

Human Trafficking : A Review

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ABSTRACT

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Human trafficking is the trade of humans for the purpose of forced labour, sexual slavery, or commercial sexual exploitation for the trafficker or others. This may encompass providing a spouse in the context of forced marriage or the extraction of organs or tissues including for surrogacy and ova removal. Human trafficking can occur within a country or trans-nationally. Human trafficking is a crime against the person because of the violation of the victim's rights of movement through coercion and because of their commercial exploitation. Human trafficking is the trade in people, especially women and children, and does not necessarily involve the movement of the person from one place to another. Human trafficking is the third largest crime industry in the world, behind drug dealing and arms trafficking, and is the fastest-growing activity of trans-national criminal organizations. Human trafficking is a human rights violation and a global health problem. Victims of human trafficking have medical and mental health sequelae requiring specific healthcare interventions. Healthcare professionals may be the initial contact that these victims make outside the world of trafficking. Healthcare professionals are key agents in the identification of human trafficking, which is essential in eliminating this public health problem. Unfortunately, healthcare professionals are not always able to detect signs of human trafficking. Failure to detect results in missed opportunities to assist victims. This is a case report of a victim of human trafficking who presented to an emergency department with medical and mental health issues. Despite numerous encounters with different healthcare professionals, signs and symptoms of human trafficking were not identified. Skilled assessment made by a forensic nurse alerted the healthcare team to clear features of human trafficking associated with this person. Through this case report we illustrate the key role the nurse played in identifying signs of human trafficking. Improvement of human trafficking educational programs is highlighted as a key adjunct to improving detection and facilitating the proper treatment of victim.

Keywords: Victim, Trafficking, Nurse, Treatment, Efforts

I. INTRODUCTION

Human trafficking (HT) is the equivalent of modern day slavery. Although exact numbers are difficult to ascertain, it is known to be an international problem of significant magnitude. The advanced practice forensic nurse has an opportunity to provide a holistic approach to victims of HT including compassion, critical thinking, problem solving, and lobbying skills. Addressing this egregious crime, nurses must identify not only medical issues but also mental health, social, ethical, and legal concerns. The purpose of this article is to examine the role of the advanced practice forensic nurse in developing and providing education and promoting multidisciplinary collaboration with law enforcement and health care professionals with the goal of identification, intervention, and protection of victims of HT.

Human trafficking is a crime against humanity. It is also a serious threat to global health and security. Globalization has made human trafficking an easier task for the criminal organizations. No data are available on the volume, research trends, and key players in this field. Therefore, the aim of this study was to assess the research activity and research trends on human trafficking.

Defines human trafficking as:

(a) the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation or the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal, manipulation or implantation of organs;

(b) The consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation set forth in sub-paragraph (a) of this article shall be irrelevant where any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) have been used;

(c) The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered "trafficking in persons" even if this does not involve any of the means set forth in sub-paragraph (a) of this article;

(d) "Child" shall mean any person under eighteen years of age.

Table 1. Pool of Anti-Trafficking Actors by Actor Type

Actor Type	% of total	N =
		586
Nongovernmental Organization	54%	317
Governmental Agency	10%	57
UN Agency	8%	45
Individual Citizen	7%	39
Non-U.N.	5%	29
Intergovernmental Organization		
Religious Organization	4%	23
University	3%	15
Foundation	2%	12
Business	1%	8
Press Organization	1%	8
Research/Policy Institute	1%	7
Labor Union	1%	6
Professional Association	< 1%	4
Hospital	< 1%	1
Political Party	<1%	1
Multisector Entity	N/A	14

Trafficked people are held against their will through acts of coercion, and forced to work for or provide services to the trafficker or others. The work or

services may include anything from bonded or forced labour to commercial sexual exploitation. The arrangement may be structured as a work contract, but with no or low payment, or on terms which are highly exploitative. Sometimes the arrangement is structured as debt bondage, with the victim not being permitted or able to pay off the debt.

Human trafficking is internationally recognized as a widespread violation of human rights. This article defines and gives a detailed historical account of the political and social issues surrounding human trafficking. The article explains the role of the advanced practice forensic nurse in recognizing and addressing the needs of victims of human trafficking. The developing roles of the advanced practice psychiatric forensic nurse in collaboration with law enforcement and health care professionals are described with the ultimate goal of restoring the lives of victims of human trafficking.

