Human trafficking is an international epidemic, and has been called “modern-day slavery.”

Many victims of human trafficking actually come into contact with health care and social service professionals, presenting a wide range of physical and psychological health issues.

Unfortunately, many remain unidentified. Some research indicates that fewer than 10 percent of doctors actually recognize trafficking victims, and fewer than 3 percent of ER doctors had received training in recognition and action.

More specific educational training is required to identify symptoms of trafficking and to intervene to combat this public health crisis.

Outcomes: the student will be able to:

- Discuss the types/venues for trafficking
- Explain the unique health issues victims may present
- Identify possible symptoms of trafficking and how to identify potential victims while taking a history
- Develop action plans and appropriate steps to take when suspecting that a patient has been trafficked
- Indicate what resources are available locally/regionally/nationally

Requirements for this one-week course:

- Complete a brief pre-course questionnaire
- Maintain a reflective journal
- Review medical literature
- Meet with various agencies in the community
- Outline a project for summarizing, applying, and sharing what they have learned
- Discuss the experience in the end-of-course debriefing session

Enrollment is limited to one student per week to facilitate scheduling meetings with appropriate faculty/clinicians, law enforcement, the district attorney’s office, advocates and service providers.

Availability of the community resources varies.

Each student brought a different perspective, which has greatly enriched the course.

Resources discovered by the students have been added to the syllabus.

REFERENCES:

