

Practicing Beyond the Surface: The Role of Nurse Practitioners in Addressing Human Trafficking



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Objectives

Recognize

Recognize the impact of the intersectionality of population health, clinical practice, and nursing education on addressing healthcare outcomes related to human trafficking.

Understand

Understand how the evaluation of the social determinates of health and the implementation of trauma informed care can influence nurse practitioner clinical practice and positive healthcare outcomes for those impacted by human trafficking.

Reflect

Reflect on the power nurse practitioners yield in advocating for increased awareness of human trafficking for the purpose of prevention and protection of the community.



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THINGS SURVIVORS WISH YOU KNEW

*I didn't need some **extravagant rescue team** breaking down my trafficker's door to come in and carry me to safety. I needed the **urgent care clinic** to notice that it **wasn't normal** that I visited **seven times** in the span of a couple weeks for recurrent UTIs. I needed **my teacher** to notice how I went from having **perfect attendance and straight A's** to **failing tests and not showing up for class**.*

-HANNAH BLAIR, SURVIVOR



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IDENTIFYING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN HEALTHCARE SETTINGS



87.8%

of human trafficking survivors reported having contact with a healthcare provider while they were being trafficked.



63.3%

of those who had contact in healthcare settings were treated in an emergency room.

Lederer, L., Wetzel, C. (2014). The Health Consequences of Sex Trafficking and Their Implications for Identifying Victims in Healthcare Facilities. *Annals of Health Law*, 23, 61-91.



Gomes, I. (2020). What doctors are missing. Hopkins Bloomberg Public Health



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WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human trafficking is the ***exploitation of a person*** for the purpose of compelled labor or a commercial sex act ***through the use of force, fraud, or coercion.***

Human trafficking does not discriminate - anyone can be a victim.



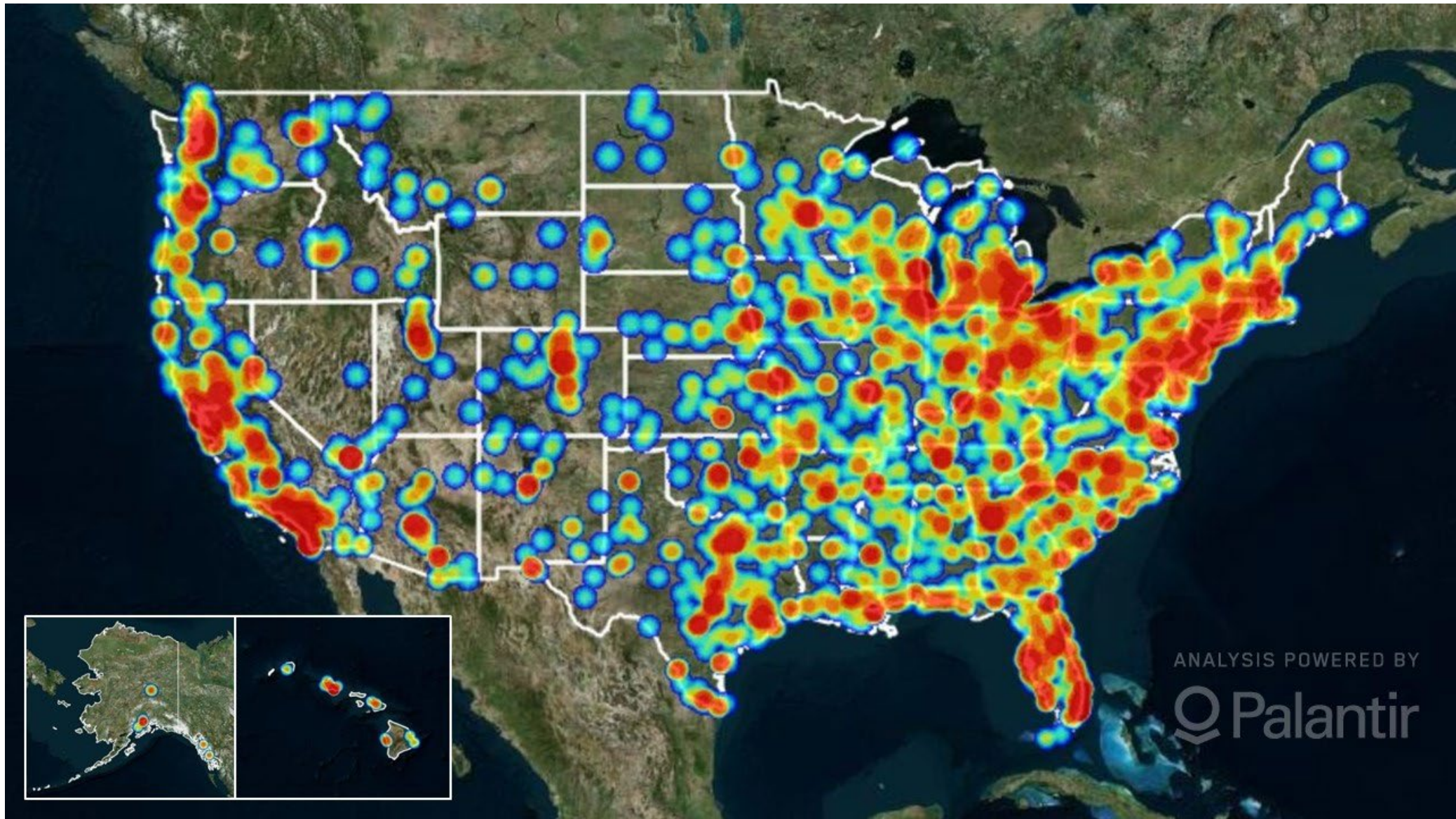
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Action + Means + Purpose = Human Trafficking

