



Research Resources

Child Sex Trafficking Team
Office of the Texas Governor



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August 2020

Child Sex Trafficking Team

The Texas Legislature authorized the creation of the Child Sex Trafficking Team (CSTT) in the Governor's Office to provide a collaborative and comprehensive response to child sexual exploitation in Texas. Texas Government Code §§ 772.0062 – 772.0063. CSTT's vision is a state where children and youth are free from sexual exploitation. Our mission is to build sustainable capacity, enhance expertise, promote policies, and create new and leverage existing collaborations to prevent child sexual exploitation, to help survivors heal and thrive, and to bring exploiters to justice.



In order to enhance expertise in our state and to meet our legislative charge to collect, analyze and distribute relevant research to agencies and nonprofit organizations, CSTT gathers existing and funds new relevant research on child sex trafficking, funds evaluations of emerging and innovative child sex trafficking programs, provides training on research and evaluation findings, and provides this document, *Research Resources*, on our website, gov.texas.gov/cstt. *Research Resources* is a curated list of relevant research articles, complete with summaries by CSTT, from the last three to five years. The articles are primarily from peer-reviewed journals and are organized by CSTT's five overarching goals: protect, recognize, rescue, restore, and bring justice. (Some articles overlap

more than one of the five areas but appear in only one section.)

CSTT will continuously update and improve this collection of research by gathering, curating, summarizing and providing the latest research in updated versions of *Research Resources*. Enhancing expertise in our state will empower Texas to implement research-based programs and practices that prevent child sexual exploitation, help survivors heal and thrive, and bring exploiters to justice.

Our mission is to build sustainable capacity, enhance expertise, promote policies, and create new and leverage existing collaborations to:

- [Protect](#) children by building their awareness of and resilience to child exploitation and by curbing demand for child sex trafficking.
- [Recognize](#) child sexual exploitation in all its forms by raising public awareness and implementing screening tools for victims.
- [Recover](#) victims with protective and empowering – not punitive – collaborative and coordinated responses spanning multiple systems.
- [Support Healing](#) survivors through trauma-informed and responsive services and supports they need to heal and thrive.
- [Bring Justice](#) for survivors by holding traffickers, buyers, and those who profit from trafficking accountable.



Protect

Evaluation of a Multi-Session Group Designed to Prevent Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors: The “My Life My Choice” Curriculum

Rothman, E. F., Farrell, A., Paruk, J., Bright, K., Bair-Merritt, M., and Preis, S. R. (2019). Evaluation of a multi-session group designed to prevent commercial sexual exploitation of minors: the "My Life My Choice" curriculum. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 1–24. doi: 10.1177/0886260519865972

Author(s): Emily F. Rothman, Amy Farrell, Jennifer Paruk, Katherine Bright, Megan Bair-Merritt, Sarah R. Preis

Publication year: 2019

Summary: This study examines the long-term effect of the “My Life My Choice” prevention education program for minors at-risk of commercial sexual exploitation. The study shows that this prevention education has a long-term benefit for at-risk minors. For example, the participants in commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) programs were less likely to become CSE victims and more likely to offer help and information to other at-risk minors months after attending the CSE prevention program.

Abstract: “The commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) of children is a consequential public health and criminal justice problem, but no CSE prevention programs have been evaluated. The Boston-based My Life My Choice (MLMC) program offers a multisession psychoeducation group to girls who are identified as “at-disproportionate-risk” for CSE victimization and trains other agencies throughout the U.S. to offer this curriculum. The curriculum was designed to improve knowledge about the commercial sex industry and shift-related attitudes and behaviors. The current project was a multi-year, multi-site evaluation to assess the effectiveness of the MLMC prevention group. Using a one-group longitudinal design, changes in participant behavior and CSE knowledge were measured at baseline ($n = 354$), upon group completion ($n = 296$), and 3 months after group completion ($n = 241$). The sample was 95% female-identified, 28% Black/African American, 26% White/non-Hispanic, 25% Hispanic/Latina, and 22% other race. The mean age of participants was 15.6 years old. Approximately 28% identified as bisexual, and 10% identified as lesbian, asexual, pansexual, or other. In multivariable-adjusted models, participants reported fewer episodes of sexually explicit behavior at follow up as compared to baseline (relative risk [RR]: 0.52, 95% confidence interval [CI]: 0.37-0.72 at Follow-up 1, and 0.53, 95% CI: 0.35-0.82 at Follow-up 2). Participants were 24% less likely to report dating abuse at Follow-up 2 as compared to baseline ($p = .06$). In addition, as compared to baseline, participants were 40% more likely to have given help or information about CSE to a friend at Follow-up 2, and participants demonstrated increased

knowledge and awareness about CSE and its harms over the follow-up period. Although additional evaluation using a comparison group and long-term follow up would increase confidence that observed changes are attributable to the group instead of other factors, results suggest that the MLMC curriculum may be effective in reducing the risk of CSE and improving other conditions for youth who are at-disproportionate-risk of CSE.”

