

HUMAN TRAFFICKING PRIMER

MCEP QUALITY COMMITTEE

Information obtained with permission from the
Human Trafficking Collaborative at the University
of Michigan from Bridgette Carr and Michelle
Munro-Kramer

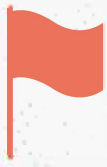
FACTS VS FICTION

Facts:

- 68-88% of trafficking survivors interact with a healthcare provider at some point during their trafficking experience
- 40.3M million victims of human trafficking globally
- 27% are men
- Trafficking is comprised of action, means and purpose
- Human trafficking is compelled service for profit
- LGBTQ persons are at higher risk of being victims of trafficking
- Commercial sex is a sexual act in exchange for anything of commercial value (money, housing, sandwich)
- Means such as force, fraud, or coercion is not required to traffick minors
- Just because a victim can leave does not mean that trafficking didn't occur

Fiction:

- Trafficking only involves sexual abuse
- If an international boarder has not been crossed, it's not human trafficking
- Abduction is a common technique used in trafficking
- There is reliable data on prevalence of trafficking and hot spots
- Legal migration protects individuals from trafficking
- Victims of human trafficking are not at risk of arrest or deportation if they encounter law enforcement
- Neck tattoos means they are a victim of human trafficking



RED FLAGS

FOR HEALTHCARE SETTINGS



Sex Trafficking

- Problems with jaw or neck
- Persistent or untreated STIs or UTIs
- Genital trauma
- Repeated miscarriages or abortions
- Pelvic Pain
- Cotton or debris in the vagina

Labor Trafficking

- Heat stress/stroke
- Sleep Deprivation
- Air quality/respiratory problems
- Dehydration
- Pesticide/chemical exposure
- Untreated skin infections/irritation

Behavioral Issues

- Inability to keep appointments
- Inability to follow care instructions
- With someone who doesn't allow them to speak
- No ID documents
- Moves frequently
- Hypervigilant, paranoia, anxiety
- No eye contact

Subjective Findings & Objective Findings

Missing legal documentation or using false identification; lacking insurance	Exhibiting paranoia, anxiety, fear, or submission during visit
Inconsistencies in history	Avoiding eye contact
Not speaking for self	Malnourishment or poor health
Loss of sense of time/space	Signs of physical abuse
Large number of sexual partners, history of STIs, frequent pregnancies*	Presence of unexplained or unusual scar tissue, tattoos, or branding
Adolescent reporting relationships with older adults/men*	Evidence of addiction to drugs or alcohol
Evidence of controlling or dominating relationships	Signs of sexual abuse or trauma
History of abuse or familial dysfunction	Inappropriate dress
Use of language consistent with involvement in prostitution*	Evidence of residual fibers or other unusual findings during vaginal examination*

* items are specific to sex trafficking only



SCREENING IDEAS

THERE ARE NO VALIDATED HEALTHCARE SCREENING TOOLS



Questions that may be helpful:

- **What type of work do you do?**
- **Are you being paid?**
- **Can you leave your job if you want?**
- **What are your working/living conditions like?**
- **Are there locks on doors and windows so you cannot leave?**
- **Do you ask permission to do basic ADLs?**
- **Has your ID/documentation ever been taken?**
- **Have you been threatened?**
- **Are you in debt to your employer?**

Ask About:

- **Risky behaviors**
- **Sexual activity**
- **Sex for compensation**
- **Work performed without safety equipment**
- **Work done without expected compensation**

Trauma-Centered Care
