

# Jen Spry RN

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**Child Sex Trafficking in the  
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**[JenSpry.org](http://JenSpry.org)**

# Who are the “at risk youth”

- Human trafficking is the **fastest growing crime** in the world and in America.
- The most common form of human trafficking is sex trafficking of women and children.
- In America the average entry age into sex trafficking is **12 years old**.
- Children from any ethnic and societal background are at risk, however the primary **risk factor is poverty**.
- Children who run-away, are homeless, live in single parent homes and are on low income homes are considered **at risk youth for trafficking**.

*(Polaris Project, 2016 )*

(CDC Releases 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System Data, 2013)

(Statistics | RAINN | Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, 2016)

# How many victims are there?

- National Statistics show that there are **300,000 victims** of sex trafficking **annually** in America
- Federal Agents admit that this number is actually much higher, because the children in **child pornography** photos are rarely identified or rescued; this mean those victims are not counted.
- Due to the cryptic and encrypted techniques of computer savvy predators, the meta-data on internet child porn photos are ambiguous.
- It is reported that a run away will be approached by a trafficker within **48 hours**.
- A child does not have to go missing to be trafficked.
  
- (*Polaris Project, 2016* )
- (Shared Hope International, 2016)

## Collaboration of Medical Professionals to Identify and Respond

- Collaboration of medical professionals and law enforcement there are human trafficking task forces who are doing ongoing trainings within their states.
- Maryland's Human Trafficking Task Force has been one of the nation's leaders in the area of training and creating their medical protocol for nurses.
- Community Health Clinics, Crisis Centers, Forensic nurses and Emergency Departments are beginning to have extensive trainings in identification and response protocols.
- (Shared Hope International, 2016)
- (Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force, 2016).

# Professionals in this field

- Previously if a youth was picked up for “prostitution” , then that 10yo to 17yo would be arrested and put into the juvenile system which often led to doing time in a group home. Most of the reports indicate that these children will then be abused by adults who are placed as an authority over the child.
- Today - there are rescue homes popping up all over the nation, but each state might have one or none. The need is so great and yet there is so much “red-tape to get a home opened. There is only one home in the country for boys. These homes are secret and locations are hidden to prevent pimps, traffickers, and predators from preying on these vulnerable victims.
- There are drop in centers for women and youth who want to seek help, but due to psychological issues of loyalty to abusers these victims typically make several attempts prior to escaping.
- Non-government organizations (NGOs) lead the way in providing help to these victims.
- Almost all of the research available comes from NGOs
- Leaders in NGOs; Shared Hope International
- Drop in sites ; GEMS in NY, led by survivor Rachel Lloyd
- Research Leaders; Polaris and Shared Hope International
- Community Health Clinics and Planned Parenthood Clinics – Can be a refuge for victims
  
- (GEMS: Girls Educational & Mentoring Services, 2016)
- (*Polaris Project, 2016* )
- (Shared Hope International, 2016)

# Vulnerabilities and Characteristics



Suburban Neighborhood

Mother raising children

Low income neighborhood

Children trafficked by a stranger

Children never went missing but  
were home every night

Children were sold for sex and used  
in child pornography

The children NEVER told anyone.

This is a picture of me and then a picture with my little sister and cousin  
I was only 8 years old when my neighbor  
sold me to strangers for sex – we were all trafficked. [JenSpry.org](http://JenSpry.org)



**No one ever came looking, because  
I never went missing**



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