
HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION TOOLKIT

*of the North Carolina
Coalition Against Sexual
Assault*



North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault



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North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault



The North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NCCASA) is an inclusive statewide alliance working to end sexual violence through education, advocacy, and legislation. Since its inception, NCCASA has been committed to the prevention of sexual violence. For over a decade, NCCASA has been at the forefront of the anti-human trafficking movement in North Carolina. Sex trafficking is a form of sexual violence in which consent is violated through force, fraud, or coercion for goods or profit. Additionally, sexual violence is frequently part of the force or coercion for human trafficking in a variety of industries, including fields as diverse as agriculture, food service, and domestic work.

Ending human trafficking is our work, and we have created this Human Trafficking Prevention Toolkit to address a gap by providing basic understanding of primary prevention of human trafficking and to support other sexual violence preventionists in strengthening their work.

NCCASA is committed to evidence-based and evidence-informed practices in both violence prevention and response, and uses a public health framework to inform our violence prevention strategies. While our work spans all levels of the social ecological model, we agree with and follow CDC guidance to prioritize community and society level prevention, and you will notice this emphasis throughout this publication.

NCCASA as a statewide coalition uses a social justice framework. Therefore, our work is done from a strong intersectional, social justice perspective. We know that when we center our work around marginalized communities, everyone is served. For this reason we recognize that due to the complex history of systemic racism and oppression in the United States, systems we rely on to help frequently cause harm or perpetuate inequity. Throughout this toolkit, we will provide strategies that emphasize the importance of a personal and systemic harm reduction approach.

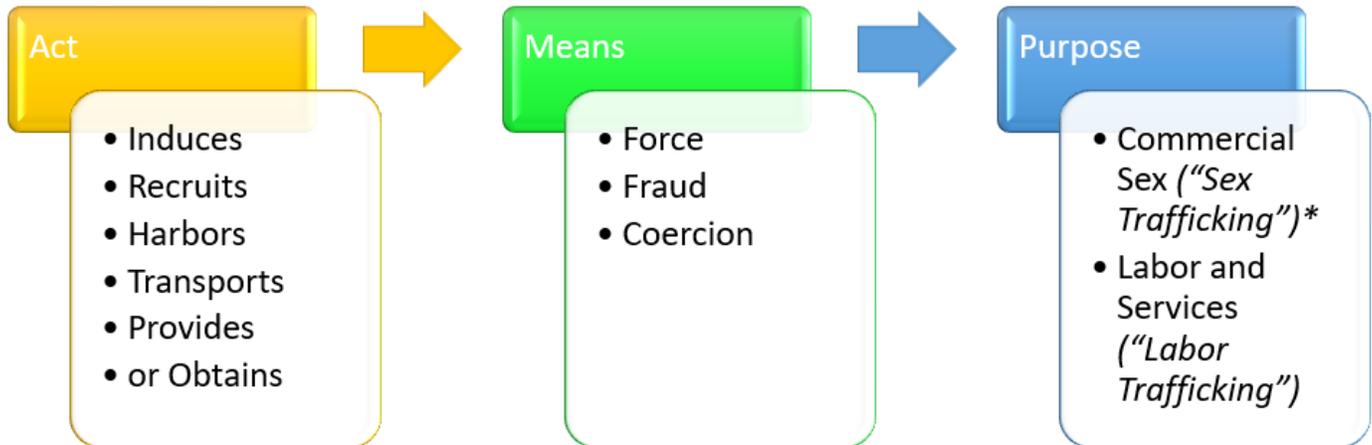
Our toolkit addresses the history of the human trafficking movement in depth. This is because our history impacts the frameworks we have traditionally used to describe human trafficking, and our frameworks impact which kinds of solutions we can imagine.

At NCCASA, we work to imagine and implement human trafficking solutions that bring together the best of public health approaches to violence prevention, the values of our social justice framework, a critical lens on history, and our deep expertise and experience in sexual violence prevention and response. We hope this Human Trafficking Prevention Toolkit will support rape crisis centers, domestic violence agencies, human trafficking organizations, and other community partners in ending human trafficking and all forms of sexual violence in our communities. Please check our website for information on upcoming webinars and trainings, or to become a member agency.

