

Did You Know?

A review of case files in major U.S. cities indicates that police viewed 40% of youth involved in prostitution as offenders and 60% as victims.

What Is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking is a serious federal crime with penalties of up to imprisonment for life. Federal law defines "severe forms of trafficking in persons" as: "(A) sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or (B) the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery." [U.S.C. §7102(8)]

In short, human trafficking is a form of modern slavery. Those who recruit minors into commercial sexual exploitation (or prostitution) violate federal anti-trafficking laws, even if there is no force, fraud, or coercion.

Types of Human Trafficking

- Child sex trafficking
 - Child soldiers
 - Forced child labor
 - Involuntary domestic servitude
 - Debt bondage among migrant laborers
 - Bonded labor
 - Sex trafficking
 - Forced labor
 - Body Organs trafficking
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How do I Identify a Victim?

Members of the youth-serving community and those who regularly interact with young people are in a unique position to recognize children who may be victims of human trafficking or on the path to becoming victimized. No comprehensive list of all the signs of human trafficking exists, and children who exhibit these signs are not always trafficking victims. However, the following signs are potential indications that a young person may be a victim of human trafficking.

Signs that a youth may be a human trafficking victim:

- Misses school on a regular basis and/or has unexplained absences

- Frequently runs away from home
- Makes references to frequent travel to other cities or towns
- Exhibits bruises or other signs of physical trauma, withdrawn behavior, depression, anxiety, or fear
- Lacks control over her or his schedule and/or identification or travel documents
- Is hungry, malnourished, or inappropriately dressed (based on weather conditions or surroundings)
- Shows signs of drug addiction
- Has coached/rehearsed responses to questions

Additional signs that may indicate sex trafficking:

- Demonstrates a sudden change in attire, behavior, relationships, or material possessions (e.g., has expensive items)
- Is uncharacteristically promiscuous and/or makes references to sexual situations or terminology that are beyond age-specific norms
- Has a “boyfriend” or a “girlfriend” who is noticeably older
- Attempts to conceal recent scars
- Shows a sudden change in attention to personal hygiene

Signs of human trafficking that may be observed during travel:

- Has a travel companion who controls documents, tickets, and movement
- Avoids eye contact with travel companion
- Lacks knowledge of travel plans and destination

How Do I Report a Suspected Incidence of Human Trafficking?

To report an immediate emergency

- Call 911 or contact your local police department or emergency access number.

To report suspected trafficking crimes, get help, or learn more about human trafficking from a nongovernmental organization

- Call the toll-free (24/7) National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-3737-888 (1-888-373-7888).
- Text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733).
- Submit a tip online at <http://www.traffickingresourcecenter.org/>.

To report suspected human trafficking crimes or to get help from law enforcement

- Call toll-free (24/7) U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement at 1-866-347-2423.
- Submit a tip online at <http://www.ice.gov/tips>.

To report sexually exploited or abused minors

- If a child is in urgent need of assistance, contact law enforcement or child protective services to report abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a child. Contact the Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline to speak to professional crisis counselors who can connect a caller with a local number to report abuse: 1-800-4-A-CHILD (1-800-422-4453).
- Call the [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's](#) (NCMEC) hotline at 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678).
- Report incidents at <http://www.cybertipline.org>.

For further information, go to this link: <http://www.findyouthinfo.gov/youth-topics/trafficking-of-youth/identifying-victims>