

Human Trafficking: What Local Governments Need to Know

11th Annual Local Government Conference
for Attorneys & Paralegals

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NORTH CAROLINA HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION

Use their website for information, referrals, training,
locating resources in NC, and grant opportunities



Consider, as local government staff...

- Myths and misinformation about sex and labor trafficking
 - Strategies to become better prepared to identify, respond to, or prevent trafficking
-

Why Local Government?

City and county staff ...

1. Are in homes, businesses, and public spaces every day,
 2. Encounter vulnerable populations,
 3. Know and care about their communities.
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Evolution of Awareness



1866: The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
1875: The New York Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children



Evolution of Awareness

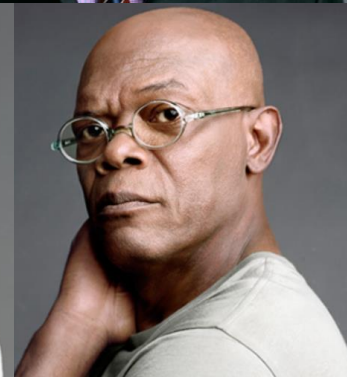
Awareness of child abuse is the same age as Baby Boomers (1946-1964)

1946 Article by pediatric radiologist John Caffey Described injuries. Hinted at parental abuse.

1962 Article by pediatrician Henry Kempe, et. al. "The Battered Child Syndrome"

Photos from *American Masters: The Boomer List*, PBS, 2014.
Deepak Chopra, Samuel L. Jackson, Maria Shriver, Rosie O'Donnell, Billy Joel

These photos are intended to demonstrate the age of Baby Boomers, not to suggest these celebrities engage in trafficking.



Evolution of Awareness

Awareness of sex and labor trafficking in the United States is the same age as Generation Z (1997-2012)

2000 Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)

Photos of Malala Yousafzai, Greta Thunberg, Simone Biles, Lil Nas X from onthisday.com Photo of Shawn Mendes from Associated Press

These photos are intended to demonstrate the age of Gen Z, not to suggest these celebrities engage in trafficking.



Evolution of Awareness

Awareness of familial sex and labor trafficking is the same age as Generation Alpha (2012-2025)

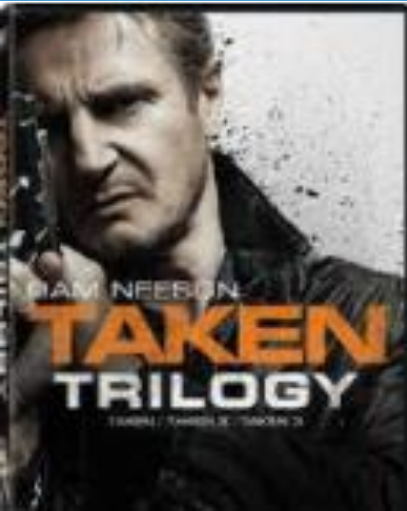
- Not yet consistent in asking about it or documenting it.
- Gaps in our understanding about dynamics and impact.

Photos of Prince George (thenews.com) & North West (graziadaily.co.uk)

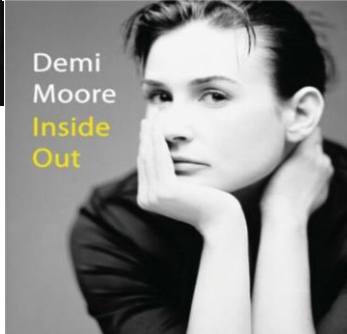
These photos are intended to demonstrate the age of Gen Alpha, not to suggest these celebrities engage in trafficking.



What have **you** seen or heard lately about sex or labor trafficking?



Hickory (NC) Walmart Human Trafficking Warning



Kids
Shipped in
Armoires?

Definition: Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is defined as using **force, fraud, or coercion** to manipulate someone into performing **labor or sex acts** for **profit**.

Any commercial sex act with minors is considered trafficking.

