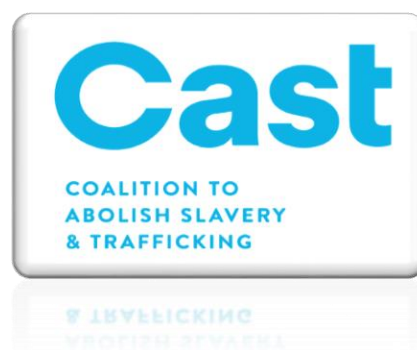


FILLING THE GAPS:

The Need for Better Data on the Prevalence of Human Trafficking in California

FIFTEEN YEARS AFTER CALIFORNIA PASSED ITS FIRST HUMAN TRAFFICKING LAW, REPORTS CREATED ON THE STATE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING ACROSS CALIFORNIA DEMONSTRATE THE LIMITED INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE TOPIC.

IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND AND COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING ON A STATEWIDE LEVEL, CALIFORNIA MUST INVEST IN GATHERING MORE COMPREHENSIVE DATA THROUGH A ROBUST PREVALENCE STUDY.





Note: The reports included in this summary include numerous findings and estimations regarding the magnitude of human trafficking in the state of California and suggested recommendations to combat human trafficking, the details of which cannot be fully captured in this concise format.

- **2005** - The Human Rights Center, University of California, Berkeley, *Freedom Denied: Forced Labor in California*.
 - Purpose: To provide legislators and policy-makers with information about forced labor in California. The report provided a snapshot of the information known in 2005, it examined the “gaps” in efforts to combat forced labor, and it called for additional state legislation.
 - Data Set (No Prevalence): Documents 57 forced labor operations in almost a dozen cities in California
 - Main Recommendations: Stronger criminal sanctions, improved training of law enforcement, and transparent access to victim services and benefits.
- **2007** - California Alliance to Combat Trafficking and Flavery Task Force, *Human Trafficking in California*.
 - Purpose: California’s first anti-trafficking law (Assembly Bill 22) charged the Task Force to identify the magnitude of human trafficking in the state, safeguard victims, prosecute traffickers, and prevent future violations.
 - Data Set (No Prevalence): State-wide survey collected 101 responses, with nearly 50% of responses selecting “did not collect data” on human trafficking cases.
 - Main Recommendations: Organizational funding, public education, stronger criminal sanctions, improved training of law enforcement, transparent access to victim services and benefits, and improve conditions in “source” countries.
- **2012** - Kamala D. Harris, Attorney General, California Department of Justice, *The State of Human Trafficking in California*.
 - Purpose: To provide an update to the 2007 Task Force report and introduce new concepts such as “cross-border participation” between the United States and Mexico, the role of technology and social media in human trafficking, and the expansion of gangs into human trafficking.
 - Data & Prevalence: California’s 9 regional human trafficking task forces identified 1,277 victims, but statistical data on human trafficking, when available, may be understated, unreliable, or inconsistent.
 - Main Recommendations: Gather comprehensive human trafficking data, leveraging technology to combat trafficking, transparent access to victim services and benefits, and leverage cross-border partnerships to fight trafficking.
- **2012** - Sheldon X. Zhang, Department of Justice, *Looking for a Hidden Population: Trafficking of Migrant Laborers in San Diego County*.
 - Purpose: To provide statistically sound estimates of the prevalence and type of victimization of human trafficking victims in migrant communities in San Diego County.
 - Data & Prevalence: Completed 826 interviews and estimated 38,458 victims of labor trafficking in San Diego County.
 - Main Recommendations: High profile prosecutions, community collaboration between organizations and the migrant communities, and public awareness campaigns.

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- **2013** - Kate Walker, California Child Welfare Council, *Ending the Commercial Sex Exploitation of Children: A Call for Multi-System Collaboration in California*.
 - Purpose: To examine the difficulties and barriers to identifying victims of commercial sex exploitation and provide models for approaches addressing the needs of commercial sex exploitation of children.
 - Data Set (No Prevalence): Reviewed 267 cases from January 2011- December 2012 in Alameda County
 - Main Recommendations: Education strategies and cross-system screening for victim identification and expansive victim services.

- **2016** - Ami Carpenter & Jamie Gates, Department of Justice, *The Nature and Extent of Gang Involvement in Sex Trafficking in San Diego County*.
 - Purpose: To investigate the nature and assess of the scope of gang involvement in sex trafficking in San Diego County through 5 major data sources: (i) surveys, (ii) intake forms, (iii) arrest records, (iv) focus groups, and (v) personal interviews.
 - Data & Prevalence: Collected data from 1,205 individuals, including gang affiliated persons, survivors, and County School staff. Estimates 2,153 - 2,870 sex trafficking victims annually.
 - Main Recommendations: Robust community policing, prison-based rehabilitation services, and expansive prosecution of offenders.

- **2016** - Laura T. Murphy, *Labor and Sex Trafficking Among Homeless Youths*.
 - Purpose: To provide data of the labor and sexual exploitation of homeless youth in the care of Covenant House, a private agency providing services to youth facing homelessness, across 10 cities in the United States and Canada.
 - Data Set (No Prevalence): Interviewed 641 homeless and runaway youth, with nearly 1 in 5 identified as human trafficking victims. Findings limited to prominence of sex and labor trafficking among homeless and runaway youth.
 - Main Recommendations: Prevention efforts focused on job training, victim relocation networks, and funding for additional shelters and shelter beds with victim services.

- **2017** - Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission, *Central Valley Human Trafficking Statistics*.
 - Purpose: To provide a snapshot of human trafficking victims and victim services statistics in the Central Valley.
 - Data Set (No Prevalence): Identified 480 victims between 2010-2017.
 - Main Recommendations: N/A.

- **2018** - City and County of San Francisco, Department of the Status of Women, *3rd Human Trafficking in San Francisco Report*.
 - Purpose: To compile information and data on human trafficking in the Bay Area from 18 agencies during 2016.
 - Data Set (No Prevalence): Identified 529 human trafficking survivors in 2016. The study cautions it “is not an accurate reflection of the prevalence of human trafficking in San Francisco” and “should be considered a starting point for further study.”
 - Main Recommendations: Develop a human trafficking unit at the District Attorney’s Office, increase input from affected individuals, and prioritize housing and placement options for vulnerable youth.

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