[Deterrence of Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation](#)

Quayle, E., and Koukopoulos, N. (2019). Deterrence of online child sexual abuse and exploitation. *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice*, 13(3), 345–362. doi: 10.1093/police/pay028

Author(s): Ethel Quayle and Nikolaos Koukopoulos

Publication year: 2019

Summary: This study argues the prevention education alone does not protect children from online sexual predators. The research shows children who access the Internet face significant risks of child sexual abuse and exploitation. Online environments of social media offer sexual predators greater access to children with very few barriers or risk. The study recommends a collaborative public health approach for digital media platforms, law enforcement, and public agencies to intervene and protect children from exploitation and abuse by designing a safer online environment for children.

Abstract: “‘Cyberspace’ has added a dimension to the ecology of the child and should be a start point for practitioners (including police) to think about digital media in the context of child sexual abuse. While there is no evidence to suggest that online abuse and exploitation is a more serious offence than crimes occurring offline, the behaviors enabled by social media may present a significant risk factor for some children. This article gives a brief overview of the phenomena and prevalence of online child sexual abuse and exploitation and the role that the Internet may play. This is considered in relation to deterrence, prevention and management of these crimes, and further develops a public health approach to online child abuse and exploitation. Finally, the article critically considers emerging evidence to support this interaction between the individual and the online environment.”



Recognize

[Modern Slavery and Public Health: A Rapid Evidence Assessment and an Emergent Public Health Approach](#)

Such, E., Laurent, C., Jaipaul, R., and Salway, S. (2020). Modern slavery and public health: a rapid evidence assessment and an emergent public health approach. *Public Health*, 180, 168-179. doi:10.1016/j.puhe.2019.10.018

Author(s): Such, E., Laurent, C., Jaipaul, R., and Salway, S.
Publication year: 2020

Summary: This study addresses the need for a public health approach to issue of modern slavery. The study finds public health officials and professionals at all levels of the public and private sector must engage and intervene on behalf of victims of human trafficking. Developing a comprehensive public health approach is necessary to provide the level of support services and multi-level treatment facilities needed for survivors to recover from the physical and mental health trauma they suffered while in exploitation.

Abstract: “*Objective:* Modern slavery is a human rights violation and a global health concern. To date, criminal justice approaches have dominated attempts to address it. Modern slavery has severe consequences for people’s mental and physical health, and there is a pressing need to identify and implement effective preventative measures. As such, a public health approach to modern slavery requires elucidation. The objective of this study were to explore the case for public health involvement in addressing modern slavery and the components of a public health approach and to develop a globally relevant framework for public health action. *Study design:* A Rapid Evidence Assessment. *Methods:* This study is a rapid systematic review of published literature and stakeholder consultation. *Results:* The accounts of 32 consultees and evidence from 17 papers including reviews, commentaries, and primary studies were included in the evidence assessment. A strong ethical rationale for public health engagement in addressing modern slavery was evident. Multilevel and multicomponent interventional strategies were identified across global, national, regional, local and service levels. Although public health could add value to existing approaches, multiple barriers and tensions exist. *Conclusion:* Published literature and stakeholder opinion indicate an emergent public health approach to modern slavery. It involves intervention at multiple levels and is guided by a rights-based, survivor-centered and trauma-informed approach. This synthesis offers an important early step in the construction of a globally relevant public health approach to modern slavery.”