THE A-M-P MODEL

Action	Means*	Purpose
Induce Recruits Harbors Transports Provides or Obtains	Force Fraud or Coercion	Commercial Sex <i>(Sex Trafficking)</i> or Labor/Services <i>(Labor Trafficking)</i>

*Minors induced into commercial sex are human trafficking victims—
regardless if force, fraud, or coercion is present.



Polaris: <https://polarisproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/2014Statistics.pdf>



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Scope of the Human Trafficking

Global Public Health Crisis

- 28+ Million victims
- Women + girls account for **4.9 million** in forced commercial sexual exploitation, and **6 million** in forced labor in other economic sectors.

National

- 150 Billion industry

State/Regional

- California: Highest in all 50 states
- Alameda and Los Angeles Counties - hubs



**NEVER JUDGE
SOMEONE
WITHOUT
KNOWING
THE WHOLE
STORY.
YOU MAY THINK
YOU UNDERSTAND,
BUT YOU DON'T.**



FREEDOM AND THE FUTURE

CYNTOIA BROWN-LONG ON LIFE BEHIND BARS & BEYOND INCARCERATION



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Human Trafficking

10 Red Flags that Your Patient Could be a Victim

- 1 Clinical presentation and oral history don't match up
- 2 Oral history is scripted, memorized or mechanical
- 3 Someone with the patient exerts an unusual amount of control over the visit
- 4 Patient appears fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, hyper-vigilant or paranoid
- 5 Patient is concerned about being arrested or jailed
- 6 Patient is concerned for his/her family's safety
- 7 Evidence that care has been lacking for prior or existing conditions
- 8 Tattoos or insignia's indicative of ownership
- 9 Occupational-type injuries or physical ailments linked to their work
- 10 Sexually transmitted infections



HOSPITALS
AGAINST
VIOLENCE

<https://www.aha.org/identifying-and-assisting-victims-human-trafficking>

"Red Flags" That Indicate Human Trafficking

Physical Health

- Frequent treatment for sexually transmitted infections
- High number of sexual partners
- Multiple pregnancies/abortions
- Exposure to toxic chemicals
- Dental issues
- Bruising and burns
- Signs of self-harm
- Weight loss or malnourishment
- Respiratory issues
- Suicide attempts
- Physical and sexual abuse

