

HUMAN TRAFFICKING STATISTICS

The following is a list of available statistics estimating the scope of Human Trafficking around the world and within the United States. Actual statistics are often unavailable, and some may be contradictory due to the covert nature of the crime, the invisibility of victims and high levels of under-reporting. Further obstacles include inconsistent definitions, reluctance to share data, and a lack of funding for research and standardization of data collection. Estimates on the number of American citizens trafficked within the U.S. are particularly scarce.

Human Trafficking Worldwide

- 27 million - Number of people in modern-day slavery across the world.¹
- 12.3 million - Number of adults and children in forced labor around the world²
 - 9.8 million – Number of these that are exploited by private agents for labor or commercial sex purposes.³
 - 2.5 million – Number of these that are forced to work by the State or rebel military groups.⁴
- 49,105 - Number of human trafficking victims around the world who have been identified.⁵
 - 4,166 - Number of successful trafficking prosecutions in 2009.⁶
 - 335 - Number of successful prosecutions related to forced labor.⁷
- 1.8 per 1,000 inhabitants - Prevalence of trafficking victims in the world.⁸
- 1:9 - Ratio of sex trafficking victims to labor trafficking victims, globally.⁹
- 800,000 – Number of people trafficked across international borders every year, as of 2007.¹⁰
- 2 million – Number of children exploited by the global commercial sex trade.¹¹
- 1.2 million – Number of children trafficked globally in 2000.¹²
- 80% – Percent of transnational victims who are women and girls.¹³
- 50% – Percent of transnational victims who are minors.¹⁴
- At least 56% - Percent of trafficking victims globally who are women.¹⁵
- 161 – Countries identified as affected by human trafficking:¹⁶
 - 127 countries of origin; 98 transit countries; 137 destination countries.
 - Note: Countries may be counted multiple times and categories are not mutually exclusive.
- 116 - Countries that have enacted legislation to prohibit all forms of [human] trafficking.¹⁷
- 104 - Countries without laws, policies, or regulations to prevent victims' deportations.¹⁸
- 62 - Countries that have yet to convict a trafficker under laws in compliance with the Palermo Protocol.¹⁹
- \$32 billion – Total yearly profits, in U.S. dollars, generated by the human trafficking industry.²⁰
 - \$15.5 billion, half of the total, is made in industrialized countries.
 - \$9.7 billion, one third of the total, is made in Asia.
 - \$13,000 per year, on average, generated by each trafficked laborer. This comes to \$1,100 per month.
- \$21 billion - A preliminary estimate of the total financial cost of being in a forced labor situation, rather than a free employment situation, to all workers in forced labor across the globe in U.S. dollars.²¹
 - This includes costs such as loss of wages due to being paid below the market wage or not being paid for all hours worked, inflated costs for accommodations and food, and recruitment costs.
 - This does not include the commercial sex industry.

Foreign Nationals Trafficked into the U.S.

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In FY 2010, 449 certifications were issued to adult victims of human trafficking and 92 eligibility letters were issued to child victims.²²

Since the Trafficking Victims Protection Act was enacted in 2000, the number of foreign national victims of trafficking in the U.S. who received Certification and Eligibility Letters has increased nearly every year, and especially after 2004.²³

Fiscal Year	Minors	Adults	Total
2001	4	194	198
2002	18	81	99
2003	6	145	151
2004	16	147	163
2005	34	197	231
2006	20	214	234
2007	33	270	303
2008	31	286	317
2009	50	330	380
TOTAL	212	1864	2076

- Of those who received Certification and Eligibility Letters in FY 2009:²⁴
 - 82 % adult victims of trafficking and 56% of child victims of trafficking in the U.S. were labor trafficking victims.
 - 53% of adult victims of trafficking and 66% of child victims of trafficking in the U.S. were female.
 - Victims came from 47 countries. The following chart shows the top seven countries of origin, the number of certified adult victims from each, and the percentage of total certified adult victims that they represent:

Country	# of victims	% of total
Thailand	86	26
Mexico	44	13
Philippines	35	11
Haiti	21	6

India	20	6
Guatemala	18	5
Dominican Republic	10	3

- 1,591 – Number of T visas granted by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) from FY 2000 through FY 2009 to human trafficking survivors. 729 visas were issued between FY 2000 and FY 2006.²⁵
 - Another 1,473 derivative T visas were granted to family members.²⁶
 - DHS is authorized to issue up to 5,000 T-visas per year.

