



Trauma Informed Victim Centered Care



Objectives

Define human trafficking and recognize how victims may come into contact with healthcare professionals

Learn to identify potential human trafficking victims in a clinical setting

Identify promising practices for assisting a patient who may be a potential trafficking victim



What is Human Trafficking?

Presented By:



Human Trafficking

Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. This involves the exchange of anything of value like money, drugs, or a place to stay, for sexual activity.

Presented by:



Two Types of Human Trafficking Hidden in Plain Sight

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



Why Human Trafficking Happens

The causes of human trafficking are complex and interlocked together as one. They include economic, social and political factors. Poverty alone does not necessarily create vulnerability to trafficking.

- Human Trafficking is Lucrative. According to ILO (International Labour Organization) Human Trafficking profits \$150.2 billion in illegal profits per year. Approximately, \$99 billion, came from commercial sexual exploitation right here in the U.S.
- Human Trafficking selling is second to drug trafficking and distribution here in the U.S.
- Each year, an estimated 14,500 to 17,500 foreign nationals are trafficked into the United States. The number of U.S. citizens trafficked within the country each year is even higher, with an estimated 200,000 American children are at risk for trafficking into the sex industry (U.S. Department of Justice).

Trafficked Victims Access to Medical Services

In one study, **87.8%** of trafficking survivors reported accessing healthcare services during their trafficking situation. Of this, **68.3%** were seen at an emergency department. (Lederer&Wetzel, 2014)



“During the time I was on the street, I went to hospitals, urgent care clinics, women’s health clinics, and private doctors. No one ever asked me anything anytime I ever went to a clinic.”

– Lauren, survivor

When do Victims Seek Medical Services?

- In an emergency.
- After an assault.
- After a workplace injury.
- For gynecological services.
- For prenatal care.
- For routine checkups.
- For mental health services.
- For addiction treatment.
- For pre-existing conditions.
- For health issues unrelated to trafficking.



Physical Signs

- Frequent or recurrent UTI's
- Frequent treatment for STIs: Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, and HIV?AIDS
- High number of sexual partners
- Multiple pregnancies/abortions
- Frequent colds, sore throats, skin conditions, including scabies
- Maltreated previous injuries
- Weight loss or malnourishment
- Burns from battery acid, hot iron, or cigarettes, exposure to toxic chemicals
- Bruises, including evidence of being slapped or receiving rough treatment
- Shows of physical restraint or torture
- Branding- tattoos or markings of ownership (ask what the meaning of his/her tattoo and what is the meaning behind it)
- Presence of internal cotton or cosmetic sponges to stop bleeding from cycle or abortion.

RED FLAGS: What To Look For



- Unable to make eye contact especially with male physicians
- Patient has no identification documents or documentation is in possession of an accompanying party.
- Accompanying party insists on answering/interpreting for patients. Accompanying male is much older than young female in OB/GYN exam.
- Patient is reluctant to explain his/her injuries
- Patient is unaware of his/her location
- Patient exhibits fear, anxiety, depression, submission, tension, or nervousness and avoids eye contact.
- Patient is under 18 years of age and engaging in commercial sex or trading sex for something of value.
- Patient works and sleeps at same address.
- Patient has no money or has no control over money. Accompanying party pays with cash.
- Patient is a runaway/throwaway youth



RESPONDING TO TRAFFICKING SITUATIONS



<https://youtu.be/MHYj-wAwDkM>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=utV_HWAvMIE&t=25s



Initial Assessments

Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking: What to Look for in a Healthcare Setting

Healthcare providers may come into contact with victims of human trafficking and have a unique opportunity to connect them with much needed support and services. Anyone in a healthcare setting may be in a position to recognize human trafficking – from clerical staff to lab technicians, nursing staff, ambulatory care, radiology staff, security personnel, case managers, and physicians.

The following is a list potential red flags and indicators that medical providers may see in a patient who may be a victim of human trafficking. Please note that this list is not exhaustive. Each indicator taken individually may not imply a trafficking situation and not all victims of human trafficking will exhibit these signs. However, the recognition of several indicators may point to the need for referrals and further assessment.

