

Polaris Analysis of 2020 Data *from the* National Human Trafficking Hotline

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Situations

2020 Form of Trafficking	# of Situations	% of Situations
Labor	1052	10%
Other/Not Specified ¹	1549	15%
Sex	7648	72%
Sex and Labor	334	3%
Total Trafficking Situations	10583	

To protect the identity of the people we serve, Polaris does not disclose statistics related to venues, industries, victim information or signaler information referenced fewer than three times. Note therefore that missing data is either because it is redacted OR because the count is 0.

¹ Situations where form of trafficking is "Other/Not Specified" typically occur when a law enforcement agent or service provider contacts the Trafficking Hotline for resources and referrals but does not disclose details about the trafficking situation due to confidentiality. This category also includes incidents in which the person reporting the information references human trafficking but does not provide further detail regarding the presence of labor or commercial sex. These cases are often submitted to the Trafficking Hotline through anonymous online tip reports.

² Situations where the trafficking type is No Type typically occur when the person reporting the information references either a specific form of trafficking but does not provide further detail regarding the business structure or operation of the trafficking situation, or does not provide any information regarding the form of trafficking information due to confidentiality.

This table shows a breakdown of incidents by their Type as defined in Polaris's report, [Typology of Modern Slavery: Defining Sex and Labor Trafficking in the United States](#). Note that while Type of trafficking is similar to the Venue/Industry values on the Trafficking Hotline website, there are some differences and so values may not perfectly match.

2020 Typology	# of Situations	% of Situations
Agriculture & Animal Husbandry	83	0.8%
Arts & Entertainment	21	0.2%
Bars, Strip Clubs, and Cantinas	126	1.2%
Carnivals	4	0.0%
Commercial Cleaning Services	17	0.2%
Construction	65	0.6%
Domestic Work	202	1.9%
Emerging Types	132	1.2%
Escort Services	1116	10.5%
Factories & Manufacturing	15	0.1%
Forestry & Logging	6	0.1%
Health & Beauty Services	19	0.2%
Health Care	9	0.1%
Hotels & Hospitality	23	0.2%
Illicit Activities	122	1.2%
Illicit Massage, Health, & Beauty	626	5.9%
Landscaping	17	0.2%
No Type ²	5853	55.3%
Outdoor Solicitation	210	2.0%
Peddling & Begging	38	0.4%
Personal Sexual Servitude	295	2.8%
Pornography	939	8.9%
Recreational Facilities	4	0.0%
Remote Interactive Sexual Acts	67	0.6%
Residential-Based Commercial Sex	465	4.4%
Restaurants & Food Service	49	0.5%
Traveling Sales Crews	60	0.6%
Total Trafficking Situations	10583	

Demographics



2020 Gender of Likely Victims by Form												
Form of Trafficking	Labor		Sex		Sex and Labor		Sex + Sex and Labor		Other/Not Specified		Overall	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Female	1010	28.2%	8750	80.7%	446	70.7%	9196	80.2%	1108	67.8%	11290	67.8%
Gender Minorities ³			71	0.7%			73	0.6%	11	0.7%	86	0.5%
Male	1371	38.3%	811	7.5%	63	10.0%	874	7.6%	140	8.6%	2383	14.3%
Unknown	1200	33.5%	1204	11.1%	120	19.0%	1324	11.5%	375	22.9%	2899	17.4%
Total Unique Victims	3583		10836		631		11467		1634		16658	

³ The value Gender Minorities includes transgender males, transgender females, and non-binary or gender non-conforming individuals. Situations where the likely victims' gender was unstated or unclear due to conflicting information are recorded as Unknown.

2020 Immigration Status of Likely Victims												
Form of Trafficking	Labor		Sex		Sex and Labor		Sex + Sex and Labor		Other/Not Specified		Overall	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Domestic (USC/LPR)	86	2.4%	558	5.1%	40	6.3%	598	5.20%	67	4.1%	746	4.5%
Foreign National	2510	70.1%	426	3.9%	129	20.4%	555	4.80%	130	8.0%	3195	19.2%
Unknown	987	27.5%	9852	90.9%	462	73.2%	10314	89.90%	1437	87.9%	12717	76.3%
Total Unique Victims	3583		10836		631		11467		1634		16658	

This table shows the US immigration status of likely victims at the time of their first contact with Polaris. Domestic includes both US Citizens and Legal Permanent Residents, also frequently known as green card holders

