HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN WISCONSIN: THE PHYSICIAN’S ROLE IN ENDING MODERN DAY SLAVERY

Background/Purpose
- Human trafficking is modern day slavery
- Second most lucrative criminal industry in the world ($44 billion/year)
- Reported in every county in Wisconsin
  - Since 2007, more than 500 reported cases and over 2,000 suspected cases
- More than 80% of victims seek medical care while in captivity
- A physician encounters at least 1 victim during their practice
- Training in human trafficking is NOT a mandatory part of physician training in Wisconsin

Methods
- Physicians in WMS invited via weekly newsletter
- Pre- and post- self assessments
- Pre- and post- quizzes
- Educational article regarding human trafficking in Wisconsin
- Opportunity to complete CME training in human trafficking via SOAR online

Results
- Analyzed via Qualtrics. Study is IRB approved.
- Participants from Outagamie, Milwaukee, Sheboygan, Dane, and Wood counties
  - 50% Emergency Medicine, 33% OB/GYN, 17% Family Medicine
- 83% of physicians have NOT received training specific to human trafficking
- 33% of physicians are NOT familiar with their local human trafficking resources
- 75% of Wisconsin physicians elected not to complete an online training course in human trafficking

Conclusions
- Most Wisconsin physicians have NOT received training in human trafficking
- Physicians’ understanding of human trafficking and their confidence to treat/help victims improved after reading a short 1-page educational article
- Most Wisconsin physicians are unwilling to voluntarily complete an online training course in human trafficking, even when rewarded with CME credit
- Wisconsin should mandate training in human trafficking for all healthcare workers to improve the safety and identification of human trafficking victims in Wisconsin

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