

**SHE WAS
A DAUGHTER
AND A FRIEND.**

**NOW SHE
HAS A PRICE TAG.**



Sex trafficking is happening here in Orange County,
and it's right in front of you. You just don't know it.

LEARN THE SIGNS. SAVE A LIFE.

A Guide for Recognizing Sex Trafficking



A MESSAGE FROM THE ORANGE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

A SMILE
CAN HIDE A LOT.

SEX TRAFFICKING: KNOW THE SIGNS

Learn to recognize certain “**red flags**” and clues that can help you better assess if someone in your community may be a victim of exploitation.

Someone may be a victim of sex trafficking if she/he:

- Checks into hotels/motels with older males, and refers to those males as boyfriend or “daddy,” which is often street slang for pimp.
- Loiters at truck stops, and gets into trucks with older males.
- Has a history of multiple runaways or homelessness.
- Does not attend school or is frequently absent.
- Demonstrates an unexplained change in lifestyle, such as having excessive amounts of cash.
- Is in a controlling relationship or has visible signs of physical abuse, such as bruising, scars, or hearing loss.
- Shows psychological effects, such as shame, humiliation, anxiety, submissiveness, or disorientation.
- Appears malnourished, fatigued, or exhausted.
- Avoids eye contact, social interaction, and authority figures/law enforcement.
- Seems to adhere to scripted or rehearsed responses in social interactions.
- Lacks official identification documents.
- Appears destitute/lacking personal possessions.
- Has poor physical or dental health.
- Has tattoos/branding on the neck and/or lower back.
- Has untreated sexually transmitted diseases.
- Is not allowed to go into public alone, or speak for her/himself.

The presence or absence of any of these indicators is not necessarily proof of human trafficking, but may alert you to a potential human trafficking situation.

By identifying potential victims and reporting tips, you are doing your part to help law enforcement rescue victims. **You may even save a life.**

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: KNOW THE FACTS¹

MYTH: *If someone is paid or initially consented to their situation, it's not trafficking.*

FACT: Initial consent to commercial sex or labor before the trafficker used force, fraud, or coercion is not relevant. If a pimp forces a person to engage in sex for money against their will at any time, whether through threats, coercion, or physical violence, that person is a human trafficking victim, regardless of age or initial consent.

Further, there is no such thing as a “child prostitute.” Any child under the age of 18 engaging in commercial sex is a victim of sex trafficking, according to U.S. federal law.

MYTH: *Victims will be desperate to escape their trafficker and will ask for help when they need it.*

FACT: Individuals who experience trafficking may not readily seek help due to a number of factors, including shame, self-blame, fear, or even specific instructions from their traffickers regarding how to behave when interacting with others. Victims do not always self-identify and may not realize that they have rights.

Many victims become traumatically bonded to their abusers (commonly referred to as “pimps”); despite enduring horrific violence, they believe their abusers love them. Cases of Stockholm Syndrome among victims of human trafficking are not uncommon.

MYTH: *Victims must be held against their will by some form of physical restraint or bondage.*

FACT: While some traffickers physically hold the people they exploit, most human trafficking victims are not in chains. It is more common for abusers to use psychological means of control. Fear, trauma, drug addiction, threats against families, and a lack of options due to poverty and homelessness can all prevent a victim from leaving.

Some traffickers use more subtle methods of trapping and controlling people, such as:

- Isolating victims from family, friends, and the public by limiting contact with outsiders and making sure that any contact is monitored.
- Confiscating passports or other identification documents.
- Threatening to shame the victim by exposing humiliating circumstances to their families.
- Threatening imprisonment or deportation if the victim contacts authorities.
- Debt bondage through enormous financial obligations or an undefined or increasing debt.
- Controlling the victims' money.

MYTH: *Only women and children experience trafficking.*

FACT: Anyone can experience human trafficking, including men. Traffickers prey on the vulnerable, often with promises of a better life. Risk factors for trafficking include:

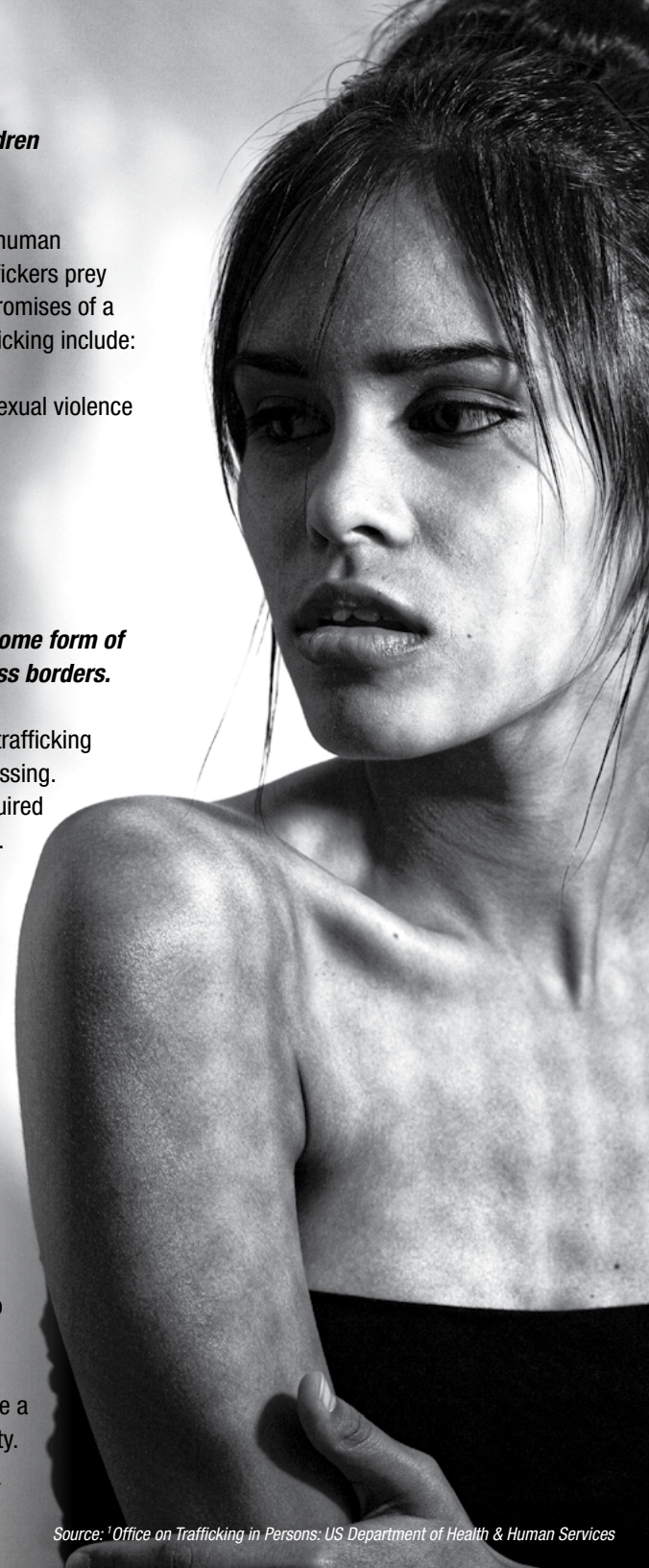
- Prior history of abuse or sexual violence
- Generational trauma
- Poverty
- Unemployment
- Unstable living situations
- Homelessness

MYTH: *Trafficking includes some form of travel or transportation across borders.*

FACT: Many associate human trafficking with transporting or border-crossing. However, movement is not required to constitute human trafficking. If someone is forced to work or engage in commercial sex against their will, it also falls under the definition of trafficking.

MYTH: *Human trafficking is a global problem. There is nothing I can do to help.*

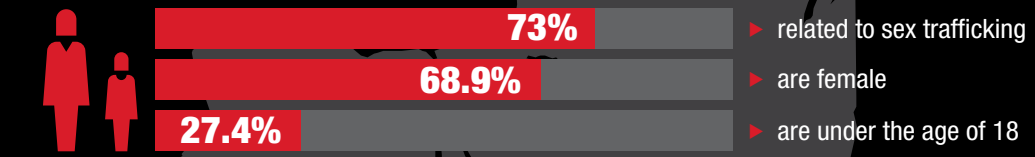
FACT: Human trafficking has been reported in every single state in the U.S., including New York. The epidemic has no boundaries, and infests small towns and cities alike. Small actions and advocacy can make a huge impact on your community. There is always something you can do to help.



