Human Trafficking

What is human trafficking?

Human trafficking is the exploitation of another individual for labor and/or commercial sex through the use of fraud, force, or coercion, making it modern day slavery.


The scope of the problem

Nine hundred youth interviewed in the US and Canada:

- 19.4% were victims of trafficking:
  - 15% Sex trafficking
  - 7% Labor trafficking
  - LGBTQ individuals were disproportionately more likely to experience sex trafficking
  - 32% of sex trafficking victims reported engaging in “survival sex”

Philanthropy News Digest (2017)
Risk factors for homeless youth

- Lack of beds in youth shelters
- Easier to lure off the streets
- Reliant on adults for assistance with housing, jobs, food, etc.
- History of abuse and neglect from caregivers
- 1 in 3 teens are lured into prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home (National Incidence Studies of Missing, Runaway, and Throwaway Children 2008)

KRS 529.010 – Exceptions for minor victims of trafficking

The stats

According to some estimates, approximately 80% of trafficking involves sexual exploitation, and 19% involves labor exploitation.

The average age a teen enters the sex trade in the U.S. is 12 to 14-year-old. Many victims are runaway girls who were sexually abused as children.

What we know about trafficking.....

- Human trafficking is known as the modern day slavery. It is a very secretive "underground" world that we are learning more and more about. Trafficking includes sex, labor, and other exploitations.

- Sex trafficking is NOT to be confused with sex work (prostitution).

  - Prostitution - sex work, intercourse or phone where the individual is getting paid for the act and are a willing participant.

  - Sex trafficking involves FORCE and/or COERCION

  - Many individuals of sex work may eventually become victims of trafficking

  - Child under the age of 18 CANNOT prostitute. If they have sex for money, a ride somewhere, shelter etc. It is considered trafficking PERIOD.

Identifying Trafficking Victims

RED Flags SIGNS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING
Human Trafficking Red Flags

- Evidence of physical abuse (mostly to head, face, neck, hands, wrist)
- Delayed presentation for medical care
- Discrepancy in the patient’s stated history
- Scripted, memorized, or mechanical recitation of history
- Victim-survivor appears younger than reported age
- Guests speak for the patient and answer all questions
- “Branding”

Visual Cues may include:
- Avoids eye contact
- Appears malnourished or shows signs of exposure to harmful chemicals

Behavioral Cues may include:
- Lack of documentation
- Shy and submissive
- Nervous, fearful, hyper-vigilant

Subtle Signs

The most common ways for a “John” to show possession is through branding or tattooing.

There are some commonly seen brands:
- “$” money signs
- A crown with initials or “John’s” name
- “Daddy”
- “Property of...”
- Bar codes
- “$50,000, Play Me”

These tattoos or brands will be most likely be placed on the neck, wrist, chest.
Sold in America is an eight-episode journey into the world of sex trafficking in the United States. Hosted by journalist and activist Noor Tagouri, this deeply personal, deeply reported series takes listeners across the country to meet the human faces of this billion-dollar trade—and uncovers its surprising misconceptions.

**Human Trafficking in Healthcare**

**How can we help?**

1. Create a screening process that is user friendly and not burdensome to staff
   - Universal screening?
   - Involve staff in the process
   - Documentation
   - Flowchart
2. Educate, educate, educate
3. Consider ancillary staff
4. Measure success and be open to feedback on the process

**Identifying Human Trafficking in Healthcare Settings**

- 87.8% of human trafficking survivors reported having contact with a healthcare provider while they were being trafficked.
- 63.3% of those who had contact in healthcare settings were treated in an emergency room.

**How can we help?**

- **IDENTIFY and DOCUMENT**
  - Nurses will complete the screening form as soon as possible during the patient’s visit.
  - New visual cues have been added to allow you to document if trafficking is suspected.
  - If trafficking is suspected, Case Managers or Nurses complete the Human Trafficking Screening Form.
  - ALL ED STAFF will report suspected human trafficking to the patient’s primary RN.
If a patient is identified as Human Trafficking, Please do the following:

1. Thank them for sharing this information with you and assure them you are not concerned about their immigration status.
2. Tell them we are concerned for their safety and would like to discuss available resources.
3. Notify the Charge Nurse and Case Management.
4. Notify law enforcement if patient wishes to report to police OR if patient is younger than 18 years old.
5. Notify SAFE Services if the patient reports recent physical violence or sexual assault.
6. Notify the Center for Women and Families if the patient reports sex trafficking.
7. Provide the patient with a Human Trafficking Resource Card, available at the charge nurse desk in the ED.

(These steps are also listed at the end of the Human Trafficking Screening Form)

Additional safety measures for victims of human trafficking:

- Notify Security of the patient to provide assistance with the victim’s safety while in the ED.
- Consider placing the patient under an alias.

Human Trafficking Screening Form (screenshot)

Completed with the patient, in the form of a conversation. Questions are not to be asked verbatim.

Steps for what to do if Trafficking is suspected are listed at the bottom of the form.

Human Trafficking Screening Form (Cont’d)

The form will populate as a task in FirstNet when the “Signs of Human Trafficking” box is checked “yes.”
How UofL Emergency Department addresses Human Trafficking, Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Assault:
1. ARISE TO SAFETY – a universal Intimate Partner Violence and Human Trafficking Screening
2. RED DOT – a silent way for patients to ask for assistance from ED staff. (Egyud, 2017)
3. ADVOCACY RESPONSE – immediate in-person response for patients who are currently experiencing Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Assault, or Human trafficking
4. FORENSIC EXAMINATIONS – written and photographic documentation of injuries and evidence collection when applicable

Red Dot for Safety
- The Red Dot initiative is a way for human trafficking and domestic violence victims to silently communicate their need for safety with staff.
- Red dot stickers are available in patient bathrooms with signage instructing patients to put a red dot sticker on their urine cup if they are concerned for their safety and would like to speak to staff privately.

Survey Results
- Human Trafficking Pre/Post Survey
  - Comprehensive Understanding: 36% Pre, 66% Post
  - Received Formal Training: 74% Pre, 74% Post
  - Sufficient Materials to Increase Awareness of human trafficking: 44% Pre, 66% Post
  - Found Training useful: 95% Pre, 95% Post

Survey Results Continued
- Confidence in training and caring for human trafficking victims: 26% Pre, 40% Post
- Able to identify human trafficking: 42% Pre, 66% Post
- Confidence in addressing trafficking with a patient: 42% Pre, 66% Post
Recommendations for improving screening practices in healthcare

- Involve staff in the process
- Limit the burden of the screening and referral process on front-line staff
- Find multiple methods for educating staff on human trafficking
- Provide an ongoing presence after screening initiated
- Partner with local advocacy and service organizations in your community

Questions?

References