Human Trafficking: A Curriculum for Public Health Students
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BACKGROUND

Human Trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons by means of threat or use of force, coercion or fraud.

The main two types of human trafficking are sex and labor.
• Sex trafficking: solicitation of an individual through force or fraud for a commercial sex act
• Labor trafficking: any forced labor of services for the purpose of servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery

Each year 40+ million individuals are trafficked within their countries or across borders for the use of commercial sex or forced labor. Human trafficking is over a 150-billion-dollar industry that relies solely on supply and demand.

The Global Report on Trafficking in Persons reported in 2019 that 79% of victims were sexually exploited and 18% were trafficked for forced labor.

Risk factors
• Runaways, sexual and gender minorities, people living in poverty, history of adverse childhood experiences

Identification in clinical settings
• An estimated 88% of victims see a healthcare professional during their time being trafficked but as little as 4.8% of healthcare professionals feel confident in identifying a victim in their presence

Intervention and Prevention
• Identify additional risk factors, create a universal screening tool for identifying victims, educate healthcare professionals on the subject and how to identify and treat

PRODUCTS: Slides, Fact Sheet, Resource Guide

One educational module was created with additional PDF files as supplementary material.

The educational module has the following:
• Voice-over lecture
• Key risk factors for human trafficking
• Information on how to identify victims of human trafficking in clinical settings
• Intervention and prevention strategies and continued research
• Important information regarding Philadelphia trafficking statistics
• Key definitions
• Clarification on related topics
• Opportunities for further reading
• Fact sheet on identification factors, signs and symptoms of trafficking, and different ailments that victims suffer
• A resource guide for local and national anti-trafficking organizations and hotlines

Modules are self directed and will be available to all MPH students at Thomas Jefferson University who are enrolled in the Introduction to Public Health course.

DISCUSSION

This project’s objective is to address a gap in education regarding human trafficking for master of public health students through providing a self-guided curriculum for students who are enrolled in the Master of Public Health Program at Thomas Jefferson University.

Due to the role public health professionals play in developing intervention and prevention techniques, it is necessary to educate incoming students on this overwhelming public health crisis. By participating in this curriculum, students will have a working knowledge of human trafficking and an ability to identify and support victims that they encounter in their future public health roles.

NEXT STEPS

I will meet with the professor who will be teaching the Foundations to Public Health course so that we can embed this module into their syllabus. Additionally, we will review the information and ensure he/she feels confident in teaching the material.

A pre-test of quiz questions will be created to first assess what the base knowledge of human trafficking is among public health students. Then a post-test will be created and administered to assess what knowledge is gained following completing the educational module.

PROCESS

In developing this capstone project I followed five major steps:
• I did a comprehensive literature review of the available resources on this subject
• I prioritized the information and decided on the top three issues I wanted to focus on
• I tailored the information and program to be readily understandable for a public health audience
• I generated content to teach the MPH intro course
  • PowerPoint, resource guide, fact sheet
• I embedded the module into the 2019-2020 school year syllabi