



# 2021 Annual Report

**SOUTH CAROLINA  
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE**



ALAN WILSON  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Human trafficking continues to plague communities across South Carolina. We are seeing increasing numbers of children and adolescents identified as victims of sex and/or labor trafficking. There are adults being exploited within the hospitality industry as well as illicit massage businesses. Both children and adults are being victimized via Internet-based predators. Regardless of the context of these crimes, those who perpetrate these offenses often target the most vulnerable amongst us.

Given the complexities of human trafficking cases, the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force takes a strategic approach to preventing and responding to the crime in our state. The Task Force is currently composed of 11 mandated member agencies, nearly 600 individual members, 12 subcommittees, an advisory council, and nine regional task forces. The individuals and organizations that compose the Task Force work in collaboration with diverse community partners to tailor a multi-sector approach.

The State Task Force is eager to launch numerous new initiatives in 2022. For the first time, my office is positioned to consistently offer prevention education to middle and high schools across the state. We will also be leading efforts to formalize a state-level certification for agencies working directly with victims and survivors. As these agencies receive their certifications, a resource directory will be developed that will be accessible to law enforcement, members of the judiciary, child welfare, and others who may be seeking quality, specialized services. The State Task Force will also continue efforts to bring awareness through targeted social media campaigns and sector specific professional trainings.

As we reflect on the achievements of 2021, I thank everyone involved in the anti-human trafficking efforts in South Carolina. Without the combined efforts of many, we could not as effectively combat this crime throughout our state. I urge you to continue your efforts in 2022 as we strive to eradicate human trafficking and protect the vulnerable in our communities.

Attorney General Alan Wilson, Chair  
South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## SOUTH CAROLINA HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

PURPOSE OF THE STATE TASK FORCE.....	4
LEGISLATIVELY MANDATED MEMBERSHIP.....	5
2022 MEETING CALENDAR.....	7

## SOUTH CAROLINA STATE PLAN TO ADDRESS HUMAN TRAFFICKING

OVERVIEW OF THE STATE PLAN.....	8
---------------------------------	---

## SOUTH CAROLINA SPECIFIC DATA

NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE DATA .....	10
COURT DATA: PENDING AND CLOSED .....	17
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES DATA.....	20

## NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

STATE SELF-ASSESSMENT.....	23
----------------------------	----

## STRATEGIC RESPONSE

NATIONAL AND STATE PARTNERSHIPS.....	31
TASK FORCE INITIATIVES .....	38
STATE TASK FORCE SUBCOMMITTEES .....	42
ADVISORY COUNCIL.....	51

## REGIONAL TASK FORCES

TRI COUNTY.....	53
LOW COUNTRY.....	54
RICHLAND COUNTY.....	55
LEMS.....	56
2 <sup>ND</sup> CIRCUIT.....	57
UPSTATE.....	58
FOOTHILLS.....	59
COASTAL REGION.....	60
CATAWBA AREA.....	61

STATE TASK FORCE MEMBER REPORT OUT.....	62
---	----

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	78
------------------------	----

# **SOUTH CAROLINA HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE**

## **PURPOSE OF THE STATE TASK FORCE**

The 2012 human trafficking law, S.C. Code Ann. 16-3-2050 (B)(1), states that the Attorney General will chair a task force to address the crime of human trafficking in South Carolina. Task Force efforts are in collaboration with federal, state, and local agencies. A major endeavor noted in the law was the development of a State Plan to Address Human Trafficking. The Task Force disseminated the State Plan to Address Human Trafficking in June of 2014. The law indicates that the Task Force shall coordinate the implementation of the State Plan. Furthermore, the Task Force will submit annual reports, inclusive of findings and recommendations, to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President of the Senate.

The Task Force shall also consider completing the following collectively or via one or more of its constituent agencies:

- Collect and share trafficking data among government agencies while respecting the privacy of victims of trafficking in persons;
- Coordinate interagency information sharing for the purposes of identifying criminals engaged in trafficking in persons;
- Establish policies to position state government to work with nongovernmental organizations and other elements of civil society to prevent trafficking and provide assistance to United States citizens and foreign national victims;
- Review the existing services and facilities to meet trafficking victims' needs and recommend a system to coordinate services;
- Evaluate the various approaches used by state and local governments to increase public awareness of trafficking in persons;
- Collect and publish data on trafficking, posting the information on the Attorney General's website;
- Design and implement public awareness campaigns to inform potential targets of the risks of victimization;
- Creation and dissemination of materials to increase the public's awareness of the extent of trafficking in persons, both US citizens and foreign nations, within the United States.

# **SOUTH CAROLINA HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE**

## **LEGISLATIVELY MANDATED MEMBERSHIP**

In addition to the Office of the South Carolina Attorney General, the following members were legislatively mandated to the State Task Force:

The Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation



The South Carolina Police Chiefs Association



The South Carolina Sheriffs' Association



The State Law Enforcement Division



The Department of Health and Environmental Control Board



Office of the Attorney General, South Carolina Crime Victim Services Division



The Department of Social Services



# **SOUTH CAROLINA HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE**

## **LEGISLATIVELY MANDATED MEMBERSHIP**

A representative of the Office of the Governor



A representative from the Department of Employment and Workforce



The South Carolina Commission on Prosecution Coordination



Besides the aforementioned members, two non-governmental organizations are appointed to the Task Force: The South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA) and the South Carolina Victim Assistance Network (SCVAN). An invitation of membership is also extended to representatives of the United States Department of Labor, the United States Attorney's Office, and federal law enforcement agencies within the state including the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office.

# **SOUTH CAROLINA HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE**

## **2022 MEETING CALENDAR**

In 2022, the State Task Force will continue to meet quarterly. The location of the meetings has not yet been determined. Leadership will assess the risk associated with in-person meetings and notify Task Force members about the location prior to each date. Each meeting will begin at 10 AM and last approximately one to two hours.

The meeting dates will be:

**Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Friday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Virtual meetings will be held on GoToWebinar and will be recorded. Meeting recordings will be posted to the State Task Force website for future viewing by members and other interested parties.

When the Task Force decides to hold the meetings virtually, the link will be emailed to those on the listserv. If there is a need to change the date of a meeting, Ashni Bhojwani, Human Trafficking & VAWA Program Assistant at the South Carolina Attorney General's Office, will notify members currently on the listserv.

To register for the Task Force listserv, please visit the website ([humantrafficking.scag.gov](http://humantrafficking.scag.gov)) to complete a form or email [schttfevents@scag.gov](mailto:schttfevents@scag.gov).

# **SOUTH CAROLINA STATE PLAN TO ADDRESS HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

## **OVERVIEW OF THE STATE PLAN**

### **2014 SOUTH CAROLINA STATE PLAN TO ADDRESS HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

Released in June of 2014, the South Carolina State Plan to Address Human Trafficking is the framework from which the State Task Force initially established its goals. It should be noted that while the State Plan reflects the most relevant issues during the time in which the document was drafted, some findings may currently be less germane than others in relation to ongoing efforts. The focus areas that comprise the framework include the following:

#### **DETERMINING THE MAGNITUDE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN SOUTH CAROLINA**

- **Finding:** There is not abundant or comprehensive data about human trafficking as it is happening in South Carolina.

#### **PROTECTING, SUPPORTING, AND SERVING VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

- **Finding One:** First responders, medical professionals, labor agencies, and victim advocacy groups must be able to recognize the signs of human trafficking.
- **Finding Two:** There is a lack of sufficient funding for, access to, and availability of resources that provide services to victims of human trafficking.
- **Finding Three:** South Carolina does not have adequate shelter space to meet the needs of human trafficking victims.
- **Finding Four:** there is a lack of understanding and awareness of the various immigration benefits for non-citizen victims of human trafficking that are essential to victim safety and prosecution.
- **Finding Five:** Civil relief options for a trafficking victim are not well known or communicated.
- **Finding Six:** Delivery of and access to victim services need to be better coordinated.

#### **INVESTIGATING AND PROSECUTING HUMAN TRAFFICKERS**

- **Finding One:** The lack of resources available to law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges frustrate opportunities to arrest, prosecute, and sentence human traffickers.
- **Finding Two:** The lack of information sharing among law enforcement officers and prosecuting officers hinders opportunities to arrest, prosecute, and sentence human traffickers.
- **Finding Three:** The lack of trained law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges prevents opportunities to arrest, prosecute, and sentence human traffickers.



# **SOUTH CAROLINA STATE PLAN TO ADDRESS HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

## **OVERVIEW OF THE STATE PLAN**

### **PREVENTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN SOUTH CAROLINA**

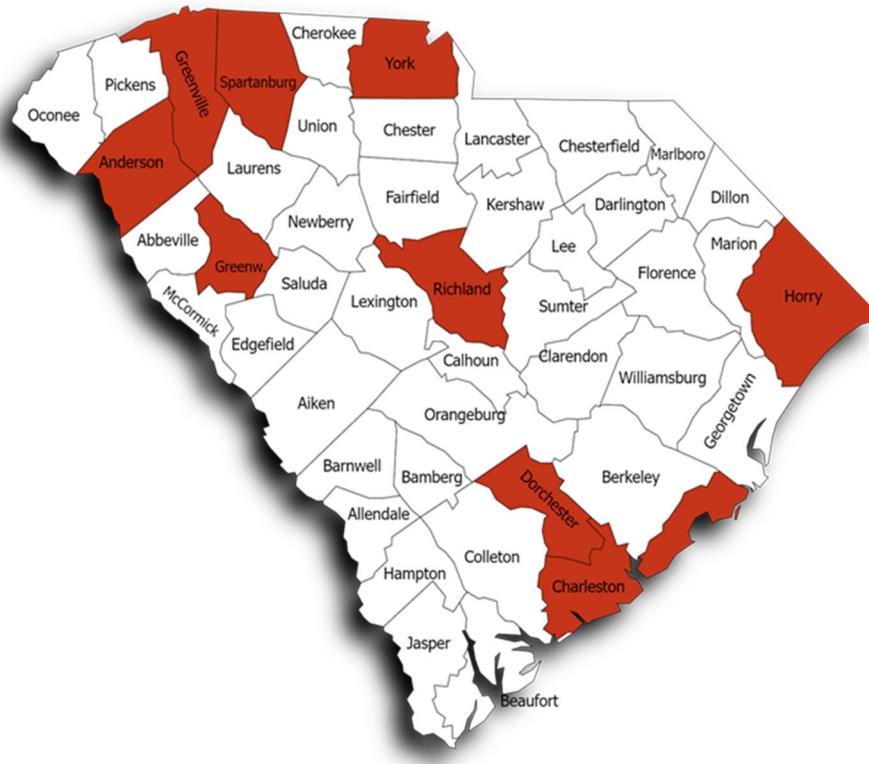
- **Finding One:** There is inadequate enforcement of existing rules and regulations in South Carolina.
- **Finding Two:** Lack of awareness about human trafficking and ingrained societal perceptions aggravate the problem, resulting in lost opportunities to help victims and hold perpetrators accountable.

### **OTHER AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION AND STUDY**

- **Foreign National Victims:** Consider how current immigration laws can affect victims of severe human trafficking.
- **Rapid Response Teams:** Consider creating teams throughout the state via new partnerships, the development of regional multiagency groups, and concise points of contact to be used by response teams.
- **Child Victims:** Analyze how South Carolina juvenile law affects juvenile victims of human trafficking, particularly those victims who might be arrested for a crime.
- **Internet and Technology:** Develop strategies to more efficiently investigate tips received from online sites, draft protocol for handling tips including possible areas of overlap between human trafficking and internet crimes against children. Also examine different methods, specifically those related to technology and the Internet, used in the perpetration of human trafficking crimes in order to formulate better responses, develop prevention strategies, and build stronger cases for prosecution.

# SOUTH CAROLINA SPECIFIC DATA

## NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE DATA



The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force and the National Human Trafficking Hotline maintain an ongoing partnership. The Task Force promotes the use of the National Hotline, assists in effectively relaying tips to law enforcement in South Carolina, and vets direct service providers to prevent revictimization and connect victims and survivors to much-needed quality services. The National Hotline provides the Task Force with data that helps shape our statewide response to the crime as well as the development of support services for victims and survivors.

Given the complexities of maintaining and ensuring clean data, the National Human Trafficking Hotline provided 2020 statistics pertaining to human trafficking in South Carolina. The statistics provided *do not* represent a comprehensive report of human trafficking cases in South Carolina throughout that period. They represent only signals and cases made to the National Human Trafficking Hotline during the time period via phone, email, online tip report, or Webchat. The statistics are accurate as of December 17, 2021. However, situations of trafficking may be ongoing or new information may be revealed to the National Hotline at a later date. Consequently, statistics may be subject to change as new information emerges.

The following charts represent human trafficking cases with at least one location recorded in South Carolina. The numbers may differ from the numbers on the National Hotline website and should not be compared to the findings of more rigorous academic studies as the statistics listed only represent information reported to the National Hotline and not all existent victims or incidents of human trafficking.

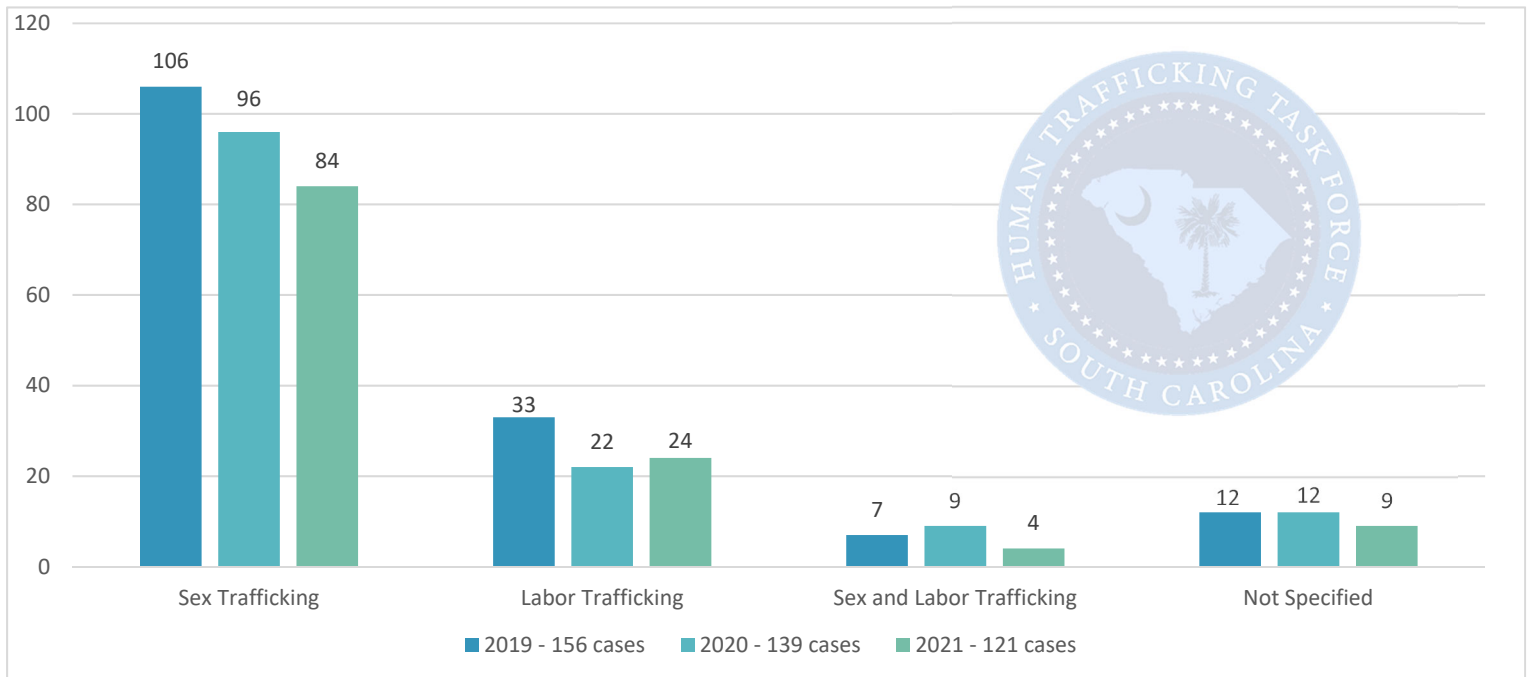
# SOUTH CAROLINA SPECIFIC DATA

## NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE DATA

### TOP COUNTIES FOR REPORTED HUMAN TRAFFICKING

County	# of incidents
Horry County	19
Richland County	12
Greenville County	11
Charleston County	10
Spartanburg County	9
Anderson County	8
York County	4
Dorchester County	3
Greenwood County	3

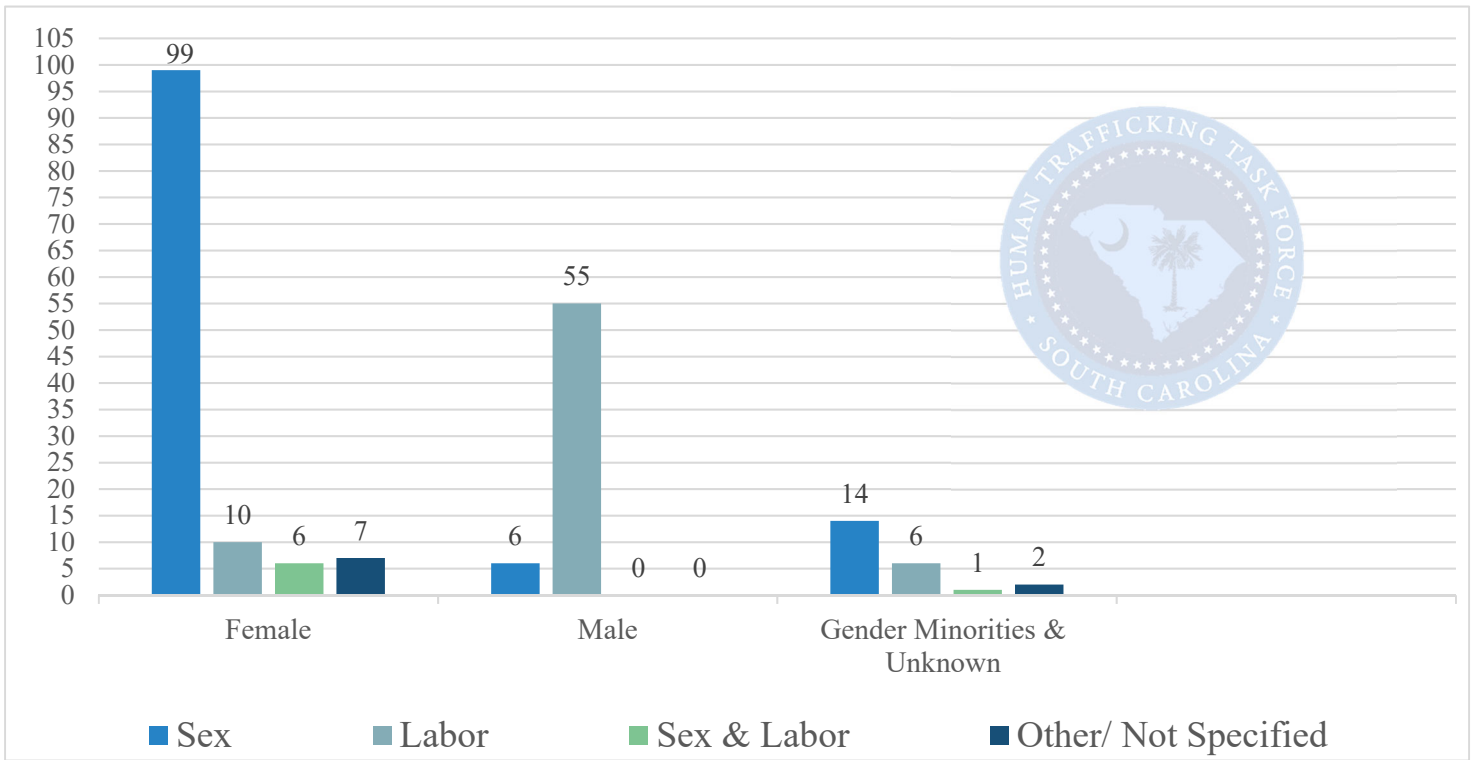
### NUMBER OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASES RECORDED IN SOUTH CAROLINA



