



Human Trafficking 101: Dispelling the Myths and Victim Assistance in Healthcare

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CommonSpirit Health

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Trigger Warning

This module contains information about violence and other trauma-related material. Please practice self-care and **step away as needed**.

If you experience signs or symptoms of traumatic stress or re-traumatization, **please seek support** from a colleague or supervisor or from other Counseling/supportive services.

Self-care is essential to your own health and to the healing ministry



Learning Objectives



Every country is affected by human trafficking, including the **United States**. (2)

CommonSpirit has initiatives in place to address human trafficking in many countries such as India, Nepal, and Peru.

However, this presentation is focused on efforts to prevent and respond in the U.S.

Human trafficking, or **trafficking in persons**, is a particular type of violence that is pervasive yet widely misunderstood. In order to prevent this crime and respond to affected patients, we must first understand it.

In the following slides, we will cover basic information about human trafficking. The learning objectives are to:

- **Define** human trafficking
- **Recognize** myths/misconceptions associated with this type of violence
- **Identify** vulnerable populations and high-risk industries, and
- **Take action** to prevent trafficking and respond to victims appropriately

Introduction



Healthcare and emergency response personnel are among the few professionals who may encounter victims when they are being trafficked.

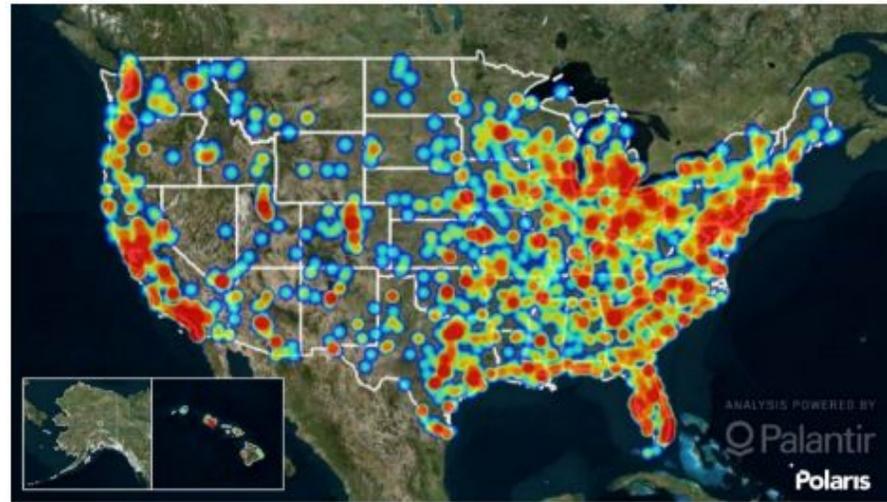
A 2017 survey report found that over half of **labor and sex trafficking survivors** reported at least one health care encounter during their victimization.

Nearly 97% of this group reported they received **no information** from the healthcare system about human trafficking or related victim support/services. ⁽¹⁾

This report underscores how healthcare professionals are too often unprepared to identify and appropriately assist victims.

Together, we can change that!

