



Human Trafficking 101

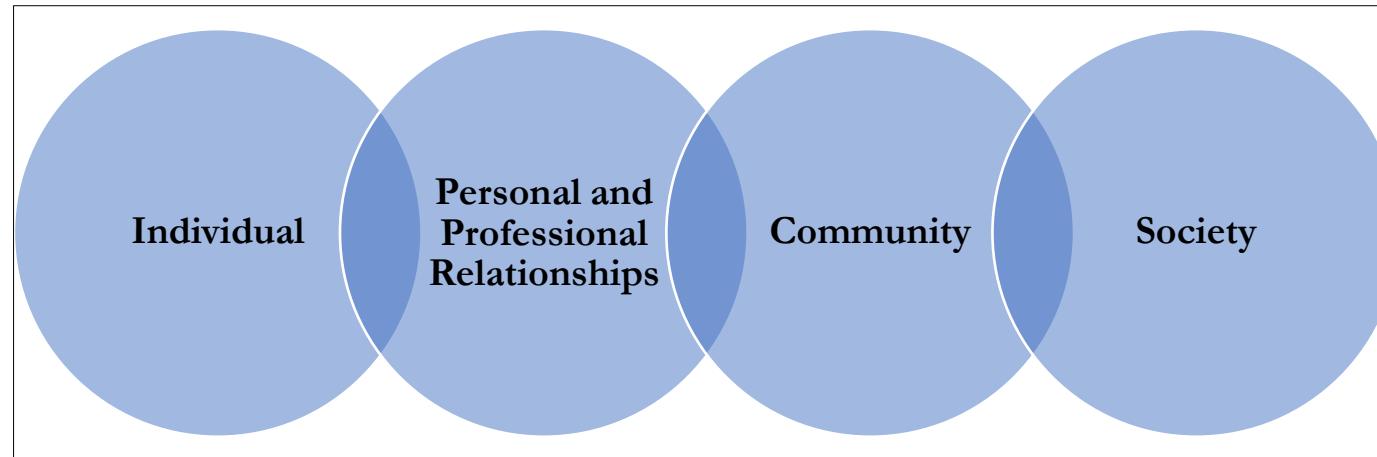
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Executive Director, North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission
October 10, 2023

What is Human Trafficking?

Most of us are familiar with the term human trafficking, but we might not be quite sure what it means.

- Where have you heard about trafficking?
- What comes to mind when you hear the term?



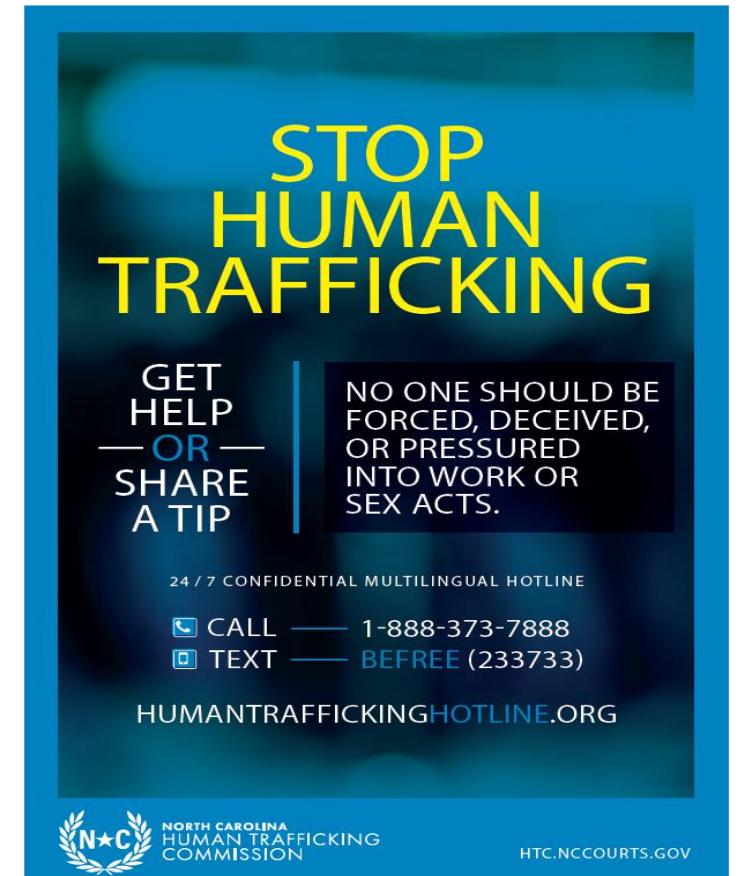


No one likes to think that their industry or community is involved in any way with human trafficking

- We all need to learn about human trafficking so that we can pay attention to vulnerabilities and possible exploitation and know what to do if we suspect trafficking.
- Sex and labor trafficking can and does happen in “good families” and communities.
- Human trafficking could be happening in your community or at your business even though you are following all the rules. Exploiters are adaptive and nimble.
- Everyone has a role to play in addressing human trafficking.

