

Study Guide 3

Course 8T - Human Trafficking of Adolescents in America
Online CE Course Sponsored by CEU By Net, LLC



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This is Study Guide 3 of Course 8T, Human Trafficking of Adolescents in America, a Continuing Education Course sponsored online for CE Credit by CEU BY Net, LLC. This course is a compendium of 7 copyrighted, research-validated publications within the public domain, addressing important aspects of Human Trafficking of youth in the United States. Although there is inherently some overlap in the three Study Guides as to the nature of Human Trafficking, each Study Guide offers a special noteworthy perspective of the national strategy to support victims of Human Trafficking. There are three Study Guides in the course, which together address the following topics. This is the third (and last) Study Guide in the course.

- **Introduction: US Department of Justice 2017 National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking**
- **Legal Definitions of Human Trafficking and How to Recognize It**
- **Etiology of Human Trafficking in Youth and Young Adults**
- **Characteristics and Methods of Human Trafficking Perpetrators**
- **Role of Drugs, Alcohol, Homelessness, and Survival Sex in Human Trafficking**
- **Therapeutic Approaches to Communicating with and Assisting Trafficking Victims**
- **Comprehensive Trafficking Assessment**
- **Safety Planning and Prevention**
- **Crisis Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic upon Homelessness and Trafficking**

COMPREHENSIVE HUMAN TRAFFICKING ASSESSMENT

The following document contains questions that can be used to assess a client for potential signs that she/ he has been a victim of human trafficking. The suggestions and indicators below are not exhaustive or cumulative in nature and each question taken alone may not indicate a potential trafficking situation. Assessment questions should be tailored to your program and client's specific needs.

General Trafficking Assessment Tips and Safety Check.....

General Trafficking Assessment Questions.....

Sex Trafficking Specific Assessment Questions.....

Labor Trafficking Specific Assessment Questions.....

Network Specific Assessment Questions.....

GENERAL TRAFFICKING ASSESSMENT TIPS

As with any assessment of a victim of crime, there are some general points to be aware of when evaluating a client's needs. Listed below are general tips for conducting an assessment with a potential victim of trafficking.

Please note that throughout this assessment the term "controller" is used generally to describe the potential trafficker or the person(s) who maintain(s) control over the potential victim(s).

ASSESSMENT ENVIRONMENT AND TONE

- Conduct the assessment in a comfortable and safe environment. If you are in a police station or in a place where the physical space/conditions are limiting, attempt to create an environment that is as calming and positive as possible.
- Provide the individual with space when speaking with them.
- Be relaxed and use an approachable tone, demeanor, and body language. Ask yourself the question "To what degree does my present posture communicate openness and availability to the client"?
- Use empathic listening. Empathic listening centers on being attentive, observing, and listening in order to understand the client's situation without making judgments.
- While you engage in empathic and reflective listening make sure you are maintaining good eye contact with the client. Good eye contact is another way of conveying "I want to hear what you have to say".
- If at all possible, try not to take notes and instead engage in active listening and write your notes immediately following the meeting with the client. If note taking is necessary, let the individual know why you need to write notes and for what purposes they may be used.
- Be clear about your role and goals, and about the services that your agency can and cannot provide.

- Explain why you care about the individual’s situation and that you have worked with and assisted other individuals in situations that may be similar to his/her own. Explaining who you are and why you are there is particularly important to correct any misperceptions of your role.

ASSESSMENT LANGUAGE AND QUESTIONS

- When appropriate, attempt to engage in casual conversation about lighter topics and ask questions to try to get the individual to open up, even if it’s not about their trafficking situation or service needs. Although the client might be confused, scared and/or distracted, engaging in casual conversation before the assessment helps to build trust and set the tone for effective, non-defensive communication.
- In your initial assessment, try to focus predominantly on assessments of their service needs, but weave in other questions naturally and when appropriate.
- It is often useful to start with questions that ascertain the lesser degrees of control before moving onto the more severe methods of control.
 - Example: Inquiring about living or working conditions may be an easier topic to tackle initially than directly inquiring about physical or sexual abuse that the victim may have sustained.
- Be conscious of the language that you use when speaking with a potential victim of trafficking. Mirroring the language that the potential victim uses can be a helpful first step.
 - Example: If the potential victim refers to her controller as her boyfriend, referring to that person as a “pimp” or a “sex trafficker” may have a negative impact. Although these are terms that can be used for controllers in the commercial sex industry, the potential victim may not identify this person in this way.
 - The phrasing of all questions included in this assessment should be changed, amended or revised to fit the client and context you are in.
- It is also important to conduct assessments in a potential victim’s native language whenever possible.
 - Use trained interpreters sensitive to the nature of the crime and who are not in any way tied to the potential victim or the potential trafficker’s community of origin.
 - Ensure that the interpreter is introduced and their role is fully explained.

IMPORTANT DYNAMICS FOR YOUR ASSESSMENT

- Keep in mind that many victims do not self-identify as “human trafficking victims” due to a lack of knowledge about the crime itself and the power and control dynamics typically involved in human trafficking situations.
- Be conscious of the fact that an individual in a trafficking situation has typically been conditioned by their trafficker not to trust law enforcement and/or service providers.
- Be aware of power dynamics when a third party is accompanying or interpreting for a potential victim. Try to speak to the potential victim alone or secure an outside interpreter.

