

1  **Preventing and Minimizing Human Trafficking of Youth with Professional Collaboration**

Dr. Judith Justice, Indiana Wesleyan University

Dr. Delila Owens, The University of Akron

Advancing Mental Health in Schools

October 13, 2018

2  **Session objectives:**

1. Participants will understand the prevalence of sex trafficking in the US.
2. Participants will identify signs of youth who are at-risk for, involved, or escaped from sex trafficking.
3. Participants will practice how to assist youth who are at-risk for, involved, or escaped from sex trafficking.

3  **Modern Day Slavery**

► Intro clip to trafficking: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Q5go7a4pOM>


► Resource on traffickers: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gSgTmcq-bBk>

4  **Case Study**

► Savannah is a 16 year old multi-racial female, who resides with her single mother and three younger siblings. Savannah's parents divorced when she was a preteen, and her father is no longer involved with the family, due to ongoing substance abuse issues. Savannah struggles to bond with her mother, and sometimes becomes aggressive towards her and her siblings when she does not get her way. Savannah has run from home numerous times but has recently returned home.

Her mother insists that in order to stay under her roof, she had "to provide for the family by any means necessary." Savannah admitted to involvement in illegal activity including selling drugs and having sex with countless men for money. She resides at home with her mother and has average grades

at school. The teachers describe her as outgoing and very mature for her age.

5  **From abstract – may want to use some of this**

Eighty three percent of trafficked victims within the United States are US Citizens. Youth are the most sought and victimized for sex trafficking, placing them at risk for disease, trauma, and early death.

School mental health professionals are well-positioned to assist survivors.

6  **Sex trafficking defined**

Consists of three factors: the act, means and purpose.

Act = recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or Receipt

Means = threat, fraud, deception, abduction, coercion, or abuse of power

Purpose = of sexual exploitation

7  **Victims include:**

Sex trafficking victims are often between ages 11-14 years old

40 Percent are prostituted for sexual exploitation


Male victims typically never come forward

98% of reported victims are female

77 percent are children of color (racial ethnic minorities)

Many researchers believe that racism is deeply rooted in

human trafficking because a large number of children who are trafficked are children of color and less valued in the US society.

8  **Education and Awareness about youth who are at risk for trafficking**

- ▶ in runaway shelters,
- ▶ alternative schools
- ▶ juvenile justice systems
- ▶ on realities of sexual exploitation and
- ▶ reveal tactics used by traffickers
- ▶ teach guidelines for youth and guardians

9  **Types of sex trafficking**

Includes but is not limited to minors:

- ▶ prostitution (63% are involved)
- ▶ pornography
- ▶ sexual demonstrations or shows

10  **victimization**

Victims are traumatized with:

- Psychological manipulation
- Physical violence
- Sexual violence
- Drugs

Perpetrator's goal is to leave victims feeling trapped and powerless

- "Bond of trauma"
- Long term mental health counseling necessary

11  **Warning signs to share with staff**


Absences/truancies
 Sudden change in behavior
 Decline in academics
 Expensive clothing or technology
 Has fake ID, unexplained cash, second phone, hotel keys
 Change in dress or appearance
 Loss of parental contact
 Runaway or thrown away
 Loss of friends and new friendships and relationships
 Older boyfriends
 Gang affiliation
 Withdrawn and dishonest
 Increased sexual behavior
 Deprivation of food, sleep, or medical care
 Signs of abuse/ restraints
 Drinking/drugging
 STDs
 Self-mutilation
 Suicide ideation
 Depressed, nervous, tense, afraid, moody, extreme anger,
 appears brain washed
 Loss of ID or drivers' license
 Use of terms such as "the game, the life" "daddy", "manager", or
 "date or trick"

12  **Remember Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs**

13  **Initial roles of counselors**

- Non-intrusiveness –victims may deal with trust issues

- Recognize the physical or somatic symptoms
- Unconditional positive regard
- Reliable and stable advocate
- Transparency
- Ensure confidentiality
- Acceptance
- Curiousness about how child is processing
- Patience

14  **Use screening questions to note possible ST:**
www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/

15  **Health Indicators**


- ▶ STDs
- ▶ Pregnancy
- ▶ Abortions
- ▶ PTSD
- ▶ Substance abuse
- ▶ malnutrition
- ▶ anxiety and self—destructive behaviors

