

THE
SET ME FREE
PROJECT

Stephanie Olson
(402) 521-3080
www.setmefreeproject.net

Bringing prevention education
to youth and families so traffickers lose power.



What Is Sex Trafficking?

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery. It is the force, fraud, or coercion of a human being for the personal profit and gain of another, with limited freedoms and little to no pay or compensation.

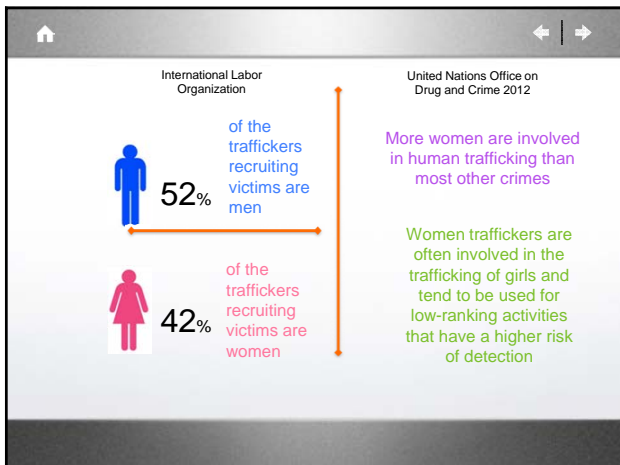




Common Myths of Human Trafficking

stop human trafficking


- Myth #1** Girls who are prostituted have glamorous and fun lives and earn a lot of money.
- Myth #2** No U.S. citizens are trafficking victims, only very poor international immigrants.
- Myth #3** Trafficking victims must be transported from place to place.
- Myth #4** Force/bodily restraint must be present in trafficking.
- Myth #5** If a trafficking victim consented (or agreed) to be trafficked one time, he or she is not a victim, because he or she made their choice and should have known better.



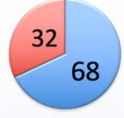
Types of Human Trafficking



- Sex
- Labor
- Infant
- Organ Harvesting
- Child Soldiers
- Senior Citizens

According to  NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN

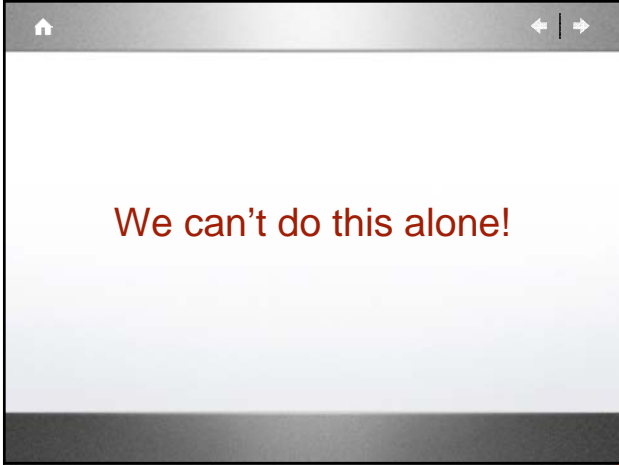
1 in 5 runaways in 2015 were likely sex trafficking victims (that's up from 1 in 6 in 2014 and 1 in 7 in 2013)



68% of runaways were in foster care or with social services when they ran

1.6 – 2.8 MILLION youth run away each year in the U.S.









Signs of a Trafficked Victim

- Unusual Tattoos – such as dollar sign behind ear, bar code, pimp name on body i.e. branding of victims



Signs of a Trafficked Victim

- Unusual Tattoos – such as dollar sign behind ear, bar code, pimp name on body i.e. branding of victims
- Large amounts of cash
- Several cell phones
- No ID or someone is holding their ID
- Usually unkempt and malnourished
- May have lots of hotel keys, massage oil, condoms, condom wrappers etc.
- Chronic runaway/homeless youth
- Lying about their age
- Inconsistent Stories/May have trouble recounting events
- Unable or unwilling to give local address or info about parents/guardian
- Fear of social interaction, anxiety, hyper-submission

Pay attention to...




Signs of physical abuse

🏠 | ⏪ | ⏩

Mental Health Signs and Red Flags

- Providing health provider contradictory information.
- Suicidality and/or depression.
- Fearfulness, anxiety, and trauma symptoms.



