



# Human Trafficking

for Law Enforcement

# Domestic Victims of Human Trafficking (DVHT)

Provides victim-centered services, case management, counseling, and crisis intervention services, referrals to safe housing, and connections to treatment programs when needed, including substance use. Services are available in Cumberland, Camden, and Gloucester counties.

# Look Beneath the Surface (LBS)

LBS focuses on the identification and referral of foreign and domestic victims of severe forms of trafficking. The SERV HT-LBS program operates in Cumberland, Camden, and Gloucester Counties.

## Services include:

- Direct outreach to individuals who are experiencing or who have experienced sex or labor trafficking
- Anti-trafficking training and technical assistance to local professionals and organizations or entities that may encounter individuals who are being trafficked
- Coordination and facilitation of the South Jersey Anti-Trafficking Coalition (SJATC)
- Public awareness activities and community education

**HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING:**

**LOOK**

**BENEATH  
THE SURFACE**

Watch video:

<https://youtu.be/W6xBcO26Mcw>

**SERV** | Services Empowering  
Rights of Victims  
HUMAN TRAFFICKING SERVICES

# Look Beneath the Surface

Role of Law Enforcement Officers in Identifying and Helping Victims of Human Trafficking

# Presentation Overview

- Understanding human trafficking
- Identifying crime of human trafficking
- Communicating with victims of human trafficking
- Role of local law enforcement
- Evidence of success

# Human Trafficking: What is it?

- Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery
- Victims of trafficking exploited for commercial sex or labor purposes
- Traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to achieve exploitation

***After drug dealing, human trafficking is tied with the illegal arms trade as the second largest criminal industry in the world, and it is the fastest growing.***

# Human Trafficking: What is it?

## Sex Trafficking

**Commercial sex** act induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person performing the act is under age 18.

- *Victims can be found working in massage parlors, brothels, strip clubs, and escort services*



# Is this Domestic Violence or Sex Trafficking?

## Three Questions You Can Ask:

- Is anyone forcing you to do anything you don't want to do?
- Are you unable to access the money you earn?
- Are you being forced to perform sexual acts or work without pay? (This includes taking pictures.)

# Human Trafficking: What is it?

## Labor Trafficking

Using force, fraud, or coercion to recruit, harbor, transport, obtain, or employ a person for labor or services in **involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery**

- *Victims can be found in domestic situations as nannies or maids, sweatshop factories, janitorial jobs, construction sites, farm work, restaurants, and panhandling*

# Human Trafficking: What is it?

**There are primarily two types of human trafficking:  
Sex Trafficking and Labor Trafficking**

*The crime of trafficking occurs with the exploitation of the victim.*

*The physical movement of the victim is not a requisite.*

*The TVPA protects both U.S. citizens and non-citizens.*

# Who Are the Victims of Human Trafficking?

- Approximately 800,000 to 900,000 victims are trafficked across international borders worldwide annually; between 18,000 and 20,000 victims are trafficked into the United States annually.
- More than half of victims trafficked into United States are children; victims are about equally female and male.

Source: <http://cddshq.org/disaster-services/human-trafficking-prevention>

# Who Are the Victims of Human Trafficking?

- Victims can be trafficked into the U.S. from anywhere in the world. Victims have come from, among other places, Africa, Asia, India, Latin America, Eastern Europe, Russia, and Canada.
- Many victims in the U.S. do not speak English and are unable to communicate with service providers, police, or others who might be able to help them.
- Within the U.S., both citizens and non-citizens fall prey to traffickers.

# Mindset of Trafficking Victims

## Frequently, victims...

- Do not speak English and are unfamiliar with U.S. culture
- Distrust outsiders, especially law enforcement – fear of deportation
- Do not self-identify as victims; often blame themselves for predicaments
- May have been beaten and/or raped, but their current situation may still be better than where they came from
- May be unaware of rights or may have been intentionally misinformed about rights in this country
- Fear for the safety of their families in their home countries, who are often threatened by traffickers

# How Are Victims Trafficked?

***Force, fraud, and coercion***  
*are methods used by traffickers to press victims  
into lives of servitude and abuse*

# How Are Victims Trafficked?

- **Force:** Rape, beatings, confinement
- **Fraud:** Includes false and deceptive offers of employment, marriage, better life
- **Coercion:** Threats of serious harm to, or physical restraint of, any person; any scheme, plan, or pattern intended to cause victims to believe that failure to perform an act would result in restraint against them; or the abuse or threatened abuse of the legal process



