



Human Trafficking Awareness

PRESENTED BY: INVESTIGATOR TREZA N. GREEN

GADSDEN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

Objectives

- ▶ Increase understanding of human trafficking.
- ▶ Identify and define human trafficking and the difference between sex trafficking, labor trafficking, and commercial sexual exploitation of children.
- ▶ Know the difference between human trafficking and human smuggling.
- ▶ Increase knowledge of force, fraud, and coercion related to human trafficking.
- ▶ Review Florida State Statutes applicable to human trafficking.
- ▶ Identify indicators and warning signs.
- ▶ Increase understanding of how trauma impacts victim's behavior and communication.

Introduction

Human trafficking is the second largest and fastest growing criminal industry worldwide. Human trafficking, involves the exploitation of individuals through force, fraud, or coercion for the purposes of forced labor, sexual exploitation, domestic servitude.

Human trafficking is a form of slavery. It is both hidden in your community and out in the open. It claims victims of any age, gender, nationality, and socio-economic status.

Your role is to be aware of what human trafficking looks like within your community and or workplace.

Human Trafficking Defined

According to Florida State Statute (F.S.S.), 787.06, **Human Trafficking (HT)** is defined as the transporting, harboring, providing, enticing, maintaining, or obtaining another person for the purpose of exploitation of that person.

Human Trafficking Defined Cont...

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, and the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, and its subsequent reauthorizations recognize and define two primary forms of human trafficking:

- ▶ **Forced Labor trafficking which** occurs when a person is coerced or forced to perform labor or services and receives little or no pay.
- ▶ **Sex trafficking** which is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age. (22 U.S.C. § 7102(11)(A)).
- ▶ **Note: A commercial sex act** is an exchange of a sex act for something of value. This does not necessarily have to be money. Further, it can be food, drugs, alcohol, or a place to stay. You may hear the expression **commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC)** when referring to minors who are victims of sex trafficking.

Human Trafficking Laws

Florida human trafficking law mirrors federal anti- trafficking laws in their basic definitions of labor and sex trafficking. However, in Florida, for each instance of human trafficking, there can be a separate crime for each of the following:

- ▶ A parent, legal guardian or person who sells or transfers custody of that minor know that the minor will be subject to human trafficking.
- ▶ A person who permanently brands, or directs to be branded, a victim of human trafficking.

Note: Branding is a mark on the body that can only be removed or repaired by a medical procedure.

Human Trafficking Vs. Human Smuggling.

- ▶ Human trafficking is the illegal exploitation of a person. Despite the term, human trafficking is not about the movement of people but about holding people in a condition of forced service.
- ▶ Human smuggling is the illegal movement of a person across a U.S. border from another country. It is typically a short-term “business relationship” but can be a part of a human trafficking scheme.

Force, Fraud, and Coercion Defined.

- ▶ **Force** as it pertains to human trafficking, means physical violence that may take the form of beatings, burnings, rape, shootings, or physical confinement that forces a person into doing something that they do not want to do for the financial gain of someone else.
- ▶ **Fraud**, can include false or deceptive offers of employment, marriage, or a better life that lures a person into being vulnerable to force or coercion.
- ▶ **Coercion**, is when a trafficker entices or lures a person by fraud or deceit.

Force , Fraud, and Coercion Cont.

- ▶ Federal laws require that the elements of force, fraud, or coercion be present to prove the crime of human trafficking, unless the victim is younger than 18 years of age.
- ▶ Florida law is similar. In Florida, to prove the crime of human trafficking two elements must be present:
 1. The suspect must knowingly, or in reckless disregard of the facts, engage in, attempt to engage in, or benefit financially by receiving something of value from participation in, a venture that subjected a person to human trafficking.
 2. The human trafficking was for the labor or services of a child, or of an adult using **force, fraud, or coercion**.

Force

Adults

- ▶ Physical violence:
 - Beatings & Branding
 - Sexual battery
 - Physical confinement threatening force
 - Physical harm to loved ones
 - Restraining
 - Isolating
 - Confining

Juveniles

Same, plus.....

- Starvation
- Punishments/restrictions
- Withholding basic needs

* Force is not necessary for a case of sex trafficking involving a minor victim, but it is usually there.

Fraud

Adults

- False/deceptive offers of employment
- Fraudulent contracts
- Lending schemes
- Extending credit as debt bondage causing financial harm.

Juveniles

Same, plus....

- Offers to take care of them or their family
- Pretense of romantic love/acceptance
- Gifts, that then must be repaid
- Convincing them that they will be in trouble if they tell the authorities

Coercion

Adult

- Destroying, concealing, removing, confiscating, withholding, or possessing immigration papers or identification (passports, visas, ID).
- Giving a person-controlled substances so they can be exploited.
- Threats of deportation or legal proceedings against the victim.

