



**National
Human Trafficking
& Disabilities
Working Group**

HUMAN TRAFFICKING 101

An Introduction to the Intersection of Human Trafficking and Persons with Disabilities

National Human Trafficking Working Group (NHTDWG)

NHTDWDWG Webinar Presenters



Moderator

David Hutt David T. Hutt, Ph.D. Senior Staff Attorney
National Disability Rights Network
NHTDWDWG Steering Committee Member
David.Hutt@ndrn.org



Presenter

Morgan Rumble, Region 10 Coalition Coordinator
Indiana Trafficking Victims Assistance Program (TVAP),
Co-Chair, Southern Indiana Human Trafficking Coalition
NHTDWDWG Member
mrumple@indysb.org

Presenters (cont)



Pat Stephens, Director of Provider Supports

Department at the Lucas County Board of
Developmental Disabilities
NHTDWG Member

pstephens@lucasdd.org

Presenter



Jody Haskin, Anti-Trafficking Program Manager

International Organization for Adolescents (IOFA)
NHTDWG Steering Committee Member

jhaskin@iofa.org

Presenter

Overview

- Introduction to Human Trafficking
- Intersectionality of Disability and Human Trafficking
- Red Flags
- Resources



National
Human Trafficking
& Disabilities
Working Group

INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

What is Human Trafficking?

- Human Trafficking is the practice of exploiting people as commodities in conditions of sexual and labor servitude
- Human trafficking is also referred to as:
 - Modern-day slavery
 - Debt bondage
 - Bonded-labor
 - Indentured servitude



National
Human Trafficking
& Disabilities
Working Group

Human Trafficking is Different from Smuggling

Smuggling: Transportation

- Unauthorized border crossing
- No coercion
- Facilitated entry of a person from one country to another

Human Trafficking: Exploitation

- Crime or violation against a person
- Contains element of coercion
- Subsequent exploitation and/or forced labor
- Trafficked persons seen as victims by the law
- No movement required

Sex Trafficking is:

- Profiting from sex work by providing drugs, using false or misleading statements, withholding or destroying government documents, debt servicing, force, a plan or pattern of coercive conduct, or other acts
- Note: Federal law automatically recognizes persons under 18 who have been sexually exploited as victims of sex trafficking

Labor Trafficking is:

- Compelling or inducing another to engage in labor, or recruiting, enticing, harboring or transporting another by providing drugs, withholding or destroying government documents, debt servicing, force, or a plan or pattern of coercive conduct

Elements of Human Trafficking

Process

- Recruits
- Harbors
- Transports
- Provides
- Obtains

Means*

- Force
- Fraud
- Coercion

End

- Commercial sex
- Labor or services

**Means not required for individuals under the age of 18 who are induced into commercial sex acts*

Elements of Human Trafficking

Means

1. Force
2. Fraud
3. Coercion

1. Force

- Confinement
- Physical assault
- Sexual assault, rape
- Food and sleep deprivation
- Drug administration
- Kidnapping
- Domestic or familial violence

2. Fraud

- Fraudulent employment offers or contracts
- False promises
 - About work
 - About living conditions
 - Of education
 - Of love or marriage

3. Coercion

- Threats of deportation or arrest
- Blackmail
- Threats to life, personal safety, family members or other victims
- Debt bondage
- Withholding wages
- Withholding legal documents
- Psychological manipulation

Grooming

- A systematic process that...aims to **achieve complete control over someone's identity or individuality** using a combination of physical, mental, and emotional means.

