Human Trafficking Meets Healthcare: An Opportunity For Intervention

Jordan Greenbaum, MD
Stephanie V. Blank Center for Safe and Healthy Children
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
Institute for Healthcare and Human Trafficking

Educational Activity Disclosures - Physicians

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Educational Activity Disclosures - Nursing

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Objectives

• Recall the definition of human trafficking and describe which populations are at highest risk,
• Describe how victims may present for medical care
• Recall 3 aspects of a trauma-informed approach to patient care.
• Describe 2 strategies for working with patients and families to prevent victimization

What is Human Trafficking?

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<tr>
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<tr>
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TVPA, 2000; Justice for Victims Trafficking Act, 2015
Sex Trafficking of a Minor

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<td>Involuntary servitude</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transports, Provides,</td>
<td>Fraud OR</td>
<td>Debt Bondage OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>maintains a person OR [patronizes /solicits sex]</td>
<td>Coercion OR</td>
<td>Slavery OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sexual exploitation</td>
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Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)

• Occurs when a person induces a minor to engage in a sex act in exchange for remuneration in the form of money, food, shelter or other valued entity.
  – Survival sex
  – Trafficking child for commercial sex act (on account of which anything of value is given to or received by any person)
  – Pornography
  – Sex tourism
  – Use of child in sexually oriented business
• Does NOT require force, coercion, violence, etc

Trafficking in the U.S.

• No reliable estimates of prevalence/incidence
• Majority of identified sex trafficking victims are domestic
• Very little information on labor trafficking
**Trafficking Examples**

- Hector is a 25 yo man from a small village near Villa Nueva. He decides to come to the U.S. to build a better life for himself and his family, and to escape community violence. He answers an ad for construction workers in Atlanta…

- Pat is a 20 yo transgender youth who ran away from home at age 17 to escape mother’s drug addiction and violent BF. She lives on the streets and exchanges sex to pay for food, hormones, and clothing…

- Keisha is a 13 yo girl who argues with her mother and leaves home. She meets 2 men who offer her a ride and take her to an abandoned house where they have sex…

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**Persons at Risk**

- Poverty
- Family Dysfunction
- GBV
- Child welfare involvement
- Abuse/Neglect
- Homeless/Runaway
- Intimate partner violence
- Truancy, school problems
- Mental health problems
- Friends/relatives involved in prostitution
- Drug/Alcohol abuse
- Gang involvement
- LGBTQ status
- Community violence, upheaval

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When we think of human trafficking, we think of…..

- Males and farm workers
- Females and ‘Pimps’
Do Victims Seek Medical Care?

- Potentially severe adverse health effects for victims
- Many seek medical attention
  - >75% had seen provider within last 6 months
- Healthcare professional has unique opportunity to intervene
- Victims seek care in variety of settings
  - 63% Hospital/ED
  - 57% any type of clinic
  - 30% Planned Parenthood
  - 23% Regular doctor

How might our 3 victims present for care?

Hector recruited into construction
Pat involved in survival sex
Keisha trafficked by strangers she met.
So, how will I know a victim when I see one?

Challenges to Victim Identification

- Victims don’t self-identify
- Reluctant to disclose
- Few clinically validated quick screening tools and these are cumbersome

Do you think Hector, Pat or Keisha will disclose?
Possible Indicators of Trafficking: First Impressions

• Patient appears afraid of companion, or overly submissive, anxious
• Patient gives false demographic information, inconsistent history
• Patient cannot describe where she/he is staying, doesn’t know city

Possible Indicators of Trafficking

• Consider adverse health effects of trafficking....
  • Work-related injuries
  • Malnutrition
  • Multiple STIs
  • Pregnancies, abortions, or miscarriages
  • Illicit drug use
  • Current or past history of:
    • Sexual assault
    • Inflicted injury
  • Visible signs of physical abuse
Medical Evaluation for Human Trafficking

Exploitation/Trafficking Causes Traumatic Stress.

