

Healthcare's Response to Human Trafficking

Presented by:
Forensic Healthcare Consulting
Central Ohio Rescue & Restore Coalition



Objectives

- Recognize the different forms of human trafficking
- Recognize the physical and mental health consequences of trafficking victims
- List 2 characteristics of human trafficking victims that may assist in their identification in the healthcare setting

What is Human Trafficking?

- Modern-day slavery
- Exploitation of men, women and children for commercial sex or labor purposes
- The second largest and fastest growing criminal industry in the world

•150 years since the Emancipation Proclamation

- Yet today, there are more slaves in the world than ever before

Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)

- Legal definitions
 - Sex Trafficking
 - Labor Trafficking
 - Must prove force, fraud or coercion if >18 yrs

TVPA

- Goals
 - Prevention – international and domestic
 - Protection for victims
 - Prosecution of traffickers

International Scope of Trafficking

- 800,000 trafficked across international borders
- 17,500 trafficked into the US
- 80% transnational victims are women and girls
US Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report 2008
- 27 million people living in slavery today

Two Broad Categories of Human Trafficking

Labor Trafficking

- Domestic Service
- Sweat Shops/Factories
- Begging
- Agricultural Work
- Mining
- Brick Kilns
- Child Soldiers

Sex Trafficking

- Prostitution
- Pornography
- Stripping
- Lap Dancing
- Live-Sex Shows
- Mail-order Brides
- Child Brides

Vulnerability Factors: Labor Trafficking

- High unemployment
- Poverty
- Crime
- Discrimination
- Corruption
- Political conflict
- Cultural acceptance of practice

US Trafficking in Persons Report 2008

Forms of Labor Trafficking

- Debt Bondage
 - Victims must reimburse his/her traffickers
 - Amount to be repaid set by the traffickers

Forms of Labor Trafficking

- Forced Labor
 - Victim forced to work against their will
 - Threat of violence
 - Freedom restricted
 - Degree of ownership

Forms of Labor Trafficking

Child Labor

- Work likely to be hazardous to the health and/or development of children
- 246 million exploited children between 5-17 years of age

Prevalence of Labor Trafficking

- 122 goods produced in 58 countries
- More goods made with child labor than forced labor

US Department of Labor: Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking

Who Are The Traffickers?

- Organized crime
- Neighbors, friends, family members, village chiefs
- Agricultural operations
- Business owners
- Boyfriend
- Pimp

SEX TRAFFICKING

Commercial sex act induced by force, fraud, coercion, or in which the individual is under the age of 18

Sex Trafficking in the US?

- 100,000 to 300,000 US children at risk
- 100,000 children involved
- Average age of entry - 12 to 14 years
- 90% of runaway youth

Estes, R., & Weiner, N. A. (2001) *Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the U.S., Canada and Mexico*
Shared Hope International, Demand: A Comparative Examination of Sex Tourism and Trafficking in Jamaica, Japan, The Netherlands, and the United States US Department of Justice
Congressional Victims Rights Caucus and Congressional Trafficking Caucus July 21, 2009

Factors Associated with Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking

- Runaway children
- Adult prostitution markets
- Prior history of sexual abuse
- Poverty

Estes, R., & Weiner, N. A. (2001) *Commercial Sexual Exploitation Of children in the U.S., Canada and Mexico*

Where Do Victims Come From?

- Cities, suburbs, small towns
- All races, ethnic groups
- All walks of life

Recruitment into Sex Trafficking

- Malls, corner stores
- Friend's house
- Truck stops
- Sporting events
- Outside juvenile justice center

Williamson, C., Prior, M. Domestic minor sex trafficking: A network of underground players in the Midwest (2009). *Journal of Child & Adolescent Trauma*, 2(1) 46-61.

