

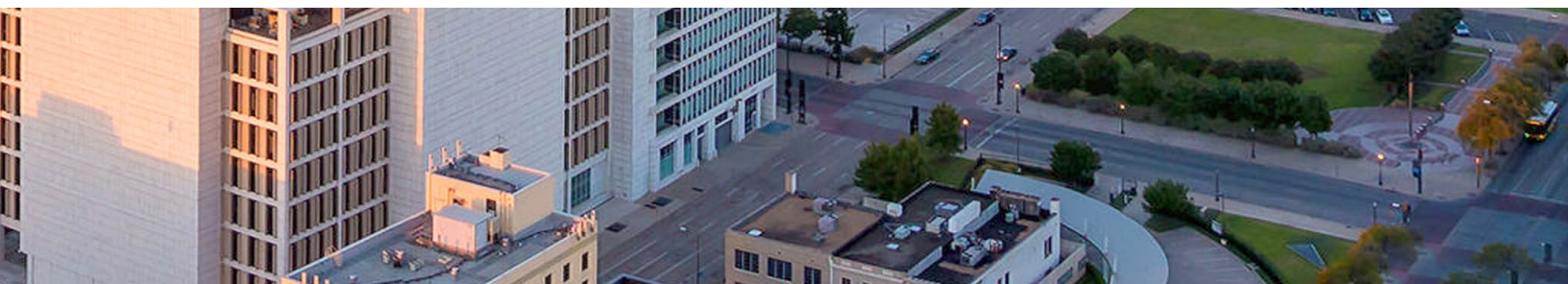


Responding to Sex Trafficking in the Greater Dallas Area: A Needs Assessment

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The Institute for
Urban Policy Research
at The University of Texas at Dallas





Contents

Executive Summary	.5
Methods & Key Findings	5
Barriers	6
Recommendations & Conclusion.	7
Introduction	.9
Project Background	9
Definitions: Human Trafficking Types and Its Forms	10
Prevalence and Incidence of Human Trafficking	15
Overview of Data Collection Methodologies	21
Survey Methodologies	21
Focus Groups & Focused Interviews	22
Ancillary-Related Activities of DPD Units	25
Findings	27
Qualitative Review	27
A Review of Public Perception	34
Summary of Qualitative and Quantitative Throughput Indicators	43
Recommendations	47
Intracomponent Recommendations.	47
Systemic Recommendations	48
Limitations	51
Summary	53
Implement a Coordinated Community Response Model.	53
Implement an Integrated Investigation and Interdiction Model	54
Develop Targeted Awareness and Education Campaigns	54
About the Research Team	55
Bibliography.	57
Appendices	61
Appendix I: IRB Protocol Dallas Crime Perceptions Study	63
Appendix II: Dallas Crime Perceptions Survey Instrument	103
Appendix III: IRB Protocol Human Sex Trafficking Study.	123
Appendix IV: Human Sex Trafficking Study Consent Forms	175
Appendix V: Human Sex Trafficking Study Focus Group Instruments	185
Appendix VI: Human Sex Trafficking Study Suicidal Ideation Response Plan	201

About This Report

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About the Research Team

Many staff and researchers were engaged over the two-year life of this research project. Brief biographies of the core research team are included at the end of this report.

Core Research Team

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Research Support

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The research team is also grateful to the many service providers who shared their wisdom; their tireless work on behalf of survivors changes lives every day.



Executive Summary

Human trafficking involves the recruitment, transportation, harboring, transfer, and/or abduction of people through fraud, force, and/or coercion. It is a global public health crisis that transcends borders, cultures, and demographics. A form of modern-day slavery, it traps millions of individuals, primarily women, children, and vulnerable populations, into lives of exploitation, abuse, and forced labor. Often referred to as a “crime hidden in plain sight,” it is a grave violation of human rights which threatens the safety and welfare of roughly 50 million people worldwide. Despite increasing awareness and global efforts to combat it, human trafficking is one of the most profitable criminal enterprises globally, with annual revenue yields exceeding \$150 billion.

Within the United States, Texas is the second-highest in reported cases of sex trafficking. Those most at risk for sexual exploitation include persons living in poverty, who have unstable or unsafe housing insecurities, those with substance use/addiction, and/or those persons with a history of trauma. The city of Dallas serves as a prime example of this challenge, with its strategic location, the intersection of major transportation freeways, a bustling economy, serving as the host to many regional, national, and global sporting and entertainment venues and events, and with having a diverse demographic makeup rendering it susceptible to exploitation and trafficking. To better understand the needs in ameliorating sex trafficking within the greater DFW area, the Institute for Urban Policy Research coordinated community partnerships and utilized both quantitative and qualitative data collection methodologies. The Department of Health and Human Services of Texas requested that the Institute, the City of Dallas, and Dallas Police Department (DPD) collaborate to assess strengths and opportunities to combat human trafficking, serve survivors, and hold perpetrators accountable

within the community. This executive summary report highlights selected key findings, barriers and recommendations from the final grant report.

Methods & Key Findings

One of the most difficult aspects of combating human trafficking in a state as big as Texas—and a metroplex area as large as DFW—is collecting accurate and complete data. To truly understand the depth of sex trafficking, multiple reporters, agencies, departments, and community partners must be approached through varying methodologies and sampling strategies. It takes time and investment to build trust and gain access to information about how they do their jobs, what resources they need more of, the experiences of human trafficking survivors, what best practices community partners are employing, and information about citizen and criminal justice/non-profit/courts personnel and units’ perceptions about crime, human trafficking, and the criminal justice response. Regardless of the reporting mechanism, if trafficking is not correctly identified, it cannot be adequately reported. All too frequently, trafficking is misclassified as one of the more easily identifiable crimes that are related to trafficking. It takes investigation and building of trust for victims of trafficking to come forward and provide testimony and voice their experiences. They are commonly threatened with

force, death, or harm to their families if they disclose their trafficking experience to law enforcement. For data collection, mixed methods were adopted. The Institute created a community-based survey which was administered April–August 2023. The research

team also conducted focus groups as well as focused interviews with a variety of stakeholders, including faith-based leaders, social, legal, and health service providers and non-profit partners, survivors, law enforcement, and prosecutors. This methodological approach allowed for a varying

“Trafficking starts with one person’s vulnerability and another person’s vice.”
–Focus Group Participant

forms of deidentified data collection while being sensitive to protections for vulnerable human subjects.

Analyses of interviews and focus groups showed several themes that emerged across stakeholder groups, with the need for expanded survivor-centered programming a central focus. Survivors can focus on their healing journey and rebuilding their lives when communities provide holistic health, social, and economic solutions and assistance to meet basic needs. Descriptive statistical analyses indicate 8% of community survey respondents identified human trafficking as one of the top three crime problems in their neighborhood. Moreover, 30% of respondents identified human trafficking as a problem in North Texas, and 48% of community respondents cited it as an important problem in the state of Texas. Black and Asian American respondents were more likely than others to identify human trafficking as a serious problem.

Challenges in fighting human trafficking cited by law enforcement stakeholders included problems regarding the impact of high staff turnover and organizational leadership changes, as well as gaps in training and having to split workload between ordinance enforcement (e.g., massage parlors, gambling, bottle clubs), narcotics, and human trafficking. The constant shifting of personnel leads to a lack of institutional knowledge and an inability to develop specialization regarding the complicated issues related to human trafficking and expertise in best practices such as trauma-informed and centered approaches (e.g., stages that victims go through before seeking help, victim-centered language and terminology, breaking down myths surrounding sex workers, and short- and long-term consequences of human trafficking on survivors). Other supportive services that need additional funding and availability include: mental health and drug treatment programs, specifically for sex trafficking victims; the need for educational benefits for survivors; additional resources for community outreach and education; and additional shelters, both short- and long-term, which was identified as the most pressing need. Additionally, upon talking with Dallas County prosecutor staff, interviewees

expressed a desire for a designated unit for trafficking victims who faced criminal charges. While there is a victim advocated employed by the District Attorney's office, having meaningful, open contact with victims is virtually impossible since defense attorneys do not allow their clients to communicate with their adversarial opponents. There are additional significant challenges for previously marginalized and/or at-risk communities such as LGBTQ+, immigrants, economically disadvantaged, and citizens who live in high crime areas. With that being said, public education campaigns have raised awareness that human trafficking happens everywhere and in every community, not just those deemed at high risk for exploitation or abuse.

Barriers

An assortment of barriers prevent providers and stakeholders from effectively meeting all the needs of sex trafficking survivors and holding traffickers accountable in the legal system. For example, traffickers are often bonded out of jail

Barriers

1. Improper application of bail terms for human trafficking suspects.
2. Difficulty maintaining relationships between prosecution staff and victims.
3. Difficulties in serving older teenage victims, who are often treated as offenders.
4. Lack of protections for human trafficking victims in criminal prosecutions.
5. Retraumatization by un- or undertrained service providers.

as their crimes are deemed non-violent and have low bond or they are released on their own recognizance. Upon bonding out, traffickers continue their cycle of intimidation and coercion by locating their victims, moving them out of the area, and/or using actual or threatened harm to reduce the chance they will be held accountable. This creates a negative feedback loop whereby victims are less likely to return to court, and therefore criminal cases may be dropped, and subsequently victims are not rescued and continue in a life of forced labor, violence, and abuse at the hands of their trafficker. Another disclosed barrier is what service providers call “no man’s land.” Survivors who are 17 years old are stuck in a place where they are deemed too old to receive services, as they will age out of systems designated for children and are too young to receive services deemed for adults. These individuals often fall through the cracks and cannot get their needed help. Furthermore, there is a lack of laws that support victims of trafficking. Rape Shield Laws protect victims of sexual assault from having their sexual histories spotlighted by

their attacker throughout the criminal justice process. Although Texas recognizes this law, the unfortunate fact emerges that sex trafficking victims are not always provided these protections in court. Fourth, survivors disclosed to the Institute research team that faith-based leaders can be a source of support and trauma. Some of the practices and beliefs held by some faith communities perpetuate toxic power and control practices. Lastly, all the resources and services known to victims of trafficking are also known to their traffickers. Traffickers use this knowledge against victims, preventing them from accessing and receiving services.

Recommendations & Conclusion

Overall, the research team found that one way to tackle the sex trafficking challenges in DFW is to address the staffing shortages within law enforcement agencies. Institutional knowledge is needed to maintain community relationships and establish trust with victims and survivors. Moreover, stability in leadership is also imperative to confront the challenges related to sex trafficking in the DFW area. Over the course of two years, the Vice Unit of DPD had a consistent turnover, especially at the Captain and Lieutenant levels. Officers and non-profit organizations cited administrative turnover as a barrier to effective operations.

Furthermore, multidisciplinary collaboration and information sharing are needed to combat sex trafficking effectively. Cooperation between law enforcement, social services, health-care professionals, and nonprofit organizations will ensure that all gaps and needs are addressed and that victims and survivors receive a wrap-around approach to the various challenges they face. Nascent efforts in these areas should be the target of community and government investment to increase the degree of collaboration they can support.

Recommendations

1. Address Staffing Shortages
2. Promote Stability Among Supervisory and Line Staff
3. Assess Organizational Alignment of Key Programmatic Elements
4. Identify and Embrace Efficiencies in Specialty Services
5. Enhance Multidisciplinary Collaboration and Information Sharing
6. Embrace a Coordinated Community Response Model
7. Implement an Integrated Investigation and Interdiction Model
8. Implement Tailored Awareness and Education Campaigns
9. Support Aftercare and Reintegration Programs

"Healed women heal families; healed families heal communities."
-Survivor/Focus Group Participant



Project Background

A sex trafficking needs assessment was proposed in 2021 within Dallas County, an urban location in the greater Dallas–Fort Worth (DFW) area. As of 2021, Dallas County had an approximate population of 2.6 million persons, with the larger DFW Metroplex placing among the top 10 largest metropolitan areas in the United States. The City of Dallas Police Department (DPD) partnered with the Institute for Urban Policy Research (the Institute) at the University of Texas at Dallas to develop a needs assessment project to measure human trafficking–related services that exist and those that are unmet within the County. DPD partnered with the Institute due to the primary investigators’ past project experience conducting needs assessments and evaluation research with the Dallas City Council, Dallas Mayor’s Office, and DPD on previous studies and projects related to the Dallas Domestic Violence Taskforce. Dr. Denise Paquette Boots (Professor of Public Policy, Senior Research Fellow within the Institute, and Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education in the School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences at UT Dallas), and Dr. Timothy Bray (Professor of Practice within the Program of Public Policy and the Director of the Institute) worked closely with DPD to oversee the needs assessment project from development through conclusion. Ms. Whitney Sanders, Institute Senior Research Associate and Doctoral Student in the Public Policy Program at UT Dallas, rounded out the leadership team.

As the project launched in October 2021, Institute leaders met weekly to create momentum, bring department leaders together, conduct team brainstorming and planning sessions, and organize action items across DPD units and leadership. (Note that this timeline is before the official award date on the contract of November 2021). This was a critical time for investment in team building as an organizational structure for data collection was agreed upon, timelines were set, and working relationships were forged between the research team and the DPD Vice

Unit, Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC), and High–Risk Victims (HRV) Units, and Community Engagement Unit. These weekly meetings continued through March of 2022. After that time, Institute personnel met with DPD commanders and staff bi-weekly and alternated with Microsoft Teams and in–person meetings at Dallas Police Headquarters, with between two and three monthly meetings. When needed to support special events and other activities, the team also had additional meetings in person or on Teams with DPD personnel. In addition, Drs. Boots and Bray rode with the DPD Vice Unit on operations and went to various stations to meet with officers and command staff as needed. When COVID surges mandated conservative in–person activities, we moved meetings online to minimize risk to personnel. Institute leaders and staff have also met with DPD command staff to tour non–profit facilities that serve human trafficking survivors, meet with community leaders, plan and promote community–focused events, conduct training, and attend educational or awareness events. Hundreds of hours have been logged over the past two years on this project, with Institute leaders forging a solid connection to DPD personnel over this time as objectives for the grant were completed.

To raise community awareness and increase the level of engagement between DPD and its community and citizens, the DPD Community Engagement Unit developed and implemented an organized media campaign surrounding issues related to human trafficking. Specifically, the Community Outreach and UNIDOS teams led social media outreach and education. UNIDOS is DPD’s Latino Community Outreach Program designed to assist Spanish–speaking Dallas residents. Two sergeants within the Community Outreach team and the UNIDOS team were charged with leading the community outreach and education campaign to raise awareness about human trafficking. More is relayed about the media and public education campaign launched by DPD under the Ancillary–Related Activities by DPD Section later in

this report. Before providing a literature review regarding human trafficking, definitions of forms of human trafficking are offered for the reader.

Definitions: Human Trafficking Types and Its Forms

Importantly, although information will be provided on the different types of human trafficking, this report focuses primarily on sex trafficking. Various forms of human trafficking exist, each distinguished by the purpose of exploitation and the methods used: sex trafficking, labor trafficking, child trafficking, organ trafficking, forced marriage, child soldiers, domestic servitude, and debt bondage. For clarity, definitions of major forms of trafficking are offered below.

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking involves the recruitment, transportation, harboring, transfer, and/or abduction of people through fraud, force, and/or coercion. This human rights violation serves the purposes of exploitation and profit by traffickers.¹ It is a largely hidden crime and a form of modern-day slavery. A financially lucrative crime for organized crime syndicates around the globe², perpetrators most often take advantage of the vulnerable, marginalized, weak, and those individuals seeking a better life. It has been cited as the second-largest criminal activity and the fastest-growing criminal enterprise in the world.³ Indeed, the worldwide illicit profit for human trafficking is estimated to be \$150 billion by the United States (U.S.) Department of State.⁴ Human trafficking can happen to anyone in the world— it

spans across cultures, borders, socioeconomics, neighborhoods, underground networks, and in broad daylight—but each form of trafficking takes advantage of vulnerable populations.

In addition, COVID-19 has increased the risk of human trafficking in all its forms, as the pandemic significantly negatively impacted the global economy while guardianship and everyday activities have been disrupted. Much of the activities of human traffickers occur on the dark web and are encompassed within the dark underbelly of our global economy. There are four types of criminal traffickers: 1) individual traffickers, 2) opportunistic associations of traffickers, 3) business-enterprise organized criminal groups, and 4) governance-type organized criminal groups. The United National Office on Drugs and Crime defines the crime of trafficking as a process constituted by three elements:⁵

- An act involving recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons;
- By means of threat, deception, force, or other forms of coercion; and
- For the purpose of exploitation in all its forms (e.g., sexual, forced labor, forced begging, organ removal, and slavery and slavery-like practices).⁶

Various forms of human trafficking exist independently and co-existing with each other, sometimes creating polyvictimization for unique victims of human trafficking, with the same victim being forced into multiple forms of human trafficking. Human trafficking can be easy for law enforcement to overlook as their focus is usually on criminal activity and not trying to understand

1 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2022 (Vienna: United Nations, 2023).

2 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto (New York: United Nations, 2004), <https://www.unodc.org/documents/treaties/UNTOC/Publications/TOC%20Convention/TOCebook-e.pdf>.

3 United States Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Trafficking in Persons Report – July 2022 (Washington, DC: United States Department of State, July 2022).

4 United States Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

5 United States Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, Trafficking in Persons Report – June 2023 (Washington, DC: United States Department of State, June 2023).

6 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2022.



Sex Trafficking

• is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purposes of a commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age (22 USC § 7102).



Labor Trafficking

• is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purposes of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery, (22 USC § 7102).



Figure 1. Definitions of Sex and Labor Trafficking from US Code.

the underlying cause of the criminal activity.⁷ Often victims of human trafficking are coerced into engaging in criminal acts, such as prostitution or drug dealing.⁸ Law enforcement is more likely to refer female human trafficking victims to social service agencies and more likely to arrest male human trafficking victims.⁹

Sex Trafficking

As seen in Figure 1, sex trafficking and labor trafficking share similar characteristics yet are distinct concepts. Despite the persistent myths surrounding sex trafficking regarding who is at risk, both females and males can be victims.¹⁰ While all commercial sex is not sex trafficking, there is a spectrum of choice for sex workers.

Anyone can be trafficked, but some people are far more vulnerable than others because they may have complicated or greater needs. Those most at risk for sexual exploitation include persons living in poverty, who have unstable or unsafe housing insecurities, those with substance use/addiction, and/or those persons with a history of trauma. Within the U.S. and across the globe, current and historical policies and actions of discrimination and inequities have rendered people of color, immigrants, and people who identify as LGBTQ+ all more likely to be exploited for sex trafficking and exploitation through fraud and threats or use of force. For sex trafficking, it is estimated that 73% to 92% of trafficking victims are female.¹¹ 5% to 10% of trafficking victims are male.¹² Girls are

7 T.K. Logan, Robert Walker, and Gretchen Hunt, Understanding Human Trafficking in the United States, Trauma, Violence, & Abuse 10, no. 1 (January 2009): 3-30, <https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838008327262>.

8 Logan, Walker, and Hunt.

9 Taya Moxley-Goldsmith, Boys in the Basement: Male Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation, Child Sexual Exploitation Program Update 2, no. 1 (2005): 2.

10 Polaris, Recognizing Sex Trafficking, Polaris, October 13, 2015, <https://polarisproject.org/sex-trafficking/>.

11 Logan, Walker, and Hunt, Understanding Human Trafficking in the United States.

12 Logan, Walker, and Hunt.

more likely to be approached by a trafficker (i.e., a pimp), while boys tend to be recruited by their peers.¹³

Child Sex Trafficking

Child sex trafficking, unlike trafficking of adults, if the individual is categorized as a minor, the presence of force, fraud, or coercion is not required for classification.¹⁴ Under federal law, children cannot give consent for sexual acts. The engagement in a sexual act automatically qualifies as sex trafficking¹⁵, although they are often categorized as prostitutes or juvenile delinquents.¹⁶ Children who have been trafficked often find themselves treated as perpetrators of crimes rather than being acknowledged and supported as victims of trafficking when they come into contact with law enforcement.¹⁷ Alarming, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) estimated in 2019 that one out of every six children who were identified as endangered runaways were likely to be sex trafficking victims.¹⁸ NCMEC also operates a Cyber Tipline to intercept and recover suspected victims of child sexual exploitation; these tips come from the public as well as electronic service providers (ESPs). The numbers from these reports are staggering. Since its inception in 1998, there have been more than 144 million reports. In 2022 alone, the tip line received over 32 million suspected reports of endangered children, including apparent child

sexual abuse and pornographic materials (n= 31,901,000 reports), online enticement (n= 80,524 reports), child sex trafficking (n= 18,336 reports), and child sexual molestation (n= 12,906 reports). This corresponded to an increase of 82% for online enticement reports in 2022. An additional 46,000 plus reports of miscellaneous child sexual exploitation contacts were also recorded.

The roots of child sex trafficking stem from diverse environmental factors, with poverty pushing vulnerable children into exploitation for their survival.¹⁹ The complex web of factors driving the commercial sexual exploitation of children includes individual hardships like homelessness and a history of child abuse, familial conflicts, community pressures like peer influence, and gang involvement.²⁰ Often, these elements intertwine, heightening the risk of exploitation.²¹ Both girls and boys are at risk for sexual exploitation, with compounding risk with multiple risk factors present.

Labor Trafficking

According to the United States Victims of Trafficking Violence Prevention Act (2000), labor trafficking is the act of coercing, deceiving, or using force to recruit, transport, harbor, or obtain individuals for labor or services, with the intent to subject them to involuntary servitude, debt bondage, forced labor, or slavery.²² Part of the reason

13 Moxley-Goldsmith, Boys in the Basement.

14 Development Services Group, Inc., Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Sex Trafficking, Literature Review, Model Programs Guide (Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, August 2014), 1.

15 Development Services Group, Inc., Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Sex Trafficking.

16 Kristin Finklea, Adrienne L Fernandes-Alcantara, and Alison Siskin, Sex Trafficking of Children in the United States: Overview and Issues for Congress, CRS Report (Washington, DC: Congressional Research Service, January 28, 2015).

17 Finklea, Fernandes-Alcantara, and Siskin.

18 National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, Child Sexual Exploitation, National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, August 31, 2023, <http://www.missingkids.org/content/ncmec/en/ourwork/impact.html>.

19 Finklea, Fernandes-Alcantara, and Siskin, Sex Trafficking of Children in the United States: Overview and Issues for Congress.

20 Finklea, Fernandes-Alcantara, and Siskin.

21 Finklea, Fernandes-Alcantara, and Siskin.

22 Christopher H. Smith, Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, Pub. L. No. 106 386 (2000), <https://www.congress.gov/bill/106th-congress/house-bill/3244>.

for the demand for trafficked labor is connected to the presence of worldwide supply chains.²³ An essential aspect of supply chain management involves locating affordable labor and resources.²⁴ Labor trafficking can manifest in various ways, ranging from undocumented migrants seeking employment, who then become trapped in work to repay smuggling debts, to domestic workers legally under visas but subjected to exploitation by employers who leverage the threat of visa loss to maintain control over them.²⁵ No sectors or industries are immune to human trafficking, although there are high risk industries such as agriculture, entertainment, domestic work, and sex work that have disproportionate populations of human trafficking victims and survivors.²⁶ The Bureau of International Labor Affairs (BILA) within the U.S. Department of Labor maintains a list of goods and services from their source countries that have been created or produced with child or forced labor in violation of international treaties and laws, including the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) of 2005. As of September 2022, approximately 160 goods from 78 areas/countries were identified on this list from BILA.²⁷

Forced Marriage

Forced marriage involves situations where a person has been forced to marry without giving consent—typically under physical, emotional, or financial duress as result of deception or by use of force, threats, or severe pressure.²⁸

Literature Review

Human trafficking is a public health epidemic which threatens the safety and welfare of millions of people worldwide.²⁹ Yet there has been limited research conducted at a local level on these issues. Human trafficking, a pervasive and distressing violation of human rights, continues to plague societies worldwide, transcending borders and affecting communities across the globe. In a United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime report on the scope, risk factors, and impact of all forms of human trafficking across 148 countries, the taskforce stated the best way to fight trafficking is to raise awareness while addressing global poverty, underdevelopment, and lack of opportunity. In addition, COVID-19 has increased the risk of human trafficking in all its forms, as the global economy has been significantly negatively impacted by the pandemic while guardianship and normal activities have been disrupted. It has been cited as the second-largest criminal activity and the fastest-growing criminal enterprise in the world. Estimates by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) suggest that approximately 2.5 million people from 127 countries were victims of trafficking in 2008.³⁰ These numbers continue to rise annually. Yet estimating the scope of this issue is complicated and statistics vary depending on data sources, whether state-imposed slavery is counted, and types of trafficking analyzed. The International Labour Organization estimated there were roughly 28 million global victims of forced sex, commercial sexual exploitation, as well as forced labor by the

23 Harry J. Van Buren, Judith Schrempf-Stirling, and Michelle Westermann-Behaylo, Business and Human Trafficking: A Social Connection and Political Responsibility Model, *Business & Society* 60, no. 2 (February 2021): 341-75, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0007650319872509>.

24 Van Buren, Schrempf-Stirling, and Westermann-Behaylo.

25 Amy Farrell et al., Policing Labor Trafficking in the United States, *Trends in Organized Crime* 23, no. 1 (March 2020): 36-56, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12117-019-09367-6>.

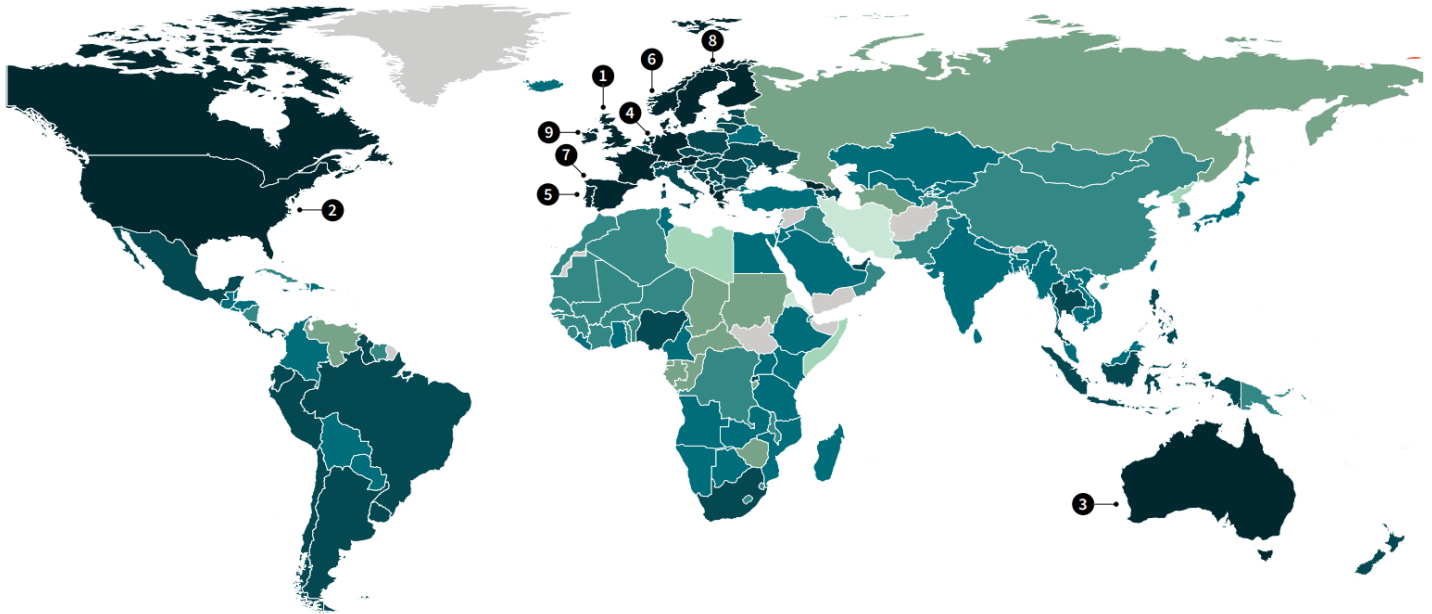
26 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2022*.

27 US Department of Labor, 2022 List of Goods Produced by Child Labor or Forced Labor (Washington, DC: United State Department of Labor, September 2022), <http://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/reports/child-labor/list-of-goods>.

28 Walk Free, *The Global Slavery Index 2023* (Perth, Australia: Walk Free, 2023), <https://cdn.walkfree.org/content/uploads/2023/05/17114737/Global-Slavery-Index-2023.pdf>.

29 United States Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report.

30 Van Buren, Schrempf-Stirling, and Westermann-Behaylo, *Business and Human Trafficking*.



Country	Response score
United Kingdom	68
Australia	67
Netherlands	67
Portugal	67
United States	67
Ireland	63
Norway	63
Spain	63
Sweden	63

Figure 2. Representative Figure from the Global Slavery Index Report 2023.

state and private sectors in 2021 (see Figure 2).³¹ Within this year, for the Global Estimates of Modern Slavery annual report, jointly compiled by the International Labour Organization (ILO), Walk Free, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), data showed that approximately 50 million individuals worldwide endured some form of contemporary slavery during that year. These estimations serve as the foundation for the national assessments of modern slavery across

160 nations, outlined in the comprehensive report of Walk Free, known as the Global Slavery Index (GSI).³²

Human trafficking is one of the most profitable criminal enterprises globally, second only to illicit drug sales, yielding annual revenues exceeding \$150 billion.³³ The process of trafficking is a gradual one rather than one that always occurs acutely. Initially, traffickers procure individuals whom they intend to exploit, sometimes followed by a grooming process and the building of trust under false pretenses, followed by their relocation

31 International Labour Organization, Walk Free, and International Organization for Migration, Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage (Geneva: International Labour Organization, September 2022).

32 Walk Free, The Global Slavery Index 2023.

33 Van Buren, Schrempf-Stirling, and Westermann-Behaylo, Business and Human Trafficking.

to a destination where they will be subjected to forced labor or other forms of exploitation.³⁴ This progression underscores the intricate nature of human trafficking as a criminal enterprise. It is insidious---- and it is present in the open daylight and the darkest fringes of our societies.

Prevalence and Incidence of Human Trafficking

The United States and the Americas

North, Central and South America are home to 13% of the world's population, with varying levels of wealth, mobility, and security across and within countries in the region. Modern slavery in the region is driven by inequality, increasing poverty, discrimination against migrants and minority groups, political instability, and environmental, political, and military conflict. The situation has been exacerbated by economic and social

impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and responses to it, as well as the impacts of climate-related displacement.³⁵

An estimated 3.5/1000 people in the Americas are in forced labor, and 1.5/1000 are forced into marriage—many at very young ages. Mass migration fuels forced labor, particularly in the world's largest migration corridor from Mexico to the U.S. Migrants flee countries such as Venezuela and others and congregate on the border between the U.S. and Mexico. Forced marriage is linked to increased poverty and lower educational attainment and is driven by longstanding patriarchal norms and fundamentalist religious beliefs within the region; for example, in North America, forced marriage is reported in conservative religious sects.³⁶

According to the Global Slavery Index Report of 2023, the U.S. has taken the most action (with a rating of 67/100) to tackle modern slavery in the Americas, followed by Canada, Argentina, and Uruguay. In contrast, Cuba, Suriname, and

34 Logan, Walker, and Hunt, *Understanding Human Trafficking in the United States* ; Moxley-Goldsmith, *Boys in the Basement*.

