



“Dynamics of Human Trafficking: Considerations for Community Health Workers”

Laramie Gorbett, M.A.
Human Trafficking Specialist
lgorbett@taasa.org

About TAASA

TAASA is a statewide advocacy organization that works to address and eliminate sexual violence through public policy, training, prevention work, and support to programs that serve survivors of sexual violence.

Training Team

TAASA is the unifying voice to eliminate sexual violence in Texas. As the statewide coalition of rape crisis centers, advocates, and survivors, we are committed to fostering a culture that respects the fundamental rights and dignity of all Texans.

Trigger Warning

- This training talks about a variety of issues related to gender based violence and complex trauma including: sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse, and human trafficking.
- Please take care of yourself and don't be afraid to reach out to ask for help. There are many helpful resources at the end of this presentation.

Objectives

- Explore the of Dynamics of Human Trafficking
- Examine the Vulnerabilities & Indicators of Trafficking
- Discuss ways Community Health Workers can provide trauma informed services and advocate for survivors.

Interpersonal Violence in your Community

- Who does your organization serve?
- Children, Adults
- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Assault
- Human Trafficking

Interpersonal Violence Discussion

Who is Vulnerable to Violence?

Who is committing these acts of violence?

How does Violence impact health?

Interpersonal Dynamics Continued....

Do survivors of trafficking self identify?

Are there social and cultural stigmas attached to, DV, SA and trafficking?

What about sexwork and survival sex?

What does a survivor-centered approach look like?

22 U.S.C. 7102

- 1) Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion or in which the person induced to perform such an act is under 18,
- 2) The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion, for the purpose of subjecting that person to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



“I wasn’t even allowed to cry. If even one tear fell they beat me. I used to think it was better to die than to live like this.”

— Meena Hasina, a survivor of sex slavery, India

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?



Human trafficking is the acquisition and exploitation of people, through means, such as force, fraud or deception. The practice ensnares millions of women and girls into modern-day slavery, many of whom are sexually exploited.

Fast Facts

4.5 million

of the estimated 21 million people in forced labour are victims of sexual exploitation.

98%

of them are women and girls.

Understanding Trafficking

Actions: Recruitment, harboring, provision, receipt, transportation and/or obtaining of individuals

Means: Using force or threats, coercion, abduction, fraud and/or systems of indebtedness or debt bondage

Purposes:

- Fraudulent adoption
- Forced labor as domestic, industrial, agricultural workers
- Prostitution, pornography, and sex tourism
- Organ removal/harvesting
- Involuntary servitude, including servile marriages
- Serving as drug mules

Trafficking Victims Protection Act

Authority to Permit Continued Presence in the United States (section 107(C)(3)) if after assessment it is determined the person is a victim of severe form of trafficking and a potential witness.

... shall protect the safety of the trafficking victim, including...protection of their family members from intimidation, threats of reprisal and reprisal from the traffickers and their associates.

Do you know about “T Visas” ?

