



agency for persons with disabilities
State of Florida

Human Trafficking

Modern Day Slavery

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Rick Scott
Governor

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Who is APD?

- APD provides Home and Community-Based Waiver Services (HCBS) to individuals with developmental disabilities
 - Autism
 - Cerebral palsy
 - Down syndrome
 - Intellectual disabilities
 - Prader-Willi syndrome
 - Children age 3-5 who are at a risk of a developmental disability
 - Spina bifida
 - Phelan-McDermid syndrome



Human Trafficking

Federal Law: *The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000*

Severe forms of human trafficking –

- a) Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age; or*
- b) 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*
- **Florida Statute Chapter 787.06(2)(d)**
 - Transporting, soliciting, recruiting, harboring, providing, enticing, maintaining, or obtaining another person for the purpose of exploitation of that person*



Human Trafficking

Is this horrific crime actually a problem?



\$150 Billion Industry

Approximately 30 million people enslaved worldwide



Human Trafficking

Florida is ranked number **3** in the nation

STATES WITH MOST REPORTS OF POTENTIAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING

1. California

2. Texas

3. Florida

4. New York

5. Illinois

6. District of Columbia

7. Virginia

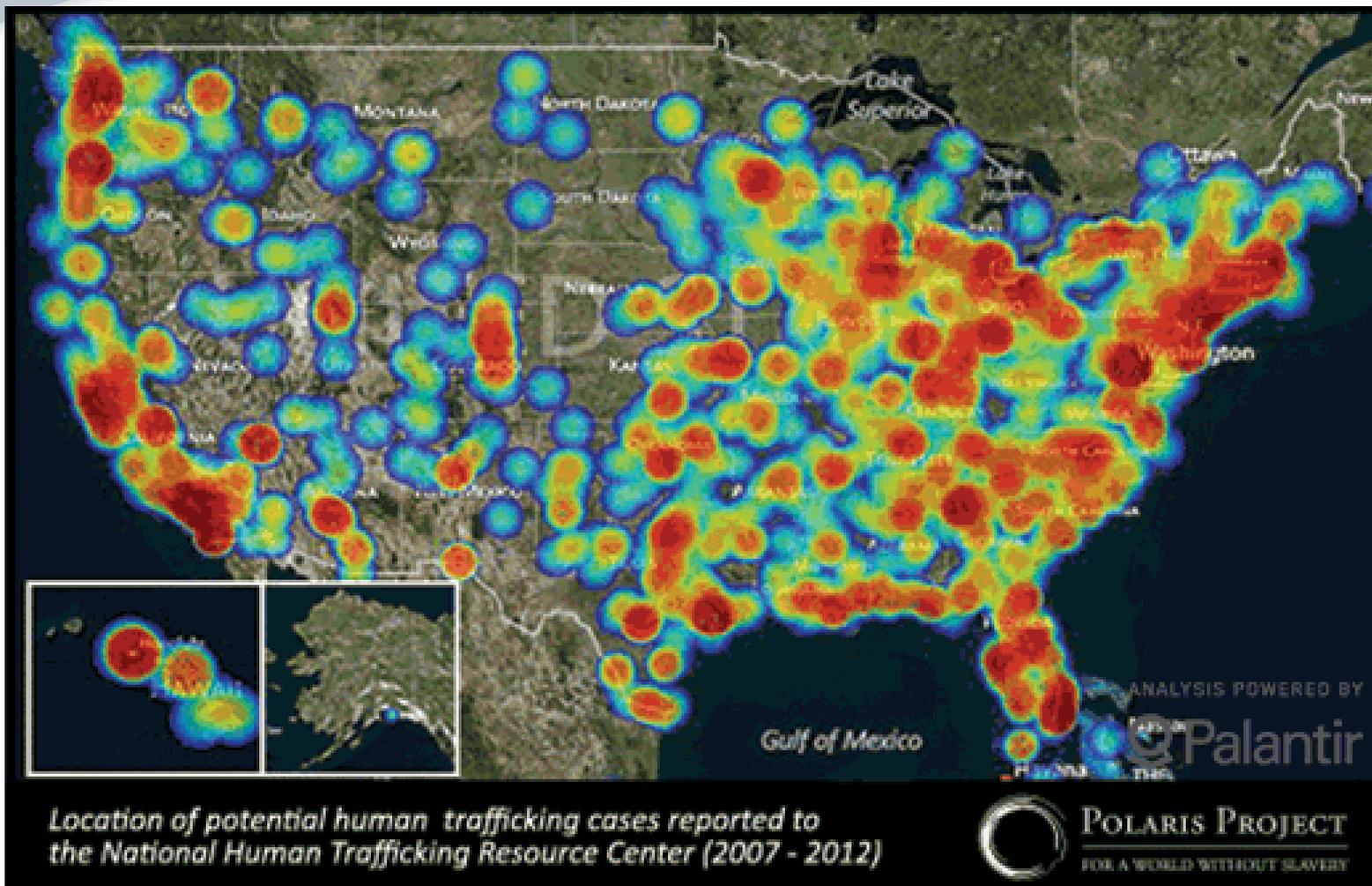
8. Ohio

9. North Carolina

10. Georgia



[Too Close to Home - Documentary on South Florida HT](#)



