

INTRODUCTION

Human trafficking along the U.S/Mexico border is a significant public health issue that needs to be addressed by law enforcement and victim services providers. In response to this issue, the Southern Arizona Anti-Trafficking Unified Response Network (SAATURN), funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, was formed to combat human trafficking in three U.S. counties along the U.S./Mexico border. SAATURN's comprehensive effort is expected to:

- Educate the public, first responders, and service providers on recognizing potential victims of trafficking through training;
- Increase the prosecutions of human trafficking crimes;
- Expand the delivery of services for victims



DEFINITION OF TRAFFICKING

- 1) Sex trafficking in which a 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; or
- 2) 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

METHODS

Data were drawn from monthly reports provided by lead law enforcement and victim service agencies, an evaluation survey distributed to stakeholders every 6 months, and participation in Executive and Subcommittee meetings.

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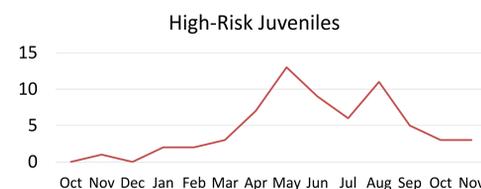
AT-RISK YOUTH FACTS

- Average age of youth entering into sex trafficking in Arizona is 14
- U.S.-born sex trafficking victims who are minors tend to be runaways, have a history of abuse, experienced poverty, have intergenerational involvement in prostitution, and drug involvement
- One in 4 homeless young adults have experienced sex trafficking
- 1 in 6 endangered runaway reported to NCMEC in 2014 were likely sex trafficking victims
- Runaway youth commonly engage in "survival sex" in exchange for food, clothing, or shelter
- Unaccompanied minor sex trafficking victims in transit to the U.S., leave their home country due to poverty, violence (including community violence), and limited options.

SCREENING QUESTIONS

- Were you told to do anything you did not want to do?
- Did anyone promise you something if you did? Who?
- Were you paid? Did you get to keep the money?
- Were you ever hurt?
- Did anyone say he or she would hurt you, your friends, or your family?
- Did you travel to different places?

LAW ENFORCEMENT DATA 2015-2016



A larger than expected number of high-risk juveniles involved in sex trafficking were identified.

VICTIM SERVICES DATA 2015-2016



Sex trafficking victims included 20 female minors.

Trafficking victims of unknown trafficking type included 23 female minors and 3 male minors.

TOP NEEDS OF AT-RISK YOUTH

- Housing & utilities
- Employment or education
- Food & money

COMMUNITY-BASED RESPONSE 2016-2018

- 1,167 runaway reports from parents & 1,103 from group homes reported to the Tucson Police Department in 2016
- Upon identifying more juveniles than expected, SAATURN created a multi-disciplinary subcommittee in August 2016 to specifically address the needs of high-risk juveniles
- Development of flow chart to identify key stakeholders and current service gaps
- Monthly meetings moved to various youth-serving agencies to learn about services available: Goodwill METRO, Pima County Juvenile Court, Southern Arizona Child Advocacy Center, Family Resource Centers, the Salvation Army, Our Family Services, Cenpatico, Sin Puertas
- Strategic outreach targeting at-risk juveniles
 - Group homes
 - Youth-serving agencies
 - Public events expected to draw minors
- Training state child protective service investigators
- Developing curricula on Healthy Relationships and Social Media Safety for use in schools and for community-based workshops
 - Curricula based on state Health Education Standards
 - Entry into school facilitated by partnership with AmeriCorps Community Schools Initiative
- Participation in regional training events:
 - Sex trafficking and child welfare speaker series (Arizona State University)
 - Reducing Demand for the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors in Your Community (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention)
 - Responding to Child Victims of Labor and Sex Trafficking (Amber Alert Community Workshop)
 - Cross Border Child Abduction (Amber Alert)
 - Multi-Disciplinary Team Response to Child Sex Trafficking (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and National Center for Missing and Exploited Children)

Acknowledgements: The development of this poster is supported by grant number #2015-VT-BX-K006-ECM, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime—U.S. Department of Justice and #2015-VT-BX-K0048, awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance—U.S. Department of Justice.