enforcement-bulletin/march\\_2011/human\\_sex\\_trafficking](http://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/publications/law-enforcement-bulletin/march_2011/human_sex_trafficking). See also Polaris Project, *Child Sex Trafficking At-A-Glance*, (2011), available at [http://loveandlighttofreedom.org/uploads/Child\\_Sex\\_Trafficking\\_Polaris\\_Project-Jan\\_2012\\_.pdf](http://loveandlighttofreedom.org/uploads/Child_Sex_Trafficking_Polaris_Project-Jan_2012_.pdf). See also Ernie Allen, President and CEO of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, speaking to the House Victims' Rights Caucus Human Trafficking Caucus, Cong. Rec., 111th Cong., 2nd sess., 2010.

<sup>6</sup> This statistic is based on one study of confirmed sex trafficking incidents opened by federally funded U.S. task forces. *Human Trafficking/Trafficking In Persons*, Dept. of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=40> (last visited 1/14/2012).

<sup>7</sup> U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE OF SAFE AND DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS, *HUMAN TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN IN THE UNITED STATES: A FACT SHEET FOR SCHOOLS 1* (June 26, 2007), available at <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osdfs/factsheet.pdf>.

**Many victims don't self-identify with the term "human trafficking" or "victim." Some key indicators <sup>8</sup> that a minor may be a victim of human trafficking include a minor who:**

- Exhibits signs of physical abuse, such as: bruises, broken bones, cuts, burns, scars and/or malnourishment.
- Seems afraid, nervous or depressed and/or does not make eye contact.
- May have signs of psychological trauma such as: severe anxiety, depression, suicidal thoughts, Stockholm Syndrome, panic attacks, submissiveness, and/or no emotion at all (flat affect).
- Works and lives in the same location.
- May believe that they must work for their employer because of a debt they owe.
- Does not seem to know what city they are in or why.
- Seems very scripted, inconsistent, or vague in their communication.
- Seems to have low self-esteem.
- May not have control over personal identification documents. These documents may be in the control of the trafficker. They may have false identification documents that indicate they are over eighteen.
- May have signs of "branding" by traffickers such as: tattoos of the trafficker's name and/or jewelry.
- Is often truant from school and does not seem to have explanations for missing school.
- Has a history of running away from home.
- Talks about traveling frequently to other cities.
- Exhibits signs of drug and/or alcohol addiction.
- Has an older boyfriend (+10 years).
- Suddenly has expensive things or clothing, which they did not have before.
- Came from another country without an adult accompanying them.
- May be involved in the Juvenile Justice or Child Welfare Systems.

**Questions to ask potential victims:**

- Where do you live, eat, and sleep?
- What type of work/services do you do?
- What are your hours of work?
- Are you ever paid? If so, what are you paid?
- Does your boss take anything out of your pay? If so, for what?
- Do you owe someone money? If so, what do you owe them for?
- Describe the conditions of your workplace.
- Are you allowed to come and go freely? Are you afraid to leave? What would happen if you tried to leave?
- Has your family ever been threatened?
- Have you or anyone you work with ever been abused at the workplace (slapped, hit, sexually violated)?
- Does someone else have your legal/travel documents?
- Who are you afraid of?

**Human trafficking situations are often very dangerous and unpredictable. If you suspect human trafficking in your community, contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 888-3737-888, send a text to BeFree (233733) or call 911.**

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<sup>8</sup> Sources for indicators include: INDIANA PROTECTION FOR ABUSED AND TRAFFICKED HUMANS, *Human Trafficking "Red Flags" for the General Public*, available at <http://www.in.gov/attorneygeneral/humantrafficking/> (last visited June 8, 2012), U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE OF SAFE AND DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS, HUMAN TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN IN THE UNITED STATES: A FACT SHEET FOR SCHOOLS (June 26, 2007), available at <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osdfs/factsheet.pdf>, and E-mail from Sandy Runkle, Dir. of Programs, Prevent Child Abuse Indiana (on file with author) (Aug. 2, 2012).

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- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children & Families, [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/campaign\\_kits/tool\\_kit\\_law/overview.html](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/campaign_kits/tool_kit_law/overview.html) (last visited April 5, 2012).