35 Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *Extreme Poverty in the Region Rises to 86 Million in 2021 Due to the Deepening of the Social and Health Crisis Prompted by the COVID-19 Pandemic* (CEPAL, January 25, 2022), <https://www.cepal.org/en/presreleases/extreme-poverty-region-rises-86-million-2021-due-deepening-social-and-health-crisis>.

36 United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, *Child Marriage and Early Unions in Latin America and the Caribbean*, accessed August 30, 2023, <https://www.unicef.org/lac/en/child-marriage-and-early-unions-in-latin-america-and-the-caribbean>.



Adobe Stock/Rick

Venezuela have taken the least amount of action.³⁷ With its wealth and power within the region of the Americas, the U.S. has set a great example of priority in addressing modern slavery issues, with Walk Free rating it second (tied with the Netherlands, Australia, and Portugal) behind the United Kingdom in its global ranking. Of the five G20 countries in the region (Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, and the U.S.), Brazil, Canada and the U.S. have taken significant action to tackle modern slavery with corporate and supply chain settings. Estimates for the 2023 Global Slavery Index show that over 1 million people (out of 331 million) were living in modern slavery in the U.S. on any given day in 2021, which places the U.S. among the lowest prevalence rates on human trafficking in the region (21 out of 25 countries in the region and 122 out of 160 countries worldwide) but representing the highest number of victims. Indeed, more than 1/5 of all people captured in modern slavery in the Americas are located within the U.S.³⁸ Yet there are still gaps in the U.S. response to preventing, intervening, and recovering victims and survivors of human trafficking, with laws lacking on forced marriage, state-imposed abuses of incarcerated individuals in prisons, discriminatory practices and civil rights infringements against immigration and minority groups, and the proliferation of organized crime on the U.S.-Mexico border, as well as poverty. These issues impact vulnerability indexes and undermines government responses to human trafficking. Clearly, much more needs to be done to strengthen legislation to hold businesses to account for the use of

coerced labor and to tackle gender inequality that drives the human trafficking of women and girls within the sex industry as well.

Human trafficking within the U.S. is primarily classified as either forced labor or sex trafficking, although there are other forms of human exploitation found.³⁹ In 2021, the U.S. National Human Trafficking Hotline had over 50,000 calls, texts, and online chats, with the top three types of trafficking calls involving escort services (10%), pornography (8%), and illicit activities in health, beauty, and massage (8%).⁴⁰ The Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 provides assistance and protection for victims of human trafficking.⁴¹ The TVPA includes language regarding T Visas, U Visas, trafficking definitions, protections and assistance, prosecution, prevention, and international provisions.⁴² Human trafficking, a modern manifestation of slavery, persists despite the 13th Amendment's abolition of traditional slavery in the U.S. Through force, deception, and manipulation, people are still subjected to enslavement. Human trafficking is an umbrella term used to describe criminality wherein individuals (children and adults) are exploited for profit.⁴³ Traffickers commonly use psychological tactics to control their victims, in conjunction with physical violence.⁴⁴ Psychological tactics are used as they have longer-lasting effects on victims.⁴⁵

37 Walk Free, The Global Slavery Index 2023.

38 Walk Free.

39 United States Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report.

40 Polaris, Understanding Human Trafficking, Polaris, October 16, 2019, <https://polarisproject.org/understanding-human-trafficking/>.

41 Smith, Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000.

42 Van Buren, Schrempf-Stirling, and Westermann-Behaylo, Business and Human Trafficking ; United States Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report.

43 United States Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report.

44 Logan, Walker, and Hunt, Understanding Human Trafficking in the United States.

45 Logan, Walker, and Hunt.

Texas and the North Texas Region

According to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, Texas ranks second in the country, only behind California, for number of cases reported by state (1080), with 861 of those cases being sex trafficking or sex and labor trafficking. Sex trafficking often ensnares the most vulnerable of individuals, predominantly women and children, forces victims into a life of commercial sexual exploitation. The Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force⁴⁶ underscores the chilling reality that sex trafficking is a pervasive issue within the state, where victims are subjected to physical and psychological trauma, leading to severe health consequences. Labor trafficking, on the other hand, involves coercing individuals into forced labor situations, depriving them of basic human rights and dignities. The exploitative nature of labor trafficking exerts severe psychological and physical tolls on victims, with implications that reverberate throughout communities. While the main focus of the present needs assessment centers around sex trafficking of both children and adults, it is common for the same victims to be exploited across both forms of trafficking by organized criminals and rings.

Per the Attorney General of Texas, 79,000 adolescents are trafficking victims at any given time.⁴⁷ Dallas is the second city, behind Houston, with the greatest number of cases. As mentioned previously, a major challenge in studying human trafficking in a state as large as Texas is collecting accurate data. Regardless of the reporting mechanism, if trafficking is not correctly identified, it is not being reported properly. Often, trafficking is misclassified as one of the more easily identifiable crimes which are related to trafficking. Crimes such as sexual assault of a child or

harboring of migrant workers are easily identified by law enforcement officers immediately on the scene. However, it may not be until later in the investigation that those cases are correctly identified as human trafficking cases.

As an intricate and multifaceted public health issue, human trafficking encompasses various forms, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking.⁴⁸ The state of Texas, and particularly the city of Dallas, stands at the crossroads of this grave issue, grappling with the alarming prevalence of both sex and labor trafficking. The population of Texas has doubled since 1980 and is home to an estimated 30 million people as of 2023, with estimates of upwards of 33.5 million residents expected by 2029.⁴⁹ Sex trafficking and labor trafficking are complex manifestations of modern-day slavery that transcend mere criminal activities; they emerge as public health issues of significant consequence. The city of Dallas serves as a prime example of this challenge, with its strategic location, the intersection of major transportation freeways, a bustling economy, serving as the host to many regional, national, and global sporting and entertainment venues and events, and with having a diverse demographic makeup rendering it susceptible to exploitation and trafficking. According to the Texas Office of the Attorney General, the state's extensive network of highways and proximity to international borders creates an environment conducive to human trafficking operations.

Additionally, the National Human Trafficking Hotline highlights the alarming statistic that Texas is 2nd in the nation in reported cases of human trafficking, attributing this dubious distinction to its geographical and economic characteristics.⁵⁰ Almost a third of all calls received nationally on the hotline come from Texas, with the "Texas

46 Texas Office of the Attorney General, Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force, accessed August 30, 2023, <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/human-trafficking-section/texas-human-trafficking-prevention-task-force>.

47 Texas Office of the Attorney General, Human Trafficking Initiative, accessed July 29, 2021, <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/initiatives/human-trafficking>.

48 Walk Free, The Global Slavery Index 2023.

49 World Population Review, Texas Population 2023, World Population Review, 2023, <https://worldpopulationreview.com/states/texas-population>.

50 Texas Office of the Attorney General, Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force.

Triangle” which connects the one million-plus residential urban centers of Dallas, San Antonio, and Houston, believed to be the highest in rates of human trafficking.⁵¹ Moreover, the DFW Metroplex is estimated to account for roughly 35% of Texas’ sexual exploitation cases whereas it makes up only ¼ of the state’s population.⁵²

In 2014, the Urban Institute completed a study on the underground commercial sex economy (UCSE) in eight major U.S. cities, including Dallas. Fifteen representatives were interviewed from DPD and other federal agencies to understand the details of venues, offender profiles, employee/victim demographics and background, evidence of trafficking, pricing, customer profiles, and links to other crimes such as drugs, gangs, or weapons.⁵³ The study cited a 2007 estimate, which stated that UCSE in Dallas was a \$99 million market annually. The Urban Institute 2014 study is now nine years old, and the report lacked numbers on the prevalence of sex trafficking crimes, strategies for reducing these crimes, nor any information on the City’s specific needs for additional funding for prevention programs. To address these limitations, the current study seeks to identify unmet service needs and identify key gaps in organizational structure within law enforcement and the courts as well as limitations in existing policies and concerns voiced from community and nonprofit partners.

In 2020, DPD’s High-Risk Victims (HRV) Team under the ICAC Unit responded to 447 calls to investigate possible trafficking of minors. Within the 447 calls were 51 callouts, which refers to whenever an HRV Team detective is physically called out via dispatch to help a possible trafficking victim already in custody. The HRV detective takes these underaged victims to the Dallas Children’s Advocacy Center (DCAC) for a forensic interview. The struggle to recover victims from traffickers requires highly trained staff who have

specialized skills in trauma-informed care—this goes for both child and adult victims who may have many years of abuse histories and complex mental and physical health issues due to their life experiences. As many victims of sex trafficking are initially put onto this pathway by a family member or close friend, it may be challenging for criminal justice staff/law enforcement officers, non-profit advocates and community resource staff, and government personnel to build trust relationships with survivors as they escape from their trafficker. For children on the cusp of adulthood, the challenges of receiving services while not recognized as an adult become even more complicated to navigate. More details on these particular difficulties will be explored in the qualitative findings section with partners who participated in focus groups and solo interviews.

One of the most difficult aspects of combating human trafficking in a state as big as Texas—and a metroplex area as large as DFW—is collecting accurate and complete data. To truly understand the depth of sex trafficking, multiple reporters, agencies, departments, and community partners must be approached through varying methodologies and sampling strategies. It takes time and investment to build trust and gain access to information about how they do their jobs, what resources they need more of, the experiences of human trafficking survivors, what best practices community partners are employing, and information about citizen and criminal justice/non-profit/courts personnel and units’ perceptions about crime, human trafficking, and the criminal justice response. Regardless of the reporting mechanism, if trafficking is not correctly identified, it cannot be adequately reported. All too frequently, trafficking is misclassified as one of the more easily identifiable crimes that are related to trafficking. It takes investigation and building of trust for victims of trafficking to come forward and provide testimony and voice their experiences. They are

51 World Population Review, Texas Population 2023.

52 Haddad, Natalie, Dallas, Houston and San Antonio Lead in Human Trafficking Cases in Texas, WFAA, July 17, 2023, <https://www.wfaa.com/article/news/local/texas-cities-lead-human-trafficking-cases/287-417f66c4-0784-4a65-bd7c-ad0f7e22aa8d>.

53 Meredith Dank et al., Estimating the Size and Structure of the Underground Commercial Sex Economy in Eight Major US Cities: (508162014-001), 2014, <https://doi.org/10.1037/e508162014-001>.

commonly threatened with force, death, or harm to their families if they disclose their trafficking experience to law enforcement. Therefore, crimes such as the sexual assault of a child or the harboring of migrant workers may be easily identified by law enforcement officers who are immediately on the scene. However, it may not be until later in the investigation that those cases are correctly identified as human trafficking cases.⁵⁴ When law enforcement officers or prosecutors list human trafficking as one of the offenses for arrest or charge, Texas is more able to fully capture the scope of trafficking within the state and better allocate resources to address this crime. Accurately classifying human trafficking crimes is integral to knowing how to best direct limited resources to those who seek to combat it.

The present needs assessment project delves into these distressing realities, offering a comprehensive exploration of the intertwined nature of sex and labor trafficking as a grave public health concern within the City of Dallas and the state of Texas. This final report presents the findings of an in-depth needs assessment conducted to shed light on the profound impact of human trafficking in the Dallas area, emphasizing its ramifications as a pressing public health crisis.

54 Texas Office of the Attorney General, Texas Human Trafficking Prevention Task Force.



"Traffickers step in the fractured moments of discontent. When [an individual is] thirsty, a drop of water is everything."
-Provider/Focus Group Participant

Overview of Data Collection Methodologies

To assess the needs of the Dallas community regarding human trafficking, the Institute employed a variety of quantitative and qualitative data collection methodologies. These various data explorations were designed to assess the nature of the various actors in the human trafficking ecosystem and their interaction. Moreover, the project also explored attitudes and perceptions of the general public regarding human trafficking. The sections below will detail the variety of methods employed.

Survey Methodologies

Working with the project management team, researchers at the Institute developed a survey to gauge public perceptions about crime and human trafficking in and around North Texas. The survey was administered electronically between April and August 2023. Participants were recruited through paid advertisements on the following social media platforms: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Reddit, and Snapchat. In addition, DPD publicized the link in various promotional materials. In total, 566 respondents participated in the survey (see Appendix II for the Survey Instrument). In addition to demographic data, the survey instrument employed a variety of questions using multiple choice/multiple select and Likert agreement scales. The survey employed a convenience sampling frame that sought to achieve representation by targeted social media advertising.

For this needs assessment, we opted to employ judgment sampling, also known as purposive sampling. This non-probability sampling

method is utilized in research to deliberately select distinct settings, individuals, or events, aiming to gather vital insights that may remain elusive through alternative approaches.⁵⁵ Within judgment sampling, researchers leverage their expertise to meticulously handpick specific units for analysis, such as individuals, organizations, or events.⁵⁶ As is the case with any research methodology, there exist both merits and limitations. The advantages of judgment sampling lie in its cost-effectiveness, convenience, and appropriateness for exploratory research undertakings.⁵⁷ However, it does come with potential drawbacks related to the generalizability of findings and the subjective nature of the selection process.⁵⁸

Focus Groups & Focused Interviews

Trauma-informed best practices were used throughout the grant program. Information on trauma-informed approaches can be located at <https://store.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/pep23-06-05-005.pdf>. As Institute researchers interviewed or interacted with survivors/victims in site visits to community or service locations that assist human trafficking survivors, team leaders used these practices in all communications and meetings. All instrumentation and surveys were approved by the University of Texas at Dallas National Institutes of Health (NIH)-regulated Institutional Review Board, a process to ensure the protection of human subjects participating in research. After that, the researchers followed the SAMHSA-defined concept of a trauma-informed

55 Hamed Taherdoost, Sampling Methods in Research Methodology; How to Choose a Sampling Technique for Research, *International Journal of Academic Research in Management* 5, no. 2 (2016): 18-27.

56 Taherdoost; Gaganpreet Sharma, Pros and Cons of Different Sampling Techniques, *International Journal of Applied Research* 3, no. 7 (2017): 749-52.

57 Taherdoost, Sampling Methods in Research Methodology; How to Choose a Sampling Technique for Research.

58 Taherdoost; Sharma, Pros and Cons of Different Sampling Techniques.

approach and six core principles: 1) safety, 2) trustworthiness and transparency, 3) peer support, 4) collaboration and mutuality, 5) empowerment, voice, and choice, and 6) cultural, historical, and gender issues.⁵⁹

The researchers ensured that interviews were conducted in safe spaces with support from peers or professional counselors. Foremost in the protections of vulnerable subjects is that all participants fully understand why they are being interviewed and exactly how the information will be used, while simultaneously respecting unique cultural and gendered needs. Beginning in 2022 and continuing into 2023, a series of focus groups and individual interviews were undertaken by Institute researchers. These group and individual sessions on human trafficking involved diverse faith leaders, community members and activists, service providers and nonprofits, survivors, law enforcement representatives, and officials from the Dallas County District Attorney's Office.

Faith-Based

The initial session between Institute staff, DPD members, and faith-based leaders took place at Our Calling, an organization rooted in faith that directs homeless individuals toward embracing a well-rounded and enduring lifestyle. During this meeting, we engaged with key members of their leadership team to delve into the crossroads of homelessness and human trafficking. Our Calling devised a geographic coding system encompassing all the encampments across the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) vicinity, accessible through their app, to monitor the situations of homeless individuals. The information gathered by this organization has been instrumental in overseeing vulnerable groups, notably children and trafficking victims, to ensure their access to essential services. Many advocates use these data to assist in recovery and service referrals.

Subsequently, a large faith community symposium was organized and advertised by DPD with Institute leaders in attendance in the spring of 2022. This event united faith leaders hailing from diverse denominations and spiritual communities. The gathering featured a panel comprising representatives from the D.A.'s Office, a survivor, a service provider, and a faith leader. Each panelist shared insights on how human trafficking impacts their sphere, acknowledging positive strides within the DFW region while identifying areas necessitating enhancement. Attendees were then furnished with a set of questions, encouraging discussion on these subjects with fellow attendees at their respective tables. The audience encompassed individuals affiliated with organizations and communities represented on the panel.

Service Providers/Non-Profit Partners

For the second cohort, we engaged in focus groups and targeted interviews involving service providers and nonprofit partners who are closely engaged with victims and survivors (both child and adult populations) of human trafficking. After IRB approval, we arranged focus groups at a neutral venue, where we posed questions to service providers about their on-ground experience with victims and survivors. These queries encompassed topics such as successful practices, areas needing enhancement, and various aspects of their professional roles.

A subset of attendees in the focus groups comprising of service providers were individuals who had personally endured trafficking experiences. These participants, having undergone extensive therapy and progressed through diverse support systems, have subsequently committed their lives to aiding individuals facing circumstances akin to what they once went through. Their unique perspective added an extra dimension of understanding, given that they possess firsthand knowledge of both sides of the situation.

59 US Centers for Disease Control Office of Readiness and Response, Six Guiding Principles To A Trauma-Informed Approach, February 23, 2023, https://www.cdc.gov/orr/infographics/6_principles_trauma_info.htm.

Subsequently, in August 2023, we undertook a specialized interview with a human trafficking advocacy organization situated in the North Dallas region. This organization extends its services across five counties within the North Dallas area, with a primary emphasis on providing assistance to child victims of human sex trafficking. This in-depth interview provided an enriched understanding of the specific challenges faced by personnel within this organization as they persist

therapy and made substantial progress within a variety of support networks, leading them to establish a new sense of equilibrium in their lives.

Engaging in conversations with these survivors allowed us to gather firsthand insights regarding the positive aspects within the DFW area concerning human trafficking, as well as areas requiring enhancement. Moreover, the survivors provided invaluable perspectives on the intricate workings of trafficking, the individuals involved (traffickers), and the harrowing experiences associated with being entrenched in this exploitative environment.

IRB restrictions and limitations on recruitment of human subjects who identified as survivors of human trafficking were observed to ensure strict protections for this vulnerable population. These restrictions included that only community-based organizations could recruit survivors for interviews, the research team could not have any phone numbers or personal identifying information, Institute personnel could not send out recruitment materials to partners, we could not encourage snowball or convenience sampling from other referrals, we met at public spaces that were easy access for the survivors, and we were sensitive to terminate the interview at any time if there was a disturbance or signs of distress.

Although Institute staff closely observed the human subject restrictions in place, we also had peripheral contact through larger focus groups with survivors of human trafficking who work in a professional capacity with nonprofit and community agencies. In some of the organized focus group settings, therefore, we had survivors who self-identified and who served as representatives of their respective organizations during these sessions. Human trafficking survivors' input in these larger focus groups provides an additional opportunity to give voice to their survivorship while ensuring a voluntary and safe setting to share these experiences. These individuals reported that their testimony regarding their survivorship is part of their healing journey, which is indicated by their work with their organizations and with other survivors. These voices

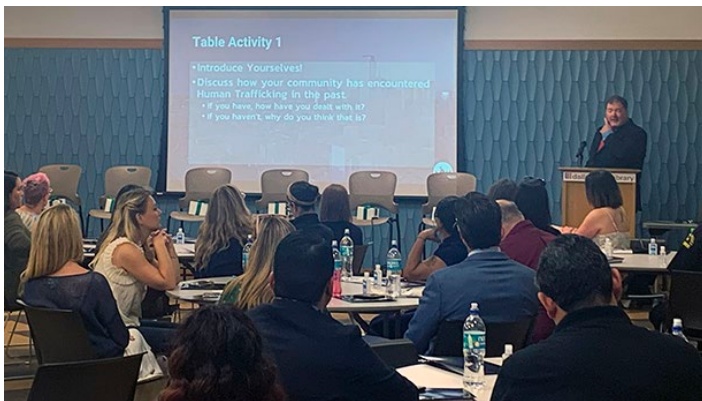


Figure 3. Members of the faith community engaged in table-based activities. These exercises informed the findings of this report.



Figure 4. Panelists address questions from members of the faith community.

in their mission to rescue child victims of human trafficking.

Survivors

Two focused one-on-one survivor interviews took place during the months of June and July 2023. These interviews were specifically arranged with survivors who have undergone significant healing, ensuring that their past traumas were not reawakened or triggered. These survivors are individuals who have undergone comprehensive

are mirrored in the results within these focus groups as well as the results presented within the survivor interviews.

Law Enforcement

The fourth series of concentrated interviews was conducted with members of law enforcement. These interviews encompassed officers, detectives, and supervisors from both DPD and the group supervisor for the Sex Trafficking Unit within the North Texas Department of Homeland Security (HSI) after IRB approval.

The objective of these interviews was to gain insights into the observations and experiences of law enforcement concerning human trafficking within the DFW area. The focused discussions with officers, detectives, and supervisors from DPD yielded a comprehensive understanding of their daily encounters, from street-level interactions to the challenges posed by bureaucratic structures. A consistent thread across all levels of law enforcement was the identified lack of training, a nuanced grasp of pertinent definitions, and the capacity to effectively assist human trafficking victims.

Conversely, the concentrated interview with the HSI group supervisor offered a federal law enforcement perspective. While certain themes echoed those mentioned by the DPD officers and supervisors, a notable distinction emerged in terms of intentional collaborations with community organizations aimed at aiding human trafficking victims. Furthermore, a shift was evident in the creation of new performance metrics focused on victims' well-being, excluding the sole criteria of arrest and prosecution.

This study followed up on a 2014 Urban Institute study and provided the necessary information on the prevalence and needs for funding for the City of Dallas. The Institute met with DPD to discuss data and gaps that exist within the organizational structure. The Institute worked with DPD and conducted a thorough analysis of existing data sources and identified opportunities to gauge the prevalence of sex trafficking in Dallas. The Institute also connected with outside

stakeholder organizations to gather complementary data and identify best practices among service providers.

The DPD Community Engagement developed a media campaign that complemented and added to their current sex trafficking prevention efforts. DPD also provided the data and interviews with law enforcement officers to fully inform the study.

Currently, there is a gap in the organizational structure, and frankly, funding, of DPD that does not provide persons designated to collect data on victims of sex trafficking. With there being so many victim service organizations, there needs to be a person designated to gather this information to inform DPD's sex trafficking prevention work each year. This needs assessment demonstrates that, among other resources, there is a need to sustainably fund a position within DPD dedicated to the collection of human trafficking data.

Dallas Police Department Citizen's Academy Training

On April 5, 2022, Institute leaders attended the DPD Citizen's Academy to offer specialized training in human trafficking. Roughly 30 citizens from across the city and Dallas County attended the three-hour training, with another 25–30 DPD command staff, civilian staff, and law enforcement officers in attendance. The presentation covered definitions of forms of human trafficking; offered prevalence and incidence data from global, national, regional and local data and perspectives; discussed the myths and realities of recruiting victims, where these crimes occur, and the mechanisms for identification of both victims and perpetrators; and it offered a critical discussion of consequences and resources needed to support recovered survivors within the community.

The District Attorney's Office

Lastly, we conducted focused interviews with essential figures from the D.A.'s Office Sexual Assault Unit: a victim witness advocate and two of the unit's attorneys. This unit handles all sexual related cases for both children and adults. These

interviews offered a comprehensive clarification of the methodologies employed by the D.A.'s Office in addressing human trafficking cases, unveiling the recurrent patterns they have observed within the court system concerning trafficking issues.

From these conversations, we extracted insights concerning the barriers and obstacles currently faced within their specific unit and within the broader context of prosecuting human trafficking cases. Moreover, they shed light on the aspects that have been successful. A shared thread binding all three interviewees was the challenge they encountered in effectively assisting human trafficking victims while working within a framework that inherently embodies an adversarial nature.

Ancillary-Related Activities of DPD Units

The media campaign worked to identify community members most likely to encounter trafficking, seeking to educate them on the signs of sex trafficking and what to do if they suspect a person is a victim of trafficking. Materials will be developed and distributed by DPD's Public Information Office. Critical information on the materials will include information on the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Members of the Community Engagement Unit will work with detectives in High Risk Victims (HRV) Unit, Vice, and Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) units to deliver the training and educate the public in

safe settings, additionally ensuring that public health protocols are taken into consideration throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. While these units currently do some education and outreach (particularly the ICAC unit with a dedicated outreach position), better coordination of these efforts will lead to more cohesive and comprehensive messaging, and increased awareness throughout the community.

Members of the research worked with the DPD working group to develop and deploy consistent branding and a web presence for the human trafficking awareness campaign. This included designing logo and wordmark treatments (see Figure 5). The working group wanted to play off the Department of Homeland Security's BLUE campaign and developed the Blue Heart website (see <https://blueheartdfw.com>). The DPD team assumed maintenance responsibilities for the website.

As required by the granting agency, DPD reported matching the funding request of \$125,000 with in-kind contributions from staff overtime and approved funding from a general fund. Specifically, the in-kind match was a combination of time dedicated by the DPD Community Engagement unit personnel, as well as overtime hours worked by Vice and HRV Unit personnel and command staff. Information on these hours regarding matching funds will be provided directly from the City of Dallas and their accounting department as required by the granting agency.

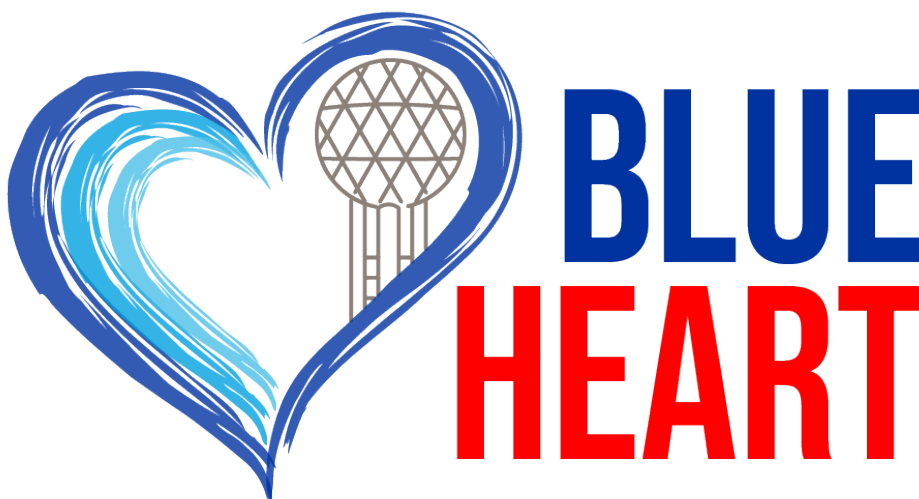


Figure 5. Project BlueHeart Wordmark.

*"If I don't have anywhere
to sleep, I can't dream."*

~Survivor/Focus Group Participant



Qualitative Review

During the progression of this project, as the Institute project team engaged with survivors, service providers, law enforcement, and individuals within the D.A.'s Office, several overarching themes became apparent. These themes encompass areas of success, areas requiring enhancement, and aspects that might not have been acknowledged before the project's initiation.

Component programming

In a qualitative analysis of content, strong themes emerged from service providers and survivors throughout this project endorsing survivor-centered targeted programming; indeed, this subject came up quite often across various settings and methodologies. A survivor adeptly stated that if basic needs are not met, individuals will return to the street. Stability is imperative to not only ensure individuals do not return to the street but also to build trust and relationships with survivors. As was so eloquently stated by one of the survivors, "Traffickers step in the fractured moments of discontent. When [an individual is] thirsty, a drop of water is everything."

One way to facilitate stability for trafficking survivors can be achieved through the provision of housing assistance. This viewpoint was echoed by service providers, who emphasized the vital role of vetted transitional housing for survivors. As individuals break free from the cycle of human trafficking, having access to suitable housing addresses a fundamental requirement. Vetted

housing is essential as some assistance programs cause more trauma in trafficking survivors, which can increase recovery time.

Another aspect needed in component programming is providing educational opportunities to survivors. Throughout this project, survivors have expressed that education is invaluable as it cannot be taken away, it "outshines the darkness," as one service provider stated, and it provides empowerment. Education also gives survivors tools to stay out of the cycle of trafficking. Throughout this project, survivors, service providers, and law enforcement have consistently conveyed the formidable psychological influence wielded by traffickers over their victims. The trafficker's dominance is shattered when victims and survivors are educated, effectively rendering them less susceptible to manipulation and control.

A third aspect of component programming articulated by service providers and survivors was mental health services and drug treatment for trafficking victims and survivors. Both mental health and drug treatment services exist. However, according to experts who work with trafficking victims and survivors, personnel in the mental health and drug treatment systems generally are not trained to help with the complex nature of treating trafficking victims and survivors. Victims and survivors suffer from trauma associated with being trafficked. Trauma manifests itself in different ways for different people. For some, trauma manifests in behaviors that are viewed as combative and destructive. Service providers conveyed to the Institute team that due to how some victims and survivors express their trauma, there is a lack of tolerance in the mental health and drug treatment world. Individuals grappling solely with mental health and substance abuse concerns are often perceived as distinct and comparatively easier to address than those who are both victims and survivors of trafficking and also contend with mental health and substance abuse difficulties. "Healed women heal families; healed families heal communities."

"Not having basic needs met will send someone back to the streets."

~Survivor/Focus Group Participant

Law Enforcement

The themes that emerged as it relates to law enforcement and sex trafficking were high turnover rates, gaps in understanding, and the need for additional training. The significant rate of personnel turnover within the DPD has resulted in instability and a lack of institutional knowledge, especially in leadership. These effects are not confined to the organization alone; they extend to the entities in the DFW area that depend on the services and aid provided by the DPD.

One of the gaps in understanding with law enforcement is understanding the difference between sex work and sex trafficking. In other words, understanding that even sex work that looks voluntary may not be, once trust is built and a survivor believes they will be heard. For some officers, this gap in understanding manifests itself in understanding appropriate and inappropriate terminology and attitudes toward survivors. Terms such as “prostitute” or “pimp” are sometimes used by officers when describing victims and their traffickers. Using such value-laden terms strips the humanity from these victims—as well as the culpability of the trafficker. It reduces the victim to the sexual act which they are performing under force and coercion. However, it is also noteworthy that the DPD Vice command staff were very sensitive to their terminology, their viewpoints surrounding the realities of trafficking and survivorship, and their desire to recover victims and hold perpetrators accountable for their unspeakable crimes. As one DPD leader said to our team during observations in the field of Vice operations, “buying a human being is never okay.” Having a trained and seasoned victim advocate on the ground to greet survivors when they were brought into the station during operations also shows the investment of DPD

“Buying a human being is never okay.”
—Dallas Police Leader/Focus Group Participant

in humanizing and using trauma-centered practices to support sex trafficking survivors as they engage with law enforcement.