- Trauma affects behavior, beliefs, attitudes
- Talking can trigger stress
- Minimize re-trauma

Trauma-Informed Approach

- Ensure safety
- Treat victim with respect
  - Explain what you want to do
  - Ask permission
  - Review limits of confidentiality early on
  - Survivor, not offender
What questions should I ask?

Direct Questions For Youth About Possible Sex Trafficking

Think about Keisha…

1) Has anyone ever asked you to have sex in exchange for something you wanted or needed (money, food, shelter or other items)?
2) Has anyone ever asked you to have sex with another person?
3) Has anyone ever taken sexual pictures of you or posted such pictures on the internet?

Direct Questions for Adults About Sex Trafficking

1. Do you ever exchange sex for money or other things you might want or need?
2. If so, has anyone ever forced, manipulated or threatened you to make you do it?
3. Can you stop doing it if you want to?
If Person is Homeless

Think about Pat….

- Where are you staying?
- How do you get food and money?
- Do you owe anyone money?
- Have you gotten hurt while out on the streets?
- Has anyone approached you and asked you to do something you didn’t want to do?

Questions About Possible Labor Trafficking

Think about Hector….

- Tell me about your work day
- Are you doing the work you expected?
- Do you get paid what you expected?
- Do you have control over your papers, your money?
- Can you come and go at will?
- Tell me about your living quarters

Keep in mind….

- Only seek information that you need to know
- “Why am I asking?”
  - To assess physical and emotional health?
  - To assess safety at home?
  - To determine appropriate services and referrals?
  - To provide important information to the child?
  - To investigate?
Mental Health Screen

- Screen for symptoms/signs
  - Depression
  - PTSD
  - Anxiety, panic
- Thoughts of hurting self, others?
- Prior self-harm?
- Make appropriate referrals

Screen for Drugs/Alcohol

CRAFFT

HEADSS

NIDA

Exam and Diagnostic Evaluation

- Assess overall health, nutrition
- Assess and treat acute/chronic conditions
- Assess development (+/-)
- Obtain sexual assault evidence kit (+/-)
- Document injuries, genital/extra-genital
- Offer STI and pregnancy testing/prophylaxis
- Consider testing for endemic diseases of home country
- Offer drug testing
Tips for the Exam

- Have a chaperone!
- Exclude suspected trafficker
- Monitor for signs of distress
- Explain each step before doing it
- Ask patient if they have questions or concerns

There may be no evidence of genital trauma.

Healing of Hymenal Injuries

- 239 girls, 4 months to 18 years old
- Accidental and inflicted injury
- Left NO residual, except deep lacerations; no scar tissue seen

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Injury Type</th>
<th>Resolution</th>
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<tr>
<td>Petechiae</td>
<td>Resolved ~48-72 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abrasions and mild bruising</td>
<td>~3-4 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marked bruising</td>
<td>May last ~11-15 days</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blood blister</td>
<td>May last &gt;30 days</td>
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Testing for STIs

• May reflect pre-existing disease, or infected ejaculate or saliva

• Baseline testing:
  ▪ Gonorrhea, Chlamydia (NAAT, cx)
  ▪ Trichomonas (NAAT, T vag, wet prep)
  ▪ HIV Ab, HBV surface Ag and Ab
  ▪ HCV Ab, RPR
  ▪ +/- Herpes or others

Treatment

• Presumptive/Prophylactic treatment recommended
  ▪ High prevalence of STIs
  ▪ Possibility of PID
  ▪ Poor patient follow-up

• May give Hepatitis B, HPV, tetanus vaccination
• May start HIV prophylaxis

Reports and Referrals: Children

• We’re mandated reporters in Georgia (sex trafficking of children)
  – Report to Law Enforcement
  – Child Protective Services
  – Georgia Cares (domestic victims <18 years)
    • 1-844-8GA-DMST
    • 24-Hour Hotline
• Labor trafficking
  – Tapestri (foreign national victims all ages; labor and sex trafficking)
    • 404 299-2185
Reports/Referrals: Adults

• Adults:
  – Tapestri (foreign national victims all ages; labor and sex trafficking)
    • 404 299-2185
  – Out of Darkness: 404-941-6024 (sex trafficking; hotline)

A Critical Resource….

