


**#STOPHISTRAFFIC**  
KENT COUNTY HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

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The **Kent County Human Trafficking Task Force** and the presenters have no financial relationship with any commercial interest whose products or services are pertinent to the content of this educational activity.

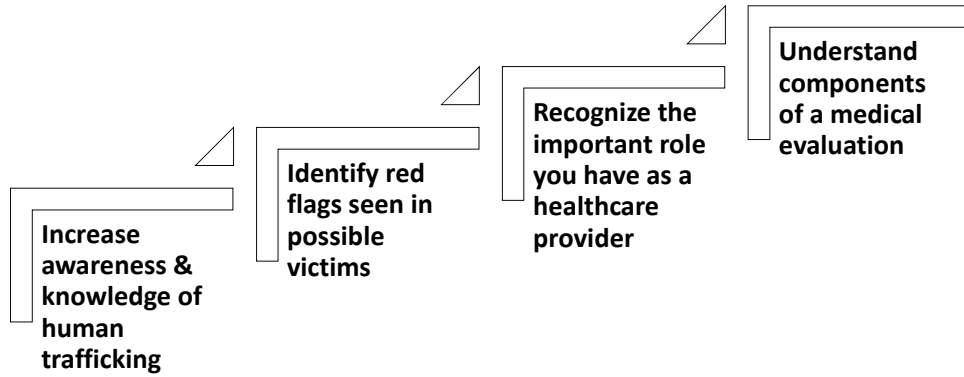


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# PURPOSE OF EDUCATION



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“Modern-day slavery, known as human trafficking, focuses on large profits and cheap lives. It is an **unimaginable abuse of human rights** that shatters victims both physically and psychologically, as it undermines the health and safety of all communities it touches.”

– Journal of Emergency Medicine



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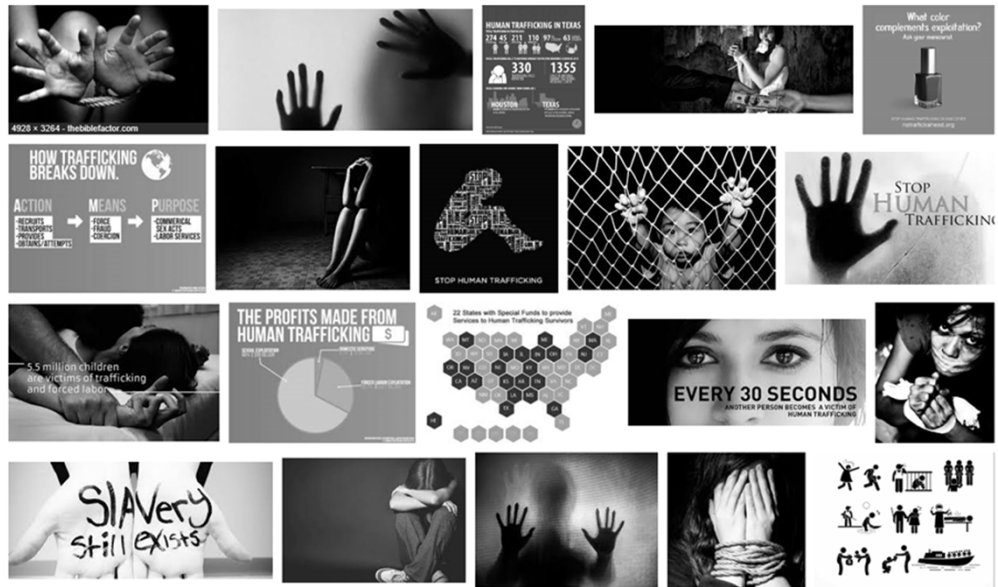
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## GOOGLE SEARCH FOR "HUMAN TRAFFICKING"

TIED UP  
CHAINS  
TRAPPED  
BEHIND A WALL/  
FENCE  
SHACKLES/  
SLAVERY  
UNRELIABLE SCARE  
STATISTICS



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## GOOGLE SEARCH FOR "HUMAN TRAFFICKING"

THIS IMAGE IS  
MORE ACCURATE:  
DESPAIR  
VULNERABILITY  
WORTHLESSNESS  
HOPELESSNESS



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## BREAKING THE MYTHS

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## MYTHS

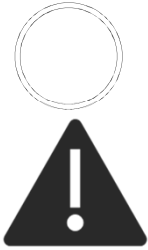


- This doesn't happen here in West Michigan.
- It happens mainly during large events like ArtPrize, the Auto Show, and professional sports games.
- It involves kidnapping, international borders, and chains.

