

LABOR TRAFFICKING IN TRAVELING SALES CREWS

A RESOURCE FOR SERVICE
PROVIDERS DEVELOPED BY THE TRIAD
LABOR TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

The trafficking of traveling sales crew members is a specific form of labor trafficking that occurs in communities throughout the United States. Be aware of warning signs to help keep yourself and others safe.

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE:

Groups go **door-to-door**, typically **selling fraudulent products** like fake magazine subscriptions. Salespeople are rarely fully compensated and work **long hours** in **fear of leaving their situation**. Crews **move between cities and states**, frequently changing their name and location under the same management in order to avoid law enforcement detection. Victims are overwhelmingly **teenage/young adult U.S. citizens**.

Learn more at [PolarisProject.org](https://www.polarisproject.org)

AN EXAMPLE:

Alice had been in and out of the foster care system her entire life. One day after school, an older kid recruited her to come **sell magazines** with his crew. She agreed, excited about the opportunity to travel and make money. However, she soon realized it was all too good to be true. The team was **crammed into small vans** and forced to share **crowded hotel rooms**. When Alice didn't meet her **sales quota**, she didn't get paid. When she voiced concerns to her boss, he threatened to **abandon her** in a dangerous area far from home and turn her into the authorities for truancy. Alice was **scared** and didn't know how to leave her situation.

RED FLAGS:

- Groups piling into vans
- Multiple hotel rooms booked under one name
- Requests for a single room key despite multiple inhabitants
- Large cash payments
- A clear pecking order within the group
- Talk of a lack of resources, debt, or work quotas
- Talk of frequent, disorienting travel
- Lack of control over personal documents
- Wages paid in the form of housing, clothing, or food

NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE

CALL: 1-888-373-7888
TEXT: "HELP" or "INFO"
to 233-733

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