

Welcome to the Hard Hat Training Series!

Welcome to Safety Provisions, home of the Hard Hat Training series. Today, we will be discussing Human Trafficking Awareness. This can be a shocking and sometimes horrifying topic to discuss. However, today's training will empower you with the knowledge and tools to help. The more light we shine on this modern-day human rights issue, the fewer places perpetrators can hide. By becoming more aware of what human trafficking is, why it happens, and the warning signs to look for, you can become a victim's best or only hope of rescue.

Globally, the estimated number of trafficking victims is breathtaking. About 21 million people are victims of human trafficking. That's the population of Florida. Below are some other relevant statistics. Take a moment to look them over and ask yourself if human trafficking is really someone else's problem.

BY THE NUMBERS

26%

of trafficking
victims are
children

55%

of victims are
women and
girls

35%

increase
in trafficking
last year



Due to the gross underrepresentation of trafficking in the media, many of us are left to wonder exactly what the term means. In essence, human trafficking is the act of exploiting people for the purposes of forced labor or commercial sex. It can occur across borders or within one nation, but in almost every scenario, the victim (or “commodity”) is treated with little or no respect and is unwilling to participate in the exploitation.



There are many examples of human trafficking that, while not exactly prostitution, are often directly controlled by the sex industry and lead to prostitution later on. Below are a few examples:

- Child pornography
- Child sex tourism
- Child brides/soldiers
- Begging rings
- Illegal adoption

It is estimated that one out of every six runaways ends up in the child sex trafficking industry.

In the U.S. alone, there are hundreds of thousands of trafficking victims living right under citizens' noses.

Cases of human trafficking are increasing in frequency every single year. Such abuse is being reported more than ever due to an increase in awareness and the availability of the Human Trafficking Hotline.

The trafficking industry generates billions of dollars every year and is estimated to be among the most profitable economies in the world. In fact, human trafficking comes second only to drug trafficking in terms of profitability.

