

Trafficking in Persons: A Primer for the Healthcare Professional

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Educational Objectives

At the conclusion of this program, participants should be able to:

- Discuss the extent of human trafficking in the U.S.
- Identify the signs that a patient may be a victim of human trafficking
- Take concrete steps in preparation of encountering a patient who might be a victim of human trafficking

Human Trafficking: General Definition

- Human trafficking is any form of **extreme exploitation** of one human being by another for **personal/financial gain**



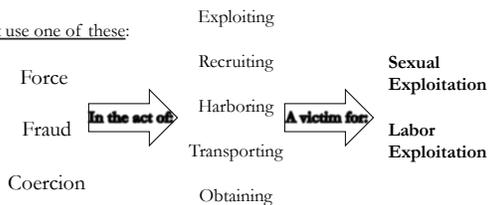
Human Trafficking: Legal Definition

Derived from federal legislation entitled:

The Trafficking Victims Protection
Act of 2000
TVPA

United States- TVPA To be convicted of HT

Must use one of these:

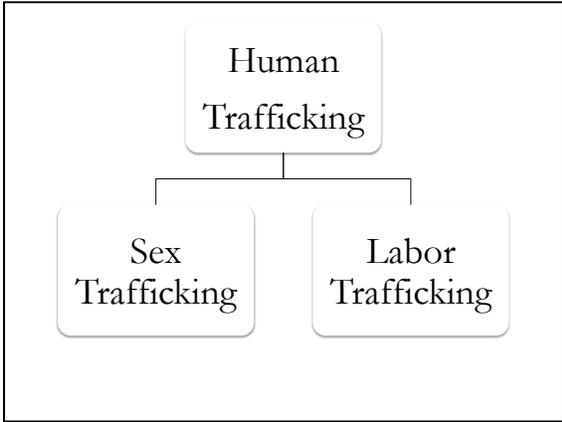


United States- TVPA

- One exception to the requirement for force, fraud, coercion:

- Involvement of a person <18 in commercial sex





Sex Trafficking: Where Is It?

Commercial Sex:

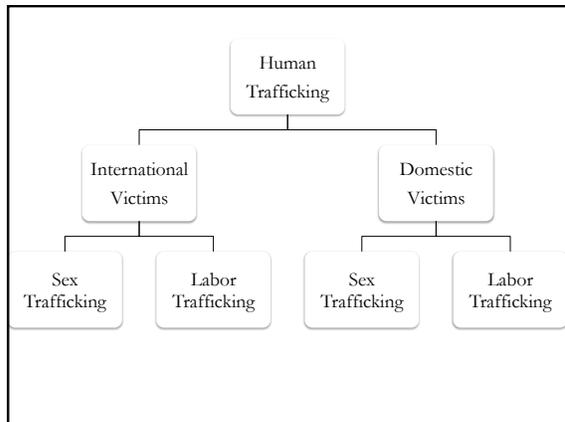
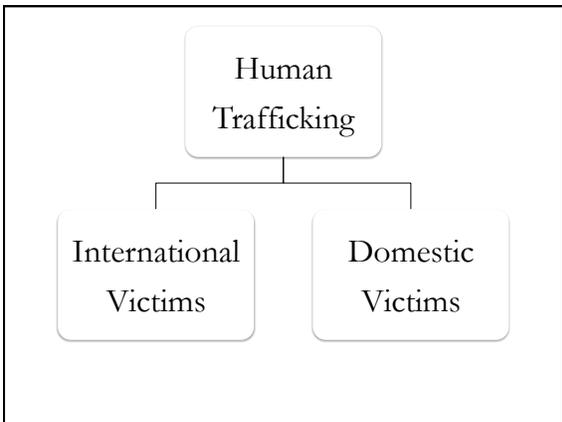
- Prostitution
- Stripping
- Pornography