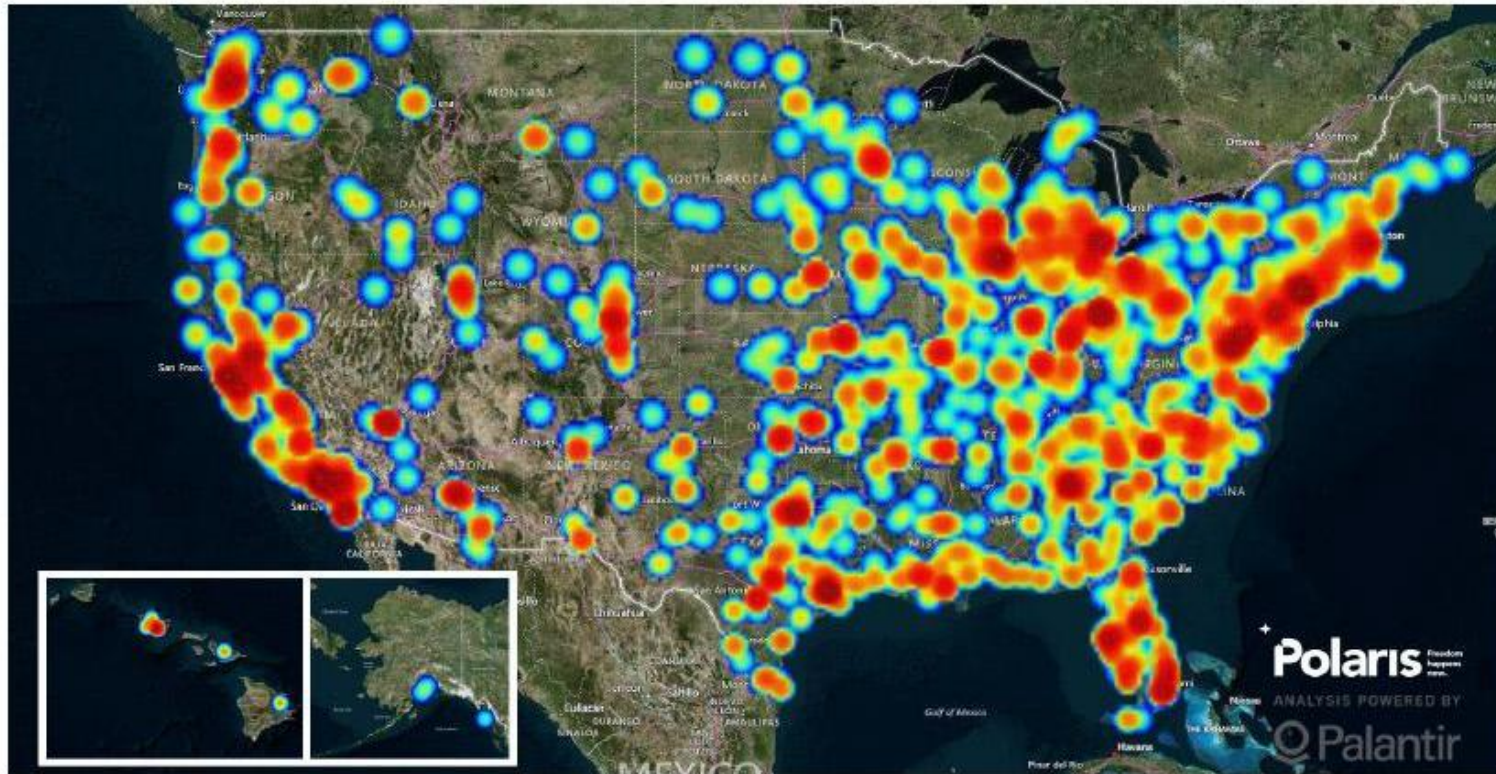
The grooming process can include:

- Gaining trust of potential victims and their caregivers
- Intentional effort to identify potential victims
- Process of gaining trust
- Breaks down defenses
- Doesn't have to be a stranger
- Can be via social media



Human Trafficking in the United States

According to data from the National Human Trafficking Hotline, there have been **40,987** human trafficking cases reported across the United States since December 2007.



