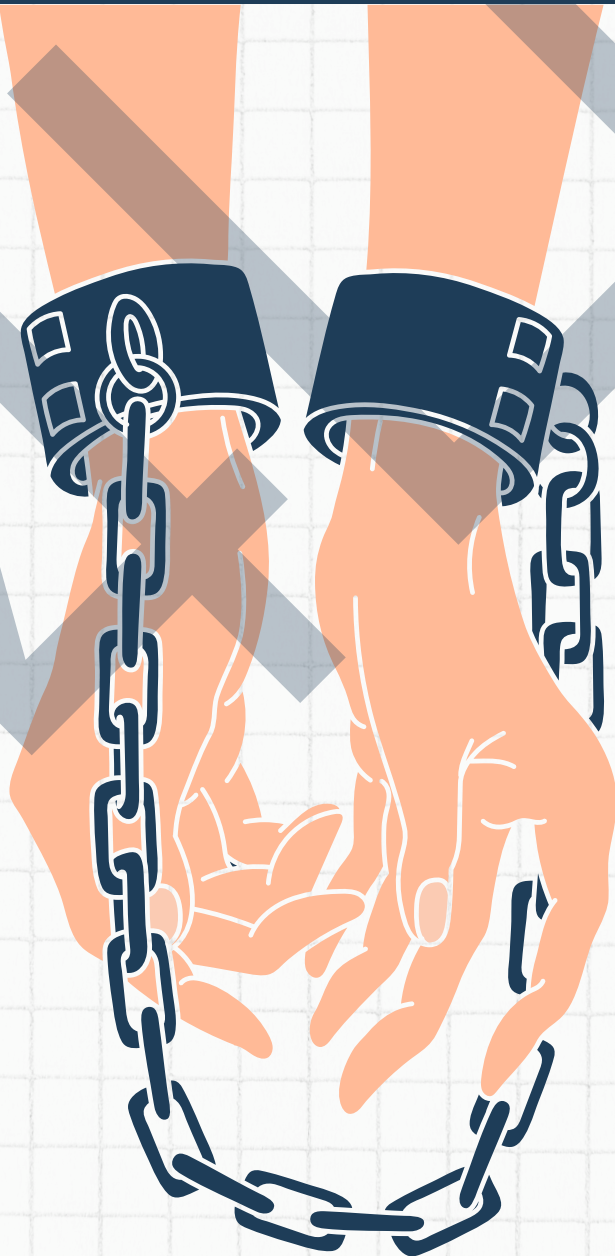


# HUMAN TRAFFICKING



Each year millions of children, men, and women are involuntarily sold into forced labor or commercial sex jobs.

Human trafficking, also referred to as modern slavery, is happening in small communities as well as large cities across the United States; its victims come from every race, gender, and age.



1 in 6 runaway children is likely to be a sex trafficking victim.



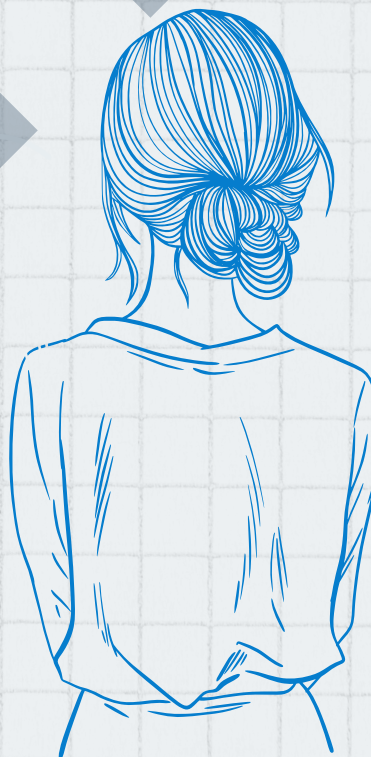
40% of trafficked boys are under the age of 12.

Over 50% of trafficked girls are between the ages of 15–17.



1/5 of identified human trafficking victims are children; there are at least 20,000 victims under the age of 18 in the U.S.

