



Human Trafficking
Awareness Training
Northern Arizona EMS Conference

Stacey Sutherland
Program Director
Arizona Anti-Trafficking Network

Stacey Intro

- TRUST Program Director
- Jade Richard Survivor Scholarship – Advisory Chair
- Arizona Anti-Trafficking Network

Our programs cover a wide spectrum that address community education, public awareness, prevention, demand reduction, male engagement on the issue and the tourism and hospitality sector. It is through these activities that we hope to eliminate Human Trafficking in Arizona by raising awareness, reducing demand and fostering prevention efforts with youth.





Stacey Intro

- Background
 - EMS (EV and Pinal - 10 years of EMS experience)
- Passionate about anti-trafficking work and inclusion of survivors
- Phoenix Mayor's Human Trafficking Task Force
 - Victim Service Committee Chair
- Mom to 3 boys
- Aspiring home chef and baker
- Avid reader
- Loves to travel
 - Speak Locally & Nationally

Victimization Based on:

Gender: most research focuses on girls and women. We know boys and men and transgender persons are impacted but for a number of reasons are harder to see.

Race: forward facing data and victims seen/heard are most often POC. This is multi-layered and complex.

Sexual orientation: LGBTQI+ youth and trans individuals face unique challenges.

Atypical cognitive development: It has been reported that 22% of sex trafficking victims received special education services while in school.

The Commercial Sex Industry, Sex Work and Sex Trafficking

Commercial sex act: sex in exchange for something of value

The commercial sex industry: the economy of buying, trading and selling sex or adult-oriented services

Sex worker: an adult who consents to participation in the commercial sex industry

Prostituted person: a term used to describe a person engaged in the industry, but without our knowing their level of consent or trafficking victimization status

Sex trafficking victim/survivor: an adult who has experienced force, fraud or coercion or any juvenile engaged in the commercial sex industry

Human Trafficking

Is a public health concern that impacts individuals, families, and communities across generations



Labor Trafficking

Forced labor. Individuals are compelled to work or provide services through force, fraud or coercion.



Sex Trafficking

Commercial sex. Individuals are compelled to engage in commercial sex through use of force, fraud or coercion. When a person is under 18 is compelled to perform a commercial sex act, it is a crime regardless of whether there is any force, fraud or coercion.

What is sex trafficking?



Force

- Kidnapping
- Constraint
- Confinement
- Physical violence
- Sexual assault
- Drugging
- Torture
- Seasoning



Fraud

- False Promises
- Deceptive offers
 - Employment/Wages
 - Working conditions
 - Love/Marriage
 - Better life
- Withholding wages



Coercion

- Threats of serious harm
- Psychological Manipulation
- Document confiscation
- Blackmail/Sextortion
- Quotas
- Control of children

Drugs & Sex Trafficking

Selling Drugs vs. Humans

Sex Trafficking is a high profit, low risk business where the commodity, a human body, can be sold repeatedly, unlike drugs or weapons where the product is only sold ONCE.



