Research exercise: Human Trafficking and Ohio

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Human Trafficking:
Slavery is EVERYWHERE
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Human Trafficking Around the World

- 27 million people are enslaved in the world today
- 800,000-900,000 people are forced across international borders each year
- Victims: 80% female, 50% children

UN Palermo Protocol (2000):
"Trafficking in persons" shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs...

It’s a Business
Near infinite supply
Low transportation costs
Endless amount of demand

UN estimates the modern-day slave trade generates $35 billion/year

HUGE Profits

8 Types of Human Trafficking
1. Forced Labor
2. Sex Trafficking
3. Bonded Labor
4. Debt Bondage Among Migrant Laborers
5. Involuntary Domestic Servitude
6. Forced Child Labor
7. Child Soldiers
8. Child Sex Trafficking

Human Trafficking in the U.S.

- United States is a Tier 1 country for trafficking. Tier 1 means that the government is in compliance with the minimum standards of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act 2000
- 100 thousand children are estimated to be in the slave trade each year in the United States.
- This leads to the estimate that the total amount of human trafficking victims is well into the hundreds of thousands when talking about adults and children
  - This last point includes both sex slaves and labor slaves

Polaris Project

- The polaris project is one of the largest anti-trafficking organizations in the United States.
- It is committed to combating human trafficking and modern-day slavery, and to strengthening the anti-trafficking movement through a comprehensive approach
- In 2011 the Polaris Project’s call specialists with the National Human trafficking resource center answered nearly 20 thousand calls and connected nearly 3 thousand to human trafficking service and support

Human Trafficking In Ohio

- Toledo is #1 per capita in recruiting most traffickers and underage girls into prostitution
- Toledo is also #4 city in the U.S. in arrests and investigations related to child sex trafficking
- Over 60 cases of trafficking have been investigated in Ohio since 2003
- 783 foreign persons were trafficked into Ohio’s labor and sex trade within the past year
- Nearly 3,000 American-born Ohio youth are at risk for sex trafficking

Ohio Vulnerabilities

- Extensive highway system
- Most truck stops in the nation
- Proximity to Canada
- Within day's drive to multiple metropolitan cities
- Large minority population
- Agricultural industry
- Unemployment
- Poverty

Obstacles in Combating Trafficking in Ohio

- Minimal support among power players and politicians
- Funding concerns
- Ignorance about the issue
- Sympathy for "johns" and lack of sympathy for sex trafficking victims charged with prostitution

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