

Case Studies

General

Female, US national, middle aged, SUD (possible sex trafficking)

Segment 1:

- Greta is a 45-year-old woman. When she was 14, her parents divorced because her father was assaulting her mother. She started missing school and was often angry at home.
- When her mother's new boyfriend moved in, her behavior grew worse. Greta became violent to her mother, and later, assaulted her ex-boyfriend's new girlfriend, sending her to the hospital.
- The police were called in after the assault. She was charged with assault and spent time in juvenile corrections.
- As an adult, she has struggled with aggressive behavior and alcohol dependency and has been in and out of the justice system.
- She is currently living with her two children and her boyfriend in Biddeford.

Segment 2:

- Greta's boyfriend begins pressuring her to dance for his male friends for money, stressing how tight money is and how it's the best thing she can do for her family.
- When Greta resists, her boyfriend threatens to take away their children and hits her.
- One night, her boyfriend forces her to inject heroine and take pills which she doesn't recognize.

Segment 3:

- Soon, Greta's boyfriend is regularly bringing her back and forth to a doctor's house, who pays her boyfriend for Greta to dance for him. Sometimes he demands sexual favors, but never intercourse. She does not feel like she can say no.
- The beatings from her boyfriend grow worse, as does Greta's substance use. Greta secretly moves her children to her mother's house and in return is beaten so badly, she is rushed to the ER.

- An ER nurse connects her to a DV hotline.

Male, US national, SUD, LGBTQ (possible labor trafficking)

Segment 1:

- Sammy is a 23-year-old from New Hampshire. When he was 16, he was kicked out of his parent's house because of his sexual orientation. He moved to Maine, where he lived on the streets until he moved in with his brother and brother's girlfriend.
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- He had experimented with alcohol and marijuana in New Hampshire, but his drug use got worse while living with his brother. He also began selling drugs for extra cash.
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- At the age of 17, he was arrested on drug charges and served time in juvenile corrections.
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- Upon his release at the age of 18, he found independent housing and work. He has been maintaining probation well and staying sober.

Segment 2:

- Sammy enrolls in community college classes and begins driving a taxi to earn money.
- Through driving, he is able to make a decent living and one of his regular customers starts asking him about his life and he shares his experiences with substance use, the loss of his family, and sexual orientation. The customer seems moved and offers to help Sammy earn more money.

Segment 3:

- The customer, who is regularly accompanied by various women, says that he can help Sammy earn double his money, if Sammy will commit to drive the girls to different houses every weekend.
- Sammy accepts the deal and is excited for the money but soon Sammy realizes that the girls are being taken to houses for sex work.
- Sammy confronts the customer and tells him he won't do it anymore. The customer threatens Sammy's life, and tells him that the police won't believe Sammy if he reports, as he is a "criminal", and instead he would also be charged with sex trafficking.

Female, foreign born national, middle aged (possible labor trafficking)

Segment 1:

- Andrea is a 45 year old woman from Honduras. After her husband is killed and her farm burned by gangs, she and her 12 year old daughter migrate up to Mexico, hoping to reach the United States.
- In Mexico, they lose their belongings, while riding on the top of a train. Out of desperation, they hitchhike on the road and are picked up by men saying they are "coyotes" (or smugglers). The men sexually assault Andrea and her daughter and hold her until her family wires ransom money.
- They are released and give themselves up at the US border, where they are held in detention and Andrea is given a monitor bracelet.
- Andrea and her daughter are released to a cousin, living in Portland, Maine.

Segment 2:

- Andrea and her daughter initially stay with her cousin, but when the cousin's own family arrives from Honduras, they are asked to leave.
- Andrea and her daughter find a room to rent from another immigrant in the community. Andrea, who does not speak English, finds work at a local seafood processing plant. Although she works long hours, usually leaving before her daughter is awake, her daughter quickly picks up English and is making friends in school. The daughter also helps with money by working part time at a local clothing store. Together, they are able to send regular money back to family in Honduras.

Segment 3:

- The woman, who they rent from, starts demanding that Andrea do all the cooking and cleaning.
- Soon, the woman demands all the income earned by Andrea's daughter. The daughter complies as the woman threatens to kick out the family on the street if they don't do what they say. The daughter is scared because it is winter and they don't have another place to live.
- When Andrea confronts the woman, the woman makes additional threats, saying she will report Andrea to ICE. The conversation escalates and the woman hits Andrea in the head, sending her to the hospital for stitches.

Law enforcement

Parole Officers/Correction Officers

Female, US national, middle aged (possible sex trafficking)

Segment 1:

- Greta is a 45 year old woman. When she was 14, her parents divorced due to her father assaulting her mother, she started missing school and was often angry at home.

- When her mother's new boyfriend moved into the house, her behavior grew worse. Greta became violent to her mother, and later, assaulted her ex-boyfriend's new girlfriend, sending her to the hospital.
- The police were called in after the assault. She was charged with assault and spent time in juvenile corrections.
- Through her adulthood, she struggled with aggressive behavior and was in and out of the justice system.
- Currently she is on probation and is living with her mother.

Segment 2:

- Greta's mother calls JCCO, and reports that her daughter has run away. The last place Greta was seen was a hotel party in the next town. The mother reports there are increased inconsistencies about her whereabouts, and concerns about a new 'boyfriend' and travel which Greta could not afford.
- After being brought in on probation violation, Greta is incarcerated.

Male, US national, SUD, LGBTQ (possible labor/sex trafficking)

Segment 1:

- Samuel is a 23 year old from New Hampshire. When he was 16, he was kicked out of his parent's house because of his sexual orientation. He moved to Maine, after living on the streets, where he moved in with his brother and brother's girlfriend.
- He had experimented with alcohol and marijuana in New Hampshire, but his drug use got worse while living with his brother. He also began selling drugs for extra cash.
- At the age of 17, he was arrested on drug charges and served time in juvenile corrections.
- Upon his release, at the age of 18, he found independent housing and work. He has been maintaining probation well and staying sober.

Segment 2:

- York County reports to the Fugitive Task Force that Samuel has missed two weeks of appointments and is not returning calls or texts. They also report that his last drug test was 'dirty'.
- When inquiries were made with his employer, the employer reported that Samuel had missed a week of work without notification.
- The last time the probation officer saw Samuel was at a hotel close to the highway exit. The probation officer reported that she was concerned as there was a man in the room who said he was a relative but didn't appear to know Samuel.
- When the FTF questions the hotel owner, the owner says there is a lot of late night activity in the room, with strangers coming and going, as well as the room is paid for in cash.
- The Fugitive Task Force brings in Samuel, who is found with a large amount of drugs in his car, as he is about to cross state lines.

Male, middle aged, foreign born national (possible labor trafficking)

Segment 1:

- Andre is a 40 year old Colombian man, who crossed the southern US border five years ago without a visa. He was accompanied by his wife.
- After living in Texas and Virginia, he and his wife moved up to Maine, where a friend had an extra room and a possible job opportunity at a local factory. Andre began working at the factory, so he could send money back home to his sick father and three children. His wife found work cleaning in a private home, where she also took care of the employers' baby.
- The factory was raided by ICE, due to a community tip that the factory was employing undocumented workers. Andre and seven other men were arrested during the raid.
- Now, Andre is currently in detention and on an ICE hold.

Segment 2:

- After being assaulted, a Facility Investigator is scheduled to meet with him.
- Other inmates who witnessed the argument, told the officers that they heard the victim being called a 'rata' (rat in Spanish).
- Medical intake records indicate that the victim arrived with severe bruising, a broken rib, and cigarette burns which appeared to be recent.
- When the Investigator arrives, Andre appears to be shut down, shaking, and unable to make eye contact. The only thing he talks about is wanting to die or disappear.
- Later, he tells the investigator that he is scared for his wife's safety, but won't say why or where she is.

