YES
Youth Experiences Survey
Year 4

DOMINIQUE ROE-SEPOWITZ, MSW, PH.D.
KRISTEN BRACY, MA, MSW
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

MELISSA BROCKIE, MSW
UMOM
This study was funded by:

THE MCCAIN INSTITUTE
for INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

CITY OF TUCSON

OMOM NEW DAY CENTERS

Our Family
Purpose, Method & Respondents

To understand the scope and complexity of sex trafficking among homeless young adults in Arizona.

Through surveying homeless young people about their experiences including sex trafficking victimization.

187 Homeless Young Adults Responded

52.4% From Arizona

28 Other States
4 Other Countries

Average Age: 21.1 Years Old
GENDER & ETHNICITY

49.2% Male

40.6% Female

7% Transgender / Other Gender

- White, 63, 36%
- Hispanic, 34, 20%
- Mixed Race, 33, 19%
- American Indian/Alaskan Native, 9, 5%
- Asian/Pacific Islander, 2, 1%
- African American, 31, 18%
- Arab, 1, 1%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Housing Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Couch Surfing</td>
<td>15.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>20.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitional Housing</td>
<td>28.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hotel</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Own Place</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MENTAL HEALTH & MEDICAL ISSUES

67.9% Current Mental Health Problem

Most common mental health issue:
Depression – 44.9%
Anxiety – 47.6%

54.5% Had a suicide attempt

53.5% Current medical problem

24.6% Received treatment services

Most common health problem:
Vision problems – 20.3%
Asthma – 24.6%
16.6% Believed they have an addiction to drugs
10.7% Believed they have an addiction to alcohol
64.7% Reported using drugs or alcohol
Most common drug used: Marijuana 40.1%
NEGATIVE LIFE EXPERIENCES

- **40.1%** Dating violence
- **34.8%** Negative experience with law enforcement
- **43.3%** Bullied by school peers
- **31%** Been sex trafficked
- **15.5%** no contact with family
- **14.4%** their home was not a safe environment
- **36.4%** were kicked out of their home
- **43.9%** Ran away
- **41.2%** Emotional abuse by parent or guardian
- **36.9%** group or foster home
- **30.5%** Sexual abuse
- **45.6%** would like to be more connected to family
- **14.4%** Their home was not a safe environment
- **36.4%** were kicked out of their home
- **36.9%** group or foster home
- **30.5%** Sexual abuse
- **45.6%** would like to be more connected to family
Positive Life Experiences

- 58.3% reported practicing safe sex
- 40.1% said NO when they felt they were being forced to have sex
- 40.6% had steady employment
- 48.7% had been in a club or youth organization
- 50.8% reported having a loving family or group of friends
- 42.8% enrolled in school or technical program
- 58.3% said no when offered drugs/alcohol
- 46% felt secure or safe to stand up for themselves
- 58.3% reported practicing safe sex
- 40.1% said NO when they felt they were being forced to have sex
- 40.6% had steady employment
- 48.7% had been in a club or youth organization
- 50.8% reported having a loving family or group of friends
- 42.8% enrolled in school or technical program
- 58.3% said no when offered drugs/alcohol
- 46% felt secure or safe to stand up for themselves
EXPERIENCE OF SEX TRAFFICKING

Of the 187 homeless young adult respondents
31% Identified as being sex trafficked

38.2%
Of females reported sex trafficking

33%
Of transgender/other gender reported sex trafficking

25%
Of males reported sex trafficking

Average age of first sex trafficking experience: 16.6 years old

82.8%
Reported having a sex trafficker

43.1%
Were sex trafficked before age 18

6.9%
Reported being currently sex trafficked
EXCHANGE OF SEX

- FOOD: 36.2%
- MONEY: 58.6%
- PLACE TO STAY: 39.7%
- CLOTHING: 20.7%
- PROTECTION: 20.7%
- DRUGS: 31%

SEX
Comparing sex trafficked youth to non-sex trafficked: significantly more likely to...

- **Gender & Sexuality**
  - Identify as LGBTQ

- **Drugs & Alcohol**
  - Drug addiction
  - Used methamphetamines
  - Drink alcohol excessively

- **Self-Harm & High Risk**
  - Cutting
  - Scarification
  - Body Modification
  - Vomiting /Not Eating
  - Have sex with strangers

- **Mental Health**
  - Suicide Attempt
  - Current mental health issue
  - More than one diagnosis

- **Medical Health**
  - No significant differences
COMPARING SEX TRAFFICKED YOUTH TO NON-SEX TRAFFICKED: SIGNIFICANTLY MORE LIKELY TO...

