

INTERSECTION OF HEALTHCARE AND INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN REFUGEE AND MIGRANT POPULATIONS

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Educational Objectives

1. Define human trafficking, refugees and IDPs
2. Increase awareness about human trafficking
3. Understand how the increasing refugee and migrant situations have impacted human trafficking
4. Role of healthcare providers related to identifying and treating trafficked victims

Data Disclaimer:

Trafficking is an underground criminal business where traffickers go to great lengths to keep victims isolated and underreported.

Data is difficult to collect. As awareness increases; however, more reliable ways are emerging to track statistics related to this industry.

Data should be considered critically and be verified against other sources whenever possible.

What is human trafficking?

Action

- Recruiting
- Harboring
- Transporting
- Providing
- Obtaining

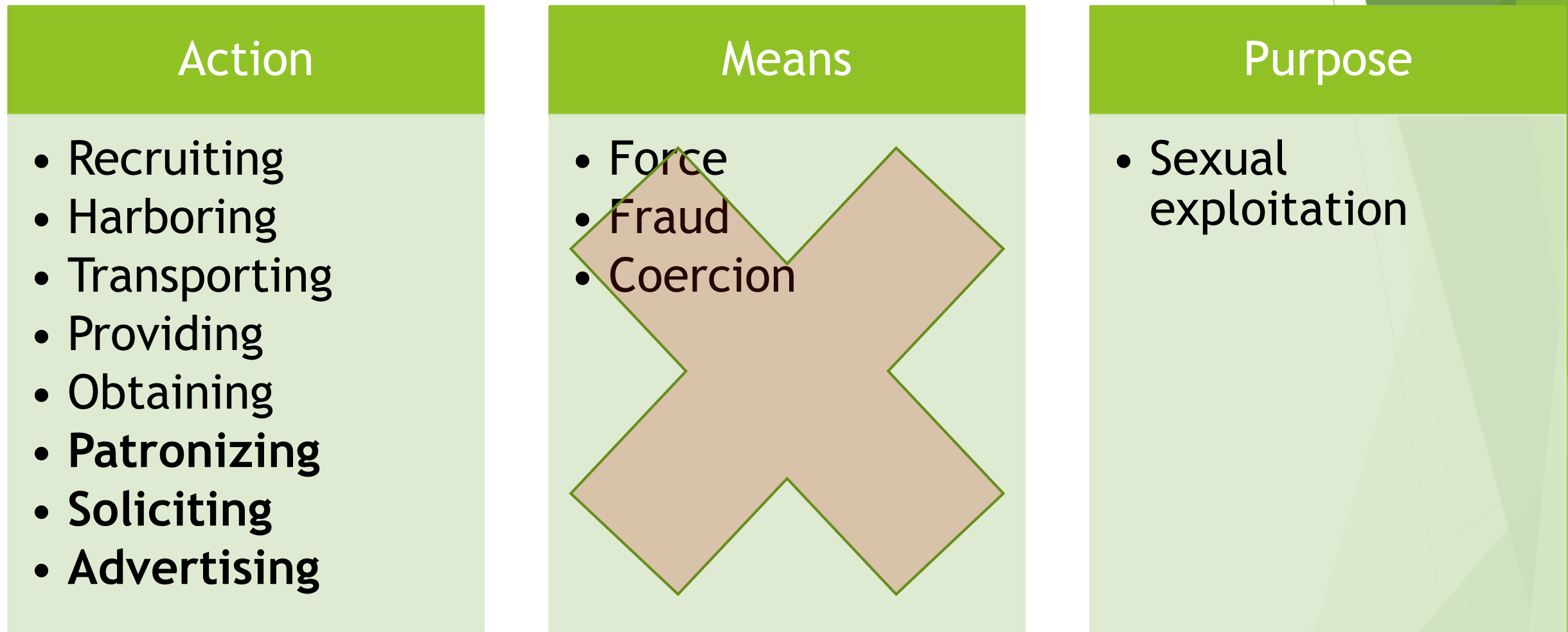
Means

- Force
- Fraud
- Coercion

Purpose

- Sexual exploitation
- Labor exploitation


What is human trafficking?



Note:

“A victim does not need to be physically transported from one location to another in order for the crime to fall within these definitions.”

(Commission on Human Trafficking, n.d.)



24.9 million people trafficked worldwide

1/3 are under 18 years old

Girls: 72% sex trafficked, 21% forced labor

Boys: 23% sex trafficked, 66% forced labor

Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage, Geneva, September 2017.
UNODC Trafficking in Persons Report 2021



\$150 billion profit from human trafficking

Profits and Poverty: The Economics of Forced Poverty. ILO 2014.

RELEVANCY

As of 2019, HB 2059 requires healthcare providers to complete a training “on identifying and assisting victims of human trafficking.”

