

# Human Trafficking: An Issue Close to Home

The situation is worse than it looks; many cases go unreported.

**The Facts:**  
Human trafficking is happening here, now, and frequently. It's happening to friends, neighbors, and family members- 3.8 million adults and 1 million children are trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation. Incidents are higher in urban areas where the population density is larger.  
Perpetrators are not just strangers who kidnap their victims; it's more complicated than that. Anyone can be involved in human sex trafficking, and they typically know the victims they control.  
Sex trafficking victims vary. People of all genders and as young as nine have been targeted for exploitation, although most victims are young women.  
Perpetrators target the vulnerable and easily manipulated. They often overpower people with promises of economic opportunity, support, and a better life.

Trafficking is linked to major airports and highways in the United States. People are illegally moved along these routes, and are occasionally sent to other countries.

