

Florida Spotlight

2018 National Human Trafficking Hotline Statistics

The National Human Trafficking Hotline provides survivors of human trafficking with vital support and a variety of options to get help and stay safe. The data below do not represent the full scope of trafficking in Florida. Lack of awareness of human trafficking or of the National Hotline can lead to significant underreporting, particularly among labor trafficking populations or by certain racial or ethnic groups. However, this information can shed some light on trafficking in Florida which can help put traffickers out of business and help survivors find the services they need.

Victims Identified

1771

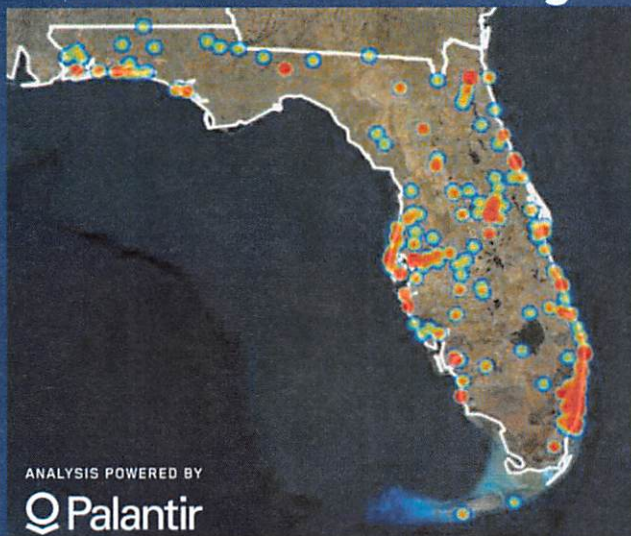
Traffickers Identified

506

Trafficking Businesses

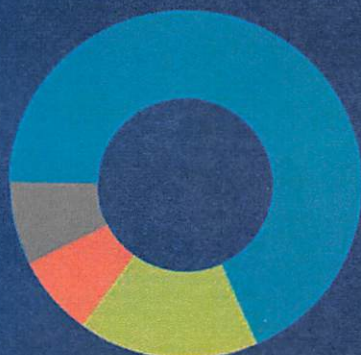
306

Locations of Trafficking¹



¹Some cases may involve multiple locations.

767 Trafficking Cases



Sex Trafficking	524 Cases	Sex & Labor Trafficking	58 Cases
Labor Trafficking	127 Cases	Form Not Specified ²	58 Cases

²Cases where trafficking type is not specified are typically a results of callers self identifying as victims or service providers or law enforcement seeking referrals for trafficking victims without providing further details about the presence of forced work or forced commercial sex.

Communication to the National Hotline



Phone Calls
1538



Webforms
171



Emails
34



Texts
107



Webchats
33

Polaris
Freedom happens now.

NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE

The data in this report represents signals and cases from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018 and is accurate as of July 25, 2019. Cases of trafficking may be ongoing or new information may be revealed to the National Hotline over time. Consequently, statistics may be subject to change as new information emerges.

How are the victims trafficked?

The data from the 23,078 survivor records give insight into the systems and tactics that traffickers use to conduct their business. Traffickers frequently prey on an individual's vulnerabilities, and the data spotlight factors that may have placed these victims at risk—as well as the variety of tactics used to recruit and keep them in a trafficking situation. These statistics are non-cumulative and only reflect the instances when the information was provided for an individual survivor.

Top recruitment tactics

SEX TRAFFICKING

Intimate partner/marriage proposition	1,078
Family	895
Friends or acquaintance	491
Job offer/advertisement	479
False promises/fraud	402

LABOR TRAFFICKING

Job offer/advertisement	2,221
False promises/fraud	743
Smuggling-related	500
Coercion (threats/blackmail)	194
Familial	145

Top 5



RISK FACTORS FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- Recent migration/relocation
- Substance use
- Unstable housing
- Runaway/homeless youth
- Mental health concern



METHODS OF FORCE, FRAUD, COERCION

- Isolation/confinement 3,153
- Economic abuse 3,016
- Threats of any kind 2,427
- Emotional abuse 2,307
- Physical abuse 1,159



POINTS OF ACCESS TO POTENTIAL HELP

- Family/friends 3,530
- Law enforcement/criminal justice system 1,880
- Health services 367
- Mobile apps or social media 170
- Child welfare system 103

Not the job promised: restaurant labor trafficking

Maribel* was recruited by an agency in Malaysia for a new opportunity at a restaurant in the Midwest. With her temporary work visa in hand, Maribel flew to the United States and started her new role. Almost immediately, the job she was promised became something much different. She was made to work excessive hours with few breaks and only one day off in four months. Paid very little, she was barred from receiving tips. She was subjected to frequent yelling and name-calling by her manager. After several months, she complained to her manager—who then hit her. Understandably, Maribel decided to quit her job. Yet, her manager refused to accept the resignation and told her that she would be arrested and deported if she didn't show up for her shift. Maribel had no choice but to believe him, since her visa was tied to her employer. She feared retribution for any more complaints. This was a clear case of labor trafficking. Thankfully, Maribel remembered receiving a pamphlet with the National Human Trafficking Hotline number on it. She called and spoke to a Hotline Advocate—sharing her experiences at the restaurant and her fears about quitting. She talked through various options with the advocate and decided to speak to a lawyer. The advocate connected her to a legal service organization, and Maribel was able to work with them to ultimately report her employer to the appropriate authorities.

