



# Domestic Minor Trafficking

## Definition

Under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), domestic minor trafficking is defined as the "recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a **person under the age of 18** for labor or services for the purposes of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt, bondage, or slavery"



**Sex and labor trafficking** are the two most common forms of human trafficking among minors

**1 in 6**

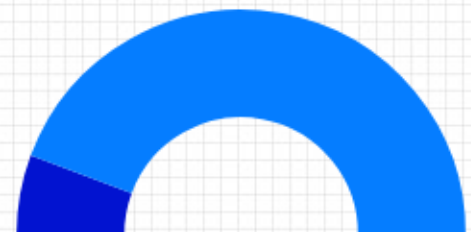
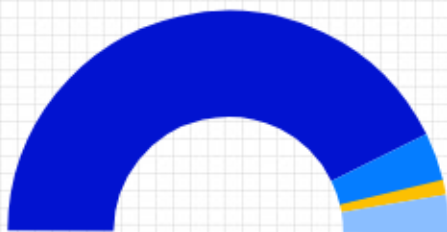
According to the National Center of Missing and Exploited Children, **1 in 6** U.S. youth identified as "runaways" were likely victims of sex trafficking

**17,000 children are victims of domestic trafficking each year**

In 2015 alone, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center received **1,630 cases** of child trafficking

Only **185** involved Foster Care (FC) or Child Welfare Systems (CW)

Of the 1,630 cases reported to the NHTRC



■ Sex Trafficking (85.03%) ■ Labor Trafficking (7.06%)  
■ Sex and Labor Trafficking (2.09%) ■ Unspecified (5.83%)

■ Cases Involving FC/CW (11.35%)  
■ Cases NOT Involving FC/CW (88.65%)

# Risk Factors

<u>Individual</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Community</u>	<u>Societal</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• History of child abuse, neglect, or maltreatment</li><li>• Homeless, runaway</li><li>• History of being systems-involved (foster care, juvenile justice, etc.)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Family dysfunction or conflict</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Under-resourced schools, neighborhoods, communal spaces</li><li>• Gang involvement</li><li>• Social isolation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lack of public awareness of trafficking of minors</li><li>• Lack of resources</li></ul>

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## What Child Welfare Agencies Need to Know:

### 1. Statistics on this topic vary greatly

Given the underground nature of trafficking in minors, statistics vary greatly. Therefore, it is important to remain focused on **how to address risk factors** as opposed to targeting numbers. If the right preventative and responsive steps are taken, the number of children trafficked will decrease.

### 2. Caseload Matters

When **case workers are overloaded** with cases and are not provided adequate support to see their work through, children in foster care go unvisited for weeks or even months, leaving them at risk of remaining in "inappropriate" placements that may threaten their physical, mental, or emotional health.

### 3. Collaboration is Key

**Cross agency collaboration** between welfare and law enforcement agencies on effective strategies to combat trafficking in minors and trauma-informed training is essential. Another critical component of collaboration is educating and engaging the public. Human trafficking is a form of organized crime that many Americans believe is a foreign, and not a domestic, issue. This lack of knowledge on the issue endangers children as the public remains unaware of the signs to be wary of.

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#### Source:

National Human Trafficking Resource Center, Human Trafficking of Minors, <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/sites/default/files/2015%20NHTRC%20-%20Minors%20Trafficking%20Report%20%2809.13.16%29.pdf>

The National Academic Press, *Confronting Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Sex Trafficking of Minors in the United States*, <https://www.nap.edu/read/18358/chapter/6#79>