



Institute of Gerontology



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Behind Closed Doors: The Reality of Human Trafficking

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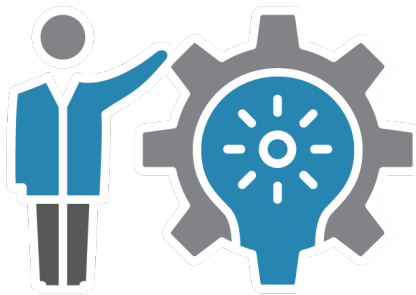
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What is *Behavioral Intelligence*?

Behavioral Intelligence:

The application of skills and abilities to accurately explain existing behavior, predict future behavior, influence other people's behavior, and control one's own behavior.



Explain



Predict



Influence



Control

What is Human Trafficking?



What is Human Trafficking?



These are the victims of Sex Trafficking



Objectives:

- Explore what Sex Trafficking is and how it effects the community
- Identify behavioral, physical, and psychological characteristics of both victims and traffickers
- Discuss how and why it is essential for medical professionals to identify victims
- Discuss reporting mechanisms and how to fight Sex Trafficking

Definition of Human Trafficking

- Recruitment, harboring or transportation of a person by using force, fraud or coercion.
- Victims are exploited for commercial sex act (\$) or for labor purposes.
- The United States Department of Justice

Definition of Human Trafficking

- Force: violence and / or drugs
- Fraud: promise of money, fame, family
- Threats: will hurt family or take friends
- Coercion: blackmail (post photos, tell everyone, tell employer)

Myths about Sex Trafficking

- A child prostitute is not a victim of Sex Trafficking.

FALSE: No one under the age of 18 may consent to commercialized sex.

- Movement across county or state lines is a requirement of sex trafficking.

FALSE: No movement is required. Smuggling is a different crime. A victim can be trafficked from anywhere.

Why Sex Trafficking?



A Threat to our Children

**Between 1.6
and 2.8
million youth
run away in a
year.**

Hammer, H., Finkelhor, D., & Sedlak, A. (2002). Runaway / Thrownaway Children: National Estimates and Characteristics. National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Greene, J. (1995). Youth with Runaway, Throwaway, and Homeless Experiences: Prevalence, Drug Use, and Other At-Risk Behaviors. Research Triangle Institute. HHS. ACF – ACYF.

12-14 is the average age that U.S. kids are first pulled into commercial sex. ⁽¹⁾