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- Be aware that canned stories are common and that the true story may not emerge until trust has been built with the potential victim after multiple meetings.
- Each client is going to tell his/her story differently and no client will present all of the elements of their trafficking situation in a neat package.
- It is imperative that the assessor remain flexible and prioritize the client's needs and safety as the primary reason for the assessment.

SAFETY CHECK

Be sure to conduct a safety check if the individual has recently exited the situation or if they are still in the situation.

- Is it safe for you to talk with me right now? How safe do you feel right now? Are there times when you don't feel safe?
- Do you feel like you are in any kind of danger while speaking with me at this location?
- Is there anything that would help you to feel safer while we talk?

If speaking with the individual over the phone:

- Are you in a safe place? Can you tell me where you are?
- Are you injured? Would you like for me to call 911/an ambulance?
- If someone comes on the line, what would you like for me to do? Hang up? Identify myself as someone else, a certain company/person/friend?
- Also remind the individual to feel free to hang up at any point during the conversation if they believe that someone may be listening in.
- How can we communicate if we get disconnected? Would I be able to call you back/leave a message?
- Would you prefer to call me back when you are in a safe place?

GENERAL TRAFFICKING ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

The following questions could be applicable to both situations of sex and labor trafficking. Please note that the order listed is not intended to indicate the order in which the questions should be asked. The type and order of questions should be tailored to a given situation and should be amended to react effectively and supportively to the client.

FRAUD QUESTIONS

- How did you meet this person/find out about your job?
- What were you told about the job before you started/what promises were made about the relationship?
- Did your experience meet your expectations?

- Do you feel you were ever deceived about anything related to your job/your relationship?
- Did anything surprise you about this job/relationship?
- Did conditions of your job/relationship change over time?
- Were you ever forced to sign a contract that you didn't understand or didn't want to sign? Were the contents of this contract used as a threat against you?
- Did you feel like you understood your rights in this job/situation? Did you ever feel like anyone kept you from accessing information about your rights?

COERCION QUESTIONS

- Did you ever feel pressured to do something that you didn't want to do or felt uncomfortable doing?
- What were your expectations of what would happen if you left this person/situation or if you didn't do what this person told you to do?
- Did anyone ever take/keep your legal papers or identification for you, such as your passport, visa, driver's license, etc.?
- Did anyone ever threaten you or intimidate you?
- What did this person tell you about what would happen if you were arrested/encountered an immigration official?
- Did you ever see something bad happen to someone else who didn't do something that was expected of them? What happened to them? How did that make you feel?
- Did you ever feel that if you left the situation, your life would become more difficult?

DEBT-MONETARY QUESTIONS

- Did you have access to any money/the money you earn? Did anyone take your money or a portion of your money? Did anyone hold your money for "safe keeping"?
- If the money you earned was kept in a bank account, who set up this bank account? Did anyone else beside you have access to the account?
- Were you required to make a certain amount of money every day/ week? Why did you feel that you had to meet that amount? What did you think would happen if you didn't make that much money?
- Did you have fees that you had to pay to someone? How much money did you have left after you paid everything you needed to pay? Could you spend the money the way you wanted to?
- Did you owe any money to anyone in the situation? If so, who did you owe money to and why?
- How did you incur this debt? How long have you had the debt? Did your debt increase overtime?
- Did you feel that it was difficult to pay off your debt? Why?
- What did you think would happen to you or other people in your life if you didn't pay off your debt?

FORCE QUESTIONS

- Did someone control, supervise or monitor your work/your actions?
- Was your communication ever restricted or monitored?
- Were you able to access medical care?
- Were you ever allowed to leave the place that you were living/working? Under what conditions?
- Was your movement outside of you residence/workplace ever monitored or controlled?
- What did you think would have happened if you left the situation? Was there ever a time when you wanted to leave, but felt that you couldn't? What do you think would have happened if you left without telling anyone?
- Did you feel that it was your only option to stay in the situation?
- Did anyone ever force you to do something physically or sexually that you didn't feel comfortable doing?
- Were you ever physically abused (shoved, slapped, hit, kicked, scratched, punched, burned, etc.) by anyone?
- Were you ever sexually abused (sexual assault/unwanted touching, rape, sexual exploitation, etc.) by anyone?
- Did anyone ever introduce you to drugs, medications as a method of control?

SEX TRAFFICKING ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

The following questions could be applicable in sex trafficking situations in general and are not specific to a certain type of network or controller.

- Did anyone ever pressure you to engage in any sexual acts against your will?
- Did anyone ever take photos of you and if so, what did they use them for? Were these photos ever sent to other people or posted on an online forum (Craigslist, Backpage, Myspace)?
- Did anyone ever force you to engage in sexual acts with friends or business associates for favors/money?
- Did anyone ever force you to engage in commercial sex through online websites, escort services, street prostitution, informal arrangements, brothels, fake massage businesses or strip clubs? [See network specific questions at end of document]
- Were you required to earn a certain amount of money/meet a nightly quota by engaging in commercial sex for someone? What happened if you did not meet this quota?
- [For women only] Did anyone force you to continue to engage in commercial sex when you were on your period? Were you ever asked or told to use anything that would prevent the flow of menstruation?

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- How old were you when you were in this situation? Did you ever see any minors (under 18 years old) involved in commercial sex?
- Were you ever transported to different locations to engage in commercial sex? Where were you taken and who transported you?
- Who decided whether or not you used a condom during sex acts?

