

Intersection of Human Trafficking and Health Care



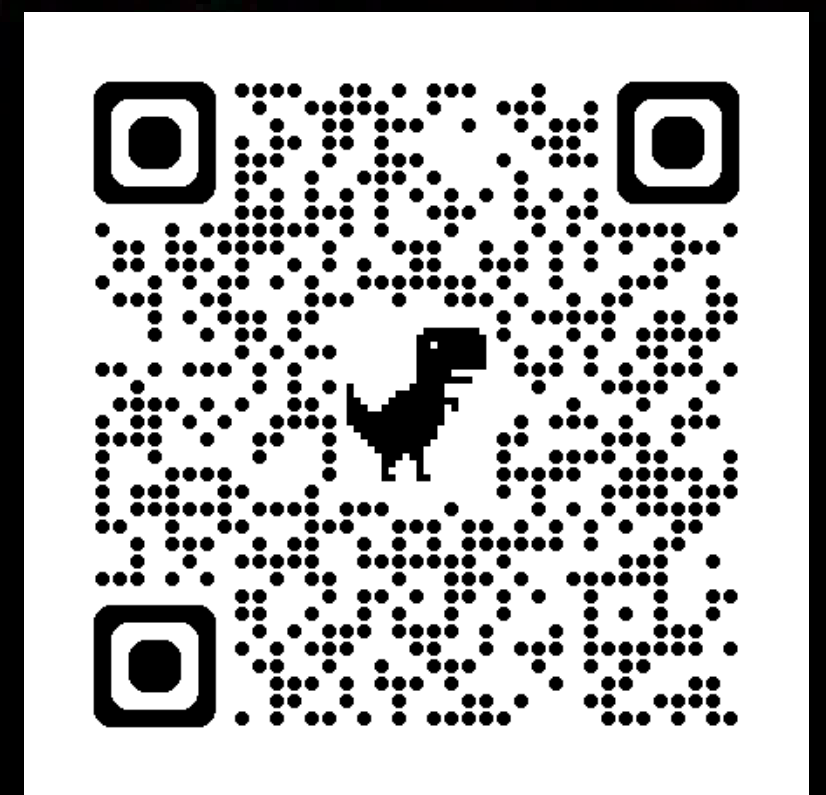
Disclosure Statement

All individuals in a position to control content for this session have indicated they have no relevant financial relationships to disclose.

Learning Objectives

- **Define sex and labor trafficking**
- **Describe risk factors associated with human trafficking**
- **Discuss tools available to identify patients at risk or currently being trafficked**
- **Outline strategies to connect and support trafficking patients**
- **Describe available resources that trafficking patients may utilize**

Intersection of Human Trafficking and Healthcare



Scan this QR code to view this video on the
OC Human Trafficking Task Force website

What is Human Trafficking?

- Human Trafficking is the deprivation of a person's liberty in the form of forced labor or commercial sex.
- It does not require any movement of the victim.
- Trafficker's may control victim through use of force, coercion, menace, or threat.