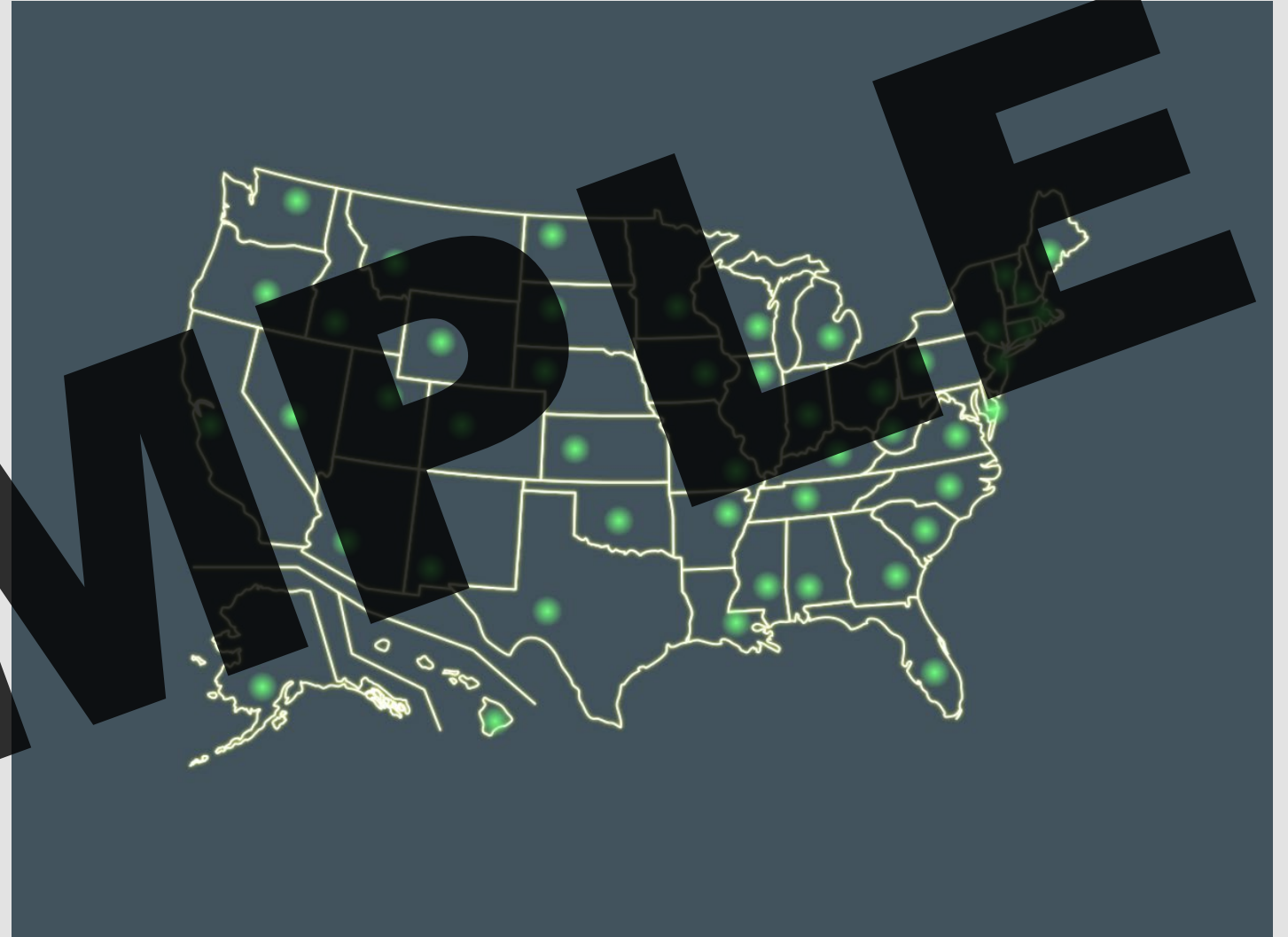


There is a common misconception that everyone working in the sex industry is involved of their own free will. While those who willingly offer sexual services certainly exist, the vast majority of prostitutes, escorts, and actors in pornographic films are either being forced to sell their bodies or entered the trade as a means of escape from abusive or poor circumstances at home. In many cases, even those who willingly join the sex force do not have an accurate understanding of what they will be expected to do and under what conditions they will be required to work.



Photo by Jack Kurtz

Despite the belief that trafficking is an issue mainly in faraway lands, there are illegal operations run right in your own backyard. The Western world is far from innocent in its contribution to the trafficking industry and is a large part of the reason it pervades modern society. As of last year, instances of sex trafficking were discovered in every single state, as well as Washington, D.C.



Under Federal law, any situation in which a minor (someone under the age of 18) performs commercial sex acts is one of human trafficking. This means that even if there was no coercion involved, promoting or inducing the practice of profitable sexual involvement with a minor makes you a trafficker. By the same token, being a minor involved in such acts makes you a trafficking victim.





- **Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000**, U.S. Code, Title 22, Ch. 78 – Trafficking Victims Protection
- **The Customs & Facilitations & Trade Enforcement Reauthorization Act of 2009, Sections 307-308** – Amend the original Tariff Act of 1930 to include provisions to prohibit the importation of goods to the U.S. made by benefit of human trafficking or forced labor.
- **Intelligence Reform & Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, Section 7202** – Established the Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center.
- **PROTECT Act of 2003** – Intends to protect children from abuse and sexual exploitation.
- **Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform Act of 2000** – Provides notice to property owners whose properties have been identified as being used to facilitate smuggling or harboring aliens.
- **Mann Act of 1910** – Makes it a felony to knowingly persuade, induce, entice, or coerce an individual to travel across state lines to engage in prostitution or attempt to do so.
- **Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (JVTA) of 2015** - Criminal liability of buyers of commercial sex from victims of trafficking

Trafficking in humans is a crime punishable under federal and international law. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) was the first comprehensive federal law to address human trafficking. It was reauthorized in 2003, 2005, 2008, and 2013. Above are some of the federal statutes concerning human trafficking. Your individual state or province will have additional statutes, laws, and considerations. Be sure you are aware of these laws and follow them with exactness.



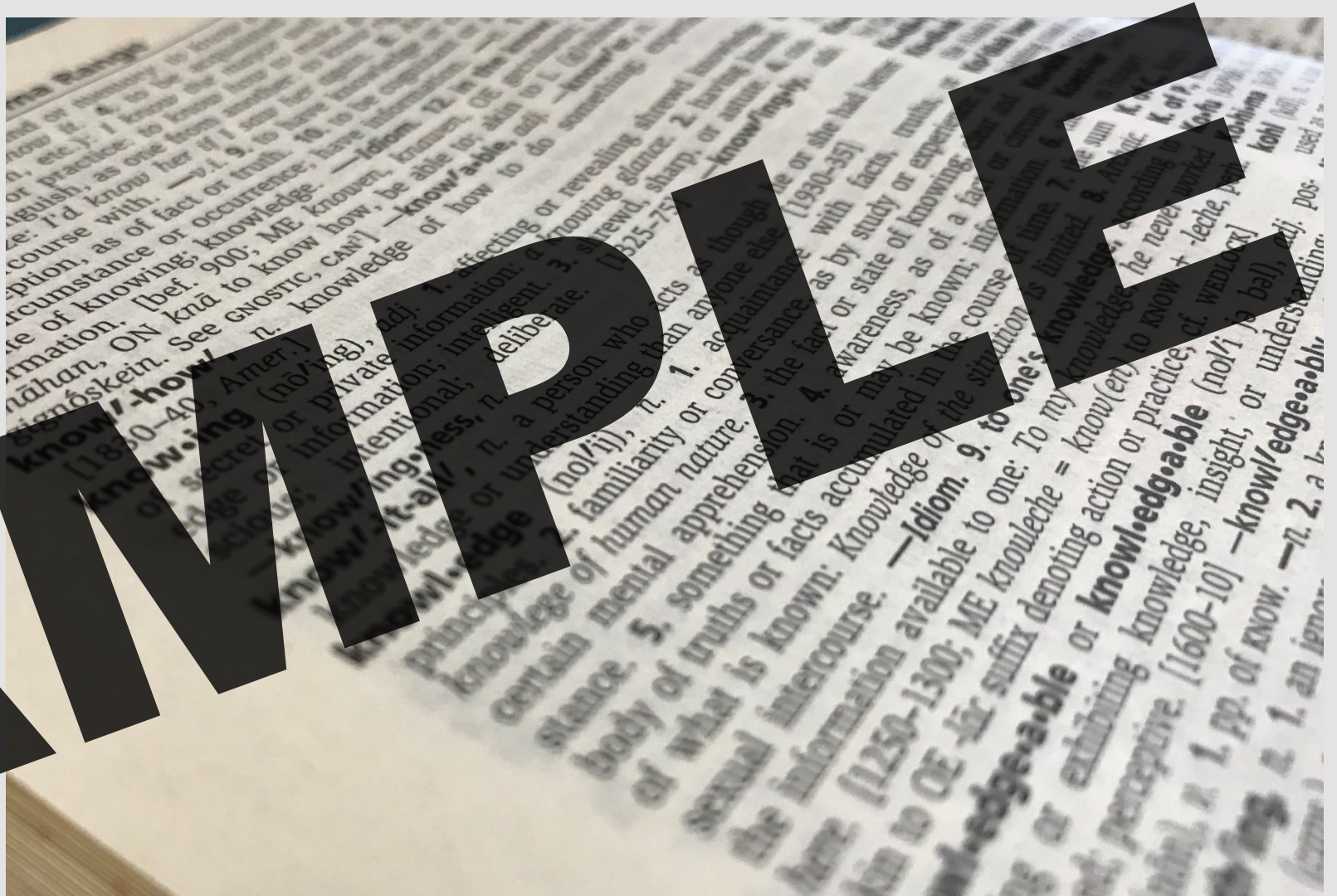
- **Palermo Protocol, Article 5** – Requires countries to criminalize trafficking, attempted trafficking, and any other intentional participation or organization in a trafficking scheme.
- **The UN Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others** - Requires countries to punish any person who exploits the prostitution of another.
- **The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)** – Prohibits a number of practices directly related to trafficking, including slavery, the slave trade, servitude, and force labor.
- **United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children** – Effective action must be taken to “prevent and combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children.”
- **The Convention on the Rights of the Child** – Prohibits trafficking in children for any purpose, including exploitive and forced labor.
- **The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women** – Requires countries take all appropriate measure to suppress all forms of trafficking in women and exploitation of prostitution of women.

