

What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking happens when (a) force, fraud, or coercion are used to compel a person into work or the sex trades or (b) a minor exchanges a sex act for anything of value.

Human Trafficking Statistics

- An estimated **24.9 million** people globally are victims of human trafficking.ⁱ
- Since the pandemic started, sex trafficking appears to be increasing: The National Center for Missed & Exploited Children (NCMEC) experienced a **97.5%** increase in online enticement report in 2020 versus 2019.ⁱⁱ
- In 2019, the most recently available year that this data is the available, the National Human Trafficking Hotline identified **22,326** victims and survivors of human trafficking.ⁱⁱⁱ

Human Trafficking and Aviation, Maritime, and Mass Transportation

- 80% of victims who were trafficked internationally cross through official border points, such as airports and land border control points^{iv}
- 71% of labor trafficking victims they surveyed arrived in this country via airplane before they were trafficked^v
- 38% of surveyed trafficking victims said they traveled by plane at some point during their exploitation.^{vi}
- 63% of surveyed victims reported that they utilized mass transit during their exploitation and 26% of surveyed victims reported that public and mass transportation played a role in at least one of their exit attempts.^{vii}

Human Trafficking in Washington State

Washington was the first state to make human trafficking a crime at the state level in 2003.^{viii}

- In 2019, Washington state had the **eighth** highest call volume of all U.S. states.^{ix}
- There are an estimated **500-700** commercially sexually exploited youth in King County.^x
- Commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) are disproportionately children of color. In 2019, African Americans made up 6.2% of King County's population, but comprised 31% of CSEC.^{xi}
- In 2020, the Office of Crime Victims Advocacy (OCVA) funded services for **1,106** victims of human trafficking in Washington. **Twenty-six percent** were victims of labor trafficking and **74%** were victims of sex trafficking. Because it can be more difficult for labor trafficking victims to access services, OVCA reported that numbers served does not mean labor trafficking is happening less than sex trafficking.^{xii}

REFERENCES

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- ⁱⁱⁱ <https://polarisproject.org/2019-us-national-human-trafficking-hotline-statistics/>
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- ^{vi} <https://polarisproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/A-Roadmap-for-Systems-and-Industries-to-Prevent-and-Disrupt-Human-Trafficking-Transportation-Industry.pdf>
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- ^{viii} <https://www.atg.wa.gov/human-trafficking>
- ^{ix} <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/state/washington>
- ^x Debra Boyer, PhD, <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b71c32bec4eb7c684a77ff4/t/5f21d7a2edcf827970c879d3/1596053416731/Commercially%2BSexually%2BExploited%2BChildren%2Bin%2BKing%2BCounty%2B2019%2BUpdate%2B%28003%29.pdf>, 2019.
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- ^{xii} Report titled, “Office of Crime Advocacy Human Trafficking Survivors Served, January 1,2020–December 31, 2020,” available from the Washington Office for Crime Victim Advocacy.