



# Medical Education on Human Trafficking/Slavery

The U.S. Department of State defines human trafficking as an activity in which someone obtains or holds a person in compelled service. The term covers forced labor and forced child labor, sex trafficking, including child sex trafficking, debt bondage, and child soldiers, among other forms of enslavement. Although it's difficult to know just how extensive the problem of human trafficking is, it's estimated that hundreds of thousands of individuals may be trafficked every year worldwide, the majority of whom are women and/or children.

The American Medical Association (AMA) encourages the education of physicians about human trafficking which should include how to identify and report cases of suspected human trafficking to appropriate authorities, and how to address the victim's medical, legal, and social needs. Educational training on human trafficking addresses the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) standards and meets Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) requirements.

## **LCME Standards**

<http://lcme.org/publications/>

### Standard 7: Curricular Content

The faculty of a medical school ensure that the medical curriculum provides content of sufficient breadth and depth to prepare medical students for entry into any residency program and for the subsequent contemporary practice of medicine. (Core educational objective)

#### 7.5: Societal Problems

The faculty of a medical school ensure that the medical curriculum includes instruction in the diagnosis, prevention, appropriate reporting, and treatment of the medical consequences of common societal problems.

## **ACGME Common Program Requirements**

<https://www.acgme.org/Portals/0/PFAssets/ProgramRequirements/CPRResidency2019.pdf>

### IV.B.1.c) Medical Knowledge

Residents must demonstrate knowledge of established and evolving biomedical, clinical, epidemiological and social-behavioral sciences, as well as the application of this knowledge to patient care. (Core)

## **Programs that Monitor the Effectiveness of Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking**

A number of programs have been created to increase awareness of the signs and symptoms of human trafficking and to monitor how these educational efforts are addressing the needs of victims. These programs are listed below.

### **Office on Trafficking in Persons: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families**

[www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/endtrafficking/initiatives/federal-plan](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/endtrafficking/initiatives/federal-plan)

The Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services to Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States (Plan) highlights ongoing efforts to combat human trafficking at home and abroad and provides information on the effectiveness and of these programs.

### **SOAR to Health and Wellness Training**

[www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/endtrafficking/initiatives/soar](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/endtrafficking/initiatives/soar)

Following the January 2014 release of the U.S. government's Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States: 2013-2017, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services launched the SOAR to Health and Wellness Network, a pilot initiative to educate health care professionals on how to identify and serve victims of trafficking.

### **The Rescue & Restore Victims of Human Trafficking Campaign: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families**

[www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/endtrafficking/resource/rescue-restore-campaign-tool-kits](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/endtrafficking/resource/rescue-restore-campaign-tool-kits)

The Department of Health and Human Services is designated under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act to assist victims of trafficking. Administered through the Office of Refugee Settlement, the Department's Rescue & Restore campaign provides tools for law enforcement personnel, social service organizations, and health care professionals. This website provides background information and guidance for health care practitioners in identifying and communicating with victims of human trafficking.

### **Evidence-Based Mental Health Treatment for Victims of Human Trafficking, ASPE, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

<https://aspe.hhs.gov/report/evidence-based-mental-health-treatment-victims-human-trafficking>

This website examines the evidence-based research for treating common mental health conditions experienced by victims of human trafficking.

## **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Injury Prevention & Control, Division of Violence Prevention**

[www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/sexualviolence/trafficking.html](http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/sexualviolence/trafficking.html)

This website provides information and resources specific to understanding sex trafficking.

## **HEAL Trafficking**

<https://healtrafficking.org/>

HEAL Trafficking comprises a united group of over 2,600 survivors and multidisciplinary professionals in 35 countries dedicated to ending human trafficking and supporting its survivors. The HEAL Education and Training Committee focuses on educating health care providers about trafficking and making relevant, evidenced-based training resources more accessible for health-care providers.

## **Human Trafficking and the Institute on Healthcare and Human Trafficking**

<https://www.magmutual.com/learning/article/human-trafficking-and-institute-healthcare-and-human-trafficking>

The Institute for Healthcare and Human Trafficking (IHHT) provides assistance to medical and behavioral health professionals seeking information on all types of human trafficking (labor/sex; children/adults; domestic/international). The goals of IHHT are: 1) to raise awareness among health professionals about human trafficking; 2) to increase the ability of professionals to recognize potential victims and respond appropriately; and 3) to contribute to the body of research on human trafficking.

