



Child Exploitation

*Trafficking Minors
for Labor and Sex*





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Human trafficking is a type of modern-day slavery. When children are trafficked — for work or sex — the effects can be awful for victims and their families.

Traffickers often look for a child's weakness and use emotional pressure and bullying to control the child for their benefit.

- ▶ Human trafficking has been reported in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.
- ▶ Each year, 1.2 million children are trafficked worldwide for commercial sexual exploitation.
- ▶ Despite these statistics, human trafficking is recognized as being greatly underreported.

Labor Trafficking

Labor trafficking can include forced or bonded labor, or debt bondage, where a child inherits or adds to a debt that he or she is never able to pay off. Another form of labor trafficking is involuntary domestic servitude, where a child is forced to work in someone's home for long hours with little or no pay.

Forced child labor can also include situations where a child is made to work for the financial benefit of someone else and is not permitted to refuse or leave.

Traffickers force victims to work long hours in bad conditions for little or no money.

Sometimes, children can be trafficked by their own biological/foster parents or legal guardians.

In the United States, child labor trafficking can be seen in

- ▶ Domestic service
- ▶ Agricultural work
- ▶ Forced criminal activity, such as drug trafficking or thievery
- ▶ Restaurants and hotels
- ▶ Peddling

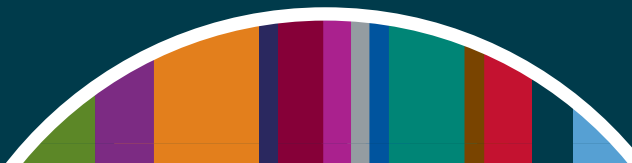


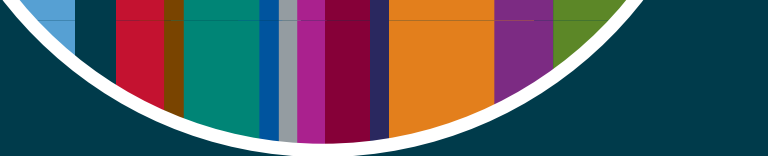
Peddling is where children are forced to sell cheap goods, such as fruit, candy, or magazines. Children may be forced to sell door-to-door, at bus and train stations, on street corners, or even in the middle of busy streets, approaching drivers stopped at red lights. Children who are made to peddle are expected to work in clothing unsuitable for the weather, and with too little food, water, and breaks.

Sex Trafficking

Minors can be brought into the commercial sex industry by female as well as male traffickers, including adults and peers forced to recruit new victims. Female traffickers may be known and respected in the community.

As is true in labor trafficking, “too good to be true” promises of work, education, food, housing, and other needs or opportunities may be offered to the unsuspecting victims and their families.





Male traffickers may attract young people by using a “boyfriend” approach accompanied by gifts and seduction. Other lures include a “daddy” approach, where the trafficker controls a young person with false shows of affection, with emotional support, or by giving an unsuspecting victim a place to stay, cell phones, gifts, and money.

Sometimes, the use of children can be included in deals that target poor, chaotic, or abusive families. Underage girls can be sold into marriage as mail-order brides or included in an arranged marriage in return for a lump-sum payment. In some cases, individuals have been taken against their will and sold into the commercial sex trade.

Those who pay to have sex with children come from all races, income levels, and cultures.

Who Are the Victims?

Child victims of trafficking can be

- ▶ Boys or girls
- ▶ Any gender identity (including transgender and transsexual)
- ▶ Any race, ethnicity, religion
- ▶ From any income level

Young people who have run away from home may find it necessary to trade sex acts for a place to stay, or for food, drugs, or protection. This forced choice is called “survival sex.”

Child victims of sex trafficking can become involved with

- ▶ Street prostitution
- ▶ Brothel-based work
- ▶ Internet-based prostitution

- ▶ Pornography
- ▶ Sex tourism
- ▶ “Adult entertainment” jobs such as
 - Hostesses
 - Exotic dancers
 - Strippers
 - Escorts



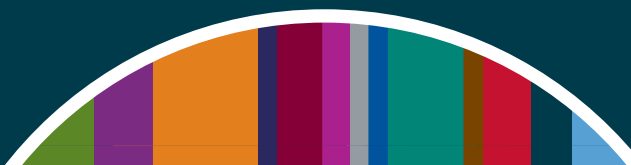
- Massage parlor workers
- “Companions” at truck stops

Like victims of labor trafficking, sex trafficking victims are pressured by a combination of fear, intimidation, physical abuse, and emotional control.

Who Are the Traffickers?

While some traffickers may be complete strangers, others are known to — and may be trusted by — the victim as well as her/his family. Traffickers can be

- ▶ Intimate partner/boyfriend
- ▶ Parent/legal guardian or other family member
- ▶ Family acquaintance/neighbor
- ▶ Someone in a position of trust or power
- ▶ Peer/friend
- ▶ Drug dealer
- ▶ Gangs/organized crime
- ▶ Others





Tactics and Tricks Used by Traffickers

Traffickers typically use indirect and manipulative moves to target and control potential victims. Some examples include the following:

- ▶ Traffickers hang around homeless shelters, group homes, schools, parks, playgrounds, courtrooms, bars, and restaurants
- ▶ Traffickers take advantage of known or likely weaknesses of their potential victims
- ▶ Traffickers look for runaways, abused and at-risk youth, those who use substances, migrants, and members of other marginalized groups
- ▶ Traffickers target potential victims by using
 - False promises
 - Intimidation
 - Seduction
 - Abduction

