



National  
Human Trafficking  
& Disabilities  
Working Group

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING 101

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An Introduction to the Intersection of Human Trafficking and Persons with Disabilities

National Human Trafficking Working Group (NHTDWG)

# NHTDWG Webinar Presenters



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Presenter

# Overview

- Introduction to Human Trafficking
- Intersectionality of Disability and Human Trafficking
- Red Flags
- Resources



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# INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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# What is Human Trafficking?

- Human Trafficking is the practice of exploiting people as commodities in conditions of sexual and labor servitude
- Human trafficking is also referred to as:
  - Modern-day slavery
  - Debt bondage
  - Bonded-labor
  - Indentured servitude



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# Human Trafficking is Different from Smuggling

## Smuggling: Transportation

- Unauthorized border crossing
- No coercion
- Facilitated entry of a person from one country to another

## Human Trafficking: Exploitation

- Crime or violation against a person
- Contains element of coercion
- Subsequent exploitation and/or forced labor
- Trafficked persons seen as victims by the law
- No movement required

# Sex Trafficking is:

- Profiting from sex work by providing drugs, using false or misleading statements, withholding or destroying government documents, debt servicing, force, a plan or pattern of coercive conduct, or other acts
- Note: Federal law automatically recognizes persons under 18 who have been sexually exploited as victims of sex trafficking



# Labor Trafficking is:

- Compelling or inducing another to engage in labor, or recruiting, enticing, harboring or transporting another by providing drugs, withholding or destroying government documents, debt servicing, force, or a plan or pattern of coercive conduct

# Elements of Human Trafficking

## Process

- Recruits
- Harbors
- Transports
- Provides
- Obtains

## Means\*

- Force
- Fraud
- Coercion

## End

- Commercial sex
- Labor or services

*\*Means not required for individuals under the age of 18 who are induced into commercial sex acts*

# Elements of Human Trafficking

## Means

1. Force
2. Fraud
3. Coercion

# 1. Force

- Confinement
- Physical assault
- Sexual assault, rape
- Food and sleep deprivation
- Drug administration
- Kidnapping
- Domestic or familial violence

## 2. Fraud

- Fraudulent employment offers or contracts
- False promises
  - About work
  - About living conditions
  - Of education
  - Of love or marriage

# 3. Coercion

- Threats of deportation or arrest
- Blackmail
- Threats to life, personal safety, family members or other victims
- Debt bondage
- Withholding wages
- Withholding legal documents
- Psychological manipulation

# Grooming

- A systematic process that...aims to **achieve complete control over someone's identity or individuality** using a combination of physical, mental, and emotional means.

