

Intimate partner & domestic violence

Beyond the Basics: Foundational concepts

Rebecca Soliday, LMFT

Intimate partner and domestic violence

- **Types of abuse and some examples. *May also be present in relationships where someone is being trafficked.***
 - Physical:
 - Hitting or breaking things intentionally, especially near someone (e.g. throwing items very close to someone's body) or deliberately damaging others' property. *Overlaps with financial abuse.*
 - Pushing or shoving; slapping, hitting or kicking; choking; etc
 - Sexual
 - **Guilt or pressure to have sex** (coercion), forced sex, forced to watch pornography. *This can overlap with sex trafficking.*
 - Legal
 - Utilizing the legal system to drag out custody and other legal encounters (this is also potentially financial abuse); threatening to report someone if they are undocumented; threatening to out someone especially in places where LGBTQ+ ppl lack legal protections
 - Medical
 - Withholding or weaponizing care. E.g. coercing someone to do things they don't want to because you provided them with medical care; stating that care will only be provided if certain stipulations are met.
 - Disabled people + trans people may be most vulnerable to abuse and exploitation here
 - Spiritual
 - In conjunction with emotional abuse, may be used to shame, coerce, or dismiss someone's experience. E.g. spiritual bypassing.
 - Justifying power and control dynamics as part of one's religion. *See the memoir [A Well Trained Wife by Tia Levings](#) for a good example of this.*
 - Financial
 - Sabotaging the person's ability to work or do schoolwork (e.g. calling them at work all the time; interrupting schoolwork time; denigrating their work or schoolwork)
 - Demanding or exerting control over shared finances. Controlling money so the person cannot leave.
 - Destroying important possessions or even important documents
 - Technological / digital
 - Cyberstalking or tracking;

- revenge porn, harassment; [using AI to simulate nudity](#) - see this [Guardian article](#) for more
- **Relationship red flags *adapted from Love is Respect***
 - Relationship red flags (adopted from Love Is Respect)
 - Checking cell phone or email, especially without permission
 - Using put downs or humiliation, esp. in front of others
 - Extreme jealousy or insecurity
 - Explosive temper, inc. throwing or hitting things when upset
 - Isolating from family or friends
 - Making false accusations, inc. accusations of cheating
 - “Mood swings”
 - Physically hurting others in any way
 - Possessiveness
 - Controlling and dictating- how to do tasks, how to dress, etc
 - Pressuring, guilt-tripping, or forcing sexual interaction(s)
- **Causal factors of abuse: [adapted from HERE](#)**
 - ***Micro - Individual factors:***
 - Depression or heavy substance use
 - (lack of) coping skills
 - Age (higher rates of IPV in young ppl)
 - Socioeconomic status and economic stress
 - Past conduct or suicidal behaviors
 - Individual beliefs and past experiences
 - ***Micro - relational factors:***
 - Childhood physical discipline
 - Witnessing IPV as a child
 - Association with asocial or aggressive peers
 - Patterns of jealousy and possessiveness (dating)
 - Desire for dominance and control (dating): *Relates to “hegemonic masculinity”*
 - ***Mezzo:***
 - High poverty, economic stress, limited opportunities
 - Weak community sanctions re: abuse (“don’t get involved”)
 - Low community involvement among neighbors
 - Easy access to drugs and alcohol; high rates of violence
 - *Highlighted parts could apply to wealthy as well as poor neighborhoods. E.g. [substance use may be overlooked in higher SES neighborhoods](#)*
 - ***Macro:*** Cultural norms that support aggression toward others
 - *Rebecca’s note - these can be **indirect**, but powerful. More soon!*
 - Societal income inequality
 - Weak law or policy related to health, education, and supporting people economically or socially
 - *(Mass) incarceration (R’s addition)*

