

Human Trafficking and the Influence of COVID-19

Satellite Conference and Live Webcast
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Produced by the Alabama Department of Public Health
Video Communications and Distance Learning Division

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Faculty

Renaë Carpenter, MSW, LICSW, PIP
Social Services Director
Camille Place

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Objectives

- Participants will be able to list 2 types of human trafficking.
- Participants will be able to list 3 risk factors for becoming a victim of human trafficking.
- Participants will be able to list 3 ways that efforts to slow the spread of COVID-19 have placed vulnerable populations at an even greater risk for human trafficking.

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What is Human Trafficking?

- The use of force, fraud, or coercion to benefit from the service of another human being.
- The 2 most common types of human trafficking are labor trafficking and sex trafficking.
- Sex trafficking includes, web cams, street prostitution, brothels, etc.

In the case of minors, no force, fraud, or coercion is necessary.

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Myths of Human Trafficking

- Primarily involves kidnapping
- Usually involves transporting across national borders
- Traffickers are strangers
- Victims come from low socioeconomic families
- Only females are trafficked

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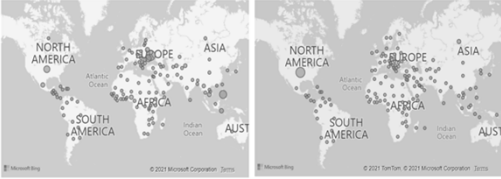
Prevalence of Human Trafficking

- Globally
 - On any given day there are over 40 million people held in modern day slavery around the world.
 - 71% of these are women and girls.
 - 25% are children.
 - It is a \$150 billion dollar industry – \$99 billion in sex trafficking.

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Prevalence of Human Trafficking

- **Globally - Country of Citizenship/Exploitation**



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Prevalence of Human Trafficking

- **Nationally**
 - 83% of victims are US citizens or foreign nationals.
 - 50,000 victims are trafficked INTO the US each year.
 - Countries of origin are primarily Mexico and the Philippines.
 - In 2018, 51.6% of the criminal human trafficking cases active in the US were sex trafficking cases involving children only.

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Prevalence of Human Trafficking

- **Nationally**



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Prevalence of Human Trafficking

- **In Alabama**
 - In 2018 there were 256 contacts made to the human trafficking hotline regarding reports in Alabama with 48 calls coming from victims & survivors.
 - In 2019, there were 286 contacts made regarding reports in Alabama with 90 calls coming from victims & survivors.

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Prevalence of Human Trafficking

- **In Alabama**
 - Common venues include hospitality industry, migrant farming, salons, sporting events, festivals, carnivals, and store front operations.
 - Common locations include Huntsville, Birmingham, Montgomery, Tuscaloosa, Auburn/Opelika, Mobile, and Dothan.

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Risk Factors

- Recent migration or relocation
- Homeless or runaway youth
- LGBTQ+
- Involvement with child welfare
- Substance use

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Risk Factors (cont.)

- **Mental health concerns**
- **Undocumented**
- **Poverty or economic need**
- **History of physical and/or sexual abuse**

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Grooming Techniques

- **Forming relationships**
- **Buying gifts**
- **Testing boundaries**
- **Secret communications**

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Grooming Techniques

- **Sharing explicit sexual materials**
- **Touching**
- **Intimidating**
- **Threats**

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Original Trolls World Tour Poppy Doll



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Original Trolls World Tour Poppy Doll



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Original Trolls World Tour Poppy Doll



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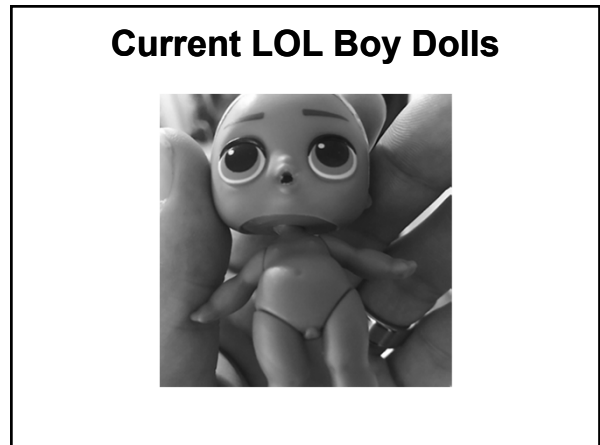
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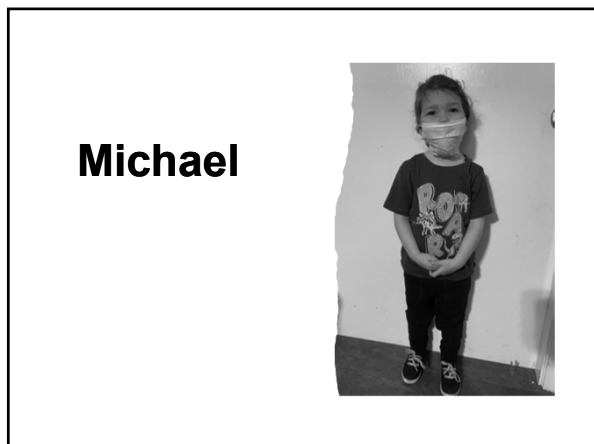
Impact of COVID-19

- Job loss
- Children home alone
- Children spending more time online
- Less contact with mandatory reporters
- Use of face masks

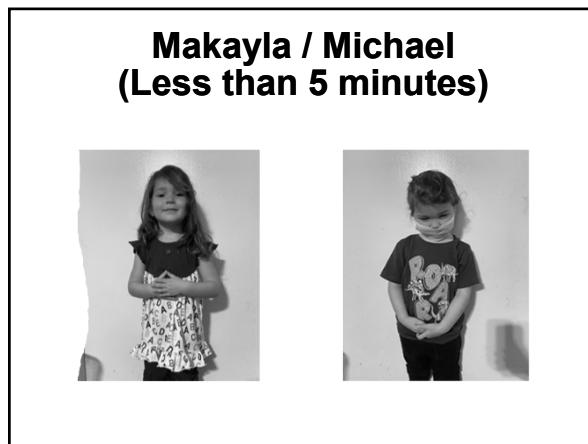
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What to do if you Suspect Human Trafficking

- Do NOT approach the victim/perpetrator.
- Call law enforcement or dial 9-1-1.
- Contact the human trafficking hotline:
 - 888-3737-888
 - Text SAFE or INFO to 233733

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Resources

- www.polarisproject.org
- Greater Baltimore Medical Center Promise Project
- www.camilleplace.com
- www.ctdatacollaborative.org
- www.humantraffickinghotline.org
- www.dosomething.org

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