

# Health and trafficking for labour exploitation

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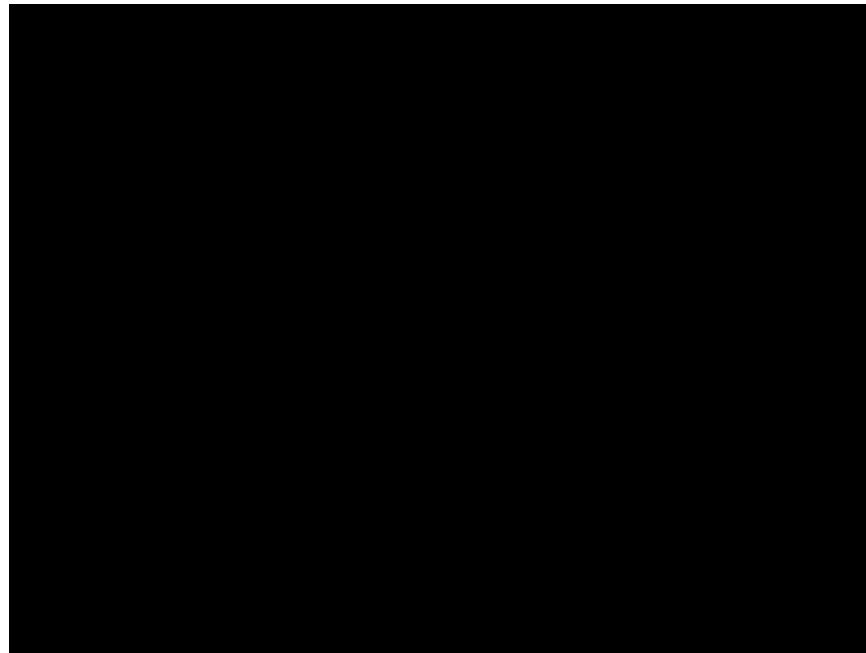
Provider Responses, Treatment and Care for Trafficked People

# Defining trafficking

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.**



# Human trafficking and homelessness



# Human trafficking and health

- Trafficking for sexual exploitation is often associated with:
  - Physical and sexual violence
  - Psychological abuse
  - Social marginalisation
  - Acute and longer term health problems
- However, evidence on health risks and needs among people who have been trafficked for labour exploitation is limited.

# Study of trafficking for labour exploitation and health



- The study aimed to describe, for people trafficked for labour exploitation in the UK:
  - Prevalence of abuse experienced during trafficking
  - Working and living conditions during trafficking
  - Physical and mental health symptoms after trafficking.
- The study was conducted in partnership with Migrant Helpline - an NGO that provides support, including accommodation and legal advice, to trafficked adults in the UK.

# Study methods

- **Participants:** Adult men and women who had been trafficked for labour exploitation in the UK and received support from Migrant Helpline between June 2009 and July 2010
- **Data collection:**
  - Routinely completed health intake assessment forms for trafficked people referred to Migrant Helpline were anonymised and shared with the research team with service users' consent.
- **Measures:** Health intake assessment forms included data on:
  - Socio-demographic characteristics
  - Trafficking characteristics
  - Symptoms of depression and anxiety (Brief Symptom Inventory)
  - Symptoms of post-traumatic stress (Harvard Trauma Questionnaire)
  - Physical symptoms (Miller Abuse Physical Symptom and Injury Survey )
- **Sample size:** 35

# Basic characteristics

N=35	
<b>Gender</b>	
Male	27 (77.1)
<b>Age</b>	
18-25	9 (25.7)
26-35	14 (40.0)
36-45	8 (22.8)
45-60	4 (11.4)
<b>Area of origin</b>	
Europe	12 (34.3)
Central Asia	1 (2.9)
South Asia	17 (48.6)
South East Asia	2 (5.7)
Africa	3 (8.6)
<b>Immigration status</b>	
UK national	2 (7.4)
EU national	6 (22.2)
Current visa	15 (55.5)
Expired visa	1 (3.7)
Seeking humanitarian protection	3 (11.1)

# Experiences of trafficking

N=35	
<b>Types of exploitation</b>	
Domestic work	13 (37.1)
Food packaging/processing	10 (28.5)
Construction	7 (20.0)
Other	14 (40.0)
<b>Time since leaving trafficking situation</b>	
<1 month	26 (74.3)
1 – 2 months	6 (17.1)
>2 months	3 (8.6)
<b>Experienced physical violence (n=30)</b>	12 (40.0)
<b>Deprived of food or water (n=30)</b>	9 (30.0)
<b>Deprived of medical care(n=30)</b>	13 (43.3)



# Health symptoms

- **Physical health:** 81% (25/31) reported one or more physical health symptom, most commonly:
  - Headache 43.3%
  - Back pain 35.5%
  - Fatigue 30.0%
  - Vision problems 22.6%
  - Dental problems 22.6%
- 37% (n=) reported chronic health problems, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, epilepsy
- **Mental health:** 57% (17/30) reported one or more symptoms of post-traumatic stress.
  - Each of the hyperarousal and re-experiencing symptoms were endorsed by 20% or more.
  - “Feeling without a future” endorsed by 33% of participants.
- Substantial endorsement of anxiety and depression symptoms.

# Key findings

- High proportion of participants reported violence and abuse;
- High proportion also reported unsanitary/unsafe living and working conditions that may endanger health;
- Symptoms of poor physical and mental health, including traumatic stress, were common.
- Some, but not all, may have received medical care during their exploitation.

