

Report: 1/1/2020 - 12/31/2020

#### **OVERVIEW OF INCOMING SIGNALS**

The following information is based on incoming signals to the National Human Trafficking Hotline from January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020 about human trafficking cases and issues related to human trafficking in the United States and U.S. territories. Signals can take the form of phone calls, text, Webchat<sup>1</sup>, online tip reports<sup>2</sup>, or emails. Signals to the hotline regarding topics unrelated to human trafficking are considered non-substantive and are not summarized in this report. In 2020, the National Human Trafficking Hotline received a total of 51,667 substantive<sup>3</sup> phone calls, text, Webchats, emails, or online tip reports nationwide.



**29,426** Phone









<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Webchats are a means of communicating with Hotline staff directly on the website using the online chat feature.

#### SUBSTANTIVE SIGNAL DATA

The following statistics are based solely on substantive signals about human trafficking and issues related to human trafficking made to the National Human Trafficking Hotline between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020. Substantive signals also exclude hang-ups, missed calls, wrong numbers, and calls in which the caller's reason for calling is unknown.

Signaler Type	# of Signals	% of Signals
Victim of Trafficking	13,594	26.3%
Community Member	12,690	24.6%
Other	4,920	9.5%
Victim of Other Crime	4,482	8.7%
NGO Representative	3,202	6.2%
Family of Trafficking Victim	2,074	4.0%
Medical Professional	1,081	2.1%
Friend of Trafficking Victim	1,056	2.0%
Law Enforcement	720	1.4%
Victim of Labor Exploitation	712	1.4%
Government Official	527	1.0%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Online tip reports are a standardized form which can be completed on the website, allowing signalers to provide details without directly interacting with Hotline staff.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Substantive signals excludes hang-ups, wrong numbers, missed signals and signals in which the National Hotline could not determine the signaler's reason for contacting the Hotline.



Legal Professional	379	0.7%
Mental Health Professional	350	0.7%
Acquaintance of Trafficker	341	0.7%
Student	247	0.5%
Buyer of Commercial Sex	223	0.4%
Educator/School Personnel	205	0.4%
Business	153	0.3%
Trucker	153	0.3%
Faith-Based Representative	117	0.2%
Potential Trafficker	69	0.1%
Airline/Airport Personnel	34	0.1%
Press/Media	29	0.1%
Truck Stop Employee	19	0.0%
Foreign Government Official	7	0.0%
Not Specified	4,283	8.3%
Total # of Substantive Signals	51,667	100.0%

Signaler's Method of Communication	POTENTIAL VICTIMS	OTHER SIGNALERS
Phones	62.6%	55.0%
Text	29.1%	25.2%
Emails	5.2%	9.0%
Webchat	1.8%	3.6%
Online Reports	1.3%	7.2%
	100.0%	100.0%

Signals by Signaler's Location (State)	# OF CALLS	% of Calls
Alabama	252	0.5%
Alaska	56	0.1%
American Samoa	2	0.0%
Arizona	608	1.2%
Arkansas	295	0.6%
California	4,970	9.6%
Colorado	625	1.2%
Connecticut	188	0.4%
Delaware	127	0.2%



District of Columbia	185	0.4%
Florida	2,539	4.9%
Georgia	955	1.8%
Guam	2	0.0%
Hawaii	108	0.2%
Idaho	97	0.2%
Illinois	933	1.8%
Indiana	514	1.0%
Iowa	285	0.5%
Kansas	390	0.7%
Kentucky	305	0.6%
Louisiana	339	0.7%
Maine	87	0.2%
Maryland	529	1.0%
Massachusetts	232	0.4%
Michigan	845	1.6%
Minnesota	356	0.7%
Mississippi	710	1.4%
Missouri	750	1.5%
Montana	462	0.9%
Nebraska	212	0.4%
Nevada	417	0.8%
New Hampshire	43	0.1%
New Jersey	615	1.2%
New Mexico	367	0.7%
New York	1,739	3.4%
North Carolina	1,103	2.1%
North Dakota	70	0.1%
Northern Mariana Islands	13	0.0%
Ohio	1,087	2.1%
Oklahoma	384	0.7%
Oregon	539	1.0%
Pennsylvania	909	1.8%
Puerto Rico	14	0.0%
Rhode Island	86	0.2%
South Carolina	769	1.5%
South Dakota	58	0.1%
Tennessee	419	0.8%
Texas	3,559	6.9%



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Utah	182	0.4%
Vermont	31	0.1%
Virginia	578	1.1%
Washington	815	1.6%
West Virginia	96	0.2%
Wisconsin	337	0.7%
Wyoming	47	0.1%
Not Specified	19,075	36.9%
International Location	357	0.7%
Total # of Substantive Signals	51,667	100.0%

