Human Trafficking

INTRODUCTION FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

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While many Americans might be inclined to say that, “this sort of thing doesn’t happen here,” the data show that it does. Our own Department of State characterizes the United States as a source, transit, and destination country. It is estimated that thousands of people are trafficked into this country annually. Within U.S. borders, sex trafficking is the most prevalent form of trafficking in U.S. citizens, while labor trafficking is the most prevalent form in foreign nationals. After Germany, the United States is reportedly the second-largest market for women and children trafficked into sex work.

Scope of the Problem

- 3,000 children a day are trafficked in Los Angeles, CA.
- 300 children a month are trafficked in Atlanta, GA.
- 300,000 people a year are trafficked throughout the United States.
- 20,000 are trafficked into the United States.
- Massage parlors, domestic service, farms, restaurants, constructions and trucking companies.
Human Trafficking

Sex Trafficking

- The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for a commercial sex act, in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age.

Labor Trafficking

- The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

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Context

- Polaris Project Video
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iqJ-zuVc
# The A-M-P Model

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Action</strong></th>
<th><strong>Means</strong>*</th>
<th><strong>Purpose</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Induce</td>
<td>Force</td>
<td>Commercial Sex (Sex Trafficking)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recruits</td>
<td>Fraud</td>
<td>or Labor/Services (Labor Trafficking)</td>
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<td>Harbors</td>
<td>or Coercion</td>
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<td>Transports</td>
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<td>Provides</td>
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<td>or</td>
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<td>Obtains</td>
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*Minors induced into commercial sex are human trafficking victims—regardless if force, fraud, or coercion is present.

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Human trafficking is a form of modern slavery -- a multi-billion dollar criminal industry that denies freedom to 20.9 million people around the world. And no matter where you live, chances are it's happening nearby. From the girl forced into prostitution at a truck stop, to the man discovered in a restaurant kitchen, stripped of his passport and held against his will. All trafficking victims share one essential experience: the loss of freedom.
"It's all about the money. Human trafficking is **insanely profitable**. If you really think about it, you can sell a kilo of Heroin once; you can sell a 13-year-old girl 20 times a night, 365 days a year. **And you should feel a little outraged about this. You should feel upset about this. And that's great - but it's not good enough.**" ~ Tony Talbott
Who are the Traffickers?

- No one “type” of person
- Strangers, friends, family members
- Male or female
- US citizen or foreign national
- Working independently or as part of a network

- Traffickers exert power through:
  - Physical violence/abuse
  - Sexual violence/abuse
  - Intimidation
  - Emotional violence/abuse
  - Coercion and threats
  - Economic deprivation
Health Effects

- Limited data available due to inability to follow victims over time

- Poor mental health
  - Depression
  - PTSD
  - Stress disorders
  - Anxiety disorders
  - Suicidality
  - Somatic disorders including pain

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Red flags for Human Trafficking

- Not free to come and go as they want
- Tattoos or marks that might indicate ownership (names, brands, logos)
- Owes a large debt that they cannot pay off
- High security exists at living quarters – opaque windows, bars, security cameras
- Anxious, fearful, tense or nervous
- Reluctance to speak for oneself
- Has few personal possessions
- Not allowed to speak for themselves
- Inconsistency in his/her story

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Barriers

- Shame and guilt
- Lack of transportation

Barriers

- Fear of retaliation
- Fear of report to social services

Barriers

- Fear of arrest or deportation
- Lack of understanding of health care systems
Outside of law enforcement, healthcare settings are among the few places where the lives of human trafficking victims may intersect with the rest of society, if only for brief periods.

- HC professionals may encounter human trafficking victims in a variety of healthcare settings such as emergency rooms, community healthcare centers, public health departments, family planning clinics, and HIV/AIDS or STD clinics.
- HCPs are often the first to encounter victims during the admission assessment.
- HCPs are valuable assets because they have the chance to provide comfort while building trust.

General Warning Signs

- Limited English
- Confusion about where they are
- No Identification
- No address or many addresses
- Overall poor health
- Drug Use
- Third party that will not leave the room

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Physical Signs may include:

- Bruising (in all different stages noted by the appearance of different coloring: yellow, purple, blue, black, brown)
- Signs of restraint-bruising or marks on wrists
- Multiple or frequent pregnancies and multiple STDs
- Complaints of vaginal pain or injury
- Complications from unsafe abortion (inc. bleeding)
- Oral health problems
Physical Signs continued...

