

Taking a Closer Look

Sheila Meshinski BSN, RN, CEN, CFN
Henry Ford Macomb Hospital
smeshin1@hfhs.org

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Sheila Meshinski BSN, RN, CEN, CFN, does not have any real or apparent conflicts of interests or vested interests that may have a direct bearing on the subject matter of the continuing education activity.

2

Objectives

This presentation will enable participants to:

- Describe the dynamics of human trafficking.
- Recognize patients that might be victims of human trafficking.
- Discuss various methods and the importance of sensitivity when communicating with the human trafficking patient.
- Identify resources for follow up care for the trafficking patient.

Hidden Crime In Plain Sight

- American culture likes to sweep this crime under the rug.
- Our society likes to pretend it's not happening, so don't worry about it.
- It's a lower class problem, not in my neighborhood.



Critical Barriers/Challenges

- Problems identifying trafficking victims
- Critical gaps in the knowledge base
- Lack of adequate training
- Lack of accurate data
- Lack of adequate resources

Human Rights Issue

- Increased attention from feminists, religious conservatives, labor activists, immigration specialists, mental health professions, media, politicians, etc..
- Public opinion which will ultimately facilitate action from governmental agencies, social services organizations, and international agencies.

Michigan Number “Two”

- “This is not supported by available data.”
- “It is not verified that sex trafficking spikes around the time of the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, or at ArtPrize in Grand Rapids”

Bridget Carr U of M Law School

Taken

- "If you don't match that original story -- if you're poor, black, made bad choices, used drugs, are homeless, etc. -- then you are just a prostitute."
- “That translates into how law enforcement treats my clients.”
- “The result: When a woman is treated as a criminal rather than a victim, she is less likely to be offered shelter or other resources to help her exit a life she may not have freely chosen.”

Bridget Carr U of M Law School

Governor Snyder

- Human trafficking is a crime that depends on our ignorance; it thrives on its hidden nature.
- The high price of human trafficking demands that each and everyone of us pull trafficking from the shadows to convict the criminals and aid the victims.



Grim Facts

- Michigan is a destination and recruitment state.
- Michigan truck stops and hotels are used for sex trafficking.
- Major events are major draws for sex trafficking.
- Michigan’s proximity to the Canadian border and waterways.
- Michigan agriculture, manufacturing and construction businesses attract labor trafficking.

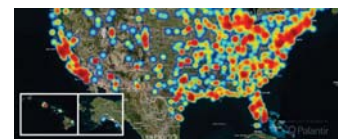
Numbers in Michigan

- Most reliable statistics come from the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) hotline run by Polaris.
- A national toll free hotline is reachable by telephone and text message 24 hours a day.
- The NHTRC reports trafficking-related calls for each state.
- 1-888-373-7888, Text: 233733



NHTRC-Polaris

- Hotline from January 1, 2016-December 31, 2016: The National Human Trafficking Hotline received a total of 34,068 phone calls, emails, or online tip reports nationwide, with issues related to human trafficking in Michigan.



Known Cases in Michigan

- Adrian
- Ann Arbor
- Battle Creek
- Bloomfield Hills
- Chelsea
- Dearborn
- Dexter
- Eastpointe
- Flint
- Grand Rapids
- Howell
- Jackson
- Muskegon
- Lansing
- Romeo/New Baltimore
- Saginaw
- Southfield
- Ypsilanti

Over and Over Again!

- Human trafficking is one of the fastest growing crimes in the world, second only to drug trafficking.
- While drugs can be sold once, a person can be sold several times a day.
- Most under-reported crime
- 32 Billion Dollar Industry



What is Human Trafficking?

The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person (regardless of citizenship), by means of threat or use of force, fraud, or coercion, subjecting victims to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labor.



Force

- May include rape, beatings, captivity, isolation, any method to control the victim.
- Denial of food, water, housing, medical care.
- Usually done during the “Seasoning Process” by traffickers to control the person.
- Victims may be terrified and succumb to whatever is asked of them.

Fraud

- Involves false promises of a better life and offers of employment.
- Misrepresentation of work, the conditions of the environment where they would reside are unlivable.
- Opportunities such as modeling careers, nanny services, education.
- Victims are forced into sexual slavery, domestic servitude, agricultural labor, panhandling, sweatshop factory work.

