



SEX TRAFFICKING and SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

For Health Care Practitioners



Identification.

Assessment.

Treatment.

Jeff Gibbs, Certified Trainer,
Arizona Human Trafficking Council

**END
SEX TRAFFICKING AZ**

Questions for participants

Pre-presentation

True or False?

1. Most human trafficking victims are aware they are being trafficked.
2. Most arrested victims cooperate with law enforcement to prosecute their trafficker.
3. The vast majority of Arizona victims of human trafficking are US citizens.
4. The LGBTQ population is considered vulnerable for sex trafficking.

Questions for participants

Pre-presentation, cont'd

5. What resources are available for you if you identify a victim of sex trafficking?
 - a) Police
 - b) Child abuse hotline
 - c) National human trafficking hotline
 - d) Social worker
 - e) Follow up visit
 - f) All of the above

6. A possible indicator of sex trafficking victimization is:
 - a) Dissociation
 - b) Chronic foot problems
 - c) Malnutrition & dehydration
 - d) Somatic complaints
 - e) Hearing loss from head trauma
 - f) All of the above

What Is Human Trafficking? (legal definition)

Sex Trafficking

The use of force, fraud or coercion to induce a person into a sex act for economic gain, or any inducement in the case of a minor.

Labor Trafficking

Recruiting, harboring, transporting, provision or obtaining a person for the purpose of labor or services.

Involuntary servitude, debt or slavery.

What Is Human Sex Trafficking? (in reality)



Sex Trafficking

Sexually exploiting a young and vulnerable human being for one's own economic gain.

A Statistical Overview

The Business of Human Trafficking

A Statistical Overview

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Human Trafficking's rank amongst the fastest growing forms of crime worldwide:

A Statistical Overview

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Estimated size of the Human Trafficking business in the US annually:

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A Statistical Overview

Child Victims of Human Trafficking

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Estimated number of Human Sex
Trafficking victims in US who are minors:

A Statistical Overview

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A Statistical Overview

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A Statistical Overview

Arizona

A Statistical Overview

Arizona

Arizona's ranking amongst the 50 states for the number of Human Trafficking incidences reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline:

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Percentage of Human Trafficking victims in Arizona who are US citizens:

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Arizona's ranking amongst the 50 states for the number of Human Trafficking incidences reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline: 15th

Percentage of Human Trafficking victims in Arizona who are US citizens: Nearly 100%

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Arizona

Arizona's ranking amongst the 50 states for the number of Human Trafficking incidences reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline: **15th**

Percentage of Human Trafficking victims in Arizona who are US citizens: **Nearly 100%**

Number of responses per day to internet ads for sexual services for sale in Metro Phoenix:

A Statistical Overview

Arizona

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Percentage of Human Trafficking victims in Arizona who are US citizens: Nearly 100%

Number of responses per day to internet ads for sexual services for sale in Metro Phoenix: 10,000

A Statistical Overview **Child Victims in Arizona**

A Statistical Overview

Child Victims in Arizona

Among Arizona victims of Sex Trafficking who are minors, the average entry age is:

A Statistical Overview

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Percentage of Arizona juvenile probation officers reporting having at least one victim of human sex trafficking amongst their caseload (average caseload size is 4 juveniles):

A Statistical Overview

Child Victims in Arizona

Among Arizona victims of Sex Trafficking who are minors, the average entry age is: **14 years old**

Percentage of Arizona juvenile probation officers reporting having at least one victim of human sex trafficking amongst their caseload (average caseload size is 4 juveniles): **57.5%**

The Business of Human Trafficking

Why is it growing at an alarming rate?

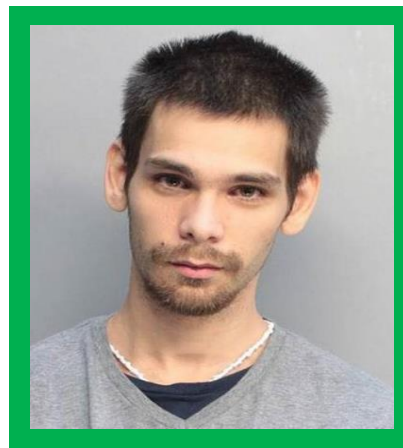


A low-risk / highly-profitable endeavor:
Asset (victim) can be “sold” many times.
Conviction rates are low.

Demand is high.

Technology has made recruitment and marketing of victims easy.

Which One Is The Trafficker?



Who are the **traffickers**?

Boyfriend: 48%

Other friend: 33%

Parent / family member: 19%



How do traffickers recruit **victims**?



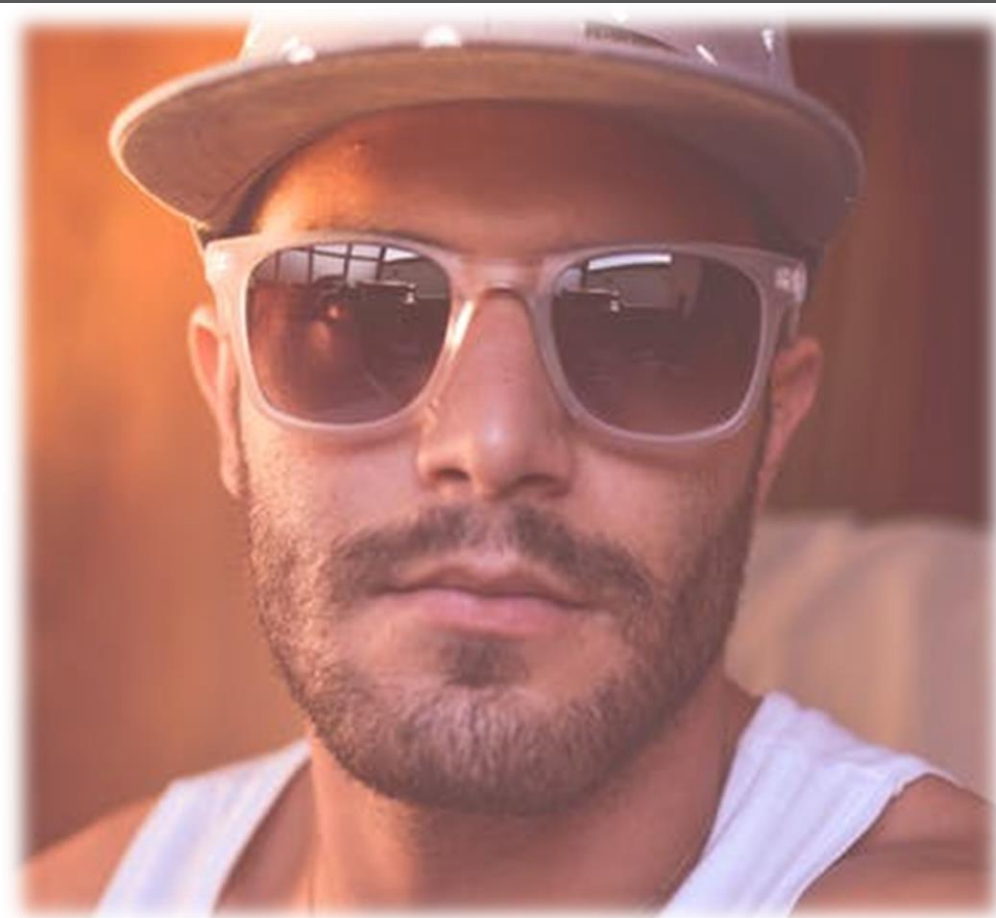
- ✓ Recruitment by boyfriend, "Romeo"
- ✓ Kidnapping and force, "Gorilla"
- ✓ Gang-related trafficking
- ✓ A parent or family member traffics their child for drugs or money

