




**Michigan Human
Trafficking Task Force**

**Capital Area Regional Task
Force**

**CAPITAL AREA
ANTI-TRAFFICKING
ALLIANCE**

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**Awareness and
Recognition of Human
Trafficking By Mental
Health Professionals**

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Disclosure and Accreditation

This speaker has no relevant relationships with commercial interests!

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Definition of Human Trafficking

- Sex Trafficking: trafficking in which the sex act is induced by Force, Fraud, or Coercion OR if the person induced to perform the act is under 18 years of age. Commercial Sex. Force, fraud or coercion not required if the victim is under 18 years of age.
- Labor Trafficking: recruitment, harboring, transportation, 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, debt bondage, or slavery if the victim is over 18 years. FFC not necessary if victim is under 18 years


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Human Trafficking: Global and Local

- A Multi-billion dollar worldwide enterprise
- Second or third largest criminal enterprise after/with sales of drugs and guns
- Increases with community disruption i.e. after natural disasters, mass transmigration of populations
- Trafficking sometimes provides finances for war
- Frequently related to poverty (Abroad, USA)
- HT includes labor and sex trafficking but there are other forms including organ trafficking


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Michigan and Nationwide

- Sex trafficking exceeds labor trafficking
- Labor: health/beauty, food-service, farming, more often male, not lawful U.S. residents
- Sex: residential brothels, online ads, hotel, motel locations, males up to 30% approx.
- Sex trafficking: Most are lawful residents or citizens of the U.S.


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Opportunities for Recognition by Healthcare Providers

- 88% of victims see a health care provider while being enslaved (25% in the last 6 months)
- Barriers to identification of victims are lack of training (34%) and lack of awareness (22%)
- Non-identification leads to many adverse outcomes including murder, suicide, severe mental illness, overdose, HIV infection, malnutrition


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Risk Factors

- 50-85% of victims involved in child welfare system at some time, Michigan 80%
- Runaway, homeless youth and adults
- LGBT youth, Cognitively Impaired persons
- Vast majority have been the victim of sexual assault prior to being involved in trafficking (males 100%), Cultural factors influence sex abuse.
- Native American youth disproportionately involved*(generational trauma)
- Violence, drug use, emotional abuse, poverty in the family


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Negative Mental Health Outcomes

- Likely the most dominant health dimension
- PTSD, the severity equals or exceeds that seen in war veterans, Complex PTSD (Repetitive prolonged trauma, interpersonal relationships with uneven power dynamics, abandonment by caregiver)
- Anxiety, depression, anger/hostility, aggression, nightmares, flashbacks, shame, guilt, dissociation
- Stockholm Syndrome


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Continued Mental Health Outcomes

- Sleep disorders
- Psychosomatic syndromes
- Low self-esteem, self-loathing, hopelessness*
- High risk and self-injurious behaviors
- Forced or coerced substance use disorders
- Suicide and accidental death

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Substance Use Disorders

- Forced use of addictive substances is often a part of the entrapment
- 84.3% of individuals in one study used alcohol/drugs while being trafficked
- 28% of those in the study described forced use of addictive substances to assist in the control of the victim*

Annals of Health Law 2014;23:61-91


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Physical Health Problems

- Intentional traumatic injuries
- Accidental traumatic and overuse injuries
- Chemical and environmental exposures
- Communicable diseases
- Untreated chronic diseases
- Poor oral health and injuries, intentional extractions
- Dehydration and malnutrition
- Branding, tattoos, and skin infections
- Homicide and accidental death


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Physical Health Problems Con't

- Cigarette burns
- Contusions
- Fractures, intentional
- G-I problems
- Headaches
- Unhealthy weight loss


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Reproductive Health Problems

- Vaginal, perineal, rectal injuries, use of foreign objects ex. Bottles etc. in males
- Sexually transmitted infections, syphilis
- Diseases due to untreated STI's, pelvic pain
- Poor access to barrier protection or other contraception
- Forced sterilization, forced pregnancies
- Unplanned pregnancy, lack of prenatal care
- Abortion related complications


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Signs of Sex Trafficking

- Signs of physical abuse, bruises, fractures
- Multiple sexually transmitted infections
- Older boyfriend/girlfriend
- Substance abuse
- Withdrawal or lack of interest in previous activities
- Excessively controlled by another person (may be parent)
- Detached or suddenly isolated from the majority of family members or friends

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 **Continued**


- Excessive security measures at home*
- Constant traffic from work or home
- Noticeable change in dress, jewelry without explainable change in income
- Lying about age/false ID
- Sexually explicit profiles on social networking sites
- Is not enrolled in school or repeated absences
- Tattoo/brand with a name that is not their own*

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 **Suggestive Tattoos, Unusual Locations**



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 **What We All Need to Know**

- Trafficking occurs everywhere in Michigan, city, suburb or rural!
- Increasing every year, impacted by drugs and internet "dating" sites
- Signs of adolescents involved in sex trafficking are school truancy, police contact, unusual tattoos
- Teens, children may be forced into trafficking by relative(s), "boyfriend", rarely a stranger
- Survivors will frequently need housing, drug treatment, mental health counseling, mentoring etc.

