

# Yellowstone County Area Human Trafficking Task Force

Human  
Trafficking in  
Montana



Project ECHO  
Billings Clinic  
May 26, 2021

YCA HTTF Co-Chairs  
Stephanie Baucus & Penny Ronning

# Human Trafficking Myths

- Human trafficking is motivated by bias & hate
- Foreigners must be involved
- Human trafficking is about movement and borders
- All human trafficking is sex trafficking
- All victims are minors
- Victims self-identify
- There must be chains, beatings, or physical restraint

# Defining Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is modern day slavery. Victims may have lack of basic freedoms of food, shelter, sleep, play, school, personal safety and human dignity.

## Legal Definition

- Human trafficking involves recruitment, harboring, transportation, provisioning or obtaining of a person
- **By means of force, fraud, or coercion**
- For the purposes of labor or services, or sexual exploitation\*  
(\*or if victim is under age 18)

## Challenges

- Significantly under-reported
- No ONE agency collects data – multiple agencies involved
- Cases may be prosecuted under related offenses

# Defining Human Trafficking

## THE A-M-P MODEL

Action	Means*	Purpose
Induce Recruits Harbors Transports Provides or Obtains	Force Fraud or Coercion	Commercial Sex <i>(Sex Trafficking)</i> or Labor/Services <i>(Labor Trafficking)</i>

\*Minors induced into commercial sex are human trafficking victims—  
regardless if force, fraud, or coercion is present.

Mann Act Amended 1986; The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000

# Types in US

## Sex trafficking

- Prostitution – street, closed brothels, illicit massage businesses, spas, escort
- Pornography/CSAM
- Phone sex lines
- Stripping, live sex shows
- Mail-order brides
- Truck stops

Can be hidden &  
locked away or

**hidden in plain sight**

## Labor trafficking -

underground, unregulated;  
wage, health, safety  
violations

- Domestic servitude (housework/childcare)
- Service industry (restaurants, hotels)
- Hair, nail salons
- Construction
- Small businesses, factories & “sweatshops”
- Agriculture, ranch
- Landscape workers
- Janitorial
- Door-to-door sales
- Panhandling

# DEFINING A COMMERCIAL SEX ACT

- A **commercial sex** act is the giving or receiving of anything of value (money, drugs, shelter, food, clothes, rent payment, etc.) to a person in exchange for a sex act.
- In Billings, a 14-year-old girl can sell for \$900 an hour. (Source: FBI)

# Human Trafficking

**FACT:** Human Trafficking is the fastest growing criminal industry in the world, second only to the Drug Trade.



# \$150 BILLION+ Globally Per Year

Human trafficking  
generates more  
annual revenue than

**VISA**



BANK OF AMERICA

**citibank**



mastercard.

**combined**

# Humans as Commodity

I AM A HUMAN BEING  
**NOT A COMMODITY**



One human being can be sold to another human being for sex thousands and thousands of times or exploited for labor for thousands of hours – annually for year after year.

Traffickers are business owners and *both their products and their customers are people.*

# Who is Trafficked?

- US citizens
  - Runaways, foster children, internet contacts, truants, homeless, addicts, disabled – the most vulnerable
- Foreign nationals arriving on visas for promised work; agree to be smuggled for work or family; smuggled against their will
- All ages, males and females 80% are women and girls; up to 50% minors

# Safe Harbor



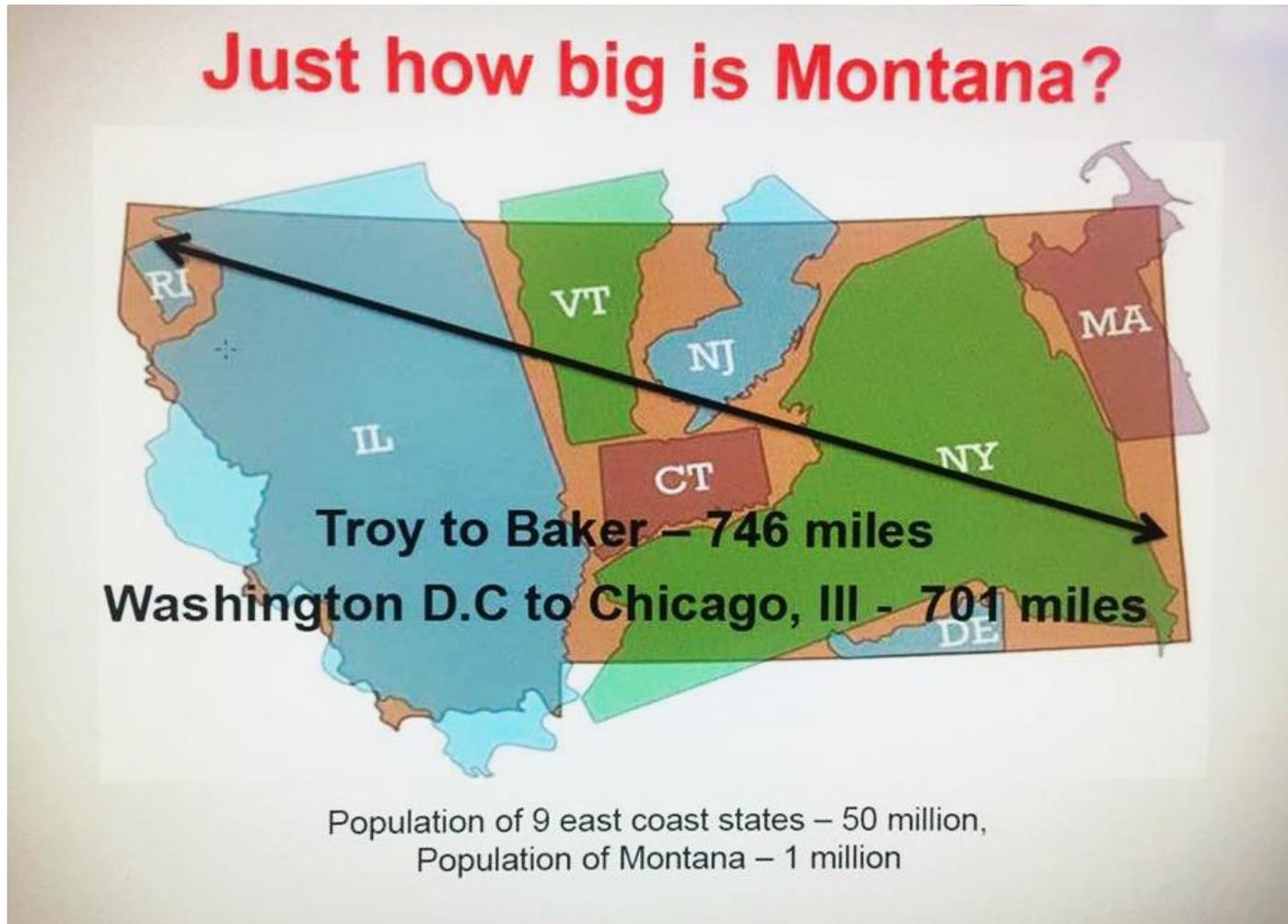
#NoSuchThingAsAChildProstitute  
~ T. Ortiz, Survivor Advocate

The **Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000** was a turning point in the nationwide shift toward rightfully seeing children who experience trafficking as victims. The TVPA defined sex and labor trafficking and said that inducing a child under 18 to engage in commercial sex is illegal regardless of whether force, fraud, or coercion is involved. No matter the scenario, the law and its subsequent reauthorizations made clear that **children under age 18 should never be treated as willing accomplices in prostitution, pornography schemes, or any other act involving the commercial sale of sex.**

# Who Is Vulnerable to Becoming a Victim of Human Trafficking?

- Youth and teenagers – average age for recruitment 12 – 14
- Primarily girls, but also boys
- Relational issues with parents
- Low Self-Esteem
- “Vulnerable, available, naïve” – need for affection/love
- LGBTQ+
- Foster Youth
- Homeless
- Runaways
- Sexually, emotionally, physically abused
- Trauma history
- Have been viewed as offenders or delinquents instead of victims
- Lack of facilities for multi-faceted care  sent back home or to foster care  repeat runaway/revictimization

