

Polaris Analysis of 2021 Data *from the* National Human Trafficking Hotline

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2021 Data Tables Summary

This report presents 2021 data from the Polaris operated National Human Trafficking Hotline. Please refer to the relevant tables for more detailed information on a particular topic or to explore changes from 2020.

Scale and Scope

From 1/1/2021 - 12/31/2021, there were 10,359 trafficking situations reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline. In those situations, a total of 16,554 likely victims of trafficking were identified. The top three types of trafficking reported in 2021 were Escort Services (10%), Pornography (8%), and Illicit Massage, Health & Beauty (8%).

Recruitment

Our data shows that trafficking victims are generally recruited by someone they know - such as a family member or caregiver (33%), an intimate partner (28%), or an employer (22%). As a whole, the internet remained the top reported recruitment location. Recent Migration/Relocation remained the most frequently reported risk factor or vulnerability identified, applying to just over half (54%) of all likely victims with a known risk factor/vulnerability; this also applied to 93% of likely victims of labor trafficking.

Total Trafficking Situations 10359

Total Likely Victims 16554

Top 5 Types of Trafficking

Escort Services	10%
Pornography	8%
Illicit Massage, Health, & Beauty	6%
Residential-Based Commercial Sex	5%
Personal Sexual Servitude	2%

Top 3 Recruiter Types

Family Member/Caregiver	33%
Intimate Partner	28%
Employer	22%

Top 3 Recruitment Locations

Internet - Dating Site	13%
Street	11%
Internet - Facebook	10%

Top 5 Risk Factors/Vulnerabilities

Recent Migration/Relocation	54%
Mental or Physical Health Concern	10%
Substance Use Concern	9%
Unstable Housing	8%
Runaway/Homeless Youth	7%

2021 Data Tables Summary, *continued*

Exploitation

Similar to what was seen in recruitment, the top types of exploiters identified in 2021 were employers (43%), those with a familial relationship to the victim (26%), and intimate partners (22%). Emotional abuse (28%), economic abuse (26%), and threats (23%) remained the most frequently reported methods of force, fraud, and coercion experienced by likely victims. Interaction with friends and family was the top reported access point; in 2021, friends and family were the access point for help for 43% of victims with an identified access point (3,317).

Top 3 Exploiter Types

Employer	43%
Familial Relationship to Victim(s)	26%
Intimate Partner of Victim(s)	22%

Top 5 Force, Fraud and Coercion (FFC)

Emotional Abuse	28%
Economic Abuse	26%
Threats	23%
Isolation	20%
Withholds/Denies Needs or Wants	14%

Top 5 Access Points

Interaction with Friends/Family	43%
Interaction w LE/Criminal Justice System	23%
Access to Health Services	20%
Access to Mobile Apps/Social Media	14%
Access to General Social Services	11%

To protect the identity of the people we serve, the National Human Trafficking Hotline does not disclose exact statistics related to venues, industries, victim information or signaler information referenced fewer than three times.



Form & Typology

2021 Form of Trafficking	2020		2021		% Change
	# of Situations	% of Situations	# of Situations	% of Situations	
Labor	1040	10%	1066	10%	4%
Sex	7629	72%	7498	72%	-0%
Sex & Labor	339	3%	400	4%	20%
Sex + Sex & Labor	7968	76%	7898	76%	1%
Other/Not Specified ¹	1516	14%	1395	13%	-7%
Total Trafficking Situations	10524		10359		

2021 Form of Trafficking	2020		2021		% Change
	# of Likely Victims	% of Likely Victims	# of Likely Victims	% of Likely Victims	
Labor	3553	21%	3785	23%	7%
Sex	10834	65%	10571	64%	-2%
Sex & Labor	659	4%	707	4%	8%
Sex + Sex & Labor	11493	69%	11278	68%	-2%
Other/Not Specified ¹	1586	10%	1515	9%	-4%
Total Unique Victims	16610		16554		

¹ Situations where form of trafficking is "Other/Not Specified" typically occur when a law enforcement agent or service provider contacts the Trafficking Hotline for resources and referrals but does not disclose details about the trafficking situation due to confidentiality. This category also includes incidents in which the person reporting the information references human trafficking but does not provide further detail regarding the presence of labor or commercial sex. These cases are often submitted to the Trafficking Hotline through anonymous online tip reports.

Form & Typology, *continued*

This table shows a breakdown of incidents by their type as defined in Polaris's report, Typology of Modern Slavery: Defining Sex & Labor Trafficking in the United States. Note that while Type of trafficking is similar to the Venue/Industry values on the Trafficking Hotline website, there are some differences and so values may not perfectly match.

² Situations where the trafficking type is No Type typically occur when the person reporting the information references either a specific form of trafficking but does not provide further detail regarding the business structure or operation of the trafficking situation, or does not provide any information regarding the form of trafficking information due to confidentiality.

2021 Typology	2020		2021		% Change
	# of Situations	% of Situations	# of Situations	% of Situations	
Agriculture & Animal Husbandry	84	1%	117	1%	42%
Arts & Entertainment	18	0%	19	0%	7%
Bars, Strip Clubs, and Cantinas	128	1%	116	1%	-8%
Carnivals	4	0%	7	0%	78%
Commercial Cleaning Services	17	0%	16	0%	-4%
Construction	64	1%	65	1%	3%
Domestic Work	201	2%	185	2%	-6%
Emerging Types	131	1%	128	1%	-1%
Escort Services	1117	11%	1082	10%	-2%
Factories & Manufacturing	15	0%	24	0%	63%
Forestry & Logging	6	0%	5	0%	-15%
Health & Beauty Services	19	0%	16	0%	-14%
Health Care	10	0%	16	0%	63%
Hotels & Hospitality	23	0%	36	0%	59%
Illicit Activities	122	1%	108	1%	-10%
Illicit Massage, Health, & Beauty	625	6%	626	6%	2%
Landscaping	18	0%	20	0%	13%
Outdoor Solicitation	210	2%	221	2%	7%
Peddling & Begging	37	0%	45	0%	24%
Personal Sexual Servitude	294	3%	228	2%	-21%
Pornography	938	9%	807	8%	-13%
Recreational Facilities	4	0%	2	0%	-49%
Remote Interactive Sexual Acts	67	1%	69	1%	5%
Residential-Based Commercial Sex	462	4%	525	5%	15%
Restaurants & Food Service	49	0%	66	1%	37%
Traveling Sales Crews	59	1%	22	0%	-62%
No Type ²	5802	55%	5788	56%	1%
Total Trafficking Situations	10524		10359		



