



OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR



Federal Government Response to an Urgent Issue **PA Office of Rural Health** **Human Trafficking Summit** **October 29, 2019**

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Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania

Virginia & West Virginia





What is the definition of human trafficking?

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery in which traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to control victims for the purpose of engaging in commercial sex acts or labor services against his/her will. Traffickers use violence, threats, blackmail, false promises, deception, manipulation, and debt bondage to trap vulnerable individuals in horrific situations.





Region 3 Federal Interagency Anti-Trafficking Task Force

- Mission: *To facilitate collaboration across federal, state and local agencies to raise awareness and build capacity to combat human trafficking across Region 3-(DC, DE, MD, PA, VA & WV)*
- Collaborative Group comprised of numerous federal government agencies: HHS – ACF, CDC, HRSA, OASH, ORD; DOJ (FBI), OHS, AND THE EEOC
- The task force:
 - Raises awareness
 - Data collection & analysis
 - Capacity Building
 - Funding & Resources





REGION 3 HUMAN TRAFFICKING EVENTS

- The Region 3 Human Trafficking Task Force works to raise awareness with various organizations such as:
 - Faith-based organizations
 - Medical Community
 - Chambers of Commerce
 - Rotary Clubs
 - Health Care Organizations





The National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth

- The White House and HHS Secretary Alex Azar created the National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children & Youth in the United States.
- Committee is composed of:
 - Governors (including Delaware Governor Carney);
 - former sex trafficking victims;
 - child welfare representatives; and
 - state, tribal and local government human services officials
- Newly formed Committee – looking forward to providing updates!





Human Trafficking & the Opioid Epidemic

- An opioid addiction may lead someone to be vulnerable to being trafficked – traffickers will recruit and lure trafficking victims outside of meth clinics.
- Traffickers use opioids as one of the chemical tools to keep their victims in check while being trafficked.
- They will threaten to “skip” their victim – meaning if they don’t perform, they will not get their “breakfast” of heroin.
- The relationship between opioids can continue after a person is rescued as a way of numbing the emotional pain.
- Recently, 60 individuals, 31 of which were doctors, 7 pharmacists and 8 nurses were charged w/trading opioid prescriptions for sex and cash. (NYT -- 4/17/19)





Pennsylvania's Human Trafficking Statistics

- 116 cases where traffickers were charged in PA between 2014 and 2019, resulting in at least 46 convictions.
- Pennsylvania ranked *fifth* in the nation in 2019 for the number of active criminal human trafficking cases making their way through federal courts with 42 cases.

2018 statistics are current as of 12/31/2018.





Human Trafficking is Happening in Pennsylvania

- Pennsylvania charges Florida man in alleged human trafficking at massage parlors – *Philadelphia Inquirer*
- Human Trafficking Happens Right Under our Noses – *York Daily Record*
- It's real: Human trafficking in Pennsylvania - At least 1 multi-million dollar ring has been shutdown in Lancaster County - *WGAL*
- Lemoyne man charged with trafficking Maryland women – *WGAL*
- Occupancy Permit for Murraysville Massage Parlor Suspended After Human Trafficking Bust – *Pittsburgh Post Gazette*
- Apparently, opioid addiction is one of the reasons why Pittsburgh has made it to our list of top US cities for human trafficking in 2019.





Delaware Hospital's Plan to Combat Human Trafficking

- Delaware may be the first state in the nation to adopt a coordinated approach to better identify victims of human trafficking, potentially helping them escape this criminal enterprise.
- The approach includes:
 - Educating the entire hospital staff about human trafficking
 - Use a specific assessment to identify red flags among potential victims following a step-by-step process
 - ✓ Do you know where you are?
 - ✓ Can you come and go as your please?
 - ✓ If you work, do you have control of your earnings?
 - ✓ Do you carry your own identification?
 - Respond to suspected trafficking using a specific hospital code for trafficking victims to collect statewide data
 - Address minors who are being trafficked
- Implementation will take place within the next year.





Delaware Human Trafficking – Intern Project

- The Delaware Department of Correction is using college interns to provide information on human trafficking/exploitation to female offenders incarcerated or supervised by the DOC.
- Interns meet with women both inside correction facilities and at community corrections locations in New Castle County Probation and Parole Offices to providing both group presentation and individual interviews.
- These informational session are designed to educate justice involved women to possible methods and tactics of exploitation and to provide information on how to prevent exploitation, along with resources for those who may be prior victims of trafficking/exploitation.
- Interns recently interviewed 300 of these women and found 65 were victims of trafficking.





What Can I Do?

- Be aware - Recognize red flags signs/symptoms
- Know agencies and community organizations involved with HT victims
- Be a trusted advocate
- Reduce the stigma
- Training opportunities
- Promote a donation drive
- Volunteer
- **Save 888-3737-888 in your phone**

NATIONAL
HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
HOTLINE

1-888-373-7888



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What Not To Do

- Do not try to rescue the victim
- Beware of the accompanying person
- Do not contact law enforcement without patients consent
- Do not ask about legal status
- Do call and report to the trafficking hotline
1-888-3737-888



Thank you!

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