# Why is Montana Vulnerable to Human Trafficking?



# Vulnerabilities in Our Community

- 2018 – 2019 school year, Billings School District 2 identified **499 children** enrolled in school as homeless
- 2019 – 2020 school year, BSD2 identified **457 children** enrolled in school as homeless (schools shut down 3/16)
- From Child & Family Services: Currently, **800 children** in the Yellowstone County foster care system
- **300 children** in foster care served by a Court Appointed Special Advocate
- **500 children** in foster care waiting for a Court Appointed Special Advocate
- In 2020, **768 youth & young adults** served by Tumbleweed
- 2020 BPD Annual Report, Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM)
  - 24 cases of possession
  - 24 cases of distribution
  - 7 cases of manufacturing



  
**BILLINGS SKYVIEW  
HIGH SCHOOL**



# MMIWG

CITIES WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF CASES		STATES WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF CASES	
Seattle	45	<b>New Mexico</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>Albuquerque</b>	<b>37</b>	Washington	71
Anchorage	31	Arizona	54
Tucson	31	Alaska	52
Billings	29	Montana	41
Gallup	25	California	40
Tacoma	25	Nebraska	33
Omaha	24	Utah	24
Salt Lake City	24	Minnesota	20
San Francisco	17	Oklahoma	18

Source: Urban Indian Health Institute

C. CUNNINGHAM/JOURNAL

Of the top 10 states in the nation with the highest number of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls, Montana is number 5. Of the top 10 cities in the nation with the highest number of MMIWG, Billings is number 5.

~ Urban Indian Health Institute

# Case

- JR, a 16 year old white female, presents to the ER with severe vaginal bleeding.
- Her brother states she is schizophrenic and the family fears she had tried to induce an abortion on herself.
- After emergency surgery, she is placed in a locked psych ward, and subsequently discharged to her brother.

# Re: Case

In reality, the patient is a victim of sex trafficking, who as a 14 year old runaway met her trafficker at a mall when he promised her food, shelter and a job. This “brother” trafficker instrumented her with a broken bottle to try and induce an abortion.

- What signs did the medical team miss?
- Why didn't the patient tell someone or use hospitalization to escape?

# How are Victims Targeted?

- Malls, bus/train stations, arcades, group homes, parks, homeless shelters
- Kindly woman/friend - recruiter
- Online chat, social media, dating websites
- False advertisements for employment, education, modeling, marriage agencies
- Sold by parents, other relatives or boyfriends

# Recruitment into Trafficking

- FBI term: **psychological kidnapping**
- **Romeo** pimp – seduce and control with psychological manipulation
- **Seasoning** to ensure compliance – beating, rape, sleep/food deprivation, isolation from family, psychological manipulation, threaten family/friends, eye balling
- **Gorilla** pimp – control through violence
- **Daddy** – name pimp often requires victim to call them

# How are Victims Controlled?

## Force

- Beatings, confinement, rape, starvation, torture, forced drug use

## Fraud

- False offers of employment, education, marriage

## Coercion

- Threats to patient or family back home, debt-bondage (“fees” that can never be repaid), psychological abuse, manipulation, isolation, blackmail to call police/INS about their undocumented status or illegal industry (e.g. prostitution); **FEAR**

# Why Don't Victims Leave?

- Intense shame if circumstances are related to family or town
- “Sophisticated psychological and financial control mechanisms, often minimizing or precluding the need for physical violence or confinement.”
- Traumatic bonding – “coercive control where perpetrator instills in the victim fear as well as gratitude for being allowed to live – this bond is a survival instinct and coping mechanism”
- Movements controlled
- **Minors** – fear of being returned to family or placed with social services, fear of harm to family

# Mindset of Patient

- May believe no one can help
- May have been very isolated - disoriented
- Emotional numbness, detachment
- Addiction needs
- Conflicting loyalties - traumatic bonding
- Fear of trafficker – threats to self or family members back home and deportation
- Fear of law enforcement
- May not speak English or understand our culture (that there is help available)
- May not understand “trafficking” or identify with concept

# Red Flags - History

- Delay in seeking care for illness/injury
- Vague/inconsistent history
- Lack of follow-up from previous care
- Hospital hopping (may have different patient name)
- May have a coached cover story about being a student or tourist or “just visiting” – unable to clarify an address
- Appears younger than stated age (younger than 18 coached to say they are older than 18)
- Child/adolescent traveling with older companion who is not a guardian
- Age inappropriate familiarity with sexual terms or practices
- Dressed inappropriately for stated work, weather, two cell phones

# Red Flags - Interaction

- Observe body language and interaction
- Seems afraid/submissive of person with them, doesn't speak
- Person with them answers questions and seems controlling
- “Handler” may pose as parent, spouse, partner, family member or employer
- Lack of ID, or person with them handles ID
- Few personal possessions
- Cash payment

# Red Flags - Physical

- Injury doesn't match history
- Neglect/delay in care, advanced stage of disease/injury
- Evidence of prior poor attempt to treat
- Serious industrial injury
- Chronic back, hearing, vision, skin, respiratory problems from work conditions or toxic exposures
- Persistent or untreated STIs, UTIs
- Cotton debris in vagina (from stuffed cotton padding to hide menstruation during sexual encounters)
- Neck & jaw problems (from oral sex)
- Repeated abortions/miscarriages, or no prenatal care

# Red Flags - Physical continued

- Dizziness, headaches, memory loss from traumatic brain injury/concussion
- Chronic pain syndromes
- Weight loss, malnourished, children stunted growth
- Undetected diseases such as diabetes, hypertension
- Evidence of inflicted injury (multiple, old and new) bruising, scarring, burns, ligature marks, broken bones
- Branding, **tattooing** of “ownership”, won’t talk about
- Complications from attempt at induced abortion
- Vaginal/anal trauma

# Red Flags – Mental/Emotional

- Depression, hopelessness
- Suicidal
- Anxiety, panic attacks
- PTSD, dissociation
- Disoriented/confused may be purposely moved from city to city and not know where they are
- Addiction - forced drugs to maintain control; numbness as a coping mechanism

# Questions to Ask a Potential Victim If You Can Speak With the Victim Privately and *Without Jeopardizing Their Safety*

- What type of work do you do? What are your work hours?
- How often do you get to visit/speak to your family or friends?
- Does anyone monitor or forbid your conversations?
- Can you find another job if you want?
- Can you come and go as you please?
- Have you or your family been threatened if you try to leave?
- Where do you eat and sleep? What are the conditions like?
- Where did you get those bruises, burns, cuts?
- Are you being paid? Do you owe money to your employer?
- Do you have control of your money and ID/documents?
- Do you ever feel pressured to do something you don't want to do?
- Have you been physically hurt?
- Did someone tell you what to say today?

# Responding to “Yes”

- I’m very sorry that this has happened to you.
- We are here to help you.
- Our first priority is your safety.
- We can find you a safe place to stay.
- We can help to protect your family.
- You have rights, and we can help you to rebuild your life safely.
- We want to make sure that what happened to you doesn’t happen to anyone else.
- Can have patient talk to National Hotline 888-3737-888 or **Montana Hotline 833-406-STOP (7867)**

# Consider Danger

- Is the trafficker present? (i.e. in the waiting room/outside)
- What will happen if the patient does not return to the trafficker?
- Does the patient believe he/she or a family member is in danger?
- Are ER/clinic personnel in danger?

