

HUMAN TRAFFICKING



Sex and labor trafficking of teens

Who is at risk?

Teenagers who:

- Are isolated or homeless
- Have history of childhood sexual abuse
- Suffer from substance abuse
- Have runaway from home
- Have experienced violence and trauma

What is human trafficking?

The illegal movement of persons typically for the purposes of forced labor or sexual exploitation.

Q: Where does trafficking occur?

A: Everywhere. Traffickers have been reported targeting their minor victims through telephone chat-lines, movie theaters, bowling alleys, parks, typical teen hang out areas, clubs, on the street, through friends, and at malls, as well as using teens to recruit other teens at schools and after-school programs.

Q: How can I protect my teen?

A: Recruiters are always looking for teens who are alone or isolated. Make sure your teens are supervised.

Monitor your teen's emails, text messages, social media, and internet activities frequently.

Screen any boyfriend by checking his age and status in the community. Check with his parents to verify his age, any gang affiliation, or any criminal history. Recruiters are notorious for lying about their age and who they are in order to gain a girl's—and even her parent's—trust.

If your teen is going to a party, make sure that you know it is held at a safe place with the supervision of people you trust.

Recruiters for sex trafficking will often frequent parties that teenagers attend and wait until a teen is alone, single them out, and actually take them during the party .

Advise your teen to never leave any drink, even water, unattended at any party or event

Myths of human trafficking

- *Myth 1:* Trafficked persons can only be foreign nationals or are only immigrants from other countries.
- *Myth 2:* There must be elements of physical restraint, physical force, or physical bondage when identifying a human trafficking situation.
- *Myth 3:* Victims of human trafficking will immediately ask for help or assistance and will self-identify as a victim of a crime.
- *Myth 4:* Human trafficking victims always come from situations of poverty or from small rural villages.

Dangers of Social Media:

Recruiters use social media to kidnap and traffic young, vulnerable teens. Monitor your teen's phone for use of dangerous

Apps such as:

Snapchat, Twitter, Facebook, Tinder, YouNow, Kik, Meet Me, Whisper, etc.

Parents: Download the "Secure Teen" App to block dangerous Apps from your teen's phone.

If you suspect a child or teen being trafficked, call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at:

1(888) 373-7888