

Cross-sectional survey of survivors of human trafficking in contact with services in England: Violence and health

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Presenter Disclosures

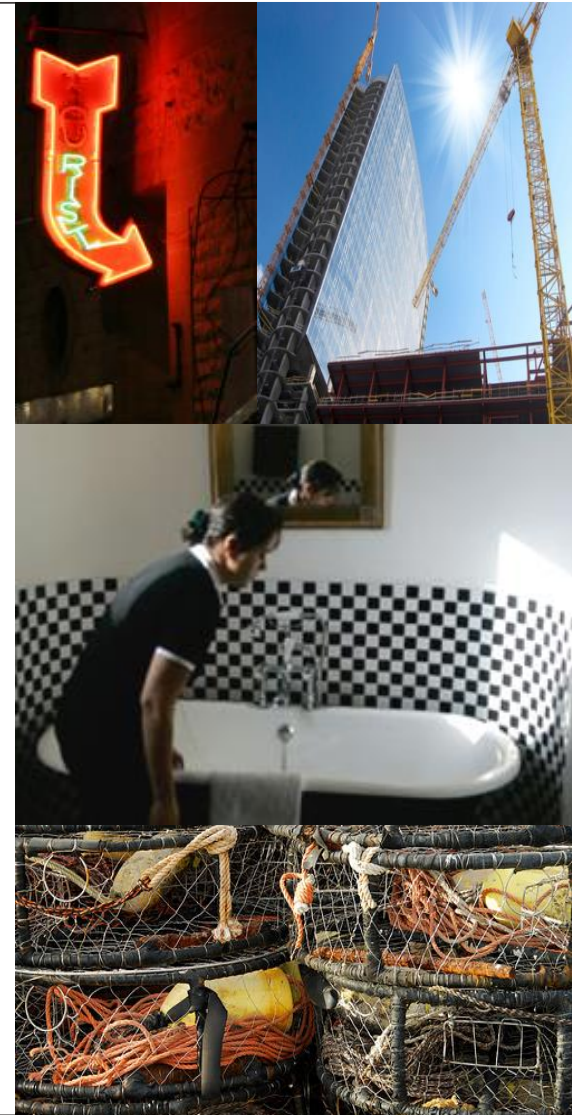
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(1) The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:

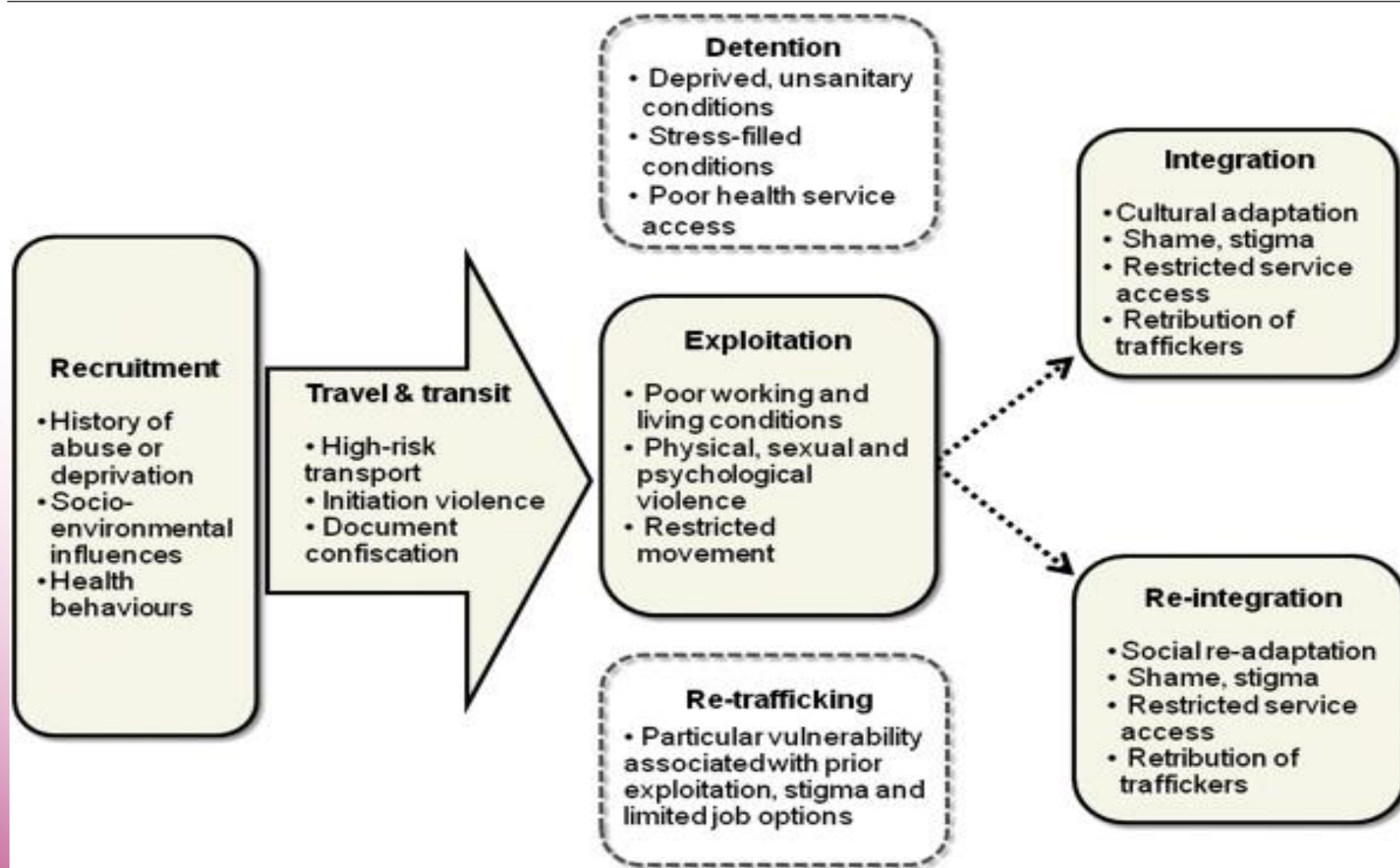
“No relationships to disclose”

