

# Human Trafficking and Exploitation: How School- Based Health Center Providers Can Help Keep Students Safe

**May 22, 2024**





# School-Based Health Alliance

## Transforming Health Care for Students

### Our **Focus**

The School-Based Health Alliance Works to Support & Grow SBHCs

#### Policy



Establishes and advocates for national policy priorities

#### Standards



Promotes high-quality clinical practices and standards, including for telehealth

#### Data



Supports data collection and reporting, evaluation, and research

#### Training



Provides training, technical assistance, and consultation

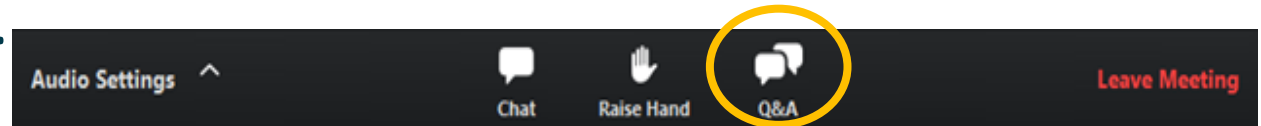
We support the improvement of students' health via school-based health care by supporting and creating community and school partnerships.

[www.sbh4all.org](http://www.sbh4all.org)

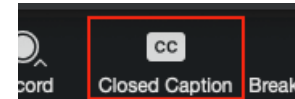
# REMINDERS

 All attendees are in listen-only mode.

 To ask a question during the session, use the “Q&A” icon that appears on the bottom of your Zoom control panel.



 To turn on closed captioning, click on the “CC” button.



 Please complete evaluation poll questions at the end of the presentation.

# Learning Objectives

- Define human trafficking and sexual exploitation.
- Describe the survivor-centered model and why this is an important approach to understanding human trafficking.
- Describe how adolescent-serving providers can talk with their patients about human trafficking and sexual exploitation.
- Describe strategies adolescent-serving healthcare providers and staff can use to support adolescents who have experienced human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

# TODAY'S PRESENTERS



Marlanna Landeros, MSW  
Assistant Director  
Adolescent Health Initiative



Emily Rowland, RN, MSc, PhD(c)  
Program Specialist – Evaluation  
Adolescent Health Initiative



# HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION: HOW SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTER PROVIDERS CAN HELP KEEP STUDENTS SAFE



ADOLESCENT **HEALTH** INITIATIVE

Emily Rowland RN, PhD (c)  
Marlanna Landeros MSW

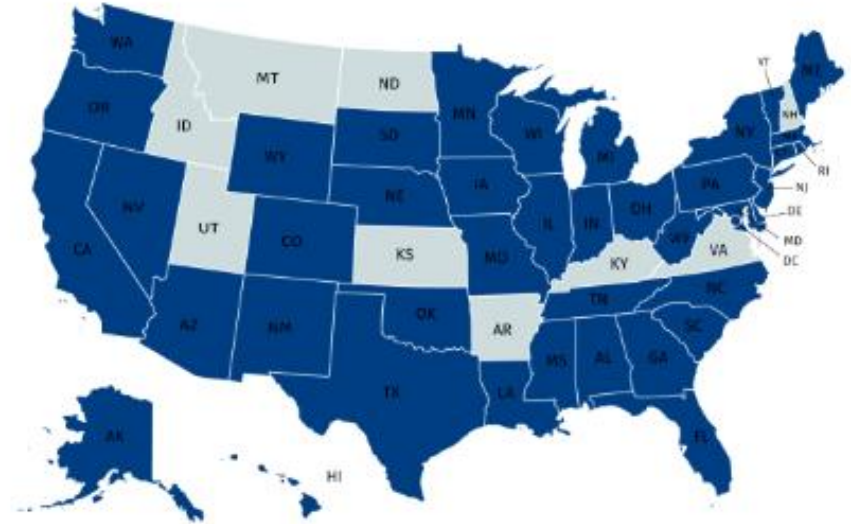
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# ADOLESCENT HEALTH INITIATIVE