• National Human Trafficking Resource Center:
  – Hotline (24/7)
  – 1-888-373-7888
  – Interpreters for >100 languages
  – All types of trafficking, all ages

Reporting for Adults

• Need permission to make reports to authorities
  – Except mandated reporter laws for suspected exploitation of elder or disabled persons
• Need permission to make referrals
Make Health-Related Referrals For Ongoing Care

- Child Advocacy Center or SANE exam
- Behavioral health assessment and treatment
- Substance abuse assessment and rehab
- Primary care provider
  - Ongoing care
  - STI testing
  - Family planning
  - HPV vaccine
  - Anticipatory guidance
  - Immunizations
- OB/GYN care
- Developmental assessment (child)

Get Legal Assistance for Foreign Nationals

- Continued Presence
  - Temporary immigration status for HT victims
  - Good for 1 year; renewable
  - Federal LE must apply for it
    - Should be initiated by state/local LE if feds not involved
    - Should be initiated immediately
  - Allows victim benefits and employment
T-Visa (T-nonimmigrant status)

T-Visa

- Can stay in U.S. for 4 years
- Can apply for permanent residence after 3 years.
- Allows victim to
  - Work in U.S. legally
  - Federally funded benefits
  - Get family to U.S.

Prevention

- Screen & Educate
- Resources
  - Anticipatory guidance (harm reduction)
  - LGBTQ
  - Homeless shelters
  - National Human Trafficking Center hotline
    - 888-3737-888
  - Georgia Cares hotline
  - Crisis hotlines
  - Refugee organizations
  - Teen clinics, free clinics
  - Mental health services
  - Drug rehab
Conclusions

• Healthcare professionals are likely to see victims of HT
• Victims of labor/sex trafficking may present for a variety of conditions, in a variety of medical settings.
• A trauma-informed, victim-centered approach is essential
• Victim needs are great, and require multidisciplinary collaboration

My contact info:
Jordan Greenbaum, MD
jordan.greenbaum@choa.org

Metro Atlanta Resources

• Out of Darkness (commercial sexual exploitation, adults)
  – 24 hour Hotline: 404-941-6024
  – Office: 404-817-3502
• Georgia Cares (domestic sex trafficking, <18 years)
  – 24 hour Hotline: 1-844-8GA-DMST
• Tapestri (foreign national labor/sex trafficking)
  – 404-299-2185
**National Resources**

- National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline
  - 1-888-3737-888
- Dept Health & Human Services, Admin Children and Families, Office Refugee Resettlement
  - Call when suspect unaccompanied foreign national child is victim of trafficking
    - Technical assistance: (202-205-4582)

**National Resources**

- AAP’s Immigrant Child Health Toolkit

**Other Resources**

- Polaris Project
  - [www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org) - sponsors the hotline above
- Shared Hope International
  - [www.sharedhope.org](http://www.sharedhope.org)
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
  - [www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com)
Seven module webinar series on Human Trafficking/Child Sex Trafficking – all courses FREE and continuing education credits available

For more information or to register, please visit: www.choa.org/csecwebinars

- Fundamentals of Child Sex Trafficking
- Trafficking Around the World: Global Issues in Labor Trafficking, Sex Trafficking, and Impacts of Political Upheaval
- The Hidden Victims of Trafficking: Issues Related to Male and LGBT Victims
- Supply and Demand: The Roles of Traffickers, Buyers, and Gangs in CSEC
- Technology and CSEC: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly
- The Medical Evaluation of Victims of Child Sex Trafficking
- Moving Forward After Victimization: Helping Victims Survive and Thrive

Evaluation Information

- Visit https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HTInstituteTraining2017 and complete survey
- Once survey is completed, you will be redirected to a site where you can download a continuing education certificate

References

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References

• Zimmerman C. Stolen smiles: A summary report on the physical and psychological consequences of women and adolescents trafficked in Europe. London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 2006.