Coercion

- Often involves threats, debt bondage (control of the victim) until a fee is paid off, psychological manipulation.
- Injury, death may be used if the victim does not comply with the demands of the trafficker.
- Traffickers generally keep their travel documents, identification, keeping them isolated which would make it difficult to escape.
- **Control**.....

Michigan Statistics

2017

470

HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASES REPORTED THIS YEAR

2012

255

CALLS THIS YEAR

136

HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASES REPORTED THIS YEAR

69

HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASES REPORTED THIS YEAR

Categories

Labor Trafficking

- The sale of men, women, and children into hard labor for which they receive little or no compensation.
- Using force, fraud or coercion to recruit, harbor, transport, obtain or employ a person for labor or services

Sex Trafficking

- The sale of women, men, and children into prostitution.
- Commercial sex act induced by force, fraud or coercion, or in which person performing the act is under age 18.

Labor Trafficking

- **Domestic Work
- **Agriculture
- **Sales Crews, Peddling & Begging Rings
- Bars and Clubs
- Restaurants & Food Service
- Nail and hair salons
- Hospitality Industry
- Factories



Sex Trafficking

- The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act.
- This is done through force, fraud, or coercion.
- The business is about supply and demand.

Prostitution/Sex Trafficking

- For adults, prostitution becomes sex trafficking when it includes the elements of **force, fraud or coercion**.
- If any of those three things are present, the victim should not be charged with a crime.
- Minors cannot be charged with prostitution.

Sex Trafficking

- **Escort services
- **Illicit Massage Parlors
- **Private homes
- Online Exploitation
- Strip clubs
- Truck stops
- Bars
- Libraries
- Hotels
- Brothels

Human Trafficking is Not Smuggling

Smuggling

- Includes those who consent to smuggling
- Contract ends after border crossing
- Smugglers need only to entail physical movement of "customers"
- Is always international
- A violation of immigration or other laws

Crime Against Border

Human Trafficking

- Victims do not consent to their situations
- Entails forced exploitation of a person for labor/services
- Crime against each persons fundamental rights
- Occurs domestically-victims held captive in their own country

Crime Against Person

Smuggling-Trafficking



Sex Slaves and Trafficking Victims

Sex Slaves

- Kidnapped
- Usually single partner
- Force, fraud
- Elizabeth Smart

Trafficking Victims

- Possible kidnapped
- Multiple partners
- Force, fraud, coercion
- Theresa Flores

Who are the Victims?

- Loners, the outcasts, the shy, the overweight, the smaller kid, the needy child
- Lack of knowledge on healthy coping mechanisms against bullying, conflicts
- Little self-esteem, basic need to seek attention and affection
- Teens in the juvenile system, women in correctional facilities

Risk Factors

- Emotional distress
- Poverty
- Homelessness
- Family dysfunction
- Substance abuse
- Lack of social support
- LGBT population
- Developmentally delay
- Child and sexual abuse
- Sexual exploitation by family members
- Learning disabilities
- Mental illness
- Gang Involvement

Social Media

- Facebook message from a stranger
- Initial contact
- Starts the process of recruiting by making promises (jewelry, dinner, clothes)
- Compliments are given
- Trust is established!!
- The trafficking has begun!

Targeting the Vulnerable

- Targeting minor victims at clubs, malls, on the street, through friends
- Using girls and boys to recruit other children at schools and after-school programs.
- Social networking: Twitter, Facebook, Backpage, Craig's List, LinkedIn, texting, chat lines
- MySpace now has an option to "pimp-my-profile"

Runaway or Thrown-Aways

- Consider that 80% of runaway youth report running away from abusive home situations.
- Combine these facts with estimates that 1 in 3 runaways will be approached by a pimp within 48 hours and often tricked or forced into sex slavery or survival sex.



Too Good To Be True

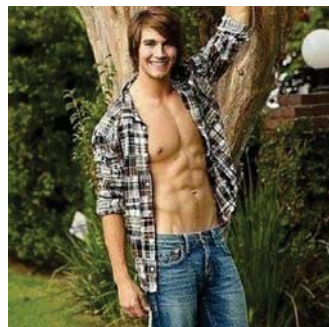
- The chance of a lifetime.
- A job too good to be true.
- The travel opportunity that can't be refused.
- Except that it leads to a place you cannot return home from.



