



TRAFFICKING IN THE UNITED STATES: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PROBLEM

Dr. Heather J. Clawson

Caliber, an ICF International Company

July 24, 2006



What is Human Trafficking?

“All acts involved in the transport, harboring, **or** sale of persons **within** national or **across** international borders through coercion, force, kidnapping, deception, or fraud, for purposes of placing persons in situations of forced labor or services, such as forced prostitution, domestic servitude, debt bondage, or other slavery-like practices” (Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000)



What is Human Trafficking?

- **Sex Trafficking:** the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act , in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person forced to perform such an act is under the age of 18 years
- **Labor Trafficking:** the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery.



What is Human Trafficking?

○ Sex Trafficking

- Prostitution
- Commercial sexual exploitation
- Sex tourism and entertainment
- Pornography

○ Labor Trafficking

- Domestic/Indentured servitude
- Factory workers/sweatshops
- Agricultural workers
- Forced begging
- Restaurant work
- Construction
- Hotel/motel housekeeping



How Prevalent is Human Trafficking?

- Worldwide estimates range from 600,000 to 800,000 each year
- Estimates into the U.S. range from 14,500 to 17,500
- Estimates within the U.S. (domestic trafficking) range from 100,000 to 400,000 each year (sexual exploitation of children)



How Prevalent is Human Trafficking?

- Third largest criminal industry in the world today, after drug and arms dealing
- Human trafficking believed to be the fastest growing criminal industry, with sex trafficking the most lucrative
- 9+ billion dollar a year business



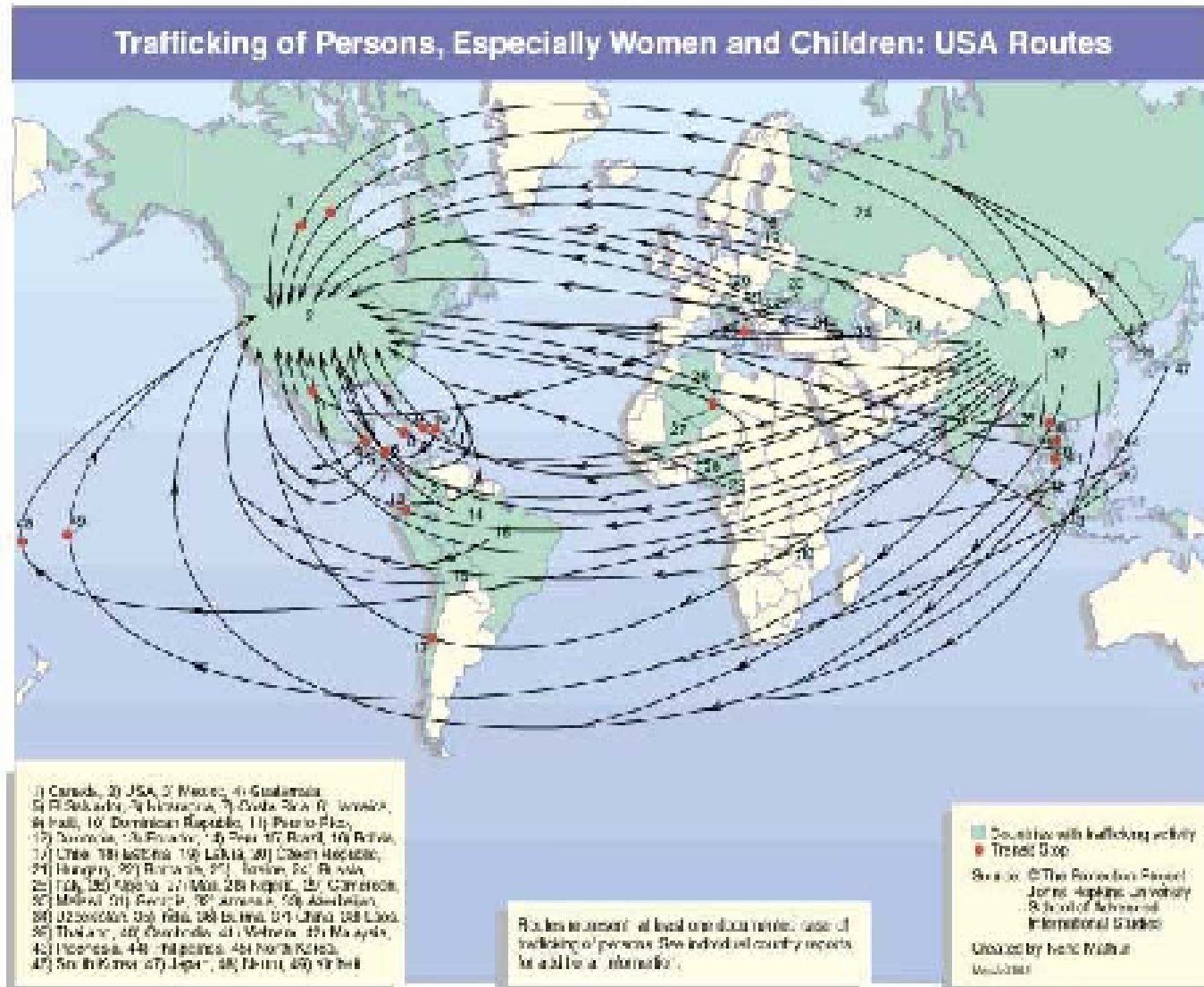
Where is it Happening?