T Visas

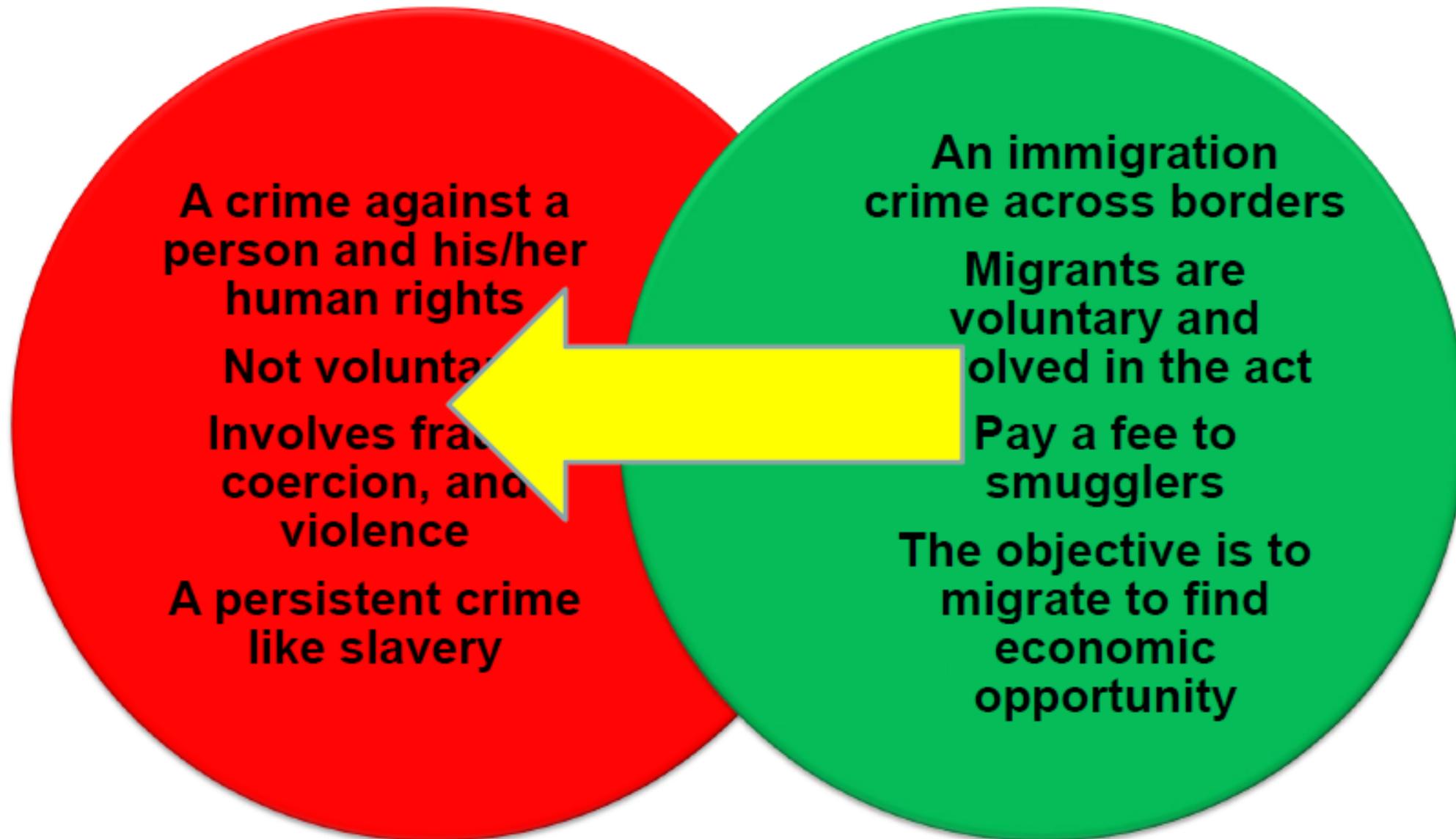
- T nonimmigrant status is a temporary immigration benefit that enables certain victims of a severe form of human trafficking to remain in the United States for up to 4 years if they have assisted law enforcement in an investigation or prosecution of human trafficking.
- T nonimmigrants are eligible for employment authorization and [certain federal and state benefits and services](#).
- Know who your local immigration assistance agencies are

<https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/victims-of-human-trafficking-and-other-crimes/victims-of-human-trafficking-t-nonimmigrant-status>

Discussion

- Do you know the difference between trafficking and smuggling?
- What are some push/pull factors in leaving ones home country and coming to the U.S.?

Human Trafficking vs. Human Smuggling



Two Broad Categories of Human Trafficking

Labor Trafficking:

Domestic Service
Sweat Shops/Factories
Begging
Agricultural Work
Mining
Child Soldiers

Sexual Trafficking:

Prostitution
Pornography
Stripping
Lap Dancing
Live-Sex Shows
Mail-order Brides
Child Brides

Root Causes of Trafficking

- Poverty
- War
- Natural disasters
- Search for a better life
- Devaluation of women and children
- Demand for cheap labor
- High Profit Low Risk

Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST)

- Definition:

- Commercial sexual abuse and exploitation of minors through buying, trading or selling their sexual services

A commercial sex act refers to anything of value: money, drugs, food, shelter, rent, higher status in a gang, that is exchanged for sex.