83% of sex trafficking victims found in the U.S. were U.S. citizens. ⁽²⁾

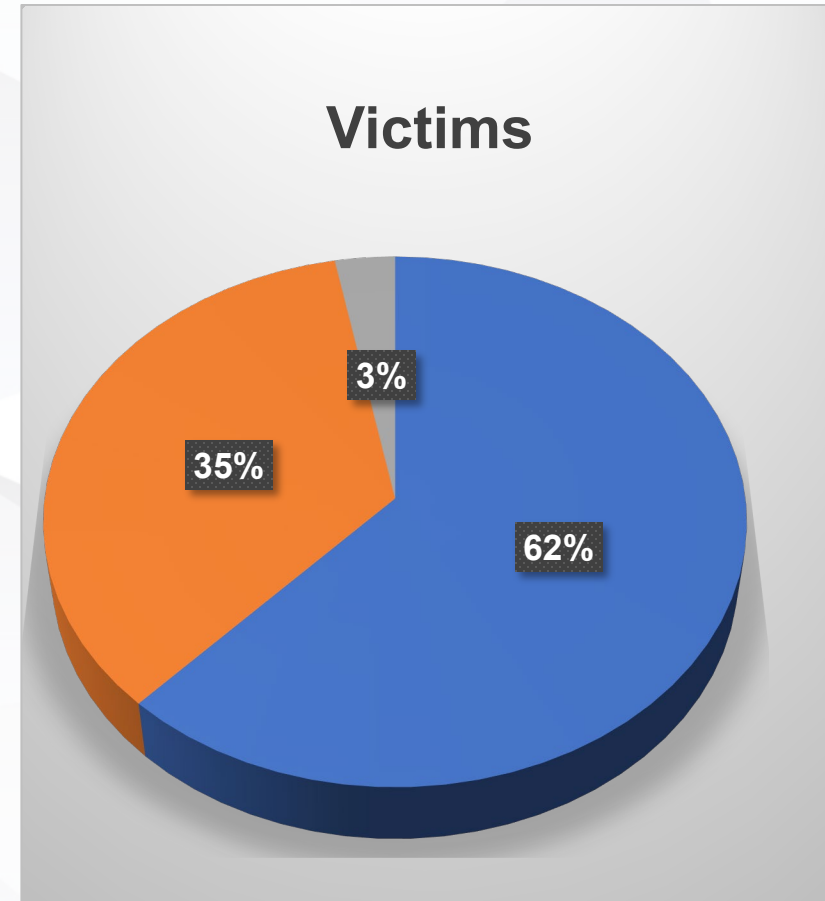
A Threat to Our Children

- Runaway youth are often approached within 48 hours of leaving home
- Of the more than 25,000 endangered runaways reported to NCMEC in 2021, one in six were likely victims of child sex trafficking



How Does This Happen

- 3% = Kidnapped
- 35% = Friends & Family
- 62% = Tricked
(Romeo Groomers, Talent Scouts, Photographers)



Where is this happening?



What makes a state vulnerable to Trafficking?

- Extensive highway systems
- Large number of truck stops
- Can leave the state from anywhere in about 2 hours
- International borders
- Conferences / Events



What makes a state vulnerable to Trafficking?



- Colleges and Universities
- Large immigrant population
- Military bases
- Strip clubs
- Tourist Areas / Casinos

Where is Trafficking an issue?

