

42nd Annual InterCourt Conference



Session 3B: Closer to Home:
Familial Human Trafficking

March 12, 2026
Hilton Columbus at
Easton Town Center
Columbus, OH

FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES

CHRISTI BARTMAN, MPA, JD, PHD, has been involved in anti-human trafficking efforts in Ohio for over a decade. Working areas such as law, legislation and advocacy, she saw the need for even more dedicated effort. In 2020, she founded Eyes Up Appalachia, an anti-human trafficking initiative focusing on Appalachian Ohio. In 2021 she received the Social Justice Leader Award from the University of Toledo's Human Trafficking and Social Justice Institute and was chosen as one of the inaugural fellows for the Foundation of Appalachian Ohio Pillars of Prosperity in Health and Human Services. She served as the co-chair for the Ohio Attorney General's Human Trafficking Commission Research/Gap and Data Analysis Subcommittee until January 2022. Dr. Bartman also teaches as an adjunct in the John Glenn College of Public Affairs at The Ohio State University.

ALICIA LEY is a visionary leader dedicated to creating transformative spaces where survivors of trafficking take the lead in shaping the movement. As Co-Executive Director at Survivor Alliance, she steers initiatives that center survivor leadership, build organizational capacity, and drive systemic change. Drawing from her lived experience and a decade of leadership in the anti-trafficking sector, Alicia blends fiery passion with deep relationships to challenge systemic injustices. Her work spans program development, coalition building, and trauma-informed approaches that elevate survivors as experts and decision-makers. Committed to uniting survivors and allies, she works to dismantle barriers rooted in racism, sexism, and colonialism, fostering resilient, inclusive communities. Alicia is dedicated to amplifying the voices of those historically excluded, ensuring that survivor leadership shapes lasting, meaningful change.

Closer to Home: Familial Human Trafficking

Christi S. Bartman, MPA, JD, PhD

Founder

Eyes Up Appalachia

Alicia Ley

Survivor Alliance



Closer to Home: Understanding Familial Trafficking



Christi Scott Bartman, MPA, JD, PhD
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If you find any of this presentation triggering, please step away and find a safe space to process the information and seek help if you need it.



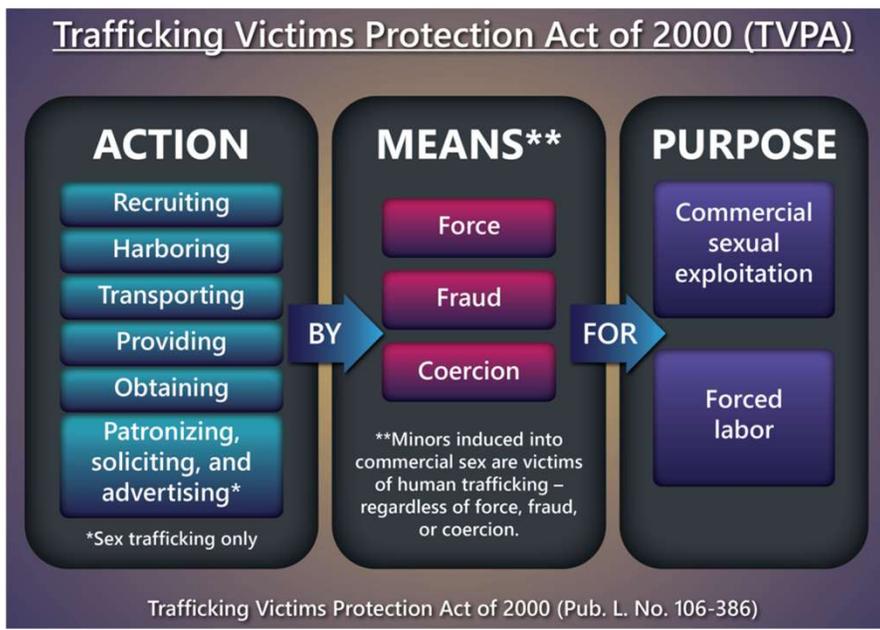
What Human Trafficking Is:

Human Trafficking is compelling someone to engage in a commercial sex act, labor or services through the use of force, fraud or coercion.

See Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act 2000 for more detail



Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA)



<https://ctip.defense.gov/CTIP-Student-Guide/courseFiles/ContentPages/CoursePages/action-card-2.html>

Familial Trafficking

The Federal or State definition of human trafficking except the trafficker is a family member.

