

## Engaging Public Health Nursing Students in Transdisciplinary Education to Address Human Trafficking

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## Objectives

- 1. Describe the impact of human trafficking on public health
- 2. Explain how to engage public health nursing students in transdisciplinary education, rapid community assessment, and coalition building to address human trafficking



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## Presenter Disclosures

**DIAN BAKER**

(1) The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:

**No relationships to disclose**

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**What is human trafficking?  
AKA Modern Day Slavery**

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

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***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.***

- <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/> Rescue and Restore Campaign

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**Overview of Human Trafficking**

- 5 to 9 BILLION \$\$ industry each year
- Victims are usually the most vulnerable and powerless
- Estimated that 600,000 to 820,000 victims transported annually - approx. 27 million living in slavery each day
- May include sex, agriculture, sweat shops, construction, car washes, domestic labor, forced debt, entertainment, forced marriage, etc. - Invades almost all industries.



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**People for sale in Canada?**  
THE ANSWER WILL SHOCK YOU.

Every year, people like Sarah are deceived and lured into the country, where they are forced to work for little or no pay. They are victims of human trafficking.

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS A SERIOUS CRIME.**  
www.justice.gc.ca

Carrall

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- Victims are often tricked into leaving their country
- Passports are confiscated
- Families are threatened
- Difficult to stop as it is very hard to prosecute traffickers

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**In the United State alone...**

Category	Percentage
Prostitution	46%
Domestic Servitude	27%
Agriculture	10%
Misc	12%
Factories	5%

- 14,500-17,500: estimated number of people trafficked into the United States each year
- 50% of people trafficked into the U.S. each year are children
- 800,000 people are trafficked worldwide each year
- East Asia/Pacific is the region that is the largest source of people who are trafficked into the U.S. each year.

Sources: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
U.S. Department of Justice; Free the Slaves

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**Trafficking Victims: Understanding Mindset**

Frequently victims:

- Do not speak English and are unfamiliar with the U.S. culture
- Confined to room or small space to work, eat, sleep
- Fear, distrust health providers, government, police
  - *Fear of being deported*

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- Unaware what is being done to them is a crime
  - Do not consider themselves victims
  - Blame themselves for their situations
- May develop loyalties, positive feelings toward trafficker as coping mechanism
  - *May try to protect trafficker from authorities*
- Sometimes victims do not know where they are, frequently moved to escape detection
- Fear for safety of family in home country

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### Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking

- **Frontline health providers** play important role identifying and helping trafficking victims
- While trafficking is largely hidden social problem, many victims are in plain sight if you know what to look for
- Healthcare is one of the very few places where someone from outside has opportunity to interact with victim

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### Our Local Situation Greater Bay Area and Sacramento, California



- According to Times Magazine, 2005, Sacramento is the most diverse urban city in the United States
- Sits at a cross road of several access points
- Trafficking occurs in a triangle from Los Angeles to Las Vegas, Nevada, to Greater Bay Area & Sacramento

Amtrack Map of CA

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**Sacramento Rescue and Restore Coalition**

- ❖ Formed in 2006-07 - recent evidence of active trafficking in the greater Sacramento Region
- ❖ Collaborative coalition - health, law enforcement, community-based organizations, and government agencies, and local university
- ❖ Lacked information about the issue and ability of our community to respond
- ❖ A *community assessment was urgent* as victims were continuing to emerge either at community-based/ faith-based organization asking for help OR through raids at massage parlors by law enforcement

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**Significant health issues for victims**

- Mental health issues – trauma
- Sexually transmitted infectious, HIV/AIDS, rectal trauma and urinary difficulties
- Pregnancy from rape or prostitution
- Infertility from STIs and unsafe, forced abortions
- Infections and mutilations
- Chronic back pain, hearing loss, heart and lung problems from unsafe working conditions




www.uncri.it/media

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**Health Concerns - continue**

- Injury of all types from toiling in dangerous agriculture, sweatshops, construction working conditions
- Eye problems
- Dental disease
- Malnourishment – vitamin D
- Infectious disease –Tuberculosis
- Physical torture
- Substance abuse from forced additions
- Culture shock from transport to strange country
- **Feelings of helplessness, shock, and humiliation**

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### Rapid Community Assessment

RCA is a process to quickly raise awareness and gather data about a significant current issue within a community

RCA conducted over six weeks by California State University Sacramento public health nursing students (n=10) working in collaboration with University of Pacific McGeorge School of law students (n=10) to:

- rapidly contact community-based social, health, and legal service agencies to collect data and raise awareness about human trafficking

IRB approved CSUS Human Subjects #07-08-094

**Nurses have a significant role to play in recognition and treatment for victims**




Photo from MSNBC.msn.com

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### Steps to Establish the RCA

- **Fiscal Resources**
  - small grant from a local agency to cover expenses, printing, etc. salary for graduate-level students to manage the database and coordinate student volunteers
- **Immediate credibility**
  - letter of support from our local Congresswomen Doris O. Matsui
- **Shared resources across vested agencies**
- **Training**
  - Training in RCA process, invited experts in the human trafficking to educate the student volunteers
- **Monitoring RCA system outreach – daily basis**
  - Monitored daily contacts, tracking sheets with an electronic database

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### Student Volunteers

- Day long training for all volunteers –rapid community assessment process
- Students volunteered 18 hours (3 hr/wk) to contact NGOs, law enforcement, and governmental agencies
  - Collect data about human trafficking
  - Create community awareness of the issues through distribution of human trafficking awareness campaign flyers, posters, brochures
- NO students came into contact with victims or active human trafficking situations.

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## Impact



- Over 1,000 pieces of awareness campaigns materials were distributed to emergency rooms, libraries, community-based organizations, and government agencies
- Accurate data about HT at the community level - new collaborations between service agencies were formed
- Gaps in services were identified

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## SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

- Data was used to obtain Office of Refugee Resettlement - \$490,000 grant to create awareness, outreach, coordinate services for victims
- STUDENTS can make a difference

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## Challenges

- The quick nature of the survey stressed students as they were still in school
- Students were frustrated when they did not have immediate success in contacting agencies
  - Expected "open door and welcome" but did not always find it
- Students sometimes had trouble navigating complex governmental agencies to find someone to respond
- A few students did not follow-up leaving some gaps in information

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## Evaluation

- Students felt prepared to conduct the RCA and participate after the day long training
- Students indicated greater awareness of HT impact -plan to apply the lessons learned to the nursing practice
- Students indicated that they would volunteer again
- **Students felt very positive about the collaboration with law students - indicated that collaboration was the key to success**
- Students learned about new resources in their own communities

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## Conclusion

- Human slave trafficking is an international social justice issue and an international health issue
- Students *should be engaged* to learn about human trafficking
- Transdisciplinary collaboration and community assessments regarding human trafficking are effective ways to engage students

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## Resources

<http://www.humantrafficking.org/capacitybuilding/toolkits>

- <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking/index.html>
- <http://www.humantrafficking.org/capacitybuilding/tookits>




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## Getting Victims of Human Trafficking the Help They Need

- If you think you have come in contact with victim of human trafficking, call

**1.888.3737.888**  
**[www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking)**

**Call local police if victim at risk of imminent harm**

**Healthcare provider slides from Look Beneath the Surface**  
**Rescue and Restore**  
**ACF.HHS.GOV**

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