

# 2019 Data Report

## The U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline

*More victims and survivors speaking for themselves*

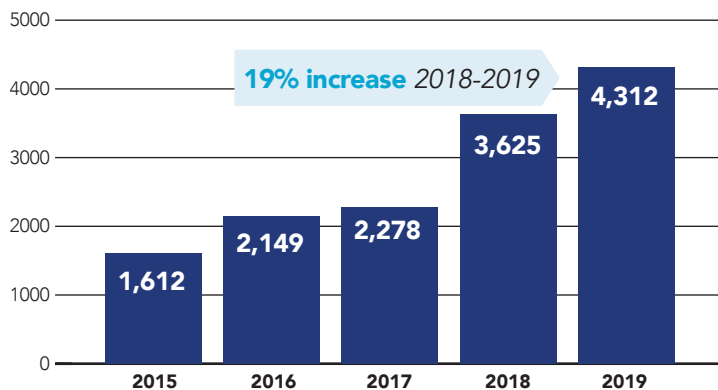
Data Highlights: January 1- December 31, 2019

Victims and survivors of sex and labor trafficking know their situations and needs better than anyone. For that reason - and with certain limited exceptions, such as situations involving children - the U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline will not contact law enforcement or otherwise take action on behalf of the victim or survivor without that person's consent. **That's why the nearly 20 percent increase in victims and survivors who contacted us directly is so meaningful.** Hearing directly from the person affected gives the Trafficking Hotline the best information and avenue to provide help. That might mean putting together a safety plan, finding an attorney, a shelter bed or a trauma counselor, or, in some cases, seeking law enforcement intervention.

Also worth noting is the rapid growth of text as a means of communication with the Trafficking Hotline. More details available on pages 5 and 6 of this document

### Contact from Victims and Survivors Themselves Has Grown Steadily Over Time

*Individual Victims and Survivors Contacting Us*



### IMPACT AT A GLANCE

VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS IDENTIFIED

22,326

VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS IDENTIFIED BY TRAFFICKING FORM

Sex trafficking 14,597  
 Labor trafficking 4,934  
 Sex and labor 1,048  
 Not specified 1,747

TRAFFICKING SITUATIONS IDENTIFIED

11,500

TRAFFICKERS IDENTIFIED

4,384

SUSPICIOUS BUSINESSES IDENTIFIED

1,912

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING SITUATIONS IDENTIFIED<sup>1</sup>



**63,380**

Total situations of human trafficking identified through the Trafficking Hotline December 2007 - December 2019

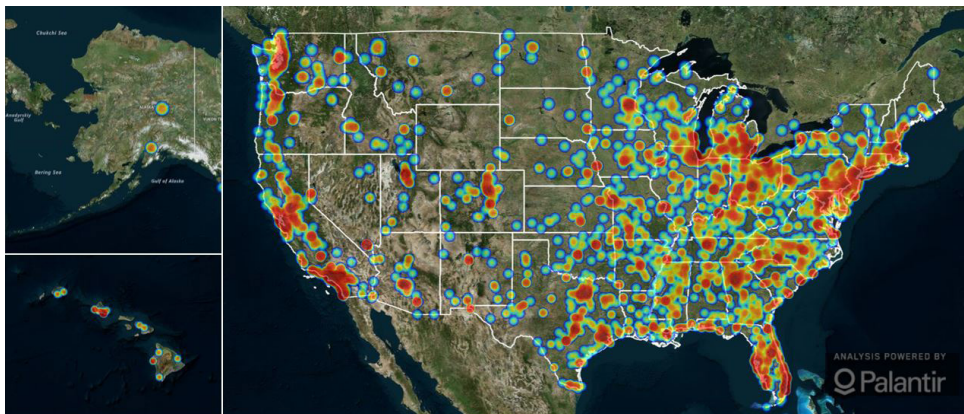
<sup>1</sup>Situations of human trafficking may involve more than one victim or survivor.

