

# Trafficked Persons: Rappport vs Reporting

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I have no disclosures.



# Human Trafficking

- ▶ The Nature of the Problem
  - ▶ Definition
  - ▶ Scope
  - ▶ Venues
- ▶ Victims vs. Criminals
  - ▶ Signs & Vulnerabilities
  - ▶ Victim Bias
- ▶ Intervening
  - ▶ Missed Opportunities
  - ▶ Trauma-Informed Care & Avoiding the Rescue Fantasy

# Example of a Human Trafficking Task Force

- ▶ 3 subcommittees
- ▶ Inconsistencies in understanding:
  - ▶ The nature of the problem
  - ▶ How to intervene
  - ▶ How to measure effectiveness
- ▶ Among the listed goals:
  - ▶ Evaluate the necessity of treating victims of human trafficking as crime victims rather than criminals
  - ▶ Develop methods for promoting the safety of victims of human trafficking



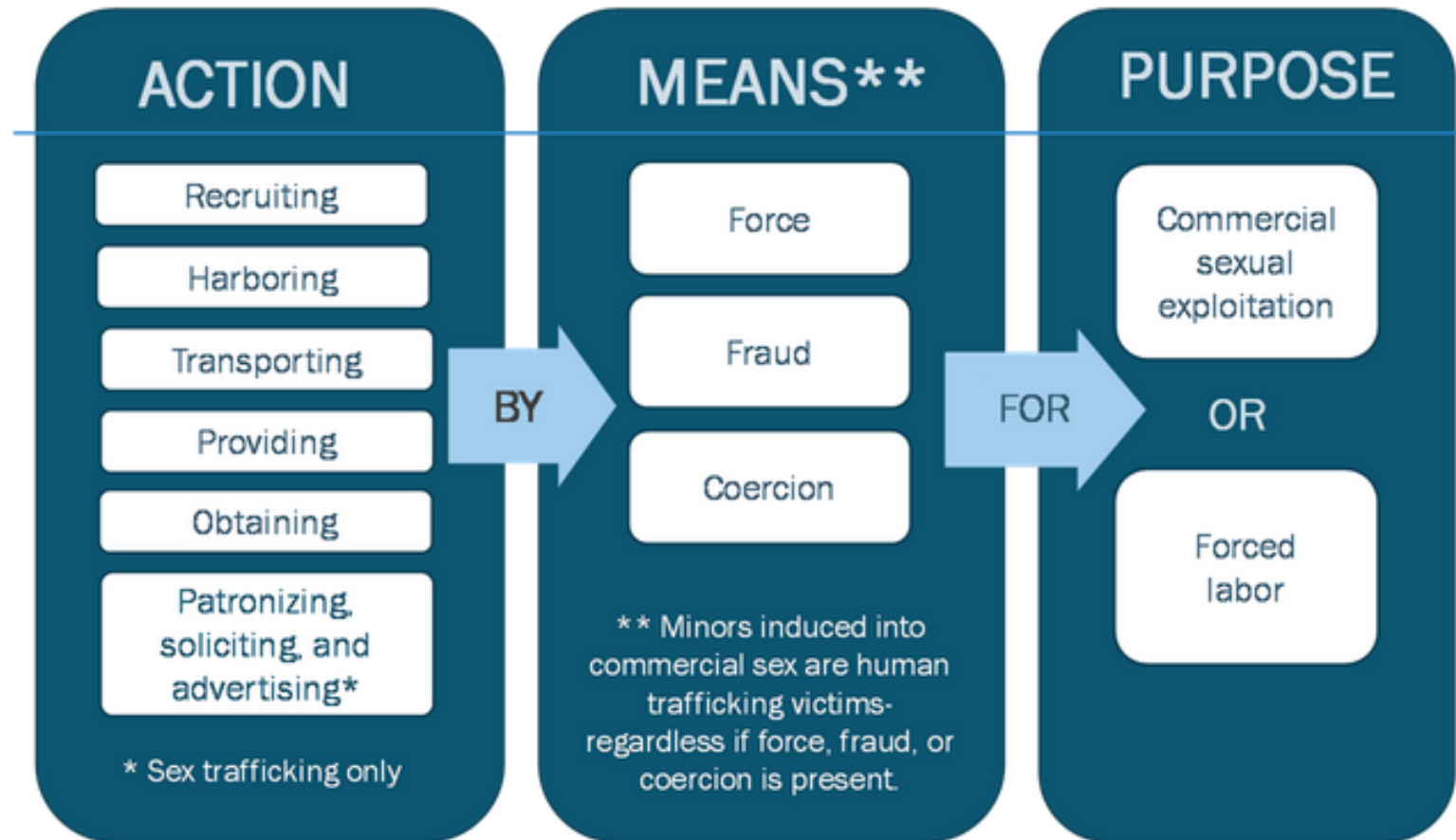
**"It is vital that programs and services in each of the three areas collaborate, coordinate, and integrate the provision of services for this population."**





