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Innovations in Geriatric Care Virtual Conference

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2

Innovations in Geriatric Care: Human Trafficking; Identification and Prevention (Day 2)

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2

Learning Outcomes

- Describe the types of, risk factors for, and extent of human trafficking in the U.S.
- Discuss the role and responsibilities of the interprofessional healthcare team in the recognition, assessment, and treatment for the victim of trafficking, including management of medical records, patient safety, and referral sources.
- Identify reporting and referral resources for victims of human trafficking.

Introduction

Introduction

- Widespread problem
 - 14,000 to 50,000 individuals trafficked into the United States annually
 - At least 80% of trafficked individuals are women and girls
- Exploitation is unacceptable at any time, in any place

5

Background

- Modern-day slavery
- Taking advantage of another person for profit
 - Forced prostitution
 - Forced-labor situations such as domestic servants, sweatshop workers, restaurant workers, janitors

6

Definition

“ ... recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability, or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.”

7

Facts and Statistics

- Low-risk, high-reward industry
 - > 20 million victims worldwide
 - Victims can be any gender, nationality, race
 - In the U.S., 75% to 85% of victims are involved in the sex trade
 - Economic impact of more than \$150 billion worldwide

8

Facts and Statistics

- Cases in all 50 states
- Canada/Mexico and states with major ports are points of entry
 - Networks quickly move people across the country
- Majority are in large cities

9

Facts and Statistics

- 20.9 million victims of human trafficking globally
 - 68% of them are trapped in forced labor
 - 26% of them are children
 - 55% are women and girls
- 139 goods from 75 countries made by forced and child labor

10

Facts and Statistics

- In 2015, 1 out of 5 runaways were likely child sex trafficking victims
 - 74% were in foster care
- > 31,600 cases of human trafficking have been reported in the last 8 years
 - 23% of texting conversations were from survivors
- Hotline receives 100 calls per day

Definitions

Trafficking

The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation or the prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

13

Trafficking

- Three elements
 - Transport of the person
 - Force or coercion of the victim
 - Abuse and exploitation

14

Three Sections of Trafficking

- The act
 - What is done -- activities such as recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons
- The means
 - Threats, use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability, or giving payments or benefits to control the victim
- The purpose
 - Exploitation including prostitution, sexual exploitation, forced labor, slavery or forced servitude, and the removal of organs

15

Human Trafficking \neq Human Smuggling

Smuggling involves an individual being brought into a country through illegal means and is voluntary.

16

Forms of Trafficking

Sex Trafficking

- “Recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act.”
- Traffickers use violence, threats, lies, debt bondage, coercion to compel adults and children to engage in commercial sex acts against their will.

Sex Trafficking

- Forced into prostitution, stripping, pornography, escort services
- U.S. citizens, foreign nationals, women, men, children, LGBTQ individuals
- Vulnerable populations include runaway and homeless youth, victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, social discrimination
- U.S. federal law states anyone <18 induced into commercial sex is a trafficking victim

Sex Trafficking

- Reasons include poverty, lack of education, abusive family history, runaways
 - Many resort to “survival sex” for living expenses
- Mail order bride, modeling services, fake massage business, escort service can be fronts for obtaining women

Labor Trafficking

- Domestic servants, farmworkers, and factory workers, door to door sales, restaurants, construction, carnivals, health and beauty services
- False promises of a high-paying job, exciting education/travel lure people into horrendous working conditions
- Reality is far different

21

Labor Trafficking

- Most involve foreign nationals
- “Debt bondage” working off a “debt” for transport or job “finding fees”
 - Prostitution and sex industry (46%)
 - Domestic servitude (27%)
 - Agriculture (10%)
 - Sweatshops and factories (5%)
 - Restaurant and hotel work (4%)

22

Labor Trafficking

- Domestic servitude
 - Often exploited economically, physically, and/or sexually
 - Passports/ID taken away
 - Told to pay off debt
 - Many don't speak English and have little recourse

23

Child Labor

- “Economic labor performed by a child younger than 15 years of age.”
- Rooted in poverty, political instability
- 168 million child laborers worldwide
- Child work is not the same as child labor
 - Child work is supervised and promotes development and growth of the child.

24

Contributing Factors

- Globalization
- Poverty
- Corruption
- Digital technology
- Racialized sexual stereotypes
- Culture

The Trafficking Experience

The Trafficker

- Manipulate and exploit vulnerabilities
- Create dependency
- Make promises to impose control

As a result, victims become trapped and fear leaving.

