

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

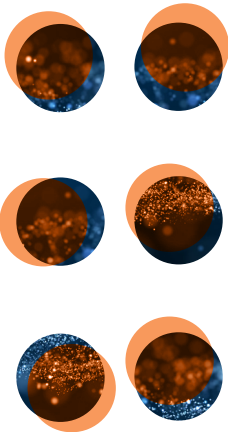
KNOW THE SIGNS

In 2023, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children received more than 18,400 reports of possible child sex trafficking.

Human trafficking includes sex trafficking and labor trafficking.

SEX TRAFFICKING occurs when a person is made to perform a sex act for money through force, fraud or coercion. If the individual is under 18, force, fraud or coercion do not need to be present.

LABOR TRAFFICKING involves the use of force, fraud or coercion to compel a person to provide labor or services against their will.



Child sex trafficking is a form of child abuse where a child under 18 is advertised, solicited or exploited through a commercial sex act, **regardless of fraud or coercion**.

A commercial sex act is any sex act where **anything of value** – such as money, food, gifts, drugs or a place to stay – is given to or received by any person for sexual activity.

While any child can be targeted, evidence shows traffickers and buyers often target youth who lack strong support networks, have experienced violence in the past, are experiencing homelessness, or are marginalized by society.

Labor trafficking occurs in many industries and often includes little or no pay, repaying a “debt,” or unsafe living conditions. Victims include both **US citizens and foreign-born individuals**. Labor trafficking and sex trafficking may occur simultaneously.

COMMUNITY DRIVERS THAT INCREASE VULNERABILITY TO TRAFFICKING:

runaway / multiple phones / inconsistent story / coached on what to say / lying about age / accompanied by a controlling person / poor health care / no evident legal guardian / signs of violence / STDs / possessions without resources to purchase them / frequently on the move / secretive about online activity / gang affiliation / history with juvenile justice / branding or tattoos / unaware of surroundings or location / suspicious or fearful



If you suspect a child is the victim of human trafficking, please call the Indiana Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline at **800-800-5556**.