**Family Connection**
- Kicked out due to substance abuse
- Kicked out due to family not approving of sexual orientation

**Abuse**
- Physical and emotional abuse by parent or caregiver
- Childhood and adolescent sexual abuse

**Negative experiences**
- Running away from home
- Juvenile justice system
- Foster care / group home
- Residential treatment center

**Negative experiences**
- Harassment by peers
- Bullying by peers
- Academic difficulty
Of the 187 homeless young adult respondents, 32.1% identified a labor trafficking experience. 35.5% of females reported labor trafficking. 27.2% of males reported labor trafficking. The average age of first labor trafficking experience was 16.5 years old. 66.7% reported having a labor trafficker. 35% were labor trafficked before age 18. 18.3% reported being currently labor trafficked.
LABOR TRAFFICKING

- 58.3% FOOD
- 66.7% MONEY
- 55% PLACE TO STAY
- 43.3% CLOTHING
- 28.3% PROTECTION
- 30% DRUGS

Labor Trafficking
Comparing labor trafficked youth to non-labor trafficked: Significantly more likely to...

- **Gender & Sexuality**: No significant differences
- **Drugs & Alcohol**: Drug addiction (Used methamphetamines), Drinking alcohol excessively
- **Self-Harm & High Risk**: Cutting, Scarification, Body Modification, Vomiting and Not Eating, Have sex with strangers
- **Mental Health**: Suicide Attempt, Current mental health issue, More than one diagnosis
- **Medical Health**: Current medical problem, Poor vision
COMPARING LABOR TRAFFICKED YOUTH TO NON-LABOR TRAFFICKED: SIGNIFICANTLY MORE LIKELY TO...

**Family Connection**
- Kicked out due to substance abuse
- Kicked out due to family not approving of sexual orientation

**Abuse**
- Witnessing domestic violence in the home
- Emotional and physical abuse by parent/guardian
- Sexual abuse as a child and adolescent
- Being abused and being an abuser in a domestic violence relationship
- Dating violence

**Negative experiences**
- Foster Care
- Group Home
- Residential Treatment Center
- Special education classes

**Negative experiences**
- Harassment by peers
- Bullying by peers
- Gang affiliation
- Adult entertainment industry
Participants who reported a sex trafficking experience
Year-to-Year Comparison

YES COMPARISONS 2014-2017

2014: 25.6%
2015: 35.8%
2016: 33.2%
2017: 31.0%
Comparisons 2014-2017

- **Emotional Abuse by Parent/Guardian**
  - 2014: 43.6%
  - 2015: 62.7%
  - 2016: 56.1%
  - 2017: 60.3%

- **Increase in More than One Reported Mental Health Diagnosis**
  - 2014: 41.6%
  - 2015: 62.1%
  - 2016: 77.6%

- **Increase in Reported Drug Addiction**
  - 2014: 15.2%
  - 2015: 24.3%
  - 2016: 27.3%
  - 2017: 31.0%

- **Increase in Reported Suicide Attempts**
  - 2014: 56.5%
  - 2015: 52.7%
  - 2016: 68.2%
  - 2017: 77.6%
Comparisons 2014-2017

Increase in Reported Depression

- 2014: 9.5%
- 2015: 44.7%
- 2016: 56.1%
- 2017: 62.1%

Increase in Reported PTSD

- 2014: 7.9%
- 2015: 19.7%
- 2016: 27.3%
- 2017: 34.5%

Increase in Reported Anxiety

- 2014: 3.2%
- 2015: 32.9%
- 2016: 68.2%
- 2017: 70.7%

Increase in Reported Bipolar Disorder

- 2014: 15.9%
- 2015: 34.2%
- 2016: 40.1%
- 2017: 58.6%
Comparisons 2014-2017

Increase in Report of Sexual Orientation as LGBTQ

- 2014: 38.4%
- 2015: 52.9%
- 2016: 54.5%
- 2017: 60.7%

Increase in Living in Foster Care/Group Home

- 2014: 31.8%
- 2015: 29.3%
- 2016: 33.3%
- 2017: 46.6%

Increase in Dating Violence

- 2014: 31.8%
- 2015: 56.8%
- 2016: 53.0%
- 2017: 62.1%
Implications

- Homeless young adults face numerous challenges including mental health, substance abuse, and traumatic life experiences.
- Limited family connections.
- Limited acceptance of their sexual orientation.
- Reports of a lack of safety in their homes.
- Extraordinary vulnerability:
  - Sex trafficking victims: one in three participants.
  - Labor trafficking victims: one in three participants.
Implications (continued)

- National trend to decrease transitional housing and youth focused programming.
- Screenings for trafficking need to be implemented in other service systems that work with homeless and runaway youth.
  - Particularly in medical and crisis mental health settings.
Questions?

