4-25-2022

Educating Healthcare Professionals to Identify and Care for Victims of Human Trafficking

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Recommended Citation
Messman, Kathleen L. and Neal, Allyson, "Educating Healthcare Professionals to Identify and Care for Victims of Human Trafficking" (2022). Graduate Publications and Other Selected Works - Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP).  
https://trace.tennessee.edu/dnp/20

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Educating Healthcare Professionals to Identify and Treat Victims of Human Trafficking

Background & Problem

- Health Care Professionals (HCPs) report a need for education, training, and appropriate healthcare guidelines.
- The lack of training for HCPs presents a barrier to identify those affected by human trafficking (HT).
- Approximately 88% of sex trafficking survivors report having been in contact with an HCPs.
- Trafficked persons often suffer from poor physical & mental health and lack of access to health care.

Purpose

- To increase knowledge and confidence in healthcare professionals identifying and treating people victimized by human trafficking.

Methods

- An educational intervention was delivered in collaboration with Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking (CCAHT) utilizing the evidence-based practice improvement (EBPI) model, Iowa Model, and Cognitive Learning Theories.
- Modified PROTECT: Provider Responses, Treatment and Care for Trafficked People (Ross et al., 2015) survey was utilized to develop the pretest, posttest and 4-week-posttest.
- Pre and post-tests were used directly before and after the training to assess for changes in Knowledge and Confidence. A second post-test was delivered four weeks following training.

Findings

- Repeated measures ANOVA showed significant changes across the three time points for all measures of Confidence.
- Pairwise comparison was used to determine how Confidence of identifying the victim, Confidence in treating/caring, Confidence in referral to services changed over time. All three time points differed.
- Pairwise comparison was used to determine how Confidence in discussing HT changed over time. Both post-tests were significantly higher than pre-test, with no difference between post-test and 4-week posttest.
- The results of the repeated measures showed no significant changes across the three time points for knowledge.

Implications

- Educational trainings on HT have proven effective in successfully increasing confidence in HCPs.
- Knowledge outcomes did not differ statistically revealing high baseline levels of knowledge without formal training (no training: 62.5%; n=10).
- Training content was strengthened by expertise from partnership with anti-trafficking organization (CCAHT).

Acknowledgements

- The HT training content was supported by CCAHT.
- Special thanks to Rana Zakaria, MPH, Community Educator, CCAHT; Alicia Alexander, MSN-CNPn, MPHC, Inc; Dr. Neal, DNP, PMHNP-BC, CNS-BC, CPNP, Committee Chair, University of Tennessee – Knoxville, College of Nursing.

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