



# Recognizing and Responding to Human Trafficking in a Health Care Context

# Objectives

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Understand the definition of human trafficking and the underlying issues

Identify the indicators in a healthcare context

Review best practices for responding and reporting

# What Is Human Trafficking?

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Human trafficking occurs when a person is compelled to provide **labor** or a **service**, or to perform a **commercial sex act** through **force, fraud, or coercion**.

# Labor Trafficking

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Lured through false promises of (often times) seemingly legitimate opportunities

**Domestic service, restaurants, hotels, agriculture, construction, cleaning crews, health and beauty industry, peddling**

# Commercial Sex Act

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## Common Forms of Commercial Sex:

- ❖ prostitution
- ❖ pornography
- ❖ stripping/live shows
- ❖ webcamming

**Commercial** – the sex act is performed in exchange for something of value

According to federal and state law if an individual is a **minor** there is no need to prove force, fraud, or coercion.

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# Force, Fraud and Coercion

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**Force** – physical violence, use of restraints, confinement, abduction

**Fraud** – deception, false promises about the terms and conditions of employment, wages or educational opportunities

**Coercion** – psychological threats, blackmail, manipulation

# Vulnerability Factors

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Runaway, homeless and missing youth

Physical +/- or sexual abuse

Unstable home life

Foster care/CPS

Financial Insecurity

Disabilities

Substance misuse/exposure to

Emotional distress

LGBTQ

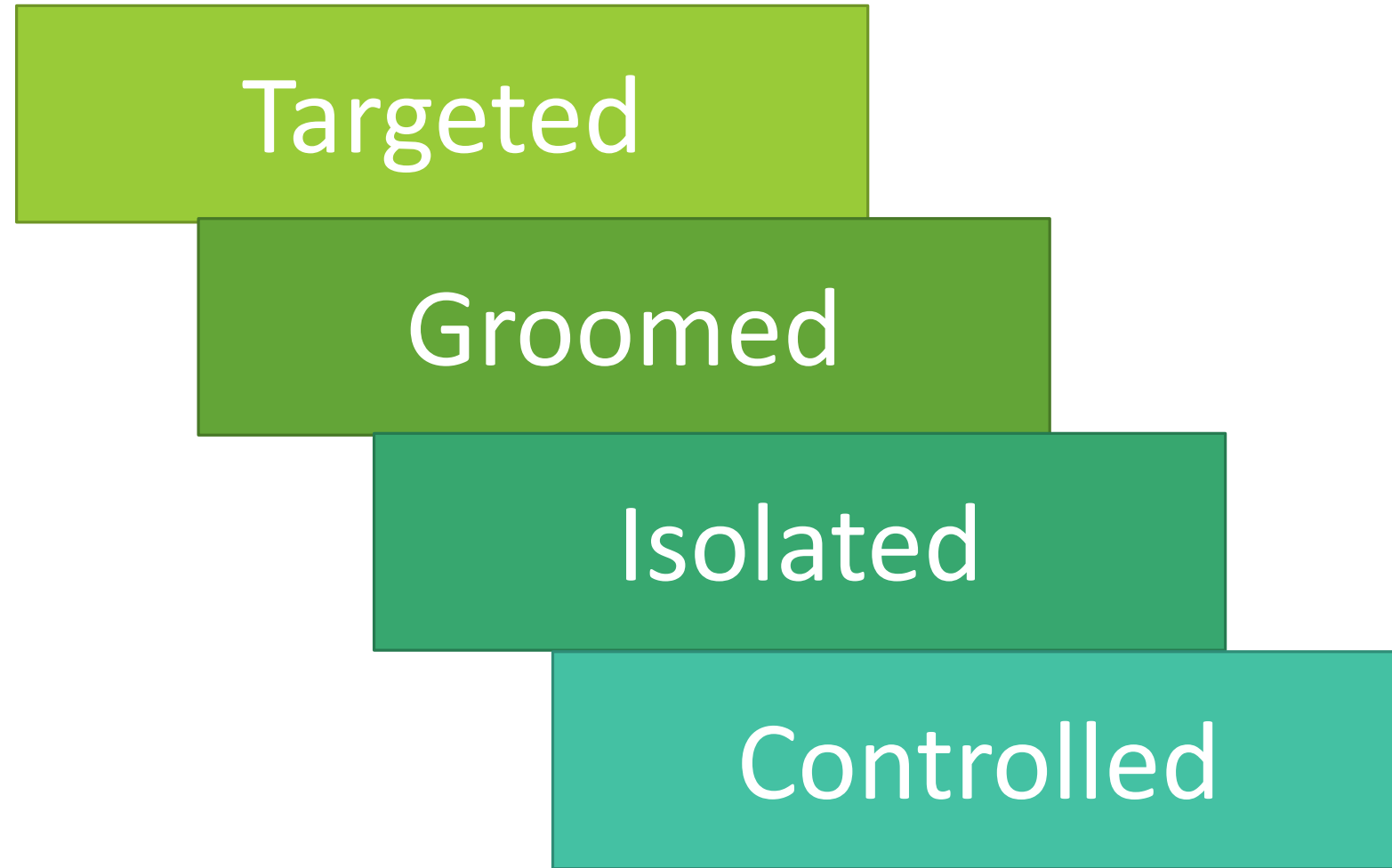
Refugees and immigrants

Not in possession/control of identification documents

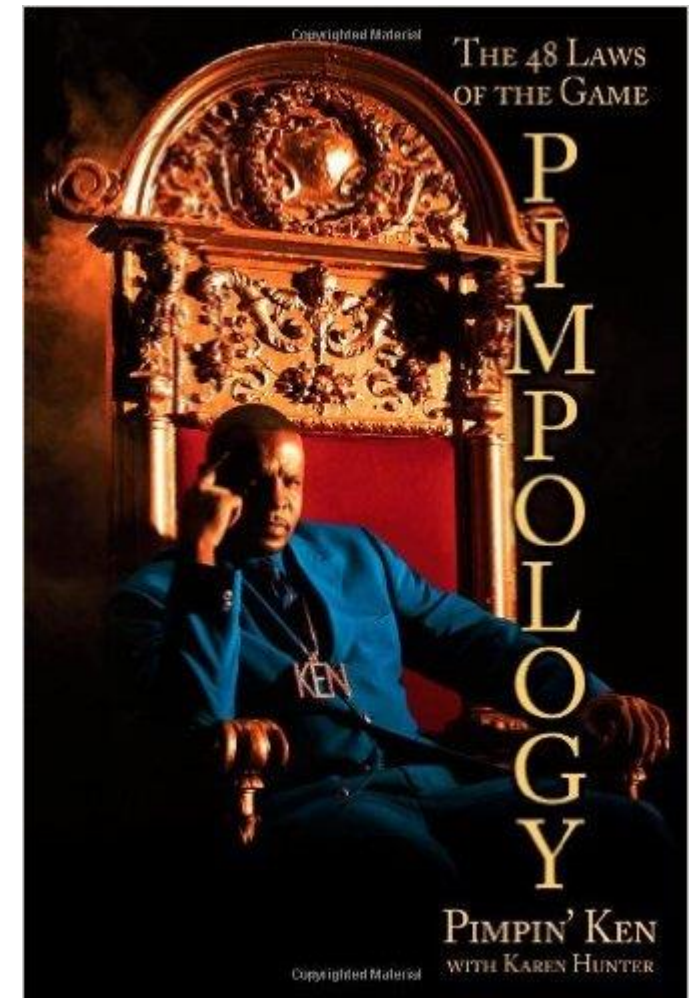
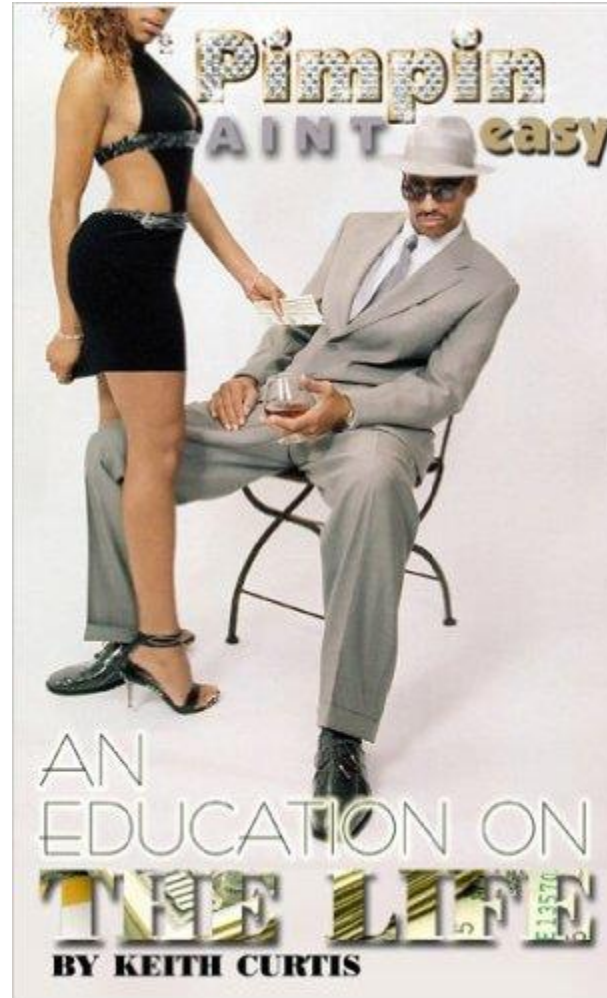
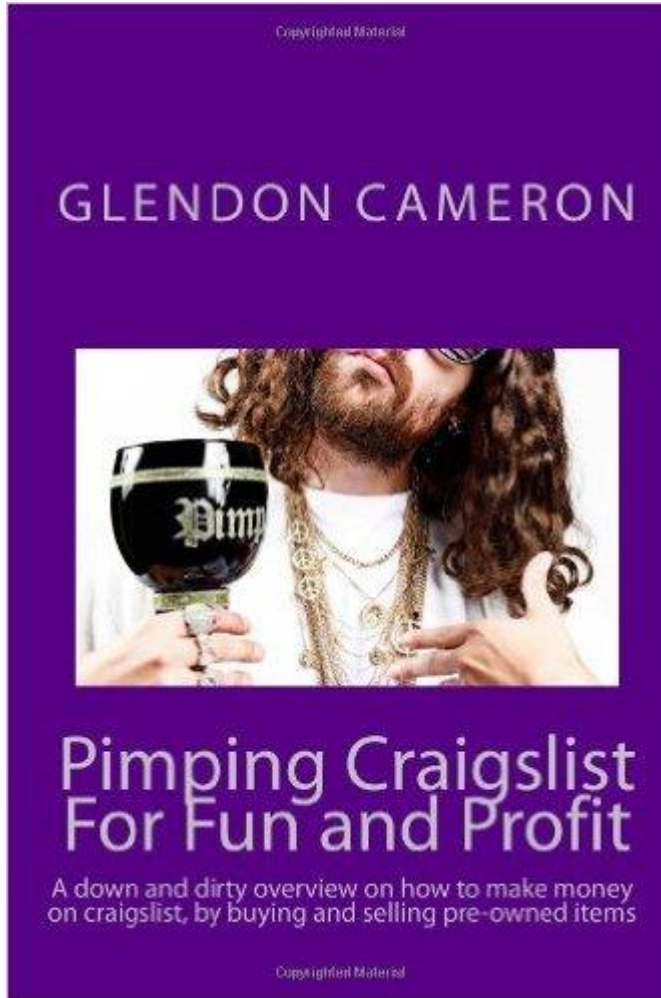
Social Media



# Recruitment and Control Tactics



# Master Manipulators





A pyramid diagram representing Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, divided into five horizontal layers. From top to bottom, the layers are: Self-Actualization (darkest green), Self-Esteem (medium-dark green), Love and Belonging (medium green), Safety and Security (medium-light green), and Physiological Needs (lightest green). The pyramid is set against a white background with a solid green horizontal bar at the bottom of the slide.

