



Health Education, Advocacy, Linkage  
*Because Human Trafficking is a Public Health Issue*  
HEALTrafficking.org  
PO Box 31602 Los Angeles, CA 90031

HEAL Trafficking submits this information in response to the “Request for Information for the 2018 Trafficking in Persons Report”, Public Notice: 10237, Federal Register, Vol. 82, No. 246, December 26, 2017.

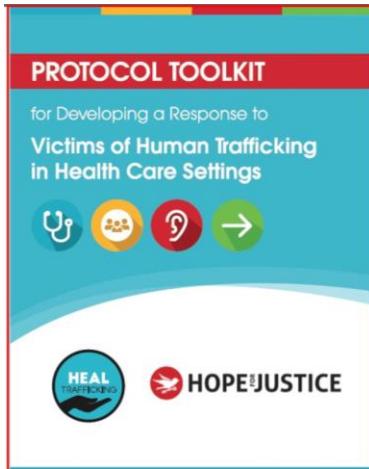
Founded in the fall of 2013, HEAL Trafficking is a united group of multidisciplinary professionals dedicated to ending human trafficking and supporting its survivors, from a public health perspective. HEAL Trafficking is a network of over 1500 professionals, including physicians, advanced practice clinicians, nurses, dentists, psychologists, counselors, public health workers, health educators, researchers, social workers, attorneys, administrators, and other professionals who work with and advocate for survivors of human trafficking. HEAL Trafficking works to mobilize a shift in the anti-trafficking paradigm toward approaches rooted in public health principles and trauma-informed care by expanding the evidence base; enhancing collaboration among multidisciplinary stakeholders; educating the broader anti-trafficking, public health, and health care communities; and advocating for policies and funding streams that enhance the public health response to trafficking and support survivors. HEAL Trafficking engages in work that combats all forms of human trafficking; supports trafficked people of all genders, ages, races/ethnicities, religions, origins, cultures, and sexual orientations; believes all trafficked persons deserve access to a full range of health care including medical, mental/behavioral health, reproductive health, dental, and substance use disorder treatment services; approaches human trafficking from a public health perspective that incorporates a socio-ecological framework and prevention strategies; and promotes a survivor-centered, trauma-informed, evidence-based, practice-based approach to anti-trafficking efforts.

HEAL Trafficking believes that efforts to eliminate trafficking in persons must incorporate a public health perspective. To support efforts in the United States to eliminate severe forms of trafficking in persons, during the period April 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018, HEAL Trafficking has engaged in numerous activities focused on prevention of trafficking and support of trafficking survivors from a public health perspective. Two key activities of HEAL Trafficking during this period are:

- the development and dissemination of a **“Protocol Toolkit for Developing a Response to Victims of Human Trafficking in Health Care Settings;”** and
- publication of a set of recommendations for **“Public Health Research Priorities to Address US Human Trafficking.”**



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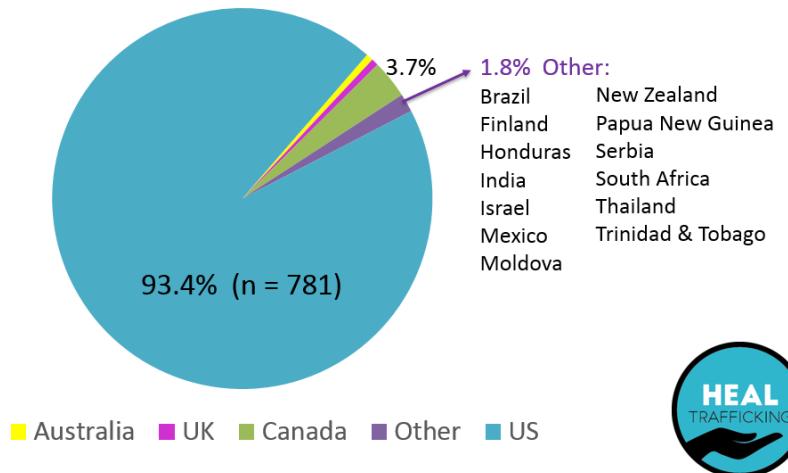
The HEAL Trafficking and Hope for Justice “Protocol Toolkit for Developing a Response to Victims of Human Trafficking in Health Care Settings” is a systems toolkit designed to help professionals working in health care settings such as emergency departments, hospitals, clinics, private offices, or school based health centers develop a protocol to respond to potential victims of human trafficking who present to their facility. The toolkit presents an ambitious, comprehensive approach to protocol development, portions of which may be adopted for particular contexts based on capacity. The document is based on existing guidelines and recommendations from experts in this field.

The toolkit serves to mobilize an interdisciplinary response to human trafficking that respects patient autonomy. While ultimately HEAL Trafficking hopes that the implementation of anti-trafficking protocols at the local level will enable the identification of victims of labor and sex trafficking so that they may be brought to safety, the goal of protocol implementation in health care settings is not to foster disclosure by trafficked persons. Rather, we aim to guide health care facilities through the process of creating safe procedures and spaces where professionals can provide exploited adults and minors not only the health services they need, but also education about their options and empowerment to seek assistance. The toolkit was distributed to 781 individuals across 48 United States (see graphics below) in various health settings, from emergency to labor and delivery departments.

