

HEALTH CARE'S ROLE IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

RESEARCHERS

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Introduction

Human trafficking, or modern-day slavery, is a largely unrecognized pandemic in today's world. The U.N. estimates that as many as four million people are victimized each year by traffickers. Florida is considered third in the U.S. in terms of the prevalence of human trafficking. Trafficking is an estimated \$9.5 billion dollar business and may soon surpass the revenues from the sale of illegal guns and drugs.

Health care professionals have a particularly important role to play in addressing human trafficking in their practice. There are some significant similarities between human trafficking and domestic violence and physicians can build upon their knowledge of domestic violence to be able to understand and assist victims of trafficking. In 2003, formerly trafficked people were interviewed by the Florida State University Center for the Advancement of Human Rights and told of their encounters with doctors in clinic settings. Their stories pointed to the need for further education of health care professionals so that they may be able to recognize the signs of human trafficking.

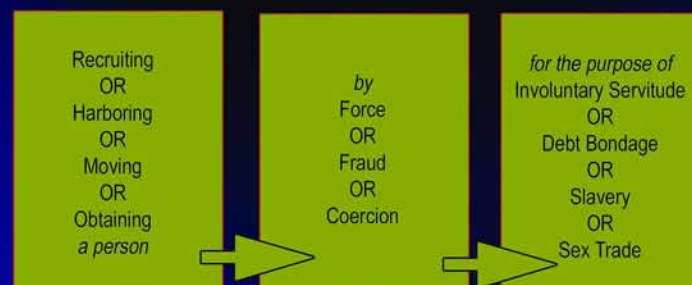
This realization has led to the development of a continuing medical educational program that addresses the statutory requirements for domestic violence education and provides new and important information on human trafficking. The Florida Medical Association published a curriculum in February 2010 that provides background information and statistics, discusses the screening and charting of injuries, details physician duties and responsibilities, compares mandatory and non-mandatory reporting of injuries, and offers important information on resources available to the victims.

What is Human Trafficking?

Modern day slavery

Trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transporting, providing or obtaining, by any means, any person for labor or services involving forced labor, slavery or servitude in any industry, such as forced or coerced participation in agriculture, prostitution, manufacturing, or other industries or in domestic service or marriage.

Three Elements of Trafficking



Prevalence

Between 20 -30% of women and 7.5% of men in the US - physically and/or sexually abused by an intimate partner.

Women are five to eight times more likely than men to be victimized by an intimate partner.

Women aged 16-24 experience the highest per capita rate of IPV.

In the U.S. 14,500-17,500 annually, 80% women and children

Twenty seven million people in slavery around the world

\$9.5 billion business

Florida is 3rd in the nation

Domestic Violence in Florida

Total of 113,123 domestic violence incidents were reported in 2008.

Domestic violence accounted for 34 percent of all comparable reported violent offenses and simple assaults.

Domestic violence accounted for 189 (16%) of the state's 1,202 murders. The spouse or live-in partner was the victim in 56 percent of these offenses.

Children were 12 percent of the victims.

Physicians, the First Line of Defense

Perpetrators will sometimes take their victims for medical examination and assistance or allow a victim to seek health care.

Victims will, upon leaving/escape, seek medical advice.

Good Samaritans might see a trafficked person who has a medical condition and take them to the doctor.

Sometimes medical personnel are the first people to see a victim.

Victims say that their doctor is one of the few people they will trust to disclose domestic violence.

Human Trafficking and DV: Identification in a Health Care Setting

Evidence of being controlled

Evidence of an inability to move or leave job

Bruises or other signs of battering

Fear or depression

Non-English speaking

Recently brought to this country

Lacks passport, immigration or identification documentation

Occupations Commonly Effected by Trafficking

Prostitution

Exotic Dancing

Agricultural Work

Domestic Work & Childcare

Factory Work

Begging

Screening for Human Trafficking Questions to Ask

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?

Have you been physically harmed in any way?

What are your working or living conditions like?

Where do you sleep and eat?

Screening for Human Trafficking continued...

Have you ever been deprived of food, water, sleep or medical care?

Do you have to ask permission to eat, sleep or go to the bathroom?

Are there locks on your doors and windows so you cannot get out?

Has anyone threatened your family?

Has your identification or documentation been taken from you?

Is anyone forcing you to do anything against your will?

Health Indicators of Human Trafficking

Sexually transmitted diseases

Pelvic pain, rectal trauma and urinary difficulties

Pregnancy / Infertility

Infections or mutilations caused by "doctors"

Chronic back, hearing, cardiovascular or respiratory problems

Weak eyes and other eye problems

Malnourishment and serious dental problems, especially children

Infectious disease like tuberculosis



MAKING STRIDES

Summer 2010
 The Florida College of Emergency Physicians *EMPulse* publication dedicated a special edition to human trafficking which was distributed to thousands of physicians.

At the Florida Medical Association Annual Conference, the process began to partner with American Medical Association Board to promote the Florida Surgeon General approved Domestic Violence/Human Trafficking physician re-licensure Continuing Education module throughout United states AMA chapters.

October 2010
 Not for Sale, CEO and Founder Dr David Batstone is invited speaker to Annual American Academy of Pediatrics National Conference and Exhibition Section on International Child Health.