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General Trafficking Knowledge

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) defines severe forms of trafficking as:

1) sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion,
2) or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age; or,
3) 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 subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

Stats:

- 27,000,000 slaves
- 200,000 enslaved in the US
- 30,000 are moved from the US to other destinations
- The FBI estimates that the slave trade generates nearly $32 billion in revenue each year

Where Does This Happen?

- Housecleaning services
- Landscape and gardening businesses
- Domestic (home/childcare) workers
- Large-scale agricultural labor
- Construction sites
- Casinos
- Garment factories
- Hotels (housekeeping)
- Nail salons
- Migrant or transitional communities
- Magazine subscription and other door to door sales
- Zones known for prostitution
- Strip clubs
- Massage parlors
- Domestic violence cases
- Truck stops

Child Sex Trafficking

The Numbers

- Sex trafficking: 4.2% of slaves but 39% of profits
- Net profit margin of sex slavery: 70%
- 2 million children worldwide are being subjected to prostitution (UNICEF)
- 1,078 American-born Ohio youth trafficked into the sex trade in 2010
- 15 children from Dayton, Ohio become involved in sex trafficking every year
- 3000 children in Ohio are at risk for trafficking
- Average age of entry into prostitution is 13 and average life span after entry is 7 years

Vulnerability

Children with low self-esteem, weak social support and poor coping skills who have experienced abuse and are living in poverty are typically the most vulnerable to trafficking situations. Other vulnerabilities include being from a highly patriarchal society, living in war zones or areas that have experienced natural disasters, living in areas with high levels of corruption, and being from a marginalized group in terms of race, class, gender, caste, or religion.

Children are trafficked from numerous countries around the world, including American-born children in the United States. The East Asia/Pacific region is the most common origin of those trafficked into the United States.

How Children Become Victimized

Children can be recruited into legitimate work or study abroad opportunities that turn out to be fronts for trafficking operations.

It is also common for pimps to pose as older boyfriends who seduce young girls and eventually push them into the sex trade. Abduction and sale of children to traffickers by families living in poverty do occur as well, although both cases are much more uncommon.