Another gap in understanding is that it often takes victims multiple times to be offered services before they permanently leave the cycle of trafficking. Upon talking with DPD officers, the Institute team found that many of them expressed frustration when services that were offered to victims were not taken. Traffickers are master manipulators who exploit vulnerabilities, according to one of the law enforcement officers whom the Institute team met with. In addition, previous research has identified the lack of self-identification as a victim to be a significant barrier to service access: “One of the most common and frustrating challenges reported by law enforcement and service providers is the lack of knowledge and understanding regarding human trafficking among service providers, law enforcement, and even victims themselves who often do not believe or understand that they are a victim of

crime. As a result, victims often go unidentified and unserved.”⁶⁰

Consequently,

it requires consistency from law enforcement who care to build rapport with victims which may eventually result in the victim’s decision to permanently leave. It is also important for law enforcement to see the humanity in each victim, and to see them as more than the situation in which they are currently in.

Gaps in understanding can be eliminated through training opportunities. A service provider stated they believe “...training [law enforcement] is important...[A]ny time [they’ve] had the opportunity to train law enforcement agencies, it’s like it just takes a few moments to say the right thing and [they can] see something click...like, ‘Oh yeah, they’re human.’ And ‘that could be my daughter...’”

60 Heather J Clawson and Nicole Dutch, Addressing the Needs of Victims of Human Trafficking: Challenges, Barriers, and Promising Practices, Issue Brief (Washington, DC: US Department of Health and Human Services, July 2008), 5, <https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/private/pdf/75471/ib.pdf>.

Training informs officers on best practices, and how to appropriately communicate with victims and survivors.

Lieutenant Lisette Rivera from the DPD Vice unit reached out to the Houston Police Department Human Trafficking Unit early on in the timeline of this needs assessment to gain insight into their best practices. HPD has an excellent reputation for its dedicated approach to intervention and prevention of human trafficking, including a heavily staffed dedicated human trafficking and code enforcement unit. In our team briefings with Lt. Rivera, she stated that Houston PD command staff was very helpful and willing to discuss best practices established and share experiences that had strengthened their Human Trafficking Unit. For instance, HPD officer Dennis Domagas provided a one-day course on massage parlor investigations for the DPD trafficking team. Officer Domagas shared Houston's success seen by incorporating code enforcement and other city entities in their licensing investigations. With this information, DPD more deeply integrated Dallas Fire and Rescue and Dallas Building Services/ Code Enforcement into their investigations. This allows for more rapid intervention to shut down

Lastly, officers interviewed by the Institute team stated they commonly do not feel properly equipped when coming in contact with victims on the street. One officer even stated that it would be helpful when initiating contact with sex workers to have resources in "...[their] tool belt...like what [they] do with family violence victims to give them [a] whole packet of phone numbers, shelters and all this stuff. We have something like that out on your streets every day." Another way to better equip officers to combat human trafficking, and the victims they come in contact with, is by changing the measures of success. Most police departments use arrests as their measure of success. However, using arrests as the definitive measure of success when working with victims and survivors of trafficking is not compatible with a trauma-informed practice that they should not be further criminalized and arrested. If one adopts the belief that the criminal acts these persons engage in are a form of modern slavery—and a symptom of trafficking—then arresting them is not the primary focus of operations that interfere with sex work. Survivor perspectives mirror these sentiments. These moments are opportunities to change survivors beliefs about law enforcement, which are flavored by cultural context, prior criminalized experiences during their trafficking history, failed opportunities or outcries for help, or feelings of mistrust of criminal justice personnel. It also provides an opportunity to get them resources, and the simple act of receiving these resources and knowing they exist changes a survivor. When taken from this perspective, encounters with victims of trafficking should be measured and valued by the length of time sex workers are displaced off the street. This same sentiment was also echoed by a survivor the Institute team talked with. Restructuring measurement thus shifts the focus away from the police department and places the focus on the well-being of the victims and survivors.

"...training is important... Any time [they've] had the opportunity to train law enforcement agencies, it's like it just takes a few moments to say the right thing and [they can] see something click...like, 'Oh yeah, they're human.' And 'that could be my daughter...'"

—Service Provider/Focus Group Participant

violating establishments using life-safety violations. Moreover, this places the enforcement emphasis on business owners rather than the victims they exploit.

In June of 2023, DPD established the Human Trafficking Squad, comprising one sergeant and six mid-level detectives. This squad is under the department's Special Investigations Division, which also supervises Narcotics and Vice investigations. This move pulls these detectives who had been shared with vice and narcotics and

dedicates their efforts toward human trafficking. As of the publication of this report, the Dallas Police organizational charts did not reflect this new structure. There may be additional changes that have occurred with this reorganization, but these changes occurred after data were collected for this report.

Prosecution & Diversion Programs

The Dallas County District Attorney's Office had a designated Human Trafficking Division, which has since been dismantled. The Sexual Assault (S.A.) Unit now handles all sex crimes (children and adults) and trafficking cases (children and adults). One of the supervisors in the D.A.'s Office indicated that they believe a designated unit is needed, as having dedicated attorneys and investigators will help better tackle the sex trafficking problem and provide services to victims. A rough estimate of the costs associated with resurrecting a Human Trafficking Division in the D.A.'s Office is \$300,000: a chief prosecutor, two assistant district attorneys, investigators, and a victim witness advocate.

The Institute team engaged in discussions with members of the D.A.'s Office. They conveyed their confidence in the improving ability of their office to differentiate between victims and perpetrators during the criminal justice process. One of the supervising attorneys in the D.A.'s Office indicated that prosecutors in their office have been receiving training over the past two and half years via a grant from Equitas. Equitas is an International Human Rights Training Program based in Canada.⁶¹ Prosecutors in the D.A.'s Office have received training specifically on survivors and how to separate the victim's criminal behavior from their victimhood.

The supervisor further indicated that this training has helped them be able to articulate to jurors how individuals can become susceptible to trafficking. The attorney emphasized how jurors continue to pose a challenge during trials and sentencing. Jurors pose a challenge as they tend

to only see the criminal behavior of the victim and not how the victim was coerced into a life of criminality by their trafficker. Jurors also have challenges understanding what traffickers look like, according to the prosecutor. Which, according to them, is another opportunity for educating individuals.

The individuals that the Institute team conversed with expressed their belief that there is a gap in training with law enforcement as it relates to sex trafficking. All training is handled by the Department of Homeland Security and is not done regularly. The irregularity leads to gaps in knowledge, which is exacerbated by the high turnover within the DPD and across its units.

In terms of charging, similar to law enforcement, the attorneys that were spoken to indicated that victims of trafficking are often brought in on charges of trafficking. Charges such as drug use and distribution, sex work, theft and burglary, weapons possession, public intoxication, and other criminal acts are all results of the cycle of trafficking versus the core problem. Moreover, one of the victim witnesses (VW) advocates in the D.A.'s Office indicated that, in her experience, all sex workers were human trafficking victims at some point. The VW's experience was echoed by the survivors and case workers that the Institute team worked with during this project. Survivors and case workers consistently stated that every sex worker they have come across and known has been a victim of sex trafficking at some point in their lives. Consequently, as a practice going forward, all prostitution cases that are received by the D.A.'s Office should be treated as sex trafficking cases.

The Institute team was advised that there is a screening process in the D.A.'s Office once a case is charged. This process is different from the procedures done in the Dallas County Jail when an individual is processed. The screening process done in the D.A.'s Office is done using the charging documents. The documents are reviewed to assess whether an individual has substance

61 Equitas, Equitas:International Centre for Human Rights Education, Equitas, accessed August 31, 2023, <https://equitas.org/>.

use issues and would benefit from a diversion program, a domestic violence survivor program, or trafficking survivor resources and programming. Unfortunately, since there is no designated unit that handles the screening process, the documents are spread across the misdemeanor and felony offices with the corresponding cases. Consequently, victims get lost in the system and do not receive the services needed.

Those identified by the S.A. Unit in the D.A.'s Office as being victims of sex trafficking are generally advised by their defense attorneys not to cooperate. This is given by defense attorneys as although the unit can provide service to victims; the office is affiliated with the prosecutor's office. In an adversarial system, "[i]t's hard to be restorative when [the system] is punitive," as was stated by a service provider articulating their perspective on the criminal justice system and trafficking victims. Additionally, most individuals are going to "...free attorneys, but not necessarily public defenders, they're just private parties in practice, which is why it's low priority for them. You know, it's just one more misdemeanor appointment," as was stated by one of the D.A.'s. One recommendation is to remove the victim witness advocate from the D.A.'s Office and place them either in a neutral location or the Public Defender's Office. The relocation will allow victims to receive the services they need outside of their criminal proceedings.

For those who are identified as trafficking victims and are identified as needing services, survivors informed the Institute team that victims are frequently excluded from diversion programs. The purpose of diversion programs is to alleviate strain on congested court schedules and crowded

jails and prisons. Simultaneously, these programs provide opportunities to link individuals with necessary treatment and services, with the goal of helping individuals and decreasing costs to the criminal justice system.⁶² Diversion programs frequently have requirements that automatically exclude most individuals. According to the Dallas County D.A.'s Office Pre-Trial Diversion Checklist, the first requirement is an adult defendant

who is a first-time felony offender.⁶³

The second requirement is that the individual has not committed a violent offense.⁶⁴ Offenses

such as aggravated felony charges, offenses involving death, anything sexual, family violence/child abuse charges, arson charges, first-degree felony manufacture/delivery charges (second-degree felony cases are reviewed on a case-by-case basis), and felony intoxication offenses.⁶⁵ These requirements, although frequently included in diversion programs, disproportionately affect people of color.⁶⁶ Considering that the majority of trafficking victims are people of color, have lengthy arrest and conviction histories, and their charges are usually sexual in nature, drug-related, or considered violent, victims are less likely to receive the diversion services they need to heal.

"It's hard to be restorative when the system is punitive,"

-Member of the DA's Office/Focus Group Participant

Barriers

Over the course of this project, several barriers were expressed. One barrier is that, according to law enforcement, counties do not use bail properly for traffickers. Traffickers frequently bond out as their charges are considered non-violent. Upon leaving the jail, traffickers find their victims. This hinders the criminal justice process, as bonded individuals are a low priority for the court system,

62 Leah Wang, Racial Disparities in Diversion: A Research Roundup, March 7, 2023, https://www.prison-policy.org/blog/2023/03/07/diversion_racial_disparities/.

63 Dallas County District Attorney's Office, Dallas County Pre-Trial Diversion Checklist, accessed August 31, 2023, <https://www.dallascounty.org/Assets/uploads/docs/district-attorney/restorative-justice/PTD-Checklist-Defense-Bar.pdf>.

64 Dallas County District Attorney's Office.

65 Dallas County District Attorney's Office.

66 Wang, Racial Disparities in Diversion.



Figure 6. National Domestic Violence Hotline Power and Control Wheel.

the victims are less likely to return to court and cooperate with prosecution, and victims are less likely to get the services needed to leave the cycle of trafficking.

Correspondingly, during an investigation and criminal justice process, maintaining relationships with victims poses a barrier for the D.A.'s Office. Through no fault of their own, victims live a lifestyle that makes it challenging to maintain contact, whether voluntarily or involuntarily. Traffickers intentionally isolate their victims so they are unable to maintain contact with the outside world. Additionally, victims are often threatened by their traffickers into not testifying or cooperating with law enforcement and the D.A.'s Office in the cases against them. These behaviors are

classic abuse tactics as laid out in the Power and Control Wheel created by the Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (see Figure 6).⁶⁷ Traffickers (i.e., abusers) perpetuate a sequence of actions employed to acquire or uphold authority and dominance. Victims are conditioned to accept a "...perverse sense of love, acceptance, family, and structure," as was shared by one of the attorneys in the D.A.'s Office. This conditioning makes it hard for government organizations to combat.

Another barrier that service providers and child victims experience is what providers call "no man's land." Child victims of sex trafficking who are 17 years old straddle the boundary between being perceived as a minor and as an adult within most systems (see Figure 7 on page

67 Power and Control, The Hotline, accessed August 31, 2023, <https://www.thehotline.org/identify-abuse/power-and-control/>.



Figure 7. The Space Between: How Does the System Treat Adolescents?

33).⁶⁸ According to Texas State law, 17-year-olds are classified as children, but they can still face adult charges in criminal proceedings such as prostitution.⁶⁹ This poses barriers as 17-year-old victims do not qualify for adult transitional housing, as they are legally minors.⁷⁰ Moreover, they are not accepted into residential treatment facilities licensed to house minors, as once they turn 18 years old, they are no longer eligible.⁷¹ Therefore, services are funneled to victims 16 and younger or adults.

A third barrier for victims and survivors of trafficking is the lack of laws that protect them from their traffickers, especially during criminal proceedings. In Texas, as in every state, the Rape Shield Law, or Texas Rule of Evidence 412, prohibits the introduction of evidence concerning the sexual behavior or sexual predisposition of an alleged victim in such cases.⁷² Unfortunately, trafficking victims often do not experience the

protections outlined in these laws, as they are required to face their trafficker in court during the proceedings. All sexual assault victims should be protected from having to retell their experiences.

A fourth barrier, expressed by survivors, is the faith-based community. Although faith leaders can be a source of solace and guidance, they can also be a source of trauma. Some faith communities teach submission without context, which can be used to control and oppress women, as was informed by a survivor. The survivor reminded the Institute team that the faith community plays an important role in the black and brown community, and "...when 40% of trafficked girls and women are black and brown women, they are susceptible to victimization in the faith community," said the survivor. Places of worship should remain safe spaces and not become places of deeper trauma and grief.

68 Traffick 911, Traffick 911 - Barriers for 17-Year-Old Clients.Pdf, n.d.

69 Traffick 911.

70 Traffick 911.

71 Traffick 911.

72 TEXAS RULES OF EVIDENCE, Texas Courts, January 1, 2018, <https://www.txcourts.gov/media/1442383/texas-rules-of-evidence-updated-with-amendments-effective-112018.pdf>.

Overall, the sentiment expressed by participants in the focus groups and focused interviews is that the barriers known to those helping victims and survivors are also known to traffickers. Therefore, the sooner these barriers are addressed and gaps are closed, the less power traffickers will have. All areas of reform should be informed by victims and survivors; their voices should be heard above all else. These changes will not happen overnight or in just one community. However, “long-haul love,” a term used by an organization in the DFW area, requires patience, dedication, and consistency from all involved. Only then will victims and survivors heal and stay out of the cycle of trafficking. “Trafficking starts with one person’s vulnerability and another person’s vice.”

A Review of Public Perception

Because of the sociocultural diversity in the greater Dallas area, the survey was translated by DPD community affairs staff from English into Spanish and Mandarin. All promotional materials, as well as consent forms, were translated as well. The majority of respondents completed the English version of the survey (529, or 93%). An

additional 26 respondents completed the survey in Spanish (5%), while 11 respondents used the Mandarin version (2%).

Of these 566 survey respondents, 472 reported their residence ZIP code, while 245 reported the ZIP code for their place of work or school. Figure 8 depicts the number of respondents by ZIP code of residence, while Figure 9 presents similar information by ZIP code of work or school. The bold red line represents Dallas city limits. There are three independent cities located wholly within the city of Dallas boundaries. The large red boundary area in the center of the northern part of the city represents the independent cities of University Park and Highland Park. The small red square in southwestern Dallas represents the independent city of Cockrell Hill. These figures demonstrate that respondents are representatively distributed through the northern and southern City of Dallas and additional areas of Dallas and Collin counties.

Table 1 depicts the self-reported race and ethnicity of survey participants. Participants were encouraged to select all options with which they identified. Responses were then recoded for presentation purposes. Respondents who selected Hispanic alone or in combination were recoded to Hispanic. Participants selecting two

or more options, not including Hispanic, were recoded as “Two or More Races.” A majority of respondents identified as White (55%), with an additional 19% identifying as Hispanic and 7% identifying as Black/African American.

Table 2 presents the age groups selected by respondents. Of the 566 survey

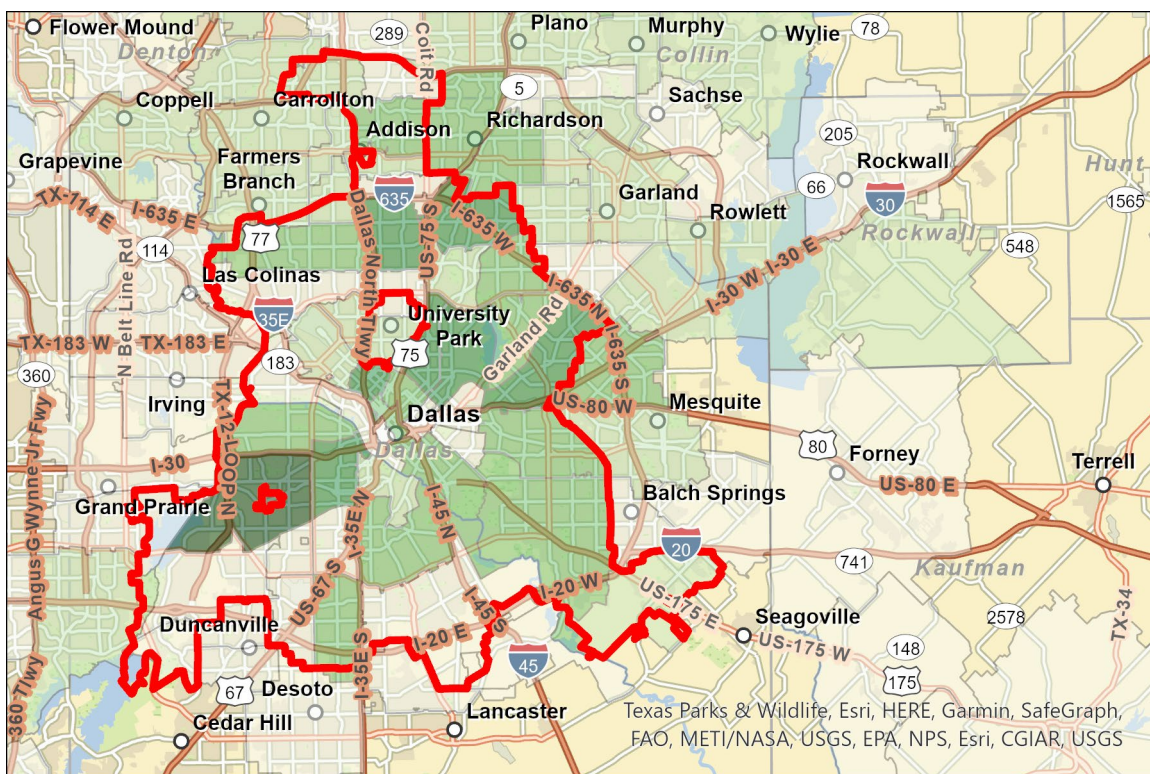


Figure 8. Number of Respondents by ZIP Code of Residence.

Table 1. Respondents by Recoded Race and Ethnicity.

Race/Ethnicity	Number	Percent
White	313	55.3%
Hispanic	110	19.4%
Two or More Races	61	10.8%
Black/African American	40	7.1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	39	6.9%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	3	0.5%
No Response	0	
Total	566	

respondents, 35 did not answer the age question. A plurality of respondents selected ages 55 to 64 (20%), but a similar proportion was identified in other age groups over 25. Just over one-half of the respondents were between the ages of 25 and 64.

Participants were asked to identify a gender category with which they most closely identify. In addition to the Male and Female categories, the instrument included options for Non-Binary/Third Gender and Prefer Not to Say. Three in every five respondents (61%) identified as Male, while 39% identified as Female. While 53 respondents did not answer the question, no respondents selected the non-binary or preferred not to say options. Table 3 presents these findings.

Survey respondents were asked to select a work

Table 2. Respondents by Age Group.

Age Group	Number	Percent
18–24	39	7.3%
25–34	84	15.8%
35–44	94	17.7%
45–54	95	17.9%
55–64	106	20.0%
65–74	91	17.1%
75 and Over	22	4.1%
No Response	35	
Total	566	

Table 3. Respondents by Gender.

Gender	Number	Percent
Male	311	60.6%
Female	202	39.4%
Non-Binary/Third Gender	0	0.0%
Prefer Not to Say	0	0.0%
No Response	53	
Total	566	

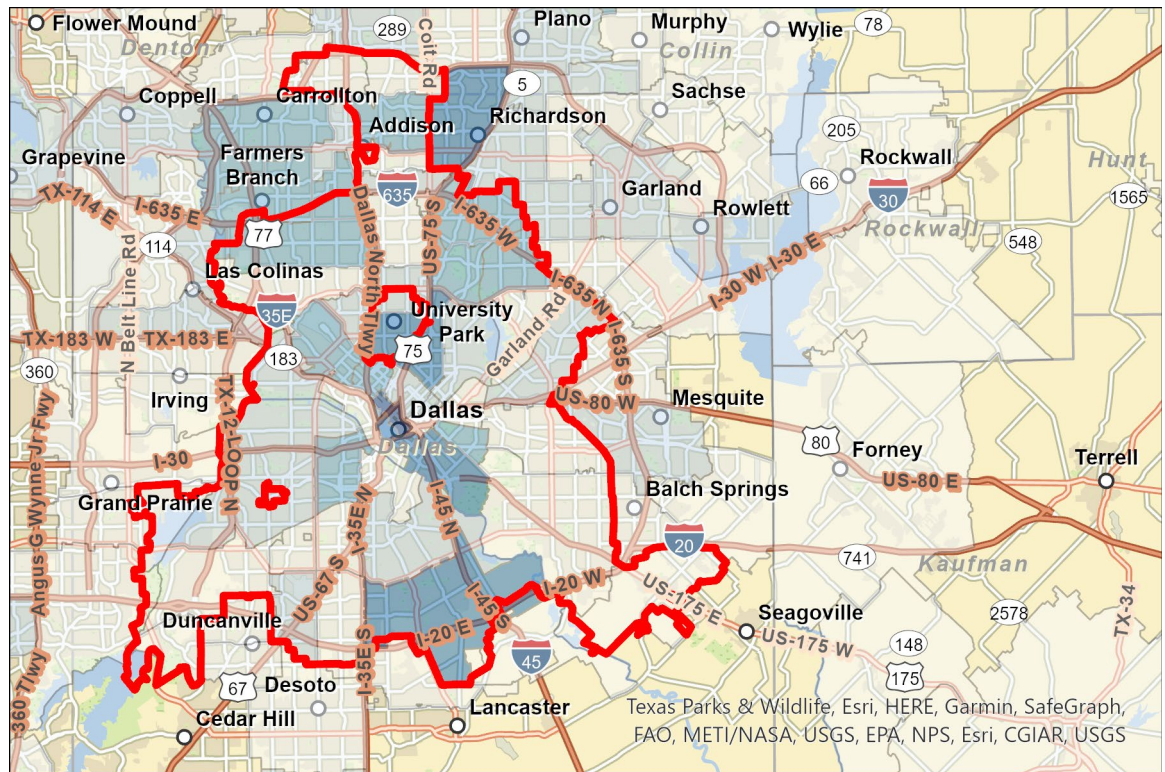


Figure 9. Number of Respondents by ZIP Code of Work or School.

Table 4. Respondents by Work Status.

Work Status	Number	Percent
Work Outside of the Home	253	53.3%
Work At Home / Homemaker / Stay at Home Parent	81	17.1%
Retired	100	21.1%
Student	13	2.7%
Unemployed (Looking for Work)	18	3.8%
Unemployed (Not Looking for Work)	10	2.1%
No Response	91	
Total	566	

status that best described their situation (see Table 4). A slight majority of respondents (53%) worked outside of the home, with retirees comprising the next largest group at 21%. The third largest group was respondents who worked in the home, with 17%. The remaining groups comprised fewer than 10% of responses.

Table 5. Respondents by Home Type.

Home Type	Number	Percent
House	341	70.3%
Apartment	94	19.4%
Townhome/Duplex	15	3.1%
Condo	23	4.7%
Mobile Home	6	1.2%
Other	6	1.2%
No Response	81	
Total	566	

Finally, respondents were asked to select the category that best described their residence. Consistent with general housing patterns in North Texas, most respondents resided in single-family

houses or apartments (70% and 19%, respectively; see Table 5). Respondents were also asked about their household size. Among the 469 respondents who provided an answer, the average household size was 2.61 persons, with a median of 2.00.⁷³ The standard deviation was 1.48. Roughly 30% of households had children residing in them.

Opinions About Crime in General

The survey instrument solicited several different perspectives on general concepts of crime and safety. First, respondents were asked to indicate their agreement to several questions on a five-point Likert scale. The first question asked respondents to agree with the statement, "My neighborhood has a crime problem." Almost one-half (48%) somewhat or strongly agreed with this statement, while 39% somewhat or strongly disagreed (see Table 6).

Table 6. Distribution of Agreement---"My Neighborhood Has a Crime Problem."

Statement	Number	Percent
Strongly Disagree	69	16.6%
Somewhat Disagree	93	22.4%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	55	13.2%
Somewhat Agree	126	30.3%
Strongly Agree	73	17.5%
Total	416	

The second general crime perception question asked respondents to agree with the statement, "I feel safe in my neighborhood." Among those who responded, 70% agreed somewhat or strongly, while 22% disagreed somewhat or strongly (see Table 7).

This seeming contradiction, with 70% of respondents feeling safe in their neighborhood and 48% reporting that their neighborhood has a crime problem, belies the fact that there are two separate populations. Table 8 on page 37

73 One outlier, recording a household size of 1,000,000, was omitted.

Table 7. Distribution of Agreement—"I Feel Safe in My Neighborhood."

Statement	Number	Percent
Strongly Disagree	27	7%
Somewhat Disagree	63	15%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	35	8%
Somewhat Agree	162	39%
Strongly Agree	127	31%
Total	414	

presents the crosstabulation of responses to "I Feel Safe at Home" (in the columns) and "My Neighborhood Has a Crime Problem" (in the rows, with row percentages). The table tells two different stories of perception. Among those who do not perceive a crime problem in their neighborhood, the vast majority somewhat or strongly agree that they feel safe at home (94.4%). However, there is greater variation among those who do perceive a crime problem. One-half (50.3%) agree or strongly agree that they feel safe at home, in spite of believing that a crime problem exists in their

neighborhood (see the orange shaded area). Just over one in three who believe their neighborhood has a crime problem do not feel safe.

This table highlights an issue of disconnection between feelings of safety and perceptions of crime. While the absence of a "crime problem" is almost unilaterally associated with feelings of safety, the opposite is not true. Only among those who strongly agree that their neighborhood has a crime problem does one see a majority who do not feel safe. This disconnection is a feature that will play out not only in general perceptions of crime but also in areas of human trafficking. While many will recognize human trafficking as a problem, fewer perceive it as a problem for them in their neighborhood.

Lastly, those respondents who indicated a work status other than retired were asked about their perceptions of safety at their place of work. Almost two-thirds (63%) of respondents somewhat or strongly agreed with this statement (see Table 9).

Table 8. Crosstabulation of "Feel Safe in my Neighborhood" and "Neighborhood Has Crime Problem" Showing Row Percents.

My Neighborhood has a Crime Problem	I Feel Safe in my Neighborhood						Total
	Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree	No Resp.	
Strongly Disagree	0 (0.0%)	1 (1.5%)	0 (0.0%)	9 (13.4%)	57 (85.1%)	2	69
Somewhat Disagree	1 (1.1%)	6 (6.5%)	1 (1.1%)	47 (50.5%)	38 (40.9%)	0	93
Neither Agree nor Disagree	0 (0.0%)	7 (12.7%)	12 (21.8%)	26 (47.3%)	10 (18.2%)	0	55
Somewhat Agree	4 (3.2%)	26 (20.8%)	14 (11.2%)	64 (51.2%)	17 (13.6%)	1	126
Strongly Agree	22 (31.0%)	22 (31.0%)	8 (11.3%)	15 (21.1%)	4 (5.6%)	2	73
No Response	0	1	0	1	1	147	150
Total	27	63	35	162	127	152	566

Table 9. Distribution of Agreement—"I Feel Safe Where I Work."

Statement	Number	Percent
Strongly Disagree	18	4%
Somewhat Disagree	29	7%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	103	25%
Somewhat Agree	117	29%
Strongly Agree	138	34%
Total	405	

Respondents were asked to identify up to three crimes that they felt were problems for their neighborhood, elsewhere in North Texas, and elsewhere in Texas. The list included violent crime, street crime, property crime, human trafficking, prostitution, human smuggling, and child

abuse. The list of crimes was constructed to be deliberately vague so as to explore commonalities and differences in respondent selection. For instance, violent crime and street crime share similarities, but respondent selection patterns may reveal subtle differences in perception. Likewise, human trafficking, prostitution, and human smuggling share similarities; selection patterns may reveal differences in perception. Table 10 presents the findings for each geography: neighborhood, North Texas, and Texas.

Table 10 reveals several important differences. While property crime was most often cited as a top-three crime at the neighborhood and North Texas level (at 92% and 80%, respectively), violent crime was most often cited as a top-three crime in Texas. Violent crime and street crime held

Table 10. Participants' Ranking of Top Three Crimes.

Choice	In My Neighborhood (423 Resp.)		In North Texas (431 Resp.)		In Texas (437 Resp.)	
	Num.	Percent	Num.	Percent	Num.	Percent
Violent Crime	190	44.9%	316	73.3%	314	71.9%
Street Crime	278	65.7%	278	64.5%	217	49.7%
Property Crime	390	92.2%	344	79.8%	265	60.6%
Human Trafficking	34	8.0%	130	30.2%	210	48.1%
Prostitution	27	6.4%	17	3.9%	8	1.8%
Human Smuggling	5	1.2%	28	6.5%	122	27.9%
Child Abuse	66	15.6%	100	23.2%	115	26.3%

Table 11. Percentage of Respondents Identifying Crimes as Top 3 Problems in their Neighborhood, by Race/Ethnicity.

Race/Ethnicity	N	Violent Crime	Street Crime	Property Crime	Human Trafficking	Prostitution	Human Smuggling	Child Abuse
Black/African American	36	38.9%	55.6%	80.6%	13.9%	13.9%	2.8%	13.9%
Hispanic	82	45.1%	65.9%	90.2%	7.3%	8.5%	1.2%	15.9%
White	259	44.4%	66.0%	93.8%	7.7%	5.0%	1.2%	15.8%
Two or More Races	23	56.5%	78.3%	91.3%	4.3%	4.3%	0.0%	21.7%
Total	423	44.9%	65.7%	92.2%	8.0%	6.4%	1.2%	15.6%

second and third places at the neighborhood and North Texas level, while street crime held the third place in Texas.

Human trafficking and human smuggling showed the greatest variation across geographies. While only 8% of respondents cited human trafficking as a top-three problem in their neighborhood, 30% identified it as a top concern elsewhere in North Texas, and almost one-half (48%) identified it as a top concern in the State. A similar pattern is seen for human smuggling, with 1% identifying it as a neighborhood concern, 7% in North Texas, and 28% in Texas. Again, this suggests that respondents are generally aware of the issues with human trafficking, but many do not regard it as a local concern.

The following tables explore variation in neighborhood crime concerns by demographic factors. Table 11 presents variations by race and ethnicity. In this table, responses from American Indian and Alaskan Native respondents are suppressed due to having fewer than 20 respondents. Property crime leads the other crime categories for all racial and ethnic groups, being listed among the top three crime concerns no less than 81%. Street crime and violent crime placed second and third in all groups. Black or African American respondents were almost twice as likely as Hispanic and White respondents to identify Human Trafficking and Human Smuggling as among the top three crime concerns in their neighborhood.

