

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

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