

## Human Trafficking: For Healthcare Providers

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## Disclosures

- No Commercial or Conflict of Interest to Declare

## Presentation Objectives

- Define Human Trafficking
- Discuss the impact of human trafficking in Monroe County.
- Discuss the role of healthcare providers in positively impacting human trafficking.
- Identify community resources in Monroe County that address human trafficking.

## Introduction: Human Trafficking Defined

- Federal law defines a 'severe form of trafficking in persons' as:
- Sex Trafficking – the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act which 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**
- Labor Trafficking – the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud or coercion, for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery.

### Human Trafficking: What is It?



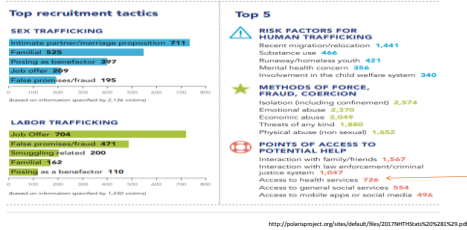
### Why is This Such a Huge Problem ?

- \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$
- Globalization
- International organized crime
- Population explosion
- Greed
- Violence
- Corruption
- Pornography Industry



<http://www.therebelliousvalley.com/venture-deals/hero-debt-killprint-economics-control/>

### National Statistics: Polaris Project



### Rochester Vulnerabilities: Yes Here

- Extensive highway system
- Proximity to Canada/Bufalo/Syracuse
- Growing immigrant community
- Migrant Labor
- College town
- Poverty
- Jaded Mindset of “not in Rochester ...or not in my neighborhood”



## Human Trafficking: Who Are Victims?

- **Victims of child abuse**
- **Children in foster homes and juvenile justice system**
- **Runaway/homeless youth**
- **Victims of violence**
- **People w disabilities or low income**
- **Racial and Ethnic minorities**
- **Migrant workers**
- **Undocumented immigrants**
- **History of Substance use**
- **Communities w intergenerational trauma**
- **LGBTQ individuals**
- **Individuals w Mental health issues**

"For me, prostitution wasn't my option or choice. It was a generational thing. My father was my first trafficker."



## Human Trafficking: Who Are the traffickers?

## Barriers to Victim Self-Identification

- Isolation
- Confinement
- Language barriers
- Shame/ or guilt
- **May NOT consider them selves victims**
- **Loyalty to trafficker**
- Hopelessness
- Fear of retaliation
- Documents withheld
- Emotional numbness or detachment

"He seemed very nice at first. I actually thought he cared about me"

"I was just trying to get a better life the fastest way I could"

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/resources/recognizing-and-responding-human-trafficking-healthcare-context>

## Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking

Disclosure is **NOT** the Goal



<http://www.lawethics2013fall.com/Professor-Mary-Loray-in-Panel-for-Bringing-on-Human-Trafficking>

mshh.org

<http://kahnson.wikispaces.com/Humantrafficking>

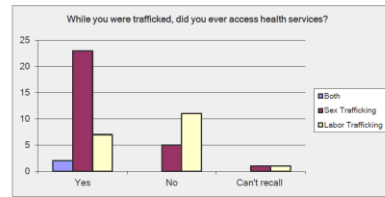
Lederer & Wetzel (2014)

### Where victims are seen for healthcare



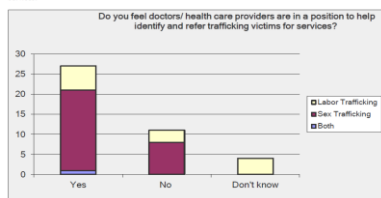
### Identification and Referral for Human Trafficking Survivors in Health Care Settings: Survey Report

Chart 3: Question Result: While you were trafficked, did you ever access health services? Disaggregated by Type of Trafficking



### Identification and Referral for Human Trafficking Survivors in Health Care Settings: Survey Report cont.

Chart 4: Question Result: Do you feel doctors/health care providers are in a position to help identify and refer trafficking victims for services?



