



Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to exploit a person, man, woman, or child do something against their will. Human trafficking steals a person's freedom for the profit of the trafficker. ANYONE under the age of 18 is considered a victim of human trafficking.

What are some forms of human trafficking?

- Sex trafficking
- Labor trafficking
- Forced servitude
- Forced marriage
- Organ harvesting

GLOBAL

40+ million people around worldwide are currently trapped in some form of human trafficking.

In the year 2000, human trafficking was **first** recognized by the United Nations as a **crime**.

>25% of victims are children under the age of 18.

The human trafficking criminal activity counts **\$150 billion** in profits each year from victims of all forms of human trafficking.

Less than **1%** of human trafficking victims are rescued.

NATIONAL



The average estimated annual profits from a single person in the U.S. forced into sex trafficking is **\$100,000.00**.

90% of children trafficked in the United States are U.S. citizens.

>70% of victims trafficked are for sexual exploitation.

Reports of child sex trafficking increased by **36%** in 2021 vs 2019.

LOCAL



California is the worst state in the U.S. for reports of human trafficking.

San Diego is on the FBI's worst list for human trafficking regions in the U.S..

It is estimated that up to **8,000 victims** are sex trafficked in San Diego each year.

Human trafficking in San Diego brings in **\$ 810 million in annual revenue.**

Reports of internet crimes against juveniles in San Diego County mainly involve sharing illicit photos/ videos of minors that are then shared and trafficked to others have **TRIPLED** since the pandemic!

WHERE ARE CHILD VICTIMS MOST COMMONLY RECRUITED?



- Social Media
- Video Games
- False Job Postings
- Dating Websites
- Shopping Malls, Parks, and Beaches
- Schools
- Bus Stations
- Parties

HOW IT HAPPENS

Predators will try to groom kids and young adults.

Grooming is when a trafficker convinces their victim that this is what they want and will get them what they need. They trick them into feeling like the decision was theirs alone.

- Pretending to be a peer, someone the same age
- Empathizing with similar circumstances, such as depression, feeling upset with family, sadness, frustrations, fears, school challenges etc.
- Use compliments to make them feel good, justified, attractive, and understood
- Establish trust
- A love interest, boyfriend/girlfriend
- Gifts

Many victims KNOW their trafficker and can be trafficked by family or friends.

Traffickers often identify their victims' needs and meet them by providing solutions.

- Love
- Safety
- Stability (food, clothing, shelter)
- Material Objects
- Fame or Fortune
- Job Opportunities
- Drugs

Coercion or control is gained the following ways:

- Threats, intimidation
- Emotional abuse
- Isolation
- Blaming, denying, minimizing
- Mental abuse
- Physical abuse
- Using privilege
- Economic abuse

Traffickers “solving” the victim's “problem” and then they threaten to take it away. Many victims do not know or recognized they are being victimized.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING RED FLAGS

Here are just a few things that may indicate someone is being trafficked. However, victims MAY appear to have a normal life such as going to work, school, extracurricular activities, church etc.

- There is a sudden presence of an older boyfriend or girlfriend.
- They are excessively monitored or controlled by a supposed guardian or more senior partner who claims to provide for all their needs.
- They become detached or suddenly isolated from family members and friends.
- They cannot give answers about their schedules, home life, living and work locations, or conditions.
- They have numerous inconsistencies in his/her story and contradictory personal information such as age, place of birth or family life.
- They have extreme security measures at his/her home or work such as security cameras, boarded or covered windows or inconsistent movement of men/women at his/her home or work location.
- They show signs of abuse such as bruises, cuts, burns, submissiveness, or malnourishment. Victims may appear fearful, anxious, depressed, or jumpy.
- They suffer from substance abuse such as alcohol and/or drugs, psychological disorders, sexually transmitted diseases, or chronic illnesses.
- They have tattoos with a name that is not their own, or that he/she is reluctant to explain.



SMART SOCIAL HABITS FOR FAMILIES

- Keep your profiles PRIVATE!
- NEVER share personal information with strangers.
- Do not put your hometown, school name, team name or any other location or identifying information in your social profile.
- Do not post when your family/parents are out of town.
- Consider what types of social posts make you look your best. What do you want to put out to the world?
- If you feel unsafe, tell a trusted adult.
- Do not keep your phone on or in your bedroom at night.
- Parents and caregivers do not punish or police, foster an open dialogue with kids. They may be less likely to share with you if they fear punishment.



HOW TO HELP

If you suspect a someone is at risk or trafficked, do not try to rescue them. The following are ways to report suspected human trafficking situations.

- In an emergency, call 9-1-1
- Text or call the **National Human Trafficking Hotline, 888-373-7888** (keep this number in your contacts) You can report anonymously.
- For suspicious online activity, notify **cybertip.org**



RESOURCES

Polaris Project- www.polarisproject.org Instagram @polarisproject

Founded in 2002, Polaris is named for the North Star, which people held in slavery in the United States used as a guide to navigating their way to freedom. Today we are filling in the roadmap for that journey and lighting the path ahead. They started and currently manage the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

The Polaris Project has an excellent online free introductory course to learn what human trafficking is, how it happens and how you can be a part of the solution. You can receive a certificate too! Please note this training includes survivor stories that can trigger some.

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children- www.missingkids.org Instagram @missingkids

NCMEC proactively aids victims, families, law enforcement, social service agencies, mental health agencies, and others when they need help with a missing, exploited, or recovered child. They started and currently manage the CyberTipline.

I Am On Watch- www.iamonwatch.org Instagram @imonwatch

OnWatch™ is a survivor-led training designed to empower you to spot, report, and prevent sex trafficking where you live, work, and play. Through authentic survivor experiences, industry experts explain the critical indicators of trafficking and how you can support a survivor's path to freedom. Please note this training includes survivor stories that can trigger some.

Coastline Dream Center Stop Trafficking Outreach coastlinedreamcenter.org

The Coastline Dream Center Stop Trafficking Outreach exists to help raise awareness and educate the families and citizens of our community to keep them safe and to help them become vigilant of potentially dangerous circumstances.

Additionally, we are passionate about supporting and pouring into survivors of trafficking by partnering with organizations that provide the services to rehabilitate these individuals and return them to physically and emotionally healthy lives. Currently, the Dream Center partners with Generate Hope, Promises to Kids, and other organizations to provide opportunities to serve as mentors, guides, teachers, cheerleaders, and various other roles.

September 24, 2022, San Diego North County Stop Traffic Walk & Event sandiego.stoptrafficwalk.org

Instagram @stoptrafficwalk_sandiego Email stoptraffcnorthcounty@gmail.com

The San Diego North County Stop Traffic Walk & Event raises community awareness and funds for the Dream City Foundation, which supports one of the nation's most prominent human trafficking rescue and rehabilitation programs and the Coastline Dream Center Stop Trafficking outreach efforts. The funds raised through this event will help these organizations educate the public on how to identify those at-risk, work in collaboration with law enforcement to rescue trafficked individuals, and give rescued survivors the resources, support, and skills necessary to build a strong and vibrant life.

YOUR NEXT STEPS

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about the scope and scale of human trafficking. The information we share is not meant to frighten but to empower and facilitate engaging in conversations with our friends and family. Please write down a few things you learned and a few things you can do to take action personally for unity and impact.
