Not Just a Criminal Justice Issue: Why is Trafficking a Health Issue?

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So Why is it a Public Health Issue?

• "While law enforcement is important, so is providing adequate support for trafficking survivors."
• "You see, trafficking is not a short-term affliction—it affects a survivor's whole life, families and even entire communities."
• "I often visited the doctor for numerous unexplained, very grown-up health problems, not one asked whether I was being abused."
• "I have struggled with the physical and psychological wounds resulting from more than a decade of sexual and physical abuse at the hands of my trafficker."
• "I have struggled with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), an eating disorder, peripheral neuropathy and adrenal insufficiency."
Have you seen her?

Jade – 21 yo w/ seizures, headaches

Marina – 33 yo w/ painful bladder syndrome,requent UTIs and pelvic pain.

Alexis – 28 yo with a fractured ankle

And boys too!

• 75% of the commercially sexually exploited children in the U.S. are boys. (The John Jay College and the Center for Court Innovation study “The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in New York City” 2008)
• Boys appear to be largely recruited by friends and peers and do not commonly have “pimps.” The 2008 study on CSEC in New York City suggested the term “market facilitator” better represented the relationship.

Have you seen him?

Marty – 24 yo w/ a hand laceration

Diego – 27 yo w/ a cough for 3 months
Who is at increased risk? - ST

Child sexual abuse survivors
- 70-90% of ST survivors have history of childhood sexual abuse

Foster care, runaway/homeless youth
- 85% of trafficked youth have prior child welfare involvement
- In 2016, an estimated 1 out of 10 endangered runaways reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children were likely child sex trafficking victims. Of those, 74% were in the care of social services or foster care when they ran.

LGBTQ
- LGBTQ youth are 7x more likely to have engaged in survival sex than heterosexual youth
- 48% of transgender people reporting involvement in sex work also report homelessness.

Psychiatric Vulnerability
- Learning Disabilities/Cognitive Delay
- Psychosis, Depression, Personality Disorder
- Substance Dependence

Trafficking and the opiate epidemic

- **Familial Sex Trafficking:** Parents addicted to opioids selling children to feed their addiction
- **Increase in Foster Youth:** After a decade of significant decline, between 2012 and 2016, the number of children in foster care nationally has increased by more than 10%. There is a broad agreement that the ongoing opioid epidemic has been a primary contributor to those increases.
- **Opiates More Available to Traffickers:** Traffickers may use opioids as a means of control over their victims, continuing the vicious cycle of dependency and abuse.

Force, Fraud and Coercion in ST

Social Signs: “You walk home from work as people are just starting their day and they look at you and they know what you do, and the way they look at you, you feel as though you don’t belong in this world.”

Physical and Psychological Abuse: Repeated rapes, verbal threats, physical abuse, lies about surveillance, comments about your self-worth, followed by days or weeks of love and kindness. [Incentive here].

Loss/Need for the trafficker: Relationship often begins as romantic and the survivor feels that no one loves them or understands them like the trafficker. May rely on the trafficker to fulfill their substance use or as the only stable means of shelter or food.
Force, Fraud and Coercion in LT

**Immigration Status:** Immigrants—whether documented or not—can be vulnerable to exploitation due to language barriers, unfamiliarity with their legal rights in the US, or the lack of a local support network.

Undocumented workers are particularly vulnerable to threats of deportation, and are often unlikely to seek help from the police.

**Recruitment Debt:** Many migrant workers are asked to pay illegal fees to a recruiter, visa sponsor, or employer to get the job. Oftentimes, workers have to borrow money at high interest rates or mortgage their family’s home, to pay the fee. This debt, coupled with the fact that workers with J-1 or H-2B visas are restricted to certain employers to maintain their immigration status, leave workers vulnerable to exploitation.

**Isolation:** Rural, sparsely populated areas. Live in housing provided by their employer, reducing the likelihood of identification by community members. Traffickers may keep them confined to the property, sometimes with the use of locks, armed guards or dogs.

