

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN ADOLESCENTS

Understanding the Issues as a  
Service Provider

Erica Smith, MEd  
Jasmine Oglesby, LSW



# CONTINUING EDUCATION

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# DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

There are no financial relationships or financial affiliations to disclose.

*Questions?*

*Contact Kim Slouf – [sloufk@email.chop.edu](mailto:sloufk@email.chop.edu)*

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A CHOP-wide, evidence-based effort to protect youth from violence, VPI's trauma-informed programs prevent violence and aggression, support at-risk populations, and help our patients heal by providing the **right care** to the **right children** at the **right time**.

Visit us at : [chop.edu/violence](http://chop.edu/violence)

# TODAY'S MODERATOR

**Marné Castillo, PhD, MEd**

Research Scientist in the Division  
of Adolescent Medicine at  
Children's Hospital of  
Philadelphia

Violence Prevention Initiative  
Fellow



# GOAL FOR TODAY

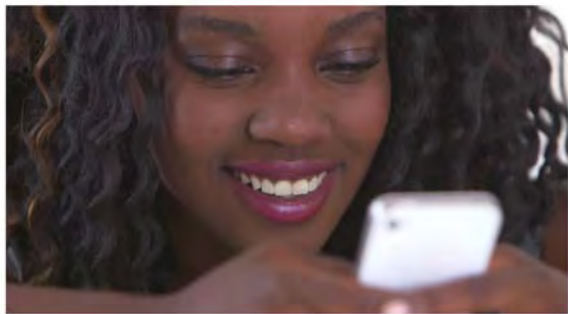
**What can you do to address youth trafficking in your pediatric setting?**

# OBJECTIVES

- Define human trafficking and other related terms.
- Identify signs that your patient or client may be a trafficked youth.
- Identify root causes of trafficking and transactional sex.
- Explore your role and responsibilities as a social worker.
- Identify resources to assist clients who are victims of trafficking.

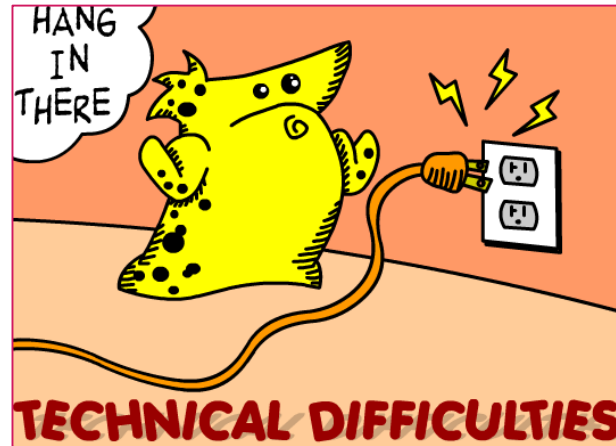


# HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN ADOLESCENTS





# TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES



Please check your latest email from WebEx. It will contain a link to download WebEx Manager.

The audio for today's webinar is accessed through your computer's speakers. Please turn them on.

# TODAY'S PARTICIPANTS

- Social workers
- Mental health providers
- Educators
- Nurses
- Administrators
- Counselors
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

# TODAY'S PRESENTERS

Jasmine Oglesby, LSW

Erica Smith, MEd

The Adolescent Initiative Program  
CHOP Division of Adolescent Medicine



# YOUR THOUGHTS

- What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of human trafficking?
- An adolescent victim of sex trafficking?

# WHAT IS ADOLESCENCE?

Adolescence is the period of years between age 13 and 24 years old

- Extends into young adulthood
- Does not end when legal adulthood in the U.S. begins