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Prevention Strategies

- Research shows that teens want/need a feeling of belonging!
- Church/Community youth groups can provide that feeling of belonging to something! Youth groups, give youth feeling that they belong to something- positive
- Providing professional counseling to troubled families
- Hold informative conferences for parents/teens
- Remember, Information doesn't necessarily change behavior, relationships do!

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Continued

- Open a teen drop-in center- aimed at homeless youth that could provide clothing, non-perishable foods, shower facilities, toiletries including toilet paper, counseling and information on resources
- Computer lab for job searching and GED online classes
- Staffing to include social worker/counselor
- Resources include free specialty clinics and Health Department clinics (for teens and males)


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Prevention Continued

- After school programs, academic, sports, arts(poetry slams, rap slams) and other activities
- Parenting classes
- Outreach to low income youth (higher risk of trafficking in youth in poverty)
- Support foster care youth, **mentoring**, scholarships, etc.
- Internet Safety classes for younger youth (<15yrs)


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Other Major Needs and Aids

- National Hot Line: 1-888-3737-888
- APP for healthcare professionals
- Legal help, expungement*
- Tattoo removal
- Dental care, medical care, HIV testing
- Mental Health Evaluation, treatment
- Substance use treatment, dually diagnosed adolescents


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Opportunities for Recognition by Healthcare Providers

- 63% seen in Hospital/ED
- 57% in any type of clinic
- 30% in Planned Parenthood
- 23% regular physicians offices*

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Primary Goals of Medical Encounter

- Assess safety and health needs
- Identify resource/referral needs
- Determine testing, maybe HIV exposure prophylaxis
- Under 18 years? **Notify child protective services and law enforcement**
- Over 18? Need permission of patient to notify law enforcement
- Interpreter is critical (should not know victim)
- Victim may not be cooperative

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Remember- Trauma Informed Care & Cultural Sensitivity

- Reduce re-traumatization
- Highlight patient strengths and resilience, Importance of a vision
- Promote healing and recovery
- Support the development of healthy coping mechanisms
- Collaborate with colleagues with expertise in HT
- Work with social service providers

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Helpful Clinic Environment

- Nondescript clinic
 - Private, quiet waiting are
 - Full/long medical and mental health visits
 - Maximum 2 week wait time
 - Available urgent care visits
 - Avoidance of termination for last minute cancellations or no-shows
 - Streamlined consultations/referrals
- Annals of Internal Medicine 3:2018-Freedom Clinic
Boston, MA

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Healthcare Provider Recognition: Reasons for Seeking Care

- Violence and abuse issues: physical, sexual, and psychological trauma
- STD symptoms, HIV, abdominal pain
- Pregnancy, abortion
- Drugs/alcohol issues (heroin and other overdoses)
- Depression, anxiety, PTSD, Complex PTSD
- Headaches
- Trauma, chronic pain

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Provider Recognition of Possible Signs

- Likely to be accompanied by family, trafficker, or fellow victim (bottom-female) who does not want to leave the room
- Victim may be confused as to in what city he/she is staying
- Does not make eye contact
- May want to pay in cash
- Overdose, intoxication or withdrawal symptoms
- Brands, tattoos, names, etc. often in odd locations*
- Anxiety

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Healthcare Professional Recognition of Sign/Symptoms

- A scripted or mechanically recited history
- Runaway or in foster care
- Recurrent STD's
- Multiple pregnancies
- Malnourishment, signs of trauma (pelvic, rectal),burns
- Drug addiction
- Weather-inappropriate clothing*
- Inability to provide an address
- Companion refuses to leave the room


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Sex TraffickingTerms

- Pimp may be referred to as boyfriend, fiancée, daddy
- Bottom(bitch): is female assistant to pimp
- Romeo pimp: characterized by seduction
- Gorilla pimp: characterized by violence/force
- Web Sites used in trafficking, KIK
- Survival sex, Transactional sex
- Familial sex trafficking


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Signs

- Blunt force trauma
- Firearm and knife wounds
- Strangulation injuries
- Dental and oral cavity injuries
- Scarring
- Ligature marks, injuries


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Questions to Ask

- Where do you live?
- Do you eat, sleep and work in the same place?
- Can you leave your work or job if you want to?
- Have you been threatened or hurt? Has anyone threatened your family or a family pet?
- Have you ever exchanged sex for food, shelter, drugs or money?
- Would you know how to seek help if you needed it?


