



# Intimate Partner Violence

ADVISOR: DARLENE ADAMS

## RECOGNITION

**What is it?** Intimate partner violence (IPV) includes physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, as well as sexual coercion and stalking by a current or former intimate partner. An intimate partner is a person with whom a person has or had a close personal or sexual relationship.

**Who are the survivors?** Domestic or Intimate Partner Violence happens in all types of relationships, including dating couples, married couples, same-sex couples, former or ex-couples, and couples who live together but are not married. Intimate Partner Violence happens more often among younger couples. Almost half of American Indian and Alaskan Native women, more than 4 in 10 African-American women, and more than 1 in 3 white and Hispanic women have experienced sexual or physical violence or stalking by their intimate partner.

**Who are the perpetrators?** While 24% of Intimate Partner Violence is conducted by women, 76% of Intimate Partner Violence is conducted by men. The male conducted abuse tends to be more violent, more controlling, and is more likely to require medical services or the use of a women's shelter.



## RESCUE

Safety is the most important concern. Those in immediate danger should call 911. If not in immediate danger, consider these options: Get medical care, make a safety plan to leave, save the evidence, find out where to get help in the local community, talk to someone and look into a restraining order, call a helpline for free, anonymous help. (National Domestic Violence Hotline at 800-799-SAFE (7233) or 800-787-3224 (TDD). The hotline offers help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in many languages. The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs has a hotline to help LGBTQ+ victims of violence. Call 212-714-1141 for 24-hour support in English or Spanish.)

## RECOVERY

Domestic violence often results in physical and emotional injuries. It can also lead to other health problems, reproductive health challenges, mental health conditions such as depression, and suicide. Women affected by Intimate Partner Violence are also more likely to use drugs or alcohol to cope. After the physical injuries have been treated, a mental health professional should be used to help cope with emotional concerns. A counselor or therapist can help to deal with emotions in healthy ways, build self-esteem, and help develop coping skills.

## RENAISSANCE

Intimate Partner Violence is a serious problem that has lasting and harmful effects on an individual, families and communities.

### What you can do:

- Prevention efforts that promote healthy, respectful, nonviolent relationships.
- Support programs that
  - ∅ Teach safe and healthy relationship skills
  - ∅ Engage influential adults and peers
  - ∅ Disrupt the developmental pathways toward partner violence
  - ∅ Create protective environments
  - ∅ Strengthen economic support for families
  - ∅ Support survivors to increase safety and lessen harms

## RESOURCES

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** – [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

**World Health Organization** – [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)

**National Domestic Violence Hotline** – [www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org); 1-800-799-7233

**National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP)** – [www.avp.org/ncavp](http://www.avp.org/ncavp); or 212-714-1141 for 24-hour assistance in English or Spanish





# Child Abuse

ADVISOR: TINA SMITH

## RECOGNITION

**What is it?** Child abuse includes all types of abuse and neglect of a child under the age of 18 by a parent, caregiver, or another person in a custodial role (such as clergy, a coach, a teacher) that results in harm, potential for harm, or threat of harm to a child. There are four common types of abuse and neglect:

- **Physical abuse** is the intentional use of physical force that can result in physical injury. Examples include hitting, kicking, shaking, burning, or other shows of force against a child.
- **Sexual abuse** involves pressuring or forcing a child to engage in sexual acts. It includes behaviors such as fondling, penetration, and exposing a child to other sexual activities.
- **Emotional abuse** refers to behaviors that harm a child's self-worth or emotional wellbeing. Examples include name calling, shaming, rejection, withholding love, and threatening.
- **Neglect** is the failure to meet a child's basic physical and emotional needs. These needs include housing, food, clothing, education, and access to medical care.



**Who are the survivors?** Child abuse and neglect are common. At least 1 in 7 children have experienced child abuse and/or neglect in the past year, and this is likely an underestimate. Children living in poverty experience more abuse and neglect. Rates of child abuse and neglect are 5 times higher for children in families with low socio-economic status compared to children in families with higher socio-economic status.

