

# Human Trafficking: The Role of Our Frontline Staff

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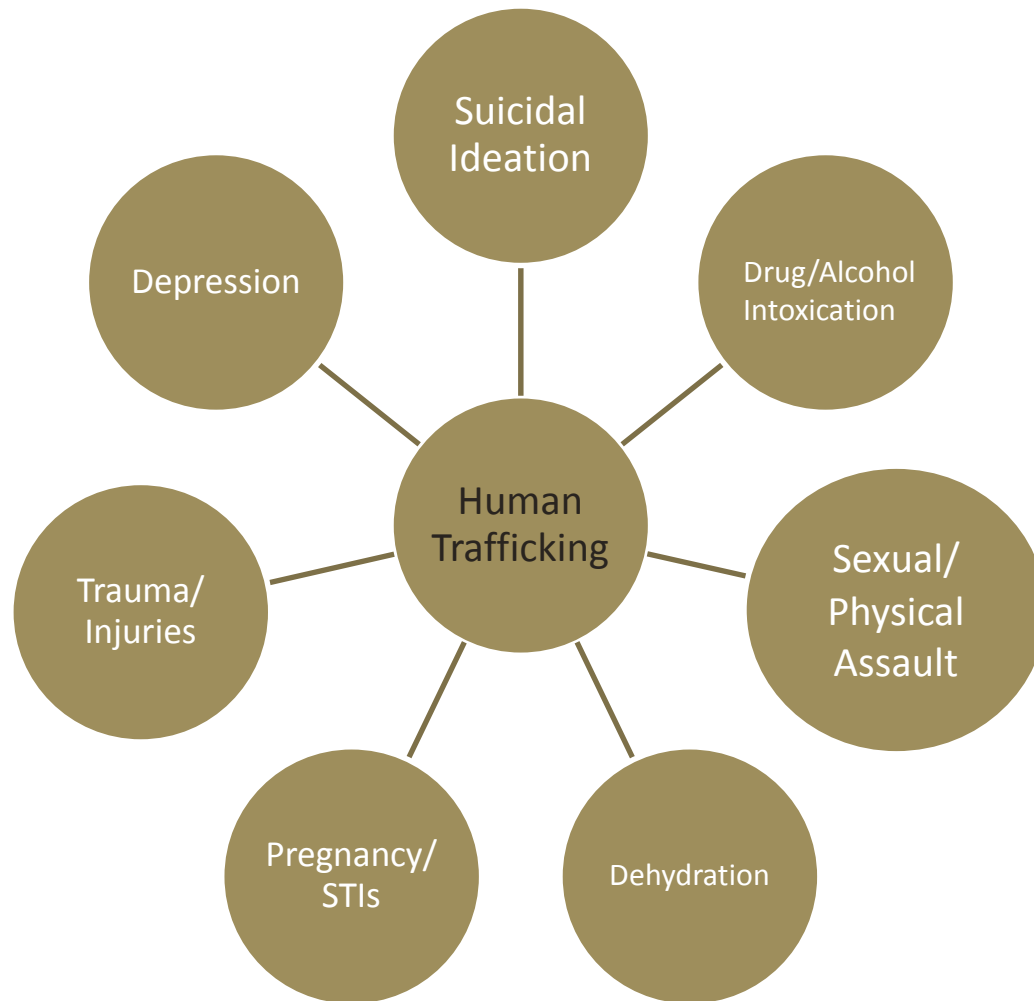
# Patient Accesses Medical Services