- Purposes include:

- Prostitution: street prostitution, escort services, internet-aided prostitution, strip clubs, massage parlors, peep shows
- Pornography where minor is sold/rented/provided something of value to perform sex acts on camera.

Tactics of Trafficking

Force

Power, violence, compulsion, or constraint exerted upon or against a person.

- Beating
- Burning
- Branding or Tattooing
- Torture
- Drug Addiction
- Confinement
- “Seasoning”
- Sexual Assault

Fraud

Intentional misrepresentation of material existing fact made by one person to another with knowledge of its falsity and for the purpose of inducing the other person to act, and upon which the other person relies

- False promises, marriages, employment
- Deceitful enticing and affectionate behavior, “the boyfriend/girlfriend”
- Withholding wages
- Misrepresenting working conditions
- Misrepresenting the promise of a “better life”

Coercion

The intimidation of a victim to compel the individual to do some act against his or her will by the use of psychological pressure, physical force, or threats.

- Threats Of Serious Harm Or Restraint
- Intimidation/Humiliation
- Emotional Abuse
- Control Of Daily Lives & Brainwashing
- Threats To Family Members
- Deportation Threats
- Confiscation Of Documents

Factors shaping VULNERABILITY to Human Trafficking

Poverty



Economic deprivation, the need to survive, and lack of other options may trap people in exploitative situations

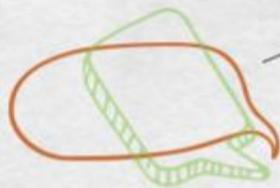


Disability & illness

Vulnerabilities caused by physical or mental disability or illness can make people easier to coerce or control

Lack of legal status

Threats of reporting to the police or immigration are routinely used by traffickers to hold individuals in situations of exploitation



Language barriers

Migrant workers who do not speak English can be isolated and may become dependent upon an exploiter if they are unable to communicate

Inequality & discrimination

Lack of opportunity and access to formal labour markets makes some groups more vulnerable to deception and abuse



Homelessness

Those who are homeless may find offers of work and accommodation hard to refuse



Religious & cultural beliefs

Abuse of religious beliefs or customs can be used to coerce people into accepting exploitation

Relationships

Feelings of love, duty and ownership in family or romantic relationships are powerful tools for manipulation and control



Statistics of Domestic Trafficking

National

- 1 in 3 runaway children are lured into “prostitution” within 48 hours
- The average age of entry into “prostitution” is 12-14
- In America, victims of pimp-controlled sex trafficking are commonly forced to meet quotas of \$500 to \$1,000 a night 70% of victims have experienced physical or sexual abuse in their homes.
- Over 1.68 million American children run away each year.

Texas

- National human trafficking hotlines receive more calls from Texas than any other state in the US other than California.
- 20% of all human trafficking in the US comes through Texas at some point.

Trafficking in Texas



Unit Costs

Unit Cost	2016 \$\$
Public health expenditures	
Injury from assault	
Minor (a)	4,757
Major	68,859
PTSD	6,609
STIs	
Chlamydia-early treatment	116
Chlamydia-late treatment	1,431
HIV/AIDS	29,303
Pregnancy with abortion	681
Pregnancy with birth (c)	14,866
Chemical dependency	39,810
Criminal justice expenditures (b)	
Homicide investigation	10,730
Adolescents: Arrests	2,356
Adults	
Arrests	2,356
Court hearings	621
Incarcerations	97
Probation supervision	951
Child foster care expenditures (child of victim)	8,551
Forgone income tax revenue	1

