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Human Trafficking Response ▾

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Taking a Stand Against Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a global issue based on exploitation. Traffickers prey on those who are most vulnerable. Every country is affected by human trafficking, including the United States. More than 8,500 tips were reported to the U.S. [National Human Trafficking Hotline](#) in 2017, nearly 30% of which involved children under the age of 18.

Unfortunately, trafficked persons often go unnoticed. A 2014 study published in the *Annals of Health Law* found that nearly 88% of participants identifying as sex trafficking survivors had some contact with health care while being exploited (Lederer and Wetzel). A 2017 survey report from the Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking (CAST) found that over half of labor and sex trafficking survivors surveyed had accessed health care at least once while being trafficked. Nearly 97 percent indicated they had never been provided with information or resources about human trafficking while visiting the health care provider. These studies underscore the reality that health care providers are often unprepared to