Form & Typology, *continued*

This table shows a breakdown of the number of likely victims by the type of trafficking they experienced, as defined in Polaris's report, *Typology of Modern Slavery: Defining Sex & Labor Trafficking in the United States*. Note that while Type of trafficking is similar to the Venue/Industry values on the Trafficking Hotline website, there are some differences and so values may not perfectly match.

² Situations where the trafficking type is No Type typically occur when the person reporting the information references either a specific form of trafficking but does not provide further detail regarding the business structure or operation of the trafficking situation, or does not provide any information regarding the form of trafficking information due to confidentiality.

2021 Typology	2020		2021		
	# of Likely Victims	% of Likely Victims	# of Likely Victims	% of Likely Victims	% Change
Agriculture & Animal Husbandry	1095	10%	1377	8%	-20%
Arts & Entertainment	36	0%	41	0%	-28%
Bars, Strip Clubs, and Cantinas	277	3%	269	2%	-38%
Carnivals	10	0%	80	0%	409%
Commercial Cleaning Services	111	1%	24	0%	-86%
Construction	240	2%	374	2%	-1%
Domestic Work	248	2%	302	2%	-23%
Emerging Types	616	6%	281	2%	-71%
Escort Services	1801	17%	1734	10%	-39%
Factories & Manufacturing	189	2%	206	1%	-31%
Forestry & Logging	70	1%	74	0%	-33%
Health & Beauty Services	32	0%	27	0%	-46%
Health Care	24	0%	32	0%	-15%
Hotels & Hospitality	37	0%	106	1%	82%
Illicit Activities	256	2%	234	1%	-42%
Illicit Massage, Health, & Beauty	959	9%	1055	6%	-30%
Landscaping	166	2%	48	0%	-82%
Outdoor Solicitation	345	3%	324	2%	-40%
Peddling & Begging	66	1%	135	1%	30%
Personal Sexual Servitude	419	4%	276	2%	-58%
Pornography	1472	14%	1262	8%	-45%
Recreational Facilities	12	0%	7	0%	-63%
Remote Interactive Sexual Acts	90	1%	123	1%	-13%
Residential-Based Commercial Sex	928	9%	979	6%	-33%
Restaurants & Food Service	105	1%	198	1%	20%
Traveling Sales Crews	150	1%	71	0%	-70%
No Type ²	6917	66%	6988	42%	-36%
Total Trafficking Situations	16610		16554		



Demographics

2021 Gender of Likely Victims by Form												
Form of Trafficking	Labor		Sex		Sex & Labor		Sex + Sex & Labor		Other/Not Specified		Total Unique Victims	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Female	844	22%	8397	79%	454	64%	8851	78%	1016	67%	10690	65%
Gender Minorities ³	9	0%	107	1%	4	1%	111	1%	17	1%	137	1%
Male	1814	48%	699	7%	103	15%	802	7%	134	9%	2747	17%
Unknown	1118	30%	1368	13%	146	21%	1514	13%	348	23%	2980	18%
Total Unique Victims	3785		10571		707		11278		1515		16554	

Gender of Likely Victims by Form - Labor ONLY					
	2020		2021		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Female	988	28%	844	22%	-20%
Gender Minorities* & Unknown ⁴	1197	34%	1127	30%	-12%
Male	1368	39%	1814	48%	24%
Total Unique Victims	3553		3785		

⁴ The value Gender Minorities includes transgender males, transgender females, and non-binary or gender non-conforming individuals. Situations where the likely victims' gender was unstated or unclear due to conflicting information are recorded as Unknown. These values have been combined here to protect the privacy of those served.

Gender of Likely Victims by Form - Sex + Sex & Labor					
	2020		2021		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Female	9217	259%	8851	234%	-10%
Gender Minorities ³	73	2%	111	3%	43%
Male	874	25%	802	21%	-14%
Unknown	1329	37%	1514	40%	7%
Total Unique Victims	11493		11278		

³ The value Gender Minorities includes transgender males, transgender females, and non-binary or gender non-conforming individuals. Situations where the likely victims' gender was unstated or unclear due to conflicting information are recorded as Unknown.

Demographics, *continued*



2021 Immigration Status of Likely Victims												
Form of Trafficking	Labor		Sex		Sex & Labor		Sex + Sex & Labor		Other/Not Specified		Total Unique Victims	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Domestic (USC/LPR)	100	3%	507	5%	40	6%	547	5%	55	4%	699	4%
Foreign National	2754	73%	372	4%	119	17%	491	4%	135	9%	3380	20%
Unknown	931	25%	9692	92%	548	78%	10240	91%	1325	87%	12475	75%
Total Unique Victims	3785		10571		707		11278		1515		16554	

Immigration Status of Likely Victims - Labor ONLY					
Form of Trafficking	2020		2021		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Domestic (USC/LPR)	86	2%	100	3%	9%
Foreign National	2510	71%	2754	73%	3%
Unknown	957	27%	931	25%	-9%
Total Unique Victims	3553		3785		

Immigration Status of Likely Victims - Sex + Sex & Labor					
Form of Trafficking	2020		2021		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Domestic (USC/LPR)	605	5%	547	5%	-8%
Foreign National	560	5%	491	4%	-11%
Unknown	10328	90%	10240	91%	1%
Total Unique Victims	11493		11278		

