

# Fact Sheet: Human Trafficking Victimization in Texas

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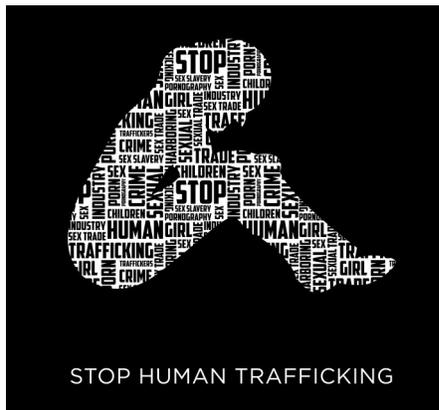


## Human Trafficking Victimization: The Facts

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### What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking is the exploitation of persons for sexual services or forced labor through the use of force, fraud, or coercion<sup>1</sup>. Though sex and labor trafficking are the most common types of trafficking in Texas, other forms include domestic servitude, forced marriage, forced criminality, child soldiers, and organ harvesting<sup>2</sup>. This crime affects all demographic categories (e.g., gender, age, race, income level, education level) around the globe and can be facilitated through online and in-person means.



### Have you Heard?

- ◇ In 2016, there were approximately 40.3 million victims of human trafficking worldwide<sup>3</sup>.
- ◇ Of the 40.3 million human trafficking victims, there were an estimated 313,000 victims in Texas, with 234,000 being victims of labor trafficking and 79,000 being youth and minor victims of sex trafficking<sup>4</sup>.
- ◇ Traffickers exploited \$600 million from victims of labor trafficking in 2016 in Texas<sup>4</sup>.
- ◇ The State of Texas paid \$6.6 billion in costs for minor and youth victims of sex trafficking<sup>4</sup>.
- ◇ Agriculture, janitorial services, construction, restaurants, and landscaping are high risk areas for labor trafficking<sup>4</sup>.

### Risk Factors

Risk factors for human trafficking (such as economic insecurity, housing insecurity, education gaps, and migration) put Texans at an increased risk of victimization. Each of the risk factors may lead to a feeling of isolation or desperation in victims, which traffickers use to their advantage for manipulation. Economic and housing insecurities are characterized by an individual's unstable source of income or living space. Educational gaps include lack of positive influences and role models and lack of academic achievement. Migration may be moving to another area either intranationally or internationally and may lead to language barriers and lack of proper documentation<sup>5</sup>. Other risk factors include a history of domestic violence or sexual abuse, personal dependency on drugs, having a family member or caretaker who is dependent on drugs, and involvement in

the juvenile justice system<sup>6</sup>. For minor and youth sex trafficking victims, child abuse and maltreatment and being in the foster care system are also risk factors<sup>4</sup>.

### Consequences on Victims

Human trafficking victimization can lead to physical, psychological, and financial harm. These consequences vary by the type of trafficking experienced. Victims report experiencing violence, physical and sexual abuse, and neglect. Additionally, working and living conditions may be unsafe and unclean<sup>7</sup>. Many victims suffer from depression, anxiety, posttraumatic stress disorder, and suicidal ideation<sup>8</sup>. Though victims may work excessive hours, they may be forced to work for little to no pay or to pay debt to an employer or trafficker<sup>9</sup>.

### Resources

- ◇ National Human Trafficking Hotline (1-888-373-7888)  
<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/>
- ◇ Rescue America- Houston, TX (713-322-8000)  
<https://rescueamerica.ngo/>
- ◇ Traffick911- Addison, TX (817-575-9923)  
<https://www.traffick911.com/>
- ◇ Ransomed Life- San Antonio, TX (210-514-4384)  
<https://www.ransomedlifetexas.org/>
- ◇ SAFE Alliance- Austin, TX (512-267-7233)  
<https://www.safeaustin.org/>
- ◇ Center of Hope- El Paso, TX (915-307-2175)  
<https://www.pdncoh.org/>

### References

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- 9 Polaris. (2020). *Recognizing labor trafficking.* <https://polarisproject.org/labor-trafficking/>