As social-service providers began to identify victims, researchers were able to interview victims to gain a better understanding of their experiences from recruitment into the trade to post rescue treatment programs. Researchers have also examined trafficking experiences on physical and mental health, the impact of law-enforcement and prosecutor training on awareness and criminal-justice responses and identified ways in which law and policy can be improved. Researchers have identified gaps in the literature to include limited research using quantitative data, longitudinal studies, or data analysis that go beyond descriptive information, as well as a lack of focus on labor and organ trafficking. As new information is gained each year, systematic reviews of the literature are able to evaluate the published research and to identify areas where research still needs improvement. Systematic reviews not only provide a foundational knowledge base but an organized direction for future-research resources.

The majority of systematic reviews are confined to a specific discipline, a specific type of trafficking, or a specific location (Baral et al., 2012; Cannon, Arcara, Graham, & Macy, 2016; Oram, Stoöckl, Busza, Howard, & Zimmerman, 2012; Perry & McEwing, 2013; Reid, 2012; Zhang, 2009). Zhang conducted a strict review of 100 empirical articles specifically focused on sex trafficking, identifying ways to improve trafficking data collection and the areas where future research would be beneficial. Zhang suggested future research should address the recruitment process, methods of transportation, the structural attributes of trafficking organizations, victimization patterns, and the role corruption plays in cases of sex trafficking. He also emphasized the use of buyers of prostitution, individuals in the periphery of the trade like cab drivers, bar tenders, and hotel owners, and prostitutes themselves as critical sources of information that should be explored further.

Data collection for this project replicated the search methods from Gozdziaik and Bump (2008). Information sources included 10 electronic databases: Academic

Search Complete, Business Source Complete, Journal Storage (JSTOR), PAIS Index, Proquest, Social Science Index, Medline (Pubmed), Lexis Nexis Academic, PsychINFO, and Web of Knowledge. These 10 databases allowed for a broad range of disciplines to be covered during article collection. Sixteen keywords were used to search each database: Human traffic*, Sex traffic*, Labor traffic*, Organ traffic*, Child traffic*, Domestic servitude, Forced labor, "Human trafficking," "Sex trafficking," "Labor trafficking," "Child trafficking," "Organ trafficking," along with the phrases "human trafficking and law enforcement," "human trafficking and prostitution," "human trafficking and crime," and "human trafficking and victims." The asterisk was used in the first round of keyword searches as a "wildcard" to broaden the search to include variations of the word

stem. The quotation marks used in the second round ensured that the concept was searched as a whole.

Table 2. Focal Types of Human Trafficking

Human Trafficking Type (HTT)	% of Actors Addressing Each HTT
(Forced) Prostitution	61%
Other Sexual Exploitation	60%
Nonsexual Forced Labor	60%
Early/Forced Marriage	12%
Military Conscription	6%
Adoption	4%

Note. N = 586; most actors focus on multiple types.

During the current study, solved by referring to the coding of similar articles. Based on the total sample, publications on human trafficking have steadily increased over time, from 22 total articles in the year 2000 to 154 total articles in 2014. There is a substantial increase in the number of articles published in years 2007 and 2008, with 84 and 122 articles, respectively, when the previous years had between 20 and 30 articles. In a review of empirical status over time, it was not until 2010 that empirical studies were more prominent than nonempirical studies. Trends in the type of trafficking over time found that sex and general trafficking were addressed fairly consistently between 2000 and 2014, but roughly 70% of labor-trafficking articles were produced between the years 2010 to 2014. Articles specifically focused on organ trafficking produced four or less publications per year, with many of the earlier years not producing any articles. The majority

of articles in this research synthesis (67%) were nonempirical.

