

PROMISING CRIMINAL JUSTICE PRACTICES IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASES: A COUNTY-LEVEL COMPARATIVE OVERVIEW (2005-2010)

*With Special Emphasis
On Cases Involving Children*

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INTRODUCTION

The crime of human trafficking is international in scope, and is prevalent in every country. The passing of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 signaled the U.S. government's recognition of human trafficking as a crime that occurs within its own borders.¹ The TVPA has since been reauthorized in 2003, 2005, and 2008, updating criminal statutes, enhancing protections for victims, and addressing gaps on research and issues concerning domestic trafficking (i.e. trafficking of U.S. citizens).² As of 2011, almost every state, with the exception of West Virginia, Wyoming, South Dakota, and Massachusetts, has some form of human trafficking statute within their criminal code.³

Between January 2008 and June 2010, federally-funded human trafficking task forces opened 2,515 suspected incidents of human trafficking for investigation. Most of these cases were classified as sex trafficking (82%), including more than 1,200 incidents with allegations of adult sex trafficking, and more than 1,000 incidents with allegations of prostitution or sexual exploitation of a child. Eleven percent of the suspected incidents opened for investigation were classified as labor trafficking, and 7% were unclassified with respect to trafficking type.⁴

These figures represent only a small percentage of the estimated scope of the problem in the United States. The last estimate published by the United States government reported that approximately 14,500-17,500 men, women, and children are trafficked into the U.S. annually.⁵ Other scholars estimate the number to be higher, estimating that as many as 17,000 foreign national children are trafficked into the United States, not even beginning to take into account trafficking of adults.⁶ Neither of these figures includes the domestic trafficking of United States citizens. Some

non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working with vulnerable youth estimate that between 100,000 – 300,000 U.S. citizen children are exploited for the purpose of commercial sex acts each year.⁷

Though existing estimates suggest that the problem of human trafficking is significant, few research studies exist with respect to human trafficking in the U.S., and even fewer studies relate to trafficking in children. This is due to a number of factors, including the lack of consistent data collection and tracking mechanisms across NGOs and government agencies, misconceptions about what the human trafficking of children entails, differing legal definitions and applications between law enforcement and NGOs, ideologically-driven research, limited access to human trafficking survivors, and the hidden nature of the crime.

PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The first anti-trafficking efforts in the United States were largely driven by federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigations, Immigration Customs Enforcement, and the Department of Labor. In 2003, the reauthorization of the TVPA encouraged states to pass their own anti-trafficking laws, recognizing that local law enforcement agencies and service providers are better able to identify potential human trafficking cases in their community. In order to encourage more local responses to potential cases, the U.S. Government also began to fund local anti-trafficking task forces in 2004.⁸

Cook County – which includes Chicago and the surrounding metropolitan area – has been identified as one of several human

¹ Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, Pub. L. 106–386 (2000).

² Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2003 H.R. 2620 (2003); Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2005, H.R. 972 (2005); Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2008, H.R. 7311 (2008).

³ Polaris Project: State Map, <http://www.polarisproject.org/state-map> (last visited Mar. 28, 2012).

⁴ Banks, D., & Kyckelhahn, T. (2011, April). Characteristics of suspected human trafficking incidents, 2008–2010. Retrieved July, 2011, from <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/cshti0810.pdf>

⁵ U.S. Department of Justice Report to Congress on Assessment of U.S. Government Activities to Combat Trafficking in Persons (2004)

⁶ Estes, R. & Weiner, N. (2001). The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. The University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work

⁷ *Id.*

trafficking hubs in the country.⁹ In October 2005, the Chicago Police Department received a Bureau of Justice Affairs Grant to create a local anti-trafficking task force, comprised of local and federal law enforcement agencies and service providers.¹⁰ However, between 2005-2010, there were only 33 arrests under human trafficking statutes in Illinois and no human trafficking related prosecutions in Cook County, though human trafficking task forces in other large counties across the country were already mounting comprehensive responses to this crime.¹¹

This “gap” was the genesis of this research project, the aim of which is to review and analyze other similarly sized counties with large, metropolitan centers across the country, in order to identify best practices, challenges and efforts that have led to successful case outcomes. This research project identifies and synthesizes cases from 2005-2010 that involved human trafficking and developed at county-level law enforcement agencies and task forces across the United States. Where possible, cases involving minors will be highlighted, in order to address distinct issues facing children who have been victimized by human trafficking. Best practices in victim identification, case investigation, perpetrator prosecution, and service

provision were included.

During the time period on which this project is focused, Cook County had not yet developed The Cook County Trafficking Task Force. Since 2010, Cook County has made significant strides in addressing the crime of human trafficking. Some of these initiatives will be addressed later in the report. We hope that providing a localized, county-level study will also assist other jurisdictions in their day-to-day anti-trafficking work.

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⁸ Bureau of Justice Assistance, https://www.bja.gov/ProgramDetails.aspx?Program_ID=51 (last visited Mar. 28, 2012).

⁹ N.Y. Times, <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/14/us/14cncpredators.html?pagewanted=all> (last visited Mar. 28, 2012).

¹⁰ The Cook County Commission on Women’s Issues, <http://www.sapromise.org/pdfs/human%20trafficking%20report.pdf> (last visited Mar. 28, 2012).

¹¹ Illinois Criminal Justice Authority

METHOD

DEFINITION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE UNITED STATES

The U.S. government defines human trafficking as:

(a) sex trafficking (the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person), in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or by any means if the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or

(b) the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.¹²

In Illinois, human trafficking is defined as:

- sex trafficking (the recruitment, enticing, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining of a person), in which a commercial sexual act, sexually explicit performance, or pornography is induced by harm, threats to cause harm, physical restraint, threats or actual abuse of law, intimidation, threats of or actual financial harm or control, or destroying, concealing, removing, confiscating, or possessing any actual or purported government document, or by any means if the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or
- involuntary servitude in which an individual knowingly engages in a conspiracy to subject a person to labor or services, through harm, threats to cause harm, physical restraint, threats or actual abuse of law, intimidation, threats of or actual financial harm or control, or destroying, concealing, removing, confiscating, or possessing any actual or purported government document.¹³

While there is a distinction between sex and labor trafficking, it is also important to realize that the line between the two concepts is often blurry. Sexual abuse is a common form of coercion in labor trafficking cases, and many individuals trafficked for sexual exploitation are also trafficked for labor.

