

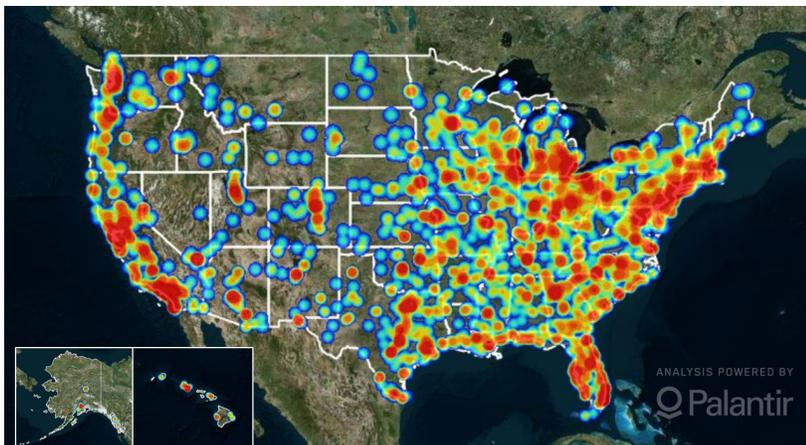


# 2018 Statistics *from the* National Human Trafficking Hotline

**More survivors than ever are reaching out to be connected to services**

The U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline provides survivors of human trafficking with vital support and options to get help and stay safe. These options may include connecting callers with emergency shelter, transportation, trauma counselors, local law enforcement, or a range of other services and support. The National Hotline has handled 51,919 cases since 2007, comprising one of the largest publicly available data sets on human trafficking in the United States. These aggregated, anonymized data help illuminate otherwise hidden trends, risk factors, methods of control, and other variables that allow this crime to manifest across the country. With these tools, we can better respond to and prevent human trafficking. This document encompasses data from January 1, 2018, to December 31, 2018, unless otherwise noted. It only represents contacts made to the National Hotline in the United States—and not the full scope or prevalence of human trafficking. As additional data reviews are conducted, the data can be refined when more information about specific cases is received. The data in this document are based on analyses as of July 30, 2019. “Contacts” made to the National Hotline include phone calls, texts, webchats, webforms, and emails. Cases are defined as situations of human trafficking, which may involve more than one survivor.

## Locations of potential human trafficking cases in the U.S.



## Methods of contacting the Hotline in 2018

-  **PHONE CALLS**  
28,335
-  **TEXTS**  
5,197
-  **WEBCHATS**  
1,566
-  **WEBFORMS**  
4,034
-  **EMAILS**  
1,956

**TOTAL CONTACTS 41,088**

## IMPACT AT A GLANCE

**25 PERCENT** jump in cases of human trafficking from 2017

**SURVIVORS IDENTIFIED**

**23,078**

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASES**

**10,949**

**POTENTIAL TRAFFICKERS**

**5,859**

**SUSPICIOUS BUSINESSES**

**1,905**

**3,218 INDIVIDUAL SURVIVORS** contacted the National Hotline **7,838 TIMES.**

# Top 3 Types of Trafficking Cases in 2018

## SEX TRAFFICKING

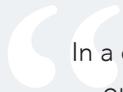
Escort services	<b>1,535</b>
Residential-based	<b>635</b>
Pornography	<b>537</b>

## LABOR TRAFFICKING

Domestic work	<b>214</b>
Agriculture & animal husbandry	<b>157</b>
Traveling sales crews	<b>138</b>

## SEX AND LABOR TRAFFICKING

Illicit massage, health, & beauty	<b>1,011</b>
Bars, strip clubs, & cantinas	<b>214</b>
Illicit activities	<b>119</b>



In a case I had a couple months ago, there was an 18-year-old who called the Hotline while her trafficker was out for a little bit. She only had 20 minutes to talk and she wanted to stop engaging in commercial sex.

*I was able to get her to leave the location—  
get to somewhere public, somewhere safe.*

After hours of working on this case, I eventually got her connected to law enforcement, a shelter for the night, and a long-term plan for what she's going to do next.

— National Hotline Advocate

## NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE CASES



Cases are defined as situations of human trafficking, which may involve more than one victim.

