What is human Trafficking?

“Human trafficking is not only a human rights issue, it is also a criminal justice issue, a public health issue, a child welfare issue, and a local and community issue that affects all.” – Polaris Project

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) defined trafficking as (Gallagher, 2012):

- Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age. OR
- The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

End Slavery Cincinnati, 2016

FACTS

- Commercial sex
- Pornography
- Forced begging
- Restaurant work
- Drug sales and cultivation
- Stepping
- Magazine crews
- Air ports / airlines
- Hair / nail salons
- Agricultural work
GLOBAL STATISTICS

59% Women
14% Men
17% Girls
10% Boys

Up to 300,000 Americans under the age of 18 are lured into the commercial sex trade every year. 14,500 to 17,500 of those victims are trafficked into the US each year.

4.5 million of trafficked persons are sexually exploited. When internal trafficking victims are added, 2 to 4 million with 50% of this population estimated to be children.

Up to 800,000 women, children, and bought and sold across international borders every year (US Government).

NEUROBIOLOGY OF TRAUMA

One must understand the short and long term consequences of trauma to understand patient presentation.
AMYGDALA DETECTS THREAT ACTIVATES HYPOTHALAMUS KICKS IN RELEASES FLOOD OF HORMONES

What happens during an assault?

MEMORY PROCESS IMPACTED BY TRAUMA: Limbic System

| HIPPOCAMPUS | RESPONSIBLE FOR PROCESSING INFORMATION INTO MEMORIES, ENCODING AND CONSOLIDATING MEMORIES |
| AMYGDALA | RESPONSIBLE FOR PROCESSING EMOTIONAL MEMORIES WORKS WITH THE HIPPOCAMPUS |

BOTH STRUCTURES SENSITIVE TO HORMONAL FLUCTUATIONS

VIOLENCE OVER A LIFETIME

CHANGES THE WAY THE BRAIN FUNCTIONS

DULLS A TYPICAL RESPONSE TO THREAT

CREATES GREY AREAS BETWEEN WHAT IS COMMONLY ACCEPTED AS “RIGHT” OR “WRONG”
Characteristics of the Victim-survivor: Poly-victimization

Adjusted World View

From the abuser's perspective
Idealization of the abuser, strives to please him/her.

Marked by both abuse, control, and dependency along with love, admiration, and gratefulness.

Shame and Guilt

The Apple and the Tree: Family Violence
**Trauma bonding**

Herman (1992a) “All the structures of the self – the image of the body, the internalized images of others, and the values and ideals that lend a sense of coherence and purpose – are invaded and systematically broken down”.

- One isolated traumatic event: “I am not my self anymore”.
- Chronic abuse and repeated traumatic events: “I do not have a self”.

**Conditions Facilitating Recruitment**

Pimps recruit young, vulnerable US women and children by befriending and creating emotional and drug and alcohol dependencies to entrap them.

- Ecstaticism: Desperation
- Coercion and violence

**Women of Alabaster Ministries**

- Video
Characteristics of Sex Trafficking

Characteristics:
- No “single” profile
- Adults and minors in rural, suburban, or urban communities across the country
- Victims diverse socio-economic backgrounds, varied levels of education, and may be documented or undocumented.

Risk factors for victims:
1. Runaway and homeless youth
2. Foreign nationals
3. Individuals that have experienced trauma and violence

Case Study "1" A
Profile and History
Age: 38 Street: 8 years Gender: Female/Caucasian Marital Status: Divorced
Religious Status: Believer Current Status: Faith-based Treatment Facility
Highest Level of Education: Some College (Medical Assistant) Pimp: Yes
- Alcohol and Drug Abuse
- Physical and Mental Abuse
- Age 6 Rape Victim (not reported)
- Father not in picture
- Back injury triggered addiction
- Children (3) biological (1) husband's son

Case Study "2" W
Profile and History
Age: 42 Street: 11 years Gender: Female/Caucasian Marital Status: Divorced
Religious Status: Believer Current Status: Work
Highest Level of Education: 2-year College (Addiction Counselor) Pimp: Yes
- Alcohol and Drug Abuse
- Physical and Mental Abuse
- Left home at 15 after rape
- Mother and Father addiction issues
- Trigger: Childhood Trauma
- Children (3) biological
Case Study "3" B

Profile and History
Age: 32  Street: 17 years  Gender: Female/Caucasian  Marital Status: Divorced
Religious Status: Believer  Current Status: Treatment/New Apartment & Job
Highest Level of Education: 8th grade (reading & writing limited)  Pimp: Yes
- Alcohol and Drug Abuse
- Physical and Mental Abuse
- Mom had her dancing for boyfriend at 8 (alcohol) at age 12 stripping and heroin addiction began
- Father not in picture
- Trigger: childhood trauma
- Children (3) biological

