

What is Human Trafficking?



U.S. Department of Transportation



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Force, fraud or coercion to obtain some type of labor or a commercial sex act.

Under U.S. law, anyone under the age of 18 who is engaged in commercial sex is a victim of human trafficking regardless if force, fraud or coercion is present.

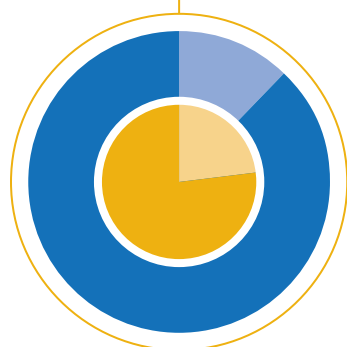
Actions constituting human trafficking include:

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| Recruiting | Obtaining |
| Harboring | Sex trafficking only: |
| Transporting | Patronizing, Soliciting, |
| Providing | and Advertising |

ESTIMATED GLOBAL PREVALENCE

27.6 million
Victims

\$236 billion
in Annual
Global Profits



- 88% Adult
- 12% Child/Minor
- 77% Forced Labor:
 - 68% Male
 - 32% Female
- 23% Commercial Sex:
 - 78% Female
 - 22% Male

U.S. NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE REPORTS IN 2023



30,162
Signals



9,619
Cases
Identified



16,999
Victims
Involved

VICTIMS & TRAFFICKERS MAY BE...

any age, race, ethnicity, sex, ability, nationality, citizenship, or socioeconomic status. They may be alone or in a group.

SELECT VENUES FOR SEX TRAFFICKING

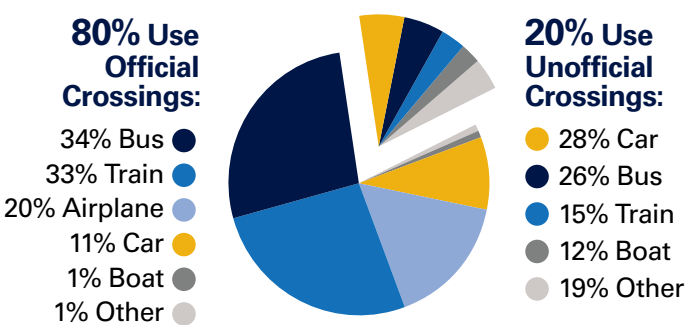
- Stripping
- Pornography
- Prostitution
- Illicit Massage
- Escort

SELECT VENUES FOR LABOR TRAFFICKING

- Domestic Work
- Hospitality
- Agriculture
- Construction
- Maritime
- Child Labor

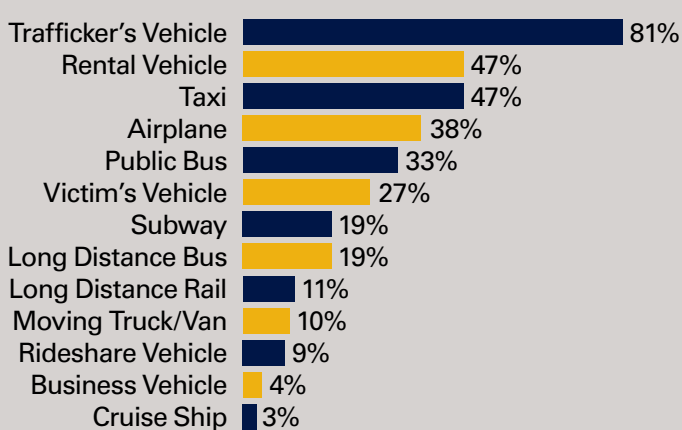
METHODS OF TRANSPORTATION USED TO CROSS GLOBAL POINTS OF ENTRY

2020 data from over 80,000 individuals subjected to human trafficking across 171 countries found:



TRANSPORT DURING EXPLOITATION

2018 data from 104 survivors in the U.S. found that the victims or traffickers used these modes:



TRANSPORT DURING RECRUITMENT, EXPLOITATION & ESCAPE

2021 data from 107 survivors in the U.S. found that they utilized transportation:

81% During Recruitment

76% During Course of Exploitation

52% During Exit or Escape From Situation

THE VICTIM MAY HAVE BEEN RECRUITED WITH PROMISES OF...

- A Better Life
- Employment
- Educational Opportunities
- Housing
- Stable or Conflict-Free Environments
- Basic Necessities

TRAFFICKERS CONTROL THEIR VICTIM'S...

- Movement
- ID or Documents
- Money, such as use of prepaid or gift cards
- Speech, such as scripted or inconsistent answers

ADDITIONAL INDICATORS

- Withheld Pay
- False Identity or Travel Documents
- Logistically Unaware
- Few or No Belongings
- Unknown Companion
- Uncommon Ticket Purchase, such as in-person, unknown purchaser, one-way, last-minute or same-day paid by someone else in cash

EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL TRAUMA SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- Silent
- Fearful
- Intimidated
- Paranoid
- Hypervigilant
- Dissociated
- Drugged

- Bruises
- Cuts
- Broken Bones
- Unkempt
- Malnourished
- Fatigued
- Exhausted

DETAILS TO INCLUDE WHEN REPORTING

As many details about the possible victim(s) and trafficker(s) as possible, such as name, age, height, weight, and any other identifiers.

Any observed behaviors or indicators.

Travel details, such as dates, place of departure, destination, and mode of transport.

Adhere to your organization's internal reporting protocol and policies, in addition to calling the National Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-373-7888 or texting BEFREE (233733).

FOR HELP AND SUPPORT

National Human Trafficking Hotline
1-888-373-7888 | Text 233733 or BEFREE
24/7 · Toll-Free · Confidential · 200+ Languages

The National Human Trafficking Hotline provides confidential help regardless of immigration status.

In case of immediate danger or if a minor is involved, call 9-1-1 or contact the local authorities.



Scan this code to learn more.
Visit: www.transportation.gov/TLAHT/campaign
Contact: trafficking@dot.gov

SOURCES

- International Labour Organization, 2024
- National Human Trafficking Hotline, 2023
- United Against Slavery, 2021
- Counter-Trafficking Data Collaborative, Initiative of the International Organization for Migration, 2020
- Polaris Survivor Survey, 2018