COUNTY SELECTION

The counties included in this research project – Los Angeles County, Harris County, New York Counties, and Maricopa County – were chosen for their similarity to Cook County in demographics, population size, and likely rate of trafficking. Details on each county are presented in the chart below.¹⁴

County	Population	Percent of Population that is Foreign Born
Cook County (Illinois)	5.2 million	20.5%
Harris County (Texas)	4.1 million	24.4%
New York Counties (New York)	Suffolk: 1.5 million New York: 1.6 million Kings: 2.5 million Nassau: 1.3 million Erie: 1 million	13.1% 27.5% 36.6% 19.7% 5.6%
Maricopa County (Arizona)	3.8 million	16.8%
Los Angeles County (California)	9.8 million	35.4%

¹² Forced Labor, 18 USC § 1589, Sex Trafficking of Children or by Force, Fraud, or Coercion, 18 USC § 1591.

¹³ Involuntary Servitude of a Minor (Sex Trafficking) 720 ILCS § 5/9(c); Involuntary Servitude (Labor Trafficking), 720 ILCS § 5/10-9(b).

¹⁴ United States Census 2010, <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/data/> (last visited Mar. 28, 2012).

DATA SOURCES

Data was culled from local and national newspapers, magazine articles, governmental agency press releases, judicial opinions in human trafficking cases, training materials for those involved in human trafficking cases, criminal complaints and reports, and media reports published the years 2005-2010. Additionally, fifteen interviews were conducted with professionals involved in providing legal services to victims, law enforcement investigating and prosecuting human trafficking cases, as well as service providers and members of various non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Overall, the study analyzes 44 cases from the included counties. In all included cases, a criminal report has been filed. A more detailed breakdown is presented below.

County	Cases	Case Type (if known)	Minors Involved (if known)
Los Angeles County	13 cases	Sex: 5 Labor: 7	4
Harris County	10 cases	Sex: 6 Labor: 3	6
New York Counties	16 cases	Sex: 9 Labor: 8	5
Maricopa County	5 cases	Sex: 3 Labor: 0	3

LIMITATIONS

Currently, very few of the 42 task forces created by the Department of Justice have published consistent data on trafficking cases.¹⁵ Most national human trafficking databases fail to provide both local and national disaggregated data on how victims are identified, victim demographics (sex, age, nationality), or types of trafficking. Moreover, trafficking cases are often not resolved through a full trial, therefore information regarding the case, victims, and offenders are may not be part of the public record. Furthering the problem is that many cases, while identified, are not prosecuted at all, or are prosecuted under laws outside of state or federal human trafficking laws. Another interviewee stated that less than half of the cases, of which she is aware, are brought through from a full investigation to prosecution and sentencing.¹⁶

For this reason, the data presented in this study likely represents only a small window into the issue of human trafficking in the U.S. This report will use the available data to report helpful trends in identifying cases, victims and offenders. However, as noted by many of our interviewees, it is important to keep in mind that there is no one profile of what human trafficking case, victim, or offender looks like – this report should be viewed as a helpful aide, rather than a comprehensive encyclopedia.

¹⁵ Interview with Katie Resendiz (July 29, 2011).

¹⁶ Interview with Jennifer Dreher (July 13, 2011).

FINDINGS

IDENTIFYING HUMAN TRAFFICKING HUBS

Geographic Locations

The presence of major highways, major airports, or railroads, and the proximity to a foreign border or other port of entry make certain locations appealing hubs for human trafficking. For instance, Harris County has identified the presence of major highways (I-10 and 59), two major airports, a major railroad, ship channel, and porous border to be associated with the rise of human trafficking in that particular area.¹⁷ The existence of isolated or vulnerable communities can also serve as a draw for human traffickers. The large number of Native American reservations in Maricopa County (about 75% of Arizona land) is a strong example.¹⁸

Industry

Interviews with representatives from several counties revealed that human trafficking often occurs within hospitality and recreational industries, particularly in businesses such as small bars, nightclubs, and cantinas. These establishments often have darkened or barred windows, fewer signs and advertising than typical businesses, and may be surrounded by high fences. They also frequently have a large number of locked doors, suspicious amounts of patrons or cars at all hours, and a building attached to the back, to which the victims of trafficking are often forced to take patrons. The traffickers often have elaborate warning systems that may include bells, whistles, or other alert that law enforcement is present.¹⁹ Another potential indicator of human trafficking is a large number of occupants living in a small space, in which they also work. These spaces will often have

many beds but a general lack of other furniture.²⁰

Massage parlors often act as hubs for human trafficking. These businesses frequently advertise on the “back pages” magazines and are usually not licensed as a massage parlor, though many are located in properties under legitimate management.²¹ If these businesses are closed down, either by the building owner or law enforcement, many reopen under a different name. A County Attorney indicated that counties can utilize an assumed name database to attempt to circumvent this strategy and identify suspicious businesses, particularly if there is some sort of legitimate business infrastructure being utilized. She went on to describe that while this strategy is tenuous, when it works, “it is another effective tool in our arsenal.”²²

Another potential indicator of human trafficking is a large number of occupants living in a small space, in which they also work. These spaces will often have many beds but a general lack of other furniture. Often occupants will not have a separate key or independent means of traveling both to and from these housing conditions.

IDENTIFYING CASES

Human trafficking cases may not even present as such initially, and are discovered via a call for aggravated assault, domestic disturbance or battery, routine traffic stops, liquor license inspections, truant children interceptions, or a plethora of other potential crimes.²³ In one case arising in Los Angeles, a noise complaint was called in to local police.²⁴ After responding, officers found materials in the home that clearly indicated human trafficking. These materials included a handwritten notebook, with headings such as “About Your Daddy,” What

¹⁷ Interview with Linda Geffin (July 12, 2011).

¹⁸ Interview with Katie Resendiz (July 29, 2011).

¹⁹ Interview with Linda Geffin (July 12, 2011).

²⁰ *Id.*

²¹ *Id.*

²² *Id.*

²³ National Institute of Justice, Sex Trafficking: Identifying Cases and Victims available at <http://www.nij.gov/journals/262/sex-trafficking.htm> (last visited June 10, 2011).