# THE ADOLESCENT INITIATIVE (AI)

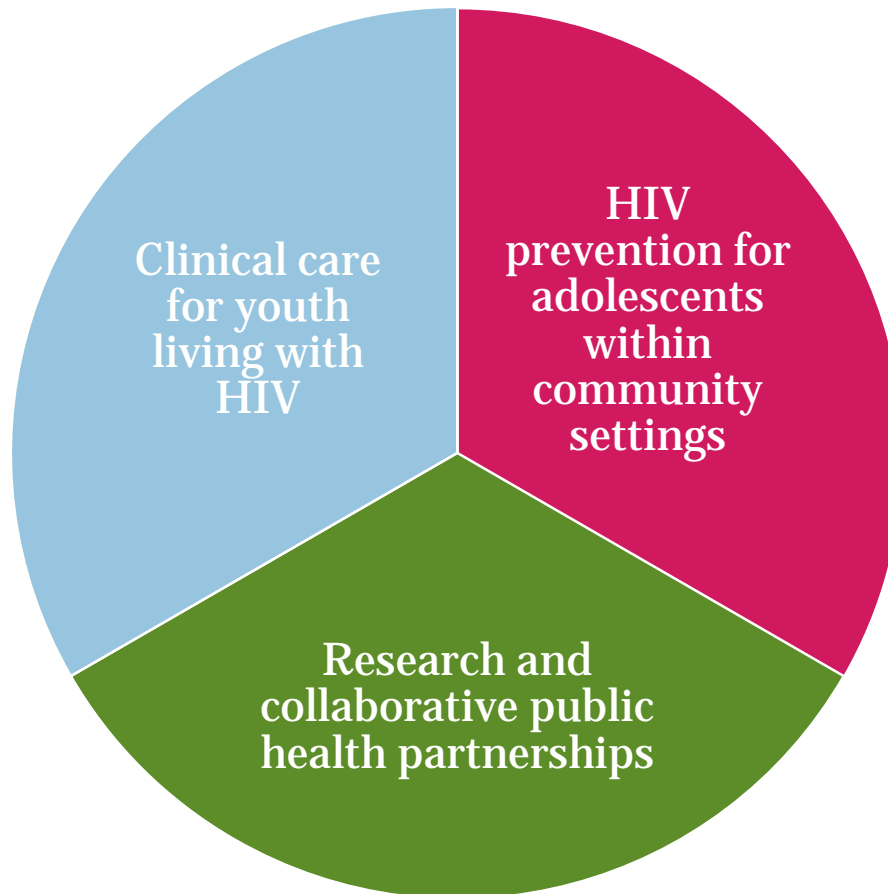
The Adolescent Initiative provides clinical care, research, and prevention services to adolescents at-risk for or living with HIV.

The program helps bring HIV-positive and high-risk adolescents into an environment where they can feel comfortable receiving healthcare.



# THE ADOLESCENT INITIATIVE (AI)

AI has three arms of programming:





# THE ADOLESCENT INITIATIVE (AI)

The detention-based subset of the AI works inside the Philadelphia Juvenile Justice Services Center, providing intensive sexuality education, advocacy, case management, and support to at-risk youth in detention, including:

Women

Young men who have sex  
with men (MSM)

Transgender youth

# THE PHILADELPHIA JUVENILE JUSTICE SERVICES CENTER (PJJSC)

- Operated by the Department of Human Services (DHS)
- Temporary care, custody, and control for youth 13+ awaiting court action



# THE PJJSC

- 105-bed facility
- Accommodates nearly 5,000 youth/year



Typical length of stay:  
6 - 10 days

# THE PJJSC

Factors that influence length of stay:

- particular needs of a juvenile
- availability of resources
- complexity of the legal proceedings



# HIV RISK BEHAVIOR

Multiple sexual  
partners

Current/previous  
sexually  
transmitted  
infection (STI)

Commercial sex  
work/survival  
sex/victim of  
human trafficking

Intravenous drug  
use

History of self-  
injecting  
hormones/silicone

History of adult  
male partners

Early 1<sup>st</sup> sexual  
encounter

Having a known  
HIV+ partner

History of sexual  
assault/childhood  
sexual abuse

Lack of basic  
sexual health  
knowledge

Current/past  
pregnancy

History of  
homelessness/  
transience

# AI SERVICES

- Ongoing intensive sexuality education
- Practical strategies for reducing HIV risk
- Teach youth to advocate for their own medical needs
- Discussion of long and short term goals
- Court advocacy
- Collaboration with others such as detention center staff, family, medical staff, legal counsel, DHS, POs, judges, and other social service providers



# AI SERVICES

- Linkage with appropriate medical care
  - Primary care, family planning, prenatal care, HIV & STD screenings
- Linkage to services for pregnant youth
- Referrals to LGBTQ services
- Referrals to counseling/therapy
- Assistance with basic needs
- Referrals to education programs
- Home/community visitation



# TRAFFICKED YOUTH PARTICIPANTS IN AI

Clients who are victims of human trafficking:  
***approximately 15%***

Clients who have engaged in commercial sex  
or survival sex:  
***approximately 80%***

# QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

Please type your questions in to the Chat text box in the bottom right of your screen.