Victimization Rate

Research to Support Sex Trafficking Victimization Rate

Research*	Percentage
Homeless/street youth who acknowledge involvement in commercial sex	28%
Homeless and sexually abused youth	21%
Homeless youth who were propositioned for sexual favors	37%
Children who reported trading sex for money, sex, or gifts	23%
Homeless youth who indicated exchanging sex for food, shelter, or drugs	36%
Youth who revealed to health care providers they were involved in prostitution	25%
Overall survival sex among shelter and street youth	28%

*Swaner, R., Labriola, M., Rempel, M., Walker, A., Spadafore, J. (2016); McDonald, A. R., & Laser Maira, J. A. (2016); Beech, B. M., Myers, L., & Beech, D. J. (2012); Greene, J. M., Ennett, S. T., & Ringwalt, C. L. (1999); Stoltz, J. M., Shannon, K., Kerr, T., Zhang, R., Montaner, J. S., & Wood, E. (2007); Terrill, N. E. (1997); Tides, K. A. (2009); Yates, G. J.

Community Statistics

High-Risk Sex Trafficking Community Segments*	Community Size Segment	Victimization Rate	Estimated Victims
Child abuse/maltreatment	290,471	25%	72,618
At-risk youth being served by DFPS	24,097	25%	6,024
Homeless	1,416	25%	354

The National Human Trafficking Hotline, Texas Data by Region

Region	% of Tips
Greater Houston	41.6%
Dallas/Fort Worth Metro Area	23.6%
Greater Austin	7.3%
Greater San Antonio	6.5%
Corpus Christi Metro Area	2.6%
McAllen–Edinburg–Mission	1.6%
El Paso Metro Area	1.0%
Other and redacted*	15.6%

* The Hotline redacted the location of tips for locations with small numbers of tips for the protection of victims and witnesses. Other regions included in the data received less than 1% of tips, but include Killeen, Temple, Beaumont/Port Arthur, and Brownsville/Harlingen.

Dynamics of Human Trafficking & Domestic Violence

- Survivors of human trafficking and domestic violence usually do not self-identify as victims and are frequently unaware of their legal protections.
- Categorizing individuals as either being a survivor of human trafficking or a survivor of domestic violence may limit a survivor's options for social services and legal remedies.
- Immigrant survivors face additional barriers to leaving:
 - fear of law enforcement
 - lack of awareness of rights and laws
 - lack of awareness of available services
 - fear of deportation, & specific cultural considerations

Dynamics of Sexual Assault & Human Trafficking

- Traffickers use sexual violence as a tool.
- Traffickers and perpetrators of sexual assault frequently prey upon marginalized populations; including:
 - Immigrants,
 - Ethnic & Racial Minorities,
 - Economically disadvantaged persons/homeless
 - LGBTQ+ individuals,
 - Persons with disabilities.

Vulnerabilities to Trafficking

LGBTQIA

- 40% of homeless youth are LGBTQIA
- 46 % ran away because of family rejection
- 7.4 x more likely to experience acts of sexual violence than their heterosexual peers
- 3-7x more likely to engage in survival sex to meet basic needs, including:
 - shelter, food, drugs, & toiletries.

Vulnerabilities to Trafficking

- Unstable home life
- Previous sexual abuse
- Desperately seeking love or acceptance
- Overly shares personal information on social media
- Glamorizes stars who glorify “the life”

Understanding the Red Flags

- PTSD, anxiety, self-destructive behavior, or depression
- Suffers from untreated medical concerns
 - especially sexual or reproductive health
- Shows signs of physical or sexual abuse, neglect, malnourishment, or poor hygiene
- Has debt they cannot pay off
- Earnings are confiscated or held by others
- Frequently moves or travels to new cities

General Victim Indicators

- Gifts, especially cell phones
- Sudden changes in sexuality, dress/attitude toward sex outside of normal development
- Demeanor and secrecy when a certain person calls
- Heavily influenced by new friend/girl/boyfriend
- Doesn't want anyone to meet her/his girl/boyfriend
- Missing work/ truancy from school

