

BUSINESSSAFE

BusinessSafe is designed to aid businesses in protecting the safety and well-being of Florida's residents and visitors from threats. BusinessSafe provides private sector partners with open source information, analysis and resources to help protect their businesses and communities.

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National Human Trafficking Awareness Month

January is National Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Human trafficking can be simply defined as compelling or coercing a person to provide labor or services, or to engage in commercial sex acts. The two most prevalent forms of human trafficking are labor trafficking and sex trafficking. In 2022, the state of Florida was ranked third nationally with regards to the total number of human trafficking cases by state.

Labor Trafficking and Sex Trafficking - Labor trafficking is when individuals are forced to perform labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. The most common Industries in which labor trafficking takes place are in domestic work (childcare, cleaning services, etc.), agriculture, construction, and traveling sales crews. Sex trafficking occurs when a trafficker exploits an individual with force, deception, or coercion to make them perform commercial sex work. Common locations for sex trafficking are illicit massage and spa businesses, hotels or motels, and private residences or brothels.

- [Owner of Farm Labor Contracting Company Pleads Guilty in Racketeering Conspiracy Involving the Forced Labor of Mexican Workers](#)
- [Man accused of sex trafficking teen vacationing in Miami Beach](#)

Large Events May Provide Opportunities for Human Trafficking – Although large public events do not cause an increase in human trafficking, any event that draws a large crowd of people can be seen as an opportunity by a human trafficker. Events such as musical festivals, sporting events, and large venue events bring a large number of tourists to the state, which also increases the demand for businesses of all types. Human traffickers may attempt to fulfill the demand for labor or sexual services through the exploitation of their victims.

- [Man Sentenced to 25 Years in Prison for Sex-Trafficking During Miami Super Bowl](#)
- [Biketoberfest:18 arrested after operation targeting human trafficking, prostitution](#)



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Trafficking on the Information Superhighway – Since its creation, the internet has become widely used and is an essential part of our daily lives. Human traffickers exploit the internet's capabilities to contact a large number of potential victims or advertise the services of a victim. Potential victims are able to be contacted through various means online, including social media, gaming applications, dating websites, and job/recruiting websites. Some tactics likely used by traffickers to lure their victims into trafficking situations are fake employment advertisements, romance schemes, promises of a better life, and/or promises of necessities like food and shelter. Vulnerable populations that may not have secure living situations or are unemployed likely see these as opportunities for a better life, but could end up being exploited by human traffickers.

- [CityXGuide Owner Sentenced to 8+ Years in Prison for Reckless Disregard of Sex Trafficking, Racketeering Conspiracy](#)
- [Officials say Little Rock woman was 'forced' into prostitution by Florida man](#)
- [Over half of online recruitment in active sex trafficking cases occurred on Facebook, report says](#)

Ways to Help Combat Human Trafficking

- Understand the indicators of human trafficking and recognize that the signs may vary depending on if the individual is a victim of sex or labor trafficking. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) provides information on how to help spot sex or labor trafficking. [Department of Homeland Security \(DHS\) Blue Campaign Human Trafficking Indicators](#)
- The Florida Office of the Attorney General offers resources to help understand the signs of human trafficking, training opportunities, and how to report suspected human trafficking on their [You Can Stop HT](#) website.
- Report known or suspected human trafficking to one of the entities listed below:
 - If you feel the situation is an emergency, call 911
 - Local police department or sheriff's office
 - Florida Abuse Hotline: 1-800-962-2873 or [Report Online](#)
 - Department of Homeland Security Blue Campaign: 1-866-347-2423
 - National Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-373-7888 or text info to BeFree (233733)



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