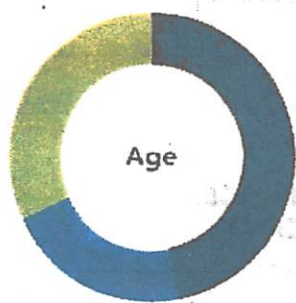
*Maribel's name has been changed and details removed in order to protect her identity.

NATIONAL HOTLINE: 1-888-373-7888 • TEXT "BEFREE" (233733) • www.humantraffickinghotline.org

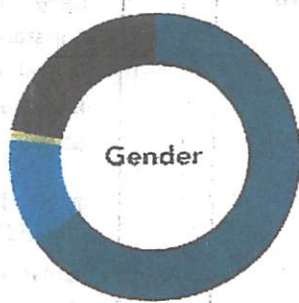
Who are the survivors?

Every year, more survivors are reaching out to the National Human Trafficking Hotline and more people are seeking help for survivors they know. The data on these pages are not based on a systematic survey, but are analyzed from the information received about 23,078 survivors in 2018. As people disclosed more detailed information about their own trafficking experiences or about potential victims for whom they were seeking support, Hotline staff noted key elements. Individuals are never asked questions specifically for data collection purposes and are only asked to share what they are comfortable providing so that they can be connected to the support they want. These statistics are non-cumulative and only reflect the instances when the information was provided for an individual survivor.

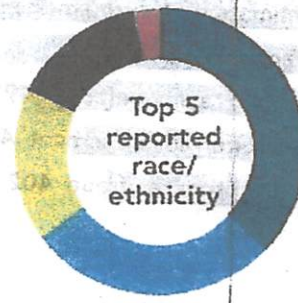
DEMOGRAPHICS



Adult 10,731
 Minor 4,945
 Unknown 7,402

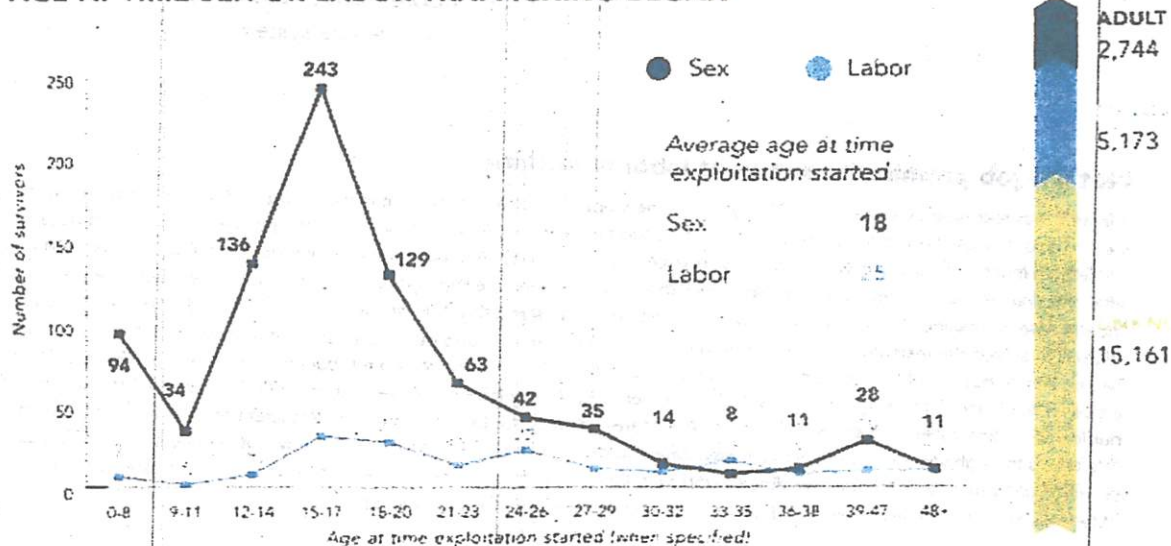


Female 15,042
 Male 7,077
 Gender minorities 109
 Unknown 5,010



Latino 2,348
 Asian 1,072
 African American, Black 989
 White 804
 Multi-ethnic, Multi-racial 104

AGE AT TIME SEX OR LABOR TRAFFICKING BEGAN



* At time of contact with the National Hotline