

A photograph of a field of golden wheat at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. In the background, there are silhouettes of people standing in the field. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

# Recognizing and Responding to Survivors of Human Trafficking

**Hailey Virusso, LCSW**  
**Director of Anti-Trafficking Services, Preble Street**

A photograph of a vast field of grain, likely wheat or barley, under a warm, golden sunset sky. In the background, a tractor is visible, and a few people can be seen standing near it. The overall mood is peaceful and agricultural.

## Quick Level Setting

# Learning Objectives

1

**Recognize** the different types of human trafficking, common risk factors and intersections

2

**Explore** potential indicators, dynamics and barriers, approaches to assessment with a focus on employment

3

**Be familiar** with reporting processes and available resources



# Defining Human Trafficking

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**Sex Trafficking:** *The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of commercial sex acts in which the commercial sex act is 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, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion, for the purposes of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery*

## Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000

- Criminal prosecution/penalties of traffickers
- Immigration protections for foreign-born victims
- Civil remedies and victim benefits
- Legally defines severe forms of trafficking

Any compelled activity, whether for labor, services, and/or commercial sex, where **force, fraud, and/or coercive** methods are used for gain

or

Any **MINOR** involved in commercial sex

# AMP Model

## Action

- Recruits
- Harbors
- Transports
- Provides
- Obtains
- Solicits/patronizes
- Advertises

## Means

- **Force**
  - Physical or sexual violence
  - Confinement or kidnapping
  - Withholding/supplying
    - Food, water, medical care, substances
  - Forced abortions
- **Fraud**
  - False or misrepresented:
    - Job offers, wages, work conditions
    - Marriage, promises of love or better life
    - Positions of authority
  - Language or document manipulation
- **Coercion**
  - Psychological manipulation, intimidation, or threats of serious harm
    - Monitoring, surveillance
    - Reproductive coercion
    - Cultural / spiritual abuse
  - Confiscation of ID or other legal documents
  - Quota, debt or contracts

*Means not  
required for  
minors  
induced into  
commercial sex*

## Purpose

- Commercial Sex
- Forced labor / services
- Involuntary servitude
- Debt Bondage
- Peonage
- Slavery

# Labor Trafficking vs. Labor Exploitation

## Labor Trafficking

- Using force, fraud, or coercion to recruit, harbor, transport, obtain, or employ a person for labor or services in **involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery**
  - **Not free to leave**

## Labor Exploitation

- Labor trafficking and labor exploitation are "exploitive" crimes
- Poorly treated, not paid, and/or exploited, but "free to leave"

# Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)

- The exploitation of a child (under the age of 18) by an adult, accompanied by a payment in money or an exchange of anything of value, to the child OR to one or more third parties.
- Anything of value can include a place to stay, food, substances, gift cards, clothing, and more.
- Commercial = transactional

# Distinctions

## Human Trafficking

Crime against a person  
Movement not required  
Involuntary / nonconsensual  
Not able to “leave”

## Smuggling

Crime against a state or border  
Illegal border crossing  
Ends at destination  
Voluntary, involves consent

## Exploitation

May be unfair; a violation;  
or an abuse of power  
Elements of choice  
Ability to leave  
Spectrum of experiences

## Commercial Sex

Commercial or transactional  
sex is the exchange of money  
or goods for sexual services  
Mix of choice and circumstance  
Spectrum of experiences





## Recruitment Pathways & Dynamics

- Romantic or Partner-based
- Befriending or Peer-based
- Bait and Switch
- Guerilla tactics
- Leveraging crimes committed
- Dealer
- Preying on Disabilities
- Familial-Based

# Industries

- Escort Services
- Stripping/Dancing
- Pornography
- Sex Work
- Remote Sex Work
- Panhandling/Peddling
- Illicit/Criminal Activity
- Casinos
- Hotels/Hospitality
- Restaurants
- Retail Sales
- Traveling Sales
- Carnivals/Fairs
- Gig economy
- Cleaning Services
- Beauty Services:
  - Nail technicians
  - Hairstylists
  - Braiders
- Health care
- Elder care
- Child/Day care
- Domestic Work
- Forced Marriage
- Transportation
- Construction
- Forestry
- Field work/Agriculture
- Herding/Livestock
- Landscaping
- Manufacturing
- Seafood Processing
- Solar Farming





