



HUMAN TRAFFICKING OF MINORS WHAT SCHOOLS SHOULD KNOW

ORANGE COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS :

43% of US sex trafficking victims identified are minors

63% were minors when first prostituted

48% were known to be sexually abused

52% lived on streets

58% ran away from home

71% recruited by someone they know (boyfriend, friend, family)

Details on statistics and methodological parameters can be read on the OCHTF 2013 Victim Report

HOW TO REPORT SUSPECTED HUMAN TRAFFICKING :

Emergency

911

National Human Trafficking Hotline

(24/7 & Anonymous)

1-888-3737-888

Local Police Department

School Administrators

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human Trafficking is a federal and state crime that involves the recruiting, harboring, providing, obtaining, or transporting of a person for the purpose of labor or commercial sex through the use of force, fraud or coercion. It is human exploitation for the purpose of fraudulent financial gain or exchange of anything of value.

Any minor engaged in commercial sex acts is a victim of human trafficking. Proof of the use of force, fraud, or coercion is not required by law. This means that minors who are prostituted are victims of human trafficking even if they don't self identify. Engaging a minor for sex in exchange for money or other items of value is considered human trafficking, and the consent of the minor or mistake of age by the perpetrator has been excluded as a defense. Labor trafficking of a minor, however, does need to include elements of force, fraud or coercion to be classified as human trafficking. Labor trafficking of a minor may be in the form of involuntary servitude and effects both foreign nationals and U.S. citizens. Human trafficking can be punishable by up to life in prison.

HOW DOES HUMAN TRAFFICKING EFFECT SCHOOLS?

Traffickers, or pimps, are known to recruit middle school and high school aged youth. Multiple factors contribute to a minor's vulnerability to being trafficked. While a history of abuse, neglect, and running away from home are very common among trafficked youth, there are additional factors that make minors vulnerable regardless of their background. Such factors include low self-esteem, peer pressure, access to social networking sites and rapidly changing technological communication, media influence, and an inability to confide in adults or authority figures due to feelings of shame or fear of consequences.

WARNING SIGNS :

- Frequent or unexplained truancy, irregular school attendance
- Chronically runs away from home
- References to frequent travel to other cities
- Signs of physical abuse, trauma, withdrawn behavior, depression, fear, distrust
- Lacks control over personal schedule or identification documents
- Sudden change in inappropriate attire, overall appearance to look older
- Uncharacteristic promiscuous behavior or sexual references beyond age-specific norms
- In a relationship or socializing with noticeably older people (access to alcohol, drugs, night club culture)
- In possession of expensive materials (clothes, handbags, jewelry, car, technology)
- Hungry, malnourished, sleep deprived, signs of exhaustion
- Neglectful home environment, lack of parental supervision
- Affiliation with gang members or gang tattoo branding

