

Cast

2025 RESEARCH & EVALUATION SNAPSHOT

Cast's Research and Evaluation program engages in survivor-centered, anti-oppression scholarship. Our work addresses anti-trafficking [practice](#), including but not limited to the provision of direct services to survivors; training and technical assistance for attorneys and social services practitioners; and [policy](#) at the local, state, and federal levels.

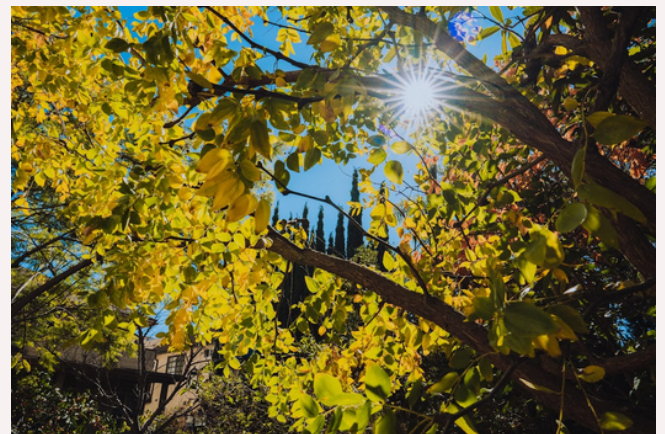
Survivor Health Needs & Outcomes

Working with Cast Community Case Management staff and partners at HEAL Trafficking, we analyzed data from 300 former clients to explore survivors' [long-term health needs](#). We learned that 1 in 3 clients needed dental care, and a majority of clients needed referrals for general health care as well as emotional behavioral health.

The study was published in the [Journal of Human Trafficking](#). We also presented our work at a conference on addressing human trafficking in health care settings.

Forced Criminality

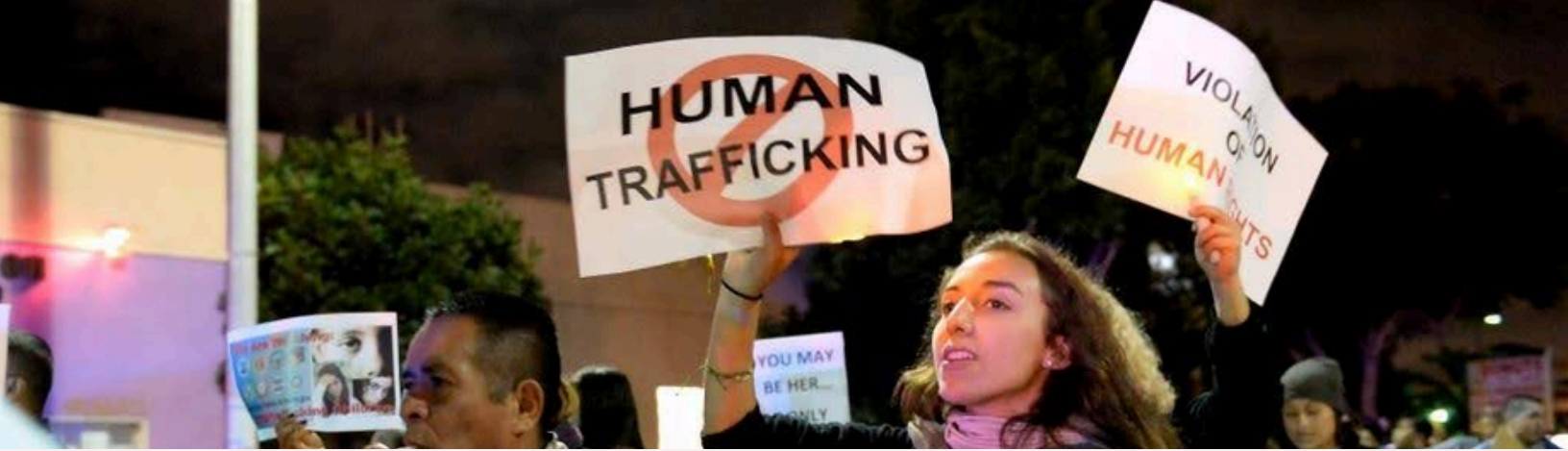
Forced criminality occurs when traffickers make survivors engage in illegal activities. Unfortunately, these survivors are often misidentified as offenders and punished for crimes they were forced to commit.



SCREENING CRIMINAL DEFENDANTS

Cast is co-leading a three-year, [National Institute of Justice-funded study](#) to improve support for survivors who have been charged with crimes as a result of forced criminality. This year, we tested a screening tool for public defenders in four cities.

The full project team includes researchers at New York University, Northeastern University, and RTI International. We will be presenting preliminary findings at the 2026 Freedom Network conference.



SCREENING SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Whereas public defenders tend to have little time with each individual client, staff in anti-trafficking programs and other social services settings may have more time to build relationships. Working with Cast Legal Services staff, we published a [case study](#) on identifying forced criminality through more open-ended questions, allowing time for reflection and healing.

Community Engagement

Working with partners at Collective Threads Initiative, the University of North Carolina, and Kent State University, we have continued our work on ethical survivor engagement in media. In 2025, we published a paper in [Journalism Studies](#) that focused specifically on survivors' experiences with news media.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Cast and Collective Threads Initiative currently have a call for papers on engaging impacted communities in [Anti-Trafficking Review](#). Papers are due by June 1, 2026.

THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS!



MEET THE TEAM

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