Warmly,
Monika Johnson-Hostler
Executive Director

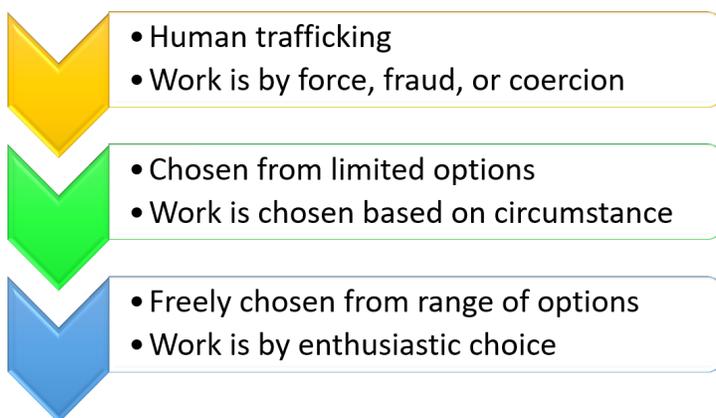
Christy Croft
Prevention Education Program Manager

A-M-P (Act - Means - Purpose) is an easy acronym for remembering the definition of human trafficking.



- Force, fraud, and coercion are not required for the definition of sex trafficking for anyone under 18.
- Any commercial sex exchange by a minor is considered sex trafficking, even if there is not a third-party exploiter. There is no such thing as a "child prostitute."
- Please note that transportation and movement are not required to fit the definition of human trafficking.

RANGE OF CONSENT

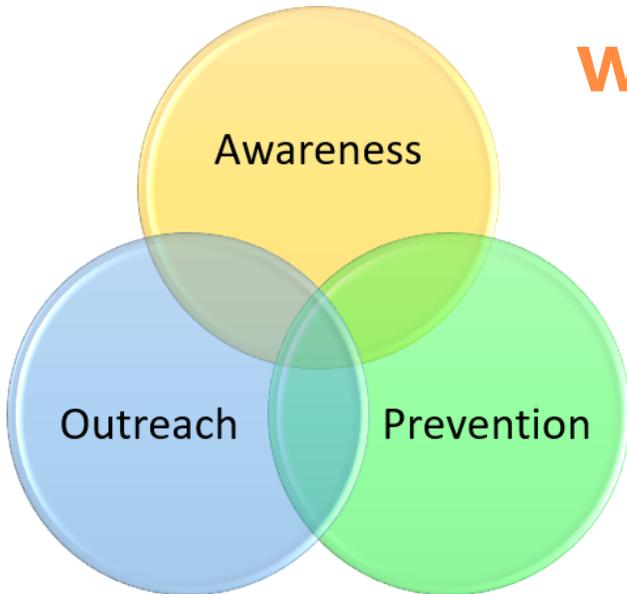


As part of our emphasis on bodily autonomy and self-determination, we acknowledge every person's right to make the best choices for themselves out of the options that are available. We honor the choices people make to take care of themselves, and are unconditionally committed to their safety and self-determination.

For adults, human trafficking is labor (to include commercial sex) done by:

- FORCE (primarily physical violence)
- FRAUD (consenting under one set of conditions that do not match the actual conditions)
- or COERCION (emotional manipulation, threats of violence, threats of "outing" [as LGBTQ or a sex worker, for example], threats of reporting criminal activity or immigration status)

WHAT IS PREVENTION?



One way well-meaning agencies, advocates, and staff sometimes muddy their prevention programming is by conflating outreach, awareness, and prevention.

The goal of **awareness** is to make the public aware of the existence, nature, and scope of the problem, and to correct sensationalized misinformation.

The goals of **outreach** are to reach potential survivors and connect them to services and resources.

The goal of **prevention** is *primary* prevention of causing or enacting harm. Primary prevention means prevention of harm before it has happened.

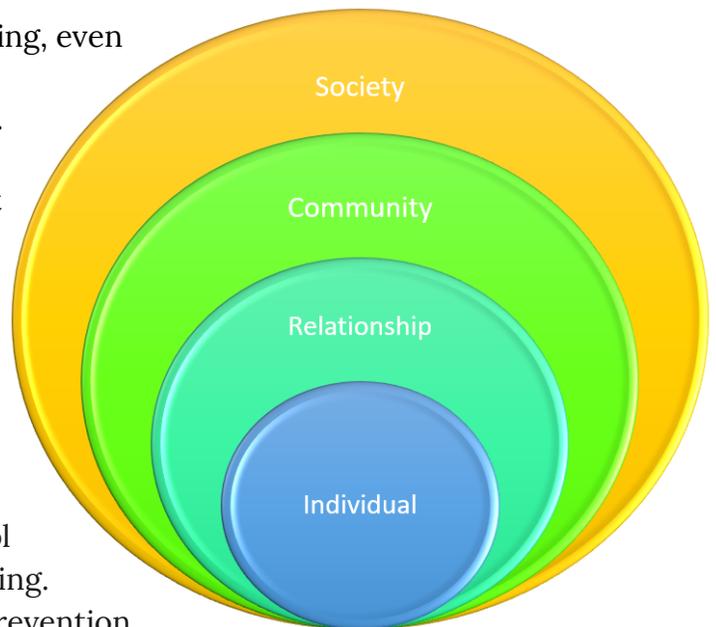
Remember that the images and narratives you share as part of your approach will influence which survivors see themselves in your stories. Who is being highlighted in your frameworks? Who is left out?

