

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Human Trafficking: Data and Documents

Interdisciplinary Conference on Human Trafficking
at the University of Nebraska

2005

Support for Victims of Human Trafficking

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/humtraffdata>



Part of the [Inequality and Stratification Commons](#)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, "Support for Victims of Human Trafficking" (2005). *Human Trafficking: Data and Documents*. 23.

<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/humtraffdata/23>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Interdisciplinary Conference on Human Trafficking at the University of Nebraska at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Human Trafficking: Data and Documents by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

Support for Victims of Human Trafficking

If you suspect someone is a victim of trafficking, call the **Trafficking Information and Referral Hotline at 1.888.3737.888** to obtain information and to access supportive services through the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA). This hotline will help victims safely and securely rebuild their lives by connecting them to basic services related to:

- **Housing**
- **Health care**
- **Immigration assistance**
- **Food**
- **Income**
- **Employment**
- **Legal**

Victims of human trafficking who are non-U.S. citizens are eligible to receive benefits and services through the TVPA to the same extent as refugees. Victims who are U.S. citizens are already eligible to receive many of these benefits.

If you think someone is a victim of human trafficking, call the **Trafficking Information and Referral Hotline**:

1.888.3737.888

For more information about human trafficking visit www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking.

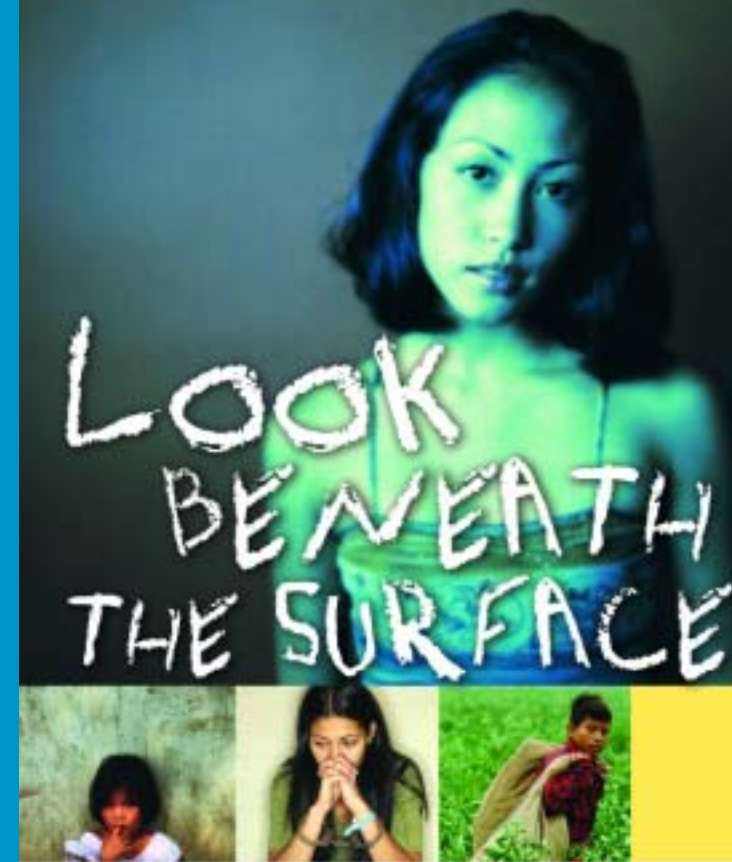
Health Problems Common in Victims of Human Trafficking

Victims of trafficking may suffer from several physical and psychological problems because they are often forced to live and work in dangerous conditions, putting them at greater risk for:

- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Pregnancy, resulting from rape or prostitution
- Bruises, scars and other signs of physical abuse and torture
- Substance abuse or addictions
- Malnourishment and serious dental problems
- Infectious diseases like tuberculosis
- Undetected or untreated diseases, such as diabetes or cancer
- Psychological trauma, including depression, stress-related disorders, disorientation, confusion, phobias and panic attacks

Preventive health care for victims of human trafficking is virtually non-existent, and health problems are typically not treated in their early stages.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Administration for Children and Families



Can you recognize victims of human trafficking among the patients you see daily?

As a frontline health provider, you can help liberate victims of human trafficking.

Human Trafficking is Modern-Day Slavery

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery, widespread throughout the United States today. Trafficking of humans is the second largest criminal industry in the world after drug dealing, and is the fastest growing. Many victims of trafficking are forced to work in prostitution or sex entertainment. But trafficking also occurs in forms of labor exploitation, such as domestic servitude or restaurant work, sweatshop factory work or migrant agricultural work.

Force, fraud and coercion are the methods used by traffickers to press victims into lives of servitude and abuse:

- **Force** – Rape, beatings, confinement
- **Fraud** – False offers of employment, marriage, better life
- **Coercion** – Threats, debt-bondage, psychological abuse

Victims of trafficking can be found in:

- The sex industry
- Domestic situations (nannies or servants)
- Sweatshop factories
- Construction
- Farm work
- Fisheries
- Hotel or tourist industries
- Panhandling
- Janitorial services
- Restaurant services

Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking

Victims of trafficking may look like many of the patients coming to health clinics or emergency rooms. Victims are young children, teenagers, men and women. By looking beneath the surface and asking yourself these questions, you can help identify potential victims:

- **Is the patient accompanied by another person who seems controlling (possibly the trafficker)?**
- **Can you detect any physical or psychological abuse?**
- **Does the patient seem submissive or fearful?**
- **Does the patient have difficulty communicating because of language or cultural barriers?**
- **Does the patient have any identification?**

Gaining the trust of a victim of human trafficking is an important first step in providing assistance.

Sample Questions to Ask Potential Victims of Human Trafficking

If you get the opportunity to examine or question the patient alone, asking the following questions can help you determine if you are dealing with a victim:

- Can you leave your job or situation if you want?
- Can you come and go as you please?
- Have you been threatened if you try to leave?
- Has anyone threatened your family?
- What are your working or living conditions like?
- Where do you sleep and eat?
- Do you have to ask permission to eat, sleep or go to the bathroom?
- Is there a lock on your door so you cannot get out?

Before questioning a patient who may be a victim of human trafficking, discreetly separate the patient from the individual accompanying her/him, since this person could be the trafficker posing as a spouse, other family member or employer.