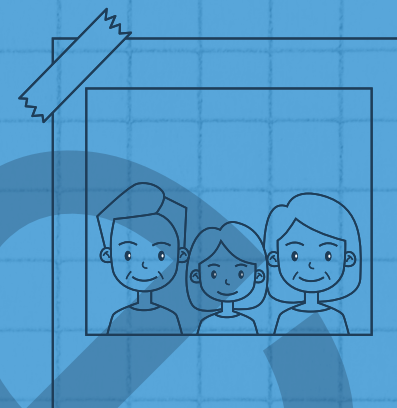
Women and girls make up 54% of all victims worldwide, and they account for 78% of the total number of victims forced into commercial sexual exploitation.







**The average length of time an individual is trafficked is 2 years for adults and 2.2 years for youth.**



**In 2020, 42% of victims were trafficked by a member of their own families, and 39% were recruited via an intimate partner or a marriage proposition.**



**The average life expectancy of a victim after they enter the world of trafficking is 7-10 years, and death usually results from homicide, suicide, communicable diseases, an overdose, or addiction.**



**52% of victims have only an elementary education.**



Though human trafficking is usually well hidden, it's important to pick up on patterns that indicate modern slavery. Look for individuals who are displaying one or more of the following characteristics:

**Suddenly has  
expensive items,  
especially gifts from  
an older “friend”**

Is newly attached to an older individual, usually male, who exhibits characteristics of a groomer (gift-giving, frequent check-ins, exaggerated attentiveness, etc.)

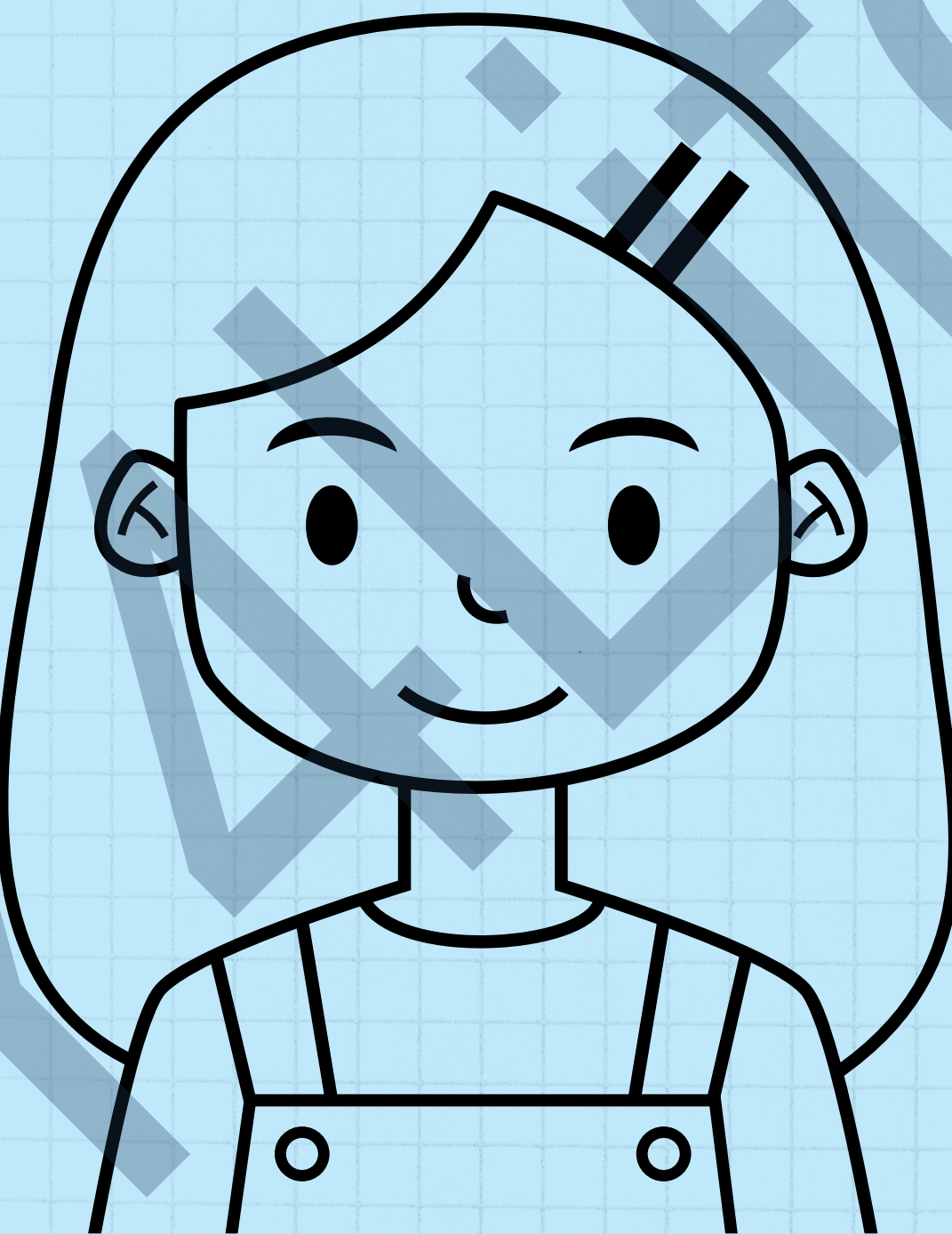
Is under 18  
and  
engaged in  
prostitution