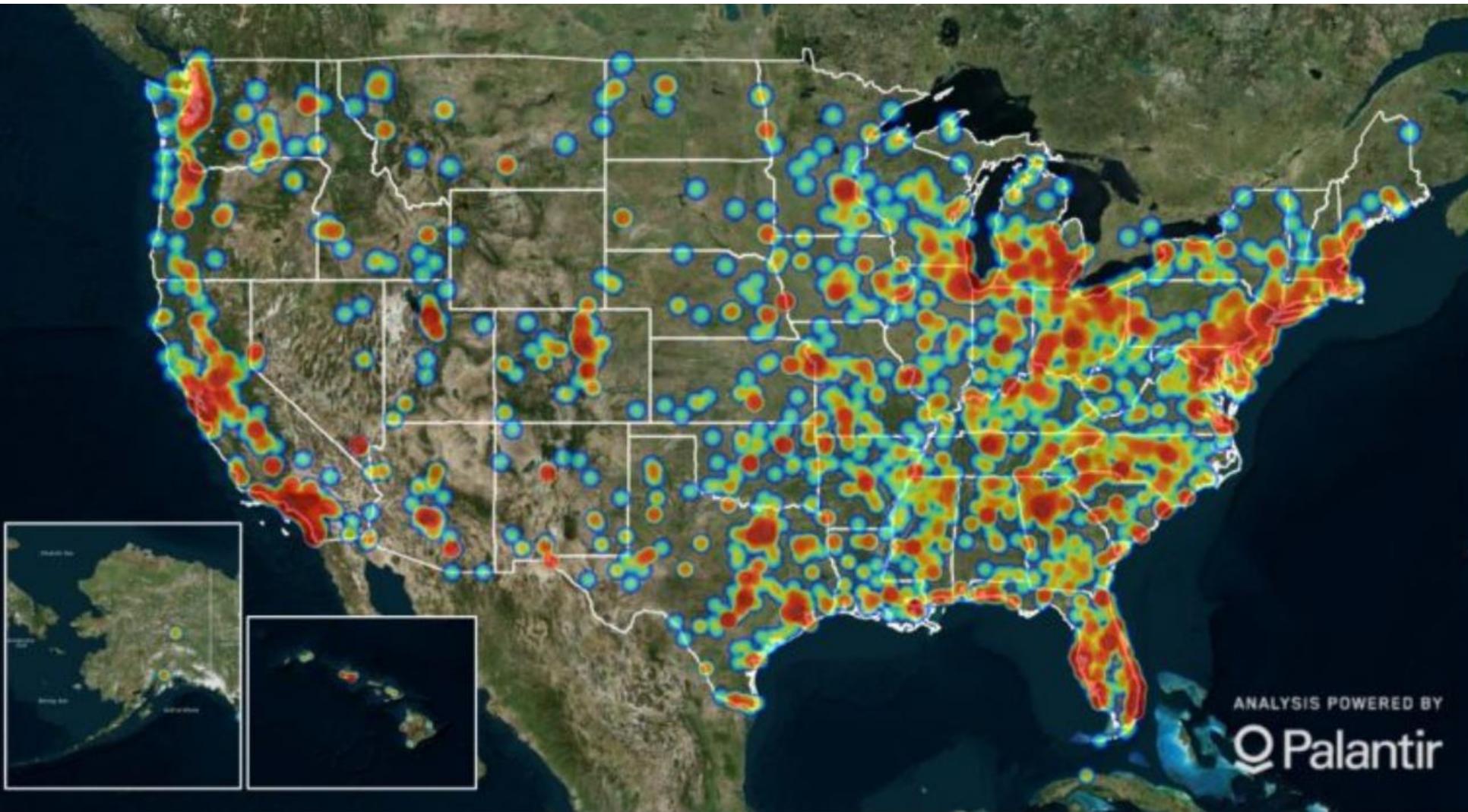
# What is Reportable?

- Human trafficking presently is not a mandated report for medical personnel
- However, human trafficking may overlap with mandated reporting for child abuse, domestic violence, sexual abuse, or elder abuse
- Call national HT hotline to connect case to appropriate trafficking law enforcement, FBI, Homeland Security and obtain victim services 888-3737-888
- **Call Montana Human Trafficking Hotline 833-406-STOP (7867)**

A victim of trafficking can  
look like anyone.

Look beneath the surface.

# 2019 Polaris Human Trafficking Hotline Calls



# Rural Areas and Small Cities

Far from being immune to trafficking, rural places have characteristics that can make trafficking both harder to recognize and address. In rural areas, long distances between homes doesn't guarantee safety but does mean that services and supports to victims may be less accessible. Rural poverty and fewer jobs can make young people and their families more willing to trade sex for money or drugs, and in small close-knit communities, traffickers may be familiar faces, making disclosure of abuse especially complicated. At the same time, **traffickers can find small cities and towns attractive places to operate, given that residents and even local enforcement may tend to underestimate the threat of trafficking.**

“

For me, if in my early years teachers would have reported the abuse and neglect I was receiving from my parents, I would have possibly been less susceptible to my trafficker later on in my teens. The sexual and physical abuse as a child left me vulnerable. It literally groomed me for the experience. I was so numb from my previous abusive experiences that the trafficking experiences didn't seem so painful.

-Trafficking Survivor

# Lack of Belief by Adults



Some school personnel, by virtue of their connection to students, should be trained more intensively. Those staff include front desk staff, bus drivers, assistant principals, school counselors, social workers, attendance officers, dropout prevention officers, special education teachers, and school nurses.

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Source: Department of Education

Cole, J., & Sprang, G. (2015). Sex trafficking of minors in metropolitan, micropolitan, and rural communities. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 40, 113–123. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2014.07.015>

A 2014 study found more similarities than differences in child sex trafficking across the types of settings. Minors in all cases tended to have the same risk factors: poverty, instability, compromised parenting, and substance abuse within the family. Instead, **differences between the settings were found primarily in the views of child welfare and youth-service professionals, who in rural areas are less likely to believe trafficking is a serious problem or be trained in identifying and treating trafficking victims.**

# Can You Spot Human Trafficking?



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JJ2xCJMp7-c>

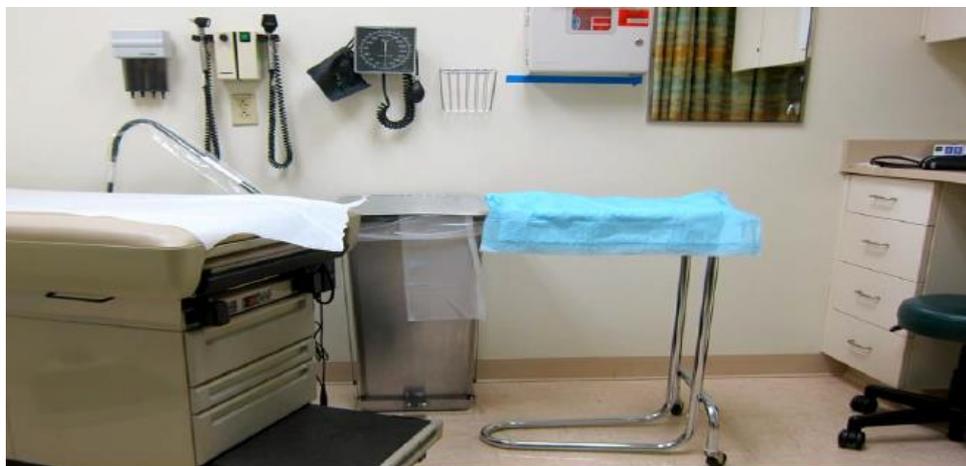
# Accessing Medical Care

In one study, **87.8%** of trafficking survivors reported accessing healthcare services during their trafficking situation. Of this, **68.3%** were seen at an emergency department.

