**Awareness and Recognition of Human Trafficking By Physicians, LaClaire Bouknight, M.D., FACP**

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.
- **Labor Trafficking:** recruitment, harboring, transportation, or obtaining of a person for labor or services thought 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 of age. FFC is not necessary if the victim is under 18 years of age.

**Human Trafficking Globally**

- Over a billion dollar industry
- Second or third criminal business in the league with drugs and guns
- Increases with community disruption i.e. after natural disasters and transmigration of populations
- Trafficking sometimes provides finance for war
- Frequently related to poverty
- Includes labor and sex trafficking but there are other forms such as the trafficking of organs and infants

**Human Trafficking in the USA**

- Reported cases increasing
- Correlated with drug use, HIV and other STD’s including recently-syphilis
- Sex trafficking more prevalent than labor trafficking in most areas of the USA
- A third or more of sex trafficking victims are minors, females more than males but the number of males is significant
- Most of sex trafficking victims are lawful USA residents/citizens
- Most of the labor trafficking victims are not lawful residents/citizens and most likely males
- Sex trafficking is linked with residential brothels, hotels, motels, and online ads
- Labor trafficking is linked with health/beauty services, food service, farming and sales crews

**Opportunities for Recognition by Physicians**

- 88% of victims see a health care provider while being enslaved (25% in the last 6 months)
• Only about 37% of healthcare professionals have received training on the recognition of victims
• 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
• 63% are seen in Hospital/ED
• 57% are seen in a clinic
• 30% are seen in Planned Parenthood
• 23% are seen in physician offices

Primary Goals of Medical Encounter

• Asses safety and health needs
• Identify resource/referral needs
• Determine testing and maybe HIV exposure prophylaxis
• Under 18 years? Check local state laws, notify child protective services and law enforcement
• Over 18 years? Notification of law enforcement may be appropriate but individual should be consulted
• Interpreter is critical in some cases and the interpreter should not know the victim
• Victim may not be cooperative
• Reduce re-traumatization
• Work with social service providers and collaborate with colleagues with expertise in Human Trafficking
• Trauma informed and cultural sensitivity care is essential

Other Major Needs

• Housing
• Drug treatment, detoxification
• Mental health treatment and crises intervention
• Ingoing medical care and dental care
• Legal assistance, expungement
• Life skills, job training
• Support/mentoring
• Hotline: Nation Human Trafficking Hotline 1-888-373-7888
Risk Factors for Sex Trafficking

- Majority of victims have be involved in child welfare system at some time
- Runaway and homeless youth
- LGBT youth
- Victim of prior sexual assault
- Violence, drug use, emotional abuse in the family
- Poverty
- Native American youth

Reasons for Seeking Care from Health Professional

- Physical trauma, sexual trauma, and psychological trauma
- STD symptoms, HIV signs/symptoms, abdominal pain
- Pregnancy, abortion
- Drug/alcohol overdoses and other issues
- Depression/anxiety, PTSD
- Headaches, insomnia and chronic pain

Possible Signs of a Trafficking Victim

- Likely accompanied by family, trafficker of fellow victim (bottom-female) who does not want to leave the room
- Victim may be unsure as to what city he/she is in, inability to provide an address
- Does not make eye contact, anxious
- May want to pay in cash
- Brands, Tattoos such as barcodes, neck tattoos likely are significant
- Scripted or mechanically recited history
- Malnourished with multiple bruises, cigarette burns, ligature marks and oral petechial hemorrhages, rectal bleeding, scarring
- Physical withdrawal signs, symptoms
- Weather inappropriate clothing
- Fractures/head injuries
- Untreated chronic conditions including lack of dental care
- Strangulation injuries

Sex Trafficking Terms

- Pimp may be referred to as boyfriend, fiancé or daddy
- Bottom(bitch) is female assistant to the pimp
- Romeo pimp is characterized by seduction
- Gorilla pimp is characterized by violence
Websites used in trafficking include Back Page and KIK
Survival Sex, Transactional Sex and Familial sex are not uncommon!

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?

Questions to ask 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?
- 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 is considered suggestive of trafficking)
- Have you ever had a sexually transmitted disease?
- 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 or a place to stay. Have you ever traded sex for money or a place to stay or anything else?

Major Items to Remember

- Establish and office or clinic protocol! Consider appointing a "go to" person
- Locate resources in your community
- Establish trust and confidentiality
- Make it police/protocol to see the patient alone
SOAR is a 3 hour training program for healthcare and social services providers designed to educate on identification, treatment and appropriate responses to potential victims.

Recognition of Labor Trafficking in the Office Setting

- Victim may be with a controlling person at visit, unable to speak on own behalf or be alone with the healthcare professional.
- Bruises, depression, fear, overly submissive.
- Ligature marking.
- Do not have their identification documents in their possession.
- Impartial interpreter may be necessary.
- Works and lives in the same place.
- Debt owed to the employer.
- Cannot quit job.
- Remember: Force, Fraud, or Coercion is not necessary if the victim is under 18 years of age!

Changing Paradigm: Human Trafficking is a Public Health Issue Not Just a Criminal Justice Issue!

- New Federal Legislation is expanding victim protections and accountability for traffickers.
- Punitive measures of those under 18 greatly lessened.
- Other, other than law enforcement most intervene and be engaged in the fight (remember domestic violence campaigns and anti-smoking campaigns).
- Parents, educators, faith-based and community based organizations must be involved.
- We must look at risk factors and employ prevention strategies- use public service announcements, billboards, etc.
- Target anti-trafficking efforts to reduce risk of the highest risk populations.
- Understand the importance of culturally specific prevention and intervention efforts.
- Confront entrenched interests and barriers to reducing human trafficking such as pornography, “John Courts”?
- Restructuring society, changing social norms, gender based violence, demand.
- Involvement with research institutions in prevention and treatment of victims.
- Best practices, evidence based practices.
- Informed policy makers.
- Inspire urgency.
Summary

- Education greatly improves the recognition of victims!
- Education need not be long to be successful as far as victim recognition by healthcare providers!
- Other aids-SexTraff APP, others?
- Human Trafficking occurs everywhere! Rural, Urban and Suburban Communities
- There is a great shortage of resources for victims (survivors) in housing, mental health treatment especially in dually diagnosed persons under 18 years, mentoring, workforce development programs, and GED completion programs.