LABOR TRAFFICKING ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

- How did you feel about where you worked? How did you feel about your employer/supervisor/crew leader/or other controller?
- Did you feel that you were paid fairly at this job?
- What were your normal work hours? How many hours did you have to work each day?
- What happened if you worked fewer hours or took breaks?
- Did anyone ever threaten you if you indicated you did not want to work the hours expected of you?
- Did you have to live in housing provided by the controller? What were the conditions like in this housing?
- Did you have to pay a fee to the controller in order to stay in this housing?
- Did the controller ever promise to secure, renew or pay for your legal documents or work visa?
- What were your weekly/monthly expenses to the controller?
- Did the controller provide transportation to the work site? What did this look like?

NETWORK/CONTROLLER SPECIFIC ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

The assessment questions below may be used to supplement the general trafficking questions where a particular type of trafficking has already been identified. These questions are not comprehensive and should be included as a part of the general trafficking assessment above.

DOMESTIC SERVITUDE

- Did you have days off? Were you able to leave the house on your days off? Were you ever expected to complete work on your days off (still provide childcare, complete household chores before leaving, etc.)?
- Were you ever able to leave the home to run errands, transport children to school or go to church? Were you monitored or timed when you left the home for these things?
- Did you have your own room in the home? Where did you sleep?
- Did you have consistent access to food? Were you ever made to go without food?

- Did you have access to medical care while you lived in the home?
- What were your tasks in the home (childcare, cleaning, cooking, etc.)? How many hours did you work during the day or night?
- Were you allowed to communicate with your family/friends while you lived in the home?
- Are you afraid that your controller might harm your family back in your hometown?
- Did the controller ever force you to engage in sexual acts against your will at any time they requested it? What did you think would happen if you refused to do this? [Personal Sexual Servitude]

PIMP-CONTROLLED SEX TRAFFICKING (STREET, TRUCK STOPS, ONLINE ESCORTS, ETC.)

- How did you meet your [boyfriend/pimp/controller]?
- Did the controller have a nickname, street name or alias?
- Did the controller insist that you adopt a street name, nickname or alias?
- Did the controller move you around to different locations? If so, how did you travel? How often?
- Did the controller make you get a tattoo with his name, a phrase or symbol or mark you in any other way (branding, etc.)? What did the tattoo or other mark mean to you/the controller?
- How were the commercial sexual services advertised? Where did it take place?
- Were you ever physically hit or slapped by the controller or anybody else? Can you tell me about a time when that happened?
- Did you ever see any other person being physically hit by the controller or anybody else? Can you tell me about a time when that happened?
- Did the controller compel multiple people to engage in commercial sex? What were their ages?
- How were others recruited? Through the controller or through other victims? Were there specific locations (bus-stops, shelters, etc.) that individuals were recruited from? Were you ever asked to recruit other people?
- Was there any other criminal activity present (gangs, drugs, theft, money laundering etc.)?

INTIMATE PARTNER AND INTER-FAMILIAL TRAFFICKING

In the following questions, the term “partner” refers to an intimate partner which could be a dating relationship, domestic partnership and/or marital relationship. The term “family member” refers to any relative, whether immediate family or extended family member.

Sex Trafficking

- Did your partner/family member ever ask you to engage in commercial sexual acts in order to “help the relationship/the family”?

- Did your partner/family member ever force you to engage in commercial sexual acts with friends or business associates for favors/money?
- Did your partner/family member ever force you to engage in commercial sex through online sites, escort services, street prostitution, strip clubs, truck stops, fake massage businesses or residential brothels?
- Did your partner/family member ever threaten you or abuse you if you indicated that you did not want to engage in commercial sex or did not do what this person asked of you?
- Did your partner/family member ever withhold financial support or restrict access to your children?

Labor Trafficking

- Did your partner/family member ever force you to work inside or outside of the home for excessive amounts of time?
- Were you able to access the money that you earned from working outside the home?
- Did your partner/family member ever force you to engage in sexual acts against your will at any time they requested it? What did you think would happen if you refused to do this? [Personal Sexual Servitude]
- Were you ever able to leave the home to run errands, transport children to school or go to church? Did your partner/family member monitor or time you when you left the home for these things?
- What were your tasks in the home (childcare, cleaning, cooking, etc.)? How many hours did you work during the day or night?
- Did your partner/family member ever punish you for not working or not completing domestic work? For example, have your meals restricted?
- Did your partner/family member ever threaten you or abuse you if you indicated that you did not want to work or did not do what this person asked of you?

COMMERCIAL FRONT BROTHELS (FAKE MASSAGE BUSINESSES, NAIL SALONS, BARS, STRIP CLUBS)

- Did you live in the establishment where you worked?
 - If yes - Were you ever allowed to leave without being monitored?
 - If no - Were you transported to and from the place that you lived and the residence? Were you monitored at the place that you lived?
- Were you rotated to different establishments? How often were you moved?
- What type of commercial front did the establishment have? How did they advertise their services? What were their hours of operation?
- Were there multiple controllers or was there one central controller?
- How many individuals were compelled to engage in commercial sex at the establishment? What were their ages?

- How many times a day were you and these other individuals made to engage in commercial sex?
- Where did the commercial sex take place? In the establishment itself, in a back room, or in an off-site location?
- What were the demographics of the customers/Johns at the establishment?
- Did customers/Johns of the establishment pay you directly or pay a controller? Was there a token system?
- Did you receive tips directly from customers/Johns of the establishment? Were you able to keep these tips? Could you spend the money the way you wanted to?
- Did you have to pay a fee for your housing, management, food or transportation to anyone?
- Did the establishment have a security camera or monitoring device? Did this make you feel like you couldn't leave?
- Were the windows or doors of the establishment covered or blacked out?
- Was there any other criminal activity present at the establishment (gangs, drugs, money laundering etc.)?