These are some of the main international regulations used to combat human trafficking. While the international norms are clear, gaps do still exist in the implementation of these laws and regulations.

Although the Palermo Protocol (part of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime) calls for a comprehensive approach to combat trafficking, this approach has not been fully realized, even today.

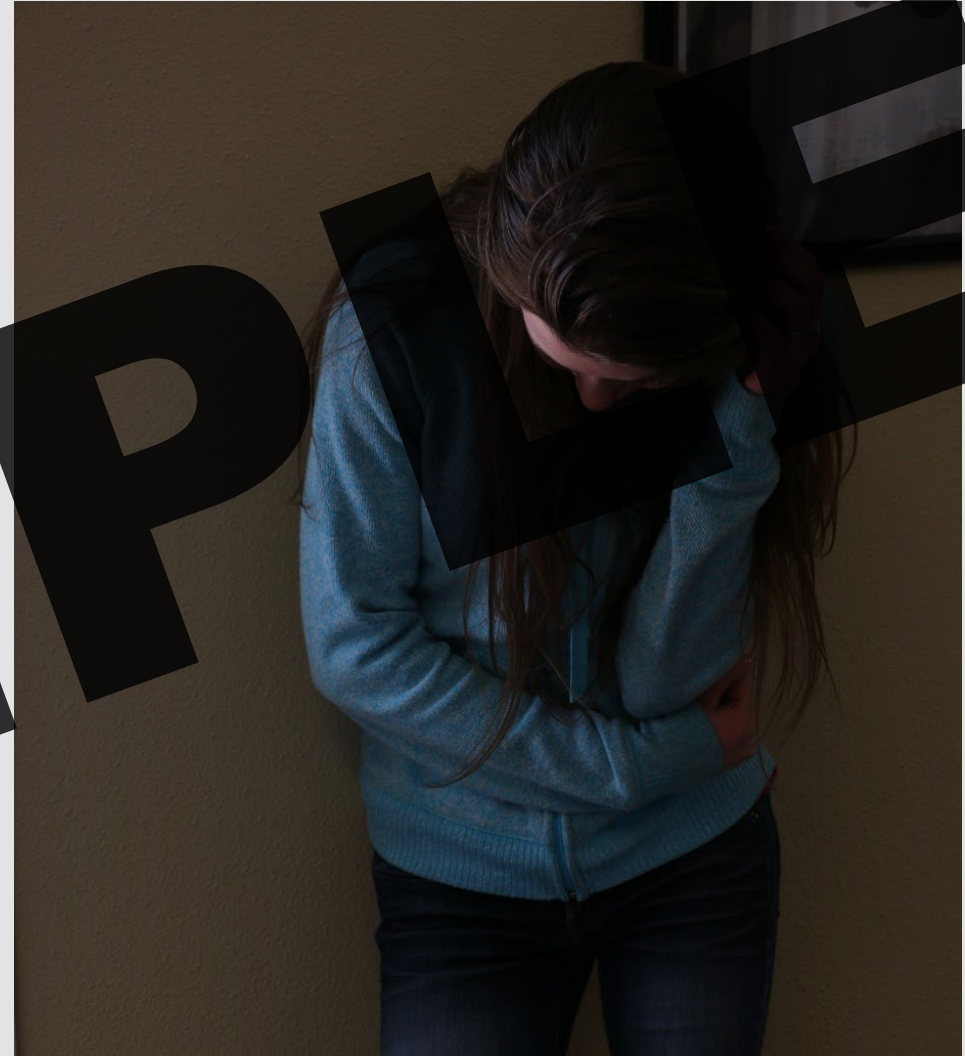
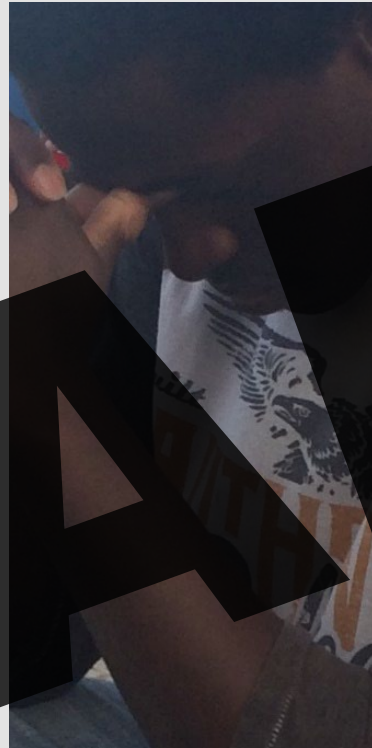
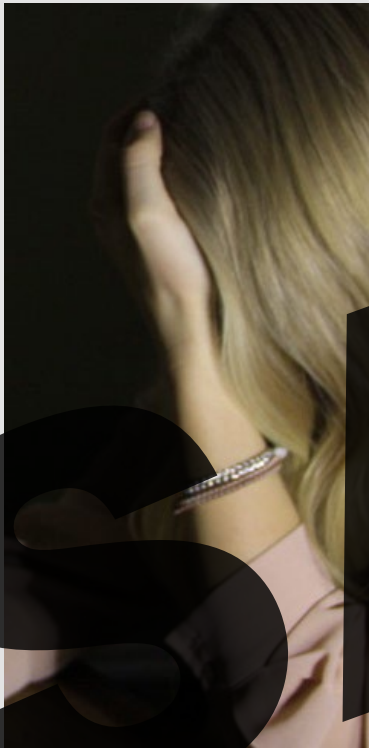
Definitions

