



## HUMAN TRAFFICKING

A crime that involves exploiting a person for labor services or commercial sex.

## LABOR TRAFFICKING

Involves the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services by force, fraud, or coercion.

## SEX TRAFFICKING

A commercial sex act that occurs by force, fraud, or coercion or when the person performing the act is under the age of 18.

**Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)** refers to a range of crimes and activities involving the sexual abuse or exploitation of a child for the financial benefit of any person or in exchange for anything of value (including monetary and non-monetary benefits) given or received by any person<sup>1</sup>. CSEC is reportable as child abuse in the State of Georgia.

**The occurrence of CSEC can be categorized by:**

**Family Facilitated-** Family member exchanges sexual acts with a child for goods, substances, rent, services, money, or status within the community.

**Gang Facilitated-** Youth exploited as initiation and/or to bring in revenue for the gang. Gangs perceive CSEC as a low risk and lucrative market.

**Trafficker Facilitated-** Traffickers target vulnerable children/youth and lure them into CSEC using psychological manipulation, drugs and/or violence.

**Buyer Facilitated-** Sexual act exchanged for an extreme need (food, clothing, money or shelter). Victims in a desperate situation feel that trading sexual contact for basic necessities is their only option.

**Technology/Internet Facilitated-** Facilitated via social media or the internet. There may not be a trafficker involved in facilitating the exploitation, however there is a third party involved (buyer, etc.). For example: a youth exchanges sexually suggestive or nude images for money, etc.

**In Georgia, 20%-25% of confirmed CSEC cases are family facilitated<sup>2</sup>.**

**Many trafficked youth are first recruited or introduced by a peer, who may also be a victim.**

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Georgia youth were served for the risk of or confirmed CSEC in 2022. The average age of youth served was 14 years<sup>2</sup>.

Research shows that most youth are exploited two or more years before accessing services.



## CSEC is not an Atlanta issue, it is a State of Georgia issue.

CSEC was confirmed in 127 Georgia counties in 2022. Rates of children who are at-risk or confirmed for CSEC in rural and suburban regions in Georgia are similar to those of Metro Atlanta. In fact, in 2022, Richmond County Georgia had the highest CSEC referral rate<sup>2</sup>.

# Vulnerabilities and Red Flags

Traffickers look for youth who are easy targets for a variety of reasons, including:

- Economic hardship
- Psychological or emotional vulnerability
- Lack of social safety net
- Natural disasters or political instability

Youth experiencing homelessness or living in shelters are especially at risk. One study estimates that nearly 40% of youth in Georgia shelters have been victims of CSEC<sup>3</sup> typically as a means of survival. Additionally, a history of physical and sexual abuse is common among CSEC victims<sup>4</sup>.

Traffickers often lure victims using the following methods:

- Violence
- Manipulation
- False promises of well-paying jobs
- Romantic Relationships

Language barriers, fear of their traffickers, and/or fear of law enforcement frequently keep victims from seeking help.

## Red Flags: Common Indicators of CSEC<sup>4</sup>

- Disconnected from family, friends, community organizations, or church
- Stopped attending school
- Sudden or dramatic change in behavior
- Engaged in commercial sex acts
- Disoriented or confused, or shows signs of mental or physical abuse
- Bruises in various stages of healing
- Acts fearful, timid, or submissive
- Shows signs of having been denied food, water, sleep, or medical care
- Often defers to someone who seems to be in control (e.g., where they go or who they talk to)
- Appears to be coached on what to say
- Living in unsuitable or unstable conditions
- Lacks personal possessions
- Is not allowed to freely leave residence or has unreasonable security measures

## Report and Get Support for CSEC Victims

1

**Report to the Division of Family and Children Services**

**Hotline available 24/7**  
1-855-422-4453

**Report online at**  
<https://cps.dhs.ga.gov/>

2

**Make a Report to Law Enforcement**

911



3

**Make a Referral to Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia**

1-866-END-HTGA  
1-866-363-4842, option 2

[www.cacga.org/csec-response-team/](http://www.cacga.org/csec-response-team/)

### Citations

1. US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. (2022, December). Human Trafficking. Retrieved from [ojp.gov/](http://ojp.gov/)
2. Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia, One Response Team. (2022). CSEC Response Team 2022. Retrieved from [www.cacga.org/](http://www.cacga.org/)
3. Wright, E. R., LaBoy, A., et al. (2021). The prevalence and correlates of labor and sex trafficking in a community sample of youth experiencing homelessness in Metro-Atlanta. *Social Sciences*, 10(2), 32. MDPI AG. Retrieved from <http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/socsci10020032>
4. Ijadi-Maghsoodi R, Cook M, Barnert ES, Gaboian S, Bath E. (2016). Understanding and responding to the needs of commercially sexually exploited youth: Recommendations for the mental health provider. *Child Adolesc Psychiatr*. 25(1):107-22. doi: 10.1016/j.chc.2015.08.007