Only the moderator and presenters can see your questions.

# WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

The recruitment, harboring, and exploitation of people being brought into [or living in] the United States for labor, through the use of force, fraud or coercion.

- For the purpose of economic or sexual exploitation.
- For the purpose of an organization's reliance on long-term exploitation to continue to produce profits.
- When a person is under 18, force, fraud, and coercion is not needed.

Labor may include but is not limited to sexual labor.

-Department of Homeland Security

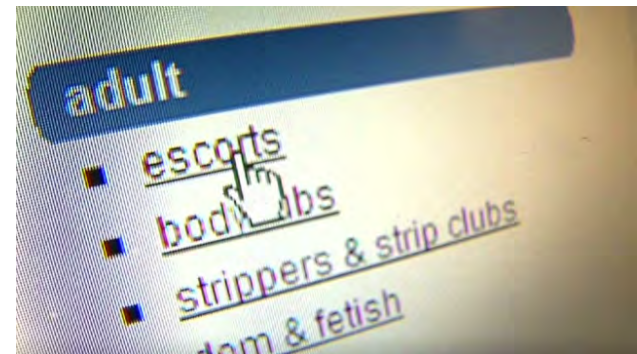
# TERMS AND CONCEPTS

***Survival Sex*** is the exchanging of sexual behaviors and acts for basic subsistence needs, including clothing, food, and shelter.

-“Exchanging Sex for Survival,” Huffington Post, 2014

These transactions can include:

- street based sex work
- magazine, newspaper & online ads
- exotic dancing
- escort services
- massage parlors
- phone sex services,
- cam girl/boy work, etc.

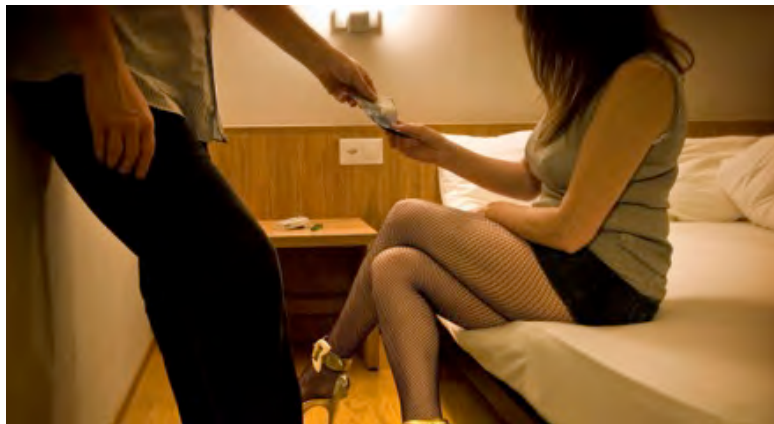


# TERMS AND CONCEPTS

***Commercial sex or transactional sex*** is the exchange of money or goods for sexual services. It always involves a sex worker and a client and it may also involve a third party.

The ***commercial sex industry*** is the combined phenomenon of individuals, establishments, customs and messages – explicit and implicit, desired and undesired – involved in commercial sex.

-World Health Organization



# TERMS AND CONCEPTS

***Sex workers*** are women, men and transgender people who receive money or goods in exchange for sexual services, and who consciously define those activities as income generating even if they do not consider sex work as their occupation.

**This includes adolescents.**



# TERMS AND CONCEPTS

## Trafficking vs. Sex Work

According to legal definitions, **sex work can only be categorized as human trafficking** if the person performing this work is:

- Being forced
- Deceived into whatever tasks they perform
- Otherwise coerced by a third party





# HOWEVER...

Law enforcement considers *any person under the age of 18* participating in commercial sex work to be a trafficked person whether or not a third party is involved.