# Who Are the Victims and Survivors?



This information reflects only what we learn in the course of providing support. Individuals are never asked questions solely for the purpose of data collection.

## Locations of Human Trafficking Situations in the U.S.<sup>2</sup>



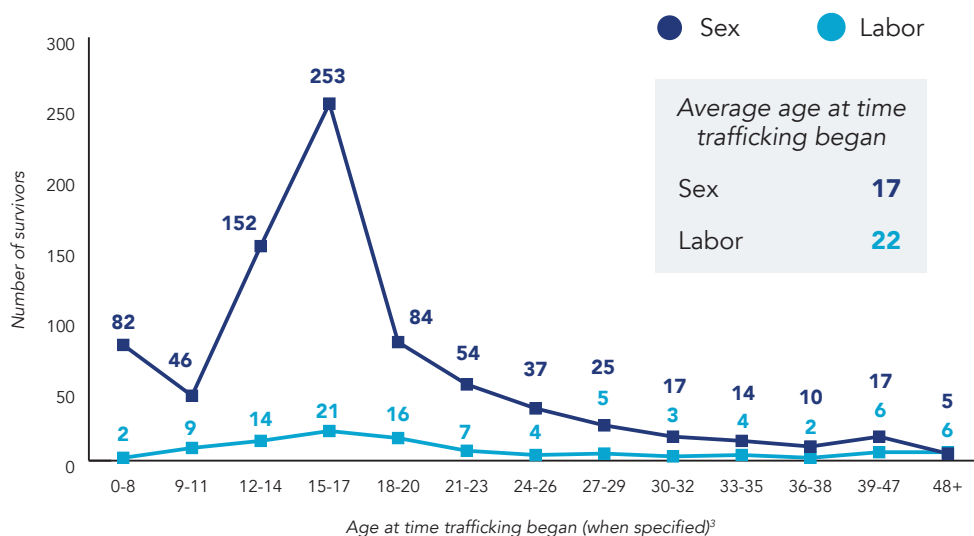
<sup>2</sup>Situations of trafficking can involve more than one location.

## Age, Gender and Nationality



Adult **1,435**  
 Minor **5,359**  
 Unknown **15,532**

## Age at Time Sex or Labor Trafficking Began

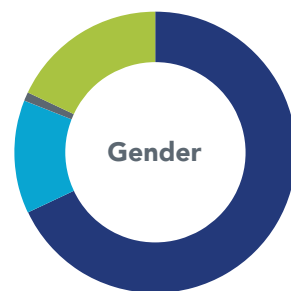


<sup>3</sup>Exact age at the time the trafficking began is known for only 4% of the trafficking victims and survivors in this data set.

### ABOUT THIS DATA

The Trafficking Hotline provides the largest known data set on sex and labor trafficking in the United States. The Trafficking Hotline exists first and foremost to provide support to trafficking victims and survivors. Data collection is secondary and information is only collected if it is necessary to provide that support. Trafficking situations learned about through the Trafficking Hotline likely represent only a small subset of actual trafficking occurring in the United States. Therefore, this data must not be confused with the prevalence of human trafficking in the United States.

The data in this document is based on information available at the time of review. Subsequent reviews/information added over time can lead to changes. Contacts are defined as individual telephone calls, text messages, web form submissions, emails and chat initiations. Note that situations of trafficking can involve one or more potential victims or survivors.