Want a Job?

- Children understand that they should not go with strangers.
- The people they meet online are not strangers.
- They are their friends.
- Wanting a job... is enough to attract both the ambitious and desperate, followed by the promise of some gain down the road.
- Money, promises of love, commitment, family.

Your kids are thinking they are speaking to this.....



Actually they could be speaking to these individuals...



In Summary...Children

- 40 percent of human trafficking cases involve the sexual exploitation of a child.
- Between 100,000 and 300,000 children are at risk for sexual exploitation in the U.S. with an average age of 11 to 14 years old.
- It is estimated that 76 percent of transactions for sex with underage girls start on the Internet.

Stages of Human Trafficking

Initiation

- Emotional Coercion-promises of love, gifts
- Victims are more vulnerable to the trafficker
- Victims are brainwashed that these conditions are normal
- Degrading remarks to belittle the victims
- Forced to watch physical abuse, forced sex acts

Indoctrination

- Trafficker retains control as the community is built
- Trafficker display favoritism to certain victims to manipulate
- Trafficker diminishes trust and friendship between victims
- Victims are kept on edge emotionally and physically
- Trafficker may be seen as source of comfort/humiliation

Substance Abuse

- Traffickers provide free drugs, thereby addicting the victims.
- The victims need the drugs to numb themselves against the commercial sex acts in which they are forced to engage in.
- Traffickers controls the flow of drugs to maintain control over the women.
- Forced by traffickers, to work longer hours, to take on more clients, to perform acts that they would not normally do.

“Grace”



Initiative Against Sexual Trafficking

Do you know their stories?



“Trapped”

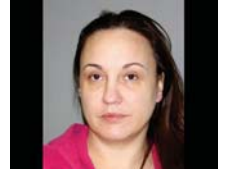
“For seven long years I was trapped in a hell no one deserves. I was nothing more than a shell of a human being enduring suffering and torture at the hands of psychopaths and sociopaths as the world looked on. I attended school, and from the outside appeared to be a "normal child" but I was being trafficked in plain sight. I was often pulled out of school to "service" clients and after school, holidays and weekends were all just a never-ending nightmare for me.”

Jerome Elam Journalist/Marine

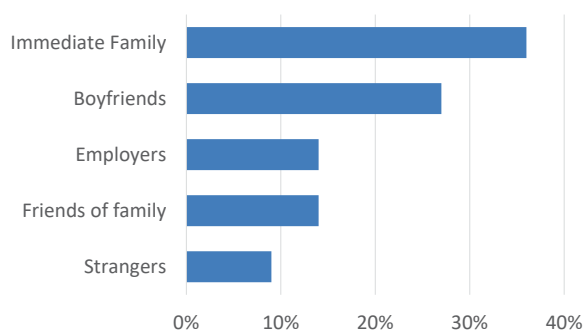
Who are the Traffickers???

- Traffickers can be lone individuals, profiting independently or part of extensive criminal networks, with the common thread of exploiting people for profit.
- Traffickers can be family members, acquaintances, pimps, employers, smugglers, and strangers.
- Most often, he/she is the same race/ethnicity as the victim.
- Most likely be bilingual.

Traffickers



People They Trusted.....



Covenant House (2013). Homelessness, Survival Sex and Human Trafficking: As Experienced by the Youth of Covenant House New York.

Trafficker's Motives

- Exploit others for the profit gained from forced labor and commercial sex.
- They lure and ensnare people into forced labor and sex trafficking by manipulating and exploiting their vulnerabilities.
- Traffickers promise a high-paying job, a loving relationship, or new and exciting opportunities
- Then use physical and psychological violence to control their victims.

When do Victims Seek Medical Services?

- In an emergency
- After an assault
- After a workplace injury
- Gynecological services
- Prenatal care
- Routine checkups
- Mental health services
- Addiction treatment
- Pre-existing conditions
- Dental Services
- Medical treatment for children

Crucial Roles for HCP

- HCP may be the only professional who interact with the human trafficking victim during their exploitation.
- The victims may still be in captivity.
- Be attentive to unusual or concerning stories from patients.

