Annotated Bibliography: What Law Enforcement Officers Need to Know about Human Trafficking

This research may be helpful to command staff, training staff, and policy makers in law enforcement agencies.

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Overview of Sex and Labor Trafficking


The human trafficking discussion has focused primarily on women and children who are trafficked for sexual exploitation. However, as social workers confront the issue, they require an understanding of the problem that also acknowledges individuals who are forced to work in other areas. This article critically examines the current discourse on human trafficking because the sole focus on women and children diverts attention from the study of trafficking within the context of globalization and the exploitation of labor. It analyzes the term human trafficking, particularly how it became linked to anti-prostitution campaigns, and suggests guidelines for a framework that is grounded in social work values. [ABSTRACT FROM PUBLISHER]


To better ascertain the needs of human trafficking victims, the FSU Center for the Advancement of Human Rights conducted in-depth interviews in 2002-03 with 11 female survivors of trafficking in Florida. Subjects included victims of sex trafficking and domestic servitude. The qualitative research indicated that physical security, followed by basic needs, was of greatest priority. Findings also included public and commercial venues to which the women had limited access while enslaved, and media sources available to them at the time. Finally, the victims spoke of encounters— and near encounters—with law enforcement that might have liberated them sooner. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


The article discusses the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) and its role in combating human trafficking as of February 2013, focusing on the U.S. Congress’ passage of the nation’s Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, as well as an analysis of the anti-trafficking responsibilities of several government agencies in America such as
the Departments of Homeland Security (DHS) and Justice (DOJ). Anti-prostitution and immigration concerns are examined in relation to U.S. anti-trafficking efforts.


Despite the fact that tens of thousands of people are estimated to be trafficked into the United States each year, few cases are reported annually. The present article describes the current literature on the prevalence of estimated and reported human trafficking cases in the United States and reviews three systems of tracking cases. There is a discussion of factors contributing to the underidentification of trafficking victims, including: aspects of the trafficking situation, trauma-related symptoms, lack of awareness about human trafficking, and limitations of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act. Recommendations to increase identification of human trafficking victims are given. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


This article provides an overview of the current special issue of *Women & Therapy*. This special issue of *Women & Therapy* is devoted to an exploration of human trafficking as a complex human rights violation with many manifestations. Human trafficking is, paradoxically, a single thing—the violent exploitation of another human being for profit or personal gain— and many different things. The circumstances under which it occurs, the persons involved, the means of trafficking, and the factors that contribute to the vulnerability of potential victims are many and varied. The invited contributions to this issue will provide the reader with a sense of the complexity and variability of this important topic, as well as an understanding of the common thread—exploitation and the violation of human rights—that ties the field together. In keeping with the emphasis of this Journal, the authors focus on the trafficking of women and girls and present contributions from a remarkable group of authors who have been involved in national and international research, advocacy, policy work, service provision, and education around this important topic. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


The topic of modern-day slavery or human trafficking has received increased media and national attention. However, to date there has been limited research on the
nature and scope of human trafficking in the United States. This article describes and synthesizes nine reports that assess the U.S. service organizations' legal representative knowledge of, and experience with, human trafficking cases, as well as information from actual cases and media reports. This article has five main goals: (a) to define what human trafficking is, and is not; (b) to describe factors identified as contributing to vulnerability to being trafficked and keeping a person entrapped in the situation; (c) to examine how the crime of human trafficking differs from other kinds of crimes in the United States; (d) to explore how human trafficking victims are identified; and, (e) to provide recommendations to better address human trafficking in the United States. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


This report explains the relationship between large commercial sports events, such as the Super Bowl, and how it can cause an increase in human trafficking incidents. This report also provides reason why there is not enough data on human trafficking to draw a conclusive data on the influx of human trafficking.

Different Populations

Immigrants


North Dakota’s oil boom coincided with a visible influx of immigrant workers to the state, including temporary visa holders and undocumented immigrants. Although the local economy relies on this population to meet demands for labor, unauthorized workers face a greater possibility of exploitation in the workplace than United States citizen workers. This Article examines labor migration to North Dakota, the factors influencing workplace exploitation, and forms of immigration relief associated with labor trafficking and other abuses. It concludes with recommendations for North Dakota to make these forms of relief easier to obtain for temporary and unauthorized workers as a way of enhancing relationships between law enforcement and immigrant communities, offering greater protection to exploitation victims and witnesses, and promoting safe and fair employment practices that benefit all workers. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

This article considers how, in the United States, a rhetorical and policy shift that focuses on domestic youth in prostitution affects the broader effort to fight trafficking of foreign nationals in industries other than sex work. Common sense suggests that with resources directed toward finding domestic youth in forced prostitution, fewer efforts will be made to reach foreign workers exploited in work sites outside of the sex industry. The author contends that the low numbers of individuals found thus far in forced (nonsexual) labor nationwide have been, in part, a consequence of not looking. This article also examines a number of factors that prevent migrant workers who have experienced a range of exploitation from coming forward about these abuses. In an environment of undocumented migrants’ increasing distrust of law enforcement, there are many challenges to finding individuals who are subject to forced labor. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


This article examines the varied consequences that the label “trafficked” holds for migrants and for the organizations that assist them. In the case of migrants from the Dominican Republic to Argentina, threat of U.S. economic sanctions prompted the two governments to document incidents of trafficking by labeling all forms of migrant labor exploitation as trafficking. Collapsing a range of coerced and non-coerced labor experiences under one label has muddied the definition of trafficking. In contrast, U.S. trafficking policy systematically ignores significant exploitation of labor migrants, in part because of the volatile politics of immigration in the United States, and because of the conflation of sex trafficking with trafficking. The article uses these two examples of the effects of labeling exploited workers as trafficking victims to draw attention to the politicization of the term “trafficking.” [ABSTRACT FROM PUBLISHER]

The article presents a study on the tensions and trade-offs on the enforcement of immigration law for the protection of human trafficking victims. It focuses on the ways and means wherein anti-trafficking advocacy and policies can influence the discourse of immigration policies. Also discussed are the media coverage of trafficking and its enforcement which compounded the myth of migrant criminality. Moreover, also explored is the increasing awareness to the issue of trafficking in the U.S.


This article discusses the stories of child trafficking obscure the realities for migrant children. Child trafficking is said to cover the movement of children for exploitation in domestic work, work in the catering and hospitality sector, factory, mine, and agricultural labor, begging, forced marriage, illegal adoption, soldiering, stealing, drug cultivation, credit card and benefit fraud, organ trading, and prostitution. Trafficked children are singled out as deserving special and particular care and protection because they are not migrants. They are unwilling or unknowing victims, vacant, inert, innocent, and entirely lacking in purpose or agency. This helps to obviate difficult questions about children's best interests and their own wishes. To condemn all forms of child labor migration as child trafficking would be to pathologize and penalize a means by which many children access a range of benefits that would otherwise be unavailable to them, and to entirely discount the views of many migrant children themselves. Rather than encouraging the development of measures to increase children's access to safer channels of migration, anti-child trafficking campaigning has led to measures that make it harder for children to migrate independently. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2017 APA, all rights reserved)


The article discusses the preliminary findings from interviews with service providers in the U.S refugee foster care and unaccompanied minors programmes regarding unaccompanied child survivors of trafficking ages 12 to 17. The children were trafficked for sexual exploitation, domestic servitude and for labor. Knowledge of the children's perception of their identity as victims plays a significant role on post-trafficking adjustment.

This article analyzes how and where corruption oils the wheels of trafficking networks. It is suggested that a symbiotic relationship between corruption and trafficking exists, a relationship that both increases risks for migrant workers and facilitates the processes of trafficking of people for labor exploitation. Consequently, it should be crucial that any analysis of labor trafficking allocates significant resources to identifying the particulars of a possible relationship between trafficking and corruption. However, to the detriment of holistic strategies to understand and combat labor trafficking, corruption is yet to be named and targeted in most anti-trafficking statistical research or policy studies. This article concludes with a summary of three sets of recommendations on approaches to address labor trafficking, and in part address the corruption that intersects with labor trafficking.

**Children & Adolescents**


Discusses the need for a coordinated local and global response to the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) as one of the most destructive forms of child abuse. Although some efforts have been made to stop the trafficking in children and youth, they are described as far from sufficient. The scope of the child sex trade in physical and sexual violence for profit is outlined, noting that the Internet has made CSEC a high-tech profitable trade. The world's response to CSEC includes the 1996 World Congress on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. The US has not designated a domestic follow-up to this meeting, but US anti-CSEC efforts include new legislation that addresses sex trafficking. The efforts of some non-governmental organizations in the US are outlined in the areas of education and advocacy, prevention, and youth participation. The case for coordination of anti-CSEC efforts is emphasized, with the need to support the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which specifically prohibits international trafficking in children. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)

The article discusses sexually exploitation of minors as victims of human trafficking in the U.S. Topics discussed include need of new legal framework considering minors consent to commercial sex undermining efforts to combat child prostitution, third parties taking advantage of a minor’s emotional helplessness, and prostitution of minors creating health problems for these minors and their communities.


To date, little empirical data exists examining the psychological experience of survivors of child sex trafficking in the form of prostitution, nor does current scientific data suggest how American women and children are recruited into the sex trade and sold for sex within the United States. This qualitative research study analyzed the narratives of interviews with 6 survivors of child and adolescent sex trafficking to assess factors that influenced their ability to survive, leave the sex trade, and reintegrate back into the community. Data were analyzed with an ecological systems model and a number of patterns emerged within participants’ microsystems, mesosystems, and macrosystems. In the survivor microsystem, participants’ insecure attachments led to their vulnerability to recruitment; within the mesosystem unsafe relationships contributed to increased emotional insecurities; in the macrosystem, participants were raised in environments that desensitized them to prostitution. In regard to escape and resilience, in the survivor microsystem participants left the sex trade because of pregnancy or mental health symptoms; in this mesosystem, participants needed safe relationships and increased self-worth; at the level of the macrosystem, once participants left the industry they began processing their traumatic experiences through the mental health system. These data provide unprecedented insights into the psychological effects that the sex trade has on the individuals involved, shedding light on an unexplored issue that has a profound, yet furtive presence in the United States. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


Objective: Sex trafficking is a pressing issue in Ohio—a major node in national sex trafficking networks; however, no quantitative analysis of risk factors specific to Ohio victims has been conducted. Method: Using a survey conducted by the Ohio Human Trafficking Commission representing Ohio urban, street-based sex workers (*N* = 328), this study uses a life-course theory framework to identify and measure
the effect of direct risk factors on domestic minor and adult sex-trafficking outcomes using multivariate logistic regressions. Variables of specific interest include peer influence, experiences during transience, prior minor victimization, and a lack of support while attempting to escape. Results: Survival sex and peer influence increase the odds of minor victimization, and a lack of available support and resources for victims while attempting to escape significantly increase the odds of adult victimization. Conclusion: This analysis produces a better understanding of risk factors facing Ohio’s sex trafficking victims and provides broader insights about the determinants of domestic sex trafficking. In addition, these results have been used in a report to an Ohio Senate Caucus promoting a federal bill regarding missing children. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)

Since the passing of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act in 2000 and its reauthorization by President George Bush in 2008, federal, state and community efforts in identifying and providing services for victims of human trafficking have significantly improved. However, most of the research and resources for trafficking victims have been directed towards adults rather than children. Researchers agree that there is a growing number of sexually exploited and trafficked children in the United States yet few programs emphasize the unique experiences and special needs of this population. This article examines commercial sexual exploitation of children; differentiates the needs and problems between child prostitution and victims of human trafficking; reviews and critiques current treatment practices; and summarizes challenges and successes in working with child victims of human trafficking, offering practice and policy recommendations. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)

Risk factors for involvement in domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) include variables related to involved and at-risk individuals, their relationships with others, the community in which the individual resides, and society at large. The socioecological model is useful in considering the broad range of factors that place people at risk and illustrates how these factors interact within and across levels to increase risk or protection. This model has been adapted to demonstrate the complex forces that may contribute to initial and continued involvement in DMST. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2017 APA, all rights reserved)

http://eds.a.ebscohost.com/eds/detail/detail?v=5&sid=7ce9f6be-88c3-4d19-8ccd-b24886d7255f%40sessionmgr4010&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWRzLWxpdmU%3d#AN=S0190740916302584&db=edselp

“Not much is known about the prevalence or characteristics of children who come to the attention of child protection systems for human trafficking. This study used administrative data from the Illinois Department of Children and Families Services (DCFS) to compare the prevalence of investigated allegations of human trafficking with the investigated allegations of other types of maltreatment and to describe the characteristics of children with an allegation of human trafficking. From July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2015, there were 563 (0.0008%) investigated allegations of human trafficking compared with a total of 697,062 investigated allegations for all other types of maltreatment. These 563 allegations represented 419 children who were predominantly female (90%), African American (53%), residing in a large urban county (56%), and 14–1/2-years-old, on average. Just under two thirds (61%) had a previous investigated allegation of maltreatment in their case record, and just over one quarter (28%) had at least one entry into out-of-home care prior to, during, and/or after an allegation of human trafficking. These exploratory findings are discussed in the context of federal and state human trafficking laws for minors that have sought to raise awareness of human trafficking in the U.S., and enhance the ability of child welfare systems to identify and serve this population.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


This article draws practice expertise from three women who work with an underserved group of victims of human trafficking—teenagers who have been commercially sexually exploited. The women share what they have learned about working with these girls, the similarities between this field and the early days of work in domestic violence, and the importance of empowering these girls to be part of turning their lives around. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)

By now, most social workers are familiar with the issue of human trafficking. However, many are likely unfamiliar with research indicating that youths constitute the most vulnerable group in the United States for becoming victims of sex trafficking and that most women in prostitution actually entered as minors. Some experts are now referring to the sex trafficking of U.S. children and youths as "domestic minor sex trafficking," or DMST. This article seeks to acquaint readers with what is currently known regarding the extent of DMST, who is at risk for becoming a victim, and implications for the social work profession in addressing this tragedy. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


The article focuses on the sexual exploitation of children in the U.S. in September 2005. A study conducted in 2001 states that hundreds of thousands of adolescents are sexually exploited annually in the U.S. Several factors have been cited as the cause of youth prostitution. The media also has a role in the celebrity-like status bestowed upon pimps and exploiters. National advocates indicate that the prostitution of adolescents is rampant in New York City.


Since the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (TVPA) legally defined anyone under the age of 18 who is induced to engage in a commercial sex act as a sex trafficking victim, there has been a shift in the conceptualization of youth involved in prostitution (YIP). While YIP were historically viewed and treated as juvenile delinquents, this shift has called for the processing and treatment of YIP as victims in need of services. Despite these changes, the results of the present study suggest that there have been little changes in the interactions that YIP have with police and social service agencies. Also, similar to the participants who were involved in prostitution as minors before the adoption of the TVPA, those who were involved in prostitution as minors after the TVPA strongly reject the victim label. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

http://eds.a.ebscohost.com/eds/detail/detail?vid=8&sid=4dd77557-1c96-4746-995c-a4dee28b50e0%40sessionmgr4008&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWRzLWxpdMU%3d#AN=118513088&db=rzh

“The article discusses the issues of sex trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children worldwide as of January 2017. Also cited are the various forms of child sex trafficking like prostitution, pornography and child sex tourism, the child risk factors to trafficking, and the strategies to protect children, promote their recovery, and reintegrate them to society.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


The article discusses the main forms of human trafficking and issues related to sexual exploitation. Topics discussed include analysis of human trafficking from an international perspective which includes several forms like forced labour and sexual slavery trafficking, enforcement of domestic law of human trafficking citing reference to the fight against human trafficking and sexslavery, and efforts taken against human trafficking. Child pornography is mentioned as a form of trafficking.


“Domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) is defined as the 'recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act' (TVPA, 2000) where the person is a citizen of the U.S. and under age 18 years. The purpose of this study was to gain a more informed understanding of the scope of the problem of DMST for adjudicated juvenile females, to identify factors associated with DMST for this vulnerable population, and enhance our understanding of the pathways in and out of DMST from the victims' perspective (especially rural vs. urban). Qualitative interviews were conducted with 40 adjudicated juvenile females in a southern, rural state. Results indicate a significant number of adjudicated female youth are engaged in sex trafficking, often to obtain
drugs, and that a significant number feel forced to perform sex acts in exchange for drugs and/or for a place to sleep which is also highly correlated with being a victim of sexual abuse. Early intervention for juvenile females who fit the noted vulnerabilities needs to be implemented in time to prevent our youth from being victimized. Suggestions for future research are addressed." [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


Child trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) are egregious crimes, extreme forms of child maltreatment, and major violations of children's human rights. Although empirical research is sorely lacking on the impact of such crimes on children's developmental well-being, numerous reports describe the physical and emotional trauma, humiliation, violence, degradation associated with treatment as a commodity, and unrelenting fear and abuse. This paper provides an overview of the impact of trafficking and CSE on children and the practical implications of related research in the areas of child maltreatment and victimization. Findings suggest that trafficking and CSE present grave risks to the physical, psychological, spiritual, and social—emotional development of young victims. Implications for psychology and social policy, in terms of prevention and psychosocial rehabilitation for children who have been victimized, are also presented. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


The status of research on human trafficking has been characterized as methodologically inadequate and lacking sufficient theoretical framework necessary for solution development. This review of sex trafficking in North America examined prior research regarding victim vulnerabilities through the theoretical lens of life course theory endeavoring to uncover life course dynamics resulting in exploitation in sex trafficking distinguishable by victim type. Shared and distinct life course dynamics emerged based on victim origin and route, gender, and age of onset that corresponded to the key components of Sampson and Laub's age-graded theory of informal social control. Indicators of harmful informal social control processes during childhood and adolescence were common across internationally and domestically trafficked boys and girls, with a desire for acceptance and love commonly exacerbating initial entrapment. Limited social capital typified victims
experiencing initial exploitation during young adulthood, with internationally trafficked victims uniquely isolated due to citizenship status and language or cultural barriers. Through the application of life course theory, a more complete understanding of the dynamics affecting vulnerability to exploitation in sex trafficking can be gained, providing enhanced information regarding plausible strategies for prevention and intervention. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


Pimps and johns who sexually exploit children garner instant public and scholarly outrage for their lust for a destructive "quick fix." In actuality, many justifiably concerned scholars, policymakers, and members of the public continue to react over-simplistically and reflexively to the issue of child sex trafficking in the United States--also known as commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC)--in a manner intellectually akin to immediate gratification. Further, research reveals that the average john is an employed, married male of any given race or ethnicity, suggesting that over-simplification and knee-jerk thinking on CSEC are conspicuous. This Article raises provocative questions that too many others have avoided, while addressing a topic of immense public interest. CSEC occurs in all 50 states and is estimated to be a $290 million industry in Atlanta alone. The explosion of media attention, high-profile scandals, and sexualized popular culture have put CSEC front and center in law and policy. However, the dominant discourse and policymaking on CSEC rely on criminal law as a quick fix. Scholars in law, social science, and public health have begun joining CSEC survivors and advocates in critiquing criminal law for its ineffectiveness and its dubious expansion of mass incarceration and survivor victimization. Yet, the discourse, law, and policy remain highly flawed. This Article bridges the gaps in crucial ways. This Article addresses a controversial and fundamental matter: that many CSEC survivors resist "rescue" efforts and narratives, while decrying the pitfalls of criminal, child protective, and public health responses alike. After discussing the pronounced failure of criminal law, the socio-cultural and economic roots of CSEC, and feminist, critical race, and Vulnerability Theory implications, this Article concludes that youth agency is a key, missing element of the socio-legal response to CSEC. This Article traces the history of children’s consent to sex in U.S. law and incorporates scientific findings cited in recent U.S. Supreme Court jurisprudence. Evidence suggests that civil law remedies for CSEC are an essential, redistributive, under-utilized tool that
engenders sorely needed youth agency and adult offender deterrence. Civil law remedies for CSEC address most sharp critiques of criminal, child protective, and public health responses, while incorporating the "capabilities approach" that Nobel Prize-winning economist Amartya Sen and feminist philosopher Martha Nussbaum first coined--now prominent in public policy and political philosophy. However, there is still no "quick fix" for the complex, deep-seated CSEC crisis. Future responses require survivor leadership, multi-sector collaboration, and nuanced scholarly research. A continued rush to punish demonized "bad actors" or to carcerally protect children will only exacerbate the problem while ignoring the link between CSEC and prevalent sexual violence and oppression in the most intimate--and seemingly innocuous--parts of U.S. society. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


This aim of this Special Section is to highlight research addressing the commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents (CSEC). The articles in this Special Section provide a useful vehicle to delve into a spectrum of issues associated with CSEC. From CSEC related policy, to its etiology, to the effective treatment of victims, the collection of research compiled in this collection provide important additions to the literature addressing CSEC. Taken together, this collection of work highlights the importance of trauma-informed services for youth experiencing sexual exploitation to address their histories of complex trauma. The recommendations in these articles may help service providers and caregivers of CSEC survivors better understand the unique needs of this population and help with case conceptualization and treatment planning. Currently, there are very few evidence-based treatments and programs for survivors of CSEC, as pointed out in the review article by Felner and DuBois. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2017 APA, all rights reserved)


Human trafficking and various other forms of child sexual exploitation on the United States-Mexico border are described from social science and law enforcement perspectives, including current laws and definitions, case examples, and descriptions of victims and traffickers. The Southern Border Initiative of the AMBER Alert Project is outlined as one effort to combat trafficking through collaboration.
between law enforcement agencies and programs in the United States and Mexico. Policy recommendations include increasing knowledge and collaboration between law enforcement, social service agencies, and judicial systems across the border region and between the United States and Mexico.

Racial & Ethnic Minorities


Human trafficking is maintained within a context of intersecting forms of oppression. Cultural oppression, including racism and ethnic bias, creates additional risk for human trafficking and generates unique challenges for prevention and intervention. There are, however, cultural strengths that survivors of human trafficking have that may be utilized to aid their recovery process as well as psychotherapeutic interventions. In addition to traditionally recognized legal and economic strategies, ending human trafficking requires engagement in interrupting the factors that increase vulnerability to human trafficking, including racism and ethnic bias. By combating oppression, abolitionists can work to create a society that is committed to ending slavery. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


This Article explores the role of race in the prostitution and sex trafficking of people of color, particularly minority youth, and the evolving legal and social responses in the United States. Child sex trafficking has become a vital topic of discussion among scholars and advocates, and public outcry has led to safe harbor legislation aimed at shifting the legal paradigm away punishing prostituted minors and toward greater protections for this vulnerable population. Yet, policymakers have ignored the connection between race and other root factors that push people of color into America's commercial sex trade. This Article argues that race and racism have played a role in creating the epidemic of sex trafficking in the United States and have undermined effective legal and policy responses. Race intersects with other forms of subordination including gender, class, and age to push people of color disproportionately into prostitution and keep them trapped in the commercial sex industry. This intersectional oppression is fueled by the persistence of myths about minority teen sexuality, which in turn encourages risky sexual behavior. Moreover, today's anti-trafficking movement has failed to understand and address the racial contours of domestic sex trafficking in the United States and even perpetuates the
racial myths that undermine the proper identification of minority youth as sex trafficking victims. Yet, the Obama administration has adopted new policies that raise awareness about the links between race and sex trafficking. These policies also facilitate the increased role of minority youth as leaders and spokespersons in the anti-trafficking movement. Their voices defy stereotypes about Black sexuality and call upon legislators and advocates to address some of the unique vulnerabilities that kids of color face with respect to sex trafficking. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


The article discusses the socially marginal status of American Indian women and Native American adolescents, within the context of the Native American women's victimization in the sex trade and sex trafficking. An overview of the U.S. criminal justice administration's response to the trafficking of Native American women is provided.


Although negative racial stereotypes may affect the mental and physical health of African Americans, little research has examined the influence of positive or complimentary racial stereotypes on such outcomes. More specifically, this study explored the relationship between African American women's endorsement of complementary stereotypes about their sexuality and attitudes/behaviors that have been associated with sexual risk. Data were gathered from 206 African American women as part of the Black Women in the Study of Epidemics project. Multivariate regression models were used to examine associations between women's endorsement of complementary stereotypes about their sexuality and selected sex-related attitudes and behaviors. Participants' endorsement of complimentary sexual stereotypes was significantly positively associated with beliefs that having sex without protection would strengthen their relationship (B = .28, SE = .10, p < .01) and that they could use drugs and always make healthy choices about using protection (B = .31, SE = .09, p < .01). Significant positive associations were also found between complementary sexual stereotypes and the number of casual sexual
partners women reported in the past year ($B = .29$, $SE = .15$, $p = .05$) as well as their willingness to have sex in exchange for money or drugs during that time ($B = .78$, $OR = 2.18$, $p < .05$). These findings suggest that endorsement of complimentary sexual stereotypes by African American women can lead to increased risk behavior, particularly relating to possible infection with HIV or other sexually transmitted infections. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) considers all youth less than eighteen years of age trafficking victims without a showing of force, fraud, or coercion. The presumption is that minors cannot legally consent to sex and thus are always victims. Being characterized as a victim helps youth access support services and avoid prosecution in certain circumstances. However, local and state governments struggle to provide all youth with comprehensive resources. Additionally, legal and advocacy interventions fail to substantively engage racialized vulnerabilities that serve as pathways into the sex trade and the juvenile justice system. Black girls are disproportionately prosecuted for prostitution offenses yet their narratives are seldom heard. Controlling images of Black womanhood, as unvirtuous, immoral, and blameworthy, impact interactions between Black girls and the juvenile justice system, as well as, service providers. By overlooking race, the TVPA and anti-trafficking advocates do not anticipate and remedy the complexity of applying a victim standard to Black girls and other marginalized youth. Consequently, the TVPA and anti-trafficking discourse fail to respond to the economic forces driving sexual exploitation and sexual exchange. Rather, interventions to address the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) have put forth a limited narrative--magnifying sensationalized depictions of violence and force--and focus primarily on strengthening law enforcement apparatuses, which reinforce racial profiling and over surveillance in low-income communities of color. Therefore, this Comment challenges the use of victim rhetoric in anti-trafficking interventions and confronts the absence of racial discourse when devising next-steps. Centering the unique experiences of Black girls reveal the limitations of current narratives and strategies deployed in anti-trafficking policies, which include failing to create nonjudgmental services and viable alternatives to sex work for youth. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

The Minnesota Indian Women’s Resource Center offers harm reduction programming to at-risk adolescent American Indian girls, including outreach, case management, advocacy, healthy sexuality education, and support groups. To evaluate program impact, participants are assessed at intake and every 6 months afterward for current vulnerability to commercial sexual exploitation, violence, and addiction. Evaluation results indicate frequent exposure to sex traffickers and suggest that harm reduction methods can help girls reduce risk of commercial sexual exploitation. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)

**Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities**


Few researchers have examined sex trafficking of girls with intellectual disabilities (IDs). Drawing from 54 juvenile sextrafficking (JST) cases, this exploratory, mixed methods study compared 15 JST cases involving girls with ID with 39 JST cases involving girls without ID. Findings revealed a disproportionate risk for exploitation in JST for girls with ID, endangering circumstances creating vulnerability among this population, as well as the perpetrator–victim dynamics that complicate prevention and intervention. Complicating dynamics included victim lack of awareness of exploitation and its endangerments, inability of victims to self-identify, and the relative ease with which traffickers manipulated these girls. The disproportionate risk faced by girls with ID substantiates the need for enhanced safeguards to prevent sexual exploitation of girls with ID including stiffer penalties for those who exploit and buy sex with youth with disabilities. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

**Boys & Men**


http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10560-018-0530-z

Even though it is documented that sex trafficking of male minors occurs, limited research has focused on this type of commercial sexual exploitation. Data was collected via telephone interviews from 323 professionals who worked with at-risk
youth and/or crime victims/offenders in all counties in a mostly rural state in the U.S. Half of the respondents had worked with at least one victim of child sex trafficking, and of these 161 respondents, 57.8% had worked with at least one male victim. To contextualize the data on male minor victims, quantitative analysis was conducted comparing the close-ended and themes identified in open-ended responses of professionals who reported they worked exclusively with male victims (n = 26) versus professionals who worked exclusively with female victims (n = 81) to examine how sex trafficking of male minors may differ or be similar to sex trafficking of female minors. Many similarities in victims' vulnerability factors, the systems victims encountered, and their greatest needs were found by gender. Familial sex trafficking was one of the typical pathways into commercial sexual exploitation for minors. There were some differences in the pathways in sex trafficking by gender. There is a need for greater awareness, training, and resource-building for identifying and appropriately responding to male minors who are trafficked in commercial sex. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2018 APA, all rights reserved)

The invisibility of men and boys in scholarly discussions of the global sex trade was analyzed through a sample of 166 recent articles published in social science journals. Most failed to acknowledge the existence of male sex workers at all. When male sex workers were discussed, they were assigned considerably more agency than female sex workers, the chief danger ascribed to them was HIV rather than violence, and the question of their sexual orientation was always addressed, whereas female sex workers were always assumed heterosexual. The results are discussed in the context of world system theory, Orientalism, and heteronormativity. Reprinted by permission of the publisher.

