

Human Trafficking

Human Trafficking Defined:

Sex trafficking is a commercial sex act (as defined by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act; TVPA) induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age. • Labor trafficking consists of 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.

Trafficking, according to the United Nations, involves three main elements:

1. **The Act:** Recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons.
2. **The Means:** Threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability, or giving payments or benefits to a person in control of the victim.
3. **The Purpose:** For the purpose of exploitation, which includes exploiting the prostitution of others, sexual exploitation, forced labor, slavery or similar practices and the removal of organs.

How common is child trafficking?

Child trafficking affects every country in the world, including the United States. Children make up 27% of all human trafficking victims worldwide, and two out of every three identified child victims are girls[i].

Victimization of Male Youth:

Although the identification of boys has increased in recent years, they remain a small percentage of youth assessed as likely victims of sex trafficking. Potential reasons for this include the following:

- Boys in the general population may be more likely than girls to be forced out of their homes by parents and therefore are less likely to be reported missing.

COVID-19 Pandemic:

As children in New Jersey stayed home during the pandemic and spent more time on devices, online exploitation by predators increased by over 200%. During Covid-19 for the period of March 1, thru May 23, 2020 the NJ Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force received 2380 reports from the National Center of Missing and Exploited Children, up from 760 reports in 2019 during the same time period. Although not every report was of a predator victimizing a child, the overall online exploitation numbers more than doubled, illustrating the underlying risks to children and teens of spending more time online.

The COVID-19 pandemic has seen much higher numbers of cyber tips of online child exploitation, and there is a greater risk of children being groomed online for future trafficking. [<https://www.njhumantrafficking.org/>]

Is there human trafficking in NJ?

Human trafficking is a rapidly growing criminal industry. Due to New Jersey's dense population and prominent location along the Interstate 95 corridor, our State is considered particularly vulnerable to the proliferation of human trafficking.

How do human traffickers target their victims?

Human traffickers target vulnerable individuals by preying on their personal situations. Human traffickers target and recruit their victims by appearing to offer help, or pretending to be a friend or potential romantic partner. They leverage their victims' vulnerabilities and coerce them to meet in person.

Child Trafficking: Myth vs. Fact:

There is *much misinformation* about **what** trafficking is, **who** is affected and **what it means** for a child to be trafficked.

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- **Children make up 27%** of all human trafficking victims worldwide
- **2 out of every 3 identified** child victims **are girls**

MYTH: Traffickers target victims they don't know:

FACT: A majority of the time, victims are trafficked by someone they know, such as a friend, family member or romantic partner.

MYTH: Only girls and women are victims of human trafficking:

FACT: Boys and men are just as likely to be victims of human trafficking as girls and women. However, they are less likely to be identified and reported. Girls and boys are often subject to different types of trafficking, for instance, girls may be trafficked for [forced marriage](#) and sexual exploitation, while boys may be trafficked for forced labor or recruitment into armed groups.

MYTH: All human trafficking involves sex or prostitution

FACT: Human trafficking can include forced labor, domestic servitude, organ trafficking, debt bondage, recruitment of children as child soldiers, and/or sex trafficking and forced prostitution.

MYTH: Trafficking involves traveling, transporting or moving a person across borders:

FACT: Human trafficking is not the same thing as smuggling, which are two terms that are commonly confused. Trafficking does **not** require movement across borders. In fact, in some cases, a child could be trafficked and exploited from their own home. In the U.S., trafficking most frequently occurs at hotels, motels, truck stops and online.

MYTH: People being trafficked are physically unable to leave or held against their will

FACT: Trafficking can involve force, but people can also be trafficked through threats, coercion, or deception. People in trafficking situations can be controlled through drug addiction, violent relationships, manipulation, lack of financial independence, or isolation from family or friends, in addition to physical restraint or harm.

MYTH: Trafficking primarily occurs in developing countries

FACT: Trafficking occurs all over the world, though the most common forms of trafficking can differ by country. The United States is one of the most active sex trafficking countries in the world, where exploitation of trafficking victims occurs in cities, suburban and rural areas. Labor trafficking occurs in the U.S., but at lower rates than most developing countries.

