

Human Trafficking and the Hotel Industry

The below statistics include information from the calls, emails, or webforms received by the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline and from texts received by Polaris's BeFree texting helpline that specifically reference human trafficking in hotels and motels in the United States. Through these communications, Polaris has learned of, responded to, and analyzed thousands of cases of human trafficking. The data are not intended to represent the full scope of human trafficking, but to help identify trends. Statistics are from December 2007 to February 2015.



Cases of trafficking in hotels and motels
1,434



Victims and survivors identified
1,867

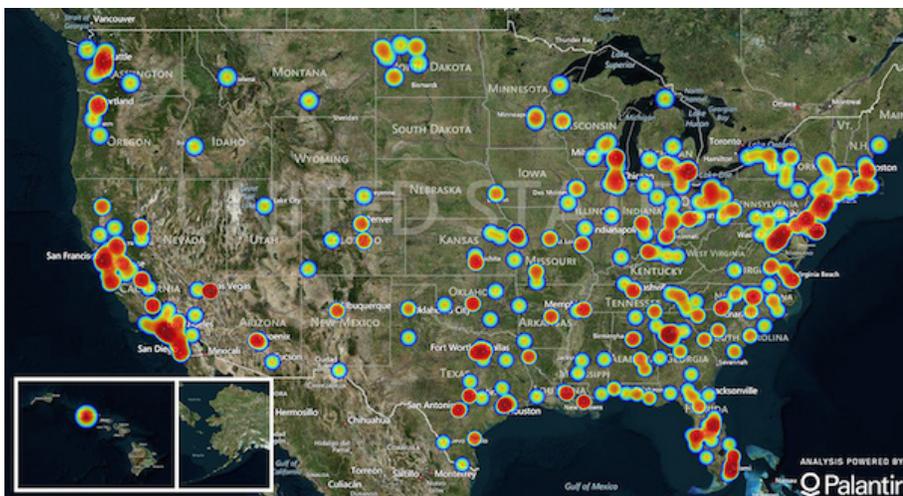
TYPE OF TRAFFICKING

Sex Trafficking
92%

Labor Trafficking
5%

Sex and Labor Trafficking
2%

POTENTIAL TRAFFICKING CASES IN HOTEL INDUSTRY*



TOP 5 NATIONALITIES OF POTENTIAL VICTIMS*

1. U.S.A.
2. Philippines
3. China
4. Mexico
5. India

DEMOGRAPHICS*

Age

Adults (69%)

Minors (45%)

Gender

Female (94%)

Male (8%)

Transgender (1%)

Citizenship

U.S. Citizen (59%)

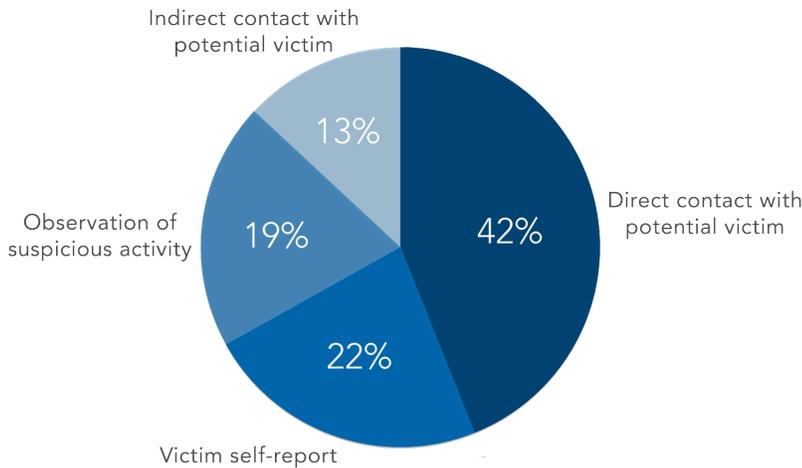
Foreign National (13%)

* These statistics are non-cumulative. Callers do not always provide demographic information, nationality, or the location of potential trafficking.

Call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center:
1-888-373-7888

Text HELP or INFO to the Polaris BeFree Helpline:
233733

CALLER PROXIMITY TO SITUATION



LABOR EXPLOITATION

Workers experiencing labor exploitation and related violations are at high risk for human trafficking. The following statistics are from cases reported within the hospitality industry which reference a range of workplace abuses and related violations, but that do not contain clear indicators of labor trafficking as defined by federal law.



Total Cases
294

RELATED VIOLATIONS

1. Wage and hour abuse 32%
2. Contract fraud 32%
3. Wrongful termination 10%
4. Discrimination 8%
5. Unsafe or unsanitary working conditions 5%
6. Verbal abuse 5%



Cases Involving Visas
228

H-2B	H-2A
50%	0.5%
J-1	F-1
46%	0.5%

CRISTOPHER'S STORY OF LABOR TRAFFICKING*

Cristopher's lifelong dream was to leave his home country of the Philippines to work in the United States. So when a labor recruiter approached him and offered him a job at a resort in the Appalachian mountains, he paid them nearly \$5,000 for the opportunity.

But when he arrived in the U.S., he was told the job didn't exist.

Instead, he was put on a bus to a Gulf state and traveled for 3 days with no money for food or water. He arrived in a small town and was told that he had to clean hotel rooms for 15-18 hours per day at a significantly lower wage than he was originally promised. He was constantly monitored and threatened with deportation. Cristopher was worried for his family and unsure how he would repay his debt to his recruiter.

Thankfully, Cristopher was able to escape. Once he did, he began working with Polaris to receive services, hoping to be able to continue working in the United States—this time legally. Through a special visa program for survivors of human trafficking, he's been able to stay here and has also been reunited with his family.

* To protect the identity of those we serve, Polaris has changed the name of the man in the story.

TRAFFICKING INDICATORS

SEX TRAFFICKING

- Pays for room in cash or with pre-paid card
- Extended stay with few possessions
- Requests room overlooking parking lot
- Presence of excessive drugs, alcohol, sex paraphernalia
- Excessive foot traffic in/out of hotel room
- Frequently requests new linens, towels, and restocking of fridge
- Exhibits fearful, anxious, or submissive behavior
- Dresses inappropriately given the climate

SEX AND LABOR TRAFFICKING

- No control of money, cell phone, or ID
- Restricted or controlled communications
- No knowledge of current or past whereabouts
- Signs of poor hygiene, malnourishment, or fatigue
- No freedom of movement, constantly monitored

LABOR TRAFFICKING

- Prevented from taking adequate breaks
- Doing different work than was contracted
- Living and working on-site
- Forced to meet daily quotas
- Forced to turn over wages
- Exorbitant fees deducted from paychecks
- Not paid directly