

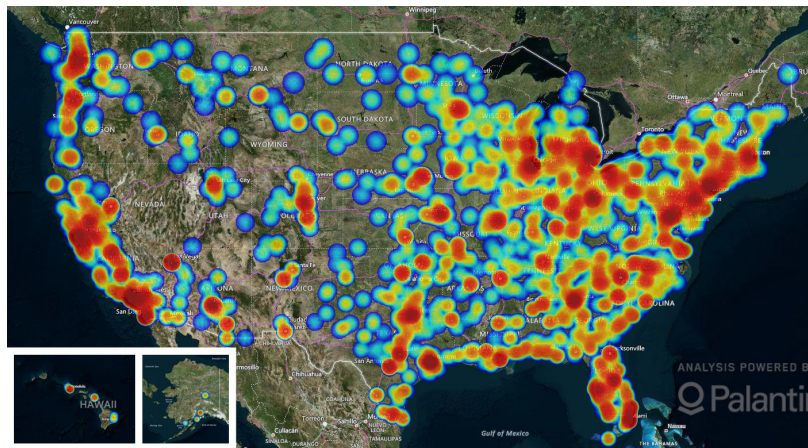


# Growing Awareness. Growing Impact.





## 2017 Statistics from the National Human Trafficking Hotline and BeFree Textline

The National Human Trafficking Hotline and BeFree Textline provide survivors of human trafficking with vital support and a variety of options to get help and stay safe. These could include connecting callers with local law enforcement, emergency shelters, transportation, trauma counselors or a range of other services and supports. The 40,000+ cases identified on these helplines comprise the largest publicly available data set on human trafficking in the United States. The data do not represent the full scope of human trafficking. Lack of awareness of the crime or of these resources in certain geographic regions, by particular racial or ethnic groups, and by labor trafficking survivors, can lead to significant underreporting. Nonetheless, this information spotlights where and how traffickers operate so that we can put them out of business, keep them from harming more people, and help survivors find the services they need.

### Locations of Potential Human Trafficking Cases in the U.S.



### Methods of contacting the Hotline in 2017

-  **PHONE CALLS**  
26,884
-  **TEXTS**  
2,306
-  **WEBFORMS**  
3,154
-  **EMAILS**  
1,833

### IMPACT AT A GLANCE

**13 PERCENT** jump in cases of human trafficking identified

INDIVIDUAL VICTIMS	HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASES	POTENTIAL TRAFFICKERS	TRAFFICKING BUSINESSES
10,615	8,759	4,863	1,698

**2,144 UNIQUE SURVIVORS** contacted the National Hotline **5,263 TIMES.**

# Top 3 Types of Trafficking in 2017

## SEX TRAFFICKING

Escort services	1,572
Residential	508
Outdoor solicitation	329

## SEX AND LABOR TRAFFICKING

Illicit massage businesses	774
Bar/strip club/cantina	194
Illicit activities	104

## LABOR TRAFFICKING

Domestic work	242
Agriculture	134
Peddling and begging	109



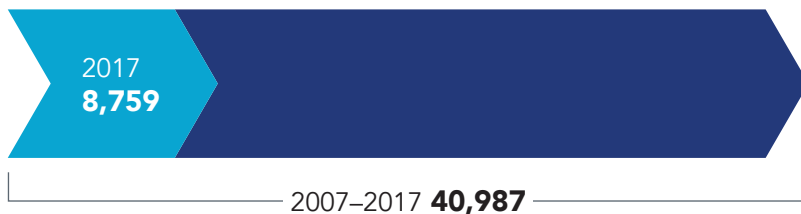
Late last week, a young woman being trafficked out of state was in danger, couldn't make a phone call without being overheard, but could text. She texted us asking for help and we immediately referred her to the Hotline and told her to use the SMS text feature.

*She used the text feature and was rescued within three hours.*

She is now in a shelter in an undisclosed location being assisted by a local organization. So, it works. Thank you for the great work you do.

