



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

[Adapting a family intervention to reduce risk factors for sexual exploitation](#)

Bounds, *et.al.* *Child Adolescent Psychiatry Mental Health* (2020) 14:8. DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.1186/s13034-020-00314-w>

Authors: Dawn T. Bounds, Caitlin H. Otwell, Adrian Melendez, Niranjan S. Karnik, Wrenetha A. Julion

Publication Year: 2020

Summary: This study examines the efficacy of evidence-based interventions to protect at risk youth populations vulnerable to sexual exploitation or further victimization. The study finds the success of programs like “STRIVE” to effectively engage and deliver the support that at risk youth populations need requires strengths-based, individualized, multi-systemic approaches to reduce risk factors for sexual exploitation.

Abstract: Background: Sexually exploited youth are disconnected from societal tethers and need support systems, which makes them some of the most vulnerable of youth. This heightened level of vulnerability increases their risk for violence, abuse, ongoing sexual exploitation and all its sequelae. The purpose of this study was to examine an evidence-based intervention called STRIVE (support to reunite, involve and value each other) that has been a successful family re-engagement strategy with newly homeless youth. We sought to explore its contextual relevance for youth with risk factors for sexual exploitation and identify necessary adaptations to reduce risk factors for sexual exploitation. We deliberately took an intersectional approach in conducting this study.

Methods: Six community-based focus groups were conducted with youth at risk for sexual exploitation and their service providers. Each group was recorded, transcribed, coded, and thematically analyzed.

Results: Results from 29 youth and 11 providers indicate that there are unique considerations that must be taken into account while working with youth at risk for sexual exploitation to ensure effective service delivery and/or ethical research. Emergent themes included: *setting the stage* by building rapport and acknowledging experiences of structural violence, *protect and hold* which balances youth’s need for advocacy/support with their caregivers’ need for validation/understanding, and *walking the safety tightrope* by assessing risks and safety planning.

Protect, continued

Discussion: Focus groups are an effective methodology when working with traditionally disempowered populations particularly in gaining a range of perspectives to meet unique needs/preferences. Youth at risk for commercial sexual exploitation needs require strengths-based, individualized, multi-systemic approaches.

[White Paper: Recognizing Child Trafficking as a Critical Emerging Health Threat](#)

Peck, J. *et.al.* *Journal of Pediatric Health Care* (2020) DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pedhc.2020.01.005>

Authors: Jessica L. Peck, Mikki Meadows-Oliver, Stacia M. Hays, Dawn Garzon Maaks

Publication Year: 2020

Summary: This article provides information for pediatric healthcare providers (HCPs) in a clinical setting a framework to establish an evidence-based, trauma-focused, and culturally responsive approach to trafficked and those at-risk of being trafficked. HCPs have a unique position to intervene on behalf of trafficked and at-risk youth. The authors conclude HCPs need the right tools to address the special needs of child trafficking survivors.

Abstract: Human trafficking is a pandemic human rights violation with an emerging paradigm shift that reframes an issue traditionally seen through a criminal justice lens to that of a public health crisis, particularly for children. Children and adolescents who are trafficked or are at risk for trafficking should receive evidence-based, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive care from trained health care providers (HCPs). The purpose of this article was to engage and equip pediatric HCPs to respond effectively to human trafficking in the clinical setting, improving health outcomes for affected and at-risk children. Pediatric HCPs are ideally positioned to intervene and advocate for children with health disparities and vulnerability to trafficking in a broad spectrum of care settings and to optimize equitable health outcomes.

[Medical-Legal Collaboration and Community Partnerships: Prioritizing Prevention of Human Trafficking in Federally Qualified Health Centers](#)

Chang K. *et.al.* *Georgia State University Law Review*, Vol. 36, Issue 4, Article 8

Authors: Kimberly S.G. Chang, Hamida Yusufzai, Anna Marjavi

Publication Year: Summer 2020

Summary: This article discusses the importance of and need for greater legal-medical collaboration in the design, implementation, and delivery of human trafficking (HT) interventions based on the public health approach to prevent human trafficking. The study finds anti-trafficking stakeholders partnered with the medical and legal communities improve their HT prevention efforts, foster greater public awareness, and garner community support toward the elimination of human trafficking.

