



What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking occurs when individuals are forced, deceived, coerced, or manipulated into exploitative situations, including labor or sex acts. This form of exploitation often intersects with personal partner abuse, sexual assault, and other forms of violence.

Human trafficking occurs when the seller

- Recruits, entices, harbors, transports, solicits, or provides a person.
- Uses fraud or coercion to control or manipulate the victim.
- Forces the victim to provide labor or services (labor trafficking) or to engage in commercial sex acts (sex trafficking).

What the law says

Federal law defines exploitation of a minor for commercial sex as human trafficking *regardless* of whether any force, fraud, or coercion was used.

North Carolina law defines human trafficking as a person knowingly recruiting, enticing, harboring, transporting, providing, patronizing, soliciting, or obtaining *by any means* another person to be held against their will for forced labor or sexual acts.

Sellers lure individuals into trafficking using:

- **Romantic relationships**
- **Violence**
- **Manipulation**
- **False promises of well-paying jobs**

Need Help?

Contact Human Trafficking Hotline

- Call 1-888-373-7888
- Email: help@humantraffickinghotline.org
- Text: HELP to 233733 (BEFREE)
- Chat: www.humantraffickinghotline.org

Differences between Sex Trafficking and Labor Trafficking

Sex trafficking and labor trafficking are both forms of human trafficking. However, sex trafficking exploits and abuses individuals for commercial sex, while labor trafficking involves exploitation for work or services.

Exploitation and trafficking are more likely to occur in certain industries

- **Sex Trafficking** is often found in operations such as escort services, pornography, and adult entertainment venues. However, sex trafficking also occurs in communities and homes.
- **Labor Trafficking** often occurs in agriculture, construction, massage parlors, hospitality, and domestic work, including housekeeping and childcare.

Human Trafficking targets

People of all races, religions, genders, ages, and socioeconomic statuses are impacted by human trafficking. Yet this crime disproportionately impacts these populations:

- **Immigrants** who are living outside their country of origin.
- **Refugees** seeking asylum.
- **People from economically and socially underserved communities** including Black and Indigenous peoples of North America, Latinx individuals, LGBTQ+ people, and those living in poverty or facing abuse and violence.
- **Migrant laborers** who work in a country other than their own, often under temporary or seasonal contracts.
- **People with disabilities** who experience physical, intellectual, or developmental disabilities.
- **Individuals with substance use disorder** who struggle with dependency on drugs or alcohol.
- **Children and youth in vulnerable situations** such as those who:
 - ◆ Are involved in the child welfare or juvenile justice systems.
 - ◆ Are experiencing homelessness, including those who are unaccompanied.
 - ◆ Have run away or are missing from care.

How does the NCDOA Council for Women and Youth Involvement impact trafficking?

- CFWYI provides resources, training, and technical assistance to help domestic violence and sexual assault grantees identify and serve human trafficking survivors.
- Agencies funded by CFWYI reported serving 767 human trafficking survivors between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024.