

Sex Trafficking: Identification and Response

Presented by
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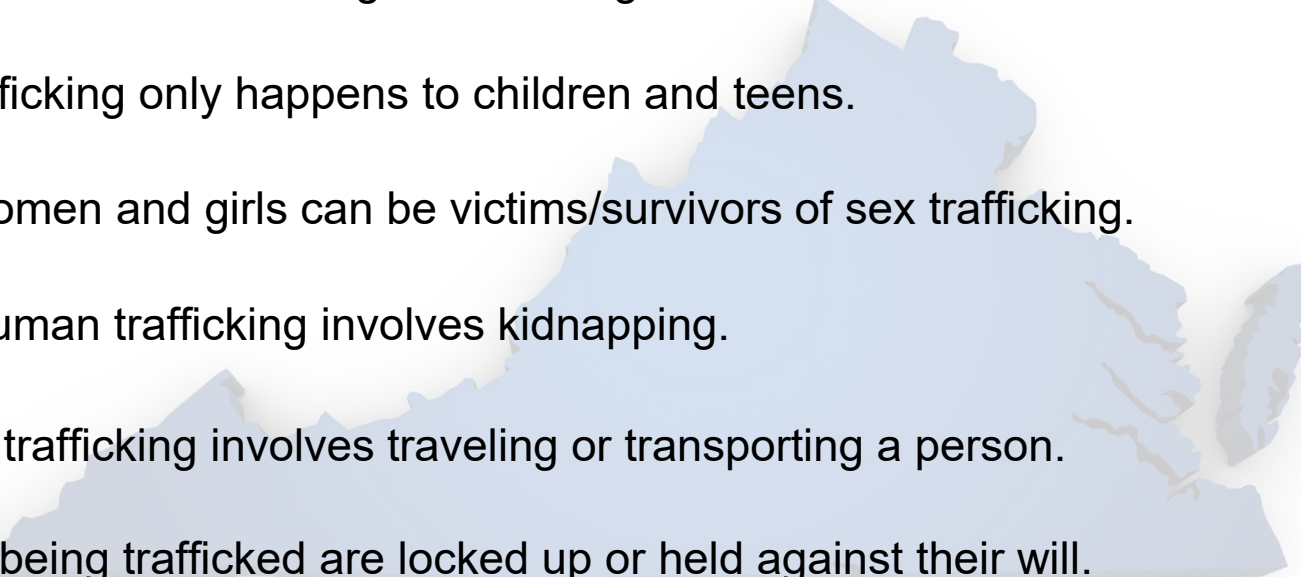
This work is hard.

Please take care of yourself.



What Is Sex Trafficking?

Sex Trafficking Myths

- 
- ✗ Only undocumented foreign nationals get trafficked in the United States.
 - ✗ Sex trafficking only happens to children and teens.
 - ✗ Only women and girls can be victims/survivors of sex trafficking.
 - ✗ Most human trafficking involves kidnapping.
 - ✗ Human trafficking involves traveling or transporting a person.
 - ✗ People being trafficked are locked up or held against their will.
 - ✗ People being trafficked will always want help getting out.
 - ✗ I live in a safe place. This does not happen here.

Virginia's Definition of Sex Trafficking

The Code of Virginia 18.2-357.1

Any person who solicits, invites, recruits, encourages, or otherwise causes or attempts to cause a person to engage in prostitution with the intent to receive money **or other valuable thing** or to assist another in receiving money or other valuable thing from the earnings of such person engaged in commercial sex.

Definition Simplified

Person(s)
involved
using force,
fraud, or
coercion

+

Person(s)
performing
sexual
activity

+

To gain
something
of value

Sexual activity: new law to include manual stimulation

Something of value: money, housing, drugs, etc.

Definition Simplified: Minors

Person(s)
involved
~~using force,
fraud, or
coercion~~

+

Minor(s)
performing
sexual
activity

+

To gain
something
of value

Sexual activity: new law to include manual stimulation

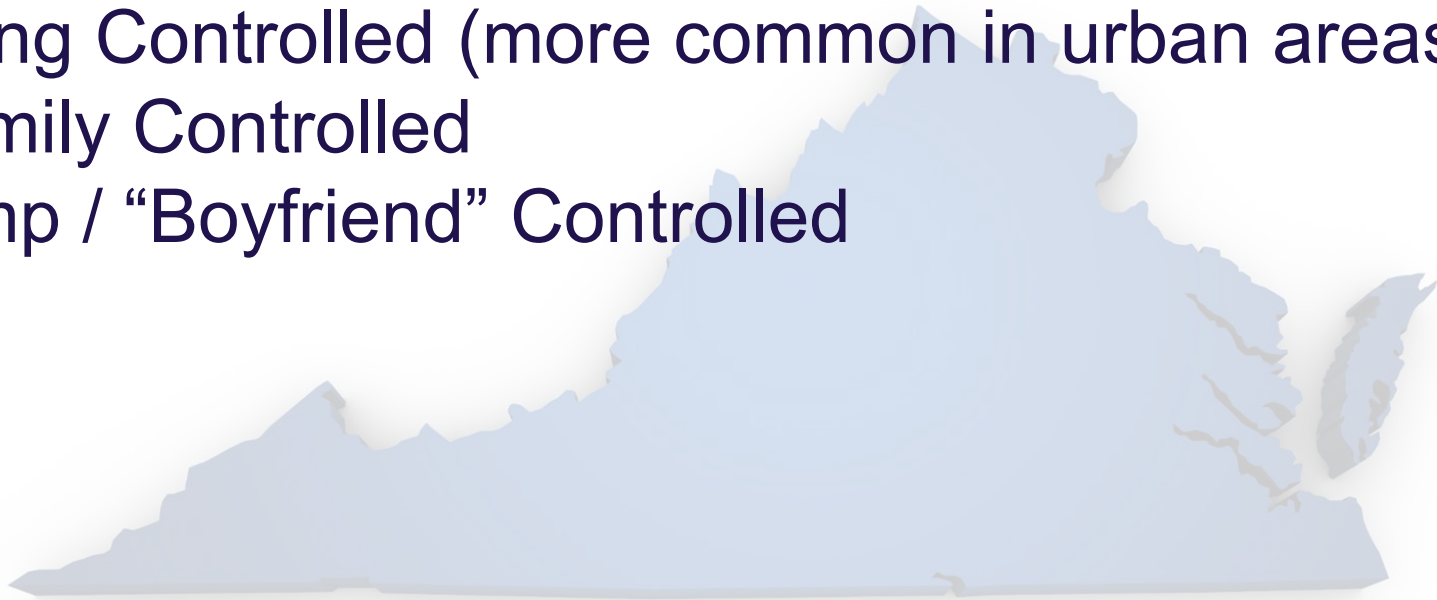
Something of value: money, housing, drugs, etc.



How Does Sex Trafficking Happen in the United States?

Types of Control

- Gang Controlled (more common in urban areas)
- Family Controlled
- Pimp / “Boyfriend” Controlled



Role of Drugs

- Recruitment
- Control (reward or punishment)
- Coping mechanism



Intersection of Substance Use

- Drugs often used as tool for recruitment, control, and/or coping mechanism
- Drug dependency is a huge vulnerability
 - Drug dependency creates barriers to accessing and maintaining housing, employment
 - Traffickers take advantage of this vulnerability
- Children of drug using parents are vulnerable to neglect, abuse, trafficking

Intersection of Substance Use



- When working with clients with addictions, consider...
 - How they are/were paying for the substances they use? Is it possible that there has been an exchange of sex for money/drugs?
 - Who else is aware or involved?
- Drug dealers can be traffickers
- Partners or friends who are also addicted can be traffickers

The Grooming Process

Identify

Trafficker(s) identify an individual to connect with

Connect

Trafficker connects with individual and begins to build rapport and a relationship with them

Manipulate

Trafficker fills a void, need, or desire to make a “better life” for the individual

Isolate

Trafficker increases personal time with individual and begins separating them from family and friends

Abuse

Physical abuse begins to maintain control and assert power

The Grooming Process

Identify

- Trafficker(s) identify an individual to connect with



- Introduced by friend or family
- Stranger
- Family Member



- Social Media Apps
- Texts
- Gaming Platforms
- Any technology that connects to others

The Grooming Process

Connect

- Trafficker connects with identified individual and begins to build rapport and a relationship with them



Friendship
?



Need
Housing?



Romantic
?



Money?



Family?



Drugs?

The Grooming Process

Manipulate

- Trafficker fills a void, need, or desire to make a “better life” for the individual



- Family support
- Financial need
- Desire for romantic relationship
- Family neglect/abuse
- Foster care
- Illusion of “adulthood”
- Homelessness
- Substance abuse
- Something else.....

The Grooming Process

Isolate

- Trafficker increases personal time with individual and begins separating individual from family and friends



The Grooming Process

Abuse

- Physical abuse begins to maintain control and assert power



Survivor Survey

Thorn: Released January 2018

260 survivors were surveyed

- 42% stated that they trusted their trafficker within **1 month.**
- 28% stated that they trusted their trafficker within **4 months.**

The Grooming Process Can Happen Quickly!!

Source: Thorn. 2018. *Survivor Insights: The Role of Technology in Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking*. Pg. 27. Retrieved from https://www.thorn.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Thorn_Survivor_Insights_090519.pdf.

Trauma Bonding

"a strong emotional attachment between an abused person and his or her abuser, formed as a result of the cycle of violence." - Austin & Boyd



Imbalance of power



Intermittent
Reinforcement of
Abuse



Victim denies abuse

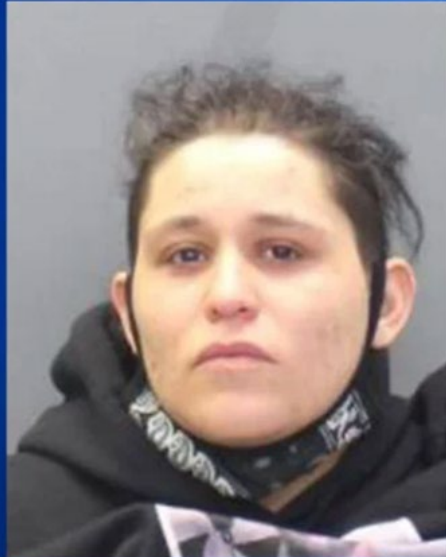


Victim hides the
abuse

Source: Trauma & Hope. Sexual Exploitation Treatment Training Services (2017).

Roanoke woman gets eight years in prison for recruiting 15-year-old girl into prostitution

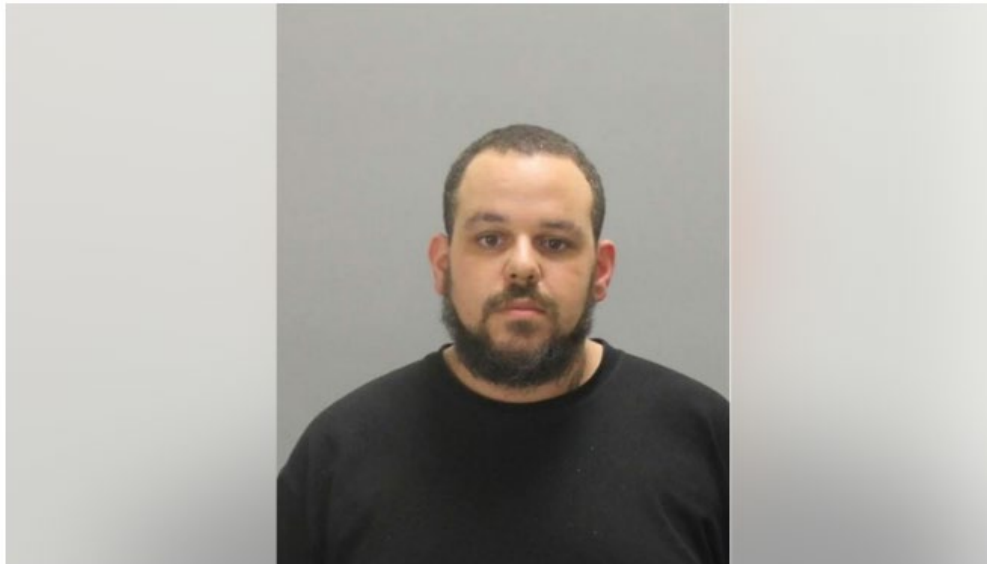
Laurence Hammack Jul 21, 2022 3



Mickey Emma Jimenez

Clayton County man charged with sex trafficking, rape of 13-year-old girl he met on gaming app Roblox

By FOX 5 Atlanta Digital Team | Published March 3, 2022 | Updated 3:27PM | Clayton County | FOX 5 Atlanta



Howard Leslie Graham was arrested on sex trafficking charges. (Clayton County Police Department)



Bold N2 | 5G | 2022 | All Day Battery |

Shop now

Latest News

Escaped Georgia inmate caught walking along I-75 in Florida





***Human trafficking can affect
all socioeconomic statuses,
genders, races, and
ethnicities.***



Indicators of Sex Trafficking

Higher Risk Populations



- Runaways
- Homeless Youth
- Foster Care / System Involved Youth
- Refugee Population
- LGBTQIA2S+ Population
- Familial Issues (Divorce, estranged parents, broken relationships, etc.)
- Abused (sexual, physical, and/or emotional)
- Financial Desperation
- Intergenerational Trafficking Families
- Gang Affiliated Families
- Substance Abuse

Physical & Behavioral Indicators

- **Scripted answers and responses**
- Not making eye contact
- Branding or Tattoos
- **Behavioral Changes**
- Older significant other
- Unexplained change in school attendance (truancy)
- Display of expensive items, bragging about money
- **Sexualized clothing, explicit on-line profile, downloading pornography**
- Parties (not age appropriate parties)
- Hanging out in unfamiliar neighborhoods or states
- New cell phone or overly attached to phone
- Gang affiliation
- **Runaway behavior, leaving home without telling their whereabouts**
- Isolating from family and other support systems

Medical Indicators

- Untreated injuries from beatings and rape
- Unexplained bruises, scarring
- Reproductive health problems (exposure to STDs, fertility issues)
- Urinary Tract Infections
- Somatic complaints (headaches, chronic pain)
- Malnutrition
- Severe dental problems
- TB
- **Addictions to drugs/alcohol**
- Unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions
- Fatigue
- Significant weight loss

Mental Health Related Effects

- Extreme fear and anxiety
- Depression
- Inability to trust others
- Self-Harming Behaviors
- Profound shame and guilt
- Difficulty sleeping
- Difficulty concentrating
- Stress related disorders
- Panic attacks
- PTSD



Responding to Trafficking

Your clients are eligible for services regardless of a disclosure or confirmed trafficking.

We often work with cases that are deemed child sexual abuse versus trafficking due to the complexity of these cases.

Special Considerations

*Victims likely will not self-identify

- Privacy, involve a limited number of staff
- Use the language they use
- Do not force a disclosure
- Honesty (If you're not sure, say that)
- Understand fear of LE and other systems
- Validate anxieties and offer solutions
- Provide options when possible
- Do not blame or ask why statements
- Evaluate support system or help put one in place
- Build on strengths/empower
- Be mindful of power imbalance
- Don't make promises

Special Considerations: Substance Use

- Many human trafficking programs require detox before admission to residential.
- Need to determine degree of substance use and desire to change.
- Triggers - money, hotels

Department of Social Services

Human Trafficking Related Updates

Through legislation that was effective as of July 1, 2019

- The Department of Social Services **shall**:
 - Initiate a human trafficking assessment upon allegation and/or evidence of a juvenile trafficking situation.
- The Department of Social Services **may**:
 - Now include traffickers as the “caretaker” for the purposes of initiating a human trafficking assessment and/or investigation;
 - Hold a juvenile for up to 72 hours for safety concerns relating to a human trafficking related investigation (as deemed necessary).
- Mandated reporters **must** report suspected human trafficking situations to their local CPS hotline or to the state CPS

hotline.



Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services
www.dcjs.virginia.gov

Department of Social Services

Human Trafficking Related Updates

Human Trafficking Assessment (Code of Virginia § 63.2-1506.1)

- Update effective July 1, 2020:

When conducting a human trafficking assessment pursuant to this section, the local department may interview the alleged child victim or his siblings without the consent and outside the presence of such child's or siblings' parent, guardian, legal custodian, or other person standing in loco parentis, or school personnel. (§ 63.2-1506.1 (G))

Your Service Provider:

Women's Resource Center
of the New River Valley



WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human trafficking is a crime that involves exploiting an individual for labor or commercial sex by using Force, Fraud, or Coercion.

TYPES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Labor Trafficking | To work against your will to make money for others by Force, Fraud or Coercion.

Sex Trafficking | Engage in sexual activity against your will to make money for others by Force, Fraud, or Coercion.

TYPES OF CONTROL

Familial/Family Controlled Trafficking is the most common in rural areas. Many of these relationships are often viewed in the beginning as consensual.

- Familial/Family Controlled
- Pimp/Boyfriend Controlled
- Gang Controlled

INDICATORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

(This is not an exhaustive list.)

- Display of expensive items or bragging about money
- Sexualized clothing or explicit online profile
- Travel to unfamiliar cities or states
- New cell phone or overly attached to phone
- Gang affiliation
- Isolating from family or other support systems

COMMON MYTHS

Human trafficking only occurs in developing countries.
Human trafficking occurs in every country, including the US.

Human trafficking only happens to women, children, and poor people.
Human trafficking can happen to anyone, regardless of age, race, gender, or socioeconomic status.

Human trafficking is the same as kidnapping.
Kidnapping is not human trafficking. Human Trafficking involves the use of Force, Fraud, or Coercion for the purposes of Labor or Sexual Exploitation. Unless minors are involved, in which Force, Fraud, or Coercion is not needed.

Human trafficking is only perpetrated by strangers.
It is most common for victims to know their perpetrator to some extent. Human traffickers are often (though not always) someone you have a relationship with in some capacity.

RESOURCES IN THE NEW RIVER VALLEY

Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley
24/7 Hotline: 540-639-1123 | Office: 540-639-9592
Email: stcase@wrcnriv.org
wrcnriv.org

National Human Trafficking Hotline
1 (888) 373-7888 | Text "HELP" or "INFO" to 233733
humantraffickinghotline.org

¿QUE ES LA TRATA DE PERSONAS?

La trata de personas es un crimen que incluye la explotación de una persona para su labor o para sexo comercial por medios de la fuerza, el fraude, o la coerción.

TIPOS DE LA TRATA DE PERSONAS

Labor | Se exige que uno trabaje contra su voluntad para ganar dinero para otra persona por medios de la fuerza, el fraude, o la coerción.

Sexo | Se exige que uno tenga relaciones sexuales contra su voluntad para ganar dinero para otra persona por medios de la fuerza, el fraude, o la coerción.

TIPOS DE CONTROL

El control por familia es el medio de control mas común en áreas rurales. Muchas de estas clases de relaciones se sienten consensual al principio.

- Control por familia
- Control por proxeneta
- Control por pandilla

SEÑALES DE LA TRATA DE PERSONAS

(No es una lista exhaustiva.)

- La exposición de artículos caros o las fanfarronadas sobre el dinero
- Vestirse en ropa sexualizada o tener un perfil muy explícito en las media sociales
- Viajar a ciudades o estados extraños
- Tener nuevo celular o estar muy conectado al celular
- Estar afiliado con una pandilla
- Estar aislado de la familia u otro sistema de apoyo

MITOS COMUNES SOBRE LA TRATA DE PERSONAS

Solo ocurre en países en vías de desarrollo.
El trato de personas ocurre en cada país, incluso en los estados unidos.

Solo pasa a mujeres, niños, o pobres.
El trato de personas puede pasar a cualquier persona, sin importar su edad, raza, género o estatus socioeconómico.

Es igual que el secuestro.
El secuestro no es igual al trato de personas. El trato de personas involucra el uso de la fuerza, el fraude, o la coerción para los fines de explotación laboral o sexual. Si la trata de personas involucra a menores de edad, no necesariamente hay que incluir la fuerza, el fraude, o la coerción.

Solo es perpetrado por desconocidos.
Es común que el víctima conozca al perpetrador. A veces (pero no siempre), el traficante es un conocido.

RECURSOS EN EL NEW RIVER VALLEY

Women's Resource Center of the New River Valley
Línea de atención 24 horas: 540-639-1123 | Teléfono: 540-639-9592
Correo electrónico: stcase@wrcnriv.org
wrcnriv.org

La línea nacional contra la trata de personas
Teléfono: 1 (888) 373-7888
humantraffickinghotline.org



Questions & Discussion

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