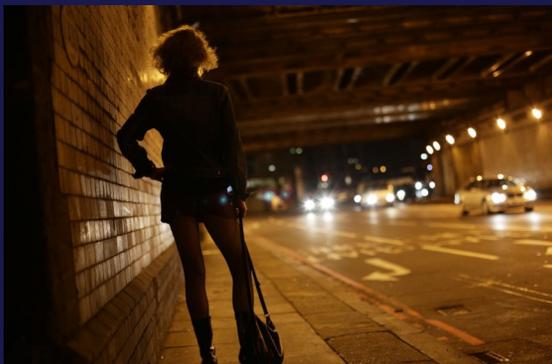


## Facts

- Since 2007, the National Human Trafficking Hotline, operated by Polaris, has received reports of 22,191 sex trafficking cases inside the United States.
- In 2016, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children estimated that 1 in 6 endangered runaways reported to them were likely sex trafficking victims.
- Globally, the International Labor Organization estimates that there are 4.5 million people trapped in forced sexual exploitation globally.
- In a 2014 report, the Urban Institute estimated that the underground sex economy ranged from \$39.9 million in Denver, Colorado, to \$290 million in Atlanta, Georgia.



## Resources

### North Coast Rape Crisis Team

[www.ncrct.org](http://www.ncrct.org)

Del Norte: (707) 465-2851

Humboldt: (707) 445-2881

[www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org)

(888) 373-7888

[www.itsgameover.org](http://www.itsgameover.org)

[www.rebeccabender.org](http://www.rebeccabender.org)

[www.sharedhope.org](http://www.sharedhope.org)

[www.missingkids.org](http://www.missingkids.org)

## Supporting Survivors

1. **Believe**—the survivor has entrusted you with their story, believe what they tell you.
2. **Listen**—if you can hear the survivors story, listen to them. If it's too hard to listen...
3. **Offer Resources**—there are many agencies in our community that exist to help survivors, like the North Coast Rape Crisis Team.
4. **Respect Their Choices**—all control and options were taken away from the survivor during the assault, allow them to make their own choices even if you don't agree with them.

The information in the brochure was taken from the Human Trafficking Resource Center, 2017

# Sex Trafficking



### North Coast Rape Crisis Team

*"Imagine a world without violence"*

**24-hr Hotline: (707) 445-2881**

TTY (M-F 8:30-5:00): (707) 443-2738

Business Line: (707) 443-2737

[www.ncrct.org](http://www.ncrct.org)

## What is Sex Trafficking

Sex trafficking is a form of modern slavery that exists throughout the United States and globally.

Sex traffickers use violence, threats, lies, debt bondage, and other forms of coercion to compel adults and children to engage in commercial sex acts against their will. Under U.S. federal law, any minor under the age of 18 years induced into commercial sex is a victim of sex trafficking—regardless of whether or not the trafficker used force, fraud, or coercion.

The situations that sex trafficking victims face vary dramatically. Many victims become romantically involved with someone who then forces or manipulates them into prostitution. Others are lured in with false promises of a job, such as modeling or dancing. Some are forced to sell sex by their parents or other family members. They may be involved in a trafficking situation for a few days or weeks, or may remain in the same or different trafficking situation for years.

Victims of sex trafficking can be U.S. citizens, foreign nationals, persons of any gender, children, and LGBTQ individuals. Vulnerable populations are frequently targeted by traffickers, including homeless and youth on the streets, as well as victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, war, or social discrimination.

Sex trafficking occurs in a range of venues including fake massage businesses, via online ads or escort services, in residential brothels, on the street or at truck stops, at hotels and motels. Or within legal or illegal drug industries.

## Myths/Misconceptions

- Myth:** *Trafficked persons can only be foreign nationals or are only immigrants from other countries.*
- Reality:** **The federal definition of human trafficking includes both U.S. citizens and foreign nationals.**
- Myth:** *There must be elements of physical restraint, physical force, or physical bondage when identifying a human trafficking situation.*
- Reality:** **Trafficking does not require physical restraint, bodily harm, or physical force. Psychological means of control, such as threats, fraud, or abuse of the legal process, are sufficient elements of the crime.**
- Myth:** *Victims of human trafficking will immediately ask for help or assistance and will self-identify as a victim of a crime.*
- Reality:** **Victims of human trafficking often do not immediately seek help or self-identify as victims of a crime due to a variety of factors, including lack of trust, self-blame, or specific instructions by the traffickers regarding how to behave when talking to law enforcement or social services.**
- Myth:** *Human trafficking only occurs in illegal underground industries.*
- Reality:** **Trafficking can occur in legal and legitimate business settings as well as underground markets.**
- Myth:** *If the trafficked person consented to be in their initial situation or was informed about what type of labor they would be doing or that commercial sex would be involved, then it cannot be human trafficking or against their will because they "knew better."*
- Reality:** **Initial consent to commercial sex or a labor setting prior to acts of force, fraud, or coercion (or if the victim is a minor in a sex trafficking situation) is not relevant to the crime, nor is payment.**



**It's never too late to reach out for support**

**24 hr. Hotlines**

Del Norte: (707) 465-2851

Humboldt: (707) 445-2881

Visit us on the web: [www.ncrct.org](http://www.ncrct.org)