DOMINIQUE.ROE@ASU.EDU

MBROCKIE@UMOM.ORG
A Four-year Analysis of Labor Trafficking Cases in the United States

Exploring Characteristics and Labor Trafficking Patterns

February 2018

Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz, MSW, Ph.D.
Kristen Bracy, MA, MSW
Bandak Lul, MA
This study was conducted by the Arizona State University Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research
To explore the individual characteristics and labor trafficking-related actions and behaviors of labor traffickers of migrant and domestic workers during a four-year period in the United States from 2013-2016.
goals

1. To fill a gap in the knowledge about the scope of arrests of labor traffickers of migrant and domestic workers in the United States.

2. To add to the literature regarding the vulnerabilities of migrant and domestic workers exploited by labor trafficking.

3. To explore the distribution of arrests of labor traffickers of migrant and domestic workers in the United States.

4. To explore patterns of different types of labor traffickers of migrant and domestic workers (females, staffing agencies, solo vs. group offenders).

5. To use the information to develop specific training for law enforcement and prosecutors on characteristics of labor trafficking in the United States.
research plan

2-step process

1. A structured online search for arrests for labor trafficking of migrant and domestic workers to develop a master list of names.

2. A web search of the identified labor trafficker identified in the arrest report (media, local, state or federal report) to include any follow-up reports, court documents, or police reports.
definitions

Forced Labor
Includes, but is not limited to, recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining—involved when a person uses force or physical threats, psychological coercion, abuse of the legal process, deception, or other coercive means to compel someone to work.

Bonded Labor or Debt Bondage
Includes, but is not limited to, traffickers or recruiters who unlawfully exploit an initial debt assumed, wittingly or unwittingly, as a term of employment.

Domestic Servitude
Includes, but is not limited to, work in a private residence that creates unique vulnerabilities for victims. In these situations, the domestic worker is not free to leave his/her employment and is abused and underpaid, if paid at all.

Forced Child Labor
Some indicators of forced labor of a child include situations in which the child appears to be in the custody of a non-family member who requires the child to perform work that financially benefits someone outside the child's family and does not offer the child the option of leaving.

Bonded Labor or Debt Bondage
Includes, but is not limited to, traffickers or recruiters who unlawfully exploit an initial debt assumed, wittingly or unwittingly, as a term of employment.
definitions
smuggling vs. human trafficking

Smuggling vs. Human Trafficking
Researchers entered the data into a statistical database (SPSS), which was used to collate, code, and analyze the data.

T-tests, ANOVA, and chi-square analysis were used to explore the labor trafficker and victim characteristics and differences, as well as changes over the four-year data collection period. Comparisons between solo labor traffickers and group labor traffickers were examined as well.
findings

Labor traffickers of migrant and domestic workers arrested from 2013 to 2016 in the United States.

Steady increase from 2013 to 2016.
findings

73.6% of the cases involved labor trafficking only.

26.4% of the cases involved labor and sex trafficking.
The 125 individuals arrested for labor trafficking were found in reports and cases files in 20 states in the United States.

Map of all arrests for the labor trafficking of migrants and domestic workers in the U.S. from 2013-2016.
The labor trafficker

$N = 125$

Males
$n = 78, 63\%$

Females
$n = 45, 37\%$

Gender distribution:
- Male: 63\%
- Female: 37\%
the labor trafficker

N = 125

Female average age
41.4 years

Age range when arrested
20 to 70 years old

(M = 42.4, SD = 11.21)

Male average age
43 years
the labor trafficker
N = 125

ethnicity

- Pacific Islander/Asian: 53.2%
- Caucasian: 18.0%
- African American: 16.2%
- Hispanic: 12.6%
the victim
N = 120

Males
n = 16, 22.9%

Females
n = 52, 74.3%

Transgender
2, 2.9%

gender identity
The victim type N = 120

79.2% of the cases involved migrant worker victims.

20.8% of the cases involved domestic worker victims.
83.2% (n = 104) Adult victims only
8.8% (n = 11) Minor victims only
8% (n = 10) Both adult and minor victims
76% (n = 92) of the labor trafficking victims originated from another country other than the United States. Labor traffickers moved their migrant victims from 16 countries around the globe to the United States for the purpose of trafficking them.
findings

49.6% of the labor traffickers bought tickets for state travel with victim(s) using buses, trains, trucks, and/or airplanes, and up to 8 states.

11.2% of the cases involved a victim who was smuggled to the trafficking location and exploited.
In 60% (n = 75) of the labor trafficking cases, the victims knew their trafficker.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>N =125</th>
<th>Percent (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acquaintances</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>56.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete Stranger</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>40.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friend</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romantic Partner</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Labor traffickers used staffing agencies, word of mouth, job advertisements, newspapers, and technology (email, online ads, and smartphones) to recruit victims.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recruitment Methods</th>
<th>N = 125</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staffing agencies</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>33.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online advertisement</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backpage.com</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>21.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Word of mouth</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
33.6% recruited victims through a **staffing agency**.