Overview

- I. Human Trafficking: Definition, Scope, Typologies
- II. Mindset of a Victim “Why don’t they just leave?”
- III. Recognizing and Responding



Definition, Scope, Typologies

Mindset of a Victim

Recognize & Respond

Human Trafficking: Definition – Scope - Typologies



Legal Definition:

Sex Trafficking:

The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for a **commercial sex act** induced by force, fraud or coercion, OR in which person induced to perform such an act has not obtained 18 years of age.

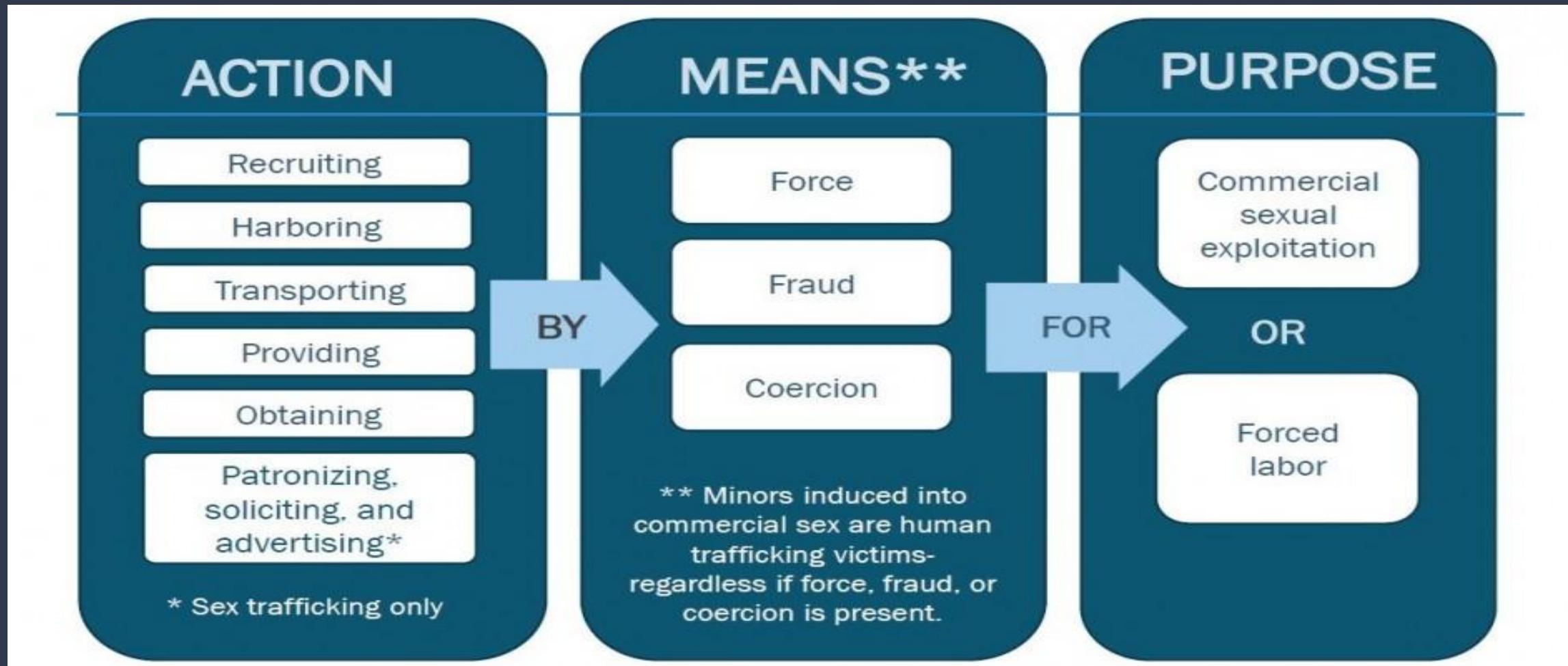
Labor Trafficking:

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.

22 U.S.C. §§ 7101-7113 (2014)

Also see - State Law : NC General Statutes § 14-43.10A

The A-M-P Model



Force, Fraud & Coercion

Force

- Physical assault
- Acid burns
- Rape and gang rape
- Restraint or bonded
- Confinement
- Kidnapping
- Starvation
- Forced substances
- Familial

Fraud

- Romance / relationship
- False promises / marriage
- Employment
- Better life: jobs, education, citizenship
- Increasing debt
- Recruitment traps
- Corruption

