



Human Trafficking

2 CE hours

CE tracking# 20-663441

Objectives:

After the successful completion of this 2 CE course, the participant will be able to:

- Recognize factors that place a person at greater risk of being a victim of human trafficking
- Apply indicators for identifying a human trafficking victim to a specific scenario
- Identify a victim of human trafficking in a healthcare setting
- Describe procedures for sharing information related to human trafficking with a patient
- Appropriately report victims of human trafficking

Please note- To receive credit/certificate for this course, participants must complete a test with a score of 80% or greater.

To Begin:

Human trafficking is modern day slavery. *“There are more slaves today than at any time in human history”.*

Let that sink in for a moment.

Let's start with some key definitions:

The United Nations defines human trafficking as:

The different types of human trafficking are:

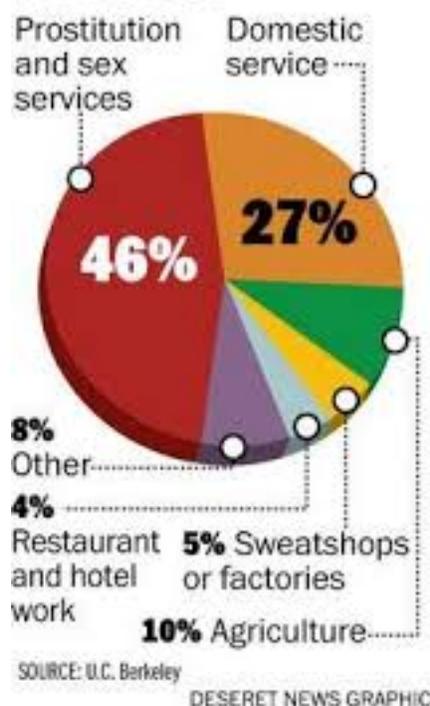
- Sex Trafficking
- Forced Labor
- Domestic Servitude

Victims are found in legitimate and illegitimate labor industries; particularly underpaid and under-regulated industries. These industries include sweatshops, massage parlors, agriculture, restaurants, hotels, and domestic service. Forced labor, in foreign countries, is used to produce the products that American's buy.

The victims are trapped through combinations of extreme psychological manipulation and shaming, financial bondage, rape, and/or physical abuse. Many are bound to their traffickers by addiction to heroin or opioids.

Because of the clandestine nature of human trafficking, most of the data is estimated.

Modern-day slavery in America



According to the international Labor Organization (ILO) and Walk Free Foundation, September 2017 report, an estimated 24.9 million victims are trapped in modern-day slavery. Here is a break down:

- 16 million (64%) exploited for labor
- 7.5 million (47%) work in construction, manufacturing, mining, or hospitality
- 3.8 million (24%) are domestic workers

- 1.7 million (11%) work in agriculture
- 4.8 million (19%) sexually exploited
- 4.1 million (17%) exploited in state-imposed forced labor
- 71% of trafficking victims around the world are woman and girls, and 29% are men and boys.
- 15.4 million victims (75%) are aged 18 or older, 25% are children

According to the ILO report from 2014, the following is a breakdown of profits of human trafficking:

- \$99 billion in sexual exploitation
- \$34 billion in construction, manufacturing, mining, and utilities
- \$9 billion in agriculture, including forestry and fishing
- \$8 billion is saved annually by private households that employ domestic workers under conditions of forced labor

Prosecutions of Human Trafficking is very low. The State Department Trafficking in Persons report for 2017, shows only 14,894 prosecutions and 9,071 convictions for trafficking globally in 2016.

The 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) creates a comprehensive federal law to address human trafficking. A three-pronged approach is used in addressing trafficking:

1. Protections through immigration relief for foreign national victims of human trafficking
2. Prevention through public awareness programs
3. Prosecution through new federal criminal statutes.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has statutory authority to investigate matters of forced labor; trafficking with respect to peonage, slavery, involuntary servitude, or forced labor and forced sex trafficking.