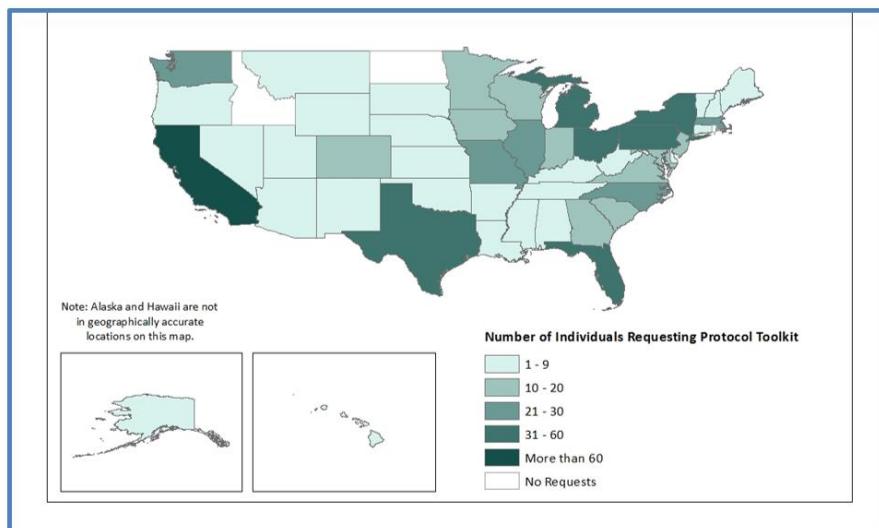


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## Geographic Distribution of Toolkit Requesters by Country



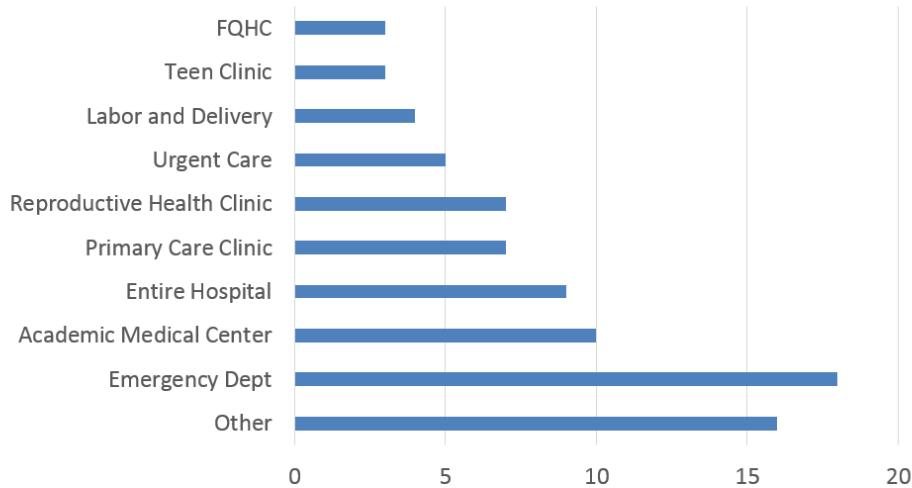
## Requests for HEAL Toolkit by US State





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## Settings where Toolkit Used for Protocol Development, Implementation, Improvement



The HEAL Trafficking Research Committee developed a set of recommendations for research on human trafficking in the United States from a public health perspective. These recommendations were published in 2017 in: Rothman, E., et al. (2017). Public health research priorities to address US human trafficking. American Journal of Public Health, 107(7): 1045-1047.



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### Public Health Research Priorities to Address US Human Trafficking

Emily F. Rothman ScD, Hanni Stoklosa MD, MPH, Susie B. Baldwin MD, MPH, Makini Chisolm-Straker MD, MPH, Rumi Kato Price PhD, MPE, and Holly G. Atkinson MD, on Behalf of HEAL Trafficking

A public health approach to human trafficking involves estimating the size of the problem; identifying risk and protective factors for victimization, perpetration, survival,



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and resilience across multiple levels of the social ecology; and developing evidence-based strategies to improve victim health. On the basis of this framework, and the existing evidence about early stage human trafficking prevention efforts, the HEAL Trafficking Research Committee developed a “Proposed Agenda for Public Health Research on Human Trafficking” that includes five research priorities that should be accomplished over the next decade. These five priorities are: 1. Determine the prevalence and incidence of human trafficking with better precision; 2. Estimate the cost burden of human trafficking; 3. Identify risk and protective factors for human trafficking victimization, perpetration, survival and resilience; 4. Investigate effectiveness of healthcare screening and response protocols; and 5. Implement and evaluate human trafficking prevention strategies.

HEAL Trafficking believes that implementing protocols in health care settings and conducting rigorous research from a public health perspective can make a major contribution to the elimination of trafficking in persons.

Please let me know if you have any questions, clarifications, or require additional information about HEAL’s work in the public health response to trafficking.

Respectfully submitted,

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