

## Identifying and Caring for Survivors of Human Trafficking

Sarah Beaumont, MD  
 Medical Director, Homeless Youth Outreach  
 Governor's Task Force on Human Trafficking  
 Phoenix Children's Hospital



100% FOR CHILDREN

## Goals and Objectives

- Understand the scope of human trafficking
- Learn how to identify victims of human trafficking
- Learn how to better address the medical and psychologic needs of survivors of sex trafficking
- Learn how to report cases of human trafficking
- Identify resources available to victims of human trafficking



- No financial disclosures



## 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

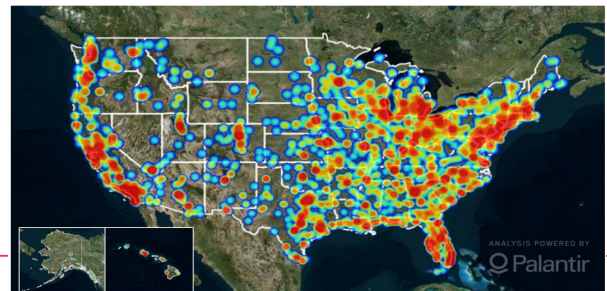


## What is Human Trafficking?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sex Trafficking                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Escort services</li> <li>– Massage parlors</li> <li>– Pornography</li> <li>– Stripping</li> <li>– Erotic entertainment</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Labor Trafficking                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Domestic work</li> <li>– Agriculture</li> <li>– Traveling sales crews</li> <li>– Childcare</li> <li>– Restaurants</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
|---|--|



## Locations of potential human trafficking cases in the U.S.



## What is Human Trafficking

- Labor trafficking
  - Average age at time of exploitation is 25
  - Very likely under reported, hard to identify
- Recruitment
  - Job offers/Advertisements
  - False promises/fraud
  - Smuggling related
  - Coercion (threats and blackmail)
  - Familial



## Sex trafficking

- 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
  - Gender minority youth



## 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



## Where do they find youth?

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



## Technology in recruiting

- Social media
  - Instagram
  - Facebook
  - Snapchat
  - Twitter



## 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@doj.gov](mailto:press@doj.gov).

April 6, 2018



### 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	120	12.7%
Complete Stranger	73	7.8%
Family	30	3.1%



### Grooming

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

Source: <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-2849188>, [http://www.mcaso.org/\\_mcsaWeb/np-content/uploads/2012/10/Behaviors\\_of\\_Sexual\\_Predators\\_Grooming.pdf](http://www.mcaso.org/_mcsaWeb/np-content/uploads/2012/10/Behaviors_of_Sexual_Predators_Grooming.pdf), <http://www.stockjournal.com.au/news/world/general/rotherham-child-abuse-scandal-jestica-story/179229-2> and <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-2849188>



### 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



### Identifying Victims

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



### Trafficking and Medical Community



### 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



### 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



### 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



### Possible Physical Indicators of Sex Trafficking

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



### 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



### Understanding Sex Trafficking

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iHcoEY6eJ0>

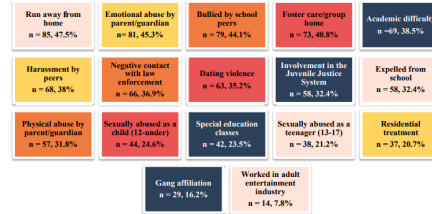


### Trauma-Informed Care

- 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



### Youth Experiences Survey 2018



### Providers should be...

- Nonjudgmental
- Deliberate with word choices
- Comforting with a "no one deserves to be hurt attitude"
- Respectful because everyone deserves respect



### 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?



### Patients can demonstrate...

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



### 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.



### 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



### Remember...

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



### After victim identified

- Under 18
- Notify police and CPS
- Human Trafficking Resource Center 1-888-373-88
- National Center for Missing and Exploited children 1-800-THE-LOST



### After victim identified

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



### Resources

**NATIONAL  
HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING  
HOTLINE**

**CALL**  
1-888-373-7888

**TEXT**  
"BeFree" (233733)

**LIVE CHAT**  
humantraffickinghotline.org

24/7 • Toll free  
Confidential  
200+ languages

**GET HELP • REPORT TRAFFICKING**



### References

- Roe-Sepowitz, D., Gallagher, C., Hogan, K., Ward, T., Denecour, N., & Bracy, K. (n.d.). *A Six-year Analysis of Sex Traffickers of Minors: Exploring Characteristics and Sex Trafficking Patterns*. Arizona State University Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research, April 2017 (Scholarly project).
- Roe-Sepowitz, D., Brockie, M., Bracy, K., Hogan, K., & Middleton, J. (n.d.). *Youth Experiences Survey*. Arizona State University School of Social Work, Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research (Scholarly project).
- Child Sex Trafficking. National Center for Missing and Exploited Children <http://www.missingkids.com/CSIT>
- The Polaris Project. Sex Trafficking <https://polarisproject.org/home/en/what-is-sex-trafficking>.
- End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes <https://www.ecspat13.org/>.
- Arizona's Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family <https://youthtrafficking.az.gov/>
- TrustAZ

