

SEX TRAFFICKING IN TRIBAL COMMUNITIES



COALITION to STOP
VIOLENCE AGAINST
NATIVE WOMEN

SEX TRAFFICKING OCCURS WHEN

a trafficker uses force, fraud, or coercion to sexually exploit victims for benefit or profit. Sexually exploited people under the age of 18 are automatically considered trafficking victims

SEX TRAFFICKING MAY LOOK LIKE:

Showing signs of physical/sexual abuse, torture, confinement
Forced or coerced to engage in sex work or pornography
Forced to trade sexual favors for rent, utilities, food, etc.

STATISTICS

The average age of sex trafficking victims is 14-16 years old for girls and 11-13 years old for boys (1)

40% of individuals involved in sex trafficking identified as American Indian, Alaskan Native, or First Nations, according to a survey of four sites in the U.S. and Canada (2)

More than 30% of Native victims reported being in the foster care system as children (3)

79% of Native victims reported being sexually abused as children by an average of four perpetrators (2)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Increased funding that supports trafficking survivors and works to help victims exit the industry safely
- Implement training for Tribal gaming staff, direct service providers, school counselors, teachers, law enforcement, and Tribal staff to identify and address trafficking
- Support community education and outreach to increase knowledge about trafficking and available resources in communities for victims and survivors.
- Make clear the direct connection between the missing and murdered crisis as it relates to sex trafficking

SOURCES

U.S. Department of Justice, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (1)
Human Trafficking: Trends and Responses across Indian Country. NCAI Policy Research Center, 2016. (2)
Garden of Truth: The Prostitution and Trafficking of Native Women in Minnesota, Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition and Prostitution Research & Education, 2011 (3)
DC Office of the Attorney General: Human Trafficking Fact Sheet (4)



Running away from home

Signs of gang affiliation

Truancy/not attending school

Signs of physical abuse such as burn marks, bruises, or cuts

Possessing cell phones that they did not purchase on their own

New tattoos (traffickers often use tattoos as a form of branding)

Making purchases with credit cards that do not belong to them

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LOOK FOR THE SIGNS

WHERE SEX TRAFFICKING OR RECRUITING OF SUBJECTS HAPPEN



Tribal Communities



Escort services



Casinos



Illicit massage



Powwows



Man Camps



Homes



Shopping Malls



State/Tribal Fairs



Truck Stops/Gas stations



Internet/
Social Media

RESOURCES

The Lifeline

Direct advocacy, shelter, long term transition planning
505-GET- FREE/505-438-3733
www.thelifeline.org

First Nations CARES Program

Case management, free & confidential services
505-697-0039

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

<https://www.missingkids.org/>
703-224-2150

Strong Hearts Native Helpline

1-877-7NATIVE/
1-844-762-8483

New Mexico Human Trafficking Unit of New Mexico

505-717-3500

National Human Trafficking Hotline

1-888-373-7888