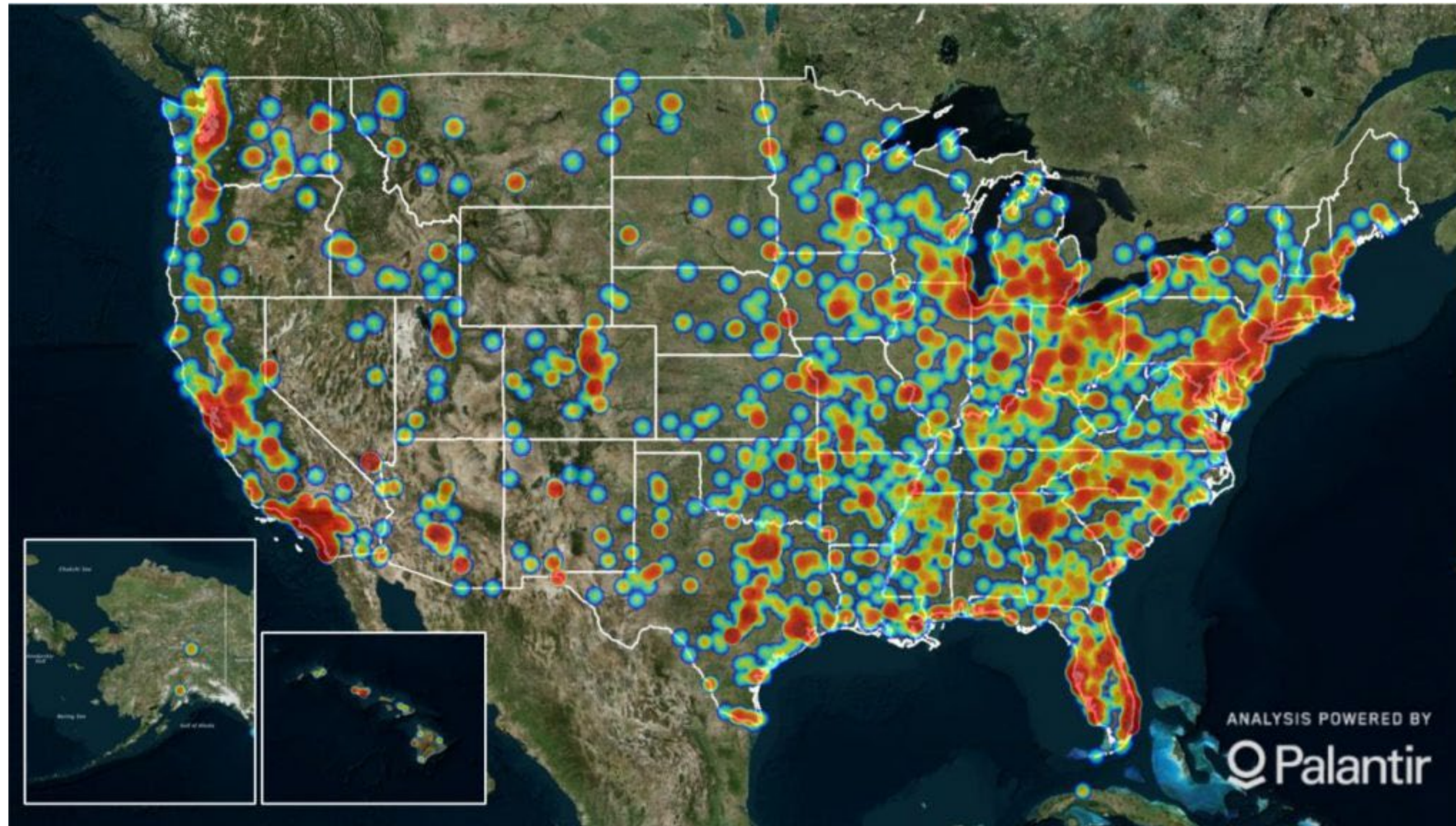


What is CSEC?

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) refers to a range of crimes and activities involving the sexual abuse or exploitation of a child for the financial benefit of any person or in exchange for anything of value (including monetary and non-monetary benefits). Does not require force, coercion, threat.



Trafficking in the United States



All trafficking *situations identified from reports to the National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH) and BeFree Textline in 2019.
**situations may include multiple victims*

California Spotlight

2019 National Human Trafficking Hotline Statistics

Victims Identified **3,021**

Traffickers Identified **655**

Trafficking Businesses **333**

Locations of Trafficking¹



ANALYSIS POWERED BY
Palantir

¹Some cases may involve multiple locations.

1,507 Trafficking Cases



Sex Trafficking
1,118 Cases

Sex & Labor Trafficking
69 Cases

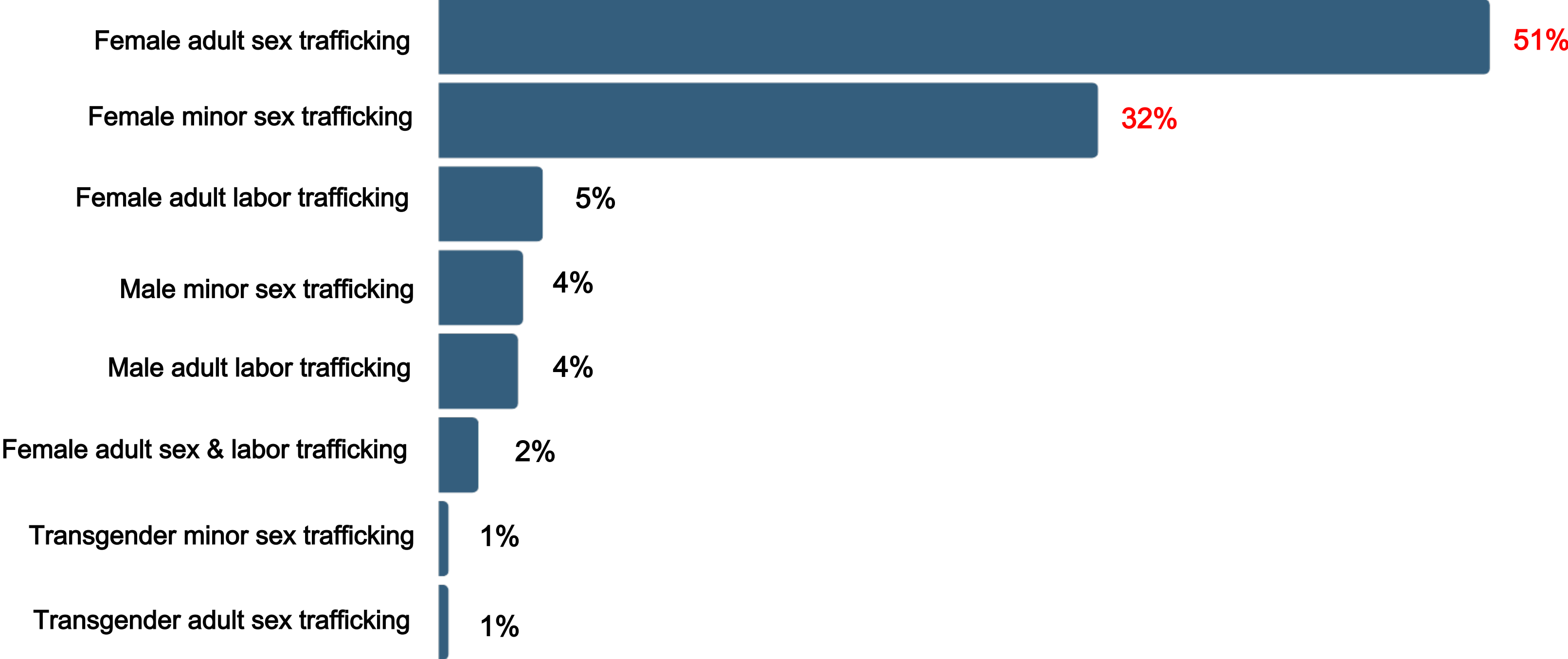
Labor Trafficking
158 Cases

Form Not Specified²
162 Cases

²Cases where trafficking type is not specified are typically a result of callers self identifying as victims or service providers or law enforcement seeking referrals for trafficking victims without providing further details about the presence of forced work or forced commercial sex.

