



THE JONAH PROJECT

MODULE 1

SEX TRAFFICKING 101





Definition

- Sex trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery for profit.
- “Sex traffickers use violence, threats, lies, debt bondage, and other forms of coercion to compel adults and children to engage in commercial sex acts against their will (*The Polaris Project*).”
- Some sex-trafficking is highly visible, but many trafficking victims remain unseen, operating out of unmarked brothels in unsuspecting neighborhoods.
- Sex traffickers also operate out of a variety of public locations, such as massage parlors, spas, hotels, and clubs.

Demographics

- Worldwide: 4.5 million
- America, about 325,000 in 2015
- Women make up 94% sex trafficking victims (34% of those women are minor girls)
- A growing number of men and boys are trafficked into the sex industry as well.

Survivor Demographics

Adults	70%
Minors	35%
Female	94%
Male	4%
Transgender	>1%

Source: National Human Trafficking Resource Center, Quoted in “Sex Trafficking in the U.S.: A Closer Look at U.S. Citizen Victims,” page 3.



Methods Of Entrapment

- **Betrayal.** Women and girls are ensnared in sex trafficking in a variety of ways, all of which involve some form of betrayal.
- Sold to traffickers by parents or an intimate partner, by boyfriends, friends, or neighbors
- Abduction
- Lured by advertisements for jobs: modeling, dancing, acting or other legitimate work
- Lured by false promises of marriage, education, work or study abroad, and a better life
- Immigrants seeking help from smugglers to enter the United States (resulting in debt-bondage)
- **Grooming** (more about this later)

Recruitment Methods

Romantic Relationship	32%
"Benefactor"	10%
Job Ad/Offer	10%
Family Related	10%
Abduction/Force	7%

Source: National Human Trafficking Resource Center, Quoted in "Sex Trafficking in the U.S.: A Closer Look at U.S. Citizen Victims," page 5.



WHY?

- **Money**
- A **2014 Urban Institute Study** found the underground sex economy's worth between \$39.9 (in Denver, CO) and \$290 million (Atlanta, GA).
- Pimps and traffickers interviewed by researchers took home between \$5,000 and \$32,833 PER WEEK.
- Human trafficking (including sex trafficking) around the globe rakes in \$150 billion annually.
- Sex trafficking is extremely lucrative for the trafficker, especially in areas where opportunities for education and employment are limited.
- Sex trafficking is the second fastest growing crime in the world
- Sex trafficking often accompanies drug sales due to its viable economics: you can only sell a bag of drugs once. A girl can be sold multiple times a day
- Any money, job, resources, or safe shelter victims may have been promised never materialize
- Victims find themselves trapped and unable to escape.

Top 10 Risk Factors For Recruitment

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Poverty | 1. Child Abuse/Neglect |
| 2. Homelessness | 2. Homelessness |
| 3. Substance Abuse | 3. Runaway |
| 4. Sexual Abuse/Assault | 4. Sexual Abuse/Assault |
| 5. Child Abuse/Neglect | 5. Domestic Violence |
| 6. Runaway | 6. Poverty |
| 7. Youth Involved With Child Welfare and/or Juvenile Justice System | 7. Youth Involved With Child Welfare and/or Juvenile Justice System |
| 8. Domestic Violence | 8. Mental Health Concerns |
| 9. LGBTQ | 9. Substance Abuse |
| 10. Mental Health Concerns | 10. Other Trauma |

*Source: National Human Trafficking Resource Center,
Quoted in "Sex Trafficking in the U.S.: A Closer Look at U.S. Citizen Victims," page 5.*



How Traffickers Control Victims

- **Coercion, fraud, or force.**
- The trafficker's biggest tools are fear and violence.
- Victims are subjected to harsh psychological and physical abuse to keep them submissive.
- According to one study, trafficking victims generally see only three ways of escape: 1) become unprofitable because of trauma, emotional breakdown, or advanced pregnancy; 2) help from a client; or 3) death.
- Victims experience various stages of degradation, physical and psychological torture.
- Victims are often deprived of food and sleep and are unable to move about freely.
- Victims are told their families and children will be harmed or murdered if they try to escape or tell anyone about their situation.

How Traffickers Control Victims

Physical Abuse (non-sexual)	39%
Intimate Partner Related	32%
Threats/Intimidation	31%
Economic Abuse	24%
Isolation/Confinement	18%
Induced Substance Abuse	15%
Sexual Abuse	13%
Verbal Abuse	10%
Withholding Important Objects	10%
Familial Related	

Source: National Human Trafficking Resource Center, Quoted in "Sex Trafficking in the U.S.: A Closer Look at U.S. Citizen Victims," page 5.