

OPERATION TEXAS SHIELD FACT SHEET FOR THE 86TH TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION



Promoting legislation, providing education and raising awareness to help prevent Human Trafficking.

Sex trafficking is growing explosively across America. Children from every walk of life are being lured into dangerous situations by active recruiters through social media, schools, churches, youth teams & clubs, and online games. It is not simply a problem for immigrants, foster children, runaways, and broken homes. It is quickly becoming a national health crisis that requires bold, immediate actions.

- Child sex trafficking is the **fastest growing crime in the world**. - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

The United Nation's International Labour Organization [estimated in 2014](#) that sex traffickers raked in about \$99 billion a year in profits. (The ILO also estimates that about 21 million people are victims of forced labor and 4.5 million are trapped in the commercial sex trade. An estimated 900,000 to 1.2 million of those sex slaves are children).

- There are currently **79,000 minor and young adults** being sex trafficked in Texas. - University of Texas
- Texas has the **second most reported number of child sex trafficking cases** in the US. - Polaris Project
- **Houston** is the worst city in the country, with the **highest number of reported child sex trafficking cases**. - Polaris Project
66% of traffickers convicted promoting or compelling prostitution received deferred adjudication as their only sentence (turned right back out on the streets without punishment) – Tegna Stations research, *Selling Girls*
- There are **less than 600 beds available nationwide** for child sex trafficking survivors' long-term recovery from trauma. -US Justice Department & Tegna Stations research, *Selling Girls*
 - But we have over 3,500 stray dog shelters. - Dog Population & Dog Sheltering Trends in the United States of America Andrew Rowan^{1,*} and Tamara Kartal²
 - There are less than 100 beds available in Texas
- **1 of 7 missing children are likely victims** of sex trafficking. - National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC)
- 88% of reported child sex trafficking victims were **in the care of social services or foster care** when they went missing. - NCMEC
- The average age a young girl is **lured or forced in sex trafficking is just 15 years old**. - NCMEC
- There was **846% increase in reported child sex trafficking cases** from 2010 to 2015. - NCMEC
- 83% of victims in confirmed sex-trafficking incidents were **identified as U.S. citizens**. - US State Department
- Sex trafficking, according to the United Nations' International Labour Organization, is a **\$99 billion a year industry**.
The exploitation of more than 1 million children accounts for more than 20 percent of those profits.

#FightForUs

For more information contact fightforus.org@gmail.com