

Rural Human Trafficking as a Public Health Issue: 2020/2021 Update

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OASH

Office of the
Assistant Secretary
for Health

Anti-Human Trafficking Federal Interagency Task Force

- Regional level Interagency Task Force that coordinate efforts at the regional, state, local, and tribal level.
- Efforts are aimed at providing a coordinated approach to build internal capacity within state and local agencies to combat human trafficking.
- Region III Task Force shares regional level information with the HHS/ACF/ Office of Trafficking In Persons who is the HHS lead for Human Trafficking prevention and cross-agency coordination.

HOTLINE

To report a case of human trafficking, please call the National Human Trafficking Hotline:
1-888-373-7888 or
Text 233733. If there is an emergency involving a trafficking person, please call **911**.

CONTACT US

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TASK FORCE AGENCIES

Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)

- Administration for Children and Families (ACF)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
- Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH)
- Office of the Regional Director (ORD)

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

Department of Justice (DOJ)

- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)

ABOUT US

The Region 3 Federal Interagency Anti-Trafficking Task Force is a collaborative group comprised of numerous federal government agencies. The mission of the Task Force is to facilitate collaboration across federal, state, and local agencies to raise awareness and build capacity to combat human trafficking across Region 3 (DC, DE, MD, PA, VA, WV). The Task Force shares regional level information with the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services' (HHS) Administration for Children and Families' (ACF) Office of Trafficking in Persons (OTIP).



	DE	DC	MD	PA	VA	WV
# of trafficking calls made	55	221	444	562	502	57
# of reported cases	21	61	115	199	156	16

Source: National Human Trafficking Hotline. Data is from 2015. Statistics are current as of 1/29/2017.

WHAT WE DO

Outreach and Awareness

Data Collection and Analysis

Capacity Building and Partnership

Funding and Resources

Human trafficking is an affront to human dignity and a form of modern slavery. Traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to control victims for the purpose of engaging in commercial sex acts or labor services against their will. Traffickers use violence, threats, blackmail, false promises, deception, manipulation, and debt bondage to trap vulnerable individuals in horrific situations.

RESOURCES

Office of Trafficking in Persons, Administration for Children and Families
[website: ad.gov/otip](http://www.ad.gov/otip)

U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign
[website: dhs.gov/blue-campaign](http://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign)

Federal Bureau of Investigation
[website: FBI.gov](http://www.fbi.gov)

Polaris Project
[website: polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org)

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
[website: ncmec.org](http://www.ncmec.org)

Definition

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery in which traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to control victims for the purpose of engaging in commercial sex acts or labor services against his/her/their will. Traffickers use violence, threats, blackmail, false promises, deception, manipulation, and debt bondage to trap vulnerable individuals in horrific situations.

Types of Human Trafficking

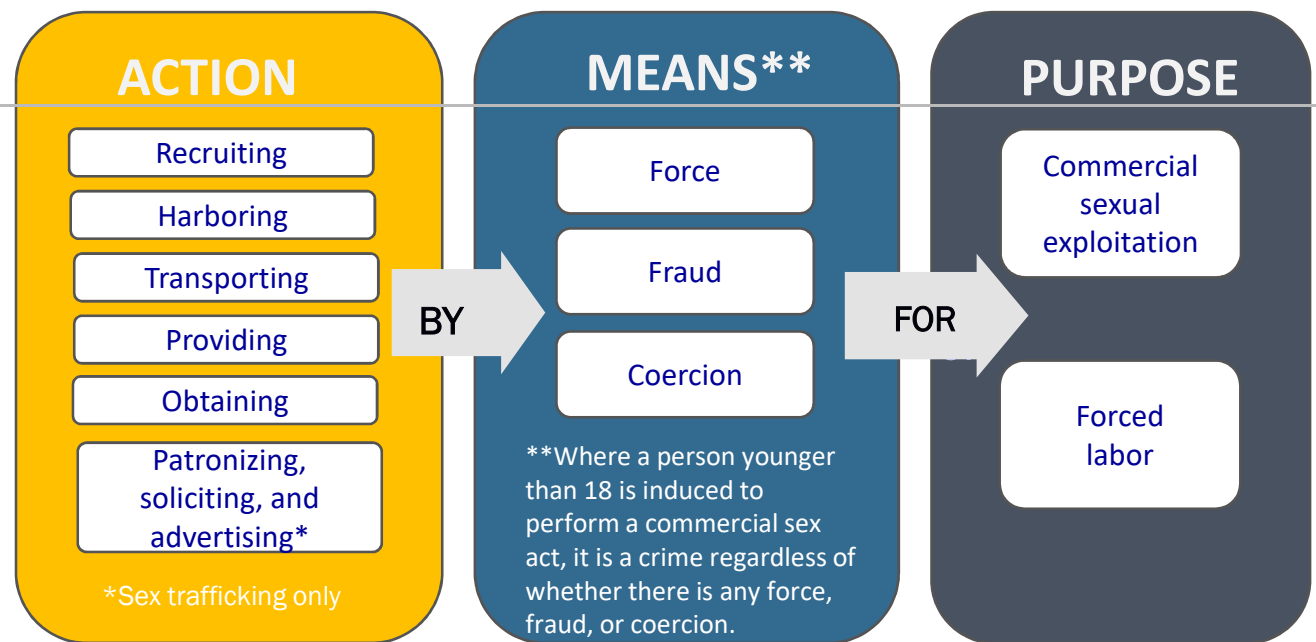
There are two main types of trafficking:

- Labor Trafficking — Individuals are compelled to work or provide services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion.
- Sex Trafficking — Individuals are compelled to engage in commercial sex through the use of force, fraud, or coercion.
- Other forms include removal of organs, forced begging, forced marriage and child soldiers.