Demographics, *continued*



2020 Race/Ethnicity of Likely Victims												
Form of Trafficking	Labor		Sex		Sex and Labor		Sex + Sex and Labor		Other/Not Specified		Overall	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander			6	0.1%			6	0.1%			8	0.0%
Caribbean	10	0.3%	7	0.1%			9	0.1%			19	0.1%
Middle Eastern	29	0.8%	13	0.1%			13	0.1%			44	0.3%
American Indian/Alaska Native/ Indigenous American	5	0.1%	41	0.4%	3	0.5%	44	0.4%			51	0.3%
Other	34	0.9%	25	0.2%			26	0.2%			62	0.4%
African	43	1.2%	19	0.2%	23	3.6%	42	0.4%	9	0.6%	94	0.6%
Multi-racial/Multi-ethnic	4	0.1%	89	0.8%	4	0.6%	93	0.8%	4	0.2%	101	0.6%
African American or Black	63	1.8%	396	3.7%	8	1.3%	404	3.5%	12	0.7%	478	2.9%
Caucasian or White	33	0.9%	558	5.1%	16	2.5%	574	5.0%	19	1.2%	622	3.7%
Asian	119	3.3%	533	4.9%	29	4.6%	562	4.9%	12	0.7%	693	4.2%
Latinx	1710	47.7%	340	3.1%	47	7.4%	387	3.4%	42	2.6%	2139	12.8%
Unknown	1533	42.8%	8902	82.2%	502	79.6%	9404	82.0%	1532	93.8%	12448	74.7%
Total Number of Victims	3583		10836		631		11467		1634		16658	

Age at First Contact with Polaris - 2020 Only												
Form of Trafficking	Labor		Sex		Sex and Labor		Sex + Sex and Labor		Other/Not Specified		Overall	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Adult	2976	83.10%	5300	48.90%	334	52.90%	5634	49.10%	964	59.00%	9550	57.3%
Minor	232	6.50%	3270	30.20%	138	21.90%	3408	29.70%	148	9.10%	3786	22.7%
Unknown	375	10.50%	2266	20.90%	159	25.20%	2425	21.10%	522	31.90%	3322	19.9%
Total Number of Victims	3583		10836		631		11467		1634		16658	

This table shows the age of likely victims at the time of their first contact with the Trafficking Hotline, which is not necessarily at the age when the exploitative situation began (see Age at Entry into Exploitation). Polaris uses the federal standard of 18 as the age of majority for all situations regardless of the laws in specific jurisdictions. All likely victims included as minors were reported by individuals with a high degree of confidence regarding the likely victim's age. Given the significance of whether a likely victim is an adult or minor, if the actual age is unknown and the apparent age is close to the adult/minor boundary (ex. a likely victim is described as being 16-20), *Unknown* is selected.



Age at Entry into Exploitation

“Age at Entry into Exploitation” refers to the age of likely victims when the first commercial sex act or the first time initiating labor/services occurred. This should not be confused with the age the likely victim was when they first contacted the Trafficking Hotline (Age at First Contact with Polaris).

	2019		2020		2019-2020 % Change
	#	%	#	%	
Adult	1419	6.4%	1462	8.8%	37.1%
Minor	5318	24.0%	4600	27.6%	15.1%
Unknown	15471	69.8%	10634	63.8%	-8.5%
Total Number of Victims	22168		16658		

2020 Only	Labor		Sex		Sex and Labor		Sex + Sex & Labor		Other/Not Specified		Overall	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Adult	730	20.4%	638	5.9%	53	8.4%	691	6.0%	41	2.5%	1462	8.8%
Minor	295	8.2%	3936	36.3%	187	29.6%	4123	36.0%	192	11.8%	4600	27.6%
Unknown	2561	71.5%	6291	58.1%	392	62.1%	6683	58.3%	1401	85.7%	10634	63.8%
Total Number of Victims	3583		10836		631		11467		1634		16658	



Risk Factors/Vulnerabilities

Risk factors and vulnerabilities that applied to the likely victims immediately prior to or at the time of entry into the trafficking situation.

