Identifying Human Trafficking
The Blue Campaign
No Disclosures

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Learning Objectives

- Review the definition of human trafficking
- Identify risk factors, key indicators and other warning signs
- Describe ways in which healthcare professionals come in contact with victims of human trafficking
- Provide general guidelines for the approach to a trafficking victim, and resources for the both the patient and healthcare professional
What is Human Trafficking?

The US Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) defines **SEVERE** forms of trafficking in humans as:

- Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud or coercion **OR** in which the person induced to perform such act **has not attained 18 years of age**

- 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.
The Scope of the Problem

- More than 20 million people living in slavery worldwide
- 600,000-800,000 trafficked across international borders
- 85% of trafficked victims in the United States are US citizens, and about half are minors
- Women and children comprise the majority of forced labor (55%) and sex trafficking victims (85-90%)
- 100,000-300,000 U.S. children per year at risk of being sex trafficked
- Average age of entry into commercial sex trade is 12-14 for girls and 11-13 for boys
Location of Potential Human Trafficking Cases in the U.S.

This map only reflects cases where the location of the potential trafficking was known. Some cases may involve more than one location.
KANANI TITCHEN, MD
RESIDENT PEDIATRICIAN, JEFFERSON/A.I. DUPONT
AMERICAN MEDICAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
**Figure 1: Three Common Elements of Human Trafficking — Act, Means, and Purpose**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACT</th>
<th>MEANS</th>
<th>PURPOSE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recruitment</td>
<td>Threat or use of force</td>
<td>Exploitation, including:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>Coercion</td>
<td>• Prostitution of others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer</td>
<td>Abduction</td>
<td>• Sexual exploitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harbouring</td>
<td>Fraud</td>
<td>• Forced labor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipt of persons</td>
<td>Deception</td>
<td>• Slavery or similar practices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Abuse of power or vulnerability</td>
<td>• Removal of organs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Giving payments or benefits</td>
<td>• Other types of exploitation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Who is at RISK?

- Sexual abuse as children
  - 70-90% of commercially sexually exploited children have a history of sexual abuse
  - Children with sex abuse history are 28 times more likely to be arrested for prostitution at some point in their lives
- Foster care
  - 85% of trafficked youth have prior child welfare involvement
- LGBT youth
- Poor, minority youth
- Victims of dating violence and/or rape
HUGH ORGAN, MS
ASSOCIATE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
COVENANT HOUSE PENNSYLVANIA
Physical Indicators

- Signs of physical trauma
- Branding tattoos
- Unusual infections such as TB or immunizable diseases
- Multiple STIs
- Several somatic symptoms arising from stress
- Malnutrition, dehydration
- Multiple pregnancies or abortions
- Unusual occupational injuries
Red Flags

- Inconsistent or scripted history
- Discrepancy between history and clinical presentation
- Unable to give address
- Doesn’t know current city
- Minor trading sex for something of value
  - food, shelter, drugs, money
- Unusually high number of sexual partners
- Late presentation
- Carrying large amount of cash
- Appears younger than stated age
Control Indicators

- Accompanied by a controlling person
- Controlling person doesn’t allow patient to answer
- Person interrupts or corrects patient
- Patient exhibits fear, nervousness, avoids eye contact
- Patient not in control of passport (foreign national)
- Patient frequently receives texts or calls during exam
- Patient exhibits hyper-vigilance or subordinate demeanor
HOLLY G. ATKINSON, MD, FACP
DIRECTOR, HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM
ARNHOLD GLOBAL HEALTH INSTITUTE AT MOUNT SINAI
Offer Support

- Are you okay?
- Are you comfortable?
- Do you need a blanket?
- Do you want something to eat?
- Are you in pain?
Victims’ Perspectives

- Don’t disclose status due to fear, shame, language barriers and short time with providers
- May not want to be “rescued”
  - Fear, threats, retaliation
  - Stockholm syndrome, traumatic bonding
  - Do not self-identify as victims
  - May have criminal records
  - Past traumas, notably sexual abuse
Interviewing

