

USING DATA TO ASSIST HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

Data provide concrete input for service providers to use in determining how to assist individuals affected by human trafficking. Data are a valuable tool in identifying potential victims of trafficking, patterns and tactics of perpetrators, high-risk sectors within certain industries, and the effectiveness of an organization's policies, protocols, and partnerships in serving victims. Service providers must be able to distinguish which sets of data apply most to their current cases and how that data can help survivors of trafficking and the service providers in their community.

Defining Data Types

A wide variety of data are available to the field. The challenge for service providers is defining which data types will be most relevant given their community and their needs. Human trafficking data from big cities may help guide human trafficking programs but might not be as accurate in defining or identifying a small town's issues related to human trafficking.

Utilizing data collected on the characteristics of the victims of human trafficking—including their countries of origin, ages, genders, and how they were trafficked—can assist service providers with understanding where to concentrate their efforts. This data may also help identify needs for language translators and outreach organizations. In addition, data collected on perpetrators can help service providers better understand recruitment tactics.

Using Data to Find Vulnerabilities

Service providers can evaluate data from high-risk industries to better understand traffickers' entrance point(s) and their recruitment tactics. Understanding these potential vulnerabilities can assist service providers in proactively addressing them. Sex trafficking can occur in settings that are often associated with labor trafficking, and labor trafficking can occur in settings associated with sex trafficking. It is also possible victims will be forced into both sex and labor trafficking. Human

trafficking can occur anywhere. The settings¹ listed below are places where labor and sex trafficking can take place.

- Labor Trafficking
- Agriculture
- Construction or Landscaping
- Exotic Dance Clubs
- Forced Criminal Activity
- Private Homes, Commercial Businesses, Hotels, Health Care, and Housekeeping Agencies
- Public Begging/Street Peddling
- Restaurants and Bars
- Salons
- Traveling Sales Crews
- Sex Trafficking
- Exotic Dance Clubs
- Commercial Fronts (e.g., massage parlors, beauty salons, nail salons)
- Residential Settings
- Escort Services or Hotel/Motel Sex Trafficking
- Truck Stops and Rest Stop Sex Trafficking
- Pornography and Remote Sexual Acts
- Street-Based Sex Trafficking

Using Data to Focus Resources

Data provide an opportunity for service providers and law enforcement personnel to increase awareness of human trafficking in a community. Data allow individuals to “see” an issue through numbers and analysis, even if they are unfamiliar with trafficking in their community.

Using Data to Reach Underserved Populations

Knowing who the underserved populations are in a community allows service providers to make conscious choices and efforts to reach them and address their needs. Data can provide insight on language barriers, geographic location, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration status, ethnicity, race, age, and disability. By effectively using data, organizations can tailor services and identify local referral options to meet the needs of trafficking victims in their community.

Additional Information

Contact the Human Trafficking Capacity Building Center at contact@ovc-htcbc.org or 1-844-682-0411.

¹ These settings are from Module 4: Recognizing and Responding to Human Trafficking from the Office for Victims of Crime’s *Understanding Human Trafficking* training series.