the NATURE  
of the  
problem

## Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA)



Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), Pub. L. No.106-386, 8 U.S.C. §1101, §1101, 114 STAT 1464 (2000)

# Scope of the Problem

- ▶ **40.3 million people** globally enslaved (ILO, 2017)\*
- ▶ All **50 states + D.C.** (Polaris Project, NHTRC)
- ▶ **Women & girls comprise majority (71%)** of modern slavery victims (99% of commercial sex industry) . (ILO, 2017)
- ▶ **Children comprise 25%** of modern slavery victims (21% of commercial sexual exploitation victims). (ILO, 2017)
- ▶ ~85% of U.S. trafficked victims are citizens; ~50% are **adults** (U.S. State Dept, 2013)
- ▶ **Every race, every ethnicity**

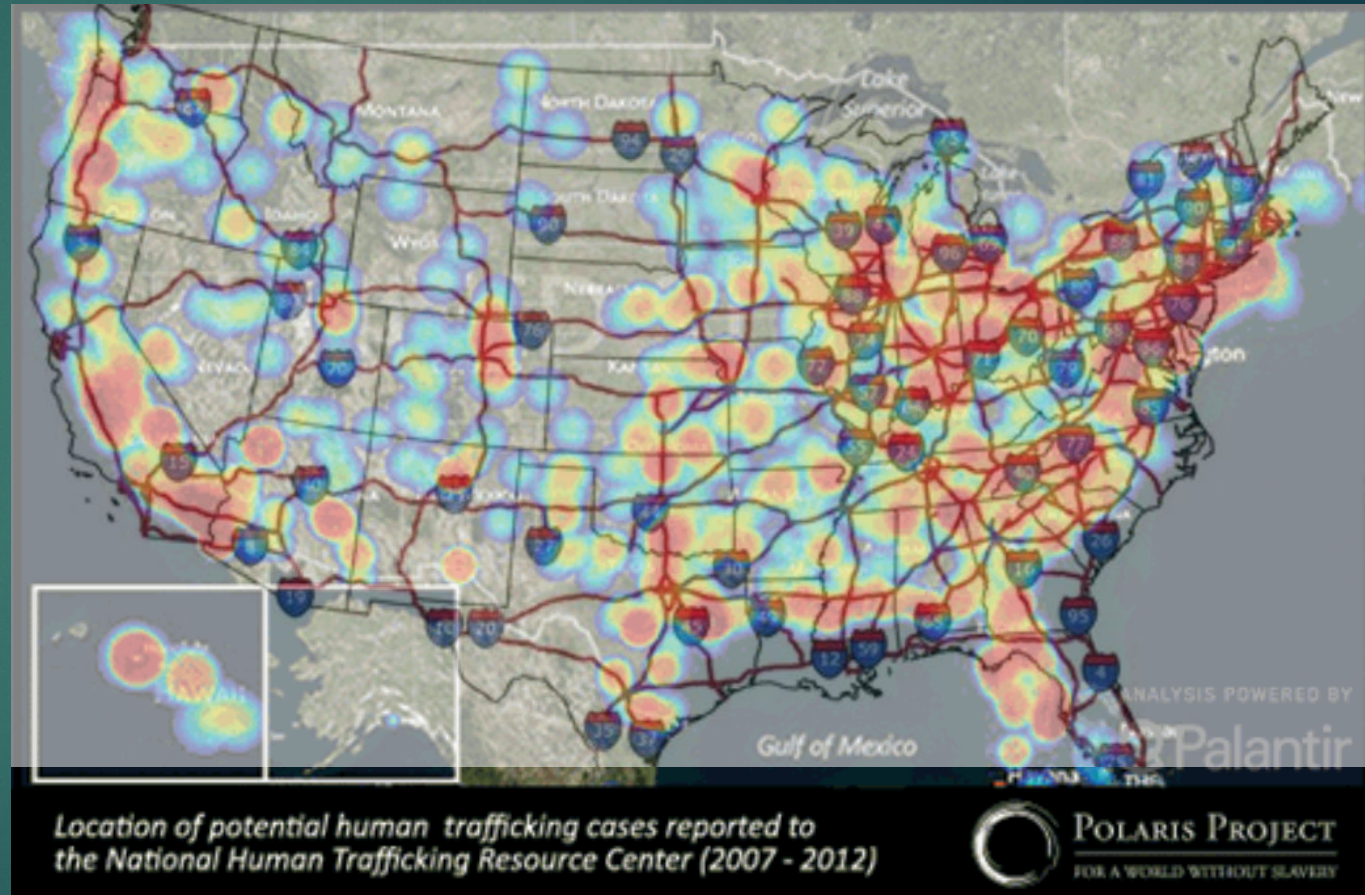
\*Prevalence estimates **vary widely** due to the clandestine nature of the crime



