What is Human Trafficking?

(Stats from United States)

It's been over 150 years since the Emancipation Proclamation was signed by Abraham Lincoln. So it might be surprising, but slavery is the fastest growing crime on the planet. Modern day slavery is referred to as human trafficking, but the meaning is the same as people around the world are being forced, coerced or manipulated to prostitute themselves and work for countless hours in deplorable conditions with no hope of escape.

While the numbers are extremely difficult to verify, experts estimate that 3 out of 1000 people were victims of human trafficking between 2002 and 2011. It is believed that there are over 20 million trafficked individuals world-wide with 2.5 million in the United States.

From small towns to large cities, men and women, boys and girls are suffering this abuse. From young girls and boys forced to sell themselves for sex to families coerced to work as slave labor, human trafficking takes an enormous toll.

Human trafficking is a $34 billion a year and growing illegal activity. That's second behind drug trafficking and pretty much even with arms trafficking. Organized crime, gangs and individuals are realizing the potential money to be made through human trafficking. After all, drugs are sold and gone… a person is sold repeatedly.

Just like much of commerce, human trafficking is about supply and demand. As long as there is a high demand, people will be victimized.

Did You Know?

•The average age a girl enters into prostitution is 13. For boys it's 12.

•The average life expectancy of a prostitute is 7 years.

•While poverty can be one of the factors, human trafficking victims come from all walks of life including the affluent.

•Major sporting events, conventions and tourist areas are prime targets for human traffickers and they will come to a location from all over the country, bringing victims to be offered up as prostitutes.

•Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking is impacting between 100,000 and 300,000 children in the U.S.