

HEALTH EFFECTS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

A LASTING EFFECT: PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES OF TRAFFICKING

Child victims of human trafficking can face significant problems. Often physically and sexually abused, they have distinctive medical and psychological needs that must be addressed before advancing in the formative years of adulthood. For child victims of exploitation, the destructive effects can create a number of long term health problems including:

PHYSICAL EFFECTS

- Sleeping/Eating Disorders
- Sexually transmitted diseases
HIV/AIDS, pelvic pain, rectal trauma and urinary difficulties from working in the sex industry
- Chronic back, hearing, cardiovascular or respiratory problems from endless days toiling in dangerous agriculture, sweatshops or construction conditions
- Sexual dysfunction
- Muscle Tension
- Untreated Illness

SPECIFIC HEALTH INDICATORS

The following indicators may present in the context of physical exam or similar health assessment or treatment

PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS

- Fear and anxiety
- Depression, mood changes
- Guilt and shame
- Cultural shock from finding themselves in a strange country.
- Posttraumatic Stress Disorder
- Dissociative Identity Disorder
- Traumatic Bonding with the trafficker
- High risk behaviors (drugs, alcohol Sexual Dysfunction abuse)
- Feelings of being mentally broken
- Spiritual questions
- Suicidal ideation
- Difficulty establishing/maintaining healthy relationships
- Malnourishment or generally poor health
- Signs of physical abuse – in particular, unexplained injuries or signs of prolonged abuse
Bruises, black eyes, burns, cuts, broken bones, broken teeth, multiple scars
- Evidence of prolonged infection that could easily be treated through a routine physical or check up
- Addiction to drugs and/or alcohol
- Individual has no idea when his/her last medical exam was
- Lack of healthcare insurance – paying with cash