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**Health Outcomes of Trafficking**

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**Survivors Interactions with Healthcare**

- N=173 survey respondents
- 75% labor trafficking (55% sex trafficking)
- 68% survivors saw a healthcare provider
- 32% Unable?
  - Inability to pay
  - Fear
  - Prevented by other


A retrospective chart of all adolescents 12 through 21 years of age presenting to the ED or Child Advocacy Center of a large, tertiary care, Midwestern US pediatric hospital located in Columbus, Ohio, with concerns of suspected CSEC from October 2014 through December 2016.

N = 63 adolescents
- 62 (98.4%) were female
- 34 (54%) were African American
- 17 (27%) identified as bisexual
- Chronic medical concerns were noted in 18 (28.6%) adolescents
- Most common chronic medical conditions - asthma (25%) and obesity (35%)
- A developmental delay/individual educational plan/ speech delay was noted in 18 (28.6%) patients
- Nearly all of the adolescents had a history of running away (61 [96.8%]), involvement with CPS (61 [96.8%]), and involvement with law enforcement (60 [95.3%])

Health outcomes:
- Over two thirds of the adolescents (44 [69.8%]) had positive test results for at least one sexually transmitted infection (STI)
- Urinary tract infections (14 [22.2%]), pelvic inflammatory disease (12 [19%]), and pregnancy (14 [22.2%]) were less common
- Drug and alcohol use was noted in 50 (79.3%) of adolescents, with the most common drugs being marijuana (40 [63.5%]), alcohol (31 [49.2%]), and opiates (16 [25.4%])

Following screening, 27 of the 63 adolescents (42.9%) gave a history of solicitation for sex and 21 (33.3%) gave confirmatory history of being trafficked by a pimp.
Mix of Multiple Severe Traumas

1) early onset trauma, such as childhood abuse
2) chronic trauma, as a result of prolonged exposure to sexual exploitation and violence
3) ongoing intimate partner violence


Behavior of the Trafficked Individual

Traumatic stress tends to evoke two emotional extremes: feeling either too much (overwhelmed) or too little (numb) emotion.

Need to feel in control of others or desire to control a situation by making others feel scared or anxious

• Angry
• Abusive in language or physical acts
• Demanding
  Or
• Withdrawn, quiet, does not interact
• Does not react to painful or irritating stimuli
Health of Trafficked Women

• 192 female survivors of sex trafficking interviewed within 14 days of entry into post-trafficking services
• 59% pre-trafficking abuse
• 95% physical or sexual violence while trafficked
• Multiple post-trafficking physical and psychological problems
  • 63% had 10 or more concurrent physical health problems
  • 57% had PTSD
  • 39% had SI within the previous 7 days
  • 62% had memory difficulties


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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1: Physical Health Problems</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Category</td>
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<tr>
<td>Any Physical Health Problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neurological</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injuries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular/Respiratory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gastrointestinal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dermal</td>
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Ledener L and Wetzel C. 2014

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 2: Psychological Health Problems</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Psychological Health Problem</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reported at least one psychological area</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average number of psychological problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depression</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flashbacks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mania/mania</td>
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<tr>
<td>PTSD</td>
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<td>Attempted suicide</td>
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Ledener L and Wetzel C. 2014
“Occupational” Injuries in LT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Injuries/Exposures</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>Machine injuries, pesticide toxicity, dehydration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cleaning</td>
<td>Chemical burns, toxic inhalation of chemicals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>Machine injuries, lacerations, sprains, hearing loss</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mining</td>
<td>Respiratory illness, vitamin D deficiency, lead poisoning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Factory Work</td>
<td>Chemical ingestion, machine injuries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality</td>
<td>Musculoskeletal injuries, falls, infections from cleaning without proper protective equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Labor</td>
<td>Musculoskeletal injuries, burns</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Recognizing the Signs of Trafficking