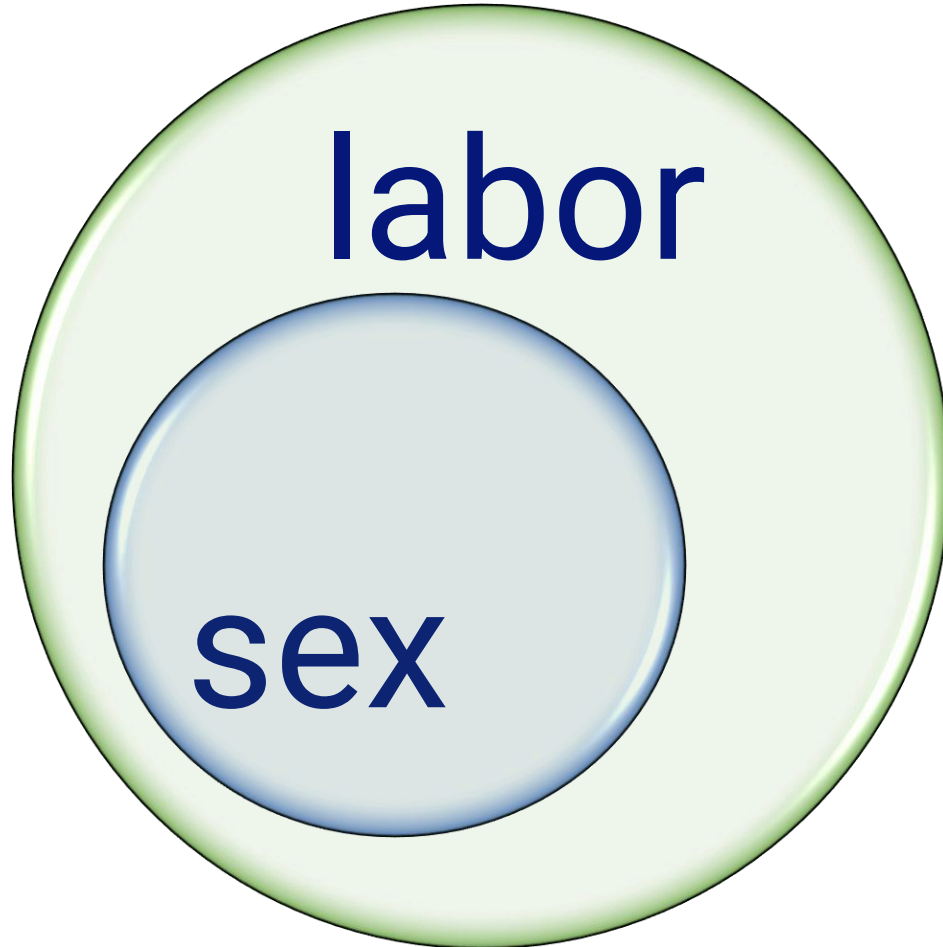


The Adolescent Health Initiative (AHI) provides training, technical assistance, and coaching to health care providers, health systems, and organizations across the country to improve adolescent-centered care.

Our vision is to transform the health care landscape to optimize adolescent and young adult health and well-being.




# HUMAN TRAFFICKING





# LABOR AND SEX TRAFFICKING



**Labor** traffickers use violence, threats, lies, and debt bondage to force people to **work against their will.**

**Sex** traffickers use violence, threats, lies, and debt bondage to force people to **engage in sex acts for money against their will.**

# SEX TRAFFICKING OF MINORS

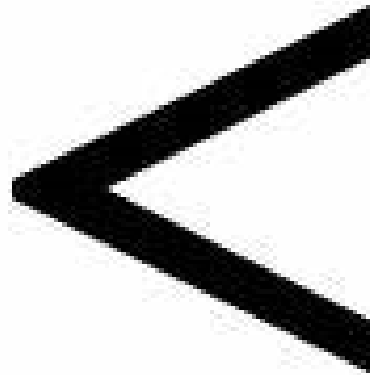


A minor participating in commercial sex may be considered a “victim” of sex trafficking.

# SURVIVOR-CENTRIC, TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH



Details  
Prosecution  
Investigation



**Survivors**

# TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH

## SAMHSA'S CONCEPT OF A TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH

“A program, organization, or system that is trauma-informed:

- Realizes the widespread impact of trauma and understands potential paths for recovery;
- Recognizes the signs and symptoms of trauma in clients, families, staff, and others involved with the system;
- Responds by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices; and
- Seeks to actively resist re-traumatization.”

# CURRENT LANDSCAPE

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- Data regarding current scope of trafficking among teens and adolescents limited to National Human Trafficking Hotline statistics.
- Existing survey data is limited to emergency department or inpatient settings and high-risk adolescent/young adult (AYA) care settings (e.g. child protection clinics, welfare, runaway systems) or to sex trafficking exclusively.
- There is no evidence-based or standardized method for identifying AYA human trafficking (HT) victims.

# LABOR TRAFFICKING IN THE U.S.





# LABOR TRAFFICKING IN THE U.S.



## Vassar Police Department

287 E. Huron Ave.  
Vassar, MI 48768  
Phone (989) 823-8531  
Fax (989) 823-1350



## WARNING

On Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, the Vassar Police Department was notified that several signs had been placed along the road side near Vassar High School, as well as in the business district. These signs are advertising for “Summer Work”, and request a text message for more information.

Although no criminal activity has been reported to the Vassar Police Department, **we strongly discourage anyone from contacting businesses or persons who advertise for “help wanted” in this fashion.**

Signs similar to these have been linked to criminal organizations involved in human trafficking.

Should you see any more of these signs inside the City of Vassar, please contact the Police Department to have them removed.

## JOBS JOBS JOBS

WE ARE CURRENTLY HIRING FOR SALES POSITIONS. NO EXPERIENCE NESSECARY.