²⁴ *U.S. v. Aaron Pierre Brown*, Criminal Complaint Case No. 08-1839M (Filed Aug. 1 2008).

a Square Ho Is," "My Pimpin'," Tricks, Clients, and Regulars," "Police," "Blades! Tracks! Railroads! And Boardwalks!," "Internets and Newspaper Ads," and "Strip Clubs."²⁵ The notebook also listed a victim's date of birth, evidence that the trafficker was aware that she was a minor.²⁶

It is also necessary to be open to new ideas of what may qualify as trafficking. In Maricopa County, service providers have determined a potentially new type of human trafficking, not yet identified by law enforcement. In these cases, the trafficking offender recruits minors as young as ten years old, going door-to-door in low-income areas such as Native American reservations. They may even obtain parental consent for what they refer to as a "job development program." In these cases, the recruited minors are picked up after school, driven to other side of the county, into unfamiliar territory, and are given calendars, candles, or peanut brittle to sell until late at night. These youth are given an unattainable "quota," and when they do not meet this number, they are eventually let go without any pay. They are threatened that if they complain or question the operation, they will be "fired" instead, and it will go on their "employment record."²⁷

As a part of efforts to improve identification, each county engaged in several training efforts during the time period of the study. However, human trafficking training was often limited to the Vice departments of local and county law enforcement, though officers in all departments may encounter human trafficking on routine calls.²⁸ Often, the signs will not be as clear-cut as in the example above and proper officer training is open to the possibility of finding human trafficking in any situation, despite the origin of the call.

IDENTIFYING VICTIMS

Signs that one is dealing with a human trafficking victim can vary, but there are definite patterns that are exhibited in a victim's physical and mental state. Indications that a person is a victim of human trafficking include: malnutrition, dehydration, drug use or addiction, poor general health or personal hygiene, physical abuse or neglect (e.g., scars, bruises, burns, or unusual bald patches), tattoos that

raise suspicion (such as, "property of"), untreated medical problems, depression, fear, anxiety, distress, hopelessness, or mental illness. Other signs of potential trafficking victims may include individuals who:

- are not fluent in English, with someone else speaking for them
- appear disoriented geographically or time-wise
- have no ID or travel documents, or someone else is holding them
- have no spending money
- when questioned, their story about what they are doing in the country or on the job doesn't make sense
- live with an employer or at a place of business and cannot give you an address
- are accompanied by another person, who is resistant to letting you speak with them alone or refuses to leave their side²⁹

Victims of human trafficking are often strictly controlled by their traffickers. They are often escorted to and from work, and physically and emotionally abused. In many cases, victims have been treated this way for so long, that they sometimes lie, recant, and resist any type of identification as a victim of human trafficking.³⁰ A victim's resistance may also be due to fear of the trafficker, or alternatively, an attachment they've formed with their trafficker. Some young victims are made to believe that their trafficker is the only one who will love them, and give them attention and affection, despite the abuse (hence, young victims referring to their captors as their "boyfriends."³¹ What may begin as a consensual relationship, can turn into trafficking,

²⁵ *U.S. v. Aaron Pierre Brown*, Criminal Complaint Case No. 08-1839M (Filed Aug. 1 2008).

²⁶ *Id.* Interview with Investigative Agent (requested anonymity)

²⁷ Interview with Katie Resendiz (July 29, 2011).

²⁸ Interview with Jennifer Dreher (July 13, 2011).

²⁹ The Sacramento Rescue and Restore Victims of Human Trafficking Coalition, Report Calls Nurses' Attention to Human Trafficking Victims, available at <http://sacramentorescueandrestore.net/2011/02/09/report-calls-nurses%E2%80%99-attention-to-human-trafficking-victims/> (Feb. 9, 2011).

³⁰ Robert Moosy J.D., Sex Trafficking: Identifying Cases and Victims, National Institute of Justice: U.S. Dept. of Justice available at <http://www.nij.gov/journals/262/sex-trafficking.htm>.

³¹ *Id.*

such a case in Brooklyn, in which a man recruited a woman for a dominance-submission relationship, which quickly turned into sex and labor trafficking.³²

Law enforcement agents are frequently, but not always, the first points of contact for victims of trafficking. For various reasons (i.e. stories that traffickers may have told about law enforcement, previous negative encounters with authority figures, or fear of punishment for crimes that the victim may have committed), victims typically enter this encounter with distrust. This may lead to victims lying to protect their traffickers, denying their role as victims, or being unwilling to respond to questioning.

Successful interventions entail investigators and first responders being trained to use interviewing techniques that are sensitive to the victim, focusing on building rapport and trust. One service provider in New York indicated that 60% of their clients are from referrals outside of law enforcement, often from individuals who had already gained the trust of a victim.³³ Key steps to build this rapport include providing victims time to tell their story, away from any outside influence (i.e., the alleged offender), with the hope that they eventually gain the victim's trust, confidence, and cooperation.³⁴ Rather than posing direct questions about trafficking, asking more generally phrased questions, such as, "Were you ever told to do something you didn't want to do?" helps give the victim the opportunity to answer without feeling they are being pressured.³⁵

Covert methods of investigation may also be necessary, given that victims are often difficult to work with, and may be more resistant than victims of other crimes.³⁶ For example, strategies such as surveillance, recordings and confidential informants may be required prior to a raid or arrest. Cases in both Harris and Los Angeles counties

that utilized confidential informants and wires were extremely successful in obtaining convictions later.³⁷ It is further necessary to gather all the evidence and believe the victim until an investigation shows otherwise.

Once a victim has been identified, it is important to foster a relationship with them. Often, victims are able to identify other victims with whom they are familiar. Even without being familiar with other potential victims, they may be better able to recognize signs of victimization, as a result of their own experience. While some investigators may see a "willing" prostitute or laborer, a fellow victim may know better.³⁸

Though both foreign and U.S. nationals can be victims of human trafficking, cases involving U.S. nationals are usually not identified as such. While U.S. citizens and foreign nationals may have distinct needs, they often require much of the same support and assistance. One service provider explained that foreign nationals often face barriers related to language, document availability, and citizenship, yet are generally patient with the system to provide a remedy or service. In her experience, U.S. nationals often have different emotional and psychological barriers, and less interest in engaging in the criminal justice system, though they often have less logistical barriers than foreign nationals.³⁹

In terms of minors specifically, it is important to be patient but also mindful of time restrictions. In Harris County, for example, prosecutors have found that minors often age-out of the system before they fully accept what has happened to them. Service providers working with these individuals state that this often impacts abilities for victims to obtain proper services and justice.⁴⁰

³² *U.S. v. Marcus*, Criminal Sealed Affidavit in Support of Arrest Warrant (Filed May 9, 2005).

³³ Interview with Jennifer Dreher (July 13, 2011).

³⁴ Robert Moosy J.D., *Sex Trafficking: Identifying Cases and Victims*, National Institute of Justice: U.S. Dept. of Justice available at <http://www.nij.gov/journals/262/sex-trafficking.htm>.

³⁵ Interview with Linda Brandmiller (July 8, 2011).

³⁶ Interview with Anonymous Investigatory Agent.

