

Informatics Application for the Universal Screening of Intimate Partner Violence and Human Trafficking

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The "Why"



3

12%

Impacts of IVP

- **1:5 children are exposed to IPV/year**
- **90% of children witness the *physical violence* in an abusive relationship**
- **Boys exposed to violence repeat it**
- **\$9 Billion dollars for DV healthcare annually**



Public Health
Concern



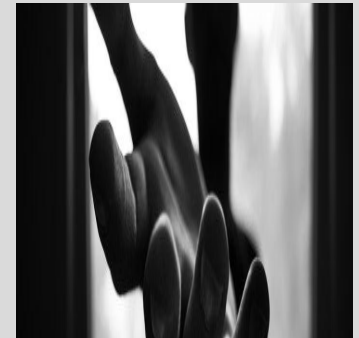
IPV in Relation to Human Trafficking



Human Trafficking



- Modern day slavery
- Does not require movement of people
- Smuggling is voluntary, Human Trafficking is involuntary



Survival
Sex

Voluntary

Able to keep
profits

Desperation

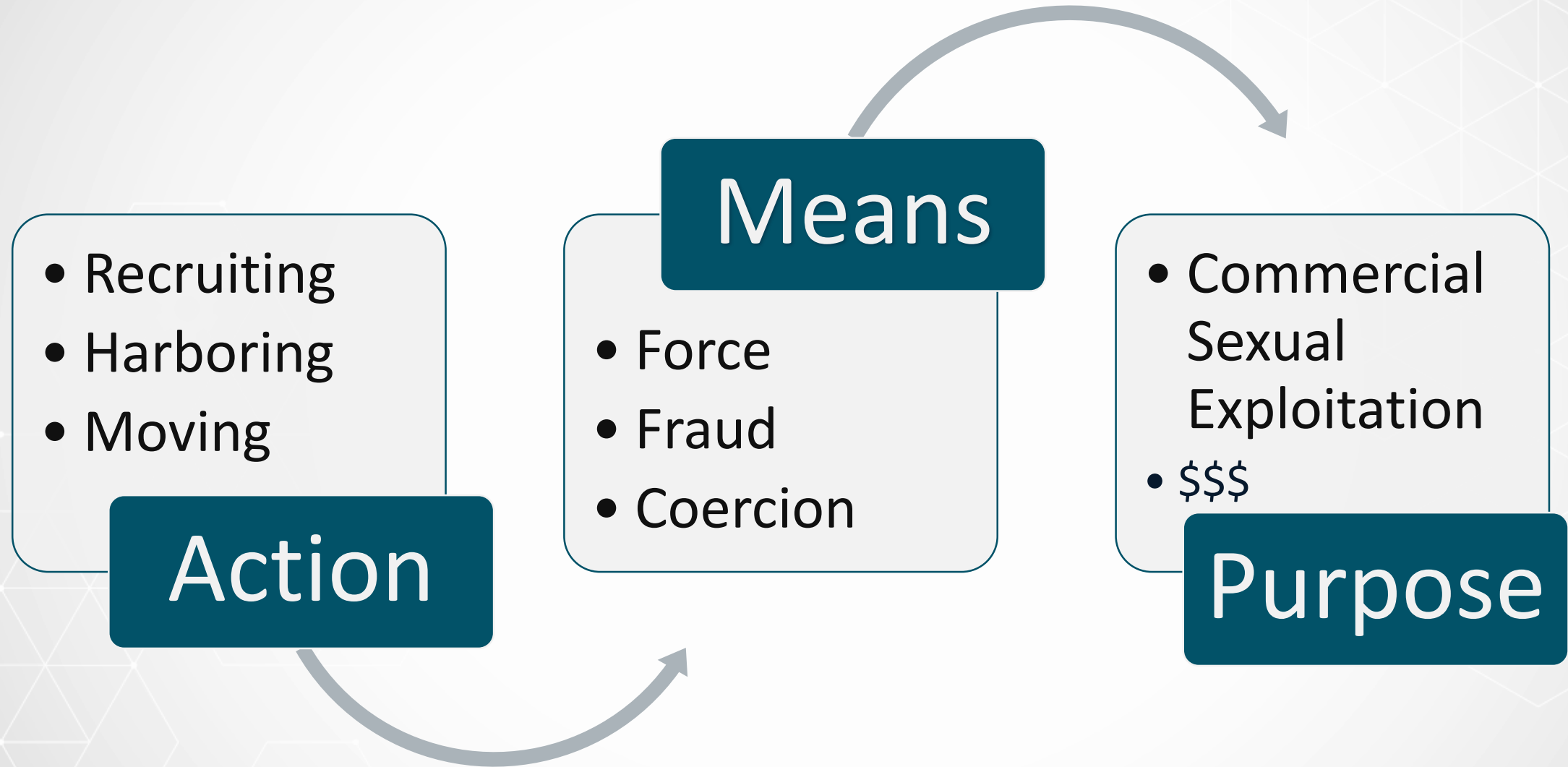
Human
Trafficking

Force

Fraud

Coercion

Elements of Human Trafficking



Low Self Esteem



HUMAN TRAFFICKING IMPACT IN TEXAS

APPROXIMATELY

79,000

MINORS AND YOUTH
ARE VICTIMS OF
SEX TRAFFICKING

IN TEXAS ★ ★

APPROXIMATELY

234,000

WORKERS ARE
VICTIMS OF
LABOR TRAFFICKING

THERE ARE CURRENTLY AN ESTIMATED **313,000** VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN TEXAS ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

TRAFFICKERS EXPLOIT APPROXIMATELY **\$600 MILLION**

FROM VICTIMS OF LABOR TRAFFICKING
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ IN TEXAS

MINOR AND YOUTH
SEX TRAFFICKING COSTS
THE STATE OF
TEXAS
APPROXIMATELY

**\$6.6
BILLION**



Human Trafficking

80%

of trafficking
involves sexual
exploitation

19%

of trafficking
involves labor
exploitation

600,000

to

800,000

people are trafficked across
international borders every year



"Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery. This crime occurs when a trafficker uses force, fraud or coercion to control another person for the purpose of engaging in commercial sex acts or soliciting labor or services against his/her will."

NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING
RESOURCE CENTER

80%

of victims are
women

50% of victims
are under the
age of

16



\$32B 

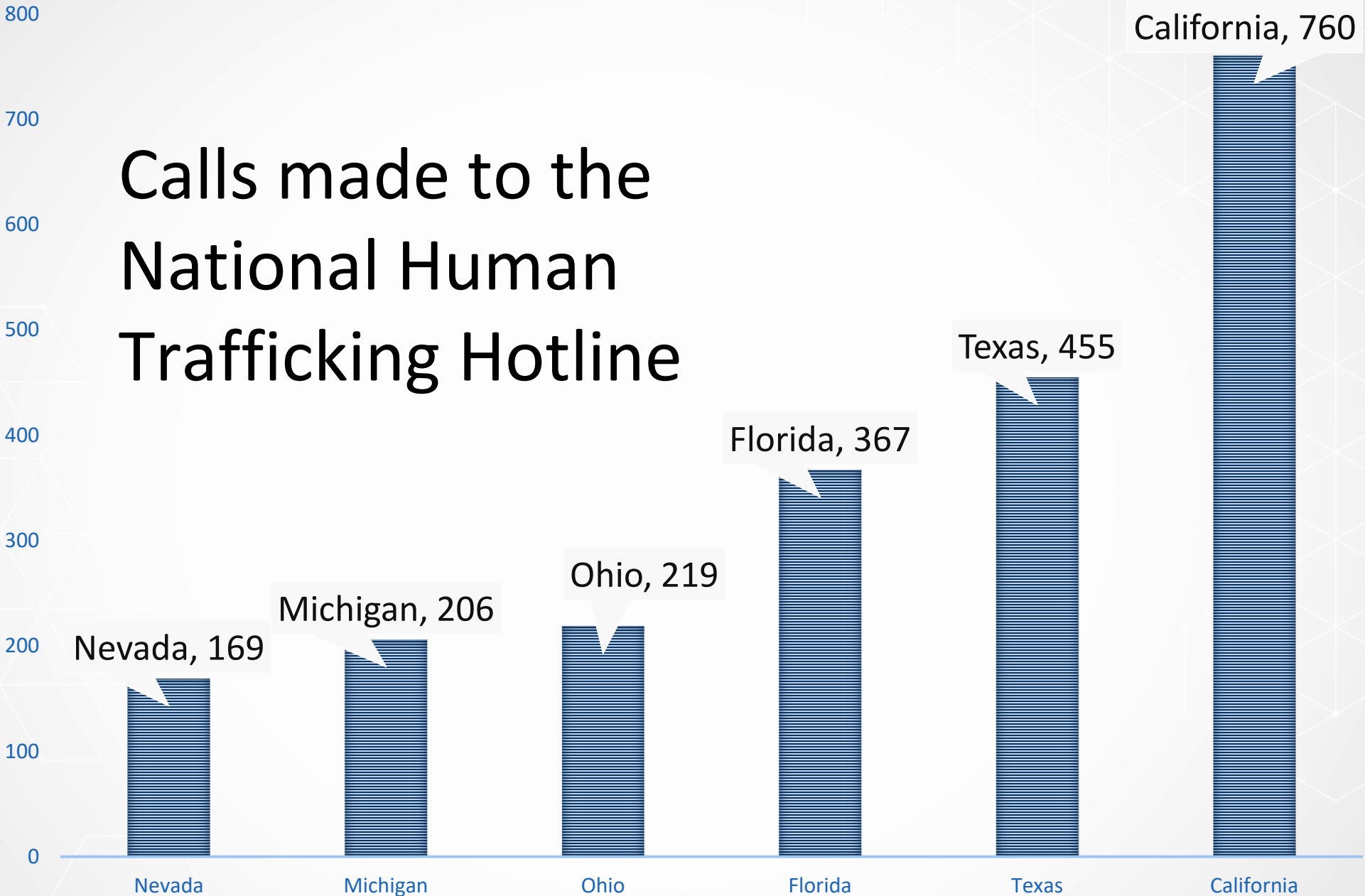
The global human
trafficking industry
produces \$32 billion
annually

