

# Introduction to Human Trafficking

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# Objectives

- ▶ Define sex trafficking and labor trafficking.
- ▶ Identify individuals who may be victims of human trafficking.
- ▶ Describe how to report cases of human trafficking and resources for victims.

# Overview of Human Trafficking



# Human Trafficking Defined By Federal Law

- ▶ “Severe Forms” of human trafficking are:
  - (a) 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**; or
  - (b) 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.

<sup>1</sup>These definitions are from the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000



# Human Trafficking Defined

- ▶ Simply put, there are three categories of human trafficking victims:
  1. Those under 18 involved in commercial sex acts.
  2. Those 18 or over involved in commercial sex acts through **force, fraud or coercion**.
  3. Those forced to perform labor and/or services in conditions of involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery through **force, fraud or coercion**.

# Human Trafficking Defined by Florida State Statute

- ▣ Chapter 787.06 Human Trafficking
  - The Legislature finds that victims of human trafficking are subjected to force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labor.
  - Engages, or attempts to engage, in human trafficking with the intent or knowledge that the trafficked person will be subjected to forced labor or services; or
  - Benefits financially by receiving anything of value from participation in a venture that has subjected a person to forced labor or services;
  - Commits a felony of the second degree.

# Sex Trafficking Defined by Florida State Statute

## ▶ Chapter 796.045 Sex Trafficking

- ▶ Any person who knowingly recruits, entices, harbors, transports, provides, or obtains by any means a person, knowing that force, fraud, or coercion will be used to cause that person to engage in prostitution, commits the offense of sex trafficking, a felony of the second degree.
- ▶ A person commits a felony of the first degree, if the offense of sex trafficking is committed against a person who is under the age of 14 or if such offense results in death.





# Human Trafficking on the Global Scale

- ▶ According to the 2017 US Department of State report on human trafficking
  - ▶ 20 - 30 million people globally are victims of human trafficking.
  - ▶ Estimated 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year.
  - ▶ Estimated 17,500 people are trafficked into the United States a year.

# Types of Human Trafficking in the United States

- ▶ Sex trafficking (7,859)
- ▶ Labor trafficking (1,249)
- ▶ Trafficking type not specified (1,202)
- ▶ Sex and labor (639)
- ▶ **Total: 10,949**

Cases reported to the NHTRC hotline as of December 31, 2018

# Types of Trafficking in Florida 2018

- ▶ Sex trafficking (524)
- ▶ Labor trafficking (127)
- ▶ Trafficking type not specified (58)
- ▶ Sex and labor (58)
- ▶ Total: 767

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/state/florida>

# Labor Trafficking

- ▶ The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery.
- ▶ Forced labor trafficking involves significant violations of labor, public health, and human rights violations and impacts the nationwide employment network and labor market.

# Labor Trafficking

- ▶ Human trafficking victims make a high number of consumer goods and food products imported to the United States and produced domestically.
- ▶ In the U.S. labor traffickers exploit and enslave both foreign nationals and U.S. citizens.

# Smuggling VS. Human Trafficking

## ▣ Smuggling

- An offense against the integrity of the U.S. borders.
- Focus is transporting or harboring an undocumented person.
- Smugglers make their money early and their “business relationship” with the immigrant terminates at the U.S. border.
- Must involve an undocumented migrant.

## ▣ Human Trafficking

- An offense against a person’s individual rights.
- Focus is coercion and exploitation; no movement required.
- Traffickers may use smuggling debt as a means to control victims.
- Victim can be a citizen, documented migrant, or undocumented migrant.

# The A-M-P Model

## ACTION

- Recruiting
- Harboring
- Transporting
- Providing
- Obtaining
- Patronizing\*
- Soliciting\*

\*Only for sex trafficking

## MEANS

- Force
- Fraud
- Coercion

*DOES NOT NEED TO BE  
PRESENT IN A SITUATION  
OF SEX TRAFFICKING OF  
MINORS*



## PURPOSE

- Commercial Sexual Exploitation
- Forced Labor

**THESE ACTIONS  
ARE CRIMES!**



(U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, 2017)

# Why is Human Trafficking on the Rise

- ▶ Profit
- ▶ Resalable commodity
- ▶ Substantially lower amount of dedicated Resources
- ▶ Lower consequences



# Why is Human Trafficking on the Rise

- ▶ After drug dealing, Human Trafficking is tied for second with the illegal arms trade for the most profitable illicit trade in the world.
  - ▶ Estimated \$36 Billion annually
- ▶ Florida is ranked in the top three of U.S. destination states, with New York and California, for trafficking victims.