Where is  
human  
trafficking?



# Human Trafficking U.S.A.

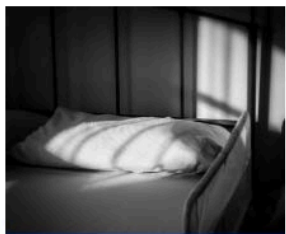




# Typology of modern slavery



Recreational Facilities



Health Care



Forestry & Logging



Carnivals



Health & Beauty Services



Personal Sexual Servitude



Agriculture & Animal Husbandry



Peddling & Begging



Remote Interactive Sexual Acts



Factories & Manufacturing



Commercial Cleaning Services



Arts & Entertainment



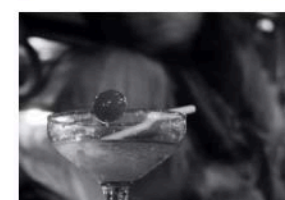
Restaurants & Food Service



Traveling Sales Crews



Pornography



Bars, Strip Clubs, & Cantinas



Illicit Activities



Landscaping



Hotels & Hospitality



Construction



Domestic Work



Residential



Outdoor Solicitation



Illicit Massage, Health & Beauty





# VICTIMS vs criminals

# Case 1: "Leela"

- ▶ 18yo girl from Central America with a twisted ovary & large ovarian cyst – SURGICAL EMERGENCY
- ▶ Multiple ER visits over past 12 mos with frequent loss to follow-up
- ▶ Abusive and alcoholic father
- ▶ Starting at 12yo, suffered depression and self-cutting
- ▶ Dental surgery at 12yo → codeine Rx → developed opiate addiction
- ▶ Ran away from home at age 15yo
- ▶ Truancy
- ▶ Stealing, drug possession/dealing
- ▶ Multiple sexually transmitted infections
- ▶ "Over 100" sexual partners, some from "the track"
- ▶ Multiple tattoos with expletives
- ▶ Homeless







Is Leela a criminal? What are her crimes?  
What should her penalty be?

Is Leela a victim? If so, who is the perpetrator?

Her trafficker?

The men who rented her?

The docs who prescribed the opiates?



Vulnerabilities:  
what are the signs?



