

Human Trafficking Awareness Training

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AARC Approved for 1 CRCE Credit Hour

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Learning Objectives

- Describe types of Human Trafficking (HT)
- Recognize common signs of HT
- Explain the ethical implications of HT
- Explain the reporting obligations of healthcare workers

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What is Human Trafficking?

HT involves the use of **force, fraud, or coercion** to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act

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Main Types of HT

Sex Trafficking	Labor Trafficking
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for a commercial sex act, induced by force, fraud, or coercion It does not matter if force, fraud, or coercion is present if a victim is under 18 - they cannot consent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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

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Trafficking and Borders

- HT does not require crossing international or state borders
- HT can occur within a state (intrastate trafficking)

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THE A-M-P MODEL

Action	Means*	Purpose
Induce Recruits Harbors Transports Provides or Obtains	Force Fraud or Coercion	Commercial Sex (Sex Trafficking) or Labor/Services (Labor Trafficking)

*Minors induced into commercial sex are human trafficking victims—regardless if force, fraud, or coercion is present.

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The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)

- **Protection** of victims and survivors of HT
- **Prosecution** of traffickers
- **Prevention** of HT

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The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)

- Established HT and related offenses as federal crimes
- Established the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (OMCTP)
- OMCTP publishes a Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report each year

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The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)

- T Visa: temporary U.S. residency and a path to U.S. citizenship for undocumented victims
- Enhanced U.S. international efforts to prevent HT

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Where Does HT Occur?

Sex Trafficking:

- Commercial-front or residential brothels
- Motels or hotels
- Online
- Streets
- Escort services
- Truck stops
- Hostess/strip clubs

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Where Does HT Occur?

Labor Trafficking:

- Domestic work
- Construction
- Traveling sales crews
- Restaurants and food service
- Agriculture
- Health and beauty
- Begging rings
- Retail
- Small businesses
- Landscaping

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Trafficking vs. Smuggling

- Smuggling is NOT trafficking
- Smuggling is the importation of people into the U.S. involving deliberate evasion of immigration laws
- Trafficking is exploitation-based
- Smuggling is transportation-based

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HT vs. Consensual Commercial Sex

- Sex work and sex trafficking are not the same
- Sex work is consensual
- Sex trafficking uses force, fraud, or coercion
- These distinctions usually determine whether a person will be treated as a victim or criminal

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Limitations of Data on HT

- Few studies are based on extensive research
- ILO report states data collection irregularities led to conservative numbers
- Many countries mix data related to HT, smuggling, and irregular migration

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Limitations of Data on HT

- Greatest number of HT cases involve labor, but the spotlight is on sexual exploitation of women and children
- Trafficking within countries is under-reported

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Exposing the Myths of HT

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Myth #1
HT is Only Sex Trafficking

- 68% Forced labor
- 10% State-imposed forced labor
- 22% sexually exploited

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Myth #2
HT Victims Will Self-Identify

- 50% of HT victims had contact with a healthcare professional and none were identified as a victim
- Do not identify as a victim
- Shame or guilt

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Myth #2
HT Victims Will Self-Identify

- Fear of retaliation
- Lack transportation or freedom of movement
- Lack an understanding of the U.S. healthcare system

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Myth #3
HT is Not in My Community

The crime of HT is prevalent in all 50 states, DC, and U.S. territories.

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Myth #4
HT Only Affects the Victim

The crime of HT is a symptom of a societal problem. Some ways to help fight the traffickers are:

- Knowing where your goods and services come from
- Offering opportunities for at-risk individuals
- Reporting suspicions to the National Human Trafficking Hotline

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Myth #5
HT Only Happens to Children

- The ILO report states globally 1 in 4 victims of modern slavery are children. Children represented 18% of private forced labor, 7% of state forced labor, and 21% of commercial sexual exploitation.
- Since 2012, the National Human Trafficking Hotline reports 62% of cases were adults

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Myth #6
HT Only Happens to Women

- The ILO report states globally 29% of HT victims were men
- Since 2012, the National Human Trafficking Hotline reports 18% of cases were men

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Recognizing HT Signs in the Healthcare Setting

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How Can We Improve?

- 87.8% of trafficking survivors reported accessing healthcare
- 68.3% were seen in emergency departments
- Most were not identified as HT victims
- What went wrong?
- How can we change this?