Labor Trafficking Indicators

- Living with employer
- Poor living conditions
- Multiple people in cramped space
- Inability to speak to individual alone
- Answers appear to be scripted and rehearsed
- Employer is holding identity documents
- Signs of physical abuse
- Submissive or fearful
- Unpaid or paid very little

<https://www.state.gov/j/tip/id/>

Questions to Ask to Get More Information

- Can you leave your job if you want to?
- Can you come and go as you please?
- Have you been hurt or threatened if you tried to leave?
- Has your family been threatened?
- Do you live with your employer?
- Where do you sleep and eat?
- Are you in debt to your employer?
- Do you have your passport/identification? Who has it?

<https://www.state.gov/j/tip/id/>



About Traffickers

- masters of the art of seduction
- able to identify vulnerabilities of victims and exploit them
- use torture tactics to control their victims
- Use increased anti-immigrant sentiment

Kinds of Traffickers

- “CEO Pimp” - Motivates by Money
- “Romeo Pimp” - Motivates by mimicking Love
- “Guerilla Pimp” - Motivates by Violence
- Familial Trafficker - Parents/grandparents/ extended family

Familial Trafficking

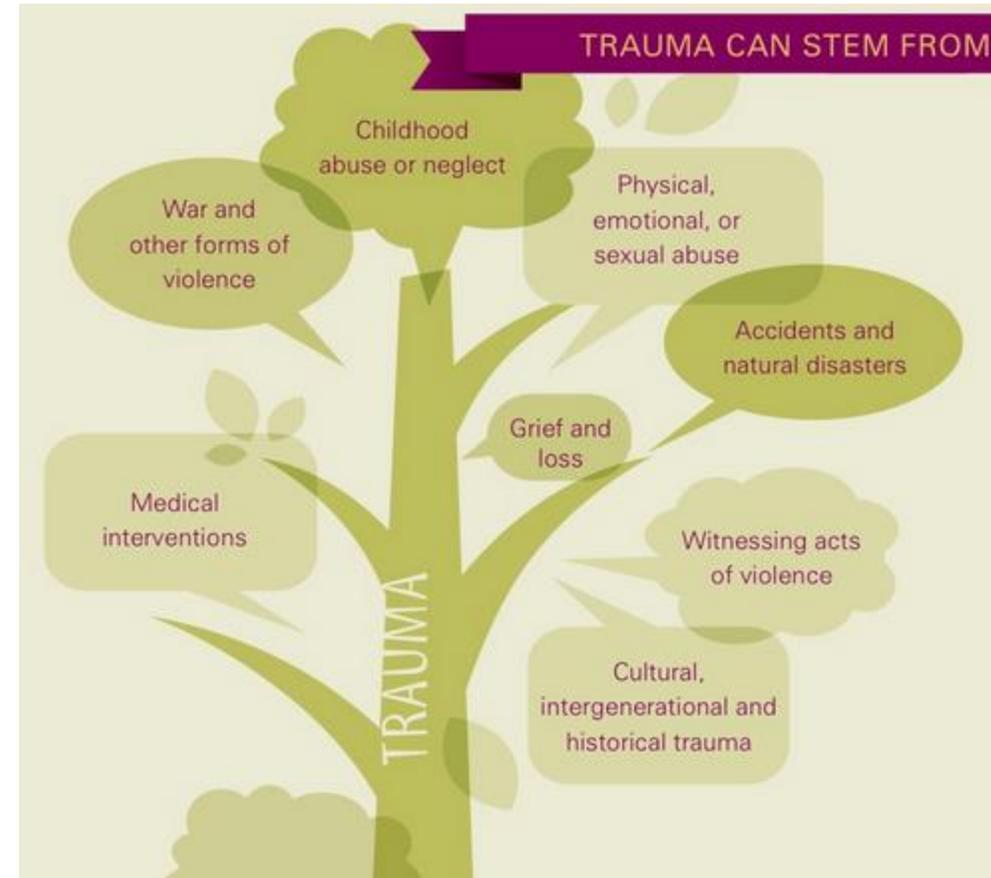
- Culture of violence, hopelessness, and chronic trauma
- The familial trafficker will be well-known in the community and obsessed with power
- Familial trafficker will lead a double life and have connections to criminal networks
- All forms of violence are used to control trafficking victim
- Sexual and physical abuse start at birth
- Rape is normalized
- Family will attempt to look normal from the outside
- Family members will ALWAYS accompany child to all medical/social service visits