# Warning Signs of Trafficking

History	Physical	Behaviors
Untreated chronic conditions	Late/Acute presentation to care for chronic diseases	Seems very interested in getting care but then does not follow up
Multiple pregnancies or terminations; poor obgyn history, no prenatal care	Vaginal lacerations or vaginal wall thinning due to excessive shearing and trauma. Rectal injuries. STI.	Personal items too expensive for their overall socio-economic status
Multiple/frequent STIs	Sexually explicit tattoos or tattoos of names on their neck, gang symbols, or barcodes	Inappropriately dressed for the weather
Lack of knowledge of whereabouts	Signs of drug abuse, especially cocaine, heroin, meth, alcohol	Is not allowed or able to speak for themselves (a third party may insist on being present and/or translating)
History of child abuse or domestic violence	Somatic manifestations of stress: IBS, chronic pain, migraines, etc.	Chronically fatigued
Reference to “the life,” “the game,” “the track,” etc.	Traumatic injury (nonvisible areas – inner thighs, mouth, neck, scalp), traumatic brain injuries, cigarette burns, dental trauma	Truancy from school, mental illness/psych hospitalization (suicide attempt, self-injury), foster care, ACS involvement
Discrepancy between reported age and apparent age	Malnourished –cachectic OR obese	Fearful, anxious, or depressed affect