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## FACTS



- **It happens in West Michigan.** Where there are people, there is a market for sex. Where there is a market for sex, there is a market for trafficking.
- The majority of sex traffickers, victims, and customers in West Michigan are **born and raised in West Michigan** – not “outsiders” coming to buy/sell sex during major events.
- Human trafficking is about **manipulation, deceit, control**, and targeting vulnerable people who are in desperation.



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## WHAT DO THE STATISTICS SAY?

- Experts in this field **DO NOT** rely on statistics.
- We know that we do not know the extent of the problem.



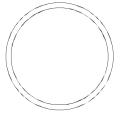
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## WHAT DO THE STATISTICS SAY?



I heard Michigan is one of the top states for human trafficking and that it's a "hub". Is that right?



- No.
- Statistics exist on how many reports and hotline calls there are.
- There are **MORE** victims than reported cases.



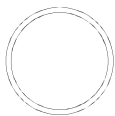
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## WHAT DO THE STATISTICS SAY?



How do we know how big the problem is then?



- We don't.
- But we know from law enforcement, social services, and medical personnel that there are traffickers and victims here in Kent County – **almost always operating in secret.**



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## DISCLAIMER OF STATISTICS



- Some of the videos in this presentation use statistics.
- Those statistics may be true and accurate for THOSE organizations that did the research.
- **The concepts expressed in the videos are valuable, so please pay attention to the concepts, but take the statistics with a grain of salt.**



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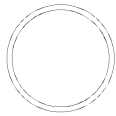
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# WHAT STRUCK YOU ABOUT THAT VIDEO?



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# WARM UP QUIZ

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## WARM UP QUIZ

**Q:** To be considered a victim of sex trafficking, one must be transported across state or federal borders. **(T/F)**

**A: FALSE. “Trafficking” is about an economic transaction, like trafficking in drugs. It does not require crossing state or federal borders.**

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## WARM UP QUIZ

**Q:** There are multiple forms of human trafficking and victims may fall into more than one category. **(T/F)**

**A: TRUE. Labor trafficking and sex trafficking are both forms of human trafficking. It is possible for someone to be a victim of both.**

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## WARM UP QUIZ

**Q:** For a person to be convicted of sex/labor trafficking, they must use physical force against their victim. **(T/F)**

**A: FALSE. Physical force is not required. Coercion or fraud are sufficient.**

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## WARM UP QUIZ

**Q:** The age of consent for sex in Michigan is 16. The age of consent to prostitution is also 16. **(T/F)**

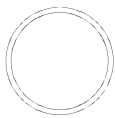
**A: FALSE. Under both Michigan and Federal law, a minor is considered anyone under age 18. Children under age 18 who are connected with prostitution are presumed victims because they cannot consent.**

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# SEX TRAFFICKING

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## TWO FORMS OF TRAFFICKING



**LABOR TRAFFICKING**

**SEX TRAFFICKING**



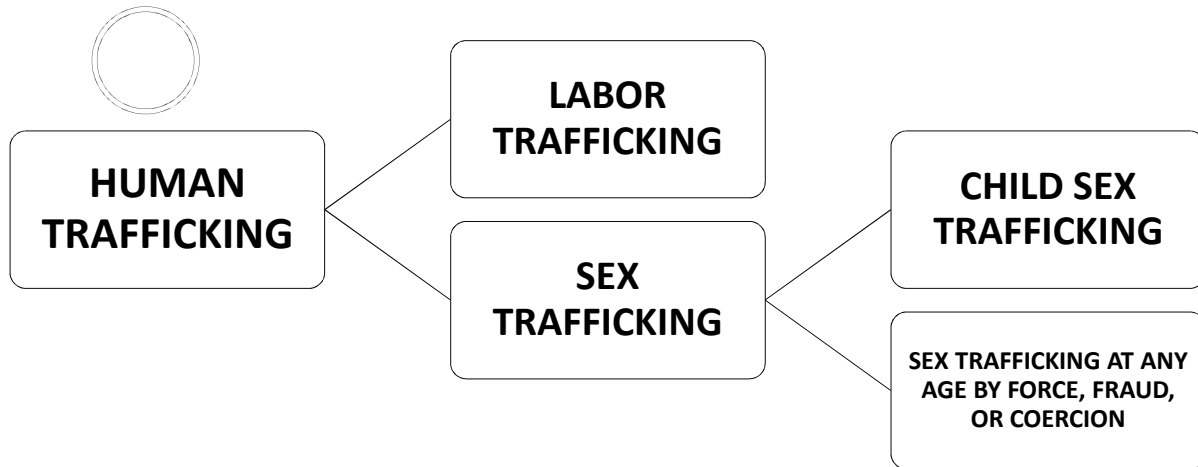
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## TWO FORMS OF TRAFFICKING



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## WHAT IS SEX TRAFFICKING?

