



# Human Trafficking Identification in Healthcare

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## INTRODUCTION

Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain labor or commercial sex acts. It is a tragic yet widespread issue affecting millions globally, with many survivors interacting with healthcare systems but remaining unidentified. Although up to 88% of survivors access healthcare while trafficked, they often go unnoticed due to barriers like limited time, insufficient training, and systemic challenges. This research project seeks to identify these obstacles faced by healthcare professionals and develop practical, informed solutions to improve survivor recognition and response in medical settings.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES

- **Objective Definition:** Established a goal to improve trafficking identification protocols through healthcare professionals insight and data-driven solutions
- **Survey Methodology:** Designed and distributed a digital microsoft mixed-methods (quantitative & qualitative) survey combining scaled, multiple-choice, and open-ended questions
- **Data Collection & Analysis:** Used coding methods to assess responses on training frequency, institutional protocols, and confidence levels
- **Implementation Planning:** Developed a two-pronged intervention strategy based on findings: (1) a high-impact educational flyer for healthcare professionals, and (2) a targeted awareness campaign directed at hospital administrators

## DISCUSSION, ANALYSIS, AND EVALUATION

### Identification Challenges:

- The top barrier cited was insufficient training (7 respondents).
  - Other significant issues include lack of collaboration (3), institutional support (2), and fear of misidentification (1).

### Confidence Levels:

- The average confidence rating in identifying survivors is 2.27 out of 5.
- The majority (10 out of 15) rated their confidence at level 1 or 2, showing low self-assurance in current practices.

### Existing Protocol Awareness:

- Only 40% of respondents confirmed the existence of workplace protocols.
- 27% said no, and 33% were unsure—highlighting a need for clearer protocol dissemination.

### Training Frequency:

- Nearly one-third of respondents have never received training, and almost half received it only once, pointing to insufficient preparedness.

### Support Needs:

- **Support Priorities:** Respondents expressed the strongest need for more training, better community resource knowledge, and clearer protocol

## DATA AND FINDINGS

4. If yes, how frequently have you received this training?



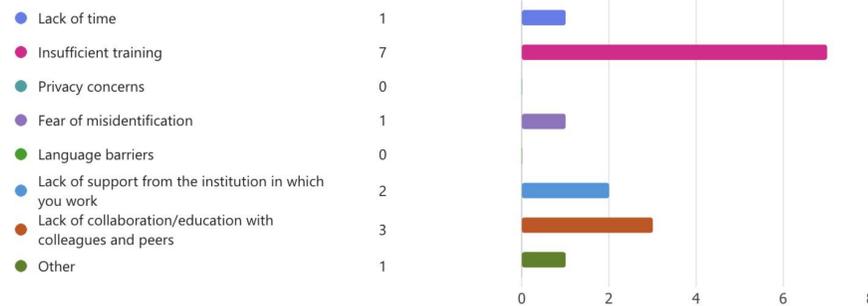
7. Are there existing protocols at your workplace for identifying human trafficking survivors?



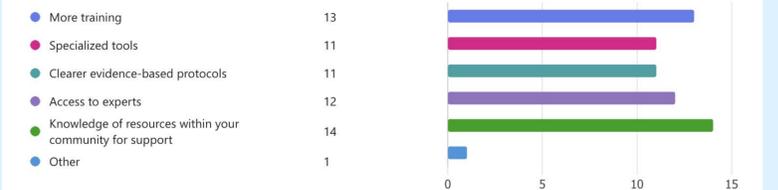
11. On a scale of 1–5, how confident are you in identifying trafficking survivors based on current protocols? (1 being NOT confident, and 5 being VERY confident)



10. What challenges limit your ability to identify human trafficking survivors? (Select all that apply)



14. What resources or support would most help you identify trafficking survivors? (Select all that apply)



## IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

### 1. Flyer Development:

Create a clear, high-quality educational flyer targeted at healthcare professionals. It will include:

- Key indications of trafficking in clinical settings
- Response algorithm for evidence-based guidelines on interventions and reporting, including links to verified screening tools
- Access to anti-trafficking hotlines and local resources

### 2. Administrative Awareness Campaign (via Email):

Launch a targeted email-based awareness initiative directed at hospital administration. Emails will:

- Share findings from this study to highlight gaps in current protocols
- Encourage development and implementation of standardized anti-trafficking identification and response protocols
- Promote institution-wide training programs to empower staff and improved care for vulnerable patients

## CONCLUSIONS & IMPLICATIONS

### Conclusion:

Findings revealed a significant gap in healthcare professionals confidence and training related to human trafficking identification. Many respondents reported a lack of clear protocols, insufficient education, and inadequate institutional support. These barriers can prevent timely recognition and response to trafficking victims in healthcare settings.

### Implications:

To better identify and improve care of vulnerable patients, hospitals must improve identification strategies by equipping providers with reliable, accessible, and evidence-based tools. Strengthening support infrastructure and normalizing anti-trafficking response training can directly improve patient outcomes.

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Full Research Paper:

