



Identifying and Responding to Human Trafficking and Intimate Partner Violence in Healthcare

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Conflict of Interest and Disclosures

I HAVE NO FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH ANY COMMERCIAL INTERESTS TO DISCLOSE.

Disclaimers

- ▶ Statistics can be viewed skeptically.
- ▶ Slides and content may be upsetting.
- ▶ Step Away if you wish. Re-join when you wish.



Learning Objectives



Identify human trafficking and intimate partner violence through recognizing risk factors and red flags.



Discuss the intersection of human trafficking and intimate partner violence.



Discover the characteristics of abusers, traffickers and victims.



Respond appropriately to the healthcare needs of victims.



Explore factors that facilitate or impede disclosure and outcomes the patient desires from disclosure to healthcare professionals.



Intersection of Human Trafficking and Intimate Partner Violence



Public Health Problem

35% of women affected by IPV.

IPV prevalence as high as 60% in women involved in sex trade.

Child sexual abuse associated with both sex trafficking and IPV.

Nearly 1/2 Murdered Women Murdered by intimate or formerly intimate partner.

Domestic violence increases susceptibility to sex trafficking.

LGBTQ/IPV

- ▶ Physical and Sexual Violence
- ▶ Emotional Violence
- ▶ Rates Comparable or Higher
- ▶ Unique Triggers
- ▶ Child Abuse
- ▶ CAI and IPV
- ▶ Implications for Healthcare



Understand Complexity of Abuse

- ▶ Power and Control
- ▶ Coercion
- ▶ Guilt and Shame
- ▶ Isolation
- ▶ Intimidation
- ▶ Vulnerable



Common Tactics by Abusers and Traffickers

- ▶ Physical and Emotional Violence
- ▶ Sexual Abuse and Exploitation
- ▶ Financial Abuse
- ▶ Threats to Family Members
- ▶ Use of Children
- ▶ Withholding of Food, Sleep, Medical Care



Risk Factors for IPV

- ▶ Unemployment
- ▶ Lower Income
- ▶ Minority
- ▶ Stress
Work/Financial/Parental
- ▶ Childhood Family
Violence
- ▶ Less Social Support
- ▶ Low Self Esteem



Red Flags of IPV

- ▶ Putting their partner down
- ▶ Controlling
- ▶ Isolation
- ▶ Threatening
- ▶ Intimidating
- ▶ Physical Abuse
- ▶ Sexual Assault
- ▶ Pressure





Profile of Abusers

DOMESTIC ABUSERS ARE MASS SHOOTERS AND
COP KILLERS



Human Trafficking

SOME DATA SUGGESTS A 7 YEAR LIFE
EXPECTANCY FOR A DOMESTIC SEX
TRAFFICKING VICTIM.



Males Can Be Victims

Sex Trafficking

- ▶ Pornography
- ▶ Massage Parlors
- ▶ Nail Salons
- ▶ Online Ads
- ▶ Modeling Agencies
- ▶ Escort Services
- ▶ Strip Clubs



Labor Trafficking

- ▶ Agricultural Trafficking
- ▶ Day Labor
- ▶ Sweatshops
- ▶ Domestic Servant/Nanny
- ▶ Forced Begging
- ▶ Food Service
- ▶ Peddling



Victims Seek Healthcare



- 87.8% of Survivors reported that they had contact with the medical system while they were victims but were not recognized.
- That's why you are here!
- We will change that!

