

# Regional Navigator Program

## Human Trafficking Awareness and Education

For All Seasons Behavioral Health & Rape Crisis Center

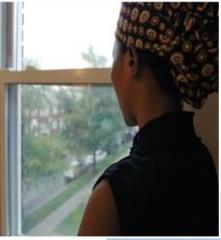
Susan Ahlstrom, *Regional Navigator*



# Understanding Human Trafficking

- Human Trafficking involves the use of **Force, Fraud or Coercion** to control another person for the purpose of engaging in commercial sex acts or soliciting labor or services against his/her will.
- **Force, fraud, or coercion** need not be present if the individual engaging in commercial sex is under 18 years of age.
- There is a high demand for what traffickers offer (sex, drugs, labor), but sex is the most lucrative and a victim can be trafficked repeatedly.

# Force



- Kidnapping
- Confinement
- Physical Assault
- Sexual Assault, Rape
- Food and Sleep
- Deprivation
- Drug Administration

# Fraud



- Fraudulent employment offers or contracts
- False promises about work and living conditions
- False promises of education
- Withholding wages

# Coercion



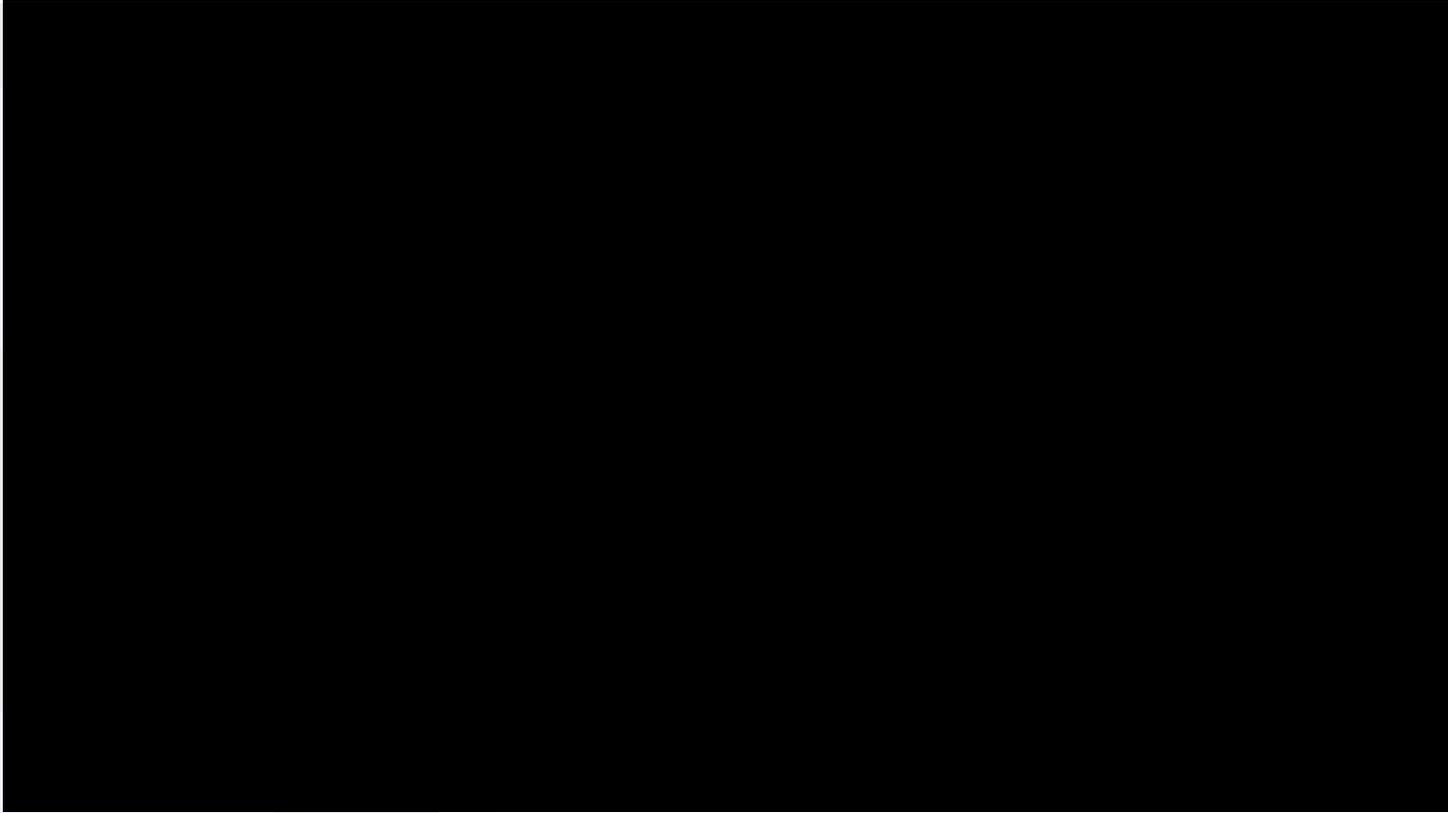
- Threats of deportation or arrest
- Blackmail
- Threats to life, safety, family members or friends
- Debt bondage
- Withholding legal documents
- Psychological manipulation