Coercion

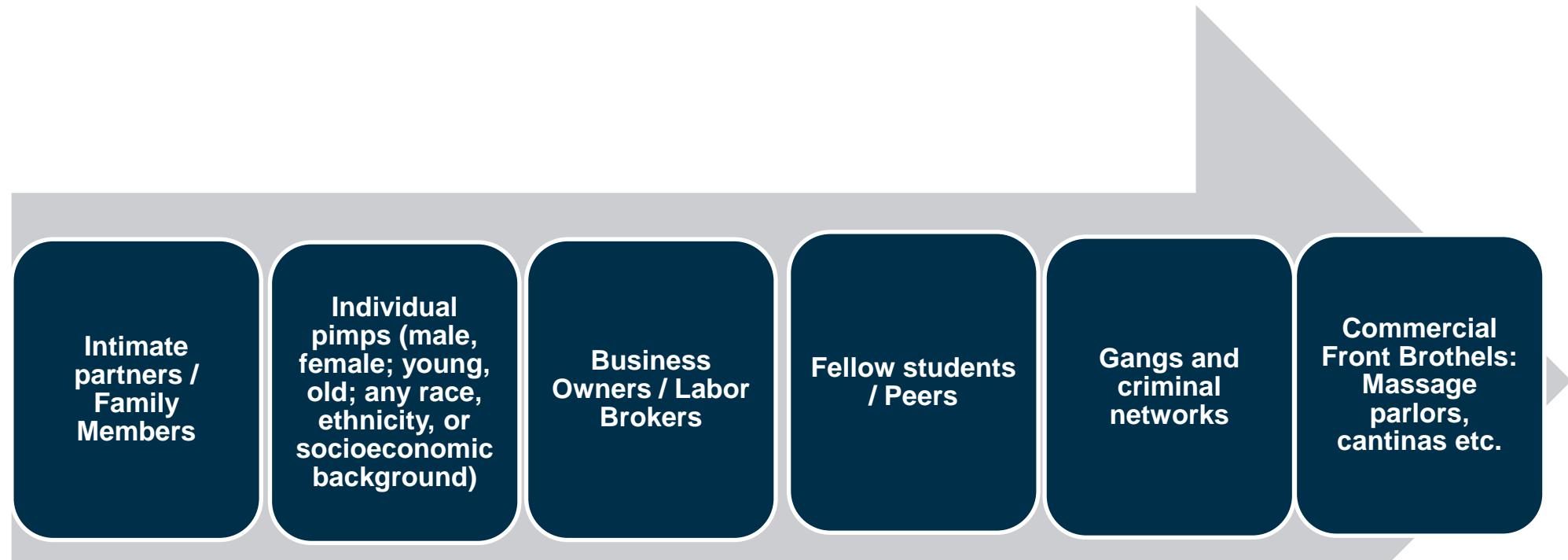
- Threats of serious harm to self/loved ones
- Confiscating documents or passports
- Threatening to report to police
- Threatening legal ramifications

Who can be a victim of Human Trafficking?

- Victim Demographics:
 - Any Age
 - Any Race
 - Any Gender
 - Any Socio-Economic Class
- Commonality = A Vulnerability to Exploit
 - Poverty
 - Past History of Abuse
 - Homelessness
 - Lack of Support System
 - Desire to be liked or to fit in with peers



There is no one “type” of trafficker:



Myths and Misconceptions:

MYTH: Traffickers target victims they don't know

REALITY:



Victims are more often trafficked by people they know, who may be a partner, a spouse, or family members.

MYTH: Human trafficking always involves commercial sex

REALITY:



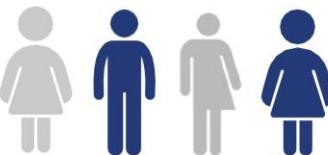
Sex & labor trafficking also occur in **LEGAL BUSINESSES**

such as agriculture, hotels, salons, retail, restaurants, & private homes.

MYTH: Only females are victims & survivors of trafficking

REALITY:

Trafficking happens to ALL genders



Myths and Misconceptions:

MYTH: Trafficking always includes violence

REALITY:



Most traffickers actually use various means such as tricking, defrauding, manipulating, or threatening victims.

Many are lured through love, protection and money.



MYTH: All commercial sex is human trafficking

REALITY:



All commercial sex involving a minor, and commercial sex involving an adult through the use of force, fraud, or coercion is human trafficking.

Scope: International

The cost of human trafficking

Every year, human traffickers make
profit from the trade **\$150bn**



Source: UN Office on Drugs and Crime, International Labour Organization
Icons: Kid A - The Noun Project

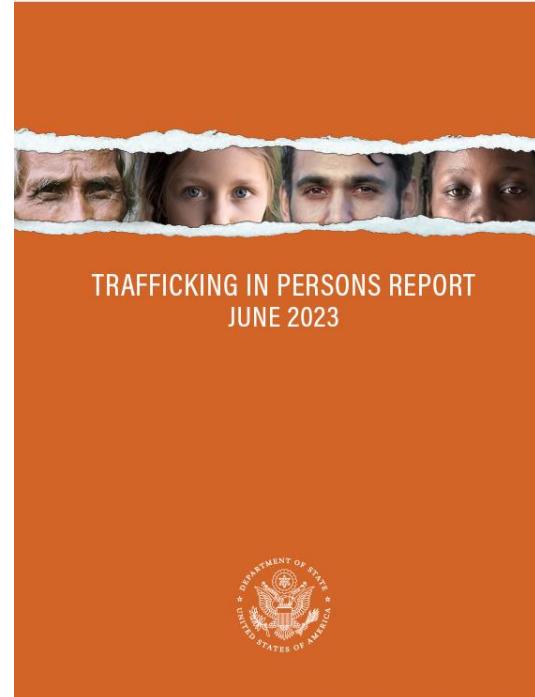


Scope: National

Cases have been identified in all fifty states.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (2022) estimated 1 out of 6 endangered runaways reported to their agency were likely sex trafficking victims.

