

# Human Trafficking

A scourge for humanity, and America

An aerial photograph of a wide river with turbulent, white-capped rapids. The water is a mix of dark brown and light blue-grey. A white rectangular box is centered over the middle of the river.

# **HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

Human Trafficking can be summed up in one word

# *Servitude*

- A state of subjection to an owner or master.
  - Lack of personal freedom

# Myths & Facts

- **Myth:** It's always or usually a violent crime
- **Reality:** 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.

# Myths & Facts

**Myth:** All human trafficking involves commercial sex

**Reality:** Actually, worldwide 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.

# Myths & Facts

- 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.

# Myths & Facts

- 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.

# Myths & Facts

- 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.

# Myths & Facts

**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.

# Myths & Facts

**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.

# Global Statistics

- According to the United Nations' International Labour Organization, human traffickers victimize an estimated 27.6 million people worldwide annually.

# National Statistics

In 2023 the National Human Trafficking Hotline received **30,162 signals**, **7,380** of these signals coming from survivors of human trafficking.

Through these signals, the hotline was able to identify **9,619 cases** in 2023, involving **16,999 victims**.

# National Statistics

- Within sex trafficking
  - 78% are women and girls and 22% are men and boys
  - 92% are adults and 8% are children
- Within forced labor
  - 33% are women and girls and 67% men and boys
  - 73% are adults and 27% are children
- Although there is no reliable estimate of human trafficking within the
- United States, human trafficking has been reported in all 50 states and
- the District of Columbia, on Tribal land, and within U.S. territories.

# Ohio Statistics

- In 2024 the National Human Trafficking Hotline received **671 signals**, **206** of these signals coming from survivors of human trafficking.
- Through these signals, the hotline was able to identify **334 cases** in 2024, involving **509 victims**.

# Ohio Statistics

- In 2024 Ohio Law Enforcement reported a combined total of 117 potential victims, with 102 of those involving sex trafficking and 15 both sex and labor trafficking.
- 99 of the victims were female
- 18 of the victims were male
- Victims ranged in age from 12 -84

# Signs of Human Trafficking

- **Victims in general**
- Fear or anxiety
- Jumpiness
- Unexplained marks or bruises
- Lack of access to their own money or identification
- Little clothing
- Lack of privacy

# Signs of Human Trafficking

- **Sex trafficking**
- The potential victim: Is not in control of identification documents or money.
- Has inconsistent or well-rehearsed story about where he/she lives, the relationship with the person he/she is with or how he/she traveled to the current location.
- Is in presence of an overtly controlling or concerned male or female friend or boyfriend/girlfriend.
- Is in possession of multiple hotel key cards, prepaid credit cards or cellphones.
- Shows signs of physical, mental or emotional abuse.
- Is unable to come and go as he/she pleases.

# Signs of Human Trafficking

## **Labor trafficking**

The potential victim: Appears to live at the place of employment and works long hours in poor conditions.

Is transported in a group by the employer or someone who is part of employer's organization.

Experiences restricted or monitored movement.

Is not in control of identification documents.

Earns wages below the state's minimum wage or is constantly indebted to the employer.

Shows signs of physical abuse, isolation and starvation.

# Victim Risk Factors & Demographics

- Previous experience of abuse or neglect
- Social isolation
- Social stigma and exclusion
- Multiple adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)
- Criminal history
- Drug, alcohol or other dependency
- Homelessness
- Immigration status
- LGBTQ youth
- Missing youth
- Unsafe home

# Prevention Strategies

The 4 P's of Human Trafficking refer to: Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnership

- **Prevention:**

This involves efforts to stop human trafficking from occurring in the first place. Examples include raising public awareness, educating vulnerable populations, and ensuring compliance with anti-trafficking laws and labor regulations.

- **Protection:**

This focuses on identifying, assisting, and supporting victims and survivors. It includes providing them with access to protective services, psychological and legal aid, and assistance with long-term reintegration into society.

- **Prosecution:**

This pillar involves bringing human traffickers to justice. It encompasses identifying perpetrators and leveraging legal and enforcement mechanisms to investigate and refer cases for prosecution to hold them accountable for their crimes.

- **Partnership:**

This is the complementary element that strengthens the other three Ps. It involves collaborating with domestic and international law enforcement, government agencies, community groups, and the private sector to improve outcomes and create a collective response to human trafficking.

# Prevention Strategies

- Law Enforcement
  - Both the Governor and Attorneys General have initiatives in place.
  - Multi- jurisdictional task forces.
  - Education
    - First responder community
    - Medical personnel
    - Educators
    - Community presentations

# Legal Framework

- Federal Laws

18 U.S.C. § 1591 addresses sex trafficking

18 U.S.C. § 1589 covers forced labor

## Ohio Laws

Section 2905.32 | Trafficking in persons

Human trafficking is a modern form of slavery. It is a scourge for humanity, and America must project its values and protect vulnerable persons.

**Jeff Fortenberry**

# Reporting

## National Human Trafficking Hotline

**Get Help** | 24/7 Confidential

[1-888-373-7888](tel:1-888-373-7888)

**TTY: 711**

[Text\\* 233733](sms:233733)

**To report suspected human trafficking to Federal law enforcement:**

[1-866-347-2423](tel:1-866-347-2423)

# Reporting

**844-END-OHHT (844-363-6448)**

- ❖ Tips about suspected sex and labor trafficking are reviewed by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation's Criminal Intelligence Unit and forwarded to the appropriate human trafficking task force and local law enforcement agency.
- ❖ In an emergency always call 911 right away – instead of using the hotline.

## Four ways to share a tip



**CALL 844-END-OHHT**



**TEXT "ENDOHHT" TO 847411**



**USE THE APP**



**FILL IN THE FORM**