RESIDENTIAL BROTHELS

- Did you live in the residence where you worked?
 - If yes, were you ever allowed to leave without being monitored?
 - If no, were you transported to and from the place that you lived and the residence? Were you monitored at the place that you lived?
- Were you rotated to different residences? How often were you moved?
- Were there multiple controllers or was there one central controller?
- How many individuals were compelled to engage in commercial sex at the establishment? What were their ages?
- How many times a day were you and these other individuals made to engage in commercial sex?
- What were the demographics of the customers/Johns at the establishment?
- Where did the commercial sex take place? Did it take place in the same place where you and others were made to sleep?
- Did customers/Johns of the establishment pay you directly or pay a controller? Was there a token system?
- Did you receive tips directly from customers/Johns that came to the residence? Were you able to keep these tips? Could you spend the money the way you wanted to?
- How did the controllers advertise the commercial sexual services?

- If through cards, what do the cards say? How do people get the cards? Are cards only given to certain types of people (males versus females, only certain nationalities, etc.)?
- Was there a specific procedure for entering the establishment (e.g. calling a number from outside)?
- Did the residence have a security camera or someone watching the door? Did this make you feel like you couldn't leave the residence?
- Was there any other criminal activity present at the establishment (gangs, drugs, money laundering etc.)?

LABOR TRAFFICKING IN AGRICULTURE

- Did you have a crew leader? What kind of role did she/he play in your day-to-day work activities?
- Did you have the appropriate tools needed for the job you are doing? Were the tools in good condition? Did you have to pay a fee in order to use these tools?
- Were you exposed to pesticides or other chemicals while on the job?
 - Did you work in fields while they were being sprayed with pesticides or soon after the spraying took place?
 - Were you provided with gloves/masks as necessary when working with such chemicals?
- Did you ever get injured at work? If so, were you permitted to seek medical attention?
- Were you paid on a piece-rate basis depending on how much crop you harvest each day, or were you paid a fixed sum of money?
- How did you get to the work-sites? Were the vehicles safe and in good condition? Were the drivers safe or reckless? Did you have to pay a fee for this transportation?
- If you traveled with the company/employer/crew, were you always made aware of each location you would be going to and how long you would be there?
- Did you get paid for related tasks such as clearing land, loading, time traveled to work sites, spraying fields with pesticides?
- Did you have access to basic facilities at the work-sites?
- Did you have to purchase your basic necessities directly from the employer? Did the prices of these items seem unusually high? Did this create additional debt to your employer?
- Did anyone ever say verbally abusive things to you (such as calling you names, making inappropriate or sexual remarks to you)?

LABOR TRAFFICKING IN THE SERVICE INDUSTRY (HOTELS, RESTAURANTS, RESORTS)

- What were your hours like at your job?
- Did you live on-site or with any of the other people you worked with?

- Were you able to take regular breaks to eat, use the bathroom, or drink water?
- Were you told you could only eat left-over food from the meals being prepared in your workplace?

LABOR TRAFFICKING IN SALES CREWS

- If you traveled with a sales crew, were you made aware of each location you would be going to and how long you would be there?
- Where did you sleep while traveling with the sales crew? Did you have your own space or did you have to share with others in the crew?
- Did you have to meet a daily quota for your sales? Were there consequences or threats of consequences if you did not meet the quota?
- Were your meals ever restricted if you didn't meet this daily sales quota? How often did you eat and how did you pay for your meals?
- Were you provided a daily stipend by anyone while selling the items? Were you allowed to spend this however you wanted to?
- Did the crew always ensure that you had a valid sales permit? Were you ever arrested for soliciting without a permit?
- Was there other illegal activity (drug use, alcohol use by minors, scams involving product sales, etc.) occurring? Were you ever pressured to participate?
- Did the crew leaders/managers ever sexually assault or harass individuals working on the sales crew?
- Did anyone ever threaten to abandon you if you did not do what was expected of you?

Polaris Project works to empower and mobilize people from diverse backgrounds and of all ages to take meaningful action against human trafficking.

Contact Polaris at <https://polarisproject.org/contact-us/> to receive regular updates on human trafficking in the United States.

CEU By Net note: Please read on to "Safety Planning and Prevention," on next page.

SAFETY PLANNING AND PREVENTION

NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESOURCE CENTER (NHTRC) - POLARIS PROJECT

INTRODUCTION

Safety planning refers to formal or informal risk assessments, preparations, and contingency plans designed to increase the safety of a human trafficking victim or an individual at-risk for human trafficking, as well as any agency or individual assisting a victim. A successful safety plan will:

- 1) Assess the current risk and identify current and potential safety concerns;
- 2) Create strategies for avoiding or reducing the threat of harm;
- 3) Outline concrete options for responding when safety is threatened or compromised.

Safety planning is important at various stages in a human trafficking situation – while a **victim is in the situation, during the process of leaving, and once the victim has left**. The following document presents general guidelines for conducting safety planning with victims of human trafficking as well as those who may be considering a suspicious employment or relationship situation and may be at risk for human trafficking. The suggestions below do not guarantee an individual's safety or the prevention of trafficking. Each individual is in the best position to assess his/her own current level of safety and safety planning should be tailored to his/her unique circumstance.

