



Human Trafficking 101

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Language & Considerations

- For this presentation it's important to acknowledge a few key points about the language used:
- The words victim/patient/survivor all refer to the same person. The person who is being trafficked. Their level of healing and whom they are interacting with (police/healthcare/counseling) can affect the word chosen.
- Trafficked persons can be any gender so if a specific pronoun is presented, please know that it is for illustration purposes.
- Traffickers can be any gender so if a specific pronoun is presented please know that it is for illustration purposes.
- The examples presented do not represent the only populations that are affected by trafficking.
- This information can be hard to hear - please take care of yourself and be respectful of others.



Let's Talk Myths and Facts about Human Trafficking!

**Trafficking
is always a
violent
crime**



MYTH

- The most common myth about human trafficking is that it always - or often - involves kidnapping or physically forcing someone into a situation. Movement is not required for trafficking to occur.
- In reality, most human traffickers use psychological means such as, tricking, defrauding, manipulating or threatening victims into providing commercial sex or exploitative labor.



Only women and girls can be victims of sex trafficking

MYTH

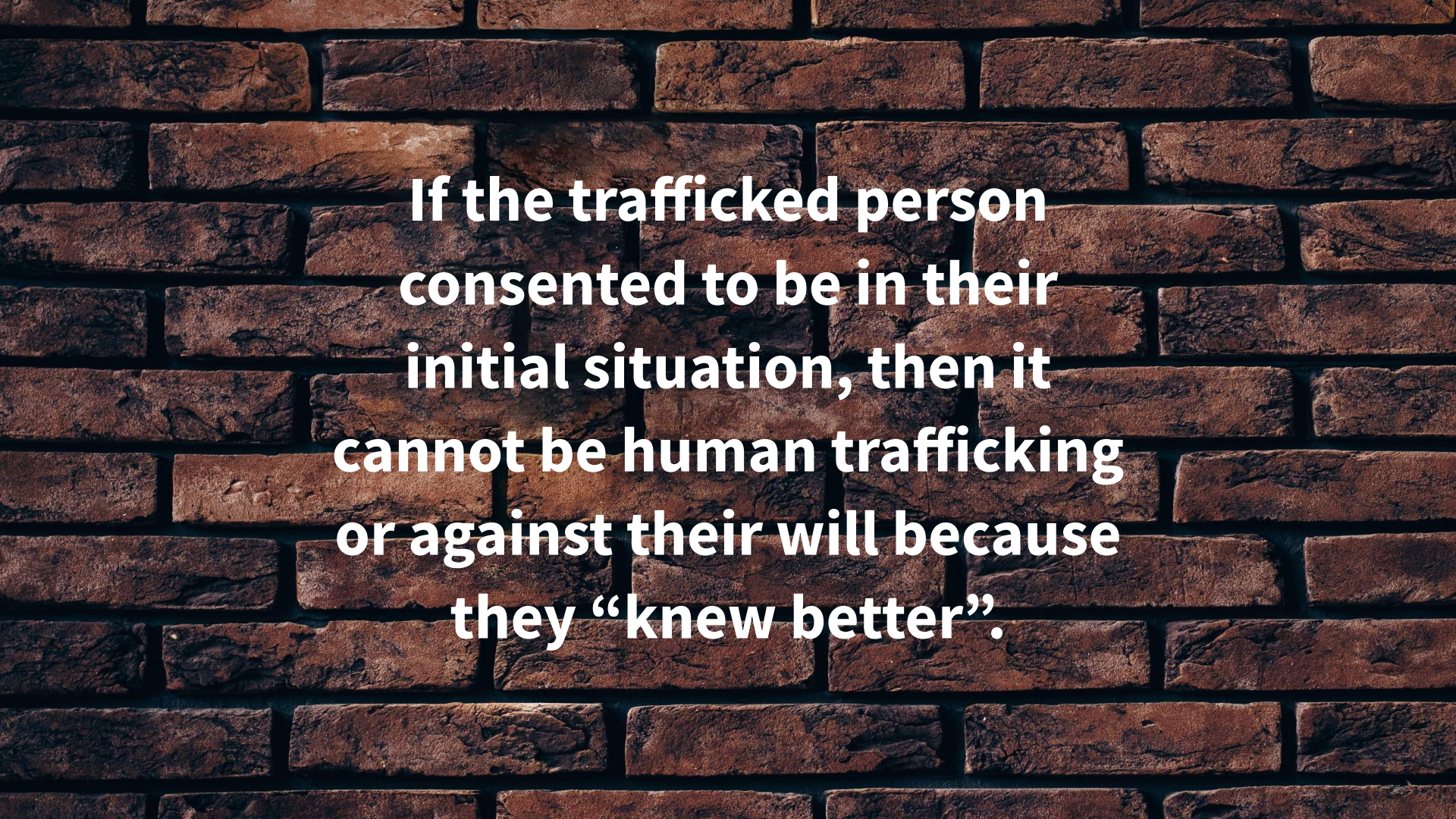
- One study estimates that as many as half of sex trafficking victims and survivors are male, but that male victims are far less likely to be identified.
- LGBTQ boys and young men are seen as particularly vulnerable to trafficking.
- It takes a male 20 years to disclose sexual abuse on average