Demographics, *continued*



2021 Race/Ethnicity of Likely Victims												
Form of Trafficking	Labor		Sex		Sex & Labor		Sex + Sex & Labor		Other/Not Specified		Total Unique Victims	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
African	37	1%	22	0%		0%	22	0%		0%	61	0%
African American or Black	35	1%	442	4%	16	2%	458	4%	8	1%	499	3%
American Indian/Alaska Native/ Indigenous American		0%	43	0%	7	1%	50	0%	4	0%	55	0%
Asian	248	7%	497	5%	38	5%	535	5%	12	1%	795	5%
Caribbean	59	2%	9	0%		0%	10	0%		0%	69	0%
Caucasian or White	32	1%	643	6%	21	3%	664	6%	19	1%	714	4%
Latinx	1785	47%	395	4%	138	20%	533	5%	53	3%	2370	14%
Middle Eastern	9	0%	11	0%	3	0%	14	0%		0%	24	0%
Multi-racial/Multi-ethnic	7	0%	122	1%	8	1%	130	1%		0%	138	1%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander		0%	4	0%		0%	4	0%		0%	6	0%
Other	12	0%	17	0%		0%	18	0%		0%	31	0%
Unknown	1567	41%	8538	81%	497	70%	9035	80%	1413	93%	11996	72%
Total Unique Victims	3785		10571		707		11278		1515		16554	

Demographics, *continued*



Race/Ethnicity of Likely Victims - Labor ONLY (NO 'Other' or 'Unknown')					
	2020		2021		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
African	42	2%	37	2%	-20%
African American or Black	63	3%	35	2%	-49%
American Indian/Alaska Native/Indigenous American	5	0%		0%	
Asian	119	6%	248	11%	90%
Caribbean	10	0%	59	3%	438%
Caucasian or White	32	2%	32	1%	-9%
Latinx	1711	85%	1785	81%	-5%
Middle Eastern	29	1%	9	0%	-72%
Multi-racial/Multi-ethnic	4	0%	7	0%	60%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander		0%		0%	N/A
Total Unique Victims	2015		2208		

Race/Ethnicity of Likely Victims - Sex + Sex & Labor (NO 'Other' or 'Unknown')					
	2020		2021		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
African	43	2%	22	1%	-53%
African American or Black	405	20%	458	21%	4%
American Indian/Alaska Native/Indigenous American	47	2%	50	2%	-2%
Asian	562	27%	535	24%	-12%
Caribbean	9	0%	10	0%	2%
Caucasian or White	578	28%	664	30%	6%
Latinx	390	19%	533	24%	26%
Middle Eastern	13	1%	14	1%	-1%
Multi-racial/Multi-ethnic	95	5%	130	6%	26%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	6	0%	4	0%	-39%
Total Unique Victims	2049		2227		



Demographics, *continued*

These tables show the age of likely victims at the time of their first contact with the Trafficking Hotline, which is not necessarily at the age when the exploitative situation began (see Age at Entry into Exploitation). Polaris uses the federal standard of 18 as the age of majority for all situations regardless of the laws in specific jurisdictions. All likely victims included as minors were reported by individuals with a high degree of confidence regarding the likely victim's age. Given the significance of whether a likely victim is an adult or minor, if the actual age is unknown and the apparent age is close to the adult/minor boundary (ex. a likely victim is described as being 16-20), Unknown is selected.

2021 - Age at First Contact with Polaris												
	Labor		Sex		Sex & Labor		Sex + Sex & Labor		Other/Not Specified		Total Unique Victims	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Adult	2894	76%	5484	52%	480	68%	5964	53%	874	58%	9709	59%
Minor	310	8%	3242	31%	124	18%	3366	30%	101	7%	3777	23%
Unknown	581	15%	1844	17%	103	15%	1947	17%	540	36%	3067	19%
Total Unique Victims	3785		10570		707		11277		1515		16553	

Age at First Contact with Polaris - Labor ONLY					
	2020		2021		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Adult	2955	83%	2894	76%	-8%
Minor	223	6%	310	8%	30%
Unknown	375	11%	581	15%	45%
Total Unique Victims	3553		3785		

Age at First Contact with Polaris - Sex + Sex & Labor					
	2020		2021		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Adult	5644	49%	5964	53%	8%
Minor	3427	30%	3366	30%	0%
Unknown	2421	21%	1947	17%	-18%
Total Unique Victims	11492		11277		



Age at Entry into Exploitation

"Age at Entry into Exploitation" refers to the age of likely victims when the first commercial sex act or the first time initiating labor/services occurred. This should not be confused with the age the likely victim was when they first contacted the Trafficking Hotline (Age at First Contact with Polaris).

	2020		2021		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Adult	1466	9%	1856	11%	27%
Minor	4588	28%	4708	28%	3%
Unknown	10596	64%	10028	61%	-5%
Total Unique Victims	16610		16554		

2021 Only	Labor		Sex		Sex & Labor		Sex + Sex & Labor		Other/Not Specified	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Adult	1073	28%	693	7%	60	8%	753	7%	33	2%
Minor	376	10%	4014	38%	181	26%	4195	37%	139	9%
Unknown	2337	62%	5894	56%	466	66%	6360	56%	1343	89%
Total Unique Victims	3785		10571		707		11278		1515	



Risk Factors/Vulnerabilities

Risk factors and vulnerabilities that applied to the likely victims immediately prior to or at the time of entry into the trafficking situation

