Educational Intervention for Public Healthcare Providers Using the Trafficking Victim Identification Tool

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Purpose
To educate health care providers about the incidence and prevalence sex trafficking, how to incorporate the use of the TVIT tool, and to increase awareness of the resources available for intervention and support of those being victimized.

Objectives
By the end of the presentation participants will be able to:

- identify traits of sex trafficking victims
- apply the Trafficking Victim Identification Tool (TVIT) to identify victims
- identify inter-professional resources available for victim referrals
- rate confidence and competence in implementing the strategies
  - identify at risk individuals
  - screen for sex trafficking
  - refer to inter-professional resources

Background/Significance
According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the problem of sex trafficking has no borders, no limits, and impacts men, women, and children from all communities causing emotional and physical distress with lasting negative health outcomes (2017). Sexual predators prey on vulnerable populations to manipulate their victims into a silent captivity, and trap in a world of degradation and dehumanizing experiences, decreasing possibility for transition to fully functioning adult (Oram et al., 2012). Women and children are more likely to be trafficked for sexual exploitation. It is important for health care providers to have a method to assess and identify sex trafficking victims to advocate effectively.

The proliferation of sex trafficking is seen in many settings, especially in public health, and healthcare providers need to be able recognize and act swiftly (Smith, Goyen, Powell, & Malozzi, 2014).

Sex Trafficking Statistics
- Globally, International Labor Organization estimates 4.5 million people trapped in sex trafficking
- Global profit $150 billion/year
- Since 2007, United States reported 22,191 sex trafficking cases
- 2014 estimated underground sex economy ranged $39.9 million in Denver, Colorado, to $290 million in Atlanta, Georgia

Method
Vera Institute developed the Trafficking Victim Identification Tool (TVIT) as an effective template to counter the criminal realm of sex trafficking.

TVIT screening tool is readily available to health care providers

Training Needed to Identify those experiencing sexual exploitation

Women
Men
Children

Conclusions
Consequences can be immediate and long term, including physical and relationship problems, psychological concerns, and chronic health outcomes.

By educating health care providers with the TVIT Tool, violence can be prevented and sex-trafficking reduced.

All Races, Ethnicities, Sexual Orientation, Income Level

Impacts Women, Men, Girls, Boys

• Globally Prevalence
  • 4.5 million

• Sexually Exploited

Sex Trafficking

Health Care Providers & Advocates

Voluntary \& Coerced

Held captive in various locations around the world

Hold captive

Control through
Assault, Threats, False Promises, Perceived Protection, Isolation, Shaming

TVIT

Questions to Ask

Has your identification or documentation been taken from you?

Can you leave your job or situation if you want?

Have you or your family been threatened or physically harmed?

Where do you sleep and eat?

Have you ever been deprived of food, water, sleep, or medical care?

Are there locks on the doors and windows so you can not leave?

REFERENCES


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Full TVIT available

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TRAFFICKING

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