





## Presented by *No Boundaries International Panel*

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# Who is NBI?



- Oklahoma City based 501(c)3 nonprofit, established in 2006
- A faith-based, trauma-informed organization that connects those that want to help with those that need help the most including the trafficked, and/or homeless, or individuals in a "hard place".
- Specializing in trauma healing, training, and street level outreach



# Objectives

- Define human trafficking
- State the prevalence of human trafficking
- Define why awareness of human trafficking is such an important topic for medical professionals
- Name 3 contributing factors that play into the typical patient profiles of human trafficking
- State who the “players” are in human trafficking



# Objectives

- Restate what are the contributing factors as to why the victims DON'T leave this lifestyle
- Name several reasons for victims to come to your medical facility
- Name several important considerations in evaluating and treating possible trafficking victims
- Note resources for trafficking victims



# Definition of Human Trafficking



# Types of Human Trafficking

- LABOR
- INVOLUNTARY DOMESTIC SERVITUDE
- SEX TRAFFICKING
  - Pornography
  - Stripping
  - Live Sex Shows
  - Mail Order Brides
  - Military Prostitution
  - Sex Tourism
  - Prostitution (Most visible form of sex trafficking, but not all prostitution is sex trafficking)

**OUR PRIMARY  
FOCUS WILL BE ON  
SEX TRAFFICKING**



# What is Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is defined by the United Nations as:

"the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of **FORCE** or other forms of **COERCION**, of abduction, of **FRAUD**, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of **exploitation**."



<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html?ref=menuaside>

# AMP Model

At least 1 element from each column must be present  
Action + Means + Purpose = Human Trafficking

## ACTION

- Induces
- Recruits
- Harbors
- Transports
- Provides
- Obtains

## MEANS\*\*

- Force
- Fraud
- Coercion

## PURPOSE

- Commercial Sex Acts
- Labor or Services

**\*\*Neither force, nor fraud, nor coercion are required for minors under age 18 induced into commercial sex acts.**



# Prevalence of Human Trafficking



# Statistics

- The US State Department (2024) states that 27 million people around the world are involved in some type of trafficking
- Here in the US, the National Human Trafficking Hotline (2021) encountered around 16,500 sex trafficking victims
  - 80% are women
  - Men, boys, and LGBTQ are also very vulnerable
- Child sex trafficking has been reported in all 50 states

**Note: these numbers are only estimates  
since trafficking is an illegal activity**



# Statistics

- Human trafficking is found in all 50 states
- Sex trafficking crosses all socio-economic levels
- All ages are affected
- Average age of entry is in their teenage years
- Although the US highways are a contributing factor, trafficking occurs in all areas and NOT dependant on crossing state lines

**Note: these numbers are only estimates  
since trafficking is an illegal activity**



# Why is this an Important Topic for Medical Professionals?



**We have a unique opportunity to encounter human trafficking victims in their time of need.**

- Up to 88% of trafficking victims access health care during their trafficking situation

<https://polarisproject.org/human-trafficking-and-the-health-care-industry/>



# Contributing Factors of Human Trafficking

(Seen in Typical Patient Profiles)



# Risk Factors/Suspected Causes

- Poverty/desire for a better life
- Ignorance
- Disruption of societal values
- Political and economic instability
- Demand for cheap labor
- High profits/"good money"
- Abuse/neglect
- Homelessness
- **LOW SELF-ESTEEM**
- Limited education
- Family dysfunction
- **REBELLION**
- Truancy
- **SEARCHING FOR LOVE AND SELF-VALUE**
- Drug Use
- Delinquency



- Not all prostitution is sex trafficking. But make no mistake, all of those who are being prostituted are victims of something.
- That “something” may be addiction, low self-esteem, abuse, choices, poverty...Women and children are forced into prostitution through emotional pressure, force or financial desperation.

S.B. Satterfield. Clinical Aspects of Juvenile Prostitution. M. Silbert and A.M. Pines. Entrance into Prostitution. L. Lee “the Pimp and His Game.”



- When this happens, they enter an industry sustained through violence and exploitation.
  - Examples:
    - Boyfriend tells his girlfriend to go out and make enough money for their hotel room and drug of choice.
    - A woman sells her body to pay for her electric bill.

**REPORTS INDICATE THAT UP TO 90% OF PROSTITUTED INDIVIDUALS ARE UNDER THE CONTROL OF A PIMP.**

S.B. Satterfield. Clinical Aspects of Juvenile Prostitution. M. Silbert and A.M. Pines. Entrance into Prostitution. L. Lee "the Pimp and His Game."



## Who are the "Players in The Life"?

- Victims: Minors (18 years and under) and Adults
- Controller: Pimps, intimate partners, family members
- Clientele (Johns or "Tricks"): Those who purchase sex
- Price: \$200-\$300/hour



# So Why Do They Stay in This Lifestyle?



# Traumatic-Bonding/Conditioning

**Trauma Bonding:** Strong emotional ties that develop when one person intermittently harasses, beats, threatens, abuses or intimidates the other.



# Traumatic-Bonding/Conditioning

The following will be present:

- An imbalance of power.
- Sporadic highly intensive positives mixed in with abuse.
- Denial for self protection.
  - Dissociation: Experience it as if it is not happening to them (like watching a movie).
  - Cognitive Dissonance: Self preservation that distorts and over rides the truth with a victim developing a tolerance for the abuse and normalizes the abusers behavior.
- Distortion: can't accurately evaluate danger and can't perceive alternatives to the situation.