Reported Year	2020		2021		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Adult with Legal Guardian/Conservator	15	0%	25	1%	59%
Caretaker Involvement in Sexualized Industry	49	1%	83	2%	62%
Caretaker Substance Use Concern	131	3%	130	3%	-5%
Child Welfare System Involvement	236	5%	188	4%	-24%
Criminal Record/Criminal History	111	2%	146	3%	26%
Experienced Abuse/Violence (Non-Sexual)	140	3%	120	2%	-18%
Experienced Sexual Abuse/Violence	243	5%	206	4%	-19%
Foster Care	113	2%	126	3%	7%
Gang Involvement	29	1%	50	1%	65%
Gender/Romantic/Sexual Minority	167	4%	207	4%	19%
Illiterate or Semiliterate			3	0%	
Intellectual/Developmental Disability	101	2%	141	3%	34%
Juvenile Justice System Involvement	35	1%	25	1%	-32%
Mental Health Concern	351	7%	341	7%	-7%
Negligent/Absent Caretaker	65	1%	65	1%	-4%
Physical Health Concern	155	3%	178	4%	10%
Prior Involvement in Sexualized Industry	181	4%	120	2%	-37%
Recent Financial Debt	4	0%	31	1%	642%
Recent Loss of Economic Provider	20	0%	21	0%	0%
Recent Migration/Relocation	2484	52%	2685	54%	3%
Recent Unemployment/Underemployment	12	0.3%	14	0.3%	12%
Runaway/Homeless Youth	398	8%	354	7%	-15%
Self-Reported Economic Hardship	135	3%	51	1%	-64%
Substance Use Concern	449	9%	463	9%	-1%
Unaccompanied Refugee Minor (URM)	17	0%	133	3%	649%
Unstable Housing	422	9%	398	8%	-10%
Welfare System Involvement	4	0%	5	0%	20%
Witnessed Abuse/Violence	22	0%	9	0%	-61%
Total Number of Victims with Known Risk Factors/Vulnerabilities	4,734		4,947		

Risk Factors/Vulnerabilities, *continued*

2020 Only	Labor		Sex		Sex & Labor		Sex + Sex & Labor		Other/Not Specified	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Adult with Legal Guardian/Conservator	3	0%	18	1%			20	1%		
Caretaker Involvement in Sexualized Industry			80	4%	3	1%	83	3%		
Caretaker Substance Use Concern	3	0%	121	6%	5	2%	126	5%		
Child Welfare System Involvement	5	0%	169	8%	10	4%	179	7%	4	3%
Criminal Record/Criminal History	15	1%	116	5%	8	3%	124	5%	7	5%
Experienced Abuse/Violence (Non-Sexual)	13	1%	94	4%	4	2%	98	4%	9	6%
Experienced Sexual Abuse/Violence	15	1%	177	8%	12	5%	189	8%	3	2%
Foster Care	5	0%	108	5%	7	3%	115	5%	6	4%
Gang Involvement			47	2%	3	1%	50	2%		
Gender/Romantic/Sexual Minority	9	0%	171	8%	9	4%	180	8%	18	12%
Illiterate or Semiliterate										
Intellectual/Developmental Disability	19	1%	100	5%	14	6%	114	5%	9	6%
Juvenile Justice System Involvement			23	1%			25	1%		
Mental Health Concern	27	1%	275	13%	20	8%	295	12%	20	13%
Negligent/Absent Caretaker	4	0%	56	3%	3	1%	59	2%		
Physical Health Concern	26	1%	123	6%	14	6%	137	6%	16	10%
Prior Involvement in Sexualized Industry	5	0%	108	5%	6	2%	114	5%		
Recent Financial Debt	23	1%	5	0%	3	1%	8	0%		
Recent Loss of Economic Provider	4	0%	16	1%			17	1%		
Recent Migration/Relocation	2227	93%	311	14%	118	49%	429	18%	30	19%
Recent Unemployment/Underemployment	6	0%	8	0%			8	0%		
Runaway/Homeless Youth	16	1%	320	15%	15	6%	335	14%	3	2%
Self-Reported Economic Hardship	17	1%	27	1%	4	2%	31	1%	3	2%
Substance Use Concern	24	1%	386	18%	38	16%	424	18%	18	12%
Unaccompanied Refugee Minor (URM)	126	5%	5	0%			5	0%		
Unstable Housing	43	2%	310	14%	20	8%	330	14%	25	16%
Welfare System Involvement			5	0%			5	0%		
Witnessed Abuse/Violence			7	0%			7	0%		
Total Number of Victims with Known Risk Factors/Vulnerabilities	2401		2155		243		2398		154	

● 1st (top reported) ● 2nd ● 3rd



Risk Factors/Vulnerabilities (Grouped)

Risk factors and vulnerabilities that applied to the likely victims immediately prior to or at the time of entry into the trafficking situation. These tables group more specific risk factors and vulnerabilities into their overarching categories for ease of analysis:

- **Caretaker Concerns includes:** Caretaker Involvement in Sexualized Industry, Caretaker Substance Use Concern, Negligent/Absent Caretaker
- **Child Welfare System Involvement and Foster Care includes:** Child Welfare System Involvement, Foster Care
- **Economic Hardship includes:** Recent Unemployment/Underemployment, Self-Reported Economic Hardship
- **Experienced Abuse or Violence (both sexual and non-sexual) includes:** Experienced Abuse/Violence (Non-Sexual), Experienced Sexual Abuse/Violence
- **Intellectual or Developmental Disability includes:** Adult with Legal Guardian/Conservator, Intellectual/Developmental Disability
- **Mental or Physical Health Concern includes:** Mental Health Concern, Physical Health Concern”

