

<https://www.missingkids.org/theissues/trafficking> A lot of good stuff, not listed below.

According to World Population Review, human trafficking is a serious crime and a violation of human rights, involving force, coercion, or fraud to exploit a person into slave labor or sexual exploitation.

It can happen to people of all ages, genders, race, or religious backgrounds. While women are often used for sexual exploitation and men are used for forced labor, it is believed that one in five human trafficking victims are children, exploited for begging, child porn or child labor.

The 2021 human trafficking statistics are astounding. A common misconception about human trafficking is that it does not happen in the United States. This is false, as [the United States is ranked as one of the worst countries globally for human trafficking](#). It is estimated that 199,000 incidents occur within the United States every year. The number of cases presented is only the cases that are reported.

In 2019, the United States had [11,500 human trafficking cases reported](#). [The most common type of trafficking was sex trafficking](#) (8,248 reports), with the most common venues being [illicit massage/spa businesses and pornography](#).

The 10 states with the highest rates of human trafficking are:

1. [Nevada](#) (7.50 per 100k)
2. [Mississippi](#) (4.99 per 100k)
3. [Florida](#) (4.08 per 100k)
4. [Georgia](#) (3.85 per 100k)
5. [Ohio](#) (3.84 per 100k)
6. [Delaware](#) (3.84 per 100k)
7. [California](#) (3.80 per 100k)
8. [Missouri](#) (3.78 per 100k)
9. [Michigan](#) (3.64 per 100k)
10. [Texas](#) (3.63 per 100k)

Victims frequently do not seek help due to language barriers, fear of their traffickers, or fear of law enforcement. Because [human trafficking is considered a hidden crime](#), several key indicators can help people recognize potential endangerment and notify law enforcement. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has a list of indicators you can use to help identify victims. These indicators include:

- Appearing malnourished
- Appearing injured or having signs of physical abuse
- Avoiding eye contact, social interaction, and law enforcement
- Responding in manners that seem rehearsed or scripted
- Lacking personal identification documents
- Lacking personal possessions

<https://worldpopulationreview.com/state-rankings/human-trafficking-statistics-by-state>

An exhaustive list of indicators is included on this website:

https://www.unodc.org/pdf/HT_indicators_E_LOWRES.pdf

Who is Most Vulnerable?

Anyone can experience trafficking in any community, just as anyone can be the victim of any kind of crime. While it can happen to anyone, evidence suggests that people of color and LGBTQ+ people are more likely to experience trafficking than other demographic groups. Generational trauma, historic oppression, discrimination, and other societal factors and inequities create community-wide vulnerabilities. Traffickers recognize and take advantage of people who are vulnerable.

People may be vulnerable to trafficking if they:

- Have an unstable living situation
- Have previously experienced other forms of violence such as sexual abuse or domestic violence
- Have run away or are involved in the juvenile justice or child welfare system
- Are undocumented immigrants
- Are facing poverty or economic need
- Have a caregiver or family member who has a substance use issue
- Are addicted to drugs or alcohol

Who Are the Traffickers

There is no evidence that traffickers are more likely to be of a particular race, nationality, gender, or sexual orientation. They may be family members, romantic partners, acquaintances, or strangers.

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/human-trafficking/recognizing-signs>

Sex Trafficking



Sex trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery in which individuals perform commercial sex through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. Minors under the age of 18 engaging in commercial sex are considered to be victims of human trafficking, regardless of the use of force, fraud, or coercion.

Sex traffickers frequently target victims and then use violence, threats, lies, false promises, debt bondage, or other forms of control and manipulation to keep victims involved in the sex industry for their own profit.

Sex trafficking exists within diverse and unique sets of venues and businesses including fake massage businesses, escort services, residential brothels, in public on city streets and in truck stops, strip clubs, hostess clubs, hotels and motels, and elsewhere.

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/type-trafficking/sex-trafficking>

Labor Trafficking



Labor trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery in which individuals perform labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion.

Labor trafficking includes situations of debt bondage, forced labor, and involuntary child labor. Labor traffickers use violence, threats, lies, and other forms of coercion to force people to work against their will in many industries.

Common types of labor trafficking include people forced to work in homes as domestic servants, farmworkers coerced through violence as they harvest crops, or factory workers held in inhumane conditions with little to no pay.

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/type-trafficking/labor-trafficking>

Myth: It's always or usually a violent crime

- Reality: By far the most pervasive myth about human trafficking is that it always - or often - involves kidnapping or otherwise physically forcing someone into a situation. In reality, most human traffickers use psychological means such as tricking, defrauding, manipulating or threatening victims into providing commercial sex or exploitative labor.

Myth: All human trafficking involves commercial sex

- Reality: Human trafficking is the use of force, fraud or coercion to get another person to provide labor or commercial sex. Worldwide, experts believe there are more situations of labor trafficking than of sex trafficking. However, there is much wider awareness of sex trafficking in the United States than of labor trafficking.

Myth: Only undocumented foreign nationals get trafficked in the United States

- Reality: Polaris has worked on thousands of cases of trafficking involving foreign national survivors who are legally living and/or working in the United States. These include survivors of both sex and labor trafficking.

