



Human trafficking and dermatology

- Human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation are global public health issues affecting hundreds of thousands of victims in the U.S.
- HT is occurring in our communities and victims are likely presenting to our clinics
- Dermatologists can recognize relevant skin signs and assist victims with certain aspects of care and recovery, including the treatment of diseases, scars, and unwanted tattoos

National resources

The following national organizations offer direct contacts:

- [National Human Trafficking Hotline](#): 888-373-7888
(Reporting for both physicians and patients)
- [National Trafficking Sheltered Alliance](#)
(Referral for residential programs)
- [ASLMS New Beginnings](#): Tattoo Removal Program
(Pro-bono unwanted tattoo removal)
- [National Survivor Network](#)
(Survivor leadership association)

For additional trainings, tutorials, and involvement opportunities, visit [AAD HT toolkit](#)

Local resources

Given the sensitive nature of HT and CSE, it is important that dermatologists establish personal relationships with reputable local resources so we may facilitate a warm handoff to secure support. Find resources near you:

- [National Human Trafficking Hotline: Find Local Resources](#)
- [OTIP State and Territory Profiles: Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking](#)

A note on resource distribution

- Our immediate obligation is to provide medical diagnosis and treatment of the patient's primary concern
- Establish trust and rapport with the patient so they feel safe to maintain a clinical relationship
- Consider providing the patient with relevant resources through shared decision making to prioritize the patient's safety and goals