Juvenile

Same, plus.....

- Providing shelter and requiring sex work to not abandon them
- Guilt trips – “if you loved me, you would, no one loves you except me, you have nowhere to go but with me.”
- Emotional blackmail of any kind, often works very well with children, especially if the trafficker was seemingly kind first

What Does Force, Fraud, & Coercion Look Like?

▶ https://youtu.be/5kicouakp7U?si=5nPKQmX_zsiVYjOZ

Statute Definitions

Human Trafficking

The Legislature defined the following for statute use and interpretation:

Coercion

Commercial Sexual Activity

Financial Harm

Human Trafficking

Labor

Maintain

Obtain

Services

Sexually Explicit Performance

Unauthorized Alien

Venture

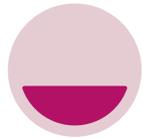
Statute Elements

- ▶ 787.06 (3) –
- ▶ Any person who knowingly, or in reckless disregard of the facts, engages in human trafficking, or attempts to engage in human trafficking, or benefits financially by receiving anything of value from participation in a venture that has subjected a person to human trafficking: (subsections to follow)

Statute subsections

-
- (3a)
- 1.) Labor or services of any child under 18 (or believed to be under 18), 1st degree felony
-
- 2.) Using coercion for labor or services of an adult, 1st degree felony
-

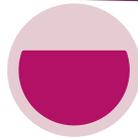
Statute subsections



(3b)

Using coercion
for commercial
sexual activity
(CSA) of an
adult

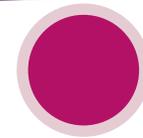
1st degree
felony



(3c1)

For labor or
services of a
child under 18,
who is an
unauthorized
alien

1st degree
felony



(3c2)

Using coercion
for labor
services of an
adult who is an
unauthorized
alien

1st degree
felony

Statute Subsections

(3d)



Using coercion for CSA of an adult who is an unauthorized alien

1st degree felony

(3e1)



For labor or services who does so by the transfer or transport of any child from outside this state to within this state

1st degree felony

(3e2)



Using coercion for labor or services by transfer or transport of an adult from outside this state to in

1st degree felony

Statute subsections

(3f1)

For CSA who does so by transfer or transport of a child from outside this state to within

1st degree felony

(3f2)

Using coercion for CSA who does so by transfer or transport of an adult from outside this state to within