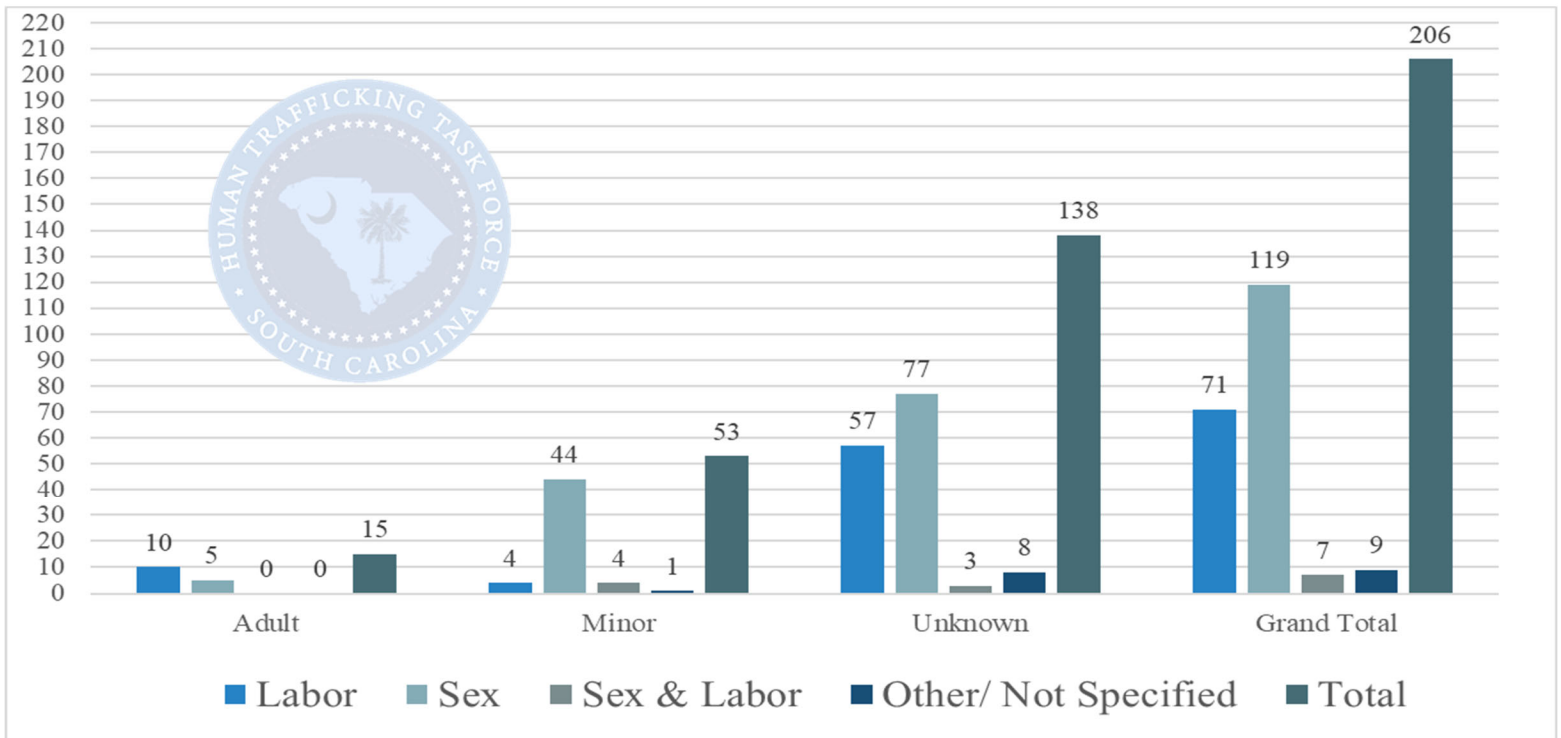
# SOUTH CAROLINA SPECIFIC DATA

## NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE DATA

### VICTIM DEMOGRAPHICS BY GENDER & FORM OF TRAFFICKING



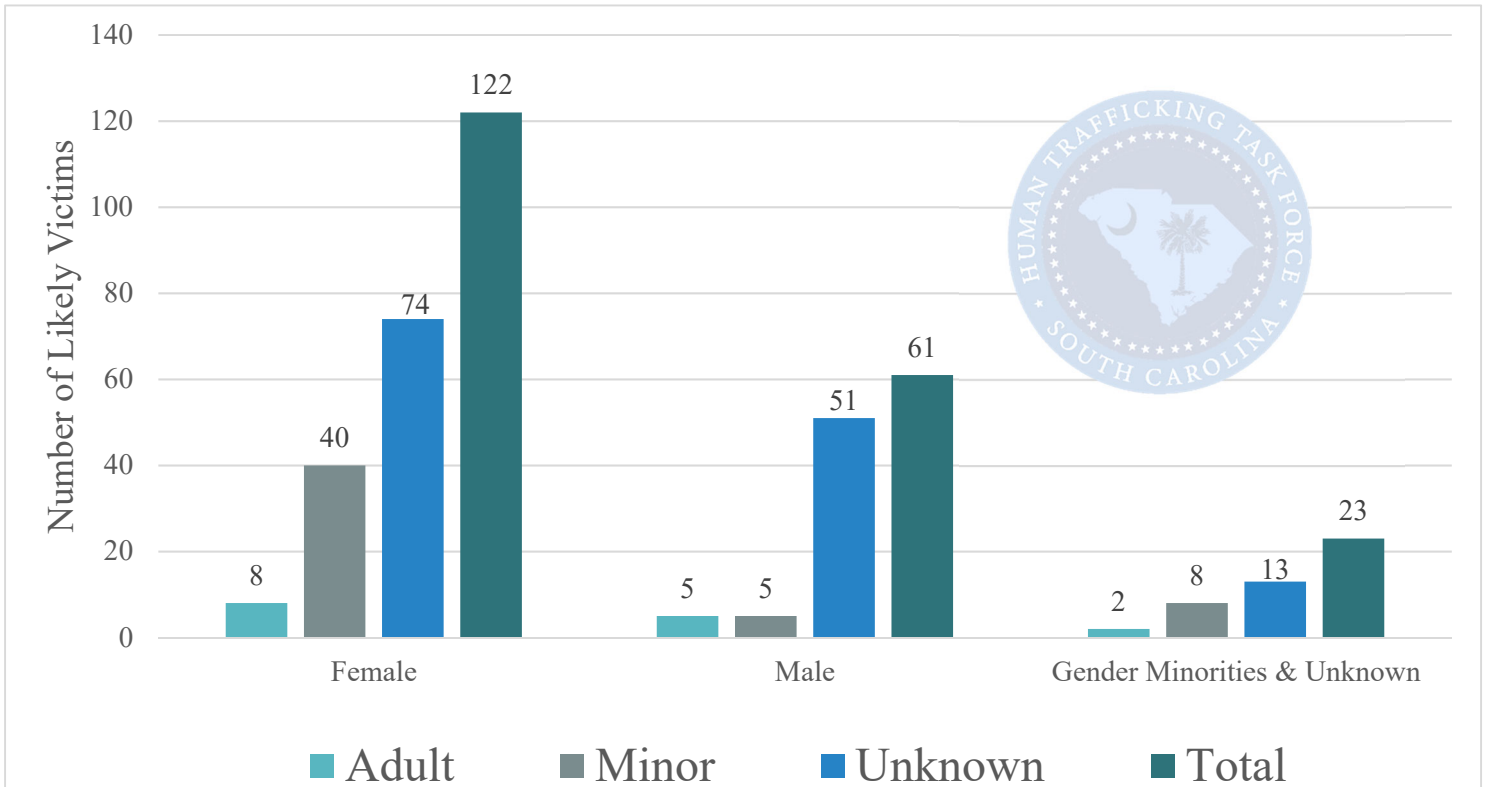
### VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING BY FORM OF TRAFFICKING & AGE