THE SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL MODEL

Risk factors increase the likelihood of violence occurring, even if they are not causal. **Protective factors** decrease the likelihood of violence occurring or increase resilience.

Risk and protective factors for human trafficking exist at each level of the social ecological model (SEM). Comprehensive prevention targets risk and protective factors at each level as well.

Prevention programming that focuses heavily on individual and relationship level factors must be careful not to ignore the community and societal factors, most of which are out of the individual control of people who are at increased risk for human trafficking. Systems advocacy is an essential part of all violence prevention.



Many of the risk and protective factors for experiencing trafficking are the same risk and protective factors for perpetrating trafficking. Remember: our goal is primary prevention of perpetration.

EFFECTIVE PREVENTION:

- 01 IS COMPREHENSIVE**
 Incorporates a variety of strategies at multiple levels of the SEM.
- 02 IS THEORY-DRIVEN**
 Is grounded in research-supported practices and statistics.
- 03 IS APPROPRIATELY-TIMED**
 Is developmentally appropriate for different ages.
- 04 IS SOCIO-CULTURALLY RELEVANT**
 Centers those most impacted by trafficking and trafficking policy.
- 05 HAS WELL-TRAINED STAFF**
 Offers ongoing professional development and support.
- 06 USES VARIED TEACHING METHODS**
 Uses engaging and varied teaching methods.
- 07 HAS A SUFFICIENT DOSAGE**
 Aims for deeper saturation of fewer audiences.
- 08 FOSTERS POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS**
 Builds positive adult-youth relationships and empowers parents.
- 09 EVALUATES OUTCOMES**
 Evaluates outcomes based on goals for continuous quality improvement.



A logic model can be part of your planning and evaluation strategy.

ANTI-OPPRESSION LENS

NCCASA's work is done from a strong intersectional, social justice perspective. By centering our work around marginalized communities, everyone is served. We view human trafficking through a human rights framework and use a public health approach to violence prevention. When considering "vulnerability" and risk factors, we acknowledge that current social and cultural issues have their root causes in historical marginalization and disempowerment of specific populations.



We cannot end trafficking without ending the intersecting oppressions that create vulnerability. This includes being thoughtful about our engagement with the criminal justice system, avoiding prevention strategies that create additional harm to people from marginalized populations.

When looking at social issues, ask why things are as they are? And why was that? [Follow 5 Why's to the root causes.](#)

Human Trafficking Prevention

Outreach, Awareness, and Prevention:
What's the difference?

OUTREACH, AWARENESS, & PREVENTION



If we want to evaluate our human trafficking programming for effectiveness, we have to be clear about: 1) Our goals and associated outcomes; 2) What strategies we hope to use to achieve those outcomes; and 3) Whether or not the strategies we are choosing are aligned with our desired outcomes.

One way well-meaning agencies, advocates, and staff sometimes muddy their prevention programming is by conflating outreach, awareness, and prevention. Outreach is not the same as awareness, and neither outreach nor awareness are sufficient prevention. Awareness can be part of a prevention strategy, but awareness alone does not prevent violence.



The **goals** of **outreach** are to reach potential survivors and connect them to services and resources.



How can I make sure survivors in my community have accurate information about human trafficking, practical guidance for healing, and information about our services and programs?



Connection with other social service providers in your community, distributing materials with your hotline number and that describe your services, or connecting directly with communities .



Remember: Outreach is not primary prevention as it is focused on reaching people who have already experienced harm, but it is an essential part of direct services and may often overlap with awareness strategies.

Human Trafficking Prevention

Outreach, Awareness, and Prevention:
What's the difference?



The **goal** of **awareness** is to make the public aware of the existence, nature, and scope of the problem.



How can I reach my community with accurate, fact-based, non-victim-blaming information about human trafficking, and how can I identify and correct any misinformation or biases they may have?