Labor Trafficking Victimization: Repeat Victimization and Polyvictimization

Vries, I. D., and Farrell, A. (2018). Labor trafficking victimizations: repeat victimization and polyvictimization. *Psychology of Violence*, 8(5), 630–638. doi: 10.1037/vio0000149

Author(s): Ieke De Vries and Amy Farrell
Publication year: 2018

Summary: This research study shows there is a significant risk that labor-trafficked persons who experienced some form of prior victimization are more likely to be repeatedly victimized throughout the trafficking process. For example, the risk of sexual exploitation and abuse is higher among children and adolescents who experienced similar forms of prior victimization, i.e., sexual, physical, emotional abuse. The study recommends early intervention and comprehensive assistance programs that provide the necessary support and treatment for survivors of polyvictimization.

Abstract: “*Objective:* To examine labor trafficking victimizations as forms of repeat victimization and polyvictimization. *Method:* The study uses secondary cross-sectional data about 115 labor-trafficked persons in the United States who received services after the labor trafficking experience. Through multivariate regression analyses, victimization patterns were investigated at each primary stage of the trafficking process (recruitment, transportation, employment). *Results:* Our findings demonstrate patterns of repeat victimization and polyvictimization among labor-trafficked persons. Prior victimization experiences before the onset of the trafficking significantly increased the odds of experiencing victimization during the initial stages of the trafficking process (recruitment and transportation). Victimization experiences during these initial stages further increased the risk of experiencing a higher count of polyvictimization during the final stage of the trafficking process (employment). *Conclusions:* Our study lays the groundwork for an analytical framework upon which to evaluate labor trafficking. The results call for early intervention and comprehensive assistance programs that take into account enduring and cumulative victimization patterns in order to meet the needs of identified labor-trafficked persons.”

What are the Human Trafficking Policies of Professional Medical Organizations?

Fang, S., Nguyen, P., Coverdale, J., and Gordon, M. (2019). What are the human trafficking policies of professional medical organizations? *Journal of Human trafficking*, 1-8.
doi:10.1080/23322705/2019.1698895

Author(s): Shelley Fang, Phuong Nguyen, John Coverdale, and Mollie Gordon
Publication year: 2019

Summary: This study encourages national medical member organizations to assess, enhance, and standardize the treatment protocols for trafficked victims by adopting policies focused on the treatment and recovery of human trafficking survivors. The study recommends national medical organizations direct healthcare professional across all areas of general, specialized, and emergency care to standardize the intake, treatment, and support services for human trafficking survivors. Moreover, implementing uniform policy standards at the institutional level increases public awareness that human trafficking is a public health issue that its members are prepared to face.

Abstract: “*Introduction:* Human trafficking is an international public health concern in which healthcare professionals are in a unique position to intervene. It is unclear how professional medical organizations have responded to the need to identify and assist trafficked patients.

Methods: Using key phrases “human trafficking,” “medical organization,” and “policy,” search engines and databases including Google Scholar, PubMed, and Google were utilized to identify medical organizations that had policies regarding human trafficking. The HEAL (Health, Education, Advocacy and Linkage) Trafficking website was also cross-referenced to identify additional medical organizations.

Results: Overall, eight out of 265 national medical organizations had policies regarding human trafficking. These were the American Medical Association, American Medical Women’s Association, American Academy of Family Physicians, Christian Medical and Dental Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Emergency Physicians, American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and American Psychiatric Association. Policy statements varied in their content, recommendations, and victim populations addressed. *Conclusions:* Opportunities exist for national medical organizations to develop their policy statements on human trafficking. While medical organizations’ policies do not ensure compliance or meaningful impacts of changes in practice behaviors, they can bring attention to this public health concern and encourage training and higher standards of care.”

[Facilitators and Barriers of Drop-In Center Use Among Homeless Youth](#)

Pedersen, E. R., Tucker, J. S. and Kovalchick, S. A. (2016). Facilitators and barriers of drop-in center use among homeless youth. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 59(2), 144-153.
doi:10.1016/j.jadohealth.2016.03.035

Author(s): Eric R. Pedersen, Joan S. Tucker, and Stephanie A. Kovalchik,
Publication year: 2016

Summary: This study finds the organizational structure, “come as you are” approach of homeless youth drop-in centers presents unique opportunities for facilitators to deliver higher level professional services and medical treatment to homeless youth. The research identifies key barriers and facilitators at drop-in centers in order to establish critical services like HIV-testing, mental healthcare, and substance abuse treatment, that homeless youth would not seek out elsewhere. Drop-in centers offer greater access to protect one of the most victimized populations for human trafficking.