Abstract: Human trafficking (HT) is increasingly recognized as a public health issue, and its severe consequences affect some of society's most vulnerable members. Prioritizing prevention is a critical component of a public health framework when addressing HT, and the health care delivery system plays a

crucial role in operationalizing primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention interventions. As a significant part of the primary care system in the U.S., Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) are uniquely positioned to be the first point of contact with the health care system for people at risk for and affected by HT. FQHCs provide many preventive services, health education programs, and community outreach initiatives; therefore, FQHCs have a great reach into the populations at risk of and affected by HT. Furthermore, FQHCs recognize the importance of leveraging legal expertise and services to address their communities' health-related social needs. There are many models for medical legal collaboration, including formal co-located medical–legal partnerships, as well as broader, community-based relationships. This Article will discuss types of medical–legal efforts and highlight individual patient and organizational case studies from Banteay Srei (a youth development program for Southeast Asian young women and girls at risk of commercial sexual exploitation, a program of Asian Health Services (AHS), an FQHC in Oakland, California). Finally, there will be a discussion about the intersection of HT with intimate partner violence (IPV) played an important role in prevention efforts, with an organizational case study from Futures Without Violence, a national nonprofit providing training, technical assistance, and policy advocacy across the country for violence prevention. (IPV), and how community partnerships and legal partnerships have played an important role in prevention efforts, with an organizational case study from Futures Without Violence, a national nonprofit providing training, technical assistance, and policy advocacy across the country for violence prevention.

[Digital poly-victimization: The increasing importance of online crime and harassment to the burden of victimization](#)

Hamby,S, et. al. (2018) *Journal of Trauma & Dissociation*, 19:3, 382-398,
DOI:10.1080/15299732.2018.1441357

Authors: Sherry Hamby, PhD, Zach Blount, BS, Alli Smith, BA, Lisa Jones, PhD, Kimberly Mitchell, PhD, and Elizabeth Taylor, MS

Publication Year: 2018

Summary: This study evaluates technology-based forms of victimization, e.g. “cyberbullying,” “sexting,” “phishing,” and the burden digital crimes impose on the welfare of individuals, families, and society. The study finds that digital victimization experiences often co-occur with other forms of victimization.

Abstract: Many forms of victimization, including bullying and property crime, are increasingly moving online, but most studies of poly-victimization still primarily focus on in-person crime and violence. Few studies have examined the importance of incorporating technology-based victimizations for assessing the true burden of violence. The purpose of this study is to explore whether digital poly-victimization contributes to post-traumatic stress and anxiety/dysphoria symptoms after controlling for in-person poly-victimization. Given that technology use and technology-based victimization are changing rapidly, a mixed methods approach was adopted. In the first two phases, focus groups and cognitive interviews (89 total participants) were used to identify the range of digital victimization and develop the Digital Poly-Victimization Scale. In the third phase, the new measure was included in a community survey (n = 478, 57.5% female; 62.6% earning under \$50,000 per year) in a rural Southern region, along with measures of

Protect, continued

in-person poly-victimization, posttraumatic stress and anxiety/dysphoria symptoms, and other outcomes and personal characteristics. A comprehensive measure of digital poly-victimization indicated that almost 3 in 4 participants (72.3%) had experienced at least one form of digital victimization. The results indicated that digital poly-victimization contributed unique variance to post-traumatic stress and anxiety/dysphoria symptoms ($p < .001$), health-related quality of life ($p < .01$), and subjective and family well-being (both $p < .001$), even after controlling for demographics and in-person poly-victimization. Digital victimization often presents fewer risks to perpetrators and can be expected to represent an increasing share of the societal burden of violence. Future research on poly-victimization should pay more attention to the role of digital victimization.