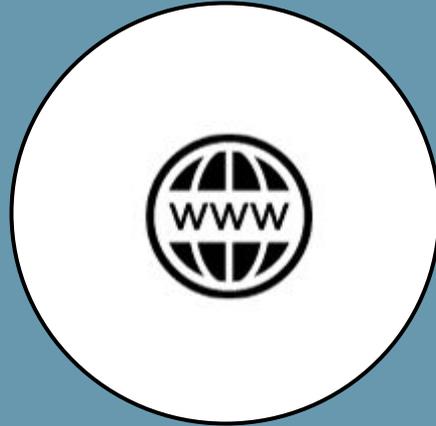
Sex Trafficking Scenarios



Hotels



Illicit Massage



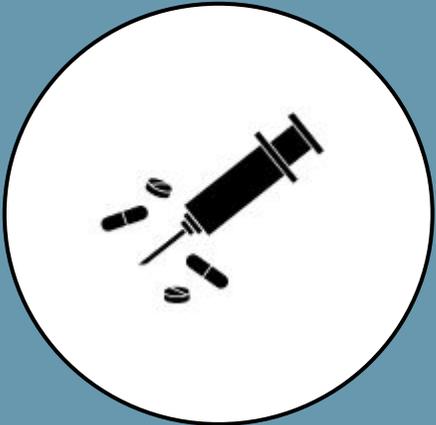
Social Media & Online Ads



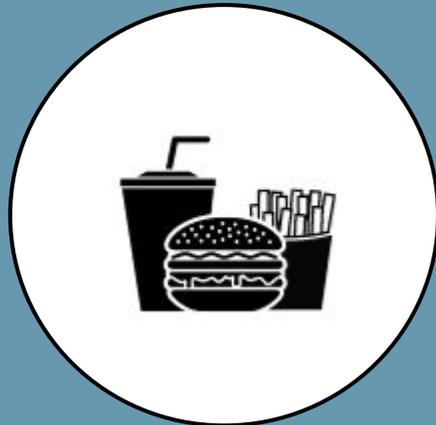
Street Track



Residential Brothels



Trade for Drugs



Trade for Food



Escort Services

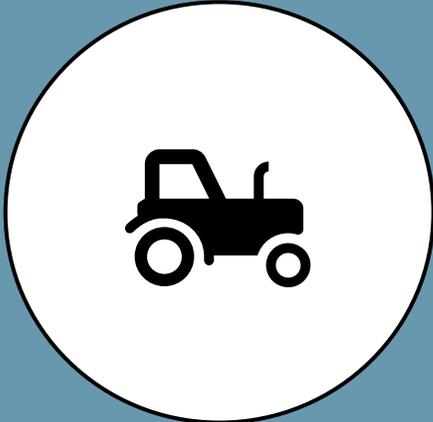


Truck Stops

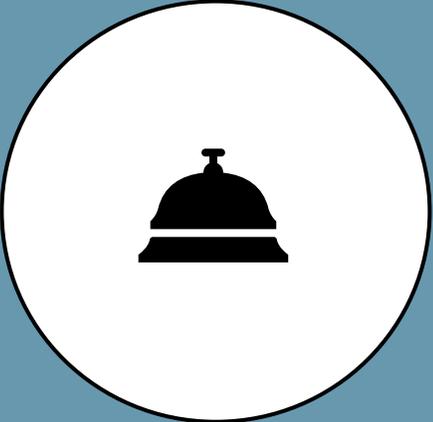


Strip Clubs

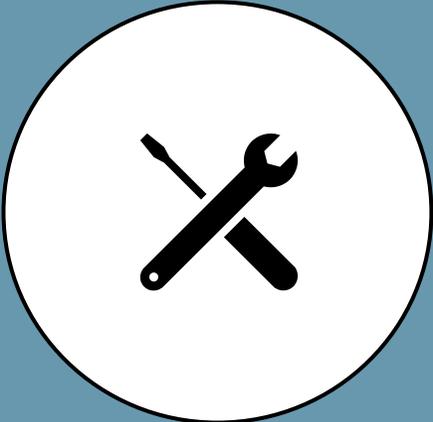
Labor Trafficking Scenarios



Agriculture/Farming



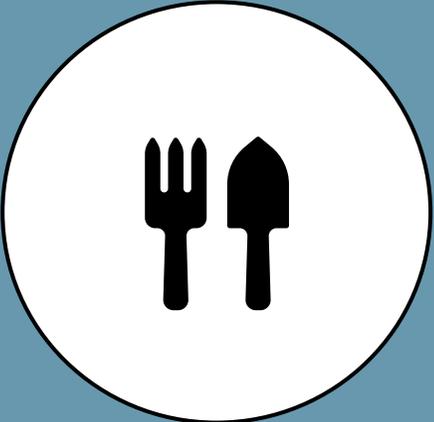
Hotel/Motel



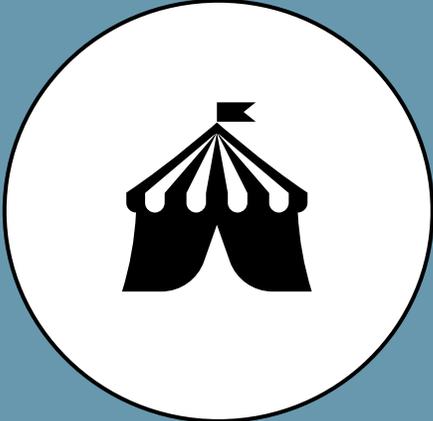
Construction



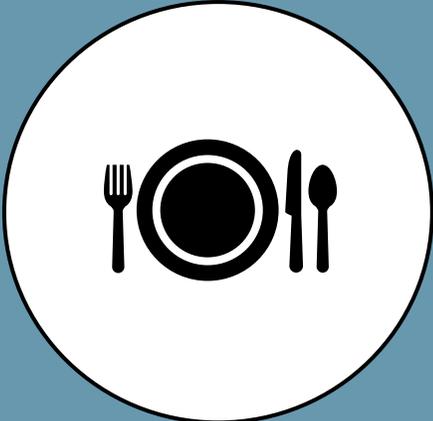
Elder Care



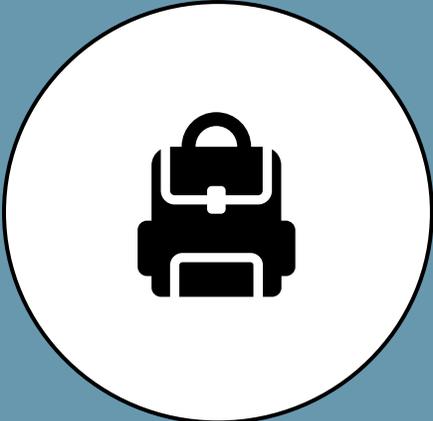
Landscaping



