

Human Trafficking in Alabama
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Introduction

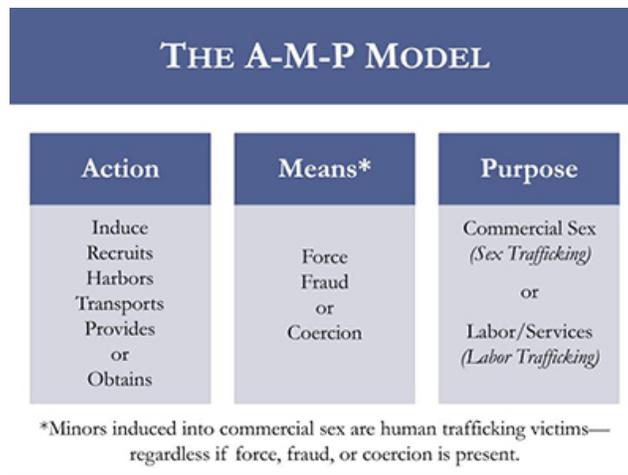
Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery. Traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to gain control over their victims for the purpose of engaging in commercial sex act or labor against the victim's will, for the financial gain of the trafficker. Because of Alabama's location in reference to interstate and highway networks and proximity to major metropolitan areas, Alabama is a major thoroughfare for those involved in trafficking of persons. The stretch of I-20 between Atlanta, Georgia, and Birmingham, Alabama, is known as the "Sex Trafficking Superhighway" because of its use to facilitate trafficking. Our team was assigned the task of researching the problem of human trafficking in Alabama and its prevalence, as well as evaluate strategies that could be used to reduce the number of humans trafficked in Alabama. Our goal as a team was to identify feasible and obtainable methods of addressing human trafficking in Alabama by researching data from various sources, including subject matter experts. We especially want to thank the stakeholders who contributed to our project and for their efforts to assist victims of this crime.

The State of Alabama Human Trafficking Task Force Resource Packet contained an article by Kelli J. Holmes entitled "The Issue" (Date and Year not cited in article). In that article, the author stated that "Human Trafficking is a term most of us haven't used recently, however it's a problem that's been around since the beginning of time: it was commonly referred to as slavery. Human trafficking is the second largest criminal activity and the fastest growing crime in the U.S."

According to the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), human trafficking, commonly referred to as modern-day slavery, is the “involuntary servitude; the inducement or compulsion of a person to engage in labor, services, or commercial activity by means of force, fraud, or coercion”. It is perpetrated in one of three ways:

1. Force - physical restraint; kidnapping; facilitation or control of victim through use of addictive or controlled substances.
2. Fraud - use or threatened use of legal processes; deception; peonage (debt slavery or servitude).
3. Coercion - threats of physical abuse; taking of personal property; confiscation of travel documents; extortion/blackmail; threats of physical restraint. (TVPA)

The National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) provides a model which offers a breakdown of the definition of Human Trafficking:



Trafficking victims can be any age, race, gender, or nationality. This criminal activity occurs globally; therefore, the State of Alabama is no exception. Human trafficking is a hidden crime, so identifying the victims is a major issue. We, the CPM Human Trafficking in Alabama team, will identify feasible and obtainable methods of addressing human trafficking in this State by researching data from various sources, including subject matter experts.

Types of Human Trafficking

Most data or statistics about the exploitation of children and adults describe some type of labor or commercial sex purpose. However, according to the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT), “trafficking in fact takes many forms such as trafficking for forced marriage and trafficking for organ trade among others.” The two types of human trafficking, defined in current federal and state trafficking statutes, are Labor Trafficking and Sex Trafficking.

Labor Trafficking

The National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) defines labor trafficking as “the use of force, fraud, or coercion to cause individuals to perform labor or services.” Labor trafficking includes situations of physical abuse, confiscation of passports or money, debt bondage, forced labor, and involuntary child labor. Labor traffickers use violence, threats, lies, and other forms of coercion to force people to work against their will in many different industries. Common types of labor trafficking include people forced to work in homes as domestic servants, farmworkers coerced through violence as they harvest crops, or factory workers held in inhumane conditions with little to no pay (NHTRC, 2016).