A dark, industrial interior, possibly a warehouse or a large room in a factory. The walls are made of concrete and are covered in graffiti. The floor is dark and appears to be made of concrete or stone. In the center of the room, a single, simple metal chair with a white seat is illuminated by a bright light source from above, creating a strong contrast with the surrounding darkness. The light source is a rectangular opening in the ceiling, which is also illuminated. The overall atmosphere is somber and mysterious.

**Traffickers target victims
they don't know**

MYTH

- Many survivors have been trafficked by boyfriends, friends, and family members, including parents.
- In the media most trafficking situations are portrayed as a kidnapping or being held against their will by someone they do not know



**If the trafficked person
consented to be in their
initial situation, then it
cannot be human trafficking
or against their will because
they “knew better”.**

MYTH

- Initial consent to commercial sex or a labor setting prior to acts of force, fraud, or coercion (or if the victim is a minor in a sex trafficking situation) is not relevant to the crime, nor is payment.



What is Human Trafficking?

“Human trafficking is, at its most basic terms, forcing someone to do some type of labor or service”
- Freedom Network USA

To be considered sex or labor trafficking it must involve

- **Force** could look like rape, beatings, psychological force, constraint, or confinement
- **Fraud** could look like false promises and lying about the type of work or payment
- **Coercion** could look like the use of threats of serious harm, blackmail or making the person fearful to seek help



Types of Sex Trafficking

Four Main Types

- Family Controlled
- Survival Sex
- Trafficking over the internet
- Pimp Controlled

Which one do you think is most common?



Labor Trafficking

Two Main Types

Forced Labor:

- People are illegally recruited by individuals, governments or political parties and forced to work, usually under the threat of violence or other penalties.

Bonded Labor:

- People are tricked into taking a loan or told they can repay a debt (ex: for being brought into the country).
- To repay the debt, many are forced to work long hours, often all year long. They receive basic food and shelter as “payment” for their work, but then are never able to pay off the loan, which can be passed down for generations.

