

Women's Health Update



Winter 2013

Bureau of Healthy Ohio, Ohio Department of Health

Update Focus:

HUMAN TRAFFICKING



What is the role of the health care provider?



Letter from Debra Seltzer



Human trafficking as a women's health issue:

There are a variety of ways in which human trafficking intersects with women's health. Approaching human trafficking from a women's health lens allows us to apply lessons learned from our experience of providing health care to victims of sexual and intimate partner violence who share many of the vulnerabilities of human trafficking victims. Victims are often targeted because of other vulnerabilities they are already experiencing, including the very broad one of the gender norms and socialization of women which perpetrators manipulate to isolate and control women, experiences of oppression based on race, ability, and sexual identity, and socio-economic

and educational status. As with sexual and intimate partner violence, victims of human trafficking may be men as well as women. Perpetrators of these forms of violence choose their victims based on vulnerabilities as a part of their strategy to isolate and control victims.

Within healthcare we have made great strides in training healthcare providers to recognize, respond and refer appropriately when victims of sexual and intimate partner violence arrive for care. This may be in a reproductive health care facility, an emergency room, school nurse offices, local health departments and nursing home facilities. Providers may be working with children where either the children or their caregivers are being victimized.

We need to continue this training related to sexual and intimate partner violence and expand it to include the response to human trafficking.

Health care providers also have a critical role in prevention. As respected and educated members of our communities who touch lives in very diverse ways, health care providers can be leaders in introducing prevention strategies in our daily practice, in our work places, and in the communities and institutions within which we live and work. Articles in this newsletter provide background information on

“We can increase our effectiveness at recognizing, responding and referring victims within our sphere, and the implementation of prevention strategies”

human trafficking, ways that we can increase our effectiveness at recognizing, responding and referring victims within health care settings and the implementation of prevention strategies.



Human Trafficking

The Role of the Health Care Provider

Article Summary

In her article *“Human Trafficking: The Role of the Health Care Provider,”* Tiffany Dovydaitis provides an overview of human trafficking as a major public health problem both domestically and internationally. It has been mentioned that health care providers are often the only professionals to interact with trafficking victims who are still in captivity. The expert assessment and interview skills of providers also contribute to their readiness to identify victims of trafficking. Dovydaitis provides background information on the scope of the problem and the experience of victims, and then addresses health problems associated with trafficking and clinical implications in caring for victims of human trafficking. Treatment and creation of a plan of care are addressed, including options for referral and information related to immigration status. A case study with possible outcomes is provided. The full article and additional references used in the article can be found in the *Journal of Midwifery and Women’s Health, Volume 55, Issue 5, September–October 2010, Pages 462–467.*

Coordinating health care with anti-trafficking programs

The Victim Services Committee of the Ohio Attorney General’s Human Trafficking Commission brings together stakeholders from anti-human trafficking coalitions and health care responders. The committee has drafted protocols for emergency responders and linkage to medical care for survivors of human trafficking, with separate protocols for adult and child victims. They also have approved a protocol for comprehensive health evaluation of trafficking victims, and work is in progress on creating a plan for medical triage of human trafficking victims. For more information about the work of this committee contact **Debra Seltzer** at debra.seltzer@odh.ohio.gov.



Customized Protocol for School Nurses

Below are the signs and indicators selected for school nurses for their customized protocol.

