

HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACTS

- Victims of trafficking are eligible for benefits through several government channels. In addition, non governmental, community, and faith based organizations around the country continue to provide a wide range of social services for both U.S. and foreign-born trafficking victims. American citizens who are victims of domestic trafficking are eligible for social services such as Medicaid, food stamps, and housing subsidies. Foreign-born victims can access similar services as they move through the “certification” process, which gives such victims legal immigrant status.
- Human traffickers bring thousands of people into the United States each year and Florida is believed to be one of the top three destinations, along with New York and Texas, according to the Center for the Advancement of Human Rights at Florida State University. (*Florida Human Trafficking Issues*)
- Each year, an estimated 600,000 to 800,000 men, women, and children are trafficked across the international borders (some international and non-governmental organizations place the number far higher) and the trade is growing. It affects all kinds of people: legal and illegal immigrants, American children, the homeless—anyone who is vulnerable. (*U.S. Department of State. 2004. Trafficking in Persons Report. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of State.*) (*Human Trafficking Awareness Partnerships*)
- Of the 6000,000-8000,000 people trafficked across international borders each year, 70% are female and 50% are children. The majority of these victims are forced into the commercial sex trade. (*ibid.*)
- Each year an estimated 14,500—17,500 foreign nationals are trafficked into the United States. The number of U.S. citizens trafficked within the country each year is even higher, with an estimated 200,000 American children at risk for trafficking into the sex industry. (*U.S. Department of Justice. 2004. Report to Congress from Attorney General John Ashcroft on U.S. Government Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons in Fiscal Year 2003. Washington, D.D.: U.S. Department of Justice.*)
- Worldwide profits in sex trafficking alone are estimated at \$7 billion annually, according to a 2003 Florida State University study. Florida is one of the top three states to receive most of the women and children trafficked into the country. (*Stop Modern Day Slavery By Telling the Truth About it, Tampa Tribune, June 10, 2004*)
- In the three years since Congress passed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and despite a \$10 million budget, only 500 victims have been identified and received the benefits entitled to them under the law. (*Stop Modern Day Slavery By Telling the Truth About it, Tampa Tribune, June 10, 2004*)
- Since 2006 the USCCB Office of Migration has served 1,272 survivors of

trafficking including 629 women and 29 children.

It is estimated by the U.S. State Department that as many as 17,500 human beings each year are trafficked into the United States to work in the sex trade or as slave labor. Women and children have been forced to work in prostitution and child pornography rings, while men, women, and children have been forced into different types of manual labor, without pay or protection.