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# Sex Trafficking Victims:

Best Practices for the Courtroom and for the Clinical Setting

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# WHO ARE WE?

HANNAH

MANDI

# Sex Trafficking vs. Prostitution

## Prostitution is defined:

- Ohio Revised Code 2907.24:
  - No person... shall **engage in sexual activity for hire**.

## Human Trafficking is defined:

- Ohio Revised Code 2905.32:
  - (A) No person shall recruit, lure, entice, isolate, harbor, transport...another person knowing that the person will be compelled to **engage in sexual activity for hire**, engage in a performance that is obscene, sexually oriented, or nudity oriented, or be a model or participant in the production of material that is obscene, sexually oriented, or nudity oriented.
  - (B) ... “Compelled” does not require that the compulsion be openly displayed or physically exerted. The element of “compelled” has been established if...the victim’s will was overcome by force, fear, duress, or intimidation.

*“A person’s initial consent to participate in prostitution is not legally determinative: if they are thereafter held in service through psychological manipulation or physical force, they are trafficking victims.”*

(Wilson & Butler, 2013)

# Sex Trafficking vs. Prostitution



Deserving Victim (Philanthropy)	Undeserving Criminal (Condemnation)
Sex work as a trap (victim) (Oppression Paradigm: Weitzer, 2009)	Sex work as a means to get ahead and have a better future (agent)
Victimhood: Destructive of ability to be mother	Empowerment: A “necessity” for remaining mothers
Exiting = Rescue	Exiting = Transition

Neither captures the complexity of sex work.

"The goal of the perpetrator is  
to instill in his victim not only  
fear of death but also gratitude  
for being allowed to live."

- Judith Herman

# Restorative Justice vs. Retribution Model

Restorative: A system of criminal justice that focuses on the rehabilitation of offenders through reconciliation with victims and the community at large. It emphasizes the need for society to assist criminals in changing their attitudes and behavior.

Retribution: A model that emphasizes deterrence and punishment through the adversarial criminal justice process.

# CATCH COURT

[Changing Actions to Change Habits]:

**A Specialized Docket for Victims of Human  
Trafficking & Prostitution**

# CATCH COURT

Est. 2009

42 Total Graduates

- 4 Full-time staff
  - Franklin University Study (Miner-Romanoff, 2015)
  - 60 Current in Program
  - CATCH 101 est. July 2015
  - Felonies: F3, F4 & F5 acceptance as of June 2016
  - “CATCH Pod” in FCCCII
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# CATCH: A blessing in disguise

## Benefits

- Community!
- Weekly lunch
- Monthly outings
- 100% Club weekly drawings
- Phase-up incentives
- Mentor through Freedom a la Cart
- Dismissing & sealing (or expungement) of charges



FREEDOM  
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# CATCH: A blessing in disguise



## Rules/Expectations

- 2 years intensive probation
- Status Review Hearings every Thursday
- Monthly PO Meetings
- Random meetings with CATCH staff
- Frequent drug-screening
- Treatment referrals (almost always residential)
- Stay-away zones
- Stay-away people (no boyfriends for a year!)
- 12-step meetings

# CATCH Court Outcomes

- Began in 2009
- 25% graduation rate
- Of those who enrolled, 72% haven't recidivated
- Of those who graduated, 83% haven't recidivated

	Enrolled	Graduated (Two years later)
2009	17	6
2010	35	6
2011	19	2
2012	15	5
2013	19	5
2014	28	6
2015	33	12
2016	59	
2017 (so far)	53	
<b>Total</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>42</b>

# Trauma and Human Trafficking

What is trauma?

Trauma occurs when an actual or perceived threat of danger (or loss) overwhelms a person's "usual coping ability"

Beverly James



# Defining Trauma

Coping ability consists of:

Resiliency

Previous Life Experience

Mastery of Various Skill Sets

Education



# Trauma and the Body

- Fight, flight, freeze or Tend and Befriend
- Sharpens our focus, helps us make decisions during times of increased stress
- Momentarily increases our capacities to handle the threat
- Increases heart rate and blood pressure
- Difficulty sleeping or concentrating
- Flashback to events
- Increased adrenaline makes it difficult to decipher what is truly threatening and what is not.



