
Occupational Therapy's Role in Human Trafficking

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Occupational Therapy's Role in the Continuum of Care

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Definitions from the Trafficking Victims of Protection Act

Sex trafficking: A commercial sex act induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age

Labor Trafficking: The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provisions, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery

Health symptoms

Psychological: Substance abuse, Anxiety, PTSD, Depression, Emotional lability

Cognitive: Memory deficits, decreased attention span, decreased executive functioning, poor safety awareness, decreased problem solving

Physical: Malnutrition, back, joint & muscle pain, vision issues, decreased strength & endurance, sleep disturbances

OT Treatment Interventions

Life Skills Training:

Household management, Budgeting, Parenting, Assertiveness Training,
Effective decision making

Psychoeducational Groups:

Social skills training, Grief cycle, Safe sex and healthy choices, 12-Step programs

Physical Rehabilitation:

Energy conservation, Body mechanics, Physical fitness, Chronic pain education,
Physical agent modalities (PAMS)

Sensory Modulation:

Touch, Aromatherapy, Sensory room, Sensory diet, Deep breathing, Massage therapy

Mindfulness Techniques:

Focused breathing, Mindful eating, Mindful movement, Yoga

Forever Found: Prevention, Rescue, and Restoration of child trafficking survivors
foreverfound.org

HEAL Trafficking: Health, Education, Advocacy, Linkage
healtrafficking.org

National Human Trafficking Hotline
 (888) 373-7888
humantraffickinghotline.org

Occupational Therapy Human Trafficking Network
facebook.com/groups/950124891711186/

Office on Trafficking in Persons - An Office of the Administration for Children and Families
acf.hhs.gov/otip/resource/fshumantrafficking

Polaris
polarisproject.org

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/index.html

United States Dept. of State. 2017 Trafficking in Persons Report
state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt

a21 a21.org
www.a21.org/content/human-trafficking/gnjb89



Women and girls are disproportionately affected by forced labor, accounting for 99% of victims in the commercial sex industry, and 58% in other sectors

\$150 billion industry worldwide

1 in 4 victims of modern slavery are children

45.8 million people are subject to some form of modern slavery in the world today including 24.9 in forced labor and 15.4 million in forced marriage

90% of sexually exploited children have a history of child abuse and neglect

RESEARCH

THE ISSUE IS . . .

Role of Occupational Therapy in Combating Human Trafficking

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MeSH TERMS

- health services needs and demands
- human trafficking
- occupational therapy
- professional role
- trauma and stressor related disorders

Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery that includes sex trafficking, labor trafficking, and trafficking of children. It is estimated that 35.8 million people are enslaved around the world. Because of the traumatic experiences that victims of human trafficking encounter, the needs of victims are extensive and require the services of several providers, including health care providers, for victims to transform into survivors and thrivers. Currently, the role of occupational therapy is minimal and unexplored. The profession of occupational therapy has the capacity of having a profound role in both providing client-centered care services to victims and survivors of human trafficking and partaking in preventive advocacy efforts to combat human trafficking. Further advocacy efforts are required to promote the profession of occupational therapy in combating human trafficking.

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According to the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106–386), the U.S. Congress has defined human trafficking as partment of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons [TIP Office], 2014).