

Recognizing Human Trafficking for Health Care Workers

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Objectives

The objectives of this lectures are:

- To ***understand*** what makes children and adults vulnerable to human trafficking
- To be able to ***recognize*** signs and symptoms of human trafficking
- To feel confident in ***intervening*** for human trafficking victims
- To ***know*** how to find resources for human trafficking victims

- “It is very tempting to take the side of the perpetrator. All the perpetrator asks is that the bystander do nothing. He appeals to the universal desire to see, hear, and speak no evil. The victim on the contrary, asks the bystander to share the burden of pain. The victim demands action, engagement and remembering.” (Herman, 2013)

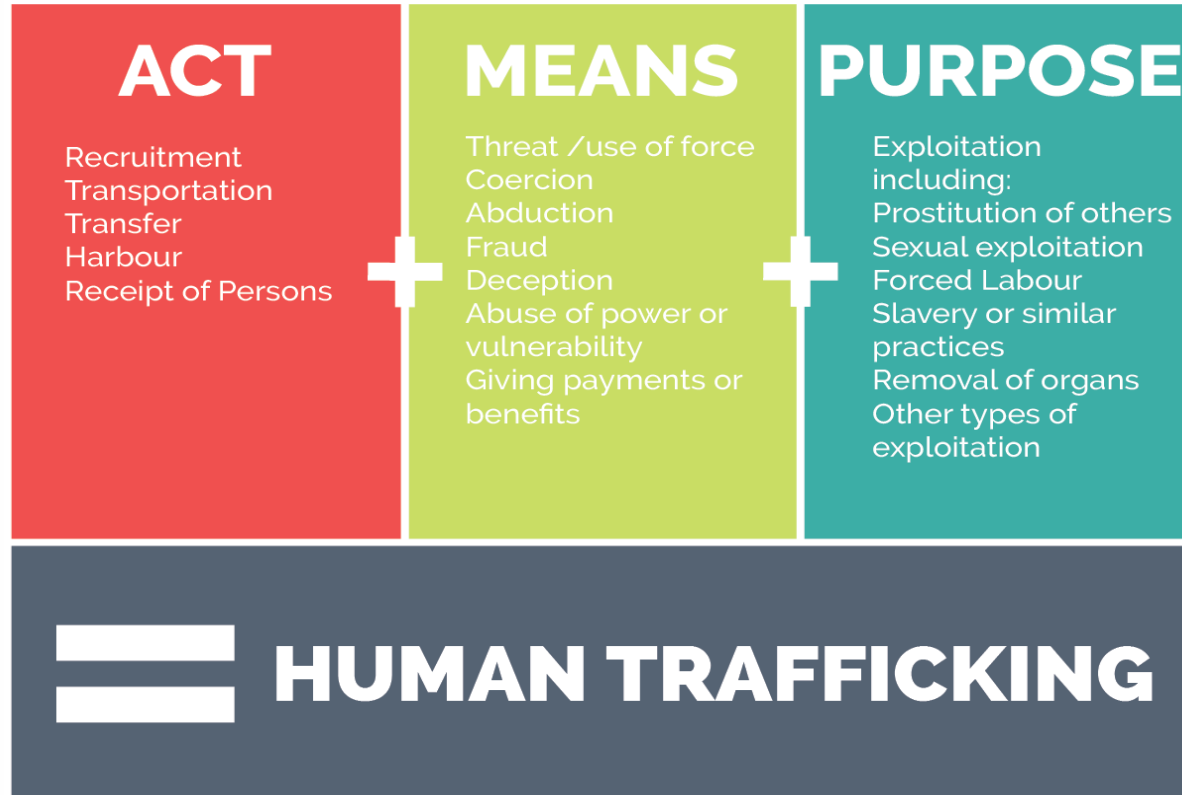
“Trafficking can only exist in an atmosphere of public, professional, and academic indifference.” (Dovydaitis, 2010)

ENDANGERED MISSING **\$25,000 REWARD		
DATE: 04/12/2012	CASE #: 120760368	Author ID: CQI - 15
NIC #: M090605324		
Last Name: LaMar		
First Name: Sierra		
Age: 15 y/o		
Gender: Female		
Height: 5'2"		
Weight: 110 lbs.		
Eyes: Brown		
Hair: Black (dyed)		
Complexion: Light		
Race: White		
Date of Birth: 10/19/1996		
Last Seen: 03/16/2012		

What is Human Trafficking?