TVPA gives law enforcement the ability to protect international victims of human trafficking through several forms of immigration relief, including Continued Presence and the T visa. TVPA also established a law requiring defendants of human trafficking investigations to pay restitution to the victims.

Continued Presence allows law enforcement officers to request temporary legal status in the U.S. for an immigrant whose presence is necessary for the success of an investigation. The T visa allows for foreign victim of human trafficking to become temporary U.S. residents. The victims may become eligible for permanent residency after three years.

Because of the profits in human trafficking, the economic and political impact of the unabated crime is huge. Immigration policies and human rights are major global political concerns. The costs of the crime of human trafficking in persons includes:

- Value of resources devoted to its prevention
- Treatment and support of victims
- Apprehension and prosecution of offenders
- Loss of human resources
- Reduction in tax revenue

Risk Factors for Human Trafficking:

There are certain conditions that put people at a greater risk of being preyed on by human traffickers, they include:

- Economic crisis
- Poverty
- Lack of education
- Social exclusion
- Rural location
- Migration
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender
- Indigenous people
- Gender discrimination
- A weak legal or social protection system
- Young age (12 to 16-year-old girls are at greatest risk)
- Disability
- Inadequate family support and protection
- History of abuse

Situations that contribute to weakening social protection measures include:

- Policies and practices that marginalize entire groups of people
- Natural disasters
- Conflict and political turmoil

Indicators of a victim of human trafficking vary by the type of trafficking involved; many of these indicators are information that a healthcare provider may not have. Making a referral to social services provides a mechanism to obtain information that would verify indicators.

Blue Campaign

The Blue Campaign is a national public awareness campaign, designed to educate the public, law enforcement and other industry partners to recognize the indicators of human trafficking, and how to appropriately respond to possible cases. Blue campaign works closely with DHS with DHS Components to create general awareness training and materials for law enforcement and others to increase detection of human trafficking, and to identify victims.

Blue Campaign Indicators:

Behavior or Physical State:

- Does the victim act/ behave fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid?
- Does the victim defer to another person to speak for him/her?

- Does the victim show signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, or torture?
- Has the victim been harmed or deprived of food, water, sleep, medical care, or other life necessities?
- Does the victim have few or no personal possessions?

Social Behavior:

- Can the victim freely contact friends or family?
- Is the victim allowed to socialize or attend religious services?
- Does the victim have freedom of movement?
- Has the victim or family been threatened with harm if the victim attempts to escape?

Work Conditions and Immigration Status:

- Does the victim work excessively long and/or unusual hours?
- Is the victim a juvenile engaged in commercial sex?
- Was the victim recruited for one purpose and forced to engage in some other job?
- Is the victim's salary being garnished to pay off a smuggling fee? (Paying off a smuggling fee alone is not considered trafficking).
- Has the victim been forced to perform sexual acts?
- Has the victim been threatened with deportation or law enforcement action?
- Is the victim in possession of identification and travel documents, if not, who has the documentation?

Minor Victims:

- Is the victim a juvenile engaged in commercial sex?

Red Flag Indicators:

Another list of red flags and indicators of human trafficking is published by the National Human Trafficking Resource Center available at traffickingresourcecenter.org

General Indicators of Human Trafficking include:

1. Shares a scripted or inconsistent history
2. Is unwilling or hesitant to answer questions about the injury or illness
3. Is accompanied by an individual who does not let the patient speak for themselves, refuses to let the patient have privacy, or who interprets for them
4. Evidence of controlling or dominating relationships (excessive concerns about pleasing a family member, romantic partner, or employer)
5. Demonstrates fearful or nervous behavior or avoids eye contact
6. Is resistant to assistance or demonstrates hostile behavior
7. Is unable to provide his/her address
8. Is not aware of his/her location, the current date, or time
9. Is not in control of his or her own money
10. Is not in control of his or her own money
11. Is not being paid or wages are withheld