Victims and Survivors
Identified

High Indicators

4,691

Moderate Indicators

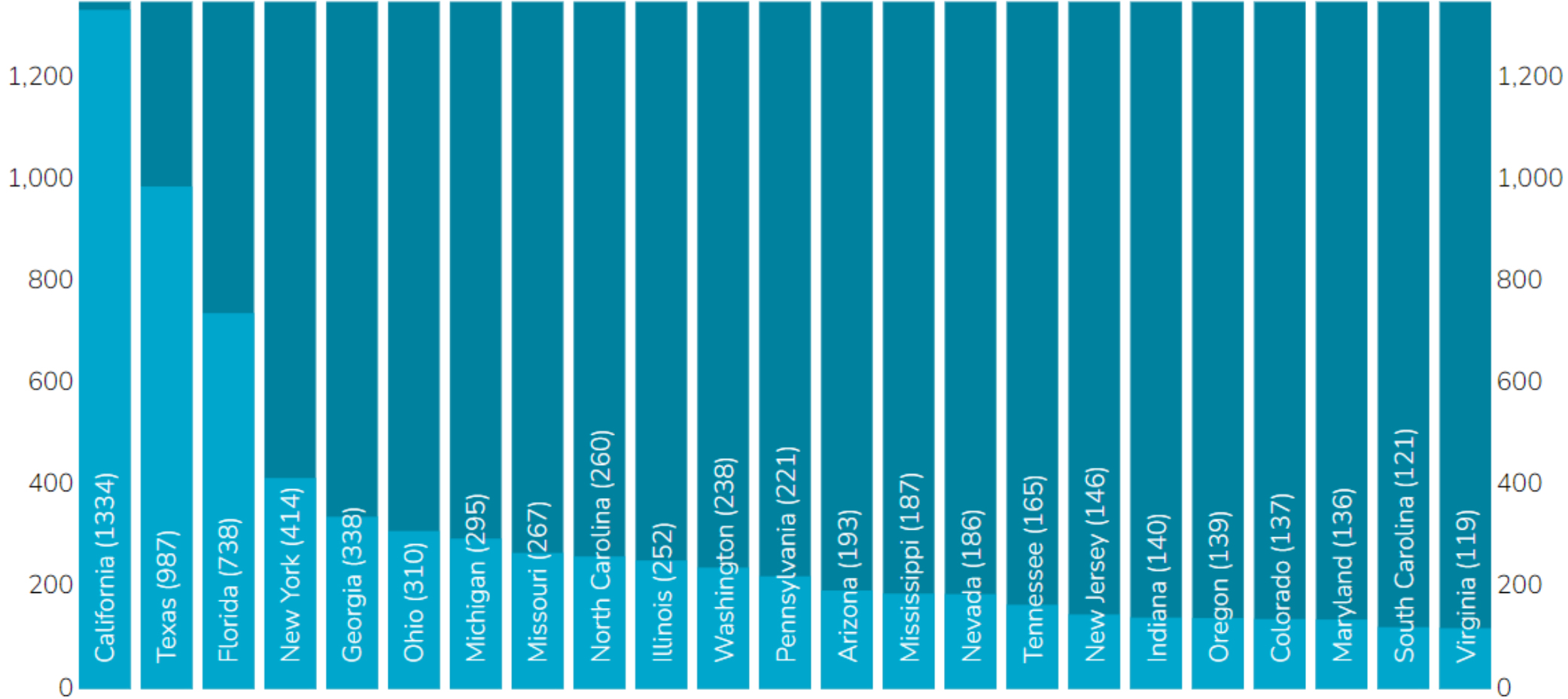
12,325

Calls From Victims &
Survivors

13,594



Where is Trafficking an issue?



2020 Human Trafficking Statistics – Polaris Project

“[Traffickers] don’t necessarily want to work in big cities. They are drawn to small towns...because they feel like they won’t get caught. So areas that have a lot of agricultural farming, areas that have not a lot of law enforcement on patrol...those are areas that are also breeding grounds. Traffickers know that and they want to do some of their work there.”

- Scott Santoro, Homeland Security Federal Law Enforcement Training Center

Human trafficking generates billions of dollars of profit each year, making it one of the world's fastest growing criminal activities.



Human Trafficking 2nd only to Drugs

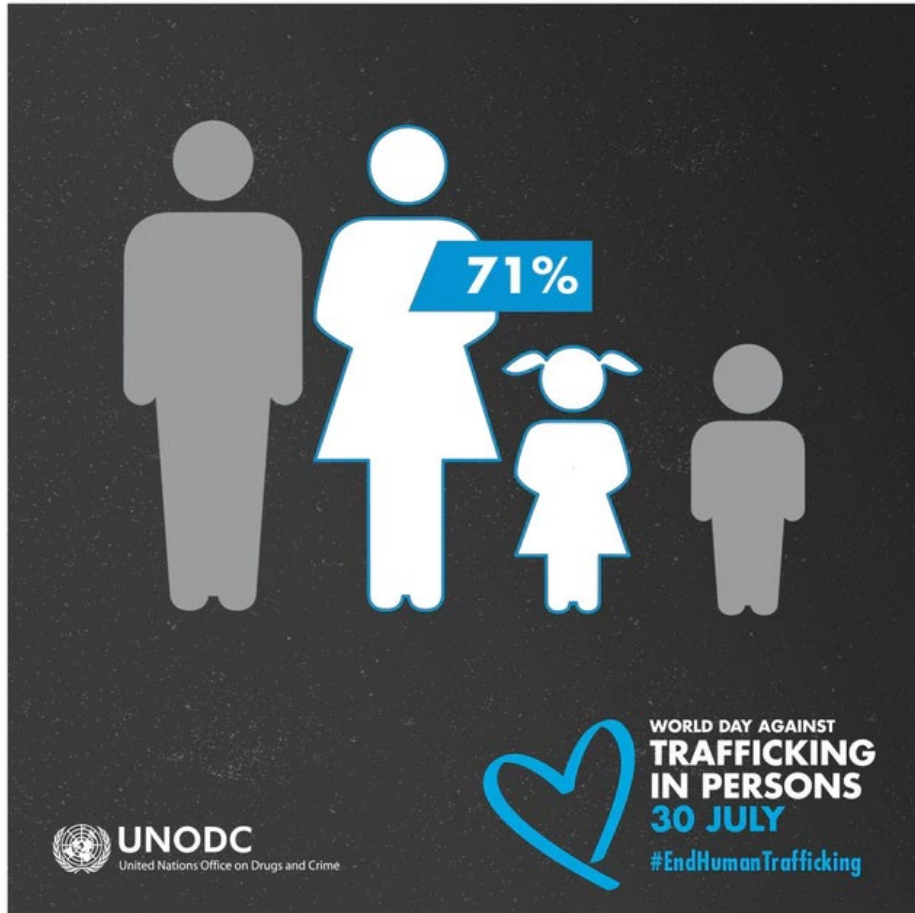
- A drug you sell once. A person can be sold multiple times..... Each day!
- A victim is often sold 15 – 20 times... Each day!
- A victim works up to 20 hours..... Each day!
- There is often a \$1000 minimum earnings per victim... Each day!

Victims

Reported cases only

Who doesn't often report?