**What about prevention?** National Child Abuse Prevention Month, also known as Child Abuse Prevention Month in America, is an annual observance in the United States dedicated to raising awareness and preventing child abuse. April has been designated Child Abuse Prevention Month in the United States since 1983.

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood (0-17 years). For example:

- Experiencing violence or abuse
- Witnessing violence in the home or community
- Having a family member attempt or die by suicide

ACEs can have lasting, negative effects on health, wellbeing, and opportunity. These experiences can increase the risks of injury, sexually transmitted infections, maternal and child health problems, teen pregnancy, involvement in sex trafficking, and a wide range of chronic diseases and leading causes of death such as cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and suicide.

## RESCUE

Hotline numbers are a valuable resource for those who are mandated by law to report suspected abuse. Most hotlines are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week with professional crisis counselors. They can offer crisis intervention, information, literature, and referrals to thousands of emergency, social service, and support resources. All calls are confidential. Calls come from children at risk for abuse, distressed parents seeking crisis intervention, and concerned individuals who suspect that child abuse may be occurring. Most states have a division of their health and human services department that people should call if abuse is suspected.

## RECOVERY

Children need support after suffering abuse. Talking to a professional therapist can help many children, and many abuse-related disorders can be successfully treated with medications. Reporting suspected abuse is critical to helping an abuse survivor get the help and support the child needs.

## RENAISSANCE

Child abuse and neglect are serious problems that can have lasting harmful effects on its survivors. The goal in preventing child abuse and neglect is to stop this violence from happening in the first place.

### What you can do:

- Provide support and supplies to families in need at emergency shelters
- Advocate for changes in culture and communities to reduce the likelihood of child abuse
- Accompany victims to court or to the hospital to provide support and assistance

## RESOURCES

**Childhelp USA/National Child Abuse Hotline** – [www.childhelpusa.org](http://www.childhelpusa.org); 1-800-422-4453

**National Link Coalition** – [www.nationallinkcoalition.org/how-do-i-report-suspected-abuse](http://www.nationallinkcoalition.org/how-do-i-report-suspected-abuse)

**Children’s Defense Fund** – [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org); 202-628-8787

**CDC** [www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/index.html)  
[www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pub/technical-packages.html](http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pub/technical-packages.html)  
[www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/aces/fastfact.html](http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/aces/fastfact.html)  
[www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/preventingACES.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/preventingACES.pdf)

**Prevent Child Abuse America** – [www.preventchildabuse.org](http://www.preventchildabuse.org)

**Healthy Families America** – [www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org](http://www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org)

**Domestic Shelters** – [www.domesticshelters.org/help#?page=1](http://www.domesticshelters.org/help#?page=1)





# Teen Dating Violence

ADVISOR: TRISHA SCHAFFER

## RECOGNITION

**What is it?** Teen dating violence (TDV) is a type of Intimate Partner Violence. It occurs between two people in a close relationship.

TDV includes four types of behavior:

- **Physical violence** is when a person hurts or tries to hurt a partner by hitting, kicking, or using another type of physical force.
- **Sexual violence** is forcing or attempting to force a partner to take part in a sex act, sexual touching, or a non-physical sexual event (e.g., sexting) when the partner does not or cannot consent.
- **Psychological aggression** is the use of verbal and non-verbal communication with the intent to harm another person mentally or emotionally and/or exert control over another person.
- **Stalking** is a pattern of repeated, unwanted attention and contact by a partner that causes fear or concern for one's own safety or the safety of someone close to the survivor.



**Who are the survivors?** TDV is common; it affects millions of teens in the U.S. each year. Data from CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Survey and the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey indicate that:

- Nearly 1 in 11 female and approximately 1 in 15 male high school students report having experienced physical dating violence in the last year.
- About 1 in 9 female and 1 in 36 male high school students report having experienced sexual dating violence in the last year.
- 26% of women and 15% of men who were victims of contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime first experienced these or other forms of violence by that partner before age 18.
- The burden of TDV is not shared equally across all groups—sexual minority groups are disproportionately affected by all forms of violence, and some racial/ethnic minority groups are disproportionately affected by many types of violence.

**Who are the perpetrators?** Dating violence can take place in person or electronically, such as repeated texting or posting sexual pictures of a partner online without consent. Unhealthy relationships can start early and last a lifetime. Teens often think some behaviors, like teasing and name-calling, are a "normal" part of a relationship—but these behaviors can become abusive and develop into serious forms of violence. However, many teens do not report unhealthy behaviors because they are afraid to tell family and friends.

**What about prevention?** Safe Dates curriculum for Teen Dating Violence is a good resource. It covers the different types of abuse - verbal, physical, emotional, financial - and explains the differences. It facilitates discussions on stalking and digital abuse, as well. Additionally, learning to identify "red flags" in relationships and talking about safety planning is important.

## RESCUE

Learn to recognize the signs of TDV. Unhealthy, abusive, or violent relationships can have severe consequences, short-term, and long-term negative effects on a developing teen. For instance, youth who are victims of TDV are more likely to:

- Experience symptoms of depression and anxiety
- Engage in unhealthy behaviors, like using tobacco, drugs, and alcohol
- Exhibit antisocial behaviors, like lying, theft, bullying, or hitting
- Think about suicide

Violence in an adolescent relationship sets the stage for problems in future relationships, including Intimate Partner Violence and sexual violence perpetration and/or victimization throughout life. For instance, youth who are victims of dating violence in high school are at higher risk for victimization during college.

### **RECOVERY**

To help victims of TDV:

- Encourage her/him to talk about it with someone, a friend, family member, or other trusted adult.
- Help her/him to keep a record or journal of the abuse, documenting each instance.
- Accompany her/him to seek medical attention or psychological support, as needed.

### **RENAISSANCE**

Supporting the development of healthy, respectful, and nonviolent relationships has the potential to reduce the occurrence of TDV and prevent its harmful and long-lasting effects on individuals, their families, and the communities where they live. During the pre-teen and teen years, it is critical for youth to begin to learn the skills needed—such as effectively managing feelings and using healthy communication—to create and foster healthy relationships.

#### **What you can do:**

- Teach safe and healthy relationship skills
- Engage influential adults and peers
- Disrupt the developmental pathways toward partner violence
- Create protective environments
- Strengthen economic supports for families
- Support survivors to increase safety and lessen harms

### **RESOURCES**

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** - [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

**Freedom House** - [www.freedomhouseillinois.org](http://www.freedomhouseillinois.org)

**Office on Violence Against Women** – [www.justice.gov/ovw/dating-violence](http://www.justice.gov/ovw/dating-violence)

**Safe Place** - [www.nationalsafeplace.org/teen-dating-violence](http://www.nationalsafeplace.org/teen-dating-violence)





# Campus Sexual Assault

ADVISOR: PAM BRIGGS

## RECOGNITION

**What is it?** Campus sexual assault is any type of sexual contact or behavior that occurs without the explicit consent of the recipient.

**Who are the survivors?** More than 1 in 4 women attending college are survivors of campus sexual assault. Women are not the only survivors. About 7% of college men and 23% of gay/lesbian/transgender students are also survivors.

**Who are the perpetrators?** It is not just other students that present a risk; sometimes it is a member of the faculty or staff.

**What about prevention?** As a college student, the first step in prevention is believing it could happen to you and that it will most likely be by someone you know. The second step is thinking through ahead of time how you can safeguard yourself. Decide on boundaries before going on a date, to a party, or other activity.

Colleges must take responsibility for the environment on campus. They should facilitate open discussions with students and employees about the issue and have policies in place for handling reports of sexual assault in a sensitive, compassionate, and professional manner.



## RESCUE

It is estimated that less than 5% of campus sexual assaults are reported.

Survivors often do not file a report or seek help or counseling because they are too embarrassed or ashamed, or believe they can handle it on their own. Having a supportive environment on campus and with friends can make filing a report easier to do. Staff and campus police need to be fully trained on how to handle reports as well as understanding survivor impact and behavior. Supportive services from a crisis advocate are invaluable in helping survivors navigate the reporting and subsequent legal process.