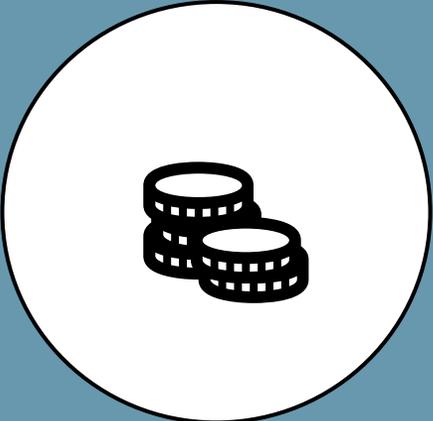
Carnivals



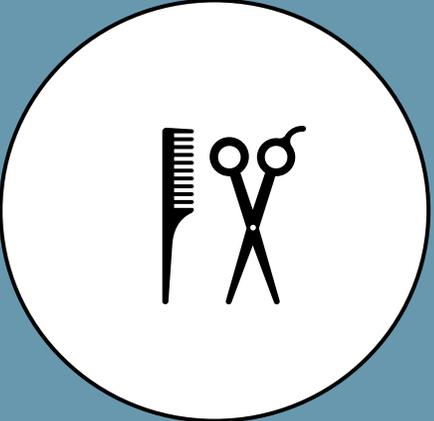
Restaurants



Traveling Sales Crews



Panhandling



Health/Beauty Salons

Human Smuggling vs. Trafficking

TRAFFICKING

- Crime against a person
- Individuals who have experienced trafficking either do not consent to their situations, or if they initially consent, the situation shifts, and they are made to do something against their will
- Exploitation of individuals to generate illicit profits for the traffickers
- Trafficking does not need to entail the physical movement of a person (but must entail the labor or sexual exploitation of the person)
- An individual being smuggled across a nation's border can be vulnerable to trafficking