This article explores the intersection between a trait of the commercial media and American criminal jurisprudence that existing legal scholarship has disregarded the systematic neglect of male victims in the publicity of human trafficking. Human trafficking, one of the world's three most profitable criminal activities and it affects
U.S. also. The absence of publicity regarding boy sex trafficking makes it attractive to criminal networks, which specialize in getting young boys for sex and pornography.


Research and policies on child and adolescent sexual exploitation frequently focus on the sexual exploitation of girls and fail to recognize the experiences of sexually exploited boys, including their potentially unique health care and social support needs. This oversight limits the ability of health care and social service providers to offer both targeted and evidence informed care to sexually exploited boys. As a first step in a larger grant to understand the experiences of sexually exploited boys and to develop interventions for this specific population, we conducted a systematic review to address the question, “What is the state of the research on sexually exploited boys internationally?” As we undertook this review, we faced a number of significant challenges that made the process more difficult than anticipated. In this paper we discuss four key methodological challenges we encountered: lack of a consistent definition of child and adolescent sexual exploitation, difficulties in differentiating sexual exploitation as a specific concept within child sexual abuse, failure to disaggregate data usefully across multiple variables, and limited epidemiological studies to inform prevalence. We reflect on how these challenges limited our ability to systematically analyze, synthesize, and interpret the available research. We conclude by making recommendations to improve the state of the research regarding sexually exploited boys with the aim of better informing future policy and practice. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2017 APA, all rights reserved)


This systematic review assessed the current state of the literature on sexually exploited boys internationally. We aimed to describe what is known about sexual exploitation of boys, identify gaps in the literature, provide implications for practice, and make recommendations for future research. Multiple database searches were conducted using a combination of controlled vocabulary and keywords to capture child and adolescent sexual exploitation. Our search identified 11,099 unique references and excluded studies that did not include male participants less than 18
years old or disaggregate results by relevant age groups and/or by sex. This review identified 42 studies from 23 countries, providing evidence that sexual exploitation of boys is an issue in both high- and low-income countries. Seventeen articles had sexual exploitation as their primary variable of interest, the majority of which sampled boys who accessed services (i.e., shelters, health care, social, and justice services). Boys’ experiences of sexual exploitation varied in terms of venue, exploiters, and compensation. Compared to their non-sexually exploited peers, sexually exploited boys more commonly reported experiences of child abuse, substance use, conduct problems, and mental health problems such as anxiety, depression, and self-harm. Despite increasing evidence that boys are sexually exploited around the world, the current literature provides limited data about the antecedents, sequelae, and the specific features of sexual exploitation experiences among boys. Further research is needed to inform, policy, social services and health care delivery specific to the needs of sexually exploited boys. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


Domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) is the sexual exploitation of citizens (or lawful residents) of the United States, aged 18 or younger. DMST victims are diverse in age, race, and socioeconomic status, and are especially vulnerable. Most victims have a history of abuse and neglect, and many have had contact with the juvenile justice system. This exploratory study examines DMST prevalence, as well as potential risk factors for DMST involvement among a unique population of adjudicated male youth. Secondary data analysis was conducted with data collected from 800 adjudicated male youth using standardized measures including the Million Adolescent Clinical Inventory and the Childhood Trauma Questionnaire. Binary logistic regression was used to investigate the relationships between the probability of DMST involvement and substance misuse, childhood sexual abuse, and levels of sexual discomfort. Results revealed that substance misuse and childhood sexual abuse were significantly positively associated with the probability of DMST victimization; however, sexual discomfort was significantly negatively associated with the probability of DMST victimization. Implications for policy and practice are discussed. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2017 APA, all rights reserved)
The Victim Before Trafficking

Previous Trauma


Victims of sex-market trafficking are often criminalized under anti-prostitution statutes rather than protected under anti-trafficking laws. As a result, trafficking victims suffer ramifications resulting from both the exploitation of their captors and the social stigma of criminalization. The combined hardships make it exponentially more difficult for victims to overcome their past and safely reintegrate into society. This Article first identifies the sources of the double-victimization problem, including the perpetuated stereotypes regarding trafficking victims and the methods of exploitation, inadequate law enforcement training, and statutes that conflate sexmarket victims with prostitution. Having identified the source of the problem, the author proposes a solution for double-victimization including improved victim identification training for law enforcement officers, an affirmative defense based on victim status, and improved application of expungement for those who are victims of the sex-market and the criminal prosecution system. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


Background: Domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) is an important social and public health problem, but it has received little attention from healthcare professionals in research, practice, and policy. Prevention and early victim identification efforts for this population are severely limited or entirely absent. Purpose: The aim of this study was to integrate evidence on risk factors for DMST and critically appraise the quality and quantity of nursing literature on DMST. Methods: This literature review was reported using PRISMA criteria. Three databases (CINAHL, PsychInfo, and PubMed) were searched using various terms for (a) human trafficking, (b) risk factors, and (c) children. Discussion: Demographic factors were not important predictors of DMST. Childhood maltreatment trauma and running away from home were the most important risk factors for trafficking victimization. There was little nursing literature on the topic of DMST. Conclusion: Nurses and other healthcare professionals must engage in confronting DMST by
improving early identification of victims and conducting high-quality research to inform practice. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


A risk for commercial sexual exploitation is childhood maltreatment. It’s unknown whether juveniles in commercial sexual exploitation experience more childhood maltreatment than adults or how involved child protective services is in investigating maltreatment, a focus of this study. Women (N = 96) who sold sex commercially completed a cross-sectional questionnaire. Descriptive statistics, t tests, chi-squares, and odds ratios were used to examine differences in background, childhood maltreatment, and child protective services involvement by juvenile or adult entry. Although 93% of participants experienced child maltreatment, juveniles had increased odds of parent/caregiver sexual abuse, being left alone, being kicked out, and running away from a parent/caregiver. There were no differences in cumulative childhood maltreatment resulting in an investigation or removal, indicating that juveniles not investigated or removed by child protective services had as much childhood maltreatment as juveniles who were investigated or removed by child protective services. Results highlight the need for child welfare staff to recognize childhood maltreatment as risks for commercial sexual exploitation. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2017 APA, all rights reserved)


The broad objective of this study was to understand the incidence and severity of aggression among sexually abused girls who were trafficked and who were then further used for commercial sexual exploitation (referred to subsequently as sexually abused trafficked girls). In addition, the impact of counseling for minimizing aggression in these girls was investigated. A group of 120 sexually abused trafficked Indian girls and a group of 120 nonsexually abused Indian girls, aged 13 to 18, participated in the study. The sexually abused trafficked girls were purposively selected from four shelters located in and around Kolkata, India. The nonsexually abused girls were selected randomly from four schools situated near the shelters, and these girls were matched by age with the sexually abused trafficked girls. Data were collected using a Background Information Schedule and
a standardized psychological test, that is, The Aggression Scale. Results revealed that 16.7% of the girls were first sexually abused between 6 and 9 years of age, 37.5% between 10 and 13 years of age, and 45.8% between 14 and 17 years of age. Findings further revealed that 4.2% of the sexually abused trafficked girls demonstrated saturated aggression, and 26.7% were highly aggressive, that is, extremely frustrated and rebellious. Across age groups, the sexually abused trafficked girls suffered from more aggression ($p < .05$), compared with the nonvictimized girls. Psychological interventions, such as individual and group counseling, were found to have a positive impact on the sexually abused trafficked girls. These findings should motivate counselors to deal with sexually abused children. It is also hoped that authorities in welfare homes will understand the importance of counseling for sexually abused trafficked children, and will appoint more counselors for this purpose. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/248686.pdf

Repeated exposure to traumatic events during childhood can have dramatic and long-lasting effects. During the past 20 years, there has been an enormous increase in our understanding of how being repeatedly traumatized by violence affects the growth and development of preadolescent children, especially when such traumatized children lack a nurturing and protective parental figure that might mitigate the impact of the trauma. In this paper, I summarize the current understanding of the effects of ongoing trauma on young children, how these effects impair adolescent and young adult functioning, and the possible implications of this for policing. To demonstrate this, I describe the case of a 17-year-old African American male who was charged with attempted murder. I was asked to perform a psychiatric evaluation because (1) everyone who knew him was shocked about what happened because, before the crime, he had never been in trouble and he had always appeared to be functioning well; and (2) he appeared to be extremely unemotional about what happened, which his attorney viewed as either a lack of remorse or a failure to appreciate how much trouble he was in.

This mixed-methods study explored entry into the sex trade industry and experiences of sex trafficking victimization among 478 adult women enrolled in a prostitution diversion program in a large southwestern state. Written responses to several open-ended survey questions were coded using a template approach to content analysis wherein a priori codes were identified based on characteristics of sex trafficking victimization identified in the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (U.S. Department of State, 2000). Findings revealed that approximately one third of participants (n = 161) described sex trafficking experiences on entry into the sex trade industry, and quantitative analysis revealed that women who experienced sex trafficking as part of entering the sex trade industry were more likely to report abuse during childhood and adulthood, to report gang involvement, and to be involved in multiple types of sex trade industry work. Implications for policy and practice are discussed. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


Domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) has been steadily on the rise in the United States, with estimates between 15,000 and 50,000 victims per year. Actual estimates of DMST victims are difficult to determine based on misidentification, conflicts between state and federal laws about age of consent and charges, perceptions of the victim, as well as lack of knowledge regarding the prevalence and dynamics of sex trafficking of minors. Oftentimes, child victims come from multi-problem homes and have already experienced abuse and neglect, which further complicates treatment and services. This article explores the emerging literature and defines the problem and identifies laws, statutes, and definitions of the problem. It also reviews the literature on victim, buyer, and trafficker characteristics. Organized crime’s role in this growing epidemic is explained as well as treatment options and recommendations for future social work practice at the micro-, mezzo-, and macro-levels. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

Guided by an intersectional feminist perspective, we examined sexual victimization, witnessing intimate partner violence (IPV) in the family, and familial physical abuse among a sample of 180 urban African American adolescent women. We used cluster analysis to better understand the profiles of cumulative victimization, and the relationships between profiles and IPV victimization and personal exposure to the sex trade. Just under one third of the sample reported sexual victimization, with co-occurrence with both forms of family violence common. The cluster profile with high levels of severe family violence was associated with the highest rate of IPV victimization and sex trade exposure. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


Commercial sexual exploitation of children has emerged as a critical issue within child welfare, but little is currently known about this population or effective treatment approaches to address their unique needs. Children in foster care and runaways are reported to be vulnerable to exploitation because they frequently have unmet needs for family relationships, and they have had inadequate supervision and histories of trauma of which traffickers take advantage. The current article presents data on the demographic characteristics, trauma history, mental and behavioral health needs, physical health needs, and strengths collected on a sample of 87 commercially sexually exploited youth. These youth were served in a specialized treatment program in Miami-Dade County, Florida, for exploited youth involved with the child welfare system. Findings revealed that the youth in this study have high rates of previous sexual abuse (86% of the youth) and other traumatic experiences prior to their exploitation. Youth also exhibited considerable mental and behavioral health needs. Given that few programs emphasize the unique needs of children who have been sexually exploited, recommendations are offered for providing a continuum of specialized housing and treatment services to meet the needs of sexually exploited youth, based on the authors’ experiences working with this population. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

This study examines the link between human trafficking of minors and childhood adversity by comparing the prevalence of adverse childhood experiences (ACE) and cumulative childhood adversity for children who had been involved in a human trafficking abuse report. The sample was of 913 juvenile justice-involved girls and boys in Florida, between 2009 and 2015, whom the Florida child abuse hotline had accepted a human trafficking abuse report on. The results showed that sexual abuse was the strongest predictor of human trafficking; odds of human trafficking were 2.52 times greater for girls who experienced sexual abuse and 8.21 times greater for boys who experienced sexual abuse. The conclusion stated that maltreated youths are more susceptible to human trafficking and that sexual abuse with high ACE scores could serve as a key predictor of exploitation in trafficking for boys and girls.


Scholarly research on commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) of youth has been impeded due to difficulties in researching hidden and vulnerable populations. Drawing from Agnew’s general strain theory, this study utilized multigroup structural equation modeling to explore similarities and differences in vulnerability to CSE across gender. The strain reactive pathway, linking caregiver strain to youth susceptibility to CSE, was tested with data from 1,354 serious youthful offenders, 8.4% of whom indicated CSE. Findings revealed that caregiver strain, such as arrests and substance use, similarly impacted nurturing of boys and girls. Across both genders, poor nurturing was linked to higher negative psychosocial emotion, running away, and initiating substance use and sexual relationships at earlier ages. For males, negative psychosocial emotion and earlier initiation of sexual relationships were significantly related to CSE. In contrast, vulnerability of females was more strongly linked to earlier substance use. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2017 APA, all rights reserved)
The Victim During Trafficking

Sex Trafficking


This article presents challenges in family reintegration for returning Moldovan trafficking victims based on qualitative interviews with 19 victims of trafficking and 31 service providers, looking specifically at points of tension in reuniting with children and spouses. One main source of conflict is when migration expectations are unrealized; another is stressed behaviours of victims when they return. To avoid being stigmatized and blamed for association with prostitution and failed migration, most victims prefer to keep their trafficking a secret. However, this means that families may not understand or appreciate what they are going through in the post-trafficking stage and misinterpret stress, anxiety and trauma symptoms as aggression and hostility. Further, two additional factors—financial problems and stigma—add extra strain on family relationships. In terms of assistance needs, it is crucial to include a perspective on the family situation when working with trafficking victims. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


This article explores the emergence of precarious work within the hostess industry of Los Angeles Koreatown, an ethnic enclave cited as a hotbed of sex trafficking. Hostesses provide companionship, flirtation, and entertainment to male patrons in drinking settings. While hostess work in Koreatown historically relied on indentured migrant workers from South Korea, the 2008 recession combined with shifting US immigration laws transformed the occupational structure of the hostess industry to a contingency-based labor system, which increasingly depends on the labor of local US women. These women turn to hostess work in Koreatown because of their displacement from jobs in the dominant US labor market. I argue that the emergence of precarious labor in Koreatown's hostess industry reflects larger economic shifts within the labor market and political economy of Los Angeles. Looking at hostess work in Los Angeles Koreatown's sexual economy provides a window to the labor instability of young women in the USA and across borders. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2017 APA, all rights reserved)

Objectives: Human trafficking is as complex human rights and public health issue. The issue of human trafficking for sexual exploitation at large global sporting events has proven to be elusive given the clandestine nature of the industry. This piece examines the issue from a public health perspective. Study Design: This is a literature review of the 'most comprehensive' studies published on the topic. Methods: A PubMed search was done using MeSH terms 'human traffickings' and 'sex trafficking' and 'human rights abuses'. Subheadings included 'statistics and numerical data', 'legislation and jurisprudence', 'prevention and control', and 'therapy'. Only papers published in English were reviewed. Results: The search showed that very few well-designed empirical studies have been conducted on the topic and only one pertinent systematic review was identified. Findings show a high prevalence of physical violence among those trafficked compared to non-trafficked women. Sexually transmitted infections and HIV AIDS are prevalent and preventive care is virtually non-existent. Conclusion: Quantifying human trafficking for sexual exploitation at large global sporting events has proven to be elusive given the clandestine nature of the industry. This is not to say that human trafficking for sex as well as forced sexual exploitation does not occur. It almost certainly exists, but to what extent is the big question. It is a hidden problem on a global scale in plain view with tremendous public health implications. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


The Behavioral Analysis Unit (BAU) III of the FBI conducted a study that expands upon a typology of offenders engaging in the sex trafficking of juveniles (STJ) (Hargreaves-Cormany, Patterson and Muirhead, 2016) by developing a STJ Survivor Spectrum of Characteristics. All 179 STJ survivors were included in the latent class analyses (LCAs). Further, a binary logistic regression (BLR) analysis was conducted to examine potential for increase in substance use. Data utilized for the study was derived from protocols developed to obtain demographic information on the offenders and survivors and various aspects of the nature of the criminal act(s) perpetrated by the offender. The second author's expertise and practical knowledge from the field regarding STJ offenders and survivors as well as their interviews were utilized to substantiate the empirical findings. The STJ survivors' age, known increases in substance use, motivation to cooperate/testify and family
structure were used as indicators within the LCAs. Three latent classes emerged comprised of different STJ survivor age groups. Results suggested that differences between classes are likely attributed to developmental considerations/maturation.

The BLR suggested that age of the STJ survivor was predictive of increase in alcohol use. Qualitative analysis of interviews provided in depth data and a lens into the perspectives of STJ survivors. Results enhance understanding of STJ survivors and inform treatment/intervention initiatives which may result in prevention/reduction of harm to juveniles. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


Summary: A qualitative approach was used to explore the experience of exiting sex trade industry work from the perspective of 19 adults formerly involved in the sex trade industry. A narrative approach to data collection was used to explore the participants’ experiences of successful exiting and phenomenological analysis was employed to identify themes that reflected the ways in which participants developed resiliency throughout the exiting process. Findings: Themes include connection (including subthemes: survivor presence, children and spirituality), resources (including subthemes: networks, structure and safety) and personal growth. Significance: These themes represent women with diverse experiences in the sex trade industry, including a majority who were victimised by (internal) sex trafficking. The findings demonstrate opportunities for social work practice to address the diverse needs of individuals exiting the sex trade industry, specifically for those who experienced sex trafficking and sexual exploitation. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2017 APA, all rights reserved)


Human trafficking in children is often part of a larger constellation of childhood adversity. Many trafficked youth have been exposed to multiple layers of traumatic stress, including physical, sexual, and/or verbal abuse; witnessing violence; emotional neglect; and family dysfunction. This paper is a qualitative analysis of the charts of 32 youth who were sex trafficked as minors, including both foreign national and domestic youth. It explores their history of early adversity and polyvictimization and reviews common coercive strategies used by the traffickers, including manipulation of these children’s unmet physical and emotional needs. It identifies developmental trauma adaptations in these youth, including affect dysregulation and impulsivity; alterations in attention and consciousness; issues in
interpersonal relationships; and impairments in self-perception and attributions. It concludes with recommendations based on these findings, including the development of developmentally and culturally appropriate trauma-informed services for sex trafficked children and youth. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2017 APA, all rights reserved)


The article discusses the best practices for ending human exploitation by examining the relationship between sex trafficking and opioid addiction in America, and it mentions issues involving sex trafficking victim identification, prosecution strategies, and collaborative action. The U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 is addressed, along with the International Labour Organization (ILO), Safe Harbor laws in America, female sex abuse victims, and drug overdose deaths in the country.


This research review addresses the similarities and differences between domestic violence and sex trafficking victimization. While there is evidence that domestic violence and sex trafficking often co-occur, there is a large disparity in the understanding and interventions utilized by law enforcement as well as the services available for victims of each crime despite the considerable overlap of victimization. This article explores current research regarding domestic violence and sex trafficking with a focus towards identifying areas of overlap and areas distinct to sex trafficking. [ABSTRACT FROM PUBLISHER]


The article offers the author's insights on the relationship of drug and human trafficking. The author mentions that drug trafficking is not just related to sex trafficking, but also has connections to other forms of exploitation.
trafficking, saying it is linked to various forms of trafficking such as labor trafficking in agriculture, hard physical labor and one associated with drug couriers. The authors state the growth of drug and human trade contributed from the enter engagement of organizations in smuggling and trafficking businesses rather than entering into the drug trade. Moreover, the author says that increase in corruption is considered as one of the major implications of the growth of drug trade.


Objective: Sex trafficking is an unrelenting problem in Mississippi. No quantitative data currently exist on the prevalence of sex trafficking or the identification of victims in the state. Method: This study used the Trafficking in Victims Identification Tool (TVIT) (Short Version) to identify the extent to which a sample of clients (n = 28) receiving services at a non-profit social services agency in Jackson, Mississippi, were also victims of sex trafficking. Results: The TVIT interview tool was completed during the intake phase at one social services agency in Mississippi. Over a 90-day period, 54% (n = 15) of participants were likely to have been trafficked for sex at some point. The researcher focused on three questions identified as predictors of sex trafficking. Discussion: This research study provides a snapshot of the potential for identifying sex trafficking victims in Mississippi. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


International sex trafficking and domestic prostitution are each forms of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE), and CSE typically encompasses a gauntlet of victimization and violence for its victims. Girls and women subjected to CSE are not only damaged during their involvement in the sex industry, but they typically suffer maltreatment and related factors before they enter into it and again as they endeavor to leave it. In this article we review the common risk factors associated with entry into the sex trade industry, the traumas commonly experienced while in the industry and their psychological sequelae, and the challenges surrounding, and longer-term impact of, endeavoring to exit the industry. We describe the complex conditions present at each of these three stages (pre-entry, post-entry, and peri-/post-exit) and how they result in challenges in treating this population. As rates of commercial sexual exploitation increase both nationally and worldwide, there is an
urgent need to identify effective interventions for victims and to address the conditions that foster and support CSE. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)

Pimp-Victim Relationship

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We provide detailed measurement of the illegal trade in child exploitation material (CEM, also known as child pornography) from mid-2011 through 2014 on five popular peer-to-peer (P2P) file sharing networks. We characterize several observations: counts of peers trafficking in CEM; the proportion of arrested traffickers that were identified during the investigation as committing contact sexual offenses against children; trends in the trafficking of sexual images of sadistic acts and infants or toddlers; the relationship between such content and contact offenders; and survival rates of CEM. In the 5 P2P networks we examined, we estimate there were recently about 840,000 unique installations per month of P2P programs sharing CEM worldwide. We estimate that about 3 in 10,000 Internet users worldwide were sharing CEM in a given month; rates vary per country. We found an overall month-to-month decline in trafficking of CEM during our study. By surveying law enforcement we determined that 9.5% of persons arrested for P2P-based CEM trafficking on the studied networks were identified during the investigation as having sexually offended against children offline. Rates per network varied, ranging from 8% of arrests for CEM trafficking on Gnutella to 21% on BitTorrent. Within BitTorrent, where law enforcement applied their own measure of content severity, the rate of contact offenses among peers sharing the most-severe CEM (29%) was higher than those sharing the least-severe CEM (15%). Although the persistence of CEM on the networks varied, it generally survived for long periods of time; e.g., BitTorrent CEM had a survival rate near 100%. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

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The trafficking of young women and children for prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation is one of the most significant human rights abuses in contemporary society. In keeping with the social work profession's commitment to
social justice, this article examines the issue of sexual trafficking in the United States. The transnational scope of the problem is discussed along with the means that traffickers use to recruit, transport, and initiate victims from around the world into the sex industry in the United States. Some legislative responses to the problem are discussed, and a number of suggestions are offered to help social workers advocate on behalf of some of the most vulnerable and oppressed people in the global community. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2018 APA, all rights reserved)


The dominant understanding in the United States of the relationship between pimps and minors involved in commercial sex is that it is one of “child sex trafficking,” in which pimps lure girls into prostitution, then control, exploit, and brutalize them. Such narratives of oppression typically depend on postarrest testimonials by former prostitutes and pimps in punishment and rescue institutions. In contrast, this article presents data collected from active pimps, underage prostitutes, and young adult sex workers to demonstrate the complexity of pimp-prostitute dyads and interrogate conventional stereotypes about teenage prostitution. A holistic understanding of the factors that push minors into sex work and keep them there is needed to design and implement effective policy and services for this population. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


Longstanding policy debates over how prostitution/sex work should be thought about and responded to have been upended in the USA by a growing tendency to conflate the practice with sex trafficking. US law and social policy have converged most fully on this issue in a movement to eradicate what has come to be known as the commercial sexual exploitation of children. One outcome of this movement has been an expanded focus on prosecuting and imprisoning pimps and other legal adults who support or abet juridical minors involved in the sex trade. This paper will show that the simplistic, one-size-fits-all narrative of the child victim and the adult exploiter inherent in this policy does not reflect the realities of street-based sex work in the USA. After 2 years of ethnographic and social network research in two cities, we find that sex market-involved young people participate in a great diversity of
market-facilitation relationships, many of which provide the only or the most crucial foundation for their support networks. A social policy based on a one-dimensional construction of the child victim and the adult exploiter not only endangers these crucial relationships but also disappears the real needs of young people involved in the exchange of sex for money. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


Female sex trafficking is a pressing concern. In this article, we provide a comprehensive overview of relevant issues regarding the concept of female sex trafficking and research in the field of human trafficking, drawing on a variety of disciplines, including economics, gender and sexuality studies, psychology, sociology, law, and social work. We discuss the debates surrounding the definition of human trafficking, compare and contrast it with human smuggling, and outline connections between female sex trafficking and the issue of sex work and prostitution. We further discuss the history and current estimations of female sex trafficking. We then outline the main actors in female sex trafficking, including trafficked persons, traffickers, clients, and service providers, and we overview the trafficking process from recruitment to identification, recovery, and (re)integration. Finally, we conclude with recommendations for future research that tie together the concepts of vulnerability, exploitation, and long-term recovery and (re)integration. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


Coercion and control are key components of the dominant narrative on sex trafficking, but the power and exchange relations between some of the key players in trafficking have not been carefully examined. This study is based on electronic surveillance data from a two-year police investigation of a prostitution network in Montreal. All of the prostitutes in the network had initially been recruited when they were minors. Whereas most of the writing on sex trafficking portrays pimps as being involved in highly exploitative and coercive relationships with prostitutes, we found that control was not always the sole purview of the pimps, that prostitutes often held key positions and privileged roles within the network, and that pimps’ and prostitutes’ relationships involved complex exchanges of network resources. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)
Cyber-Sex Trafficking


Transcripts of chat logs of sexually exploitative interactions between offenders and victims that took place via Internet communication platforms were analysed to develop our understanding of this phenomenon from the perspective of the victim. The aim of the study was to examine victims' behaviour and responses to approaches by offenders, as well as to ascertain victims' motivation for their engagement. The data set comprised five cases, amounting to 29 transcripts, and was analysed using qualitative thematic analysis. Additionally, police reports were reviewed for descriptive and case-specific information. All offenders were men aged between 27 and 52. Victims were both female (n = 17) and male (n = 6), and were aged between 11 and 15. Our findings highlight that while the majority of young people in this sample appeared to engage in such interactions for reasons of curiosity and sexual exploration/experimentation, other cases involved serious offences of sexual abuse. The victims in these cases presented with a number of vulnerability factors. Findings are discussed in light of conceptualising young people’s negative online experiences along a continuum. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


Online sex trafficking is big business. The Department of Homeland Security estimates that sex trafficking generates billions of dollars per year. The marketplace for sex has moved from the street corner to classified ad websites such as Backpage.com, and all too often the victims of online sex trafficking are minors. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children reported an 846 percent increase in reports of child sexual exploitation between 2010 and 2015—growth the organization attributes to the availability of sex ads on websites such as Backpage.com. Law enforcement agencies and victims have sought to hold Backpage.com liable for facilitating human sex trafficking. To defend against this barrage of litigation, Backpage.com has argued that a statutory corollary of the First Amendment insulates the company from liability. Using Backpage.com as a
paradigm, this Note analyzes the constitutional and policy tensions underlying regulation of online sextrafficking and advocates a crowdsourced model for monitoring online sex advertisement. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


Federal agencies report the high level of sex trafficking of minors in the United States. This trafficking often occurs on-line with the Internet. Pimps commonly advertise children for sexual exploitation online, and they search social networking sites for young victims. Thus, the high rate of trafficking minors and the increased use of technology have led to a need to better understand purchasing young girls for sex online. This qualitative study focused on learning from NGO representatives, law enforcement officials, and public officials their experiences about how men buy girls online for sex, and the words that the men use in the transactions. Moreover, it explored beliefs about human trafficking, the anti-trafficking practices, the criminal treatment of young victims, the safe places for girls to stay, and the sex trafficking programs available for these young women. To learn about these issues, we conducted thirty-eight interviewees with participants in four locations in the United States. Six different themes emerged: (1) familiarity of the interviewees with sex trafficking and its research: (2) law enforcement anti-trafficking practices, (3) the buying side of sex trafficking, (4) the criminal treatment of victims, (5) lack of safe places for girls to stay, and (6) the prevention, intervention, and assessment of sex trafficking programs. These results have important implications for human trafficking researchers, policymakers, law enforcement officials, and for those who provide services for the young girls. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


This exploratory analysis examines the role of the Internet in juvenile prostitution cases coming to the attention of law enforcement. The National Juvenile Prostitution Study (N-JPS) collected information from a national sample of law enforcement agencies about the characteristics of juvenile prostitution cases. In comparison to non-Internet juvenile prostitution cases, Internet juvenile prostitution
cases involved younger juveniles and police were more likely to treat juveniles as victims rather than offenders. In addition, these cases were significantly more likely to involve a family or acquaintance exploiter. This analysis suggests that the role of the Internet may impact legal and social service response to juveniles involved in prostitution. In addition, it highlights the need for interventions that acknowledge the vulnerabilities of youth involved in this type of commercial sexual exploitation.

[ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


We used data gathered via investigative “RoundUp” software to measure a year of online child pornography (CP) trafficking activity by U.S. computers on the Gnutella peer-to-peer network. The data include millions of observations of Internet Protocol addresses sharing known CP files, identified as such in previous law enforcement investigations. We found that 244,920 U.S. computers shared 120,418 unique known CP files on Gnutella during the study year. More than 80% of these computers shared fewer than 10 such files during the study year or shared files for fewer than 10 days. However, less than 1% of computers (n = 915) made high annual contributions to the number of known CP files available on the network (100 or more files). If law enforcement arrested the operators of these high-contribution computers and took their files offline, the number of distinct known CP files available in the P2P network could be reduced by as much as 30%. Our findings indicate widespread low level CP trafficking by U.S. computers in one peer-to-peer network, while a small percentage of computers made high contributions to the problem. However, our measures were not comprehensive and should be considered lower bounds estimates. Nonetheless, our findings show that data can be systematically gathered and analyzed to develop an empirical grasp of the scope and characteristics of CP trafficking on peer-to-peer networks. Such measurements can be used to combat the problem. Further, investigative software tools can be used strategically to help law enforcement prioritize investigations. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)

Labor Trafficking


Objective: To examine labor trafficking victimizations as forms of repeat victimization and polyvictimization. Method: The study uses secondary cross-sectional data about 115 labor-trafficked persons in the United States who received
services after the labor trafficking experience. Through multivariate regression analyses, victimization patterns were investigated at each primary stage of the trafficking process (recruitment, transportation, employment). Results: Our findings demonstrate patterns of repeat victimization and polyvictimization among labor-trafficked persons. Prior victimization experiences before the onset of the trafficking significantly increased the odds of experiencing victimization during the initial stages of the trafficking process (recruitment and transportation). Victimization experiences during these initial stages further increased the risk of experiencing a higher count of polyvictimization during the final stage of the trafficking process (employment). Conclusions: Our study lays the groundwork for an analytical framework upon which to evaluate labor trafficking. The results call for early intervention and comprehensive assistance programs that take into account enduring and cumulative victimization patterns in order to meet the needs of identified labor-trafficked persons. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2017 APA, all rights reserved)


“Emerging research brings more attention to labor trafficking in the United States. However, very few efforts have been made to better understand or respond to labor trafficking of minors. Cases of children forced to work as domestic servants, in factories, restaurants, peddling candy or other goods, or on farms may not automatically elicit suspicion from an outside observer as compared to a child providing sexual services for money. In contrast to sex trafficking, labor trafficking is often tied to formal economies and industries, which often makes it more difficult to distinguish from "legitimate" work, including among adolescents. This article seeks to provide examples of documented cases of child labor trafficking in the United States, and to provide an overview of systemic gaps in law, policy, data collection, research, and practice. These areas are currently overwhelmingly focused on sex trafficking, which undermines the policy intentions of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (2000), the seminal statute criminalizing sex and labor trafficking in the United States, its subsequent reauthorizations, and international laws and protocols addressing human trafficking.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

“Human trafficking is a criminal act that occurs globally. It affects both women and men, but most studies have focused on female victims; few have explored trafficked men or their related health issues. Though there are many forms of trafficking, it is believed that most male victims are trafficked as forced labor. Using gender schema theory as a framework, this quantitative study examined archival data to identify the types of trafficking men are subjected to, their health ailments, and how these differ from the health ailments of trafficked women. Archival data from 124 individuals subjected to human trafficking in Florida were analyzed using the Kruskal-Wallis, one-way ANOVA, Mann Whitney U, and Fisher’s exact tests. Findings indicated that males were more likely to have been labor trafficked compared to other forms of trafficking, and that labor trafficked persons were not more susceptible to health ailments than were sex trafficked persons. Also, there was a significant difference in health conditions between male and female victims, with females reporting more issues such as malnourishment, skin rash, and anxiety. These findings help to alter the misperception that men are traffickers only by recognizing them to be victims as well. Implications for social change include increased awareness of male trafficking in health care policies and human trafficking prevention efforts.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


Research on the health of trafficked men and on the health problems associated with trafficking for labor exploitation are extremely limited. This study analysed data from a case series of anonymised case records of a consecutive sample of 35 men and women who had been trafficked for labor exploitation in the UK and who were receiving support from a non-governmental service between June 2009 and July 2010. Over three-quarters of our sample was male (77 %) and two-thirds aged between 18 and 35 years (mean 32.9 years, SD 10.2). Forty percent reported experiencing physical violence while they were trafficked. Eighty-one percent (25/31) reported one or more physical health symptoms. Fifty-seven percent (17/30) reported one or more post-traumatic stress symptoms. A substantial proportion of men and women who are trafficked for labor exploitation may experience violence and abuse, and have physical and mental health symptoms. People who have been trafficked for forced labor need access to medical assessment and treatment. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)

This article asks what contexts facilitate control of individuals in modern slavery. We review the modern-slavery literature relevant to context, and propose four new constructs and a new model for analyzing how social and economic factors facilitate control of slaves in the United States. We validate this model through a secondary qualitative analysis of eleven confirmed U.S. slavery cases occurring between 1992 and 2002. We discuss implications for policy makers, public and private administrators, and practitioners. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2017 APA, all rights reserved)


Research on labor trafficking faces many methodological challenges, which make it difficult to provide reliable estimates of the problem. In this research, we applied respondent-driven sampling and unique access to migrant communities in San Diego County, California, to estimate the extent of trafficking violations in one of America’s largest Spanish-speaking immigrant destinations. We found that 30 percent of undocumented migrant laborers were victims of labor trafficking, 55 percent were victims of other labor abuses, and about half of these victimization experiences occurred within the past 12 months. The rate of trafficking violations varied markedly across business sectors that typically hire unauthorized migrant workers. Construction and janitorial services had the most reported trafficking violations and labor abuses. Findings in this study also suggest that the illegal status in the country is likely the most significant factor contributing to vulnerability to trafficking violations. [ABSTRACT FROM PUBLISHER]

The Victim After Trafficking

Mental Health Effects

Background: Previous studies have found a high prevalence of depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among survivors of human trafficking. European countries are required to assist trafficked people in their psychological recovery, but there are no rigorous data on the costs of doing so. The objectives of this study were to quantify the use of secondary mental health services by survivors of human trafficking; to estimate the cost of survivors’ use of secondary mental health services provided by the UK National Health Service (NHS); and to identify factors that predict higher costs of mental health service provision.

Methods: Historical cohort study of psychiatric patients who had experienced human trafficking. The South London and Maudsley NHS Trust (SlaM) Biomedical Research Centre Case Register Interactive Search (CRIS) database was used to identify anonymised full patient records of patients who had experienced human trafficking and who had accessed SlaM mental health services between 2007 and 2012. Data were extracted on socio-demographic and trafficking characteristics and contacts with mental health services. Total costs were calculated by multiplying each resource use item by an appropriate unit cost. Factors that predicted high mental health service costs were analysed using regression models.

Results: One hundred nineteen patients were included in the analysis. Mean total mental health service costs per patient were £27,293 (sd 80,985) and mean duration of contact with services was 1490 (sd 757) days (approximately 4 years). Regression analysis showed that higher costs were associated with diagnosis of psychotic disorder (p < 0.001) and experiences of pre-trafficking violence (p = 0.06). Patients diagnosed with psychotic disorders cost approximately £32,635 more than patients with non-psychotic disorders/psychological distress but no formal diagnosis and patients whose clinical notes documented pre-trafficking violence cost £88,633 more than patients for whom pre-trafficking violence was not documented.

Conclusions: Trafficked patients’ use of mental health services - and the cost of providing care - is highly variable, but patients with psychotic disorders and with experiences of pre-trafficking violence are likely to require more intensive support. Evidence is needed on the effectiveness of interventions to promote the recovery of survivors of human trafficking. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


Comments on an article by L. Ottisova et al. (see record 2016-32196-007). Ottisova et al. in their updated systematic review of 37 studies on prevalence and risk of violence and physical, mental and sexual health problems among trafficked people,
provide a sound overview of the state of epidemiological research in these fields. The researches included in the review tend to confirm high rates of experience of violence inflicted to victims during and in some cases before trafficking, and a high prevalence of symptoms suggestive of anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Ottisova et al. imply that there is still a temporal research lag towards a precise understanding of the impact on changes of means of control and patterns of exploitation used by human traffickers as well channels of supply and demand and the sociodemographic background of victims and perpetrators and how this may, if at all, impact on prevalence and risk of violence and the associated mental, physical and sexual health problems. Moreover, longitudinal research would be necessary to understand the complex and complete experience of rehabilitation and reintegration of an individual from a trafficking experience over time, which is a most relevant information for the design of effective mental health and psychosocial programming and responses. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


The primary aim of this study was to describe the abuse experiences of sexually exploited runaway adolescents seen at a Child Advocacy Center (N = 62). We also sought to identify risk behaviors, attributes of resiliency, laboratory results for sexually transmitted infection (STI) screens, and genital injuries from colposcopic exams. We used retrospective mixed-methods with in-depth forensic interviews, together with self-report survey responses, physical exams and chart data. Forensic interviews were analyzed using interpretive description analytical methods along domains of experience and meaning of sexual exploitation events. Univariate descriptive statistics characterized trauma responses and health risks. The first sexual exploitation events for many victims occurred as part of seemingly random encounters with procurers. Older adolescent or adult women recruited some youth working for a pimp. However, half the youth did not report a trafficker involved in setting up their exchange of sex for money, substances, or other types of consideration. 78% scored positive on the UCLA PTSD tool; 57% reported DSM IV criteria for problem substance use; 71% reported cutting behaviors, 75% suicidal ideation, and 50% had attempted suicide. Contrary to common depictions, youth may be solicited relatively quickly as runaways, yet exploitation is not always linked to having a pimp. Avoidant coping does not appear effective, as most patients exhibited significant symptoms of trauma. Awareness of variations in youth's sexual exploitation experiences may help researchers and clinicians understand potential differences in sequelae, design effective treatment plans, and develop community
prevention programs. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2017 APA, all rights reserved)


In the last 15 years, terms such as prostitution, sex trafficking, sexual exploitation, modern-day slavery, and sex work have elicited much confusion and debate as to their definitions. Consequently several challenges have emerged for both law enforcement in the prosecution of criminals and practitioners in service provision. This article reviews the state of the literature with regard to domestic, sexual exploitation among women and girls in the United States and seeks to (1) provide definitions and describe the complexity of all terms relating to domestic sexual exploitation of women and girls in the United States, (2) explore available national prevalence data according to the definitions provided, and (3) review the evidence of mental health, social, and structural risk factors at the micro-, mezzo-, and macro levels. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


Commercial sexual exploitation of women and girls through forced prostitution and sex-trafficking is a human rights and public health issue, with survivors facing complex mental health problems from trauma and violence. An international and domestic problem, the average age of recruitment into sex-trafficking is between 11 and 14 years old. Given its secrecy and brutality, such exploitation remains difficult to study, which results in a lack of knowledge related to trauma and how best to develop specific services that effectively engage and meet the unique needs of survivors. This qualitative research, using thematic analysis, explored the stories of trauma and its aftermath for commercially sexually exploited women as told by front-line service providers. Three themes emerged regarding the experience of sex-trafficking and its outcomes—Pimp Enculturation, Aftermath, and Healing the Wound—along with seven subthemes. These have important implications for all service and healthcare providers. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)

Objectives: We explored the association between traumatic events and mental health among girls and women trafficked for sexual exploitation. Methods: We used subscales of the Brief Symptom Inventory and Harvard Trauma Questionnaire to interview 204 trafficked girls and women in 7 post-trafficking service settings. Multivariate logistic regression models based on interview data were fitted for depression, anxiety, and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) separately and adjusted for pretrafficking abuse to determine impact of trafficking-related trauma exposures. Results: Injuries and sexual violence during trafficking were associated with higher levels of PTSD, depression, and anxiety. Sexual violence was associated with higher levels of PTSD (adjusted odds ratio [AOR] = 5.6; 95% confidence interval [CI] = 1.3, 25.4). More time in trafficking was associated with higher levels of depression and anxiety (AOR = 2.2; 95% CI = 1.1, 4.5). More time since trafficking was associated with lower levels of depression and anxiety but not of PTSD. Conclusions: Our findings inform the emerging field of mental health care for trafficked persons by highlighting the importance of assessing severity and duration of trafficking-related abuses and need for adequate recovery time. Therapies for anxiety, PTSD, and mood disorders in low-resource settings should be evaluated. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


Our research team used the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being II to explore relationships between demographic factors, domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) status, and several psychosocial dependent variables for children and youth in the child welfare system who affirm that they have been paid for sex within the past 6 months. The sample included a total of 814 children and youth, 38 of whom reported DMST victimization. Results revealed that youth with a history of DMST victimization were more likely than their nonexploited peers to report runaway behavior, demonstrate externalizing behaviors, and test in the clinical range for a substance abuse problem. Research and practice implications are discussed. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

This article examines the complexity of the concepts of choice, agency and consent in women and girls’ entry into and experience within the commercial sex trade. Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis is used to analyse a series of in-depth interviews with prostituted and trafficked women in Ireland. The interviews reveal the circumscribed nature of individual choice and agency and the coercive context in which sexual consent is obtained within the power structure of the prostitution contract. The narrative accounts reveal the trauma of rape and sexual assault, but also the profoundly harmful consequences for women of acquiescing to multiple unwanted and degrading sexual acts for payment. This study also enhances our understanding that women’s lived experience does not reflect a rigid demarcation between those who were coerced or trafficked, and those who are perceived to have exercised choice in their entry into prostitution. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


Background: Evidence regarding the mental health needs of trafficked people is limited; however, prevalence of depression and post-traumatic stress disorder is high among trafficked people who are in contact with shelter services. We aimed to investigate the sociodemographic and clinical characteristics of trafficked people with severe mental illness. Methods: We did a historical cohort study of trafficked people in contact with secondary mental health services in South London, UK, between Jan 1, 2006, and July 31, 2012. We searched and retrieved comprehensive clinical electronic health records for over 200 000 patients from the Case Register Interactive Search database to identify trafficked patients. A matched cohort of non-trafficked adults was generated by simple computer-generated random selection of potential controls for each case within the parameters of matching criteria. We extracted data on sociodemographic and clinical characteristics and abuse history, and used multiple imputation to deal with missing data. We fitted logistic regression models to compare trafficked and non-trafficked patients. Findings: We identified 133 trafficked patients, including 37 children. 78 (81%) of 96 adults and 25 (68%) of 37 children were female. 19 (51%) of 37 children were trafficked for sexual exploitation. Among both adults and children, the most commonly recorded diagnoses were post-traumatic stress disorder, severe stress, or adjustment disorder (27 adults [28%] and ten children [27%]) and affective disorders (33 adults [34%] and ten children [27%]). Records documented childhood physical or sexual abuse among trafficked adults (41 [43%]) and children (28 [76%]), and adulthood abuse among trafficked adults (58 [60%]). Trafficked
adults were more likely to be compulsorily admitted as a psychiatric inpatient than non-trafficked adults (adjusted odds ratio 7.61, 95% CI 2.18-26.60; p = 0.002) and had longer admissions (1.48, 1.01-2.15; p = 0.045). No association was found between trafficking status and either adverse pathway into care (adjusted odds ratio 0.91, 95% CI 0.40-2.05; p = 0.82) or substance misuse problems (0.55, 0.27-1.17; p = 0.12). Interpretation: Severe mental illness in trafficked people is associated with longer admissions and high levels of abuse before and after trafficking. Evidence is needed on the effectiveness of interventions to promote recovery for this vulnerable group. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


Background: Child trafficking is the recruitment and movement of people aged younger than 18 for the purposes of exploitation. Research on the mental health of trafficked children is limited, and little is known about the use of mental health services by this group. This study aimed to investigate the mental health and service use characteristics of trafficked children in contact with mental health services in England. Methods & findings: The study employed an historical cohort design. Electronic health records of over 250,000 patients were searched to identify trafficked children, and a matched cohort of non-trafficked children was randomly selected. Data were extracted on the socio-demographic and clinical characteristics, abuse history, and trafficking experiences of the trafficked children. Logistic and linear random effects regression models were fitted to compare trafficked and non-trafficked children on their clinical profiles and service use characteristics. Fifty-one trafficked children were identified, 78% were female. The most commonly recorded diagnoses for trafficked children were post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) (22%) and affective disorders (22%). Records documented a high prevalence of physical violence (53%) and sexual violence (49%) among trafficked children. Trafficked children had significantly longer duration of contact with mental health services compared to non-trafficked controls (b = 1.66, 95% CI 1.09-2.55, p<0.02). No significant differences were found, however, with regards to pathways into care, prevalence of compulsory psychiatric admission, length of inpatient stays, or changes in global functioning. Conclusions: Child trafficking is associated with high levels of physical and sexual abuse and longer duration of contact with mental health services. Research is needed on most effective
interventions to promote recovery for this vulnerable group. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


Introduction Human trafficking is a worldwide problem, that deeply affects the lives of those involved. Victims of trafficking are confronted with a broad range of problems (unsafety, social isolation, financial problems, legal insecurities, stigmatization). Poor mental health is a dominant and persistent adverse health effect associated with human trafficking. Objectives The (Mental) Health needs of victims have received limited attention, particularly when compared with law-enforcement and immigration responses to trafficking (WHO, 2012). Collaboration between the Justice-, welfare- and Mental Healthcare system is needed to develop solutions that can lead to a breakthrough to improve the Mental health and overall wellbeing of these women. The Centre against child and human trafficking (CKM, the Netherlands:www.ckm-fier.nl) integrates the services needed by offering a safehouse setting combined with an inpatient MH treatment facility. The centre closely collaborates with the justice system to be able to advocate the needs and legal rights not only on an individual, but also on a group level. The centre aims to improve the MH and overall wellbeing of the women (and children) admitted to the centre. Results All women admitted to the centre have severe MH problems (often untreated before admission), mainly caused by a complex, chronic PTSS. The severe sleeping problems caused by the PTSS are experienced as most disabling for daily functioning. A sudden increase in MH problems is often related to legal insecurities and trials against the perpetrators. Conclusions More research is needed to identify the MH needs of the women to be able to improve the MH services needed for this group. The population of the CKM offers great opportunities to develop treatment modules for the victims of trafficking. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


We have discovered in our clinical review that sexually abused girls have significantly better therapeutic outcomes than girls who have been victims of sex trafficking. Thus, we compared the mental health records of 25 adolescent female victims of commercial sexual exploitation with a group of 25 girls with a history of sexual abuse matched for age. Exclusion criteria included IQ < 70, organicity, and
psychosis. Victims of sexual exploitation were more likely to be in foster care; to have arrests, suspensions from school, and a history of running away; to abuse drugs; to be more impaired in social and school activities; to be withdrawn and depressed; to manifest social and thought problems and aggressive and rule-breaking behaviors; and to have a diagnosis of mood or conduct disorder or both. The results of this study suggest that the psychopathology of girl victims of sexual exploitation is markedly different from that of sexually abused girls. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2018 APA, all rights reserved)


The objective of the study is to describe distinguishing characteristics of commercial sexual exploitation of children/child sex trafficking victims (CSEC) who present for healthcare in the pediatric setting. This is a retrospective study of patients aged 12–18 years who presented to any of three pediatric emergency departments or one child protection clinic, and who were identified as suspected victims of CSEC. The sample was compared with gender and age-matched patients with allegations of child sexual abuse/sexual assault (CSA) without evidence of CSEC on variables related to demographics, medical and reproductive history, high-risk behavior, injury history and exam findings. There were 84 study participants, 27 in the CSEC group and 57 in the CSA group. Average age was 15.7 years for CSEC patients and 15.2 years for CSA patients; 100% of the CSEC and 94.6% of the CSA patients were female. The two groups significantly differed in 11 evaluated areas with the CSEC patients more likely to have had experiences with violence, substance use, running away from home, and involvement with child protective services and/or law enforcement. CSEC patients also had a longer history of sexual activity. Adolescent CSEC victims differ from sexual abuse victims without evidence of CSEC in their reproductive history, high risk behavior, involvement with authorities, and history of violence. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


This article provides a review of current research on human trafficking for mental health practitioners and scholars. In addition to an overview of definitions, causes and processes of trafficking, the article highlights mental health consequences of
trafficking along with suggestions for treatment of survivors. Directions for counseling services, prevention, policy work and international involvement are also discussed. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)

Physical Health Effects


The current study sought to understand commercially sexually exploited (CSE) youths’ health care experiences, barriers to care, and recommendations for improving health care services. We conducted focus groups (N = 5) with 18 CSE youth from February 2015 through May 2016 at two group homes serving CSE youth in Southern California. We performed thematic content analysis to identify emergent themes about CSE youths’ perspectives on health care. Youth described facilitators to care, including availability of services such as screening for sexually transmitted infections, knowledge about sexual health, and a strong motivation to stay healthy. Barriers included feeling judged, concerns about confidentiality, fear, perceived low quality of services, and self-reliance. Overall, youth emphasized self-reliance and “street smarts” for survival and de-emphasized “victimhood,” which shaped their interactions with health care, and recommended that health providers develop increased understanding of CSE youth. Our findings suggest that providers and community agencies can play an essential role in raising awareness of the needs of CSE youth and meet their health needs through creating a non-judgmental environment in health care settings that validates the experiences of these youth.

[ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


Background: There is very limited evidence on the health consequences of human trafficking. This systematic review reports on studies investigating the prevalence and risk of violence while trafficked and the prevalence and risk of physical, mental, and sexual health problems, including HIV, among trafficked people. Methods and Findings: We conducted a systematic review comprising a search of Medline,
PubMed, PsycINFO, EMBASE, and Web of Science, hand searches of reference lists of included articles, citation tracking, and expert recommendations. We included peer-reviewed papers reporting on the prevalence or risk of violence while trafficked and/or on the prevalence or risk of any measure of physical, mental, or sexual health among trafficked people. Two reviewers independently screened papers for eligibility and appraised the quality of included studies. The search identified 19 eligible studies, all of which reported on trafficked women and girls only and focused primarily on trafficking for sexual exploitation. The review suggests a high prevalence of violence and of mental distress among women and girls trafficked for sexual exploitation. The random effects pooled prevalence of diagnosed HIV was 31.9% (95% CI 21.3%-42.4%) in studies of women accessing post-trafficking support in India and Nepal, but the estimate was associated with high heterogeneity ($I^2 = 83.7$%). Infection prevalence may be related as much to prevalence rates in women’s areas of origin or exploitation as to the characteristics of their experience. Findings are limited by the methodological weaknesses of primary studies and their poor comparability and generalisability. Conclusions: Although limited, existing evidence suggests that trafficking for sexual exploitation is associated with violence and a range of serious health problems. Further research is needed on the health of trafficked men, individuals trafficked for other forms of exploitation, and effective health intervention approaches. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


Trafficking of domestically born children in the United States into the sex trade has been recognized by the U.S. government under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2005. The Midwest has been exposed as a recruitment site for traffickers. Children who have been trafficked into prostitution often experience mental health problems, suffer physical and sexual assaults, have low self-esteem, and are put at risk for HIV/AIDS and other health problems. This article is based on qualitative interviews with 13 trafficked children from the Midwest. Findings reveal the experiences of victims and the network of players involved in trafficking in the Midwest. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

Perpetrator Characteristics & Tactics

The modus operandi is connected with the characteristics of the perpetrator of the crime; therefore it is a mean which through its analyses gives information that can be used to build a profile of the possible perpetrator of the crime. The XX and the beginning of the XXI century are marked by the many attempts to get to the real meaning and content of the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings. Called modern slavery, existing through the years, it has been adjusting its characteristics on the society's conditions, and its criminal process on the field conditions. The paper is directed to explain the process of trafficking in human beings using a review of its three phases, and afterwards building a framework of the possible modus operandi of the organized crime groups. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


This study examined coercive conditions experienced by trafficked persons in the context of Biderman’s theory of coercion. We conducted semi-structured interviews with 12 adult women trafficked into Los Angeles County, from 10 countries, for domestic work and/or sex work. Participants described health problems they experienced in relation to their trafficking experience and their perceptions of conditions that caused health problems. Utilizing a framework analysis approach, we analyzed themes using Biderman’s framework. Participants reported experiencing the range of nonphysical coercive tactics outlined by Biderman, including isolation, monopolization of perception, induced debility or exhaustion, threats, occasional indulgences, demonstration of omnipotence, degradation, and enforcement of trivial demands. Our analysis demonstrates how these coercion tactics reinforced the submission of trafficked persons to their traffickers even in the absence of physical force or restraints. Such psychological abuse creates extreme stress that can lead to acute and chronic, physical and mental health problems.