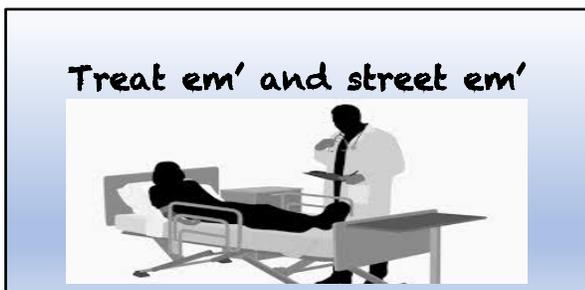
****Healthcare providers should screen patients for potential trafficking when red flags and indicators are identified in the presentation, history, or physical examination.**

Identifying a Victim of Human Trafficking

Human trafficking victims often present to emergency departments and woman's health or family planning clinics. One retrospective Survey of 173 US survivors of human trafficking, 68% were seen by a healthcare provider and 56% seeing emergency or urgent care Providers while they were being trafficked. Healthcare providers have an opportunity to identify victims of human trafficking.

Victims of human trafficking are hard to identify in a healthcare setting; victims rarely self-report because of fear of the trafficker, distrust of authorities, feelings of shame and hopelessness, trauma bonds (for example: Stockholm syndrome), and threats. Victims may not seek healthcare unless they have no other options. It's for that very reason that, it's critical for healthcare providers to recognize that their role is not disclosure or rescue, but rather to create a safe, non-judgmental place that will help you identify trafficking indicators and assist the patient.

The National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) provides training and technical assistance on a wide range of human trafficking topics through the hotline and website. The NHTRC can also guide providers through an assessment of a potential victim. If human trafficking is suspected or confirmed, assess acute healthcare needs and additionally perform a complete physical to identify medical conditions common in trafficked persons. Sex-trafficked and sexually abused labor-trafficked victims should be offered a forensic medical evaluation. Pregnancy testing and emergency contraception should be offered.



Unfortunately, the healthcare professionals' financial and time

Take a few moments and try:

- Calm, open-ended questions that help build a rapport
- Avoid questions starting with "Have you ever..." because that can be leading
- Ask the patient where she lives and who takes care of her. You may suggest, "Tell me about the money to her family. You may suggest, "Tell me about

- Take time to answer any questions that the victim might have
- Acknowledge and address their fears
- Be sensitive to cultural differences, gender differences and language barriers

More direct questions related to trafficking situations may be made later in the interview.

Most victims experience intense fear of traffickers and of being deported. Therefore, it is important to reassure the victim that they are safe, so they can begin the process of getting protection and assistance to rebuild their lives.

Gaining the trust of trafficking victims is important, messages that can help gain trust include:

- We are here to help you
- Our priority is your safety
- Under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, victims of trafficking can apply for special visas or could receive other forms of immigration relief
- We will give you the medical care that you need
- We can find a safe place for you to stay
- You have the right to live without being abused
- You deserve the chance to become self-sufficient and independent
- We can help get you what you need
- We can help you protect your family
- You can trust me
- We want to make sure what happened to you doesn't happen to anyone else
- You have rights
- You are entitled to assistance. We can help you get assistance
- If you are a victim of trafficking, you can receive help to rebuild your life safely in this country

The healthcare needs of human trafficking victims range from physical abuse to psychological trauma. Unlike other violent crime, trafficking usually involves prolonged and repeated trauma including:

- Physical, sexual, psychological abuse
- Deprivation
- Torture
- Forced use of substance
- Manipulation
- Economic exploitation
- Abusive working and living conditions

The health problems of trafficking victims relate to the type of trafficking. For instance:

- A sex worker may have repeated sexually transmitted diseases
- A construction worker may have injuries due to unsafe working conditions
- A nail salon worker may have lung disease from inhaling chemicals
- An agriculture worker may have dehydration due to working without adequate rest and water

The mental health repercussions of trafficking include:

- Complex forms of post-traumatic stress disorder
- Struggles with addiction
- Depression

Trafficked children and adolescents are at risk for physical, mental, and psychological repercussions. These victims should be screened for the following:

- Delayed physical and cognitive milestones
- Impaired social skills
- Stunted growth
- Long-term effects of untreated common childhood diseases

The following is a list of health-related indicators and consequences of human trafficking published by the National Human Trafficking Resource Center and available at:

traffickingresourcecenter.org

This list of physical and mental health indicators of human trafficking is not exhaustive. Trafficking survivors may experience one or more of these indicators, none of these indicators, or health indicators not on this list.

