

RECOGNIZING & RESPONDING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is the buying & selling of another human being in exchange for a good or service. The federal definition includes any act (recruiting, harboring, transporting, obtaining, exploiting) through means of force, fraud or coercion for the purposes of sexual exploitation or labor exploitation.

Recognizing Sex Trafficking

Sex trafficking can include: prostitution, pornography, commercial sexual exploitation of children, gangs & criminal networks, stripping, exotic dancing, escort services, massage parlors, live-sex shows, mail-order brides, child brides & brothels.

Recognizing Labor Trafficking

Labor trafficking can include: domestic servitude, gangs/drug trade, manual labor in agricultural & landscape work, small-scale factory work, construction work & sweatshops, restaurants, nail salons, hotel housekeeping and debt bondage.

Understanding Force, Fraud & Coercion

The legal definitions of trafficking include elements of:

- **Force:** involving the use of rape, beatings & confinement to control victims
- **Fraud:** involving false offers that induce people into trafficking situations
- **Coercion:** involving threats of serious harm to any person; including any scheme, plan or pattern intended to cause a person to believe that failure to perform an act would result in serious harm.

Scope of Trafficking in our Community

We provide a 24/7 hotline, 24/7 medical advocacy at local hospitals, crisis intervention and safety planning for survivors of sexual violence and human trafficking. Additionally, we offer ongoing support and case management services, therapy, support groups and legal advocacy in local court systems to more than 58 survivors annually.



Recognizing Traffickers

Traffickers can look like any one of us. All of these individuals have been found guilty of trafficking: lone individuals, people with extensive criminal networks, family members, pimps, gangs, teachers, acquaintances, friends, pastors, farm managers, employers of domestic servants, small business owners & large factory owners.

Red Flags

There are several warning signs that a person might be a victim of trafficking:

- **Physical:** signs of physical abuse, lack of medical care, drug/alcohol abuse, branding & tattoos, repetitive stress injuries
- **Psychological:** expressing fear of going home or losing job, depression &/or suicidal ideation, no eye contact, dull emotions, mistrust of law enforcement & social services
- **Social:** running away or homelessness, history of sex abuse or physical abuse, controlling their significant other, inconsistency in story, not speaking for oneself
- **Legal:** not having ID or documentation, charges of truancy, theft, or solicitation, having been arrested at high risk locations like hotels or truck stops.

Challenges in Identifying Victims

Many victims do not self-identify due to a lack of knowledge about the crime itself and the power and control dynamics involved in trafficking situations. Other barriers include: cause of violence, shame, isolation, distrust, feelings of hopelessness, and dependency or trauma bonding.

Consider the Effect of Trauma

Trauma is the response to a deeply distressing or disturbing event that overwhelms an individual's ability to cope, can cause feelings of hopelessness, or diminish a person's sense of self and/or their ability to process a full range of emotions or experiences. It is important to understand the effects of trauma to best support survivors of human trafficking.

What To Do

If you believe you have information about a trafficking situation, report it right away.

Crime Victim Services
Allen County | 419.222.8666
330 N. Elizabeth St., Lima, OH 45801

Putnam County | 419.523.1111
338 E. Third St., Ottawa, OH 45875

@crimevictimservices
CrimeVictimServices.org
dayone@crimevictimservices.org
24/7 crisis line | 877.867.7273

National Human Trafficking Hotline
888.3737.888

Submit an anonymous tip:
humantraffickinghotline.org/report-trafficking