



San Diego Trafficking Prevention Collective

Human Traffickers Don't Discriminate

Throughout the COVID pandemic, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) has reported an almost 100% increase in online enticement reports. As a public-school educator, it is important to not only know the warning signs and risk factors that make our students vulnerable to human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, but also know how to report it. It takes all of us to keep our students safe.

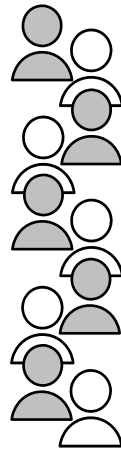
WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human trafficking is defined as the use of force, fraud, or coercion to compel a person into performing commercial sex acts, labor or other services against their will. Inducing a minor into commercial sex is considered human trafficking regardless of the presence of force, fraud or coercion.

WHO IS VULNERABLE?

Human trafficking can happen to *ANYONE*, but certain risk factors can make individuals more vulnerable than others. These risk factors may include:

- Mental health concerns
- Runaway or homelessness
- Child welfare involvement
- Substance abuse
- Prior trauma (e.g., sexual abuse, family violence or neglect)
- Recent migration or relocation



WHO ARE THE TRAFFICKERS?

Perpetrators of human trafficking span *ALL* racial, ethnic, and gender demographics; they are as diverse as victims. Traffickers can include:

- Intimate partners
- Classmates
- Friends
- Gang members
- Parents or family members of victims
- Business owners

POTENTIAL RED FLAGS AND WARNING SIGNS A PERSON IS BEING TRAFFICKED:

- Missing school frequently
- Changes in behavior
- New or multiple cellphones
- New or expensive items purchased by someone else
- Avoids making eye contact
- Signs of drug use

- Disinterest in activities previously cared about
- Physical injuries or malnourishment
- Older or controlling partner
- Knowledge of "the life" and its slang
- Habitual runaway
- Is fearful or suspicious of security personnel or law enforcement

Information provided by the San Diego Trafficking Prevention Collective

A partnership with the 3Strands Global Foundation, Global Communities, PLNU Center for Justice & Reconciliation, San Diego County District Attorney's Office, and UBS Optimus Foundation.



RISK FACTORS TO CONSIDER FOR REPORTING:

IF ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Child/youth exhibits behaviors or otherwise indicates that she/he is **being controlled or groomed** by another person.
- Child/youth spends time with people **known to be involved in commercial sex**.
- Child/youth's use of internet, cell phone, or social media involves **social or sexual behavior** that is **atypical for their age**.

OR

TWO OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Child/youth has a **history of running** away, unstable housing, including multiple foster care placements, or periods of homelessness including couch surfing.
- Child/youth has had **prior involvement with law enforcement** or the juvenile justice system.
- Child/youth is **frequently truant**.
- Child/youth's **relationships are concerning**, placing him/her at risk or in danger of exploitation.
- Child/youth has a **history of substance abuse**, specifically narcotics, opiates, crack/cocaine and amphetamines.

REPORTING SUSPECTED HUMAN TRAFFICKING:

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR REPORTING

San Diego County Child Abuse Hotline

1-800-344-6000 or call any police or Sheriff's department

National Human Trafficking Hotline

1-888-373-7888 or Text: "HELP" or "INFO" to 233733

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

San Diego Trafficking Prevention Collective: www.SanDiegoTPC.org

San Diego County District Attorney's Office: www.SanDiegoDA.com

<https://www.sdcda.org/preventing/human-trafficking>

<https://www.sdcda.org/helping/mandated-reporting>

Remember: If you have a "reasonable" suspicion a youth is involved in human trafficking, you must report to Child Welfare Service; certainty is NOT required.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION TRAINING:

Human Trafficking Prevention Training is currently available online at **no-cost** for public school staff in San Diego County. For a step-by-step user guide on how to access this prevention training and classroom education curriculum, use this linked icon.

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL
info@SanDiegoTPC.org

CLICK HERE