Reasons for Resurgence of Slavery

- Vulnerability: youth, gender(LGBTQ), poverty, ignorance, social and cultural exclusion, racial disparities, drug abuse, mental health issues, political instability, war and conflicts
- Discriminatory social, cultural and legal frameworks
- Ongoing demand
- Outdated policies, people concerned with other issues, some doubt the existence of modern-day slavery
- Economic: generates more money at less risk than drug trafficking

children and youth are uniquely vulnerable

- ▶ Developmentally appropriate immaturity
- ▶ Poor judgment, impulsivity
- ▶ Sexual curiosity
- ▶ Limited life experience
- ▶ Desire for independence, testing boundaries
- ▶ Risk-taking behaviors
- ▶ Peer pressure
- ▶ Dependent upon adults in their lives
- ▶ High internet, social media use
- ▶ Desire to fit in
- ▶ Normal teen conflict with parents/caretakers



Societal

- Gender-based violence
- Racism, sexism, xenophobia
- War and conflict
- Natural disasters
- Cultural attitudes
- Sexualization of women and girls

Community

- Lack of community cohesion
- High crime rate
- Lack of community resources/support/safety

Relationship

- Family dysfunction
- Forced migration/refugee status/asylum seeking
- Unstable housing
- Lack of economic opportunity
- Family violence
- Poverty

Individual

- History of maltreatment, early adversity, unaddressed trauma
- Substance use/misuse
- Homeless, runaway, throwaway
- System-involved
- Early puberty
- Mental health problems
- Disability
- School problems, truancy
- LGBTQ+
- Limited English proficiency
- Gang involvement

WARS, CONFLICT, FAMINE, NATURAL DISASTERS

*THE INCREASE EACH YEAR
LEADS TO*

- ▶ Economic hardship and loss, many times in already poverty stricken areas
- ▶ Dangerous living conditions
- ▶ Spike in internally displaced people and refugees
- ▶ Increase in vulnerability
- ▶ Perfect storm for human trafficking

UNHCR DEFINITIONS



▶ REFUGEE

A person forced to flee their country because of violence or persecution

▶ IDP

An internally displaced person or IDP is someone who has been forced to flee their home but never cross an international border. These individuals seek safety anywhere they can find it...IDPs include people displaced by strife and natural disasters.

- ▶ Link between conflict and displacement and human trafficking is critical to understand.
- ▶ Human trafficking is a symptom of a refugee crisis.
- ▶ The conditions that traffickers prey upon flourish in refugee crisis.
- ▶ UN Secretary-General stated in 2021:

MIGRANTS ACCOUNT FOR MORE THAN HALF OF TRAFFICKED PERSONS IN THE WORLD

2023 GLOBAL REFUGEE STATISTICS



- ▶ As of May 2023, more than 110 million individuals were forcibly displaced worldwide
- ▶ Largest increase in UNHCR history
- ▶ Propelled by war in Ukraine and other deadly conflicts
- ▶ 35.3 million refugees
- ▶ 62.5 million internally displaced people
- ▶ 5.4 million asylum seekers
- ▶ 5.2 million people in need of international protection

(UNHCR, 2023)

CURRENT REFUGEE CRISIS



SYRIA

- ▶ 6.8 million refugees
- ▶ 25% of global refugee population
- ▶ Many are victims of labor trafficking after fleeing to Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan and Turkey
- ▶ Cases of Syrian women and girls recruited as sex slaves in refugee camps

UKRAINE

- ▶ 5.4 million refugees
- ▶ 16% of global refugee population
- ▶ In a survey in Romania which has received over 80,000 Ukrainian refugees, 97% of respondents had heard of incidents of human trafficking

(UNHCR, 2023)

CURRENT REFUGEE CRISIS

SOUTH SUDAN

- ▶ World's youngest nation is site of one of largest refugee crisis
- ▶ 4 million South Sudanese forced from home due to violence
- ▶ 2.3 million of those left country entirely

AFGHANISTAN

- ▶ 2.8 million refugees
- ▶ 1 in 10 Afghans
- ▶ Conflict and natural disasters

DEM REP OF CONGO

- ▶ 909,000 refugees
- ▶ Displacement highest in Africa
- ▶ DRC also hosts refugees

ROHINGYA CRISIS

- ▶ 1.1 million stateless Rohingya fled Myanmar violence
- ▶ Most living in world's largest refugee camp in Bangladesh

(UNHCR, 2023)

CURRENT REFUGEE CRISIS

SOMALIA

- ▶ 799,000 refugees
- ▶ Drought, conflict and hunger

SUDAN

- ▶ 844,000 refugees
- ▶ Asylum for refugees and producing refugees

CENTRAL AFRICA REPUBLIC

- ▶ 1 Million displaced
- ▶ Including 738,000 refugees
- ▶ Violence since 1960

VENEZUELA

- ▶ Venezuelans have fled their homeland in recent years, as part of what is now the largest displacement crisis in the world
- ▶ 7,710,887 migrants in the world

(UNHCR, 2023)

CRISIS AT THE U.S. BORDER

Historic high migrants=high trafficking

- ▶ More than 2.8 million migrants have had encounters with authorities as of September 2023, compared to more than 2.7 million migrants in 2022.
- ▶ Mid September 2023, over 8,000 migrants processed a day by border patrol.
- ▶ Hundreds of thousands of migrants are considered “got-aways”
- ▶ Smuggling vs trafficking
- ▶ Overwhelmed border agents =less likely to spot someone being trafficked
- ▶ 60% unaccompanied minors crossing US-Mexico border are victims of human trafficking, many have been caught by the cartels and are being abused in child pornography or drug trafficking.
- ▶ Most occur after migrant has been relocated

CRISIS AT THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER



Why is the border crisis increasing HT victims?