## **Educational Programs and Resources for Physicians**

The following educational programs and resources are also available to help physicians with identifying and addressing the needs of human trafficking victims.

### **American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists/Committee on Health Care for Underserved Women**

<https://www.acog.org/Clinical-Guidance-and-Publications/Committee-Opinions/Committee-on-Health-Care-for-Underserved-Women/Human-Trafficking?IsMobileSet=false>

This website provides background information about human trafficking and a list of resources for health-care providers.

### **Stanford Medicine/Human Trafficking**

<http://humantraffickingmed.stanford.edu/>

This website provides educational resources to familiarize health-care providers with the scope of the issue.

### **University of Miami Miller School of Medicine**

<http://obgyn.med.miami.edu/research/thrive-clinic>

The University of Miami Miller School of Medicine established a multidisciplinary medical clinic, called THRIVE (Trafficking Healthcare Resources and Interdisciplinary Victim Services and Education), in 2015 to respond to the health care needs of survivors of human trafficking. The clinic began as a pilot project after faculty began receiving requests from law enforcement, shelter services, and other community agencies to examine some of the survivors who needed medical care. Medical students learn about trafficking through participation in clinics and grand rounds at a local hospital where victims now obtain primary care, gynecological, and other specialty care and psychiatric services.

### **Larner College of Medicine at the University of Vermont**

<http://www.givewaytofreedom.org/initiatives/UVM-Medical-School.php>

One of the core curriculum requirements for second year medical students is that they work closely with a community non-profit or service organization, as well as a faculty physician, on a semester long research project that focuses on identifying victims, barriers to health care for vulnerable populations, and an electronic screening tool for human trafficking. *Give Way To Freedom* has been chosen by the University of Vermont Medical School to collaborate on public health projects such as human trafficking in collaboration with the United Way.

### **Albert Einstein College of Medicine/Sex Trafficking: A Global Issue**

<https://einstein.yu.edu/intranet/around-campus/487/sex-trafficking-a-global-issue/>

A project about the signs of trafficking and how to respond is offered at Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

### **Addressing Human Trafficking in the Health Care Setting: Catholic Health Initiatives and the Massachusetts General Hospital Human Trafficking Initiative**

[www.catholichealthinitiatives.org/addressing-human-trafficking-course/story\\_html5.html](http://www.catholichealthinitiatives.org/addressing-human-trafficking-course/story_html5.html)

This concise web-based course is designed to help health-care providers identify, assess, and respond to suspected victims of human trafficking.

### **Physicians Against the Trafficking of Humans (PATH)**

<https://www.amwa-doc.org/our-work/initiatives/human-trafficking/>

The American Medical Women's Association founded Physicians Against the Trafficking of Humans (PATH) to help educate physicians, residents, and medical students about issues surrounding human trafficking.

**Caring for Trafficked Persons: Guidance for Health Providers: International Organization for Migration, United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Trafficking in Persons, and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine**

[http://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/ct\\_handbook.pdf](http://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/ct_handbook.pdf)

This handbook provides practical, non-clinical guidance to help concerned health providers understand the phenomenon of human trafficking, recognize some of the health problems associated with trafficking, and consider safe and appropriate approaches to providing health care for trafficked persons. It outlines the health provider's role in providing care and describes some of the limitations of his or her responsibility to assist.

**Human Trafficking: Guidebook on Identification, Assessment, and Response in the Health Care Setting: Massachusetts General Hospital Human Trafficking Initiative and the Massachusetts Medical Society**

[www.massmed.org/Patient-Care/Health-Topics/Violence-Prevention-and-Intervention/Human-Trafficking-\(pdf\)](http://www.massmed.org/Patient-Care/Health-Topics/Violence-Prevention-and-Intervention/Human-Trafficking-(pdf))

A guidebook on identification, assessment, and response in the health-care setting.

**National Human Trafficking Resource Center: Polaris Project**

<https://traffickingresourcecenter.org>

In addition to offering services directly to victims of trafficking through offices in Washington, DC and New Jersey and advocating for state and federal policy, the Polaris Project maintains the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, which provides:

**A Comprehensive Human Trafficking Assessment**

<http://traffickingresourcecenter.org/sites/default/files/Comprehensive%20Trafficking%20Assessment.pdf>

**Webinar on Recognizing and Responding to Human Trafficking in a Healthcare Context**

<http://traffickingresourcecenter.org/resources/recognizing-andresponding-human-trafficking-healthcare-context>