Reported Year	2019		2020		19-20 Change
	#	%	#	%	
Adult with Legal Guardian/Conservator	23	0.4%	15	0.3%	-19.2%
Caretaker Involvement in Sexualized Industry	79	1.3%	48	1.0%	-24.7%
Caretaker Substance Use Concern	146	2.5%	131	2.8%	11.2%
Child Welfare System Involvement	320	5.5%	233	4.9%	-9.8%
Criminal Record/Criminal History	293	5.0%	112	2.4%	-52.6%
Experienced Abuse/Violence (Non-Sexual)	186	3.2%	140	3.0%	-6.7%
Experienced Sexual Abuse/Violence	315	5.4%	244	5.2%	-4.0%
Foster Care	177	3.0%	111	2.3%	-22.3%
Gang Involvement	48	0.8%	29	0.6%	-25.1%
Gender/Romantic/Sexual Minority	179	3.1%	168	3.6%	16.3%
Illiterate or Semiliterate	5	0.1%			
Intellectual/Developmental Disability	107	1.8%	101	2.1%	17.0%
Juvenile Justice System Involvement	57	1.0%	35	0.7%	-23.9%
Mental Health Concern	403	6.9%	350	7.4%	7.6%
Negligent/Absent Caretaker	112	1.9%	65	1.4%	-28.1%
Physical Health Concern	250	4.3%	156	3.3%	-22.7%
Prior Involvement in Sexualized Industry	219	3.7%	177	3.7%	0.2%
Recent Financial Debt	26	0.4%	4	0.1%	-80.9%
Recent Loss of Economic Provider	20	0.3%	20	0.4%	23.9%
Recent Migration/Relocation	2978	50.8%	2478	52.4%	3.1%
Recent Unemployment/Underemployment	28	0.5%	12	0.3%	-46.9%
Runaway/Homeless Youth	501	8.5%	397	8.4%	-1.8%
Self-Reported Economic Hardship	104	1.8%	134	2.8%	59.7%
Substance Use Concern	589	10.0%	448	9.5%	-5.7%
Unaccompanied Refugee Minor (URM)	33	0.6%	17	0.4%	-36.2%
Unstable Housing	497	8.5%	423	8.9%	5.5%
Welfare System Involvement	12	0.2%	4	0.1%	-58.7%
Witnessed Abuse/Violence	33	0.6%	22	0.5%	-17.4%
Total Number of Victims with Known Risk Factors/Vulnerabilities	5,862		4,730		

Risk Factors/Vulnerabilities, *continued*



2020 Only	Labor		Sex		Sex and Labor		Sex + Sex & Labor		Other/Not Specified		Overall	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Adult with Legal Guardian/Conservator			14	0.7%			14	0.6%			15	0.3%
Caretaker Involvement in Sexualized Industry			47	2.2%			47	2.0%			48	1.0%
Caretaker Substance Use Concern	7	0.3%	122	5.7%			123	5.3%	3	1.8%	131	2.8%
Child Welfare System Involvement	21	0.9%	193	9.1%	12	6.0%	205	8.8%	8	4.9%	233	4.9%
Criminal Record/Criminal History	24	1.1%	81	3.8%			83	3.6%	5	3.0%	112	2.4%
Experienced Abuse/Violence (Non-Sexual)	19	0.8%	113	5.3%	5	2.5%	118	5.1%	5	3.0%	140	3.0%
Experienced Sexual Abuse/Violence	15	0.7%	220	10.4%	10	5.0%	230	9.9%	4	2.4%	244	5.2%
Foster Care	8	0.4%	100	4.7%			100	4.3%	4	2.4%	111	2.3%
Gang Involvement	6	0.3%	21	1.0%			22	0.9%			29	0.6%
Gender/Romantic/Sexual Minority	9	0.4%	134	6.3%	9	4.5%	143	6.2%	16	9.8%	168	3.6%
Intellectual/Developmental Disability	9	0.4%	71	3.3%	13	6.5%	84	3.6%	8	4.9%	101	2.1%
Juvenile Justice System Involvement			33	1.6%			33	1.4%			35	0.7%
Mental Health Concern	14	0.6%	292	13.7%	19	9.5%	311	13.4%	26	15.9%	350	7.4%
Negligent/Absent Caretaker	5	0.2%	57	2.7%	3	1.5%	60	2.6%			65	1.4%
Physical Health Concern	16	0.7%	112	5.3%	9	4.5%	121	5.2%	20	12.2%	156	3.3%
Prior Involvement in Sexualized Industry	3	0.1%	168	7.9%	6	3.0%	174	7.5%			177	3.7%
Recent Financial Debt			3	0.1%			3	0.1%			4	0.1%
Recent Loss of Economic Provider	3	0.1%	15	0.7%			16	0.7%			20	0.4%
Recent Migration/Relocation	2077	92.3%	275	12.9%	88	44.2%	363	15.6%	38	23.2%	2478	52.4%
Recent Unemployment/Underemployment	4	0.2%	7	0.3%			8	0.3%			12	0.3%
Runaway/Homeless Youth	12	0.5%	348	16.4%	27	13.6%	375	16.1%	10	6.1%	397	8.4%
Self-Reported Economic Hardship	82	3.6%	46	2.2%	5	2.5%	51	2.2%			134	2.8%
Substance Use Concern	24	1.1%	377	17.7%	31	15.6%	408	17.6%	16	9.8%	448	9.5%
Unaccompanied Refugee Minor (URM)	8	0.4%	6	0.3%			7	0.3%			17	0.4%
Unstable Housing	65	2.9%	305	14.4%	29	14.6%	334	14.4%	24	14.6%	423	8.9%
Welfare System Involvement			4	0.2%			4	0.2%			4	0.1%
Witnessed Abuse/Violence			19	0.9%			20	0.9%			22	0.5%
Total Number of Victims with Known Risk Factors/Vulnerabilities	2251		2125		199		2324		164		4730	