This paper presents research that analysed data regarding offenders convicted for trafficking offences in the United Kingdom. The paper identifies three themes relating to women’s involvement in trafficking activity. First, women perform lower level roles in trafficking that render them more susceptible to detection. Second,
previous experiences of victimization have often provided pathways into offending for these women. Third, convicted female traffickers are frequently involved in intimate relationships with male traffickers. A more responsive approach to female traffickers, it is argued, would acknowledge the role of previous victimization, show greater understanding of the power dynamics between co-defendants and would need to be supported by policy conversant of the intersections between economic and sexual exploitation, gender inequality and global inequalities. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


The commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC), specifically child trafficking, producers or consumers of child sex trafficking (i.e., prostitution), sexual abuse images, and enticement, has become a growing area of concern. The increasing profitability of CSEC, combined with the clandestine nature of the offenses, calls for immediate attention from international law enforcement and the mental health community. Paramount to the resolution of this global crisis is the identification of the perpetrators of various CSEC crimes. The research pertaining to these offenders is most frequently aggregated and limited to basic demographic data, providing a larger, more generalized picture of CSEC. The purpose of this study is to determine characteristics, within a sample of known CSEC offenders, that differentiate among offenders who engage in sex trafficking as trafficker; engage in sex trafficking as a producer or consumer; produce, distribute, or possess child sexual abuse images; and travel or use enticements to engage in illicit sexual contact with a minor. This observational, survey design includes a record review of 98 offenders who were processed through the FBI Miami Field Office. Results showed that males are more likely to engage in CSEC offenses compared to females. Offenders who collect child sexual abuse images tended to be employed, had no history of prior arrests, and were older than other CSEC offenders. Additionally, engaging in befriending strategies in order to gain access to a victim was also predictive of involvement in child sexual abuse images. Unemployment was the only statistically significant predictor of engaging in child sex trafficking as either a sex buyer or a producer. Finally, perpetrators who engaged in the traveling/enticement of victims were found to be younger, unemployed, single, and without a known history of contact offending. Implications of the findings are discussed. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2017 APA, all rights reserved)

In the sex trafficking literature, the term ‘trafficker’ is often used to refer to all the various actors who are involved in the business of transnational sex work. It thus includes those who recruit women in the source countries; those who transport victims across international borders; and those who manage and exploit the women in the various commercial sex venues in the destination countries. In this paper, we will look at some of the people who fall into these categories of being ‘traffickers.’ Our goal is to better understand the many people who are facilitating transnational commercial sex. We will explore their background characteristics, the reasons for their involvement in sex trafficking, their roles and functions in the business, and the nature of their relationships with the women who sell sex. We will also discuss the issue of whether, and to what extent, organized crime groups are involved as traffickers in the transnational sex trade. Our discussion is drawn from face-to-face interviews with commercial sex workers, and with sex ring operators and a variety of government officials. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


This article seeks to extend the sex trafficking literature by addressing the knowledge gap surrounding sex traffickers. In addition, this analysis broadens Antonopoulos and Winterdyk’s (2005) analysis by contending that sex traffickers in various sociohistorical contexts use neutralizations based on the intersectional vulnerabilities of their victims. An examination of the sociocultural influences on traffickers’ use of techniques of neutralization contributes to a deeper understanding of sex trafficking and its cultural and social bases. This is essential to combating the practice as effective countermeasures must address the motivations, cultural constructions, and exploitation of intersectional identities that support sex trafficking. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


This study examines reported victimization and reported offending of women involved in sex work in the United States in order to identify demographic and behavioral overlap between women who presented to the justice system as victims
and offenders, and between women identified as trafficked persons or as prostitutes. Results indicate significant offending and victimization experiences among women in the sex industry. Among women who presented both victimization and offending (victim-offenders)—compared to those who were exclusively victims or exclusively offenders and those without such experiences—substance abuse problems, injuries, and multiple arrests were proportionally higher. Distinctive behavioral differences between trafficked women and prostitutes were not evident. Policy implications for the justice system are discussed. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


In this article, the authors focus on the linkages between objectification and current societal manifestations of sexual violence toward women to make the case that everyday instances of objectification can provide the foundation for more extreme forms of violence. First, they formally introduce the notion of objectification and explain its origins and its consequences in those who perpetrate and those who experience it. Next, they use objectification as a lens through which to consider several related, but distinct, societal problems, including: sexual assault of college women, harassment of women in work settings, and sex trafficking of women in the United States and around the world. Finally, they offer potential solutions, which, if implemented at individual, organizational, and societal levels, could reduce violence against women in its many forms. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2017 APA, all rights reserved)


Psychopathy is highly prevalent within offenders who engage in the sex trafficking of juveniles (STJ) as 75% (n = 27) of offenders with sufficient data to assess the PCL-R (n = 36) met the criteria for psychopathy (n = 24 with a score of ≥ 30) and/or were close to the threshold (n = 3 with a score of 29.5) and 25% (n = 9; M = 26.78) exceeded the average score of North American adult male inmates (Patterson et al., 2013). Latent class analyses (LCAs) were conducted on 117 STJ offenders with data derived from protocols including demographics of the offenders and victims and various aspects of the nature of the criminal act(s) perpetrated by the offender focused upon the STJ offense(s). The LCA indicators were the STJ Scales measuring Criminal History Severity, Violence Severity, Criminal Sophistication and

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Charismatic Offender Behavioral Style. The second author’s expertise from the field and interviews with victims and offenders were utilized to substantiate the findings. Two broad types of STJ offenders emerged: 1- Aggressive/Antisocial and 2- Charismatic/Manipulative with subtypes. The STJ Risk Scale scores suggested that Violent Charismatic/Manipulative STJ Offenders posed the greatest danger to society. Enhanced understanding of STJ offenders especially in regards to risk assessment may result in reduction of harm to juveniles. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)

http://eds.a.ebscohost.com/eds/detail/detail?vid=16&sid=9937139e-bce8-4711-a7bc-121c3f353dc%40sessionmgr4009&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWRzLWxpdmU%3d#AN=53436131&db=f5h

“In examining human trafficking in 25 nations throughout the world we discovered that each country has its own environmental factors that create a unique set of anti-trafficking issues and obstacles. For example, in India you can’t address the issue of trafficking without also discussing the caste system. In the US you can’t properly address the post-trafficking experience of victims without mentioning the hot button issue of immigration. Despite nation-specific differences, the characteristics of human trafficking are remarkably similar worldwide. Such common characteristics are fraudulent recruitment, exorbitant travel and recruitment fees, the withholding of the victim’s visas and other identifying documentation, controlling and limiting the victim’s movements, threatening deportation, threatening to harm the victim or his/her family, and physically harming the victim. These frequent traits of the trafficking experience can be seen in any nation regardless of geographical location or whether the nation is considered first, second, or third world. What makes identifying each nation’s unique anti-trafficking issues and obstacles critical is not only to recognize potential victims but also to point to common practices or even national objectives that may be in direct conflict with the specific nation’s own anti-trafficking efforts. This article not only describes the precise picture of human trafficking in the US but also illustrates that no nation, including the US, is exempt.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

The role of women in the sex trafficking of minors in the United States has received limited research attention. Case study analysis of 49 female pimps from federal, state, and local cases were analyzed to explore whether there were differences in the penalties given to females when compared with their male co-defendants, and cross-case analysis was conducted to identify themes that represent female pimp typologies. Both prison sentence and probation sentences were significantly lower for female co-defendants when compared with their male co-defendants. Five discrete typologies were developed including Bottom, Madam/Business Partner, Family, Girilla, and Handler. Each of these had unique features regarding violence toward their minor victims, co-defendants, actions during the sexual exploitation of the minor, and sentencing outcomes. Implications for practice and future research were recommended. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

http://eds.a.ebscohost.com/eds/detail/detail?vid=6&sid=9937139e-bce8-4711-a7bc-121c3f3f53dc%40sessionmgr4009&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWRzLWxpdmU%3d#AN=125483632&db=ahl

“Based on a qualitative methodology that includes in-depth interviews with 90 Mexican migrant smugglers and 45 Central American farmworkers, this article analyzes the three separate elements of trafficking in US agriculture, namely acts, means, and purposes. We conclude that some US employers participate in human trafficking by financing or helping to recruit and transport Mexican and Central American migrants to the US by means of ‘abuse of a position of vulnerability’ for the purposes of involuntary servitude, debt bondage, and sex exploitation.”
[ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


Human trafficking is a global problem. In this paper, I seek to find the determinants of international human trafficking by using the US as a case study. Previous studies have drawn primarily from the migration literature, proposing hypotheses that focus on economic factors, the level of democracy and other ‘push’ factors in the countries of origin that create incentives for individuals to migrate. However, we know that international human trafficking is an involuntary form of migration and may be influenced by additional factors. I hypothesize that factors that influence the cost-benefit calculation of the trafficker determine the volume of human trafficking, in addition to the factors that affect the size of the pool of trafficking victims. I test
my theory using the negative binomial regression model. My results indicate that while income inequality within a country and poor protection of women's rights are likely to produce a specific pool of victims, it is the reduction of operational costs for the trafficker that increases the number of individuals who are trafficked.

[ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

This article explores the intersection between a trait of the commercial media and American criminal jurisprudence that existing legal scholarship has disregarded the systematic neglect of male victims in the publicity of human trafficking. Human trafficking, one of the world's three most profitable criminal activities and it affects U.S. also. The absence of publicity regarding boy sex trafficking makes it attractive to criminal networks, which specialize in getting young boys for sex and pornography.

The article offers information on the significant role of public corruption to the international human trafficking crisis in the U.S. It examines the links between public corruption and human trafficking based on the reflected scenario of trafficking protocols and monitoring systems. Also described is the scope of anti-trafficking programs and protocols that include national agreements between United Nations and the U.S. under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA). [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

Theories of coercion exist across multiple disciplines to explicate the ability of one actor, the coercer, to diminish the free will of another, the coercee, in the absence of overt physical force. A valid claim of coercion places legal blame on the coercer or relinquishes the coercee from legal responsibility for a coerced act or omission.
Defining the point at which coercion occurs, however, is the conceptually more difficult task. Recently, coercion has emerged as a significant source of analytic concern in a developing area of the law—contemporary involuntary labor or human trafficking. It is in this setting where coercion is explicitly codified as a fundamental legal element in human-trafficking crimes. However, the laws addressing human trafficking continue to struggle with delineating the dimensions of coercion. Legal scholars, moreover, have not yet engaged in a focused exploration of this issue to bring efficacy and substantive meaning to coercion within the human-trafficking framework. This Article examines the empirical and normative scope of coercion in the laws addressing contemporary involuntary labor. Incorporating perspectives from modern philosophy, this Article critiques older standards of coercion within Thirteenth Amendment doctrine and advances a new theory of coercion sensitive to the intricate power dynamics that characterize many human-trafficking cases. Called "situational coercion," this new paradigm recognizes that instead of experiencing coercion through direct threats of harm from their traffickers, many trafficked workers comply with abusive working conditions due to circumstances that render them vulnerable to the exploitation, such as a lack of legal immigration status and poverty. By more accurately capturing the sociological realities of human trafficking, which victimize workers in subtle ways, the situational coercion framework advances the Thirteenth Amendment's aim to ensure free labor and protect a broad category of coerced workers. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


Human trafficking has been identified as the second or third most profitable illicit business on the planet. Underlying these claims and billions of dollars in policy funding since the 1990s is an economics of human trafficking built heavily on two assumptions. The first is that nonconsensual labor is more profitable than consensual labor with minors being particularly profitable due to their ubiquity and inability to effectively consent. The second is that, unlike illicit narcotic and weapons sales, human trafficking involves a uniquely renewable and nearly limitless source of profit. This article uses empirical data collected from street sex markets in Atlantic City, New Jersey in 2010–2012 to test some of the assumptions of the economics of human trafficking and puts particular focus on U.S.-based domestic minor sex trafficking by exploring market practices and understandings of young sex workers and pimps/third parties who have opportunities to benefit from the sexual labor of minors. Consistent with broader literature by economic historians and labor process scholars, findings do not support the assumptions of trafficking
economics, suggesting the need for trafficking economists and policymakers to give more consideration to local political economies of sex in the design of antitrafficking policy. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


The article provides a conceptual framework of the juvenile female sex trafficker. The discussion is extrapolated from a variety of data points and sources including: studies of sex trafficking victims and juvenile sexual offenders (males and females), and a large cross-validated normative sample (N = 1056) of MEGA ♪ , a risk assessment tool for sexually abusive youth (Miccio-Fonseca, 2009, 2010, 2013, 2016). (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2017 APA, all rights reserved)


“A hypothesized sketch of the atypical juvenile sex offender who engages in human sex trafficking is extrapolated from empirical data from the findings of victims of sex traffickers, juvenile sex offenders, and from one of the largest (N = 1056) cross-validation studies of a risk assessment tool in the field for sexually abusive youth. The tool, MEGA ♪ , assesses risk level of sexually abusive youth (4–19 years, males and females, adjudicated and non-adjudicated, including youth with low intellectual functioning). The compiled empirical data supports a paradigm describing one of the least known, or studied type of sexually abusive youth: the sexually abusive juvenile who engages in sex trafficking.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


While human trafficking often conjures up images of victims being taken by force, in reality, a minority of today’s slave population are physically abducted. Rather, a significant share of human trafficking victims are “pushed” (e.g., trying to escape crisis conditions) or “pulled” (e.g., pursuing the prospect of economic opportunities) into situations of high risk. This study focuses on those who are “pulled” into risky scenarios, assessing when individuals make decisions that may put themselves at risk. I assume that individuals are boundedly rational, and propose an aspiration-based model of decision-making, which predicts that increased salience in relative
deprivation can lead individuals to be more risk-seeking, putting themselves and their children at greater risk for exploitation. Using both an original survey experiment and nationally-representative data in Nepal, I find that consistent with the theoretical model, perceptions of relative deprivation induce more risk-seeking behavior. This result speaks to the interaction between inequality and risk tolerance, and how economic and social forces that alter perceived relative deprivation can increase vulnerability to exploitation. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2017 APA, all rights reserved)


“Emerging research suggests that sex traffickers/pimps control the majority of trafficked girls in the United States. The youthfulness of these victims and their lack of psychosocial maturity severely diminish their ability to detect exploitative motives or withstand manipulation of traffickers. A review of 43 cases of sexually exploited girls involving non-relative traffickers and 10 semi-structured interviews with social service providers revealed numerous scripts and schemes used by sex traffickers to entrap and entangle victims including boyfriend/lover scripts, ruses involving debt bondage, friendship or faux-family scripts, threats of forced abortion or to take away children, and coerced co-offending. These findings inform potential prevention efforts and highlight the need for multi-systemic, victim-centered approaches to intervention.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


This manuscript orients human services workers to sex trafficking issues by providing a synthesis of available literature as it relates to victims. This paper addresses the definition and prevalence of sex trafficking, characteristics of youth who are vulnerable, and traffickers’ targeting, recruitment, and coercion techniques. In addition, recommendations present human service workers information on identifying factors, post-traumatic stress disorder, intervening, and advocating for sex trafficking victims. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

The author reflects on a law and economic assessment of sex and labor trafficking law in the U.S. Topics discussed include the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) to criminalize the widespread phenomenon of human trafficking, the cost-benefit analysis for traffickers and the characteristics of sex traffickers and labor traffickers. It also discusses the application of behavioral models of criminal deterrence to sex and labor trafficking.


Since the enactment of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, there has been an increase in both media and scholarly discussions of human trafficking. Although most of these discussions have framed human trafficking as a crime committed primarily by organized crime groups, there has been very little empirical research examining the link between human trafficking and organized crime. In an effort to start to address this gap in the research, we conduct an exploratory study to determine if there is a link between human trafficking and organized crime in one of the Southeast’s human trafficking hubs—Atlanta, Georgia. We collected data on 24 federal human trafficking cases that were indicted in metropolitan Atlanta between 2000 and 2013. Then, we conducted a content analysis of the court documents for each federal human trafficking case and classified the relationship between organized crime and human trafficking using one of three categories: nonexistent, organized criminal network, organized criminal syndicate. For the majority of the human trafficking cases (n = 16), we found that there was no relationship between organized crime and human trafficking. For the cases that did show a relationship between organized crime and human trafficking, we found evidence of organized criminal networks in eight of the cases and evidence of an organized criminal syndicate in only one case. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)

An excerpt from the report "State Ratings on Human Trafficking Laws" by the Polaris Project is presented, which focuses on laws governing labor trafficking victims and offenders.


Sex trafficking is a crime that affects nearly every community across our nation; it is an insidious threat that has proven difficult to track and quantify, and exceedingly hard to dismantle. We cannot ignore the networks, pipelines, the victims, or the systems that enable women trafficking. The above definitions highlight the role of coercion and deceit in trapping victims and isolating them from help, transporting them away from family and community networks, and exploiting them for economic or personal gain. Sex trafficking is a highly underreported crime for a variety of reasons, including the fact that "many trafficking victims do not identify themselves as victims. Some suffer from fear, shame, and distrust of law enforcement. It is also not unusual for trafficking victims to develop traumatic bonds with their traffickers because of the manipulative nature of this crime."[1] [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

Family Traffickers


It is well documented in the literature that child sex trafficking can be perpetrated by family members, though limited research has focused on describing this type of sexual exploitation. This pilot study addresses this gap by providing an analysis of familial sex trafficking considering trafficking dynamics, and rurality. Using a sample of 31 child welfare-involved children referred for behavioral health assessment and treatment, this mixed methods study explores: (1) victim and trafficker characteristics, the trafficking situation, law enforcement classifications of trafficking, clinical profiles of victims, and system involvement of children and youth involved in familial sex trafficking; (2) gender differences in clinical outcomes in sextrafficked children; and (3) geographical differences in severity of the victimization experience. Major findings document high rates of family members trafficking
children for illicit drugs; high severity of abuse as measured with the Sexual Abuse Severity Score, with higher severity of abuse for children living in rural communities; clinical threshold level scores on the Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL), and the Trauma Symptom Checklist for Children (TSCC-A). Boys and girls had similar clinical profiles except boys had higher CBCL externalizing scores, and females had higher TSCC depression scores. Additionally, more than half of the children in this sample had attempted suicide in their lifetime. This formative study sheds light on the phenomenon of familial sex trafficking, thereby creating the context for further investigations. Implications for identification and effective responses to familial sex trafficking, with specific attention to gender and geography are discussed. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

Johns and Buyers


A call to awareness regarding sex trafficking has increased research, bolstered social justice efforts, improved education, and influenced federal laws that protect victims and prosecute traffickers. Federal laws on sex trafficking are now being used through undercover sting operations via the Internet to arrest and prosecute buyers who attempt to engage in commercial sex with minors. A narrative analysis was completed to create an in-depth case study outlining the correspondences between a buyer and an undercover agent advertising trafficked children for sex. Readers are afforded a rare opportunity to examine actual emails related to the purchase of a child for sexual exploitation. The emails were used against the buyer as evidence within the court of law. The authors assert that the following case study will contribute to the body of literature on the victim selection processes and cognitive distortions employed by buyers of children for sex. [ABSTRACT FROM PUBLISHER]


Although researchers have examined sexual solicitation of minors online, there is limited research on the content and patterns of victim-offender chats. These chats have potential use in investigations for triaging and prioritising cases, enhancing understanding of offenders, developing treatments, and crafting education and
policy to prevent sexual solicitation of minors online. As part of a broader effort on Internet crimes against children (ICAC), we examine offender chat logs, email threads, and social network posts from state and local task forces on ICAC for a sample of 200 offenders in communications with undercover officers. We use mixed-methods analyses to identify key elements in these cases and propose a typology of online solicitation offenders: cybersex-only offenders, schedulers, cybersex/schedulers, and buyers. These findings provide support and expansion of existing research on offender types using a larger and more geographically diverse sample. Implications for research, practice, and policy are discussed. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2017 APA, all rights reserved)


We investigated attitudes and behaviors associated with prostitution and sexual aggression among 101 men who buy sex and 101 age-, education-, and ethnicity-matched men who did not buy sex. Both groups tended to accept rape myths, be aware of harms of prostitution and trafficking, express ambivalence about the nature of prostitution, and believe that jail time and public exposure are the most effective deterrents to buying sex. Sex buyers were more likely than men who did not buy sex to report sexual aggression and likelihood to rape. Men who bought sex scored higher on measures of impersonal sex and hostile masculinity and had less empathy for prostituted women, viewing them as intrinsically different from other women. When compared with non-sex-buyers, these findings indicate that men who buy sex share certain key characteristics with men at risk of committing sexual aggression as documented by research based on the leading scientific model of the characteristics of non-criminal sexually aggressive men, the Confluence Model of sexual aggression. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


The U.S. criminal justice system currently lacks a proportional, clear, and effective law targeted at individuals who purchase sex with trafficking victims. These "johns" of trafficking victims (JTVs) historically have remained anonymous and unaccountable. More recently, three unsatisfactory approaches to sanctioning this
group have emerged. First, they are sometimes subjected to low-level patronization and solicitation misdemeanors alongside johns of consensual sex workers. Second, they are increasingly prosecuted as traffickers under sex-trafficking legislation. Third, they are occasionally prosecuted as statutory rapists and sexabusers if the victim is a minor. This Note argues that none of these first three approaches are an adequate fit for this population. Treating them simply as johns ignores the seriousness of their offense and does not distinguish prostitution from trafficking. Treating them as traffickers is disproportionate on the other extreme, especially with recent strict liability interpretations of sex-trafficking statutes and mandatory minimums, and furthermore dilutes the term "human trafficking." Finally, treating them as statutory rapists is underinclusive and ignores the commercial nature of the offense. This Note explores a fourth approach being implemented sporadically on the federal and state levels: prosecuting johns of trafficking victims under legislation explicitly addressing this group. This Note argues that targeted legislation is the most appropriate and fair approach. It advocates modified versions of such legislation, with tailored mens rea standards and flexible penalties correlated to culpability. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


The article focuses on the aspect of how sex trafficking and prostitution be eradicated by focusing on sex purchasers. Topics discussed include the supply-and-demand market trend of illegal commercial sex trade, the changes in the U.S. criminal justice systems to fill the gap of law enforcement related to the issue, and the several consistent cases against purchasing sex such as violation of human respect and dignity.


Sex trafficking (ST), a contemporary form of female slavery, is a human rights issue of critical concern to social work. The global response to ST has been substantial, and 166 countries have adopted anti-ST legislation. Despite considerable efforts to combat ST, the magnitude is increasing. To date, the majority of anti-ST efforts have focused on criminalization policies that target traffickers or purchasers of sexual services, who are predominantly male; prevention programming and services for predominantly female victims have received less support. Therapeutic services to assist pornography addicts and purchasers of sexual services are also necessary. In this article, authors examine current anti-ST policies, programs, and
services, both domestically and globally, and present an innovative paradigm that addresses social inequities and emphasizes prevention programming. They conclude with a discussion of the paradigm’s implications for social work policies, practices, and services (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2018 APA, all rights reserved)


The article discusses how to provide legal protections for child victims of commercial sexual exploitation by criminally punishing the individuals who purchase child sex trafficking victims, and it mentions the differences between the various sex trafficking laws in the American states. U.S. law enforcement and the legal rights of minors and LGBT youth are examined, along with the impact of mental and physical trauma on a sex trafficking victim's decision making.


Research, programs, and legislation related to sex trafficking are often premised on the invisibility of the male buyer and the failure to address men's role in buying and abusing women in prostitution. Governments, UN agencies, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and others act as if the male demand for sexual exploitation is insignificant, or that prostitution is so entrenched because, after all, "men will be men." Little research on trafficking has focused on the so-called customer as a root cause of trafficking and sexual exploitation. And even less legislation has penalized the male customer whose right to buy women and children for prostitution activities remains unquestioned. This article looks at the demand--its meaning, the myths that rationalize why men buy women in prostitution, qualitative information on the buyers in two studies conducted by the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW)--as well as best practices that address the gender of demand. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)

Despite the common conception that human trafficking is primarily a problem beyond our shores, sex trafficking is a growing epidemic within the United States. Sex traffickers are increasingly preying on children in particular in response to growing demand for paid sex with younger girls and boys. Strikingly, the criminal justice system charges and prosecutes these trafficking victims for selling sex even though they have been forced into the trade. Unlike trafficked children, the adults who buy sex from them are rarely charged and, if they are, the charge—a low-level misdemeanor or violation—fails to reflect the gravity of their crime. Take away the exchange of money, and the justice system appropriately deems these children victims and their patrons rapists for engaging in the exact same acts. This Note argues that prosecutors should prosecute these adult patrons, also known as johns, with statutory rape. Their conduct constitutes child rape whether money is exchanged or not. The current charges of misdemeanors and violations are inadequate to reflect the severity of their crimes. By contrast, statutory rape is, in who has sex with a child under a certain age. Charging johns with an offense that more accurately reflects their criminality would reinforce the notion that children trafficked into the sex industry are victims, not criminals, and that the law must similarly treat trafficked and non-trafficked children. Additionally, the heightened penalty would decrease demand for trafficked children by deterring johns from participating in and thus driving the child sex market. 


This study aims to present a qualitative, empirically based typology of offenders who use online communications to commit sex crimes against minors, including offenders who met victims online and those who knew them in advance. Seventy-five reports made by law enforcement officers were analyzed using a qualitative software program, during which a typology defining 4 types of offenders was identified: the expert, the cynical, the affection-focused, and the sex-focused. Each type of offender was characterized by patterns of online communication, offline and online identity, relationship dynamics with the victim, and level of sex crime expertise. The typology reveals the heterogeneous nature of sex offenders who use online communications. This diversity must be addressed to provide satisfactory interventions for both victims and offenders.

