



Sex and Labor Trafficking and the Child Welfare Population in Florida

International Family Violence
and Child Victimization
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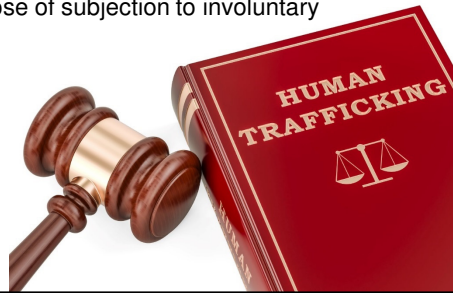
Panel overview

- Human trafficking and the child welfare population in Florida
 - Deborah Gibbs
- Trafficking experiences during missing from care episodes in the Florida child welfare population
 - Natasha Latzman
- Domestic labor trafficking of children in Florida
 - Deborah Gibbs
- Modeling trafficking risk profiles and under-identification of trafficking victimization
 - Stephen Tueller
- Questions and discussion

Human trafficking defined

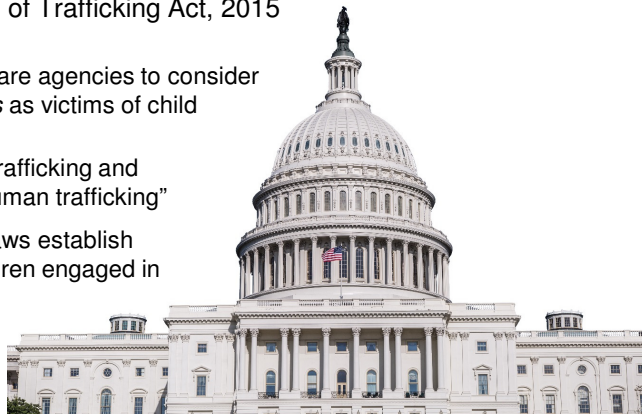
- The Trafficking Victims Protection Act¹ (TVPA) defines human trafficking as:
 - **Sex trafficking** in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or *in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age*; or
 - **Labor trafficking**, consisting of 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, or debt bondage

¹ Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-386) and subsequent reauthorizations, often referred to as the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.



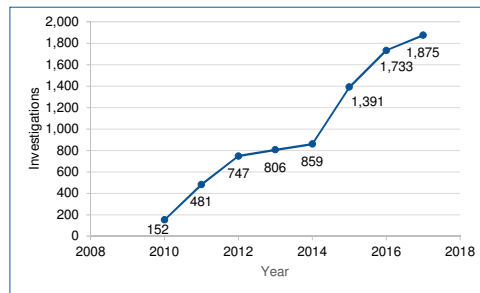
Child welfare agencies and human trafficking

- Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014 (Pub. L. 113-183)
 - Defines sex trafficking as a form of child abuse and neglect
 - Requires child welfare agencies to respond to sex trafficking *among children in their supervision*
- Justice For Victims of Trafficking Act, 2015 (Pub. L. 114-22)
 - Requires child welfare agencies to consider *all trafficked minors* as victims of child maltreatment
 - Includes both sex trafficking and “severe forms of human trafficking”
- State **Safe Harbor** laws establish victim status for children engaged in commercial sex



Evolving child welfare response

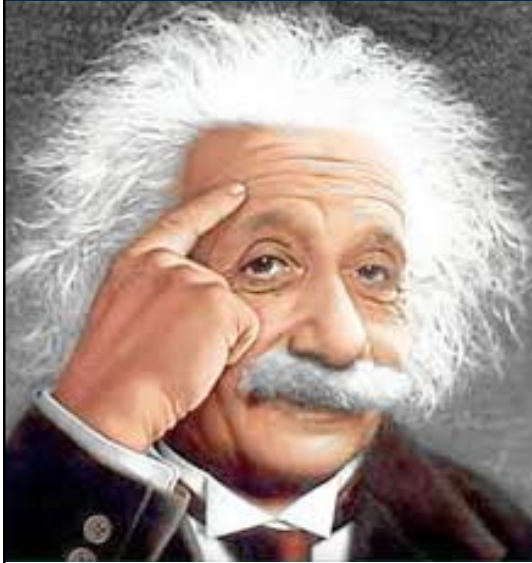
- Child welfare agencies are in the early stages of identifying, reporting and addressing trafficking victimization
- Florida began policy and practice response in 2009
 - Statewide and regional human trafficking coordinators
 - Multi-agency case conferences
 - Shared screening tool developed with juvenile justice
 - Specialized services funded through contracted care coordination