● 1st (top reported) ● 2nd ● 3rd



Recruitment Location

Noteworthy or common types of locations that the recruitment of exploitative commercial sex or labor is known to occur.

Reported Year	2019		2020		2019-2020 % Change
	#	%	#	%	
Behavioral/Mental Health Facility	18	1.3%	7	0.8%	-34.1%
Bus Station/Train Station	12	0.8%	3	0.4%	-57.6%
Detention Facility - Adult	25	1.7%	17	2.0%	15.3%
Detention Facility - Immigration	3	0.2%			
Detention Facility - Juvenile	7	0.5%	5	0.6%	21.1%
Detention Facility - Other					
Drug Rehabilitation Facility	32	2.2%	15	1.8%	-20.5%
Elementary School (Grades K-5)	3	0.2%	3	0.4%	69.5%
Group Home	34	2.4%	12	1.4%	-40.2%
High School (Grades 9-12)	42	2.9%	12	1.4%	-51.6%
Institutional Shelter	70	4.9%	22	2.6%	-46.7%
Internet - Dating Site	131	9.1%	64	7.6%	-17.2%
Internet - Facebook	128	8.9%	170	20.1%	125.2%
Internet - Instagram	95	6.6%	109	12.9%	94.5%
Internet - Misc. Chat Rooms	35	2.4%	28	3.3%	35.6%
Internet - Other Mobile Apps	110	7.7%	104	12.3%	60.3%
Internet - Other/Not Specified	394	27.4%	168	19.8%	-27.7%
Middle School (Grades 6-8)	8	0.6%	7	0.8%	48.3%
Private Foster Home	50	3.5%	3	0.4%	-89.8%
School - Other/Not Specified	54	3.8%	17	2.0%	-46.6%
Street	170	11.8%	89	10.5%	-11.2%
Strip Club	84	5.8%	27	3.2%	-45.5%
Total Number of Victims with Known Location	1,436		847		
Total Facebook & Instagram	210	14.60%	273	32.20%	120.40%
Total Internet	846	58.9%	610	72.0%	22.2%
Total School	106	7.4%	39	4.6%	-37.6%
Total Detention Facility	36	2.5%	26	3.1%	22.4%
Total Group & Foster Home	84	5.8%	15	1.8%	-69.7%
Total Number of Victims with Known Location Type	1,436		847		

Recruitment Location, *continued*



2020 Only	Labor		Sex		Sex and Labor		Sex + Sex & Labor		Other/Not Specified		Overall	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Behavioral/Mental Health Facility			6	0.9%			6	0.9%			7	0.8%
Bus Station/Train Station			3	0.5%			3	0.4%			3	0.4%
Detention Facility - Adult	12	7.4%	4	0.6%			5	0.7%			17	2.0%
Detention Facility - Immigration												
Detention Facility - Juvenile			5	0.8%			5	0.7%			5	0.6%
Detention Facility - Other												
Drug Rehabilitation Facility	3	1.8%	10	1.5%			12	1.8%			15	1.8%
Elementary School (Grades K-5)			3	0.5%			3	0.4%			3	0.4%
Group Home			10	1.5%			10	1.5%			12	1.4%
High School (Grades 9-12)			11	1.7%			12	1.8%			12	1.4%
Institutional Shelter	4	2.5%	16	2.5%			17	2.5%			22	2.6%
Internet - Dating Site			61	9.4%			62	9.2%			64	7.6%
Internet - Facebook	75	46.0%	77	11.9%	12	41.4%	89	13.2%	6	60.0%	170	20.1%
Internet - Instagram	3	1.8%	105	16.3%			106	15.7%			109	12.9%
Internet - Misc. Chat Rooms			27	4.2%			28	4.1%			28	3.3%
Internet - Other Mobile Apps	5	3.1%	97	15.0%			99	14.7%			104	12.3%
Internet - Other/Not Specified	33	20.2%	129	20.0%	4	13.8%	133	19.7%			168	19.8%
Middle School (Grades 6-8)			7	1.1%			7	1.0%			7	0.8%
Private Foster Home											3	0.4%
School - Other/Not Specified			14	2.2%			15	2.2%			17	2.0%
Street	19	11.7%	69	10.7%			70	10.4%			89	10.5%
Strip Club			26	4.0%			26	3.9%			27	3.2%
Total Number of Victims with Known Location Type	163		646		29		675		10		847	