# The grooming process can include:

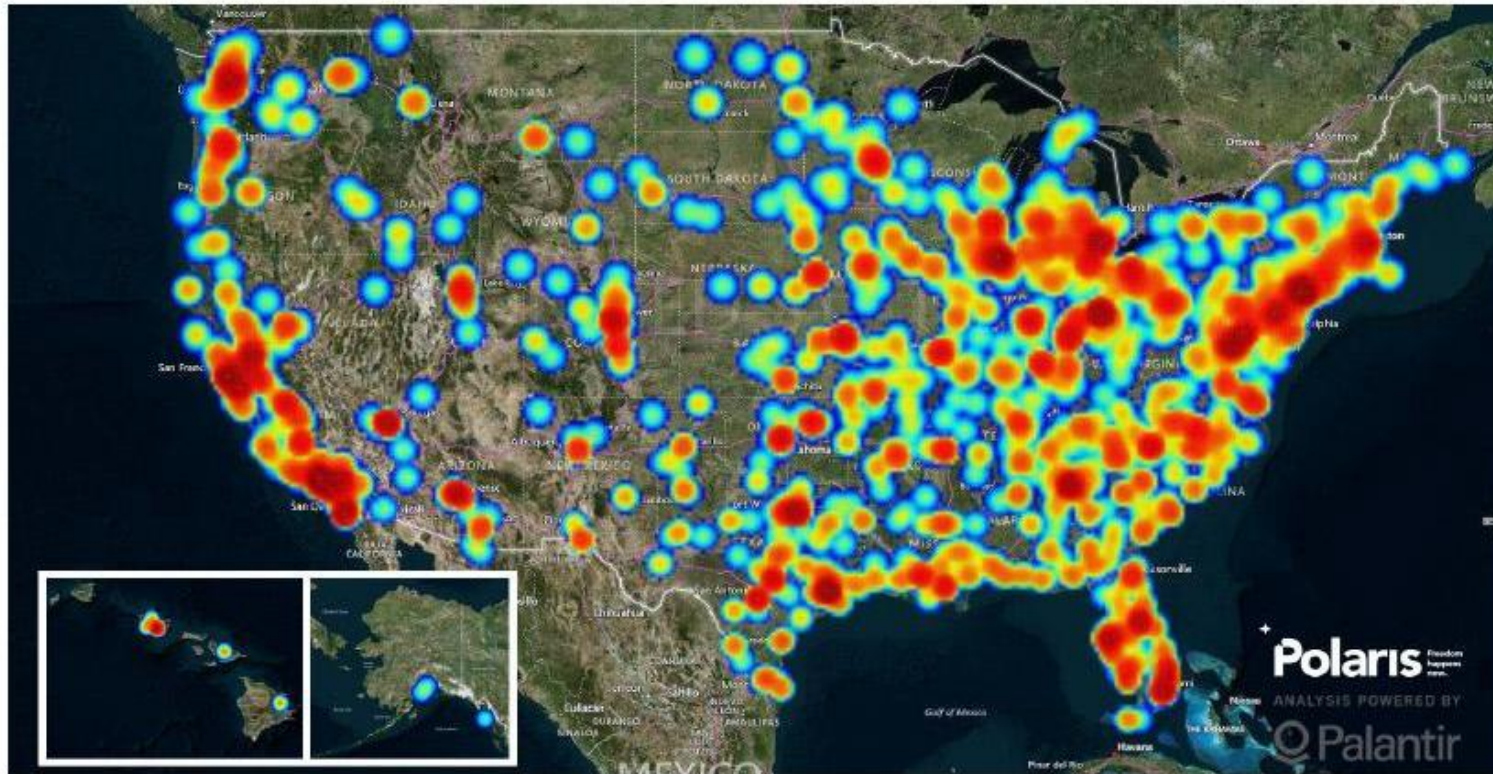
- Gaining trust of potential victims and their caregivers
- Intentional effort to identify potential victims
- Process of gaining trust
- Breaks down defenses
- Doesn't have to be a stranger
- Can be via social media





# Human Trafficking in the United States

According to data from the National Human Trafficking Hotline, there have been **40,987** human trafficking cases reported across the United States since December 2007.



# National Human Trafficking Hotline Cases, 2017

**8,759 cases and 10,615 individual victims reported**

- Trafficking Type
  - Sex trafficking: 7,255
  - Labor trafficking: 1,979
  - Sex and labor trafficking: 542
  - Not specified: 838
- Gender
  - Female: 8,561
  - Male: 1,454
  - Gender Minorities: 59
  - Unknown: 541
- Age
  - Adults: 6,204
  - Minors: 2,762
  - Unknown: 1,575
  - Adults (6,204), Minors (2,762)  
Unknown (1,575)

# The National Human Trafficking Hotline Statistics

## Top 3 Sex Trafficking Types, 2017

1. Illicit Massage/Spa Business
2. Hotel/Motel Based
3. Online Ad

## Top 3 Labor Trafficking Types, 2017

1. Domestic Work
2. Agriculture
3. Traveling Sales Crews

# The National Human Trafficking Hotline Statistics

(cont.)

## Top 5 Risk Factors

1. Recent Migration/Relocation
2. Substance Use Concern
3. Runaway/Homeless Youth
4. Mental Health Concern
5. Unstable Housing

## Top 5 Methods of Force, Fraud, Coercion

1. Emotional Abuse
2. Economic Abuse
3. Isolation – including confinement
4. Threats
5. Physical Abuse

# National Human Trafficking Hotline Information

1-888-373-7888 Toll Free

Text the word “HELP” to BeFree (233733)

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org>

# Who Can be a Trafficker?

- Any gender
- All ethnicities and races
- All ages
- Any socioeconomic status
- Any relation to the victim

# Anyone Can be a Trafficker!

- Family members
- Friends
- Romantic partners
- Acquaintances
- Employers of domestic workers
- Labor recruiters
- Community leaders
- Diplomats
- Organized crime & gangs
- Victims of trafficking
- Business owners
- Landlords
- Anyone else?