Sexual assault & human trafficking

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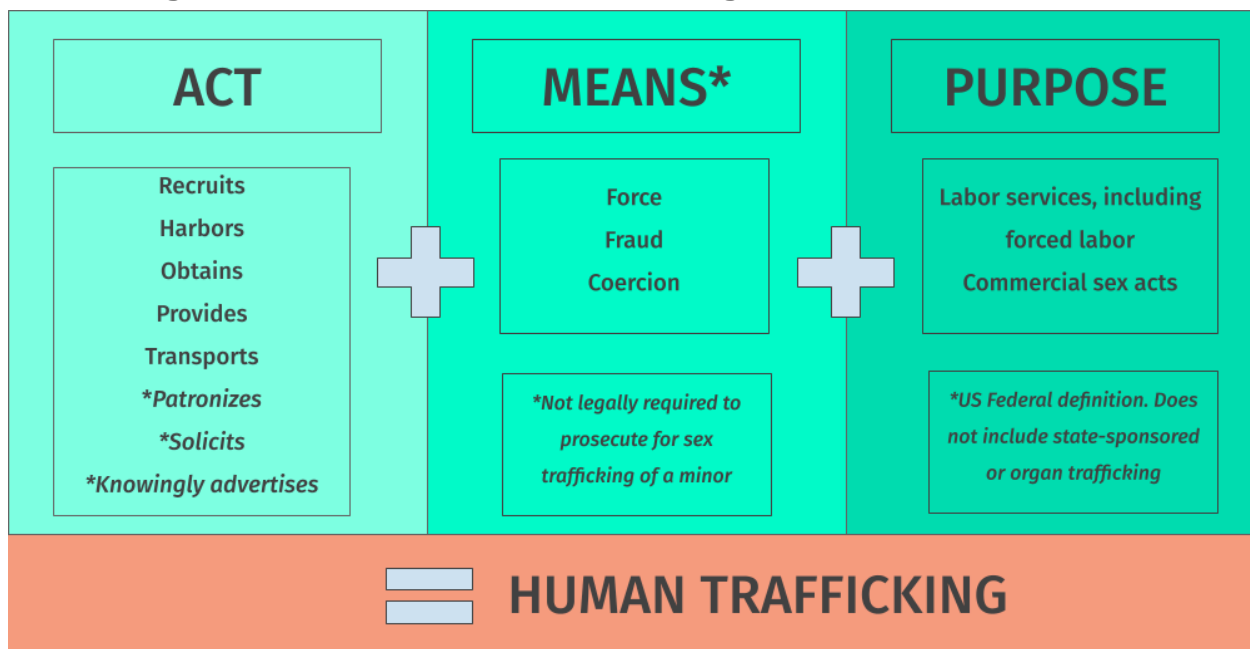
Sexual assault

- [Rape culture](#)
 - Imply that the person who was assaulted had consented
 - Victim blaming: focus on clothing, past history of person assaulted
 - Empathy for the accused: “bright future” or “just a kid”
 - Question the credibility of the person who was assaulted, e.g “alleged” or “accused”

Human Trafficking

- **Formal definition of human trafficking**
 - **Human trafficking may also be known as “forced labor”. In the U.S., this definition does NOT include state-imposed forced labor, but does include the other two categories below**
 - 1) **Forced labor exploitation:** Labor trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of **force, fraud, or coercion** for the purposes of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery, (22 USC § 7102).
“Lured by a job, trapped in forced labour” (ILO video)
 - 2) **(Forced) commercial sex:** Sex trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purposes of a **commercial sex act**, in which the 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 (22 USC § 7102).
- **A note on “state sponsored forced labor” within the U.S.**
 - Per the 13th Amendment to the Constitution (“Abolition of slavery”) **“Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.”**
 - Internationally, prison labor is recognized as a form of state-imposed forced labor. The International Labour Organization cites that as of 2022 there were **2.2 million people worldwide experiencing “abuse of compulsory prison labour”** The United States has the highest number of incarcerated people in the world (nearly **2 million people**). Per the ILO report below, “In the United States, the CEACR has strongly encouraged the government to strengthen its efforts to ensure that racial discrimination at the sentencing and other stages of the criminal justice process do not result in the imposition of racially disproportionate prison sentences involving compulsory labour” (see below; p.53 of the report). *[Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage](#), Geneva, September 2022