Behavioral Health

- Confusing/contradicting stories
- Inability to focus or concentrate
- Unaware of current date, location, or time
- Protects person who hurt them
- Minimizes abuse
- Guilt and shame about experiences
- Suicidal ideations
- Extreme timidity
- Aggressive, antagonistic, or defensive
- Heightened stress response
- Posttraumatic stress disorder
- Withdrawn
- Depressed

Social/Environmental

- Absent from school
- Failing grades
- Sudden increase in substance use
- Change in dress
- Age-inappropriate romantic partner
- Change in friends
- Repeat runaway
- Not able to speak for oneself or share information
- Evidence of being controlled
- Wears inappropriate clothing for the weather
- Lives at worksite
- Multiple people in cramped living space

TOP 5 RISK FACTORS/VULNERABILITIES

(1/1/2020-8/31/2022)

Labor Trafficking

Recent Migration/Relocation

Unaccompanied Foreign Minor⁶

Unstable Housing

Self-Reported Economic Hardship

Substance Use Concern

Sex Trafficking

Substance Use Concern

Unstable Housing

Runaway/Homeless Youth

Recent Migration/Relocation

Mental Health Concern

Polaris: <https://polarisproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Hotline-Trends-Report-2023.pdf>

TOP 5 EXPLOITER TYPES

(1/1/2020-8/31/2022)

Labor Trafficking

Exploiter's Relationship to Victim % of Victims

Employer 85%

Familial Relationship to Victim(s) 7%

Recruiter (Non-Employer) 5%

Smuggler 4%

Intimate Partner of Victim(s) 3%

Sex Trafficking

Exploiter's Relationship to Victim % of Victims

Familial Relationship to Victim(s) 44%

Intimate Partner of Victim(s) 39%

Employer 6%

Dealer/Illicit Substance Provider 5%

Commercial Sexual Exploitation
of Children: No Controller 3%

Polaris: <https://polarisproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Hotline-Trends-Report-2023.pdf>

THE BEHAVIOR ICEBERG

Behaviors (we can see)

Aggression
Raging
Screaming
Low tolerance
Frustration
Verbal abuse

Screaming
Crying
Avoidance
Refusal

Hiding
Self Isolation
Running/fleeing
Violence
Threatening
Loss of self control

Internal Emotional States (we cannot see)