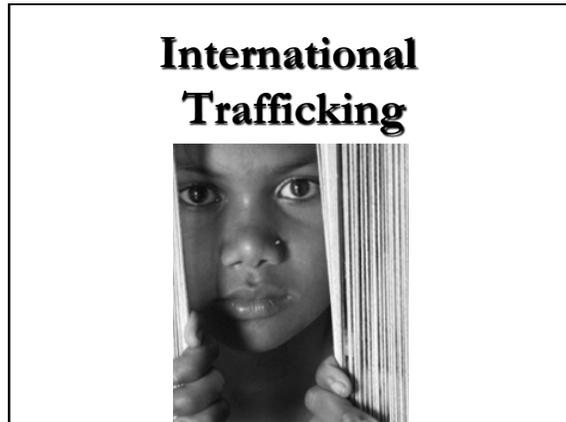
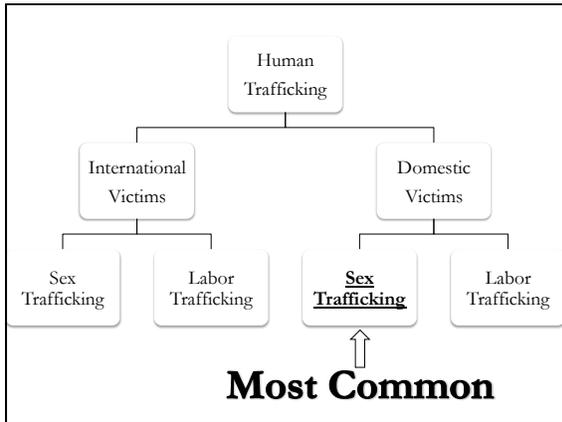
Labor Trafficking: Where Is It?

Labor Trafficking:

- Domestic servants
- Sweatshops
- Factories
- Janitorial jobs
- Construction sites
- Restaurants
- Hotels
- Farm work

Two types of trafficking victims

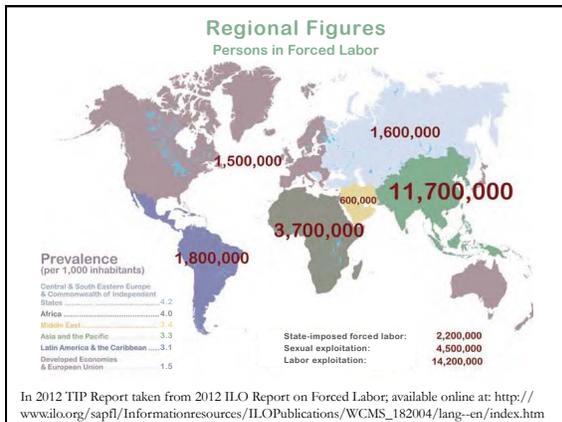




International

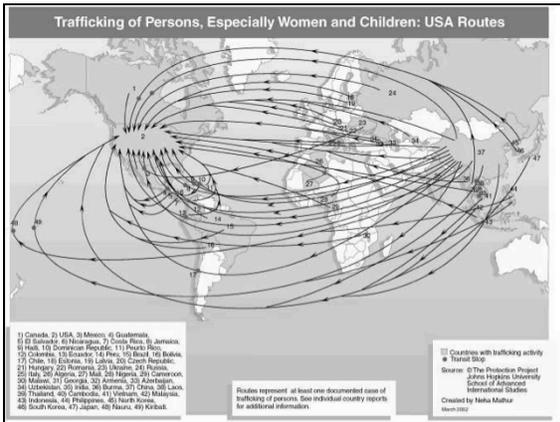
Estimates from the U.S. State Department:

- 14,500 to 17,500 enter the U.S. annually
- 80% are female
- 50% are minors <18
- 600,000-800,000 trafficked across borders
- 21 million worldwide



U.S. Estimate

- Prevalence of 1.5 per 1000 population
- U.S. ~314 million
- = 469,500 Victims in the U.S.
- = thousands/state