SAFETY PLANNING & HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Definition of Human Trafficking from the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA):

In order to understand the unique safety concerns of trafficking victims and plan for safety accordingly, it is essential to start with the definition of human trafficking:

- **Sex Trafficking:** the recruitment, harboring, transportation, providing, or obtaining of a person for a commercial sex act, in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, **or** in which the person induced to perform such an act has not yet attained 18 years of age. ¹
- **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. ²

Victims of both labor and sex trafficking have multiple safety concerns that should be addressed in the context of developing a safety plan:

- Isolation, abandonment;
- Movement, disorientation, unfamiliarity with current location;
- Lack of food, medicine, clothing, or safe shelter;
- Increased vulnerability to exploitation, abuse, or other crimes;
- Confiscation of money and/or identity documents;
- Physical harm or violence to the victim(s) or others;
- Abduction, kidnapping, confinement, restraint.

Note: Controllers pose a significant and constant threat to the safety of the victim(s), but it is also important to consider the threat posed by others who may not be engaged in the trafficking situation, but may take advantage of the victim's vulnerability.

¹ 22 U.S.C. § 7102.

² *ibid*

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PREVENTATIVE SAFETY PLANNING

Potential Red Flags for Human Trafficking Situations:

The following scenarios are red flags for relationship and/or employment situations that may develop into human trafficking. The presence of one or more of these indicators may indicate that an individual is at-risk for human trafficking. This list is not exhaustive and is intended to encompass both sex and labor trafficking. The term “partner” refers to an intimate relationship.

- Partner/employer comes on very strongly and promises things that seem too good to be true – i.e. promises extremely high wages for easy work.
- Partner/employer expects that you will agree to the employment or relationship on the spot, and threatens that otherwise the opportunity will be lost.
- Partner/employer is unclear about the terms of employment, location of employment and/or the company details/credentials.
- Partner/employer denies access to information about your rights.
- Partner/employer denies contact with friends or family; attempts to isolate you from your social network.
- Partner/employer constantly checks on you and does not allow you access to your money.
- Partner/employer asks you to do things outside of your comfort zone such as performing sexual favors for friends.
- Partner/employer displays signs/characteristics of a dangerous person including: attempts to control movement and behaviors, exhibits jealousy, lashes out or delivers punishment in response to non-compliance, is verbally/emotionally/physically abusive.
- Partner/employer uses threats or displays of violence to create a culture of fear.

General Safety Tips:

- Trust your judgment. If a situation/individual makes you uncomfortable, trust that feeling.
- Let a trusted friend/relative know if you feel like you are in danger or if a person/situation is suspicious.
- Keep all important documents and identification in your possession at all times. Your partner/employer does not have the right to take or hold your documents without your permission.
- Keep important numbers on your person at all times, including the number of someone you feel safe contacting if you are in trouble.
- Make sure that you have a means of communication (cell phone or phone card), access to your bank account, and any medication that you might need with you at all times.
- If you think you might be in immediate danger or you are experiencing an emergency, contact 9-1-1 first.

Safety Tips for Suspicious Employment

Some employment opportunities may raise red flags for human trafficking. When considering new employment:

- Request information about the position, scope of work, and hours/conditions of the position.
- Do not provide personal information (address, SS#) to the employer if you do not feel comfortable.
- If meeting with the employer, make sure a trusted friend/relative knows where you are going and what time you expect to return.
- Plan to meet the employer in a public place where others are around.
- Verify that the business is legitimate by asking for the Employer Identification Number (EIN). This information can be checked by calling the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) at (800) 829-4933 (for U.S. businesses only).

- Ask to speak with former employees/clients about their experience with the company. This can be particularly important for positions abroad.
- If the employment opportunity involves travel to another country, make sure you obtain the appropriate visa. Depending on the country and the nature of the employment, you or your employer may be responsible for securing the visa – make sure to check with the country’s regulations to confirm before accepting an offer.

Safety Tips for Domestic/International Travel

Some employment and relationship opportunities may involve travel to a different city, state, or country.

When considering a suspicious travel opportunity, take the following additional steps to secure safety:

- Request address information for employment and/or housing.
- Request information about travel arrangements and who is expected to pay for travel and any visa or other entry fees.
- Make copies of important documents for yourself and to provide to a trusted friend/relative.
- Make sure that you have a ticket home in your name and keep it in a safe place.
- Provide a trusted friend/relative with information about your travel arrangements.
- Arrange a time to contact a trusted friend/relative to let them know you arrived safely.
- Make sure you have access to a bank account and have a way to maintain control of your own funds.
- Take a map of the city you are traveling to and make sure you know how to get from your residence to the bank, Embassy or Consulate (for international travel), police department, or hospital in case of emergency.
- If traveling internationally, make sure you know basic phrases in the local language.
- If traveling internationally, make sure you know how to access emergency services in that country. If there is an emergency number (equivalent to 9-1-1 in the U.S.), memorize this number or keep it in a safe place. Memorize the address and contact information for your Embassy or Consulate in that country.
- If traveling internationally, U.S. citizens should visit the U.S. Department of State website for information on how to register their travel details with the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP): <https://travelregistration.state.gov>.
- For additional tips on safe international travel, visit: http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips_1232.html. For U.S. citizens experiencing emergencies overseas, contact the local Embassy or Consulate, or the U.S. State Department Office of Overseas Citizen Services at 888-407-4747 (from the U.S. or Canada) or 202-501-4444 (from overseas).