Contemporary anti-prostitution campaigns focus on curtailing the demand by punishing sexual service consumers. One component of this approach is a diversion program, or john school, offered to those arrested for purchasing prostitution. This ethnography focuses upon the Nashville John School (NJS), which is comprised of informational presentations that educate johns about the risks associated with prostitution. I examine how the NJS utilizes elements of John Braithwaite’s (1989) reintegrative shaming as a technique of affective governance designed to discipline participants into docile subjects, whose sexual practices comport with an ideal envisioned by the state. Using Nathan Harris’ framework of shame management, I discuss participant responses as expressions of shame-guilt, embarrassment-exposure, or unresolved shame. Such categorizations illustrate the extent to which the affective appeals of program presenters are taken up or resisted. At the same time, I consider the type of subject the NJS seeks to produce: an individual whose sexual practices reside within a heteronormative marriage. I conclude that this mode of interpellating subjects into an idealized gender binary must be reconsidered, especially in light of diverse and emergent understandings of gender, sexuality, and family formation. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

As social service organizations develop capacity to address human trafficking, the foci remain preliminarily on linear approaches of prosecuting traffickers, providing emergency shelter, and forging service partnerships. The potential for change vis-à-vis grassroots organizing to reduce demand remains largely untapped. Building on The Salvation Army’s initial efforts to serve trafficking victims—who lacked knowledge of available services, had difficulty accessing services and remained vulnerable to threats to themselves and their family—we suggest that demand reduction strategies be pursued as a complementary approach to address this vital social work issue. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)

In the last few decades, trafficking in humans for the purpose of sexual exploitation has exploded into a sophisticated industry that generates billions of dollars in profit every year yet devastates the lives of millions of innocent victims. Many of the trafficked victims are impoverished girls and young women from economically depressed countries who are forced to work as prostitutes under brutal conditions in a foreign country. To date, most of the scholarly, legislative, and law enforcement attention has focused on the "supply" side of the sex trafficking equation, namely the traffickers and the victims. This Comment focuses on the "demand" side of the problem, namely the male clients of the prostitutes. The Comment first explains how the male demand for commercial sexual services sustains and grows the sex trafficking industry, and then examines various demand-side educational programs and legislative approaches and assesses their impact on minimizing and eradicating the demand. The Comment concludes by suggesting a comprehensive, demand-oriented approach to fighting sex trafficking. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

Research on Human Trafficking & Law Enforcement


The commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is a growing domestic health and policy concern. Exploited girls may be at heightened risk for entering the juvenile justice system. The purpose of this study was to explore the needs of CSEC victims and resources available for system-involved girls. The data from this study included semistructured interviews, case discussions, and residential placement meeting observations with juvenile justice personnel. Findings revealed labeling issues related to (1) how court workers construct female victims of CSEC through exploitation myths, (2) the importance of trauma history and relational contexts, and (3) system-level barriers. Recommendations for practice are discussed. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2017 APA, all rights reserved)

In this article, the author focuses on policies related to commercial sex and sex trafficking in the U.S. Topics discussed include the demand for commercial sex leading to sex trafficking, commercial sex being legal in Nevada, the Reaching Independence through Successful Empowerment (RISE) program being launched by judge Brent Carr, rescued sex trafficking victims suffering from conditions such as HIV/AIDS, need for decriminalization of sex workers and the need for punishing johns and pimps.


“A survey of police officers (n = 211) and prosecutors (n = 190) in Sweden was conducted to assess law personnel's beliefs about the behaviors and reactions of victims of violent crimes. There were considerable differences in the expected behavioral display of different types of crime victims, with rape and domestic assault victims seen as particularly prone to expressive self-presentation and self-blame. Despite empirical evidence showing otherwise, most respondents thought that crime victims' nonverbal and emotional expression is to some extent related to the truthfulness of their accounts. However, educational efforts appeared to have a corrective influence on such beliefs. The perceived prevalence of false reports differed across crime types, with rape and mugging receiving particularly high estimates. Police officers believed false reports to be more common than did prosecutors. Time constraints were seen, especially by prosecutors, as an impediment to appropriate treatment of crime victims. Potential explanations for occupational differences and limitations associated with the survey methodology are discussed.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


In several states, commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is now a reportable child abuse offense. Illinois has taken the lead in tackling the issue and the Illinois experience illuminates valuable lessons. This article delineates the protection, practice, and policy implications that evolve when CSEC falls under a state child welfare system. The specific aims are to (a) discuss CSEC, its victims, risks, harms, and challenges inherent in providing effective care; (b) use Illinois as an exemplar to explicate the consequences and implementation challenges of establishing a state reporting system that frames CSEC as a child welfare issue; (c) recommend strategies for developing effective state reporting models, and (d) demonstrate how nurses are well poised to advocate for victims of human trafficking on both state and national levels. Recommendations for improving the
identification of CSEC victims and overcoming challenges to state implementation are offered. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


Sex trafficking is a moral and legal tragedy that affects thousands in the United States and abroad. The U.S. State Department estimates that human traffickers bring between 14,500 and 17,500 persons annually into the United States for various avenues of exploitation, including involuntary servitude and forced prostitution. Human traffickers are highly organized into criminal syndicates that reap exponential profits exploiting vulnerable women and children. Individual states struggle to prosecute traffickers and must rely on federal prosecution of trafficking enterprises. International cooperation with local law enforcement is essential in combating trafficking, especially in the sex trade. This Article proposes that an international database be maintained to track the whereabouts of prosecuted traffickers, similar to the sex offender registry in the United States. Like the U.S. sex offender laws, which seek to dramatically decrease recidivism among sex offenders, an international registry could have a deterrent effect on trafficking. Limiting and monitoring the travel of convicted traffickers would be a new avenue that international law enforcement and governing bodies could use to contain the pernicious practice of trafficking. Reprinted by permission of the publisher.


The purpose of the study was to examine professionals' awareness, knowledge, and experiences working with youth victims of sex trafficking in metropolitan and non-metropolitan communities. Professionals who worked with at-risk youth and/or crime victims were recruited from all counties in a southern, rural state in the U.S. to complete a telephone survey. Surveys included closed and open-ended questions, which were theme coded. Professionals' (n=289) were classified into one of four categories based on the counties in which they worked: metropolitan, micropolitan, rural, and all three community types. Although there were many similarities found in trafficking situations across the different types of communities, some expected differences were found. First, as expected, more professionals in metropolitan
communities perceived CSEC as being a fairly or very serious problem in the state overall. Consistent with other studies, more professionals in metropolitan communities had received training on human trafficking and reported they were familiar with the state and federal laws on human trafficking (Newton et al., 2008). Significantly more professionals in metropolitan (54.7%) communities reported they had worked with a suspected or definite victim of STM compared to professionals in micropolitan communities (29.8%). There were few differences in victim characteristics, vulnerability factors, and trafficking situations (e.g., relationship to trafficker, traffickers' techniques for controlling victims, transportation, and Internet-facilitation of trafficking) across the community types. There is a continued need for awareness building of STM and training, particularly in non-metropolitan communities, as well as adoption of screening tools, integration of trauma-informed care, and identification of best practices. (Copyright © 2014 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.)


“Those who work with human trauma often use humor to handle job stressors. Research has demonstrated that lighthearted humor is related to lower secondary traumatic stress scores, while gallows humor has the inverse relationship. This work explores how three types of humor relate to secondary traumatic stress: (a) humor at the expense of victims, (b) humor at the expense of offenders, and (c) humor containing sexual innuendo. Internet crimes against children task force personnel completed questionnaires about secondary traumatic stress and coping techniques. Humor at the expense of victims was rarely used, but when it was, it was indicative of higher secondary traumatic stress. There were no relationships between secondary traumatic stress and the use of humor at the expense of offenders or humor containing sexual innuendo.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


This report is geared toward closing the gap of understanding between experts and policymakers, but it can be utilized by law enforcement to get a thorough comprehension of the operations behind human trafficking and where it is most recorded.

This exploratory study examined factors associated with service utilization among pre-certified victims of human trafficking. The Andersen-Newman model of service utilization guided the examination of the predisposing, enabling and need factors associated with service utilization. Tier level of country of origin was associated with the use of information and referral services; referral source was associated with the use of mental health services; and type of trafficking was associated with the use of mental health services and information and referral services. Type of trafficking predicted the total number of services utilized. Victims of sex trafficking used fewer services compared with victims of labor trafficking. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


The article discusses the human trafficking prosecutions in the Western and Eastern District of Missouri and the lessons that may be learned from the human trafficking task forces in the state. Topics include the development and implementation of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), the structure of the U.S. Department of Justice’s (DOJ) Civil Rights Division, and the political issues surrounding human trafficking.


In response to domestic and international concern about individuals being exploited for labor or commercial sex, the U.S. Government passed legislation in 2000, creating a new crime of human trafficking and devoting resources to the identification of victims and prosecution of perpetrators. Since that time, all 50 states have passed legislation criminalizing trafficking of persons, yet law enforcement responses to these new legal mandates have been uneven. Recent research suggests police agencies are generally unprepared to identify and respond to human trafficking incidents in local communities and, as a result, relatively few cases have been identified. Using data from medium-to-large municipal police agencies in the United States, this research examines competing explanations for the adoption of responses in the wake of new human trafficking
laws. The findings suggest the importance of institutional explanations including organizational experience with change. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


Research Summary The passage of new laws that criminalize the trafficking of persons for labor and sexual services has raised public awareness about the problem of human trafficking. In response, police must understand the problem, identify human trafficking victims, and make arrests. The numbers of victims identified to date, however, has paled in comparison with official estimates, which leads some to question the existence of a human trafficking problem. Missing from this debate is information about how frequently police encounter human trafficking and how well prepared officers are to handle these cases. Analyzing survey responses from a national sample of police agencies in the United States, we found that less than 10% of police agencies identified human trafficking cases from 2000 to 2006. Larger agencies were more likely to identify cases of human trafficking but the agency leader perception about the problem in their local communities as well as taking steps to prepare officers to identify and respond were the most important factors to increasing human trafficking identification by police.

Policy Implications This study provides much needed information about why U.S. officials have identified so few human trafficking victims. By understanding how often and under what conditions police find, investigate, and prosecute cases of human trafficking we will be in a better position to identify and overcome barriers to police responses to trafficking and understand the limitations of official statistics about human trafficking. Data from a national survey also provide a baseline measure of police identification of human trafficking against which we can gauge the progress of future anti-trafficking efforts. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


Since 2000, the federal government and all fifty states have passed laws that criminalize the trafficking of persons for labor and commercial sex. To date, relatively few human trafficking cases have been identified, investigated, and prosecuted by local criminal justice authorities. Using data from case records and qualitative interviews with police, prosecutors, and victim service providers in twelve
counties, we discuss the challenges local police face in identifying cases of human trafficking. We find that the culture of local police agencies and the perceptions of police officials about human trafficking do not support the identification of a broad range of human trafficking cases. Since local definitions of human trafficking are still evolving, police focus on sex trafficking of minors, which they perceive to be the most serious problem facing their communities. Reluctance to differentiate between vice and sex trafficking minimizes the problem of human trafficking and makes labor trafficking seem largely nonexistent. [ABSTRACT FROM PUBLISHER]


“Research has shown that the nature of interactions with police can impact victim recovery from trauma, satisfaction with police, and cooperation within the criminal justice system. However, evaluations of police effectiveness often view crime prevention as the “bottom line” for successful policing while overlooking the socioemotive factors that are actually important to victims. Drawing on the attributional and blaming literature for conceptual guidance, the present research examines 1,865 police-victim encounters from a large-scale observational study in an attempt to better understand the relationship between victim characteristics and police comforting behavior. The findings indicate that a number of factors affect the likelihood of whether comfort will be offered by police officers to victims. More specifically, female and middle- to upper-class victims were more likely to be comforted by police officers, as were those exhibiting signs of injury or depression. However, those encounters involving officers with a college degree or more years of work experience were less likely to involve comforting behavior. The implications of these findings for theory and practice are discussed.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


Human trafficking of young people is a social problem of growing concern. This paper reports selected findings from an evaluation of three programs serving domestic minor victims of human trafficking. Participants in this study were funded to identify and serve male and female victims of sex or labor trafficking who were less than 18 years old and were U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents. Programs provided case management and comprehensive services, either directly or through community collaboration. Evaluation data included data on client
characteristics, service needs and services delivered; key informant interviews with program staff and partner agencies; and case narrative interviews in which program staff provided in-depth descriptions of clients' histories. All clients served were known or believed to be sex trafficked. The majority of clients needed crisis intervention, safety planning, educational support, mental health services, and employment services. Although they were diverse in terms of demographics and circumstances, two common patterns were of homeless young people exchanging sex to meet survival needs and young people were emotionally engaged with their trafficker. Key findings include the diversity of trafficked minors, the challenge of initial and continued engagement with service delivery, the structural and resource barriers to long-term support for young people, and the potential contribution of programs specifically addressing trafficked minors. A framework linking services to young people's circumstances and outcome areas is proposed. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

http://eds.a.ebscohost.com/eds/detail/detail?vid=20&sid=9937139e-bce8-4711-a7bc-121c3f3f53dc%40sessionmgr4009&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWRzLWxpdmU%3d#AN=83332438&db=a9h

“Human trafficking represents one of the largest criminal enterprises worldwide. International anti-trafficking efforts depend on the cooperation of individual governments to incorporate anti-trafficking measures within all levels of law enforcement. Millions of dollars have been appropriated for training and awareness programs within the USA. Research indicates, however, that there may be a lack of human trafficking awareness and training among local and state law enforcement agencies. Findings from a survey within the State of Georgia support the notion that training and awareness initiatives may not be reaching local counterparts.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


This article examines the issue of child trafficking in the United Kingdom and of multi-agency responses in tackling it. The United Kingdom, as a signatory to the recent trafficking protocols, is required to implement measures to identify and support potential victims of trafficking—via the National Referral Mechanism.
Effective support for child victims is reliant on cooperation between agencies. Our regional case study contends that fragmented agency understandings of protocols and disjointed partnership approaches in service delivery means the trafficking of vulnerable children continues across the region. This article asserts that child trafficking in the United Kingdom, previously viewed as an isolated localized phenomenon, maybe far more widespread, revealing deficiencies in child protection services for vulnerable children. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


Throughout the United States, legal professionals and advocates have taken measures to address the access to victims of sex trafficking. A commonly accepted practice has been to advocate for the removal of 'sex for sale' advertising in free media such as Craigslist and Backpage. Although this action against the solicitation of prostitution has been celebrated by many advocates and legal professionals, the removal of such advertisements does not directly affect the prevalence of sex trafficking. In fact, displacement theory suggests that the removal of solicitation advertisements and targeted policing forces traffickers to simply advertise elsewhere or become more creative in selling the victims, thereby concealing the act of sex trafficking and making it less identifiable. Although we do not advocate for the maintenance of 'sex for sale' advertisements, the process of removing these ads is counterproductive, having little positive impact on the incidence of sex trafficking in the United States. Rather, it forces both traffickers and victims to bury deeper in the already hidden world of sex trafficking. Policy implications derived from criminal displacement theory and research are provided. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/15614263.2014.880839
This study explores the informativeness of 24 adolescents exploited in sex trade in Sweden when they were interviewed by police officers about their experiences. The questions and responses were analysed using coding types developed for research on forensic interviews. Qualitative analyses of the questions resulting in evasive
responses and the court files were also done. The findings show that the adolescents were informative yet evasive, specifically when asked open questions. Experiences of violence and interviews conducted soon after the police intervention may result in higher levels of evasiveness. Concurrently, evasiveness seems to be intimately connected to unique circumstances in each case. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


Human trafficking is an issue that has grabbed the attention of the world over the past 15 years. But meaningful progress and research are still held back by a number of debates between academics, policy makers, and activists. Agreeing upon a consistent definition and methods of measuring trafficking presents a challenge, as does the continued focus on the sextrafficking of women into prostitution to the exclusion of other types of trafficking and genders. Debates over what type of crime trafficking is and what drives it (organized crime, human rights, migration policies) have also had important impacts on the way that the phenomenon is conceptualized and dealt with at the national and international levels. This article outlines these debates and suggests directions for future research that can reveal the complexities of the phenomenon but also clarify our understandings of the lived experiences of people involved and the processes that drive it. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


Drawing from 12 in-depth interviews and two focus groups with prosecutors, attorneys, victim advocates, social service providers, and police in an urban Midwestern city, challenges to identifying and prosecuting sex trafficking cases are examined. Challenges to identification included trafficking techniques such as coercion, online solicitation, hidden venues, and interstate movement, as well as issues with police reporting and investigation. Challenges to prosecution involved police reporting errors and evidentiary requirements, the statute of limitations, overlapping jurisdictions, and issues with victim testimony. The aim in highlighting such obstacles is to emphasize the dynamics that may contribute to lowered numbers of identified and prosecuted cases, and consequent underestimation of
sex trafficking prevalence. Implications for policy and practice are drawn from these findings. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


The relationship between human trafficking training of helping professionals and identification of international victims in a U.S. locality presumed to have a large number of victims was examined over a three-year period. No relationship was observed; although the number of trainees increased annually to a total of more than 7,000, the number of newly identified victims remained low, for a total of only 43. Possible explanations for this finding are discussed. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


The human trafficking industry has become one of the largest and most profitable industries worldwide. Sex trafficking victims are forced into exploitative conditions including being required to break laws to benefit their captors. Law enforcement officers are trained to apprehend criminals for the public good. For these reasons, law enforcement officers may tend to view a victim as a criminal if trafficked individuals are breaking the law, such as in prostitution. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to understand if the knowledge about trafficking and beliefs about prostitution predict whether an officer perceives a person as a victim or a criminal in an ambiguous prostitution-based situation. This study hypothesizes that the amount of time on the police force and training in trafficking are predictive. This study followed a correlational research design, using Pearson's R Correlations and a Multiple regression to determine predictive ability of the four variables, knowledge, training, beliefs, and time on the force. The criterion variable is the respondent's choice of criminal or victim (i.e. perception) in response to a vignette. The goal of this study is to find information that may be used to decriminalize victims and provide victims with appropriate assistance. Results found a significant relationship between total knowledge in human trafficking and victim identification in the victim vignette. A significant relationship was also found between total training in human
trafficking and victim identification in the ambiguous vignette. Training and knowledge were found to be predictive of victim identification (i.e. perceptions).
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Child trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) is a complex phenomenon, requiring multifaceted programs and policies by various stakeholders. A number of publications have focused on preventing this heinous crime. Less attention, however, has been paid to the recovery and rehabilitation of children who have been traumatized as a result of being trafficked for CSE. This article focuses on the first step in the protection and recovery process, which is to ensure that procedures are in place for their identification, so that they might access timely and appropriate assistance. It highlights three situational and two child-related challenges to identification. In addition, it describes the additional victimization experienced by children who are wrongly arrested for crimes associated with prostitution or illegal border crossings, rather than being identified as victims. An extensive literature review was conducted, and included academic publications, as well as governmental and non-governmental reports. In addition, field-based qualitative research was undertaken in South and Southeast Asia, and involved interviews with representatives from United Nations and governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and aftercare recovery programs.
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The article discusses the importance of partnership among the law enforcement agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and policymakers which are involved in the implementation of the U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) as of October 2012. A reported lack of federal prosecutions under the TVPA is addressed, along with victims advocates and anti-trafficking movements. The U.S. Department of Justice's mission to combat trafficking is assessed, along with forced prostitution.

In 2008, the San Francisco-based anti-trafficking non-profit organization Not for Sale launched a campaign advocating “backyard abolitionism,” training American citizens to seek out and identify victims of human trafficking as part of their everyday activities. Based on two years of ethnographic participant observation with two evangelical Christian human trafficking outreach projects in Southern California, this article examines the processes of what I term vigilante rescue in human trafficking. The enthusiasm around this brand of civilian vigilantism mirrors contemporary trends in urban governance, including community policing and civilian neighborhood patrol as modes of law enforcement engagement that operate outside the formal dictates of “state control.” The non-state actors discussed in this paper are empowered not through professional skills or legal authority, but rather through merging American concern with human trafficking with moral panics concerning race, class, and migration as markers of sex trafficking. Situating new trends in human trafficking vigilant rescue within the extant literatures on neoliberal governance globally, this article argues that vigilante rescue enforces state goals of surveillance and policing of working-class immigrant women in Los Angeles. These activities further racial, gender, and class divides that extend sexual state politics and privilege criminal justice rather than social welfare solutions to human trafficking. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


An essay recommending ways to improve law-enforcement identification of human trafficking is presented. It stresses the need for law enforcers to learn the legal definition of trafficking and see the aspects of traditional law enforcement in a different perspective. The task forces established by the U.S. Justice Department are also described. Specific recommendations from “Where Are All the Victims? Understanding the Determinants of Official Identification of Human Trafficking Incidents," by Amy Farrell, Jack McDevitt and Stephanie Fahy, are presented.


The multidimensional complexities associated with the criminal justice response to human trafficking are well documented. The transient and subversive nature of
human trafficking as organised crime and the large number of multidisciplinary role-
players involved in coordinating cross jurisdictional efforts to prevent, investigate
and prosecute such cases, contribute to this complex undertaking. Complex
systems theory suggests that a complex social problem such as human trafficking
cannot be approached by using a linear or simplified lens, and requires a holistic
perspective on the complex interactions between actors, and emergent behaviour in
both the criminal justice system and the human trafficking system that it seeks to
combat. This paper explores the characteristics of complexity, and uses illustrations
from the lived experiences of actors in South Africa’s efforts to combat human
trafficking, in order to demonstrate how complex systems theory could be
considered and integrated into the criminal justice response to human trafficking.
( PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2017 APA, all rights reserved)

Training and Services among US Law Enforcement Agencies. Police Practice &
Research, 7(2), 149-160. doi:10.1080/15614260600676833
=true&db=a9h&AN=20573572&site=eds-live

Public awareness of and concern over the trafficking of women and children has
never been greater among governments, international agencies, and global NGOs.
Most recently the USA has joined the global initiative to fight trafficking by creating
federal victim assistance and trafficking prevention legislation. While trafficking
involves transnational crime, it is the local law enforcement officer, rather than the
federal agent, who is most likely to encounter crimes such as prostitution that may
be related to trafficking in human beings. This research is an exploratory
assessment of the nature and extent of the local law enforcement response to
trafficking in human beings within the USA. Though only an exploratory study of a
limited number of local police agencies, the findings reflect little local law
enforcement preparation to deal with trafficking and general attitudes that would not
promote a proactive and informed response to this crime. [ABSTRACT FROM
AUTHOR]

Law Enforcement Awareness and Response. Journal Of Contemporary Criminal
Justice, 24(3), 296. Retrieved from
=true&db=edb&AN=33114369&site=eds-live

This analysis explores the extent and characteristics of human trafficking in
Columbus and Toledo, Ohio, including the response to the problem by law
enforcement agencies. Through a content analysis of newspaper accounts and
interviews with criminal justice officials and social service providers in each city, the authors identified 10 cases of juvenile sex trafficking and forced prostitution in Toledo and 5 cases of trafficking for the forced labor of noncitizens in Columbus. The offenders and victims involved in the sex trafficking cases were largely from the local area, whereas those involved in the labor trafficking cases primarily involved foreign nationals, thereby illustrating at least one role the heartland plays in transnational crime. The authors compare the different responses to human trafficking in the two cities and suggest how to raise awareness about human trafficking and improve the responses of law enforcement agencies to the problem.

[ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

Policy


This research examines changes in the legalities of federal sentencing for forced labor trafficking offenses and for sex trafficking from 2001 to 2010. During this period Congress sought to increase substantially penalties imposed for these offenses. The research tracks Congressional directives and the United States Sentencing response via amendment changes. Increases in mandatory minimum penalties and extension of federal statutes covered under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines § 2H4.1 Peonage, Involuntary, and Slave Trade, and under § 2G1.3 Promoting a Commercial Sex Act or Prohibited Sexual Conduct with a Minor; Transportation of Minors to Engage in a Commercial Sex Act or Prohibited Sexual Conduct; Travel to Engage in Commercial Sex Act or Prohibited Sexual Conduct; Travel to Engage in Commercial Sex Act or Prohibited Sexual Conduct with a Minor; Sex Trafficking of Children; Use of Interstate Facilities to Transport Information about a Minor reflected Congressional directives that amounted to a 'get tough' policy. Having traced changes in federal sentencing for these two offenses, the research conducts a descriptive analysis of length of imprisonment imposed, the final offense level, the defendant's criminal history, guidelines departures, pretrial detention, route of case disposition, and defendant characteristics for the purpose of assessing potential links between the changes in federal sentencing and the process and outcome of actually sentencing practices.

[ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

This paper applies trade liberalization theories to human trafficking, a "human rights" or "law enforcement-crime" problem, bringing together two seemingly unrelated areas of law. I claim that we can use economic and free market theories and principles to create a more comprehensive understanding of human trafficking and to harness the power of the market to further human rights protection. To directly address the economic and trade-based forces that nurture modern trafficking in humans, I propose a trade-law inspired framework for interpreting and combating trafficking that would encompass and supplement the four frameworks now utilized. I also recommend the reconceptualization of human trafficking within the movement of peoples and migration, both licit and illicit, and of labor's role in the international economic system, and suggest that labor be given the same status as capital or intellectual property. Specifically, I call for a new multilateral agreement that would be an annex to the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization, with co-equal status to, for example, the Agreement on Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


The Trafficking Victims' Protection Act of 2000 has been presented as an important tool in combating the exploitation and abuse of undocumented workers, especially those forced into prostitution. Through a close reading of the legislation and the debates surrounding its passage, this article argues that the law makes strategic use of anxieties over sexuality, gender, and immigration to further curtail migration. The law does so through the use of misleading statistics creating a moral panic around "sexual slavery," through the creation of a gendered distinction between "innocent victims" and "guilty migrants," and through the demand that aid to victims be tied to their willingness to assist in the prosecution of traffickers. As a result, the legislation is less a departure from, than of a piece with, other recent antisex and anti-immigrant policies. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


“The article discusses the use of legislative change in the American states as a means of legally combating human trafficking, and it mentions the enactment of the
U.S. Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, the Uniform Law Commission’s Uniform Act on Prevention of and Remedies for Human Trafficking (Uniform Act), and the reassessment of various state human-trafficking laws and procedures across the U.S. Monetary damages and injunctive relief are assessed.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

The doctrine of federal preemption provides a framework for resolving the tension between the treatment of prostituted minors under federal sex trafficking law and criminal prostitution laws in many states. Federal preemption doctrine holds that state laws are preempted if they conflict with a federal law by frustrating its purpose. The federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) defines individuals under age eighteen who engage in commercial sex as per se victims of severe sex trafficking. The TVPA seeks to protect these individuals by treating them as victims and providing them with services. Many states, on the other hand, define prostitution without regard to age and enforce criminal prohibitions against the same category of minors that the federal law seeks to protect. This Comment argues that states’ enforcement of criminal prostitution laws against minors frustrates the TVPA’s purposes with regard to prostituted minors by (1) treating prostituted minors as offenders, rather than victims, (2) contributing to misidentification of victims, and (3) discouraging prostituted minors from cooperating with law enforcement, thereby impeding federal efforts to investigate and prosecute trafficking. This Comment concludes that the TVPA preempts states’ enforcement of criminal prostitution laws against minors. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

An essay is presented which focuses on the commitment of the U.S. Government to decriminalizing victims of sex trafficking. Topics discussed include failure of the U.S. criminal justice systems for decriminalize victims of sex trafficking which violates international human rights law, need for enacting the safe harbor laws for child sex trafficking victims, strict regulations for the law enforcement officials and need to decriminalizing everyone involved in commercial sex.
http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/1077801204268647

After several years of public debate initiated by the Swedish women's movement, the Law That Prohibits the Purchase of Sexual Services came into force on January 1, 1999. The Law is the first attempt by a country to address the root cause of prostitution and trafficking in beings: the demand, the men who assume the right to purchase persons for prostitution purposes. This groundbreaking law is a cornerstone of Swedish efforts to create a contemporary, democratic society where women and girls can live lives free of all forms of male violence. In combination with public education, awareness-raising campaigns, and victim support, the Law and other legislation establish a zero tolerance policy for prostitution and trafficking in human beings. When the buyers risk punishment, the number of men who buy prostituted persons decreases, and the local prostitution markets become less lucrative. Traffickers will then choose other and more profitable destinations. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


The article discusses the proposed creation of a U.S. federal crime for pimping (prostitution) as of 2015, and it mentions American sex trafficking legislation and laws, the U.S. Congress’ reauthorization of the nation's Trafficking Victims Protection Act in 2013, and legal protections for victims of human sex trafficking. The differences between pimps and sex traffickers are examined, as well as American constitutional and criminal laws.