TARGETED

TRICKED

TRAUMATIZED

The “**Romeo**” trafficker



- False romance, love, empathy, flattery
- Gifts, shopping
- Promise of a better life
- Protection, comfort, trust
- Adventure
- Housing and food, security
- Drugs

TARGETED

TRICKED

TRAUMATIZED

Why do young teens fall victim to traffickers?

- These are confusing times
- Less brain maturity than adults
- Fewer life experiences than adults
- Less ability to assess situations
- Less ability to recognize untruths
- Drop in self-esteem
- The role of media



TARGETED

TRICKED

TRAUMATIZED

What can we do?

Teaching Strategies with Youth

- Take time to determine authenticity.
- Be aware of anyone trying to isolate them.
- Look out for each other, speak up.
- Maintain support structures (family, friends, church).
- Have a long-term game plan.



Where do traffickers recruit **victims**?



- Social media (facebook, snapchat)
- Shopping malls, food courts
- Bus stops / stations
- School
- Social network
- Youth homes, foster care homes
- Homeless shelters

TARGETED

TRICKED

TRAUMATIZED

Trafficker “Disguises”

Fraud / Coercion Tactics

- **Pretender** (boyfriend, father)
- **Provider** (food, shelter, drugs, love)
- **Promiser** (modelling, travel, wealth)
- **Protector** (from street, abusive parents, bullies)
- **Punisher** (violence, threats, starvation)



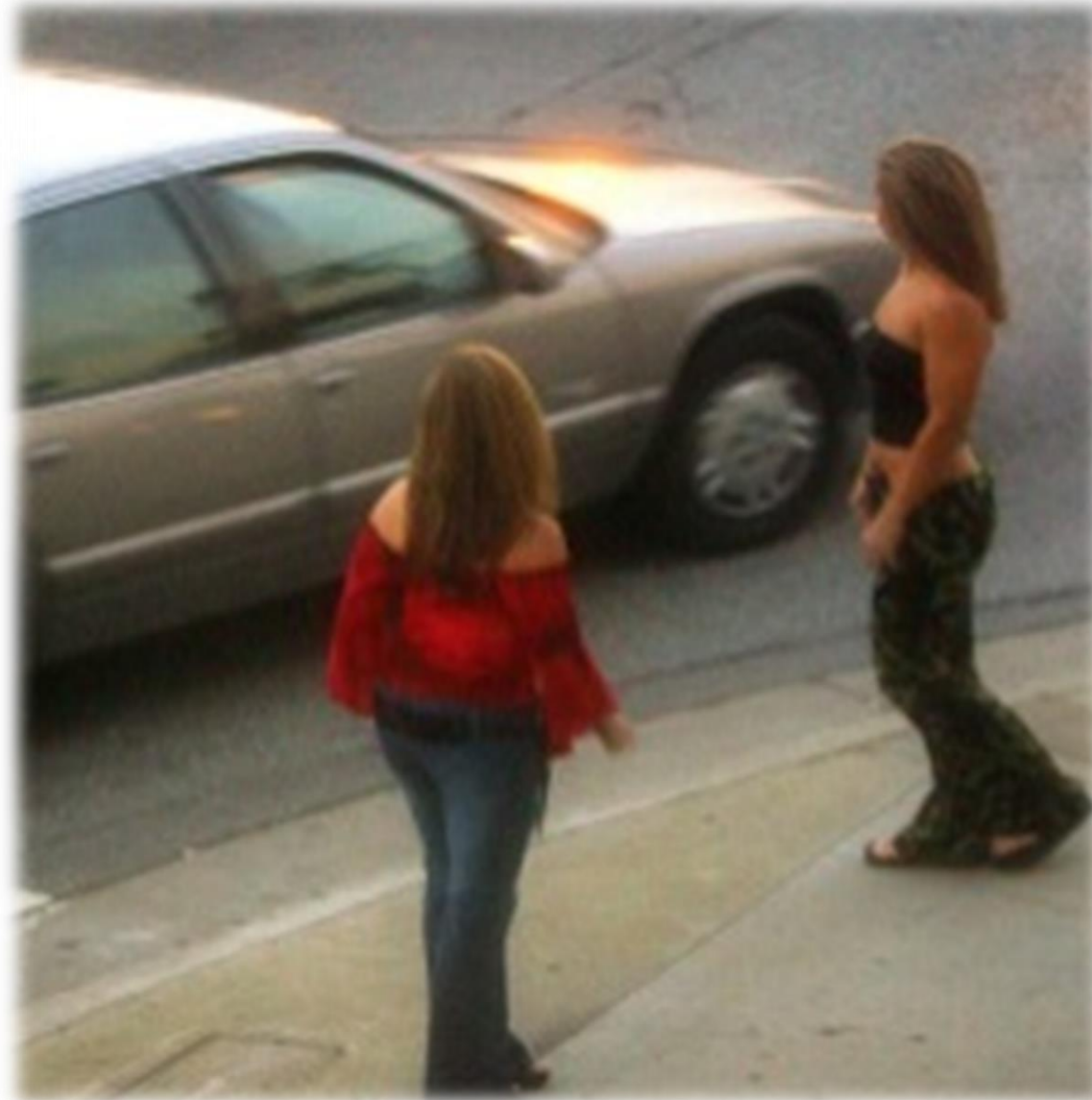
[gems-girls.org](https://www.gems-girls.org)

How do traffickers market victims?