# Trafficker Types

- Parent or guardian
- Intimate partner(s) or Spouse
- Friend or Peer
- Dealer / substance provider
- Relatives or extended family
- Employer
- Labor broker
- Landlord
- Diplomats
- Religious Leaders
- Other Community Leaders
- Gangs or organized crime group
- Stranger

# What makes someone high risk

## Push Factors

### **Interpersonal**

- Sexual/ Domestic/ Childhood abuse
- Systems Involvement
- Sexual orientation/gender identity
- Cognitive/physical disabilities
- Substance Use and/or Mental Illness
- Lack of support system or role models
- Dysfunction in the home
- Illiteracy or lack of education

### **Community / Societal**

- Communities with intergenerational trauma
- Few economic opportunities
- High-barrier work / limited social mobility
- Political instability

### **Geographic Issues**

- Forced migration
- Natural disasters / Climate change



# What builds resiliency

## Pull Factors

### **Interpersonal**

- Protection from abuse
- Emotional connection
- Belonging and acceptance
- Aid or personal care
- Provision of substances or prescriptions
- Support system of role model
- Free from home dysfunction
- Educational opportunities

### **Community / Societal**

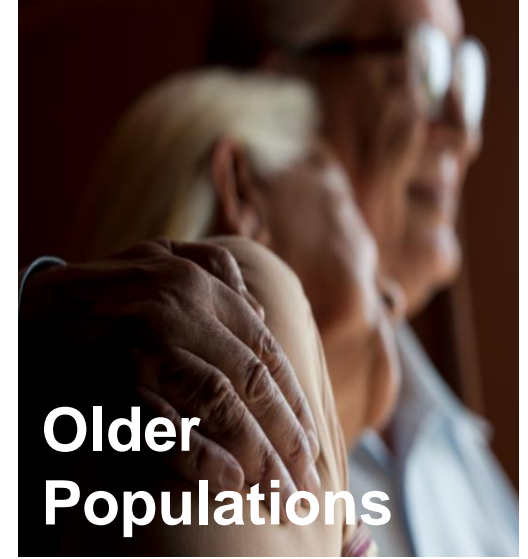
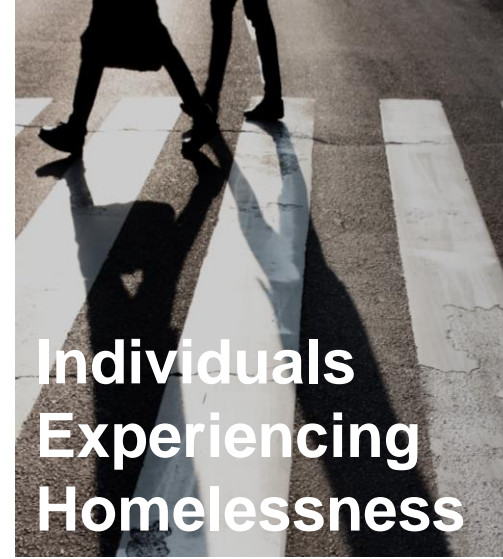
- Financial opportunities
- Low-barrier work and/or social mobility
- Political stability

### **Geographic Issues**

- Location free of violence or environmental harm



# Higher Impact Populations





# Children and Youth Compounding Factors

## Missing, Runaway and Homeless Youth have...

- Limited options for employment
- Cannot easily sign leases
- Higher rates of interaction with systems
- Minimal social/community supports
- Desire to escape home life/dysfunction

**68%** of youth who engaged in commercial sex had done so while experiencing homelessness

**94%** of trafficked youth had ACE scores of 6 or higher

**61%** of trafficked youth scored 9 out of 10

## Youth Homelessness is different than adult homelessness because...

- Critical developmental period
- Single greatest pathway into adult homelessness
- Access to stability

# Seasonal Migrant Workers

## Seasonal Workers:

- Highly mobile – migrating to jobsites or to origin country
- Low wage, season-based work
- Often hired indirectly (not by employer)
- Recruitment often involves fees
- Visa / immigration status tied to employer
- Rural, out of public view settings, limited transportation
- Often live in employer-provided housing
- Limited English proficiency & sometimes formal education





## Compounding Factors

### Racial & Ethnic Minorities / Historically Excluded

- Harmful racial sexual stereotypes, adultification and hyper-sexualization of young tribal, black and latinX children
- At multiple intersections of oppression

