IDENTIFYING AND SUPPORTING TRAFFICKED YOUTH

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The Adolescent Health Initiative (AHI) provides training, technical assistance, and coaching to health care providers, health systems, and organizations across the country to improve adolescent-centered care.

Our vision is to transform the health care landscape to optimize adolescent and young adult health and well-being.

www.AdolescentHealthInitiative.org
OBJECTIVES

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THIS SESSION, ATTENDEES WILL BE ABLE TO...

1. Identify signs of trafficking and sexual exploitation among adolescent and young adults

2. Describe strategies for health care professionals to support trafficked and sexually exploited adolescents
HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- labor
- sex
Labor traffickers use violence, threats, lies, and debt bondage to force people to work against their will.

Sex traffickers use violence, threats, lies, and debt bondage to force people to engage in sex acts for money against their will.
SEX TRAFFICKING OF MINORS

A minor participating in commercial sex may be considered a “victim” of sex trafficking.
TRAFFICKING OF MINORS

“victim”

“survivor”
LABOR TRAFFICKING IN THE U.S.
On Friday, June 2nd, 2017, the Vassar Police Department was notified that several signs had been placed along the roadside near Vassar High School, as well as in the business district. These signs are advertising for “Summer Work”, and request a text message for more information.

Although no criminal activity has been reported to the Vassar Police Department, we strongly discourage anyone from contacting businesses or persons who advertise for “help wanted” in this fashion.

Signs similar to these have been linked to criminal organizations involved in human trafficking.

Should you see any more of these signs inside the City of Vassar, please contact the Police Department to have them removed.

JOBS JOBS JOBS
WE ARE CURRENTLY HIRING FOR SALES POSITIONS. NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED.

YOU MUST BE:
18 YEARS OR OLDER
FREE TO TRAVEL
MUST HAVE A VALID ID
MUST BE EAGER TO MAKE MONEY

WE OFFER:
ON THE JOB TRAINING
ROOM AND BOARD
CASH ADVANCES
FREE TRAVEL TO AND FROM THE EAST COAST TO THE WEST COAST
*RETURN TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED AFTER 45 DAYS*

ARE YOU TIRED OF FILLING OUT APPLICATIONS AND NOT GETTING CALLED? IF YOU ARE GIVE US A CALL

CALL TODAY START TOMORROW
LABOR TRAFFICKING IN THE U.S.
IMMIGRATION
DO WE SEE VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING?

88% of sex trafficking survivors report contact with a provider

6% of providers report treating a victim
What might keep us from noticing? From asking? From being able to help?

"At least every couple of months, I would try and seek medical treatment."

“When I went there, no one ever really asked me, like, What's going on? and How come you come in so often? They're not asking, Why do you want to take STD tests so often?"

“There were signs and questions that they could have asked, but they didn’t.”
CHARACTERISTICS

Adolescent Characteristics

- Seek new experiences
- Want to be independent
- Take risks
- Motivated by attention
- Influenced by social media
- Curious about sex
- Use short term thinking
VULNERABILITIES

- Increased Risk

- CPS
- LGBTQ Identities
- Foster Care
- Family Dysfunction
- Poverty
- Substance Abuse
- Runaway
- Gangs
Considering the frustrations and limitations of the systems in which we work, how can you help reduce barriers to support vulnerable youth?
IDENTIFYING VICTIMS

CHALLENGES: VICTIMS

• Don’t self identify
• Don’t want to disclose
• Many of the same reasons as seen in IPV (e.g., trauma bonding, fear of trafficker)
• Shame
• Need money
• Alternatives do not seem better
• Never known any other currency
• Denial

“The best victims are the ones who don’t even know they’re victims”

CHALLENGES: HEALTH CARE

• Lack of awareness/understanding
• Cases don’t usually present like modules we have all taken
• Staff/provider bias
• Not any one perfect screening tool
• Lack of policies and protocols
  • Assessing
  • Treating
• Lack of community resources, social work, coordinated care
WHAT CAN TRAFFICKING LOOK LIKE?
15 Y/O GIRL, EMILY