NCGS 14-43

Definition: Human Trafficking



Minors involved
in commercial
sexual activity

Adults induced into
commercial sexual
activity through
FORCE, FRAUD, OR
COERCION

Minors and **adults**
induced to perform
labor or services
through
FORCE, FRAUD, OR
COERCION

Organ
trafficking

Examples of Manipulation & Control

Force



- Violence; physical harm; sexual assault
 - Restricted access
 - Locks preventing exit
 - Postings/no trespassing signs
 - Monitoring
-

Examples of Manipulation & Control

Fraud



- Recruitment fees
 - Bait and switch tactics
 - Wage and hour violations
 - False promises
 - Worsening work conditions
-

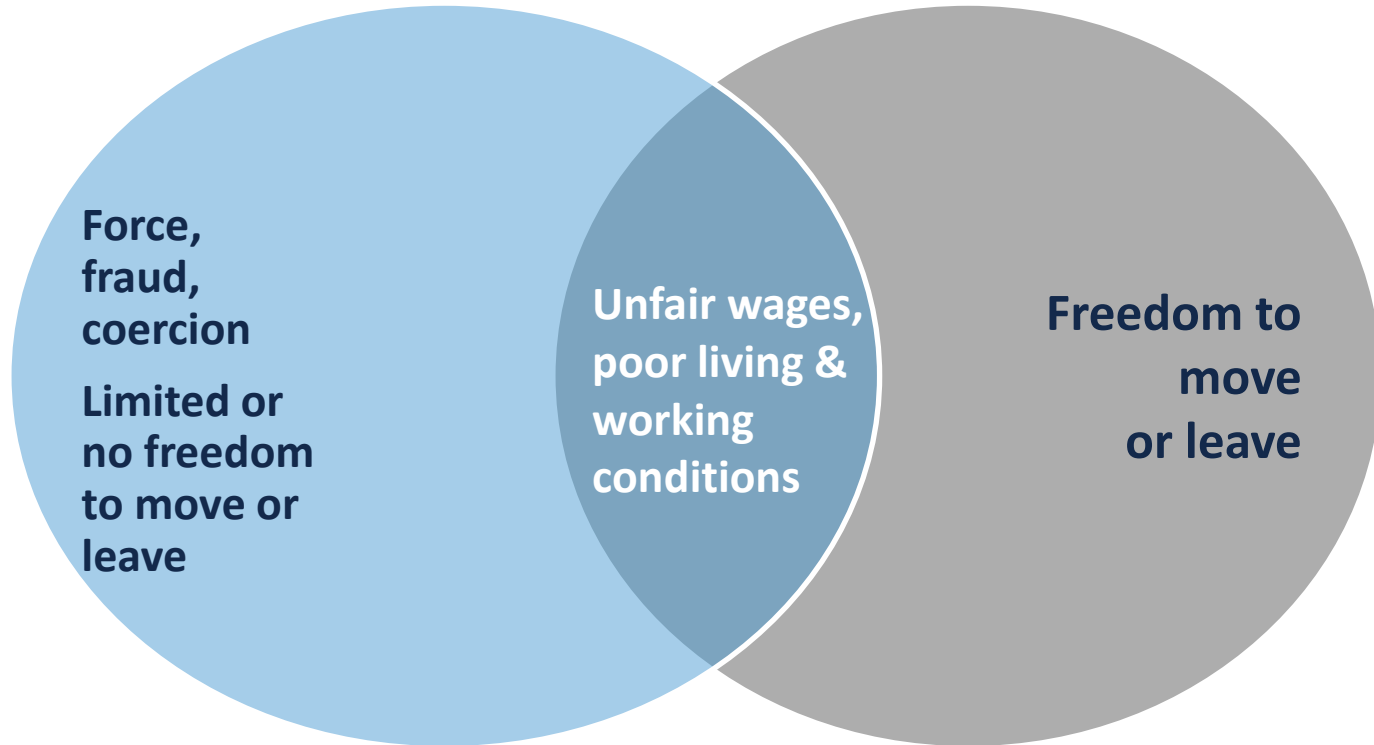
Examples of Manipulation & Control

Coercion



- Psychological manipulation
 - Document confiscation
 - Threats to family
 - Blacklisting
 - Shame and fear-inducing threats
-

Labor Trafficking vs. Labor Exploitation



Traffickers use specific environmental conditions

Recruit – Transport – Market

- Tourist destinations
 - Large public events
 - Seasonal farm work
 - Online advertising opportunities
 - Interstate highways
 - Truck stops
 - Highway rest stops
 - Military bases
 - Factories
 - International borders
 - Colleges and universities
-

How does it show up?