Myth: Human trafficking only happens in illegal or underground industries

- Reality: Human trafficking cases have been reported and prosecuted in industries including restaurants, cleaning services, construction, factories and more.

Myth: Only women and girls can be victims and survivors of sex trafficking

- Reality: One study estimates that as many as half of sex trafficking victims and survivors are male. [Advocates believe that percentage may be even higher](#) but that male victims are far less

likely to be identified. LGBTQ boys and young men are seen as particularly vulnerable to trafficking.

Myth: Human trafficking involves moving, traveling or transporting a person across state or national borders

- Reality: Human trafficking is often confused with human smuggling, which involves illegal border crossings. In fact, the crime of human trafficking does not require any movement whatsoever. Survivors can be recruited and trafficked in their own home towns, even their own homes.

Myth: All commercial sex is human trafficking

- Reality: All commercial sex involving a minor is legally considered human trafficking. Commercial sex involving an adult is human trafficking if the person providing commercial sex is doing so against his or her will as a result of force, fraud or coercion.

Myth: If the trafficked person consented to be in their initial situation, then it cannot be human trafficking or against their will because they “knew better”

- Reality: Initial consent to commercial sex or a labor setting prior to acts of force, fraud, or coercion (or if the victim is a minor in a sex trafficking situation) is not relevant to the crime, nor is payment.

Myth: People being trafficked are physically unable to leave their situations/locked in/held against their will

- Reality: That is sometimes the case. More often, however, people in trafficking situations stay for reasons that are more complicated. Some 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.

Myth: Labor trafficking is only or primarily a problem in developing countries

- Reality: Labor trafficking occurs in the United States and in other developed countries but is reported at lower rates than sex trafficking.

Myth: Traffickers target victims they don't know

- Reality: Many survivors have been trafficked by romantic partners, including spouses, and by family members, including parents.

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/what-human-trafficking/myths-misconceptions>

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/>

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/national-hotline-overview> Overview

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/contact-us> Contact us

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children – NCMEC

Missing Children Statistics

In 2020 NCMEC assisted law enforcement and families with more than 29,800 cases of missing children.

Case type:

- 91 percent endangered runaways.
- 5 percent family abductions.
- 3 percent critically missing young adults, ages 18 to 20.
- Less than 1 percent nonfamily abductions.
- 1 percent lost, injured or otherwise missing children.
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Of the nearly 26,500 runaways reported to NCMEC in 2020, 1 in 6 were likely victims of child sex trafficking.

NCMEC also participates in the AMBER Alert Program, a voluntary partnership between broadcasters, transportation agencies, law enforcement agencies, and the wireless industry to activate an urgent bulletin in the most serious child abduction cases.

NCMEC serves as the secondary distributor of these alerts and, to date, 1,064 children have been successfully recovered as a result of the AMBER Alert program, including 92 recoveries credited to the wireless emergency alert program.¹

NCMEC's forensic artists have age-progressed more than 7,100 images of long-term missing children and created more than 600 facial reconstructions for unidentified deceased children. NCMEC is currently assisting with more than 680 cases of unidentified children's remains, and so far has assisted in 167 identifications.

Team Adam, which provides rapid, on-site assistance in cases of critically missing children, has deployed more than 1,200 times.² The program was named after Adam Walsh, the abducted and murdered son of NCMEC co-founders John and Revé Walsh.

Team Adam also provides technical assistance and outreach regarding long-term missing child cases and has assisted families, communities, criminal justice, and forensic professionals more than 10,900 times.³

NCMEC has analyzed more than 18,300 attempted child abductions to identify trends and help develop safety tips for families.

Exploited Children Statistics

NCMEC operates the CyberTipline, a national mechanism for the public and electronic service providers to report instances of suspected child sexual exploitation.

In 2020 the CyberTipline received more than 21.7 million reports, most of which related to:

- Apparent child sexual abuse material.
- Online enticement, including “sextortion.”
- Child sex trafficking.
- Child sexual molestation.

303,299 of those reports were from the public and 21.4 million were from electronic service providers.

For a full chart of the number of reports from ESPs in 2019 [click here](#).

Since its inception, the CyberTipline has received more than 86 million reports.⁴

To further NCMEC’s mission and help reduce proliferation, NCMEC has sent more than 361,000 notifications to electronic service providers regarding publicly accessible websites (URLs) on which suspected child sexual abuse material appeared.⁵

NCMEC’s Child Victim Identification Program, which helps to locate and rescue child victims in abusive images, has reviewed more than 324 million images and videos.⁶

In 2020, reports to the CyberTipline included 65.4 million files with 33,690,561 images, 31,654,163 videos, and 120,590 other files.

Law enforcement has identified more than 19,200 child victims.

NCMEC has assisted with more than 178,000 requests related to helping locate noncompliant sex offenders.

In 2020, NCMEC responded to more than 17,000 reports regarding possible child sex trafficking.

<https://www.missingkids.org/footer/media/keyfacts#:~:text=In%202019%2C%20reports%20to%20the,helping%20locate%20noncompliant%20sex%20offenders.>