In today's world, **nearly 100%** of marketing of sex trafficking victims is done on the **internet**.

The saying is:

"It is as easy to order a girl as it is to order a pizza."



How do traffickers market victims?



Escort services, Brothels, Massage, Strip Clubs, Prostitution



SWEET...SEXY.....HOT.....EROTIC BEAUTY

Hello Gentlemen, Do you hunger for a hot, unique, sensuous, captivating, playful
NO F/S.....NO F/S.....NO F/S

++++++IT IS SWEDISH SENSUAL EROTIC MASSAGE !!! ++++++

Manhattan , Midtown , East , Murray Hill , Grand Central area



backpage.com

[backpage.com](#) > [seattle adult entertainment](#) >

**Sexy Petite Playmate
SPECIALS) - 19**

How do traffickers market victims?



On average, **500** ads related to sex trafficking are posted on *backpage.com* per day in the Phoenix Metropolitan area with an estimated **20%** for girls **under 18**

On average, **80,000** ads are posted Nationally on US Sex Guide per day

How do traffickers market victims?

A look at Backpage.com

- \$135 Million annual revenues, \$450 Million Net Worth, 82% Profit Margin.
- Operates in 80 countries, but 80% of revenues come from sex solicitation ads in US.
- 80% market share in Arizona, 71% elsewhere.
- Have been sued multiple times, never lost a case. (1st amendment)
- Moved headquarters to The Netherlands to avoid prosecution in US.
- Primary owners are two Arizona businessmen.

Source: ASU School of Social Work (STIR)

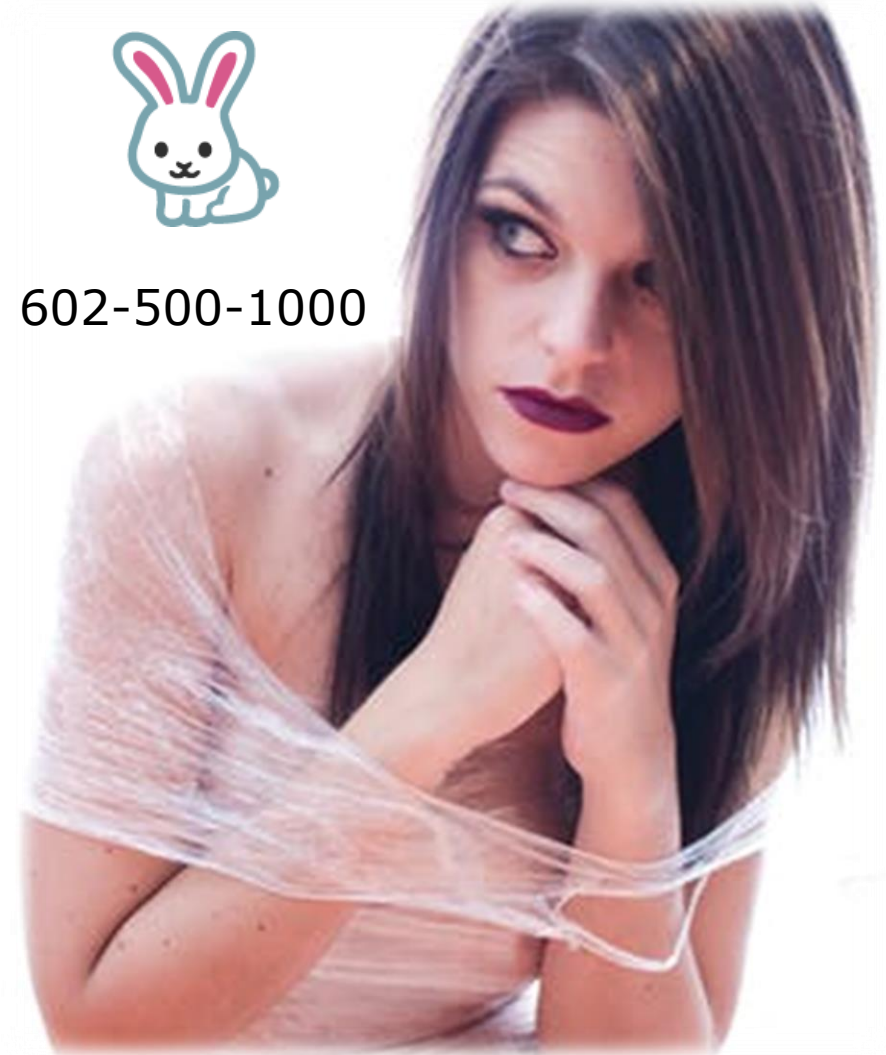


Backpage.com

Recent strategies



602-500-1000



After recent legislation:

- Closed sexual services category, customers simply moved ads to “personals” category.
- Sterilizing customers ads to avoid prosecution for advertising minors, for example:
 - Photo and contact info only
 - Use of code



= young white girl



LAWRENCE TAYLOR
NFL HALL OF FAMER

studio
B

Sex buyer traits



- Most have \$60k+ income.
- Do it for power & privilege.
- Often induced by pornography.
- Most start aged 18-24, becomes habitual.
- Justify, e.g. "It's just like girls getting their nails done."

Sex buyer traits, cont'd

- Largest concern is being identified.
- 62% claim they would like to stop.
- NCMEC test: 50% proceed when told victim is 15 years old.
- Operate a chat network.