- ▶ Human trafficking increased massively in 2022. Arrests rose 50%; convictions soared by 80%. 72% of those trafficked in the U.S. are immigrants
- ▶ Current US immigration policy releases migrants within 72 hours = little time for vetting
- ▶ Children are often released to unsavory circumstances
- ▶ The custodial guardian is often a trafficker
- ▶ Recently arrived migrants often have- no employment, no English language skills, limited understanding of culture
- ▶ Traffickers exploit these weaknesses to recruit victims

WHAT IS MY ROLE?

- ▶ **A. EDUCATE**
- ▶ **B. IMPLEMENT**
- ▶ **C. ENGAGE**

WHAT IS MY ROLE?

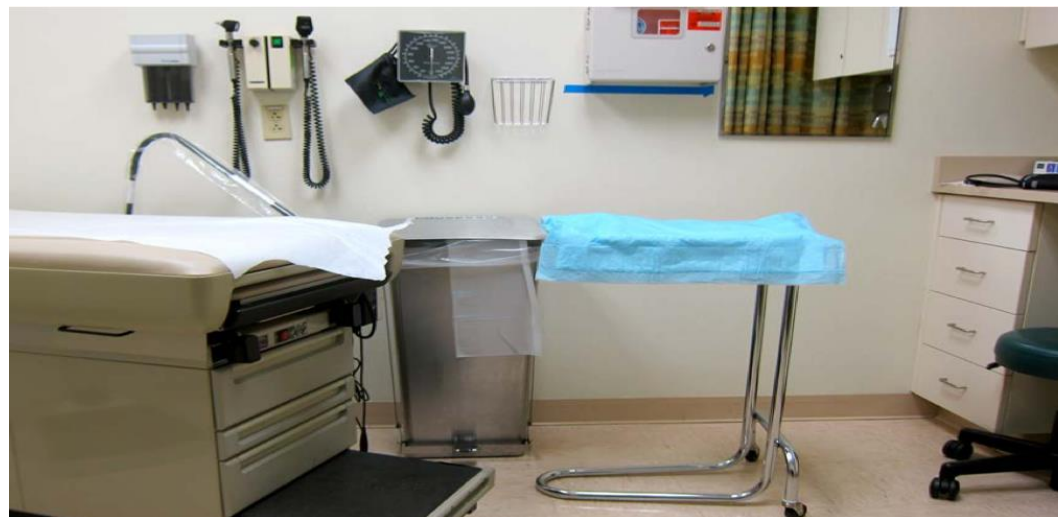
EDUCATE

In one study, 87.8% of trafficking survivors reported accessing healthcare services during their trafficking situations. Of this, 68.3% were seen at an emergency department.

(Lederer & Wetzel, 2014)

“During the time I was on the street, I went to hospitals, urgent care clinics, women’s health clinics, and private doctors. No one ever asked me anything anytime I ever went to a clinic.”

