



Research Resources

Child Sex Trafficking Team
Office of the Texas Governor



Child Sex Trafficking Team

The Texas Legislature authorized the creation of the Child Sex Trafficking Team (CSTT) in the Governor’s Office to provide a collaborative and comprehensive response to child sexual exploitation in Texas. Texas Government Code §§ 772.0062 – 772.0063. CSTT’s vision is a state where children and youth are free from sexual exploitation. Our mission is to build sustainable capacity, enhance expertise, promote policies, and create new and leverage existing collaborations to prevent child sexual exploitation, to help survivors heal and thrive, and to bring exploiters to justice.



In order to enhance expertise in our state and to meet our legislative charge to collect, analyze and distribute relevant research to agencies and nonprofit organizations, CSTT gathers existing and funds new relevant research on child sex trafficking, funds evaluations of emerging and innovative child sex trafficking programs, provides training on research and evaluation findings, and provides this document, *Research Resources*, on our website, gov.texas.gov/cstt. *Research Resources* is a curated list of relevant research articles, complete with summaries by CSTT, from the last three to five years. The articles are primarily from peer-reviewed journals and are organized by CSTT’s five overarching goals: protect, recognize, rescue, restore, and bring justice. (Some articles overlap

more than one of the five areas but appear in only one section.)

CSTT will continuously update and improve this collection of research by gathering, curating, summarizing and providing the latest research in updated versions of *Research Resources*. Enhancing expertise in our state will empower Texas to implement research-based programs and practices that prevent child sexual exploitation, help survivors heal and thrive, and bring exploiters to justice.

Our mission is to build sustainable capacity, enhance expertise, promote policies, and create new and leverage existing collaborations to:

- [Protect](#) children by building their awareness of and resilience to child exploitation and by curbing demand for child sex trafficking.
- [Recognize](#) child sexual exploitation in all its forms by raising public awareness and implementing screening tools for victims.
- [Recover](#) victims with protective and empowering – not punitive – collaborative and coordinated responses spanning multiple systems.
- [Support Healing](#) survivors through trauma-informed and responsive services and supports they need to heal and thrive.
- [Bring Justice](#) for survivors by holding traffickers, buyers, and those who profit from trafficking accountable.



Protect

[How COVID-19 Is Placing Vulnerable Children at Risk and Why We Need a Different Approach to Child Welfare](#)

Herrenkohl, T. I., Scott, D., Higgins, D., Klika, J. B., & Lonne, B. (2020). How COVID-19 Is Placing Vulnerable Children at Risk and Why We Need a Different Approach to Child Welfare. *Child Maltreatment*, 26(1), 9-16. doi: 10.1177/1077559520963916.

Authors: Herrenkohl, Todd I.; Scott, Debbie; Higgins, Daryl J.; Klika, J. Bart; Lonne, Bob

Publication Year: 2020

Summary: This article examines the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on children and families in poverty and with other risk factors, as well as how it limited access to the child welfare system. Its findings show how early intervention and public health prevention can reduce the risks of child maltreatment, not just during the pandemic but after.

Abstract: The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic brings new worries about the welfare of children, particularly those of families living in poverty and impacted other risk factors. These children will struggle more during the pandemic because of financial pressures and stress placed on parents, as well as their limited access to services and systems of support. In this commentary, we explain how current circumstances reinforce the need for systemic change within statutory child welfare systems and the benefits that would accrue by implementing a continuum of services that combine universal supports with early intervention strategies. We also focus on promising approaches consistent with goals for public health prevention and draw out ideas related workforce development and cross-sector collaboration.

[The Impact of Assembly Trainings on Awareness of Human Trafficking among Middle School and High School Age Youth](#)

Pooler, C., Sykora, J. & Pooler, D. (2020). The Impact of Assembly Trainings on Awareness of Human Trafficking among Middle School and High School Age Youth, *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 1-9, doi: 10.1080/23322705.2020.1850141.

Authors: Pooler, Cheryl; Sykora, Jessica; Pooler, Daniel

Publication Year: 2020

Summary: This article addresses the effectiveness of assembly style trainings in creating knowledge about human trafficking in high school students. Students received a one-hour assembly training on three areas: 1) policies and laws, 2) perpetrator tactics and exploitable vulnerabilities, and 3) protecting, reporting, and resources. The findings show that after attending curriculum-based assembly, high school students have more knowledge about human trafficking.

