



# The Intersection of Substance Use and Human Trafficking - Webinar

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February 11, 2019 1:00pm – 2:30pm

# Overview

- I. Human Trafficking: Definition, Scope & Typology
- II. Intersection of Human Trafficking & Substance Use
- III. Mindset of a Victim
- IV. Recognizing and Responding

Scope, Typology, Trends

Intersection of HT & Substances

Recognize & Respond

# Human Trafficking in North Carolina: Scope, Typology, Trends



# What is Human Trafficking?

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Under Federal and North Carolina law:

- **Minors** involved in commercial sexual activity;
- **Adults** induced into commercial sexual activity through force, fraud, or coercion; and
- **Children** and **adults** induced to perform labor or services through force, fraud, or coercion
- Organ trafficking

... are victims of human trafficking.

# Legal Definition:

*According to the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2013:*

## **Sex Trafficking:**

The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for a **commercial sex act** induced by force, fraud or coercion, **OR** in which person induced to perform such an act has not obtained 18 years of age.

## **Labor Trafficking:**

The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person **for labor or services**, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

*22 U.S.C. §§ 7101-7113 (2014)*

*Also see - State Law : NC General Statutes § 14-43.10A (2013)*

# Force, Fraud & Coercion

## *Force*

- Physical assault
- Acid burns
- Rape and gang rape
- Restraint or bonded
- Confinement
- Kidnapping
- Starvation
- Forced substance

## *Fraud*

- Romance / relationship
- False promises / marriage
- Employment
- Better life: jobs, education, citizenship
- Increasing debt
- Recruitment traps
- Corruption

## *Coercion*

- **Threats of serious harm to self/loved ones**
- **Confiscating documents or passports**
- **Threatening to report to police**
- **Threatening legal ramifications**

## Who can be a victim of Human Trafficking?

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- Victim Demographics:
  - Any Age
  - Any Race
  - Any Gender
  - Any Socio-Economic Class
- One Commonality = A Vulnerability to Exploit
  - Poverty
  - Past History of Abuse
  - Homelessness

# Scope: International

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- There are an estimated 40.3 million people enslaved globally, according to the Global Slavery Index by the Walk Free Foundation.
- \$150 Billion dollar a year industry (second largest criminal enterprise in the world).  
International Labor Organization
- The International Labor Organization estimates that 26% of modern slaves are children. (Roughly 10.47 million children – NC's total population in 2017 was 10.27 million)
- 15.4 million people were in forced marriages in 2016 (Axios)
- 89 million people over the past 5 years have experienced modern-day slavery at least temporarily. (Axios)

## Scope: National

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- Nationally, hundreds of thousands are estimated to be trafficked within our own borders. Polaris estimates the total number of human trafficking victims in the U.S. to be in the hundreds of thousands.
- The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in 2016 estimated 1 out of 6 endangered runaways reported to their agency were likely sex trafficking victims.
- NCMEC sites that 86% of the likely sex trafficking victims were in the care of social services when they went missing.