Abstract: “Drop-in centers for homeless youth address basic needs for food, hygiene, and clothing, but can also provide critical services that address youth’s “higher-level” needs (e.g., substance use treatment, mental health care, HIV-related programs). Unlike other services that have restrictive rules, drop-in centers typically try to break down barriers and take a “come as you are” approach to engaging youth in services. Given their popularity, drop-in centers represent a promising location to deliver higher level services to youth that may not seek services elsewhere. A better understanding of the individual-level factors (e.g., characteristics of homeless youth) and agency level factors (e.g., characteristics of staff and environment) that facilitate and impede youth engagement in drop-in centers will help inform research and outreach efforts designed to engage these at-risk youth in services. Thus, the goal of this review was to develop a preliminary conceptual model of drop-in center use by homeless youth. Towards this goal, we reviewed 20 available peer-reviewed papers and reports on the facilitators and barriers of drop-in center usage and consulted broader models of service utilization from both youth and adult studies to inform model development.”

[Understanding Health Care Access Disparities Among Human Trafficking Survivors: Profiles of Health Care Experiences, Access, and Engagement](#)

Price, K., Nelson, B. D., and Macias-Konstantopoulos, W. L. (2019). Understanding Health Care Access Disparities Among Human Trafficking Survivors: Profiles of Health Care Experiences, Access, and Engagement. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 1–20. doi: 10.1177/0886260519889934

Author(s): Kathleen Price, Brett D. Nelson, Wendy L. Macias-Konstantopoulos
Publication year: 2019

Summary: This study evaluates the relationship between trafficking survivors and medical providers. The research finds survivors avoid medical and support services, withhold information, and distrust law enforcement, and health care professionals due to trauma-related fears, cultural factors, and socioeconomic factors. Trauma-induced fears and sociocultural barriers adversely affect their judgment and reasoning which influence if and how a survivor will engage the survivor services. The study recommends trauma-responsive countermeasures to address the physical, psychological, and emotional trauma-related factors with culturally sensitive, survivor-centered practices to improve health care access and engagement.

Abstract: “Human trafficking is associated with a profound burden of physical and psychological trauma. Survivors of trafficking interact with the health care system during and after their experiences of trafficking. Socioeconomic isolation, stigma, shame, guilt, fear of judgment, fear of retribution by traffickers, fear of law enforcement authorities, and other factors known to inhibit disclosure can exert a formative influence on survivors’ health care experiences, health care access, and health services engagement. Using a mixed qualitative-quantitative social science research method, known as by-person factor analysis (or Q-methodology), the current analysis systematically examines the scope of trafficking survivors’ health care experiences and perceptions of medical care, health care access behaviors, and degree of engagement with health services. Among 33 survivors of human trafficking surveyed, 21 met inclusion criteria for this analysis. Three distinct profiles of survivor health care experiences and health services engagement—Avoidant, Distrustful, and Constrained—are identified from the aggregate of survivors’ perceptions of medical care. Although there are salient differences across the three survivor profiles, a feeling of disenfranchisement is a common thread and directly related to health care access behaviors and health services engagement. Understanding that the feeling of disenfranchisement functions as a filter through which trafficking survivors perceive and experience medical care can help health care professionals take appropriate countermeasures. Implications for improving health care access and engagement include the implementation of trauma-responsive, culturally sensitive, and survivor centered care practices.”

The Role of Technology in Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Thorn Survivor Insights Study

Author(s): Bouche, Vanessa for the THORN (wearethorn.org)

Publication year: 2018

Summary: This study evaluates the role of technology in the recruitment and exploitation of domestic-born minors. The study finds the age in which a minor enters the trafficking process significantly determines the role of technology in the recruitment and exploitation of domestic-born minors. The study recommends further research into their findings is needed to understand the role of technology in domestic human trafficking of minors.

Abstract: “This survey interviewed 260 survivors of domestic minor sex trafficking from 14 states. 98% identified as female, 2% as male, and 1% as other. Respondents had a range of trafficking experiences including: familial, non-familial, or no trafficker. Those who entered the life before the age of 10, were almost exclusively trafficked by family members (77%), often a father or step-father. Those who entered the life after 11 were mostly likely to be trafficked by strangers. The survey confirmed that many DMST victims experience some type of childhood abuse and neglect. 2 out of 3 participants had experiences with either foster care or juvenile detention. 41% of respondents reported that they had been in foster care. 19% of participants reported not having a trafficker, however it is likely that a trafficker did exist, but many do not characterize themselves as victims and may romanticize their relationship with the trafficker. Less than 25% of respondents have seen their trafficker prosecuted. In order to determine the role technology plays in trafficking, it is necessary to conduct much of the analysis based on the year in which participants entered the life.”