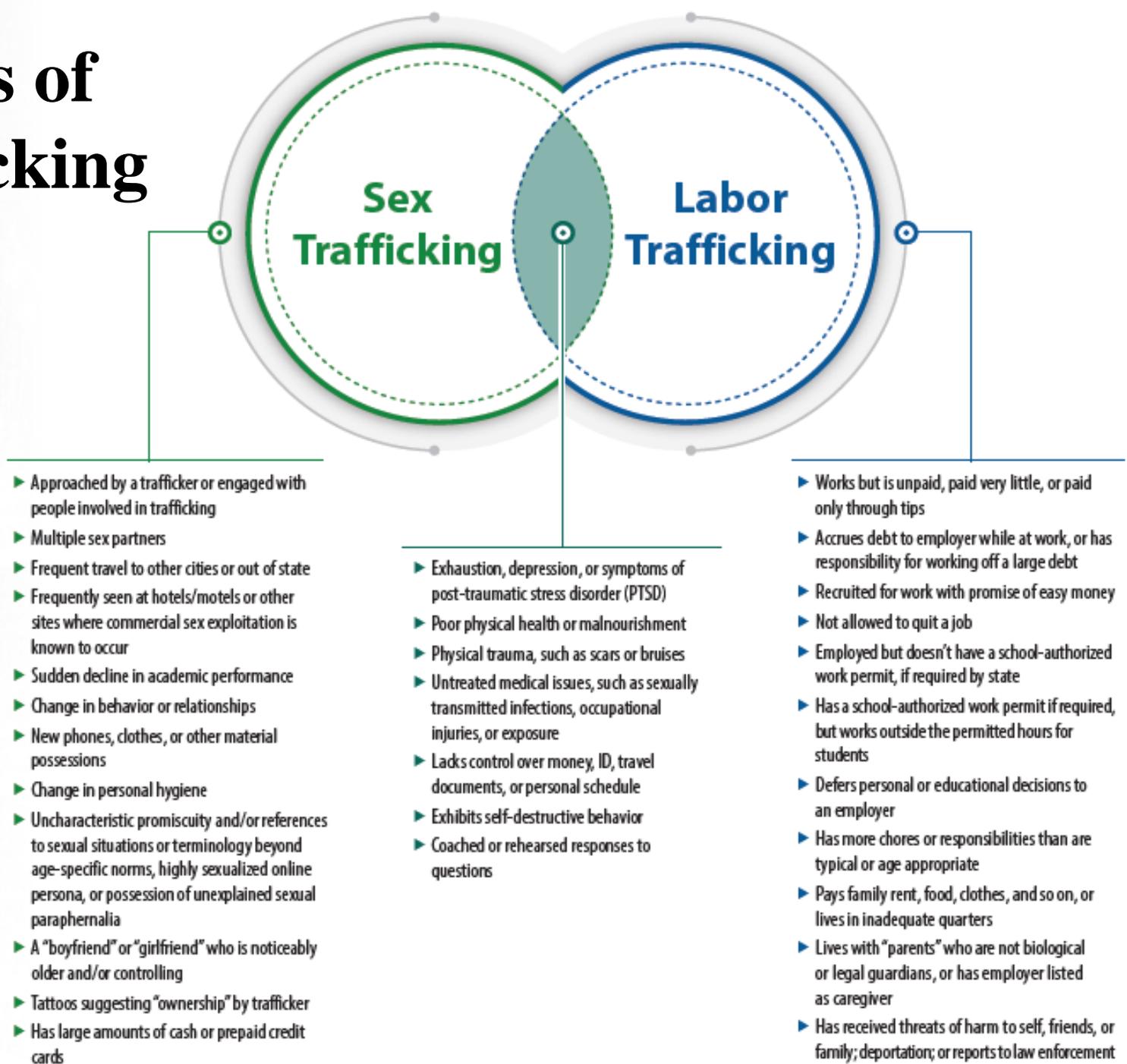
(Lederer &Wetzel, 2014)

*“During the time I was on the street, I went to hospitals, urgent care clinics, women’s health clinics, and private doctors. No one ever asked me anything anytime I ever went to a clinic.”*

–Lauren, survivor



# Signs of Trafficking



# RESCUE CHILD

## RESCUE CHILD

- R: Runaway
- E: Education--difficulties
- S: Sexual assault
- C: Court appearances--any involvement with the juvenile justice system
- U: Using drugs/alcohol
- E: Emotional abuse
- C: Child abuse/neglect
- H: Homelessness
- I: Influential others (family or friends) involved in prostitution
- L: Loving someone much older
- D: Difficulty making friends

# No Perfect Victim



Some students who have been trafficked won't show any signs of trafficking. In fact, some students affected by trafficking see school as a safe haven where they can participate in normal peer activities and excel in their academic work.

**“There is no perfect victim.”  
~ Cyntoia Brown Long**

# Traffickers

**Children are trafficked by peers, family members, romantic partners, acquaintances, and strangers.**

Traffickers target children and adolescents for grooming, often over an extended period of time. Traffickers target vulnerable children, secure their trust, fulfill their needs, isolate them from potential support, and eventually exert total control over them, all the while working to normalize the abuse. Recruitment can and does occur everywhere—in school; at home, malls, sporting events, and parties; and in shelters and detention facilities—and is conducted both in person and online, where traffickers lure young people with the offer of friendship, romance, or jobs. **When the trafficker has established sufficient control, children are sold at private parties, illicit massage businesses, hotel and motel rooms, strip clubs, trade shows, truck stops, and other venues.** Sex trafficking is inherently traumatic; at a minimum, survivors require educational and therapeutic aftercare services that are trauma informed.

“

A 15-year-old girl in Arizona attended a high school football game, where she met a friendly 20-year-old woman who began chatting with her. To the younger girl's surprise, the 20-year-old ran across the street to buy her a phone so they could keep in touch. The catch? The girl would need to repay the newly acquired debt by giving men “massages” in motel rooms.

—*Trafficking Researcher*

See [Tools for Educators](#), developed by the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, for examples of safety and trafficking assessment questions.

# July 14, 2020 Prevention & Community Awareness Committee Meeting Notes

## **MEETING NOTES:**

**BRANDON/ANDY LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORT:** Brandon (FBI) reported on what he worked on last year with human trafficking. His focus of work now is on sex trafficking with children and labor trafficking. He stressed trafficking is happening in Billings. Andy (DOJ) talked about picking up where Brandon left off and finds most his cases lead here to Billings. The DOJ has successfully put a case against Jasmine Spa (Billings) in state court and have open investigations on numerous spas here in Billings and are assisting other jurisdictions with their spa investigations. They currently have 4 federal cases that started out with adult victims and then found juvenile victims. What they are finding is that Billings has a high number of native women being trafficked and trying to work with tribal enforcement as their jurisdiction stops at the reservation.

# Be the Parent Over Your Child's Social Media



**Meet Susan...**

a 42 year old man posing as a 15 year old girl online.

**"Susan" and your 13 year old just made plans to meet at the park.**

# Foreign Land

## FIFTEEN APPS

PARENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

Courtesy of the  
Sarasota County Sheriff's Office  
UPDATED JULY 2019



### MEETME



MEETME is a dating social media app that allows users to connect with people based on geographic proximity. As the app's name suggests, users are encouraged to meet each other in person.

### GRINDR



GRINDR is a dating app geared towards gay, bi and transgender people. The app gives users options to chat, share photos and meet up based on a smart phone's GPS location.

### SKOUT



SKOUT is a location-based dating app and website. While users under 17 years old are unable to share private photos, kids can easily create an account using a different age.

### WHATSAPP



WHATSAPP is a popular messaging app that allows users to send texts, photos, voicemails, make calls and video chats worldwide. WHATSAPP uses an internet connection on smart phones and computers.

### TIKTOK



TIKTOK is a new mobile device app popular with kids used for creating and sharing short videos. With very limited privacy controls, users are vulnerable to cyber bullying and explicit content.

### BADDO



BADDO is a dating and social networking app where users can chat, share photos and videos and connect based on location. While the app is intended for adults only, teens are known to create profiles.

### BUMBLE



BUMBLE is similar to the popular dating app "Tinder" however, it requires women to make the first contact. Kids have been known to use BUMBLE to create fake accounts and falsify their age.

### SNAPCHAT



SNAPCHAT is one of the most popular apps in recent years. While the app promises users can take a photo/video and it will disappear, new features including "stories" allows users to view content for up to 24 hours. Snapchat also allows users to see your location.

### KIK



KIK allows anyone to contact and direct message your child. Kids can bypass traditional text messaging features. KIK gives users unlimited access to anyone, anywhere, anytime.

### LIVEME



LIVE.ME is a live-streaming video app that uses geolocation to share videos so users can find out a broadcaster's exact location. Users can earn "coins" as a way to "pay" minors for photos.

