



DoD COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

Human Trafficking Visual and Verbal Indicators

It is important to be able to identify visual and verbal indicators of human trafficking when you are investigating an incident report.



Please note: the following lists are not exhaustive. They are provided as a guide. Indicators listed are not absolute signs of TIP. The absence or presence of these indicators does not necessarily indicate TIP; only investigation of the circumstances will determine if there is a TIP incident.

Physical

- Signs of physical abuse: bruises, cuts, burns, broken bones
- Signs of sexual assault or abuse
- Serious communicable diseases (e.g. hepatitis, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted infections)
- Injuries from violence or hazardous work conditions
- Malnutrition, dehydration

Social/Environmental

- No identification documents (passport, papers)
- Escorted or closely monitored at all times
- Someone speaks for the person in question
- In debt bondage to employers
- Living or working in unsafe conditions
- Living or confined to their workplace
- Age-inappropriate romantic partner
- Wears inappropriate clothing for the season



Psychological/Behavioral

- Fearful
- Submissive
- Anxious
- Angry
- Depressed
- Drug or alcohol addiction or abuse
- Dependent upon others
- Emotionally abused
- Disoriented, unable to identify their surroundings
- Complex trauma, including trauma bonding with the trafficker



How Trafficking in Persons Affects Victims

Victims of trafficking in persons suffer physical, mental, and emotional abuse and trauma. The types of physical and psychological abuse human trafficking victims experience often lead to serious mental or emotional health consequences, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety, substance abuse (alcohol or narcotics).

Physical Impact

The health needs of victims of human trafficking tend to present themselves at multiple stages in the recovery and reintegration process and can be chronic or present for extended periods of time. Almost all victims of trafficking suffer from at least one physical health problem. Some of these ailments can include the following:

- Broken bones and bruises
- Chronic pain
- Infectious diseases
- Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)
- Dental or oral problems
- Respiratory illness
- Pelvic pain or pelvic inflammatory disease and other gynecological problems
- Workplace injury
- Pesticide or other chemical intoxication
- Illness resulting from poor sanitation and/or contaminated food and water
- Heat stroke or exhaustion
- Musculoskeletal trauma from awkward posture, repetitive movement, and/or lifting heavy loads
- Infectious disease, including parasites, hepatitis, and tuberculosis



Mental and Behavioral Effects

Trafficking victims also have mental and behavioral effects. Some of the most common reported by victims and survivors of trafficking include:

- Anxiety
- Anger
- Hopelessness
- Sleeplessness, sleep disturbances, nightmares, and/or insomnia
- Isolating behavior
- Exhaustion
- Warranted and Unwarranted Fears
- Distrust/fear of strangers
- Guilt, shame, and/or self-blame
- Aggression
- Stockholm syndrome
- Suicidal Ideation
- Dissociative Disorders

Reporting procedures for alleged TIP violations:

- Report anything suspicious that you see to your chain of command
- You can report incidents to your local DoD IG office, through the DoD IG Hotline at **1-800-424-9098**, or visit their website at **<http://www.dodig.mil/hotline>**