Reported Year	2020		2021		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Caretaker Concerns	229	5%	244	5%	2%
Child Welfare System Involvement and Foster Care	291	6%	261	5%	-14%
Criminal Record/Criminal History	111	2%	146	3%	26%
Economic Hardship	143	3%	64	1%	-57%
Experienced Abuse or Violence (both sexual and non-sexual)	329	7%	298	6%	-13%
Gang Involvement	29	1%	50	1%	65%
Gender/Romantic/Sexual Minority	167	4%	207	4%	19%
Illiterate or Semiliterate			3	0%	
Intellectual or Developmental Disability	116	2%	157	3%	30%
Juvenile Justice System Involvement	35	1%	25	1%	-32%
Mental or Physical Health Concern	473	10%	485	10%	-2%
Prior Involvement in Sexualized Industry	181	4%	120	2%	-37%
Recent Financial Debt	4	0%	31	1%	642%
Recent Loss of Economic Provider	20	0%	21	0%	0%
Recent Migration/Relocation	2484	52%	2685	54%	3%
Runaway/Homeless Youth	398	8%	354	7%	-15%
Substance Use Concern	449	9%	463	9%	-1%
Unaccompanied Refugee Minor (URM)	17	0%	133	3%	649%
Unstable Housing	422	9%	398	8%	-10%
Welfare System Involvement	4	0%	5	0%	20%
Witnessed Abuse/Violence	22	0%	9	0%	-61%
Total Number of Victims with Known Risk Factors/Vulnerabilities	4,734		4,947		

● 1st (top reported) ● 2nd ● 3rd



Risk Factors/Vulnerabilities (Grouped), *continued*

2021 Only	Labor		Sex		Sex & Labor		Sex + Sex & Labor		Other/Not Specified	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Caretaker Concerns	7	0%	223	10%	11	5%	234	10%	3	2%
Child Welfare System Involvement and Foster Care	8	0%	233	11%	13	5%	246	10%	7	5%
Criminal Record/Criminal History	15	1%	116	5%	8	3%	124	5%	7	5%
Economic Hardship	22	1%	35	2%	4	2%	39	2%	3	2%
Experienced Abuse or Violence (both sexual and non-sexual)	25	1%	248	12%	15	6%	263	11%	11	7%
Gang Involvement			47	2%	3	1%	50	2%		
Gender/Romantic/Sexual Minority	9	0%	171	8%	9	4%	180	8%	18	12%
Illiterate or Semiliterate	2	0%	1	0%						
Intellectual or Developmental Disability	21	1%	112	5%	14	6%	126	5%	11	7%
Juvenile Justice System Involvement			23	1%			25	1%		
Mental or Physical Health Concern	49	2%	370	17%	33	14%	403	17%	35	23%
Prior Involvement in Sexualized Industry	5	0%	108	5%	6	2%	114	5%		
Recent Financial Debt	23	1%	5	0%	3	1%	8	0%		
Recent Loss of Economic Provider	4	0%	16	1%			17	1%		
Recent Migration/Relocation	2227	93%	311	14%	118	49%	429	18%	30	19%
Runaway/Homeless Youth	16	1%	320	15%	15	6%	335	14%	3	2%
Substance Use Concern	24	1%	386	18%	38	16%	424	18%	18	12%
Unaccompanied Refugee Minor (URM)	126	5%	5	0%			5	0%		
Unstable Housing	43	2%	310	14%	20	8%	330	14%	25	16%
Welfare System Involvement			5	0%			5	0%		
Witnessed Abuse/Violence			7	0%			7	0%		
Total Number of Victims with Known Risk Factors/Vulnerabilities	2401		2155		243		2398		154	



Recruitment Location

Noteworthy or common types of locations that the recruitment of exploitative commercial sex or labor is known to occur.

Reported Year	2020		2021		% Change
Notable Recruitment Location Type	#	%	#	%	
Detention Facility	26	3%	25	4%	16%
Detention Facility - Adult	17	2%	19	3%	34%
Detention Facility - Immigration					
Detention Facility - Juvenile	5	1%		0%	
Detention Facility - Other					
Group & Foster Home	17	2%	14	2%	-1%
Group Home	12	1%	8	1%	-20%
Private Foster Home	5	1%	6	1%	44%
Internet	606	72%	458	65%	-9%
Internet - Dating Site	64	8%	94	13%	77%
Internet - Facebook	162	19%	69	10%	-49%
Internet - Instagram	109	13%	49	7%	-46%
Internet - Misc. Chat Rooms	28	3%	29	4%	24%
Internet - Other Mobile Apps	104	12%	60	9%	-31%
Internet - Other/Not Specified	172	20%	168	24%	17%
School	40	5%	38	5%	14%
Elementary School (Grades K-5)	3	0%	5	1%	100%
High School (Grades 9-12)	12	1%	13	2%	30%
Middle School (Grades 6-8)	7	1%	3	0%	-48%
School - Other/Not Specified	18	2%	17	2%	13%
Other Location Type	164	19%	169	24%	24%
Behavioral/Mental Health Facility	7	1%	26	4%	346%
Bus Station/Train Station	3	0%	6	1%	140%
Drug Rehabilitation Facility	15	2%	11	2%	-12%
Institutional Shelter	22	3%	27	4%	47%
Street	90	11%	74	11%	-1%
Strip Club	27	3%	28	4%	25%
Total Number of Victims with Known Recruitment Location	846		704		

● 1st (top reported) ● 2nd ● 3rd



Recruitment Location, *continued*

2021 Only	Labor		Sex		Sex & Labor		Sex + Sex & Labor		Other/Not Specified	
Notable Recruitment Location Type	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Detention Facility	5	6%	20	3%			20	3%		
Detention Facility - Adult			18	3%			18	3%		
Detention Facility - Immigration										
Detention Facility - Juvenile										
Detention Facility - Other										
Group & Foster Home			9	2%	3	10%	12	2%		
Group Home			8	1%			8	1%		
Private Foster Home					3	10%	4	1%		
Internet	44	54%	391	67%	14	45%	405	66%	9	100%
Internet - Dating Site	6	7%	79	14%	7	23%	86	14%		
Internet - Facebook	23	28%	44	8%			45	7%		
Internet - Instagram			48	8%			48	8%		
Internet - Misc. Chat Rooms			28	5%			29	5%		
Internet - Other Mobile Apps			60	10%			60	10%		
Internet - Other/Not Specified	15	19%	143	25%	5	16%	148	24%	5	56%
School	6	7%	28	5%	4	13%	32	5%		
Elementary School (Grades K-5)			5	1%			5	1%		
High School (Grades 9-12)			10	2%	3	10%	13	2%		
Middle School (Grades 6-8)							3	0%		
School - Other/Not Specified	6	7%	11	2%			11	2%		
Other Location Type	24	30%	135	23%	10	32%	145	24%		
Behavioral/Mental Health Facility	3	4%	23	4%			23	4%		
Bus Station/Train Station			6	1%			6	1%		
Drug Rehabilitation Facility	4	5%	7	1%			7	1%		0%
Institutional Shelter	8	10%	16	3%	3	10%	19	3%		
Street	5	6%	63	11%	6	19%	69	11%		
Strip Club	4	5%	23	4%			24	4%		
Total Number of Victims with Known Recruitment Location	81		583		31		614		9	