**20 to 30
million
slaves**
in the world today





Calls made to the National Human Trafficking Hotline



Thousands More Jeffrey Epsteins Are Still Out There

They operate with impunity, continuing to sexually exploit children.



By **Nicholas Kristof**
Opinion Columnist

Sept. 14, 2019



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The fight against sex trafficking in the U.S.

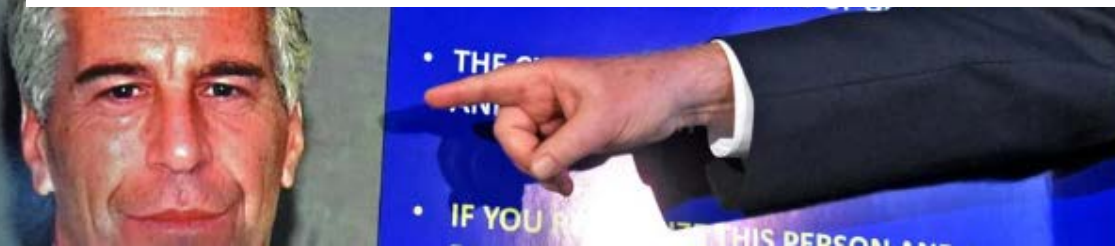
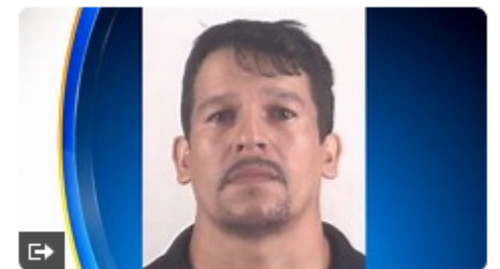
Article by **Helen Taylor**, **Laila Mickelwait** on Oct 13, 2017

Sex trafficking is happening all around us every day, and many people don't even realize it. From California to New York, the United States is not immune to the horrors of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of men, women, and... [Continue...](#)

15-Year-Old Girl From Guatemala Rescued By Tarrant County's Human Trafficking Unit

SOUTHLAKE (CBSDFW.COM) — A 15-year-old girl from Guatemala was rescued by the Tarrant County's Human Trafficking Unit and the ...