Labor traffickers often make false promises of high wages, education, or travel opportunities to entice people into terrible working conditions. Workers find that jobs are not what was promised to them. In addition, the victims must work long hours with little or no pay. The employers exert such physical or psychological control that the victim believes they have no other choice but to continue working for the employer. Labor trafficking victims can include U.S. citizens, foreign nationals, children, men, and women. Vulnerable populations are often targeted by traffickers. Immigration status, real or threatened debt, isolation, poverty, and lack

of strong labor laws can contribute to labor trafficking. Labor trafficking occurs in various industries throughout the U.S. and Alabama (Polaris Project, 2016).

Sex Trafficking

The NHTRC defines sex trafficking as “the use of force, fraud, or coercion to cause individuals to perform commercial sex.” According to the federal human trafficking law, Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), commercial sexual activity is “the sexual act or sexually explicit performance for which anything of value is given, promised or received, directly or indirectly, by a person.” Minors under the age of 18 engaging in commercial sex are considered to be human trafficking, regardless of the use of force, fraud, or coercion (NHTRC, 2016).

Sex traffickers frequently target victims and then use violence, threats, lies, false promises, debt (real or threatened), or other forms of control and manipulation to keep victims involved in the sex industry for their own profit. Sex trafficking exists within diverse and unique sets of venues and businesses including fake massage businesses, escort services, residential brothels, in public on city streets and in truck stops, strip clubs, hostess clubs, hotels and motels, and elsewhere (NHTRC, 2016).

Organ Trafficking

Trafficking in organs is a crime that occurs in three broad categories: traffickers force or deceive the victims into giving up an organ, victims formally or informally agree to sell an organ and are cheated because they are not paid for the organ or are paid less than the promised price, and vulnerable persons are treated for an ailment, which may or may not exist and thereupon organs are removed without the victim's knowledge. The vulnerable categories of persons include migrants (especially migrant workers), homeless persons, and illiterate persons and could

occur with persons of any age. Organs which are commonly traded are vital organs such as the kidneys and liver. However, any organ which can be removed and sold could be the subject of such illegal trade (UN.GIFT, 2016).

The Focus

Many factors exist that cause children and adults to become susceptible to human trafficking, namely, the use of the economic principles of supply and demand, similar to drugs and arms trafficking. Human trafficking is fueled by a demand for cheap labor, services and commercial sex. It is important to address these demand-driven factors to eradicate this problem, as this crime is perceived by perpetrators to be low risk and have high profits. Social factors that add to the perception of human trafficking as a low risk crime include: lack of government and law enforcement training, low community awareness, ineffective or unused laws, lack of law enforcement investigation, scarce resources for victim recovery services, and social blaming of victims. Those who are willing to pay for commercial sex or buy goods and services from industries that rely on forced labor create a profit incentive for traffickers. Left unchecked, human trafficking will continue to thrive in environments where traffickers can reap high profits with a relatively low risk of getting caught (NHTRC, 2016).

Key Statistics

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), an estimated 20 to 37 million people are trafficked globally and there are an estimated 14.2 million people trapped in forced labor. Human trafficking generates approximately \$150.2 billion in illegal profits on an annual basis. Of the annual human trafficking profits, \$99 billion dollars are from sexual exploitation. This equates to two-thirds of the total profits being attributed to sex trafficking.

The Human Trafficking Center estimated that there are approximately 300,000 – 600,000 victims of human trafficking in the U.S. annually, with 200,000 – 300,000 of these victims being minors. The average age of a child recruited into sex trafficking is 12 years old. Once the child is a victim of human trafficking, they have an average life expectancy of 7 – 10 years. Around 40% of human trafficking in the U.S. happens in the Southeast. Of the sex trafficking victims in the U.S., 83% of the victims are U.S. citizens. It is estimated that of the victims, 90% have suffered from child abuse. Most of those have some form of current or former substance abuse issues. The average trafficker handles four to six girls and makes on average \$150,000 - \$200,000 per child per year.