## RECOVERY

Survivors of campus sexual assault may need immediate assistance to make arrangements for safe housing, obtain counseling, and if necessary, file a civil restraining order.

If someone you know is assaulted these are things you can do to help:

- Help get them to a safe location
- Keep reminding them it was not their fault
- Be a supportive listener
- If you observed any part of the assault, take detailed notes about what you saw
- Go with them to medical and other appointments
- Continue to follow up with them and encourage them to seek counseling

## RENAISSANCE

### What you can do:

- Ensure that your campus has appropriate policies and procedures in place to address incidents of sexual assault and is in compliance with federal requirements under the Clery Campus Safety Act and Title IX, as well as applicable state and local laws.
- Ensure that resources like safe housing, advocates, counseling, and medical care are available to help survivors.
- Use social media to spread awareness and advocate for social change.
- Hold a bystander intervention session to teach bystanders how to intervene in situations that involve sexual violence.
- Get involved in national campaigns.
- Organize or participate in public awareness initiatives:
  - ∅ It's on Us – An initiative through the American Association of University Women that reframes sexual assault in a way that inspires everyone to see it as their responsibility to do something, big or small, to prevent it.
  - ∅ The Clothesline Project – Have people affected by violence decorate a shirt and hang it on a public clothesline as testimony to the problem of sexual violence.
  - ∅ Take Back the Night – Take part in an after-dark march on a college campus and make a statement about women's right to be in public at night without risk of sexual violence.
- Volunteer at your local rape crisis center

## RESOURCES

**National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC)** – [www.nsvrc.org](http://www.nsvrc.org)

**Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972** – [www.justice.gov/crt/overview-title-ix-education-amendments-1972-20-usc-1681-et-seq](http://www.justice.gov/crt/overview-title-ix-education-amendments-1972-20-usc-1681-et-seq)

**Clery Center for Security on Campus** – [www.clerycenter.org](http://www.clerycenter.org)

**Victim Rights Law Center** – [www.victimrights.org](http://www.victimrights.org)

**Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN)** – [www.rainn.org](http://www.rainn.org)







# Elder Abuse

ADVISOR: KAREN KALER

## RECOGNITION

**What is it?** Abuse later in life includes, the physical, sexual, or psychological abuse, neglect, financial exploitation, or stalking of an adult age 50 years or older.

**Who are the survivors?** Seventy-seven million baby boomers are aging and approximately 10,000 turn 65 every day. People 85 and older, the fastest growing segment of the population, are disproportionately women. Unfortunately, as the population ages, so does the opportunity for abuse.

**Who are the perpetrators?** In most cases, the survivor is in an ongoing relationship with the perpetrator, such as a spouse, partner, family member, or caregiver, where society expects there to be a trusting and caring connection. Research indicates that for every incident of abuse reported to the authorities, 23 incidents remain undiscovered.

**What about prevention?** Older individuals face unique challenges when seeking assistance or services. Older survivors may refrain from seeking help or calling the police due to shame or embarrassment because the abuse was committed by a spouse, adult children, grandchild, or caregiver. They may also be intimidated by threats of being placed in a nursing home. Signs of elder abuse may be missed by professionals working with older Americans because of a lack of training on detecting abuse.



## RESCUE

Learn to identify the risk factors and warning signs of abuse. Speak with an elder privately if you have suspicions. Offer to bring them to an adult protective services agency or to help them seek medical care.

## RECOVERY

- Support the investigation and prosecution of Elder Abuse Cases by providing training and resources to federal, state, and local investigators and prosecutors.
- Enhance services to Elder Abuse survivors by improving identification of elder abuse and enhancing response and outreach to individuals who experience abuse.
- Develop a public awareness campaign, with clear and consistent messaging to raise awareness and understanding of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- Conduct training for survivor service providers, health care professionals, community organizations, faith based advocates, and local agencies to better service survivors of abuse in later life.
- Work with local nursing homes to ensure their staff is knowledgeable and has had the proper training.

## RENAISSANCE

It is estimated that elders throughout the U.S. lose a minimum of \$2.9 billion annually due to elder financial abuse and exploitation. These numbers are staggering. We need to support and educate our elder population and their care givers. With so many entities playing a role, there is a growing recognition of the need for multidisciplinary collaboration. Depending on the nature of the abuse, additional expertise and assistance may be sought from health care providers, social service agencies, financial institutions, civil attorneys, and others.

## What you can do:

- Support and plan projects during Older Americans Month in May and World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15.
- Create awareness during National Family Caregiver’s Month in November.
- Provide resources in nursing homes, such as “Pass It On” materials, available at [ftc.gov/PassItOn](http://ftc.gov/PassItOn).
- Organize a “Letter to the Editor” writing campaign to raise awareness not only of Elder Abuse but of the local resources that are available in your community on aging offices. Be sure to include contact information and hotline helpline information.
- Distribute Elder Abuse public awareness materials at local sporting events, concerts, and fairs.
- Hold a community yard sale at a central location such as a senior center or church with proceeds going to an Elder Abuse support group or community outreach program to help support elders in crisis.

## RESOURCES

**National Committee for Prevention of Elder Abuse (NCPEA)** – [www.preventelderabuse.org](http://www.preventelderabuse.org)

**Elder Abuse National Institute on Aging** – [www.nia.nih.gov/health/elder-abuse](http://www.nia.nih.gov/health/elder-abuse)

**National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA)** – [www.ncea.gov](http://www.ncea.gov)

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** - [www.cdc.gov/features/elderabuse/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/features/elderabuse/index.html)

**Federal Trade Commission** – [www.ftc.gov/PassItOn](http://www.ftc.gov/PassItOn)





# Violence Against Native American Women

ADVISOR: JAN ALLEN

## RECOGNITION

**What is it?** Violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women includes psychological aggression and physical violence by intimate partners, stalking, and sexual violence.

**Who are the survivors?** In the United States, violence against indigenous women has reached unprecedented levels on tribal lands and in Alaska Native villages.

More than 4 in 5 American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced violence, and more than 1 in 2 have experienced sexual violence. Alaska Native women continue to suffer the highest rate of forcible sexual assault and have reported rates of domestic violence, up to 10 times higher than in the rest of the United States. Though available data is limited, the number of missing and murdered American Indian and Alaska Native women, and the lack of a diligent and adequate federal response, is extremely alarming to indigenous women, tribal governments, and communities. On some reservations, indigenous women are murdered at more than 10 times the national average.

**Who are the perpetrators?** Perpetrators include American Indians/Alaska Natives, those that are biracial, and non-Indians/non-Natives. Indian nations are unable to prosecute non-Indians, even if they reside in the territory, leaving many American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls unprotected.

**What about prevention?** Indian nations are working to develop the infrastructure for tribal justice systems to support police departments, courts, and the needed codes. Federal assistance and support is integral to this increasing infrastructure capacity.



## RESCUE

Offering support and helping with safety planning allows survivors to cope with emotions, protect children, and helps survivors gain strength emotionally and physically.

## RECOVERY

The National Indigenous Women's Resource Center develops and produces culturally relevant materials such as webinars, fact sheets, toolkits, training curriculums, and much more. Additional resources are available through the Tribal Law and Policy Institute.

## RENAISSANCE

November is a time for all of us to celebrate American Indian Heritage Month and work to address violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women. Designated by Congress in 1992, American Indian Heritage Month is recognized annually by federal agencies, nonprofits, and other organizations to honor Native American culture and heritage.

### What you can do:

- Raise awareness to gain strong federal action to end violence against Native women and children.
- Volunteer at Indian and Alaska Native nations and Native women's organizations to increase their capacity to prevent violence and to hold perpetrators of violence on their lands accountable.
- Call for increased reporting to ensure accurate data are used by communities and policymakers to make informed decisions and establish supportive programs.