27

The Trafficker

- Five general strategies for recruitment
 - Kidnapping
 - Targeting poor families
 - Fake storefronts
 - Legal storefronts
 - Recruiting local prostitutes

28

The Trafficker

- Individuals or part of networks
- Pimps, gangs, family members, labor brokers, employers of domestic servants, small business owners, large factory owners
- Often share national, ethnic, cultural background

29

The Victim

- Men, women, adults, children, foreign nationals, U.S. citizens
- Diverse ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds, varied levels of education, documented or undocumented

30

The Victim

- Trafficking Victims Protection Act
 - Children younger than 18 years induced into commercial sex
 - Adults 18 years or older induced into commercial sex through force, fraud, or coercion
 - Children and adults induced to perform labor or services through force, fraud, or coercion

The Victim

- Target runaway and homeless youth, victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, social discrimination
- Non-portability of work visas, lack of familiarity with surroundings, laws, rights, language fluency, culture
- May confiscate ID and money
- Do not know where they are
- Not allowed to communicate with family

The Trafficking Experience

- Five stages
 - Pre-departure stage
 - Travel and transit stage
 - Destination stage
 - Detention, deportation, and criminal evidence stage
 - Integration and re-integration stage

Consequences of Trafficking

Consequences

- Degradation of human rights
- Poor public health
- Disrupted families and communities
- Decreased governance
- Diminished social and economic development
- Victims require rescue, rehabilitation, and reintegration into society

Impact on Victims

- Short term
 - Higher risk behaviors
 - Impaired judgment
 - Emotional exhaustion
 - Depersonalization
 - Fear, anxiety, and nervousness
 - Muscle tension

Impact on Victims

- Long term
 - Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
 - Fear
 - Loss of security
 - Social isolation
 - Substance abuse

37

Impact on Victims

- Post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
 - Increased arousal
 - Difficulty sleeping
 - Irritability or outbursts of anger
 - Difficulty concentrating
 - Exaggerated startle response
 - Hyper-vigilance or paranoia
 - Fear, anxiety, depression, tension, nervousness

38

Impact on Victims

- Trauma bonding
- Severe depression
- Suicidal ideation
- Spiritual questions
- Feelings of being mentally broken
- Untreated STIs
- Sexual dysfunction
- Difficulty establishing/maintaining healthy relationships
- Stigma, ostracism, marginalization

39

Impact on Victims

- Mostly in women
 - Headaches
 - Fatigue
 - Dizziness
 - Back pain
 - Pelvic pain
 - Stomach pain
 - Gynecological infections

40

Identifying Victims

In General ...

- Reluctance or inability to speak
- Responses scripted/memorized
- Discrepancies between history and clinical presentation
- Unable to produce identification
- Ownership marks, brands, insignia
- Submissive, hypervigilant, fearful

Red Flags

- Does not have any type of legal documentation
- Claims to be “just visiting;” cannot say where he/she is staying or know city/state
- Inability to leave their job or residence
- Numerous inconsistencies in his/her story
- Afraid of law enforcement or receiving help
- Appears to be in a relationship with someone who is dominating

43

Red Flags

- Someone is claiming to speak for, or on behalf of a victim
- Exhibits behaviors including “hyper-vigilance,” fear, anxiety, depression
- Loss of sense of time or space
- Avoids eye contact
- False identification papers
- Not in control of money; no personal possessions
- High security measures at work or residence

44

Specific Health Indicators

- Malnourishment, generally poor health
- Signs of physical abuse
- Evidence of a prolonged infection
- Addiction to drugs and/or alcohol
- Last medical exam unknown
- Lack of healthcare insurance

45

Sex Trafficking Warning Signs

- Age verified to be < 18 and involved in sex industry, arrested for prostitution
- Discrepancies in behavior and reported age
- Evidence of sexual trauma
- Multiple/frequent STIs
- Multiple/frequent pregnancies

46

Sex Trafficking Warning Signs

- Reports large number of sexual partners (especially when not age-appropriate)
- Under 18 and in relationships with adults
- Lingo/slang relating to prostitution
- Evidence of controlling or dominating relationships
- Inappropriate clothing
- Unexplained or unusual scar tissue

47

Sex Trafficking Warning Signs

- Tattoos on neck and/or lower back reluctant to explain
- Other types of branding
- Sexual intercourse while on monthly cycle
- Family dysfunction
- In crisis
- Downplay health problems or risks
- May resist help

48

Labor Trafficking Warning Signs

- Injuries/ailments consistent with:
 - Working without proper personal protective equipment
 - Long work hours
 - Labor without sufficient food or water
 - Repetitive motion injuries

Recommendations for Assessment

General Recommendations

- Goal is not disclosure or rescue
 - Goal is to create a safe, nonjudgmental place to ID and assist the patient
- Assess in a private setting
- If someone is answering for the patient, separate them if possible
- With women, have female staff on hand
- Show sympathy and respect

51

General Recommendations

- If possible, staff should reflect patient's beliefs/cultural background
- Use a translator if needed
 - NOT the individual suspected of trafficking
- Take time to build rapport
- Maintain autonomy and confidentiality
- Use your resources!