CBS Boston / WBZ | 5d



Awareness



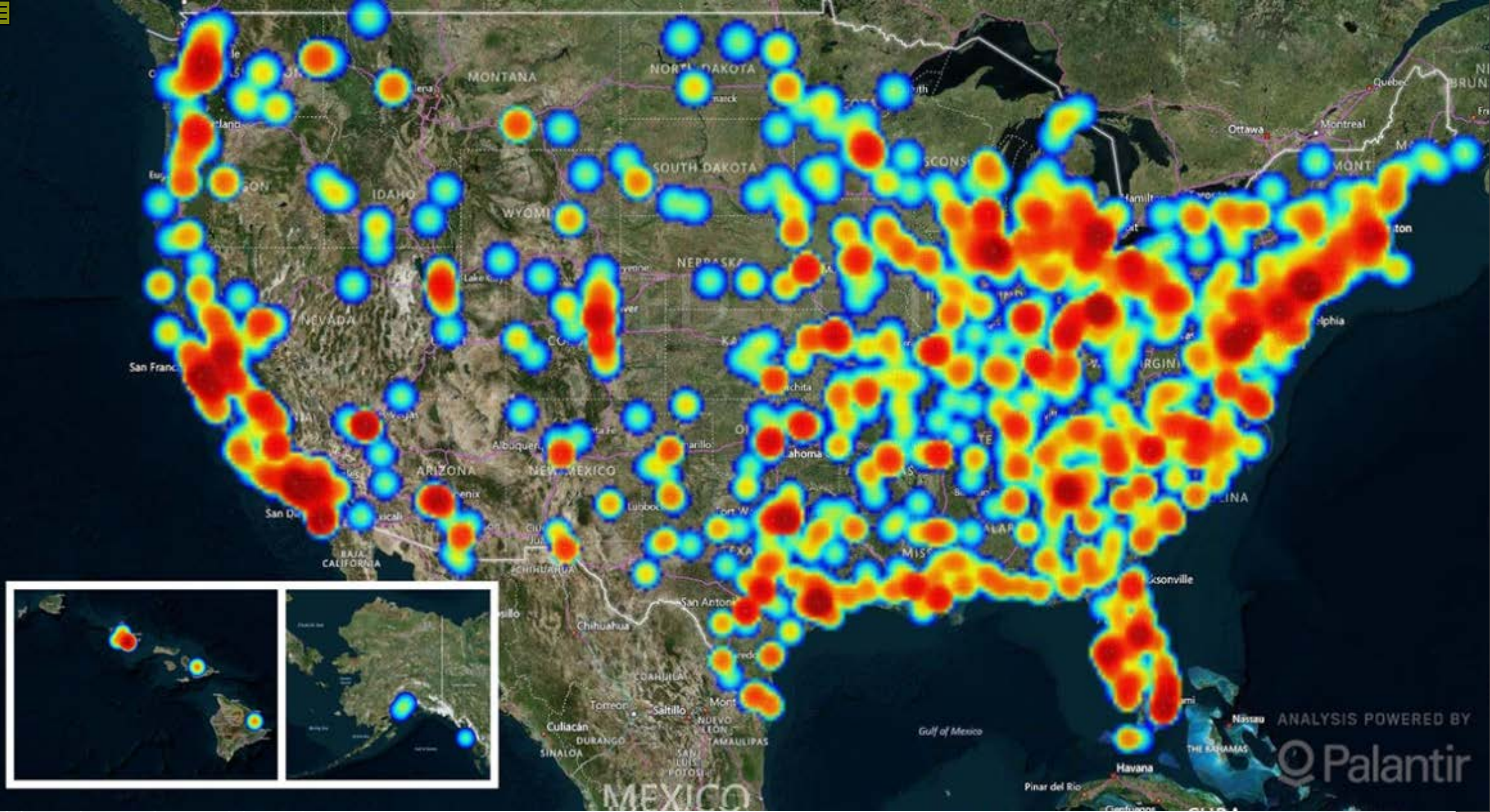
GET HELP

If you are a victim of human trafficking, call this number

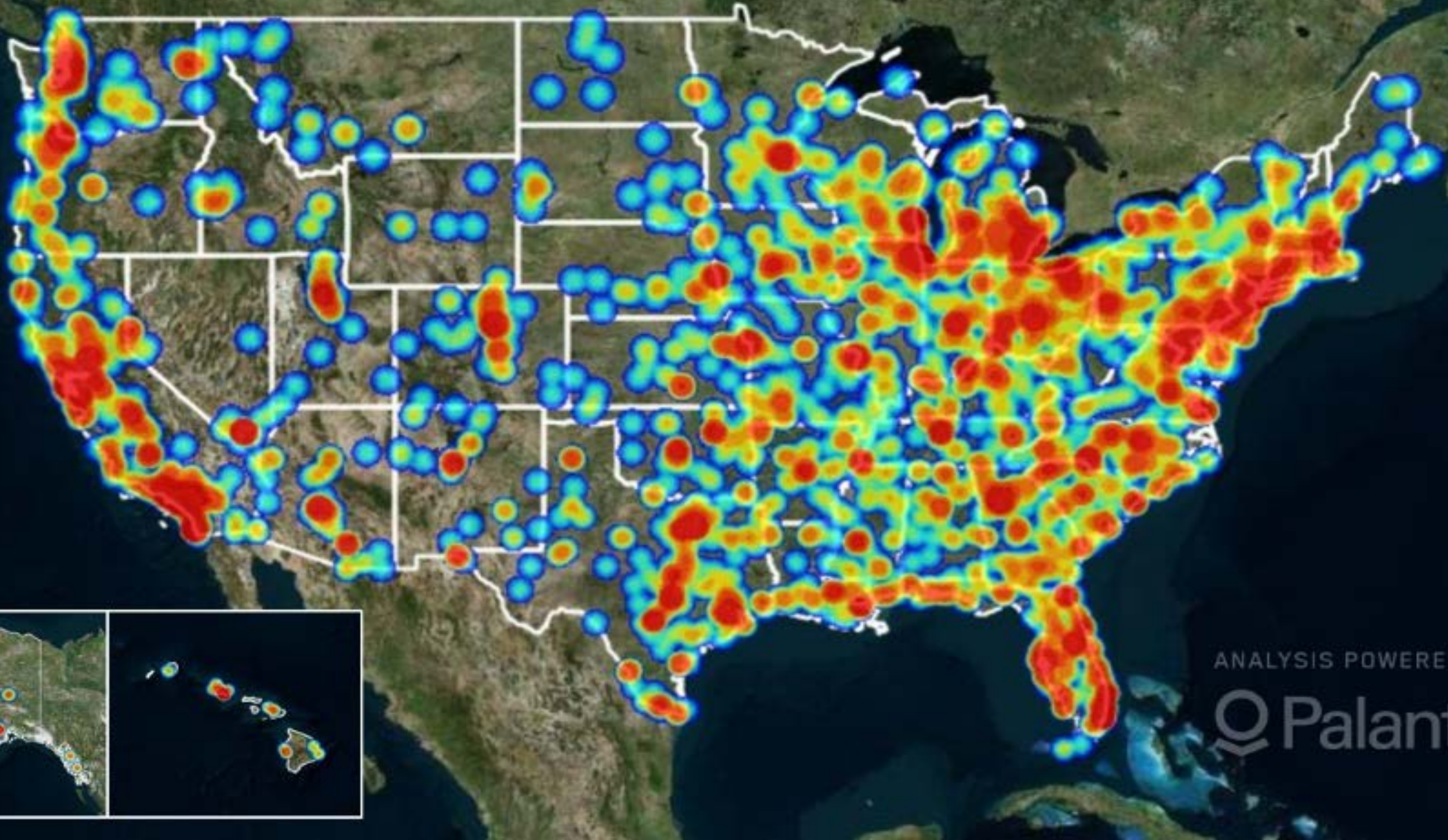
1-888-3737-888



www.TraffickingResourceCenter.org

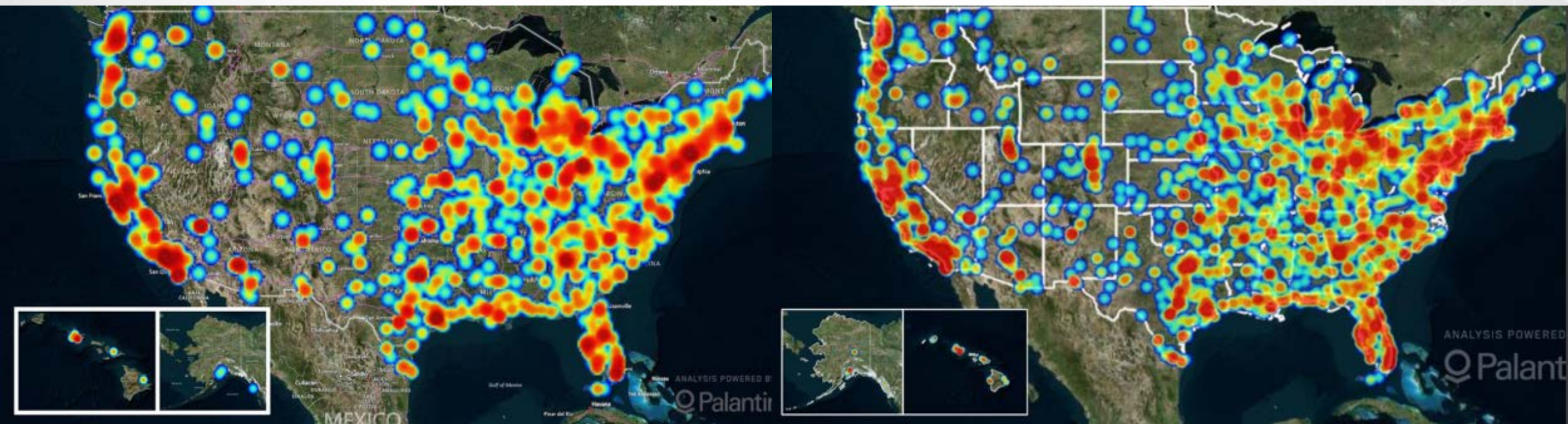


Polaris, (2017). National human trafficking hotline: Hotline statistics. Retrieved from <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/states>



ANALYSIS POWERED
Palantir

Year 2017 compared to Year 2018





AWHONN Position Statement

“Nurses are ideally positioned to screen, identify and care for, provide services for and support victims of human trafficking.”

Abuse Screen

Do You Feel That You Are Treated Well By Your Partner/Spouse/Family Member?

yes no unable to assess other (see comments)

Domestic Abuse Assessment: 12/13 0858 - 12/16 1136

What Happens When You Argue/Fight With Your Partner/Spouse/Family Member?

[Text input field]

Domestic Abuse Assessment: 12/13 0858 - 12/16 1136

Are You or Have You Been Threatened or Abused Physically, Emotionally, or Sexually By A Partner/Spouse/Family Member?

yes no unable to assess other (see comments)

Domestic Abuse Assessment: 12/13 0858 - 12/16 1136

Has Anyone Ever Threatened to Hurt Your Children or Your Pets?

yes no unable to assess other (see comments)

Domestic Abuse Assessment: 12/13 0858 - 12/16 1136

Show: Deleted Status Changes Flowsheets/Assessments Tx Tm Orders Med Admin

Domestic Abuse Assessment: 12/13 0858 - 12/16 1136

Does Anyone Try to Keep You From Having/Contacting Other Friends or Doing Things Outside Your Home?

yes no unable to assess other (see comments)

