

SVDP Human Trafficking Supplemental/Frequently Asked Questions

This FAQ is to add supplemental information to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul's Human Trafficking Position Paper available online: <https://members.svdpusa.org/voice-of-the-poor/the-vincentian-position-papers/>

Identify the signs: (<https://polarisproject.org/human-trafficking/recognize-signs>)

- Illegal Work Conditions: not free to come and go; under 18 and providing sexual acts, works long hours; owes large debt; not paid directly
- Poor Mental Health or Abnormal Behavior: fearful, anxious, depressed, usually fearful of law enforcement
- Poor Physical Health: signs of poor hygiene, malnourishment or abuse, multiple STIs, multiple pregnancies or abortions
- Lack of Control: has few personal possessions, frequently monitored, not in control of own money
- Lack of knowledge of current city or home address; inconsistent or scripted history

Data of the problem:

- Much of Human Trafficking is unreported. Only 1% of the victims are ever rescued.
- 68% of people trafficked in the Americas were for 2 years or less. (<https://www.ctdatacollaborative.org/dataset/victims-americas-dataset>)
- Average life span of a child victim after being trafficked is 7 years (found dead from attack, abuse, HIV/STD's, malnutrition, overdose or suicide) (<https://arkofhopeforchildren.org/child-trafficking/child-trafficking-statistics>)

Our Faith In Action

Personal Practices to create a culture free from Human Trafficking:

- Education
- Support family members with dignity and love
- Avoid illegal drug use
- Avoid using sex workers, including online pornography use. Online pornography can be used with Human Traffick victims.

Know how to report to law enforcement:

- To request help or report suspected human trafficking, call the [National Human Trafficking Hotline](https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/your-city) at 1-888-373-7888 or text "help" to BeFree (233733).
- FBI: 1-800-225-5324
- National Missing and Exploited Child unit: 1-800-843-5678

Other organizations committed against Human Trafficking:

- Sisters against Trafficking (up to date current resources: <https://www.sistersagainsttrafficking.org/resources/trafficking-reports/>)
- SOAP- Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution <https://www.soaproject.org/> labeling bars of soap and working to distribute them for use at local hotels.
- USCCB Anti-Trafficking Program staff (202) 541-3357 <http://www.usccb.org/about/anti-trafficking-program/index.cfm>

Organizational efforts/SVDP conference efforts to create a culture free from Human Trafficking:

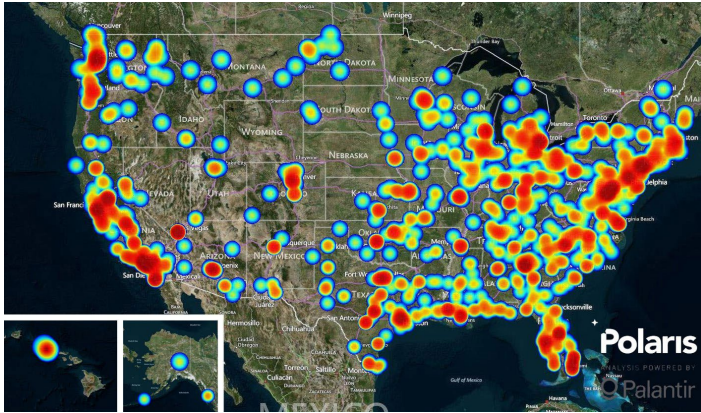
- Prayer
- Task Force
- Discussion nights with a number of books written by survivors, including Theresa Flores <https://www.amazon.com/Slave-Across-Street-Theresa-Flores/dp/1733620613>

Top recruitment tactics 2017 (Polarisproject.org) intimate partner/marriage proposition, familial, posing as benefactor, job offer, and false promises/fraud

According to the FBI, there is a link between pornography and human trafficking for advertising and producing pornography (Carmen Kucinich, FBI Victims Specialist Human Trafficking).