# Who are the Survivors?

## **Anyone can be trafficked:**

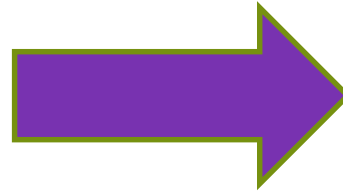
- Men, women, boys, girls, and transgender people of all ages, races, ethnicities, nationalities, and socio-economic classes
- People with disabilities are at high risk for exploitation, manipulation, and victimization



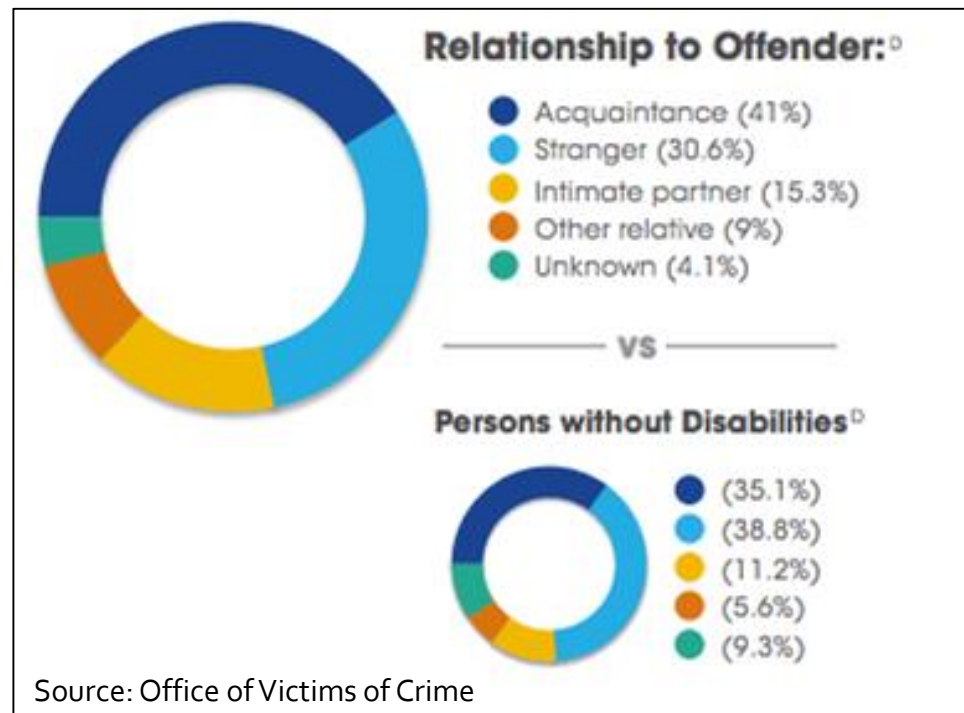
# INTERSECTION OF DISABILITY AND --- TRAFFICKING

# Vulnerabilities of Individuals with Disabilities

Often reliant on  
others for  
assistance



Increased  
vulnerability  
to abuse



# Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (DD) are at high risk for exploitation, manipulation, and victimization

- Stigmas and marginalization of DD/Mental Health (MH) created particular vulnerabilities
- Social barriers and lack of natural relationships often isolate individuals with DD
- Schools often times fail to accommodate students. They drop out, and are at heightened risk due to limited options for their futures
- Common views of individuals with DD are that they are not sexually active
  - As a result, sexual education and relationship expectations are rarely explored

**Due to discrimination,  
exclusion is common in  
many places as it  
pertains to  
Developmental  
Disabilities and Mental  
Health**

- Governments ignore risk factors or fail to make provisions for DD/MH individuals as a part of their Anti-Trafficking efforts
- Stigmas and marginalization of DD/MH creates particular vulnerabilities
- Human Trafficking numbers are difficult to acquire for individuals with disabilities, due to lack of reporting
- Individuals are usually deemed incompetent to be witness of these offenses

*From Patricia Stephens – Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities and Steve Mentrek – Bittersweet Farms, Inc.*

# Risk Factors for Individuals with Disabilities

1. Social Powerlessness
2. Inability to detect who is safe to be around
3. Communication skill deficits
4. Diminished ability to protect oneself due to lack of instruction and/or resources

# Why Individuals with Disabilities are Targeted

- Theft of government benefits;
- Predators may perceive a person with disabilities as weak, vulnerable or less likely to report abuse;
- Biases against persons with disabilities



# By the numbers...

Persons with disabilities are more likely to be victims of violence or rape, according to a 2004 British study, and less likely to obtain police intervention, legal protection or preventive care.

Women and girls with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to abuse and 25% women with intellectual disabilities had been raped and 6% of women with disabilities had been forcibly sterilized.

Research shows violence against children with disabilities occurs at annual rates at least 1.7 times greater than for their peers without disabilities.