NCMEC cites that 86% of the likely sex trafficking victims were in the care of social services when they went missing.



The June 2018 Trafficking In Persons report from the US Dept. of State says,

"The United States is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, transgender individuals, and children – both U.S. Citizens and Foreign Nationals – subjected to sex trafficking and forced labor."

Scope: North Carolina

What makes our state appealing to traffickers?
(ex. Interstates, Economy)

Supply and Demand Crime

Where might the demand be within our state? (Tourist locations, major sport venues)

Who are vulnerable populations? (Migrant, University Students, LGBTQIA+, homeless and runaway populations, substance misuse)



Scope: North Carolina

NC is consistently ranked within the top 10 states in the country for calls to the National Human Trafficking Hotline

Calls do not encompass all cases in North Carolina.

Internet Crimes Against Children Cyber Tips

18,873
2022

48% increase since 2021

383% increase since 2019

Typologies: Sex Trafficking in North Carolina

Industries where sex trafficking has been identified in North Carolina:*

- On-Line / Internet (in-call or out-call)
- Pornography
- Brothels
- Hotels
- Truck Stops
- Personal Sexual Servitude
- Bars, Strip Clubs
- Pimping “The Life”
- Family Facilitated
- Agricultural / Farm Work (camps)



* Not comprehensive.

Typologies: Sex Trafficking in North Carolina

Common Posting Websites:

- us backpage.com
- usaadultpersonal.com
- www.eroticmugshots.com
- usasexguide.info
- callesort.org
- humaniplex.com
- theeroticreview.com
- cityvibe.com
- skipthegames.com
- eccie.net
- nightshift.com
- liveescortreviews.com
- rubmaps.com
- escortads.xxx
- bestgfereviews.com/reviews
- myescortcareer.com
- preferred411.com
- Social Media Apps & Dating Apps



Scams are also common through internet

Typologies: Labor Trafficking in North Carolina

Industries where Labor trafficking has been identified in North Carolina:*

- Traveling Sales
- Domestic Servitude
- Factories / Plants
- Restaurants or Food Service
- Agricultural / Farm Work
- Begging Rings / Panhandling
- Illicit Massage Businesses
- Sports
- Construction



Photo Courtesy of Caitlin Ryland

* Not comprehensive.

Typology: Labor Trafficking in North Carolina

Illicit Massage Businesses:

On the Surface

- Register and attempt to behave like legitimate businesses
- Operating out of commercial spaces
- Pay rent to legitimate landlords
- Business is incorporated and insured
- Display licensing and other regulatory material

In Reality

- Debt traps
- House fee to reside in business
- Weekly management fee
- Food fee
- Personal items fee
- Transportation fee
- Security fee

