A Nurse’s Role in Combating Human Trafficking

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Learning Objectives

• Describe the scope, diversity, and types of human trafficking.
• Discuss human trafficking in the United States.
• Identify signs that a person is trafficked and how to safely intervene.
• Name resources for assistance if encountering a trafficking victim.
What is Human Trafficking?

ACT

MEANS

PURPOSE
Forms of Human Trafficking
LOOK BENEATH THE SURFACE

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS MODERN-DAY SLAVERY

A victim of trafficking may look like many of the people you see everyday.

Ask the right questions and look for clues. You are vital because you may be the only outsider with the opportunity to speak with a victim.

There are safe housing, health, immigration, food, income, employment, legal and interpretation services available to victims, but first they must be found.

Image from: http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/rescue-campaign
Why Trafficking Exists and Persists
Trafficking in the U.S.
Clearing Up Misconceptions
Misconceptions

• Trafficked persons can only be foreign nationals or are only immigrants from other countries.
• Human trafficking is essentially a crime that must involve some form of travel, transportation, or movement across state or national borders.
• There must be elements of physical restraint, physical force, or physical bondage when identifying a human trafficking situation.
• Human trafficking victims always come from situations of poverty or from small rural villages.
• If the trafficked person consented to be in their initial situation or was informed about what type of labor they would be doing or that commercial sex would be involved, then it cannot be human trafficking or against their will because they “knew better.”
• Foreign national trafficking victims are always undocumented immigrants or here in this country illegally.
Health Issues Associated with Victims of Human Trafficking
“Red Flag” Indicators in the Clinical Setting

• Limited or nonexistent ability to speak English
• Disoriented – lack of knowledge of whereabouts and/or loss of sense of time, or inability to clarify where he/she is staying
• Evidence of being controlled
• Those who brought the person in for treatment are resistant to letting you speak with the person alone.
• Not in possession of passport or other forms of identification
• Not in control of his/her own money, have no financial records, or bank account
• Has few or no personal possessions
• Numerous inconsistencies in his/her story
• Unusually fearful or anxious behavior after bringing-up law enforcement
“Red Flag” Indicators in the Clinical Setting

• Stated age older than visual appearance
• Lives with the employer or at the place of business and can’t give an address
• Works excessively long and/or unusual hours; perhaps not allowed breaks or suffers under unusual restrictions at work
• Signs of malnutrition, dehydration, drug use or addition, poor general health, or poor personal hygiene
• Signs of physical abuse of neglect
• Occupational-type injuries without evidence of legitimate employment (e.g., overuse injuries, chemical exposures, exposure to extreme or adverse climate conditions, head injuries)
How to Intervene

• Isolate individual from person accompanying her/him without raising suspicions.
• Enlist the help of a staff member who speaks the patient’s language and understands the patient’s culture.
• Ask the right questions may help you determine if someone is a victim of human trafficking.
Examples of Questions to Ask

• What type of work do you do?
• Are you paid for your work? How much do you earn?
• Can you leave your work or job situation if you want?
• When you are not working, can you come and go as you please?
• Have you been threatened with harm if you try to quit?
• Has anyone threatened your family?
• What are your working or living conditions like?
• Where do you sleep and eat?
• Do you have to ask permission to eat, sleep or go to the bathroom?
• Is there a lock on your door or windows so you cannot get out?
• Do you have ID on you? If not, why? Who has your ID?
National Resources

National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline
1-888-373-7888
SMS: Text "HELP" or "INFO“ to “BeFree” (233733)
Languages: 170+ languages

HHS Rescue & Restore Campaign Tool Kits

DHS Blue Campaign
http://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/resource-catalog
bluecampaign@hq.dhs.gov
Example of Shoecard

Help is just a phone call or text away.

To reach a non-governmental, confidential help line:
CALL TOLL-FREE, 24 HOURS
1-888-373-7888
or text HELP to
BeFree (233733)
(170+ languages)
Or call 911 in an emergency

You have rights in the U.S. regardless of your immigration status.

» Did someone take away your ID or documents?
» Is someone forcing you to work for them to pay off a debt?
» Is someone forcing you to work or have sex against your will?
» Is someone threatening or hurting you or your family?
» Are you under 18 and getting paid for having sex?

Don’t be afraid to ask for help.
Example of Tear Cards

BE ALERT.
BE STRONG.
BE FREE.

Did someone take away your ID or documents?
Is someone forcing you to work for them to pay off a debt?
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Is someone threatening or hurting you or your family?
Are you under 18 and getting paid for having sex?

Don’t be afraid to ask for help.
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CALL TOLL-FREE, 24 HOURS: 1-888-373-7888 | Text INFO or HELP to: BeFree (233733)

To speak confidentially about human trafficking with a non-governmental organization, please call:

1-888-373-7888

Text INFO or HELP to:
BeFree (233733)
(170+ languages)

To report suspected human trafficking to law enforcement, please call:

1-866-347-2423

Or call 911 in an emergency

BLUE CAMPAIGN
Freedom Network
National Human Trafficking Referral Directory

http://www.traffickingresourcecenter.org/training-resources/referral-directory

Also includes Hawaii and Alaska
Questions?

THANK YOU!