According to Thorn (a blog contained on the website WWW.wearethorn.org) in a February 21, 2014 blog article, the U.S. is the largest producer of child pornography and consumer of child abuse content in the world. Operation Round-Up, the only source of data known to the United States Department of Justice (DOJ), indicates 9.8 million domestic unique IP addresses engaging in peer to peer file sharing of child pornography. Internationally, there are 11.8 million unique IP addresses engaging in peer to peer file sharing of child pornography on an international basis. In April 2015, Green Eco Services stated that human trafficking generates \$32 billion annually in the U.S. Approximately 300,000 children are at risk of being prostituted in the U.S. (U.S. Department of Justice). The average victim is forced to have sex 20 – 48 times per day (Polaris Project). According to the National Runaway Hotline, one in three teen runaways will be lured toward prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home. According to the United States Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), boys make up 50% of the sex trafficked victims in the U.S. However, the statistics on the coming pages do not verify this fact. According to this same agency and their data, fewer than 100 beds are available in the U.S. for

underage human trafficking victims. In March 2014, www.Patch.com (a website which contains a network of local news sites) published the following list of the top cities in the U.S. for sex trafficking:

1. Atlanta
2. Miami
3. Seattle
4. Washington, D.C.
5. Dallas
6. San Diego
7. Denver

Major corridors for human trafficking are as follows: Texas/Mexico border through Houston, along I-10 through Louisiana splitting off onto I-59 at Slidell, LA, through Mississippi joining to I-20 in Meridian through Alabama splitting off onto I-20 to Atlanta.

The following information is based on incoming signals made to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) during 2015 about human trafficking cases and issues related to human trafficking. Signals refer to incoming communications with the NHTRC and can take the form of phone calls, online tip reports, or emails. Signals regarding topics unrelated to human trafficking are not included in this report.

*These statistics were obtained from the National Human trafficking Resource Center. The statistics are based on aggregate information learned through signals - phone calls, emails, and online tip reports - received by the hotline. The data do not define the totality of human trafficking or of a trafficking network in any area. (www.traffickingresourcecenter.org)

2016		♣Similar W/ AL by	♣Bordering	Closer Look	Calls This Year	HT Cases Reported	Calls From Victims & Survivors	Type of Trafficking			
								Sex	Lab.	Not Spec	All
NATIONAL		-	-	-	6,051	1,654	965	1,220	200	166	68
Alabama		-	-	-	34	14	5	6	7	1	
State											
1	Arkansas	Land Area	N								
2	Colorado	Population	N								
3	Florida	Land Area	Y	X	453	136	94	102	18	7	9
4	Georgia	Land Area	Y	X	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
5	Illinois	Land Area	N								
6	Iowa	Land Area	N								
7	Kentucky	Population	N								
8	Louisiana	Population	N								
9	Maryland	Population	N								
10	Michigan	Land Area	N								
11	Minnesota	Population	N								
12	South Carolina	Population	N								
13	Wisconsin	Population	N	X	85	14	6	10	3		1
-	Wisconsin	Land Area	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

2016		Top Venues/Industries For Sex Trafficking								
		Commercial-Front Brothels	Escort Services	Hostess/Strip-Club Based	Hotel/Motel-Based	Online Ad, Venue Unknown	Other Venues	Residential Brothels	Street-Based	Truck Stop-Based
	NATIONAL	140		144		82		69	69	
	Alabama			< 3					< 3	
1	Florida			17		8	6	6	8	
2	Georgia	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
3	Wisconsin							< 3		

2016		Top Venues/Industries For Labor Trafficking										
		Agriculture	Bagging Rings	Domestic Work	Factories	Health & Beauty Services	Professional/Tech Service	Recreational Facilities	Restaurant/Food Service	Retail/Other Small Bus.	Trav. Carnival	Trav. Sales Crews
	NATIONAL	12		43		11			18			21
	AL				< 3	< 3		< 3	< 3			< 3
1	FL	3		3			< 3		< 3			3
2	GA	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
3	WI	NED	NED	NED	NED	NED	NED	NED	NED	NED	NED	NED