– Lauren, survivor

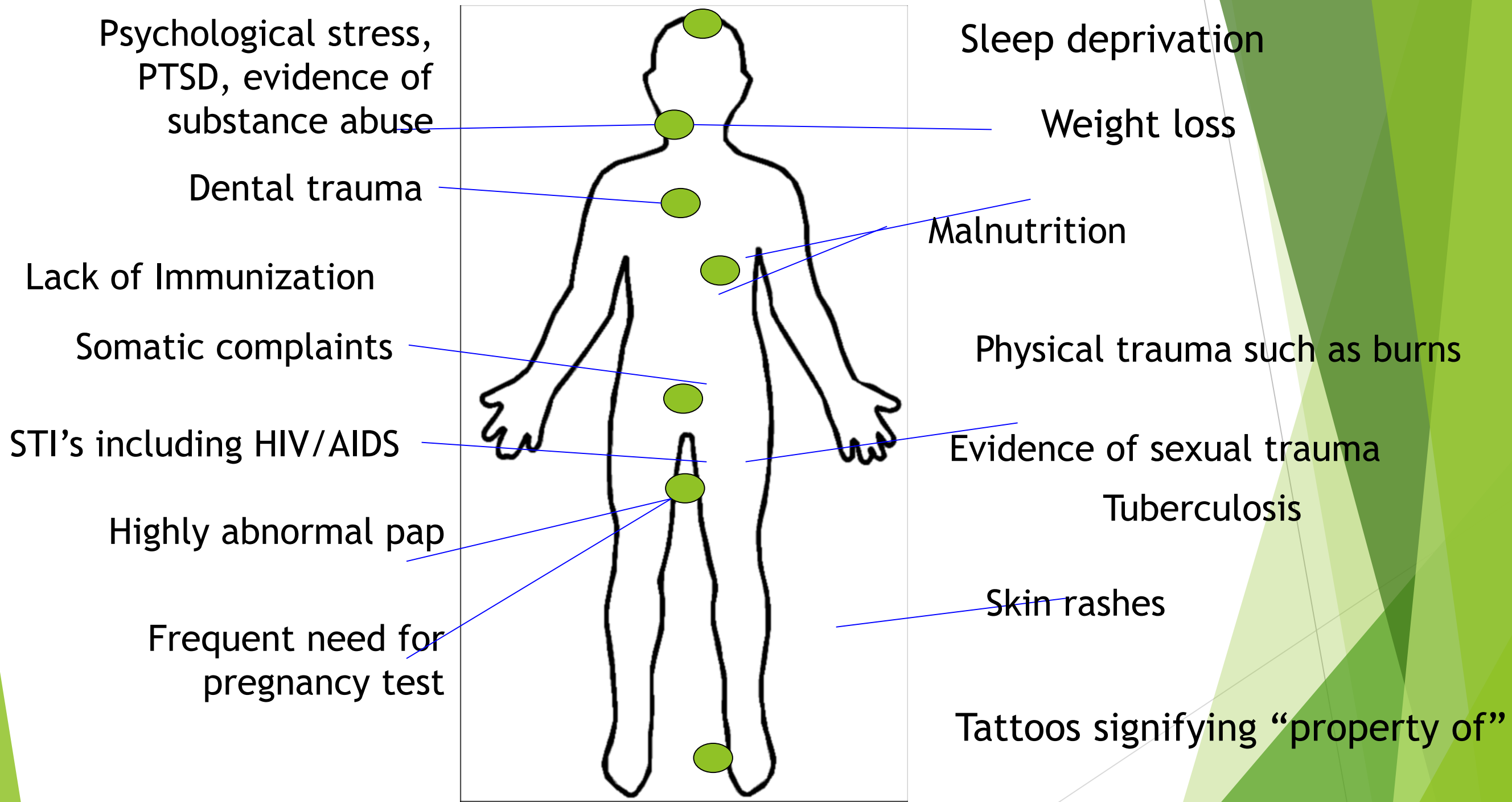


(NHTRC, 2023)

Know Specific Identifiers

- Poor hygiene
- Retained objects such as sponges, baby wipes, tampons, used condoms, or other inside their vagina
- Appear disoriented or intoxicated
- Inappropriately dressed for climate
- Accompanied by another person who seems controlling
- Does patient have identification (inconsistencies in address or story)?
- Does accompanying person answer all questions instead of the patient?
- Evidence of trauma, extreme weight loss
- Patient submissive or fearful

Physical Indicators



Mental Health Identifiers

- Depression - 100%
- PTSD - 30 - 70%
- Phobias, panic attacks
- Substance abuse disorders (alcohol or drugs)
- Dissociative state
- Other mental health disorders