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Why do HT Victims Seek Medical Services?

- Emergencies
- Post-assault
- Gynecological services
- Prenatal care

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Why do HT Victims Seek Medical Services?

- Routine checkups
- Mental health services
- Addiction treatment
- Often unrelated to trafficking

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Physical & Behavioral Indicators of Labor Trafficking

Physical indicators:

- Musculoskeletal injuries
- Malnutrition and dehydration
- Lack of routine screening and preventative care
- Poor dental hygiene

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Physical & Behavioral Indicators of Labor Trafficking

Physical indicators:

- Untreated skin infections
- Injuries from exposure to harmful chemicals or unsafe water
- Vision complaints
- Somatization

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Physical & Behavioral Indicators of Labor Trafficking

Non-physical indicators:

- Workplace abuse or restrictions
- Large debt
- No control over ID
- Very low pay

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Physical & Behavioral Indicators of Labor Trafficking

Behavioral indicators:

- Depressed mood or flat affect
- Anxiety
- Hypervigilance, panic attacks
- Affect dysregulation, irritability
- Frequent emergency care visits
- Unexplained or conflicting life stories

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Physical & Behavioral Indicators of Labor Trafficking

Behavioral indicators:

- Using language from "the life"
- History of running away, truancy or skipping school
- Highly sexualized behavior or dress
- Angry or aggressive behavior
- Alcohol or drug use

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Physical & Behavioral Indicators of Sex Trafficking

Physical indicators for adults:

- Multiple or recurrent STIs
- Abnormally high number of sexual partners
- Trauma to vagina and/or rectum
- Impacted tampon in the vagina
- Signs of physical trauma
- Somatization symptoms like headaches or abdominal pain
- Suspicious tattoos or branding

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Physical & Behavioral Indicators of Sex Trafficking

Behavioral indicators for adults:

- Depressed mood or flat affect
- Anxiety
- Hypervigilance or panic attacks
- Affect dysregulation or irritability
- Frequent emergency care visits
- Unexplained or conflicting life stories
- Using language from "the life"
- Signs of drug or alcohol use

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Physical & Behavioral Indicators of Sex Trafficking

Physical indicators for children:

- Pregnancy at a young age
- Evidence of abortions at a young age
- Early sexual initiation
- Trauma to the vagina and/or rectum
- Symptoms of STIs or UTIs
- Abnormal number of sex partners for a young age
- Suspicious tattoos or branding

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Physical & Behavioral Indicators of Sex Trafficking

Behavioral indicators for children:

- History of running away, truancy or skipping school
- Highly sexualized behavior or dress
- Angry or aggressive behavior
- Depressed mood
- Alcohol or drug use

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Vulnerable Populations

- Runaway and homeless youth
- History of sexual abuse or mental health issues
- Immigrants and members of a marginalised or disadvantaged communities
- Involvement in the welfare system, poverty, lack of social support
- Elderly, those with disabilities

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Trafficker Profiles and Recruitment Tactics

- Ability to establish trust with a victim
- Someone authoritative or credible
- Women traffickers usually only traffic women or girls, sometimes boys

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Trafficker Profiles and Recruitment Tactics

- Men traffick adults and children of both sexes
- Some traffickers are former victims
- Often from the same ethnic group

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Recruitment Tactics and The Blue Campaign

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Recruitment Tactics of Traffickers

- The boyfriend tactic
- The helping tactic
- Gang involvement
- Isolation
- Bait and switch
- Preying on individuals with intellectual disabilities
- Grooming children

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Controlling Tactics of Traffickers

- Shame and blackmail
- Obligation
- Pregnancy
- Financial control
- Intimidation and violence

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Child Victim Profiles

- Child victims are 4x more likely to be trafficked by a family member than adult victims
- Child victims trafficked by family are twice as likely to be forced labor vs. sexually trafficked victims
- Children: begging, peddling
- Children controlled through physical abuse and psychoactive substances

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Adult Victim Profiles

- Adults: agricultural, manufacturing
- Adults controlled through restrictions to movement, debt bondage, and psychological abuse

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Gender Differences

- For children, over 50% of identified girl victims are between 15 and 17
- 40% of trafficked boys are under 12 years of age
- Women more likely controlled by restricted movement, threats, and physical abuse

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Gender Differences

- Men more likely controlled by false promises, earnings theft, and excessive working hours
- Women 4x more likely to do domestic work
- Men 15x more likely to do construction work

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**Questions to Ask Yourself:
Key Indicators**

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The Blue Campaign

- Attendance and presence
- Behavior
- Physical appearance
- Guardianship
- Living situation

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How Do Healthcare Workers Respond?