Trafficker **control** methods

- Decouple victim & their support structure
- Drug usage
- Debt bondage
- “Romeo” becomes “Gorilla”:
- Psychological abuse; guilt, shame, fear
- Physical abuse, threats, violence, weapons
- Threats against family members, friends

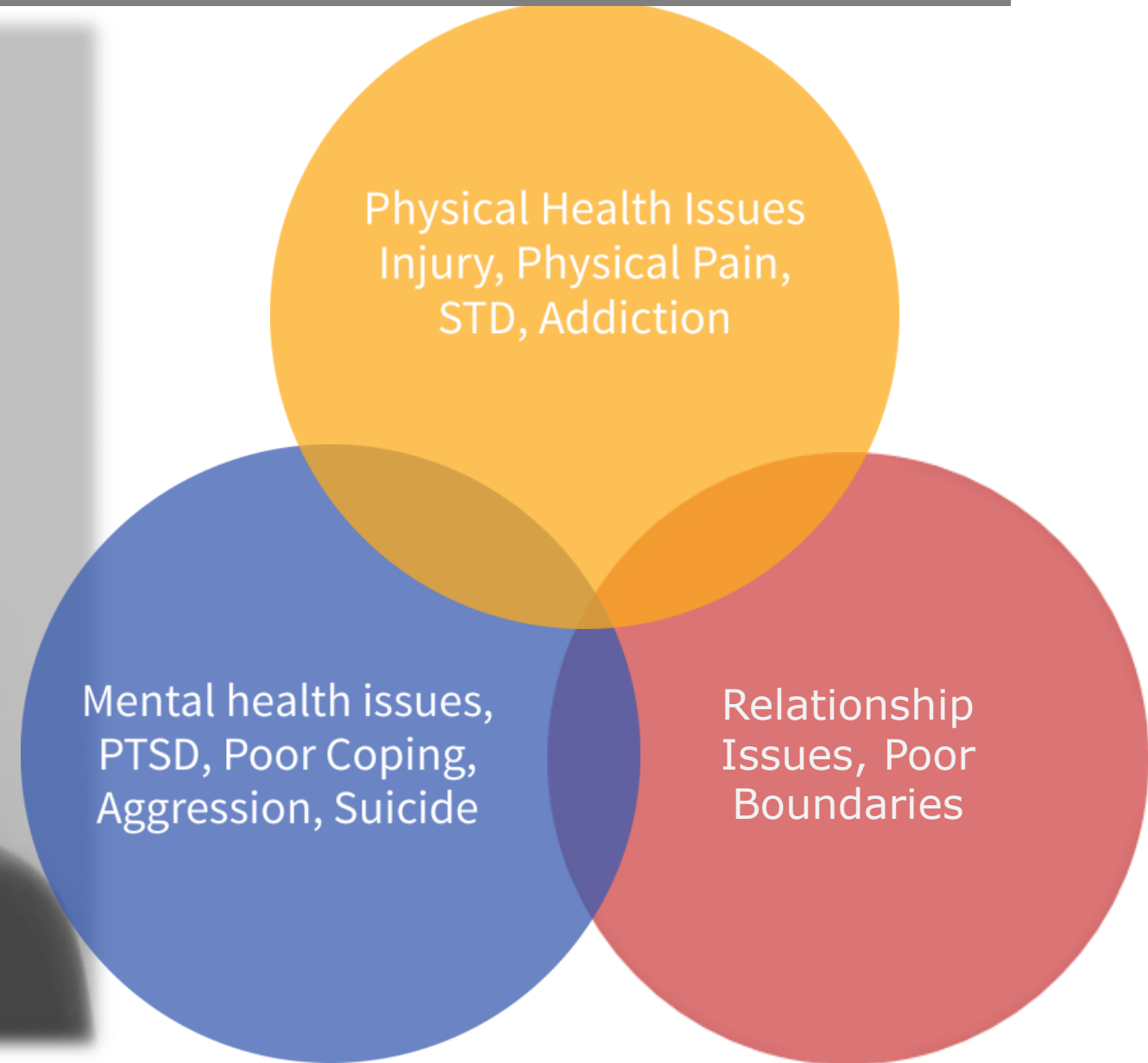


TARGETED

TRICKED

TRAUMATIZED

Impact on Victim



Why don't victims get out?

- Constant monitoring
- Fear of reprisal
- Fear of the unknown
- Lack of security, support structure
- Isolation, trauma bond to trafficker
- Lack of a skillset
- Lack of resources
- Lack of knowledge of help resources
- Family home may not be safe



Who are the victims?

All:

- ✓ Socio-economic categories
- ✓ Nationalities
- ✓ Urban, suburban, rural
- ✓ Both genders
- ✓ LGBTQ community



Who are the victims?

Most vulnerable populations



- Homeless
- Runaway
- Throwaway
- Foster Children
- LGBTQ Community

Risk factors increasing **vulnerability**



- Family instability
- Domestic violence or abuse:
 - Emotional
 - Physical
 - Sexual
- Neglect or abandonment
- Missing or absent parent
- Family members in sex trade
- Parental substance abuse
- Foster care, child welfare
- Runaway / homeless (US: 50,000)

Risk factors increasing **vulnerability**, cont'd

- Depression
- Sense of not-belonging
- Adolescent substance abuse
- Difficulty in school
- Cognitive impairment
- Poverty, economic need
- Unsafe use of social media
- Older boyfriend



Mindset of a victim

Many victimization similarities exist between **Domestic Violence, Intimate Partner Violence, and Sex Trafficking.**

- Often fear for their safety.
- Often hide their situations.
- Hesitant to disclose their victimization in medical or clinical settings.
- Do not view themselves as victims.
- May form a trauma bond with their exploiter.
- Are most often protective of their perpetrator.



Cooperation with law enforcement

Arrested victims who cooperated with law enforcement:



Adults: 28%

Minors: 16%

Cases resulting in the trafficker convicted: approx. 10%

Front-line health care settings

Where a victim may present for services

Emergency room

Urgent care clinics

Primary care clinics

Mobile clinics

Dental clinics



Women's health clinics

Title X clinics

School nurse's office

Obstetrics/
gynecology

A Statistical Overview

Victim Presentation in a Health Care Setting

Percentage of sex trafficking survivors interviewed who report having been in and out of a health care setting while they were being trafficked:

A Statistical Overview

Victim Presentation in a Health Care Setting

Percentage of sex trafficking survivors interviewed who report having been in and out of a health care setting while they were being trafficked: **88%**

National human trafficking hotline

Calls received from Arizona by caller type

Community member	25.1%
Victim	22.8%
Family member	4.2%
Government official	3.9%
Law enforcement	2.8%
Trucker	2.3%
Legal professional	1.7%
Friend of victim	1.4%
Medical professional	



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A woman with long, wavy brown hair, wearing a pink top and a stethoscope, is smiling at the camera. She is in a clinical setting with medical equipment visible in the background. A dark blue banner is overlaid at the bottom left of the image.