Those at Risk of Becoming Victims Individual

- ▶ History of physical, sexual, and/or emotional abuse and neglect
- ▶ Need for food, shelter, and/or clothing
- ▶ Gang involvement
- ▶ Runaway/throwaway instances, homelessness
- ▶ Teen pregnancy
- ▶ Involvement with foster care system
- ▶ Limited education



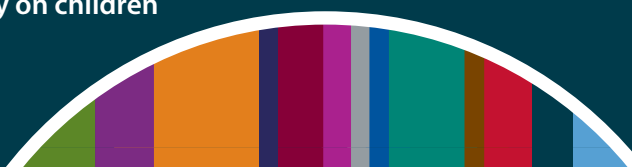
- ▶ Gender and/or sexual minority
- ▶ Mental health/emotional distress
- ▶ Learning struggles or disabilities
- ▶ Substance use
- ▶ Early sexual experience
- ▶ Trauma


Environmental

- ▶ Family situations that include
 - Domestic violence
 - Substance use
 - Mental illness
 - Parental separation or divorce
 - Chaotic home situation
 - Imprisonment
- ▶ Violence in the community
- ▶ Little to no support for migrants and other vulnerable people
- ▶ Shortage of protective after school activities, especially for children with disabilities
- ▶ Exposure to the adult sex industry in the home or community
- ▶ Weak or poor supervision within the foster care system
- ▶ Poverty and lack of job opportunities

Societal

- ▶ Corruption
- ▶ Use of internet, cameras, and other devices to prey on children



- 
- ▶ Mistreatment of immigrants, refugees, migrant workers, and racial/ethnic minorities
 - ▶ Labor abuses, lack of workers' rights
 - ▶ Demand for cheap goods
 - ▶ Sexualization of children, particularly in media/advertising
 - ▶ Gender-based discrimination
 - ▶ Glorification of "pimp culture"
 - ▶ Homophobia/transphobia
 - ▶ Peer pressure/gang involvement

What Parents/Caregivers Can Do

- ▶ **BE ENGAGED:** Listen and talk to your child with respect and without judgment
- ▶ **BE AWARE:** Know where your child is and with whom he or she spends time
- ▶ **TEACH:** Help your child recognize and avoid unhealthy relationships
- ▶ **ONLINE SAFETY:** Teach your child about the link between technology and exploitation



Resources

Massachusetts-Specific

Boston Police Department:

Human Trafficking Unit (Boston)

Phone: (617) 343-6533

Law enforcement response and referral to community-based victim services.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking

www.mass.gov/ago/about-the-attorney-generals-office/community-programs/anti-human-trafficking/human-trafficking-task-force

Addresses all aspects of human trafficking from a policy perspective.

My Life My Choice (Boston)

Phone: (617) 699-4998

www.fightingexploitation.org

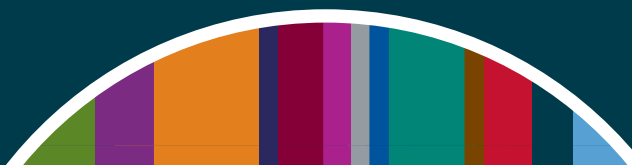
Offers survivor-led programs, peer mentoring, and advocacy for survivors of human trafficking.

SafeLink — Statewide Hotline

Phone: (877) 785-2020

www.casamyrna.org/index.php/what-we-do/safelink-hotline

Statewide 24/7 toll-free domestic violence hotline. Hotline advocacy services are multilingual, with access to translation services in more than 130 languages. Services include safety planning, supportive listening, direct connection to Massachusetts domestic violence shelter programs, and referrals to community services.





Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance

www.mass.gov/mova

Advocacy and services for crime victims, including victims of human trafficking. Also provides for survivor-informed policy development, fund administration, training, and individual assistance.

**Children's Advocacy Center of Suffolk County /
Support to End Exploitation Now (SEEN)**

Phone: (617) 779-2146

www.suffolkcac.org/what-we-do/seen

SEEN Case Coordinator: (617) 779-2145

Coordinates activities of 35 public and private partner agencies to assist child victims of commercial sexual exploitation through forensic investigation, treatment, case coordination, training, and policy advocacy.

International Institute of New England (IINE)

<http://iine.us>

Provides and facilitates services for trafficking survivors with a focus on integration into the community.





National

Polaris Project: National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline

Phone: (888) 373-7888 or text BeFree (233733) 24/7

www.polarisproject.org/resources/tools-for-service-providers-and-law-enforcement

The hotline fields tips about potential trafficking situations, provides urgent and non-urgent referrals for services, and offers technical assistance and comprehensive anti-trafficking resources. It also offers resources for service providers and law enforcement (including health professional-specific training).

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC)

Phone: (800) 843-5678

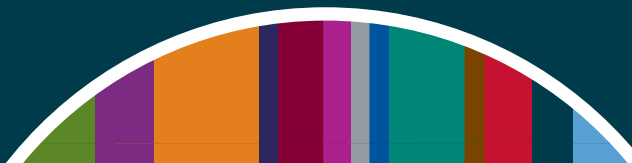
www.missingkids.com/home

Provides services, resources, training, and technical assistance to assist child victims of abduction and sexual exploitation, their families, and serving professionals.

CyberTipline

www.missingkids.com/CyberTipline

To offer leads and tips regarding suspected crimes of sexual exploitation committed against children.



Contact Information

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Health Policy and Public Health
860 Winter Street
Waltham, MA 02451-1411

(800) 322-2303, x7373

dph@mms.org



CAMPAIGN AGAINST
VIOLENCE

MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY
MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY ALLIANCE

The Massachusetts Medical Society and its Committee on Violence Intervention and Prevention is grateful to and appreciative of the research and early draft by Hao Ngoc Dinh, medical intern at Massachusetts General Hospital, in the creation of this brochure.

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