1st degree felony

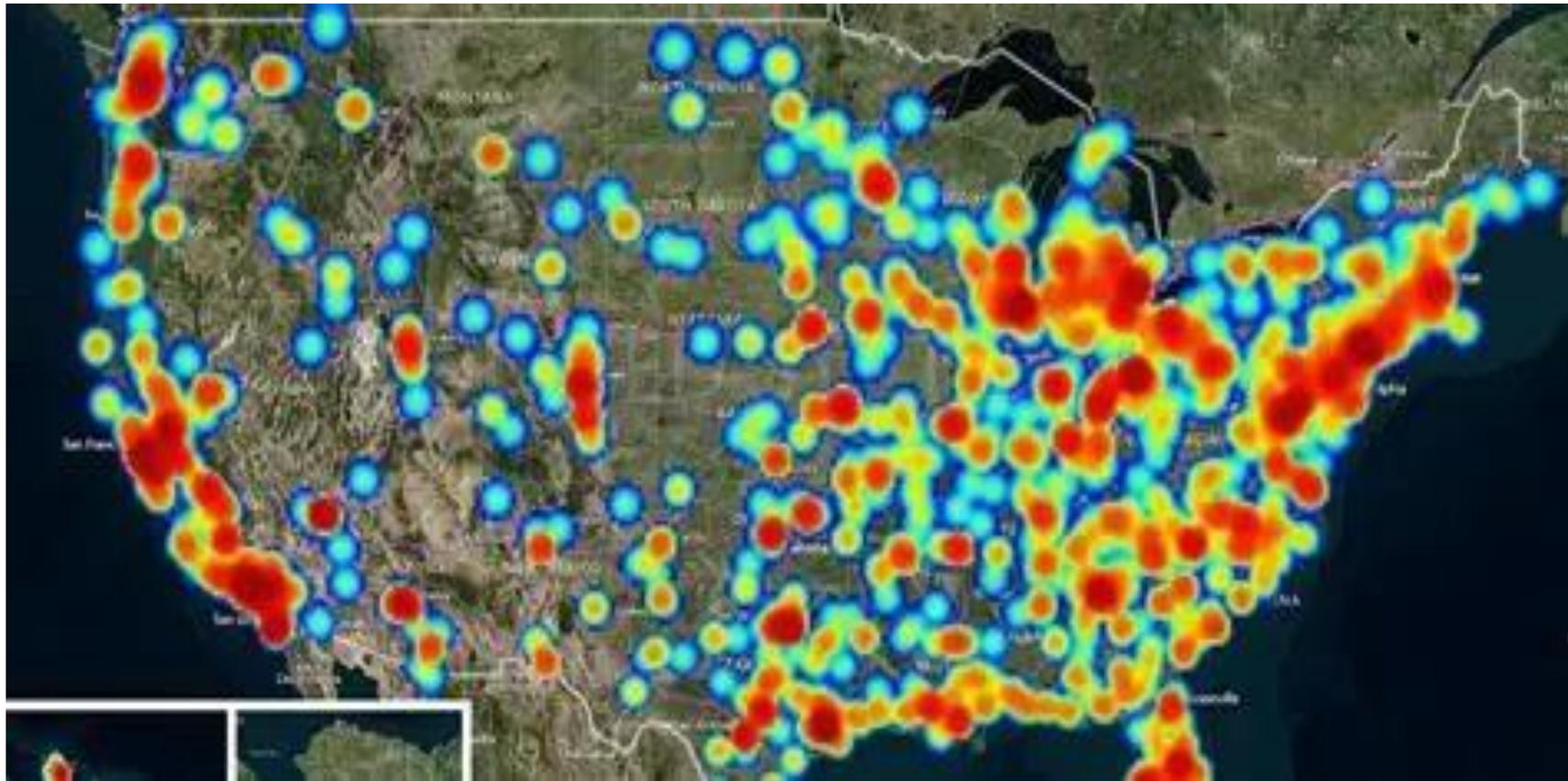
Statute subsections

(3g)

For CSA in which a child, or any person who is mentally defective or mentally incapacitated as those terms are defined in s. 794.011(1), is involved

Life Felony

Statistics (Map courtesy of the Polaris Project)



Statistics (courtesy of the Polaris Project) Nationally

2021 Form of Trafficking	2020		2021		% Change
	# of Likely Victims	% of Likely Victims	# of Likely Victims	% of Likely Victims	
Labor	3553	21%	3785	23%	7%
Sex	10834	65%	10571	64%	-2%
Sex & Labor	659	4%	707	4%	8%
Sex + Sex & Labor	11493	69%	11278	68%	-2%
Other/Not Specified ¹	1586	10%	1515	9%	-4%
Total Unique Victims	16610		16554		

Victim Statistics

2022:

Of the 363 total victims in new criminal human trafficking cases in 2022, minor victims comprise 34% (122) and 34% (119) of the victims of sex trafficking were minors

2021:

Over 50% of total victims (449) in all new criminal human trafficking cases in 2021 were minors. 66% of the 287 identified victims in sex trafficking cases were minors

2020:

Of the 1498 total cases, 53% (789) victims were minors. In sex trafficking cases, 55% (759) cases were minors.

2019:

Of the 1592 total victims, 52% were minors and 55.4% (808) of victims of sex trafficking were minors.

** Courtesy of the Federal Human Trafficking Report: 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019*

Defendant Statistics

Characteristics of human trafficking defendants in cases charges in U.S. district court, 2022