Abstract: The national focus on human trafficking has grown in the past decade. A focus on prevention is critical to protecting society from perpetrators. Children have become particularly vulnerable to the point that schools are utilizing a series of best practices recommended by the National Center for Homeless Education at SERVE (NCHE) to help guide administrators and teachers with detecting and responding to the trafficking of students. The authors examine the efficacy of assembly-style trainings in Central Texas schools using the Keeping Students Safe Curriculum developed by Unbound. This research suggests that using this curriculum in an assembly-style presentation increases knowledge and awareness about human trafficking among high school students.

[The Travel Industry on Trial: The “State of the Art” of Human Trafficking Awareness and the Impact of Third-Party Civil Cases](#)

Trasatti, M. & Foreman, K. (2021). The Travel Industry on Trial: The “State of the Art” of Human Trafficking Awareness and the Impact of Third-Party Civil Cases. *Insights*. 19-49.
https://www.wilsonelser.com/news_and_insights/attorney_articles/4214-fdccc_insights_features_article_by_trasatti_and

Authors: Trasatti, Marisa; Foreman, Kevin

Publication Year: 2021

Summary: This article examines the effectiveness of civil law suits on the hospitality industry in curbing human trafficking. It also looks at human trafficking awareness and how human trafficking evolved through history. The researchers finds that, while there has been an increase in holding the hospitality and travel industries accountable, there is no empirical evidence that it has an impact on trafficking. Instead the article suggests shifting the focus to the demand for commercial sex.

Abstract: Marisa A. Trasatti (Partner) and Kevin A. Foreman (Associate), Baltimore, MD, co-authored “The Travel Industry on Trial: The ‘State of the Art’ of Human Trafficking Awareness and the Impact of Third-Party Civil Cases” for the Spring 2021 edition of the Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel’s

Protect, continued

newsletter, Insights. Marisa and Kevin discuss evolving trends in human trafficking awareness as traffickers continue to target unwitting travel industry professionals. The article addresses how state and federal claims use “state of the art” considerations to determine what a defendant “knew or should have known” and explains human trafficking’s relation to crypto-transactions and cyber measures as well as the rise of trafficking litigation.

[The Contribution of State and Local DOTs to Disrupting Human Trafficking](#)

Habermann, J., Suarez, E., Wigle, C., Jones, S., Croope, S. V., Hall, R., Hill, M. & Baglin, C. (2021). The Contribution of State and Local DOTs to Disrupting Human Trafficking, *ITE*, 74, 40-44.

Authors: Habermann, John; Suarez, Elizabeth; Wigle, Christi; Jones, Steven; Croope, Silvana V.; Hall, Ron; Hill, Margo; Baglin, Chris

Publication Year: 2021

Summary: The Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) journal article describes how the transportation industry can help curb human trafficking. The article calls for awareness from the transportation industry, as well as training, regional assistance, and collecting data.

Abstract: The transportation engineering profession is devoted to providing a transportation system that is safe and secure for all users. The system, however, is often abused by those seeking to maximize their own gain—whether through operating grossly overweight trucks to increase shipping profits or to engage in illicit activities such as human trafficking. The Polaris Project, an international organization devoted to combatting human trafficking, identifies the transportation industry as one of the most important components of the human trafficking enterprise. Data from the IBM Traffic Analysis Hub indicate that of the 3,019 trafficking events recorded in the United States from March 2020 to February 2021, almost 2,400 involved a form of surface transportation (i.e., car, truck, or bus), with the remaining involving air travel or seaports and waterways. This article defines human trafficking, highlights where human trafficking intersects with the transportation system, and describes how we as transportation professionals can play a role in disrupting this terrible crime.



Recognize

[Child Advocacy Center Multidisciplinary Team Decision and its Association to Child Protective Services Outcomes](#)

Brink, F. W., Thackeray, J. D., Bridge, J. A., Letson, M. M. & Scribano, P. V. (2015). Child Advocacy Center Multidisciplinary Team Decision and its Association to Child Protective Services Outcomes, *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 46, 174-181. doi: 10.1016/j.chiabu.2015.04.011.

Authors: Brink, Farah W.; Thackeray, Jonathan D.; Bridge, Jeffrey A.; Letson, Megan M.; Scribano, Philip V.

Publication Year: 2015

Summary: This study examines the multidisciplinary teams' (MDT) process in determining child sexual abuse (CSA) and compares the outcomes to child protective services (CPS) decisions. The study shows that while there is great similarity between the decisions, MDT detects more CSA than CPS.