1. Human trafficking can occur anywhere, in large cities, small towns and rural areas.
 2. The form it takes will depend on local characteristics.
 3. The traffickers, victims, and customers can look like any of us.
-

What We Know

Trafficking happens everywhere. Its form takes advantage of local characteristics.

- Don't ask “**Does it happen here?**”
- But “**What forms of trafficking happen here?**”

We are barely beginning to call it by name.

No one holds complete data, only fragments.

National Human Trafficking Hotline



Polaris: 2020 United States

2020

2019

2018

2017

2016

51,667

CONTACTS
THIS YEAR

10,583

HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
CASES REPORTED
THIS YEAR

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/states>

Victims and Survivors
Identified

High Indicators

4,691

Moderate Indicators

12,325


Calls From Victims &
Survivors

13,594

Polaris: 2020 North Carolina

SINCE 2007 

Total Contacts: 7,885

Total Victims - Moderate: 2,346 

Total Cases: 1,827

Total Victims - High: 3,206

2020 data is current through December 31, 2020.

2020

2019

2018

2017

2016

1,103

CONTACTS
THIS YEAR

260

HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
CASES REPORTED
THIS YEAR

VICTIMS & SURVIVORS
IDENTIFIED

High Indicators

172

Moderate Indicators

306

Calls From Victims &
Survivors

397

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/state/north-carolina>

Polaris: Trafficking by Families

In 2020, among all forms of trafficking whose recruitment relationships were known (4,142), the proportion of victims recruited by a family member or caregiver increased significantly – **from 21% of all victims in 2019 to 31% in 2020 – a 47% increase.**

Sex Trafficking: **42%** were brought into trafficking by a member of their own families.

New Research: Trafficking by Families

Victims were more likely to have a higher number of perpetrators, **live in rural communities**, and be younger.

The reports are more likely to come from **anonymous community members** than from professionals.

Advertising is by **word-of-mouth**, not online.

Perpetration by a family member predicted that **the case would not be substantiated**.

Emily E. Edwards, Jennifer S. Middleton & Jennifer Cole (2022) Family-Controlled Trafficking in the United States: Victim Characteristics, System Response, and Case Outcomes, Journal of Human trafficking.

Traffickers target vulnerabilities.



Traffickers target vulnerabilities.

Hungry students: UNC-Chapel Hill struggles with food insecurity

APRIL 26, 2018 by KATIE RICE

Dr. Maureen Berner surveyed 5,000 students at UNC and found that about 25% of undergraduate students were food insecure. Food insecurity increased with students' progression toward their degree.

Traffickers employ 25 business models for financial benefit



On-ramps, Intersections, and Exit Routes

A Roadmap for Systems and
Industries to Prevent Human
Trafficking

Traveling Sales Crews

Potential victims travel in groups to various cities/states selling items such as magazines door-to-door.

Residential Sex Trafficking

Commercial sex occurring at a non-commercial residential location.

- Organized Brothels
- Private/Family Homes
- Drug Distribution Homes

Business Models –visible to local government

Escort services

Illicit massage

Outdoor solicitation

Residential brothels

Domestic workers

Bars/strip clubs/cantinas

Traveling sales crews

Restaurants/food service

Peddling and begging rings

Agriculture

Construction industry

Hotels/hospitality

Landscaping

Illicit activities

Factories

Carnivals

Forestry/logging

Recreational facilities

Health care settings

Untapped Observers:

- **First responders** to emergencies
 - Any kind of **inspector** (environmental health, code enforcement, etc.)
 - **Water/sewer/solid waste management/recycling**
 - Any **licensing** function (business, professional, marriage, etc.)
 - **Library** staff
 - Anyone who works in **public waiting areas**, especially related to transportation
 - **Business registration** functions
-

How did teachers see the indicators?

Hmong girls, as young as twelve to fourteen years old, are being used for prostitution by Asian gangs. The girls are often transported across state lines (as far as Atlanta) for this purpose...Transportation and prostitution can occur over a weekend, so that a girl can be back in her class on Monday morning.

“Youth Gang Activity Assessment 2010,” prepared by the Western Piedmont Council of Governments.

When is a clogged sewer line a clue?



Nuisance Calls

Image from
asianworld
news.co.uk



Trafficking within a supply chain

Victims of UK's largest modern slavery ring forced to work at recycling sites

Eight members of a Polish human trafficking ring with links to recycling sites in the West Midlands have been handed jail sentences totalling 55 years, in what has been described as the UK's largest modern slavery conviction.



