

## Labor Trafficking Fact Sheet

1. Labor Trafficking is defined as the use of force, fraud, or coercion to recruit, harbor, transport, obtain, or employ a person for labor or services in involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.
2. Over the last five years, 267 potential labor trafficking cases in Ohio were reported to the U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline.<sup>1</sup>
3. Labor trafficking can happen anywhere. Types of labor trafficking include domestic work, restaurant and food service, agriculture, health care, construction, and many others.
4. Victims of labor trafficking face many challenges, such as struggling to meet their basic needs (food, water, clothing, shelter), limited access to medical care, and cultural differences, among others.
5. Traffickers use harmful tactics such as psychological fear, coercion, fraudulent immigrant letters, and physical abuse, to control their victims.
6. Top 5 risk factors and vulnerabilities for victims of labor trafficking:
  - Recent migration / relocation
  - Self-reported economic hardship
  - Unstable housing
  - Criminal record / criminal history
  - Substance abuse concern
7. In 2020, online recruitment of victims increased a significant 22% - the internet was reported as the top recruitment location for all forms of human trafficking. There was:
  - A 125% increase in reports of recruitment on Facebook compared with the previous year, and
  - A 95% increase in reports on Instagram.<sup>2</sup>
8. Nearly 1 in 10 youth experiencing homelessness also experience labor trafficking.
9. Common possible red flags that someone is being trafficked:
  - The person shows signs of abuse, malnourishment, exhaustion, or fearfulness
  - The person does not have access to their personal documents, such as ID, passport, visa, or social security card
  - The person is not being paid, being paid very little, or is working excessive hours or in dangerous working conditions.
10. The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission combats labor trafficking in the U.S. by enforcing the law against treating workers differently based on their national origin. Labor trafficking often thrives on exploiting the vulnerability of immigrant workers, such as those who:
  - Lack employment choices or economic bargaining power, or
  - Are unfamiliar with labor and employment laws of the U.S.

Learn more about human trafficking, and how you can help, at [collabtoendht.org](http://collabtoendht.org).

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<sup>1</sup> National Human Trafficking Hotline, Ohio Statistics, available at <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/state/ohio>

<sup>2</sup> Polaris Project, 2020 U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline Statistics, available at <https://polarisproject.org/2020-us-national-human-trafficking-hotline-statistics/>