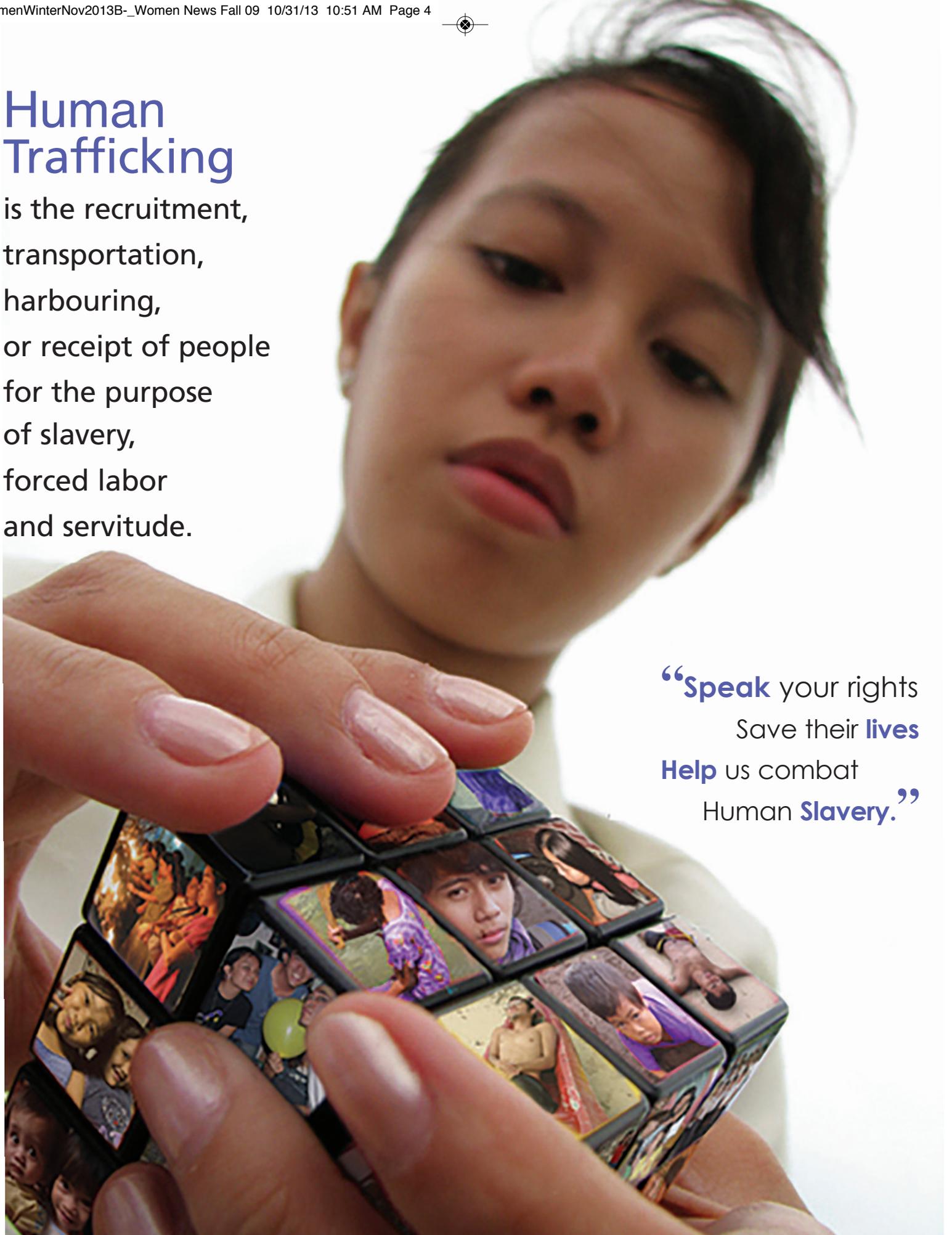
- Does not attend school regularly, may have unexplained absences or be identified as truant.
- Runs away from home regularly.
- Talks about frequent travel to other cities.
- Has bruises or other physical, mental or sexual signs of abuse.
- Shows signs of fear, anxiety, depression or emotional distress.
- Physically exhausted; works long hours; responsible for childcare or cleaning.
- Experiencing malnutrition or hunger, poor hygiene, back problems or urinary difficulties
- Shows signs of drug addiction.
- Demonstrates a sudden change in behavior or clothing
- Makes references to sexual situations that are unusual for a child of that age
- Has a “boyfriend” or “girlfriend” who is noticeably older (10+ years)

This list is not exclusive. Additional examples for use in customizing a protocol for a specific setting are included in a training material packet on creating a protocol, that is available from the Ohio Department of Health contact **Debra Seltzer** at debra.seltzer@odh.ohio.gov.



Human Trafficking

is the recruitment, transportation, harbouring, or receipt of people for the purpose of slavery, forced labor and servitude.



“**Speak** your rights
Save their **lives**
Help us combat
Human **Slavery.**”



Human Trafficking Poster by kribari <http://kribari.deviantart.com/art/Human-Trafficking-Poster-105728512>
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Looking Beneath the Surface

Public Health Professionals Working to End Human Trafficking



Human trafficking is a public health problem internationally, nationally and in Ohio. Both health care providers and public health workers have a unique opportunity to help stop this crime in our state. A victim of human trafficking, whether in the sex or labor trades, may access health care services in settings such as health clinics, family assistance programs, school nurse offices, and doctor's offices or emergency rooms. Human trafficking may be taking place in settings that public health professionals visit such as nursing homes, restaurants, and grocery stores. The health care provider or public health worker may be one of only a few people who come into direct contact with that victim.

