



Indiana Coalition to End Sexual Assault & Human Trafficking

Engage. Educate. Empower.

Identifying and Supporting Human Trafficking Survivors: The Role of Housing Providers

Merissa Hauptstueck, MA, LMHC | Anti-Trafficking Project Coordinator

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Merissa Hauptstueck, MA, LMHC

Qualifications:

Licensed Mental Health Counselor (IN)

5 years providing therapy to survivors of sexual and interpersonal trauma, people with substance use disorders, LGBTQ+ youth and adults; 2 years* in the anti-trafficking field

Education:

Master of Arts

Ball State University-Teacher's College

Bachelor of Arts

Psychology, Anderson University (IN)

What I Do and Why I Do It:

Anti-Trafficking Special Projects Coordinator

- I equip service providers from many backgrounds with the expertise to serve trafficking survivors.

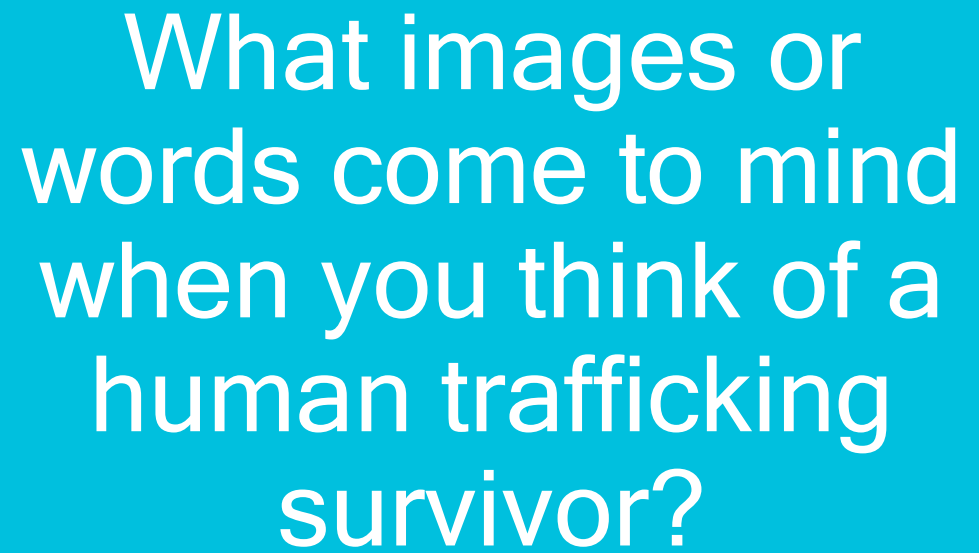


ICESAHT'S Anti-Trafficking Initiatives

- **Trainings**
 - Rape Crisis Centers, Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs), Child Advocacy Center MDTs, Housing Providers, etc.
- **Technical Assistance**
 - Best practices
 - Resource/ service connections and coordination
- **State Human Trafficking Task Force (IPATH)**
 - ICESAHT co-chairs the IPATH Taskforce alongside the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Indiana

Presentation Objectives

- Define human trafficking (HT) under federal and Indiana law
- Understand the overlap between housing instability and human trafficking
- Explore how systems can use a survivor-centered approach when serving trafficked populations
- Identify local and state resources relevant to HT survivors

A blue speech bubble with a white question inside, set against a dark blue background. The speech bubble has a tail pointing to the left.