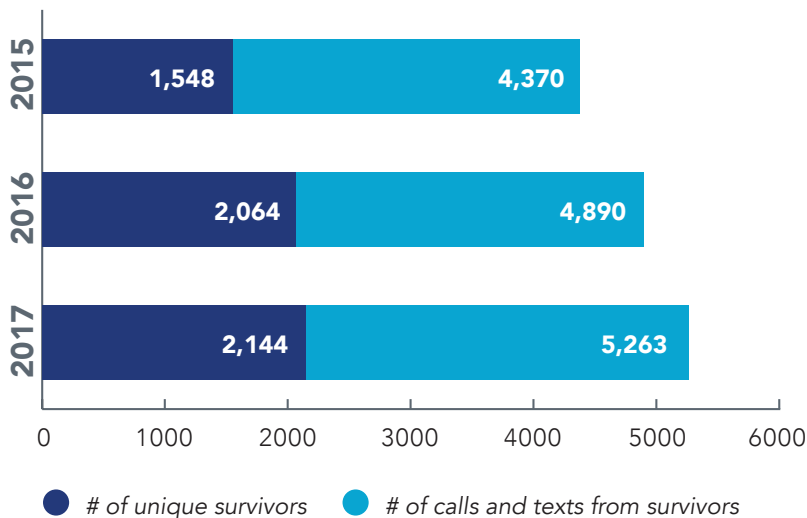
– Note to the Hotline staff from a former law enforcement officer

## NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE CASES



Cases are defined as situations of human trafficking, which may involve more than one victim.

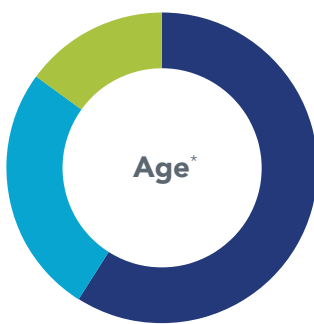
## SURVIVORS WHO CONTACTED THE HOTLINE DIRECTLY, BY YEAR:



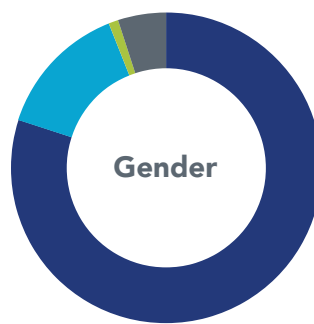
## Who are the Survivors?

Every year, more survivors are reaching out to the National Human Trafficking Hotline and more individuals are seeking help for victims they know. The data on these pages are not based on a systematic survey, but are analyzed from the information received about 10,615 survivors from Jan. 1, 2017 to Dec. 31, 2017. As people disclosed more detailed information about their own trafficking experiences or about potential victims for whom they were seeking support, hotline staff noted key elements. Individuals are never asked questions specifically for data collection purposes and are only asked to share what they are comfortable providing so that they can be connected to the support they want.

### DEMOGRAPHICS



Adult **6,204**  
 Minor **2,762**  
 Unknown **1,575**

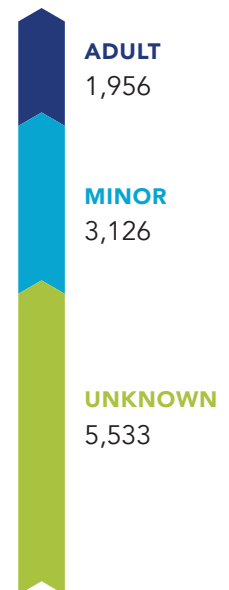
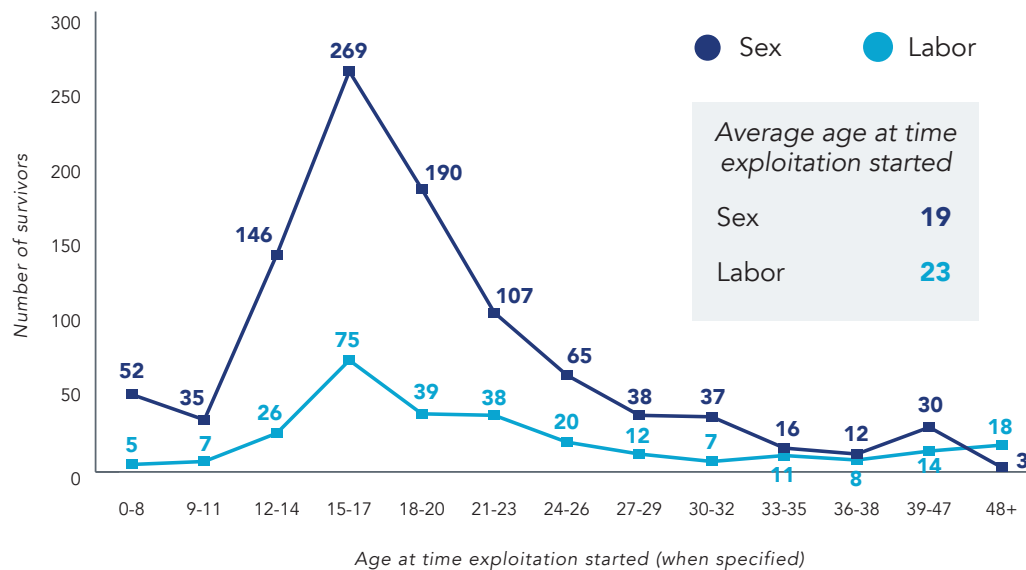