Dr. Kanani Titchen, Pediatrician
Jefferson University Hospital
DuPont Children's Hospital

Practitioner **comfort** in identifying & treating a victim of Sex Trafficking

Recent study of ED residents, attendings, nurses and social workers:

- Feel some degree of confidence in their ability to **identify** a trafficked patient: **4.8%**
- Feel some degree of confidence in their ability to **treat** a trafficked patient: **7.7%**



Identification

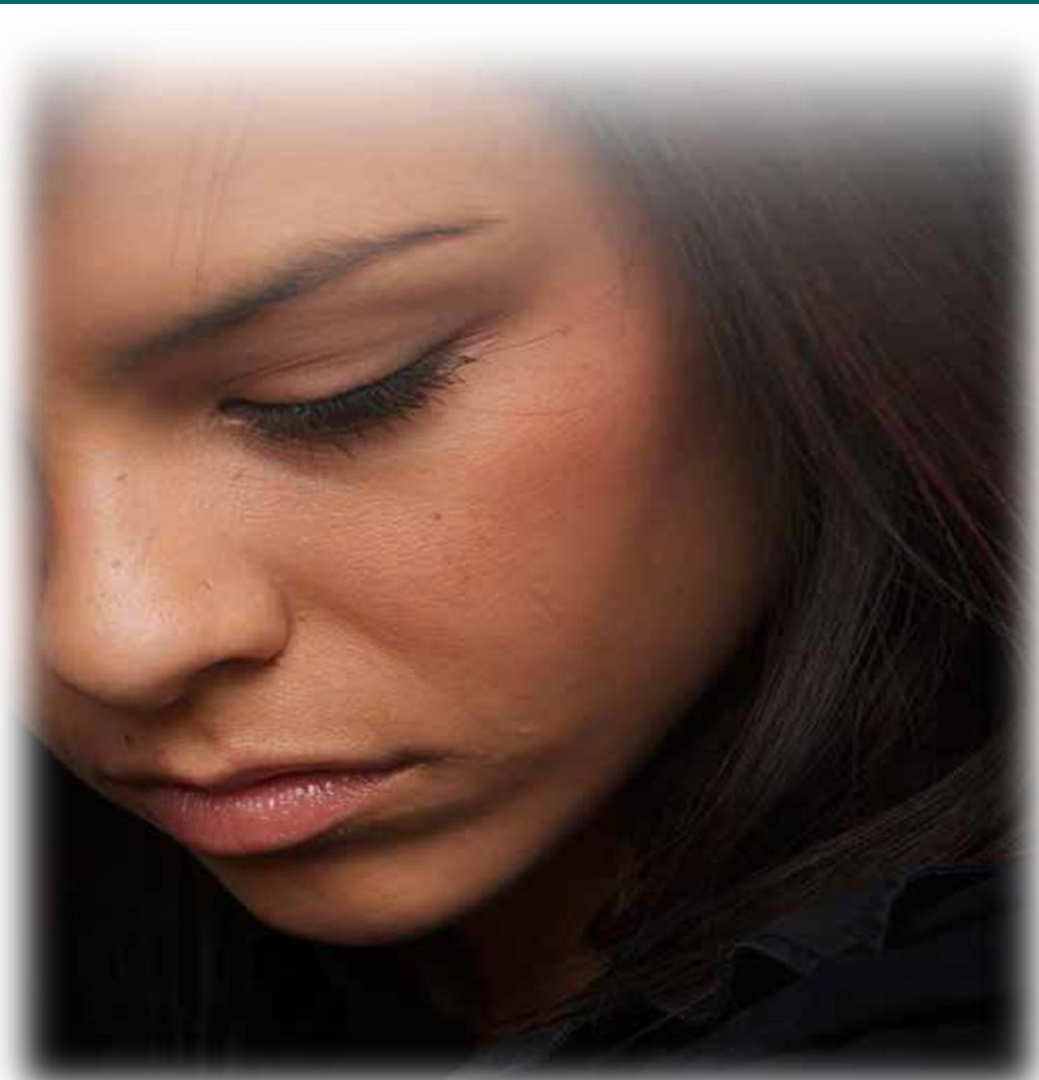
Barriers to identifying victims



- Fear
- Perception of being in trouble
- Self-preservation
- Distrust of authority figures, adults
- Anger
- Shame / guilt

Possible indicators of sex trafficking:

Behavioral



- Avoids eye contact.
- Running away.
- Sudden changes in behavior, friends
- Mood swings.
- Withdrawn, isolated, aloof, disconnected, anti-social.
- Academic decline.
- Avoiding school, truancy.
- Substance abuse.
- Distrust police or adults.
- Has new expensive accessories.

Possible indicators of sex trafficking:

Behavioral, cont'd

- Older companion, often dominating.
- Scripted, coached, unlikely reasons for injuries or situations.
- Multiple sexual partners.
- Resists gynecological exam.
- Reported age older than apparent age.
- Lack of identification.
- False or no provided address, or homeless.
- Use of street lingo such as “the life”.
- Has hotel keys, 2nd cell phone, or lots of cash.



Possible indicators of sex trafficking:

Emotional & Mental Health



- Feelings of guilt, shame, unworthiness.
- Suicidal thoughts or attempts.
- Dissociation.
- Extreme anger.
- Depression or confusion.
- Self-harm or mutilation.
- Eating disorders.
- Flashbacks, nightmares, sleep disorders.
- History of abuse.

Possible indicators of sex trafficking:

Physical Health

- Bruises or contusions.
- Fractures.
- Injuries to head and mouth.
- Hearing loss from head trauma.
- Traumatic brain injury.
- Bald patches from hair pulled.
- Cigarette burns.
- Bladder damage, injury or infection.
- Prolonged, easily-treatable infections.
- Drug-related asthma, Hepatitis C, skin infections.
- Chronic abdominal pain.
- Chronic foot problems.
- Fatigue.



