Human Trafficking in Indian Country

Identifying and Reporting

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Disclaimer #1

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- This is not an “Indian country” problem
 Trafficking?????
Human Trafficking – legal definition

- Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000:
  - “severe forms of trafficking in persons” defined as
    - A) sex trafficking in which a commercial act is induced by force, fraud or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age; or
    - B) the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.
Types of Trafficking

- Labor
  - Domestic servitude
  - Small business
  - Peddling/sales
  - Large labor
- Sex Trafficking
  - “Hostess” bar/club
  - Residential Brothel
  - Escort Services
  - Pimp-controlled
- Other
  - International marriage brokers/servile marriage
  - Personal sexual servitude
Human Trafficking

- HT is a form of modern-day slavery
- HT has been reported in all 50 states in the US
- HT operates on basic principles of supply and demand
  - Thrives in conditions that allow high profits at low risk
$32 Billion
- Conservative estimate of worldwide income generated annually from trafficking

$5 Billion
- Estimate of income generated in Las Vegas alone

2.4%
- Or $3.3 Billion USD – the amount of Indonesia’s GDP generated by trafficking

14%
- Or $27 Billion USD – the amount of Thailand’s GDP generated by trafficking

Farley, n.d.; Farley et al., 2003
Human Trafficking in Indian Country

- HT exists in many countries worldwide
  - Studies show that worldwide, indigenous populations are at the highest risk of any other for being trafficked
    - (Deer, 2009; Farley, Lynne & Cotton, 2005)
  - Overrepresented in Canadian prostitution studies
    - (Farley, Lynne & Cotton, 2005)
- Prostitution arguably begins with colonization
  - (Farley, Lynn & Cotton, 2005)
Colonization
 Traffickers and Colonizers

- Traffickers
  - Seek vulnerable persons
  - Use various means to control vulnerable persons
    - Age
    - Poverty
    - Chemical dependency
    - History of abuse
    - Lack of resources or support
    - Lack of immigration status
Colonizers

- Found indigenous persons
- Used various means to control indigenous persons and to create/increase/perpetuate vulnerability
  - Trade
  - Unfair labor practices
  - Slavery
  - Disease
  - Alcoholism
  - Manifest destiny
  - Sexual abuse
  - Kidnapping
  - Boarding schools
  - Reservations
  - Oppression
  - Poverty
  - Hunger

(Deer. 2009; The Flemish American, 2010)
Historical trauma

- The “cumulative emotional and psychological wounding across generations, including the lifespan, which emanates from massive group trauma”
  - Historical Trauma Response (HTR)
  - Historical Unresolved Grief

Continued Trauma

- **Contact:**
  - life shock, genocide, no time for grief.

- **Colonization Period:**
  - introduction of disease and alcohol, traumatic events such as Wounded Knee Massacre.
Continued Trauma

- Economic competition:
  - sustenance loss (physical/spiritual).

Yellow Horse-Braveheart (2011)
Continued Trauma

- Invasion/War Period:
  - extermination, refugee symptoms.

(Braveheart, 2011; Weaver, 1998)
Continued Trauma

- Subjugation/Reservation Period:
  - confined/translocated, forced dependency on oppressor, lack of security.

Yellow Horse-Braveheart (2011)
Continued Trauma

- **Boarding School Period:**
  - destroyed family system, beatings, rape, prohibition of Native language and religion;

- **Lasting Effect:**
  - ill-prepared for parenting, identity confusion

*Yellow Horse-Braveheart (2011)*
Continued Trauma

- Forced Relocation and Termination Period:
  - transfer to urban areas, prohibition of religious freedom, racism and being viewed as second class; loss of governmental system and community.

Yellow Horse-Braveheart (2011)
500 Years Later
Figure 1. Map showing Williston Basin Province boundary (in red), Bakken-Lodgepole Total Petroleum System (TPS) (in blue), and major structural features in Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota.
Who is involved in the sale of a human?
• This will NOT be the “pimp” you see on TAT or likely in NW ND

• ALSO – DISCLAIMER – NOT ALL PIMPS ARE BLACK!!!