³⁷ See *U.S. v. Mondragon*, Criminal Complaint Case No. H-05-890M (Filed Nov. 13, 2005); *U.S. v. Salazar*, Criminal Complaint Case No. H-05-705M (Filed Aug. 22, 2005); *U.S. v. Vasquez-Valenzuela*, U.S. Dept. of Justice Press Release: Nine Charged in Sex Trafficking Ring Involving Minors, available at <http://losangeles.fbi.gov/dojpressrel/pressrel07/la08907usa.htm> (last visited June 15, 2010).

³⁸ Interview with Linda Brandmiller (July 8, 2011).

³⁹ Interview with Dottie Laster (June 30, 2011).

⁴⁰ *Id.*

IDENTIFYING OFFENDERS

Human trafficking offenders can be particularly difficult to identify, when compared to offenders of similar crimes. Offenders may be family members and parents of the victim or they may be complete strangers. Victims may not even be helpful in identifying their trafficker as such, referring to them as their “boyfriend” or, if the trafficker is a relative, believing that they are working to support their family. Offenders will even present themselves as victims of trafficking in order to stay close to their victims and keep them under their control.⁴¹ For this reason, it is important to interview victims separately from one another in order to afford the actual victim the ability to speak freely about their trafficker.

In some cases, traffickers may be identified when one of their victims is arrested. Arrested victims are often bailed out by their traffickers.⁴² In a case in Harris County, one victim was arrested for prostitution and quickly bailed out by her trafficker.⁴³ Law enforcement followed up by investigating the individual who posted bail, as well as the address he gave at the time, and ultimately uncovered a sex trafficking ring run out of a local cantina.⁴⁴

⁴¹ *U.S. v. Aguilar-Espinoza*, Criminal Complaint Case No. 09-7049M (Filed Feb. 3, 2009).

⁴² *U.S. v. Salazar*, Criminal Complaint Case No. H-05-705M (Filed Aug. 22, 2005).

⁴³ *Id.*

⁴⁴ *Id.*

RECOMMENDATIONS

IMPROVING COLLABORATION

According to the U.S. Attorney of the Southern District of Texas, there are four domains that must work together, in order to be successful at all stages of a human trafficking case.⁴⁵ These are: investigation, victim services, prosecution, and public awareness as well as training.⁴⁶ It is also necessary that people in all levels of these domains collaborate on cases, such as state prosecutors obtaining information from not only the FBI, but from the local vice department as well.⁴⁷

Improving collaboration between these four domains, along with increasing the cooperation between law enforcement departments and agencies was cited as the most effective tool to respond to human trafficking cases and provide much needed aid for its victims across all counties. These need not be formal collaborations or government-funded task forces. Often, ad hoc task forces or ad hoc partners are able to work together just as successfully.⁴⁸ In some cases, informal collaborations can be even more effective than formalized partnerships, depending on the politics of the district.⁴⁹

WITHIN LAW ENFORCEMENT

Law enforcement appears to be the most successful branch in identifying cases of human trafficking when, provided there is diversity in law enforcement departments and divisions tasked with responding to these cases. Including narcotics divisions, victim assistance teams, Major Case, local police, highway and state police, is essential to ensuring that all levels and departments of law enforcement are aware of, and on alert for, cases of human trafficking.⁵⁰ While it is important to have a law enforcement trafficking unit, tasking human trafficking cases to Vice units leaves holes open in the search for all types of

human trafficking. For example, while the New York Kings County Sex Trafficking Unit may be very successful in identifying cases of sex trafficking, it is likely that cases of labor trafficking in Kings County are overlooked by this unit.⁵¹ Often, victims are wary of law enforcement, and officers therefore have a more difficult time in identifying these cases.

As has become clear, human trafficking is not a problem that is easily restricted to one jurisdiction or county. Traffickers know how difficult it is for agencies and organizations from multiple jurisdictions and geographic areas to work together, and they may use that knowledge to their advantage. For instance, one victim identified in Texas was identified as being held at the border of three different jurisdictions.⁵² Clearly, this was not an accident or coincidence, but rather a strategy for the trafficker to evade being caught. Improving the ability of neighboring agencies to work together would help close this massive failing of the justice system, which is exploited by criminals of all types.

Through improved coordination, agencies holding jurisdiction in the same area can coordinate their efforts to focus on specific domains of human trafficking. For instance, in New York, the police and the District Attorney generally handle cases involving U.S. citizen, while the U.S. Attorney and ICE agents often focus on foreign national cases, because foreign nationals can often receive better services in the federal system. The Innocence Lost Task Force (FBI) generally focuses on domestic sex trafficking of minors. Similar models of case allocation were described in other counties as well.⁵³ Once service provider who described this breakdown indicated that there are positives to having varying focuses, but also saw negative aspects of compartmentalizing types of trafficking and therefore allowing cases to potentially slip through the cracks.⁵⁴

Political will is extremely important in prioritizing human trafficking cases and moving them forward. For instance, in New York, the U.S. Attorney's office has committed interest and resources to human

⁴⁵ Interview with the Office of the U.S. Atty. of the South. Dist. of TX. (Jul. 14, 2011).

⁴⁶ *Id.*

⁴⁷ *Id.*

⁴⁸ Interview with Linda Brandmiller (July 8, 2011).

⁴⁹ Interview with Katie Resendiz (July 29, 2011).

⁵⁰ See All Interviews (2011).

⁵¹ Interview with Jennifer Dreher (July 13, 2011).

⁵² Interview with Dottie Laster (June 20, 2011).

⁵³ See Interview with Angela Goodwin (Jul. 12, 2011) and Interview with the Office of the U.S. Atty. of the South. Dist. of TX. (Jul. 14, 2011).

⁵⁴ Interview with Jennifer Dreher (July 13, 2011).

trafficking cases and has worked closely with local service providers, and thus, more cases have been identified and moved forward through the criminal justice system. These partnerships might not be possible in other counties.⁵⁵ Working to bring human trafficking into the spotlight and creating public pressure for its elimination will be key to improving law enforcement and bringing about the changes recommended in this report.