# Trauma and the Body

- Natural opioids prevent pain.
- Oxytocin is released to decrease pain, impair memory, and help create a bond.



# ACES

## ABUSE



Physical



Emotional



Sexual

## NEGLECT



Physical



Emotional

## HOUSEHOLD DYSFUNCTION



Mental Illness



Incarcerated Relative



Mother treated violently

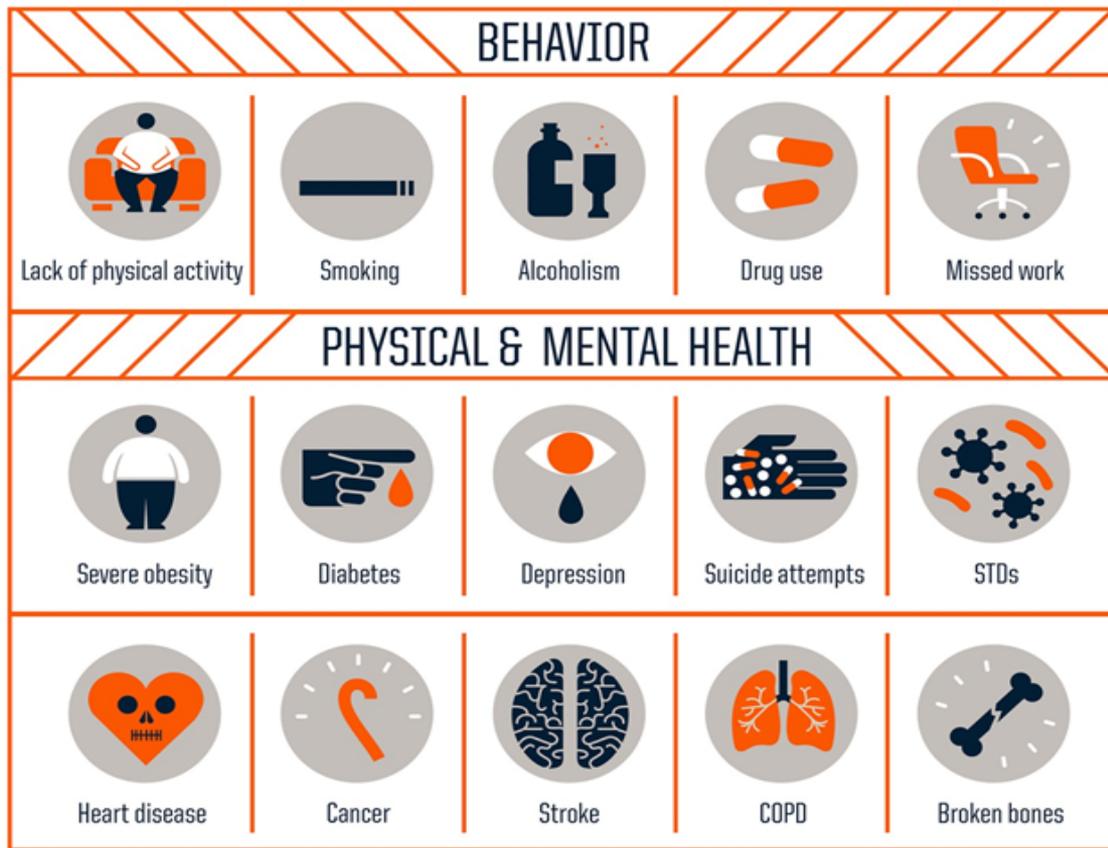


Substance Abuse



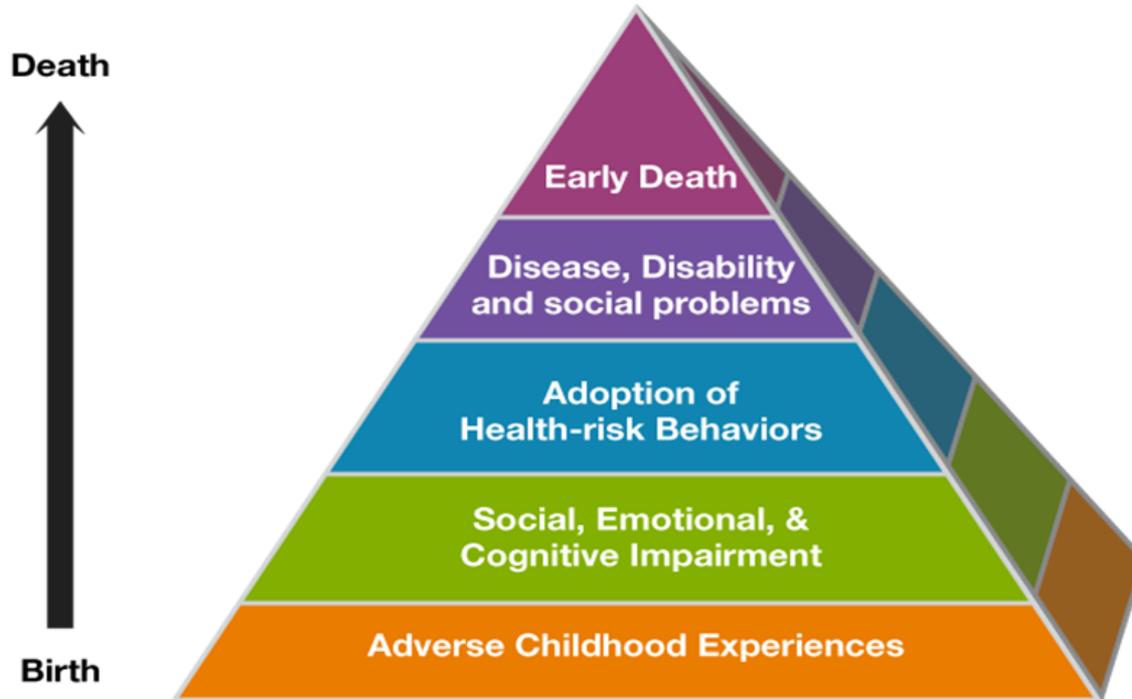
Divorce

# ACES



# Childhood Trauma

## Adverse Childhood Experiences Study



# Trauma and the Brain