**Is unable  
to speak  
freely or  
alone**

**Replies to  
questions  
with  
seemingly  
scripted  
answers**

Owens a  
second  
“secret”  
phone

**Shows  
signs of  
physical  
abuse**



Is submissive and fearful

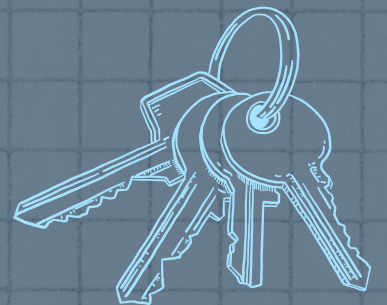


If it is safe for you to do so, casually ask one or more of the following questions in conversation:



**Do you have your own identification card, like a license? If not, who has it?**

**Where and with whom do you live?**



**Are you and/or your family threatened?**

**What would happen if you left?**



**Are you in debt to your employer?**



# WHOM DO TRAFFICKERS TARGET?



**young adults  
who are on the  
fringe of social  
groups and who  
struggle  
socially**

**those in  
poverty**

**children in  
the welfare  
system**

**those who  
have limited  
safe housing**

**runaway and  
homeless youth**

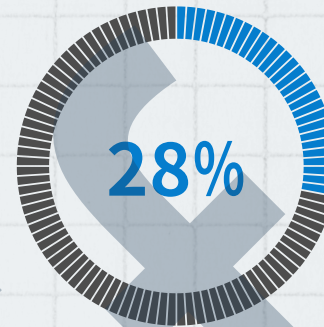
**those who have limited  
English proficiency or  
lack immigration status**



# HUMAN TRAFFICKING MYTHS AND FACTS

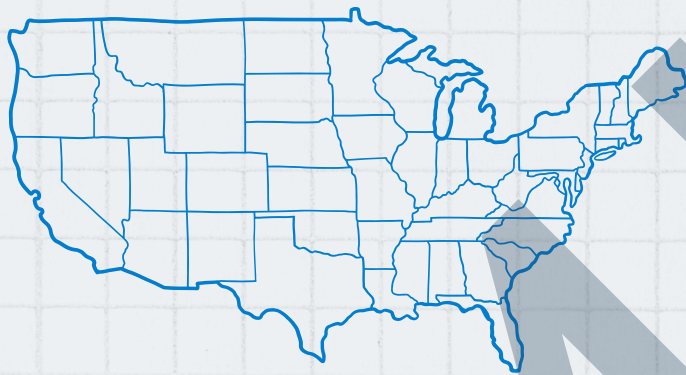
## **Traffickers are all men.**

Actually, 28% of all traffickers are women.