### HOLLA



HOLLA is a self-proclaimed "addicting" video chat app that allows users to meet people all over the world in just seconds. Reviewers say they have been confronted with racial slurs, explicit content, and more.

### WHISPER



WHISPER is an anonymous social network that promotes sharing secrets with strangers. It also reveals a user's location so people can meet up.

### ASK.FM



ASK.FM is known for cyber bullying. The app encourages users to allow anonymous people to ask them questions.

### CALCULATOR%



CALCULATOR% is only one of SEVERAL secret apps used to hide photos, videos, files, and browser history.

### HOT OR NOT



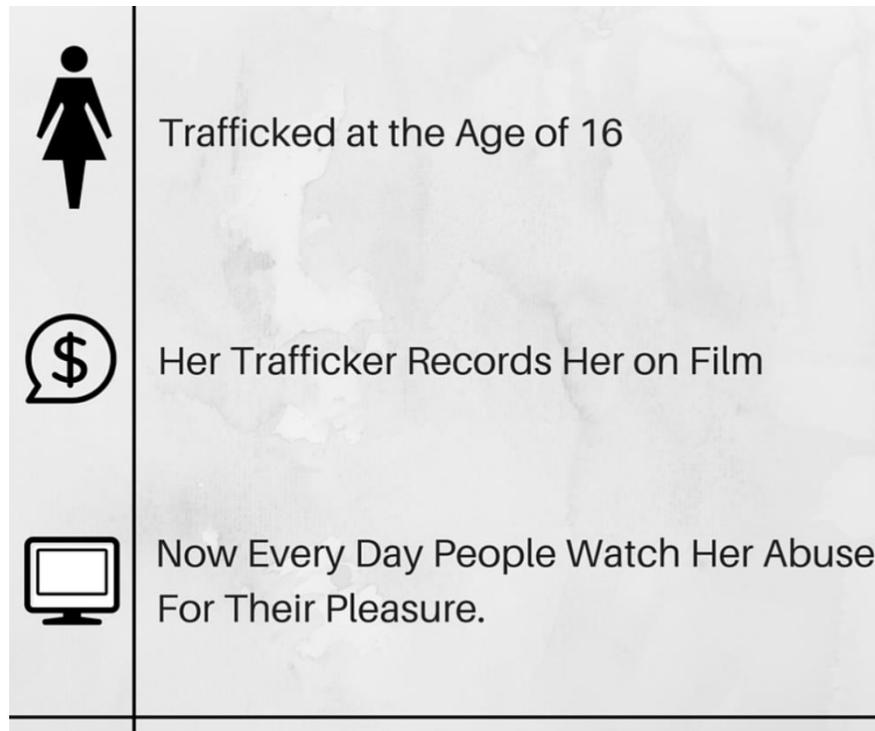
HOT OR NOT encourages users to rate your profile, check out people in their area, and chat with strangers. The goal of this app is to hook up.

For more information, contact Sarasota County Sheriff's Office Community Affairs at 941.861.4005

The Sarasota County (Fla.) Sheriff's Department released these 15 mobile apps it claims are dangerous for children, in which they could encounter bullying or sexual predators.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SARASOTA COUNTY FLA. SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

# Child Sexual Abuse Material



 Trafficked at the Age of 16

 Her Trafficker Records Her on Film

 Now Every Day People Watch Her Abuse For Their Pleasure.

*Source: National Center on Sexual Exploitation*

- Pornography is used as a “tool” to train young children and women so that they will “know” what to do in performing sex acts.
- Often, the forced sexual acts between the prostituted woman/child and the John will be filmed and photographed and then shared elsewhere.
- Studies show that pornography users often seek to act out what they have viewed in porn. Often their partners will not engage in such acts, so they seek it elsewhere – increasing the demand for trafficked women and children to be prostituted.
- Pimps are operating more and more online as it becomes easier to connect with potential buyers and to remain anonymous. Popular websites like [www.Craigslist.com](http://www.Craigslist.com) and [www.Facebook.com](http://www.Facebook.com) have become “virtual brothels” where one can quickly find prostituted women and children to engage in sex acts.
- As addictions to pornography increase, users seek harder and harder material. **There is a recent boom in the availability of “live” porn as trafficked children and women are forced to perform “on-demand” sex acts in front of web cameras as “Johns” or porn users watch.**
- Porn users do not and cannot distinguish between trafficked women, prostitutes, and porn stars.
- Pornography fuels the global sex trade by driving demand into the mainstream of society.

# Backpage.com

- According to National Center for Missing and Exploited Children reports of online child sex trafficking had increased by more than 800 percent from 2010 to 2015
- The organization said this was “directly correlated to the increased use of the internet to sell children for sex”
- Backpage, where revenue increased to \$135 million in 2014 from \$5.3 million in 2008, derived more than 90 percent of its earnings from its adult ads, according to the California Department of Justice

# Montana Statistics Gathered by FBI

October 2016 – October 2017

## Ad Numbers for 6 Top Websites

- Billings 19,226
- Bozeman 5,133
- Missoula 4,615
- Great Falls 2,931
- Butte 2,548
- Helena 2,274
- Kalispell 2,223

# Illicit Massage Businesses

## Victims

- Live on-site, 24 hours a day
- Victims typically 30 – 70 years old
- \$60 house fee
- Labor and sex trafficking
  - \*Victims can be LMTs
- Victims work for tips; tips pay for debt; food; housing
- One female victim = \$3,800 - \$18,000 a month for IMB in Billings, MT
- Victims may be mail-order brides; domestic violence victims; smuggled into the country; debt-bondage victims

Source: FBI, Polaris, Alabama State Board of Massage Therapy Investigation; Federation of State Boards of Massage Therapy

## IMBs

- Located in strip malls; converted houses; office buildings
- Security cameras
- Locked doors; buzzer system
- Windows covered or darkened
- Parking in back
- Neon OPEN sign; ATM machine
- Open 10 AM – 2 AM or 24 hours



Photo credit: Alexis Bonogofsky

# Atlanta, Georgia Shooting Victim



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G0v1lgQRa2Y>

# HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

## WHAT PERTAINS SPECIFICALLY TO YOU

**88 percent of the human trafficking survivors interviewed by researchers had contact with a health care professional** while they were being trafficked, mainly in emergency departments. That means emergency department physicians and nurses have a unique opportunity to intercede.

**Health care professionals have the advantage** of being able to speak with patients alone and not alert the trafficker.

**Asking non-leading questions** and using trauma-informed techniques can create an environment where victims feel they can disclose the abuse they experienced at the hands of their buyers and traffickers.

**Questions about the victim's safety**, and that of other persons, should always be asked if health care professionals believe trafficking is happening.

# Develop Policies and Protocols

Patient presents at clinic with one or more trafficking indicators.

