

# Human Trafficking

IT IS HERE AND THRIVING IN IOWA!  
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## History

- ▶ In 2000, the Federal **Trafficking Victims Protection Act** was passed to address the problem of trafficking persons, assist victims, prosecute offenders and educate/prevent.
- ▶ Iowa passed an Anti-Slavery Bill in 2006 - revised it in 2012.
- ▶ Updated it in 2014, 2015 and 2016!

## Three legal elements KEY to Human Trafficking

Iowa Code 719.A.1

Process	Means	End
Recruiting	<b><u>Force</u></b>	Involuntary
Harboring	<b><u>Fraud</u></b>	Servitude
Moving	<b><u>Coercion</u></b>	Debt Bondage
Obtaining or Maintaining a person		Slavery Sex Trade

## WHY am I talking to adults?

- ▶ 1. WE are expected to educate our children/youth so their thrive in the world.
- ▶ 2. WE are challenged to stay current on issues so we have the basics needed to educate our children/youth.
- ▶ 3. IF we do not educate our youth.... Someone else is more than willing to educate them!
- ▶ 4. Abusers bank on adults NOT teaching their children/youth about this.

## WHY talk to youth?

- ▶ 1. Youth are targeted by abusers. Think of this as "prey" and you begin to get the right idea.
- ▶ 2. Youth can keep themselves and their friends safer if they are aware of the risks.
- ▶ 3. Youth know their: world, friends, schools, schedules.... = THEIR vulnerabilities.
- ▶ 4. Youth recognize what is "not" normal in their world thus they can report - get help.

## Was it a Choice? NO!

A person may choose to:

- ▶ Run away (usually FROM something!)  
Iowa has 300+++ runaways / month
- ▶ Live with strangers/ move around, new friends
- ▶ Trade sex or labor for food/shelter/goods.

But the minute a person is deceived, forced, coerced, traded or sold by another ....  
**We have Human Trafficking.**

**CHOICE = FULL DISCLOSURE**

## 3 types of trafficking in Iowa

- ▶ 1. CORPORATE:
  - Typically at large Iowa gatherings.
  - Victims are brought in to serve the need.
- ▶ 2. GANG:
  - Typically supporting or distracting from the drug-trade.
  - Keep funds flowing when members are “cooling down”
- ▶ 3. FAMILY:
  - AMP youth talk of this the most - family or friends selling/trading/bartering them like they're \$\$

## Iowa's missing “numbers?”

- ▶ There are only a few mandated cooperative data sharing cases between legal/law jurisdictions. (HR 4980 mandated tracking of numbers in July 2015).
- ▶ Fact: because there are multiple legal charges a trafficker can be charged under, Iowa's numbers are complicated.
- ▶ Officers have gone for the charges their county attorney will uphold and that have the most sting (drug charges = felony).

## Borrowed Data – ALL RED TYPE

- ▶ From the Omaha Child Exploitation Task Force (Iowa does not have its own task force – MANY of these cases INVOLVE Iowa!)
- ▶ January 2010 to October 2014
  - 70+ victims (many with open cases right now)
  - There are more secondary victims than primary victims (THINK ABOUT EACH TIME-CONSUMING INVESTIGATION)
  - Ages: 13 to 40 years old (mean=17 to 22 years old)
  - 2 were males (2 of 70+)
  - Age is DECREASING!