Alcohol and Drug Abuse
- Physical and Mental Abuse
- Mom had her dancing for boyfriend at 8 (alcohol) at age 12 stripping and heroin addiction began
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- Children (3) biological

Healthcare Interaction with victim-survivor
- Mental and Sexual Trauma = FEAR (inner child)
- Victim @ Emergency Department = Hyper-sensitive to ALL stimulus
- Anxiety and PTSD respond to victim with positive body language and vocal tones remain calming = Empathetic + Trustworthy
- Encourage doctor to begin anxiety meds immediately
- Questions must be direct and not repetitive
- Victim is Not Drug Seeking (les than 5%) = "I came for help"
- Call an Advocate to sit with victim/survivor

Identification within the Healthcare System
LACK OF EDUCATION REGARDING HUMAN TRAFFICKING
LACK OF A PROTOCOL GUIDING RESPONSE AND INTERVENTIONS
CHOICE vs. COERCION
The Drug Epidemic

Use of drugs and alcohol to cope
- 87% of international women
- 92% of US women
50% started using drugs and alcohol to cope after they entered the sex industry

ADDICTION: SYMPTOMS OF WITHDRAWAL

WITHIN 6 TO 12 HOURS
- Tearing up, muscle aches, agitation, trouble falling and staying asleep, excessive yawning, anxiety, nose running, sweats, racing heart, hypertension, fever, inability to concentrate.

WITHIN 72 HOURS
- Nausea and vomiting, diarrhea, goosebumps, stomach cramps, depression, drug cravings, aggression, paranoia, hypervigilance.

REFRAMING TRAUMA - COERCED ATTACHMENT

Power imbalance created by coercion may be invisible if there is very little physical violence associated with it. The traumatic entrapment is often not identified by professionals and the public because of the nature of the coercion that may seem invisible.

Power imbalance created by abuser should be seen as chronic stress (fear, dread, and obedience) vs. dysfunctional attachment that reflects masochism, weakness, or social vulnerability.
IDENTIFICATION:
UNDERSTANDING “RED FLAGS”

Screening

Documentation of red flags

POSSIBLE SCREENING QUESTIONS

Have you been forced to engage in sexual acts for money or favors?
Is someone holding your passport or identification documents?
Has anyone threatened to hurt you or your family if you leave?
Has anyone physically or sexually abused you?
Do you have a debt to someone you cannot pay off?
Does anyone take all or part of the money you earn?

NHTH. 2017

Documentation of Red Flags of Trafficking
What to say when you think someone is being trafficked?

My highest concern is you, and your well-being. I am worried about your safety if you leave and are stuck in a situation you do not want to be in. If someone is making you do ANYTHING you do not want to do, that is not OK. There may be services available to help you.

NOTE: Your immigration status does not matter to me. If anyone has threatened your safety, or the safety of someone you care about, or your immigration status, that is not OK. At this point my main concern is your safety.

Offer immediate support:
Call the National Human Trafficking Hotline with the victim-survivor.
888 373 7888

If an individual refuses services or help, share the NHTH number above with them so they can call and access resources at a later date.

MISSION and Statement of Purpose

Mission:
- To optimize community response to victim-survivors of human trafficking by utilizing and maintaining an inter-professional approach.

Statement of Purpose:
- The purpose of the protocol is to provide individuals and agencies in the Northern Kentucky Region with comprehensive resources and guidelines for responding to victim-survivors of human trafficking.
- The use of the protocol and resource manual will not only ensure safety of the victim-survivor of human trafficking but also creates awareness of the issue of human trafficking and promote positive systemic change through a collaborative and transparent process.

Best Practices for the Treatment of Victim-Survivors of Human Trafficking
INTER-PROFESSIONAL TASK FORCE DEVELOPMENT

- **Goals:**
  - Development of a human trafficking team that includes healthcare providers, forensic nurses, law enforcement, case managers, the justice system and community resources.
  - Identification of processes to support healing and promote resilience for victim-survivors.
  - Support for the prosecution of human traffickers.
  - Increase human trafficking identification and community awareness.

Forensic Nursing Response

- Offer opportunity to call case management to assist patient at time of arrival.
- More in-depth screening provided using Vera Short form screening tool as a guide.
- Offer opportunity for forensic nursing exam
- Provide advocacy information and follow-up opportunities
References

- Alpert, EJ., Ahn, R., Albright, E., Purcell, G., Burke, TF, Macias-Konstantopoulos, WJ. (September, 2014). Human Trafficking: Guidebook on Identification, Assessment, and Response in the Health Care Setting. MGH Human Trafficking Initiative, Division of Global Health and Human Rights, Department of Emergency Medicine, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA and Committee on Violence Intervention and Prevention, Massachusetts Medical Society, Waltham, MA.