National Human Trafficking Hotline Cases, 2017

8,759 cases and 10,615 individual victims reported

- Trafficking Type
 - Sex trafficking: 7,255
 - Labor trafficking: 1,979
 - Sex and labor trafficking: 542
 - Not specified: 838
- Gender
 - Female: 8,561
 - Male: 1,454
 - Gender Minorities: 59
 - Unknown: 541
- Age
 - Adults: 6,204
 - Minors: 2,762
 - Unknown: 1,575
 - Adults (6,204), Minors (2,762)
Unknown (1,575)

The National Human Trafficking Hotline Statistics

Top 3 Sex Trafficking Types, 2017

1. Illicit Massage/Spa Business
2. Hotel/Motel Based
3. Online Ad

Top 3 Labor Trafficking Types, 2017

1. Domestic Work
2. Agriculture
3. Traveling Sales Crews

The National Human Trafficking Hotline Statistics

(cont.)

Top 5 Risk Factors

1. Recent Migration/Relocation
2. Substance Use Concern
3. Runaway/Homeless Youth
4. Mental Health Concern
5. Unstable Housing

Top 5 Methods of Force, Fraud, Coercion

1. Emotional Abuse
2. Economic Abuse
3. Isolation – including confinement
4. Threats
5. Physical Abuse

National Human Trafficking Hotline Information

1-888-373-7888 Toll Free

Text the word “HELP” to BeFree (233733)

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org>

Who Can be a Trafficker?

- Any gender
- All ethnicities and races
- All ages
- Any socioeconomic status
- Any relation to the victim

Anyone Can be a Trafficker!

- Family members
- Friends
- Romantic partners
- Acquaintances
- Employers of domestic workers
- Labor recruiters
- Community leaders
- Diplomats
- Organized crime & gangs
- Victims of trafficking
- Business owners
- Landlords
- Anyone else?

Who are the Survivors?

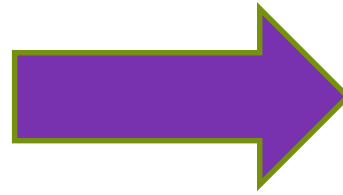
Anyone can be trafficked:

- Men, women, boys, girls, and transgender people of all ages, races, ethnicities, nationalities, and socio-economic classes
- People with disabilities are at high risk for exploitation, manipulation, and victimization

