



SEX TRAFFICKING IN TRIBAL COMMUNITIES



SEX TRAFFICKING OCCURS WHEN

a trafficker uses force, fraud, or coercion to sexually exploit victims for personal benefit or financial gain. 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, or confinement Forced or coerced to engage in sex work or pornography Forced to trade sexual favors for rent, utilities, food, substances, etc.

In a study of over 1,600 trafficking victims in the U.S., the average age of entry into sex trafficking was 19 years old. (Sex Trafficking in the U.S.: A Closer Look at U.S. Citizen Victims, Polaris, 2016.)

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

From a sample size of 105 Native American women involved in trafficking, more than 30% reported being in the foster care system as children.

79% of those 105 Native trafficking victims reported being sexually abused as children by an average of four perpetrators.

CSVANW RECOMMENDATIONS

- Advocate for increased funding to programs supporting trafficking survivors and work to help victims exit safely
- Invest in transitional and permanent housing programs for trafficking survivors
- Support programming that encourages cultural knowledge and practices rooted within early intervention and prevention through outreach and education.
- Make clear the direct connection between the missing and murdered crisis as it relates to sex trafficking
- Support training for community workers, tribal gaming staff, service providers, school counselors, teachers, law enforcement, and tribal staff to identify trafficking and refer to appropriate services.
- Support community education and outreach to increase knowledge about trafficking and available resources in community for victims and survivors.

Not wanting to be alone with a specific person.

Avoiding the abuser/trafficker

Signs of self-harm (cutting, burning)

Being fearful, nervous and anxious.

Sexually inappropriate behavior
Loss of sense in time

Avoids eye contact or conversations.

Problems at school/work

Drug/alcohol dependency

Changes of behavior: emotionally, spiritually, physically, and mentally

Conversations of a new older friend/relative and unexplained money or gifts.

LOOK FOR THE SIGNS

WHERE SEX TRAFFICKING OR RECRUITING OF SUBJECTS HAPPEN



Tribal Communities



Escort services (Strip clubs)



Casinos



Massage parlors



Powwows (Gathering of Nations)



Man Camps



Homes



Shopping Malls (Walmart, Coronado Mall)



State/Tribal Fairs



Truck Stops/Gas stations



Internet/Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat)

SEX TRAFFICKING CAN HAPPEN ANYWHERE.

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

Strong Hearts Native Helpline

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

National Human Trafficking Hotline

1-888-373-7888

YOUR SAFETY IS SACRED.

Human Trafficking: Trends and Responses across Indian Country. NCAI Policy Research Center, 2016.

Garden of Truth: The Prostitution and Trafficking of Native Women in Minnesota, Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition and Prostitution Research & Education, 2011

Sex Trafficking in the U.S.: A Closer Look at U.S. Citizen Victims, Polaris, 2016