SOAR to Health and Wellness Course Objectives

After you complete this module, you’ll be able to:

1. Describe the types of human trafficking in the United States
2. Recognize possible indicators of human trafficking
3. Screen and identify individuals who have been trafficked
4. Assess the needs of individuals who have been trafficked and deliver appropriate services
5. Share the importance of human trafficking awareness and responsiveness with others in your work environment
Today’s Agenda

3:00 – 3:10 PM  Introduction and Overview (10 Minutes)

3:10 – 3:35 PM  Stop (25 Minutes)

3:35 – 4:00 PM  Observe (25 Minutes)

4:00 – 4:30 PM  Ask (30 Minutes)

4:30 – 5:00 PM  Respond (30 Minutes)
Today’s Training Facilitators

Erin Wirsing  
Masters Social Work  
Delta Program Manager  
Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health

Suamhirs Piraino-Guzman  
Masters Behavioral Psychology  
Senior Program Coordinator  
Washington Anti-Trafficking Response Network

Facilitator Disclosure: The facilitators have nothing to disclose
Continuing Education Requirements

1. Register
2. Login Independently
3. Attend full training
4. Complete evaluation

Introduction
Pulse Check

- Could you identify a person who is at risk or may have been trafficked?
- Have you ever encountered a person who may have been trafficked?
- Do you know how to respond if/when you do encounter a person who is being trafficked?
Introduction
What is Public Health?

Public health is the science of protecting and improving the health of people and their communities. This work is achieved by promoting healthy lifestyles, researching disease and injury prevention, and detecting, preventing and responding to infectious diseases.

Centers for Disease Control Foundation
https://www.cdcfoundation.org/what-public-health
Upstream/Downstream Metaphor for Public Health

What’s happening upstream?
SOAR Framework

Stop
- Describe the nature and scope of human trafficking

Observe
- Recognize the verbal and nonverbal indicators of human trafficking

Respond
- Assess the needs of individuals who have been trafficked and deliver appropriate services

Ask
- Screen and identify individuals who may have been trafficked
What Do We Mean by “Trauma”?

“Individual trauma results from an event, series of events or set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual as physically or emotionally harmful or life threatening and that has lasting adverse effects on the individual’s functioning and mental, physical, social, emotional or spiritual well-being.”
Trauma-Informed Approach

- **Realizes** the widespread impact of trauma and understands potential paths for recovery.

- **Recognizes** signs and symptoms of trauma in patients or clients, families, staff, and others involved in the system.

- **Responds** by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices.

- **Seeks to actively resist re-traumatization.**

*Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration*
Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Standards

CLAS helps organizations be respectful of and responsive to:

• Cultural health beliefs and practices
• Preferred languages
• Health literacy levels
• Communication needs
Describe the nature and scope of human trafficking

Recognize the verbal and nonverbal indicators of human trafficking

Assess the needs of individuals who have been trafficked and deliver appropriate services

Screen and identify individuals who may have been trafficked
Your Role

Social Service Providers

Public Health Professionals

Behavioral Health Professionals

Health Care Providers
Case Study: Liza

- Grew up in foster care with abusive foster parents and was first forced into sex trafficking at age 11
- Ran away from foster home frequently
- Left foster home permanently at age 12
- Manipulated by trafficker into sex trafficking
- Abused physically and emotionally by her trafficker
Case Study: Liza

If Liza came in to your office or emergency department, how would you proceed?

What indicators would alert you that she might be a victim of human trafficking?

What questions would you ask?
Human trafficking is a crime involving the exploitation of someone for the purpose of compelled labor or a commercial sex act through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. Where a person younger than 18 is induced to perform a commercial sex act, it is a crime regardless of whether there is any force, fraud, or coercion.

