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# Amount of Knowledge about Sex Trafficking in the United States among Valparaiso University Students

Taylor Fuller

Valparaiso University, [taylor.fuller@valpo.edu](mailto:taylor.fuller@valpo.edu)

Abigail Matter

Valparaiso University

Alyssa Kasper

Valparaiso University

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## **Amount of Knowledge about Sex Trafficking in the United States among Valparaiso University Students**

Taylor Fuller, Abigail Matter, Alyssa Kasper

*Departmental Affiliation:* Social Work  
College of Arts and Sciences

This research proposal will address awareness among students, concentrating on males, at Valparaiso University. Little research has been conducted on awareness alone, let alone awareness of college students. Therefore, this research will be filling a gap. It's important for low awareness levels to increase because awareness is the first step toward change. The researchers will develop an online survey to be administered to a sample of the students attending Valparaiso University to gauge their awareness. After the results are collected, they will be analyzed, and reported upon. Sex trafficking is a major problem for the United States. Finding out college students' awareness will help identify how much the educated future generation knows about sex trafficking so that they will be able to combat it. Education is key. This study will be useful for nonprofit and government organizations seeking to educate the general population about sex trafficking. This study will show whether men or women know more about sex trafficking and at what year in college they know more and less. The study can pinpoint the at risk groups who are the most unaware and target them specifically.

### *Information about the Authors:*

All three presenters are junior-level social work majors. Alyssa Kasper has done many presentations about sex trafficking as well as completed the Freedom Climb to raise awareness. She currently interns at The Caring Place in Valparaiso. She became interested after seeing a presentation on the topic on campus. She wishes to pursue her MSW and work with victims of sex trafficking. Taylor Fuller became aware of the topic because of a presentation on campus and felt she should do something to make a difference. She is interning at the Porter County Detention Center in Valparaiso. She hopes to make a career helping the disenfranchised population, as well as juveniles. Abigail Matter also saw a presentation on the topic and was compelled to take action. She's interning at New Vistas School in Portage, Indiana. After college, she hopes to pursue her MSW.

*Faculty Sponsor:* Dr. Matthew Ringenberg

*Student Contact:* [taylor.fuller@valpo.edu](mailto:taylor.fuller@valpo.edu)