In 2000 the United Nations and the United States passed the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons as part of the convention against Transnational Organized Crime





Types of Human Trafficking

- Forced Labor
- Sexual Exploitation
- Other Illegal Activities



Human Trafficking and Health Care

87% of trafficking victims have had contact with a healthcare provider while being trafficked (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2017)

Only 1-2% of victims are ever rescued (A21, 2016)

Human Trafficking and Health Care

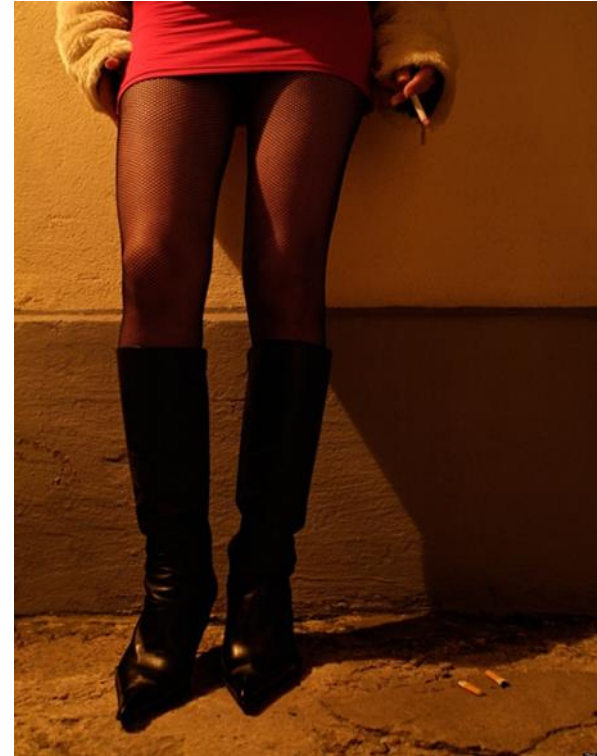
98% of ED staff said they had never received formal training on human trafficking (Chisolm-Straker, Richardson, Cossio, 2012)

Validated evidenced-based screening tools do not exist

Perceptions

Some of these victims are very difficult to care for

2018 American Academy of Pediatrics Policy



Human Trafficking Statistics

- Every 2 minutes a child is trafficked for sexual exploitation (Unicef, 2016)



Human Trafficking Statistics

- The average age a child is trafficked in the U.S. is 12 (Walker-Rodriguez, Hill, 2011)



Human Trafficking in the U.S.

- The majority of trafficking in the U.S. is domestic minor sex trafficking (Polaris, 2015)
- The United States ranks 2nd in sex trafficking world wide, Germany being 1st (Dovydaitis, 2011)

Human Trafficking in Kansas City

Kansas City is a known hub for sex trafficking in the United States

(Arizona State University,

2013)

And a known recruitment area

(Phillips, 2016)



Human Trafficking in Kansas City

- One study showed that over 106,000 men responded to fake ads online in a 2 week period (Arizona State University, 2013)
- Another study showed that 500 men responded to CHILD sex trafficking ads in a 24 hour period in Independence, MO



In Fact...

- We treated a 2 year old trafficking victim at Children's Mercy Kansas



Sex Trafficking vs Prostitution

Children cannot consent to sex until they are 17 in MO and 16 in KS (Age of Consent by State, 2015)

ANY exchange (food, money, housing, drugs, etc.) in exchange for sex with a minor is trafficking, even if they don't have a trafficker

Most children who are trafficked are routinely raped, beaten, and tortured

Why Does Sex Trafficking Exist?

- Huge Demand
- Low Risk for Traffickers
- Very Profitable



Culture

*“You know I thug em, f*ck em, love em, leave em,
Cause I don't f*ckin' need em,
Take em out the hood, keep em lookin' good,
But I don't f*ckin' feed em”*



Pornography

- Research shows that pornography is the primary gateway to sex trafficking (Freedom Youth Project, 2011)
- Up to 70% of underage trafficking victims state that pornography was made of them while they were enslaved (Thorn)



Human Trafficking and Pornography

Pornography

Every second, \$3 million is spent on pornography

NCMEC estimates there are 22 million images of child sexual abuse online, 5000% increase since 2007 (Thorn, 2017)

1 out of every 5 pornographic images online is of a child (NCMEC)

The fastest growing demographic of porn consumers in the United States is children ages 12-17 (Guardchild, 2016)

Profit

- Traffickers can make up to \$33,000 a week- that is over \$1 million a year (Dank, 2014)
- Children report to being sold up to 40 times day



Selling Victims

Craigslist

Backpage.com posts 1 million sex ads per day

71% of all child sex trafficking cases have a link to backpage.com (NCMEC)

backpage.com > Manhattan adult entertainment > Manhattan escorts

*** ♥ *** Ms. Anya *** Tantric Goddess ♥ *** Sexy Russian °° ♥ {Independent} - 23

Posted: Wednesday, July 8, 2015 11:14 AM

Hey there... ;)

My name is Anya, I am 100% **independent**, sweet, petite & upscale Russian blonde.