Domestic Abuse Assessment: 12/13 0858 - 12/16 1136

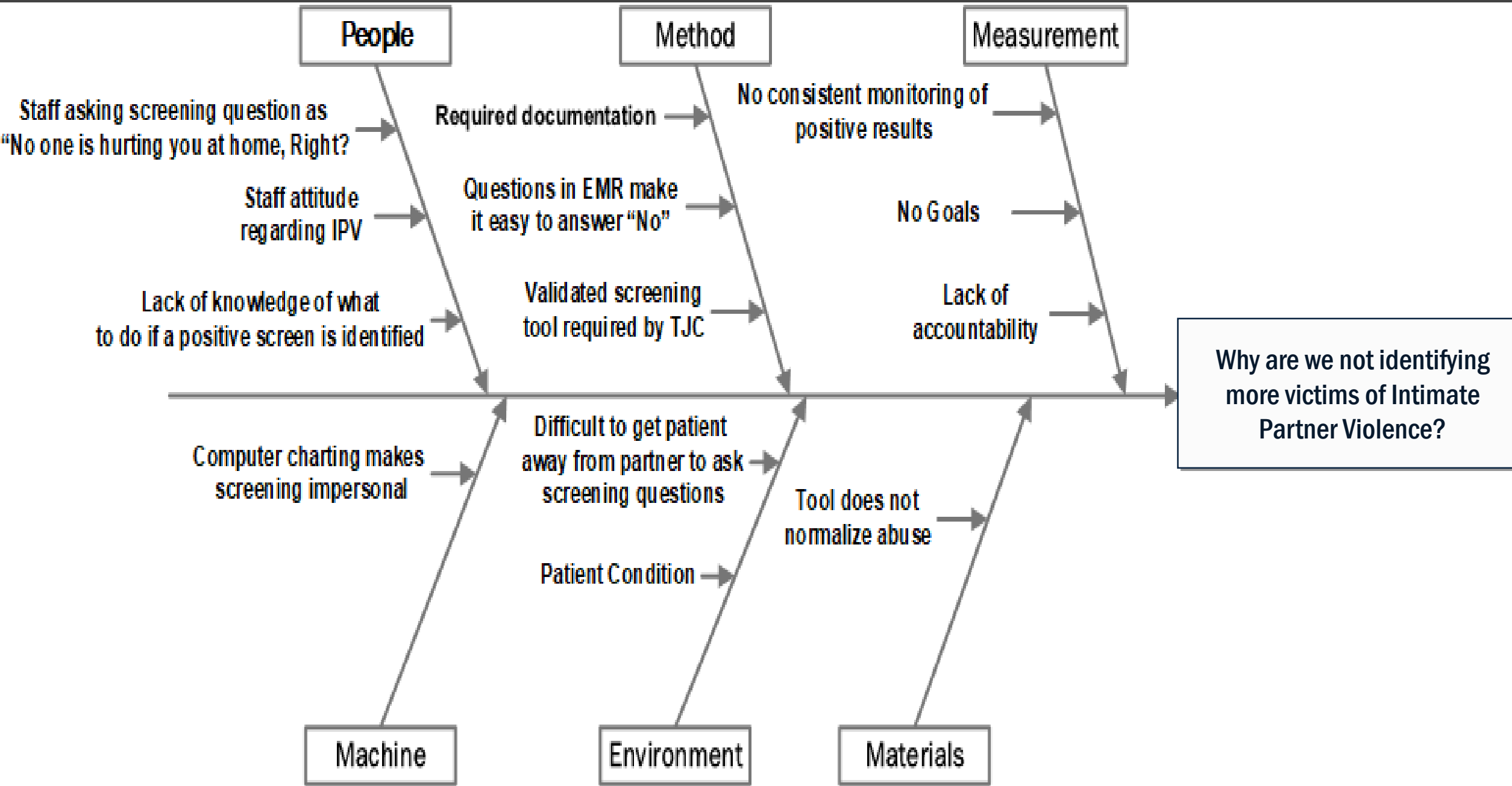
Do You Feel Unsafe Going Back to the Place Where You Are Living?

yes no unable to assess other (see comments)

Domestic Abuse Assessment: 12/13 0858 - 12/16 1136

Abuse Screen Comment [Text input field]

Accept Cancel



Nurse Residency used to Validate Tool

How often does your partner?	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Fairly Often	Frequently
1. Physically hurt you					
2. Insult or talk down to you					
3. Threaten you with harm					
4. Scream or curse at you					
	1	2	3	4	5
Total Score:					

Red Flags seen in Younger Victims

School related changes:

- Changes in their school attendance habits, appearance, socio-economics, friend groups, interest, school activities. Vocabulary, demeanor, attitude and sexual behavior
- Truancy

Abnormal Behavior:

- Getting in trouble in the company of older teens or adults
- Isolation from community, family or friends
- Third party in charge of schedule and social interaction
- Multiple phones or social media accounts
- Lying about existence of accounts or refusing to let parents access all accounts
- Sexually provocative pictures

Luxury items:

- Has new items with no apparent form of income
- Nails, hair
- Refillable gift cards
- Tattoos



Common Work and Living Conditions:

- Is not free to leave or come and go as he/she wishes
- Was recruited through false promises concerning the nature and conditions of his/her work
- High security measures exist in the work and/or living locations (e.g. opaque windows, boarded up windows, bars on windows, barbed wire, security cameras, etc.)

Poor Mental Health or Abnormal Behavior:

- Is fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid
- Exhibits unusually fearful or anxious behavior after bringing up law enforcement
- Avoids eye contact

Poor Physical Health:

- Lacks medical care and/or is denied medical services by employer
- Appears malnourished or shows signs of repeated exposure to harmful chemicals
- Shows signs of physical and/or sexual abuse, physical restraint, confinement, or torture

Lack of Control:

- Has few or no personal possessions
- Is not in control of his/her own money, no financial records, or bank account
- Is not in control of his/her own identification documents (ID or passport)
- Is not allowed or able to speak for themselves (a third party may insist on being present and/or translating)

Other:

- Claims of just visiting and inability to clarify where he/she is staying/address
- Lack of knowledge of whereabouts and/or of what city he/she is in
- Loss of sense of time
- Has numerous inconsistencies in his/her story






Initial Human Trafficking Red Flags

- Odd and often changing story behind source of injury
- Someone speaking for patient or appears controlling of what patient says
- Patient unsure of their location
- Suicide attempt
- Psychogenic non-epileptic seizure (pseudo seizure)
- Chief complaint of UTI, pelvic or abdominal pain
- Branding or tattoos with words like "Daddy", Property of...
- Offering to pay cash for visit



Addition of Instructions to Staff

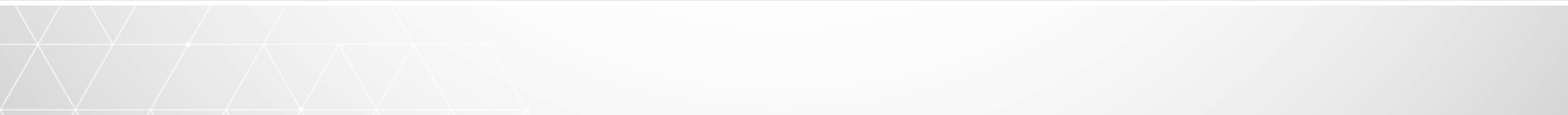
 1=Never 2=Rarely 3=Sometimes 4=Fairly often 5=Frequently

