

THE WORLD OF SLAVERY

Slavery researchers are the first to acknowledge that their statistics are extremely unreliable. By its very nature, the subject matter is hard to detect, let alone quantify. Researchers must extrapolate from known incidence—based on reports from police, social workers, investigative reporters and freed slaves—to the broader picture. That is standard operating procedure in science: every field, from sociology to astrophysics, must make working assumptions. Unfortunately, the numerical estimates are often quoted and requoted without mentioning how provisional they are.

For instance, the International Organization for Migration recently traced one of the most widely quoted human-smuggling statistics—an estimate of 250,000 to 350,000 illegal migrant entries into western Europe in 1993—to its source. It was based on 60,000 border apprehensions and guesses by police that four to six times as many got through. Another oft-cited figure—45,000 to 50,000 women and children trafficked to the U.S. every year—originated in a classified Central Intelligence Agency briefing in April 1999. The derivation of that number has never been made public.

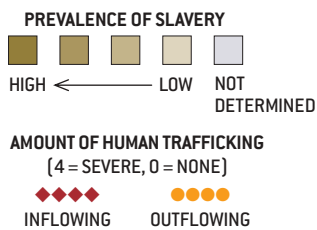
Kevin Bales has taken two approaches to dealing with uncertainty. First, he has collated various estimates of the numbers of slaves in individual countries (table), reasoning that some sources, such as governments, might tend to underestimate the problem and that others, such as human-rights groups, overestimate it. The table omits countries and regions for which researchers lack data. Second, he has prepared a scale of the relative degree of the problem in different countries (color-coded map), which is presumably easier to judge than the absolute number of slaves.

—George Musser, staff editor and writer

COUNTRY OR REGION	TRAFFICKING IN	TRAFFICKING OUT	ESTIMATED NUMBER OF SLAVES
Afghanistan.....	◆◆	●●	20,000–50,000
Albania.....	◆	●●	5,000–10,000
Algeria.....	◆◆	●●	1,000–2,000
Argentina.....	◆◆	●	1,000–1,000
Armenia.....	◆	●●	2,000–4,000
Australia.....	◆◆◆	●	4,000–6,000
Austria.....	◆◆	●	1,000–2,000
Azerbaijan.....	◆	●●	1,000–2,000
Bahrain.....	◆◆	●●	1,000–2,000
Bangladesh.....	◆	●●●●	10,000–10,000
Barbados.....	◆	●	0–100
Belarus.....	◆	●●	2,000–3,000
Belgium.....	◆◆	●	5,000–7,000

Benin.....	◆◆◆◆	●●●●	20,000–40,000
Bosnia-Herzegovina.....	◆◆	●●	3,000–4,000
Brazil.....	◆◆◆◆	●●●●	300,000–500,000
Bulgaria.....	◆◆	●●●●	2,000–4,000
Burkina Faso.....	◆◆◆	●●	2,000–4,000
Burma.....	◆	●●●●	50,000–100,000
Cambodia.....	◆◆	●●	3,000–6,000
Cameroon.....	◆◆◆	●●●	6,000–12,000
Canada.....	◆◆	●	10,000–20,000
China.....	◆◆◆	●●	250,000–500,000
Colombia.....	◆◆	●●	5,000–10,000
Congo (Kinshasa).....	◆◆◆	●●	1,000–1,500
Costa Rica.....	◆	●●	0–100

Croatia.....	◆◆	●●	1,000–2,000
Czech Republic.....	◆◆◆	●●●	2,000–5,000
Denmark.....	◆	●	1,000–2,000
Dominica.....	◆	●	0–100
Dominican Republic.....	◆	●●	5,000–6,000
Egypt.....	◆◆	●●	1,000–2,000
Equatorial Guinea.....	◆◆◆	●●●	1,000–2,000
Estonia.....	◆◆	●●	1,000–2,000
France.....	◆◆◆	●	10,000–20,000
Gabon.....	◆◆	●●	5,000–10,000
Gambia.....	◆◆◆◆	●●●●	3,000–6,000
Georgia.....	◆◆	●●●●	1,000–2,000
Germany.....	◆◆◆	●	5,000–9,000