🏠 | ⏪ | ⏩

Medical Signs and Red Flags


- Untreated injuries, explanations inconsistent with injuries.
- No preventative health care.
- Attempts at unsanitary/unprofessional medical "fixes."
- Multiple STIs or abortions.
- Evidence of sexual abuse.
- Age inappropriate familiarity with sexual terms or practices.



🏠 | ⏪ | ⏩


Medical Indicators

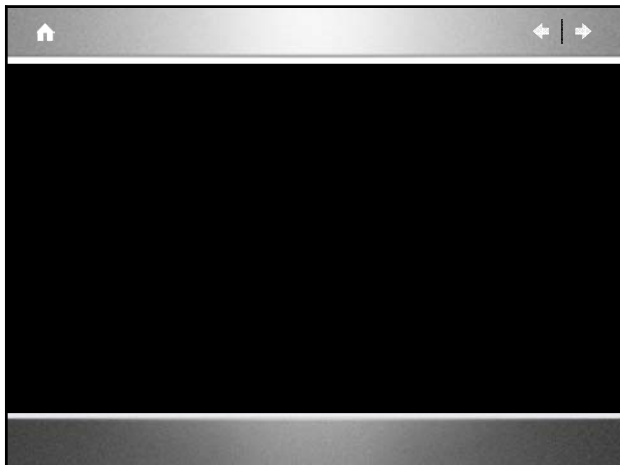
- Delayed medical care
- Headaches
- Fatigue
- Abdominal Pain
- Back pain




Medical Indicators Continued

- Severe/untreated dental problems
- High blood pressure
- Malnourishment
- Drug or alcohol addiction





Trauma Indicators




- Sexualized behavior or seductiveness, particularly in a child (seeking inappropriate proximity to nurse or doctor).

Home | Navigation

Trauma Indicators Continued

- Flinching or jerking away from contact.
- Lack of responsiveness (appearing checked out as if in another place, not responding to verbal prompts or name).
- Confused, having difficulty paying attention.



Home | Navigation


How Trauma Impacts Assessments

- Fears consequences of identifying as victim:
- In crisis mode.
- Trouble recounting history/details – no linear timelines.
- May not self-identify as victim.

Home | Navigation


How Trauma Impacts Assessments Continued

- Loyalty to trafficker(s).
- Cultural/language barriers.
- Mistrust of health professionals.
- Limited understanding of rights.




Interviewing Best Practices

- Use the same words the patient is using and don't correct them, especially as it refers to their relationships and situation.
- Be open to unfamiliar narratives and stories.




Interviewing Best Practices Continued

- Always use professional interpreter services when a language barrier exists.
- DO NOT rely on a friend or associate of the patient if interpretation services are required.
- Use a trauma-informed, non-judgmental approach when interviewing patients.



Recommended Line of Inquiry

Traffickers often prevent trafficked persons from receiving regular medical care. However, trafficked persons commonly find themselves in the Emergency Room when injury or illness escalates to the point of becoming life-threatening.



Recommended Line of Inquiry


Ask simple, direct questions:

- Are you in a personal or work relationship with a person who physically harms or threatens you?
- You seem to be in a hurry to leave. We are here to help you and it is important that you remain for treatment. What is making you feel anxious to leave right now?
- Have you been hurt while working on the job either by someone you work for or with?

What if you suspect?

Communicate messages of hope:


- You have rights.
- You are not alone and not to blame.
- You are entitled to services and he



What if you suspect?

Assess safety:

- Are you afraid to go home?
- Do you have a safe place to stay?
- What would happen if you didn't return to your work site/residence this evening?



What if you suspect?


Make referrals:

- Hospital
- Social Worker
- Appropriate Service Provider



What if you suspect?

- Do not try to rescue.
- Do not contact authorities without permission (unless mandated to do so).
- Do not make promises you can't keep.
- Provide any necessary contact information (agency, etc).



What if they are not ready?

Validate/normalize their feelings:

- Reassure them that they have the choice not to accept your help at that time.


Provide information:

- Many trafficked persons will seek assistance for their situation when they feel safe and able to do so.
- Make sure to communicate options verbally since traffickers are likely to destroy written instructions if they are found.

The National Human Trafficking Resource Center
1-888-373-7888
Text to BeFree: 233733

Call Local Law Enforcement in case of immediate danger
911


Set Me Free Project
Call or Text
402-521-3080



“You may choose
to look the other way but
you can never say again that
you did not know.”

~ William Wilberforce

Questions?



Stephanie Olson
402-521-3080
stephanie@setmefreeproject.net
