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# **Human Trafficking: The Fast Track from Vulnerable to Victim**

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## Identifying Individuals Involved in Human Trafficking and those at High Risk

### Red Flags/ Risk Factors:

- Truant from school
- Frequent AWOLs or running away
- History of sexual abuse, neglect or domestic violence
- Substance abuse or experimenting with drugs
- Reference of an older relationship or friends
- Travel without family
- Possession of large amount of money
- Multiple cell phones
- Restricted or controlled communication
- Tattoos of names
- Homelessness
- Sexually explicit profiles on social networking sites
- Injuries/signs of physical abuse
- Low self-esteem or self-worth
- Unstable or inconsistent family conditions
- Poverty or family economic strain
- Youth who identify as LGBTQ and have been kicked out or stigmatized by their family

### Identifying Males:

- Be aware of heightened privacy concerns. Shame is overpowering for males and there is shame of what happened to them.
- When intervening, utilize a strengths-based approach; build upon what is right and not what is broken.
- Males can be found in the same places females can be found: on the street, the internet, clubs, call services and bars.
- Males are also sold in male-specific venues and more likely to be involved in survival sex to meet basic needs.
- Males are more likely to talk to someone they do not know about what has happened to them. This is often what leads to online disclosure about their victimization, making them more vulnerable.

### Questions to consider when intervening with males:

- How can I get to know you?
- What do you know about violence?
- What helps you survive?
- Have you ever been put in a place you were hurt? (do not ask them to talk about being afraid/ unsafe)

### Helpful Tips:

- Most victims do not identify as “trafficking victims”—this is okay! It is not your job to convince them
- Avoid “why” questions, instead ask what happened?
- If you suspect someone on your caseload is being victimized, consult with your agency and consult with someone who is trained in human trafficking assessments to determine next steps
- **Human Trafficking Coalitions across Ohio:** [humantrafficking.ohio.gov/coalitions.html](http://humantrafficking.ohio.gov/coalitions.html)

### National Human Trafficking Hotline:

Call: 1-888-373-7888

Text: 233733

## **HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESOURCES**

Polaris Project: <http://www.polarisproject.org/>

Shared Hope International: <http://sharedhope.org/>

National Center on Sexual Exploitation: <https://endsexualexploitation.org/>

Abolition Ohio: [https://www.udayton.edu/artssciences/ctr/hrc/advocacy/abolition\\_ohio/index.php](https://www.udayton.edu/artssciences/ctr/hrc/advocacy/abolition_ohio/index.php)

Ohio Attorney General: <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/humantrafficking>

Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force: <http://humantrafficking.ohio.gov/>

RAHAB Ministries: <http://www.rahab-ministries.org/>

TRAFFICKFREE: <http://www.traffickfree.org/educate/>

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Human trafficking: Rachel Lloyd at TEDxUChicago 2012

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ij\\_6iMi9gA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ij_6iMi9gA)

A novel solution to sex trafficking: Sandy Skelaney at TEDxMiami

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OLuJALGTpQ8>

The CNN Freedom Project: Children for Sale: Jada Pinkett Smith

[http://www.cnn.com/videos/intl\\_tv-shows/2015/07/28/freedom-project-children-for-sale.cnn](http://www.cnn.com/videos/intl_tv-shows/2015/07/28/freedom-project-children-for-sale.cnn)

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NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE: 1-888-373-7888

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children: 1-800-THE-LOST (1-800-843-5678)