



Human Trafficking Warning Signs for Health & Dental Care Professionals

Victims of human trafficking may look like many people you help. IDENTIFY AND REPORT suspected victims.

Checklist of Classic Presentations Found in Trafficking Victims:

(Not all victims present any/all symptoms)

- Patient prevented from or limited in providing his/her medical history
- Delayed Medical Care
- Bruises in various stages of healing caused by physical abuse
- Scars, mutilations, or infections due to improper medical care
- Urinary difficulties, pelvic pain, pregnancy, or rectal trauma caused from working in sex industry
- Chronic back, hearing, cardiovascular, or respiratory problems as a result of forced manual labor in unsafe conditions
- Poor eyesight and/or eye problems due to dimly-lit worksites
- Malnourishment and/or serious dental problems
- Tattoos on very young children or on the inner lips, neck or lower back that individual is reluctant to explain, especially with a barcode or words like "Daddy" or the name of a man
- Headaches/fatigue/high blood pressure
- Disorientation, confusion, phobias, or panic attacks caused by daily mental abuse, torture, and culture shock
- Avoids eye contact
- Age of the individual has been verified to be under 18 and the individual has a record of prior arrest(s) for prostitution
- Multiple or frequent sexually transmitted infections (STIs), especially evidence of a lack of treatment for STIs
- Multiple or frequent pregnancies

IMPORTANT!

Any child 17 & under engaged in commercial sex is a trafficked victim regardless of force, fraud, or coercion



RED FLAG INDICATORS

- Black Eyes
- Burns
- Broken Teeth
- Cuts
- Broken Bones

Trauma Indicators:

- Unusual reactions to gynecological or breast exam (*appearing fearful, screaming, sobbing, tensing up as if expecting intense pain, hyperventilating, fainting, going totally limp*)
- Unusual reactions to disrobing in doctor's office (*trembling, sweating, stomach upset*)
- Sexualized behavior or seductiveness, particularly in a child (*seeking inappropriate proximity to nurse or doctor*)
- Flinching or jerking away from contact
- Lack of responsiveness (*appearing checked out as if in another place, not responding to verbal prompts or name*)
- Confused, having difficulty paying attention

LONG TERM EFFECTS INCLUDE:

- Difficulty establishing/maintaining healthy relationships
 - PTSD
 - Trauma bonding
 - Severe depression
 - Suicidal Ideation
 - Muscle Tension
 - Sexual dysfunction



OTHER:

- Claims of just visiting /inability to clarify where he/she is staying
- Lack of knowledge of whereabouts and/or does not know what city he/she is in
- Loss of sense of time
- Has numerous inconsistencies in his/her story
- Has few or no personal possessions
- Is not in control of his/her own money, no financial records, or bank account
- Is not in control of his/her own ID or passport
- Is not allowed or able to speak for themselves (a third party may insist on being present and/or translating)

If you see something, please say something: 1-888-3737-888 or Text BE FREE to 233733

dhs.gov/bluecampaign | polarisproject.org | humantrafficking.msu.edu

Compiled by SW Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force  Like us on Facebook!