What is human trafficking?

U.S. law defines human trafficking as the use of force, fraud, or coercion to compel a person into performing commercial sex acts, labor or other services against his or her will.

Inducing a minor into commercial sex is considered human trafficking regardless of the presence of force, fraud or coercion.

WHO IS VULNERABLE?

Human trafficking can happen to anyone but certain risk factors can make individuals more vulnerable than others, including:

- recent migration or relocation
- substance use
- mental health concerns
- involvement with the child welfare system
- being a runaway
- homelessness

WHO ARE THE TRAFFICKERS?

Perpetrators of human trafficking span all racial, ethnic, and gender demographics and are as diverse as victims. They include:

- business owners
- gang members
- parents or family members of victims
- intimate partners
- owners of farms or restaurants
- powerful corporate executives
- government representatives.

What can make a community vulnerable to a high rate of human trafficking?

- proximity to major freeways/highways
- a high cost of living
- an above average level of tourism taking place

Common industries and businesses where human trafficking takes place include but are not limited to:

- construction
- agriculture
- nannying
- housekeeping
- manufacturing (especially garment and food processing)
- restaurants
- massage parlors

Sources: 1. U.S. Department of State
2. Polaris (2020)
Retrieved from: https://polarisproject.org