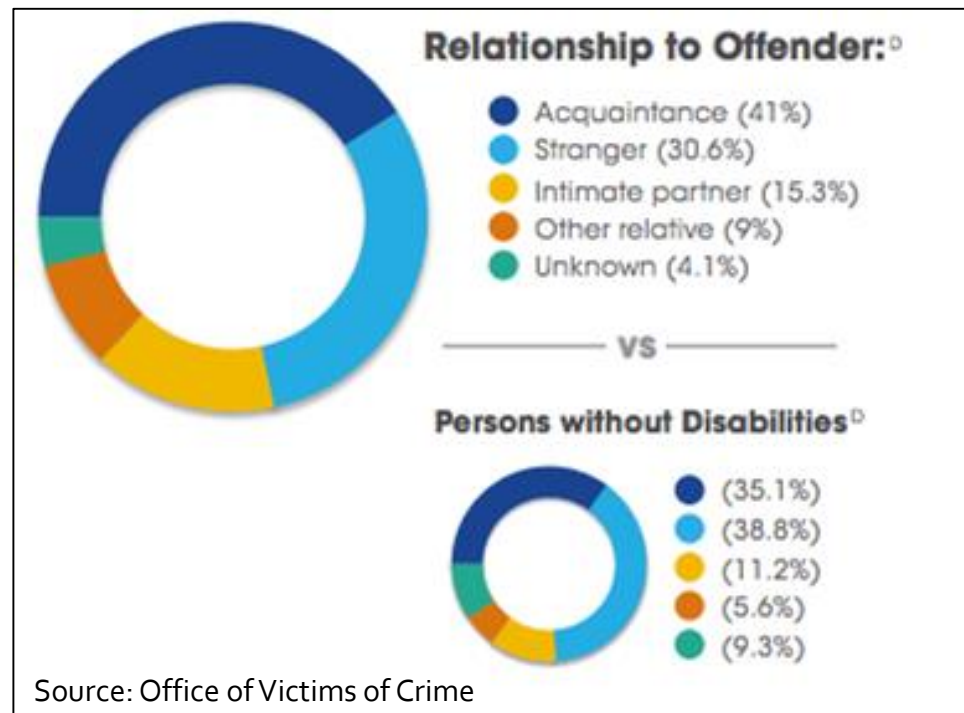
INTERSECTION OF DISABILITY AND --- TRAFFICKING

Vulnerabilities of Individuals with Disabilities

Often reliant on others for assistance



Increased vulnerability to abuse



**Individuals with
Developmental
Disabilities (DD) are at
high risk for
exploitation,
manipulation, and
victimization**

- Stigmas and marginalization of DD/Mental Health (MH) created particular vulnerabilities
 - Social barriers and lack of natural relationships often isolate individuals with DD
 - Schools often times fail to accommodate students. They drop out, and are at heightened risk due to limited options for their futures
 - Common views of individuals with DD are that they are not sexually active
 - As a result, sexual education and relationship expectations are rarely explored

**Due to discrimination,
exclusion is common in
many places as it
pertains to
Developmental
Disabilities and Mental
Health**

- Governments ignore risk factors or fail to make provisions for DD/MH individuals as a part of their Anti-Trafficking efforts
- Stigmas and marginalization of DD/MH creates particular vulnerabilities
- Human Trafficking numbers are difficult to acquire for individuals with disabilities, due to lack of reporting
- Individuals are usually deemed incompetent to be witness of these offenses

Risk Factors for Individuals with Disabilities

1. Social Powerlessness
2. Inability to detect who is safe to be around
3. Communication skill deficits
4. Diminished ability to protect oneself due to lack of instruction and/or resources

Why Individuals with Disabilities are Targeted

- Theft of government benefits;
- Predators may perceive a person with disabilities as weak, vulnerable or less likely to report abuse;
- Biases against persons with disabilities



By the numbers...

Persons with disabilities are more likely to be victims of violence or rape, according to a 2004 British study, and less likely to obtain police intervention, legal protection or preventive care.

Women and girls with disabilities are particularly vulnerable to abuse and 25% women with intellectual disabilities had been raped and 6% of women with disabilities had been forcibly sterilized.

Research shows violence against children with disabilities occurs at annual rates at least 1.7 times greater than for their peers without disabilities.

