



# Human Trafficking: Women and Violence

## Women's Health Summit

### Los Angeles CA

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# Scope of Problem

- In the U.S. 50,000 women, children and men trafficked annually
- Two million people trafficked worldwide
- Nine billion dollar business

# Compared to Drugs or Arms, Human Trafficking:

- Is more profitable
- Produces continuous profits
- Is becoming the fastest growing criminal enterprise after drugs and arms

# Modern-Day Slavery: A Prison Without Walls

Shackles and chains have been replaced by:

- Threats of deportation
- Withholding passports, documents, etc.
- Threats to family members in home country
- Isolation
- Verbal abuse
- Psychological coercion coupled with threatened or actual physical violence and sexual assault

# Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000

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  
involuntary servitude, peonage, debt  
bondage, or slavery, or

# TVPA- CON'T

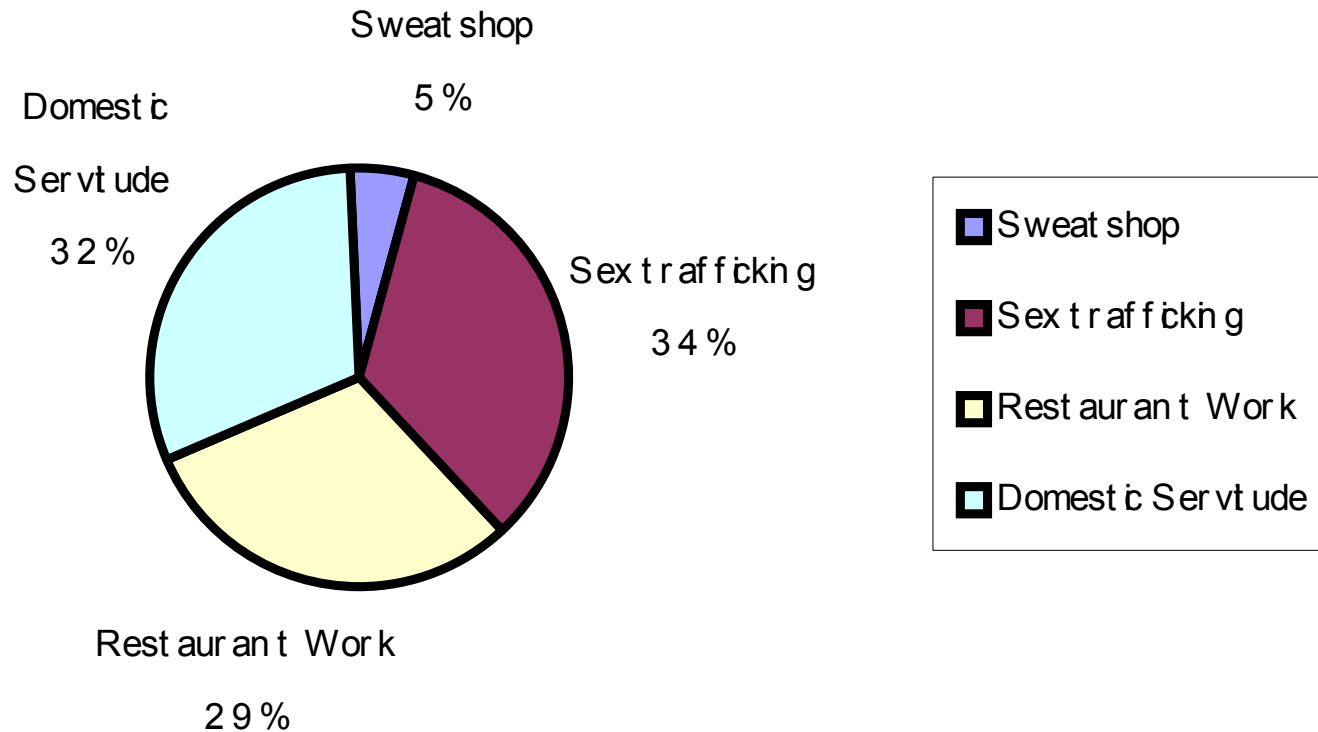
**Sex trafficking meaning the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act *in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act is under 18 years of age.***