## SURVIVORS WHO CONTACTED THE HOTLINE DIRECTLY, BY YEAR:



Sex trafficking	<b>7,859</b>
Labor trafficking	<b>1,249</b>
Sex & labor trafficking	<b>639</b>
Not specified	<b>1,202</b>

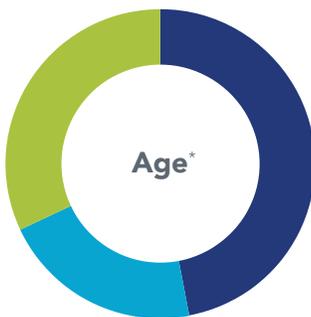


Sex trafficking	<b>14,749</b>
Labor trafficking	<b>5,577</b>
Sex and labor trafficking	<b>1,388</b>
Not specified	<b>1,364</b>

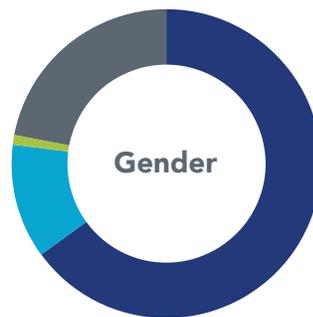
## Who are the survivors?

Every year, more survivors are reaching out to the National Human Trafficking Hotline and more people are seeking help for survivors they know. The data on these pages are not based on a systematic survey, but are analyzed from the information received about 23,078 survivors in 2018. As people disclosed more detailed information about their own trafficking experiences or about potential victims for whom they were seeking support, Hotline staff noted key elements. Individuals are never asked questions specifically for data collection purposes and are only asked to share what they are comfortable providing so that they can be connected to the support they want. These statistics are non-cumulative and only reflect the instances when the information was provided for an individual survivor.

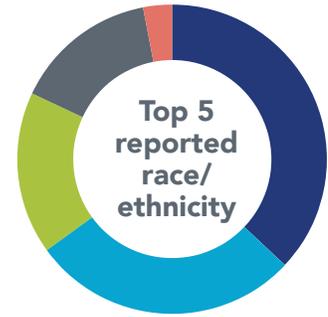
### DEMOGRAPHICS



Adult **10,731**  
 Minor **4,945**  
 Unknown **7,402**

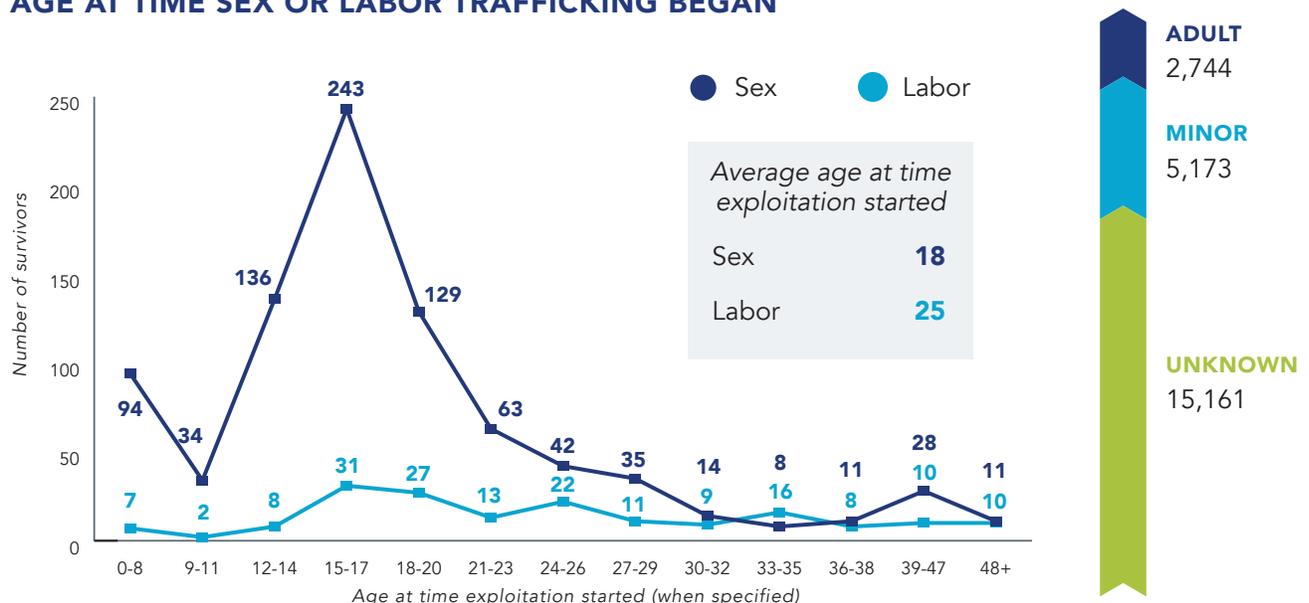


Female **15,042**  
 Male **2,917**  
 Gender minorities **109**  
 Unknown **5,010**



