

Awareness and Action: Sex Trafficking in Milwaukee

Does sex trafficking increase during large-scale events?

Maybe. The evidence is mixed. But these events are definitely an opportunity to increase awareness.

The Republican National Convention (RNC) is expected to draw approximately 50,000 people to the Milwaukee area in July 2024. This is an opportunity to increase awareness, identification, and reporting of sex trafficking.

Reporting or Seeking Help

The National Trafficking Hotline – 888.373.7888

BeFree Textline – Text “Help” to 233733 or

Chat [humantraffickinghotline.org](https://www.humantraffickinghotline.org)

Sojourner 24-Hour Hotline – 414.933.2722

Division of Milwaukee Child Welfare 414.220.SAFE (7233)

Milwaukee Police Department (non-emergency) 414.933.4444

Crime Stoppers (anonymous) 414.227.TIPS (8477)

139

Sex trafficking victims reported to the Milwaukee Police Department from 2019-2023

77

Sex trafficking incidents reported by WI law enforcement in 2022

390

Number of “signals” of trafficking from WI to the National Human Trafficking Hotline in 2021

?

Number of individuals impacted by sex trafficking in WI and Milwaukee is unknown

Potential signs of sex trafficking:

- Seems disconnected from family, friends, community organizations, work, or school
- Appears fearful, timid, or submissive, particularly around certain individuals
- Acts withdrawn, depressed, or distracted
- Displays sudden, dramatic change in behavior
- Signs of physical or sexual abuse (bruises, scars, etc.)
- Signs of having been denied food, water, sleep, or medical care
- Has tattoos or scars that would indicate branding by a trafficker (names, money symbols, etc.)
- Has scars, cut marks, burns, or other signs of self-harm, particularly for youth
- Does not have freedom of movement or experiences unreasonable security measures
- Presents with a third party who seems controlling, will not let the person speak for themselves
- Has lack of control over their personal identification (driver's license, passport)
- Displays expensive clothes, accessories, shoes without known source of income
- Wears clothing that may be inappropriate for weather
- Has limited personal possessions
- Seems to have a "boyfriend/girlfriend" or romantic partner who is noticeably older
- Appears to be with a group of youth/young adults traveling with an older male or female
- Refers to someone in group as their "sugar daddy/momma" or to themselves as a "sugar baby"
- Reports receiving money or resources for sexual activity as a minor (under the age of 18)
- Refers to traveling to other cities or towns frequently
- Does not know where they are staying, what city/state they are in, or indicates they are visiting

Action can include seizing the opportunity to utilize large-scale events to increase awareness about sex trafficking.

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