Recruiting, facilitating, arranging, transporting, persuading, coercing, or enticing a person to engage in sex acts in exchange for anything of value, if the person is either:

- Under age 18; or
- Forced, defrauded, or coerced into participating at ANY AGE



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## WHAT IS SEX TRAFFICKING?

It is **NOT** required that the trafficker actually make a profit, kidnap anyone, or use physical violence.

### Coercion and fraud examples:

- Threats to them or family.
- Reporting a person to child protective services that could result in losing custody of children.
- Blackmail such as threatening to release illicit photos.



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**IF SEX TRAFFICKING DOESN'T REQUIRE  
PHYSICAL VIOLENCE, KIDNAPPING, OR  
RESTRAINT, THEN HOW DO  
TRAFFICKERS GET THEIR VICTIMS?**



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**Manipulation, control, and  
targeting the vulnerable.**

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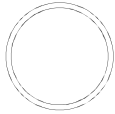
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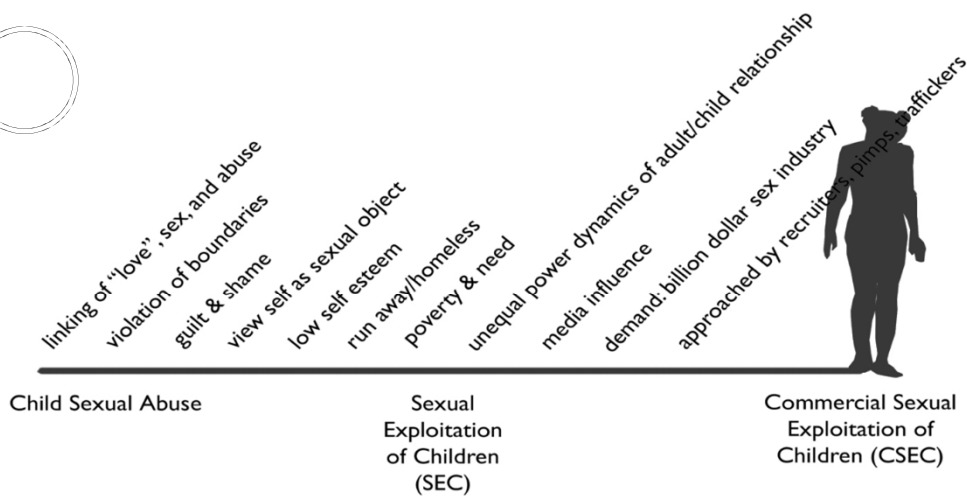
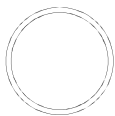
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# CONTINUUM OF VULNERABILITY



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## TYPES OF TRAFFICKERS

### “Romantic” Pimp

- Soft approach through initial relationship or “honeymoon” phase
- Promises of love and stability the victim craves
- Provides for basic needs
- Intense manipulation including emotional and environmental control
- Mirrors domestic violence cycle – “love”, violation, forgiveness



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## TYPES OF TRAFFICKERS

### “Aggressive” Pimp

- Severe physical, sexual, and emotional assault
- Complete control over victim’s life
- Tying food/shelter/drugs to performance and money



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# FEMALE TRAFFICKERS



(Photo: Kent County Jail)

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 CONNECT TWEET LINKEDIN GOOGLE+ PINTEREST

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH. - A Kentwood woman has been charged with offering a teenaged girl for sex at a Grand Rapids hotel.

Bianca Crystal Lyttaker, 22, is charged with human trafficking. Lyttaker, who was in court for a trial in Kent

## Judge: Teen's role in sex-trafficking ring 'sickening'

By Matt Mencarini, Lansing State Journal 12:28 p.m. EDT July 15, 2015



(Photo: Flood Sanford / Lansing State Jour, Flood Sanford / Lansing State Journal)

LANSING — An Ingham County judge called a Lansing teen's role in a sex-trafficking ring "sickening" before sentencing her this morning to at least four years in prison.

