Human Trafficking in Alabama: Resources for Healthcare Workers to Identify and Combat Human Trafficking

Satellite Conference and Live Webcast
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Objectives
• Define Human Trafficking
• Provide knowledge of new research, theories, concepts
• Provide education and importance of Trauma Informed Care for victims of human trafficking

Human Trafficking - Definition
• “Trafficking in persons” and “human trafficking” have been used as umbrella terms for the act of recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining a person for compelled labor or commercial sex acts through the use of force, fraud, or coercion

(www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2013/210543.htm)

Methodology

Push Factors:
– Ignorance of the Issue - Not knowing about trafficking in the first place certainly puts one at risk for being abused and exploited by traffickers

(www.a21.org)
Methodology

• Push Factors:
  – Poverty - Traffickers target people who are financially insecure
  • Promises of a good job and steady income are very appealing for someone who is living in poverty

(www.a21.org)

Methodology

• Push Factors:
  – Runaways and At-Risk Youth - For those who do not come from stable support systems, there is a higher chance that they will look to others for the love and acceptance that they do not find at home

(www.a21.org)

Methodology

• Pull Factors:
  – Sex Industries - The demands for workers in the sex industry is certainly a pull factor for human trafficking

(www.a21.org)

Methodology

• Pull Factors:
  – People - The people who purchase and exploit others are the largest pull factor
  • Without the demand there would be no supply

(www.a21.org)

Methods – Traffickers

• Force – physical to individual, rape, beatings, social isolation
• Fraud – false offers of employment, marriage, better life
• Coercion – Threats to individual, family, debt bondage, psychological abuse

Methods – Traffickers

• Challenges
  – Identifying
  – Investigating
  – Prosecuting
  – Partnerships
**Research**
- Human Trafficking victims are hidden but in plain sight (Farrell & McDevitt, 2014)
  - Heinous crime, too grotesque
- Referrals accounted for 39% of investigations
- Do not engage in self seeking behaviors (McClain & Garrity, 2011)

**Research**
- Health and Mental health problems – More than 80% come in contact
- Mortality Rate – 40 times higher than the national level in children (Cecchet & Thoburn, 2014)

**Research - Theoretical Background**
- Socioeconomic Theory
  - Social standing and economic activity (Becker, 1974)
    - Economically unstable
    - Lack of education – deficit in human development
      - Women less educated, lack of jobs, economic vulnerability
    - Poverty and employment rates
- Feminist Theory
  - UN reported women make 66% world’s workforce – only 10% world’s income and 1% world’s property (Lorber, 2005)
  - In U.S. women earn on the average 77 cents for every dollar earned by men (Cecchet & Thoburn, 2014)
  - Lower status than men, less power, less economic opportunities

**Context Method**
- Cross-Cultural Issues of gender and racism
  - Gender – individual factor of sex, women are treated culturally and coping mechanism
  - Gender and racism – Victimization to sex trafficking
    - African American – fragmentation and slavery

**Context Method**
- Destruction of families – to date single families – crime rate, substance abuse, early pregnancy, sex trafficking, human trafficking (Cecchet & Thoburn, 2014)
Context Method

• Environment
  – Low socioeconomic neighborhoods
  – Females, children, adolescents are harassed by pimps
  – Actively recruited into sex trade

Knowledge Development

• Knowing the theoretical background – scope of sex trade and background influences to HT
• Promote a Holistic – Individual, family, community, and culture
• Understand psychological impact on victims
• Improve systems of care (Farley & Kelly, 2000)

Knowledge Development

– Diminish stereotyping, criminalization, and marginalization
– Applying Trauma Informed Care
  • Safe housing
  • Vocational Support
  • Addiction Treatment and comprehensive medical care
  • Medical and mental health

Trauma Informed Care

• Care systems and practices that are adapted to account for violent experiences of victims of violence to promote better engagement of services (Muraya & Fry, 2015)

Trauma Informed Care

• Avoid revictimization
• Promote Resilience
  – Desire to live
  – Positive thinking
  – Motivation to change
  – “Overcomers” – once a victim, then a survivor – no longer a survivor

Five Elements of Trauma Informed Care

• Priority to victim’s physical and psychological safety
• Simultaneously addressing concurring problems
• Empowerment philosophy in service delivery
• Building resilience
Five Elements of Trauma Informed Care

- Placing much control and choice on human trafficking victims and minimize potential for revictimization
- Trauma Bonding

Theoretical – Ecosystem / Ecological Theory

- There are 3 environmental levels of functioning in an individual or family’s life (Bronfenbrenner, 1986)
  - Establishing safe and secure attachments in childhood

Theoretical – Ecosystem / Ecological Theory

- Microsystems - Individual
  - Child abuse and an absent father, to be loved must be subjected to daily violence
  - Change behavior, intrapersonal perception, foster self-love

Theoretical – Ecosystem / Ecological Theory

- Mesosystems - Family
  - Prior history
  - Child sexual abuse (incest or rape) led them to be trafficked, led to feelings of pain and betrayal, no social support

Theoretical – Ecosystem / Ecological Theory

- Macrosystems - World
  - Culture of prostitution, siblings, friends, prostitution as normal
  - Positive emotional and social support, desire to live, on going change, job skills, community awareness

(Cecchet & Thoburn, 2015)
Trauma Informed Care Services

Rescue
- Preliminary needs
- Translation services
- Medical care
- Mental health
- Drug detox
- Shelter
- Safety
- Sleep
- Police documentation / reporting

(Muraya & Fry, 2015)

Trauma Informed Care Services

Recovery
- Psychosocial programs
- Resilience work
- Recovery of identity
- Healing
- Trust building
- Life skills
- Education
- Coping with stigma & alienation
- Trauma counseling – Trauma Bonding
- Accommodation

(Muraya & Fry, 2015)

Trauma Informed Care Services

Reintegration
- Assisted return
- Educational training
- Social support
- Family tracing
- Long term accommodation
- Occupational training
- Job placement
- Post integration check up

(Muraya & Fry, 2015)

Future
- Increase Community Awareness educational programs
- Partnerships
- Development of a robust evidence-based program
  - Services for Human Trafficking victims
  - Model Program using Trauma Informed Care

Future
- There is more than one way to measure success
- Ongoing training and education
- Resilience
- A peer recovery support services program that incorporates a strengths perspective builds on people’s resiliencies and capacities rather than providing services focused primarily on correcting their deficits, disabilities, or problems
The Faces of Human Trafficking – OVC 2015

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References


References


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