Evaluations

Nursing Contact Hours, CME and CHES credits are available. Please visit www.phlive.org to fill out your evaluation and complete the post-test.

Thank you!

Featured Speakers

- Christa Stewart; Esq.
  - Coordinator; NYS Human Trafficking & Unaccompanied Children Programs
  - Bureau of Refugee & Immigrant Assistance/OTDA
- Lauren Pesso; LMSW, MPA
  - Director; Human Trafficking Program
  - My Sisters’ Place

Disclosure Statements

The planners and presenters do not have any financial arrangements or affiliations with any commercial entities whose products, research or services may be discussed in this activity.

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Thank You to Our Sponsors:

- University at Albany School of Public Health
- NYS Department of Health
What is:
- Easily transported
- Cheap
- Plentiful
- Easily exploited
- Expendable; easily replaced
- High profit, low risk
- Smart; easily trained

Human Trafficking is...
Modern-Day Slavery

Human Trafficking:
- Is the exploitation of adults and children for use in the sex industry or as labor servitude.
- Can mirror the dynamics of domestic violence.
- Is not limited to formal work sectors. It can occur wherever there is work.

How Pervasive Is It?
27 MILLION PEOPLE ENSLAVED WORLDWIDE

Human Trafficking: a Global Problem
Elements of Human Trafficking

1. PROCESS
   - Recruiting
   - Harboring
   - Moving
   - Obtaining

2. MEANS
   - Force
   - Fraud
   - Coercion
   (specific acts in NYS PL)

3. END
   - For the purposes of
     - Prostitution
     - Pornography
     - Forced marriage
     - Sex tourism
     - Sweat-shop work
     - Begging
     - Armed services
     - Migrant farming

Source: Freedom Network Training Institute

Human Trafficking and Industry

Human Trafficking by the Numbers

- 18,000-20,000 estimated number of people trafficked into the US each year
- 50% of people trafficked into the US each year are children
- 800,000 people are trafficked worldwide each year
- 46% Promiscuity
- 27% Incest
- 10% Agriculture
- 5% Farming

International Response

- UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime
- Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children

Federal Response

- Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (TVPA) and Subsequent Reauthorizations (TVPRA):
  - A person who is trafficked is considered a victim of a serious crime under US law and has the right to protection and assistance.

NYS Response

- In 2007, New York State enacted legislation that criminalized sex and labor trafficking and offered protection and assistance to victims.
NYS Interagency Task Force on Human Trafficking

Victim Identification

Who are victims of human trafficking?

What are the challenges in identifying victims?

Who is at risk?

Human Trafficking Indicators

- Forced to work through threats
- Owned or controlled by an “employer”
- Dehumanized
- Physically constrained or has freedom restricted
- All ages and genders

Challenges in Identifying Victims

Reaching Victims

- Trafficked persons are generally stuck in difficult physical, psychological, social, legal, and financial circumstances.
- To assist individuals who have been trafficked, it is helpful to try to imagine how they might see the world.

What Can You Do?

If you suspect you have encountered a victim of human trafficking AND you are in law enforcement or have investigative capacity:

Submit a referral to OTDA/DCJS
What Can You Do?

If you interact with the general public, provide direct services, or oversee programs:

Contact OTDA for assistance. If you cannot reach someone to assist you and the need is immediate, contact one of the national hotlines.

Information
OTDA Will Want to Know

- How did you encounter the person?
- Is the situation critical?
- Is it safe to contact the person, and if so, how?
- Are there any special needs?

What Does Your Referral Do?

The referral form initiates services and provides experts who can:

- establish trust with client,
- respond to victims’ immediate needs,
- explain the role of law enforcement,
- determine confirmed cases of trafficking,
- help draft the Form I-914B, which will assist in obtaining immigration status.

Confirmed Cases

OTDA & DCJS

Local Department of Social Services (LDSS)

Prosecution

The NYS Response to Human Trafficking Program (RHTP)

Police Departments, State Police

Working Together

- Human Service Providers
- Legal Service Providers
- Law Enforcement
Human Trafficking and Public Health

Human trafficking is a public health issue affecting individuals, families and communities.