## Scope: National

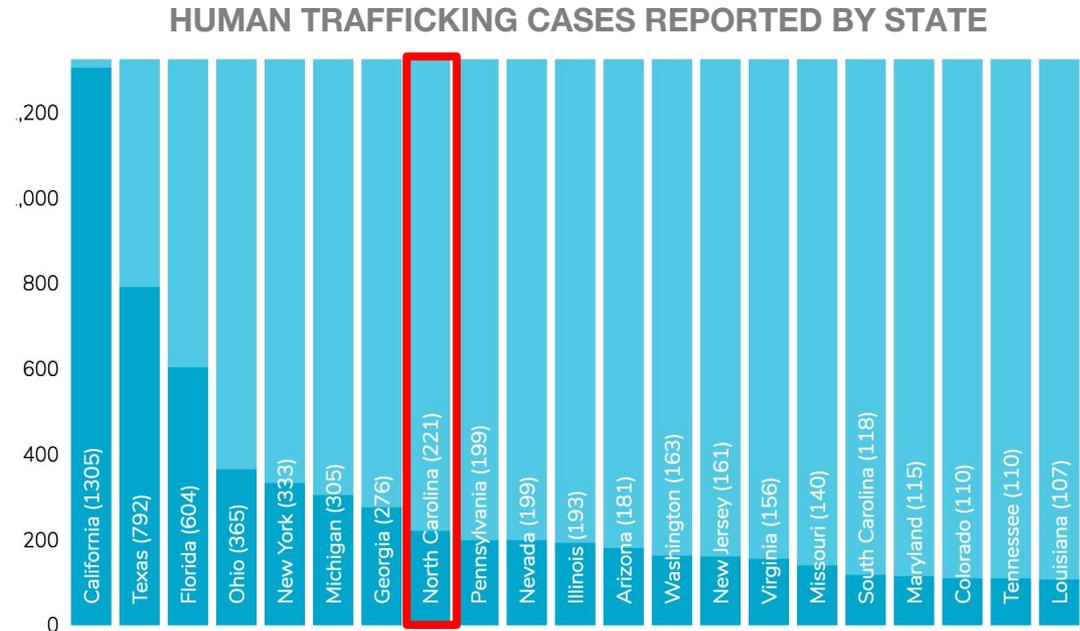
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- Cases of human trafficking have been identified in all 50 states.
- The Federal Government - many departments within have over the past few years dedicated funding to fight this crime. Some states have formed task forces, case management programs or specialized service programs with funding.
- The June 2018 Trafficking In Persons report from the US Dept. of State says, *“The United States is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, transgender individuals, and children – both U.S. Citizens and Foreign Nationals- subjected to sex trafficking and forced labor.”*

# Scope: North Carolina 2017

- **Total # of Calls:** 854 (43% increase from 2016)
- **Potential Trafficking Situations:** 221 (22% increase)
- **Victims / Survivors Identified:** 895

Source: NHTRC\*



## Scope: Why North Carolina?

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- Interstate and Highway System
- Agricultural Need for Migrant Labor
- Processing Plants
- Coastal Tourism
- Military Bases
- High number of universities
- Major Sports Venues
- Opioid Epidemic

# Scope: Labor Trafficking in North Carolina

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Industries where Labor trafficking has been identified in North Carolina:\*

- Traveling Sales
- Domestic Servitude
- Factories / Plants
- Restaurants or Food Service
- Agricultural / Farm Work
- Begging Rings / Panhandling
- Illicit Massage Businesses
- Sports

\**Not comprehensive.*

# Scope: Sex Trafficking in North Carolina

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Industries where sex trafficking has been identified in North Carolina:\*

- Agricultural / Farm Work (camps)
- On-Line / Internet (in-call or out-call)
- Pornography
- Brothels
- Hotels
- Truck Stops
- Personal Sexual Servitude
- Bars, Strip Clubs
- Pimping “The Life”
- Family Facilitated

\* *Not comprehensive.*

# Scope: Sex Trafficking in North Carolina

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## Common Posting Websites:

- [us.backpage.com](https://us.backpage.com)
- [usaadultpersonal.com](https://usaadultpersonal.com)
- [www.erotismugshots.com](https://www.erotismugshots.com)
- [usasexguide.info](https://usasexguide.info)
- [callescort.org](https://callescort.org)
- [humaniplex.com](https://humaniplex.com)
- [theeroticreview.com](https://theeroticreview.com)
- [cityvibe.com](https://cityvibe.com)
- [skipthegames.com](https://skipthegames.com)

# Human Trafficking and Substance Use

## Identifying Human Trafficking and Substance Use:

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It is important to have awareness of common intersections of human trafficking and substance use in order to identify survivors, instead of re-traumatizing victims:

- **Law Enforcement** may arrest a human trafficking survivor for substance related charges.
- The **Court System** may prosecute victims for substance related charges.
- The **Child Welfare System** and **Educational System** may determine a child is acting out, instead of realizing they are being sold for sex by a parent, relative, boyfriend, etc.
- A **Shelter** or **Housing Program** may dismiss a client from the program for substance use or promiscuous behavior, instead of assessing for the possibility of control.
- **Medical professionals**, including substance use treatment programs, may treat an individual that is actually a crime victim.