**Reptilian (brain stem):** This innermost part of the brain is responsible for survival instincts and autonomic body processes. **Fear Center**

**Mammalian (limbic, midbrain):** The midlevel of the brain, this part processes emotions and conveys sensory relays. **Emotion Center**

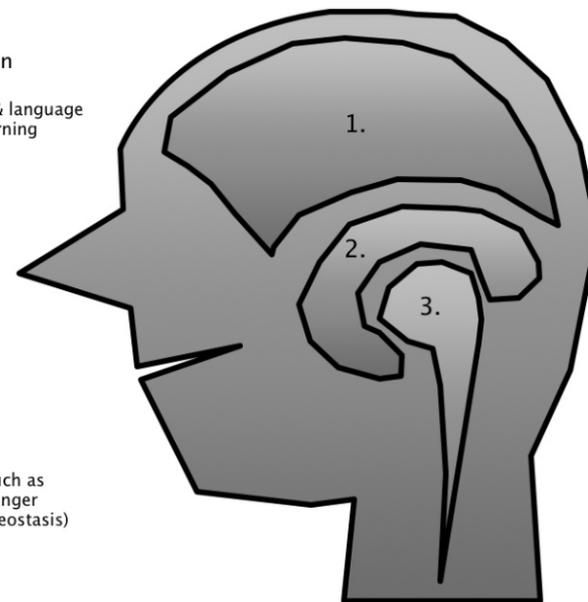
**Neomalian (cortex, forebrain):** The most highly evolved part of the brain, this area outer controls cognitive processing, decision-making, learning, memory and inhibitory functions. **Thinking Center**