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Major Items to Remember

- Establish trust/confidentiality first! Office Protocol
- Make it a policy to see the victim/survivor alone
- Get acquainted with resources for survivors, guide available for the tri-county area
- Keep telephone numbers of resources handy
- National Human Trafficking Hotline:888.373.7888
- SOAR: a 3 hour training program for healthcare and social services providers designed to educate them on identification, treatment, and responding appropriately to potential victims


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Case #1

- 16 y/o black female referred for routine physical exam to clinic nurse. States sexually active with her 32 y/o bisexual boyfriend. Practices anal intercourse with him.
- Unremarkable PMH
- Physical exam remarkable for abnormal pelvic exam
- Initial lab results include positive tests for herpes, gonorrhea, chlamydia


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Case #1 cont.

- After physician consultation, HIV ordered and confirmed positive
- Nurse informed the patient and recommended condom use and the patient replied "Stop, you are embarrassing me"
- Youth admits multiple partners
- Red Flags? Could this be a case of sex trafficking?


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Screening Questions for Underage Potential Victims of Sex Trafficking

- Have you ever broken any bones, had any cuts that required stitches or been knocked unconscious?
- Some kids have a hard time living at home and feel that they need to run away. Have you ever run away from home
- Kids often use drugs or drink alcohol, and different kids use different drugs. Have you used drugs or alcohol in the last 12 months?


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Cont.

- Sometimes kids have been involved with the police-maybe for running away, breaking curfew, for shoplifting or truancy. Have you ever had any problems with the police?
- Since the first time you had sex, how many partners have you had? (more than five considered suggestive of trafficking)
- Have you ever had a sexually transmitted disease?


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Cont.

- Has a boyfriend or a girlfriend or anyone else asked or forced you to do something sexual with another person?
- Has anyone ever asked or forced you to do some sexual act in public, like dance at a bar or a strip club?
- 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 or a place to stay or anything else?


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ER Patient

- 34 y/o W/F arrived via ambulance to local ER after apparent drug overdose at a nearby hotel
- Physical examination notable for widespread bruises
- Poor dentition noted
- Awakening after injection of Narcan and becoming quite agitated stating that she needed to get back to the hotel because of room arrangements/finances
- Neck tattoo and other tattoos noted
- Admits to use of illicit substances


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Continued

- What were some signs of her being involved in trafficking?
- What questions should the health care provider ask?
- What might the healthcare provider do?
- Should the local police department be notified?
- What information should be given to the patient?
- Other helpful information the provider might want to know?


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Minor in the ER

- Minor female 14
- Chief complaint: persistent rectal bleeding
- Family unstable, left home, truant
- Set up for rape, money given to victim after rape incident to give to father's girlfriend


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**Minor Victims:
Reporting Responsibilities**

- Call Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Qualifies as child abuse/neglect:855-444-3911
- Call the local Police Department: Qualifies as a state/federal crime Lansing Police:517-483-4600, FBI Hotline:313-965-2323
- National Human Trafficking Hot Line: 888-373-7888


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Adult Victim

- Not required to report to the LPD
- Suggest make a call the National Hot-line
- Assess safety of the patient
- Ask if they need help, or referral information
- Give them a number to call if they decide they need help, can give the hotline number or number of local human trafficking agency
- Be prepared for non-cooperation


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Recognition of Labor Trafficking in the Office Setting

- Victim may be with a controlling person at visits, unable to speak on own behalf
- Bruises, depression, fear, overly submissive
- Ligature markings
- Do not have their identification documents in their possession
- May be difficult to get the victim alone for questioning
- Impartial interpreter may be necessary

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Labor Trafficking Cont.

- Lack of control over schedule, money or personal documents
- Works and lives in the same place
- Debt owed to employer
- Cannot quit job
- Remember: Force, fraud, or coercion is not necessary if the victim is under 18 years of age!

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Case #3, Labor Trafficking

- Three teens and 2 adults were found dead in the basement after a house fire in Novi, MI. January 31, 2016
- Owner of the house, restaurant owner told the 911 dispatcher that he was able to get everyone out of the house
- There was no egress window in the basement and the smoke detector was disabled

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Labor Trafficking Signs in this Case

- Males, 1 was 16 years, 2 were 18 years of age
- Immigrants
- Likely locked in basement
- Wage about \$4/hr.
- Transportation to and from work provided by the restaurant owner, food provided from his restaurant
- Employees, likely not fluent in English

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Changing Paradigm: Public Health Issue not Just Criminal Justice Issue

- New Federal Legislation to expand victim protections, accountability for traffickers
- Punitive measures of those under 18 greatly lessened
- A public health paradigm understands that others other than law enforcement intervenes and engages in the fight. Cannot arrest our way out of HT
- Remember Domestic Violence campaigns, Anti-smoking campaigns!