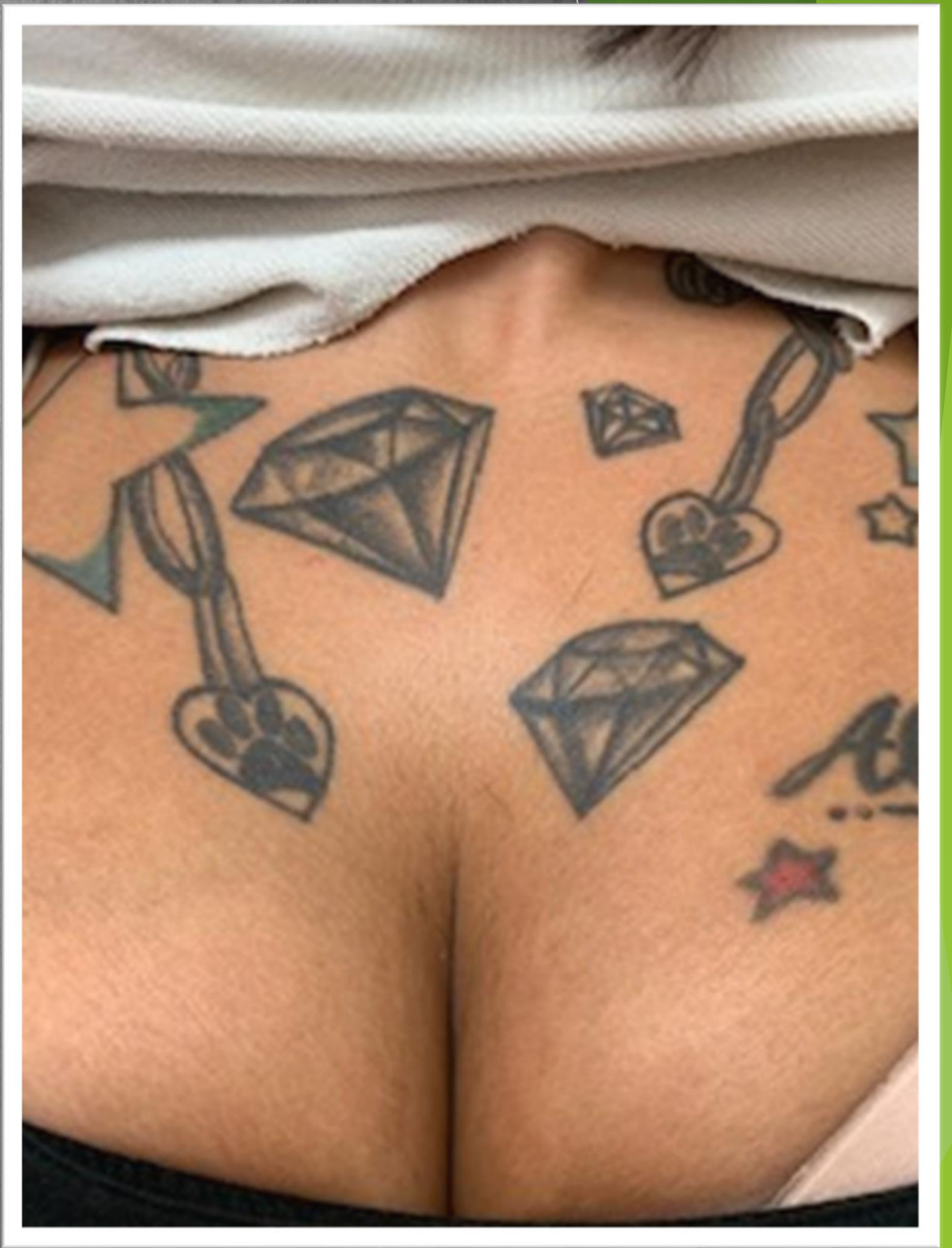
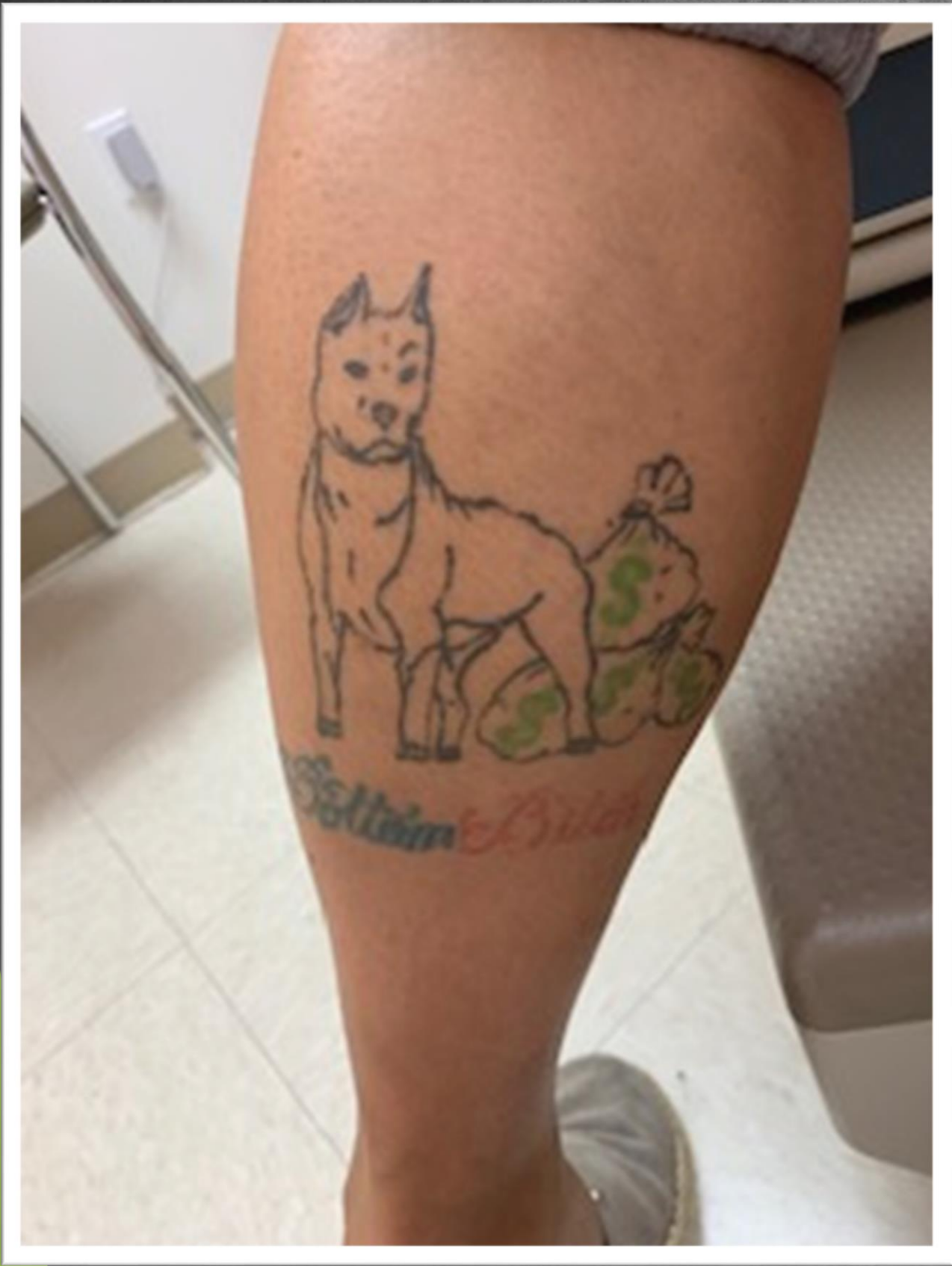
(Schwarz et al, 2016)



Escort Services
Illicit Massage, Health, & Beauty
Outdoor Solicitation
Residential
Domestic Work
Bars, Strip Clubs, & Cantinas
Pornography
Traveling Sales Crews
Restaurants & Food Service
Peddling & Begging
Agriculture & Animal Husbandry
Personal Sexual Servitude
Health & Beauty Services
Construction
Hotels & Hospitality
Landscaping
Illicit Activities
Arts & Entertainment
Commercial Cleaning Services
Factories & Manufacturing
Remote Interactive Sexual Acts
Carnivals
Forestry & Logging
Health Care
Recreational Facilities



- Permission by patient



WHAT IS MY ROLE?