Current study

- Goals:
 - Describe the characteristics of children with allegations of human trafficking investigated by a state child welfare agency
 - Estimate the extent of unidentified trafficking victimization within that population
- Data source and population
 - Data from Florida's Department of Children and Families administrative system
 - Children with investigated allegations of *any kind of maltreatment* between 2011 and 2017
 - Entire child welfare history for each child
- Methods:
 - Descriptive statistics and multivariate models
- Funding: National Institute of Justice

Not everything that counts can be counted* ...



- Big data sets don't tell us about
 - Children's experienced of trauma
 - Service response to early maltreatment
 - Risks and resiliency
- Other limitations to bear in mind
 - **Uneven** identification of victimization
 - **Under**-identification of victimization

* Einstein didn't really say that



Human Trafficking and the Child Welfare Population in Florida

Deborah Gibbs, Stephen Tueller, Marianne Kluckman



Research questions

- What are the characteristics of investigated allegations of human trafficking?
- How do children with human trafficking allegations differ from others in the child welfare population?
- Among children with human trafficking allegations, how do those with prior child welfare histories differ from those encountering child welfare for the first time?

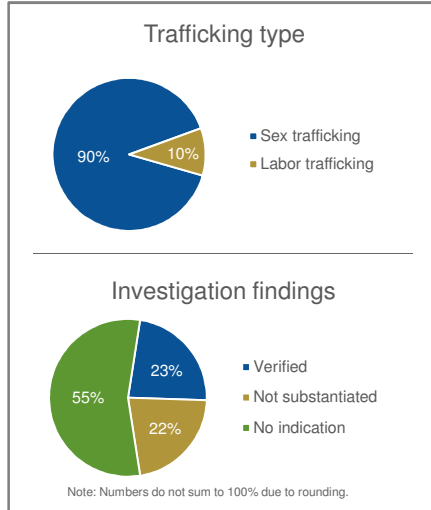
Method

- Sample drawn from the population of 1,047,183 youth with investigated maltreatment allegations between 2011 and 2017
- Key variables:
 - Investigated allegations for human trafficking and other forms of maltreatment; out-of-home placements, and episodes of missing from care
- Analyses
 - Chi Sq tests used to identify significant differences between youth with and without missing from care episodes
 - Odds ratios for age-dependent variables based on logistic regressions including age

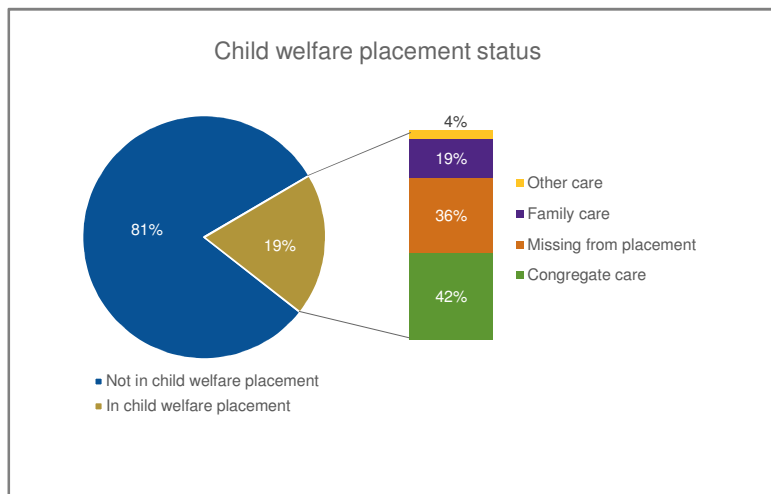
RQ1: What are the characteristics of human trafficking allegations?

- 8,044 investigated allegations of human trafficking
- 6,223 unique children: 0.6% of all children
- Among human trafficking allegations
 - 90% sex trafficking*
 - 23% of allegations verified

* Among human trafficking allegations identifying type of trafficking, 2013 and later



RQ 1: What are the characteristics of human trafficking allegations?



