



PEAK
DEVELOPMENT
RESOURCES LLC

**Peak Development for ...
Home Health Aides®**

Vol. 19 Issue 10

October 2018

Human Trafficking: Awareness and Overview

Peak Development Resources, LLC
P.O. Box 13267
Richmond, VA 23225

Phone: (804) 233-3707
Fax: (804) 233-3705
Email: editor@peakdev.com

Peak Development for... Home Health Aides® and *Competency Assessment Tool for Home Health Aides®* are components of a site license for the Peak Development Resources Competency Assessment System for Home Health Aides® and may be reproduced for this individual facility only. Sharing of these components with any other freestanding facility within or outside the licensee's corporate entity is expressly prohibited.

The information contained in *Peak Development for... Home Health Aides* is intended only as a guide for the practice of home health aides supervised by licensed personnel. It is the responsibility of the reader to understand and adhere to policies and procedures set forth by the employing institution. The editor and publisher of this newsletter disclaim any liability resulting from use or misuse of information contained herein. Professional guidance from licensed personnel should be sought.

Copyright © 2018

After reading the newsletter, the home health aide should be able to:

1. Define human trafficking.
2. Identify three types of human trafficking.
3. Describe how victims are targeted and forced to work.

Human trafficking, also called trafficking in persons, is a modern-day form of slavery. This is a serious and worsening public health issue in the US and worldwide. Every year in the US, hundreds of thousands of people are victimized by this crime. It affects every state in the US, as well as every region in the world. Globally, over 40 million people are believed to be victims of human trafficking.



It is important for everyone, including healthcare providers, to have an awareness of human trafficking and to recognize and report suspicious activity. This newsletter will present an overview of human trafficking, including what it is, types of human trafficking, who its victims are, and how it occurs.

What Is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking, or modern-day slavery, occurs when a victim is forced, coerced, or deceived into performing work, sex acts, or other services. This exploitation is a gross violation of human rights on all levels, and is done for the financial gain of the trafficker. Human trafficking brings in billions of dollars annually, and is second only to drug trafficking in the amount of money it generates worldwide.

Any person, of any age, gender, background or ethnicity, can become a victim of human trafficking. However, victims are often chosen

because they are vulnerable, due to poverty, desperation, lack of family support, language barriers, illegal alien status, and lack of knowledge about their rights.

Victims may be kidnapped into service, or lured with false promises of jobs or education. They may be coerced through threats of harm to themselves or their family, or told that they must work to pay off a false debt. People at increased risk for becoming trafficking victims include runaway and homeless youth, victims of domestic violence, people in a country illegally, and those who are desperate to leave the area due to war or other violence.

Traffickers may target strangers or friends, or may even exploit family members, such as their own children, as victims of trafficking. Transportation to another country or isolation from family is not necessary for trafficking to occur. In many cases, young girls and boys in the US are sold for sex in their own houses, by their own parents.

The US is significantly affected by human trafficking, involving not only US citizens, but others who are brought to the US. Trafficking occurs in the cities, suburbs and rural areas of every state in the US. It affects hundreds of thousands of US citizens, as well as thousands of people brought into the US for this purpose each year.



It is important to understand that human trafficking is very different from smuggling. Smuggling involves transporting a person across an international border. It is usually done with the consent of, and payment by, the person being smuggled. Smuggling is a crime against a country, while trafficking is a crime against a person. The main purpose of smuggling is transportation, while the purpose of trafficking is exploitation, even though victims of trafficking may be taken across borders. Smuggling is voluntary, while trafficking is involuntary, forced or coerced. The relationship between the smuggler and the person being transported ends once the border is crossed. But the relationship between the trafficker and the victim may continue indefinitely, until the trafficker is caught, has no further use for the victim, or the victim escapes.



Types of Human Trafficking

Most victims of human trafficking are obtained for a specific reason or task, for use in either legal or illegal businesses. The victims may be of any age, and include men, women, girls, and boys. Types of human trafficking include:

Sexual exploitation: Women, men, girls and boys are forced into sex trades such as prostitution, pornography and the adult entertainment industry. The average age of girls and boys exploited for this purpose is 11 to 14 years, but grooming the child for the experience may occur for years before this.