Health Care Settings

Health Care professionals working with SUD

Domestic Violence Organizations

Female, US national, middle age, SUD (possible sex trafficking)

Segment 1:

- Greta is a 45-year-old woman. When she was 14, her parents divorced because her father was assaulting her mother. She started missing school and was often angry at home.
- When her mother's new boyfriend moved in, her behavior grew worse. Greta became violent to her mother, and later, assaulted her ex-boyfriend's new girlfriend, sending her to the hospital.
- The police were called in after the assault. She was charged with assault and spent time in juvenile corrections.
- As an adult, she has struggled with aggressive behavior and alcohol dependency and has been in and out of the justice system.
- She is currently living with her two children and her boyfriend in Biddeford.

Segment 2:

- Greta's boyfriend begins pressuring her to dance for his male friends for money, stressing how tight money is and how it's the best thing she can do for her family.
- When Greta resists, her boyfriend threatens to take away their children and hits her.
- Soon, he is regularly bringing her back and forth to a doctor's house, who pays her boyfriend for Greta to dance for him. Sometimes he demands sexual favors, but never intercourse. She does not feel like she can say no.
- The beatings from her boyfriend grow worse and one day, out of desperation, she calls your hotline.

Female, US national, LGBTQ, SUD (possible sex trafficking)

Segment 1:

- Sammy is a 23-year-old from New Hampshire. When she was 16, she was kicked out of her parent's house because she is transgendered. She moved to Maine, where she lived on the streets until she moved in with her brother and brother's girlfriend.
- She had experimented with alcohol and marijuana in New Hampshire, but her drug use got worse while living with her brother.
- She was hospitalized for an overdose at the age 17. Afterwards, her brother intervened and paid for her to go to rehab. She is currently maintaining her sobriety, finishing her GED, and working part-time at Dunkin Donuts.

Segment 2:

- Sammy begins dating a man, who is also in recovery.
- After three months, they both start using again.
- Sammy moves out of her brother's house and into a motel with her boyfriend.
- He starts disappearing for long periods of time and when he is home, he is violent and emotionally abusive. He steals the rest of her money and her phone, further isolating her.
- After a week of his disappearance, he begins engaging in sex work in the motel room.
- When the boyfriend returns, he takes the money she has earned and forces her to have sex with men that he sets up.
- He also controls her use, keeping drugs from her when she is "bad" and giving them to her when she is "good."
- One night, she appears at the ER with a broken rib, a beaten face, and cigarette burns. She tells the nurse her story, and the nurse connects her to your organization.

Female, foreign born national (possible labor trafficking)

Segment 1:

- Andrea is a 28-year-old Colombian woman, who crossed the southern US border with her mother when she was nine.
- After living in Texas and Virginia, they moved to Maine, where a friend had an extra room and a possible job opportunity at a local factory. Andrea's mother began work at the factory, where she still works and Andrea began attending public school.
- Andrea graduated from high school and started working as a maid in a local hotel. She moved in with her boyfriend after the couple had a baby together.
- They are currently married and living in York County.

Segment 2:

- Andrea's boyfriend starts selling drugs for a man based out of Colombia whom he set up with through an Uncle.
- Soon Andrea is being asked to translate on the phone for calls made between the man in Colombia and various people in the US. She begins to realize that she is organizing the drug shipments, drop offs, and payments, yet she doesn't receive any money for her work.
- She and her boyfriend begin receiving threats in the mail to stay silent about what they know.
- Soon, her boyfriend forces her to keep her phone recording every time she is with her family or friends. Later, he listens to the recording to make sure she didn't say anything.
- He refuses to give her access to her car keys and locks the house with her in it, when he leaves.
- One afternoon, she breaks the bathroom window and escapes via the fire escape with her children.

Immigration Service providers

Female, refugee (possible labor trafficking)

Segment 1:

- Serena is a 32 year old woman from Sudan. When she was 20, violence between the government and the People's Liberation Movement reached her village. She fled, along with her family, to the Kakuma refugee camp.
- The family lived there for eight years, until her youngest child, a 2 year old boy, was diagnosed with a rare heart condition, along with severe asthma.
- Due to the child's health concerns, UNHCR prioritized the family for resettlement to the US.
- After waiting for a year and a half, the US cleared the family's case and the family was relocated to Maine.

