

Human Trafficking in Illinois Fact Sheet

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"It is estimated that over 100,000 American children become sex trafficking victims each year."
(Sen. Dick Durbin, February 24, 2010 - Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing)

"Many people consider the sex trafficking of children to be an international issue and not a problem that impacts us here right in our own communities, but that is not the case at all," (Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez, Sept. 20, 2010)

What is human trafficking?

- Recruiting, harboring, moving or obtaining a person, by force, fraud or coercion, for the purposes of involuntary servitude, debt bondage or sexual exploitation (TVPA 2000).
- Traffickers use fraud, deception, coercion, threats and force to transport, harbor or obtain people for sexual exploitation, or labor.
 - Persons do not have to have been transported internationally to be considered victims of trafficking.
- Forms of trafficking include: sex trafficking, labor trafficking, child trafficking, domestic servitude, international trafficking, and domestic trafficking.
- Sex trafficking includes stripping, live-sex shows and pornography.
- Labor trafficking includes domestic servitude, migrant farm work, work in construction and factories.
- **More than \$9.5 billion** in profits are generated worldwide from trafficking in human beings. It is the second largest and the fastest growing criminal industry in the world today, after drug dealing (US. DOS, 2008).

Extent of human trafficking in the U.S.

- The U.S.A. is the second highest destination in the world for trafficked women (NOW-NYC, 2007).
- **\$250,000**: The amount of profit that can be made from one trafficked woman in the U.S.A (Sweeney, 2005).
- **600,000-800,000**: The number of people trafficked across international borders each year, according to the State Department (U.S. DOS, 2008).
- **14,500-17,500**: A very conservative number of people who are trafficked into the United States each year (U.S. DOS, 2008).
- Between January 2007 and September 2008, **1,229 incidents of human trafficking, with 1,442 victims**, were reported to the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics, **83 percent** of the reported incidents involved **sex trafficking**, and **12 percent** involved **labor trafficking** (Kyckelhahn, Beck & Cohen, 2009).
- 32 percent of the 1,442 victims in the 1,229 trafficking incidents reported were children.

- **More than 50 percent** of all victims in the human trafficking incidents were **U.S. citizens**. U.S. citizens accounted for **63 percent of sex trafficking victims**.
- U.S. Citizens accounted for **66 percent of suspected traffickers** in the trafficking cases reported.
- The Salvation Army estimates that up to **150,000 foreign victims of slavery** are in the United States from 49 countries in the Arab world, Africa, Southeast Asia, and nations formerly part of the Soviet Union, and that about **325,000 children** are commercially sexually exploited in the USA annually (Frederick, 2007).
- Of the foreign victims trafficked into the U.S., approximately **50 %** are under the age of **18 years**, and **80%** are female (U.S.DOJ, 2003).
- An unknown number of U.S. citizens and legal residents, victims of domestic trafficking, are trafficked within the United States, including **Cook County**, for sex trafficking and forced labor (Tanagho, 2007).

Extent of human trafficking in Illinois

- In a 2003 article, The New York Times labeled **Chicago** as a **national hub** for human trafficking (Frederick, 2007).
- Among the Midwest ports of entry, Chicago experiences the highest volume of arriving immigrants and as such is more likely to be a point of entry for trafficking victims (Jones & Yousefzadeh, 2006).
- Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, because of its strategic location and importance, is considered a highly used transit location by traffickers to transport victims and disperse them as needed to other cities and states.
- Traffickers seize opportunities for increased profits by trafficking greater numbers of women for sexual exploitation into Chicago during events where the city is filled with large numbers of tourists (Tanagho, 2007).
- Hundreds of girls and young women are trafficked and held captive as sex slaves in Chicago, while teenage girls are routinely "pimped" and exploited on Chicago streets (Tanagho, 2007).
- In 2005, the FBI designated Chicago as one of thirteen locations of "High Intensity Child Prostitution" (Tanagho, 2007).