How to Identify and Respond to Victims of Human Trafficking



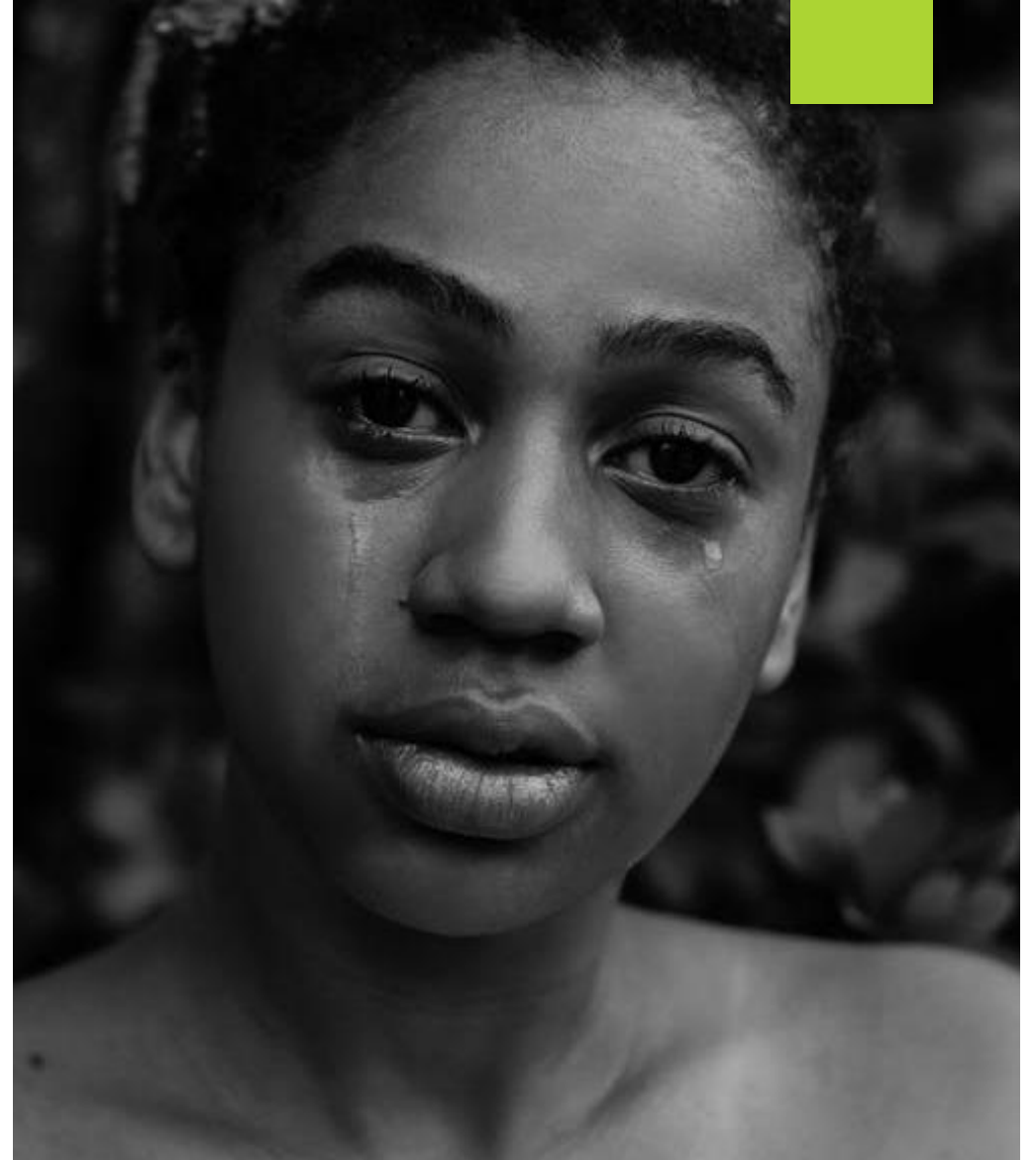
Risk Factors



- Addiction
- Homelessness
- Gang Affiliation
- Sexual or Physical Abuse/Neglect
- Runaway
- LGBTQ
- Involved in the System
- Immigration Status/Foreign Nationals
- Lower Socio-Economic Status

Red Flags

- ▶ Intimate Partner Violence
- ▶ Sexual Assault
- ▶ Psych Complaints in Minors
- ▶ Substance Abuse
- ▶ Accompanied by Controlling Person
- ▶ No ID or Money



