

# Identifying and Caring for Survivors of Human Trafficking

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*100% FOR CHILDREN*

1

## Goals and Objectives

- Understand the scope of sex trafficking in our community
- Learn how to identify victims of sex trafficking in the medical setting
- Learn how to better address the medical and psychologic needs of survivors of sex trafficking



2

## Disclosures

- Sarah Beaumont, MD -No financial disclosures
- Joseph Sowka, *OD* is/ has been a Consultant/ Speaker Bureau/ Advisory Board member for Novartis, Allergan, Glaukos, and B&L. Dr. Sowka has no direct financial interest in any of the diseases, products or instrumentation mentioned in this presentation. He is a co-owner of Optometric Education Consultants.



3

## What is Human Trafficking?

- Federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 defines the crime of human trafficking as:
  - The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for the purpose 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
  - Or for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery



4

# What is Human Trafficking?

- Commercial sexual exploitation through
  - Prostitution
  - Pornography
  - Stripping
  - Erotic entertainment
  - Different from smuggling

Smuggling	Trafficking
Crime against a border	Crime against a person
Transportation based	Exploitation based
Requires border crossing	No border crossing required
Voluntary	Involuntary



5

## SEX TRAFFICKING SCENARIOS IN ARIZONA



6

## LABOR TRAFFICKING SCENARIOS IN ARIZONA

<b>CLEANING SERVICES DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL</b>	Little to no pay. threats, false promises. violence. harsh working conditions.	<b>TRAVELING SALES CREWS</b>
<b>BEGGING (PEDDLING)</b>		<b>RESTAURANT FOOD SERVICE</b>
<b>AGRICULTURE (FARM LABOR)</b>		<b>LANDSCAPING DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL</b>
<b>HOTELS/MOTELS HOSPITALITY</b>		<b>HEALTHCARE</b>
<b>CARNIVALS</b>		<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>

**PHOENIX CHILDREN'S Hospital**

7

## Who is targeted?

- STIR research 2010-2016
  - 98% female
  - Average age of first exploitation 15
  - 2/3 of victims are runaways
    - 1.6 million runaway youth/year
    - Throwaway youth
  - Foster children

**1 out of 7** of the **23,500+** endangered runaways reported to NCMEC in 2018 were likely child sex trafficking victims.

**PHOENIX CHILDREN'S Hospital**

8

## Who is targeted?

- Many with history of violence and trauma
- Diverse socio-economic backgrounds
- Varied education
- Urban, rural, suburban
- History of substance use and abuse



9

## Where do they find youth?

- Shopping malls
- Bus stops
- Schools
- After school programs
- Foster homes
- Group homes
- Streets
- Online



10

## Technology in recruiting

- Social media
  - Instagram
  - Facebook
  - Snapchat
  - Twitter



11

### **backpage.com and affiliated websites have been seized**

as part of an enforcement action by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and the Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division, with analytical assistance from the Joint Regional Intelligence Center.

Other agencies participating in and supporting the enforcement action include the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, the U.S. Department of Justice's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Central District of California, the office of the California Attorney General, and the office of the Texas Attorney General.

Additional information will be provided at around 6:00 pm EST on Friday, April 6, by the U.S. Department of Justice, and all media inquiries should be directed to the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Public Affairs at 202-514-2007 and [press@usdoj.gov](mailto:press@usdoj.gov).

**April 6, 2018**



12

## The trafficker

- Promises money and wealth
- Promises a place to stay
- 19% gang affiliated
- 33% had history of violent crimes, property crimes and drug possession

