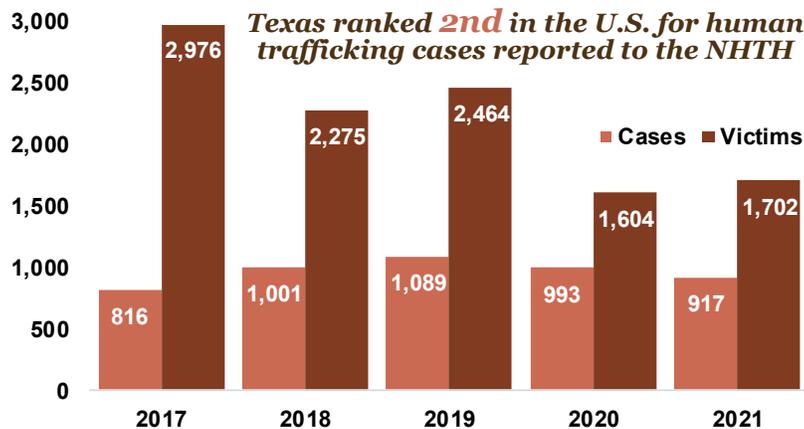# HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human Trafficking: the exploitation of individuals using force, fraud, or coercion (assault/violence, manipulation, false promises, debt, isolation, threats, confiscating identification documents, etc.) to make them provide **labor/services** or engage in **commercial sex** (any sex act in exchange for anything of value). When a minor (<18 years) is made to engage in commercial sex it is considered human trafficking regardless of the use of force, fraud, or coercion.

Human trafficking <u>does not require</u> the movement of individuals across state or international borders. Human trafficking can include recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting someone for labor/services and/or commercial sex.

<u>Venues for labor trafficking</u>: domestic work, landscaping, factory, farming/agriculture, construction, door-to-door sales, health/beauty, food service, hotel/hospitality, illicit activity, entertainment, commercial cleaning, begging/peddling, etc.
<u>Venues for sex trafficking</u>: fake massage/spa businesses, online ads, pornography, street-based, escort services, bars/clubs, truck stops, hotels/motels, residential brothels, etc.
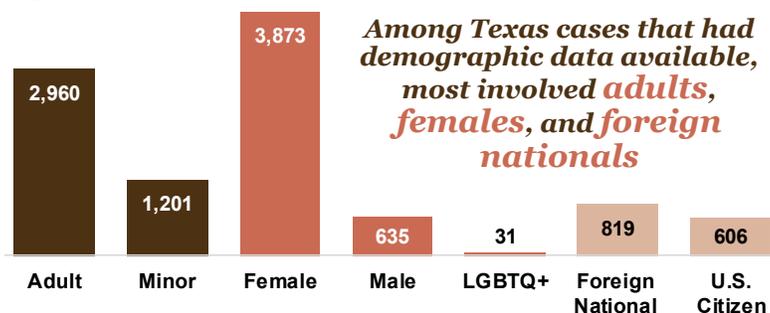
Traffickers can be anyone (family members, intimate partners, friends, peers, strangers, business owners, employers, gangs, etc.) and any gender, age, and race/ethnicity. It's critical to sufficiently prosecute traffickers and buyers in order to reduce the supply and demand of human trafficking, and not penalize victims/survivors. Criminal records make it extremely difficult for survivors to acquire employment, housing, child care, etc.

Figure 1. Texas human trafficking cases and victims reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH), 2017-2021 (n= 4,816 cases; n= 11,021 victims)

*Texas ranked **2nd** in the U.S. for human trafficking cases reported to the NHTH*

The NHTH uses the word **case** to represent distinct situations of trafficking reported to the hotline (via phone call, text, e-mail, online report, or webchat), but it is not an indication of law enforcement involvement in the situation. A case can involve one or more potential **victims** of trafficking. Data are subject to change and the NHTH cannot verify accuracy. These data are not a comprehensive representation of human trafficking within an area.