Online or in-person campaigns to highlight human trafficking definitions, prevalence, and dynamics, public speaking engagements, or development and distribution of educational and informational materials about human trafficking.



Remember: Awareness alone is not primary prevention as knowing facts is not enough to shift attitudes and behaviors, but awareness can be a key part of a broader prevention strategy.



The **goal** of **prevention** is primary prevention of causing harm. "Primary prevention" means we aim to prevent human trafficking before it has ever occurred by shifting knowledge, attitudes, behaviors, and social conditions that contribute to human trafficking.



What are the known risk and protective factors for sexual violence and other forms of human trafficking, and what are the proven (or otherwise theory-driven) strategies that impact those risk and protective factors without contributing to victim-blaming, disempowerment of survivors, or harmful impacts on marginalized communities?



Community task forces to coordinate services and strategies among related organizations, implementation of curriculum to teach strategies to youth as well as young adults, or engagement with communities with greater statistical risk of human trafficking to learn and listen as well as provide support.

HISTORY OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Everything about the movement -- from our approaches to survivors to our definition of human trafficking -- is shaped by history, historical beliefs about who deserves freedom, and historical patterns of power and control. Awareness of this history empowers us to consciously choose which pieces of that history we want to carry forward in our work.



PAST

We look to the past to find out: How did we get here? What were the historical influences that shaped how we currently approach human trafficking? What lessons can we learn?



PRESENT

We evaluate how we talk about, work to prevent, and respond to human trafficking in order to understand which of our practices reflect our values and best evidence and which are outdated.



FUTURE

We envision a future free of force, fraud, and coercion, and work to model those values in our messaging, strategies, and frameworks. We work with integrity for the liberation of all people.

CHATTEL SLAVERY & HUMAN TRAFFICKING

In many parts of the world today, human trafficking is referred to as "modern day slavery." In other parts of the world, different forms of slavery have existed throughout history. In the historical context of the United States, however, most people associate "slavery" with one specific model: chattel slavery.

What is "chattel slavery"?

Chattel slavery is the model of enslavement used in what is now the United States since settlement. Unique features of chattel slavery include:

- The enslaved person was considered the property of another person, throughout the duration of their life.
- The enslaved person's children were also considered the property of the other person, so it was generational.
- Like property, they were passed down through the generations like inheritance.
- When "bought," complete ownership was transferred to the buyer, who became the new "owner."

While human trafficking is a horrific violation of human rights and must be stopped, very few modern examples of human trafficking in the United States fit the definition of chattel slavery, and the struggle to end human trafficking differs from the struggle to end chattel slavery in several key ways.

CHATTEL SLAVERY

- Legal and state-sanctioned.
- Systems and laws were designed to keep you in.
- Assistance & support were not culturally accepted, and helpers were seen as radical criminals.
- Systemically generational.
- System based on race, and race was constructed based on profit.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- Illegal
- Systems and laws are designed to keep you out.
- Assistance & support are encouraged by the state, and helpers are seen as beneficial.
- Not systematically generational.
- People of all races can be involved as either traffickers or survivors.

All forms of chattel slavery fit the U.S. definition of human trafficking; not all forms of human trafficking fit the definition of chattel slavery.

CHATTEL SLAVERY & STRUCTURAL RACISM

So is this just semantics? We don't believe so. After chattel slavery ended in the United States in 1865, the same racial hierarchies that were created to perpetuate race-based slavery found their way into systems. For more on systemic harm and structural racism, see NCCASA's webinar: [Upstream, Same River: Rethinking the Bones of Our Systems](#).

What is "structural racism"?

The Aspen Institute Roundtable on Community Change defines "structural racism" as: "A system in which public policies, institutional practices, cultural representations, and other norms work in various, often reinforcing ways to perpetuate racial group inequity. It identifies dimensions of our history and culture that have allowed privileges associated with 'whiteness' and disadvantages associated with 'color' to endure and adapt over time. Structural racism is not something that a few people or institutions choose to practice. Instead it has been a feature of the social, economic and political systems in which we all exist."

So let's compare chattel slavery and structural racism.

CHATTEL SLAVERY

- Legal and state-sanctioned.
- Systems and laws were designed to keep you in.
- Assistance & support were not culturally accepted, and helpers were seen as radical criminals.
- Systemically generational.
- System based on race, and race was constructed based on profit.

STRUCTURAL RACISM

- Legal and state-sanctioned.
- Systems and laws designed to self-perpetuate.
- Assistance & support are not culturally accepted, and helpers/resisters are seen as radical.
- Generational impacts with small changes resulting from major campaigns.
- Systems' origins and impacts based on race and profit.