Examples

Public Health Department traces the county's high rate of STI's to one truck stop.

Librarian sees teenager applying for a job “too good to be true.”

Examples

Child Protective workers investigate a mother for neglect and find a video on her phone in which her children are engaging in sexual behaviors.

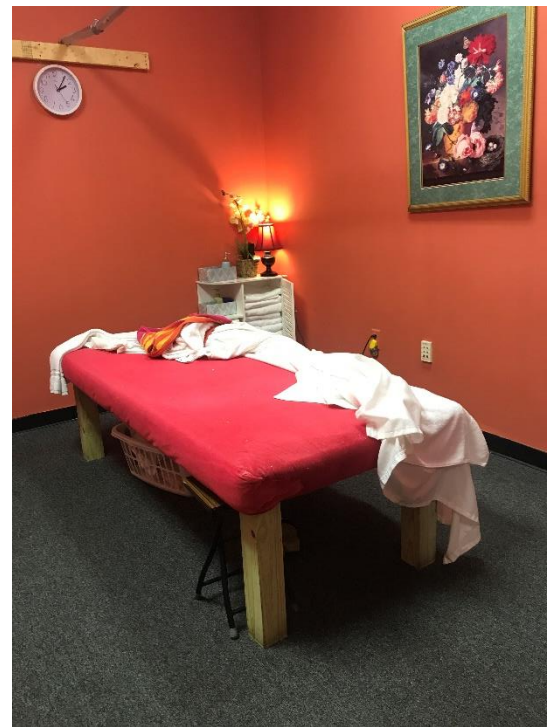
Tax Appraiser inspects a high-end home and finds a basement full of bunk beds.

Examples

Environmental Health Inspector saw bunk beds in storage room and clothes drying on dumpster behind restaurant.

Fire Marshal doing a safety inspection finds a 50 lb. bag of rice, cooking utensils, and personal belongings in a massage parlor.

Examples



Train inspectors to recognize the indicators of trafficking.

Photo credit: Nancy Hagan April, 2019

What is the illicit massage industry?

The Illicit massage industry is a form of labor trafficking that provides commercial sex acts under the guise of operating as legitimate businesses.

*There are estimated to be almost 300 illicit
massage businesses operating in North
Carolina in 2020.*

SPEAK UP  .ORG

Camera

Suite #7

Screening Window

Long Hours

ATM

OASIS
SPA

ATM

Monday-Saturday
10:AM - 10:PM

Sunday
10:AM - 8:PM

(843) 273-0545

OASIS SPA

Tel: 843-273-0545 Gift Card Available
626-272-3345 Walk-ins are Welcome!