# Fear

- Although dysfunctional as well as abusive, controllers/pimps often create a “family” system where the victim finds some type of “belonging”
- The prospect of leaving this abusive system is filled with fear of the unknown
  - “The devil I know is better than the devil I don’t know”
- High distrust of authority figures or outsiders (including you as the medical authority)



# Common Reasons for Victims to Come to the ED, Hospital, or Clinic



## *Red Flags: Force and Abuse*

- Persistent or untreated STI's or UTI's
- Abnormally high number of sex partners
- Using language from "the life"
- Presence of cotton or debris in vagina
- Trauma to vagina or rectum
- Problems with jaw or neck
- Repeated abortions or miscarriages
- Unintended pregnancies or fertility problems



# Red Flags: Force and Abuse

- Hematoma or contusions
- Lacerations, scarring, missing or broken teeth
- Injuries to the head or black eyes
- Dislocated limbs or fractures
- Bald spots
- Burns (cigarette)
- Miscarriages caused by potential abuse



# Red Flags: Force and Abuse

- Inability to keep appointments or follow care instructions
- Unable to present identification documents
- Accompanied by a person that doesn't let the patient speak
- Malnutrition, untreated medical problems



# Barriers to Accessing Services

- Fear of arrest, incarceration
- Fear of retribution by exploiter
- Control of movement by exploiter
- For minors: fear of being returned to family, fear of placement in social services
- Don't understand that they are being trafficked (they think they are just with boyfriend)



# Important Considerations in Evaluation and Treatment of Possible Victims



Trafficking victim may show signs of mental health issues:

- Trauma bonding (Stocholm Syndrome)
- Lack of emotion
- Down play risks of existing health problems

## *Patient/Provider Dynamics*

- *Not self-identify as a victim—it's common that they don't realize that they are being exploited*
- Refuse services or assistance
- Give conflicting stories or misinformation
- Resist cooperation with law enforcement, social workers, or others



# Remember

- If you suspect that you are dealing with a potential trafficking victim, be aware of the “power dynamics” of the relationship between victim and controller:
  - Separate the pimp/controller/boyfriend from the victim
    - State that you (and one other witness) need to do a private examination of the victim



## Remember:

- Once you are with the victim (without the controller), your biggest challenge is to **build trust** (and that may take some time)
- Helping a trafficking victim is not simply moving them from “point A to point B” (getting them to a safe house)
  - If presented with options for help, they need to think about it, have complete “buy-in”, and be in the driver’s seat in that decision or they won’t do it
- **For them, it’s not so much what you DO for them as to how you make them feel (loved, accepted)—this will drive their response to you**



# Use a Strength-Based Empowerment Approach

- Remember that the age that they started in trafficking may be the age that they are developmentally, psychologically, and socially.
- Spend time connecting
- Provide options
- Do not make promises
- Meet immediate needs



## Use a Strength-Based Empowerment Approach

- Don't make assumptions (they often use different language to explain)
- Ask open-ended questions using a safe, non-judgmental tone
- Use language the victim is using
- Avoid re-traumatization or secondary traumatization
- Do not convey disgust or disdain
- Don't contact others including law enforcement without telling the victim



# Rapid Assessment Questions

- Who is the person who came with you today? Can you tell me about him/her?
- Did you ever feel pressured to do something that you didn't want to do or felt uncomfortable doing? How did you feel pressured?
- Do you feel you were ever tricked or lied to? Were you ever promised something, but it didn't happen?
- Have you ever had to trade sex for money or something else you needed (a place to stay or for food)?



# Rapid Assessment Questions

- Has anyone ever approached you asking you to get involved in prostitution?
- **Do you get to keep your own money?**
- Does anyone supervise or monitor your conversations with your family or friends?
- **Did anyone take and keep your ID?**
- **What does that tattoo mean?**



# Strategies for Personal Safety

- Don't give the trafficker any indication that you are aware of what's really happening
  - Be respectful and act natural
- Be cautious in providing your personal information
  - Best practice is an office number or agency that can handle calls.



# Strategies for Personal Safety

- Know your facility's protocols
- Prepare a resource list that you can give to the victim
- If you see them outside the facility, let them make the first move
- Be transparent with the victim. If calling law enforcement or social services, let them know.







**Dr. Jerry Childs Jr, D.O.**  
Board Certified, Emergency Medicine



# Michelle Fowler

Outreach Director | No Boundaries International

# OKLAHOMA RESOURCES

**OBN HUMAN TRAFFICKING  
HOTLINE  
855-617-2288**

**THE DRAGONFLY HOME  
855-674-4767**

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
INTERVENTION SERVICES  
918-743-5763**

**YWCA 24 HR HOTLINE  
405-917-9922**

**THE SPRING  
918-245-4075**

**\*BE AWARE: YOU CAN MAKE THE INITIAL CALL TO THESE  
RESOURCES BUT IT IS REQUIRED THAT THESE RESOURCES  
ACTUALLY TALK WITH THE VICTIM**



# **NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE**

**Call 888-373-7888**

**Text 233733**



# **RECOMMENDED TRAUMA HEALING RESOURCES:**

**(FOR ANYONE IN NEED)**

*A Journey of Restoration*

**FREE E-COURSE**

**found at [www.NBIInt.org](http://www.NBIInt.org)**

**or call 405-513-5453**

**[info@NBIInt.org](mailto:info@NBIInt.org)**



# RECOMMENDED TRAUMA HEALING RESOURCES: (FOR ANYONE IN NEED)



## Brain Bootcamp

AN INTENSIVE CLASS WHERE YOU WILL ASSESS YOUR  
CURRENT BRAIN HEALTH AND DEVELOP A PLAN TO  
CHANGE YOUR NEGATIVE THINKING PATTERNS USING  
BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES AND BASIC NEUROSCIENCE.

*Taught by our licensed trauma therapist*

**register at [www.NBIInt.org](http://www.NBIInt.org)**



*For More Information:*



405-513-5453

info@NBInt.org

www.NBInt.org



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