

Who is Vulnerable?

Human trafficking can happen to ANYONE. Certain risk factors can make individuals more vulnerable. These risk factors include:

- Mental health concerns
- Running away from home or homelessness
- Being involved with Child Welfare or Juvenile Justice
- Substance abuse
- Prior trauma (e.g. sexual abuse, family violence or neglect)
- Recent migration or relocation

Who are the traffickers?

Perpetrators of human trafficking span ALL racial, ethnic, and gender demographics; they are as diverse as victims. Traffickers can include:

- Intimate partners
- Classmates
- Friends
- Gang members
- Parents or family members of victims
- Business owners
- Online friends/followers
- Authority figures

Where can you get help?

If you have a suspicion that a student may be a victim of trafficking, report to Child Welfare Services; certainty is NOT required.

San Diego County Child Abuse Hotline

1-800-344-6000 or call any police or sheriff's department

National Human Trafficking Hotline

1-888-373-7888 or Text: **"HELP"** or **"INFO"** to **233733**

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

800-843-5678 or **cybertipline.org**

Other Resources

Scan the QR code below to learn how you can protect your students.



HUMAN Trafficking

EDUCATOR SERIES

"There isn't a neighborhood in San Diego where there aren't potential traffickers, potential buyers, and unfortunately, potential victims."

- JAMIE GATES, PLNU Professor



Human Trafficking

What is it?

Human trafficking is the use of force, fraud, or coercion to get another person to provide labor or commercial sex acts.

According to the FBI, San Diego is one of the country's 13 hotspots for human trafficking. Local research estimates that the buying and selling of adults and children produces \$810 million annually in San Diego County alone.

Many victims do not realize they are under the control of another person. Traffickers promise love, safety, money, protection, and other incentives to pressure victims into commercial sex acts or labor. Victims are manipulated into believing they cannot change or leave their situation.

Do and Don't Tips for Educators

For more tips, scan the QR code!



Do

Talk about exploitation.

Talk about protective factors.

Use empowering language.

Use language that resonates with youth.

Express that you care and are concerned about their safety.

Don't

Use crime-specific language.

Talk about risk factors.

Use victimizing language.

Use "textbook" language.

Focus on questioning their situation.

Traffickers work to gain a victim's trust, provide for their needs, isolate them from friends, and then force them into trafficking.

Is your student being targeted? Be on the lookout for these warning signs...

- Missing school frequently
- Changes in behavior
- New or multiple cellphones
- New or expensive items purchased by someone else
- Avoids making eye contact
- Signs of drug use
- Disinterest in activities previously cared about
- Physical injuries or malnourishment
- Older or controlling partner
- Knowledge of "the life" or "the game" and its slang
- Habitual runaway
- Is fearful or suspicious of security personnel or law enforcement