Red Flags and Indicators

General Indicators of Human Trafficking	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Shares a scripted or inconsistent history <input type="checkbox"/> Is unwilling or hesitant to answer questions about the injury or illness <input type="checkbox"/> Is accompanied by an individual who does not let the patient speak for themselves, refuses to let the patient have privacy, or who interprets for them <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of controlling or dominating relationships (excessive concerns about pleasing a family member, romantic partner, or employer) <input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates fearful or nervous behavior or avoids eye contact <input type="checkbox"/> Is resistant to assistance or demonstrates hostile behavior <input type="checkbox"/> Is unable to provide his/her address <input type="checkbox"/> Is not aware of his/her location, the current date, or time <input type="checkbox"/> Is not in possession of his/her identification documents <input type="checkbox"/> Is not in control of his or her own money <input type="checkbox"/> Is not being paid or wages are withheld 	
Labor Trafficking Indicators	Sex Trafficking Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Has been abused at work or threatened with harm by an employer or supervisor <input type="checkbox"/> Is not allowed to take adequate breaks, food, or water while at work <input type="checkbox"/> Is not provided with adequate personal protective equipment for hazardous work <input type="checkbox"/> Was recruited for different work than he/she is currently doing <input type="checkbox"/> Is required to live in housing provided by employer <input type="checkbox"/> Has a debt to employer or recruiter that he/she cannot pay off 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Patient is under the age of 18 and is involved in the commercial sex industry <input type="checkbox"/> Has tattoos or other forms of branding, such as tattoos that say, "Daddy," "Property of...," "For sale," etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Reports an unusually high numbers of sexual partners <input type="checkbox"/> Does not have appropriate clothing for the weather or venue <input type="checkbox"/> Uses language common in the commercial sex industry

This publication was made possible in part through Grant Number 90ZV0102 from the Office on Trafficking in Persons, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Office on Trafficking in Persons, Administration for Children and Families, or HHS.



A Victim-Centered Approach

Adopt a victim-centered approach when working with patients who may be victims of trafficking. Here are six recommendations for victim-centered interactions with a potentially trafficked person:

- Meet Basic Needs
- Reassure the Potential Victim
- Build Trust and Rapport
- Be Conscious of Language
- Remain Sensitive to Power Dynamics
- Avoid Re-Traumatization

Plan Ahead: Building Protocols

Patient presents at Hospital with one or more trafficking indicators

Primary health and safety needs are met

Mandated reporting warranted or the patient wishes to report

Report to designated contacts and/or contact the NHTRC Hotline (1-888-3737-888)

Reporting not warranted and the patient does not wish to report

Provide referrals and contact the NHTRC Hotline (1-888-3737-888)

RESOURCES

- Lily Pad Haven in Charlotte, NC - 704-312-2011
- Jasmine Road in Greenville, NC - 864-325-6916 - ask for Beth Hessick
- Cry Freedom in Goldsboro, NC - 919-920-5189 -ask for Beverly Weeks
- True Justice International NC - 910-554-1524 - ask for Tracy Kelin
- two offices located in New Bern and Jacksonville NC
- The Formation Project SC - 843-990-4734 - ask for Maddie
- Toby's Place - Columbia SC - 803-210-9408 - ask for Julie Armstrong



RESOURCES

- , [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services•SOAR to Health and Wellness](#)
- : [Health Professional Education, Advocacy, and •HEAL TraffickingLinkage](#)
- : [Physicians Against Trafficking in Humans•PATH•Child Family Health International: Conversations in Global Health](#)
- , [Children’s •Child Sex Trafficking Webinar Series for Healthcare ProfessionalsHealthcare of Atlanta](#)
- ., [Institute of Medicine/National Research Council Report•Confronting Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Sex Trafficking of Minors in the U.S](#)
- , [•Human Trafficking: Guidebook on Identification, Assessment, and Response in the Healthcare SettingMassachusetts General and Massachusetts Medical Society](#)
- , [•Caring for Trafficked Persons: A Guide for Health ProvidersThe International Organization for Migration and UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking](#)
- , [Donna Sabella in the •The Role of the Nurse in Combatting Human TraffickingAmerican Journal of Nursing•Online education modules for the](#)
- www.TraffickingResourceCenter.org

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Together we can eradicate this evil from our community.....



www.onechildrescue.com