Red Flags

- Questionable Employment
- Disorientation
- Contradictory Information
- Pregnancy/STDs in Minors
- Various Injuries
- Multiple STDs, Abortions
- Tattoos of Ownership



Red Flags

- Unable to Answer Questions
- Malnutrition
- Involvement in the System
- Industrial Injuries
- Somatic Complaints
- Difficult to Deal With
- Healthcare Provider Gut Instinct



Characteristics of Traffickers

- ▶ Friend, Family, Partner
- ▶ Employer
- ▶ Controlling
- ▶ Do the Talking
- ▶ Have the Papers
- ▶ Desire Maximum Profit





Who is the Trafficker?

Characteristics of the Victims

- ▶ Often subjected to severe, complex forms of interpersonal trauma that can affect the way they interact with healthcare staff.



Victim's Mindset

- Isolated
- No one cares
- Fear
- Trauma Bonds
- No Understanding of Culture
- No Identity as a Victim



Healthcare Needs of Victims

- ▶ Violence
- ▶ Bruises, Broken Bones
- ▶ Strangulation
- ▶ Sexual Assault
- ▶ Intimate Partner Violence



Strangulation: The Last Warning Shot

- ▶ 1 in 4 Women Experience IPV
- ▶ 68% Strangled
- ▶ 800% More Likely to Die
- ▶ 50% of Fatal Strangulations Leave No Marks



Evaluation of Strangulation Patients

- ▶ LOC
- ▶ Visual Changes
- ▶ Petechiae
- ▶ Ligature Marks/Contusions
- ▶ Swelling Tenderness
- ▶ Incontinence
- ▶ Neuro Signs
- ▶ Dysphonia/Aphonia
- ▶ Dyspnea/SubQ Emphysema
- ▶ Evaluate carotid and vertebral arteries
- ▶ Evaluate bony/cartilaginous and soft tissue neck structures
- ▶ Evaluate brain for anoxic injury
- ▶ CTA of carotid/vertebral arteries
- ▶ MRI/MRA of neck
- ▶ MRI/MRA of brain