International Traffickers: The Profile

- Sophisticated
- National, international networks
- Organized crime syndicates

International Traffickers: The Profile

- Frequently a female
 - Distant relative or acquaintance of family

Domestic Trafficking

Trafficking of citizens within their own country

Domestic Trafficking

- American teenagers who runaway to escape abuse in their homes
 - End up being picked up on the streets by traffickers (pimps) and placed into commercial sex

SHARED HOPE INTERNATIONAL
HUMAN RIGHTS INVESTIGATION
LOCATION: UNITED STATES

But, I'm going to tell you something.
If you pay the price, you can get
what you want and I can get it for you.
Really?

Domestic Trafficking

100,000

Ernie Allen, Director of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in Congressional Testimony July 2010

So why is this such a HUGE problem?

Money!

Average girl will make between \$500 to \$1000 per day selling sex

Domestic Trafficking

- Let's assume only 50,000 U.S. girls <18 will be trafficked
- A teenage girl is 20X as likely to be trafficked as to die in an automobile accident¹
- A teenage girl is 50X as likely to be trafficked as to commit suicide²

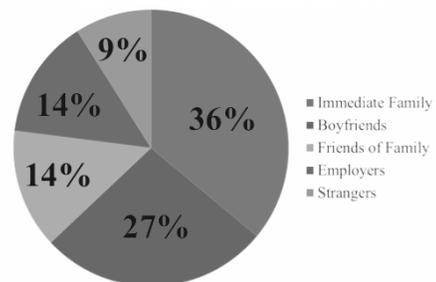
1. 2010 Data from the Insurance Institute for Highway safety
2. CDC data

Where do all these kids come from?

Vulnerable Youth

- Physically abused
- Sexually abused
- Neglected
- Abandoned
- Youth of all races and socioeconomic strata

Who are the traffickers?



Homelessness, Survival Sex and Human Trafficking:
As Experienced by the Youth of Covenant House New York May 2013

Recruitment

- Predisposing factors:
 - Abuse/neglect
 - Low self-esteem
 - Poor or absent support system
 - Young age- naïve
 - High vulnerability



Recruitment

Trafficker (Gorilla Pimp)

- Tricks the girl into coming with him through lies
- Uses brutal force and threats to control her
- Less common type of trafficker



Recruitment

Trafficker (Finesse pimp)

- Stage 1-Initial seduction
 - Telling the girl she's beautiful
 - Giving the girls gifts
 - Jewelry
 - Clothing
 - Cell Phone
 - Pretends to be a boyfriend



Recruitment

Trafficker (Finesse pimp)

- Stage 2- Increasing control
 - Want to know whereabouts
 - Begin to limit friends
 - Goal is to trap them into a relationship



Recruitment

Trafficker (Finesse pimp)

- Stage 3- Separation
 - Gets the girl to leave the house or support system
 - May take her to another location
 - Makes the girl more reliant on person

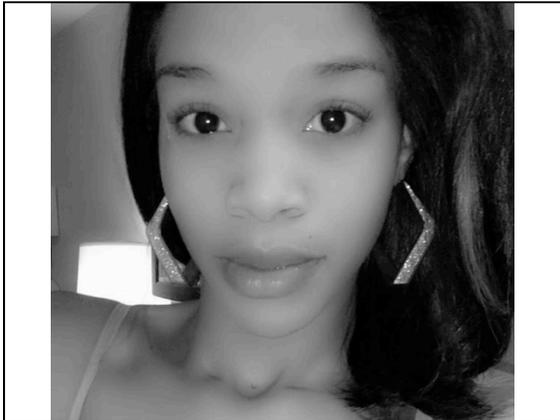


Recruitment

Trafficker (Finesse pimp)

- Stage 4- Trauma bonding
 - Now trapped in a relationship
 - Fully dependent on trafficker
 - Alternate love, affection with threats and trauma
 - May even have a child with the girl
 - The girl becomes fully controlled by trafficker and turned out into prostitution





Role of Healthcare Professionals

Finding and Caring for victims of
human trafficking

Study of Trafficking Survivors

- European Study of trafficking survivors found that 28% admitted that they had come into contact with the health care system.
- These are missed opportunities to free these victims from their captivity

Turning Pain into Power: Trafficking Survivors' Perspectives on Early Intervention Strategies.
Prevention Fund in Partnership with the World Childhood Foundation, March 2005.