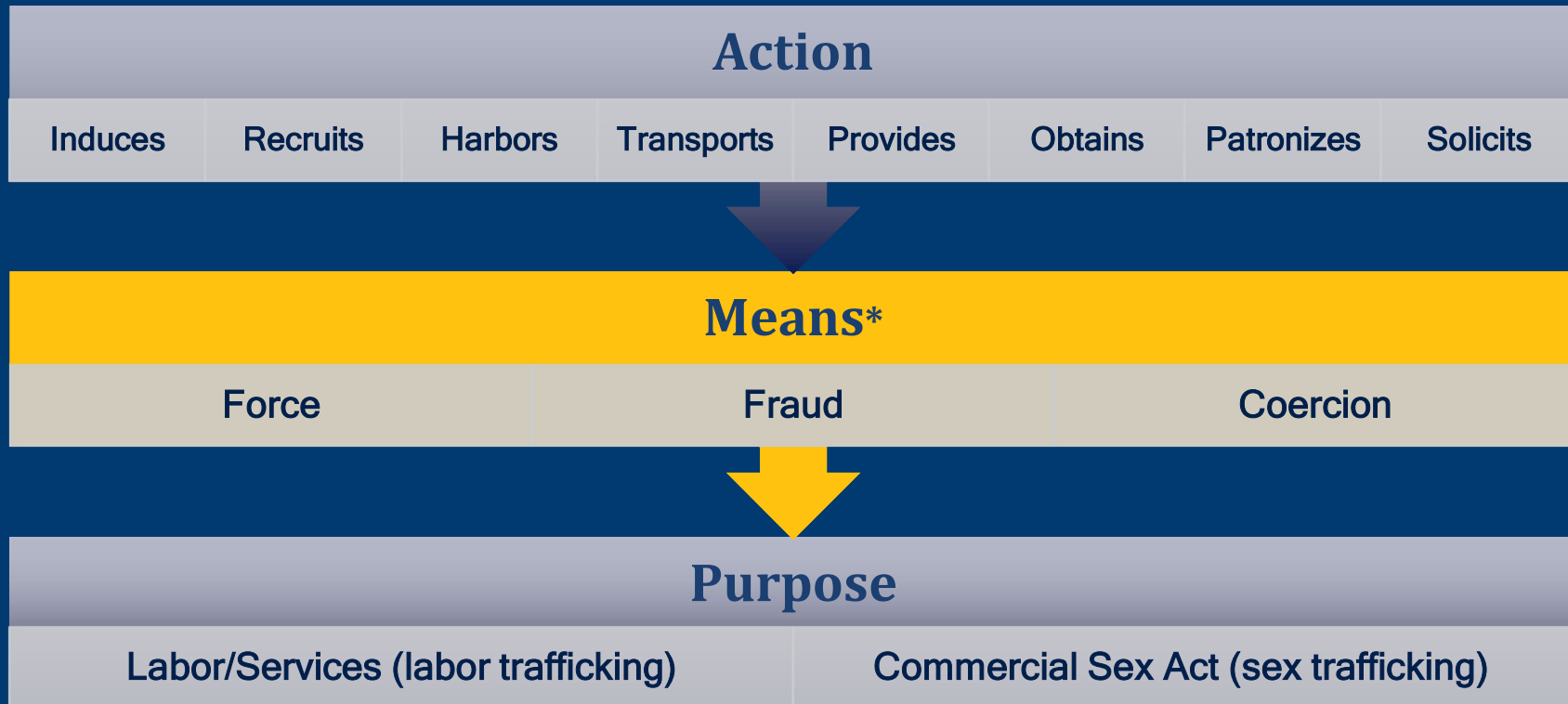
What images or words come to mind when you think of a human trafficking survivor?

Federal Law

- **Sex trafficking:** the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; (and)
- **Labor trafficking:** 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.

Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, 22 U.S. Ch. 78; reauthorized in 2003, 2005, 2008, 2017, 2018, and 2022

AMP Model: 3 Elements of Trafficking



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(National Human Trafficking Resource Center, 2012)

Means

Force

Beating and slapping

Burning

Sexual assault

Rape and gang rape

Confinement

Initiation

Torture practices

Fraud

False promises

Deceitful enticement

Withholding wages

Blackmail/extortion

Lies about work conditions

Preying on desperation

Coercion

Threats of serious harm

Intimidation

Humiliation

Emotional abuse

Controlling daily life skills

Establishing quotas

Climate of fear

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(Office on Trafficking in Persons, 2017)

Indiana Law

- Minors cannot be arrested for prostitution → **there's no such thing as a juvenile prostitute!**
- Force, threat of force, fraud, coercion do not need to be proven when a minor is trafficked for commercial sex.
- It is not a defense to Promotion of Child Sexual Trafficking that a minor consented to participate in prostitution or sexual conduct.
- Buyers can be charged with human trafficking regardless of whether they knew the individual they purchased was a human trafficking victim.

Vulnerable Populations



Fig. 1. *Diverse People with Disabilities.*



Fig. 2. (Naumov, A., 2022).



Fig. 3. (Ernst, J., 2019).



Fig. 6. (Pemberton, M., 2022).

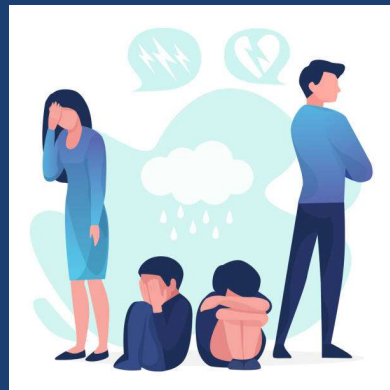


Fig. 5. (Iakubovskaia, N., 2019).

