



Human Trafficking and its Implications for Health Care Providers (HCPs)

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Purpose

The purpose of this project is to improve the knowledge and understanding of HCPs in relation to detection, care, and management of the victims of human trafficking.



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Background

- Human trafficking is a crime that involves the exploitation of an individual for the purposes of forced labor or a sex act through use of fraud or coercion (National Human Trafficking Hotline, 2021)
- Up to 87% of trafficking victims seek health care but are not identified or offered assistance by HCPs (Hachey & Phillippi, 2017)
- The International Labour Office (ILO) has estimated that 40.3 million people are victims of human trafficking globally, meaning one in every thousand people are victimized (Marburg & Pickover, 2020)
- Between 14,500 and 17,500 victims are trafficked into the United States annually (Hachey & Phillippi, 2017)



Methods/Framework

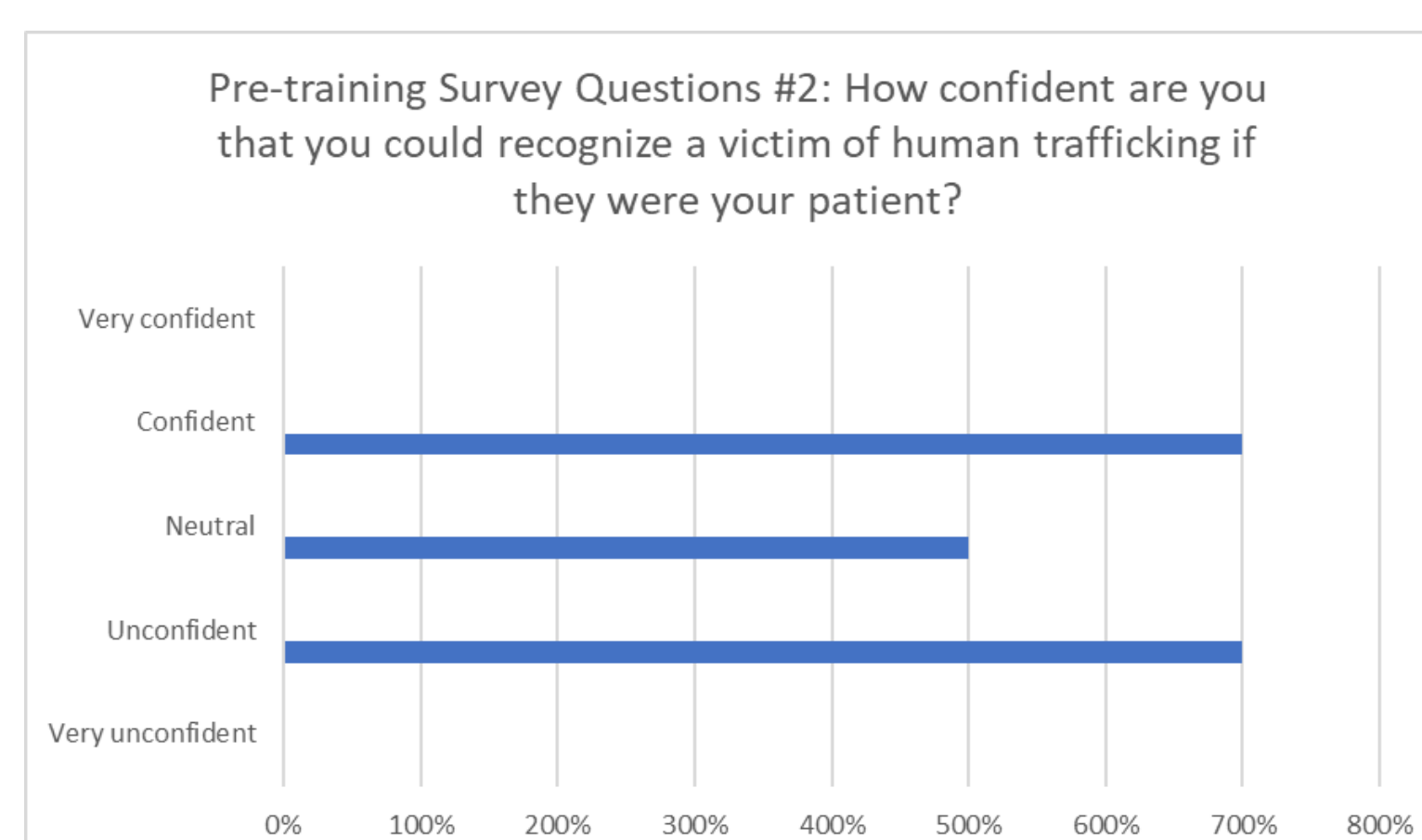
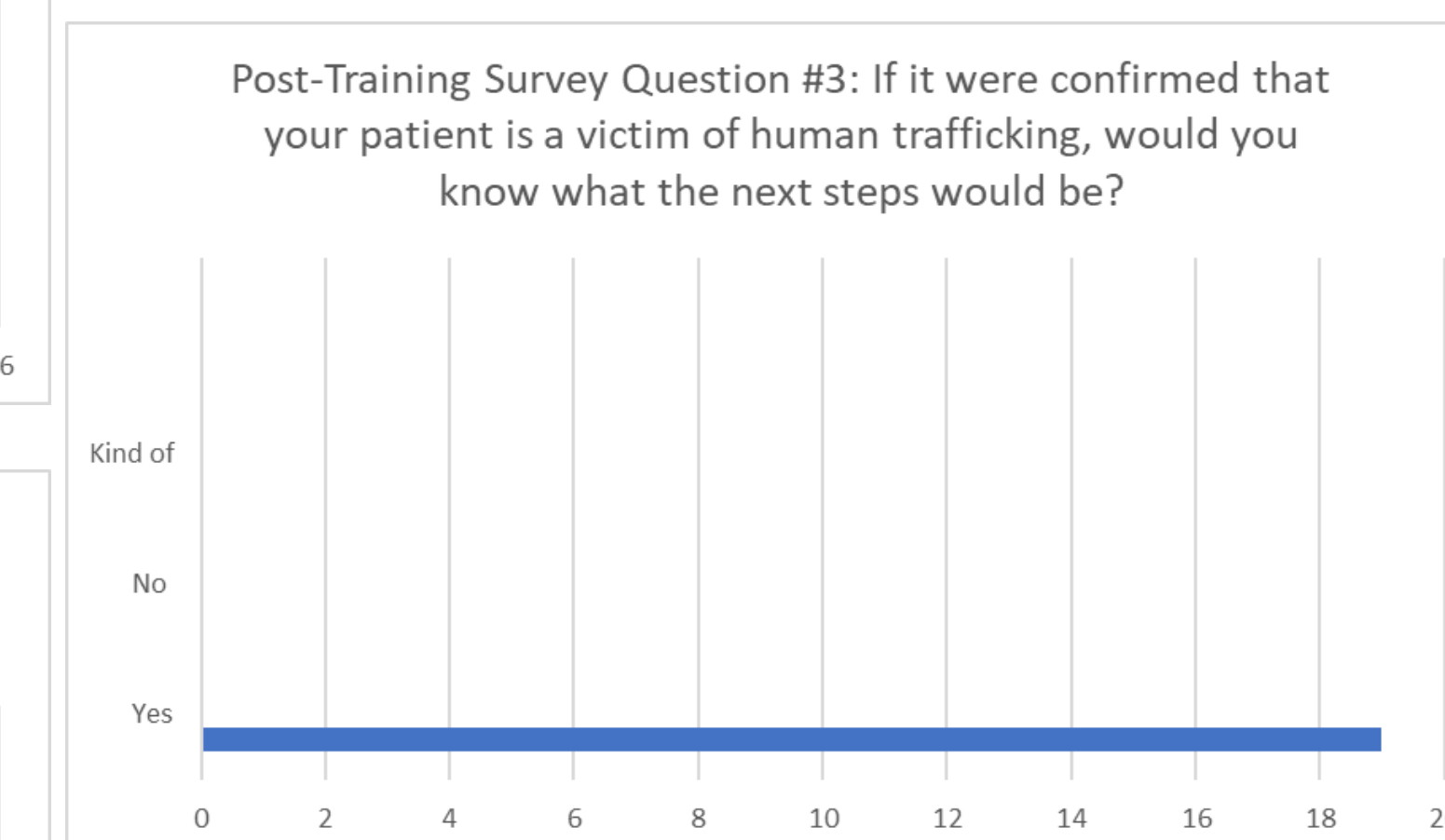
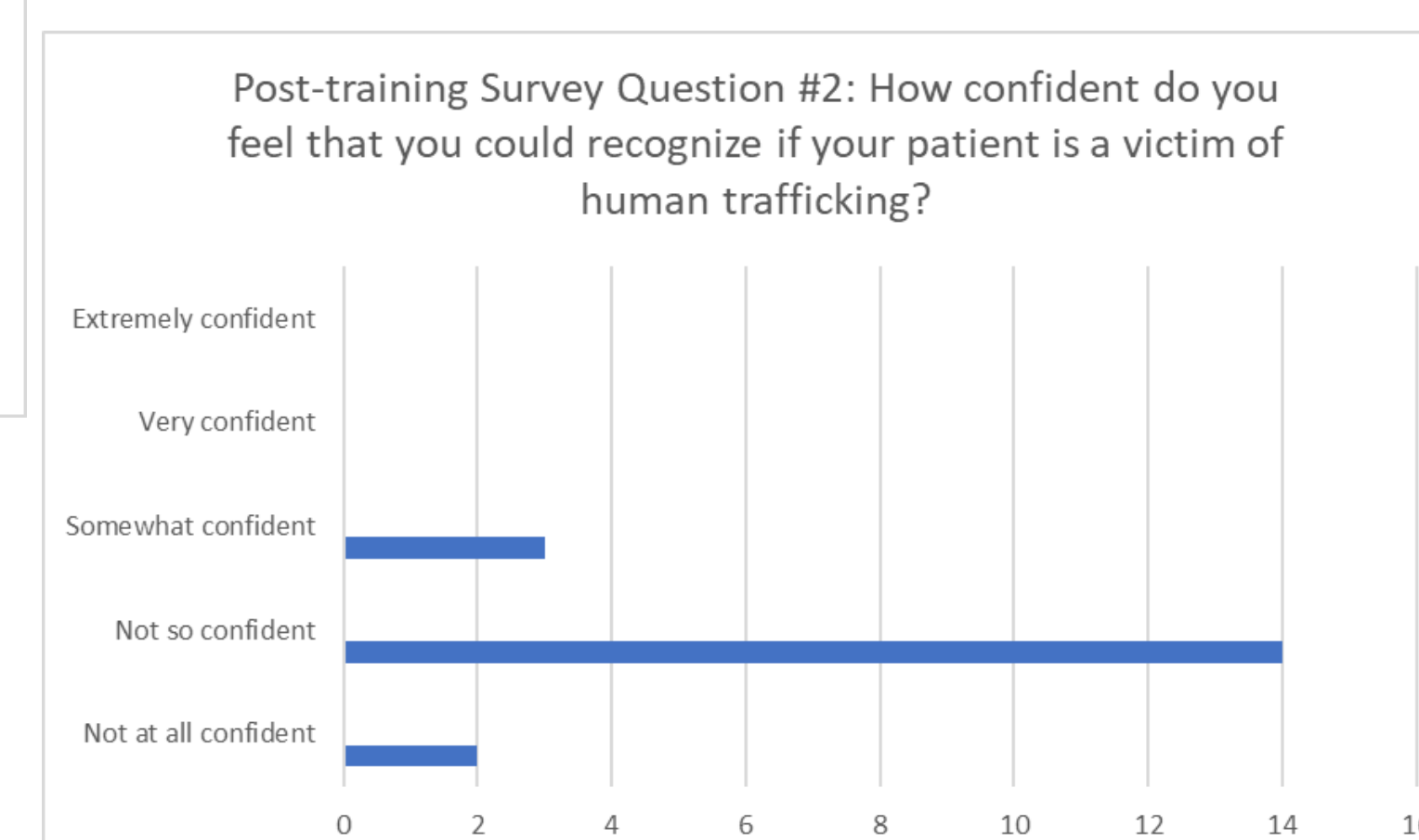
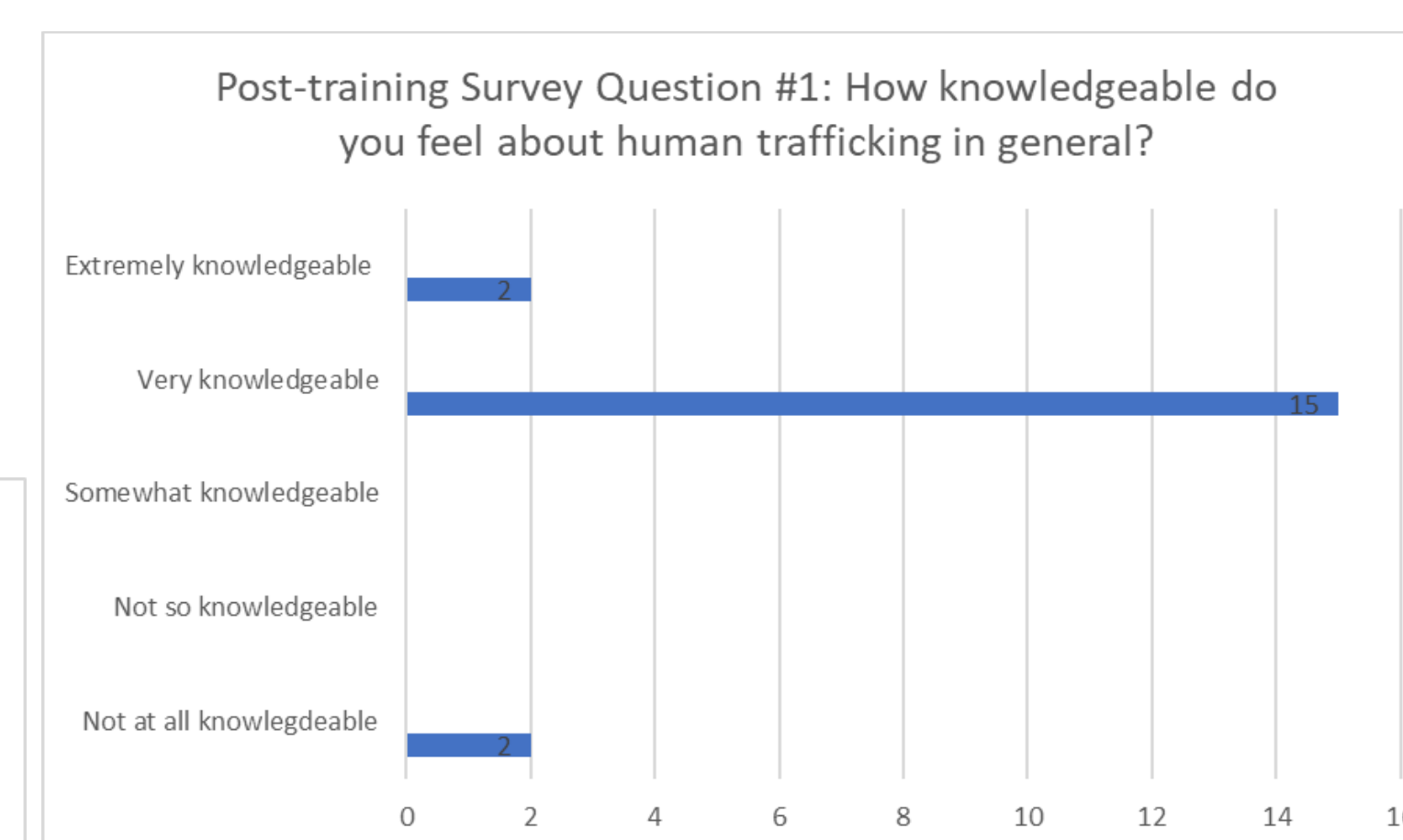
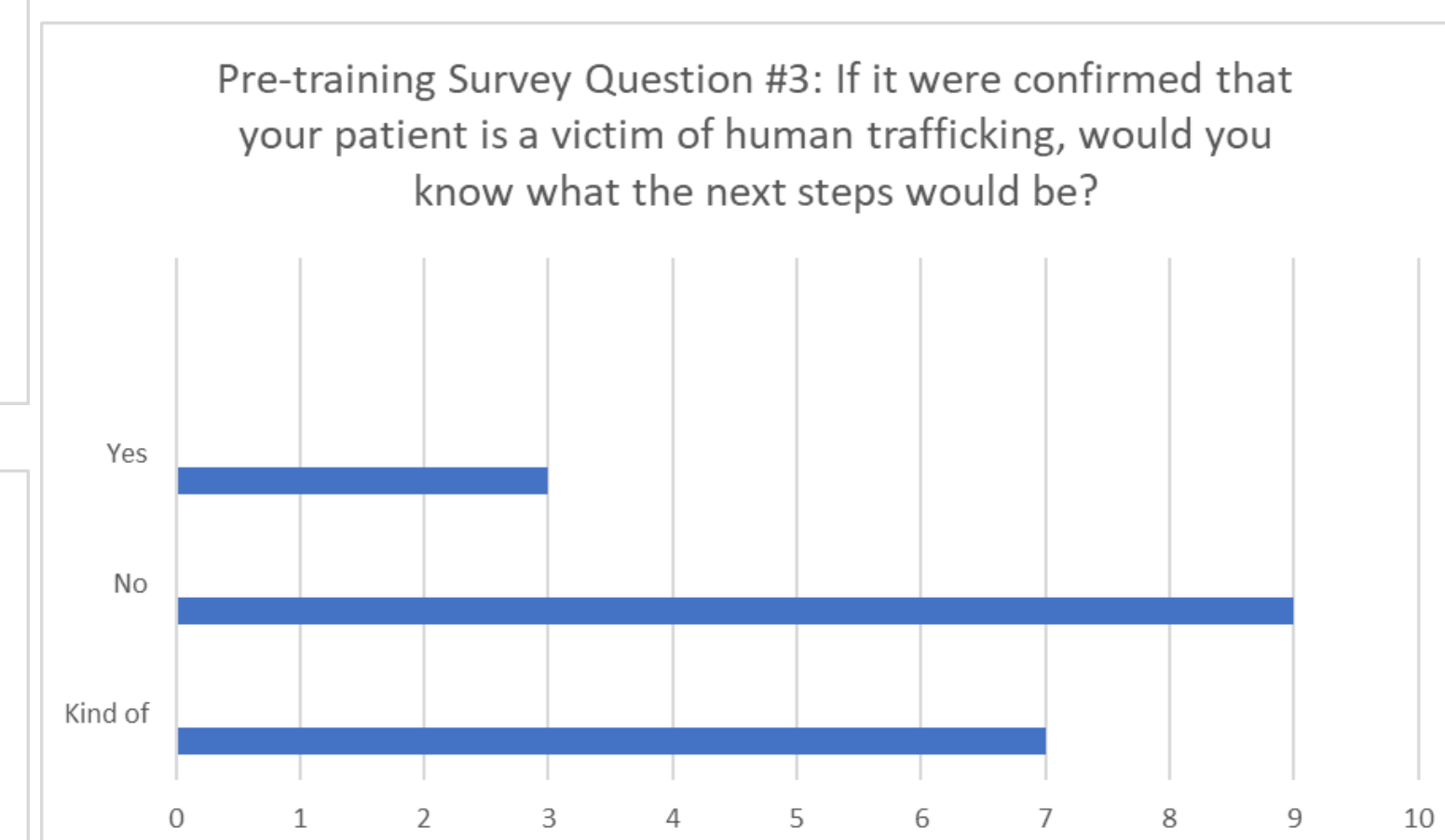
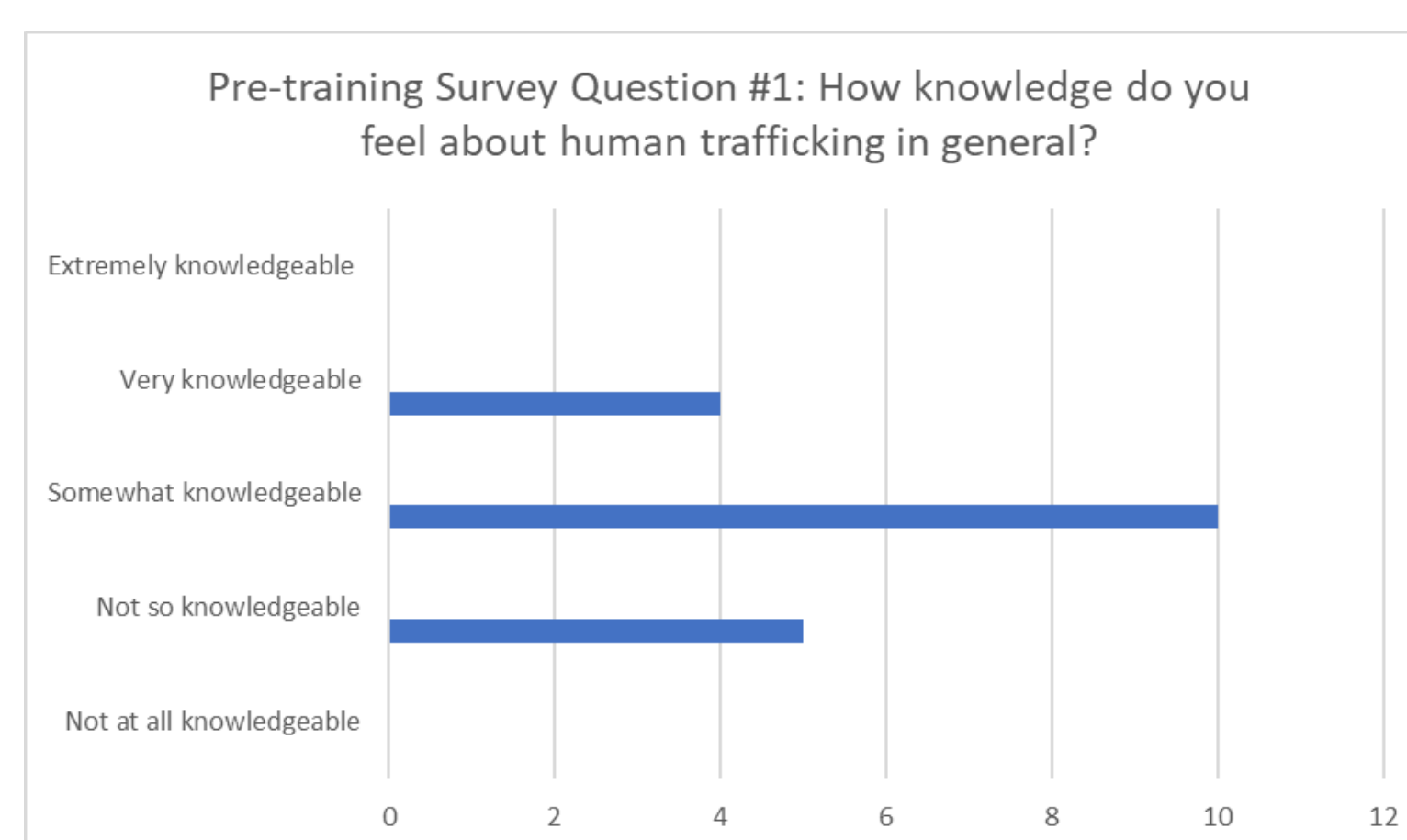
- A PowerPoint training module was provided to each participant
- The training module provided information about human trafficking including background and statistics, patient presentation, response protocols, and resources and guidelines for care of the victim
- Pre- and post-training module surveys were completed by each participant to evaluate the efficacy of the training and perceived increase in knowledge and competency relative to recognition and care of human trafficking victims

Relevance to Nursing

HCPs have a duty to protect and advocate for their patients. With the increasing rate of human trafficking, the need to address the issue is more critical than ever before. The implications are vast for further education and professional development of HCPs regarding the recognition and care of victims of human trafficking in the health care setting.

Outcomes & Conclusions

Nineteen HCPs participated in the study. The following graphs illustrate their responses to the pre- and post-training surveys. The findings of this study show that there is a substantial knowledge gap amongst HCPs relative to the recognition and care management of human trafficking victims.



References

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