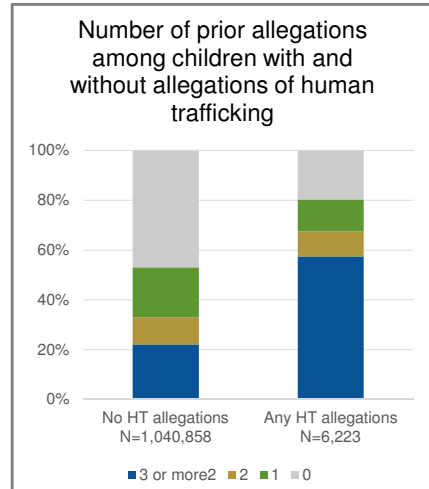
RQ2: How do children with human trafficking allegations differ from others?

Children with human trafficking allegations were

- More likely to be female (84% vs. 50%)
- Older (median age 16 years vs. 8 years)

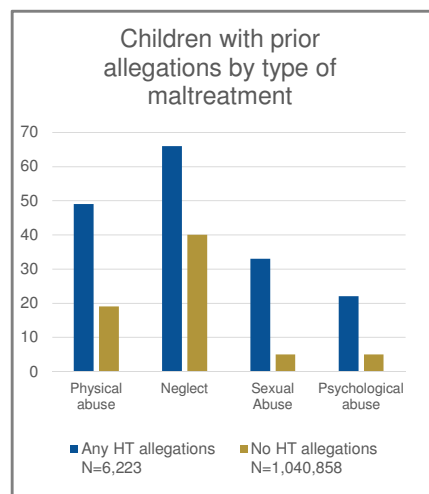
They were also:

- More likely to have prior allegations of maltreatment (80% vs. 53%)
- More likely to have had multiple investigations



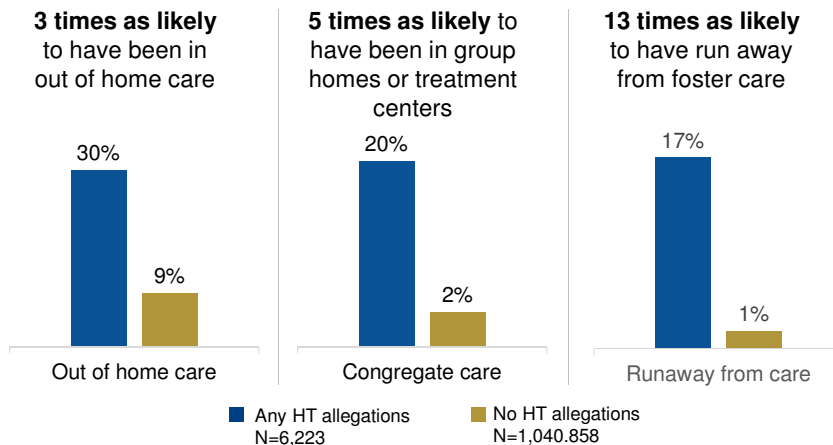
RQ2: How do those with human trafficking allegations differ from others?

- Children with human trafficking allegations were more likely to have prior allegations for all types of maltreatment
 - Greatest disparity was for sexual abuse
- Sexual abuse frequently noted as a risk for trafficking victimization – but few children had only sexual abuse allegations



RQ2: How do those with human trafficking allegations differ from others?

Children with human trafficking allegations were...

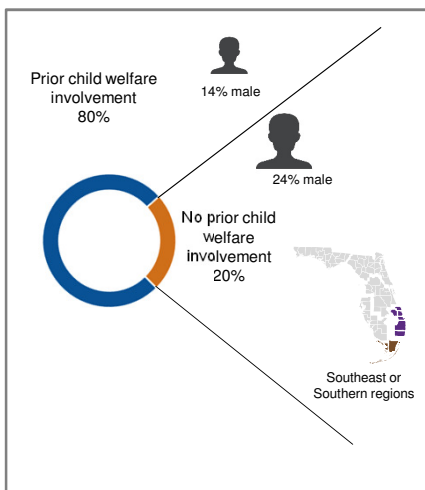


Odds ratios based on logistic regression model including child age at most recent investigation

RQ 3: How do children with prior child welfare history differ from others with trafficking allegations?

