

Human trafficking is a growing problem in the US – and around the world. California, with its large immigrant communities, the world's 9th largest economy and extensive international border, is considered one of the top four destination in the US for human trafficking. According to the Attorney General's office between mid-2010 to mid-2012 California identified 1,277 victims and arrested 1,798 individuals.¹ These numbers are low due to under-reporting and under-identifying. In fact, a recent report by the US Department of Justice showed evidence that 1 in 3 undocumented immigrants in San Diego County were victims of labor trafficking.² This fact sheet, intended for California judges and court administrators, provides a basic overview of human trafficking numbers and demographics in California, the US and globally. While a variety of internationally recognized reports were consulted for the purposes of this fact sheet, accurate and uniform statistics for human trafficking victims remain a challenge due primarily to the hidden nature of the population.

International Human Trafficking Statistics:

- 10-30 million modern day slaves exist in the world today.³ The majority of the reports consulted for the purposes of this fact sheet estimate that the number is around 27 million people⁴ with several respected analysts estimating the number to be much higher.⁵
- After drug trafficking, human trafficking is tied with the illegal arms industry as the second largest criminal industry in the world today – and is considered the fastest growing – generating \$32 billion a year.⁶
- \$15.5 billion is generated in industrialized countries alone.⁷
- The estimated financial cost of forced labor (compared to free employment) is \$21 billion a year.⁸
- 12.3 million adults and children are in forced labor world wide.⁹
- The International Labour Organization estimates that for every 1 victim of sex trafficking there are 9 victims of labor trafficking worldwide. However, sexual exploitation (79%) is by far the most *commonly identified* form of trafficking in persons, followed by forced labor (18%).¹⁰
- In 2011, 42,291 victims of human trafficking were identified worldwide. Of that number only 7,909 cases were prosecuted and resulted in only 3,969 convictions.¹¹
- In 2011 there were 15,205 labor trafficking victims identified resulting in only 278 convictions.¹²
- In 2006 there were only 5,808 prosecutions and 3,160 convictions throughout the world, which means for every 800 people trafficked, only one person was convicted.¹³
- 600,000 - 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year.¹⁴
- 80% of transnational victims are women and girls.¹⁵
- 50% of transnational victims are minors. An estimated 2 million children are exploited by the global commercial sex trade, with 100,000 minors in the commercial sex trade in the U.S. alone.¹⁶
- The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that 20% of all trafficking victims are minors.¹⁷
- 161 countries are affected by human trafficking.¹⁸
- The majority of suspects involved in human trafficking are nationals of the country where the trafficking process is occurring.¹⁹
- The majority (56%) of trafficking victims are subjected to forced labor in their place of origin or residence, with only 44% who are considered transnational trafficking victims. The International Labour Organization found that cross-border movement is closely linked to forced sexual exploitation.²⁰
- Only 54% of the recruiters are strangers, 46% are known to the victims.²¹

US-based human trafficking statistics:

- According to the Trafficking in Persons Report by the US State Department between 14,500 and 17,500 people are trafficked into the US annually (this is not the total number of trafficking victims in the US as it excludes US nationals who are victims of human trafficking within US borders).²²
- A Department of Justice report extrapolating from a San Diego county survey estimated the potential number of unauthorized immigrant labor trafficking victims in the U.S. at 2.47 million.²³
- In 2010, 449 certifications were given to adult victims of human trafficking and 92 issued to child victims.²⁴
- 82% adult victims and 56% child victims of trafficking in the US were labor trafficking victims.²⁵
- 53% of adult victims and 66% of child victims of trafficking were women.²⁶
- Victims came from 47 different countries. The top 5 host countries include: Thailand, Mexico, Philippines, Haiti and India, in that order.²⁷
- While the ILO estimates that the ratio between sex to labor trafficking is 1:9, In 2011, 83% of reported incidents in the US were sex trafficking and only 12% of reported incidents were labor trafficking, leaving 5% categorized as “other.”²⁸
- Between FY 2000 and FY 2009 only 1,591 T visas were granted by the Department of Homeland Security. Approximately 1/5 of the annual cap for T-visas, which is 5,000.²⁹
- Types of labor trafficking in the US include: domestic servitude (nannies, housekeepers), small businesses (landscaping, nail salons, restaurants, industrial cleaning, construction, hospitality), Sale Crews (magazine, flower and candy sale crews) and large scale labor cases (agricultural, factory settings).³⁰
- Types of sex trafficking in the US include: Bar/Club operations (cantina bars, Stripping or exotic dancing clubs, salons, massage parlors, hostess clubs and karaoke clubs, domestic strip clubs and gentleman clubs); Residential brothel settings (homes, apartments, hotels, mobile trailers); Escort services (bar/hotel based, internet-based, private, boat cruises, chat lines); Pimp-controlled prostitution (hotel-based, internet-based, private parties, street-based, truck stops).³¹

