

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NORTH CAROLINA



266

cases of human trafficking were reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline in 2019



ranking NC

11th

in the nation in cases reported.



The presence of **major highways, labor-intensive industries, large immigrant populations, and urban/rural poverty** means many North Carolinians are left susceptible to trafficking.



Source: National Human Trafficking Hotline

To report human trafficking, call or text:

National Human Trafficking Resource Center

1.888.373.7888

Text "BEFREE" (233733)

Toll-Free Hotline

24/7

Confidential



What is human trafficking?

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 defines trafficking as:

Action:

- INDUCE
- RECRUITS
- HARBORS
- TRANSPORTS
- PROVIDES
- OBTAINS

Means:

- FORCE
- FRAUD
- COERCION

Purpose:

- **COMMERCIAL SEX**
(sex trafficking)
- OR
- **LABOR/SERVICES**
(labor trafficking)

Additionally, minors induced into commercial sex are trafficking victims—regardless of whether force, fraud, or coercion is used.

Common Red Flags

Individuals

- Sudden acquisition of lots of cash or expensive items
- Not in possession of ID or other important documents
- Inappropriate clothing for age or climate
- Fearful, anxious, or paranoid behavior
- Frequent travel to other cities
- Unexplained injuries
- Noticeably older significant other

Homes/Businesses

- Unusual security measures such as cameras, barbed wire, or blacked-out windows
- Odd entrances and odd hours
- Employees live where they work or come and go as a single group by the same means of transportation
- Lots of coming and going, particularly by men
- Women enter but rarely leave

Recruitment and Entrapment

Those vulnerable to trafficking are those who feel isolated because of factors such as homelessness, low self-esteem, LGBTQ+ identity, mental illness, immigration status, or past abuse. Traffickers are adept at exploiting these vulnerabilities by using promises of love and security to lure victims into trafficking situations.

Traffickers then use a variety of methods to keep victims trapped including violence, threats, isolation, blaming, intimidation, and debt. Many victims even form powerful attachments to their traffickers called trauma bonds, making exiting even harder.