IMPLEMENT YOUR KNOWLEDGE

KNOW WHO TO CALL

- *Call local police if victim at risk of imminent harm*

** Not all local/state police trained on human trafficking**

- **Call national trafficking hotline (888-3737-888)**

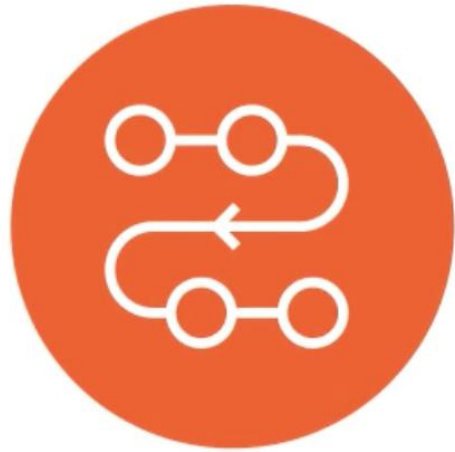
KNOW WHAT TO ASK

Trafficking Screening Questions

- Can you leave your work or job situation if you want?
- When you are not working, can you come and go as you please?
- Have you been threatened with harm if you try to quit?
- Has anyone threatened your family?
- What are your living and working conditions?
- Where do you sleep and eat?
- Do you have to ask permission to eat, sleep, or go to the bathroom?
- Is there a lock on your door or windows so you cannot get out?

HEALTHCARE WORKERS

- ▶ Offer free telemedicine services to trafficking and refugee shelters/safe houses
- ▶ Volunteer to see patients at a local immigrant/refugee/free clinic
- ▶ Develop and initiate a response protocol at your local hospital



Benefits of Developing Protocol

- Clarify procedures
- Enhance staff training
- Optimize interactions with victims
- Optimizes support for victims
- Develops collaborations with outside resources
- Improve staff confidence
- Prepare for threatening situations
- Maximize preparedness to aid victims

TEXAS HHS RESOURCES- “HEART” TRAINING

1. **HEARING** - Establish Environmental awareness training for employee in healthcare settings
2. **EVALUATE** - Establish a pathway for trauma informed care that will enhance interactions with potential trafficking persons
3. **ACTIVATE** - Design protocol to engage all employees in the healthcare setting
4. **RESOURCES & TRAINING**- Identify local, state and national referral systems for trafficked persons and build your organization’s training tools

Protocols: Key Elements

- Developing a screening tool
- Utilizing the screening tool
- Establishing a referral network
- Outlining reporting requirements
- Delivering staff training

CREATE PROTOCOL FOR ALL POINTS OF CONTACT WITH HEALTHCARE PERSONNEL



**Remain
Aware**



**Trauma-Informed
Response**



**Careful
Language**

Points of Contact

Front Line

Mid Line

Finish Line

**Let Patient's Comfort and Safety
Drive Your Actions**

Points of Contact

Front Line

Mid Line

Finish Line

- **What is my client's physical condition?**
- **What seems to be my client's emotional condition?**
- **Who is accompanying my client?**
- **Is my client hesitating in any way to be forthcoming?**

Points of Contact

Front Line

Mid Line

Finish Line

- ● **What is my client's physical condition?**
- ● **What seems to be my client's emotional condition?**
- ● **Who is accompanying my client?**
- ● **Is my client hesitating in any way to be forthcoming?**
- **What red flags might I see that others might not?**

Points of Contact

Front Line

Mid Line

Finish Line

- **Have I ensured the client received all that was needed from staff?**
- **Do I have information on the status of the patient?**
- **Does the clinic have materials to offer the client?**

Trauma-Informed Care

- Safety
- Trustworthiness and Transparency
- Peer support
- Collaboration and mutuality
- Empowerment, voice and choice
- Cultural, Historical and Gender Issues

Four "Rs" of Trauma-Informed Approach



Realize



Recognize



Respond



**Resist
Re-Trauma**



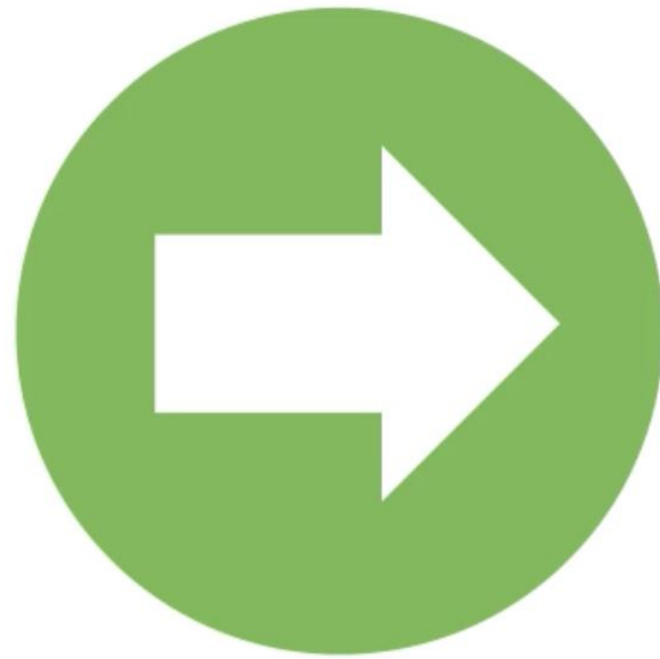
Realize:

Understand how trauma can affect people.



