

Human Trafficking: The Pivotal Role of Healthcare



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Approach to Trafficking

• Criminal Justice

• Public health



Public Health Approach to Violence Prevention

Identify the Problem	Risk/Protective Factors	Prevention Strategies	Implementation
Trafficking	What's causing trafficking? What are the risk and protective factors?	How can trafficking be prevented by considering social and economic determinants involved?	How can we implement identified interventions and determine their effectiveness?
Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4

What do we mean by *human trafficking*?

Human trafficking is a crime involving the exploitation of someone for the purpose of compelled labor or a commercial sex act through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. Where a person younger than 18 is induced to perform a commercial sex act, it is a crime regardless of whether there is any force, fraud, or coercion.

—The Trafficking Victims Protection Act

Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA)



Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), Pub. L. No. 106-386, 8 U.S.C. §1101, §1501, 114 STAT 1464 (2000)

Action

- Recruiting
- Harboring (or housing)
- Transporting
- Providing
- Obtaining

In the case of sex trafficking

- Patronizing
- Soliciting
- Advertising



Means



Force—Physical assault, sexual assault, physical confinement, or isolation



Fraud—False promises about work and living conditions, false pretenses for interpersonal relationships, use of fraudulent travel documents, fraudulent employment offers, withholding wages



Coercion—Threats of serious harm or psychological manipulation such as holding someone at gunpoint, threatening the life and safety of a person or their family and friends, withholding legal documents, debt bondage

Sex Trafficking of Minors

Minors induced into commercial sex are trafficking victims regardless of whether force, fraud, or coercion have been used.



Purpose



Forced Labor



Commercial Sexual Exploitation

Labor traffickers often make false promises of a high-paying job, exciting education or travel opportunities to lure people into horrendous working conditions. Yet, victims find that the reality of their jobs proves to be far different than promised and must frequently work long hours for little to no pay.

<https://polarisproject.org/labor-trafficking>



Labor Trafficking

Hidden in Plain Sight



- Domestic labor
 - Agriculture
 - Landscaping
 - Day labor sites
 - Panhandling/Begging
- Garment factories
- Meat-packing plants
- Door-to-door sales
- Nail salons
- Massage parlors
- Chain and fast-food restaurants
 - Bars
- Fishing Industry

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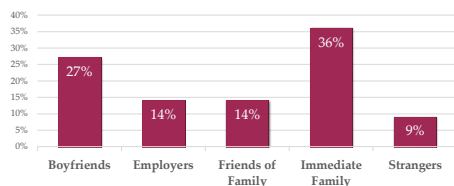
Sex and Labor Trafficking **May Co-Occur** Although state and federal law divides human trafficking into the categories of sex trafficking or labor trafficking, in many cases a survivor has experienced both forms of exploitation. When working with victims, it is important to ask about potential sex and labor exploitation to identify the full range of services they may need.

Sex Trafficking—Hidden in Plain Sight



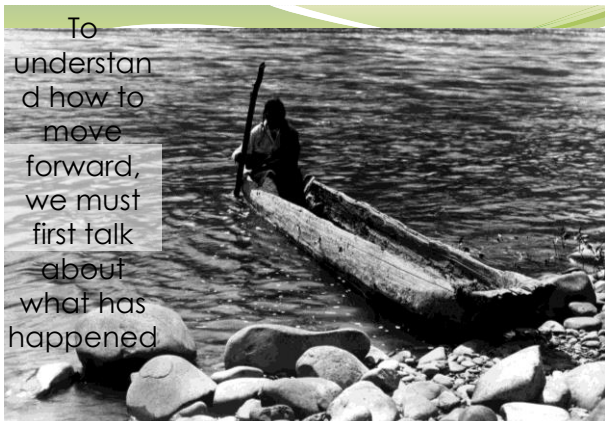
- Prostitution
- Pornography
- Strip clubs
- Commercial/Residential Brothels
- Illicit massage parlors
- Escort services
- Truck stops

Relationships Between Trafficker and Trafficked Individual



Covenant House New York and Fordham University's Applied Developmental Psychology Department. Homelessness, survival sex, and human trafficking as experienced by the youth of Covenant House New York, May 2013. <https://traffickingresearchcenter.org>

To understand how to move forward, we must first talk about what has happened



Traditional View of Women and Children



- No words for rape or prostitution
- Violence against women was a capital offense
- Women were viewed as sacred
- Children were seen as a gift from the Creator

American Indian / Alaska Native Statistics



U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of the Census, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2002). *Native American women experience domestic violence at a rate that is 50% higher than the national average.*

Native Americans are the most raped, assaulted, stalked, and murdered of all ethnicities.