[The Public Health Approach to Human Trafficking Prevention](#)

Greenbaum, V. *Georgia State University Law Review* Vol. 36, Iss. 4, Summer 2020

Authors: Jordan Greenbaum

Publication Year: 2020

Summary: This study posits the best prevention strategy for human trafficking is an evidence-based, public health approach built from high-quality, rigorous, peer-reviewed scientific research. The recommendations direct attention and resources to the professional communities that interact most with at-risk communities, trafficking victims, and survivors. The study strongly recommends that changes in legislation, public policy, and professional standards are needed to support a public health approach to human trafficking prevention.

Abstract: Besides its profound impact on the health of individuals, human trafficking impacts the health and well-being of families and communities. Serious injury to one person may lead to unemployment, hunger, and deprivation within the family. Chronic severe stress during trafficking may lead to self-medication in the form of alcohol or drugs that may have negative impacts on a fetus. Community ostracism related to stigma may alienate entire families, causing severe emotional distress and even forcing migration. Sexually transmitted infections may spread within populations, as can tuberculosis and other infectious diseases. This widespread impact of human trafficking on the health and well-being of populations calls for a public health approach to prevention. Such an approach involves organized, multidisciplinary strategies that aim to impact entire populations. It entails efforts to (1) define a given problem through systematic surveillance, (2) determine underlying vulnerability and protective factors through rigorous scientific research, (3) design, implement, evaluate, and revise prevention strategies, and (4) work to scale-up successful programs and ensure widespread implementation.

Recognize



Recognize

Understanding Risk and Prevention in Midwestern Antitrafficking Efforts: Service Providers' Perspectives

Hannah E. Britton Ph.D., Understanding Risk and Prevention in Midwestern Antitrafficking Efforts: Service Providers' Perspectives, 36 GA. ST. U. L. REV. 1105 (2020). Available at: <https://readingroom.law.gsu.edu/gsulr/vol36/iss4/9>

Authors: Hannah E. Britton

Publication Year: 2020

Summary: This study of service providers proposes the need for geographically-focused human trafficking research to understand the risk factors unique to regional populations. The study finds place and location matter in anti-trafficking efforts and the availability of and access to resources across rural and urban areas is also significant for prevention.

Abstract: Since the 2000 passage of both the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) 1. and the U.N.'s Palermo Protocols 2. human trafficking has gained a notable global presence as a human rights concern. Community organizations, nonprofits, scholars, policymakers, and service providers have developed programs to identify and address human trafficking. Despite these efforts, finding reliable methods to document and quantify the instances of human trafficking continues to challenge researchers. Moreover, many believe trafficking is a problem primarily located in urban areas or along national borders. Drawing from seven years of interviews with service providers who work in this sector, combined with survey results from an additional 722 service providers, this project adds to the growing body of research on human trafficking, specifically in the Midwestern United States. The findings of this study indicate that place and location matter in anti-trafficking, especially with regard to availability of and access to resources across urban and rural areas. However, these service providers also identify similar concerns across regions with regards to trafficking warning signs and risk factors—for both sex and labor trafficking—as well as community resources that could prevent trafficking or alleviate vulnerability. These findings point toward the benefit of research that is geographically focused and involves both qualitative and quantitative research.

Recognize, continued

[Identifying Sexual and Labor Exploitation among Sheltered Youth Experiencing Homelessness: A Comparison of Screening Methods](#)

Mostajabian, S.; Santa Maria, D.; Wiemann, C.; Newlin, E.; Bocchini, C. Identifying Sexual and Labor Exploitation among Sheltered Youth Experiencing Homelessness: A Comparison of Screening Methods. *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* 2019, 16, 363.

Authors: Salina Mostajabian, Diane Santa Maria, Constance Wiemann, Elizabeth Newlin, Claire Bocchini

Publication Year: 2019

Summary: This study considers the issue of human trafficking among adolescent youth and young adults who are experiencing unstable housing or homelessness. The study demonstrates that healthcare providers that utilize screening tools which specifically assess risk factors associated with trafficking during routine visits will greatly improve identifying those at risk of trafficking and victims of trafficking more than the conventional assessment tools in place today.