● 1st (top reported) ● 2nd ● 3rd



Recruiter Type

The relationship(s) described between likely victims and their recruiter(s).

Reported Year	2020		2021		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Dealer/Illicit Substance Provider	121	3%	128	3%	9%
Employer	1172	28%	863	22%	-24%
Family Member/Caregiver	1296	31%	1323	33%	5%
Friend/Acquaintance/Coworker	270	7%	310	8%	19%
International Marriage Broker					
Intimate Partner	1107	27%	1139	28%	6%
Labor Recruiter/Contractor	150	4%	127	3%	-13%
Landlord	67	2%	40	1%	-38%
Smuggler	65	2%	185	5%	194%
Other Potential Victim	39	1%	38	1%	1%
Total Number of Victims with Known Recruiter Type	4139		4010		

2021 Only	Labor		Sex		Sex & Labor		Sex + Sex & Labor		Other/Not Specified	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Dealer/Illicit Substance Provider	8	1%	99	4%	18	9%	117	5%	3	3%
Employer	757	57%	76	3%	29	15%	105	4%	1	1%
Family Member/Caregiver	144	11%	1085	45%	59	30%	1144	44%	36	37%
Friend/Acquaintance/Coworker	131	10%	161	7%	11	6%	172	7%	7	7%
International Marriage Broker			1	0%			1	0%		
Intimate Partner	73	5%	953	40%	60	31%	1013	39%	53	55%
Labor Recruiter/Contractor	127	10%								
Landlord	13	1%	25	1%	2	1%	27	1%		
Smuggler	143	11%	22	1%	20	10%	42	2%		
Other Potential Victim	1	0%	31	1%	6	3%	37	1%		
Total Number of Victims with Known Recruiter Type	1335		2388		195		2583		97	



Recruitment Tactics

The behaviors employed by potential recruiters and/or exploiters/traffickers to initially entice a likely victim into commercial sex or labor or services.

Reported Year	2020		2021		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Abduction	282	6%	288	6%	4%
Coercion (Threats, Blackmail, etc.)	190	4%	110	2%	-41%
False Promises/Fraud	312	6%	374	8%	23%
Familial	1204	25%	1313	28%	12%
Intimate Partner/Marriage Proposition	1111	23%	1143	24%	5%
Job Offer/Advertisement	1713	35%	1462	31%	-13%
Posing as Benefactor	452	9%	414	9%	-6%
Smuggling-Related	109	2%	189	4%	77%
Total Number of Victims with Known Recruitment Tactics	4863		4756		

2021 Only	Labor		Sex		Sex & Labor		Sex + Sex & Labor		Other/Not Specified	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Abduction	37	2%	222	8%	17	7%	239	8%	12	12%
Coercion (Threats, Blackmail, etc.)	21	1%	84	3%	5	2%	89	3%		
False Promises/Fraud	242	14%	86	3%	44	18%	130	4%	2	2%
Familial	137	8%	1085	40%	57	23%	1142	39%	35	35%
Intimate Partner/Marriage Proposition	77	5%	956	35%	60	25%	1016	34%	50	50%
Job Offer/Advertisement	1235	72%	157	6%	68	28%	225	8%	3	3%
Posing as Benefactor	73	4%	305	11%	32	13%	337	11%	4	4%
Smuggling-Related	145	9%	24	1%	20	8%	44	1%		
Total Number of Victims with Known Recruitment Tactics	1704		2715		243		2958		100	



Access Points

The systems, institutions, or people the likely victim of trafficking interacted with or had access to during the exploitative situation or immediately after/upon escape. Access Points are recorded even if the likely victim did not utilize them as a means of escape from their situation.

Reported Year	2020		2021		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Access to Education	190	5%	171	5%	11%
Access to General Social Services	516	13%	364	11%	-13%
Access to Health Services	765	19%	659	20%	6%
Access to Mobile Apps/Social Media	439	11%	459	14%	29%
Access to Shelter	274	7%	157	5%	-29%
Access to Transportation	130	3%	111	3%	5%
Interaction w Civil Justice/Legal Help	117	3%	91	3%	-4%
Interaction w LE/Criminal Justice System	961	23%	775	23%	0%
Interaction with Child Welfare System	330	8%	306	9%	14%
Interaction with Financial Institutions	9	0%	32	1%	339%
Interaction with Friends/Family	1626	40%	1416	43%	7%
Interaction with Religious Community	73	2%	42	1%	-29%
Potential Buyer of Commercial Sex	157	4%	91	3%	-28%
Total Number of Victims with Known Access Points	4093		3317		