U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of the Census, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2002). *Native American women experience domestic violence at a rate that is 50% higher than the national average.*



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"Perfect Population"

"If you're a trafficker looking for the perfect population of people to violate, Native [American] women would be a prime target. You have poverty. You have a people who have been traumatized. And you have a legal system that doesn't step in to stop it."

Source: Sarah Deer, attorney & author of "The Beginning and End of Rape: Confronting Sexual Violence in Native America."

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Historical Trauma

Historical trauma is the cumulative, multigenerational, collective experience of emotional and psychological injury in communities and in descendants.

*Brave Heart,
M.Y.H. (2003)*

Results of Historical Trauma

- Defense mechanisms
- Developmental malfunctions
- Behavioral issues
- Depression
- Anger
- Isolation
- Violence
- Suicide
- Shame
- Substance use
- Anxiety

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Childhood

Traumatic Event

Traumatic Event

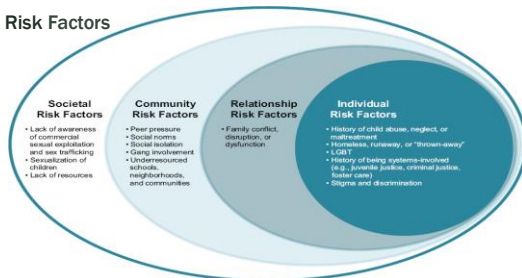
Traumatic Event

Adulthood

Mechanisms by Which Adverse Childhood Experiences Influence Health and Well-Being Throughout the Lifespan

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/about.html>

Risk Factors



Signs of Trauma

Physical	Behavioral	Social/Environmental
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent sexually transmitted infections • Multiple pregnancies/abortions • Dental issues • Bruising and burns • Signs of self-harm • Weight loss or malnourishment • Respiratory issues • Suicide attempts • Physical and sexual abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confusing or contradicting stories • Inability to focus • Unaware of current date, location, or time • Minimizes abuse • Extreme timidity • Aggressive or defensive • Heightened stress response • Withdrawn or depressed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent school absences/failing grades • Increase in substance use • Change in dress • Age-inappropriate romantic partner • Change in friends • Repeat runaway • Doesn't share information • Evidence of being controlled • Crowded living conditions • No address

Barriers That Prevent Identification



Reasons Why Individuals May Not Self-Identify

- Lack of awareness of victimization
- Lack of understanding of victim and legal rights
- Fear of law enforcement or social services
- Fear that reporting could lead to being returned to an abusive home, jail, or foster care placement
- Distrust of provider or those in authority
- Feels hopeless and helpless
- Feels isolation, shame, or guilt
- Feels complicit in an illegal act
- Fear that traffickers will cause harm to self, family, or loved ones
- Trauma bonding with trafficker or other victims
- Dependence on trafficker for drugs or emotional support



Reasons Why Professionals May Not Identify

- Lacks knowledge about human trafficking
- Inadequate understanding of federal, state, local and tribal human trafficking laws
- Fears violating Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA rules)
- Lacks trauma-informed care training
- Has preconceived notions of how an individual who has been trafficked will present
- Doesn't believe it is his or her role to get involved
- Mistrust of law enforcement
- Lacks access to neutral, professional interpreters
- "Checks off boxes" without seeing the full patient or client situation
- Thinks that asking will be time consuming or too complex
- Feels the patient/client is unresponsive or hostile to questioning or tells a rehearsed story
- Lacks information on good referral options
- Attributes behavior(s) to harmful cultural stereotypes
- Misidentifies the case

Mandated Reporting

Human Trafficking

Child Abuse or Neglect

Domestic Violence

Health Insurance
Portability and
Accountability Act
(HIPAA)

When to Report?

During the screening process for any of these crimes, if you are a mandated reporter, you are required to report suspected abuse. Many federal laws have expanded mandatory reporting requirements related to human trafficking.

HHS Screening Tools



Screening tool to identify minors who are being trafficked



NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING
TRAINING AND TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE CENTER

Screening tool for adults who may be trafficked

Creating a Safe Environment



Survivor-Centered Screening Techniques



Create a setting conducive to a victim-centered, trauma-informed screening.



Get informed consent prior to the screening.



Inform the individual of the purpose of the screening and the screening process.



Discuss confidentiality and mandatory reporting.

Trauma-Informed Screening

- Avoids asking a person who is potentially being trafficked to share detailed history of exploitation
- In-depth questioning may lead patients to become unresponsive, defensive, and distrusting
- Only solicit information needed to effectively treat and refer patients to services



What Do We Mean by "Trauma"?

"Individual trauma results from an event, series of events or set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual as physically or emotionally harmful or life threatening and that has lasting adverse effects on the individual's functioning and mental, physical, social, emotional or spiritual well-being."

