

ASSIST

1. Safety Plan:

Help your patient develop a safe exit strategy.

2. Refer:

Provide information on local and national resources, including the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

National Human Trafficking Hotline

1-888-373-7888

Text 233733 (BEFREE)

free | 24/7 | confidential

3. Understand Mandatory Reporting:

Review the state mandatory reporting laws and your obligation for mandated reporting.

4. Protocols:

Establish a protocol for health care professionals to screen for human trafficking.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) forges pathways to freedom for trafficking victims by:

- Developing anti-trafficking strategies, policies, and programs to prevent trafficking
- Empowering faith-based and community health and human service providers to respond to trafficking
- Increasing identification of trafficking victims and access to services
- Strengthening the health and well-being of survivors of trafficking

For more information about trafficking in persons, visit acf.hhs.gov/endtrafficking

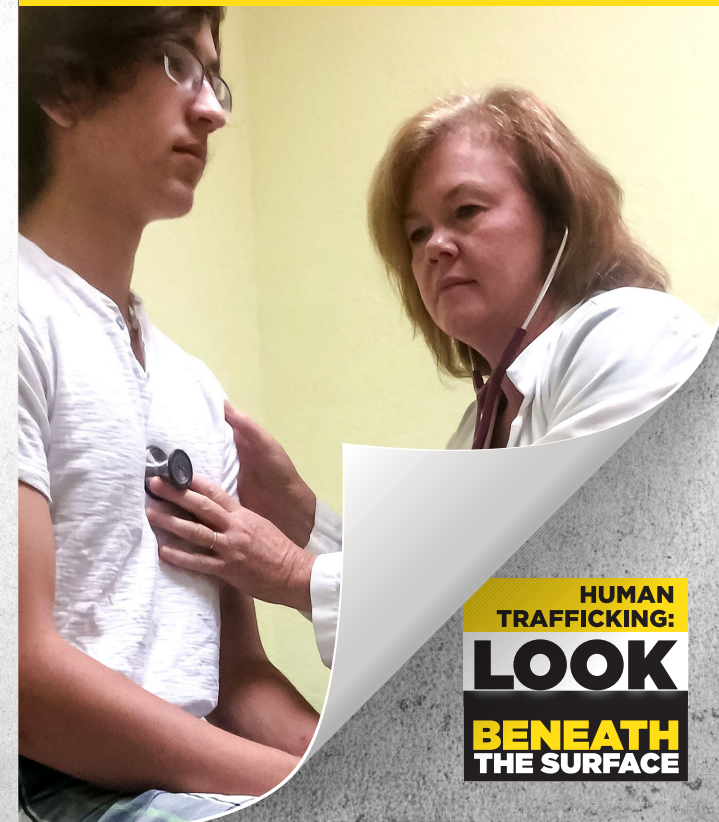


ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES



Human Trafficking: Information for Health Care Providers

Learn to identify and assist trafficking victims



HUMAN
TRAFFICKING:
LOOK
BENEATH
THE SURFACE

WHEN YOU SEE PATIENTS, DO YOU SEE TRAFFICKING VICTIMS?

Victims of trafficking are among the patients you see every day. As a health care provider, you are in a unique position to identify and connect them to support and services.

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human trafficking is a health issue that affects individuals, families, and communities. It occurs in cities, suburbs, and rural areas. Victims of trafficking can be any sex, race, age, and nationality.

Trafficking involves using force, lies, or threats to make victims:

- Work against their will, often for little or no pay (**labor trafficking**); or
- Have sex for anything of value such as money, food, shelter, clothes, or drugs (**sex trafficking**).

A person younger than 18 who engages in a commercial sex act is a victim of sex trafficking—regardless of force, lies, or threats.



Indicators of Trafficking

The patient may be:

- Accompanied by a controlling person
- Unable to speak freely or share information
- Sharing a scripted or inconsistent history
- Showing signs of physical abuse, sexual abuse, or malnourishment
- Reluctant to explain injuries
- Experiencing repeated sexually transmitted infections
- Having multiple pregnancies
- Not in control of own money, identification (ID), or other possessions
- Unaware of current location, date, and time
- Unable to leave home or job
- Reporting a history of substance use

IDENTIFY & ASSESS

Create a safe, nonjudgmental place to screen for trafficking indicators without pressing the patient to disclose. Give your patient the choice to speak to a male or female practitioner. Find a place to speak to your patient privately, away from anyone who accompanied them. Find a professional interpreter, if needed. Do not rely on the person accompanying the patient who may be the trafficker.

Questions to Ask Potential Trafficking Victims:

- What are your working and living conditions like?
- Do you feel safe? What would happen if you left your job?
- Are you being paid what you were promised?
- Does someone else have your money, ID, or other personal possessions?
- Have you or someone you know been threatened?
- Did anyone ever give you money (or anything of value) for sex?



NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING
TRAINING AND TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE CENTER

Access Free Training!

The National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center (NHTTAC) offers free training to health care professionals on how to detect and respond to human trafficking. Training participants are eligible to receive CME/CE from the Post-Graduate Institute for Medicine. Email info@nhttac.org or call 844-648-8822 to request training.