### Indigenous/Tribal Communities

*For American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) women...*

- **1 in 3** will be raped in their lifetime
- **6 in 10** will be physically assaulted
- Are **2x** more likely to be stalked
- Murdered at more than **10x** the national average
- Non-Native Americans commit **88%** of violent crimes against AI/AN

### Foreign Nationals can have...

- Financial debt; lack documents to prove identity
- Limited English Language skills
- Lack of understanding about U.S. system and protections
- Connections to family back home
- Previous negative experiences with law enforcement

## Forced Criminality

A survivor's involvement in crime is often a direct result of the coercion they experience at the hands of their traffickers

### **Criminalization can take the form of:**

- Conviction of sex trafficking victims as prostitutes
- Penalization of trafficked foreign nationals for violating immigration laws
- Arrest of individuals threatened with violence to produce/distribute drugs
  
- National Survivor Network survey **91%** of survivors had a criminal record as a result of being trafficked
  
- One study found **81%** of youth trafficked for labor reported instances of forced drug dealing
  
- **Maine's** incarceration rate is one of the highest in the country (328 per 100,000 people) and ranks #1 of all New England jail admissions



# Learning Objectives

1

**Recognize** the different types of human trafficking, common risk factors and intersections

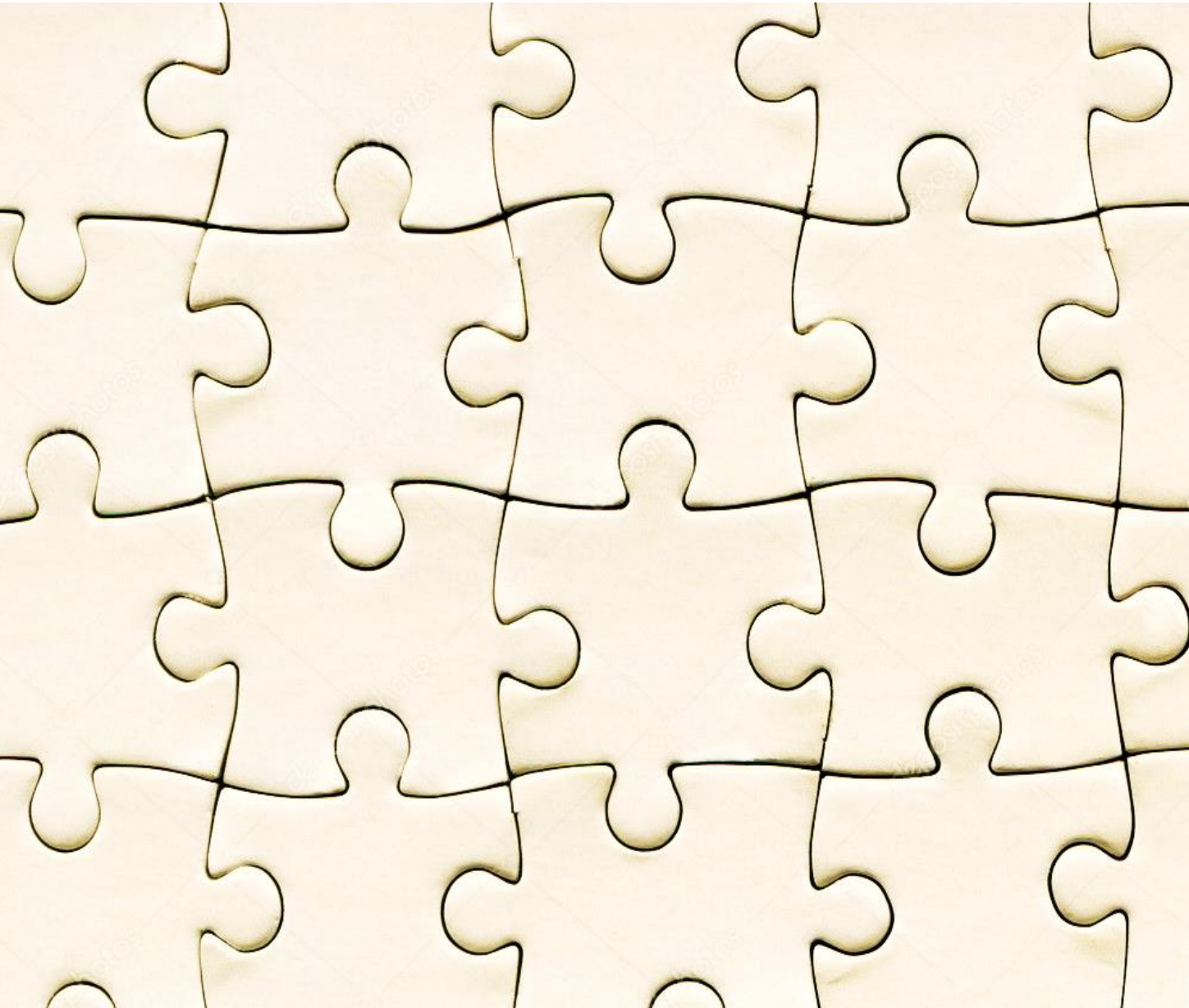
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**Explore** potential indicators, dynamics and barriers, approaches to assessment with a focus on employment

