

A Pilot Study Comparing Educational Modalities on Sex Trafficking Education in Medical School

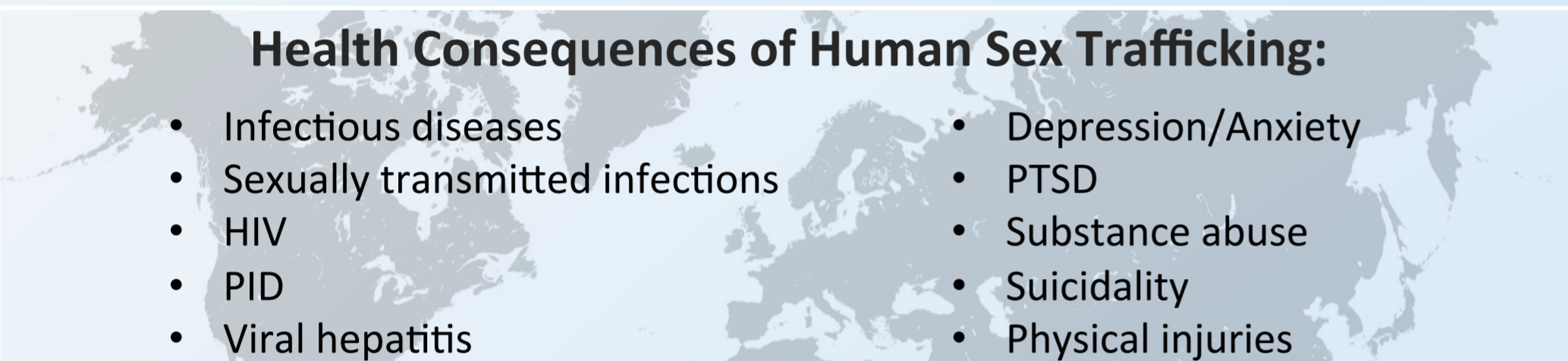
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BACKGROUND

- According to the International Labor Organization, **20.9 million people** are victims of forced labor worldwide.
- Among those victims, **4.5 million are victims of forced sexual exploitation.**
- Human trafficking occurs in all 50 US states and 124 countries around the world.
- In NYC alone, **75%** of sampled adolescent trafficking victims had **visited a medical provider in the past 6 months.**

Health Consequences of Human Sex Trafficking:

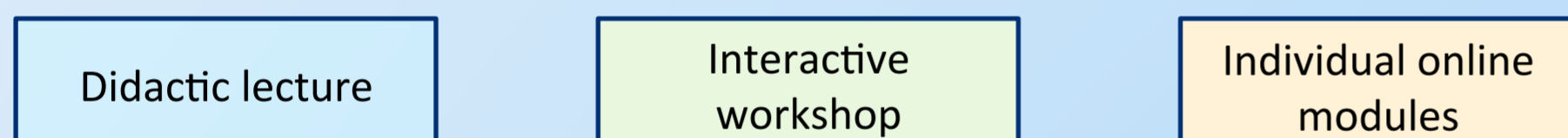


- Infectious diseases
- Sexually transmitted infections
- HIV
- PID
- Viral hepatitis
- Depression/Anxiety
- PTSD
- Substance abuse
- Suicidality
- Physical injuries

