

Human trafficking: Facts and figures

The U.S. Department of State estimates that 14,500 to 17,500 people are trafficked into the United States annually. Human trafficking has been identified by law enforcement agencies in all 50 states.

A 2013 article in the *Journal of Emergency Nursing* reported that:

- an estimated 100,000 to 200,000 American minors currently are exploited in the sex industry
- approximately 2 million children and young women are trapped in sex slavery worldwide
- global annual profits from human trafficking are \$44 billion.

Cities with high rates of unemployment, poverty, homelessness, and drug addiction are prime hunting grounds for traffickers looking for victims. Easy access to interstate highways and waterways promotes trafficking by making it easier to move victims across state and national borders.