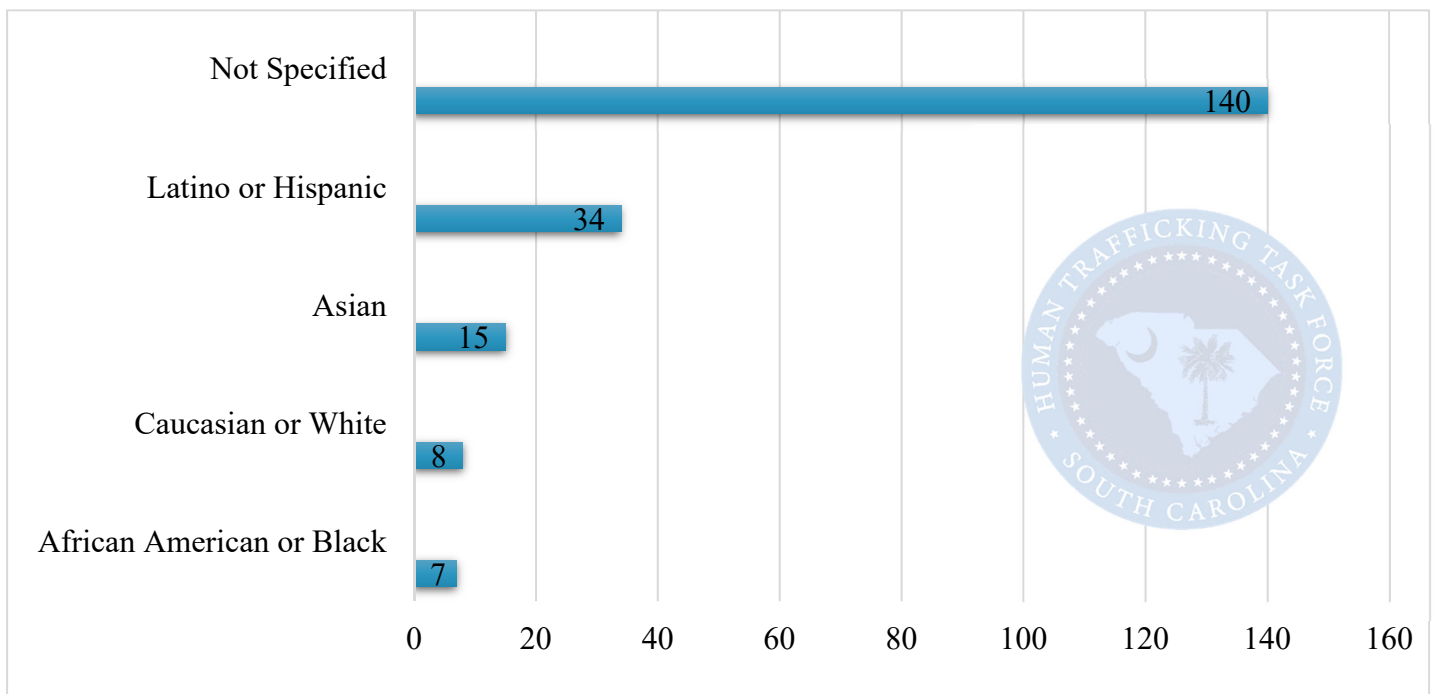
# SOUTH CAROLINA SPECIFIC DATA

## NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE DATA

### VICTIM DEMOGRAPHICS BY AGE & GENDER



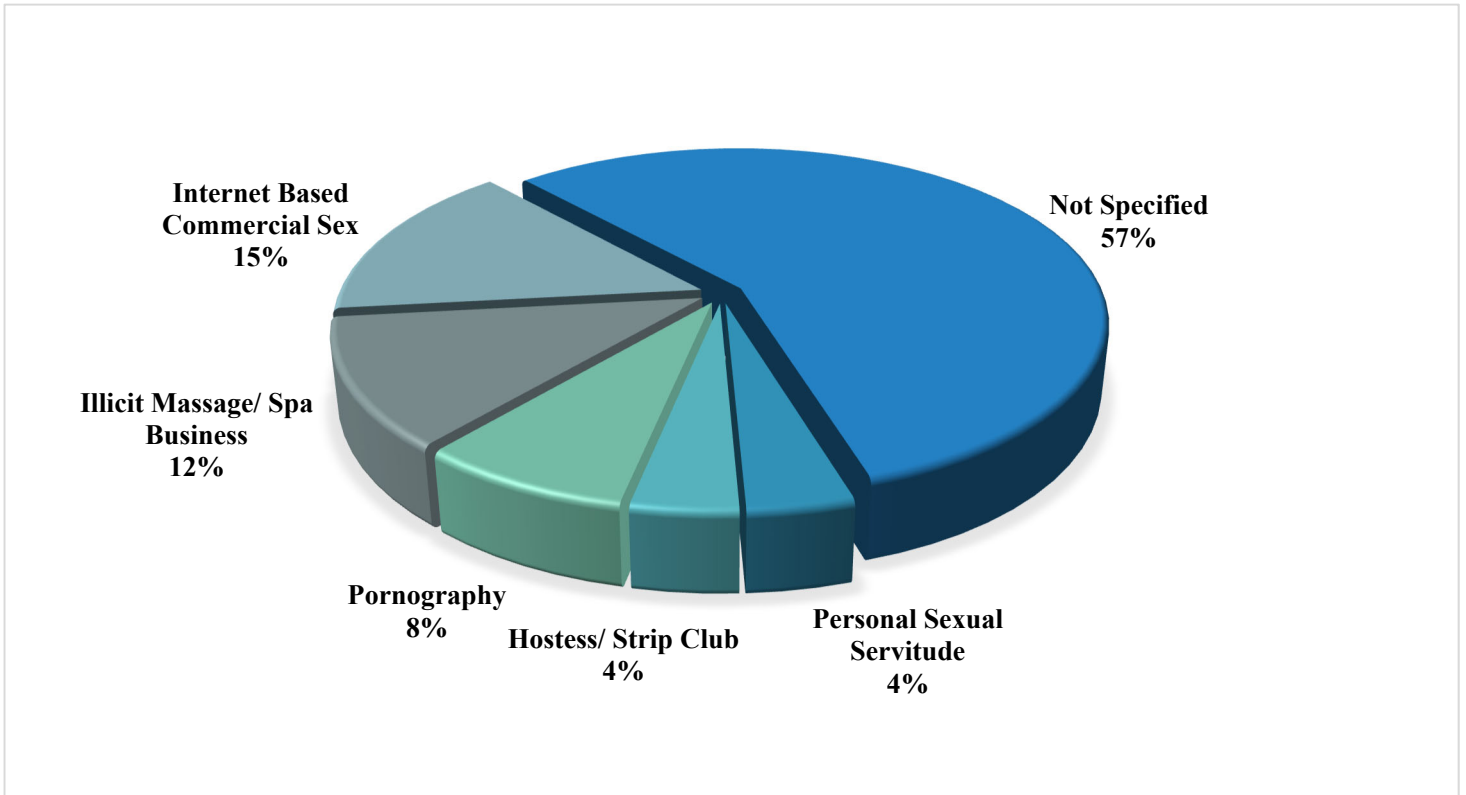
### NUMBER OF LIKELY VICTIMS BY RACE



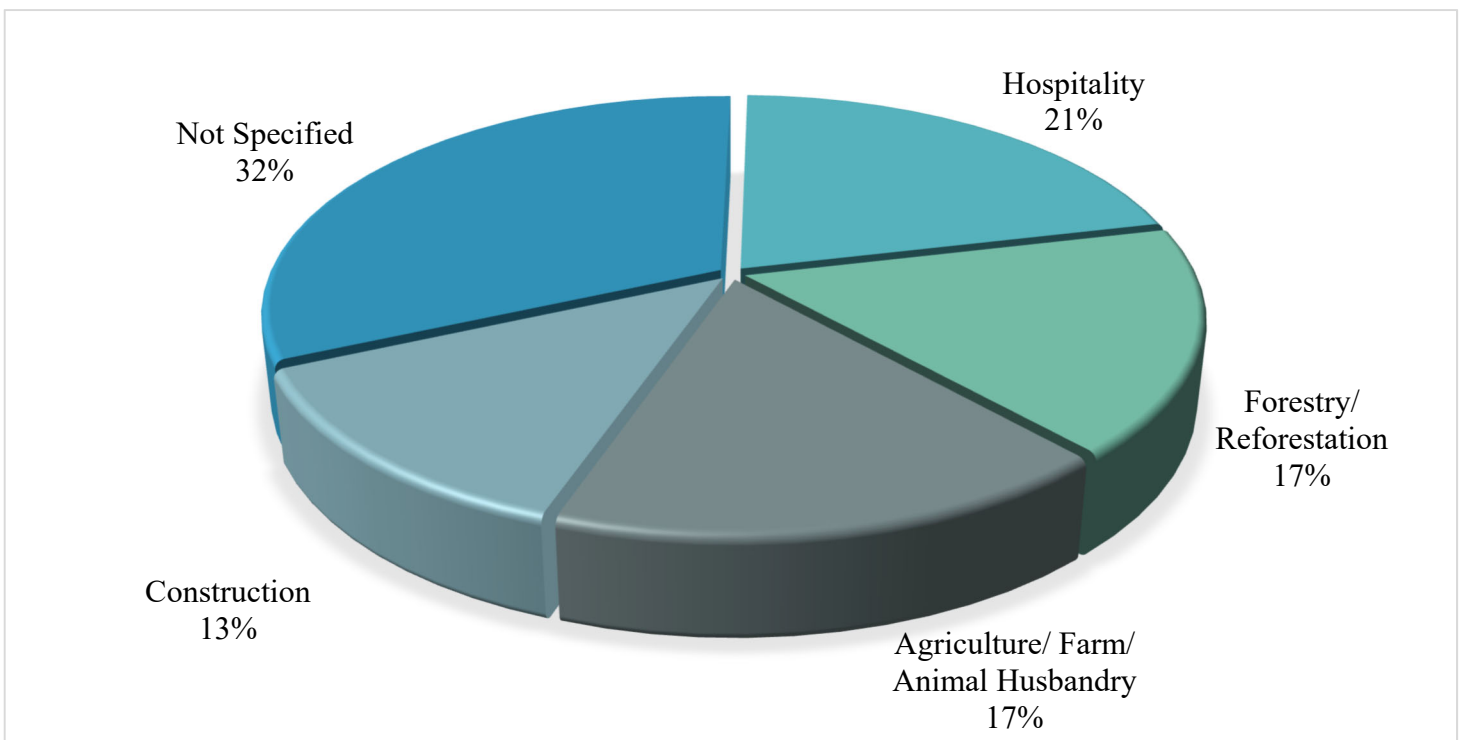
# SOUTH CAROLINA SPECIFIC DATA

## NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE DATA

### TOP SEX TRAFFICKING VENUES



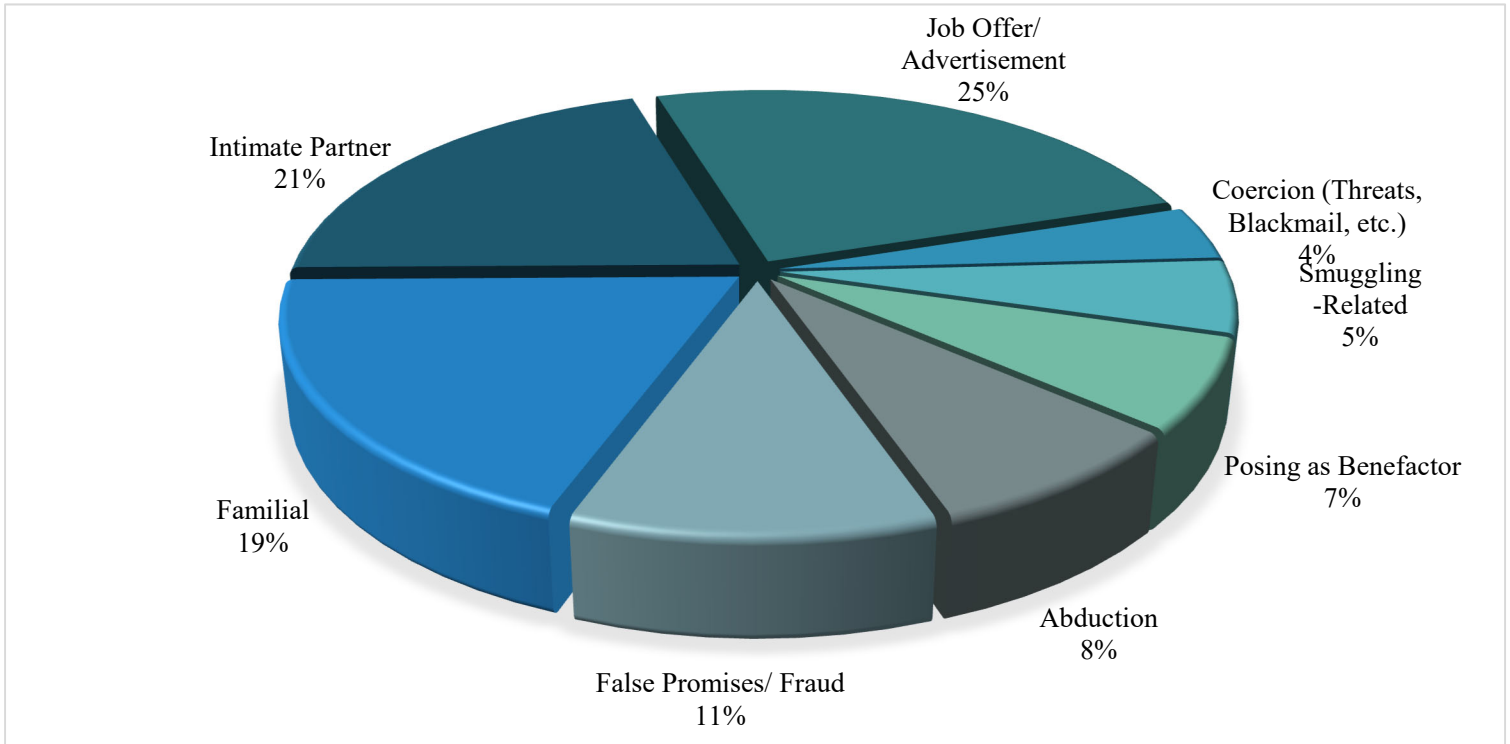
### TOP LABOR TRAFFICKING VENUES



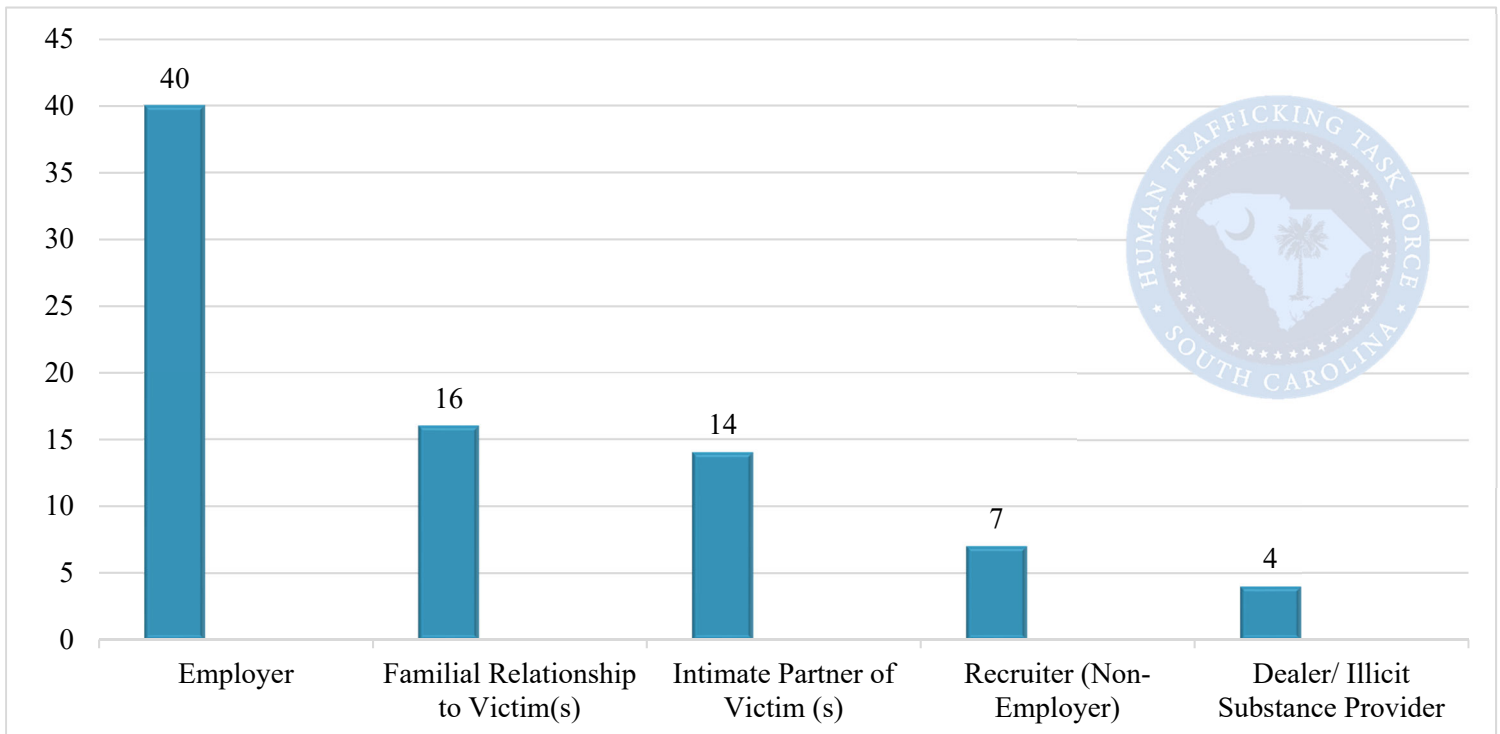
# SOUTH CAROLINA SPECIFIC DATA

## NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE DATA

### TOP METHODS OF RECRUITMENT



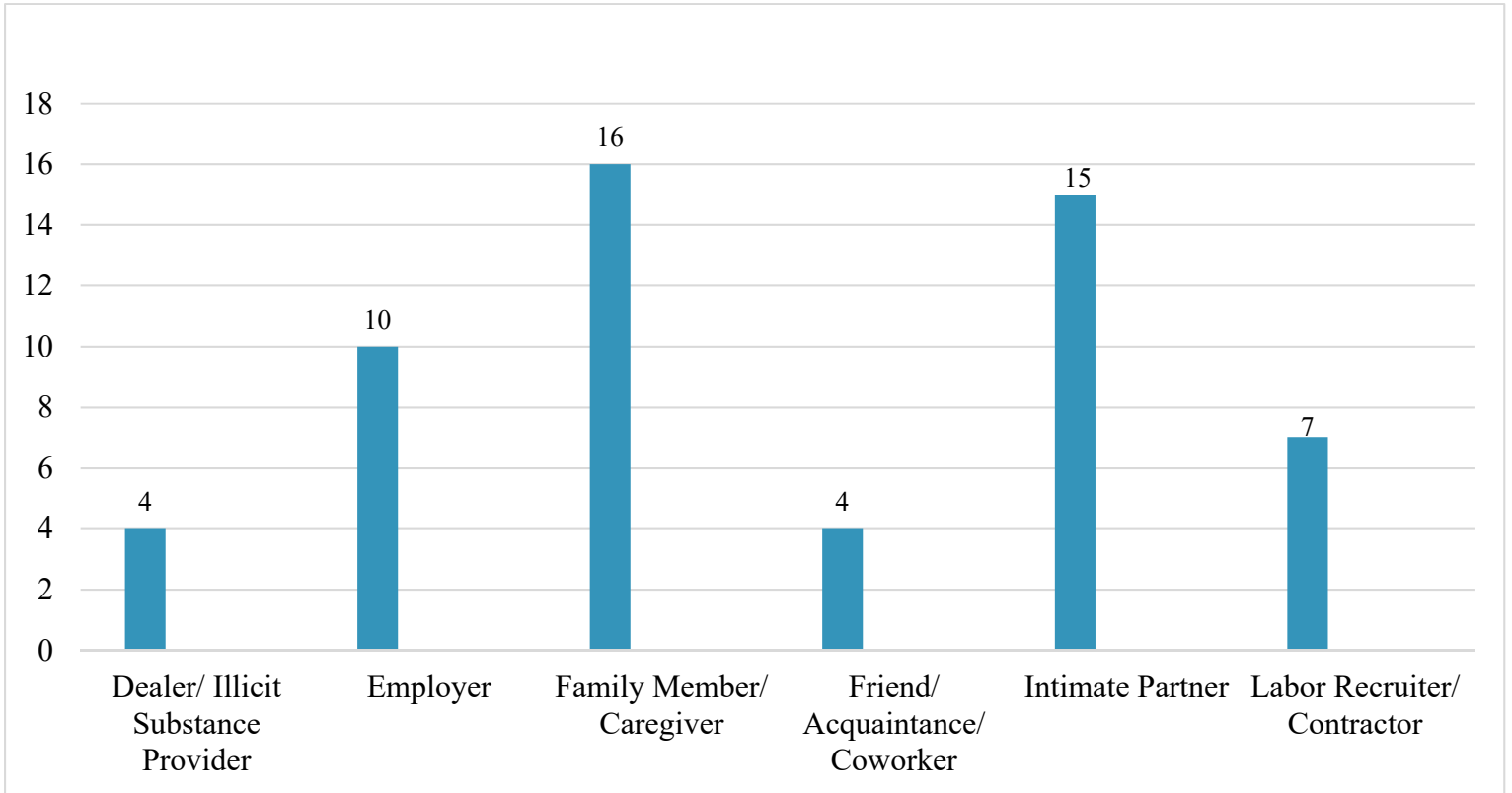
### TOP 5 TRAFFICKER RELATIONSHIP TO VICTIM



# SOUTH CAROLINA SPECIFIC DATA

## NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE DATA

### TOP 6 RECRUITER RELATIONSHIP TO VICTIM



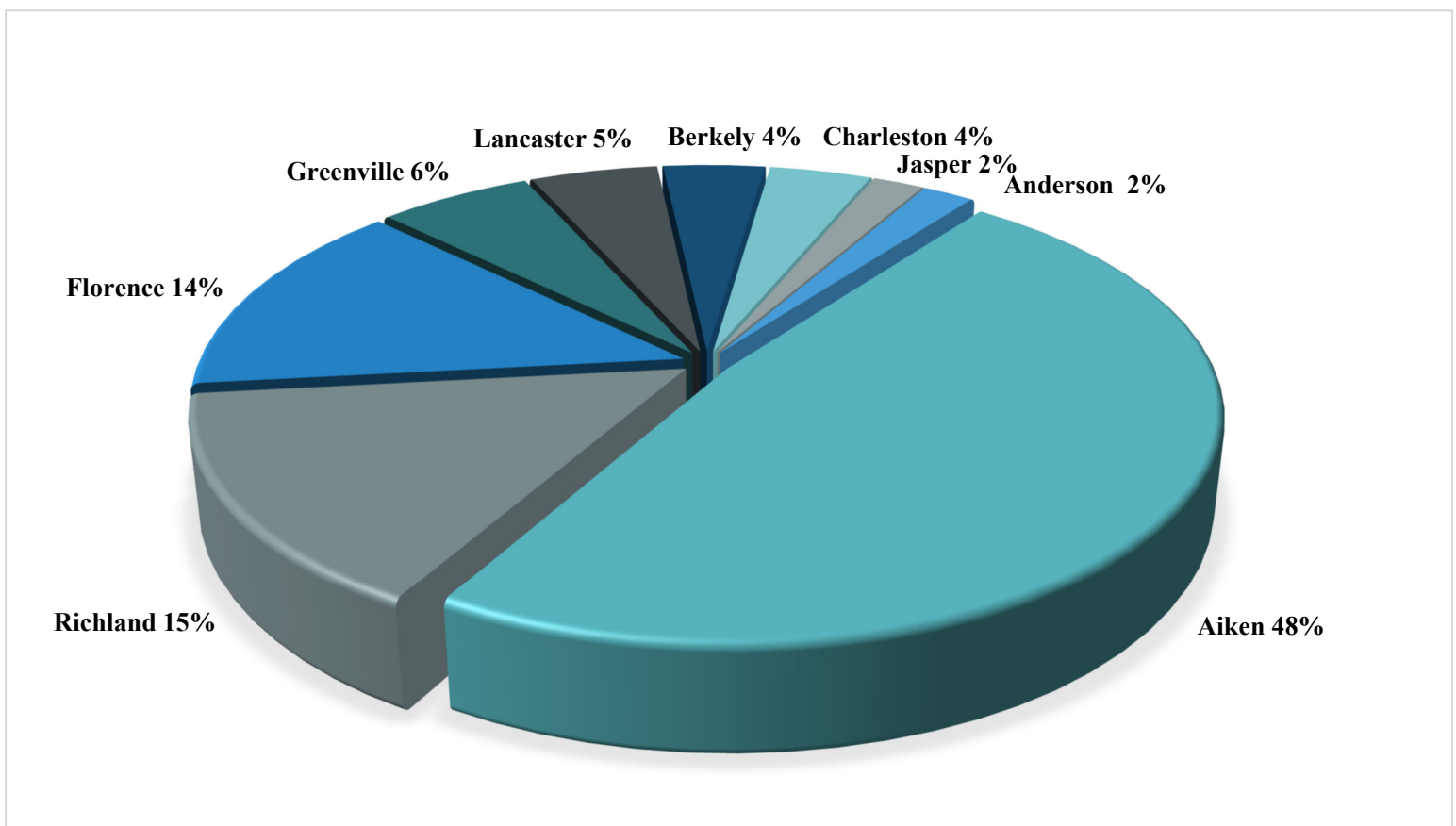


# **SOUTH CAROLINA SPECIFIC DATA**

## **COURT DATA: PENDING AND CLOSED**

In 2021, 18 different defendants have charges for human trafficking, some with more than one charge, totaling 52 charges of human trafficking in the South Carolina State Courts. One defendant pled guilty in 2021 to three charges of human trafficking and was sentenced to 9 years in prison, 19 charges were dismissed in exchange for the plea. A total of 31 cases were closed in 2021, 28 were dismissals. Of the 28 dismissals, all but four are related to guilty pleas on related charges. One of the four is due to the death of the defendant. Local law enforcement worked with State and Federal law enforcement agencies investigating cases. While only six new charges were brought in 2021, with the reopening of the court system and jury trials starting to happen more regularly, we should see a lot more movement with the pending cases. The investigations are ongoing. With potential funding to support these investigations in the future, we should see even more arrests on the state level. The current cases still primarily reflect sex trafficking, but labor trafficking is beginning to be reported and recognized more in investigations.

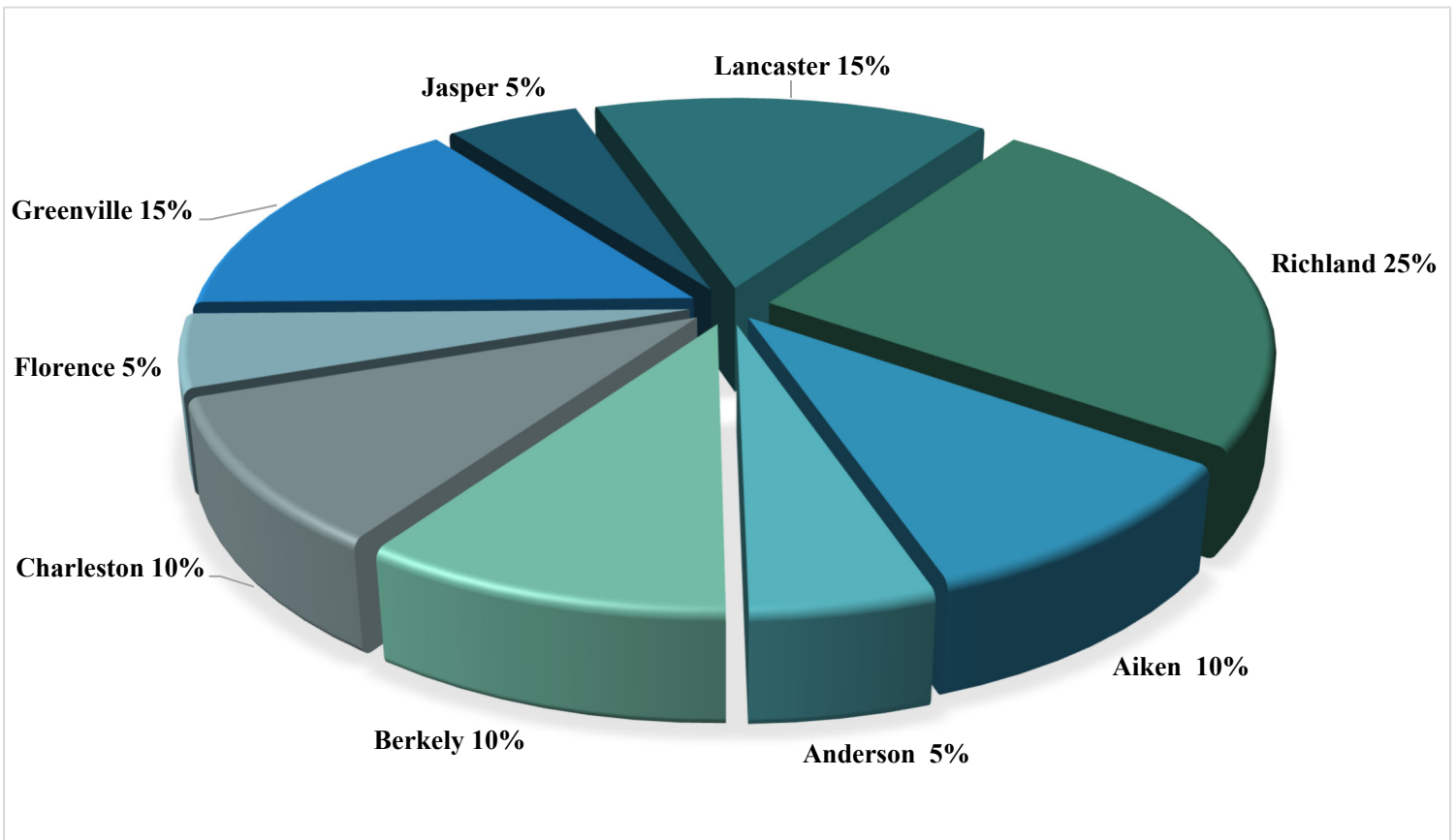
### **HUMAN TRAFFICKING CHARGES PENDING BY COUNTY**



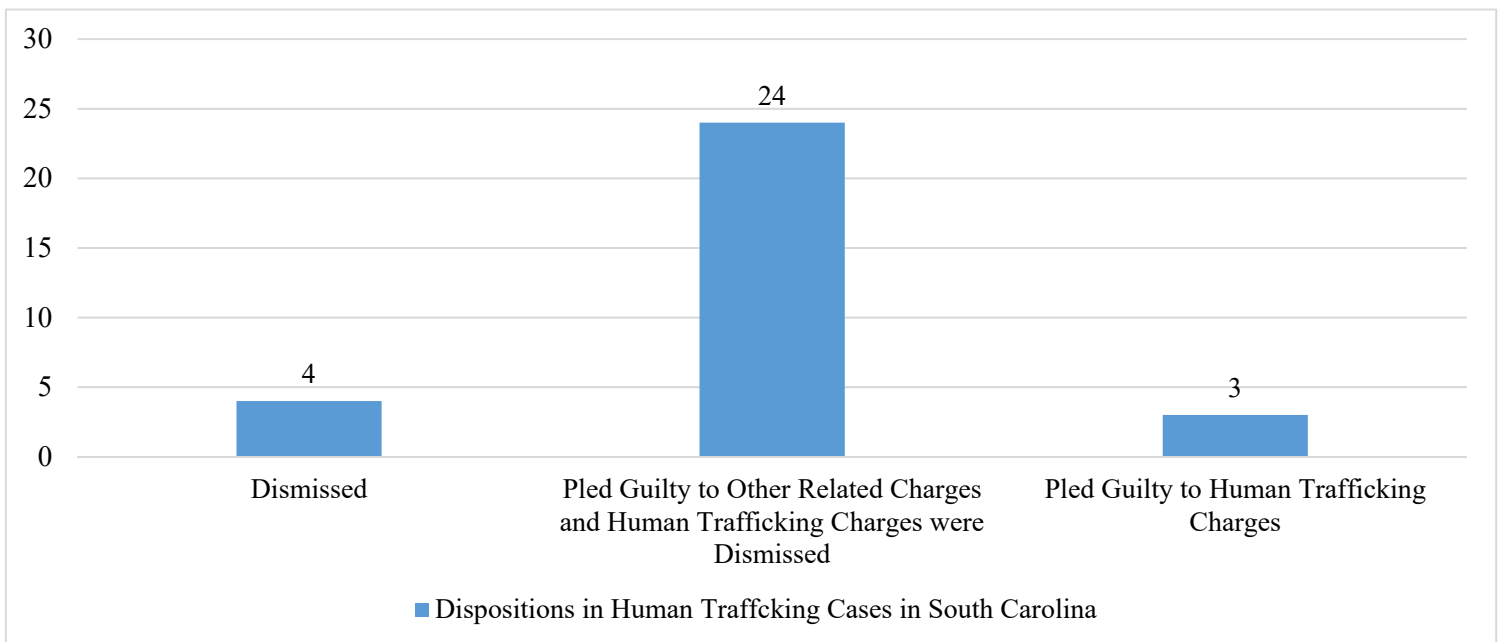
# SOUTH CAROLINA SPECIFIC DATA

## COURT DATA: PENDING AND CLOSED

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING PENDING CASES BY DEFENDANT



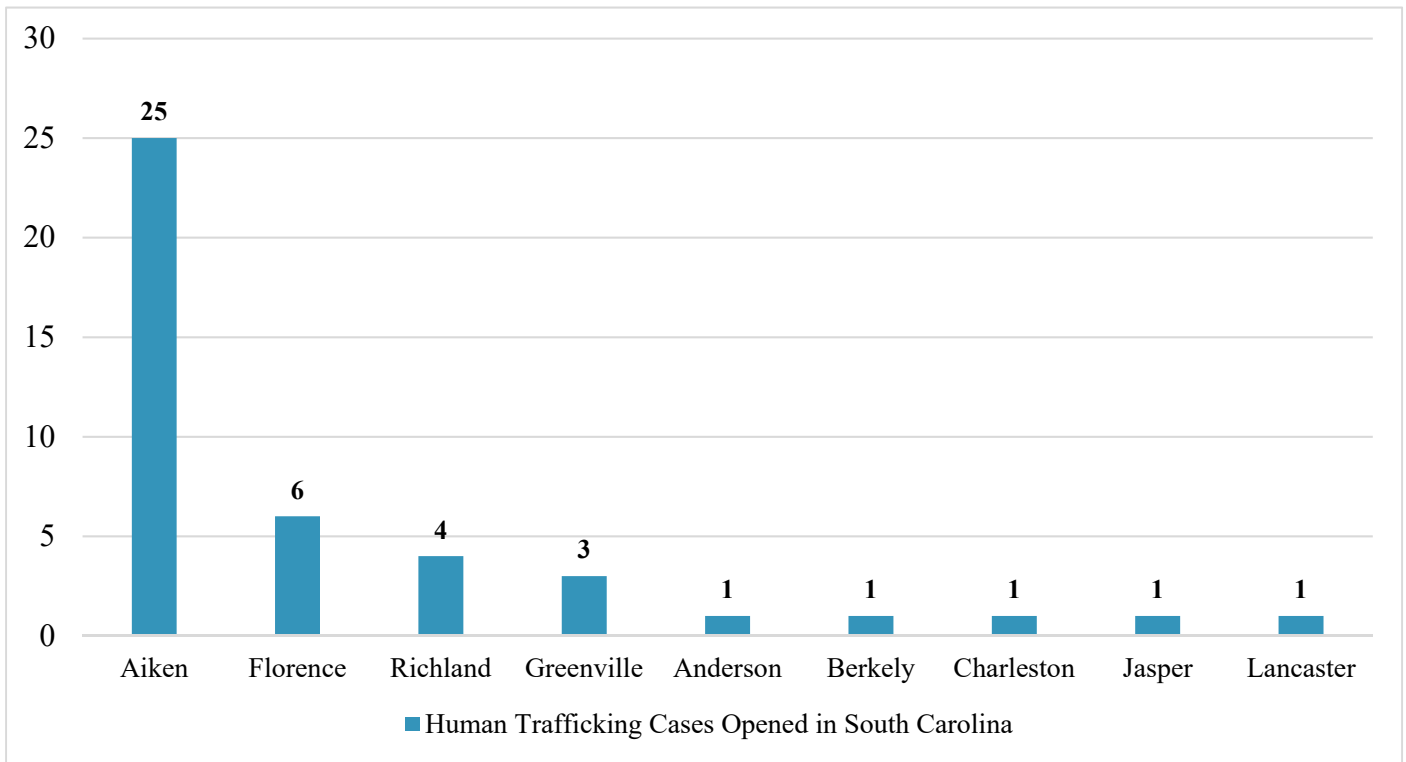
### DISPOSITIONS IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASES



# SOUTH CAROLINA SPECIFIC DATA

## COURT DATA: PENDING AND CLOSED

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASES OPENED BY COUNTY



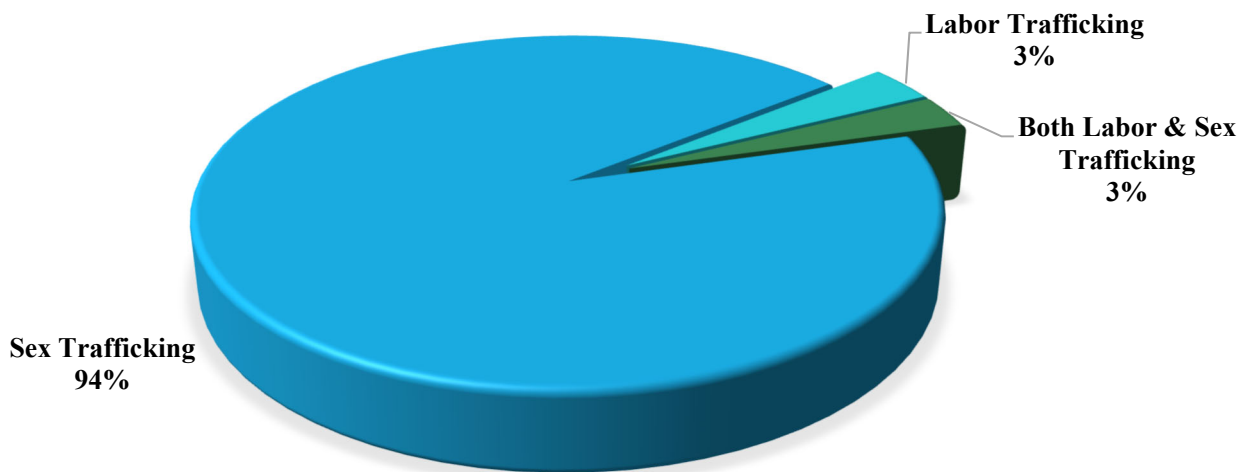
# **SOUTH CAROLINA SPECIFIC DATA**

## **DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES DATA**

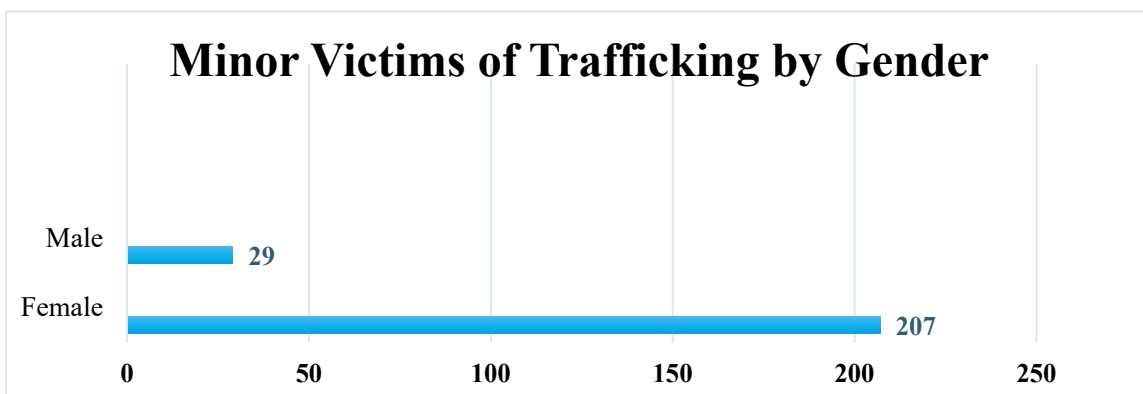
The Department of Social Services (DSS) serves South Carolina by promoting the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and vulnerable adults. DSS helps individuals achieve stability and strengthen families. In 2018, legislation passed in South Carolina that changed the definition of abuse and neglect to include minor victims of human trafficking. This resulted in DSS being positioned to provide services to a minor victim of human trafficking regardless of whether or not a parent or guardian was the perpetrator.

Since the passage of the legislation, DSS has worked on resources for their staff to help in identifying and responding to minor victims of this crime. These resources have included the development of a screening tool to aid in identifying minor victims, a response protocol, and a five-part mandatory training. Between January 1<sup>st</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup> of 2021, there were 236 children identified by DSS as victims of human trafficking.