Forced labor: The trafficking victim may be forced to work long hours, in terrible conditions, with no days off. Any “pay” that they earn is often applied toward phony debts they are told they owe, such as for food, shelter, clothing, transportation or medical care. The forced work may include farming, mining, food service, maid service, sewing, manufacturing, and many other industries.

Domestic servitude: In this type of trafficking, the victim is forced to work as a servant, maid, cook and nanny in a home. This type of exploitation can be very hard to detect, since the abuse occurs in private homes, and the victims are often kept very isolated. Victims may be required to work day and night, with no time off.

Bride trafficking: Young women may be sold to others for use as marriage partners. The transaction is commonly done by the woman’s relatives or acquaintances. This practice is most common in countries such as China and India, where giving

birth to girls is considered a financial burden and many female fetuses are aborted. This changes the gender balance, making it more difficult for men to find wives, and so brides are bought and sold.

Organ harvesting: The victim is either forced or coerced into undergoing surgery to remove an organ that will then be transplanted into a high-paying customer. If the victim is lured with the promise of payment for the organ, the payment may never be made, or may be drastically reduced. The most desirable organs for transplant are commonly the kidneys, but may also include livers and corneas.

How Does It Happen?

So how does someone, particularly a grown man or woman, become a victim of human trafficking? And why don’t they leave once they realize the situation? The answers to these questions are complex. In some cases, traffickers use force to kidnap their victims. They may keep them physically captured and beat them to prevent escape. Commonly, however, psychological tactics are used to gain the victim’s cooperation.

Traffickers are very skilled at exploiting a victim’s vulnerabilities, such as a need for food, shelter, drugs, or supportive relationships. Often, victims are lured with the promise of a better life, such as well-paying jobs or new and exciting opportunities or relationships. They are then kept in the situation by fear, embarrassment, shame, mistrust of law enforcement agencies, language barriers, and lack of knowledge of their rights. Severe psychological trauma and beatings may keep them from trying to escape, and many will not seek help, even when in a public place. The victims are often told, and firmly believe, that they must work to re-pay a debt, or that their families will be harmed or shamed if they leave. They may be addicted to drugs and have no way to obtain them if they leave. They may fear deportation. They may have no identification or money, as traffickers often keep their passports, documents and money from them.



Human trafficking is one of the worst possible violations of human rights. Healthcare providers must have adequate awareness to help identify and prevent this type of abuse. Future newsletter issues will focus on signs of human trafficking and how to help these victims. To report suspected activity, call the National Human Trafficking hotline at 1-888-373-7888.



Human Trafficking: Awareness and Overview

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

Directions: Place the letter of the one best answer in the space provided.

- ____1. Due to strong federal laws, human trafficking rarely occurs in the US.
A. True
B. False

- ____2. Which of the following occurs in all cases of human trafficking?
A. transportation
B. physical abuse
C. sexual abuse
D. exploitation

- ____3. Human trafficking is done mainly to provide which of the following for the trafficker?
A. a feeling of control
B. sexual activity
C. financial gain
D. help with various types of manual labor

- ____4. Human trafficking, trafficking in persons, and smuggling are terms that all mean the same thing.
A. True
B. False

- ____5. Traffickers may target which of the following as their victims?
A. friends
B. strangers
C. their own children
D. all of the above

- ___6. People who have which of the following are LESS likely to become victims of human trafficking?
- A. illegal alien status
 - B. language barriers
 - C. strong family support
 - D. no money or income
- ___7. Victims of human trafficking are used only in illegal businesses, such as the drug trade or prostitution.
- A. True
 - B. False
- ___8. Which of the following types of human trafficking is most difficult to detect, due to the setting in which it occurs?
- A. domestic servitude
 - B. forced labor on a farm
 - C. organ harvesting
 - D. sexual exploitation
- ___9. Bride trafficking is more common in countries where giving birth to a female is considered a burden.
- A. True
 - B. False
- ___10. Victims of human trafficking may not try to escape or seek help due to:
- A. fear
 - B. language barriers
 - C. mistrust of law enforcement
 - D. all of the above