In public health, professionals are taught to look beneath the surface when investigating health hazards or illness or addressing disease prevention. They are taught the importance of identifying and addressing underlying causes in order to prevent or minimize diseases or health emergencies. Human trafficking has a major impact on the health and well-being of the victims and the community. Health risks for the victims include: physical, sexual and mental abuse, forced or coerced use of drugs and alcohol, sexually transmitted infections including HIV/AIDS, and Tuberculosis. Untreated, victims may increase the risk for the community's exposure to these infections. Human trafficking also contributes to violence and illegal drug use.

ODH views human trafficking as a complex issue. In order to create a coordinated and effective response to this issue in Ohio's health care settings, the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevention Program (SADVPP) brought together a work group made up of state and local stakeholders. One of the products of the work group is a *Guidebook on How to Create a Human Trafficking Protocol for the Health Professional (Guidebook)*. The *Guidebook* provides directions on how to create a customized protocol for specific health care settings. When completed, the protocol provides a flow chart of steps the health professional can take if they suspect someone is a victim of human trafficking. It includes signs and indicators to look for, and, where appropriate, guidance for how to talk to a potential survivor/victim.

The *Guidebook* was developed based on best practices for public health workers, and adapted for use in any health care setting. Throughout the *Guidebook's* development, the ODH work group emphasized the importance of maintaining both employee and the public's safety. The *Guidebook* and accompanying training emphasize that the health care provider or public health professional's primary role is not to be an expert in treating victims of human trafficking but rather to assist law enforcement by calling the national hotline and make appropriate referrals.

Potential users of the *Guidebook* can fall into two categories based on their job duties: Observers and Universal

Screeners/Educators. Observers are professionals in a setting where they may see signs of trafficking but are not in a position to talk directly to the potential victim during the course of their work, e.g. public health surveyors or food or water inspectors. This category may also include staff such as the receptionist. Universal Screeners/Educators are professionals who work in settings where the potential victim is one of their patient/clients. Public health nurses or physicians, nutritionists, social workers or health educators are in this category. The health professional's role can include educating, screening or treating a potential victim.

When creating a health care setting-specific human trafficking protocol, it is recommended to convene a committee of representatives who will actually implement the protocol, including local stakeholders who can provide additional assistance for other forms of abuse (e.g., domestic violence, sexual assault, mental health, children services, and legal aid for workers' rights). Additionally, ODH strongly encourages coordination with local or regional human trafficking coalitions. Local coalitions can be invited to provide an in-service training on human trafficking before developing the protocol. As a group, the committee would work together to identify how human trafficking may appear in the specific setting. Based on this assessment, a protocol can then be developed using either the Observer outline or Universal Screeners/Educators outline.

To obtain a copy of the *Guidebook* that includes samples of customized protocols, contact the SADVPP at HealthyO@odh.ohio.gov. Training has been essential for implementing these protocols. ODH has created an on-line training for Health Surveyors, and in June 2013, ODH's School Nursing Program and the SADVPP provided a day long training that provided guidance on prevention and identification strategies. The training introduced Ohio's new School Nurse Human Trafficking Protocol. A recording of this training will be available online through OhioTRAIN, with nursing continuing education contact hours provided.

ODH has also created a general public health training for all employees. This training is available for free through OhioTRAIN. The training discusses human trafficking as it pertains to public health, the importance of maintaining safety for both the employee and the potential victim, and provides tips for prevention. The training can be found on OhioTRAIN at <https://oh.train.org/DesktopShell.aspx>. Open a free account on OhioTRAIN, then go to the upper right hand corner and "Search" by typing in "human trafficking." The training is titled: General Public Health Training – 1044217.

For other human trafficking resources, including links to other available trainings, go to <http://www.healthyohio-program.org/sadv/htraffick.aspx>.



Ohio
Department of Health



10 things you need to know to help **STOP** Trafficking



Now that you have received training on human trafficking, many people want to do something more.

Here are 10 things you can consider.

- 1.** Tell your friends, co-workers and family about human trafficking. Let them know it includes both forced labor and sexual exploitation. Know the signs for both and who to call. (See phone number below.)
- 2.** Read and learn more about human trafficking through books, documentaries, and health professional journal articles.
- 3.** Speak up—when someone you know is making a sexist remark, a joke about prostitution, texting sexual rumors, or displaying pornography.
 - a. Say it:** I just heard you call Chris a (fill in the blank)
 - b. Claim it:** The word (fill in the blank) is personally offensive to me and is an offensive term in general.
 - c. Stop it:** Please don't use that word in my presence again.

