

Child Human Trafficking

PURPOSE

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) was awarded the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) cooperative agreement to promote Adolescent Health through School-Based HIV/STD Prevention and School-Based Surveillance for five years. The Child Human Trafficking addition to Florida's Sexual Health Education Community Outreach Tool Kit is designed to provide resources to identify human trafficking and raise awareness within the community. The Governor's Office of Adoption and Child Protection and Department of Juvenile Justice collaborated with FDOE's Healthy Schools to revise the Tool Kit.

Human trafficking training helps to raise awareness in schools and in the community. Educators, other school/community-based professionals and parents have a critical role to play in recognizing potential human trafficking and in helping potential victims access specialized services. We encourage you to use these resources in the stand against human trafficking.

INTRODUCTION

What is Human Trafficking?

The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, slavery or a commercial sex act.

- Currently, there are approximately 30 million people enslaved throughout the world with 3 million located right here in the United States.
- Many of these victims are lured with false promises of financial or emotional security; instead, they are forced or coerced into commercial sex (prostitution), domestic servitude, or other types of forced labor.
- Any minor under the age of 18 who is induced to perform a commercial sex act is a victim of human trafficking according to U.S. law, regardless of whether there is force, fraud, or coercion. Increasingly, criminal organizations, such as gangs, are luring children from

Did You Know?

Florida is the third largest hub for human trafficking in the United States.

Each year, as many as 300,000 American children are at risk for sexual exploitation.

The average age a child enters the commercial sex trade is 11-13 years old.

local schools into commercial sexual exploitation or trafficking.

- ℓ Since 2009, Florida Departments of Juvenile Justice and Children and Families have investigated over 1,500 child trafficking cases.

Child Sex Trafficking

Child sex trafficking is a form of human trafficking defined as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, and/or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation before the child reaches 18 years of age.” Sex trafficking has been described as “the largest slave trade in history” and as the fastest growing form of contemporary slavery.

- ℓ As many as 300,000 school-age children are at risk for sexual exploitation each year in the United States.
- ℓ One in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually assaulted by the age of 18.
- ℓ The life expectancy of the commercially exploited “prostitute” is seven years.
- ℓ Up to 90% of minor victims are under the control of a pimp. ([Shared Hope](#), 2014)
- ℓ Approximately one in seven youth online (10 to 17 years-old) received a sexual solicitation or approach over the Internet.

Who are the Victims? Who is at Risk?

Victims of trafficking can be any age, race, gender, or nationality, including U.S. citizens.

- ℓ Child trafficking can take a variety of forms including commercial sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, or forced labor. Those who recruit minors for the purpose of commercial sex are violating U.S. anti-trafficking laws, even if there is no force, fraud, or coercion.
- ℓ Trafficking victims can be men or women, boys or girls, United States citizens or foreign nationals. Human trafficking can involve school-age youth, particularly those made vulnerable by unstable family situations, or who have little or no social support. The children at risk are not just high school students – studies show that the

The Protection of Vulnerable Persons Law

Florida Statute 415.102 imposes a fine of up to \$1 million on any public or private college or university whose administration or law enforcement agency willfully and knowingly fails to report child abuse that occurs on its campus, in any of its facilities, or at/during college or university-sponsored events and functions.

average age a child is trafficked into the commercial sex trade is between 11 and 14 years old.

- ℓ Traffickers may target young victims through social media websites, telephone chat-lines, after school programs, on the streets, at shopping malls or in clubs. In some cases, teens who are already involved with the traffickers are used to recruit other victims. In fact, a person can be trafficked without ever leaving his or her hometown.
- ℓ While trafficking can occur to anyone in any situation, some factors have been known to contribute to a person's vulnerability to being trafficked. These factors include poverty, the lack of an education or job opportunities, race, social caste, internally displaced people and refugees.
- ℓ Traffickers acquire their victims through numerous methods. They can be kidnapped and taken forcibly or they can be lured by false job offers in countries other than their own. In some cases, after victims have been willingly trafficked into other places based on false promises, their trafficker will charge them a previously undisclosed fine to cover the expenses of transporting them to another country. This subsequently creates a life-long debt the victim must work off (through either commercial sexual exploitation or forced labor) to repay their trafficker.

Where does Human Trafficking Occur?

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, human trafficking is now the world's second most profitable criminal enterprise, sharing this position with the illegal arms trade, second only to the illegal drug trade. Many perceive trafficking as something that happens overseas or to foreign nationals, and/or as a crime that involves movement across state or national borders; the reality, however, is that trafficking affects both foreign nationals and U.S. citizens, and can occur within a victim's own community ([Polaris Project](#), 2014). Since 2012, all Florida counties have had at least one reported instance of human trafficking.

How to Identify Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking can often go unnoticed, even by an individual interacting with a victim on a regular basis. Recognizing the signs is the first step in identifying potential victims. No single indicator

What can schools do?

- * Promote general awareness on campus with other signs and posters.
- * Educate the community on the different types of human trafficking.
- * Create student-led PSA's, plays, walks to raise awareness, and conduct trainings for community groups.
- * Developed a response protocol in collaboration with school district leadership.
- * Conduct annual teacher and staff trainings and student assemblies.
- * Plan and sponsor human trafficking awareness month activities in January.

Teen Sex Trafficking Awareness

PSA by Plant City High School
Hillsborough County
Public Schools

is necessarily proof of human trafficking. However, recognizing the “red flags,” or indicators, can help alert school administrators and staff to a human trafficking situation or another harmful situation.