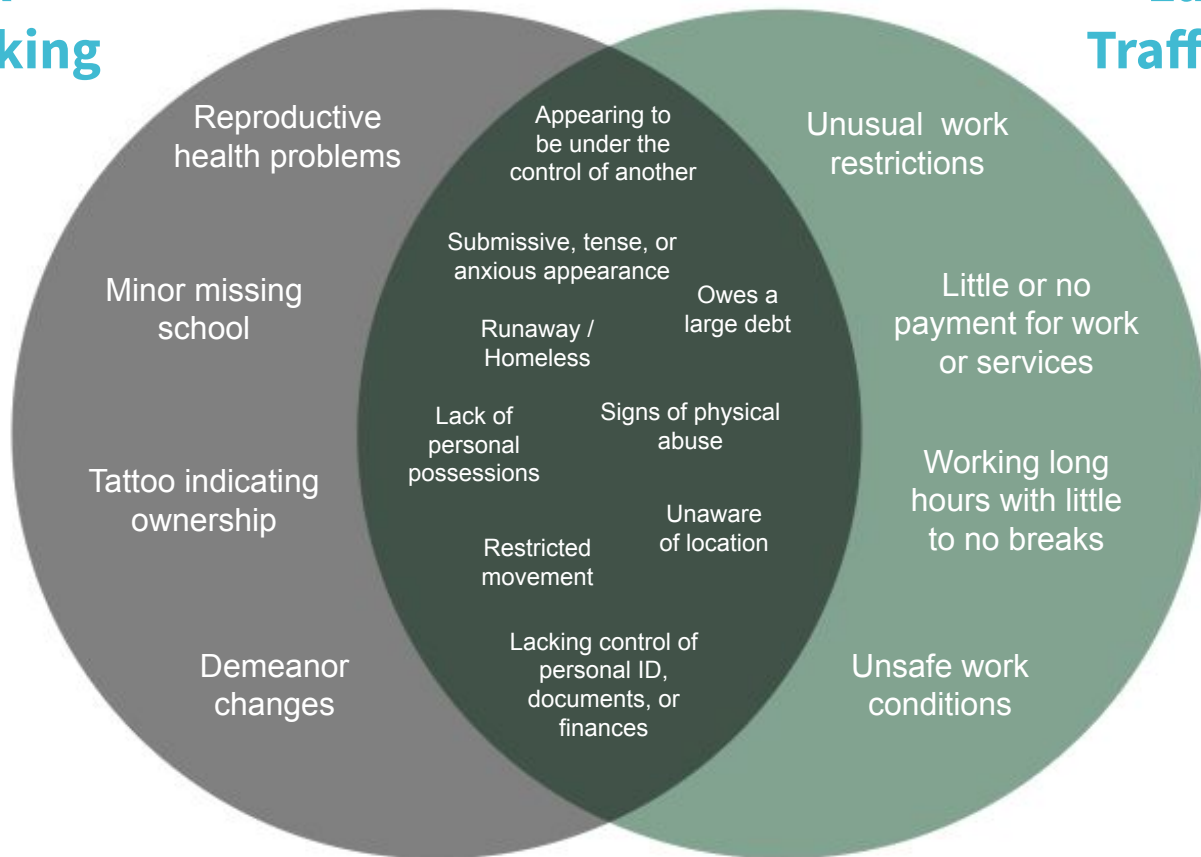
Human Trafficking Power and Control Wheel



Trafficking Red Flags

Sex Trafficking

Labor Trafficking



Why Victims May Stay

- Relationship with trafficker may involve psychological conditioning based on fear or feelings of love.
- Threatened if they tell anyone: they or their families will be hurt.
- Unfamiliar with surroundings: location or country.
- Doesn't believe help exists or know where to go for help.
- Fear of law enforcement and other authorities.
- Unaware of laws, culture, language.
- Don't consider themselves victims.
- Blame themselves.
- Suffer from Drug addiction.
- In debt to their trafficker.
- Sending money home.



Next Steps: How to Respond

Things to Consider

Language is important.

- Be conscious of the language that you use
- Believe the person: “I believe you, I’m sorry that happened. I want to make sure you have the resources you need, do you want me to call the police, take you to the hospital, etc.” Don’t make the decisions for survivors. Self-determination is key.
- Mirroring the language that the potential victim uses can be a helpful first step. Example: If the potential victim refers to her controller as her boyfriend, referring to that person as a “pimp” or a “sex trafficker” may have a negative impact.
- Victims will most often not state, “I’m a victim of trafficking.”
- Be aware that it’s common for survivors to be conditioned by their trafficker not to trust law enforcement and/or service providers
- Comprehensive Trafficking Assessment, Polaris, 2019

Helpful Questions

- Did you ever feel pressured to do something that you didn't want to do or felt uncomfortable doing?
- Did anyone ever force you to do something physically or sexually that you didn't feel comfortable doing?
- Is there anything that would help you to feel safer while we talk?
- What were your expectations of what would happen if you left this person/situation or if you didn't do what this person told you to do?
- Can you leave your work or job if you want?
- When you are not working, can you come and go as you please?
- Have you been threatened with harm if you try to quit?

Other Ways You Can Help



- Please call the 24/7 National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 if you suspect someone is a victim of trafficking and you would like to report it. Text 233733 (BEFREE).
- These reports do not always get passed on to local LE so please contact 911 if it is an emergency, or direct them to Cleveland Clinic Akron General Emergency Department.
- Call the Summit County Human Trafficking Hotline for local tips and reports at 330-252-2614. Victim advocacy also available.
- Please email us at sccaht1@gmail.com if you would like to join The SCCAHT Direct Services Committee or The Education and Outreach Committee
- If you have any questions or need referrals for services please utilize the service matrix or get in touch with a member of the SCCAHT!

Concluding Remarks and Q & A