Human Trafficking Indicators

- Living with employer.
 - Poor living conditions.
 - Multiple people in cramped space.
 - Inability to speak to individual alone.
 - Answers appear to be scripted and rehearsed.
 - Employer is holding identity documents.
 - Signs of **physical abuse**.
 - Submissive or fearful.
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In many instances in America, the **trafficker** will **tattoo his** name (or nickname) on the **trafficking victims**, signaling that they are property. **Victims** are often coerced into getting these **tattoos** as a way to show they belong to a group and are cared for.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS MODERN DAY SLAVERY

Children in school can be victims of sex trafficking.
People who serve you in restaurants and salons can be
victims of labor trafficking. These are just some examples.

Modern day slavery exists throughout New Jersey.

Know the **RED FLAGS** in your community:

- R**eluctant to speak
- E**xhausted
- D**ominated or controlled
- F**earful
- L**ong work hours
- A**lienated from family/friends
- G**ifts from older boyfriend
- S**igns of abuse

If you see something that raises a **RED FLAG** - call for help.

National Human Trafficking Hotline

888-3737-888

Or text to **BE FREE (233733)**

More info at: www.njhumantrafficking.org

The **Trafficking Hotline** will respond to non-urgent emails within 1-3 business days, based on the order in which **they** are received. For immediate assistance, call the **Trafficking Hotline** at 1-888-373-7888.

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What you can do to keep children safe from online predators:

Remind children to only interact online and on gaming apps with people they know and trust in the real world.

Let children tell you about what they love about their games and online lives, and allow them to enjoy all that is good about apps, games and online, which makes a conversation about the concerns of online grooming easier to have.

Warn children to not accept gaming dollars (E.G. V-bucks for the game “Fortnite”) from people they don’t know and trust. Predators will later come back and say “now you owe me”.

Review which location markers are visible on children’s devices, and remove any except the essential ones. Consider products to help with this, which can also monitor some - but not all - of your children’s activity.

Reduce shame in conversations with children. If they have shared CSAM (Child Sexual Abuse Material) of themselves, they were manipulated in order to do so. Shame is a method traffickers use to further manipulate, so be supportive instead of blaming the child.

Make sure you know and your child knows what to do if they find themselves in a exploitation situation, and that there are organizations like NCMEC who can help.

Spend “device-free” time with your family to boost everyone’s serotonin levels, and help children feel **good without needing to get “likes” on social media.**

I STILL don't understand how this can happen....

Sextortion:

Sextortion involves non-physical forms of coercion, such as blackmail, to acquire sexual content or money from a child, or engage in sex with the child - making it child sexual exploitation, a form of human trafficking.

More information can be found via the FBI's [Stop Sextortion Campaign](#) and Thorn's [Stop Sextortion](#)

Him: "(daughter's name)" "Answer me" "What are you doing"
Me (as my daughter, trying to talk like she would): "Go away"
Him: "No sorry. You don't get to tell me that."
"I will upload this photo." (One of her in her undergarments.)
"You want your friends and family to see these photos?" (then proceeds to post each and every photo she'd sent him)
Me: "Wat do you want?"
Him: "Let me see you. What are you wearing. You can take a photo."
Me: "wat kind? wat kind of pic do u want?"
Him: "Show me what you are wearing."
I replied: "Busy"
Him: "Photos you have to take: (here he goes down a list of 5 photos – ranging from a fully dressed to "fully body naked in front of the mirror." He also included some inappropriate graphics.) You do all that I want and I won't ruin your life."
Him: "Do you understand?"
Me: "U need to wait. can't now. busy."
Him: "I give you one week to do all those photos. If not next Wednesday I start to post your photos online. Do you understand?"

If you suspect someone is a victim of trafficking, contact the [National Human Trafficking Resource Center](#) at 1-800-373-7888. The confidential hotline is open 24 hours a day, every day, and helps identify, protect and serve victims of trafficking.