- Different from incest because of an economic exchange
- A family member is one who has a blood or legal relationship to the survivor



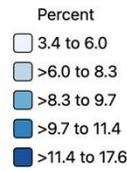
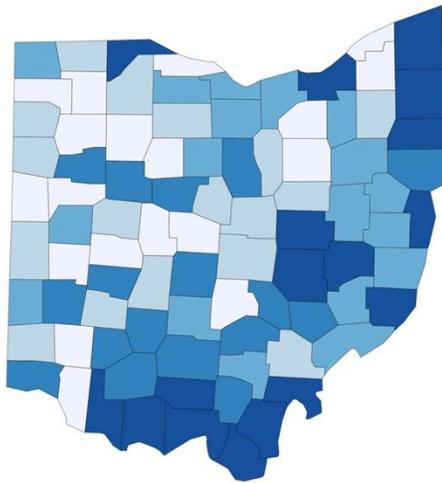
Dr. Jeanne L. Allert, PhD
Institute for Shelter Care

Vulnerabilities



Poverty (Families below poverty) for Ohio by County

All Races (includes Hispanic/Latino), Both Sexes, All Ages, 2019-2023

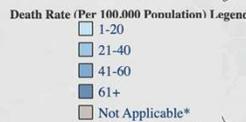
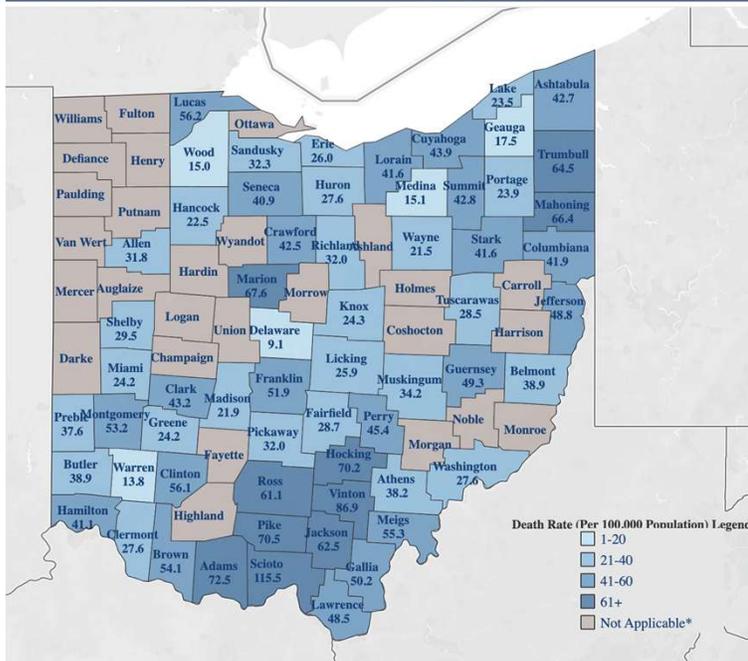


Columbiana 10.8%
Mahoning. 13.9%
Trumbull 12.6%



HDPulse: An Ecosystem of Minority Health and Health Disparities Resources. National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities. Created 10/5/2025. Available from <https://hdpulse.nlmhd.nih.gov>