# Implications

- Trafficking for labour exploitation has potential physical and mental health outcomes
- Health professionals have a role in responding to human trafficking:
  - Being alert to potential indicators of exploitation
  - Being prepared to provide care and refer appropriately
- Assistance to support the recovery of victims of trafficking should include health assessments and care.

# Red flags?



Migrated locally or internationally for work commonly associated with trafficking



- Trauma symptoms
- Injuries associated with abuse
- Injuries or illnesses associated with unprotected labour or poor or exploitative working or living conditions



Possible trafficking situation

Presence of a minder  
Fearful, untrusting  
Does not speak local language

# Acknowledgements

This report is independent research commissioned and funded by the Department of Health Policy Research Programme (Optimising Identification, Referral and Care of Trafficked People within the NHS 115/0006). The views expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the Department of Health. The sponsors had no further role in the study design; in the collection, analysis or interpretation of data; in the writing of the report; and in the decision to submit the paper for publication.

# Trafficking, migration and vulnerability

Angela Burnett

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# Objectives

- Why vulnerable migrants are at risk of experiencing poor health
- Access and entitlement to health
- Commissioning mental health services for vulnerable adult migrants
- Homelessness, health and trafficking for labour exploitation
- Peer mentoring for Eastern Europeans

# Who are vulnerable migrants?

.... a very heterogeneous group who include

- asylum seekers and refugees and their families
- survivors of torture
- separated children
- undocumented people
- people who are trafficked/in forced labour
- refused asylum seekers
- people who are homeless and without means of support

but many similar needs, linked to vulnerability



# Factors contributing to vulnerability

- Legal insecurity
- Violence, threats and intimidation
- Economic insecurity
- Homelessness/poor living conditions
- Unsafe working conditions
- Difficulties with communication
- Social marginalization
- Substance misuse
- Poor access to health care

# Access to health care

- Barriers – legal, practical, cultural
- Interpreting
- **Everyone, regardless of immigration status, is eligible for full GP registration without charge**
- Free A & E and compulsory psychiatric treatment
- Some migrants liable to be charged for hospital care
- Health needs often multi-factorial and complex

## Commissioning mental health services for vulnerable adult migrants

- To be published by MIND and Pathway

Aim to develop services which ....:

- improve access
- are cultural and linguistically sensitive
- comply with equalities legislation
- Examples of good practice nationally
- Will be available from [www.mind.org.uk/migrants](http://www.mind.org.uk/migrants)

# Homelessness, health, and trafficking for labour exploitation

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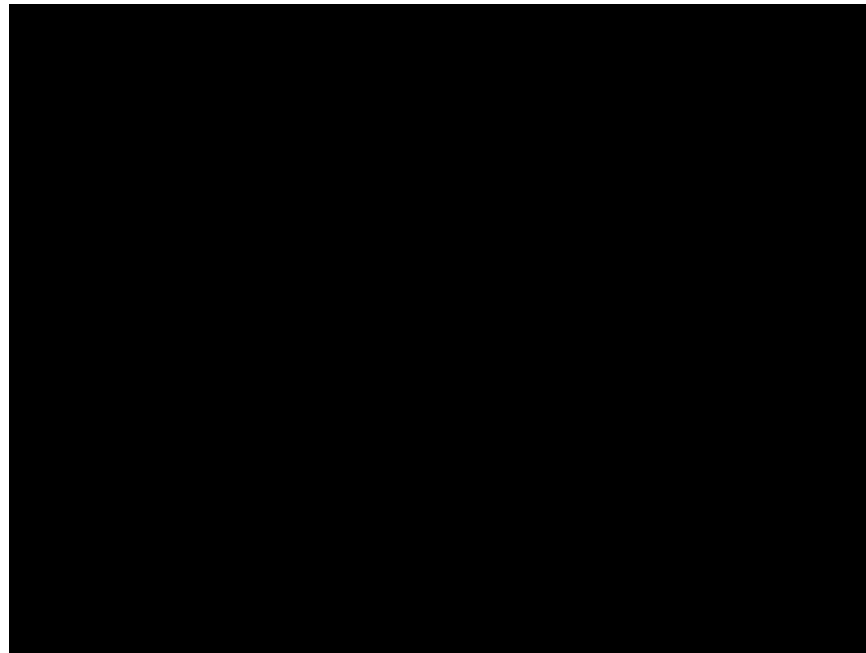


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# Human trafficking and homelessness

- Human trafficking is the **recruitment or movement** of persons by means such as **force, coercion, or deception** for the purposes of **exploitation**.
- The trafficking of vulnerable and homeless adults has been identified as an emerging trend in the UK.
- Individuals may be targeted on the streets and at day centres and soup kitchens and are exploited in a variety of industries, most commonly ground surfacing and block paving.

# Human trafficking and homelessness



# Human trafficking and health

- Trafficking for sexual exploitation is often associated with:
  - Physical and sexual violence
  - Psychological abuse
  - Social marginalisation
  - Acute and longer term health problems
- Limited evidence trafficking for labour exploitation.
- Conducted research with Migrant Helpline to describe health risks and consequences among 35 men and women trafficked for labour exploitation.



# Key findings

- 40% participants reported violence and abuse;
- Unsafe living conditions reported by 40% and unsafe living conditions by 30%;
- 45% deprived of necessary medical care
- Symptoms of poor physical and mental health, including traumatic stress, were common.



# Implications

- Trafficking for labour exploitation has potential physical and mental health outcomes
- Health professionals have a role in responding to human trafficking:
  - Being alert to potential indicators of exploitation
  - Being prepared to provide care and refer appropriately
- Post-trafficking support should include health assessments and medical care.

# Red flags?



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# Peer mentoring for vulnerable homeless Polish and Central Europeans

Mariusz Milkowski