

Law Enforcement Identification and Response to Human Trafficking

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Definition of Trafficking Persons

- Victims of Trafficking Violence Prevention Act (2000)

The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act or labor in which the act is induced by force, fraud or coercion or, in the case of commercial sex acts which the person forced to perform such an act is under the age of 18. Note: U.S. definition does not require movement.

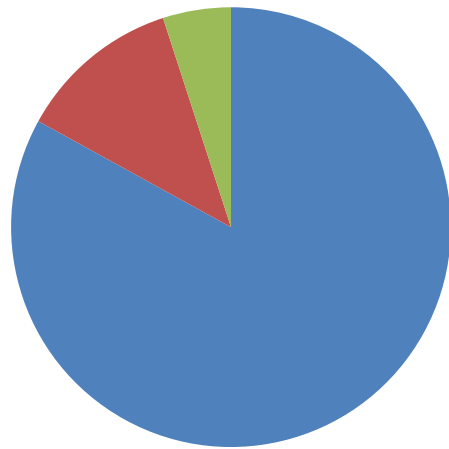
Capacity of Local Law Enforcement to Respond to Human Trafficking

- Local law enforcement minimally prepared to identify and respond:
 - 18% of municipal and county agencies have had some type of human trafficking training
 - 9% have a protocol or policy on human trafficking
 - 4% have designated specialized units or personnel to investigate human trafficking
- 75% of local law enforcement leaders think human trafficking is non-existent in their community
- Only 7 percent of municipal and county agencies investigated human trafficking cases
 - Larger agencies more likely to perceive trafficking to be a problem, take steps to prepare their officers to identify cases, investigate human trafficking cases and

Investigating Human Trafficking

Predominance of sex trafficking investigations

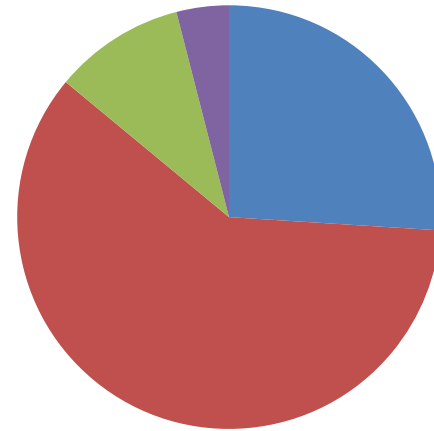
Law enforcement overwhelmingly reports sex trafficking investigations



■ Sex Trafficking ■ Labor Trafficking ■ Unknown

Kyckelbahn et al., Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2009

Victim services disproportionately serving labor trafficking victims



■ Sex trafficking ■ Labor trafficking ■ Sex and labor ■ Unknown

Office of Victim Services, 2009

Dominance of Sex Trafficking Investigations

- Some state laws only include provisions for sex trafficking (e.g. Maryland)
- Agency leaders mistakenly define human trafficking as sex trafficking (*Newton et al., 2009*)
- Responsibility for investigating human trafficking often located within Vice Units in police agencies

Characteristics of Victims and Suspects

- The majority of victims identified were female (approx. 70%)
 - *Over half of labor trafficking victims are male*
- Human trafficking victims identified by law enforcement are young.
 - *62% younger than 25; 16% were under 18 years old.*
 - *Victims of sex trafficking are younger than labor trafficking victims*
- Perpetrators tend to be older than their victims
 - *28.9% were in their thirties*
- Male perpetrators more common than female perpetrators
 - *Though 37percent of sex trafficking perpetrators female*
- Perpetrators and victims originate from the same countries

Farrell et al., 2008 , National Law Enforcement Human Trafficking Survey

Differences Between Sex and Labor Trafficking Investigations

- Data from Federally funded human trafficking task forces:
 - 25% of sex trafficking cases involve multiple victims compared to over 50% of labor trafficking cases
 - Sex trafficking victims younger than labor trafficking victims (one third less than 18 years old)
 - Local law enforcement more likely to be lead investigating agency in sex trafficking cases (85% local le lead in sex trafficking compared to 60% labor trafficking)
 - Majority of sex trafficking investigations involve U.S. citizen victims and perpetrators

- *Kyckelbahn et al., Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2009*

Investigating and Prosecuting Human Trafficking

- Less than half of sex trafficking cases investigated by local law enforcement led to an arrest; over half of arrests result in prosecution (*Farrell et al., 2008, Kyckelbahn et al., 2009*).
- Using new laws
 - 43 states have state legislation criminalizing human trafficking
 - Use of new laws slow, some states have no cases charged under human trafficking statutes
 - Reluctance to bring single victim sex trafficking cases forward on federal charges in some districts
- Challenges to prosecution
 - Reluctance of witnesses to testify
 - Nature of contact with potential victims at time of raid or police intervention critical to future prosecution
 - Case law, evidence needed for prosecution uncertain
- Use of licensing and regulatory control in addition to prosecution
 - Washington D.C. 2009 ordinance