Study on trafficking victims in U.S. healthcare settings

- Interviewed survivors and workers in LA
- All survivors of international trafficking into U.S.
- 50% had visited a healthcare professional while in captivity
- None were freed as a result of the encounter

Baldwin, SR, Eisenman DP, Syles JN et al. "Identification of Human Trafficking Victims in Healthcare Settings". *Health and Human Rights* (2011) (15) 1:1-14.

Victim Contact with Health Care Provider

- 87.8% of victims interviewed reported contact with healthcare system!

Global Centurion Data, to be published in Loyola Annals of Health Law February 2014

Where victims are seen for healthcare

- Emergency rooms- 59%
- Planned parenthood- 26%
- Family physician- 22%
- Women's clinic- 17%
- Urgent Care facility- 16%
- Neighborhood clinic- 15%

ED Personnel knowledge of trafficking

- Assessed knowledge among ER personnel in 4 large emergency rooms in the NE
 - Never had formal training on trafficking- 98%
 - Knew what trafficking was- 74%
 - Defining TIP
 - 19% were confident in ability to define TIP
 - 80% were hesitant to define TIP
 - 6% had treated a victim of trafficking

Chisholm-Straker, M., Richardson, L.D., and Crossin, T. "Combating Slavery in the 21st century: The role of emergency medicine." (2012) *J Healthcare for Poor and Underserved* 23:980-987.

ED Provider Knowledge of TIP

- Whether HT was a problem in their ER:
 - 27% yes
 - 7% no
 - 59% unsure
- Confident in ability to identify a victim of trafficking- 5%
- Confident in ability to treat a victim of trafficking- 7%

Chisholm-Straker, M., Richardson, L.D., and Crossin, T. "Combating Slavery in the 21st century: The role of emergency medicine." (2012) *J Healthcare for Poor and Underserved* 23:980-987.

ED Personnel knowledge of trafficking

- Results after taking 20 min training program:
 - 90% were confident in ability to define TIP
 - 54% were confident in ability to identify a victim of trafficking
 - 57% were confident in ability to treat a victim of trafficking
 - 93% said session was useful

Chisholm-Straker, M., Richardson, L.D., and Crossin, T. "Combating Slavery in the 21st century: The role of emergency medicine." (2012) *J Healthcare for Poor and Underserved* 23:980-987.

How to Identify and Treat Victims of Trafficking

How might a victim present?



H: Human Trafficking-Consider

E: Examine

A: Ask the Questions

R: Respond & Report

Isaac, Reza, Sobh, Jennifer, and Giardino, Angelo P. (2011) "Health Care Providers' Training Needs Related to Human Trafficking: Maximizing the Opportunity to Effectively Screen and Intervene." *Journal of Applied Research on Children, Informing Policy for Children at Risk* Vol. 1, Iss. 1, Article 8
Available at: <http://ajrcl.commons.library.tmc.edu/digitalcommons/vol2/iss1/8>

3 Categories of Indicators

- Control

- Inconsistencies

- Physical

Control Indicators

- Is the patient accompanied by another person who seems controlling?
 - Person does not allow the patient to answer questions
 - Patient is scared, nervous, or submissive.
 - May exhibit body language displaying fear or anger with person accompanying them

