

Speaker's Disclosure

 $\mbox{\rm Dr.}$ Raquel Vargas-Whale has no relevant financial relationship with ineligible companies to disclose.



Objectives

- Explore the scope worldwide and locally
- Discuss common myths
- Definition & types of human trafficking (HT)
- Identify indicators and warning signs of trafficking involvement (criminal activity)
- Review HT of minors
- Familiarize yourselves with resources available

4



5

Federal Anti-Trafficking Laws

Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000

- 1st comprehensive federal law to address trafficking (3 -pronged approach: prevention, protection, and prosecution)
- Reauthorized through the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) of 2003, 2005, 2008, 2013, and 2017.

Under U.S. federal law, "severe forms of trafficking in persons" includes both sex trafficking and labor trafficking:

• Labor trafficking

- Is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purposes of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery, (22 USC § 7102).
- Sex trafficking
- is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purposes of a commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age (22 USC § 7102).

SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM

- Globally, estimated 28 million individuals are victims of HT.
- In 2016, on any given day in the US, between 14,500 and 17,500 people are victims of HT.
- 81 percent of them are trapped in forced labor
- 25 percent of them are children
- 75 percent are women and girls

Polaris Project 2019 US map



8

Scope Nationally

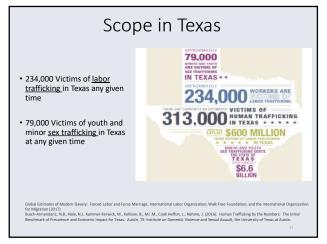
Statistics from the National HT Hotline and Polaris BeFree Textline show:

- 2021: 32,709 phone calls, 11,256 texts, 3,490 online tips, 2,802 emails, 816 webchats
- Number in the U.S. increases every year
- The number of texting conversations on the Polaris BeFree Textline from survivors are **steadily rising** especially in the **underage** category



		es Has (y Over T	ime
5000	VICUITIS a	HICL DUTWINGS	Jonescung Os			
4000			19% increas	2018-2019	4.312	
3000				3,625		
2000		2,149	2,278			
1000	,612					
0-	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	





11

Data limitations

Data on identified victims of trafficking <u>depends on a range of factors:</u>

- Whether <u>counter trafficking organizations</u> are operational or able to consistently collect or share data in any given country/location.
- Presence of large quantities of human trafficking data may not necessarily indicate higher prevalence.
- Paucity of data may be due a lack of effective counter-trafficking responses, the profiles and experiences of the victims, the forms of human trafficking, and information on perpetrators.

Data limitations



- Difficulty identifying victims (hidden nature of the crime and the use of the Internet by traffickers
- \bullet Lack of understanding of domestic HT $\,$
- Inadequate services
- · Safety concerns.
- Identified cases are better understood as a sample of the unidentified
- Nevertheless, where available, these data are indispensable, as they provide detailed insight into the profiles and experiences of the victims, the forms of human trafficking, and information on perpetrators.

13

Common Myths



Myth: We live in a slavery free world

Truth: more enslaved today than during Transatlantic Slave Trade. 25 million people worldwide, another 15 million in forced marriages. (See International Labor Organization 2017 report)

Myth: This doesn't happen here

Truth: in cities and towns all across Texas

Myth: Traffickers target victims they don't know

Truth: Many trafficked by romantic partners, including spouses,

and by family members, including parents

14

Common Myths



Myth: It's always or usually a violent crime

Truth: most traffickers use psychological means (tricking, defrauding, manipulating or threatening)

Myth: Only women and girls are trafficked

Truth: as many as half are male. Advocates believe percentage may be even higher but that male victims are far less likely to be identified. LGBTQIA+ boys and young men are seen as particularly vulnerable to trafficking

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/594970e91b631b3571be12e2/l/5977b2dacd0f688b2b89e6f0/1501016795183/ECPAT-USA_AndE