—*The Trafficking Victims Protection Act*
Human Trafficking Training

S - STOP

Fraud

ACTION

OR

PURPOSE

MEANS**

Recruiting

Forced labor

Harboring

Commercial sexual exploitation

Transporting

Providing

Obtaining

PATRONIZING, SELLING, AND ADVERTISING*

** Minors induced into commercial sex are victims of human trafficking—regardless of force, fraud, or coercion.

*Sex trafficking only

Types of Trafficking

Sex Trafficking

Labor Trafficking
Human Trafficking Training

Force, Fraud, and Coercion

**Force**—Physical assault, sexual assault, physical confinement, isolation

**Fraud**—False promises about work and living conditions, false pretenses for interpersonal relationships, use of fraudulent travel documents, fraudulent employment offers, withholding wages

**Coercion**—Threats of serious harm or psychological manipulation such as holding someone at gunpoint, threatening the life and safety of a person or their family and friends, withholding legal documents, debt bondage
Pulse Check

Which vulnerable populations are you most likely to encounter during your work day?
Polyvictimization and Human Trafficking

Childhood

Traumatic Event

Traumatic Event

Traumatic Event

Adulthood
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study

- Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Disrupted Neurodevelopment
- Social, Emotional, and Cognitive Impairment
- Adoption of Health-risk Behaviors
- Disease, Disability, and Social Problems
- Early Death
- Death

Conception
Types of ACE

**Abuse**
- Emotional
- Physical
- Sexual

**Household Challenges**
- Mother Treated Violently
- Substance Use
- Mental Illness
- Separation or Divorce
- Criminal Household Member

**Neglect**
- Emotional
- Physical
Impact of ACE

Possible Risk Outcomes

- Depression
- Substance Use
- Poor Physical Health
- Suicidal Attempts
- Poor Academic Achievement
- Financial Stress

Graphic adapted from: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Encountering Individuals Who Have Been Trafficked

- Child welfare and family services
- Health care settings (especially hospital emergency departments)
- Advocacy work in immigrant communities (e.g., migrant farmworkers)
- Homeless shelters
- Substance use and addiction counseling
- Sexual assault services
- Elementary, middle, and high schools
- Outreach programs for homeless or runaway youth
- Resettlement programs for immigrants, refugees, and/or torture survivors
- Prison release programs
- Dental office
Individuals who have been trafficked are highly likely to come into contact with someone within the health system.

## Who They Meet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of victims* who came in contact with health care professionals (by specialty)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>PEDIATRICIAN</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TRADITIONAL/ALTERNATIVE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DENTIST</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OB/GYN</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PRIMARY CARE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DON’T KNOW</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OTHER</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Some of the 117 victims surveyed received services from more than one category of provider.*


**Related Study:** Chisolm-Straker M, Richardson L. Assessment of emergency department provider knowledge about human trafficking victims in the ED. *Acad Emerg Med.* 2007, 14 (suppl1):134
Observe

- Describe the nature and scope of human trafficking
- Recognize the verbal and nonverbal indicators of human trafficking
- Screen and identify individuals who may have been trafficked
- Assess the needs of individuals who have been trafficked and deliver appropriate services

O - OBSERVE

Stop

Respond

Ask

Observe
### “Red Flags” That Indicate Human Trafficking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical Health</th>
<th>Behavioral Health</th>
<th>Social/Environmental</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Frequent treatment for sexually transmitted infections</td>
<td>• Confusing/contradicting stories</td>
<td>• Absent from school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• High number of sexual partners</td>
<td>• Inability to focus or concentrate</td>
<td>• Failing grades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Multiple pregnancies/ abortions</td>
<td>• Unaware of current date, location, or time</td>
<td>• Sudden increase in substance use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Exposure to toxic chemicals</td>
<td>• Protects person who hurt them</td>
<td>• Change in dress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Dental issues</td>
<td>• Minimizes abuse</td>
<td>• Age-inappropriate romantic partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Bruising and burns</td>
<td>• Guilt and shame about experiences</td>
<td>• Change in friends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Signs of self-harm</td>
<td>• Suicidal ideations</td>
<td>• Repeat runaway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Weight loss or malnourishment</td>
<td>• Extreme timidity</td>
<td>• Not able to speak for oneself or share information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Respiratory issues</td>
<td>• Aggressive, antagonistic, or defensive</td>
<td>• Evidence of being controlled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Suicide attempts</td>
<td>• Heightened stress response</td>
<td>• Wears inappropriate clothing for the weather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Physical and sexual abuse</td>
<td>• Posttraumatic stress disorder</td>
<td>• Lives at worksite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Withdrawn</td>
<td>• Multiple people in cramped living space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Depressed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What are some of the patient/client-related barriers that prevent identification?
Patient/Client-Related Barriers That Prevent Identification

