

RECRUITMENT AND WORK

Recruitment of labor trafficking victims can occur both within the United States and internationally. Traffickers may target vulnerable U.S. citizens or undocumented persons living in the United States or through an international criminal enterprise where victims are recruited from other countries to be willingly smuggled or transported to the United States with promise of work opportunities. Trafficking often is found in jobs such as agriculture, domestic care, restaurants, strip clubs, or salons, some of which appear to be operated as legitimate businesses. Work can be paid or unpaid, and many times the employer will take wages to pay off victims' real or claimed debts.

DISCOVERY

Labor trafficking victimization may be discovered through calls for service of suspicious activity, tips from human trafficking hotlines, other law enforcement investigations, routine patrol, referrals from victim advocates or attorneys, etc. Law enforcement should assess the community for industries where there could be victims, vulnerable populations, or a lack of victim resources.

INVESTIGATION

Investigators can use many strategies to elicit information, such as task forces, varying interview techniques, and having an established initial response strategy. Investigators can use their multidisciplinary team to collaborate on the investigation.

JUSTICE

Prosecution may be conducted in state or federal courts. Justice for victims can be found in civil or criminal charges and convictions, as well as in restitution. Victim service providers and nongovernmental organizations can aid in victim recovery by providing immediate, short term, and long term assistance such as food, shelter, medical needs, and other services as needed.