Common Myths



Myth: Trafficking is a crime about movement, immigration, 18-wheelers and truck stops, crossing international or state borders

Truth:

Smuggling is a distinct crime. Entering a country without appropriate documentation (by paying or crossing). Requires transport & movement from one country to another, and both the person coming in without permission and the person bringing them are committing a crime

Trafficking does not require movement. You can be trafficked in your own home, your own country, by a fellow citizen. Only the trafficker commits a crime exploiting for forced labor or sex

https://humantraffickinghotline.org/what-human-trafficking/myths-misconceptions

16

Further Define Human Trafficking

- Modern-day slavery: traffickers profit from the control and exploitation
- Adults & children used as commodities in conditions of sexual and labor servitude; occurs wherever there is work
- Highly profitable global criminal enterprise, generating billions of dollars in annual profits
- \bullet Operates in the dynamics of $\mbox{\it supply}$ and $\mbox{\it demand}$
- Tactics used by recruiters, traffickers and their associates are often same as used by abusers and can mirror dynamics of Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence



17

People Are Trafficked For Many Kinds Of Work, Involuntary Servitude, And Sexual Exploitation

- Debt Bondage (22 U.S.C. 7102 (7)).
- Sex Industry
- Domestic Labor
- Agricultural Work





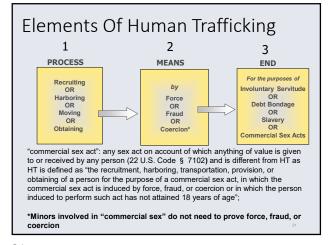
- Restaurant Work
- Factory Labor
- Commercial Sex Acts*

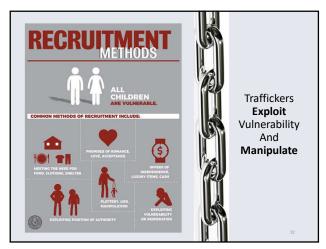
any sex act on account of which anything of value is given to or received by any person, (22 U.S.C. 7102 (4)).

Construction















Challenges When Interfacing with Trafficked Persons

in the medical setting are:

The hidden nature of the crime

The trafficked person fearing consequences of identifying as victim:

- Retaliation by trafficker especially common are threats made against family members or loved ones
- Fear of deportation (foreign national)

Challenges regarding social services interventions (especially for youth who previously experienced abuse or harassment in home or foster care) such as removal from home or placement into a juvenile facility



26

Challenges When Interfacing with Trafficked Persons

- Law Enforcement/Legal: you may be required by law to contact LE. This could have real and perceived negative consequences or implications for the trafficked person such as
 - Fear of arrest/Fear of prosecution
 - Fear of incarceration
- Could lead to reticence to seeking needed medical care in the future leading to exacerbation of health conditions
- $\boldsymbol{\cdot}$ May raise are how to survive outside of the HT context?
 - Will this action result in homelessness for the patient?
 - · Loss of employment, loss of resources?

Trauma & Situation May Challenge The Medical Assessment



Trafficked persons may be in:

- In crisis mode
- · May have trouble recounting history/details
- · May not self-identify as victim
- May have loyalty to trafficker(s)
- · May have Cultural/language barriers
- · Mistrust of health professionals
- · Limited understanding of rights
- · Mistrust of "system"

28

Opportunities and Strategies Best Practices For Interfacing With Suspected Trafficked Persons In The Clinical Setting

Facilitate private conversation for history taking by following these strategies whenever possible:

- Making time: Schedule enough time to have a thorough discussion. Being rushed minimizes the critical nature of the conversation
- Making space: If accompanied by others, find a way to speak privately. Choose a private, quiet area.
- Eliminate disruptions: Turn off your cell/pager, remove anything from the room that could cause interruption
- Envision the conversation: Take a few minutes beforehand to visualize how the discussion may evolve
- $\bullet \ \ \textbf{Get assistance} : \textbf{Enlist the aid of experienced colleague, Social Worker,} \\$ or Nurse if appropriate
- Seek Opportunities: during procedures to speak privately with the person (while in radiology, or going to lab to give a sample)