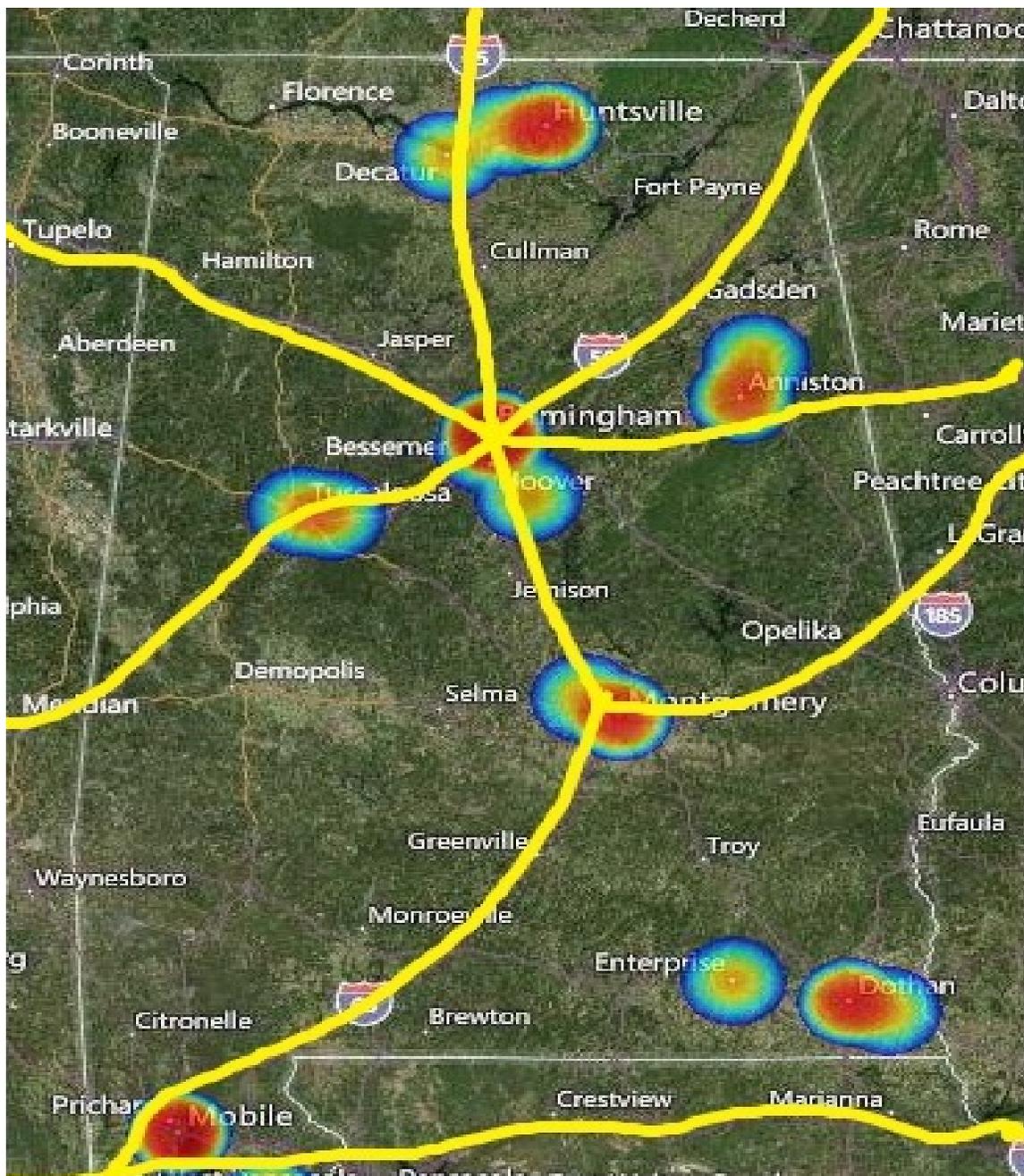
**NED= Not Enough Data

2016		Top Caller Types							
		Community Member	Family of Trafficking Victim	Friend of Trafficking Victim	NGO Representative	Other	Victim of Labor Exploitation	Victim of Other Crime	Victim of Trafficking
	NATIONAL	1,730	442		623	361			965
	Alabama	15			< 3	3	< 3		5
1	Florida	117	31		48			35	94
2	Georgia	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
3	Wisconsin	24		7	14	7		7	

