

The Need to Include Human Trafficking Simulations in the Medical School Curriculum

Victoria Addis; Christine Hua; Seyjil Turpin; Janice Werbinski, MD

Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine, Kalamazoo, MI

Introduction

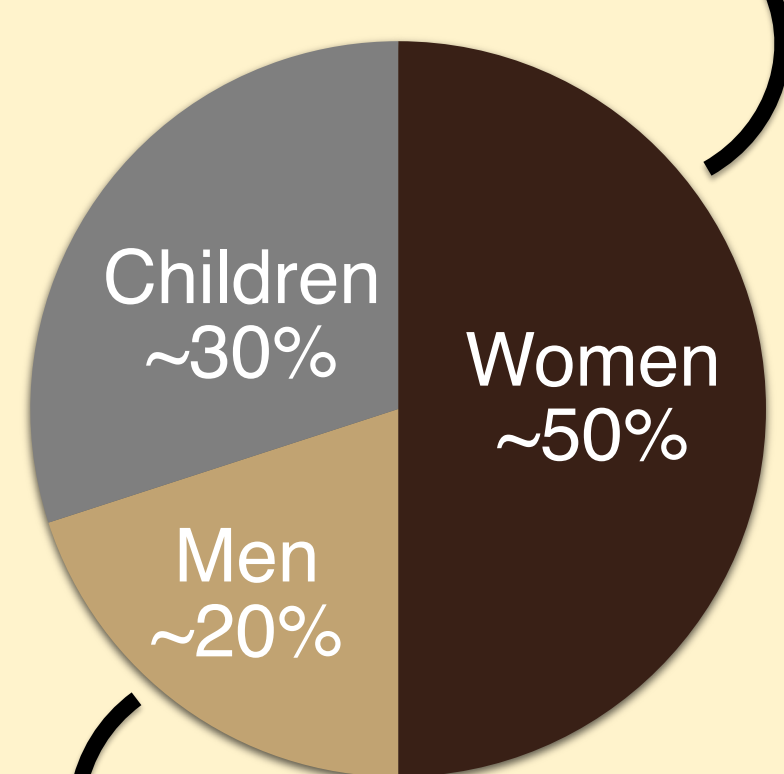
- Human trafficking - a human rights issue often unrecognized by the medical community
- Simulation training can enhance medical education to a greater degree than lecture or reading alone¹
- Many medical curricula reveal a gap: training students to recognize, intervene, and use resources to aid victims of human trafficking

Our pilot test was designed to teach students how to recognize and intervene in the setting of human trafficking by replicating clinical scenarios.

Human Trafficking Statistics

Nearly **40 million** human trafficking victims worldwide²

Likely sex trafficking⁵



30-87% of victims see a physician, but few are identified^{3,4}

Likely labor trafficking⁵

Methods

- **Participants:** 5 medical students (M1/M2)
- **Clinical Simulations:** Three 10 min. cases:
 1. Labor Trafficking
 2. Sex Trafficking
 3. Non-Trafficking
- **Debrief:** 30 min
- **Evaluation:** Post-event MC and open-response survey

To view a sample video of case 2 (1:00), scan this QR code:



Goal 1: Identification of Trafficking Cases



Case 1: Labor Trafficking

- 15 yo M with painful blister from working at restaurant
- Occurred 3 days ago
- No medical insurance
- Mother answers most questions



Case 2: Sex Trafficking

- 19 yo F with lower right abdominal pain
- Lives in hotels
- Asks to pay with cash
- Partner answers most questions



Case 3: Non-Trafficking

- 13 yo F with broken wrist from tripping over curb
- Occurred 1 hr ago
- Uncle babysitting
- Both pt and uncle answer questions

Goal 2: Separation from Caretaker



Different techniques were used for separation

- Collecting urine sample
- Obtaining radiology images
- Performing a physical exam

Goal 3: Analyze and Improve Performance



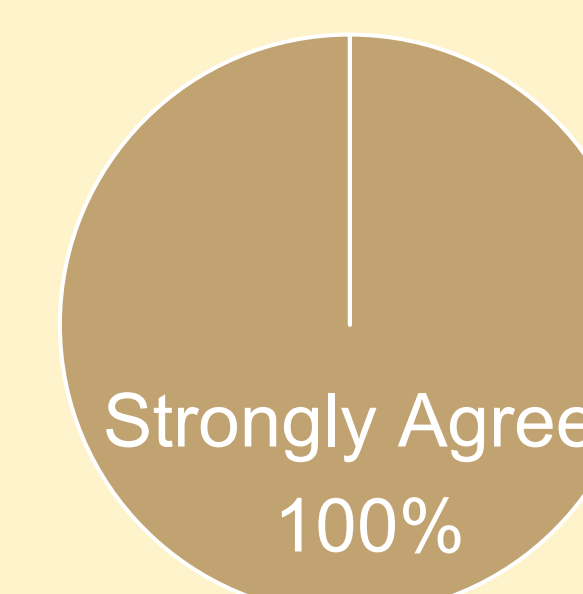
Debrief to address these topics

Survey Results

I think that this event will help me in my future career.



I learned something in this event that our curriculum doesn't cover.



Student Comments

"I wish this were integrated into our curriculum so that we...would be aware of how to recognize these situations."

"I was surprised at how strongly I reacted to the event; it was good preparation for the real thing."

"I enjoyed the hands-on experience this event provided."

"It was a visceral experience of the reality of dealing with a trafficking victim (and their trafficker). It's easy to listen to a lecture of statistics and then go about your day; this event made that impossible."

"It was helpful to practice separating the patient from the person that came with them, especially when the accompanying person was difficult."

Conclusions

- 1 Many students are not prepared to recognize or intervene in the setting of human trafficking
- 2 Sex and gender differences exist in the identification, knowledge, and treatment of victims of trafficking
- 3 The survey responses indicate that medical schools would benefit from integrating human trafficking education and simulation into the curriculum

Future Directions

- This pilot test was limited by the number of students who volunteered to participate and lack of long-term follow up.
- Future studies should include more participants, a control group without this experience, and comparison of resulting knowledge.

For all student comments and references, scan this QR code:



Acknowledgements

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All participants and actors signed a photo and video release form.