Human Trafficking

FORCE

- Beating
- Burning
- Torture practices
- Sexual assault
- Seasoning/ initiation



FRAUD

- False promises
- Withholding wages
- Blackmail/ extortion
- Deceitful behavior



Human Trafficking

COERCION

- Threats of serious harm
- Intimidation/humiliation
- Emotional abuse
- Creating dependency
- Quotas

ENTICEMENT

- False promises of love/friendship
- Guilt, shame
- Wanting to please
- Promises of money/reward
- Protection
- Fear



Human Trafficking

Things to know:

1. People are trafficked into many industries.
2. Trafficking is visible; trafficking is accepted.
3. Supply and demand fuel trafficking.
4. “People smuggling” is not considered human trafficking.
5. As many as one in five trafficking survivors fell prey a second time.
6. Boys and men are trafficked too. Boys enter the human trafficking world at age 9-11. There is more shame with males than females.
- 7. Disability is attractive to traffickers.**
8. There is no one “profile” of a trafficker.

Human Trafficking

- Agriculture
- Begging
- Tourism
- Nail Salon
- Factory Labor



Labor



- Prostitution
- Brothels
- Clubs
- Massage Parlors
- Escort Services



Sex

- Nanny
- Live-in Maid
- Cook
- Landscaper
- Butler



Domestic Servitude



Some Types of Trafficking



Human Trafficker

Traffickers do not have one profile

- Potential Traffickers:
 - Pimps
 - Intimate partners/family members
 - Gangs and criminal networks
 - Brothel and fake massage business owners and managers
 - Growers and crew leaders in agriculture
 - Labor brokers
 - Employers of domestic servants
 - Small business owners and managers
 - Large factory owners and corporations

Becoming a Victim

- **Recruiting a Victim**

- Purposeful targeting
- Warmth, gifts, compliments, and sexual and physical intimacy
- Selling of false love and “The Dream”
- Elaborate promises of a better life, fast money, and future luxuries





Becoming a Victim

- “Grooming,” “Breaking-down,” or “Seasoning”
- Often Involves:
 - Beating/slapping/whipping
 - Burning
 - Sexual assault
 - Confinement
 - Other torture techniques
 - Emotional abuse
 - Re-naming
 - Branding
 - Creating a climate of fear
 - Removal from familiarity and support structure
 - Document confiscation
 - Forced sexual education



Victims of Human Trafficking

- **Anyone can be a victim**
- Some populations are more vulnerable to victimization
 - These may include: undocumented immigrants; **runaway and homeless youth; victims of trauma and abuse; individuals with intellectual disabilities**; refugees and individuals fleeing conflict; and oppressed, marginalized, impoverished groups and individuals, and/or **individuals with low self-esteem**



Disabilities and Victimization

- Persons with disabilities are almost **twice** as likely to be victims of violent crimes
 - Persons with cognitive disabilities are 30% more likely to be victims of violent crimes
- 68% of children with disabilities were victims of sexual violence
- 32% of children with disabilities were victims of physical violence
- **People with intellectual, cognitive, or developmental disabilities are 7 times higher risk of becoming victims**

[6]

Disabilities and Victimization

- In 2007 in China, around 1,340 people were delivered from forced labor in brick kilns in a series of government-investigated rescues. **Many were children, and nearly one-third of them had intellectual disabilities.**





Increased Vulnerability

People with developmental disabilities are more likely to be victimized because of **social stigma**.

- Unable to report the crime
- Not considered credible reporters
- Unable to differentiate between appropriate and inappropriate touching
- May be socially isolated
- Dependence on others for long-term care
- Lack of economic independence
- Lack of participation in abuse awareness and personal safety programs
- Less education about sexuality and healthy intimate relationships
- Communication challenges
- Physical barriers to accessing supports and services
- **Victims of sexual, physical, or mental abuse** ^[1]



Case files / FBI

U.S. v. Carlos Monsalve & U.S. v. Jorge Melchor

- **Part of cartel**
- **Close to 20 brothels operated by a cartel around Florida**
- **Melchor was regional pimp for NW Florida & distributed business cards**
- **Prostitution delivery service**
- **Required at least four johns (15 min each) per call**
- **25-40 sex transactions a night per victim**





Red Flags Of Human Trafficking

Common Work and Living Conditions:

- Is under 18 and is providing commercial sex acts
- Is in the commercial sex industry and has a pimp/manager
- 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 his/her work
- High security measures exist in the work and/or living locations (e.g. opaque windows, boarded up windows, bars on windows, barbed wire, security cameras, etc.)