Primary health and safety needs are met

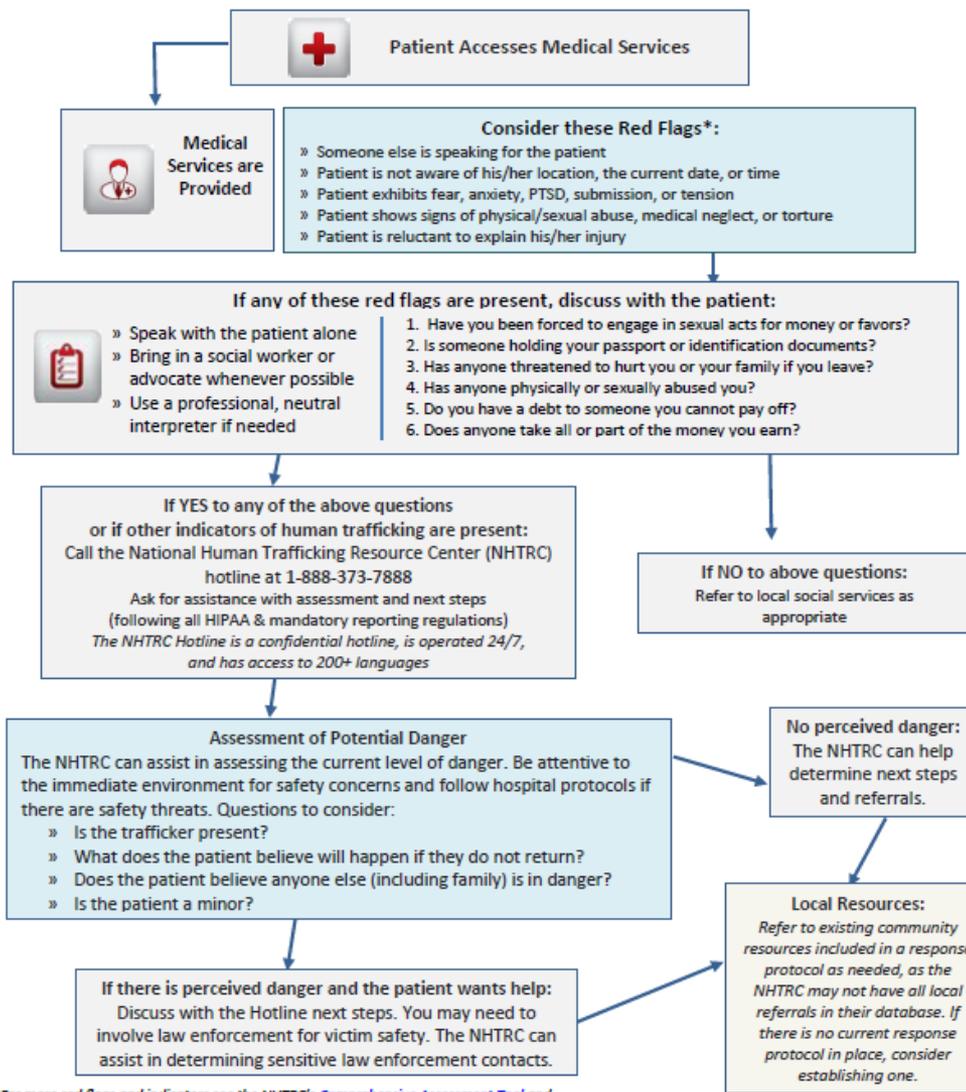
Mandated reporting warranted **or** the patient wishes to report

Report to designated contacts and/or contact the NHTRC Hotline (1-888-3737-888)

Reporting not warranted **and** the patient does not wish to report

Provide referrals and contact the NHTRC Hotline (1-888-3737-888)

Human Trafficking Assessment Tool for Medical Professionals



\*For more red flags and indicators see the NHTRC's [Comprehensive Assessment Tool](#) and [Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking](#) document for healthcare providers.

Report Online or Access Resources & Referrals: [www.traffickingresourcecenter.org](http://www.traffickingresourcecenter.org)

Call: 1-888-373-7888 (24/7)

Email: [nhtrc@polarisproject.org](mailto:nhtrc@polarisproject.org)

This publication was made possible in part through Grant Number 90ZV0102 from the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division, Office of Refugee Resettlement, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division, Office of Refugee Resettlement, or HHS.

# Assessment Tool and Reporting Protocol



**anything suspicious:**  
406.657.8200  
Billings Police Department

**specific victim info:**  
406.839.9070  
MT DOJ – Supervisor Andrew Yedinak  
406.254.8117  
FBI – Special Agent Brandon Walter

**victim services:**  
call 888.816.4702  
[tumbleweedprogram.org](http://tumbleweedprogram.org)  
text 233733 (BeFree) 1-9pm MST

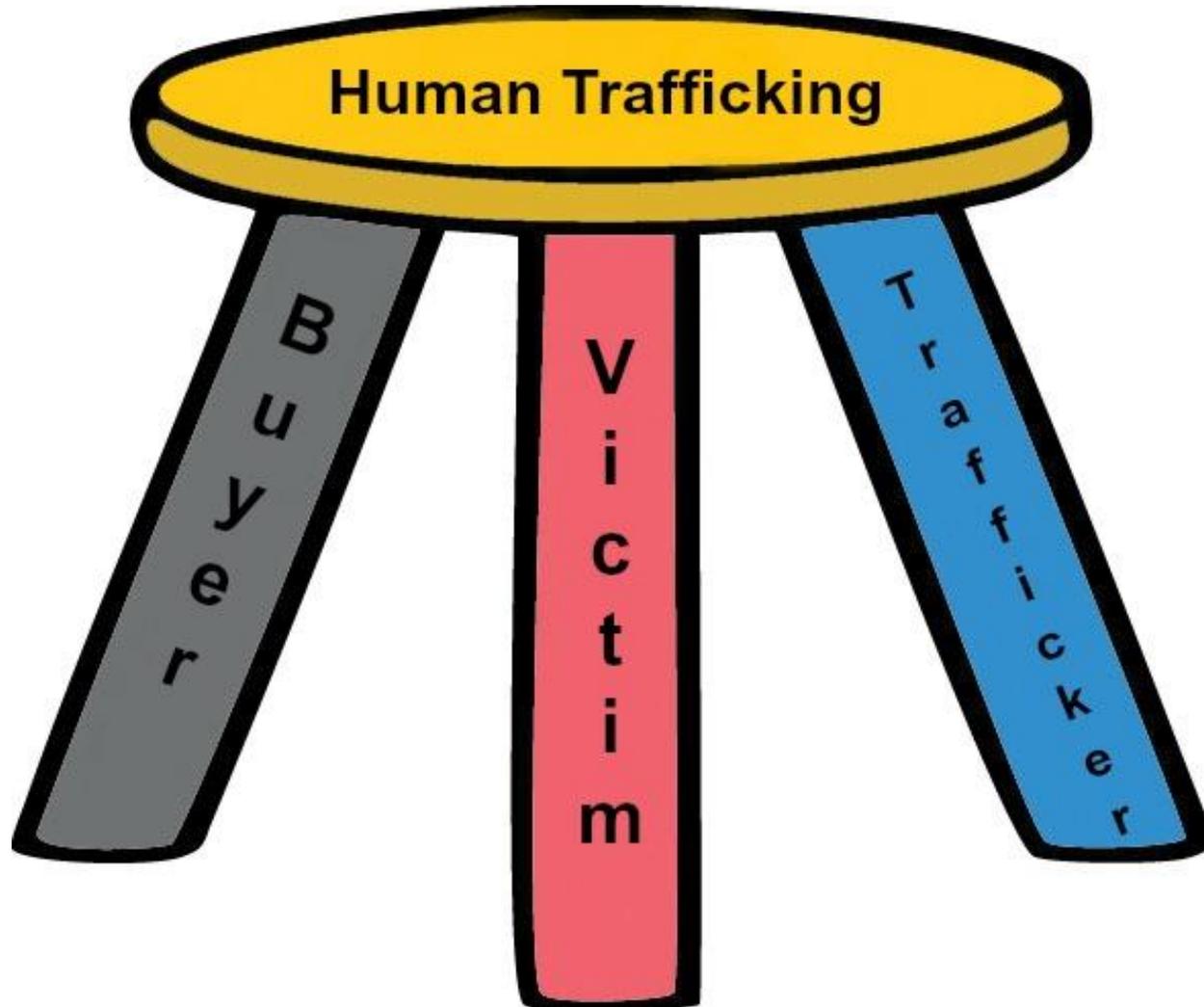
Montana Internet Crimes Against Children & Yellowstone County Area Human Trafficking Task Forces