[www.psychcentral.com](http://www.psychcentral.com) **The Science Behind PTSD Symptoms: How Trauma Changes The Brain**

[www.reconnect-to-your-core.com](http://www.reconnect-to-your-core.com)

## The Triune Brain

1. The Primate/Human Brain
  - Rational & logical thinking
  - Abstract thought, imagination & language
  - Information processing and learning
  - Spiritual values
2. The Mammalian Brain
  - Generates emotions (The GSU)
  - Center for habit & memory
  - Sexual drives
  - Eating & reproduction
  - Attachment center
3. The Reptilian Brain
  - Fight or flight response
  - Aggressive drives
  - Anxiety regulation (The UAM)
  - Controls automatic functions such as temperature, blood flow and hunger
  - Regulates the body (keeps homeostasis)
  - Generates survival reactions



# Trauma Related Disorders

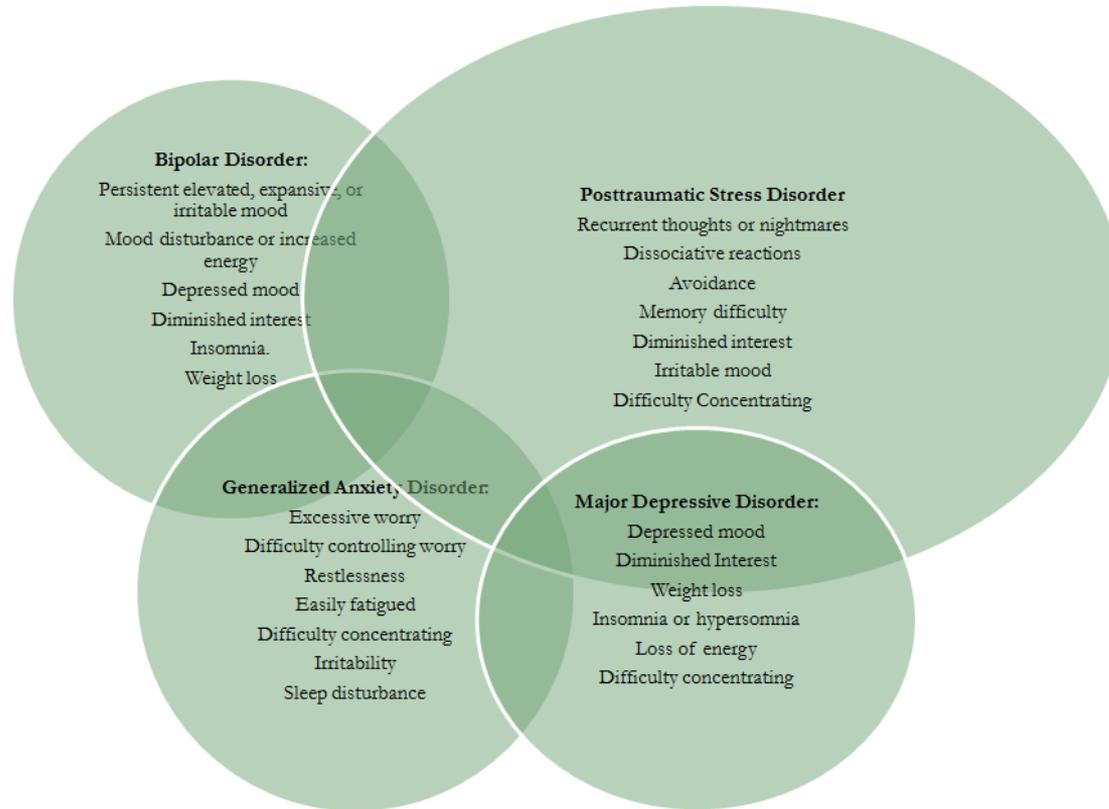
- PTSD, or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Symptoms fall into three categories and may include:
  - Re-experiencing: Flashbacks, intrusive thoughts, nightmares
  - Numbing and avoidance: Avoidance, feeling numb, sleeping too much, substance abuse, repression
  - Arousal, startling easily, irritability, difficulty concentrating, intense emotions, self-harm

