

BACKGROUND

Human trafficking encompasses multiple forms of exploitation, with sex and labor trafficking most prevalent in Las Vegas. In addition, Las Vegas has been ranked second nationally for reported cases when adjusted for population density in 2017. Despite an estimated 88% of victims accessing healthcare while being trafficked, many remain unidentified. Recognizing this opportunity for intervention, University Medical Center of Southern Nevada established a multidisciplinary human trafficking taskforce in 2022 to improve the identification, support, and care of potential trafficking victims.

PURPOSE

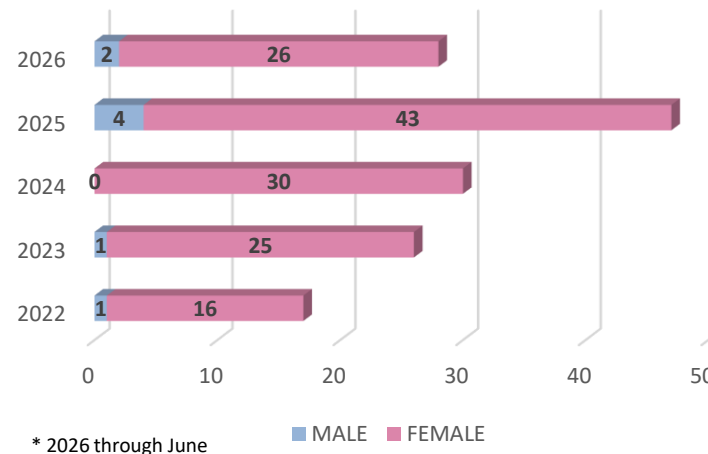
Our purpose was to determine if implementation of a hospital wide training program would lead to a statistically significant increase in the electron health record (EHR) "FYI" flags and social service consultations for potential trafficking victims. Key objectives were to :

1. Determine the number of FYI flags placed for human trafficking over 4 years.
2. Determine the number of social service consults placed for human trafficking over 4 years.
3. Evaluate the identified charts to determine age and gender of victims identified.
4. Evaluate if the victims identified were offered and accepted resources available.
5. Evaluate the compliance with the screening tool implemented for use by social workers.
6. Evaluate final disposition of victims discharged from the hospital.

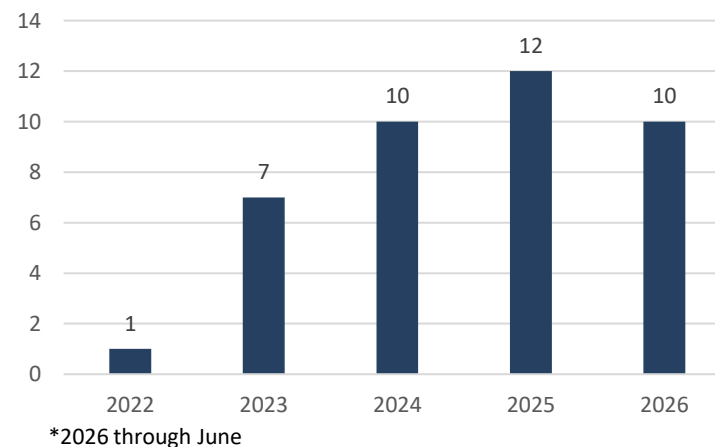
METHODS

After obtaining IRB approval, we began a retrospective review of charts that had either a "FYI" flag or a social service consult order placed for concern of human trafficking. The study began in March 2026 and looked at charts from January 2022 through July 2026. A total of 145 charts were identified and reviewed. Urgent Care encounters were excluded as the visit notes could not be accessed properly for evaluation. There were three charts that were excluded because the social work order was cancelled and there was no other documentation in the chart regarding trafficking. We believe these consults were placed in error.

Human Trafficking Cases by Year and Sex



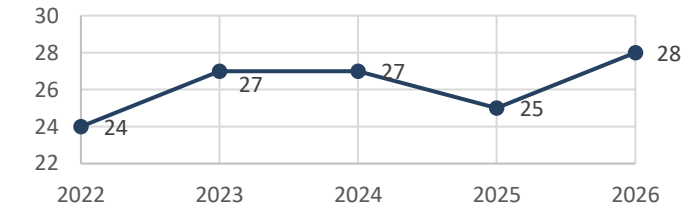
Confirmed Human Trafficking Cases by Year



RESULTS

Since 2022, we have identified 72 suspected victims of human trafficking presenting at our hospital, including 4 males and 68 females. The mean age of the victims identified was 27 ranging from 13 to 58. Of the potential victims identified, 56% of them confirmed they were being trafficked and they accepted resources 67% of the time. In 45% of cases patients denied being trafficked. However, documentation remained concerning either by positive screens on the validated screening tool, or direct statements made by the patient. Of those who were identified as high risk, they received resources 78% of the time. For all suspected victims, the most common disposition was home/self care followed by discharged to shelter and lastly transfer to inpatient Psychiatry. Less common dispositions included: CPS, law enforcement, and transfer to acute rehab or skilled nursing facility. We did not anticipate the high number of disposition to inpatient Psychiatry which was 15% for our confirmed victims and 9% for our suspected/high risk population.

Average Age of Potential Victims by Year



CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, mandatory hospital wide education and training has helped us to identify 40 victims of human trafficking and an additional 32 high risk/potential victims over the past four years. Furthermore, the integration of specialized tools within the electronic medical record-such as FYI flags, specific social work consult orders, and validated screening tools-has optimized our victim identification. Following the implementation of these resources, data demonstrate a year-over-year increase in the detection of human trafficking victims.

REFERENCES VIA QR CODE