Control Indicators

- Is the patient accompanied by another person who seems controlling?
 - Other person with them may claim or actually be their boyfriend, uncle, husband, brother, sister, mom or dad.
 - Individual avoids all eye contact
 - Not in control of ID documents
 - Not in control of money

Inconsistency Indicators

- Is there something unusual about the history
 - Patient doesn't know where she is
 - Patient unable to give her address
 - Patient may be lying about her age
 - Is she a very poor historian
 - History keeps changing

Inconsistency Indicators

- Is there something unusual about the history
 - All the pieces do not seem to fit together
 - Do you get the feeling you're not getting the whole story
 - Late presentation

Clinical Presentations- Jill

- Brought to ER at age 16 with extensive bleeding
- Accompanied by brother
- States parents killed in auto accident 2 years prior
- Jill suffers from delusions as a result of trauma of losing parents



Clinical Presentations- Jill

- Jill doesn't respond to questioning. Simply stares off into space.



Clinical Presentations- Jill

- Physical findings:
 - Scar on her neck
 - Scars on wrists and ankles
 - Severe anemia
 - + HCG
 - Enlarged uterus
 - Signs of trauma on cervix



Clinical Presentations- Jill

- Tentative diagnosis:
 - Attempted abortion
 - Retained products of conception
 - Severe anemia secondary to hemorrhage.



Clinical Presentations- Jill True picture

- Ran from home at age 14 to escape abuse
- Bruce is her trafficker
- Has been providing sexual services to clients in Bruce's basement for the past 2 years



Clinical Presentations- Natanalie

- 19 year old mother presenting with her infant daughter
- Accompanied by the baby's father
- Infant is being seen because of high fever



Clinical Presentations- Natanalie

- Father does all the talking
- Mother is quiet and appears submissive to father
- Notice a tattoo on mother's upper back that matches the name of the father
- Notice mother's demeanor is not normal



Clinical Presentations- Natanalie True picture

- Natanalie Marie Perez
- Missing from Florida since 6/1/12
- Signs indicate she may have been taken by a human trafficking ring into sex trafficking



Clinical Presentation- Maria

- 28 year old Latino woman presents with her 2 year old son
- Accompanied by a man who claims to be the father
- Son presents with a history of high fever and rash for 3 days



Clinical Presentation- Maria

- Suspect measles
- Accompanying male very controlling
- Mother unable to answer why MMR not given
- Mother appears fearful of father



Clinical Presentation- Maria True Picture

- Maria brought to this country from Honduras in 2008
- Has been working as a domestic servant for a husband and wife also from Honduras
- Raped repeatedly by the husband
- Husband is the father



Further Indicators of Domestic trafficking

- Hotel room key cards
- History of numerous school absences
- False ID's
- Having large amounts of cash, jewelry, new clothes
- Disappearing for blocks of time
- Restricted communication
- Pagers or cell phones not paid by parents or guardians

H: Human Trafficking-Consider

E: Examine

A: Ask the Questions

R: Respond & Report

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Separate the Patient from the Potential Trafficker

Physical Indicators International trafficking

- Unusual Infections
 - Tuberculosis
 - Unusual childhood dx's
- Malnutrition
- Poor hygiene
- Evidence of neglected health
 - Poor dental hygiene



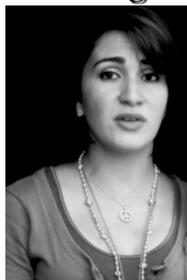
Physical Indicators International trafficking

- Evidence of general or genital trauma
 - Bruises
 - Black eyes
 - Genital bruising
 - Burns
 - Cuts- old and new
 - Broken teeth



Physical Indicators International trafficking

- Evidence of general or genital trauma
 - Old broken bones
 - New fractures
 - Unusual scars
- Multiple STI's
- Chronic PID



Physical Indicators Domestic

- Branding or tattooing
- Substance use/abuse
- Extreme weight loss
- Frequent need for pregnancy tests



Physical Indicators Domestic

- Multiple STI's
- Abnormal Pap
- Signs of physical/genital abuse



Lay Low's Property

What do you do if you suspicions increase after the exam?