Latino **2,348**  
 Asian **1,809**  
 African, African-American, Black **1,072**  
 White **989**  
 Multi-ethnic, Multi-racial **184**

### AGE AT TIME SEX OR LABOR TRAFFICKING BEGAN



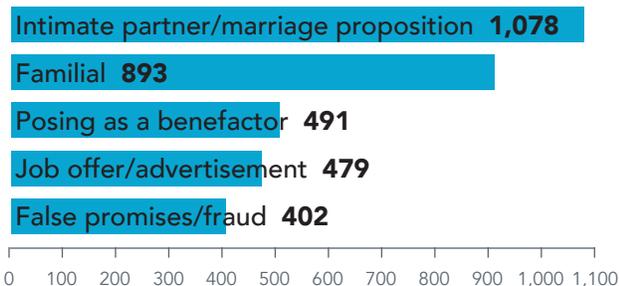
\* At time of contact with the National Hotline

## How are the victims trafficked?

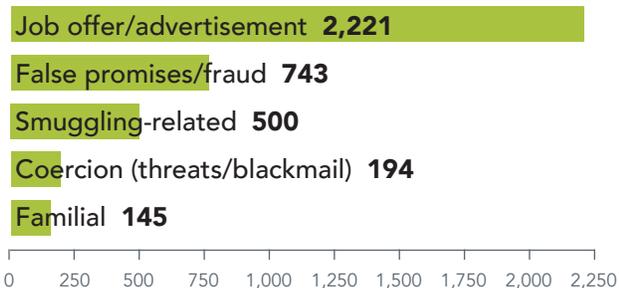
The data from the 23,078 survivor records give insight into the systems and tactics that traffickers use to conduct their business. Traffickers frequently prey on an individual's vulnerabilities, and the data spotlight factors that may have placed these victims at risk—as well as the variety of tactics used to recruit and keep them in a trafficking situation. These statistics are non-cumulative and only reflect the instances when the information was provided for an individual survivor.

### Top recruitment tactics

#### SEX TRAFFICKING



#### LABOR TRAFFICKING



### Top 5



#### RISK FACTORS FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- Recent migration/relocation **3,516**
- Substance use **710**
- Unstable housing **593**
- Runaway/homeless youth **569**
- Mental health concern **530**



#### METHODS OF FORCE, FRAUD, COERCION

- Isolation/confinement **5,353**
- Economic abuse **5,019**
- Threats of any kind **4,677**
- Emotional abuse **4,007**
- Physical abuse **3,159**



#### POINTS OF ACCESS TO POTENTIAL HELP

- Family/friends **2,530**
- Law enforcement/criminal justice system **1,242**
- Health services **861**
- Mobile apps or social media **717**
- Child welfare system **503**

### Not the job promised: restaurant labor trafficking

Maribel\* was recruited by an agency in Malaysia for a new opportunity at a restaurant in the Midwest. With her temporary work visa in hand, Maribel flew to the United States and started her new role. Almost immediately, the job she was promised became something much different. She was made to work excessive hours with few breaks and only one day off in four months. Paid very little, she was barred from receiving tips. She was subjected to frequent yelling and name-calling by her manager. After several months, she complained to her manager—who then hit her. Understandably, Maribel decided to quit her job. Yet, her manager refused to accept the resignation and told her that she would be arrested and deported if she didn't show up for her shift. Maribel had no choice but to believe him, since her visa was tied to her employer. She feared retribution for any more complaints. This was a clear case of labor trafficking. Thankfully, Maribel remembered receiving a pamphlet with the National Human Trafficking Hotline number on it. She called and spoke to a Hotline Advocate—sharing her experiences at the restaurant and her fears about quitting. She talked through various options with the advocate and decided to speak to a lawyer. The advocate connected her to a legal service organization, and Maribel was able to work with them to ultimately report her employer to the appropriate authorities.

*\*Maribel's name has been changed and details removed in order to protect her identity.*