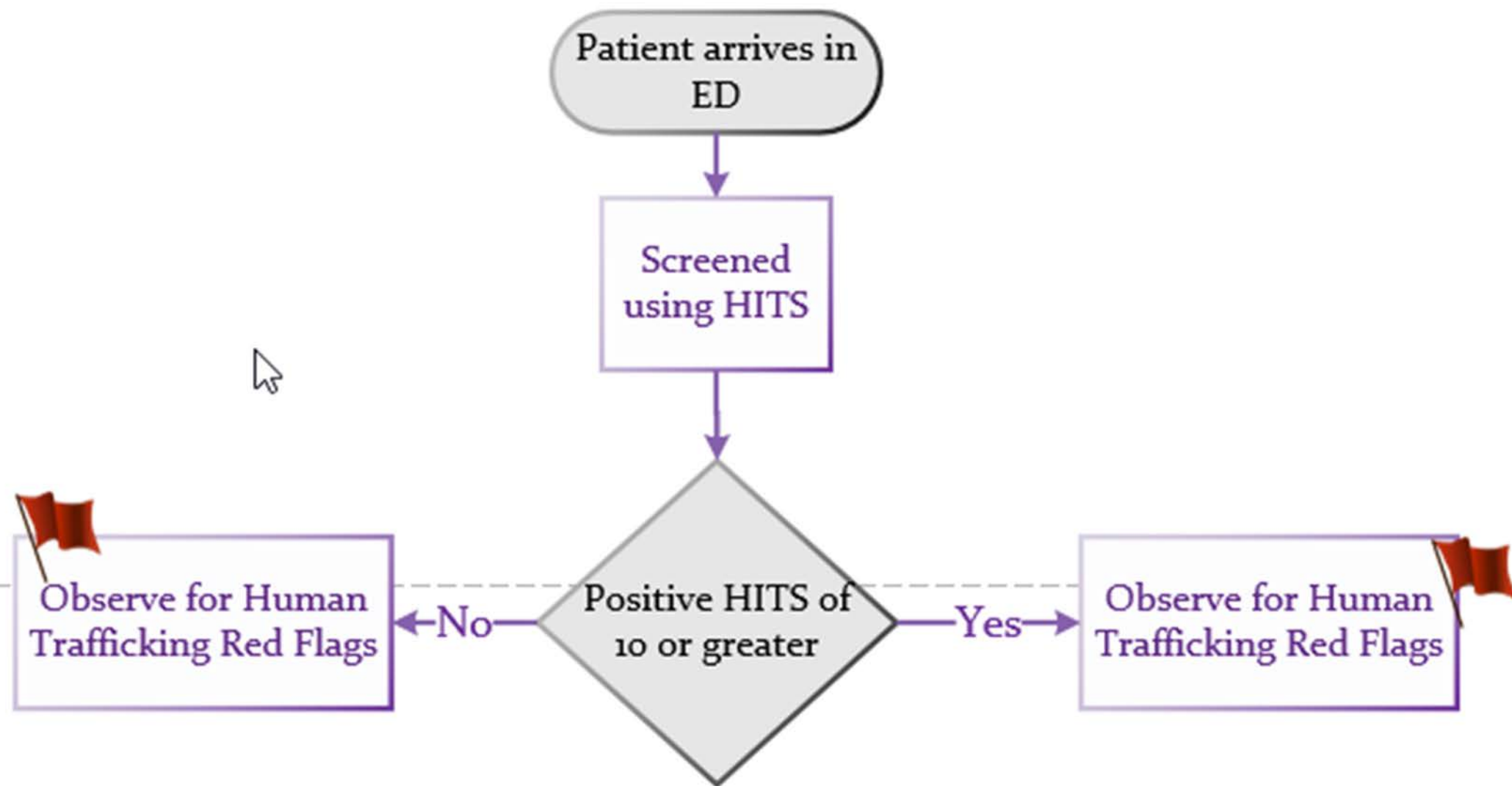
3=Sometimes

by Richardson, Tiffany, RN

at 02/01/18 1407

1. When asking the screening questions, please make sure the patient is alone (away from visitors). Please say to patient prior to asking the HITS screening "As part of your health assessment today I am going to ask you four survey questions that will determine your risk of violence in the home. The answers to the question will be a range that includes, never, rarely, sometimes, fairly often or frequently."



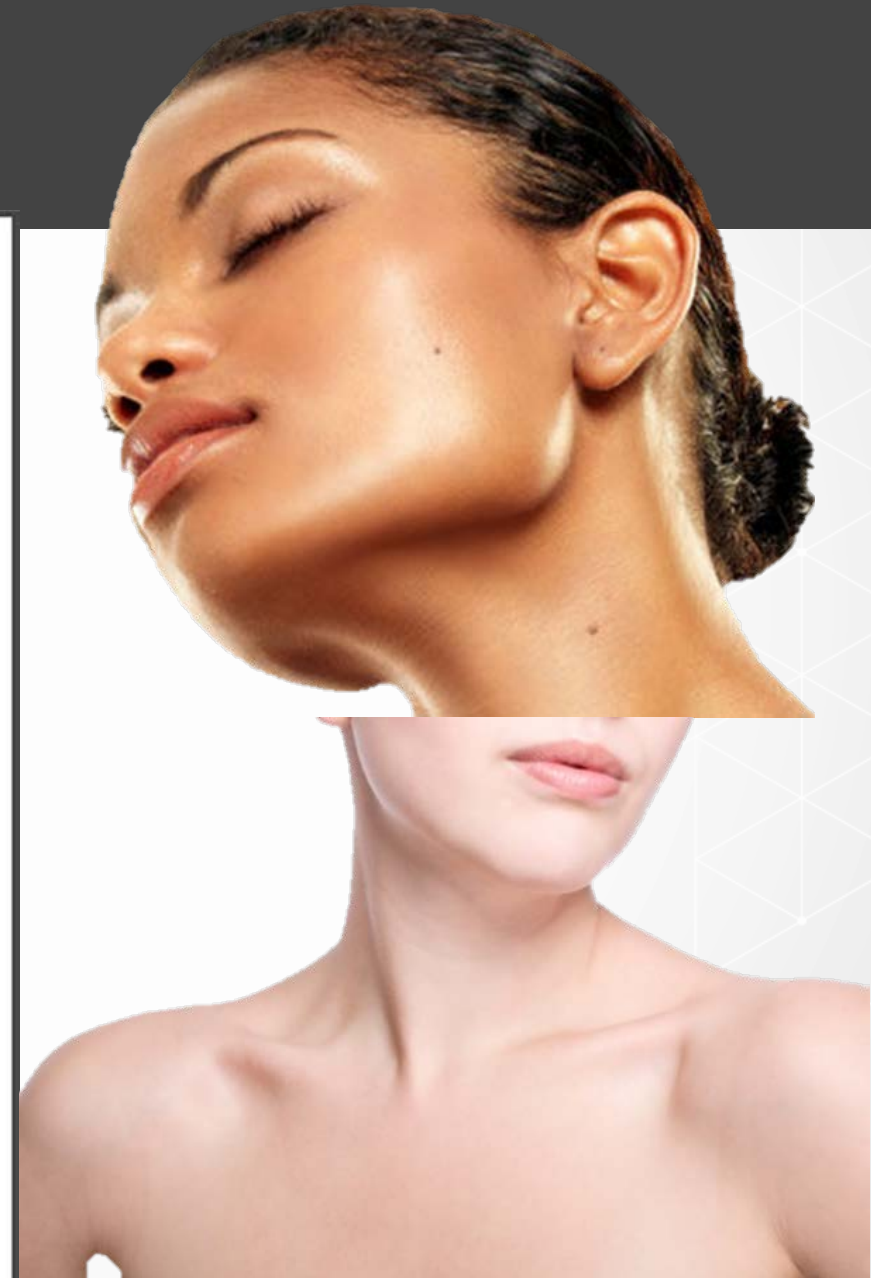
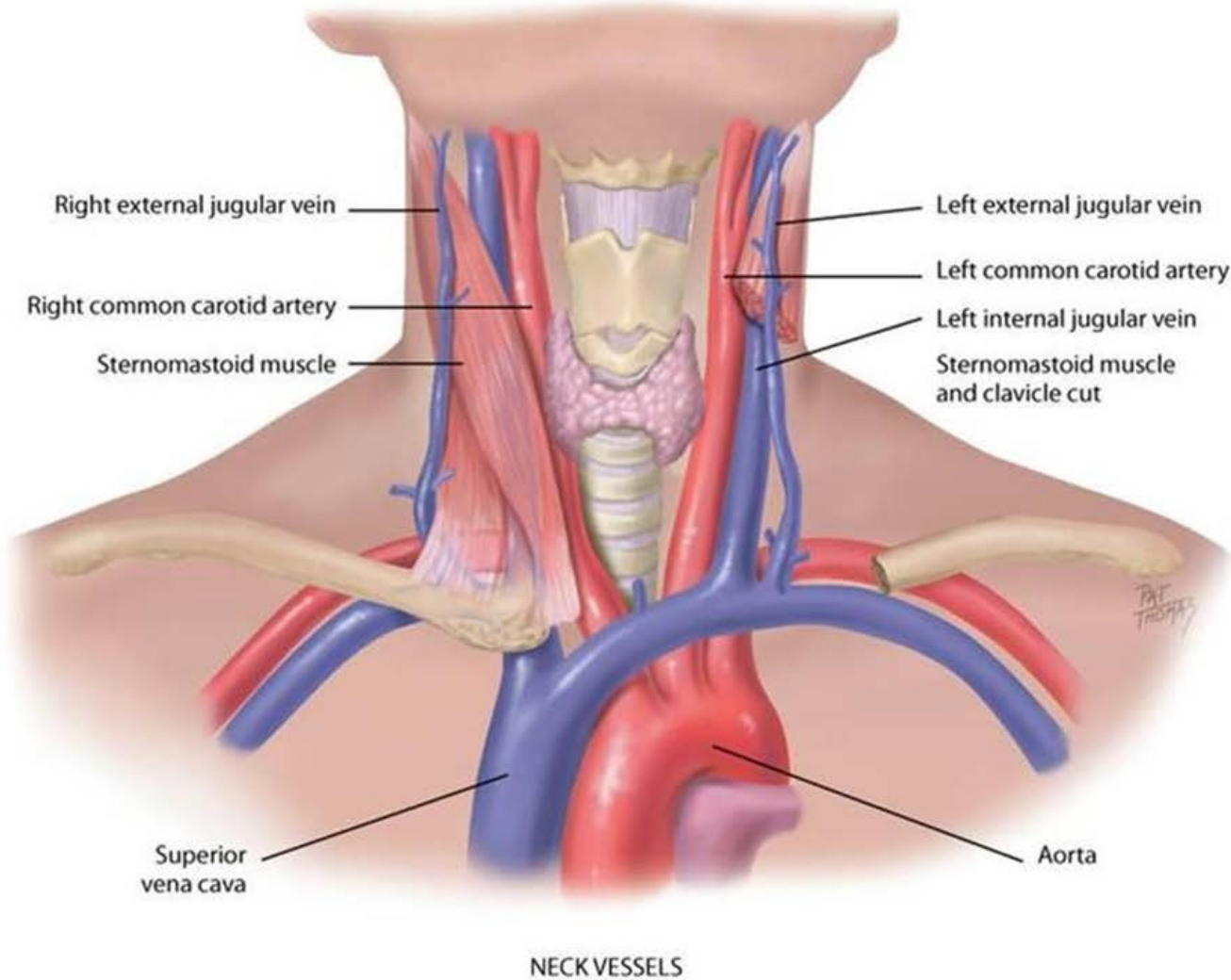




