

# Human Trafficking

## *WHAT IS IT?*

Human trafficking, or 'modern slavery' is defined as the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for the purposes of commercial sex acts or labor services through the use of force, fraud or coercion.

**Human trafficking is the world's fastest growing criminal enterprise. It is estimated to be a \$236 billion-a-year global industry.**

**The most common forms of human trafficking are Labor trafficking and Sex trafficking.**

- Human trafficking is a unique crime, and one that is often hard to identify, investigate, and prosecute and often occurs in conjunction with other crimes, which may mask the trafficking components of the activities.
- Victims of human trafficking may be unwilling or afraid to cooperate with first responders, law enforcement, and victim advocates.
- Language and cultural barriers can hinder even voluntary communication with trafficking victims.

## *Who is at risk?*

Those with a prior history of the following:

- Prior sexual abuse
- Physical and emotional abuse
- Homelessness and poverty
- Youth with family and friends who have been trafficked
- Displacement (due to war, natural disaster)
- Unstable family conditions or family rejection
- System involvement (child welfare or juvenile justice)
- Running away or truancy
- Mental health disorders
- Substance use/abuse

***More than one in four women became pregnant while trafficked.***

## **RESOURCES/REFERENCES**

1. *The Polaris Project*
2. *National Human Trafficking Hotline*
3. *Safe House Project*
4. *Zoe International*
5. Toney-Butler TJ, Ladd M, Mittel O. Human Trafficking. 2023 Jun 11. In: StatPearls [Internet]. Treasure Island (FL): StatPearls Publishing; 2025 Jan-. PMID: 28613660.
6. Exeni McAmis NE, Mirabella AC, McCarthy EM, Cama CA, Fogarasi MC, Thomas LA, Feinn RS, Rivera-Godreau I. Assessing healthcare provider knowledge of human trafficking. *PLoS One*. 2022 Mar 9;17(3):e0264338.
7. Lindahl J, Riese A, Tanzer JR, Goldberg A. Clinical Psychosocial Risk Factors for Sex Trafficking Involvement Among Adolescent Girls. *J Adolesc Health*. 2023 Nov;73(5):903-909. doi: 10.1016/j.jadohealth.2023.06.011. Epub 2023 Aug 2. PMID: 37530682.
8. Prakash J, Oriola B, Kurtzer T, Stoklosa H. "Praying for freedom": a story of labor trafficking during pregnancy. *Am J Obstet Gynecol MFM*. 2023 Apr;5(4):100873. doi: 10.1016/j.ajogmf.2023.100873. Epub 2023 Jan 21. PMID: 36693496.

# Human Trafficking RESOURCES

***US National Human Trafficking Hotline***

***[www.humantraffickinghotline.org](http://www.humantraffickinghotline.org)***

***Call 1-888-373-7888***

***Text INFO to 233733 (Befree)***

***English/Spanish***

***Anonymous, confidential help 24/7***

***Interpreters available***

***Virginia State Police Human Trafficking  
Tip Line***

***Text "VSP" followed by the tip to 847411***

*Find Resources Here:*



**Virginia Chapter**  
*Incorporated in Virginia*  
**American Academy of Pediatrics**

**VDH** VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH