

# Know The Facts!

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery. Traffickers use force, fraud, and coercion to compel victims into forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation. Victims are children, teenagers, men, and women.

*15 - average age of victims recovered in a 2017 national FBI operation*

*\$150 Billion - estimated annual profits of labor & sex trafficking worldwide*

*1 in 7 - runaways reported to NCMEC in 2017 were likely sex trafficking victims*

*40.3 Million – people estimated to be trapped in human trafficking worldwide*

## How does it happen?

- Recruitment begins by meeting basic needs: shelter, food, drugs, or emotional needs like attention, affection or friendship.
- The “grooming” process can take days, weeks or months in order to build trust with the victim, and the trafficker will often win over the victim by posing as a boyfriend, friend, or caretaker.
- The trafficker will make false promises: “You will be a model, an actress, a dancer.” “You’ll make easy money and be part of a family.” They aim to form a bond with the teen and offer them a better life.
- The recruiter/trafficker offers excitement and adventure which is enticing for teenagers in rural Iowa who are looking for something to do.
- Most sales of sex are now coordinated online rather than on the streets. Consequently, trafficking is increasingly mobile: traffickers travel to deliver victims, and buyers travel to purchase sex.
- A trafficked girl or boy may still live at home and attend school. The trafficker could exploit them when family isn’t around, take trips during free periods at school, or travel on the weekends.

## Warning Signs:

Do they have a noticeably older boyfriend or girlfriend?

Is someone buying them expensive gifts or paying for expensive activities?

Are they secretive with texts or calls and/or pulling away from family and friends?

Are they fearful due to threats of harm or blackmail?

Can they come and go as they please?

Do they frequently run away or have unexplained absences?

## Report:

If you see something, *say something!*

Call **911** in an emergency

Call the **Iowa Victim Service Call Center Hotline** at **1-800-770-1650** or text **IOWAHELP** to **20121**

Report to the **National Human Trafficking Hotline** at **1-888-373-7888** or text **INFO** or **HELP** to **233733**

Contact the **Iowa ICAC Task Force** at [www.iaicac.org](http://www.iaicac.org) for questions or to request online safety information

**Make a report** to the **Cyber Tipline** if you see suspicious activity online [report.cybertip.org](http://report.cybertip.org)

**Report** child abuse to the **Iowa Child Abuse Hotline** at **1-800-362-2178**