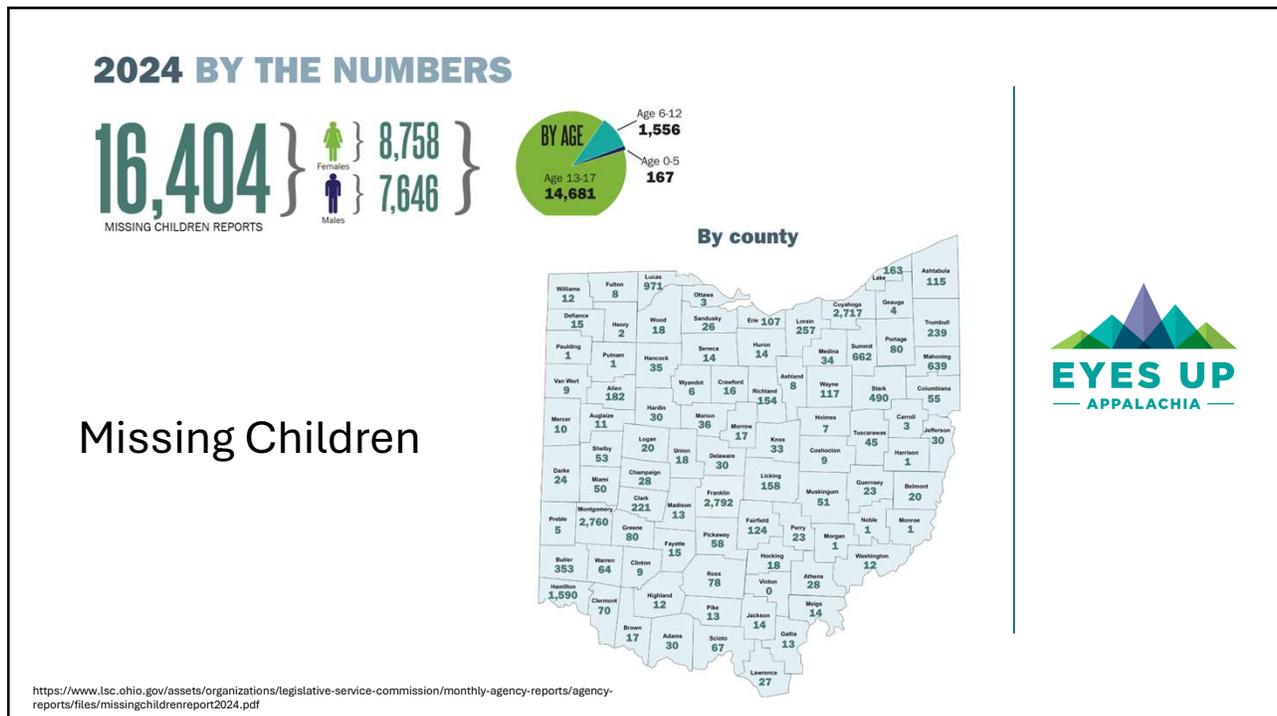
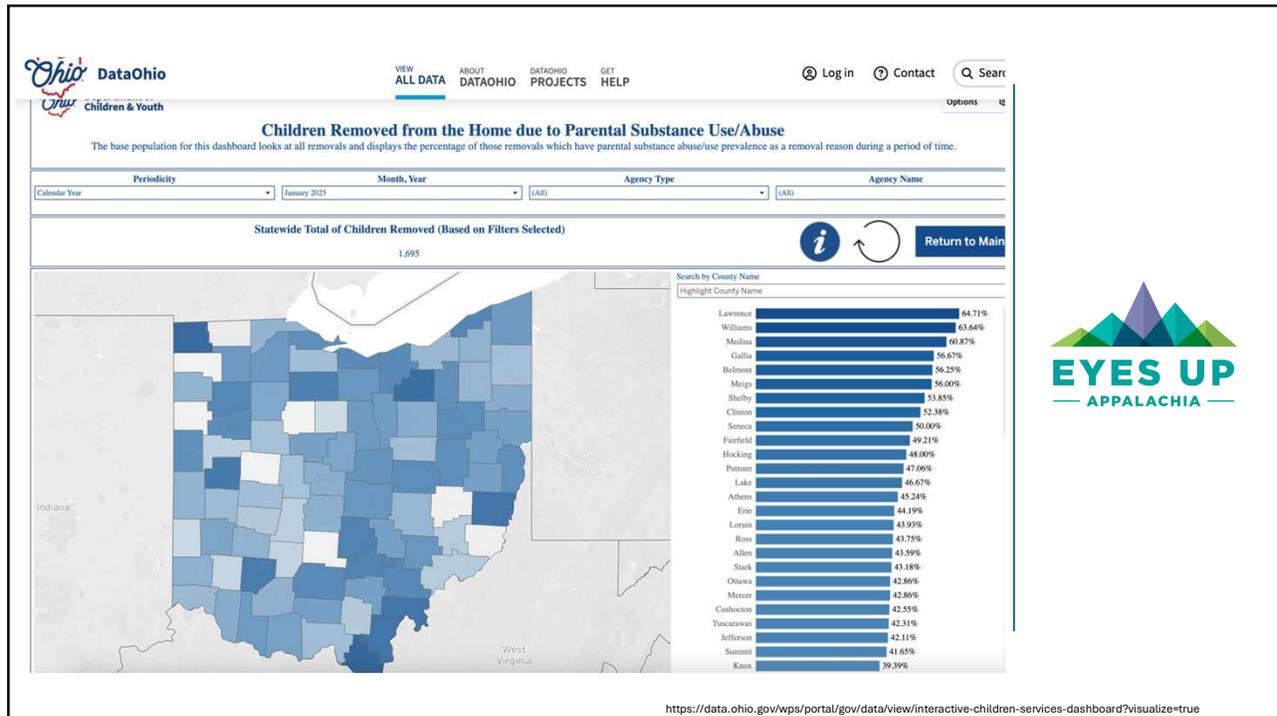
Age-Adjusted Rate (Per 100,000 Population) of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths



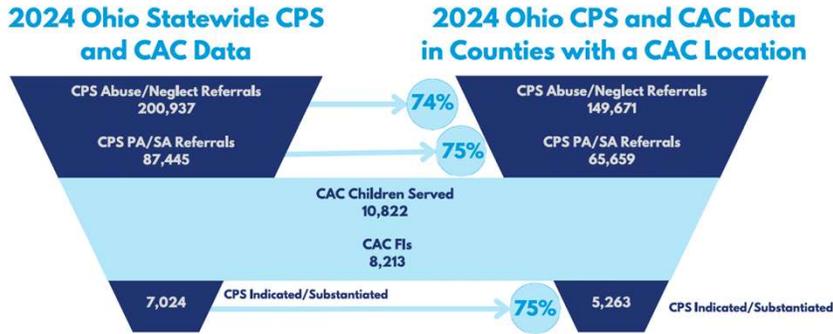
2023 Data



<https://data.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/data/view/ohio-sudors-overdose-data>



2024 Data on Child Abuse Referrals and CAC Services in Ohio



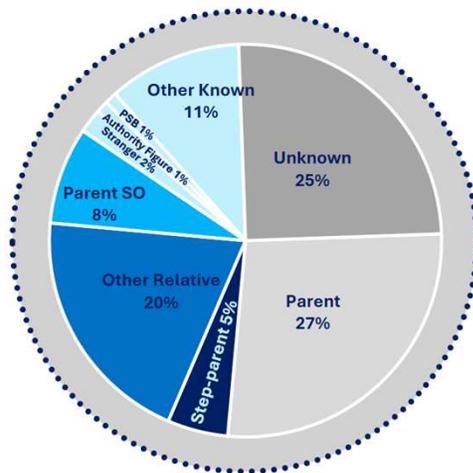
Source: Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Child Abuse and Neglect Referrals and Outcomes Dashboard and Ohio Network of Children's Advocacy Centers 2024 Annual Survey data.



ONCAC 2024 Child Abuse Service Factbook



The 10,822 children that Ohio CACs served in 2024 were abused by 8,742 offenders that were reported.



ONCAC 2024 Child Abuse Service Factbook

Institute for Shelter Care Study (2022).

Dr. Jeanne Allert

Prevalence

The data for this study was derived from a national survey and in-depth interviews of justice professionals from 24 states, representing 3,505 cases of domestic minor sex trafficking during the period of 2018-2021, of which 917 cases were confirmed familial. Prevalence from this study suggests 26 percent of cases were family-facilitated, but justice professionals believe the number to be higher due to insufficient disclosure, lack of evidence, and how cases are recorded. Reports from individual states also suggest a higher prevalence. Other studies suggest as high as 47%.



<https://instituteforsheltercare.org/familial/>

Institute for Shelter Care Study (2022). Dr. Jeanne Allert

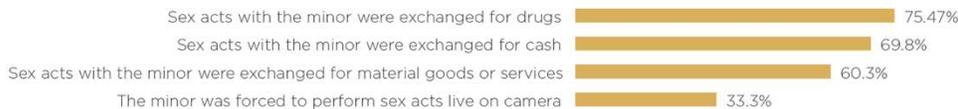


Percentage of Victims in the United States by Perpetrator Relationship



An important distinction between incestuous child abuse and FST is the presence of an economic exchange, regardless of the form of commerce.