### **MINOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING BY TYPE**



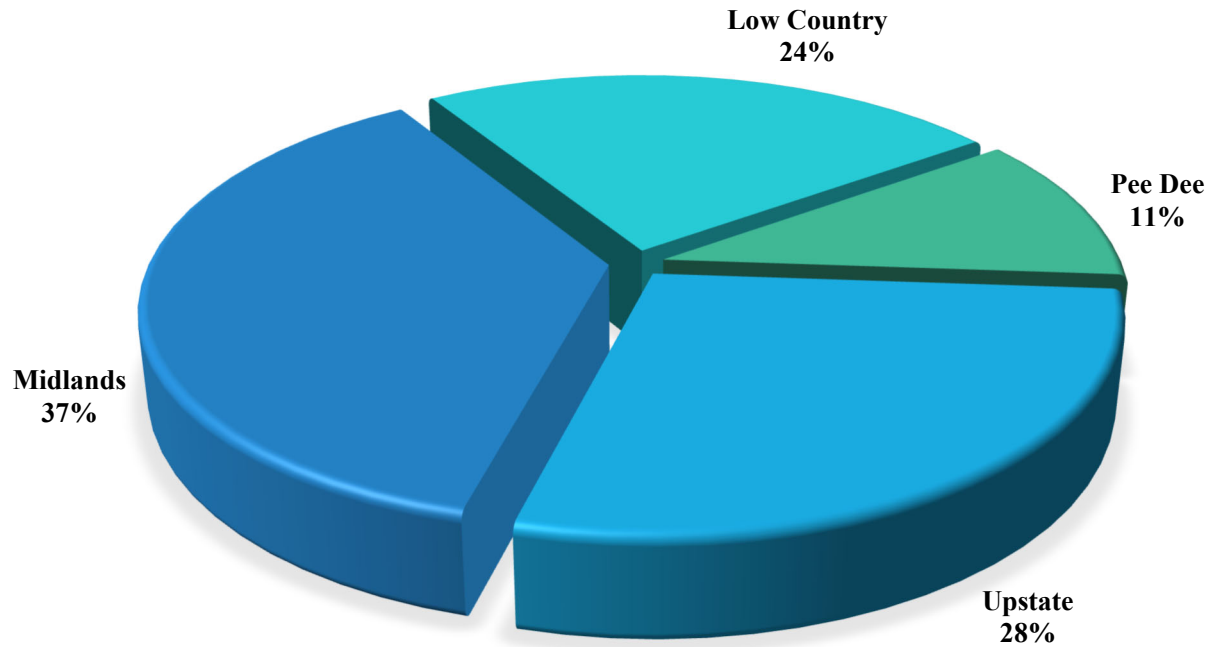
### **Minor Victims of Trafficking by Gender**



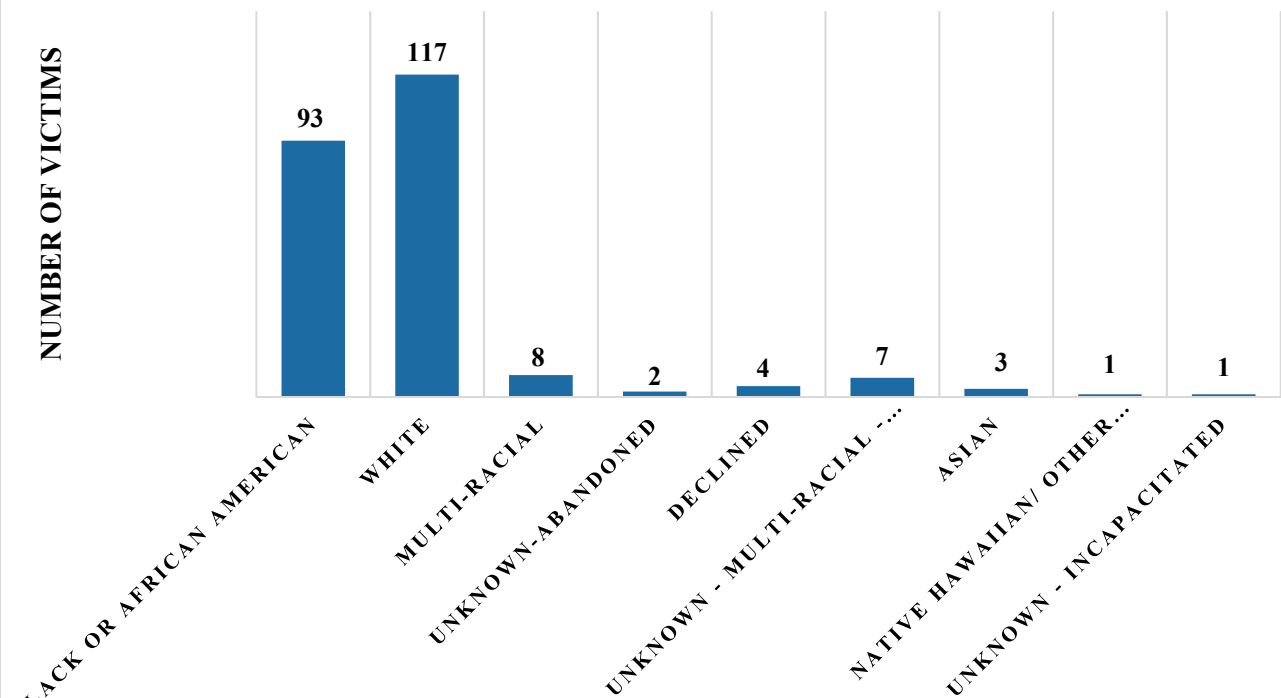
# SOUTH CAROLINA SPECIFIC DATA

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES DATA

### MINOR TRAFFICKING VICTIMS BY REGION



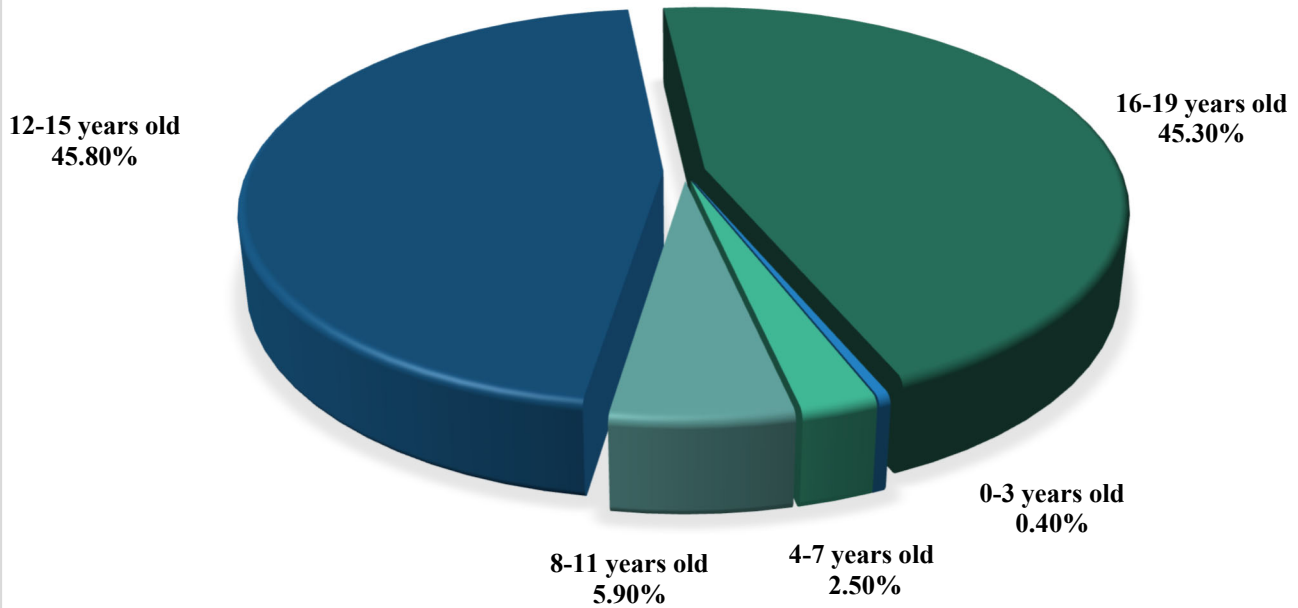
### MINOR TRAFFICKING VICTIMS BY RACE



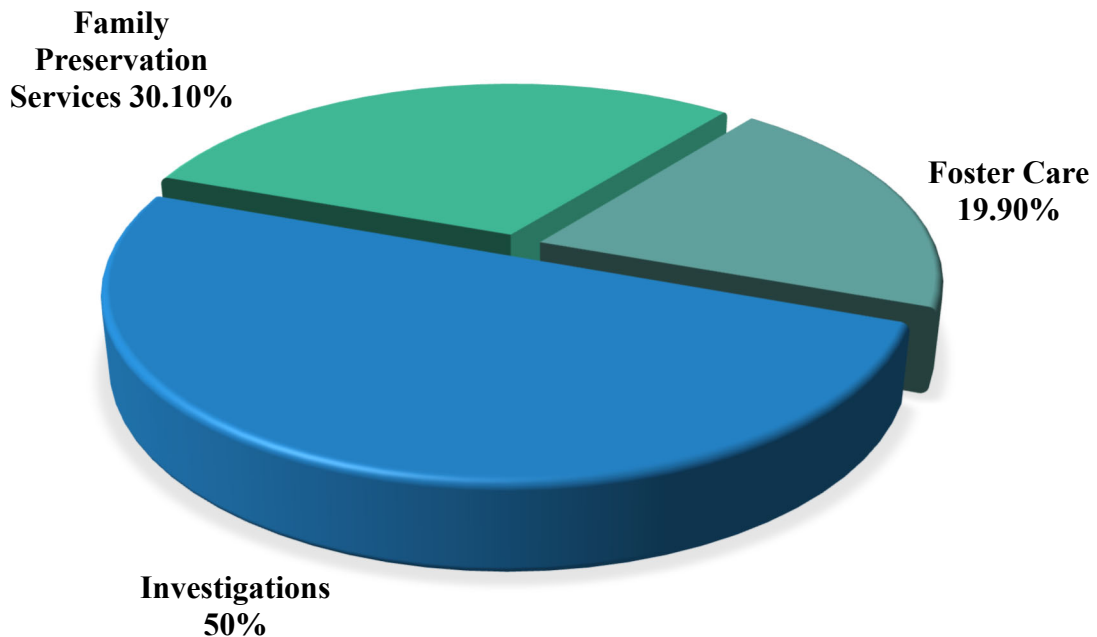
# **SOUTH CAROLINA SPECIFIC DATA**

## **DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES DATA**

### **MINOR TRAFFICKING VICTIMS BY AGE AT OPEN INVESTIGATION**



### **MINOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING BY DSS SERVICE TYPE**



# NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## STATE SELF-ASSESSMENT

### SUMMARIZED RESULTS

The National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States advises and provides recommendations for state Attorneys Generals on how to respond to minor sex trafficking across the United States. The Committee consists of individuals from various backgrounds and fields to ensure the best recommendations are made in response to child and youth sex trafficking. The Committee focuses on 12 sections:

Multidisciplinary Response, Screening and Identification, Child Welfare, Service Provision, Housing, Law Enforcement and Prosecution, Judiciary, Demand Reduction, Prevention, Legislation and Regulation, Research and Data, and Funding and Sustainability.

Despite the complexity of child and youth sex trafficking in the United States, the Committee believes each individual state needs a comprehensive response to hold perpetrators accountable and provide trauma-informed care for minor victims of sex trafficking. The state self-assessment emphasized areas in which the State of South Carolina needs additional assistance in its efforts to combat Human Trafficking, as well as areas that highlighted the state's strengths when responding to minor sex trafficking. The results from the state self-assessment will be included in a report from the Committee to the United States Congress in 2022.

### MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESPONSE

The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force operates as a multidisciplinary team composed of various sectors that coordinate their responses to minor sex trafficking. In May 2021, South Carolina passed the Child Abuse Response Protocol that requires multidisciplinary teams (MST) follow the model detailed in the protocol. South Carolina also mandated the Victim Service Provider Certification for Human Trafficking Professionals (VSP-HT) that contains a portion of training dedicated to the MDT model used by Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC). The SC Human Trafficking Task Force advocates for the use of a MDT model that promotes collaboration to effectively respond to the needs of victims, assist in identifying gaps in services, and target training that complements this approach.

While the Department of Social Services (DSS) is the primary state agency responsible for dealing with minor victims of human trafficking, the SC Human Trafficking Task Force is legislatively mandated to certify direct service providers and develop a registry that identifies resources in each region. Among the nine regional task forces in South Carolina, eight have a CAC accessible in their jurisdiction, while the remaining task force is partnered with a CAC to increase their expertise in the specific services. The regional task forces, with the support of the SC Human Trafficking Task Force, are currently identifying how providers can assist in the response to human trafficking, while also acknowledging the present gaps in care for victims/survivors. For example, only 32 out of 46 counties are currently involved with a regional task force; however, two additional task forces will be launched in early 2022.

# NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## STATE SELF-ASSESSMENT

To inform efforts that combat the crime in our state, the SC Human Trafficking Task Force has created 12 subcommittees and an advisory council that is inclusive of expertise on the topic of sex trafficking of children and youth. Each regional task force has also developed subcommittees in their areas to assist in networking and spreading general awareness regarding the sex trafficking of minors. The subcommittees promote collaboration amongst professionals in the fields of law enforcement, healthcare, child welfare, prosecution, education, and hospitality.

### SCREENING AND IDENTIFICATION

South Carolina has spent years focused on training those who may be in a position to identify and respond to victims of sex trafficking. However, training is not formally established in South Carolina to include information on vulnerabilities, risk factors, and indicators. This includes a lack of policies to ensure that Title IV-E funded programs require screening for the identification of children and youth who have experienced or are at-risk of experiencing human trafficking in accordance with Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act.

While DSS has a mandatory five-part training for their staff, they are averaging approximately 25% completion rate amongst their employees. Other state agencies, such as The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and The Department of Mental Health (DMH), have trained some of their staff, but a precise percentage has not been reported. A comprehensive data collection system has not been established within the State Task Force. However, the Task Force will begin in 2022 to monitor and document the completion of training by state subcommittees, the advisory council, regional task forces, regional task force subcommittees, and other stakeholders. The Task Force hopes to adopt a formalized “train the trainer” model to assist in prevention education and outreach to varied sectors across the state.

While South Carolina has developed the VSP-HT, it does not currently provide advanced training for professionals who implement screening tools. The State Task Force is currently working with state agencies to identify a statewide human trafficking multiagency protocol to address each agencies’ role in responding to the needs of victims. DSS currently utilizes an agency specific human trafficking response protocol and screening tool. However, many children and youth are involved in multiple systems. For example, DJJ does not currently have any policies or procedures that require screening for the identification of children or youth who have experienced or are at-risk of experiencing human trafficking. While South Carolina is working to adopt a statewide protocol for combating and responding to human trafficking, the state modified the definition of child abuse and neglect in 2018 to include minors who were trafficked, regardless of whether the perpetrator is a parent or legal guardian. Once a child or youth is identified, then DSS will notify a CAC and convene an MDT. The MDT model is currently utilized throughout the state of South Carolina and, as of 2021, is the mandated response to working with children and youth who have suffered abuse.



# NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## STATE SELF-ASSESSMENT

### DEMAND REDUCTION

The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force and its members have recognized the importance of holding buyers accountable for their role in perpetuating human trafficking. Most notably, the South Carolina General Assembly passed legislation in 2018 increasing the sentences for those found guilty of trafficking minors and positioned prosecutors to hold buyers accountable by potentially charging them with human trafficking as well. While the Task Force has not yet prioritized reducing demand, the Task Force has emphasized public awareness and prevention efforts and connecting victims/survivors to needed support services. South Carolina is focused on the importance of prosecuting traffickers and buyers, while also protecting victims of the crime. Implementing policies that emphasize reducing demand is difficult when there is a lack of a formal data collection system that records efforts by local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. Yet, the State Task Force will focus on approaches to reduce demand in 2022 through in-depth research on best and emerging practices.

### CHILD WELFARE

DSS has introduced a five-module human trafficking training to their employees in the agency and approximately a quarter of all staff have completed the training thus far. However, human trafficking training has not been legislatively mandated for all state employees. While the SC Human Trafficking Task Force has developed the VSP-HT for all service providers working directly with human trafficking victims, it is imperative that all professionals working with children and/or youth receive introductory or advanced training. This training should include information on preventing, identifying, and responding to victims who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing sex trafficking. Beginning in 2018, human trafficking training has been provided through the South Carolina Foster Parent Association. Training has been developed for foster parents, but it is not currently available for caregivers, parents, or legal guardians not system-involved.

South Carolina modified the definition of abuse and neglect to include child and youth trafficking. DSS, with the help of the Task Force, has developed common terms and vocabulary that are used in human trafficking policies and procedures. Through DSS, ongoing assessments occur bi-weekly once a minor victim has been initially placed. DSS child trafficking regulations were recently updated in September 2021 to address peer recruiting, external safety threats, and other safety risks. Unfortunately, it is too early to determine the effectiveness of the policies and procedures implemented at placement facilities.

If a child or youth runs from a placement facility, then they are reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). Additionally, DSS currently has policies that address reporting cases with foreign nationals to the Office on Trafficking in Persons. However, DSS is not in the process of raising the age to the maximum age for services and does not have an established policy in place to determine the outcome for children or youth involved in the interstate compact. DSS does track all suspected or confirmed human trafficking cases at the

# NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## STATE SELF-ASSESSMENT

intake level through the Structured Decision Making and the Child Trafficking Screening Tool (DSS Form 1544). DSS also reported that comprehensive needs assessments were to be implemented in September/ October 2021 through their rollout of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Assessment and the Family Advocacy Support Tool (FAST).

### SERVICE PROVISION

Service providers across state systems and community-based provider agencies must have the training needed to support children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking. However, South Carolina does not have a legislative mandate requiring all providers be trained regarding human trafficking. The Task Force is working with the SC Joint Council on Children and Adolescents to identify training needs within agencies that support young people in our state.

With the support of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force, regional task forces and subcommittees were created to consist of individuals from multiple sectors in an effort to collectively spread awareness statewide while strengthening networks within various professional fields. A number of the subcommittees are also positioned to help fill in the current gaps of service. The State Task Force emphasizes the need for the MDT model. The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force is aware of the gaps in services for boys, labor trafficking victims, pregnant or parenting youth, and others with special needs. The Task Force is urging the state legislature to appropriate funding to develop Acute Care & Resource Centers that would meet the unique needs of minor victims of human trafficking. Until the project is financially supported, the centers cannot be constructed and the state continues to fail the immediate needs of this vulnerable population.

### HOUSING

The State of South Carolina has two state level legislatively mandated Victim Service Provider Certifications. One of the certifications is for professionals who work directly with victims and survivors of a variety of crimes, while the other version is specific to human trafficking professionals whose primary role is working with victims and survivors of sex and labor trafficking. Currently, the South Carolina Department of Social Services has specific licensing requirements for shelters or housing facilities that provide services to children or youth who have experienced sex trafficking. However, given the lack of specialized programs, minor victims are being placed in group homes and other locations that do not provide adequate services and often times do not meet the contract requirements. In 2022, the State Task Force, under the leadership of the Office of the South Carolina Attorney General, will develop state level certification requirements per a 2018 legislative mandate. Once this process begins, the development of a resource directory of services will also be created and shared on the Task Force's website.

Currently, programs that house children and youth must be contracted through DSS and must abide by the rules and regulations documented in their contract. The contracts emphasize fulfilling basic needs of residents, and recognizing the needs that may differ based on ethnicity,

# NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## STATE SELF-ASSESSMENT

culture, gender, as well as other factors. While there are housing programs available for families, as well as children and youth, there are limited housing opportunities for families of children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking. The State Task Force has recognized this issue and plans to bring more emphasis to the matter in the future. While the State Task Force develops a resource directory for those working with victims and survivors, efforts will continue to focus on identifying funding for additional specialized services for minors.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PROSECUTION

South Carolina does not currently mandate human trafficking training for law enforcement. While agencies have shown interest in receiving training, there have been questions regarding funding and who would be responsible for providing the training to law enforcement if it were legislatively mandated. The State Task Force has provided training to law enforcement officers in the past. However, there is no comprehensive data collection system to maintain percentages across the state. Additionally, there are currently no training policies at state and local prosecutor's offices in relation to human trafficking. In 2022, the Task Force will begin monitoring law enforcement trainings to assess the percentage of professionals who have received human trafficking training specifically developed for their field of expertise.

While there is no mandate for law enforcement agencies to participate in human trafficking training, the State Task Force's Law Enforcement Subcommittee believes there are approximately 60% of agencies with at least one designated human trafficking officer. The State Task Force was legislatively mandated to develop and maintain a resource directory for law enforcement and members of the judiciary. The resource directory will include identified personnel who work human trafficking in prosecution and law enforcement as well as certified direct service providers, healthcare organizations that have implemented the protocol, children's advocacy centers, and regional task forces. The Law Enforcement Subcommittee continues to strengthen networks across the state to promote training opportunities for agencies to engage in combating human trafficking.

## JUDICIARY

Employees in the criminal justice field, to include judicial personnel and juvenile justice agencies, have received human trafficking training; however, the total number of attendees has not been documented in a comprehensive data collection system. The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force is in the process of launching a survey to measure which state agencies have human trafficking training protocols in place and what percentage of their staff have been trained to date. For example, the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice has provided human trafficking training to their community staff, but a limited number of staff in secure facilities have received training. The State Task Force is in the process of

# NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## STATE SELF-ASSESSMENT

developing a comprehensive training plan to disseminate to various sectors to ensure children and youth victims of sex trafficking are “treated with fairness, respect, and dignity,” as noted in the South Carolina Constitution’s Crime Victim’s Bill of Rights.

The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice has developed a Risk and Needs Assessment (RANA) that allows for both static and dynamic factors to be measured. However, there aren’t any human trafficking related questions on the RANA to determine a child or youth’s potential involvement in the crime. The RANA is a tool that allows the Community Case Manager to make the most comprehensive recommendations based on the individual youth. When children or youth are located in a secure facility, there are no policies or procedures in place related to peer recruitment for human trafficking. This is a focus that the Department will be encouraged to amend in the future to address this safety risk.

South Carolina has Family Court Judge leadership involved in specific human trafficking related matters. Efforts are underway to develop specialized court procedures to support children and youth who have been identified as potential or confirmed human trafficking victims. Meanwhile, a Guardian Ad Litem program for minors identified as potential victims was established and professionals trained to support minors in Family Court. Judicial personnel are encouraged to participate in state and regional task forces, multidisciplinary teams, and committees to assist in providing insight regarding the justice system as well as identifying ways to improve the response to this vulnerable population.

## PREVENTION

Trainings for providers working directly with children and youth typically contains a portion about identifying and preventing young people from being victimized. The formal, state level certification includes trauma-informed care, communication with survivors, and how to identify young people who may be more vulnerable to victimization. There is currently a state human trafficking protocol for healthcare settings that the Healthcare Subcommittee has been honing in 2021. The Task Force hopes to implement the protocol to additional facilities in the upcoming year. The 330 funded health centers will be noted when the state is mapped for training purposes.

Currently, there are no requirements in South Carolina for school staff to receive training about human trafficking. However, there have been schools, administrators, school resource officers, and others that have requested training through the State Task Force. There has been discussion about either incorporating the topic into curricula that falls under Erin’s Law or legislatively mandating the requirement along with those in healthcare. Middle and high schools in South Carolina do not require basic information on sex trafficking to be shared with their students. There is no measure available regarding the percentage of schools that have incorporated information about sex trafficking and building healthy relationships into their assemblies, health classes or other prevention curricula. There have been schools that have reached out and received training, as well as National Human Trafficking Hotline posters. The Office of the South Carolina Attorney General, the lead on the State Task Force, recently hired a Human Trafficking

# NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## STATE SELF-ASSESSMENT

Program Coordinator. This individual is responsible for presenting to schools who request presentations beginning in 2022. The Task Force will also be offering such opportunities to youth serving agencies across the state while maintaining a database of those who have completed prevention education within their organizations.

Furthermore, the South Carolina Department of Social Services and the Department of Juvenile Justice do not have policies or procedures in place that require research-based prevention education on sex trafficking. All state agencies that work with children and will be encouraged to develop such policies and procedures in the future. These efforts will also be monitored and recorded in a data collection system.

## LEGISLATION AND REGULATION

South Carolina has removed criminal liability for prostitution for children and youth who are victims of sex trafficking. However, the state has not extended non-criminalization of prostitution and ancillary offenses for youth under the age of 24 in accordance with the foster care age coverage option within the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (JVTA). South Carolina legislation has enacted the following:

Confirmed that the sex trafficking statute applies when an offender communicates with a law enforcement officer posing as a child, enables sex buyers who promote the exchange of sex for money or anything of value among other potential buyers to be charged with a felony offense, ensures that purchasing sex with a child or youth is a felony, prohibits buyers of sex acts with children and youth from using a mistake of age defense, and requires individuals convicted of purchasing sex with a child or youth to register as sex offenders.

South Carolina state laws have also been assessed to determine the ability to hold offending websites and social media platforms accountable for knowingly assisting, facilitating, or supporting the sex trafficking of children and youth. While our legislation holds businesses accountable for knowingly assisting or facilitating human trafficking, there has not been a case to date that has tested this with online communication platforms.

Of the cases that have involved a child or youth sex trafficking victim, South Carolina has adopted trauma-informed victim-witness testimony and prosecution. South Carolina does allow closed circuit testimony for minor victims of sexual abuse, recorded depositions, and permits hearsay. However, South Carolina allows cross-examination by alleged perpetrators, which has the potential to cause re-traumatization.