Abstract: Limited studies exist evaluating the multidisciplinary team (MDT) decision-making process and its outcomes. This study evaluates the MDT determination of the likelihood of child sexual abuse (CSA) and its association to the outcome of the child protective services (CPS) disposition. A retrospective cohort study of CSA patients was conducted. The MDT utilized an a priori Likert rating scale to determine the likelihood of abuse. Subjects were dichotomized into high versus low/intermediate likelihood of CSA as determined by the MDT. Clinical and demographic characteristics were compared based upon MDT and CPS decisions. Fourteen hundred twenty-two patients were identified. A high likelihood for abuse was determined in 997 cases (70%). CPS substantiated or indicated the allegation of CSA in 789 cases (79%, Kappa 0.54). Any CSA disclosure, particularly moderate risk disclosure (AOR 59.3, 95% CI 26.50–132.80) or increasing total number of CSA disclosures (AOR 1.3, 95% CI 1.11–1.57), was independently associated with a high likelihood for abuse determination. Specific clinical features associated with discordant cases in which MDT determined high likelihood for abuse and CPS did not substantiate or indicate CSA included being white or providing a low risk CSA disclosure or other non-CSA disclosure. MDT determination regarding likelihood of abuse demonstrated moderate agreement to

Recognize, continued

CPS disposition outcome. CSA disclosure is predictive of the MDT determination for high likelihood of CSA. Agreement between MDT determination and CPS protection decisions appear to be driven by the type of disclosures, highlighting the importance of the forensic interview in ensuring appropriate child protection plans.

[Confidential Screening for Sex Trafficking Among Minors in a Pediatric Emergency Department](#)

Hurst, I. A., Abdo, D. C., Hairpin, S., Leonard, J. & Adalgais, K. (2021). Confidential Screening for Sex Trafficking Among Minors in a Pediatric Emergency Department, *Pediatrics*, 147(3). doi: 10.1542/peds.2020-013235.

Authors: Hurst, Irene A.; Abdo, Denise C.; Hairpin, Scott; Leonard, Jan; Adalgais, Kathleen

Publication Year: 2021

Summary: This study examines a sex trafficking [screening tool](#) used in a pediatric emergency department. Its goal was to determine the success of the screening tool in identifying patients at a high risk for sex trafficking. The findings of the study showed that the screening tool was useful in accurately identifying sex trafficking among the patients in a busy clinical environment.

Abstract: Objectives: Child sex trafficking is a global health problem, with a prevalence of 4% to 11% among high-risk adolescents. The objective of this study was to confidentially administer a validated screening tool in a pediatric emergency department by using an electronic tablet to identify minors at risk for sex trafficking. Our hypothesis was that this modality of administration would adequately identify high-risk patients. Methods: English- and Spanish-speaking patients from the ages of 12 to 17 years presenting to a large urban pediatric emergency department with high-risk chief complaints were enrolled in a prospective cohort over 13 months. Subjects completed a previously validated 6-item screening tool on an electronic tablet. The screening tool's sensitivity, specificity, and positive and negative predictive values were calculated. Multivariable logistic regression was performed to identify additional risk factors. Results: A total of 212 subjects were enrolled (72.6% female; median age: 15 years; interquartile range 13–16), of which 26 patients were subjected to child sex trafficking (prevalence: 12.3%). The sensitivity and specificity of the electronic screening tool were 84.6% (95% confidence interval [CI] 70.8%–98.5%) and 53.2% (95% CI 46.1%–60.4%), respectively. The positive predictive value and negative predictive value were 20.2% (95% CI 12.7%–27.7%) and 96.1% (95% CI 92.4%–99.9%), respectively. A previous suicide attempt and history of child abuse increased the odds of trafficking independent of those who screened positive but did not improve sensitivity of the tool. Conclusions: A confidentially administered, previously validated, electronic screening tool was used to accurately identify sex trafficking among minors, suggesting that this modality of screening may be useful in busy clinical environments

Recognize, continued

[Minor sex trafficking of girls with disabilities](#)

Franchino-Olsen, H., Silverstein, H. A., Kahn, N. F. & Martin, S.L. (2018), Minor sex trafficking of girls with disabilities, *International Journal of Human Rights in Healthcare*, 13(2), 97-108. doi:10.1108/IJHRH-07-2019-0055

Authors: Franchino-Olsen, Hannabeth; Silverstein, Hannah A.; Kahn, Nicole F.; Martin, Sandra L.

