

Sigma's VIRTUAL 31st International Nursing Research Congress (Wednesday, 22 July - Friday, 24 July)

Human Trafficking: The Efficacy of a Mandatory Training on the Competency of Emergency Department Providers

Mark R. Adelong, PhD, RN

School of Health Sciences, Stockton University, Galloway, NJ, USA

Purpose:

The purpose of this research is to identify the efficacy of the mandatory human trafficking training mandated in a state in the Northeastern United States on the competency of Registered Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, Physicians, and Physician Assistants who practice in the emergency department.

Methods:

This descriptive study employs a cross-sectional design as data was collected at one point in time via a survey instrument, using purposive sampling of participants. Group frequency distribution and descriptive statistics were performed to examine participant training and education, current experience with human trafficking victims, knowledge of human trafficking, and healthcare providers perception of the impact on patient care due to a mandatory human trafficking training.

Results:

Results show that 87.5% of participants reported receiving training in human trafficking due to the mandate of the training by a state in the Northeastern United States, with an average total training time of 1.85 hours. The least covered areas of training were local, state, national, and international legislation (64%), and making referrals and giving information on national/local services (67%). Only 19% of participants received training during their college education. Almost 90% of participants report that they have not or are not sure if they have been in contact with a patient they knew or may have known in the past that may have been trafficked. Most participants (87%) believe it is likely they will encounter a trafficked person in the emergency department, however, the results suggest that emergency department providers may encounter challenges in identifying and responding to human trafficking appropriately. The majority of participants' perception of the impact of the training was generally positive regarding increased awareness of human trafficking. However, participants perceived less of an impact with regards to allowing them to better treat victims of human trafficking, impacting the care they provide/will be able to provide for victims of human trafficking, and improving their competence level in providing care/being able to provide care to human trafficking victims.

Conclusion:

This study assessed the effectiveness of a mandatory training on human trafficking in a Northeastern United States state. Results showed that although health care providers are aware that human trafficking exists and they may encounter victims of human trafficking, they are not adequately trained to identify and respond to victims. This mandatory training is a good step in providing education on human trafficking to health care providers, but data suggests that not only is there a need for more education, but also a need to identify which methods of delivery would be best to educate health care

providers. As long as human trafficking continues, health care providers need to be well prepared in identifying and responding to victims in order to rescue them.

Title:

Human Trafficking: The Efficacy of a Mandatory Training on the Competency of Emergency Department Providers

Keywords:

Emergency, Human Trafficking and Training

Abstract Summary:

Learn about the effectiveness a mandatory educational offering on Human Trafficking had on Emergency Department providers including Registered Nurses, Nurse Practitioners, Physicians, and Physician Assistants.

References:

- Aronowitz, A. (2017). Human trafficking: A reference handbook. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO.
- Chisolm-Straker, M., Baldwin, S., Gaigbe-Togbe, B., Ndukwe, N, Johnson, P., & Richardson, L. (2016). Health care and human trafficking: We are seeing the unseen. *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved*. 27(3), 1220-1233.
- Clark, E., Draper, J., & Rogers, J. (2015). Illuminating the process: Enhancing the impact of continuing professional education on practice. *Nurse Education Today*. 35(2), 388-394.
- Egyud, A., Stephens, K., Swanson-Bierman, B., DiCuccio, M., & Whiteman, K. (2017). Implementation of human trafficking education and treatment algorithm in the emergency department. *Journal of Emergency Nursing*. 43(6), 526-531.
- Gibbons, P. & Stoklosa, H. (2016). Identification and treatment of human trafficking victims in the emergency department: A case report. *The Journal of Emergency Medicine*. 50(5), 715-719.
- Gray, D. & Whitman, A. (2015). Transnational human trafficking. *Global Security Studies*. 6(3), 11-18.
- Greenbaum, J. (2016). Identifying victims of human trafficking in the emergency department. *Clinical Pediatric Emergency Medicine*. 17(4), 241-248.
- Lederer, L. & Wetzal, C. (2014). The health consequences of sex trafficking and their implications for identifying victims in healthcare facilities. *Annals of Health Law*. 23(1), 61-91.
- Lutz, R. (2018). Human trafficking education for nurse practitioners: Integration into standard curriculum. *Nurse Education Today*. 61, 66-69.
- National Human Trafficking Hotline. (2017a). Hotline Statistics. Retrieved from <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/states>

First Primary Presenting Author

Primary Presenting Author

Mark R. Adelong, PhD, RN
Stockton University
School of Health Sciences
Assistant Professor
Galloway, New Jersey
USA

Author Summary: Mark Adelong has been a Registered Nurse for the last nine years. Most of his clinical experience has been in the Emergency Department. He is currently an Assistant Professor of Nursing at Stockton University. His current research interest is in Human Trafficking in which he recently completed his PhD dissertation on human trafficking.