Table 12 and Table 13 present differences in crimes identified as a top-three problem by gender and age group. By gender, one may see only one notable difference. Female respondents

Table 12. Percent of Respondents by Crime Identified Among Top Three Neighborhood Problems and Gender.

Gender	N	Violent Crime	Street Crime	Property Crime	Human Trafficking	Prostitution	Human Smuggling	Child Abuse
Male	237	46.0%	64.6%	89.9%	7.2%	6.3%	1.3%	16.5%
Female	173	43.4%	68.2%	96.5%	8.7%	6.4%	1.2%	14.5%
Total	410	44.9%	66.1%	92.7%	7.8%	6.3%	1.2%	15.6%

Table 13. Percent of Respondents by Crime Identified Among Top Three Neighborhood Problems and Age Group.

Age Group	N	Violent Crime	Street Crime	Property Crime	Human Trafficking	Prostitution	Human Smuggling	Child Abuse
18–24	26	46.2%	69.2%	76.9%	11.5%	3.8%	3.8%	19.2%
25–34	62	46.8%	64.5%	93.5%	11.3%	6.5%	0.0%	17.7%
35–44	78	37.2%	61.5%	89.7%	6.4%	10.3%	2.6%	20.5%
45–54	74	48.6%	73.0%	91.9%	6.8%	2.7%	0.0%	16.2%
55–64	84	45.2%	61.9%	94.0%	9.5%	10.7%	1.2%	13.1%
65–74	79	49.4%	70.9%	96.2%	6.3%	3.8%	0.0%	12.7%
75 or Over	19	31.6%	52.6%	100.0%	5.3%	0.0%	5.3%	5.3%
Total	422	44.8%	65.9%	92.4%	8.1%	6.4%	1.2%	15.6%

Table 14. Agreement with Statements About Human Trafficking.

Statement	Human Trafficking Has Occurred in My Neighborhood		Human Trafficking Has Occurred in North Texas	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Strongly Disagree	82	20%	10	2%
Somewhat Disagree	57	14%	7	2%
Neither Agree nor Disagree	180	44%	39	9%
Somewhat Agree	64	16%	80	19%
Strongly Agree	28	7%	275	67%
Total	411		411	

Table 15. Exposure to Human Trafficking Messages by Platform.

Statement	Radio or Television		Posters or Flyers		Social Media		News Reports	
	Num.	Pct.	Num.	Pct.	Num.	Pct.	Num.	Pct.
Yes	299	72%	225	55%	313	77%	378	92%
No	115	28%	187	45%	95	23%	35	8%
No Response	152		154		158		153	

were marginally more likely than male respondents to name property crime among their top three concerns, while males were more likely to name violent crime. By age, similar patterns are seen among violent crime, street crime, and property crime. Human trafficking, however, shows differences in age. Younger respondents (those under 35) were more likely to identify human trafficking as a neighborhood problem.

Opinions About Sex Trafficking

Respondents were asked to agree with two questions about the prevalence of human trafficking using a five-point Likert scale. Table 14 presents these results. When asked for agreement with the statement, “human trafficking has occurred in my neighborhood,” the modal response was neutral (neither agree nor disagree, at 44%). Thirty-four percent disagreed somewhat or strongly, and 23% agreed somewhat or strongly. However, when asked the same question regarding North Texas, the modal response was strongly agree (67%). A vast majority (86%) agreed somewhat or strongly. Only 4% of respondents disagreed with the statement. Again, these

patterns suggest that participants are familiar with Human Trafficking and are widely aware of its prevalence. They do not, however, regard it as a local or proximal criminal concern.

Respondents were asked about their exposure to messages about human trafficking via various platforms: radio or television (broadcast media), posters or flyers, social media, and news stories. Most respondents (92%) reported seeing content about human trafficking in news reports. Social media and radio or television were next most common, at 77% and 72%, respectively. Just over one-half of respondents reported seeing content about human trafficking on posters or flyers (see Table 15).

The 378 respondents who reported seeing human trafficking issues in news reports were asked whether they had seen four specific news items: Ghislaine Maxwell, R. Kelly, Anthony Acy, and the Mavericks Game disappearance. These stories varied with respect to their national or local relevance, their situation as victim-centered or offender-centered, and the duration of their coverage.

Table 16. Recognition of News Stories Among Respondents Who Reported Seeing News Stories.

News Item	Number	Percent
Ghislaine Maxwell	168	86.2%
R. Kelly	159	81.5%
Anthony Acy	51	26.2%
Mavericks Game Disappearance	122	62.6%

The Ghislaine Maxwell stories depict situations more often regarded as human trafficking situations. The stories were widespread in the local and national news and had a coverage span of several months as of the survey start. The stories involving R. Kelly introduced readers to a more expanded concept of human sex trafficking and oppression, wherein many victims were not abducted but were nonetheless victimized. The Anthony Acy story was more local in scope, about a Dallas man sentenced to 30 years in federal prison for trafficking two victims. In addition to their more limited exposure, stories related to Mr. Acy were short-lived and associated with his sentencing, thus being more offender-centered. Lastly, the Mavericks Disappearance story was a short-lived, local, episodic story about a young woman reportedly abducted from the restroom at a Dallas basketball game. Table 16 presents the recognition rates for each of these stories.

As might be expected, more than 80% of respondents recognized the national stories with the longest run (Maxwell and Kelly). Roughly three in five (63%) respondents recognized the local Mavericks Game Disappearance. Only one in four

Table 17. Percent of Respondents Reporting Seeing Sex Trafficking Content on Various Platforms.

Choice	Number	Percent
Facebook	215	71.9%
Twitter	80	26.8%
Instagram	97	32.4%
SnapChat	10	3.3%
TikTok	29	9.7%
Other	65	21.7%

(26%) respondents recognized the Anthony Acy story. This suggests that stories of more limited scope are more often recognized when they are victim- or risk-focused and not offender-focused.

Next, respondents who reported seeing human trafficking content on social media platforms were asked to identify the platforms on which they had seen content. Table 17 presents the frequency of responses for the social media platform choices. More than two-thirds (72%) of respondents reported seeing messages on Facebook. For the remaining platforms, fewer than one-third of respondents reported seeing messages there. Care should be taken in interpreting the dominance of one platform over another, as exposure to social media trafficking messages varied by respondent age group. As Table 18 shows, while recognition of Facebook Messages was highest at the margin (72%), this is most true of older respondents. Among respondents aged 18–24 years of age, 77% reported seeing messages on Instagram. These findings would suggest that the choice of platform should be tailored to the age of the intended audience

Table 18. Percent of Respondents Reporting Seeing Sex Trafficking Content on Various Platforms by Age.

Label	N	Facebook	Twitter	Instagram	SnapChat	TikTok	Other
18–24	17	47.1%	29.4%	76.5%	23.5%	29.4%	17.6%
25–34	42	69.0%	40.5%	45.2%	2.4%	14.3%	11.9%
35–44	60	71.7%	23.3%	35.0%	1.7%	11.7%	21.7%
45–54	51	74.5%	21.6%	27.5%	0.0%	7.8%	21.6%
55–64	66	86.4%	27.3%	28.8%	6.1%	9.1%	19.7%
65–74	54	63.0%	25.9%	20.4%	0.0%	0.0%	31.5%
75 and Over	9	66.7%	11.1%	0.0%	0.0%	11.1%	33.3%
Total	299	71.9%	26.8%	32.4%	3.3%	9.7%	21.7%

Refugee Services Texas, Bochy's Place, Refuge for Women, Genesis Women's Shelter & Support, Texas Advocacy Project. During the meetings, discussions occurred on the specific services each organization provides to the community and how DPD can collaborate with the organizations to better serve the community, specifically human trafficking victims and survivors. Furthermore, some partnerships resulted in organizations providing clothing, blankets, shoes, hygiene products, snacks/food, and other items that the Vice Unit could use while conducting operations and encountering human trafficking victims.

One of the partnership meetings, in April 2022, was held at OurCalling and attended by members from the Institute and the Vice Unit. During the meeting, OurCalling discussed the services they provide homeless people in general and the specific services they provide to help victims/survivors of human trafficking. Members from the Vice Unit discussed ways both organizations can collaborate better to serve human trafficking victims and survivors in the community. Moreover, in May 2022, DPD initiated a joint partnership between themselves, the Dallas County District Attorney's Office, and the nonprofit organizations Rescue Her and A21.

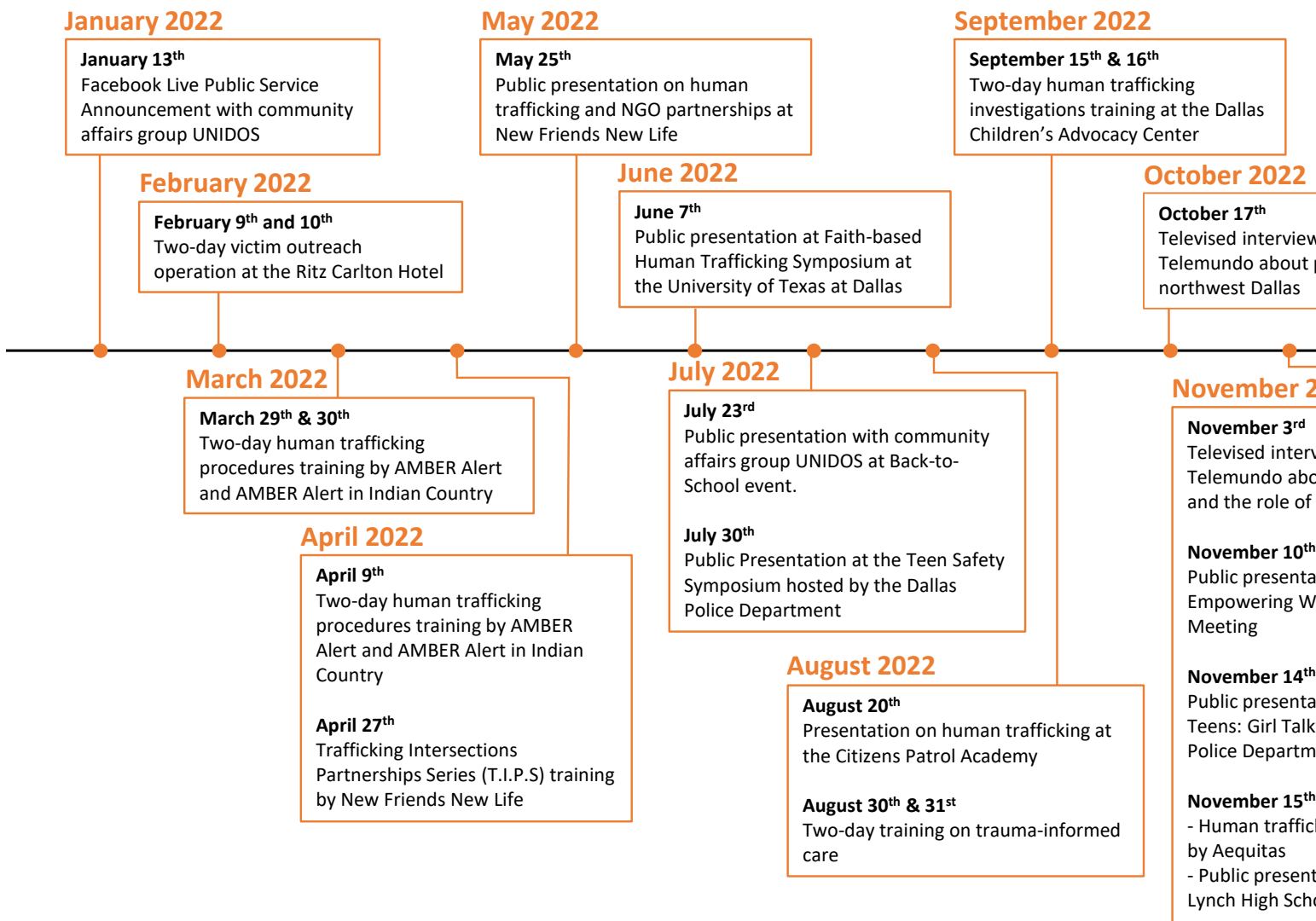


Figure 12. Annotated Timeline of Select DPD Human Trafficking Activities.

Training, Conferences, & Webinars

Members from the Vice Unit attended their first training in March 2022. Members from the unit attended a virtual series hosted by Ranch Hands/Bob’s House of Hope. This nonprofit organization works with young adult males identifying as human trafficking survivors, primarily from the LGBTQ community. In the same month, members from the Vice Unit attended a training hosted by the National AMBER Alert and AMBER Alert in the Indian Country Symposium. Over two days, March 29th and 30th, members from the Vice

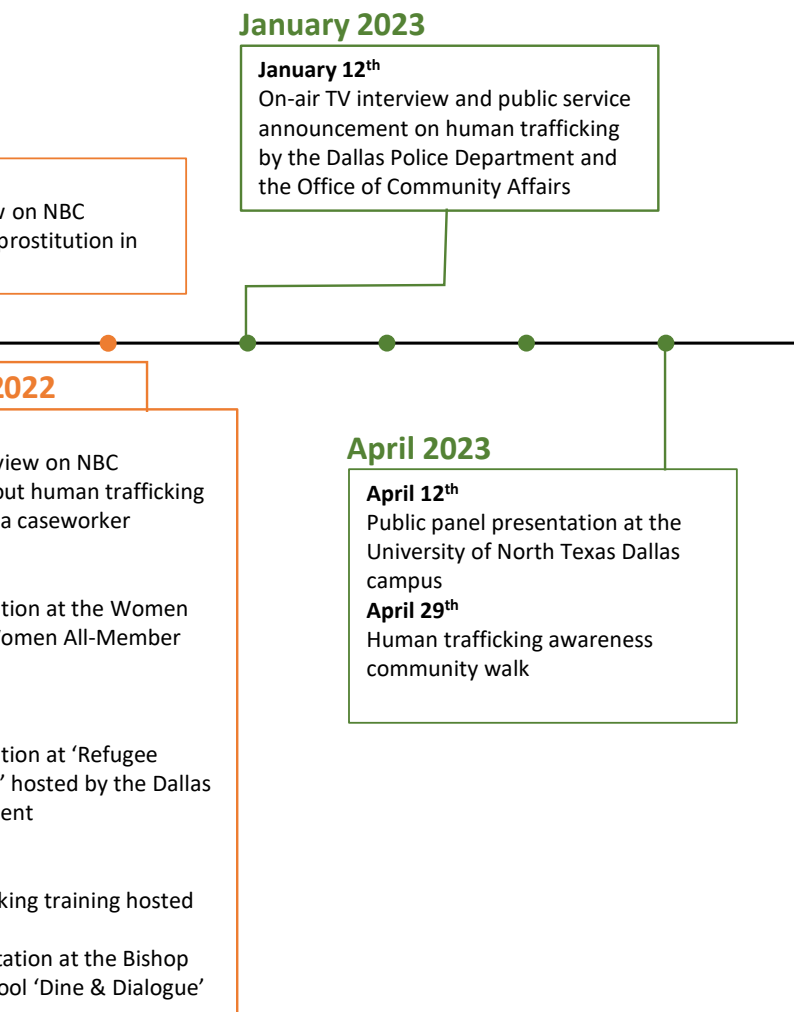
Unit learned procedures to use the AMBER Alert system when dealing with human trafficking cases.

The following month, April 2022, members from the Vice Unit attended a series hosted by New Friends New Life. Three certification hours were received while attending the Trafficking Intersection Partnerships Series, where the topic was human trafficking. The Vice Unit case worker attended the May Conference on Crimes Against Women (CCAW). The caseworker attended a 2-day virtual training in August 2022 on trauma-informed care (“When Coercion Feels Like Choice”). The following month, September 2022, the Vice Unit caseworker attended a training at the Dallas Children’s Advocacy Center entitled “Advanced Human Trafficking Investigations for Service Providers.” By attending this training, the caseworker received a certificate of completion. Lastly, in November 2022, the case worker attended a training hosted by Equitas entitled “Just Exits Training Dallas County District Attorney’s Office.” The training discussed topics such as what being trafficked means, documenting instances of human trafficking, collaboration, and more.

Throughout August, September, and November of 2022, members from the Vice Unit attended training on trauma-informed care, trafficking investigation practices, and exit opportunities for victims of human trafficking. The new Vice Unit case worker attended a statewide round table series in the Fight Against Human Trafficking in February 2023.

Operations

Members of the Vice Unit used the information they received to conduct operations to assist victims of sex trafficking. During these operations, they provided victims with resources and services, such as housing, counseling, information regarding victim advocacy groups, and materials on emergency shelters. Nonprofit organizations (e.g., A21 Campaign, Refugee Services of Texas, The Salvation Army) often attended to talk with victims about their specific needs to gauge better what services were needed.



In February 2022, the Vice Unit collaborated with some nonprofit organizations and conducted a victim outreach operation at the Ritz Carlton Hotel. During the operation, members from the Vice Unit and the nonprofit organizations provided victims with services and resources. In March, August, and September of the same year, the Vice Unit and members from the A21 Campaign collaborated on operations to provide services to human trafficking victims.

Outreach

In addition to creating and maintaining community relationships, attending training, and conducting operations, members from the Vice Unit and Community Outreach Unit participated in community outreach opportunities. In 2022, for Human Trafficking Awareness Month, observed in January, members from the Community Outreach Unit and Catholic Charities participated in a Spanish public service announcement (PSA) hosted by UNIDOS regarding human trafficking. In the same month, the Community Outreach Unit attended the Greater Dallas Korean Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting and the Korean Society of Dallas All Organization Meeting to disseminate pamphlets regarding human trafficking. The pamphlets provided contained information in English and Korean. Additionally, the Community Outreach Unit partnered with some influencers and created TikTok videos to spread the word on human trafficking.

The Community Outreach Unit of DPD participated in five television interviews regarding human trafficking in the Dallas-Forth Worth (DFW) area. The first televised PSA aired in January 2022 on UNIDOS and Facebook. The second PSA occurred in May 2022, focusing on human trafficking in the Native American community, specifically Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW). In October and November 2022, television interviews specifically targeted the community's Spanish-speaking members, as it was conducted on NBC Telemundo and was done exclusively in Spanish. In January 2023, members from the Vice Unit participated in an on-air interview on human trafficking. The interviews included information on available resources to

victims, updates on what DPD is doing in addressing trafficking in the DFW area, and red flags of human trafficking.

Likewise, the Vice Unit caseworker presented at the UNIDOS Back to School event (July 2022), the Teen Safety Symposium (July 2022), the Citizens Patrol Academy (August 2022), and a Dallas Police Community Affairs event (November 2022) providing information to the community about human trafficking. In some cases, the caseworker and a sergeant from the Vice Unit presented information to the community on human trafficking. In May 2022, they presented on human trafficking and partnerships between nonprofit organizations and DPD at New Friends New Life. In November 2022, they attended the Bishop Lynch High School Dine and Dialogue, wherein they were on a panel that discussed human trafficking with high school students and their parents.

Members from the Vice Unit attended a town hall meeting in April 2022 at the Urban Inter-Tribal Center of Texas—the event aimed to discuss human trafficking and how it affects the Native American community. Members from the Vice Unit attended to show support and listen to community members and their concerns. Additionally, on June 7th, 2022, in collaboration with the Institute, DPD hosted a Human Trafficking Symposium. The event brought together faith-based leaders and organizations throughout the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) area to discuss human trafficking in their faith communities, what is working and not working, and how all faith communities can serve victims and survivors better.

Throughout this project, the Vice Unit discussed various long-term projects and opportunities with members from the City of Dallas and the community, projects such as a Human Trafficking Dashboard that would function similarly to the Domestic Violence Dashboard, the creation of a new nonprofit organization that does not meet the requirements of other nonprofits, and a human trafficking community walk/runs.

Recommendations

Intracomponent Recommendations

The recommendations that follow focus largely on those changes that can be implemented within existing agencies and structures.

Address Staffing Shortages

All segments of the human trafficking service ecosystem are understaffed to meet existing service expectations. Staff in the law enforcement, prosecution, and service agency sectors all reported unfilled vacancies. In many cases, these unfilled vacancies are not solely due to a lack of funding but also arise from an inability to identify suitable applicants. Working with survivors of human trafficking requires a nuanced skill set, as well as a predisposition for trauma-informed care. These skills are not often found among entry-level employees, be they officers, prosecutors, or victim advocates. With regard to law enforcement staffing shortages, it is unclear if the creation of the Dallas Police Human Trafficking Squad will alleviate the challenges of operation and enforcement activities.

All members of the ecosystem should consider working together to identify the career pipeline for future team members. Consideration should be given to defining required and desired skill sets and then identifying the best career and training pathways to develop future candidates. Considering partnerships with local post-secondary education providers will help those who are interested in the career field select appropriate preparatory experiences.

Promote Stability Among Supervisory and Line Staff

A recurring issue in the policing domain is that of turnover. During the two years of this project, the police department's Human Trafficking team experienced significant turnover in both the supervisory and line ranks. Detectives and supervisors reported that being successful in the unit required developing a set of specialized skills. Those same skills, however, led to an officer's desirability for promotion and work in other units. This routinely led to turnover among staff, leaving new staff to start over with developing expertise. The continual turnover was noted by members of advocacy organizations, who suggested that often, they didn't know who they could contact to provide services to victims. Moreover, the relationship between officers, attorneys, and advocates takes time to mature as the parties become comfortable working together. Continual turnover limits effectiveness in the unit and across organizations.

Agencies should consider adopting a minimum time in assignment policy, ensuring that officers transferring into a unit or squad have sufficient time to develop requisite skills and that the unit/squad has time to benefit from the specialization they develop. This level of commitment and stabilized organization leads to more experienced team members, great efficiency in completing tasks, and highly developed competencies that lead to better criminal justice outcomes and enhanced teamwork both within and outside the organization. Such an approach has been successfully implemented in specialty courts such as domestic violence, drug, veteran, and mental health.⁷⁴

74 Angela R. Gover, Denise Paquette Boots, and Shannon B. Harper, *Courting Justice: Tracing the Evolution and Future of Domestic Violence Courts*, *Feminist Criminology* 16, no. 3 (July 2021): 366-81, <https://doi.org/10.1177/1557085120987638>.

Toward this best practice, DPD did implement a dedicated Human Trafficking squad, as has been recommended to leadership throughout the project. This new development occurred after data collection was completed for the current project, but it is a welcome step toward addressing the specialized needs of this population.

Assess Organizational Alignment of Key Programmatic Elements

Occasionally, programmatic elements that are best practices are employed locally, but their organizational situation inhibits their success. One such example is the prostitution diversion program operated by the District Attorney's office in Dallas County. Consistent with best practices, this program attempts to screen all arrestees for prostitution offenses to identify potential human trafficking victims. It also affords them access to the diversion program, which provides specialized services and the potential for other diversion court benefits. However, because the program is located in the District Attorney's office, victim advocates and investigators with this program cannot access the arrestees without their defense attorney's consent. Defense attorneys often advise their clients not to talk to the prosecutors and eventually plead the case out, depriving the victim of much-needed services.

In these situations, organizations must identify the appropriate organization home, then work to ensure a successful transfer. This is, of course, complicated by the variety of funding mechanisms used to fund programs and their restrictions and limitations. Nonetheless, these programs cannot achieve results seen in other jurisdictions until these organizational barriers to success are addressed.

Identify and Embrace Efficiencies in Specialty Skill Sets

Officers reported that working with the Human Trafficking unit led to the development of specialized skills, especially in technical services,

warrant preparation, and processing digital forensic evidence. Without centralized support for these functions (for example, a dedicated paralegal resource to assist with warrant preparation), officers spend a significant amount of time away from enforcement, investigation, and interdiction activities.

Larger police departments should consider adopting centralized support services for these highly specialized functions. Some ad hoc centralized support has occurred, for instance, when officers work from a template warrant prepared by a knowledgeable team member. More deliberately adopting this centralized support approach may allow these economies to be realized on a larger, more reliable scale.

Systemic Recommendations

Certainly, combating human sex trafficking requires a comprehensive and systems-level approach. In the context of North Texas and Dallas, several unique challenges must be addressed. Here are three critical points for systems-level changes:

Enhance Multidisciplinary Collaboration and Information Sharing

Establishing a collaborative network among law enforcement agencies, social services, health-care providers, and nonprofit organizations is crucial to combat human sex trafficking effectively. In Dallas, where trafficking often spans multiple jurisdictions, the vertical and horizontal flow of timely information is essential.

Vertical information flow refers to the movement of information within an organization. For instance, much headway has been made in the healthcare industry through the automation of screening for sex trafficking victims using patient intake information. When probable victims are

identified the hospital social worker is automatically notified for intervention. This, of course, requires sufficient training for system workers.⁷⁵

Horizontal information sharing refers to the movement of information between sectors (e.g., policing and victim services) and agencies (e.g., various local police agencies). The complexity of human trafficking requires a degree of specialized skills that require significant resources to develop and maintain. Many small and medium-sized departments lack both the staff and fiscal capacity to develop the required specialization. While some areas of collaboration, such as Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC), are made robust by formalized memorandum of understanding, no such detailed mechanism for collaboration exists for human trafficking. Future efforts at collaboration in the area of human trafficking should focus on both knowledge sharing and tactical coordination.

Embracing a Coordinated Community Response Model

North Texas currently benefits from the North Texas Coalition Against Human Trafficking (NTCAHT), which provides public information and space for networking between non-profit organizations, public institutions, and law enforcement. Law enforcement agencies, courts and jails, and victim service organizations should explore expanding the NTCAHT into a coordinated community response team.⁷⁶ Like the NTCAHT, these teams meet regularly to exchange ideas and information. Where these teams differ is the governing mechanism for their interaction: formal agreements that detail each party's responsibilities, typically inter-local agreements or memoranda of understanding. They provide

three key benefits that would be welcome in North Texas. First, these teams provide a regular space for interdisciplinary conversations, thereby increasing coordination among all working with human trafficking victims. Beyond discussions of best practices, the formalized nature of their relationship allows these teams to delve methodically into case specifics. Second, these teams provide a place for organizations with fewer resources, whether nonprofit organizations or government agencies, to benefit from the expertise developed among larger organizations. Lastly, with the involvement of policing, courts, and advocacy, these teams can help the ecosystem move from a transaction- (case-) based approach to a relationship- (client-) centered approach.

Implement an Integrated Investigation and Interdiction Approach

Information sharing can lead to more coordinated and targeted efforts. Elements of these collaborations have been widely successful in North Texas. The Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) model has developed a methodology for regional investigations. Likewise, the development of trauma-informed interviews and therapeutic practices among the child advocacy centers incorporate harm-reduction strategies and improve the efficacy of investigations. Applying such frameworks as have been used for High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTAs) and intelligence fusion centers to the human trafficking space should help to realize similar improvements. For instance, creating a centralized database or platform to share real-time information about trafficking cases, victim profiles, and trends could aid in identifying traffickers

75 Kanani E. Titchen et al., Domestic Sex Trafficking of Minors: Medical Student and Physician Awareness, *Journal of Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology* 30, no. 1 (February 1, 2017): 102-8, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpag.2015.05.006>; Aaron W. Murnan et al., Identification of Child Survivors of Sex Trafficking From Electronic Health Records: An Artificial Intelligence Guided Approach, *Child Maltreatment*, August 6, 2023, 10775595231194599, <https://doi.org/10.1177/10775595231194599>.

76 Denise Paquette Boots et al., Coordinated Community Response: Toward a More Systematic Response to Domestic Violence in an Urban Setting, in *Homicide and Violent Crime*, ed. Mathieu Deflem, vol. 23, *Sociology of Crime, Law and Deviance* (Emerald Publishing Limited, 2018), 25-42, <https://doi.org/10.1108/S1521-613620180000023003>.

and supporting victims more efficiently.⁷⁷ Moreover, developing a formalized mechanism for interaction will improve deconfliction and the progression of cases through the system while also ensuring that smaller agencies benefit from the same investigation infrastructure. As Carter and Carter note when discussing the creation of fusion centers, the successful implementation of interdisciplinary, interdepartmental teams often requires substantial planning and development investments: "It typically involves either the reengineering of the entire conceptual framework of the intelligence function in an agency or the creation of an entirely new entity. It requires engaging an array of people and organizations to be contributors and consumers of the intelligence function. It involves changing the attitudes and processes of personnel. It requires establishing new functional and information-sharing processes among state, county, municipal, tribal, and federal law enforcement partners. It involves the development of new agreements and functional relationships as well as new policies and processes, including the inculcation of the intelligence-led policing¹ philosophy."⁷⁸

Tailored Awareness Campaigns and Education

The socio-cultural diversity of North Texas, while a source of strength for the community, presents challenges to boosting awareness and education around Human Trafficking issues. As was demonstrated earlier regarding variation in social media exposure by age, awareness campaigns must embrace multiple media and platforms, and the message itself must be tailored to specific audiences. Designing awareness campaigns that

are culturally sensitive and tailored to the specific demographics of North Texas can help prevent trafficking and empower potential victims.

Moreover, successful education and awareness campaigns will thrive on collaboration with local community leaders and organizations. Awareness messages must be embedded into everyday activities, whether trips to the grocery store or sermons by religious figures. Such a move to enculturate the message will allow leaders to address the cultural nuances that may make individuals more susceptible to trafficking.

Likewise, integrating anti-trafficking education into school curricula can equip young people with knowledge about the tactics used by traffickers and the resources available to them, thereby reducing vulnerability. While Texas Law was amended in 2019 to require certain postings in schools about human trafficking, school districts still struggle with making a meaningful impact on middle- and high school-aged students⁷⁹.

Supportive Aftercare and Reintegration Programs

Focus on enhancing aftercare services for survivors to aid in their physical, psychological, and social recovery. In Texas, survivor support may need to account for unique challenges, such as language barriers among immigrant survivors or limited access to healthcare. Developing reintegration programs that provide survivors with job training, housing assistance, and mental health services is essential for their long-term healing and independence (cite needed).

77 David M. Chavis, *The Paradoxes and Promise of Community Coalitions*, *American Journal of Community Psychology* 29, no. 2 (April 2001): 309–20, <https://doi.org/10.1023/A:1010343100379>.

78 David L. Carter and Jeremy G. Carter, *The Intelligence Fusion Process for State, Local, and Tribal Law Enforcement*, *Criminal Justice and Behavior* 36, no. 12 (December 2009): 1323, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0093854809345674>.

79 Texas Education Agency, *Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness Requirements and Mandatory Reporting Reminders*, TEA Letters to Administrators (Texas Education Agency, December 17, 2020), <https://tea.texas.gov/about-tea/news-and-multimedia/correspondence/taa-letters/human-trafficking-prevention-and-awareness-requirements-and-mandatory-reporting-reminders>.

Limitations

As with any qualitative research project, readers should be aware of several limitations when evaluating these findings.