Barriers to Self-Identification

- May not understand they are considered victims of crime by law
- Shame or guilt
- Fear of retaliation by trafficker
- Fear of arrest or deportation
- Lack of transportation or controlled movement
- Fear of a report to social services
- Lack of understanding of U.S. health care system

Diseases and Physical Signs

- Undetected or untreated diseases (diabetes, tuberculosis, cancer, Hepatitis)
- Dental trauma, abscesses
- Bruises, scars, cigarette burns, cutting areas
- Bald Spots on their heads (traumatic alopecia)
- Strangulation and ligature marks
- Signs of physical abuse, torture, in areas that do not damage their outward appearance.



Look Around

- Majority of survivors report that their traffickers completed paperwork for them and communicated with clinic staff and health care providers on their behalf.
- The physical proximity of the traffickers perpetuated their coercion and control of the victims, preventing them from communicating with health care personnel directly.
- Victims might be labeled as “difficult “ patient.

Critical Observations

- Does the patient look younger than they have said they are?
- Does the “patient” look as if the person that came with her/him is their brother, sister, spouse?
- The “patient” is never left alone (even to go to the bathroom).
- Do they speak the same language?
- Recognizing signs and symptoms of intimate partner violence.
- Be attentive to unusual or concerning stories from patients. Does the story sound scripted?
- Hotel room keys, large amount of money, condoms

Clues To Look For.....

- Have tattoos or other marks indicating ‘ownership’ by their exploiters.
- Have clothes that are typically worn for doing sex work.
- Victims only know how to say sex-related words in the local language or in the language of the client group.
- Victim is subordinate, fearful, hyper-vigilant.

Tattoos'

- Branding is a way of controlling and profiting from the trade.
- Psychological form of bondage
- Arms, backs, legs, faces, breasts, eyelids and gums are marked with the “pimps” names, gang tags, barcodes, sexual slang, and dollar signs, bags of money and above their groins
- Majority of the victims have some kind of mark on them.
- Tattoo artist might swap tattoos for drug



Marks of Ownership



Psychosocial Concerns

- Substance abuse problems or addictions.
- Psychological trauma from daily mental abuse and torture, including depression, stress-related disorders, disorientation, confusion, phobias and panic attacks.
- Feelings of helplessness, shame, humiliation, shock, denial or disbelief.
- Cultural shock from finding themselves in strange country.
- Suicidal/Homicidal

Trafficking Terms

- Seasoning: designed to break down a victim's resistance and ensure compliance.
- Bottom: appointed by the trafficker as his right hand, supervisor.
- Branding-tattoo: carving that shows ownership by the trafficker.
- Kiddie Stroll: an area known for prostitution that features younger victims.
- Lot Lizard: derogatory term for a person who is being prostituted at truck stops.
- Circuit: a series of cities among which prostituted people are moved. The term can also refer to a chain of states.

Safety and Gaining Trust

First step in providing any type of assistance.



Why don't they try to leave?

- They are in danger if they try to leave.
- The traffickers have a strong psychological and physiological hold on them.
- They fear for the safety of their families.
- They may fear the legal system.
- They are afraid of being deported.
- They may not be able to support themselves on their own and have no place to go.

Who do they Trust!

- The victims are likely to lie or use rehearsed stories initially.
- Some victims will decline offers of assistance out of concern for the safety of their family and friends.
- Cultural/religious background may deter victim from telling the full story.
- Many, not knowing whom to trust, are wary of strangers.

Knowledge

- Meeting their needs requires Teamwork!!!
- Nonjudgmental approach and attitude.
- Observe their and your body language
- Common sense, compassion, patience



Important to Remember

- Not every victim you identify will want or feel safe to leave their situation.
 - Let them know your setting is a safe place
 - Offer resources/hotline
 - Affirm they are **not** criminals
- Trauma-informed approach

Empowerment vs. "Saving"

Specific Questions

- What type of work do you do?
- Are you currently being paid?
- What is your living ,working conditions like?
- Have you or family been threatened if you run away?
- Ask are you in school?