34.4% used **debt bondage** to force the victim into the labor trafficking situation.

49.6% used **promises** of money and wealth to recruit their victims.
findings

recruitment tactics

37.6% used promises of goods and rewards to the victim at the time of recruitment.

62.4% used their job position or position of authority to recruit the victim.

27.2% used bait and switch tactics, or tricked the victim into thinking they would be doing another job at the time of recruitment.
findings

97.6% psychological violence

28.8% threats of violence

25.6% physical force against victim

14.4% physical force against victim’s family

19.2% sexual violence

30.4% threatened to report victim to immigration for deportation

26.4% withheld victim’s passport/visa

5.6% threatened victim with a firearm

control tactics
findings

case identification

44%
The labor trafficker was arrested as a result of an investigation for another activity.

20%
The report was made to law enforcement by the victim.

13.6%
The report was made to law enforcement by an anonymous caller.
24.8% of the cases were identified through an immigration (ICE) sting/sweep.
79.2% (n=99) of the prosecutions in the arrests of the labor traffickers were at the federal level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th># of Cases Prosecuted</th>
<th>% of labor trafficker cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>79.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The average number of criminal charges the labor traffickers were **indicted** on.

The average number of criminal charges the labor traffickers were **convicted** of.
findings

charges related to labor

forced labor

Domestic servitude

labor trafficking

Involuntary servitude

Conspiracy to commit forced labor

trafficking for labor/benefits

human trafficking
other charges

- fraud
- racketeering
- contributing to delinquency of a minor
- harboring unauthorized citizens
- evading employment taxes
- kidnapping
- obstruction of justice
findings

labor trafficker case resolutions

- 6.4% denied bond
- 72% went to trial
- 58.4% were found guilty
- 58.4% resulted in plea agreement
- 5.6% had charges dropped completely
- 16% paid restitution
Sentences ranged from no time in prison to life in prison with an average minimum sentence of 6.13 years in prison.
Year: 2015
Location: Ohio
# of traffickers: 3 labor traffickers and 3 associates
# of victims: 10 (8 minors, 2 adults from Guatemala)
Type of labor trafficking: Forced labor on egg farm
case study 1

elements of exploitation

false promises of work, a better life, and education

debt bondage

transporting across borders

unsafe living conditions

withheld payment

humiliation and deprivation

threatened with physical harm
Case Study 1

Ringleader

Pled guilty to:
• Conspiracy to commit forced labor
• Forced labor
• Witness tampering
• Harboring undocumented immigrants

Sentence:
• 15+ years (188 months) in prison

Trafficker 2

Pled guilty to:
• Conspiracy to commit forced labor

Sentence:
• 10 years in prison

Trafficker 3

Sentence:
• 10 years in prison

Associate 1

Pled guilty to:
• Immigration offenses

Sentence:
• 6 months in prison

Associate 2

Pled guilty to:
• Immigration offenses

Sentence:
• 12 months in prison

Associate 3

Pled guilty to:
• Immigration offenses

Sentence:
• 15 months in prison
30 (60%) states in the US had no documented labor trafficking arrests.

The number of labor trafficking cases nearly doubles from 18 cases in 2013 to 35 in 2016. However, 2014 alone had 50 (40%) cases.
trends

An increase over the four-year period (2013-2016) in:
- Immigrant labor trafficker involvement
- Labor traffickers involved in visa fraud
- Labor traffickers withholding the victims’ passport/visa
- Labor traffickers providing their victims with shelter as a recruitment tool
- Labor traffickers exclusively victimizing only migrant workers
49.6% of the labor traffickers crossed state lines with their victim(s) (auto, bus, trucks, airplanes, states).
1. Learn more about the unique roles of foreign national individuals in the recruitment and labor trafficking of migrant workers.

2. Training for all modes of public transportation and development of protocol for reporting.

3. Education and awareness to populations who may be vulnerable to labor trafficking recruitment.

4. Recognize that many labor traffickers know their victims and their victims’ vulnerabilities.

5. Encourage proactive policing models that utilize a holistic approach to labor trafficking investigations.

6. Focus on holding the venues that facilitate labor trafficking accountable.
Future research and training should focus on the areas of the country with no or few arrests for labor trafficking, as well as the hospitality, agriculture and home health care agency industries, which in most cases were found to interact with a migrant worker labor trafficking victim.
Thank you!
Questions?

Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz, MSW, Ph.D.
Dominique.Roe@asu.edu

Kristen Bracy, MA, MSW
Kristen.Bracy@asu.edu

Bandak Lul, MA
blul1@asu.edu