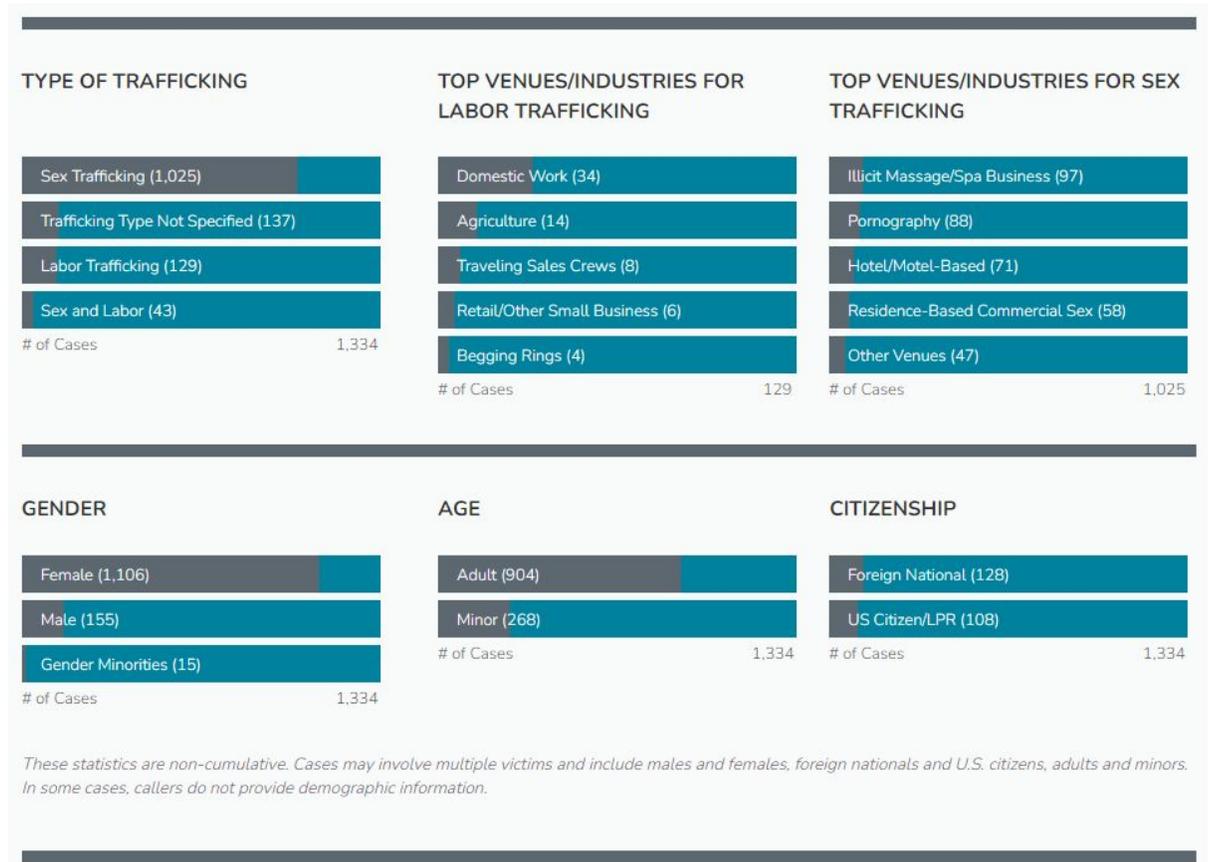
Tips Reported in Every State



In 2019, there were **11,500** tips reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH), nearly **2,000** of which involved **U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents**. (3)

Keep in mind: These numbers represent only those cases reported to the NHTH. **Actual numbers are likely much higher**. (4) For additional information, visit [humantraffickinghotline.org](https://www.humantraffickinghotline.org). (The NHTH is operated by a national anti-trafficking organization called Polaris).

2020 California Data



From September to mid-November 2020, the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office, Sacramento Police Department, Rancho Cordova Police Department, Folsom Police Department, Elk Grove Police Department, the California Department of Justice and Parole conducted street and hotel sting operations. The FBI, Probation Department and District Attorney investigators also participated. The results were a total of 46 arrests for soliciting for prostitution and human trafficking. A juvenile recovery was also made during the stings.

Traffickers Prey on Vulnerability

Human trafficking is a crime based on **exploitation**. (5)

Although people of all ages, sexual orientations, cultures, genders, races, and ethnicities are affected by this crime, traffickers typically target people in situations of **vulnerability**.

Additional reading: In her memoir, *Hidden Girl: The True Story of a Modern-Day Child Slave*, Shyima Hall describes a true account of child labor trafficking in the U.S. Shyima was moved to the U.S. and forced to work as a domestic servant in CA **at 8 years old**. (6)



Polaris: **25 types of human trafficking have been identified in the U.S.**, including labor trafficking in domestic work, commercial cleaning services, and hotels & hospitality. (7)

Note: Trafficking can also occur within the cycle of intimate partner violence and forced marriage. (8)

Learn more: <https://polarisproject.org/typology>.

Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)

Action	Means*	Purpose
Induce Recruits Harbors Transports Provides or Obtains	Force Fraud or Coercion	Commercial Sex (<i>Sex Trafficking</i>) or Labor/Services (<i>Labor Trafficking</i>)

*Minors induced into commercial sex are human trafficking victims—
regardless if force, fraud, or coercion is present.

