



City of Dallas

Overview of Human Trafficking Enforcement Initiatives

**Public Safety Committee
February 13, 2023**

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Presentation Overview



- Purpose
- Definition/ Impact
- Adult Human Trafficking
 - Investigations
 - Data
 - Outreach
 - Success Stories
- Juvenile Human Trafficking
 - Investigations
 - Data
 - Outreach
 - Success Stories
- Next Steps



Purpose



- Provide the Public Safety Committee and the residents of Dallas information on human trafficking of adults and children, human trafficking data, outreach efforts, and steps being taken by the Dallas Police Department to combat human trafficking.

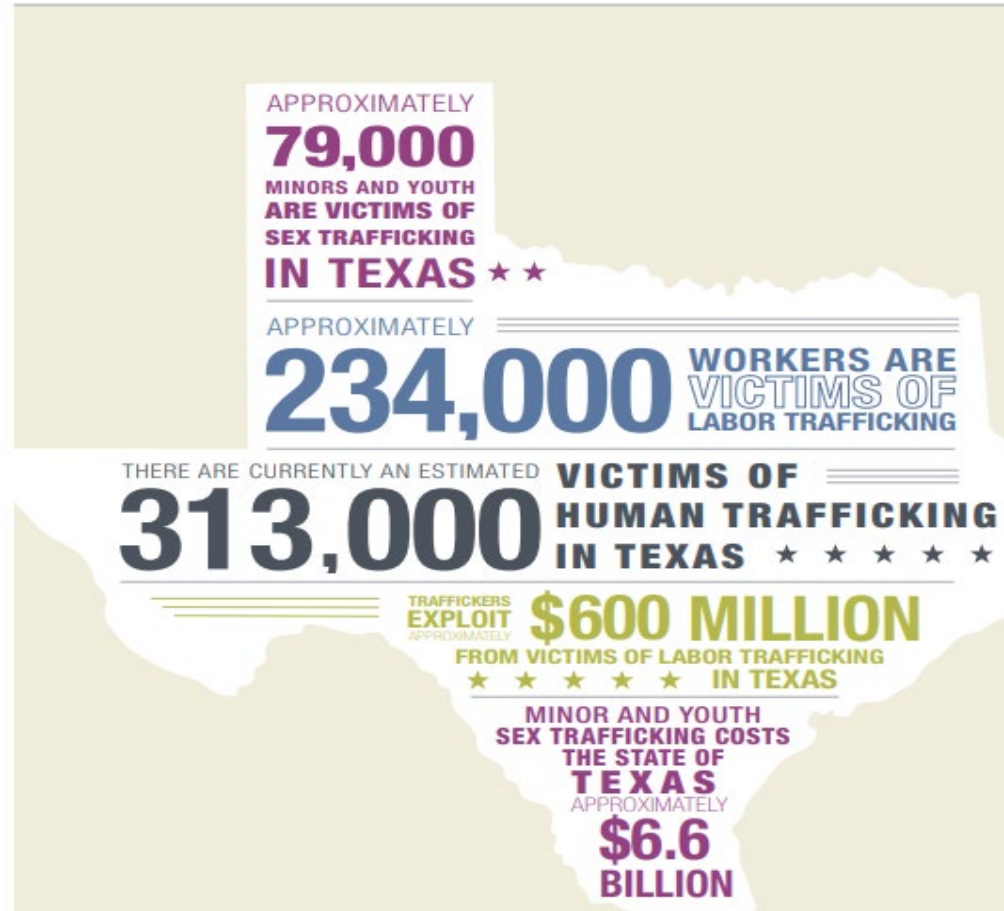




- Human Trafficking
 - The exploitation of men, women, and children for forced labor or sex by a third-party for profit or gain. (Texas Attorney General)
 - Forms of Trafficking
 - Victim Profile



Human Trafficking Impact in Texas



When using this data please use the following citation: Busch-Armendariz, N.B., Nale, N.L., Kammer-Kerwick, M., Kellison, B., Torres, M.I.M., Cook-Heffron, L., Nehme, J. (2016). Human Trafficking by the Numbers: Initial Benchmarks of Prevalence & Economic Impact in Texas. Austin, TX: Institute on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, The University of Texas at Austin.



Adult Human Trafficking



- Adult human trafficking is investigated by the Vice Unit of the Special Investigations Division (SID)

Offenses investigated:

- Trafficking and Continuous Trafficking of Persons
 - Smuggling and Continuous Smuggling of Persons
 - Promotion and Aggravated Promotion of Prostitution
 - Online and Aggravated Online Promotion of Prostitution
 - Compelling and Aggravated Compelling of Prostitution
 - Prostitution
- SID Detectives assist Special Victims with High-Risk Victim (HRV) recovery



Adult Human Trafficking



- Human trafficking investigations generated from:
 - Tips from public, law enforcement agencies, advocates
 - Follow up from other operations
 - Victim outcry
 - Human Trafficking Hotline
- Human trafficking is investigated through:
 - Undercover operations
 - Interviews
 - Execution of search and arrest warrants
 - HRV recovery operations
 - Working with advocates for victim placement and services



Adult Human Trafficking



| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 YTD* |
|-------------------|------|------|-----------|
| Trafficking Cases | 49 | 142 | 13 |
| Arrests | 5 | 28 | 1 |
| Victims Recovered | 11 | 45 | 1 |