INVOLVING SERVICE AGENCIES IN INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION

Across all counties with successful human trafficking prosecutions, most successful law enforcement interventions involved social service providers early (i.e., at the time of the initial intervention). Victims of human trafficking, while brutally treated by offenders, often feel as though they have nowhere else to go. This is especially true with minor victims who may have little to no family on which they can rely. If their needs, such as protection, legal assistance, and housing, are met right away, they are more likely to feel secure in leaving their captors. Something as simple as providing phone cards to victims and allowing them to get in touch with any family members has increased the likelihood that the victim receives the appropriate services, and is more willing to participate in prosecuting their victimizers.⁵⁶

In addition, service providers can also a prime resource of leads on human trafficking cases, particularly given the tendency of victims to distrust law enforcement. Service organizations are uniquely able to reach previously hidden populations and bring them to light. This is particularly true of service providers that work with diverse populations (e.g., non-profits that serve immigrants). A service provider in New York explained that a recent collaboration with a Filipino worker's rights group increased their foreign-born labor trafficking clientele by 200%.⁵⁷

All partners should be aware of where trust already exists, whether it is in service organizations or law enforcement, and then collaborate on behalf of victims based on that trust. In cases such as the *Mondragon* case cited earlier, confidential informants, though

sometimes difficult to obtain, can be extremely helpful in gathering information on tightly-knit human trafficking organizations.⁵⁸ Informants allow investigative strategies to focus on a victim's circumstances, rather than relying on them to identify themselves as victims, which is rare and may take months.⁵⁹

Once a case has been identified, this collaborative model should be continued into the prosecution phase, in order to ensure the continued safety and compliance of victims. In Maricopa County service providers have begun using a social work model of "teaming" cases. This model, based upon the way in which hospitals sometimes handle individual cases, involves presenting a case to a multidisciplinary team of law enforcement, service providers, and prosecutors. While there are occasionally confidential pieces of information that require a member of the team to step out, it is otherwise a powerful strategy, though it may become unwieldy with a heavier case load. A service provider in Maricopa County also indicated that having a main task force with two subcommittees, for investigation and services, has been successful. This has been especially true when FBI and ICE agents have been involved in both committees, as they have access to federal resources that can augment state or local agency resources.⁶⁰

Another model, used by a service organization in New York, incorporates a direct service team, attorneys, and a training department that all work together. This model allows for the direct services team to provide examples for the advocates to use in training, and for the trainers to use their expertise to address problems in the direct services team. The New York service provider indicated that the cases handled in-house in this way are more successful than the ones referred to outside attorneys but that this is a luxury that is expensive and hard to achieve and maintain without funding.⁶¹

When addressing human trafficking cases involving children, there are special concerns to take into consideration with regards to collaboration. For instance, in Harris County, they have found it necessary to work with the Division of Unaccompanied Children's Services (DUCS), which provides guardianship over detained, unaccompanied immigrant minors in removal proceedings. Often, unaccompanied immigrant minors are at higher risk of being trafficked. Identification training for DUCS employees was identified as an essential measure

⁵⁵ Interview with Jennifer Dreher (July 13, 2011).

⁵⁶ Interview with Dottie Laster (June 20, 2011).

⁵⁷ Interview with Jennifer Dreher (July 13, 2011).

⁵⁸ *U.S. v. Mondragon*, Criminal Complaint Case No. H-05-890M (Filed Nov. 13, 2005).

⁵⁹ Interview with Investigative Agent (requested anonymity).

⁶⁰ Interview with Katie Resendiz (July 29, 2011).

⁶¹ Interview with Jennifer Dreher (July 13, 2011).

to address this particular population of vulnerable children, as some trafficked children were being detained in secure facilities which violates their rights as a victim of human trafficking under the TVPA.⁶²

While the ideal situation includes many agencies working together to help victims and prosecute offenders, some first responders cautioned that the more agencies become involved, the less likely that there would be a successful outcome or any outcome at all. With partnerships of many members, goals and objectives may become vague and unclear, whether it is because there are ambiguous roles and responsibilities, or rather, too many differing priorities. Some counties utilize a strategy where one agency takes the lead, while the others provide assistance. Other service providers disagreed, and expressed concerns about a single law enforcement agency becoming a gatekeeper, potentially limiting victim's access to services and advocacy.

In all counties included in the study, there were instances of partnerships that could be duplicated in counties across the nation. These included service organizations that provide child placement, housing assistance, legal services, or mental health services, such as the YMCA, the Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking (CAST), Legal Aid Foundations (this was indicated to be especially true in Los Angeles), the International Rescue Committee, Catholic Charities, Safe Horizon (in New York), the Houston Rescue and Restore Coalition, Project Safe Childhood, and the Salvation Army. In addition, governmental partners such as the Department of Justice (specifically the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section), Department of Labor-Hour and Wage Investigators, Department of Human Services, are often likely partners in formal and informal task forces throughout various counties.⁶³ Ideally, task forces also include federal law enforcement, such as the FBI and ICE.⁶⁴

CULTIVATING RELATIONSHIPS WITH NON-TRADITIONAL PARTNERS

Throughout this research project, creative agency involvement was

the single most important concept that arose in interviews. Unlikely partnerships can be just as, if not more, effective in the identification and prosecution of human trafficking. Less likely partners include: disability assistance organizations, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearm and Explosives, the U.S. Postal Inspection, and internet providers.⁶⁵

For instance, in Harris County, a very successful strategy has been to involve the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) in human trafficking investigations. The TABC can go into any establishment in which alcohol is served, in order to check compliance with regulations. One Harris County prosecutor described this to be an effective strategy to get into the door of many of the cantinas that run human trafficking rings. If TABC inspectors are trained and vigilant, they can notice red flags and communicate signs of potential trafficking cases to law enforcement.⁶⁶ The same strategy can be utilized with Fire Marshalls and Building Inspectors as well.⁶⁷ Not only does this type of collaboration work for identifying cases, they also can add layers to civil and criminal prosecutions, as has been demonstrated in Harris County.⁶⁸

Another strategy that Harris County has used to involve legitimate stakeholders in their work with trafficking cases is sending letters to business owners who may have an interest in the matter. For example, law enforcement may contact an entrepreneur, such as the mortgage holder or owner of the strip mall in which a suspicious massage parlor is located. According to one prosecutor, 9 out of 10 times, these business owners want to help evict or close down businesses associated with human trafficking, helping to break the cycle of demand.⁶⁹

Similarly, working with internet providers and websites such as Craigslist and Jillpages to shut down advertisements related to potential human trafficking cases is another powerful partnership to form, as many traffickers' main avenue for advertisement is now the internet.⁷⁰ Working with these internet providers allows law enforcement to identify these cases, and prosecutors with evidence to use in court.

One potentially powerful tactic may be to train members of the community who are likely come into contact with victims of human trafficking. For instance, the *Mondragon* case involved a trafficker

⁶² Interview with Dottie Laster (June 20, 2011).

⁶³ See All Interviews (2011).

⁶⁴ *Id.*

⁶⁵ *Id.*

⁶⁶ Interview with Linda Geffin (July 12, 2011).

⁶⁷ *Id.*

⁶⁸ *Id.*

⁶⁹ *Id.*

⁷⁰ *U.S. v. Aaron Pierre Brown*, Criminal Complaint Case No. 08-1839M (Filed Aug. 1 2008).