# Trends in Human Trafficking

- Human Trafficking is a \$150 billion industry worldwide.
- It's the second largest criminal industry in the U.S.

REFERENCE: POLARIS PROJECT ANALYSIS OF THE NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE DATA FROM 2020  
[HTTPS://POLARISPROJECT.ORG/2020-US-NATIONAL-HUMAN-TRAFFICKING-HOTLINE-STATISTICS/](https://polarisproject.org/2020-us-national-human-trafficking-hotline-statistics/)

# Understanding Human Trafficking



# Human Trafficking Vulnerabilities

- **Those who lack** legal status, live in poverty, have limited access to education, healthcare, or decent work, or come from marginalized communities are often the primary targets of traffickers.
- **International conflicts** and **climate emergencies** are escalating trafficking risks.
- Displacement and **socio-economic inequalities** are impacting millions of people worldwide, leaving them vulnerable to exploitation by traffickers.
- **Drug trafficking and a substance abuse epidemic** has influenced the rise of human trafficking. There are clear connections between addiction and trafficking.

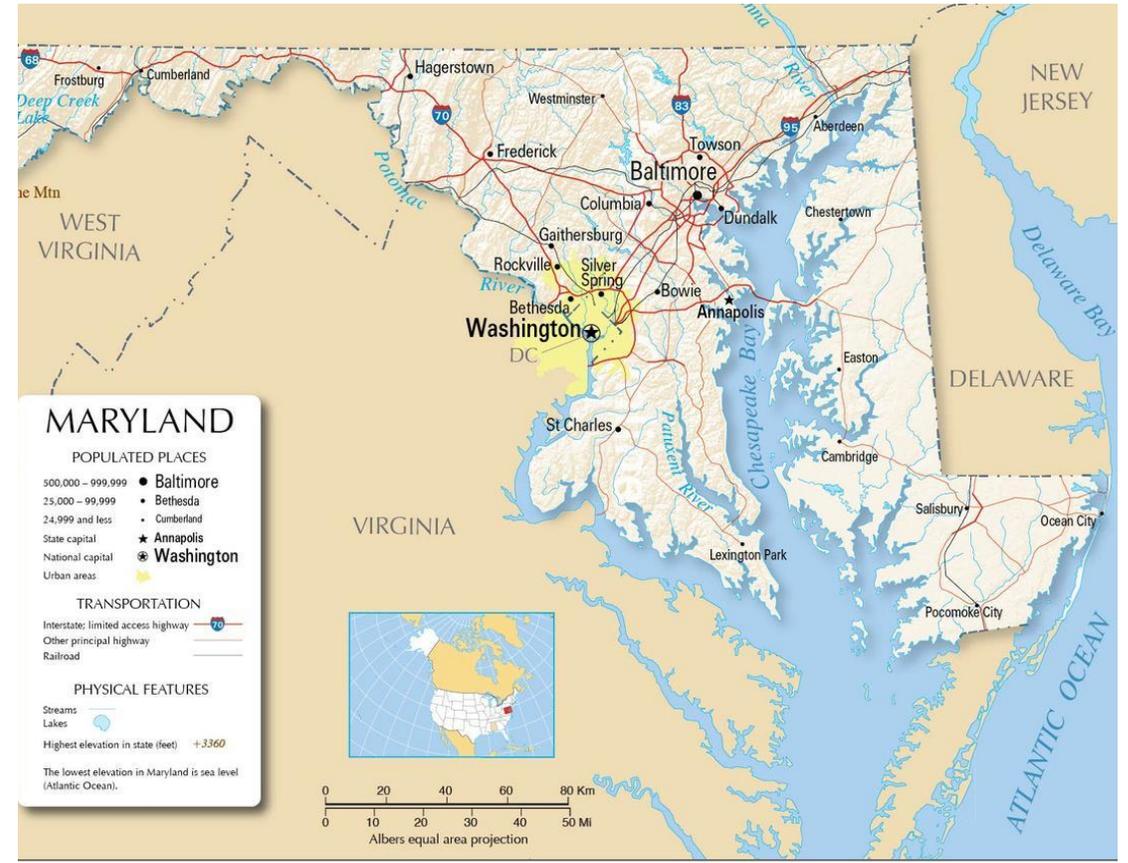
REFERENCE:

[HTTPS://WWW.UNODC.ORG/UNODC/EN/ENDHT/INDEX.HTML](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/endht/index.html)

# Access and Prevalence

The Eastern Shore region is especially vulnerable to trafficking due to factors such as:

- access to major highways
- traffic corridors between large metropolitan areas
- international airports
- seaports
- truck stops
- seasonal work
- poverty and wealth
- drug use
- casinos, sporting events and conventions



# Types of Sex Trafficking

There are many types of human trafficking in the United States and each has its own distinctive business model.

- Romeo Pimps or “boyfriending”
- Familial trafficking
- Child trafficking
- Survival sex
- Exploitation of addiction or disabilities
- Gang activity
- CEO Pimping

# The Internet and Human Trafficking

- Technological advances have encouraged child sexual exploitation offenders to an unprecedented degree.
- Recruitment is happening online, on apps, and on social media where teens and young adults are.
- 83% of active 2020 sex trafficking cases involved online solicitation, which is overwhelmingly the most common tactic traffickers use to solicit sex buyers.
- 65% of trafficked victims were recruited via the internet in 2020. Online recruitment increased a significant 22% in 2020.

REFERENCE: [HTTPS://WWW.JUSTICE.GOV/PSC/PROJECT-SAFE-CHILDHOOD-FACT-SHEET#FUTURE](https://www.justice.gov/psc/project-safe-childhood-fact-sheet#future)

# The Internet and Human Trafficking



REFERENCE: [HTTPS://WWW.DHS.GOV/MEDIALIBRARY/ASSETS/VIDEO/27904](https://www.dhs.gov/medialibrary/assets/video/27904)

# Signs of Trafficking

Victims of human trafficking can be anyone—regardless of race, color, national origin, disability, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, education level, or citizenship status.

- Symptoms of physical abuse, malnourishment, exhaustion
- Withdrawn, depressed, or distracted
- Evidence of being controlled, restricted in movement, or difficulty communicating (no phone/email)
- What appears to be branding or unusual tattoos
- Chronic Runaway of homeless youth
- Inconsistent stories; hesitant to explain one's work or living situation
- Appearing fearful, submissive, nervous, paranoid
- A juvenile in a new or unusual relationship with an adult
- Unexplained access to expensive items or money

# Maryland Regional Navigator Program Objectives

The ongoing efforts and relationships between law enforcement agencies, nonprofit entities (including schools), advocacy organizations and many others to protect and defend children against sexual exploitation and abuse.



Facilitate



Collaborate



Educate



Track



Eradicate

# For All Seasons Rape Crisis Center

As a Regional Navigator, For All Seasons assists with conducting screening assessments and providing youth with the following services:

- Safety planning
- Emergency response
- Basic living needs (not including housing)
- Trauma counseling and mental health services
- Legal services
- Victim advocacy
- Case management

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

Open your eyes. **Get informed.**



# Contact Information

To report suspected instances of sex trafficking or Risk of Harm,  
contact the 24-Hour hotline:

- 24-Hour English Hotline (800) 310-7273 or 410-820-5600
- 24-Hour Spanish Hotline (410) 829-6143