### YOU MUST BE:

18 YEARS OR OLDER  
FREE TO TRAVEL  
MUST HAVE A VALID ID  
MUST BE EAGER TO MAKE MONEY

### WE OFFER:

ON THE JOB TRAINING  
ROOM AND BOARD  
CASH ADVANCES  
FREE TRAVEL TO AND FROM THE EAST  
COAST TO THE WEST COAST  
\*RETURN TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED AFTER 45 DAYS\*

ARE YOU TIRED OF FILLING OUT APPLICATIONS AND NOT GETTING CALLED? IF YOU ARE GIVE US A CALL

CALL TODAY START TOMORROW

# LABOR TRAFFICKING IN THE U.S.



*Photo by Atlas Green on Unsplash*

# DO WE SEE VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING?



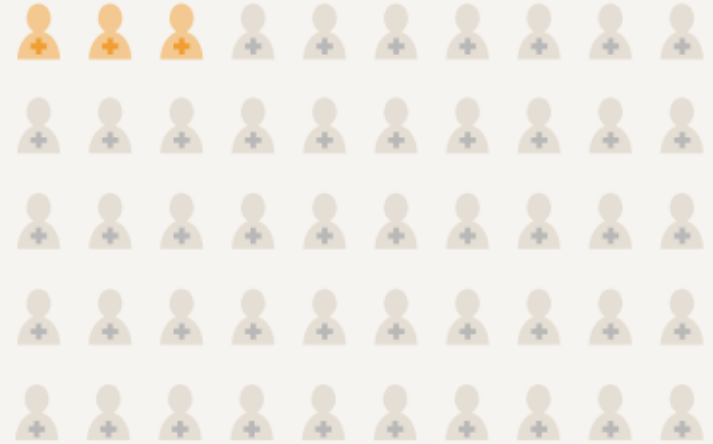
## THE INVISIBILITY OF EXPLOITATION

88%



88% of sex trafficking survivors report contact with a provider

6%



6% of providers report treating a victim

# TRAFFICKING AND HEALTHCARE



73%

68%

44%







What might keep us from noticing?  
From asking?  
From being able to help?



"At least every couple of months, I would try and seek medical treatment."

"When I went there, no one ever really asked me, like, *What's going on?* and *How come you come in so often?* They're not asking, *Why do you want to take STD tests so often?*"

"There were signs and questions that they could have asked, but they didn't."





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**What could a school-based health center have done to support Josie?**

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide, consisting of a circular pattern of small, light gray squares arranged in concentric rings, resembling a stylized gear or a circular data visualization.

# SCHOOL BASED HEALTH CENTERS AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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Serve an at-risk population (average age of HT entry: 11 to 14)

- Reward-seeking behavior
- Desire for independence
- Poor insight regarding their role as victims

Opportunities to build rapport and trust

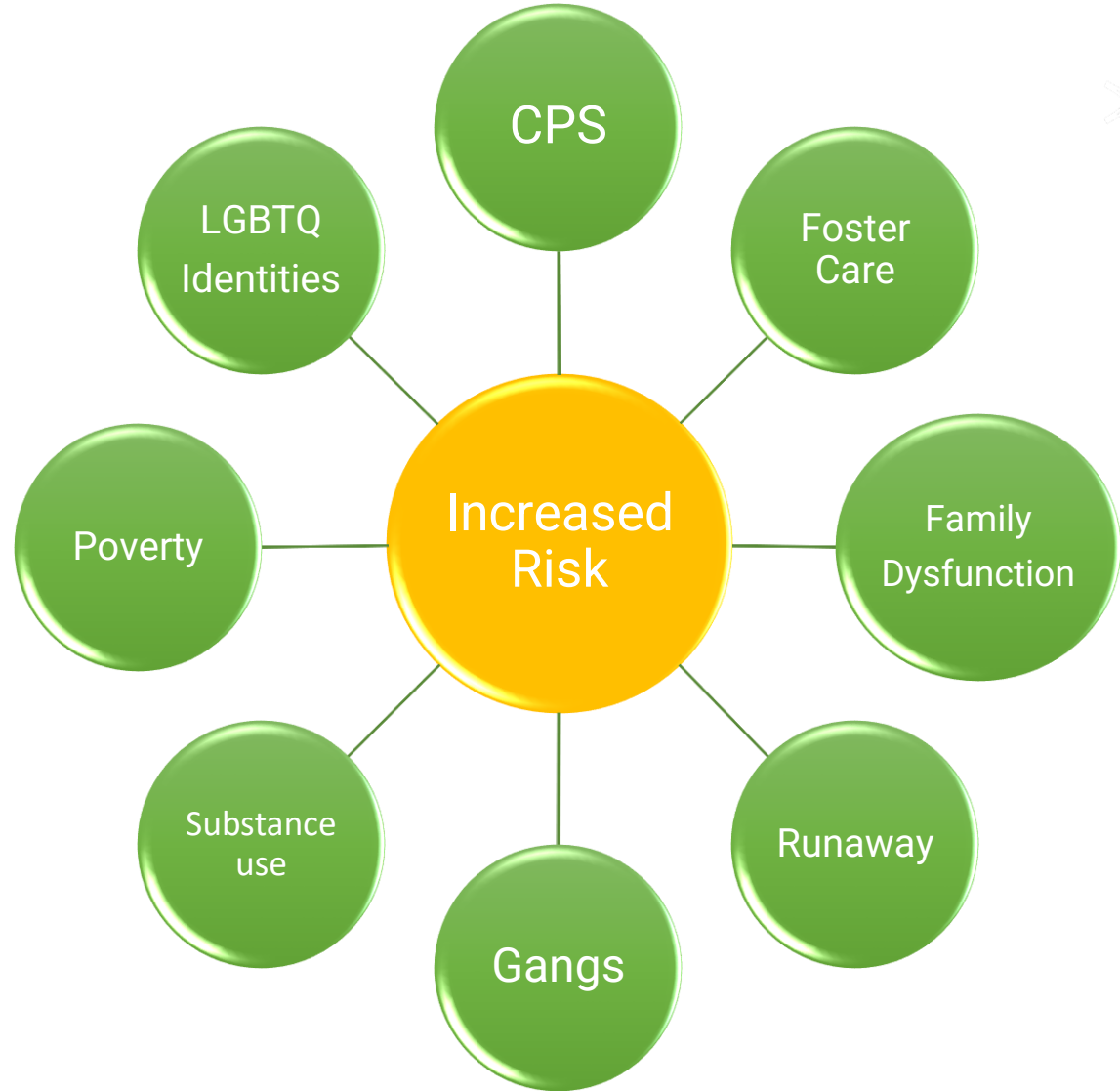
- Familiar staff and location, confidential visits
- Up to 88% of trafficked individuals have contact with an HCP while being trafficked



