



## Letter to the Editor

# Response to “Policy brief on the nursing response to human trafficking”

Dr. Marion Broome,

I read with interest the article entitled, “Policy Brief on the Nursing Response to Human Trafficking” published in volume 66, issue 4 of *Nursing Outlook*. I am an Emergency Department nurse in a very busy city that sees approximately 300 patients per day. I feel if healthcare professionals received adequate training in properly identifying victims of human trafficking, we could respond to this public health emergency. This article highlights the strides that healthcare has made in order to advocate for these victims. The *Journal of Emergency Nursing* reports that 87 percent of sex trafficking victims receive healthcare while in captivity. If nurses screened patients for trafficking, identification of these victims would greatly improve. Nurses in emergency departments, clinics, and other patient care settings could benefit from yearly training courses taught by Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners. These certified nurses have a higher level of understanding in this area and could educate nurses on identifying the signs that a patient is a victim of sexual assault, the specific care that they need, and how to help direct them toward freedom. According to the *Florida Nurses Association*, “Nurses have the ability to connect victims to resources” (Hays, 2018). I am hopeful that articles like these will spotlight the importance of training healthcare professionals on the identification and proper treatment of human trafficking victims.

## Supplementary materials

Supplementary material associated with this article can be found in the online version at [doi:10.1016/j.outlook.2019.02.013](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.outlook.2019.02.013).

## REFERENCES

- Hays, S. (2018). Florida Ranks Third in the Nation for Human Trafficking. *Florida Nurse*, 66(1), p. 9. EBSCO-host, [ezproxy.fau.edu/login?url=http://search.ebsco-host.com/login.aspx?direct=true&AuthType=ip,cookie,url,uid&db=rzh&AN=128382512&site=eds-live&scope=site](http://ezproxy.fau.edu/login?url=http://search.ebsco-host.com/login.aspx?direct=true&AuthType=ip,cookie,url,uid&db=rzh&AN=128382512&site=eds-live&scope=site).

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