OCHTTF Victim Report 2023

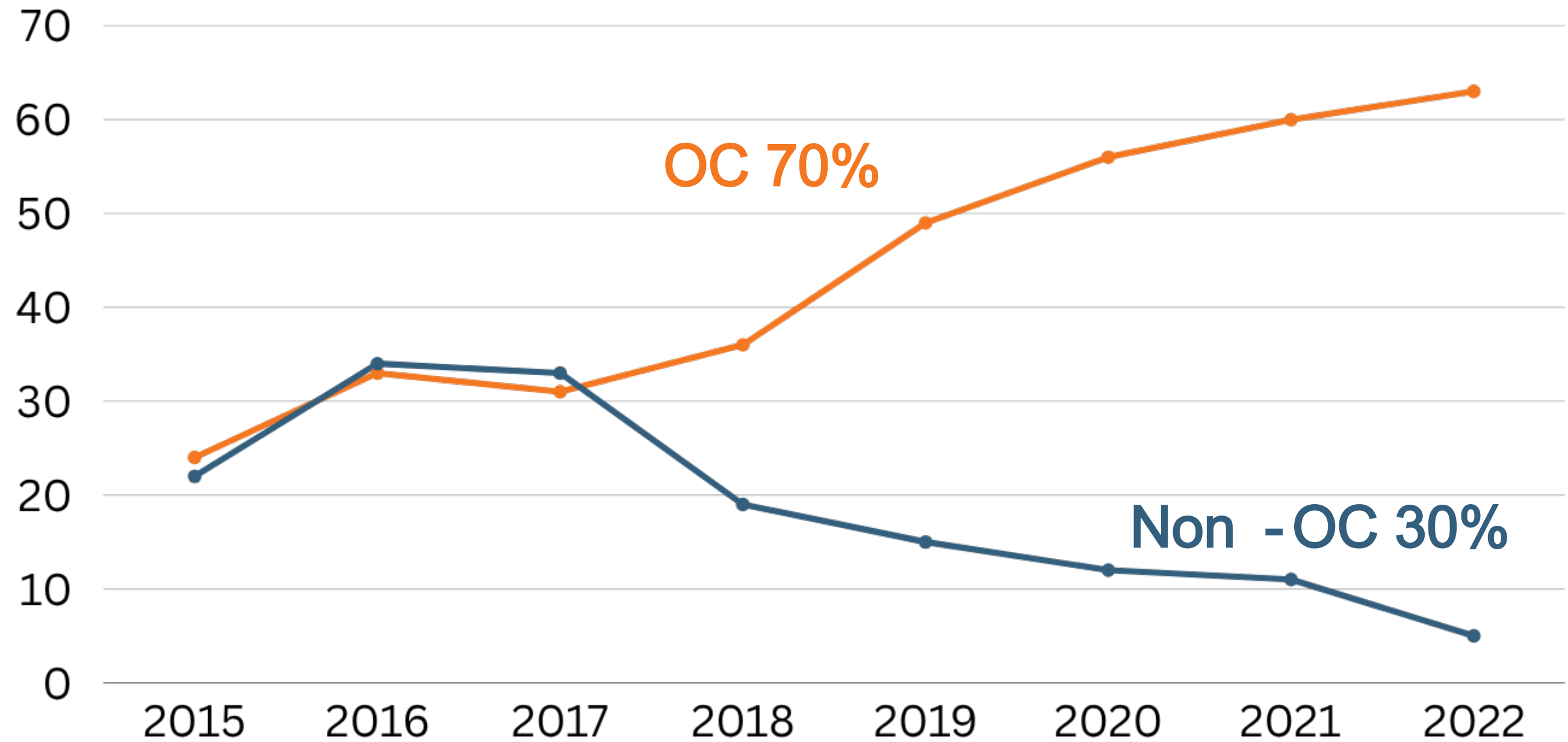
In 2021 and 2022, 420 victims and survivors assisted.



Source: OCHTTF Human Trafficking Victim Report 2023, Waymakers



CSEC Youths Identified in OC



Source: CSEC Report 2021, Orange County Social Services Agency

Foreign Born Victims Assisted in OC



Source: OCHTTF Human Trafficking Victim Report 2021, Waymakers

Clinical Vignettes

15-year-old male from Honduras:

- **Unaccompanied, undocumented minor**
- **Arrested for drug possession and intent to distribute outside a county courthouse**
- **Interview discloses smuggled across border to U.S.**
- **Working in construction with relatives**
- **Threatened by gang at knife point to sell drugs for them**
- **Family and friends threatened with harm**

Risk Factors for Labor Trafficking

- **Undocumented workers, all ages**
- **Foreign workers in the U.S. on temporary employment-based visas**
- **Trauma and mental health concerns related to migration**
- **Runaway or homeless youth and those involved in foster care and juvenile justice systems**
- **People experiencing poverty and economic hardship**
- **Limited to no knowledge of U.S. systems, resources, laws and victim rights**
- **Limited to no connections to community of origin or family in the U.S.**
- **Found throughout the U.S. economy but more common in: agriculture, construction, landscaping, hotels, domestic work, restaurants, seafood**

Risk Factors for Sex Trafficking

- **Economic Vulnerabilities**
 - Runaway/homeless/escaping a situation
 - Poverty
 - Displaced persons (i.e. immigrants, refugees)
- **Lack of a Support Network**
 - Lack of a trustworthy adult
 - Families with drug misuse, domestic violence, and psychiatric history
- **High Risk**
 - LGBTQ+ youth
 - Youth substance misuse
 - Youth with behavioral, mental health needs or learning disabilities
 - Involvement with the Legal System
- **Prior Abuse**
 - History of sexual abuse, physical abuse and/or neglect
 - Child welfare, juvenile justice system



Identifying Trafficking Survivors

- **Physical Injury**
 - Scripted or inconsistent history
 - Hesitant to answer questions about injuries
- **Substance Abuse**
- **Poor health**
 - Recurrent, multiple sexually transmitted infections
- **Signs of psychological coercion**
 - Lack of control over their money, identification, unable to provide an address
 - Appears fearful and avoid eye contact

