Understanding Human Trafficking

Learning Objectives

- The intersection of IPV and trafficking
- The definition of human trafficking and sex trafficking
- Impact of trafficking on victims
- Understanding Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking
- Resources available for anyone who is experiencing trafficking

“Human sex trafficking affects all communities around the world and does not discriminate based on culture, race, or socioeconomic level. Many mistakenly make the assumption that human trafficking doesn’t happen in their own backyards; it does.”
Why Connecticut?

There is limited data on the numbers of people trafficked in Connecticut.

In Connecticut

SINCE 2007:
- Total Contacts: 1,616
- Total Cases: 471
- Total Victims: 977
- Total Children and youth: 600+

Identifying Cases

Trafficking cases can come to your attention indirectly through other crimes and violations:

- Prostitution
- Domestic violence
- Drug charges
- Runaways/homelessness
- Cases of assault
- Curfew violations
- Loitering/trespassing
- Sexual abuse or neglect
There is a marked overlap in the pattern of behaviors that both abusers and traffickers use to exert power and control over a victim.

**IPV and Human Trafficking**

Intimate partner violence and human trafficking do not occur in silos.

**INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE** is a pattern of abusive behavior in an intimate relationship where one partner tries to control and dominate the other. The behavior may be verbally, psychologically, physically or sexually, financially or technologically abusive with the victim left feeling scared, confused, dependent and insecure.

**INTIMATE PARTNER TRAFFICKING** occurs when an abusive partner compels their intimate partner to engage in commercial sex, forced labor, or involuntary servitude. In addition, trafficked individuals sometimes live with their trafficker and are subjected to the physical violence, emotional manipulation, and overbearing control that are hallmarks of domestic violence.
**Human Trafficking**

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING** is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for...

**Sex Trafficking**
- a commercial sex act, in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age.
- Commercial Sex Act means any sex act on account of which anything of value is given to or received by any person.

**Labor Trafficking**
- labor or services, through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjecting to involuntary servitude, peonage, holding, slavery.

"Whether it’s IPV, IPV trafficking, familial trafficking or human trafficking, the one constant is CONTROL of one or more persons."
Human Trafficking

ACTION MEANS PURPOSE

Human trafficking occurs when a perpetrator, often referred to as a trafficker, takes an Action, and then employs the Means of force, fraud or coercion for the Purpose of compelling the victim to provide commercial sex acts or labor or services.

Who are the Traffickers?

- Individuals
- Pimps and pimp networks
- Neighbors, friends, relatives
- Foreign diplomats and international organizations
- Labor recruiters/brokers
- Informal criminal operations
- Family or extended family
- Gangs
- Businesses (small and large)
- Small contractors/agents
- International organized crime syndicates

Human Trafficking

- Escort Services
- Illicit Massage, Health, & Beauty
- Residential and Domestic Work
- Bars, Strip Clubs, & Cantinas
- Pornography
- Traveling Sales Crews
- Restaurants & Food Service
- Personal Sexual Servitude
- Health & Beauty Services
- Construction
- Hotels & Hospitality
- Landscaping
- Arts & Entertainment
- Commercial Cleaning
- Factories & Manufacturing
- Remote Interactive Sex
- Carnivals
- Forestry & Logging
Red Flags of Trafficking

- Shares a scripted or inconsistent history
- Is not aware of his/her location, the current date, or time
- Evidence or presence of controlling or dominating relationship
- Demonstrates fearful or nervous behavior or avoids eye contact
- Is not in possession of his/her identification documents
- Is not in control of their own money/not being paid or wages are withheld

Red Flags of Trafficking

- Signs of branding (tattoo/jewelry)
- More than one cell phone
- Little knives or some small weapon
- Injuries or signs of physical abuse/torture
- Attitude: defensive, rude, evasive, aggressive
- Demeanor: fear, anxiety, depression, submissive, tense, nervous
- Does not have appropriate clothing for the weather or venue
- Reports an unusually high numbers of sexual partners

Why Do They Stay?

- Fear, distrust of health providers, government, police
- Trauma bond with trafficker
- Unaware what is being done to them is a crime
- May develop loyalties, positive feelings toward trafficker as coping mechanism
- May not know where they are, because traffickers frequently move them to escape detection
- Fear for safety of family due to threat of violence
- Fear of safety for oneself
Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST) is the exchange of any sex act of a minor (child under 18) for anything of value.

- Internet Based Prostitution
- Street Prostitution
- Stripping
- Pornography
- Escort Services
- Casinos/Clubs
- Private Parties
- Interfamilial Pimping
- Survival Sex/Sex for Drugs
- Gang Based Prostitution

Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking

- Homeless youth are particularly at risk
- One in three teenagers will be approached by a trafficker within 48 hours of being on the street
- Approximately 10% of shelter youths and 28% of street youth have participated in survival sex to meet their basic needs.*

Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking

Children with a history of traumas such as...

- Physical Abuse/Neglect
- Emotional Abuse/Neglect
- Sexual Abuse
- Deprivation of Necessities
- Separation of Family/Community
- Rejection by Peers and/or Family
- Bullying
- Community Violence

...are at higher risk and more vulnerable for victimization of DMST.
Who is the Trafficker?

Anyone who benefits from the commercial sexual exploitation of a minor or who facilitates the commercial exploitation of a minor.

Domestic Violence Context

Rights of Trafficked Persons

Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)

- Victims should not be inappropriately incarcerated, fined, or otherwise penalized solely for unlawful acts committed as a direct result of being trafficked.
- Victims are not to be detained in facilities inappropriate to their status as a crime victim.
- Victims are to receive necessary medical care and other assistance.
- Victims are to be protected if their safety is at risk or if there is danger that they will sustain additional harm through recapture by their trafficker.
- Taking measures to protect victims and their family members from intimidation and threats of reprisal from traffickers and their associates.
- Ensuring that names and personally identifying information of victims and their family members are not disclosed to the public.
Engagement Techniques

**Techniques**
- Listen
- Do not identify person as “victim”
- Don’t assume anything
- Be non-judgmental
- Be sensitive to asking too much to soon
- Ask open-ended questions
- Self-designed safety plans (who to call, where to stay)

**Screening Questions to Ask**
- 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?
Resources

- Human Anti-trafficking Response Team (HART)
  https://portal.ct.gov/DCF/HART/Home#About
  www.cirict.org
- Polaris Project
  www.polarisproject.org
- Love146
  www.love146.org
- National Human Trafficking Hotline
  888.373.7888
- Safe Connect
  888.774.2900