Figure 2. Types of human trafficking among Texas cases reported to the NHTH, 2017-2021 (n= 4,816)

Figure 3. Age, gender, and citizenship status among Texas cases reported to the NHTH, 2017-2021

*Among Texas cases that had demographic data available, most involved **adults**, **females**, and **foreign nationals***

Individuals reporting to the NHTH may not provide demographic information and these data are non-cumulative. NHTH reports demographic data at the case level, and does not disclose exact data when responses occur less than three times. Data are subject to change.
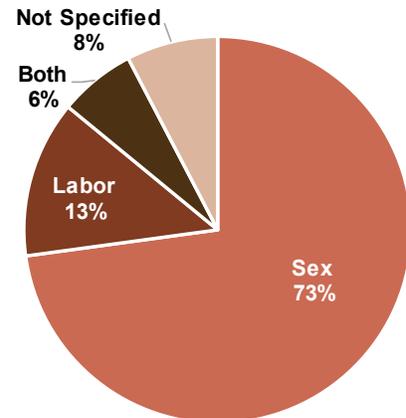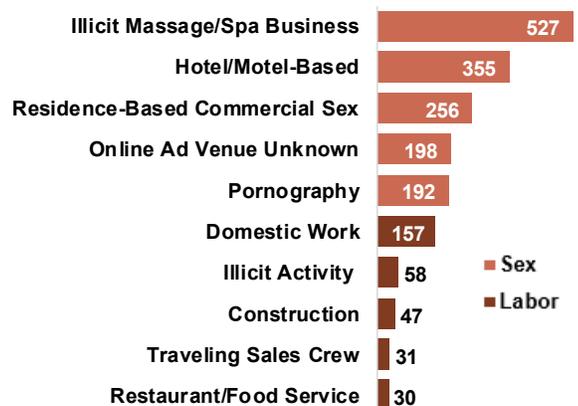
Figure 4. Top 5 reported locations of sex and labor trafficking among Texas cases reported to the NHTH, 2017-2021

Data sources: Administration for Children and Families– Office on Trafficking in Persons, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Children at Risk, National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH), Polaris Project
Data Brief provided by: Office of Health Informatics

755 *patients were identified as possible human trafficking victims at JPS Health Network in Tarrant County during 2020-2022*

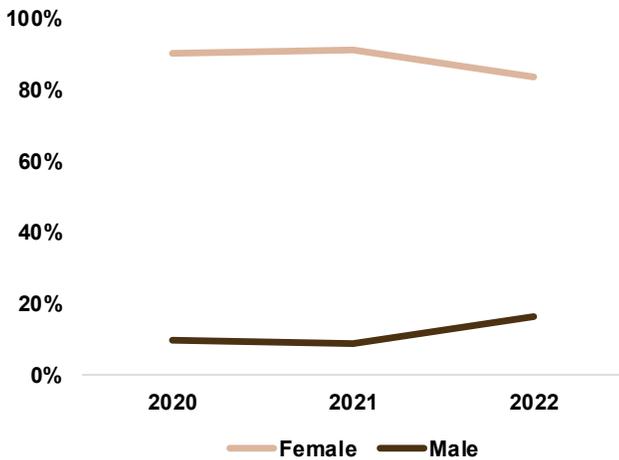*The* **majority** *of these patients were* **female** *(89%) and aged* **25-44 years** *(52%)*

Figure 5. *JPS Health Network patients identified as possible human trafficking victims by age group and gender, 2020-2022*

