

Definitions	<p>Human Trafficking - The recruiting, harboring, transporting, soliciting, enticing, maintaining, purchasing, or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or form of modern-day slavery.</p> <p>Sex Trafficking - is a form of human trafficking commercial sex act that 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.</p> <p>Forced Labor- Victims are made to work for little or no pay. Very often, they are forced to manufacture or grow products that we use and consume every day.</p>
Prevalence	<p>It is estimated that there are 27 million people in the world today who are enslaved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every year 600,000 to 800,000 persons are trafficked across international borders. • Some estimates have as many as 1.2 million children being trafficked every year. • Human trafficking and exploitation plague all nations and no country is immune. • Since 1998, the United States based National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has handled more than 300,000 reports of all types of child sexual exploitation including child pornography, child molestation, child prostitution, and online enticement of children, child sex tourism, obscene material sent to a child and the federally mandated reports of child pornography from Internet Service Providers. • The Dade and Broward County areas are hotspots for trafficking. Most cases are minors, some as young as 11. <p>Common ways individuals become victims of Trafficking are through abduction: meeting traffickers advertising modeling jobs; promises of marriage, education, employment, (housework, farm work, factory work, retail work, restaurant work) or a better life; responding to ads to work or study abroad, seeking to gain entry into the U.S. from smugglers and then having debt bondage and being sold to traffickers by parents or intimate partners.</p> <p>Many prostituted children start as and continue to be runaways. For this reason, a common misidentification of child sex trafficking victims by first responders is as a runaway. No state database tracks demographic or psychographic characteristics on runaway and homeless youth; however, data kept by the Florida Network of Youth & Family Services reveals that of the 6,734-youth receiving shelter through Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) programs, 34% were runaways.</p>
Regional Response	<p>Broward County employs the Rapid Assessment Methodology for combating sex trafficking: Prevention, Prosecution, and Protection (three Ps). Established by the U.S. Department of State (DOS), Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, and used in the annual Trafficking in Persons Report, the “three P’s” is an effort to holistically evaluate a country’s actions to counter all forms of trafficking in persons.</p> <p>The “three Ps” approach has been recognized for its comprehensiveness in assessing human trafficking. Prevention of domestic minor sex trafficking requires identification of commercially sexually exploited children as victims.</p> <p>The first component in prevention and identification is public awareness.</p> <p>The second component is the training of law enforcement, the judiciary, detention staff, and other professionals who interact with domestic minor sex trafficking victims.</p> <p>The Florida statutes criminalize human trafficking as a custody offense. The human trafficking statute defines “forced labor or services” as those obtained from a person by use or threat of physical force against that person or another person; restraint, isolation, or confinement or the threat of same to that person or another person illegally and against the person’s will; debt servitude; confiscating or destroying identification documents of that person or another person; causing or threatening to cause financial harm to any person; or by fraud or coercion. Human trafficking is defined as “transporting, soliciting, recruiting, harboring, providing, or obtaining another person for transport.”</p> <p>The statute states: Any person who knowingly:</p> <p>(a) Engages, or attempts to engage, in human trafficking with the intent or knowledge that the trafficked person will be subjected to forced labor or services; or</p> <p>(b) Benefits financially by receiving anything of value from participation in a venture that has subjected a person to forced labor or services; commits a felony of the second degree.</p>
Prevention	<p>Prevention begins with public awareness that teaches youth, parents, and the community about the dangers and damages of domestic minor sex trafficking. Outreach to families and minors already at-risk is a necessity. It is important to focus prevention efforts on stopping the victimization of minors before it begins by raising awareness of the dangers of traffickers recruiting among youth. Training law enforcement officers, representatives of the juvenile justice system, and social service organizations to identify minors at risk for and already victimized by sex trafficking is essential to intervene in the potential or existent victimization.</p>