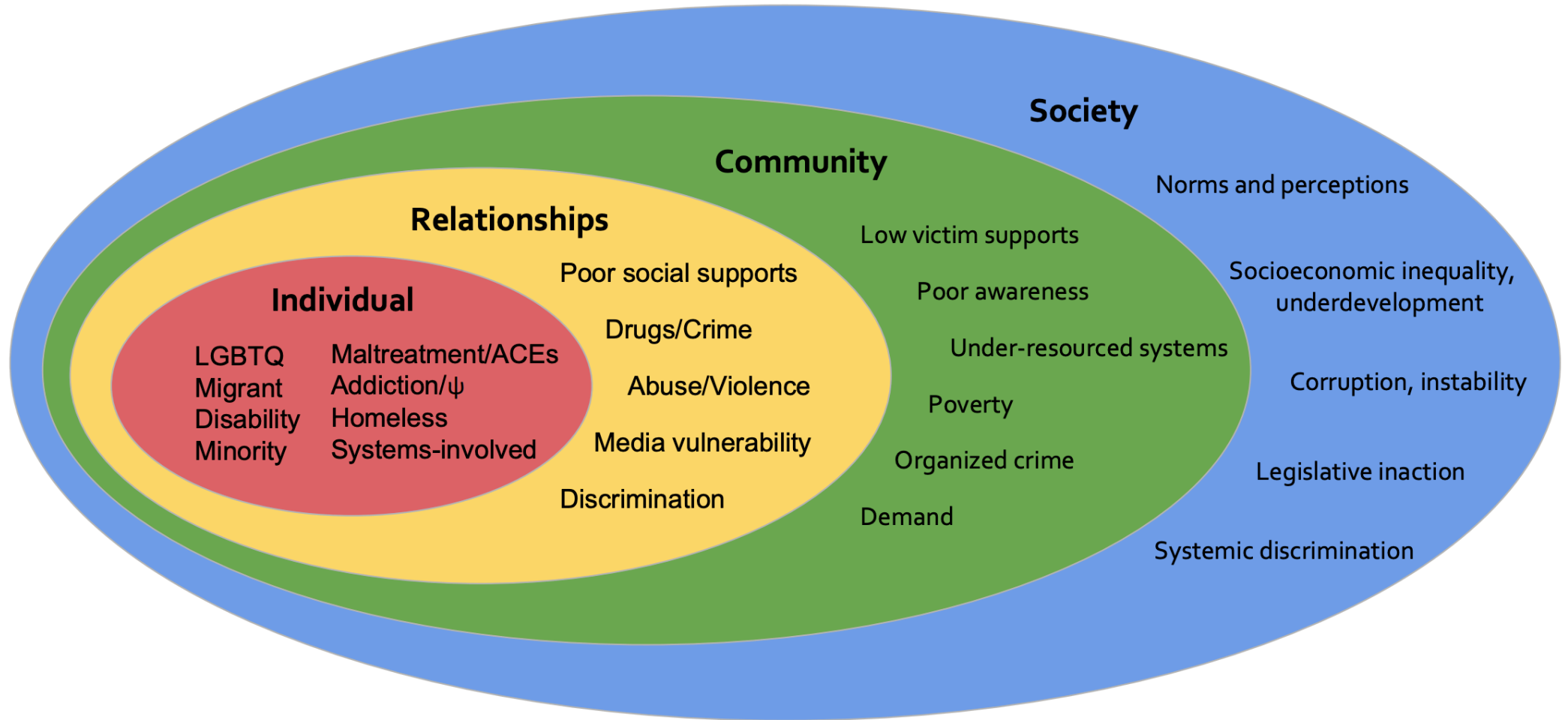
Nervous
Exhausted
Trapped
Guilty
Scared
Insecure
Disappointed
Envious
Overwhelmed