## RESEARCH AND DATA

The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force Research & Data Subcommittee has been working on standardized definitions and terminology across state agencies, as well as aligning with efforts at the federal level. The State Task Force is developing a comprehensive data

# **NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

## **STATE SELF-ASSESSMENT**

collection system once the resources to do so are secured. This will position the Task Force to implement data sharing agreements across state agencies. The agreements will include standardized identifiers and definitions, as well as, established protocols regarding information sharing and protecting the confidentiality of victims.

The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force, under the leadership of the South Carolina Attorney General, has data sharing agreements with two state agencies, including the SC Department of Social Services and the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division. While there are no requirements in South Carolina that child welfare, juvenile justice, law enforcement, and prosecutor's offices must report aggregate data about sex trafficking of children and youth, the Office of the Attorney General collects data from members of the Task Force to include in the annual report. As stated, the data is collected and included in the mandated annual report that goes to the Governor, the President of the SC Senate, and the Speaker of the SC House of Representatives.

## **FUNDING AND SUSTAINABILITY**

The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice, in partnership with the University of South Carolina's Children Law Center, applied in 2021 for a federal grant to train their staff, develop new policies, and implement new agency wide efforts to identify and respond to minor victims of human trafficking. Unfortunately, they did not receive the grant as it did not fall under one of the primary pillars of focus under federal guidelines. The South Carolina Department of Social Services also applied for a federal grant in 2020 attempting to increase funding to expand services for minor victims of human trafficking; however, the agency was not awarded the funding for the project.

The State Task Force has developed various strategies to assist minor trafficking victims, but has not received any appropriation from state government to act on meeting the needs of this population. South Carolina currently has two residential facilities that house minor female victims; however, only one facility has been operable due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. The program that has continued throughout the pandemic receives funding through a VOCA grant and is hopeful that VOCA funding will increase again in coming years. The State Task Force is hopeful that additional agencies will apply for funding to fill in the current gaps of services across the state. Unfortunately, the limited specialized service providers in turn handicaps DSS's ability to meet the needs of all minor human trafficking victims in South Carolina. There are current efforts underway to ask the legislature to dedicate funding, appropriated annually, to the State Task Force to provide its members with needed resources to build services, increase law enforcement investigators, and establish Acute Care and Resource Centers.

## STRATEGIC RESPONSE

### NATIONAL AND STATE PARTNERSHIPS

The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force honors collaboration in its approach to combating the crime and providing specialized services to victims and survivors. The goal of these partnerships is to ultimately aid in combating human trafficking throughout South Carolina, the Southeast region, and our nation. In turn, such efforts will assist in building the capacity of law enforcement and other professional service providers to meet the specific needs of victims and survivors.

To effectively communicate and collaborate with partners across the nation, Attorney General Alan Wilson and his staff actively contribute to regional and national workgroups. The South Carolina Attorney General's Office is eager to continue our leadership of the State Task Force in 2022. Additionally, we look forward to creating new partnerships and initiatives that will effectively contribute to the anti-human trafficking efforts.

While we plan to develop new partnerships, we would like to continue our existing collaborations and thank the following organizations for their efforts. While the following groups assist in solving the complex challenges that factor into abolishing human trafficking, they vary in their sector specific approaches within the anti-human trafficking arena.

---

### THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ATTORNEY GENERAL



NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION OF  
ATTORNEYS GENERAL

The National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG) provides a forum for the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and insights on subjects of importance to the Attorneys General of the states, territories, and district. It fosters local, state, and federal engagement, cooperation, and communication on legal and law enforcement issues. It provides training, research, and analysis to members and their staff on a wide range of subjects relevant to the practice areas of the Attorneys General offices.

Attorneys General across the nation recognize that human trafficking is a scourge upon our communities. To proactively and collaboratively combat this crime, the Attorneys General have established the NAAG Human Trafficking Committee. The committee's goals are to investigate and promote best practices for combating human trafficking at the state level. Focus areas include law enforcement and prosecution strategies, educational outreach efforts, and alliances with partner agencies and non-governmental organizations.

As a longtime proponent of anti-human trafficking efforts and an active member of NAAG, South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson continued to be a sitting member of the Human Trafficking Committee in 2020. The committee has compiled resources to help states abolish this crime and posted them on the national website ([www.naag.org](http://www.naag.org)).

# STRATEGIC RESPONSE

## NATIONAL AND STATE PARTNERSHIPS

### POLARIS



The National Human Trafficking Hotline and BeFree Textline (hereto referred to as “the hotline”) is the nationwide anti-human trafficking hotline and resource center serving victims and survivors of human trafficking and the anti-trafficking community in the United States. Since 2007, it has been run by Polaris, a nonprofit, non-governmental organization. The hotline offers round-the-clock access to a safe space to report tips, seek services, and ask for help. Through the hotline, Polaris also provides innovative anti-trafficking trainings, technical assistance, and capacity building support.

In May 2017, the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force, under the leadership of the Office of the Attorney General, formalized its partnership with Polaris to strengthen statewide capacity to respond to and support victims/survivors. By entering into a Memorandum of Understanding, both parties officially recognized the importance of collaboration to identify and serve victims, promote greater public awareness, and increase the skills and capacity of law enforcement and professional service providers in understanding and responding to human trafficking in South Carolina.

The Office of the South Carolina Attorney General, under the leadership of the State Task Force Coordinator, continued to work in partnership with the organization throughout 2021. Specifically, collaboration was primarily in relation to the state’s connection to the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Our partnership continues to effectively position stakeholders in South Carolina to better respond to potential incidents of human trafficking and provide victims and survivors access with much-needed services.

### THORN



Thorn is a unique nonprofit leveraging technology to combat child sexual exploitation. They are partnered with international NGOs and technology volunteers to stop the spread of child sexual abuse material and combat child traffickers who utilize the Internet in their crimes. Their work is guided by three principals: accelerate victim identification, equip platforms, and empower the public.

In 2015, Thorn built a technological tool, Spotlight, to help law enforcement identify child sex trafficking victims and arrest their abusers. Currently, officers in all 50 states and Canada leverage the tool in their investigations and have helped to identify thousands of child victims of human trafficking in the past five years. The technology identifies ten children per day on average, generating more than a 60% reduction in search time. Ultimately, Spotlight has equipped law enforcement to tackle more cases of child sexual exploitation within a shorter time frame.



## STRATEGIC RESPONSE

### NATIONAL AND STATE PARTNERSHIPS

To actualize a vision where all of South Carolina’s law enforcement agencies are equipped to monitor the Internet for child sex trafficking, the State Task Force continued its collaboration with Thorn in 2021. To expand access and use of Thorn’s Spotlight technology throughout South Carolina, the Task Force offered a Spotlight specific training for law enforcement agencies in the state.

### U.S. COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS



In 2019, the Coordinator of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force met with representatives of the United States Committee on Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) to foster a relationship that would influence the state’s response to foreign national victims in need of support services. The Task Force hopes to create a systemic response to connecting victims and survivors with safe, quality programming.

USCRI hoped to coordinate with the Attorney General’s Office to meet with direct service providers in South Carolina who would like to expand or develop programs to reach this population. The meeting was intended to feature opportunities for fiscal support as well as training on the requirements to receive ongoing funding and technical support. It is hoped that the meeting will be scheduled in 2022 to position more organizations to provide much-needed services. Meanwhile, the State Task Force works with the Committee to connect victims and survivors with needed services in communities across South Carolina.

For more information on the USCRI TVAP Program, or to learn how to become a TVAP partner, please contact USCRI at [traffickingvictims@uscridc.org](mailto:traffickingvictims@uscridc.org). To learn more about human trafficking, HHS certification, TVAP eligibility, and other federal resources, please visit: [www.refugees.org](http://www.refugees.org)

### NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING & DISABILITIES WORKING GROUP



Human traffickers are increasingly targeting an especially vulnerable population: those with intellectual and physical disabilities. There have been grotesque examples in South Carolina of this crime perpetrated against disabled individuals. Knowledge of these crimes drew the attention of the Task Force leadership and motivated its increased focus in this area. In 2018, the Attorney General’s Coordinator of the State Task Force became a member and representative of South Carolina on the National Human Trafficking and Disabilities Work Group (NHTDWG).

# STRATEGIC RESPONSE

## NATIONAL AND STATE PARTNERSHIPS

The mission of the Work Group is to prevent the trafficking of individuals with disabilities and deaf individuals and to advance the health and well-being of trafficking survivors with disabilities and deaf survivors of trafficking through research, policy analysis, technical assistance, and training.

In 2021, the Coordinator of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force joined the Capacity and Community Building Subcommittee. The subcommittee's goal is to create a coordinated service referral model and identify potential trauma-informed service providers in local communities. Additionally, the subcommittee is tasked with raising awareness nationally regarding the intersection of human trafficking and disabilities while also disseminating resources on the topic. The subcommittee will also promote a survivor-centered response that is accessible to the needs of survivors with disabilities.

### REGION IV - SOUTHEAST LEADERSHIP ADVISORY GROUP



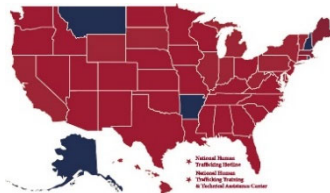
The US Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Region IV office in Atlanta coordinates the Southeast Leadership Advisory Group representing eight states. Representatives from each of the participating states, namely state task force leads and other state agency representatives, typically meet four times a year. With two meetings hosted by member states and two meetings via conference call, the group regularly discusses pressing issues in the anti-human trafficking field. The eight states who participate in this coalition include South Carolina, North Carolina, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

In 2021, members of the Advisory Group communicated virtually in an effort to share recourses, identify restorative care programs for victims and survivors, and collaborate on law enforcement training. The latter resulted in North Carolina and South Carolina co-hosting training by Collective Liberty on the topic of illicit massage businesses. Law enforcement in both states were invited to the free two-day training. North Carolina offered the training in Raleigh while South Carolina offered it in Rock Hill and North Charleston. As we transition into 2022, there will be continued efforts to develop a network of law enforcement contacts in all eight states to allow for improved communication during multi-state human trafficking investigations. The goal is to host a convening of these professionals to further position the investigators to share resources and build working relationships.

# STRATEGIC RESPONSE

## NATIONAL AND STATE PARTNERSHIPS

### NATIONAL COMPENDIUM OF STATE-RUN ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING INITIATIVES



A growing number of statewide initiatives have been created across the country that are generally housed within a state government agency. The National Compendium of State-Run Anti-Human Trafficking Initiatives is a group of professionals, primarily operating at the state level, who work on human trafficking issues and inform state-level policy decisions on how to address the crime. The National Compendium is designed as an opportunity for leaders to share ideas with one another to boost anti-human trafficking efforts both nationally and within their own states. It is led by the Colorado Human Trafficking Council under the Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice, and Office for Victims Programs.

Currently, the National Compendium is composed of the majority of states and two national agencies. South Carolina remains an active member. Kathryn Moorehead, Coordinator of the State Task Force, joined four other state leaders on the first Steering Committee of the National Compendium. The other states represented in the Steering Committee include North Carolina, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Nevada. In early 2022, these state leaders are transitioning out of their two-year term serving on the Steering Committee to allow other states to represent at the national level.

### SOUTH CAROLINA BEER WHOLESALERS ASSOCIATION



The South Carolina Beer Wholesalers Association pledged their commitment in November of 2019 to help combat human trafficking in our state by partnering with the State Task Force. In 2020, the Association distributed posters across the state to help bring awareness of the crime as well as information on how to report an incident or seek help through the National Human Trafficking Hotline. The delivery trucks had signage posted on them throughout January, National Human Trafficking Awareness Month, to further expose the public to the hotline number. Furthermore, the Task Force began training 16 distributors across the state about human trafficking, how to respond safely, and the best response protocols specific to their industry. A training that was postponed in 2020, due to COVID-19, was rescheduled virtually in 2021.

In January 2022, the South Carolina Beer Wholesalers Association, in partnership with their members, will be placing National Human Trafficking Hotline bumper stickers on delivery trucks and sales vehicles to highlight National Human Trafficking Awareness Month. The bumper stickers will aid in educating the public as to how to report suspected sex trafficking in South Carolina.

**For more information about the South Carolina Beer Wholesalers Association, please visit:**

[www.scbwa.com](http://www.scbwa.com)

# STRATEGIC RESPONSE

## NATIONAL AND STATE PARTNERSHIPS

### SOUTH CAROLINA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION



The Office of the South Carolina Attorney General and the South Carolina Trucking Association (SCTA) partnered in January of 2018 along with Truckers Against Trafficking for the first Coalition Build in South Carolina. Law enforcement from 26 agencies joined trucking industry workers in Columbia to learn about human trafficking, learn how to respond to potential incidents, and create a network ready to help combat this crime throughout our state. On the same day, Attorney General Wilson announced that the South Carolina Trucking Association was officially joining the State Task Force to continue highlighting the need to combat human trafficking in the trucking industry.

In 2021, the South Carolina Trucking Association collaborated with the Office of the South Carolina Attorney General and other state agencies to launch the Highway Heroes Campaign. This campaign was aimed at offering free human trafficking awareness training to individuals with Commercial Drivers Licenses (CDL). The training was provided by Truckers Against Trafficking. Nearly 150,000 postcards are being sent to CDL holders across South Carolina to inform them of how to access the free training online.

**For more information, please visit:**

[www.sctrucking.org](http://www.sctrucking.org)

### SOUTH CAROLINA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION



The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force, under the leadership of the Office of the Attorney General, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2018 with the South Carolina Hospital Association (SCHA). The MOU officially welcomed the Hospital Association as a member of the State Task Force and recognized their commitment to supporting efforts to educate medical care providers across South Carolina about the complexities of human trafficking. This includes supporting specialized training efforts that center around the official state protocol for medical providers that was completed, and continues to be honed, by the Task Force Healthcare Subcommittee. The trainings will help those in the field identify potential victims and learn how to best respond to their needs. The Task Force continues to value its partnership with the Hospital Association and the impact our combined efforts will have on victims and survivors in South Carolina.

**For more information, please visit:**

[www.scha.org](http://www.scha.org)

# STRATEGIC RESPONSE

## NATIONAL AND STATE PARTNERSHIPS

### SOUTH CAROLINA RESTAURANT & LODGING ASSOCIATION



The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force formally began its partnership with the South Carolina Restaurant and Lodging Association in 2019. The South Carolina Restaurant and Lodging Association represents over 2,200-member restaurant and lodging companies and industry-related service providers. It is these members that help make the hospitality industry South Carolina's largest employer and one of the state's most politically active and public service-oriented industries.

The goal is to bring awareness to the members of the association regarding both sex trafficking and labor trafficking and to better position the hospitality industry to respond to incidents within their establishments. The State Task Force looks forward to continued collaboration on professional training opportunities and heightened awareness within this sector.

**For more information about the South Carolina Restaurant and Lodging Association, please visit:**

[www.scrila.org](http://www.scrila.org)

### INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S ALLIANCE



Nationally, professionals in the anti-human trafficking arena have recognized that vulnerable populations are most often targeted by traffickers. This includes Indigenous people who may be living in rural areas of the country and struggling to financially sustain themselves and their families. In 2018, the State Task Force partnered with the Indigenous Women's Alliance of South Carolina to support Indigenous citizens of South Carolina through human trafficking awareness efforts. A goal was established to help prevent and protect human trafficking in their tribal communities and implemented in part during 2019.

The Indigenous Women's Alliance of South Carolina is a subcommittee under the South Carolina Indian Affairs Commission. While the Commission focuses on unity among Native Americans, the Alliance focuses on serving Indigenous women in or from South Carolina.

**For more information, please contact:**

[Indigenowomenofsc@gmail.com](mailto:Indigenowomenofsc@gmail.com)

Instagram: @indigenowomensallianceofsc

Facebook: South Carolina Indian Affairs Commission

# STRATEGIC RESPONSE

## TASK FORCE INITIATIVES

The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force seeks to engage in innovative initiatives each year to further anti-human trafficking efforts in our state. The Task Force has continued to adapt to the demands of COVID-19 throughout 2021 and progressed efforts in much-needed areas. These include prevention education and data collection, while also exploring the need for temporary housing facilities throughout each region.

### VICTIM SERVICE PROVIDER CERTIFICATION FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROFESSIONALS

In January 2019, the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force partnered with the Attorney General's Department of Crime Victim Services Training, Provider Certification, and Statistical Analysis to launch a specialized training for human trafficking service providers. The development of this training followed the passage of H3329 in the spring of 2018. This training is the first of its kind in South Carolina as well as the nation.

Qualified providers who complete a minimum of 15 hours in approved VSP human trafficking specific basic core requirements will receive certification. Certification is maintained by a minimum of 12 hours of approved VSP continuing education credits each subsequent calendar year.

#### **Requirements to be considered for VSP-HT certification**

- A person who meets the statutory definition of Victim Service Provider (§ 16-3-1420), and
- Whose role is primarily or solely providing direct services to victims of human trafficking, and is
- A recognized member of a regional and/or the State Human Trafficking Task Force in South Carolina; and
- Is approved by the criteria established by the State Human Trafficking Task Force Coordinator.

The State Task Force, under the direction of the Office of the South Carolina Attorney General, offered the Victim Service Provider Certification for Human Trafficking Professionals (VSP-HT) in December 2021. The training was offered virtually over five days with three hours of presentations on each morning. The VSP-HT training positioned approximately 35 human trafficking professionals to complete the state-level certification. Leadership is appreciative of those who presented during the 15 hour training and all the professionals who completed the requirements to become VSP-HT certified.

# STRATEGIC RESPONSE

## TASK FORCE INITIATIVES

### PREVENTION EDUCATION & OUTREACH INITIATIVE

The State Task Force expanded its initiative by hiring a Human Trafficking Program Coordinator to assess and meet the needs of prevention education and community outreach in South Carolina. The Human Trafficking Program Coordinator will develop and disseminate innovative anti-trafficking training and awareness materials that are sector-specific. Efforts will highlight the role each sector plays in combating human trafficking.

The goal of the State Task Force is to implement prevention education for schools, offer professional training to first responders, and ensure healthcare providers are equipped to work with human trafficking victims and survivors. Another goal is to educate communities across South Carolina about human trafficking through the use of accurate, reliably sourced information.

The State Task Force will incorporate a hybrid option for schools and youth serving agencies as needed in 2022. The requests and preferences of the educational institutions and community organizations will determine how the prevention education material is presented to staff and/or students. The Task Force has identified different age-appropriate curricula to be used when working with students in middle and high schools. The curricula choices, as well as additional information on how to request presentations, will be shared with stakeholders across the state in early 2022.

Additionally, the State Task Force recognizes the need to create trainings that address how professional sectors and their roles intersect in the overall goal of identifying and responding to human trafficking in South Carolina. These trainings will highlight the State Task Force's Strategic Response Protocol as well as other state and agency protocols that incorporate multidisciplinary teams and rapid response to meet the specific needs of victim and survivors.

# STRATEGIC RESPONSE

## TASK FORCE INITIATIVES

### LABOR TRAFFICKING INITIATIVE

Nationwide, labor trafficking is an under discussed and underreported form of human trafficking. Relative to sex trafficking, labor trafficking is the subject of far fewer public awareness campaigns and trainings, which in turn hampers victim identification efforts. Low levels of victim identification translate into even lower numbers of labor trafficking cases brought forth. The failure to address labor trafficking in equal measure ultimately leaves victims and survivors without critical services, often for weeks and months at a time. South Carolina in particular faces a dearth of labor trafficking-specific services, making it even more difficult for victims and survivors to find refuge.

To remedy these gaps in South Carolina, the State Task Force has placed high priority on anti-labor trafficking initiatives. The Task Force relaunched the Labor Trafficking Subcommittee in 2020 and began developing key initiatives to address this form of exploitation. This priority is shared by the Administration for Children and Families' Region IV Southeast Human Trafficking Advisory Group and the National Compendium of State-Run Anti-Human Trafficking Initiatives. In 2020, both entities pledged independently to expand their efforts to combat labor trafficking. That commitment continued in 2021 and will be emphasized in 2022.

The State Task Force's Labor Trafficking Subcommittee, chaired by the US Department of Labor, coordinates anti-labor trafficking initiatives at the state level. In 2020, these initiatives included the development of labor trafficking-specific resources for the Task Force Online Resource Library and the inclusion of labor trafficking training in the 2020 VSP-HT webinars, as well as other community presentations. In 2021, the Labor Trafficking Subcommittee created and launched a publicly accessible webinar training on labor trafficking, developed labor trafficking public awareness campaigns, implemented sector-specific labor trafficking trainings, and increased the collection of labor trafficking data.

The goals of these efforts were to bolster public engagement on the topic and increase labor trafficking victim identification. It is critical that anti-human trafficking programs at the local, state, and national levels fill the systematic gaps in labor trafficking response. By creating and promoting these initiatives, the State Task Force hopes to equalize the responses to sex and labor trafficking, and bolster investigations, victim services, and public education efforts that target the crime.

### DISABILITY INCLUSION INITIATIVE

In 2021, the Task Force continued its efforts to emphasize the need to focus on human trafficking victims and survivors with disabilities through ongoing membership in the National Human Trafficking and Disability Working Group (NHTDWG). Kathryn Moorehead, the Director of VAWA and Human Trafficking Program and Coordinator at the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force, joined the NHTDWG Capacity and Community Building Subcommittee. She has participated in various discussions, e-meetings, and webinars regarding human trafficking and disability injustices.



# STRATEGIC RESPONSE

## TASK FORCE INITIATIVES

The Task Force is aiming to eliminate barriers for victims and survivors with disabilities so they have access to similar education, counseling, and vocational programs. The Task Force is aware of possible underlying challenges that could limit options for victims and survivors receiving care through direct service providers. In 2022, the Task Force plans to focus on disability services throughout the state and to establish a statewide protocol so victims and survivors with disabilities are cared for accordingly.

### DATA COLLECTION INITIATIVE

The State Task Force and the National Human Trafficking Hotline maintain an ongoing partnership. The State Task Force utilizes the information provided from the National Hotline to adjust anti-trafficking initiatives in each region. The State Task Force understands the complexity of data collection in relation to human trafficking in South Carolina, as well as the limitations. Therefore, the South Carolina Office of the Attorney General requested the creation of a Data Analyst position to support the Task Force efforts in this area. This new position would produce analytical assessments on the state level concerning human trafficking matters and would coordinate information sharing with approved state partners and law enforcement agencies. Through coordinated research, the Data Analyst will monitor any gaps in available intelligence and advise leadership of any unusual circumstances, changes, or identified patterns throughout the state.