Mariah Haughton, 17, pleaded guilty to human trafficking and transporting of a female for prostitution last month. Several other charges were dropped as part of her plea agreement, among them human trafficking, child sexually abusive commercial activity and prostitution.

Ingham County Circuit Court Judge Joyce Draganchuk sentenced Haughton, who will turn 18 later this month, to four to 20 years on both counts. She will serve the sentences at the same time.

### TOP VIDEOS

### MORE STORIES

Michigan House approves nearly \$50M for Detroit Public Schools  
March 17, 2016, 4:07 p.m.

Woman sentenced for sex trafficking of teen

Stephanie Martin's mug shot from the Kent County Correctional Facility. (October 2015)

Related Coverage

- 3 plead guilty to sex trafficking of minors
- GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (WOOD) — A Holland woman was sentenced to four years in prison for her role in the prostitution of two teens in West Michigan.
- 3 accused of sex trafficking of minors



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# STREET CRIMINALS



- Same skills as drug dealing
- Victims seen as a renewable resource
- Cheap and easy to obtain victims by recruiting the most vulnerable
- Low risk of detection
- **Enormous potential for profit**



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## WHAT MAKES A PERSON VULNERABLE TO VICTIMIZATION?

- Drug-seeking/alcohol
- Running away/homelessness
- Foster care
- Distrust of authority figures
- Difficult and/or abusive home life
- Low self-esteem/seeking validation in unhealthy ways
- Cutting
- Needing money or other basic needs
- Craving love and validation
- Learning difficulties



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## WHAT ARE THE WARNING SIGNS FOR MINORS?

- New influx of cash
- Missing school
- Hair/nails out of the ordinary
- Hotel keys
- Condoms
- Older “friends” or “boyfriend” (including online)
- Offers or online chats about making money “modeling” or “dancing”
- “Strung out”
- Despair
- Rotting teeth, unhealed injuries, or other signs of physical neglect
- Walking into hotel/motel with no luggage
- Cell phone contacts only with nicknames or physical descriptions
- Multiple cell phones or cell phone from someone unexpected as a “gift”
- Tattoos with trafficker’s name, brand, or moniker; or concepts like “love” & “loyalty”



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## LABOR TRAFFICKING

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## WHAT IS LABOR TRAFFICKING?

### **Forcing, tricking, threatening, or coercing people into labor.**

- Does generally involve an international aspect.
- **Sample M.O.:** Threatened abuse of the legal process such as withholding or granting work permits/visas, threats of deportation, etc.

### **Does anybody know a definition for debt bondage?**

- Making someone so deep in debt that it is unlikely they can get out and will owe a large amount of work to the “employer” in order to repay the debt.



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## LABOR TRAFFICKING

- Agriculture / Farming
- Service Industry
- Food Processing
- Restaurants
- Construction
- Domestic Servitude
- Manufacturing



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## WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF LABOR TRAFFICKING?

- Not allowed to leave premises – strip clubs, restaurants, farms, private homes
- Limited interaction with customers or the public
- Not in control of own documents or money – passports, wallet, ID, money
- Fake ID – not operating under real name, age or address
- Indebted to employer, requiring substantial amount of time and work to payoff
- Working for no wages
- Housing provided by employer and of substandard quality



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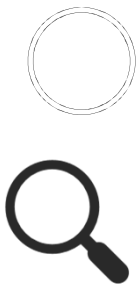
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## SEX TRAFFICKING: FROM THE EYES OF A HEALTHCARE PROVIDER

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## SCREENING TOOLS



- Very few validated screening tools
- Need for increased research
- Standard of care
- Need to fully understand the depth of human trafficking

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## FRONTLINE RESPONSE

**As a frontline healthcare provider, you play an important role in identifying and helping trafficking victims.**

- A health problem may necessitate a trafficker to bring a victim to the ER.
- The trafficker will likely insist on accompanying the patient at all times, making confidential interaction difficult.

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## FRONTLINE RESPONSE

**A person who is trafficked may look like many of the patients you see daily, but sensitively asking the right questions will help you identify those that may be forced or coerced into a life of sexual exploitation.**

**Here are some things to consider:**

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## FRONTLINE RESPONSE

- Is the patient accompanied by another person who seems controlling?
- Does the person accompanying the patient insist on giving information to healthcare providers?
- Can you see or detect any physical abuse? Does the patient have bruises or other signs of battering?
- Does the patient have difficulty communicating with you because of language or cultural barriers?
- Does the patient have any sort of identification?
- Is the patient suffering from health issues experienced by trafficking victims?

