

Brief Literature Review

Sex trafficking accounts for 22% of global human trafficking (Office in Trafficking in Persons, 2015).

Sex-trafficking survivors are at-risk for suicidal ideation, dissociative reactions, solicitation charges, and addictions to substances (Litam, 2017).

A dearth of research on this topic exists in counseling journals.

Method

- Databases used: PsychINFO, Medline, PubMed, and Academic Search Complete, and Google.
- Key search terms: *screening, tool, instrument, sex trafficking, identification, assessment, trafficking, validity, sex, adolescent, commercial sexual exploitation, and measure.*
- The search retrieved 46 articles reviewed with the following criteria: (a) used for screening or identification purposes of sex-trafficking, (b) used a structured format, (c) had an English version, and (d) were United States based.
- Articles were excluded due to difficulty in accessing instrument, instrument or measure described was not for screening or identification purposes, comprehensive human trafficking instrument that did not include items specific to sex-trafficking.
- This further review identified 11 articles of which 141 items were considered for screening or identification purposes for sex-trafficking.
- The search was conducted from April 17 to May 1, 2019

Results

Theme	Frequency	Percentage
Theme 1: Unstable Living Conditions and Caregiving		
Running Away	5	3.5
Homelessness	1	0.7
Living Conditions	3	2.1
History of Child Welfare System	2	1.4
Parental Monitoring and Supervision	3	2.1
Theme 2: Risk Factors		
Environmental Risk Factors		
Gang Affiliation	3	2.1
Exposure to Violence	1	0.7
Exposure to exploitation	4	2.8
Knowledge of sex trafficking	1	0.7
Exposure to Domestic Violence	2	1.4
Bullying	1	0.7
Financial Risk Factors		
Debt to others	2	1.4
Unexplained financial resources	3	2.1
Academic Risk Factors		
Academic aspirations	1	0.7
Irregular school attendance	2	1.4
Risky Behaviors		
Lying	1	0.7
Antisocial Behaviors	1	0.7
Risky sexual behaviors	7	5.0
Unusual travel	1	0.7
Online relationships	2	1.4
Substance Use	4	2.8
Criminal History	3	2.1
Theme 3: Mental and Physical Health Assessment		
Physical Health Assessment		
Health concern	1	0.7
Poor nutrition	2	1.4
Physical injuries	5	3.5
Physical appearance	2	1.4
Tattoos	2	1.4
Mental Health Assessment		
Self-expression through art	1	0.7
Psychological stressors	3	2.1
Maladaptive responses	1	0.7
Suicidality	3	2.1
Medical History	1	0.7
Sexual History		
Sex at an early age	1	0.7
Number of Partners	1	0.7
Minor Parent	2	1.4
Personal History		
Child bride	1	0.7
Sexual orientation	1	0.7
Life Expectancy	1	0.7
Third Party Concerns	3	2.1
Theme 4: Forms of Abuse		
Emotional Abuse	1	0.7
Physical Abuse	1	0.7
Sexual Abuse	10	7.1
Domestic Violence	2	1.4
Financial Abuse	2	1.4
Theme 5: Commercial Sexual Exploitation		
Solicitation		
Solicitation History	8	5.7
Online solicitation	1	0.7
Sexual Exploitation	6	4.3
Child Pornography	4	2.8
Coercion		
Control	11	7.8
Confinement	3	2.1
Threat	4	2.8
Isolation	3	2.1
Theme 6: Other		
Utility of Survey	1	0.7

Table of Instruments

Instrument	Authors
Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification tool (CSE-IT) - Version 2	Basson et al. (2017)
Commercially Sexually Exploited Children Screening Tool (CSEC)	CSEC Collaborative Response Team (2014)
Child Trafficking Rapid Screening Instrument (RST)	Baskin, Sommers, & Kaufka Walts (2014)
Trafficking Victim Identification Tool (TVIT)	Simich, Goyen, Powell, & Berberich (2014)
Human Trafficking Screening Tool (HTST)	Dank, Yu, Vasquez-Noriega, Gelatt, & Pergamit (2017)
Modified Self-Report Delinquency Questionnaire	Elliott & Ageton (1980)
Expectations About Employment, Education, and Life Span Section from Adolescent Health Survey	Elliott & Ageton (1980)
Children's s Depression Inventory	Kovacs (1992)
Exposure to Violence Survey, VEX-R	Fox & Leavitt (1995)
Supervision-Child Scale	Loeber, Farrington, Stouthamer-Loeber, & VanKammen (1998)
Rochester Assessment Package for Schools	Institute for Research and Reform in Education (1998)
Follow-Up Questions for Medical Providers	Greenbaum et al. (2018)
14 question screening survey	Bryn et al. (2017)
4 Dichotomized Questions	Boyce et al. (2018)
Single Question DMST	O'Brien, Li, Givens, & Leibowitz (2017)
Childhood Trauma Questionnaire	Bernstein & Fink (1997)

Discussion and Implications

- A content analysis determined a limited number of instruments that assess specifically for sex trafficking.
- Instruments that assessed for sex trafficking focused on six major themes: (a) unstable living conditions and caregiving, (b) risk factors, (c) mental and physical health assessment, (d) forms of abuse, (e) commercial sexual exploitation, and (f) other.
- Sex trafficking instruments dedicated to assess risk of sex trafficking.