

APA Official Actions

Position Statement on Human Trafficking

Approved by the Board of Trustees, July 2024

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Issue:

There are estimated to be 50 million, or nearly one in every 150 people in the world, victims of human trafficking worldwide.¹ In the United States, forced labor and sex trafficking are the two predominant forms of recognized human trafficking.² One study indicates that 88% of human trafficking victims have been seen by a medical provider while in captivity.³ Those who are identified have high rates of mental illness.^{3,4}

APA Position:

Human trafficking is a legal, social, economic, education and public health issue with profound mental health consequences affecting individuals of all ages and genders both domestically and internationally. Adequate community-based resources for mental health treatment for victims of trafficking are required.

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