Female **8,561**  
 Male **1,454**  
 Gender Minorities **59**  
 Unknown **541**



Latino **1,230**  
 Asian **979**  
 White **699**  
 African, African-American, Black **592**  
 Multi-Ethnic, Multi-Racial **136**

### AGE AT TIME SEX OR LABOR TRAFFICKING BEGAN



\* at time of first contact with Polaris

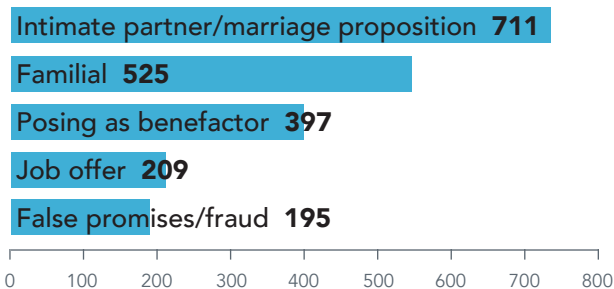
† race/ethnicity information specified/available from 3,734 survivors or 35 percent of all victims

## How are the Victims Trafficked?

The data from the 10,615 victim records give insight into the systems and tactics that traffickers use to conduct their business. Traffickers frequently prey on an individual's vulnerabilities, and the data spotlight factors that may have placed these victims at risk as well as the variety of tactics used to recruit and trap them in a trafficking situation. Statistics below are non-cumulative.

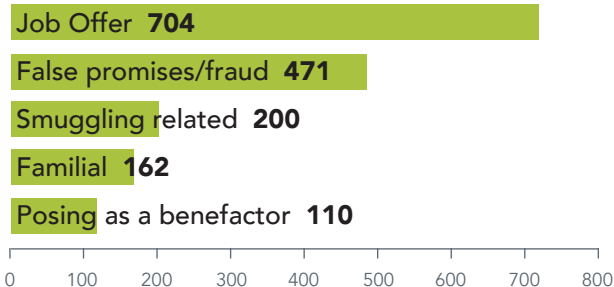
### Top recruitment tactics

#### SEX TRAFFICKING



(based on information specified by 2,136 victims)

#### LABOR TRAFFICKING



(based on information specified by 1,230 victims)

### Top 5



#### RISK FACTORS FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- Recent migration/relocation **1,441**
- Substance use **466**
- Runaway/homeless youth **421**
- Mental health concern **356**
- Involvement in the child welfare system **340**



#### METHODS OF FORCE, FRAUD, COERCION

- Isolation (including confinement) **2,574**
- Emotional abuse **2,370**
- Economic abuse **2,049**
- Threats of any kind **1,880**
- Physical abuse (non sexual) **1,652**



#### POINTS OF ACCESS TO POTENTIAL HELP

- Interaction with family/friends **1,567**
- Interaction with law enforcement/criminal justice system **1,047**
- Access to health services **726**
- Access to general social services **554**
- Access to mobile apps or social media **496**

### No pay, no beds, no running water

Maria stopped by one of the houses she was having rehabbed to check in with the contractor hired to do the job. He wasn't there. Instead, Maria found six men, sleeping on the floor in the barely habitable building. The men told her that the contractor had been recommended through an acquaintance. He picked them up out of state, drove them to the project and told them they were not allowed to leave the premises. He would bring them food and water, as necessary. Sometimes he did, sometimes he didn't, they reported. He never paid them. But when the men complained he told them he would call immigration immediately. They would be jailed first, then deported. To prove he was serious he took a group of them out to the desert and left one of them there, in the middle of nowhere, with no food or money. So the men worked, 10 hour days, without breaks. They slept in the houses they were working on, with cardboard boxes to cover themselves at night. Some of the houses had electricity, some didn't. Some had running water, some didn't. Maria called the Hotline and, together with Hotline Advocates, worked to learn more of the men's stories, get them to a safe place to stay and start the process of getting the men visas, while pursuing a case against the trafficker.