# Trauma Related Disorders

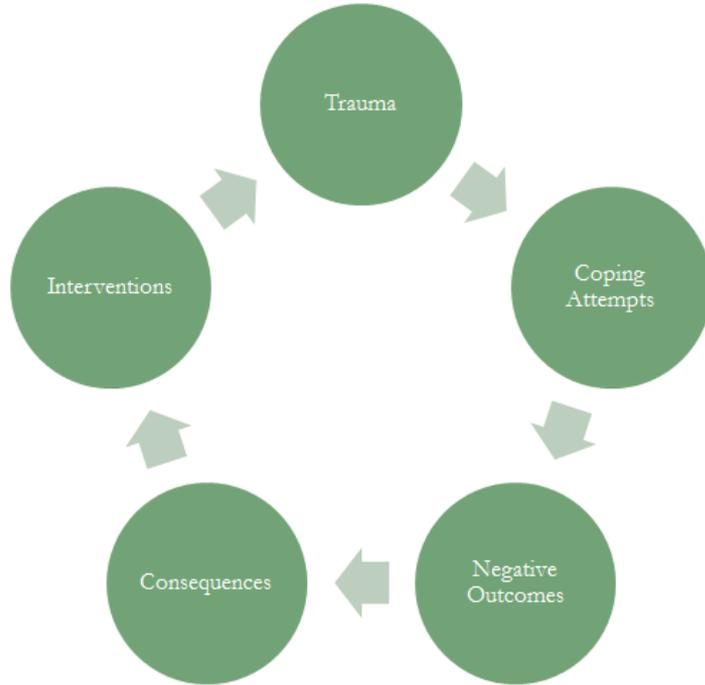
## Acute Stress Disorder

- Symptoms occur immediately after the trauma, with persistence for at least 3 days and up to one month.
- Symptoms
  - Intrusive distressing memories
  - Negative mood
  - Dissociative symptoms
  - Avoidance
  - Arousal