Human Trafficking Statistics

- The International Labour Organization estimates that there are 40.3 million victims of human trafficking globally.
 - 81% of them are trapped in forced labor.
 - 25% of them are children.
 - 75% are women and girls.
- The International Labor Organization estimates that forced labor and human trafficking is a \$150 billion industry worldwide.
- In 2016, an estimated 1 out of 6 endangered runaways reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children were likely child sex trafficking victims.
 - Of those, 86% were in the care of social services or foster care when they ran.

Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA)

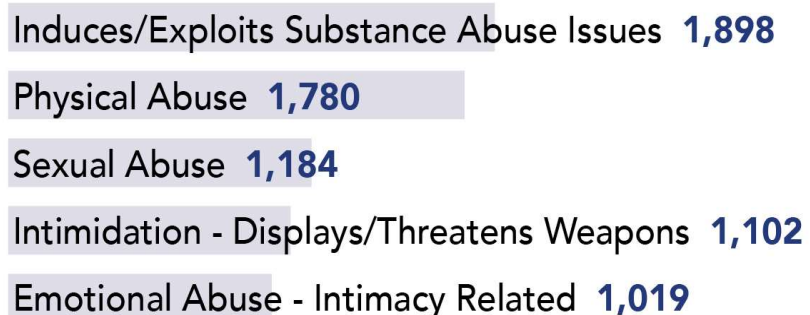


Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), Pub. L. No.106-386, 8 U.S.C. §1101, §7101, 114 STAT 1464 (2000)

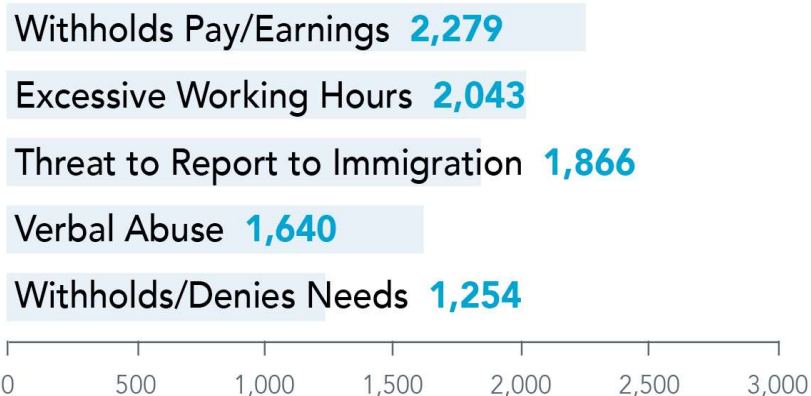


Top 5 Coercive Tactics

SEX TRAFFICKING



LABOR TRAFFICKING



Source: Polaris Project

Top 5 Risk Factors

SEX TRAFFICKING

Substance Use Concern **510**
Runaway Homeless Youth **473**
Recent Migration/Relocation **416**
Unstable Housing **366**
Mental Health Concern **334**

LABOR TRAFFICKING

Recent Migration/Relocation **2,364**
Unstable Housing **91**
Criminal Record/Criminal History **90**
Physical Health Concern **53**
Substance Use Concern **32**



Source: Polaris Project

Vulnerable Populations to Human Trafficking

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



Rural Vulnerability

- Far apart doesn't = safer
- There are less jobs, which makes people vulnerable
- Truck stops are common
- Victims are stigmatized
- There are fewer services

“I am a detective for a small department in a small town of about 4,000. We hear rumors of people in our jurisdiction that operate prostitution rings, but due to our small town it is hard to get information to prosecute because the ring is so small (i.e., they know who to sell to and who not to). Plus, with limited resources we focus our efforts in other areas.”

Tennessee Rural Law Enforcement Representative Love146

Rural Victims

- Often women and girls, but not exclusively
- Minors, especially runaway or homeless youth
- American Indian or Alaskan Natives
- Temporary visa holders

Risk Factors

- Prior physical/sexual abuse or neglect
- Drug dependencies
- Prior debt or economic challenges

General Warning Signs “Red Flags”

- Inconsistent stories/scripted stories
- Evidence of delayed medical care
- Evidence of physical or sexual abuses
- Fear of law enforcement
- No identification documents
- Substance Use Disorder
- Frequent STI, pregnancy
- Accompanying party insists on answering questions for patient and refuses to leave



Public Health Framework

A public health lens informs who intervenes and engages in the fight against human trafficking

- We cannot arrest our way out of human trafficking alone.
- We need to strengthen training for law enforcement, social service and health care providers.
- We cannot end human trafficking through victim services alone.
- Survivors of human trafficking are critical voices to inform the development of community-based programs and government policies to prevent and end human trafficking.
- Empowering educators and parents can improve prevention of human trafficking.
- Investing in research to understand the social and public health implications of human trafficking can help us to better target ways to fundamentally disrupt the dynamics that enable human trafficking to flourish.