Evaluation of Pre-Pilot

- UTI, Pelvic/Abdominal Pain were more than half of all chief complaints
- Offering to pay cash wasn't selected once in the first 12 weeks.
- The build did not include an option to enter a refusal or unable to perform due to condition
- Needed to better explain requirements of child encounters
- Obvious need for continued education.

Strangulation



Strangulation



Strangulation: "the external compression of a person's neck and/or upper torso in a manner that inhibits that person's airway or the flow of blood into or out of the head"

Half of all strangulations leave no marks

Strangulation Question

Ask the question: “Has your partner ever used their body or any other object to forcibly strangle or choke you?”

If the answer is yes, ask additional symptom question and alert provider. Tell patient how they are 800 times more likely to die as a result of violence.

▼ Strangulation and Choking

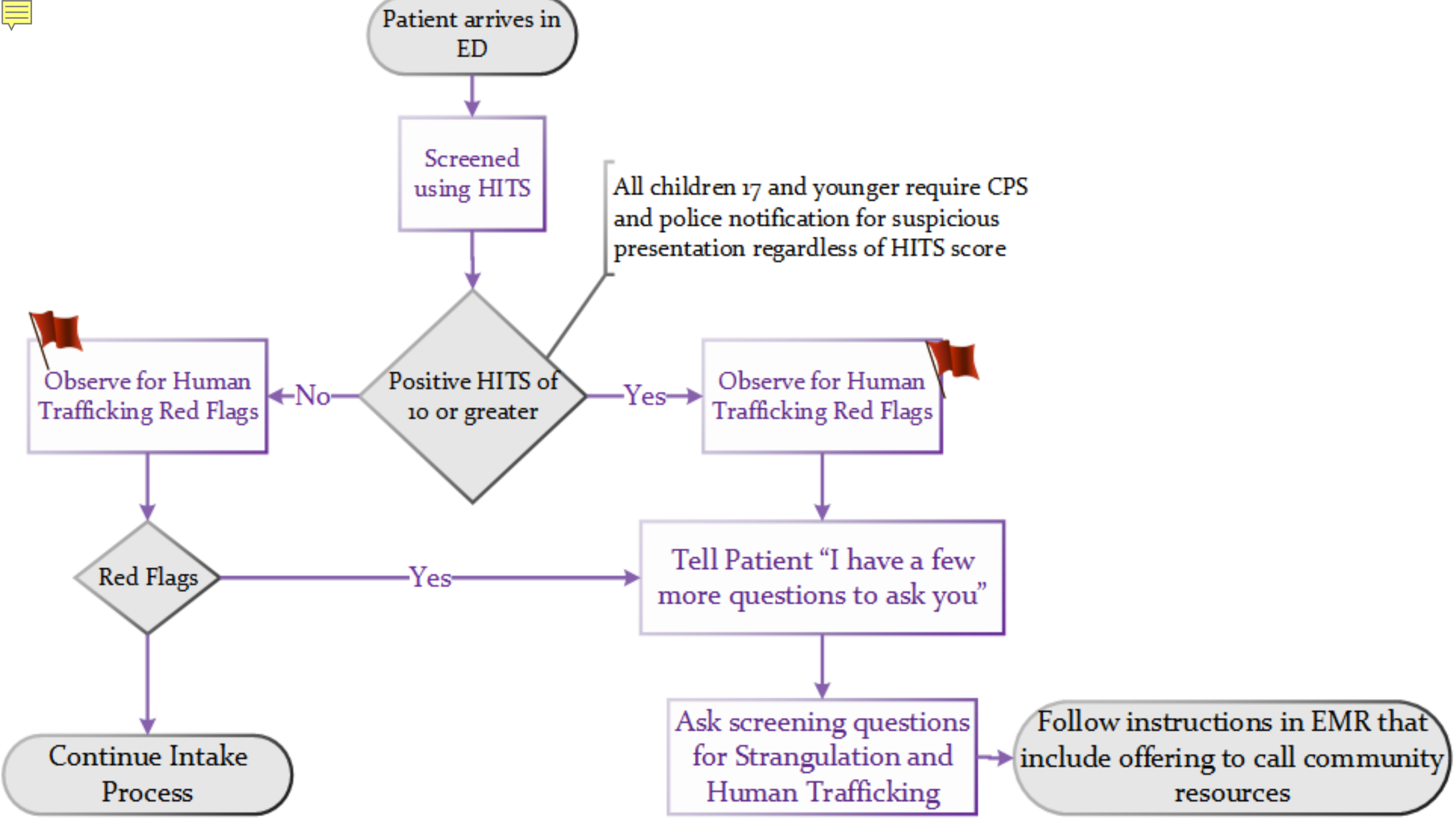
Has your partner ever used their body or any other object to forcibly strangle/choke you? 1=yes 0=no

Did you experience any of the following during/after strangulation/choking?

difficulty swallowing neck tenderness voice changes loss of bladder or bo... loss of memory loss of consciousness

Your answer regarding strangulation is concerning. People who are strangled are 700 percent more likely to die as a result of violence.

Notify provider of the occurrence of strangulation to determine if further diagnostic tests are required.



Human Trafficking Questions

- Can you leave your job situation if you want? Yes-0 No-1
- Can you come and go as you please? Yes-0 No-1
- Have you or your family been threatened if you try to leave Yes-1 No-0
- Have you been harmed in any way? Yes-1 No-0
- Do you sleep where you work? Yes-1 No-0
- Have you ever been deprived of food, water, sleep or medical care? Yes-1 No-0
- Do you need to ask permission to eat, sleep or go to the bathroom? Yes-1 No-0
- Has your ID/Documents been taken from you Yes-1 No-0
- Is anyone forcing you to do anything you do not want to do? Yes-1 No-0
- A Positive score is calculated

Visual Queue of Positive Answer

Human Trafficking Questionnaire

Can you leave your job or situation if you want? ! 0=yes 1=no

Can you come and go as you please? ! 1=yes 0=no

Have you been threatened if you do not leave? ! 1=yes 0=no

Have you been physically harmed in any way? 1=yes 0=no

Do you sleep where you work? 1=yes 0=no

Have you ever been deprived of food, water, sleep or medical care?

Do you have to ask permission to eat, sleep or go to the bathroom? 1=yes 0=no

Has your identification or documentation been taken from you? ! 1=yes 0=no

Is anyone forcing you to do anything that you do not want to do? 1=yes 0=no

Positive for Intimate Partner Violence

HITS Positive only

** If score is greater than 10 please say to patient. "Your score concerns me for your safety. No one deserves to be abused. We have some resources available for you that we can discuss."

Please provide a phone and encourage calling.

Safe Haven: 24 hour Hotline 1.877.701.SAFE (7233) www.safehaventc.org 817.535.6462

If after resources are offered patient denies wanting to call right now, please say: "You may not need a referral now, but should you need help in the future you will have the information and can make the call then."

**Children 17 year or younger with a positive score (greater than 10) require police and CPS notification. Score of 10 is not a requirement of notification if other signs of abuse or neglect are present.



Human Trafficking Positive alone or with Positive HITS

**A positive Human Trafficking screen is one or a combinations of positives. If a patient is with possible trafficker, take them from their room to a designated location in your department.