- Men
- Children
- LGBTQ
- Immigrants



Minority Status a Risk Factor

- ❑ In Louisiana, African American female children consist of 49% of the reported sex trafficking victims, while only being 19% of the population.
- ❑ Unfortunately, credible data is not available in all jurisdictions nationwide to prove that people of color are disproportionately victims of sex trafficking.

- Polaris Project

Elderly Victims and Risk Factors

- Social isolation, disability, and dementia are leading factors
- Misconception that because the elderly are not sexually active
- Statistics virtually non-existent. Most organizations collect info for age brackets of 48+

Effects of COVID on Sex Trafficking

During the lockdowns, recruitment of reported victims raised significantly online while those found at strip clubs, schools, and foster homes declined.

- Polaris Project

How do we impact Sex Trafficking?



Sex Workers vs Trafficking Victims

Not all prostitutes are victims of Sex Trafficking

BUT

If a person has a pimp, they are a victim of Sex Trafficking

Can you spot a Victim?

- Small tattoos (Type or unwillingness to discuss them)
- Recurrent or unexplained injuries
- Injuries that are poorly healed (no medical attention)
- Frequent pregnancy tests / Emergency Contraception
- Frequent STDs
- Depression / Suicide attempts



Behaviors of a Sex Trafficking Victim

Similar to those of Domestic Assault

- Rehearsed or unknown medical history
- Denial of assaults / Fearful
- Protection of the Trafficker
- Victims often don't speak for themselves at medical facility
- Confrontational with law enforcement

Possible questions to ask patients

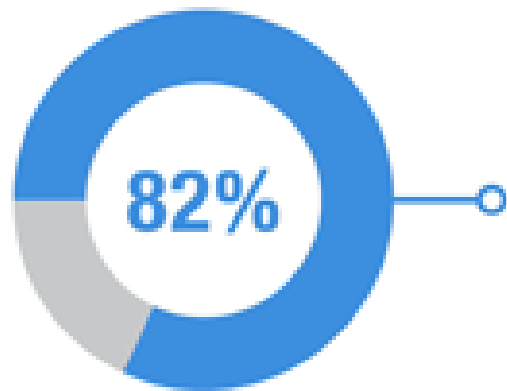
- Have you ever been asked for sex in exchange for something you needed such as food, clothing, or a place to sleep?
- Has someone taken photos or videos of you without clothes or engaged in sex that you didn't want taken?
- Has someone asked you to have sex with someone else as a favor or to make money?

Possible questions to ask patients

- Do you feel safe at home? What would happen if you left?
- Are you or your movements being monitored? Do you have to “check in” with someone all the time?
- Is someone threatening you or someone / something you care about?
- Is that person here with you today?

Human Trafficking:

How many victims have you treated?



SEX TRAFFICKED
YOUTH SAW
A MEDICAL
PROVIDER WITHIN
THE LAST
6 MONTHS



Reporting Mechanisms for Health Care Professionals

- **For minors, call police immediately**
 - Generally use the local Non-Emergency number
- **For adults**
 - Obtain consent and call police or hotline together
 - If they refuse consent, provide informational resources for them
 - National Human Trafficking Hotline 888-373-7888
 - Local Task Force, shelter, non-profits, churches

Things to consider when making a report

- Immediate safety of the patient
- Allow patient to speak with person taking the report
- Relationship between patient and medical community
- Understand the resources available in your area
- Provide ongoing support to the patient

Medical Policies and Procedures

- Evaluate the Patient Intake Database Systems
 - Does it provide for Human Trafficking questions?
- Requirement for 1 on 1 time with patient
 - Emergency rooms moving toward a 5 minute mandatory private meeting with patients
 - Urine sample?
- Have resource information on hand to provide to victims

So what can you do now?

- Know the signs
- Raise awareness in your community and workplace
- Talk to your children / nieces / nephews (Social media is a nightmare!)
- Trust your gut and call in tips!
- Get involved!

Don't be afraid to call!

If you suspect trafficking, please call!

National Human Trafficking Hotline
1-888-373-7888

Or

911



For additional information

- The Polaris Project www.polarisproject.org
- Homeland Security www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/what-human-trafficking
- The SOAP Project www.soaproject.org
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children www.missingkids.org
- American Hospital Association www.aha.org
- Adult Advocacy Centers https://www.adultadvocacycenters.org/assets/documents/white_paper_human_trafficking_older_adults.pdf

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coeuscreativegroup.com/review

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Plus, get access to our events and the Behavioral Intelligence monthly email!

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