Image Source: Polaris Project, 2010

Why Train Health Workers?

• Victims of trafficking at high risk for health problems
• Trafficking victims known to interact with healthcare personnel
• Many victims are hidden in plain sight...
• Healthcare providers can be important “first responders”
  – case identification and triage is critical

When do Victims/Survivors Seek Medical Services?

• In an emergency
• After an assault
• After a workplace injury
• For a gynecological exam
• For prenatal care
• For routine check-ups
• For unrelated health issues

Source: Polaris Project; Family Violence Prevention Fund (2005)

Physical Consequences

• Undetected/untreated infections, injuries or illnesses
• Chronic back, hearing, cardiovascular or respiratory problems
• Dental problems
• Sleep deprivation
  • Malnourishment
  • Drug/alcohol dependency
  • STIs
  • Pregnancy
  • Unsafe abortions
  • Branding/unwanted tattoos

Psychological Consequences

• Anxiety
• Disorientation
• Depression
• Numbness/flattened affect
• Shame/humiliation
• Helplessness
• Memory loss
• Dissociation
• Cultural shock
• Isolation
• Loss of family/community support
• Inability to trust
• Self-destructive behaviors

Signs to Look For

✓ Few or no personal possessions
✓ No control of legal documents
✓ Limited knowledge of whereabouts
✓ Loss of sense of time
✓ Limited/restricted freedom to leave working or living conditions
Signs to Look For

- Controlled/restricted communication
- Excessive or inappropriate security features
- Works excessively long/unusual hours
- Unpaid, underpaid or paid only through tips
- Multiple residences in a brief period

Signs to Look For

- Signs of trauma, fatigue, injury or abuse
- Signs of hunger or malnourishment
- Excessive fearfulness of law enforcement
- Fear/mistrust of healthcare provider
- Non-cooperativeness/evasive behavior

Signs to Look For

- Payment for medical services rendered in cash (often by someone other than the patient)
- Minor engaged in sexual situations beyond age-specific norms
- Minor with much older “boyfriend”
- Minor who uses language associated with “the life”

Examination Consideration

- Trafficking victims rarely self-identify; often present with another issue
- Patient’s parent, spouse, partner or friend could be the trafficker
- Hold examination in a private, secure location
- Use interpreters when necessary
- Build rapport before asking about sensitive subjects
- Carefully observe body language & communication style

Questions You Can Ask

- Who is the person who came with you today? Can you tell me about him/her?
- Did you ever feel pressured to do anything you didn’t want to do, or felt uncomfortable doing?
- Do you feel you were ever tricked or lied to? Were you promised something, but it didn’t happen?

Questions You Can Ask (cont.)

- Is anyone hurting you?
- Have you been threatened with harm if you try to quit?
- Has anyone threatened your family?
- Has anyone taken your legal papers (e.g., ID, passport, visa)?
### Questions You Can Ask (cont.)

- Can you leave your work or job situation if you choose to?
- When you are not working, can you come and go as you please?
- What are your working or living conditions like?
- Do you have to ask permission to eat, sleep or go to the bathroom?

### Questions You Can Ask (cont.)

- Is there a lock on your door or windows so you cannot get out?
- Are you forced to perform sex acts against your will?
- Do you know if anyone else that you work with has experienced any of these things?

### Messages to Convey

- We are here to help you
- Our first priority is your safety
- We will keep our conversation confidential—we will not call the police unless you give us permission
- We will give you the medical care that you need

Source: Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

### Messages to Convey

- We can help find you a safe place to stay
- We can help get you what you need
- We want to make sure what happened to you doesn’t happen to anyone else
- You have rights
- You are entitled to assistance

Source: Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

### Services Available to Victims

- Emergency shelter / housing
- Legal advice and representation
- Language interpretation
- Safety planning
- Assistance with concrete needs
- Counseling and support

### Important Contacts

- National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC): 1-888-373-7888
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC): 1-800-THE-LOST
- Department of Justice-sponsored, Toll-free, 24-hour Trafficking in Persons and Worker Exploitation Task Force Complaint Line: 1-888-428-7581
OTDA Contacts

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