

# Human Trafficking in Alabama: Resources for Healthcare Workers to Identify and Combat Human Trafficking

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# Trauma and Resilience in Human Trafficking

Rosario V. Sanchez  
MSN, RN, CCRN, CFN, SANE-A, DABFN  
Doctoral Student  
UAB School of Nursing



## Objectives

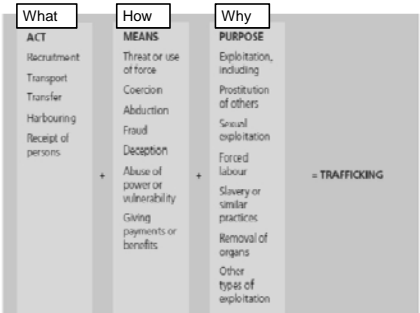
- Define Human Trafficking
- Provide knowledge of new research, theories, concepts
- Provide education and importance of Trauma Informed Care for victims of human trafficking

## Human Trafficking - Definition

- “Trafficking in persons” and “human trafficking” have been used as umbrella terms for the act of recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining a person for compelled labor or commercial sex acts through the use of force, fraud, or coercion

([www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2013/210543.htm](http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2013/210543.htm))

## Methodology



([www.unodc.org](http://www.unodc.org))

## Methodology

- Push Factors:
  - Ignorance of the Issue - Not knowing about trafficking in the first place certainly puts one at risk for being abused and exploited by traffickers

([www.a21.org](http://www.a21.org))

### **Methodology**

- **Push Factors:**
  - **Poverty - Traffickers target people who are financially insecure**
  - **Promises of a good job and steady income are very appealing for someone who is living in poverty**

(www.a21.org)

### **Methodology**

- **Push Factors:**
  - **Runaways and At-Risk Youth - For those who do not come from stable support systems, there is a higher chance that they will look to others for the love and acceptance that they do not find at home**

(www.a21.org)

### **Methodology**

- **Pull Factors:**
  - **Sex Industries - The demands for workers in the sex industry is certainly a pull factor for human trafficking**

(www.a21.org)

### **Methodology**

- **Pull Factors:**
  - **People - The people who purchase and exploit others are the largest pull factor**
    - **Without the demand there would be no supply**

(www.a21.org)

### **Methods – Traffickers**

- **Force – physical to individual, rape, beatings, social isolation**
- **Fraud – false offers of employment, marriage, better life**
- **Coercion – Threats to individual, family, debt bondage, psychological abuse**

### **Methods – Traffickers**

- **Challenges**
  - **Identifying**
  - **Investigating**
  - **Prosecuting**
  - **Partnerships**

### Research

- **Human Trafficking victims are hidden but in plain sight** (Farrell & McDevitt, 2014)
  - Heinous crime, too grotesque
- **Referrals accounted for 39% of investigations**
- **Do not engage in self seeking behaviors** (McClain & Garrity, 2011)

### Research

- **Health and Mental health problems – More than 80% come in contact**
- **Mortality Rate – 40 times higher than the national level in children** (Cecchet & Thoburn, 2014)

### Research - Theoretical Background

- **Socioeconomic Theory**
  - **Social standing and economic activity** (Becker, 1974)
    - **Economically unstable**
    - **Lack of education – deficit in human development**
      - Women less educated, lack of jobs, economic vulnerability
  - **Poverty and employment rates**

### Research - Theoretical Background

- **Feminist Theory**
  - **UN reported women make 66% world's workforce – only 10% world's income and 1% world's property** (Lorber, 2005)
    - **In U.S. women earn on the average 77 cents for every dollar earned by men** (Cecchet & Thoburn, 2014)
  - **Lower status than men, less power, less economic opportunities**

### Context Method

- **Cross-Cultural Issues of gender and racism**
  - **Gender – individual factor of sex, women are treated culturally and coping mechanism**
  - **Gender and racism – Victimization to sex trafficking**
    - **African American – fragmentation and slavery**

### Context Method

- **Destruction of families – to date single families – crime rate, substance abuse, early pregnancy, sex trafficking, human trafficking** (Cecchet & Thoburn, 2014)