Commercial sex – Any sex act on account of which anything of value is given to or received by any person (e.g., money, drugs, survival needs). (A-M-P Model, NHTH)

In **2000**, the United States passed the **Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)**, which outlaws two common forms of human trafficking: **Sex trafficking** and **labor trafficking**.⁽⁹⁾

The TVPA's definition of **human trafficking**, aka, severe forms of trafficking in persons, can be broken down into three parts: an **action**, a **means**, and a **purpose** (see the A-M-P Model). **All three must be present in order for a trafficking case to qualify as a U.S. federal crime.**

Additional actions that constitute sex trafficking, but not labor trafficking, include patronizing, soliciting, and advertising an individual. ⁽¹⁰⁾

Force, Fraud, and Coercion



Force can involve physical restraint or serious physical harm like rape, beatings, and physical confinement.

Clinicians: Watch for signs of abuse, neglect, and violence.

Fraud can involve false promises about employment, wages, working conditions.

Coercion can involve threats of harm against any person (e.g., the victim's loved ones) or the abuse or threatened abuse of the legal process (e.g., threatening to call law enforcement to have the person arrested). (11)

Angela's Story

Angela Guanzon was recruited from the Philippines to work in a **nursing facility** in Los Angeles, CA. Her passport was taken for "safekeeping", and she was told she owed \$12,000 to her employer as a recruitment fee. She wasn't allowed to leave the facility, and she was forced to sleep on the floor. For two years, Angela was threatened and forced to work with little pay. After someone reported a tip to authorities, Angela and other victims were recovered by law enforcement. (13)

A-M-P Examples: Angela was **recruited** for labor, **transported** to and **harbored** in the work facility, and then **induced to work via force, fraud, and coercion.**

EXCEPTION: Sex Trafficking of Minors

TVPA: Use of **force, fraud, or coercion** is **NOT required** in any case involving a person **under age 18** who is induced to perform a commercial sex act.⁽¹⁴⁾

- Traffickers often target young people, in-person or **online**, and lure them into relationships or running away.

“Romeo pimps” shower victims with love and affection before breaking down boundaries.

Example: A trafficker may ask a young person to perform a commercial sex act in order to gain money for their new life together. This person may then become more coercive and even violent. **Adult victims are often first trafficked as minors.**



Myth buster: Victims may be moved from city to city. However, movement is NOT required. A person can be trafficked for labor and/or commercial sex without leaving their home or community. Human trafficking is NOT the same crime as human smuggling.

Three Victim Populations

As defined by the TVPA, there are **three victim populations** associated with the U.S. federal crime of human trafficking (aka, severe forms of trafficking in persons): (18)

- Anyone under age 18 induced to perform a commercial sex act **under any circumstance**.
- Anyone age 18+ induced to perform a commercial sex act **via force, fraud, or coercion**.
- Anyone, **of any age**, induced to provide labor via force, fraud, or coercion. Labor trafficking includes situations of **debt bondage, forced labor, and involuntary child labor**.

Angela Guanzon's case is an example of debt bondage: she was told she owed \$12,000. Shyima Hall's case is an example of involuntary child labor.

Are all victims abducted & held against their will?



In Plain Sight

Labor/sex trafficking cases have been reported in visible settings such as: ⁽¹⁵⁾

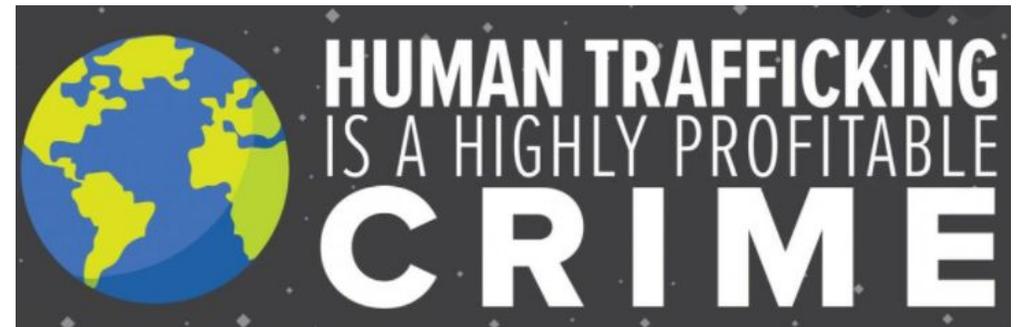
- **Strip clubs, bars, and cantinas**
- **Landscaping services**
- **Carnivals and recreational facilities (e.g., amusement parks)**
- **Health and beauty services like massage parlors and hair/nail salons**

Regardless of the type of setting, if a person is induced to provide labor or commercial sex via force, fraud, or coercion, then that person is a victim of trafficking.