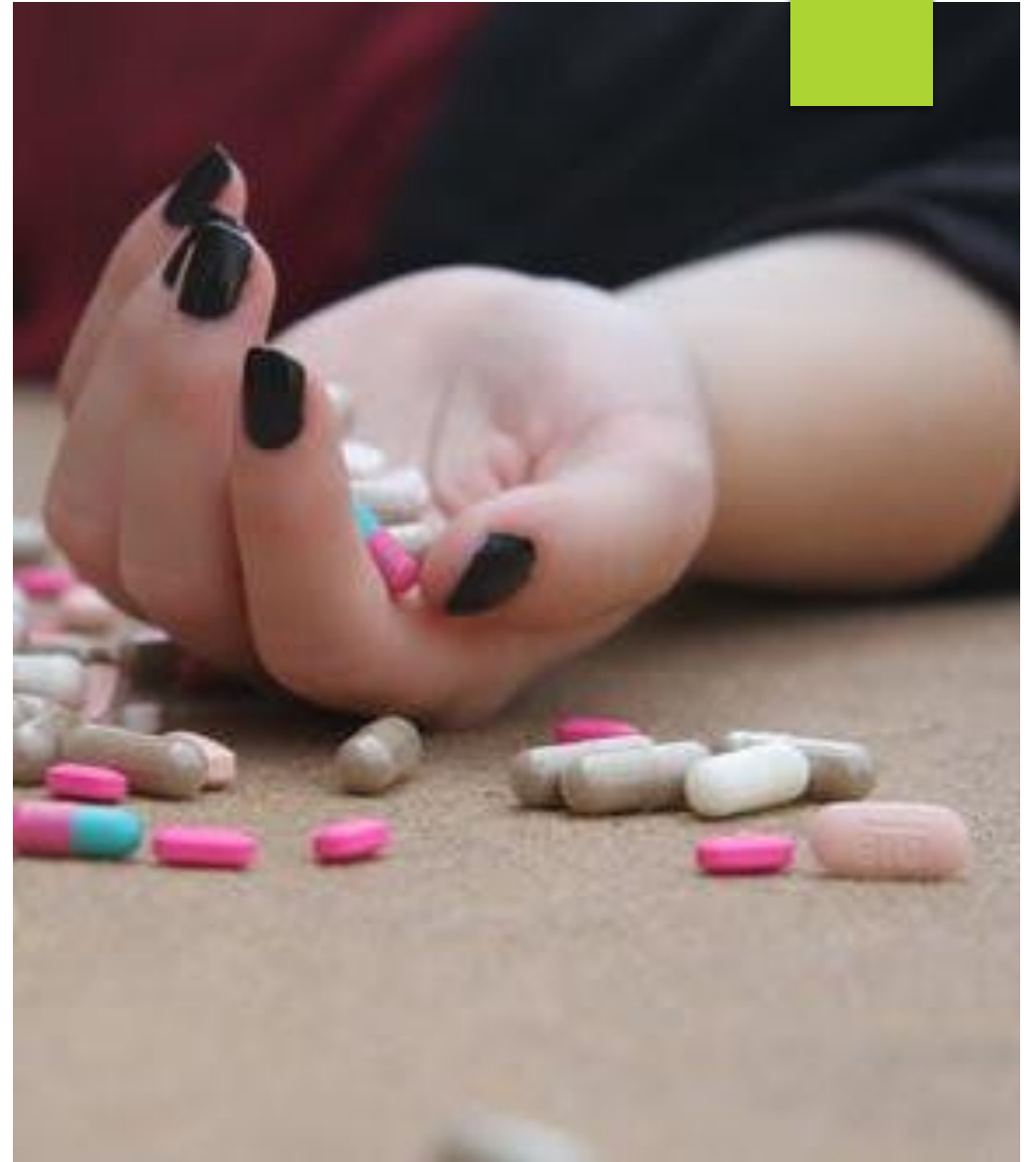
Health Risks of Sex Trafficking

- ▶ STIs
- ▶ PID
- ▶ Pregnancy
- ▶ Abortions
- ▶ Lack of preventative care
- ▶ Hepatitis
- ▶ HIV



Substance Abuse

- ▶ Used by Traffickers to Control
- ▶ Overdoses
- ▶ Withdrawal Symptoms
- ▶ Used to Numb
- ▶ Addicts Vulnerable to Trafficking



Psychiatric Concerns

- ▶ Anxiety
- ▶ Suicidal
- ▶ Psychosis
- ▶ Disorientation
- ▶ Lack of Affect
- ▶ Eating Disorders
- ▶ PTSD



Physical Concerns

- ▶ Untreated Chronic Diseases
- ▶ Malnutrition
- ▶ Somatic Complaints
- ▶ Dental Issues
- ▶ Neck/Jaw Pain
- ▶ Untreated Injuries



Differentials

- ▶ Human Trafficking
- ▶ Intimate Partner Violence
- ▶ Sexual Assault
- ▶ Child Abuse
- ▶ Homelessness
- ▶ Substance Abuse



How to Appropriately Respond

- ▶ Treat Immediate Healthcare Needs
- ▶ Communicate Hope
- ▶ Documentation
- ▶ Collect Evidence if Indicated



Raise Dopamine Levels

- ▶ Sleep
- ▶ Snacks
- ▶ Sugar
- ▶ Salt
- ▶ Straws
- ▶ Sunshine



Factors That Facilitate/Impede Disclosure

- ▶ Patient Provider Connectiveness
- ▶ Children
- ▶ Social Support
- ▶ Ambiguity about Role of Health Care



Patient Desired Outcomes

- ▶ Support
- ▶ Empathy
- ▶ Concern
- ▶ Referrals
- ▶ Medical Treatments
- ▶ Psychological Support
- ▶ Education