Publication Year: 2018

Summary: This paper studied the correlation between minor sex trafficking victimization and disability status. At a national level, the study found that girls with a disability “had a higher prevalence of minor sex trafficking than their peers without disabilities”.

Abstract: Purpose – The purpose of this paper is to investigate the associations between minor women’ (girls’) disability status and victimization via minor sex trafficking. Design/methodology/approach - This investigation used data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health, a large, nationally-representative sample of in-school adolescents in the USA that began in 1994. The analysis included bivariate associations between physical disability status or low cognitive ability and minor sex trafficking among female survey respondents (n = 5,430). Findings - Girls with any disability had a higher prevalence of minor sex trafficking than their peers without disabilities. Odds of minor sex trafficking were significantly higher for those with severe physical disabilities (5.83) and for those with low cognitive abilities (4.86) compared to the odds of their peers without their respective disabilities. Results for girls with mild or moderate physical disabilities were not statistically significant compared to peers without disabilities. Social implications – These nationally-representative survey data reinforce the trends present in smaller populations and case study research: female adolescents with disabilities are at a heightened risk for sex trafficking. On both a national and global scale, the human rights gaps in policy and practice must be addressed to adequately reach, intervene and protect this vulnerable population. Originality/value - Research about minor sex trafficking typically relies on small-scale surveys and/or convenience samples. This study used a nationally-representative survey to demonstrate the link between disability status and women’s experiences with minor sex trafficking.

[A Pilot Program’s Healthcare Response to Human Trafficking in Houston, Texas](#)

Chen, E. Y., Robichaux, K., Gordon, M. R., Coverdale, J. H., Shah, A., Davis, M. P. & Nguyen, P. T. (2021). A Pilot Program’s Healthcare Response to Human Trafficking in Houston, Texas, *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 1-11. doi: 10.1080/23322705.2020.1865095

Authors: Chen, Eugenia Y.; Robichaux, Katherine; Gordon, Mollie R.; Coverdale, John H.; Shah, Asim a; Davis, Minal P.; Nguyen, Phuong T.

Publication Year: 2021

Summary: This article discusses the model of a public health approach to human trafficking that was created by the Baylor College of Medicine. The city implemented a bi-directional case management model that connected community agencies and the county hospital to more completely address the needs of human trafficking patients. The model had four aims, education, clinical care, advocacy, and

research. The authors believed that model could be implemented in other municipalities to address the needs of human trafficking patients.

Abstract: Baylor College of Medicine, in collaboration with city of Houston officials and local healthcare and social service agencies, created a hospital-based program to better identify and address the complex and urgent needs of patients with a history of human trafficking exploitation. This article describes the development of the city-wide public health approach to human trafficking, which brings together local hospital systems, nonprofit advocacy agencies, law enforcement, faith-based groups, and legal services to create a medical, legal and social services partnership to address the complex needs of trafficked persons. The Baylor College of Medicine Anti-Human Trafficking Program's efforts at education, clinical care, advocacy, and research regarding patients with a history of human trafficking are highlighted, and an integrated healthcare framework is provided for other municipalities, health care leaders, and providers to consider in the development of their own anti-human trafficking programs.

[Online Child Sexual Exploitation: A New MIS Challenge](#)

Demetis, D. S., & Kietzmann, J. (2021). Online Child Sexual Exploitation: A New MIS Challenge, *Journal of the Association for Information Systems*, 22(1), 5-40. doi: 10.17705/1jais.00652.

Authors: Demetis, Dionysios S.; & Kietzmann, Jan

Publication Year: 2021

Summary: This article discusses a model for online child sexual exploitation (CSE). Using data from the FBI as well as from a cybercrime unit from the United Kingdom, this model shows how perpetrators use technology for online CSE.

Abstract: This paper deals with the difficult yet increasingly important Management Information Systems (MIS) phenomenon of online child sexual exploitation (online CSE). Through the use of secondary and publicly available data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as well as primary data from a cybercrime police unit in the United Kingdom, this study takes a grounded theory approach and organizes the role that technologies and social actors play in shaping online CSE. The paper contributes to IS theory by providing a consolidated model for online CSE, which we call the technology and imagery dimensions model. This model combines the staging of the phenomenon and the key dimensions that depict how the use of technology and imagery both fuels and defuses the phenomenon. In informing the construction of the model, the paper extracts, organizes, and generalizes the affordances of technology and discusses the role of information systems in detecting online CSE.



