

Medical Screening Questionnaire for Child Sex Trafficking

The following screening tool was developed, studied, and validated by researchers based at Children's Healthcare Center of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA. Validation for use in medical settings was completed in 2018 in a large multi-center study in the US. (Greenbaum J, et.al. Evaluation of a Tool to Identify Child Sex Trafficking Victims in Multiple Healthcare Settings. Journal of Adolescent Health 63 (2018) 745-452; reference attached).

The first 6 questions were obtained from that research. The last 4 questions (items 7-10) were chosen based on Children's Mercy Child Abuse Pediatrics clinic experience; we had previously been using a screening questionnaire we developed ourselves, that directly asked about sex trafficking. We found that when we asked the question, we identified children that were at high risk for trafficking, or who had been trafficked, and had not been previously identified as trafficking victims. Therefore, we developed these 4 questions to cover a wide range of potential exploitative activities. These questions have not been formally studied or validated as a screening tool to date.

For questions or concerns, please feel free to contact:

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Medical Screening Questionnaire

We often ask teens some questions to find out a little more about what is going on in their lives. It helps us understand more about how we can make sure you are healthy and safe, and how we might be able to help.

1. **Has a boyfriend or girlfriend in a dating or serious relationship ever physically hurt you or threatened to hurt you (hit, pushed, kicked, choked, or something else)?**

Yes No

2. **Have you ever been knocked unconscious or knocked out?**

Yes No

3. **Some kids have a hard time living at home and feel that they need to run away. Have you ever run away from home or been kicked out of your home?**

Yes No

4. **Sometimes kids have been involved with the police. Maybe for running away, for skipping school, for shoplifting, or other things. Have you ever had any problems with the police?**

Yes No

5. **Kids often use drugs or alcohol, and different kids use different drugs. Have you ever used drugs or alcohol?**

Yes No **If yes, in the past 6 months?** Yes No

6. **Have you ever had sex because you wanted to (penis in vagina, penis in butt)?**

Yes No

If no, skip to #7. If yes, please answer the next few questions:

Since the first time you had sex, how many partners have you had?

1-5 partners 6-10 partners >10 partners

Have you ever had any sexually transmitted infections, like gonorrhea, chlamydia, trichomonas, herpes, or syphilis (or others)?

Yes No

7. Has anyone ever asked or forced you to do some sexual activity with ANOTHER person?
For example, a boy asks his girlfriend to have sex with another boy.

Yes No Did you have to do it? Yes No

8. Has anyone ever asked or forced you to do some sexual act in public, like dance at a bar or strip club?

Yes No Did you have to do it? Yes No

9. Has anyone ever asked you to pose in a sexual way for a photo or video?

Yes No Did you have to do it? Yes No

10. Sometimes kids are in a position where they really need something. This could money, food, a place to stay, a phone, drugs, or anything else. Have you ever traded a sexual activity for something that you needed or wanted? This could be sex with someone, posing for pictures or videos, dancing, or something else.

Yes No

Thank you for answering these questions. Please tell us if there is anything you would like to talk more about.

Medical Screening Provider Follow-Up and Scoring:

Human Trafficking is a medical diagnosis of a health problem (ICD-10 codes T74, T76, Z04, Z62), reached after evaluation of a detailed medical history and medical assessment and testing. This medical screening tool is designed to assist Medical Providers in evaluating such cases.

Questions 1-6 (First Page): 6 items to score

#1 – Do NOT score as part of screening tool

#2-4 – Positive if YES

#2 Follow-up by getting details. Decreased concern if obvious accident, i.e. MVC

#3 Consider getting details (how many times, where did you stay, how did you get food/money, were you running away from something bad or to something good)

#4 Follow-up by getting details. LE involvement for current abuse/assault doesn't count.

#5 – Positive if YES, substance use in past 6 months

#6 – Initial response YES (may clarify that we are looking for sex EXCLUDING current abuse/assault)

Positive if >5 sex partners

Positive if YES history of STI

2 or more positive responses (out of 6 possible) indicates increased risk for trafficking, and risk increases as positive responses increase.

Actions to take: Discuss with need for report to National Human Trafficking Hotline, based on existing risk factors.

Questions 7-10 (Second Page):

#7-9 – Positive if YES then YES, had to do it

A YES then NO response needs follow-up: Who asked you?

#10 – Positive if YES

Any positive response indicates trafficking has occurred.

A YES then NO response also indicates significant risk and may warrant a report.

Actions to take: Report to National Human Trafficking Hotline, law enforcement, child protective services.