



Educating Emergency Department Staff On Human Trafficking

Steven Donahue MS, BSN, RN; Danielle LaVallee, BSN, RN; Michael Schwien, BS, BSN, RN
Lankenau Medical Center and Paoli Hospital Emergency Departments



Purpose

- Increase overall awareness of human trafficking within the emergency department setting by providing signage within the unit.
- Present education to health care providers and emergency department personnel to increase the confidence of staff in identifying and treating possible human trafficking victims.

PICOT question: In regards to emergency department staff, how does an educational module, compared to no education, affect the confidence in recognizing and treating possible human trafficking victims.

Background

- The International Labor Organization estimates that there are 20.9 million trafficking victims worldwide. Human trafficking is the fastest-growing business of organized crime and the third-largest criminal enterprise in the world (International Labor Organization, 2012).
- Hospitalization within the emergency department is one of the few opportunities where the lives of trafficking victims intersect with the general population. One study indicated that 63% of human trafficking victims reported receiving care in an emergency department during their captivity (Lederer & Wetzel, 2016).
- Currently, there is no education provided to staff within Main Line Health regarding human trafficking, and research concerning the effectiveness of training within a hospital setting is scarce.

Review of Literature

- One study conducted in 2012 found that an online learning module on human trafficking for emergency department personnel was successful. Before training, 4.8% of participants felt confident in the ability to recognize a human trafficking victim; this increased to 53.8% after training (Chisolm-Straker, Richardson, & Cossio, 2012).
- One analysis conducted in 2014 found the proportion of participants who rated themselves as knowledgeable/very knowledgeable increased from 7.2% to 59% after an education intervention (Grace et al., 2014).
- Studies show great promise of quickly increasing emergency department staff knowledge and awareness of human trafficking.

Results

75 employees from Paoli Hospital and Lankenau Hospital participated in the pre-education survey, while 56 employees participated in the post-education survey.

Over half of all participants did not know what human trafficking was before the educational training

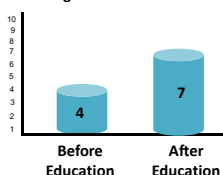


89% Of those surveyed have never received training in identifying and treating human trafficking victims

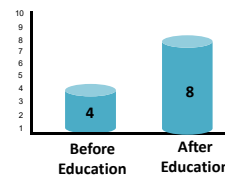


Only 8% of those participating in the survey believe that their emergency department has adequate materials to increase awareness of human trafficking

On a scale of 0-10, with zero being "not confident", and 10 being "very confident", how confident are you in identifying a human trafficking victim?



On a scale of 0-10, with zero being "not confident", and 10 being "very confident", how confident are you in treating and caring for a human trafficking patient?



96% Of those surveyed found the educational module useful to their work setting

93% of participants stated that they have a comprehensive understanding of what human trafficking is after the education



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Method

- An educational website with a computer-based training module was designed and made available to personnel within two suburban emergency departments.
- Staff completed a pre-survey consisting of Likert-scale questions, then participated in a computer-based training prior to completing a Likert-scale post-survey.
- Staff were made aware of the website during staff huddles and were instructed to complete the computer-based training at their convenience.

Implications for Nursing Practice

- With access to an educational website, emergency department personnel can easily learn about human trafficking at their convenience. The website can be revisited to review information after the education is completed.
- Trained staff are more likely to identify, approach, and address the unique needs of a patient who may be trafficked.

Next Steps

- Offer ongoing access to the educational website to improve human trafficking awareness.
- Implement a standard guideline for the identification and treatment of victims across Main Line Health.
- Create a Healthstream training module for annual human trafficking education.
- Share this learning module with additional healthcare facilities to further address the needs of human trafficking victims.

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