Recover

[Assets and Logic: Proposing an Evidenced-based Strategic Partnership Model for Anti-trafficking Response](#)

Preble, K. M., Nichols, A. & Owens, M. (2021). Assets and Logic: Proposing an Evidenced-based Strategic Partnership Model for Anti-trafficking Response. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 1-17. doi: 10.1080/23322705.2021.1899525

Authors: Preble, Kathleen M.; Nichols, Andrea; Owens, Megan

Publication Year: 2021

Summary: This article discusses collaborative community responses (CCR) to human trafficking. The article finds that CCR process allows for interdisciplinary teams to systematically plan a response using the identified assets in their community to achieve a common ultimate goal and improve the response to human trafficking

Abstract: Since knowledge about human trafficking has increased over the last 20 years, so have our understandings about interventions, survivor empowerment, and attention to intersectional forces that lead to trafficking vulnerability and exiting barriers experienced by survivors. An area lacking in such advancement, however, relates to collaborative community responses (CCRs), which have notably increased evidenced-based, effective responses in other public health and health equity responses. CCRs have been part of US-based antitrafficking efforts since the passage of the U.S. TVPA, but very little research has examined their effectiveness or how to standardize a unified collaborative effort in multidisciplinary antitrafficking teams around common goals. The proposed model utilizes health equity techniques to map existing community resources that could potentially respond to identified needs. Using logic models, the proposed process allows for interdisciplinary teams to systematically plan a response using the identified assets in their community to achieve a common ultimate goal and improve the response to human trafficking. Research, practice and policy implications are discussed.

[Helping survivors of human trafficking](#)

Alhajji, L., Padilla, V., Mavrides, N. & Potter, J. (2021). Helping survivors of human trafficking, *Current Psychiatry*, 20(2), 51-52. doi: 10.12788/cp.0093.

Authors: Alhajji, Lujain; Padilla, Vanessa; Mavrides, Nicole; Potter, JoNell

Publication Year: 2021

Summary: Health care in general has begun receiving more education on human trafficking. The authors call specifically for better education in mental health disciplines as crucial for identification of and appropriate responses to victimization.

Abstract: Human trafficking (HT) is a secretive, multibillion dollar criminal industry involving the use of coercion, threats, and fraud to force individuals to engage in labor or commercial sex acts. In 2017, the International Labour Organization estimated that 24.9 million people worldwide were victims of forced labor (i.e., working under threat or coercion). 1) Risk factors for individuals who are vulnerable to HT include recent migration, substance use, housing insecurity, runaway youth, and mental illness. Traffickers continue the cycle of HT through isolation and emotional, physical, financial, and verbal abuse. Survivors of HT may avoid seeking health care due to cultural reasons or feelings of guilt, isolation, distrust, or fear of criminal sanctions. There can be missed opportunities for victims to obtain help through health care services, law enforcement, child welfare services, or even family or friends. In a study of 173 survivors of HT in the United States, 68% of those who were currently trafficked visited with a health care professional at least once and were not identified as being trafficked. 2) Psychiatrists rarely receive education on HT, which can lead to missed opportunities for identifying victims.



Supporting Healing

[Treatment considerations for foreign-born victims of human trafficking: Practical applications of an ecological framework](#)

Salami', T., Gordon, M., Babu, J., Coverdale, J. & Nguyen, P.T. (2021). Treatment considerations for foreign-born victims of human trafficking: Practical applications of an ecological framework, *Transcultural Psychology*, 58(2), 293-306. doi: 10.1177/1363461520983950

Authors: Salami', Temilola; Gordon, Mollie; Babu, Jeeva; Coverdale, John; Nguyen, Phuong T.

Publication Year: 2021

Summary: This article discusses the treatment of foreign born victims of human trafficking. The article finds that to effectively meet the needs of foreign born survivors of human trafficking, caregivers must understand the care needing to be given at the individual, interpersonal, communal, and societal levels.

Abstract: Foreign-born individuals immigrating to or residing in the United States are especially vulnerable to exploitation by traffickers. Being trafficked elevates the risk for a variety of physical and mental health problems; thus, victims will often come into contact with health professionals. Because there is a dearth of literature concerning the treatment of human trafficking victims, and especially foreign-born victims, we set out to describe the practical applications of a model that we use for the mental health treatment of victimization in this population. As has been suggested by leaders in the anti-human trafficking community, we employed a culturally sensitive version of Bronfrenbrenner's Ecological Systems Model to provide recommendations and educational resources for treatment at the individual, interpersonal, community, and societal levels. Our recommendations should serve to inform and improve the provision of care for foreign-born victims of human trafficking.