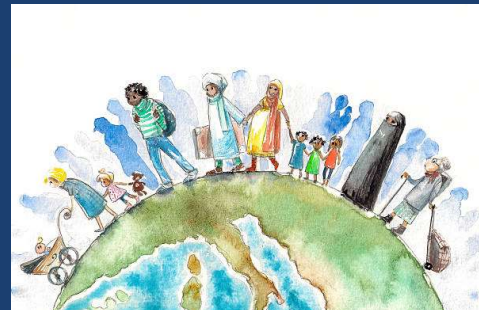


Fig. 8. (iStock/Deep Green, n.d.).



Fig. 4. (ID_Anuphon/Adobe Stock, n.d.)



Fig. 7. *Concept of substance addiction* by Ankreative.

(Middleton et al. 2022, National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center, Nov. 11, 2022)

Housing Providers' Role: Prevention, Identification, and Meeting Needs



Fig. 9. (Rojal, 2020). [CC 4.0 BY-NC](#)



Fig. 10. (Nick Youngson/Alpha Stock Images, n.d.).
[CC BY-SA 3.0](#)



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Intersection of Housing Instability and Human Trafficking

64% of survivors were homeless or in unstable housing when recruited into a trafficking situation.

(Anthony et al., July 2018)

Of 169 women who were homeless prior to incarceration, 40.7% of women had prostitution charges, and 74.6% had experienced sexual assault in adulthood

(Asberg & Renk, 2015, as cited in *Housing, Homelessness and Sexual Violence Annotated Bibliography*, p. 1)

The Youth Experiences Survey (YES) study of 131 homeless youth aged 12 to 25 in Louisville, Kentucky and Southern Indiana found that 41.2% reported being victims of sex trafficking

(Middleton et al., 2022)

Understanding Signs of HT

Accurate identification → context and proximity

- **Physical**
 - Poor dental hygiene, injuries or burns in various stages of healing, signs of malnutrition/dehydration, multiple STI's, substance use
- **Behavioral**
 - Using scripted language and refusing to answer questions, overly fearful and submissive, signs of complex PTSD, has engaged in commercial sex, not in control of identity documents
- **Social/Relational**
 - Isolation and lack of supportive community, making light of abuse, working long or excessive hours, “sexual harassment” at work, minors experiencing homelessness and staying with “friends”, consistent need to update or ask permission from significant other

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(National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center, Nov. 11, 2022)

Barriers to Identification & Engagement

- Trafficker has a strong psychological/physiological hold on them
 - Trusted someone who lied to them; still hopeful situation will improve
 - May have nowhere else to go
 - Believes they have a real debt to pay and takes this very seriously
 - Doesn't know their legal rights and/or has been lied to about their rights
 - Isolated – no meaningful social network, language barriers
- Embarrassed about what is happening to them
 - Afraid of detainment or deportation
 - Distrust of law enforcement
 - Their documents have been taken or have expired
 - This current exploitative situation is “better” than the one they came from
 - Can't see a way out; threats or danger to family back home

HUD Categories of Homelessness

Category 1: Literally Homeless

Category 2: Imminent Risk of Homelessness

Category 3: Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes

Category 4: Fleeing / Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence (includes dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and other dangerous and life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against an individual. . .including human trafficking)

<https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/coc-esg-virtual-binders/coc-esg-homeless-eligibility/four-categories/category-4/>)



A Systems Approach to Housing HT Survivors

Overcoming Biases

“Prostitute”

- 50% of first-time arrestees for prostitution met the federal definition as victims of human trafficking

(Carpenter & Gates, 2016)

“Drug Addict”

- Traffickers who exploited domestic victims were significantly more likely to, a) recruit women who were already addicted to drugs, and b) use dependence on drugs as a tool to control or enmesh victims”

(Koegler et al., 2023)

“Illegal Immigrant”

- 71% of the victims held some type of nonimmigrant visa status when they entered the United States

(Owens et al., 2014)

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Meeting Immediate Needs

“Ask if I’m okay. Look into my situation and let me know what you can do to help. Empower me to live my life in the way that is best for me.”

-Jose Lewis Alfaro, Lived Experience Expert & Consultant

(as cited in French Nafekh et al., 2023)



Transportation
and Housing



Safety plan



Food, clothing,
personal hygiene
items



Acute medical
care



Translators/interpretive
services as needed

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

Although HT survivors are not labeled as a protected class, they often experience the types of violence that are covered under VAWA-sexual violence, intimate partner violence, and stalking.

