



SEX AND LABOR TRAFFICKING AMONG RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH

A study conducted by Loyola University New Orleans stated that a confluence of factors made homeless youth vulnerable to both sex and labor traffickers who preyed on their basic needs.



SEX TRAFFICKING

The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age.

LABOR TRAFFICKING

The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.



Loyola University New Orleans' Modern Slavery Research Project interviewed:



641 runaway and homeless youth across the country

Of those youth, they found:

19% experienced some form of trafficking

14% had been involved in sex trafficking

8% had been involved in labor trafficking

3% had been involved in both sex and labor trafficking

91%

had been approached

by someone offering opportunity for income that was "too good to be true."

RECRUITMENT

Youth are targeted for exploitation through:



They are recruited in places where they gather, including:

- parks and shopping plazas
- bus stops and train stations
- government assistance offices



SEX TRAFFICKING

Study participants who had experienced sex trafficking:

11% of the young men

20% of the young women

18% of youth with a foster care history -and-

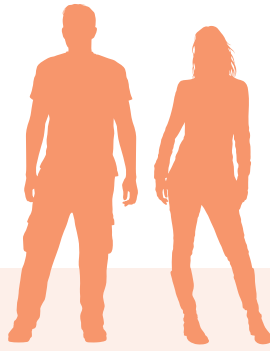
19% of study participants were forced to trade sex in return for basic needs

LABOR TRAFFICKING

81% of trafficked youth were forced to sell drugs. Other forced labor included factory, agriculture, and domestic work.

Who were the traffickers?

- parents and other family members
- intimate partners
- friends
- employers
- strangers



ASSISTING TRAFFICKED YOUTH

Shelters and youth-serving programs are poised to provide:

Prevention: Build resiliency by offering help with employment, housing, and healthy relationships.

Outreach: Reach out where youth are recruited – social media, bus stops, and government assistance offices.

Confidential and inclusive identification strategies: Include male and foster youth vulnerabilities in screening protocols.

Specialized Interventions: Consider anti-trafficking orientations, trauma-informed counseling, and victim relocation networks.

¹Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000; <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-106hr3244enr/pdf/BILLS-106hr3244enr.pdf>

Disclaimer: All findings are based on interviews conducted by Loyola University researchers from 2014 through 2016 with 641 runaway and homeless youth who received services from Covenant House International's network of shelters, transitional living, and apartment programs. For the full study (Labor and Sex Trafficking Among Homeless Youth: A Ten-City Study), please visit www.ModernSlaveryResearch.org

For more resources, go to: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/fysb>