Red Flags Of Human Trafficking

Poor Mental Health or Abnormal Behavior:

- Is fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid
- Exhibits unusually fearful or anxious behavior after bringing up law enforcement
- Avoids eye contact

Poor Physical Health:

- Lacks health care
- Appears malnourished
- Shows signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, or torture





Red Flags Of Human Trafficking

Lack of Control:

- Has few or no personal possessions
- Is not in control of his/her own money; no financial records or bank account
- Is not in control of his/her own identification documents (ID or passport)
- Is not allowed or able to speak for themselves (a third party may insist on being present and/or translating)





Red Flags Of Human Trafficking

Other:

- Claims of just visiting and inability to clarify where he/she is staying/address
- Lack of knowledge of whereabouts and/or do not know what city he/she is in
- Loss of sense of time
- Has numerous inconsistencies in his/her story
- New commodities (cell phone, clothes, etc.)
- Suddenly manicured nails, hair, and jewelry





Behavioral Signs of Abuse

- Changes in the way affection is shown, especially if unusual or inappropriate
- Suddenly fears being touched
- Sudden onset of nightmares
- Changes in sleep patterns; difficulty sleeping
- Sudden regression to childlike behaviors (i.e., bed-wetting, thumb-sucking)
- Sudden unusual interest in or knowledge of sexual matters (including excessive masturbation)
- Cruelty to animals
- Sudden fear of bathing or toileting
- Sudden fear of a person or place
- Depression, withdrawal, or mood swings
- **ANY UNEXPLAINED CHANGE IN BEHAVIOR**



Signs of Sexual Abuse

- Frequent urinary tract infections or yeast infections
- Painful urination
- Abrasions, bleeding, or bruising in the genital area
- Incontinence in someone who was previously toilet-trained
- Frequent sore throats
- Sudden onset of psychosomatic complaints (males most frequently complain of stomach aches while females most frequently report headaches)
- Sudden difficulty walking or sitting
- Vaginal or rectal pain



Signs of Exploitation

- Sudden decrease in bank account balances
- Sudden change in banking practices (such as making several large withdrawals from a bank account or ATM over a period of several days instead of one small withdrawal each week)
- Sudden problems paying bills or buying food or other necessities
- Sudden changes in wills or other financial documents

Hard to Recognize

- Victim does not recognize abuse, neglect, or exploitation
- Communication challenges
- Some symptoms may be interpreted as behavioral problems or traits of their disability
- **Victims may be coerced and not appear to be a victim**
- Fear and training prevent disclosing



Protection and Prevention from Human Trafficking:

- Enhance participation within the community
- Ensure children with disabilities are at school or in other ways visible to their communities
- Recognize and address stigma and discrimination that exists



Protection from Disability Trafficking:

- Learn the “red flags”
- Report suspected human trafficking
- Get involved with your local task forces
- Meet with or write your local, state, and federal government representatives





Responding to a victim

Separate victims from trafficker

- I believe you.
- It is not your fault.
- You are not alone.
- I want to help you.
- You are safe now.
- You have rights.
- You can trust me.
- You are a victim/survivor.
- You are not in trouble.
- We can help you.

More information at:

(http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/orr/communicating_with_victims_of_human_trafficking.pdf)



Reporting Suspected Human Trafficking

- Call DCF Abuse Hotline
1-800-962-2873
- Call National Human Trafficking Hotline
1-888-373-7888
- Department of Homeland Security
1-866-347-2423 or at www.ice.gov/tips
- Contact local law enforcement



Mandated Reporters

- **Everyone** in Florida has a responsibility to report known or suspected abuse, neglect, or exploitation
- Failure to report known or suspected cases of abuse, neglect, or exploitation is a **3rd degree felony**
 - Changed with the passage of HB1355/SB 1816 (impacting Chapter 39.205(1) Florida Statute)



Mandated Reporters

Professionally Mandated Reporters

- Physician, osteopathic physician, medical examiner, chiropractic physician, nurse, or hospital personnel engaged in the admission, examination, care, or treatment of persons
- Health or mental health professional
- Practitioner who relies solely on spiritual means for healing
- School teacher or other school official or personnel
- Social worker, day care center worker, or other professional child care, foster care, residential, or institutional worker
- Law enforcement
- Judge



Resources

1. Fitzsimmons, N.(2009). *Combating Violence & Abuse of People with Disabilities: A Call to Action*. Baltimore: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co.
2. Harrell, E. (2012). *Crime Against Persons with Disabilities, 2008-2010 - Statistical Tables*, (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 2011), 3, <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/capd10st.pdf>.
3. Ibid., 4.
4. Willging, J.P., Bower, C.M. and Cotton, R.T. (1992). *Physical abuse of children: A retrospective review and otolaryngology perspective*. Archives of Otolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery, 118, (6), 584-590.
5. Sullivan, P.M. and Knutson, J.F. (1998). *The association between maltreatment and disabilities in a hospital-based epidemiological study*. Child Abuse and Neglect, 22, (4), 271-288.
6. Sobsey, D. (1994). *Violence and abuse in the lives of people with disabilities*. Baltimore: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co.



QUESTIONS?