Recognition	<p>Health care providers are one of the few professionals likely to interact with trafficked women and girls while they are still in captivity. One study found that 63% of trafficked women saw a health care professional while still in captivity. This represents a serious missed opportunity for intervention. Health care providers are in a unique position to identify victims of trafficking and provide important physical and psychological care for victims while in captivity and after. “Research suggests as many as 90 percent of human trafficking survivors attend healthcare settings during and after trafficking experiences, but they often remain unidentified or do not receive specialized assistance to which they are entitled”.</p> <p>Traffickers also use isolation from family, friends, and the public to keep their victims in captivity. Limiting contact with outsiders and ensuring that any contact is superficial in nature will ensure that the victim does not begin to build any social support networks in the community. Also, moving victims from place to place decreases the likelihood that the victim will form relationships and/or be recognized</p> <p>Victims of Human Trafficking provides a list of possible clues that someone may be a victim of trafficking: Someone else is speaking for the patient; Patient is not aware of his/her location, the current date, or time; Patient exhibits fear, anxiety, PTSD, submission, or tension. Patient shows signs of physical/sexual abuse, medical neglect, or torture; Patient is reluctant to explain his/her injury, tattoos (branding), does have appropriate clothing on for weather or venue, language common in sex industry.</p>	
Health Problems	<p>The health problems seen in victims of trafficking are largely a result of several factors: deprivation of food and sleep, extreme stress, hazards of travel, violence (physical and sexual), and hazardous work.</p> <p>Because most victims do not have timely access to health care, by the time they reach a clinician it is likely that health problems are well advanced.</p> <p>These women, men and children are at high risk for acquiring multiple sexually transmitted infections and for females the sequelae of multiple forced and unsafe abortions.</p> <p>Physical abuse and torture often occur, which can result in broken bones, contusions, dental problems (e.g., loss of teeth), and/or cigarette burns.</p> <p>Common Health Problems among Trafficking victims include:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anxiety • Chronic pain • Cigarette burns • Complications from unsafe abortion • Contusions • Depression • Fractures • Gastrointestinal problems • Headaches • Oral health problems • Pelvic pain • Posttraumatic stress disorder • Sexually transmitted infections • Suicidal ideation • Unhealthy weight loss • Unwanted pregnancy • Vaginal pain • Dietary health issues • Mental health issues • Substance abuse • Stockholm Syndrome
Care	<p>Once a victim of trafficking is identified, the clinician and client will need to put together a plan of care. Including an assessment of potential danger.</p> <p>The health care provider should be aware of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the provider cannot force the victim to report the crime, and 2) the victim and/or victim’s family may be at risk for immense harm if they report the crime. If the Healthcare Provider feels that there is imminent danger to the patient or staff, you can report it in “good faith” to the authorities to prevent harm. If the victim is a minor, the provider is under legal obligation to phone child protective services. <p>Responding to all of the victim’s physical and emotional needs is outside of the scope of the individual provider’s practice, because the client will need long-term treatment with an interdisciplinary team of health care professionals.</p> <p>The provider should care for any immediate needs, including treatment of physical trauma, sexually transmitted infections, diagnosis of pregnancy, and assessing for suicidal ideation.</p> <p>The plan of care will be client-specific, but the provider should consider phoning the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (1-888-373-7888). www.traffickingresourcecenter.org</p>	
Key Points	<p>Human trafficking is a major global health problem.</p> <p>Health care providers should be prepared to identify, treat, and assist victims of trafficking as part of their regular clinical practice.</p> <p>Health system should work with law enforcement and nonprofit partners to establish lines of communication and referrals for victims.</p> <p>Refer to existing community resources.</p>	
References	<p>https://www.state.gov/j/tip/id/help/index.htm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Department of State, 2020 Country Reports on Human Rights, August 2025 https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/ • U.S. Department of State, Tip Report Highlights, The Importance of Prosecution, 2025 2025 Trafficking in Persons Report - United States Department of State 	

Flowchart for adults/children at risk of Human Trafficking