#### DATA ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING SITUATIONS

Each request submitted to the hotline is evaluated for evidence of potential human trafficking. In the United States, a total of 10,583 unique cases (incidents) of potential human trafficking were reported to the hotline in 2020. A single human trafficking situation may involve a single potential victim or many potential victims. Additionally, while advocates use detailed protocols to assess indicators of trafficking, advocates adapt their phrasing and scope of questions in response to the individual's answers and the circumstances of the signal. Beyond this trafficking assessment, victims and third parties reporting these situations are not asked a set of standardized questions and only provide information that they felt comfortable sharing with Polaris staff to get the help they needed. As such, the data points in this document represent only what those contacting the U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline chose to disclose. The number of survivors with a particular attribute would likely have been higher if Polaris staff had systematically asked a standardized set of questions to each individual contacting the Trafficking Hotline.

PRIMARY REASON FOR CONTACTING THE NATIONAL HOTLINE <sup>1</sup>	# of Situations	% of Situations
Report a Trafficking Tip	6,837	64.6%
Access Service Referrals	3,164	29.9%
Request Crisis Assistance	580	5.5%
Request General Information <sup>2</sup>	1	0.0%
Request Training and Technical Assistance <sup>3</sup>	1	0.0%
Total # of Trafficking Situations	10,583	100.0%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Requests unrelated to human trafficking, including situations that are high risk for trafficking are not listed as this report focuses only on human trafficking situations.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Requests for general information are situations in which an individual who is aware of a specific situation of potential trafficking may contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline for general information about human trafficking or to learn more about services available to trafficking victims.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Training and Technical Assistance are situations in which service providers or law enforcement working with a victim of trafficking contact the National Hotline for technical assistance.

VENUE/INDUSTRY OF POTENTIAL TRAFFICKING <sup>4</sup>	# of Situations	% of Situations
Sex	7,648	72.3%
Pornography	939	12.3%
Illicit Massage/Spa Business	616	8.1%
Hotel/Motel-Based	520	6.8%
Residence-Based Commercial Sex	465	6.1%
Online Ad, Venue Unknown	447	5.8%
Other Venue	395	5.2%
Street-Based	166	2.2%
Escort/Delivery Service	149	1.9%
Hostess/Strip Club-Based	70	0.9%
Truck Stop-Based	44	0.6%
Bar/Club-Based	30	0.4%
Venues Referenced in Fewer than Three Cases <sup>5</sup>	3	0.0%
Venue Not Specified	3,804	49.7%
Labor	1,052	9.9%
Domestic Work	202	19.2%
Agriculture/Farms	83	7.9%
Construction	65	6.2%
Illicit Activity	62	5.9%
Traveling Sales Crew	60	5.7%
Restaurant/Food Service	47	4.5%
Retail/Other Small Business	35	3.3%
Hospitality	23	2.2%
Other Industry	22	2.1%
Begging Ring	21	2.0%
Health & Beauty Services	19	1.8%
Housekeeping/Cleaning Service	17	1.6%
Landscaping Service	17	1.6%
Peddling Ring	17	1.6%
Factory	15	1.4%
Professional/Scientific/Tech Services	14	1.3%
Transportation	14	1.3%
Hostess/Strip Club	12	1.1%
Arts & Entertainment	9	0.9%
Health Care	9	0.9%
Aquafarming/Fishing	7	0.7%
Forestry/Reforestation	6	0.6%
Education	4	0.4%



Recreational Facilities	4	0.4%
Traveling Carnival	4	0.4%
Pre-school/Child Day Care Service	3	0.3%
Industries Referenced in Fewer than Three Cases <sup>5</sup>	2	0.2%
Industry Not Specified	259	24.6%
Sex and Labor	334	3.2%
Illicit Activities	60	18.0%
Domestic Work	50	15.0%
Hostess/Strip Club	17	5.1%
Illicit Massage/Spa Business	10	3.0%
Restaurant/Food Service	10	3.0%
Bar/Club/Cantina	9	2.7%
Personal Sexual Servitude	9	2.7%
Construction	7	2.1%
Hospitality	5	1.5%
Other Small Business	5	1.5%
Begging Rings	4	1.2%
Pornography	4	1.2%
Escort Service/Delivery Service	3	0.9%
Recreational Facilities	3	0.9%
Venue/Industries Referenced in Fewer than Three Cases <sup>5</sup>	21	6.3%
Venue/Industry Not Specified	117	35.0%
Trafficking Type Not Specified <sup>6</sup>	1,549	14.6%
Total # of Trafficking Situations	10,583	100.0%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>⁴</sup>Venue industry is representative of the type of labor or commercial sex which victims and survivors were forced to engage in as a part of their trafficking situation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Cases where trafficking type is not specified typically occur when a law enforcement agent or service provider contacts the National Hotline for resources and referrals but does not disclose details about the trafficking situation due to confidentiality. This category also includes cases 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 National Hotline through anonymous online tip reports.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF VICTIMS IDENTIFIED IN LABOR TRAFFICKING SITUATIONS	# of <u>Situations</u>	% of <u>Situations</u>
Adults	804	76.4%
Minors	162	15.4%
Females	607	57.8%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>To protect the identity of the people we serve, the National Human Trafficking Hotline does not disclose exact statistics related to venues, industries, victim information or signaler information referenced fewer than three times.



