

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Though this seems like a faraway problem, it's not. And it can happen anywhere. Next time you observe something that doesn't look or feel right, trust your instincts but stay safe. Never attempt to confront a suspected trafficker directly or alert a victim to your suspicions. Instead, note details and get help by calling:

- ✓ 911, especially if a person is in immediate danger
- ✓ Federal law enforcement at 1-866-347-2423
- ✓ The National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888
- ✓ or text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733)

KEEP IN MIND

If you see something, say something. You just might save someone's life. For more ways you or your organization can help, check out the Blue Campaign at dhs.gov/blue-campaign.



In Plain Sight: How to Recognize Human Trafficking and How You Can Help
Health & Wellness

In Plain Sight:
How to Recognize
Human Trafficking
and How You
Can Help

Because many of us don't know the signs of human trafficking, victims can slip by unaided.

The phrase "human trafficking" may feel like a news clip from the other side of the globe, but it's a real problem in the United States that often happens right in front of us. By becoming aware, we can help.

Human Trafficking is abducting, recruiting, transporting, harboring, or receiving people through the use of threat, violence, coercion, abuse of power, deception (like the false promises of a job), and even romantic relationships. Traffickers look for easy targets, including those who are psychologically, emotionally, or financially vulnerable, have a lack of social safety net or language barriers, and are victims of natural disasters or political instability.

The U.S. Department of State recognizes two primary forms of trafficking in persons: forced labor and sex trafficking.

Forced labor is when a person exploits the labor or services of another person. This includes domestic servitude and forced child labor.

Sex trafficking is when a person is compelled to engage in a commercial sex act. It mostly affects women and children, but men can be victims too.

COMMON JOBS THAT MAY INCLUDE TRAFFICKING

- domestic service/health and elder care
- hotel work
- hair and nail salons/massage parlors

- agricultural labor/manufacturing
- construction/janitorial work
- prostitution/strip club dancing

SIGNS TO WATCH FOR:

You might be witnessing a human trafficking victim if you see someone who:

- seems unusually submissive, anxious, or paranoid
- defers to another person before sharing information
- wears inappropriately sexual clothing or isn't dressed for weather
- works excessive hours/is available on demand
- lives in their place of business or with employer/not free to come and go

A VICTIM CAN ALSO BE A PERSON WHO HAS:

- identification documents held by someone else
- physical injuries
- branding (name tattoos on face or chest, tattoos about sex or money, pimp phrases)
- language barriers
- no phone or multiple phones or social media accounts
- unusual, unaccounted for wealth (jewelry, new shoes, new phones)
- or a minor out alone at night who struggles to explain who they're with and what they're doing