

ADDRESSING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AS A HEALTH CARE PRIORITY

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AGENDA

- Overview of human trafficking as a health care issue
- The MGH Human Trafficking Initiative
- The HEAL Trafficking Network
- Small group breakouts
 - Clinical care
 - Education
 - Policy/advocacy
 - Research
- Report back and next steps



HUMAN TRAFFICKING AS A HEALTH CARE ISSUE

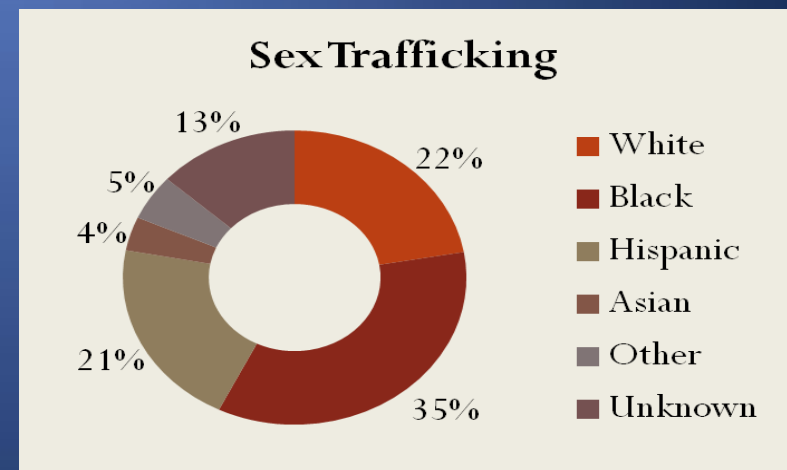
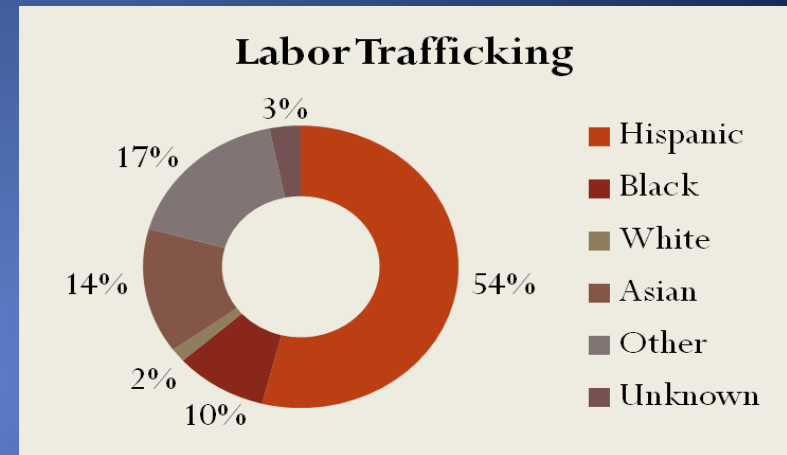
- Form of modern day slavery
- Profit from the exploitation of others
- Compelled service
- International and domestic laws
- Violation of human rights
- Violence with myriad devastating health outcomes

MAJOR FORMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- Forced labor
- Sex trafficking
- Bonded labor (debt bondage)
- Domestic servitude
- Forced child labor
 - Child soldiering
 - Child sex trafficking
- Organ trafficking

PREVALENCE

- 20.9 million persons in forced labor globally (ILO, 2012)
- \$150 billion USD per year (ILO, 2014)
- Victim demographics in the US (Banks & Kyckelhahn, 2011):



RISK FACTORS

- History of child abuse
- Family dysfunction
- Lack of financial security / livelihood
- Substance use
- Community violence & corruption
- Runaway, throwaway, homelessness
- LGBTQ
- Racial and ethnic minorities
- Migrant workers / undocumented immigrants
- Disabilities (physical, cognitive, learning)

MECHANISMS OF POWER AND CONTROL

- Physical violence
- Sexual violence
- Intimidation
- Emotional violence
- Threats and coercion
- Economic dependence
- Isolation