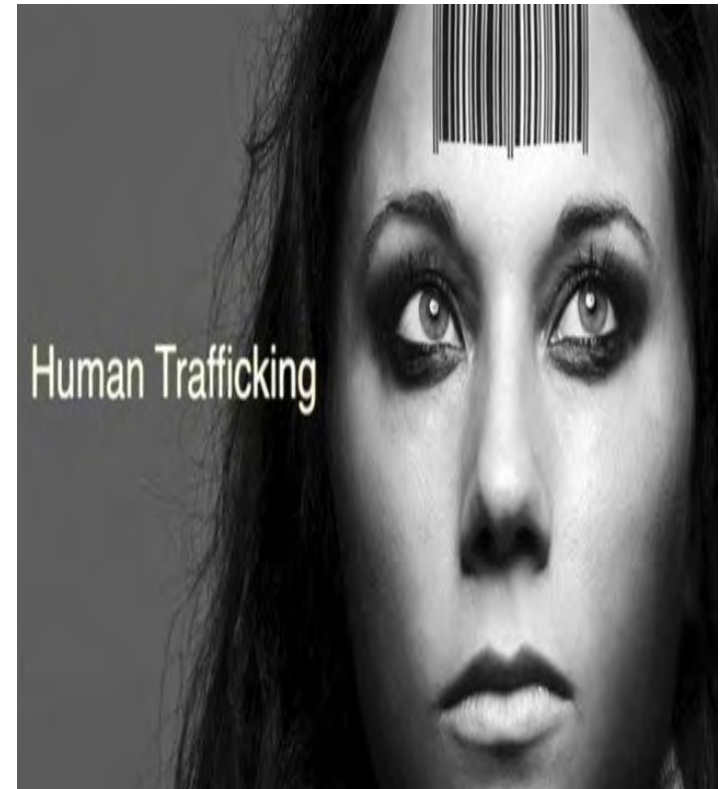
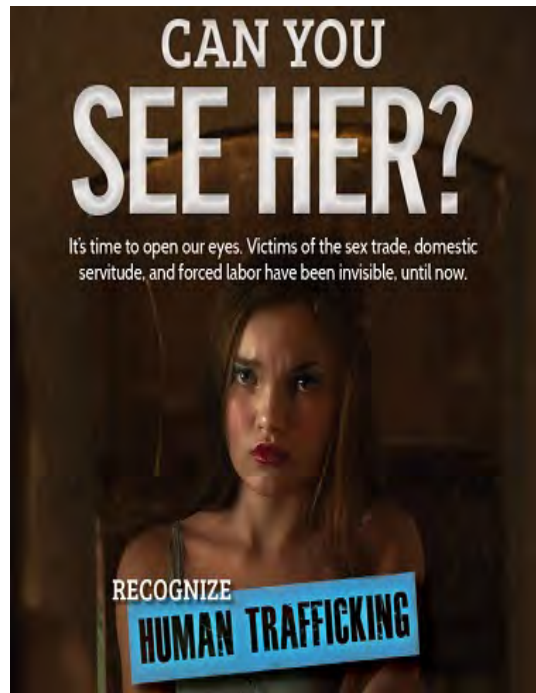


# QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

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# AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS



# AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS





# AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS



# CRITICISM OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING CAMPAIGNS

- Dismiss the needs of the majority of youth in the sex trade that are not being coerced by third parties
- Employ scare tactics that present all children as being trafficked
- Present a sensationalized version of trafficking as the only version
- Do not address the social realities that affect youth such as poverty, homelessness, and involvement in the child welfare system