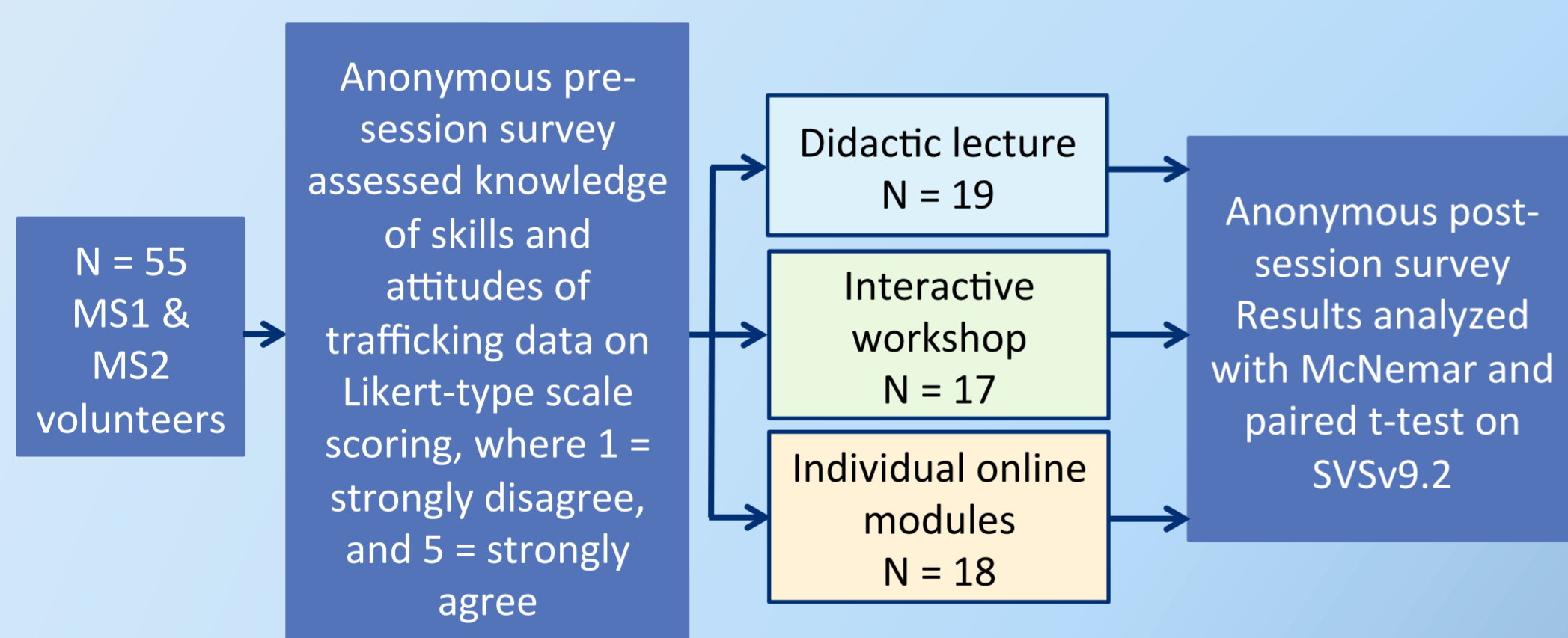
- **Training in identifying victims of sex trafficking and strategies for helping victims increases healthcare providers' knowledge of skills and confidence.**

OBJECTIVES

- Assess attitudes regarding sex trafficking in medical education and the role of healthcare professionals
- Assess knowledge of data and skills regarding trafficking victims
- Increase student confidence and knowledge of skills in interviewing and identifying trafficking victims
- Assess effectiveness of three educational modalities:



METHODS



RESULTS

Table 1.

| Question | Group | Mean | Std. Dev. | P-value |
|---|-------|------|-----------|---------|
| Aware of issues of sex trafficking and its victims | L | 1.42 | 1.35 | 0.0002 |
| | W | 1.35 | 1 | <.0001 |
| | I | 1.21 | 0.63 | <.0001 |
| Know warning signs of victims of sex trafficking | L | 2.37 | 0.9 | <.0001 |
| | W | 2.17 | 0.88 | <.0001 |
| | I | 1.84 | 0.9 | <.0001 |
| Know of specific health issues of trafficking victims | L | 2.05 | 0.71 | <.0001 |
| | W | 1.64 | 0.86 | <.0001 |
| | I | 1.26 | 1.05 | <.0001 |
| Know how to screen suspected victims | L | 1.89 | 1 | <.0001 |
| | W | 2.24 | 0.66 | <.0001 |
| | I | 2 | 0.82 | <.0001 |
| Feel confident intervening with pts. who are trafficked | L | 2 | 0.82 | <.0001 |
| | W | 1.47 | 1 | <.0001 |
| | I | 1.26 | 1 | <.0001 |
| Comfort talking with trafficked pts. | L | 1.36 | 0.01 | <.0001 |
| | W | 1.41 | 71 | <.0001 |
| | I | 1.11 | 1.05 | 0.0002 |
| Knowledge of safety resources and techniques | L | 2.11 | 1.1 | <.0001 |
| | W | 2.17 | 0.95 | <.0001 |
| | I | 2.26 | 0.73 | <.0001 |

Table 1 & 2. Questions and analysis assessing confidence and knowledge of skills by modality: L = Lecture, W = Workshop, I = Individual