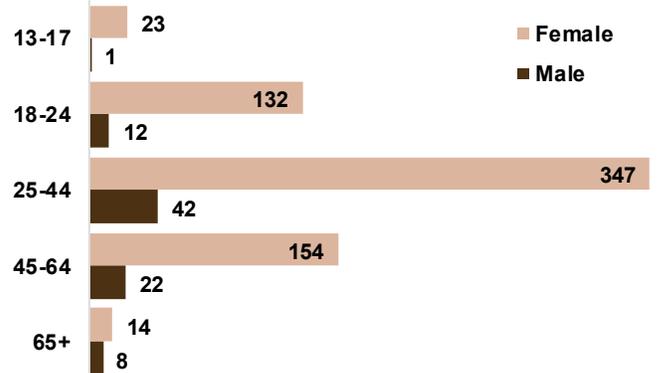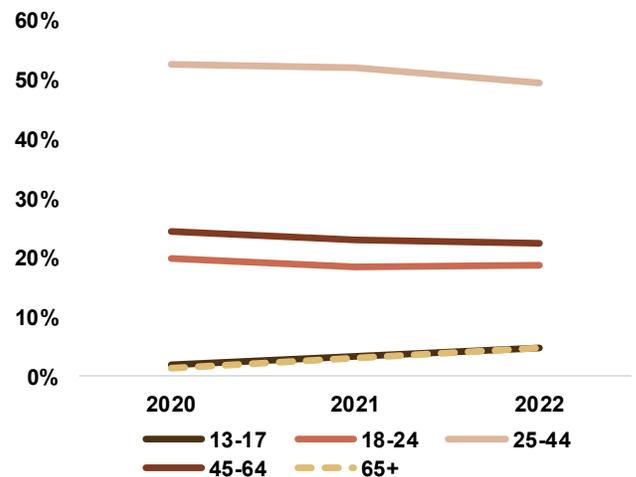| Age group	Female	Male
13-17	23	1
18-24	132	12
25-44	347	42
45-64	154	22
65+	14	8

Figure 6. *JPS Health Network patients identified as possible human trafficking victims by year and gender, 2020-2022*

Female, Male — 2020, 2021, 2022

Figure 7. *JPS Health Network patients identified as possible human trafficking victims by year and age group, 2020-2022*

13-17, 18-24, 25-44, 45-64, 65+ — 2020, 2021, 2022

Anyone **can become a victim of human trafficking. Certain factors can increase someone's risk of being trafficked:**

- Unemployment
- Poverty
- Debt
- Unstable Living Situations
- Homeless
- Runaways
- Undocumented Immigrants
- Migrant Workers
- Refugees
- Children/Youth in Foster Care
- Children/Youth in Juvenile Justice Systems
- Substance Use Disorder
- Mental Health Disorders
- Abuse/Neglect
- Trauma
- Violence
- Individuals with Disabilities
- Racial and Ethnic Minorities
- Sexual and Gender Minorities (LGBTQ+)
- Women

How You Can Make a Difference

- Share the *National Human Trafficking Hotline* **Call** 1-888-373-7888 or **Text "help" to** 233733 [humantraffickinghotline.org]
- Recognize the signs of human trafficking [polarisproject.org/recognizing-human-trafficking]
- Reduce trafficking demand [slaveryfootprint.org]
- Raise awareness [dhs.gov/blue-campaign/request-materials]
- 10 ways you can help: [acf.hhs.gov/otip/about/ways-endtrafficking]

Law Enforcement Resources

Tarrant County Sheriff's Office Human Trafficking Unit
Call 817-321-5920
Fort Worth Police Department Human Trafficking Unit
Call 817-392-4533
Tarrant County 5 Stones Taskforce [5stonestaskforce.org]
Call 682-382-1533

Resources and Support in Tarrant County

Unbound Now North Texas [unboundnow.org/ntx]
North Texas 24/7 Crisis Response & Referral Line **Call** 817-668-6462

Children/Teens
[allianceforchildren.org]
[childrenatrisk.org/human-trafficking]
[traffick911.com]
[unboundnow.org/the-underground] *The Underground* drop-in center for youth (open 24/7 and located at *One Safe Place*) **Call** 817-885-7735

Women
[rescueher.org] Crisis Hotline **Call** 817-891-2093
[thenetfw.com]
[valianthearts.org]
[womenscentertc.org]