

FAMILY MEMBERS ARE INVOLVED IN NEARLY HALF OF CHILD TRAFFICKING CASES

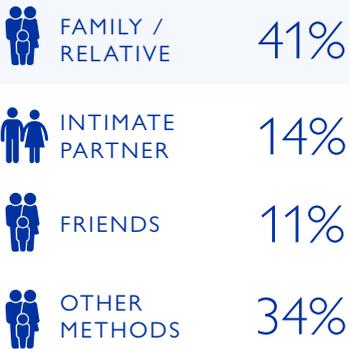
NEW DATA FROM THE WORLD'S FIRST DATA PORTAL TO INCLUDE HUMAN TRAFFICKING DATA CONTRIBUTED BY MULTIPLE AGENCIES

Almost half of identified cases of child trafficking begin with some family member involvement, according to newly released data from multiple organizations that have been analysed together for the first time. These statistics are based on data released through The Counter-Trafficking Data Collaborative (CTDC); the world's first data portal to include human trafficking case data contributed by multiple agencies. The extent of family involvement in the trafficking of children is up to four times higher than in cases of adult trafficking, showing an urgent need for enhanced counter-trafficking efforts specifically targeting children and their families.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN - KEY STATISTICS



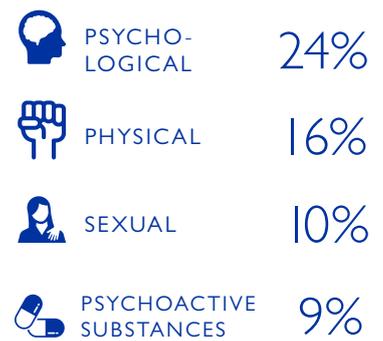
RECRUITMENT INTO TRAFFICKING



MAIN SECTORS OF FORCED LABOUR



MAIN METHODS OF CONTROL



GENDER

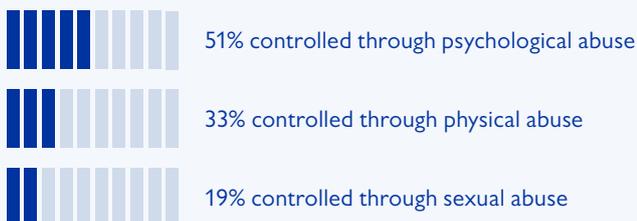


EXPLOITATION TYPE



PROFILE OF TRAFFICKED CHILDREN WHERE FAMILY PLAYED A ROLE

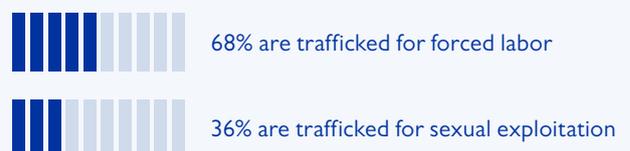
MEANS OF CONTROL



GENDER



EXPLOITATION TYPE

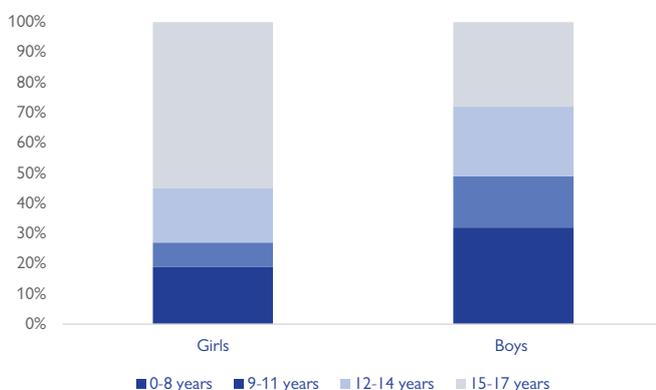


1 bar = 10%

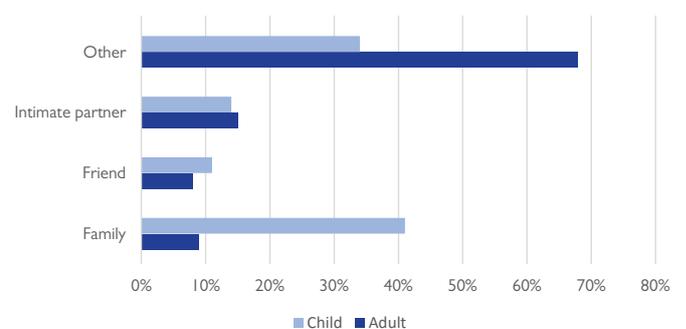
KEY STATISTICS AT A GLANCE

- The extent of family involvement in the trafficking of children is more than four times higher than in cases of adult trafficking, where family members are involved in 9% of adult cases. The role of people who were considered friends by the victim is also important in the initial phases of trafficking for both children (11% of cases) and adults (8% of cases). Adults are most frequently recruited into situations of trafficking by an intimate partner (15% of cases), which is also common in cases of child trafficking (14% of cases).*
- The role of victims' intimate partners in the initial phases of trafficking is strongly linked to trafficking for the purposes of forced sexual exploitation, with intimate partners being involved in 91 per cent of these cases. This relationship holds true for children, where 98 per cent of children that have been recruited into trafficking by their intimate partners end up in situations of forced sexual exploitation. Nearly all of them are girls (96%).
- Families are also more likely to be involved in trafficking of boys (61% of cases) than girls (46% of cases).
- Child trafficking cases that begin with family member involvement are less likely to be cases of trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation (36% are sexual exploitation cases), compared with other cases of child trafficking where the initial stages of trafficking do not involve a family member (84% sexual exploitation cases).