*From Patricia Stephens – Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities and Steve Mentrek – Bittersweet Farms, Inc.*

# CASE STUDIES

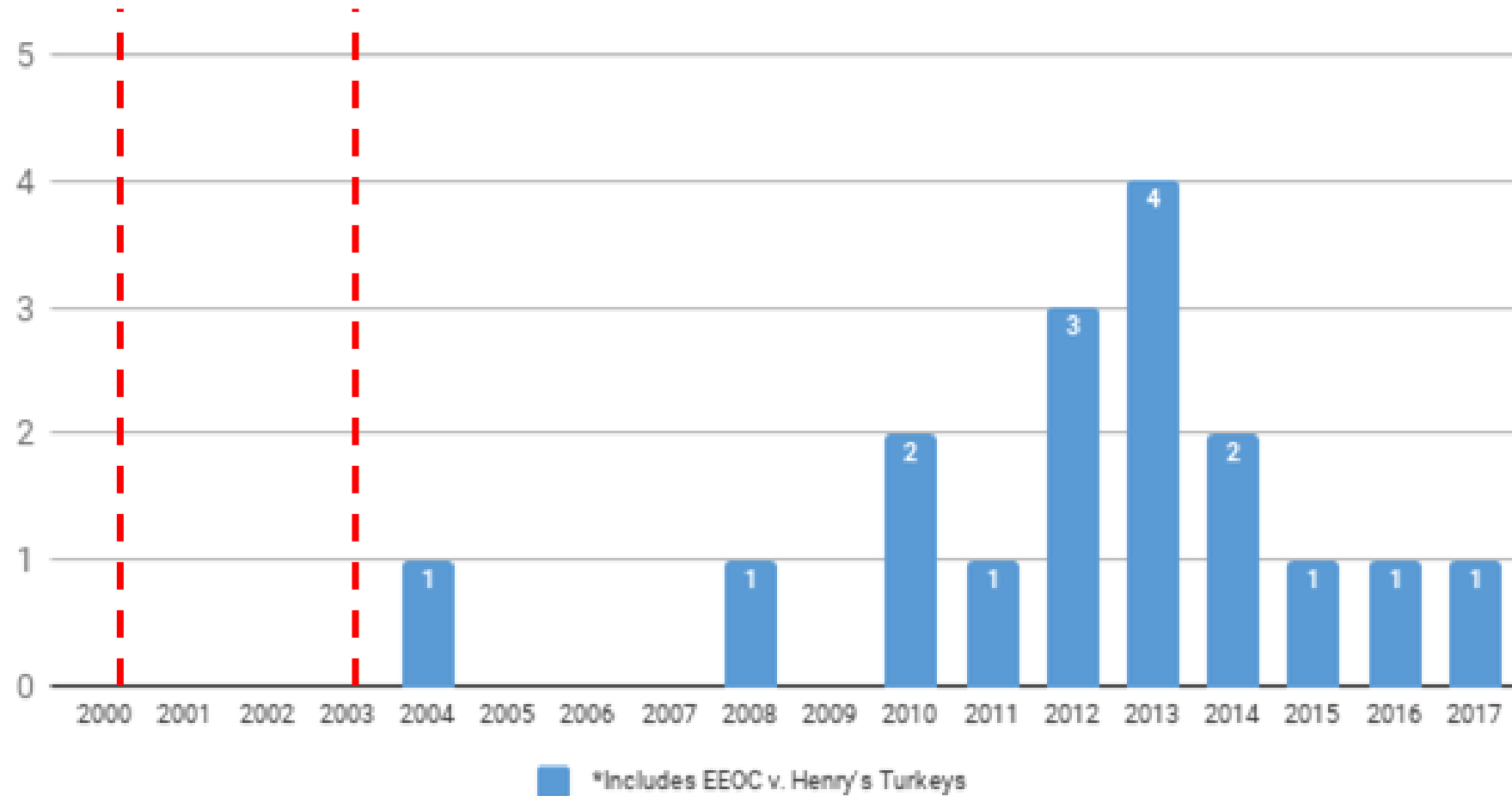
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[htlegalcenter.org](http://htlegalcenter.org)