# DIFFERING OPINIONS AND PHILOSOPHIES

## Sex worker's rights and advocacy organizations:

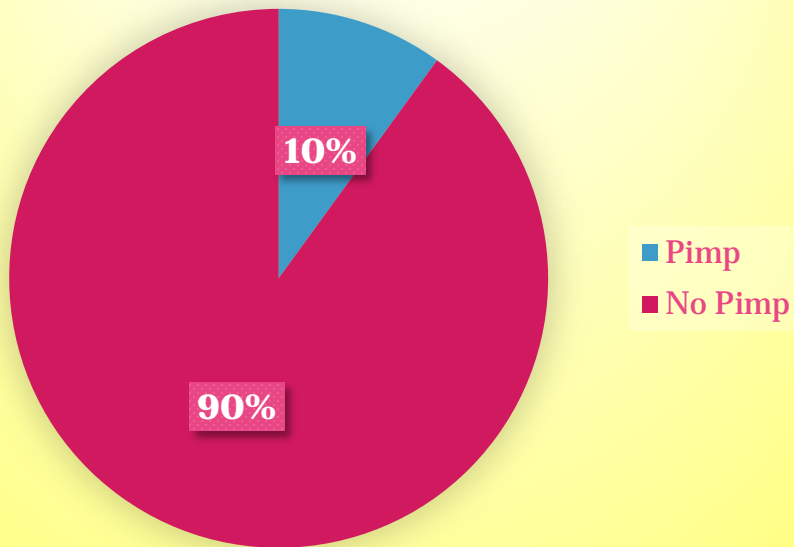
- Routinely report that the adolescents most often participating in sex work act independently (without a pimp).
- Engage in sex work due to a lack of other commodities and supports.
- Do not tend to share life experiences similar to those resembling human trafficking awareness campaigns or depictions of sex trafficking in television and film.

-Sources: [missingkids.org](http://missingkids.org), [opendemocracy.net](http://opendemocracy.net), Sex Workers Outreach Project

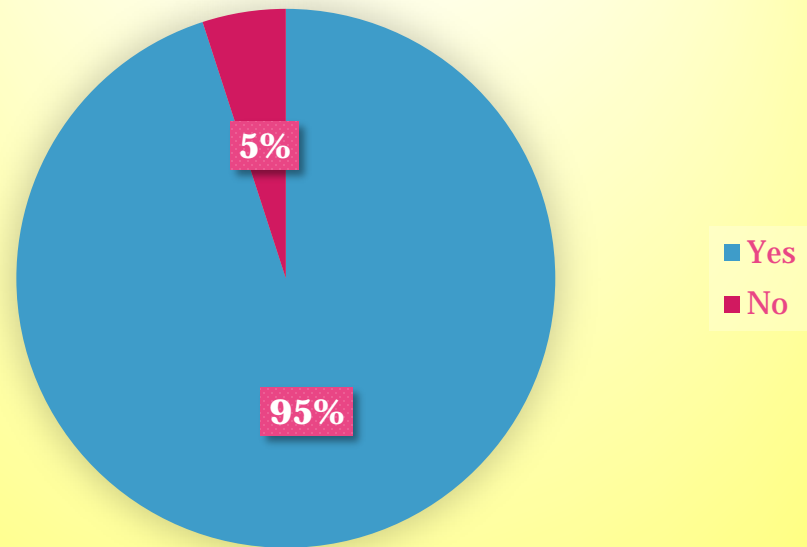


# LOOKING FOR PIMPS WHO AREN'T THERE?

**“Market Facilitator”  
(Pimp) Used**



**Reason for Sex Work:  
Purely Financial**



Source: Youth Involvement in the Sex Trade,  
John Jay College and the Center for Court Innovation

# WHAT DOES SEX WORK WITHOUT A PIMP LOOK LIKE?

- Self-directed
- May be just a handful of regular clients
- May not “look like prostitution”
- Exchanging sex with one person who pays your phone bill, lets you stay at his house, etc.
- Having sex with a “friend” who sometimes gives you money
- Many youth would not think of this as “prostitution” or “sex work”
- Youth may look out for each other’s safety
- Sometimes the first experience is unplanned

# CONSENT VS. AGENCY

The majority of AI participants who do sex work **do not** have third party (pimp) involvement.

**In the eyes of the law, every sex worker under 18 is a trafficking victim.**

# QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

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# CASE EXAMPLES

Aaron

Sheila

Trina

Brandy

Maxine

# RISK FACTORS

- Sexual/physical/emotional abuse and trauma
- Unstable, abusive, or neglectful home environment
- Lack of family or other social support networks
- History of runaway/homelessness/transience
- Foster care/residential services/juvenile justice system
- Lack of basic needs/poverty
- Developmental/learning disabilities
- Survivors of previous trauma
  - sexual trauma, domestic abuse, war, trauma sustained within social welfare and justice systems
- Immigrants without support networks
  - especially those with a language barrier

# NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN

As many as **1/3 of teens** who run away from home will become involved in sex work within **48 hours** of leaving home.

