Common Indicators/Red Flags
Including chief complaints and health consequences of human trafficking
* denotes indicator mentioned in article or study concerning trafficking of minors specifically

Note: The presence of one red flag or indicator alone is not necessarily enough to suggest trafficking is a part of the patient’s experience. The presence of multiple indicators/red flags may amount to a trafficking situation and should lead to further screening.

Physical Indicators
- Abdominal pain
- Acute intoxication (pesticides or other chemicals)
- Acute tendonitis
- Back pain
- Bald spots
- Branding/tattoos
- Broken bones
- Bruising
- Burns
- Chronic medical conditions
- Chronic pelvic pain
- Cold stress (and related symptoms)
- Cuts
- Frequent bacterial/yeast infections
- Heat stress (and related symptoms)
- History of fractures/significant wounds*
- History of traumatic loss of consciousness*
- HIV
- Injuries
- Injuries (e.g. bruises) in various stages of healing
- Malnutrition
- Muscular sprains
- Pelvic inflammatory disease
- Pelvic pain
- Poor dental hygiene
- Pregnancy
- Signs of medical neglect/delay of seeking care
- STDs/STIs (especially multiple and recurrent STIs)
- UTIs
- Vaginal or anal trauma

Psychological Indicators
- Anxiety disorders
- Attachment disorders*
- Confusion
- Deficits in verbal and memory skills*
- Depression
Psychological Indicators (continued)
- Developmental delays*
- Disorientation
- Dissociation
- Feelings of helplessness
- Feelings of shame/guilt, humiliation
- Flashbacks
- Headaches/migraines
- Insomnia
- Intrusive thoughts/memories
- Irritability
- Low self-esteem
- Nightmares
- Panic Attacks
- Poor concentration
- PTSD
- Suicidal ideation

Behavioral Indicators
- Access to money and goods inconsistent with age*
- Accompanied by controlling/dominating individual

Sources: 3, 6, 9, 11, 12, 13, 17, 19, 28, 29, 30, 31, 34, 37, 40, 42, 43, 48

Additional Resource about Identification of HT Victims in Psychiatry Health Setting

Additional Resource about Oral and Dental Health Issues Related to Trafficking, Abuse, & Neglect
# Common Risk Factors/Vulnerabilities

* denotes indicator mentioned in article or study concerning trafficking of minors specifically

## Individual Level Risk Factors
- Access to internet*
- Current or prior runaway status
- Current/prior involvement with child protective system*
- Engagement in survival sex
- Experience of sexual abuse in childhood
- Experiencing disability (physical, developmental/cognitive, learning)
- Foster care placement
- History of pregnancy*
- Homeless/street-involved
- Identification as LGBTQ
- Identity as African-American, American Indian and Alaska Native or other racial minority
- Juvenile justice involvement
- Limited English proficiency
- Low-income status
- Migrant laborer
- Multiple drug use
- Multiple STIs*
- Prior involvement with law enforcement*
- Significant mental health history*
- Substance abuse
- Temporary work visa holders
- Undocumented status

## Relationship/Interpersonal Level Risk Factors
- Experience of abuse (sexual/physical/emotional)
- Experience of intimate partner violence
- Experience of neglect
- Family members involved in sex work*
- Foreign national/domestic worker in diplomatic household
- Lack of parental supervision*
- Parental substance abuse*
- Past experience of violence by parents/caregivers*
- Past experience of violence with sexual activity
- ‘throwaway status’*

## Community Level Risk Factors
- Food and housing insecurity
- Minimal police presence/involvement
- Potential for peer recruitment at school
- Presence of transient male adults

## Societal Level Risk Factors
- Discrimination
- Extreme poverty
- Failure to identify DMST victims*
- Lack of awareness
- Lack of response to crimes against children
Societal Level Risk Factors (continued)
- Sexualization of children in media
- Social marginalization
- Stigma
- Tolerance of sexism in entertainment industry

Sources: 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 15, 17, 20, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30, 31, 36, 37, 51, 52
Other Helpful Resources

- **HEADSS Tool for Screening High-Risk Youth** – Box 3 (p.55)
- **Tips for Medical Documentation and Communication with Investigators** (Box 4) and **Triage Decisions for the Sexual Assault Medical Exam** (Box 5) (p. 56)
- **Decision Tool for Medical Management of Youth at Risk for Trafficking** - Flowchart (p.58)

- **Sample Forensic Interview Questions for Potential CST Victims** – including rational and cautions for each question – Table 3 (p. 22-23)

- **Ecological Framework for Contextualizing and Conceptualizing Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children** – Figure 1 (p. 20)

- **University of Kansas Human Trafficking Medical Assessment Tool** – Figure 1 (p. 186)

- **Health Problems Associated with Human Trafficking (Physical, Reproductive, and Mental Health)** – Table 2 (p. 583)

- **Potential Examination Findings Associated with the Trauma of Human Trafficking** – Table 5 (p. 43-44)

- **Assessment Guideline Flowchart** – Figure 1 (p. 4)
- Phase-Based Model of Trauma Treatment in Primary Care Practice – Table 1 (p. 660)

- Example Decision Flowchart for ED Staff – Figure 1 (p. 170)
- Human Trafficking – Forensic Nurse Response (Flowchart) – Figure 3 (p. 172)

- Physical Assessment Findings Associated with Human Trafficking - Table 3 (p. 286)
Sources