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## Keys to Identification

- ✓ Dismantle traditional “pictures” of what a “victim” looks like and who a “trafficker” can be
- ✓ Recruitment Pathways and Methods of Control
- ✓ Recognize Signs and Indicators
- ✓ What Needs Could / Are being met by a Trafficker
- ✓ Barriers to Identification or Exit

# Indicators

What are some of the signs of potential trafficking

## Observational

- Travel/Trips without means to do so
- Inappropriate clothing for weather or situation
- Evidence of monitoring
- Constant accompaniment
- Not allowed to speak for self
- Controlled movement
- Unexplained injuries
- Frequent hair/nail maintenance
- Frequenting Hotels
- Unusual branding or tattoos
- Live-in employment

## Financial

- Lack of control over finances
- Unexplained valuables/cash
- Multiple Phones
- Mentions of quotas, debt or contracts
- Social media solicitations
- Labor violations:
- Works excessive, unusual or long hours
- Poorly paid or unpaid
- Disciplined through fines or wage theft
- Lack of paper trail

## Behavioral

- Hyper-vigilance or flat affect
- Shame or guilt around work
- Communication seems memorized or scripted
- Hyper focused on phone or responding to someone
- Conflicting stories
- Employer makes their decisions
- Protects or justifies harmful someone or abuse
- Evidence of being 'punished' for bad behavior

## Health:

### Sexual and Physical

- Multiple or frequent treatment for STIs
- Multiple pregnancies or abortions
- Bruises at various stages of healing
- Trauma to the vagina and/or rectum
- Malnutrition / Dehydration
- Unexplained progression of illnesses
- Occupational-type injuries
- Exposure to harmful chemicals / Untreated skin infections/inflammation

# What Needs Could/Are being Met?

## Intangible

- Love or partnership
- Sense of self-worth
- Sense of belonging
- Racial / ethnic belonging
- Parent-like figure
- Protection/security

## Tangible

- Basic Needs
- Shelter / housing
- Financial advantages
- Supply of alcohol/substances
- Childcare and/or parent to child(ren)

# Barriers that Prevent Identification

## Why Survivors May Not Disclose and/or Exit

### Psychological

- Shame, blame, embarrassment
- Learned loyalty / obligation
- Reluctance to leave others
- Distrust of authority
- Fear of report to:
  - Police / ICE (deportation)
  - CPS / losing children
  - Retaliation
- Lack substantial "proof" for a charge
- Lack of alternative options
- Normalized abuse
- Cultural stigma / taboo
- Doesn't view self as victim
- Harmful language/assumptions

### Environmental

- Isolation
- Language barriers
- Frequent supervision
- No Documentation
- Threats or violence
- Unaware or misinformed about rights or resources
- Blackmail
- No term for trafficking
- Limited or lack of transportation
- Poor coverage or restricted phone or internet access
- Limited anonymity
- Available/accepted firearm use
- Longer police response times

# Barriers to Attaining & Maintaining Employment

## What can you do?

- Partner with local organizations to offer survivors job opportunities
- Review background check practices
- Trauma-Informed Workspaces
- Outreach Signage