Economic Exchange in Half to All Familial Trafficking Cases (n = 917)



<https://instituteforsheltercare.org/familial/>

Institute for Shelter Care Study (2022). Dr. Jeanne Allert Top Risk Factors for Familial Trafficking



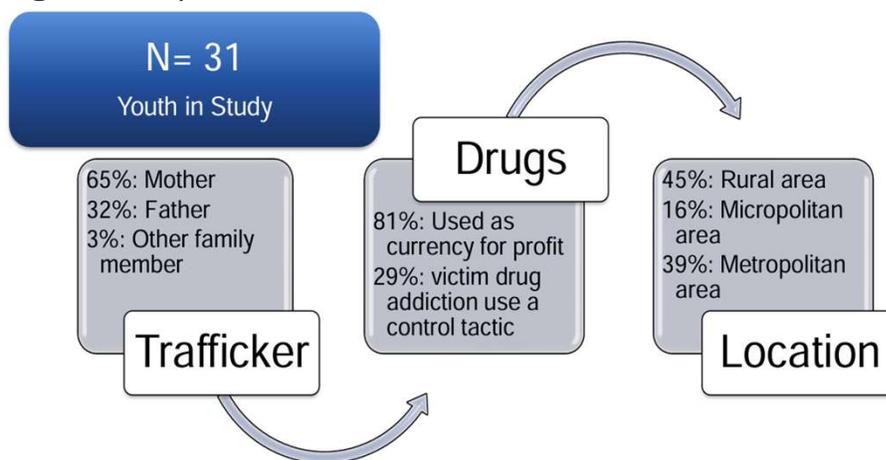
Risk Factors

Presence of Risk Factors in Half to All Familial Trafficking Cases (n = 917)