# Challenges in Combating Human Trafficking

- ▶ Lack of social services for victims.
- ▶ Difficult to identify victims & traffickers.
- ▶ Cooperation of victims difficult to obtain.
- ▶ Discrepancies between federal and state laws.
- ▶ Lack of public knowledge/prevention programs.

# How Are Victims Trafficked?

*Force, fraud and coercion are methods used by traffickers to press victims into lives of servitude, & abuse*

- ▶ **Force:** Rape, beatings, confinement.
- ▶ **Fraud:** Includes false and deceptive offers of employment, marriage, better life.
- ▶ **Coercion:** Threats of serious harm to, or physical restraint of, any person; any scheme, plan or pattern intended to cause victims to believe that failure to perform an act would result in restraint against them; or the abuse or threatened abuse of the legal process.



# Who are the Victims of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking?

- ▶ Youth of any ethnicity, race, or religion.
- ▶ Youth of any socio-economic class.
- ▶ Female, male, and transgender youth.
- ▶ Youth of all ages, including teenagers.
- ▶ Vulnerable youth.



# Possible Trafficking Indicators

- ▶ Excess amount of cash.
- ▶ Hotel room keys.
- ▶ Chronic runaway/homeless youth.
- ▶ Signs of branding (tattoo, jewelry).
- ▶ Lying about age/false identification.
- ▶ Inconsistencies in story.
- ▶ Lack of knowledge of a given community or whereabouts.



# Myths and Misconceptions

- ▶ **Myth:** The child knew what they were getting into.  
**Fact:** Victims are often seduced, coerced, tricked or forced into prostitution by pimps.
- ▶ **Myth:** The child is a criminal.  
**Fact:** The child is a victim of the crime of sex trafficking.
- ▶ **Myth:** The victim was paid for his or her services.  
**Fact:** All or most of the money usually goes to the pimp; the child rarely keeps any.
- ▶ **Myth:** The child had freedom of movement.  
**Fact:** Victims are held in physical and/or emotional bondage and are not free to leave.

# Recognizing Indicators of Human Trafficking in Healthcare Settings



# When do Victims Seek Medical Services?

- ▶ In an emergency.
- ▶ After an assault.
- ▶ After a workplace injury.
- ▶ For gynecological services.
- ▶ For prenatal care.
- ▶ For routine checkups.
- ▶ For mental health services.
- ▶ For addiction treatment For pre-existing conditions.
- ▶ For health issues unrelated to trafficking.



In one study, 87.8% of trafficking survivors reported accessing healthcare services during their trafficking situation.

Of these survivors, 68.3% were seen at an emergency department.

(Lederer &Wetzel, 2014)

# Recognizing Indicators of Labor Trafficking

## ▶ Physical indicators

- ▶ Musculoskeletal and ergonomic injuries. Malnutrition/Dehydration.
- ▶ Lack of routine screening and preventive care.
- ▶ Poor dental hygiene.
- ▶ Untreated skin infections/Inflammations Injuries or illness from exposure to harmful chemicals/unsafe water.
- ▶ Ophthalmology issues or Vision complaints
- ▶ Somatization.



# Recognizing Indicators of Labor Trafficking

## ▶ Behavioral Indicators

- ▶ Anxiety/Panic attacks (e.g. shortness of breath, chest pains.)
- ▶ Unexplained/Conflicting stories.
- ▶ Overly vigilant or paranoid behavior.
- ▶ Inability/Aversion to make decisions independent of employer.
- ▶ Inability/Aversion to speak without an interpreter.
- ▶ Affect dysregulation/Irritability.

# Recognizing Indicators of Adult Sex Trafficking

- ▶ **Physical Indicators**
  - ▶ Multiple or recurrent STIs.
  - ▶ Abnormally high number of sexual partners. Trauma to vagina and/or rectum.
  - ▶ Impacted tampon in vagina.
  - ▶ Signs of physical trauma.
  - ▶ Somatization symptoms (recurring headaches, abdominal pain, etc.) Suspicious tattoos or branding.



# Recognizing Indicators of Adult Sex Trafficking

## ▶ Behavioral Indicators

- ▶ Depressed mood/Flat affect Anxiety/Hyper-vigilance/ Panic attacks.
- ▶ Affect dysregulation/Irritability.
- ▶ Frequent emergency care visits. Unexplained/Conflicting stories.
- ▶ Using language from “the life.”
- ▶ Signs of drug or alcohol abuse.