Anti-racist advocates and organizers working to end structural racism are carrying forward the legacy of those who worked to end chattel slavery. For this reason and because of our commitment to anti-racist values, NCCASA has chosen not to co-opt the language of anti-slavery by invoking the historical memory of chattel slavery in our human trafficking fundraising, awareness, and messaging. We avoid referring to human trafficking as "slavery," and avoid other related language, such as "abolition," "shackles," and "underground railroad."

SURVIVOR VOICES IN THE MOVEMENT

The movements to end sexual assault and domestic violence were built out of the collective voices of survivors organizing to take care of each other where systems had failed them. The movement to end human trafficking has its earliest roots in the Victorian era "white slave panic," which was the catalyst for the Mann Act of 1910, and has largely been driven and framed by people who have never experienced human trafficking.

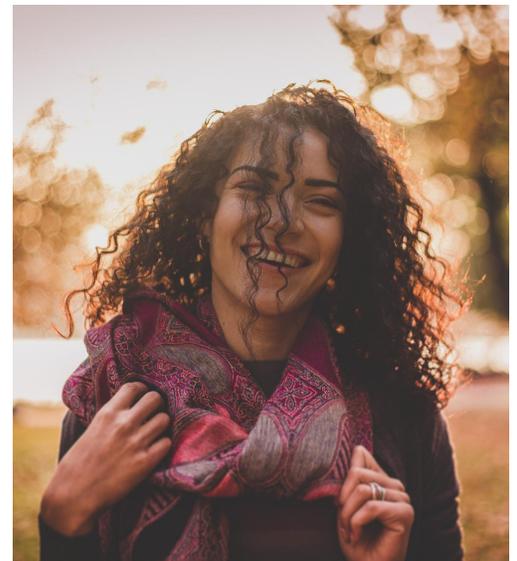
DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

- Started by and for survivors.
- Human rights (power/control and cultural) framework.
- Assumption in the movement that most doing this work are primary or secondary survivors.
- Black, brown, and LGBTQ+ survivors created the movements' roots but have historically been marginalized from the mainstream dialogue.

ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING MOVEMENT

- Started externally; criminal justice and "civilizing" missions.
- Criminal justice (individual) framework.
- Assumption in the movement that most doing this work are not survivors.
- Sampling bias in survivor leadership/input, wherein the survivors who have opportunities to provide input are largely those for whom the existing frameworks were a good fit.

This means that "the way we've always done things" -- the ways we talk about trafficking, respond to or describe survivors and their trauma, and think about prevention -- originated in an external view of their experiences. As you consider your awareness and prevention messaging, it is important to consider the perspectives of a variety of survivors from communities that are the most disproportionately impacted and/or who have the least access to supports.



REFRAMING HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION

In the past, human trafficking prevention efforts have not been aligned with public health or human rights approaches to violence prevention. The early approaches to individual and relationship level interventions weren't always trauma-informed, survivor-centered, or empowerment-based, and often inadvertently reinforced victim-blaming messaging. The early approaches to community and relationship level interventions often relied on criminal justice narratives that failed to account for structural disparities in access to both justice and resources. While there is only one evidence-based curriculum for sex trafficking (and it is only for adolescent girls), we can look to existing research on human trafficking and best practices in related fields of violence prevention to guide our prevention work.

EXISTING RESEARCH: RISK FACTORS FOR EXPERIENCING SEX TRAFFICKING

Individual

Youth without safe housing
 Adolescent victimization
 Survival sex
 Early alcohol/drugs
 Mental health issues
 Systems-involved
 Early sexual initiation

Relationship

Witnessed family violence
 Compromised parenting
 Caregiver strain
 Conflicts with parents
 Family influence

Community

Peer influence
 Social norms
 Exposure to criminal activity

Societal

Gender inequality
 Poverty
 Social norms
 Glamorization of pimping
 Stigmatization of sex work

"Several risk factors have been identified which increase a youth's likelihood of experiencing sex trafficking; however, it is important to note that not all youth who experience these risk factors will experience sex trafficking. Further, while some individuals may be at higher risk of trafficking, they are in no way to blame and are not responsible for trafficking. Rather, the traffickers are responsible for the exploitation of others. "

Winslow, H., Lee, D., Colbert, R., Croft, C., Dunkerton, C., Fraga Rizo, C., Franchino-Olsen, H., Jenkins, M., Jordan, B., Lesak, A., Macy, R.J., Martin, S. (2020), Risk Factors for Experiencing Sex Trafficking. Teach2Reach, Chapel Hill, NC.