# Examples of Trafficking and Slavery

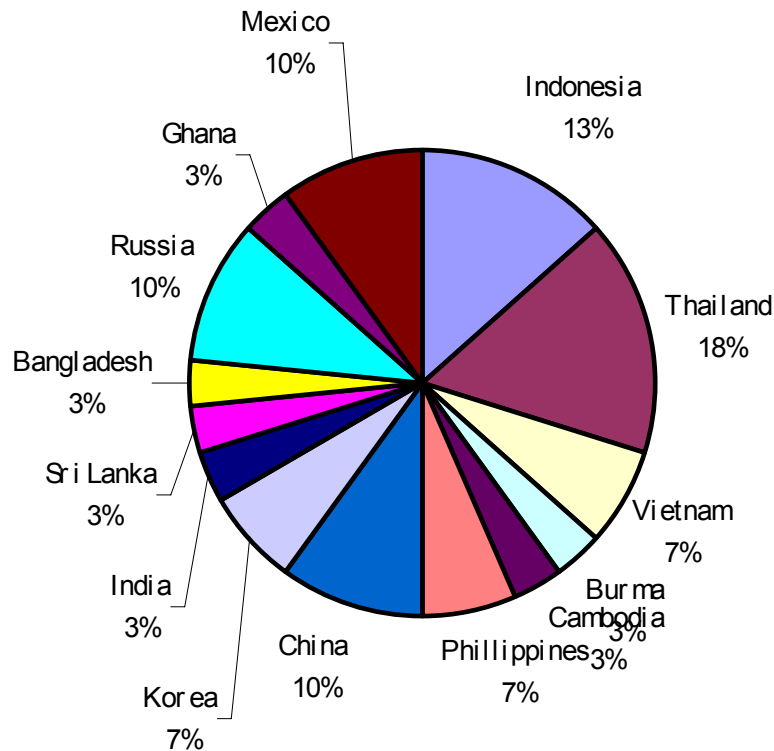
- Domestic service
- Forced Prostitution
- Marriage
- Factories
- Begging
- Agriculture
- Criminal activity
- Restaurant work
- Construction
- Hotel/motel housekeeping
- Other informal labor sectors

# Los Angeles Demographics

Type of Forced Labor ( n = 7 2 )



## Country of Origin (n=72)



# Who Are Trafficked and Enslaved Persons?

- Women, children and men
- Varying ages
- Varying levels of education
- Voluntary migrants
  - Seeking to improve their situation

# Why People Decide to Migrate

- Economic
- Social
- Personal
- Civil unrest
- Political persecution
- Escape from gender-based discrimination
- Adventure/opportunity

# Range Of Services Needed

- Trafficked and enslaved persons have suffered from serious physical, psychological and possibly sexual abuse.
- An extensive network of culturally and linguistically appropriate service providers is required to meet their urgent and acute needs.
- Safety planning
- Housing, food & clothing
- Medical care (emerg. & long term) & health education
- Mental health care
- Legal & immigration services
- Interpretation
- ESL training
- Independent living skills
- Job placement & employment education
- Human rights education

# Health Indicators for Trafficked Women

## Physical

- Poor Health
  - Malnourished
  - Under developed (children)
  - Periodontal issues
    - rotting teeth
- Signs of Torture
  - burns
  - branding
  - lacerations (healed/open)
- Signs of sexual abuse
- STDs
- Chronic Pain (back, hearing, cardiovascular or respiratory)
- Sleeping and Eating Disorders

## Psychological

- Traumatic Bonding (Stockholm Syndrome)
- Anxiety Disorders
  - PTSD
  - Phobias
  - Panic attacks
  - Depression
- Effects of Torture
  - Helplessness
  - Shame and humiliation
  - Shock
  - Denial stress disorder
  - Disorientation and confusion

# Human Rights Approach to Human Trafficking

- Focuses on needs and rights of trafficked and enslaved persons
- Respects individual autonomy
- Is empowering and non-judgmental
- Connects individual experience of survivors to policy advocacy issues

# Policy Gaps

- Human rights policies often assume the violator to be a government, not a multinational corporation (MNC)
- Few, if any, policies restrict MNC's trade or practices
- Existing policies lack sufficient enforcement mechanisms

# Why Survivor-Centered Community Based Advocacy Works

- Survivor experience informs policy
- Survivor empowerment=justice for individuals and the community
- An investment in human resilience
- New laws and policies passed
- Protecting the most basic right to bodily integrity and freedom
- New field of policy advocacy in US/opportunity to join efforts with sister movements locally and globally

*“I feel that I have been reincarnated... I have gained my freedom.”*

CAST client