Annie Lobert's memoir, *Fallen: Out of the Sex Industry & Into the Arms of the Savior*, is a true account of trafficking via escort services.⁽¹⁶⁾



Additional types of human trafficking in the U.S. include labor trafficking in restaurants and food service, as well as in arts and entertainment (e.g., aspiring models, singers, and athletes).⁽¹⁷⁾



True or False:

**Trafficked persons will
always ask for help.**

Victims Often Do NOT Self-Identify

Trafficked persons may not disclose for many reasons, including **fear** of traffickers or authorities. Other reasons:

- Victims may **blame themselves**, may not recognize/understand force or coercion, or may not know their rights.
- Victims may view their situation as their **only means of survival**, or they may feel obligated to an employer.
- Victims may have **complicated relationships** or trauma bonds with a trafficker. This person may be a family member, friend, or significant other.
- Victims may feel **stigmatized** or isolated by society. As such, they may feel reluctant to reach out for help.



COMMUNITY ACTION: The first line of defense against exploitation and human trafficking is community resources.

Immigrant Workers May Be Vulnerable

Traffickers often target vulnerable immigrants with whom they can communicate and build trust – those with whom they share a similar ethnicity.

Any person (regardless of immigration status) can be vulnerable to exploitation if lacking in support/resources. **Victims may be brought** to a health care setting by a trafficker, who may identify as a family member, friend, employer. Foreign national victims may not be in control of their identification or documentation.



Additional types of human trafficking in the U.S. include labor trafficking in construction, forestry & logging, and in factories & manufacturing. (21) Additionally, trafficking in the agriculture and animal husbandry industry (e.g., cattle/dairy farms). (12)

Women and Minorities May Be Vulnerable

Survivors of sex trafficking via outdoor solicitation are often **U.S. citizens. Women and girls of color** are disproportionately represented. (22)

In **cities**, outdoor solicitation often occurs on a block or at cross streets known for commercial sex and often referred to as a '**track**' or '**stroll**'. In **rural** areas, it may take place at **truck stops or rest stops** along major highways.

Additional risk factors: History of trauma and abuse, addiction, and/or chronic mental health issues. (23)



Additional types of human trafficking in the U.S. include sex trafficking via pornography and remote interactive sex acts (e.g., via a webcam).(24)
Note: In many cases victims, including minors, can become recruiters for traffickers.

Runaway/Homeless Youth & Young Adults

Teens and young adults from **marginalized and economically disadvantaged** communities are also targeted. (25)

At Covenant House, an agency that provides services to runaway and homeless youth/young adults, studies have shown that: (26)

- **Nearly one in five clients** reported labor or sex trafficking victimization.
- Of those trafficked for commercial sex:
 - 10% were **young men/boys**
 - 27% identified as **LGBTQ**

Additional risk factor: Young people who have been in **foster care/group homes**.



Additional types of human trafficking in the U.S. include labor trafficking in **illicit activities** (e.g., selling drugs), traveling sales crews, and peddling & begging rings. (27)



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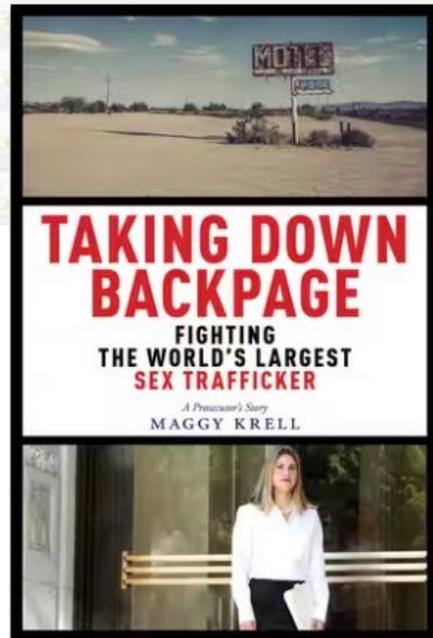