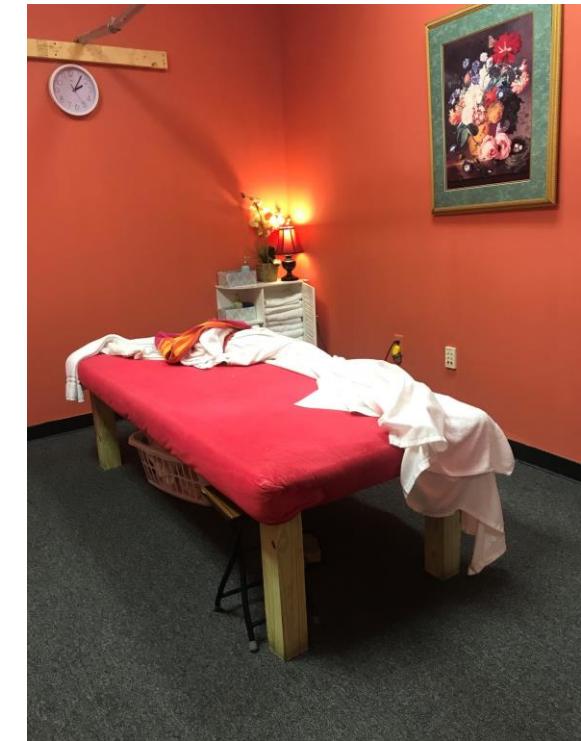


Photo Courtesy of Nancy Hagan

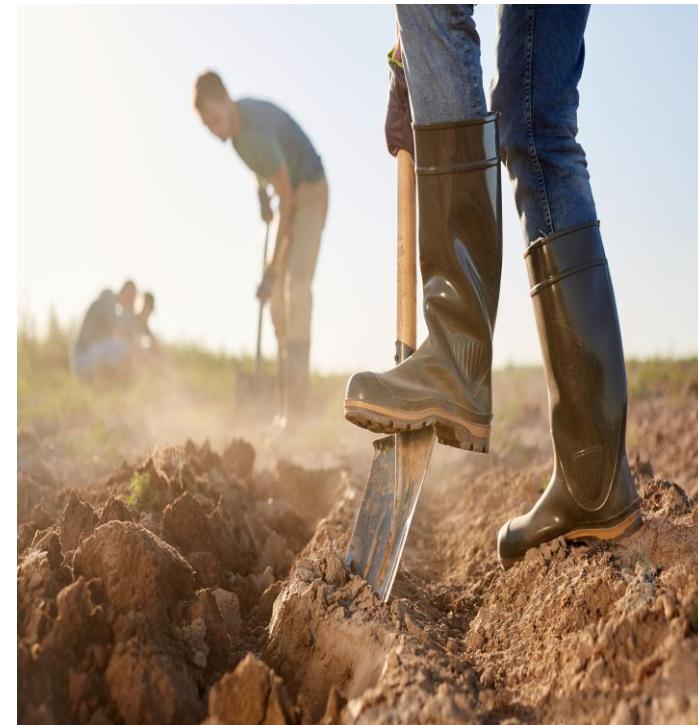
Labor Trafficking in J-1 VISA program

- The J-1 is a non-immigrant visa meant for individuals approved for work- and study-based cultural exchange visitor programs.
- The program was originally intended not as an employment program, but to foster positive relations between the United States and other countries through these exchanges with international students.
- Program is administered by the State Department, which utilizes third-party “sponsors” to recruit, select, and place program “participants” with U.S. “host” employers. Almost any for-profit or not-for profit entity can apply to the State Department to be a sponsor.
- Participants can pay hundreds, even thousands, of dollars to the sponsors to participate in the program.
- Participants arrive deeply in debt to find the job they were promised.



Labor Trafficking in H-2 Guestworker Program:

- Employers who anticipate a shortage of workers on a one-time, seasonal, peak load, or intermittent basis may petition to import foreign workers.
 - H-2A
 - Temporary agricultural workers
 - H-2B
 - Temporary non-agricultural workers



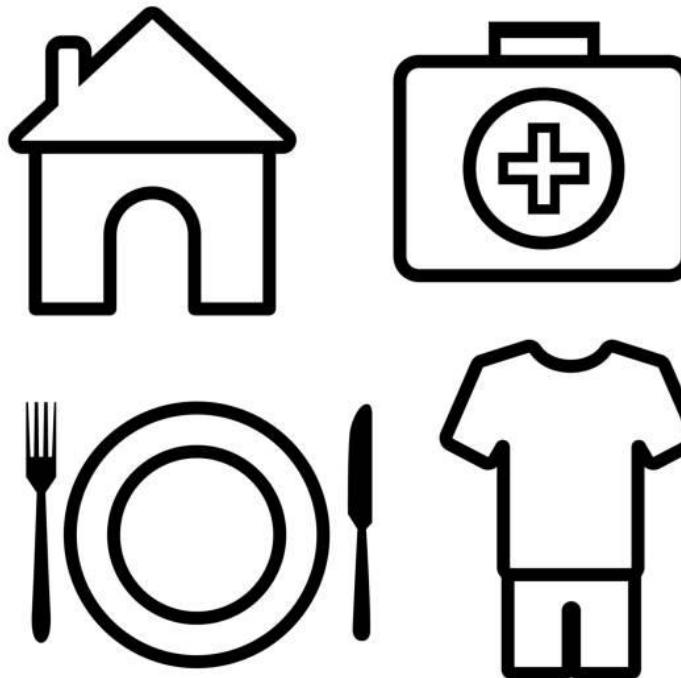
Labor Trafficking: Agriculture

- Farm Labor Contractors - some of the common scenarios with agriculture
- Confiscating identification
- Increasing Debt (tokens)
- Threats
- Substances
- Medical
- Victims can be eligible for immigration relief