Tattoos Associated with Trafficking

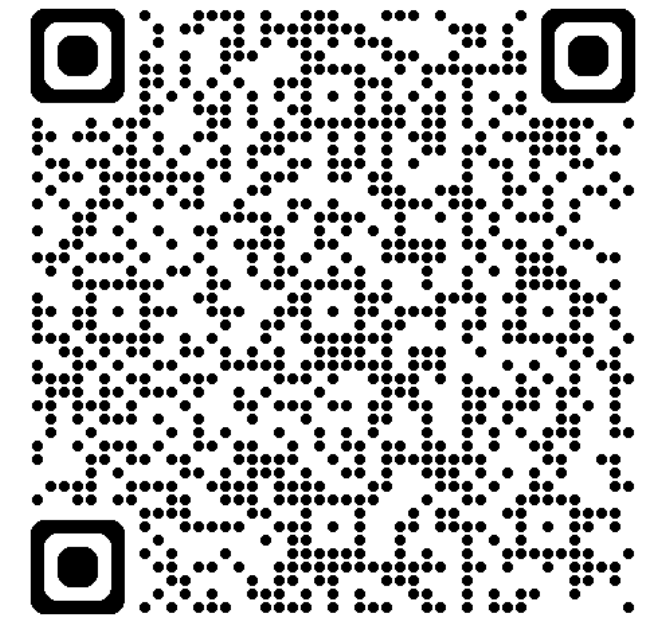
- **Symbols of wealth: gold bars, currency symbols \$, “ATM”, crowns, barcodes, money bags**
 - Victim’s value is tied to income the victims can generate
- **Names: names or aliases of their traffickers to indicate ownership**

Fang 2018



Adult Tools (RAFT)

1. It is not uncommon for people to stay in work situations that are risky or even dangerous, simply because they have no other options. Have you ever worked, or done other things, in a place that made you feel scared or unsafe?
2. In thinking back over your past experience, have you ever been tricked or forced into doing any kind of work that you did not want to do?
3. Sometimes people are prevented from leaving an unfair or unsafe work situation by their employers. Have you ever been afraid to leave or quit a work situation due to fears of violence or threats of harm to yourself or your family?
4. Have you ever received anything in exchange for sex (for example, a place to stay, gifts, or food)?



Other tools

Youth Tools (QYIT)

Quick Youth Indicators for Trafficking (QYIT)

Circle one response (Yes, No, Skip) for each question below:



Other tools

It is not uncommon for young people to stay in work situations that are risky or even dangerous, simply because they have no other options. <i>Have you ever worked, or done other things, in a place that made you feel scared or unsafe?</i>	Yes No Skip
Sometimes people are prevented from leaving an unfair or unsafe work situation by their employers. <i>Have you ever been afraid to leave or quit a work situation due to fears of violence or threats of harm to yourself or your family?</i>	Yes No Skip
Sometimes young people who are homeless or who have difficulties with their families have very few options to survive or fulfill their basic needs, such as food and shelter. <i>Have you ever received anything in exchange for sex (e.g. a place to stay, gifts, or food)?</i>	Yes No Skip
Sometimes employers don't want people to know about the kind of work they have young employees doing. To protect themselves, they ask their employees to lie about the kind of work they are involved in. <i>Have you ever worked for someone who asked you to lie while speaking to others about the work you do?</i>	Yes No Skip

Clinical Vignettes

21-year-old male comes into the urgent care for penile discharge. He is accompanied by an older man who he says is his uncle Tom. You ask the uncle to step out, but he refuses.

You show the young man where the bathroom is for a urine sample. Sticker cup.



Clinical Vignettes

You find him a private room. He discloses that due to his sexuality he feels isolated. His family does not accept him due to his sexuality. He joined multiple online gay male groups where he met the “uncle” Tom.

At first Tom made your patient feel loved and accepted. They dated for a while. Your patient relies on Tom for a place to sleep and transportation. Recently Tom began asking the patient to meet with other men so that they can make extra cash. In one week, the patient has 20-30 sexual partners. He is scared that if he says no, Tom will leave him without a place to live.



Why is medical care important?

Despite all the medical issues that face this population, they do not regularly see doctors. This stems from mistrust and fear of the medical system, and barriers that prevent them from seeking care.