- Lacks awareness of victimization
- Lacks understanding of legal rights
- Lacks I.D. and other records
- Has a language barrier
- Fears deportation or law enforcement
- Has experienced trauma bonding with the trafficker or other victims
- Fears that reporting could lead to return to an abusive home, jail, or foster care placement
- Feels complicit in an illegal act
- Fears that traffickers will cause harm to self, family, or loved ones
- Has limited literacy and education that hinders the ability to communicate
- Distrusts the provider or those in authority
- Feels hopeless and helpless
- Feels shame or guilt

Provider-Related Barriers That Prevent Identification

- Lacks knowledge about human trafficking
- Has inadequate understanding of federal, state, and local human trafficking laws
- Fears violating HIPAA rules
- Lacks trauma-informed care training
- Misidentifies the case
- Has preconceived notions of how a victim of trafficking will present
- Lacks access to neutral, professional interpreters
- “Checks off boxes” without seeing the full patient or client situation
- Thinks that asking will be time-consuming or too complex
- Feels the patient is unresponsive or hostile to questioning or tells a rehearsed story
- Lacks information on good referral options
- Attributes behavior(s) to harmful cultural stereotypes
- Does not believe it is his or her role to get involved
Common Relationships Between Victims and Traffickers

- Boyfriends: 27%
- Employers: 14%
- Friends of Family: 14%
- Immediate Family: 36%
- Strangers: 9%

Case Study: Sione

- Agreed to work a day job on a fishing vessel but was forced to remain aboard for 3 months
- Injured his foot while on board, received no medical treatment, and was forced to continue working
- When his foot became so infected he could no longer work, Sione’s traffickers left him in Honolulu
- Traffickers left him without money or papers, and threatened that if he went to the authorities, he would be arrested for entering the country illegally
Case Study: Sione

Identify the force, fraud, or coercion used in this case.

What patient/client or provider barriers might influence the way you understand Sione’s case?
Human Trafficking Training

**ASK**

Describe the nature and scope of human trafficking

Recognize the verbal and nonverbal indicators of human trafficking

Screen and identify individuals who may have been trafficked

Assess the needs of individuals who have been trafficked and deliver appropriate services
Your Role in Screening for Trafficking

• Gather information necessary to identify the services your patient/client needs
• Use trauma-informed screening; avoid asking for a detailed history of their exploitation
• Screen in a safe, neutral location
• Provide interpreter services as needed
Human trafficking screening tools should collect information to determine:

- Emergency needs
- Medium-term needs
- Long-term needs

Avoid talking in depth about a person’s exploitation. Screening should be focused only on assessing the person’s needs and determining how you can meet them.
Survivor-Centered Screening Techniques

- Create a setting conducive to a victim-centered, trauma-informed screening
- Get informed consent prior to the screening
- Inform the victim of the purpose of the screening and the screening process
- Discuss confidentiality and mandatory reporting
Working With Interpreters

• Trained and qualified interpreters available to any patient who has limited English proficiency or other communication needs.

• Vary on a case-by-case basis, depending on the availability of resources and the patient’s needs.

• Patients right to refuse a particular interpreter if they are not comfortable.
Preparing the Interpreter

- Discuss expectations of confidentiality.
- Translate verbatim all questions and answers.
- Train using a trauma-informed approach.
- Explain what to expect during screening.
NHTTAC’s Screening Tool

Screening tool to identify minors who are being trafficked

Screening tool to identify adults who are being trafficked
Separating the Patient or Client From a Possible Trafficker

1. When should an individual be separated from a suspected trafficker?
2. What reason should be given?
3. Who will do the separating?
4. What safety measures are needed?
Case Study: Sara

- Visited emergency department with severe head injury
- Accompanied by an older man claiming to be her uncle
- Remained quiet during her examination; uncle answered all of Paul’s questions
- Wouldn’t answer when Paul spoke directly to her and seemed distressed by the attention
Case Study: Sara

What are the red flags of trafficking in this situation?