Abstract: Human trafficking is a significant and growing public health concern. Subgroups of adolescents and young adults are particularly vulnerable to human trafficking, especially youth who are unstably housed or homeless. While youth experiencing trafficking come into contact with the healthcare system, they are often not identified during routine assessment due to lack of specific inquiry and low disclosure. Therefore, we utilized a mixed-methods study design to assess the differences in the identification of human trafficking among youth experiencing homelessness (n = 129) between a standard psychosocial assessment tool and a human trafficking specific assessment tool. Findings indicate that the tool developed to specifically assess for human trafficking was more likely to identify youth experiencing sexual and labor exploitation, as well as the risk factors for human trafficking. Secondly, youth reported that mistrust of the system, fear of involving the police if reported, not wanting to interact with the mental healthcare system, and stigma are barriers to disclosing human trafficking. In conclusion, healthcare providers caring for youth experiencing homelessness should adopt improved screening tools for human trafficking to reduce the risk of missed opportunities for prevention and treatment among this high-risk population of youth.

[Enhancing the Identification of Commercial Sexual Exploitation Among a Population of High-Risk Youths Using Predictive Regularization Models](#)

de Vries I, Kafafian M, Goggin K, Bouchard E, Goldfarb S, Farrell A. Enhancing the Identification of Commercial Sexual Exploitation Among a Population of High-Risk Youths Using Predictive Regularization Models. *Child Maltreatment*. 2020;25(3):318-327.
doi:10.1177/1077559519889178

Authors: Ieke de Vries , Matthew Kafafian, Kelly Goggin, Elizabeth Bouchard, Susan Goldfarb, Amy Farrell

Publication Year: 2019

Summary: This study evaluates the efficacy of specific approaches used to identify the key risk factors associated with child sexual exploitation (CSE). The authors recommend further research to determine what other data-driven areas in antitrafficking initiatives would provide more precise predictions.

Abstract: Despite an increasing awareness about the existence and harms of commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC), the identification of victims remains a challenge for practitioners, hindering their ability to provide appropriate services. Tools that gauge risk of CSEC support the identification of victims but are underdeveloped because most tools assess risk of CSEC within a general youth population. An understanding of what predicts actual CSEC victimizations among youths at higher risk of CSEC due to experiences of childhood adversities has been left unassessed. Research in this area is limited in part because traditional methods do not allow for an assessment of the unique impact of childhood adversities that tend to co-occur. To address these difficulties, the current study applied predictive regularization methods to identify the most decisive risk items for CSEC. Proximal risk of CSEC was assessed among 317 youths who were referred to a specialized program in the Northeast of the United States due to suspicion of CSEC. With an innovative methodological approach, this study seeks to prompt other scholars to examine risk utilizing novel techniques and provides a foundation for the development of concise tools that assess risk of CSEC among populations of youths at higher levels of risk.

[Evaluation of a Tool to Identify Child Sex Trafficking Victims in Multiple Healthcare Settings](#)

Greenbaum VJ, et al. Evaluation of a Tool to Identify Child Sex Trafficking Victims in Multiple Healthcare Settings. *J Adolescent Health*. 2018;63(6):745-752.
doi:10.1016/j.jadohealth.2018.06.032

Authors: Jordan Greenbaum, Michelle S. Livings, Betty S. Lai, Laurel Edinburgh, Peggy Baikie, Sophia R. Grant, Jamie Kondis, Hillary W. Petska, Mary Jo Bowman, Lori Legano, Oriaku Kas-Osoka, Shannon Self-Brown

Publication Year: 2018 DOI: 10.1016/j.jadohealth.2018.06.032

Summary: This study evaluates an assessment tool used by medical professionals, child advocacy groups, and teen clinics to identify children at risk of or are victims of child sex trafficking. The study results imply assessment tools tailored to identify risk factors associated with child sex trafficking (CST) are effective in the identification of CST victimization.