I am available in Manhattan for private companionship, un-rushed tantra sessions, massage, bachelor party, dinner dates, and more....

Upscale gentlemen only!

My pics are real an authentic! Come meet me and see for yourself:)

300/hr

*** 347 218 3160 Anya ***

Poster's age: 23

• Location: Midtown West, hells kitchen

• Post ID: 29762877 manhattan

email to friend



[Enlarge Picture](#)



The Dark Net



The Buyers

- Tend to be violent
- Male
- Come from all demographics and backgrounds
- Want to play out their “fantasy”

(Wimberly, 2011)



Traffickers

- Majority are male
- Age 19-45 years old
- Average education is 9.3 years
- 50% completed high school or GED
- 95.5% had a history of drug or alcohol abuse
- 90.0% had a criminal record (NHTRC, 2014)



How Do Kids Get Trafficked?

- Age (Shared Hope, 2016)
- Children and teens do NOT have a fully formed prefrontal cortex
- Kids who have already experienced sexual abuse
- History of foster care/broken families (CDC, 2016)
- LGBTQ youth

How Do Kids Get Trafficked?

- “Boyfriend” role
- Malls
- “Modeling” careers
- School
- Family
- Social Media
- Exploitation and Pornography



Runaways

- Within 48 hours of being on the streets, a runaway will be solicited for sex (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services)
- The average age of a runaway in the U.S. is 14
- 40% of the homeless population in the U.S. are minors