# Myths Associated with Human Trafficking

# Perception #1: All Prostitutes are Willing Participants



# Perception #2:

All Immigrants  
Smuggled into the  
United States Enter  
Willingly



**Perception #3:**  
Human Trafficking is  
a Crime Prosecuted  
Only at the Federal  
Level



# Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)

- Signed into law in October 2000
- Prior to 2000, there was no comprehensive law to protect victims of trafficking or to prosecute traffickers
- TVPA made human trafficking a Federal crime
- Goals of law:
  - *Prevent human trafficking over seas*
  - *Increase prosecution of human traffickers in the United States*
  - *Protect victims, provide Federal and state assistance to victims*

# Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)

Law addresses three key areas:

## Prevention

- *Public awareness and education*

## Protection

- *T visa, certification, benefits, and services to help victims rebuild their lives*

## Prosecution

- *New law enforcement tools and efforts*

# How TVPA Affects What You Do

- Creates new laws that criminalize trafficking regarding slavery, involuntary servitude, debt bondage, or forced labor
- Permits prosecution where non-violent coercion is used to force victims to work in belief they would be subject to serious harm
- Permits the prosecution where a victim's service is compelled by confiscation of documents such as passports or birth certificates
- Increases prison terms for all slavery violations from 10 years to 20 years; adds life imprisonment where violation involves death, kidnapping, or sexual abuse of victim



# How TVPA Affects What You Do

- Requires courts to order restitution, forfeiture of assets upon conviction
- Enables victims to seek witness protection, other types of assistance
- Gives prosecutors and agents new tools to get legal immigration status for victims of trafficking during investigation, prosecution



# How TVPA Affects What You Do

- Often traffickers break state laws such as:
  - *Murder*
  - *Kidnapping*
  - *Battery*
  - *Assault*
  - *Sexual battery*
  - *False imprisonment*
  - *Prostitution*
  - *Promoting prostitution*

# TVPA Reauthorized in 2003

- Federal government authorized more than \$200 million to continue domestic fight against human trafficking
- New law strengthens legal elements of TVPA
  - *Sex and labor trafficking are now considered offenses under RICO statute*
  - *Encourages the nation's 21,000 law enforcement agencies to investigate cases of trafficking*

# Faces of Human Trafficking



Watch video:

<https://youtu.be/YrLWiVJn7Js>

# Identifying the Crime of Human Trafficking

Non-verbal crime scene clues to link to human trafficking:

- *Living conditions of potential victims*
- *Physical abuse*
- *Working conditions*
- *Restriction of movement indicators*
- *Behavior indicators of severe dependency*
- *Possession of other's legal documentation*
- *Possession of false or fraudulent documentation*
- *Insistence on providing information to officer*

# Identifying the Crime of Human Trafficking

- Police are most likely the first to come upon crimes of human trafficking
- Look beneath the surface of other crimes and scenarios to expose crimes of human trafficking:
  - *Prostitution rings (brothels, escort services, massage parlors)*
  - *Pornography*
  - *Illegal operations of massage parlors, strip clubs*
  - *Domestic abuse*
  - *Vice raids involving foreign nationals*
  - *Crimes involving immigrant children with no guardians*

# Identifying the Crime of Human Trafficking

- Evidence of control and lack of ability to move freely or to leave their job
- Bruises or other signs of physical abuse
- Intense fear or depression
- Non-English speaking
- Recent arrival from Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe, Canada, Africa, or India
- Lack of ID or immigration documents

# Victims of Trafficking and Their Needs

There are four general areas of victim needs:

## Immediate Assistance

- *Housing, food, medical, safety and security, language interpretation and legal services*

## Mental Health Assistance

- *Counseling*

## Income Assistance

- *Cash, living assistance*

## Legal Status

- *T visa, immigration, certification*

# Where to Get Help

**National Human Trafficking Hotline:**  
1-888-373-7888

**The Office on Trafficking In Persons (OTIP):**  
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip>



# Communicating with Victims of Human Trafficking

- Fear of deportation → The TVPA authorizes special visas and other forms of immigration relief to certain to trafficking victims.
- Does not Identify as Victim → You are a victim, not a criminal. What is happening to you is wrong.
- Distrust of law enforcement → We can help get you what you need. We can protect you. You can trust us.
- Unaware of rights → You have rights. You have the right to live without being abused.