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# Victim Bias





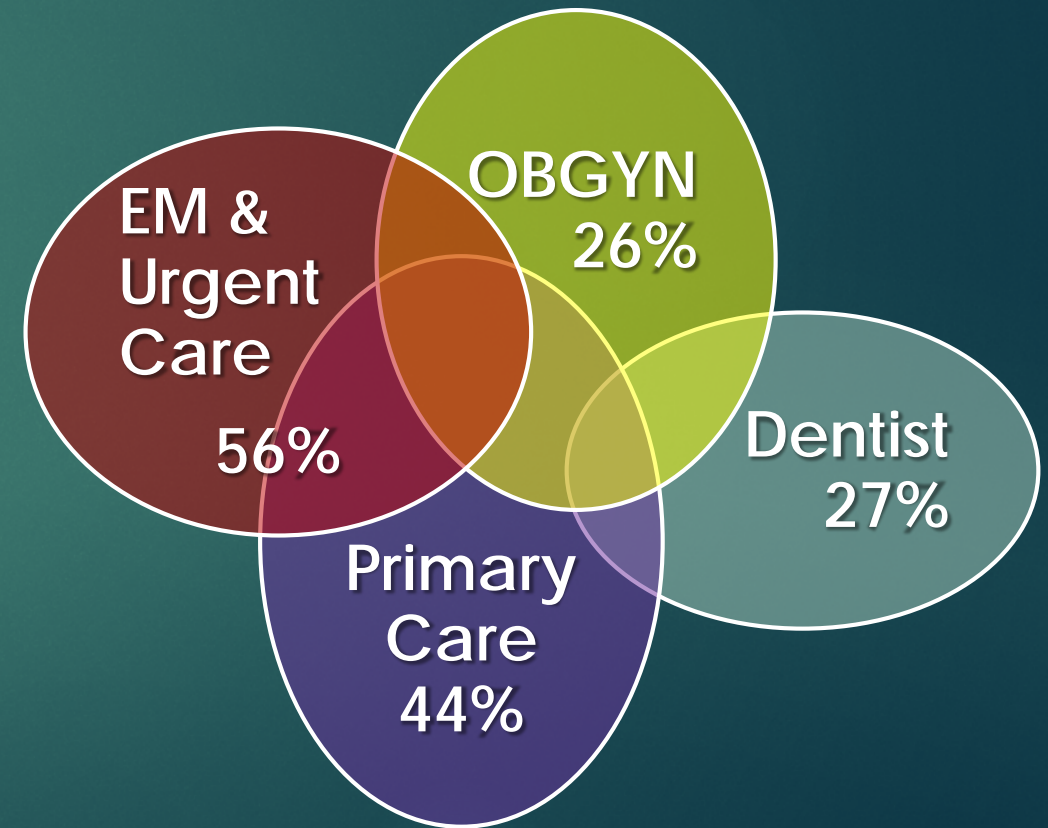
# INTERVENING: missed opportunities



# Health Professionals Seeing Victims

**64% - 88%** of victims of HT present to health care **while being trafficked**.\*

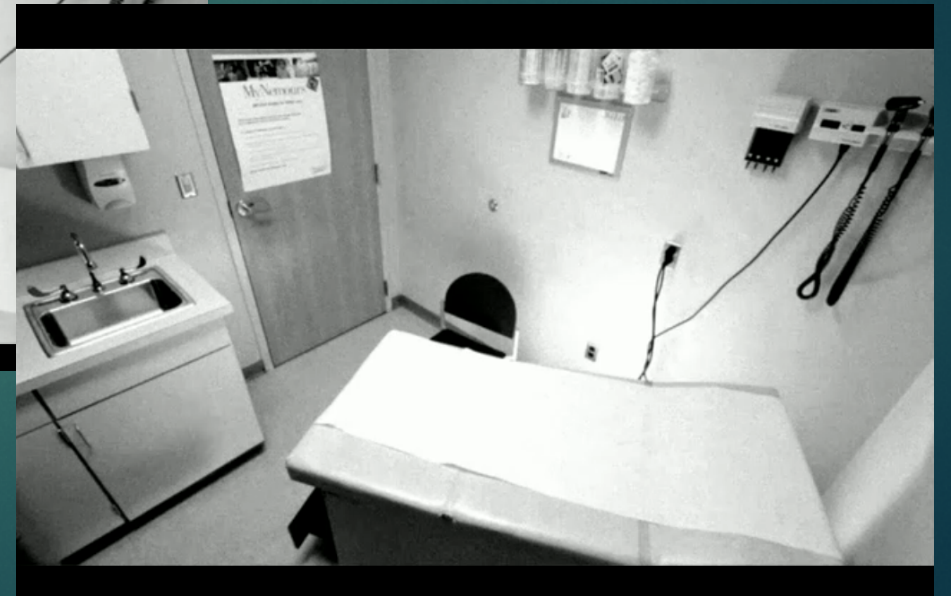
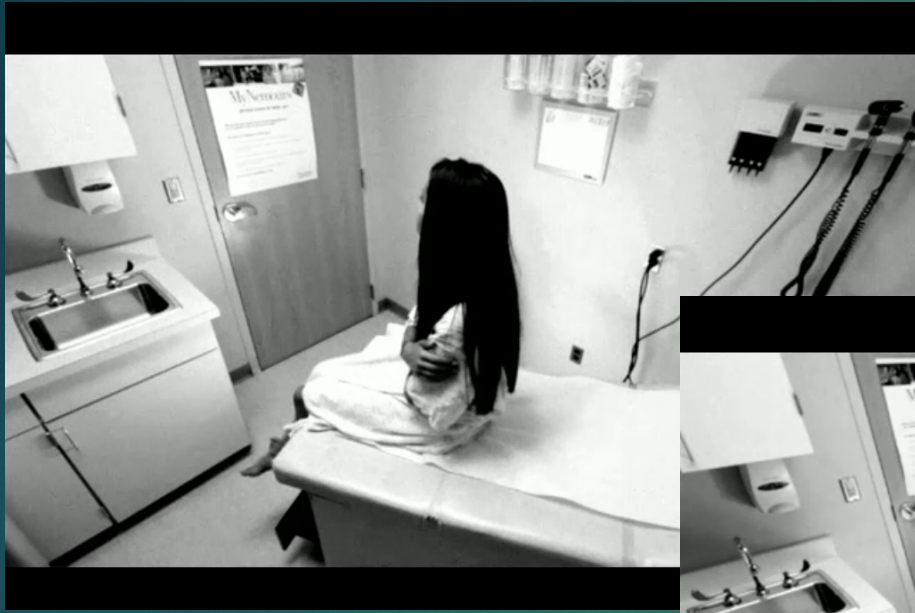
- Victims interact with a wide spectrum of specialists
- Demographics of victims can impact access to care
- Acute care settings
- Chronic care settings



\*Chisolm-Straker M et al, 2016



# Why are we missing these victims?





# Missed opportunities



TIME



LACK OF  
AWARENESS



LANGUAGE



BIAS



NO OVERT  
INJURY



NO  
TRAUMA-  
INFORMED  
TRAINING



NO  
ASSESSMENT  
TOOL



NO  
PROTOCOL

“I think doctors have a certain idea of what a trafficking victim is. They think it’s usually somebody who’s a minority or somebody who’s from another country, or somebody who has no family or who’s in foster care. So it didn’t really enter their mind, even as I was more open.”