The article discusses the U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and its impact on sex trafficking victims as of April 2012, as well as an examination of the country'sProsecutorial Remedies and Tools Against the Exploitation of Children Today Act of 2003 (PROTECT Act) which imposes harsh sentences on America sex tourists. The requirement that a person receive certification from the nation's
Department of Health and Human Services as a severe trafficking victim is addressed.


This brief summarizes efforts made by President Obama to combat human rights violations, including human trafficking.


In this article, Virginia Kendall, T. Markus Funk, and Elizabeth Banzhoff discuss the pernicious presence of human trafficking in global supply chains, and examine the recent swath of enactments designed to conscript the business world into the expanding anti-trafficking fight. The Executive Order Against Human Trafficking in Government Contracts and the California Transparency in Supply Chains Act lead the way, but there are also other laws and regulations on the books forming a comprehensive--and in the past often under-appreciated--bulwark against human trafficking, forced labor, and other forms of exploitation. The authors examine the substance of these laws and their actual (and potential) impact on the business world, and provide recommendations for compliance with these groundbreaking new regulations. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


The article discusses the 1996 U.S. Communications Decency Act's Section 230's impact on human sex trafficking through the Internet, including child trafficking. An overview of the relationship between online advertising of sex trafficking victims and Section 230 is provided. The social context surrounding 1996 U.S. Congress's passing of CDA is discussed.

Minors performing commercial sex acts are deemed victims of human trafficking according to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. However, prosecutors and judges continue to charge and adjudicate American minors as prostitution offenders instead of treating them as sexually exploited youths. These victims have typically suffered from sexual abuse, poverty, and other trauma and are especially vulnerable to pimps and traffickers. They suffer from physical and sexual violence, as well as psychological and emotional problems, thus deserving specialized social services in order to recover their lives. In order to stop the perpetuation and revictimization of sexually exploited youth, states should join the movement in passing Safe Harbor laws, modeled on existing New York law. The law presumes that minors charged with prostitution are victims and children in need of social services and allocates discretion in carefully defined circumstances when a judge concludes a minor charged with prostitution is not capable of rehabilitation by services alone. Key Points for the Family Court Community: (i) Several states have passed Safe Harbor legislation which functions to identify minors involved in prostitution as victims of commercial sexual exploitation. (ii) In order to best protect victims of sex trafficking, states should follow the progress made by New York and pass Safe Harbor statutes that will create a presumption of immunity for prostituted minors, thus providing discretion to allocate social services or order a juvenile delinquency petition depending on the circumstances of the case. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


The European legal instruments on human trafficking encourage states to tackle the demand for services of trafficked persons, for example, by making the use of services of a trafficked person a criminal offense. In Finland, buying sex from a trafficked person is a criminal offense. This article reports the results of an evaluation of the Finnish law and shows that the implementation has been inefficient. The authors argue that with an amendment of the law, the implementation could be improved but a truly efficient policy would require a total ban of sex purchase along the lines of the Swedish model. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

The article focuses on the laws governing U visa in the U.S. for providing protections and immigration relief from deportation for immigrant crime victims. Topics discussed include enactment of Violence Against Women Act for preventing the same; an account of justice administration of the country; and enactment of Trafficking Victims Protection Acts of 2000 providing the same.


This White House brief presents an overview of an executive order signed by President Obama to strengthen protections against trafficking in federal contracts. The executive order established new measures to prevent contractors from trafficking persons as well as training for agencies responding to trafficking violations.


This brief summarizes efforts President Obama made to combat human trafficking in the U.S. and abroad. An overview of policies, plan for future action, and increased resources and trainings are described.


The Trafficking Victims Protection Act, passed by the US Congress in 2000, criminalizes the forced or deceptive movement of people into exploitative conditions of labor and provides services to victims. The law makes a symbolic distinction (although it holds no legal meaning) between “sex” and “non-sex” trafficking (i.e., movement into forced prostitution and movement into other forced labor sectors), thereby marking “sex trafficking” as a special category. This article explores how the law is translated into action through symbolically-mediated processes that incorporate assumptions and narratives about sex, gender, and victimization, as
well as how the symbolic privileging of sex trafficking results in uneven treatment of victims. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


In March 2014, the Colorado Court of Appeals acquitted Dallas Cardenas of all human trafficking charges. The court determined that under the 2014 version of Colorado’s human trafficking statute, a defendant who sold the sexual services of a minor, as opposed to selling a minor for sex, did not commit the crime of human trafficking. Following the Cardenas decision, the state legislature passed House Bill 1273, which broadened the language of the statute and eliminated all possible affirmative defenses, including minor consent. Under the new law, a defendant can no longer argue that a minor consented to commercial sex. However, the new legislation failed to include what is colloquially referred to as a "safe harbor law"—a law that shields minors from unjust prosecution for prostitution-related offenses and connects victims with services, such as housing, counseling, and record sealing. In doing so, the state left a blatant gap in the law where a person who sells someone under the age of eighteen for sex can be convicted of child trafficking, while, simultaneously, the child victim can be arrested and charged with prostitution. This Comment argues that Colorado must pass a safe harbor law to remedy this legal inconsistency. Such a law would ensure that the state’s sexually exploited youth are consistently treated as victims rather than criminals and would provide victims with access to the services and support they need in order to escape, once and for all, the world of commercial sex. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


Human trafficking has been described as modern day slavery. Its victims are exploited for labor, including commercial sex. In 2000, the United States enacted the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (TVPA) to prevent trafficking, protect victims, and prosecute traffickers. The original TVPA focused on international trafficking, including reducing trafficking globally, providing assistance to immigrant victims of trafficking in the United States, and prosecuting traffickers. This commentary focuses on immigrant victims in the United States and does not address the similarly problematic element of the policy that pertains to U.S. government rankings of and sanctions against other countries in relation to trafficking. The examples provided here demonstrate that current federal policy on
human trafficking is fraught with political and ideological biases; there is almost no
evidence base for any of the policy provisions; there is little transparency or
accountability in policy implementation; relatively few immigrant victims have been
identified, and there is almost no evidence regarding effectiveness of victim
services; and prosecution is highly problematic. (PsycINFO Database Record (c)
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Swanson, J. (2016). SEXUAL LIBERATION OR VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN?
THE DEBATE ON THE LEGALIZATION OF PROSTITUTION AND THE
RELATIONSHIP TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING. New Criminal Law Review, 19(4),
592-639. doi:10.1525/nclr.2016.19.4.592
This article explores arguments about the legalization of prostitution and how
they impact human trafficking. One argument holds that prostitution is a form of
sexual liberation, expression, and women’s agency. The counterargument views
prostitution as a form of violence against women and maintains that, where
prostitution is legal, human trafficking will increase to meet the open demand for
sex. These arguments, however, do not account for variations in cultural beliefs
and traditions, gender inequality, or the impact of the formation of a global
society. The complementary theoretical frames of gender inequality and the
formation of a global society are viewed through a global criminal justice lens.
Through this framework, this article discusses the prostitution and human
trafficking laws of the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States,
which have varying stances on the legalization of prostitution, and how their
laws create challenges for law enforcement. Without consideration for
complementary theoretical frames, differing laws among jurisdictions, and
challenges for law enforcement, problems such as overgeneralization, faulty
assumptions, and passing ineffective or short-sighted laws will fuel the debate
on the legalization of prostitution and, in turn, inhibit progress in efforts to
combat human trafficking. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

Understanding the organization, operation, and victimization process of labor
doi:10.1007/s12117-015-9257-9
host-live
An excerpt from the report "State Ratings on Human Trafficking Laws" by the
Polaris Project is presented, which focuses on laws governing labor trafficking
victims and offenders.

The article discusses issues concerning human trafficking laws involved in labor and employment legal practices. Topics discussed include efforts of the American Bar Association (ABA) Section of Labor and Employment Law to promote fairness, justice and human welfare in labor; action plans adopted by the United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU) to address trafficking; and suggestions on providing training to employees to identify potential trafficking signs.


“A speech is presented on the subject of preventing human trafficking, delivered by the U.S. Assistant Attorney General Beth A. Williams, at Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts on March 23, 2018. An overview of the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ's) efforts to prevent human trafficking, including collaborating with Mexican law enforcement, is provided. It discusses victims of human trafficking, including the exploitation of poor people in trafficking.” [SUMMARY FROM AUTHOR]


The United States enacted the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 to combat organized networks specializing in the illicit transport of human beings across political and geographical boundaries. This response has engendered conflicting definitions and competing agendas attributable to the definition set forth by the TVPA, which divides the crime into ‘sex’ verses ‘labor’ trafficking. The European Union (EU) adopted a different and detailed definition introduced by the United Nations. This paper explores the disparity in anti-trafficking policies of the United States and the EU. By contrasting these efforts, recommendations to strengthen U.S. policy by adapting certain EU practices to an American context are suggested. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]
Practices


This article focuses on international labour standards and the contribution they make towards securing justice for victims of forced labour practices, outside of the context of armed conflict. It is argued that, in order to address the root causes of contemporary forced labour and slavery, criminal justice responses should be viewed within a broader system of labour justice. This broader system allows for deeply entrenched discriminatory beliefs and practices and socio-economic relationships, which commonly underpin practices of forced labour, to be slowly changed over time, by privileging a collective logic of bargaining between organized workers and employers. It also addresses practices that fall below the threshold of criminal conduct, but nonetheless, may contribute to the exaction of forced labour. By analysing international labour standards, and their supervision and concrete application, this article demonstrates that justice for the most excluded in today’s labour markets requires a combination of pressure and persuasion on those individuals and entities that can potentially change the structural root causes of forced labour. The importance of criminal justice and strategic litigation in individual cases is not rejected or overlooked. On the contrary, criminal justice needs to be strengthened and better applied to end widespread impunity. But, as argued from the outset, many practices related to contemporary forms of forced labour and slavery should also be dealt with under alternative mechanisms of justice so that the underlying root causes can be effectively eliminated. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


Human trafficking is a significant global problem that impacts hundreds of thousands of people each year who are coerced into forced labor, domestic servitude, or the commercial sex industry. Although the international community is becoming more aware of the scope of the trafficking problem, it is not sufficient for governments to enact anti-trafficking legislation. Trafficking victims are difficult to identify and assist, since these victims are often stigmatized or treated as criminal offenders. Greater efforts need to be made at the local level to develop social services properly trained to assist in facilitating victim cooperation with law
enforcement and to handle the particular mental and emotional needs of trafficking victims. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


Objectives: Children outside of family care face increased risk of threats to their well-being, have lower educational achievement, and experience adverse developmental outcomes. While it is generally accepted that early response and intervention is critical to reducing the risk of harm for children who have been separated from their families, it is not always clear what the most effective early response strategies are for assessing and addressing their immediate needs. The purpose of this review was to identify evidence-based early response strategies and interventions for improving the outcomes of children outside of family care, including children of and on the street, institutionalized children, trafficked children, children affected by conflict and disaster, and who are exploited for their labor.

Methods: A multi-phased, systematic evidence review was conducted on peer-reviewed and gray literature, which yielded a total of 101 documents that met the inclusion criteria and were reviewed. Results: Overall there is a weak evidence base regarding assessment and early response interventions for children living outside of family care. Few studies included careful outcome measures or comparison groups. Although few proven interventions emerged, the review identified several promising early interventions and approaches. In emergency settings, family tracing and reunification is a highly effective response in regard to separated children, whereas placing children in institutional care is problematic, with the possible exception of time-limited placements of formerly recruited children in interim care centers. Livelihood supports are promising in regard to preventing and responding to children living outside family care. Other promising interventions include psychosocial support, including the use of traditional cleansing rituals as appropriate, educational supports such as Child Friendly Spaces, the maintenance of family connectedness for children of or on the streets, the use of community-based approaches that aid social integration, and approaches that enable meaningful child participation. A recurrent theme was that to be effective, all assessments and interventions must fit the context. Conclusion: A strong need exists for strengthening the evidence base regarding the effectiveness of early assessments and responses to children living outside family care and for using the
evidence to guide operational policy and practice. Recommendations regarding policy, practices, and research emerged from the review process. [Copyright &y& Elsevier]


This paper describes an innovative policing approach for identifying potential exploitation of children during roadside traffic stops and other interactions with citizens. The goal of the Interdiction for the Protection of Children program (IPC) is to train law enforcement officers to identify: (a) individuals who pose a high risk to children; (b) children who are being trafficked, exploited, or abused by one or more adults; and c) children who are at risk for various forms of exploitation (e.g., runaways, abductees). The training component first provides law enforcement officers with a conceptual framework for understanding child sexual exploitation. Next, instructors train participants to identify overt as well as subtle indicators that an individual with whom they are interacting may be a child victim, a child at risk for victimization, or a perpetrator of a sexual crime. Trainers emphasize the importance of working within multidisciplinary child protection systems to ensure the well-being and safety of each child. Upon the completion of training, officers utilize their skills on the street to better detect and intervene in matters involving child sexual exploitation, and intelligence analysts and researchers collect data from field personnel to improve program effectiveness. In the current document we describe the program's methodology and application, including results of two major operations. We also discuss implications and provide suggestions for future directions. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


This article demonstrates how Crime Scripting is a viable and cost-effective tool in supporting strategic policing without requiring additional data, software, or training. This study shows how a script can deconstruct a complex crime into its component parts and create a set of outcome-focused recommendations informed by the principles of Situational Crime Prevention. Scripting offers an effective framework for collating and condensing voluminous data in order to establish a clear sequence of actions and decisions crucial to a given crime. This practical introduction to Scripting uses the example of Internal Child Sex Trafficking (ICST), a little-
understood crime which has increasingly attracted police and government attention. Key findings from the offender-focused script highlight areas for harm-reduction interventions which go beyond traditional enforcement to include detection, disruption, and awareness. This article concludes by exploring the results' application to diverse areas including policing, legal strategies, policy and research, and youth work and education. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=a9h&AN=49034573&site=ehost-live
This article draws from interviews with formerly trafficked persons who have resettled in the USA. It has not been easy finding trafficked persons in the USA. The author contends that this is due, in part, to a focus of most anti-trafficking activities on one industry - the sex industry - to the exclusion of investigations into exploitation of migrant workers in other labor sectors. At the same time, undocumented workers stay quiet about workplace abuses because of a fear of deportation. ICE raids on workplaces where undocumented migrants may labor and the passage of local ordinances that empower local police officers to enforce immigration laws (287g agreements), have increased distrust between law enforcement and migrant communities. Forced underground, migrants working in vulnerable situations will be harder to find and to assist. This environment of threat shapes the resettlement of formerly trafficked persons since they typically enter the same low-wage, insecure and possibly exploitative work after being trafficked. More meaningful rights-based alliances with community-based organizations that focus on migrants' rights is a critical step to preventing forced labor and to assisting formerly trafficked persons. The fight against trafficking is a fight for migrants' rights. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

Human trafficking is internationally recognized as a widespread violation of human rights. This article defines and gives a detailed historical account of the political and social issues surrounding human trafficking. The article explains the role of the advanced practice forensic nurse in recognizing and addressing the needs of victims of human trafficking. The developing roles of the advanced practice psychiatric forensic nurse in collaboration with law enforcement and health care professionals are described with the ultimate goal of restoring the lives of victims of human trafficking. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


Human trafficking in its various forms continues to offer significant challenges for law enforcement agencies. There is a growing body of research that addresses some of the police governance and management issues associated with the prevention and control of human trafficking and the protection of victims of this type of crime. This article reviews the literature on the implementation of effective detection, investigation, prosecution, and victim protection strategies; the need for more effective international cooperation; and, the struggle to keep up with the illusive criminal organizations and networks that often defy law enforcement tactics. It also considers some of the specific challenges that result from the frequent conflation of human trafficking enforcement with immigration control strategies. It offers a few suggestions on how these issues may be addressed from a police governance standpoint and concludes with a call for better data on human trafficking and the relative effectiveness of different law enforcement strategies.

[ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


Purpose -- The present study provides information about the pervasiveness of human trafficking in local communities and the challenges law enforcement face identifying and responding to such problems. This chapter describes how often law enforcement agencies find cases of human trafficking and it examines the contextual and organizational factors affecting their ability to identify and respond to such cases. Methodology -- This analysis is based upon data from a national survey of local, state and county law enforcement agencies in the United States regarding human trafficking. Findings -- Law enforcement identification of trafficking cases is relatively rare, though agencies encounter victims more often than federal prosecution statistics suggest. Law enforcement is generally under-prepared to identify and respond to human trafficking, but when agencies train officers develop protocols and designate specialized personnel they are more likely to identify trafficking cases. Implications -- With the proper tools and support, local law enforcement can learn to more successfully identify and respond to human
trafficking victimization. Originality -- This is the first national survey of American state and local police regarding their experiences in responding to the problems of human trafficking. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


There is growing interest in programs and policies developed to prevent or intervene in the commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth (CSECY). Subsequently, it is critical to use evaluation to inform understanding of both the extent to which efforts are achieving desired objectives and how they could be strengthened moving forward. To help address this need, we used the RE-AIM framework from the field of public health to conduct a systematic review of CSECY program and policy evaluations. The review revealed limited availability and quality of effectiveness and implementation data, as well as an even greater dearth of findings addressing issues of reach, adoption, and maintenance. In light of these findings, we call for more thorough and rigorous evaluations of CSECY programs and policies. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2017 APA, all rights reserved)


In response to the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) within five U.S. cities, the CSEC Community Intervention Project (CCIP) was created to enhance collaboration among nongovernmental organization (NGO) representatives, law enforcement officials and prosecutors in Chicago, Atlantic City, Denver, Washington, D.C., and San Diego. A total of 211 participants were surveyed during a 3-day CCIP training institute held in each city. Evaluation data suggest that participants were positively influenced in their knowledge, skills, and attitudes regarding CSEC. Our findings inform NGO representatives, law enforcement officials, and prosecutors of the importance of professional training and the benefits of cross-disciplinary collaboration in addressing CSEC. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

An essay about the identification of child trafficking victims is presented. It centers on the case study of Analis, which shows the challenges being faced by the identification system for trafficked children and the existing gaps in the system. Cited are the suggestions of experts in identifying the victims, including the recommended groups who can perform the first contact with the victims like immigration officials and service providers, training of law enforcement, and the collaboration of governments and non-government groups.


Efforts to address child trafficking require intensive collaboration among professionals of varied disciplines. Healthcare professionals have a major role in this multidisciplinary approach. Training is essential for all professionals, and policies and protocols may assist in fostering an effective, comprehensive response to victimization. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


Purpose. A coalition model is often used to serve victims of human trafficking but little is known about whether the model is adequately meeting the needs of the victims. The purpose of this study was to examine anti-human trafficking collaboration model in terms of its impact and the collaborative experience, including challenges and lessons learned from the service providers' perspective. Method. Mixed methods study was conducted to evaluate the impact of a citywide anti-trafficking coalition model from the providers' perspectives. Web-based survey was administered with service providers (n = 32) and focus groups were conducted with Core Group members (n = 10). Results. Providers reported the coalition model has made important impacts in the community by increasing coordination among the key agencies, law enforcement, and service providers and improving quality of service provision. Providers identified the improved and expanded partnerships among coalition members as the key contributing factor to the success of the coalition model. Discussion. Several key strategies were suggested to improve the
coalition model: improved referral tracking, key partner and protocol development, and information sharing. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


An important precondition for improving the prosecution of offences relating to human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation is the promotion of victims' willingness to make a witness statement. In a qualitative study, 'Determinants of the willingness to make a statement of victims of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation pursuant to section 232 of the Penal Code', carried out in 2008/09 in Germany by the Institute for Social Research on Women (Sozialwissenschaftliches FrauenForschungsInstitut) in Freiburg on behalf of the Federal Criminal Police Office (Bundeskriminalamt), Germany, 53 victims were interviewed. From a social science perspective, factors were identified which are of subjective relevance for the victims, influencing their willingness to cooperate with the police and to testify against traffickers in court. The factors were related to offender strategies (e.g. violence, deception), to police action (e.g. checks, interrogations) or to the person of the victim herself (e.g. residence status, migration goals, language, attitude towards prostitution). After a description of these single factors by means of qualitative content analysis in two further steps the analysis focused rather more on the context of the situation as a triangle of trafficker, police and victim as the main actors. In a second step, the willingness to make a statement could be related to the specific co-action especially of pressure from trafficker or pimp not to make a statement and action on the side of the police. This specific co-action depends on whether the victims have or do not have a legal residence status. Third, as a key for a better understanding how the situation on a more general level is subjectively perceived by the victim in terms of power relations, this context of interaction was reconstructed by hermeneutic conversation analysis, putting attention to the semantic construction of agency and power. The willingness to make a statement can be seen as result e.g. from the construction of an 'almighty' trafficker and a police that is helpless to fight trafficking and to create a sense of security. For the last two steps the 'shared space of action' (Voß) is introduced as a theoretical framework to conceptualize the emergence of the willingness to make a statement from the interaction of pressures against and in favour of a witness statement and as a 'coproduction' of three (and possibly more, including lawyers, staff of counseling services and shelters, new partners etc.)
interacting actors. This leads to conclusions, how the willingness to make a statement can be improved. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

http://eds.b.ebscohost.com/eds/detail/detail?vid=7&sid=28e61c6b-5067-4ba4-93b7-18a5e0f98b9a%40sessionmgr120&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWRzLWxpdmU%3d#db=f5h&AN=115097211
“The article discusses how a joint task force between health care providers and law enforcement can assist with identifying victims and prosecuting traffickers in the U.S. Topics discussed include legislation criminalizing human trafficking; laws protecting victims of human trafficking; and ways to combat human trafficking in the U.S.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

“This article describes a framework for trauma-informed assessment of trafficking survivors that acknowledges the impact of traumatic stress while highlighting survivors' strengths and supporting their resiliency. It identifies core content areas of a trafficking evaluation and underscores adaptations to the standard process of conducting an assessment. Feedback normalizes symptoms and offers hope, and an experiential element builds survivors' coping skills and regulatory capacity. A trauma-informed assessment can be the first step in the healing process for many people who have survived trafficking, orienting them towards a path for change and empowering them to face future challenges.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

“Since emerging in the USA during the 1990s, the multi-agency task force has become the preferred organizational structure for enforcing human trafficking laws and providing assistance to victims. These task forces often work across county lines and typically include law enforcement agencies, as well as social service and non-governmental organizations. The effect of collaborations with other types of
agencies on law enforcement's human trafficking arrests is unknown. County-level arrest data for human trafficking first became available through the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 2014. In this paper, we present findings from county-level analyses with human trafficking arrests in the State of Florida as the dependent variable. Independent variables include the presence of a task force, sociodemographic characteristics, tourism measures, and police officers per capita. The strongest predictor of human trafficking arrests is the presence of a task force."

[ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


Supplemental training guide for law enforcement on victim-centered investigations.


International sex trafficking into the United States appears to be a serious and growing problem, although the evidence regarding prevalence, risk, and consequences is incomplete. Nonetheless, human service providers are increasingly being asked to offer services to sex trafficking survivors. Consequently, providers need information to guide services and program development in this emerging practice area. To address this knowledge need, we systematically reviewed and synthesized 20 documents addressing the needs of and services for international survivors of sex trafficking into the United States. The main finding from the review shows the importance of a continuum of aftercare services to address survivors' changing needs as they move from initial freedom to recovery and independence. Based on our synthesis of the reviewed literature, we present a service delivery framework to guide providers' development of services for survivors. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)

“Local law enforcement officers have been identified as key figures in the fight against human trafficking, yet training has lagged, and their preparation to fulfill this role is unknown. Thus, 175 U.S. local law enforcement officers completed a survey assessing their ability to define human trafficking and to identify and assist its survivors. Approximately 17% of officers reported receiving training on human trafficking, while two thirds relied on mass media for information about human trafficking. Answers indicated confusion between human smuggling and human trafficking and a lack of knowledge of the elements of trafficking and who potential victims are. A substantial minority struggled to identify signs that a person might be a survivor of human trafficking and methods for intervention. Having received training and receiving information on trafficking from an official source significantly increased officers’ knowledge base. These results strongly support the need for formal training of local law enforcement officers and provision of knowledge from law enforcement sources in order to be able to effectively combat human trafficking.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


The article focuses on the treatment of human trafficking survivors in District of Columbia. Topics discussed include enactment of Violence Against Women Act and Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act for protecting human trafficking victims; implementation of trauma-informed diversion programs for redressing victims; and criminal justice system of Columbia.