Public Health Framework

A public health lens informs how we intervene.

- A public health framework recognizes the social and economic determinants of health and well-being that may lead to the crisis moment of trafficking.
- Interventions would go beyond the criminal justice and social service response and incorporate prevention strategies based on needs of specific populations.
- While human trafficking can impact anyone, some populations are more vulnerable to human trafficking due to experience of prior violence, stigma, and disconnection.

Public Health Framework

A public health lens informs what must be at stake to truly change the dynamics that enable human trafficking.

- The existence of human trafficking is an indication that we live in an unsustainable world that has normalized and commercialized violence.
- Deep rooted cultural norms around power, equity, gender, and consumer behavior shape the social and economic dynamics that have enabled human trafficking.
- A public health framework is more likely to confront entrenched interests and highlight barriers to reducing trafficking.

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/report/resource/publichealthlens>

Myths

- People being trafficked are physically unable to leave their situations/locked in/held against their will.
- Labor trafficking is only or primarily a problem in developing countries.
- All commercial sex is human trafficking.
- People in active trafficking situations always want help getting out.
- Human trafficking is always or usually a violent crime.
- All human trafficking involves sex.

Myths

- Traffickers target victims they don't know.
- Only undocumented foreign nationals get trafficked in the United States.
- Only women and girls can be victims and survivors of sex trafficking.
- Human trafficking only happens in illegal or underground industries.
- Human trafficking involves moving, traveling or transporting a person across state or national borders.

Partnership with the Pennsylvania State Office of Rural Health

Annual Rural Human Trafficking Summit

October 29, 2019 –125 legal representatives, community-based, and national advocates attended. Sessions included the definition and prevalence of sex and labor trafficking; State and national resources; the legal, Federal, community, and health system response and a presentation by a “surthriver” who detailed her experiences of being lured into and escaping drug use, torture, and sex trafficking.

November 5 & 6, 2020 –In collaboration with State and Federal partners, a virtual summit was held with 101 participants. This program educated health care providers, facility clinicians and staff, community-based health and social service agencies, law enforcement, and others to recognize the signs of human trafficking and how to address the needs of victims.

Rural Human Trafficking Conference

- SAVE THE DATE!
 - November 9th and 10th, 2021
 - 9 am to 1 pm
 - Virtual

What Not To Do

- Do not try to rescue the victim
- Beware of the accompanying person
- Do not contact law enforcement without patients consent
- Do not ask about legal status

What can I do?

- Be aware - Recognize red flags signs/symptoms
- Be a trusted advocate
- Know agencies and community organizations involved with HT victims
- Reduce the stigma
- Training opportunities
- Donation drive
- Volunteer
- **DO call and report to the trafficking hotline 1-888-373-7888**

National Human Trafficking Hotline

- **Comprehensive service referrals** for at-risk individuals and those who are currently experiencing or have previously experienced human trafficking
- **Tip reporting** to trained law enforcement
- **Data and trends** on human trafficking in the United States

NATIONAL
HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
HOTLINE

1-888-373-7888

Call **1-888-373-7888** or text **233733** (BEFREE)
to get help or connect with local services

Outreach and Awareness



- Document Library
- Video Library
- Awareness Training
- Request Materials

Public Awareness Campaign

- **HHS Look Beneath the Surface National Campaign**
 - **Raise awareness of human trafficking and factors that make certain populations more at risk**
 - **Products:**
 - ✓ Images
 - ✓ Posters
 - ✓ Brochures
 - ✓ Radio and website PSAs
 - ✓ Pocket cards
 - ✓ Bookmarks
 - **Informed by survivors of human trafficking, federal partners, grantees, and stakeholders**

[Learn more and download free materials](#)



NHTTAC Training and Technical Assistance

- **SOAR to Health and Wellness Training**
 - Accredited training for health care and social services professionals
 - As of FY 2019, the SOAR to Health and Wellness Training has been received by more than 9,600 professionals in 45 states and 4 U.S. territories.

Foundational Principles

- Inclusive of all types of human trafficking
- Trauma- and survivor-informed
- Culturally and linguistically appropriate
- Multidisciplinary
- Results-driven



Human Trafficking Screening Tools



Screening tool to identify
minors who are being trafficked



**NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING
TRAINING AND TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE CENTER**

Screening tool to identify
adults who are being trafficked



Screening tool to identify
homeless young adults

Contact NHTTAC

VISIT acf.hhs.gov/otip/training/nhttac

EMAIL info@nhttac.org

PHONE 844-648-8822

CALL
CENTER 8:30a.m.–5p.m. ET
Monday–Friday





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**National Human
Trafficking Hotline
1-888-373-7888**

Thank you!

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