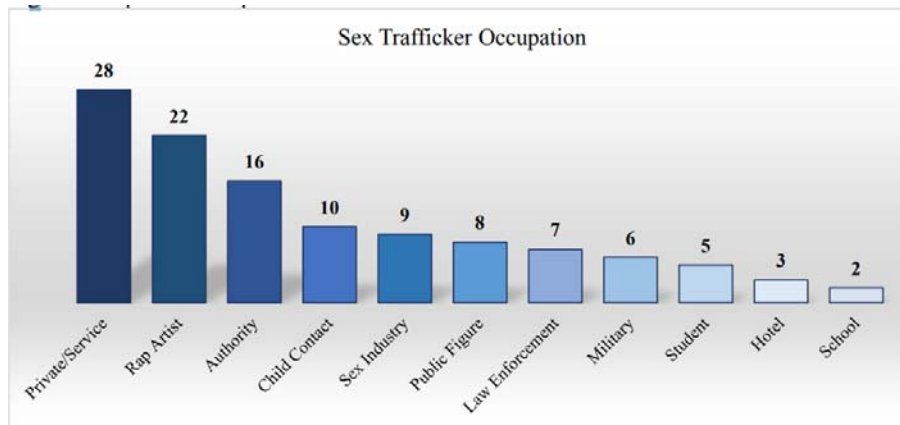


Relationship	N =941	Percent (%)
"Friendly Stranger"	444	47.1%
Friend	137	14.6%
Romantic	129	13.7%
Complete Stranger	73	7.8%
Family	30	3.1%



13

## The trafficker



ASU STIR 2016



14

**3 Arizona men indicted in undercover operation targeting child sex crimes**

BY KTAR.COM  
MARCH 1, 2019 AT 4:00 PM




Vincent Ciliberti, left, and Alejandro Cano. (MCSO photo)

15

## Grooming

- Targeting the victim
- Gaining trust and information
- Filling a need
- Isolation
- Abuse begins

Source: <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-28949188>,  
[http://www.mcasa.org/\\_mcaseWeb/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Behaviors-of-Sexual-Predators-Grooming.pdf](http://www.mcasa.org/_mcaseWeb/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Behaviors-of-Sexual-Predators-Grooming.pdf),  
<http://www.stockjournal.com.au/news/world/world/general/rotherham-child-abuse-scandal-jessicas-story/2710229.aspx?storypage=0>



16



## The trafficker

- Guerrilla pimp
  - Intimidation/control through physical violence
- Romeo pimp
  - One who controls his victims through psychologic manipulation. Can shower with affection but use physical force as a back up
- Gang pimp
- Family pimp
  - Family members who serve as traffickers



17



18

## Homeless Youth and Trafficking Victims in Arizona



19

## Trafficking in Arizona

- 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Indian School to Northern
- The “track”, the “Blade”, the “stroll”
- Proximity to hotels/I-17
- Popular for young victims
- 51<sup>st</sup> Ave and McDowell Road
- Close proximity of I-10
- Large, affordable hotels
- Low risk of reporting by locals



20

## Homeless Young Adults in Arizona

- Youth Experiences Survey, 2018
  - 179 surveys completed, average age 20.8
  - 50.8% males, 41.3% females, transgender 3.9%, other (Genderqueer, two-spirit, non-conforming) 3.4%
  - Heterosexual 45.8% and LGBTQ 39.7%
  - 57% had used drugs or alcohol
    - Marijuana 33.5%
    - Meth 26.3%
  - 35.8% had attempted suicide
  - 68.7% report a mental health problem



21

## Youth Experiences Survey 2018

### Homeless Young Adult Victims of Sex Trafficking in Arizona

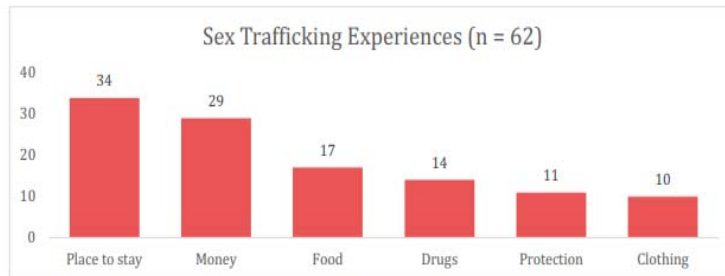
- 34.6% identified of homeless youth identified as being a sex trafficking victim
- Average age of experience was 17.1 (range 11-24)