SMUGGLING

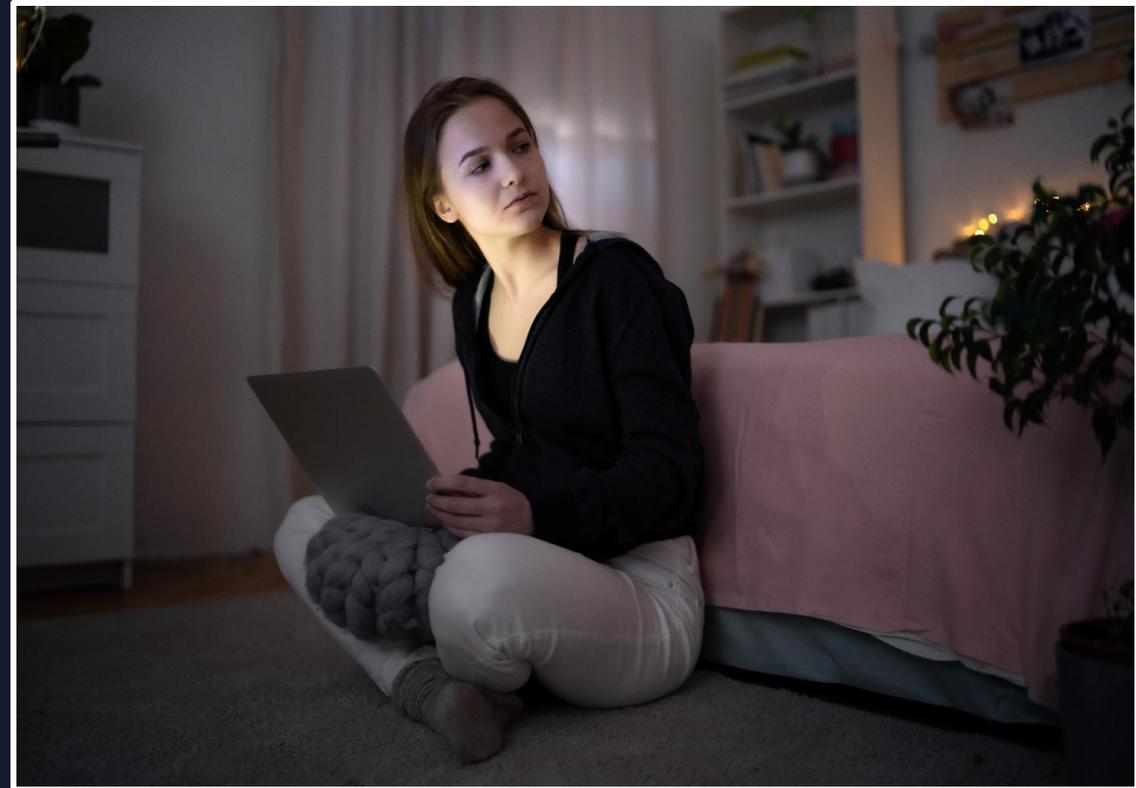
- Crime against a country
- The transaction is mutual and ends upon arrival at desired destination
- Business arrangement between smuggler and person wanting to facilitate the illicit crossing of a nation's border
- Smuggling always involves transnational physical movement
- An individual being smuggled across a nation's border can be vulnerable to trafficking

“Victimless Crime”

- In 2024, 1 out of 7 endangered runaways reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) were suspected victims of human trafficking
- In 2020, boys made up 7% of child sex trafficking victims reported to NCMEC.
- The average age of a child first forced into sex trafficking is around 14 years old nationally. 14.2 in Arizona.
- 18% of the children who left from the care of social services and were reported missing to NCMEC in 2024, were likely victims of child sex trafficking.
- 47% of survivors said that they were monitored in some way during their health care visit
- 47% of survivors also indicated that their access to health care was extremely limited or fully denied in other cases
- 68% of trafficking victims sought medical care in the emergency room while experiencing exploitation.
- 28% of trafficking victims received healthcare through 911 emergency or ambulance services during their exploitation.