2016		Breakdown of Requests on Human Trafficking Cases				
		Access Service Referrals	Report a Trafficking Tip	Request Crisis Assistance	Request General Info	Request T&TA
	NATIONAL	437	1,052	126	26	13
	Alabama	2	11	1		
1	Florida	40	80	14	2	
2	Georgia	~	~	~	~	~
3	Wisconsin	3	10	1		

2016		*Gender		*Age		*Citizenship	
		Female	Male	Adult	Minor	US Citizen/ LPR	Foreign National
	NATIONAL	1,378	178	1,007	546	444	270
	Alabama	13	4	9	4	4	4
1	Florida	114	21	91	42	46	23
2	Georgia	~	~	~	~	~	~
3	Wisconsin	12	4	9	5	5	4

Location of Potential Trafficking Cases
(Where Known)



The data displayed in this report was generated based on information communicated to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline via phone, email, and online tip report. The largest problem with human trafficking statistics in Alabama is that they are usually incomplete and in some cases nonexistent. Often law enforcement officials code the crime as

something other than human trafficking. For example, many human trafficking cases in Alabama were coded by local law enforcement as kidnapping or prostitution charges. The incorrect coding of these cases is a result of many things. The lack of knowledge regarding human trafficking charges is the main reason these cases are not coded properly. Miscoding of these cases cause human trafficking statistics to be incomplete which makes it even harder to quantify the human trafficking problem in our state.

The Human Trafficking Law

Evolution of Federal Human Trafficking Law

Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000

1. The first federal law to address human trafficking; passed in 2000.
2. Law provides a 3 prong approach to address human trafficking.
 - a. Prevention
 - b. Protection
 - c. Prosecution
3. TVPA amended in 2003, 2005, 2008, and 2013.

Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2013 – Current Law

1. Definitions and penalties similar to state law.
2. Federal law includes provisions that Alabama law lacks.
 - a. Investigative Tools for Law Enforcement
 - i. Authorizes the use of wiretapping by law enforcement in human trafficking investigations.
 - b. Training for Law Enforcement

i. Requires state statute mandating law enforcement be trained in human trafficking issues. Department of Human Resources will have to begin doing protocol assessments on children.

c. Victim Assistance

i. Requires state statute that provides assistance to victims, mandates the creation of a victim services plan or funds programs to help victims.

Victim assistance services and protection may include counseling, job assistance, housing, continuing education, legal services, and/or a human trafficking caseworker privileges.

Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015

1. Separate federal law that references human trafficking law (TVPA).
2. Authorizes services to victims and provides appropriations to cover the cost of the rehabilitation programs for convicted sex offenders, human smugglers, and human traffickers.
3. Additional resources allocated to human trafficking victim support.
4. Strengthens law enforcement tools for prosecuting human trafficking offenses.
5. Recognizes child pornography production as a form of human trafficking.

History of Alabama Human Trafficking Law

- **2010** – Act 2010-705 enacted the first Alabama Human Trafficking Law codified in §13A-6, Code of Alabama 1975.
- **2012** – Human Trafficking Initiative (no legislation required)
 - Created the Alabama Fusion Center

- **2014** – Joint Resolution passed by the legislature to create the Alabama Human Trafficking Task Force.
- **2016** – Act 2016-282, human trafficking law passed during the 2016 regular legislative session and is not yet codified. (See Appendix)

According to Alabama law, the perpetrator does not have to know the age of the victim in order to be charged with human trafficking of a minor. Any person or entity convicted of trafficking in violation of this act shall be ordered to pay mandatory restitution to the victim, prosecutorial or law enforcement entity, with property to be forfeited to pay restitution. Included costs are medical and psychological treatment to include rehabilitation at the court's discretion. Cost of investigation, transportation, return of property, or any other losses suffered by the victim to also include wages to a corporation or entity convicted of trafficking.

Solutions

With one of the main trafficking corridors going through the heart of the state, Alabama currently has an inadequate system to advocate for the victims of human trafficking. Although the state's task force was created in 2014 incorporating many entities in both the public and private sector to address this issue, it is limited in both manpower and financial resources to adequately address the needs of this growing condition. The United States Department of Homeland Security Human Trafficking Blue Campaign has been promoted by the task force and offers an array of information to educate both the public and law enforcement in identifying and reporting suspected human trafficking cases.