### ONLINE RESOURCE LIBRARY

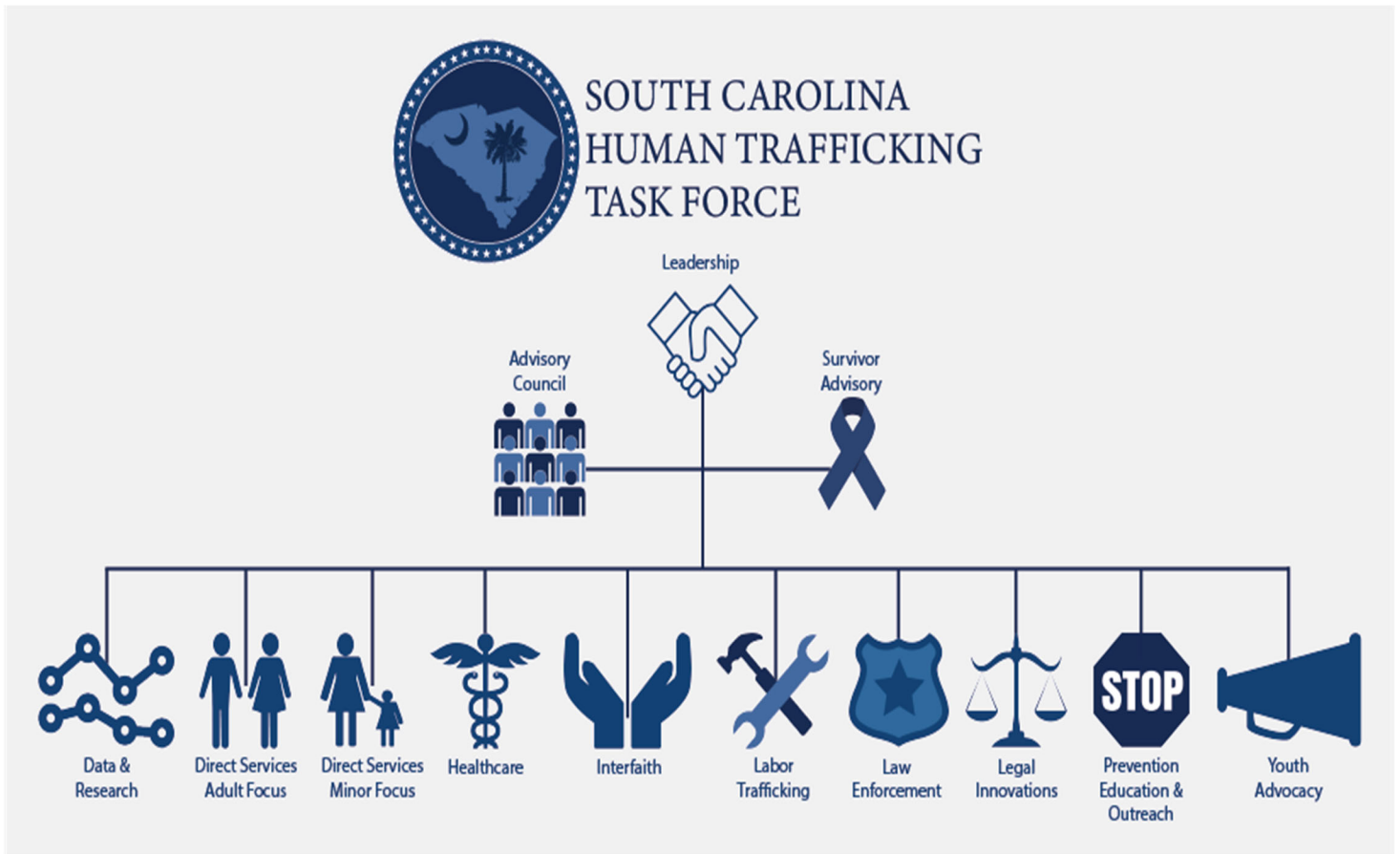
The Online Resource Library that launched in August 2020 contains resources in English and Spanish on a variety of topics including human trafficking, sex and labor trafficking, and internet safety and its impact on human trafficking. The fact sheets are publicly available for download. They are designed to educate the public, augment Task Force members' online trainings, and reach Spanish-speaking community members.

The Task Force has continued adding resources throughout 2021. The State Task Force has also uploaded various recorded videos of quarterly meetings that highlight issues encountered when identifying or responding to human trafficking. These fact sheets, webinars, and meetings are publically accessible and aim to reach a broader audience with online learning opportunities and updates. Future webinar trainings on various human trafficking issues will be uploaded to the Task Force website as well.

The COVID-19 crisis has allowed for the State Task Force to virtually expand the reach of its initiatives to engage a wider, more diverse audience. While virtual platforms will still be utilized on a case-by-case basis in 2022, the State Task Force plans to transition to in-person training with the assistance of the Human Trafficking Program Coordinator.

# STRATEGIC RESPONSE

## STATE TASK FORCE SUBCOMMITTEES



## STATE TASK FORCE SUBCOMMITTEES

In 2021, the State Task Force continued to hone the subcommittee structures and goals to align with the Strategic Response Model. The model will help ensure that state-level efforts are best coordinated to benefit the multiple sectors working to prevent and respond to human trafficking in South Carolina. Some of the subcommittees were adjusted to provide greater logistical oversight within their professional specialty areas. The restructuring allowed for the aforementioned logistical oversight, but also positions more service providers throughout the state with an opportunity to build stronger networks and share much needed resources.

There are three subcommittees that are still in the process of restructuring with partial new member recruitment and goal setting. We hope to have these subcommittees finalized in their composition in early 2022. As part of these efforts, the State Task Force is planning to launch a Higher Education Initiative that would then replace the Youth Advocacy Subcommittee at the state-level.

# STRATEGIC RESPONSE

## STATE TASK FORCE SUBCOMMITTEES



### Data Management & Research

**Mission:** The Data Management and Research Subcommittee works to understand human trafficking victimization and service needs through data and research; and to inform prevention, intervention, and policy making on human trafficking with data research.

**Highlights:** In 2021, the Research Scientist of the Children’s Law Center at the University of South Carolina School of Law was awarded the Federal Formula Grant by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice through the South Carolina Department of Public Safety, Office of High Safety and Justice Program. The purpose of the grant project is to provide law enforcement officers with knowledge and tools to identify and respond to child victims and high-risk children for sex trafficking. In 2021, the major accomplishments of the grant project included better informing local law enforcement officers on the prevalence and characteristics of high-risk children for sex trafficking in South Carolina. This project collaborated with five local law enforcement agencies to collect and analyze law enforcement incident reports.

Results of the project have strengthened internal training for law enforcement officers. In addition to these efforts, the Center also conducted a data analysis to examine a cohort of children who were at risk for sex trafficking. This cohort includes 1,540 children who were born in years of 1996, 1997 and 1998 with charges of truancy, running away, incorrigibility or prostitution with the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice, and an indicated finding of child maltreatment with the South Carolina Department of Social Services.

To help law enforcement officers identify and respond to child victims and high-risk children for sex trafficking more timely, more than 7,500 copies of the Child Sex Trafficking Flagging Tool for Law Enforcement (the Tool) have been disseminated to law enforcement officers in all four regions of the state. In addition, the Tool has been published on the project webpage for law enforcement officers to download and use.

Three statewide trainings for law enforcement officers were conducted over two days and was approved for law enforcement continuing education credit by the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy. A total of 192 law enforcement officers and 21 non-law enforcement professionals attended the trainings. In order to continue the project’s training activity after grant assistance is no longer available, a self-paced interactive online training for law enforcement officers to access virtually at any time has been created.

**To contact the Data Management and Research Subcommittee Chair, please email Dr. Liyun Zhang, Research Scientist, USC Children’s Law Center [zhang349@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:zhang349@mailbox.sc.edu).**

# STRATEGIC RESPONSE

## STATE TASK FORCE SUBCOMMITTEES



### LEADERSHIP

**Mission:** The Leadership Committee positions the State Task Force subcommittee and regional task force leaders to unite in an effort to prioritize initiatives, support legislation, and discuss other relevant topics that affect the larger anti-human trafficking movement in South Carolina.

**Number of Members and Organizations:** The Leadership Subcommittee is composed of the chairs of the 12 State Task Force subcommittees as well as the chairs of the nine regional task forces.

**To contact the Leadership Subcommittee Chair, please email** Kathryn Moorehead, Director, VAWA and Human Trafficking Programs, South Carolina Office of the Attorney General [kmoorehead@scag.gov](mailto:kmoorehead@scag.gov).



### Direct Services: Adult Focus

**Mission:** The Direct Service Providers Subcommittee's (Adult Focus) mission is to help coordinate service providers across the state to better respond to the needs of victims and survivors through improved communication and information sharing. Additionally, the subcommittee provides input to help shape State Task Force initiatives through reference to best and emerging practices in the field.

**Highlights:** The Direct Service Providers Subcommittee (Adult Focus) worked on developing a network of point people that align with the State Task Force's strategic response protocol. Additionally, there was work on further identifying agencies that would be eligible for state-level certification as a Specialized Provider or a Supplemental Provider. More information regarding the latter will be shared with interested agencies in 2022.

**To contact the Direct Services- Adult Focus Subcommittee, please email** Beth Messick, Jasmine Road [beth@jasmineroad.org](mailto:beth@jasmineroad.org).

# STRATEGIC RESPONSE

## STATE TASK FORCE SUBCOMMITTEES



### Direct Services: Minor Focus

**Mission:** The Direct Services- Minor Focus identifies and protects minor victims of human trafficking by formulating better responses and developing prevention strategies in an effort to assist at-risk young people given their unique vulnerabilities.

**Highlights:** In 2021, the subcommittee established a human trafficking response protocol between two state child welfare agencies (DJJ and DSS). The goal is to extend the response protocol to other state agencies supporting children and youth who may be victims of the crime.

**To contact the Direct Services- Minor Focus Subcommittee Chair, please email** Angela B. Kelly, Victim Services Manager, SC Department of Juvenile Justice [AngelaBKelly@djj.sc.gov](mailto:AngelaBKelly@djj.sc.gov) and/or Jennequia (Nikki) Brown, Child Trafficking Program Coordinator, SC Department of Social Services [Jennequia.S.Brown@dss.sc.gov](mailto:Jennequia.S.Brown@dss.sc.gov).



### Healthcare

**Mission:** The mission of the Healthcare Subcommittee is to increase the opportunity for trafficked persons seeking healthcare in South Carolina to have their trafficking situation recognized, be provided with care and respect, and offered or provided assistance, as legally indicated.

**Highlights:** The Healthcare Subcommittee has been honing the state protocol as well as developing a guide for implementation accompanied by training specific to the field of healthcare. In 2021, the composition of the subcommittee has been diversified to allow for additional input from professionals with varied specialties within the field.

**To contact the Healthcare Subcommittee, please contact** Chair Stephanie Armstrong, PhD, RN, Assistant Professor, Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) [armstrst@musc.edu](mailto:armstrst@musc.edu).

# STRATEGIC RESPONSE

## STATE TASK FORCE SUBCOMMITTEES



### Interfaith

**Mission:** The Interfaith Subcommittee coordinates the efforts of South Carolina’s faith-based organizations within the larger statewide anti-human trafficking movement by partnering with local victim service providers. The Interfaith Subcommittee will assist in developing human trafficking response protocols and trauma-informed practices within houses of worship and will coordinate state and regional anti-human trafficking trainings and awareness efforts with members of the faith community.

**Highlights:** In 2021, The Coastal Interfaith Subcommittee, along with local victim services and multiple faith leaders, opened up a resource center for victims and surviving families. The subcommittee also set up a panel to speak to the Interfaith Partners of SC on human trafficking awareness. From that panel discussion, leaders, teachers, and students at Benedict College gathered clothing packets for survivors that were given to Richland County Sheriff’s Office for distribution.

**To contact the Interfaith Subcommittee, please email** Chair Roger Acton, Faith Based & Victim Services Project Director, South Carolina Victim Assistance Network [roger@scvan.org](mailto:roger@scvan.org).



### Labor Trafficking

**Mission:** The Labor Trafficking Subcommittee strives to raise awareness of labor trafficking in South Carolina, train stakeholders, and build partnerships to combat the problem in our state.

**Highlights:** In 2021, The Labor Trafficking Subcommittee provided training to the Tri-County Human Trafficking Task Force, Richland County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force, and the Department of Education’s Migrant Education Division.

**To contact the Labor Trafficking Subcommittee, please email** Chair Colin Trimble, Community Outreach and Resource Planning Specialist, United States Department of Labor-Wage and Hour Division [trimble.colin@dol.gov](mailto:trimble.colin@dol.gov).

# STRATEGIC RESPONSE

## STATE TASK FORCE SUBCOMMITTEES



### Law Enforcement

**Mission:** The Law Enforcement Subcommittee collaborates and assists all law enforcement and social service agencies across the state with ongoing human trafficking investigations and training.

**Highlights:** In 2021, the subcommittee has strived to join and assist local and regional human trafficking task forces with ongoing efforts to combat human trafficking while continuing to build law enforcement working groups within each region of the state. The law enforcement working groups are equipped to investigate human trafficking so that a seamless investigative process may exist in an effort to bring more traffickers to justice.

**To contact the Law Enforcement Subcommittee, please email** Chair Captain Connie Sonnefeld, SC State Law Enforcement Division [csonnefeld@sled.sc.gov](mailto:csonnefeld@sled.sc.gov) and/or Lieutenant Jade Roy, Human Trafficking Unit - SC State Law Enforcement Division [jroy@sled.sc.gov](mailto:jroy@sled.sc.gov).



### Survivor Advisory

**Mission:** The Survivor Advisory Subcommittee provides a seat at the table for survivors to lead initiatives and provide feedback.

**Highlights:** In 2021 the subcommittee welcomed two new members and additional representation from organizations such as The Formation Project, Jasmine Road, Oxford House, and Lighthouse for Life.

**To contact the Survivor Advisory Subcommittee, please email** Chair Kat Wehunt, Executive Director, The Formation Project [kat@theformationproject.org](mailto:kat@theformationproject.org).

# STRATEGIC RESPONSE

## STATE TASK FORCE SUBCOMMITTEES



### Prevention Education & Outreach

The Prevention Education & Outreach Subcommittee will be composed of co-chairs each responsible for one of the two subcommittee goals. Prevention education will focus on providing support to educators and working with children and youth. Community members interested in integrating formal anti-human trafficking lessons into their classrooms or other youth serving programs will be provided guidance from members familiar with best practices in the field of education.

Public outreach will be primarily focused on supporting efforts at the state and regional level, while allowing more localized efforts to be managed by regional task forces. Outreach efforts will include the development of ideas for brochures, posters, and billboards after consulting with specific point people across the state. It will be important that the subcommittee members collaborate across focus areas to ensure communities are adequately supported within both child and youth serving organizations and the population at large.

**Highlights:** In 2021, The Office of the South Carolina Attorney General hired Rebekah Battersby as the Human Trafficking Program Coordinator. This position is new to the State Task Force. Rebekah will be coordinating prevention education and outreach efforts in partnership with Ashni Bhojwani, VAWA and Human Trafficking Program Assistant.

**To learn more about the Prevention Education & Outreach Subcommittee, please email** Rebekah Battersby, Human Trafficking Program Coordinator, Office of the South Carolina Attorney General [rebekahbattersby@scag.gov](mailto:rebekahbattersby@scag.gov) and/or Ashni Bhojwani, VAWA and Human Trafficking Program Assistant [ashnibhojwani@scag.gov](mailto:ashnibhojwani@scag.gov).



# STRATEGIC RESPONSE

## STATE TASK FORCE SUBCOMMITTEES



### Legal Innovations

The Legal Innovations Subcommittee has been directly impacted by the restructuring under the Strategic Response Model. The subcommittee will begin meeting again in 2022 with area point people that work directly with victims of human trafficking. Each point person will be the lead for network building within their areas of the state while ensuring diverse representation of professionals within the legal field. Members of the subcommittee will share resources and help the State Task Force identify gaps in services as well as communities that are lacking in access to legal services. As networks are continually strengthened, members of other sectors will know who to contact if they are working with a victim or survivor that needs a referral for legal support. As the State Task Force Online Resource Directory is composed, legal services will be added to highlight potential referral agencies as well as contact people that can help navigate the system within the four areas of the state.

**To learn more about the plans for the Legal Innovations Subcommittee, please email** Kathryn Moorehead, Director, VAWA and Human Trafficking Programs, Office of the South Carolina Attorney General [kmoorehead@scag.gov](mailto:kmoorehead@scag.gov) and/or Ashni Bhojwani, VAWA and Human Trafficking Program Assistant [ashnibhojwani@scag.gov](mailto:ashnibhojwani@scag.gov).

# STRATEGIC RESPONSE

## STATE TASK FORCE SUBCOMMITTEES



### **Youth Advocacy/Higher Education**

The Youth Advocacy Subcommittee will be replaced with the Higher Education Subcommittee in 2022. The State Task Force recognizes the ongoing need to engage and educate youth on the topic of human trafficking and will continue these efforts under the Prevention Education & Outreach Subcommittee. There has been significant interest to increase efforts within higher education to prevent the crime through campus wide awareness campaigns and training opportunities for both students and staff.

The transition from Youth Advocacy to Higher Education was stalled due to the Covid-19 pandemic's impact on campuses across the state. However, efforts must progress forward in 2022 given the increased risks of potential victimization as a byproduct of the pandemic. More information about the transition of this subcommittee and its first initiatives will be shared with Task Force members through quarterly meetings and newsletters.

**To learn more about the Youth Advocacy/Higher Education Subcommittee, please email** Rebekah Battersby, Human Trafficking Program Coordinator, Office of the South Carolina Attorney General [rebekahbattersby@scag.gov](mailto:rebekahbattersby@scag.gov) and/or Ashni Bhojwani, VAWA and Human Trafficking Program Assistant [ashnibhojwani@scag.gov](mailto:ashnibhojwani@scag.gov).

# STRATEGIC RESPONSE

## ADVISORY COUNCIL

The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force is multifaceted in its approach to preventing and combating human trafficking in our state. Throughout this report, there are references to the importance of leadership, multisector subcommittees, survivor input, professional training, and the need for a coordinated, statewide response protocol. Leadership is also mindful of the ongoing need to continue to educate members of the community about best and emerging practices relevant to South Carolina’s anti-human trafficking efforts.

Historically, the U.S. anti-human trafficking field has embraced the narrative that human trafficking can happen anywhere and to anyone. While this is true, it is also important to recognize that some populations are more vulnerable to human trafficking than others. No vulnerability guarantees that an individual will be trafficked, but vulnerabilities can serve as routes to human trafficking victimization

The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force continually assesses its structure for modifications that could potentially improve the response to the crime and fully address vulnerabilities to human trafficking. Leadership decided on the inclusion of additional subject matter experts to inform subcommittees and regional task forces on initiatives at the nexus of their specialty and human trafficking. Below you will find an overview of appointed members of the Advisory Council and their respectable fields. Additionally, there is a list of other areas in which we hope to identify and recruit subject matter experts in 2022.

MENTAL HEALTH – Louise Johnson, Director, Division of Children, Adolescents, and Families | South Carolina Department of Mental Health

TRANSPORTATION – Taryn Shekitka, Director of Operations | South Carolina Trucking Association

AGING POPULATION – Kay Hightower, Program Manager, Supportive Services and outreach Unit | South Carolina Department of Aging

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES – Phyllis Ross, Advocate, and Abigail Crawford, Advocate, with Disability Rights South Carolina (formerly known as People with Disabilities, Inc.)

HOSPITALITY – South Carolina Restaurant and Lodging Association

SUBSTANCE ABUSE– South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Substance Abuse

INDIGENOUS POPULATION - The Indigenous Women’s Alliance of South Carolina

Technology, Finance, People of Color, LGBTQIA+, Runaway Youth, Homeless Populations, Language Accessibility and Cultural Competency.

**For more information regarding the State Task Force Advisory Council, please contact Kathryn Moorhead [kmoorehead@scag.gov](mailto:kmoorehead@scag.gov)**

# REGIONAL TASK FORCES



In 2022, the State Task Force will relaunch the Catawba Area Task Force and launch the Pee Dee Task Force. The COVID-19 Pandemic caused a delay in the launch efforts, but plans will resume in 2022.

# REGIONAL TASK FORCES

## TRI-COUNTY TASK FORCE



### **Mission:**

Implement the Human Trafficking Continuum of Care in the Tri-County region in order to identify, address, and prevent human trafficking in the Tri-County community.

### **Counties served:**

Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester

### **Regional Task Force Chairs and Contact Information:**

Brooke Burris: [bburris@tricounthttf.org](mailto:bburris@tricounthttf.org)

Lauren Knapp: [lknapp@charlestoncounty.org](mailto:lknapp@charlestoncounty.org)

### **Upcoming 2022 Meeting Dates:**

February 18<sup>th</sup>

August 19<sup>th</sup>

June 10<sup>th</sup>

October 28<sup>th</sup>

# REGIONAL TASK FORCES

## LOW-COUNTRY TASK FORCE



### Counties served:

Beaufort, Jasper, Colleton, Hampton, and Allendale

### Regional Task Force Chairs and Contact Information:

JoJo Woodward: [jwoodward@scsolicitor14.org](mailto:jwoodward@scsolicitor14.org)

Michelle Fraser: [vsc@scsolicitor14.org](mailto:vsc@scsolicitor14.org)

### Upcoming 2022 Meeting Dates:

January 26<sup>th</sup>

July 27<sup>th</sup>

April 27<sup>th</sup>

October 26<sup>th</sup>

# REGIONAL TASK FORCES

## RICHLAND COUNTY TASK FORCE



### **Mission:**

Through a united community effort, the Richland County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force will relentlessly pursue human traffickers and buyers, prevent human trafficking through increasing community awareness, advocate for laws to end human trafficking in Richland County, and protect and support all survivors.

### **Counties served:**

Richland

### **Regional Task Force Chair and Contact Information:**

Elizabeth Rummel: [Rummel.elizabeth@richlandcountysc.gov](mailto:Rummel.elizabeth@richlandcountysc.gov)

### **Upcoming 2022 Meeting Dates:**

January 21<sup>st</sup>

July 15<sup>th</sup>

March 18<sup>th</sup>

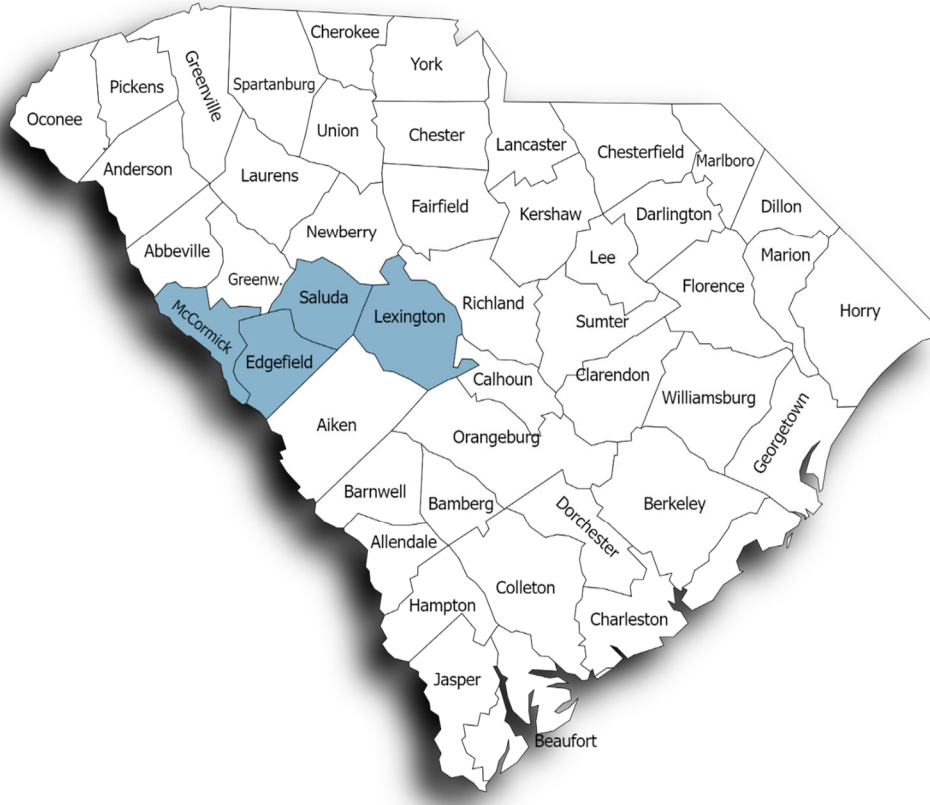
September 16<sup>th</sup>

May 20<sup>th</sup>

November 18<sup>th</sup>

# REGIONAL TASK FORCES

## L.E.M.S TASK FORCE



### Counties served:

Lexington, Edgefield, McCormick, and Saluda

### Regional Task Force Chairs and Contact Information:

Eric Russell: 803-358-7240

LeAnna McMenamain: 803-785-8352

### Upcoming 2022 Meeting Dates:

January 12<sup>th</sup>

May 11<sup>th</sup>

September 14<sup>th</sup>

February 9<sup>th</sup>

June 8<sup>th</sup>

October 12<sup>th</sup>

March 9<sup>th</sup>

July 13<sup>th</sup>

November 9<sup>th</sup>

April 13<sup>th</sup>

August 10<sup>th</sup>

December 14<sup>th</sup>



# REGIONAL TASK FORCES

## 2<sup>ND</sup> CIRCUIT TASK FORCE



### **Mission:**

To help victims of human trafficking find a voice and receive services to become survivors, as well as aiding in the effective prosecution of traffickers.

