

# Minnesota Youth Human Trafficking and Exploitation Identification (MYTEI) Tool and Guide

The Minnesota Youth Trafficking and Exploitation Identification Tool (MYTEI Tool) and Guide is a survivor-centered and trauma informed intervention tool that has been informed by the Adult Human Trafficking Screening Tool produced by the National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center (NHTTAC). The Adult Human Trafficking Screening Tool and Guide was developed from evidence-based practices and lessons learned from available screening instruments used by public health professionals in the fields of human trafficking, domestic violence, sexual assault, and HIV screening.

The MYTEI Tool and Guide was developed for use in Minnesota to identify minors who have experienced or are experiencing human trafficking and/or exploitation. It was developed by a team of experts, including survivor leaders, public health and human services representatives, direct service providers, and an American Indian-serving organization. The MYTEI Tool and Guide have been reviewed by survivors and multidisciplinary professionals statewide who work with individuals who have experienced trafficking and have a diversity of cultural perspectives. Additionally, the tool and guide were reviewed by NHTTAC consultants, including one of the lead writers of the original Adult Human Trafficking Screening Tool ([https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/otip/adult\\_human\\_trafficking\\_screening\\_tool\\_and\\_guide.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/otip/adult_human_trafficking_screening_tool_and_guide.pdf)).

It is important to be consistent across organizations as Minnesota responds to human trafficking. The MYTEI Tool and Guide<sup>1</sup> will help Minnesota organizations be consistent in talking about and respond to human trafficking. It is common for individuals not to recognize their exploitation or trafficking as such or not to identify as a victim. The guide and identification tool is a resource to help professionals working with youth, improving the likelihood Minnesota's young people will get the help they need and deserve.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Although there is a high demand for screening tools for human trafficking and exploitation, the Minnesota Department of Health recognizes the origin and use of screening tools within the medical field to diagnose specific conditions. These screenings have definitive answers and can be evaluated for specificity and sensitivity. Screening tools within the anti-human trafficking and exploitation field have not been able to provide these kinds of measurable outcomes. For that reason, we have chosen to call this tool an identification tool, designed to aid in the process of seeing trafficking and exploitation in order to properly refer potential victims to services.

<sup>2</sup> Screening everyone for human trafficking who walks into an agency for services may no longer be the best practice. Studies show individuals are more likely to disclose situations as part of a broader conversation focused on topics such as parenting, safety, or healthy relationships. More victims come forward when the goal is education rather than disclosure. For more information:

- Jack, S. M., Ford-Gilboe, M., Davidov, D., MacMillan, H. L., NFP IPV Research Team, O'Brien, R., ... & Scribano, P. (2017). Identification and assessment of intimate partner violence in nurse home visitation (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5525568/>). *Journal of clinical nursing*, 26(15-16), 2215-2228.;
- Futures Without Violence webinar Evidence-Based "CUES Intervention" to Address Intimate Partner Violence/Human Trafficking in Primary Care Settings, and Tools for Ryan White-Funded HIV Programs <https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/evidence-based-cues-intervention-address-ipvhuman-trafficking-primary-care-settings-tools-ryan-white-funded-hiv-programs/>. Webinar #3 August 8, 2018

The guide provides background information, a list of indicators and an identification tool for recognizing youth who may have experienced sex or labor trafficking or exploitation. The tool has been designed to identify youth ages 13-17 years old. However, those working with potential victims of all ages may adapt this guide, including the identification tool.

A training webinar is required before obtaining the MYTEI Too and Guide. This webinar is currently under development. The Safe Harbor team will announce the completion and availability as soon as possible.