

#### Recognizing a Victim of Human Trafficking

- History of running away or current status as a runaway
- Unstable home life and/or involvement in the child welfare or foster care system
- Juvenile has items or an appearance that does not fit the current situation (examples include having money, electronics, new clothes/shoes, hair/nails done, new cellular phone, tattoos)
- Not in class during school hours
- Juvenile has a "boyfriend" who is noticeably older
- Use or show signs of drug addiction
- Juvenile refers to sexual situations that are not age-appropriate
- Inappropriately dressed for the weather
- Accompanied by someone who seems controlling
- Juvenile appears hungry or malnourished

\*These are not a comprehensive list of all signs of human trafficking, nor are all adults or children who exhibit these signs victims of human trafficking. The list is intended to prompt further exploration to determine if human trafficking is occurring.\*

### To report suspected trafficking, contacts

Pittsburg Police Tip line (anonymous)

925-252-4040

Dispatch

925-646-2441

#### HOW TO GET HELP

**Family Justice Center** 

925-521-6366

National Human Trafficking Resource Center

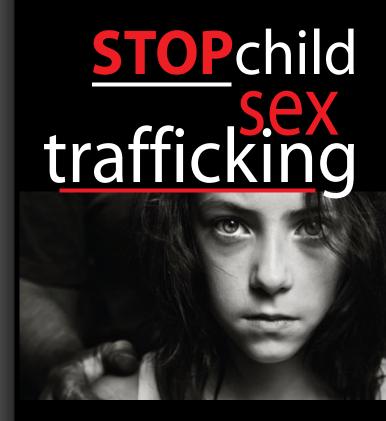
1-888-373-7888

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

1-800-843-5678

Or visit

www.cybertipline.com



#### A Current Epidemic!

Take a Stand Against Modern Day Slavery!



### What is Human Trafficking?

Human Traffficking is a modern form of slavery. It is based on recruiting, harboring and transporting people for the purpose of exploitation.

More than 83 percent of human trafficking involves domestic victims and the majority of these are children. That means most trafficking in Pittsburg involves local children. They may be lured, forced or coerced into sex or labor exploitation.

Sex Trafflicking is a lucrative practice and involves any form of sexual exploitation such as prostitution, pornography or commercial sexual entertainment. All sexually exploited children are victims.

Through the internet, interactive video games, blogs and chat rooms, traffickers can target children because they are often vulnerable, gullible and there is a market for young victims. Studies show traffickers prey on children who are an average of 12-13 years old.

# KNOW the SIGNS

#### What is **Child Sex** Trafficking?

Child sex trafficking is one of the most common types of Commercial Exploitation. Child sex trafficking is a high priority at the Pittsburg Police Department because these children are often currently reported missing and are actively being exploited. Child sex trafficking victims include girls, boys, and LGBTQ youth. Victims could be anyone from your daughter, son, neighbor, family friend, niece or nephew.

According to the Federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act, **Sex Trafficking** is: "The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purposes of a commercial sex act."

A **Commercial Sex Act** is: "Any youth who is under the age of 18, who is exploited through commercial sex, where something of value, such as money, drugs, or a place to stay- is traded for sexual activity."

#### How does a **Child** become a **Victim?**

Traffickers target vulnerable children and lure them into sex trafficking using physical and psychological manipulation. Children may be vulnerable to such a person who promises to meet his or her emotional and physical needs.

Often exploiters/traffickers will create a seemingly loving or caring relationship with their victim in order to establish trust and allegiance. This manipulative relationship tries to ensure the youth will remain loyal to the exploiter even in the face of severe victimization. These relationships may begin online before progressing to a real life encounter.

## Who are the Exploiters?

Exploiters, also known as traffickers, can be anyone, including family members, foster parents, friends, gangs, trusted adults, or anyone who profits from the selling of a minor to a buyer.

