

Sex Trafficking and Prostitution

- After drug dealing, human trafficking is tied with the illegal arms industry as the second largest criminal industry in the world today, and it is the fastest growing.
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Human Trafficking Fact Sheet
- The passage of the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) in 2000 set a framework to address trafficking on the federal, state, and local levels. TVPA has been reauthorized several times; however, despite continued legislative efforts to address and eradicate human trafficking, this crime remains rampant in the U.S.
Polaris Project, 2011
- The average age at which girls first become victims of sex trafficking (via entry into prostitution) in the United States is 12–14 years old.
U.S. Department of Justice, Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section
- 24% of adult rape survivors indicated that they had engaged in post-assault prostitution. 75% of these survivors attributed their decision to engage in prostitution to their sexual assault. The most commonly cited reason they gave for engaging in prostitution was that prostitution allowed them to regain control of their lives and bodies.
Violence and Victims, "The Relationship Between Adult Sexual Assault and Prostitution: An Exploratory Analysis," R. Campbell, et al., 2003
- In a 2002 study of prostituted women who had been jailed, it was found that
 - 82% had been physically assaulted
 - 83% had been threatened with a weapon
 - 68% had been raped while working as a prostitute
 - 84% experienced current or past homelessness*Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, "Unlocking Options for Women: A Survey of Women in Cook Co. Jail"*
- In 2010, 209 calls from Maryland were made to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center. The Resource Center, which provides crisis response, training and technical assistance, referrals, and general information, can be reached at 888.3737.888.
Polaris Project, 2011
- Human Trafficking survivors may be eligible for the T visa, which is a nonimmigrant status that allows a foreign victim of trafficking to remain in the United States for up to four years and to obtain an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) allowing the victim to work legally in the U.S.
Code of Federal Regulations, Title 8, Subchapter B