There is no consensus on the optimal screening questions for identifying victims of human trafficking. The clinician should start with indirect questions that touch upon aspects of the patient's life, job, and a general sense of safety. As with domestic violence cases, try to separate the patient from visitors and family before beginning any sensitive discussions. All interpreters should be screened to be sure they do not know the victim or the traffickers and do not otherwise have a conflict of interest.

The following are sample questions health care providers can ask in screening an individual to determine if he/she is a potential victim of human trafficking. This list is published by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. Screening tool for victims of human trafficking and available at acf.hhs.gov.

- 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?
- Where do you sleep and eat?
- Do you sleep in a bed, on a cot or on the floor?
- Have you ever been deprived of food, water, sleep or medical care?
- Do you have to ask permission to eat, sleep, or go to the bathroom?
- Are there locks on your doors and windows, so you cannot get out?
- Has anyone threatened your family?
- Has your identification or documentation been taken from you?
- Is anyone forcing you to do anything that you do not want to do?

Creating a Plan

A procedure/policy or plan specific to the needs and safety of human trafficking victims should be in place at each facility. It should include a multidisciplinary approach that employs law

enforcement, social work, nursing, and hospital administration. The plan should identify potential sources of legal assistance, transportation, vocational training, employment, childcare and housing.

Traffickers can be involved in organized crime, local gangs, or other crime networks; therefore, staff and patient safety is a top priority. Safety measures include the following:

- Establish a relationship with the local police force
- Obtain a security audit
- Develop an emergency notification system
- Periodically have emergency drills or review plans
- Restrict after-hours access
- Install lighting
- Security cameras
- Panic buzzers
- Deadbolt or electronic locks
- Preprogram emergency access phone numbers

Confidentiality is critical. The trafficked victim and their families can be at great risk for trying to report or escape the situation.

If a patient discloses that they have been trafficked:

- Provide the patient with the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) hotline number and encourage him/her to call NHTRC hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or they can text BeFree 233733. The NHTRC has a tele-interpreting service with at least 200 languages available.
- Do not provide written information if there is any chance that the traffickers might see the documents.
- If there is immediate, life-threatening danger, follow your institutional policies for reporting to law enforcement.
- Provide the patient with options for services, reporting, and resources. Ensure that safety planning is included in the discharge planning process.
- Accurately document information regarding the patient's injuries or treatment. Documentation of abuse may be helpful in providing a case against a trafficker, however information about the victim can also be used against them in court.

If the patient does not leave the trafficking situation, patients should be educated about available resources. Do not give out physical materials unless the patient agrees that the information will not place the patient at risk for retaliation from the trafficker. Healthcare providers can discuss safety plans including the development of a safe contact system. Recovery for trafficked persons is long and complex. Victims being repatriated and returned to live with their families is inappropriate and results in victim being returned to a situation where they suffer further harm. Persons who leave trafficking situations, have a potential for revictimization due to ongoing fear, shame, and vulnerability.

Legal and Social Service

Legal and social service resources are provided locally. All healthcare facilities need a list of available resources that can be called or shared based on the patient's needs.

National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) is an excellent resource for healthcare facilities to help identify and connect with existing local resources at www.traffickingresourcecenter.org or call 1-888-373-7888. This service is available 24/7 and offers Service Referrals Network of over 3,200 referral contacts to assist victims of human trafficking. The referral service offers:

- Anti-trafficking organizations
- Legal service providers, shelters
- Law enforcement
- Local social service agencies

Many of the services available for victims are time limited. For example, domestic violence shelters and runaway and homeless youth programs, where most counseling services are offered on-site. These resources generally provide for short stays that do not allow adequate time to establish trusting relationships needed for a victim to open up and begin to address their trauma.