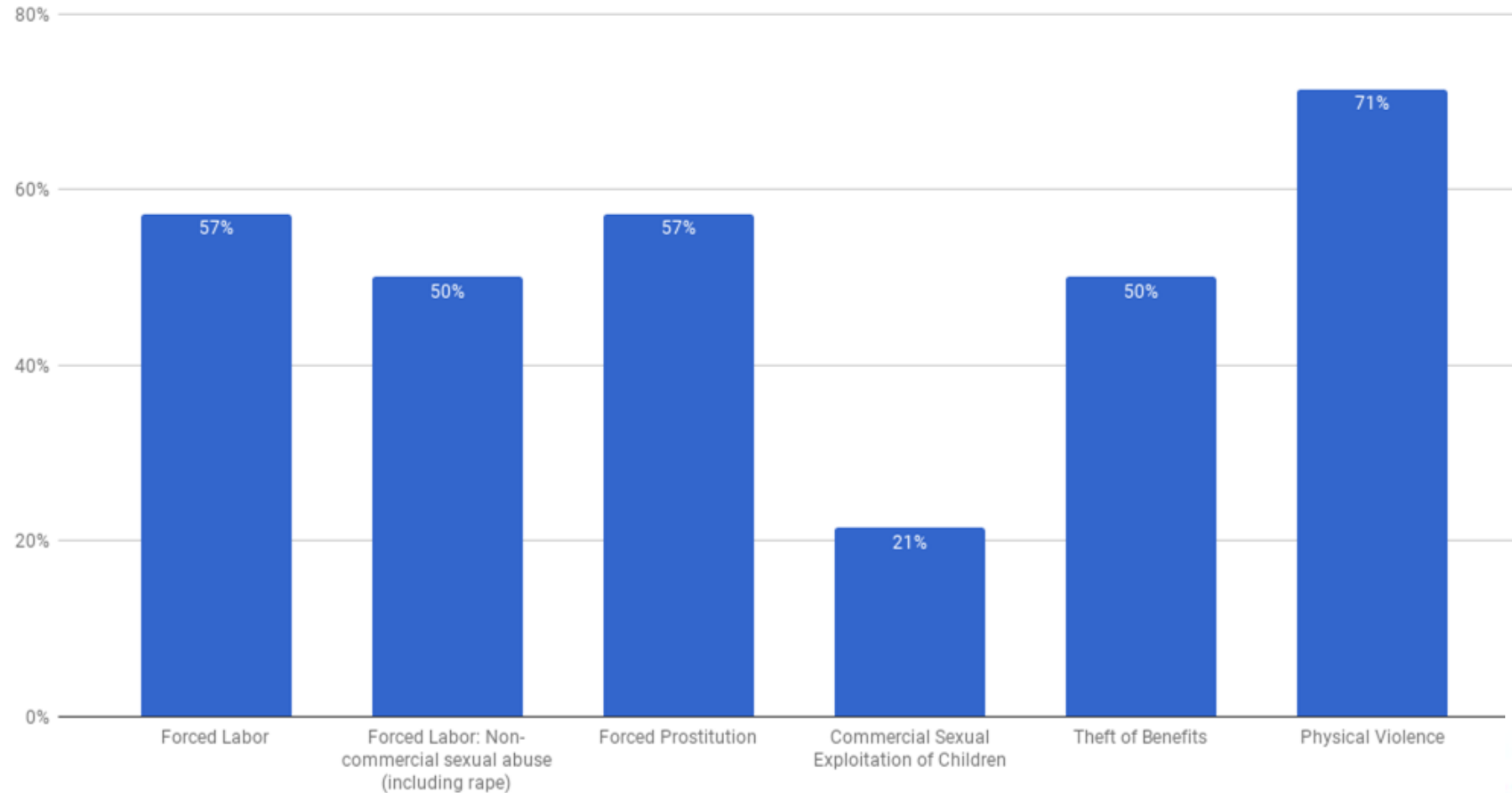




# Federal Cases Involving Trafficking Victims with Disabilities, 2000-2017



# Types of abuses in Federal, Civil, and Criminal Cases Involved Trafficking of Victims with Disabilities, 2000-2017



# Early Cases of Labor Trafficking

*U.S. v. Kozminski*, 487 U.S. 931 (1988)

- Two men with intellectual disabilities forced to labor on a dairy farm in Michigan
- Involuntary servitude: “use or threatened use of physical or legal coercion”
- Case sparked effort to pass forced labor statute

*U.S. v. Paoletti-Lemus*, No. 1:97-cr-00768 (E.D.N.Y.) (1998)

- 55 Mexican nationals who were deaf were forced to beg and sell trinkets in New York City subways
- One of the first cases in the United States recognized as human trafficking



# Labor Trafficking

EEOC v. Hill Country Farms, Inc., No. 13-2796 (8th Cir. 2014)

- 32 men with intellectual disabilities were forced to work in a turkey evisceration plant for **30 years**.
- They were paid 41 cents an hour/\$65 a month
- Lived in squalor: rats, cockroaches, open bathrooms
- Physically and verbally abused by their supervisors
  - As punishment, one victim was forced to hold heavy blocks for extended periods of time.
  - Others were beaten.
  - Allowed no bathroom breaks
- Dan Barry, The Boys in the Bunkhouse (2016).