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Organizational Human Trafficking Protocols

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<h2>Organizational HT Protocols</h2>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clarify procedures, responsibilities, and roles around identification, response, and reporting• Enhance staff training to adopt a victim/survivor-centered approach• Optimize patients' interaction with healthcare personnel• Improve staff's confidence in their ability to recognize patients at risk
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Organizational HT Protocols

- Maximize preparedness to meet needs identified by patients
- Maximize patient/victim and personnel safety
- Optimize support for trafficked patients not ready or able to disclose victimization or accept assistance
- Prepare proactively for situations in which a trafficker presents an immediate threat

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Organizational HT Protocols

- Integrate efforts with outside agencies essential to the HT response
- Collect data to improve understanding
- Provide anonymized data to law enforcement and service providers

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Guiding Principles

Established by the U.N.'s Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking

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1. Ethical and Safety Recommendations For Interviewing Victims of Trafficking

- Do no harm
- Know your subject
- Prepare referral information
- Adequately prepare interpreters and co-workers
- Ensure anonymity and confidentiality

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1. Ethical and Safety Recommendations For Interviewing Victims of Trafficking

- Get informed consent
- Listen to and respect each person's assessment of the situation
- Don't re-traumatize individuals
- Be prepared for emergency intervention
- Put information to good use

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2. Treat all contact as a step towards improving their health

3. Prioritize safety by assessing risks and making well-informed decisions

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<p>4. Provide respectful, equitable care that does not discriminate</p>	<p>5. Be prepared with referral information and contact details for assistance</p>
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<p>6. Collaborate with other support services</p>	<p>7. Ensure the confidentiality and privacy of trafficked persons and families</p>
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<p>8. Provide information in an understandable way</p>	<p>9. Obtain voluntary, informed consent</p>
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10. Respect the rights, choices and dignity of each individual

- Assess the power dynamics
- Assess the patient's ability or desire to speak freely
- Whenever controlling dynamics are suspected, have the third party wait elsewhere.
- Have a plan for separating minors from family members
- Decide who will perform the separation

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10. Respect the rights, choices and dignity of each individual

- Possible reasons for separation:
 - Diagnostic test
 - Policy to interview patients alone
 - Assistance with paperwork, etc.

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10. Respect the rights, choices and dignity of each individual

- If the controlling person refuses to separate:
 - Evidence of aggression
 - Health and safety of the patient
 - Security or law enforcement may not be in the best interest of the patient
 - Desire not to raise suspicion
 - Presence or absence of indicators of prior assaults and abuse

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<p>11. Avoid calling the authorities without consent</p>	<p>12. Maintain all information on trafficked persons in secure facilities</p>
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<p>Trauma-Informed Care</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recognizing the impact of traumatic experiences on an individual's life and behavior• Maintain a non-judgmental, comforting approach• Reassure the victim that they deserve medical care and respect
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<p>Trauma-Informed Care</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Related to the concept of patient-centered care• It is important to restore decision-making power to the victims as quickly as possible for mental recovery• Challenges with trauma
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Trauma-Informed Care

- Create a clinical safe space
- All staff involved are on the same page and understand potential behaviors
- Respect confidentiality, but report when required

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Other Manifestations of Trauma

- Trauma Bonding or Stockholm Syndrome
- Memory disruption
- PTSD

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Case Studies

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**Josepha:
25 Year Old
Hispanic Female**

- Presents to ER with headache, fatigue and stomach pains with step-father as translator
- Speak with her away from the family member for more information

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**Josepha:
25 Year Old
Hispanic Female**

- Somatic symptoms with no diagnosis, overworked, not in control of her own finances
- Indicators point to labor trafficking – complete mandated reporting and ensure she has the resources and contacts to make a decision

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**Mary:
45 Year Old Asian
Female**