Social Determinants of Health

The "social determinants of health" are the conditions in which people are born, live, grow, work, and age, and are social factors that impact people's health outcomes.

They include:

- Health and Health Care
- Neighborhood and built environment
- Social and community context
- Education
- Economic Stability

MOVING UPSTREAM

In public health approaches to prevention, we learn about the importance of shifting to upstream prevention approaches.

Imagine ourselves enjoying a day by the river, when suddenly, we notice a struggling person floating by. We jump into the water to pull them out, but before long, another struggling person floats by. One after the other, we pull people out of the river, exhausting our energy and resources. After a while, we become curious, and decide to go upstream to see what is causing people to fall into the river so that we can work on the root causes. Maybe it's a broken bridge, or an unmarked ledge.

To end human trafficking, we need people who are working as advocates, assisting survivors with their needs for safety and self-determination. We also need people who are going upstream, to look at the root causes. Where are the systems gaps that leave people vulnerable? What causes the disparities that marginalize some people from access to safety and resources?

Primary prevention means going upstream. And remember: equal access to inequitable systems is not true equity.

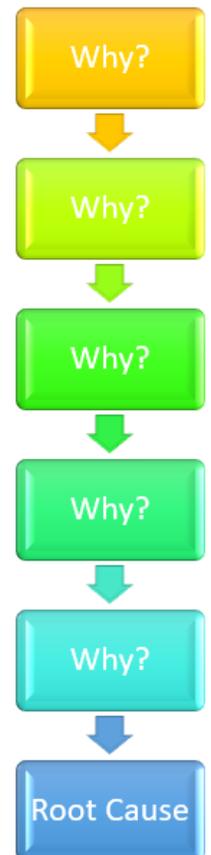


5 Why's

One way to move upstream and understand root causes is to ask a series of "why" questions.

Example:

- Why is this person at higher risk for trafficking?
- Because of compromised parenting.
- Why is the parenting compromised?
- Because the parent has reduced access to mental health treatment.
- Why does that parent have reduced access to mental health treatment?
- Because of poverty and a lack of culturally-competent local clinicians.



See NCCASA's webinar "[Upstream, Same River](#)"

REVISITING EFFECTIVE PREVENTION

Because we are talking about violence and trauma, it is important that prevention strategies are trauma-informed. Please see NCCASA's webinar on [Trauma-Informed Prevention Education](#) for more guidance. Additionally, let's revisit a few of our principles of effective prevention.

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <p>EFFECTIVE PREVENTION IS COMPREHENSIVE</p> | <p>Effective prevention is more than just awareness campaigns. It's coordinated community-wide efforts that work together to educate, teach new skills, and transform norms.</p> | <p>EFFECTIVE PREVENTION IS SOCIO-CULTURALLY RELEVANT</p> | <p>Effective prevention values the voices and insights of people who are directly impacted by human trafficking and anti-trafficking policy, and honors lived experience.</p> |
| <p>EFFECTIVE PREVENTION HAS A SUFFICIENT DOSAGE</p> | <p>Giving half-hour awareness talks to different community members is unlikely to be effective. Offering multi-session opportunities to build knowledge and skills works best.</p> | <p>EFFECTIVE PREVENTION HAS WELL-TRAINED STAFF</p> | <p>Prevention staff will have extensive and ongoing training in the public health approach to prevention, sexual/partner violence dynamics, and trauma-informed prevention .</p> |
| <p>EFFECTIVE PREVENTION EVALUATES OUTCOMES</p> | <p>Effective prevention is measured against clearly-stated goals, activities, and outcomes, and incorporates a process of continuous quality improvement based on evaluation feedback.</p> | <p>EFFECTIVE PREVENTION IS THEORY-DRIVEN</p> | <p>Effective strategies are based on strategies and principles from the research on violence prevention. Effective strategies utilize emergent, promising, and best practices.</p> |

EVALUATING OUTCOMES



Effective evaluation of your prevention program begins with program design, and a strong, clear logic model can help you plan your program with evaluation in mind. Are your goals strategic, measurable, ambitious, realistic, time-bound, inclusive, and equitable (**SMARTIE**)? Will your inputs (resources and staffing) be sufficient to implement your activities? Will your activities support achieving your short and long-term outcomes? What risk and protective factors do your strategies address? With what indicators will you measure success? See NCCASA's [Powerful Prevention](#) webinar series for more information on evaluation and logic models.