# CHARACTERISTICS



# VULNERABILITIES



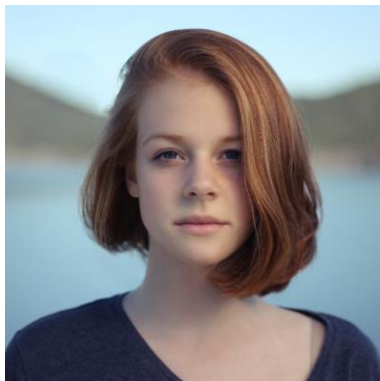
# WHO CAN PLAY A PART?



Teacher  
Medical Assistant Social Worker  
Front Desk Staff Relative  
Nurse Physician  
Case Worker Security Guard



# WHAT CAN TRAFFICKING LOOK LIKE?



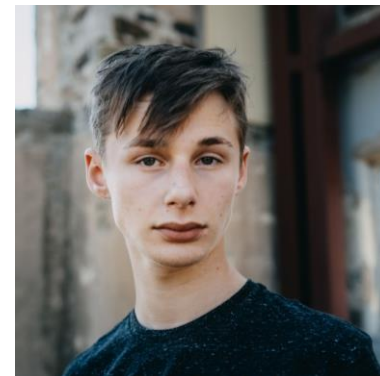
Emily



Leo



Athena



Jordan





# 15 Y/O GIRL, EMILY



## PCP WELL VISIT

- Avoids eye contact
- Smells like marijuana
- Risk screening discussion reveals that she has been sexually active with nine people and has tried alcohol and marijuana



# 15 Y/O GIRL, EMILY



## PCP WELL VISIT

- Avoids eye contact
- Smells like marijuana
- Risk screening discussion reveals that she has been sexually active with nine people and has tried alcohol and marijuana
- Met a guy on Instagram who told her she could be a model
- He asked for her nudes and offered to pay her; was told she'd make more money if she got her friends to do it too



# 17 Y/O BOY, LEO



## WALK-IN APPOINTMENT FOR BACK PAIN

- Observed by staff getting food from garbage
- Dressed in long sleeves despite warm temperatures
- Inconsistencies in his answers



# 17 Y/O BOY, LEO



## SOCIAL WORKER

- Observed by staff getting food from garbage
- Dressed in long sleeves despite warm temperatures
- Inconsistencies in his answers
- Moved here for an education
- Is undocumented
- Cleans house and does chores for “sponsor” and his sponsor’s friends



# 19 Y/O GIRL, ATHENA



## FAMILY PLANNING CENTER FOR A PREGNANCY TEST

- This is her fourth visit for a pregnancy test in the last few months
- Has scars on her forearm that look like cigarette burns





# 19 Y/O GIRL, ATHENA



## FAMILY PLANNING CENTER FOR A PREGNANCY TEST

- This is her fourth visit for a pregnancy test in the last few months
- Has scars on her forearm that look like cigarette burns
- College student who started dancing at a strip club to pay for classes
- Boyfriend helps her make extra money by setting her up with his friends for sex





# 16 Y/O BOY, JORDAN



## SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTER FOR STI TESTING

- Says he is just visiting and is unable to give an address
- He appears thin and unkempt
- Symptoms: penile discharge and discomfort



