

## Vulnerabilities to Trafficking

- Physical or intellectual disabilities
- Prior abuse, neglect, or trauma
- Substance abuse
- Mental illness
- Previous involvement with criminal or juvenile justice system
- Lesbian Gay Bisexual Trans Queer Intersex+ (LGBTQI+)
- Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC)
- Language barriers and immigration status

## Barriers to Disclosure

- Many trafficking survivors will not self-identify, sometimes due to not realizing they have been trafficked or not feeling safe to do so.
- There is a strong intersection between domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and trafficking.
- Victims may be trauma-bonded to their trafficker (strong sense of loyalty and inability to detach). Traffickers can be a romantic partner, loved one, family member, etc.
- Fear of law enforcement and distrust of the system
- Increased stigma and shame



## Resources

Trafficking survivors have complex needs and may need specialized support and resources.

- [Asian Family Support Services of Austin](#)
- [Creating Safer Spaces: TIPS FOR ADVOCATES](#)
- [Human Trafficking Definition-Federal](#)
- [Human Trafficking Definition-Texas State](#)
- [Human Trafficking Resource Manual for Advocates](#)
- [Identification-Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool](#)
- [Identification-NHTRC Comprehensive Trafficking Assessment](#)
- [Identification-Vera Institute, Out of the Shadows Tool](#)
- [IDVSA Report: Human Trafficking by the Numbers](#)
- [Mosaic Family Services](#)
- [National Human Trafficking Hotline, 1-888-373-7888](#)
- [National Survivor Network](#)
- [Refugee Services of Texas](#)
- [Texas Advocacy Project](#)
- [Texas Attorney General](#)
- [Texas Human Trafficking Resource Center](#)
- [Texas Office of the Governor, Child Sex Trafficking Team](#)
- [Texas RioGrande Legal Aid](#)
- [U.S. Department of Labor](#)
- [YMCA Houston, Trafficked Persons Assistance Program](#)

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# Human Trafficking



## What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking is the business of stealing freedom for profit. It happens all over the world and in your backyard. It is the exploitation of men, women and children for forced labor or forced sex for the benefit of a third party. Traffickers control victims through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. A person does not need to be moved internationally or otherwise to be trafficked. Human trafficking is one of the fastest growing criminal enterprises in the world. Trafficking thrives as a high-profit, low-risk industry, and the internet provides anonymity for recruitment and sales.

## Types of Trafficking

### Adult **Sex** Trafficking

Trafficking adults for sex by **force, fraud, or coercion**. Seen in strip clubs, brothels, massage parlors, forced prostitution, etc.

### Adult **Labor** Trafficking

Trafficking adults for labor by **force, fraud, or coercion**. Seen in industries such as agriculture, food service, manufacturing, domestic servitude, hospitality, etc.

### Child **Sex** Trafficking

Trafficking children, under the age of 18, for sex by **any means** into the commercial sex industry. Domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) can include survival sex, online sexual exploitation, child pornography, forced solicitation, stripping and other sexual acts.

### Child **Labor** Trafficking

Trafficking children, under the age of 18, for labor by **force, fraud, or coercion**. Seen in industries such as agriculture, food service, manufacturing, domestic servitude or hospitality



## Human Trafficking Indicators

Do not make assumptions based on one indicator, but look at the totality of the situation. The goal is not to identify trafficking survivors for the sake of identifying them, but to provide additional resources to meet their specialized needs. Trafficking indicators include but are not limited to:

- Inconsistencies when reporting where they live or lack of knowledge about the city/state where they currently reside
- Someone is always with or near them - not allowed to speak for themselves
- Little to no eye contact when spoken to
- No access to a bank account or any other money/financial resources
- Not free to come and go as they wish
- Living in the same place that they work
- Does not have access to passport, visa, or other immigration status documents, driver's license or ID
- Multiple cell phones or preoccupation with access to cell phone(s)
- Disconnected from friends, family, community
- Unexplained injuries and/or previous sexual and physical abuse
- Unsuitable living conditions including foster care, homelessness, etc.
- Denial of food, water, sleep