Human trafficking

- **Human trafficking is the movement of people by force, coercion, or deception, for the purposes of exploitation.**
- **People are exploited in a variety of settings, including:**
 - Forced sex work
 - Domestic servitude
 - Agriculture, construction, fishing, factories, restaurants, hotels, nail salons, car washes
 - Forced criminality (e.g. begging, theft, cannabis cultivation)



Human trafficking and health



PROTECT Health Survey of Trafficked People



- **Aim:** to describe the health needs of trafficked people.
- **Study design:** cross-sectional survey
- **Study population:** trafficked adults (aged 18 years and older) who are no longer in the setting of exploitation and are in contact with NHS or post-trafficking support services in England.
- **Recruitment:** eligible service users are approached by their support workers and/or healthcare providers. Written information is provided in participants' preferred language; interpreters available.

Data collection and analysis

Data are collected on

- Socio-demographic details
- Medical history and current physical symptoms (Miller Abuse Scale)
- Current psychological symptoms (PHQ-9, GAD-7, PC-PTSD) and suicidal ideation (CIS-R)
- Substance use (AUDIT-C, Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey)
- Sexual and reproductive health and pregnancy
- Health risks (including violence) during exploitation
- Health and social care needs and experiences (CANSAS-SF, qualitative)

Multiple imputation used to deal with bias from missing data

Multivariable logistic regression used to analyse factors associated with poor mental health

Sample characteristics

	Total N=150 (%)	Men N=52 (%)	Women N=98 (%)	p
Mean age in years (SD)	32.4 (10.8)	36.8 (11.9)	30.0 (9.4)	0.001**
Currently married/living with a partner	21 (14.2)	13 (25.0)	8 (8.3)	0.006**
Has 1 or more children	81 (54.4)	29 (55.8)	52 (53.6)	0.801
Lacks a confidante	49 (34.5)	18 (34.6)	31 (34.4)	0.984
Afraid of the traffickers	107 (71.3)	29 (55.6)	78 (78.6)	0.002**
Median months contact with support service (IQR)	3.0 (1.2, 7.5)	1.6 (0.9, 4.3)	4.4 (1.4, 12.5)	<0.001***
Median number of unmet needs (IQR)	2 (1, 4)	2 (1, 3)	3 (1, 4)	0.570

* p<.05 ** p<.01 *** p<.001

Trafficking experiences

	Total N=150 (%)	Men N=52 (%)	Women N=98 (%)	p
Type of exploitation				
• Domestic servitude	44 (29.3)	5 (9.6)	39 (39.8)	<0.001***
• Sexual exploitation	43 (28.7)	1 (1.9)	42 (42.9)	
• Labour exploitation	59 (39.3)	45 (86.5)	14 (14.3)	
No access to passport/identity documents	90 (60.0)	22 (42.3)	68 (69.4)	0.003**
Extreme restriction of movement	108 (74.0)	30 (60.0)	78 (81.3)	0.005**
Median months in trafficking situation (IQR)	7 (3, 36)	3 (1,5)	12 (5, 60)	0.012
Median months since left trafficking situation (IQR)	6 (2, 30)	3 (1.2, 6)	16 (3, 38)	<0.001***