Response Bias

Response bias occurs when research participants provide responses that deviate from a fully accurate response. There are several motivations for response bias. Most frequent in research about value-laden topics is when respondents provide what they believe will be socially acceptable responses to questions. The reader should interpret the findings with this limitation in mind.

Pandemic Response Interruptions

The early years of the project were dominated by ebbs and flows in the COVID-19 pandemic. The practical effect of these waves of infection was stops and starts to human subject research at the University. It was not until early 2023 that the University fully returned to pre-COVID research protocols. The additional layers of pandemic prevention impacted the research team's ability to recruit and interview participants. Rampant illnesses also impacted the project leadership team's regular meeting routine.

Limitations in Accessing Vulnerable Populations

As discussed earlier, all research activities involving human participants were governed by the University's Institutional Review Board (IRB). The IRB reviews and approves research protocols for all projects and applies a special level of scrutiny to protocols involving protected populations. Federal law defines protected populations; among them are victims of crime and children.

The research protocol prepared for dealing with survivors took more than one year to negotiate. While the researchers planned to interview

survivors who had healed enough in their journey to voluntarily speak with us and possibly utilize snowball sampling techniques through established advocacy and support organizations throughout the Metroplex, the UT Dallas IRB was concerned that recruitment strategies not inadvertently recruit survivors for whom participating in the interview process would result in additional traumatization. We understand the concerns about vicarious and repeat victimizations; there are also few studies that have been approved by the IRB on human trafficking populations that may have provided a clear path to balancing concerns of victimization with the needs assessment goals. The approved protocol required the research team to recruit through agency direct-service staff. While the resulting interview subjects were guaranteed minimal harm, the team's ability to recruit participants was hampered severely. A note on differentially vulnerable populations is included on the following page.

Leadership Turnover in Law Enforcement

Over the 24-month course of this project, many members of the Dallas Police Vice unit that works on human trafficking operations and outreach which turned over. This included lieutenants, detectives, and civilian staff. One noteworthy exception was the continuous efforts and assignment of Sgt. Reginald Luster from the DPD Vice Unit, who was with the Institute team from the inception of this proposal through the final days of writing the project results. His input and investment were invaluable to the institutional history of the project. There was also great turnover within the Community Outreach unit which was overseeing the social media and community education campaign. The frequent turnover among project staff presented challenges continuity, as often institutional knowledge and project history was lost. Also notable was the ongoing involvement of DPD ICAC Unit Lt. Cyrus Zafrani throughout the two-year period. Other DPD personnel also played critical roles at various

stages of the project, even if they departed at some point over the two years of development and implementation of data collection. Each of these dedicated professionals helped Institute staff greatly in providing support and insights into best practices and critical discussions to meet the goals of the needs assessment project.

City of Dallas Ransomware Attack

In May of 2023, the City of Dallas suffered a widespread ransomware attack that continues to effect multiple DPD systems.⁸⁰ In addition

to immediate disruption to service provision (e.g., delays in dispatch, in ability to retrieve or process police reports, etc.), The attack interrupted communications within and between units. It also made the department's historical activity data inaccessible. As of the writing of this report, the city was still negotiating to reinstate access to their historical information.

A Note on Deferentially Vulnerable Populations

The history of protecting human subjects in research is a journey marked by ethical milestones and the recognition of the need to safeguard the rights and well-being of participants. Over the years, guidelines, regulations, and ethical principles have evolved to ensure the protection of all research participants, with special attention to those considered deferentially vulnerable. Deferentially vulnerable human subjects are individuals or groups who may be at an increased risk of harm or exploitation due to their age, mental capacity, socioeconomic status, or other factors.

The concept of deferential vulnerability emerged as a response to the recognition that some individuals are more susceptible to exploitation and harm in research settings. These vulnerable groups include children, pregnant women, prisoners, victims of abuse, individuals with cognitive impairments, and economically disadvantaged populations. Deferential vulnerability acknowledges that such individuals may have reduced autonomy, capacity for informed consent, or the ability to advocate for their own interests, requiring enhanced protections.

To safeguard the rights and well-being of deferentially vulnerable subjects, several key protections have been established. First, researchers must obtain informed consent, or permission, from participants or their legal representatives. For survivors of human trafficking, this process included additional safeguards to ensure comprehension and voluntary participation. Second, the University's Institutional Review Board met as a full board to review and evaluate the potential risks and benefits and ensure appropriate protections.

Moreover, regulations like the Common Rule in the United States provide specific protections for deferentially vulnerable populations, including additional consent requirements, oversight, and safeguards to prevent exploitation. For this project, this included specific safeguards regarding contact and identifying information for survivors, a mandate that only organization-based caseworkers could extend invitations to participate in research, and additional protections, such as a suicide ideation response plan.

In summary, the history of protecting human subjects in research has evolved to include special provisions for deferentially vulnerable individuals. The guiding principles of informed consent, ethical review, beneficence, and specific regulations work together to ensure that research involving these vulnerable populations is conducted with the utmost care, respect, and ethical integrity. UTD Institute researchers have included the approved protocols for vulnerable populations to assist future researchers in this area.

80 Isabella Volmert and Everton Bailey, Jr., City Suspects It Was Struck by Ransomware, The Dallas Morning News, May 4, 2023, sec. Metro.

Human trafficking doesn't happen in a vacuum—it happens everywhere. It is the product of other deficiencies and inequities in our society, broken or bound legal and social service systems, and weakened economic markets that render people vulnerable to the enticements and traps of traffickers. Although prosecuting traffickers and seeking justice for survivors is vital, it is not enough by itself to end trafficking.⁸¹ To reduce opportunities for sex trafficking in North Texas, our community stakeholders, citizens, community activists, government and law enforcement, court personnel, faith communities, and non-profit advocacy and service partners must join to target the root causes and failures of our social system to form a strong coordinated community response team.

In addition, a centralized call center to support screening, assignment, and interdiction of agency investigations region-wide through North Texas would also be a best practice. Furthermore, amplifying the efforts of organizations like the North Texas Human Trafficking Coalition, which brings together these community partners, would also more effectively leverage limited resources, forge stronger relationships and sharing of information across the community, and mobilize community leaders together toward new goals and operations that target organized crime that promotes sex trafficking⁸². This and other organizations, with voluntary participation from many local agencies and organizations, operate at a networking level of interaction. While this level of operation is of great importance, these efforts will achieve greater impact through a more rigorous degree of collaboration.⁸³ These issues are undoubtedly quite complex—and myths persist about who becomes a victim, who are perpetrators, and the best practices to address systemic shortcomings. Continued outreach by the Community

Engagement Unit and ICAC to increase public understanding and recognize the signs of human trafficking in all its forms is also needed.

As this needs assessment launched in October of 2021, Institute leaders met weekly to create momentum, bring department leaders together, conduct team brainstorming and planning sessions, and organize action items across DPD units and leadership. Over the past two years and throughout much change in leadership and personnel across various units with the DPD, strong working relationships were forged between the research team and the DPD Vice Unit, Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) and High Risk Victims (HRV) Units, as well as the Community Engagement Unit. Critical discussions occurred across many sectors in the North Texas area regarding how to best increase support and services for vulnerable people and change conditions – like homelessness, family violence, poverty, and discrimination – that make people vulnerable to the lure of traffickers. Establishing strong community partnerships and opening safe spaces for difficult discussions on the next steps to address sex trafficking in the region is a start, but more resources are needed to do the hard work of systemic change. Specifically, investment in the following work streams will bring about the necessary step-function change in the greater Dallas area:

Implement a Coordinated Community Response Model

Building off the existing networking efforts by the North Texas Coalition Against Human Trafficking, invest planning and implementation resources to identify mechanisms to formalize a

81 Logan, Walker, and Hunt, Understanding Human Trafficking in the United States.

82 Chavis, The Paradoxes and Promise of Community Coalitions.

83 See, for example, the differentiation on levels of collaboration provided in Arno Bergstrom et al., Collaboration Framework: Addressing Community Capacity (Columbus, OH: National Network for Collaboration, 1994), https://www.uvm.edu/sites/default/files/media/Collaboration_Framework_pub.pdf.

coordinated community response team among existing members, and formally recruit additional representation.

Implement an Integrated Investigation and Interdiction Model

Invest planning and implementation resources to map and implement a collaborative regional resource, patterned after successful HIDTA and fusion center collaborations.

Develop Targeted Awareness and Education Campaigns

Invest resources to develop awareness and educational materials that capitalize on the different platforms and salient points identified for different segments of the population.

In addition, while DPD has taken a significant step by creating a human trafficking squad, a commitment toward stable staffing for the unit will implement best practices seen in other large metro areas that are effectively combating human trafficking. With steady leadership and specialized training for commanders, detectives, advocates, and other law enforcement personnel, DPD would also be sending a clear message to those persons who traffic humans within the city and county that this is a priority issue. The Institute welcomes the opportunity to continue facilitating such critical discussions toward systemic change and calls for action toward adopting best practices and continuing our partnerships with the valued community partners, survivors, and government and non-profit partners who informed this needs assessment.



About the Research Team

Denise Paquette Boots, PhD

Dr. Denise Paquette Boots is the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education in the School of Economic, Political & Policy Sciences, a Professor of Public Policy and Political Economy, and a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Urban Policy Research at the University of Texas at Dallas. She received her doctorate from the University of South Florida in 2006. She is a former U.S. Border Patrol Agent trainee and a Level 4 juvenile counselor for adjudicated youth. She has been at UT Dallas for over 16 years. Her research and teaching focus on issues related to interpersonal violence, with an emphasis on domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, campus sexual assault, mental health, capital punishment, human trafficking, gender pathways to crime and victimization, parricide, and outcome and process evaluations of courts and criminal justice programs. She has published over 50 books, chapters, and articles and has been awarded over \$1.7 million dollars in private and public-sponsored research projects. From March 2022 through March 2023, she served as President of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, one of two national associations within criminology and criminal justice in the United States. She hosted her annual meeting, with a theme on social justice, civil rights, and crime, this past March in National Harbor, Maryland. Dr. Boots has a distinguished history of being recognized for her excellence in both teaching and research. In 2010, she was an inaugural awardee of the University of Texas Board of Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award, its highest award. In May of 2016, she was awarded the UT Dallas President's Teaching Excellence Award for tenured faculty. In May of 2020, Dr. Boots was named a Minnie Piper Stevens Professor of 2020; this award is one of 10 awarded annually in the state of Texas, recognizing excellence in scholarship and teaching. She has conducted over 100 interviews in local and national media and is frequently called upon as a consultant to various nonprofit, government, and community organizations as a court-certified

expert and invited speaker on family violence, human trafficking, sexual assault, mental health, and child abuse.

Timothy M. Bray, PhD

Dr. Timothy Bray serves as the Director of the Institute for Urban Policy Research at the University of Texas at Dallas. He is also a Professor of Practice in the Public Policy and Political Economy and Social Data Analytics and Research programs, where he teaches courses specializing in quantitative methodology for graduate students. He also teaches Urban Development, Wicked Social Problems, and a variety of research methodology courses. Dr. Bray joined the faculty at UT Dallas in 2002 after serving as Associate Bureau Chief for Strategic and Operational Research for the Illinois State Police. He holds a Ph.D. in Criminology from the University of Missouri – St. Louis.

Dr. Bray's research at the Institute has focused on the strategic use of data and information to improve the quality of life in our urban centers and has developed a diverse base of skills that bring advanced research and analytics to meet public service needs. With his research team, he has extensive experience with local administrative data (often in a variety of disjointed formats and schema) and secondary demographic data (including the census, American Community Survey, and Public Use Micro Sample data). His work also makes regular use of surveillance and risk datasets, including raw survey responses to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS), emergency room and hospital discharge data, and academic performance data.

Whitney S. Sanders, MSCJ, MPA

Whitney S. Sanders holds MSCJ and MPA degrees and is pursuing a Ph.D. in Public Policy and Political Economy at the University of Texas at Dallas. As a fifth-year doctoral student, she also serves as a Senior Research Associate at the Institute for Urban Policy Research within

the university. In this role, she contributes to a range of research and evaluation initiatives benefiting organizations and communities in North Texas. Prior to her enrollment at UT Dallas, Whitney gained experience working across various departments within Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, including the North Central High-Intensity

Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA). Whitney's academic pursuits center around her keen research interests, which encompass human trafficking, gender intersectionality, and criminological/public policy theory. Her commitment to investigating these areas underscores her dedication to advancing both the fields of criminology and public policy.

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Appendices

Appendix I: IRB Protocol Dallas Crime Perceptions Study

Appendix II: Dallas Crime Perceptions Survey Instrument

Appendix III: IRB Protocol Human Sex Trafficking Study

Appendix IV: Human Sex Trafficking Study Consent Forms

Appendix V: Human Sex Trafficking Study Focus Group Instruments

Appendix VI: Human Sex Trafficking Study Key Informant Interview Instruments

Appendix VII: Human Sex Trafficking Study Suicidal Ideation Response Plan

Appendix I: IRB Protocol Dallas Crime Perceptions Study

IRB #: IRB-22-649

Title: Dallas Crime Perceptions Study

Creation Date: 8-10-2022

End Date:

Status: **Approved**

Principal Investigator: Timothy Bray

Review Board: UTD Institutional Review Board

Sponsor: City of Dallas

Study History

Submission Type	Initial	Review Type	Exempt	Decision	Exempt
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Key Study Contacts

Member	Timothy Bray	Role	Principal Investigator	Contact	tmb021000@utdallas.edu
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Member	Timothy Bray	Role	Primary Contact	Contact	tmb021000@utdallas.edu
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Member	Denise Boots	Role	Co-Principal Investigator	Contact	dpb062000@utdallas.edu
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About Cayuse IRB

Cayuse IRB is an electronic submission portal that manages all human subjects research protocols from initial submission to closure. Cayuse IRB is an interactive platform that guides researchers through the application process by customizing the information required based on responses to specific questions. This ensures that the questions are relevant to the current research study. The application does not have to be completed in one sitting and can be saved at any stage in the submission process.

UT Dallas IRB

The Principal Investigator or Faculty Sponsor (if the PI is a student investigator) has ultimate responsibility for the conduct of the study, the ethical performance of the project, and the protection of the rights and welfare of the subjects who participate in the study as represented in the [Belmont Report](#) and [45 Code of Federal Regulations Part 46](#).

Submission of a research protocol to the Human Subjects Research Office (HSR) certifies that the Principal Investigator and/or Faculty Sponsor attest to the scientific merit of the study; to the competency of the investigator(s) to conduct the project; and that continued guidance will be provided as appropriate to ensure the protection of human participants and compliance with HSR and IRB requirements.

Getting Started

Throughout the submission, you may be required to provide the following:

- Detailed Study Information
- Confirmation of [Human Subjects Protection Training](#) for all study personnel
- Recruitment Materials
- Informed Consent Forms
- Study Instruments (measures, tests, surveys, interview questions, etc.)

Resources and Helpful Tips

Resources:

- Visit the [HSR Website](#) for additional guidance regarding human subjects research and the submission process.
- Review the [Cayuse FAQs](#) and [Cayuse Guidance](#) for step-by-step instructions to check the status of submissions, add personnel to a study, and many other topics that will be useful throughout the study.
- Watch the [HSR Training Videos](#) to learn more about Cayuse and human subjects research.

Helpful Tips:

- If you are unable to find an individual via the *Find People* button then you can submit a request to add the user to Cayuse via [this form](#).
- All study materials attached to the application should be clean versions (not highlighted, no tracked changes, etc.).
- All sections on the left-hand side must include a checkmark before the application can be submitted. These checkmarks are generated by the system once all questions in a section have been completed.
- Contact the HSR with questions regarding the submission process: HSR@utdallas.edu

*required

I have read the information above and I am ready to begin my submission.

✓ Yes

*required

What type of activity is this submission for?

✓ Collection of New Research Data

Data Analysis Only (Retrospective)

- Existing Data or Biospecimens

Data Analysis Only (Prospective)

- Data or Biospecimens that will be collected in the future by non-UTD affiliated Investigators

IRB Reliance

- UTD not the IRB of Record

Class Project

UTDesign Project

*required

Principal Investigator

Note: If you cannot find a person in the people finder, please complete [this form](#) to request that they be added to Cayuse.

Name: Timothy Bray

Organization: IPE-PPPE

Address: 800 W. Campbell Road , Richardson, TX 75080-3021

Phone: (972) 883-5432

Email: tmb021000@utdallas.edu

*required

Primary Contact

Note: If you cannot find a person in the people finder, please complete [this form](#) to request that they be added to Cayuse.

Name: Timothy Bray

Organization: IPE-PPPE

Address: 800 W. Campbell Road , Richardson, TX 75080-3021

Phone: (972) 883-5432

Email: tmb021000@utdallas.edu

*required

Is this a multi-institutional study?

Yes

No

*required

Study Personnel

Note: If you cannot find a person in the people finder, please complete [this form](#) to request that they be added to Cayuse.

*required

PI status at UTD

Faculty

Student

Staff

Other

Co-Principal Investigator(s)

Provide the name(s) of Investigator(s) for this study.

Name: Denise Boots

Organization: Economic Political and Policy

Address: 800 W. Campbell Road , Richardson, TX 75080-3021

Phone: (972) 883-6468

Email: dpb062000@utdallas.edu

Other Personnel

Provide the name(s) of other personnel for this study.

Name: Whitney Sanders

Organization: Criminology and Sociology

Address: 800 W. Campbell Rd , Richardson, TX 75080

Phone:

Email: wss190000@utdallas.edu

Name: Lucy Tarin

Organization: University of Texas at Dallas

Address:

Phone:

Email: lxt200010@utdallas.edu

*required

Are there individuals who are not affiliated with UTD that are engaged in the research?

Yes

✓ No

*required

Who will conduct the informed consent process with participants?

List the names of the study personnel that will be involved in the consent process.

This is an online (Qualtrics) survey with a university-templated consent screen. Participants will self administer.

*required

Provide a Human Subjects Protection training certification of completion for all study personnel (including non-UTD affiliated personnel if applicable).

You can access the Human Subjects Protection training via our [website](#).

[Certificate of Completion ? Human Subjects Protection - Bray \(1\).pdf](#)

[Boots Human Subjects CITI Certification expires 4 10 25.pdf](#)

[Tarin, Lucy 01.22.2022.jpg](#)

[citiCompletionCertificate_12104948_54899222.pdf](#)

*required

Study Site

✓ UTD Main Campus

*required

Recruitment

Procedures

✓ Data Analysis

Callier Center - Richardson

Callier Center - Dallas

Center for BrainHealth / Brain Performance Institute

Center for Vital Longevity

Texas Biomedical Device Center - Dallas

UTD BrainHealth Imaging Center

*required

Are there performance sites that are non-UTD affiliated?

If recruitment, consent, study procedures, or data analysis will take place at a location not listed above as a UTD-affiliated site, this research involves non-UTD affiliated sites.

Yes

✓ No

*required

Study Dates

Please provide approximate start and end dates for the study.

Start Date

03-31-2023

End Date

05-31-2023

*required

Is this a Clinical Trial?

Yes

No

*required

Purpose

Describe the following:

- Study's purpose
- Study's specific aims or objectives and
- Hypotheses to be tested or the research questions that will guide the study.
- *If using MR Imaging*, please describe the purpose/hypothesis of the overall project and then be specific about the purpose and/or hypothesis of the MR portion of your study

This study seeks to assess public perceptions about crime in Dallas, Texas. The study's aims and objectives are to better understand public opinion regarding the most prevalent crimes in Dallas, North Texas, and Texas. It also seeks to assess public awareness of human trafficking, and understand the types of public awareness messages to which respondents have been exposed. Thus, the research questions are as follows:

1. What types of crime do members of the public perceive to be most problematic in Dallas, North Texas, and Texas, and how do these perceptions vary by demographic and geographic characteristics?
2. What is the general level of awareness regarding human trafficking, and how do these levels of awareness vary by demographic and geographic characteristics?
3. To what types of awareness messages have members of the general public been exposed, and how does this exposure vary by demographic and geographic characteristics?

There are no research hypotheses being investigated in this project.

*required

Study Background

Provide the scientific or scholarly background for, rationale for, and significance of the proposed research based on the existing literature.

Describe how the research will add to existing knowledge.

Human trafficking has gained prominence in the public discourse in recent years, yet there is little evidence of the penetration of specific types of awareness messages and campaigns (e.g., public service announcements, social media posts, public events, etc.). This survey seeks to assess how general awareness and perceptions of the severity of crime and specific perceptions of human trafficking vary by message exposure, demographic, and geographic characteristics. These results will help inform public policymakers as they conduct future awareness activities.

*required

Design and Methodology

- Explain how the data you plan to collect ties in with your research questions.

- Explain the purpose behind the data you are collecting and how do those data connect to the research questions you seek to answer.

This study proposes an online (Qualtrics) survey instrument that will be publicized via social media and through community partners. The survey will be anonymous, and no identifying information (other than general geographic and demographic information) will be collected. In addition to standard multiple choice and ranking questions, the survey will collect the following demographic data from participants:

- Race/Ethnicity
- Age Bracket
- Gender Identity
- Residence Type
- Residence ZIP Code
- Residence Size
- Presence or Absence of Children in the Home
- Work Situation
- Work ZIP Code

This data will illuminate the nuances between key demographic groups regarding perceptions of safety, crime prevalence, and awareness of human trafficking.

*required

Study Funding and Other Support

Is this study externally funded?

Yes

No

*required

Sponsor Type

Select all appropriate funding sources for this study, including sources of pending support.

Federal

Industry

Nonprofit

Other

*required

Provide the type of Sponsor for this study.

City of Dallas via Texas Health and Human Services Commission

*required

Funding Status

Pending

Awarded

*required

Funding Agency

If you cannot find your funding agency, contact the [HSR Office](#)

City of Dallas

PeopleSoft project ID for the Sponsored Project (*if known*)

*required

Participant Enrollment

Enter the number of participants that will be enrolled in this study.

*required

Enrollment at UTD

Please enter the number of subjects that will be enrolled at UTD

0

*required

Enrollment at non-UTD affiliated sites.

Please enter the total number of subjects to be enrolled at non-UTD affiliated sites.

500

*required

Total Enrollment (at all sites)

Enter the total number of subjects that will be enrolled in the study (at both UTD and non-UTD affiliated sites).

500

*required

Explain how the total enrollment numbers are sufficient to accomplish the purpose / aims of the study.

We seek a representative sample of the community.

*required

Vulnerable Populations

Please check the population(s) that will be enrolled. Check all that apply.

Minors (17 and younger)

Age 65+

UTD Students

Pregnant Women

Prisoners

Disabilities

✓ Non-English Speakers

*required

If non-English speakers are included in this study, please

- 1. Explain the necessity of using this particular group**
 - 2. Describe any special arrangements to protect their rights / welfare**
-

Necessity of Inclusion

Dallas is a diverse community, with many non-native English speakers. Our survey will be available to participants in English, Spanish, and Mandarin.

*required

Special Arrangements

Our recruitment tools, instruments, and consent forms have been translated from English to Spanish and Mandarin to support the diverse community of Dallas.

Other

None of the Above

*required

What steps will be taken to minimize the possibility of coercion or undue influence?

Will participants be recruited in a manner that is free of coercion/undue influence (not by their Professor, Lab PI, or someone with authority over them)? Will participants be informed that their decision whether or not to participate will not affect their grades, education, or services they may wish to receive at any institution or organization associated with the study?

Participation is strictly voluntary. In addition to blasts via social media, the City of Dallas Police Department will make the link available to community members at their community policing meetings, and through their community relations staff. Participants will be informed that their decision to participate is in no way connected to any other benefits to which they may be entitled.

Inclusion / Exclusion Criteria

If you plan to balance groups based on a specific variable (age, race, etc.), please ensure this is outlined in the application.

*required

Inclusion Criteria

Describe the selection criteria and justification for participant inclusion.

For example, if only women are included, explain the rationale for excluding men.

Inclusion Criteria:

- Age 18 or Over
This survey is concerned with the opinions of adult community members, so participants under the age of 18 are excluded.

*required

Exclusion Criteria

Describe the criteria and justification for participant exclusion.

For example, if mentally ill participants are to be excluded from the procedure, state why they are excluded and what steps will be taken to determine their mental status.

The only exclusion criterion is participants who are under the age of 18. They are asked to self-select.

*required

Will any study materials be translated into another language (recruitment scripts, consent forms, etc.)?

✓ Yes

*required

What language(s)?

Mandarin and Spanish

No

*required

Please provide the following information regarding the translated study materials:

- Name and role of the individual(s) that translated the study materials
- A list of study materials that were translated (email script, verbal script, consent form, etc.)

Members of the Dallas Police Department Community Relations Staff provided translation assistance. The following materials were translated: Electronic Consent Form, Survey Instrument, Recruitment Social Media Posts, Recruitment Fliers.

*required

The Principal Investigator (or Faculty Sponsor if applicable) is responsible for ensuring the IRB-approved study materials (recruitment materials, consent forms, etc.) are accurately translated into a language that is understandable to study participants.

- ✓ I confirm that I understand it is my responsibility to ensure that the IRB-approved study materials are accurately translated and will submit a copy of all translated materials with this application.

The identification and recruitment of participants must be ethically and legally acceptable and free of coercion. Procedures used to recruit participants should be designed to reach diverse populations. For example, vulnerable participants, such as persons in nursing homes or institutions, should not be recruited merely for the sake of convenience.

*required

Recruitment Methods

Advertisement

- ✓ Verbal / face-to-face
- ✓ Web-posting / Social Media

*required

Specify which online platforms you will use to post recruitment information.

Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram

Research Pool / Sona

Email

Telephone / text

Other

*required

Attach a copy of all recruitment flyers, scripts, etc. participants may come in contact with for this study.

[Crime Perception Study - Flyer-1.png](#)

[Crime Perception Study - Flyer-2.png](#)

[Crime Perception Study - Flyer-3.png](#)

[Crime Perception Study Recruitment - Social Media-1.png](#)

[Crime Perception Study Recruitment - Social Media-2.png](#)

[Crime Perception Study Recruitment - Social Media-3.png](#)

*required

Recruitment Procedures

Explain how you will locate individuals who might be eligible to participate in your study.

If you will be contacting potential participants directly (by email, letter, phone, etc.) explain how you will obtain their contact information.

Social Media

The Institute for Urban Policy Research will post recruitment ads in English, Spanish, and Mandarin via its social media profiles on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. We will use each platform's ad services to boost our post toward participants who meet the inclusion criteria.

Verbal/Face to Face

The Institute will provide copies of the recruitment flyer in English, Spanish, and Mandarin for use by Dallas Police Department at community events. Additional copies of the flyer will be available to community organizations whose members may wish to participate.

*required

Screening Procedures

Explain how the screening process will occur (e.g., telephone interview, online questionnaire, etc.).

Participants will be screened via the online consent form in Qualtrics. Those who self-assert that they are 18 years of age or older and opt in will be allowed to participate.

*required

Explain what you will do with the data for people who turn out not to be eligible for your study or are eligible and decide not to participate.

Data from participants who do not consent or abandon the survey will be purged from Qualtrics.

*required

Participant Payment

Will participants be paid an incentive for participation in research?

Yes

No

*required

Will participants be reimbursed for parking, travel, or other expenses related to participation in the research?

Yes

No

Informed consent is required for all human subjects research studies. Consent is not merely a document; it is a process, in which the participant gains an understanding of the research procedures and the potential study benefits and risks in order to make an informed, voluntary decision on whether to participate in a research study.

*required

Indicate which informed consent procedure will be utilized for this study.

Check all that apply

- Online consent procedure - signature required
- Online consent procedure - no signature required
- A written consent form signed by the participant
- A short form written consent form with oral presentation
- Request a waiver of signed written consent
Not applicable for less than minimal risk studies

If multiple forms of consent will be obtained (e.g., online and written), please explain.

*required

Consent Procedure

Describe the process you will use to obtain informed consent from participants, including where and when the consent process will occur. If consent will be obtained in different ways for different participant groups or study phases, describe the consent process that will be used for each participant group and/or study phase.

If online consent is obtained, include the platform that will be used.

Upon following the survey link, either via social media ad or scanned QR code from the flyer, participants will see the online consent form. This form will be available in English, Spanish, or Mandarin. After reading the form, participants will be asked to self-certify that they are age 18 or older and click yes to consent to participate.

*required

Will the prospective participant receive information about the study and provide informed consent at the same time?

Yes - The participant will be provided with the study information and provide consent at the same time

No - The participant will be provided with the study information and asked to provide consent at a later time

*required

Who will provide consent to participate in this study?

Will adult participants provide consent? Will parents provide parental consent and children provide assent?

Adult participants will provide consent via the online consent form. No participants under the age of 18 will be recruited or allowed to participate.

*required

How will it be determined whether the participants or their legally authorized representatives understand the information provided?

Participants will be asked via the online consent form to self-certify their understanding.

*required

Attach a copy of the consent form(s) that will be used in this study.

[Crime Perception Survey - English.pdf](#)

Attach a copy of the parental consent form(s) that will be used in this study.

Attach a copy of the children's assent form(s) that will be used in this study.

Attach a copy of the consent, parental consent, and/or children's assent form(s) translated into another language that will be used in this study.

[Crime Perception Survey - Mandarin.pdf](#)

[Crime Perception Survey - Spanish.pdf](#)

*required

Research Methods

Check all that apply

One-on-one Interviews

Focus Groups

✓ Questionnaires / Surveys

*required

Please attach a copy of all questionnaires and surveys participants will complete.

[Crime Perception Survey - Mandarin.pdf](#)

[Crime Perception Survey - Spanish.pdf](#)

[Crime Perception Survey - English.pdf](#)

Secondary Data Analysis

Mobile Applications / Data Collection Devices

Audio Recordings

Video Recordings

Ethnographic Observation

Physiological measures (EEG, MRI)

Biospecimen Collection (saliva, blood draws, urine, human cells/tissues, etc.)

Behavioral Decision-making tasks (puzzles, interactive games)

Physical Activities (walking or other forms of exercise)

Control Groups

Other

*required

How are procedures conducted?

Procedures are in person

Procedures are online or through a virtual platform

Both virtual (or online) and in-person procedures are involved

*required

Will equipment or other items need to be delivered to participants to facilitate the virtual study design (i.e., laptops, mobile devices, etc.)?

Yes

No

*required

Describe each activity in which participants will be involved.

Describe the frequency and duration of procedures, tests, and experiments; including intervention, follow-up, etc. If procedures are conducted virtually, include the platform that will be used.

Participants will either click a link in social media or scan a QR code on a flyer from a city of Dallas community meeting. The link will take them to the Qualtrics survey instrument, where they will select English, Mandarin, or Spanish to view the consent form. After self-certifying that they understand the consent form, are age 18 or older, and consent to participate, participants will begin the online survey. The survey will ask questions regarding their perceptions of crime in Dallas, North Texas, and Texas, as well as questions about their awareness regarding Human Trafficking. Participants may stop the survey at any time.

Study Instruments

Attach all instruments (i.e. personality scales, questionnaires, evaluation blanks, interviews, etc) to be used in the study that are not already attached above.

*required

Data, Biospecimens, and Records

Does this study involve the collection or use of materials (data or biospecimens) recorded in a manner that could identify the individuals who provided the materials, either directly or through identifiers linked to these individuals?