## RESOURCES

**Indian Law Resource Center** – [www.indianlaw.org](http://www.indianlaw.org)

**National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center (NIWRC)** – [www.niwrc.org](http://www.niwrc.org)

**National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence** – [www.ncdsv.org/ncd\\_linksnativetribal.html](http://www.ncdsv.org/ncd_linksnativetribal.html)

**StrongHearts Native Helpline** – [www.strongheartshelpline.org](http://www.strongheartshelpline.org); 1-844-762-8483

**Tribal Law and Policy Institute** – [www.home.tlpi.org/violence-against-native-women-publicatio](http://www.home.tlpi.org/violence-against-native-women-publicatio)





# Military Sexual Assault

ADVISOR: CARLA PYLE

## RECOGNITION

**What is it?** Military sexual assault is the use of force, threats, intimidation, or abuse of authority during intentional sexual contact. It also includes instances where the survivor is unable to consent.

**Who are the survivors?** Survivors of military sexual assault include both men and women.

**What about prevention?** Some recommendations for prevention include improving reporting, modifying laws that create barriers to reporting or are used in retaliation against survivors, and increasing support for survivors.



## RESCUE

Within the military, the Commanding Officer within the unit of the military personnel is the authority and decision-maker within the UCMJ. Survivors may also seek services through civilian authorities and public/private agencies. There is a Family Advocacy Program located at every military installation in the U.S. and internationally where families are assigned. The Department of Defense (DoD) recognizes that families and individuals seeking help have the right to choose which services work best for them, including civilian programs outside of the military. DoD partners with civilian domestic violence programs and community-based advocates to protect survivors, lessen the impact of abuse, and give survivors a choice in their path to safety.

## RECOVERY

The DoD Safe Helpline will connect the caller to local help, and upon request, the Telephone Helpline staff can directly transfer the caller to following resources: crisis intervention; emotional support; referrals to both military and civilian resources in the requested area; Sexual Assault Resource Centers (SARCs); Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Victim Advocates (SAPR VA's); Chaplain; Special Victims Counsel or Victim's Legal Counsel (SVC/VLC); medical/mental health care services; Veteran's Suicide Prevention Lifeline; local civilian sexual assault service providers; information on military reporting options (Restricted and Unrestricted); information for family and friends of survivors; information for leadership; and many others.

Use this information and the resources below to assist survivors in finding support, shelters, and advocacy services.

## RENAISSANCE

### What you can do:

- Donate to the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) or the National Coalition of Domestic Violence (NCADV).
- Train locally to work the local hotline.
- Contact advocacy groups in your area and find out what supplies and collections are needed in local shelters.
- Contact local military installations and speak to someone at the Family Advocacy Program to find out what ways your group could help their clients.
- Support local resources such as: safe houses, advocates, counseling services, and medical care for the survivors.
- Start a book club in a base or local library nearby to read about and discuss domestic violence issues.
- Volunteer for local agencies that support the survivors of military abuse.

## RESOURCES

**National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV)** – [www.ncadv.org](http://www.ncadv.org)

**National Network to End Domestic Violence** – [www.nnedv.org](http://www.nnedv.org)

**National Domestic Violence Hotline** - 1-800-799-7233; [www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org); [www.WomensLaw.org](http://www.WomensLaw.org)

**Protect Our Defenders Foundation** - [www.protectourdefenders.com](http://www.protectourdefenders.com)

**DoD Safe Helpline** - [www.safehelpline.org](http://www.safehelpline.org)





# Human Trafficking For Sexual Purposes

ADVISOR: LUCINDA MARTINEZ

## RECOGNITION

**What is it?** Sexual human trafficking is any sex act that has been induced by recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purposes of a sex act in which anything of value is given to or received by any person. Sexual Human Trafficking is any sex act that is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age. Sex trafficking is a modern day form of slavery.



