

Support for Victims of Human Trafficking

If you suspect someone is a victim of trafficking, call the Trafficking Information and Referral Hotline at 1.888.3737.888 to obtain information and to access supportive services through the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (TVPRA). This hotline will help victims safely and securely rebuild their lives by connecting them to basic services including:

- Housing
- Health care
- Immigration assistance
- Food
- Income
- Employment
- Legal assistance

Victims of human trafficking who are non-U.S. citizens are eligible to receive benefits and services through the TVPRA to the same extent as refugees. Victims who are U.S. citizens are already eligible to receive many of these benefits.

If you think someone is a victim of human trafficking, call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center:

1.888.3737.888

For more information about human trafficking visit www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking.

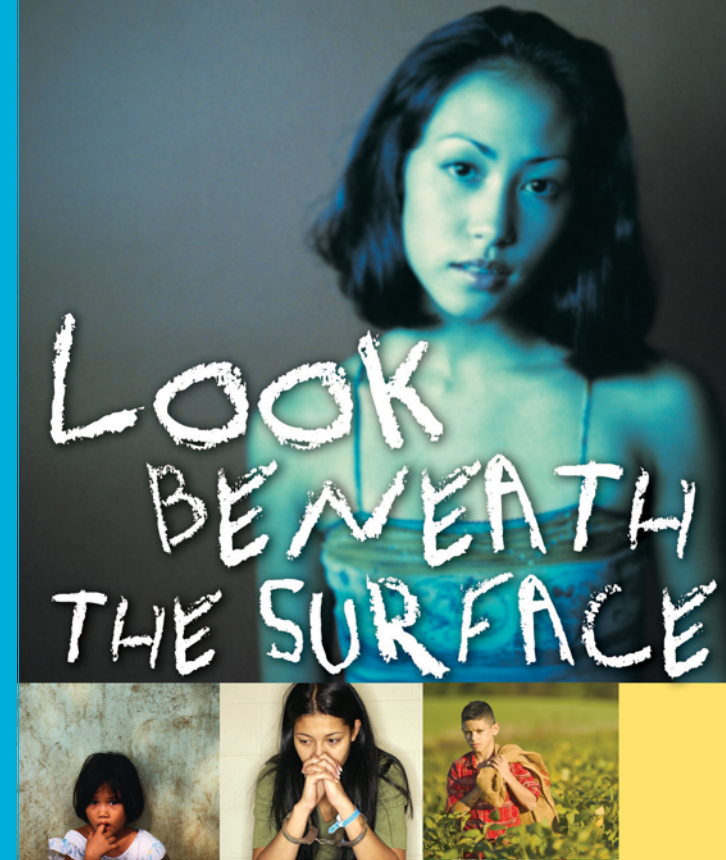
Health Problems Common in Victims of Human Trafficking

Victims of trafficking may suffer from several physical and psychological problems because they are often forced or coerced into dangerous conditions, putting them at greater risk for:

- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Pregnancy, resulting from rape or prostitution
- Bruises, scars and other signs of physical abuse and torture
- Substance abuse or addictions
- Malnourishment and serious dental problems
- Infectious diseases like tuberculosis
- Undetected or untreated diseases, such as diabetes or cancer
- Psychological trauma, including depression, stress-related disorders, disorientation, confusion, phobias and panic attacks

Preventive health care for victims of human trafficking is virtually non-existent, and health problems are typically not treated in their early stages.

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Administration for Children and Families**



Can you recognize victims of human trafficking among the patients you see daily?

As a *frontline health provider*, you can help liberate victims of human trafficking.

Human Trafficking is Modern-Day Slavery

Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery, widespread throughout the United States today. Trafficking of humans is the second largest criminal industry in the world after drug dealing, and is the fastest growing. Many victims of trafficking are made to engage in prostitution, pornography or exotic dancing.* But trafficking also occurs in forms of labor exploitation, such as domestic servitude or restaurant work, sweatshop factory work or migrant agricultural work.

Force, fraud and coercion are the methods used by traffickers to press victims into lives of servitude and abuse:

- **Force** – Rape, beatings, confinement
- **Fraud** – False offers of employment, marriage, better life
- **Coercion** – Threats, debt-bondage, psychological abuse

Victims of trafficking can be found in:

- Commercial sex
- Domestic situations (nannies or servants)
- Sweatshop factories
- Construction
- Farming or landscaping
- Fisheries
- Hotel or tourist industries
- Panhandling
- Janitorial services
- Restaurant services

Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking

Victims of trafficking may look like many of the patients coming to health clinics or emergency rooms. Victims are young children, teenagers, men and women. By looking beneath the surface and asking yourself these questions, you can help identify potential victims:

- Is the patient accompanied by another person who seems controlling (possibly the trafficker)?
- Is the patient rarely allowed in public (except for work)?
- Can you detect any physical or psychological abuse?
- Does the patient seem submissive or fearful?
- Does the patient have difficulty communicating because of language or cultural barriers?
- Does the patient lack identification or documentation?
- Is someone else collecting the patient's pay or holding their money for "safe keeping"?

Gaining the trust of a victim of human trafficking is an important first step in providing assistance.

*Any child engaged in commercial sex is a victim of trafficking.

Sample Questions to Ask Potential Victims of Human Trafficking

If you get the opportunity to examine or question the patient alone, asking the following questions can help you determine if you are dealing with a victim:

- Can you leave your job or situation if you want?
- Can you come and go as you please?
- Have you been threatened if you try to leave?
- Has anyone threatened your family?
- What are your working or living conditions like?
- Where do you sleep and eat?
- Do you have to ask permission to eat, sleep or go to the bathroom?
- Is there a lock on your door so you cannot get out?
- Does someone prohibit you from socializing or attending religious services?

Before questioning a patient who may be a victim of human trafficking, discretely separate the patient from the individual accompanying her/him, since this person could be the trafficker posing as a spouse, other family member or employer.