Human Trafficking of U.S. citizens within the U.S.

Statistics on human trafficking of U.S. citizens within the U.S. are scarce, as few studies have been conducted on the issue. Those that have been done tend to focus on sex trafficking, particularly of minors. Therefore, the focus of the statistics below on the domestic sex trafficking of minors is not meant to imply that sex trafficking of adults or the labor trafficking of adults and minors is not a significant issue in the U.S.

- 100,000 - 300,000 - Number of prostituted children in the U.S.²⁷
- 244,000 – Number of American children and youth estimated to be at risk of child sexual exploitation, including commercial sexual exploitation, in 2000.²⁸
- 98.8 – Percent of suspected or confirmed child victims of domestic sex trafficking taken in by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) nationwide from 2004 to 2010 who were classified as Endangered Runaways.²⁹
 - 41.4 – Percent of suspected or confirmed child victims of domestic sex trafficking who were repeat runaways.
 - 46.7 - Percent of suspected or confirmed child victims of domestic sex trafficking who ran from a group home, foster care, DCFS care or a shelter.
 - 3 months – Average length of time the child was missing.
- 40-70 - Percent of street youth who engage, at least occasionally, in prostitution to meet their basic needs.³⁰
 - The population of street youth engaging in prostitution is almost equally divided between boys and girls.³¹
- 12-14 – Average age of entry into prostitution for girls.³²
- 11-13 - Average age of entry into prostitution for boys.
- 75% of girls engaged in formal street prostitution are controlled by pimps.³³
- 95% of all commercial sex engaged in by boys is provided to adult males.³⁴

Human Trafficking within the U.S. by State

Very little research has been done to determine the extent of human trafficking on the state level; however, some state-wide reports have been published. Due to data collection limitations the following statistics should be taken as baseline estimates only. These statistics are not definitive or comprehensive estimates.

California:³⁵

- 559 – Potential victims identified between Dec. 1, 2005 and March 12, 2007 by five CA Task Forces.
- 57 – Number of applications for continued presence submitted during the same time period.

Florida:³⁶

- 400 - Estimated minimum number of domestic minor sex trafficking victims that have interacted with professionals in Florida between 2000 and 2006, who were not identified as victims of trafficking.

Georgia:³⁷

- 11 - Number of girls ages 14-16 charged with prostitution in 2006 in Fulton County. This number does not represent all girls this age arrested for prostitution, however, since their charge is usually dropped to and recorded as disorderly conduct.

Illinois:

- 16,000 - the minimum number of women and girls are involved in prostitution activities during any given year in the Chicago metropolitan area.³⁸
- 62 - Percent of a sample group of individuals involved in prostitution in Chicago who performed their first commercial sex act before age 18.³⁹
- 33 - Percent of same sample group who entered prostitution before age 15. Of those in this sample group who entered into prostitution between ages 12-15: ⁴⁰
 - 87 - Percent were told by someone as they were growing up that they should engage in prostitution for money.
 - 72 - Percent ran away from home.
 - At least 50 percent grew up in a household with prostitution.
- 16.4 - Average age of entry to regular involvement in prostitution of another sample of women in the Chicago metropolitan area.⁴¹
 - 33 - Percent entered into prostitution at age 15 or younger.
 - 56 - Percent entered into prostitution at age 16 or younger.
- 70 - Percent of a sample of women in prostitution in the metropolitan Chicago area who were recruited by another individual.⁴²
 - 30 - Percent, the remainder, entered on their own, but ended up with a pimp by the time of the study.