Total = 523 for Sexual Exploitation and other abuse of children

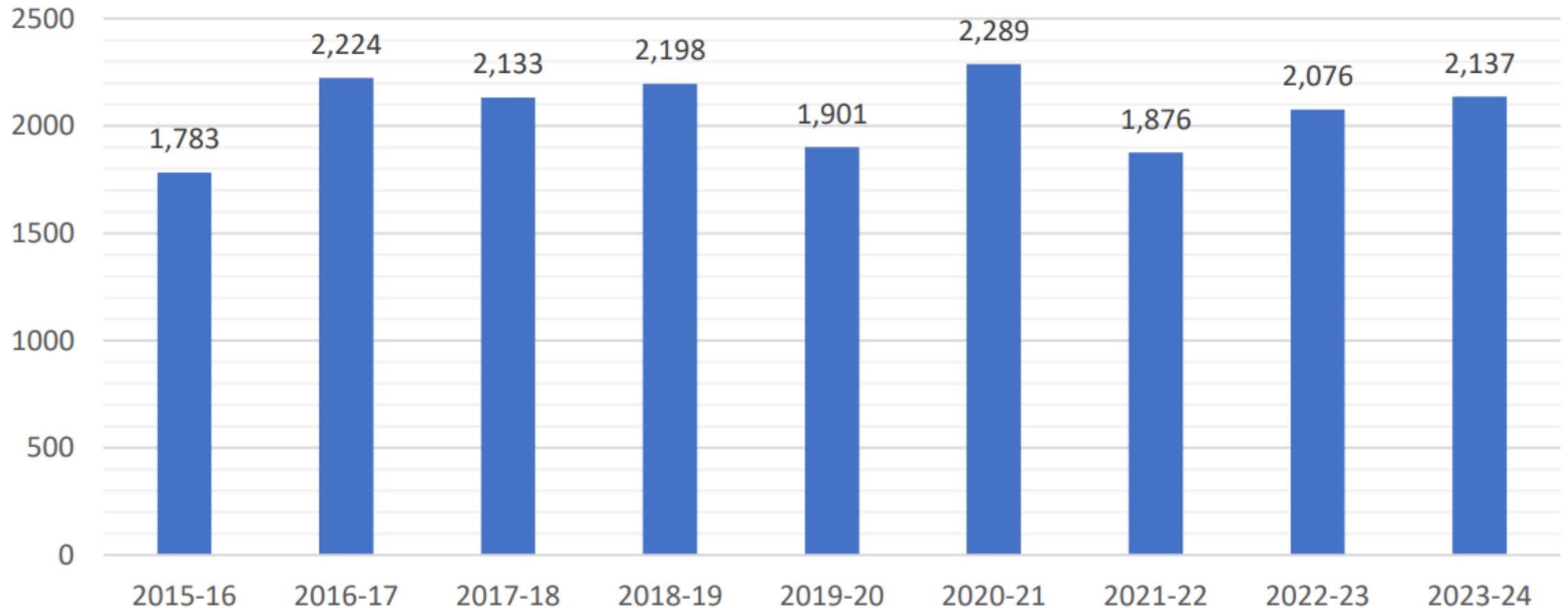
Characteristic	Number	
Sex:		
Male	494	
Female	289	
Age:		
18-24	74	
25-34	200	
35-49	183	
50-64	53	
65+	13	(Median age = 34)
Citizenship:		
U.S. Citizen	503	
Documented non-U.S. Citizen	4	
Undocumented non	9	
Prior Conviction:		
No prior convictions	375	
Prior Misdemeanor only	68	
Prior Felony conviction	80	

* Statistics courtesy of U.S. DOJ/Bureau of Justice Statistics, October 2024, NCJ 309422

Statistics State of Florida (Courtesy of the Department of Children and Families)

- ▶ In 2023-2024, the total number of reports accepted by the Florida Abuse Hotline alleging one of the human trafficking maltreatments was 2,137 involving 1,592 children.
- ▶ Of the 2,137 accepted reports, 1,965 (91.95%) were coded as CSEC and 172 (8.05%) reports were for Labor Trafficking. The chart below shows the trend in cases since SFY 2015-16.

Florida Abuse Hotline Reports Alleging Human Trafficking per State Fiscal Year



Recognizing Human Trafficking

Identifying victims of human trafficking can be challenging. However, you are in a unique position to identify victims through a combination of behavioral indicators, physical indicators, situational indicators, and medical history.

Behavioral, Physical, & Environmental Indicators.

Behavioral

- The person is not allowed to speak for themselves. The companion insists on answering questions for the victim.
- Appears fearful, anxious, and or submissive to their companion.
- Avoids eye contact or appears nervous.
- Does not trust law enforcement or hospital staff.

Physical

- Bruises, burns, cuts in various stages of healing.
- Malnutrition, poor hygiene, untreated chronic conditions.
- Rope burns, wrist/ankle marks.
- Branding or tattoos such as barcodes, names, or dollar signs.
- Multiple sexually transmitted diseases (STD's).

Environmental

- Unaware of their location, date or time.
- Lack of control over personal documents. (Companion controls their documents, money, or cell phones.
- Avoids questions about living or working conditions.
- Report working excessively long hours, with little to no pay.

Where could you see human trafficking in your community?