Yes

No

*required

Devices or Substances

Will the study involve administering any of the following?

Check all that apply.

Substances (vitamins, caffeine, drugs, etc.)

Device

None of the above

*required

What is the level of risk to participants associated with this study?

Less than Minimal Risk

Minimal Risk

Greater than Minimal Risk

*required

Describe expected benefits for participants (if any) that will arise from this study.

Please note: Benefits to participants should not include incentives paid in return for participation.

Participants will benefit from expressing their opinions and attitudes about crime.

*required

Describe expected benefits for society that will arise from this study.

This data will shed light on the nuanced differences in opinions and attitudes about crime based on demographic and geographic characteristics. Moreover, it will help assess penetration of public awareness messaging about Human Trafficking, and will help public agencies better plan their public awareness campaigns.

*required

Deception / Incomplete Disclosure

Will incomplete disclosure or deception be used in this study?

Yes

No

*required

Suicidal Ideation

Does this study include survey or interview questions about a participant's suicidal ideation ?

Yes

No

*required

Does this study involve populations at higher risk for suicidal ideation?

Yes

No

*required

Do you or any study personnel have a financial interest related to this project?

Yes

No

*required

Privacy

Describe how you will protect the identity and privacy of study participants during each phase of research.

- ✓ Research procedures will be conducted in a private setting (virtual or in person).

Data / biospecimens will be captured and reviewed in a private setting.

Only authorized study personnel will be present during research related activities.

Collection of participant data / biospecimens is limited to the amount necessary to achieve the aims of the research.

Other

Confidentiality

The Principal Investigator/Faculty Sponsor is responsible for taking all necessary steps to maintain confidentiality of data. This includes coding data and choosing appropriate and secure ways to store data to prevent unauthorized access.

*required

Confidentiality

Will you collect or obtain any information containing personally identifying information?

Yes - Data / biospecimens will be directly labeled with personal identifying information.
(Identifiable)

Yes - Data / biospecimens will be labeled with a code that study personnel can link to personal identifying information. (Coded)

- ✓ No - Data / biospecimens will not be labeled with any personal identifying information, nor with a code that the research team can link to personal identifying information. (Anonymous)

Other

*required

In what format will data be stored?

Check all that apply

- ✓ Electronic
*required

Please indicate where the electronic data will be stored/accessed.

- ✓ The electronic data will be stored/accessed using only UTD-owned computers and/or laptops.

The electronic data will be stored/accessed on non-UTD computers.

The electronic data will be stored/accessed using both personal and UTD-owned computers and/or laptops.

Other

Paper

*required

How will research data / biospecimens be protected against inappropriate use or disclosure?

Check all that apply

- ✓ Electronic data will be stored/accessed using UTD-approved platforms (Box, REDCap, etc.)

- ✓ Restrict access to authorized study personnel
- ✓ Encryption of digital data
 - Network restrictions
 - Password protection
 - Restrictions on copying study related materials
 - Destruction of source data immediately after data collection
- ✓ Access rights are terminated when authorized study personnel leave the study
 - Data Management Plan (DMP)
 - Other

*required

Will data / biospecimens from this study be shared with anyone outside of the approved research team?

Yes

✓ No

*required

What will happen to the data / biospecimens after the analysis is complete?

Maintained and destroyed as required per institutional record retention policy.

✓ Retained by investigator for future research use.

Other

*required

When will the identifying information be destroyed?

Identifying information includes direct identifiers and contact information (name, email address, etc.) as well as a study key that can be used to link identifying information to a participant's data.

Direct identifiers and/or the key to participant codes will be destroyed once data collection has been completed

Direct identifiers and/or the key to participant codes will NOT be destroyed once data collection has been completed

✓ N/A - No identifying information will be collected in this study

Other

Study Information

Human Subjects Protection Training

[Certificate of Completion ? Human Subjects Protection - Bray \(1\).pdf](#)

[Boots Human Subjects CITI Certification expires 4 10 25.pdf](#)

[Tarin, Lucy 01.22.2022.jpg](#)

[citiCompletionCertificate_12104948_54899222.pdf](#)

GCP Training

Recruitment

Recruitment Scripts

[Crime Perception Study - Flyer-1.png](#)

[Crime Perception Study - Flyer-2.png](#)

[Crime Perception Study - Flyer-3.png](#)

[Crime Perception Study Recruitment - Social Media-1.png](#)

[Crime Perception Study Recruitment - Social Media-2.png](#)

[Crime Perception Study Recruitment - Social Media-3.png](#)

Participant Protection

Informed Consent Form

[Crime Perception Survey - English.pdf](#)

Informed Consent

Consent Documents

[Crime Perception Survey - English.pdf](#)

Procedures

Questionnaires / Surveys

[Crime Perception Survey - Mandarin.pdf](#)

[Crime Perception Survey - Spanish.pdf](#)

[Crime Perception Survey - English.pdf](#)

Study Instruments

Device Documents

Risks / Benefits

Suicide Ideation Response Plan

Debrief Form

This section is for internal use only.

For Internal Use Only (HSR Office)

Appendix II: Dallas Crime Perceptions Survey Instrument



Dallas Crime Perception Survey

Survey Flow

Block: Consent Block (3 Questions)

Branch: New Branch

If

If If you are 18 years of age or older, understand the statements above, and freely consent to parti... I Agree Is Selected

Standard: Demographics (12 Questions)

Standard: Perceptions (9 Questions)

Standard: Recognitions (3 Questions)

EndSurvey: Advanced

Page Break



Start of Block: Consent Block

ConsentHeading Welcome to **Dallas Crime Perception Survey**, a web-based survey that explores attitudes and perceptions about various crimes. Before taking this survey, please read the consent form below and click on the "I Agree" button at the bottom of the page if you understand the statements and freely consent to participate in the survey.

ConsentForm Consent Form This survey involves a web-based series of questions designed to explore your awareness of various crimes in North Texas, such as property crime, street crime, and human trafficking. The survey is being conducted by Dr. Timothy Bray and Dr. Denise Boots of The University of Texas at Dallas, and it has been designated by The University of Texas at Dallas Human Subjects Research Office (HSR) as exempt from review by an Institutional Review Board. No deception is involved, and the survey involves no more than minimal risk to participants (i.e., the level of risk encountered in daily life). Participation in the survey typically takes less than 10 minutes and is strictly confidential. Respondents begin by answering a series of questions about themselves and perceptions of crime in their neighborhoods. All responses are treated as confidential, and in no case will responses from individual participants be identified. Rather, all data will be pooled and published in aggregate form only. The data collected from this survey could be used by Investigators for future research studies or distributed to another investigator for future studies without additional informed consent. Participants should be aware that while the survey is being run from a "secure" https server of the kind typically used to handle credit card transactions, there is a small possibility that responses could be viewed by unauthorized third parties (e.g., computer hackers). No adverse reactions are anticipated when taking this survey, but by its very nature, the topic of this survey may be upsetting. If you find that to be true, we encourage you to discuss this with a trained professional. Participation is voluntary, refusal to take part in the survey involves no penalty or loss of benefits to which participants are otherwise entitled, and participants may withdraw from the survey at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which they are otherwise entitled. If you have further questions about this study, you may contact the Principal Investigator, **Dr. Timothy Bray**, at **(972)883-5432** or by e-mail at **timothy.bray@utdallas.edu**. If you want more information about your rights as a participant or want to report a research related concern, you may contact The University of Texas at Dallas Human Subjects Research Office at (972) 883-4575.





Consent If you are 18 years of age or older, understand the statements above, and freely consent to participate in the study, click on the "I Agree" button to begin the survey.

I Agree (1)

I Do Not Agree (0)

End of Block: Consent Block

Start of Block: Demographics

Q2.1 Tell Us A Bit About Yourself!



RaceEth Which of the following best describes your race and/or ethnicity? Mark all that apply.

Black / African American (1)

Asian or Pacific Islander (2)

Hispanic / Latinx (3)

White / Caucasian (4)

American Indian or Alaska Native (5)





Gender Which of the following best describes your gender?

- Male (1)
 - Female (2)
 - Non-binary / third gender (3)
 - Prefer not to say (4)
-

Age With which age group do you identify?

- 18 - 24 (1)
 - 25 - 34 (2)
 - 35 - 44 (3)
 - 45 - 54 (4)
 - 55 - 64 (5)
 - 65 - 74 (6)
 - 75 or Over (7)
-

Page Break



Q2.5 Tell Us About Your Home



HomeZIP In what ZIP Code do you live?

HomeType Which of these categories best describes your residence?

- House (1)
- Apartment (2)
- Townhome/Duplex (3)
- Condo (4)
- Mobile Home (5)
- Other (6)



HomeSize How many people live in your home?



HomeKids Does your home include children under the age of 18?

- No (1)
- Yes (2)

Page Break



Q2.10 Tell Us About Your Work

WorkStatus Which of the following best describes your employment status?

- Work Outside of the Home (1)
 - Work At Home / Homemaker / Stay at Home Parent (2)
 - Retired (3)
 - Student (4)
 - Unemployed (Looking for Work) (5)
 - Unemployed (Not Looking) (6)
-

Display This Question:

If WorkStatus = Work Outside of the Home

Or WorkStatus = Student



WorkSchoolZIP What is the ZIP Code where you work or attend school?

End of Block: Demographics

Start of Block: Perceptions





CrimesNHood Below is a list of common types of crimes. Please select up to three (3) that, in your opinion, pose the most pressing challenge **to your neighborhood**.

- Violent Crime (e.g., Murder, Sexual Assault, & Assault) (1)
- Street Crime (e.g., Vagrancy, Drug Sales, etc.) (2)
- Property Crime (e.g., Theft, Car Theft, Burglary, etc.) (3)
- Human Trafficking (4)
- Street Prostitution (5)
- Human Smuggling (6)
- Child Abuse and Neglect (7)





CrimesNTX Below is a list of common types of crimes. Please select up to three (3) that, in your opinion, pose the most pressing challenge **to the North Texas Region**.

- Violent Crime (e.g., Murder, Sexual Assault, & Assault) (1)
- Street Crime (e.g., Vagrancy, Drug Sales, etc.) (2)
- Property Crime (e.g., Theft, Car Theft, Burglary, etc.) (3)
- Human Trafficking (4)
- Street Prostitution (5)
- Human Smuggling (6)
- Child Abuse and Neglect (7)





CrimesTX Below is a list of common types of crimes. Please select up to three (3) that, in your opinion, pose the most pressing challenge **to the State of Texas**.

- Violent Crime (e.g., Murder, Sexual Assault, & Assault) (1)
- Street Crime (e.g., Vagrancy, Drug Sales, etc.) (2)
- Property Crime (e.g., Theft, Car Theft, Burglary, etc.) (3)
- Human Trafficking (4)
- Street Prostitution (5)
- Human Smuggling (6)
- Child Abuse and Neglect (7)

Page Break



Q3.4

Human Trafficking | *noun* : organized criminal activity in which human beings are treated as possessions to be controlled and exploited (as by being forced into prostitution or involuntary labor)



Perceptions Please consider the statements below and rate your agreement with each of them.

	Strongly disagree (1)	Somewhat disagree (2)	Neither agree nor disagree (3)	Somewhat agree (4)	Strongly agree (5)
Human trafficking has occurred in my neighborhood. (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My neighborhood has a crime problem. (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Human trafficking has occurred in North Texas. (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel safe in my neighborhood. (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel safe where I work. (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>





HSTExposure Please tell us about any of the following human trafficking items you may have seen or heard.

	No (1)	Yes (2)
I have seen or heard television/radio advertisements about human trafficking. (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have seen posters or flyers about human trafficking. (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have seen social media posts about human trafficking. (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have seen or heard news stories about human trafficking. (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break



Display This Question:
If HSTExposure = I have seen social media posts about human trafficking. [Yes]

SocialSources On which of the following social media platforms did you see posts about human trafficking?

- Facebook (1)
- Twitter (2)
- Instagram (3)
- SnapChat (4)
- TikTok (5)
- Other (6) _____

Display This Question:
If HSTExposure = I have seen posters or flyers about human trafficking. [Yes]

PosterSources In which places have you seen posters or flyers about human trafficking?

- Restaurant/Bar (1)
- Hotel/Motel (2)
- Library/Rec Center/City Building (3)
- Medical or Other Professional Office (4)
- Convenience Store (5)
- Other (6) _____

Display This Question:

If HSTExposure = I have seen or heard television/radio advertisements about human trafficking. [Yes]



NewsItems Are you familiar with any of these human trafficking news stories?

- Ghislaine Maxwell (1)
- R. Kelly (2)
- Anthony Acy (3)
- Mavericks Game Disappearance (4)

End of Block: Perceptions

Start of Block: Recognitions





Agencies Many agencies provide services to support survivors of human trafficking. Which, if any, of these agencies do you recognize?

- New Friends New Life (1)
- Refuge for Women (2)
- Our Calling (3)
- Valiant Hearts (4)
- Hope's Door (5)
- Rescue Her (6)
- A21 (7)
- Treasured Vessels Foundation (8)
- Ranch Hands Rescue (9)
- Brighter Tomorrows (10)
- Bochy's Place (11)
- Refugee Services of Texas (12)
- Mosaic Family Services (13)
- Jaco Booyens Ministries (14)
- Prism Health North Texas (15)
- Restored Hope Ministries (16)



Symbols Below are several different safety signs and stickers used in North Texas. Please click any that you recall seeing around the community.

Image:Safe Place Logo (1)

Image:Code Adam Logo (2)

Image:Alcohol Health Warning Sign (3)

Image:TABC Human Trafficking Sign (4)

Image:Texas AG Human Trafficking Commercial Poster (5)

Image:Be Free Hotline Sticker (6)

Page Break



Q4.2 Thank you for taking the time to answer these questions! If you'd like to learn more about preventing human trafficking in North Texas, visit the BlueHeart website at <https://blueheartdfw.com>. You'll be taken there when this survey is completed.

End of Block: Recognitions

Appendix III: IRB Protocol Human Sex Trafficking Study

IRB #: IRB-22-283

Title: Human Sex Trafficking Needs Assessment - City of Dallas

Creation Date: 1-5-2022

End Date: 4-25-2024

Status: **Approved**

Principal Investigator: Timothy Bray

Review Board: UTD Institutional Review Board

Sponsor: City of Dallas

Study History

Submission Type	Initial	Review Type	Full	Decision	Approved
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Key Study Contacts

Member	Timothy Bray	Role	Principal Investigator	Contact	tmb021000@utdallas.edu
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Member	Whitney Sanders	Role	Primary Contact	Contact	wss190000@utdallas.edu
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Member	Denise Boots	Role	Co-Principal Investigator	Contact	dpb062000@utdallas.edu
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About Cayuse IRB

Cayuse IRB is an interactive web application. As you answer questions, new sections relevant to the type of research being conducted will appear on the left-hand side. Therefore not all sections may appear. You do not have to finish the application in one sitting. All information can be saved.

For more information about the IRB submission Process, IRB Tracking, and Cayuse IRB Tasks, please refer to the [Cayuse IRB Procedures Manual](#).

Getting Started

Throughout the submission, you will be required to provide the following:

- Detailed Study Information
- Informed Consent Forms
- Study Instruments (measures, tests, surveys, interview questions, etc.)
- Study Recruitment Documents
- Human Subjects Protection Training Certificates (for all study personnel)

UT Dallas IRB

The Principal Investigator or Faculty Sponsor (if the PI is a student investigator) has ultimate responsibility for the conduct of the study, the ethical performance of the project, and the protection of the rights and welfare of the subjects who participate in the study as

represented in the [Belmont Report](#) and [45 Code of Federal Regulations Part 46](#).

Submission of a research protocol to the IRB Office certifies that the Principal Investigator and/or Faculty Sponsor attest to the scientific merit of the study; to the competency of the investigator(s) to conduct the project; and that continued guidance will be provided as appropriate to ensure the protection of human participants and compliance with IRB requirements.

*required

I have read the information above and I am ready to begin my submission.

✓ Yes

Submission Information

*required

What type of activity is this submission for?

✓ Collection of New Research Data

Secondary Data Analysis Only

- Existing Data or Biospecimens

IRB Reliance

- UTD not the IRB of Record

Class Project

UTDesign Project

*required

Principal Investigator

Note: If you cannot find a person in the people finder, please complete [this form](#) to request that they be added to Cayuse.

Name: Timothy Bray

Organization: IPE-PPPE

Address: 800 W. Campbell Road , Richardson, TX 75080-3021

Phone: (972) 883-5432

Email: tmb021000@utdallas.edu

*required

Primary Contact

Note: If you cannot find a person in the people finder, please complete [this form](#) to request that they be added to Cayuse.

Name: Whitney Sanders

Organization: Criminology and Sociology

Address: 800 W. Campbell Rd , Richardson, TX 75080

Phone:

Email: wss190000@utdallas.edu

*required

Is this a multi-institutional study?

Yes

No

*required

Study Personnel

Note: If you cannot find a person in the people finder, please complete [this form](#) to request that they be added to Cayuse.

*required

PI status at UTD

Faculty

Student

Staff

Other

Co-Principal Investigator(s)

Provide the name(s) of Investigator(s) for this study.

Name: Denise Boots

Organization: Economic Political and Policy

Address: 800 W. Campbell Road , Richardson, TX 75080-3021

Phone: (972) 883-6468

Email: dpb062000@utdallas.edu

Other Personnel

Provide the name(s) of other personnel for this study.

Name: Whitney Sanders

Organization: Criminology and Sociology

Address: 800 W. Campbell Rd , Richardson, TX 75080

Phone:

Email: wss190000@utdallas.edu

*required

Are there individuals who are not affiliated with UTD that are engaged in the research?

Yes

✓ No

*required

Provide a Human Subjects Protection training certification of completion for all study personnel (including non-UTD affiliated personnel if applicable).

You can access the Human Subjects Protection training via our [website](#).

[Certificate of Completion â Human Subjects Protection - Bray \(1\).pdf](#)

[Boots Human Subjects Certification March 2022 \(1\).pdf](#)

[IRB Sanders 20230320.pdf](#)

*required

Study Site

✓ UTD Main Campus

*required

Recruitment

✓ Procedures

✓ Data Analysis

Callier Center - Richardson

Callier Center - Dallas

Center for BrainHealth / Brain Performance Institute

Center for Vital Longevity

Texas Biomedical Device Center - Dallas

UTD BrainHealth Imaging Center

*required

Are there performance sites that are non-UTD affiliated?

If recruitment, consent, study procedures, or data analysis will take place at a location not listed above as a UTD-affiliated site, this research involves non-UTD affiliated sites.

Yes

No

*required

Please list the non-UTD performance site.

Virtually (MS Teams)

*required

Describe the research related activity at this site.

Dr. Denise Paquette Boots and Dr. Timothy Bray will conduct focus groups and key informant interviews via MS Teams for participants who have been included because of their employment or function within the city or other local government agencies and partners. For example, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges, public defenders, private attorneys, nonprofit leaders, service providers, etc. We will refer to these participants as "Occupational and Institutional Participants."

✓ Add an additional non-UTD affiliated study site.

*required

Please list the non-UTD performance site.

Dallas Police Department Headquarters, Northwest Station, South Central Station, Southeast Station

*required

Describe the research related activity at this site.

Dr. Bray and Dr. Boots will conduct key informant interviews and focus groups at the above police stations with law enforcement personnel.

Add an additional non-UTD affiliated study site.

*required

Please provide a copy of the IRB approval or letter of support confirming that you have permission to conduct research at this site.

[DPD IRB Letter.pdf](#)

*required

Study Dates

Please provide approximate start and end dates for the study.

Start Date

04-22-2023

End Date

08-31-2023

*required

Purpose

Describe the following:

- Study's purpose
- Study's specific aims or objectives and
- Hypotheses to be tested or the research questions that will guide the study.
- *If using MR Imaging, please describe the purpose/hypothesis of the overall project and then be specific about the purpose and/or hypothesis of the MR portion of your study*

The purpose of this project is to conduct a needs assessment in the City of Dallas pertaining to the understanding, prevention, and mitigation of human sex trafficking within the city's jurisdiction through innovative approaches not traditionally associated with law enforcement. The study is for the collection of information pertaining to existing structures and strategies both inside and outside the immediate control of the City of Dallas as it pertains to human sex trafficking within its jurisdiction. This study aims to understand the current scope of enforcement, prevention, and mitigation methods employed by city staff and its collaborating partners. It also aims to understand best and promising practices employed in other jurisdictions, as well as the needs and preferences of human sex trafficking survivors (defined below), service providers, law enforcement, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and affected businesses (stakeholders) as they pertain to the prevention and mitigation of human sex trafficking.

This portion of the study is for data collection only for the purposes of identifying needs and defining

service gaps. The information and data gathered in this study might be used by future studies in the investigation and evaluation of new interventions developed in response to these findings, but the scope of this study is limited to data collection and reporting. There is no research question or hypothesis associated with this data collection, although future research might use this information to develop new interventions that could be implemented and evaluated in conjunction with additional data collection (not within the scope of this study) or through the utilization of publicly available administrative data pertaining to crime and law enforcement.

For the purpose of this study, human sex trafficking survivors are individuals who were previously trafficked, are no longer being trafficked, and have demonstrated an ability to speak about their experiences as determined by a professional (e.g. a case manager or advocate affiliated with a service provider currently collaborating with the City of Dallas). A victim is someone currently being victimized. This study will not include current victims.

The study is focused on the phenomenon of human sex trafficking, which is a type of human trafficking that principally involves commercial sexual exploitation. This study is not primarily concerned with other types of human trafficking (e.g. labor trafficking), although they are sometimes co-occurring (e.g. sexual oriented businesses are sometimes engaged in both sex and labor trafficking). The proposal may use terms like "HST" for human sex trafficking or "trafficking" and "trafficked." It should be understood that for the purpose of this study, these terms are generally limited to human sex trafficking.

*required

Study Background

Provide the scientific or scholarly background for, rationale for, and significance of the proposed research based on the existing literature.

Describe how the research will add to existing knowledge.

Human sex trafficking is an exceptional area of criminal justice research because of the victim-offender intersectionality that arises from traditional enforcement strategies. Victims of human sex trafficking are often identified in the course of investigating other criminal and civil offenses. As a result, law enforcement often treats victims of human sex trafficking as offenders of other crimes (e.g., prostitution). This study will investigate the changing attitudes of law enforcement, as well as other institutional actors, regarding this victim-offender intersectionality. This research team will gather information from stakeholders in the systems that respond to human sex trafficking about their current efforts to prevent and mitigate the contributing factors to human sex trafficking victimization, as well as ideas for improved policies and procedures in the future. The study seeks to understand the systematic responses currently employed and how those systems might be adapted to better promote victim healing. Its focus will be on strategies that lie outside the current scope of traditional law enforcement strategies; in other words, interventions that do not punish victims of human sex trafficking as offenders but instead prioritize victim healing.

*required

Design and Methodology

- Explain how the data you plan to collect ties in with your research questions.
- Explain the purpose behind the data you are collecting and how do those data connect to the research questions you seek to answer.

Data collection in this study will occur through the use of focus groups and key-informant interviews.

- Focus Group Stakeholder Segments
 - Service Providers
 - Prosecutors, Defense Attorneys, and Judges
 - Law Enforcement Personnel
 - Business Owners and Managers
- Key Informant Interview Stakeholder Segments
 - Select members of the above-listed groups
 - Human Sex Trafficking Survivors

Data collection will focus on information pertaining to the improvement of the current response systems to human sex trafficking and outlining the foundational requirements of a coordinated community response that contributes to the prevention and mitigation of human sex trafficking, as well as the healing of its victims primarily through the adoption of policies and procedures not traditionally associated with law enforcement and/or implemented outside of law enforcement agencies but with their cooperation.

Individuals belonging to the focus group stakeholder segments listed above will provide information about the existing functionality of those systems, their potential for functional improvement, as well as individual, expert recommendations for the generation of new and improved responses to human sex trafficking that recognize victim-offender intersectionality and are victim-centered and trauma-informed, rather than offender-centered.

Human sex trafficking survivors will primarily provide information about their interactions with the various systems and institutions they encountered as a result of their victimization. For example, as a result of their victimization, they may have encountered law enforcement personnel, judges, prosecutors, victim advocates, and service providers (among others). They will be asked to discuss their interactions with these systems and the individuals representing them with the purpose of improving the ability of those systems and institutions to serve human sex trafficking victims, prevent human sex trafficking, and mitigate its negative effects on victims and communities.

The total number of participants may approach 75, but the number of human sex trafficking survivors who participate in interviews will be between 8 and 12. Similarly, we will interview between 10 and 12 members of the other focus group stakeholder segments. The remaining participants will be focus group participants.

*required

Is this a Clinical Trial?

Yes

No

*required

Study Funding and Other Support

Is this study externally funded?

Yes

No

*required

Sponsor Type

Select all appropriate funding sources for this study, including sources of pending support.

Federal

Industry

Nonprofit

Other

*required

Provide the type of Sponsor for this study.

City of Dallas

*required

Funding Status

Pending

✓ Awarded

*required

Funding Agency

*If you cannot find your funding agency, contact the [IRB Office](#)
City of Dallas*

PeopleSoft project ID for the Sponsored Project (*if known*)

*required

Participant Enrollment

Enter the number of participants that will be enrolled in this study.

*required

Enrollment at UTD

Please enter the number of subjects that will be enrolled at UTD

N/A

*required

Enrollment at non-UTD affiliated sites.

Please enter the total number of subjects to be enrolled at non-UTD affiliated sites.

75

*required

Total Enrollment (at all sites)

Enter the total number of subjects that will be enrolled in the study (at both UTD and non-UTD affiliated sites).

75

*required

Vulnerable Populations

Please check the population(s) that will be enrolled. Check all that apply.

Minors (17 and younger)

Age 65+

UTD Students

Pregnant Women

Prisoners

Impaired Individuals

Non-English Speakers

✓ Other

*required

Describe

Survivors of human sex trafficking. We define human sex trafficking survivors as previously trafficked individuals who are no longer being trafficked and have demonstrated an ability to speak about their experiences as determined by a professional (e.g., a case manager or advocate affiliated with a service provider currently collaborating with the City of Dallas).

*required

If a vulnerable population that is not listed above is included in this study, please

- 1. Explain the necessity of using this particular group**
- 2. Describe any special arrangements to protect their safety**

Survivors of human sex trafficking have a unique perspective on the systems and strategies used to prevent and mitigate human sex trafficking.

*required

Necessity of Inclusion

The research team believes conversing with human sex trafficking survivors will help to understand the gaps and needs of survivors and victims of human sex trafficking. This perspective cannot be assessed via any other participants.

*required

Special Arrangements

Human sex trafficking survivors will only participate in key informant interviews, not in focus groups. They will not have to speak in front of anyone outside the research team. All interviews will occur face-to-face (either in person or in Microsoft Teams). Survivors will be given limited choices for the location of the interviews, including locations potentially in their own communities.

None of the Above

Inclusion / Exclusion Criteria

*required

Inclusion Criteria

Describe the selection criteria and justification for participant inclusion.

For example, if only women are included, explain the rationale for excluding men.

The research team will conduct focus groups with the following categories of individuals:

Service Providers - Staff members and volunteers for organizations providing services to victims and survivors of human sex trafficking.

Law Enforcement - Individuals employed by the Dallas Police Department in both sworn and non-sworn roles. Individuals could be current or former members of human sex trafficking units/task forces, vice units, or have served in other units who frequently or occasionally encounter victims or perpetrators of human sex trafficking. Individuals may also serve in communications, public relations, or community engagement roles in which they regularly engage with other public agencies, government officials, community members, media representatives, or business representatives.

Prosecution and Courts - Individuals in legal and court-related professions in Dallas or Dallas County who regularly or occasionally provide services or otherwise come in contact with victims and/or survivors of human sex trafficking. This can include defense attorneys, prosecutors, community and specialty court staff, public defenders, and/or the clerks and staff of those individuals.

Faith Community - Individuals in leadership positions at churches, synagogues, mosques, or other houses of worship and/or their staff members who may regularly or occasionally come into contact with victims and/or survivors of human sex trafficking. Individuals in leadership position at faith-based organizations providing services to victims and/or survivors of human sex trafficking.

Staff members at any of the above mentioned organization with a particular expertise, experience, or job function that relates directly or indirectly to human sex trafficking.

Key informant interviews will include members of the segments identified above, as well as:

Human Sex Trafficking Survivors - For the purpose of this study, human sex trafficking survivors are individuals who were previously trafficked, are no longer being trafficked, and have demonstrated an ability to speak about their experiences as determined by a professional (e.g. a case manager or advocate affiliated with a service provider currently collaborating with the City of Dallas). A victim is someone currently being victimized. This study will not include current victims. Human sex

trafficking survivors will be recruited through referral from either the City of Dallas or their partner agencies. They will identify only individuals with a demonstrated ability to speak about their experiences **using a checklist included in the attachments**. Human sex trafficking survivors identified by these partners will be given the opportunity to make an appointment with the research team for an interview (either in person or virtually). The service provider partners will handle scheduling based on times and locations provided by the research team, and the research team will not have contact information for survivors.

*required

Exclusion Criteria

Describe the criteria and justification for participant exclusion.

For example, if mentally ill participants are to be excluded from the procedure, state why they are excluded and what steps will be taken to determine their mental status.

For the occupational participants (service providers, law enforcement, prosecution and courts, and faith community members), the research team will not include individuals who do not meet the above requirements because they do not possess the experience, expertise, or specific knowledge the study seeks.

Human sex trafficking survivor participants will be identified by service provider partners who regularly work with survivors of human sex trafficking. Staff at partner agencies will make the determination to invite human sex trafficking survivors they believe to be capable of speaking about their relevant experiences. Staff of those partner agencies will work with potential participants to identify times and locations amenable to the participants based on availability provided by the research team. Potential human sex trafficking survivor participants who are not available at the times or locations specified by the research team may be excluded from the study in order to avoid the need for direct contact between the research team and the potential participant prior to the interview itself.

The identification and recruitment of participants must be ethically and legally acceptable and free of coercion. Procedures used to recruit participants should be designed to reach diverse populations. For example, vulnerable participants, such as persons in nursing homes or institutions, should not be recruited merely for the sake of convenience.

*required

Recruitment Methods

Advertisement

Verbal / face-to-face

Web-posting / Social Media

Research Pool / Sona

✓ Email

*required

How will potential participant email addresses be obtained?

Occupational and Institutional Participants will be recruited through professional networks and referrals from project partners at the City of Dallas.

Telephone / text

✓ Other

*required

Please explain

Human sex trafficking survivor participants will be recruited by providing fliers/information to service providers who will recruit potential human sex trafficking survivors who will then be able to identify a time and location for their participation based on a list provided by the research team to the partner agencies. The research team will not have direct contact with the human sex trafficking survivor participants prior to the interview itself.

*required

Attach a copy of all recruitment flyers, scripts, etc. participants may come in contact with for this study.

