A Follow-up for Human Trafficking Training Among Nebraska First Responders

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Abstract

Nebraska (NE) first responders (FRs) face challenges identifying and reporting human trafficking (HT). In Oct. 2017, responses were collected from 255 FRs who participated in a 2-day training related to HT provided by the Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force (NHTTF) and the Salvation Army’s Fight to End Trafficking (SAFE-T) program.

Methods

- From Oct - Nov, 2016, NHTTF held 6 trainings across NE for FRs.
- All FRs who completed the NHTTF training were contacted via email.
- The survey was developed in conjunction with the NHTTF trainer to obtain post-training (6-months) follow-up data on training sustainability and impact.
- Data analysis: Descriptive statistics and qualitative analysis was used.

Discussion

- First responders represent various agencies which have the potential to interface with HT victims.
- 76% of participants reported that they interface with HT victims, with 38.7% reporting that they work with trafficked minors most often.
- The amount of interest for trainings exceeded expectations – leading to an additional session, with every session full.
- This interest indicates that individuals are interested in learning more about human trafficking, how to identify it, and best practices for how they may help in their role.
- After training though, numerous barriers for providing appropriate services to victims of HT still remain.
- Next steps and future research could focus on these identified barriers.

Conclusion

- FRs need to be included in the HT training and dialogue that occurs – inside and outside of academia.
- Rural communities in particular need to work together through FRs in order to limit barriers and provide services to victims of HT.
- Limitation of study: with the aim of evaluating FR training, the pre-training survey should be strengthened in order to evaluate knowledge gained through training.