Locations or businesses in your community that may have HT activity:

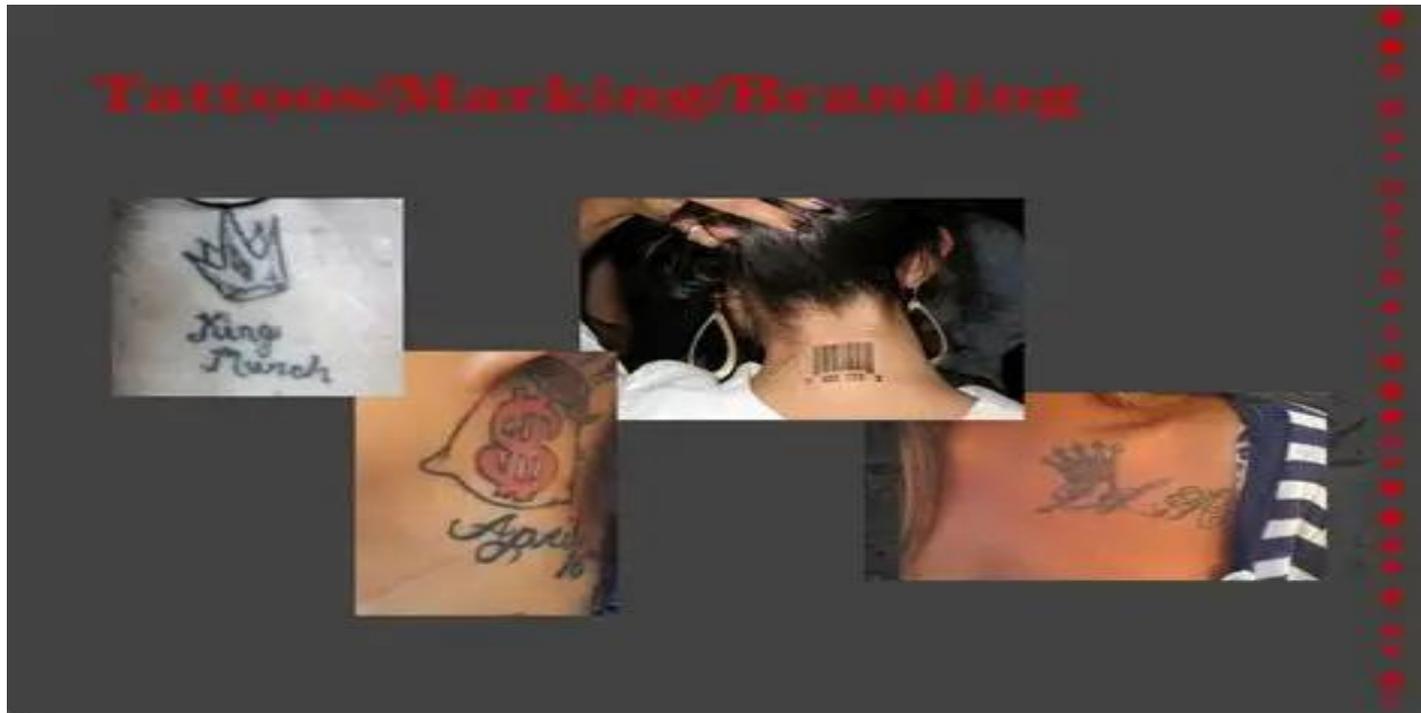
- ▶ Landscaping
- ▶ Construction trades
- ▶ Traveling sales
- ▶ Truck stops, rest areas
- ▶ Bus stops
- ▶ Interstates
- ▶ Message parlors
- ▶ Adult entertainment
- ▶ Social networking websites
- ▶ Restaurants
- ▶ Outlet stores
- ▶ Households with servants
- ▶ Nail salons
- ▶ Hotels or motels

What does sex trafficking look like in your community?

Sex trafficking in a community is often hidden in plain sight and is usually subtle.

Child sex trafficking is well hidden in our communities. This is why it is important that you ask questions of everyone involved and establish if they're any relationships.

Branding & Tattoos Human Trafficking



Recognizing Human Trafficking

You may encounter trafficking that can look like another crime that is masking human trafficking. While speaking with the victim and establishing rapport, you may uncover human trafficking

- ▶ Trafficking situations are likely to look like something else:
 - ▶ Prostitution
 - ▶ Shop lifting
 - ▶ Sexual Battery
 - ▶ Suspicious incidents

Recognizing Human Trafficking (Courtesy of Polaris Project, "Analysis of 2021 Data from the National Human Trafficking Hotline")

Top 5 identified types of trafficking:

- Escort Services
- Pornography
- Illicit Massage, Health, & Beauty
- Residential-Based Commercial Sex
- Personal Sexual Servitude

Recognizing Human Trafficking (courtesy of Polaris Project, "Analysis of 2021 Data from the National Human Trafficking Hotline")

Top 3 Recruiter Types:

- Family Member/Caregiver
- Intimate Partner
- Employer

Recognizing Human Trafficking (courtesy of Polaris Project, "Analysis of 2021 Data from the National Human Trafficking Hotline")

Top 3 Recruitment Locations:

- Internet - Dating Site
- Street
- Internet – Social Media Facebook

Recognizing Human Trafficking (courtesy of Polaris Project, "Analysis of 2021 Data from the National Human Trafficking Hotline")

Top 5 Risk Factors/Vulnerabilities:

- Recent Migration/Relocation 54%
- Mental or Physical Health Concern 10%
- Substance Use Concern 9%
- Unstable Housing 8%
- Runaway/Homeless Youth 7%

Recognizing Human Trafficking (courtesy of Polaris Project, "Analysis of 2021 Data from the National Human Trafficking Hotline")

Top 5 Force, Fraud and Coercion (FFC) :

- ▶ Emotional Abuse 28%
- ▶ Economic Abuse 26%
- ▶ Threats 23%
- ▶ Isolation 20%
- ▶ Withholds/Denies Needs or Wants 14%

Recognizing Human Trafficking (courtesy of Polaris Project, "Analysis of 2021 Data from the National Human Trafficking Hotline")

Age at Entry into Exploitation

	2020	2020	2021	2021	% change
	#	%	#	%	
Adult	1466	9%	1856	11%	27%
Minor	4588	28%	4708	28%	3%
Unknown	10,596	64%	10,028	61%	-5%
Total Unique Victims	16,610		16,554		

Who Are The Victims ?

Human trafficking can happen to anyone, but some people are more vulnerable than others. Significant risk factors include recent migration or relocation, substance use, mental health concerns, involvement with the child welfare system and being a runaway or homeless youth.

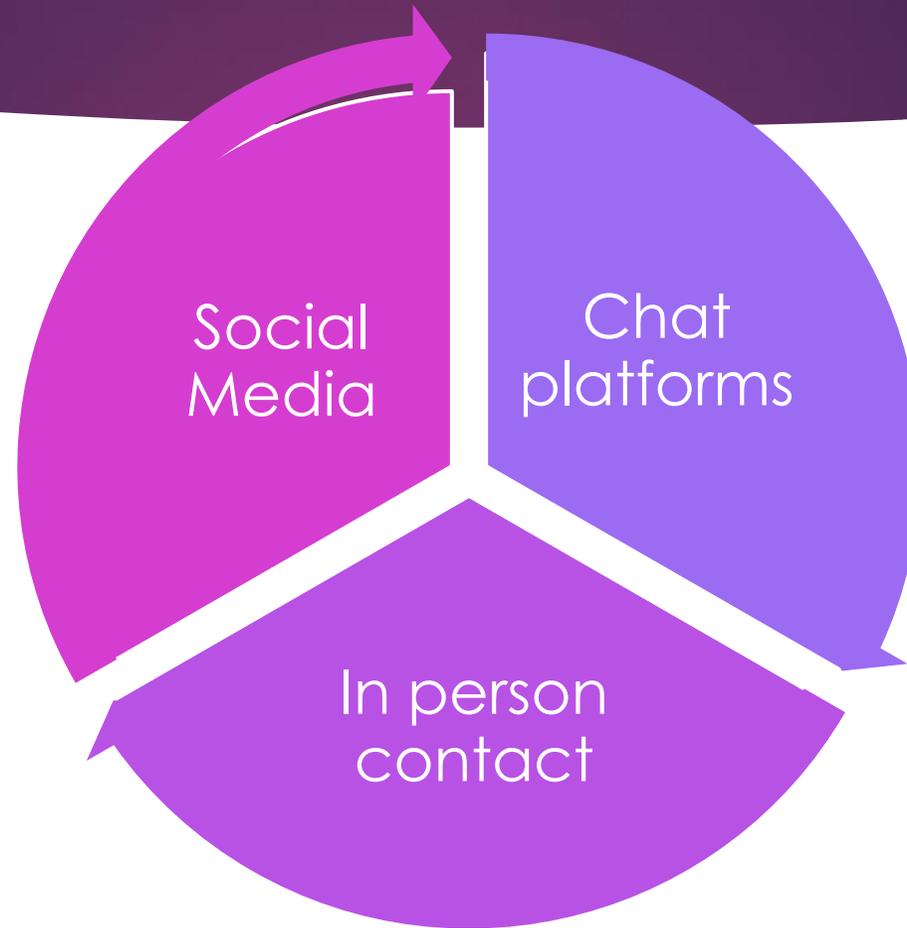
Often, traffickers identify and leverage their victims' vulnerabilities to create dependency.

Do victims know they are victims?