Risk Factors in Your Community

Rubmaps



Backpage

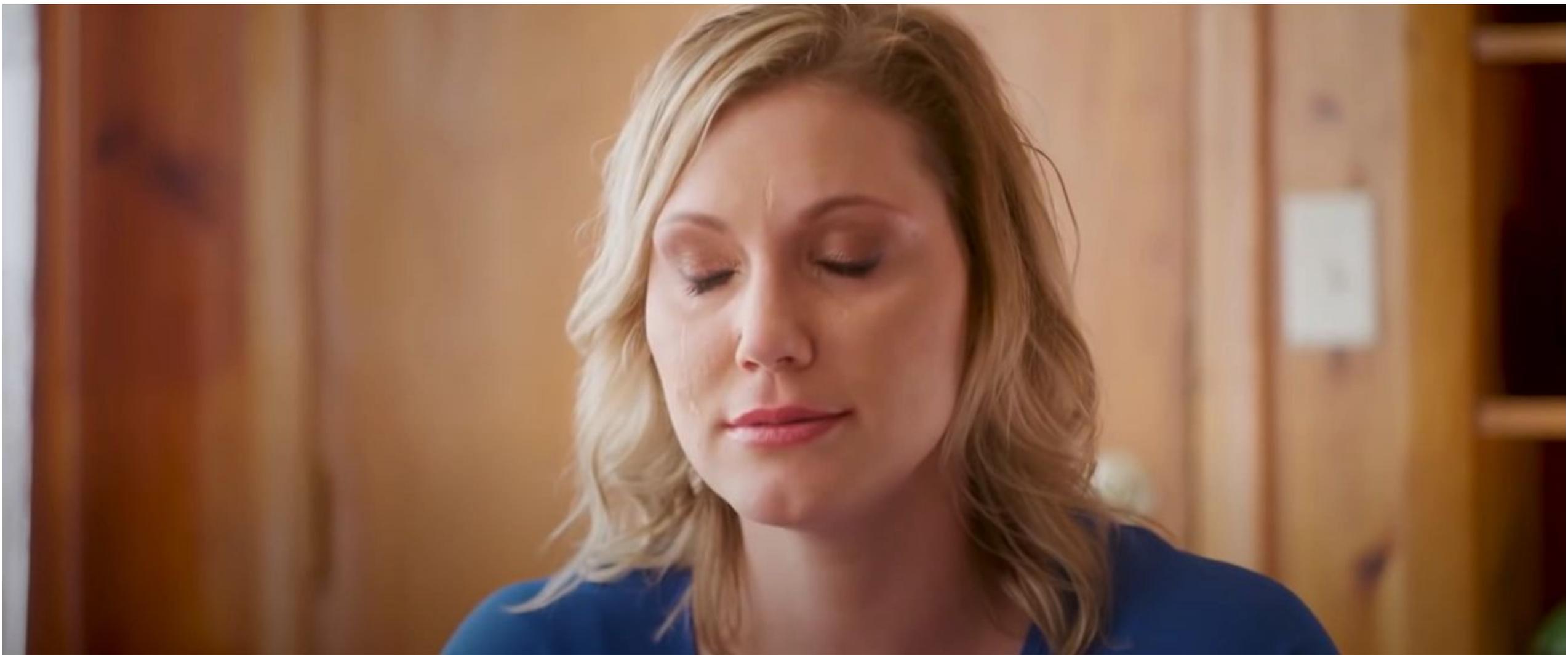


Sex trafficking can also occur via residential brothels and personal sexual servitude.

In organized residential brothels, victims tend to be women and girls, often from Latin America and Southeast Asia.