Abstract: Purpose: Estimate the prevalence of child sex trafficking (CST) among patients seeking care in multiple healthcare settings; evaluate a short screening tool to identify victims in a healthcare setting. Methods: This cross-sectional observational study involved patients from 16 sites throughout the U.S.: five pediatric emergency departments, six child advocacy centers, and five teen clinics. Participants included English-speaking youth ages 11 – 17 years. For emergency department sites, inclusion criteria included a chief complaint of sexual violence. Data on several domains were gathered through self-report questionnaires and examiner interview. Main outcomes included prevalence of CST among eligible youth; sensitivity, specificity, positive/negative predictive values, and positive/negative likelihood ratios for a CST screening tool. Results: Eight hundred and ten participants included 91 (11.52%) youth from emergency departments, 395 (48.8%) from child advocacy centers, and 324 (40.0%) from teen clinics.

Recognize, continued

Overall prevalence of CST was 11.1%: 13.2% among emergency department patients, 6.3% among child advocacy center patients, and 16.4% among teen clinic patients, respectively. The screen had a sensitivity, specificity, and positive likelihood ratio of 84.44% (75.28, 91.23), 57.50% (53.80, 61.11), and 1.99% (1.76, 2.25), respectively. Conclusions: This study demonstrates a significant rate of CST among patients presenting to emergency departments (for sexual violence complaints), child advocacy centers, and teen clinics. A six-item screen showed relatively good sensitivity and moderate specificity. Negative predictive value was high.

[A Public Health Approach to Global Child Sex Trafficking](#)

Greenbaum, VJ, “A Public Health Approach to Global Child Sex Trafficking” Annual Review of Public Health 2020 41:1, 481-497

Authors: Jordan Greenbaum

Publication Year: 2020

Summary: This article uses the public health approach to address human trafficking, with a focus on child sex trafficking and exploitation. Recommendations are made for public health professionals to contribute to anti-trafficking efforts globally.

Abstract: Human trafficking and child sex trafficking and sexual exploitation in particular are global public health issues with widespread, lasting impacts on children, families, and communities. Traditionally, human trafficking has been treated as a law enforcement problem with an emphasis on the arrest and prosecution of traffickers. However, use of a public health approach focuses efforts on those impacted by exploitation: trafficked persons, their families, and the population at large. It promotes strategies to build a solid scientific evidence base that allows development, implementation, and evaluation of prevention and intervention efforts, informs policy and program development, and guides international efforts at eradication. This article uses the public health approach to address human trafficking, with a focus on child sex trafficking and exploitation. Recommendations are made for public health professionals to contribute to anti-trafficking efforts globally.



[*After Rescue: Evaluation of Strategies to Stabilize and Integrate Adult Survivors of Human Trafficking*](#)

Gozdziak, E., B. Lindsay Lowell “After Rescue: Evaluation of Strategies to Stabilize and Integrate Adult Survivors of Human Trafficking to the United States” NIJ Document No.: 249672, April 2016, Award Number: 2012-IJ-CX-0026

Authors: Elżbieta M. Goździak, B. Lindsay Lowell

Publication year: 2016

Summary: This study examines the efficacy of survivor stabilization programs for adult, foreign-born human trafficking survivors in the United States. The authors describe the organizational model and methodology that provides the best outcome for the client under given constraints.

Abstract: Human trafficking for forced labor, domestic servitude, and sexual exploitation is a transnational crime whose victims include men, women, and children. In the United States, trafficking in persons became a focus of activities in the late 1990s and culminated in the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), which was signed into law in 2000. Despite the increased interest in human trafficking, there is little systematic and methodologically rigorous empirical research. Notably absent are studies of adult foreign-born trafficked victims who are identified and, as survivors, provided services to facilitate their reintegration into the wider society.

This project examines comprehensive case management services provided to foreign-born adults survivors of trafficking from 2006 to 2011. These programs were funded by the Anti-Trafficking in Persons (ATIP) Program of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) under the Per Capita Reimbursement Contract administered by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). The USCCB was also in charge of providing training and technical assistance to the programs serving survivors of human trafficking. This report provides a summary of the analysis of data collected by USCCB and augmented by field research with selected number of programs. The objective of this mixed-methods study was to better understand the characteristics of trafficking survivors and the efficacy of interventions in stabilizing their well-being

Recover, continued

[*Predicting the Effects of Sexual Assault Research Participation: Reactions, Perceived Insight, and Help-Seeking*](#)

Kirkner, A., Relyea, M., & Ullman, SE. (2016). Predicting the effects of sexual assault research participation: Reactions, perceived insight, and help-seeking. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, Advance Online Publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260516670882>

Authors: Anne Kirkner, Mark Relyea, Sarah E. Ullman

Publication Year: 2019

Summary: This study examined effects of participating in survey research for women sexual assault survivors with other trauma histories to understand the role of study participation on perceived insight and long-term help-seeking behaviors. The study finds participating in sexual assault research may help survivors gain greater insight into their recovery, which can lead them to seek out more resources for their ongoing trauma-related problems.