*80%+ are seen by a  
medical professional and  
go unidentified*

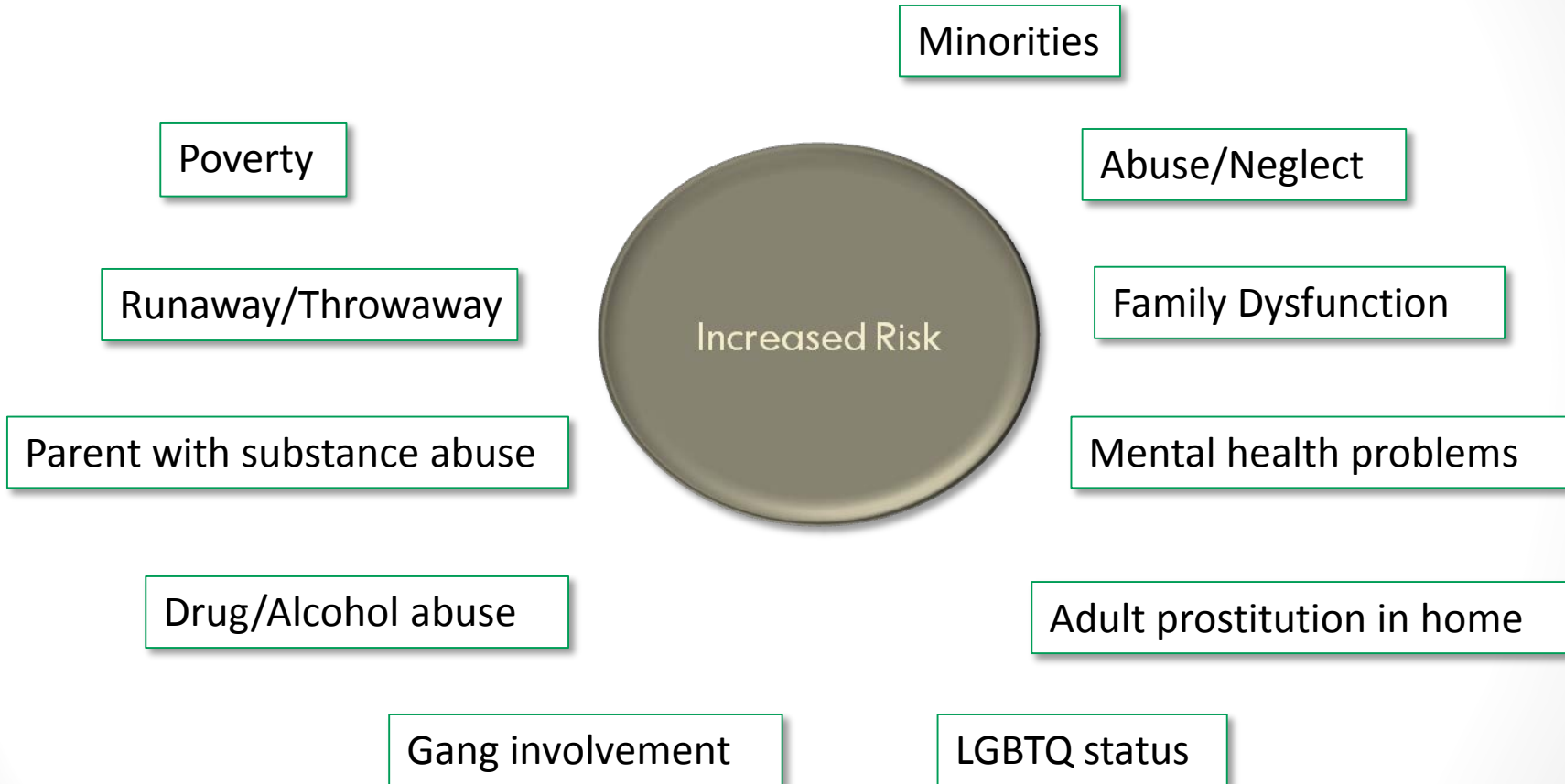
*63.3 % of trafficking  
victims are seen in the  
emergency department*



# Common Chief Complaints/Concerns



# Individuals at Risk



# Consider the Red Flags

- Someone else is speaking for the patient
- Interpreter refused
- Patient is not aware of his/her location, the current date, or time
- Individual is present alone and gives false demographic information
- Patient exhibits fear, anxiety, PTSD, submission, or tension
- Patient shows signs of physical abuse/sexual abuse, medical neglect, or torture
- Patient is reluctant to explain his/her injury

# Victim May Be Accompanied By...



Parents

May or may not know about victimization

May be involved

May be in denial about trafficking activity



Trafficker

Often controlling, dominant,  
Speaks for victim

May refuse to leave victim alone  
Sometimes the victim is brought  
in by the "bottom"



Friend

Exploiter's assistant (bottom)  
Fellow victim

# Positive Red Flags

*\*Safety is the main focus and if a medical intervention is needed first focus on that and then focus on patient's safety outside of the hospital.*

- Safety Precautions:
  - Speak with patient alone
  - Bring in Social work or advocate if possible
  - Offer a professional, non-biased interpreter
- Questions to consider?

# Assessment of Potential Danger

- Be attentive to the immediate environment:
  - Is the trafficker present?
  - What does the patient believe will happen if they do not return?
  - Does the patient believe anyone else (including family) is in danger?
  - Is the patient a minor?

Law  
Enforcement

Medical/  
Community  
referrals





# Understanding Victim Behaviors

- Victim Identification
  - Most victims feel threatened or shameful
  - Most professionals see the victims situation as a result of their choices
- Victims fear law enforcement and service providers
- International individuals fear deportation
- Reactions reflect their protective/survival skills:
  - Anger
  - Aggression
  - Withdrawn
  - Anxiety
  - Loyalty/dependence on the trafficker
- Cope with the use of drugs or alcohol

# References

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