Recognize:

Be able to recognize the signs of trauma.



Respond:

All staff trained and using evidence based practices
Provide a safe environment.



Resist Re-Trauma:

Recognize how some practices may trigger painful memories and re-traumatize clients.

Action Points

- **Research local anti-trafficking contacts**
 - Call the Trafficking Information and Referral Hotline **1.888.3737.888.**
 - Local community resources working specifically to help victims of trafficking
 - Contact these local agencies and find out about local law enforcement
 - Call the Department of Homeland Security Hotline at: **866-347-2423**
 - **Ensure your state and country policies on conflict and security issues include human trafficking**
 - **Work towards local, state and country prioritization of human trafficking prevention, justice and protection efforts for refugee trafficking survivors**

WHAT IS MY ROLE?

ENGAGE YOUR COMMUNITY

What other hats do you wear?

Student/Teacher/Youth leader/School Club President

- ▶ Explore curriculums to incorporate into your classroom
- ▶ “How to talk to youth about human trafficking” by the Blue Campaign
- ▶ Learn the risks for kids online
- ▶ Know what to do when you encounter a suspected or confirmed human trafficking or exploitation situation
- ▶ Empower students, parents and caregivers with knowledge and toolkits to prevent and recognize human trafficking

MISSION WORK - DOMESTIC AND ABROAD

Emergency settings

- ▶ Help with urgent needs such as shelter, food, healthcare, pastoral counseling
- ▶ Keep your eyes open

Short/Long term missions

- ▶ Skills training and supporting social enterprise initiatives
- ▶ Supporting rescue efforts by local organizations
- ▶ Building self-reliance of refugees
- ▶ Connecting to local resources
- ▶ Raising awareness in the community
- ▶ Building relationships with women in "brothels"

Community Involvement

- ▶ Mentoring at risk women and youth
- ▶ Teaching life skills
- ▶ Teen advocacy
- ▶ Pro bono legal help
- ▶ Post human trafficking awareness posters at your business
- ▶ Buy Fair Trade, be a conscientious consumer
- ▶ Support and/or start local victim services
- ▶ Raise funds for safe houses

PROTOCOL TOOLKITS

- ▶ Blue Campaign
- ▶ Shared Hope International
- ▶ Polaris Project
- ▶ Engage Together
- ▶ A21 Campaign

Helpful Screening Tools



Recognizing and Responding to Human Trafficking

Defining Human Trafficking: The A-M-P Model		
Action	Means*	Purpose
Induce, Recruit, Harbor, Provide, Obtain	Force, Fraud, or Coercion	Commercial Sex or Labor/Services

*Force, Fraud, or Coercion is NOT required for minors induce into commercial sex acts under the age of 18.

Four-Step Approach to Recognize & Respond to Human Trafficking



<p>History</p> <p>Chief Complaints: Headache, fatigue, delayed medical care, abdominal pain, back pain, pelvic pain, suicidal ideation, depression, dental problems, malnourishment, substance abuse, recurrent STI</p> <p>Social History: Abusive relationship, contradictory information, high number of pregnancies or abortions</p> <p>Common labor trafficking occupations: Restaurant work, agricultural work, domestic services, peddling, panhandling, drug dealing, massage parlor</p> <p>Common sex trafficking occupations: Prostitution, pornography, massage parlor, escort services</p>	<p>Physical Exam</p> <p>Third party answering questions Fearful or distrusting Poor dentition and/or malnourished Unusual reaction to GYN exam (screaming, sobbing) Sexualized behavior, especially in minors Flinching from contact Easily distractible Defensive wounds Tattoos Barcodes, diamonds, money symbols/bags of money, Daddy, names or initials not belonging to patient, often on neck, chest, arm, groin, abdomen Injuries not consistent with chief complaint Trauma to face, breasts, genitals, torso Pregnant with abdominal/breast injury Patient unfamiliar with city/current residence</p>
<p>Screen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do you feel safe at home, work, and school? - Have you been harmed at home or work? - Where do you sleep (bed, cot floor)? Who else lives there? Are there locks on the doors/windows? - Have you been forced to do something? - Have you had sex for food/shelter/money? - Is anyone threatening your family or friends? - Has anyone taken a picture of you that made you uneasy? - Do you have control over your personal ID, license, passport, and money? - Can you leave your job/living situation if needed? - What do you do for work? Work hours? - Do you owe your boss money? Is he your landlord? - How often do you see your friends or family? - Were you charged a fee to come to the US? - Have you ever been deprived of food/ sleep/ water/ medical care? 	<p>Respond</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assess safety needs - Communicate a message of hope - Inform the patient they have rights and are not alone - If safety is an immediate concern and the patient consents, involve security/law enforcement - Reporting may be mandatory, based on the case and age - Undocumented or nonpermanent residents have protected rights - If they decline assistance, trust that the patient knows the situational risks associated with leaving and assure the patient that they are welcome to return at any time. <p><u>Offer these hotlines:</u> National Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-373-7888 Rescue Houston: 713-322-8000</p>