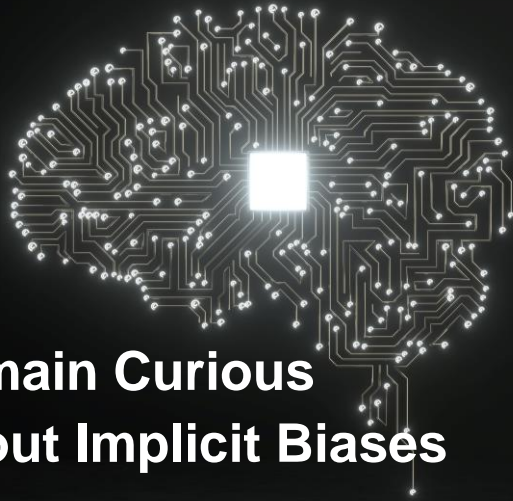


## Psychological / Physical Barriers

- Social anxiety
- Fear of contact with trafficking and/or affiliates
- Trauma history
- Memory loss
- Disability due to injuries incurred during abuse
- Executive functioning disorder
- Focused on meeting basic needs (in survival)

## Criminal History Barriers

- History of forced criminality
- Probation hours
- Incarceration
- History of or conviction of drug trafficking
- Fraud charges
- Prostitution Charges



## Remain Curious About Implicit Biases

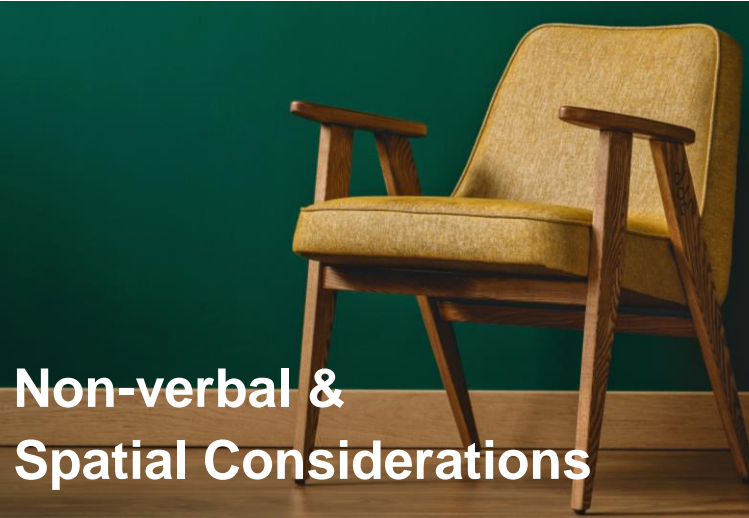
- Our biases may reinforce who gains access to supportive services and who does not:

Thinking masculine people cannot be sexually assaulted or victimized

Thinking feminine people cannot perpetuate abuse

Believing intimate partner violence only happens between cisgender people or straight couples

Perceiving sexualized behavior in young girls as normal in certain racial groups or economic statuses



## Non-verbal & Spatial Considerations

- Meet basic needs (snack, water)
- Create safe conditions to speak
  - Prioritize safety
  - Separate from third parties
  - Offer breaks
- Be mindful of physical positioning
  - Chairs
  - Bodies
  - Proximity to exit
- Keep hands in view
- Open body language; limited notes
- Be aware of eye contact



## Verbal Considerations

- If using an interpreter:
  - Only involve professionals
- Clearly explain confidentiality and limitations as a mandated reporter, and check for understanding
- Ask permission and affirm someone's right to not answer
- Mirror someone's language or terms
- Explore for clarity not curiosity
- Normalize asking everyone these questions
- Listening and asking about all types of victimizations





## Assessment

\*\*\*Assessment varies depending on age, validated tool, and provider role\*\*\*

Questions can range from direct or indirect – possible questions:

- *What kinds of ways do you make money?*
- *Are you able to keep all the money you earn?*
- *Do you owe money to your employer or to the person who helped you get the job?*
- *Have you ever exchanged sex/acts for food, a place to stay or other things you need?*
- *Have you ever worked for someone who asked you to lie about the work?*
- *Have you ever done work that was different than what you were promised or told?*
- *Have you ever felt afraid to leave someone or a situation due to fear of violence or harm to you or your family?*
- *Do you feel you could leave if you wanted to?*
- *Are you able to take breaks or time off?*
- *Has your identification or documentation been taken from you?*



## “No Wrong Door” Relationship

- Leave every conversation with the door open; plant the seed
- Be transparent about your concerns
- If ambivalent, talk through what ifs, talk in “others” if easier
- Validate their autonomy and honor whichever choice is made
- True harm reduction creates opportunities to talk and offer options (not instruct or persuade!)
- Trust yourself!