Factors Associated with Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking

- Large numbers of unattached/transient males
- Membership in gangs
- Promotion of child prostitution by family/friends
- Organized crime

Estes, R., & Weiner, N. A. (2001) *Commercial Sexual Exploitation Of Children in the U.S., Canada and Mexico*

Traffickers Exploit Vulnerability

- Identify vulnerable
- Befriend them
- Show love and affection
- Isolate from family/friends
- Control/exploit

Pimp Control/Traffickers

- Masters of the art of seduction
- Torture tactics
 - Physical
 - Psychological

Dr. Celia Williamson, University of Toledo and Second Chance

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN OHIO

"Ohio is not only a destination place for foreign-born trafficking victims, but it's also a recruitment place"

-Celia Williamson, associate professor at the University of Toledo

Human Trafficking in Ohio

- Extensive highway system
- Most truck stops in the nation
- 5th most strip clubs
- Agricultural industry
- Close to Canada

Example of the Buyers

- Human trafficking case in Toledo
 - Member of the Toledo Opera Guild
 - A business man
 - A Lawyer
 - A builder
 - Women were sellers

Toledo Blade May 27, 2012

Ohio Attorney General Human Trafficking Study Commission

- Purpose
 - Understand the problem
 - Make recommendations

Report on the Prevalence of Human Trafficking in Ohio

- **6,316** Ohio children are at risk
- **1,861** are believed to be trafficked in Ohio today

THE IMPACT OF TRAFFICKING ON VICTIMS

“They didn’t see us as human beings, but just as whores, just as flesh that they could use. That’s all.”

Study of Trafficking Survivors

- 28% came in contact with the health care system
- Emergency department personnel
 - 13% felt confident in identifying a victim
 - 3% had training

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

•Chisolm-Strike M, Richardson L. Assessment of emergency department provider knowledge about human trafficking victims in the ED. *Acad Emerg Med* 2007

Health Concerns

- Preventive health care non-existent
- Health problems not treated in early stages
 - *Tend to fester until they become critical, life-endangering situations*

Physical Harms of Human Trafficking

- Older broken bones
 - Bed bugs
 - Traumatic brain injury
 - Burns, bruising, bite marks
 - Rape, vaginal/anal tearing
 - Stab wounds, torture
- http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/about/fact_sex.html Polaris Project

Physical Harms of Human Trafficking

- Reproductive Health Problems
 - Alcohol/drug use
 - Chronic back, visual or respiratory problems
- http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/about/fact_sex.html
Polaris Project

Health Issues Associated with Victims

- Malnourishment
- Poor dental hygiene
- Unusual infectious diseases

Psychological Harms of Sex Trafficking

- Mind/body separation
- Depression, hopelessness
- Anxiety disorders
- Self destructive behaviors
- Traumatic bonding with perpetrator

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/about/fact_sex.htm
www/icfi.com/transition

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

- Level of PTSD 68%, same as combat veterans

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking>
Farley et al. (2003). Prostitution and Trafficking in Nine Countries: An Update on Violence and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder. *Prostitution, Trafficking, and Traumatic Stress*.

Current research in US

- 2012 – 107 survivors of domestic sex trafficking
- Age 14-60
- 12 cities

Lederer, L. J., Wetzel, C. A. (2014). The health consequences of sex trafficking and their implications for identifying victims in healthcare facilities. *Annals of Health Law*, 23, 61-91.

Common Forms of Violence/Abuse	
Forced sex	82%
Punched	74%
Beaten	69%
Kicked	68%
Forced unprotected sex	68%
Threatened with a weapon	66%
Strangled	54%
Abused by person of authority	51%

Lederer, L. J., Wetzel, C. A. (2014). The health consequences of sex trafficking and their implications for identifying victims in healthcare facilities. *Annals of Health Law*, 23, 61-91.

Category	% Reporting at least one symptom
Any physical health problem	99%
Neurological	92%
General Health	86%
Injuries	69%
Cardiovascular/Respiratory	69%
Gastrointestinal	62%
Dental	54%

Lederer, L. J., Wetzel, C. A. (2014). The health consequences of sex trafficking and their implications for identifying victims in healthcare facilities. *Annals of Health Law*, 23, 61-91.

Psychological Health Problems	
Depression	89%
Flashbacks	68%
Shame/Guilt	82%
PTSD	55%
Attempted suicide	42%

Lederer, L. J., Wetzel, C. A. (2014). The health consequences of sex trafficking and their implications for identifying victims in healthcare facilities. *Annals of Health Law*, 23, 61-91.