Presents a review essay, which is concerned on human trafficking. Human trafficking is a major international policy concern of the twenty first century. Although human trafficking is often confused with human smuggling and migration, given that these practices also involve the movement of persons, there are important differences between them. The problem of human trafficking has become a key focus in the mainstream media. The attention given by the media to human trafficking has had some positive effect, turning a spotlight onto the problems of forced labor, coerced migration, debt bondage, and enslavement. Sorely lacking from media depictions of human trafficking are evidence-based discussions, a fact that underscores the need for more empirically grounded studies. The literature
suffers from the absence of studies on other groups identified as vulnerable to trafficking: agricultural workers, domestic workers, and factory workers. To solve the problem of human trafficking, scholars need to use empirical evidence and expand the focus of the discussion beyond the female trafficked victim in the sex industry. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


Child trafficking, including commercial sexual exploitation (CSE), is one of the fastest growing and most lucrative criminal activities in the world. The global enslavement of children affects countless numbers of victims who are trafficked within their home countries or transported away from their homes and treated as commodities to be bought, sold, and resold for labor or sexual exploitation. All over the world, girls are particularly likely to be trafficked into the sex trade: Girls and women constitute 98% of those who are trafficked for CSE. Health and safety standards in exploitative settings are generally extremely low, and the degree of experienced violence has been linked with adverse physical, psychological, and social-emotional development. The human-rights-based approach to child trafficking provides a comprehensive conceptual framework whereby victim-focused and law enforcement responses can be developed, implemented, and evaluated. This article highlights promising policies and programs designed to prevent child trafficking and CSE by combating demand for sex with children, reducing supply, and strengthening communities. The literature reviewed includes academic publications as well as international and governmental and nongovernmental reports. Implications for social policy and future research are presented. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


Unaccompanied asylum-seeking children are one of the most vulnerable groups of children and those who have been trafficked present with additional needs, posing new challenges for child protection professionals. Drawing on a research programme commissioned to inform policy and practice in Glasgow, this paper identifies issues emerging for practitioners working with separated children who have been trafficked. The commitment of frontline staff and increased multiagency working appear to be positive aspects of the work. Initial identification and assessment present a major challenge for reasons including cultural issues, the trauma and fear of children affecting engagement and the potential for ongoing
contact with traffickers to compromise safeguarding. Trafficking is a particularly complex area of child protection work, made more problematic by the international dimensions to the trade and the absence of a clear definition and conceptual framework that can fully inform interventions and practice. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


Since 2008, the US federal government has prioritized human trafficking prosecutions, although the expectation is that these cases will be brought to federal prosecutors by local law enforcement authorities. Recent research shows, however, that while local law enforcement officers are typically well positioned to identify human trafficking victims, most do not think human trafficking occurs in their jurisdictions and few are prepared to identify and investigate such cases. Recognizing the need for training of law enforcement regarding human trafficking, the Department of Criminal Justice Training at the Kentucky Leadership Institute undertook a statewide training conducted by victim advocates. This article reports the results of an evaluation of that training module. The article discusses the effectiveness of the program in terms of: (1) raising awareness of human trafficking in the officers' jurisdictions, (2) increasing officers' self-reported likelihood of identifying and investigating suspected human trafficking cases, and (3) the dissemination of knowledge gained through training from executive-level and mid-level officers to patrol-level officers. The findings show that participation in the training produced positive, but limited effects with regard to each of the three outcomes of interest. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10509674.2013.861323

This study explores a pilot arrest alternative for sex-trafficked and prostituted adults regarding diversion program attendance, completion, and 12-month recidivism. Two groups were compared using chi-square analyses. The pilot participants were 43 women identified as having committed a prostitution-related crime. They were compared to 42 women arrested and charged with prostitution. No differences were found between the two groups regarding diversion attendance, completion or
prostitution-related recidivism. Benefits of the pilot intervention include similar
diversion results, cost-savings, intelligence gathering, and a community perspective
of victim-centered services for prostituted adults. (PsycINFO Database Record (c)
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services to trafficking survivors: Understanding practices across the globe. Journal Of Evidence-
host-live
Purpose: Human trafficking is a global issue, with survivors representing all
genders, ages, races, ethnicities, religions, and countries. However, little research
exists that identifies effective practices in supporting survivors of human trafficking.
The research that does exist is Western-centric. To fill this gap in the literature, the
goal of this research was to understand practices used throughout the globe with
adult human trafficking survivors. Methods: A qualitative approach was utilized.
Providers from 26 countries, across six different continents, were interviewed to
allow for a comprehensive and multi-faceted understanding of practices in working
with survivors. Results: Participants identified utilizing an empowerment based,
survivor, and human life-centered approach to working with survivors, emphasized
the importance of engaging in community level interventions, and highlighted the
importance of government recognition of human trafficking. Discussion: Findings
provide information from the perspective of advocates on best practices in the field
that can be used by agencies to enhance human trafficking programming.
[ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

Taylor, K. C. (2018). Teaching decision-making and building resilience in youth – A
case study to reduce the supply of vulnerable youth to sex traffickers in Atlanta,
doi:10.1016/j.ejor.2017.11.067
host-live
We consider a pilot of the iSeeMe Society, a program designed to be a community-
based intervention tool to reduce the supply of vulnerable youth induced to
participate in the market for the sex trafficking of children in Atlanta, Georgia. The
iSeeMe Society engages adults in the community to empower youth to make better
life decisions based on the man or woman they hope to become. We discuss the
relationship between youth decision-making skills and the prevention of child sexual
exploitation and identify recommendations for a full implementation of the program.
The pilot program combines the four protective factors shown to build resilience in
children in one program. It assesses the ability of youth to apply the DECIDE decision-making framework, a new format for teaching decision skills to youth. It contributes to research on the comparison between perceived and actual development of decision-making skills in youth. It also provides an empirical assessment of value-focused decision-making and the level of interest in youth to commit to and follow through on key life decisions in a peer mentoring setting. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


The article discusses evidence-based approaches to prevention of organized crime in relation to efforts by the Public Prosecution Service in the Netherlands to prevent human trafficking. Topics include inter-agency cooperation in sharing data, incentivizing the reporting of criminal activities, and monitoring of data using smart networks.


Child sex trafficking and adult women involved in street-based prostitution are two problems affecting the city of Toledo, Ohio. While various agencies worked independently to address these problems, there was no collaborative effort. We decided to organize a year-long roundtable that included people from Toledo-based social service, criminal justice, and health care systems, as well as concerned citizens, church groups, and survivors of prostitution. Our intent was to develop responses that were specific and sensitive not only to the needs of prostituted women and trafficked teens, but also to service providers and members of the community. In this article, we report on our project, its accomplishments, and lessons learned. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)


Public awareness of and concern over the trafficking of women and children has never been greater among governments, international agencies, and global NGOs.
Most recently the USA has joined the global initiative to fight trafficking by creating federal victim assistance and trafficking prevention legislation. While trafficking involves transnational crime, it is the local law enforcement officer, rather than the federal agent, who is most likely to encounter crimes such as prostitution that may be related to trafficking in human beings. This research is an exploratory assessment of the nature and extent of the local law enforcement response to trafficking in human beings within the USA. Though only an exploratory study of a limited number of local police agencies, the findings reflect little local law enforcement preparation to deal with trafficking and general attitudes that would not promote a proactive and informed response to this crime. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


“Documents produced by various international organizations, among them the United Nations and the Council of Europe, allot a central place in victim support efforts to the provision of information on how to prevent (re) victimization. This article presents an overview of some recent experimental studies conducted within the Dutch police; on the basis of these experiments, some recommendations are formulated on how victims may be effectively encouraged to cope with their experiences using strategies based on their emotions and on the problem of avoiding victimization. These recommendations concern the issues of enhancing the persuasive impact of preventative messages, of avoiding communication side-effects (such as increased fear of crime and response generalization) and the design of training programmes aimed at stimulating victim-oriented attitudes and behaviour in police officers and victim assistance workers. The outcome of four evaluation studies, which examine the effects and side-effects of this kind of victim-oriented intervention using face-to-face re-contact procedures, are reported.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

Prosecution


This paper is the second in a series that examines the different components of the criminal justice response to trafficking in persons. Specifically, this paper seeks to
identify some of the practical issues that may affect trafficking prosecutions, such as unclear legal frameworks, the transnational nature of trafficking, and reliance on often traumatised victims as witnesses who may also be unwilling or unable to participate in prosecutions. Proposed strategies to support or improve prosecution practice include legal reform, protection of witnesses and specialist training for prosecution units. There has been limited research on trafficking prosecutions - and given the complexities of transnational cases - it seems important that priority is given to building an evidence base that draws on experience and primary data.

[ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

The article focuses on facets of sex trafficking and addresses common misconceptions related to the crime and by making sex trafficking a strict liability crime and implementing innovative prosecution strategies equips the U.S. to abolish sex slavery.

All fifty states and the federal government have passed laws to combat human trafficking, but we know little about their effectiveness. Using data from investigative case records and court files for 140 human trafficking cases in 12 U.S. counties and qualitative interviews with law enforcement, prosecutors, and victim service providers, we examined the characteristics of and challenges to investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases under new state and federal laws. We found that few human trafficking cases are identified by local law enforcement, most cases forwarded to state prosecution are sex trafficking cases involving U.S. citizens, and state prosecutors overwhelmingly charge human trafficking offenders with other, lesser crimes. The legal, institutional, and attitudinal challenges that constrain prosecution of human trafficking are similar across study sites despite varying types of state anti-trafficking legislation. Study results suggest prosecution of human trafficking cases is challenging. If new laws are to be effective, then local law enforcement and prosecutors should work collaboratively and adopt proactive human trafficking investigative strategies to identify both labor and sex trafficking cases. There is social benefit to holding traffickers accountable, but more emphasis
should be placed on policies that identify and serve victims. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


The article discusses two U.S. Supreme Court cases on gender and criminal justice. In the Carr v. U.S. case, the Supreme Court ruled that defendant Thomas Carr, a sex offender registered under Alabama law, did not violate the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA) when he relocated to Indiana in 2004. In the U.S. v. Marcus case, the Supreme Court upheld the conviction of defendant Marcus for being involved in forced labor and sex trafficking.


The present study investigated how Swedish district court judges assessed child victims' credibility and the reliability of their testimony in cases of alleged human trafficking for sexual purposes. Court files from 12 different cases, involving 16 alleged child victims (aged 13–17 years old), all of them girls, were qualitatively analyzed with particular attention paid to how the judges described credibility and reliability. Results indicated that, although the judges’ assessments to a large extent were based on the Swedish Supreme Court's criteria for credibility and reliability, they were applied somewhat arbitrarily and subjectively. They were also applied as if obvious and grounded on shared experiences, although their meaning was never explored. The way that credibility was assessed may also reinforce gender and victim stereotypes. Moreover, there seems to exist a confusion surrounding the credibility and reliability concepts, as they were sometimes used interchangeably despite the intention that they are two different assessments. Overall, an apparent need exists to increase judges' awareness that their subjective impressions should decrease when legitimizing judicial decisions. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2016 APA, all rights reserved)

This commentary is a discussion of the article 'Human Trafficking, Sex Tourism, and Child Exploitation on the Southern Border.' Most importantly, it is a comment on the lack of attention given to American children prostituted in our own backyards. All forms of sex trafficking are deplorable but the plight of the American child victim creates unique challenges for prosecutors, law enforcement and non-governmental agencies working hard to bring the crimes involved with domestic minor sex trafficking to the forefront. To that end, this commentary attempts to provide resources and guidance.

Officers and Resilience in Response to Trauma


“This study examines the relationships between resilience, coping style, psychological functioning and the demographic variables of gender, age, rank and length of service in a sample of 285 Western Australian Police officers. Regression analysis indicated that resilience was predicted by greater use of rational coping and less use of emotional coping, but not psychological functioning. Increased age, rank and length of service were all correlated with significantly lower resilience scores. Significant differences in coping styles were found for all demographic variables. Implications of these findings and recommendations for future research are discussed.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


“The article discusses, issues related to mental health and well-being of law enforcement officers. Topics discussed include impact of operational stress on law enforcement officers, need for proactive assistance for officers to develop resilience skills and wellness practices, addressing stigma associated with operational stress injuries (OSI) by law enforcement and military organizations.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

Not getting enough rest and not eating properly in order to fuel the body can increase the effects of fatigue. Being fatigued on-duty causes many issues, such as poor decision making and other cognitive task difficulties.

Effects of Fatigue on Performance
- A 2012 study on police officer fatigue revealed the following alarming facts (Basińska & Wiciak, 2012). Fatigued officers:
  - Use more sick time.
  - Have difficulty managing successful personal relationships.
  - Have time management issues (reporting for duty on time).
  - Make mistakes on departmental and court paperwork.
  - Tend to sleep on duty (often due to rotating shiftwork).
  - Generate higher rates of citizen complaints for reported misconduct.
  - Tend to have problems communicating with supervisors and have stressful relationships with superiors.
  - Have problems testifying in court regarding being prepared.
  - Experience more accidental injuries on duty.
  - Early retirement (often due to burnout).
  - Are at a higher risk of being seriously injured or killed because of lack of focus and not recognizing danger signs.

- Law enforcement officers can:
  - Plan meals and make healthy eating choices, and stop eating high-calorie fast food.
  - Plan vacation and downtime.
  - See your doctor regularly for checkups.
  - Share the workload and reduce the amount of overtime.
  - Live within your means so that “moonlighting” that second job is not necessary.
  - Create a realistic exercise program and form healthy habits.
  - Create a “Patrol Buddy” program and make time to check on each other.
  - Keep your civilian friends and get away from the job (no shop talk on downtime).


- Tips to Reduce Stress Levels on the Front Lines
  - Do not take the verbal comments made by protestors personally
  - Use your emotional intelligence and do not overact
○ Take cleansing breaths and keep the blood flowing evenly by continuing to stretch and move
○ Be patient with your fellow officers and supervisors
○ When you get a break, take it
○ Stay hydrated
○ Eat a well-balanced meal before your shift
○ Stay in contact with other officers, do not get separated
○ Routinely check on your fellow officers on scene
○ When off-duty, relax and give yourself time to shift gears. It is highly recommended that you do not watch news coverage of the event.
○ Do not get baited into reacting to comments on social media sites

  ● “Thirteen stories, each of which recounts the real-life experiences of a professional working for or with the police force. This collection reveals the vulnerabilities and resilience of people who are passionately committed to their work, and helps to make sense of their daily experiences and concerns.”
  ● “It provides a practical and personal perspective on the human and interpersonal aspects of police professionalism. Using the term ‘resilience’, we explore the personal and interpersonal aspects of policing, which we have researched and sought to develop through the Professional Resilience Enhancement Programme.”

“Mindfulness-based treatments have been identified as potentially effective for reducing posttraumatic stress symptoms; however, the validity of research has been questioned, especially among first responders, due to ill-defined aspects of mindfulness. This study investigated the relationship between various dimensions of mindfulness (utilizing the Kentucky Inventory of Mindfulness Skills; KIMS) and posttraumatic stress symptoms (utilizing the Impact of Event Scale-Revised; IES-R) among active-duty police officers (N = 183). Multiple regression analyses showed that greater IES-R avoidance and intrusion subscale scores were predicted by lower KIMS accepting without judgment subscale scores. Greater IES-R hyperarousal subscale scores were predicted by lower KIMS accepting without judgment and describing subscale scores. Implications of these findings are discussed.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

“Law enforcement officers are often reported to frequently abuse alcohol due to occupational stress. However, few studies have examined alcohol use among U.S. police officers. This study investigated the prevalence of alcohol use and the relation between alcohol use and amount of subjective work-related traumatic distress, work-related but non-traumatic stress, personal relationship stress, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms, depression, and age among law enforcement officers (N=193) working in a midwestern state. Multiple regression analyses showed that greater subjective posttraumatic distress and PTSD avoidance symptoms were the most significant predictors of greater alcohol use among officers. Implications for practice are discussed.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


“This study was conducted to check whether self-resilience, one of the characteristics known to affect the occurrence of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms after experiencing traumatic events, could serve as a protective factor for police officers whose occupational factors are corrected. Among 112 respondents who experienced a traumatic event, those with low self-resilience had significantly higher rate of PTSD symptoms than those with high self-resilience even after correcting for the covariate of general, occupational, and psychological characteristics (odds ratio [OR] 3.51; 95% CI: 1.06-19.23). Despite several limitations, these results suggest that a high degree of self-resilience may protect police officers from critical incident-related PTSD symptoms.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


“Police culture can be extremely powerful and may dictate many of the behaviors required of an officer. Some behaviors may be perceived as stigmatizing and engagement in these activities can cause the officer to feel ostracized. Using the Conservation of Resources Theory, this research attempted to shed some light on the perceived effect of using certain benefits and if this perception led to benefit avoidance (BA). This research also explored some potential antecedents of BA

“We provide an overview of previous research conducted by our group on risk and resilience factors for PTSD symptoms in police and other first responders. Based on our work, the findings of other investigators on individual differences in risk for PTSD, and drawing on preclinical studies fear conditioning and extinction, we propose a conceptual model for the development of PTSD symptoms emphasizing the role of vulnerability and resilience to peritraumatic panic reactions. We tested this conceptual model in a cross-sectional sample of police officers (n = 715). Utilizing an hierarchical linear regression model we were able to explain 39.7% of the variance in PTSD symptoms. Five variables remained significant in the final model; greater peritraumatic distress ( = 0.240, P < .001), greater peritraumatic dissociation ( = 0.174, P < .001), greater problem-solving coping ( = 0.103, P < .01), greater routine work environment stress ( = 0.182, P < .001), and lower levels of social support ( = −0.246, P < .001). These results were largely consistent with the proposed conceptual model. Next steps in this line of research will be to test this model prospectively in a sample of 400 police academy recruits assessed during training and currently being followed for the first 2 years of police service.”


“Following Hurricane Katrina, police officers in the New Orleans geographic area faced a number of challenges. This cross-sectional study examined the association between resilience, satisfaction with life, gratitude, posttraumatic growth, and symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder in 84 male and 30 female police officers from Louisiana. Protective factors were measured using the Connor-Davidson Resilience scale, Satisfaction with Life Scale, the Gratitude Questionnaire, and the Posttraumatic Growth inventory. Symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder were measured using the Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Checklist-Civilian (PCL-C). Potential associations were measured using linear regression and analysis of variance. Models were adjusted for age, sex, race, education, and alcohol. Mean
PCL-C symptoms were 29.5 ± 14.5 for females and 27.8 ± 12.1 for males. Adjusted mean levels of PCL-C symptoms significantly decreased as quartiles of resilience (p < .001), satisfaction with life (p < .001), and gratitude (p < .001) increased. In contrast, PCL-C symptoms were not associated with posttraumatic growth in this sample. These results indicate that positive factors such as resilience, satisfaction with life, and gratitude may help mitigate symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder. To further explore these relationships, longitudinal follow-up in a larger population would be of interest.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


“Crime scene technicians collect evidence related to crime and are therefore exposed to many traumatic situations. The coping strategies they use are thus very important in the process of facing the psychological consequences of such work. The available literature shows that crime scene technicians are an understudied subgroup of police workers. Our study is therefore the first unfolding insights into technicians' coping strategies, post-traumatic symptomatology and somatic health, based on a sample of 64 male crime scene technicians (85% of all Slovene technicians). Crime scene technicians mainly use avoidance coping strategies. Approach strategies that are more effective in the long-term—i.e. lead to a larger buffering of the effects of traumatic stress—are more frequently used if technicians are familiar with the nature of the task, when they have time to prepare for it, and if they feel that past situations have been positively resolved. Behavioural avoidance strategies were found to be least effective when dealing with traumatic experiences and are also related to more frequent problems of physical health. Results indicate that appropriate trainings for future technicians would facilitate the use of more effective coping strategies and consequently lead to a more effective and satisfied worker.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


“OBJECTIVE: This study i) describes the number of police personnel with PTSD who are working and those who are on sick leave before and after an outpatient-clinic treatment program and ii) examines which factors are related to return to work. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is a disabling anxiety disorder characterised by clinical features of re-experiencing the event/s, avoidance and hyperarousal. In the general population, the lifetime prevalence of PTSD is around 7% in both the US [1] and the Netherlands [2]. PTSD can be considered a work
related disorder in certain occupations where there is high risk of experiencing traumatic events, such as fire fighters, ambulance and police personnel [3]. While, police personnel experience more traumatic events than the general population, PTSD occurs in 7% of police personnel in the Netherlands and 34% show subthreshold PTSD symptoms [4]. Police personnel seem to be a selected healthy group due to their psychological and physical assessment at the start of their careers. However, in the Netherlands, PTSD is the most frequently reported occupational disorder in this occupational group [5] and police work is often cited as one of the most stressful occupations [6,7]. A psychological treatment, the Brief Eclectic Psychotherapy for PTSD [8], was developed in one academic hospital in the Netherlands, to treat PTSD especially in police personnel. Treatment sessions followed a fixed protocol and proved to be effective in police personnel [9]. More than 90% of the police personnel recovered from PTSD after the treatment [9]. Specific attention was being paid to reintegration into the workplace, although information about this element was not included in the outtake interviews. Other studies have shown that many factors, such as age and gender, predict the risk of developing PTSD. What factors were related to work status after treatment for PTSD still needed to be addressed. Therefore, the objective of the present study was twofold: to describe a population of Dutch police officers with PTSD, before and after an outpatient treatment program by comparing working personnel to personnel on sick leave, and the second objective is to identify which factors were related to return to work. CONCLUSION: The majority of police officers returned to work after the treatment program. We recommend that attention be paid to successful return to work as part of the treatment program, therefore the occupational health professional and employer should be involved." [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


"Exposure to the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center (WTC) on 9/11/2001 resulted in continuing stress experience manifested as Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Symptoms in a minority of the police responders. The WTC Health Registry has followed up a large number of individuals, including police officers, at three waves of data collection from 2003 to 2011. This analysis examines the relationship between initial exposure levels, long-term PTSD symptoms, and subsequent emotional support among police responders. The September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the New York World Trade Center (WTC) when two airplanes were piloted into the twin towers, caused a considerable amount of injuries and
almost 2,800 deaths [1–5]. First responders rushed to the scene within minutes and hours of the attack, witnessing victims who jumped from the burning and collapsing buildings. Police officers guarded the perimeter of the disaster site, assisted survivors, and participated in the search for bodies and body parts. The response and rescue to survivors and the search for body parts caused severe stress to those engaged in this process. This resulted in a mental health challenge and onset of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and/or anxiety and depression for some of the officers. On the other hand, a large number of the officers did not develop long-term mental health conditions but were reported to be resilient [6–8]. Exposure had a main effect on mean symptom levels (intercept) across three waves but it made no difference in changes in symptoms (slope), and no difference in emotional support. The symptom trajectory, on the other hand, had an effect on emotional support. Its intercept and slope were both related to support, indicating that changes in symptoms affected later emotional support. Initial trauma exposure levels can have a long-term effect on mean symptom levels. Emotional support is lower in police responders when PTSD symptoms persist over seven years, but becomes higher when reduction in symptoms occurs.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


“This study provides an in-depth analysis of the resilience of crime scene investigators (CSIs) in the Netherlands and how they perceive and cope with daily work stressors. Observational studies within five CSI teams and 35 semistructured interviews with investigators revealed that administrative accumulation, long and irregular working hours, confrontations with human suffering, decision making, and dirty and physically demanding circumstances at the crime scene can be very stressful. By employing strict management of thoughts, visualization, focus on sensemaking, sharing of emotions and responsibilities, and avoiding potentially distressing working situations, CSIs overcome the strain of forensic investigations. However, successful implementation of these resilience-enhancing strategies depends on the availability of several individual, team, and organizational resources. To reduce the risk of health problems and to stimulate positive functioning, these resources require permanent investment by police management and CSIs themselves.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


“The authors examined the efficacy, speed, and incidence of symptom worsening for 3 treatments of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD): prolonged exposure, relaxation training, or eye movement desensitization and reprocessing (EMDR; N=60). Treatments did not differ in attrition, in the incidence of symptom worsening, or in their effects on numbing and hyperarousal symptoms. Compared with EMDR and relaxation training, exposure therapy (a) produced significantly larger reductions in avoidance and reexperiencing symptoms, (b) tended to be faster at reducing avoidance, and (c) tended to yield a greater proportion of participants who no longer met criteria for PTSD after treatment. EMDR and relaxation did not differ from one another in speed or efficacy.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


“Psychological resilience is considered an important predictor for mental health disturbances among rescue workers. To what extent resilience predicts mental health disturbances among police officers at different stages while adjusting for existing (mental) health disturbances is unclear. Among 566 police officers resilience was operationalized by the Resilience Scale-nl and the Mental Toughness Questionnaire-48 questionnaires (8 scales in total). Mental health disturbances (such as depression symptoms and PTSD) and other health-related variables were assessed at baseline and follow-ups at three and nine months. Hierarchical logistic regression analyses assessed the predictive values of the 8 resilience scales for mental health disturbances at baseline (n = 566), three months (n = 566) and nine months (n = 364), adjusted for demographics, work circumstances, and health-related factors at baseline. Seven of the eight resilience scales at baseline were cross sectional associated with mental health disturbances at baseline. Only four scales were independent predictors for mental health disturbances at three months. When examining mental health disturbances at nine months, only one resilience scale remained a significant predictor. In sum, psychological resilience has a declining protective capacity for mental health disturbances over a medium time-span, specifically when corrected for baseline mental health disturbances.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

“The police have a pivotal role in preserving law and order in the communities they serve. Although the media and general public emphasize the physical danger of police work, they tend to overlook the psychological danger. Police officers may experience multiple exposures to traumatic events over a police career and are at an increased risk for psychological disorders such as posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). With these ideas in mind, the goal of this issue was to seek input on ideas about research, assessment, and intervention concerning trauma and resilience in police officers. I believe that new horizons of police trauma and resilience have been explored in these articles. Findings may be expanded further to assist all first-responder professionals who face traumatic events at work. Contributions made to this issue can be useful to law enforcement practitioners as well as researchers and therapists.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


“Police work is an occupation replete with stress. The present study examined associations between specific police stressors (overall, administrative pressure, physical threat, and lack of support) and anxiety symptoms, and whether these associations were modified by hardiness, a dimension of resiliency. The Spielberger Police Stress Survey, Beck Anxiety Scale, and Dispositional Resilience scale were utilised in this study. A total of 373 police officers with complete data from the Buffalo Cardio-Metabolic Occupational Police Stress (BCOPS) study were included. Linear regression and analysis of covariance were used to examine mean anxiety levels across quartiles of stress. Associations were adjusted for age, sex, race, alcohol, smoking, and anxiety medication, and stratified by hardiness scores. The mean age of officers was 41.4 years and 27% were female. Adjusted mean anxiety symptoms increased significantly with increasing stress quartiles overall (4.23, 4.99, 6.74 and 9.95 for quartiles 1-4, respectively, p < 0.001) and for all three types of stressors (p < 0.001). Hardiness did not significantly modify these associations. However, officers with hardiness scores above the median had generally lower anxiety scores than those below the median. Specific types of stress in police work are significantly associated with symptoms of anxiety. Further research is needed for individual and organisational factors which protect officers from anxiety and for policies to reduce work stress.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


“Police work is a paradox between two contrasting realities. One reality encompasses a sedentary environment comprised of long periods of sitting and
inactivity. However, the other encompasses life and death situations often necessitating maximum intensity physical exertion. This unique environment along with other factors contribute to alarming health consequences including, but not limited to obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, metabolic syndrome, hypertension, alcohol and drug abuse, as well as mental health issues. Intervention programs involving physical fitness, nutrition counseling, general wellness, stress management, and drug and alcohol education have shown promise with combatting the health maladies common to law enforcement. This review explores some of those successes and offers recommendations for high level decision makers capable of instituting transformational change. Although a more holistic approach to wellness is optimal, the primary focus is of this review is given to strength and conditioning intervention. Police are the lifeblood of law and order, vital to the health of communities. Creating holistic and practical wellness programs that meet the needs of law enforcement agents is a social responsibility and critical for this essential member of society.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


“Police officers are at particular risk of stress when compared to people in other occupational groups. A compounding factor is that police are prone to the use of avoidant coping strategies when attempting to deal with this stress. Evidence suggests that “anti-avoidance” strategies, of acceptance, mindfulness and emotional awareness, are more effective ways of coping, and are linked to both mental health and personal effectiveness. This study followed 60 trainee police officers from the recruit phase into the workplace to determine if these processes predicted more positive mental health and wellbeing in police recruits after 1 year of service. Mindfulness predicted depression at follow-up, while emotion identification skill predicted general mental health. These results suggest that police officers and police organisations may benefit from interventions aimed at developing and promoting mindfulness and emotion identification.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR].

**Officers and ACEs/Trauma Prior to and Related to Work**

The goal being to create a system wide network of adult "buffers" who are trauma informed and "ACEs Aware."

Based on the results from a study that was conducted by the CDC and Keiser Permanente in the mid 1990s, and has since been replicated across the US with similar results, a direct correlation was discovered between Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and a decline in mental AND physical well-being in adulthood.

The costs in hospitalization, mental health care, welfare services, law enforcement, special education, juvenile and criminal justice system, and lost productivity is more than $103 billion -- annually.

We cannot exist in silos so this needs to be a community-wide effort.