Possible indicators of sex trafficking:

Physical Health, cont'd



- “Branding” tattoos.
- Bite marks.
- Unexplained scars.
- Knife or gunshot wounds.
- Dehydration.
- Malnutrition, poor diet, significant weight loss.
- Tension headaches or back or stomach pains.
- Dental problems.
- Temporal mandibular joint problems, jaw dysplasia.
- Somatic complaints.

"Branding"



Prepared By
Governor's Office of Youth,
Faith and Family

Possible indicators of sex trafficking:

Sexual Health

- Evidence of sexual trauma.
- Vaginal wall tears.
- Traumatic fistulas.
- Sexually transmitted infections.
- Pelvic inflammatory disease.
- HIV infection.



Possible indicators of sex trafficking:

Sexual Health, cont'd



- Pregnancy, with little or no prenatal care.
- Abortion complications.
- Impacted sponges, tampons, condoms, baby wipes.
- Vaginal discharge and infection from insertion of foreign objects to block menstruation.

Lost Opportunities?



DISCUSSION POINT:

When you think about the risk factors for trafficking and reflect on your patients, do you think any of your patients might have been trafficked?

What should clinicians do?



- ✓ Develop a clinic protocol.
- ✓ Speak with victim alone.
- ✓ Consider involving a social worker.
- ✓ Develop trust with victim.
- ✓ Monitor patient for stress, anxiety.
- ✓ Ask questions without insinuating guilt.
- ✓ Your notes CAN be used in court cases.

Trust between the victim and the healthcare professional is essential.

SAMPLE MESSAGES TO USE WITH A VICTIM TO GAIN TRUST:

- "You can trust me."
- "I am here to help you."
- "My first priority is your safety."
- "We will give you the care you need."
- "We can help you find a safe place to stay."
- "No one has the right to hurt you or make you do things against your will."



The role of Trauma

Building rapport and trust with victims



Instead of:

“WHAT’S WRONG WITH YOU?”

or

“WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?”

ask

“WHAT HAS *HAPPENED* TO YOU?”

(Reduces “blame and shame”)

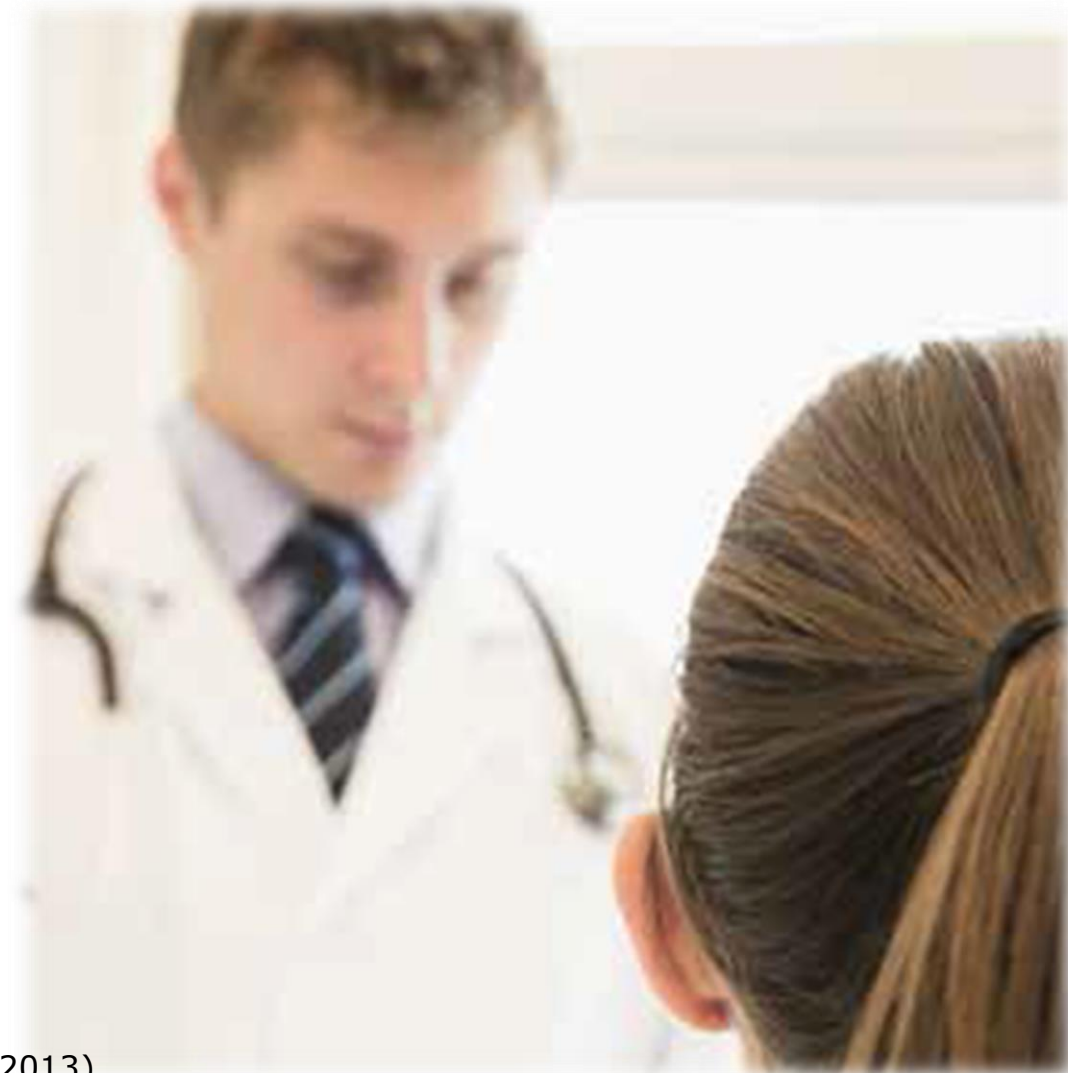
The role of Trauma, cont'd

Building rapport and trust with victims

Sex trafficking victims have endured a **high level of trauma** and require services and interventions that do not inflict further trauma.

Avoid:

- Physical restraint
- Isolation
- Harsh verbal interrogation



Empathic approach with victims

Ask caring questions to open dialogue, build rapport



☐ Are you OK?

☐ Are you safe from harm?

☐ Are you hungry?

