

Recognizing and Caring for The Victims of Human Trafficking

Katrina Bickerstaff BSN RN CPAN CAPA

What is Human Trafficking ?

- A crime that involves exploiting a person for labor, services, or commercial sex
- It is **modern-day slavery** and involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act

Elements of Human Trafficking

ACT

Recruitment

Transport

Harboring

Transfer

Receipt of persons

MEANS

Force

Fraud

Coercion

Abduction

PURPOSE

Exploitation:

- Prostitution
- Sexual exploitation
- Forced labor
- Removal of organs

According to Walk Free Foundation,
there are 46 million people worldwide
enslaved

- Forced labor
- Bondage from indebtedness
- Forced/servile marriage
- Commercial sexual exploitation

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2016/jun/01/46-million-people-living-as-slaves-latest-global-index-reveals-russell-crowe>

Statistics

- 46 million victims of human trafficking globally
- Forced labor/human trafficking is a \$150 billion industry
- The U.S. Dept. of Labor identified: 139 goods from 75 countries made by forced and child labor
- In 2016, an estimated 1 out of 6 runaways were likely child sex trafficking victims
- Overall number of human trafficking victims in the United States is in the hundreds of thousands

Modern Day Slavery

- From poorer countries to richer countries
- Citizens of more than 35 countries, enslaved in the U.S.
- Largest new source: large cities, vacation areas, tourist areas, sporting events, and near military bases
- Often treated as a problem of illegal immigration causing victims to be treated as criminals
- Victims usually end up in where the demand is highest

Slavery: Common Work & Living Conditions

- Not free to leave or come and go as he/she wishes
- In the commercial sex industry
- Is unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips
- Works excessively long and/or unusual hours
- Is not allowed breaks
- Owes a large debt and is unable to pay it off
- Recruited through false promises
- High security measures exist in the work and/or living

Types of Human Trafficking/Slavery

- Forced labor
- Sexual slavery
- Commercial sexual exploitation for the trafficker or others
 - providing a spouse in the context of forced marriage
 - pornography
- Organ trafficking
 - extraction of organs or tissues, including for surrogacy and ova removal

Forced Labor

Labor trafficking: “The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services”

- Induced by force, fraud, or coercion; and/or for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, debt bondage or slavery

Forced Labor/Labor Trafficking

Defined by International Labor Org. Convention as *“all work or service exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily”*

Labor trafficking: “The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services”

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Where Can We Find Forced Labor

1. Domestic servitude
2. Mineral and agriculture industries
3. Traveling sales crews/begging
4. Construction
5. Fishing
6. Textile manufacturing
7. Nail salons/beauty industry

Sexual Exploitation/Slavery

- Sex trafficking: “The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act”
 - These acts are not consensual
 - Induced by force, fraud, or coercion

Where do we find Sexual Slavery

1. Illicit Massage/Spa Business
2. Residence-Based Commercial Sex
3. Hotel/Motel-Based
4. Pornography
5. Online

- Forced Marriage- marriage that takes place without the consent of one or both people
 - May occur when family members use physical/emotional abuse, threats, deception
- Arranged marriage a common tradition in many cultures is **not the same** as forced marriage
 - Families play a role in choosing the marriage partner
 - Both individuals are free to choose whether to marry and when to get married

Forced Marriage

Human Trafficking

Motivations:

economic
dependency

Motivations:

economic
dependency &
exploitation

Illegal acts through
legal systems

*Lack of consent,
personal liberty*

*Physical, sexual &
psychological
harm*

Illegal

Often subservient
marriages

Exploitation

Slavery like
conditions

Parental/societal
pressures

*Exchange of
favors*

Risk of death

Organ Trafficking

- Organ harvesting: “Involves trafficking people in order to use their internal organs for transplant”
- Induced by force, fraud, or coercion
 - Kidneys are in high demand due to transplant waiting lists

National Crime Agency, 2018, para 7

<https://www.acamstoday.org/organ-trafficking-the-unseen-form-of-human-trafficking/>

Commonalities

- Many do not speak any English
- Many are confined to a room or small space to work, eat, sleep
- Many are fearful and/or distrust health providers, government, law enforcement
- Unaware what is being done to them is a crime
- Many have unhealthy coping mechanisms
- May develop loyalties, positive feelings towards traffickers

