

Human Trafficking Identification in Health Care

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“Human trafficking involves the use of **force, fraud, or coercion** to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act”

– Department of Homeland Security
Blue Campaign

The TVPA of 2000 defines trafficking as:

- **Sex trafficking** is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purposes of a commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an ***act has not attained 18 years of age*** (22 USC § 7102)
- **Labor trafficking** is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purposes of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery, (22 USC § 7102).

Intersectionality and Human Trafficking

On the outside,
human
trafficking looks
like....

Mental Health or Addiction Crisis

Forced criminality

Child Abuse

Homelessness

Domestic Violence

- Physical injury, dental injury
- Chronic disease
- STI's
- Non-sexually transmitted infections
- Unplanned pregnancy and complications
- Substance misuse
- Chronic pain
- Mental health problems
- Behavioral problems
- Malnutrition and dehydration
- Social problems – financial, food, housing, transportation insecurity

**Human
trafficking may
present as...**

What to look for in clinical settings

"I was in and out of the hospital and no one could tell me what was wrong with me." - survivor

- False ID/Multiple IDs/No ID
- Patient is hesitant or unwilling to answer questions about injury or illness
- Controlling individual accompanying patient
- Scripted or rehearsed responses to assessment questions
- Claims of multiple partners
- Multiple cellphones or phone with unusual area code
- Noteworthy tattoos, eg. Dollar signs, bows, initials, "daddy"
- Delayed presentation for medical needs

"I would walk into the the emergency room and I could never quite figure out what I was there for, they'd ask me questions and my mind would go blank." - survivor

Patient-centered, trauma informed response

- Use first moments alone to inform adult patient
 - You are available to help if needed
 - Setting is a safe place
 - Assess literacy level to assure understanding of information conveyed
 - Ask only the questions necessary to determine next steps (Avoid re-traumatization)
 - Interpreters (Do not use family member or other caregiver)
- For youth patients, follow mandatory reporting protocols if trafficking is suspected

**Interactions with
High Risk
Patients/Suspected
Victim**

Contact Us:



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