- **Terminology: “Commercial sex”**
 - The exchange of a sex act for anything of value (money, but also: drugs, clothing, shelter, food, gifts, etc.)
- **Terminology: CSEC / DMST (equivalent terms)**
 - **CSEC:** Commercially sexually exploited children; Commercial sexual exploitation of children
 - **DMST:** Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (older term)
 - For anyone **under 18 years of age...**
 - **All commercial sex involving a minor is considered human trafficking under U.S. federal law.** Youth may say that they are engaging in commercial sex voluntarily; however, **the law does not require** proof of force, fraud, or coercion to determine a minor has been exploited (more [HERE](#))
- **Using the A-M-P model of human trafficking**



- **How to use the AMP model for assessing a situation for trafficking**
 - Does the situation have at least one aspect where a person has been *recruited, harbored, obtained, provided, transported* (for labor trafficking), or additionally *patronized, solicited, or knowingly advertised* (for sex trafficking)?
 - Does it seem that force, fraud, or coercion were used for the above? *This is not required to show sex trafficking of a minor*
 - Was there a clear purpose related to forced labor or commercial sex?
- **Example cases of what constitutes trafficking (CSEC)**
 - An adult offers a 16 year old runaway a place to stay in exchange for sex
 - A 17-year-old boy has a friend who convinces him to try “camming” (performing sex acts for a webcam or pornography business), for extra cash

- A parent arranges for buyers to take photos of, or have sex with, their child in exchange for access to drugs
- An “at-risk” youth is mentored by someone in their own community. Over time, the mentor starts to pressure the youth to engage in pornography to “repay” the mentor.
- A 13 year old girl has a 15 year old boyfriend who pressures her to send him nude photos. When he receives them, he puts them online to make extra money.
- A 15 year old’s friend starts bragging about how much money they are making selling nudes and talks the 15 year old into selling nudes online
- **Example cases of sex trafficking of adults**
 - A woman is recruited to work as a model in another state. She’s broke and when she arrives she’s pressured into working at a strip club instead. Her new boss takes part of her income and the club takes most of the rest of it.
 - A man is recruited to work as a go-go dancer at a local club. He’s pressured into taking drugs with coworkers and then blackmailed into engaging in commercial sex acts in a private room.
 - A person is experiencing abuse from their intimate partner. Their partner tells them they don’t contribute enough money to the household and that the person needs to start an OnlyFans to help out the household budget. The person feels scared to say “no”. The OF money goes to their partner’s bank account but the person doesn’t feel they can report this crime.
- **Example cases of what constitutes labor trafficking**
 - A child migrates to the United States to live with family. In exchange for staying with them, they keep her ID documents and she is required to act as the family’s maid.
 - An adult man immigrates to the US on an H2A work visa (agriculture). Upon arrival the recruiter tells the man that the cost of the visa will be deducted from his pay, and confiscates his papers.
 - A female nurse from the Phillipines is recruited to work as a nurse in a U.S. hospital for much higher pay; when she arrives she is brought to an elder-care facility and told she will be working 12 hour shifts 7 days per week. Her papers are confiscated and she’s threatened with violence if she leaves. ***Note: I provided this training to an LVN program a few times and heard from the staff there that this was something they’d seen themselves***
 - A person gets introduced to illicit drugs through their romantic partner. Over time, their partner begins pressuring them to have sex with other people in exchange for drugs & withholds access to drugs if the person doesn’t comply.
 - An incarcerated man is pressured or threatened by his cellmate to have sex with other inmates in exchange for “protection”
 - An LGBTQ+ teen is kicked out by his family and ends up couch-surfing. A friend tells him about a job opportunity in another state, where cost-of-living

is much lower, as part of a sales team for a leading company. He is given a bus ticket and joins another group of teens upon arrival. His new boss takes everyone's identification paperwork to "make copies" but never gives it back. He and the other teens are bused to a motel; their phones are also taken and not returned. Although they are given shelter, the costs of food and shelter are taken out of their pay and they end up earning very little. If they fail to meet their sales quotas (for door-to-door magazine subscription sales), they are denied meals or adequate clothing for the chilly weather.