

UNDERSTANDING VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SHANNON WOLF, PHD, LPC-S

SWOLF@BHCARROLL.EDU

NOVEMBER 14, 2019

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OBJECTIVES

1. Participants will gain a detailed understanding of the risk factors that could lead to trafficking.
2. Participants will explain how development plays a key role in trafficking victimization.
3. Participants will analyze the role trauma bond play in keeping victims from seeking help.
4. Participants will describe how healthcare workers can assist victims in the recovery process.

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UNDERSTANDING THE VICTIM



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ADOLESCENTS

- Impulsive
- Don't always make good decisions
- Want to belong
- Developing Identity
- Developing Worldview

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BIOLOGICAL/SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- Inability to read situations
- Inability to think ahead
- Pushing away from family
- Becoming an individual
- Further developing assumptions about the world
- Worldview assumptions become crystalized

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ERIKSON'S PSYCHOSOCIAL STAGE

- Adolescent: Identity vs Identity Confusion
 - Normal developmental stage used for ill purposes
 - Bombardment of messages
 - Females seek to be similar to strengthen relationships
- Young Adult: Intimacy vs Isolation
 - Ways of establishing intimacy have been developed

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DEVELOPMENT OF WORLDVIEW

- Foundational assumptions that provide a conceptual framework for understanding, organizing, and explaining the world around us.
- Since it helps us make sense out of the world, it influences how we interpret the world. (It serves as an interpretive schema.)
- Worldview influences how we act in the world . (It guides our actions.)

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RISK FACTORS

- *Primary risk factor is non-protective family*
- Lack of secure bond between parents and child
- Run-aways
- Emotional and physical abuse/abandonment
- Childhood sexual assault
- Foster Care
- Self-denigration
- Mental Disabilities
- Substance Abuse

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OTHER RISK FACTORS



MORE RISK FACTORS: CURRENT APPS TRAFFICKERS USE

FIFTEEN APPS
PARENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

Courtesy of the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
UPDATED JULY 2019



MEETME
MEETME is a dating social media app that allows users to connect with people based on geographic proximity. As the app's name suggests, users are encouraged to meet each other in person.

GRINDR
GRINDR is a dating app geared towards gay, bi and transgender people. The app gives users options to chat, share photos and meet up based on a smart phone's GPS location.

SKOUT
SKOUT is a location-based dating app and website. While users under 17 years old are unable to share private photos, kids can easily create an account using a different app.

WHATSAPP
WHATSAPP is a popular messaging app that allows users to send texts, photos, voicemails, make calls and video chats worldwide. WHATSAPP uses an internet connection on smart phones and computers.

TIKTOK
TIKTOK is a new mobile device app popular with kids used for creating and sharing short videos. With very limited privacy controls, users are vulnerable to cyber bullying and explicit content.

BADOO
BADOO is a dating and social networking app where users can chat, share photos and videos and connect based on location. While the app is intended for adults only, users are known to create profiles.

BUMBLE
BUMBLE is similar to the popular dating app " Tinder" however, it requires women to make the first contact. Kids have been known to use BUMBLE to create fake accounts and falsify their age.

SNAPCHAT
SNAPCHAT is one of the most popular apps in recent years. While the app promises users can take a photo/video and it will disappear, new features including " stories" allows users to view content for up to 24 hours. Snapchat also allows users to tag your location.

KIK
KIK allows anyone to contact and direct message your child. Kids can bypass traditional text messaging features. KIK gives users unlimited access to text, anytime, anywhere, anytime.

LIVEME
LIVEME is a live-streaming video app that uses geolocation to share videos so users can find out a broadcaster's exact location. Users can earn "coins" as a way to "pay" minors for photos.

HOLLA
HOLLA is a self-proclaimed "addicting" video chat app that allows users to meet people all over the world in just seconds. Reviewers say they have been confronted with racial slurs, explicit content, and more.

WHISPER
WHISPER is an anonymous social network that promotes sharing secrets with strangers. It also reveals a user's location so people can meet up.

ASK.FM
ASK.FM is known for cyber bullying. The app encourages users to allow anonymous people to ask them questions.

CALCULATOR%
CALCULATOR% is only one of SEVERAL secret apps used to hide photos, videos, files, and browser history.

HOT OR NOT
HOT OR NOT encourages users to rate your profile, check out people in their area, and chat with strangers. The goal of this app is to hack up.