### **Context Method**

- **Environment**
  - Low socioeconomic neighborhoods
  - Females , children, adolescents are harassed by pimps
  - Actively recruited into sex trade

### **Knowledge Development**

- **Knowing the theoretical background – scope of sex trade and background influences to HT**
- **Promote a Holistic – Individual, family, community, and culture**
- **Understand psychological impact on victims**
- **Improve systems of care**  
(Farley & Kelly, 2000)

### **Knowledge Development**

- Diminish stereotyping, criminalization, and marginalization
- Applying Trauma Informed Care
  - Safe housing
  - Vocational Support
  - Addiction Treatment and comprehensive medical care
  - Medical and mental health

### **Trauma Informed Care**

- **Care systems and practices that are adapted to account for violent experiences of victims of violence to promote better engagement of services** (Muraya & Fry, 2015)

### **Trauma Informed Care**

- **Avoid revictimization**
- **Promote Resilience**
  - Desire to live
  - Positive thinking
  - Motivation to change
  - “Overcomers” – once a victim, then a survivor – no longer a survivor

### **Five Elements of Trauma Informed Care**

- **Priority to victim’s physical and psychological safety**
- **Simultaneously addressing concurring problems**
- **Empowerment philosophy in service delivery**
- **Building resilience**

### **Five Elements of Trauma Informed Care**

- **Placing much control and choice on human trafficking victims and minimize potential for revictimization**
- **Trauma Bonding**

### **Theoretical – Ecosystem / Ecological Theory**

- **There are 3 environmental levels of functioning in an individual or family's life (Bronfenbrenner, 1986)**
  - **Establishing safe and secure attachments in childhood**

### **Theoretical – Ecosystem / Ecological Theory**

- **Microsystems - Individual**
  - **Child abuse and an absent father, to be loved must be subjected to daily violence**
  - **Change behavior, intrapersonal perception, foster self-love**

### **Theoretical – Ecosystem / Ecological Theory**

- **Mesosystems - Family - Prior history**
  - **Child sexual abuse (incest or rape) led them to be trafficked, led to feelings of pain and betrayal, no social support**