[Exploring resilience through case studies of art therapy with sex trafficking survivors and their advocates](#)

Kometiani, M. K. & Farmer, K. W. (2020). Exploring resilience through case studies of art therapy with sex trafficking survivors and their advocates, *The Arts in Psychotherapy*, 67, 101582. doi: 10.1016/j.aip.2019.101582

Support Healing, continued

Authors: Kometiani, Mary K.; Farmer, Kathryn W.

Publication Year: 2020

Summary: This article discusses the use of art therapy in the recovery of survivors of human trafficking as well as for the advocates who help them. The article finds that art therapy offers freedom and choice and helps both survivors and advocates build strength and resilience, promotes self-confidence, and emotional release.

Abstract: Human trafficking results in tragedy, trauma, and devastation. Sex trafficking has become a universal dilemma demanding awareness, education, and restorative treatment for the survivors of its illegal and wide ranging crimes. Art therapy is an effective, engaging, and non-verbal treatment to provide healing support to sex trafficking survivors, and for the advocates who work with them. Art therapy facilitates emotional catharsis and empowerment, connection to others and strengthens concepts of the inner self to enhance resilience. Art therapy addresses trauma, and provides hope for the future. This article presents the application of art therapy to enhance resilience within a trauma-informed approach and provides recommendations for victim and advocate programming.

[A Scoping Review of Resilience in Survivors of Human Trafficking](#)

Knight, L., Xin, Y. & Mengo, C. (2021). A Scoping Review of Resilience in Survivors of Human Trafficking, *Trauma, Violence, and Abuse*, 1-15. doi: 10.1177/1524838020985561

Authors: Knight, Logan; Xin, Yitong; Mengo, Cecilia

Publication Year: 2021

Summary: This article examines research done on resilience relating to human trafficking survivors. Resilience for trafficking survivors was found to be similar to resilience to other types of victimization. Interpersonal relationships was identified as the most common resiliency factor. It also found that future research needs to focus on establishing a definition of resilience that is culturally and contextually relevant.

Abstract: Resilience is critical among survivors of trafficking as they are mostly vulnerable populations who face multiple adversities before, during, and after trafficking. However, resilience in survivors of trafficking is understudied. This scoping review aims to clarify the current state of knowledge, focusing on definitions of resilience, how resilience has been studied, and factors associated with resilience among survivors. Five databases were searched using key words related to trafficking and resilience. Studies were included if they were published in English between 2000 and 2019 and focused on resilience with the study design including at least one of these four features: (a) use of standardized measures of resilience, (b) qualitative descriptions of resilience, (c) participants were survivors or professionals serving survivors, and (d) data sources such as case files or program manuals directly pertained to survivors. Eighteen studies were identified. Findings indicated that resilience was primarily described as emergent from interactions between the survivor and the environment. Resilience in trafficking appeared largely similar to resilience in other kinds of victimization. Nonetheless, trafficking survivors also may display resilience in alternative ways such as refusing treatment. Positive interpersonal relationships were the most commonly mentioned resilience factor. In addition, current

research lacks studies featuring longitudinal designs, interventions, participatory methods, types of trafficking other than sexual trafficking, and demographic characteristics such as age, gender, and national origin. Future research needs to establish definitions and measures of resilience that are culturally and contextually relevant to survivors and build knowledge necessary for designing and evaluating resilience-enhancing interventions.

[The Outcomes for Human Trafficking Instrument: Validity and Reliability Testing](#)

Cutbush, S., Charm, S., Tueller, S., Krieger, K., & Gibbs, D. (2021). The Outcomes for Human Trafficking Instrument: Validity and Reliability Testing. *Journal Of Human Trafficking*, 1-12. doi: 10.1080/23322705.2021.1928860

Authors: Cutbush, Stacey; Charm, Samantha; Tueller, Stephen; Krieger, Kathleen; Gibbs, Deborah

Publication Year: 2021

Summary: This article discusses an instrument created to track outcomes of human trafficking survivors by looking at the changes in participants statuses in relevant categories. The study of the instrument found it reliably evaluated the work of case managers and program directors. The study also found the instrument created is easy to use.