### Impact of HT in Monroe County



- New York Consolidated Laws, Public Health Law - PBH § 2805-y. Identification and assessment of human trafficking victims
  - Provide for the identification, assessment, and appropriate treatment or referral of persons suspected as human trafficking victims
  - Incorporated training as part of the subject facility's existing training programs
  - Establish and implement written policies and procedures
  - Provide on an ongoing basis training regarding the policies and procedures

<http://codes.findlaw.com/ny/public-health-law/pbh-sect-2805-y.html>

### Role of Healthcare Professionals


- Assessment and identification of potential victims trafficked individuals.
- Management of acute healthcare needs
- **Highest priority ensure safety of both victim and HCP**
- Referral for health, safety, housing and legal resources
- Not causing traumatization or further victimization

### Red Flags: General Indicators

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Inconsistent history</b></li> <li>• Unwilling or hesitant to answer questions</li> <li>• <b>Evidence of a controlling dominant relationship</b></li> <li>• Delays in care</li> <li>• Use different alias</li> <li>• <b>Lack of Identification</b></li> <li>• Dressed inappropriately</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refuses to let the patient have privacy</li> <li>• Fearful/nervous</li> <li>• <b>Avoids eye contact</b></li> <li>• Unable to provide his/her address</li> <li>• Not aware of his/her location, the current date, or time</li> <li>• Is resistant to assistance or demonstrates hostile behavior</li> <li>• Reference to the life....</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Not in possession of his/her identification documents</b></li> <li>• Not in control of his or her own money</li> <li>• Not being paid or wages are withheld</li> <li>• <b>Frequent texting if alone</b></li> <li>• Frequent phone calls</li> <li>• Appear in a hurry</li> <li>• Multiple sexual partners</li> </ul> |
|---|--|---|

<https://www.aafp.org/afp/2016/0500/red-flags-identifying-victims-of-human-trafficking>

### Health Issues Associated with Victims of Human Trafficking

Physical Impact	Reproductive Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chronic back pain</b></li> <li>• Hearing problems</li> <li>• Bed bugs</li> <li>• <b>Respiratory problems</b></li> <li>• Poor hygiene</li> <li>• TMJ/ Neck and jaw problems</li> <li>• Malnutrition</li> <li>• Dehydration/wgt. loss</li> <li>• <b>Untreated chronic illnesses</b></li> <li>• Poor dentition</li> <li>• Bald patches ( from having hair pulled out)</li> <li>• Unexplained scars</li> <li>• Stab gun shot wounds</li> <li>• Cigarette burns</li> <li>• Lack of immunizations</li> <li>• <b>Tattoos (sign of ownership)</b></li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pelvic pain and <b>Evidence of sexual trauma</b> Exposure to STD's/HIV</li> <li>• UTI's</li> <li>• Rectal trauma</li> <li>• <b>Abortion complications</b></li> <li>• Vaginal wall tears</li> <li>• Pregnancy (little or no prenatal care)</li> <li>• <b>Impacted sponges/condoms/tampons/baby wipes (to block menstruation)</b></li> <li>• Toxic Shock syndromes</li> <li>• Early hysterectomies</li> <li>• Bladder damage</li> </ul>

<https://www.aafp.org/afp/2016/0500/red-flags-identifying-victims-of-human-trafficking> (May, 2016)

### Health Issues Associated with Victims of Human Trafficking cont.

Psychological Impact	Substance Abuse in Sex Trafficking																		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Somatic complaints</b></li> <li>• PTSD</li> <li>• Anxiety</li> <li>• Depression</li> <li>• <b>Shame</b></li> <li>• Humiliation</li> <li>• Shock</li> <li>• Substance use and addictions</li> <li>• Panic attacks</li> <li>• Denial</li> <li>• <b>Suicidal attempts</b></li> <li>• <b>Difficulty forming relationships</b></li> <li>• Dissociative behaviors</li> </ul>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Substance</th> <th>% Reporting Usage (N=102)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Substance Abuse</td> <td>84.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alcohol</td> <td>59.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Marijuana</td> <td>53.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cocaine</td> <td>50.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Crack Cocaine</td> <td>44.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Heroin</td> <td>22.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ecstasy</td> <td>13.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PCP</td> <td>0.7%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Substance	% Reporting Usage (N=102)	Substance Abuse	84.3%	Alcohol	59.8%	Marijuana	53.4%	Cocaine	50.5%	Crack Cocaine	44.7%	Heroin	22.3%	Ecstasy	13.6%	PCP	0.7%
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Leiderer & Wetzel (2014)

## Screening Questions ?

The survivors rated three questions “most helpful” in identifying victims of trafficking, and those were:

- 1) Is somebody holding your passport or ID?
- 2) Have you been forced to have sex for money, food, shelter or other items?
- 3) Are you in the presence of someone who purposely intimidates you for their benefit?