Every situation of human trafficking is unique; because of that, it is important to use a victim-centered response. Not all victims of trafficking will be comfortable disclosing their situation, nor will all victims be ready to seek assistance from service providers, law enforcement, or even medical providers.

Be sensitive to the situation and understand what the requirements of your facility and community is. Healthcare providers may or may not be required to report human trafficking. Legal requirements differ from state to state as well. Refer to your local or state requirements regarding mandatory reporting.

One state that has set specific standards for Human Trafficking reporting requirements is Michigan. Healthcare professionals are required to report if you suspect that any child or adult is a victim, or is at risk of becoming a victim, by calling 855-444-3911 at any time day or night. Of course, if there is a belief of imminent danger, immediately call 9-1-1. Law enforcement must be notified immediately as well through the state's centralized intake system, Children's Protective Services (CPS) MDHHS, if a child is found to be engaged in any commercial, sexual activity. MDHHS begins investigating the complaint as soon as possible but within 24 hours. The CPS investigation must include a determination as to whether the child is in danger of substantial physical or psychological harm and requires protective intervention, including the initiation of child protective or dependency proceedings.

The Michigan law's definition of Child Labor Trafficking is:

"A child who has been recruited, enticed, harbored, transported, provided, or obtained for forced labor is a victim of labor trafficking. Labor trafficking can include, but is not limited to, domestic servitude, forced labor in restaurants or salons, forced agricultural labor or debt

bondage...Labor trafficking victims must provide proof that force, fraud or coercion existed while they were in the care of their trafficker, regardless if the victims are children or adults”.

Florida law defines human trafficking as:

“a form of modern-day slavery. Victims of human trafficking are young children, teenagers, and adults. Thousands of victims are trafficked annually across international borders worldwide. Many of these victims are trafficked into this state. Victims of human trafficking also include citizens of the United States and those persons trafficked domestically within the borders of the United States. The legislature finds that victims of human trafficking are subjected to force, fraud, and coercion for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labor”.

In child sex trafficking, proof of force, fraud or coercion is not a requirement. You must have patient consent before disclosing any personal information about adult victims of human trafficking. HIPAA regulations apply. If the patient is a minor, follow the mandatory state reporting laws and institutional policies for child abuse or serving unaccompanied youth. National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC), provides help for you to determine if you have encountered a victim of human trafficking, identifies local resources available in your community, and helps you coordinate with local social service organizations. 1-888-3737-888 or www.traffickingresourcecenter.org. Again, you must have the patient’s consent to share any individual’s personal information. Contacting the NHTRC does not fulfill mandatory reporting requirements.

Blue campaign is the United States Department of Homeland Security sponsored website dedicated to ending human trafficking, they provide information on identifying victims and training programs. Anonymous tips regarding possible victims can be reported through the HIS tip form at <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign>.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigation (HIS) can be contacted at the Tip-line 1-866-347-2423 or at www.ice.gov/tips.

Additional Resources

[Anti-Slavery International](#) is a human rights organization and works to eliminate all forms of slavery around the world.

[Coalition Against Trafficking in Women \(CATW\)](#) is an international, non-government organization that works to end human trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of women and children.

[Caring for Trafficked Persons: Guidance for Health Providers](#) is a joint publication by the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

[HEAL Trafficking](#) (Health, Education, Advocacy, Linkage) is a network of public health group that connects interdisciplinary health professionals in the fight to end human trafficking.

[Polaris Project](#) is a nonprofit organization that dedicated to the global fight to eradicate modern slavery. Text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733).

[Rescue and Restore Campaign](#) is supported by the Office on Trafficking in Persons of the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the Administration of Children and Families. This site provides tips for identifying and helping victims of human trafficking, screening questions, lists of health problems seen in victims, and brochures and posters that can be printed for the office.

[SOAR](#) (Stop, Observe, Ask, Respond) to Health and Wellness Training is a program for health care and social service providers sponsored by the Administration for Children and Families, United States Department of Health and Human Services.

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