

09. GAUGING COMMUNITY RISK

- While there are risk factors that can make an individual more vulnerable to human trafficking, anyone could be a victim.
- There are populations and groups that are more vulnerable to human trafficking. They include but are not limited to: youth who have run away or are experiencing homelessness, those who are or were in the child welfare or juvenile justice system, students who have dropped out of school, students with intellectual and developmental disabilities or differences, LGBTQ+ youth, youth who work in hostile environments, and unaccompanied migrant youth.



LOGO

TRAFFICK  STOP

- There are other vulnerabilities that may make individuals more susceptible. They include but are not limited to: romantic/sexual involvement with adult(s) over 18; substance use; isolation; trauma from other experiences; mental illness; youth disconnected from parents, caregivers, or other trusted persons; youth whose caregivers primarily speak other languages; gang involvement; emotional distress; and lack of social support.
- There are many root issues that create these vulnerabilities, which in turn may lead to trafficking (like poverty, cultural norms, emotional and physical needs). Some of these factors create an environment that lures youth into trafficking.
- It is helpful to understand that trafficking is normalized within some cultural communities. However, that does not mean it should be accepted.
- Different geographical areas will have varied prevalence of trafficking depending on the populations in the areas. The exact number of cases in an area is likely unknown due to limited reporting and the hidden nature of trafficking.
- Although trafficking can affect anyone, many subject matter experts agree that trafficking disproportionately affects certain populations more than others, like black, indigenous, and people of color, as well as individuals in the LGBTQ+ community.

Learning Objectives

1. Identify three populations and/or groups that are more vulnerable to human trafficking.
2. Describe three vulnerabilities that may make individuals more susceptible to trafficking.

Materials

- *Human Trafficking Today* handout

Guided Discussion

Use these questions to generate a discussion among group members.

- Why do you think that some people don't see themselves as victims when they are being trafficked?
- What could be done to help people who are being trafficked to self-identify as victims of human trafficking?

- What resources exist in your school/community to help teens who may be dealing with human trafficking?

Connecting the Dots

- Think about your awareness week activity.
 - ◇ What activities do you like to do?
 - ◇ How could you incorporate those activities into your Human Trafficking Awareness Week activities?
- Think about everything that you’ve discussed over the past two months.
 - ◇ What information would be most helpful for your peers to know? How can you convey that information to them in a way that is engaging?
 - ◇ What are some healthy ways for you to process information and events around you? What are some ways you can practice self-care after seeing or hearing something traumatic?

Reflect & Review

Have students respond to one or all of the following prompts (time-permitting):

- As you begin to plan your awareness week activity or activities, consider the process for planning an event and what steps you will take to prepare.

Invite students to share their answers with the group.

Tips for Adapting to Online Delivery

- See “Online Delivery Tip Sheet” in the Facilitator Toolkit for more information about adapting your meeting plan to an online platform.

Facilitator Notes

Upcoming Meeting Dates: __/__/__

References

Department of Education - Human Trafficking in America’s Schools
Office for Victims of Crime – Understanding Human Trafficking
Polaris
Vulnerabilities and Recruitment
Unbound