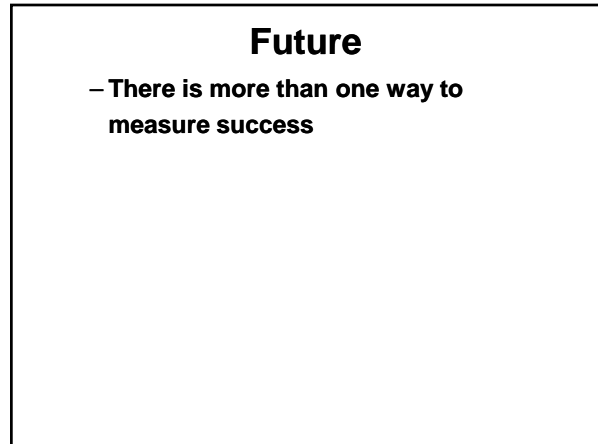
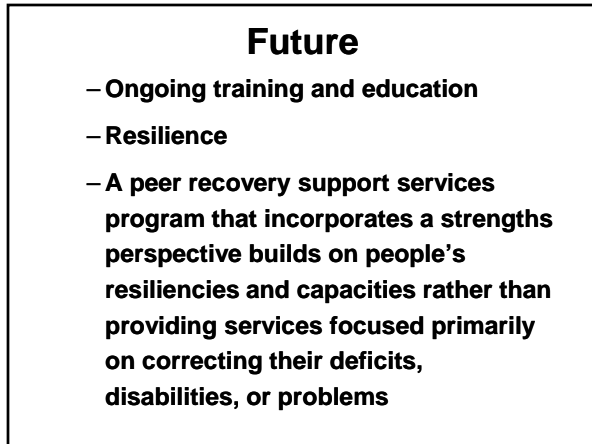
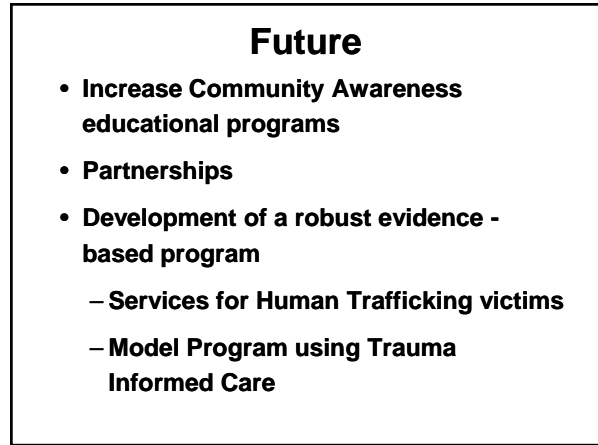
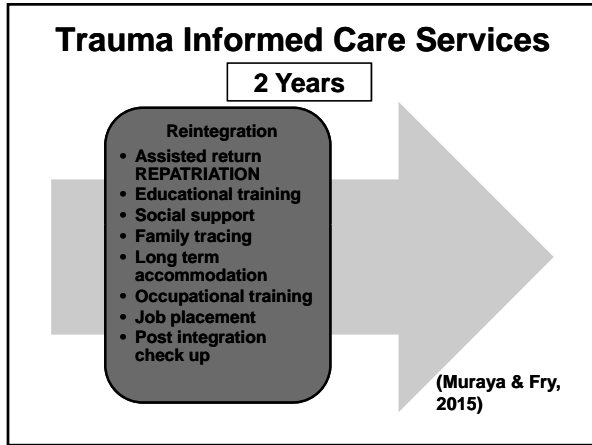
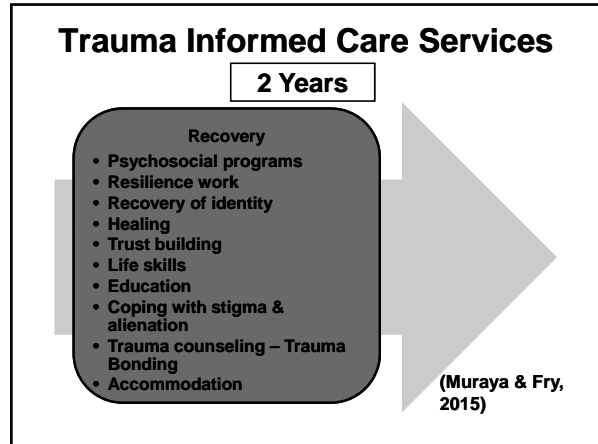
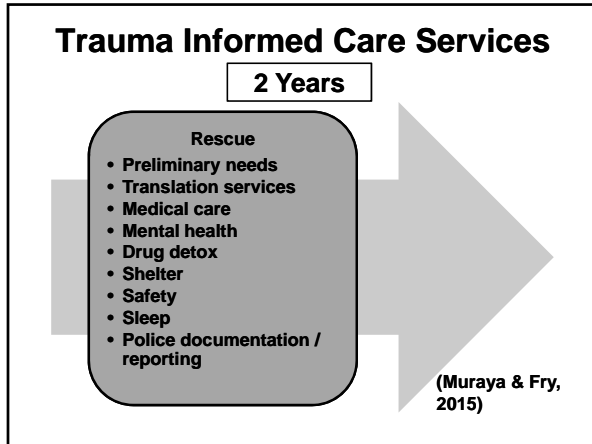
### **Theoretical – Ecosystem / Ecological Theory**

- **Need for meaningful and healthy relationships, connections outside sex trade, self-worth, stop Trauma Bonding**

### **Theoretical – Ecosystem / Ecological Theory**

- **Macrosystems - World - Environment**
  - **Culture of prostitution, siblings, friends, prostitution as normal**
  - **Positive emotional and social support, desire to live, on going change, job skills, community awareness**

(Cecchet & Thoburn, 2015)



## The Faces of Human Trafficking – OVC 2015

"I am"

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