Ask the patient “What kind of help can we provide you?” Tell the patient they are entitled to resources and help. Let them know we can have a person talk to them who has been in a similar situation. Then ask if they would they like to talk to them.

Provide a phone to contact resources. Do not be judgmental. Trafficked victims are typically not trusting of healthcare providers or law enforcement. Do not call 911 unless requested or the safety of the staff or patient is in jeopardy.

Resources:

Unbound: [817-668-6462](tel:817-668-6462) - Advocates are available 24/7 and will come to the hospital within 1 hour to speak to the victim.

National Human Trafficking Hotline: [888-3737-888](tel:888-3737-888)

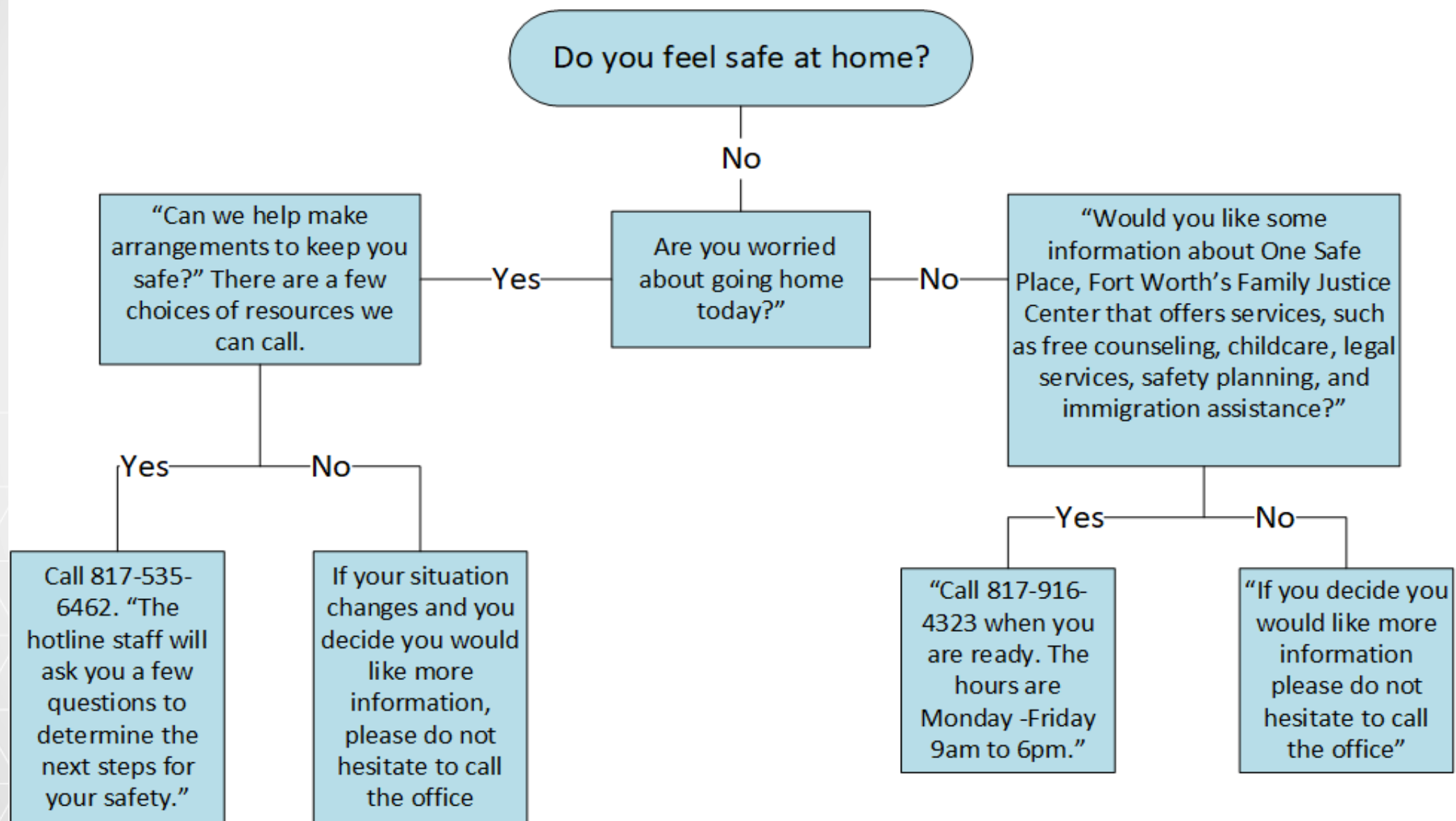
If patient is unwilling to call at this time, provide text number for national hotline.

Text Help to [233733](tel:233733) (BeFree)

If adult is not ready to leave their situation, you must respect their decision. This facilitates a sense of trust with the healthcare team and plants the seed of knowing there are resources to help when they are ready.

Young adults 17 years of age are considered consenting adults to engage in sex but are not of consenting age for solicitation. Consenting age for solicitation is 18. If there is suspicion of prostitution in a patient, 17 years old or younger, the police must be notified.

Abuse Screening Algorithm



Trauma Bonds

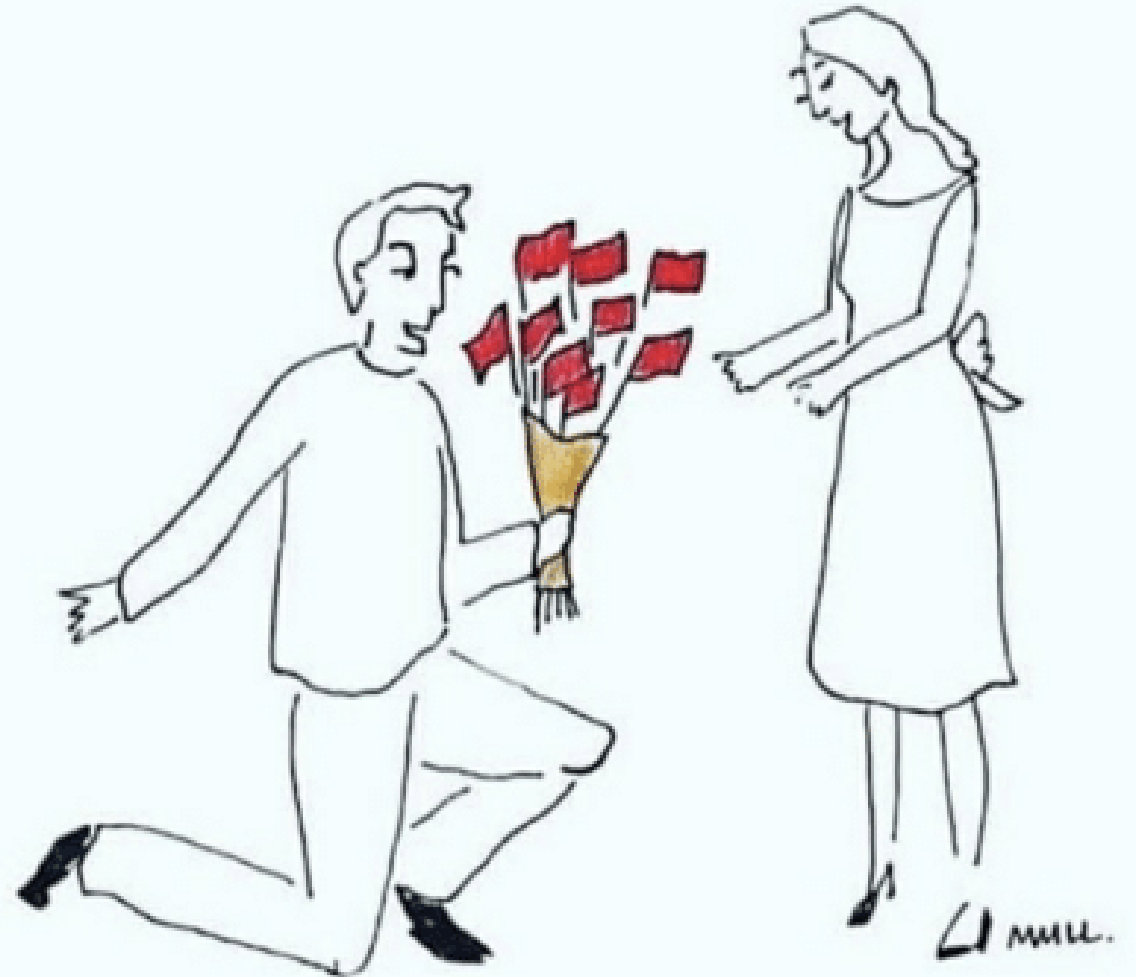
Psychological

- Unhealthy Attachment
- False Promises
- Behavior Rationalization

Neurochemistry

- Oxytocin
- Dopamine

A dozen red flags?! I love them!