Access Points, *continued*



2021 Only	Labor		Sex		Sex & Labor		Sex + Sex & Labor		Other/Not Specified	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Access to Education	19	4%	139	6%	11	8%	150	6%		
Access to General Social Services	141	27%	118	5%	6	5%	124	5%	99	32%
Access to Health Services	58	11%	507	22%	16	12%	523	21%	79	25%
Access to Mobile Apps/Social Media	27	5%	398	17%	16	12%	414	17%	18	6%
Access to Shelter	28	5%	97	4%	3	2%	100	4%	29	9%
Access to Transportation	14	3%	65	3%	5	4%	70	3%	27	9%
Interaction w Civil Justice/Legal Help	22	4%	52	2%			54	2%	15	5%
Interaction w LE/Criminal Justice System	109	21%	575	24%	31	24%	606	24%	60	19%
Interaction with Child Welfare System	17	3%	274	12%	8	6%	282	11%	7	2%
Interaction with Financial Institutions	7	1%	24	1%			25	1%		
Interaction with Friends/Family	201	38%	1099	47%	65	50%	1164	47%	55	18%
Interaction with Religious Community	9	2%	25	1%	4	3%	29	1%	4	1%
Potential Buyer of Commercial Sex			83	4%	4	3%	87	4%	4	1%
Total Number of Victims with Known Access Points	530		2347		131		2478		314	



Exploiter Relationship to Victim

The relationship(s) described between likely victims and their exploiter; relationships are defined by how the likely victim defined or would likely define their relationship with their exploiter.

	2020		2021		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
CSEC: No Controller ⁵	110	2%	48	1%	-56%
Dealer/Illicit Substance Provider	178	3%	157	3%	-11%
Employer	2370	46%	2200	43%	-6%
Familial Relationship to Victim(s)	1199	23%	1345	26%	14%
Foster Parent of Victim(s)	30	1%	14	0%	-53%
Intimate Partner of Victim(s)	1152	22%	1134	22%	0%
Landlord	77	1%	59	1%	-22%
Recruiter (Non-Employer)	75	1%	102	2%	38%
Smuggler	57	1%	160	3%	184%
No Other Relationship ⁶	75	1%	65	1%	-12%
Total Number of Victims with Known Exploiter Relationship	5195		5126		

⁵ "Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC): No Controller" is selected when a minor is independently engaged in commercial sex activity, and there is no evidence of a third party facilitator/trafficker. Even if there is no third party facilitator/trafficker involved, a minor engaging in commercial sexual activity is always considered to be trafficking.

⁶ "No Other Relationship" is selected when survivors have identified their trafficker's role solely as an individual who trafficked/exploited them and did not experience any alternative form of attachment to the potential trafficker (i.e. not a family member, employer, intimate partner, etc).

Exploiter Relationship to Victim, *continued*

	Labor		Sex		Sex & Labor		Sex + Sex & Labor		Other/Not Specified	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
CSEC: No Controller			47	2%			48	2%		
Dealer/Illicit Substance Provider	10	0%	124	5%	22	9%	146	5%		
Employer	1982	83%	128	5%	88	35%	216	8%		
Familial Relationship to Victim(s)	144	6%	1106	46%	59	23%	1165	44%	37	41%
Foster Parent of Victim(s)	6	0%	7	0%			7	0%		
Intimate Partner of Victim(s)	78	3%	945	39%	59	23%	1004	38%	52	58%
Landlord	29	1%	28	1%			30	1%		
Recruiter (Non-Employer)	96	4%	4	0%			6	0%		
Smuggler	117	5%	22	1%	20	8%	42	2%		
No Other Relationship ⁵			58	2%	6	2%	64	2%		
Total Number of Victims with Known Exploiter Relationship	2378		2412		252		2664		90	

⁵ "No Other Relationship" is selected when survivors have identified their trafficker's role solely as an individual who trafficked/exploited them and did not experience any alternative form of attachment to the potential trafficker (i.e. not a family member, employer, intimate partner, etc).

Force, Fraud, and Coercion

“Force, Fraud, and Coercion” refers to the methods of control and abuse frequently employed by traffickers to compel a likely victim to remain in the trafficking situation. These tables group more specific methods of FFC into their overarching categories for ease of analysis:

- **Economic Abuse** includes, but is not limited to: taking/withholding earnings, limiting access to finances, blacklisting (or threatening to), and debts/quotas.
- **Emotional Abuse** includes, but is not limited to: verbal abuse or manipulation, familial-based emotional abuse, and intimate partner-based emotional abuse.
- **Intimidation** includes, but is not limited to: destruction of property, harming others or animals, and displaying weapons.
- **Isolation** includes, but is not limited to: limiting access to support systems, controlling in public, confinement, and limiting access to medical services.
- **Threats** include, but are not limited to: threats to harm the likely victim, their family, or others, threats to expose or shame the likely victim, threats to report to immigration/threats of deportation, and threats to report to law enforcement.

	2020		2021		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Economic Abuse	2990	25%	3006	26%	5%
Emotional Abuse	3283	27%	3170	28%	1%
Excessive Working Hours	1440	12%	1230	11%	-10%
Fraud/Misrepresentation of Job	951	8%	908	8%	0%
Induces/Exploits Substance Abuse Issues	1539	13%	1317	11%	-10%
Intimidation	1460	12%	1205	10%	-13%
Isolation	2547	21%	2262	20%	-7%
Manipulation of Language Barrier	167	1%	53	0%	-67%
Monitoring/Stalking	1100	9%	800	7%	-24%
Physical Abuse	1748	15%	1586	14%	-5%
Potential Minor in Commercial Sex ⁶	5123	43%	4878	42%	0%
Reproductive Coercion	57	0%	44	0%	-19%
Restricts Access to/Manipulates Children	93	1%	88	1%	-1%
Sexual Abuse	1126	9%	761	7%	-29%
Threats	2964	25%	2680	23%	-5%
Withholds/Denies Needs or Wants	1568	13%	1592	14%	6%
Withholds/Destroys Important Documents	565	5%	1246	11%	131%
Total Number of Victims with Known FFC	12045		11490		

⁶ “Potential Minor in Commercial Sex” is selected even when the potential victim’s age or commercial element of the sexual exploitation cannot be definitively determined, but indicators of both are present.