Abstract: This study supports evidence-based services for victims of HT by developing and testing an outcome instrument designed to assess changes in HT program participant status on key outcome categories. Study methods included conducting an environmental scan; expert panels of service providers, survivors, and researchers; instrument scoring and cognitive interviews with HT service providers. Hypothetical case vignettes were then used to assess instrument reliability and concurrent validity – concurrent validity - first among program directors, then among case managers, and finally, comparing case managers to program directors. Average interrater reliability across items within outcome categories among program directors was excellent (ICC > 0.90) for most outcome categories, indicating consensus ratings could serve as a gold standard for assessing the performance of less seasoned HT service providers using the instrument. Case managers had mostly moderate (ICC > 0.50) to good (ICC > 0.75) average interrater reliability across items within outcome categories among themselves, and fair (> 0.40) to good (> 0.75) average agreement across items within outcome categories with the program directors. The resulting excel-based instrument is free; user-friendly; applicable to diverse settings; relevant to victims of sex and labor trafficking, whether domestic or foreign born, adults or minors; and supports data management, visualization, export, and analysis.

[The Importance of Maintaining Medical Professionalism While Experiencing Vicarious Trauma When Working With Human Trafficking Victims](#)

Ramirez, J., Gordon, M., Reissinger, M., Shah, A., Coverdale, J., & Nguyen, P. T. (2020). The Importance of Maintaining Medical Professionalism While Experiencing Vicarious Trauma When Working With Human Trafficking Victims. *Traumatology*. Advance online publication.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/trm0000248>

Support Healing, continued

Authors: Ramirez, Jennifer; Gordon, Mollie; Reissinger, Mary; Shah, Asim; Coverdale, John; Nguyen, Phuong T.

Publication Year: 2020

Summary: This article discusses how health care professionals can maintain their mental health while working with human trafficking victims. The effects of the vicarious trauma health care providers can experience should be addressed by organizations developing a professional culture, as well as the virtues of humility, integrity, compassion, and self-sacrifice.

Abstract: Providing health care services to human trafficking victims may negatively impact the psychological wellness and decision-making process of health care providers, especially mental health providers. This article highlights John Gregory's concept of medical professionalism and discusses how the fundamental virtues, integrity, compassion, self-sacrifice, and self-effacement can guide health care providers in managing their work with trafficked patients. Recommendations are provided to health care providers, and the leadership of their institutions, to develop and support a professional culture of prevention and intervention for health care providers who experience psychological adversities related to their work with victims of human trafficking.

[Still We Rise: Psychotherapy for African American Girls and Women Exiting Sex Trafficking](#)

Bryant-Davis, T. & Gobin, R. L. (2019) Still We Rise: Psychotherapy for African American Girls and Women Exiting Sex Trafficking, *Women & Therapy*, 42:3-4, 385-405, doi: 10.1080/02703149.2019.1622902

Authors: Bryant-Davis, Thema; Gobin, Robyn L.

Publication Year: 2019

Summary: This article discusses treatment recommendations for African-American girls and women who are exiting sex trafficking. Providers need to be trained to identify intersectional identity markers, services need to be trauma-focused and include arts and spirituality, as well as recognizing the systemic barriers which may prevent victims from exiting trafficking. The article also discusses including the recognition of cultural and individual strengths and using empowerment models that have survivor mentors and exposure to additional African-American female role models.

Abstract: Sex trafficking is the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purposes of sexual exploitation. Among those who are at greater risk for sex trafficking are women, girls, impoverished persons, runaways, homeless persons, persons who have prior trauma histories, and ethnically marginalized persons, including African Americans. The short- and long-term consequences of sex trafficking are physical, sexual, psychological, social, economic, and spiritual. There are a growing number of programs that have been created to facilitate the recovery process of sex trafficking survivors; however, limited scholarship has focused on the cultural context of recovery for U.S.-based survivors. Based on both a critical review of the literature and clinical intervention experience, the author will provide treatment recommendations for working with African American girls and women who are exiting sex trafficking. These treatment recommendations can be integrated into a range of treatment orientations and approaches. Overall, an integrative strengths-based, culturally congruent model is recommended, which

Support Healing, continued, and Bring Justice

integrates constructs from womanist (Black feminist) psychology. Limitations and policy recommendations are provided.



Bring Justice

Cracking Sex Trafficking: Data Analysis, Pattern Recognition, and Path Prediction

Keslin, B. B., Bott, G. J. & Freeman, N. K. (2020). Cracking Sex Trafficking: Data Analysis, Pattern Recognition, and Path Prediction, *Production and Operations Management*, 30(4), 1-26. doi: 10.1111/poms.13294

Authors: Keslin, Burcu B.; Bott, Gregory J.; Freeman, Nickolas K.