Credit : Leah Bayliss, PA-C

Human Trafficking CME

- ▶ <https://nhttac.acf.hhs.gov/soar/soar-for-individuals/soar-online>
- ▶ [Signs of Human Trafficking and Response: A Physician's Guide | ACP \(acponline.org\)](#)
- ▶ <https://www.dignityhealth.org/hello-humankindness/human-trafficking/victim-centered-and-trauma-informed/using-the-pearr-tool>
- ▶ <https://www.aapa.org/news-central/2019/05/human-trafficking-become-informed-and-be-attentive/>
- ▶ www.cmda.org/tip

www.cmda.org/tip

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HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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21 APPS

PARENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

Courtesy of the
Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
SEPTEMBER 2019



PLENTY OF FISH



PLENTY OF FISH is a popular free dating app and website that encourages chatting with strangers. It allows users to browse profiles based on location.

HILY



HILY is a dating app where users can browse photos, engage in chats, send private videos and more. Based on the GPS location of a mobile device, strangers can arrange to meet up locally.

ZOOSK



ZOOSK is a location-based dating app and website similar to many others. The app is available in 80 countries and utilizes a "carousel" feature which matches users with random strangers.

MOCOSPACE



MOCOSPACE is a free social networking and dating app geared towards African American and Latino communities. Users can connect with strangers worldwide via text messages or voice calls.

BEST SECRET FOLDER



BEST SECRET FOLDER is specifically meant to "hide photos and videos," according to app store descriptions. It features password protection, decoy videos and alarm settings.

MONKEY



MONKEY is a live video chat app that connects users to random strangers worldwide, offering group chat and private message options. It claims to be rated for ages 12 and up but has "mild sexual content and nudity."

MEETME



MEETME is a dating social media app that allows users to connect with people based on geographic proximity. As the app's name suggests, users are encouraged to meet each other in person.

GRINDR



GRINDR is a dating app geared towards gay, bi and transgender people. The app gives users options to chat, share photos and meet up based on a smart phone's GPS location.

SKOUT



SKOUT is a location-based dating app and website. While users under 17 years old are unable to share private photos, kids can easily create an account using a different age.

WHATSAPP



WHATSAPP is a popular messaging app that allows users to send texts, photos, voicemails, make calls and video chats worldwide. WHATSAPP uses an internet connection on smart phones and computers.

TIKTOK



TIKTOK is a new mobile device app popular with kids used for creating and sharing short videos. With very limited privacy controls, users are vulnerable to cyber bullying and explicit content.

BADDO



BADDO is a dating and social networking app where users can chat, share photos and videos and connect based on location. While the app is intended for adults only, teens are known to create profiles.

BUMBLE



BUMBLE is similar to the popular dating app "Tinder" however, it requires women to make the first contact. Kids have been known to use BUMBLE to create fake accounts and falsify their age.

SNAPCHAT



SNAPCHAT is one of the most popular apps in recent years. While the app promises users can take a photo/video and it will disappear, new features including "stories" allows users to view content for up to 24 hours. Snapchat also allows users to see your location.

KIK



KIK allows anyone to contact and direct message your child. Kids can bypass traditional text messaging features. KIK gives users unlimited access to anyone, anywhere, anytime.

LIVEME



LIVEME is a live-streaming video app that uses geolocation to share videos so users can find out a broadcaster's exact location. Users can earn "coins" as a way to "pay" minors for photos.

HOLLA



HOLLA is a self-proclaimed "addicting" video chat app that allows users to meet people all over the world in just seconds. Reviewers say they have been confronted with racial slurs, explicit content, and more.

WHISPER



WHISPER is an anonymous social network that promotes sharing secrets with strangers. It also reveals a user's location so people can meet up.

ASK.FM



ASK.FM is known for cyber bullying. The app encourages users to allow anonymous people to ask them questions.

CALCULATOR%



CALCULATOR% is only one of SEVERAL secret apps used to hide photos, videos, files, and browser history.

HOT OR NOT



HOT OR NOT encourages users to rate your profile, check out people in their area, and chat with strangers. The goal of this app is to hook up.

For more information, contact Sarasota County Sheriff's Office Community Affairs at 941.861.4005



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Figure 1 (Purpose of Human Trafficking) <http://image.slidesharecdn.com/humantraffickingsummary-130103013059phpapp01/95/humantrafficking-4-638.jpg?cb=1357176699>

Figure 2 (Fifteen Apps) <http://image.slidesharecdn.com/humantraffickingsummary-130103013059-phpapp01/95/human-trafficking-4-638.jpg?cb=1357176699>

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- ▶ Texas Health and Human Services HEART Training. (2023) <https://www.hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/services/safety/human-trafficking/hhs-approved-human-trafficking-training.pdf>
- ▶ Regugee Statistics. (2023). www.unrefugees.org/refugee-facts/statistics/

What will you answer?





YOU CAN HELP BRING HOPE TO THE DARKNESS

Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless;
maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed.
Psalm 82:3

Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of
all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge
righteously, defend the rights of the poor and
needy. Proverbs 31:8-9

GET INVOLVED WITH THE CMDA COMMISSION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

We exist to equip
support, motivate, send
and transform CMDA
members in their role to
abolish human
trafficking within the U.S.
and abroad

Join CMDA in the exhibit hall for a cup of coffee!
We'd love to meet you, and caffeinate you!