In sexual servitude cases, most reports involve U.S. citizen victims. (19)

I Am Jane Doe



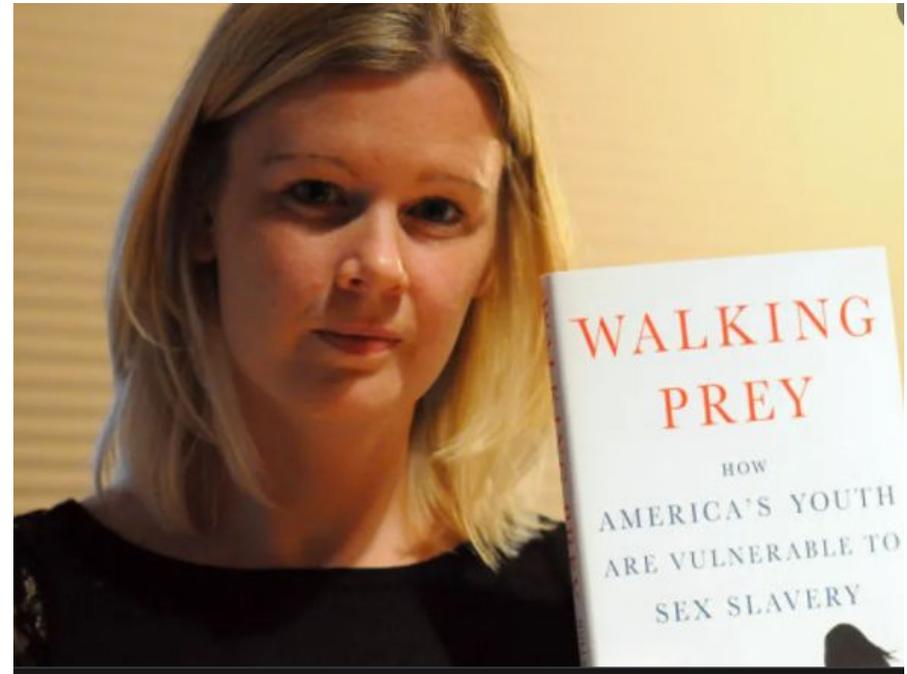
Internet Access and Trafficking

A predator can reach a child anywhere via the Internet. Gang leader Justin Strom used **Facebook** to find victims.

One victim said she was a normal high school student; had friends, played soccer, but Justin 'brainwashed' her into believing sex with men for money was normal.

She ate dinner at home, 'turned tricks at night'. She slid into addiction, dropped out of school and attempted suicide.

Justin Strom was sentenced, along with others in the gang, to 40 years in prison.



'Walking Prey: How America's Youth are Vulnerable to Sex Slavery'
Author Holly Austin Smith

Human Trafficking and the Pandemic

Shut down one venue and traffickers will find a new one.

Wherever there are vulnerable people and communities, there will be someone who finds a way to exploit them.

Online recruitment increased a significant 22%

During the lockdowns, as the proportion of victims from common recruitment sites such as strip clubs (-46%), foster homes (-70%) and schools (-38%) went down drastically, the Internet was reported as the top recruitment location for all forms of trafficking.

Most notably, the analysis found a significant increase in the proportion of potential victims for whom **Facebook** and **Instagram** were the sites for recruitment into trafficking (**120%**).

95% increase in reports of recruitment on Instagram over the previous year.



125% increase in reports of recruitment of Facebook over the previous year.

Watch for Red Flags

Human Trafficking



**10 Red Flags
that Your Patient
Could be a Victim**



**HOSPITALS
AGAINST
VIOLENCE**

- 1** Clinical presentation and oral history don't match up
- 2** Oral history is scripted, memorized or mechanical
- 3** Someone with the patient exerts an unusual amount of control over the visit
- 4** Patient appears fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, hyper-vigilant or paranoid
- 5** Patient is concerned about being arrested or jailed
- 6** Patient is concerned for his/her family's safety
- 7** Evidence that care has been lacking for prior or existing conditions
- 8** Tattoos or insignia's indicative of ownership
- 9** Occupational-type injuries or physical ailments linked to their work
- 10** Sexually transmitted infections

Take Action



Note: **The National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH)** is available 24/7 to

- Speak with patients over the phone about possible victimization.
- Provide information about local, state, and national resources, including resources focused on prevention.
- Receive anonymous tips of possible human trafficking in the community.

Call **1-888-373-7888** (888-373-7888), or Text BEFREE to 233733.

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