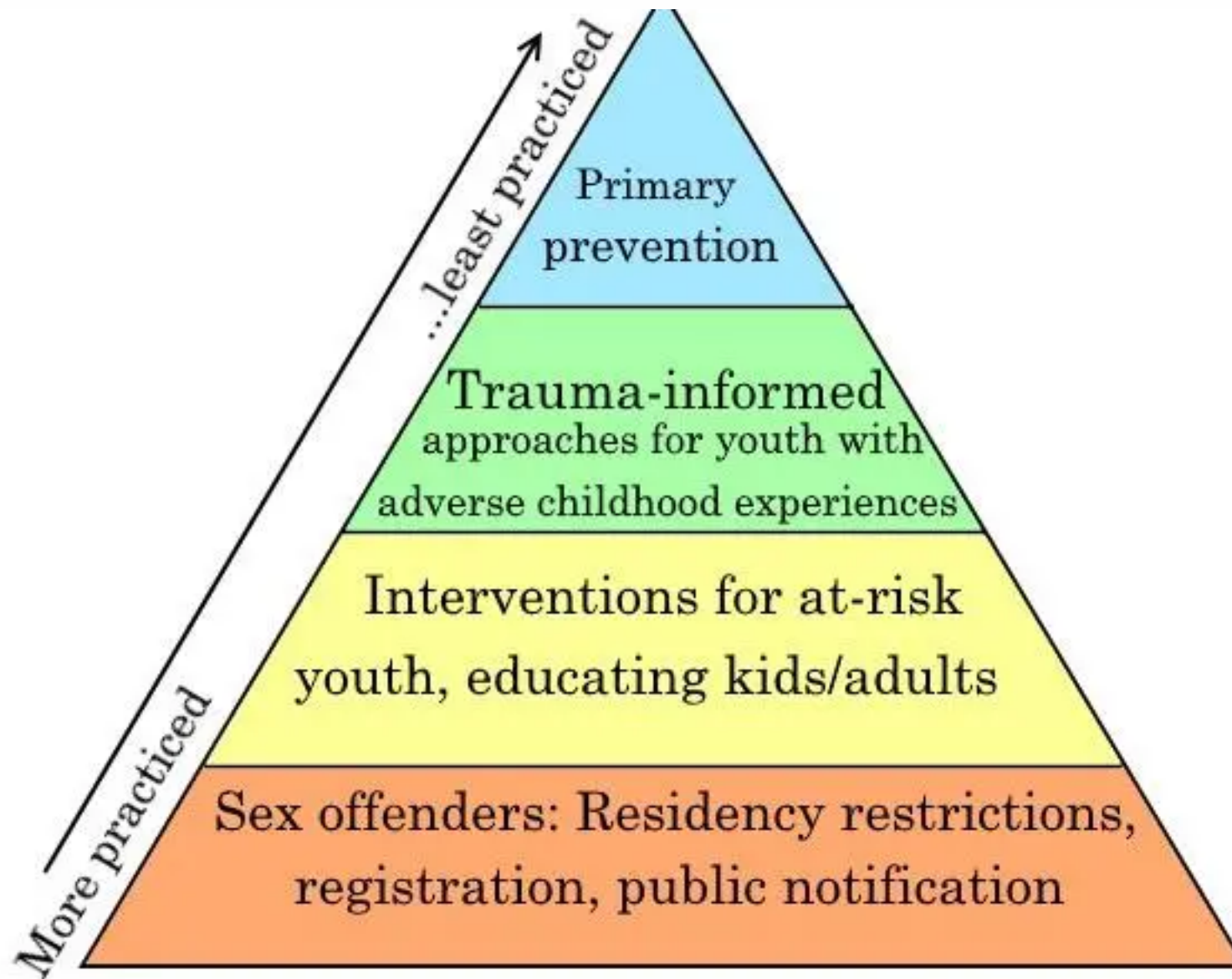
Angry
Rejected
Alone
Embarrassed
Judged
Unloved
Fearful
Depressed
Anxious

