

Things To KNOW About Human Trafficking

- Nearly 80% of human trafficking is for sex, and 19% is for labor exploitation.
- More than 80% of trafficking victims are female.
- In 2019, one in six reported runaways in the U.S. were likely a victim of child sex trafficking.
- Child sex trafficking has been reported in all 50 states.
- The average age of child sex trafficking victims reported missing to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children is 15 years old.
- Trafficking victims will “recruit” other victims and commit other crimes at the compulsion of their trafficker.
- Victims oftentimes do not see themselves as victims and rarely “cry out” for help.
- Victims often have a “bond” with their trafficker, and feel they love/care for them.

This could be your CHILD!

It all started for me as your typical teenage girl. I grew up in Blue Springs, MO, and was the daughter to a single father and sister to two younger siblings. I always did very well in school and even played sports. From the outside, you couldn't really tell that I was suffering from feelings of depression and rejection. Eventually, I began to act out and rebelled against everyone



and everything. My vulnerabilities were exploited, leading to my first rape, abortion, and drug addiction. I ran away from home and was groomed by traffickers who sent me to Las Vegas to work in strip clubs. Eventually, I ended up in Washington, D.C., where I was forced into sexual slavery from the age of 14-17 years old. I would escape one nightmare only to be manipulated into another horrible situation. This destructive path nearly consumed my life entirely until I had an intervention. Looking back now, I often ask myself what could've prevented this? Could someone or something possibly have stopped me from [experiencing] all those years of suffering? What if I had been better informed on the dangers of human trafficking? What if I had a better understanding of when and where it could've happened to me? Could all of this have been avoided? As it is for me, I want to make others aware and to help prevent the crimes of human trafficking before they destroy more lives.

— Kay, a human trafficking survivor

National Human Trafficking

Hotline: **1-888-373-7888**

Text: “HELP” to 233733

Emergency Assistance

**1-800-525-5555 or
cellular *55**

Email: HT@mshp.dps.mo.gov

Sources:

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (2020)
Retrieved from <https://www.missingkids.org/theissues/trafficking>

Polaris Project (2020)
Retrieved from <https://polarisproject.org/myths-facts-and-statistics/>

Missouri State Highway Patrol
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HUMAN TRAFFICKING

It's REAL & It's Happening In MISSOURI