Staff Awareness

THE FIRST STEP IS IDENTIFYING THE VIOLENCE

- 1 OUT OF 3 Women in Tarrant County are impacted by domestic violence
- 2 Texas ranks 2nd in the United States in human trafficking
- 9 Billion dollars was spent in 2016 for domestic violence healthcare
- 17 The average number of healthcare encounters an IPV victim experiences in a year
- 56 Percent of all violent crime in Tarrant County is domestic or family violence
- 136 People died in 2017 as a result of intimate partner violence (IPV)
- 800 A victim who is strangled by an intimate partner is 800x more likely to die as a result of IPV



ARE YOU DOING YOUR PART TO HELP YOUR PATIENT?

WITS Screening

WITS Screening

Unable to assess due to:

- 1-None
- 2-Somewhat
- 3-Moderate
- 4-Fairly often
- 5-Frequently

How often does your patient experience... (multiple questions)

WITS SCORE: 12

12 (0-15)

0-3: No screening
4-5: Screen
6-15: Screen and refer

Human Trafficking Questioning

Can you leave your job or school if you want?

Can you come and go as you please?

Have you been physically threatened in any way?

Have you been physically restrained in any way?

Do your things when you work?

Have you ever been charged with theft, stolen, stolen, always for medicinal use?

Do your friends for ask identification?

Mark your level of concern or discomfort on the scale below.

Is anyone forcing you to do anything you don't want to do?

WITS Score: 12

12 (0-15)

0-3: No screening
4-5: Screen
6-15: Screen and refer

Emergency	Total Screened	Positive HITS	*Possible HT	Total Referrals	Refusal
May	7341	35	N/A	0	0
June	7268	29	16	14	1
July	6198	23	10	11	4
August	6871	27	19	7	10
September	6445	25	19	10	6
October	5968	32	19	14	7
November	5920	27	23	26	5
December	6183	17	12	11	1
January	6428	28	9	9	1
February	6460	33	27	19	6
March	7289	25	23	24	11
April	7956	34	27	25	7
May	7680	40	31	39	14
June	6775	40	35	37	6

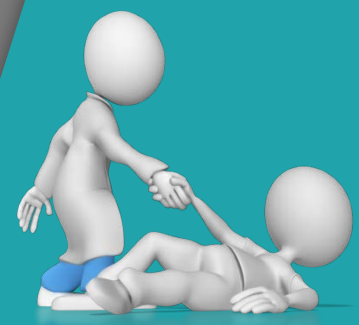
The Data: 155,729 Screens

Positive HITS



520

Resources Offered



61%

Refused Assistance



18%



Resources
Offered

Refusal of
Help



329

Potential
Positive for
HT

Can you leave your **job** situation if you want?

Can you come and go as you please?

Have **you or your family been threatened** if you **try to leave**

Have you **been harmed** in any way?

Do you sleep where you work?

Have you ever been **deprived** of food, water, sleep or medical care?

Do you need to **ask permission** to eat, sleep or go to the bathroom?

Has your ID/Documents been taken from you

Is anyone forcing you to do anything you do not want to do?



Vulnerable



27%

Sheltering
organization

100%

Family Justice
Center has
seen a 100%
increase in
referrals



Why collect Data



Lessons Learned

Get the right
people at the
table.



Barriers

Nurses personal
opinions

Uncomfortable
asking the questions

Personal history
regarding IPV



Barriers: Healthcare vs Law Enforcement





Traumatic Brain Injury



Next Steps:

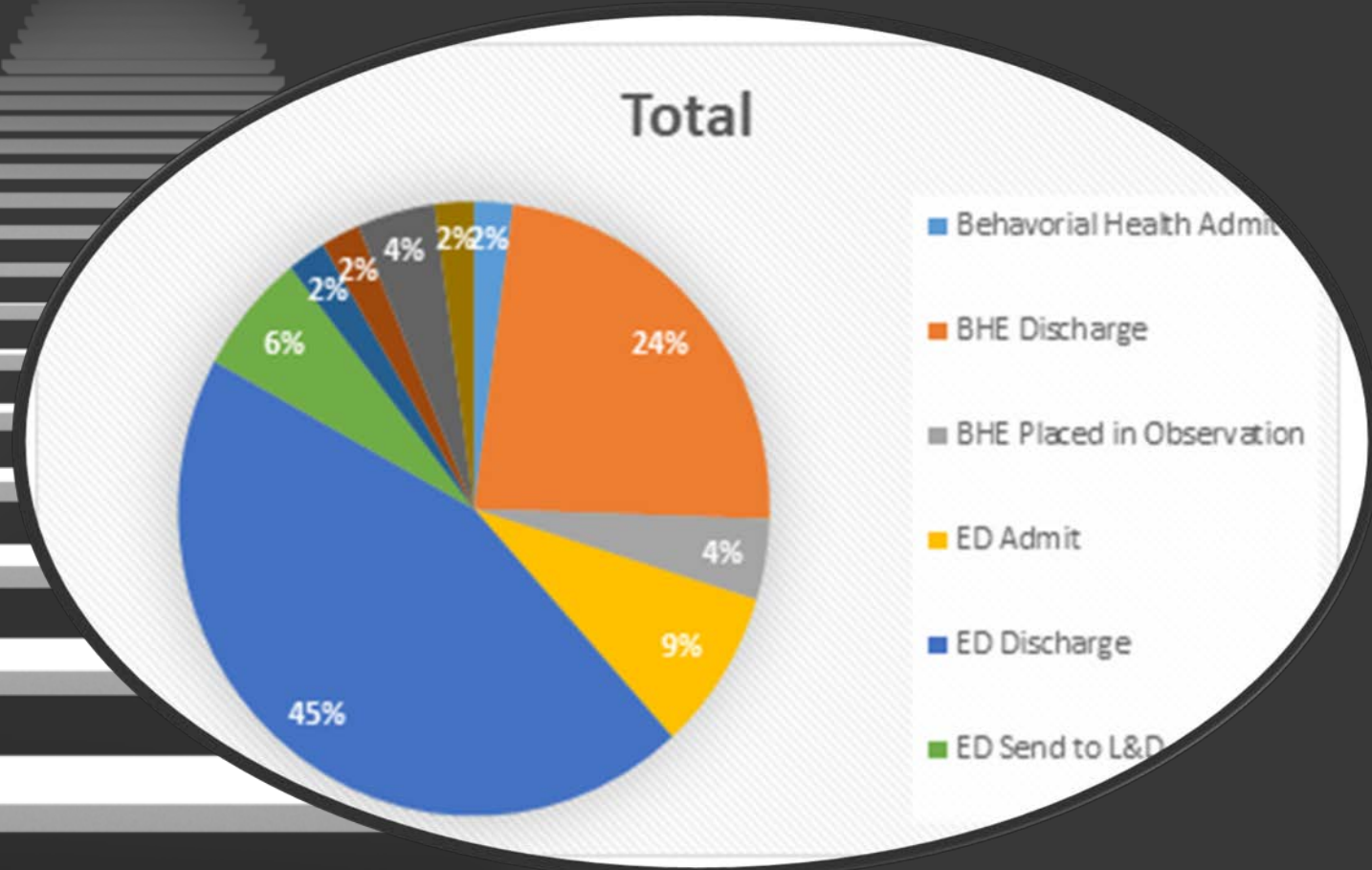
Expansion of screening

Knowledge sharing

Strengthening community ties

Raising community awareness

Sharing information with policy makers





Planting a Seed of Hope



Conclusion

You may choose to look the other way but you can never say again that you did not know...



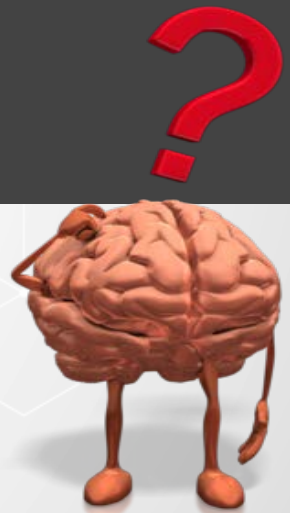
Thank you and what questions can we answer?

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