

# FACT SHEET: FOSTER CARE AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Only 0.6% of children are in foster care

½ of children sold in CA are foster children

Healthy families are needed to combat human trafficking



RESTORE THE VALUE OF CHILDHOOD.  
ONE FAMILY AT A TIME.

## WHAT IS FOSTER CARE?

A system to care for children who are (a) removed from their parents/guardians, or (b) surrendered to the state by their parents. These children are placed with non-relative foster families, relatives, or group homes and institutions in exchange for a stipend.

Foster care is supposed to be short-term until either the child is reunified with the biological family (when conditions are safe) or is adopted by a loving family. However, the average length in foster care is nearly two years! Some children are never reunified or adopted! They spend their childhood with no real family!

Snapshot of Foster Care: 2010	US	CA
# of foster children on Sept. 30 <sup>th</sup>	401,000	56,000
...as % of all children	0.5%	0.6%
# of children waiting for adoption	104,000	13,000
# of new terminated parental rights	61,000	7,000
# of children adopted	51,000	5,000
Average age of foster child	9.3	11

## WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING NUMBERS IN CALIFORNIA

- 72% of 1,277 victims identified are from the U.S
- Average age of entry to sexual exploitation  
Boys: 11 to 13 years      Girls: 12 to 14 years

Human trafficking is a criminal business that profits from enslaving people for sexual servitude and forced labor. It is said to be a \$32 billion worldwide industry, and the fastest growing and second largest criminal enterprise in the world today (second only to drug trafficking and tied with illegal arms).

## WHAT IS LINK BETWEEN FOSTER CARE AND SEX TRAFFICKING?

Foster care children are targeted by traffickers because of their need for love, affirmation, and protection.

Victims are trained to call sex traffickers “daddies” and themselves “wifies” – a perverted reflection of the family unit that these children are seeking. These children long for a family...even if it means being subjected to extreme violence and abuse.

### SELLING America’s Foster Kids and Orphans

- In LA County, 59% of the 174 kids arrested in 2010 on “prostitution” charges had contacts with foster care
- 58% of 72 sexually trafficked girls in LA County’s STARS Court in 2012 were foster care kids.
- In Alameda County, 41% of 267 victims in 2012-2012 were foster care kids

## HOW CAN FOSTER PARENTS PREVENT HUMAN TRAFFICKING?



We can significantly reduce the volume of foster children falling into the hands of traffickers by giving them what they need and long for: **healthy families who will parent and love them unconditionally.** It’s the right thing to do for our children!