What is Trauma?

A **threat** to a person's physical and/or emotional well-being.

An **overwhelming** experience that is difficult to manage emotionally.

Distressing to individuals, and may affect whole families and communities across generations.



Complex Trauma

- *Complex trauma* refers to a condition that can result from prolonged and repeated abuse
- *Complex trauma* involves traumatic stressors that are repetitive or prolonged; involve direct harm and/or neglect and abandonment by caregivers

Both can stem from early childhood experiences

Research Suggests

Adverse experiences in childhood (**trauma**) affect the health and behavior of adults through two primary mechanisms.

1. **Increased conventional risk factors** such as smoking, excessive drinking, overeating, self-injury, and engaging in risky sex—behaviors that often are used to cope with the pain of the trauma.
2. Biomedical research shows that childhood **trauma affects the developing brain and body, causing deregulation of the stress response.**

Trauma from “The System”

Re-traumatization - the psychological and physiological experience of being “triggered,” perhaps by a smell, a sound, or a sensation, that recreates or recalls the original abuse.

Triggers for **re-traumatization** may include:

- strip searches
- room searches that involve inspecting personal items
- cuffs or restraints
- Isolation
- sudden room changes
- Yelling or insults

What Poor Coping Looks Like

- Engaged in behavior that others might consider self-destructive, such as
 - IV drug use/other substance abuse
 - survival sex
 - self-injury

Trauma & Your Work

- Trauma can shatter an individual's sense of safety and trust.
 - Knowing you're safe vs. feeling you're safe
 - Attachment affects
 - Don't know how to trust which impacts future relationships
- This may lead to general fearfulness and isolation that makes connecting to family, friends, and treatment professionals difficult.
- Many people who have experienced trauma feel a sense of powerlessness or helplessness over their own lives, which may make it difficult to engage in treatment programs and in judicial proceedings.
 - May appear as:
 - aggression, creating conflict - Fight
 - checking out, not following through - Flight
 - withdrawal - Freeze
 - "Always On" State

Examples from your work...

Trauma Informed Approach

- According to SAMHSA's concept of a trauma-informed approach, "A program, organization, or system that is trauma-informed:
 - *Realizes* the widespread impact of trauma and understands potential paths for recovery;
 - *Recognizes* the signs and symptoms of trauma in clients, families, staff, and others involved with the system;
 - *Responds* by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices;
 - Seeks to actively resist *re-traumatization*."

Trauma Informed Approach

Knowing symptoms of PTSD can help us normalize their experiences

Common Symptoms:

- Nightmares
- Lack of sleep or excessive sleep
- Flashbacks
- Loss of trust
- Impacts ability to form relationships

The body reacts as if it were reliving the traumatic experience, so grounding to the present is important.

Emphasizing the “here and now” can be helpful; but consider that the “here and now” of hospitals can also be stressful.

Resiliency & Protective Factors

- **Resilience**: Capacity for successful adaptation despite challenging or threatening circumstances
 - **Protective factors**: Promote resilience in those at risk. Response of caregivers and other caring adults
-
- ✓ Secure attachment can be most important source of resilience & ability to manage stress.
 - ✓ Social support, social fabric, community, spirituality
 - ✓ Individual factors such as capacities and talents, ability to positively engage others
 - ✓ Access to social and economic resources

Would you know the signs?