Female **15,222**  
 Male **3,003**  
 Gender minorities **135**  
 Unknown **3,966**



U.S. citizen/Lawful permanent resident **1,388**  
 Foreign national **4,601**  
 Unknown **16,337**

# A Closer Look



## SEX TRAFFICKING

Situations of sex trafficking:

**8,248**

Individual victims and survivors of sex trafficking:

**14,597**

### Top 3 Identified Sex Trafficking Types

Escort services	<b>1,278</b>
Illicit massage, health, and beauty <sup>4</sup>	<b>1,247</b>
Pornography	<b>733</b>



## LABOR TRAFFICKING

Situations of labor trafficking:

**1,236**

Individual victims and survivors of labor trafficking:

**4,934**

### Top 3 Identified Labor Trafficking Types

Domestic work	<b>218</b>
Agriculture and animal husbandry	<b>108</b>
Traveling sales crews	<b>107</b>



## SEX AND LABOR TRAFFICKING

Situations of sex and labor trafficking:

**505**

Individual victims and survivors of sex and labor trafficking:

**1,048**

### Top 3 Identified Sex and Labor Trafficking Types

Illicit massage, health, and beauty <sup>4</sup>	<b>123</b>
Illicit activities	<b>81</b>
Bars, strip clubs, and cantinas	<b>43</b>



Vanessa\* told the Advocate on the U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline that she had finally decided it was time to get out. She and several other women were being held in a home and forced to engage in prostitution. If they refused or fought, their trafficker withheld food and water and threatened them with a firearm. Their trafficker had cameras placed throughout the house and monitored them at all times. At the time of her call to the Trafficking Hotline, Vanessa was with a buyer and requested that law enforcement be sent to remove her and the other victims from their situation. The Trafficking Hotline was able to report to trusted contacts who acted quickly and extracted Vanessa and the other women. In the course of their investigation, the Trafficking Hotline's law enforcement partners determined that Vanessa's situation was actually part of a larger network based in another city and state.

*\*Vanessa's name has been changed and details removed in order to protect her identity.*

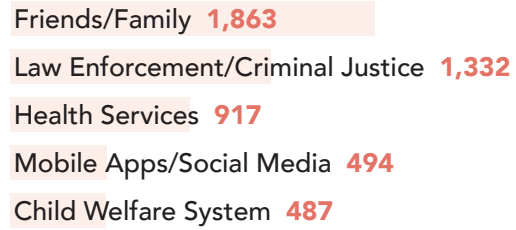
<sup>4</sup>Situations of trafficking occurring in Illicit massage, health, and beauty can involve either forced commercial sex or forced commercial sex and labor services and are therefore represented in both the sex trafficking and sex and labor trafficking sections.



# Top 5

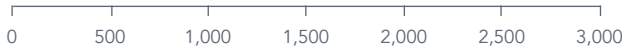
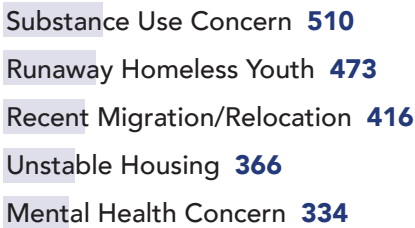


## Top 5 Points of Access for Help

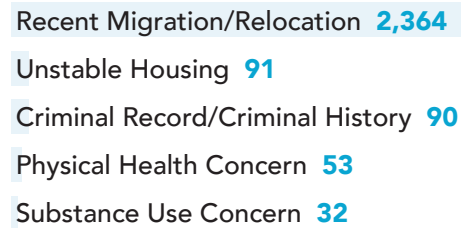


## Top 5 Risk Factors/Vulnerabilities for Trafficking Victimization

### SEX TRAFFICKING

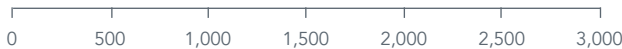
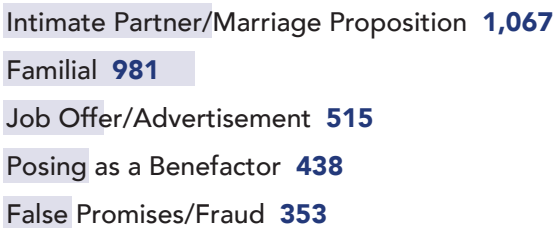