Don't be surprised or discouraged if they don't respond well—you have made your point.
- 4.** Volunteer your time and talents by joining your local human trafficking coalition or organizations like **Truckers Against Trafficking** or **(SOAP); Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution**.
- 5.** Consume and travel wisely. Discover resources that can help you. Check out sites like the U.S. Department of Labor's *Report on Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor*, *Better World Shopper* or *Coalition of Immokalee Workers*. When you stay in a hotel find out if they have signed the **Code of Conduct for Protection of Children in Travel and Tourism**.
- 6.** Donate needed items for rescued victims—personal care supplies, clothing, books, and furniture.
- 7.** Attend meetings, documentary screenings, and awareness walks on human trafficking. Bring your friends and family.
- 8.** Encourage Ohio men to be part of the Ohio Men's Action Network - **www.MensActionNetwork.com**
- 9.** Compensate people fairly for the services they provide and don't buy sex.
- 10.** Report it. If you see a situation that may be human trafficking—call the **National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-373-7888.**

Tools to Assist Providers in Serving Survivors of Trauma

- **The Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force** in collaboration with the
 - **Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence,**
 - **Ohio Domestic Violence Network,** and
 - **Central Ohio Rescue and Restore**

has released several new tools to assist providers and advocates serving survivors of trauma: ***“Is Your Work Trauma Informed?”*** and ***“Core competencies in human trafficking, domestic and sexual violence for helping professionals: Clinician Self-Assessment Tool.”*** Both tools are to be used by the helping professional to identify areas of strength and future growth through training.

For a copy please contact:

Beth.Malchus@odh.ohio.gov

614-466-8960

The Task Force is creating an Ohio based referral list of mental health providers self-identifying as having expertise in sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and/or human trafficking. The list will be used as a public referral resource for survivors seeking trauma-informed services in Ohio.

To register your name as an expert go to:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CTJPD8N>

For additional information regarding human trafficking and mental health, please contact:

Debbie Nixon-Hughes

Deputy Director for Community Support, OhioMHAS

Deborah.Nixon-Hughes@mha.ohio.gov

614-466-9943

Ohio Men’s Action Network (OHMAN)

The Ohio Men’s Action Network (OHMAN) is a network of men and women, as individuals and as representatives of local and state organizations, working to engage men and boys in efforts to prevent sexual violence; sexual exploitation; domestic, intimate partner, family and relationship violence, to promote equitable, nonviolent rela-

tionships and a culture free of oppression. OHMAN members seek to create and support communities where all people can live free of violence within their relationships, and share in their commitment to respect, safety and equity.

For more information go to:

www.mensationnetwork.com.

Glossary of Definitions

From the Ohio Department of Health's Human Trafficking Training

Advocacy: Efforts to influence public policy and resource allocation decisions within political, economic, and social systems and institutions. New legislation have been proposed in various states, laws amended and non-governmental organizations formed as part of advocacy to end human trafficking.

Coercion: Threats or perceived threats of serious harm to or physical constraints against any person; a scheme intended to cause a person to believe that failure to perform will result in serious harm to or physical restraint against any person.

Continued Presence: Allows victims who lack legal status and are assisting law enforcement as potential witnesses to remain in the country for the course of criminal investigation. Through continued presence, victims can receive temporary immigration relief.

Contract Slavery: A situation where worker is deceived into slavery through the use of a false employment contract. These contracts convince people that there are job opportunities, but when they arrive, they are forced to work without pay and cannot leave. The false contracts are used to avoid criminal charges or to prove that a "debt" is owed to the slaveholder.

Date: The time and place where a prostituted woman or girl is scheduled to meet a man, known as a "john."

Debt-bondage: An illegal practice in which traffickers tell their victims that they owe money (often relating to the victims' living expenses and transport into the country) and that they must pledge their personal services either for labor or commercial sex to repay the debt.

Human Trafficking: The illegal trading, either nationally or internationally, of human beings for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation or forced labor; a

modern-day form of slavery. It is the fastest growing criminal industry in the world, and second largest, tied with the illegal arms industry and second only to the drug trade.

