

Human Trafficking at the U.S./Mexico Border: Our Responsibility as Social Workers

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Types of Trafficking

- Sex Trafficking
- Child Prostitution
- Child Labor
- Labor – Indentured Servitude
- Migratory Workers
- Mail Order Brides
- Adoption Fraud
- Trafficking Vs. Smuggling
- Exploitation by Parents

Definition

- Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery in which traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to control victims for the purpose of engaging in commercial sex acts or labor services against his/her will.
- **Sex trafficking** has been found in a wide variety of venues within the sex industry, including residential brothels, escort services, fake massage businesses, strip clubs, and street prostitution.
- **Labor trafficking** has been found in diverse labor settings including, domestic work, small businesses, large farms, and factories.

Myths of Human Trafficking

- This doesn't happen in the Midwest!
- Not in my backyard!
- <http://www.traffickingresourcecenter.org/what-human-trafficking/myths-misconceptions>

Human Trafficking National

- <http://www.traffickingresourcecenter.org/states>

Statistics of people using hotline

http://www.traffickingresourcecenter.org/sites/default/files/2014%20NHTRC%20Annual%20Report_Final.pdf

Braking Traffick

Any Kid Anywhere: Sex Trafficking

<http://www.brakingtraffik.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/BrakingTraffik>

Trafficking

Where Trafficking Occurs

- Truck Stops
- Restaurant Kitchens
- Farms
- Hotels
- Casinos
- Border crossing into the United States

How Victims are Trafficked

- Force
- Fraud
- Coercion

Who is Trafficked

- Runaways
- Abused Children or a “Throw Away Child”
- Unsupervised Children
- Undocumented Children
- Children “off the radar” of helping professionals
- ANY CHILD!

Latino children at Risk!!

- According to the Migration Policy Institute, the Midwest is home to 200,000 to 275,000 young people brought to the country illegally as children
- Undocumented Children are at very high risk for childhood sexual abuse and other forms of exploitation.
Especially targets to pimps and coyotes!

Who Are the Children?

- Children next door...born in the U.S.
- Immigrant children
- Child prostitutes/human trafficking
- Undocumented children

Latino Children & Sexual Abuse

- Latino children are the fastest growing group in the child welfare system
- Latino children are more likely to experience childhood sexual abuse when compared to non-Latino children
- Data indicates that Latino children of immigrants are five times more likely to be confirmed as victims of childhood sexual abuse (Dettlaff, Earner & Phillips, 2009)
- 23% of Latino children report sexual abuse (National Child Traumatic Stress Network, 2007)

Barriers to Getting Help

- Cultural Values: Shame, Familismo, Respeto
- Intense Fear of Deportation
- Little Contact with Service Providers
- Language Differences
- Lack of Trust

Barriers to GIVING HELP to victims

- Research is virtually non-existent
- Many children experience some form of sexual assault when they cross the border coming into the United States
- Children may also be victims of human trafficking for prostitution and pornography
- Vulnerable child population that is “off the radar” of helping professionals

Tools to Identify Victims

- <http://www.traffickingresourcecenter.org/what-human-trafficking/recognizing-signs>
- Is not free to leave or come and go as he/she wishes
- Is fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid
- Exhibits unusually fearful or anxious behavior after bringing up law enforcement
- Avoids eye contact
- Shows signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, or torture
- Lack of knowledge of whereabouts and/or of what city he/she is in

Tools to PREVENT Trafficking!!

- Victim ID & Restoration
- Truckers Against Trafficking

<http://fox59.com/2015/02/16/truck-driver-credited-with-saving-woman-who-was-tortured-forced-into-prostitution/>

- Sisters of Mercy & other Non-Profit Organizations
- Polaris Project
- Discuss the problem at local, regional and national forums
- Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW) a non-profit organization dedicated to abolishing modern day slavery