# 16 Y/O BOY, JORDAN

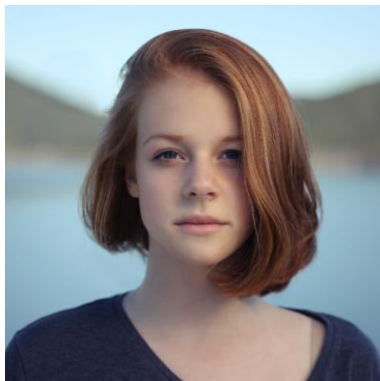


## SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTER FOR STI TESTING

- Says he is just visiting and is unable to give an address
- He appears thin and unkempt
- Symptoms: penile discharge and discomfort
- His parents kicked him out of the house
- Having survival sex because he's living on the street



# WHAT CAN TRAFFICKING LOOK LIKE?



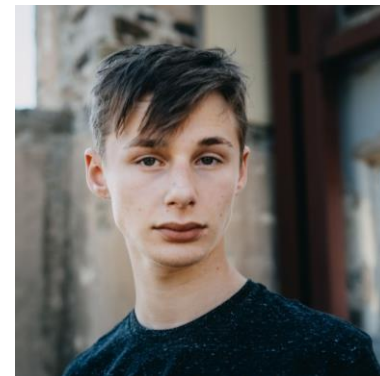
Emily



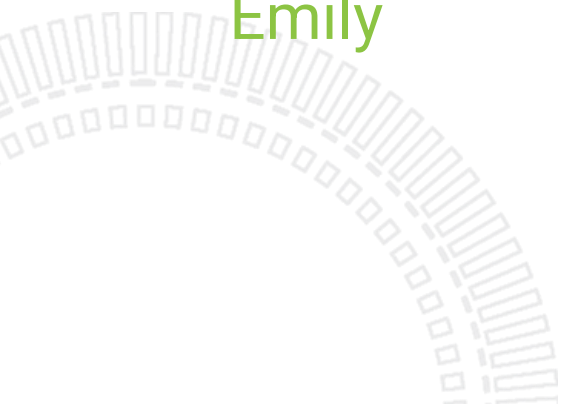
Leo



Athena



Jordan



# IDENTIFYING VICTIMS



## CHALLENGES: VICTIMS

- Don't self identify
- Don't want to disclose
- Many of the same reasons as seen in IPV (e.g., trauma bonding, fear of trafficker)
- Shame
- Need money
- Alternatives do not seem better
- Never known any other currency
- Denial

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

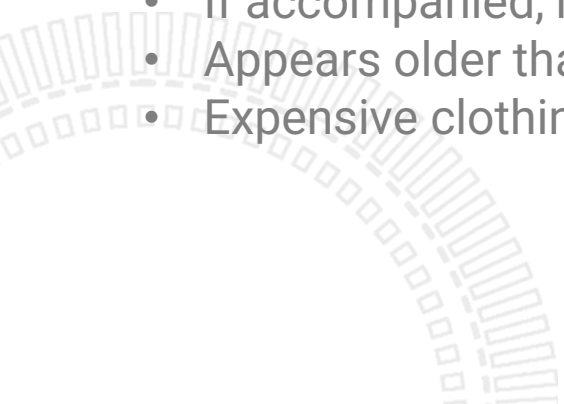
## CHALLENGES: HEALTH CARE

- Lack of awareness/ understanding
- Cases don't usually present like modules we have all taken
- Staff/provider bias
- Not any one perfect screening tool
- Lack of policies and protocols
  - Assessing
  - Treating
- Lack of community resources, social work, coordinated care

# RED FLAGS



- Evidence of physical violence
- Tattoos that may exhibit ownership
- Truancy
- Poor Nutrition
- Shares a scripted or inconsistent history
- Is unwilling or hesitant to answer questions about an injury or illness
- Demonstrates fearful or nervous behavior, avoids eye contact
- Is unable to provide their address
- Is not in possession of their identification documents
- If accompanied, is not allowed to speak for themselves
- Appears older than reported age
- Expensive clothing or jewelry