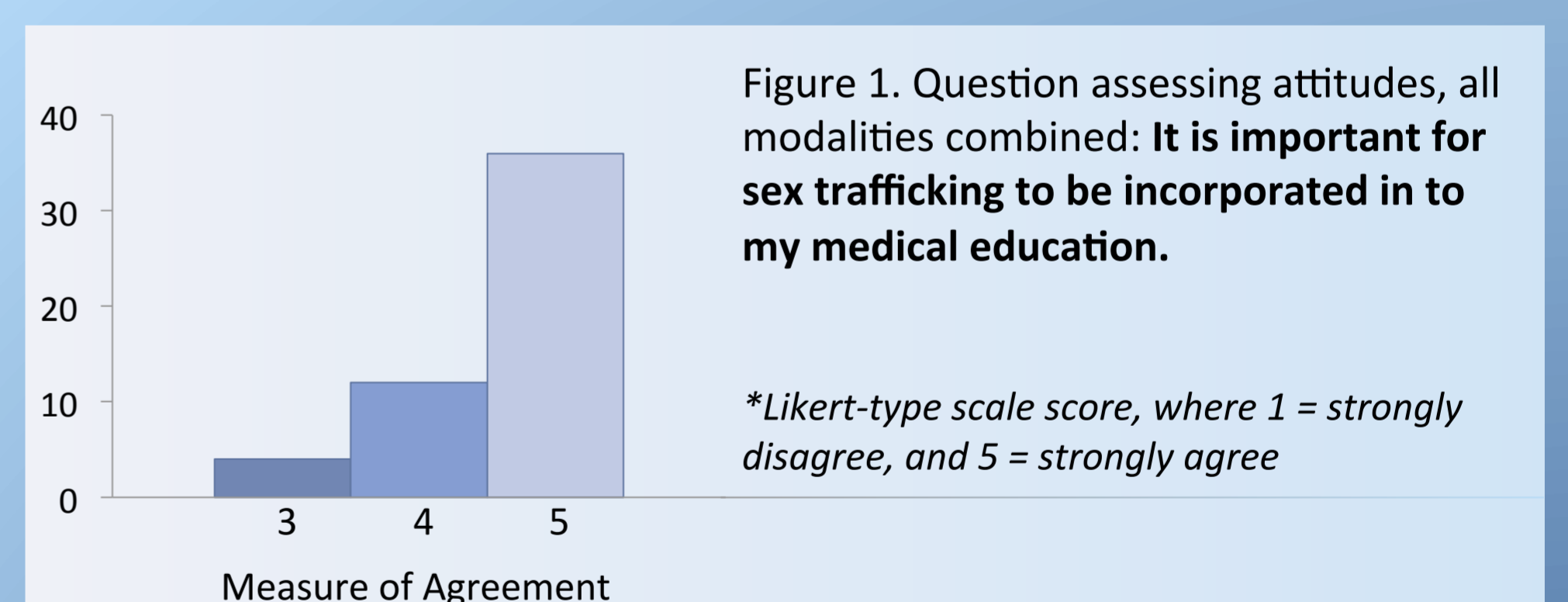
*Likert-type scale score, where 1 = strongly disagree, and 5 = strongly agree

Table 2.

| Lecture | | |
|------------|-----------|---------|
| Mean | Std. Dev. | P-Value |
| 1.89 | 0.67 | <.0001 |
| Workshop | | |
| Mean | Std. Dev. | P-Value |
| 1.78 | 0.5 | <.0001 |
| Individual | | |
| Mean | Std. Dev. | P-Value |
| 1.56 | 0.58 | <.0001 |

| Question | Pre % correct | Post % correct | P-value |
|---|---------------|----------------|---------|
| Median age female victims enter trafficking | 52.73 | 92.73 | <0.0001 |
| Geography/epidemiology of trafficking | 64.15 | 88.68 | <0.0001 |
| Trafficking victims' clinical presentation | 50.00 | 90.38 | <0.0001 |
| Most victims enter trafficking via kidnapping (T/F) | 70.00 | 86.00 | 0.0209 |

Table 3. Questions assessing knowledge of data: all modalities combined



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CONCLUSIONS

- First study to evaluate different educational modalities for effectiveness in increasing medical student awareness and preparedness to interview and identify victims of sex trafficking
- **All modalities demonstrated consistent improvement in medical students' knowledge of specific skills:**
 - Quantitative improvement was similar between all three modalities
 - Largest improvement demonstrated in question regarding specific safety resources and techniques for protecting trafficking victims
- Less consistent improvement demonstrated in questions about attitudes and knowledge of data about trafficking
- **Students participating in all three modalities believed that sex trafficking should be incorporated in medical school curriculum**
- Significant improvement from this limited educational experience demonstrates the potential for comprehensive curricular integration
- Small sample size limits our ability to define the best modality in this study
- While our objective was to show there would be a difference among different educational modalities, future research is necessary to determine which modality is most effective
- **This pilot study demonstrates the need for future studies to further explore the optimal modality and format for sex trafficking education in medical school**