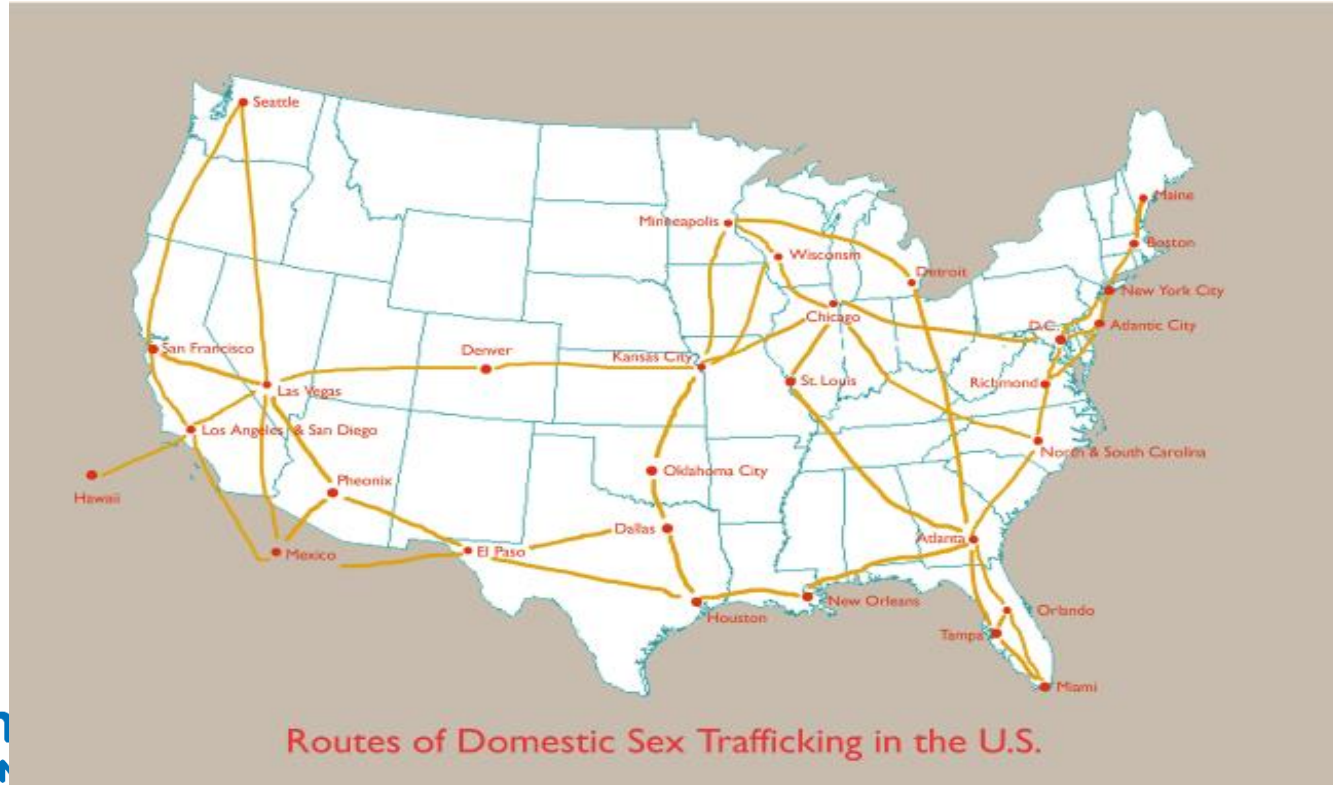
Seasoning/Grooming

Traffickers start to control and desensitize their victims through:

- Emotional manipulation
- Drugs
- Gang rape
- Forcing girls to do sexual “favors”
- Pornography
- Physical abuse
- Changing their name
- Taking away all money and resources



Routes of Domestic Sex Trafficking



Boys are Trafficking Victims Too

- A study in 2008 showed that up to 50% of children sold for sex are male (Epcat, 2008)
- The average age boys are trafficked is 11-13 years old (Child Advocacy Center)
- They are even less likely to identify themselves as victims than females



Barriers for Identifying Victims

Victims will often protect their traffickers due to:

- Trauma Bonds
- Afraid of being blackmailed or hurt
- Shame
- Brainwashed
- Afraid of law enforcement



Trauma and the Brain

Tonic Immobility- Up to 80% of victims freeze during an assault

Fight, Flight, FREEZE

Reaction to trauma when our prefrontal cortex goes “offline”



Emotional Signs of Trafficking

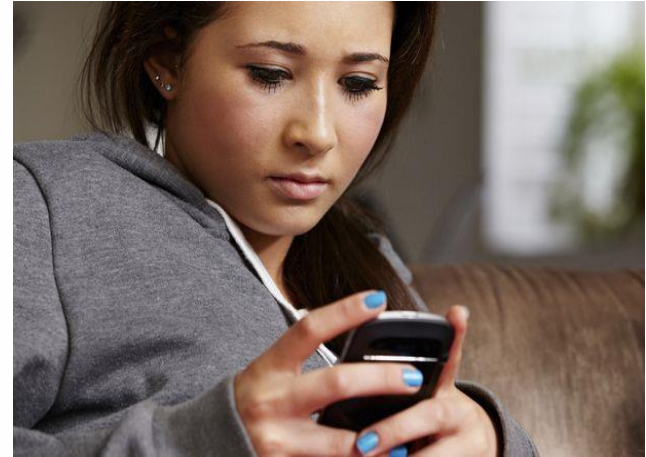
- Anxiety
- Does not have an ID
- Does not want to cooperate with law enforcement (or want forensic exam)
- Are not allowed to speak for themselves- are with a controlling “boyfriend”

(The National Human Trafficking Resource Center)



Emotional Signs of Trafficking

- Lack of knowledge of their whereabouts
- Inconsistencies with their stories
- Uncooperative
- Suicidal Ideation
- May be provocative with male staff
- Angry
- Flat/Disengaged



Emotional Signs of Trafficking

- Unable or unwilling to give address
- Scripted story
- Vague answers about injuries
- Uses language that is used in the commercial sex industry
- Hx of running away and staying in hotels
- Gang involvement

(The National Human Trafficking Resource Center)

Physical Signs of Trafficking

- Hx of multiple STIs
- Lacks healthcare
- Malnourished
- Broken bones
- Forced or unsafe abortions
- Unexplained signs of physical abuse- cigarette burns, bald patches, bruises, missing teeth, genital trauma