Human Smuggling: Helping someone to illegally cross country borders, often without identification or papers, for financial or material benefit. Smuggling ends with the arrival of the migrants at their destination, whereas trafficking involves the ongoing exploitation of the victims in some manner to generate illicit profits for the traffickers.

ICE (US Immigration Customs Enforcement): The largest investigative agency in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, responsible for upholding public safety by maintaining American border security. In regard to human trafficking, ICE attempts to alter the perception of internationally trafficked women and girls from illegal immigrants to victims in need of help.

Involuntary Domestic Servitude: Nonconsensual labor exploitation in an informal workplace, often a home and often connected to the victim's off-duty living quarters. Such an environment, which can socially isolate domestic workers, is conducive to nonconsensual exploitation since authorities cannot inspect private property as easily as they can inspect formal workplaces.

John: A slang term for a man who pays for the services of a prostitute.

Labor Trafficking: "The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion." (Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000). Victims are forced to work against their will under threat of violence or other punishment. Their freedom is restricted and a degree of ownership is exerted.



Migrant Labor: Work done by people who travel all over for employment. Usually, these people are immigrants, sometimes illegal, and often exploited by their employer. Much of the work is agricultural, and the workers move around the country to harvest crops during different growing seasons. They are usually paid little for work, sometimes crossing the line into slavery when they are paid nothing and unable to leave.

Non-governmental Organization (NGO): A legally constituted organization created by citizens or companies that operates independently from any government.

Peonage: Holding someone against his or her will to pay off a debt.

Pimp: An agent who manages prostitutes, scheduling their “dates” and profiting from their earnings. The relationship between pimps and prostitutes is often psychologically and physically abusive. Prostituted women are sometimes kidnapped off the street by pimps at a young age or lured through the Internet. Pimps are often involved in other illegal industries and activities such as drug dealing or abuse.

The Polaris Project: One of the largest anti-trafficking organizations in the U.S. and Japan, with programs operating at international, national and local levels. The Project is involved in direct outreach and victim identification, social services and transitional housing to victims, and operation of the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC). The NHTRC serves as the central hotline on human trafficking in the U.S.

Prostitute: Contrary to the common belief that a prostitute is a person who voluntarily sells his or her own body, several anti-trafficking NGOs and government agencies view prostitution as an act forced upon individuals in which their bodies or services are sold against their will.

Sexual Trafficking: Sexual trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act is under the age of 18. A “commercial sex act” means any sex act performed for financial gain. Victims of sex trafficking can be women or men, girls or boys, but the majority are women and girls.

Staying in Pocket: A slang term for the practice of forbidding prostituted women from observing street or establishment names or general surroundings during “dates” in order to keep them isolated.

T visa: A type of visa allowing former victims of human trafficking to remain in the U.S. if they agree to assist law enforcement in testifying against perpetrators. Aside from a willingness to testify, the visa is available to people who would suffer extreme hardship if deported to their native countries.

Trafficking Victims Protection Act 2000 (TVPA): Federal U.S. legislation passed in 2000 that emphasizes the prevention of trafficking, protection of victims and the prosecution of traffickers.

Ohio Department of Health – Human Trafficking

Journal Articles and Resources

The following journal articles are available through the State Library of Ohio's Electronic Journals and ODH, Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Prevention Program 614-466-2144.

Cole, H. (2008). Human trafficking: Implications for the role of the advanced practiced forensic nurse. *Journal of the American Psychiatric Nurses*, 14(6), 462-472.

Dovydaitis, T. (2010). Human trafficking: The role of the health care provider. *Journal Midwifery and Women's Health*, 55(5), 462-467.

English, A. (2011). Sexual exploitation and trafficking of the young and vulnerable: Reflections and legal ethical and human rights disgrace. *Adolescent Medicine*, 22, 312-320.

Fong, R., & Cardoso, J. B. (2010). Child human trafficking victims: Challenges for the child welfare system. *Evaluation and Program Planning*, 33, 311-316.

Johnson, T. D. (2010). Global problem reaches inside us boarder: Ending trafficking health workers help to identify victims. *The Nation's Health*, 40(8), 13-14. Retrieved from

Hepburn, S., & Simon, R. J. (2010). Hidden in plain sight: Human trafficking in the united states. *Gender Issues*, 27, 1-26.

Logan, T. K., Robert, W., & Hunt, G. (2009). Understanding human trafficking in the united states. *Trauma, Violence and Abuse*, 10(1), 3-30.