Ghana.....	◆◆◆	●●●	10,000–20,000
Greece.....	◆◆	●	5,000–9,000
Guinea-Bissau.....	◆◆	●●	1,000–2,000
Haiti.....	◆◆	●●●●	75,000–150,000
Hong Kong.....	◆◆◆	●●	1,000–2,000
Hungary.....	◆◆◆	●●	1,000–2,000
India.....	◆◆◆◆	●●●●	18,000,000–22,000,000
Indonesia.....	◆◆	●●	4,000–8,000
Israel.....	◆◆◆◆	●	4,000–6,000
Italy.....	◆◆◆◆	●	30,000–40,000
Ivory Coast.....	◆◆◆◆	●●●●	30,000–80,000
Jamaica.....	◆◆	●●	0–500
Japan.....	◆◆◆◆	●●	5,000–10,000
Kazakhstan.....	◆	●●	1,000–2,000
Kenya.....	◆	●●	3,000–5,000
South Korea.....	◆◆	●●	10,000–15,000
Turkmenistan.....	◆◆	●	1,000–2,000
Kyrgyzstan.....	◆	●	1,000–1,500
Laos.....	◆	●●	5,000–10,000
Lebanon.....	◆◆	●●	1,000–1,500
Liberia.....	◆◆	●●	3,000–6,000
Luxembourg.....	◆◆	●	2,000–3,000
Macedonia.....	◆◆	●●	1,000–1,500
Malaysia.....	◆◆◆	●●	3,000–6,000
Mali.....	◆◆◆◆	●●●●	10,000–20,000
Mauritania.....	◆◆	●●	250,000–300,000
Mexico.....	◆◆◆	●●	3,000–6,000
Moldova.....	◆◆◆	●●	1,000–1,500
Morocco.....	◆◆◆◆	●●●	1,000–2,000
Nepal.....	◆◆	●●●●	250,000–300,000
Netherlands.....	◆◆◆	●	3,000–5,000
Nigeria.....	◆◆	●●●●	20,000–40,000
Oman.....	◆◆◆	●●	1,000–2,000
Pakistan.....	◆◆◆	●●●	2,500,000–3,500,000
Panama.....	◆	●	0–100
Peru.....	◆◆	●●	3,000–5,000
Philippines.....	◆◆	●●●●	3,000–10,000
Poland.....	◆◆◆◆	●●●	2,000–4,000
Portugal.....	◆◆◆	●●	5,000–6,000
Puerto Rico.....	◆	●	0–100
Qatar.....	◆◆◆	●●	1,000–2,000
Romania.....	◆◆◆	●●●	5,000–6,000
Russia.....	◆◆◆◆	●●●	8,000–10,000
São Tomé.....	◆◆◆◆	●●●	1,000–2,000
Saudi Arabia.....	◆◆◆◆	●●	2,000–5,000
Senegal.....	◆◆◆◆	●●●●	6,000–12,000
Sierra Leone.....	◆◆◆◆	●●●●	3,000–6,000
Singapore.....	◆◆◆	●●	1,000–1,500
Slovakia.....	◆◆◆	●●	2,000–3,000
South Africa.....	◆◆◆	●●	5,000–6,000
Spain.....	◆◆	●●	10,000–15,000
Sri Lanka.....	◆◆	●●●●	5,000–10,000
Sudan.....	◆◆◆◆	●●●●	20,000–50,000
Sweden.....	◆	●	2,000–3,000
Switzerland.....	◆	●	1,000–1,500
Tajikistan.....	◆◆	●●	2,000–4,000
Tanzania.....	◆◆	●●	2,000–4,000
Thailand.....	◆◆◆◆	●●●●	30,000–60,000
Togo.....	◆◆	●●	6,000–8,000
Trinidad.....	◆	●	0–100
Turkey.....	◆◆◆◆	●●●●	20,000–30,000
Turkmenistan.....	◆◆◆	●●	1,000–2,000
Uganda.....	◆◆	●●	5,000–8,000
Ukraine.....	◆◆	●●●●	3,000–5,000
U.A.E.....	◆◆◆◆	●●	1,000–2,000
U.K.....	◆	●	4,000–5,000
U.S.....	◆	●	100,000–150,000
Uzbekistan.....	◆◆	●●	1,000–2,000
Vietnam.....	◆◆	●●	5,000–7,000
Yemen.....	◆◆◆	●●	1,000–2,000
Yugoslavia.....	◆◆◆	●●●	8,000–10,000