Victims of HT within Healthcare

Table 6. Victim Contact with Health Care Provider

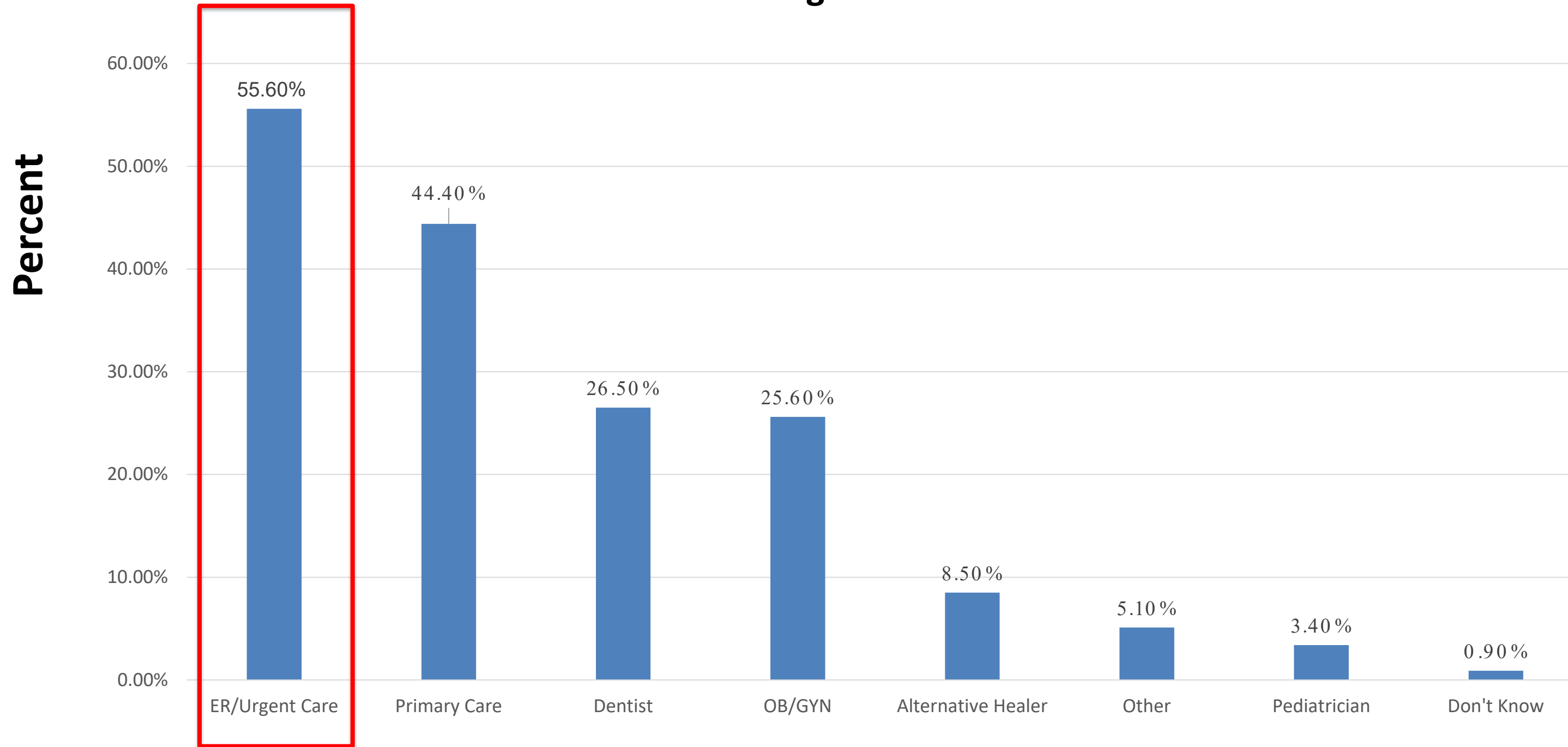
Treatment Source	% Reporting (N=98)
<i>Any contact with healthcare</i>	87.8%
<i>Any type of clinic</i>	57.1%
Hospital/ER	63.3%
Planned Parenthood	29.6%
Regular doctor	22.5%
Urgent care clinic	21.4%
Women's health clinic	19.4%
Neighborhood clinic	19.4%
On-site doctor	5.1%
Other ³⁹	13.3%

³⁹ methadone clinic, psych hospital, prison, public health, therapist

87.8% had contact with a healthcare provider while they were being trafficked, 65% went alone to get birth control

Provider Types Visited by HT Victims

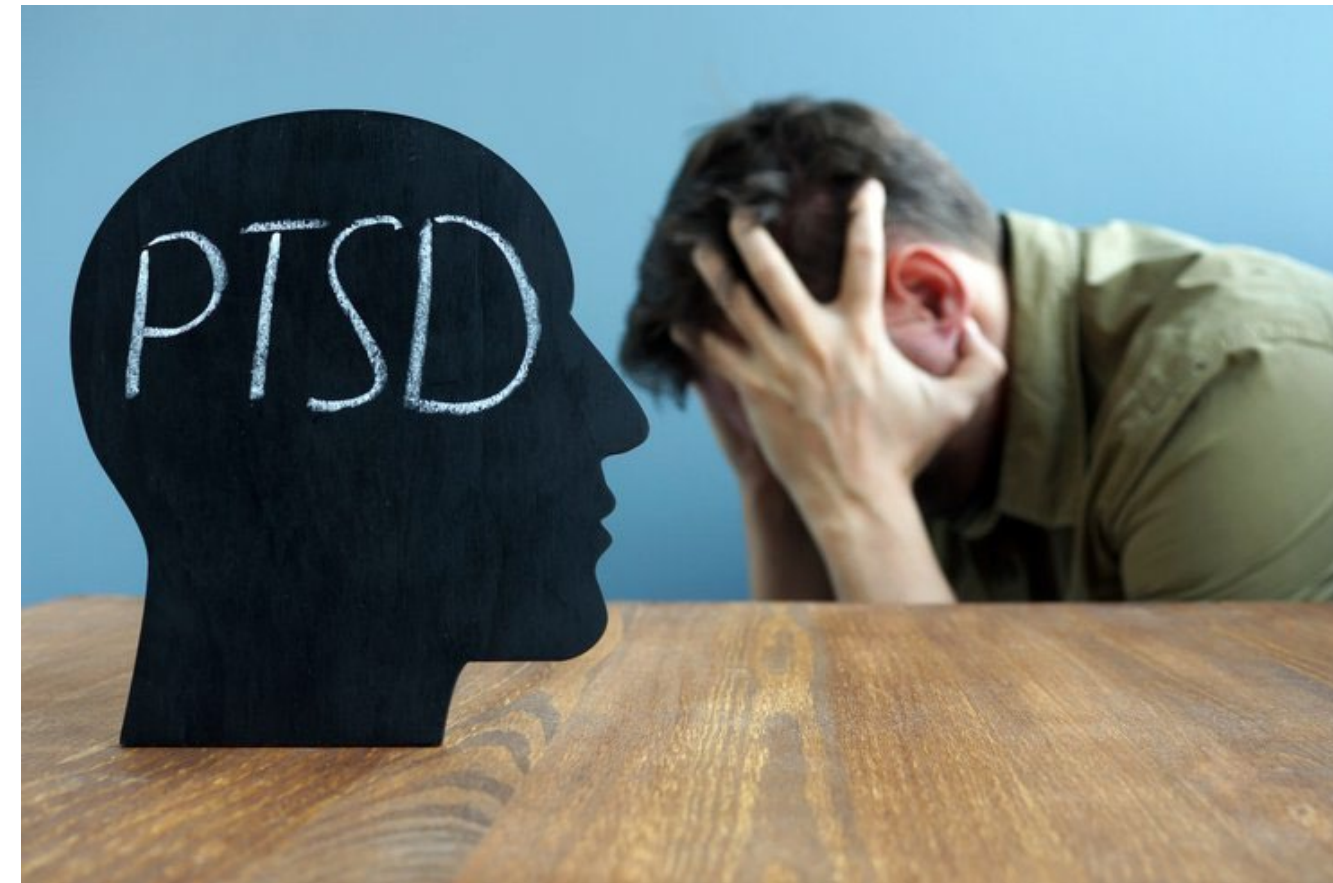
Total who sought medical attention: 65%



Medical Needs Assessment

Mental Health:

- PTSD
- Suicidality
- Depression
- Anxiety/Panic attacks
- Dissociation
- Alcohol and Drug addictions
- Eating disorders
- Difficulty establishing and maintaining healthy relationships
- Memory loss/Inability to concentrate
- Borderline personality disorder
- Stockholm syndrome – trauma bonding can cause very binding feelings toward trafficker (family/partner/pimp/gang)



Medical Needs Assessment

Physical Injury/Trauma:

- Burns
- Firearm/knife wounds
- Strangulation injuries
- **Fractures**
- Dental injuries or poor oral health
- Traumatic brain injury
- Neuropathies (trauma & torture)
- **Blunt force trauma – bruising, hematomas**
- Scarring (branding, lashings, etc.)
- Chronic back pain
- Malnutrition



Medical Needs Assessment

Reproductive Health:

- **Sexual assault**
- **Genital and breast trauma**
- Multiple pregnancies
- Multiple spontaneous abortions
- Multiple induced abortions
- **Sexually transmitted infections (unrecognized/untreated)**
- Chronic pelvic pain & pelvic inflammatory disease
- Infertility
- Most likely not on any birth control (rare exceptions)



Barriers to Health Access

- **Insurance and identification for care.**
- **Traffickers not permitting access to care.**
- **Healthcare providers rarely separate traffickers and teen.**
- **They often have a delay to care or at-home treatments.**
- **Often these HT survivors are not recognized as being trafficked.**
- **Many human trafficking survivors report mistrust in the medical system.**
- **Some physicians are uneducated or unequipped on HT.**



Medical Consent Considerations

CALIFORNIA MINOR CONSENT LAWS		
SERVICES YOUTH CAN RECEIVE WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM THEIR PARENT/GUARDIAN		CAN PROVIDER TELL YOUTH'S PARENT/GUARDIAN?
Birth Control <i>Except Sterilization</i>	Minors of any age	No Parental notification allowed only with consent of minor
Pregnancy (Prev, Dx, Tx) <i>Including inpatient care</i>	Minors of any age	
Abortion	Minors of any age	
STIs, Contagious and Reportable Diseases (Dx & Tx)	Minors 12 yrs or older	
HIV Testing	Minors 12 yrs or older and assessed as competent to give informed consent	
Sexual Assault Care	Minors of any age	Yes In most cases, an attempt to notify parent/guardian must be made. ^{1,2}
Alcohol/Drug Counseling by Federally Assisted Treatment Program <i>Including inpatient care</i>	Minors 12 yrs or older ^{3,4}	No Parental notification allowed only with consent of minor
Alcohol/Drug Counseling by Non-Federally Assisted Treatment Program	Minors 12 yrs or older ^{3,4}	Yes An attempt to notify parent/guardian must be made, except when provider believes it is inappropriate
Outpatient Mental Health Treatment	Minors 12 yrs or older ⁵	



Please write your initials on the specimen cup and place it in the collection window.



Place a **RED DOT STICKER** on the specimen cup if:

- you do not feel safe in your current relationship.
- you are being hurt or threatened.
- someone is forcing you to do something sexual.

We will ask anyone with you to leave the room before discussing your concerns.

Por favor, escriba las iniciales de su nombre en el vaso para muestras y colóquelo en la ventanilla de recolección.



Coloque una **ETIQUETA DE PUNTO ROJO** en el vaso para muestras si:

- no se siente segura o seguro en su relación actual.
- lo/la están lastimando o amenazando.
- alguien lo/la está obligando a hacer algo sexual.

Le pediremos a cualquier persona que esté con usted que salga de la habitación antes de conversar acerca de sus preocupaciones.



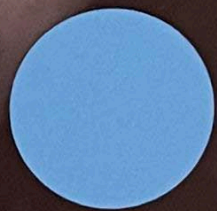
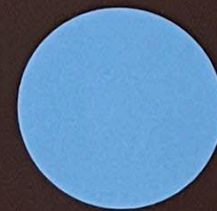
Are you safe? Scared to go home?

Are you being hurt by someone? Forced to have sex or do things that you do not want to do?
Are you or someone you know being made/forced to work for little or no pay & cannot leave?

- Domestic Violence
 - Sexual Assault
 - Human Trafficking
 - Slave Labor
- (Sex & Labor)

Do you need to safely ask for help?

-Take a blue sticker and place it on the lid of your urine sample cup.
Need a cup? Ask a staff member.



-Hand the cup directly to a staff member

- We will speak with you privately

Contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline 24/7 for help:



Resources for Human Trafficking

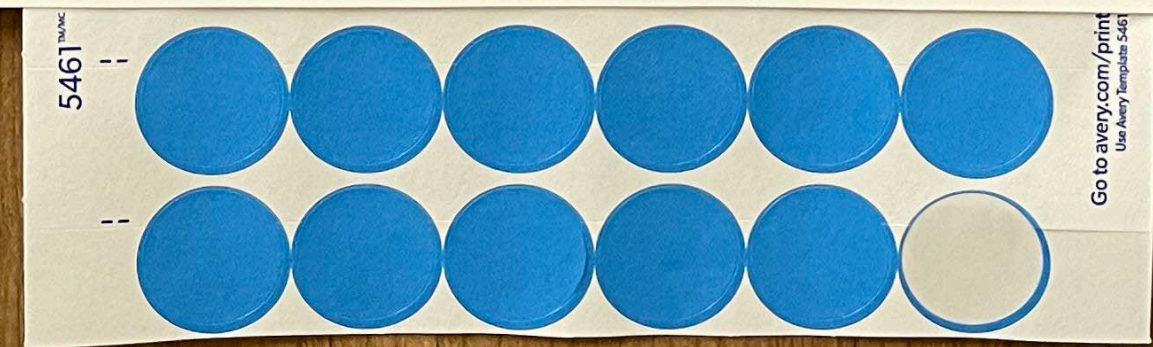
Call: 1-888-373-7888

Text: "Be Free" (233733)