## RECOGNIZE SEX TRAFFICKING VICTIMS IN YELLOWSTONE COUNTY

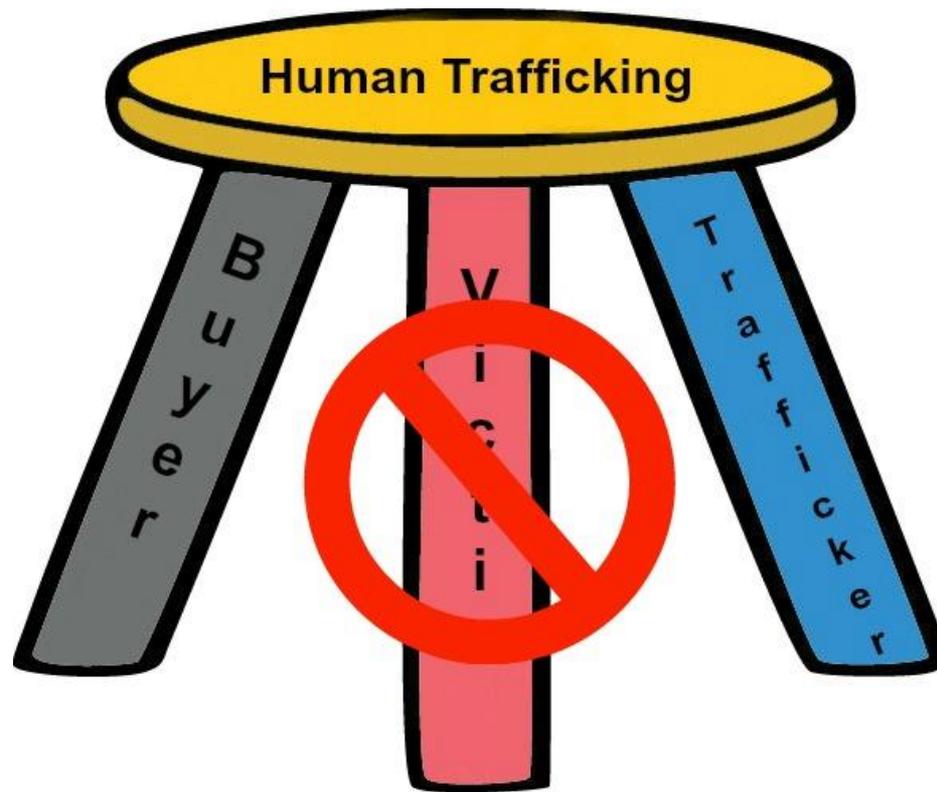
- physical abuse, fatigue, malnourishment • no ID •
- submissive or fearful • unsure of current location •
- avoids eye contact • waits for permission to speak •
- gives confusing answers to simple questions •
- crown, barcode, “property of” or “daddy’s girl” tattoo •
- older man with younger girl, they don’t look related •
- someone you know has unusual amounts of cash •

**NEVER APPROACH A SUSPECTED TRAFFICKING SITUATION!**

# Changing the Paradigm



**Ending Human Trafficking is the Responsibility of  
the Buyers and Traffickers  
NOT THE VICTIMS!**



# Paradigm Shift

- In order to see prostitutes as victims of male coercion and violence it requires that a government first switch from seeing prostitution from the male point of view to the female point of view. And most, if not virtually all, countries of the world still see prostitution and every other issue from a predominantly male point of view.

# MALE VIOLENCE

"We talk about how many women were raped last year, not about how many men raped women. We talk about how many girls in a school district were harassed last year, not about how many boys harassed girls. We talk about how many teenage girls in the state of Vermont got pregnant last year, rather than how many men and boys impregnated teenage girls."

"So you can see how the use of the passive voice has a political effect. [It] shifts the focus off of men and boys and onto girls and women. Even the term 'violence against women' is problematic. It's a passive construction; there's no active agent in the sentence. It's a bad thing that happens to women, but when you look at that term 'violence against women,' nobody is doing it to them. It just happens to them...Men aren't even a part of it!" **Jackson Katz**

***Violence***  
***against***  
***Women***  
***it's***  
***a***  
***Men's***  
***issue***

***Jackson Katz***

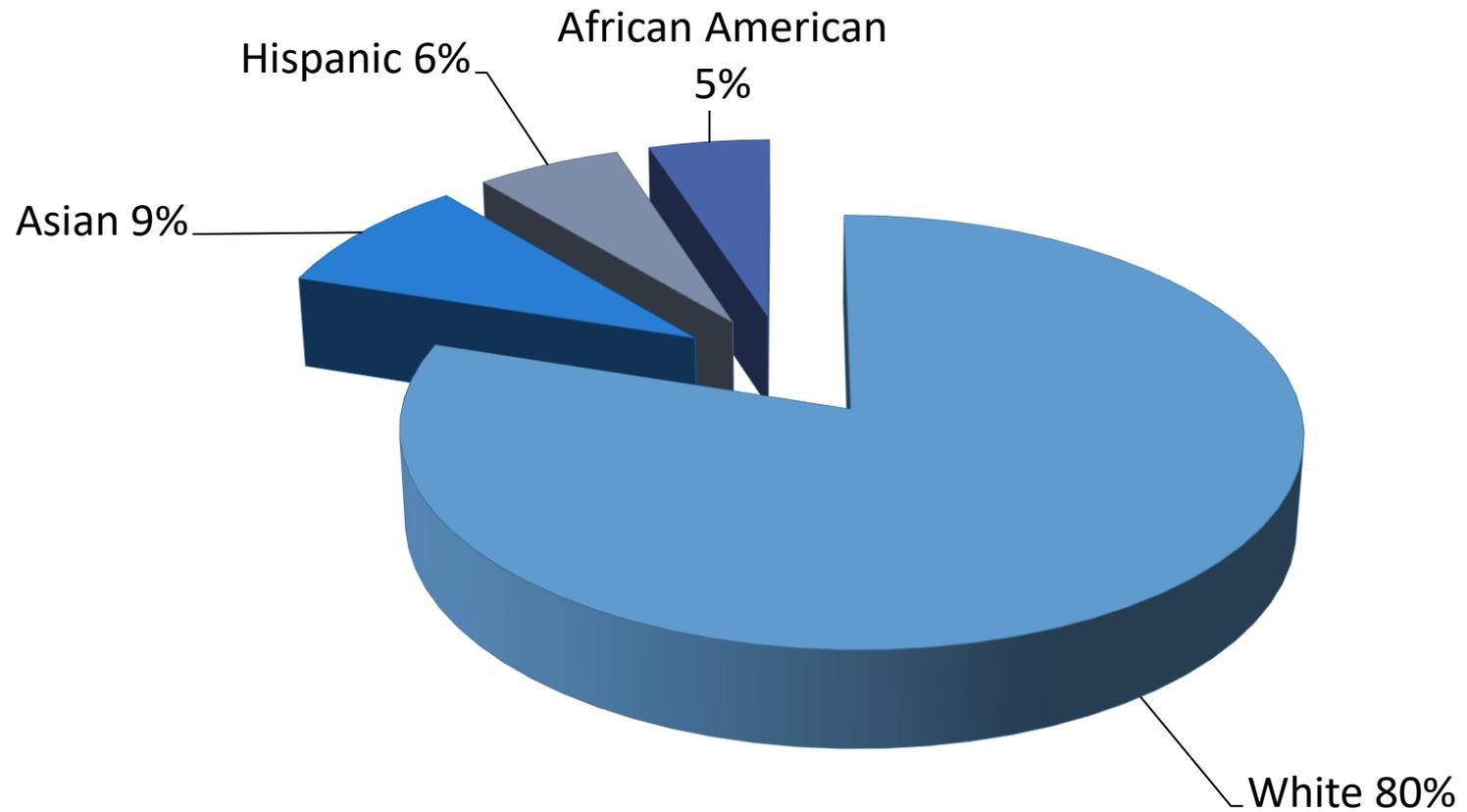
# Why Focus on Demand?

- **Buyers are directly and indirectly responsible for all of the harm experienced by prostituted people**
- Prevalence of violence in sex buying
- Demand drives the exploitation
  - No buyers, no business
  - No business, no exploitation of vulnerable persons
- Because **sex buying is a practice of inequality and gender-based violence**

# Who are the Buyers?

- Come from all professions: executives, pastors, teachers, lawyers, tech, laborers, etc.
- 54% are married
- Higher than average education
- Come from all races/ethnicities, but...

## Sex Buyers of Minors by Race (N = 172)



# Task Force Leaders

The Task Force's volunteer co-chairs founded the Task Force, along with the FBI and U.S. Attorney's Office. The *Steering Committee (SC)* consists of the co-chairs, coordinators, committee chairs, and other leaders.