# Recognizing Indicators of Child Sex Trafficking

## ▣ Behavioral Indicators

- ▶ History of running away from home or foster care placements.
- ▶ Truancy/Stops attending school.
- ▶ Highly sexualized behavior or dress. Angry/Aggressive with staff.
- ▶ Depressed mood/Flat affect.
- ▶ Signs of drug or alcohol abuse.

# Recognizing Indicators of Child Sex Trafficking

## ▣ Physical Indicators

- ▶ Pregnancy at young age.
- ▶ Evidence of abortions at young age.
- ▶ Early sexual initiation.
- ▶ Trauma to vagina and/or rectum.
- ▶ Symptoms of STIs and/or UTIs.
- ▶ Abnormal number of sexual partners for young age.
- ▶ Suspicious tattoos or branding.

# Healthcare Response to Human Trafficking





# Trauma-informed Approach

- ▶ Be aware that changes in memory do not necessarily indicate falsehood or storytelling, but may be indicative of a trauma response.
- ▶ Help break down tasks concretely; assume that even small tasks may feel overwhelming.

# Barriers to Self-Disclosure

- ▶ Shame or guilt.
- ▶ Fear of retaliation by the trafficker.
- ▶ Fear of arrest or deportation.
- ▶ Lack of transportation or controlled movement.
- ▶ Fear of a report to social services.
- ▶ Lack of understanding of US Healthcare System.



# Victim-Centered Approach

- ▶ Meet basic needs.
- ▶ Reassure the potential victim.
- ▶ Build trust and rapport.
- ▶ Be conscious of language.
- ▶ Remain sensitive to power dynamics.
- ▶ Avoid re-traumatization.

# Trauma-informed Approach

- ▶ If the individual appears shut down or disconnected; this may be a sign that the person is overwhelmed.
- ▶ Have materials available that support regulation of affect and impulses during meetings, conversation, or testimony.
- ▶ Check in to make sure the survivor is hearing and understanding your statements or questions and provide frequent breaks.

# Trauma-informed Approach

- ▶ Check in to make sure the survivor is hearing and understanding your statements or questions and provide frequent breaks.
- ▶ Be aware that changes in memory do not necessarily indicate falsehood or storytelling, but may be a trauma response.
- ▶ Try to hold interviews or other key conversations at a time when the survivor feels most stable and safe.

# Trauma-informed Approach

- ▶ Don't take strong reactions personally; manage your own emotional responses.
- ▶ Provide opportunities for control and empowerment whenever possible.
- ▶ Be aware of the importance of physical as well as emotional supports.
- ▶ Be aware of the often confusing nature of the individual's relationships with the perpetrators; be conscious of not making assumptions.



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# Screening Questions

- ▶ Have you had any injuries that you are worried about?
- ▶ Are you worried about any recent sexual activity, such as STI risk or pregnancy?
- ▶ When is the last time you had a meal?
- ▶ Where do you sleep?
- ▶ Are you able to keep the earnings you make, or does someone take all or part of your earnings?
- ▶ When was the last time you were paid?



# Victim Needs

- ▶ Emergency
  - ▶ Safety, housing, food/clothing.
- ▶ Short Term/Long Term
  - ▶ Legal assistance.
  - ▶ Intensive case management.
  - ▶ Medical care.
  - ▶ Alcohol and substance abuse counseling/treatment.
  - ▶ Mental Health counseling.
  - ▶ Life skills training.
  - ▶ Education.
  - ▶ Job training/employment.
  - ▶ Family reunification.

# Your Role

- ▶ **Recognize:** the indicators of human trafficking.
- ▶ **Respond:** victim centered, trauma informed. approach
- ▶ **Refer:** coordinate services with local providers, contact hotlines for more information.

# What Can You Do?

- ▶ Coordinate with local service providers to meet the needs of victims.
- ▶ Contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline
  - ▶ 1-888-373-7888.
- ▶ Contact the Florida Domestic Violence Hotline
  - ▶ 1-800-500-1119
- ▶ Call 911



800-355-8547

24-hour hotline

# Resources

- ▶ National Human Trafficking Hotline
  - ▶ <http://humantraffickinghotline.org>
- ▶ Polaris Project
  - ▶ <http://www.polarisproject.org>
- ▶ Department of Justice
  - ▶ <http://www.justice.gov>
- ▶ HumanTrafficking.org
  - ▶ <http://www.humantrafficking.org/>
- ▶ Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking
  - ▶ <http://www.stophumantrafficking.org/>
- ▶ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
  - ▶ <http://www.unodc.org>

# References

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