# TALKING TO VICTIMS: ALL ROLES

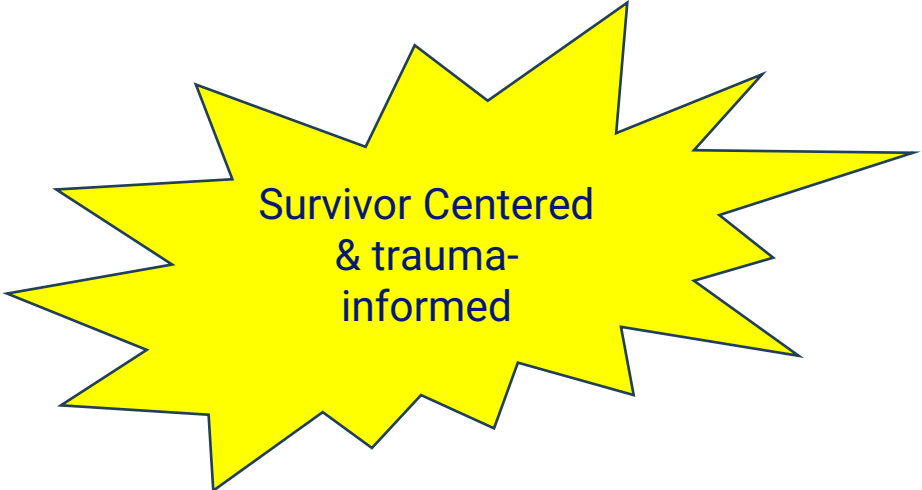


## DO...

- Use warm and open body language
- Deal with your personal feelings privately
- Realize they might not identify as a victim

## DON'T...

- Judge – they will know
- Act shocked or saddened
- Expect a victim to want to be saved
- Expect a victim to be grateful



Survivor Centered  
& trauma-  
informed

# TALKING TO VICTIMS: *PROVIDERS*



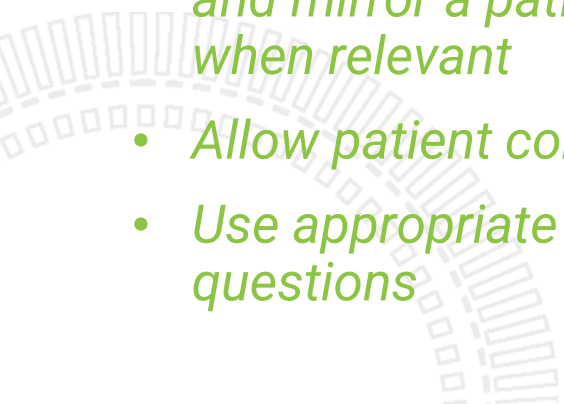
## DO...

- Use warm and open body language
- Deal with your personal feelings privately
- Realize they might not identify as a victim
- *Use nonjudgmental, neutral words and mirror a patient's language when relevant*
- *Allow patient control when possible*
- *Use appropriate follow-up screening questions*

## DON'T...

- *Judge*
- *Assume*
- *Expect a victim to want to be saved*
- *Expect a victim to be grateful*
- *Have family members or friends interpret*
- *Ask "Are you being trafficked?"*
- *Ask questions that are not essential (avoid questions just because you're curious)*

Survivor Centered  
& trauma-  
informed





# SCREENING QUESTIONS



1. What are you doing to make money?
2. Some kids have a hard time living at home and feel they need to run away; have you ever run away or been kicked out of your home?
3. Some kids have been involved with the police (running away, breaking curfew, other); have you ever been involved with the police?

*“Thank you for answering these questions. Is there anything that we have asked that you would like to talk more about?”*



# SCREENING QUESTIONS - CSE



1. Sometimes kids are in a position where they really need money, drugs, food or a place to stay. Have you ever traded sex for money, drugs, a place to stay, a cell phone, or something else?
2. Has a boyfriend, a girlfriend or anyone else ever asked you, or forced you to have sex with ANOTHER person? (for example, a guy asks his girlfriend to have sex with another guy) If asked, did you have to actually do it?
3. Has anyone ever asked you to pose in a sexy way for a photo or a video? If asked, did you have to actually do it?

## **Resource:**

*Evaluation of a Tool to Identify Child Sex Trafficking Victims in Multiple Healthcare Settings*

Greenbaum, V.  
Jordan et al.

Journal of  
Adolescent Health  
2018

# CUES INTERVENTION



**CUES** AN EVIDENCE-BASED INTERVENTION TO ADDRESS DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN HEALTH SETTINGS  
*shown to improve health and safety outcomes for survivors*

Survivors say they want health providers to:  
**Be nonjudgmental • Listen • Offer information and support • Not push for disclosure**

**C: Confidentiality**

- Know your state's reporting requirements and share any limits of confidentiality with your patients.
- Always see patients alone for part of every visit so that you can bring up relationship violence safely.
- Make sure you have access to professional interpreters and do not rely on family or friends to interpret.

*"Before we get started I want to let you know that I won't share anything we talk about today outside of the care team here unless you were to tell me about [find out your state's mandatory reporting requirements]."*

**UE: Universal Education + Empowerment**

- Give each patient two safety cards to start the conversation about relationships and how they affect health.
- Open the card and encourage them to take a look. Make sure patients know that you're a safe person for them to talk to.
- Offering safety cards to all patients ensures that everyone gets access to information about relationships, not just those who choose to disclose experiences of violence.

*"I'm giving two of these cards to all of my patients. They talk about relationships and how they affect our health... take a look, and I've also included one for a friend or family member. On the back of the card there are resources you can call or text, and you can always talk to me about how your relationships are affecting your health. Is any of this a part of your story?"*

**S: Support**

- Though disclosure of violence is not the goal, it will happen -- know how to support someone who discloses.
- Make a warm referral to your local domestic/sexual violence partner agency or national hotlines (on the back of all safety cards).
- Offer health promotion strategies and a care plan that takes surviving abuse into consideration.
- What resources are available in your area for survivors of domestic and sexual violence? How about for LGBTQ, immigrant, or youth survivors? Partnering with local resources makes all the difference.