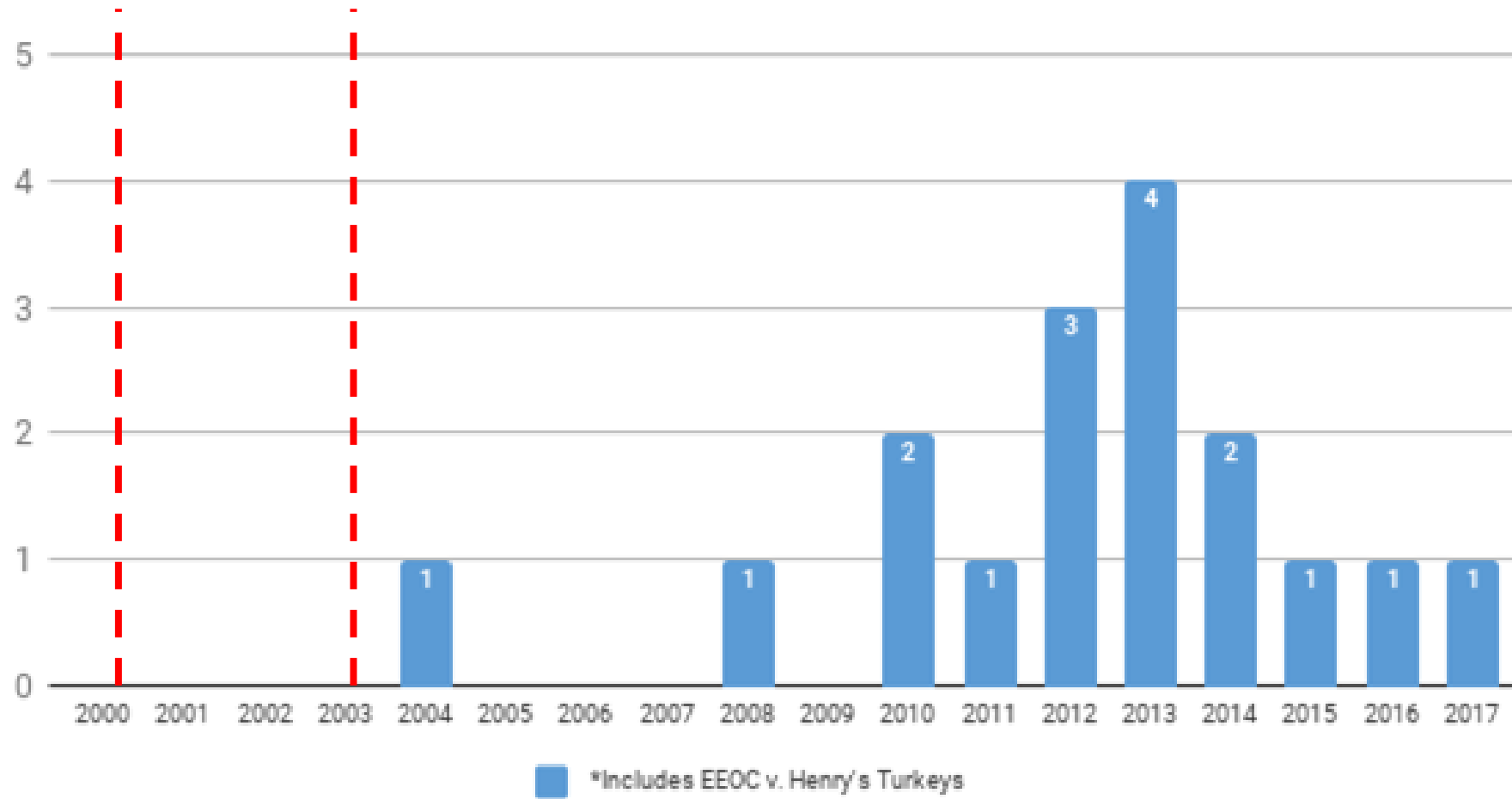
From Patricia Stephens – Lucas County Board of Developmental Disabilities and Steve Mentrek – Bittersweet Farms, Inc.