- What are the potential signs of trafficking or abuse in a patient?
- What are some common injuries?
- What chronic illness could be associated with trauma?
- How do you get more information?

Victim Indicators

- Injuries from beatings or weapons
- Signs of torture (cigarette burns)
- Brands or scarring indicating ownership
- Signs of malnourishment
- **Strangulation**







Trafficking Indicators: Healthcare Setting

- Encounters with medical professionals: Injury or illness that would prevent them from working
- Medical visits are primarily for STIs, pregnancy tests, and abortions
- Barriers to disclosure:
 - Trafficker accompanies victim
 - Trafficker completing all paperwork and speaking to the staff
 - Victim Fear and Shame

What CHWs Can Do

- Conduct training on indicators and signs of manipulation
- Mitigate language barriers
- Question patients privately *if applicable*
- Advocate for incorporation of social, work, home, history of abuse questions for intake/processing
- Carefully observe body language of patient and those who accompany them
- Build rapport with clients/patients

How CHWs Can Advocate for HT Survivors

- Help to reduce stigma and shame
- Provide accurate non-judgmental information
- Know your referral organizations
- Educate & Empower Communities!

Questions to Ask Your Organization

- Are You survivor Centered?
- What are your procedures to reporting child abuse?
- Do you have set rescue and response protocols?
- Who do you go to when you don't know what to do next?
- Where & how do we get support?

CSEY advocacy agencies providing crisis response and long-term supportive relationships and case management

NORTH

1. **For the Silent** (Smith & Gregg)
2. **Traffick911** (Collin, Dallas, Denton & Tarrant)
3. **Unbound Fort Worth** (Tarrant)

SOUTH

1. **BCFS Common Thread** (RGV)
2. **Refugee Services of Texas** (Cameron & nearby counties)

EAST

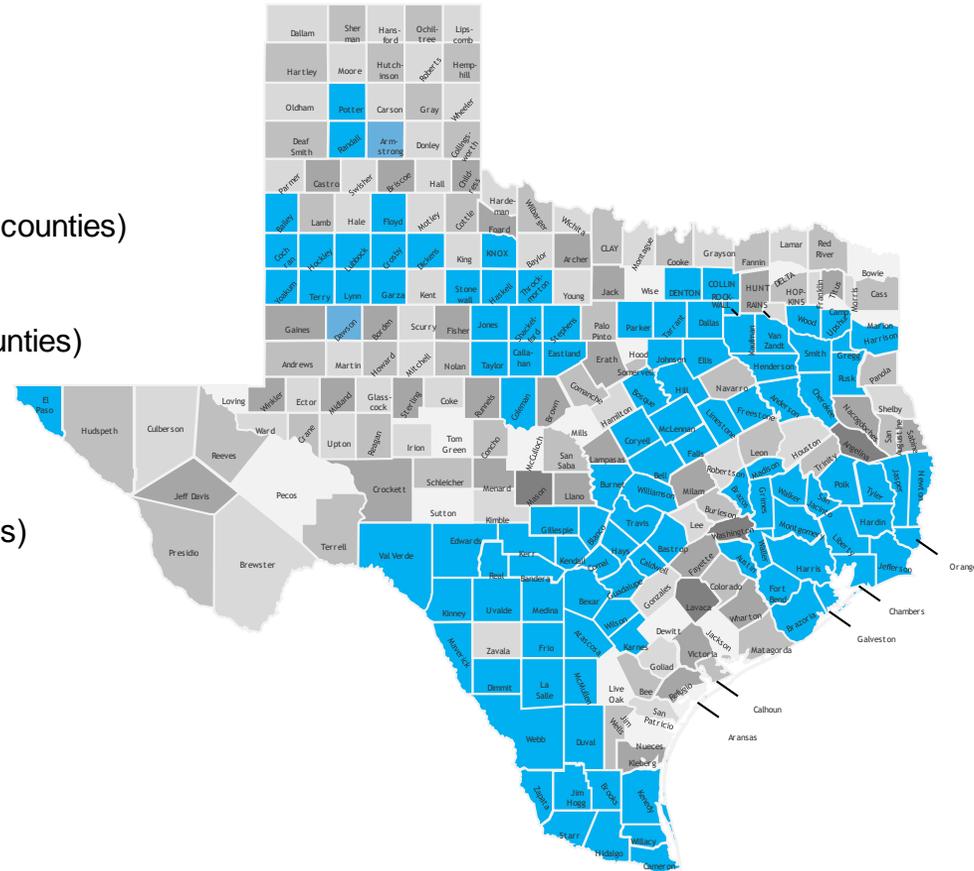
1. **BCFS Common Thread** (Harris & contiguous counties)
2. **Harvest House** (Jefferson)
3. **Refugee Services of Texas** (Harris)
4. **The Landing** (Harris & 5 nearby counties)
5. **Unbound Houston** (Brazoria & Galveston)
6. **YMCA International** (Harris & contiguous counties)