- Engage trust
- Non-judgmental
- Allow patient to be “in control” of the situation as much as possible
- Understand that...
  - Sexual victimization is a learned behavior and not a choice
  - Victims, not offenders
- May fear deportation, distrust law/authority
- Unaware of rights
- Don’t identify as a victim
Complex Trauma $\Rightarrow$ Severe PTSD

*Sexual Abuse - Assault - Rape*

$30 \text{ “johns” } \times 7 \text{ days/week} = 210 \text{ RAPES per WEEK}$
KANANI TITCHEN, MD
RESIDENT PEDIATRICIAN, JEFFERSON/A.I. DUPONT
AMERICAN MEDICAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
Case Presentation

- You are called to a house fire in a dilapidated old house.
- The fire is easily extinguished. All 5 inhabitants are scantily clad, thin and shivering in the cold.
- What are your thoughts?
Questions to Consider

- Where do you live?
- Do you sleep, eat, and work all in the same place?
- Can you leave your work or job if you want to?
- Have you been threatened or hurt?
- Has anyone threatened your family?
Resources for Victims

- **Domestic:**
  - National Human Trafficking Resource Center
    - 888-3737-888
  - Polaris Project
    - Text “BeFree”

- **International:**
  - U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Victim Assistance Program
    - 886-872-4973
Case Presentation

- You respond to a call regarding a noisy disturbance at a local hotel near the stadium on superbowl weekend:
- You 3 women in the room. One is unconscious with multiple injuries. She is very thin and appears to be approximately 15 years of age. The second alert, also injured and very quiet with downcast eyes. One older woman is present, who describes herself as the aunt.

What are your thoughts?
Case Presentation

- You respond to a call about a residential fall from an upper story window.
- You find a young man with obvious injuries. The middle-aged woman in attendance says she will take her adopted son to the hospital in her car. The young man appears fearful, doesn’t speak, but nods in agreement to what she says.

What are your thoughts?
Intervention

- Have information ready before you call
  - Social worker, case manager, abuse hotline
- Say that you may have a human trafficking victim
  - This is important as it invokes a different protocol
- Call DCF if victim is a child or vulnerable adult
  - Mandatory reporters
Discussion Point

- A 16 year old female decides to trade sex for money, shelter or a meal

- *Is she a prostitute (criminal)?*
- *Is she a victim?*
Health Outcomes: Trafficked Women

- 95% report physical or sexual violence while trafficked
- 59% report pre-trafficking abuse
- 76% report never having personal freedom
- Most have multiple physical and psychological problems
  - 63% have 10 or more concurrent health problems
  - 57% PTSD
  - 39% suicidal thoughts in preceding week
  - 62% memory difficulties
Health Outcomes: Minors

- Health outcomes strongly associated with trafficking
  - Suicide
  - Sexually transmitted infections
  - Unplanned pregnancy
  - Substance abuse
  - Injuries related to violence

- Leading cause of death in sexual exploitation victims
  - Homicide
  - HIV/AIDS
Severe Harm

Physical
- Injuries from violence
- Gynecologic
- Untreated chronic conditions
- Poor dentition
- Malnourishment

Psychological
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Suicidality
- Addiction
- Eating disorders
- Complex-trauma related PTSD
- Trauma-bonding and Stockholm syndrome
Have you seen anyone you suspected as a victim of human trafficking?

- What did you notice?
- Did you ask any questions?
- What did you do?
- Would you do anything differently now?
CAN YOU SEE HER?
It’s time to open our eyes. Victims of the sex trade, domestic servitude, and forced labor have been invisible, until now.

TO REPORT SUSPECTED TRAFFICKING CALL
1-866-DHS-2-ICE
1-866-347-2423

For victim support call 1-888-373-7888
Text INFO or HELP to BeFree (233733)
Resources for Healthcare Professionals

- The Blue Campaign [http://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign](http://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign)
- Comprehensive Human Trafficking Assessment by the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) and adapted by Polaris Project, 2012 [https://polarisproject.adobeconnect.com/_a983384736/medical-module/](https://polarisproject.adobeconnect.com/_a983384736/medical-module/)
- HEAL Trafficking [https://healtrafficking.wordpress.com/](https://healtrafficking.wordpress.com/)
References