Safety Tips for Suspicious/Controlling Relationships

Some relationships that exhibit many of the typical signs of abuse and control, as well as those with promises of a better life, may have the potential to develop into situations of human trafficking.

- If your partner asks you to do things you are uncomfortable with (forceful sex or sex acts, videotaping sexual activity/nudity, engaging in commercial sex or sex acts with his/her friends/strangers, abusing drugs/alcohol, etc.), let your partner know it makes you uncomfortable and inform a trusted friend/relative.
- Make sure a trusted friend/relative knows where you are when with your partner, especially if you are traveling with this person or going to an unfamiliar location.
- Maintain access to all of your documents (driver’s license, ID card, birth certificate, passport, or visa), your bank account and all important phone numbers and do not provide this information to your partner if you do not feel comfortable.

SAFETY PLANNING WITH HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

Safety Tips when Leaving a Human Trafficking Situation

In some cases, leaving or attempting to leave a trafficking situation may increase the risk of violence. It is important to trust your judgment when taking steps to ensure your safety.

- If you are ever in immediate danger, the quickest way to access help is to call 9-1-1.
- If you are unsure of your current location, try to determine any indication of your locality such as street signs outside the residence/place of employment or newspapers/magazines/mail that may have the address listed.
 - If it is safe to go outside, see if the address is listed anywhere on the building.
 - If there are people nearby and it is safe to speak with them, ask them about your current location.
- Plan an escape route or exit strategy and rehearse it if possible.
- Keep any important documents on or near you to be ready for immediate departure.
- Prepare a bag with any important documents/items and a change of clothes.
- Keep a written copy of important numbers on you at all times in case your phone is taken or destroyed at any point. Memorize important numbers/hotlines if possible.
- Think about your next steps after you leave the situation.
 - Contact trusted friends/relatives to notify them or to ask for assistance if you feel comfortable.
 - Contact the **National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC)** 24-hour hotline at **1-888-3737-888** to obtain local referrals for shelter or other social services and support.
- If you would like assistance from law enforcement, you may also contact the NHTRC to report your situation and/or connect with specialized local law enforcement referrals.
 - Please note: if you are ever in immediate danger, contact 9-1-1 first.
- During violent/explosive situations, try to avoid dangerous rooms if at all possible.
 - Examples of Dangerous Rooms: kitchen (knives, sharp utensils, pots), garage (tools, sharp objects), bathroom (hard surfaces, no exits), basement (hard surfaces, no exits), rooms where weapons are kept and rooms without an exit.
 - Examples of Safer Rooms: front room, yard or apartment hallway where a neighbor might see or hear an incident.
- Develop a special signal (lights flickering on and off, code word, code text message, hand signal, etc.) to use with a trusted neighbor, relative, friend or service provider to notify them that you are in danger.
- If you have children who are also in the trafficking situation, explain to them that it isn't their responsibility to protect you, make sure that they know how to call someone for help, where to hide during a violent incident, and practice your plan of departure with them.

Safety Tips after Exiting a Human Trafficking Situation

- Keep your residence locked at all times. Consider changing your locks if the controller has a key or may be able to access your residence.
- If moving to a new residence, only disclose your address to people that you trust and consider accessing the Address Confidentiality Program (ACP).
- Consider taking out a protective order against the controller so that he/she will be legally prohibited from contacting you.
- Contact the NHTRC at **1-888-3737-888** to find the service provider nearest you that can assist you in long-term safety planning, including taking out a protective order or accessing the ACP in your state.

- If the controller has made unwanted contact, document the contact made (calls, texts, showing up at your work/home, etc.) and save any voicemails and text messages that are threatening in nature.
- Consider changing your phone number to a number unknown by the controller. Most cell phone carriers will allow you to change numbers at no cost, but will seldom allow you to block a particular number.
- Keep a cell phone or emergency phone on you at all times.
- If you feel comfortable, tell your neighbors/employer/friends to call the police if they see the controller near, in, or around the residence/you.
- Develop a special signal (lights flickering on and off, code word, code text message, hand signal, etc.) to use with a trusted neighbor, relative, friend or service provider to notify them that you are in danger or need help. This can be the same safety signal used while exiting the situation or something new.
- If you have children who were also in the trafficking situation, create a safety plan with them making sure they know what do if the controller makes unwanted contact and how to call someone for help.
- If your child still has ongoing contact with the controller, discuss with your child a safety plan and how to keep themselves safe while with the controller.



Crisis in Human Trafficking During the Pandemic

A Snapshot: April 2020



Policy Recommendations

Housing insecurity is a leading indicator of vulnerability to human trafficking. Policies that help people stay in their homes or get access to housing will help to prevent trafficking. Efforts to stay eviction orders or delay eviction hearings, offer rent and mortgage relief, cover utility payments, and provide temporary housing will all help to reduce immediate vulnerability.

In the medium to longer term, efforts to address the economic impacts of COVID-19 should **prioritize housing for vulnerable individuals, families and communities** - not only those who are currently homeless, but also those on the precipice of becoming homeless **including young people who are aging out of the child welfare or foster care system.**

Additional resources at the federal, state, and local level for service providers will be critical to filling the immediate needs of trafficking victims and survivors during the COVID-19 pandemic. **Needs include emergency shelter, food, transportation, medical and behavioral health treatment and medication, and more,** as well as resources to continue operating the U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline to connect victims and survivors to help and support.



