

DETECTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING KNOW THE SIGNS

An estimated
27.6M PEOPLE
across the globe are impacted by
human trafficking and forced labor
at any given time. ¹

Trafficking victims are deceived by:



FALSE PROMISES
OF LOVE



A GOOD JOB



A STABLE LIFE



Victims are **lured or forced into situations** where they are made to work under deplorable conditions **with little or no pay**. ²

The **most recognizable forms of human trafficking** based on customer behavior and transactional activity are:



SEX TRAFFICKING

The use of force, fraud, or coercion to compel another person to engage in commercial sex.



FORCED LABOR

When a person uses force, fraud, or coercion to exploit the labor or services of another person. ³

VICTIM PROFILES



DOMESTIC SEX TRAFFICKING

- Citizens within their own borders, cities, towns, and neighborhoods.
- Predominantly female.
- Between the ages of 14–17.



INTERNATIONAL SEX TRAFFICKING

- People moved outside of their native country.
- Any age and gender.
- May not speak the local language.



FORCED LABOR

- Lured via a legitimate job offer.
- Any age and gender.
- Likely immigrated or recruited from a foreign country.

Trafficking victims are generally recruited by **someone they know**: ⁴

33%

Family member/caregiver

28%

Intimate partner

22%

Employer

17%

Other



Investigator's Toolbox:

Key Indicators to Identify a Victim of Human Trafficking

Financial institutions are in the unique position to help identify human trafficking through banking data and account information.

SEX TRAFFICKING

FORCED LABOR

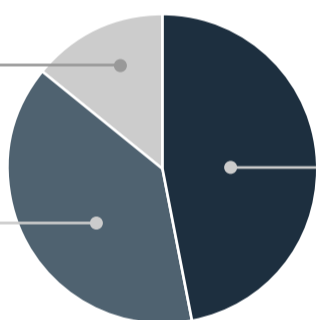
DEMOGRAPHICS

99%
women
and girls



Globally

14%
children



Approximate

OCCUPATION



Works in service industry or personal services as exotic dancer, masseuse, model, server, hospitality.



Higher-risk occupations in the service industry or manual labor in farms, factories, construction, hotels/motels, restaurants, beauty spas, childcare.

LOCATION/DATE OF ACCOUNT OPENING



Recently opened or new.



Recently opened or new.

ONLINE PRESENCE/ SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS



Escort ads and/or social media account sharing a phone number and/or email. Images feature cash, or visible tattoos showing trafficker markings.



No accounts. The absence often indicates having limited freedoms.

BEHAVIOR CHANGE



Limited transactions absent of typical spending seen in most accounts.



No regular or day-to-day purchases like groceries or bills.

TRANSACTIONS



Purchases for travel to other geographic locations, hotel rooms, online ads for escort or personal services, fast food, transportation and internet.



No purchases for food, rent, bills, or personal/professional related travel expenses. If payroll checks are deposited, the funds are withdrawn almost immediately.

ACCOUNT BALANCE



Averages at or near zero.



Averages at or near zero.

AML/CFT Priorities



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

= \$150 BILLION/YEAR GLOBAL INDUSTRY ⁵

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC



HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS 1 OF 8 AML/CFT PRIORITIES that predicate crimes for money laundering. ⁶

– FinCEN



FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS CAN BE INSTRUMENTAL

in identifying this heinous crime and help victims of human trafficking become survivors.

Sources

1. ILO, *Global Estimates of Modern Slavery Forced Labour and Forced Marriage*, September 2022
2. U.S. Department of Justice, *What is Human Trafficking*, June 2023
3. U.S. Department of State, *Understanding Human Trafficking*, April, 2022
4. Polaris, *Polaris Analysis of 2021 Data from the National Human Trafficking Hotline*, November, 2022
5. Polaris, *On-Ramps, Intersections, and Exit Routes: A Roadmap for Systems and Industries to Prevent and Disrupt Human Trafficking*, July, 2018
6. FinCEN, *Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism National Priorities*, June, 2021

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

EBook

Human Trafficking: Know the Behavior, Uncover the Crime

Learn the financial indicators and signs of human trafficking through a breakdown of how trafficking rings operate, how money moves, and through real-life case studies that will support your institution's fight against this criminal activity.

Read now at verafin.com

Infographic

The Growing Use of Cryptocurrency in Modern Slavery

This infographic provides an insightful overview of how crypto companies can help combat human trafficking through effective investigations, and the importance of relaying information to law enforcement.

Read now at verafin.com

Infographic

The Role of Financial Institutions in Combating Human Trafficking

Learn about the extent of human trafficking in the U.S., key indicators for financial institutions, and how Verafin's solution can help your institution protect the vulnerable from this terrible crime.

Read now at verafin.com