One-fifth of children with trafficking allegations had **no prior child welfare involvement**

- Compared to those **with** prior child welfare involvement, these children were:
 - Younger (median age 13.5 vs. 14.2)
 - More likely to be male (24% vs 14%)
 - More likely to be in Southeast or Southern regions (40% vs. 30%)



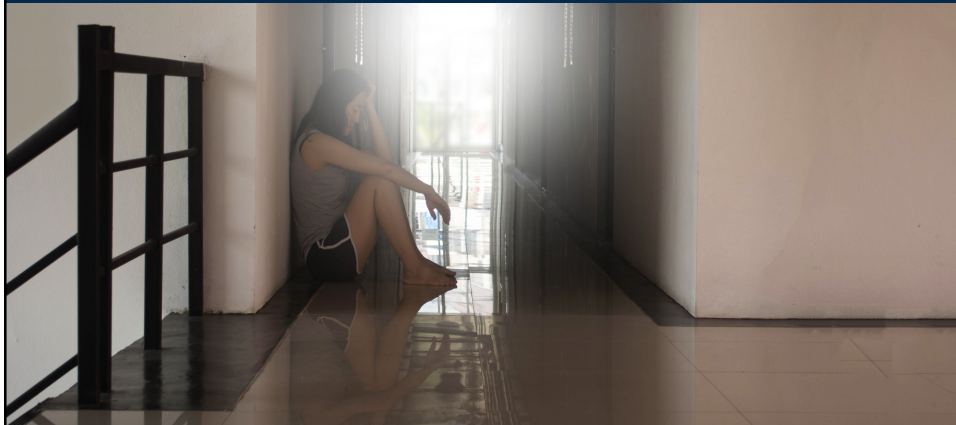
Key points

- Within the child welfare population, children with trafficking allegations were among the most vulnerable
- Resource and service needs include:
 - Placements that can work with trafficked youth
 - Policies and resources to support youth who run from placement
 - Evidence-based targeted prevention programs
- Even with a lot of investigated allegations, under-identification and uneven identification likely biases our perspective,



Trafficking experiences during missing from care episodes in the Florida child welfare population

Natasha E. Latzman, Rose Feinberg, Marianne Kluckman, & Deborah Gibbs



Missing from care episodes and human trafficking

- Youth missing from child welfare (CW) out of home placements may be at particularly high risk of HT victimization
 - Lack support systems and resources to meet survival needs
 - Limited evidence for this, largely qualitative or based on samples of entirely runaway youth¹
- **The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, PL 113-183 (2014)** mandates that CW agencies
 - report children missing from care to law enforcement
 - implement protocols for locating children who are missing from CW supervision
 - assess whether children experienced HT while missing

¹ e.g., Choi, 2015; Institute of Medicine and National Research Council, 2013; Lin, 2012; O'Brien, White, & Rizzo, 2016; Reid, Baglivio, Piquero, Greenwald, & Epps, 2017

Research questions

- What are the characteristics of youth with at least one episode of missing from out of home care?
- Among youth with missing from care episodes, how do those with human trafficking allegations differ from others?
- What are the experiences of youth with human trafficking allegations while missing from care?

Method

- Sample drawn from the population of 1,047,183 youth with investigated maltreatment allegations between 2011 and 2017
 - 36,997 youth with at least one out-of-home placement while age 10 or older
- Key variable:
 - Missing from out-of-home care episodes (MFC): Constructed using dates from missing child reports & the type of placement from which a child was missing
- Analyses
 - Chi Sq tests used to identify significant differences between youth with and without missing from care episodes
 - When the omnibus Chi Sq test was significant, we examined standardized residuals to measure the strength of differences between observed and expected values -- how significant cells are to the omnibus chi-square value.