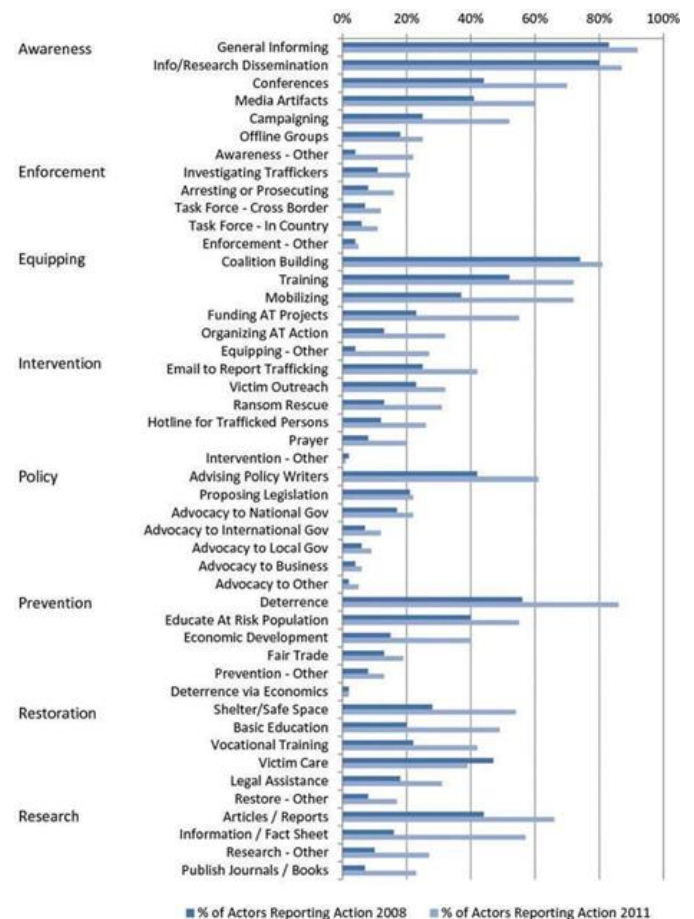
Criminology, psychology, education, communication, and anthropology are the only disciplines that had more empirical research than nonempirical within their discipline, as well as the highest percentages across disciplines. Disciplines such as law, international relations/human rights, and women’s studies had drastic disparities between empirical and nonempirical status within their discipline, with a majority of the literature being nonempirical. These disciplines also had the highest rate of nonempirical research in comparison to the other disciplines. An examination of the cross-tabulations between empirical studies and article purpose identified “overview” as the most frequent empirical category (16%) in comparison to the other purposes, with victim experience (9%) and victim services (9%) as the next most frequent categories. Most of the empirical research in these three purpose categories is based on quantitative studies of public perception of trafficking or specific qualitative studies with victims, social service providers, and key stakeholders.

There is growing evidence on the wide-ranging health consequences of human trafficking. A systematic review on health and human trafficking found that survivors experienced multiple forms of abuse, numerous sector-specific occupational hazards, and dangerous living conditions and suffered a range of poor health consequences. Among trafficking survivors in Southeast Asia, nearly half (48%) reported physical or sexual abuse and 22% sustained severe injuries, including lost limbs, and reported symptoms indicative of depression and anxiety disorders. At the same time, however, there has been limited evidence on the social, financial, and legal harm suffered by trafficked persons—which often have further implications for ill health.

Reports on human trafficking regularly highlight that child workers, minorities, and irregular migrants are at particular risk of more extreme forms of exploitation. Over half of the world’s 215 million young workers are estimated to be in hazardous sectors including forced sex work and forced street begging. Ethnic minority and highly marginalized populations are known to work in some of the most exploitative and damaging sectors, such as leather tanning, mining, and stone quarry work. Human trafficking also frequently manifests in highly gendered ways. For example, women and girls are commonly trafficked for sexual exploitation, forced marriage, and domestic work while males appear to be more vulnerable to trafficking into various armed conflicts, and men in Southeast Asia are more likely than women to be recruited for commercial fishing, sometimes referred to as “sea slavery”. Government can play a role in restricting migration, such as Nepal’s migration bans affecting younger prospective female migrants, or can promote migration through, for example, the Bangladeshi Government’s Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which subsidizes recruitment fees for females migrating to numerous Gulf States.

Early discussions about trafficking in persons focused almost solely on sex trafficking of women and girls and drew primarily on law enforcement responses. But human trafficking is now understood more broadly to occur in a wide array of low- or no-wage hazardous labor. In fact, the contemporary amalgam of mobility and low-wage labor fosters many opportunities for labor exploitation. Men, women, and children are trafficked for various purposes, including domestic servitude, agricultural and plantation work, commercial fishing, textiles, factory labour, construction, mining, and forced sex work as well as bride trafficking and petty crime. These types of abusive work situations are especially viable in low- and middle-income countries where low-cost labour is in high demand and where informal and

precarious employment proliferates and labor governance is weak. A substantial proportion of human trafficking occurs within the same country, although international trafficking has received greater global attention.



The exploitation that is at the heart of trafficking comprises different forms of abuse, such as extensive hours, poor pay, extortionate debt, physical confinement, serious occupational hazards, violence, and threats. These forms of abuse occur across a spectrum at varying levels of severity. And, importantly, the impact of exploitation on the health and wellbeing of a person who has been trafficked depends on the combination of types and severity of the acts she or he suffers. Because of the challenges of conducting surveys on human trafficking, there has been little population-based prevalence data on trafficking-related morbidity and mortality. In fact, globally, there is very little research on the health of low-wage migrant workers in general, especially in

low-income countries. Nonetheless, broader research indicates that labor market inequalities are closely associated with mortality, healthy life expectancy, and injury rates.

