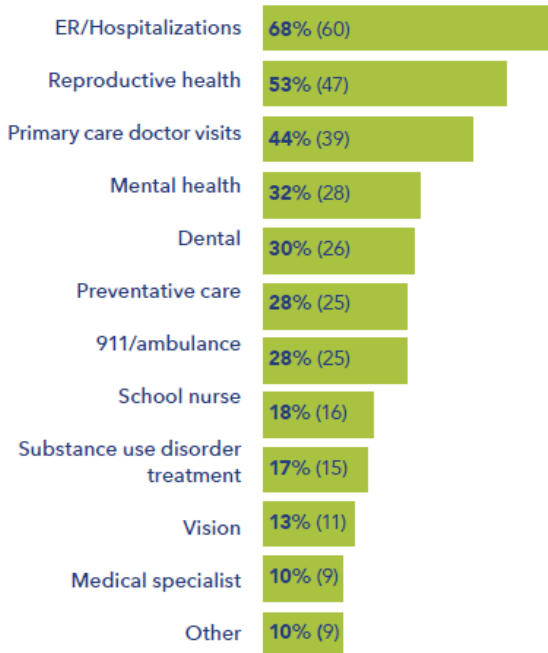


# HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE HEALTHCARE SETTING

Survivors of sex and labor trafficking come into contact with a variety of healthcare settings more frequently than professionals think, but they are rarely identified.

**Figure 6.8: Types of Health Services Accessed by Victims During their Trafficking**  
Polaris Survivor Survey (n=88)



Data is non-cumulative. Survey participants could select multiple options.

Polaris. (2018). On-Ramps, Intersections, and Exit Routes: A Roadmap for Systems and Industries to Prevent and Disrupt Human Trafficking.

## Interactions with the Health Care Industry

In a 2017 Polaris survey of 127 sex and labor trafficking survivors, **69%** of respondents interviewed by Polaris reported having had access to health services at some time during their exploitation.

**85%** said they had received treatment for an illness or injury directly related to their work or exploitation.

## Need to Improve Identification

Only **6%** of healthcare workers report treating a victim of human trafficking at some point in their career.

## Barriers to Disclosure

**70%** of patients never disclosed sex trade involvement to their medical providers for fear of discrimination or diminished health care. Labor trafficking survivors experience similar barriers for fear of deportation or employment retaliation.

## New ICD-10-CM Codes for Human Trafficking Abuse

Without proper codes, there was previously no way for clinicians to adequately classify a diagnosis and to plan for the resources necessary to provide appropriate treatment. This also prevented critical tracking of the incidence of human trafficking in the healthcare setting.

In June 2018, the CDC’s National Center for Health Statistics released a total of 29 new codes to classify human trafficking abuse. These codes will be effective for the 2019 fiscal year (October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019).

Visit the AHA’s Combatting Human Trafficking webpage for more information at <https://www.aha.org/combating-human-trafficking>.