Understanding the Mental Health Impact of Human Trafficking

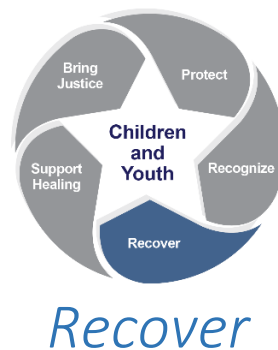


Stevens, S. M., Acker, S. K., Green, K. undefined, Swales, S. undefined, Fulmer, H. undefined, Fortinsky, R. undefined, and Nicholas, P. undefined. (2019). Understand the mental health impact of human trafficking. *Journal of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners*, 31(12), 699–704. doi: 10.1097/JXX.0000000000000225

Author(s): Susan Stevens, Shekitta Acker, Kristina Green, Sheila Swales, Holly M. Fulmer, Rachel Fortinsky, and Patrice K. Nicholas
Publication year: 2014

Summary: This study evaluates the effect trauma has on the mental health of trafficking survivors, their treatment, and recovery. The study finds trafficked survivors may not understand or share their victimization to mental health providers even when they exhibit key diagnostic indicators of exploitation and abuse due to the complexity of human trafficking-related trauma. The study recommends trauma-informed approaches in working with victims of trafficking are crucial to understanding the physical and psychological consequences of complex traumas to identify and help victims.

Abstract: “The purpose of this report was to review the mental health consequences related to human trafficking and the important role of health care providers, particularly advanced practice nurses, nurse practitioners (NPs), and psychiatric mental health NPs in identifying and responding to trafficking victims. The framework was based on a biopsychosocial model for assessment and a trauma-informed approach to care. An integrative review of the literature was conducted to offer a comprehensive overview of the mental health consequences. Deleterious mental health consequences are common in individuals who have experienced trafficking, and symptoms suffered by individuals were assessed using the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition, criteria for posttraumatic stress disorder, as well as additional guidelines specific to a trauma-informed approach. Mental health sequelae experienced by trafficking survivors must be understood using a comprehensive trauma-informed framework for assessment and treatment.”



[Systematic review of facilitators of, barriers to, and recommendations for healthcare services for child survivors of human trafficking globally](#)

Albright, K., Greenbaum, J., Edwards, S. A., and Tsai, C. Systematic review of facilitators of, barriers to, and recommendations for health care services for child survivors of human trafficking globally. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 100, 104289. Doi:10.1016/j.chiabu.2019.104289

Author(s): Karen Albright, Jordan Greenbaum, Sherry A. Edwards, and Carmelle Tsai
Publication year: 2018

Summary: This study reviews the current research literature regarding the quality and ease of access to health care services for child survivors of human trafficking. The study finds significant barriers exist in the health care system and the quality of care for trafficked children is inadequate to meet the needs of trafficked children. The study's principal recommendation is collaborative partnerships (a multi-disciplinary team) among professional and medical service providers to facilitate quality standards of care and access to survivor services to meet the specific needs of trafficked children.

Abstract: “*Background:* Child trafficking is associated with multiple physical and mental health problems, yet relatively little is known about the factors that facilitate or hamper delivery of high-quality health care services to trafficked children. *Objective:* To summarize information about identified facilitators of, barriers to, and recommendations for medical and mental health service provision to trafficked children. *Participants and setting:* A systematic review was conducted of the English-language, peer-reviewed literature on medical and mental healthcare of trafficked children published since 2010. *Methods:* Inclusion criteria were: (1) the study population or focus included, wholly or in part, individuals under the age of 18 years; (2) the study focus was clearly defined as human trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation; (3) a main focus included health services or barriers to care, and (4) the article contained original data. *Results:* Of the 29 articles meeting inclusion criteria, 19 included facilitators of health service provision to trafficked populations, 22 included barriers to that provision, and 25 included explicit recommendations for service improvement. 45 distinct facilitators were identified a total of 140 times, 118 distinct barriers were identified a total of 174 times, and 52 distinct recommendations were identified a total of 100 times. The majority of facilitators, barriers, and recommendations fell under the locus of the healthcare provider and healthcare organization. *Conclusions:* Existing research reveals abundant areas of opportunity for healthcare professionals and healthcare administrators to improve access to, and quality of, medical and mental health care for trafficked children.”