**Who are the survivors?** Victims of sex trafficking can be women, men, children, and LGBTQ (lesbian/gay men/bisexual/transgender/questioning) individuals. Vulnerable populations are frequently targeted by traffickers, including runaway and homeless youth, as well as victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, war, or social discrimination. Women and children are the most common victims found to be trafficked for sex. More recently, LGBTQ identifying individuals, especially transgender individuals, are increasingly found to be victims of sexual exploitation across international borders. The average age of a trafficked child is 15 years old.

The situations that sex trafficking survivors face vary dramatically. Many survivors become romantically involved with someone who then forces or manipulates them into prostitution. Sexual exploitation occurs in various settings, including (but not limited to) brothels, strip clubs, massage parlors, fake massage businesses, via online ads or escort services, on the street or at truck stops, at hotels and motels, or in private homes. Others are lured in with false promises of a job, such as modeling or dancing. Some are forced to sell sex by their parents or other family members. Individuals can be trafficked domestically and across international borders. They may be involved in a trafficking situation for a few days or weeks — or may remain in the same trafficking situation for years.

**Who are the perpetrators?** Sex traffickers use threats, manipulation, lies, debt bondage, and other forms of coercion to compel adults and children to engage in commercial sex acts against their will. Under U.S. law, any minor under the age of 18 years induced into commercial sex is a victim of sex trafficking — whether the trafficker used force, fraud, or coercion. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) recognizes that traffickers use psychological and physical coercion as well as bondage, and it defines coercion to include: threats of serious harm to or physical restraint against any person; any scheme, plan, or pattern intended to cause a person to believe that failure to perform an act would result in serious harm to or physical restraint against any person; or the abuse or threatened abuse of the legal process.

**What about prevention?** Learn the indicators of human trafficking and report suspicions to the National Human Trafficking Hotline (1-888-373-7888).

## RESCUE

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) is the first comprehensive federal law to address trafficking in persons. The law provides a three-pronged approach that includes prevention, protection, and prosecution.

## RECOVERY

Many victims of sex trafficking benefit from mental health services. Providers can help victims in dealing with their trauma while helping them become survivors through mental health support, job training, and stability. Issues of affordable care and access to services are first identified while gaining the trust of survivors.

## RENAISSANCE

### What you can do:

- January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month, participate in awareness campaigns in your community.
- Educate yourself about human trafficking. Take this quiz to learn how social media is used by traffickers: [www.polarisproject.org/human\\_trafficking\\_recruitment\\_quiz](http://www.polarisproject.org/human_trafficking_recruitment_quiz).
- Advocate to stop legislation that decriminalizes pimping, brothel-keeping, and sex buying.
- Help unmask human trafficking networks and urge Congress to pass legislation that will help find traffickers and hold them accountable.

## RESOURCES

**Current Federal Laws / Polaris** – [www.polarisproject.org/current-federal-laws](http://www.polarisproject.org/current-federal-laws)

**National Human Trafficking Hotline** – [www.humantraffickinghotline.org](http://www.humantraffickinghotline.org); 1-888-373-7888

**U.S. Department of Justice National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking** – [www.justice.gov/humantrafficking/page/file/922791/download](http://www.justice.gov/humantrafficking/page/file/922791/download)

**Department of Homeland Security (ICE) Most Wanted Sex Traffickers Photos (updated daily)** – [www.ice.gov/features/human-trafficking](http://www.ice.gov/features/human-trafficking)

**Covenant House** – [www.covenanthouse.org/homeless-issues/human-trafficking](http://www.covenanthouse.org/homeless-issues/human-trafficking)

**Erase Child Trafficking: Human Trafficking Victim Recovery** – [www.erasechildtrafficking.org/human-trafficking-recovery](http://www.erasechildtrafficking.org/human-trafficking-recovery)

**U.S. Institute Against Human Trafficking (usiaht) Safe Homes** – [www.usiaht.org/our-safe-homes](http://www.usiaht.org/our-safe-homes)

**U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services** – <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/trauma-toolkit/victims-of-human-trafficking>

**Sustainable Recovery for Trafficking Survivors (THORN)** – [www.thorn.org/blog/sustainable-recovery-trafficking-survivors](http://www.thorn.org/blog/sustainable-recovery-trafficking-survivors)