“Sarah”





# Case 2: "Quincy"

- ▶ 17 yo girl living in the Bronx, here for "physical exam"
- ▶ Urine pregnancy **positive**
- ▶ No health problems, no medications, no allergies, she described a PERFECT family life with a "white picket fence" and 11 loving siblings, mom, and dad: **scripted response**
- ▶ No suicidal ideation or depression **EVER**
- ▶ First sex? "First time I had sex? Ummm, 16yo?" Last sex was 3 days ago. # Sexual partners? "How many people? Ummm.. Let's say... hmmm... **I'm a good girl, see, I was taught to be proper and all, so.... Maybe 10...?"**
- ▶ Pregnant: "I know I'm pregnant. I don't want it. I wanna get rid of it." **This is her 1st pregnancy. No distress.**



Does something seem “off” to you?



# "Quincy" continued



- ▶ Physical exam was normal except for **pressured speech and strange saccharine happy & bubbly affect**
- ▶ When helping her arrange for a termination:
- ▶ Contact information → **cannot give any phone # or email**
- ▶ **TWO phones**, one held in front of her the whole time
- ▶ **No ID at all**
- ▶ **Does not know: the name of her school, her address, her SSN, her birth year**
- ▶ **No insurance, debt with hospital**
- ▶ **Clinic medical assistant knows the family: you come to suspect that her family is trafficking her for sex.**

"When people tell me that women choose this life, I can't help but laugh. Do they know how many women like me have tried to escape, but have been beaten black and blue when they are caught? To the men who buy us, we are like meat. To everybody else in society, *we simply do not exist.*"

# Sex Trafficking Survivor





# Case 3: "Tony"

- ▶ 16yo American boy in foster system group home
  - ▶ No medical issues
  - ▶ Needs vaccines
  - ▶ Social History:
    - ▶ served time in "Juvie"
    - ▶ Dad's family in Mexico
    - ▶ Good student – As and Bs
    - ▶ Career goal: RN
  - ▶ "Why were you in the system?"
    - ▶ Smuggled a package across the border
    - ▶ Found out it had "hard drugs" (cocaine)
- "Tell me more."



"In order to fully respond to a potential victim of trafficking one needs to constantly assess and weigh their own preconceived biases and assumptions as to what a victim looks like."

"Nat Paul, Survivor Advocate"