* p<.05 ** p<.01 *** p<.001

Experiences of violence

	Total N=150 (%)	Men N=52 (%)	Women N=98 (%)	p
Pre-trafficking				
Physical violence	72 (48.0)	15 (28.9)	57 (58.2)	0.002**
Sexual violence	32 (21.3)	2 (3.9)	30 (30.6)	0.001**
Trafficking				
Threats to self	118 (78.2)	36 (69.2)	82 (83.7)	<0.001***
Threats to family	63 (41.7)	16 (30.8)	47 (48.0)	<0.001***
Physical violence	97 (64.7)	22 (42.3)	75 (76.5)	<0.001***
Sexual violence	67 (66.3)	2 (3.9)	65 (66.3)	<0.001***
Injury	83 (55.3)	17 (32.7)	66 (67.4)	<0.001***

* p<.05 ** p<.01 *** p<.001

Experiences of violence

	Total N=150 (%)	Men N=52 (%)	Women N=98 (%)	p
Pre-trafficking				
Physical violence	72 (48.0)	15 (28.9)	57 (58.2)	0.002**
Sexual violence	32 (21.3)	2 (3.9)	30 (30.6)	0.001**
Trafficking				
Threats to self	118 (78.2)	16 (30.8)	102 (100%)	<0.001***
Threats to family	63 (41.7)	16 (30.8)	47 (48.0)	<0.001***
Physical violence	97 (64.7)	22 (42.3)	75 (76.5)	<0.001***
Sexual violence	67 (66.3)	2 (3.9)	65 (66.3)	<0.001***
Injury	83 (55.3)	17 (32.7)	66 (67.4)	<0.001***

95% of women trafficked for sexual exploitation

54% of women trafficked for domestic servitude

* p<.05 ** p<.01 *** p<.001

Mental health

	Total n=150(%)	Male n=52 (%)	Female n=98 (%)	P
Depression, anxiety, or PTSD	97 (64.7)	21 (40.3)	79 (77.6)	<0.001***
• Depression	62 (41.3)	12 (23.1)	50 (51.0)	0.001**
• Anxiety	58 (38.7)	10 (19.2)	48 (49.0)	0.001**
• PTSD	71 (47.3)	13 (25.0)	58 (59.2)	<0.001***
Suicidal ideation	57 (38.0)	7 (13.5)	50 (51.0)	<0.001***

* p<.05 ** p<.01 *** p<.001

Factors associated with poor mental health

	Adjusted OR (95% CI)	P value
Gender (female vs. male)	2.0 (0.7-5.8)	0.206
Pre-trafficking		
Pre-trafficking sexual violence	3.2 (0.7-15.0)	0.131
Pre-trafficking physical violence	1.8 (0.7-4.5)	0.228
Trafficking		
Injury during trafficking	2.1 (0.8-6.0)	0.140
Extreme restriction during trafficking	2.1 (0.7-6.1)	0.163
Post-trafficking		
Ongoing fear of the traffickers	2.3 (0.9-6.3)	0.098
Unmet social needs	2.0 (1.1-3.5)	0.020*
Lack of a confidante	3.0 (1.0-8.8)	0.047*

* p<.05 ** p<.01 *** p<.001

Conclusions

- Risk factors experienced prior to, during, and after trafficking;
- High rates of exposure to physical and sexual violence prior to and during exploitation;
 - Significant differences in exposure to violence between men and women, and high rates of sexual violence among women, regardless of type of exploitation;
- Persisting risk of being re-trafficked, fear of traffickers, unmet social needs, and limited access to health and social support;
- High levels of symptoms for common mental disorders, PTSD, and suicidal ideation among trafficked men and women compared with general population;
 - Significant difference in risk of poor mental health outcomes between men and women;

Implications

- Comprehensive healthcare is a fundamental component of post-trafficking care;
- Sexual health services are needed for all trafficked people, regardless of the type of exploitation suffered, due to high rates of sexual violence;
- Clear referral pathways are needed between support services and medical services;
- Support services must also address survivors economic, social, and legal insecurities, as unmet social needs significant risk factor;
- Psychological interventions to support the recovery of this population should now be tested.



Thank you

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