Background

Over the last few months, Polaris has been carefully tracking the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on victims and survivors of sex and labor trafficking. As part of this effort, Polaris has undertaken a systematic examination of relevant data from the Polaris-operated U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline. *The analysis compares a post-shelter-in-place period to two deliberately chosen pre-shelter-in-place periods (see box below).*

Daily numbers of trafficking situations in various categories in the different pre-shelter-in-place periods were compared with the post-shelter-in-place period using independent sample t-tests.

It is important to note the limitations to this analysis. *First, this is an exploration of correlation and not causation, meaning that the findings are not proof that the changes are caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.*

Next, the Trafficking Hotline exists to assist victims and survivors of human trafficking, and data is gathered only for the purpose of providing that assistance. Therefore, every caller is not asked the exact same questions, contributing to possible measurement variation.

Finally, data in the pre-shelter-in-place data sets are “clean”, meaning they have been reviewed and categorized. As Polaris works to respond on a 24-7 basis to the increased urgent needs of callers, we have not finished cleaning the most recent data set, which may change upon further review or case follow-up.

This brief is the first in a planned series presenting timely analysis and evidence to guide efforts to respond to emerging needs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Time Periods

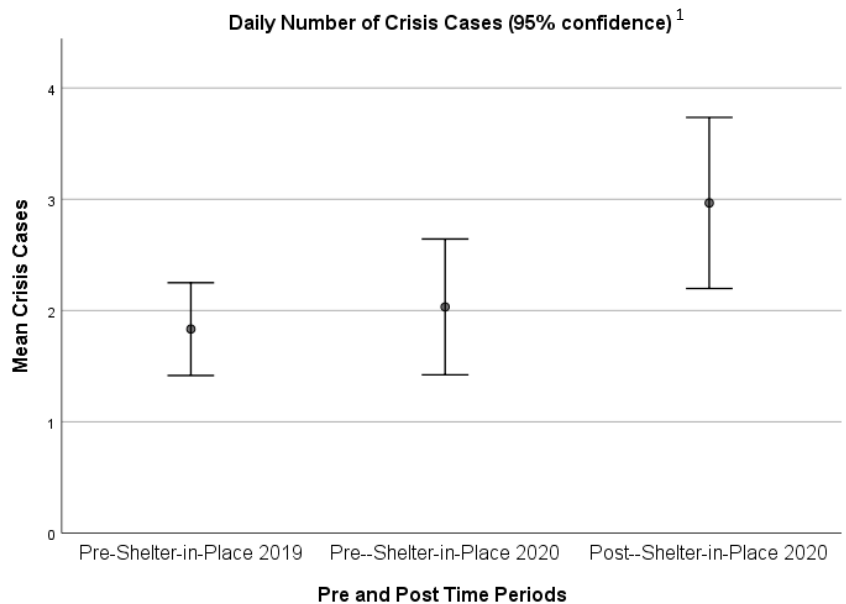
- Pre-shelter-in-place 2019: April 1st -April 30th, 2019
- Pre-shelter-in-place 2020: Feb 14th - March 15th, 2020
- Post-shelter-in-place 2020: April 1st - April 30th, 2020

The analysis looks at three distinct 30-day time periods, selected based on the first shelter in place orders put in place on March 15th in San Francisco, CA. By March 30th, most states that eventually enacted a shelter in place order had done so; thus, April 1-30th was selected as the post-shelter-in-place period.

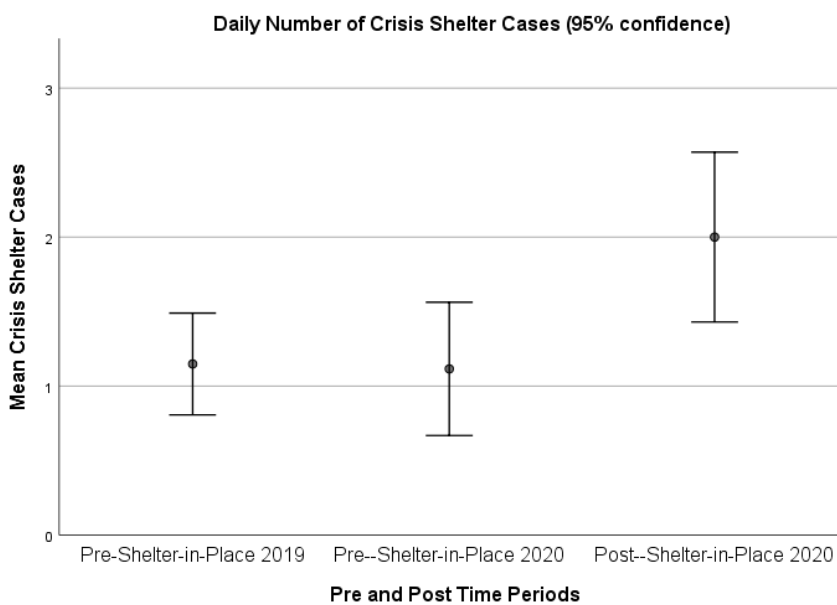
Findings

This analysis highlights findings focused specifically on crisis calls to the Trafficking Hotline.

When comparing post-shelter-in-place time with pre-shelter-in-place time in 2019 and 2020, the number of crisis trafficking situations increased by more than 40 percent, from approximately 60 in a 30-day period to 90. Crisis situations are those in which some assistance, such as shelter, transportation, or law enforcement involvement, is needed within 24 hours.



The number of situations in which people needed immediate emergency shelter nearly doubled (from around 29 in pre-shelter-in-place periods to 54 in April 2020).



