



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

DID YOU KNOW...

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS DEFINED BY UNITED STATES LAW AS THE USE OF FORCE, FRAUD, OR COERCION TO COMPEL A PERSON INTO COMMERCIAL SEX ACTS OR LABOR AGAINST THEIR WILL.

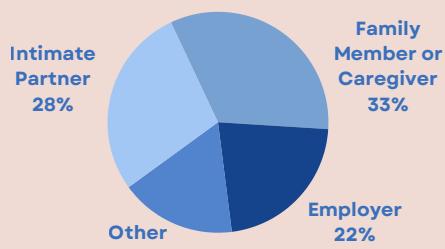
THE VICTIMS

- Globally, **40 million people** are survivors of human trafficking, with **25%** being children.
- In the **US**, between **15,000 to 50,000 women and children** are forced into sexual slavery annually, although precise figures are hard to determine.
- The **US** stands as one of the primary destinations for survivors of trafficking.
- Approximately over **50%** of coerced trafficking victims are aged **between 12 & 15**.
- A significant **68%** of trafficked youth were targeted while homeless.
- Common tactics involve manipulating victims through false promises of jobs in entertainment or modeling, using recruitment, grooming, and deceptive romantic relationships.

THE CRIME

- Human trafficking globally **generates \$150 billion annually**.
- Unlike drugs that are sold once, individuals can be **repeatedly sold** for sexual acts.
- A **commercial sex act** involves exchanging something of value (money, food, drugs, shelter) for sexual activity.

POLARIS PROJECT



According to the Polaris Project, trafficking survivors were generally recruited by someone they knew - such as a **family member or caregiver (33%)**, an **intimate partner (28%)**, or an **employer (22%)**.

THE CIRCUMSTANCES

- The most recent national data from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) indicates that **771,480** people were experiencing homelessness on a single night in January 2024. The number keeps rising, and these individuals are at risk of human trafficking.
- Traffickers target those facing **economic struggles or lacking strong social support**.
- The **internet** is a primary recruitment avenue for both labor and sex trafficking.
- **Traffickers exploit social media** for recruitment, to expand operations, and to manipulate victims by limiting their online access or spreading falsehoods about them.

REMINDER: JANUARY IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING MONTH

Survivors are using social media to **seek help, create supportive networks, build communities, and become leaders** in survivor advocacy.

RESOURCES:

- THE NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE (WWW.HUMANTRAFFICKINGHOTLINE.ORG) - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
- POLARIS PROJECT (WWW.POLARISPROJECT.ORG)
- DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY - BLUE CAMPAIGN (WWW.DHS.GOV/BBLUE-CAMPAIGN)
- UNITED NATIONS - OFFICE OF DRUGS AND CRIME (WWW.UNODC.ORG)

**THE NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESOURCE CENTER: 1-888-373-7888 OR TEXT HELP OR INFO: BEFREE (233733)
WEBSITE: WWW.HUMANTRAFFICKINGHOTLINE.ORG**