- **Outside the U.S.**

- Asia
- Thailand/Philippines
- Central/Eastern Europe
- South Africa
- Central/South America
- Caribbean

Where is it Happening?

TRAFFICKING ROUTES INTO THE U.S.





Where is it Happening?

○ Within the U.S.

- California
- Washington
- Oregon
- Nevada
- Arizona
- New Mexico
- Colorado
- Texas
- **Florida**
- **Georgia**
- **North/South Carolina**
- DC Metropolitan Area
- **New Jersey**
- **New York**
- **Massachusetts**
- Illinois
- **Pennsylvania**
- Wisconsin
- Minnesota
- **Maryland**
- Indianapolis
- **Virginia**
- Hawaii
- Alaska
- American Samoa



Why is it Happening?

○ **For Victims:**

- Unemployment/
underemployment
- History of abuse
- High rates of poverty
- Corruption
- Economic and
political instability
- Civil unrest
- Gender inequality

○ **For Traffickers:**

- Low risk
- Very lucrative (high profit
margins)
- High demand



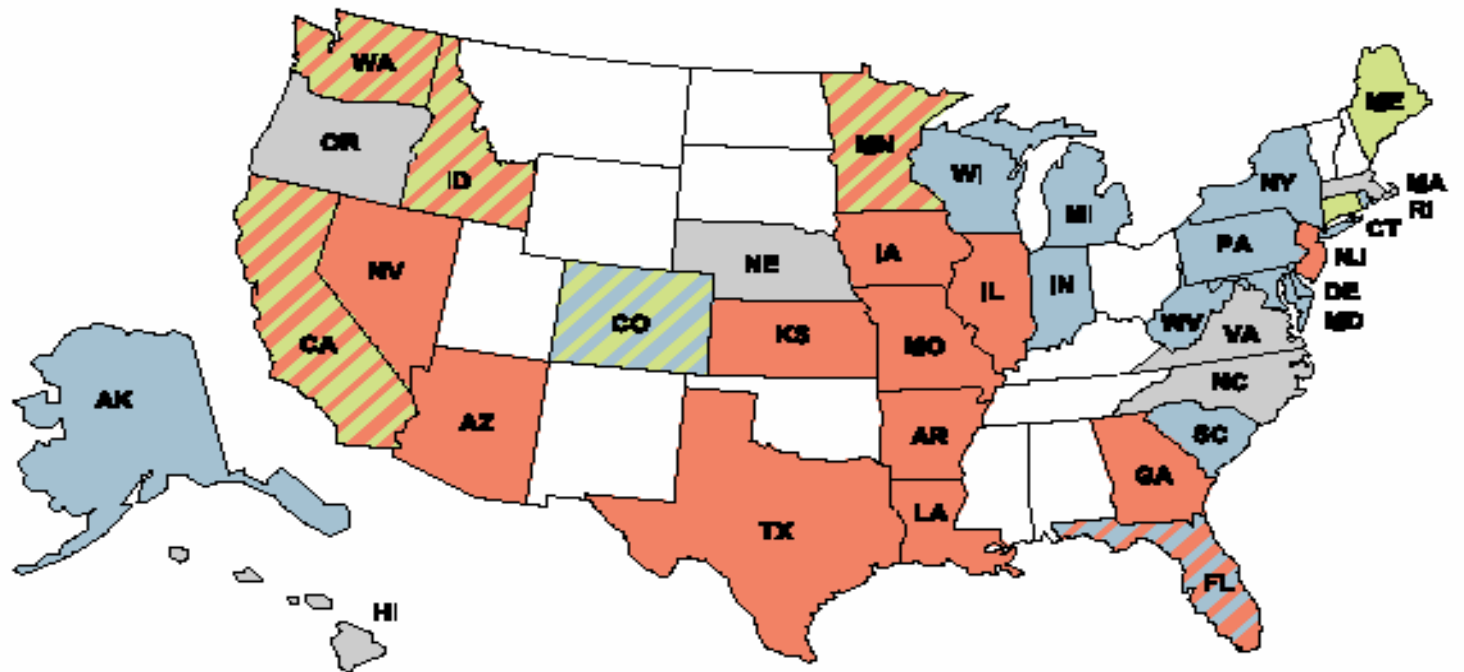
What Are We Doing to Address the Issue?

