

# Human Trafficking of Children Part One: Nurse Practitioner Knowledge, Belief and Experience

**Background:** It is estimated up to 87% of trafficking victims have encounter(s) with a healthcare provider at some point during captivity in which they are not recognized as victims, missing opportunity for early intervention and improved health outcomes. Most healthcare providers have received little or no training on identification and intervention while awareness remains very low.

**Purpose:** To describe the knowledge, beliefs and attitudes of pediatric clinicians towards identification and intervention on behalf of human trafficking victims or potential victims.

**Methods:** A survey of the membership (n=8,647) pre-intervention measured knowledge, beliefs and experience regarding child trafficking. An awareness campaign was implemented throughout the organization with continuing education offerings, national media presence, "Train-the-Trainer" programs, keynote speakers at the national conference, and creation of a non-profit entity with governance board to direct further strategic initiatives.

**Results:** (n)=799 (9.3%) respondents completed the survey. While 87% believed it is possible they might encounter a victim of trafficking in their practice, 35% were unsure if they had actually provided care for such a victim. Only 24% agreed they were confident in their ability to identify a child at risk for trafficking.

**Conclusions:** These survey findings indicate the need for clinical practice guidelines to identify potential and actual victims of human trafficking. Pediatric healthcare providers are ideally equipped and situated to intervene on behalf of vulnerable children with health disparities in a myriad of care settings to which they may present, advocating for prevention and optimization of equitable health outcomes.

Table 1

The Action Means Purpose (AMP) Model		
Action	Means (not required in victims < 18 years of age)	Purpose
<b>Recruits</b> Grooming behaviors and proactive targeting of vulnerability	<b>Force</b> Restraint, physical abuse, sexual assault, confinement	<b>Commercial Sex Acts</b> Sex acts provided in exchange for monetary value
<b>Harbors</b> Isolation, confinement, monitoring	<b>Fraud</b> False promises of wages, work conditions, marriage, love, a "better life"	<b>Involuntary Servitude</b> Causing belief failure to provide requested services will yield serious harm or physical restraint
<b>Transports</b> Arranging travel, moving locations	<b>Coercion</b> Threats of egregious harm, psychological manipulation, emotional abuse, control with fear-inducing threats	<b>Debt Bondage</b> Providing services to pay down a debt with few parameters on terms and length of service
<b>Provides</b> Giving something of value		<b>Peonage</b> Involuntary servitude based on real or perceived indebtedness
<b>Obtains</b> Taking by force, exchanging something of value for the means to control		<b>Slavery</b> Being forced under ownership of another person, being forced to work for the gain of another
<b>Solicits</b> Offers something of value		

Table 2

Potential Environments for Human Trafficking	
Sex trafficking	Labor trafficking
Forced prostitution	Work camps
Stripping/exotic dancing	Agricultural industry (farms, fisheries)
Massage parlors	Construction industry (mines/quarries, kilns, etc.)
Production of child sexual exploitation material Pornography	Domestic servitude Hospitality industry
Survival sex	Day laborers
Forced/mediated/mail-order marriage	Door-to-door magazine sales
Escort services	Forced peddling or begging
Sex tourism	