Demographics and Addiction	Sex trafficked group (n =62)	Non sex trafficked group (n =117)
Sexual orientation		
Heterosexual	23 (37.1%)	56 (47.9%)
LGBTQ*	32 (51.6%)	36 (30.7%)



22

## Youth Experiences Survey 2018



23

## Risk Taking Behaviors

Self-Harming and Risk Taking Behaviors	Sex trafficked group (n =62)	Non-sex trafficked group (n =117)
Self-harming behaviors**	46 (74.2%)	48 (41%)
Risk taking behaviors**	31 (50%)	24 (20.5%)
Drug use**	26 (41.9%)	21 (17.9%)
Drinking alcohol excessively**	21 (33.9%)	14 (11.9%)
Binging/Vomiting**	15 (24.2%)	8 (6.8%)
Body modification*	13 (20.9%)	9 (7.7%)

\*Significance at a p< .05 level. \*\*Significance at a p< .01 level.

ASU YES 2018



24

## Mental Health

Mental Health Issues	Sex trafficked group (n =62)	Non-sex trafficked group (n =117)
Mental health issue/diagnosis*	50 (80.6%)	66 (56.4%)
More than one diagnosis reported*	42 (67.7%)	51 (43.6%)
Suicide attempts**	32 (51.6%)	31 (26.5%)
Bipolar disorder**	29 (46.8%)	26 (22.2%)
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder*	17 (27.4%)	14 (11.9%)

\*Significance at a p< .05 level. \*\*Significance at a p< .01 level.

ASU YES 2018



## Trafficking and Medical Community



## Identifying Victims

- 88% of reported victims have come into contact with a medical professional while involved in trafficking



27

## Contact with Medical Community

Medical Services Accessed	Sex trafficked group (n =66)	Non-sex trafficked group (n =133)
Emergency room	32 (48.5%)	47 (35.3%)
Urgent care/walk-in clinic	26 (39.4%)	39 (29.3%)
Currently receiving medical care	20 (30.3%)	25 (18.8%)
Primary doctor	16 (24.2%)	25 (18.8%)
Treat it myself	12 (18.2%)	20 (15%)
Crews'n Mobile	8 (12.1%)	8 (6%)
Use internet to learn how to treat it	10 (15.1%)	9 (6.8%)
Alternative medicine	3 (4.5%)	8 (6%)
Friend/relative treats it	2 (3%)	5 (3.8%)
City public health clinic	0	8 (6%)

ASU YES 2016



28

## Reasons for Medical Visits

Medical Issues Reported	#	%
Asthma	46	24.6%
Poor vision	38	20.3%
Chronic Pain	25	13.4%
Open wounds	11	5.9%
Skin problems	10	5.3%
Broken bones	7	3.7%
Sexually transmitted infections	2	1.1%

ASU YES Survey 2017



29

## Red flags

- Discrepancy in age
  - Reported and apparent
- Resistance to exam
  - Older male stays in the room
- Homelessness
- Lack of identification
- Just “visiting the area”
- Unable to provide home address
- Use of street lingo



30

## Language

- Branding
  - A tattoo or carving on a victim that indicates ownership by trafficker/pimp/gang
- Bottom
  - A female who may have been a victim of sex trafficking who is picked to recruit victims, supervise, instruct, collect money, post ads, inflict punishment
- Daddy
  - How a victim may refer to their trafficker
- Family
  - Those who are also under the control of the same trafficker
- John/Trick
  - Someone who pays or trades something of value (drugs) for sex acts



31

## Possible Physical Indicators of Sex Trafficking

- Evidence of sexual trauma
- Cigarette burns
- Bruises, fractures
- Tattoos
- Drug related health issues
- Headaches, back pain, stomach pain



32



## Possible Physical Indicators of Sex Trafficking

- Malnutrition, poor diet
- Bladder damage
- TMJ problems
- Bite marks
- Hearing loss
- Traumatic brain Injury
- Bald patches
- Recurrent STIs, PID, HIV