Males	454	43.2%
Gender Minorities <sup>7</sup>	2	0.1%
U.S. Citizens/Legal Permanent Residents	66	6.3%
Foreign Nationals <sup>8</sup>	530	50.4%
		NON-CUMULATIVE <sup>9</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Gender minorities includes any individuals whose gender identified was not cisgender male or female. This would include individuals who identify as transgender male, transgender female, two-spirit, agender, genderfluid, or other specified genders. At times, this information is self-reported. Other times Hotline staff may explicitly ask about gender identity for the purposes of connecting that person with appropriate service provider resources to meet their needs. Situations where the likely victims' gender was unstated or unclear due to conflicting information are recorded as Unknown.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup>A Foreign National in this data set is defined as any individual who is not currently a US Citizen or Legal Permanent Resident.

<sup>9</sup> These statistics are non-cumulative. Cases may involve multiple victims and include female, male, transgender and gender non-conforming individuals, foreign nationals and U.S. citizens, adults and minors. In some cases, demographic information is not reported. This table shows the number of cases referencing each demographic and not the number of individual victims.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF VICTIMS IDENTIFIED IN SEX TRAFFICKING SITUATIONS	# of <u>Situations</u>	% of <u>Situations</u>
Adults	4418	57.8%
Minors	2145	28.0%
Females	6480	84.7%
Males	623	8.1%
Transgender Females	42	0.5%
Transgender Males	13	0.2%
U.S. Citizens/Legal Permanent Residents	518	6.8%
Foreign Nationals <sup>10</sup>	348	4.6%
		NON-CUMULATIVE 11

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup>A Foreign National in this data set is defined as any individual who is not currently a U.S. Citizen or Legal Permanent Resident.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> These statistics are non-cumulative. Cases may involve multiple victims and include female, male, transgender and gender non-conforming individuals, foreign nationals and U.S. citizens, adults and minors. In some cases, demographic information is not reported. This table shows the number of cases referencing each demographic and not the number of individual victims.

POTENTIAL VICTIMS(s) COUNTRY OR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN	# of <u>Cases</u>	% of <u>Cases</u>
United States of America	685	6.3%
Mexico	170	1.6%
Guatemala	81	0.7%
China	72	0.7%
Honduras	68	0.6%
Philippines	61	0.6%
El Salvador	28	0.3%
India	23	0.2%



Puccia	24	0.2%
Russia	21	
Brazil	17	0.2%
Colombia	17	0.2%
Vietnam	16	0.1%
Taiwan	15	0.1%
Venezuela	14	0.1%
Dominican Republic	13	0.1%
Jamaica	12	0.1%
Nigeria	11	0.1%
South Korea	11	0.1%
Canada	10	0.1%
Kenya	9	0.1%
Peru	9	0.1%
Chile	8	0.1%
Pakistan	8	0.1%
Ukraine	8	0.1%
Haiti	7	0.1%
South Africa	7	0.1%
United Kingdom	7	0.1%
Thailand	6	0.1%
Ghana	5	0.0%
Uganda	5	0.0%
Cameroon	4	0.0%
Cuba	4	0.0%
Ecuador	4	0.0%
Guyana	4	0.0%
Australia	3	0.0%
Costa Rica	3	0.0%
Egypt	3	0.0%
France	3	0.0%
Hungary	3	0.0%
Italy	3	0.0%
Japan	3	0.0%
Micronesia	3	0.0%
Poland	3	0.0%
Romania	3	0.0%
Countries Referenced in Fewer than Three Cases	78	0.7%



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Unknown/Not Specified	9391	
		86.8%
		NON-CUMULATIVE 12

**Important Note:** The data displayed in this report was generated based on information communicated to the National Human Trafficking Hotline via phone, email, and online tip report. 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 state. These statistics are accurate as of 07/01/2021. They may be subject to change as new information emerges.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> These statistics are non-cumulative. In some cases, demographic information is not reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Other cases may involve multiple victims of varied nationalities. This table shows the number of cases referencing each demographic and not the number of individual victims.