Human Trafficking

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Objectives

- Define Human Trafficking
- Discuss issues with the nomenclature
- Provide alternate, more appropriate name
- Learn how to identify potential victims
- Understand the importance of a sexual assault examination
- Identify barriers to rescue
- Identify resources

Confusing Nomenclature

Contrary to some misconceptions, human trafficking crimes do not require any smuggling or movement of the victim.

There does not need to be: force, threats of force, fraud or coercion.
CSEC
- Commercial
- Sexual
- Exploitation of
- Children

What does that mean?
Sexual activity involving a child in exchange for something of value

From the State Department
- It does not matter if a victim once "consented" to work for their trafficker
- It does not matter if the victim returned to their trafficker after he or she was freed

- It does not matter if the victim's enslavement was through chains of mental dependency or psychological manipulation as opposed to being physically locked up
- It does not matter if their trafficker was at times nice to them or gave them presents or if they veered between feelings of love and fear for their pimp

“This” or “That”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prostitute</th>
<th>Sexually Exploited Child</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brings up connotations of being a bad kid, juvenile offender or criminal</td>
<td>A young person who has been sexually used, coerced, manipulated, and violently controlled for another person’s profit</td>
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<td>Seen as a professional who is doing a job</td>
<td>Defines what has happened to the child … not who the child is</td>
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<td>Deserving of consequences: sexual violence, social isolation, incarceration</td>
<td>Appropriately names them as a victim</td>
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We Need A New Vocabulary
- Pimps → Trafficker
- Prostitutes → Victims
- Tricks/Johns → Buyers/Exploiters
HOW BIG IS THE PROBLEM?

1.2 Million Children /Yr, Worldwide
300,000 Children/Yr , Nationwide
83% of sex trafficking victims identified between 2008 and 2010 were US citizens
Texas has the highest rate of human trafficking in the country – around 25% of the estimated 300,000. It also accounts for the majority of calls to the National Human Trafficking Hotline
25% of sex tourists abusing children outside of the US are American & Canadian

Average age of entry is 12 – 14
80-90% were sexually abused before being commercially sexually exploited
Human trafficking is the third largest international crime industry (behind illegal drugs and arms trafficking). It reportedly generates a profit of $32 billion every year. Of that number, $15.5 billion is made in industrialized countries

Risk Factors

Children at Risk for Recruitment

- Under 18
- Desire for (male) attention
- Walk alone
- Use Internet
- Like brand-name fashion and luxury items
- Feel insecure or misunderstood
- Fight with parents
- Want independence
- Test boundaries and take risks
INDIVIDUAL FACTORS

Abuse and Neglect

Mental Health Issues/Learning Disabilities

Substance Abuse

Runaway

- 1.6 million children/yr
- 1 in 3 recruited within 48 hrs
- Throwaways → homelessness
- Survival sex (esp. LGBTQ)

Hammer, H., Finkelhor, D., Sedlak, A., 2002

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS
Transient Male Population

Poverty/Homelessness

Violence/Street Culture

Societal Factors

Sexism and Misogyny

Homophobia
Sexualization of girls and young women

Glorification of Pimp/Prostitution Culture

Access to Technology
**PATHWAYS TO ENTRY**

- Parents selling children
- Seduction and coercion
- Internet
  - Fling.com
  - Backpage.com
  - Facebook
  - Craig’s list
- Peer recruitment
- False advertising for modeling, acting, or dancing
- Violence and force/kidnapping

**Common Recruiting Sites**

- Junior high and high schools
- Courtrooms
- Hallways of court buildings
- Foster homes
- Bus stations
- Group homes
- Homeless shelters
- Halfway houses
- Restaurants and bars
- Parks and playgrounds

**Seasoning/Grooming**

The process of breaking-down a girl from healthy adolescent sexual boundaries to commercial sex with strangers

- Beating/Slapping/Whipping
- Sexual Assault
- Confinement
- Other torture techniques
- Emotional abuse
- Removal from familiarity and support structures
- Document confiscation