# Common Situations

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- **Familial Trafficking:** One situation in which this occurs is when an adult family member sells or pressures their child / other family member to engage in labor or sex acts in exchange for substances.
- **Drug Dealing:** Some cases of human trafficking have occurred with victims being forced to sell drugs for a gang or for other trafficker's profit.
- **Farm Labor Camps:** Some farm labor contractors provide access to drugs on-site and the cost of such substances are tacked onto their already overwhelming debt to pay off.
- **With the help of illicit substances, Nationally and Internationally,** beggars can work longer hours with no concern of disappearing with their earnings, agricultural workers can do back-breaking work in fields, and children can perform the acts necessary to

# Recruitment Tactics using Substances

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Traffickers take advantage of any vulnerability to find their victims.

Some tactics are:

- Identifying an individual with an addiction to a substance and use their addiction to control them (this makes the drug part of the grooming process). There are cases of recruitment happening at or outside of substance use disorder treatment facilities, methadone clinics and other places.
- Provide substances to a victim in order to facilitate the trafficking incident to occur (forced dependency).
- Use the substance to initially make or to keep the victim in debt to the trafficker (debt bondage).
- Force someone that owes a drug debt to sell a family member or child to you to pay off their

## Manipulation and Retention Tactics using Substances

Traffickers use highly addictive substances to keep their victims in fear of withdrawal and willing to do what is asked of them to avoid withdrawal.

Substances can be used as a form of punishment, reward or indoctrination.

Victim arrests for drug possession only intensifies their reliance on the trafficker, especially if there are court fees or fines to pay off.

Traffickers may introduce a substance to a victim in order to keep them able to perform the work. (Opioids – numb both emotional and physical pain) They may also offer substances to buyers.

Trafficker may threaten to expose substance use if the person doesn't continue working for them.

HT and Substance Use

Mindset

Recognizing and Responding

# Mindset of a Victim



# VICE News – October 9, 2018

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*“Patients at the Recovery Connections Community rehabilitation center thought they were enrolling in a proper residential drug recovery program nestled high in the Appalachian mountains. Instead, they say, they were made to live in filthy trailers, verbally abused, and forced into unpaid labor, just to stay enrolled.”*

- Long, unpaid work days in retirement homes, assisted living facilities and fast food restaurants.
- Many people sent to the organization were sent as an alternative to prison.
- No recovery program provided.
- Many participants continued to misuse substances in order to cope with the conditions.

# Mindset: Understanding the Victim

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## Why don't they just leave?

- Use of threats and violence
- May be under surveillance
- Fear/distrust of health providers, law enforcement, government
- Unaware what is being done to them is a crime
- Isolated and kept in states of exhaustion and illness
- Shame, self-blaming, and feeling responsible (for situation or a debt)
- Substance use disorder

# Mindset: Manipulation

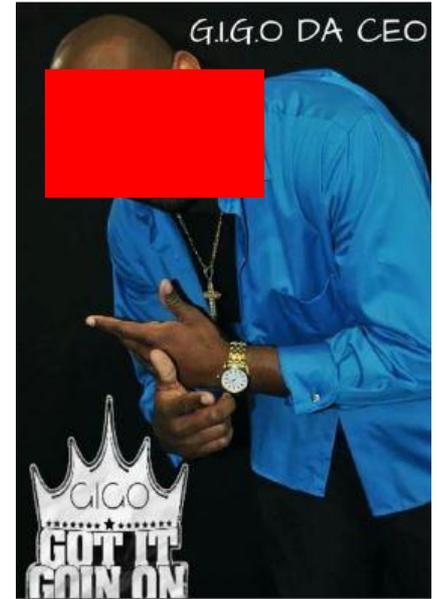
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Business: selection process, courtship, isolation, transition, control with occasional indulgences

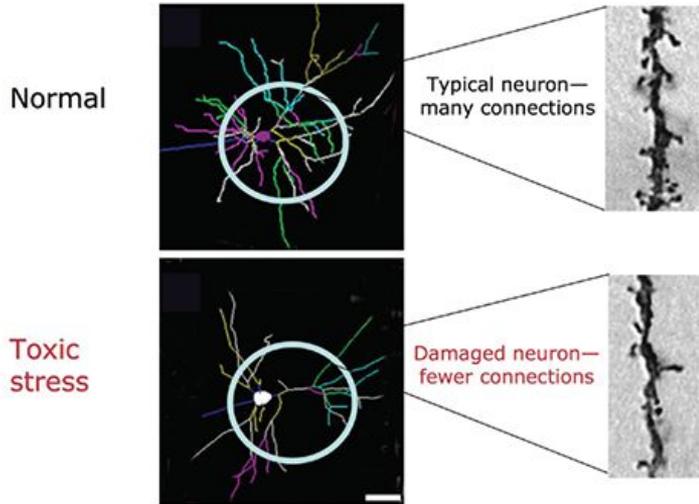
# Eric Thompson

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH  
CAROLINA  
WESTERN DIVISION  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
V. ) 5:16-CR-75-1BO  
ERIC THOMPSON  
NOVEMBER 9, 2016

