



# Human Trafficking in Ventura County



## What is it?

Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, and coercion to control and exploit victims.

- Sex traffickers induce another individual to sell sex. Common types include escort services, pornography, or illicit massage businesses.
- Labor traffickers induce another individual to work or provide service. Common types include agriculture, domestic work, restaurants, or cleaning services.

Forms of human trafficking can include:

- Imposition of debt
- Psychological coercion
- False promises of love or a better life
- Violence or threats of violence
- Fraudulent employment opportunities

## Who does it happen to?

Anyone can be trafficked, but certain risk factors make individuals more vulnerable to exploitation:

- Substance Abuse
- Recent Migration
- Runaways & Homelessness
- Prior Sexual or Physical Abuse
- Mental Health Concerns
- Minorities and LGBTQ+

## What are we doing about it?

- Aggressive investigations and prosecutions.
- Raising awareness and outreach.
- Collaboration with community partners and neighboring counties.
- Innovative solutions to decrease both supply and demand.
- Legislative support for measures that increase punishment and protect victim's rights.

## Where can I find help?

- If you or someone you know might be a victim of trafficking, call 9-1-1.
- If you think you might be a victim and want more information, call 1-800-636-6738 (adults) or 805-261-1212 (minors).

**Fact**

Victims are often recruited by someone they know – such as a family member or caregiver (33%), an intimate partner (28%), or an employer (22%)\*.

\* "Polaris Analysis of 2021 Data from the National Human Trafficking Hotline," November 15, 2022.

**Fact**

The crime of human trafficking does not require any movement or border crossings. Victims can be trafficked in their hometowns, or even their own homes.

