



Human trafficking: The use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act.

Sex trafficking: “For-profit” sex act that is induced by force, fraud or coercion. Child prostitution is equivalent to trafficking under the law according to Wisconsin Statute § 948.051: Trafficking of a Child

- There are an estimated 36 million people in modern-day slavery in the world today.
- Of these, at least 4.5 million are forced into sexual exploitation around the world.
- Human trafficking (both sex and labor trafficking) is the fastest growing organized crime and is the second largest criminal enterprise in the world.
- Human trafficking generates \$32 billion per year in profits.
- 98% of sexually trafficked victims are women and girls.
- In the United States there are an estimated 100,000 – 300,000 children prostituted each year.
- 33% of children that run away are lured into prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home.
- Mortality rate for prostitutes can be 100 times greater than the general population.
- The average entry age of girls into prostitution is 12 – 14 and the average entry age of boys into prostitution is 11 – 13.
- 46% of prostitutes attempt suicide

Wisconsin Sex-Trafficking of Minors

It is difficult to determine how many youth are being sex trafficked in Wisconsin right now but to date (2015) cases have been reported across the state, and as awareness of sex trafficking increases professionals are recognizing more youth who are victims of trafficking. Jan Miyazaki, the director of Madison’s Project Respect, said that in her work with local women in the sex trade, she encounters between 50-75 cases a year involving force, fraud or coercion. A community educator who works with Milwaukee minors in the sex trade said she has come into contact with more than 100 young people in the past year that she believes fit the definition of human trafficking victims.

More than 200 victims of human trafficking have been identified across half of Wisconsin’s counties, according to the Wisconsin Dept. of Justice (2013). During a nationwide FBI-coordinated investigation of trafficking in July 2013, 10 children were rescued in “Operation Cross Country” in Wisconsin alone. 100 suspected traffickers were arrested in a single day in the state. Nationwide 105 minors were recovered and 159 suspected pimps were arrested, not including the 100 arrests in Wisconsin. The 3-day operation covered 76 U.S. cities. The rescued victims ranged in age from 14-17 years old.

Definitions of trafficking from: Wisconsin Human Trafficking Committee and Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance (January 2012) and Wisconsin Human Trafficking Protocol and Resource Manual. Thank you to websites of Fierce Freedom and Slave Free Madison for facts and inspiration.

Immediate Request: Please support to the fullest extent funding DCF requests for services for youth victims of sex trafficking. And if DCF has not included additional funding for services for trafficked youth, please support adding funding for this to the budget.

Future Requests: Please support future bills that help victims of sex trafficking and proposed legislation that elevates our state to recognize that being trafficked is a crime against, not a crime of the victim.