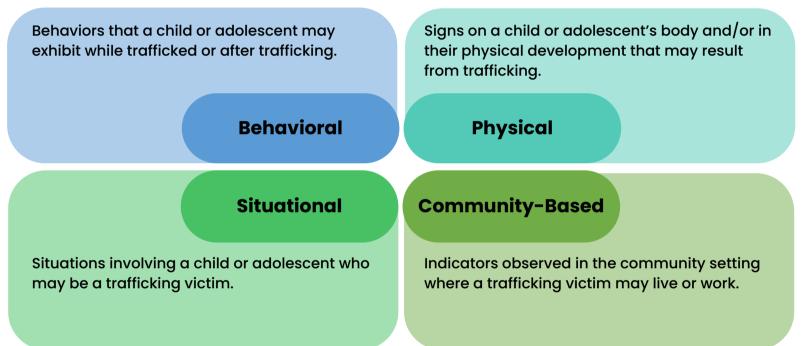




Indicators of Child and Adolescent Trafficking

Indicators are signs or signals that a person may be a trafficking victim. Indicators may be based on conversations and interactions with the individual, as well as observation of their behavior, appearance, or circumstances. Indicators signal the need for further inquiry and must be applied with care and caution. No single indicator can provide a definitive answer or "proof" of trafficking in persons. The presence of several indicators is a stronger indication that someone may be a trafficking victim. However, even if only one indicator is detected, it is important to assess whether the child or adolescent is a possible trafficking victim or in a situation of vulnerability or abuse.



The presence of indicators does not establish that someone is a trafficking victim – the presence of indicators should lead to further inquiry. Equally, the absence of indicators does not mean that an individual is not a trafficking victim. Presence of any of the indicators in this handout should lead to a careful examination of the situation to determine if a child or adolescent may be a trafficking victim.

Indicators will differ in relevance and usefulness depending on the situation in which an interaction with a child or adolescent takes place.

Whenever a child or adolescent is at risk or being harmed, PANI should be notified to trigger a protection response.

Children and adolescents should immediately receive protection and assistance regardless of whether they are a trafficking victim.



This publication was funded through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of State. The opinions, findings, and conclusions stated herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the U.S. Department of State.

Behavioral

Behaviors that a child or adolescent may exhibit while trafficked or after trafficking.



Depression or distress (anxiety, apathy, crying, disorientation, fear, self-harm)



Behavior not typical of children their age



Alcohol or drug use, risk taking



Conflict with family members, running away from home

Memory loss or confusion (such as not remembering where they come from)



Not adhering to limits, including schedule and/or responsibilities



Difficult to communicate with, withholding of information



Talks about sexual or physical abuse



Drowsiness, not concentrating, falling behind in school or activities, low motivation



Telling stories that don't make sense or appear to have been coached



Expressing self-criticism (such as anger for bad decisions), lack of confidence



Suspicious of and/or lacking trust in others



Difficulty speaking in the local language



Appearance, behavior, or clothing inconsistent with age, culture, and/or environment



Showing signs of intimidation or fear



Resistant to speaking with professionals and/or answering questions



Negative and/or aggressive behavior (such as use of foul language or screaming)



Fearful or nervous about discussing their relationship with another person

https://aprendizaje.warnathgroup.com/indicators/





Physical

Signs on a child or adolescent's body and/or in their physical development that may result from trafficking.

Bruises, scars, broken bones, untreated medical problems

Signs of physical restraint, confinement, or torture

Deprivation of food, water, sleep, and/or medical care

Chronic injuries or illness that are consistent with abuse or exploitation

Sexually transmitted infections



Signs of alcohol or drug use



Signs of rape and/or sexual abuse



Pregnancies, children, miscarriages, and/or abortions



Poor hygiene, malnutrition, poor vision, poor hearing



Scars or physical signs of self-harm

Anorexia, bulimia, disordered eating

Community-Based

Indicators observed in the community setting where a trafficking victim may live or work.



Houses with unusual movement of people and/or little communication with neighborhood

Homes where a person never leaves

Excessive security

Persons present from outside the community who are associated with commercial sex

Concentration of individuals of similar ages (such as groups of adolescent girls or adolescent boys)



Groups of people being transferred to or from a location



Locations where drug sales are known to occur



Homes where individuals have drug or alcohol addiction



Homes or locations where officials are not well-received or face threats

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Situational

Situations involving a child or adolescent who may be a trafficking victim.

Without a parent or guardian

Handling large amounts of money or goods inconsistent with the family economy



Without identity documents and/or without a fixed address

No freedom of movement and/or unable to leave a living or working situation



Living at place of employment

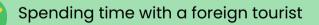
Staying in places linked to illicit activities



Wandering or staying regularly in the street and/or public places

Foreign and living in Costa Rica without family or a guardian

In bars or nightclubs accompanied by adults



Offered a job or study opportunity without information about the destination or arrangements



Travel costs or travel documents paid for by someone unknown



Constantly accompanied by an adult



Being threatened (in person, by phone, by text, by email, on Facebook, etc.)



Irregularly attending school or no longer attending school



In an improper relationship



Trying to recruit other children or adolescents into trafficking



Not getting healthcare when needed



Performing odd tasks at odd hours and/or working excessive hours



Transported to or from a work site by another person



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Eats separately from other "family" members, receives only leftovers or limited food