**86% of youth sex trafficking victims** were in the care of social services or foster care when they went missing.



# RECRUITMENT TOOLS

- Promises of love and support
- Physical and emotional abuse
- Repeated sexual assault
- Introduction of drugs
- Confiscation of ID and money
- Isolation from friends/ family
- Renaming



# WHO IS BUYING?

- Men from all walks of life and sectors of society
- Across races, ethnicities, and socioeconomic statuses
- Married men
- Men with children



# WHERE DOES THIS HAPPEN?

- Hotels, brothels, apartments, homes, truck stops
- In/around major interstate hubs
- Hotels near airports
- Cities, small towns, rural areas
- Big events like the Super Bowl

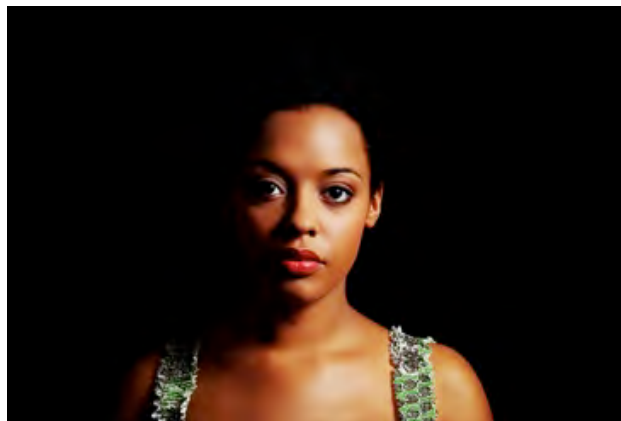


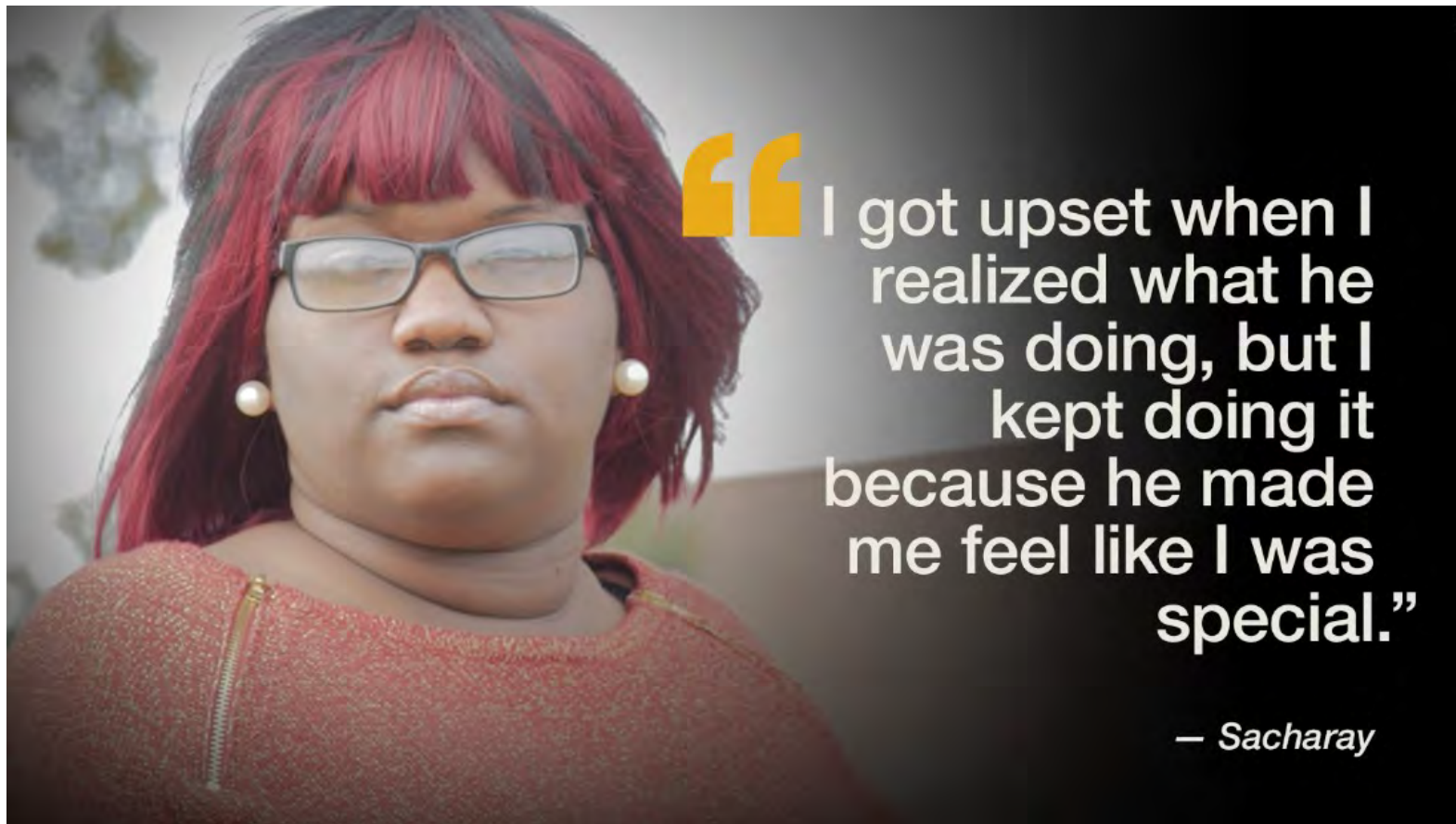
# WHY DON'T THEY LEAVE?

