

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human trafficking generally takes two forms: sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery.

Human traffickers prey on people who are hoping for a better life, lack employment opportunities, have an unstable home life or have a history of sexual or physical abuse.

Traffickers promise a high-paying job, a loving relationship or new and exciting opportunities and then use physical and psychological violence to control them.

(Human Trafficking, 2024)

Contact Us

You do not need proof to make a report.

**New Castle County Human Trafficking
Hotline: 302-395-2727**

**Delaware State Police Victim Services
1-800-842-8461**

**National Human Trafficking Hotline
1-888-373-7888
Text: HELP to 233733**

Emergency: Call 911

ABOUT DATA C

The Delaware Anti-Trafficking Action Council (DATA C) works collaboratively with state agencies, law enforcement, and community partners to:

- Prevent trafficking
- Support victims
- Strengthen services and coordination
- Enhance Delaware's statewide response

Awareness. Support. Action

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HUMAN TRAFFICKING AFFECTS COMMUNITIES IN DELAWARE

- It may not always be visible.
- It may involve individuals known to the victim.
- Sometimes, it begins closer than people expect.
- You are not alone. Help is available.



DATA C is fully committed in leading the nation through comprehensive legislation, strong public awareness and solid partnerships with advocates throughout our state to address all aspects related to human trafficking.

Who is Involved?

Traffickers are often known to the victim. This may include:

- Parents/ Step Parents/ Adoptive Parents
- Family Members/Siblings
- Caregivers
- Intimate Partners
- Other Trusted Individuals

Research, including data from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and Polaris Project, indicates that traffickers are frequently known to the victim, and may include parents or caregivers.

Some studies and case reviews have identified female caregivers, including mothers, as involved in a subset of familial trafficking cases, though this form of exploitation is often underreported.

Trafficking is not always driven by strangers.

In some cases, the harm comes from those a child depends on the most.

IMPACTS OF TRAFFICKING

Vulnerabilities to Trafficking:

Before being trafficked, many survivors experienced other vulnerabilities at high rates

- 83% Experienced Poverty
- 96% Experienced Abuse (physical, sexual, emotional)
- 93% Experienced substance abuse and mental health challenges

Human Trafficking Victims May Experience:

- Substance abuse (84.3% of U.S. survivors) to cope or due to coercion by traffickers
- Self-harm and suicidal ideation as coping mechanisms
- Emotional dysregulation, shame, guilt, and identity confusion from prolonged exploitation
- Trauma and chronic stress
- Anxiety, depression, or fear
- Isolation and loss of support
- Shame or self-blame

Barriers to Seeking Help

Leaving or reaching out can be difficult due to:

- Fear of harm or retaliation
- Dependence on the trafficker for basic needs
- Emotional or psychological manipulation
- Limited access to safe alternatives

**Every situation is complex.
Support matters.**

Hope, Support & Signs

Recovery is Possible

Consistent, safe support system can:

- * Increase Stability
- * Build Trust
- * Support Long-Term Healing

One safe connection can make a difference

Potential Indicators

Someone may need help if they:

- Appear fearful, anxious or controlled
- Have limited control over ID, money or communication
- Show signs of abuse or neglect
- Are isolated from friends or family
- Work under unusual or exploitative conditions

If something feels concerning, it's important to report it.



If this is happening to you—it is not your fault. You deserve safety, support, and the opportunity to heal. We have dedicated professionals waiting to hear from you.