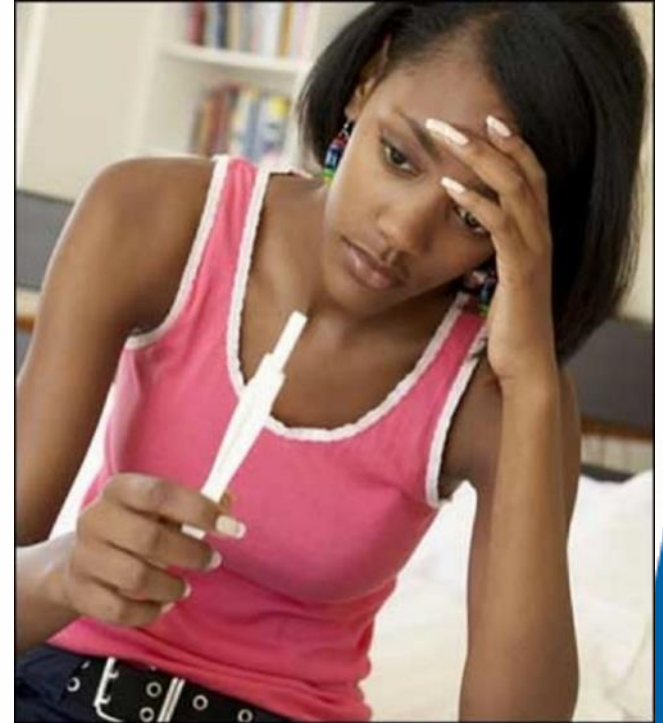


(The National Human Trafficking Resource Center)

Physical Signs of Trafficking

- Impacted sponges, condoms, tampons or baby wipes
- Hx of multiple UTIs
- Unwanted Pregnancy
- Pelvic and Vaginal Pain
- Traumatic brain injuries
- Tension headaches, back pain, stomachaches

(The National Human Trafficking Resource Center)



Physical Signs of Trafficking

- Stab wounds
- Bite Marks
- Signs of torture
- Insomnia
- Unexplained memory loss
- Prolonged exposure to extreme temperatures
- Admits to trading sex for anything (food, shelter, cigarettes, drugs, protection etc.) (The National Human Trafficking Resource Center)



Branding

Some traffickers force their victims to get “branded” to show who they belong to



Branding



Screening Questions

- Can you come and go as you please?
- Has anyone ever paid someone else to have sex with you?
- Tell me about your tattoos.
- Do you have to work to contribute money to your family?
- Do you have a boyfriend? How old is he? What do you like to do together?
How did you meet?
- Have you ever run away from home?
- Who do you stay with?

Screening Questions

- Have you ever had to do things you didn't want to do, in order to stay somewhere?
- Has anyone ever taken pictures of you and put them on the internet?
- Have you ever been hurt in a physical way?
- Where are you staying now?

Intervention

From a medical standpoint:

- Treat/refer them for the physical needs that they present with
- Treat the emotional needs the best we can (suicidal ideations etc.)

After **suspecting** that a patient is a trafficking victim



Intervention

Gather as much contact information as possible

You may contact NHTRC hotline for assistance if you have not already developed a protocol to respond to victims of human trafficking

Refer patient to a safe place if possible

With children- human trafficking is abuse that **MUST** be reported to children's division, law enforcement and the FBI



Children's Mercy
KANSAS CITY

Adult Considerations

With adult victims:

Only report with their permission

Give resources if you deem it's safe to do so

It takes an average of 7-11 times for a victim to leave trafficking, be patient and empathetic

Resources

- Human Trafficking Hotline
- National Hotline open 24/7 available to take calls/texts in over 200 languages from anywhere in the United States
- Has listing of all local resources
- Attempting to streamline statistics for human trafficking in the United States



Resources

- KC Street Hope
- Restoration House KC
- Rended Heart
- KC CASE
- Attorney General/ Department of Justice
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
- Synergy



Case Study

- Amy is a 16 year old who comes into the ED. She tells you that she is there for STI testing. Upon further questioning she tells you that she ran away from her group home several months ago and that the police brought her back to KC from Indiana last night.
- She was found with a 23 year old woman and they had drugs and weapons in their car
- She gave the police a fake name in Indiana
- When you do her assessment she states that she has soreness and tension to her back and shoulders. She also states that she frequently has headaches

Case Study

- She has several cigarette burns to her inner thighs, states she dropped a cigarette on her leg
- She has several tattoos and only gives vague answers when you ask her about her tattoos, running away to Indiana, relationships and her home life
- She states that she had a forensic exam a year ago after she was found in a hotel with an adult male
- She states she does NOT want a forensic exam today

Case Study

- A SANE nurse is consulted to do a vaginal exam (due to concern for trafficking)
- The patient is found to have 4 STIs
- An abnormal vaginal exam
- She is in the missing and exploited child database and the FBI are also concerned she is being trafficked

Case Study

What risk factors make this patient vulnerable to trafficking?

- A) Lived in a group home
- B) Ran away from home
- C) Previous sexual abuse
- D) All of the above

Case Study

What red flags do you see in her story?

- A) She gave the police a fake name
- B) She likes playing sports at school
- C) She was found with an older girl with drugs and weapons in their care
- D) A and C

Case Study

Name the physical signs that point to human trafficking?

- A) Multiple STIs
- B) Frequent headaches
- C) Cigarette burns
- D) All of the above

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