CASE STUDIES

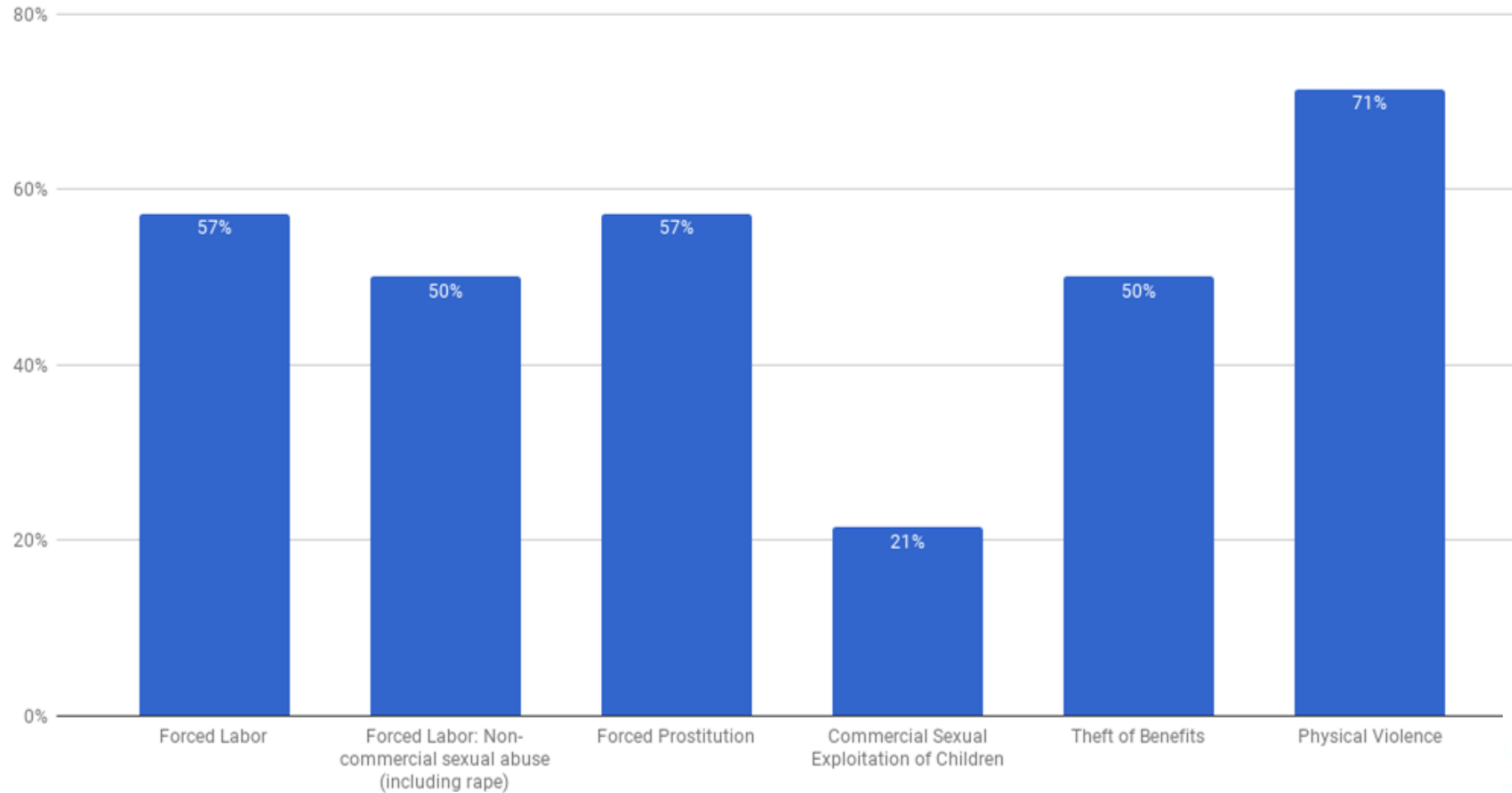
htlegalcenter.org



Federal Cases Involving Trafficking Victims with Disabilities, 2000-2017



Types of abuses in Federal, Civil, and Criminal Cases Involved Trafficking of Victims with Disabilities, 2000-2017



Early Cases of Labor Trafficking

U.S. v. Kozminski, 487 U.S. 931 (1988)

- Two men with intellectual disabilities forced to labor on a dairy farm in Michigan
- Involuntary servitude: “use or threatened use of physical or legal coercion”
- Case sparked effort to pass forced labor statute

U.S. v. Paoletti-Lemus, No. 1:97-cr-00768 (E.D.N.Y.) (1998)

- 55 Mexican nationals who were deaf were forced to beg and sell trinkets in New York City subways
- One of the first cases in the United States recognized as human trafficking



Labor Trafficking

EEOC v. Hill Country Farms, Inc., No. 13-2796 (8th Cir. 2014)

- 32 men with intellectual disabilities were forced to work in a turkey evisceration plant for **30 years**.
- They were paid 41 cents an hour/\$65 a month
- Lived in squalor: rats, cockroaches, open bathrooms
- Physically and verbally abused by their supervisors
 - As punishment, one victim was forced to hold heavy blocks for extended periods of time.
 - Others were beaten.
 - Allowed no bathroom breaks
- Dan Barry, The Boys in the Bunkhouse (2016).