33

## Understanding Sex Trafficking

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jHcoEY6gJJ0>



34

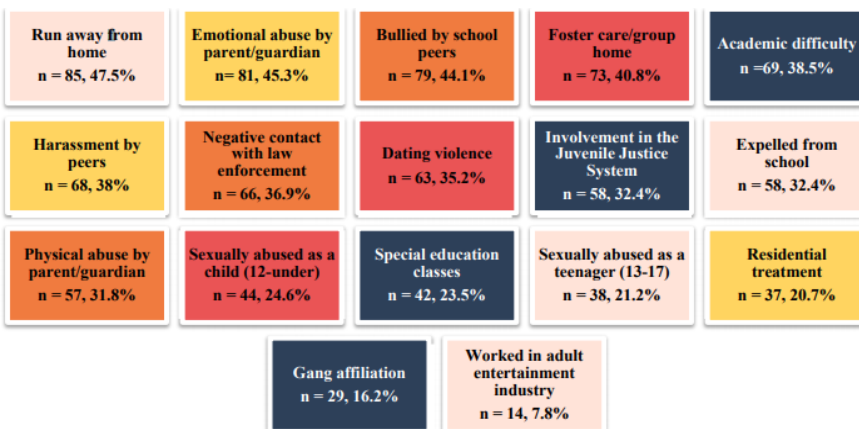
## Trauma-Informed Care

- Recognize that traumatic experiences impact an individual’s life and behavior and their perceptions of themselves and their bodies.
  - Hypervigilant about exams
  - Mistrust of health care providers
  - Anxiety in a full waiting room
  - Fear of procedures



35

## Youth Experiences Survey 2018



36

## Providers should be...

- Nonjudgmental
- Deliberate with word choices
- Comforting with a “no one deserves to be hurt attitude”
- Respectful because everyone deserves respect
  
- Care enough to ask the questions!



37

## Questions to ask

- Where are you from? How did you get here?
- Where are you staying?
- Can you come and go as you please?
- Tell me about that tattoo
- Who is with you?
- Do you have a boyfriend? If so, how old is he?
- Have you ever run away from home?
- Has anyone ever paid someone else to have sex with you?



38

## Patients can demonstrate...

- Anger
- Hostility
- Irritability
- Self-harm
- Withdrawal
- Numbness
- Dissociative states



39

## Approach of the Health Care Provider

- There is no simple “right way” to approach all trafficked persons.
- Empower patients to participate in their care.
- They have been in a situation where a lack of control and unpredictability is the norm, it is important for them to participate in medical decisions.
- If they feel that they are actively participating, they are more likely to adhere to treatment plan.



40

## Safe Space

- Welcoming environment
- Patient rights are communicated
- Patient rights are respected
- **Staff and provider** training focusing on impact trauma
- Every encounter can be positive or negative
- Strive to do no harm
- Communicate effectively
- Explain exam before it happens
- Empower patients



41

## Remember...

- Support patients, they are victims.
- Important signal that you have listened and understood the patient concerns.
- Strive for a mutually acceptable treatment plan.
- Schedule follow up appointments.



42

## After victim identified

- Under 18
- Notify police and CPS
- Human Trafficking Resource Center 1-888-3737-88
- National Center for Missing and Exploited children 1-800-THE-LOST



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Confidential  
200+ languages

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**TEXT**  
"BeFree" (233733)

**LIVE CHAT**  
humantraffickinghotline.org

**GET HELP • REPORT TRAFFICKING**



43

## After victim identified


- Over 18
- Victim may not want to report
- Provide services, referral resources
- If in immediate danger, can call 911




44


State v. Josef Dixon

CR2017-005978-001






# 190 YEARS



45

## References

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- Child Sex Trafficking. National Center for Missing and Exploited Children <http://www.missingkids.com/CSTI>
- The Polaris Project. Sex Trafficking <https://polarisproject.org/human-trafficking/sex-trafficking>
- End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes <https://www.ecpatusa.org/>
- Arizona's Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family <http://endsextrafficking.az.gov/>
- TrustAz



46