Private organizations, such as Blanket Fort Hope and the Wellhouse, are a great asset to Alabama in addressing victims' needs. According to Lauren J. Hartin, CEO and Co-founder of

Blanket Fort Hope, her organization provides short-term counseling and assistance specifically for juveniles suspected of being human trafficking victims. Hartin plans to expand their program to include long-term services in the future.

The Wellhouse, located in Leeds, Alabama, is a rescue and recovery organization for women who are victims of sexual exploitation and trafficking. This organization provides long-term and multi-level intensive approaches to assist adult women victims. The Wellhouse currently serves female victims over the age of 18. Financial barriers limit the services and number of clients the Wellhouse can serve at any given time. On average, they serve 18-20 victims at one time. Only 40% of the victims at Wellhouse are Alabama residents. The remaining 60% of victims are from out-of-state and have been trafficked into Alabama. The Wellhouse is the only human trafficking victim center in this State that serves trafficked mothers with children.

Currently, there are no known services for adult male victims of sex trafficking or for victims of labor trafficking of either gender in the State of Alabama.

Victim Advocacy

Currently, the Alabama Crime Victims' Compensation Commission offers some services for victims of human trafficking. However, additional victim advocacy measures can be taken by the State. Alabama's human trafficking statute could mandate the creation of a victim services plan or fund programs to help victims. Victim assistance services and protection may include counseling, job assistance, housing, continuing education, legal services, and/or human trafficking caseworkers.

Human Trafficking Training (Non-law enforcement)

It is crucial that non-law enforcement first responders are properly trained and vigilant to recognize the signs of a trafficking victim. [Note: Non-law enforcement persons should never attempt to confront a suspected trafficker or rescue potential victims; they should immediately inform local law enforcement officials.] Non-law enforcement first responders may include:

- a. School administrators and staff
- b. Governmental agencies (state and federal)
- c. Non-profit organizations
- d. Churches
- e. Hotel managers and staff
- f. Hospital administrators and staff

Responders should read and familiarize themselves with key human and sex trafficking terms and language. In order to pick up on subtle clues of trafficking, responders must be well-versed in conversations surrounding human trafficking. A list of key terms used in sex trafficking is published in *Renting Lacy: A Story of America's Prostituted Children* by Linda Smith.

Responders should also familiarize themselves with the information and resources available at the National Human Trafficking Resource Center. The NHTRC's website includes detailed definitions and explanations of the various types of trafficking, including sex and labor trafficking. The website also lists red flags and indicators to assist responders with identifying victims and/or traffickers. Some indicators listed on the site include:

- Victim is not free to leave or come and go as he/she wishes
- Victim is unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips
- Victim works excessively long hours and/or unusual hours

- Victim appears malnourished or shows signs or repeated exposure to harmful chemicals
- Victim has few or no personal possessions
- Victim is not in control of his/her own identification documents
- Victim has a “lost sense of time”
- Victim has numerous inconsistencies in his/her story

Responders should conduct annual training on human trafficking and display emergency contact numbers in a highly visible area so all administrators, staff, and members have access to the information and can quickly respond. It is crucial that responders do not hesitate to contact law enforcement or the appropriate authorities if they have a reasonable suspicion of trafficking.

In addition to training first responders, additional training is also needed for social service agencies who may come into contact with victims (for example, Alabama Department of Human Resources), so they can be prepared to assist. Sixty to eighty-five percent of human trafficking victims have indicated that they were in foster care or had contact with youth child welfare services at some point in their life, so it is vital these organizations receive proper training and tools for assisting victims and identifying, interviewing, and coding victims (ADHR presentation at Middle District Task Force Meeting). Social service agencies should also be active participants in Alabama Human Trafficking Task Forces and take advantage of the training, interagency coordination, and opportunity to connect with non-governmental organizations, so that they can coordinate services for victim assistance (Invisibility Study). For example, programs are needed to designate specialized services not currently available for trafficked youth, such as drug treatment and specialized living situations. Coordinating with non-governmental victims’ services agencies and between governmental agencies may be a pathway

to establishing specialized services for trafficked youth (ADHR presentation at Middle District Task Force Meeting).