Force, Fraud, and Coercion, *continued*

	Labor		Sex		Sex & Labor		Sex + Sex & Labor		Other/Not Specified	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Economic Abuse	2218	69%	632	8%	137	26%	769	10%	19	7%
Emotional Abuse	731	23%	2181	29%	170	32%	2351	29%	92	33%
Excessive Working Hours	1191	37%	16	0%	23	4%	39	0%		
Fraud/Misrepresentation of Job	801	25%	60	1%	46	9%	106	1%		
Induces/Exploits Substance Abuse Issues	63	2%	1141	15%	86	16%	1227	15%	29	10%
Intimidation	201	6%	873	12%	108	20%	981	12%	25	9%
Isolation	1188	37%	892	12%	105	20%	997	12%	79	28%
Manipulation of Language Barrier	49	2%					4	0%		
Monitoring/Stalking	197	6%	495	7%	51	10%	546	7%	57	20%
Physical Abuse	336	11%	1072	14%	134	25%	1206	15%	48	17%
Potential Minor in Commercial Sex ⁷			4683	63%	195	36%	4878	61%		
Reproductive Coercion	7	0%	33	0%	4	1%	37	0%		
Restricts Access to/Manipulates Children	20	1%	59	1%	6	1%	65	1%	3	1%
Sexual Abuse	70	2%	604	8%	69	13%	673	8%	18	6%
Threats	1627	51%	844	11%	172	32%	1016	13%	37	13%
Withholds/Denies Needs or Wants	1237	39%	293	4%	50	9%	343	4%	12	4%
Withholds/Destroys Important Documents	1036	32%	156	2%	33	6%	189	2%	21	8%
Total Number of Victims with Known FFC	3198		7490		536		8026		279	

⁷ "Potential Minor in Commercial Sex" is selected even when the potential victim's age or commercial element of the sexual exploitation cannot be definitively determined, but indicators of both are present.

Force, Fraud, and Coercion, *continued*

Labor ONLY	2020		2021		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Economic Abuse	2191	67%	2218	69%	4%
Emotional Abuse	997	30%	731	23%	-25%
Excessive Working Hours	1364	42%	1191	37%	-11%
Fraud/Misrepresentation of Job	830	25%	801	25%	-1%
Induces/Exploits Substance Abuse Issues	39	1%	63	2%	65%
Intimidation	293	9%	201	6%	-30%
Isolation	1226	37%	1188	37%	-1%
Manipulation of Language Barrier	159	5%	49	2%	-68%
Monitoring/Stalking	375	11%	197	6%	-46%
Physical Abuse	228	7%	336	11%	51%
Reproductive Coercion	4	0%	7	0%	79%
Restricts Access to/Manipulates Children	15	0%	20	1%	36%
Sexual Abuse	98	3%	70	2%	-27%
Threats	1801	55%	1627	51%	-8%
Withholds/Denies Needs or Wants	1111	34%	1237	39%	14%
Withholds/Destroys Important Documents	379	12%	1036	32%	180%
Total Number of Victims with Known FFC	3271		3198		

Force, Fraud, and Coercion, *continued*

Sex + Sex & Labor	2020		2021		% Change
	#	%	#	%	
Economic Abuse	786	9%	769	10%	11%
Emotional Abuse	2173	26%	2351	29%	12%
Excessive Working Hours	76	1%	39	0%	-100%
Fraud/Misrepresentation of Job	120	1%	106	1%	0%
Induces/Exploits Substance Abuse Issues	1470	17%	1227	15%	-12%
Intimidation	1144	14%	981	12%	-14%
Isolation	1253	15%	997	12%	-20%
Manipulation of Language Barrier	7	0%	4	0%	
Monitoring/Stalking	640	8%	546	7%	-13%
Physical Abuse	1454	17%	1206	15%	-12%
Potential Minor in Commercial Sex ⁷	5126	60%	4878	61%	2%
Reproductive Coercion	51	1%	37	0%	-100%
Restricts Access to/Manipulates Children	71	1%	65	1%	0%
Sexual Abuse	1005	12%	673	8%	-33%
Threats	1122	13%	1016	13%	0%
Withholds/Denies Needs or Wants	443	5%	343	4%	-20%
Withholds/Destroys Important Documents	164	2%	189	2%	0%
Total Number of Victims with Known FFC	8480		8026		

⁷ "Potential Minor in Commercial Sex" is selected even when the potential victim's age or commercial element of the sexual exploitation cannot be definitively determined, but indicators of both are present.



The data displayed in this report was generated based on information communicated to the National Human Trafficking Hotline via phone, email, online tip report, SMS, or Webchat. The National Human Trafficking Hotline cannot verify the accuracy of the information reported.

This is not a comprehensive report on the scale or scope of human trafficking within the United States. Since awareness of human trafficking and a national victim service hotline is still limited, this data set should be interpreted as a limited sample of actual victim or trafficking incident data rather than a representation of all existent victims or incidents of human trafficking. The information reported by the Trafficking Hotline can only represent those who have access to and knowledge of the Trafficking Hotline, who have the means to reach out, and who are more likely to self-identify as a likely victim or someone in need of assistance. The data reported by Polaris should not be compared to the findings of more rigorous academic studies or prevalence estimates.

Finally, it is important to note that the data is dynamic and subject to change as the Trafficking Hotline continues to respond to victims of trafficking and as new information emerges or as data cleanup occurs. Therefore, the data reported is likely to have minor fluctuations based on when the data for the report was retrieved. The current report is based on data retrieved on November 15, 2022, at 9:30 AM.

The National Human Trafficking Hotline is supported by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) of the United States (U.S.) Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$4.5 million annually with 78% percentage funded by ACF/HHS and \$1.3 million and 22% percentage funded by non-government source(s). The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACF/HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit the ACF website, Administrative and National Policy Requirements: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/administrative-and-national-policy-requirements#chapter-8>.