

# Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking

# THE STATS

## *National Statistics*

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- Human Trafficking is the **fastest growing** industry and **second largest** criminal enterprise in the United States (US Department of Justice, 2010; Urban Institute, 2014)
- **244,000 – 325,000** children are at risk of being victimized by DMST in the U.S. every year (Estes & Weiner, 2001)
- **100,000** children are forced into the sex slavery industry annually (missingkids.com)
- The average age of entry into the commercial sex market for children is between **12 and 14** years old (sharedhope.org)
- **1 in 6** reported endangered runaways are believed to be victims of child sex trafficking (missingkids.com)
- Size of commercial sex economy in major U.S. cities ranges from an estimated **\$39 million - \$290 million** per year (Urban Institute, 2014)

## *Georgia Statistics*

- **Atlanta** has been identified as one of the cities with the **highest incidences** of child sex trafficking (FBI, 2005; Urban Institute, 2014)
- Between **200 – 400** adolescent girls are **sold online** per month (The Shapiro Group, 2010)
- Approximately **65%** of men who purchase sex with female children in Atlanta **live in suburban areas** outside the I-285 perimeter (The Shapiro Group, 2010)
- Traffickers in Atlanta make an average of **\$33,000 per week** (Urban Institute, 2014)
- **7,200 men** purchase sex from a minor **every month** in Georgia accounting for 8,700 sex acts (The Shapiro Group, 2010)
- **91%** of DMST victims in Georgia **were enrolled in school** at the time of their exploitation (Georgia Cares, 2016)

# WARNING SIGNS OF SEX TRAFFICKING

## WARNING SIGNS THAT AN INDIVIDUAL IS BEING TRAFFICKED:

- History of emotional, sexual, or other physical abuse
- Signs of physical abuse such as burn marks, bruises or cuts
- Signs of current, inexplicable physical illness and/or sexually transmitted disease
- History of running away or current status as a runaway, throwaway, or castaway
- Truancy or chronic absences from class
- Drug addiction
- Sexualized behaviors
- Overly tired in class
- Withdrawn, depressed, or distracted
- In possession of large amounts of money or brags about making or having lots of money
- Displays expensive clothes, accessories, shoes, or other gifts
- New tattoo (Tattoos are often used by pimps as a way to brand victims. Tattoos of a name, symbol of money, or barcode could indicate trafficking.)
- Presence of older friends (male or female)
- Talks about or invites students/friends to wild parties
- Shows signs of gang affiliation (a preference for specific colors, display gang symbols)
- Inappropriate dress (tight or sexually provocative clothing, weather inappropriate, etc.)
- Development of delinquent behaviors or legal issues
- Difficulty in making or maintaining eye contact



## PIMPS/TRAFFICKERS OFTEN EXHIBIT THE FOLLOWING BEHAVIORS OR CHARACTERISTICS:

- Jealous, controlling, abusive, and violent
- Usually older than female companions
- Makes false commitments and promises things that seem too good to be true
- Encourage victims to engage in illegal activities to achieve their goals and dreams
- Buys expensive gifts or owns expensive items
- Is vague about his/her profession
- Pushy or demanding about sex
- Encourages inappropriate sexual behavior
- Makes the victim feel responsible for his/her financial stability. Does not assume responsibility.



Resource Center  
4650 Flat Shoals Parkway  
Decatur, GA 30034

Administrative Offices  
1400 Buford Highway, Suite R4  
Sugar Hill, GA 30518

[www.tabithashouseint.org](http://www.tabithashouseint.org)

(678) 804-8823 Phone

## CRISIS NUMBERS

To report a tip or connect with anti-trafficking services in your area, contact:

**National Center for Missing and Exploited Children**  
**1-800-843-5678**

If you have information about a missing child or suspected child sexual exploitation, call to report it or visit their website at <http://www.missingkids.com/home>.

**National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline**  
**1-888-373-7888**

The National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) is a national, toll-free hotline, available to answer calls from anywhere in the country, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year.

**National Runaway Switchboard**  
**1-800-RUNAWAY**

For more information, visit [www.1800RUNAWAY.org](http://www.1800RUNAWAY.org) The National Runaway Switchboard serves as the federally-designated national communication system for homeless and runaway youth. NRS, with the support of more than 150 volunteers, handles an average of 100,000 calls annually – more than 3 million calls since the organization's inception. Through hotline and online services, NRS provides crisis intervention, referrals to local resources, and education and prevention services to youth, families, and community members throughout the country 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

**U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement**

ICE's hotline to report suspected child predators and any suspicious activity: (866) 347-2423 from the U.S. & Canada, (802) 872-6199 from anywhere in the world or complete an online tip form at <http://www.ice.gov/exec/forms/hsi-tips/tips.asp>.

**National Suicide Hotline**  
**1-800-273-8255**

If you are thinking about or are worried about a friend or loved one, or would like emotional support, the Lifeline network is available 24/7 across the U.S. Visit <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/talk-to-someone-now/> for more information.

### **Local Agencies and Organizations:**

- **Tabitha's House** 678-804-8823 (provides rescue & resources to survivors of human trafficking; all ages)
- **Georgia Cares** 404-602-0068 (provides support & resources to child & adolescent survivors of sex trafficking)
- **youthSpark** 404-612-4628 (provides advocacy & support services to child & adolescent survivors of sex trafficking)
- **Out of Darkness** 404-719-4854 (provides rescue & resources to adult women survivors of sex trafficking)
- **Tapestri** 866-317-3733 (provides advocacy & support to adult survivors of human trafficking)
- **The Salvation Army: HavenATL** 678-595-6542 (provides support & resources to adult women survivors of sex trafficking)
- **City of Refuge** 678-599-0561 (residential services for adult women survivors of sex trafficking)
- **Atlanta Mission** (shelter) 404-588-4007 women & children; 404-367-2493 men