## Traffickers target...

- Young, single moms are targeted as they are “IN NEED” of so many things (EASILY MANIPULATED)
- Foster youth – the child-welfare system youth are viewed as excellent catches – “no one is keeping track of them!”
  - (84% of rescued youth have a CWS background according to NCMEC)
- Youth seeking a “way out” of life's dullness.
- YOUTH & ADULTS NEEDING JOBS / MONEY / FINANCIAL HELP
- Poverty and Unemployment
- **Vulnerability in any fashion = easy to use**

## The PIMPS! (the SUPPLIERS)

- ▶ Traffickers are:
  - 19 to 42 years old
  - From all social classes & professions
  - Half of them are FEMALE!!!
  - Perps were typically victims early in their own lives.
  - They run drugs and sex **on routes** they know.
  - \$32,833 AVERAGE WEEKLY INCOME (Polaris Project)
  - **Sex slavery is considered a less risky business than drug-running.**
  - Power is control! ***“Rules 2 Da Game of Hoiez”***

## The BUYERS! (the DEMANDer)

- ▶ What about those BUYERS?
  - Most are married or in relationships.
  - Many are fathers.
  - Monday AM is a huge “demand” time (as they have had to be home all weekend with family).
  - Unsupervised “business” men.
  - All classes, careers and income levels – more \$\$ equals more discretion. Cash is preferred but Visa / MasterCard and refillable cards are all options.
  - Most claim this is their “first time” when caught.

## It is here – IN IOWA!

- ▶ Imogene, IA – victims traveled with trucker
- ▶ Denison, IA – victims located in strip club after months of traveling.
- ▶ Osceola, IA – made porn images of youth ages 18 months to 17 years of age.
- ▶ Hills, IA – victims rescued (ages 15 and 17)
- ▶ Statewide cases with remote pimps & cash cards!
- ▶ THESE CASES ARE RESOLVED; THEY TOUCHED 14 STATES.
- ▶ Hundreds of open cases are pending.

## BRAGING TRAFFIK VIDEO

- ▶ This video is 15 minutes long and features 3 Iowa SURVIVORS.
- ▶ We can see these women as “not our problem” or we can see traits of those we love in each of these examples.
- ▶ Challenge yourself to HEAR their message – Our survivors are leading the way in educating us to make Iowa safe!

## BREAK

- ▶ 15 MINUTES
  - DO YOUR SELF-CARE

## LIES the video exposes:

- ▶ The victim CHOOSES this
- ▶ The victim committed unlawful acts
- ▶ The victim was paid for services
- ▶ The victim had “freedom” of movement
- ▶ The victim chooses not to escape
- ▶ Trafficking involves crossing state borders
- ▶ It can’t be trafficking if the trafficker & victims are in a relationship, related by blood, or married or adults.

## Continued:

- ▶ This only happens to “runaways”
- ▶ This does not happen in small towns
- ▶ **Youth can not be trafficked if they are not “taken” from their home/community**
- ▶ Youth are safe at school
- ▶ People are safe traveling
- ▶ People are safe if they have a cell phone.
- ▶ People are making smart choices on computers

## The Internet

- ▶ Traffickers use social media for recruitment and making connections with people they have targeted and want to recruit.
- ▶ Traffickers also use social media to advertise and sell the services their victims will perform – **in 2014 there were over 12,000 ads per day, nationwide.**
- ▶ Buyers can use the internet to set up dates, shop for services they want, read reviews of services and make their payments!

## 2016 Iowa Stats (Backpage.com)

- ▶ Total number of unique individuals advertised: 888 (not including Council Bluffs Area)
- ▶ Add 508 in CB Area (1396 total)

Des Moines 322	Quad Cities 300
Cedar Rapids 179	Sioux City 141
Waterloo 107	Dubuque 59
Iowa City 57	Ames 25
Fort Dodge 17	Mason City 12
18% of the ad featured minors	75% of ads have trafficking indicators

## Backpage.com

- ▶ Closed January 11, 2017
  - Pros – one less cite to market human beings on
  - Cons – backpage.com worked with our law enforcement to ID people selling people. They were a partner in the work we do.
    - Now we will have to learn new partners on new cites to aid us in identifying and capturing pimps and buyers.

