Human Trafficking and Health Professionals

LOOK BENEATH THE SURFACE AND H.E.A.R YOUR PATIENT

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Look Beneath the Surface and **H.E.A.R** Your Patient

**H:** Human Trafficking and Health Professionals

**E:** Examine

**A:** Ask

**R:** Respond
Human Trafficking and Healthcare Professionals

PART 1: H.E.A.R
A-M-P Model

ACTION
- Recruiting
- Harboring
- Transporting
- Providing
- Obtaining

MEANS
- Force
- Fraud
- Coercion

PURPOSE
- Sexual Exploitation
- Labor Exploitation

= Human Trafficking
**Elements of Trafficking**

**Force** – physical method to manipulate and control victim
- Examples: isolation, physical or sexual abuse, starvation, rape

**Fraud** - involves false offers that induce people into trafficking situations
- Examples: debt bondage, offering a job different from reality, establishing a false romantic relationship with the victim

**Coercion** – threats compelling an individual to remain in a situation
- Examples: threats of deportation, blackmail, threats against family members
# Human Trafficking vs. Human Smuggling

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Smuggling</th>
<th>Trafficking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crime against a border</td>
<td>Crime against a person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation based</td>
<td>Exploitation based</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Requires international border crossing</td>
<td>No international border crossing required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary</td>
<td>Involuntary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commodity = transportation service</td>
<td>Commodity = a person</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adapted from Homeland Security Investigation Human Trafficking PowerPoint Presentation (2015)
Crimes Confused with Human Trafficking

- Hostage Taking
- Smuggling
- Prostitution
- Kidnapping
- Child Abuse
- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Assault/Rape
- Wage Theft
Where Does Trafficking Occur?

**LABOR TRAFFICKING**
- Panhandling sites
- Restaurants
- Landscaping Sites
- Agricultural Locales
- Sweatshops
- Fishing Industry
- Constructions Sites
- Factories
- Shipping Ports

**SEX TRAFFICKING**
- Truck Stops
- Escort Services
- Major Sporting Events
- Cantinas
- Internet

**SEX TRAFFICKING**
- Street Corner
- Nail Salons
- Hotels
- Privates Homes
- Massage Parlors
- Strip Clubs
- Casinos
Human Trafficking is a Global Issue

- Estimated # of people in forced labor: 21 million*
- Annual Estimated Profit: $150 Billion, 2/3 ($99 billion) are in sexual exploitation*
- Female 55% Male 45%
- Children 26% Adults 74%
- The number of victims identified globally (44,462) reflects only 0.2% of the victims in existence.**

Houston, We Have A Problem

Department of Justice declared Houston one of the most intense human trafficking jurisdictions in the country

- Proximity to the U.S. - Mexico border
- Major international airport, seaport, and interstate roadways
- Diverse labor sector
- Diverse and sprawling community
- Large immigrant population

What is Houston doing about it?

- State legislation
- Houston Area Council on Human Trafficking
- Human Trafficking Rescue Alliance
Who is Vulnerable to Human Trafficking?

Poverty, Homelessness, or lack of opportunities
Language barrier
Undocumented
Past sexual/physical abuse/neglect
Learning or physical disabilities
Low Self-esteem

Looking for love, affection and attention
Runaway/ Throwaway Youth
GLBTQ Youth
Migrant workers and indigenous people
Racial and ethnic minorities
Who are the Human Traffickers?

Family members
Neighbors
Friends
Intimate partners
Classmates

Organized Crime
Diplomats & Governments

Agricultural Operations
Garment Industry
Business Owners
Covenant House Study on Traffickers Relationship to Victim

- Immediate Family: 36%
- Boyfriends: 27%
- Immediate Family: 14%
- Friends of Family: 14%
- Employers: 14%
- Strangers: 9%

Bigelson et al. 2013
## How do Traffickers Control Their Victims?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical abuse</th>
<th>Documentation withholding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sexual abuse</td>
<td>Debt bondage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starvation</td>
<td>Threats of deportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isolation</td>
<td>Threats against the victim’s family or friends in his/her home country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychological abuse</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug dependency</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Examine

PART 2: H.E.A.R
Health Professionals are Important Stakeholders

Victim Encounters with the U.S Healthcare System

- 50% Foreign Nationals
- 87.8% Domestic Sex Trafficking

Baldwin et al. 2011
Lederer & Wetzel 2014

28% of human trafficking victims came into contact with the health care system while in captivity

(Family Violence Prevention and World Childhood Foundation, 2005)
What to Look For?

- Indicators of Being Controlled
- Red Flags
- Physical Indicators
Control Indicators for Victims

Control may be **physical** and displayed through:
- “Buddy” accompanying the person
- Restricted communication

Control may be **psychological** and displayed through:
- Frequent texting or phone calls during visit
- Patient appearing unusually anxious or hurried

Rescue & Restore 2008
Sabella 2011
Greenbaum 2014
Look Beneath the Surface: RED FLAGS

CLIENT’S HISTORY
- Lying about age/false identification
- Inconsistencies in story
- Restricted/scripted communication
- Wearing clothing inconsistent with weather
- Carrying false identification
- Lack of knowledge of a given community or whereabouts
- History of running away

PHYSICAL SIGNS
- Signs of branding (tattoo, scars)
- Injuries/signs of physical or sexual abuse
- Suspicious Injuries
- Broken Teeth
- Eye injury/Strain
- Migraine or Tension Headaches
- Hearing Loss Due to Injury
- Neglected Chronic Illness/Pain
- Unusual Infectious Disease
- Gastrointestinal Complaints
- Signs of drug and/or alcohol dependency
**Sexual/Reproductive Issues**

