



**HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND
SOCIAL JUSTICE INSTITUTE**
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

Human Trafficking Screening Tool Assessment

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Methodology and Process

- November 2016
- Held focus groups and interviews with 54 staff members
 - Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC)
 - Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS)
 - Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (ODMHAS)
 - State psychiatric hospital facilities
- Staff Members are the participants
 - Administration of the Human Trafficking Screening Tool, their supervisors, data collectors and analyzers.
- Qualitative – Constant comparative analysis



Strengths of the Human Trafficking Screening Tool

- Increased staff knowledge about human trafficking
- Human trafficking training for staff
- Potential human trafficking victims identified
- Linking human trafficking victims to services





Knowledge and Training

- Specialized human trafficking training
 - Once a year
 - Part of new staff orientation
- Training on the tool
 - Screening environment
 - Tone and body language
 - Implementation of the tool
 - What to do if you identify a human trafficking victim



Photo credit: www.mindjet.com



Potential Human Trafficking Victims Identified

One participant from the Ohio Department of Youth Services reported,

“I just identified two young ladies that have possibly been trafficked or not necessarily. They won’t call it trafficking, but survival; using it as a survival; but it’s really trafficking.”



Linking Human Trafficking Victims to Services

- Identify possible victim of human trafficking
- Assess immediate needs
 - Refer to trauma centers
 - Meet with mental health liaison
 - Treatment team
 - Group therapy
 - One-on-one therapy
- Inmates ready for release
 - Community linkage worker (ODYS)
 - Re-Entry Coalition (ODRC)
 - Agency referrals



Photo credit: <http://epilepsyu.com>



Weaknesses of the Human Trafficking Screening Tool

- Wording, interpretations and false positives
- Settings, timing, and multiple screenings and assessments
- Procedure when victim is identified: variation and uncertainty
- Stronger connections to resources in the community



Wording and False Positives

- False positives: a term used by these systems when an individual answers a question in the affirmative, but isn't a trafficking victim
- Question # 1: Prior to your incarceration, did anyone control supervise or monitor you against your will?
- Question # 4: Did anyone every force you to do something physical or sexually that you didn't feel comfortable doing?
- "I mean that is kind of a general question, that if you've ever been sexually abused, or what have you, or violence; you're going to say yes."





Setting



Photo credit: <http://joycecontract.com>

“I think the biggest issue is not so much the questions, but it’s where you’re asking the questions...”

there’s a lot of traffic back and forth and a lot of ears around, and I can usually tell when it comes to sexual molestation...

they give a look over their shoulder to see who’s standing behind them, so they lower their voice and lean forward....”

Procedure When Victim is Identified: Variation and Uncertainty

- Varying procedures across systems
- Varying procedures within systems that house the same population
- Some staff members were not familiar with the agency's procedures

“I kind of froze because I don't get yeses. I don't get yeses at all. I could tell he was very nervous, and it was almost like he wanted to talk about something, but he wouldn't, but these questions prompted him and he had an absolute melt down...he was put on a mental health observation, in a safe cell.”



Human Trafficking Screening Tool Assessments

► **Ohio Department of Youth Services**

- Conducted 328 Human Trafficking Screening Tool assessments
- Identified 8 victims (6 female and 2 male). All 6 of the females were victims of both labor and sex trafficking. This represents 2% of those screened.

► **Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction.**

- Conducted 18,733 human trafficking screening assessments
- Identified 51 people that indicated a positive for human trafficking or .3% of those screened.

► **Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services psychiatric hospitals**

- Conducted 7,216 human trafficking screening assessments
- Identified 21 potential sex trafficking victims and 8 potential labor trafficking victims, with an unduplicated number of 24 potential victims or .3% of the population screened.



Recommendations

Photo Credit: <http://www.gyaata.in>

1. Simplify the Language on the Human Trafficking Screening Tool
2. Conduct Regular Staff Trainings on Human Trafficking, the Screening Tool, and the Procedure When Victims are Identified
3. Change Location and Timing When Screening Tool is Administered



Other Considerations

- ▶ Encourage staff to consider the occurrence of sex trafficking in prisons where both vulnerable individuals and predators may be housed, and train staff to identify potential trafficking. Work to include trafficking as a recognized component of The Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA) identification and establish protocols to respond appropriately.
- ▶ Train staff and develop protocols to investigate continued human trafficking related victimization by monitoring prisoner's mail, phone communication, and understanding who is providing funds to potentially vulnerable inmates.
- ▶ Considering victimization while incarcerated.