



T-VSTTA

OVC TRIBAL VICTIM SERVICES TRAINING
AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

UNDERSTANDING SEX TRAFFICKING

Sex trafficking is a form of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

Federal Definition of Sex Trafficking

In 2000, the passage of the Trafficking Victim's Protection Act (TVPA) made human trafficking a federal crime and defined sex trafficking as—

- The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purposes of a commercial sex act in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion or in which the person induced is under 18.

Realities of Sex Trafficking

Survivors of sex trafficking include all races, genders, socioeconomic backgrounds, and nationalities. Sex trafficking is an underreported crime for many reasons. Victims may fear for their safety and well-being or have concerns about the criminal justice system, legal system, and other social services. Traffickers may threaten their victims or falsely tell them they will be deported or arrested if they talk with law enforcement.

Sex Trafficking Indicators

Sex trafficking occurs when an action, means, and a purpose are all present, except in cases involving minors when the means do not need to be established. An action may be thought of as the “what”, the means as “how”, and the purpose as “why”. The Action, Means, Purpose (AMP) Model is an effective tool to use to identify survivors of sex trafficking.

ACTION - WHAT

Recruiting: proactively targeting an individual's vulnerabilities and/or grooming, or befriending a child with the intention to abuse.

Using: supplying alcohol and/or drugs to garner an intimate relationship or support an existing habit.

Harboring: isolation, confinement, and/or monitoring of another person's movement.

Transporting: the unwanted movement and/or arranging of travel of another person.

Providing: the giving of a person as a commodity to another person.

Obtaining: forcibly taking something from someone else; exchanging something for the ability to control another person.

Soliciting: offering something of value in exchange for sex such as housing, food, clothing, travel, etc.

MEANS - HOW

Force: physical assault, sexual assault, isolation, and/or confinement of another person.

Fraud: false employment offers, sham marriages, lying about work situation, withholding wages, and/or taking legal documentation.

Coercion: threats of violence, threats of arrest/deportation, debt bondage, and/or withholding legal documentation.

PURPOSE - WHY

Commercial sex act: any sex act on account of anything of value given to or received by any person.

To learn more about the signs of sex trafficking, access the [Understanding Human Trafficking](#) online training course available from the Office for Victims of Crime.

Tribal Victim Services Training and Technical Assistance (T-VSTTA) is a capacity-building program providing tailored, hands-on training and technical assistance to victim service providers in American Indian and Alaska Native communities. With over 100 years of combined experience in victim services, the T-VSTTA team meets you where you are, working together to build on the resilience within your community.

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) funds the T-VSTTA program, which is available at no cost for grantees and potential grantees.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Email or call to request training and technical assistance. A member of the T-VSTTA team will respond promptly.

Web: ovc.ojp.gov/t-vstta/home

Email: Support@t-vstta.org

Phone: 833-887-8820

This product was supported by contract number GS-00F-008DA, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this product are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.