Types of trafficking

• Trafficking of children

Trafficking of children involves the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of children for the purpose of exploitation. Commercial sexual exploitation of children can take many forms, including forcing a child into prostitution or other forms of sexual activity or child pornography. Child exploitation may also involve forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude, the removal of organs, illicit international adoption, trafficking for early marriage, recruitment as child soldiers, for use in begging or as athletes such as child camel jockeys or football trafficking.

• Sex trafficking

Trafficking for sexual exploitation was formerly thought of as the organized movement of people, usually women, between countries and within countries for sex work with the use of physical coercion, deception and bondage through forced debt. Trafficked women and children are often promised work in the domestic or service industry, but instead are sometimes taken to brothels where they are required to undertake sex work, while their passports and other identification papers are confiscated. They may be beaten or locked up and promised their freedom only after earning – through prostitution – their purchase price, as well as their travel and visa costs.

• Forced marriage

A forced marriage is a marriage where one or both participants are married without their freely given consent. Servile marriage is defined as a marriage involving a person being sold, transferred or inherited into that marriage. forced marriages have been described as a form of human trafficking in certain situations and certain countries, such as China and its

Southeast Asian neighbours from which many women are moved to China, sometimes through promises of work, and forced to marry Chinese men. Ethnographic research with women from Myanmar and Cambodia found that many women eventually get used to their life in China and prefer it to the one they had in their home countries. Furthermore, legal scholars have noted that transnational marriage brokering was never intended to be considered trafficking by the drafters of the Palermo Protocol.

• Labour trafficking

Labour trafficking is the movement of persons for the purpose of forced labour and services. It may involve bonded labour, involuntary servitude, domestic servitude, and child labour. Labour trafficking happens most often within the domain of domestic work, agriculture, construction, manufacturing and entertainment; and migrant workers and indigenous people are especially at risk of becoming victims. People smuggling operations are also known to traffic people for the exploitation of their labour, for example, as transporters.

• Trafficking for organ trade

Trafficking in organs is a form of human trafficking. It can take different forms. In some cases, the victim is compelled into giving up an organ. In other cases, the victim agrees to sell an organ in exchange of money/goods, but is not paid (or paid less). Finally, the victim may have the organ removed without the victim's knowledge (usually when the victim is treated for another medical problem/illness – real or orchestrated problem/illness). Migrant workers, homeless persons, and illiterate persons are particularly vulnerable to this form of exploitation. Trafficking of organs is an organized crime, involving several offenders:

1. the recruiter
2. the transporter
3. the medical staff

- 4. the middlemen/contractors
- 5. the buyers

many countries the waiting lists for patients who need transplants are very long. Some solutions have been proposed to help counter it.

Trafficking for organ trade often seeks kidneys. Trafficking in organs is a lucrative trade because in

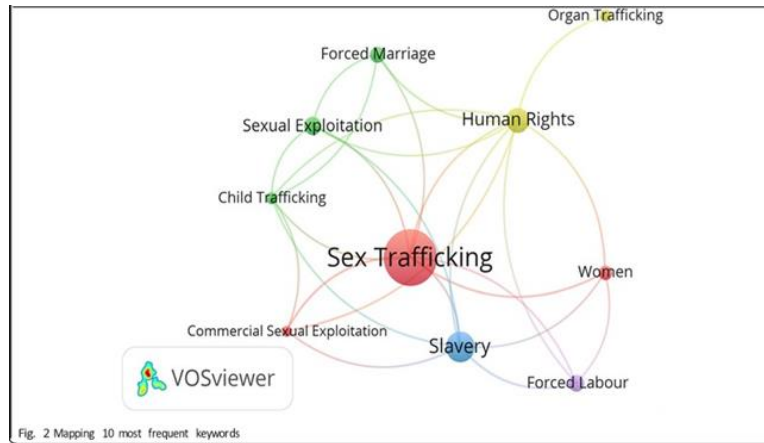


Table 3. Frequency of Type of Trafficking by Victim Gender (Percentage)

Victim Gender	Sex (%)	Labor (%)	Organ (%)	General (%)	Total (%)
Female	242 (81)	8 (3)		47 (16)	297 (100)
Male		3 (38)	1 (12)	4 (50)	8 (100)
Children	70 (48)	14 (10)		61 (42)	145 (100)
Women and Children	148 (83)	1 (1)		29 (16)	178 (100)
General	71 (12)	63 (10)	22 (4)	447 (74)	608 (100)
Total	531 (43)	89 (7)	23 (2)	588 (48)	1,231 (100)

Efforts
The enactment of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (TVPA) in 2000 by the

United States Congress and its subsequent re-authorizations established the Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons,

which engages with foreign governments to fight human trafficking and publishes a Trafficking in Persons Report annually. The Trafficking in Persons Report evaluates each country's progress in anti-trafficking and places each country onto one of three tiers based on their governments' efforts to comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking as prescribed by the TVPA.

