

HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
AND PERSONS
WITH
DISABILITIES

PRESENTERS

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Learning Objectives

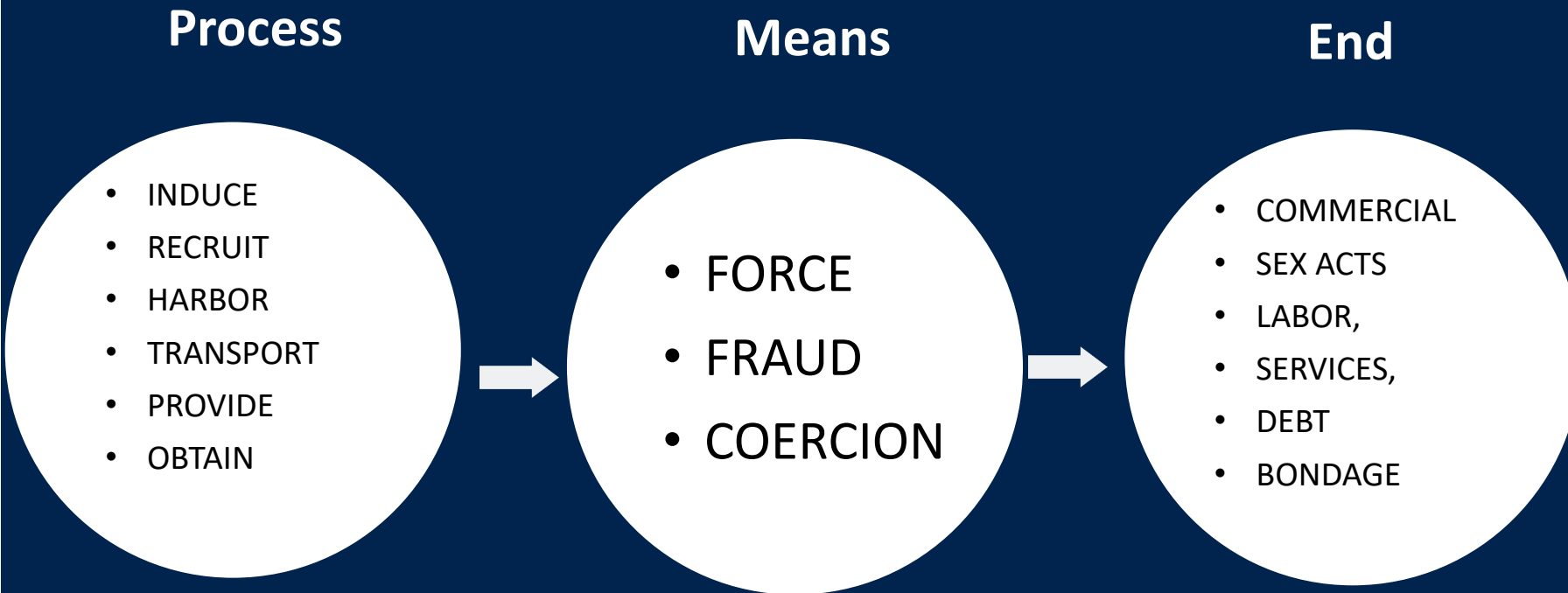
- Define vulnerability to exploitation within the context of a social system that emphasizes societal accountability and service provision.
- Detail resources, programs and organizations that are available to assist and support persons with disabilities informed by specialized knowledge about both sex and labor trafficking.
- Discuss current gaps and needs facing the community in this area.
- Brainstorm and propose concrete next steps for those in the justice system, social services and community-wide to better address the needs and responses of persons with disabilities who are trafficked and who are at risk.



Human Trafficking Basics

What is Human Trafficking?

The Victims Protection Act (TVPA)



Exception - minors under 18 years old

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) equips the U.S. Government with new tools and resources to mount a comprehensive and coordinated campaign to eliminate human trafficking domestically and internationally, and provide laws designed to serve and protect survivors of human trafficking.

Human Trafficking

This crime occurs when a trafficker uses force, fraud or coercion to control another person for the purpose of engaging in commercial sex acts or soliciting labor or services against his/her will. Force, fraud, or coercion need not be present if the individual engaging in commercial sex is under 18 years of age.”


SEX TRAFFICKING

Sex trafficking is the act of individuals performing a commercial sex act through the use of force, fraud, or coercion.

LABOR TRAFFICKING

Labor trafficking is when individuals are forced to perform labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion. Labor trafficking includes situations of debt bondage, forced labor, and involuntary child labor.

How does trafficking happen?



Human traffickers frequently target victims and then use violence, threats, lies, false promises, debt bondage, or other forms of control and manipulation to keep victims involved in the sex industry for their own profit.

In the U.S. the most common form of sex trafficking comes from the same framework as Domestic Violence, using intimate partner violence to source, maintain, and perpetuate trafficking and exploitation. Sex trafficking occurs in a diverse and unique set of venues and businesses including fake massage businesses, escort services, residential brothels, in public on city streets and in truck stops, strip clubs, hostess clubs, hotels and motels, and elsewhere.