- **Passing federal (TVPA 2000, TVPRA 2003, TVPRA 2005) and State legislation (prevent, prosecute, protect)**
- **Enforcing U.S. laws against traffickers** (*since 2001, 91 trafficking cases filed, charged 248 defendants, and convicted 140 defendants of trafficking-related crimes; 125 pending trafficking investigations*)
- **Enforcing U.S. laws against child commercial sexual exploitation** (*Innocence Lost initiative has resulted in 505 arrests, 60 complaints, 70 indictments, and 67 convictions between 2004 and 2005*)
- **Working to reduce the demand-side of trafficking** (*over 26,000 “johns” convicted by State law enforcement in 2005*)







What Are We Doing to Address the Issue?

- **Funding anti-trafficking projects domestically (92 projects) and internationally (266 projects) totaling \$120 million in 2005**
- **Raising awareness about human trafficking** (*national public awareness “Rescue and Restore” Campaign in at least a dozen cities across the country*)
- **Identifying, protecting, and assisting victims** (*1,000 victims certified by HHS, DHS issued 112 T-Visas and 616 other visas, and 573 T-Visas to members of families*)
- **Establishing local/State anti-trafficking task forces** (*32 funded with an additional 10 expected in 2006*)



Key

USA Trafficking Map

-  States with previously passed anti-trafficking laws (Criminal code revision or comprehensive)
-  States with existing anti-trafficking task force/research commission legislation
-  States with pending anti-trafficking bills
-  States with pending anti-trafficking task force/research commission bills



What Are the Greatest Challenges Agencies Face?

- Lack of education/awareness
- Lack of enforcement (limited resources/low priority)
- Limited training for law enforcement, prosecutors, and service providers
- Lack of collaboration across agencies
- Limited availability of (culturally) appropriate services
- Difficulty finding victims!



What Are the Greatest Challenges Victims Face?

- Fear
- Isolation/lack of social support/connections
- Shame/embarrassment/stigma
- Lack of trust
- Lack of knowledge of available services
- Lack of knowledge of victims' rights
- Language/cultural differences
- Feeling of indebtedness



What Can We Do?

- Increase understanding of human trafficking (international and domestic)
- Strengthen interagency collaboration and communication
- Expand training for law enforcement, prosecutors, and service providers
- Continue to enact and enforce federal and State laws against those who traffic in persons



What Can We Do?

- Increase the identification of victims (foreign nationals and U.S. Citizens) of human trafficking
- Increase the availability and accessibility of appropriate services for victims (men, women, and children)
- Reduce the vulnerability of individuals to trafficking through increased education, economic opportunity, and protection and promotion of human rights