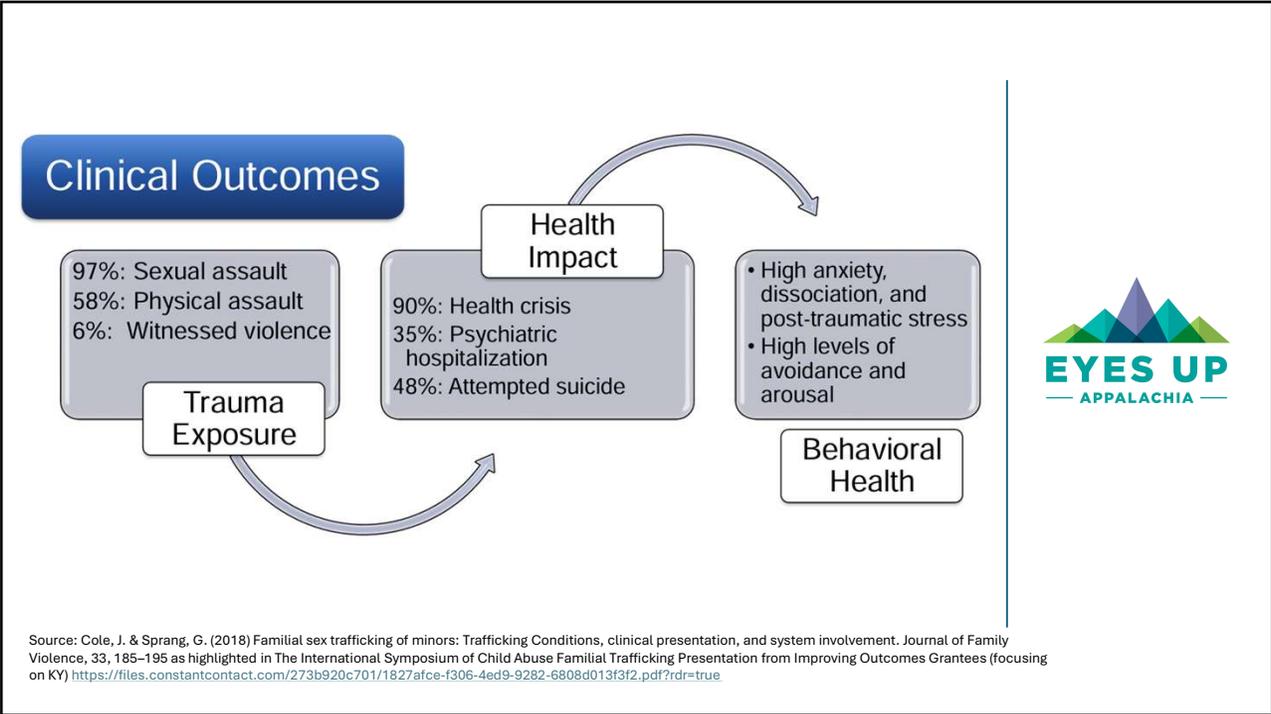
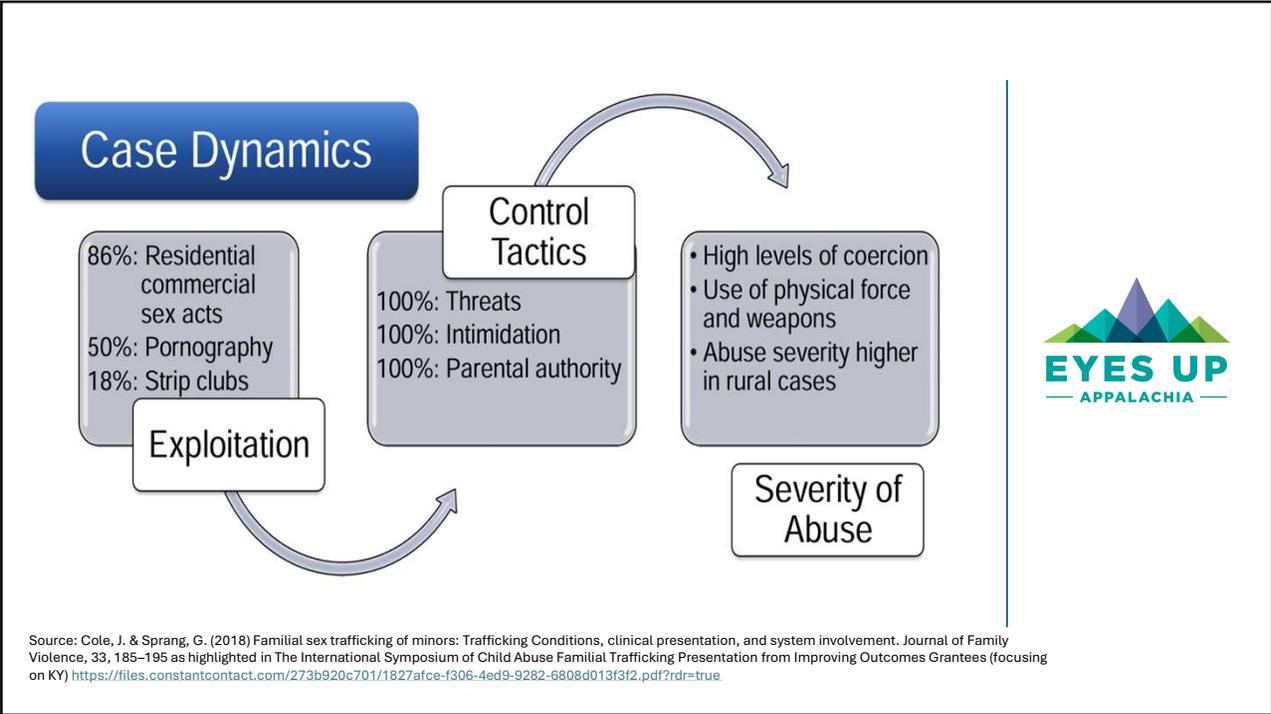
- 88.7% Acute poverty
- 86.8% Substance use/Addiction in the family
- 86.7% Suggestion or evidence of neglect of basic needs
- 83.9% Suggestion or evidence of verbal, emotional, spiritual abuse

<https://instituteofsheltercare.org/familial/>

Kentucky Study, Cole and Sprang (as presented by IO grantees)



Source: Cole, J. & Sprang, G. (2018) Familial sex trafficking of minors: Trafficking Conditions, clinical presentation, and system involvement. Journal of Family Violence, 33, 185-195 as highlighted in The International Symposium of Child Abuse Familial Trafficking Presentation from Improving Outcomes Grantees (focusing on KY) <https://files.constantcontact.com/273b920c701/1827afce-f306-4ed9-9282-6808d013f3f2.pdf?rdr=true>





<https://www.eyesupappalachia.org/familialtrafficking>



Safe4us.org



Barriers to identifying familial trafficking?



Barriers to identifying familial trafficking?