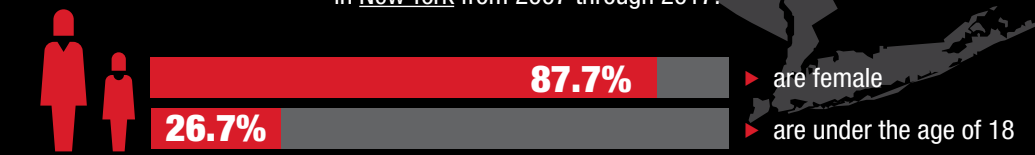
HUMAN TRAFFICKING: BY THE NUMBERS



492 cases of human trafficking were reported in New York through the National Human Trafficking Hotline in 2018.⁴



There were **1,022 confirmed sex trafficking victims** in New York from 2007 through 2017.⁵



Sources:²New York State Office of Children and Family Services; ³Covenant House; ⁴National Human Trafficking Hotline; ⁵New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

GLOSSARY

The following list of key sex trafficking terms is published in *Renting Lacy: A Story of America's Prostituted Children*, by Linda Smith.

Automatic: a victim's "automatic" routine when her pimp is out of town, in jail, or otherwise not in direct contact with those he is prostituting; all money generated on "automatic" is turned over to the pimp

Bottom: a female appointed by the trafficker/pimp to supervise the others and report rule violations; may help instruct victims, collect money, book hotel rooms, post ads, or inflict punishments on other girls

Branding: a tattoo or carving on a victim that indicates ownership by a trafficker/pimp/gang

Brothel (aka Cathouse or Whorehouse): may be apartments, houses, trailers, or any facility where sex is sold on the premises; could be in a rural area or nice neighborhood; most have security measures to prevent attacks by other criminals or provide a warning if law enforcement are nearby

Caught A Case: when a pimp or victim has been arrested and charged with a crime

Choosing Up: the process by which a different pimp takes "ownership" of a victim

Daddy: the term a pimp will often require his victim to call him

Date: the exchange when prostitution takes place, or the activity of prostitution

Escort Service: an organization, operating chiefly via cell phone and the internet, which sends a victim to a buyer's location (an "outcall") or arranges for the buyer to come to a house or apartment (an "in-call")

Exit Fee: the money a pimp will demand from a victim who is thinking about trying to leave; will be an exorbitant sum to discourage her from leaving

Romeo Pimping: a situation in which a man tricks a victim into believing they are in a relationship or in love, only to enslave them; may be used to traffic women and children for sexual exploitation

Gorilla (or Guerilla) Pimp: a pimp who controls his victims almost entirely through physical violence and force

"John" (aka Buyer or Trick): an individual who pays for or trades something of value for sexual acts

Lot Lizard: derogatory term for a person who is being prostituted at truck stops

Madam: an older woman who manages a brothel, escort service, or other prostitution establishment; may work alone or in collaboration with other traffickers

Pimp Circle: when several pimps encircle a victim to intimidate through verbal and physical threats to discipline the victim or force her to choose up

Seasoning: a combination of psychological manipulation, intimidation, gang rape, sodomy, beatings, deprivation of food or sleep, isolation from friends or family and other sources of support, and threatening or holding hostage of a victim's children

Squaring Up: attempting to escape or exit prostitution

Stable: a group of victims who are under the control of a single pimp

Track (aka Stroll or Blade): an area of town known for prostitution activity

Trade Up/Trade Down: to move a victim like merchandise between pimps

Trick: committing an act of prostitution (verb), or the person buying it (noun)

Turn Out: to be forced into prostitution (verb) or a person newly involved in prostitution (noun)

Wifeys/Wife-in-Law/Sister Wife: what women and girls under the control of the same pimp call each other

MODERN-DAY SLAVERY IS REAL. LEARN THE SIGNS. SAVE A LIFE.

**If you need help, or you think someone may be a victim of human trafficking,
please call:**

**Orange County Safe Homes'
Confidential 24/7 Crisis Hotline
845-562-5340**

**National Human Trafficking
Hotline
888-373-7888**

OR

Email
help@humantraffickinghotline.org

Text HELP or INFO to
BeFree (233733)

Chat the National Human
Trafficking Hotline via
www.humantraffickinghotline.org/chat

Submit a tip online through the
anonymous online reporting form via
**[www.humantraffickinghotline.org/
report-trafficking](http://www.humantraffickinghotline.org/report-trafficking)**

The Anti-Trafficking Hotline, available 24/7, is a multilingual hotline for victims, survivors, and witnesses of human trafficking. All reports are confidential and you may remain anonymous.

By identifying potential victims and reporting tips, you are doing your part to help law enforcement rescue victims. You may even save a life.

Law enforcement can connect victims to services, such as medical and mental health care, shelter, job training, and legal assistance that can assist with restoring their freedom and dignity.



THIS MESSAGE BROUGHT TO YOU BY DAVID M. HOOVLER ORANGE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY