



## Hundreds of Cases of Human Trafficking Reported in Wisconsin

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Wisconsin - It may seem like one of those problems that couldn't happen in our backyard, but human trafficking and child trafficking is happening in Wisconsin.

The issue is getting attention in light of an investigation of a possible case of human trafficking in the Fox Valley.

The Wisconsin Department of Justice reports more than 200 cases of human trafficking as of 2008, including cases in Sheboygan and Appleton.

Here are some statistics:

- Three quarters of the cases were sex-related trafficking
- 25 percent involved forced labor
- 30 percent of victims were born in the U.S. and most were from the midwest
- 25 percent of the victims are male
- 75 percent of victims are female
- 15 percent are children

Advocates say education is the key to help these victims.

"We don't think that it would happen in our own neighborhoods, in the local area, Green Bay, the Fox Valley--so we don't know what to look for," said Sister Sally Ann Brickner of St. Francis of Holy Cross of Green Bay.

"The primary thing is young girls," said John Robins-Wells, Trafficking America Task Force Wisconsin Rep. "Of course, it goes all the way from age 5 to age 70--that we know of--in the sex industry. The labor industry is the same way. Some of these kids are very young when they get into what they are doing."

Police say the transactions are most common at large sporting events and at truck stops all over the state.

Wisconsin Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen is currently working on a new human trafficking bill to present to state legislators in effort to aid in prosecution of these types of cases.

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