- Pain/injury in lower back or back of head (victims are often beaten in areas not obviously visible that would damage their outward appearance): patches of hair loss
- Cigarette burns
- Tattoos which may indicate “ownership” or a type of branding
- Fractures
- Gastrointestinal problems/unhealthy weight loss
- Headaches/Contusions/Concussions
Common Psychological Problems

- Anxiety
  - Apprehension - afraid to make decisions on their own
  - Signs of posttraumatic stress disorder - crying, shaking, reliving past, fear of being alone
- Depression
- Suicidal ideation
HCPs Role in Human Trafficking

- Avoid doing anything to make the trafficker nervous.
- Take any opportunity they can to separate the victim from their trafficker.
- Because victims of human trafficking have already experienced significant powerlessness, this is an opportunity for the provider to purposively give the client some decision-making ability.
- The HCP should care for any immediate physical needs.
The World Health Organization has published a manual on how to interview trafficked women to ensure that they are not further traumatized.

It is not up to anyone in the health care setting to prove that trafficking is occurring.

If you suspect that someone is a trafficking victim and are unsure how to proceed, call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) hotline at 1-888-3737-888 or visit http://nhtrc.polarisproject.org.

Once that call is made, possible ways to handle the situation can be discussed and an investigation can begin.

Some victims will decline offers of assistance out of concern for the safety of their family and friends. In such cases the victim’s wishes should be respected.

If the suspected victim is under the age of 18, the case must be reported as suspected child abuse.
Other things You Can Do Include:

- Stay informed with trafficking literature
- Explore tool kits developed by the US Dept. HHS
- Ask questions if your patient has one or more indicators
- Post the NHTRC’s toll-free hotline number: 1-8883737-888
- Hang posters with such information in places victims might see them
- For your safety, never confront a suspected trafficker directly
- Find out what’s going on in your state
- You can help by advocating more direct services for trafficking victims, offered at centralized locations
- Write or call your local and state representatives to find out what they’re doing in this regard

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## Glossary of Terms

### Used in Sex Trafficking

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<tr>
<th>SLANG TERM</th>
<th>MEANING</th>
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<tr>
<td>The life, The game</td>
<td>Commercial sexual activities, typically involving prostitution</td>
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<td>Pay for play (P4P)</td>
<td>Paid sex (term often used by buyers)</td>
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<td>Daddy, Player</td>
<td>Exploiter, trafficker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family, Stable</td>
<td>The victims under control of trafficker/exploiter; females may be referred to as “wife-in-laws,” “sister-in-laws,” or “wives.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Circuit, Track, Runway, Stroll</td>
<td>A given area associated with prostitution (may be streets, cities, states or regions)</td>
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<td>Kiddie stroll</td>
<td>Area of prostitution involving victims younger than 16 years</td>
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<td>Escort service</td>
<td>An organization that provides sexual services to buyers. This often involves advertising via the internet, appointments made via phone, and services provided by adolescents traveling to site of buyer (“out-call”) or buyer coming to site of service (“in-call”); may include brothels, services at hotels, homes, other sites</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lot lizard</td>
<td>Person being prostituted at a truck stop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seasoning</td>
<td>The process of preparing a victim for trafficking activities; involves breaking victims’ will through use of physical and sexual violence, psychological manipulation and abuse, physical and emotional deprivation, isolation, threats, and intimidation</td>
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<td>Gorilla pimp</td>
<td>Exploiter who controls mainly through use of physical violence</td>
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<td>Turn out</td>
<td>The act of being forced into prostitution</td>
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<td>Bottom</td>
<td>Manager/assistant to exploiter; usually female; supervises other victims in “family” or “stable”</td>
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<td>Out of pocket</td>
<td>Situation when victim makes eye contact with another exploiter (strictly forbidden) or otherwise shows disrespect to her/his exploiter</td>
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<td>Pimp circle</td>
<td>Punishment for violation by victim; several exploiters surround the victim and humiliate, verbally, and/or physically abuse her.</td>
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<td>Golden showers</td>
<td>Urinating on trafficking victim during paid sexual activity</td>
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<td>Ho line</td>
<td>A communication network used by pimps between cities/states/regions; used to buy/sell victims</td>
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<td>Squaring up</td>
<td>Attempting to escape prostitution</td>
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NHTRC – What to Expect

- [https://traffickingresourcecenter.org/resources/what-expect-when-you-call-nhtrc-hotline](https://traffickingresourcecenter.org/resources/what-expect-when-you-call-nhtrc-hotline)

- Crisis assistance to victims of human trafficking
- Report a human trafficking tip
- Connect with anti-trafficking services in your area
- Request training or technical assistance
- Access general information and resources
- Get involved in your community
Human trafficking is modern-day slavery, and it’s happening right here in the United States.

National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC)

1-888-373-7888

email: NHTRC@PolarisProject.org
Text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733)
TOLL-FREE | 24 Hours/day, 7 Days/week
Confidential | Interpreters available
Questions - Comments