There were three main components of the TVPA, commonly called the three P's:

Protection: The TVPA increased the US government's efforts to protect trafficked foreign national victims including, but not limited to: Victims of trafficking, many of whom were previously ineligible for government assistance, were provided assistance; and a non-immigrant status for victims of trafficking if they cooperated in the investigation and prosecution of traffickers (T-Visas, as well as providing other mechanisms to ensure the continued presence of victims to assist in such investigations and prosecutions). In T-Visa cases, a forensic psychiatric examination can assist the fact-finder.

Prosecution: The TVPA authorized the US government to strengthen efforts to prosecute traffickers including, but not limited to: Creating a series of new crimes on trafficking, forced labour, and document servitude that supplemented existing limited crimes related to slavery and involuntary servitude; and recognizing that modern-day slavery takes place in the context of fraud and coercion, as well as force, and is based on new clear definitions for both trafficking into sexual exploitation and labour exploitation: Sex trafficking was defined as, "a commercial sex act that is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age". Labour trafficking was defined as, "the recruitment, harbouring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labour or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection

to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery".

Prevention: The TVPA allowed for increased prevention measures including: Authorizing the US government to assist foreign countries with their efforts to combat trafficking, as well as address trafficking within the United States, including through research and awareness-raising; and providing foreign countries with assistance in drafting laws to prosecute trafficking, creating programs for trafficking victims, and assistance with implementing effective means of investigation.

As mentioned earlier, human-trafficking reviews typically begin a search with a specific purpose as the focus of their meta-analysis. The current study, however, did not search for a specific purpose but rather represented a variety of purposes for which human-trafficking research has addressed. As evident in, "Overview" was the most frequently identified category highlighting the vast amount of research focused on defining the crime, on giving a general overview or literature review, and on examining perceptions, victim vulnerabilities, and social factors that lead a victim to exploitation, such as poverty. This category accounted for at least 30% of the articles in all of the disciplines except for social work (29%), law (11%), health (22%), education (14%), and communications (10%). Across locations, overview was most commonly addressed from an international perspective (36%). The legal framework was the second largest category, addressing issues within current trafficking laws and implications for legal reform. The vast majority of the articles were published within the law discipline (71%) and at least half (51%) with the purpose of legal framework were published in North America. Policy was the third largest category with descriptions of new policies and evaluations of policies already in place. The highest publishing disciplines for this purpose included social science (18%) and international relations (18%).

Policy was most likely the focus from an international perspective (34%) or from North America (26%) or Europe (23%). The fourth largest category was education/awareness, providing evaluations on the impact of ant trafficking-movement campaigns, suggesting ways to improve them, and basic-awareness articles for service providers and the community at large. Education (57%) and medicine/health (24%) were the two disciplines publishing the most articles on education/awareness. The majority of education/awareness articles were published in North America (41%), internationally (22%), and in Asia (20%). The fifth largest category was victim services that addresses how service providers can recognize trafficking victims, properly interact with the victims and provide resources such as counselling and safe houses. In comparison to other disciplines, social work produced the most articles (44%) on victim services, followed by psychology and medicine/health (at 9% each). The three least frequent purpose categories include trends in trafficking, law enforcement, and traffickers.

Table 4. Frequency of Article Purpose

Purpose	Frequency	Percentage
Overview	346	28
Victim Experience	40	3
Traffickers	9	1
Victim Services	69	6
Trends	23	2
Content Analysis	33	3
Supply & Demand/Business	32	2
Legal Framework	278	23
Policy	115	9
Law Enforcement	28	2

Methodological Issues	57	5
Awareness/Education	82	7
Health	41	3
Other	78	6
Total	1,231	100

II. CONCLUSION

Overall, research has increased over time, especially in disciplines of law and medicine/health. The study of human trafficking is being addressed by a variety of disciplines, each with their own strengths, perspectives, and purposes that create a better understanding of trafficking's "bigger picture." A variety of sample populations, data-collection techniques, and analyses have been conducted in an attempt to increase what we know about trafficking from both general population perspectives and first responders, as well as victims and traffickers themselves. This research synthesis provided an updated examination of human-trafficking scholarly articles, accounting for the variety of disciplines that encounter trafficking, the techniques used to collect data, the methods used for interpretation of the studies, and the overall purpose for the articles. It is with this foundation that future research can move forward to address the areas still lacking in observable data.

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