**Self-Actualization**

**Self-Esteem**

**Love and Belonging**

**Safety and Security**

**Physiological Needs**

# Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

# Why is this happening?

## Money and a Market



# “Why Don’t They Leave?”

Do not self-identify

Fear of violence, threats

Isolation and distrust

Self-blame

Limited Options

# Why Are We Here?

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According to a study conducted by Loyola University Chicago School of Law and published in the Annals of Health Law, 2014:

**87.8% of victims reported they had contact with a healthcare provider while they were being trafficked**

# Situational and Historical Indicators

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- Accompanied by a handler
- Not in possession or control of their ID, documents, or money
- May not know what city/state they are in
- Reports of physical or sexual assault
- Neglect or delay in care
- Chronic Pain syndromes

# Behavioral Indicators

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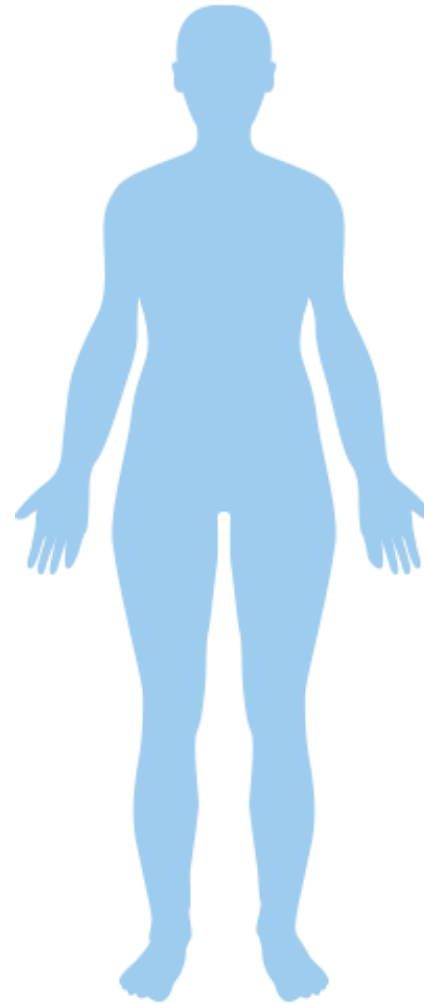
- Evasive, defiant, hostile, angry
- Confused, disoriented
- Fearful, submissive, hyper-vigilant, jumpy (especially when touched)
- Flat affect, monotone speech, seemingly unfazed by serious injury
- No eye contact



# Labor Trafficking

Severe industrial accident without proper documentation or evidence of protective gear

Malnourishment, poor overall health status, substance misuse, delayed treatment, or evidence of non-treated injury



Dizziness, headaches, confusion, memory loss, or cognitive deficits from traumatic brain injury or concussion

Chronic back, hearing, vision, skin, cardiovascular, or respiratory problems from work conditions or toxic exposures