Recruitment Tactics

- Recruitment can occur **in-person** or **online** via social media apps, websites, and online gaming platforms.
- In-person locations could include:
 - Bus stops
 - Parks
 - Schools
 - Malls
 - Parties
 - Shelters
 - Group homes
 - Juvenile detention centers
- **Social media is the true hunting ground.**



Social Media

Social Media

- Twitter
- Tik Tok
- Instagram
- Discord
- Snapchat

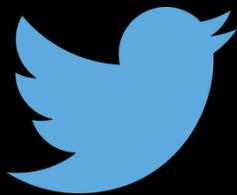
Private Texting Platforms

- Whatsapp
- KIK

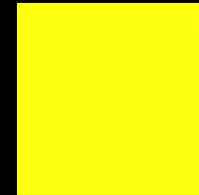
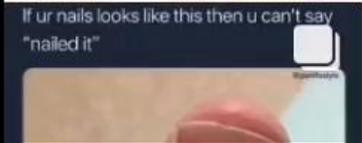
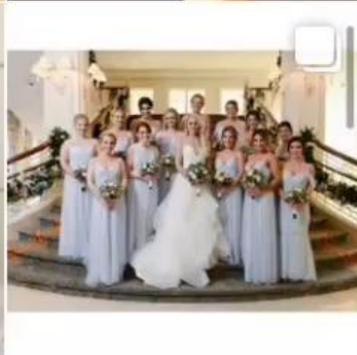
Dating Apps

- Grindr
- Tinder
- MeetMe
- Plenty of Fish





kik.



Stages of Grooming & Recruitment



1. Targeting the Victim



2. The Bond



3. Filling a Need



6. Maintaining Control



5. Abuse Begins



4. Access + Separation

While there is no commonly accepted profile for victims of minor sex trafficking, certain populations are more vulnerable than others

HOMELESS, RUNAWAY, THROWAWAY AND FOSTER CHILDREN ARE THE MOST **VULNERABLE** POPULATION AT RISK FOR SEX TRAFFICKING.



Push Factors

Factors that compel an individual to be exposed to or enter situations with a high risk for trafficking



- Family instability
- Poverty
- Gang-involvement
- History of Abuse
- Substance use
- Trauma
- Child welfare involvement
- History of running away
- Sexual orientation

Source: NASW West Virginia Chapter

Traffickers and Exploitation

Relationship Based/Controlled

Gang-Controlled

Parents (familial)

Labor Trafficker

Running Away

Buyer-Perpetrated



Control Factors

Create *family and false love*

Complete Dependence

Constant Control

Drugs

Sell "*the dream*"