Empathic approach with victims

Ask caring questions to open dialogue, build rapport, cont'd

- ☐ Where do you sleep and eat?
- ☐ Can you come and go as you please?
- ☐ Can you sleep and eat when you want?
- ☐ Have you or your family ever been hurt or threatened?
- ☐ Are you in debt to anyone?
- ☐ Tell me about that tattoo.



Empathic approach with victims

Ask caring questions to open dialogue, build rapport, cont'd



- ☐ Do you have a boyfriend? How old, and how did you meet?
- ☐ Have you ever run away? Where did you stay?
- ☐ Have you had to do things you did not want to do in order to stay somewhere?
- ☐ Has anyone taken pictures of you and put them on the internet?
- ☐ How would you know when it's time for a change?

What should clinicians do?

Techniques for treatment, continued trust-building

- Recommend a follow-up visit.
- Connect patient with local resources.
- Use a shoe card for written info.



Expectations

For treating a sex trafficking victim

It typically requires 3-7 attempts for a trafficked person to leave “the life”.



Expect relapse.

Follow-up visits may be sporadic.

Design a safety plan with the patient in case they return to “the life”.

Victims' hierarchy of needs

Steps toward recovery

1. Food
2. Sleep
3. Security
4. Human interaction, belonging
5. Lifestyle change
6. Therapy (drug?, trauma, etc.)
7. Self-esteem
8. Job training
9. Education

SEX TRAFFICKING and SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

For Health Care Practitioners



Identification.

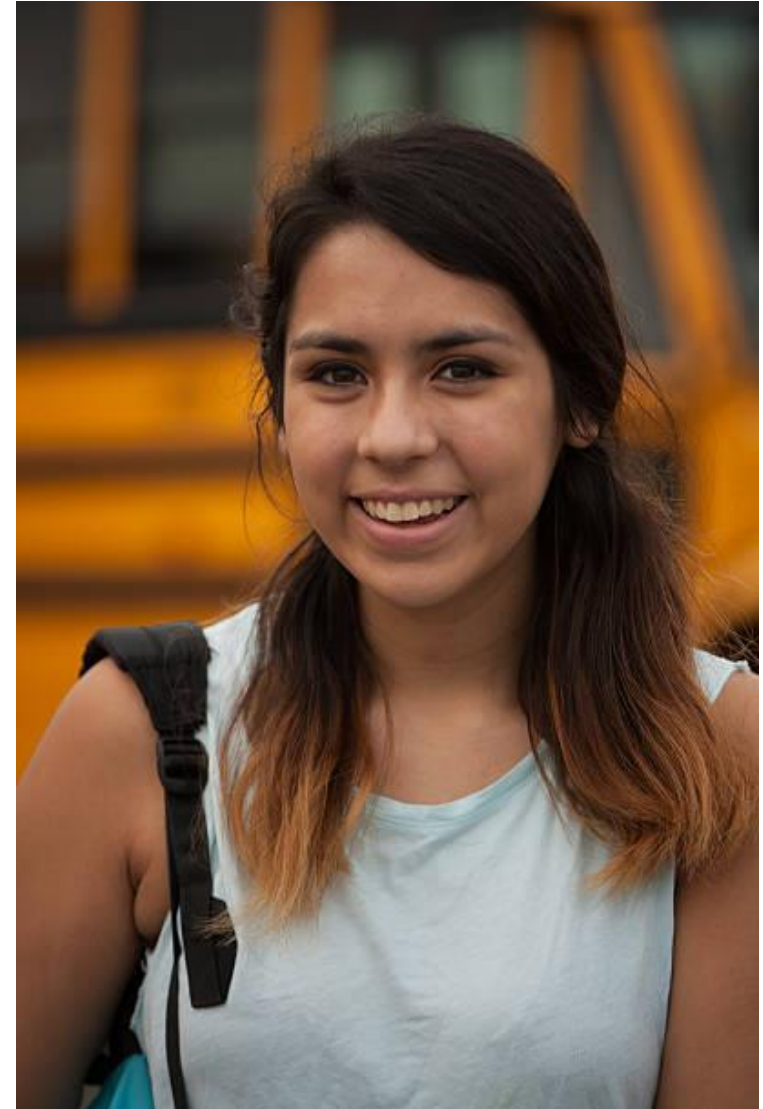
Assessment.

Treatment.

Maurice Lee, MD, MPH, FAAFP
Director, St. Vincent de Paul Virginia G. Piper Medical and Dental Clinic

“Marisol”