* 2023 through January 30, 2023

| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 YTD* |
|--------------------|------|------|-----------|
| Prostitution Cases | 170 | 365 | 46 |
| Arrests | 39 | 208 | 33 |
| Victims Recovered | 3 | 5 | 1 |

* 2023 through January 30, 2023



Adult Human Trafficking



- Partnerships
 - Mayor's Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking Advisory Council
 - Homeland Security Investigations North Texas Trafficking Task Force
 - Office of Community Affairs
 - North Texas Coalition Against Human Trafficking
 - Blue Heart DFW
 - A21
 - New Friends New Life
 - One Safe Place (The Underground)
 - Rescue Her
 - Mosaic
 - Our Calling
 - Work with additional NGOs currently, and as they become known



Adult Human Trafficking



- Outreach
 - PSAs through Dallas PD PIO
 - Texas Advocacy Project Roundtable
 - Faith and Community Leaders Workshop
 - Interviews with Media, Radio
 - Presentations to local schools, businesses
- Success Stories



Juvenile Human Trafficking



- The High-Risk Victims Trafficking (HRVT) Squad specializes in investigations involving the sexual abuse, human trafficking, and exploitation of children under the age of 18 who are induced into commercial sex trafficking.
- Nationally recognized model as the gold standard with a victim-centered approach.
- Working on each case collaboratively with a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT), including other local, state, and federal partners and many non-profit organizations providing aftercare to the victims.

*“Data on human trafficking is difficult to ascertain and existing information focuses almost exclusively on identified victims.” * (tip of the iceberg)*

* Busch-Armendariz, N.B., et al., (2016) Human Trafficking by the Numbers: Initial Benchmarks of Prevalence & Economic Impact in Texas. Institute on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, The University of Texas at Austin.



Juvenile Human Trafficking



At Risk Factors*

- History of emotional or sexual abuse
- History of homelessness (survival sex)
- History of running away from home (survival sex)
- History of involvement with child welfare system or foster care

Prevalence Rates*

- 25% LGBTQ
- 18% females
- 7% males

The lack of healthy, trusted relationship in victims' lives and their economic instability create ideal conditions for exploitation through force, fraud, or coercion.

* Kellison, B., et al., (2019). "To the Public nothing was wrong with me": Life experiences of minors and youth in Texas at risk for commercial sexual exploitation and sexual exploitation. Austin, TX. Institute on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, The University of Texas at Austin.



Juvenile Human Trafficking



The high-risk victim status is met based on the following criteria:

- Runaway for more than 30 consecutive days, or more than 4 times in a 12-month period.
- Runaways who are 12 years of age or younger.
- Children with 2 or more separate incidents of sexual abuse or exploitation.
- Identified as a prior victim of sex trafficking.
- Other risk factors include drug use, sexual abuse, housing instability, immigration status, or childhood experiences of domestic violence or neglect.



Juvenile Human Trafficking



- Due to the complex nature of this crime, traffickers often operate under the radar. Juvenile victims do not see themselves as victims and often create bonds with their traffickers who have groomed and psychologically manipulated their victims over a long period of time.
- Trends show when children run away frequently or for long periods of time, they tend to be running from an unsafe situation or to an unsafe situation.
- Victims continuously consider the cost versus benefit of staying, leaving or seeking help.*

There is a lifetime of social services costs that both society & victims can expect to incur.

* Kellison, B., et al., (2019). "To the Public nothing was wrong with me": Life experiences of minors and youth in Texas at risk for commercial sexual exploitation and sexual exploitation. Austin, TX. Institute on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, The University of Texas at Austin.



Juvenile Human Trafficking



Traffickers' methodology and correlation between CSAM and Trafficking

- Child sex traffickers utilize numerous websites, internet chat rooms, social media apps, and gaming platforms to meet and groom their victims.
- Abusers and traffickers use child pornographic images to introduce sexual topics, normalize the act for their victims, and portray a sense of normalcy and social acceptance.
- Through known studies approximately 65% of individuals arrested for possession of child pornography have sexually assaulted at least one child.
- In many cases, the victims are family members and friends.
- This assault creates a trafficking risk factor for the child.
- Over time, the perpetrators produce, trade, and sell CSAM of their victims to others and, in some cases, trade and traffic their victims.



Juvenile Human Trafficking



| | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 YTD* |
|--------------------------------|------|------|-----------|
| Trafficking Cases Investigated | 290 | 247 | 24 |
| Arrests | 82 | 64 | 4 |
| Victims Recovered | 81 | 101 | 9 |

* 2023 through January 30, 2023

Partnerships

- Dallas Children's Advocacy Center
- Traffic911
- Refuge City
- New Friends New Life
- Homeland Security Investigations North Texas Trafficking Task Force



Juvenile Human Trafficking



Education and Outreach Officer

- The unit is staffed with an education officer who develops, schedules, and presents cyber safety topics, child sexual abuse, exploitation, and trafficking recognition to teenagers, teachers, coaches, caregivers, parents, and community leaders.
- Conducted 420 presentations for more than 16,000 attendees in 2022.

Success Story

Next Steps



Next Steps



- Completion of the Human Trafficking Needs Assessment grant
- Human Trafficking Squad in SID





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