Victims often experience:

- Having children with their trafficker
- Surveillance/stalked by a trafficker
- Sexual violence from multiple people
- **Economic and technology abuse

Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) Program: The Need for Collaboration

The four eligible populations for EHV's:

1. Homeless
2. At-risk of homelessness
3. Fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking; and
4. Recently homeless, as determined by the Secretary, and for whom providing rental assistance will prevent the family's homelessness or having high risk of housing instability

Most anti-trafficking service providers are not housing providers and not connected to public housing authorities / CoCs or familiar with voucher process; public housing authorities and CoCs lack familiarity with human trafficking.

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(U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, n.d.; Freedom Network USA, 2021)

Barriers to Housing for HT Survivors

- Criminal Records
 - Discriminatory background check policies, housing programs that prohibit those with felony charges
- Poverty/Lack of Employment
 - Lack of credit or bill payment history
- Lack of education and partnership w/private landlords
- Assumptions that survivors want or need residential placement
 - Providing housing may be all the survivor needs to heal

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(Housing and Urban Development, "[Housing Needs of Survivors of Human Trafficking Study](#)," Feb. 24, 2024)

The Largest Barrier to Housing for HT Survivors...FUNDING!

- \$0 is set aside from state government funds to house HT survivors
- Any funding in this area is through competitive federal grants

Potential Action Steps

- Training for providers in your network
 - Who needs this information about HT and housing?
- What resources do vulnerable people in your community need?
 - Meeting basic needs is violence prevention work
- CE Assessment review
 - What questions are included that could be related to DV, sexual assault, or HT?

SURVEY

- Please take a few minutes to share your feedback on this training

Reporting

Children

- Indiana is a mandatory reporting state; anyone who suspects a child has been neglected or abused must by state law make a report to DCS.
 - **Call 1-800-800-5556 and be sure to say, “I suspect human trafficking.”**
 - More information available at <https://www.in.gov/dcs/contact-us/child-abuse-and-neglect-hotline/>

Adults

- Most cases: National Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-888-373-7888
 - **Not mandatory, but can provide connection to relevant, timely resources for HT survivors**
- Some cases: Report suspected neglect, battery or exploitation of endangered adults (those **incapacitated by** mental illness, intellectual disability, dementia, excessive drug use, or other impairments to an APS unit or law enforcement.
 - More information available at <https://www.in.gov/fssa/da/adult-protective-services/>

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Statewide Resources

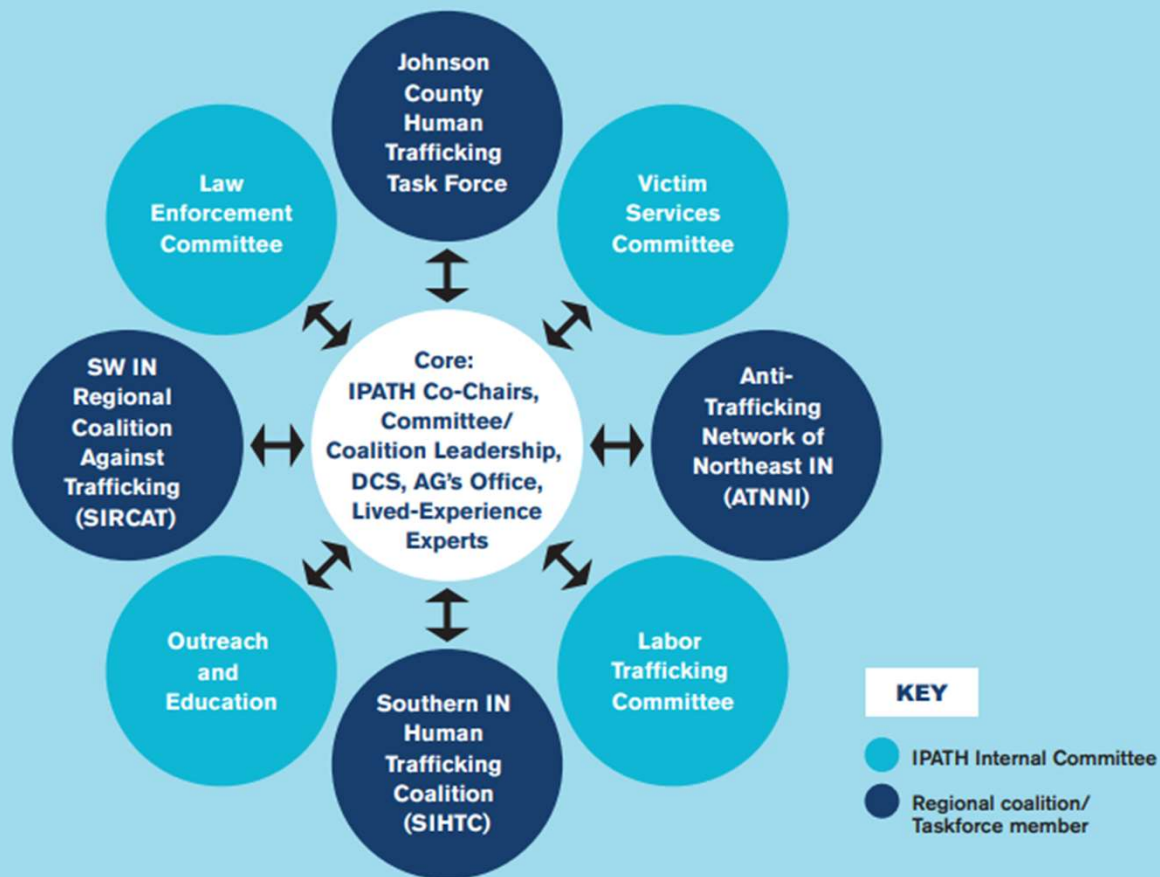
IPATH Taskforce Mission:
Utilizes a Survivor-Centered Approach to more effectively Prevent, Detect, and Prosecute Human Trafficking in Indiana, and Empower and Support Survivors



