

Child Human Trafficking

PURPOSE

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) was awarded a 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 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 play a critical role in recognizing potential human trafficking and in helping potential victims access specialized services. We encourage you to use these resources in the fight against human trafficking.

INTRODUCTION

What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery and involves the use of force, fraud or coercion to exploit a person for labor or commercial sex.

- ⌘ Currently, there are approximately 20.9 million people enslaved throughout the world with 2.5 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 local schools into commercial sexual exploitation or trafficking.

Did You Know?

Florida has been identified as a hub for human trafficking activity, citing one of the highest incidences of human trafficking in the country.

Each year, as many as
100,000 - 300,000

American children are at risk of being trafficked for commercial sex in the United States.

Girls and boys in the commercial sex trade are as young as 11 years old.



- ⌘ The Florida Department of Children and Families began accepting child abuse reports alleging human trafficking in May 2009. To date, more than 1,500 calls have been accepted.

Human trafficking is different from human smuggling

- ⌘ Human smuggling involves bringing (or attempting to bring) a person into a country in violation of immigration or other laws. Human trafficking is the exploitation of a person for sex or labor. Human trafficking does not require movement or transport across borders—the exploitation is what makes the person a victim.

Who are the Victims? Who is at Risk?

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

- ⌘ Child trafficking can take a variety of forms including commercial sexual exploitation (prostitution) 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.
- ⌘ Trafficking victims can be men or women, boys or girls, U.S. 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 average age a child is trafficked into the commercial sex trade is between 11 and 14 years old.
- ⌘ 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.
- ⌘ 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 and social caste, including internally displaced people and refugees.

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.

“In the wake of the child abuse cover-up scandals at Penn State and Syracuse that rocked the nation last year, Florida will enact the most expansive abuse reporting law and the nation’s toughest penalties for failing to report abuse.”

Governor Rick Scott

- ⌘ 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 lifelong debt the victim must work off (through either commercial sexual exploitation or forced labor) to repay his or her trafficker.

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 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.

Behavior or Physical State Indicators

- ⌘ Does the student have unexplained absences from school or has the student demonstrated an inability to attend school on a regular basis?
- ⌘ Has the student suddenly changed his or her usual attire, behavior or relationships?
- ⌘ Does the student suddenly have more expensive material possessions?
- ⌘ Does the student chronically run away from home?
- ⌘ Does the student act fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense or nervous and paranoid?
- ⌘ Does the student 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)?
- ⌘ Does the student show signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint and confinement, or other serious pain or suffering?
- ⌘ Has the student been deprived of food, water, sleep, medical care or other life necessities?

What can students do?

- ⌘ Promote general awareness on campus with other students, clubs and staff.
- ⌘ Educate the community on the different types of human trafficking.
- ⌘ Create student-led PSAs and plays, walk to raise awareness and conduct trainings for community groups.

How to Identify Potential Victims

- ⌘ Clothing (little to no clothes or inappropriate dress for weather outside.)
- ⌘ Physical appearance (looking pale, sick and sleep deprived.)
- ⌘ Tattoos on neck or lower back area with the trafficker’s name or other symbol.

[Teen Sex Trafficking Awareness PSA](#)

- ⌘ Is the student in possession of his or her own identification documents (e.g. student identification card, driver’s license or passport) or does someone else have them?

Social Behavior Indicators

- ⌘ Does the student have a “boyfriend” or “girlfriend” who is noticeably older?
- ⌘ Is the student engaging in uncharacteristically promiscuous behavior or making references to sexual situations or terminology that are beyond age-specific norms?
- ⌘ Can the student freely contact friends, family or his or her legal guardian?

National Human Trafficking Resource Center [Student Toolkit](#)

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, please visit the U.S. Department of Justice Website at <http://www.justice.gov>.

Polaris Project Comprehensive Human Trafficking Assessment

This document contains questions that can be used to assess a client for potential signs that she/he has been a victim of human trafficking. Assessment questions should be tailored to your program and client’s specific needs.

Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth, and Families (ACYF)

Click here to [learn more](#) (PDF, 16 pages) about the ACYF guidance to states and services on addressing human trafficking of children and youth in the United States agencies/ departments, which advises runaway and homeless youth programs and child welfare workers on identifying, engaging and serving victims of human trafficking.

Who are traffickers?

- *Males and females
- *Pimps
- *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
- *Strangers, friends, partners, neighbors or family members
- *Any race or member of victim’s own ethnicity or national background
- *ANYONE**

Resources

✧ Curriculum/Programs

- ✧ [Born to Fly International, Inc.](#)
- ✧ [Florida State University Center for the Advancement of Human Rights](#)- (sample lesson)
- ✧ [Homeland Security Blue Campaign](#)
- ✧ [Look Beneath the Surface](#)
- ✧ [PTA](#)
 - [2013/2014 Florida PTA Action Platform](#)
- ✧ [Polaris Project](#)
- ✧ [You can stop slavery](#)
- ✧ [Youth-for-Youth Anti-Slavery Curriculum](#)

✧ Laws

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

✧ Organizations

- ✧ [Center for Human Trafficking Awareness](#)
- ✧ [Coalition for Immokalee Workers- Modern-Day Slavery Museum](#)
- ✧ [Florida Center for Child Welfare](#)
- ✧ [Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking](#)
- ✧ [Florida Department of Children and Families](#)
- ✧ [Florida Department of Health](#)
- ✧ [Innocents at Risk](#)
- ✧ [National PTA](#)
- ✧ [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children](#)
- ✧ [Resource Directory of Florida Organizations that Assist Human Trafficking Survivors](#)
- ✧ [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Campaign to Rescue and Restore Victims of Human Trafficking](#)
- ✧ [U.S. Department of Justice](#)

Florida Anti-Trafficking Laws

Florida Statutes

- ✧ [409.1678](#)- Safe Harbor for Children who are victims of sexual exploitation
- ✧ [402.86](#)- Services to immigrant survivors of human trafficking, domestic violence and other serious crimes
- ✧ [787.06](#)- Human Trafficking
- ✧ [796.035](#)- Selling or buying of minors into sex trafficking or prostitution; penalties
- ✧ [895.02](#)- Human Trafficking to Racketeering
- ✧ [960.065](#)- Victims of Sexual Exploitation are eligible for awards under Victim Compensation Laws

<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/>

- ⌘ [U.S. Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons](#)
- ⌘ [Walk Free](#)
- ⌘ [Zebra Coalition](#)

⌘ **Reports/Trainings**

- ⌘ [2012 Human Trafficking Summit](#)
- ⌘ [2013 Community Human Trafficking Training](#)
- ⌘ [Florida State University- Center for the Advancement of Human Rights-Florida Responds to Human Trafficking](#)
- ⌘ [FSU Human Trafficking ESOL Curriculum Part II](#)

⌘ **PSA's/Articles**

- ⌘ [Brothers charged with sex trafficking](#) (article)
- ⌘ [The World's 27 Million Dirtiest Secrets](#) (PSA)
- ⌘ [27 million modern day slaves](#) (news report)
- ⌘ [Innocents at Risk](#) (article)
- ⌘ [Plant City students star in human-trafficking](#) (article)
- ⌘ [Rescued from sex trafficking](#) (PSA)
- ⌘ [Runaway Teens at-risk](#) (article)
- ⌘ [Sex traffickers force girls as young as 8 into prostitution in Central Florida](#) (article)
- ⌘ [Teen Sex Trafficking Awareness](#) (PSA)

⌘ **Movies, Films and Documentaries**

- ⌘ <http://humantrafficking.wordpress.com/about/>
- ⌘ <http://www.ungift.org/knowledgehub/media/films.html>

Florida's Trafficked Victim Services

911

Florida Abuse Hotline

1-800-962-2873

24 Hour National Human Trafficking Hotline

1-888-373-7888

Text **BeFree (233733)** for specialized victim services referrals.

