

For more information or to report possible sex trafficking please contact:

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"The FBI is committed to ensuring that victims receive the rights they are entitled to and the assistance they need to cope with crime... Our resources include an Office for Victim Assistance at FBI Headquarters and victim specialists nationwide."

For more information about the FBI Victim Assistance Program see <http://www.fbi.gov/stats->



Portions of the information contained in this brochure were obtained from the U.S. State Department publications on Human Trafficking. Law enforcement also obtained information through case experience and interactions with victims of sex trafficking.

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Sex Trafficking:

a modern definition of slavery

Definitions and Indicators of Victimization



Our goal is to educate vulnerable youth and adults on the warning signs of a possible sex trafficking situation and to rescue those who are being exploited.

Sex Trafficking defined:

The recruitment, harboring, moving or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act. Trafficking can be both a state and/or federal investigation.

A Commercial Sex Act or Prostitution:

The giving or receiving of sex or a sex act in exchange for compensation which may include money, drugs, or anything of value.

Who is targeted for victimization:

Sex trafficking is a form of modern day slavery. In Alaska, victims are of every race, ethnicity, and socio-economic class. Victims come from small villages, towns, and cities.

The life of girls and young women being victimized through sex trafficking is a violent one. Traffickers often use coercion and physical force to maintain control over their victims.

Our focus and goal:

Victims are often distrustful of law enforcement. Traffickers tell victims they will be arrested if a report to police is made. However, federal, state, and municipal law enforcement in partnership with victim and social service providers offer options of assistance and safety.

Our goal is to prosecute the individuals responsible for sexually exploiting others; and rescuing vulnerable individuals from being exploited through sex trafficking.



Human Trafficking and Alaska Native Victims

Many youth individuals travel to Anchorage from village communities to visit family and friends, attend appointments, and go shopping. Traffickers or exploiters are very good at identifying youth who are not from Anchorage and who are separated from their support systems. Often traffickers approach these youth with promises of a better life.

The traffickers flash money, offer shopping and saloon trips, and shower gifts to groom a potential victims. Many victims report being offered freedom and materials they may not have previously believed obtainable. It takes a trafficker no length of time to isolate and terrorize a victim forcing him or her into sexual exploitation.

Sex Trafficking Victim Dynamics (Adults and Minors)

- Exchanging sex or sexual acts for drugs, food, housing, etc. (“survival sex”)
- Not attending school or has numerous school absences
- Under 18 and dating much older, abusive, or controlling men
- Possesses false ID’s and lies about age
- Has large amounts of cash, jewelry, or new clothes
- Has no cash because the trafficker may hold all money brought in by victim
- Has recurrent STD’s and/or need for pregnancy tests
- Shows signs of physical assault including: broken bones, black eyes, bruising, etc.
- Shows signs of branding or tattooing of trafficker name
- Disappears for blocks at a time; chronic runaway



- Has limited, restricted or controlled communication with family and old friends
- Uses or abuses substances
- Exhibits extreme weight loss
- Changes in mental health (e.g. suicidal thoughts, depression)

Risk and Vulnerability Factors of Victimization:

- Children involved in the foster care system and child protective services
- Children involved in the juvenile justice system
- Individuals with a past history of physical, sexual, or emotional abuse or neglect
- Substance abuse history
- All children are vulnerable—simply being a child makes one vulnerable

Needs of Victim:

- To be believed and understood
- Medical treatment
- Safety planning
- Linkage or referral to social services
- Substance abuse treatment
- Education needs (basic education, GED)
- Housing (Emergency, Short and Long term)
- Therapeutic services
- Job training