# Trauma Related (Mis)Diagnosis



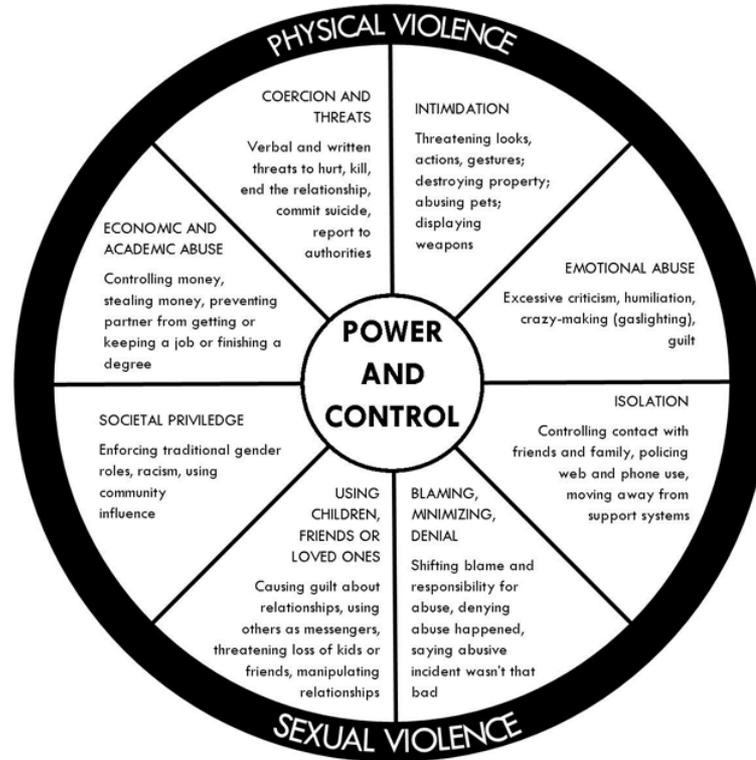
# Treatment: Hits and Misses



# Traumatic Brain Injury

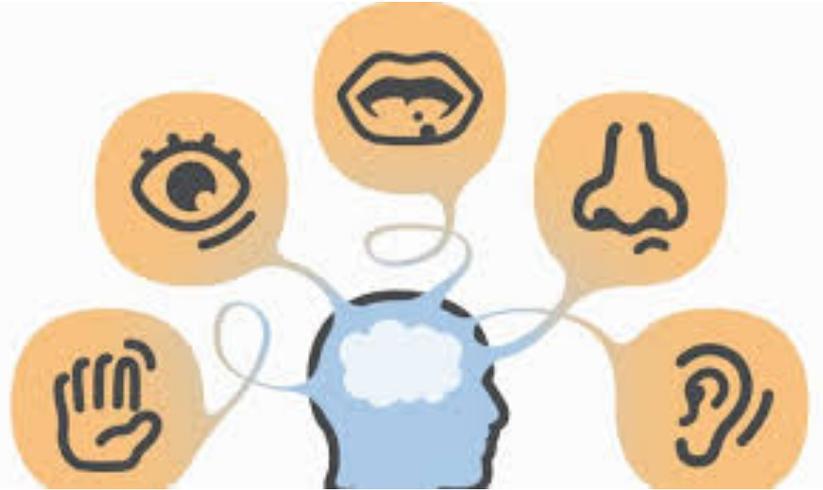
- The very traumas we are discussing may also have included physical injury. Many of our shared clients have experienced a Traumatic Brain Injury
- Any loss of consciousness following a head injury is cause for concern.
- Symptoms include:
  - Irritability
  - Thinking errors
  - Memory loss
  - Mood Swings
  - Difficulty paying attention

# Becoming Trauma Informed



# Becoming Trauma Informed

Utilizing the Five Senses: A Quick Assessment



Agency Self Assessment

[www.traumainformedcareproject.org](http://www.traumainformedcareproject.org)

# Practical Steps

- Be consistent!
- Set a firm appointment time.
- Don't change the rules or expectations.
- Stay calm.
- Do things one step at a time.
- Ask for help.
- Take breaks.
- Stay focused.
- Take care of YOU!
- It will be impossible to provide care to others if your own needs are not being addressed!
- Talk to a peer or supervisor when things are too hard!
- Don't ignore feelings and be a great example of asking for help when you need it!



FREEDOM

A LA CART

# Employment Barriers

Despite successful recovery and restoration through programs like CATCH Court, survivors face rejection when seeking employment in the traditional workplace

- Criminal Record
- Lack of work experience
- Arrested Development
- Traumatic Brain Injuries affecting logic and memory
- Severe Trauma
- Addiction & mental health issues



## Our Holistic Workforce Training Model

- Paid on-the-job training and workshops
- One-on-One case management
- Mental health and substance abuse support (resource partners)
- Educational and vocational support
- Life skills, enrichment classes and support groups
- Professional legal & dental services
- Random drug testing
- Emphasis on developing strong work ethic

# Freedom's Secret Sauce

TRADITIONAL JOB ENVIRONMENT	TRAUMA INFORMED PRINCIPLES
Co-workers using drugs on/off the job	Focus on safety, empowerment, recovery; regular random drug testing
Bad behavior results in termination	Recognize that someone's "bad" behavior is often associated with trauma and the behavior may be a defense/survival tool
Addiction & Trauma recovery is taboo	Recovery is discussed freely; Collaborative service relationship
Work environment and duties are unpredictable, complex	Structured environment; aim to keep things simple
Employer holds all power and control	Employee develops sense of power/control as valued part of the team