For more information, contact Sarasota County Sheriff's Office Community Affairs at 941.861.4095

Meet Me	Grinder
Skout	WhatsApp
TikTok	Badoo
Bumble	Snapchat
Kik	Live.me
Holla	Whisper
Ask.fm	Hot or Not



ATTACHMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Development of identity as a family member
- Starving for belonging and love
- Oxytocin
- Sex as a method of developing quasi-bonds

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- Anyone under the age of 18
- FBI statistics - 51% of all trafficked persons in USA (Actual number is impossible to establish)
 - Victims can be misidentified
 - Victims may not perceive themselves as being trafficked
- Traffickers tend to look for younger victims
 - Perceived as “Clean”
 - Can charge more

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SPIRITUAL/MORAL DEVELOPMENT

- Looking for a place to belong
 - “Trouble maker”
- Experience rejection from “good people”
 - Becomes part of worldview
- Trafficker may use God as a weapon to control victim
- Traffickers or johns may be people of faith or in positions of power

DESCRIBING THE TRAFFICKER



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DESCRIBING THE TRAFFICKER

- Exploits another human being for personal gain
- May play a single role or multiple roles
- May be well-known in the community or a stranger
- May be a person of authority or not involved in society
- May be involved in other crimes or only ST
- Finesse Pimp or Guerrilla Pimp (taken from guerrilla warfare)
- Male or Female

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CONTROLLING THE VICTIM

- Coercion and Manipulation
 - Isolation
 - Controlling bodily needs/functions
 - Relationships
- Physical Violence
- Frequent Relocation
- Drugs and Alcohol

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THE IMPACT OF TRAFFICKING ON THE VICTIM



TRAUMA BONDS

- Powerful emotional attachments of a victim to the perpetrator that are mitigated by numerous traumatic events.
- The bonds can be with the trafficker and/or the “family”
- Bonds are adaptive responses to extreme trauma
- These bonds are very difficult to break

19 CHARACTERISTICS OF TRAUMA -BONDS

- Victims feel emotional ties to the perpetrator and to other girls involved.
- These bonds can be very strong
- The victim may not take opportunities to escape a captor.
- Trauma bonding appears to be an adaptive response to an excessively abusive repeatedly traumatic environment.

ASSOCIATED PROCESSES

- Attachment Processes
- Learned Helplessness
- Complex PTSD
 - Type 1 vs. Type 2
- Sympathetic Nervous System Stress Response (fight, flight, freeze, submit)
- Development of Worldview

At its core, trauma-bonds can be understood as an attachment issue wrapped with worldview and identity confusion, and topped off with a trauma, loss, and grief.

The trafficker then is the one who causes emotional pain but is the only one who can relieve that pain.

COMMON EXPERIENCES

- Type 2 Trauma
- Repeated Sexual Assault
- Attachment Disorder
- Coping skills/Self-soothing
- Abortion (Forced abortion)
- Drugs and Alcohol Addiction
- Sexual Addiction
- Physical Abuse/ Torture
- Witnessing Traumatic Acts/Forced to preform acts of violence

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PTSD

- Exposure and response to trauma
- Intrusion symptoms
- Avoidance symptoms
- Negative alterations in cognitions and mood

COMPLEX PTSD AND THE BRAIN

- More than PTSD symptoms with depression and anxiety
 - Not all will have a PTSD diagnosis
 - They will have serious effects from the trauma of trafficking
- Severe trauma can lead to changes in brain functioning.
 - Trauma may cause a fight, flight, freeze, submit response
 - Main areas impacted are:
 - amygdala, hippocampus, & prefrontal cortex.

IMPLICATIONS

- Trafficking is much more complex than sexual assault thus symptoms are more complex
- Difficulties with relationships
- Mental Disorders
- Education and life skill deficits
- Does not tolerate stress well
- Healing is a slow process

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HOW TO HELP



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VICTIMS YOU MAY ENCOUNTER

- Victims may be in a Peri-trauma state
- Lying
- Manipulation
- Discerning what you want to hear
- May appear that they are resisting help

INTERACTING WITH VICTIMS

- Be a safe person for them
- Unconditional Acceptance
- Have realistic expectations for them
- The victim may expect to be exploited. Allow her to trust slowly.
- This will most likely be a marathon.
- Own your frustration – Don't blame the victim!
- Time away from the trafficker is one of the best predictors of a good outcome.

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QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