H: Human Trafficking-Consider

E: Examine

A: Ask the Questions

R: Respond & Report

Isaac, Reeta, Solih, Jennifer, and Giardino, Angelo P. (2011) "Health Care Providers' Training Needs Related to Human Trafficking: Maintaining the Opportunity to Effectively Screen and Intervene." *Journal of Applied Research on Children: Informing Policy for Children at Risk* Vol. 2, Iss. 1, Article 6
Available at: <http://digitalcommons.library.tmc.edu/didlibenrants/vol2/iss1/8>

Establish Rapport and Trust

- Assign someone from staff to spend time with the patient
 - If available, involve social work department
 - Provide translation as necessary
 - Develop trust
 - Reassure patient that you are there to **HELP** them
- Tell the patient you can protect them from trafficker...**but only if you can!!**
- Ask the questions regarding trafficking

International Human Trafficking: Questions

- Can you leave your work or job situation if you want?
- When you are not working, can you come and go as you please?
- Have you been threatened with harm if you try to quit?
- Has anyone threatened your family?

International Human Trafficking: Questions

- What are your working or living conditions like?
- Where do you sleep and eat?
- Do you have to ask permission to eat, sleep or go to the bathroom?
- Is there a lock on your door or windows so you cannot get out?

Domestic Human Trafficking: Questions

- Have you been asked to have sex with multiple men each night?
- Do you have to meet a quota of money before you can safely return home?
- Has someone forced you to perform sexually before a camera?
- Has anyone taken sexually suggestive photo's of you to post on the Internet?

Domestic Human Trafficking: Questions

- Have photos or listings involving you ever been posted online on Backpage or similar websites?
- Has anyone ever forced you to engage in sexual acts with their friends/business associates?

What do you do if you discover someone who may be a victim of trafficking?

H: Human Trafficking-Consider

E: Examine

A: Ask the Questions

R: Respond & Report

Isaac, Reina, Solak, Jennifer, and Guadalupe, Angela P. (2011) "Health Care Providers' Training Needs Related to Human Trafficking: Maximizing the Opportunity to Effectively Screen and Intervene." *Journal of Applied Research in Children: Informing Policy for Children at Risk*. Vol. 2, No. 1, Article 8.
Available at <http://digitalcommons.library.tmc.edu/childresearch/v02/i01/8>

Important Issue

- Not all local and state law enforcement is trained on the phenomenon of human trafficking
 - So local police may not know what to do
 - May even treat victim as a criminal

You must do your research in advance and develop a protocol for responding to a potential human trafficking victim

Step 1 to develop a protocol

- Call the **Trafficking Information and Referral Hotline 1.888.3737.888.**
- Ask them about:
 - Local community resources working specifically to help victims of trafficking
 - Contact these local agencies and find out about local law enforcement

Step 2 to develop a protocol

- Call the **Department of Homeland Security Hotline at:**
 - **866-347-2423**
- Ask them about:
 - Local law enforcement officials to contact

Step 3 to develop a protocol

- **Assign a member of your staff to:**
 - Interface with law enforcement
 - Interface with community service providers
 - Interface with child protective services
- **Obtain information on the local trafficking problem**
- **Ask them how they suggest you respond and report to them**

Step 4 to develop a protocol

Take this information and condense it into a protocol that contains:

- List of local trafficking indicators
- How to separate potential victim and trafficker
- Designated interviewer
- Provision of interpreting services

Step 4 to develop a protocol

Take this information and condense it into a protocol that contains:

- Steps to ensure security/safety of victim
- Additional historical information to obtain
- Guidelines for when to intervene
- Protocol for when patient refuses intervention
- Guidelines for forensic examination

Step 5 to develop a protocol

- **Train your staff**
 - On Human Trafficking
 - On your protocol

