

## RELIAS LEARNING

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# Relias Spotlight Series

January 2022

**RELIAS Spotlight-January** 

Hello Providers,

Welcome to the Optum Idaho January Relias Spotlight Series — a series devoted to offering you access to free, accessible and continuing education unit-eligible online education about topics that are important to behavioral health providers.

We appreciate all your work serving members in Idaho. Your work is not easy, and we understand your members face challenges each day that can be overwhelming. This month highlights a heavy topic: Human Trafficking. This topic is important to understand so that we, as a community, can recognize signs of trafficking and understand where valuable resources exist.

#### What is human trafficking?

Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. Every year, millions of men, women and children are trafficked worldwide – including right here in the United States. It can happen in any community and victims can be

any age, race, gender or nationality. Traffickers might use violence, manipulation or false promises of well-paying jobs or romantic relationships to lure victims into trafficking situations.



They look for people who are susceptible for a variety of reasons, including psychological or emotional vulnerability, economic hardship, lack of a social safety net, natural disasters or political instability. The trauma caused by the traffickers can be so great that many may not identify themselves as victims or ask for help, even in highly public settings.

#### Can human trafficking happen to any type of person or only to children?

Human trafficking victims can be any age, race, gender or nationality, and they may come from any socioeconomic group.

### Is human trafficking the same as sex trafficking? No.

Sex trafficking exists, but it is not the only type of human trafficking. Forced labor is another type of human trafficking, as both involve exploitation of people. Victims are found in legitimate and illegitimate labor industries, including sweatshops, massage parlors, agriculture, restaurants, hotels and domestic service.

### Is human trafficking and human smuggling the same thing? No.

"Trafficking" is based on exploitation and does not require movement across borders.

"Smuggling" is based on movement and involves moving a person across a country's border with that person's consent, in violation of immigration laws. Although human smuggling is very different from human trafficking, human smuggling can turn into trafficking if the smuggler uses force, fraud or coercion to hold people against their will for the purposes of labor or sexual exploitation. Under federal law, every minor induced to engage in commercial sex is a victim of human trafficking.



#### What is Idaho doing to help?

Idaho has established the Idaho Anti-Trafficking Coalition (IATC). Their website is: <a href="https://idahoatc.org/">https://idahoatc.org/</a>, where community programs and resources can be found.

There is a Crisis and Resource Hotline providing a 24/7 service for emergency telephone crisis intervention, advocacy, resources and direct referrals. Call or text at (208) 630-6601.

Direct Victim Services includes case management, crisis intervention, emergency housing, transportation, direct partner referrals and victim advocacy.

In 2020, IATC aided 458 individuals. On a national level, it is understood that self-identifying as a victim of sex trafficking is extremely low. From IATC data, 22.05 percent of individuals self-identified as a victim of sex trafficking.

In addition to these resources, Relias offers FREE continuing education unit courses specifically geared towards your needs. If you would like more information and education around the topic of trafficking and its impact, we encourage you to log into Relias and search for the following modules:

Human Trafficking: A Growing Epidemic	REL-ALL-0-
	HTAGE
Understanding Human Trafficking	REL-ALL-0-UHT
Children and Domestic Violence	REL-PAC-0-CDV
Bullying: Strategies for Prevention and Intervention	REL-BHC-0-
	BSPI
Assessing Risk of Other-Directed Violence in Adults	REL-BHC-0-
	ARODV
In Session: Practicing Clinical Skills to Prevent Other-Directed Violence	REL-BHC-0-
in Adults	ISPCSPODVA

Thank you, again, for the work that you do each day with our members so that Idaho can continue to improve access to behavioral health services. Optum Idaho is excited to offer these resources to you.

Sincerely,

The Optum Education and Training Team