Any contact with healthcare

88%

Lederer, L. J., Wetzel, C. A. (2014). The health consequences of sex trafficking and their implications for identifying victims in healthcare facilities. *Annals of Health Law*, 23, 61-91.

IDENTIFYING TRAFFICKED PERSONS

Identifying Victims

- Frontline health providers play an important role
- Many victims are in plain sight
- Opportunities to intercede:
 - Law enforcement & Healthcare

Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking

- Accompanying person seems controlling
- Physical abuse
- Submissive or fearful
- Communication difficulties
- Lack of identification

Barriers to Identification

- Watched, escorted or guarded
- Coached answers
- Unaware of what is being done to them is a crime
- Loyalty toward trafficker as coping mechanism

Barriers to Identification

- Moved frequently
- Fear for safety of family
- Fear and shame
- Self-blame, hopelessness
- Dependent on trafficker

If you have a suspicion of trafficking.....

- National Hotline 888-373-7888
- Text National Hotline "BeFree" or 233733

Communicating with Victims

- If you choose to question a potential trafficking victim:
 - **Isolate** without raising suspicions
- Many require a translator

Communicating with Victims

- Strict confidentiality
 - *Ask questions in safe, confidential and trusting environment*
 - *Limit number of people in contact with victim*
- Indirect and sensitive
 - *May deny being a victim, so best not to ask direct questions*
 - *Phrase "trafficking victim" will have no meaning*

Communicating with Victims

- *Questions to ask:*
 - Can you leave your job or situation if you want?
 - Can you come and go as you please?
 - Have you been threatened if you try to leave?
 - Have you been physically harmed in any way?
 - What are your working or living conditions like?
 - Have you ever had to exchange sex for food, shelter or drugs?

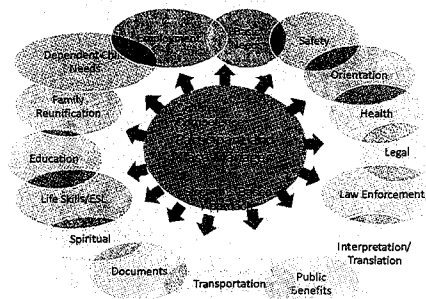
Communicating with Victims : Messages

- Gaining victim's trust
- Sample messages to convey:
 - *We are here to help you*
 - *Our first priority is your safety*
 - *We are not in the business of deportation*
 - *We will give you the medical care that you need*

HELPING VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

"The function of freedom is to free someone else." – Toni Morrison

Human Trafficking Case Management Model



Healthcare Response-Central Ohio

- Collaborating with Salvation Army and Human Trafficking Task Force
- Acute triage to determine immediate medical needs
- Acute detox services
- Coordination of healthcare organizations and providers for non-acute medical needs

Central Ohio Rescue & Restore Coalition

- Coordinated by The Salvation Army Central Ohio
- Comprised of over 200 member organizations from a wide cross section of the community:
 - Social services providers
 - Law enforcement (FBI, ICE, CPD)
 - Faith community
 - Medical providers
 - State Refugee Coordinator
 - Ohio Attorney General Office
 - Ohio Department of Public Safety
 - Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
 - Ohio Latino Affairs Commission



Central Ohio Rescue & Restore Coalition

- Five Areas of Focus:
 - Public Awareness
 - Legislation & Lobbying
 - Law Enforcement
 - Demand Reduction
 - Services to Victims of Human Trafficking

What Will CORRC Provide?

- Comprehensive case management
- Adults served by The Salvation Army
- Youth served by Gracehaven



Central Ohio Rescue & Restore Coalition

614-285-4357 (HELP)
www.CentralOhioRescueandRestore.org

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You Can Be a Change Agent!

- Talk
 - Speaker's Bureau
- Volunteer
 - Street Outreach
 - Hotline
 - The Well
- Lobby
 - Contact Representatives
- Report
- Rescue
- Rehabilitate
- Gather
 - Donations
- Show Up
 - Coalition Meetings
 - 1st Wed every month
- Shop
 - Fair Trade
- Pray

Change requires action....be creative and take action!

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