### **Counties served:**

Aiken, Barnwell, and Bamberg

### **Regional Task Force Chairs and Contact Information:**

Maryann Burgess: [mburgess@cacofaiken.org](mailto:mburgess@cacofaiken.org)

Eleanor Hunter: [ehunter@cityofaikensc.gov](mailto:ehunter@cityofaikensc.gov)

### **Upcoming 2022 Meeting Dates:**

January 7<sup>th</sup>

October 14<sup>th</sup>

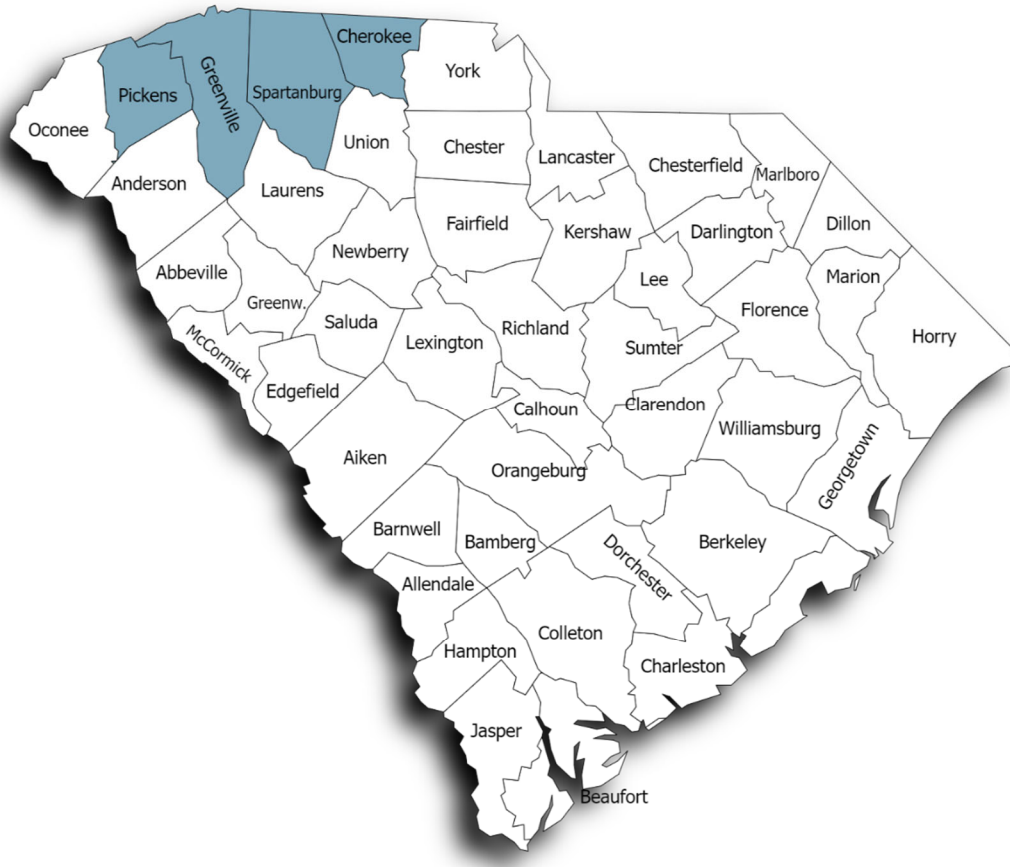
May 20<sup>th</sup>

December 16<sup>th</sup>

August 5<sup>th</sup>

# REGIONAL TASK FORCES

## UPSTATE TASK FORCE



### **Mission:**

To collaborate with service providers and the general public within our community to educate, protect against, and prevent human trafficking.

### **Counties served:**

Pickens, Greenville, Spartanburg, and Cherokee

### **Regional Task Force Chairs and Contact Information:**

Diana Kindley: [dkindley@greenvillecounty.org](mailto:dkindley@greenvillecounty.org)

Michelle Cunningham: [Michelle.Cunningham@dss.sc.gov](mailto:Michelle.Cunningham@dss.sc.gov)

### **Upcoming 2022 Meeting Dates:**

January 7<sup>th</sup>

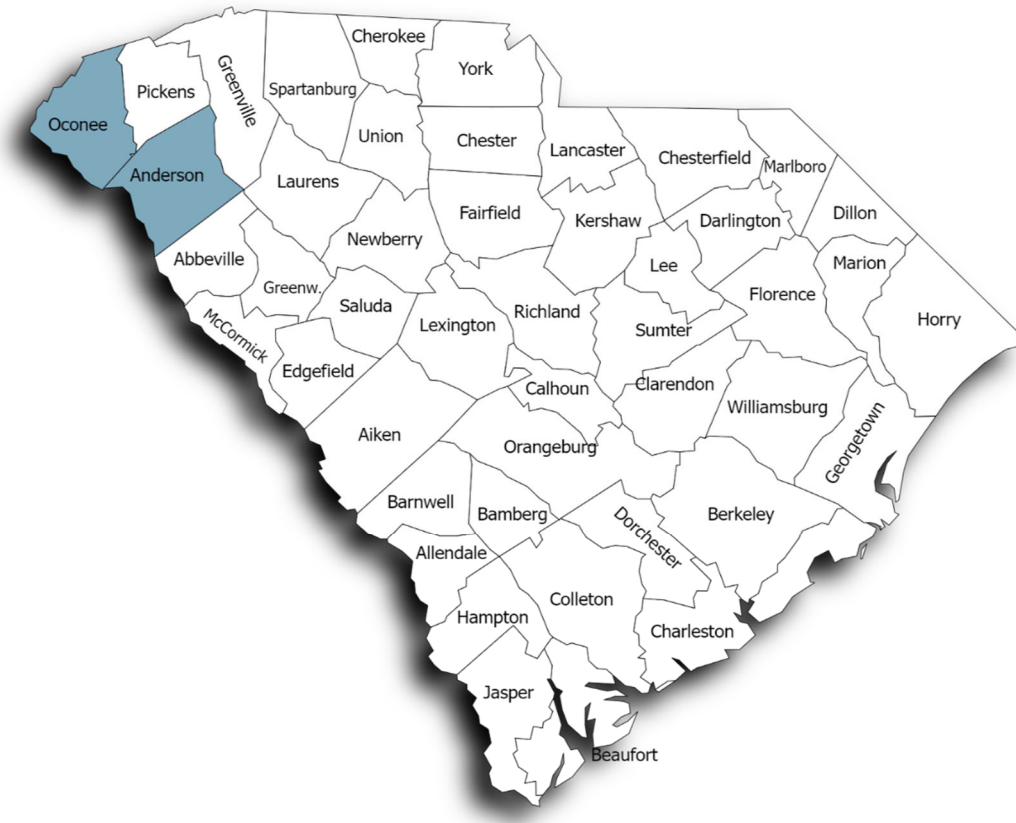
July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021

April 7<sup>th</sup>

October 7<sup>th</sup>

# REGIONAL TASK FORCES

## FOOTHILLS TASK FORCE



### **Mission:**

Implementing a coordinated community response to identify, prevent, and eliminate human trafficking in Anderson and Oconee counties by supporting law enforcement, service providers, and survivors.

### **Counties served:**

Anderson and Oconee

### **Regional Task Force Chair and Contact Information:**

Maria Torres-Green: [foothillshttf@gmail.com](mailto:foothillshttf@gmail.com)

### **Upcoming 2022 Meeting Dates:**

January 12<sup>th</sup>

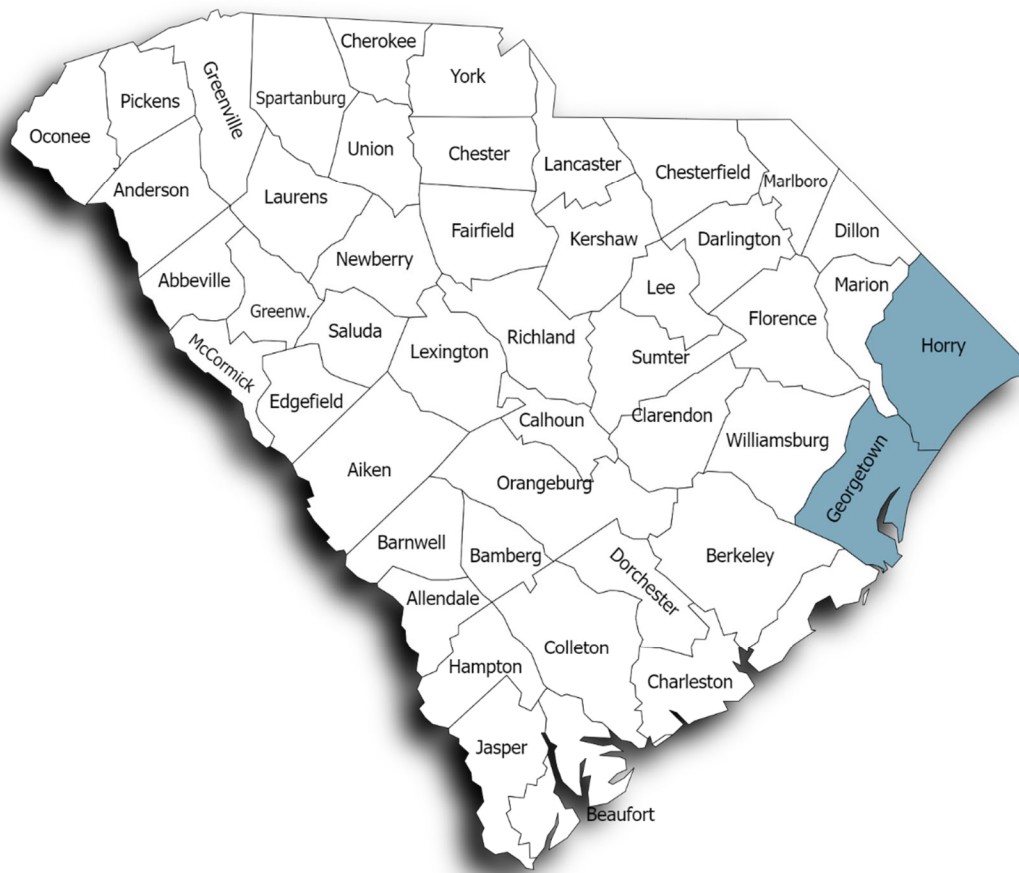
November 10<sup>th</sup>

April 12<sup>th</sup>

August 18<sup>th</sup>

# REGIONAL TASK FORCES

## COASTAL REGION TASK FORCE



### **Mission:**

The Coastal Region Human Trafficking Task Force provides leadership and education for the eradication of human trafficking in communities within Horry and Georgetown counties through prevention, protection, and prosecution.

### **Counties served:**

Horry and Georgetown

### **Regional Task Force Chair and Contact Information:**

Captain Sherri Smith: [smithsh@horrycounty.org](mailto:smithsh@horrycounty.org)

**Upcoming 2022 Meeting Dates:** TBD

# REGIONAL TASK FORCES

## CATAWBA AREA TASK FORCE



**Upcoming Relaunch:** February 25, 2022 at 10 AM (Location TBD)

# STATE TASK FORCE MEMBER REPORT OUT

## LAW ENFORCEMENT



The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division has presence throughout the state of South Carolina to maximize efforts in combating human trafficking. The primary mission of the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) is to provide quality manpower and technical assistance to law enforcement agencies. Additionally, SLED conducts investigations on behalf of the state as directed by the Governor and Attorney General.

In 2021, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division investigated various cases involving sex trafficking to include three cases of White, US Adult Females, 23 cases involving Black and White US Minor Females, and 10 cases involving Asian, Foreign National Adult Females. SLED also investigated labor trafficking cases involving 33 Hispanic/Latino Foreign National Adult Males. SLED is currently using the human trafficking screening toolkit that was designed by the University of South Carolina's Children's Law Center.

Various members of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division are involved in the State Task Force, as well as the regional task forces. Their presence and input allows for the regional task forces to adjust and focus on specific efforts and red flags within their region. Recently, a human trafficking awareness/investigations video was developed and sent to all agents within SLED to view. The video provides specific information on the South Carolina state statute, investigative tools, and various resources throughout the state. The point of contact for human trafficking related cases and investigations should be directed to **Lieutenant Jade Roy** via email at [jroy@sled.sc.gov](mailto:jroy@sled.sc.gov).



The South Carolina Law Enforcement Officers' Association (SCLEOA) and South Carolina Police Chiefs Association (SCPCA) provides support and training for law enforcement agencies throughout the state of South Carolina. SCLEOA and SCPCA have not investigated any human trafficking cases in 2021; however, with the assistance of the Law Enforcement Subcommittee, possible training opportunities are available in 2022 for interested and affiliated agencies and their officers.

# STATE TASK FORCE MEMBER REPORT OUT



The Francis Marion University Police Department (FMPD) aims to create a safer university by protecting the lives of the students, faculty, staff, visitors, and those in

the surrounding area. FMPD accomplishes this by reducing and preventing crime, building trust throughout the community, and maximizing on current partnerships. Francis Marion University Police Department does not have any current investigations or cases that are related to human trafficking. If you have any human trafficking related incidents or concerns, please contact **Chief Donald R. Tarbell** at (843)661-1109 or via email at [dtarbell@fmarion.edu](mailto:dtarbell@fmarion.edu).



The City of Aiken's Department of Public Safety's mission is to maintain the highest commitment to integrity, service, and accountability in order to create and maintain partnerships within the City of Aiken. The Aiken Department of Public Safety (ADPS) is committed to solving problems and implementing proactive initiatives that make the city of Aiken a safe place to live, work, and visit. While ADPS has investigated human trafficking related crimes in 2021, it is unclear how many cases have been opened,

closed, and/ or pending from the previous year.

# STATE TASK FORCE MEMBER REPORT OUT

## PROSECUTION AND LEGAL SERVICES



SOUTH CAROLINA  
**Attorney General**  
ALAN WILSON

The Office of the South Carolina Attorney General serves as South Carolina’s Chief Prosecutor, Chief Legal Officer, and Chief Securities Officer. The South Carolina Constitution defines the Attorney General’s role as “chief prosecuting officers of the State with the authority to supervise the prosecution of all criminal cases in courts of record,” including human trafficking related cases. In 2021, the office received two new human trafficking cases that are still pending. The Attorney General’s office closed two cases (one sent back to Lexington for prosecution and in the other case the defendant completed suicide). Currently, there are 10 human trafficking cases pending in the office. The Office of the South Carolina Attorney General is also the lead for the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force. As such, members of the VAWA and Human Trafficking Programs Section and Criminal Prosecution - Special Victims Unit conducted numerous awareness presentations and trainings throughout 2021. Attorney General Alan Wilson, the Chair of the State Task Force, also frequently spoke regarding the topic at events throughout the state. For more information about the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force, please contact Kathryn Moorehead at [kmoorehead@scag.gov](mailto:kmoorehead@scag.gov) or visit [humantrafficking.scag.gov](http://humantrafficking.scag.gov). For information regarding human trafficking prosecution, please contact **Heather Weiss** at [hweiss@scag.gov](mailto:hweiss@scag.gov) or **Kinli Abee** at [kabee@scag.gov](mailto:kabee@scag.gov).

### OFFICES of THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

ethical, vigorous and impartial enforcement of the laws of the United States. In doing so, the U.S. Attorney’s Office will defend national security, improve the safety and quality of life in our communities, protect the public funds and financial assets of the United States, maintain a courteous and professional working environment, and, with skill and integrity, seek to do justice in every matter. The U.S. Attorney’s Office has representation throughout the state of South Carolina with approximately 10 staff members that received sector specific human trafficking training through the Department of Justice. The U.S. Attorney’s Office has provided service to various victims of human trafficking in 2021. Ten (10) U.S. minor female victims of sex trafficking, twelve (12) U.S. minor male victims of sex trafficking and eight (8) U.S. adult female victims have been assisted, in addition to over 60 foreign national adult males and females for labor trafficking. Any issues concerning human trafficking related matters with the U.S. Attorney’s Office should be directed to Carrie Sherard. **Carrie Sherard** can be contacted via email at [carrie.a.fisher@usdoj.gov](mailto:carrie.a.fisher@usdoj.gov).

The Offices of the United States Attorneys’ mission is to protect and serve the citizens of the District of South Carolina through



# STATE TASK FORCE MEMBER REPORT OUT



Disability Rights South Carolina exists to be the protection and advocacy system for those in need throughout the state of South Carolina. Additionally, Disability Rights South Carolina supports people with disabilities to understand and defend their rights. Disability Rights South Carolina provides training through education and outreach throughout the state to

ensure community entities are knowledgeable of disability rights, in addition to monitoring and investigating institutions and community facilities that service people with disabilities. When needed, legal support is recommended and offered when an individual's rights are violated or they have been denied a service because of their disability. Disability Rights South Carolina also has experience working with victims of human trafficking with disabilities. Any human trafficking related questions for Disability Rights South Carolina should be directed to **Phyllis Ross** at [ross@disabilityrightssc.org](mailto:ross@disabilityrightssc.org).



South Carolina Legal Services (SCLS) is a statewide law firm that provides civil legal services to protect the rights and represent the interests of low income South Carolinians. SCLS provides free legal assistance in a wide variety of civil legal matters, such as consumer/finance, education, elder law, employment, family, health, housing, income maintenance/ public benefits, immigration/migrant, and tax issues. South Carolina Legal Services has experience working with various populations, to

include victims of human trafficking and continuously works to ensure underserved populations are supported.

# STATE TASK FORCE MEMBER REPORT OUT

## PREVENTION EDUCATION & OUTREACH



**Pathways  
to Healing**

Pathways to Healing is a private, nonprofit organization that is identified as one of the 15 rape crisis centers in South Carolina. Pathways to Healing's mission is to end sexual violence through advocacy, education, and various other

supportive services. While Pathways is physically located at 3830 Forest Drive, Suite 201 in Columbia, the organization serves Richland, Lexington, Newberry, Sumter, and Clarendon counties. Pathways to Healing is continuously working to end sexual violence, to include human trafficking. Approximately 90% of the organization's staff is trained on human trafficking matters and is working to provide additional training opportunities in the future. Pathways to Healing provides prevention education to schools and youth serving agencies. In 2021, Pathways provided prevention education to approximately 180 minors or youths. Pathways for Healing is represented at the Regional and State Task Force meetings by Sarah Goode. Please direct any questions related to Pathways to Healing to **Sarah Goode** at [sarahg@pathwaystohealing.com](mailto:sarahg@pathwaystohealing.com).



Rivers of Justice is an anti-human trafficking organization that is located in Greenville, SC and serves the Upstate region. The mission of Rivers of Justice is to end domestic minor

sex trafficking through prevention, education, action, and demand. 100% of Rivers of Justice's staff is trained on human trafficking and are working to continue providing prevention education to their community. 21 presentations were given by Rivers of Justice in 2021 with attendance ranging from approximately six to 37 people. Additionally, Rivers of Justice provided prevention education to youth serving agencies to focus on their primary audience, children under 18 years old. If you have any questions about Rivers of Justice, please contact **Dena Rapp** at [dena@riversofjustice.org](mailto:dena@riversofjustice.org).



**ZONTA**  
CLUB OF  
COLUMBIA  
MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL  
EMPOWERING WOMEN  
THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY

Zonta Club of Columbia is affiliated with Zonta International, a global initiative established to uplift women and girls world wide. Zonta Club of Columbia's mission is to advance the status of women in the Midlands area of South Carolina and serve youth and young adults through education and empowerment. If

you have any questions about Zonta Club of Columbia, then please contact **Dr. Pam Imm** via mail at P.O. Box 11164, Columbia, SC 29211.

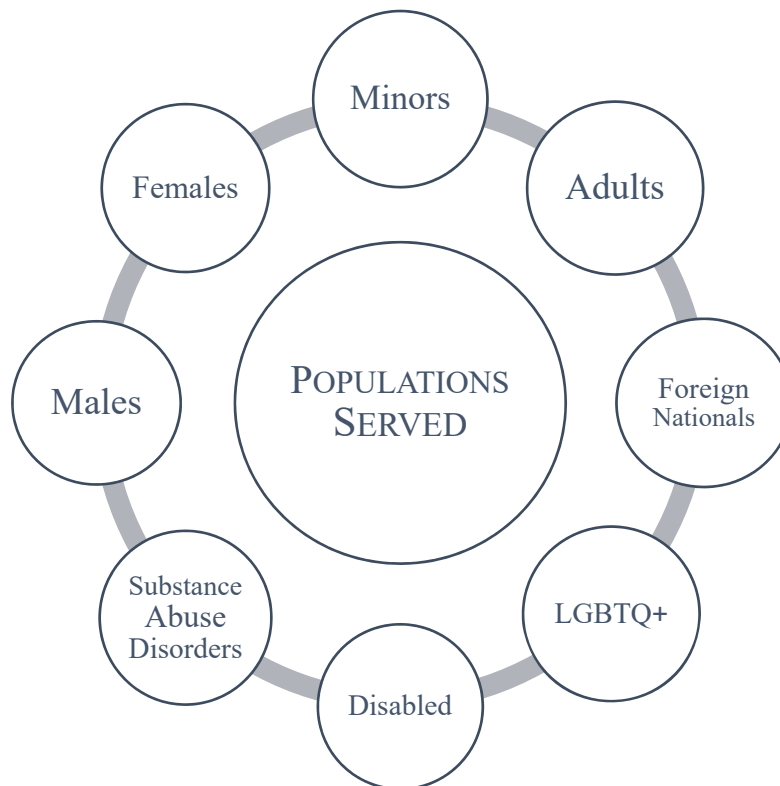
# STATE TASK FORCE MEMBER REPORT OUT

## CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH



Sea Haven Youth Crisis Center strives for all youth to be safe, stable, and given a fighting chance at success. The primary mission for the Sea Haven Youth Crisis Center is to provide safety and support for youth and their families with respect and dignity. The Sea Haven Youth Crisis Center serves various populations throughout the coastal region. Services, such as parenting classes, anger management, mental health counseling, residential treatment, family management, and emergency care for the concerns of safety are provided. The Sea Haven

Crisis Center has experience working with human trafficking victims. However, it is unclear how many victims the organization has served in 2021. Additionally, the organization is also equipped to work with trafficking victims with one or more disabilities. Sea Haven Youth Crisis Center utilizes a human trafficking response protocol that is a combination of assistance from local law enforcement and the Department of Social Services assessment. This protocol primarily focuses on observing risk factors, individual assessments, and reporting the possibility of human trafficking when appropriate. For any human trafficking related concerns or questions for Sea Haven Youth Crisis Center, please contact **Julia Castillo** at [Castillogirls@gmail.com](mailto:Castillogirls@gmail.com) or (843)421-8384.