- More than half of children (54%) are trafficked for sexual exploitation, while only a third are trafficked for forced labour. Children who are victims of labour exploitation are most commonly forced to beg (19% of child trafficking cases), undertake domestic work (18% of child trafficking cases), or work in the hospitality sector (8% of child trafficking cases). Boys are more likely to be forced into begging or peddling, while girls are more commonly trafficked into domestic work and to a lesser extent begging. In contrast, adults are more frequently trafficked to work in the construction and agriculture sectors.
- The majority of children trafficked for sexual exploitation (67%) are aged 15-17.
- During the trafficking process, children are more likely to report being coerced through physical (16% of cases), sexual (10% of cases) or psychological abuse (24%), while adults more likely to be unable to walk away from situations due to debt bondage (17% of cases) and having their earnings confiscated (35%). Adults are also more likely to be deceived into situations of trafficking through false promises (42% of cases). They then have passport confiscated (7%), are threatened with action by law enforcement (11%) if they have an irregular status, and have restrictions placed on their freedom of movement (37% of cases). Children are also commonly manipulated through the use of drugs and alcohol (9% of cases), including the manipulation of addictions.
- Children tend to be trapped in situations of trafficking for about one year and a half, while adults are in the process for slightly longer than two years.

AGE OF TRAFFICKED GIRLS AND BOYS



VICTIMS' RELATIONSHIP TO THEIR RECRUITER (ADULTS AND CHILDREN)



ABOUT THE COUNTER-TRAFFICKING DATA COLLABORATIVE (CTDC)

CTDC is a new data portal initiated by IOM, the UN Migration Agency, in partnership with Polaris, a non-governmental organization that works to combat and prevent modern-day slavery and human trafficking, to host the world's largest open access, multi-stakeholder repository of human trafficking data.

CTDC is continuing to build partnerships with other counter-trafficking actors, with the NGO Liberty Asia being the newest contributor, bringing the total number of records of human trafficking cases hosted by the site to nearly 80,000 victims of 180 nationalities exploited in 117 countries. Further data is to be contributed by counter-trafficking partner organizations around the world in the coming months.

The availability of such data for the first time is expected to have a large counter-trafficking impact, as the fight against human trafficking requires modern tools and accurate information. Current data is not only limited, but the data that does exist is too often in silos, leading to fragmented knowledge, thus making it difficult to evaluate the impact of anti-trafficking programming. Increased access to this critical information will strengthen local, national, and international institutions, empowering them to permanently disrupt, and ultimately eradicate, crimes of trafficking and exploitation.



