

# Human Trafficking Fact Sheet

From the Office of Michigan Attorney General Bill Shuette

According to the [U.S. Department of Justice's statistics on human trafficking](#), 2,515 incidents of human trafficking were recorded nationwide between January 2008 and June 2010. Of those incidents, 1,016 involved the sexual exploitation of a child, 1,218 involved the sexual exploitation of adults, and 350 involved labor trafficking. Each year the Federal Government publishes the [Trafficking in Persons](#) (TIP) report in order to release progress, allow for suggestions, and polish any current methods.

- Human trafficking is not a choice. A person cannot consent to become enslaved. Victims want to escape, but cannot.
- Human trafficking is not smuggling. Smuggling is transportation; trafficking is exploitation.
- Human trafficking does not require that a victim be moved over state or international borders.
- Approximately 17,500 foreign nationals are trafficked into the U.S. every year.
- Human trafficking is a \$32 billion global industry.

Children are especially vulnerable:

- 40 percent of human trafficking cases involve the sexual exploitation of a child.
- Between 100,000 and 300,000 children are at risk for sexual exploitation in the U.S. with an average age of 11 to 14 years old.
- It is estimated that 76 percent of transactions for sex with underage girls start on the Internet.

It may be hard to imagine that human trafficking exists in this day and age, but earlier this year my office brought the first successful prosecution under our human trafficking laws. For more information on the facts and myths of human trafficking, please visit [www.michigan.gov/ag](http://www.michigan.gov/ag)