- 18th birthday
- Online boyfriend
- First love



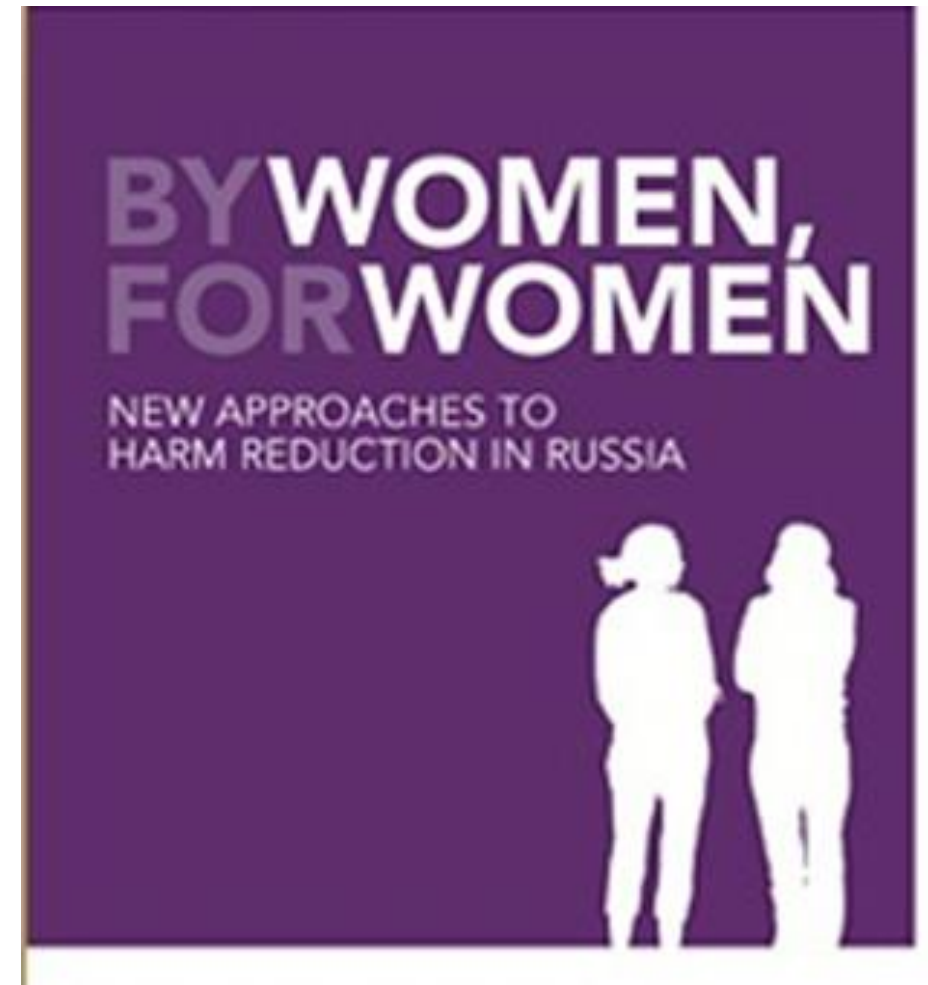
Harm Reduction

Definition

Modify conditions and behavior in order to reduce many of the most serious risks posed to public health and safety.

Examples:

- Weight loss → cutting out soda
- Smoking → NRT
- EtOH → designated driver
- Sex → A, B, C
- IV drug use → needle exchanges
- Sex workers → ???



Harm Reduction

Appearance



- Wear shoes you can run in
- Avoid scarves, necklaces and bags than can hold or choke you
- Wear clothing that can be left on during sex in case you have to run away

Harm Reduction

Negotiations

- ✓ Stick to a price list and time limit
- ✓ Pick your own parking spot or hotel
- ✓ Have a supply of condoms and lubricant
- ✓ Get money up front
- ✓ Use the same stroll



Harm Reduction

The Car



- Approach from the drivers side
- Arrange service and location while outside car
- Circle the car looking for other passengers
- Take down the license plate (or pretend to)
- Do not fasten your seat belt
- Wave goodbye to someone and shout the time of your return (or pretend to)

Source: Rekart, Michael. Sex-work harm reduction. The Lancet. December 2005; 366: 2123-2134

Harm Reduction

Oral sex

- Learn to put a condom on with your mouth
- At ejaculation, keep pressure on the condom with your lips to prevent leakage
- Gargle with mouthwash or liquor afterwards, but do not brush your teeth



Harm Reduction

Vaginal sex

- Use birth control
- Keep genital area well lubricated with water soluble lubricant
- Do not douche or use vaginal drying substances
- Position yourself on top, facing customer
- Keep band on base of penis to keep it hard and avoid spillage
- After ejaculation, remove penis from vagina immediately



Harm Reduction

Anal sex

- Try to negotiate out of it
- Charge too much for the customer to afford
- Use extra lubricant
- Use female condoms



Harm Reduction

Self defense



- Do not carry weapons
- Use your voice and speed (scream, hit car horn)
- Attack body areas that are easily injured (throat, eyes, testicles)
- Run away against traffic, towards light and people
- Work with friends
- Tell workmates about bad customers

“Annie”

- 40yo white female
- Lost husband to health problems



Resources for helping victims

National

If the victim is in immediate danger,
call 911.

National Human Trafficking Hotline:
888-3737-888.

National Center for Missing & Exploited
Children (NCMEC):
1-800-THE-LOST, www.missingkids.org.

- Database of over 1M photos
- Responded to over 10,000 HT reports in 2017



Resources for helping victims

Arizona

Arizona child abuse hotline: 888-SOS-CHILD or 888-767-2445.

Tumbleweed (UMOM) Youth Services: 602-841-5799. Emergency shelter, transitional housing, therapy for minors.

Sojourner Center: 602-244-0089. Emergency shelter and transitional housing for adults. Therapy services.

Multiple add'l resources available at SexTraffickingHelp.com



Resources for helping victims

Local (Metro Phoenix)



Phoenix vice non-emergency hotline:
602-454-2771.

Phoenix Dream Center: 602-346-8701,
phxdreamcenter.org, safe housing,
rescues.

Fresh Start Women's Center: 602-252-
8494. Job training, legal services, child
care, therapy services.

Community Bridges: 602-273-9999. Drug
rehabilitation services.

Phoenix Children's Hospital: 602-933-
9339. Medical services for at-risk youth.

Resources for helping victims

Local (Tucson)

Emerge center against domestic abuse:
520-795-4226, www.emergecenter.org,
emergency shelter, advocacy, child
services

Southern Arizona anti-trafficking united
response network (SAATURN): 520-327-
1171, www.saatur.org, victim-centered
advocacy, prosecution



Resources for Health Care Professionals

Sources for further study

- PATH (doc-path.org)
Physicians Against the Trafficking of Humans
Videos, 1 CME credit
- HEAL (healtrafficking.org)
Health, Education, Advocacy, Linkage
Protocol Toolkit
- APSAC
American Professional Society on Abuse of Children
Practice Guidelines for Physicians
(kyaap.org/wp-content/uploads/APSAC_Guidelines.pdf)
- AMA Journal of Ethics
Code: Opinions Related to Human Trafficking, Jan 2017
- My contact: Jeff.Gibbs@TheCultureBridge.net



Questions for participants

Post-presentation

True or False?

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2. Most arrested victims cooperate with law enforcement to prosecute their trafficker. **False**
3. The vast majority of Arizona victims of human trafficking are US citizens. **True**
4. The LGBTQ population is considered vulnerable for sex trafficking.

Questions for participants

Post-presentation

True or False?

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Questions for participants

Post-presentation, cont'd

5. What resources are available for you if you identify a victim of sex trafficking?
 - a) Police
 - b) Child abuse hotline
 - c) National human trafficking hotline
 - d) Social worker
 - e) Follow up visit
 - f) All of the above

6. A possible indicator of sex trafficking victimization is:
 - a) Dissociation
 - b) Chronic foot problems
 - c) Malnutrition & dehydration
 - d) Somatic complaints
 - e) Hearing loss from head trauma
 - f) All of the above

Questions for participants

Post-presentation, cont'd

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