*"Thank you for sharing this with me, I'm so sorry this is happening. What you're telling me makes me worried about your safety and health... A lot of my patients experience things like this. There are resources that can help. [Share name, phone and a little about your local DV program] I would be happy to connect you today if that interests you."*

For more information or to order materials, contact the National Health Resources Center on Domestic Violence: [health@futureswithoutviolence.org](mailto:health@futureswithoutviolence.org) | For community health centers: [ipvhealthpartners.org](mailto:ipvhealthpartners.org)

M-F 9am-5pm PST | 415-678-5500 | TTY: 866-678-8901

**FUTURES**  
without violence

*place this poster in your health staff break room*



Walking through the steps of CUES:  
Confidentiality, Universal Education, Empowerment, Support

Video

## Walking Through the Steps of CUES

This short video provides a step-by-step walkthrough of each component of the CUES approach (confidentiality, universal education, empowerment, and support).

# WHAT CAN WE SAY?



“Everyone deserves to feel safe in their relationships.”

“It’s not your fault.”

“Are you okay?”

“You are welcome here.”

“I’m here to help you with any situation you’re in.”

“No one deserves to be hurt/forced to do things against their will.”

“What has happened to you doesn’t define you.”

# WHAT TO DO WHEN THERE IS A DISCLOSURE



Respond appropriately  
and educate



Safety first



Reporting guidelines



Follow up



# RESPONSE STRATEGIES



## INTERPERSONAL RESPONSE

- Be compassionate and approachable: Use neutral, non-judgmental words and open body language
- Providers: add follow-up screening questions to risk screening tool (verbally or written) for cases when trafficking is suspected or a risk
- Report cases involving minors to CPS
- Commit to additional training on:
  - Trauma-Informed Care
  - Motivational Interviewing
  - Implicit Bias
  - Human Trafficking

## ORGANIZATIONAL RESPONSE

- Consider victim's needs and offer resources: Housing, food, immigration support, Medicaid enrollment, affordable mental health care; same-visit LARC, condoms, Emergency Contraception
- Ensure patients can see provider alone
- Create a plan (informal or formal) with team for when trafficking is suspected or identified
- Generate a list of online and community resources for when someone has concerns about human trafficking; post hotline cards
- Facilitate practice-wide training on trafficking









# KATRINA



“Talking to a girl and just being there, not rushing them. They just need to know that somebody is there not judging them.”

“It was a long, long, long struggle for me, in my mind, having to redefine...realizing this is not normal.”

# JESSA



How might it feel to suspect or know a patient is being trafficked when they're not ready or able to leave?

# MANDATED REPORTING



- Human trafficking reporting is a subset of CPS “mandated reporter” requirements among social workers and health care professionals
- [https://nhttac.acf.hhs.gov/system/files/2022-11/Mandatory%20Reporting\\_35533\\_Updating\\_SOAR\\_handouts\\_v04\(d\)\\_508.pdf](https://nhttac.acf.hhs.gov/system/files/2022-11/Mandatory%20Reporting_35533_Updating_SOAR_handouts_v04(d)_508.pdf)
- [Report Trafficking | National Human Trafficking Hotline](#)



## Mandatory Reporting and HIPAA Compliance



Federal, state, tribal, and local laws addressing child abuse or domestic violence may require you to disclose that information to the proper authorities.

Federal laws specific to trafficking, such as the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) and the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, may also require you to report certain information to further protect individuals who have experienced trafficking or are at risk of trafficking.

Mandatory reporting laws vary by state, so it is important to know the law in the state where you work. Remember, HIPAA was written to protect individual confidentiality, not to prevent the reporting of trauma and crimes. In fact, many trafficking situations will not fall under mandatory reporting requirements, so understanding the limitations of confidentiality and explaining them to the patient or client ahead of time is very important.

The resources outlined below can help you navigate federal, state, and local laws related to mandatory reporting and HIPAA compliance.