# Human Trafficking in Residential Care Homes

*U.S. v. Kaufman* 546 F.3d 1242 (10th. Cir. 2008)

Kaufmans convicted of forced labor, involuntary servitude, and health care fraud at residential care homes in Kansas

- Arlan and Linda Kaufman ran a residential care treatment center for adults with mental disabilities for more than 20 years.
- Stole SS benefits of their patients and charged Medicare for “services”
- As part of their “treatment,” the Kaufmans forced patients to perform nude manual labor and to record videos of sex acts.



# Sex Trafficking in Texas

- In 2016, two brothers indicted for sex trafficking an 18 year old girl with developmental disabilities
- In early July 2013, the defendants convinced her to leave home with them and drove her to a Dallas motel.
- The brothers deprived the victim of food and prevented her from leaving the room in order to coerce her into performing commercial sex acts.
- She eventually performed commercial sex acts and provided the money earned to Kenneth White



# Sex and Labor Trafficking

- *U.S. v. Bagley, No. 10-cr-00244 (W.D. Mo.)*
- Forced into commercial sex, subjected to torture and sexual servitude, much of which was filmed and streamed online;
- Victim held captive for 6 years;
- Sex slave contract
- Victim identified when she was hospitalized for emergency medical treatment after going into cardiac arrest;
- Prosecuted as both forced labor and sex trafficking

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING INDICATORS AND --- RED FLAGS

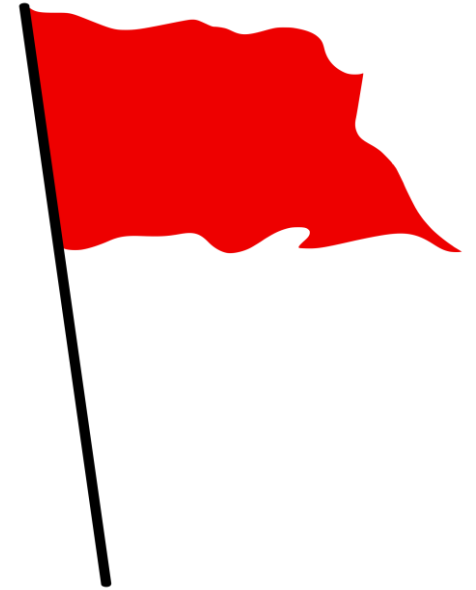


# General Human Trafficking Indicators

- Not allowed to contact friends or family
- Not allowed to leave their living or working situation unless monitored
- Signs of physical / sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, malnourishment, or torture
- Not allowed to speak for themselves
- Suddenly having new/expensive technology, clothes, gifts, or other items that can't be explained

# Human Trafficking Indicators

- Same representative-payee for multiple, unrelated adults
- Frequent emergency room admissions
- Physical injuries left untreated
- Excessive prescriptions for scheduled drugs
- Malnourishment
- Interference with efforts to speak to the individual alone
- Isolation from family and friends
- Signs of trauma or fear



# RESOURCES

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# National Human Trafficking Hotline

<b>CRISIS RESPONSE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Access to emergency services and safety planning</li></ul>
<b>TIP REPORTING</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Local and federal law enforcement and specialized task forces</li></ul>
<b>REFERRALS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Case management, shelter, legal services, counseling</li></ul>
<b>TRAINING &amp; TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Informational resources and training tools on emerging topics and trends</li></ul>

# Assistance for Human Trafficking Victims and Survivors: National Human Trafficking Hotline

**Call:** 1.888.3737

**Text:** “Help” to: Be Free

**Report online at:** <http://traffickingresourcecenter.org/>

**This hotline will help:**

- Assess whether you may have encountered a victim of human trafficking
- Identify local community resources to help victims coordinate with local social service organizations to help protect and serve victims so they begin process of restoring their lives

# Additional Resources

Go to the NHTDWG website:

<http://iofa.org/national-trafficking-disabilities-working-group/>

- Webinars
- Fact sheets
- Resources

[Contact: nhtdwg@iofa.org](mailto:nhtdwg@iofa.org)



**National  
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# Thank you!



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# QUESTIONS?

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