- Chronic pelvic pain and/or dyspareunia
- Chronic pelvic inflammatory disease
- Multiple sexually transmitted infections
- Unwanted pregnancy
- Abortion-related complications
- Neglected pregnancy complications
- Genital trauma
- Anal trauma

**Signs & Symptoms of Neglect**

- Lack of preventative health care
- Neglect of chronic illness or injury
- Dermatological problem
- Dental neglect
- Weight loss/malnourishment
- Poor Hygiene
Look Beneath the Surface: RED FLAGS

**Psychological Signs of Trauma**

- Depressions
- PTSD
- Poor Interpersonal
- Affective/Anxiety symptoms
- Disassociation
- Sleeping problems
- Hostility

- Suicidal Ideations
- Substance abuse issues
- Excessive guilt or shame
- Low Self-esteem
- Fearfulness
- Complex PTSD
Department of Homeland Security’s Blue Campaign: Labor Trafficking in a Medical Clinic
Ask

PART 3: H.E.A.R
Trauma - Informed Care

Trauma-Informed Care is defined as and includes:

- A basic knowledge of trauma and its impact
- Understanding trauma triggers (victims’ and one’s own) to minimize re-traumatization
- Providing information about trauma to victims
- Helping victims manage feelings; feel in control of their situation; give input on program/services
- Supporting emotional safety for victims and staff
Questions to Ask

Are you OK?

Have you been physically or sexually harmed in any way?

Has anyone threatened or harmed your family?

Where do you live, sleep, eat?

Can you come and go as you please?

Has your identification or documentation been taken from you?

Can you freely contact friends and family?
Respond

PART 4: H.E.A.R
Your Role as a Healthcare Provider

1. Take care of all immediate medical needs

2. Get more information
   - Separate
     - When to separate?
     - What reason to give (hospital/clinic protocol, need an x-ray, etc.
     - Who will do the separating?
     - What safety measures are needed?
   - Interview

3. Report

4. Refer to resources
**Reporting Protocol**

**Minors (under 18 years old)**

Reporting cases of possible human trafficking should follow the same protocol as reporting abuse and neglect in compliance with HIPAA

- Mandatory Reporting to Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
- National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline

**Adults**

**CONSENT** – Call NHTRC

**NO CONSENT** – healthcare provider is not allowed to relay any personal information about the individual as in accordance to HIPAA

- Memorize the National Trafficking Hotline number and go over it with the individual in case they decide to call in the future
- Empower the individual by giving them the ability to call the hotline themselves.

National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline

1-888-3737-888

Operated by Polaris Project

Staffed 24/7

Multi-lingual

More information

Report a tip

Operated by Polaris Project

Staffed 24/7

Multi-lingual

More information

Report a tip
Working with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) (s)

The HIPAA Privacy Rule specifically permits certain disclosures to report injury or abuse.

Examples:
- Reports of child abuse or neglect
- Disclosures required by law
- Disclosures agreed to by the individual
- Disclosures necessary to prevent harm
- Reports of crime in emergencies

Human trafficking can also be reported without violating HIPAA regulations if no identifiable health information is divulged.
What Do Victims Need??

Housing
- Evaluate current living situation
- Safety, temporary, longer-term, affordability

Interpreters
- Identify ahead of time a bank of approved interpreters who are available locally 24/7
- Consider gender issues, regional dialect

Mental health and possible effects of trauma

Legal services

Identification

Education/Employment

Gynecological Issues
- STDs, HIV/AIDS, fertility, miscarriages, abortions, pregnancies, cervical cancer, family planning

Substance Abuse
- Drug and alcohol abuse

Disabilities
- Pre-term births, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, genetic defects, cognitive disabilities

Other
- Disfiguration, Urinary Tract Infections, dialysis, diet
Local Services for Trafficked Persons

YMCA International
Trafficking Persons Assistance Program (TPAP)

(713-339-9015)

Primary victim service provider for all victims of trafficking in Greater Houston

• Housing/shelter
• Safety planning
• Interpretation/translation services
• Medical and mental health services
• Transportation

• Food/clothes
• Legal/immigration assistance
• ESL/GED classes
• Cultural orientation
• Client advocacy
Additional Local Service Providers

Catholic Charities (713-526-4611)
• Provide legal services for immigrant and foreign national victims

Houston Area Women’s Center (713-528-2121)
• Shelter and support services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence

Boat People SOS (281-530-6888)
• Legal services, linguistic services and case management for immigrant populations, primarily from Asia

Fe y Justicia Worker Center (713-862-8222)
• Space for low-wage workers to learn workplace rights and organize to improve conditions on the job
Additional Local Service Providers

Montrose Center (713-529-0037)
  • Counseling and outreach for the LGBTQ community

Kinder Emergency Shelter (713-295-2700)
  • Shelter for domestic minor victims including case management and individual counseling

Freedom Place
  • Residential Treatment Center for female domestic minors who are victims of sex trafficking.
  • Freedom Place is NOT an Emergency Shelter or Safe House.
  • Treatment includes: individual, group and family therapy, trauma counseling, schooling including GED, job training, life skills.
  • To make a referral call: (281) 210-1544
Thank You!!

- Tel: (713) 874-0290
- Email: contact@uaht.org
- Visit our website: www.uaht.org

@UAgainstHT
United Against Human Trafficking

See it. Report it: 1-888-3737-888