[Survivor Recruitment Script-20230414.docx](#)

[Recruitment Script-20230414.docx](#)

*required

Recruitment Procedures

Explain how you will locate individuals who might be eligible to participate in your study.

If you will be contacting potential participants directly (by email, letter, phone, etc.) explain how you will obtain their contact information.

Potential occupational participants will be identified by research staff based on existing professional networks and referrals from City of Dallas staff and their existing partnerships. Potential participants and their roles are known to the community. The basis of their eligibility is public knowledge of their identity and their experience and expertise in the relevant field.

Human sex trafficking survivors will be referred to the study by local service providers who regularly deal with this population. The referral might be directly from the agency or could pass through City of Dallas staff. The mutual understanding is that service providers will only refer individuals whom they believe have fully recovered from their human sex trafficking experience and are able to participate in the interview process with minimal risk of re-traumatization. Local service providers who will provide referrals have counselors and therapists on staff capable of making such judgments. Referred individuals may also include those already engaged in public speaking on the topic. That is, if a service provider or city department already contracts with a human sex trafficking survivor for professional development or motivational speaking, those individuals may be referred for the study.

Third-party providers will be provided with a checklist of example criteria for inclusion, which can be found in the attachments section.

Once potential human sex trafficking survivors are identified by partner agency staff, those staff members - or staff with the City of Dallas - will work with the potential participants to identify times and locations that

are amenable to the potential participants based on the established availability of the research team. That is, the research team will provide the partner agencies and the city with a list of potential times when the research team is available, and potential participants will choose from those times. Participants may choose to conduct the interview on the UT Dallas campus or at a public location of their choosing in or near their community. Potential examples include libraries and community centers with study rooms available for reservation. Human sex trafficking survivors may also elect to conduct their interviews virtually using Microsoft Teams.

*required

Screening Procedures

Explain how the screening process will occur (e.g., telephone interview, online questionnaire, etc.).

Individuals who respond to the invitation to participate will undergo simple verification of individuals' roles and organizations to ensure that they have the appropriate knowledge for the study.

Survivors' experiences (the details of their victimization) will not be verified or interrogated. However, we will only accept referrals from agencies who can indicate that the individual has either engaged in public appearances on the topic or has otherwise demonstrated an ability to discuss their survivorship with a minimal risk of re-traumatization.

*required

Explain what you will do with the data for people who turn out not to be eligible for your study or are eligible and decide not to participate.

Individuals whose roles have changed, who are not interested, or who otherwise do not meet the requirements for participation will not be contacted further. All communications with Occupational and Institutional Participants will take place through university email. If an individual is determined to be ineligible or declines to participate after initial contact, any correspondence with those individuals will be deleted from the outlook server, as well as any device(s) synced with the relevant outlook account (including mobile phones and laptops).

Individuals who agree to participate, but decide not to consent or who drop out during the study will have any data collected to that point removed from the transcript. Specifically: for focus group participants who drop out after the commencement of the recording, their voice will remain on the recording, but anything they say will be redacted during the transcription process. All recording will be deleted immediately upon transcription. In-person recordings will be stored on removable media inside a portable recording device. The media will be encrypted, and once transcription occurs, the removable media (SD or microSD card)

will be reformatted such that no data remains. All audio data (regardless of consent withdrawal) will be destroyed at this point, and individuals who withdrew during the focus group will not appear in the transcript. Focus groups that occur virtually will be recorded through Teams to the UTD OneDrive of the researcher hosting the focus group. Similar to the process for removable media, these files will be deleted permanently from the researcher's OneDrive once transcription is complete.

For one-on-one interviews that occur in person, if the individual withdraws after the interview has commenced, all recording will cease. The removable media to which the interview was being recorded will be wiped and reformatted such that no data remains. The interview will not be transcribed. For those one-on-one interviews that occur virtually, if the participant withdraws after the interview has commenced, the recording will cease and the audio file generated in the researcher's OneDrive will be deleted permanently and no transcription will be made.

Final transcripts for all focus groups and interviews that include only individuals who provided and never withdrew consent will be maintained in Box.

All correspondence with those who do not participate for any reason will be permanently deleted from outlook and any local machine synced to the relevant Outlook account.

*required

Participant Payment

Will participants be paid an incentive for participation in research?

Yes

*required

Please complete the following (check all that apply)

Sona system credit

GalaxyPay

Gift Card

Amazon Mechanical Turk (MTurk)

Other

*required

Explain

Provide the type of compensation and the amount given (or dollar equivalent if participants will be given food or a small gift).

in-person participants will be offered refreshments and/or snacks. The value will not exceed \$10

Please provide information for each question below.

*required

Payment Schedule

refreshments and food will be provided during in-person interviews only

*required

Will payment be pro-rated based on a participant's early withdrawal?

Yes

*required

Describe how payment will be pro-rated.

The availability will be limited to the time in which they are present. Individuals who withdraw early are not disqualified from receiving payment, but there opportunity for receipt is diminished. AS noted above "payment" is defined as refreshments and food.

No

No

*required

Will participants be reimbursed for parking, travel, or other expenses related to participation in the research?

Yes

No

Informed consent is required for all human subjects research studies. Consent is not merely a document; it is a process, in which the participant gains an understanding of the research procedures and the potential study benefits and risks in order to make an informed, voluntary decision on whether to participate in a research study.

*required

Indicate which informed consent procedure will be utilized for this study.

Check all that apply

- ✓ Online consent procedure - signature required
- Online consent procedure - no signature required
- A written consent form signed by the participant
- A short form written consent form with oral presentation
- ✓ Request a waiver of signed written consent
Not applicable for less than minimal risk studies

If multiple forms of consent will be obtained (e.g., online and written), please explain.

All institutional and occupational participants, whether virtual or in-person (some law enforcement interviews will occur in person) will complete consent documents via redcap. Individuals identified during recruitment who agree to participate will receive the consent for via redcap the day before the focus group or interview along with the health screening. They will complete the consent independently and receive a copy of their signed consent via RedCap. At the beginning of the focus or interview, the script outlines the additional reminders of their rights and consent to participate.

Survivor participants will provide verbal consent so that they do not have to provide their names. Since all

survivor interviews will occur in person, they will be given a physical copy of the consent form without signature fields for review. Consent language will be further reviewed during the interview, and they will be asked to provide verbal consent, which will be audio-recorded and included in the transcription.

All consent forms will include a link to relevant resources regarding human sex trafficking at the following link: <https://blueheartdfw.com/home/resources/>.

For virtual meeting, the link will be provided in chat, in addition to the consent form and for in-person interviews, there will be flyers with a QR code to the same link available to participants.

Waiver of Documentation of Consent

Explain why a waiver of documentation of informed consent:

*required

Presents no more than minimal risk to participants

Interviews with human sex trafficking survivors pose a risk of emotional harm from re-traumatization. However, the recruitment process will seek only those survivors who have demonstrated an ability to speak about their experiences. Moreover, participants will be informed of their ability to refuse to answer questions or terminate the interview at any time.

*required

Will not adversely affect the rights and welfare of participants

Participation will not affect the rights or welfare of participants. In particular, a survivor-participant's decision whether or not to participate will not impact their ability to receive services from a service provider partner. While the service provider partners will handle the scheduling of interviews, they will not be present or have any knowledge that the interview occurred or whether the participant withdrew.

*required

Is necessary as the research could not practicably be carried out if documentation of consent is required

Survivors of human sex trafficking are likely to refuse participation if required to sign a consent form and provide their name for documentation related to their victimization.

*required

Consent Procedure

Describe the process you will use to obtain informed consent from participants, including where and when the consent process will occur. If consent will be obtained in different ways for different participant groups or study phases, describe the consent process that will be used for each participant group and/or study phase.

If online consent is obtained, include the platform that will be used.

We will use Redcap to obtain consent from all institutional and occupational participants, virtual or otherwise. All focus groups and interviews (survivor and non-survivor) will include both verbal consent and comprehension questions, which will be audio-recorded and transcribed.

As stated above, consent forms will be sent via RedCap prior to the day of the interview or focus group. Completion will be self-administered and institutional and occupational participants will sign via RedCap and will receive copies via RedCap.

*required

How will it be determined whether the participants or their legally authorized representatives understand the information provided?

Individuals will sign a consent form indicating that they understand what was read and provide their consent. Survivors will be asked to provide verbal consent, which will be documented via audio recording.

*required

Comprehension Questions

Provide at least three (3) questions each participant will be asked during the informed consent process to confirm their understanding of the study procedures.

What should you do if you do not wish to answer a question?

What should do if you decide to stop participating?

(for survivors) What should you do if you do not wish to share your name?

What will you be asked to do in this study?

*required

Describe the process should a participant provide an incorrect response to the comprehension questions.

Individuals who fail the comprehension questions will be offered an opportunity to exit the study, or to be provided the consent information an additional time and asked again for verbal consent, as well as comprehension. If they decline, they will be disqualified from participation. Individuals who decline or disqualified will be given information directing them to resources that can be found here:
<https://blueheartdfw.com/home/resources/>.

*required

Attach a copy of the consent form(s) that will be used in this study.

[IRB-22-283 Consent \(Occupational\) - Edited 20230414.docx](#)

[IRB-22-283 Consent \(Survivors\) - Edited 20230414.docx](#)

Attach a copy of the parental consent form(s) that will be used in this study.

Attach a copy of the children's assent form(s) that will be used in this study.

Attach a copy of the consent, parental consent, and/or children's assent form(s) translated into another language that will be used in this study.

*required

Research Methods

Check all that apply

✓ One-on-one Interviews

*required

Please attached a copy of the interview script(s) to outline the questions participants will be asked.

[\(4b\) Interview Instrument - LE 04132022.docx](#)

[\(1\) Interview Instrument - Survivors - 08252022.docx](#)

✓ Focus Groups

*required

Please attached a copy of the information that will be provided to Focus Group participants (script, questions, etc.).

[\(6\) Focus Group Instrument - Courts - 04012022.docx](#)

[\(4\) Focus Group Instrument - Law Enforcement 04012022.docx](#)

[\(3\) Focus Group Instrument - Service Providers \(Distal\) - 04012022.docx](#)

[Focus Group Service Providers \(Proximal\) - 04012022.docx](#)

[\(7\) Focus Group Instrument - Faith Community - 04012022.docx](#)

Questionnaires / Surveys

Secondary Data Analysis

Mobile Applications / Data Collection Devices

✓ Audio Recordings

*required

Will audio recordings be transcribed and then destroyed?

Yes

No

How will recordings be stored / accessed to protect participant privacy?

Recordings will be stored on Box.com according to university OIT standards.

Video Recordings

Ethnographic Observation

Physiological measures (EEG, MRI)

Biospecimen Collection (saliva, blood draws, urine, human cells/tissues, etc.)

Behavioral Decision-making tasks (puzzles, interactive games)

Physical Activities (walking or other forms of exercise)

Control Groups

Other

*required

How are procedures conducted?

Procedures are in person

Procedures are online or through a virtual platform

Both virtual (or online) and in-person procedures are involved

*required

Will equipment or other items need to be delivered to participants to facilitate the virtual study design (i.e., laptops, mobile devices, etc.)?

Yes

✓ No

*required

Describe each activity in which participants will be involved.

Describe the frequency and duration of procedures, tests, and experiments; including intervention, follow-up, etc.

The following groups will participate in *separate* focus groups: Service providers who work directly with victims/survivors of human sex trafficking (proximal), service providers whose work is related to human sex trafficking but does not directly serve victims/survivors (distal), law enforcement personnel, courts personnel, and members of the faith community. Focus groups will be approximately 2 hours, and questions will be focused on their occupational duties, experience, and expertise as it pertains to human sex trafficking.

Some members of law enforcement who are unable to participate in a focus group may be interviewed. The questions for interviews will be the same as those for the focus groups. They will also last approximately 2 hours.

Survivors of human sex trafficking will participate in interviews only, not focus groups. Questions for survivors will be primarily focused on their interactions with service providers, systems, and institutions that are intended to serve them or with which they are required to interact as a result of their victimization (courts and or law enforcement, for example). These interviews will be approximately 2 hours.

For all interviews and focus groups involving occupational participants, two researchers will be present. One will be the primary moderator/interviewer, and the other will be secondary. The secondary will take notes, keep time, and monitor adherence to protocol.

For human sex trafficking survivor interviews, there will be just one interviewer present. There will not be a note-taker or assistant.

*required

In-Person Procedures

*required

Can all in-person procedures be completed while practicing social distancing?

Yes

No

*required

Are devices used (EEG cap, headsets, laptop, etc.) that will be shared by multiple participants?

Yes

No

*required

How many study personnel will come in contact or occupy a shared space with the participant?

4

*required

Cleaning and Disinfection

Please check the statement below to indicate you have read and understand.

-
- All shared spaces participants come into contact with are required to be cleaned / disinfected in accordance with CDC guidance.
 - Participants shall be scheduled to allow for appropriate cleaning between each participant.

Study Instruments

Attach all instruments (i.e. personality scales, questionnaires, evaluation blanks, interviews, etc) to be used in the study that are not already attached above.

[Survivor Inclusion Checklist.docx](#)

*required

Data, Specimens, and Records

Does this study involve the collection or use of materials (data or specimens) recorded in a manner that could identify the individuals who provided the materials, either directly or through identifiers linked to these individuals?

Yes

No

*required

What type of identifiers will be collected?

Participants voices will be recorded and if they provide a real name, it will also be recorded. Recording will be transcribed, however, identities masked, and original recordings will be destroyed. Contact information like email and/or phone numbers will be collected for the purpose of scheduling interviews and focus groups and for the delivery of consent documents via RedCap.

*required

Devices or Substances

Will the study involve administering any of the following?

Check all that apply.

Substances (vitamins, caffeine, drugs, etc.)

Device

None of the above

*required

What is the level of risk to participants associated with this study?

Less than Minimal Risk

✓ Minimal Risk

Greater than Minimal Risk

*required

Potential Risks

*required

Describe the reasonably foreseeable risks, discomforts, hazards, or inconveniences related to the participant's participation in the research.

Consider physical, psychological, social, legal, and economic risks as well as community or group harms.

Note: *a breach of confidentiality is a common risk in social and behavioral research.*

For non-survivor participants in the study, risks are minimal or less than minimal. Their inclusion in the study is based on their employment, which for most of them is a matter of public record. Most of the questions asked of them are about their actions, experiences, and expertise related to their profession. In most cases, questions are focused on jobs performed as a public servant, in the public eye, or both. For example, defense attorneys practice in open court, while prosecutors, judges, and law enforcement officials conduct much of their jobs both in public view and in the employ of public institutions subject to open records requests. As a result, even a confidentiality breach poses little risk to these individuals. Again, these individuals will be chosen because of their proximity to the issue (HST), thus the study will not expose them to risk beyond that of their current occupation. Specifically, their jobs involve HST to some extent and we are asking them to speak only about their jobs, not about any personal experiences that lie outside of their job duties.

For survivors, there is a minimal risk for participation. There is a possibility of re-traumatization, but this is mitigated by the recruitment strategy to focus on individuals who have demonstrated healing. Moreover, questions will be focused on their interactions with systems and not on telling their

victimization stories. There may also be a minimal risk to these participants in the event of a confidentiality breach, but again their status as healed survivors and not current victims is a mitigating factor to this risk.

*required

Describe the probability, magnitude, and duration of the risks.

The probability of risk is low especially for non-survivor participants who are not at risk for re-traumatization. The magnitude is low because the questions mostly relate to their jobs, which are largely performed in public. The duration is the 2 hours of the focus group or interview plus the amount of time between the interview and the destruction of the audio recording, which is dependent on the speed of the transcription but is likely to be no more than 4 weeks after the completion of the last focus group or interview.

The probability of risk for survivor participants is higher than for others because they are at risk or re-traumatization, but the risk is still minimal because the questions will not be focused on their experience as victims. Similarly, the magnitude is greater than for other groups but still minimal because they will not be current victims in risk of immediate harm from current or past abusers. The duration of risk is the length of the interview (2 hours) and the amount of time it takes to transcribe the interview, allowing for the destruction of the audio recording.

*required

Describe any potential legal, financial, social, or personal affects on subjects of accidental data disclosure.

No participants will be asked questions that should place them in legal or financial harm regardless of accidental data disclosure. In the event of accidental data disclosure, law enforcement or courts personnel could experience less than minimal harm in the form of ostracism for participating in the study; however, we believe this to be improbable. In general, participation in the study and information relating to the job functions and occupational experiences of non-survivor participants should have little to no affect on the subjects even in the event of accidental data disclosure.

Because survivor participants will not be current victims, we believe the potential for harm in the event of accidental data disclosure to be minimal, but it is possible that their participation could result in negative personal or social affects if individuals related to their victimization were to discover their participation. Furthermore, potential social and personal consequences could arise in the event of accidental data disclosure if the individuals had negative experiences with providers or institutions discussed in the interview.

*required

Describe expected benefits for participants (if any) that will arise from this study.

Please note: Benefits to participants should not include incentives paid in return for participation.

The expected benefit for participants is the positive feeling of knowing that they provided information that will help current and future victims of human sex trafficking.

*required

Describe expected benefits for society that will arise from this study.

This study will provide information to the City of Dallas and its community partners that will help formulate future policies and interventions that prevent human sex trafficking and mitigate its harmful effects. The study will culminate in a needs assessment delivered to the City of Dallas outlining the gaps in services for survivors of human sex trafficking, as well as a summary of the activities in which the city and other relevant agencies and institutions currently engage, how those activities have changed, and how those activities might change in the future in order to better serve victims and survivors of human sex trafficking. The report will not include the names of individuals who participated in the study, nor will it use specific anecdotes or quotes from interviews that could potentially identify participants. The report will primarily consist of a content summary and sentiment analysis as it pertains to service gaps and the needs of victims and community members.

*required

Deception / Incomplete Disclosure

Will incomplete disclosure or deception be used in this study?

Yes

No

*required

Minimizing Risks

How will you minimize risks to participants?

- ✓ Participants can choose to skip questions that make them uncomfortable.
- ✓ Data will be coded and all identifying information stored separate from data.

Data will be collected anonymously.

Investigators will monitor the experiments.

- ✓ Participants will be provided opportunities for rest and / or breaks.

The participant will be withdrawn from the study based on specific criteria.

Participants will be reminded throughout the experimental procedures of their opportunity to stop or withdraw.

Procedures will be modified.

*required

Describe other precautions taken to minimize risks / harm.

Survivors will only participate in interviews, not focus groups. Coding of data refers to the following: audio-recordings will be transcribed and names provided in the focus groups or interviews will be changed during the transcription process regardless of whether or not they were true names. Upon transcription, audio-recordings will be destroyed. No cross-walk of names will be maintained and if one is created, it will also be destroyed once all of the appropriate changes have been made.

*required

Suicidal Ideation

Does this study include survey or interview questions about a participant's suicidal ideation ?

Yes

✓ No

*required

Does this study involve populations at higher risk for suicidal ideation?

✓ Yes

No

*required

Question, Persuade, Refer Training

✓ **Because suicidal ideation questions are involved (and/or the participant population is a higher risk for suicide ideation), I confirm that all study personnel with direct contact with participants or their data will complete QPR training as required by the IRB.**

*required

Suicide Ideation Response Plan

Please attach the PI's suicide ideation response plan.

[IRB 22-283 Suicide Ideation Response Plan.docx](#)

*required

Do you or any study personnel have a financial interest related to this project?

Yes

No

*required

Privacy

Describe how you will protect the identity and privacy of study participants during each phase of research.

Study involves only the analysis of de-identified biospecimens purchased from a commercial biobank.

- ✓ Research procedures will be conducted in person in a private setting.
- ✓ Data will be captured and reviewed in a private setting.
- ✓ Only authorized study personnel will be present during research related activities.

- Collection of participant data is limited to the amount necessary to achieve the aims of the
- ✓ research.

Other

Confidentiality

The Principal Investigator/Faculty Sponsor is responsible for taking all necessary steps to maintain confidentiality of data. This includes coding data and choosing appropriate and secure ways to store data to prevent unauthorized access.

*required

Confidentiality

Will you collect or obtain any information containing personally identifying information?

Yes - Data / specimens will be directly labeled with personal identifying information. (Identifiable)

Yes - Data / specimens will be labeled with a code that study personnel can link to personal identifying information. (Coded)

✓ No - Data / specimens will not be labeled with any personal identifying information, nor with a code that the research team can link to personal identifying information. (Anonymous)

✓ Other

*required

Explain

Contact information for participants will be collected and kept until such time that the event in which they intended to participate has concluded. Data from those events (focus groups and interviews) will not be linked to that contact information once it has been destroyed. Data collected (audio recordings) are identifiable inasmuch as a voice is identifiable or that it can be tied to scheduling information. Again, contact information gathered for scheduling purposes will be destroyed after data collection. After data (audio-recordings) are collected, they will be transcribed and all names (real or false) will be changed in the transcript. Original recordings will be destroyed and no crosswalk will be maintained. If one is created during the de-identification process, it will be destroyed immediately upon completion of the transcription process. This name change constitutes the "code" referenced above.

*required

Will the data be de-identified?

✓ Yes

*required

Please indicate how the data will be de-identified.

After data (audio-recordings) are collected, they will be transcribed and all names (real or false) will be changed in the transcript. Original recordings will be destroyed and no crosswalk will be maintained. If one is created during the de-identification process, it will be destroyed immediately upon completion of the transcription process.

*required

Will there be a study key that can link the participant to their data?

Yes

✓ No

*required

Please indicate how and when the identifying information will be destroyed.

If a crosswalk or key is created during the deidentification process, it will be destroyed once transcription is complete. Any contact information collected for scheduling purposes will be destroyed once data collection is complete. Any correspondence generated during the scheduling process will also be permanently deleted once data collection is complete.

No

*required

In what format will data be stored?

Check all that apply

✓ Electronic

*required

Please indicate where the electronic data will be stored/accessed.

✓ The electronic data will be stored/accessed using only UTD-owned computers and/or laptops.

The electronic data will be stored/accessed on non-UTD computers.

The electronic data will be stored/accessed using both personal and UTD-owned computers and/or laptops.

Other

Paper

*required

How will research data / specimens be protected against inappropriate use or disclosure?

Check all that apply

- ✓ Electronic data will be stored/accessed using UTD-approved platforms (Box, REDCap, etc.)
- ✓ Restrict access to authorized study personnel
- ✓ Encryption of digital data
- ✓ Network restrictions
- Password protection
- ✓ Restrictions on copying study related materials
- Destruction of source data immediately after data collection
- ✓ Access rights are terminated when authorized study personnel leave the study
- ✓ Other

*required

Explain

Original audio recordings will be destroyed once they have been transcribed and names have been changed.

*required

Will data / biospecimens from this study be shared with anyone outside of the approved research team?

Yes

✓ No

*required

What will happen to the data after the data analysis is complete?

-
- ✓ Direct identifiers and/or the key to participants codes will be destroyed (keys to codes destroyed, paper documents shredded, electronic media securely erased).

Retained for study record keeping purposes per institutional policy.

- ✓ Retained by investigator for future research use.

Other

Study Information

Human Subjects Protection Training

[Certificate of Completion â Human Subjects Protection - Bray \(1\).pdf](#)

[Boots Human Subjects Certification March 2022 \(1\).pdf](#)

[IRB Sanders 20230320.pdf](#)

Letter of Support

[DPD IRB Letter.pdf](#)

Recruitment

Recruitment Scripts

[Survivor Recruitment Script-20230414.docx](#)

[Recruitment Script-20230414.docx](#)

Participant Protection

Informed Consent Form

[IRB-22-283 Consent \(Occupational\) - Edited 20230414.docx](#)

[IRB-22-283 Consent \(Survivors\) - Edited 20230414.docx](#)

Informed Consent

Consent Documents

[IRB-22-283 Consent \(Occupational\) - Edited 20230414.docx](#)

[IRB-22-283 Consent \(Survivors\) - Edited 20230414.docx](#)

Procedures

Interview Questions

[\(4b\) Interview Instrument - LE 04132022.docx](#)

[\(1\) Interview Instrument - Survivors - 08252022.docx](#)

Focus Group Documents

[\(6\) Focus Group Instrument - Courts - 04012022.docx](#)

[\(4\) Focus Group Instrument - Law Enforcement 04012022.docx](#)

[\(3\) Focus Group Instrument - Service Providers \(Distal\) - 04012022.docx](#)

[Focus Group Service Providers \(Proximal\) - 04012022.docx](#)

[\(7\) Focus Group Instrument - Faith Community - 04012022.docx](#)

Study Instruments

[Survivor Inclusion Checklist.docx](#)

Device Documents

Risks / Benefits

Suicide Ideation Response Plan

[IRB 22-283 Suicide Ideation Response Plan.docx](#)

Debrief Form

This section is for internal use only.

For Internal Use Only (IRB Office)

For Internal Use Only (IBCC)

Appendix IV: Human Sex Trafficking Study Consent Forms

The University of Texas at Dallas

CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH

Title of Research Project: Human Sex Trafficking Needs Assessment—City of Dallas

Investigators:

Principal Investigator: Timothy Bray, Ph.D.
Co-Principal Investigator: Denise Boots, Ph.D.
Research Assistant: Whitney Sanders, M.S.C.J., M.P.A

Contact Number

972-883-5432
972-883-6468
972-883-5437

Invitation to be Part of a Research Study: You are invited to be part of a research study. This consent form will help you choose whether to participate in the study. Feel free to ask questions if anything is not clear in this consent form.

Key Information: This study seeks to gain new information about human sex trafficking in North Texas by conducting focus groups and interviews with law enforcement personnel, judges, prosecutors, defense attorney, advocates, service providers, survivors of human sex trafficking, and other individuals who might have experience or expertise relevant to the creation of new policies and interventions to prevent human sex trafficking and mitigate its harmful effects. Participation in the study can occur in person or virtually and will take approximately two hours. Participants will engage in focus groups or one-on-one interviews with a research team member (either in person or virtually). Interviews and focus groups will be audio-recorded; the resulting data will be de-identified, and original recordings will be destroyed. Completing the consent form does not commit you to completing the interview or focus group process.

Purpose: The purpose of this study is to understand better the needs of the North Texas region regarding human sex trafficking. The study aims to understand better the existing services available to victims and survivors of human sex trafficking in North Texas and to learn about existing and potential programs and interventions that contribute to the prevention of human sex trafficking and the mitigation of its effects on individuals and the broader community. The information learned in this interview or focus group will inform future interventions and decisions by the City of Dallas and its partners.

Description of Study: As part of this study, you will either be asked to participate in a one-on-one semi-structured interview or placed in a group of no more than 12 individuals to participate in a focus group. Focus groups and interviews will primarily occur virtually via Microsoft Teams (an app that facilitates video conferencing), while some law enforcement interviews may occur at DPD patrol stations. A primary moderator or interviewer will ask you several questions while facilitating the discussion. The questions will focus on your experience and expertise as it relates to human sex trafficking and related community issues. For those participants recruited primarily for occupational reasons, questions will focus on duties and experiences related to that occupation. The encounter will be audio-recorded, and a secondary moderator or interviewer will be present to take notes, ask clarifying questions, and keep time. Your responses will remain confidential; no names will be included in the final report.

Please note that there are no right or wrong answers to interview or focus group questions. The research team wants to hear the many varying viewpoints and wants everyone to contribute their thoughts.

Number of Participants: If you choose to participate in this study, you will be one of approximately 75 participants.

Duration of Participation: The overall time commitment will be no longer than two (2) hours. You can choose whether or not to participate, and you may stop at any time during the interview. There will be no follow-up or other additional procedures.

Inclusion / Exclusion Criteria: You have been selected to participate in this study because of your relationship to organizations providing services to human sex trafficking victims, survivors of human sex trafficking, law enforcement agencies, legal practice, prosecution, or state and local courts.

Possible Risks: There is minimal risk associated with participation in this study, though this study may involve risks to the participant which are currently unforeseeable. You will be informed about significant findings that provide additional information about risks or may influence your decision to continue participating in this research. While the risks are minimal and not anticipated beyond those experienced during an average conversation, there may be minimal risk in the event of a confidentiality breach. While there is a possibility of re-traumatization, this risk is mitigated by the recruitment strategy that selects individuals who have demonstrated healing. By its very nature, the topic of this study may be upsetting. If you find that true, we encourage you to discuss this with a trained professional.

Additional resources related to human sex trafficking can be found at <https://blueheartdfw.com/resources>.

Possible Benefits: While you may not directly benefit from participation in this study, others, such as community stakeholders, potential victims, and survivors of human sex trafficking, may benefit by informing new and improved prevention and mitigation strategies.

Alternatives to Participation: You may choose not to participate or stop participating at any time.

Payments to Participate: You will not receive any payment or reimbursement for participation in this study. If you attend an in-person interview, you may be provided water and snacks.

Voluntary Participation: Participation in this study is voluntary. You have the right to agree or refuse to participate in this study. If you consent to participate, you also have the right to change your mind at any time during the study. You may tell the investigator that you no longer wish to participate. Refusal or withdrawal of participation will not involve any penalty or loss of benefits to which non-participants are entitled. Refusal to participate will not affect your employment

status, affiliation with service providers or law enforcement agencies, or any services you may wish to receive from UT Dallas.

Records of Participation in this Research: All of the information you provide to investigators as part of this research will be protected and held in confidence within the limits of the law and institutional regulation. Be advised that members of the research team are mandated by law to report suspected child abuse and neglect, and that mandate extends to these conversations. While the conversation will be audio recorded, once the conversations have been transcribed, names will be changed in the transcription and original recordings will be destroyed. Data will be confidential and accessed using UTD-owned computers and UTD-approved platforms. Access will be restricted to members of the UT Dallas research team.

Check the line that best matches your choice:

- OK to record me during the study
- Not OK to record me during the study

Information Available to Others: A summary report of study results will be provided to the City of Dallas staff. The report will not include identifying information about participants in the study or details that could be used to identify participants. City staff will not have access to recordings, transcripts, or any other personal data collected for the study.

Identifiable Private Information: Private information that can be used to identify you will be removed from the data, notes, and transcriptions collected during this study. After such removal, the de-identified data could be used by Investigators for future research studies or distributed to another investigator for future research studies without additional informed consent.

UT Dallas Institutional Review Board (IRB): Members and associated staff of the IRB of The University of Texas at Dallas may review the records of your participation in this research. An IRB is a group of people who are responsible for assuring the community that the rights of participants in research are respected. A representative of the UTD IRB may contact you to gather information about your participation in this research. If you wish, you may refuse to answer questions the representative of the IRB may ask.

Publications Associated with this Research: The results of this research will be included in a summary report delivered to the City of Dallas; the results may also appear in publications. Individual participants will not be identified.

Contact People: Participants who want more information about this research may contact any of the investigators listed at the top of page 1 of this document. Participants who want more information about their rights as a participant or who want to report a research-related injury may contact:

The University of Texas at Dallas Human Subjects Research Office
UTD Office of Research and Innovation

972-883-4575

Signatures

Your signature indicates that you have read, or listened to, the information provided above and that you have received answers to your questions. Your signature also indicates that you have freely decided to participate in this research and that you know you have not given up any of your legal rights.