We will be covering a lot of information in today's training. Let's take a few minutes to cover some terms that we'll be using.



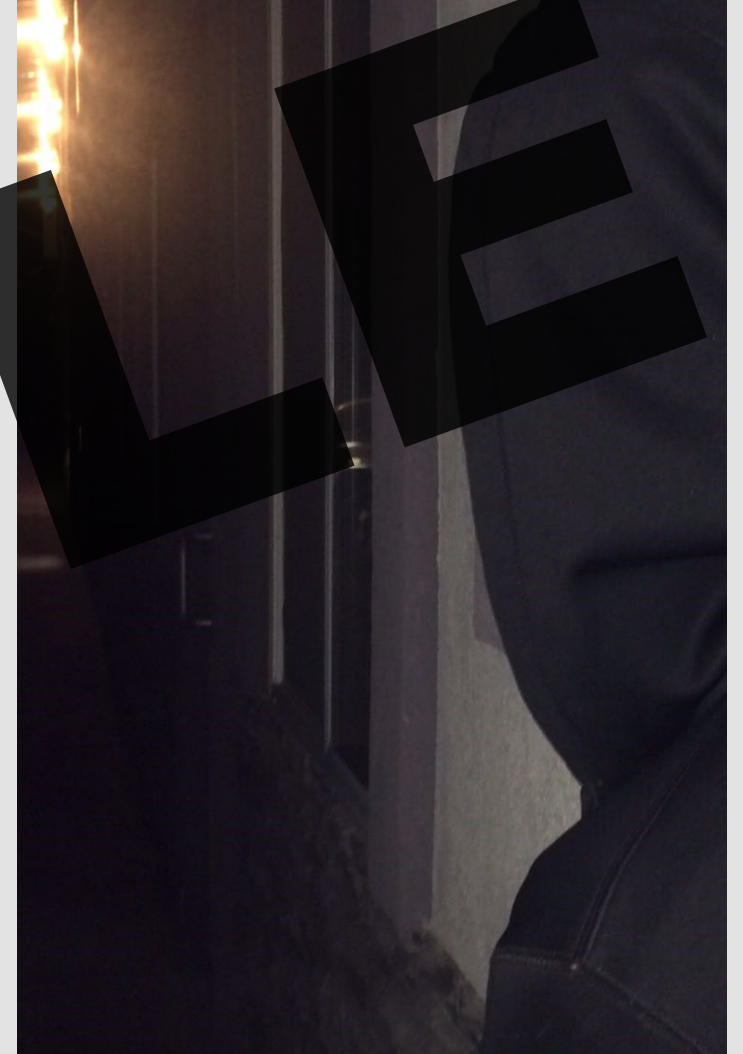
Victim

A **victim** is anyone who is harmed, injured, or killed as a result of a crime or other event. Victims are commonly tricked and taken advantage of, leading to situations of suffering or neglect.



