

## VULNERABILITIES TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services notes that the following groups are especially vulnerable to human trafficking:

- Individuals who have experienced childhood abuse or neglect
- Children and youth involved in the foster care and juvenile justice systems
- People experiencing homelessness
- American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders
- Survivors of violence
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) individuals
  
- Migrant workers
- Undocumented immigrants
- Racial and ethnic minorities
- People with disabilities
- People with low incomes
- People with a history of substance abuse
- Communities exposed to intergenerational trauma
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However, HHS also acknowledges that anyone can be trafficked – of any race, creed, color, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, economic and social background. Traffickers are equal opportunity exploiters.

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<sup>1</sup> From the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office on Human Trafficking, accessed October 30, 2021, <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/about/what-human-trafficking>