Human Trafficking Training (Law Enforcement)

All Alabama law enforcement officials should be trained to recognize indicators for those they encounter who may be victims of human trafficking. Being able to identify a possible victim of human trafficking who comes into contact with law enforcement is also a chance when victims can be directed to the assistance and services that they need. So that victims can be directed to assistance and services, law enforcement must be well informed on what services are available for trafficking victims (Polaris, Human Trafficking Issue Brief: Training), and should also be made aware of what they can do to advocate for victims, such as contacting the NHTRC hotline on a victim's behalf (Polaris, Sex Trafficking in the U.S.: A Closer Look at the U.S. Citizen Victims). Overall, training for law enforcement is an essential part of changing past ways of thinking where victims are seen as perpetrators of or as committing and participating in a crime rather than as a victim (Polaris, Human Trafficking Issue Brief: Training).

Law enforcement officials should be active participants in Alabama Human Trafficking Task Forces and take advantage of the training and interagency coordination provided. Participating in a task force also allows law enforcement to connect with non-governmental organizations so that they can coordinate services for victim assistance (Invisibility Study). Alabama currently has four task forces: the Middle District, Northern District, Southern District, and End It Alabama Taskforce.

All members of law enforcement should be trained on the current Alabama human trafficking law and made of aware of any tools Alabama has available for investigating possible

human trafficking cases (Polaris, Human Trafficking Issue Brief: Training) and be trained on what other issues (for example: runaways, prostitution, drug dealing, etc.) could be potential indicators of or related to a trafficking situation. Direction and training on how to “code” human trafficking reports/arrests are also needed for law enforcement who may come into contact with trafficking victims or their traffickers. Currently there is no standard for how to code these reports/arrests.

To combat human trafficking in the state, law enforcement needs specialized training on investigating for human trafficking activity, including investigating services advertised on the Internet that could be human trafficking related and training on evaluating correlations between high crime/drug areas and Internet advertisements for a particular area. Specialized training on human trafficking related activity in street gangs and events in Alabama and neighboring states that could cause an uptick in Alabama’s threat environment is needed as well. Training could include making use of existing tools for discovering human trafficking leads such as Spotlight and Traffic Jam. In addition, law enforcement officials should also receive training in using techniques for interviewing potential victims that takes into consideration the trauma a victim has experienced and considers that a victim may be hesitant to share or fearful of sharing what they have experienced. Law enforcement should make use of the existing resources for law enforcement that are available, such as those at <http://traffickingresourcecenter.org/audience/law-enforcement>.

By training law enforcement officers on the front lines, they will be able to better identify victims and initiate the process for referring them to the necessary entities for support and treatment. Currently, most victims end up in the judicial system as offenders. Each region of the state has Children’s Advocacy Centers that provide initial counseling, forensic interviewing,

prosecution assistance, and service identification and referral. Juvenile victims can be served at these advocacy centers if properly identified and referred by law enforcement or protective services with the Department of Human Resources. State statute needs to be amended to require that all law enforcement and applicable non law enforcement officials are trained in human trafficking issues.

Public Awareness

Public awareness is the public's level of understanding about the importance and implications of human safety in cities and communities (UN Women, 2012). There are several ways to broaden awareness about this growing pandemic: anti-trafficking organizations, media such as billboards and television ads that provide information about safe houses and hotline numbers, and educating individuals in schools, smaller towns, and targeted groups how to recognize and report human trafficking. Additional awareness initiatives can be highlighted and emphasized at numerous Alabama Agency Conventions (i.e., Juvenile Probation Officers' Convention, District and Family Court Judges' Convention, and State of Alabama Mental Health Convention) to broaden the base of awareness across the State. In addition, our team contacted the Department of Transportation who has agreed to hang human trafficking posters in welcome centers throughout Alabama.

Crime Coding

Rather than relying on existing crime codes, a code unique to Human Trafficking for the database would better track these crimes. In addition, penalties would need to be provided for law enforcement agencies who fail to comply with crime coding requirements.