Abstract: This study examined effects of participating in survey research for women sexual assault survivors with other trauma histories to understand the role of study participation on perceived insight and long-term help-seeking behaviors. A diverse sample of 1,863 women from a large Midwestern city participated in a 3-year study on women's experiences with sexual assault. Regression analyses were conducted to (a) examine predictors of immediate positive and negative reactions to survey participation and (b) assess the impact of the survey on perceived insight and women's long-term help-seeking behavior. Overall, most women in the study had a higher positive than negative reaction to the survey (92%), with a significant proportion indicating they sought additional services as a result of participation (55%). Women with child sexual abuse (CSA), more emotion dysregulation, and more characterological self-blame had more negative reactions to the survey, whereas those with more education and individual adaptive coping had more positive reactions. Women who said they gained insight from answering survey questions were most likely to seek additional help. This study extends the literature by examining cumulative trauma and post assault symptoms in relation to the effects of survey participation. This is also the first study of women sexual assault survivors to find a relationship between gaining perceived insight from research and subsequent help-seeking. Participating in sexual assault research may help survivors gain greater insight into their recovery, which can lead them to seek out more resources for their ongoing trauma-related problems.

[*Uncovering the "Hidden Crime" of Human Trafficking by Empowering Individuals to Respond*](#)

Laura Shoop, *Uncovering the "Hidden Crime" of Human Trafficking by Empowering Individuals to Respond*, 36 Ga. St. U. L. Rev. 1173 (2020).

Authors: Laura Shoop

Publication Year: 2020

Summary: This article examines current state law promoting awareness of human trafficking and bystander intervention to determine what actions lawmakers should take, if any, to better empower the

Recover, continued, and Support Healing

public participate in identification and prevention activities that could enhance anti-trafficking efforts, survivor recovery, and their social welfare.

Abstract: This Note will examine current state law promoting awareness of human trafficking and identification of trafficking survivors in the United States and make recommendations as to what further measures, if any, state legislators should take to increase awareness, identification, and reporting of human trafficking. Part I explains the history and development of human trafficking legislation at the federal and state levels. Part II analyzes the methods that states currently use to promote public awareness and identification. Part III discusses a proposal for amending current state law to better encourage and facilitate awareness of human trafficking and the identification and reporting of trafficking survivors.



Support Healing

[From Victimization to Restoration: Multi-Disciplinary Collaborative Approaches to Care and Support Victims and Survivors of Human Trafficking](#)

Richie-Zavaleta, AC., Sarah Baranik, Stephanie Mersch, Janna Ataiants & Shea M. Rhodes (2020) From Victimization to Restoration: Multi-Disciplinary Collaborative Approaches to Care and Support Victims and Survivors of Human Trafficking, *Journal of Human Trafficking*, DOI: 10.1080/23322705.2020.1730132

Authors: Arduizur Carli Richie-Zavaleta, Sarah Baranik, Stephanie Mersch, Janna Ataiants, Shea M. Rhodes

Publication Year: 2020

Summary: This study analyzes the collaboration of medicine, public health, law, and human rights fields as an optimal model for the care and support victims and survivors of human trafficking. It also provides the historical progression of federal and state human-trafficking laws and recommendations to ensure the protection of human rights of HT victims and concludes with key recommendations for health care professionals, lawmakers, and relevant others.