Sex Trafficking Risk Factors

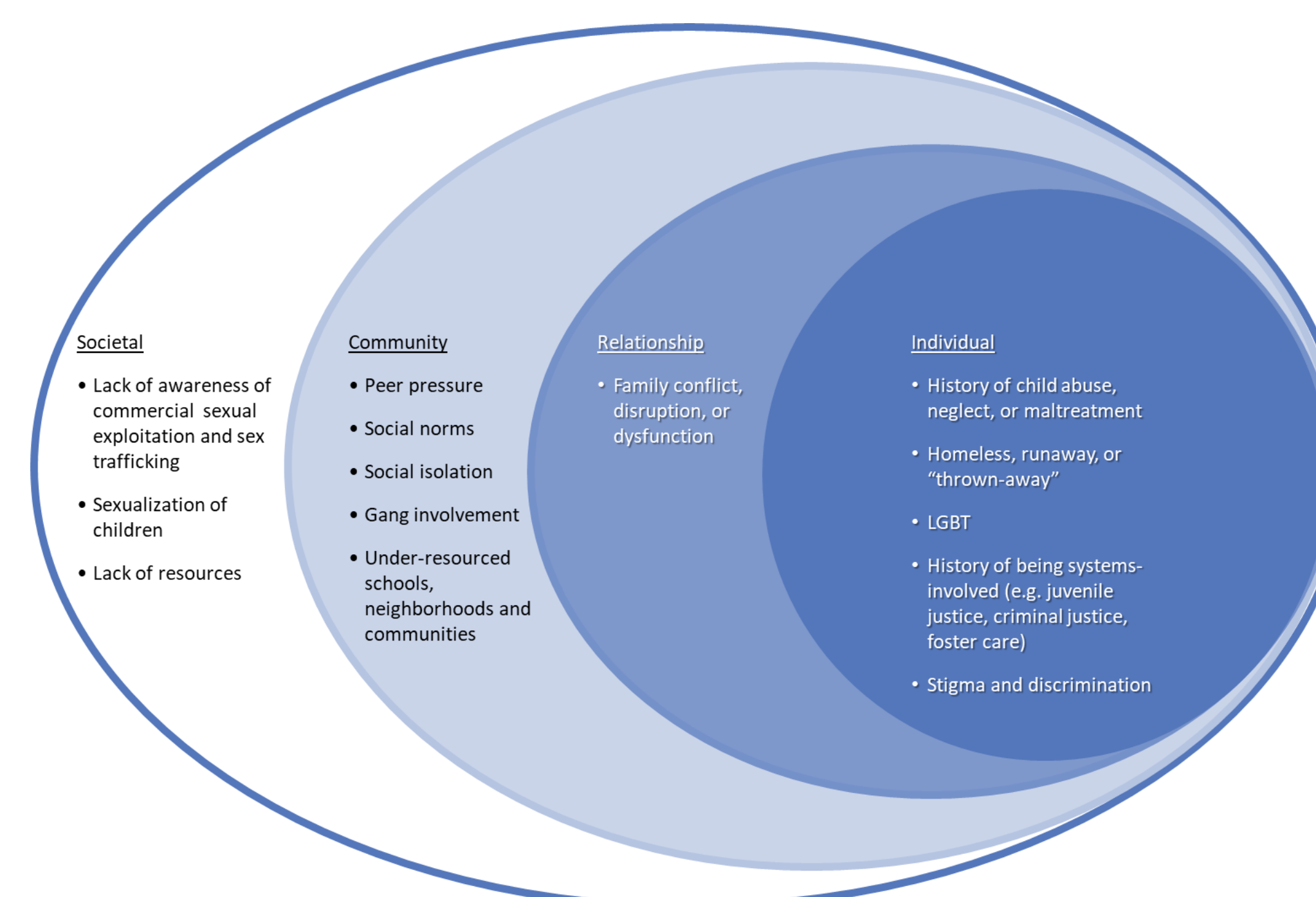


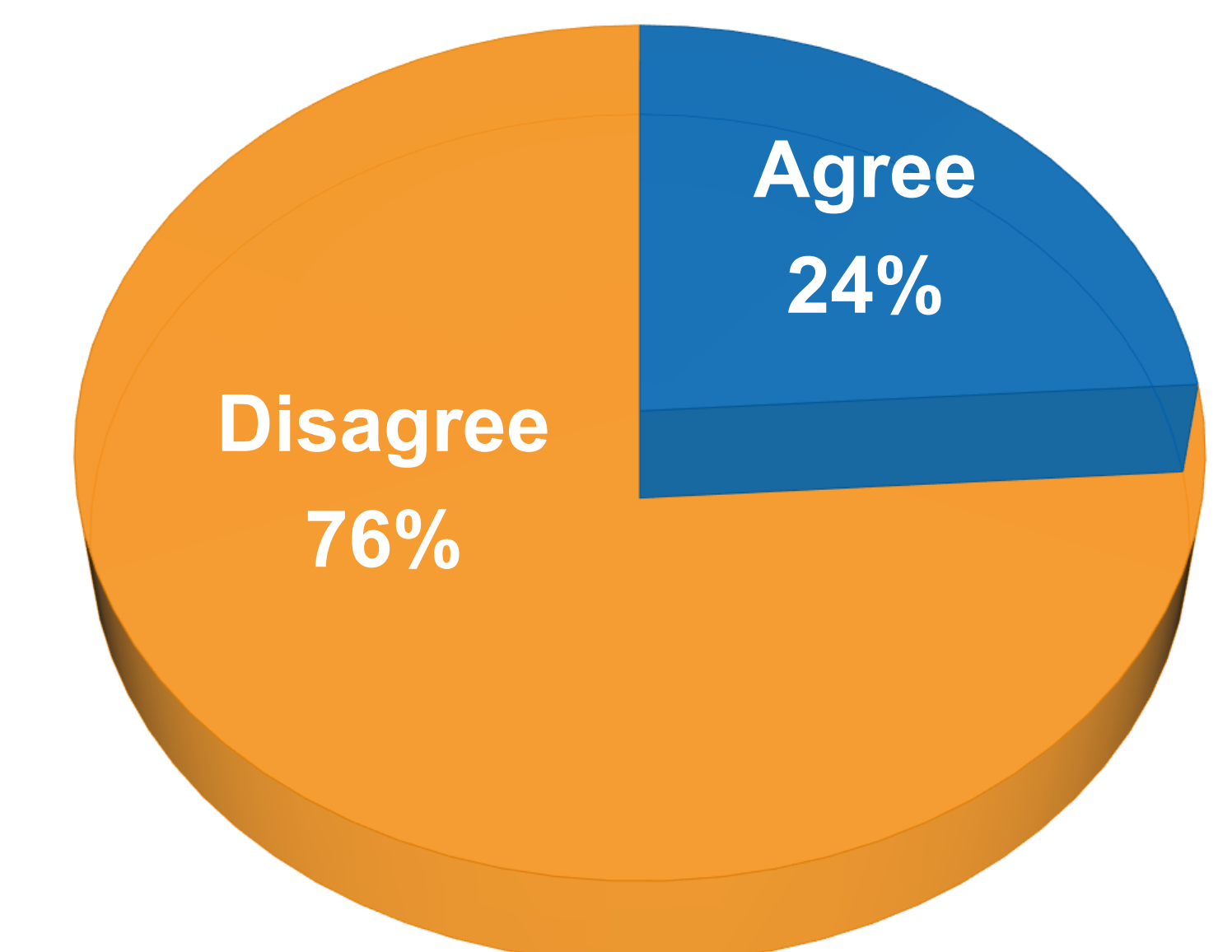
Table 3

Demographics for Survey Participants		
Characteristics	N	%
Age (years)	798	
20-30		12.16%
31-40		24.06%
41-50		18.80%
51-60		25.06%
61-70		18.05%
71+		1.88%
Gender	796	
Female		98.99%
Male		1.01%
APRN Practice Role	798	
PNP-Primary Care		74.19%
PNP-Acute Care		11.53%
FNP		5.26%
Pediatric CNS		1.5%
Faculty/Educator		13.16%
Other*		19.55%
Time in APRN practice	797	
0-5 years		35.51%
6-10 years		14.55%
11-20 years		19.32%
>20 years		30.61%
Primary Practice Site	798	
Outpatient primary care clinic		41.98%
Outpatient specialty care clinic		15.54%
Department of health clinic		1.88%
Inpatient Care Provider		13.41%
Inpatient setting administrator		1.00%
Education/Academic setting		8.12%
School-based health center		4.89%
Other**		13.25%
Highest Degree/Certificate	797	
Doctorate		22.84%
Master's		69.13%
Post-Baccalaureate Certificate		1%
Baccalaureate		4.39%
Other***		2.63%

\* PNP practicing in specialty care, student, lactation consultant, psychiatric APRN  
 \*\* Student, mental health center, urgent care  
 \*\*\* Post-master's certificate

Survey Results

Confident in your ability to identify a potential trafficking victim?



Knowledgeable about the immediate and long-term healthcare needs of potential victims ?