“To evaluate the effectiveness of a debriefing programme to reduce traumatic stress in a police organisation, officers involved in a shooting were surveyed by questionnaire, five years after the event. The results showed that 79 percent of 57 officers had not received debriefing, despite its mandatory status. Those who had received debriefing had higher post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) scores; however, regression of PTSD and health scores, on stress perceptions, social support, other trauma, and debriefing, showed that debriefing had no significant effect. These results support those of other controlled studies suggesting that debriefing does not mitigate PTSD and may exacerbate symptoms. A number of limitations of the present study are discussed in terms of suggestions for urgent evaluation of such programs in organisational settings.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


“Two studies including 108 nurses and 101 police officers tested the proposition that emotionally demanding interactions with recipients may result in emotional dissonance, which, in turn, may lead to job burnout and impaired performance. More specifically, on the basis of the literature on burnout and emotional dissonance, the authors hypothesized that emotional job demands would explain variance in burnout (i.e., exhaustion and cynicism/disengagement) through their influence on emotional dissonance. In addition, the authors predicted that emotional dissonance would be (negatively) related to in-role performance through its relationship with burnout. The findings of a series of structural equation modeling
analyses supported both hypotheses. The implications for research and practice are discussed, as well as avenues for additional research.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


“Law enforcement officers tend to be exposed to a high frequency of potentially traumatic incidents. A dichotomous distinction among these events involves the witnessing of threat or harm to others and the experiencing of threat or harm directly to oneself. Past research suggests that different types of trauma exposure produce varying levels of negative post traumatic responses including posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms and positive outcomes such as posttraumatic growth (PTG). With the goal of better assisting officers experiencing posttraumatic stress, enhanced knowledge regarding this psychological response to the development of PTG is necessary. Findings indicate that events involving threat to self are more closely related to PTG, via an indirect pathway through PTSD symptoms. Additionally, personal relationship stress was directly associated with PTSD symptoms and behavioral PTG, but not cognitive PTG. Overall, the results of this study provide initial evidence that trauma exposure type (i.e., direct vs. indirect) plays a significant role in the level of PTG. Lastly, the results allow for the possibility of positive changes in behaviors facilitated by cognitive avoidance, in contrast to the common notion that deliberate cognitive engagement is required for growth to occur.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


“Police officers often experience traumatic events with far greater frequency than the average citizen yet little is known about how they process these events or how this relates to recovery. This study presents the development and initial validation of a cognitive appraisal instrument designed to capture to police officers’ experiences of trauma. Results indicated that officers’ cognitive appraisals (particularly their perceptions of how the event overlapped with or impacted their personal lives) were more predictive of their response to trauma than years of experience or the severity of the event. The implications of these results for the treatment and training of officers are discussed.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

“Police officers are routinely exposed to potentially traumatic incidents yet the majority do not develop post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Social support has been identified as one factor that may maintain wellbeing in this population, although what constitutes supportive or unsupportive interactions is unclear. Objective: To explore police officers’ experiences of supportive and unsupportive interactions following distressing incidents. Method: Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 19 police officers. Transcripts were analysed using Braun and Clarke’s (2006) thematic analysis approach. Results: Participants described a range of supportive interactions with colleagues, friends, and family, as well as social constraints that hindered interactions. Ambivalence about talking about the impact of distressing events was striking throughout the accounts. The context and source of available support, as well as beliefs about talking, influenced their interactions. Humour was a central feature of interactions with colleagues; more emotional talk occurred with partners and close family, albeit with officers limiting details in order to protect others. Conclusions: The findings provide tentative insights into the processes of social support that may contribute to the resilience of police officers following traumatic incidents. Further research is needed to examine whether the experiences of supportive and unsupportive interactions differ for those with and without PTSD.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


“Trajectories of disaster-related posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms are often heterogeneous, and associated with common and unique risk factors, yet little is known about potentially modifiable psychosocial characteristics associated with low-symptom and recovering trajectories in disaster responders. A total of 4487 rescue and recovery workers (1874 police and 2613 non-traditional responders) involved during and in the aftermath of the unprecedented World Trade Center (WTC) attacks, were assessed an average of 3, 6, 8, and 12 years post-9/11/2001. Among police responders, WTC-related PTSD symptoms were characterized by four trajectories, including no/low-symptom (76.1%), worsening (12.1%), improving (7.5%), and chronic (4.4%) trajectories. In non-traditional responders, a five-trajectory solution was optimal, with fewer responders in a no/low-symptom trajectory (55.5%), and the remainder in subtly worsening (19.3%), chronic (10.8%), improving (8.5%), and steeply worsening (5.9%) trajectories. Consistent factors
associated with symptomatic PTSD trajectories across responder groups included Hispanic ethnicity, pre-9/11 psychiatric history, greater WTC exposure, greater medical illness burden, life stressors and post-9/11 traumas, and maladaptive coping (e.g., substance use, avoidance coping). Higher perceived preparedness, greater sense of purpose in life, and positive emotion-focused coping (e.g., positive reframing, acceptance) were negatively associated with symptomatic trajectories. They further provide a comprehensive risk prediction model of PTSD symptom trajectories, which can inform prevention, monitoring, and treatment efforts in WTC and other disaster responders.


Researchers studied 575 law enforcement officers and their perceptions and responses to trauma. Approximately 51% of officers reported that they personally knew someone who changed from a traumatic experience, and approximately 46% reported that they knew of an officer who committed suicide. Around 52% reported that they received training about trauma, and 89% reported they would engage in peer counselling if available. Officers are reluctant to disclose their traumatic experiences to their agency and also reluctant to seek help because of stigma.


“Policing necessitates exposure to traumatic, violent and horrific events, which can lead to an increased risk for developing post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The purpose of this study was to determine whether the frequency, recency, and type of police-specific traumatic events were associated with PTSD symptoms. Participants were 359 police officers from the Buffalo Cardio-Metabolic Occupational Police Stress (BCOPS) Study (2004–2009). Traumatic police events were measured using the Police Incident Survey (PIS); PTSD was measured using the PTSD Checklist-Civilian Version (PCL-C). Associations between PIS and PTSD symptoms were evaluated using ANCOVA. Contrast statements were used to test for linear trends. Increased frequency of specific types of events were associated with an increase in the PCL-C score in women, particularly women with no history of prior trauma and those who reported having a high workload (p < 0.05). More recent exposure to seeing severely assaulted victims was associated with higher PCL-C scores in men (p < 0.02). In summary, the frequency of several traumatic events was associated
with higher PTSD scores in women, while the recency of seeing victims of assault was associated with higher PTSD scores in men. These results may be helpful in developing intervention strategies to reduce the psychological effects following exposure and these strategies may be different for men and women.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


- “Based on Figley’s (2002) perspective, it seems that compassion fatigue is cognitively related to moral suffering experienced by first responders in the line of duty. Scholarly work after Figley’s (2002) earlier work has specified and further examined two types of moral suffering that appear to lead to traumatization; that is, moral distress and moral injury. It is appeared from the literature that moral distress and moral injury are distinct and emanate from different morally conflicted incidents. However, both moral distress and moral injury may lead to police traumatization. In the following paragraphs, authors discuss moral distress and moral injury and their relationship to traumatization. The role of moral distress and moral injury toward traumatization (compassion fatigue and PTSD) has never been studied in police empirically. This present manuscript is the first in this area and aims to theoretically conceptualize the role of moral suffering (moral distress and moral injury) toward police traumatization (compassion fatigue and PTSD). Due to lack of empirical research with police in this area, the authors reviewed and discuss in this manuscript research studies that conducted with frontline professionals (e.g., therapists, social workers, nurses) as well as soldiers and veterans. That way, the authors posited that previous research findings with frontline professionals and veterans/soldiers in this area may be utilized to open theoretical dialogues that will help us examine the role of moral suffering toward traumatization in police.”

- “In the mid-80s, philosopher Jameton (1984) defined moral distress as the experience of painful feelings and psychological disequilibrium that takes place when nurses are aware of a morally proper decision that needs to be made without being able to make it, usually as a result, of various hurdles: institution policy, lack of time, protocol, and so forth. Other scholars have suggested that moral distress refers to situations when caregiving professionals fail to pursue the right course of action because of an error in judgment, wrong decision-making, wrong action plan, or the fact that the circumstances are beyond their action planning
Further, McCarthy and Deady (2008) argued that moral distress is pervasive among caregiving professionals who are expected to make decisions and judgments—that encompass moral components—during complex incidents. Authors intend to emphasize on the fact that police officers may also experience moral distress in the line of duty and raise awareness among researchers and clinicians that moral distress in police has not been empirically studied yet.

- “In many occasions, the “God's syndrome” (Beaton and Murphy, 1995, p. 69) is pervasive among police officers which refers to officers’ attempt to respond to all emergency calls, save all victims, support all those who suffer. Nevertheless, according to the circumstances they find themselves in, first responders are not always able to protect or support victims, or arrest violent criminals. However, when police officers’ action plans, or willingness to help those who suffer is precluded or is not completed successfully, then officers may experience moral distress (Corley, 2002; Morley, 2003).”

- “The ongoing experience of moral distress may lead to compassion fatigue, which may eventually lead officers to experience PTSD as well as other comorbid disorders (e.g., major depressive disorder, panic disorder) (Andersen and Papazoglou, 2015). In an article in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) magazine (so-called “Gazette”), police clinical psychologist, Morley (2003) stated that moral distress refers to an on-going “unfixable suffering” that may accumulate over time in service and eventually lead to compassion fatigue….The empirical examination of the role of moral distress toward traumatization may enlighten our understanding to pathways that lead toward police traumatization. In turn, such findings may help us develop preventative interventions that may promote resilience among police.”

- “Moral injury refers to unprecedented traumatic life events that refer to perpetrating, failing to prevent, or bearing witness to actions that “transgress deeply held moral beliefs and expectations” (Litz et al., 2009, p. 1)....Events that may lead to moral injury may be death-related situations, killings, handling/uncovering human remains, severely wounded victims that the person was not able to help (Frankfurt and Frazier, 2016)....However, current literature has not addressed (empirically or even theoretically) moral injury experienced by police. Similarly to authors’ perspective on moral distress, present manuscript aims to make researchers and clinicians aware that is imperative that moral injury in police should be studied empirically. Nonetheless, police
officers often experience atrocities, gruesome crimes, and death in the line of duty (Papazoglou, 2013).”

● “To this end, the authors concisely suggest the following action plan for future research, policy, and clinical work that should be considered in working with police officers:
  ○ Empirical research aims to study the role of moral distress and moral injury in the experience of compassion fatigue among police officers.
  ○ Development of standardized psychosocial scales intended to assess moral distress and moral injury among first responders.
  ○ Empirical research aims to study the role of moral distress and moral injury in officers' susceptibility to PTSD, as well as in the severity of their PTSD symptoms.
  ○ Development of evidenced-based PTSD treatment that addresses issues such as moral injury and moral distress.
  ○ Police academies in collaboration with healthcare professionals to offer training for prevention of moral distress and moral injury, and promotion of moral resilience.”


“The impact of cumulative occupational exposure to traumatic events (TEs), posttraumatic stress (PTS) symptoms, and work environment stress on personality traits over time was examined in 38 police officers from an urban agency. California Psychological Inventory (CPI) personality trait scores from prehire evaluations were compared with follow-up CPI scores to test whether exposure to traumatic events was correlated with changes in traits from baseline to 5–10 years later. Measures of occupational TEs, PTS symptoms, and police work environment stress were administered. Mean trait scores declined on all CPI traits analyzed in the study. Trait change was evaluated using the Reliable Change Index; change in participants’ scores unlikely to occur by chance ranged from 11% to 63% in the traits examined. All participants reported substantial TE exposure. PTS symptoms were correlated with steeper decline in 4 of 5 traits, with effect sizes ranging from $r = -0.47$ to $r = -0.67$. Scores on measures of job-related TEs were negatively correlated with only one CPI trait (empathy) at T2 ($r = -0.31$), and were unrelated to slope of trait change. Work environment stress was significantly related to gender, with female officers reporting higher levels of operational ($r = 0.45$) and organizational ($r = 0.54$) stress.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

“The relationship between routine work stress and psychological distress was investigated among 733 police officers in three US cities, during 1998-1999. The Work Environment Inventory (WEI) was developed to assess exposure to routine work stressors, while excluding duty-related traumatic stressors (critical incidents). The WEI and its general properties are presented. The relationship between routine work stress exposure and psychological distress is then explored. Exposure to routine work stressors predicted general psychological distress ($r = 0.46$), as well as post-traumatic stress symptoms following officers’ most traumatic career incident ($rs = 0.26$ to $0.39$). Multivariate analyses found that these effects were independent of, and larger than, the effects of cumulative critical incident exposure. (Time since the most traumatic event, social support, and social desirability effects were also controlled statistically.) Routine occupational stress exposure appears to be a significant risk factor for psychological distress among police officers, and a surprisingly strong predictor of post-traumatic stress symptoms.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


“Studies of civilians typically find that female gender is a risk factor for posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Police and military studies often find no gender differences in PTSD. We compared 157 female police officers and 124 female civilians on several variables including trauma exposure, peritraumatic emotional distress, current somatization, and cumulative PTSD symptoms. We found that despite greater exposure to assaultive violence in the officer group, female civilians reported significantly more severe PTSD symptoms. Elevated PTSD symptoms in female civilians were explained by significantly more intense peritraumatic emotional distress among female civilians. We also found that female officers showed a stronger direct relationship between peritraumatic emotional distress and current somatization. Our findings suggest that apparent gender differences in PTSD may result from differences in peritraumatic emotionality, which influence subsequent PTSD and somatization symptoms. Emotionality may be more important than biological sex in understanding gender differences in PTSD.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

- Study found that as typically seen in pre-employment settings, applicants tended to respond to items in a socially desirable manner.
- The results support the utility of the Personality Assessment Inventory as a predictor of job performance, integrity problems, and proclivity for abuse of disability status. However, can be considerable influences by defensive responding.


“Child protection is an area of police work which has expanded in the last decade, leading to an increase in the number of police officers working in departments which specialise in investigating cases of child abuse. Police officers in this field may be at greater risk of experiencing secondary traumatic stress but there remains a paucity of research in this area of policing. Analogies can be drawn to existing research in policing and with social service workers involved in child protection. The paper finishes off with implications for police forces to ensure safe working environments and appropriate counselling for employees.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


“Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is rare among police officers, but the symptoms of PTSD are not. Personality traits can be a contributing factor of stress disorders. Based on the big five personality traits, three personality profiles can be identified: resilient, overcontrolled and undercontrolled. Resilient people are characterized by high emotional stability (low neuroticism), high social skills and self-confidence. Overcontrollers have higher scores on neuroticism and they tend to internalize their negative emotions. Undercontrollers are characterized by low conscientiousness (impulsivity), a tendency toward social withdrawal and low self-esteem. Results revealed the three expected personality profiles: resilient (n=31), overcontrollers (n=43) and undercontrollers (n=19). The resilient presented with the fewest PTSD symptoms and the undercontrollers with the most (particularly reexperiencing). The latter also scored the highest on neuroticism and the lowest
on extraversion and agreeableness. Police officers with an undercontrolled profile were also the oldest or those who had served the longest in the police force. Neuroticism and length of service were the two predictors of PTSD symptoms for reexperiencing and avoidance. This study demonstrates the contribution of each personality trait and length of service to PTSD symptoms in French police officers.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


“Despite a lack of proven efficacy, pre-employment or pre-duty screening, which alleges to test for vulnerability to PTSD and other mental health disorders, remains common amongst emergency services. This systematic review aimed to determine the usefulness of different factors in predicting mental disorder amongst emergency workers and to inform practice regarding screening procedures. Systematic searches were conducted in MEDLINE, PsycINFO and EMBASE to identify cohort studies linking pre-employment or pre-duty measures in first responders with later mental health outcomes. Possible predictors of poor mental health were grouped into six categories and their overall level of evidence was assessed. Twenty-one prospective cohort studies were identified. Dynamic measures including physiological responses to simulated trauma and maladaptive coping styles (e.g. negative self-appraisal) had stronger evidence as predictors of vulnerability in first responders than more traditional static factors (e.g. pre-existing psychopathology). Personality factors (e.g. trait anger) had moderate evidence for predictive power. Based on the evidence reviewed, however, we are unable to provide emergency services with specific information to enhance their current personnel selection. The results indicate that pre-duty screening protocols that include personality assessments and dynamic measures of physiological and psychological coping strategies may be able to identify some personnel at increased risk of mental health problems. However, further longitudinal research is required in order to provide meaningful guidance to employers on the overall utility of either pre-employment or pre-duty screening. In particular, research examining the sensitivity, specificity and positive predictive values of various screening measures is urgently needed.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

“This article first describes the types of critical incidents and other stresses experienced by law enforcement personnel. Many of these challenges affect all personnel who work in public safety and the helping professions, including police officers, firefighters, paramedics, dispatchers, trauma doctors, emergency room nurses, and psychotherapists (Miller, 1995, 1997, 1998a, 1998b, 1999, in press); however, the focus here will be on the stressors most relevant to police officers, criminal investigators, and other law enforcement personnel. Secondly, this article will describe the critical interventions and psychotherapeutic strategies that have been found most practical and useful for helping cops in distress.” [FROM ARTICLE INTRODUCTION]


“Law enforcement has been universally recognized as a stressful profession. Police officers often observe, deal with, or become involved in extremely difficult situations and experiences on a daily basis. These events are inherent to the law enforcement profession and accumulate over time, often producing a cumulative stress that is immeasurable. Men and women who choose law enforcement as a profession are told to prepare to deal with the cumulative stress of the job. There is however another form of stress that many officers will face but are unprepared to deal with. This stress is more immediate and intense and is often the result of a singular traumatic event. These traumatic events are often referred to as critical incidents. Throughout my tenure as a police officer and prior to that as a United States Marine, I have been involved in several events which could be categorized as critical incidents. In hindsight, what amazes me is how a single event can change a person’s outlook and approach to both his profession and his daily life. The goal of this paper is to attempt to identify how critical incidents affect police officers and what administrators and supervisors can do to help officers who are involved in these types of incidents. Furthermore, in examining how critical incidents affect law enforcement officers, I hope to identify ways to better prepare officers to deal with these situations as they arise. We can attempt to accomplish this with knowledge and training to help officers recognize when they have been affected. We will also attempt to identify warning signs law enforcement officers might display when they have been affected by a critical incident.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


“The researchers exposed 76 police academy recruits to a video of officers exposed to high stress situations. Salivary cortisol and 3-methoxy-4-hydroxy-
phenylglycol (MHPG, the major metabolite of norepinephrine) were examined after the video exposure. Exposure to the video led to significant MHPG and cortisol responses. Those with childhood trauma histories showed a significantly great MHPG response. Conclusion: “Police academy recruits with childhood trauma histories have an increased catecholamine response to psychological stress. This might serve as a risk factor for anxiety disorders in recruits, and these findings might generalize to other groups with a history of childhood trauma.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


- Buchanan, Stephens, and Long (2001) suggest that within those occupations where exposure to trauma is high, previous trauma is an additional risk factor which may adversely impact on job performance and ultimately on resignation intentions.
- Their study results concluded that an officer began work with unresolved trauma, their they may have poorer performance.
- Burke, Shakespeare-Finch, Paton and Ryan (2006) highlighted incidences of difficulty adjusting to the role of police officer- elevated stress and symptoms of PTSD.
- Officer entering policing have been selected because of individual characteristic indicated that they are likely to be resilient to the effects of operational stress and trauma (Goldgarb & Aumiller, 2004).
- Mechanisms to account for differences - access to social support, capacity to use training, experiences to render the new experience coherent and meaningful.
- Prior traumatic experiences could have contributed to motivation to entering police work. They could have more realistic expectation of the job. Recruits may have more insight into facing sever adversity.
- More research is needed to consider how motivation to enter police work influences subsequent well-being.
- From Civilian to Recruit: Selecting the Right Stuff (These chapters were not in book preview but seem relevant based on book contents.)

“The researchers examined the relationship between demographic variables and the number of traumatic incidents among 233 police officers. The demographics that were significantly correlated with fewer traumatic incidents included age, gender, years of police experience, and section assignment. A multiple regression analysis indicated that age and section assignment were significant predictors of fewer traumatic incidents, and military service experience predicted more traumatic incidents. The study’s findings suggest that mental health services provided to police officers should consider the effects of demographic characteristics on exposure to traumatic incidents, which will lead to culturally relevant services.”

[ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


“Exposure to traumatic events is common in police work, and its psychological impact on officers may take the form of severe PTSD symptomatology. Personality traits such as hardiness could be protective against mental health outcomes and help withstand stress and trauma. This study aimed to examine the relationships between hardiness, internalizing disorders, and PTSD symptoms in a sample of French police officers. Correlational analysis and partial correlations showed a specific relationship between hardiness and the PTSD symptom clusters of reexperiencing and avoidance, but not hyperarousal. The correlational analysis investigating relationships between hardiness and mental health outcomes yielded high negative correlations for control and commitment, but no significant finding for challenge. The results of the regression analysis indicate that only the reexperiencing and avoidance clusters were significantly mediated by control, and to a lesser extent, by commitment. Results reveal that hardiness has a potential buffer and protective effect on PTSD symptoms among police officers.”

[ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


The researcher discusses the negative impact that traumatic experiences have on law enforcement officers. Officers are beginning to apply for early disability retirement pension more often. Due to this, agencies are starting to implement wellness plans, stress reduction interventions, support groups, and employee assistance programs.
Agencies are also developing alliances with mental health professionals and encouraging early confidential referrals for psychiatric treatment. The article also mention that when the approaches fail, a fitness for duty is completed.


“This study aimed to examine the association between prior traumatic exposure related to policing, current posttraumatic stress symptoms and biological markers of stress, and subjective appraisal of stress before, during, and after exposure to acutely stressful stimuli. A stressful policing situation was created through the use of a video simulator room. Participants’ responses to the simulated emergency were evaluated by monitoring heart rate, collecting salivary samples for cortisol analysis, and repeated administration of a subjective measure of anxiety. Biological indicators of stress, as measured by cortisol level and heart rate, were not associated with previous trauma exposure or trauma symptoms; however, biological response was associated with subjective anxiety. Vulnerability to psychological stress responses during an acute stress situation was also associated with lower levels of social support, previous traumatic exposures, and preexisting symptoms of traumatic stress. The importance of these factors became more pronounced as time progressed after the event. Previous trauma exposure did not put individuals at increased risk of biological distress during an acute stress situation. However, previous trauma and reduced social supports were associated with continuing psychological distress, confirming previous research and raising concerns about the cumulative negative effects of traumatic exposure on psychological health in emergency responders.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


“Little is known about how age and gender are associated with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms and traumatic experiences in treatment-seeking police offers. In this study, we examined 967 diagnostic files of police officers seeking treatment for PTSD. Six hundred twelve (63%) of the referred police officers were diagnosed with PTSD (n = 560) or partial PTSD (n = 52). Police officers reported on average 19.5 different types of traumatic events (range 1-43). Those who experienced a greater variety of traumatic events suffered from more PTSD symptoms. Also, women reported more often direct life-threatening or private events as their index trauma than men and suffered from more PTSD symptoms.
than their male colleagues. Results indicate that police officers experience a considerable number of different traumatic events, which is significantly associated with PTSD symptoms. The results highlight the importance of early detection of PTSD symptoms in the police force.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


“The researchers conducted a meta-analysis of police stressors and health outcomes. The researchers found that several studies show the significant relationship between traumatic events at work and PTSD in police. When police experience trauma, research has shown that this can be related to psychological distress, higher levels of depression and anxiety, hyperarousal or hypervigilance, poor sleep quality and sleep disturbances, and poorer performance. The researchers discuss the percentage of suicide among police officers, which has remained stable from 2008-2012. The researchers also discuss organizational stressors (e.g. poor equipment, flexibility, or participation in decision making), work schedules, and work-family conflict that can negatively impact health outcomes.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


“Police officers encounter unpredictable, evolving, and escalating stressful demands in their work. Utilizing the Spielberger Police Stress Survey (60-item instrument for assessing specific conditions or events considered to be stressors in police work), the present study examined the association of the top five highly rated and bottom five least rated work stressors among police officers with their awakening cortisol pattern. Participants were police officers enrolled in the Buffalo Cardio-Metabolic Occupational Police Stress (BCOPS) study (n = 338). For each group, the total stress index (product of rating and frequency of the stressor) was calculated. Participants collected saliva by means of Salivettes at four time points: on awakening, 15, 30 and 45 min after waking to examine the cortisol awakening response (CAR). Saliva samples were analyzed for free cortisol concentrations. A slope reflecting the awakening pattern of cortisol over time was estimated by fitting a linear regression model relating cortisol in log-scale to time of collection. The slope served as the outcome variable. Analysis of covariance, regression, and repeated measures models were used to determine if there was an association of
the stress index with the waking cortisol pattern. There was a significant negative linear association between total stress index of the five highest stressful events and slope of the awakening cortisol regression line (trend p-value = 0.0024). As the stress index increased, the pattern of the awakening cortisol regression line tended to flatten. Officers with a zero stress index showed a steep and steady increase in cortisol from baseline (which is often observed) while officers with a moderate or high stress index showed a dampened or flatter response over time. Conversely, the total stress index of the five least rated events was not significantly associated with the awakening cortisol pattern. The study suggests that police events or conditions considered highly stressful by the officers may be associated with disturbances of the typical awakening cortisol pattern. The results are consistent with previous research where chronic exposure to stressors is associated with a diminished awakening cortisol response pattern.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]


“Police work is one of the most stressful occupations. Previous research has indicated that work stress and trauma exposure may place individuals at heightened risk for the development of depression symptomatology. This prospective longitudinal study was designed to examine predictors of depression symptoms in police service. Participants comprised 119 healthy police recruits from an ongoing prospective study. They completed baseline measures of depression symptoms, childhood trauma exposure, neuroticism, and self-worth during academy training. Follow-up measures of depression symptoms, PTSD symptoms, critical incident exposure, negative life events, and routine work environment stress were assessed after 12 months of police service. Hierarchical linear regression analysis was conducted to examine predictors of current levels of depression symptoms, controlling for baseline depression symptoms and current PTSD symptoms. Greater childhood trauma exposure, lower self-worth during training, and greater perceived work stress in the first year of police service predicted greater depression symptoms at 12 months. Depression symptoms at 1 year of police service were partly independent from PTSD symptoms at 12 months. Greater childhood trauma exposure and lower self-worth during training may be important variables to screen as risk factors for duty-related depression. Strategies to reduce routine work environment stress have the potential to decrease duty-related depression in law enforcement.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

“Police officers who maintain negative or traumatic information in long-term memory are vulnerable to mental illness, unstable emotional and behavioral responses, interpersonal problems, and impaired social relationships. The cognitive theory suggests that police officers externalize various negative or maladaptive behaviors as a result of frequent exposure to traumatic events. Researchers have found that police officers tend to either not seek mental health treatment, try to fix their own mental health problem, or if in treatment will not be forthcoming with internalized thoughts of psychological distress. The intention of this research was to examine the relationship between police officers’ frequent exposure to violence and traumatic events/images and its effect on the long-term mental health issues and significant decreases in cognitive empathy or human compassion within police officers. This quantitative study used a simple linear regression, descriptive analysis, correlational matrix to analyze the data gathered from assessment packets containing a Trauma Symptom Inventory-2A, Paulhus Deception Scale, JHU Project Shields Questionnaire, and a Compassion Scale. Assessment packets were distributed during roll calls to active male and female Norfolk Police Officers assigned to the Patrol Divisions, Detective Division, and Vice/Narcotic Division. A priori power analysis revealed 65 participants were needed to have a valid sample. There were 66 completed assessment packets collected from the researcher’s secure drop boxes. The findings were statistically significant suggesting a need for continued research. To effect positive social change, mental health workers and police organizations will use this data to assist in policy construction and mental health training.” [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

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