



CORE COMPETENCIES FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESPONSE IN HEALTH CARE AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEMS



- **UNIVERSAL COMPETENCY TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH** Use a trauma- and survivor-informed, culturally responsive approach

- **COMPETENCY 1 NATURE AND EPIDEMIOLOGY** Understand the nature and epidemiology of trafficking.

- **COMPETENCY 2 RISK** Evaluate and identify the risk of trafficking.

- **COMPETENCY 3 NEEDS EVALUATION** Evaluate the needs of individuals who have experienced trafficking or individuals who are at risk of trafficking.

- **COMPETENCY 4 PATIENT-CENTERED CARE** Provide patient-centered care.

- **COMPETENCY 5 LEGAL/ETHICAL STANDARDS** Use legal and ethical standards.

- **COMPETENCY 6 PREVENTION** Integrate trafficking prevention strategies into clinical practice and systems of care.

Human trafficking cases may be encountered in all health care and behavioral health settings, including private, general, outpatient, and specialist practices (e.g., pediatrician, endocrinologist, substance use). Individuals who have experienced trafficking seek not only emergency medical care but also care for long-term health issues. For this reason, all health care and behavioral health practitioners should be prepared to identify and respond to individuals who have experienced trafficking.

DISCLOSURE IS NOT THE GOAL.

PREVENTION SHOULD BE PART OF ANY PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGY TO ADDRESS HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

Trauma-informed care involves recognizing that any person could have experienced trauma and this could be impacting their current decisions, actions and health behaviors. With this recognition, providers practicing a trauma-informed approach assess for stress/trauma *without the goal of explicit disclosure*, actively try not to re-traumatize patients, and educate and empower patients to build resiliency and mitigate the health effects of trauma.

CONTACT NHTTAC FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE | 844-648-8822 | info@nhttac.org | nhttac.acf.hhs.gov