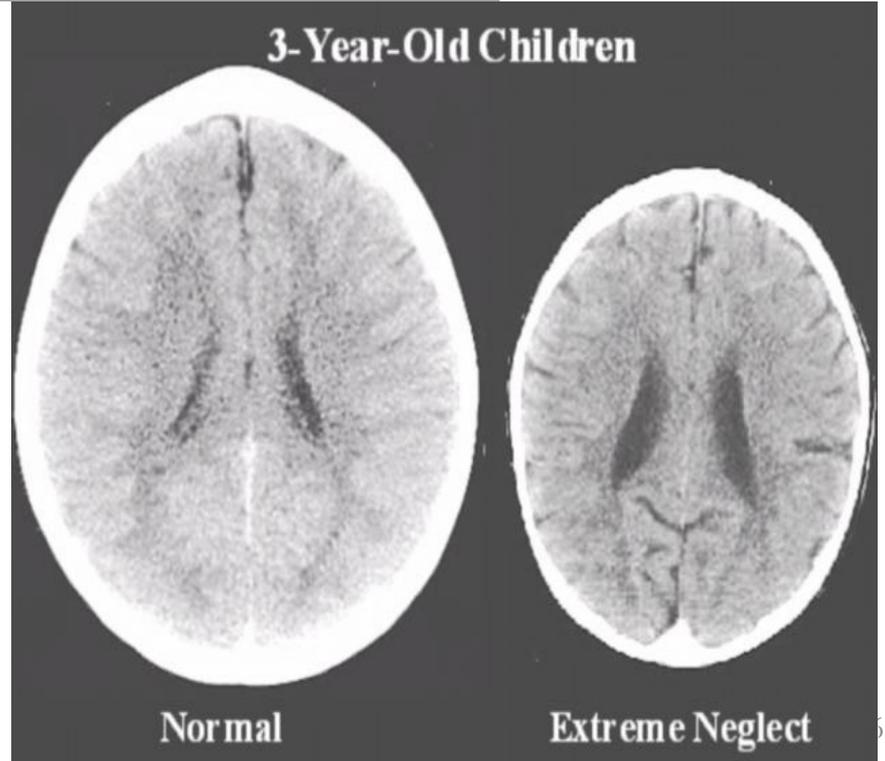


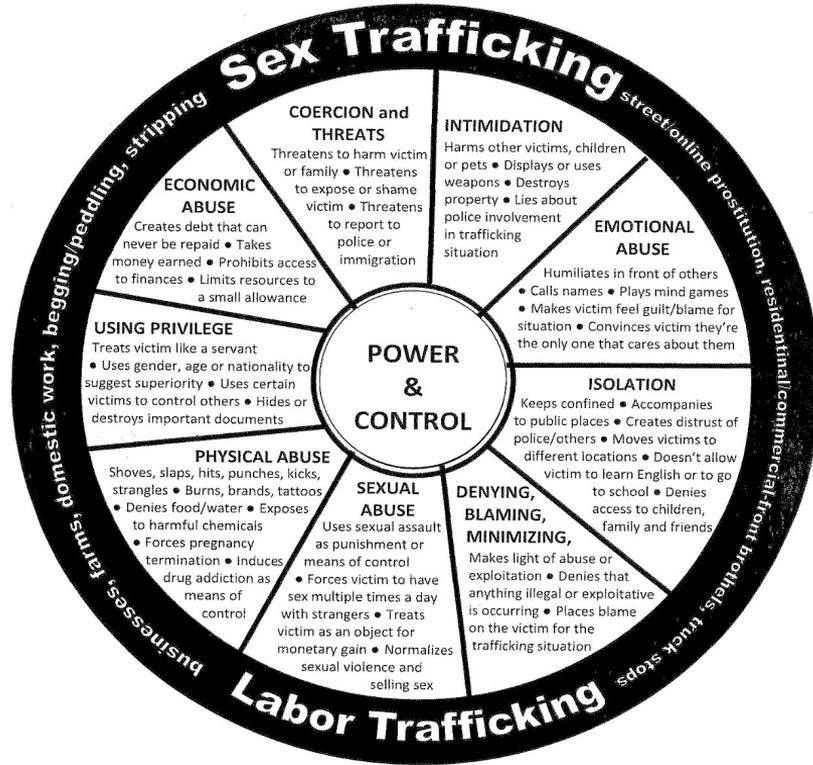
# Trauma – Impact on the Brain

## Persistent Stress Changes Brain Architecture



Prefrontal Cortex and Hippocampus





This wheel was adapted from the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project's Duluth Model Power and Control Wheel, available at [www.theduluthmodel.org](http://www.theduluthmodel.org)

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Scope, Typology, Trends

Intersection of HT and Substances

**Recognize and Respond**

# Recognizing and Responding to Human Trafficking



# Red Flags

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- Is not free to leave / come and go
- Is unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips
- Works excessively long and / or unusual hours
- Is not allowed breaks or suffers under unusual restrictions at work
- Owes a large debt and is unable to pay it off
- Was recruited through false promises concerning the nature and conditions of work
- High security measures at work / or living conditions
- Has few or no personal possessions
- Is not in control of own identification documents or own money

# Red Flags

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- Past history of sexual or physical abuse
- Evidence of DV/SA
- Older boyfriend/partner
- Substance misuse
- Foster care
- History of Running away
- Reluctant to work with law enforcement
- Specific Tattoos (pimp names, gang symbols, branding)
- New possessions

## Respond: What to do when you see red flags

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- Contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 - to ask questions, report an incident, find help for a potential victim.
- Learn more about the questions to ask, tools to use or take on-line free training through SOAR, HEAL, OVC TTAC, VERA Institute, Shared Hope International and more.
- Have resources ready for the population that you serve, such as one-page print outs for parents, youth, internet safety, schools, etc. See the above named websites, as well as NCMEC and the National Center on Sexual Exploitation.

HT and Substance Use

Mindset

Recognizing and Responding

# What Practitioners Can Do: (Substance Use Specific)



# Treatment for Substance Addiction & Human Trafficking

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- Studies have found individuals with higher experiences of trauma need more ongoing support compared to lower experiences of trauma.