States according to the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

<https://polarisproject.org/2017statistics>



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ARE EVER RESCUED

In 2017, there were over 10,615 cases of human trafficking REPORTED in the United

TOP NUMBERS

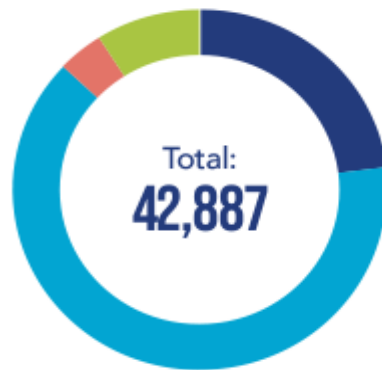
(1/1/2020-8/31/2022)

Total Trafficking Situations, by Form



Form of Trafficking	# of Situations
Labor	2,873
Sex	19,283
Sex and Labor ¹	1,005
Other/Not Specified ²	3,711
Grand total	26,872

Total Likely Trafficking Victims, by Form



Form of Trafficking	# of Likely Victims
Labor	9,735
Sex	27,370
Sex and Labor	1,862
Other/Not Specified	4,004
Grand Total	42,887³



Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita

St. Josephine Bakhita, you were sold into slavery as a child and endured untold hardship and suffering. Once liberated from your physical enslavement, you found true redemption in your encounter with Christ and his Church. O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free. Provide comfort to survivors of slavery and let them look to you as an example of hope and faith. Help all survivors find healing from their wounds. We ask for your prayers and intercessions for those enslaved among us. Amen.

From 2000—2022 there have been

2929	10,775	4477
Prosecutions Filed	Victims in Trafficking Cases	Convicted Defendants

Source: 2022 Federal Human Trafficking Report

Use this link to find your state's record:

[State Reports – Human Trafficking Institute: https://traffickinginstitute.org/state-reports/](https://traffickinginstitute.org/state-reports/)

National Human Trafficking Hotline: [1-888-373-7888](tel:1-888-373-7888) or Text “BEFREE” or “HELP” to [233733](tel:233733)
or email help@humantraffickinghotline.org

Other Statistics

2023 Trafficking in Persons Report United States –
<https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-trafficking-in-persons-report/united-states>

Fact Sheets for 2023 Human Trafficking in Persons Report –
<https://www.state.gov/fact-sheets-for-2023-trafficking-in-persons-report/>

U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking Annual Report 2023 –
<https://www.state.gov/united-states-advisory-council-on-human-trafficking-annual-report-2023/>

Why do Vincentians need to know about Human Trafficking?

We do home visits, visit hotels and other areas where human trafficking can occur. It is important we are aware of the warning signs so we can identify the signs when we see them

“Trafficking is the world’s SECOND largest criminal enterprise, after drugs. It has surpassed weapons.” – U.S. State Department

Has there been any national legislation in the U.S. against human trafficking? (<https://justaskprevention.org/learn/>)

- “Trafficking Victim Protection Act 2000”:- focus on prosecuting pimps/traffickers and not prostitutes/victims
- “Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act 2018”- allows prosecuting online services (craigslist, Facebook, Tumblr) for publishing pictures/advertising of trafficking victims.

What does a trafficker look like?

Most of the time it is a “significant other” or immediate family member. Only 9% of the time it is a stranger (Human Trafficking Conference, Sisters of St Joseph, 2020).

Are persons of color more likely to be trafficked?

Yes, they are more likely to be trafficked, but not more likely to be a trafficker. “While available evidence shows that racial minorities are more likely to be victims of sex trafficking, there is no truth behind the stereotype that certain races of men are more likely to be traffickers than men of other races.”

(<https://polarisproject.org/sex-trafficking/>)

Do we know by statistics if persons of color are more likely to be trafficked in the United States?

We know by statistics in certain areas that more persons of color are disproportionately trafficked. “For example, we know that in Louisiana, Black girls account for nearly 49 percent of child sex trafficking victims, though Black girls comprise approximately 19 percent of Louisiana’s youth population and in King County, Washington, 84 percent of child sex trafficking victims are Black while Black children and adults together only comprise 7% of the general population.” <https://polarisproject.org/blog/2020/07/racial-disparities-covid-19-and-human-trafficking/> Another study from Loyola of multiple cities showed that of 641 victims, 81% of victims were persons of color <https://pact.cfpic.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Loyola-Multi-City-Executive-Summary-FINAL.pdf>. Yet we do not have sufficient national data to statistically say persons of color are disproportionately victimized by labor and sex trafficking.

How did the COVID-19 pandemic affect trafficking?

2020: There was a 40% increase in human trafficking due to shelter-in-place policies. Crisis in Human Trafficking during the Pandemic: <https://polarisproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Crisis-in-Human-Trafficking-During-the-Pandemic.pdf>

What is an international resource for human trafficking?

<https://www.talithakum.info/> International Network against Human Trafficking

Books and resources: <https://sharedhope.org/resources/>