52

Conducting the Assessment

- Utilize existing assessment protocols
- Culturally sensitive protocols
- Age-appropriate language if working with minors
- Distinguish between consensual and non-consensual experiences
- Comfortable space conducive to confidentiality

53

Conducting the Assessment

- Separate patient from belongings and escort
- Separate from GPS transmitter by changing into a gown
- If female, approach should be made by a female staff member
- Clinicians should act as mandated reporters of violence and abuse
 - Be aware of the guidelines for your state

54

Screening Questions

- Where did you get those bruises or is anyone hurting you?
- Do you get paid for your employment? Is it fair? How many hours do you work?
- How did you get to the U.S. and is it what you expected? Are you being forced to do anything you don't want to do?
- Are you or your family being threatened?
- Do you live with or near your employer? Does your employer provide you housing? Are there locks on doors or windows from outside?

55

Screening Questions

- Do you owe debt to anyone?
- Have you ever worked without getting the payment you thought you would get?
- Have you ever worked in a place where the work was different from what you were promised or told it would be?
- Did anyone at your workplace make you feel scared or unsafe?

56

Screening Questions

- Did anyone at your workplace ever harm or threaten to harm you?
- Have you ever felt you could not leave the place where you worked or lived?
- Did anyone you worked for or lived with trick or force you into doing anything you did not want to do?
- Did anyone ever pressure you to touch another person or have any unwanted physical or sexual contact with another person?

What if You Identify a Victim?

- Be sensitive, every incident of human trafficking is different
- Make sure you are not putting yourself or the Individual in danger
- If you suspect that the victim is in immediate danger, notify the police

What if You Identify a Victim?

- Try to record as much information about the situation as possible
- Present outreach cards and/or hotline numbers for anti-trafficking providers
 - Give this information directly to the victim and only when he/she is alone
- Provide NHTRC hotline number and encourage him/her to call if needed

Call to Report if Needed

National Human Trafficking Resource Center
(NHTRC)

1-888-373-7888

When a Patient Discloses Trafficking

- Ensure informed consent about sharing information
- Gain permission before reporting
- Confidentiality obligations must be met
- Contact a forensic nurse or social worker
 - If life threatening, contact police
 - If a minor, follow mandatory state reporting laws for child abuse services, reporting, resources

Safety and Interventions to Prevent Trafficking

Medical Records

- Sensitive, prioritize security
- Admissible in court
- Documented in an unbiased manner
- Findings of “suspected human trafficking” should be noted
 - Use quotes from patient as able
- Document accurately

63

Safety for Healthcare Providers

- Do not put yourself or your staff in danger
- Establish a relationship with the police and security personnel
- Review emergency plans periodically
- Restrict after-hours access
- Improve lighting at entrances and in parking areas
- Install security cameras, mirrors, panic buzzers

64

Safety for Healthcare Providers

- Install deadbolt or electronic locks
- Restrict access to all doors except the main entrance
- Preprogram 911 into all telephones
- Enclose and secure reception areas
- Develop an emergency notification system

65

Interventions to Eliminate Human Trafficking

- Education and prevention
 - Raise awareness and educate about the issue
- Mental Health and Social Services
 - Counseling and practical, day-to-day assistance is required
- Advocacy
 - Be a change agent!

66

Laws and Policies

- Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act
- Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act
- Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act
- The Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to End the Exploitation of Children Today Act

67

Conclusion

- Human trafficking is a severe human rights violation
 - No one solution exists to eliminate this problem
- Healthcare providers may be able to identify victims
- Providers must be sensitive, empathetic, culturally and socially aware, nonjudgmental, proactive, well-informed, proficient in utilizing guidelines

68

Thank You!

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|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mon 2/18 | Trauma-Informed Care: What It Is and Why It's Important
Kathleen Weissberg OTD, OTR/L |
| Tues 2/19 | Human Trafficking: Identification and Prevention
Kathleen Weissberg OTD, OTR/L |
| Wed 2/20 | Multisensory Environments: A Non Pharmacological Intervention for Managing Behaviors in Clients with Dementia
Jennifer Lape OTD, OTR/L |
| Thurs 2/21 | Evidence-Based Interventions for Falls
Holly Hester PT, DPT, CHC |
| Fri 2/22 | Sleep and the Challenge of Aging
Teresa Fair-Field OTD, OTR/L |