⁷¹ *U.S. v. Mondragon*, U.S. Dist. Ct. South. TX Criminal Complaint No. H-05-890M (filed Nov. 13, 2005).

taking a group of minor girls to get birth control injections at the pharmacy.⁷¹ Potentially, if pharmacy workers were trained to recognize signs of human trafficking, law enforcement may have been able to identify this case earlier. Other community members who may benefit from regular training may include healthcare facilities, community based organizations, ethnic and workers' rights groups, child welfare workers, schools, Department of Labor investigators, domestic violence shelters, refugee organizations, women's groups, and first responders.⁷² In New York, some service providers have even begun training those with access to homes, such as cable installers, electricians, plumbers, and meter readers.⁷³ These unlikely partners may be exceptionally helpful in identifying potential cases of labor trafficking, such as a minor living in the home who they may notice taking care of the family's children. However, training these individuals must include follow-ups and technical assistance by the trainers, in order to ensure that they understand the issue's complexities and nuances.⁷⁴

The Human Trafficking Rescue Alliance has successfully trained a number of individuals all over the world. The Core Training Group includes the U.S. Attorney's office, the YMCA, the Houston Rescue and Restore Coalition, and Catholic Charities. They design their curricula based on their audience, and have trained many of the individuals and groups cited above.⁷⁵ This is a model that may prove successful in other task forces as well. For instance, in Los Angeles County, the *Brown* case involved a noise complaint in the apartment where the victim and trafficker were living.⁷⁶ If building managers are among those trained, even a simple noise complaint may be all it takes to put a case on the radar of law enforcement.

RELIABLE DATA COLLECTION AND TRACKING: NO COUNTY IS AN ISLAND

One very important factor in collaboration is the implementation and use of reliable data collection and tracking systems for human trafficking cases. However, data collection often remains a challenge for most jurisdictions. A standard, more comprehensive data collection system that can be used across jurisdictions would allow for proper tracking of victim services, offender movement, and patterns

in cases, as well as indications of when it may be necessary to follow up on a notice to appear, expired visa, or a previously uncooperative identified victim. In addition, it would allow neighboring jurisdictions to identify trends in their county or geographic area, as well as similar counties across the country. For example, New York identifies a number of cases involving diplomats who participate in labor trafficking for domestic servants that may also be prevalent in an area such as Washington, DC.⁷⁷ This was confirmed through a search of investigations and prosecutions on the DC area, which included several domestic servitude cases involving diplomats. This would allow counties with similar characteristics across the nation to use each other as sources of effective methods, and begin to create standardized protocols.

There are national databases that federally-funded task forces, service providers and law enforcement are required to utilize. However, these databases are rife with issues, including underreporting, misreporting, and lack of technical support. Cases involving a trafficking victim identified for prosecutorial purposes other than trafficking are often not reported. In addition, if a foreign born national pursues an alternative immigration remedy that is easier to obtain than prosecution (i.e., a U visa or a VAWA petition), that victim is not counted as a victim of human trafficking.⁷⁸

While everyone wants precise numbers and statistics, there is currently no funding to create the adequate structure to collect better human trafficking data. In addition, many private funders explicitly indicate that their funds are to be used only for direct services and not administrative tasks.⁷⁹ Unfortunately, this has a negative effect on the quality of direct services available to victims. Until funding for official reporting systems exists, unofficial reporting relationships between neighboring jurisdictions must be established.

UTILIZING BOTH CIVIL AND CRIMINAL REMEDIES: THROWING THE BOOK AT TRAFFICKERS (NOT VICTIMS)

Human trafficking cases may be successfully prosecuted under related criminal statutes. For instance, rather than aiming to indict on

⁷² Interview with Jennifer Dreher (July 13, 2011).

⁷³ *Id.*

⁷⁴ *Id.*

⁷⁵ Interview with the Office of the U.S. Atty. of the South. Dist. of TX. (Jul. 14, 2011).

⁷⁶ *U.S. v. Aaron Pierre Brown*, Criminal Complaint Case No. 08-1839M (Filed Aug. 1 2008).

⁷⁷ Interview with Jennifer Dreher (July 13, 2011).

⁷⁸ Interview with Dottie Laster (June 20, 2011).

⁷⁹ Interview with Katie Resendiz (July 29, 2011).

charges of human trafficking, prosecutors in Texas have been known to utilize “super sexual assault” as an alternative charge, as well as kidnapping or sexual assault, generally. These related crimes may be more easily proven in court, and thus, this strategy has also been utilized in some Harris County cases.⁸⁰ Other charges that have been utilized include visa fraud, illegal reentry, importation for the purpose of prostitution, and the Mann Act.⁸¹

In Harris County, civil cases have, at times, been more successful than criminal prosecutions. Hindering the financial aspect of an operation may be easier than filing criminal charges, though this process still may not be straightforward. Closing down these businesses can often give the victims an opportunity to escape an otherwise highly-controlled atmosphere. This is especially effective if service providers are involved early. Unfortunately, this seems to be beneficial only in large counties with greater resources such as Harris County, where the County Attorney (civil) and the District Attorney (criminal) are separate entities.⁸²

However, it is important to use existing state trafficking laws to ensure that those laws do not become useless and outdated.⁸³ Additionally, failing to prosecute a human trafficking case appropriately obscures important data from the public record, reducing the ability to learn more about this crime and how best to address it.

A promising practice to these potential issues is to layer these suits with all applicable charges. In addition, any evidence of trafficking can be used as an aggravating circumstance, along with number of victims or treatment of victims, for purposes of longer sentencing.⁸⁴ Charging traffickers with a number of crimes, including trafficking, allows these laws to be utilized without as much risk of traffickers going free. In fact, in the *Maka* case, it was found that counts of human trafficking and human smuggling may be charged simultaneously.⁸⁵ Similarly, the *Reddy* case in Los Angeles included charges under RICO, the Fair Labor Standards Act, and the Alien Tort Act.⁸⁶

On the other side of prosecutorial remedies is the victim. Often, victims have been, and still are, treated as offenders. One prosecutor described the gradual shift from law enforcement’s previous view that “these tattooed, made up, adult-looking girls are juvenile

delinquents who need to be arrested for prostitution” to one where the girls are now treated as special victims. This is especially true in the larger cities that have anti-trafficking task forces.” Some states, such as Illinois, have passed laws protecting domestic minor victims of sex trafficking, but it is still unclear whether they are being arrested and detained under other charges.⁸⁷ In Texas, the Supreme Court recently stated that the statute defining the crime of prostitution cannot be applied to juveniles under 14 years of age because they cannot legally consent to sex. It left open the door for prosecutors to continue charging minors who are 14 and over with prostitution.⁸⁸

One Harris County service provider explained that, in addition to creative solutions in law enforcement and service provisions, one must be open to different ideas of legal representation as well. For example, including accredited representatives who have a social service background as legal aid can be a way to ensure that more individuals are receiving legal assistance.⁸⁹

⁸⁰ Interview with Dottie Laster (June 20, 2011).