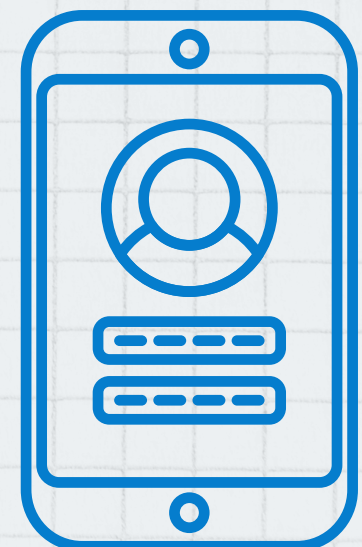
## **Human trafficking doesn't happen in America.**

Human trafficking happens in countries all over the world. Most trafficking happens in big cities, along the coasts, and near major airports. But in 2017, human trafficking was reported in every single state in the United States of America.



## **I need to step in and help the victim.**

For your own safety, never confront a suspected trafficker or victim of human trafficking. Instead, report it!





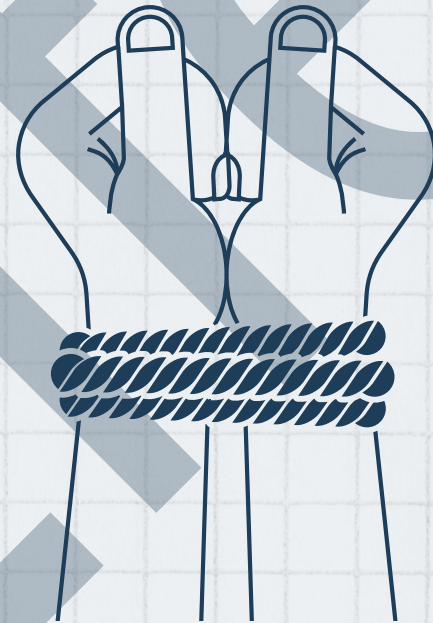
## **I don't use anything produced from slave labor.**

Many popular companies use slave labor to create their items. Websites and apps are available to help you discover which companies use slave labor. For example, check out <https://slaveryfootprint.org/>.



## **Only women and children are trafficked.**

While the majority of trafficked people are women and children, 25% are male. Men lack the recovery programs that many women and children receive after being saved from trafficking.



## **Kidnapping is the only way someone gets trafficked.**

Cyber trafficking occurs when a person is forced to perform, record, or stream sexual acts. Familial trafficking happens when a victim is transported somewhere, forced to work, and then brought back to his/her living space.



# WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

Christians value the lives of those who have been trafficked, recognizing that they too have been created and redeemed; they too are loved by God.

According to Luke 19:10, “The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” We were once lost and enemies of God, but Christ rescued us. Because of Christ’s saving work in our lives, we seek to uphold the lives of those in need.

When Christ died on the cross, He died for every person who has walked or will walk this planet. Psalm 82:3-4 reminds us that we are called to “...give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.”



Christians reside in the Baptismal sea of God's grace and mercy. Because we have received mercy from God through Christ, we are able to share mercy with others, especially those in need. Zechariah 7:9 says, "Thus says the Lord of hosts, 'Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy to one another.'"

Micah 6:8 declares, "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" Finally, Isaiah 1:17 commends us to care for others: "Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause."



Dear heavenly and gracious Father,  
You call us to uphold the lives of all people. We ask that You protect and provide help to those who are trapped in human trafficking. Please guide, protect, and care for those who work to free people from trafficking situations. May Your grace and mercy provide hope to the trafficked, that they may seek the help and freedom that is offered. Finally, please change the hearts of the traffickers so that they may turn away from their sin and end the hurt and harm they are causing. In the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, the Three in One. Amen.



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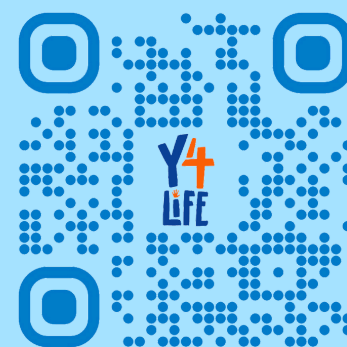
For your own safety, never confront a suspected trafficker or victim of human trafficking. Report it! If you see something, say something. **Contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline:**  
**1-888-373-7888**



**Human  
Trafficking  
Footprint**



**Y4Life  
Podcast  
Human  
Trafficking**





A thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

Y4  
LIFE