29

Opportunities and Strategies

Best Practices For Interfacing With Suspected Trafficked Persons In The Clinical Setting

Implement appropriate interpreters when needed. Easily accessible professional interpreter services have been shown to lead to:

- Fewer communication errors;
- Enhanced patient knowledge and understanding of their diagnosis and treatment (Karliner et al, 2007);
- Increased access to healthcare services;
- Reduced disparity of health-service use by those with No/LEP compared with native speakers (Gill et al, 2009; Diamond et al, 2008; Karliner et al,

Use same words the patient does. Don't correct them, especially as it refers to their relationships and situation, anatomic references.

Be open to unfamiliar narratives and stories

Use a trauma-informed, non-judgmental approach when interviewing patients (mind your face!)

Opportunities and Strategies Best Practices For Interfacing With Suspected Trafficked Persons In The Clinical Setting

Trafficked persons may find themselves in Emergency Department, admitted to hospital, Psychiatric facility, or in outpatient clinic when situation, injury or illness escalates to the point of becoming life-threatening

Ask simple, direct questions such as:

- ➤ Are you in a personal or work relationship with a person who physically harms or threatens you?
- > You seem to be in a hurry to leave. We are here to help you and it is important that you remain for treatment. What is making you feel anxious to leave right now?
- ▶ Have you been hurt while working/on a job either by someone you work for

31

If A Disclosure Is Made (Infrequent)

- · Recognize goal is not disclosure or rescue, but create a safe, nonjudgmental scene to help identify HT indicators and assist the patient
- If the patient is a minor/person with a disability, or elderly, follow mandatory state reporting laws and institutional policies
- Information regarding patient's injuries or treatment is accurately documented in health record
- · Document findings accurately, without judgement or assumption
 - Document injuries, labs and studies
 - · Document evidence collected
 - Document calls or reports to investigative authorities, and referrals for services
 - Document allegations or history verbatim when possible
- While documentation of abuse may be helpful in building a case against a trafficker, information about the victim can also be used against them in a court proceeding

32

If Possible Facilitate Safety By:



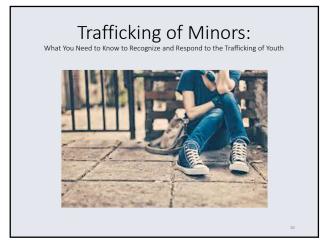
- Allowing the patient to decide if they would feel more comfortable speaking with a male or female practitioner
- Chaperones use may ben helpful during sensitive exam
- Build rapport, or if you do not have the time, find someone else on staff who can (Use multidisciplinary resources -social workers)
- Explain confidentiality policies and practices, including mandatory reporting laws
- · Consider informing security officer to be on standby
- You may contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline for assistance in conducting an assessment and determining next steps

If Identified Patient Is Not Ready To Accept Your Help... Remember a survivor centered approach is imperative Validate/normalize their feelings: Reassure them that they have the choice not to accept your help at that time (if an adult) Remember that reporting is mandatory if person is a child, person with a disability or a person who is elderly

Provide information:

- Many trafficked persons will seek assistance for their situation when they feel safe and able to do so
- Tell your patient where they can go for help in the future (i.e. return to the clinic)
- Make sure to communicate options verbally since traffickers are likely to destroy written instructions if they are found

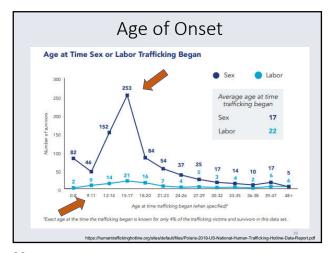
34







The Numbers In 2020, of the nearly 26,500 missing children reported to NCMEC who have run away, 1 in 6 were likely victims of child sex trafficking 16% of the children who ran from the care of social services and were reported missing to NCMEC in 2019, were likely victims of child sex trafficking — National Center for Missing and Exploited Children The exact number of trafficked youth is unknown due to the data limitation described previously



12 to 14...