**Would you know if one of your
patients was a victim of human
trafficking**

[https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/partnerships/look-beneath-the-surface.](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/partnerships/look-beneath-the-surface)

Our Role as Peri anesthesia Nurses

- We may, & probably do come into contact with victims of human trafficking
- We have a unique opportunity to connect them with support and services
- Anyone in a health care setting may be able to identify, treat, and respond appropriately to human trafficking

Assessment

Poor Physical Health

- Lack of health care/poor historian
- Appears malnourished, unclean, unkept, poor oral health, skin infections
- Signs of physical abuse
- Sexual transmitted diseases

Assessment

Poor Mental Health/Abnormal Behavior

- Is fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid
- Symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder
- Exhibits unusually fearful or anxious behavior after bringing up law enforcement
- Avoids eye contact

Lack of Control

- Has few or no personal possessions
- Not in control of his/her own money
- Not in control of his/her own identification documents
- Not allowed to speak for themselves, language barrier, adhering to a script
- Claims of just visiting & inability to clarify where he/she is staying
- Lack of knowledge of whereabouts
- Loss of sense of time
- Has numerous inconsistencies in his/her story

If Human Trafficking is Suspected

- Remain nonjudgmental, try to build a trusting rapport
- Observe body language/communication style
- Before asking any sensitive questions try to get the person alone
 - Request time alone in a manner that does not raise suspicions
 - Use plain language; try to use words the patient uses
- Document your concern to ensure it is not overlooked if the victim returns for care or assistance

For Victim's safety

- Strict confidentiality is paramount
- Try to interview and/or examine the patient privately
 - Ensure you are alone when you discuss sensitive issues
 - Use simple screening questions
 - May deny being trafficking victim, so best not to ask direct questions
 - Find an interpreter if necessary
 - Ask questions in safe, confidential and trusting environment.....**alone**

The Joint Commission[©]: Key Questions

- How did you get here
- Where do you live, eat, and sleep
- Do you live with other people
- Is your family there, or nearby
- Has your ID/documents been taken from you
- Have you been denied food, water, sleep, medical care
- Do you owe someone money
- Were you or your family been threatened
- Are you being forced to do anything you do not want to do

What to do

If a patient has disclosed that they have been trafficked

- Take the following actions to support and help keep the victim safe
- In situations of immediate, life-threatening danger, follow your institutional policies for reporting to law enforcement
 - Try to partner with the patient in the decision to contact law enforcement
- If the patient is a minor
 - follow mandatory state reporting laws & institutional policies for child abuse

What to do

- Provide the patient with the hotline number
- Provide the patient with options for services, reporting and resources
- Accurately document the patient's injuries and treatment in the patient's records.
 - use patient quotes as much as possible and stick to the facts
- Gain permission and consent from adult before disclosing any personal information about them to others, including service providers
- If your institution has a social worker, utilize them

Collaboration is the Key

- The key is to develop an inclusive plan & response to human trafficking
 - Facilitates a coordinated response
 - Permits a multi-disciplinary/multi-agency approach
 - Allows each participant to focus on their respective goals

No one agency can meet all the needs of a survivor of human trafficking

Community Awareness

- Human trafficking is hidden by the appearance of regularity
- Adult victims often interact with others and may even engage in routine transactions
- May be imperceptible to the general observer

Traffickers rely on these conditions, which enable them to control victims even when they interact with others

Take away

- Anyone can be a victim of human trafficking
- The precise scope of human trafficking is not known
- Everyone has a role to play in identifying and supporting victims
- Victims may not self-identify for several reasons
- Force, fraud, and coercion are key elements of the crime
- Traffickers can be anyone
- Traffickers prey on victims' vulnerabilities
- Victims need an array of services to meet all their needs

For the Victims

National Human Trafficking Hotline

1-888-373-7888

Text 233733 (BEFREE)

Email or chat help@humantraffickinghotline.org

Free | 24/7 | Confidential

Federal services are available for all individuals who have experienced human trafficking

For Healthcare Professionals

For more information and educational material
please visit

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip>

END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Questions

Please feel free to contact me

- Katbick@cox.net

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