- Misconceptions regarding trafficking
- Doesn't follow the typical pattern of recruitment/grooming, breaking, turning
- Normalization within the family system
- Reliance on the family system for survival



L
A
B
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- Defiant
- Promiscuous
- Learning disabled
- Rebellious
- A runaway
- Problem child
- Complicated
- Sensitive child
- Liar
- Tattle-tale
- Trouble-maker
- Loner



How will you know?

There is no sure way to tell short of disclosure, but the following can help determine if you ask follow-on questions or seek expert help.



Younger Children Possible Signals - Physical

- Not able to sit in class (or otherwise) due to injury
- Drawing or writing about dark subjects or of a sexual nature
- Frequent UTIs, STDs, scratching of crotch at a very young age
- Reenacting abuse with toys
- Watching or being shown porn at a very young age
- Physical bruises, blood on clothing
- Overt sexual behavior in public places/class
- Frequent infections of the throat
- Health issues no one can pinpoint - pelvic/GI pain
- Picking at skin, pulling on hair, hitting oneself, self-harm
- Wearing same clothes, wrong size, worn/dirty
- Lack of basic hygiene
- Exhibiting inappropriate behavior when photographed



Possible Signals – Emotional

- Low self-esteem, easily overwhelmed
- Unable to trust
- Unable to concentrate/forgetful/sleeping in class
- Unusually fearful or anxious
- Startle responses to noises, bright lights, sudden movements
- Terrified of getting into someone's car
- Unable to cope with simple requests or tasks
- Pushing others away who are safe/refusing attempts at comfort
- Extremely shy, very withdrawn, "spaced-out"
- Possibly suicidal



Possible Signals - Social

- No one is allowed in the house/isolated
- Lack of understanding of one's changing body
- Frequently with controlling person
- School truancy but on the other hand over-reaction for not making perfect grades
- Inconsistent adults picking child up from school
- Parentification - having to take on adult responsibilities at an early age
- Missing child reports not filed



Once you suspect, ask questions that are:

Sincere

Caring

Genuine

Soft

Gentle

That Don't Scare Us

"I'm really concerned." "Would it be OK if I talked to you a bit?"

Tell them the truth if you have to report!

"I really want to help, is there something I can do?"



BE CAREFUL ABOUT
SHAMING THEM, THEIR
PARENT OR POTENTIAL
TRAFFICKER!!



Lori Henry gets 15 years for human trafficking

Kate Snyder Zanesville Times Recorder

Published 5:18 p.m. ET Jul. 24, 2017



“K.H. exhibited poor behavior throughout her years at the school. T. at 266. On September 21, 2016, K.H. destroyed a classroom. Dr. Kerns-Huffman was called to the classroom as she had "established so much rapport with her over the years." T. at 267. K.H. was "very fearful, extremely escalated, extremely agitated, tearful" and stated she was "scared for me and my mommy and my daddy." T. at 269-270. K.H. explained, "I have to help my mommy make money" and "I have a boyfriend." T. at 270. When asked why she had a boyfriend, K.H. stated "it was a necessary thing because she needed to help her mom and dad make money, that they needed the money." T. at 270-271. K.H. stated the boyfriend likes to "kiss me" and "he does bad things to me" while he is naked. T. at 271. K.H. called this man "Pan Man." T. at 272. She told Dr. Kerns-Huffman that she hated Pan Man and described what would happen after her mommy dropped her off at his apartment. T. at 272-274. K.H. stated when her mommy picked her up, Pan Man would give appellant money.”

State v. Henry, Case No. CT2017-0054, 8-9 (Ohio Ct. App. 2018)



THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS OFFICE
SOUTHERN DISTRICT *of* OHIO

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, June 24, 2020

Nine arrested, charged federally in connection to human trafficking operation involving drugs exchanged for sexual access to children

COLUMBUS, Ohio – A federal grand jury has indicted a Scioto County man and several of his family members and associates with charges related to a child sex trafficking operation. The man allegedly exchanged drugs obtained in Columbus and elsewhere for sexual access to the children of drug-addicted mothers.



