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


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