Conclusion

Human trafficking is a secret, hidden crime, so identifying the victims is a daunting task. Fortunately, there are many ways society can get involved to help end the exploitation of men, women, and children. For example, travelers can take photos of their hotel rooms and upload them to a law enforcement app (Tribune Media, 2016). This app is being used by law enforcement to create a database of hotel room features that can be used to assist in locating victims. Utilizing major events has also become helpful in raising human trafficking awareness. In 2010, a Presidential Proclamation designated January 11th as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. And, during the 2014 Super Bowl, Polaris Project and Clear Channel Outdoor launched a massive outdoor advertising campaign raising awareness about human trafficking (Feminist Messaging Project, 2014).

In addition, Alabama law can be amended to require human trafficking crimes to be coded properly. These amendments should also include a requirement for law enforcement and non-law enforcement officials to receive proper training. Victim advocacy efforts could also be expanded to include more victim assistance services.

Organization leaders and individuals can gain knowledge and operate in power to significantly change the situation by using the tools provided in this paper. Human trafficking torments victims and plagues our society. Though difficult to identify at first glance, we must be vigilant and committed to look beneath the surface.

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U.S. Code, Title 22, Chapter 78 - Trafficking Victims Protection

APPENDIX

Act 2010-705, Alabama's first anti-human trafficking law was enacted during the 2010 regular legislative session. This act provides protection for victims of labor and sex trafficking. Alabama was the 44th state to recognize human trafficking as a criminal offense in state law. Human trafficking in the first degree is a Class A felony. If a person knowingly benefits from the participation in a venture or engagement for the purpose of either sexual or labor servitude, it is a 2nd degree felony. In addition, if any person obstructs or attempts to obstruct law enforcement in any way shall be guilty of a Class C felony.

Important terms in the Alabama Human Trafficking law are:

A. Coercion

- a. Causing or threatening to cause physical injury or mental suffering to any person. Coercion also includes threatening to physically restrain or confine any person. Persons performing or providing labor or services believe that either they or another person will suffer physical injury or mental suffering.
- b. Implementing any plan or scheme intended to make a person believe that failure to perform an act will result in physical injury, mental suffering, or physical restraint of any person.
- c. Destroying, concealing, or withholding from any person or threatening to do any of these things to a person's governmental records, immigration documents, identifying information, or personal or real property.
- d. Exposing or the threat of exposing any fact or information that if revealed would cause a person criminal prosecution, immigration proceedings, hatred, contempt, or ridicule.

- e. Threats to report a person to immigration officials or other law enforcement or otherwise blackmail or extort the person or another person.
- f. Controlling a person's access to a controlled substance.
- g. Rape or sodomy or the threat of to any person.

B. Deception

- a. Creating or confirming an impression of any facts or past event that is false and which the accused knows or believes is false.
- b. Exerting financial control over a person by placing that person under the actor's control as a means of leverage.
- c. The promising of benefits or the performance of services which the accused does not intend to deliver.
- d. Using any scheme or plan that makes a person believe that if they don't perform labor, services, acts, or performances, they will experience mental suffering or physical injury.

C. Labor servitude – Work or service for financial value is performed or provided by another person and is induced by coercion or deception.

D. Mental suffering – Mental pain or emotional disturbance such as stress, anxiety, public humiliation.

E. Minor – Person under 18 years of age.

F. Physical Injury – Physical impairment or substantial pain.

G. Sexual Servitude

- a. Sexual conduct for which anything of value is directly or indirectly given, promised or received by any person which conduct is induced or coerced.

Sexual conduct includes sexual explicit performances to arouse, satisfy, or appeal to the sexual desires of patrons or viewers in public or private, live photographed, recorded, videotaped or on the Internet.

H. Trafficking Victim – Any persons, including minors, subjected to labor sexual servitude.

Act 2016-282, the most recent amendments to the Alabama human trafficking law, provides a safe harbor for child human trafficking victims. In addition, it provides that the juvenile court can provide counseling to child victims. This law gives more power to the juvenile courts and also increases penalties for violators of the human trafficking laws. Furthermore, this law changes jurisdiction for human trafficking cases from city court to state district court allowing a District Attorney to change a charge to human trafficking, if applicable. This act also makes it a crime to publish pictures of a victim and specifies that any such picture is not considered public record.