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency



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Taken together, family members, friends, and intimate partners are involved in the initial stages of human trafficking for a third of adult trafficking cases and around two thirds of child trafficking cases. A substantial proportion of trafficking cases therefore involve persons who have intimacy, bonds of trust, and familial ties with the victims in the initial stages of trafficking. There is a spectrum of intent on the part of those involved. In some cases, family members, friends or intimate partners are guilty of the crime of human trafficking because their intent from the start is to put children into positions of egregious exploitation;

usually for some kind of material gain. In such cases, children may be sent away or exchanged for the purposes of exploitation in exchange for money, goods or services.

At the other end of the spectrum, the decisions of family members, or even friends or intimate partners, may be born out of heads of households and communities trying to make the best long-term plans for themselves and their loved ones in difficult circumstances. In such cases, families and communities may be unwittingly putting their children into risky situations and into the hands of human traffickers by trying to place them into work or education opportunities in different regions or abroad, for example. Human traffickers exploit the vulnerabilities of these families and their children for their own benefit.

There are further cases in the middle of the spectrum where, for example, heads of household may make decisions that do not fully take into account the best interests or the agency of the child but which are not intended to place the child in situations of egregious exploitation.



CARLOS' STORY

Carlos was 16 when some members of his family invited him to move to the US from Guatemala under the pretense of getting a better education.

When he made the journey he soon discovered that instead of going to school, he was going to be forced to work. Carlos' mother told him that she had spent USD 10,000 to get him into the US and that he would need to repay this debt.

Carlos worked in construction 12 hours a day, six days a week. He never knew the name of the company he worked for because his employment was entirely arranged by his stepfather. He took Carlos' money and told him that this was in return for rent, food, and the debt associated with Carlos' journey to the US.

One day, after several months, Carlos confronted his mother and stepfather and refused to return to work. At this point, they left him behind, and Carlos began working odd jobs but could not pay the rent. Soon, he had nowhere to live.

Carlos found a phone number for a government agency that helps undocumented minors in the US. He reached out and received a caseworker. Thanks to the US National Human Trafficking Hotline, operated by Polaris, Carlos is now receiving government services and his case was referred to law enforcement for investigation.



ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is a multi-billion dollar criminal industry in which traffickers generate profits from the exploitation of millions worldwide. Widely regarded as an urgent human rights issue, the crime is difficult to assess due to its hidden nature, the lack of resources focused on identifying and serving victims, and the reluctance of victims and witnesses to come forward due to manipulation, fear, violent threats, shame, language barriers, or mistrust of authorities. The [Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons](#) defines human trafficking or trafficking in persons.

In many countries, registered victims now have access to a wide range of assistance measures, including temporary residence, safe accommodation, medical and psychosocial support, as well as assisted voluntary return and reintegration opportunities and, in some cases, compensation. However, the numbers of people benefiting from this protection remains extremely small when compared with the estimated millions who continue to live lives of significant exploitation.

Reliable, updated and detailed information is needed to reduce human trafficking. Identifying trends, networks, methods of control, and vulnerabilities of victims through data collection can lead to strategic interventions—ensuring immediate assistance to victims and efficient use of limited resources, equipping communities and institutions to respond, and preventing future victimization.

In this context, the new open data portal Counter-Trafficking Data Collaborative (CTDC) plays a pivotal role in increasing the access to this critical information in order to strengthen counter-trafficking institutions worldwide, through modern technological tools and partnerships of IOM and Polaris with key organisations in this field.

In order to access CTDC open data portal, please access this link: <https://www.ctdatacollaborative.org/>

The analysis in this brief is based on the full, combined data from CTDC's contributing organizations. The global dataset file available for download on the site has been further anonymized and is therefore smaller. In addition, the data files on the site are regularly updated so some charts and data visualizations may not exactly match statistics in written analysis.

These statistics related to child trafficking cases with family involvement are based on nearly 12,000 survivors of trafficking for which the information related to the recruitment process is known.

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