If you were Paul, what would you do next?
Respond

Stop
- Describe the nature and scope of human trafficking

Observe
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Respond
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- Screen and identify individuals who may have been trafficked
RHY/APP Resources

- Adult and Youth-facing infographic on peer to peer trafficking: [https://teenpregnancy.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/resource-files/FINAL_SexTraffickingInfographicAdult-12-18_508compliant.pdf](https://teenpregnancy.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/resource-files/FINAL_SexTraffickingInfographicAdult-12-18_508compliant.pdf)

- Youth-facing infographic: [https://teenpregnancy.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/resource-files/FINAL_SexTraffickingInfographicYouth-12-18_508compliant.pdf](https://teenpregnancy.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/resource-files/FINAL_SexTraffickingInfographicYouth-12-18_508compliant.pdf)


- RHYTTAC Trafficking Page: [https://www.rhyttac.net/human-trafficking-](https://www.rhyttac.net/human-trafficking-)
Staff Training
Screening and Identification

Safety Planning

• What patient/client and staff safety needs should be considered?

• What will you do if the trafficker refuses to be separated from the patient/client?

• How should you respond when you reach a level of certainty that the patient/client has been trafficked, but they refuse any intervention?
How will the response team differ for patients/clients who:

• are at-risk of being trafficked
• are currently being trafficked
• have a history of trafficking
Multidisciplinary Response and Referral Networks

- Health Care Provider
- Social Service Provider
- Behavioral Health Provider
- Legal Service Provider
- Peer Support
Mandated Reporting

When to Report?

During the screening process for any of these crimes, if you are a mandated reporter, you are required to report suspected abuse. Many federal laws have expanded mandatory reporting requirements related to human trafficking.

Select each topic for information and resources on current federal and state laws that affect mandated reporting.
Follow-Up or Follow-Through Procedures

- Establish trust and receive buy-in from the client/patient.
- Engage the client/patient at every step of the follow-up process.
- Maintain high level of confidentiality.
- Empower the client/patient by including them in the development of their after-care plan.
Protocol Components

1. Staff training
2. Screening and identification
3. Interview procedures
4. Safety planning
5. Multidisciplinary treatment and referral process
6. Mandatory reporting and HIPAA compliance
7. Follow-up and follow-through
Identifying Champions for Protocol Development

Development of a protocol requires at least one person who has the authority to move the process forward. Who has the authority?

- Executive director
- Program manager
- School administrator
- Licensed social worker
- Emergency department director
- Hospital administrator
- Nursing director
- Dental clinic director
- Office manager
National Human Trafficking Hotline

- Comprehensive service referrals for potential victims of human trafficking
- Tip reporting to trained law enforcement
- Data and trends on human trafficking in the United States
- **Text HELP to 233733 (BEFREE)** to get help for potential victims of human trafficking or to connect with local services
National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center

www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/training/nhttac

info@nhttac.org

NHTTAC Customer Support Center
844-648-8822
Monday through Friday
8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST
Pulse Check

• Could you identify a person who is at risk or may have been trafficked?
• Have you ever encountered a person who may have been trafficked?
• Do you know how to respond if/when you do encounter a person who is being trafficked?
Training Conclusion

You should now be able to:

1. Describe the types of human trafficking in the United States
2. Recognize possible indicators of human trafficking
3. Screen and identify individuals who have been trafficked
4. Assess the needs of individuals who have been trafficked and deliver appropriate services
5. Share the importance of human trafficking awareness and responsiveness with others in your work environment
SOAR Framework

Describe the nature and scope of human trafficking

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Stop

Observe

Respond

Ask