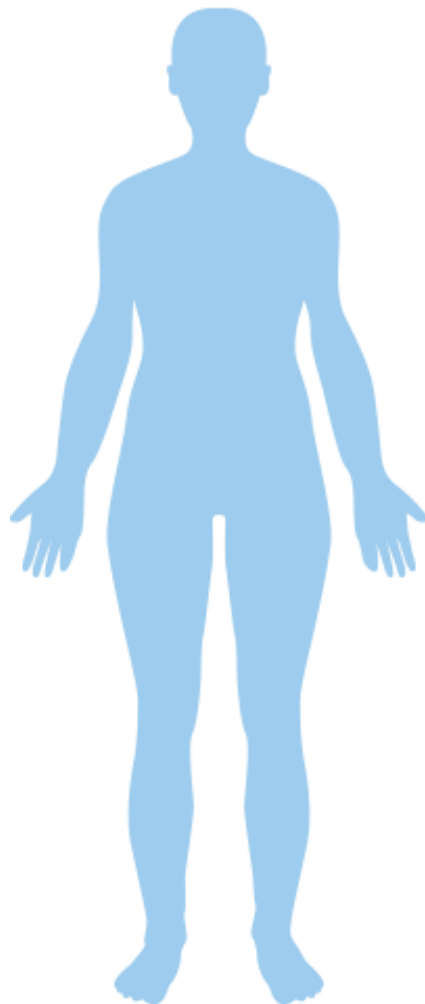
Signs of abuse, scars, and/or injuries inconsistent with explanation

# Sex Trafficking

Disfiguring injury or injury & scars inconsistent with story

Bruises, Bite marks, Burns, Branding anywhere on body

Multiple, persistent +/- untreated STDs, STIs & TSS; Urinary difficulties, pelvic pain, genital or rectal trauma



Signs of substance misuse; Poor dental care; Neck and jaw problems

Multiple or frequent pregnancies, Repeated abortions +/- miscarriages, Complications from attempted abortions

Impacted debris upon vaginal exam



# Screening Questions

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# Trauma Informed Care

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- ❑ Try to use same-gender staff
- ❑ Choose a comfortable space that is conducive to confidentiality
- ❑ Communicate with empathy and respect
- ❑ Lack of trust is common and understandable
- ❑ Be sensitive to signs of stress/agitation and suggest a break even if the patient doesn't.
- ❑ Remember that patient may have endured significant trauma

# Trauma Informed Care

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**Preface the physical exam with an overall introduction to make a transition to this part of the visit.**

**Allow the patient to be in control as much as possible during the visit.**

**It is especially important for the medical provider to fully explain every procedure and task prior to implementation – including anytime the patient will be touched (ask permission).**

# Responding and Reporting

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Importance of hospital protocols

Involve hospital/facility social worker

Record as much information about the situation as possible

Follow mandatory reporting requirements

# An Offer To Help

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Many people being trafficked want to get out of the situation but aren't yet ready to do so.

It's important to give a clear message that help is available.

Don't be discouraged if you are turned down. You may be setting up the next provider the patient sees for success.

**IT IS NOT YOUR JOB TO RESCUE THEM, ONLY THEY WILL KNOW THE BEST TIME TO LEAVE**



# Resources

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**SOAR Online Training** - [www.acf.hhs.gov](http://www.acf.hhs.gov)

**HEAL Trafficking** - [www.healtrafficking.org](http://www.healtrafficking.org)

**PATH** - <http://www.doc-path.org/path>

**Polaris** - [www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org)

# What's Next?

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**Learn** – websites, books, films: <http://www.reallifegiving.org/learn/booksandfilms/>

**Follow** regional and national organizations on social media and share information

**Host** an event to raise awareness or bring training to your workplace, civic or community group

**Take Action** – for a comprehensive list: <http://www.reallifegiving.org/take-action/>

**Polaris, National Hotline for Tips and Help**

phone (888) 373-7888 / text 233733 / [www.humantraffickinghotline.org](http://www.humantraffickinghotline.org)

# Contacts

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**Social Workers, CFS Human Trafficking Program**

(603) 518-4000 / (603) 851-7518

**NH Crisis Centers Hotline (statewide)**

(800) 277-5570 / (866) 644-3574

**Michael Posanka - RAC, Homeland Security Investigations**

(617) 459-9001

**Polaris, National Hotline for TIPS and Help**

(888) 373-7888 / [www.humantraffickinghotline.org](http://www.humantraffickinghotline.org)

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