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY "EVIDENCE-BASED"?

In the field of public health, "evidence-based" has a very specific meaning. Effective prevention programming will be, at a minimum, evidence-informed, which means that it is based on existing understandings of best practices in human trafficking or related violence prevention fields. Evidence-informed practices can be thought of as either emerging or promising practices, and with additional replicable research they become evidence-based.

An "Emerging Practice":

- Is based on guidelines or practices that are proven to lead to effective public health outcomes;
- Incorporates a process of continual quality improvement;
- Has an evaluation plan in place to measure program outcomes, but it does not yet have evaluation data available to demonstrate the effectiveness of positive outcomes.

Want your strategy to be an "emerging practice"? Start by reviewing the existing peer-reviewed public health literature evaluating other strategies in human trafficking or sexual violence prevention to learn what is and is not effective. Consult with an evaluation professional (like NCCASA's Program Evaluator) to determine an evaluation plan.

A "Promising Practice":

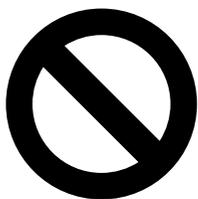
- Has strong quantitative and qualitative data showing positive outcomes, but does not yet have enough research or replication to support generalizable positive public health outcomes.

Want your strategy to be a "promising practice"? Implement your program with fidelity and routinely collect evaluation data as described in your evaluation plan.

A "Best Practice":

- Has been reviewed and substantiated by public health experts according to research standards;
- Is replicable in a variety of settings and clearly links positive effects to the strategy being evaluated and not to other external factors.

Want your strategy to be a "best practice"? Explore evaluation partnerships with research universities and institutions.



MYTH: There are no "best practices" in sex trafficking prevention and response.



TRUTH: The sexual and partner violence fields have a body of research to draw upon for norms.

A note on evidence and access:

Is an evidence-based program better than those that are not? Not necessarily! A lot of the existing "evidence-based" violence prevention programs are older, and were normed on groups that lacked diversity. Plus, formal evaluations are expensive and inaccessible! We can still draw upon existing best practices to inform our work, while modifying for equity and culturally-specific needs. Reach out to NCCASA with questions or to discuss possible funding avenues for research and evaluation.

HARM REDUCTION

Harm reduction is a framework that emerged out of the field of substance use disorders as a strategy for reducing the negative consequences associated with drug use. Harm reduction has been used with people involved in the sex trade as a way of working to improve safety conditions and access to supports for both sex workers and trafficking survivors. Harm reduction meets people where they are to allow for lower-barrier services. It allows for increased feelings of safety and self-determination in situations where immediate exit from the trafficking situation is not desired or feasible. By prioritizing **both** safety **and** self-determination, it repairs the fundamental harm of human trafficking: the limiting of a survivor's agency by the trafficker. Its nonjudgmental, non-coercive approach does not minimize harm that is occurring, but rather looks at it in its social, cultural, and interpersonal context.

PRINCIPLES OF HARM REDUCTION

(Adapted by Christy Croft for NCCASA from the Harm Reduction Coalition's *Principles of Harm Reduction*)

- Accepts, for better or worse, that some human trafficking survivors are not willing, ready, or able to exit their trafficking situation, and chooses to work to minimize harmful effects rather than simply ignore or condemn them.
- Understands that survivors of human trafficking may have complex, multi-faceted feelings about their traffickers, and acknowledges that some ways of interacting with their traffickers are clearly safer than others.
- Ensures that survivors of trafficking routinely have a real voice in the creation of programs and policies designed to serve them. Listens to communities impacted by trafficking and trafficking policy, not just those who share your lens, framework, and narrative.
- Affirms that people with lived experience across the range of consent are the primary agents of reducing the harms of coercion, violence against those in the sex trade, and sex trafficking, and empowers impacted communities to share information and support each other in strategies which reflect their actual needs and realities.
- Does not attempt to minimize or ignore harm or danger associated with human trafficking, labor exploitation, or the sex trade, and considers conditions outside the sex trade itself that perpetuate or normalize increased harm to those in the sex trade.
- Understands that sex work and sex trafficking exist along a continuum of consent from enthusiastically chosen to violently coerced, and acknowledges that some ways of engaging in commercial sex are clearly safer than others.
- Views self-determination as the opposite of force, fraud, and coercion. Focuses on quality of life, sense of well-being, and increase in self-determination as the measure of success, rather than on immediate exit as the only measure of success.
- Calls for the non-judgmental, non-coercive provision of services and resources to people who are experiencing trafficking or engaged in commercial sex in order to assist them in reducing attendant harm.
- Recognizing that the realities of poverty, class, racism, social isolation, immigrant status, past trauma, sex and gender-based discrimination and other social inequalities affect both people's vulnerability to human trafficking as well as their access to and experience of resources and programs.