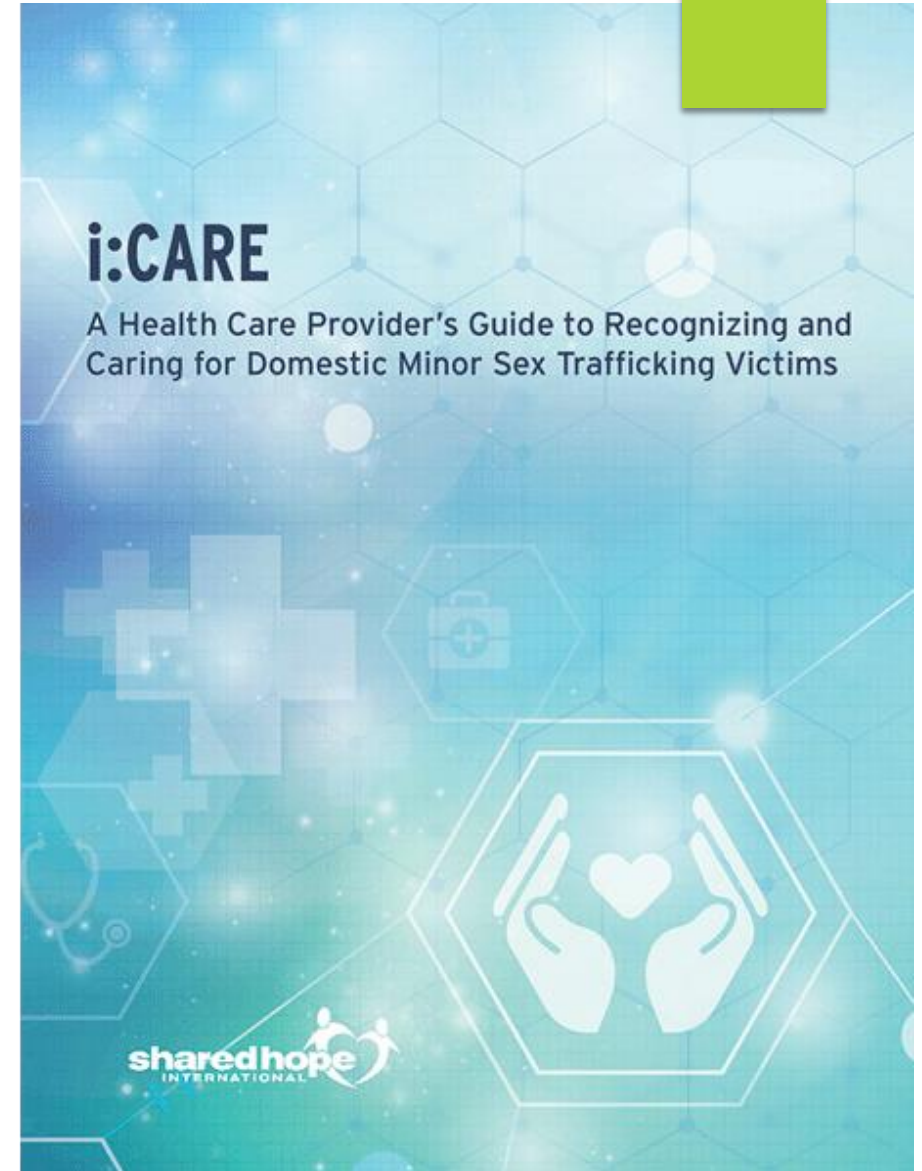
Goals of Treatment

- ▶ Help the Patient as Much as Possible
- ▶ Develop a Relationship with the Patient
- ▶ Provide Patient Centered Care
- ▶ Encourage the Patient to Come Back
- ▶ Safety Planning
- ▶ Offer Resources
- ▶ Document Appropriately



Resources

- ▶ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Rescue and Restore Campaign
- ▶ Polaris National Human Trafficking Resource Center
- ▶ HEAL Trafficking
- ▶ SOAR to Health and Wellness Training
- ▶ I:Care Shared Hope International





Questions?

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