IPATH
INDIANA PROTECTION FOR
ABUSED AND TRAFFICKED HUMANS
Task Force

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COLLABORATIVE STRUCTURE



Multi-Disciplinary, Collaborative Approach

STRENGTH
courage
Engage
NORTH
Truth
Empower
ICESAHT
survivor
educate
SAFE
Support
Self
Security
THRIVE
care
ADON
Support
SAFE


Indiana Coalition to
**End Sexual Assault
& Human Trafficking**
Engage. Educate. Empower.

IPATH Service Providers in Indianapolis

HT-SPECIFIC

- [Grit Into Grace](#): serving women who have been commercially sexually exploited or are at risk of commercial exploitation; advocacy, case management, referrals, support groups
- [Unconditional](#): outreach, resources, and support for women in the adult entertainment and sex industry; **also provides transitional housing (1 yr)**
- [Ascent 121](#): Specialize HT counseling (community-based and residential) and support groups for trafficked youth under 18 yrs.

MULTIPLE SERVICES + HT-TRAINED

- [Firefly Children & Family Alliance](#): Rape Crisis Center serving Marion Co.; 24 hr. crisis line, advocacy, case management, support groups, referrals; survivor counseling available for primary and secondary survivors
- [Pathway International](#): serving all ages in Marion, Hamilton, and Boone Co.'s; counseling, interpretation, advocacy, and case management
- [Perseverance Partners](#): Mental health, case management, safety planning, and advocacy in Marion county  and surrounding counties for youth and young adults up to 24 y.o. and their families.
- [VOICES Corp.](#): providing re-entry and individual life coaching services for youth and families; **plans to offer housing soon**

IPATH Housing Subcommittee



Fig. 11. (Frederic J. Brown/AFP, 2021).



Fig. 12. (Priithillep via IMGFIN, 2018.)

Objectives

- Increase Our Education about Existing Resources and Increase Expertise
- Train Community Partners about Human Trafficking & Housing Concerns
- Creating Referral Networks to Help Our Clients Access Sober Living and Have Re-Entry Plans

Primary Need Identified: Housing
Resource Guide for HT Service providers

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HT and Housing Resources

Indiana Coalition to End Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking: <https://icesaht.org/>

Indiana Trafficking Victims Assistance Program: <https://indysb.org/itvap/resources/>

Freedom Network Housing Project: <https://freedomnetworkusa.org/training/housing-project/>

Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana | 317-644-0673 | <https://www.fhcci.org/>

ICADV Housing Hotline | (317) 762-5115 | <https://icadvinc.org/legal-resources/>

Indiana Legal Services- Housing | 317-631-9410 |
<https://www.indianalegalservices.org/landlord-tenant/>

Housing and Urban Development: Housing Needs for HT Survivors Fact Sheet:
<https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/Main/documents/VAWA-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

Housing Rights of DV and SV Survivors: A State and Local Law Compendium:
<https://www.nhlp.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-NHLP-Compendium-of-Housing-Rights-for-DVS.pdf>

Questions? Contact:

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Subcommittee

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