## Co-Chairs:

**Penny Ronning**

**Stephanie Baucus**

## Partnerships Coordinators:

Erin Walker, Montana O.U.R.

Brittany Homer, Montana O.U.R.

## Administrative Coordinator:

Pam Rogina

## Data Analytics Coordinator:

Nicolette Rose, FBI

## Committee Leaders

1. Prevention and Community Awareness
  - **Chair: Melanie Tripp, Zonta**
  - Vice-Chair: Scott Koch, Whitewood Transport
2. Prosecution and Law Enforcement
  - **Co-Chair: Brandon Walter, FBI**
  - **Co-Chair: Zeno Baucus, U.S. Attorney's Office**
3. Protection and Victim Services
  - **Co-Chair: Erin Harris, FBI**
  - **Co-Chair: Rhonda Busenitz, U.S. Attorney's Office**
  - Vice Chair: Michele Stewart, FBI
  - Secretary: Georgia Cady, Tumbleweed



Image from  
<http://foothillsalliance.org/child-advocacy-center-partners/>

# Task Force Members

## Government

- State Legislature
- County Commission
- City Council
- MT DPHHS
- BIA
- Tribal Leaders Council
- City Victims Services
- County Children's Advocacy Center
- County Victim's Services
- TSA
- Homeland Security
- Carbon County Domestic Violence and Sex Assault Services

## Law Enforcement/Prosecution

- FBI
- US Attorney's Office
- MT DCI
- County Attorney's Office
- Billings Police Department
- YC Sheriff's Department
- Probation and Parole
- 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Dist. Youth Court Services
- Juvenile Probation
- County Jail
- Women's Prison
- Airport Police

## Nonprofit

- AMTA Montana
- Billings Area Family Violence TF
- CASA of Yellowstone County
- DeliverFund
- Dress for Success
- Family Promise of Yellowstone Valley
- Family Services, Inc.
- FREE International
- HEART Initiative
- Her Story
- Kiwanis Club
- Montana O.U.R.
- MSU's The Heart Initiative
- MT Native Women's Coalition
- NAMI
- Passages
- Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council
- Salvation Army
- Truckers Against Trafficking
- Tumbleweed
- Young Families Early Head Start
- Youth Dynamics Inc.
- Youth Crisis Center
- Youth Services Center
- YMCA
- YWCA
- Zonta Club

## Business

- Downtown Billings Alliance
- Jefferson Bus Lines
- Motor Carriers of America
- Yellowstone County Lodging Association
- Sanctuary Spa and Salon
- GLOW Salon
- H'OM Wellness
- Boothhill Inn
- Whitewood Transportation

## Billings Public Schools

## Medical

- Billings Clinic
- Billings Urban Indian Health
- Planned Parenthood
- RiverStone Health
- St. Vincent Healthcare

## Religious

- City Church
- First Baptist Church
- Grace UMC
- Faith Chapel
- BUUF
- Women of ELCA

# **Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act (2018) and Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act (2018)**



- SESTA: "To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to clarify that section 230 of that Act does not prohibit the enforcement against providers and users of interactive computer services of Federal and State criminal and civil law relating to sex trafficking."
- FOSTA: "A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to clarify that section 230 of such Act does not prohibit the enforcement against providers and users of interactive computer services of Federal and State criminal and civil law relating to sexual exploitation of children or sex trafficking, and for other purposes."

# EARN IT Act

## S.3398 - EARN IT Act of 2020

116th Congress (2019-2020)

BILL

Hide Overview ✕

**Sponsor:** [Sen. Graham, Lindsey \[R-SC\]](#) (Introduced 03/05/2020)

**Committees:** Senate - Judiciary

**Committee Meetings:** [07/02/20 10:00AM](#) [06/25/20 10:00AM](#)

**Latest Action:** Senate - 07/20/2020 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 491. ([All Actions](#))

**Tracker:**

Introduced

### **Eliminating Abusive and Rampant Neglect of Interactive Technologies Act of 2020 or the EARN IT Act of 2020**

This bill revises the framework governing the prevention of online sexual exploitation of children.

Among other things, the bill does the following:

- establishes the National Commission on Online Child Sexual Exploitation Prevention,
- directs the commission to develop best practices for interactive online services providers (e.g., Facebook and Twitter) to prevent the online sexual exploitation of children,
- limits the liability protections of online service providers with respect to claims alleging violations of child sexual exploitation laws, and
- replaces statutory references to *child pornography* with *child sexual abuse material*.

# Resources

## **Information for medical personnel**

*Human Trafficking: Information and Resources for Emergency Healthcare Providers*

<http://www.humantraffickinged.com/>

Comprehensive website from Mount Sinai ED

*Caring for Trafficked Persons: Guidance for Health Providers* <http://tinyurl.com/au4nj4p>

UN manual on caring for the medical, emotional & practical needs of trafficked persons

*Modern-Day Slavery in America: Recognizing and Responding to Human Trafficking in a Healthcare Context*

[https://polarisproject.adobeconnect.com/\\_a983384736/medical-module/](https://polarisproject.adobeconnect.com/_a983384736/medical-module/)

29 min. narrated PowerPoint presentation from National HT Resource Center

*Tools for Service Providers*

<http://www.polarisproject.org/resources/tools-for-service-providers-and-law-enforcement>

A variety of assessment and training tools for healthcare and other providers

*Rescue and Restore: Victims of Human Trafficking*

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/resource/rescue-restore-campaign-tool-kits>

Collection of very helpful one page fact sheets, posters, pocket cards and brochures from US Dept. of HHS for healthcare providers and others

# YCA HTTF Projects Completed and Current Initiatives

- Grown membership to over 800 member list serve with over 100 organizations represented
- Presented and conducted trainings at over 200 conferences and events
- Printed and distributed more than 50,000 Signs of Trafficking Card
- Hosted *Fight Human Trafficking* Conference in May 2017 and numerous events
- Co-authored and passed State Legislature on tougher laws on trafficking
- Hosted dozens of awareness events
- Participated in 2020 White House Summit on Human Trafficking
- Developing referral network for victims among service providers
- Worked with MT OPI on trafficking curriculum for schools
- Worked with Billings City Council on illicit massage business ordinance
- Training “trainers” and establishing a speakers bureau on trafficking, especially for specific industries, like transportation, education, hotel/motel, and healthcare
- Members participate in MT USAO statewide task force
- Partnering with Holiday StationStores for multi-state Red Sand Events
- Montana Contact for National Statewide Human Trafficking Assessment Survey

**stop human trafficking CALL**



**anything suspicious:**  
406.657.8200  
Billings Police Department

**specific victim info:**  
406.839.9070  
MT DOJ – Supervisor Andrew Yedinak  
406.254.8117  
FBI – Special Agent Brandon Walter

**victim services:**  
call 888.816.4702  
tumbleweedprogram.org  
text 233733 (BeFree) 1-9pm MST

Montana Internet Crimes Against Children & Yellowstone County Area Human Trafficking Task Forces

## RECOGNIZE SEX TRAFFICKING VICTIMS IN YELLOWSTONE COUNTY

- physical abuse, fatigue, malnourishment • no ID •
- submissive or fearful • unsure of current location •
- avoids eye contact • waits for permission to speak •
  - gives confusing answers to simple questions •
  - crown, “property of...” or “daddy’s girl...” tattoo •
- older man with younger girl, they don’t look related •
- someone you know has unusual amounts of cash •

**NEVER APPROACH A SUSPECTED TRAFFICKING SITUATION!**

# JOIN US ON FACEBOOK

Join us on *Facebook* at **Human Trafficking – Yellowstone County, Montana**

Follow us on **Twitter** @YCAHTTF and use #MTFightsHT

Penny Ronning and Stephanie Baucus  
*Volunteer Co-Chairs and Co-Founders*

Pam Rogina  
*Volunteer Administrative Coordinator*

**Yellowstone County Area Human Trafficking Task Force**

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[pennyronning@gmail.com](mailto:pennyronning@gmail.com); [stephaniebaucus@gmail.com](mailto:stephaniebaucus@gmail.com)