



Intersection of Child Labor Trafficking and Child Welfare

Presenter/Moderator: Melissa Gomez, Child & Family Policy Institute of California

Panelists:

Evelyn Gonzalez, Fresno EOC, Central Valley Against Human Trafficking

Jamelia Hinds-Vicks, Anti-Trafficking Consultant

Jennifer Lyle, MISSEY

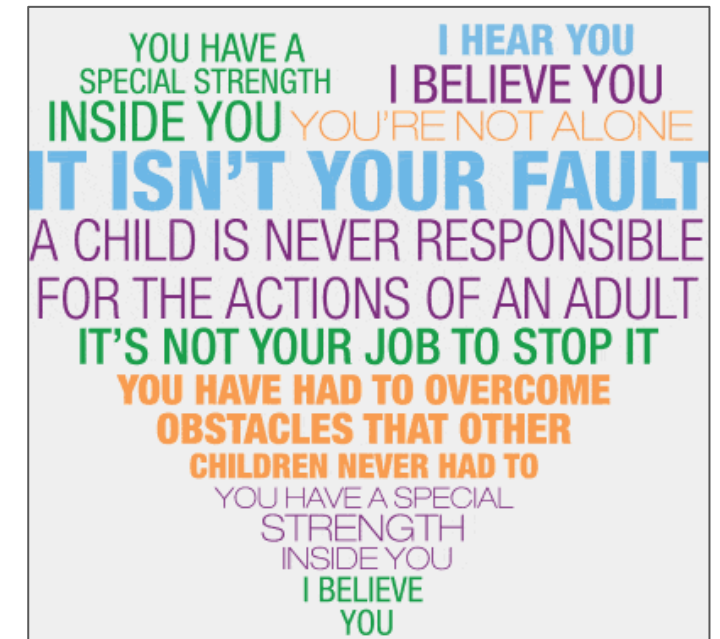
Suleman Masood Anti-Trafficking Consultant



History of Legislation: Child Welfare Mandate

- SB-855 introduces CSE under the purview of Child Welfare.
- AB-2035 would have clarified that child abuse in CA includes both child labor and sex trafficking. It was vetoed and hasn't been revisited. (Although veto message acknowledged “tragedy and suffering” of it's victims).
- At least 13 other states include child labor trafficking in their definition.

“Hotline Statistics,” National Human Trafficking Hotline, <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/states>.





Intersection of Child Labor Trafficking and Child Welfare

- A typical response is “we just aren’t seeing it.”
- How do we define labor trafficking?
- Are we looking in the right places and asking the right questions?
- If we did – what would we find?
- Would we be prepared to provide the support that youth need?
- Where do we start?





Child Labor Trafficking Definition

- The use of “force, fraud, or coercion” leading a child or youth to perform a labor or service.
- **Force** involves physically restraining or harming a victim.
- **Fraud** deceives victims about aspects of their employment including job duties, work conditions, and payment.
- **Coercion** includes threats of serious psychological/physical harm to the victims or their loved ones, or real or threatened abuse of the legal system (i.e., threatening youth with deportation or prosecution by the police).

*Do not confuse with labor exploitation or the legal child workforce.

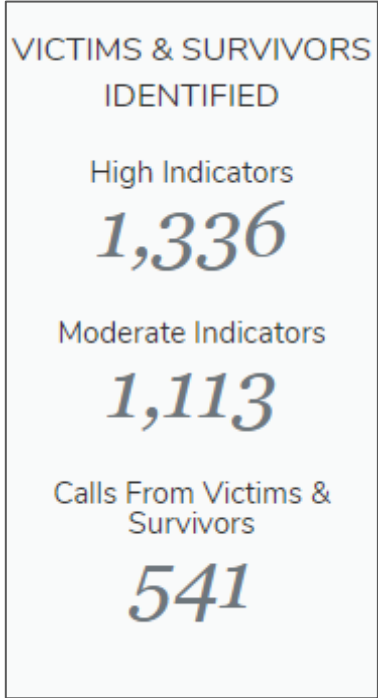
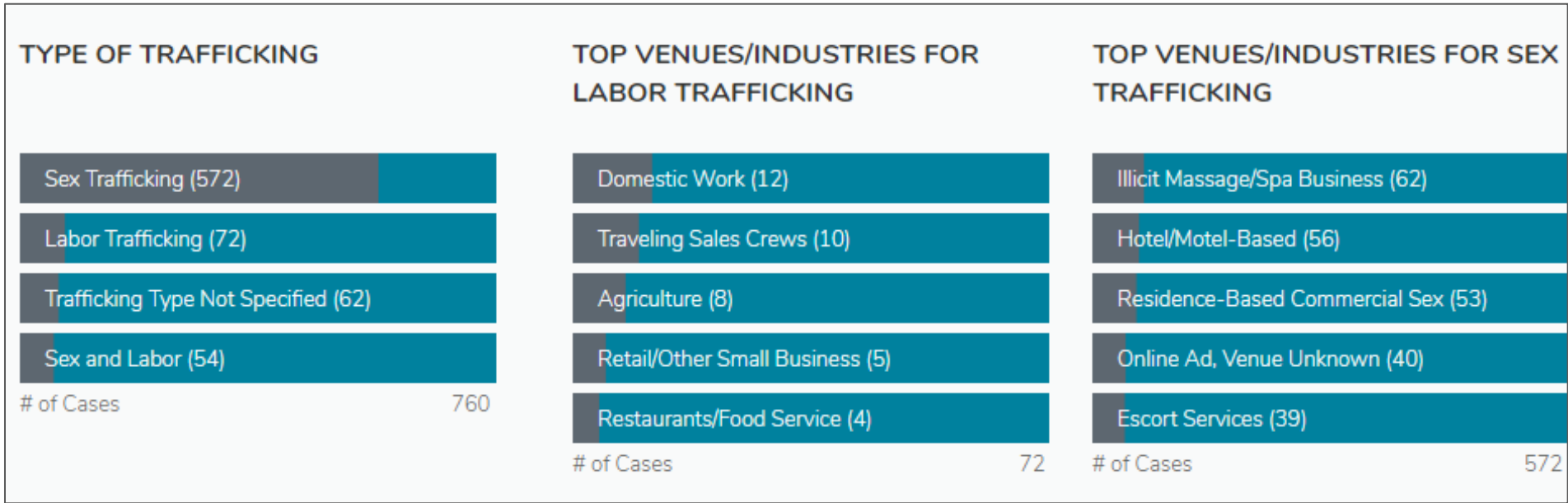
Administration on Children, Youth and Families 2013