- Presents to clinic with complaints of vaginal itching and discharge
- Newly immigrated, works in a field with a high risk of trafficking
- Does not know her number of partners
- Suspicious phone conversation

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Mary:
45 Year Old Asian
Female

- Tests positive for multiple STIs
- What other questions can we ask?
- Find a safe space for her to go after her appointment, offer a social worker to create a plan of exit, and complete any mandated reporting

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Carlos:
16 Year Old
Hispanic Male

- Presented with an opportunity to move from Guatemala to the U.S.
- Expected to start school - instead forced to repay his debt by working in construction
- Extreme hours, no control over his earnings

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Carlos:
16 Year Old
Hispanic Male

- Once he confronted his parents, they left him behind
- Found a hotline that helps undocumented minors, and began receiving assistance

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What Do You Do If You Suspect Trafficking?

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National Human Trafficking Hotline
888-373-7888

- Hotline available 24/7
- Work to improve the national response to protect victims of HT
- Provides callers with a range of services like crisis intervention, referrals, tip reporting, anti-trafficking resources and technical assistance
- Federal and state funded assistance programs may be slower than local resources

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The Importance of Appropriate Documentation

- Documentation of a trafficking victim's medical history may have legal ramifications
- Documentation of prior injuries, sexual history, etc. may be used against the patient in certain legal circumstances
- Develop guidelines for optimal documentation practices with prosecutors, defense attorneys, and advocates

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The Importance of Appropriate Documentation

- Medical record information may be harmful to the patient in a trial
- The trafficking victim may be prosecuted for crimes committed while being trafficked
- Survivor quotes may prove unhelpful if the victim changes their story later
- Rape shield laws may not prevent re-traumatization of the victim

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The Importance of Appropriate Documentation

- Have a system in place to flag trafficking victim's medical records
 - Resources provided can serve as an indicator ("Gave patient National Human Trafficking Hotline Number")
 - Balance flagging of the patient record with potential harm from trafficker or stigmatization

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The Importance of Appropriate Documentation

- Include safety planning in the discharge planning process
- Make certain your documentation is complete and accurate
- Ensure the patient's records cannot be accessed by the trafficker

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Mandated Reporter Obligations

- Inform the patient any info they provide may trigger mandatory reporting
- If the patient is in immediate, life-threatening danger, follow your facility's policies for reporting to law enforcement

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Mandated Reporter Obligations

- If the patient is a minor, follow mandatory state reporting laws and your facility's policies
- There are mandatory reporting obligations for abuse to elderly persons and adults with disabilities

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Resources for Victims

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Resources for Victims

- Social services
 - Healthcare professionals
 - Law enforcement officers
 - Lawyers
 - Benefit providers
 - Social workers
- Help with food, shelter, clothing, medical, and legal care
- We need to rehabilitate victims back into society

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Medical and Legal Assistance

- Community health centers
- Migrant health clinics
- City or homeless clinics
- Both mental health and substance abuse treatment

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Medical and Legal Assistance

- Legal aid clinics
- Certain states have anti-trafficking legislation that provides state funded services to pre-certified victims
- Federal HHS grants

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Challenges in Fighting HT

- COVID-19
- Mass migrations
- Immigration biases

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Summary and Review

- Defined HT
- Labor trafficking vs. sex trafficking
- AMP model
- Trafficking vs. smuggling
- Trafficking Victims Protection Act
- Limitations of data on HT

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Summary and Review

- Myths of HT
 - HT is only sex trafficking
 - HT victims will self-identify
 - HT is not in my community
 - HT only affects the victim
 - HT only happens to children
 - HT only happens to women

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Summary and Review

- Recognizing trafficking signs in the healthcare setting
- Physical and behavioral indicators of both labor and sex trafficking
- Indicators in adult vs. child victims
- Vulnerable populations
- Recruitment and control tactics

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Summary and Review

- Gender differences
- Key indicators and questions to ask yourself
- How do healthcare workers respond to trafficking, and what can we do?
- Importance of organizational protocols
- Guiding principles

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Summary and Review

- Manifestations of trauma
- Case studies
- What to do if you suspect trafficking
- Importance of appropriate documentation
- Mandated reporter obligations
- Resources for victims
- Challenges we face

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