Abstract: In 2000, the United States (U.S.) enacted the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, a law that defined Human Trafficking (HT). Between 2000 and 2019, every state has enacted laws criminalizing HT. In 2015, the U.S. government encouraged health-care providers to gain awareness of this issue and utilize identification protocols to screen and assist HT patient-victims. Although HT became part of the health-care discourse, few states have enacted laws requiring training for health-care providers or

Support Healing, continued

protocols for the identification of patient-victims. Thus, HT victims continue to go unidentified or under-screened in medical settings. The health outcomes of HT victims continue to be negatively impacted long after being trafficked; hence, intervention is crucial and requires a multidisciplinary response. This analysis proposes the collaboration of medicine, public health, law, and human rights fields as an optimal model. It also provides the historical progression of federal and state human-trafficking laws and recommendations to ensure the protection of human rights of HT victims. Key recommendations include: (a) mandating continuous training of health-care providers for the identification of HT patient-victims, (b) mirroring federal laws at the state level to ensure the protection of HT victims' human rights, and (c) collaboration across noted fields.

[Toward Trauma-Informed Professional Practices: What Legal Advocates and Journalists Can Learn from Each Other and Survivors of Human Trafficking](#)

Foot, K “Toward Trauma-Informed Professional Practices: What Legal Advocates and Journalists Can Learn from Each Other and Survivors of Human Trafficking”, 36 Ga. St. U. L. Rev. 1129 (2020).

Authors: Kirsten Foot

Publication Year: 2020

Summary: This study illustrates the importance of trauma-informed best practices for lawyers and journalists to prevent re-traumatizing survivors of human trafficking as interact with and represent the voice of survivors in their respective professions. The study offers insight into the relationship these professionals have with survivors and how trauma-informed practices benefit both professions and the survivors.

Abstract: Developments in the fields of law and journalism during the last two decades have led to greater awareness of the need for trauma-informed practices vis-à-vis survivors of violence, and correspondingly, the emergence of pedagogical resources for legal advocates and journalists. Due to traditional disciplinary silos, extant resources on trauma-informed practices in each field have been authored in relative isolation from each other, i.e., guides for legal advocates have been blind to guides for journalists and vice versa. This Article demonstrates that despite the obvious differences between lawyering and journalism, professionals in these two fields share some of the same aims as they interact with survivors of human trafficking in the course of their work, beginning with the shared aims of fact-finding and truth-telling. They also take on the role of representing the experience and perspective of survivors to others, albeit in distinct arenas. Because of those common aims and roles, this Article contends that lawyers and journalists also face similar challenges and risks—to themselves and to the survivors with whom they interact and represent—as they attempt to be trauma-informed in their work. Relatedly, many survivors of human trafficking have reported being re-traumatized by their interactions with both lawyers and journalists. Drawing on multiple genres of publications and firsthand accounts, this Article interleaves insights from extant resources on trauma-informed practices from the fields of legal advocacy, prosecution, and journalism—and from survivors themselves—in order to articulate foundational practices that have potential to be beneficial to both professions, and to survivors.

Support Healing, continued

[Examination of Coalition Sustainability Factors in Texas Human Trafficking Coalitions Through the Lens of the Community Coalition Action Theory](#)

Stonehouse, B., "Examination of Coalition Sustainability Factors in Texas Human Trafficking Coalitions Through the Lens of the Community Coalition Action Theory" (2019). Digital Commons ACU, Electronic Theses and Dissertations. Paper 129.

Authors: Bryn Stonehouse

Publication Year: 2019

Summary: This study employed the Coalition Effectiveness Inventory with 17 Texas-based human trafficking coalitions. The study estimates a coalition's effectiveness through a theoretical model that evaluates the sustainability factors community coalitions need to be effective.