### Legend

-  Federal Requirement
-  State Requirement

### Human Trafficking

-  **Human Trafficking and Health Care Providers: Legal Requirements for Reporting and Education**  
 [https://healtrafficking.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Human-Trafficking-and-Health-Care-Providers\\_Legal-Requirements-for-Reporting-and-Education-02\\_25\\_21.pdf](https://healtrafficking.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Human-Trafficking-and-Health-Care-Providers_Legal-Requirements-for-Reporting-and-Education-02_25_21.pdf)  
This tool summarizes applicable federal and state laws on the following topics: reporting of child abuse, reporting of sex and/or labor trafficking, and required regulation of anti-trafficking education of healthcare providers.
-  **Mandatory Reporting of Human Trafficking: Potential Benefits and Risks of Harm (English, 2017)**  
<https://journalofethics.ama-assn.org/article/mandatory-reporting-human-trafficking-potential-benefits-and-risks-harm/2017-01>  
This article uses states' experiences implementing child abuse laws to assess the potential risks and benefits of mandatory reporting of human trafficking.
-  **National Conference of State Legislatures Human Trafficking State Laws**

# ACTION ITEMS



1. Identify colleagues who will support a human trafficking workgroup
2. Locate mandatory reporting state and federal laws, policies, guidelines
3. Have human trafficking resources ready for reference (electronic and hard copies)
4. Reflect on current practices that may create barriers for identifying or supporting victims of human trafficking
5. Consider opportunities to build human trafficking into professional development

○ [Professional Development | DASH | CDC](#)

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



National Human Trafficking Hotline 1 (888) 373-7888

BeFree Textline Text "BeFree" (233733)

**Polaris** Freedom happens now.

DONATE

GET ASSISTANCE National Human Trafficking Hotline BeFree Community Services Global Directory

## Get Assistance

Polaris provides human trafficking victims and survivors with critical support to get help and stay safe through the National Human Trafficking Hotline and our BeFree Textline. Individuals can also search for more local resources through our national and global directories. In addition, Polaris provides trainings and tailored solutions to public agencies and businesses that seek to increase their capacity to prevent and eradicate human trafficking.

Share

National Hotline

BeFree Textline

Services in Your Community

Global Modern Slavery Directory

Get Help Quick Exit

### NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE



**CALL**  
1-888-373-7888



**TEXT**  
"BeFree" (233733)



**LIVE CHAT**  
humantraffickinghotline.org

24/7 • Toll free  
Confidential  
200+ languages

**GET HELP • REPORT TRAFFICKING**

**HEALTH PARTNERS**   
ON IPV + EXPLOITATION



## Identifying and Supporting Trafficked Youth

Explore ways to identify signs of trafficking and sexual exploitation among youth.

- Ready-to-use
- Power Point Slides
- Script
- Handouts
- Follow-up activities





# OTHER RESOURCES

[www.AdolescentHealthInitiative.org](http://www.AdolescentHealthInitiative.org)

**WE'RE  
HERE  
FOR  
YOU**

As in, you can ask us anything.

Really.

Don't worry if this takes a minute to sink in.

We're not going anywhere.

Take your time.

And if we don't hit the mark, let us know.

**ADOLESCENT HEALTH INITIATIVE**  
Transforming adolescent and young adult health



Listen to transgender and gender non-conforming youth share their health care experiences and ways the system can be improved.



## Confidentiality Best Practices

Explore best practices for providing confidential care to adolescents.

# LET'S COLLABORATE



AHI works with all types of youth-serving health centers to provide customized resources and capacity-building assistance. The team works with primary care, school-based health, behavioral health, federally qualified health centers, health departments, Title X clinics, mobile clinics, and more, to create inclusive spaces that center the needs and perspectives of adolescents.

# VIDEO LINKS FOR FURTHER LEARNING



1. Colorado Child Trafficking Survivor Ordeal
  1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JW3qnAMkUgU&feature=youtu.be>
2. PBS Special: Trafficked in America
  1. <https://www.pbs.org/video/trafficked-in-america-pppgmt>
3. Compassionate and Understanding Care for Victims of Human Trafficking
  1. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQ\\_xUHko-DE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQ_xUHko-DE)
4. Sold in America: The Trafficking
  1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Empxdrk7UuA&list=PLaOuj3fUifyyPvIlr0724xnUAx-cKmw5T&index=2>
5. What I've Been Through Is Not Who I Am Full Documentary
  1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BmmRTjoL3R0><https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BmmRTjoL3R0>



# THANK YOU!



Scan for our events,  
resources & newsletter!



Get in touch:    

[AdolescentHealth@med.umich.edu](mailto:AdolescentHealth@med.umich.edu)

[AdolescentHealthInitiative.org](https://AdolescentHealthInitiative.org)

# Please share your feedback!





# ENGAGING COMMUNITIES, FOSTERING PARTNERSHIPS 2024

NATIONAL SCHOOL-BASED  
HEALTH CARE CONFERENCE  
JUNE 30-JULY 2, 2024



Westin Washington, DC Downtown  
Hotel (formerly the Renaissance  
Downtown Hotel) in Washington, D.C

# REGISTER NOW



<https://bit.ly/SBHAconference24>



# Stay Connected!

1. Subscribe to our bi-weekly e-newsletter (Digest)

Go to <https://bit.ly/SBHAdigest>

2. Follow us on social media



<https://www.facebook.com/SchoolBasedHealthAlliance>



<https://twitter.com/sbh4all>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/school-based-health-alliance/>



<https://www.instagram.com/sbh4all/>



Scan this QR code to subscribe

# THANK YOU!

Additional Questions? Contact us at: [info@sbh4all.org](mailto:info@sbh4all.org)



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