Behavior or Physical State Indicators:

Does the student –

- ℓ Have unexplained absences from school, or has the student demonstrated an inability to attend school on a regular basis?
- ℓ Suddenly changed his or her usual attire, behavior, or relationships?
- ℓ Suddenly have more expensive material possessions?
- ℓ Chronically run away from home?
- ℓ Act fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous and paranoid?
- ℓ Defer to another person to speak for him or her, especially during interactions with school authority figures (this may include an adult described by the student as a relative, but may also be a friend or boyfriend/girlfriend)?
- ℓ Show signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, or other serious pain or suffering?
- ℓ Seem to be deprived of food, water, sleep, medical care, or other life necessities?
- ℓ Have new branding/tattoos?
- ℓ Have a “boyfriend” or “girlfriend” who is noticeably older?
- ℓ Make references to sexual situations or terminology that are beyond age-specific norms or engaging in uncharacteristically promiscuous behavior?

How Does the United States Help Victims Of Human Trafficking?

The U.S. government supports a victim-centered approach. It funds a national public awareness campaign and a number of nongovernmental organizations that assist victims. The U.S. government vigorously pursues human trafficking cases and prosecutes the traffickers.

For a complete assessment of U.S. government efforts to combat trafficking in persons, please visit the United States Office for Victims of Crime <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/humantrafficking/>.

Who are traffickers?

- *Males and females
- *Intimate partners/family members
- *Gangs and criminal networks
- *Brothel and fake massage business owners and managers
- *Growers and crew leaders in agriculture
- *Labor brokers
- *Employers of domestic servants
- *Small business owners and managers
- *Large factory owners and corporations
- *Pimps
- * Strangers, friends, partners, neighbors or family members
- *Any race/ethnicity, nationality or social economic level
- ***ANYONE**

Resources

❖ Curriculum/Programs

- ℓ [The Born2Fly Project](#)
- ℓ [Florida State University Center for the Advancement of Human Rights](#) (sample lesson plans)
- ℓ [Homeland Security Blue Campaign](#)
- ℓ [Look Beneath the Surface](#)
- ℓ [National Human Trafficking Resource Center Student Toolkit](#)
- ℓ [NetSmartz Workshop](#)
- ℓ [Polaris Project](#)
- ℓ [The Lifeboat Project ACT app](#)

❖ Legal

- ℓ [Florida Anti-Trafficking Laws](#)
- ℓ [Office of Florida Attorney General](#)
- ℓ [Sex Trafficking of Children in the United States: Overview and Issues for Congress Report](#)

❖ Organizations

* [Statewide Council on Human Trafficking](#)

* Governmental/State Agencies

- ℓ [Florida Department of Children and Families](#)
- ℓ [Florida Department of Health](#)
- ℓ [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children](#)
- ℓ [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Campaign to Rescue and Restore Victims of Human Trafficking](#)
- ℓ [U.S. Department of Justice](#)
- ℓ [U.S. Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons](#)

* Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO)

- ℓ [Born to Fly International, Inc.](#)
- ℓ [Center for Human Trafficking Awareness](#)

Anti-Trafficking Laws

Florida Statutes

§787.06- Human Trafficking

§409.1678- Specialized Residential Options/Safe Harbor

§409.1754- Screening and Assessments for Sexually Exploited Children

§402.86- Refugee Assistance for Survivors of Human Trafficking

§796.035- Selling or Buying of Minors into Prostitution; penalties

§895.02- Racketeering Activity

§960.065- Eligibility for Awards for Victims of Sexual Exploitation are Eligible for Awards

§16.617- Statewide Council on Human Trafficking

Federal Laws

*[Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000](#)

*[Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2013](#)

- ℓ [Coalition for Immokalee Workers- Modern-Day Slavery Museum](#)
- ℓ [Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking](#)
- ℓ [Innocents at Risk](#)
- ℓ [National PTA](#)
- ℓ [Shared Hope International](#)
- ℓ [The Lifeboat Project](#)
- ℓ [The National Human Trafficking Resource Center](#)
- ℓ [Walk Free](#)
- ℓ [Zebra Coalition](#)

***Resource Directory of Florida Organizations that Assist Human Trafficking Survivors**

❖ Reports/Trainings

- ℓ [2014-15 Annual Report of Statewide Council on Human Trafficking](#)
- ℓ [Florida State University- Center for the Advancement of Human Rights-Florida Responds to Human Trafficking](#)
- ℓ [FSU Human Trafficking ESOL Curriculum Part II](#)

❖ PSA

- ℓ [Teen Sex Trafficking Awareness](#)(PSA)- Plant City High School of Hillsborough County
- ℓ [The World's 27 Million Dirtiest Secrets](#) (PSA)
- ℓ [Rescued from sex trafficking](#) (PSA)

❖ Movies, Films and Documentaries

- ℓ [Chosen – The True Story of America’s Trafficked Teens](#)
- ℓ <http://humantrafficking.wordpress.com/about/>
- ℓ <http://www.ungift.org/knowledgehub/media/films.html>

Reporting

39.205 -Every Florida citizen is a mandated reporter and failure to report suspected child abuse to DCF is a third degree felony.

Florida Abuse Hotline

**1-800-96-ABUSE
(1-800-962-2873)**

24-Hour National Human

Trafficking Hotline

1-888-373-7888

BeFree Textline

Text "BeFree" (233733)



**“If you see something,
say something.”**