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Red Flags of Human Trafficking

Guidance for Medical Service Providers

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What is Human Trafficking?

- The compelled service of others for profit



Below: Traffic light in Delhi, India- Children who are trafficked for the purpose of begging work late into the night. Children are forced to beg for long hours and often beaten (*US Dept of State*)



Above: Erica's tattoo covers up the 'Sin City' tag she had been given by gang members; photo from Survivors Ink in Columbus, Ohio (*from The Guardian*)

Federal Legal Definition

- As defined in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, “severe forms of trafficking in persons” includes:
- Sex trafficking, 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. 22 USC § 7102 (9)(A)
- The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining a person for labor services, through use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery. 22 USC § 7102 (9)(B)
- The TVPA of 2000 was the first comprehensive federal law to address trafficking in persons. The TVPA was reauthorized in 2003, 2005, 2008, and 2013.

Ohio Legal Definition

- As defined by the Ohio Revised Code Section 2905.32 (Trafficking in Persons), Ohio's legal definition of human trafficking is:
- "(A) No person shall knowingly recruit, lure, entice, isolate, harbor, transport, provide, obtain, or maintain...another person knowing that the person will be subjected to involuntary servitude or be compelled to engage in sexual activity..."
- "...For a prosecution under division (A)(1) of this section, the element "compelled" does not require that the compulsion be openly displayed or physically exerted. The element "compelled" has been established if the state proves that the victim's will was overcome by force, fear, duress, or intimidation, or fraud."

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Difference between State and Federal Definitions

- Federal law defines **all children under 18** engaged in commercial sex as victims of human trafficking
- Ohio has a tiered definition of trafficking
 - Relates to current law for age of consent to sex with an adult in Ohio (age 16)

Ohio's Tiered Definition

- **Minors under the age of 16:** law enforcement officials do not need to prove the minor was compelled to engage in commercial sexual activity. ORC 2905.32 (A)(2)
- **Ages 16-17 years:** law enforcement officials do not need to prove that the minor was compelled to engage in commercial sexual activity if the trafficker is in a “position of authority” over the victim, as defined in section 2907.03 of the ORC, which includes parents or persons acting in loco parentis, teachers, coaches , etc. ORC 2905.32 (A)(3)
- **People with developmental disabilities:** law enforcement officials do not need to prove that the person was compelled to engage in commercial sexual activity. ORC 2905.32 (A)(2)

Potential Patient Red Flags

- Sex Trafficking
 - Disclosure of multiple sex partners
 - Requests frequent STI and/or pregnancy tests
 - Multiple pregnancies/abortions at young age
 - Bruising/scarring/trauma to hidden areas
 - Tattoos of names or unknown symbolism (esp. on upper thighs, lower back, and neck)
 - Frequent STI diagnosis and/or treatments
 - Accompanied by older “partner” or “friend”
 - Answers all/most questions for patient
 - Discloses DV/SV with missing details
 - No insurance/job but can pay
 - Suspicious work history
 - Relays living with multiple non-relatives

Potential Patient Red Flags

- Labor Trafficking
 - Suspicious work history
 - No insurance/job but still can pay
 - Limited availability for appointments due to work
 - Injuries resulting from lack of safety equipment at work
 - Bruising/scarring/trauma to hidden areas
 - Reports fatigue/lack of sleep/long work hours
 - Unable to make work accommodations for procedures/follow up
 - Reluctance to discuss work
 - Reports residing at job site
 - Appears dirty/unkept
 - Is accompanied by boss/coworker
 - Relays living with multiple non-relatives
 - Untreated chronic illness

Check for Understanding

- Patient A
 - 22 year old female
 - Requests treatment for infected tattoo
 - Tattoo artist was a “friend” who gave her the tattoo at a house party
 - Accompanied by man she calls “boyfriend”
 - Looks to be in his late 40s or early 50s
 - Tattoo is on upper right inner thigh; tattoo is of “boyfriend’s” name
 - After some discussion, patient requests STI testing, because she recently “cheated on” her “boyfriend”
 - Bruising to mid-back
 - Says it’s from sleeping on an old mattress

Check for Understanding

• Patient B

- 37 year old male
- Requests treatment for work injury
 - Large cut to left calf; possibly infected; needs stitches
- Says he works with heavy machinery on his cousin's farm
 - Says he came to U.S. from Central America to visit cousin, but stayed when cousin offered him a job
 - Sends money home to wife and 4 children
 - When asked, says he sleeps in loft above barn
 - Minimal English speaking/reading skills
- Without insurance but can pay out of pocket
- Appears dirty/unwashed
- Has untreated Diabetes
- Wants to go to hospital
 - Says he heard he can get food, bed, shower

Check for Understanding

- Patient A
 - Trafficking: yes or no?
 - If yes, what type (labor, sex, both)?
- Patient B
 - Trafficking: yes or no?
 - If yes, what type (labor, sex, both)?

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Intervention

- 3 Main Components:
 - Assess for safety
 - Validate experience/empower survivor
 - Refer for services (if desired)

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DO NOT...

- Label someone else's experience
- Make snap judgments
- Push/force the survivor to take action/seek services
- Involve authorities without permission (unless obligated under mandated reporting statute)
- Otherwise violate workplace/licensure confidentiality policies
- Assess safety in front of "support persons"

Safety Assessment

- Ask about household dynamics
- Ask about work, school, etc.
- When noticing injuries, tattoos, etc. do not ask leading questions (i.e. “This appears to be a fingerprint bruise. Did someone grab you forcefully?” Instead, maybe ask, “Did you know you have a bruise on the back of your arm?” or “Ouch! This bruise looks painful. Is it bothering you?”)
- Ask about social life/recreation

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Safety Planning

- Housing
 - Local DV Shelter
- Transportation
 - Medical Cab
 - Victim Services Provider
 - Public Transportation
- Law Enforcement
 - If survivor wants involvement
- CSB/APS(if applicable)
- Civil Protection Order
 - Legal Advocacy
- Mental Health Services

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Referring for Services

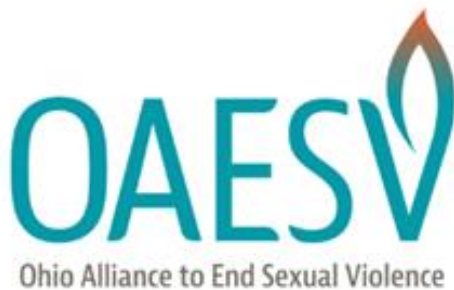
- Northwest Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition
 - <https://www.facebook.com/NorthwestOhioRescueRestoreCoalition/>
- Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition
 - info@lchtc.org
- **National Human Trafficking Resource Center**
 - **24/7 Hotline: 1-888-3737-888**



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Thank You!

Questions/Comments???



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