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Changing Paradigm: Public Health Issue

- Expansion of constituents that need to be involved in anti-trafficking efforts such as parents, educators, faith-based and community based organization
- The public health paradigm changes how we intervene: look at risk factors and employ prevention strategies, public service announcements, billboards, etc.

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Public Health Paradigm

- Target anti-trafficking efforts to reduce risk of the highest risk populations
- Understands the need for cultural specific prevention and intervention efforts
- Confronts entrenched interests and highlights barriers to reducing HT (pornography)
- Restructuring society, changing social norms
- Addressing demand dynamics, gender based violence


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Public Health Paradigm

- Involvement in research institutions in prevention and treatment of victims
- Best practices, evidence based practices
- Inform policy makers
- Inspires urgency (billboards, public service announcements)

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 **Michigan Resource Organizations**


- Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force: coalition of 90 agencies with several regional task forces
- Trafficking Court/Drug Court in Ann Arbor and Trafficking Clinic at U. of Michigan, Phoenix Court in Ingham County for minors
- Michigan Dept. of Health and Human Services
- Legal resources for expungement
- Dermatology resources for tattoo removal in SE Michigan

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 **Aids for Healthcare Professionals APP's**




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 **Summary**

- Education greatly improves recognition of victims!
- Education need not be long to be successful as far as victim recognition by healthcare providers
- Other Aids APPS including SEXTRAFF
- Shortage of Resources for victims: housing, therapy for mental health issues, mentoring, workforce development- works against recognition
- Occurs everywhere! Rural, Urban, Suburban communities!


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Case Number 1

- A 26 y/o female is being seen for tooth pain. She states the tooth has been a problem for a while but has not been that persistently painful. She states that she has no dental insurance but can and wants to pay cash. She is quite thin and nervous appearing and states that she is new to this area. Physical exam is remarkable for widespread dental caries and a barcode on her neck. She mentioned that her neck was sore in a couple areas. The provider noted that she had two cervical lymph nodes that were tender to the touch.

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Number 1 Continued

- Besides the caries there were some white patchy areas around her gums that were not tender. She referred to the man that accompanied her as her "Daddy"
- What are the red flags?

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Case Number 2

- A 16 year old male arrives at the dental office with an older friend, an adult about 30 years old. He states that he is new in town as he left home due to some issues with his parents. They were not approving of his lifestyle after he "came out" to them. He has not finished high school but plans on completing 12th grade after he secures employment. His friend is letting him live with him and helping him financially until he gets on his feet.

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Number 2 Continued

- The patient states that his friend has some financial issues as well. He is complaining about some pain in one tooth in particular. Currently he takes no medications but admits to smoking marijuana 5 times a week and drinks alcohol about as often. Examination of his oral cavity was remarkable for a four caries with two needing immediate attention. He admits to taking some narcotic pain pills for the tooth pain that were given by his friend that accompanied him and was helping him pay for his dental care.

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Number 2 Continued

- Could this be a possible case of sex trafficking? Things to consider as red flags: leaving home at an early age, LGBT status, high school drop-out, and the financial neediness of his current roommate. This youth is at significant risk of being trafficked. His friend who has financial issues and yet helping him with his dental work and other bills. The friend may ask the youth to help him out by having him perform so “favors” so the friend can get some money.


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Number 2 Continued

- What should be done? More information about the friend would be important such as is the friend supplying him with alcohol and drugs? What is the real relationship about? Being that this is a small busy dental office, local child protective services should be notified as he is a runaway minor and the local police should be notified as well as an underage runaway that may already be a trafficking victim. Child protective services should be notified as he is a runaway minor and the local police should be notified as well as an underage runaway that may already be a trafficking victim.


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Case Number 3

- A 17 year old male enters your office with another older male. They identify themselves as Mexican immigrants that on a work visa. They both work at a local restaurant. The 17 year old speaks little English but is able to demonstrate that he has severe tooth pain. In the chair, it is readily apparent that he has a dental abscess and is in severe pain. His has some minor signs of trauma on his hands but more noticeable are marks and bruising in a linear pattern around both wrists. The older male that accompanied him stated that he would pay for the cost of his care.

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Case Number 3 Continued

- Could this be a case of human trafficking? The red flag for labor trafficking and perhaps sex trafficking is the ligature marks around his wrist. It is not clear if the man who accompanied him is a trafficker or an assistant to the trafficker so he should not be depended upon to translate. If translation is necessary, find another person. There are online translation aids. Make the same phone calls as in Case #2 to Department of Health and Human Services and your local police department.

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Home of the Capital Area Anti-trafficking Alliance, 814 N. Washington Ave. Lansing, 517.574.5643



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 **International Dreamcenter of Lansing
Community Wholeness Organization**

**Walk With A Doc, Adopt a Block, Food Bank,
Adopt a School, Dreamcenter,
Dreamscape, Dreamkids, Dreamteams**