Photo Courtesy of Nancy Hagan

Basic needs

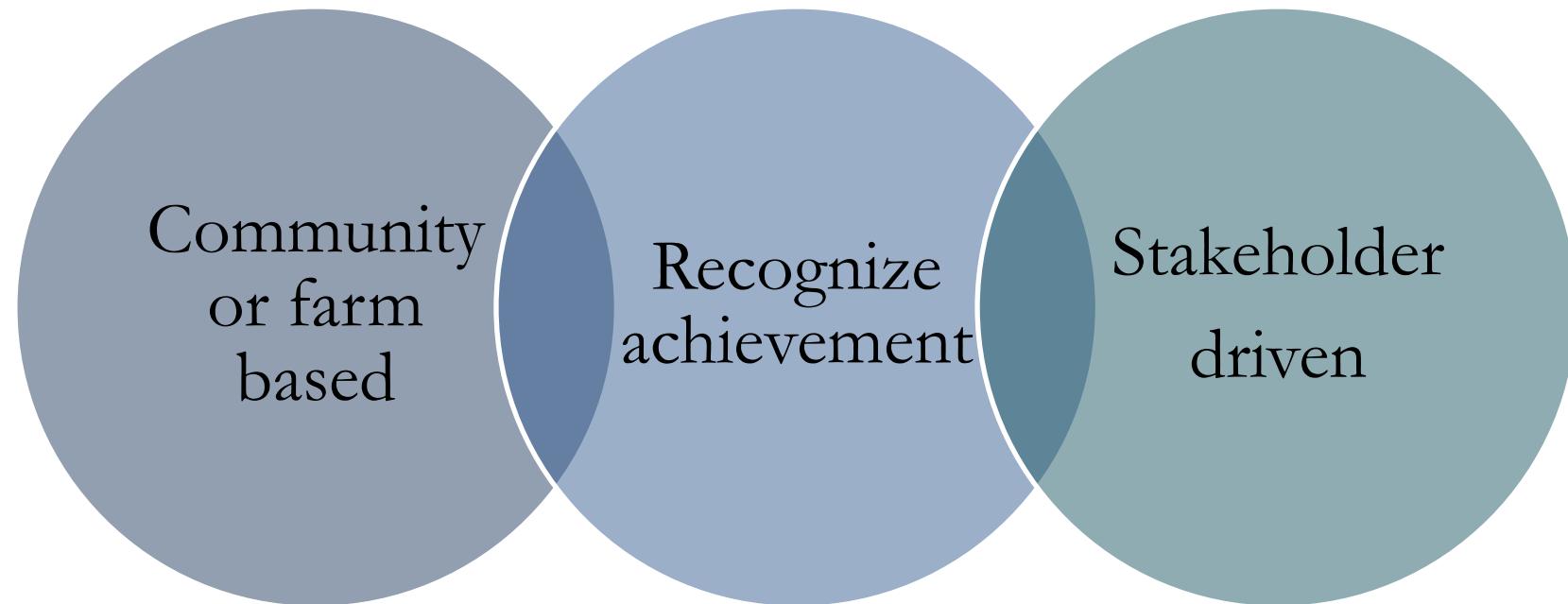


Workers are contracted for a particular time period, but there is limited or no work initially. Access to food; water; basic needs

Workers take on debt to purchase food (A la carte charges), send money home, visit laundromat, transportation.

Labor Trafficking: Agriculture

Incentive Programs in Agriculture: Gold Star Growers, FLC trainings, GAP Connections



