

What is

Sex Trafficking?



- It is the coercion or manipulation of a victim for sexual services
- It can involve recruiting, transporting, or holding victims for sexual exploitation
- It is not consensual paid sex work by individuals over the age of 18
- It usually begins with a perpetrator, male or female, establishing a personal relationship with the victim; this can include showering the victim with compliments and gifts or selling the dream of romance, an exciting life, and promises of love or money

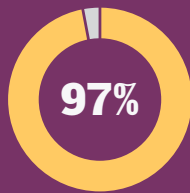
Ontario and Sex Trafficking

Ontario has the highest reports of sex trafficking in Canada.

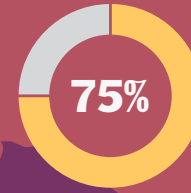
Source: www.covenanthousetoronto.ca/the-problem/sex-trafficking



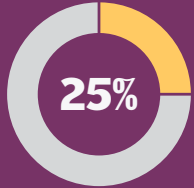
30% of trafficking victims are recruited by males considered to be their boyfriend



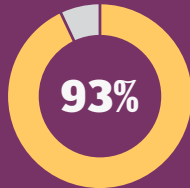
97% of sex trafficking victims are female
Source: www.bridgenorth.org



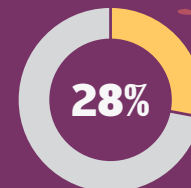
75% of trafficking cases occur in the GTA
Source: www.bridgenorth.org



25% are recruited by friends who are being trafficked themselves



93% of trafficking victims are Canadian Citizens involving Canadian perpetrators
Source: www.bridgenorth.org



28% of sex trafficking victims are under the age of consent
Source: www.bridgenorth.org

Where Does Sex Trafficking Happen?



It is present in all communities not just large urban centers



It can happen in malls, online, schools, concerts, private residences, hotels, or anywhere where people congregate

Who is at Risk?

Anyone is at risk of sex trafficking, however statistically the groups listed below are more at risk:

- Women and girls under the age of 25
- Indigenous women
- 2SLGBTQI+ community
- Risk factors include socioeconomics, difficult family life such as abuse and neglect, low self-esteem, and mental health issues, but are not always present
- Youth who use social media

Signs a Student is a Victim of Sex Trafficking

Source:
www.bridgenorth.org/about-human-trafficking/is-my-friend-being-sex-trafficked

- Decline in academic performance
- Change in behaviour – seems increasingly fearful, anxious, irritable or evasive
- Change in social relationships, for example withdrawing from friendships or hanging out with older youth
- New phones, clothes, or material possessions
- Drastic change in personal hygiene and/or personal style such as getting manicures, interest in makeup, hair extensions
- A boyfriend or girlfriend who is noticeably controlling and/or older
- New tattoos suggesting ownership by a trafficker
- Large amounts of cash or prepaid credit cards
- Unexplained school absences
- Chronic running away
- Signs of physical trauma such as cuts, bruises, or scars
- Seeing small e-transfers coming into a young person's bank account from numerous people, some who are known and some who are unknown to parents

Resources for Teachers and Education Workers

Ontario Government: [Human trafficking services and supports](#)

The Ontario government is releasing a new policy framework, the first of its kind in Canada, as part of its strategy for school boards to protect students from the heinous crime of sex trafficking. With the goal of keeping children and youth safe from sexual exploitation, this new strategy and framework recognize the critical role schools can play in combatting sex trafficking. Sadly, many police-reported trafficking in Canada takes place in Ontario. ([PPM 166](#))

White Ribbon: [Educators Resources and Lesson Plans to Prevent Child Sexual Exploitation](#)

Human Trafficking Hotline 24/7 Service: 1-833-900-1010 (services available in English and French)

[Covenant House](#): Homeless youth are among the most vulnerable victims of sex trafficking. To learn more about sex trafficking, visit [Traffick Stop](#), our online resource to educate and raise awareness of sex trafficking in our communities.

The Indigenous Anti-Human Trafficking Liaison Program and the Aakwa'ode'ewin (Courage for Change) Program through [Ontario Native Women's Association](#)

[Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking](#)

is a national charity, dedicated to ending all types of human trafficking in Canada.

[BridgeNorth](#)

A survivor-led organization committed to ending sexual exploitation in Canada