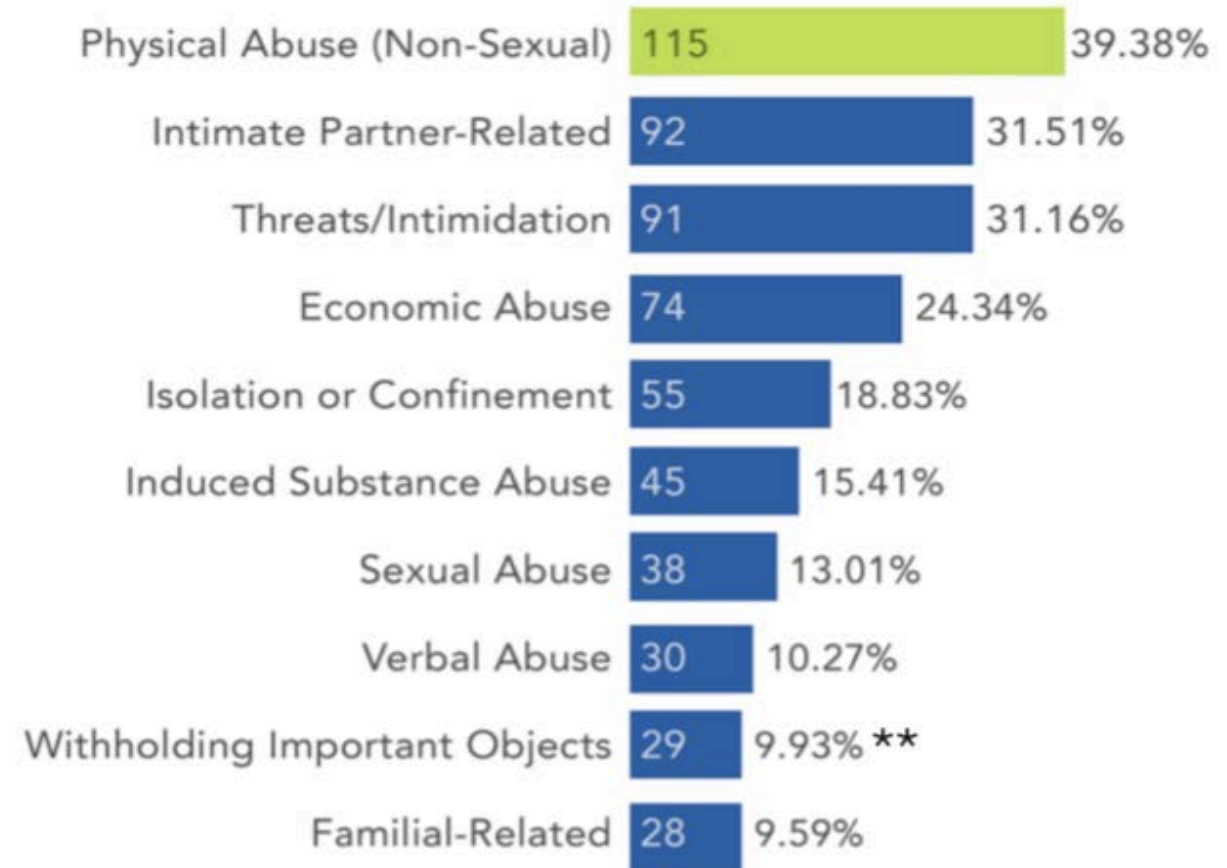


# Control

Psychological coercion —  
not kidnapping — is the  
mechanism by which most  
victims enter trafficking.

**Figure 7: Control Methods Reported to NHTRC and BeFree Textline by Survivors\*; N=292**

*The data reflects only survivors who elected to disclose this information and is not the result of a systematic survey.*





What can  
we DO?





# PEARR Tool

If you suspect someone is trafficked:

1. PROVIDE PRIVACY
2. EDUCATE
3. ASK
4. RESPECT
5. RESPOND

Call 888-3737-888 or text "BeFree"





# Trauma Informed Care & Avoiding the Rescue Fantasy



- ▶ Understand the Victim Mindset
  - ▶ <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/resources/understanding-victim-mindsets>
- ▶ Create Partnerships
- ▶ Collaborate & Pool Resources
- ▶ Build Resources
- ▶ Adopt Validated Screening Tools & Protocols
  - ▶ NHTRC: <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/resources/comprehensive-human-trafficking-assessment-tool>
  - ▶ Vera Institute: <https://www.vera.org/downloads/publications/human-trafficking-identification-tool-and-user-guidelines.pdf>



# Human Trafficking Resources

- ▶ **Polaris Project:** <https://polarisproject.org/>
- ▶ **The Blue Campaign (DHS):** <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign>
- ▶ **SOAR Online Trainings:** <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/training/soar-to-health-and-wellness-training/soar-online>
- ▶ **Truckers Against Trafficking:** <https://truckersagainsttrafficking.org/>
- ▶ **National Survivor Network:** <https://nationalsurvivornetwork.org/>
- ▶ **Survivor Led Organizations:** <https://nationalsurvivornetwork.org/survivor-led-organizations/>
- ▶ **Freedom Network USA:** [freedomnetworkusa.org](https://freedomnetworkusa.org)
- ▶ **ABA Human Trafficking Resources:** [https://www.americanbar.org/groups/human\\_rights/human-trafficking/resources/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/human_rights/human-trafficking/resources/)

“My lawyers helped me to clear the convictions I had for prostitution and to get legal status. My counselor helped me realize I was just a kid when I was in the life, and luckily, that I have a future to look forward to. I got help getting public benefits and in a job training program. It felt really empowering to see a whole team get behind me and support me.”

“Nicole”  
Trafficking Survivor







<http://slaveryfootprint.org/survey/>