Many of the same reasons as DV victims:

- Physiological coercion
- Trauma bonding
- Alternatives don't appear much better

*“The best victims are the ones who don't even know they're victims”*





“ I got upset when I realized what he was doing, but I kept doing it because he made me feel like I was special.”

— Sacharay

# QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

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# OUTCOMES

Trafficking victims may experience the same outcomes that sexual assault victims/survivors experience

- Physical, psychological, and reproductive health consequences
- Trauma related psychological disorders
- Increased risk of suicide
- Social ostracization in community

# OUTCOMES

- Injuries similar to victims of torture
- Starvation
- Typical injuries can include broken bones, concussions, bruising, burns, etc.
- Reproductive concerns like STDs including HIV, multiple pregnancies with varying results, infertility

**Exacerbated by the denial of healthcare**

# OUTCOMES

“The experience of coerced sex at an early age reduces a woman’s ability to see her sexuality as something over which she has control.

As a result, it is less likely that an adolescent girl who has been forced into sex will use condoms.”

Source: World Health Organization





# OUTCOMES

“This type of physical and sexual abuse leads to severe mental or emotional health consequences including feelings of **severe guilt, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety, substance abuse (alcohol or narcotics) and eating disorders.**

In extreme cases, the mental anguish can lead to **self mutilation or suicide.**”

-Source: Stop Violence Against Women, a project of The Advocates for Human Rights

# POTENTIAL NEEDS OF TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS

## Emergency Services

- Crisis Intervention and Counseling
- Emergency Shelter and Referrals
- Urgent Medical Care
- Safety Planning
- Food and Clothing

## Social Services

- Medical Care
- Case Management
- Interpretation/ Translation
- Housing
- Transportation
- Identification recovery:
  - birth certificates, social security card, driver's license, etc.

# POTENTIAL NEEDS OF TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS

## Employment Assistance

- Job Training
- Education
- Professional Attire



## Legal Services

- Immigration Status
- Criminal Case Services
- Civil Case Services
- Witness Protection
- Family Court Services
- Legal Representation
- Court Accompaniment

# WRAP COURT

- **Working to Restore Adolescents' Power**
- Goal: Work collaboratively to promote treatment, healing, and restoration and ensure the safety of the child victim
- Diverts the child from the adjudicatory system into the child welfare system

# WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT TO ME AS A SOCIAL WORKER?

- Discern when someone is being trafficked or in danger of being trafficked
- Knowledgeable, safe person to someone in a potentially dangerous situation
- Potential to influence policies within your agency/institution to support trafficked youth

# EXPLORING IMPLICIT BIAS



# IMPLICIT BIAS

- Activated **involuntarily** and without an individual's awareness or intentional control
- Different from known biases that individuals may choose to conceal for the purposes of social and/or political correctness
- Developed over the course of a lifetime through exposure to direct and indirect messages
- Media and news programming are often-cited origins

