

# Spotlight on: Human Trafficking

## Did you Know?



**Any person under age 18** who engages in a commercial sex act is a victim of human trafficking regardless of whether there is force, fraud, or coercion.




**Men, women, and children of all ages, races, genders, and sexualities** are at risk of human trafficking.



**Traffickers use physical force and psychological tactics** to get their victims to do what they want, making false promises, threatening, manipulating, and/or defrauding their victims.



**Traffickers are often people their victims trust:** romantic partners (or people they thought were romantically interested in them,) friends, or family members (including parents).



Human trafficking is happening throughout New York State. In 2020, **62% of confirmed trafficking cases occurred outside of New York City**, with the largest percentages in Westchester and Western NY.

**Traffickers take advantage of people who are vulnerable. Some groups that are at higher risk include:**

- people in unstable living situations;
- people who have experienced interpersonal violence and/or sexual abuse;
- people with mental health and/or substance use conditions; and
- people who are undocumented immigrants or have limited access to safe social supports in their community.

## Take Action

### For the Community

**Learn the signs of human trafficking** through trustworthy websites. Here are a few we recommend:

The NYS Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking:  
<https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/human-trafficking/initiatives.php>

Polaris operates the National Human Trafficking Hotline:  
<https://polarisproject.org>

**If you suspect trafficking, report it.** The National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) is a toll-free and confidential hotline, available to answer calls from anywhere in the country, 24/7 Call 1(888)373-7888 or text BeFree to 233733. If you believe a person's life is in immediate danger, call 911

**Help increase awareness about trafficking.** Share NYS' #TruthAboutTrafficking awareness campaign on social media:  
<https://otda.ny.gov/programs/bria/truthabouttrafficking.asp>

**Human trafficking survivors can become trapped and fear leaving** because of shame, guilt, emotional attachment, and/or physical threats to themselves or their family. Some survivors are so manipulated they do not even realize they are under the control of another person.

**Human trafficking is the use of force, fraud or coercion to make someone provide a service.**

**Sex trafficking** involves involuntary commercial sex acts, like escorting, pornography, illicit massage businesses, brothels, and prostitution.

**Labor trafficking** involves involuntary labor or services, like farm work, childcare, domestic labor, food services, and construction. Labor trafficking isn't limited to just "physical" tasks and may also include "white collar" work.

### For Providers

**Take a critical look** at how your workplace screens and identifies people who are at risk of human trafficking. Learn more about how to identify human trafficking here: <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/bria/trafficking.asp> and how to screen children and youth here: <https://ocfs.ny.gov/programs/human-trafficking/resources-professionals.php>

**Learn what resources for human trafficking victims and survivors are available in your community.** Check out: <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/training-resources/referral-directory> and for information on resources in NYC: <http://nysatc.weebly.com/resources.html>

**Seek out training and continuing education on human trafficking.** Trainings are available through the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), Office for Temporary Disability Assistance (OTDA), and the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS). Continuing education is also available through The National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center (NHTTAC) and Polaris.

## Need Help?

**Human Trafficking Resource Center:** 1(888)373-7888 or text BeFree to 233733

**Crisis Text Line:** Text GOT5 to 741741

**National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:** 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

**NY Project Hope Emotional Support Helpline:** 1-844-863-9314

**OMH's Customer Relations:** 1-800-597-8481



**Office of  
Mental Health**