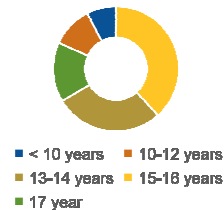


Research question 1: Characteristics of youth with missing from care (MFC) episodes

19% (n = 7,039) of youth had at least one MFC episode while age 10+

- More than half (57%) of youth with MFC episodes were age 15 or more at their first episode

Age at first missing from care

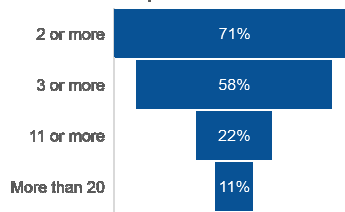


Research question 1: Characteristics of youth with missing from care (MFC) episodes

19% (n = 7,039) of youth had at least one MFC episode while age 10+

- More than half (57%) of youth with MFC episodes were age 15 or more at their first episode
- More than 70% had multiple MFC episodes
- 22% were MFC 11 or more times

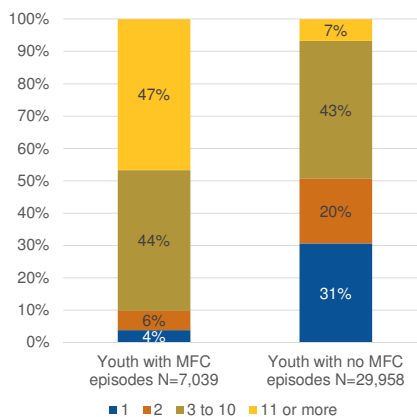
Number of missing from care episodes



Research question 1: Characteristics of youth with missing from care (MFC) episodes

- Compared to other youth aged 10+ with at least one foster care placement, those with MFC episodes are
 - Slightly more likely to be female (54.7% vs. 51.8%)
 - Older at first placement (63.2% vs 48.2% over age 11 at first placement)
 - Slightly more likely to have experienced all forms of child maltreatment, except child neglect
 - Have experienced more out-of-home placements

Prior Out of Home Placements

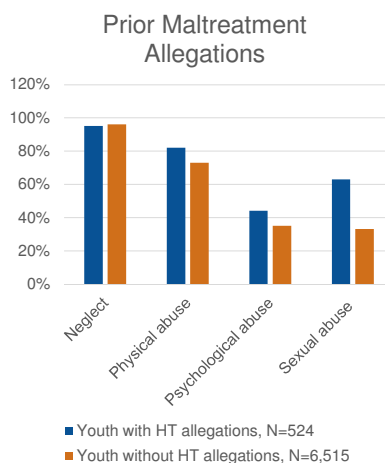


Research Question 2: Characteristics of youth with human trafficking allegations while missing from care

- Among 37,000 youth with at least one MFC episode 7.4% (n = 524) of had at least one HT allegation during a MFC episode

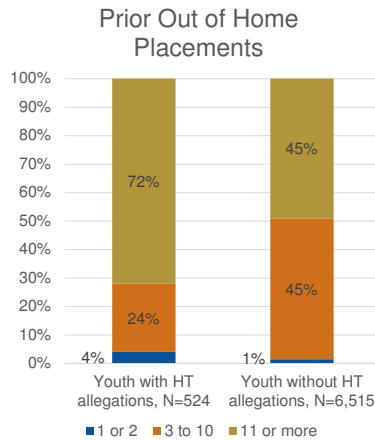
Research Question 2: Characteristics of youth with human trafficking allegations while missing from care

- Youth with HT allegations while missing were more likely to more likely to:
 - Be female (93% vs. 52%)
 - Have had a MFC episode prior to age 15 (54% vs. 41%)
 - Have experienced physical, psychological or sexual abuse



Research Question 2: Characteristics of youth with human trafficking allegations while missing from care (cont.)

- Youth with HT allegations while missing were more likely to more likely to:
 - Be female (93% vs. 52%)
 - Have had a MFC episode prior to age 15 (54% vs. 41%)
 - Have experienced physical, psychological or sexual abuse
 - Have experienced multiple placements (72% vs. 45% have experienced 11+ placements)



Research Question 3: Experiences of youth with human trafficking allegations while missing from care

- 524 youth (7.4% of those with MFC episodes, experienced HT during a MFC episode.
- For 70% of these youth, it was their first identified human trafficking allegation.

Research Question 3: Experiences of youth with human trafficking allegations while missing from care

- Among youth with HT allegations while MFC:
 - Half (50%) were age 16 or 17 at the time of the first HT allegation
 - Three-quarters (76%) had multiple MFC episodes **prior to** the one in which the first HT allegation occurred
- Nearly all youth (97%) report subsequent HT allegations, possibly related to the initial one.