Abstract: The state of Texas ranks number two in the nation for the highest volume of human trafficking, at an estimated 313,000 victims in the state. As awareness of this issue in both Texas and the United States increases, efforts to educate communities, advocate for new policies, and provide services to survivors are on the rise. One strategy utilized by organizations, agencies, and individuals across Texas serving survivors of human trafficking is the use of coalitions. Limited research addresses coalition sustainability within the context of issues outside healthcare initiatives facing communities, including human trafficking. Due to the limited research surrounding community coalitions and their sustainability, this research study aims to examine coalition sustainability factors in Texas human trafficking coalitions through the lens of the Community Coalition Action Theory. The present study is a cross-sectional, exploratory study of coalition sustainability in Texas based human trafficking coalitions. The Coalition Effectiveness Inventory is a diagnostic tool emailed to the points of contact for the 17 human trafficking coalitions in Texas to evaluate coalition effectiveness. Descriptive statistics for each of the five coalition sustainability factors (lead agency effectiveness, staff and leadership effectiveness, membership engagement effectiveness, formalized coalition structures, and formalized coalition sustainability) were utilized to develop composite scores. Utilizing single and multiple linear regressions, four factors were statistically significant when the other factors were not taken into account. While significant limitations are present within this study, particularly the small sample size, implications for Texas based human trafficking coalitions were provided to address areas in need of improvement to increase overall sustainability.

[Human Trafficking of Children: Nurse Practitioner Knowledge, Beliefs, and Experience Supporting the Development of a Practice Guideline: Part Two](#)

Peck JL, Meadows-Oliver M. Human Trafficking of Children: Nurse Practitioner Knowledge, Beliefs, and Experience Supporting the Development of a Practice Guideline: Part One. J Pediatr Health Care. 2019;33(5):603-611. doi:10.1016/j.pedhc.2019.05.006

Authors: Jessica L. Peck and Mikki Meadows-Oliver

Publication Year: 2020

Support Healing, continued, and Bring Justice

Summary: This study is part of a series investigating child trafficking and the identification and intervention efforts of pediatric health care providers. The author concludes there is a need to develop practice guidelines for pediatric clinicians to facilitate an effective clinical response to child trafficking focused on prevention and intervention.

Abstract: Introduction: Part 1 of this series addressed low levels of awareness about child trafficking among pediatric health care providers, supporting the need for clinical practice guidelines to aid evidence-based response to potential victims in the clinical setting. The purpose of this article was to explore evidence related to effective clinical response when encountering at-risk children or those who have experienced trafficking and make recommendations for a practice guideline. Method: An integrated review of the literature included electronic data search of PubMed, Ovid, and CINAHL and application of the social ecological model for thematic analysis. Results: Research is primarily inconclusive on the effective clinical response for victims and potential victims of child trafficking, indicating the need for practice guidelines directed at both prevention and intervention. Discussion: This review supports pediatric clinicians as ideally equipped and situated to intervene in a myriad of care settings on behalf of children with health disparities who are vulnerable to trafficking, advocating for prevention, and optimization of equitable health outcomes.



Bring Justice

Conducting and Defending a Pandemic-Era Forensic Interview

Vieth, V., et.al., “Conducting and Defending a Pandemic-Era Forensic Interview,” National District Attorneys Association (NDAA), 2020.

Authors: Victor Vieth, Rita Farrell, Rachel Johnson, Robert Peters

Publication Year: 2020

Summary: This manuscript was published by National District Attorneys Association (NDAA) to provide general guidance for prosecutors and other multi-disciplinary team members on conducting forensic interviews in child abuse cases during the COVID-19 pandemic. The guidelines detailed in the manuscript serve to establish best practices for conducting pandemic-era forensic interviews and for defending them when defense attorneys seek to have them excluded from the evidence in a child abuse case.

Abstract: As the COVID-19 pandemic produces quarantines, school closures, and limited interactions between children and mandated reporters, prosecutors and other members of a multi-disciplinary team (MDT) will likely be confronted with two challenges. First, there will likely be an increase in child abuse cases. Second, adjustments to forensic interviews will eventually result in defense attorneys and defense experts challenging the method in which the forensic interview was conducted. Given these challenges, prosecutors should be proactive in advising the MDT to take steps in conducting pandemic-era forensic interviews in a manner that will help the prosecutor to defend the practice should the interview be challenged in court either in an effort to exclude the interview from evidence as being unreliable or simply as a new avenue to cross-examining the interviewer or the child victim. The National Children's Alliance (NCA) has produced helpful guidance on conducting forensic interviews during a pandemic and these guidelines are regularly being updated. This article should be read and interpreted in conjunction with the NCA guidelines.