Frustrated
Worries
Attacked
Shameful
Disrespected
Helpless
Disgusted
Offended
Sad



Socio-Ecological Model of Trafficking



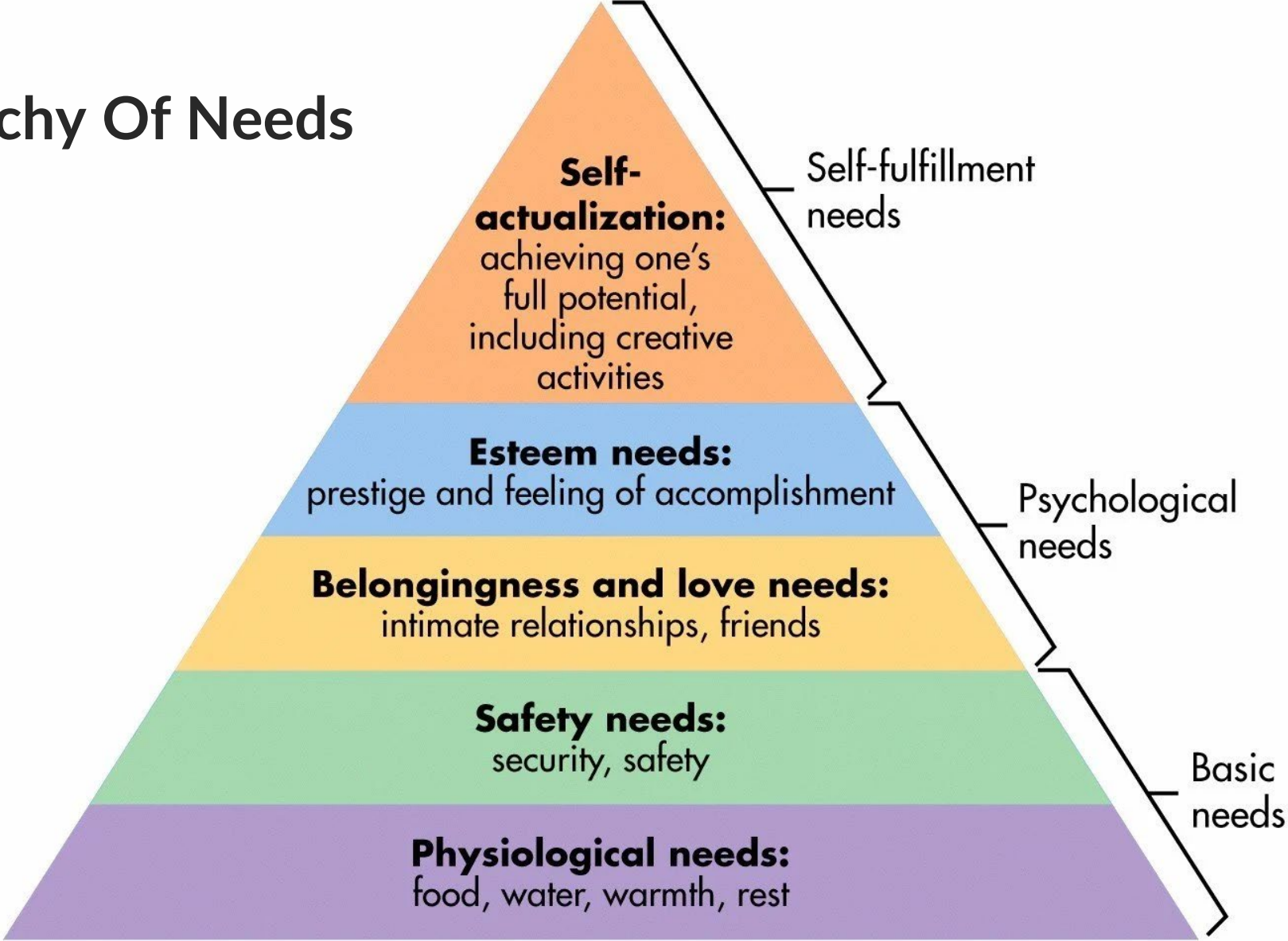


<https://prostasia.org/blog/primary-prevention-basics/>

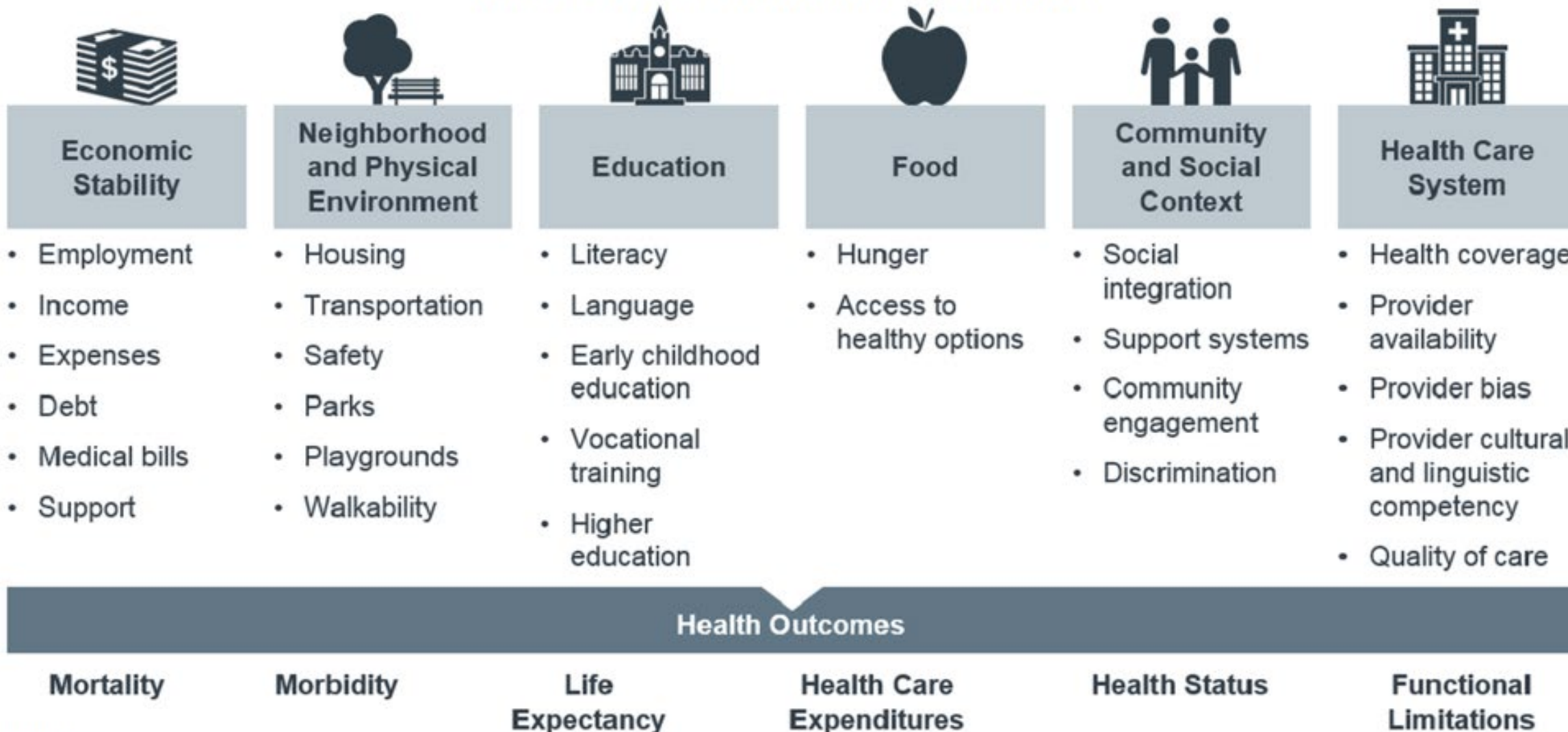


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Maslow's Hierarchy Of Needs



The social determinants of health



Source: Kaiser Family Foundation



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**ACEs
Adverse
Childhood
Experiences**