HEALTH OUTCOMES

- Physical injuries
- Sexual transmitted infections and diseases
- Unwanted and high-risk pregnancies
- Complications from unsafe abortions
- Malnutrition
- Dental injury and disease
- Infectious diseases
- Substance abuse
- Somatic syndromes
- Psychological disorders

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

- Emergency departments
- Community health care clinics
- Urgent care centers
- Primary care practices
- Reproductive health clinics
- Dental practices



Up to 87.8% of trafficking survivors report encounters with health care professionals

(FVPPF, 2005; Baldwin et al, 2011; Lederer & Wetzel, 2014)

RED FLAG INDICATORS

- Patient-provider interaction
- General exam
- Physical exam
- Skin exam
- Genitourinary exam
- Mental health
- Social history

RESPONDING TO TRAFFICKING

- Index of suspicion
- Privacy and confidentiality
- Professional interpreters
- Trauma-informed approach
 - Trust and rapport
 - Non-judgmental and respectful language
 - Strengths-based framework within a broader conversation about coercion and violence
- Documentation
- Mandatory reporting
- Lethality assessment and safety planning

MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM APPROACH

- No one provider can adequately respond to all needs
- Complex patients with complex needs
- Knowledge of local resources
 - Law enforcement
 - Department of Children and Families
 - Emergency housing and shelters

FEDERAL PROVISIONS

- Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)
- Federal Strategic Action Plan 2013-2017
 - HHS, DHS, OVC, SAMHSA, OVW, HRSA, DOJ
- Recent legislation
 - Trafficking Awareness Training for Health Care Act of 2014
 - HR 398

STATE PROVISIONS

- Training for health care providers
- Mandated reporting

POLICY INITIATIVES

- Health professional organization policy statements
 - AMWA, AAP, ANA
- ICD-11 codes

THE MGH HUMAN TRAFFICKING INITIATIVE

- Formed in 2008 as one of the first trafficking-specific initiatives based at a US academic medical center
- Focus areas:
 - Research
 - Education
 - Policy/advocacy
 - Clinical care

THE MGH HUMAN TRAFFICKING INITIATIVE

- Research on trafficking and health: US, UK, Philippines, India, Brazil, Paraguay
- Education with a focus on health professional education and training
 - *HT and Health Curriculum and Tool-Kit*
 - MGH/Massachusetts Medical Society Guidebook
 - SOAR training in collaboration with USHHS

THE MGH HUMAN TRAFFICKING INITIATIVE

- Policy/advocacy at multiple levels:
 - State, Federal, Professional Medical Societies
- Clinical care (MGH Freedom Clinic)
 - Referral-only clinic for trafficking survivors
 - Primary and preventative care focus
 - Clinic advisory board includes survivors
 - Longitudinal data collection about health outcomes for the population served



HEAL TRAFFICKING

- Health Professional, Education, Advocacy, Linkages
- Unite health professionals to advance their critical role in the national and global fight against human trafficking
- HEALtrafficking.org



SMALL GROUP BREAKOUTS

Clinical Care

Education



Policy/Advocacy

Research

SMALL GROUP BREAKOUTS

- Choose area of interest
- Form groups of 8-10
- 1-2 facilitators, 1 “recorder/reporter”
- Discussion prompts or your own points
- 20 minutes total - try to address at least 2 key questions / controversies
- 5 and 1 minute warnings
- Plenary report back and discussion



PLENARY REPORT BACK

- Major points of discussion
- Most salient vexing issues
- Major unanswered questions
- Next steps for the domain in question
- Additional points of interest



SMALL GROUP BREAKOUTS

Clinical Care

Education



Policy/Advocacy

Research

**NEXT STEPS
AND
RESOURCES**

STAY CONNECTED!



- Sign up for the HEAL Trafficking Network:
www.HEALtrafficking.org
- Contact your loyal presenters
 - Roy Ahn: rahn@mgh.harvard.edu
 - Elaine Alpert: ejalpert@massmed.org
 - Wendy Macias-Konstantopoulos:
wmacias@mgh.harvard.edu
 - Hanni Stoklosa: hstoklosa@mail.harvard.edu
- Get/stay in touch with one another (share contact information before you leave!)



**FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION
AND COLLEGIALITY!**