Definition, Scope, Typologies

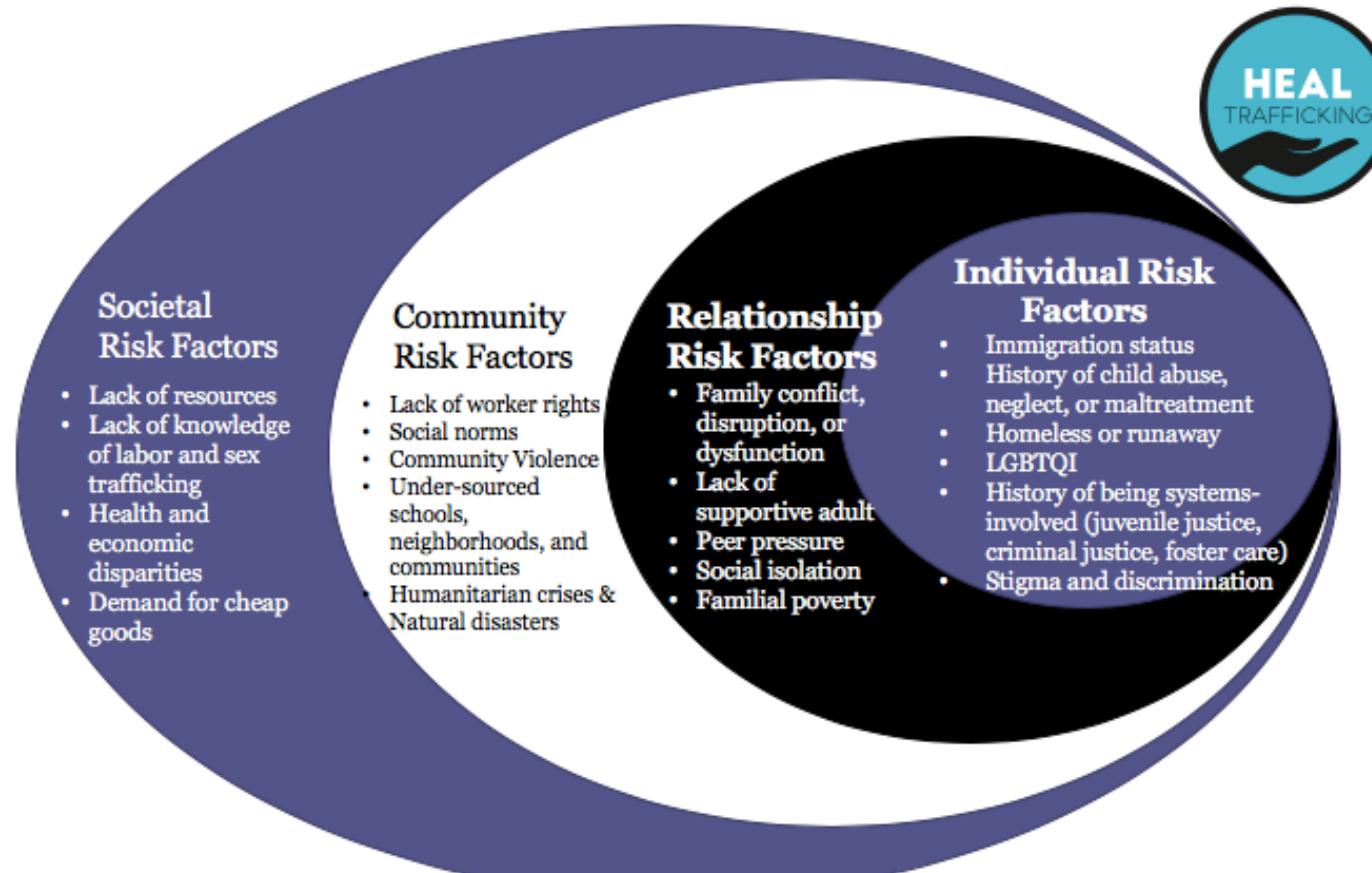
Mindset of a Victim

Recognize & Respond

Human Trafficking: Mindset of a Victim



Vulnerabilities – Push / Pull Factors:



Adapted from the Institute of Medicine and **Chapter 22 Human Trafficking: Perspectives on Prevention**, Elaine J. Alpert and Sharon E. Chin from Chisolm-Straker, Makini, and Hanni Stoklosa, eds. **Human Trafficking Is a Public Health Issue: A Paradigm Expansion in the United States**. Springer, 2017.

Case Example:

REVEAL NEWS:

ALL WORK. NO PAY., INEQUALITY

Response to NC rehab investigation: *'This is a horrific scheme that preys on people at their lowest'*

by [Amy Julia Harris](#) and [Shoshana Walter](#) May 21, 2018

- Long, unpaid workdays in retirement homes, assisted living facilities and fast-food restaurants.
- Many people sent to the organization were sent as an alternative to prison.
- Reports indicate that no recovery program was provided.
- Many participants continued to misuse substances in order to cope with the conditions.



Case Example

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH
CAROLINA

WESTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

V.) 5:16-CR-75-1BO

ERIC THOMPSON

NOVEMBER 9, 2016



Case Example

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH
CAROLINA

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

V.) 5:2019hc02046

ROBIN T. APPLEWHITE
FEBRUARY 2019

Sentenced to 230 years
and ordered to pay
\$608,000 in restitution.

Some victims
were held in
a basement.

One method of control
was heroin in a strong
enough dose to addict
some victims after 1 try.

Mindset: Understanding the Victim

Why don't they just leave?

- Use of threats and violence
- May be under surveillance
- Fear/distrust of health providers, law enforcement, government
- Unaware what is being done to them is a crime
- Isolated and kept in states of exhaustion and illness
- Shame, self-blaming, and feeling responsible (for situation or a debt)
- Substance use disorder
- Moved frequently to deter becoming familiar with people or places
- Unfamiliar culture or limited English proficiency

Trauma and the Brain:

Exposure to trauma can cause impaired functioning of the brain.

