



Myths about Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is when someone forces another person to work (labor trafficking) or perform sex acts (sex trafficking) for money. A person who forces someone to do these things is called a *trafficker*. The trafficker keeps all or most of the money the person gets for the work or sex acts and will not let them get out of the situation.

A *myth* is a wrong belief or idea that a lot of people think is true. Here are some myths about human trafficking.

Myth:

Only females are trafficked. This is not true.

The truth is:

Anyone can be trafficked.

Myth:

Trafficking doesn't happen here. This is not true.

The truth is:

Trafficking happens everywhere, even in Ohio.

Myth:

Trafficking is only about forcing someone to perform sex acts. This is not true.

The truth is:

Some trafficking is forcing someone to perform sex acts. However, it can also be forcing someone to work with very little pay or no pay.

Myth:

Trafficking is like what you see in the movies. Or it's like stories you read on social media about people kidnapping girls in store parking lots. This is rarely true.

The truth is:

Traffickers spend a lot of time getting their victims to trust them. They target people they think will be easy to take advantage of or who may not have others to watch out for them.

Myth:

Traffickers beat their victims so they can control them. This is not the whole story.

The truth is:

Traffickers use many different ways to control their victims. Sometimes it is hitting them, but other times it is threats of violence. Traffickers may even use a victim's emotions to control them.

Myth:

Trafficking only happens in cities. This is not true.

The truth is:

Trafficking happens everywhere. It can happen in cities, in neighborhoods or in small towns.

If you think someone is being trafficked, do not get involved. That could put you and the victim in danger. Instead call local police to make a report. If someone is in immediate danger, call 911.

You can also call the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities to make a report at 866-313-6733. You can report without giving your name and personal information. Another option is the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 888-3737-888 or text "BeFree" to 233733.



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This publication was supported by grant number 2021-VOCA-133873581 awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, through the Ohio Attorney General's Office. Victims of federal crimes will be served.