

Human Trafficking 101



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OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



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Myths & Facts

- Human trafficking is people in a white van grabbing victims from the mall – **MYTH**
- Human trafficking is both a domestic and international issue – **FACT**
- Human trafficking always involves chains or physical restraints – **MYTH**
- Human trafficking can happen to people of any gender – **FACT**
- Human trafficking happens only in big cities - **MYTH**



The Reality of Human Trafficking

Multi-billion-dollar
global industry

Traffickers treat
people like goods

Someone forces
another person to
engage in sex for
money or to work for
little or no money

The force the
trafficker uses can be
physical, mental,
emotional, etc.

What Ohio Law Says About Sex Trafficking

- Under Ohio law, commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) - the victim is a child who has received food, drugs, money, shelter or anything of value in exchange for sex
- Under Ohio law, children under the age of 18 cannot legally be willing participants in commercial sexual exploitation
- In a nutshell, regardless of how they act or appear, Ohio law recognizes youth under 18 as victims of sexual human trafficking and victims of child abuse



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“Trafficking in Persons”

- No person shall knowingly...
- Recruit, lure, entice, isolate, harbor, transport, provide, obtain or maintain (or attempt these things)...
- If offender knows person will be subject to involuntary servitude (LABOR) or be compelled to engage in sexual activity for hire (SEX)
- Prior issue with 16- and 17-year-olds in Ohio law, as compared to federal law – CHANGED effective 4/12/21
- Sexual activity covers contact and conduct
- F1, 10-15 MANDATORY, Tier II

“Compel”

- NOT “force, fraud, or coercion” – that’s the federal statute
- Physical violence, threats
- Does NOT require “that the compulsion be openly displayed or physically asserted”
- Established if state proves the victim’s will was overcome by force, fear, duress, intimidation or fraud
 - Sound familiar?

Key Points

- Exchange is something of value
 - Cash, goods, services, food, shelter, drugs, drugs for another
- Possible 3rd person involvement: deal brokered by the trafficker, relative or gang member for the “thing(s) of value
- Sexual exploitation is not limited to overt sex act. Can include pornography, stripping, etc

Vulnerabilities

Substance abuse

Runaway/homeless youth and/or involved in the juvenile justice or foster care system

Unstable housing

Mental health concerns

Recent migration/relocation

Facing poverty or economic hardship

History of sexual abuse/domestic violence

Criminal record/criminal history

Labor Trafficking



Agriculture



Domestic work



Construction



Hospitality



Traveling sales



Janitorial work



Restaurants and
food service



Health and
Beauty

Signs of Labor Trafficking



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Appear to be monitored by another person when talking or interacting with others

Are being threatened by their boss with deportation or other harm

Are working in a dangerous environment, without proper safety gear, training, adequate breaks and other protections

Living in inhumane conditions provided by employer

Signs of physical or emotional abuse

Ohio Human Trafficking Task Forces

- **Central Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force**
 - Sgt. Mark Hockman, MHockman@columbuspolice.org, 614-357-2981
- **Mahoning Valley Human Trafficking Task Force**
 - 330-333-1847
- **Northeast Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force**
 - 216-443-6085
- **Southeastern Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force**
 - Washington County Sheriff's Office: 740-376-7070
- **Montgomery County Human Trafficking Task Force**
 - 937-225-4357 or humantrafficking@mcohiosheriff.org
- **Southern Ohio Organized and Major Crimes Task Force**
 - 740-354-5656 or drugs@sciotocountysheriff.com
- **Summit Regional Human Trafficking Task Force**
 - 330-252-2614