Source: Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, The Ohio State University



# EXPLORING IMPLICIT BIAS

*Our biases may reinforce who gains access to supportive services and who does not:*

- Thinking that masculine people cannot be sexually assaulted
- Believing that intimate partner violence only happens between cisgender people or straight couples
- Perceiving sexualized behavior in young girls as normal in certain racial groups or socio-economic statuses



# TRAUMA INFORMED CARE

**Implementing a trauma informed model of care can:**

- ✓ improve identification
- ✓ diminish harm
- ✓ enhance care

**of individuals who have been sexually exploited and victimized**

**Definition of Trauma Informed Care:**

1. Realizing the prevalence of trauma
2. Realizing how trauma affects all individuals
3. Responding by putting this knowledge into practice



# TRAUMA INFORMED APPROACH TO ADOLESCENT SEXUAL HEALTH

## What is it?

Accurate sexuality information embedded in a therapeutic process of evidence informed best practices for childhood trauma.

- Emphasis on confidentiality
- Meeting in private space
- Emphasis on youth's feeling of safety and comfort
- Youth make **all decisions** related to content
- Sessions can stop at any time
- Participation is always voluntary
- Providers closely observing youth's responses and reactions
- Normalizing their responses to trauma/emotional reactions
- Creating a safe space for the expression of these emotions

# WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- ✓ Lack of family or family support
- ✓ Substance abuse or addiction
- ✓ Poor health
  - ✓ STIs, malnutrition, or serious dental problems
- ✓ Unexplained school absences/irregular attendance
- ✓ Chronic running away
- ✓ Homelessness
- ✓ Abrupt change in behavior, attire, or relationships
- ✓ Defers to another person to speak for them
- ✓ Presence of an older “boyfriend”
- ✓ Travel with an older male who is not a guardian
- ✓ References frequent travel to other cities
- ✓ Sudden change in possessions
- ✓ Scripted sounding answers

# WHAT TO DO

**If you identify a potential child victim of human trafficking:**

- **Call 911** if it is an emergency situation.
- If your agency can't respond, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888

# RESPONDING TO TRAFFICKING



Does your agency have written policies and protocols in place to respond to a situation in which someone comes forward in need of help?

Does your state identify you as a mandated reporter of abuse and crime?

Does your profession or licensing body have ethical guidelines?

Is your community equipped to provide assistance to people who have survived a human trafficking experience?

Are you working to support someone requiring immigration or Homeland Security assistance as a result of human trafficking?

What are the consequences for incorrectly reporting an instance of human trafficking?

# DOs AND DON'Ts

- **DO** use a broad question:
  - *“Have you ever had to do something sexual in exchange for something you needed?”*
  - *“Has anyone ever forced you to do something sexual against your will, for money?”*
- **DO** deal with personal feelings elsewhere
- **DO** realize that many won't even realize they're victims



# DOs AND DON'Ts

- **DON'T** ask “*Are you trafficked?*”
- **DON'T** ask questions that are not essential (no questions just because you're curious)
- **DON'T** judge the teen. They will know.
- **DON'T** bring your own moral bias into the questions
- **DON'T** act shocked or saddened
- **DON'T** expect the victims to want to be saved
- **DON'T** expect the victims to be grateful

Anyone who considers themselves an advocate for sex trafficking victims should consider themselves an advocate for commercial sex workers.





# RESOURCES

**To report suspected human trafficking**

**1-866-347- 2423**

**National Human Trafficking Resource Center**

**1-888-373-7888**

# RESOURCES

## **DHS Blue Campaign**

<https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign>

## **The Polaris Project**

<https://polarisproject.org/>

## **The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children**

<http://www.missingkids.com>

## **SOAR (Stop, Observe, Ask, Respond) to Health and Wellness Training**

Helps health care workers identify and care for victims of trafficking

<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/training/soar-to-health-and-wellness-training>

# DEDICATED TO S & T

This presentation is dedicated to two beautiful young clients of the Adolescent Initiative.

S&T were both young women who struggled with addiction, lack of family support, abusive pimps, a lack of resources to help them, and a world that was unfair.

We lost them far too soon and we will never forget them.



# QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

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# THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

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