### LABOR TRAFFICKING

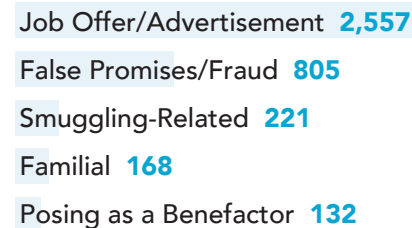


## Top 5 Recruitment Tactics

### SEX TRAFFICKING

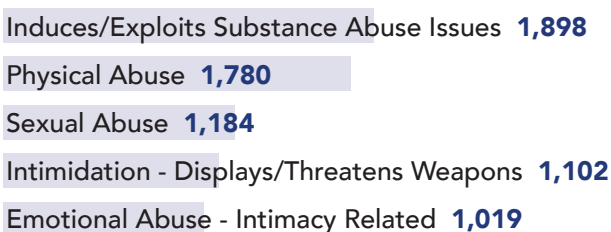


### LABOR TRAFFICKING

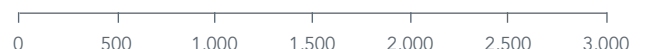
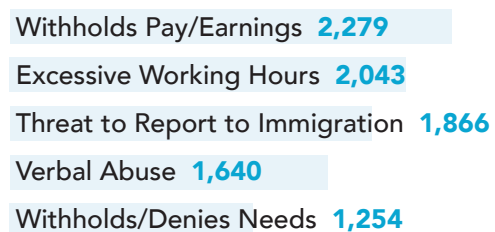


## Top 5 Forms of Force, Fraud and Coercion

### SEX TRAFFICKING



### LABOR TRAFFICKING

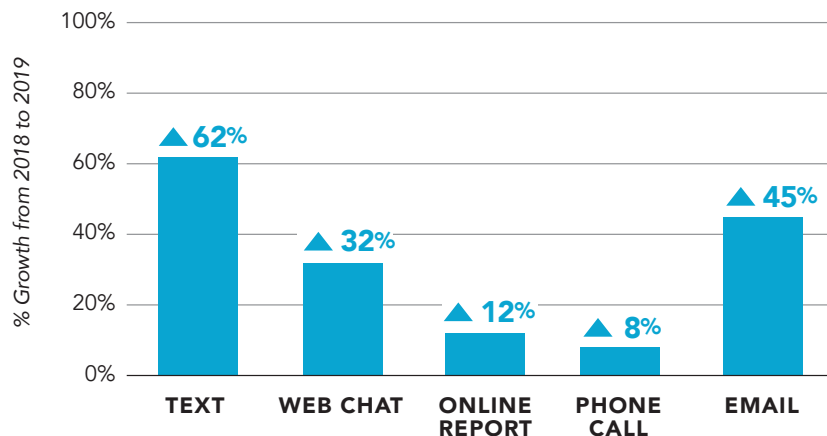


# The Growing Importance of Texting for Help



## The Trafficking Hotline received 48,326 individual trafficking-related contacts in 2019.

Here's how they came in and how they compare to last year:

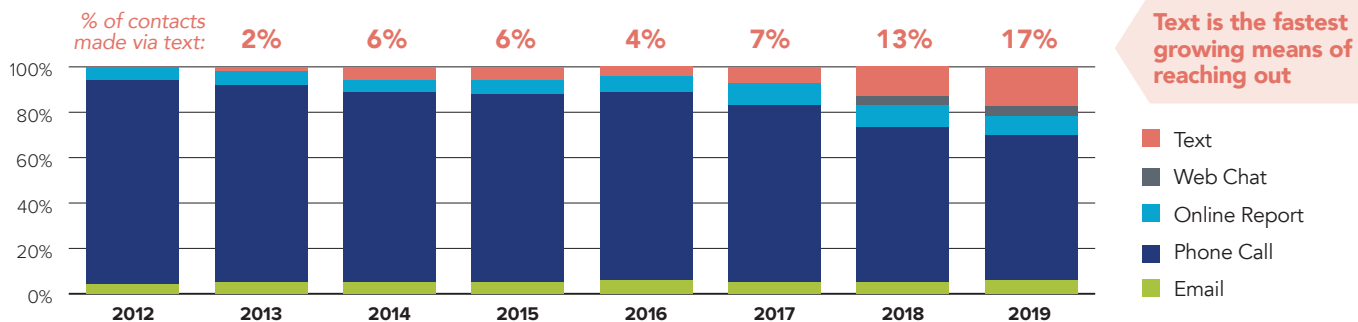


<b>Text</b>	8,412
<b>Web Chat</b>	2,070
<b>Online Report</b>	4,508
<b>Phone Call</b>	30,506
<b>Email</b>	2,830

## Texting makes up a substantially growing share of the methods used to contact the Trafficking Hotline.

As the Trafficking Hotline has made new methods of reaching out available, the way people chose to get in touch has diversified. The chart below shows the percent share of all contacts each method of contact has represented over the years. Text is the fastest growing means of reaching out and, in 2019 comprised 17% of the trafficking-related contacts made to the Trafficking Hotline.

### Makeup of Trafficking-Related Contacts to the Trafficking Hotline

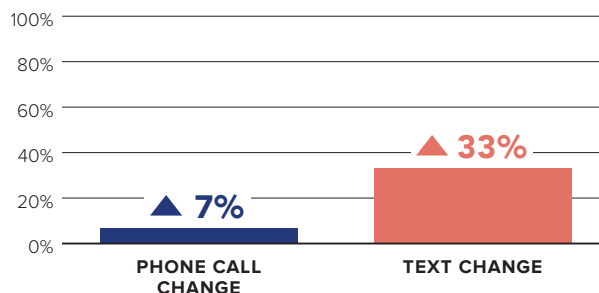


## The Growing Importance of Texting for Help – Cont’d



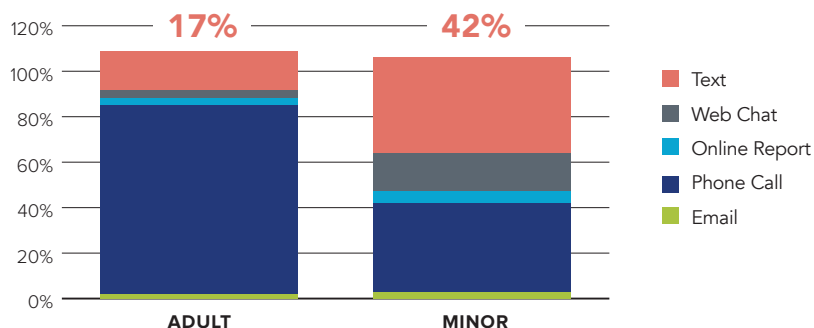
### Also worth noting:

In 2019, the number of identified trafficking situations that originated from text grew by 33% from the previous year (compared to 7% growth in identified trafficking situations originating from calls).



### Minor survivors of trafficking utilize text more than adults.

In 2019, 42% of minor victims and survivors of trafficking contacted the hotline via text compared to 17% of adult victims and survivors.



Totals in the table can add up to more than 100% because individuals can use multiple forms of communication with the Trafficking Hotline.



Carolina\* called the U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline to report a scheme where a licensed contractor was using a network to recruit children in Central America and bring them to the United States to work. The children were supposed to be able to send money home to their families but most were not actually being paid, despite working very long hours. On the weekends, the minors were forced to do domestic work in the trafficker's home. Carolina was concerned about the children being physically abused as well. She wanted to report, but she was concerned about her own safety and asked to remain anonymous. The Trafficking Hotline was able to report the tip to local contacts who worked with the appropriate child welfare agency to investigate the situation.

\*Carolina's name has been changed and details removed in order to protect her identity.