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INTRODUCTION

Trafficking: a criminal form of modern slavery involving fraud, coercion, or force to control victims for economic gain.¹

Two forms: **Labor & Sex**

Nationwide, 26.5% of human trafficking survivors report visiting a health care provider but few were discovered. Dental providers can interrupt the cycle of human trafficking, especially since many victims suffer physical injuries to the head and neck, including their teeth and jaws.^{1,2}

TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH

A trauma-informed approach acknowledges the emotional, social, and physical impact of trauma on the individual patient.

PREPARATION: Dental teams complete training and acknowledge their own trauma before offering treatment to victims of human trafficking.

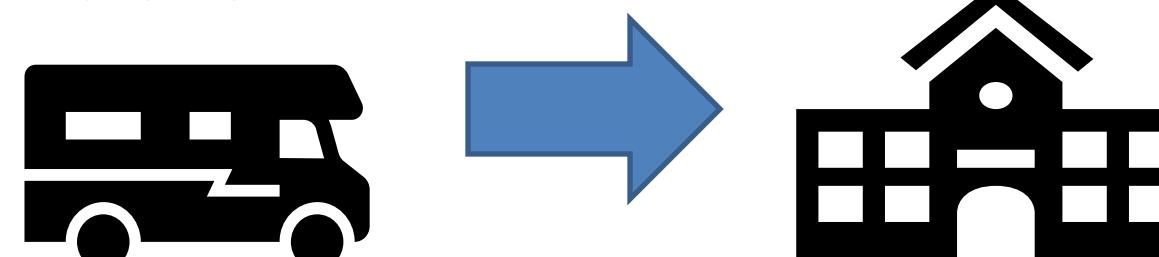
DURING TREATMENT: During the patient's appointment, trauma-informed adaptations are made to standard protocols.

FOLLOW UP: Adjustments and accommodations to patients' follow up care also necessary.³

IMPLEMENTATION

Case Study in Dallas:

1. Faculty visited shelters, treated patients on-site in mobile dental van for 1 year
2. Faculty left contact information for no cost community dental clinics
3. Shelters contacted community clinic, trained staff, and made appointments for clients.



TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE TO KNOWN VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING:

TRAINING OF ALL PROVIDERS



KNOWLEDGE OF STATE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS



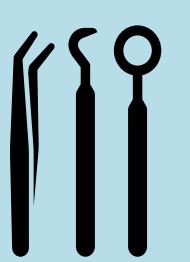
CASE MANAGER FROM SHELTER CALLS CLINIC TO SET AN APPOINTMENT. FRONT DESK FLAGS CHART WITH A UNIQUE IDENTIFIER ONLY KNOWN BY FACULTY AND STAFF.



PATIENT ARRIVES WITH TRANSLATOR.
ASSESSMENTS PERFORMED BY STAFF (DEPRESSION, SUBSTANCE USE, CARIOS)
PATIENT IS GENERALLY MOST COMFORTABLE WITH DENTAL STAFF



PROVIDER PERFORMS EXAM-ASKS PERMISSION EVERY STEP,
DOCUMENTS FINDINGS AND
INVOLVES PATIENT IN TREATMENT DECISIONS



EMERGENCY TREATMENT IS PRIORITIZED.
DENTAL HOME AND ACCESS TO CARE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED.
PATIENT CAN RETURN FOR COMPREHENSIVE CARE SO THEY CAN TRANSITION BACK TO SOCIETY.



CONCLUSIONS

Results from Dallas, Texas show that providing trauma-informed dentistry increases the quality of both treatment and patient outcomes.

Dental treatment is part of the recovery process from trafficking experiences.

Dental teams are uniquely positioned to support trafficking victims. Effective, trauma-informed dental care can help victims transition into society, find work, and ultimately free themselves from their perpetrators.³

Though many states require provider training in trafficking topics, better translation of what trauma-informed approaches to dentistry look like in practice can benefit dental teams and patients.⁴

KEYWORDS

Access to Care
Abuse/Neglect
Trauma

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

North Dallas Shared Ministries, for creating a safe place for victims of trafficking. Ms. Cheryl Howell, Librarian, Baylor Health Sciences Library.