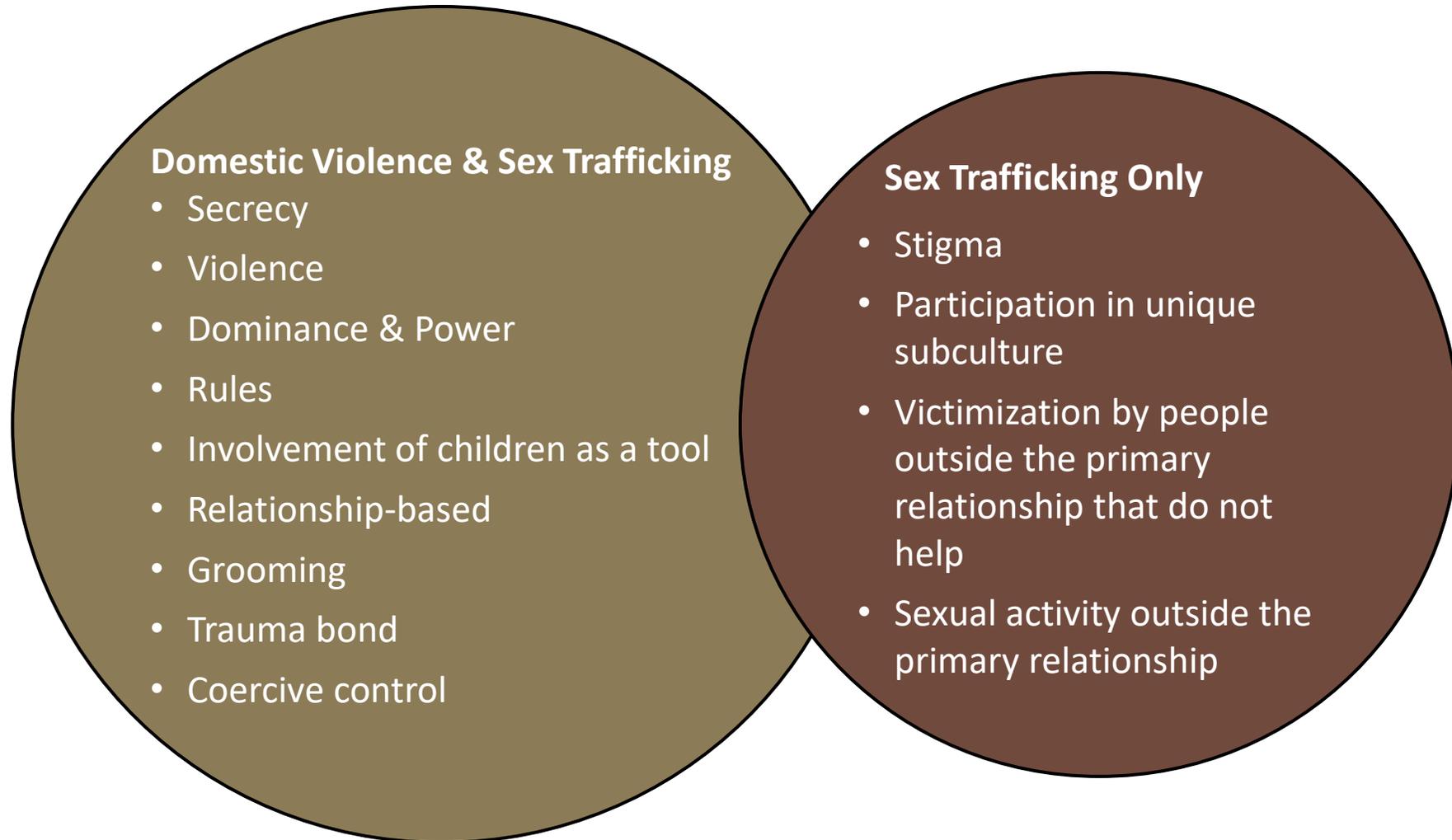






-
- It is helpful to understand that there are many similarities in victimization between **DV** or **intimate partner violence** and sex trafficking.
 - Victims of sex trafficking and domestic violence tend to hide their situations, and both victim groups are hesitant to disclose their victimization to emergency personnel.
 - The victim **may not** be cooperative and can act in a manner hostile to anyone in uniform.

Similarities and Differences Between Domestic Violence & Sex Trafficking



Branding

tattoos or markings indicating ownership or control by another Individual.

- Script letters of a man's name, generally across chest/neck
- Use of the word "squares", mottos such as "trust and loyalty"
- Symbols such as money signs, guns, diamonds, crowns, etc.

“The essence of trauma is that it overwhelms the victim’s psychological and biological coping mechanisms. This occurs when internal and external resources are inadequate to cope with the external threat.”

Trafficking Victims: Understanding Mindset

Frequently victims:

- Fear, distrust of people in authority positions such as health providers, law enforcement, government officials
 - Fear of being deported or arrested
- Unaware what is being done to them is a crime
 - Do not consider themselves victims
 - They may be committing criminal acts
- Sometimes victims do not know where they are, because traffickers frequently move them to escape detection, to keep the supply new and to keep victims from becoming aware of their environment or developing relationships with others who might help them
- Fear for harm to self or family

Trafficking Victims: Understanding Mindset

- No two victims of trafficking are the same and the impact trafficking has upon each individual victim varies. You cannot make assumptions about how individuals might or should react.
- You must treat each person as an individual.
- Individuals will react to you in different ways. Do not expect a victim of trafficking to see you as their rescuer or savior: Some might, but many will see you as an unwelcome intruder, which may further compound what is already a very complex situation.
- If a victim reacts in a hostile or aggressive way, it probably has nothing to do with you as a person, your role or the agency you work for. Victims may have adopted these tactics and emotions to cope with or to survive their ordeal. It is likely that they would react to anyone in the same way.

Control indicators:

- Is the person in possession of their identification and travel documents; if not who is?
- Does the person appear to be coached on what to say, and are they with someone who appears to be controlling the situation? Do multiple persons tell same story?
- Has the person or their family been threatened with harm?
- Is the person fearful, timid or submissive?
- Has the person been threatened law enforcement?
- Is the person confused, afraid, or do they show signs of physical or mental abuse?
- Can the person freely contact friends or family?
- Is the person allowed to freely socialize or attend religious services?
- Is the person inadequately dressed for the work they do?
- Is the person's clothing age/climate appropriate?

Living condition Indicators:

Does the person lack personal possessions and appear to have an unstable situation? Are they moving frequently to avoid detection?

Unaware of where they are as they have been moved multiple times, often EMS may recognize this as an altered mental status versus an indicator of human trafficking.

Does the person have freedom of movement?
Can the person freely leave where they live?
Are there excessive security measures ?

Has the person been deprived of food, water, sleep, medical care or other life necessities?



Minor Victims:

Chronic runaway/homeless youth

May have been kicked out of the house by parent/guardian

Lies about their age/Fake Identification

Is not in control of their identification/documentation

Is not enrolled in school or is repeatedly absent

Is hungry, malnourished, deprived of sleep, or inappropriately dressed (based on weather conditions or surroundings)

Demonstrates a sudden change in attire, personal hygiene, relationships, or material possessions (e.g., expensive jewelry, purses, electronics)

Acts uncharacteristically promiscuous and/or makes references to sexual situations or terminology that are beyond age-specific norms

Has a “boyfriend” or “girlfriend” who is noticeably older

Has coached/rehearsed responses to questions

Shows signs of drug addiction

Expresses need to pay off a debt

Expresses concern for family members’ safety if he or she shares too much information

Works long hours and receives little or no payment



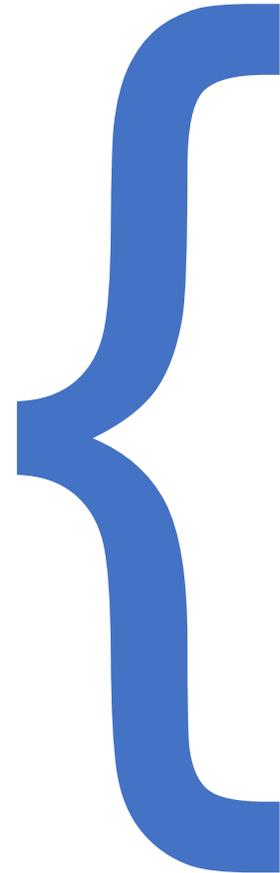
Physical Health Indicators

**physical
injuries or
illness**

- signs of self-inflicted injury or past suicide attempt
- signs of sexual trauma
- multiple STI's
- multiple or frequent pregnancies
- unwanted pregnancy, resulting from rape or prostitution (little or no prenatal care)
- infections or mutilations caused by unsanitary and dangerous medical procedures performed by unqualified individuals
- drug-related health issues (asthma, hepatitis c, skin infections)
- tension headaches, back or stomach pain
- malnutrition, dehydration and poor diet
- exhibit signs of physical and psychological trauma e.g., anxiety, lack of memory of recent events, bruising, cigarette burns, untreated conditions
- strangulation

Mental Health Indicators induced by the trauma of trafficking

**mental
health
disorders**



anxiety disorder
dissociative disorder
explosive personality
major depressive episode
obsessive compulsive
panic
post traumatic stress
substance abuse
violence

WHY DON'T THEY JUST LEAVE

- Trafficker establishes control in the relationship
- Trafficker wields complete control to induce commercial sex acts or forced labor
- Complex emotional relationship formed
- Emotional Manipulation
- Feigned Affection
- Cultural Beliefs
- Debt
- Physical and Emotional Abuse
- Trauma bond is developed by the victim as a survival strategy

TRAUMA BOND

- Attaching to their abuser increases their chances for survival.
- Presence of a threat to one's survival and the belief that the abuser would follow through with their threat.
- Isolation
- Grateful for small gifts/gestures
- Denies or rationalizes violence
- Denies their exploitation
- No identity as a victim
- Blames self-his punishment is their fault (not following the rules)
- Believe they have some control over the situation
- It isn't that bad...it has been worse

PROGRAMMING & INDOCTRINATION

“You are a worthless human being. You deserve to be abused.”