National Hotline

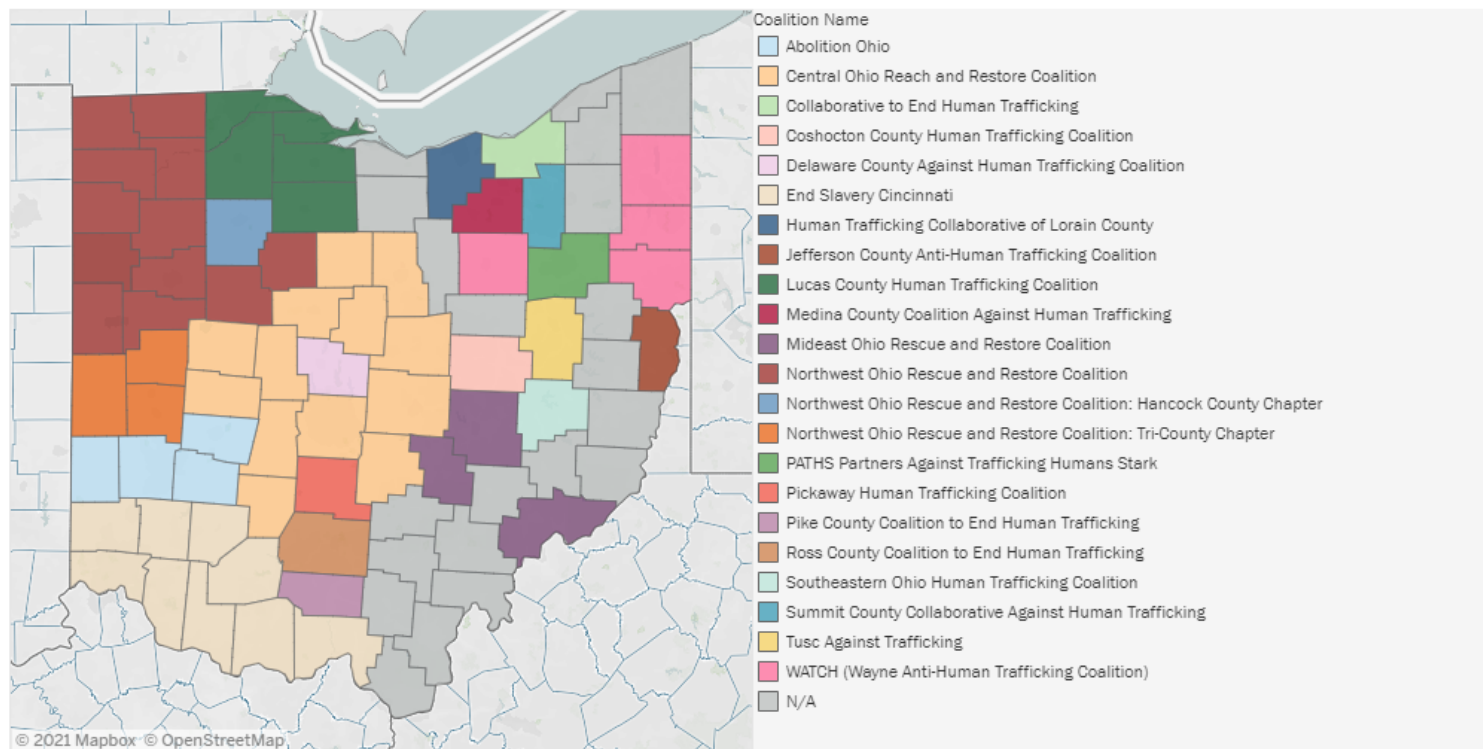
- Can be used for reporting
- Does not offer immediate, on-scene response
- May not connect to local law enforcement

1-888-373-7888

Text: “BeFree” 233733

Anti-human trafficking coalitions

Independent coalitions cover much of Ohio and provide human trafficking survivors with needed services, including shelter, counseling and legal help. Others focus on spreading awareness about human trafficking. Click on a section of the map to find details and contact information.





How to Contact Us

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Our Website

www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/humantrafficking



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Faces of “Prostitution”: Grace



Barriers to Identification



- Watched, escorted or guarded
- Coached answers
- Unaware of what is being done to them is a crime
- Loyalty toward trafficker as coping mechanism



Barriers to Identification



- Moved frequently
- Fear for safety of family
- Fear and shame
- Self-blame, hopelessness
- Dependent on trafficker



Communicating with Victims



- *Questions to ask:*
 - ***Are you OK?***
 - Can you leave your job or situation if you want?
 - Can you come and go as you please?
 - Have you been threatened if you try to leave?
 - Have you been physically harmed in any way?
 - What are your working or living conditions like?
 - Have you ever had to exchange sex for food, shelter or drugs?

Communicating with Victims: Messages



- Gaining victim's trust
- Support the patient's choice
 - Ask if he or she would like help, don't just assume

Always Respect the No!

Alone no more,
I closed that door,
I filled the void,
With love and joy.

I look ahead,
without dread,
I just see love,
when I look above.

The sun shines now,
and I will vow,
To break the chain,
Walk through the rain.

There's no more rage,
no more cage,
I see the light,
and I will fight.

To save myself,
no more shelf,
you can't hurt me,
I'm finally free

Shelley - Survivor



Questions?



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