Opportunities

- Has your identification or documentation been taken from you?
- Where do you eat and sleep?
- Are there any locks on your doors/windows so you cannot get out?
- Do you get paid for having sex?
- Does someone take your money?

Needs of Trafficking Victims

There are four general areas of victim needs:

- Immediate assistance
 - Housing, food, medical, safety and security, language interpretation and legal services
- Mental health assistance
 - Counseling
- Income assistance
 - Cash, living assistance
- Legal status
 - T-visa, immigration, certification



HIPPA?

- Reporting of minor victims is mandatory!
- HIPAA guidelines for adults do not allow for professionals to call Law Enforcement or the hotline without their consent, unless the physician believes they are a danger to themselves or others.
- You can give anticipatory guidance and provide them with the hotline number and or to text "BEFREE" for help.

First Michigan Human Trafficking Commission 2013

- Data Collection
- Victim Services
- Professional Training
- Raising Public Awareness
- Legislative and Policy

Legislation

- In 2014, Governor Snyder signed into law a 21-bill legislative package to strengthen the state's efforts to address human trafficking.
- Included in the legislative package:
 - Safe harbor provisions
 - Tools to hold traffickers accountable
 - Training for medical professionals
 - Creation of the Human Trafficking Commission and Human Trafficking Health Advisory Board

Federal Crimes/Penalties

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| • Forced Labor | • Up to 20 years |
| • Trafficking into Servitude | • Up to 20 years |
| • Sex Trafficking | • Up to life |
| • Involuntary Servitude | • Up to 20 years |
| • Peonage (Debt Bondage) | • Up to 20 years |
| • Document Servitude | • Up to 5 years |
| • Conspiracy Against Rights | • Up to life, if kidnapping, sexual abuse or death |

State Efforts

HT Commission

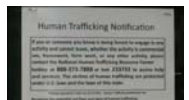
- Examine sources for grants
- Training of law enforcement, prosecutors, social service personnel
- Collect and analyze data
- Identify state and local agencies
- Review victim services
- Improve public awareness
- Review state laws

Health Advisory Board

- Collect information on medical and mental health services, available to victims, meeting annually
- Identify federal, State and local agencies that are involved with HT victims
- Establish a program to increase awareness of services available
- Review existing state laws relayed to medical and mental health policies affecting survivors

Rest Stops

- House Bill 5107, sponsored by State Rep. Kurt Heise, requires the National Human Trafficking Hotline number to be posted at rest stops and welcome facilities, bus and rail stations, airports and places where trafficked persons may be located.
- The bill aims to increase public awareness and reporting of human trafficking.
- The bill is now Public Act 62 of 2016.



On the roads



SOAR Training

- **Stop** - Become aware of the scope of human trafficking
- **Observe** - Recognize the verbal and non-verbal indicators of human trafficking
- **Ask** - Identify and interact with a potential human trafficking victim using a victim-centered, trauma-informed approach
- **Respond** - Respond effectively to a potential human trafficking victim by identifying needs and available resources to provide critical support and assistance
- **SOAR** training through a scheduled online virtual classroom.
- The SOAR training is a three-hour course.

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/endtrafficking/initiative/soar>.

What You Can Do...

- Become an advocate in your setting.
- Familiarize yourself with your workplace's protocols and the law's requirements.
- Learn what services are available in your community for survivors of human trafficking.
- **Memorize the National Human Trafficking Hotline (888-3737-888)**

Important Contact Information

- Local Law Enforcement
- State Police
- The National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-373-7888, Text: 233733
- DHHS Central Intake- 1-855-444-3911
- NCMEC-1800—THE-LOST
- US Government Website:
www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking

A Familiar Story



A man is walking on the beach and notes that the beach is covered with starfish that have washed up in the tide. He observes a little boy picking them up and tossing them back into the water. "Why are you doing that," he asks the little boy. "There are so many that you cannot make a difference." The boy looked at him and threw another starfish into the ocean. "It made a difference to that one," he said.



Questions?





Thank you!

Sheila Meshinski BSN, RN, CEN, CFN
Henry Ford Macomb Hospital
smeshin1@hfhs.org