[Evidence-Based Human Trafficking Policy: Opportunities to Invest in Trauma-Informed Strategies](#)

Scott, T. J., Ingram, A. M., Nemer, S. L., and Crowley, D. M. (2019). Evidence-Based Human Trafficking Policy: Opportunities to Invest in Trauma-Informed Strategies. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 0, 1–11. doi: 10.1002/ajcp.12394

Author(s): Taylor J. Scott, Alexandra M. Ingram, Shannon L. Nemer, and Daniel Max Crowley
Publication year: 2019

Summary: This study evaluates the impact of trauma-informed research and best practices has on human trafficking federal legislation and policy. The study finds legislators and policymakers need evidence-based research and actionable recommendations in trauma-informed best practices so that future policies provide interventions necessary to meet the recovery needs of trafficking survivors.

Abstract: “Human trafficking is a critical social issue characterized by chronic trauma among victims, and frequently preceded by traumatic experiences that contribute to risk of victimization. Therefore, the research-based practice of trauma-informed care is a highly appropriate lens for both prevention and intervention. This work examines federal legislation in the United States related to human trafficking for

Recover, continued, and Support Healing

references to trauma, as well as how the use of research could implicitly direct public policy responses toward trauma-informed approaches. Legislation on human trafficking has risen substantially since 1989, and the use of research and trauma language within these policies has also observed substantial increases. While the use of trauma language was associated with limited progression in the policy process, legislation using research language was more likely to pass out of Committee and become enacted. Moreover, legislation may leverage research in ways that have the potential to bolster trauma-informed practice among human trafficking victims. Specifically, research can be used to describe the problem and causal mechanisms (e.g., impact of trauma), guide “best practice” for service delivery, and generate knowledge through studies and evaluations that guide future policy. Therefore, human trafficking legislation that implicitly guides trauma-informed practice via the use of research may be particularly promising for the field.”



Support Healing

[The State of the Science Trauma Inquiry](#)

Lewis-O'Connor, A., Warren, A., Lee, J. V., Levy-Carrick, N., Grossman, S., Chadwick, M., ... Rittenberg, E. (2019). The state of the science on trauma inquiry. *Women's Health*, 15, 1–17. doi: 10.1177/1745506519861234

Author(s): Annie Lewis-O' Connor, Abi Warren, Jeannie V Lee, Nomi Levy-Carrick, Samara Grossman, Mardi Chadwick, Hanni Stoklosa, and Eve Rittenberg
Publication year: 2019

Summary: This study illustrates the important role health care providers play in identifying past traumatic life experiences in order to minimize re-traumatizing survivors and facilitate their recovery through trauma-informed practices. The study recommends providers incorporate trauma screening, risk and safety assessments, and connect survivors with relevant service agencies that provide holistic care and long-term support.

Abstract: “Within the context of longitudinal medical care for adults, health care providers have a unique opportunity to inquire and respond to the traumatic life experiences affecting the health of their patients, as well as a responsibility to minimize re-traumatizing these patients during medical encounters. While there is literature on screening women for intimate partner violence, and there is emerging data on pediatric screening for adverse life experiences, there is sparse literature on inquiry of broader trauma histories in adult medical settings. This lack of research on trauma inquiry results in an absence of guidelines for best practices, in turn making it challenging for policy makers, health care providers, and

researchers to mitigate the adverse health outcomes caused by traumatic experiences and to provide equitable care to populations that experience a disproportionate burden of trauma. This state of the science summarizes current inquiry practices for patients who have experienced trauma, violence, and abuse. It places trauma inquiry within an anchoring framework of trauma-informed care principles, and emphasizes a focus on resilience. It then proposes best practices for trauma inquiry, which include tiered screening starting with broad trauma inquiry, proceeding to risk and safety assessment as indicated, and ending with connection to interventions.”

Evaluation of Services for Domestic Minor Victims of Human Trafficking

Gibbs , D., Hardison Walters , J. L., Lutnick , A., Miller , S., and Kluckman , M. (2014). Evaluation of Services for Domestic Minor Victims of Human Trafficking. Retrieved from <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/248578.pdf>

Author(s): Deborah Gibbs, Jennifer L. Hardison Walters, Alexandra Lutnick, Shari Miller, and Marianne Kluckman

Publication year: 2014

Summary: This study describes challenges and evaluates services offered by specific DOJ-funded programs. They assessed the youth served, their service needs, services delivered, the experiences of youth and staff, and the programs’ efforts to strengthen the community’s response to trafficked youth. They recommend a high level of collaboration and care coordination with specific protocols for partnering agencies.