No: Most do not identify as victim's

- Most HT victims deny they are victims
- Most HT victims believe they are at least partially to blame for their circumstances
- Some HT victims feel this situation is better than a past situation
- Some HT victims feel they have some control over their lives or situation

How do traffickers gain access



Initial Contact With The Victim

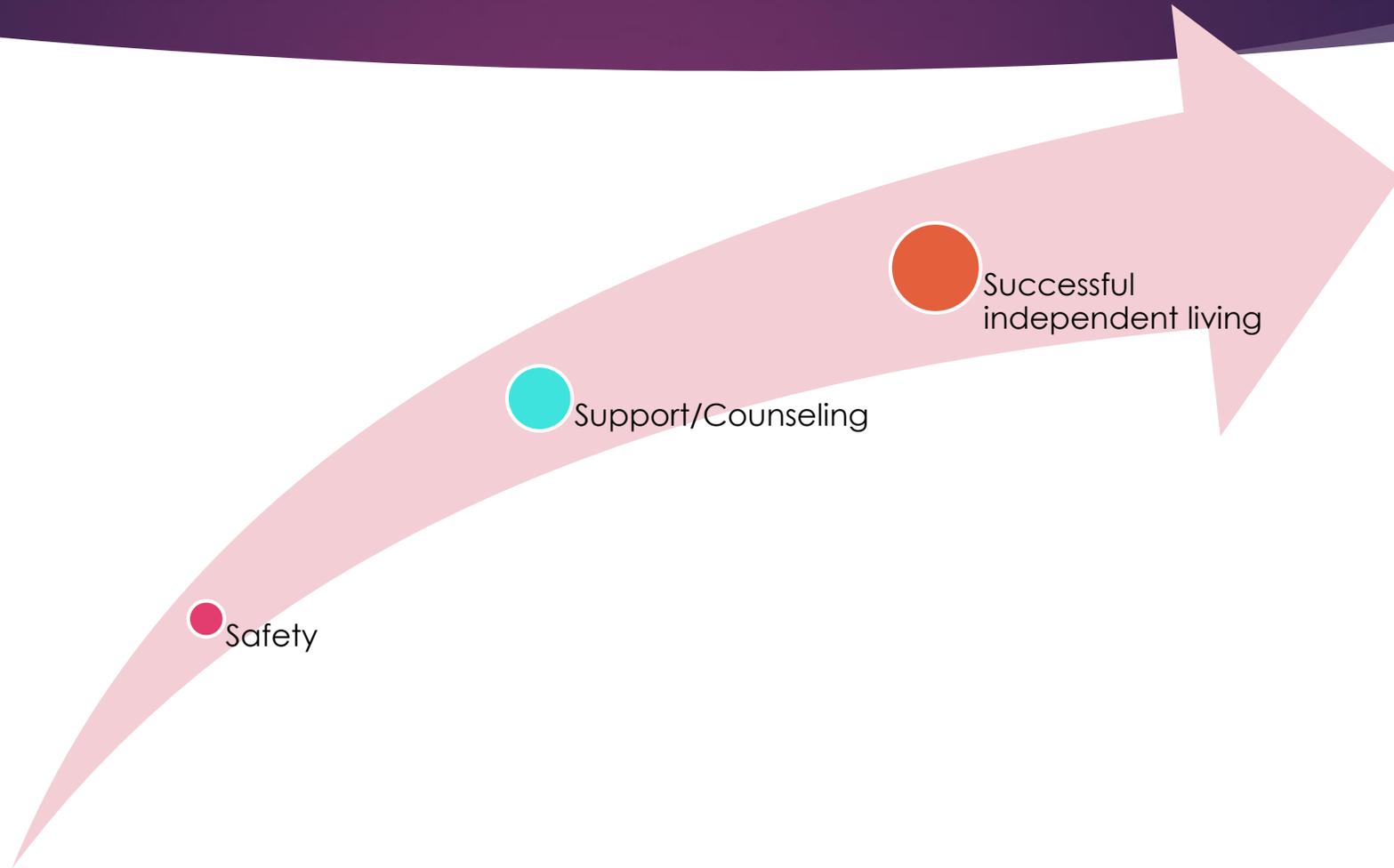
The approach that you take during the initial contact with a victim of human trafficking, can make the difference between gaining trust and losing the opportunity to help.

When in contact with a victim of HT, you should keep in mind the victim has been through tremendous trauma and could be in a vulnerable state of being. Therefore, trauma-informed communication is key when speaking with a person suspected of being human trafficked.