Recruiter Type

The relationship(s) described between likely victims and their recruiter(s).

Reported Year	2019		2020		2019-2020 %Change
	#	%	#	%	
Dealer/Illicit Substance Provider	213	3.7%	121	2.9%	-20.7%
Employer	1842	31.9%	1170	28.2%	-11.4%
Family Member/Caregiver	1234	21.4%	1303	31.5%	47.3%
Friend/Acquaintance/Coworker	493	8.5%	271	6.5%	-23.3%
International Marriage Broker					
Intimate Partner	1278	22.1%	1105	26.7%	20.6%
Labor Recruiter/Contractor	538	9.3%	150	3.6%	-61.1%
Landlord	62	1.1%	65	1.6%	46.3%
Other Potential Victim	100	1.7%	39	0.9%	-45.6%
Smuggler	350	6.1%	65	1.6%	-74.1%
Total Number of Victims with Known Recruiter Type	5779		4142		

2020 Only	Labor		Sex		Sex and Labor		Sex + Sex & Labor		Other/Not Specified		Overall	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Dealer/Illicit Substance Provider	4	0.3%	103	4.5%	13	8%	116	4.7%			121	2.9%
Employer	1081	68.8%	75	3.3%	14	8.3%	89	3.6%			1170	28.2%
Family Member/Caregiver	239	15.2%	947	41.5%	69	41.1%	1016	41.5%	50	38.8%	1303	31.5%
Friend/Acquaintance/Coworker	26	1.7%	230	10.1%	6	3.6%	236	9.6%	9	7.0%	271	6.5%
International Marriage Broker												
Intimate Partner	76	4.8%	895	39.3%	66	39.3%	961	39.3%	69	53.5%	1105	26.7%
Labor Recruiter/Contractor	145	9.2%	4	0.2%			4	0.2%			150	3.6%
Landlord	17	1.1%	46	2.0%			48	2.0%			65	1.6%
Other Potential Victim	4	0.3%	33	1.4%			35	1.4%			39	0.9%
Smuggler	34	2.2%	22	1.0%	7	4.2%	29	1.2%			65	1.6%
Total Number of Victims with Known Recruiter Type	1572		2280		168		2448		129		4142	

● 1st (top reported) ● 2nd ● 3rd



Recruitment Tactics

The behaviors employed by potential recruiters and/or exploiters/traffickers to initially entice a likely victim into commercial sex or labor or services.

Reported Year	2019		2020		2019-2020 % Change
	#	%	#	%	
Abduction	356	5.2%	279	5.7%	10.6%
Coercion (Threats, Blackmail, etc.)	355	5.2%	190	3.9%	-24.5%
False Promises/Fraud	1293	18.8%	311	6.4%	-66.1%
Familial	1218	17.7%	1211	24.9%	40.3%
Intimate Partner/Marriage Proposition	1281	18.7%	1110	22.8%	22.2%
Job Offer/Advertisement	3193	46.5%	1713	35.2%	-24.3%
Posing as Benefactor	642	9.4%	453	9.3%	-0.5%
Smuggling-Related	353	5.1%	109	2.2%	-56.4%
Total Number of Victims with Known Recruitment Tactics	6866		4867		