National Human Trafficking Hotline Data – June 2018



- California leads the U.S. with 15% of all cases of trafficking
- More than 30% of trafficking in California involves children



“Hotline Statistics,” National Human Trafficking Hotline, <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/states>.



Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking – CAST Analysis of Cases

- Included analysis of its database of 1,800+ clients through March 2019
- 48% of trafficking cases involve labor trafficking in California
- 37.5% of trafficking cases involve minors and transitional-age youth
- Numerous clients involved in child labor trafficking included forced criminality





Covenant House Study – 911 Homeless Youth, 2016

- 45% (74 of 166) trafficked for labor, or sex plus labor
- 23% of youth with “foster care history” were trafficked
- In California (Los Angeles & Oakland), labor trafficking was more prevalent than sex trafficking
- “The vast majority (81%) of labor trafficking cases reported in this study were instances of forced drug dealing”



Murphy, Laura, “Labor and Sex Trafficking Among Homeless Youth: A 10-City Study,”
Loyola University New Orleans Modern Slavery Research Project (2016)



Florida Study – Dept. of Children & Families (1+ million foster care youth)

- Child welfare youths found to be involved in sex and labor trafficking.
- Being missing from foster care is a strong risk factor for trafficking.

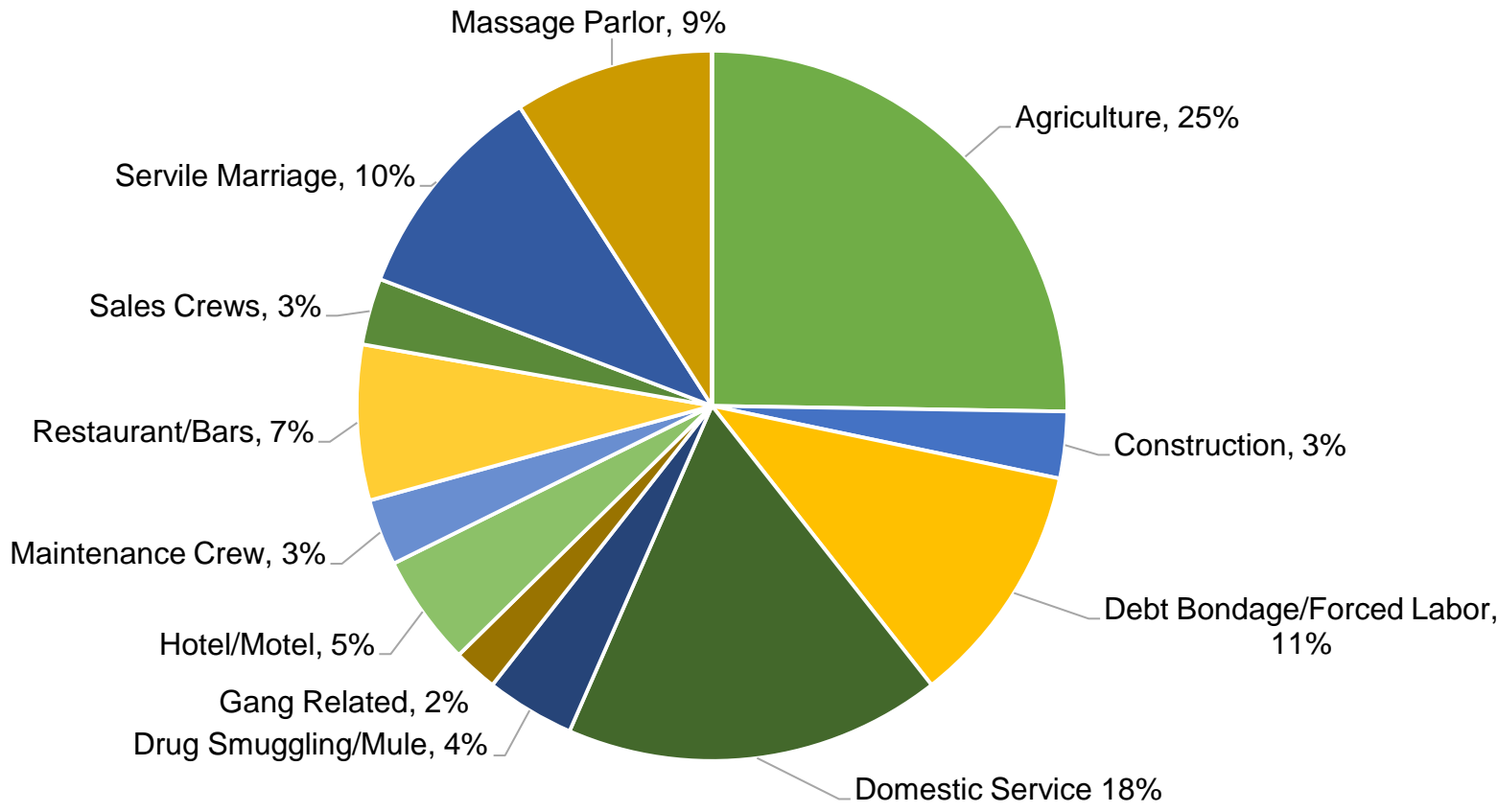
Gibbs, Deborah et al, "Sex and Labor Trafficking and the Child Welfare Population in Florida," presentation at International Family Violence and Child Victimization Research Conference, July 2018





 Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission
Sanctuary and Youth Services
Central Valley Against Human Trafficking

**Labor
Trafficking
Snapshot
Survey -
March 2017
(102 Cases)**





The “3rd Human Trafficking In San Francisco Report” (2018)

- Trafficking cases reported from 18 agencies operating in San Francisco
- 529 cases — 42% labor; 46% sex; 12% unknown
- Steady rise in the labor trafficking percentage over the previous 3 years.





Ohio 2019 Human Trafficking Prevalence Study

- Includes data from child welfare system and juvenile justice systems
- 1,042 trafficking victims at 4,209 at-risk individuals, 85.5% minors
- Labor Trafficking 14% of total: includes trafficking in the child welfare system.



https://humantrafficking.ohio.gov/links/Ohio_Human_Trafficking_Prevalence_Study_Full_Report.pdf



Recommendation: Labor Trafficking Action Plan





Real Life Case Examples

- A single mother is trafficked into agricultural work, her 7 year old child is being held as collateral until she “pays her debt.”
- A young male answers an ad for easy money and travels in a van selling magazines door to door for an abusive and exploitative crew leader.
- A 16 year old is forced to carry drugs over the Mexico border for her “boyfriend;” upon entering the U.S. she is also sold for sex.
- A 17-year old is kicked out of her home after revealing she is gay. She finds work as a nanny and faces threats from her employer who denies her pay and regularly sexually assaults her.



Real Life Case Examples

- A teenage male is forced to work long hours on a marijuana farm with little pay; his cell phone and identification documents are held by his employer.
- A individual profits off of “what appears to be their child” who is actually being forced to work long hours at “the family restaurant” without pay.
- A family is tricked into believing their young child will have a better life in the U.S. under the guise of fraudulent adoption papers.
- A teenager is forced by gang members to sell drugs, shoplift and recruit other youth into CSE.
- A 11 year old male lives with his mother (a caregiver and maid) at her employer’s home. The employer forces him to perform excessive chores, is not allowed to visit any friends outside of school hours and he care for the employer’s 5 year old son.



Labor Trafficking Indicators



- Performing work without pay, or not being paid what promised
- Done something that may have gotten them in trouble like holding or selling drugs for others because they were being forced or threatened
- No or minimal access to identification or important legal document/s
- Gaps in attendance or inability to go to school because they “had” to work
- Been arrested or committed a crime they felt someone else forced them to commit
- Transported to multiple states or regions selling magazine subscriptions or other products
- Got into trouble for holding or selling drugs for others
- Has a “parent,” “guardian” or other adult “sponsor” with no evidence of legal guardianship
- Performs extensive household work beyond common chores
- Demonstrates visible signs of malnourishment, bruises and/or other forms of abuse
- Isolated, fearful of and/or controlled by an “employer”



Thank You!

Melissa Gomez

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More Research is Needed! Upcoming Survey: University of Utah

Who can participate:

- Child Welfare Worker/Frontline Staff
- Service Providers: Advocates, Case Workers, Housing/Shelters, Mental Health, Health Care etc.
- Law Enforcement
- Any professional who works directly with children in the child welfare system

The purpose of the study is to understand identifying labor trafficked children in California who have already come into contact with the child welfare system.

To participate in the survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/G3BJP8L>

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*Responses are confidential



Brainstorming Session – Systems Mapping

