

11 Trafficking Red Flags in Youth

1**Running away/couch surfing**

Kids are at greater risk for being trafficked for sex when they don't have secure housing.

2**Unexplained behavioral changes**

They may withdraw from relationships, school, and other important aspects of life.

3**Using unfamiliar or "street" terminology**

They may start using phrases like "the game," "the life," or "handler/manager."

4**Suspicious injuries or conditions**

Kids who are sex trafficked are regularly treated for drug/alcohol abuse, STDs, pregnancies, or injuries.

5**Sudden appearance of expensive gifts**

They may say friends gifted them cash, revealing clothing, electronics, or purses.

6**Having adult-like possessions**

They may have large sums of cash, multiple cell phones, prepaid cards, or hotel keys.

7**Signs of malnourishment or exhaustion**

Deprivation of food or sleep impairing cognitive function.

8**Answers to questions feel rehearsed**

A trafficked person may be forced to stick to a trafficker's script.

9**Gang affiliation (especially among girls)**

Signs may include new tattoos, new nicknames, or items such as spray paint or weapons.

10**Lack of personal documents or multiple IDs**

Older teens may not have a valid ID or may have several IDs with different names.

11**Numerous inconsistencies in their story**

The person may tell you conflicting information or tell a jumbled—or intentionally confusing—story.

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