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

Polaris Project, 2011
**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

(FVPF, 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)
  - 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
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
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  - 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!