Human Trafficking in Residential Care Homes

U.S. v. Kaufman 546 F.3d 1242 (10th. Cir. 2008)

Kaufmans convicted of forced labor, involuntary servitude, and health care fraud at residential care homes in Kansas

- Arlan and Linda Kaufman ran a residential care treatment center for adults with mental disabilities for more than 20 years.
- Stole SS benefits of their patients and charged Medicare for “services”
- As part of their “treatment,” the Kaufmans forced patients to perform nude manual labor and to record videos of sex acts.



Sex Trafficking in Texas

- In 2016, two brothers indicted for sex trafficking an 18 year old girl with developmental disabilities
- In early July 2013, the defendants convinced her to leave home with them and drove her to a Dallas motel.
- The brothers deprived the victim of food and prevented her from leaving the room in order to coerce her into performing commercial sex acts.
- She eventually performed commercial sex acts and provided the money earned to Kenneth White



Sex and Labor Trafficking

- *U.S. v. Bagley, No. 10-cr-00244 (W.D. Mo.)*
- Forced into commercial sex, subjected to torture and sexual servitude, much of which was filmed and streamed online;
- Victim held captive for 6 years;
- Sex slave contract
- Victim identified when she was hospitalized for emergency medical treatment after going into cardiac arrest;
- Prosecuted as both forced labor and sex trafficking

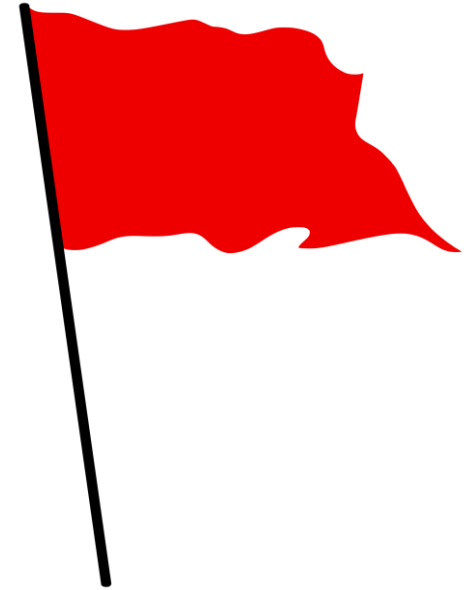
HUMAN TRAFFICKING INDICATORS AND --- RED FLAGS

General Human Trafficking Indicators

- Not allowed to contact friends or family
- Not allowed to leave their living or working situation unless monitored
- Signs of physical / sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, malnourishment, or torture
- Not allowed to speak for themselves
- Suddenly having new/expensive technology, clothes, gifts, or other items that can't be explained

Human Trafficking Indicators

- Same representative-payee for multiple, unrelated adults
- Frequent emergency room admissions
- Physical injuries left untreated
- Excessive prescriptions for scheduled drugs
- Malnourishment
- Interference with efforts to speak to the individual alone
- Isolation from family and friends
- Signs of trauma or fear



RESOURCES

National Human Trafficking Hotline

CRISIS RESPONSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access to emergency services and safety planning
TIP REPORTING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local and federal law enforcement and specialized task forces
REFERRALS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Case management, shelter, legal services, counseling
TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Informational resources and training tools on emerging topics and trends

Assistance for Human Trafficking Victims and Survivors: National Human Trafficking Hotline

Call: 1.888.3737

Text: “Help” to: Be Free

Report online at: <http://traffickingresourcecenter.org/>

This hotline will help:

- Assess whether you may have encountered a victim of human trafficking
- Identify local community resources to help victims coordinate with local social service organizations to help protect and severe victims so they begin process of restoring their lives

Additional Resources

Go to the NHTDWG website:

<http://iofa.org/national-trafficking-disabilities-working-group/>

- Webinars
- Fact sheets
- Resources

[Contact: nhtdwg@iofa.org](mailto:nhtdwg@iofa.org)



**National
Human Trafficking
& Disabilities
Working Group**

Thank you!



**National
Human Trafficking
& Disabilities
Working Group**

National Human Trafficking and Disabilities Working Group (NHTDWG)

nhtdwg@iofa.org

<http://iofa.org/national-trafficking-disabilities-working-group/>

QUESTIONS?