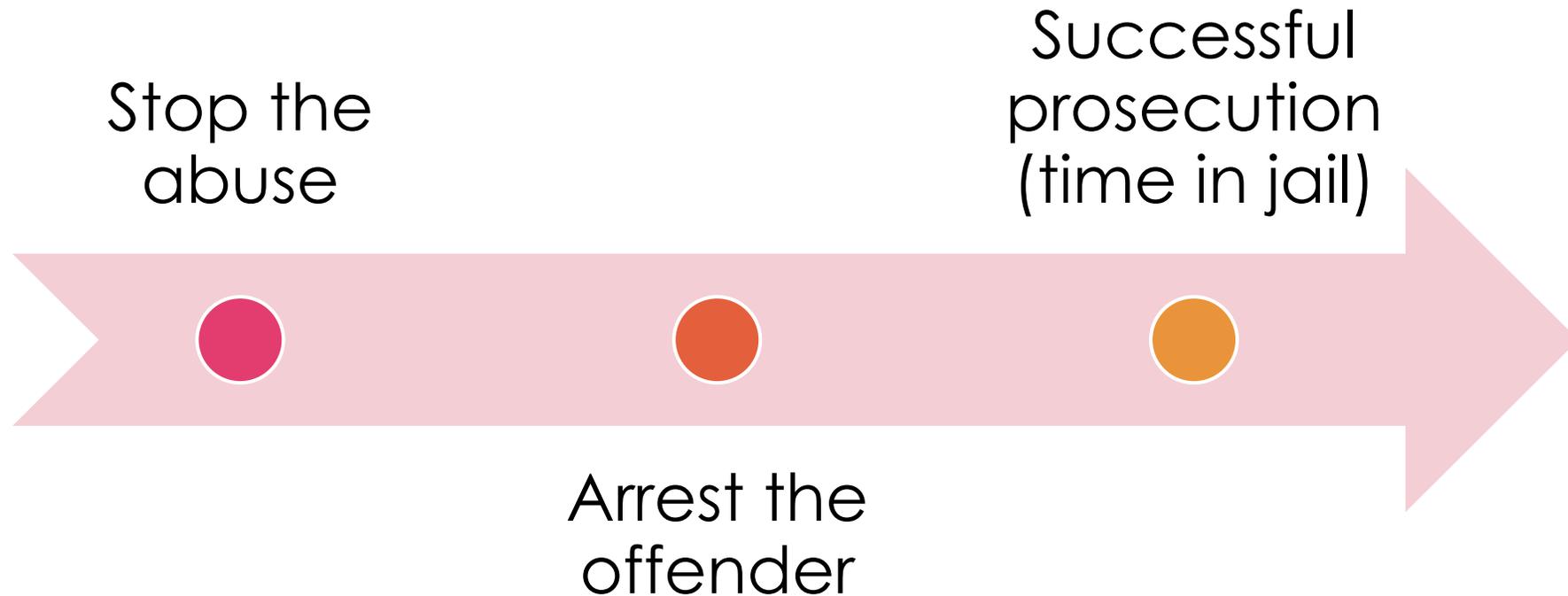
Survivors

- ▶ <https://youtu.be/LZ5Xb7AdJBI?si=U3RMBsOAw4Wu4Tdr>

Goals for the victim



Goals for law enforcement



What Can You Do?

- ▶ Upon initial contact with the victim, show empathy and actively listen to the victim, stay focused, and take the time that you need to assess the situation.
- ▶ Be aware of the red flags that may indicate that human trafficking is present.
- ▶ Separate the victim from any accompanying individuals (Follow your policy).
- ▶ Use good observation skills and questioning to notice potential indicators during your initial contact. Attempt to use a trauma informed approach.
- ▶ Ask open ended questions to gather victim information and take a soft trauma –informed approach for communication.
- ▶ Contact law enforcement , social services, and or the National Human Trafficking Hotline. (Follow your policy).
- ▶ Remember it is how you respond to the victim in the very beginning, that can set the tone for future interactions the victim may have with law enforcement.

Key Takeaways

- ▶ Identify or attempt to (victims name, age, home location).
- ▶ Recognize Red Flags (Dominant person does all the talking, victim shows signs of physical abuse, flinches, avoids eye contact).
- ▶ Establish a rapport with the victim (treat the victim with respect building trust, have empathy).
- ▶ Ask open ended questions (take trauma informed approach).
- ▶ Contact social services, law enforcement, and report what you've observed to the human trafficking hotline, to assist in future prevention.

References

- ▶ Florida Legislature. (2019). Florida Statutes. Retrieved from <http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes>
- ▶ International Labor Organization. (2019). <http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/lang--en/index.htm>
- ▶ Polaris Project Human Trafficking (2021). <http://polarisproject.org>
- ▶ U.S. Department of State. (2019). Trafficking in persons report June 2019. <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/2019-Trafficking-in-Persons-Report.pdf>
- ▶ U.S. Department of Justice <https://www.justice.gov/humantrafficking>
- ▶ Florida Department of Children and Families Annual Report October 2024.