⁸¹ Interview with the Office of the U.S. Atty. of the South. Dist. of TX. (Jul. 14, 2011).

⁸² Interview with Dottie Laster (June 20, 2011).

⁸³ Interview with Linda Brandmiller (July 8, 2011).

⁸⁴ Interview with the Office of the U.S. Atty. of the South. Dist. of TX. (Jul. 14, 2011).

⁸⁵ *U.S. v. Maka*, 237 Fed.Appx. 225 (2007).

⁸⁶ *Jane Doe I v. Reddy*, 2003 WL 23893010 (2003).

⁸⁷ IL Safe Children Act, H.B. 6464 (Aug. 20, 2010).

⁸⁸ In Re B.W., No. 08-1044, (Jun. 18, 2010).

⁸⁹ Interview with Dottie Laster (June 20, 2011).

CONCLUSION

Throughout the interviews, cases, and articles collected and synthesized in this report, the calls for better collaboration, increased education, and greater flexibility in dealing with human trafficking formed a clear pattern. Though the recommendations called for in this paper may not be easy to implement, their importance cannot be overstated. Human trafficking is and will continue to be a problem in the United States and throughout the world until law enforcement, legal, and social services for the victims can be improved.

As mentioned in the introduction, Cook County's response to human trafficking cases has dramatically improved since the beginning of this study. In 2010, the Cook County Human Trafficking Task force was formed as part of a federal grant from the US Department of Justice, Office of Victims of Crime. As part of the task force protocol, social service providers are in before a case even breaks to ensure support for victims. Youth serving organization, both private and public, including child protection/welfare, juvenile probation, and LGBT serving NGOs are part of the task forces. Local, state, and federal law enforcement meet and share information every month about possible cases. Since its inception, the Cook County task force has charged a total of 56 defendants in 36 indictments.

In 2010, the Illinois Safe Children's Act passed, which enhances previous state anti-trafficking legislation, and more explicitly decriminalizes juvenile prostitution for any minor under the age of 18, and mandates that children who are trafficked are referred to the state child protection system for protection and services within 24 hours. The law also expands law enforcement's ability to engage in wiretapping as part of their child trafficking investigations. It is still too early to evaluate how successfully the Illinois Safe Children's Act is being applied, but it is a hopeful step to improving outcomes for child trafficking victims in Illinois.

RELEVANT STATE LAWS

California

- 181 Infringement of personal liberty or attempt to assume ownership of persons
- 186 Distribution of proceeds from forfeiture sale, AKA California Control of Profits of Organized Crime Act (See 186.2 (a)(28))
- 236.1 Human Trafficking
 - 236.1(c) Human Trafficking of Minors
- 236.2 Duty of law enforcement agencies to use due diligence to identify victims of human trafficking, Indicators
- 236.3 Real property used to facilitate violation of [Human Trafficking] shall have nuisance procedures applied
- 236.5 Duty of law enforcement agencies upon encounter with victim of human trafficking regarding LEA endorsements
- 266 (k) Additional fines; Use for child sexual abuse prevention and counseling and to serve minor victims of human trafficking
- 273.7 Disclosure of trafficking or domestic violence shelter
- 293 Publication of information regarding victim of sex offense or human trafficking
- 784.8 Severence of counts in case of human trafficking (venue; joinders; where crime involves multiple jurisdictions)
- 13519.14 Training and guidelines for handling human trafficking complaints
- 14023 Priorities (The Attorney General shall give priority to matters involving organized crime, gang activities, drug trafficking, human trafficking, and cases involving a high degree of risk to the witness. Special regard shall also be given to the elderly, the young, battered, victims of domestic violence, the inform, the handicapped, and victims of hate incidents)

Texas

- 20A.01 Definitions
- 20A.02 Trafficking of persons
- 98.002 Liability in tort for trafficking in persons
- 98.003 Damages
- 98.004 Cause of action cumulative
- 98.005 Joint and several liability
- 98.006 Liberal construction and application
- 402.035 Human trafficking prevention task force
- 421.082(e)(2) Powers and duties

- 772.006(d),(e),(f) Governor's Criminal Justice Division
- 1701.258 Education and training programs on trafficking of persons
- 1701.402(h) Proficiency certificates
- 42.0191 Finding regarding victims of trafficking or other abuse
- 56.01(3) Definitions

New York

- 230.34 Sex trafficking
- 230.36 Sex trafficking; accomplice
- 135.35 Labor trafficking
- 135.36 Labor trafficking; accomplice
- 440.10 Motion to vacate judgment
- 311.4 Substitution of petition or funding
- L 447-a Definitions
- L 447-b Services for exploited children
- L 483-aa Definitions
- L 483-bb Services for victims of human trafficking
- L 483-cc Confirmation as a victim of human trafficking
- L 483-dd Law enforcement assistance with respect to immigration
- L 483-ee Establishment of interagency task force on human trafficking

Arizona

- 13-705 Dangerous crime against children; sentences; definitions
- 13-1306 Unlawfully obtaining labor or services; classification
- 13-1307 Sex trafficking; classification
- 13-1308 Trafficking of persons for forced labor or services; classification; definitions
- 13-1309 Restitution

Illinois

- 720 ILCS 5/10-9 Trafficking in persons, involuntary servitude, and related offenses
- 720 ILCS 5/124B-300 Forfeiture; Involuntary servitude and trafficking of persons

LIST OF IDENTIFIED CASES

Los Angeles County

U.S. v. Braggs; available at <http://news.change.org/stories/los-angeles-pimp-arrested-for-kidnapping-trafficking-young-teens> (Oct. 4, 2010).

U.S. v. Brown; Criminal Complaint Case No. 08-1839M (Filed Aug. 1 2008).

U.S. v. Chiles; available at <http://abclocal.go.com/kfsn/story?section=news/local&id=7407572> (Apr. 26, 2010).

U.S. v. Demafeliz et. al.; Criminal Complaint Case No. 08-0816M (Filed Apr. 2, 2008).

U.S. v. Doss, et. al.; U.S. Court of Appeals 9th Cir. ; No. 07-50334 (Filed Jan. 14, 2011).

U.S. v. Ibrahim, et. al.; available at <http://www.justice.gov/usao/cac/Pressroom/pr2006/089.html> (June 29, 2006).