## More from Backpage.com

- ▶ Racial Categories for Iowa:

Blacks	51 % *
Whites	33 %
Hispanics	9 %
Asian	7 %

- ▶ Black represent 4% of Iowa's population. Calculating this makes blacks 37.5 times more likely to be advertised on Backpage.com when compared to whites.
- ▶ Source: Anna Brewer & Creighton University 2016

## Anyone can be trafficked!

- ▶ The recurring theme = VULNERABILITY!!!
  - AGE (Immaturity, Brain-development)
  - SEXUAL IDENTITY (LGBTQ = more ways to exploit = more \$\$ for pimp)
  - MENTAL HEALTH (PTSD)
    - Especially if medications are prescribed
  - POVERTY/HOMELESSNESS/IMPULSIVITY!
  - VIOLENT CRIMES/FEAR
  - ADDICTION TO SEX AND/OR DRUGS
  - IMMIGRANTS (legal and illegal)

## BETRAYED LOVE & FRIENDSHIPS

- ▶ **Traffickers offer care/support/relationships!**
- ▶ Traffickers use young adults & teens to lure new victims into their operation
- ▶ **Traffickers approach youth ANYWHERE there are not adults or parents watching!!!!**
- ▶ Traffickers lure with attention & interest.
- ▶ On line and in person
- ▶ **The young person's brain is not mature enough to "think" how wrong this COULD go.**

## Traffickers CONTROL by:

- ▶ MENTAL & PHYSICAL MANIPULATION!!!
- ▶ Misrepresenting U.S. laws and lie about legal consequences (take personal documents)
- ▶ Abuse of people or animals
- ▶ Threaten to kill victims/their families/pets
- ▶ Inflate a debt and never let them pay it off
- ▶ Move victims frequently = keeps them unsettled and lost....
- ▶ Some use drugs but not all. Drugs costs \$\$.

## More CONTROL Tactics:

- ▶ Isolate victims / language barriers
  - THINK SLANG or WORDS USED OUT OF CONTEXT
  - Code words – Graffiti – Symbols – Nicknames
- ▶ Keep victim uneducated of their rights
- ▶ Shame the victim (verbal & multi-media)
- ▶ Tell the victim “just one more time”
- ▶ The trafficker offers “love” and “family”
- ▶ Poverty/Trafficker handles the money!
- ▶ **DESPERATION & VULNERABILITY**

## Intervention for SURVIVORS:

- ▶ **Centrally coordinated, specialized victim services / case management**
  - **Wraparound and Trauma Informed Care**
  - Basic needs: Housing, food, clothing
  - Health, dental, and vision care
  - Child care
  - Mental Health/Counseling (Trauma-informed care)
  - Translation and interpretation services
  - Legal assistance and counsel (Federal and State)
  - Transportation
  - Self-sufficiency needs: employment search, job training, education, English language instruction
  - Placement needs if youth unable to return to family
  - Developmental needs: self-worth, leadership, motivation
  - Building “natural support” system (community)
  - Two years of intervention may be necessary (DHS)

## With a list like that....

- ▶ Our role as parents, foster – adoptive – kinship parents: **BE PROTECTIVE & ACCEPTING!**
- ▶ Believe!!! – Call DHS, let them do their work.
- ▶ Affirm the person’s value – repeatedly
- ▶ Secure their basic needs and use clear, honest statements & no “whispering”
- ▶ Think **TEAM!** (previous slide)
- ▶ Work with all parties – **IN** front of the survivor – **Critical – they are part of all decisions.**

## CRITICAL Reminders:

- ▶ When you are part of the **HEALING PROCESS:**
  - The survivor frequently has a trauma bond with the trafficker or others in the operation that might have been “good” to them. They want to protect them.
  - The survivor’s mental status has trauma points that take them back to the age they were when violations of trust happened – so healing someone that is 20 might look more like helping a child heal.
  - The survivor has **NO REASON** to trust **YOU!**
  - **The survivor needs to TEST you in every possible way – over a long period of time – to learn you are safe.**

