



Uniting NJ Communities to Abolish Human Trafficking

The Slave Next Door: What Psychologists in New Jersey Need to Know About Human Trafficking

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**Presentation to joint MCPA and EUCAP Meeting
March 9, 2018**



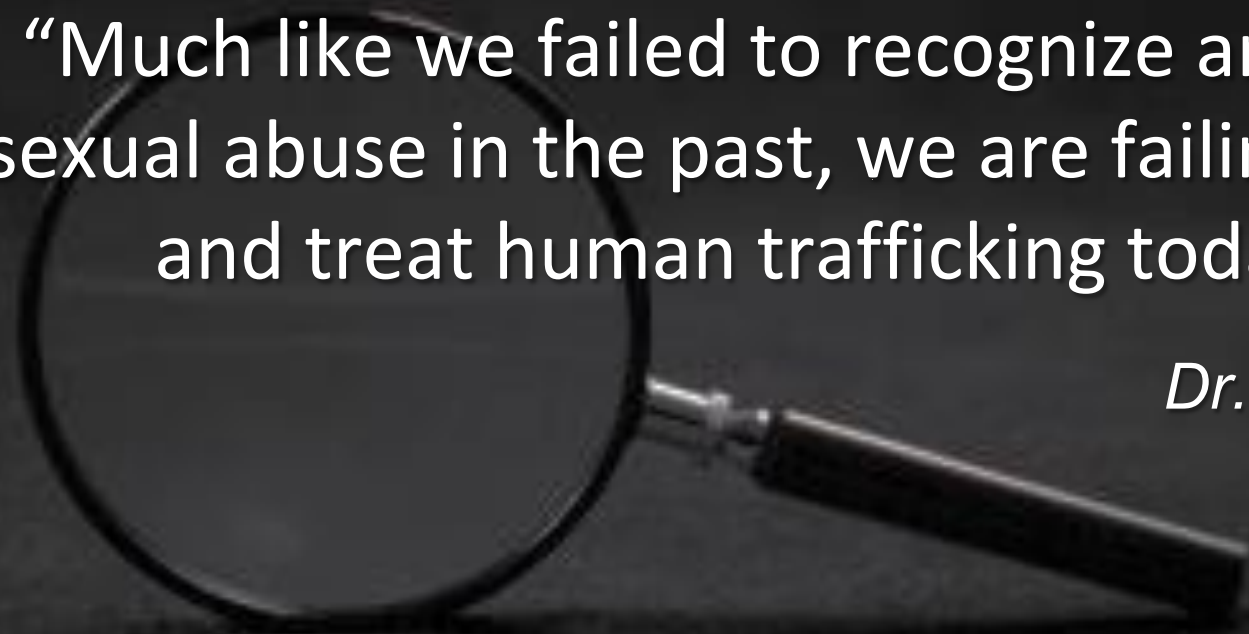
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The Coalition wishes to thank the following member organizations for contributing slides to this presentation:

American Academy of Pediatrics, NJ Chapter

Covenant House New Jersey

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital—Trauma & Injury Prevention



“Much like we failed to recognize and treat sexual abuse in the past, we are failing to see and treat human trafficking today.”

Dr. Marita Lind

>80% of respondents were seen by a health care provider while being trafficked

Lederer & Wetzel, Annals Health Law 2014

Definition of Human Trafficking: Modern Day Slavery

- Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labor.
- However...
 - Force, fraud or coercion is not required for sex trafficking of minors
 - A commercial sex act in which the person involved in such an act is under the age of 18 is human trafficking

CSEC = Commercial Sexual Exploitation of a Child



National Scope

- **244,000 US at risk for child sexual exploitation (2000 – Estes)**
Other estimates are 100,000 to 300,000

The field is struggling to obtain accurate estimates because the covert nature of trafficking allows it to fly under the radar.

- ***Of confirmed sex trafficking cases(Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2011)***
 - ***83% are US citizens***
 - ***50% are 17 or younger***
- ***Average age of initial entry into sex trafficking is 12-14 years***

Where is Human Trafficking Found?

Sex Trafficking

- Escort Services
- Prostitution
- Strip Clubs
- Casinos
- Truck Stops
- Massage Parlors
- Pornography

Sex and Labor
Trafficking may
Co-occur

Labor Trafficking

- Street Sales
- Magazine Crews
- Hospitality Industry
- Nursing Homes
- Hair & Nail Salons
- Nannies & Housekeepers
- Construction
- Farms/Agriculture

Who Could Be Trafficked?



Yet some are especially vulnerable



- Traffickers prey on children and youth with low self-esteem and minimal social support.
- Traffickers have also been known to target youth with cognitive impairments or other disabilities.
- LGBTQ youth are very vulnerable.
- Children who runaway have increased vulnerability.
- Especially homeless youth.



