

COMMONS NEEDS OF VICTIMS

Victims of human trafficking suffer from a variety of needs that include the following:

Personal Safety Planning Medical/Mental Health Care
Legal Services Housing

Collaboration is key to helping these victims and it is often through multiple agencies and service providers that transitioning can be accomplished.

FEDERAL IMMIGRATION VISAS FOR VICTIMS

For international victims, obtaining a visa is key to their recovery. There are two types of visas available to victims of human trafficking offenses which allow a victim to remain in the United States while assisting law enforcement with the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking offenses.

- T Nonimmigrant status is specifically available to victims of human trafficking who agree to cooperate with a law enforcement investigation, or is a trafficking victim under the age of 18. T-visas are limited to 5,000 per year.
- U Nonimmigrant status is available more broadly to victims of violent crime, including victims of trafficking, but also victims of rape, torture, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, and other crimes. To obtain a U-visa, the applicant must obtain a certification from a law enforcement officer that an investigation or prosecution would be harmed without the assistance of the immigrant.

TRAINING

Just as with any newly discovered disease or disorder, education and training on identifying and treatment are critical to combatting the problem. Information on human trafficking can be found in several children's health journals and training may be available at local or state trauma hospitals. One source of free online training modules for medical professionals is at www.cmda.org (Christian Medical & Dental Associations).



www.tyla.org

REPORT

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, and specialists will help to connect victims to local services and resources.

1-888-3737-888

CONFIDENTIAL CALL

Toll-free | 24-hours, 7 days a week
Confidential | Interpretation Available

LEARN MORE ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services –
Campaign to Rescue and Restore Victims of
Human Trafficking
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking>

U.S. Department of State – Office to Monitor and
Combat Trafficking in Persons
<http://www.state.gov/g/tip>

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

Children at Risk
<http://childrenatrisk.org>

Freedom Network
<http://freedomnetworkusa.org>

Christian Medical & Dental Associations
<http://www.cmda.org>



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SLAVERY OUT OF THE SHADOWS:

SPOTLIGHT ON HUMAN
TRAFFICKING

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESOURCES
FOR MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS
AND FIRST RESPONDERS**



HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESOURCES FOR MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS AND FIRST RESPONDERS

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Both the State of Texas and the federal government have taken a proactive role to identify and outlaw human trafficking crimes. Under Texas law, human trafficking is transporting, enticing, recruiting, harboring, providing, or otherwise obtaining another person by any means with the intent that the person engage in forced labor or services. Likewise, federal law defines human trafficking as recruiting, providing, harboring, transporting, or obtaining by any means, any person who is being held into compulsory service or involuntary servitude. Further, any person who knowingly receives a benefit (financial or otherwise) from the trafficking activity is subject to prosecution for human trafficking under both state and federal law.

LABOR TRAFFICKING

Labor trafficking is a common form of human trafficking in Texas. Under Texas law, “forced labor or services” is defined as labor or services (other than labor or services that constitute sexual conduct) that are performed or provided by another person and obtained through an actor’s use of force, fraud, or coercion. Similarly under federal law, “forced labor” is defined as providing or obtaining the labor or services of a person by any one of (or a combination of) the following:

- (1) by means of force, threats of force, physical restraint, or threats of physical restraint to that person or another person;
- (2) by means of serious harm or threats of serious harm to that person or another person;
- (3) by means of the abuse or threatened abuse of law or legal process; or
- (4) by means of any scheme, plan, or pattern intended to cause the person to believe that, if that person did not perform such labor or services, that person or another person would suffer serious harm or physical restraint.

Under both Texas and federal law, labor trafficking is generally punishable by up to 20 years in prison.

SEX TRAFFICKING

In addition to forced labor, the Texas human trafficking statute addresses sex trafficking. Specifically, sex trafficking includes the inducement of a trafficked person through force, fraud, or coercion to engage in prostitution, the promotion of prostitution, aggravated promotion of prostitution, or compelling prostitution, and is punishable by up to 20 years in prison.

Under federal law, if the human trafficking includes aggravated sexual abuse or an attempt to commit aggravated sexual abuse, then the maximum punishment is increased by up to life in prison.

HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL CHALLENGES

Victim Identification

Where does human trafficking occur?

Common recruiting areas include:

Social Networking Sites	Bus Stops	Malls
Advertisements	Shelters	Schools

Human Trafficking often occurs in these locations or in these forms:

Private Homes	Massage Parlors	Bars/Cantinas
Street Prostitution	Restaurants	Truck Stops
Residential Brothels	Agricultural Fields	Strip Clubs

Indicators:

If you suspect someone may be a victim of human trafficking, ask yourself some of the questions listed below. This is not an exhaustive list, and any given answer, standing alone, may not necessarily imply trafficking. However, these indicators are a good place to start:

- Is the person being controlled? Are they unreasonably fearful, paranoid, or submissive?
- Does this person avoid eye contact?
- Can the person leave their job if they want? Do they fear their employer or certain relatives?
- Does this person have adequate identification? Do they have a known, steady address?
- Are there signs of physical, sexual, or psychological abuse?
- Are there signs of branding, such as tattoos?
- Is the individual being denied life necessities? Do they have adequate food and water? Do they seem tired all the time? Are they receiving medical care?
- Is the person free to contact friends and family? Are they allowed in public without supervision?
- Has this person or their family been threatened?
- Does a minor appear to be in a relationship with a much older person?
- Does the person discuss a large debt that they are owing to another?

Trafficking victims can often be misidentified into anyone of the following categories:

- Sexual Assault
- Domestic Violence
- Torture/Mutilation
- Work Accident

Health Issues for Victims

Victims of human trafficking often suffer from a wide range of health issues due to the nature of the work and conditions they

are living in. Health care is almost nonexistent in most instances, thus leaving victims more vulnerable to illness. Some common health issues (physical and mental) for victims are:

- Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)
- Pelvic pain, rectal trauma and urinary difficulties
- Unwanted pregnancies
- Infertility from chronic and untreated STDs
- Infections or mutilations
- Chronic back, hearing or other respiratory problems from long days in outdoor work environments
- Weak eyes or other eye challenges
- Malnourishment and serious dental health issues (more common in children whose dental growth is stunted due to the malnourishment)
- Untreated diseases like diabetes
- Scars and bruising in shielded areas (such as the lower back)
- Substance abuse problems/addictions
- Phobias, panic attacks, and other stress related disorders
- Culture shock or denial

Understanding & Communicating with the Victim

Many times victims of human trafficking show an outward fear or distrust of any outside individual such as health care providers. He or she does not believe they are a victim so they will not be the first to identify themselves as victims and will not openly discuss the trauma they have suffered. In order to identify and help these victims, health care providers need to work creatively in obtaining the necessary information from the victims to assist them in obtaining the assistance they need.

First, one should attempt to secure a private setting for you (and potentially an interpreter) to question the victim. Often times victims enter hospitals, ERs, etc. in the company of their aggressor. One example of a way to get privacy is to insist that hospital policy requires you to examine the patient alone.

Once a private setting is secured, asking open ended questions can begin. Building a rapport is critical to engaging the victim and enabling him/her to feel safe enough to disclose to you their struggles. This may not happen in one visit but if you can, secure a follow up visit with the person in order to continue the dialogue.

Once a rapport and trust is developed with the victim, then begin to ask more specific questions as to their home and work environment. Do not use the specific phrase “trafficking” since this word will have no real meaning to them. If you hear information that matches many of the indicators highlighted earlier, then you have identified a trafficking victim and can begin the process of assisting them obtain the services they need.