## What YOU can DO:

- ▶ If you see something – **SAY** something!
- ▶ Watch people – if it does not feel right or look right – look closely – remember and report.
- ▶ Adults can be trafficked too – it is not all legal dating.
- ▶ Record license plate/make/model
- ▶ Get names if you can. Get them near a camera. Save pictures.
- ▶ Call 911 – then call 1-888-3737-888

## Red Flags for labor trafficking

- ▶ Store Front businesses
  - When are they busy? Number of cars match number of people in building?
- ▶ Security used to keep people in, not out
- ▶ Do the workers have freedom to come and go out of the business?
- ▶ Do they live and work in the same place?
- ▶ Is their “family” there with them?
- ▶ Sense the **FEELING** of the place....

## TRAFFICKING STOREFRONTS:

- Restaurants
- Internet “adult” sites
- Internet pornography (adult and child)
- “Virtual” child pornography
- Strip clubs
- Escort services
- Massage parlors
- Gaming and chat rooms
- Sex clubs
- Cantinas, truck stops, casinos, bars, clubs

## Chatter –

- ▶ Does the person freely communicate with you on multiple topics?
  - Are they being watched?
  - Language barriers?
  - Openness to chat with you?
- ▶ Do they like their work?
- ▶ What made them choose this work?
- ▶ Are they pursuing an education? (where/what year?)
- ▶ What are their plans?
- ▶ **IF YOU SENSE SOMETHING IS WRONG – BE CAREFUL AND ATTENTIVE!**

## TO INCREASE SAFETY FOR ALL YOUTH:

- ▶ 1. **KNOW** your surroundings and the **SAFE OPTIONS** you can use.
- ▶ If you **SEE** something – **SAY SOMETHING!**
- ▶ If you **HEAR** something – pay attention.
  - “daddy” “bottom” “trick” “call”
- ▶ If you **FEEL** uncomfortable – watch & listen.
  - What clue would you give if it was you in their shoes?
- ▶ **Involved, connected, observant, protective people are THE DETERRENT TO TRAFFICKERS!!**

## TO REPORT in IOWA

- ▶ **CALL 911 – IMMEDIATE DANGER**
- ▶ **Iowa Domestic Violence & Victim Service Hotline: 1-800-770-1650**
- ▶ **Or Text: “Iowa Help” to 20121**
- ▶ **For a youth – call 800-362-2178**
  - DHS child abuse hotline

## In state and OUT: REPORTING

- ▶ National Trafficking in persons and workers task force complaint line – 1-888-428-7581
- ▶ **911 – local Law Enforcement**
- ▶ **Trafficking Information and Referral Hotline**  
**1-888-3737-888**  
**(put this in your phone!)**  
**OR TEXT: BEFREE**  
[www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org)  
 Or to learn more: NCMEC  
[www.missingkids.org](http://www.missingkids.org)

## Iowa's HT Hotline

- ▶ **DHS HOTLINE NUMBER:**
- ▶ **1-800-362-2178**
- ▶ For tips, to report or to be rescued:
  - 1-

## POLARIS PROJECT STATS on Iowa

- ▶ 2015 Annual Report NHTRC
- ▶ 146 calls – 36 Human Trafficking cases reported
  - 12 – high indicators    47 – moderate indicators
  - 25 calls from survivors of trafficking
- ▶ Type of Trafficking
  - Sex – 26
  - Not specified – 4
  - Labor – 3
  - Sex and labor – 3

## 2015 Polaris Project Stats:

- ▶ Venues:
  - Commercial front / Brothels – 10
  - Hotel / motel – 3
  - Online ad – 3
  - Hostess / strip club – 3
  - Bar club – 3
- ▶ Ages & Genders:
  - ▶ 26 Adults                    6 minors
  - ▶ 29 Females                4 males

## Questions ?????

- ▶ If you have someone you treasure.... Protect them with information and attention. If you don't, someone else might!
- ▶ Please share your insights with at least 10 other people – help me make Iowa safer !!!
- ▶ Thank you for your time and attention!!!! rb