O'Callaghan, M. G. (2012). The health care professional as a modern abolitionist. *The Permanente Journal*, 16(2), 67-69.

Peter, K. (2012). The growing business of human trafficking and the power of emergency nurses to stop it. *Journal of Emergency Nursing*, 39(3), 1-9.

Oram, S., Ostrovschi, N., Gorceag, V., Hotineanu, M., Gorceag, L., Trigub, C., & Abas, M. (2012). Physical health symptoms reported by trafficked women receiving post trafficking support in Moldavia: Prevalence, severity and association factors. *BioMedical Central*, 12(20), 12-20.

Williamson, C., & Cluse-Tolar, T. (2002). Pimp-controlled prostitution: Still and integral part of street life. *Violence Against Women*, 8(9), 1074-1092.

Williamson, C., & Folaron, G. (2003). Understanding the experience of street level prostitution. *Qualitative Social Work*, 2(3), 271-287.

Williamson, C., & Folaron, G. (2009). Women in street-based prostitution: A typology of their work. *Qualitative Social Work*, 8(1), 27-44.

Wheaton, E. M., Schauer, E. J., & Gallie, T. V. (2009). Economics of human trafficking. *International Migration*, 45, 1468-2435.



Books

Bales, K. (2012). *Disposable people*. Los Angeles: University of California Press.

Batstone, D. (2010). *Not for sale: The return of the global slave trade - and how we can fight it*. New York: Harper One.

Flores, T., & Wells, P. (2010). *The slave across the street*. Boise: Ampelton Publishing.

Kristof, N., & WuDunn, S. (2009). *Half the sky*. New York: First Vintage Book Edition.

Mam, S. (2009). *The road to lost innocence*. New York: Spiegel and Gau.

Skinner, B. E. (2008). *A crime so monstrous*. New York: FREE PRESS.

Soodalter, R., & Bales, K. (2009). *The slave next door*. Los Angeles: University of California Press.

Web links with additional publications and reports.

Many of these can be found on the ODH Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Web page under the link “Human Trafficking.”

<http://www.healthy.ohio.gov/sadv/htraffick.aspx>

Central Ohio Rescue and Restore
www.centralohiorescueandrestore.org.

Ohio Attorney General’s Office:

- Publications including the Human Trafficking Commission Report
- Course work
- Related video.

<http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/humantrafficking.aspx/?from=nav>

American Public Health Association
<http://www.apha.org/membersgroups/newsletters/section-newsletters/comm/spring08/Human+Trafficking.htm>

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
<http://www.dhs.gov/topic/human-trafficking>

United Nations Report on Human Trafficking
<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/global-report-on-trafficking-in-persons.html>

World Health Association
<http://www.paho.org/english/ad/ge/trafficking.pdf>

This resource list is not exclusive.



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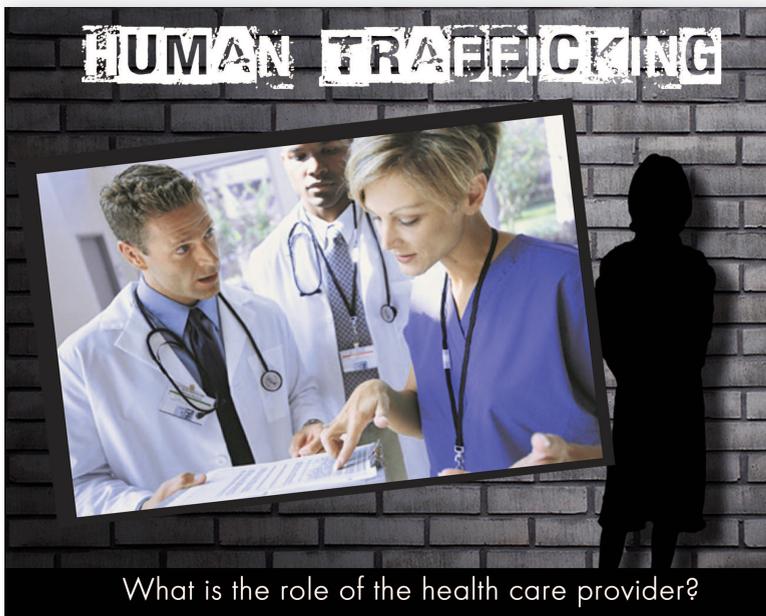
Women's Health Update

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or
<http://1.usa.gov/18P7auY>

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