[https://www.castia.org/wp-content/themes/castia/assets/files/identification\\_and\\_referral\\_in\\_Health\\_Care\\_Settings\\_survey\\_report\\_2017.pdf](https://www.castia.org/wp-content/themes/castia/assets/files/identification_and_referral_in_Health_Care_Settings_survey_report_2017.pdf)

## Recommendations if Human Trafficking is Suspected



- Separate all patients from anyone accompanying them
- Assess the potential safety risks
- Be thoughtful about engaging patients
- Use age and developmentally appropriate approaches
- Recognize that the goal of the interaction is not disclosure or rescue
- Observe signs that a victim of human trafficking needs to ask
  - If the patient is a minor, follow mandatory state reporting laws and institutional policies for child abuse or sexual abuse/complaints.
- Ensure that safety planning is included in the discharge planning process.
- Observe relationship with accompanying person
- Create a space that is conducive for discussing human trafficking (not a hallway bed)
- Do NOT use visitor as translator
- Own a good social and sexual history
- Meet their basic needs (food, water)
- Believe and do not judge- have aside any preconceptions or prejudices
- Give the TIC hotline number and encourage him/her to call
- If in danger have patient memorize the number

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/resources/what-look-healthcare-setting>

## Trauma Informed Approach

- Retraumatization:
  - **Having patient continually retell the story**
  - Being treated like a number
  - Being seen as a label
  - Not being seen or heard
  - **Violating trust**
  - Failure to ensure emotional safety
- Things that will help:
  - Providing
  - **Safety**
  - Choice
  - **Empowerment**
  - Collaboration
  - **Trustworthiness**

Simpson & Green (2014)

## What services are available for Victims?

- Legal Aid
- Substance abuse counseling
- **Safety/emergency housing**
- Education (life skills, job training)
- **Food/clothing**
- Tattoo removal
- **Medical/dental/mental health services**
- Expunged record –for minors
- **Emotional support**
- Cultural Awareness

(Stein, 2013)

## Self care for providers



- Need to debrief after identification of potential victim
- Recognizing moral distress is very important
- Psychological impact of responding to trauma
  - Burnout
  - Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)

## National & Local Resources

- **Angels of Mercy (AOM)**
  - Mission and focus is to help women and girls achieve freedom, dignity and restoration through our coordinated efforts and faith in God
  - <http://www.angelsofmercy.org/about-us>
- **Bronx Child Advocacy Center**
  - 585-935-7800
  - <https://www.bronxacc.org/>
- **Center for Youth**
  - 24-hour line: (585) 271-7670
  - Toll-free crisis hotline: 1-888-617-KIDS (5437) or go to a designated [Safe Place](#) site.
- **National Human Trafficking Resource Center**
  - 1-888-373-7888 OR Text HELP to 86Free (233733)
- **National Center for Missing & Exploited Children**
  - 1-800-THE-KIDZ
  - [www.cybertipline.org](http://www.cybertipline.org)

## Additional Resources

- **Rochester Regional Coalition Against Human Trafficking (RRC-AHT)** [www.rrcaht.org](http://www.rrcaht.org)
  - Resources, educational materials
- **Salvation Army Genesis House**
  - 24-hour hotline: 585-235-2660
  - Genesis House is a fourteen-bed, co-ed shelter for youth ages 16-20, with case management services, life skills training and after care.
- **Willow Domestic Violence Center**
  - 24-hour hotline (585) 222-SAFE
  - [info@willowcenterny.org](mailto:info@willowcenterny.org)
- **Workers Justice Center of New York**
  - 1187 Culver Road Rochester, NY 14609
  - P: 1-800-724-7020
  - F: 585-532-3020
  - [www.wjcnyc.org](http://www.wjcnyc.org)

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