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Southern District of Ohio

United States of America)
v.)
Larry Dean Porter)
9418 Lick Run Lyra Road)
Wheelersburg, Ohio 45694)

Case No. 2:20-mj-374

Defendant(s)

now is she on dope or the mom

Just holler when u can meet

The mom

is she needing a place to stay or wat

She's 7 moms looking to sell her for smack basically and I was hoping you could help

wat does that stuff go for

40

She wants 100

For all night or 50 a day after that



¶3} In July 2014, at age 11, S.H. began sneaking out of the house at night to meet up with Susan. When she met with her mom, she also met with Susan's boyfriend, Grant Rose, whom, she noted, always drove. The very first time they picked up S.H., "[Susan] had beer, and they were on their way to go buy some crack." Trial Tr. at 141-142. When they arrived at their drug dealer's house, Susan and Rose told S.H. to get out of the truck so they could show her off to the drug dealer. S.H. was instructed to go inside the house and do what the man wanted to *3 do. Once inside, she engaged in oral and vaginal sex with the dealer, and when finished, Rose and Susan got drugs and money from the man.

No. 1-22-15
Court of Appeals of Ohio, Third District, Allen

State v. Rose

2023 Ohio 1611
Decided May 15, 2023



What can be done?



ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES



Abuse
Neglect
Household dysfunction
Witnessing violence
Parental separation
Substance misuse

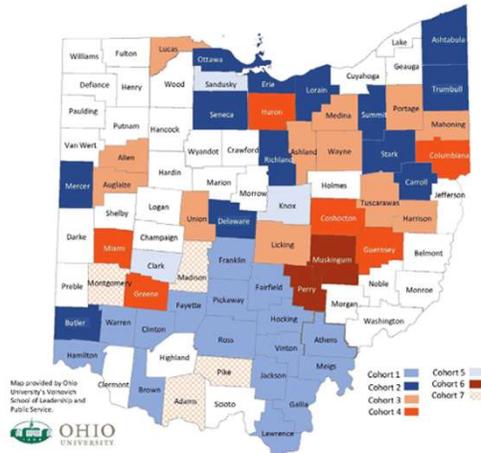
POSITIVE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES



Emotional support
Safety and security
Social connections
Belonging at school
Enjoying traditions
Community engagement

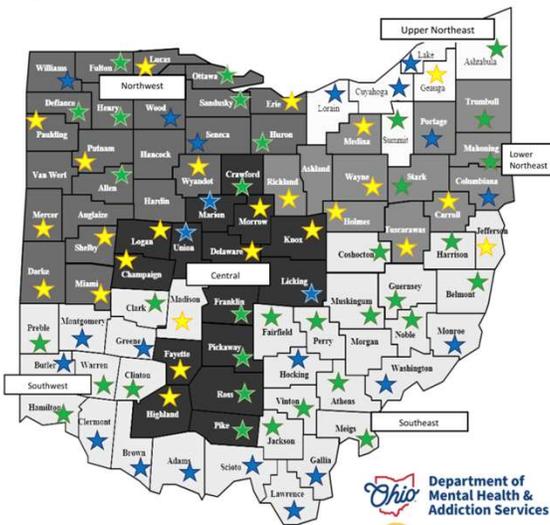


BEST PRACTICES



OhioHWC: Progress Map

April 2024



- ★ Interest
- ★ Development
- ★ Active



Multidisciplinary Teams



CACs in Ohio saw 10,822 children with unique referrals for services including the forensic interview, medical treatment, mental health treatment, victim advocacy, and case management.

Served **10,822** Children in 2024

Below is information outlining the number of children served, their demographics, and case outcomes.

8,213
Children in Ohio

Were interviewed by trained forensic interviewers following center protocols and guidelines

7,730
Children in Ohio

Received medical services or referrals for medical services by the center or MDT partners
1,072 children received evidence collection services

7,503
Children in Ohio

Received mental health services or referrals for mental health services by the center or MDT partners

7,123
Children in Ohio

Received victim advocacy services before, during, and/or after their CAC visit



BE SAFE
 AS A SAFE ADULT YOU CAN:
 BE AVAILABLE, LISTEN & BELIEVE

EYES UP
 — APPALACHIA —

EYES UP
 — APPALACHIA —

Anti-Human Trafficking Coalitions - Ohio

WATCH
<https://www.waynecac.org/watch-human-trafficking>

<https://humantrafficking.ohio.gov/coalitions.html>



- Learn to recognize the signals
- Help alleviate the underlying vulnerabilities that make someone susceptible to trafficking
- Join your local anti-trafficking coalition
- Execute your mandatory protocol
- Call the local hotline
- AG's tipline
844-END-OHHT (363-6448)
- Or the national hotline at 1-888-3737-888 or Text "Befree" 233733



Questions?



