

Understanding Human Trafficking in the United States
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Trauma Violence Abuse 2009 10:3

Reviewed by Melissa Faircloth

This article reviews and analyzes data and information from previous research and reports. It seeks to answer questions surrounding the definition of human trafficking, factors that contribute to being vulnerable and remaining entrapped over time, analyzes how this crime is different from others and how victims are identified. Furthermore, it looks at how to better address this issue.

The article starts off by describing the experience of trafficking victims. While most research around trafficking focuses on sex labor, this article illustrates that trafficking doesn't always start out as sex labor but many times leads to it. Some individuals are promised good jobs and are forced to work for nothing. It is a close comparison to modern day slavery. These individuals are often abused and wages are held. They could be forced to live in poor conditions. "Employers" may take passports and identification and victims may be afraid that they lack resources to change their circumstance without any formal identification.

The articles addresses what industries often have high rates of trafficked victims and where these victims are often found. Some of the industries listed were: sex work, pornography, entertainment, domestic servitude, factories, restaurants etc.

Reasons listed that keep victims entrapped included: fear, lack of knowledge about alternatives, shame, isolation, and confinement.

Victims are usually identified through law enforcement, neighbors, and community members. Some are identified by seeking help themselves.

Recommendations by the author include education, awareness, and training to identify victims. In addition, the authors called for stronger legal protections. Service and increased outreach programs were identified as recommendations for improvements in addition to more research on this area.