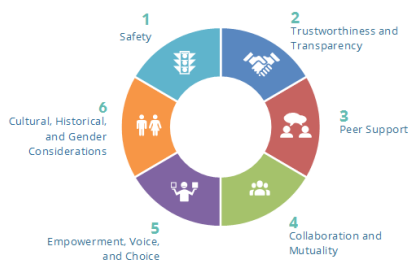
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
<https://www.samhsa.gov/trauma-violence>

Trauma-Informed Services

- Incorporate knowledge about trauma in all aspects of service delivery
- Minimize traumatization or re-traumatization
- Facilitate healing, connection, and empowerment



Trauma Informed Care



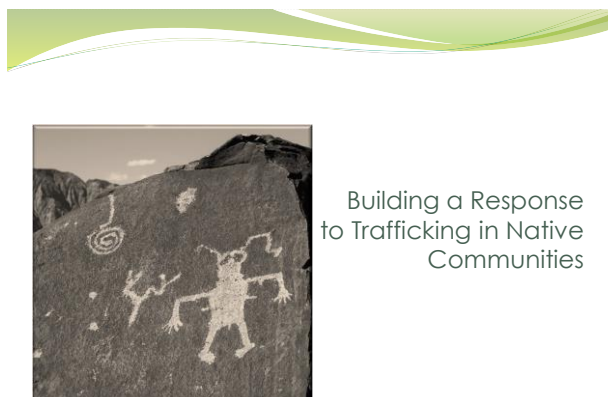


Spiritual Healing

Honoring Culture and Tradition

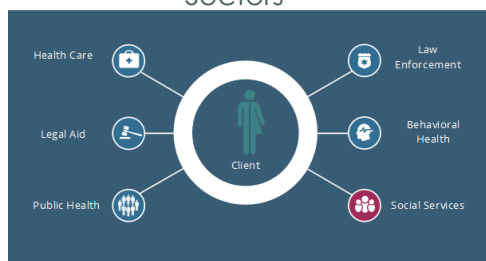


- Modeling of traditional behavior
- Offering sage, sweet grass, or something to drink in a warm, caring environment
- Traditional healing, sacred medicines, ceremonies
- Welcome home ceremonies
- Wiping Away the Tears (Lakota)
- Naming ceremony
- Making relatives
- Connect to Elders



Building a Response to Trafficking in Native Communities

Collaborating Across the Public Health Sectors



Engaging Survivor Leaders



"A survivor-informed practice acknowledges the unique perspectives of survivors with relevant expertise based on knowledge of their trafficking experiences and challenges they have faced in their efforts to regain and rebuild their lives. A survivor-informed practice includes meaningful input from a diverse community of survivors at all stages of a program or project, including development, implementation, and evaluation."

Human Trafficking Leadership Academy, 2017

Promising Practices

Involving Elders/Leaders



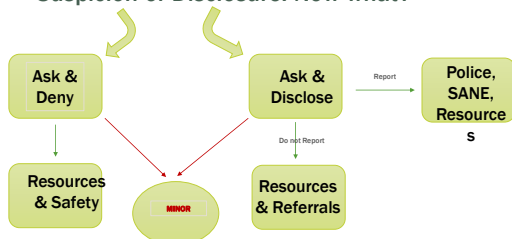
Protocol Components

Protocol development for human trafficking should include these elements:

1. Staff Training
2. Screening and Identification
3. Multidisciplinary Response
4. Mandated Reporting
5. Follow-up/Follow-through Procedures

HealTrafficking and Hope for Justice's Protocol Toolkit

Suspicion or Disclosure: Now what?



Prevention

1. Engage schools
 - Educate youth about healthy relationships
 - Strengthen cultural identity through traditional dance clubs, drum groups and craft classes
2. Address poverty
 - Establish programs that provide employment opportunities, especially for youth and women
 - Work toward economic equality
 - Provide access to higher education
3. Prevent and reduce ACEs
 - ACEs includes abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction; reducing the number of ACEs will reduce negative health outcomes, including trafficking
4. Awareness
 - Hold talking circles and support groups to raise awareness and provide safety and support



National Human Trafficking Hotline

NATIONAL
HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
HOTLINE

1-888-373-7888

- Comprehensive service referrals for potential victims of human trafficking
- Tip reporting to trained law enforcement
- Data and trends on human trafficking in the United States
- **Text HELP to 233733 (BEFREE)** to get help for potential victims of human trafficking or to connect with local services.

<https://www.wattraffickinghelp.org/>

WASHINGTON TRAFFICKING HELP

Connecting survivors with services that change lives.

HOME SERVICES GET INVOLVED CONTACT
ABOUT NEWS

FIND SERVICES

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STRONGHEARTS
Native Helpline

1-844-7NATIVE | strongheartshelpline.org

Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to
5:30 p.m. CST.

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