Number of MFC Episodes Prior to HT Allegation	Percent
0	15%
1	10%
2 to 5	24%
6 to 15	30%
More than 15	21%

Discussion: Youth with missing from care episodes

- 19% of all Florida youth in out of home care while age 10+ had at least one missing episode
 - Difficult to compare to prior work given range of methodologies employed – although 19% in the middle of the range¹
- Consistent w literature,² youth with MFC episodes tend to be female, Black (literature mixed), older at the time placement in out of home care, and experience multiple placements
 - Youth without MFC episodes tend to experience 1-2 out of home placements, whereas youth with MFC episodes more likely to experience 11+!

¹Courtney et al., 2014; ¹Crosland & Dunlap, 2015; ²Connell, Katz, Saunders, & Tebes, 2006; ²Courtney & Zinn, 2009; ²O'Brien et al., 2017; ²Sarri, Stoffregen, & Ryan, 2016; ²Lin, 2012

Discussion: Human trafficking while missing from care

- Of the youth with missing episodes, 7.4% had a HT allegation while missing
 - National Center for Missing and Exploited Children reports that 19% of runaway reports for foster youth are assessed as likely victims of HT¹
 - based on physical and behavioral indicators reported by child welfare and law enforcement and assessed by hotline staff
- Youth with HT allegations during MFC episodes (vs those with no HT allegations during MFC episodes) tend to be female, have a high number of previous placements, and have many MFC episodes

¹ <http://www.missingkids.org/theissues/cse/cst>

Discussion: Multiple opportunities for prevention

- Many youth (>70%) have their *first identified HT victimization* while MFC
 - Allegation tends to occur after the youth have already run at least 1x, with ~38% of allegations occurring youth have been MFC 10+ times

→ Runaway prevention & response
Harm reduction

e.g., Behavior Analysis Services Program, educational support, enhanced activities and flexibility for older youth in foster care, targeting repeat runners, improving placement stability, strengthening supportive adult connections

- 97% of youth go on to have another HT allegation
 - Almost 94% of these occur while in CW placement, possibly as a subsequent MFC episode involving the same victimization experience

→ Post-run assessment and services

e.g., Clark et al., 2008; Izzo et al., 2016; Skyles & Smithgall, 2007

Domestic labor trafficking of children in Florida

Deborah Gibbs, Sue Aboul-Hosn, Marianne Kluckman



Labor trafficking and children

Labor trafficking:

- recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person
- for labor or services
- through the use of force, fraud, or coercion



The Fair Labor Standards Act

- Restricts hours, conditions, and occupations for youth under age 18

Research questions

- What are the characteristics of investigated labor trafficking allegations?
- How do children with investigated allegations of labor trafficking differ from those with sex trafficking allegations?
- What issues influence identification, investigation, and response to labor trafficking by child welfare agencies and other service systems?

Methods

- Data represents 4,711 children with investigated allegations of sex or labor trafficking between 2013 and 2017
 - Prior to 2013, Florida's human trafficking allegation did not differentiate between sex and labor trafficking
- Additional anecdotal examples provided by Florida's Central Region human trafficking coordinator

Traveling sales crews

- Youth may be recruited for “summer employment programs” or bogus charity
- Exploitation common
 - Crew leaders retain pay
 - Threats and punishment if youth don’t meet quota
- Hazards include
 - Unsafe transportation
 - Inadequate supervision
 - Exposure to assault
 - Abandonment



Undocumented children and youth

- Children enter US
 - Unaccompanied
 - With an adult
- Placed with real or fictive relative
- Inadequate screening and supervision of placement
- Recent case in central Florida:
 - Children working 8–10 hours, 7 days a week in fields
 - “Uncle” had obtained fraudulent IDs for them and kept their earnings
 - Parents’ whereabouts unknown.