Louisiana⁴³

- 100 - Number of victims served in the Baton Rouge / New Orleans area from 2006 - February 2008, a conservative estimate.
 - 57 - Percent of former clients identified as potentially having been sex trafficking victims, by a youth shelter in Baton Rouge, which reviewed its records after becoming aware of domestic sex trafficking.

Minnesota:

- 80 - Number of labor trafficking victims service providers reported working with in 2009.⁴⁴
 - Of these, 16 were adult males, 52 were adult females, and 12 were children.
 - 39 - Number of labor trafficking victims service providers reported working with in 2007.⁴⁵
 - Of these, 5 were adult males, 32 were adult females, and 2 were children.
- 370 - Number of sex trafficking victims service providers reported working with in 2009.⁴⁶
 - Of these, 30 are adult males, 206 are adult females, and 134 are children.
 - 275 - Number of sex trafficking victims service providers reported working with in 2007.⁴⁷
 - Of these, 1 was an adult male, 210 were adult females and 64 were children.
- 678 - Number of trafficking related charges in 2009.⁴⁸
- 313 - Number of trafficking related convictions in 2009.⁴⁹

Missouri⁵⁰

- 84 - Estimated number of domestic minor sex trafficking victims who have been identified by a single agency in Jackson County, Missouri from 2000 - January 2008.

Nevada⁵¹

- 400 - Number of minor sex trafficking victims identified on the streets of Las Vegas in May 2007 alone.
- 1,496 - Number of minors who have appeared before a judge for prostitution-related charges from 1994 to July 1, 2007.
 - 226 of these appeared before a judge between August 24, 2005 and May 31, 2007.
 - 28 - The number of home states these children had been trafficked from.
- 435 - Number of pimps who have been arrested from 1996 to July 1, 2007.

New York

- 36 - Number of victims identified from November 2007, when their first human trafficking law was enacted, to June 2008.⁵²
 - 27 of these were women; 9 were men.
 - 17 of these were trafficked for labor; 19 for commercial sex.
 - 30 were foreign born; 6 were citizens.
- 70-80 - Number of domestic trafficked minors identified by one residential treatment center in Buffalo, from 2000 to July 3, 2008.⁵³

Ohio

- 783 - Estimated number of foreign born persons in Ohio who are sex or labor trafficking victims.⁵⁴
 - 3,437 - Number of foreign born persons in Ohio who may be at-risk for trafficking.
- 1,078 - Number of American-born youth in Ohio who are trafficked into the sex trade over the course of a year.⁵⁵
 - 2,879 - Number of American-born youth in Ohio who are at risk for sex trafficking.
- 15 - Number of cases of human trafficking identified in Columbus and Toledo between January 2003 and June 2006.⁵⁶

Texas

- 119 - Number of minors exploited for commercial sex identified by the Dallas Police Department in 2007.⁵⁷
 - 55 - Number of domestic minor sex trafficking related cases in Dallas in 2007.
 - 33 - Number of individuals charged in sex trafficking related cases in Dallas in 2007.
- 35 - Number of juveniles charged with prostitution-related offenses in Tarrant County, from 2000 - 2008.⁵⁸

Utah⁵⁹

- 42 - Number of minors arrested for prostitution between 1996 and 2007 in Salt Lake City.
- 25-30 - Number of pimps investigated and charged from 1996 to August 2008.

Wisconsin:⁶⁰

- 200 – Number of identified cases of sex and labor trafficking.
- 85% – Proportion of victims in the 200 identified cases who were adults.
- 75% – Proportion of victims in the 200 identified cases who were victims of sex trafficking.

U.S. Investigations, Prosecutions, and Convictions

It is likely that the numbers of traffickers convicted are higher than those reported below. Defendants may be charged with other crimes such as kidnapping, immigration violations or money laundering for strategic or technical reasons. Also note that data is not comparable across agencies as a result of the complexity of investigations and the incompatibility and limitations of agency data systems.

Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) Civil Rights Unit:

- 167 – Number of trafficking cases opened in 2009, double the number opened in 2004.⁶¹

- 751 – Number of trafficking cases opened between 2001 and April 5th, 2007.⁶²
- The numbers of cases opened increased from 54 in 2001 to 126 in 2006
- 93 - Number of convictions obtained in Fiscal Year 2009.⁶³
 - 185 – Convictions between 2001 and April 5th, 2007.⁶⁴
 - The number of convictions increased: from 15 in 2001 to 70 in 2006.
 - Includes joint investigations with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), for both sex and labor trafficking.

FBI Crimes Against Children Unit – Innocence Lost National Initiative:

- Over 1200 - Number of children recovered by the Innocence Lost National Initiative from June 2003 - November 2010.⁶⁵
 - 306 - Number of children recovered in FY 2009.⁶⁶
- 327 – Number of trafficking cases opened from 2004 through June 5th, 2007.⁶⁷
 - The number of cases opened has increased every year: from 67 in 2004 to 103 in 2006.
- 625 - Number of convictions by Innocence Lost from June 2003 - November 2010.⁶⁸
 - 151 - Number of traffickers convicted in state and federal courts in FY 2009.⁶⁹
 - 182 – Number of convictions obtained from 2004 through June 5th, 2007.⁷⁰
 - The number of convictions increased: from 22 in 2004 to 43 in 2006.

Civil Rights Division/Criminal Section and U.S. Attorney’s Offices (Dept. of Justice):

- 42 – Number of trafficking cases prosecuted in Fiscal Year 2009 under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA).⁷¹
 - 21 of these were labor trafficking and 22 were sex trafficking cases.
- 139 – Number of trafficking cases prosecuted 2001 – June 14, 2007, under the TVPA.⁷²
 - 39 of these were labor trafficking cases and 100 were sex trafficking.
- 19 – Number of trafficking cases prosecuted from 1995 – 2000, prior to the TVPA.⁷³
 - 12 of these were labor trafficking, and 7 were sex trafficking cases.
- 47 – Number of convictions in Fiscal Year 2009, under the TVPA.⁷⁴
- 302 – Number of defendants convicted 2001 – June 14, 2007, under the TVPA⁷⁵
 - 228 sex trafficking; 74 labor trafficking
- 67 – Number of defendants convicted 1995 – 2000, prior to the TVPA.⁷⁶
 - 20 sex trafficking; 47 labor trafficking.

Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)

- 1,919 – Number of trafficking-related cases opened between 2005 and 2009.⁷⁷
 - 566 - Number of cases opened in FY 2009.
 - 348 - Number of cases opened in FY 2007.
 - 274 - Number of cases opened in FY 2005.
- 494 – Number of trafficking-related convictions obtained between 2005 and 2009.⁷⁸
 - 165 - Number of convictions obtained in FY 2009.
 - 26 - Number of convictions obtained in FY 2009 for human trafficking.
 - 91 - Number of convictions obtained in FY 2007.

- 10 - Number of convictions obtained in FY 2005.
- 11,654 - number of arrests of foreign national sex offenders, international sex tourists and internet child pornographers made by ICE Operation Predator from 2003 to FY 2009.⁷⁹
 - 1,412 - Number of arrests made in FY 2009, with the cooperation of foreign law enforcement.
- 495 – Number of investigations of U.S. citizens engaging in child sex tourism abroad opened by ICE Cyber Crimes Center (C3) between 2003 and 2009.⁸⁰
 - 66 - Number of convictions obtained during this time period.

Polaris Project works to empower and mobilize people from diverse backgrounds and of all ages to take meaningful action against human trafficking. Register with www.polarisproject.org/signup to receive regular updates on human trafficking in the United States.

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