ABUSE



Physical



Emotional



Sexual

NEGLECT



Physical

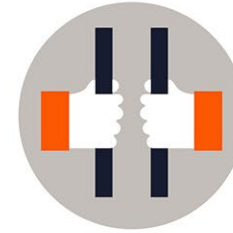


Emotional

HOUSEHOLD DYSFUNCTION



Mental Illness



Incarcerated Relative



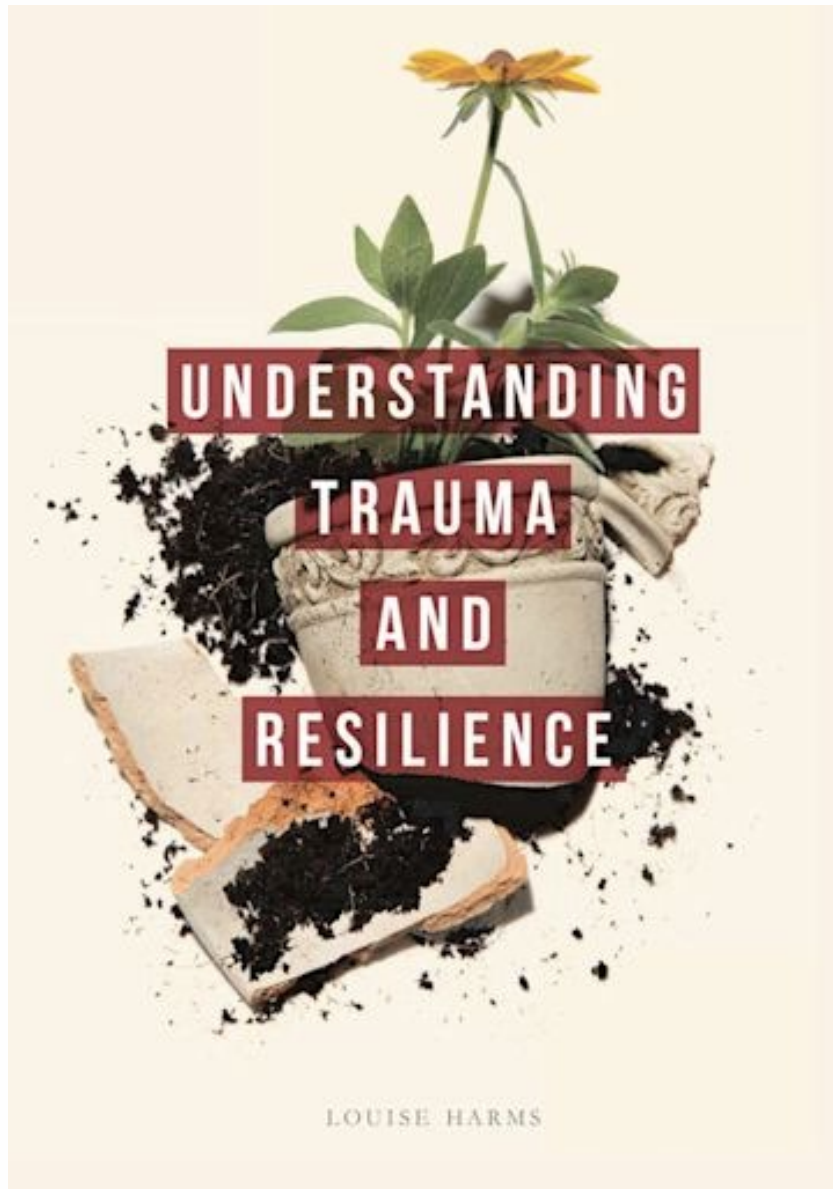
Mother treated violently



Substance Abuse



Divorce



Harm reduction values life, choice, respect, and compassion over judgment, stigma, discrimination, and punishment.



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WE CAN AND MUST DO BETTER.

By centering the voices and demands of people with lived experience, we can better meet their needs and create safer communities for all people.

Survivors of trafficking, sex workers, and people who use drugs **do not live single-issue lives**, and their safety, health, and well-being needs overlap – just like their experiences can. **Our collective support must be interconnected.**

**NATIONAL
HARM REDUCTION
COALITION**

<https://twitter.com/HarmReduction/status/1745477757100827129>

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Access Points

The systems, institutions, or people the likely victim of trafficking interacted with or had access to during the exploitative situation or immediately after/upon escape. Access Points are recorded even if the likely victim did not utilize them as a means of escape from their situation.

Reported Year	2019		2020		2019-2020 % Change
	#	%	#	%	
Access to Education	350	7.0%	188	4.6%	-34.7%
Access to General Social Services	434	8.7%	517	12.6%	44.7%
Access to Health Services	906	18.2%	767	18.7%	2.9%
Access to Mobile Apps/Social Media	491	9.9%	438	10.7%	8.4%
Access to Shelter	336	6.7%	273	6.7%	-1.3%
Access to Transportation	257	5.2%	131	3.2%	-38.1%
Interaction w Civil Justice/Legal Help	364	7.3%	117	2.9%	-60.9%
Interaction w Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice System	1317	26.5%	960	23.4%	-11.4%
Interaction with Child Welfare System	484	9.7%	327	8.0%	-17.9%
Interaction with Financial Institutions	39	0.8%	10	0.2%	-68.8%
Interaction with Friends/Family	1856	37.3%	1628	39.7%	6.6%
Interaction with Religious Community	90	1.8%	73	1.8%	-1.5%
Potential Buyer of Commercial Sex	242	4.9%	157	3.8%	-21.2%
Total Number of Victims with Known Access Points	4979		4098		



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NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE

Free | Confidential | 24 hours | Victim-Centered



CALL

1-888-373-7888

TEXT

233733 (BeFree)

LIVE CHAT

humantraffickinghotline.org

 Polaris



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**"There is no
power for change
greater than a
community
discovering what
it cares about."**

MARGARET J. WHEATLEY



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Polaris Freedom happens now.



NATIONAL CENTER FOR
MISSING & EXPLOITED
CHILDREN



State of California Department of Justice



ROB BONTA
Attorney General

CANP

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