• IN FACT...........................................

• The trafficker can literally be anyone – not just the typical stereotypical pimp
  • Mothers who trade their daughters to a drug dealer for drugs can be guilty of trafficking their daughters
• The John represents the “demand” side of the equation
• Bottoms – may represent as a victims’ friend, or may seem to start out that way
  • In a small town, may be someone you know
Identifying Trafficking Victims

- **Typical red flags**
  - Work and Living Conditions
  - Mental health/change in behavior
  - Physical Health
  - Control/Autonomy
  - Other
Not your typical trafficking locale
Identifying Trafficking Victims in IC

- **Living Conditions**
  - May live at home – juveniles may be w/parents

- **Mental health/change in behavior**
  - Runaway for periods of time but returns
  - May exhibit sexualized behavior

- **Physical Health**
  - May develop STDs
  - May have injuries or bruises of unknown origin

- **Control/Autonomy**
  - May suddenly have lots of “stuff”
  - May not act entirely differently than before
  - May have more money/possessions with no explanation of why
  - May be hanging around with known or rumored traffickers/pimps

- **Other**
  - Comes back from runaway with hair and nails done
  - Comes back from runaway with additional possessions
  - “branded” or tattooed by trafficker or pimp
  - Lots of inconsistencies in story of where she has been
Added Risk

- Family ties/living situation

- Offenders
- Bottoms
- “friends”/enemies – girls in school who “know”
- Fear of danger to family
Victims become known to us by:

- Parents
- Social services
- Law enforcement
- Information received during investigation
- Rumor (difficult to follow up on but sometimes helpful during an ongoing investigation)
- Anonymous tips (least reliable and most difficult to follow up on successfully)
- Self-disclosure when victim is in treatment (rare)
Myths

- Only immigrants/foreign persons are trafficked
- Trafficking equals transportation across state or national borders
- Human trafficking is the same as human smuggling
- To be trafficking, a victim has to be restrained or physically forced to comply
- Trafficking victims immediately ask for help
- Trafficking victims always come from poverty or small rural villages
- Sex trafficking is the only form of human trafficking
- HT only occurs in illegal underground industries
- If victims consent it isn’t really trafficking – they should have “known better” – *compliance is not consent!*
- Foreign victims are always undocumented or illegal
Biggest Myth of All
Biggest Myth of All
Biggest Myth of All
Why it’s hard to identify victims

- Captivity/confinement
- Frequently guarded
- Use and threat of violence
- Fear
- Use of threats against loved ones
- Shame/Embarrassment
- Self blame
- Debt bondage
- Trauma bond
- Language/social barriers
- Lack of trust
- Isolation

- False promises
- Hopelessness
- Facilitated addiction
- Psychological trauma
- Lack of awareness
- Doesn’t see self as “victim”
- Normalization
- Belief that no one cares
- Lack of training on HOW to identify victims for professionals
- Lack of mandated reports, or badly written report
What YOU can do

- Talk to your kids, your friends, your family about changes you see in behavior
- Monitor where your children are
- Question new friends/boyfriends
- Question new property, extra money, tattoos or new scars
- REPORT suspicious behavior
Why should you be care???

- Reports of prostitution on Ft. Berthold
- Reports of prostitution involving minors on Ft. Berthold
- Increase in population/strangers in town
- Increase in sex offenders
- Risk to families
  - Women and children, particularly those living at or below poverty level who may become trafficked, or who may work for or become pimps themselves
    - Selling friends
    - Selling family – children/siblings
  - Men who may become pimps or trafficked themselves for sex work
- Jurisdictional issues
  - Who needs to know? Where do you report? Who can do anything about it?
Where to report

- TAT PD/BIA
  - 627-3617
- FBI – Minot Resident Agency
  - 852-5071
- Homeland Security (ICE)
  - 839-0725
- TAT Child Welfare
  - 701-627-4781
- BCI
  - 857-7613
This is YOUR community
Just one use for sweetgrass
References