**Why Don’t They Seek Help?**

- Loyalty to the pimp – Stockholm syndrome
- Dependency
- Captivity/Confinement
- Use and threat of violence
- Shame/Self-blame
- Frequent accompaniment/guarded
- Distrust of law enforcement
- Debt bondage

**How You May Encounter Victims**

- Treatment of acute injuries
- STIs
- Drug intoxication/withdrawal
- Reproductive issues
- Acute sexual assaults
How To Identify Victims

- Child is accompanied by a dominating, older, nonrelated adult (male or female)
  - Adult insists on speaking for child
  - Child acts fearful or submissive toward adult
  - Child won’t make eye contact
- Child is hostile or distrustful of authority figures
- Possession of a great deal of cash or expensive items
  - Cell phone
  - Jewelry
  - Electronics

How to Identify Victims

- Child cannot present identification
- Changing information on name, age, living situation
- Possession of hotel keys
- History of 1+ of following:
  - Physical or sexual abuse
  - DFPS involvement with family
  - Running away (especially >3 times in past year)
  - Truancy and school problems
  - Pregnancies/Abortions/Miscarriages
  - Older friends and/or “boyfriend”

How to Identify Victims

- Gang signs/affiliation
- Physical signs
  - Unexplained bruises, scars
  - Cigarette burns
  - Branding
  - Tattoos
    - Back of neck
    - Underarm
    - Ankle

How to Identify Victims

- Has signs of substance use/abuse
- History of multiple sexual partners in short period

What Questions to Ask

- Name
- Age
- Birthdate
- Tattoos
- Where do your parents live?
Social History

- Have you ever run away? Why? How many times?
- Where do you live and with whom?
- Can you come and go as you please?
- Do you have to pay back or do anything in exchange for your living arrangements?

Traumatic Experiences

- Is anyone forcing you to do anything you don’t want to do?
- Has anyone ever touched you in a way you didn’t like?
- Has anyone ever hurt you in any way?
- Has anyone ever threatened you or your family?

Sexual History

- Have you ever had sex before? How many partners in the last 6 months?
- Have you ever had an STD?
- Have you ever been pregnant?

Other History

- How often do you or your friends drink alcohol or use drugs?
- Are there pictures of you on the internet? What sites are they on? Are they in a classified ad?

Tips for First Encounters

- Building TRUST is a number one priority
- One-on-one interactions are imperative
- Use street language when possible
- Be aware of and expect lies and canned stories
- Take your time
What to Do if you Identify a Victim

- Maintain safety
- **Get a sexual assault exam**
- Call CPS &/or law enforcement
- Provide mental health services

What is a SANE exam?

- Multifaceted medical visit that includes
  - Medical history
  - Trauma symptom assessment
  - General physical examination

Why a Sexual Assault Examination is Important

- Help the child to understand that her/his body is NORMAL
- To ensure the health/wellbeing of the child
- Reduce public health risk posed by STI’s
- Assess for suicidal ideation or other trauma related psychological effects
- Coordination of services

SANE EXAM

- Child friendly genital examination (no speculum, no PAP smears) using a colposcope
- **STI testing** +/- evidence collection
- Referral for appropriate follow-up services

Added Bonus

- Information provided by the patient as part of a medical history is admissible in court as a hearsay exception
- Presence of an STI in a child/adolescent who is not sexually active is definitive evidence of sexual contact
BARRIERS TO RESCUE

Victims do not identify themselves as such

Placement

Acute Sexual Assaults (<96 hrs)

- Children’s Hospital of San Antonio SANE program
  (all children 17 and younger)
  210-704-3706

- Methodist Specialty and Transplant Hospital
  (adults and adolescents)
  210-575-8168

Non-Acute Sexual Assaults (>96 hrs)

- In San Antonio
  The Center for Miracles
  210-704-3800

- In Austin
  Child Assessment Program
  Travis County Child Advocacy Center
  512-324-0137

- In New Braunfels
  Hayes Caldwell Women’s Shelter
  512-396-4357

Take Home Points

- Children who are commercially sexually exploited are, by legal definition, victims

- Our language should reflect our understanding of these children as victims

- If a child (<18) is having sex for a commodity and some/all of that is being paid to a 3rd party then you have a trafficking case