WEST

1. **Family Support Services** (Potter & Randall)
2. **Paso del Norte Center of Hope** (El Paso)
3. **Regional Crime Victim Crisis Center** (Taylor)
4. **Voice of Hope** (Lubbock & 11 nearby counties)

CENTRAL

1. **Alamo Area Rape Crisis Center** (Bexar)
2. **AWARE Central Texas** (Bell)
3. **BCFS Common Thread** (I-35 Corridor: San Antonio to Killeen)
4. **Refugee Services of Texas** (Travis)
5. **SAFE** (Travis)
6. **Unbound Waco** (McLennan & 5 nearby counties)



CSEY Advocates Meet Youth Where They Are

Usually within 90 minutes of a recovery by law enforcement

- Provide for basic needs and start to build rapport
- Establish a non-judgmental and supportive relationship
- Accompany them to appointments and placements
- Support urgent activities of law enforcement and medical advocates



To Combat Human Trafficking



Socio-economic

- Education and Prevention
- Work and Opportunities
- Raised Awareness
- NGOs



Legal

- Law Enforcement
- More Convictions and Penalties
- Protection and assistance for the victims



Attack Networks

- Operations against criminal groups
- Media campaign to report on countercrime operations
- Deter the criminals



Scenario

Jennifer is 12 years old and comes to the clinic for chronic UTI. You find out that Jennifer, her mother and 2 younger sisters recently moved in with a neighbor after being evicted.

Jennifer's mother insists on answering all of the questions and doesn't like talking about the man that they live with.

How do you find out more about this situation?

Human Trafficking Resources

- [Allies Against Slavery](#)
- [American Gateways](#)
- [RAICES](#)
- [SAFE](#)
- [Texas Association Against Sexual Assault](#)
- [Refugee Services of Texas](#)
- [Traffic 911](#)
- Austin Police Department (Organized Crime Division)
- National Human Trafficking Resource Center 888.373.7888

Human Trafficking Hotlines

Trafficking in Persons and Worker Exploitation Task Force:

1-888-428-7581

This telephone line is operated by the United States Department of Justice. Operators have access to interpreters and can talk with callers in their own language. The service is offered on weekdays from 9 AM to 5 PM EST. After these hours, information is available on tape in English, Spanish, Russian, and Mandarin.

United States Department of Health and Human Services—Rescue and Restore Campaign Information and Referral Hotline:

1-888-373-7888

Connects victims of trafficking to non-government organizations (NGOs) who can help victims in their local area.

Resources

- Institute of Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault <https://sites.utexas.edu/idvsa/>
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children <http://www.missingkids.com/home>
- Girls Educational & Mentoring Services <https://www.gems-girls.org/>
- Polaris Project <https://polarisproject.org/>
- Asian Pacific Institute on Gender Based Violence <https://www.api-gbv.org/>



Thank you!

Laramie Gorbett, M.A.
Human Trafficking Specialist
lgorbett@taasa.org
512.474.7190 ext.27