Trafficker

By the simplest definition, **traffickers** are people who deal or trade in something illegal. We frequently envision traffickers as being frightening outlaws or intimidating strangers, but they can be parents, neighbors, or friends that we have known for years. Anyone who attempts to use illegal products or people for personal gain is a trafficker.



Sex Trafficking

Sex trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purposes of a commercial sex act. The commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age.



Coercion

Coercion is using force or power in order to gain compliance from another person. Coercion is made up of three distinctive parts:

- Threats of serious harm to or physical restraint against any person
- Any scheme, plan, or pattern intended to cause a person to believe that failure to perform an act would result in serious harm to or physical restraint against any person
- The abuse or threatened abuse of the legal process

Did you know?

The “abuse or threatened abuse of the legal process” means using (or threatening to use) the law or legal process, whether administrative, civil, or criminal, in any manner or purpose for which the law was not designed in order to exert pressure on another person.



Exploitation

To exploit someone means to use combined, often varied, techniques to utilize another person, especially for profit. Exploitation is closely related to coercion.



Impact

There is no official estimate of how many human trafficking victims there are in the United States, but some estimates put the numbers in the hundreds of thousands. That's hundreds of thousands of adults and minors—men, women, and children—being trafficked for sex and labor every year.





It goes without saying that the human toll of this modern-day slavery is crippling. The effects of trafficking vary depending on the type of trafficking being used in any given situation; however, since trafficking is reliant on exploiting individuals, all victims may face physical, psychological, and social impacts.

Financial

As mentioned, human trafficking is a profitable business, with traffickers making about \$150 billion a year. Although only 19% of victims are trafficked for sex, it is important to note that the sex trade earns 66% of the global profits from human trafficking.





All indications are that the income generated by trafficking-related organized crime is significant and global. Given the ongoing nature of exploitation, human trafficking generates a stable and regular source of income for criminal networks, with a consequent impact on other forms of criminal activity, as well as legitimate business.

Because it plays a key role in organized crime, trafficking impacts the economy and social structure of any country in which it occurs. Human trafficking has negative impacts across human, social, political, and economic spheres. The complex impact and vast range of trafficking-related crimes pose a threat to global peace and security. In a very real way, human trafficking shapes political, social, and economic responses both globally and nationally.



Physical

Victims may be exposed to excessive labor in harsh conditions. The physical toll on victims is typical of physical abuse: broken bones, concussions, bruising, and scars. Victims may also suffer from malnourishment and chronic health issues such as back, cardiovascular, or respiratory issues stemming from unhealthy work environments. They may be exposed to serious health risks such as HIV/AIDS or other sexually-transmitted diseases. They may also suffer from untreated chronic diseases, such as diabetes, heart disease, or cancer.



Emotional

Anyone subjected to human trafficking will likely suffer from serious mental health issues. Anxiety, fear, and trauma are just a few of the emotional tolls paid by trafficking victims. Long-term mental effects can include depression, PTSD, or substance abuse addictions.





The statistics and impacts of human trafficking are truly staggering. We will pause here a moment and remind you that today's training is not meant to shock or overwhelm you. Rather, you should feel empowered to take action and help where you can. You can help end this modern-day slavery.

By the end of the training, you will have a basic understanding of human trafficking, its victims, and the traffickers. We will learn some of the tools and tricks traffickers use to lure people into trafficking situations and hold them there.



We will also teach you how to protect children and teens from traffickers—from parents to bystanders, we all need to feel responsible for the safety of the most vulnerable in our society. You will learn the common symptoms and signs of trafficking, as well as what to do when you see them.



Trafficking is not an impulsive crime. Recruiters and pimps plan out their operations meticulously, accounting for whatever could go wrong and covering their bases at all times. They prey on the ignorance and naivete of others to get what they want, so the best way to fight this incredible injustice is to be aware and practice safe behavior. With time, we can bring a stop to the terrible realities of sex trafficking.