2020 Only	Labor		Sex		Sex and Labor		Sex + Sex & Labor		Other/Not Specified		Overall	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Abduction	20	1.1%	227	8.5%	10	4.3%	237	8.2%	22	15.0%	279	5.7%
Coercion (Threats, Blackmail, etc.)	37	2.0%	135	5.1%	17	7.3%	152	5.2%			190	3.9%
False Promises/Fraud	157	8.6%	124	4.7%	26	11.2%	150	5.2%	4	2.7%	311	6.4%
Familial	136	7.4%	958	36.0%	69	29.6%	1027	35.5%	50	34.0%	1211	24.9%
Intimate Partner/Marriage Proposition	72	3.9%	906	34.0%	62	26.6%	968	33.4%	71	48.3%	1110	22.8%
Job Offer/Advertisement	1473	80.5%	184	6.9%	54	23.2%	238	8.2%			1713	35.2%
Posing as Benefactor	74	4.0%	339	12.7%	36	15.5%	375	12.9%	4	2.7%	453	9.3%
Smuggling-Related	63	3.4%	27	1.0%	16	6.9%	43	1.5%	3	2.0%	109	2.2%
Total Number of Victims with Known Recruitment Tactics	1830		2663		233		2896		147		4867	

● 1st (top reported) ● 2nd ● 3rd



Access Points

The systems, institutions, or people the likely victim of trafficking interacted with or had access to during the exploitative situation or immediately after/upon escape. Access Points are recorded even if the likely victim did not utilize them as a means of escape from their situation.

Reported Year	2019		2020		2019-2020 % Change
	#	%	#	%	
Access to Education	350	7.0%	188	4.6%	-34.7%
Access to General Social Services	434	8.7%	517	12.6%	44.7%
Access to Health Services	906	18.2%	767	18.7%	2.9%
Access to Mobile Apps/Social Media	491	9.9%	438	10.7%	8.4%
Access to Shelter	336	6.7%	273	6.7%	-1.3%
Access to Transportation	257	5.2%	131	3.2%	-38.1%
Interaction w Civil Justice/Legal Help	364	7.3%	117	2.9%	-60.9%
Interaction w Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice System	1317	26.5%	960	23.4%	-11.4%
Interaction with Child Welfare System	484	9.7%	327	8.0%	-17.9%
Interaction with Financial Institutions	39	0.8%	10	0.2%	-68.8%
Interaction with Friends/Family	1856	37.3%	1628	39.7%	6.6%
Interaction with Religious Community	90	1.8%	73	1.8%	-1.5%
Potential Buyer of Commercial Sex	242	4.9%	157	3.8%	-21.2%
Total Number of Victims with Known Access Points	4979		4098		

Access Points, *continued*



2020 Only	Labor		Sex		Sex and Labor		Sex + Sex & Labor		Other/Not Specified		Overall	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Access to Education	54	10.0%	120	4.1%	9	6.0%	129	4.2%	5	1.0%	188	4.6%
Access to General Social Services	105	19.5%	191	6.6%	13	8.7%	204	6.7%	209	40.5%	517	12.6%
Access to Health Services	65	12.1%	547	18.9%	20	13.4%	567	18.6%	136	26.4%	767	18.7%
Access to Mobile Apps/Social Media	21	3.9%	398	13.7%	7	4.7%	405	13.3%	12	2.3%	438	10.7%
Access to Shelter	29	5.4%	181	6.2%	11	7.4%	192	6.3%	52	10.1%	273	6.7%
Access to Transportation	21	3.9%	77	2.7%	4	2.7%	81	2.7%	30	5.8%	131	3.2%
Interaction w Civil Justice/Legal Help	49	9.1%	38	1.3%	10	6.7%	48	1.6%	20	3.9%	117	2.9%
Interaction w LE/Criminal Justice System	103	19.1%	691	23.8%	53	35.6%	744	24.4%	113	21.9%	960	23.4%
Interaction with Child Welfare System	25	4.6%	275	9.5%	14	9.4%	289	9.5%	14	2.7%	327	8.0%
Interaction with Financial Institutions	4	0.7%	6	0.2%			6	0.2%			10	0.2%
Interaction with Friends/Family	174	32.3%	1317	45.4%	61	40.9%	1378	45.2%	76	14.7%	1628	39.7%
Interaction with Religious Community	28	5.2%	40	1.4%			41	1.3%	4	0.8%	73	1.8%
Potential Buyer of Commercial Sex			150	5.2%	7	4.7%	157	5.1%			157	3.8%
Total Number of Victims with Known Access Points	538		2900		149		3049		516		4098	



Exploiter Relationship to Victim

The relationship(s) described between likely victims and their exploiter; relationships are defined by how the likely victim defined or would likely define their relationship with their exploiter.

