



Human Trafficking – is it Right in Front of You?

This month's *Maine Page* provides our partners with an overview of human trafficking in the United States and provides indicators for identifying and combating human trafficking within their areas of responsibility.

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human trafficking is a form of modern day slavery and is believed to be the **third largest criminal activity in the world**.¹ It is the exploitation of a person through force, fraud, or coercion for commercial sex purposes, domestic servitude, or forced labor. Any commercial sex act involving a person under the age of 18 is considered human trafficking, regardless of whether force, fraud, or coercion is used.²

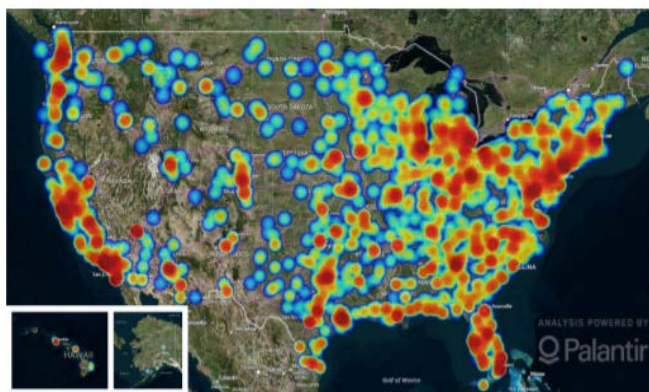
WHERE IS IT OCCURRING?

Human trafficking is occurring around the world and right here in the United States. It often occurs in plain view and happens in rural counties, small towns, and large cities. Below is a map showing possible human trafficking cases based off 2017 data that came into the *National Human Trafficking (NHT) Hotline*.³

WHO ARE THE VICTIMS?

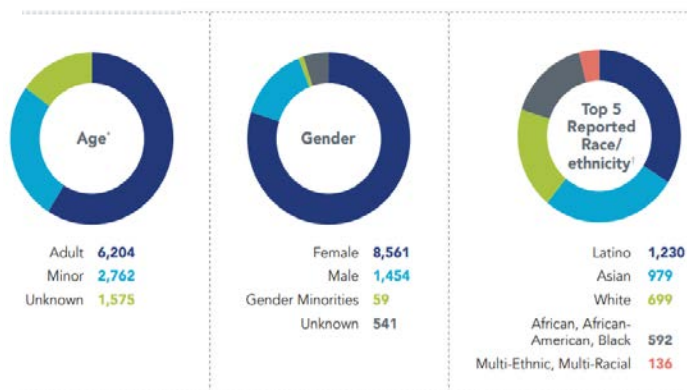
There are no demographic barriers for who can become a victim of human trafficking. Victims can be US citizens or foreign nationals of any age, gender, or socioeconomic background. See 2017 demographics below, provided by *PolarisProject.org*.⁴

Locations of Potential Human Trafficking Cases in the U.S.



Source: Polaris Project

Demographics



Source: Polaris Project

Based on information gathered by *Polaris Project*, the most common methods in which human trafficking incidents occurred in the United States in 2017 are as follows:

<u>SEX TRAFFICKING</u>	<u>SEX & LABOR TRAFFICKING</u>	<u>LABOR TRAFFICKING</u>
Escort Services → 1,572	Illicit Massage Businesses → 774	Domestic Work → 242
Residential → 508	Bar/Strip Clubs → 194	Agriculture → 134
Outdoor Solicitation → 329	Illicit Activities → 104	Peddling and Begging → 109

Source: Polaris Project

THIS RECORD MAY CONTAIN DATA THAT IS LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE, PRIVILEGED, AND/OR CONFIDENTIAL. IF YOU RECEIVED THIS RECORD IN ERROR, NEITHER FURTHER DISCLOSURE NOR COPYING OF IT IS AUTHORIZED. **NO DATA IN THE RECORD MAY BE DISCLOSED TO NON-LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE MIAC; NOR MAY ANY SUCH DATA BE POSTED ON ANY PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE WEBSITE. DATA CONTAINED IN THIS RECORD SHOULD BE INDEPENDENTLY VERIFIED.**

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

REALITY

- | COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS | REALITY |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human trafficking is always or usually a violent crime. • All human trafficking involves commercial sex. • Only undocumented foreign nationals get trafficked in the United States. • Human trafficking only happens in illegal or underground industries. • Human trafficking involves moving, traveling or transporting a person across state or national borders. • People being trafficked are physically unable to leave their situations/locked in/held against their will. • Traffickers target victims they don't know. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most traffickers use psychological means like tricking, defrauding, manipulating or threatening victims into providing commercial sex or exploitative labor. • Human trafficking is the use of force, fraud or coercion to get another person to provide labor or commercial sex. • Victims can include foreign nationals illegally and legally living or working in the United States, U.S. Citizens, and Legal Permanent Residents. • Human trafficking cases have been reported and prosecuted in industries including restaurants, cleaning services, construction, factories and more. • Human smuggling involves the movement or transporting a person across borders. Human trafficking does not require any movement whatsoever. Victims can be recruited and trafficked in their own home towns, even their own homes. • That is sometimes the case. More often, victims stay for reasons that are more complicated: lack the basic necessities to physically get out - such as transportation or a safe place to live; some are afraid for their safety; some have been so effectively manipulated that they do not identify at that point as being under the control of another person. • Many victims have been trafficked by romantic partners, spouses, family members, and even parents. |

Source: Polaris Project

VICTIMOLOGY

- Victims typically do not see themselves as victims and will rarely seek help.
- Victims may appear to be engaging in criminal behavior (prostitution).
- What looks like a choice may be against a person's will because of fear of violence or retaliation by the trafficker.⁵

POTENTIAL INDICATORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- Does the person appear disconnected from family, friends, or community organizations?
- Has a child stopped attending school?
- Has the person had a sudden or dramatic change in behavior?
- Is a juvenile engaged in commercial sex acts?
- Is the person disoriented or confused, or showing signs of mental or physical abuse?
- Does the person have bruises in various stages of healing?
- Is the person fearful, timid, or submissive?
- Does the person show signs of having been denied food, water, sleep, or medical care?
- Is the person often in the company of someone he or she defers/seems to be in control?
- Does the person appear to be coached on what to say?

Source: Department of Homeland Security

SEE ATTACHMENT TO VIEW MAINE LAWS ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING 

THIS RECORD MAY CONTAIN DATA THAT IS LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE, PRIVILEGED, AND/OR CONFIDENTIAL. IF YOU RECEIVED THIS RECORD IN ERROR, NEITHER FURTHER DISCLOSURE NOR COPYING OF IT IS AUTHORIZED. **NO DATA IN THE RECORD MAY BE DISCLOSED TO NON-LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE MIAC; NOR MAY ANY SUCH DATA BE POSTED ON ANY PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE WEBSITE. DATA CONTAINED IN THIS RECORD SHOULD BE INDEPENDENTLY VERIFIED.**

¹ Federal Bureau of Investigation; What We Investigate; <https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/civil-rights/human-trafficking>

² Department of Homeland Security; Blue Campaign; <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign>

³ Polaris Project; 2017 Statistics; <http://polarisproject.org/sites/default/files/2017NHTHStats%20%281%29.pdf>

⁴ Polaris Project; 2017 Statistics ; <http://polarisproject.org/sites/default/files/2017NHTHStats%20%281%29.pdf>

⁵ COPs; Combating Child Sex Abuse; <https://www.theiacp.org/sites/default/files/all/i-j/IACPCOPsCombatingChildSexTraffickingAGuideforLELeaders.pdf>