HARM REDUCTION AND PREVENTION

So what does harm reduction have to do with prevention? After all, harm reduction is a framework for nonjudgmental, non-coercive *response* to human trafficking?

True! However, both prevention *and* response are strengthened by a degree of consistency in the messaging and frameworks we bring to survivors. We know this from our work in sexual violence. Victim-blaming messages work to perpetuate norms that lead to sexual violence *as well as* impede compassionate service delivery that facilitates survivors' healing. Shaming messages about sexuality perpetuate norms that lead to sexual violence *as well as* impede compassionate service delivery that facilitates survivors' healing. We must be thoughtful in our prevention approaches to not perpetuate messaging, norms, or beliefs that will harm survivors.

REAL TALK

We must remember that "proven or believed to accomplish our stated goals" does not mean ethical or just. If someone could assure you that you could prevent trafficking in your community by going out every morning to violently harm a dozen people from marginalized communities, ensure that a small increase in children would go hungry, and subject another marginalized group to increases in sexual violence, would you do it? Or would you look for another way? We must always look for ways to mitigate our complicity in any harm.



MITIGATING OUR OWN HARM

In approaching harm reduction, it is important to remember that systems-involvement brings its own unique sets of harm. People who are incarcerated are at higher risk of sexual violence, many trafficking survivors report having been harmed by law enforcement officers, and even well-meaning nonprofit organizations can inadvertently replicate patterns of harm, coercion, or paternalism. Ask yourself:

- What are we measuring and is it actual reduction of risk factors that lead to human trafficking?
- Is any of our messaging perpetuating harmful, shameful, or victim-blaming beliefs or attitudes?
- Have we checked our strategies for unintended harm to all impacted communities?
- Do we oppose causing harm as an intentional strategy to help people?

THINKING CRITICALLY ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION

In 2020, NCCASA conducted a review of several of the existing human trafficking prevention curriculum available for use in North Carolina. Our aim was to create a document that would help local school districts, preventionists, and youth-serving agencies make informed decisions about what program best suits their needs. Following are factors to consider in assessing a curriculum's effectiveness and fit:

- Intended audience (age, gender-inclusive or gender-specific, setting)
- Were survivors involved in the development of the curriculum, and at what level?
- Culturally appropriate for general audiences (inclusive of LGBTQ+ youth; uses scenarios with a variety of gender identities; has been developed, reviewed, or evaluated in use with Black, Brown, and immigrant youth)
- Is it available in multiple languages?
- Delivery information (number and length of sessions; cost of program; delivered by curriculum staff or can your staff be trained to deliver?)
- Professional development and support (mandatory training required to deliver; is ongoing technical assistance provided)
- Is the curriculum faith-based? Is it appropriate and inclusive for attendees from a variety of faith backgrounds?
- Is the curriculum evaluated regularly according to recognized program evaluation standards? How often, and how is the feedback incorporated into continuous quality improvement?
- Which risk and protective factors does this curriculum address at the individual, relationship, community, and society level of the social ecological model?
- Are the risk and protective factors addressed by the curriculum supported by the evidence?
- Does the curriculum use approaches that are in line with best practices for violence prevention education, including an emphasis on primary prevention of perpetration?
- Does the curriculum training include an expectation that those delivering the training will develop a protocol for responding to student disclosures and distress, and be prepared to provide resources for students in need of extra support?

NCCASA's [Human Trafficking Prevention Curriculum Matrix](#) is available at our web site.

Human Trafficking Prevention Curriculum Matrix

*A Tool to Help North Carolina
Schools Identify the Best
Prevention Curriculum for their
District*

Resources

NC Coalition Against Sexual Assault
811 Spring Forest Road, Suite 100
Raleigh, NC 27609
(919) 871-1015
www.nccasa.org

NC Coalition Against Human Trafficking
www.nccaht.org

NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence
www.nccadv.org

NC Human Trafficking Commission
<https://www.nccourts.gov/commissions/human-trafficking-commission>

Teach2Reach Curriculum (aligned with NC Healthful Living Standards)
<http://teach2reach.web.unc.edu/>

Prevent Connect
<http://www.preventconnect.org/>

Prevention Institute
<https://www.preventioninstitute.org/>