	2019		2020		2019-2020 % Change
	#	%	#	%	
CSEC: No Controller	175	2.6%	110	2.1%	-17%
Dealer/Illicit Substance Provider	206	3.0%	176	3.4%	13%
Employer	3091	45.1%	2367	45.6%	1%
Familial Relationship to Victim(s)	1207	17.6%	1207	23.2%	32%
Foster Parent of Victim(s)	28	0.4%	28	0.5%	32%
Intimate Partner of Victim(s)	1334	19.5%	1151	22.2%	14%
Landlord	67	1.0%	75	1.4%	48%
No Other Relationship ⁴	497	7.3%	75	1.4%	-80%
Recruiter (Non-Employer)	372	5.4%	75	1.4%	-73%
Smuggler	306	4.5%	57	1.1%	-75%
Total Number of Victims with Known Exploiter Relationship	6848		5195		

⁴ "No Other Relationship" is selected when survivors have identified their trafficker's role solely as an individual who trafficked/exploited them and did not experience any alternative form of attachment to the potential trafficker (i.e. not a family member, employer, intimate partner, etc).



Exploiter Relationship to Victim, *continued*

	Labor		Sex		Sex and Labor		Sex + Sex & Labor		Other/Not Specified		Overall	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
CSEC: No Controller			110	4.7%			110	4.2%			110	2.1%
Dealer/Illicit Substance Provider	5	0.2%	140	5.9%	29	11.2%	169	6.4%			176	3.4%
Employer	2124	86.7%	169	7.1%	73	28.3%	242	9.2%			2367	45.6%
Familial Relationship to Victim(s)	143	5.8%	948	40.1%	67	26.0%	1015	38.7%	51	39.2%	1207	23.2%
Foster Parent of Victim(s)	8	0.3%	17	0.7%	3	1.2%	20	0.8%			28	0.5%
Intimate Partner of Victim(s)	81	3.3%	910	38.5%	88	34.1%	998	38.0%	73	56.2%	1151	22.2%
Landlord	20	0.8%	52	2.2%	3	1.2%	55	2.1%			75	1.4%
No Other Relationship ⁵			70	3.0%			71	2.7%	4	3.1%	75	1.4%
Recruiter (Non-Employer)	67	2.7%	8	0.3%			8	0.3%			75	1.4%
Smuggler	34	1.4%	14	0.6%	6	2.3%	20	0.8%	3	2.3%	57	1.1%
Total Number of Victims with Known Exploiter Relationship	2450		2365		258		2623		130		5195	

⁵ "No Other Relationship" is selected when survivors have identified their trafficker's role solely as an individual who trafficked/exploited them and did not experience any alternative form of attachment to the potential trafficker (i.e. not a family member, employer, intimate partner, etc).



Force, Fraud, and Coercion (grouped)

“Force, Fraud, and Coercion” refers to the methods of control and abuse frequently employed by traffickers to compel a likely victim to remain in the trafficking situation. These tables group more specific methods of FFC into their overarching categories for ease of analysis:

- **Economic Abuse** includes, but is not limited to: taking/withholding earnings, limiting access to finances, blacklisting (or threatening to), and debts/quotas.
- **Emotional Abuse** includes, but is not limited to: verbal abuse or manipulation, familial-based emotional abuse, and intimate partner-based emotional abuse.
- **Intimidation** includes, but is not limited to: destruction of property, harming others or animals, and displaying weapons.
- **Isolation** includes, but is not limited to: limiting access to support systems, controlling in public, confinement, and limiting access to medical services.
- **Threats** include, but are not limited to: threats to harm the likely victim, their family, or others, threats to expose or shame the likely victim, threats to report to immigration/threats of deportation, and threats to report to law enforcement.

