**Human Trafficking Handout**

**Definition**: Human trafficking is the use of fraud, force or coercion to obtain labor or commercial sex.

**Who, when and where:**

It can occur in any country, community or neighborhood. It can happen to any race, gender or age. That being said, some things that add to vulnerability include chaotic home life, poverty and low socioeconomic status, addiction, mental health struggles, and homelessness. Minors in prostitution under the age of 18 are considered victims.

Sex trafficking exists in residential brothels, strip clubs, escort services, truck stops, hotels, and streets.

**Stats as of 2020:**

It is estimated that worldwide there are 40.3 million people enslaved. This figure includes men, women and children.

In the US, 10,583 cases were reported.

* Sex 7,648
* Labor 1,052
* Sex & Labor 334
* Unspecified 1,549

Top Venues

* Pornography
* Massage Parlor
* Hotel
* Residence
* Online Ad

Gender

* Female 8,447
* Male 1,257
* LGBTQ 86

Age

* Adult 6,423
* Minor 2,488

In Wisconsin

* 97 cases reported in 2020
* In 2018, there were 135 cases reported

So, are cases going down or less reporting happening?

Human trafficking is less reports. Why? Human trafficking is largely unreported due to fear, threats of violence against self or family, isolation, and low self worth (being told she is crazy, no one will believe them or help them).

**Three types of pimps:**

* Romeo Pimp: this is when a trafficker builds a relationship with the person that they want to exploit. This is the most common occurrence making up roughly 85% of cases.
	+ Because of the connection and love victims once felt for their trafficker, it can be hard for them to walk away. They can carry the belief that if their abuser loved them once, they can love them again.
* Gorilla Pimp: this is when a trafficker uses physical violence and force to control their victims.
	+ Fear of more punishment can keep their victims from speaking up.
* Familial Pimp: this is when a victim is trafficked by their own family. Desperation to get out of dire financial straits can be a cause of this.

**What drives human trafficking?**

* Buyers and demand.
* Consumption of pornography.

**Who are the buyers?**

* There’s no one size fits all profile. They can be fathers, doctors, businessmen, athletes, etc.
* Race
	+ 54% White
	+ 15% Hispanic
	+ 12% Black
	+ 1% Asian
	+ 18% Other/unknown
* Ages 18-71
	+ Average age is 40
* 85% of buyers prefer to have a female

**How does trauma affect human trafficking victims?**

* Never ending fear
* Brainwashing and continual physical assault
* Anxiety
* Panic disorders
* Major depression
* Substance abuse
* Eating disorders
* Mistrust
* PTSD
* Self injury
* Suicidal behavior
* Physical ailments
* Any combination of the above

**Barriers to help:**

* Affordability
* Access to services
* Shame
* Distrust
* Unhealthy coping strategies

**Identifying a Potential Trafficking Victim**

According to the Department of Homeland Security website, the following are potential signs of a victim of sex trafficking:

* Does the person appear disconnected from family, friends, community organizations, or houses of worship?
* Has a child stopped attending school?
* Has the person had a sudden or dramatic change in behavior?
* Is a juvenile engaged in commercial sex acts?
* Is the person disoriented, confused, or showing signs of mental or physical abuse?
* Does the person have bruises in various stages of healing?
* Is the person fearful, timid, or submissive?
* Does the person show signs of having been denied food, water, sleep, or medical care?
* Is the person often in the company of someone to whom he or she defers? Or someone who seems to be in control of the situation, e.g., where they go or whom they talk to?
* Does the person appear to be coached on what to say?
* Is the person living in unsuitable conditions?
* Does the person lack personal possessions and appear not to have a stable living situation?
* Does the person have freedom of movement? Can the person freely leave where he/she lives? Are there unreasonable security measures?

For more information visit the Department of Homeland Security website: <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/indicators-human-trafficking>.

**What now? Where do we go from here?**

* The men, women and children need freedom physically, psychologically, emotionally, and spiritually. Undoing years of trauma requires trauma informed and trauma specific services. There is a great need for these services and homes of refuge for victims who are rescued. Across the US there are 80 homes for rescued persons. In Wisconsin, there are none. There are organizations working toward this, but none open as of March 2022.

**Wisconsin Based Anti Trafficking Org:**

* Redeem and Restore-an organization I volunteer with in Brookfield, WI
	+ We provide recovery resources and services where women can heal, discover their identities, and fulfill their God-given purpose.
	+ [www.redeemandrestore.org](http://www.redeemandrestore.org)

**Resource links:**

1. <http://www.demandingjustice.org/home/>
2. [www.humantraffickinghotline.org](http://www.humantraffickinghotline.org))
3. <https://guardiangroup.org/what-is-trafficking/>
4. <https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/treating-hidden-wounds-trauma-treatment-mental-health-recovery-victims-human-trafficking-0>
5. <https://hopeforjustice.org/modern-slavery/>
6. <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/resources/sex-trafficking-story-escort-services-paula>

**Book:**

Kaleidoscope A Journey to Hope by Desireé Theassa Young

 Fiction novel about human trafficking that takes place in Milwaukee, WI told from the point of view of 4 trafficked girls trying to find hope and freedom in the darkest of places.

 Available on Amazon and [www.speak91.com](http://www.speak91.com)



**Isaiah 62:1**

For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem’s sake I will not remain quiet, till her vindication shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch.

**Susan’s Story**

My sophomore year of college I met a young woman who asked for my help. To protect her identity, I’ll call her Susan. It was a Tuesday night and she asked me to pray for her to get out of a bad situation. She was skeptical at first, but asked at the advisement of a mutual friend. I asked her a few times what she specifically wanted prayer for. After 3 asks she finally told me that when she was a teenager, her cousin sold her into prostitution. She tried to get out many times, but was abused each time. She asked me to pray for her freedom. After a week of prayer and a day of fasting we met up again. Police had come and freed not only her, but five other girls as well. Since that day Susan has found herself doing better mentally, emotionally and spiritually through counseling and reconnecting with her faith in Jesus. Though she still wrestles with some of the after effects of the trauma she has also had the chance to pursue her dreams and be of service to her community.

I want there to be more Susans. Please consider helping by either financial contribution or time commitment to an anti trafficking organization in your area.

The group I volunteer with is Redeem and Restore. [www.redeemandrestore.org](http://www.redeemandrestore.org)