Live Chat: [HumanTraffickingHotline.org](https://www.humantraffickinghotline.org)



Resources for domestic violence & sexual assault



Bathroom Posters

[Hospital Logo]

SAFETY IS A PATIENT RIGHT

YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO PRIVACY & CONFIDENTIALITY

Are you or someone you know in an unsafe situation, such as being forced to participate in any activity (including labor or sex work) against your will? It is your right to discuss your **mental, physical** and **sexual health** with your healthcare provider. Want to speak to someone privately? [insert your hospital's protocol]

OUR PROMISE:

- ✓ We will not share any of your information with law enforcement, unless required to do so by law. We are mandated to report suspected child or elder abuse/neglect
- ✓ We will provide you with resources and assistance that support your need to find a safe exit plan

INFORMATION + RESOURCES

 **24-Hour National Human Trafficking Hotline**
Phone: 888-373-7888
Text: 233733 ("Be Free")

 **Waymakers Orange County**
Victim Assistance Programs
Monday-Friday 8am-5pm
Phone: 949-250-4058

Scan for additional



STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING

GET HELP — OR — SHARE A TIP

NO ONE SHOULD BE FORCED, DECEIVED, OR PRESSURED INTO WORK OR SEX ACTS.

24 / 7 CONFIDENTIAL MULTILINGUAL HOTLINE

 CALL — 1-888-373-7888

 TEXT — BEFREE (233733)

[HUMANTRAFFICKINGHOTLINE.ORG](https://www.humantraffickinghotline.org)

 NORTH CAROLINA HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION

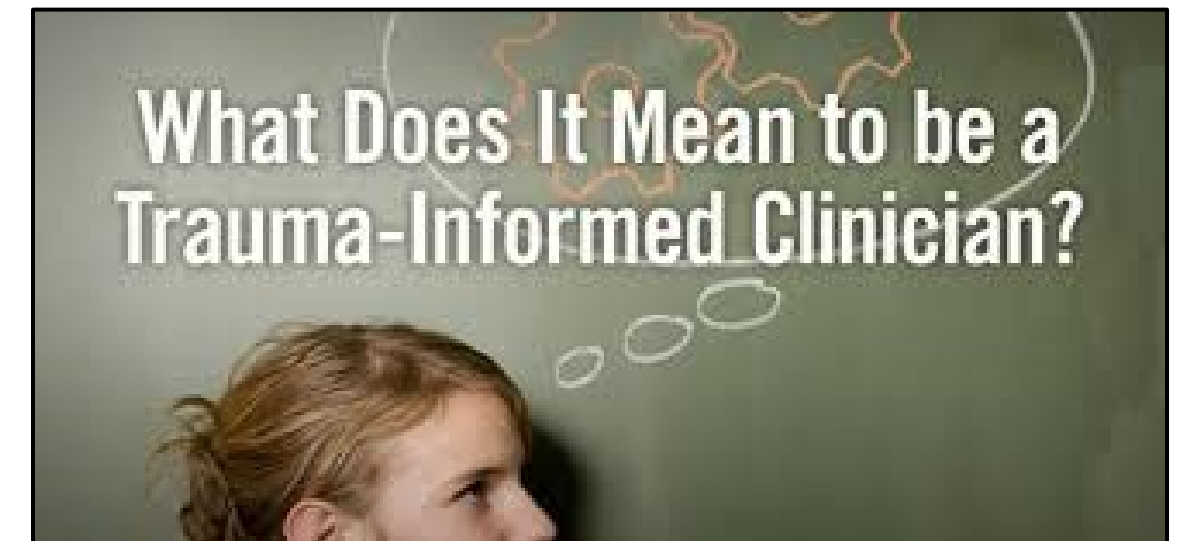
[HTC.NCCOURTS.GOV](https://www.htc.nccourts.gov)

What are we doing to combat mistrust and increase knowledge within the healthcare community?

- **Trauma Informed Care training.**
- **Learning from lived experiences.**
- **Collecting data from healthcare providers and survivors.**
- **Trainings for providers about CSEC.**
- **Providing lectures to the community.**
- **Establishment the OCHTTF Healthcare subcommittee.**

Trauma-Informed Care

- Trauma-informed care approach includes an **understanding of trauma** and an awareness of the **impact trauma has** on mental health, coping ability, physical health, relationships, and success in the workplace and community.
- It emphasizes a cultural shift in health care from asking, ~~“What is wrong with you?”~~ to asking **“What has happened to you?”**



- Create a safe space for private screening
- Meet the person's physical needs
- Adopt open, nonthreatening body positioning
- Avoid any temptation to probe for unnecessary details
- Use respectful and empathetic language
- Be prepared to respond to a potential trauma reaction

Do's and Don'ts

- **Do** report minors and vulnerable adults
- **Don't** involve law enforcement or adult protective services for competent adult victims of human trafficking without the patient's express consent (unless have a reportable assault injury-i.e. GSW)
- **Don't** call security
- **Don't** escalate the situation