Relationships

- Signs of abuse
- Unable to speak on their own behalf
- Evidence of being controlled
- Not in control of identification docs/wages
- Threatened with harm or deportation
- Lives and works in the same place
- Transported to and from work
- Not allowed to leave the house
- With an older “friend”

Behaviors

- Inconsistency in stories
- Acting fearful or anxious
- Working excessive hours
- Missing a lot of school
- Fearful of an employer or host family
- Inappropriate dress for the weather
- Staying out late
- Large amounts of cash/new things/electronics
- Meeting people they meet online



Red Flags

Who is at risk?



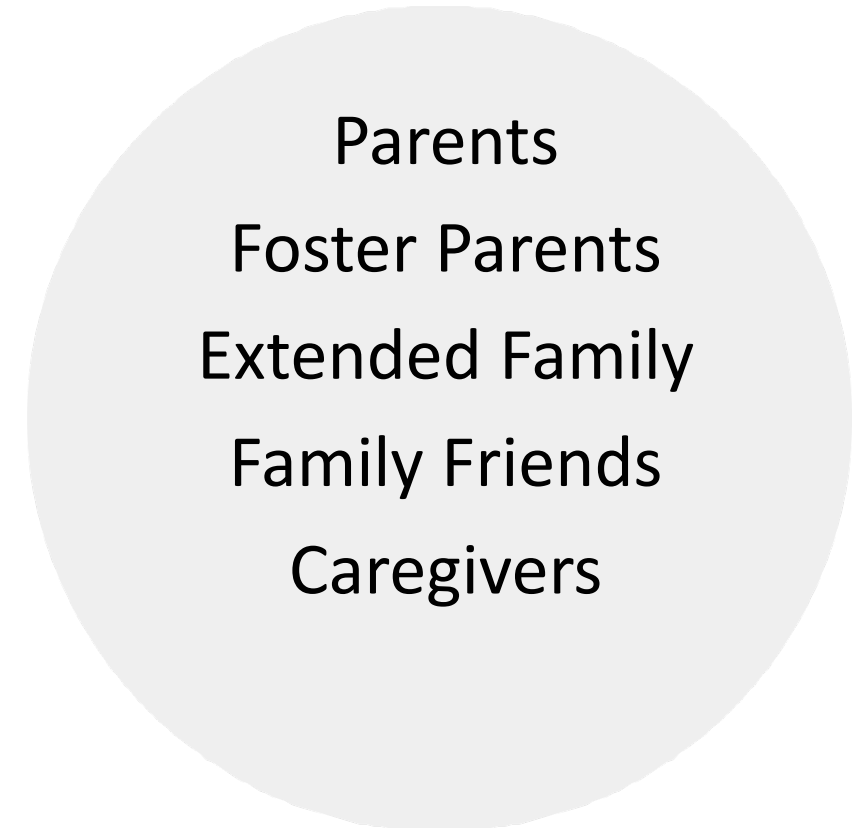
Who is the trafficker?

Partner Violence



Most survivors report having known their trafficker prior to being trafficked.

Familial Control





Disabilities



Risk Factors

- Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- Communication and language access
 - At home and in community
 - Reporting abuse
 - Awareness about exploitation
- Interpreted psychoeducation campaigns
 - School/home programs
 - Resources for help/access issues
 - Language and specialists
- Living in schools/away from home
 - Supervision

Indicators

- Breaking/withholding assistive technology or mobility devices
- Withholding medications
- Controlling/withholding SSI or other financial benefits
- Physical injuries or signs of neglect (bed sores, rashes, etc.)
- Encopresis/enuresis (often signs with intellectual delays)
- Not attending day or school programs or medical appts



How to Engage With a Persons With Disabilities



PROPER LANGUAGE



TALK TO THE PERSON
DIRECTLY

(even if communicating with
an interpreter)



INTERVIEW PRIVATELY

(use interpretation or other
support services as needed)



ADD ADDITIONAL TIME
TO ALLOW FOR
ACCOMODATIONS

Accommodations to Reduce Vulnerability and Create Access

Physical Spaces

- Mobility needs (ramps, lighting, door sizes, elevators)
- Calm environment to reduce triggers

Communication

- Interpreters
- iPads for nonverbal Braille/screen readers

Support Services

- Service animals
- Patience and time
- Specialists

National Resources

- End Abuse of People with Disabilities: <https://www.endabusepwd.org/>
- Vera Institute: <https://www.vera.org/securing-equal-justice/ensuring-access-for-people-with-disabilities-and-deaf-people>
- Activating Change: <https://www.activatingchange.org/our-mission>
- Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking: <https://www.endslaverynow.org/coalition-to-abolish-slavery-and-trafficking-cast>
- Freedom Network USA: <https://freedomnetworkusa.org/>
- National Federation of the Blind <https://nfb.org/resources>
- American Foundation for the Blind <https://www.afb.org/>
- Deaf-Hope (California) <https://www.deaf-hope.org/>
- Deaf-DAWN (DC) <https://deafdawn.org/>
- Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services, <https://www.adwas.org/>
- National trafficking hotline: 1(888) 373-7888 OR 233733 (Text "HELP" or "INFO")