In March 2020, Polaris conducted a survey of service providers to whom we actively refer crisis cases to assess their expectations of service impact as a result of COVID-19.

Of the 80 providers who responded before beginning of April, 50 percent were either considering or already implementing measures that would limit receiving referrals, and another four percent had already stopped accepting any new referrals.

¹ A 95% confidence interval is the range of values in which we can expect, with 95% certainty, to find the true average for the number of cases in this category.

² Note that this survey is not representative of all Polaris's referral partners and findings are only presented to provide some initial indications of potential reduced capacities to meet increasing demands.

CEU by Net Note: Please read on to the last section in this Study Guide 3, for more about Identifying and Interacting with Victims of Human Trafficking. You will then be done with reading the materials for this course and can take the three quizzes if you have not already done so.



RESOURCES: IDENTIFYING AND INTERACTING WITH VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING



Victims of human trafficking are vulnerable human beings who have been subjected to severe physical and emotional coercion. Most have been “taught” to distrust law enforcement, so victims of human trafficking need to be reassured that once they come in contact with law enforcement officers, they will be protected and safe.

Following are some things law enforcement officers should consider when dealing with victims of trafficking. Being aware of these items will help promote a cooperative relationship, helping law enforcement to gain the assistance of victims in the investigation and prosecution of traffickers.

- Human trafficking is a devastating human rights violation that takes place not only internationally, but also here in the United States. As a law enforcement officer, you play an important role in identifying and helping trafficking victims. While trafficking is largely a hidden social problem, trafficking victims are in plain sight if you know what to look for.
- Trafficking is not just forced prostitution. Victims of human trafficking may also be in forced labor situations as domestic servants (nannies or maids); sweatshop workers; janitors; restaurant workers; migrant farm workers; fishery workers; hotel or tourist industry workers; and as beggars.
- A person who is trafficked may look like many of the people you see daily, but asking the right questions and looking for small clues will help you identify those people who have been forced or coerced into a life of sexual exploitation or forced labor. Look for the following clues:
 - Evidence of being controlled
 - Evidence of an inability to move or leave job
 - Bruises or other signs of battering
 - Fear or depression
 - Non-English speaking
 - Recently brought to this country from Eastern Europe, Asia, Latin America, Canada, Africa or India
 - Lack of passport, immigration or identification documentation
- There are four areas of general victim needs:
 - Immediate assistance (housing, food, medical, safety and security)
 - Mental health assistance (counseling)
 - Income assistance (cash)
 - Legal status (certification, immigration)
- Take into consideration a victim's cultural and social background as these traits will impact the way victims should be managed as witnesses, as well as the way the investigation of their cases are carried out. If possible, you should work with a culturally and linguistically competent interpreter when a victim demonstrates any of the above-mentioned characteristics. Ideally, this person could serve as a language interpreter and be able to interpret the cultural values and unique behaviors that are characteristic of the victim's national and ethnic background.
- Effective communication is essential in gaining trust of victims as well as defining their immediate needs. Effective witness management extends into the courtroom when the time comes to present testimony and evidence to a jury.



- Screen interpreters to ensure they do not know the victim or the traffickers and do not otherwise have a conflict of interest.
- A successful investigation and prosecution of a human trafficking case is victim-centered. This requires lending support to traumatized and confused victims before you can gain their confidence.
- Once victims of human trafficking are rescued from the traffickers, they generally will be incapable of finding outside support due to the isolation they have suffered while in captivity. This especially impacts you as law enforcement officers because it can place you in the initial position of having to arrange for such support.
- Victims of human trafficking in the U.S. who are non-citizens may be eligible to receive special visas and to receive benefits and services through the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) to the same extent as refugees. Victims who are U.S. citizens are already eligible to receive many of these benefits.

Most victims of trafficking experience intense fear – of their traffickers and of being deported. Therefore, when interacting with potential trafficking victims, it is important to reassure them that they are safe so you can begin the process of helping them get the protection and assistance they need to rebuild their lives. Gaining the trust of trafficking victims is an important first step in providing assistance.

Sample messages to convey to victims of human trafficking to help gain this trust include:

- We are here to help you.
- Our first priority is your safety.
- Under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, victims of trafficking can apply for special visas or could receive other forms of immigration relief.
- We will give you the medical care that you need.
- We can find you a safe place to stay.
- You have a right to live without being abused.
- You deserve the chance to become self-sufficient and independent.
- We can help get you what you need.
- We can help to protect your family.
- You can trust me.
- We want to make sure what happened to you doesn't happen to anyone else.
- You have rights.
- You are entitled to assistance. We can help you get assistance.
- If you are a victim of trafficking, you can receive help to rebuild your life safely in this country.



RESOURCES: MESSAGES FOR COMMUNICATING WITH VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING



If you think you have come in contact with a victim of human trafficking, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline toll-free at 1-888-373-7888 (TTY:711). Or Text 233733.

Or Chat online with National Human Trafficking Hotline at:

www.humantraffickinghotline.org/chat

The hotline will help you determine if you have encountered victims of human trafficking, will identify local resources available in your community to help victims, and will help you coordinate with local social service organizations to help protect and serve victims so they can begin the process of restoring their lives.

*Text 233733

This is the end of this Course 8T. You must now take and pass the three quizzes for the course if you have not already done so, and complete the Feedback Form, in order to download your CE Certificate.

Thanks for your participation in our online CE program!

**Cheers,
CEU By Net**