PCP WELL VISIT

- Avoids eye contact
- Smells like marijuana
- Risk screening discussion reveals that she has been sexually active with nine people and has tried alcohol and marijuana
15 Y/O GIRL, EMILY

PCP WELL VISIT

- Avoids eye contact
- Smells like marijuana
- Risk screening discussion reveals that she has been sexually active with nine people and has tried alcohol and marijuana
- Met a guy on Instagram who told her she could be a model
- He asked for her nudes and offered to pay her; was told she’d make more money if she got her friends to do it too
17 Y/O BOY, LEO

WALK-IN APPOINTMENT FOR BACK PAIN

- Observed by staff getting food from garbage
- Dressed in long sleeves despite warm temperatures
- Inconsistencies in his answers
17 Y/O BOY, LEO

SOCIAL WORKER

- Observed by staff getting food from garbage
- Dressed in long sleeves despite warm temperatures
- Inconsistencies in his answers
- Moved here for an education
- Is undocumented
- Cleans house and does chores for “sponsor” and his sponsor’s friends
19 Y/O GIRL, ATHENA

FAMILY PLANNING CENTER FOR A PREGNANCY TEST

- This is her fourth visit for a pregnancy test in the last few months
- Has scars on her forearm that look like cigarette burns
19 Y/O GIRL, ATHENA

FAMILY PLANNING CENTER FOR A PREGNANCY TEST

- This is her fourth visit for a pregnancy test in the last few months
- Has scars on her forearm that look like cigarette burns
- College student who started dancing at a strip club to pay for classes
- Boyfriend helps her make extra money by setting her up with his friends for sex
16 Y/O BOY, JORDAN

COMMUNITY CLINIC FOR STI TESTING

- Says he is just visiting and is unable to give an address
- He appears thin and unkempt
- Symptoms: penile discharge and discomfort
16 Y/O BOY, JORDAN

COMMUNITY CLINIC FOR STI TESTING

- Says he is just visiting and is unable to give an address
- He appears thin and unkempt
- Symptoms: penile discharge and discomfort
- His parents kicked him out of the house
- Having survival sex because he’s living on the street
WHAT CAN TRAFFICKING LOOK LIKE?

Emily  Leo  Athena  Jordan
WHO CAN PLAY A PART?

Teacher
Medical Assistant
Social Worker
Front Desk Staff
Relative
Nurse
Physician
Security Guard
Case Worker
TALKING TO VICTIMS: ALL ROLES

DO...

• Use warm and open body language

• Deal with your personal feelings privately

• Realize they might not identify as a victim

DON’T...

• Judge – they will know

• Act shocked or saddened

• Expect a victim to want to be saved

• Expect a victim to be grateful
TALKING TO VICTIMS: PROVIDERS

DO...

- Use warm and open body language
- Deal with your personal feelings privately
- Realize they might not identify as a victim
- Use nonjudgmental, neutral words and mirror a patient’s language when relevant
- Allow patient control when possible
- Use appropriate follow-up screening questions

DON’T...

- Judge the teen – they will know
- Act shocked or saddened
- Expect a victim to want to be saved
- Expect a victim to be grateful
- Have family members or friends interpret
- Ask “Are you being trafficked?”
- Ask questions that are not essential (avoid questions just because you’re curious)
SCREENING QUESTIONS

1. What are you doing to make money?

2. Some kids have a hard time living at home and feel they need to run away; have you ever run away or been kicked out of your home?

3. Some kids have been involved with the police (running away, breaking curfew, other); have you ever been involved with the police?

“Thank you for answering these questions. Is there anything that we have asked that you would like to talk more about?”
SCREENING QUESTIONS - CSE

1. Sometimes kids are in a position where they really need money, drugs, food or a place to stay. Have you ever traded sex for money, drugs, a place to stay, a cell phone, or something else?

