



## What is Child Sex Trafficking?

As stated in the Federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act, child sex trafficking includes the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting a child under 18 years of age for the purpose of a commercial sex act. A minor is not able to consent to being bought or sold.

It is the responsibility of the community to identify possible indicators of child sex trafficking. The public shouldn't rely on the potential victim for disclosure. Since traffickers and buyers use refined recruitment tactics, manipulation, and threats, the exploited youth are often unable to immediately disclose or recognize their own victimization.

## Indicators of Child Sex Trafficking\*

### RISK FACTORS

Youth who:

- Are chronically missing/running away
- Have experienced childhood sexual abuse
- Don't feel loved by their parents
- Have low self-esteem and self-worth
- Identify as LGBTQ and have been stigmatized by their family

### BEHAVIORAL INDICATORS

- Changes in online presence (new profiles/accounts/online friends)
- Lies about identity (name, age, etc.)
- Avoids answering questions or lets others speak for them
- Seeks approval from others
- Seems coached/frightened/hostile when engaging with authority
- Doesn't ask for/rejects help

### PHYSICAL INDICATORS

- Multiple minors with unrelated adult males or an overly controlling/abusive male figure
- Sexual paraphernalia such as bulk condoms or lubrication
- Presence of minors at hotels, street tracks, truck stops, or strip clubs
- Evidence of travel without a guardian
- Does not have identification (or ID is being held by someone else)
- Has a name or symbol tattooed, burned, or branded onto their bodies (and are unwilling to explain the markings)
- Has large amounts of cash or pre-paid credit cards, hotel keys/receipts
- Carries multiple cell phones and/or electronic devices
- Has notebooks/slips of paper with phone numbers, dollar amounts, names, or addresses

\*No single indicator confirms the existence of child sex trafficking, but several combined can increase the likelihood of it occurring.



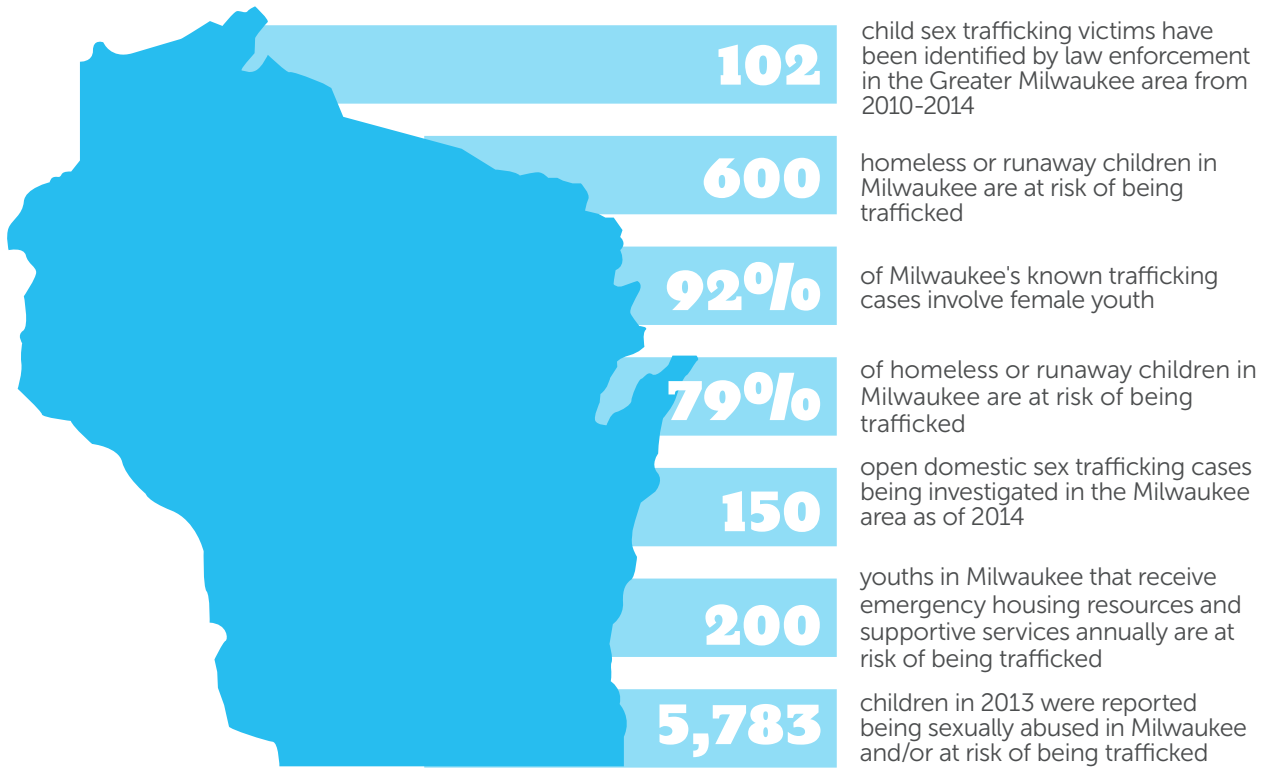
## Let's Talk Facts

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery. This is a crime that occurs when a trafficker uses force, fraud or coercion to control another person for the purpose of engaging in commercial sex acts or soliciting labor or services against his/her will.

### GENERAL FACTS

- Human trafficking is the fastest growing crime in the nation and is a 9.5 billion dollar industry annually in the United States
- It's estimated that there are 27 million slaves in the world today
- 4 out of 5 victims are women or girls
- 1 out of 3 teens on the street will be lured into trafficking within 48 hours of leaving home
- National Human Trafficking Hotline Number receives, on average, 100 calls per day

**Every 30 seconds,  
a human is sold  
into slavery**



## NEXT STEPS

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