	2019		2020		2019-2020 % Change
	#	%	#	%	
Economic Abuse	4307	27.3%	2989	24.7%	-9%
Emotional Abuse	4517	28.6%	3287	27.2%	-5%
Excessive Working Hours	2202	14.0%	1439	11.9%	-15%
Fraud/Misrepresentation of Job	1043	6.6%	951	7.9%	19%
Induces/Exploits Substance Abuse Issues	2217	14.1%	1532	12.7%	-10%
Intimidation	2359	15.0%	1457	12.1%	-19%
Isolation	3340	21.2%	2543	21.0%	-1%
Manipulation of Language Barrier	352	2.2%	167	1.4%	-38%
Monitoring/Stalking	1641	10.4%	1094	9.0%	-13%
Physical Abuse	2522	16.0%	1740	14.4%	-10%
Potential Minor in Commercial Sex ⁶	6255	39.7%	5187	42.9%	8%
Reproductive Coercion	109	0.7%	57	0.5%	-32%
Restricts Access to/Manipulates Children	112	0.7%	95	0.8%	11%
Sexual Abuse	1501	9.5%	1122	9.3%	-2%
Threats	4192	26.6%	2960	24.5%	-8%
Withholds/Denies Needs or Wants	1904	12.1%	1559	12.9%	7%
Withholds/Destroys Important Documents	1488	9.4%	565	4.7%	-50%
Total Number of Victims with Known FFC	15772		12090		

⁶ “Potential Minor in Commercial Sex” is selected even when the potential victim’s age or commercial element of the sexual exploitation cannot be definitively determined, but indicators of both are present.



Force, Fraud, and Coercion (Grouped), *continued*

	Labor		Sex		Sex and Labor		Sex + Sex & Labor		Other/Not Specified		Overall	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Economic Abuse	2197	66.9%	590	7.4%	188	37.1%	778	9.2%	16	4.4%	2989	24.7%
Emotional Abuse	999	30.4%	1995	25.1%	174	34.3%	2169	25.6%	127	34.7%	3287	27.2%
Excessive Working Hours	1365	41.5%	20	0.3%	54	10.7%	74	0.9%			1439	11.9%
Fraud/Misrepresentation of Job	830	25.3%	84	1.1%	36	7.1%	120	1.4%			951	7.9%
Induces/Exploits Substance Abuse Issues	39	1.2%	1365	17.2%	92	18.1%	1457	17.2%	38	10.4%	1532	12.7%
Intimidation	293	8.9%	1042	13.1%	99	19.5%	1141	13.5%	24	6.6%	1457	12.1%
Isolation	1226	37.3%	1031	13.0%	208	41.0%	1239	14.7%	79	21.6%	2543	21.0%
Manipulation of Language Barrier	159	4.8%	7	0.1%			7	0.1%			167	1.4%
Monitoring/Stalking	374	11.4%	550	6.9%	82	16.2%	632	7.5%	88	24.0%	1094	9.0%
Physical Abuse	233	7.1%	1287	16.2%	147	29.0%	1434	17.0%	77	21.0%	1740	14.4%
Potential Minor in Commercial Sex ⁷	30	0.9%	4916	61.8%	195	38.5%	5111	60.4%	54	14.8%	5187	42.9%
Reproductive Coercion	4	0.1%	45	0.6%	6	1.2%	51	0.6%			57	0.5%
Restricts Access to/Manipulates Children	15	0.5%	57	0.7%	15	3.0%	72	0.9%	8	2.2%	95	0.8%
Sexual Abuse	103	3.1%	887	11.2%	102	20.1%	989	11.7%	34	9.3%	1122	9.3%
Threats	1802	54.8%	945	11.9%	166	32.7%	1111	13.1%	49	13.4%	2960	24.5%
Withholds/Denies Needs or Wants	1112	33.8%	333	4.2%	97	19.1%	430	5.1%	17	4.6%	1559	12.9%
Withholds/Destroys Important Documents	379	11.5%	148	1.9%	16	3.2%	164	1.9%	22	6.0%	565	4.7%
Total Number of Victims with Known FFC	3286		7950		507		8457		366		12090	

⁷ "Potential Minor in Commercial Sex" is selected even when the potential victim's age or commercial element of the sexual exploitation cannot be definitively determined, but indicators of both are present.



The data displayed in this report was generated based on information communicated to the National Human Trafficking Hotline via phone, email, online tip report, SMS, or Webchat. The National Human Trafficking Hotline cannot verify the accuracy of the information reported. This is not a comprehensive report on the scale or scope of human trafficking within the United States. These statistics are accurate as of 07/01/2021, but are subject to change as new information emerges or as data cleanup occurs.

Since awareness of both human trafficking and the existence of a national victim service hotline is still limited, this data set should be interpreted as a limited sample of actual victim or trafficking incident data, rather than a representation of all existent victims or incidents of human trafficking. The information reported by the Trafficking Hotline is only able to represent who has access to and knowledge of the Trafficking Hotline, who has the means to reach out, and who is more likely to self-identify as a likely victim or someone in need of assistance. The data reported by Polaris should not be compared to the findings of more rigorous academic studies or prevalence estimates.