

**“It is not possible to remain indifferent** before the knowledge that human beings are bought and sold like goods! I think of the adoption of children for the extraction of their organs, of women deceived and obliged to prostitute themselves, of workers exploited and denied rights or a voice, and so on. **And this is human trafficking.** It is precisely on this level that we need to make a good examination of conscience: how many times have we permitted a human being to be seen as an object, to be put on show in order to sell a product or to satisfy an immoral desire? **The human person ought never to be sold or bought as if he or she were a commodity.** Whoever uses human persons in this way and exploits them, even if indirectly, becomes an accomplice of **injustice.”**

*Pope Francis, March, 2014*

Working together,  
**UNITED AGAINST  
VIOLENCE,**  
we can make a difference in  
the struggle against one of the  
nation's most critical public  
health concerns.

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[www.catholichealthinitiatives.org/human-trafficking-how-you-can-help](http://www.catholichealthinitiatives.org/human-trafficking-how-you-can-help)



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## Human Trafficking: Understanding a Complex Issue

### Quick Fact Resource Guide

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Based on the Catholic Health Initiatives educational video, available on YouTube at WatchCHI © 2014.





## Human Trafficking: Understanding a Complex Issue

CHI has a long-standing commitment to violence prevention, rooted in the legacy and traditions of our founding congregations and predecessor systems. Through CHI's United Against Violence campaign, this commitment has been formalized and extended system-wide in an effort to create healthy communities and prevent violence. One of the most devastating issues affecting all CHI communities is human trafficking. Recognizing the need for education and awareness, as well as the unique role health providers can play in victim identification, CHI created an educational video that provides an overview of this tragic issue to increase awareness, understanding and prevention efforts. This brochure provides a brief summary of the facts and figures from the video.



## Facts & Figures

**Definition:** Human trafficking is **the act of** recruiting, transporting, transferring, harboring, or receiving persons **by means of** threat, force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, or abuse of power, **for the purpose of** sexual exploitation, forced labor, slavery or slave-like practices, or removal of an organ.

Human trafficking is...

- Estimated to be a \$32 billion per year global industry.
  - Conservative estimates indicate that 21 million people around the world are working in slave-like practices.
  - Types of trafficking include forced labor, bonded labor, involuntary domestic servitude, sex exploitation, forced criminal activity, organ and child trafficking.
  - Trafficked children can experience forced labor, domestic servitude, forced begging/peddling, sexual exploitation, child pornography, mail-order brides, illegal adoptions and child soldiering.
  - In the U.S., 83% of sex trafficking victims are U.S. citizens.
  - In the U.S., 95% of labor trafficking victims are foreign-born nationals.
  - Calls to the National Human Trafficking Hotline come from every state in the U.S.
  - Texas and Colorado are the two CHI states that experience the highest number of calls to the Hotline.
- Risk factors include: childhood sexual abuse, dysfunctional family life, domestic violence, mental health disorders, parental drug use and parental involvement in commercial sex, homelessness, gang affiliation, financial insecurity and learning/physical disabilities.
  - Victims are controlled by threats, intimidation, isolation, emotional abuse and/or sexual and physical violence.
  - 50% of victims are seen in an emergency department at some point in their captivity.
  - Injuries can include: head trauma, bone fractures, bruising, cigarette burns, sexually transmitted infections, unplanned pregnancies, psychosomatic symptoms, dental disease, substance abuse and mental health issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety and suicidal thoughts.
  - Health providers can become a part of the solution through: education and training, better victim identification techniques, expanding referral networks, multidisciplinary collaboration, research, prevention strategies, and advocacy and public policy changes.