Participant's Name (printed)

Participant's Signature

Date

Name of Researcher Obtaining Consent

The University of Texas at Dallas

CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH

Title of Research Project: Human Sex Trafficking Needs Assessment—City of Dallas

Investigators:

Principal Investigator: Timothy Bray, Ph.D.

Co-Principal Investigator: Denise Boots, Ph.D.

Research Assistant: Whitney Sanders, M.S.

Contact Number

972-883-5432

972-883-6468

972-883-5437

Invitation to be Part of a Research Study: You are invited to be part of a research study. This consent form will help you choose whether to participate in the study. Feel free to ask questions if anything is not clear in this consent form.

Key Information: This study seeks to gain new information about human sex trafficking in North Texas by conducting focus groups and interviews with law enforcement personnel, judges, prosecutors, defense attorney, advocates, service providers, survivors of human sex trafficking, and other individuals who might have experience or expertise relevant to the creation of new policies and interventions to prevent human sex trafficking and mitigate its harmful effects. Participation in the study can occur in person or virtually and will take approximately two hours. Survivors of human sex trafficking will engage in one-on-one interviews with a research team member (either in person or virtually). Interviews and focus groups will be audio-recorded; the resulting data will be de-identified, and original recordings will be destroyed. Completing the consent form does not commit you to completing the interview or focus group process.

Purpose: The purpose of this study is to understand better the needs of the North Texas region regarding human sex trafficking. The study aims to understand better the existing services available to victims and survivors of human sex trafficking in North Texas and to learn about existing and potential programs and interventions that contribute to the prevention of human sex trafficking and the mitigation of its effects on individuals and the broader community. The information learned in this interview or focus group will inform future interventions and decisions by the City of Dallas and its partners.

Description of Study: As part of this study, you will be asked to participate in a one-on-one semi-structured interview. Based on your preference, the interview could occur virtually via Microsoft Teams (an app that facilitates video conferences), in person at one of three UT Dallas campus locations, or in a publicly accessible space with adequate privacy (such as a library meeting room) that is convenient for you. An interviewer will ask you several questions while facilitating the discussion. Questions will focus on your interactions with the various systems and institutions intended to support or serve victims of human sex trafficking. The encounter will be audio-recorded and transcribed within one month. Once the interview has been transcribed, whatever name you have provided will be changed to protect your identity, and the original audio recording will be destroyed. Your responses will remain anonymous; no names will be included in the final report.

Number of Participants: If you choose to participate in this study, you will be one of approximately 75 participants.

Duration of Participation: The overall time commitment will be no longer than two (2) hours. You can choose whether or not to participate, and you may stop at any time during the interview. There will be no follow-up or other additional procedures.

Inclusion / Exclusion Criteria: To participate in this study, you must be a survivor of human sex trafficking (someone who has been a victim of human sex trafficking but is now in recovery and working closely with an organization that provides services to victims of human sex trafficking).

Possible Risks: There is minimal risk associated with participation in this study, though this study may involve risks to the participant which are currently unforeseeable. You will be informed about significant findings that provide additional information about risks or may influence your decision to continue participating in this research. While the risks are minimal and not anticipated beyond those experienced during an average conversation, there may be minimal risk in the event of a confidentiality breach. While there is a possibility of re-traumatization, this risk is mitigated by the recruitment strategy that selects individuals who have demonstrated healing. By its very nature, the topic of this study may be upsetting. If you find that true, we encourage you to discuss this with a trained professional.

Additional resources related to human sex trafficking can be found at <https://blueheartdfw.com/resources>.

Possible Benefits: While you may not directly benefit from participation in this study, others, such as community stakeholders, potential victims, and survivors of human sex trafficking, may benefit by informing new and improved prevention and mitigation strategies.

Alternatives to Participation: You may choose not to participate or stop participating at any time.

Payments to Participate: You will not receive any payment or reimbursement for participation in this study. If you attend an in-person interview, you may be provided water and snacks.

Voluntary Participation: Participation in this study is voluntary. You have the right to agree or refuse to participate in this study. If you consent to participate, you also have the right to change your mind at any time during the study. You may tell the investigator that you no longer wish to participate. Refusal or withdrawal of participation will not involve any penalty or loss of benefits to which non-participants are entitled. Refusal to participate will not affect your employment status, affiliation with service providers or law enforcement agencies, or any services you may wish to receive from UT Dallas.

Records of Participation in this Research: All of the information you provide to investigators as part of this research will be protected and held in confidence within the limits of the law and

institutional regulation. Be advised that members of the research team are mandated by law to report suspected child abuse and neglect, and that mandate extends to these conversations. While the conversation will be audio recorded, once the conversations have been transcribed, names will be changed in the transcription and original recordings will be destroyed. Data will be confidential and accessed using UTD-owned computers and UTD-approved platforms. Access will be restricted to members of the UT Dallas research team.

Check the line that best matches your choice:

- OK to record me during the study
- Not OK to record me during the study

Information Available to Others: A summary report of study results will be provided to the City of Dallas staff. The report will not include identifying information about participants in the study or details that could be used to identify participants. City staff will not have access to recordings, transcripts, or any other personal data collected for the study.

Identifiable Private Information: Private information that can be used to identify you will be removed from the data, notes, and transcriptions collected during this study. After such removal, the de-identified data could be used by Investigators for future research studies or distributed to another investigator for future research studies without additional informed consent.

UT Dallas Institutional Review Board (IRB): Members and associated staff of the IRB of The University of Texas at Dallas may review the records of your participation in this research. An IRB is a group of people who are responsible for assuring the community that the rights of participants in research are respected. A representative of the UTD IRB may contact you to gather information about your participation in this research. If you wish, you may refuse to answer questions the representative of the IRB may ask.

Publications Associated with this Research: The results of this research will be included in a summary report delivered to the City of Dallas; the results may also appear in publications. Individual participants will not be identified.

Contact People: Participants who want more information about this research may contact any of the investigators listed at the top of page 1 of this document. Participants who want more information about their rights as a participant or who want to report a research-related injury may contact:

The University of Texas at Dallas Human Subjects Research Office 972-883-4575
UTD Office of Research and Innovation

Verbal Consent

Your verbal consent indicates that you have read, or listened to, the information provided above and that you have received answers to your questions. The verbal consent also indicates that you have freely decided to participate in this research and that you know you have not given up any of your legal rights.

Appendix V: Human Sex Trafficking Study Focus Group Instruments

Interview Instrument

Survivor

Consent Review

Thank you for agreeing to participate in our interview. Before we get started, I want to make sure that you are aware that this is a voluntary experience.

Participation is voluntary, and refusing to participate in the study involves no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. You may withdraw from the conversation at any time without penalty or loss of benefits. You also have the right to pass on a question that you do not feel comfortable answering.

I want to remind you that what you share here today is held in strict confidence by the members of our research team and myself.

We are audio recording our conversation today. This helps us go back and visit important information that was shared to ensure we capture everything in our final report. We want to be sure to get everything right. No one outside the research team will have access to the original recording, and once it's transcribed into text, we will delete the recording.

You should have received a copy of the electronic consent form. If you have not reviewed it, we can take a moment for you to review it now. Once you have reviewed it, and copy will be made available to you for your records.

Project Overview and Context

The conversation today will be about your experience as it relates to human sex trafficking. The research team at the Institute for Urban Policy Research at University of Texas at Dallas is conducting a needs assessment regarding the prevention of human sex trafficking funded by the City of Dallas as part of a broader initiative of The Texas Department of Health and Human Services. Questions today will focus on your experiences with the systems and institutions designed to serve victims and survivors.

I want to thank you for being willing to come here today and to talk about your personal experiences and survivorship.

Do you have any questions?

Introduction

So, before we get started, can I just need to verify you understand that this is voluntary and that we're audio recording?

[Request verbal consent from all participants.]

[Ask additional comprehension questions here.]

Great! Now, let's begin our conversation!

Prompts

1. Who were the most influential people for you during your healing process?
 - a. Who were the most supportive?
2. What type of support do victims and survivors need?
 - a. Who is best positioned to provide that support?
3. Is there anyone that you wish you had reached out to but didn't at the time?
 - a. Who was it?
 - b. Why didn't you?
 - c. Why do you wish you had?
4. Thinking about system and officials like doctors, police, courts, shelters, etc. which systems (or people in professional positions) were most helpful to you?
5. Which were least helpful?
6. What can these systems and professionals do to better support victims and survivors?
 - a. [depending on their responses, followup with categories:]
 - b. Law enforcement
 - c. Medical providers
 - d. Courts
 - e. Shelters, service providers, nonprofits
7. We've mostly been discussing the best ways to support victims and survivors, but do you have any suggestions for systems or professionals regarding the prevention of human trafficking?

Focus Group Instrument

Proximal Service Providers

Consent Review

Thank you for agreeing to participate in our focus group. A focus group is just another way of saying “group conversation.” My name is [FACILITATOR NAME], and before we get started, I want to make sure everyone is aware that this is a voluntary experience.

Participation is voluntary, and refusing to participate in the study involves no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. You may withdraw from the conversation at any time without penalty or loss of benefits. You also have the right to pass on a question that you do not feel comfortable answering.

Speaking of saying things. I want to remind you that what you share here today is held in strict confidence by the members of our research team and myself. I would ask that everyone in today’s conversation not repeat anything you hear today outside of this group. While information you share may appear in research and reports that are generated from this conversation, the research team will not link any part of this conversation to specific individuals. I can’t make that same assurance for everyone in this group. So, if you want to keep something private, that’s fine. Out of respect for everyone in the room, we ask that you not make judgments on information or experiences others may share, and we ask that everyone try to speak one at a time.

We are audio recording our conversation today. This helps us go back and visit important information that was shared to ensure we capture everything in our final report. We want to be sure to get everything right. No one outside the research team will have access to the original recording, and once it’s transcribed into text, we will delete the recording.

Please review the consent form, and if you wish to participate in today’s conversation, please indicate your consent electronically via RedCap. A PDF of the consent form is available in the chat window.

Project Overview

The conversation today will be about your experience helping victims and survivors of human sex trafficking. The research team at the Institute for Urban Policy Research at University of Texas at Dallas is conducting a needs assessment regarding the prevention of human sex trafficking in collaboration with the City of Dallas and with funding from The Texas Department of Health and Human Services. While the term “human trafficking” can refer to many types of trafficking, we will be speaking primarily about “sex trafficking” in this conversation. We may use terms like “commercial sexual exploitation” or “human trafficking” interchangeably, but other types of trafficking – such as labor trafficking – lie outside the scope of this study.

Does anyone have any questions?

Introduction

So, before we get started, can I get each of you to let me know that you understand that this is voluntary and that we're audio recording?

[Request verbal consent from all participants.]

[Ask additional comprehension questions here.]

Great! So, let's do a quick round of introductions. My name is [FACILITATOR NAME; QUICK BIO]. I want to ask each of the research team members to quickly introduce themselves [INVITE TEAM].

Now, for our participants, will you each share your first name or another name you wish to use today?

Great! Now, let's begin our conversation!

Prompts

1. How does the service you provide fit into the broader community response to human trafficking?
 - a. Who are your closest collaborators engaged in this issue (other orgs, institutions, etc.)?
2. What does an ideal wraparound community response to human sex trafficking look like for you?
 - a. How does your organization fit into such a response?
 - b. What are the most effective tools and practices you currently use or would like to use?
 - c. What are the most effective tools and practices you see in use by others?
3. Are there organizations, agencies, institutions not currently engaged in this issue who should be?
 - a. Are there some organizations, agencies, or institutions engaged in ways you view as inappropriate?
 - b. Are there common methods and responses being used that are inappropriate?
4. What are effective and appropriate ways for various institutions to engage in this issue:
 - a. Educators
 - b. Healthcare providers
 - c. Businesses and employers
 - d. Law enforcement
 - e. Other institutions
5. What are some of the barriers to providing services to victims and survivors of sex trafficking?
6. How does human sex trafficking impact the broader community?
7. Is there anything you want us to know that we haven't talked about yet?

Focus Group Instrument

Distal Service Providers

Consent Review

Thank you for agreeing to participate in our focus group. A focus group is just another way of saying “group conversation.” My name is [FACILITATOR NAME], and before we get started, I want to make sure everyone is aware that this is a voluntary experience.

Participation is voluntary, and refusing to participate in the study involves no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. You may withdraw from the conversation at any time without penalty or loss of benefits. You also have the right to pass on a question that you do not feel comfortable answering.

Speaking of saying things. I want to remind you that what you share here today is held in strict confidence by the members of our research team and myself. I would ask that everyone in today’s conversation not repeat anything you hear today outside of this group. While information you share may appear in research and reports that are generated from this conversation, the research team will not link any part of this conversation to specific individuals. I can’t make that same assurance for everyone in this group. So, if you want to keep something private, that’s fine. Out of respect for everyone in the room, we ask that you not make judgments on information or experiences others may share, and we ask that everyone try to speak one at a time.

We are audio recording our conversation today. This helps us go back and visit important information that was shared to ensure we capture everything in our final report. We want to be sure to get everything right. No one outside the research team will have access to the original recording, and once it’s transcribed into text, we will delete the recording.

Please review the consent form, and if you wish to participate in today’s conversation, please indicate your consent electronically via RedCap. A PDF of the consent form is available in the chat window.

Project Overview

The conversation today will be about your experience helping victims and survivors of human sex trafficking. The research team at the Institute for Urban Policy Research at University of Texas at Dallas is conducting a needs assessment regarding the prevention of human sex trafficking in collaboration with the City of Dallas and with funding from The Texas Department of Health and Human Services. While the term “human trafficking” can refer to many types of trafficking, we will be speaking primarily about “sex trafficking” in this conversation. We may use terms like “commercial sexual exploitation” or “human trafficking” interchangeably, but other types of trafficking – such as labor trafficking – lie outside the scope of this study.

Does anyone have any questions?

Introduction

So, before we get started, can I get each of you to let me know that you understand that this is voluntary and that we're audio recording?

[Request verbal consent from all participants.]

[Ask additional comprehension questions here.]

Great! So, let's do a quick round of introductions. My name is [FACILITATOR NAME; QUICK BIO]. I want to ask each of the research team members to quickly introduce themselves [INVITE TEAM]. Now, for our participants, will you each share your first name and what organization you currently work for?

Great! Now, let's begin our conversation!

Prompts

1. How does the service you provide fit into the broader community response to human trafficking?
 - a. If your primary service is not directly related to human sex trafficking, how does it touch the issue?
 - b. Who are your closest collaborators engaged in this issue (other orgs, institutions, etc.)?
2. What does an ideal wraparound community response to human sex trafficking look like for you?
 - a. How does your organization fit into such a response?
 - b. What are the most effective tools and practices you currently use or would like to use?
 - c. What are the most effective tools and practices you see in use by others?
3. Are there organizations, agencies, institutions not currently engaged in this issue who should be?
 - a. Are there some organizations, agencies, or institutions engaged in ways you view as inappropriate?
 - b. Are there common methods and responses being used that are inappropriate?
4. What are effective and appropriate ways for various institutions to engage in this issue:
 - a. Educators
 - b. Healthcare providers
 - c. Businesses and employers
 - d. Law enforcement
 - e. Other institutions
5. What are some of the barriers to providing services to victims and survivors of sex trafficking?
6. How does human sex trafficking impact the broader community?
7. Is there anything you want us to know that we haven't talked about yet?

Focus Group Instrument

Law Enforcement

Consent Review

Thank you for agreeing to participate in our focus group. A focus group is just another way of saying “group conversation.” My name is [FACILITATOR NAME], and before we get started, I want to make sure everyone is aware that this is a voluntary experience.

Participation is voluntary, and refusing to participate in the study involves no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. You may withdraw from the conversation at any time without penalty or loss of benefits. You also have the right to pass on a question that you do not feel comfortable answering.

Speaking of saying things. I want to remind you that what you share here today is held in strict confidence by the members of our research team and myself. I would ask that everyone in today’s conversation not repeat anything you hear today outside of this group. While information you share may appear in research and reports that are generated from this conversation, the research team will not link any part of this conversation to specific individuals. I can’t make that same assurance for everyone in this group. So, if you want to keep something private, that’s fine. Out of respect for everyone in the room, we ask that you not make judgments on information or experiences others may share, and we ask that everyone try to speak one at a time.

We are audio recording our conversation today. This helps us go back and visit important information that was shared to ensure we capture everything in our final report. We want to be sure to get everything right. No one outside the research team will have access to the original recording, and once it’s transcribed into text, we will delete the recording.

Please review the consent form, and if you wish to participate in today’s conversation, please indicate your consent electronically via RedCap. A PDF of the consent form is available in the chat window.

Project Overview

The conversation today will be about your experience helping victims and survivors of human sex trafficking. The research team at the Institute for Urban Policy Research at University of Texas at Dallas is conducting a needs assessment regarding the prevention of human sex trafficking in collaboration with the City of Dallas and with funding from The Texas Department of Health and Human Services. While the term “human trafficking” can refer to many types of trafficking, we will be speaking primarily about “sex trafficking” in this conversation. We may use terms like “commercial sexual exploitation” or “human trafficking” interchangeably, but other types of trafficking – such as labor trafficking – lie outside the scope of this study.

Does anyone have any questions?

Introduction

So, before we get started, can I get each of you to let me know that you understand that this is voluntary and that we're audio recording?

[Request verbal consent from all participants.]

[Ask additional comprehension questions here.]

Great! So, let's do a quick round of introductions. My name is [FACILITATOR NAME; QUICK BIO]. I want to ask each of the research team members to quickly introduce themselves [INVITE TEAM]. Now, for our participants, will you each share your preferred name and the division or unit to which you are currently assigned?

Great! Now, let's begin our conversation!

Prompts

1. If your unit or division is not directly engaged with human sex trafficking, how is your work (or the work of your division) impacted by human sex trafficking both directly and indirectly?
2. How has your experience with human sex trafficking changed your perception of victims and offenders?
3. Does/Should the role of law enforcement extend beyond the investigation and prevention of human trafficking (i.e. beyond traditional enforcement strategies)?
 - a. How can law enforcement support and serve victims?
4. What types of other crimes are often signs or symptoms of human trafficking?
 - a. What types of crimes are often the result of human trafficking?
5. How can other units or divisions adapt practices to better serve victims of trafficking during the course of other criminal investigations?
6. What are the barriers to serving victims of human trafficking?
7. What are the barriers to investigating allegations of trafficking?
8. What additional resources can the department provide to alleviate those barriers?
 - a. What resources can outside organizations and service providers provide?
 - b. What resources can other city departments provide?
9. How can the court system better support law enforcement with both the enforcement and prevention of human trafficking?
10. What does an ideal system to prevent human trafficking look like?
 - a. What is the role of police in this system?
 - b. What other organizations would be a part of that system?

Interview Instrument

Law Enforcement

Consent Review

Thank you for agreeing to participate in our interview. Before we get started, I want to make sure that you are aware that this is a voluntary experience.

Participation is voluntary, and refusing to participate in the study involves no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. You may withdraw from the conversation at any time without penalty or loss of benefits. You also have the right to pass on a question that you do not feel comfortable answering.

I want to remind you that what you share here today is held in strict confidence by the members of our research team and myself.

We are audio recording our conversation today. This helps us go back and visit important information that was shared to ensure we capture everything in our final report. We want to be sure to get everything right. No one outside the research team will have access to the original recording, and once it's transcribed into the text, we will delete the recording.

You should have already received the consent document for this study for your review and signature. If you signed and completed it then you should also have received a signed copy of your consent. If you have not yet completed the consent form, we can take a few moments for you to do so now. If you wish to participate in today's conversation, you can indicate your consent via the electronic form on RedCap if you have not already done so.

Project Overview

The conversation today will be about your experience as it relates to human sex trafficking. The research team at the Institute for Urban Policy Research at University of Texas at Dallas is conducting a needs assessment regarding the prevention of human sex trafficking funded by the City of Dallas as part of a broader initiative of The Texas Department of Health and Human Services.

Do you have any questions?

Introduction

So, before we get started, can I just need to verify you understand that this is voluntary and that we're audio recording?

[Request verbal consent from all participants.]

[Ask additional comprehension questions here.]

Great! Now, let's begin our conversation!

Prompts

1. If your unit or division is not directly engaged with human sex trafficking, how is your work (or the work of your division) impacted by human sex trafficking both directly and indirectly?
2. How has your experience with human sex trafficking changed your perception of victims and offenders?
3. Does/Should the role of law enforcement extend beyond the investigation and prevention of human trafficking (i.e. beyond traditional enforcement strategies)?
 - a. How can law enforcement support and serve victims?
4. What types of other crimes are often signs or symptoms of human trafficking?
 - a. What types of crimes are often the result of human trafficking?
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7. What are the barriers to investigating allegations of trafficking?
8. What additional resources can the department provide to alleviate those barriers?
 - a. What resources can outside organizations and service providers provide?
 - b. What resources can other city departments provide?
9. How can the court system better support law enforcement with both the enforcement and prevention of human trafficking?
10. What does an ideal system to prevent human trafficking look like?
 - a. What is the role of police in this system?
 - b. What other organizations would be a part of that system?

Focus Group Instrument

Prosecution and Courts

Consent Review

Thank you for agreeing to participate in our focus group. A focus group is just another way of saying “group conversation.” My name is [FACILITATOR NAME], and before we get started, I want to make sure everyone is aware that this is a voluntary experience.

Participation is voluntary, and refusing to participate in the study involves no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. You may withdraw from the conversation at any time without penalty or loss of benefits. You also have the right to pass on a question that you do not feel comfortable answering.

Speaking of saying things. I want to remind you that what you share here today is held in strict confidence by the members of our research team and myself. I would ask that everyone in today’s conversation not repeat anything you hear today outside of this group. While information you share may appear in research and reports that are generated from this conversation, the research team will not link any part of this conversation to specific individuals. I can’t make that same assurance for everyone in this group. So, if you want to keep something private, that’s fine. Out of respect for everyone in the room, we ask that you not make judgments on information or experiences others may share, and we ask that everyone try to speak one at a time.

We are audio recording our conversation today. This helps us go back and visit important information that was shared to ensure we capture everything in our final report. We want to be sure to get everything right. No one outside the research team will have access to the original recording, and once it’s transcribed into text, we will delete the recording.

Please review the consent form, and if you wish to participate in today’s conversation, please indicate your consent electronically via RedCap. A PDF of the consent form is available in the chat window.

Project Overview

The conversation today will be about your experience helping victims and survivors of human sex trafficking. The research team at the Institute for Urban Policy Research at University of Texas at Dallas is conducting a needs assessment regarding the prevention of human sex trafficking in collaboration with the City of Dallas and with funding from The Texas Department of Health and Human Services. While the term “human trafficking” can refer to many types of trafficking, we will be speaking primarily about “sex trafficking” in this conversation. We may use terms like “commercial sexual exploitation” or “human trafficking” interchangeably, but other types of trafficking – such as labor trafficking – lie outside the scope of this study.

Does anyone have any questions?

Introduction

So, before we get started, can I get each of you to let me know that you understand that this is voluntary and that we're audio recording?

[Request verbal assent from all participants.]

[Ask additional comprehension questions here.]

Great! So, let's do a quick round of introductions. My name is [FACILITATOR NAME; QUICK BIO]. I want to ask each of the research team members to quickly introduce themselves [INVITE TEAM]. Now, for our participants, will you each share your preferred name and your current role and tenure in the court system?

Great! Now, let's begin our conversation!

Prompts

1. Do you think that the courts and justice system appropriately distinguish between victims and perpetrators in cases of human sex trafficking?
 - a. What activities are courts and other legal actors engaged in that specifically serve victims of sex trafficking?
 - b. What more can or should the courts be doing?
2. Does or should the role of the courts extend beyond the basic prosecution of human sex trafficking offenses?
3. What are the barriers to serving victims of human trafficking?
4. How do the courts interact with service providers to support victims?
5. What additional support could outside organizations and agencies provide to improve the ability of courts and defense attorneys to serve victims?
 - a. Nonprofits/service providers
 - b. Law enforcement
 - c. Other city services
6. Do you think that victims/survivors receive adequate information regarding
 - a. Victim impact statements
 - b. Victim testimony
 - c. Restitution
 - d. Other information
7. What does an ideal system to prevent human trafficking look like?
 - a. What is the role of the courts and court actors in this system?
 - b. What other organizations would be a part of that system?
8. Is there anything else we should know that we have not asked about?

Focus Group Instrument

Faith Community

Consent Review

Thank you for agreeing to participate in our focus group. A focus group is just another way of saying “group conversation.” My name is [FACILITATOR NAME], and before we get started, I want to make sure everyone is aware that this is a voluntary experience.

Participation is voluntary, and refusing to participate in the study involves no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled. You may withdraw from the conversation at any time without penalty or loss of benefits. You also have the right to pass on a question that you do not feel comfortable answering.

Speaking of saying things. I want to remind you that what you share here today is held in strict confidence by the members of our research team and myself. I would ask that everyone in today’s conversation not repeat anything you hear today outside of this group. While information you share may appear in research and reports that are generated from this conversation, the research team will not link any part of this conversation to specific individuals. I can’t make that same assurance for everyone in this group. So, if you want to keep something private, that’s fine. Out of respect for everyone in the room, we ask that you not make judgments on information or experiences others may share, and we ask that everyone try to speak one at a time.

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Project Overview

The conversation today will be about your experience helping victims and survivors of human sex trafficking. The research team at the Institute for Urban Policy Research at University of Texas at Dallas is conducting a needs assessment regarding the prevention of human sex trafficking in collaboration with the City of Dallas and with funding from The Texas Department of Health and Human Services. While the term “human trafficking” can refer to many types of trafficking, we will be speaking primarily about “sex trafficking” in this conversation. We may use terms like “commercial sexual exploitation” or “human trafficking” interchangeably, but other types of trafficking – such as labor trafficking – lie outside the scope of this study.

Does anyone have any questions?

Introduction

So, before we get started, can I get each of you to let me know that you understand that this is voluntary and that we're audio recording?

[Request verbal consent from all participants.]

[Ask additional comprehension questions here.]

Great! So, let's do a quick round of introductions. My name is [FACILITATOR NAME; QUICK BIO]. I want to ask each of the research team members to quickly introduce themselves [INVITE TEAM].

Now, for our participants, will you each share your first name or another name you wish to use today?

Great! Now, let's begin our conversation!

Prompts

1. Who are your closest collaborators engaged in human trafficking or other abuses (other orgs, institutions, etc.)?
2. What does an ideal wraparound community response to human sex trafficking look like for you?
3. How does your religious institution fit into such a response?
4. What are the most effective tools and practices you currently use or would like to use?
5. What are the most effective tools and practices you see in use by others?
6. Are there organizations, agencies, institutions not currently engaged in this issue who should be?
7. Are there some organizations, agencies, or institutions engaged in ways you view as inappropriate?
8. Are there common methods and responses being used that are inappropriate?
9. What are some of the barriers to providing services to victims and survivors of sex trafficking?
10. How does human sex trafficking impact the broader community?
11. Is there anything you want us to know that we haven't talked about yet?

Appendix VI: Human Sex Trafficking Study Suicidal Ideation Response Plan

IRB 22-283 Human Sex Trafficking Needs Assessment – City of Dallas

Suicidal Ideation Response Plan

The suicidal ideation response plan pertains specifically to interviews with survivors of human sex trafficking. Because interviews are time-limited and discreet (occurring only once with subjects who are not previously known), some of the typical behavioral and situational clues will be largely unavailable to the researcher. There should be no pre-existing relationship between the interviewer and the subject, limiting the interviewer's ability to fully judge the subjects' risk. However, the interviewer can still look for verbal clues in the research subjects' answers.

While the questions contained in the interview are backward looking (specifically concerning interactions with various public and private systems contemporary to past victimization), the assessment of suicidality should be focused on the present. The interviewer should listen for verbal clues, both direct and indirect, that are rooted in the present. For example, if the subject is expressing feelings of hopelessness rooted in the present, the researcher should perceive this as a risk of suicidality. Similarly, the interviewer should listen for references to situational risks rooted in the present. For example, if the subject has mentions during the course of the interview major life changes – such as serious illness or the loss of an important relationship – that are contemporary to the interview, the interviewer should be alert to the possibility of present risk.

Due to the nature of the interview and the questions, subjects might reference troubling feelings, behaviors, and situations rooted in the past – contemporary to their victimhood. In these cases, the interviewers should verify the subject's current state with a question like, "It sounds like you were really struggling at that time, how would you say you are coping today?"

If the subject makes a more direct references to suicidal thoughts contemporary to past victimhood , the interviewer should again verify the present status with a more direct question like, "Are you thinking of death or suicide now?"

The researcher should always verify the present status of the research subject if the subject exhibits signs of suicidality, whether rooted in the past or present. In order to address the possibility of suicidal ideation in the present, the researcher should take care to distinguish between feelings, behaviors, and situations that are in the past (relevant to the research) and those that are in the present – relevant to the risk of suicidal ideation. The researcher should ask clarifying question like those mentioned above to make these distinctions and determine whether or not further action is warranted.

If the subject is exhibiting signs of suicidal ideation in the present based on responses to follow-up question like affirming current thoughts of death and suicide or expressing significant struggles or hopelessness in the present, the interviewer should stop further questioning and focus on directing the subject to locate a mental health provider or to a crisis hotline if the subject indicates that they need to speak with a mental health professional immediately.

If the interviewer perceives imminent physical danger, the subject has a weapon, or the subject has otherwise indicated that they are an immediate threat to themselves or others, then the interviewer should contact a mobile crisis unit to assist the subject.

If the interviewer feels under physical threat while conducting an interview on campus, they should notify campus police immediately. If conducting the interview in the community and they feel at risk, the interviewer should dial 9-1-1 and inform a staff member at the interview location.

The interviewer should make referrals in the following manner:

- If the subject needs to speak with a mental health provider but can wait a few days, they can be directed to:
 - In Collin County:
 - LifePath Systems services information:
 - 972-422-5939 or 1-844-544-5939
 - LifePath Outpatient Services:
 - McKinney Outpatient Clinic 1515 Heritage Drive McKinney, TX 75069
 - Plano Outpatient Clinic 7308 Alma Drive Plano, TX 75025
 - In Dallas County:
 - Search for a provider online: <https://ntbha.org/find-a-provider/>
 - North Texas Behavioral Health Authority services information:
 - 214-366-9407 or 1-877-653-6363
- If the subject needs to talk to someone now, but is not an immediate threat to themselves or others:
 - National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255
 - Crisis Text Line: Text HOME to 741741
 - In Collin County:
 - LifePath Crisis Hotline: 1-877-422-5939
 - In Dallas County:
 - Suicide and Crisis Center of North Texas: 214-828-1000
- If the subject is in crisis and needs help now:
 - In Collin County:
 - Contact LifePath Crisis Hotline: 1-877-422-5939 and inquire about the mobile crisis unit
 - In Dallas County:
 - Call the 24/7 Mobile Crisis Hotline: 1-866-260-8000

Recommended Citation

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Download digital copies of this report at [**https://utd.link/htneedsassessment**](https://utd.link/htneedsassessment)



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