Abstract: “RTI International conducted a participatory process evaluation of three programs funded by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) to identify and provide services to victims of sex and labor trafficking who are U.S citizens and lawful permanent residents (LPR) under the age of 18. The evaluation was funded by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), also part of DOJ. The goals of the evaluation were to document program implementation in the three programs, identify promising practices for service delivery programs, and inform delivery of current and future efforts by to serve this population. Specifically, the evaluation described young people served by the programs, their service needs, services delivered by the programs, the experiences of young people and staff with the programs, and programs’ efforts to strengthen community response to trafficked youth.



Bring Justice

Assessing the Impact of State Human Trafficking Legislation on Criminal Justice System Outcomes

Authors(s): Farrell, Amy, Vanessa Bouché and Dana Wolfe

Publication year: 2019

Summary: This study analyzes impact of state-level human trafficking initiatives and legislation. The analysis confirms states that invest in anti-human trafficking initiatives and have comprehensive anti-human trafficking legislation have higher arrest rates, improved prosecutorial practices leading to more convictions, and provide better standards of care for victims.

Abstract: “Since 2003, state legislatures in the United States have been active in passing legislation aimed at combating human trafficking. To date, all states have passed laws that criminalize acts of human trafficking, though with significant variation in the penalty structure and associated legal provisions. This article examines what aspects of state human trafficking laws are most impactful at increasing the arrest and prosecution of human trafficking suspects. Using panel data on state laws and associated enforcement actions from 2003 to 2012, this study confirms that more comprehensive state laws that invest in anti-trafficking resources are most strongly associated with human trafficking arrests and prosecutions. States that make legislative provisions for victim assistance, law enforcement training, statutory task forces, and mandatory reporting have higher anti-trafficking criminal enforcement. The political environment in which state human trafficking laws are enacted also influences their enforcement.”

Identifying Effective Counter-Trafficking Programs and Practices in the U.S.: Legislative, Legal, and Public Opinion Strategies that Work

Author(s): Bouche, Vanessa, Amy Farrell, Dana Wittmer

Publication year: 2016

Summary: This study examines the history of counter-trafficking initiatives in the United States. The study identifies the most effective strategies employed at the state-level that produced the best outcomes for law enforcement agencies, future legislation and policy, and public support.



Abstract: “After more than a decade of sustained efforts to combat human trafficking in the United States, it is necessary to step back and examine the effectiveness of key anti-trafficking strategies. Utilizing a multi-method approach, we examine 1) the effectiveness of state-level human trafficking legislation to determine what specific legislative provisions are most effective for obtaining desired outcomes, 2) the characteristics of state prosecutions for human trafficking offenses to determine how state laws are being used to hold offenders accountable, and 3) what the public knows about human trafficking, why the public holds the beliefs that they do, and what the public expects from government anti-trafficking efforts. Together the three parts of the study inform efforts to develop effective counter-trafficking programs and practices for legislators, law enforcement, the courts, anti-trafficking agencies, and the public.”

Miscellaneous Resources

Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Sex Trafficking of Children and Adolescents: A Narrative Review

Author(s): Elizabeth Barnert, Zarah Iqbal, Janine Bruce, Arash Anoshiravani, Gauri Kolhatkar, Jordan Greenbaum

Publication year: 2017

Summary: “Although research into the prevention, identification, and response to commercially sexually exploited and sex trafficked children is increasing, there is still a large gap in the literature and further research and study is imperative.”

Abstract: The researchers delve into the literature available on the topic of commercially sexually exploited and sex trafficked children. They identify that such children have a myriad of “clinical risk factors and high rates of unmet physical and mental health needs” associated with their exploitation. Due to the various medical concerns, current literature highly recommends a trauma-informed approach, in order to provide services to the victims in a way that will not re-traumatize them. While research in the area is expanding, there are still significant gaps. Medical professionals, particularly those in the field of pediatrics, should be trained to both identify and respond to CSE and sex trafficked youth. It is in this particular area that the research is both most needed and most lacking.