Undocumented children and youth

- Children enter US
 - Unaccompanied
 - With real or fictive relative
- Placed with real or fictive relative
- Inadequate screening and supervision of placement
- 2014 case, Marion, Ohio
 - Guatemalan teens promised employment and education
 - Instead, housed in trailers without utilities or heat
 - Worked in poultry processing plants, 12 hour days, 6–7 days/week
 - Crew bosses kept pay, threatened youth with violence and harm to families



Coerced illegal activities

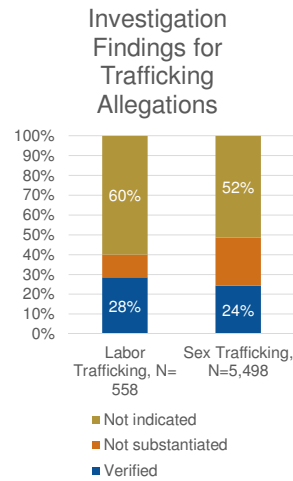
- Youth may be coerced into
 - Drug sales or theft
 - Recruiting for their own trafficker
- Coercion includes
 - Power and control by trafficker
 - Avoiding risks of commercial sex
 - Threats and violence, including gang control
- Safe Harbor laws may decriminalize commercial sex for youth, but not illicit activities that may result from trafficking victimization

*"In situations of captivity the perpetrator becomes the most powerful person in the life of the victim, and the psychology of the victim is shaped by the actions and beliefs of the perpetrator."**

* Judith Lewis Herman (1997) Trauma and Recovery

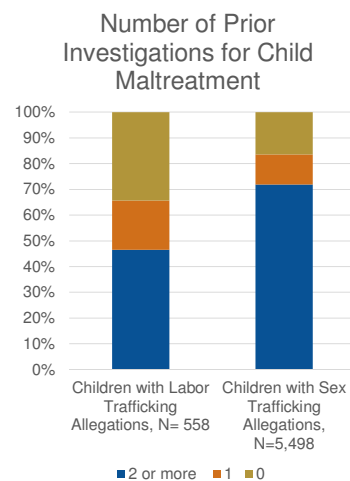
RQ1: Characteristics of labor trafficking allegations

- 558 labor trafficking allegations involving 532 children between 2013 and 2017
- Average 9% of all trafficking allegations
- Compared to allegations of sex trafficking:
 - Disproportionally in Central Region
 - More likely to be substantiated (verified) or to be unfounded (not indicated)



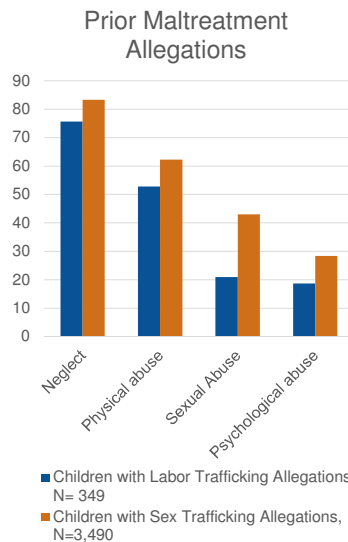
RQ 2: Characteristics of children with labor trafficking vs. sex trafficking allegations

- Compared to children who are the subject of sex trafficking allegations, those investigated for labor trafficking are:
 - Younger (median age 15 vs. 16)
 - More likely to be male (55% vs. 12%)
 - Less likely to have prior child welfare involvement (66% vs. 84%)



RQ 2: Characteristics of children with labor trafficking vs. sex trafficking allegations

- Among children with prior child welfare history, those with labor trafficking allegations have
 - Fewer prior allegations of all types
 - Less likely to have been placed in out-of-home care (OR=0.53)
 - Less likely to have been missing from care (OR=0.33)



Odds ratios based on logistic regression model including child age at most recent investigation

RQ3: System response: Prevention

- Flier distributed at middle and high schools in response to traveling sales crew incidents
 - Company had been recruiting through posters outside schools and with students

Bogus charities advertise "Teen Jobs" and exploit children.



During summer and holidays, youth peddling is at its peak. Youth peddling is the hiring of children and teenagers to go door to door to sell products, often candy, candles or magazine subscriptions under the auspices of raising funds to support a charity or business. This is a lesser known form of child labor.

Door to door sales is listed as a hazardous occupation by the Florida Law and Child Labor Rule. Children under 14 years of age may not participate in door to door sales. Children ages 14 and 15 must be supervised by eye sight at all times and must receive, at minimum, \$8.05 per hour and work no more than 15 hours per school week.