Part of International Anti-trafficking Legislation Pattern



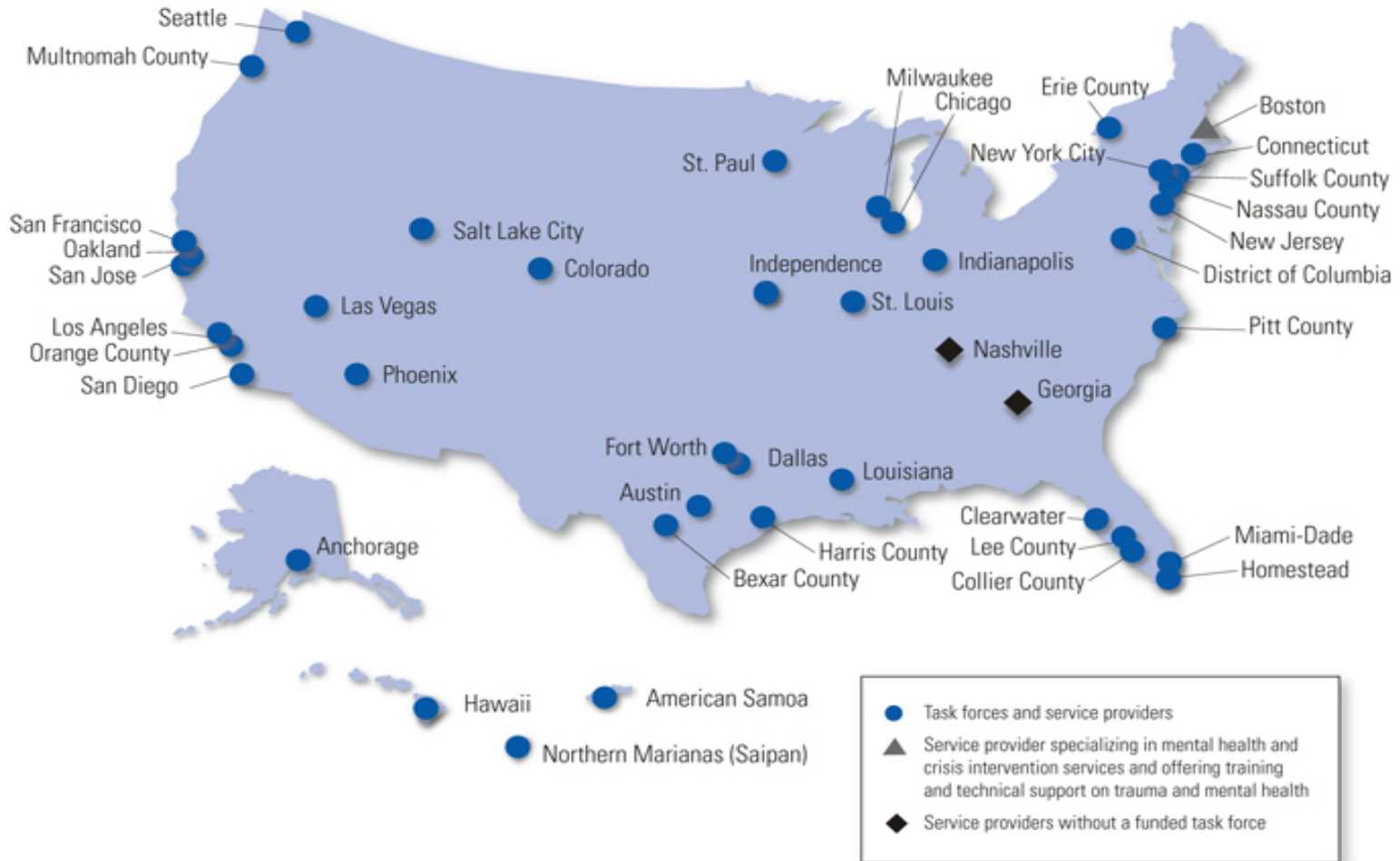
Why Counting Trafficking Difficult

- Lack of systematic data collection systems
 - Tips or reports from the community
 - Victim service records
 - Law enforcement records
 - Human Trafficking Reporting System (HTRS)
 - Task forces include both local and federal law enforcement and victim service
 - Data on over 3,687 human trafficking investigations
 - Both foreign and U.S. victims; confirmed and non-confirmed victims
 - Information about the investigation, suspects and victims
 - UCR reporting
 - 2008 TVPA reauthorization - NIBRS Group A offense and as a Summary Reporting System (SRS) Part I offense

Why Counting Trafficking Difficult, continued

- Coordinating across multiple sources of data
 - Variations in definitions used by local agencies.
 - Double counting victims and inconsistent classification.
 - Confidentiality issues prevent data sharing

Human Trafficking Task Forces



Improving Law Enforcement Responses

- Enhanced understanding of the phenomenon of human trafficking
 - Typologies and variations
- Becomes part of law enforcement routine
- Recognition of how trafficking affects local communities
- Improve local prosecution of human trafficking cases