Survivor Driven & Recommended Solutions

**Minimize barriers
to effective identification
and intervention**

**Acceptable approaches to
physical and psychosocial
exams**

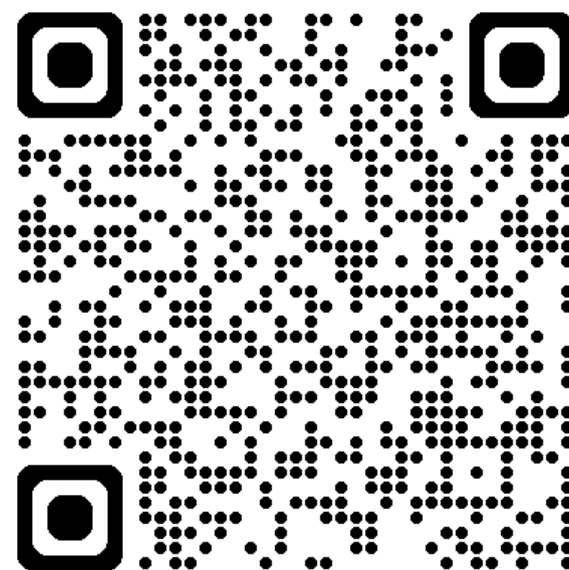
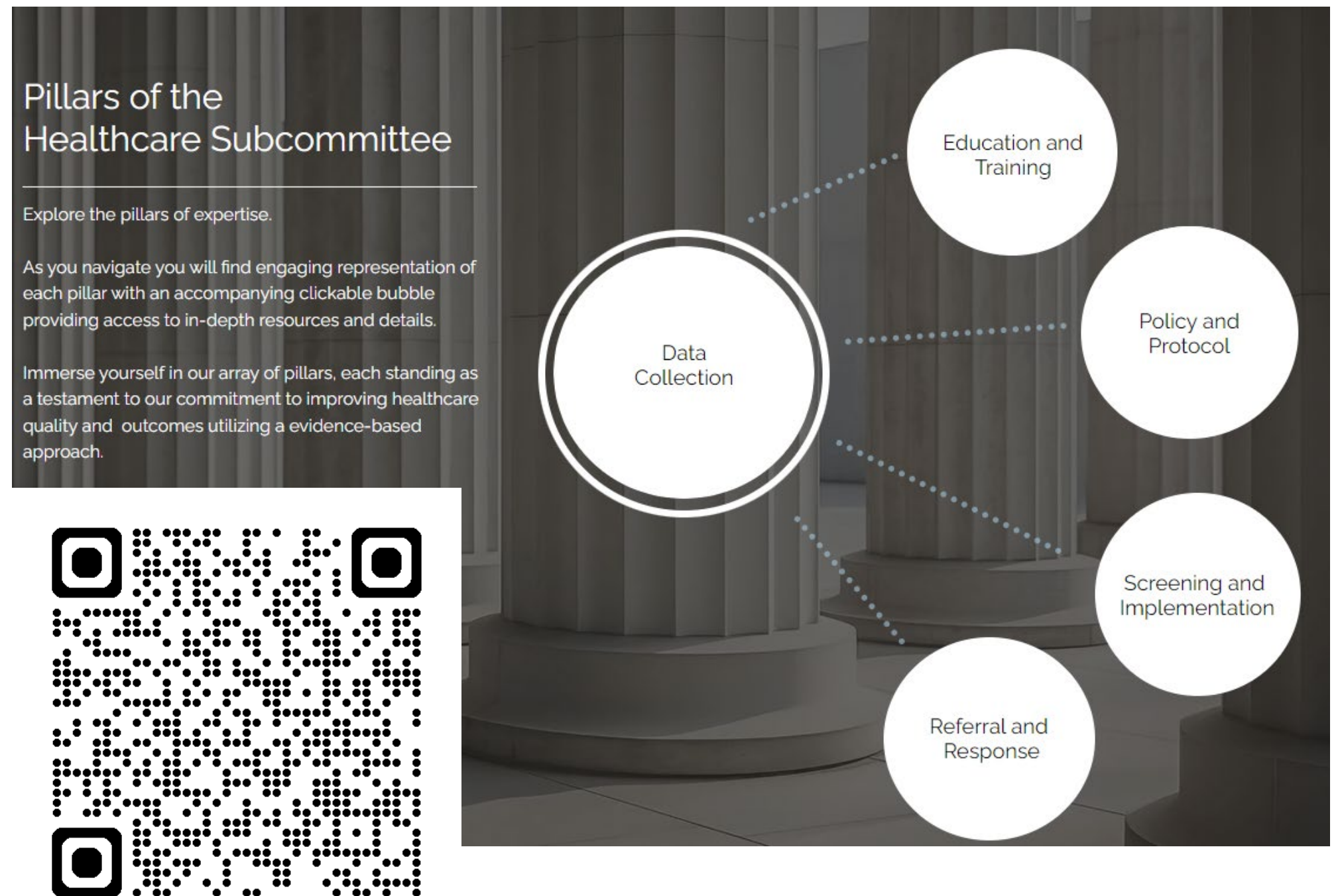
**Appropriate
patient referral methods**

**Safe discharge planning
techniques**

Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force Healthcare Subcommittee

Mission: As healthcare professionals, the OCHTTF Healthcare Subcommittee aims to provide tools necessary for recognizing victims of human trafficking by utilizing a trauma-informed approach to facilitate an appropriate healthcare response in a collaborative effort with the task force at large.

<https://www.ochumantrafficking.com/healthcaresubcommittee>



Resources

National Human Trafficking Hotline (24/7)

(888)373-7888 or TEXT 233733

Safe House Project

(507)769-0819

Orange County Child Abuse Hotline (24/7)

(714)940-1000 or (800)207-4464

Orange County Rape Crisis Hotline (24/7)

(949)831-9110 or (714)957-2737

Waymakers Victim Assistance Programs - Irvine

(949)250-4058

Orangewood Foundation Project CHOICE Drop-in Center - Santa Ana

(714)619-8413

Olive Crest Drop-in Center - Anaheim

(888)311-7725

References

- 2023 Human Trafficking Victim Report, Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force
- 2021 Human Trafficking Victim Report, Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force
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