In Florida, many of these commercial enterprises are not legitimate and support bogus charities. These bogus charities recruit children as young as eight years old with the promise of monetary compensation (teen jobs), adventure, valuable job skills and a positive atmosphere that keeps kids off the streets. The incentives are not delivered as promised, the children are exploited for profit and become victims of labor exploitation and at times, labor trafficking.

These bogus charities place children at high risk. They are transported by van to distant cities or even across state lines and kept from home for long hours. They are required to knock on strangers' doors in unfamiliar or high-crime neighborhoods without adult supervision and often without food or water. Many are crammed into vans without seats or seat belts. There have been incidents where minors have been assaulted and incidents where the minor child has required medical attention due to dehydration. Some have become victims of, or participants in, criminal activity and some have been deserted for not meeting sales quota.

(It is important to note that there are several legitimate charities such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and school sponsored groups but they do not expose the minors to the same risk nor do they promise monetary compensation.)



RQ3: System response: Prevention

Wisconsin Section 103.34: “Malinda’s Law”

- Named after an 18-year-old woman killed in a van crash in 1999
 - One of 7 young people killed and 5 severely injured, all part of a traveling sales crew.
- Requires businesses using traveling sales crews in Wisconsin to register with the Department of Workforce Development
 - Must document vehicle safety, employee identification, work permits
- Prohibits employers from
 - Employing sales crew members under age 18
 - Charging more than fair market rate for food and lodging
 - Abandoning worker who is discharged or unable to work
 - Injuring or threatening workers with harm

RQ3: System response: Identification

- Training
 - For all responders: child welfare, law enforcement, medical personnel, school personnel
- Screening
 - Several screening tools used to assess children who may have experienced trafficking will identify labor trafficking
 - Others focus specifically on indicators and interview questions related to sex trafficking

Human Trafficking Screening Tool–Short Form Questions

- **Did someone you work for ever refuse to pay what they promised and keep all or most of the money you made?**
- Did you ever trade sexual acts for food, clothing, money, shelter, favors, or other necessities for survival before you reached the age of 18?
- **Were you ever physically beaten, slapped, hit, kicked, punched, burned or harmed in any way by someone you worked for?**
- **Have you ever been unable to leave a place you worked or talk to people you wanted to talk to, even when you weren’t working, because the person you worked for threatened or controlled you?**
- Did someone you work for ever ask, pressure, or force you to do something sexually that you did not feel comfortable doing?
- Were you ever forced to engage in sexual acts with family, friends, clients, or business associates for money or favors, by someone you work for?

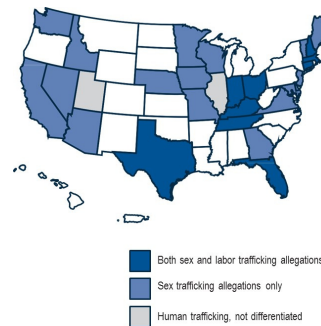
Source: Urban Institute (Dank et al., 2017).

RQ3: System response: Documentation

- Less public attention to labor trafficking than sex trafficking
- Federal laws directing child welfare efforts focus more explicitly on sex trafficking
- Child welfare agencies may not specify labor trafficking within their human trafficking allegation categories

"In general, there is so much more attention paid to domestic [sex] trafficking of minors. That's where the media coverage is and that's where law enforcement dollars [are] focused ... Labor trafficking is mostly an afterthought, if a thought at all."

—Amy Fleischauer, International Institute of Buffalo



RQ3: System Response: Investigation and services

- Labor trafficking allegations are investigated by child welfare agency
 - May not constitute child maltreatment by parents if they were unaware of exploitation, OR
 - Exploitation may be related to neglect or parental substance abuse
- Child labor laws may be easier to prosecute than human trafficking
- Undocumented children exploited by real or fictive relatives are typically placed in foster care while agency looks for alternatives

Key points

- Labor trafficking of children exists within the US, in multiple forms
- Labor trafficking is likely even less likely to be identified than sex trafficking
- Labor trafficking may first be identified as violations of child labor laws, or juvenile offenses
- Needed:
 - Public awareness
 - Training of first responders
 - Regulation of exploitation-prone work sectors
 - Allegation categories that document incidence and patterns