# Identifying Victims of Trafficking

## Key Questions for Victims of Trafficking:

- How did you get here?
- Where do you live, eat, and sleep?
- Do you owe someone money?
- Is someone keeping your legal/travel documents?

# Identifying Victims of Trafficking

- Were you threatened if you tried to leave?
- Has your family been threatened?
- Were you ever physically abused?
- Were you ever forced to stay in one place?
- Who are you afraid of?

# The Making of a Girl



Watch video:

<https://youtu.be/ZvnRYte3PAk>

# Human Trafficking Terminology

- **Pimps, Traffickers, Madams:** Anyone who persuades others to become involved in the sex trade or who benefits from others' involvement in the sex trade. Can be a stranger, family member, or intimate partner. Not always men.
- **Finesse Pimp:** A pimp who uses psychological manipulation as his primary means of control.
- **Guerrilla Pimp:** A pimp who uses violence as his primary means of control.
- **Daddy:** Refers to a prostituted woman's own pimp. Intended to reinforce a perceived status as "the provider."
- **Bottom Girl/Bottom Bitch:** Street language referring to female associate who is at the top of the hierarchy of the women/girls controlled by a pimp. The bottom is said to be the foundation that the "family" can be built upon.

# Human Trafficking Terminology

- **Wife-in-Law:** Another woman who works for the same pimp.
- **Breaking/Breaking Bread:** Slang term meaning giving all of one's money to one's pimp.
- **Seasoning:** When a pimp rapes, beats, manipulates, and intimidates in order to break down a victim.
- **Pimp Circle:** A group of pimps surrounding an individual for the purposes of intimidation.

# Human Trafficking Terminology

- **Branded/Branding:** When a pimp tattoos his/her name on the victim.
- **Brothel:** A form of indoor prostitution where a group of women are engaged in prostitution in the same location.
- **Club-Based Prostitution:** A form of indoor prostitution. Prostitution is arranged for customers of the bar or club and may occur on premises.
- **Drug House:** A form of indoor prostitution where sex is exchanged for drugs.
- **Escort Service:** A form of indoor prostitution where “dates” are arranged through an organized service.

# Human Trafficking Terminology

- **Exit Fee:** The money a pimp will demand from a victim who is thinking about trying to leave. It will be an exorbitant sum, to discourage her from leaving. Most pimps never let their victims leave freely.
- **“John” (a/k/a Buyer or “Trick”):** An individual who pays for or trades something of value for sexual acts.
- **Lot Lizard:** A derogatory term for a person who is being prostituted at truck stops.
- **Quota:** An amount of money a victim must provide to her trafficker/pimp every night.



# Evidence of Success

ELIZABETH, NJ — Two women and a man who allegedly recruited underage girls to work as prostitutes across New Jersey were charged with human trafficking after a prostitution ring was busted.

Union County prosecutors say the arrests culminated a seven-week investigation that started with a tip from state child welfare officials and a nonprofit agency.

# Evidence of Success

TRENTON, NJ – Acting Attorney General John J. Hoffman announced that a Lakewood man and four male associates were sentenced to state prison for operating brothels in Lakewood that were part of a network of brothels in New Jersey, New York, and other states that trafficked women from Mexico to the United States to work as prostitutes. The men were charged in a joint investigation by the Division of Criminal Justice and ICE Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) called “Operation No Boundaries.”

# Your Role as Local Law Enforcement Officers

- Keep doing what you're doing
- Take a closer look – look beneath the surface
- Help build and prosecute crimes at state level
- Cooperate with district attorneys, social services, and Federal authorities (if case becomes Federal)
- Call **National Human Trafficking Hotline (1-888-373-7888)** to connect victims to services they may be eligible to receive.
- For more information on Human Trafficking, visit the Office on Trafficking In Persons (OTIP) at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip>

# Additional Resources

**Blue Campaign:**

<https://dhs.gov/blue-campaign>

**Office for Victims of Crime: Human Trafficking:**

<http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/humantrafficking/index.html>

**Polaris Project:**

<https://polarisproject.org>

**NJ Task Force on Human Trafficking:**

<http://www.nj.gov/oag/dcj/humantrafficking>

# Questions? Comments?

# **For Victim Services, Call the SERV Hotline at 1-800-225-0196**

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