

Implementation of an Updated Screening Tool to Identify Human Trafficking Victims in the Emergency Department

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Problem Statement

- ❖ Human trafficking (HT) is defined as, “the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion, for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery”
- ❖ Many victims of human trafficking seek health care through the ED
- ❖ Specific screening for human trafficking is necessary
- ❖ Victims seek health care at some point during their enslavement, the majority are missed
- ❖ Of an estimated 6,000 hospitals within the US, less than 1.0% have specific policies for treating victims of human trafficking
- ❖ Most states do not require human trafficking training for RN licensure
- ❖ By educating nurses on red flags of victims will be identified

Outcomes

Comparison of Screening Questions

| | New Screening Question: “Have you ever been forced into sexual acts or work for money, drugs, or favors?” | Current Screening Question: “Do you feel safe at home and in your relationships?” |
|-----|--|--|
| | May 29, 2022–July 22, 2022 | May 28, 2021–May 28, 2022 |
| | Frequency (%) | Frequency (%) |
| Yes | 1 (2.17%) | 45,562 (98.6%) |
| No | 45 (97.83%) | 639 (1.38%) |

Discussion

- ❖ Met 2 out of 3 objectives
- ✓ **Increased identification of HT victims by more than 5%**
- ❖ Identification of victims increased by 217% compared to 0%
- ❖ Compared to the current screening question increased identification of 59.4% during implementation
- ❖ Compared to the current screening question increased identification of 63.5% during the last year
- ✓ **Increased nurses’ knowledge and confidence levels in identifying HT victims by 20%**
- ❖ Total of pre education questions to the total of post education questions showed a 73.2% increase in knowledge and confidence
- ✓ **Increase providing resources to victims by 10% -- not met due to the victim declining any resources**

Project Purpose

- ❖ PICOT: Will more adult victims of human trafficking be identified in the emergency department if the screening question is specific to individuals currently involved in human trafficking compared to the current screening question within 8 weeks?
- ✓ Increase identification of human trafficking victims by 5%
- ✓ Increase knowledge of red flags to nursing staff by 20%
- ✓ Increase resources provided to human trafficking victims by 10%

Methodology

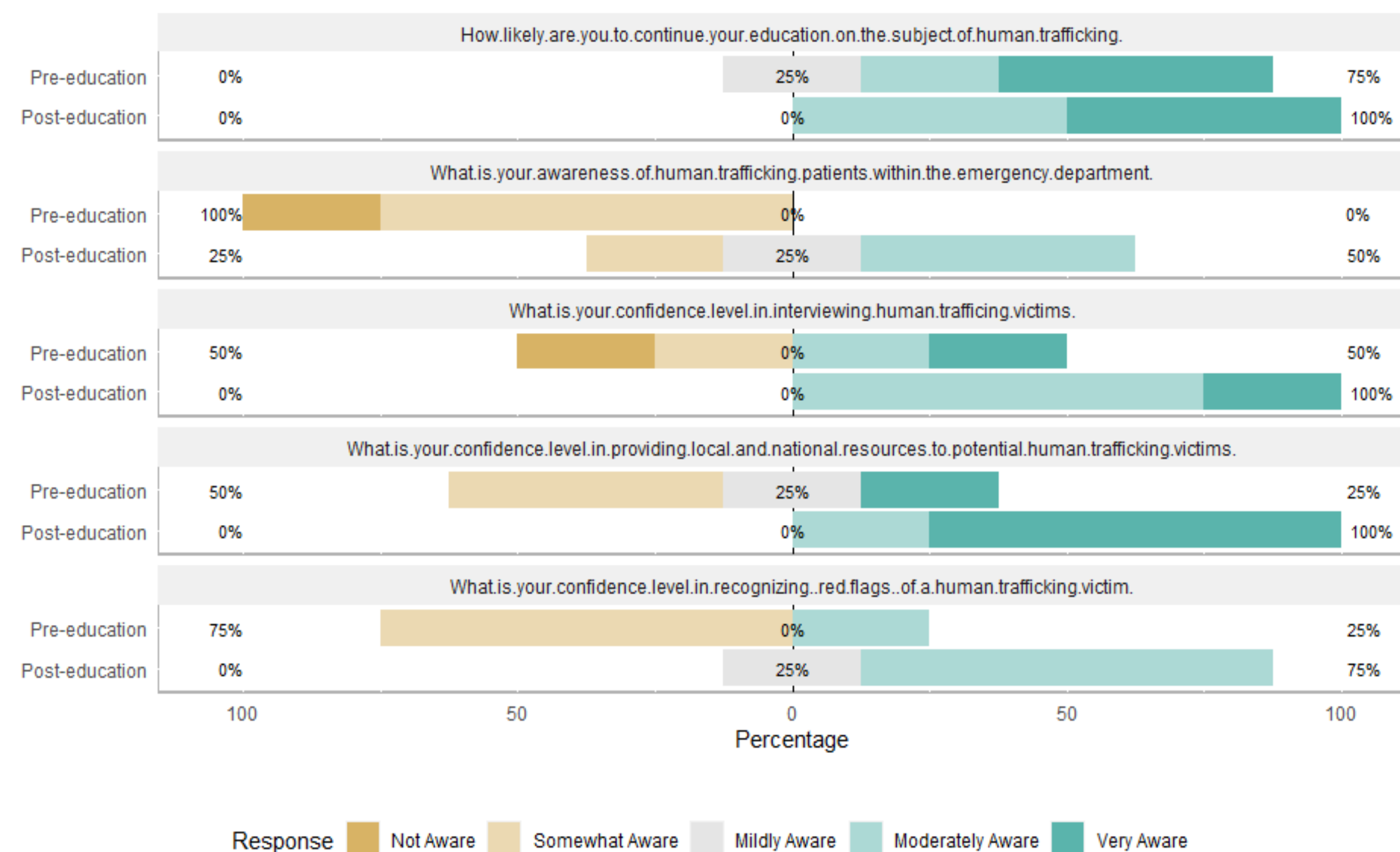
Setting: Not-for-profit hospital emergency department

Population: Four volunteer ED nurses and adult patient population

Interventions:

- ❖ RNs attend 90-minute lunch-and-learn
- ❖ RNs had a notecard with updated screening question
Have you ever been forced into sexual acts or work for money, drugs, or favors?
- ❖ RNs submitted notecards at end of shifts
- ❖ Phone numbers for local and national resources on notecard

Plot of Nurses’ Likert Survey Responses



Conclusions

- ✓ Specific human trafficking screening identifies victims in EDs
- ✓ Education provided to nursing staff increases confidence levels

References



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