The average age at which **girls** first become victims of *"providation"

11 to 13...

The average age at which boys and transgender youth first become victims of *"prostite."

(*this is sexual abuse and HT)

40

Vulnerabilities

- Economic vulnerability (poverty, lack of education, poor employment opportunities)
- History of systems involvement (child welfare, juvenile justice)
- Prior experiences of abuse (Physical and Sexual) reported by HT survivors
 - In some studies as high as 95% incidence of maltreatment and 49% sexual abuse
- Homelessness/running away
 - 1 in 5 Homeless Youth are Sex Trafficked, 1 in 3 Homeless Youth have engaged in sex trade (survival sex)
 - 91% of Homeless Youth are approached for some type of labor trafficking

41 https://www.covenanthouse.org/homeless-issues/human-trafficking-study

41

Vulnerabilities

- Age (inexperience, need to belong, self-esteem issues)
- Physical or intellectual disabilities
- History of substance use in the family
- LGBTQIA+ : 39% of youth sex trafficked were LGBTQIA+ with the highest percentage being Transgender
- \bullet Lack of a support network, including a trustworthy adult

Signs Of Human Trafficking Health Care Setting

Recognize that, while HT is believed to disproportionately affect women and girls, it crosses all racial, gender, class, sexual orientation, age, ability, and socioeconomic boundaries



As with many disadvantaged members of society, they may also present with chronic diseases at advanced stages as they are systematically denied access to medical care

43

Acute Medical Complaints: Varied And Multifactorial

- Signs of Physical violence untreated injuries, explanations inconsistent with injuries
- Sleep deprivation
- Mental health concerns due to extreme stresses
- Sexual Health concerns
 - Multiple STIs
 - Abortions
 - Evidence of sexual abuse (minors)
- · Delayed medical care
- Dental problems-Severe/untreated
- Malnourishment
- · Drug or alcohol addiction
- Headaches
- Fatigue
- · Abdominal Pain
- Back pain

44

44

Signs Of Human Trafficking/ Effects On Quality Of Life



- Environmental/Situational
- Suspicious employment situation
- Dependence on "friend" or coworker to answer questions
- Abusive relationships
- Verbal/Emotional/ Psychological
- Providing health provider with contradictory information
- Suicidality, depression
- Fearfulness, anxiety, trauma symptoms

Signs Of Human Trafficking

Trauma Indicators:

- Reactions to disrobing or genitourinary exam (appearing fearful, screaming, sobbing, tensing up as if expecting intense pain, hyperventilating, sweating, fainting, flinching or jerking away from contact
- Sexualized behavior or seductiveness, particularly in a child (seeking inappropriate proximity to nurse or doctor)
- Appearing "checked out", not responding to verbal prompts or name
- $\boldsymbol{\cdot}$ Confused, having difficulty paying attention

46

46

Warning Signs (youth)

- Changes in school attendance (truancy), habits, friend groups, vocabulary, demeanor, and attitude
- Chronic running away, Homelessness
- The presence of an older "boyfriend" or "girlfriend", travel with an older male who is not a guardian, references to frequent travel to other cities
- Sudden appearance of "luxury" items (e.g., manicures, designer clothes, refillable gift cards)
- Substance use/addiction
- Isolation from family, friends, and community

47

47

Warning Signs (youth)

- Unusual attachment to cellphone
- Lack of control over schedule, money, and/or proof of identification
- Signs of psychological distress, such as depression, anxiety, paranoia, and/or suicidal ideation
- Signs of psychological coercion, such as an overly submissive attitude or inability to speak for self
- Signs of physical trauma, including bruises, cuts, burns, and/or scars



Warning Signs (youth)

