HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking isn’t just something that happens “over there”. It occurs within the United States, with trafficking occurring in Southern California.

TOP 3 SEX TRAFFICKING INDUSTRIES
1. Pimp-controlled prostitution (hotels/motels, streets, etc.)
2. Commercial-front brothels
3. Escort service/delivery services

TOP LABOR TRAFFICKING INDUSTRIES
1. Domestic labor
2. Restaurant/food service
3. Peddling ring
4. Traveling sales crew

TRAFFICKING EXAMPLES

LABOR: Massage parlors, construction, agriculture, “sweatshops"

SEX: Child pornography, prostitution

41% of sex trafficking cases referenced US citizens as victims
20% of labor trafficking cases referenced US citizens as victims
GLOBAL
- 10-30 million modern day slaves exist in the world today
- 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year
- Estimated $32 billion-a-year global industry

NATIONAL
- 14,500 and 17,500 people are trafficked into the US annually
- Victims came from 47 different countries. The top 5 host countries include: Thailand, Mexico, Philippines, Haiti and India
- 244,000 American children and youth are estimated to be at risk of child sexual exploitation

LOCAL
- 72% of California human trafficking victims whose country of origin was identified are American.
- California’s human trafficking task force held 2,500 investigations, identified almost 1,300 victims of human trafficking, and arrested almost 1,800 individuals

ALL CHILDREN ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO TRAFFICKERS THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

Other children are susceptible to human traffickers:
- Foster children
- Homeless children
- Runaways
- Pregnant children

SOCIAL MEDIA
Allows for direct communication between traffickers and potential victims. Since many parents are not computer savvy, the children are able to access sites and applications that may put them into contact directly with traffickers.

COMMON APPS & WEBSITES LINKED TO TRAFFICKING
- Kik
- Omegle
- WeChat
- backpage.com
- Craigslist

Social media allows traffickers to monitor potential victims, discern likes/dislikes, problems and thought processes. This allows traffickers to “groom” victims by playing on their problems. A key factor is to empower parents to not be afraid of technology and get involved in the various technologies and how they may be used by traffickers and their children.
Lieutenant Andre Dawson, a detective with the LAPD for 32 years, has run an eight-person vice team focused on slowing the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) since 2010. Dawson and others like him have a new way of thinking about individuals being trafficked: regard them as victims; people who need to be saved from danger instead of being persecuted as criminals. According to Dawson: “Girls prostitute themselves because they’re desperate for money, love, or both. They think they’re getting what they can’t get somewhere else. These girls think the pimp hasn’t done anything wrong”. In August the LA County officials adopted a protocol for first responders focused on recognizing signs of sexual exploitation among minors and how to talk to children. Typical days for the lieutenant and his team include seeking intelligence from informants, trying to persuade girls to testify against pimps, or combing websites where children might be exploited.

Jasmine, an African American girl living in south Los Angeles, was only 14 years old when she used an adults only line service and got to talk to a man who called himself “Suawvay”. He was African American, 32 years old, and lived with his grandparents. He persuaded her to meet him that night and she consented. He took her out to a club and they had sex in the backseat of his car. They were together ever since and 6 months later he forced her into prostitution. Jasmine’s take: “Like, if I didn’t make no money, I don’t get no sex. If I just be disobedient, I don’t get no sex… And [he’d] get really upset. He’ll think I don’t love him. He’d say, ‘You didn’t bring me no money. You don’t love me. You don’t want to see us grow?'”. Factors that lead to prostitution are poverty, parentlessness, low self-esteem, and sexual abuse.

There are two kinds of pimps: guerrilla pimps (don’t bother to seduce) and Romeo pimps (sweet-talking dude who woos and charms, then withholds his affection to make his girls long for approval). Pimps do not look they way we imagine them. They hang out together in a liquor store parking lot wearing baggy jeans, t-shirts, and ball caps. Many are gang members or have close gang connections. “Suawvay”, Jasmine’s pimp, was tried and convicted on nine felony counts, including pimping and pandering a minor, committing a lewd act upon a child, and human trafficking of a minor. He was sentenced to 36 years in state person, with the possibility of parole after serving at least 80% of his term.

**Gangs and Criminal Organizations**

Human Trafficking is becoming more profitable to criminal gangs than drug trafficking and drug running.

**Gorilla and Romeo Pimping**

**Gorilla Pimp**: Uses force (kidnapping, violence, drugs, blackmail) to overpower prey

**Target Audience**: Teens at a party, the mall, on social media, anywhere lacking responsible supervision.

**Romeo Pimp**: Uses charm, gifts, and flattery to romance prey

**Target Audience**: Girls looking for love or acceptance, runaways, sweet and naive young men and women.
Non-profit organization based in Riverside County
Serves on RCAHT-Riverside County Anti-Human Trafficking Taskforce

The goal of the organization is to:
1. Educate individuals about human trafficking in Southern California,

Programs to combat Human Trafficking:
Federal:
- Organized under the Department of Justice

State (specifically California):
- Organized under California Office of Emergency Services (O.E.S.)
- State Taskforces-California has nine human trafficking taskforces.

For More Information:
Million Kids • PO Box 7295, Riverside, CA 92513 • (P) 951.323.0298

If you or someone you know may be involved in sex trafficking, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-3737-888. (All calls are confidential)