U.S. v. Jackson; available at http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2007/August/07_crt_637.html (Aug. 20, 2007).

U.S. v. Jung, et. al.; Criminal Complaint Case No. 05-CR-00667-JVS-1 (Filed July 2005).

U.S. v. Morales; Criminal Complaint Case No. 10-00385 (Filed Apr. 16, 2010).

U.S. v. Orian; available at <http://www.cnn.com/2011/CRIME/04/21/farm.worker.trafficking/index.html> (Apr. 21, 2011).

U.S. v. Pepe; Criminal Complaint Case No. 07-00168 (Filed Mar. 8, 2007).

U.S. v. Vasquez-Valenzuela, et. al.; Criminal Complaint Case No. 07-CR-00111-MMM (Filed December 2006).

Yusuf v. Tija; Los Angeles County Super. Ct. No. BC375866 (Filed Oct. 14, 2010).

Harris County

U.S. v. Al-Zehairi; Criminal Complaint Case No. H-09-505M (Filed Jun. 26, 2009).

U.S. v. Ali; Criminal Complaint Case No. H-07-806M (Filed Sep. 11, 2007).

U.S. v. Butler; Criminal Complaint Case No. H-09-453 (Filed Aug. 4, 2009).

U.S. v. Davis; available at <http://www.justice.gov/usao/txs/1News/Releases/2010%20March/032410%20Davis.htm> (March 24, 2010).

U.S. v. Mondragon et. al.; Criminal Complaint Case No. H-05-890M (Filed Nov. 13, 2005).

U.S. v. Montano, et. al.; available at <http://app.dao.hctx.net/News.aspx?id=74> (June 4, 2009).

U.S. v. Rojas, et. al.; available at <https://www.oag.state.tx.us/oagnews/release.php?id=3640> (Feb. 18, 2011).

U.S. v. Salazar, et. al.; Criminal Complaint Case No. H-05-705M (Filed Aug. 22, 2005).

U.S. v. Soto-Huarta; available at http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2004/January/04_crt_054.htm (Jan. 29, 2004).

U.S. v. Torres-Ortega, et. al.; U.S. 11th Cir. Court of Appeals No. 98-4431 (Filed May 5, 1999).

New York Counties

Baonan v. Baja; 627 F. Supp. 2d 155 (Jun. 16, 2009).

EG v. MG; available at <http://www.law.com/jsp/law/international/LawArticleIntl.jsp?id=1202433287690&slreturn=20120708155148> (Aug. 25, 2009).

U.S. v. Babeav; available at http://www.humantrafficking.org/uploads/publications/anti_trafficking_news_aug05.pdf (August 2005).

U.S. v. Carreto; available at <http://www.justice.gov/usao/nye/pr/2007/2007Mar02.html> (Mar. 2, 2007).

U.S. v. Garcia; available at http://www.humantrafficking.org/uploads/publications/anti_trafficking_news_aug05.pdf (August 2005).

U.S. v. Maccoy, et. al.; available at http://www.brooklynda.org/press_releases/2010/pr_jun_10.htm#01 (June 2, 2010).

U.S. v. Marcus; Criminal Sealed Affidavit in Support of Arrest Warrant (Filed May 9, 2005).

U.S. v. Marino, et. al.; Criminal Complaint Case No. S1-09-Cr. 1243 (Filed Apr. 19, 2010).

U.S. v. Paoletti-Lemus; available at http://www.humantrafficking.org/uploads/publications/anti_trafficking_news_aug05.pdf (August 2005).

U.S. v. Rivera; Criminal Complaint Case No. CR-09-619 (Filed Sept. 8, 2009).

U.S. v. Sabhanani; Criminal Complaint Case No. 07-591M (Filed May 14, 2007).

U.S. v. Salazar; Criminal Complaint Case No. 09-CR-00831-JG (Filed Nov. 25, 2009).

U.S. v. Sanders, et. al.; available at http://www.brooklynda.org/press_releases/2010/pr_jun_10.htm#01 (June 2, 2010).

U.S. v. Wilcox; available at http://www.brooklynda.org/press_releases/2010/pr_jun_10.htm#01 (June 2, 2010).

U.S. v. Yushuvayev, et. al.; Criminal Complaint Case No. 04-CR-00087-ILG (Filed Mar. 4, 2005).

U.S. v. Zavala, et. al.; available at <http://www.justice.gov/usao/nye/pr/2005/2005nov09.html> (Nov. 9, 2005).

Maricopa County

U.S. v. Acosta; Criminal Complaint Case No. 07-6174M (Filed Jul. 3, 2007).

U.S. v. Aguilar-Espinoza, et. al.; Criminal Complaint Case No. 09-7049M (Filed Feb. 3, 2009).

U.S. v. Bogan; Criminal Complaint Case No. 10-CR-00505 (Filed Apr. 20, 2010).

U.S. v. Fields, et. al.; Criminal Complaint Case No. 07-411-PHX-DGC (Filed Apr. 10, 2007).

U.S. v. Pineda-Duval; Criminal Complaint Case No. 06-2671M (Filed Aug. 8, 2006).

SAMPLING OF INTERVIEW QUESTIONS USED IN RESEARCHING THIS REPORT

In your opinion, what types of organizations or agencies are essential to a successful human trafficking task force?

Have you found any significant challenges or differences in dealing with cases involving child trafficking victims rather than adult trafficking victims? What about in cases with multiple victims where there are minors involved?

What are the main characteristics that you have identified in these cases (ie of victims, offenders, the facts generally, trafficking “hot spots”)?

In your experience, how do agencies respond differently to cases involving US nationals and cases involving foreign nationals? How are the majority of cases you see resolved (ie prosecuted, sentenced)?

In some cases it seems as though the case could be resolved through a human trafficking charge but a strategic decision is made to charge with a different crime. In cases which qualify for human trafficking charges, how do you decide which charges to bring?

What would you say are general best practices in these cases?

What investigative strategies do you believe are most effective in human trafficking cases?

Do you believe that your task force has reliable data and methods that could be shared nationally? What would improve communication between task forces?

ABOUT US

The Center for the Human Rights of Children at Loyola University Chicago (CHRC) represents, coordinates, and stimulates efforts to understand, protect and apply the human rights of children. The Center seeks guidance and inspiration from the tradition of Catholic teachings on social justice as well as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Recognizing that children require special protections, the Center for the Human Rights of Children pursues an agenda of interdisciplinary research, education, and service to address critical and complex issues affecting children and youth, both locally and globally. The Center applies a human-rights approach to the problems affecting children, reaffirming the principle of the indivisibility of human rights and the importance of promoting economic, social, cultural, civil, and political rights of children.

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