Segment 2:

- The family gets settled into Maine and starts receiving refugee cash assistance. Serena is unable to work, as her young son needs consistent medical attention. But her husband finds work in a grocery store. Serena and her husband speak very little English, do not read the alphabet, and do not have any reliable transportation.
- The family begins receiving TANF, and the refugee cash assistance stops. A friendly neighbor begins helping out with clothing donations and food. Soon the neighbor begins offering interpretation and transportation services, both things Serena needs.

Segment 3:

- After a few months, the neighbor begins demanding that Serena clean the neighbor's house. She does because she is grateful, but it is stressful when she needs to care fulltime for her child.
- Soon the neighbor also demands the family's TANIF money. The neighbor, who also has connections in the Kakuma camp, threatens to hurt Serena's extended family still living in Kakuma.

Male, refugee (possible labor trafficking)

Segment 1:

- Mahdi is a 25 year old man from Aleppo, Syria. In 2015, during the intensified air strikes, his mother, father, and two eldest children are killed in the family home. The university where he teaches Economics is also destroyed.
- Mahdi, his wife, and infant are smuggled into Turkey in the back of a freight truck, but the smugglers take all their savings which they had planned to use for traveling to Germany.
- Mahdi eventually finds work in a factory in Istanbul. The family moves into a basement room in a house and his wife gives birth to a baby.
- After an accident at the factory, Mahdi loses three fingers and suffers a back injury. As he can no longer support his family, he seeks help from ICRC who pushes his case forward for resettlement to the US with UNHCR.
- A year later, they are resettled to Maine.

Segment 2:

- While Mahdi was an economics professor in Syria, he is unable to find work in his field in Portland. He is also told that he needs additional training. The classes he needs are during the day which means he can't work and go to school. Yet, he needs to support his family. Instead of school, he gets work driving a taxi.
- Through driving, he is able to make a decent living and his family begins to settle into a new life. He hopes to start his classes the following year, once he has saved some money.

- One of his regular customers starts asking him about his life and he shares his experiences of the war, the loss of his family and livelihood, and the accident in the factory. The customer seems moved and offers to help his family.

Segment 3:

- The customer, who is regularly accompanied by various women, says that he can help Mahdi earn more money, if Mahdi will drive the girls to different houses. The customer offers him \$40 for a roundtrip.
- Mahdi accepts the deal and is excited for the money but soon Mahdi realizes that the girls are being taken to houses for sex work.
- Mahdi confronts the customer and tells him he won't do it anymore. The customer threatens his family, and tells him that the police won't believe Mahdi and that he will also be charged with sex trafficking.

Female, undocumented migrant (possible labor trafficking)

Segment 1:

- Ines is a 45 year old woman from Honduras. After her husband is killed and her farm burned by gangs, she and her 12 year old daughter migrate up to Mexico, hoping to reach the United States.
- In Mexico, they lose their belongings, while riding on the top of a train. Out of desperation, they hitchhike on the road and are picked up by men saying they are "coyotes" (or smugglers). The men sexually assault Ines and her daughter and hold her until her family wires ransom money.
- They are released and give themselves up at the US border, where they are held in detention and Ines is given a monitor bracelet.
- Ines and her daughter are released to a cousin, living in Maine.

Segment 2:

- Ines and her daughter initially stay with her cousin, but when the cousin's own family arrives from Honduras, they are asked to leave.
- Ines and her daughter find a room to rent from another immigrant in the community. Ines, who does not speak English, finds work at a local seafood processing plant. Although she works long hours, usually leaving before her daughter is awake, her daughter quickly picks up English and is making friends in school. The daughter also help with money by working part time at a local clothing store. Together, they are able to send regular money back to family in Honduras.

Segment 3:

- The woman, who they rent from, starts demanding that Ines do all the cooking and cleaning.

- Soon, the woman demands all the income earned by Ines's daughter. The daughter complies as the woman threatens to kick out the family on the street if they don't do what they say. The daughter is scared because it is winter and they don't have another place to live.
- When Ines confronts the woman, the woman makes additional threats, saying she will report Ines to ICE. The conversation escalates and the woman hits Ines in the head, sending her to the hospital for stitches.