



Human Trafficking at a Glance

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of forced labor, commercial sex or service.



NEW JERSEY

The National Human Trafficking Hotline has received 5,544 signals (calls, texts, online chats and tips) related to New Jersey since its inception. The Hotline has identified 1,799 cases of human trafficking in New Jersey. Of these cases, 3,882 survivors were identified.



WARNING SIGNS

PHYSICAL: Signs of abuse and injuries, looking malnourished thin and/or having tattoos/branding (ex: symbols, barcodes, names, etc.)

POSSESSIONS: Having a sudden increase in expensive clothing or jewelry without a reason, extreme increase in money or lacking identification documents

LACK OF CONTROL: Accompanied by someone who is controlling their movements, not able to speak freely or not being in possession of their own money



BEHAVIOR: Fearful, unable to speak for themselves or evidence of a controlling relationship (especially those with an older partner)

ISOLATION: Disconnected from family and friends, less engaged in school/activities or withdrawn from sports/social activities



DART Prevention Coalition

Taking Aim at Substance Use in Ocean County

Trauma-Informed Approach to Human Trafficking

Human trafficking involves a complex power and control dynamic. By taking a trauma-informed approach to human trafficking situations, you prioritize safety and autonomy, avoiding further traumatization.



DO NOT confront the trafficker directly.

This could put you and others in great danger. Suspected cases should be reported to the authorities for investigation.



Believe their story.

Due to trauma, memories may be sporadic and the story may change. Your posture and body language should reflect that you believe their experience.



Offer choices to empower the individual.

Allow them to have autonomy over the next steps to take. Remind them that they can always say “No” and they are in control of the situation.



Try to limit the amount of times that they tell their story since it may be hard for them to share.

REPORTING

If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, call 9-1-1.

If you believe you may have information about a trafficking situation, contact the Human Trafficking Hotline or Covenant House NJ.

The National Human

Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-373-7888

Covenant House NJ: 862-240-2453

Sources: Washington State Department of Commerce; Kid Central TN; Attorney General of Texas; Blue Campaign; love146; Administration for Children and Families, Office of Trafficking in Persons

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