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## SIGNS TO LOOK FOR

- Individual appears afraid of adult or overly submissive, anxious.
- Multiple girls present with one adult.
- Individual cannot describe where she/he is staying, doesn't know location.
- Could be a possible runaway or homeless.
- Adult accompanying patient pays in cash.
- Multiple STIs present.
- Illicit drug use.
- Sexual assault, inflicted injury, visible signs of physical abuse (especially with an inconsistent story or facts that do not seem believable).

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## COMMON CHIEF COMPLAINTS

- Depression
- Suicidal Ideation
- Drug/Alcohol Intoxication
- Sexual/Physical Assault
- STIs
- Pregnancy
- Inflicted Trauma/Injuries

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**HAVE YOU EVER HAD A PATIENT  
THAT HAS BEEN AFFECTED BY  
HUMAN TRAFFICKING?**

**WHAT DID YOU DO?**



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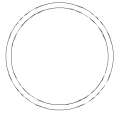
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## UNDERSTANDING THE MINDSET



As a healthcare provider, it's important to understand the mindset of trafficked victims.



- **Most victims feel threatened or shameful.** Healthcare professionals may see the victim's situation as a result of their own choices.
- Victims are **taught to fear** healthcare providers and authority figures. International victims may fear deportation.
- Reactions reflect their protective/survival skills: **anger, aggression, withdrawal, anxiety.**
- Victims may develop **loyalties/dependence** on their trafficker and may cope by using drugs or alcohol.



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## SCREENING & INTERVENTION



There are a number of special considerations to keep in mind when working with a potential or known victim:

- Before questioning, it is vital to isolate the patient from the person accompanying her/him. **You may want to say your ER policy is to examine the patient alone.**
- If the patient is a child, it is important to call in specialists.
- **Safety must always be a primary concern during the medical evaluation.**
- Explain steps of any physical exams and limit the number of people in the room.



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## SCREENING & INTERVENTION



**There are a number of special considerations to keep in mind when working with a potential or known victim:**

- Accept patient as she/he is – non-judgmental.
- Don't forget – she/he is a victim, not an offender.
- Review limits of confidentiality early on.
- Be sensitive to their reactions and to possible stressors.
- Tell her/him what you need to do and ask for permission.



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## SCREENING & INTERVENTION



**Questions to ask possible victims:**

- Are you ok? Is everything alright?
- Where are you from? How did you end up here?
- When was the last time you were home?
- Are you all by yourself?
- Are you traveling/on vacation? Who are you traveling with?
- Do you feel safe here?
- Can I help you out with anything?



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## HEALTHCARE-RELATED BARRIERS

**Some of the common barriers we see for healthcare providers include:**

- Lack of knowledge about trafficking
- Inadequate understanding of federal, state and local trafficking laws
- **Fears violating HIPAA**
- Has preconceived notions of how an individual who has been trafficked will present
- Does not believe it is his/her role to get involved
- “Checks off boxes” without seeing the full situation
- Lacks adequate screening tools, information, and good referral options



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## DEVELOP A RESPONSE PROTOCOL

**Adopt a patient assessment and other screening tools specifically related to human trafficking**

**Develop safety protocols and patient separation procedures**

**Develop reporting procedures**

**Understand how HIPAA applies to reporting incidents of human trafficking**

**Know what local resources are available ahead of time**



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# HOW TO RESPOND AS A PROVIDER

## Mandated Reporter: Michigan Child Protection Law

EMS, Nurses/Physicians/Mid-level Providers, Medical Social Workers,  
Medical Examiners, Dentists

**\*HIPAA**

## Michigan Laws Prohibit:

Forced Labor or Services (MCL 750.462b)

Trafficking a Minor (MCL 750.462e)

Force without regard to whether injury occurs (MCL 762.462a)

## Safe Harbor Laws:

Key reform in the 2014 Michigan Human Trafficking legislative package



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# IMMEDIATE RESOURCE CONNECTIONS

## Kent County Human Trafficking Resource Line

- 616-726-7777
- Organized by YWCA (24/7)

## State of Michigan Hotline

- 855-444-3911

## National Human Trafficking Hotline

- 888-373-7888

## Medical Social Workers

- If available at your place of employment



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# GET INVOLVED

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## QUESTIONS?

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