Publication Year: 2020

Summary: This article discusses a method created to help law enforcement track down individuals and organizations that post ads for sexual exploitation. This method was able to increase the amount of groups identified, as well as help law enforcement agencies track those involved.

Abstract: Human trafficking, the exploitation of humans for monetary gain or benefit, is a widespread humanitarian issue that is typically sub-classified into labor and sex trafficking. In the last decade, sex traffickers have used online classified advertisements to advertise sexual services. Although these advertisements are visible to the general public and law enforcement, the volume of ads, the frequency with which their posting locale changes, and the use of obfuscation tactics make it difficult for law enforcement agencies to react. Existing products for law enforcement focus on identifying, tracking, and correlating individual activity by performing deep searches for specific information against a database of historical posts. While this deep search capability is useful for investigating specific cases, it overlooks higher-level patterns that exist in ads. Using a website that has been linked to several sex trafficking-related arrests, we demonstrate a framework for harvesting, linking, and detecting these patterns in a dataset comprised of more than 10 million advertisements targeting U.S. cities. Our framework combines information systems and operations research concepts to identify groups of posts based on text, phone numbers, and pictures; determine circuits associated with post groups, and predict future movements using four different methods. Our description of the framework and comparison of the grouping and prediction methods provide insights that can assist law enforcement agencies to combat

individuals/organizations involved in illicit sexual activities, including sex trafficking, proactively. Also, this demonstration provides researchers interested in developing advanced interdiction models targeting illicit sexual activities with a clear picture regarding available data formats.

[Exposing patterns of adult solicitor behaviour: towards a theory of control within the cybersexual abuse of youth](#)

Barber, C. S. & Bettez, S. C. (2020). Exposing patterns of adult solicitor behaviour: towards a theory of control within the cybersexual abuse of youth, *European Journal of Information Systems*, 1-32. doi: 10.1080/0960085x.2020.1816146

Authors: Barber, Connie S; Bettez, Silvia C.

Publication Year: 2020

Summary: This article discusses research of patterns in online adult behavior to better track and identify different types of cyber sexual grooming. The research mapped the communications between the adult and the child to find out how adults perpetrate abuse through online forums.

Abstract: The online solicitation of youth has been established as an unintended consequence of the connectedness afforded individuals through computer-mediated conversation. Information systems research focused on the behavioural patterns of online solicitors of youth is scant and lacks a strong theoretical foundation. We address this gap through an evolved grounded theory analysis of 90 Perverted Justice transcripts to extract the behavioural patterns that emerge when online solicitors use instant messaging to enact behaviours of grooming, pre-dation, offending, and control. The aims of the research are: (1) delineate between grooming behaviour, predatory behaviour, and offending behaviour; (2) differentiate between passive and controlling solicitor language; (3) disentangle these behaviours from what the technology permits; (4) extend the current understanding of cybersexual abuse to show grooming as only one aspect of a phenomenon that also includes predation and offence; and (5) identify how these results are important for academics and software developers.

[Sex Trafficking Online Platforms and Federal Prosecutions](#)

United States Government Accountability Agency. (2021). *Sex Trafficking Online Platforms and Federal Prosecutions* (GAO-21-385). <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-21-385>

Authors: United States Government Accountability Agency

Publication Year: 2021

Summary: This article discusses the difficulties facing law enforcement when it comes to investigating and prosecuting online human trafficking cases. The article found that since 2018 only 3 cases have been brought against online traffickers, and they are all still pending. The one civil case that was brought against traffickers was dismissed by the judge.

Abstract: Two events in April 2018 disrupted the landscape of the online commercial sex market. First, federal authorities seized the largest online platform for buying and selling commercial sex, backpage.com. Second, the Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act of 2017 (FOSTA) was enacted. These events led many who controlled platforms in this market to relocate their platforms overseas. Additionally, with backpage.com no longer in the market, buyers and sellers moved to other online platforms, and the market became fragmented. From 2014 through 2020, the Department of Justice (DOJ) brought at least 11 criminal cases against those who control platforms in this market, including three cases against those who control backpage.com, as shown below. The current landscape of the online commercial sex market heightens already existing challenges law enforcement face in gathering tips and evidence. Specifically, gathering tips and evidence to investigate and prosecute those who control or use online platforms has become more difficult due to the relocation of platforms overseas, platforms' use of complex payment systems, and the increased use of social media platforms.