Human trafficking and minors statistics³²:

- There are an estimated 100,000 - 300,000 prostituted children in the U.S.
- 244,000 American children and youth are estimated to be at risk of child sexual exploitation, including commercial sexual exploitation. Runaways and unaccompanied minors make up the majority of at-risk youth for both sexual and labor exploitation.
- 41.4% of suspected or confirmed child victims of domestic sex trafficking were repeat runaways.
- 46.7% of suspected or confirmed child victims of domestic sex trafficking ran from a group home, foster care, DCFS care or a shelter.
- 40-70% of all street youth engage, at least occasionally, in prostitution to meet their basic needs.
- The population of street youth engaging in prostitution is almost equally divided between boys and girls.

California-based Human Trafficking Statistics

- In September 2005, California enacted its first anti-trafficking bill, which made trafficking a felony and provided assistance to victims.³³
- California’s extensive international border, airports and harbors, large native and immigrant populations and strong economy make it a prime location for human traffickers.³⁴
- From mid-2010 to mid-2012, California’s nine regional human trafficking task forces identified 1,277 victims,

initiated 2,552 investigations and arrested 1,798 individuals.³⁵

- American citizens made up 72% of all human trafficking victims according to data gathered from California Human Trafficking task forces.³⁶
- Traffickers are reaching more victims and customers through recruiting and advertising online.³⁷
- Mexican cartels build and operate underground cross-border tunnels for the trafficking of guns, drugs and human beings. This is concerning because it is estimated that 800,000 adults and 20,000 children are annual victims of human trafficking in Mexico.³⁸
- The National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline received the highest number of reports on cases or victims of human trafficking from California.³⁹
- Forced labor is most prominent in sectors of the California economy that experience a large demand for cheap labor and have little regulation. The largest number of documented cases in the California were prostitution (47.4%), domestic service (33.3%), agriculture (10.4%), and sweatshop or factory work (5.3%).⁴⁰
- In 2002, the Department of Justice reported that California had 14% of all victims who received federal assistance for having been trafficked.⁴¹
- In many cases survivors are too frightened to cooperate fully with law enforcement and thus become eligible for immigration relief. An attorney in San Diego reported that in 2001, 25 of 26 women and girls who were trafficked from Mexico and would have been eligible for relief, but were instead arrested and deported because they felt too frightened to cooperate.⁴²
- There is potential for forced labor in sweatshops in and around cities that are centers for fashion design, such as Los Angeles. In order for many U.S. textile and clothing manufacturers to stay in the U.S. and compete with low-wage international labor they must reduce their labor costs to a minimum.⁴³
- Labor trafficking in San Diego County of Spanish-speaking unauthorized immigrants is estimated at 30%, or 38,458 victims.⁴⁴
- Extrapolating from the San Diego County survey of Spanish-speaking unauthorized immigrants, labor trafficking of those immigrants in California could be estimated at 495,000 potential victims.⁴⁵

California Immigration Statistics

- California has a population of nearly 35 million people.⁴⁶
- The Public Policy Institute of California estimates that there are 2.87 million unauthorized immigrants in California, 7.8% of the total population.⁴⁷
- California counties with the highest number of unauthorized immigrants are: Orange (289,000), San Diego (198,000), Santa Clara (180,000) and San Bernardino (150,000).⁴⁸
- Between 1990 and 2010 the foreign-born population in CA increased by 60% with the current population at more than 10 million or 27% of the population.⁴⁹
- In 2010, 58% of immigrants 5 and older in CA were limited English proficient.⁵⁰
- The largest region of origin of the foreign-born was Latin America (53%) followed by Asia (37%) and Europe (6.5%).⁵¹
- Of all children with one immigrant parent, 89.5% are US citizens by birth.⁵²
- The 2010 estimate of LPRs in California was over 3.3 million (highest in the US) with 71.2% eligible to naturalize.⁵³
- Hispanics made up 38% of the total population in CA, in 2010, with over 14 million people.⁵⁴
- Hispanics of Mexican origin were by far the largest group, making up 84% of the Hispanic population in California.⁵⁵
- Immigrants in California pay \$30 billion in federal taxes, \$5.2 billion in state taxes and \$4.6 billion in sales

tax.⁵⁶

- Of the total immigrant population 41.8% were born in Mexico, 8% in the Philippines and 5.8% in China.⁵⁷
- Children with at least one immigrant parent make up 49.6% of children under the age of 18.⁵⁸
- California admitted on average 230,000 LPR's/year between 2002 and 2011.⁵⁹

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