Red Flags-Behavioral Signs



- Youth unaware of their address or of the community
- Refers to boyfriend as “Daddy”
- Talks about “the game” or “the life”

- Not trusting of adults
- Fearful of authority figure, especially law enforcement
- Lack of trust, lack of eye contact and lack of interest
- Isolation from friends or family

- Accompanied by an individual (male or female) who will not leave the youth’s side
- Secretive about their whereabouts
- Missing for days
- Move about often
- Movements and communication is controlled by “boyfriend”

- Lack of health insurance/ paying with cash
- No legal documentation or other individual holding ID

Why Trafficked Youth Remain Involved and Don't Self-Identify

- Don't see themselves as victims
- False promises of love/ protection
- Loyalty to trafficker
- Fear
- Threats of jail or deportation
- Threats of violence to self, family or other girls
- Feeling no one will understand
- Shame and stigma resulting from being gay or perceived as gay by family and community
- Normalization of sex trafficking as survival
- Distrust of authority/service providers
- Feeling as if they brought this on themselves
- Shelter
- Money
- Food
- Clothes
- Passport
- Connection/Trauma Bonding

Challenges engaging survivors in therapy

- Feelings of shame and guilt
- Distrust of anyone perceived to be in authority
- High risk of self harm
- Dissociative processes
- Addiction to substances
- Not identifying themselves as being victims of trafficking

COMPLEX TRAUMA

refers to experiences that involve repetitive, prolonged exposure to, or experiencing of, multiple traumatic stressors

Issues related to complex trauma in trafficking victims

- Consuming guilt
- Inability to trust others
- Ineffectiveness in coping with life
- Distorted & idealized views of trafficker
- Despair & hopelessness
- Inability to regulate feelings
- Suicidal & other self destructive behaviors
- Anger management problems
- Amnesia & dissociation
- Somatic complaints
- Poor physical health

Covenant House New Jersey (2017): Recognizing Human Trafficking Among Homeless Youth

Makini Chisolm-Straker

Julia Einbond

Jeremy Sze

James White



Key findings of 15-month study:

9.2% of Covenant House NJ clients experienced human trafficking at some point in their lives

51.9% of those trafficked experienced labor trafficking

63.0% experienced sex trafficking

14.8% experienced both forms of trafficking

9.5% used survival sex to secure food and/or housing

Labor trafficking often included forced drug trafficking

The study developed and validated a four-question screening tool, Quick Youth Indicators for Trafficking (QYIT), which can be used by non-expert staff to evaluate for a lifetime trafficking experience among homeless youth

Question #1: It is not uncommon for young people to stay in work situations that are risky or even dangerous, simply because they have no other options. Have you ever worked, or done other things, in a place that made you feel scared or unsafe?

Question #2: Sometimes people are prevented from leaving an unfair or unsafe work situation by their employers. Have you ever been afraid to leave or quit a work situation due to fears of violence or threats of harm to yourself or your family?

Question #3: Sometimes young people who are homeless or who are having difficulties with their families have very few options to survive or fulfill their basic needs, such as food and shelter. Have you ever received anything in exchange for sex (e.g. a place to stay, gifts, or food)?

Question #4: Sometimes employers don't want people to know about the kind of work they have young employees doing. To protect themselves, they ask their employees to lie about the kind of work they are involved in. Have you ever worked for someone who asked you to lie while speaking to others about the work you do?

Factors Associated With Trafficking:

- Having had an IEP or 504 plan in school
- A history of emotional, physical or sexual abuse
- A history of being arrested (though not incarcerated)
- Ever being in foster care
- Witnessing violence in the home
- Having mental health issues, including a history of suicide attempt or ideation
- Having a family with legal problems
- Having a disabling condition

- No protective factors were identified in the study sample



Uniting NJ Communities to Abolish Human Trafficking

www.njhumantrafficking.org

National 24-hour Human Trafficking Hotline

1-888-3737-888

Or text INFO or HELP to

BE FREE (233733)

Other Resources

HEAL Trafficking (Health, Education, Advocacy, Linkage)

www.healtrafficking.org

National Human Trafficking Resource Center

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/>

Polaris <https://polarisproject.org/>

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

<http://www.missingkids.com/home>

ECPAT (End Child Prostitution and Trafficking) <http://ecpatusa.org/>

ASSET (Alliance to Stop Slavery and End Trafficking)

<https://www.assetcampaign.org/>

Freedom's Journey: Understand Human Trafficking

<https://msw.usc.edu/freedoms-journey-understanding-human-trafficking/>





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Questions?

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