Children who are trafficked may have a history of repeated sexual exploitation or running away.

**Trafficked children often suffer** from depression, hostility, stress, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, and fear of authority, as well as fear of those who victimize them.

**Outward symptoms of depression**, anxiety, or hostility may present as difficult behavior or resistance to assistance.

**Other physical symptoms**, such as pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and drug addiction, may mask the fact they have been exploited.

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Look for the possible trafficking indicators & red flags

The presence of the indicators noted below does not definitively mean the child is a trafficking victim. These indicators serve as clues to be assessed within the broader context of all information presented.

- Chronic runaway/homeless youth
- Excess amount of cash in their possession (may be reluctant to explain its source)
- Hotel keys and key cards
- Lying about age/false ID
- Inconsistencies when describing and recounting events
- Unable or unwilling to give local address or information about parent(s)/guardian
- Presence or fear of another person (often an older male or boyfriend who seems controlling)
- High number of reported sexual partners at a young age
- Sexually explicit profiles on social networking sites

- Injuries/signs of physical abuse (that they may be reluctant to explain)
- Inability or fear of social interaction
- Demeanor exhibiting fear, anxiety, depression, submissiveness, tenseness, nervousness
- Is not enrolled in school or repeated absence from school
- Does not consider self a victim
- Loyalty to positive feelings toward pimp/trafficker
- May try to protect pimp/trafficker from authorities
- Prepaid cell phone

njhumantrafficking.gov 855-END-NJ-HT
toll free hotline 855-363-6548

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