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# Trafficking Laws in Maine

## Crimes in Statute

- Aggravated sex trafficking
- Forced labor
- Kidnapping and criminal restraint

## Victim Protections in Statute

- Victim's compensation and restitution
- Protection orders
- Decriminalization of selling sex (Maine-specific)

## Systems Improvement

- Mandatory sign posting in certain businesses
- Information on spotting and reporting HT to truck drivers
- DHHS Expansion

# Immigration Relief for Survivors

## T and U Visas

- **T Visa:** a victim of severe form of trafficking in persons & cooperated with LEA in the investigation of HT
- **U Visa:** direct or indirect victim of crime or qualifying criminal activity & is likely to be helpful to LEA or other officials

## Continued Presence

- Temporary immigration designation provided to individuals by LEA as victims of a severe form of trafficking in persons, who may be a potential witness
- A victim can temporarily live and work in the U.S. during the investigation
- Initially granted for 2 years

## Funds for Survivors

- Victim's Compensation
- VOCA – MECASA HT Funding
- Preble Street & MMHP Collaboration

# Responses



## DHHS: Child or Adult Protective Services

Child: 1(800) 452-1999  
Adult: 1(800) 624-8404

Mandated Reporting  
Investigations



## Law Enforcement or Emergencies

911  
Or non-emergency numbers by area

Emergency and non-emergency response  
Investigations



## National Human Trafficking Hotline

1 (888) 373-7888

Connective services  
Urgent and non-urgent,  
200 languages,  
anonymous option



## Preble Street: Anti-Trafficking Services

(207) 775-0026  
(207) 415-8554  
Online

Supportive services  
Outreach, referrals,  
case management,  
safety planning,  
housing support, etc



## Children's Advocacy Centers

By County

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) cases  
Case coordination,  
Forensic interviews,  
Medical exams, follow up



## **Sexual Assault**

### **Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MECASA)**

- **Sexual Assault Services (AMHC)**
- **Immigrant Resource Center of Maine (IRCM)**
- **Rap Response Services (RRS)**
- **Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Services (SAPARS)**
- **Sexual Assault Crisis & Support Center (SAC&SC)**
- **Sexual Assault Response Services of Southern Maine (SARSSM)**
- **Sexual Assault Support Services of Midcoast Maine (SASSMM)**



## **Domestic Violence**

### **Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence (MCEDV)**

- **Hope and Justice Project**  
Aroostook
- **Partners for Peace (P4P)**  
Penobscot and Piscataquis
- **Family Violence Project**  
Kennebec and Somerset
- **Next Step Domestic Violence Project**  
Hancock and Washington
- **Safe Voices**  
Androscoggin, Franklin, Oxford
- **New Hope for Women**  
Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, Waldo
- **Through These Doors (TTD)**  
Cumberland
- **Immigrant Resource Center of Maine**  
Culturally-specific services



## **Tribal SA and DV Services**

### **Wabanaki Women's Coalition (WWC)**

- **Micmac Domestic & Sexual Violence Advocacy Center**
- **Maliseet Domestic & Sexual Violence Advocacy Center**
- **Indian Township Passamaquoddy Domestic & Sexual Violence Advocacy Center**
- **Passamaquoddy Peaceful Relations Domestic & Sexual Violence Advocacy Center**
- **Penobscot Nation Domestic & Sexual Violence Advocacy Center**

# Our Work



## INTENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT

- Comprehensive services and safety planning to survivors of both sex/labor
- Trafficked and exploited minor services



## HEALING CENTER

- Drop-in Safe space offering programming
- Survivor leadership opportunities



## HOUSING PROGRAMS

- Rapid Rehousing Program
- Transitional Housing Program
- Post-placement supportive services



## TRAINING & EDUCATION

- Customized trainings, protocol development, awareness events, & more



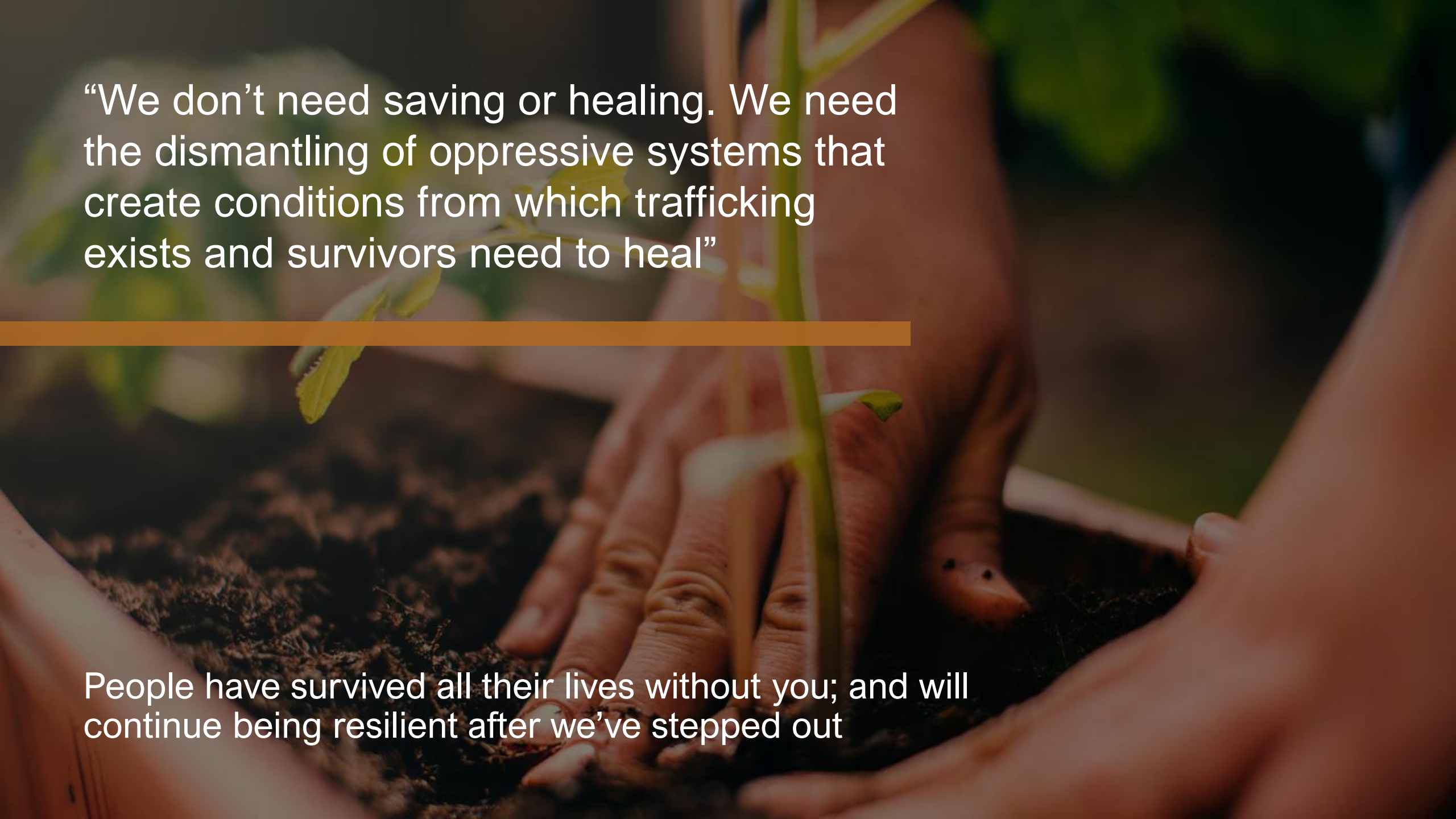
## LABOR TRAFFICKING PROGRAM

- Outreach and services for victims of labor trafficking and exploitation



## OUTREACH & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Street-based, community centers, correctional facilities, farms, and more
- Multidisciplinary teams
- Local/National policy and advocacy work



“We don’t need saving or healing. We need the dismantling of oppressive systems that create conditions from which trafficking exists and survivors need to heal”

People have survived all their lives without you; and will continue being resilient after we’ve stepped out



# Thank You



## Anti-Trafficking Services

**Office:** 207-775-0026

**Text / WhatsApp:** 207-415-8554

**Email:** [ATS@preblestreet.org](mailto:ATS@preblestreet.org)

**Healing Center:** 55 Portland Street, Portland

**Website:** [preblestreet.org/anti-trafficking-services](http://preblestreet.org/anti-trafficking-services)

### Connect with us!

Develop organization-specific Assessment Tools and protocols

Schedule recurring trainings/refreshers for new staff

Request specialized trainings:



**National Human  
Trafficking Hotline:**

1-888-373-7888

**We value your feedback!**

Training Evaluation