- It is easy for a Cook County resident to become a victim of trafficking without ever leaving the county (CCCWI, 2007).
- In metropolitan Chicago, **16,000 to 25,000 women and girls** are involved in commercial sex trade annually, with one third of them first getting involved in prostitution by the age of **15 years**, and **62% by the age of 18 years** (CCCWI, 2007; Raphael & Ashley, 2008).
- Women and girls are trafficked throughout Cook County and to other states for the sex trade.
- In Cook County, places such as massage parlors and strip clubs often serve as a front for trafficking and involve victims of the sex trade (CCCWI, 2007; Raphael & Ashley, 2008).
- Trafficking exists in other areas of Illinois as well.
- In Rockford, on February 7, 2005, federal authorities uncovered seven underground brothels operating under the guise of “spas”, where traffickers locked Chinese and Korean women and used them as sex slaves (Tanagho, 2007).
- Apart from sexual exploitation, victims in Chicago are also trafficked for forced begging, domestic servitude, and forced labor.
- Forced labor networks thrive in highly populated states with large immigrant communities, like Illinois (Tanagho, 2007).
- Forced labor networks in Illinois manifest themselves in forced begging, domestic servitude, and forced labor of unaccompanied minors in restaurants.
- While tens of thousands of people work as forced laborers in the U.S., it is unknown exactly how many of these victims are in Illinois.
- As to forced begging, it is unknown how many people are trafficked into this form of forced labor in the United States, or Illinois in particular.
- The *Paoletti* case, however, involving forced begging in Illinois, illustrates the nature and potential of this form of modern-day slavery. In the 1990s, the Paoletti family trafficked over 1,000 deaf and mute Mexican men and women from Mexico to Chicago and other U.S. cities, and forced the victims to peddle trinkets and beg on subways and buses (Tanagho, 2007).
- Another type of labor trafficking occurring in Illinois is domestic servitude. Women often agree to come to the United States to be maids, but are then physically abused, exploited, and enslaved upon arrival.
- Women and children are trafficked and held in domestic servitude as nannies and maids in homes in wealthy Illinois suburbs.
- In addition to the many women and children forced into domestic servitude, unaccompanied minors are also trafficked into forced labor in Chicago (Tanagho, 2007).
- While approximately 5,000 to 7,000 unaccompanied minors enter the U.S. each year, it is unknown how many are present in Illinois.
- In Illinois, the Heartland Alliance uncovered and assisted over sixty trafficking victims from rural, suburban, and urban areas between 2003 and 2005 (Jones & Yousefzadeh, 2006).
- In 2002, Russian-born **Alex Mishulovich** was sentenced to 9 years in prison for bringing several Latvian women into the country and forcing them to work in Chicago-area strip clubs. **This was the only case of prosecution of a trafficking case in Illinois.**

Policy Responses

- The United States passed the **Trafficking Victim Protection Act (TVPA)** in 2000, making human trafficking a federal crime. It was followed by the **Trafficking Victim Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003 (TVPRA 2003)**, the **TVPRA of 2005** and the **Wilberforce TVPRA of 2008**.
- The **Illinois Trafficking of Persons and Involuntary Servitude Act** went into effect on January 1, 2006.
- **Any person under the age of 18 years who is involved in Cook County’s commercial sex trade is recognized by the TVPA and the Illinois law as a trafficking victim, regardless of whether force, fraud, or coercion was present.**
- The **Illinois Predator Accountability Act** was enacted on July, 3 2006. It allows victims of the sex trade to sue their abusers for damages.
- The **Illinois Rescue and Restore Campaign Coalition**, launched in June 2005 through a partnership between the State of Illinois and the U.S. DHHS, is the spearhead anti-trafficking network in the State. More than 115 public and nonprofit agencies are coalition members.
- The **Illinois Safe Children Act** was signed into law on August 20, 2010 by Governor Pat Quinn. The new law protects children in Illinois from being forced into the sex trade and gives law enforcement additional tools to fight the human-trafficking groups that exploit them. It also stops the criminal prosecution of victimized children and ensures they receive the necessary protective services.

How to get more information about human trafficking, and efforts to combat this modern-day slavery?

Visit www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking

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