16  **Signs of possible victimization**

- ▶ Symptoms of psychological trauma
- ▶ Extreme sadness and hopelessness
- ▶ Memory loss and presenting as withdrawn
- ▶ Difficulty concentrating
- ▶ Demonstrations of aggression and anger
- ▶ Trauma bonds
- ▶ Anxiety and mood disorders
- ▶ Panic attacks
- ▶ Substance-related disorders

17  **PTSD: may need to refer**

- Anxiety
- Loss of meaning in life (fragile)
- Depression
- Anger/aggression
- Low self-esteem
- Attachment/insecurity
- Identity issues
- Relationship problems
- Suicidality
- Grief
- Substance Abuse

18  **Implications for helping professionals**

- ▶ Sex trafficking must be addressed as violence and abuse, rather than delinquency AND is illegal
- ▶ Youth may have a very difficult time trusting
- ▶ Remember helping professionals are mandated reporters
- ▶ Assist youth and caregivers with resources to support
- ▶ Understand that sex trafficking is extremely traumatic and it can take years to recover
- ▶ Affirm the youth
- ▶ Make sure that the victims are receiving wrap around services especially counseling

19  **Advocacy is key!**

Employ human rights for national and international to include:

- Governmental emphasis
- Law enforcement
- Social education

20  **City, County, and local changes**

City and Local: address sex trafficking with a system wide

response (schools, law enforcement, and social services)

- prevention campaigns
- educate youth about the roles of force, fraud, coercion, and exploitation of ST.
- increase law enforcement
- be prepared to move quickly as technology hides and changes
- address sex trafficking with a system wide response (schools, law enforcement, and social services)
- prevention campaigns
- educate youth about the roles of force, fraud, coercion, and exploitation of ST.
- increase law enforcement
- be prepared to move quickly as technology hides and changes

21  **Federal and state changes**

Federal Laws: Mandate laws to require hotlines to be posted on classified websites frequented for trafficking (Craigslist.com or backpage.com); local newspapers with classified ads

State level: mandate training for police to know, identify, and pursue human traffickers; develop H.T task forces; try fraud and coercion of victims; allow wiretaps for investigation

22  **Advocate for law enforcement**

- S.T. must be addressed as violence and abuse, rather than delinquency
- Assist the victims (rather than punish them)
- Changing the language for dignity (victim not criminal)
- use screening questions to note possible ST:
www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/
- Traffickers are rarely punished pimps or pushers believe that

ST does not anyone in jail, so therefore:

- Punish the traffickers
- Stricter enforcement for perpetrators and their organized leaders

23 Hotline numbers

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (if missing or runaway)

800.843.5678

National Human Trafficking

888.373.7888

24 Resources

ACF, Office of Human Trafficking of Persons: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/>

ACF Resources:

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/resource-library/search>

Educator Resources:

<https://crees.ku.edu/sites/crees.ku.edu/files/docs/Trafficking%20Resources%20for%20Educators.pdf>

<https://polarisproject.adobeconnect.com/a983384736/p7zjdyrfetj/>

Hidden Wounds:

<https://aspe.hhs.gov/basic-report/treating-hidden-wounds-trauma-treatment-and-mental-health-recovery-victims-human-trafficking>

Human Trafficking in America Schools:

<http://center.serve.org/nche/downloads/briefs/trafficking.pdf>

Identifying Victims:

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/orr/fact_sheet_identifying_victims_of_human_trafficking.pdf

Male Trafficking Victims:

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/211836.pdf>

Non-Criminalization of victims:

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/211841.pdf>

Research reports/Educational Training Materials/Fact Sheets:

<http://sharedhope.org/resources/>

Services Available to Victims of Human Trafficking:

http://www.api-gbv.org/files/ORR_Trafficking_Svcs_9_30_11.pdf

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/sites/default/files/Backpage%20Topical.pdf>

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/sites/default/files/Hotel%20and%20Motel%20Topical.pdf>

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/states>

https://www.in.gov/attorneygeneral/files/3.24.15_HT_Red_Flags.pdf

https://www.in.gov/attorneygeneral/files/Fact_Sheet_6.23.15.pdf

<http://tpcjournal.nbcc.org/human-sex-trafficking-in-america-what-counselors-need-to-know/>