



Media did not provide details on specific ages of those rescued, but Chinese state broadcaster China Central Television (CCTV) showed images of babies in its report.

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Child trafficking is a major problem in China, particularly in poor rural areas

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Chinese media Caixin said that nearly half of all cases of children who are sold involve the consent of their own family, including parents who often sell their daughters for cash.

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Poor communities in China often have a traditional preference for male offspring, who can carry on the family name and provide support to their elderly parents.

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Most of the trafficked children in China are boys aged under six who are often sold for adoption, while youngsters aged between 14 and 18 are commonly girls, suggesting that they are being sold into prostitution, Caixin said.

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As many as 20,000 children a year are thought to be trafficked in China, while about 200,000 go missing, Chinese state media said. China has up to 1.5 million homeless children.

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