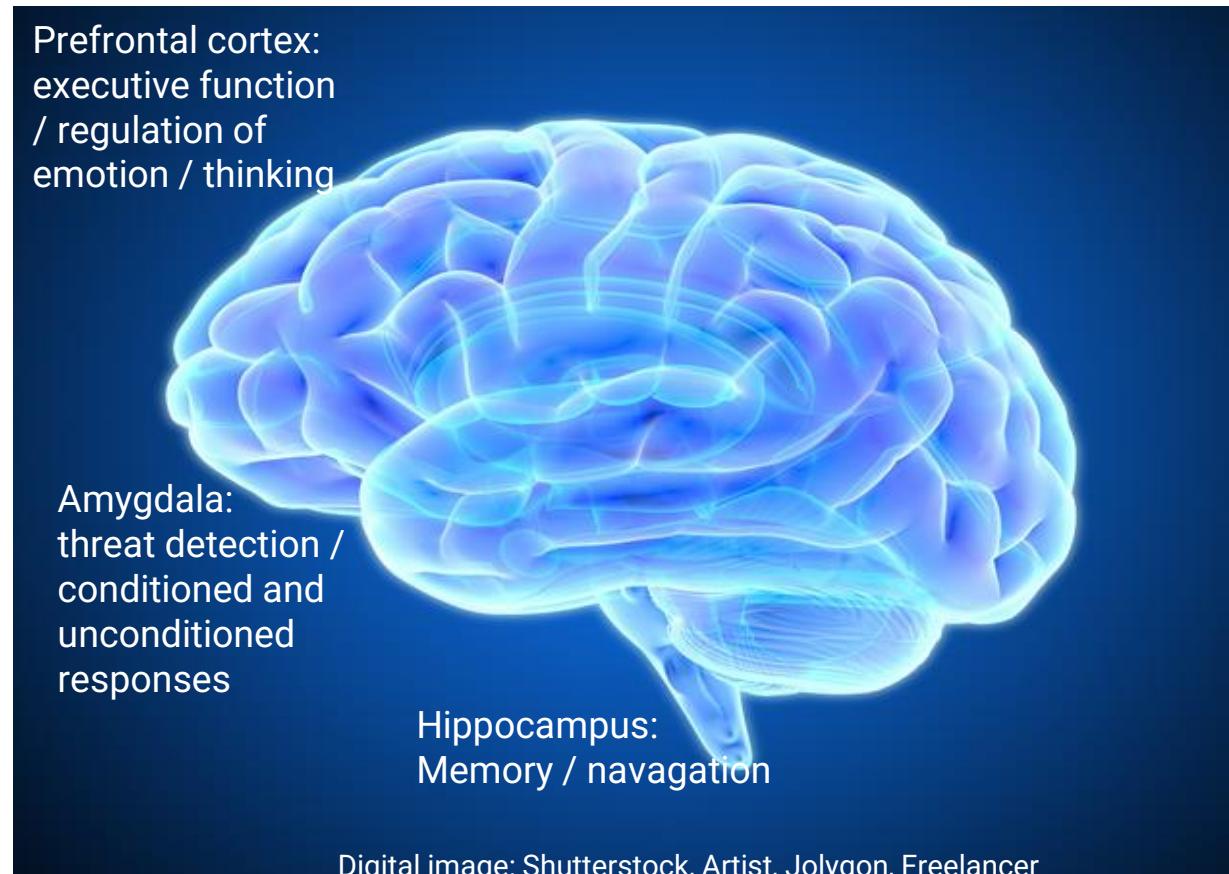
Human trafficking victims and survivors have often experienced repeated and prolonged trauma.

Physical Consequences (Bodily injuries / medical needs; hyper arousal / fear; nightmares)

Emotional Consequences (depression; anxiety; shame; anger)

Cognitive Consequences (Trust; loss of beliefs; diminished sense of value; loss of concentration)

Behavioral Consequences (Self-harm; re-victimization; trauma bond)



Digital image: Shutterstock, Artist, Jolygon, Freelancer

Definition, Scope, Typologies

Mindset of a Victim

Recognize & Respond

Human Trafficking: Recognize and Respond



Red Flags

- Is not free to leave / come and go
- Is unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips
- Works excessively long and / or unusual hours
- Is not allowed breaks or suffers under unusual restrictions at work
- Owes a large debt and is unable to pay it off
- Was recruited through false promises concerning the nature and conditions of work
- High security measures at work / or living conditions
- Has few or no personal possessions
- Is not in control of own identification documents or own money
- Is not allowed to speak for him / herself.
- Lives on site or with their employer



Red Flags

- Past history of sexual or physical abuse
- Evidence of DV/SA
- Older boyfriend/partner
- Substance misuse
- Foster care
- History of Running away
- Reluctant to work with law enforcement
- Specific Tattoos (pimp names, gang symbols, branding)
- New possessions
- Any sudden changes in behavior or appearance
- Gang related activities, appearance, friends



*Human
Trafficking is
happening all
over NC. There
are things you
can do about it.*

Learn more about
human trafficking in NC

SPEAK UP NC now

National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) | Polaris Project: *Comprehensive Human Trafficking Assessment*

Needs:

- Victim – not criminal
- Safety and precautions
- Wholistic care
- Multidisciplinary teams
- Culturally responsive practices
- Evidenced-based services
- Believe them!



This wheel was adapted from the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project's Duluth Model Power and Control Wheel, available at www.theduluthmodel.org

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STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING

24 / 7 CONFIDENTIAL MULTILINGUAL HOTLINE

 CALL — 1-888-373-7888

 TEXT — BEFREE (233733)

HUMANTRAFFICKINGHOTLINE.ORG

GET
HELP
— OR —
SHARE
A TIP

NO ONE SHOULD BE
FORCED, DECEIVED,
OR PRESSURED
INTO WORK OR
SEX ACTS.



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