- Discrepancy between reported age and apparent age
- History of child abuse or domestic violence
- History of chronic disease (diabetes, chronic papillary, etc.)
- History of multiple pregnancies or pregnancy terminations; poor obstetric history, not getting prenatal care
- Vaginal lacerations or vaginal wall thinning due to excessive shearing and trauma
- Rectal injuries
- STI
- Clothing or jewelry not appropriate for the weather or setting
- Signs of drug abuse, especially cocaine, heroin, meth, alcohol
- Is not allowed or able to speak for themselves (a third party may want on being present and/or translating)
- History of child abuse or domestic violence
- Discrepancy between reported age and apparent age
- Malnourished

Creation of Protocols
Sample Questions

• Do you know where you will sleep every night?
• Tell me about this tattoo... Did you choose to get your tattoo(s)?
• Show me any scars on your body. How did you get this scar?
• Has anyone hit you or hurt you (today, this week)?
• Has anyone forced you to do anything you didn’t want to do?
• Do you ever carry a weapon to protect yourself?

If foreign:
• What made you leave your home country?
• In your home country, did you ever have problems because of religion, political beliefs, culture, or any other reason?
• Were you ever a victim of violence in your home country?

Don’t be Afraid of the Real Questions

Have you ever traded sex for money, drugs, food or to avoid getting hurt?

Has anyone ever forced you to have sex so they could make money?

Do you feel you have a choice about when to work and what kind of work you do?

States with ST Education and/or Reporting Laws

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Laws:</th>
<th>Mandatory Reporting Laws:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14 states, majority voluntary:</td>
<td>7 states now include trafficking as abuse under child abuse &amp; neglect:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Colorado</td>
<td>• California</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Florida</td>
<td>• Colorado</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Kansas</td>
<td>• Illinois</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Massachusetts</td>
<td>• Maryland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Michigan</td>
<td>• Massachusetts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Minnesota</td>
<td>• North Carolina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• New York</td>
<td>• Applies to minors only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• North Carolina</td>
<td>• 4 of them (FL, IL, MA, NC) address both sex and labor trafficking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Tennessee</td>
<td>• 3 (CA, CO, MD) require reporting of only sex trafficking</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Texas</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Vermont</td>
<td></td>
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<td>• Washington</td>
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If you suspect a patient is trafficked:

1. Get the patient alone & comfortable
2. Ask only for need-to-know info without judgment
3. Disclose mandated reporting obligations
4. Inquire re: immediate needs & safety – consider social admission
5. If the survivor is willing to make a police report or talk to law enforcement – call 312-421-6700 and ask for HT Agent on Call
6. Discuss the benefits of disclosure (legal remedies and restitution of funds)
7. Provide verbally, 888-3737-888
8. Obtain follow-up info and Prescribe follow-up appt
9. Involve Social Work
10. DOCUMENT, including ICD-10 codes!!!!!

Importance of Documentation
Addition of ICD 10 codes eff 10/1/2018

- Under adult and child abuse, neglect and other maltreatment, confirmed
  - T74.5 – Forced sexual exploitation, confirmed
  - T74.51 – Adult forced sexual exploitation, confirmed
  - T74.52 – Child sexual exploitation, confirmed
  - T74.6 – Forced labor exploitation, confirmed
  - T74.61 – Adult forced labor exploitation, confirmed
  - T74.62 – Child forced labor exploitation, confirmed
- Under adult and child abuse, neglect and other maltreatment, suspected
  - T76.5 – Forced sexual exploitation, suspected
  - T76.51 – Adult forced sexual exploitation, suspected
  - T76.52 – Child sexual exploitation, suspected
  - T76.6 – Forced labor exploitation, suspected
  - T76.61 – Adult forced labor exploitation, suspected
  - T76.62 – Child forced labor exploitation, suspected
- Under encounter for examination and observation for other reasons
  - Z04.81 – Encounter for examination and observation of victim following forced sexual exploitation
  - Z04.82 – Encounter for examination and observation of victim following forced labor exploitation
- Under problems related to upbringing: Personal history of abuse in childhood
  - Z62.813 – Personal history of forced labor or sexual exploitation in childhood
- Under personal risk factors, not elsewhere classified: Personal history of psychological trauma, not elsewhere classified
- V61.2 – Personal history of forced labor in sexual exploitation