2. Has a boyfriend, a girlfriend or anyone else ever asked you, or forced you to have sex with ANOTHER person? (for example, a guy asks his girlfriend to have sex with another guy) If asked, did you have to actually do it?

3. Has anyone ever asked you to pose in a sexy way for a photo or a video? If asked, did you have to actually do it?

Resource:

Evaluation of a Tool to Identify Child Sex Trafficking Victims in Multiple Healthcare Settings
Greenbaum, V. Jordan et al. Journal of Adolescent Health 2018
“Everyone deserves to feel safe in their relationships.”

“It’s not your fault.”

“Are you okay?”

“You are welcome here.”

“I’m here to help you with any situation you’re in.”

“No one deserves to be hurt/forced to do things against their will.”

“What has happened to you doesn’t define you.”
TRUAMA-INFORMED APPROACH

SAMHSA’S CONCEPT OF A TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH

“A program, organization, or system that is trauma-informed:

• Realizes the widespread impact of trauma and understands potential paths for recovery;
• Recognizes the signs and symptoms of trauma in clients, families, staff, and others involved with the system;
• Responds by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices; and
• Seeks to actively resist re-traumatization.”
RESPONSE STRATEGIES

INTERPERSONAL RESPONSE

• Be compassionate and approachable: Use neutral, non-judgmental words and open body language
• Providers: add follow-up screening questions to risk screening tool (verbally or written) for cases when trafficking is suspected or a risk
• Report cases involving minors to CPS
• Commit to additional training on:
  • Trauma-Informed Care
  • Motivational Interviewing
  • Implicit Bias
  • Human Trafficking

ORGANIZATIONAL RESPONSE

• Consider victim’s needs and offer resources: Housing, food, immigration support, Medicaid enrollment, affordable mental health care; same-visit LARC, condoms, Emergency Contraception
• Ensure patients can see provider alone
• Create a plan (informal or formal) with team for when trafficking is suspected or identified
• Generate a list of online and community resources for when someone has concerns about human trafficking; post hotline cards
• Facilitate practice-wide training on trafficking
"Talking to a girl and just being there, not rushing them. They just need to know that somebody is there not judging them."

"It was a long, long, long struggle for me, in my mind, having to redefine...realizing this is not normal."

How might it feel to suspect or know a patient is being trafficked when they’re not ready or able to leave?
Get Assistance

Polaris provides human trafficking victims and survivors with critical support to get help and stay safe through the National Human Trafficking Hotline and our BeFree Textline. Individuals can also search for more local resources through our national and global directories. In addition, Polaris provides trainings and tailored solutions to public agencies and businesses that seek to increase their capacity to prevent and eradicate human trafficking.

NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE
CALL 1-888-373-7888
TEXT "BeFree" (233733)
24/7 • Toll free
Confidential
200+ languages

GET HELP • REPORT TRAFFICKING

National Hotline  BeFree Textline  Services in Your Community  Global Modern Slavery Directory
Identifying and Supporting Trafficked Youth

Explore ways to identify signs of trafficking and sexual exploitation among youth.
PARTICIPANT QUOTES

SPARK FEEDBACK

• I didn't have the knowledge as much as I thought I did. My perception wasn't reality. This was a great presentation.
• Understand that I can look for signs while phone triage.
• Great Information (eye opener)
• Very helpful in raising awareness, promoting compassion and sparking ideas.
• Great informative session!
Listen to transgender and gender non-conforming youth share their health care experiences and ways the system can be improved.
1. Colorado Child Trafficking Survivor Ordeal
   1. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JW3qnAMkUgU&feature=youtu.be

2. PBS Special: Trafficked in America

3. Compassionate and Understanding Care for Victims of Human Trafficking
   1. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQ_xUHKo-DE

4. Sold in America: The Trafficking
   1. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Empxdrk7UuA&list=PLaOuj3fUifyyPvIlr0724xnUAxCKmw5T&index=2

5. What I’ve Been Through Is Not Who I Am Full Documentary
   1. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BmmRTjoL3R0https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BmmRTjoL3R0