- "Provocative" clothing, online or stored on the phone (??)
- Multiple phones or social media accounts (lying about the existence of)
- Tattoos or other branding marks
- Poor health: sexually transmitted diseases, malnutrition, and/or serious dental problems
- References to sexual situations beyond what is age-appropriate





49

Understand The Impact

- Impact on mental and physical wellbeing, serious and long lasting
- Remember that severe and complex forms of interpersonal trauma may affect interaction with medical professionals
- Substance use may be forced on the victim by the trafficker or used by the victim as a coping mechanism for abuse
- Changed relationships with self and others (profound sense of shame and guilt, inability to trust)
- Unhealthy bond with the perpetrator ("trauma bond")
- Developing healthcare response a critical step to ensure survivors identified and receive proper trauma informed/evidence based care and support



50

Importance Of Organizational Protocols



- As anchor institutions, we can leverage our influence by being aware of the "supply side" of human trafficking globally
- Hospitals can begin by developing protocols to help victims and survivors
- Protocols are essential tools that help to guide the collaborative response to HT
- Collaboration among medical providers with victim service providers and other community stakeholders is central to successful interactions with HT survivors in the medical setting

Importance Of Organizational Protocols



- Organizational protocols should be survivor centered, AND include partnering with SW/case management department, clergy and clinical staff to determine what are the best steps
- Implemented using trauma informed AND evidence-based strategies in organizational protocol to facilitate trust
- Should help identify & support victims by being alert to the problem and that their patients may be victims
- Collaborating with public agencies (LE, CPS) and community-based organizations can raise awareness and help advocate for public policies that address HT

52

The Value Of Collaboration And Building Trusted Network Of Resources

It is important to reiterate that:

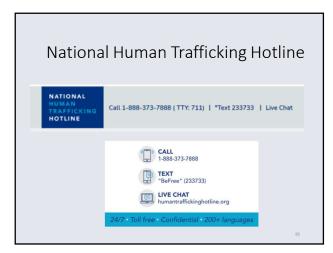
- The most effective way to ensure trafficking survivors get everything they need is to build relationships with organizations and allies in key systems that encounter or help crime victims
- Survivors may need assistance with stability in their life, food to eat, health care, counseling, help with sexual or domestic abuse they have suffered, as well as trauma from other crimes.
- They need help identifying their legal options for gaining immigration status and filing any civil suits to challenge their exploitation
- They must make their own choices (SURVIVOR CENTERED), which means they may need someone to help buffer them from conflicting agendas.

53

Survivor Centered, Multidisciplinary Resources Are Important

This approach will join together the different components which should include at minimum the survivor, Social Worker, Forensic Nurse Examiner, and Physician in order to more effectively:

- Acknowledge the experiences of and deliver justice to as many survivors as possible
- Create a more inclusive, comprehensive, culturally sensitive, and survivorcentered assessment that will lead to more accurate:
- Assessment of basic needs and benefits, health care, housing, education
- Coordination with resources
- Medical Forensic Examination- potential evidentiary collection
- Safety Planning
- Interpretation service if needed



Resources (South Texas) Legal Services Rights-based education (Coastal Bend Psych Associates-specialist, Claudia Schmidt, LPC) Immigration assistance (for non U.S. Citizen) Criminal Justice Advocacy and Support Nueces County Juvenile Justice Center (Angela Luna- (361) 8557303 Advocacy groups: New Life Refuge CBBRHTTF Texas Advocacy Project 1800 734 HOPE







59

References

- PolarisProject.org. U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline Statistics, PUBLISHED: JULY 31, 2019
 Caring for Trafficked Persons Handbook, IOM, July 2009
 Toolkit to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Global Program against Trafficking in Human Beings United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
 Domestic Violence Assessment Guide, Family Violence Prevention Fund, 2008
- https://humantraffickinghotline.org/sites/default/files/Safety%20Planning%20At%20A%20Glance.pdf