“If you don't work who will take care of the family?”

“You cannot survive on your own. You are tied to the family forever.”

“Without the family, you will die.”

“You step out against the family; consequences will be unforgiving if not physical.”

“Nobody on the outside can be trusted.”

“This is what God put you on this Earth to do.”

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN INTERACTING WITH A POTENTIAL VICTIM

- Be knowledgeable about the resources available
- Use language that demonstrates your knowledge and training
- Careful not to use language that assumes
- Be aware that victims are good at hiding their victimization and lying to avoid consequences (that is okay!)
- Their resources needs will be intense
- Gaining their trust is essential
- If you feel that there something is wrong trust your expertise and instincts

WHERE TO BEGIN WITH POTENTIAL VICTIM?

- Affirm that you are available to help
- Ask questions to begin an open dialogue
- Approach topic with courage and honesty
- Avoid using patient to teach you about trafficking
- Utilize the patient's family supports as appropriate
- Utilize language that does not criminalize
- Mirror the language used by the individual
- Reiterate that it is not their fault

SAMPLE MESSAGES TO GAIN TRUST

- “We are not here to get you in any trouble, we just want to help.”
- “We will not make you do anything you don’t want to do or that makes you feel uncomfortable”
- “I am here to help you”
- “My first priority is your safety.”
- “I want to get you the care you need.”
- “We spoke to our doctor, and they think you need to get this checked out at the hospital”



THE

THE

THE

THE

THE

THE

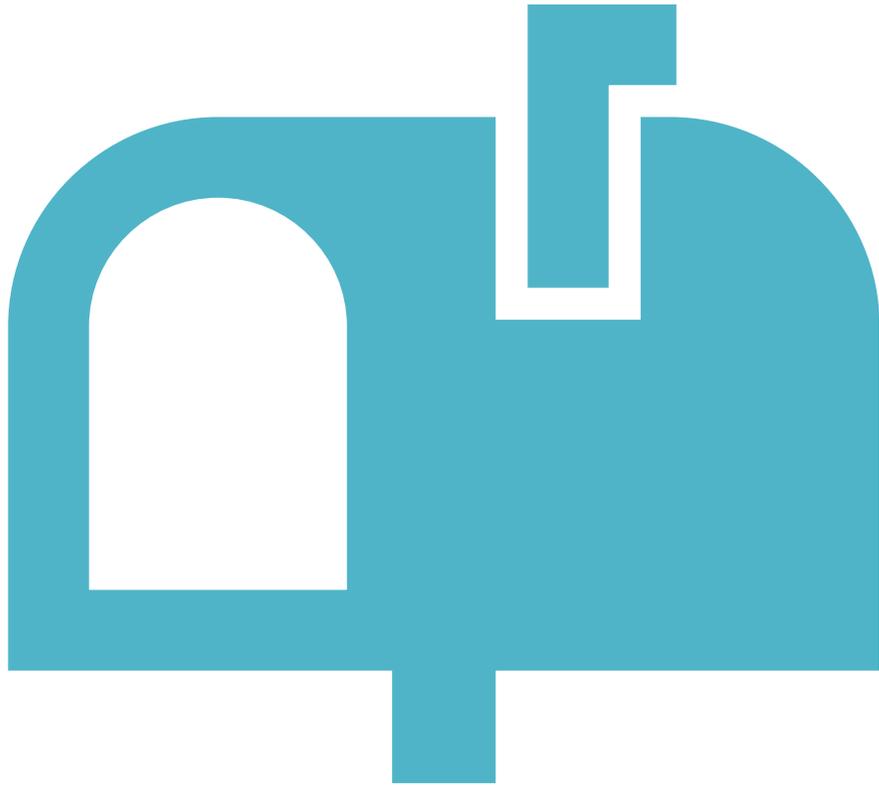
How to Report Human Trafficking





AZ HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE

1-877-4AZ-TIPS



Stacey Sutherland

Program Director

Stacey@aatn.org

480-310-3686