- A 2018 study on sex trafficking of runaway and homeless youth ages 12-25 sited that almost half of the youth that reported being victims commonly scored 7 or above on the ACES, compared to 25% of the non-trafficked youth.
- Core general approach include meeting basic needs, building trust and rapport, being conscious of language, remaining sensitive to power dynamics, and avoiding retraumatization.

# What's Working:

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- Multidisciplinary approach that is survivor-centered, culturally relevant, evidenced-based, gender-sensitive, and trauma-informed.
- Cannot address the recovery or successfully move someone out of the life without addressing the trauma also.
- As someone is in recovery or recovering from a substance use disorder, they may begin to remember things they did to themselves or others during their misuse.
- The patient / client should be interviewed alone, with a trusted, trained interpreter when needed.
- Only ask questions necessary to determine next steps with the client

# What's Working:

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- Identifying triggers and how they play a role in recovery;
- Changing people, places, things;
- Building trust;
- Changing their narrative about who they are. World = I am worthy and good things can happen;
- Experiential groups about joy / fun, healthy connections;
- Safety and Risk Assessments for overdose or suicide
- Peer-to-Peer Mentoring

# Trauma-informed and Victim(Survivor)-Centered

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## Principles

- Recovery is possible.
- Healing happens in relationships
- Share power
- Integrate care
- Support client control, choice, and autonomy

## Other Concepts

- Behavior is viewed as adaptations or ways to get needs met
- Problems / Symptoms are coping mechanisms related to trauma

# What's Not Working:

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- Blame and Shame;
- Prosecuting Victims as Criminals;
- Drop in centers with groups that allow people to come in high
- Some areas that can be triggering to some clients: forced faith-based services; self-help models; institutions
- Common barrier is the requirement of needing a negative drug test prior to admission into programs, such as emergency shelters.
- Additional barrier is requirement to have a treatment bed lined up before admitting to

# Contact Information

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