Deep Tissue
Swedish massage

Hot Stone



Chair massage
10min\$15

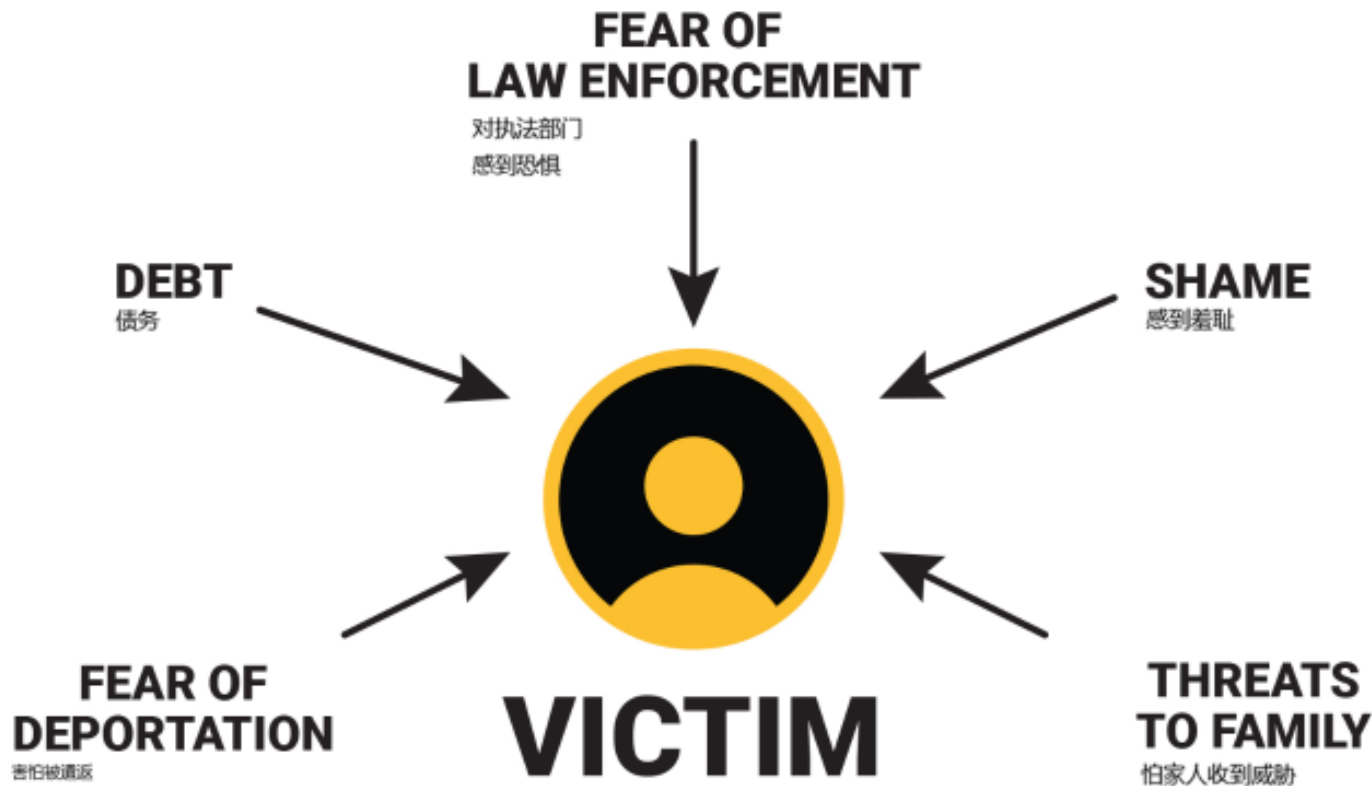


Foot Reflexology
Ion Detoxification

Common Victimology - NC

- The victims locally have included Chinese and ethnically Korean-Chinese citizens.
- Victims average age is about 40, with children and family in China.
- Mandarin and Korean most commonly encountered languages.
- Most victims were residing in the IMB. Traveled from Flushing, NY.
- All had at least one worker and one manager. Video monitor was located in room with manager.

Do you feel trapped?



Estimates

www.heyrickresearch.org

- \$3.5 Billion/year industry
- Over 10,000 in US

Rubmaps lists
311 across NC



First: Do No Harm.

Pay attention to details.

Don't investigate or intervene.

Call 911 if you witness violence.



Along with building awareness...

...create protocols for reporting

1. Clarify legal requirements affecting your profession.
 2. Clarify the expected sequence of events.
 3. Clarify expectations for involving external authorities.
 4. Debrief and readjust the protocol as necessary
-

Consider:

How do you
respond if your
staff see
indicators of
crimes?

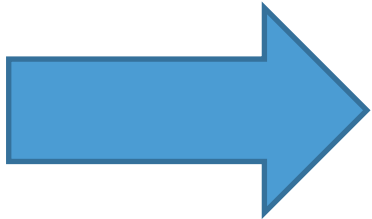
i.e. stolen merchandise,
illegal gambling, meth lab



Reassurance:

If you are working on preventing any other “wicked problem,” you are also working to prevent human trafficking.

Food scarcity.... Homelessness... Addictions...
Success in School... Economic Opportunity... etc.



To do: View these issues through the lens of “human trafficking”

sog.unc.edu/trafficking

TEACHERS • FOSTER CARE WORKERS • FIRST
RESPONDERS • ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
INSPECTORS • FIRE MARSHALS • CODE

Human Trafficking

Local government staff are in homes, businesses, construction sites, and public spaces every day as a part of their work. Given how much they know and care about their communities, they hold untapped potential for recognizing the indicators of sex and labor trafficking.

The resources available on this page were developed to inform local government staff and elected officials of resources available to assist communities in addressing human trafficking. Here are steps local governments can take:

RESOURCES BY AUDIENCE

General Information

Resources for Community

Advocates and Service

Providers

Resources for Specific Positions



NATIONAL
HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
HOTLINE

Call 1-888-373-7888 (TTY: 711)



NORTH CAROLINA
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
COMMISSION

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