



Human Trafficking: A Victim-Centered Approach

*Knowing the signs: Identifying &
Understanding what Human Trafficking is.*

Why Human Trafficking Happens

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

- Traffickers often target children between the ages of 11-14 due to their vulnerabilities. Traffickers are very patient & prey on these vulnerabilities. They use psychological pressure to gain the trust of the victim for the purpose of isolating them from their family & friends.



- Traffickers encompass all socio-economic, religious, racial, & cultural groups. Human Trafficking victims suffer from devastating consequences to include physical trauma, psychological trauma, disease, & even death



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Why Human Trafficking Happens

- Human Trafficking is Lucrative. According to ILO (International Labour Organization), Human Trafficking profits \$150.2 billion as of 2019 in illegal profits per year. Approximately \$99 billion came from commercial sexual exploitation of children.
- Human selling is 2nd to drug trafficking & distribution here in the U.S.
- Traffickers can profit \$320 thousand annually off of one person here in the U.S. alone.

Indicators of Human Trafficking

- Victims of human trafficking can be any age, gender, race, or immigration status. They live in cities, suburbs, & rural areas. Human Traffickers relentlessly canvas ways to take advantage of people who find themselves in circumstances of extreme adversity or violence, experience discrimination, economic vulnerability, or dependence. Communities that experience some of these hardships may be particularly vulnerable to human trafficking

Behavioral Indicators



- Sudden change in behavior
- Appears frightened, resistant, or frightened of authorities
- Looks to others before answering
- Does not self identify as a victim
- Individual seems coached when talking to law enforcement
- Individual uses trafficking terms like “Trick,” “The Life,” or “The Game”
- Money is the main topic of conversation



Physical Indicators

- Individual has multiple cell phones
- Has large amounts of cash or prepaid credit card
- Multiple children are present with unrelated male or female
- Individual has sexual paraphernalia (bulk condoms/lubricant)
- Frequently misses school & travels out of town often
- Individual has been branded by tattoo or burn

Living Condition Indicators

- Does the person lack personal possessions & appear to have an unstable living condition?
- Does the person have freedom of movement? Can the person freely leave where they live? Are there unreasonable security measures?
- Has the person been deprived of food, water, sleep, medical, or other necessities?

Travel Indicators



- Does the person know his/her final destination? How will they get there?
- Do they know who they are meeting at the final destination?
- Are they traveling with someone who does not appear to be their real parent/guardian

A Victim Centered Approach & Resources



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DxgKPZgmZ5c>

https://youtu.be/O3t002_vdCM



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