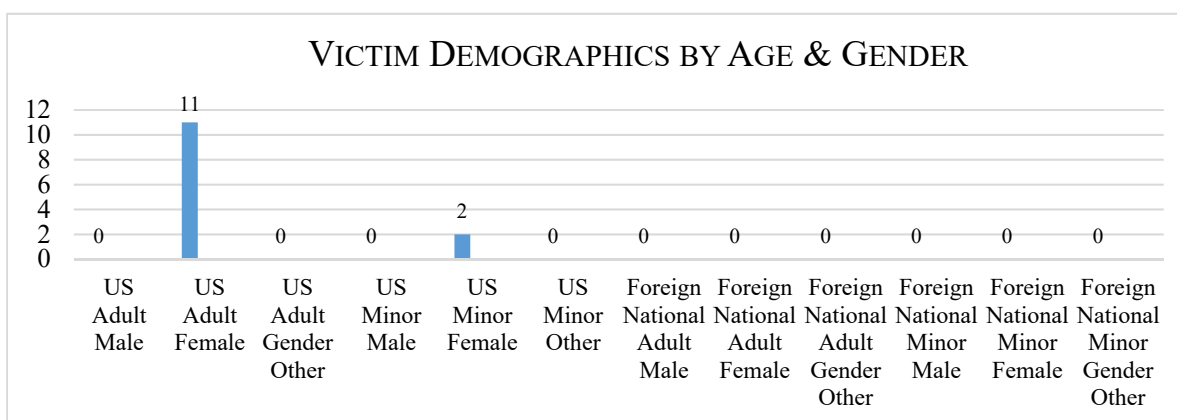
# STATE TASK FORCE MEMBER REPORT OUT

## FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS



Lighthouse for Life is a Christian-based organization that serves human trafficking victims throughout the state of South Carolina.

Lighthouse for Life’s mission is to educate the community on the realizations of sex trafficking, while also empowering those to respond to possible human trafficking situations. Lighthouse provides resources, referrals, and physical needs assistance to victims, survivors, and their families. Lighthouse for Life is working to create a long-term residential program in Richland County, SC to serve female survivors between the ages of 12 – 21. Throughout 2021, Lighthouse for Life served 13 sex trafficking victims. The graph below identifies victims Lighthouse for Life served by age and gender.



If you have any questions about services Lighthouse for Life provides, then please visit their website at <https://www.lighthouseforlife.org> or contact **Lisa Kejr**, the point of contact for human trafficking related cases at (803)900-0907. Lisa can also be reached via email at [lisa@lighthouseforlife.org](mailto:lisa@lighthouseforlife.org).



The Salvation Army’s Project FIGHT serves all populations of human trafficking through case management, outreach, and collaboration. The Salvation Army is a Christian-based organization that motivates Project FIGHT’s aim to provide assistance services that are motivated by the love of God. Project FIGHT’s mission is to identify and serve victims of human

trafficking in North and South Carolina by providing necessary resources to include: housing, medical needs, mental health counseling, legal services, in addition to other services human trafficking victims may require. Project Fight currently provides comprehensive trauma-informed case management, emergency assistance with food and clothing, financial assistance for rent and utilities, as well as three emergency shelters in North Carolina. For any human trafficking related cases or questions, please contact **Anita Cline** at (704)522-470 or via email at [Anita.Cline@uss.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Anita.Cline@uss.salvationarmy.org).

# STATE TASK FORCE MEMBER REPORT OUT

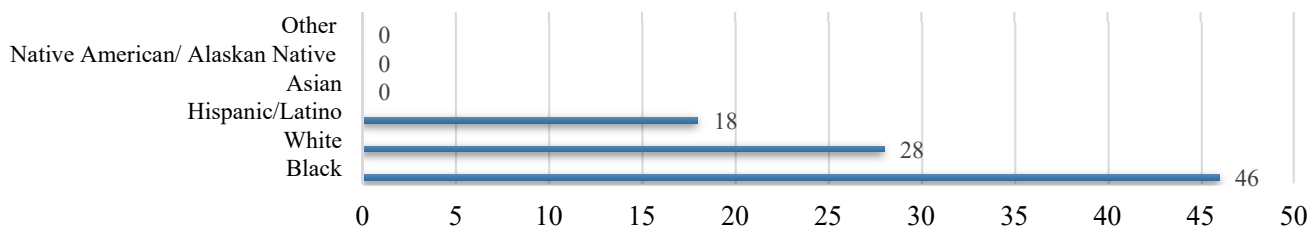
## CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTERS



Dee Norton Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC) is an Accredited CAC that primarily serves Charleston and Berkeley counties. Dee Norton’s mission is to prevent abuse, protect children, and heal families. Dee Norton has extensive experience in dealing with minors of human trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC). Approximately 30 staff members are trained in recognizing possible signs of human trafficking and have been trained to identify risk factors and red flags during initial intake. Various services are provided for victims of human trafficking, such as clinical mental health counseling, forensic interviewing, pediatric sexual assault counseling, case coordination/management, multi-disciplinary staffing, follow-up care to sexual assaults, in addition to various classes offered discussing body safety, parental support, problematic sexual behaviors, and clarification services. Additionally, Dee Norton provides specific types of therapy that is heavily dependant upon the results gleaned from a mental health assessment. The interventions utilized most frequently for these youth are Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) and Risk Reduction through Family Therapy (RRFT).

Dee Norton Children’s Advocacy Center is able to serve any youth that is suspected of being commercially sexually exploited or trafficked for labor. Dee Norton has supported and served various minors throughout 2021 to include victims of both sex and labor trafficking. The following graph reflects the race and/or ethnicity for the total number of victims served in 2021. However, be advised that 10 clients race/ethnicity was either not documented or unknown. Therefore, they are not represented in the following graph.

**RACE/ ETHNICITY OF CONFIRMED & SUSPECTED VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING**



The information displayed reflects the total number of United States citizens and foreign national clients served by Dee Norton Children’s Advocacy Center in 2021. There were 35 confirmed victims in 2021 and 73 who were suspected or had concerns of trafficking. Please be advised that of the 108 reported cases, one (1) case was reported for labor trafficking, 101 cases were reported for sex trafficking, and six (6) cases were reported for both labor and sex trafficking. Any questions regarding human trafficking related matters should be directed to **Anna Smalling** at (843)723-3600 or via email at [asmalling@deenortoncenter.org](mailto:asmalling@deenortoncenter.org).

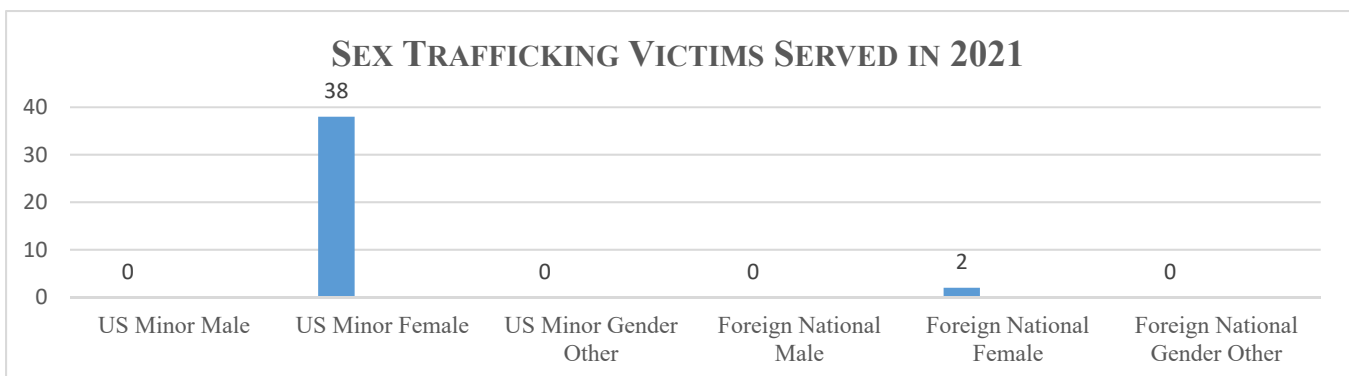
# STATE TASK FORCE MEMBER REPORT OUT



Dorchester Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) is an Accredited CAC that primarily serves children and families living in Dorchester and Berkeley counties. However, depending on the needs of the surrounding communities, Dorchester Children's Advocacy Center has served children and families residing in outlying counties. The mission of Dorchester Children's Advocacy Center (DCAC) is to provide a coordinated, evidence-based response to child abuse that reduces trauma and offers healing to children and their families in a safe environment. This abuse includes those who have experienced human trafficking. Approximately 15 staff members of Dorchester Children's Advocacy Center have received sector specific human trafficking training and one (1) staff member is currently certified by the state as a Victim Service Provider – Human Trafficking (VSP-HT).

Various services are provided for victims of human trafficking, such as clinical mental health counseling, forensic interviewing, pediatric sexual assault counseling, case coordination/management, multi-disciplinary staffing, follow-up care to sexual assaults, in addition to various classes offered discussing body safety and parental support. Specific evidence based treatment, TF-CBT and Cognitive Processing Therapy is provided depending on what is calculated from the client's initial mental health assessment.

Dorchester CAC supports and has provided services for victims of human trafficking in 2021 by utilizing the CSE-IT- West Coast Children's Clinic's screening tool to identify possible human trafficking victims at initial intake. Dorchester Children's Advocacy Center primarily served victims of sex trafficking with one (1) identified victim of labor trafficking in 2021. The following graph provides the demographics of the victims of sex trafficking that were served by Dorchester CAC in 2021.



Any questions regarding human trafficking related matters can be directed to **Nicole Hoffman** at [nhoffman@dorchestercac.org](mailto:nhoffman@dorchestercac.org).

# STATE TASK FORCE MEMBER REPORT OUT

## GOVERNMENT AGENCIES



The South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs is continuously working to be the catalyst that identifies and examines emerging issues and trends by providing constructive solutions and approaches to support the policy and socio-economic development of ethnic minority communities. This occurs through community engagement and awareness, state recognition of Native Americans, collecting, diagnosing and analyzing collaborative data, acting as a liaison and working to bridge the gap between communities, government agencies, and other organizations, as well as influencing public policy and state services. The South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs is continuously working to support underserved minority communities and populations, to include victims of human trafficking. For any human trafficking related concerns, please contact **Brenton Brown**, Chief of Staff, at [BBrown@cma.sc.gov](mailto:BBrown@cma.sc.gov). For further questions regarding the mission of the South Carolina Commission of Minority Affairs, please visit their website at <https://cma.sc.gov>.



The South Carolina Department of Social Services (SCDSS) has representatives statewide to promote the safety, permanency, and well-being of children and vulnerable adults, while helping individuals achieve stability and strengthening families. SCDSS collaborates with various state agencies and organizations to ensure each case is handled properly, provided the appropriate resources, and given the necessary level of care. The South Carolina Department of Social Services developed the Child Abuse Response Protocol that highlights how human trafficking is a form of child abuse and there needs to be a multidisciplinary team response to human trafficking matters. DSS served over 200 victims of human trafficking in 2021. The Department served approximately 29 U.S. minor male victims and approximately 207 U.S. minor females of sex trafficking. It is unclear of how many victims of labor trafficking were served by SCDSS in 2021. For more information on data collection, reference the South Carolina Specific Data section of this report. Please direct any human trafficking related cases and concerns involving the South Carolina Department of Social Services to **Jennequia Brown** at [Jennequia.S.Brown@dss.sc.gov](mailto:Jennequia.S.Brown@dss.sc.gov).

# STATE TASK FORCE MEMBER REPORT OUT



**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

The South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) mission is: Safety – we will protect the public, our employees, and our inmates. Service – we will provide rehabilitation and self-improvement opportunities for inmates. Stewardship – we will promote professional

excellence, fiscal responsibility, and self-sufficiency. While it is unclear how many victims of human trafficking have been housed in a SC state correctional facility in 2021, there are various services available. A victim of human trafficking in the care of the state will have access to mental health services, medical services, as well as access to local rape crisis center advocates. For any human trafficking related cases with the South Carolina Department of Corrections, please contact **David Hagan** at [Hagan.David@doc.sc.gov](mailto:Hagan.David@doc.sc.gov).



The United States Department of Labor provides services across the state of South Carolina. The Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor's mission is to promote and achieve compliance with labor standards to protect and enhance the welfare of the nation's workforce.

The Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division is active on the State Task Force Labor Trafficking

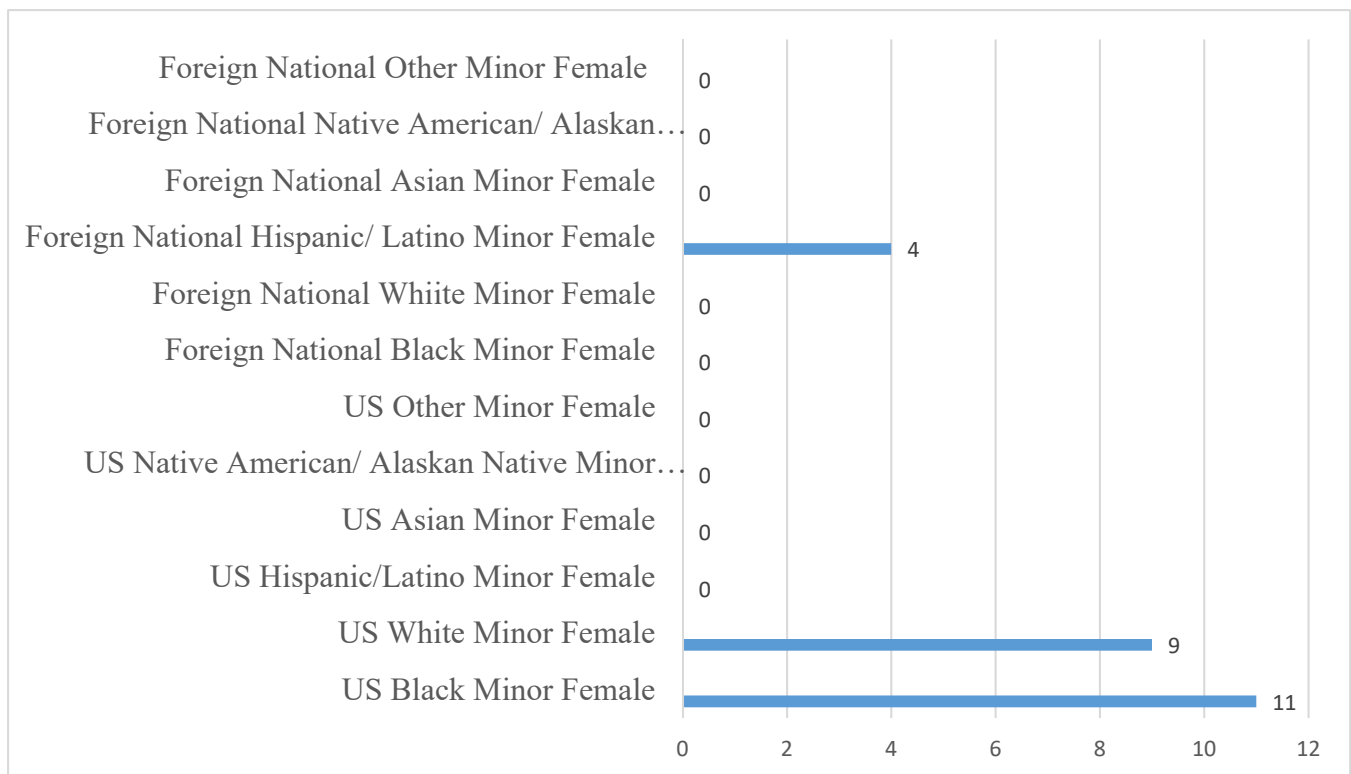
Subcommittee and the Tri-County Regional Human Trafficking Task Force, associated with the Charleston area of South Carolina. The Wage and Hour Division is ensuring that all victims of human trafficking are awarded at minimum, minimum wage and the opportunity of overtime if the specific position permits it.



# STATE TASK FORCE MEMBER REPORT OUT

## DIRECT SERVICES

**DOORS TO FREEDOM** Doors to Freedom is a residential program that accepts female minors throughout the state of South Carolina by providing a safe place for survivors of sex trafficking to experience a transformed life. All of the residents are either placed by the SC Department of Social Services or the SC Department of Juvenile Justice. Doors to Freedom offers various services, such as safe housing, life skills, education, personal growth, advocacy, and case management; however, the most common services that are requested by victims is mental health counseling and educational support. Doors to Freedom has served 24 victims of sex trafficking in 2021 and zero (0) victims of labor trafficking. The following graph provides information on the demographics of the victims served in 2021.



If you have any questions about Doors to Freedom, please contact **Sharon Rikard** at [sharon@doorstofreedom.com](mailto:sharon@doorstofreedom.com) or visit their [website](http://doorstofreedom.com) at doorstofreedom.com.

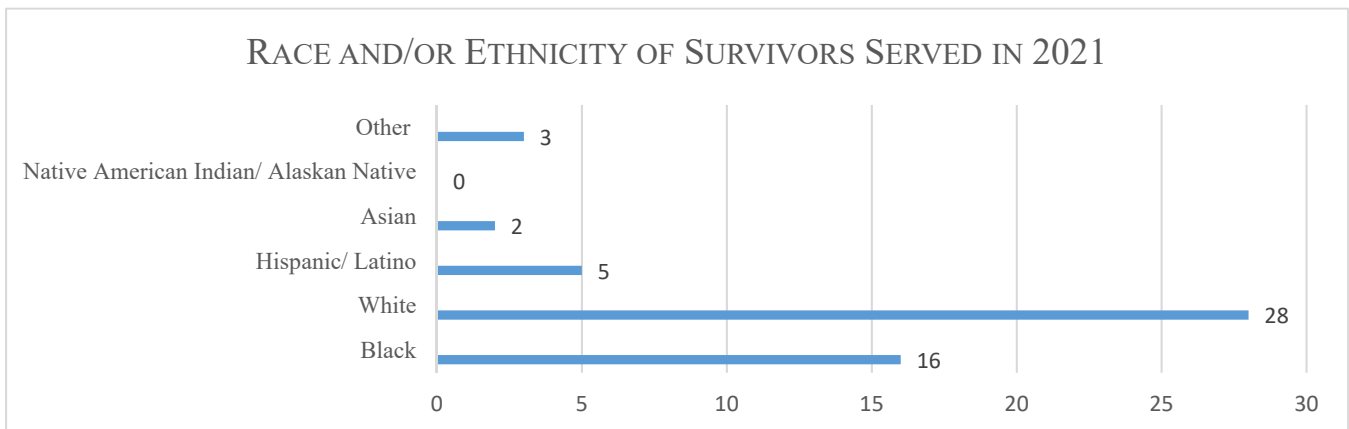
# STATE TASK FORCE MEMBER REPORT OUT



Jasmine Road is South Carolina’s first two-year residential program for adult females who survived human trafficking and/or prostitution, and addiction. Jasmine Road’s residential program is located in Greenville, SC but the organization serves the state of South Carolina. Jasmine Road’s mission is to offer women who are trapped in a cycle of sexual exploitation and addiction a path to freedom, a haven for healing, and the opportunity to flourish,

leading to generational change and the betterment of the Greenville community. Jasmine Road’s residential treatment program provides survivors with basic needs, addiction recovery, holistic restoration services, and workforce initiatives. The services that are most requested by survivors are companionship and the need for supportive relationships, mental health counseling and therapy (trauma-informed, healing from past complex trauma, etc.), job training, medical care, legal services, and educational support. Jasmine Road has served 54 survivors of sex trafficking in 2021. The following graph represents the race and/or ethnicity of all survivors served in 2021.

Any questions regarding human trafficking related issues for Jasmine Road should be directed to **Beth Messick**, Executive Director of Jasmine Road at [beth@jasmineroad.org](mailto:beth@jasmineroad.org) or visit Jasmine Road’s website, <https://www.jasmineroad.org>.



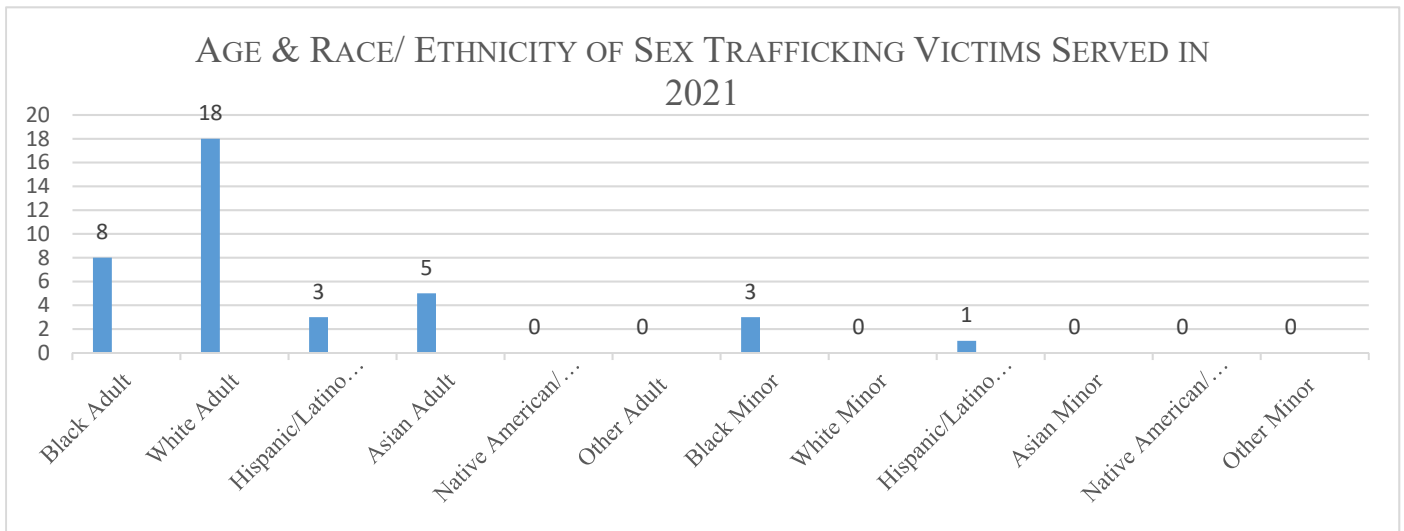
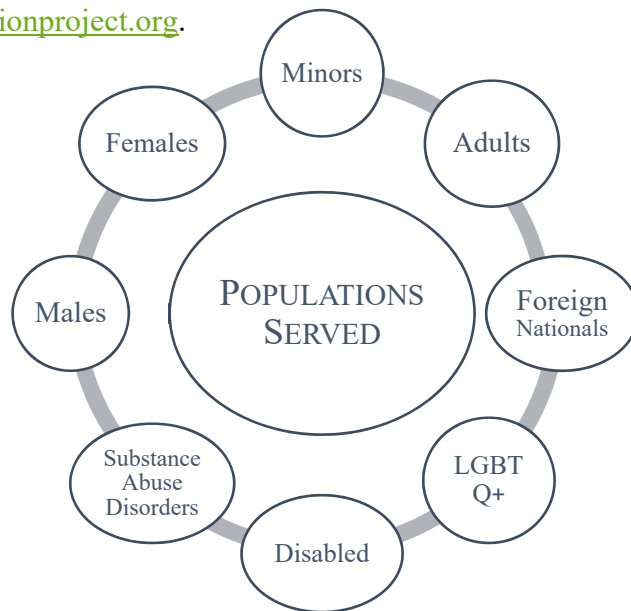
# STATE TASK FORCE MEMBER REPORT OUT



The Formation Project exists to ensure every person has the option not to sell their bodies, the opportunity to escape exploitation and has access to sustainable services and support. The Formation Project primarily serves Dorchester, Berkeley, and Charleston counties and supports human trafficking victims of all backgrounds. Additionally, the Formation Project is often utilized as a Crisis Intervention and Emergency Shelter, Drop-in

Center, a one on one service coordination and they provide rental assistance. One of the main qualifications for assistance from the Formation Project is a medical detox in which the organization will arrange and support. The Formation Project has served 38 victims/survivors of sex trafficking in 2021. The following graphs represents the genders, as well as the citizenship status and race and/or ethnicity of the clients the Formation Project served in 2021. Be advised that victims from the United States and Foreign Nationals are combined in the age and race and/or ethnicity graph.

Any questions regarding human trafficking related matters should be directed to **Mattie Critchfield Dodds** at [mattie@theformationproject.org](mailto:mattie@theformationproject.org) or visit the Formation Project’s website, <https://www.theformationproject.org>.



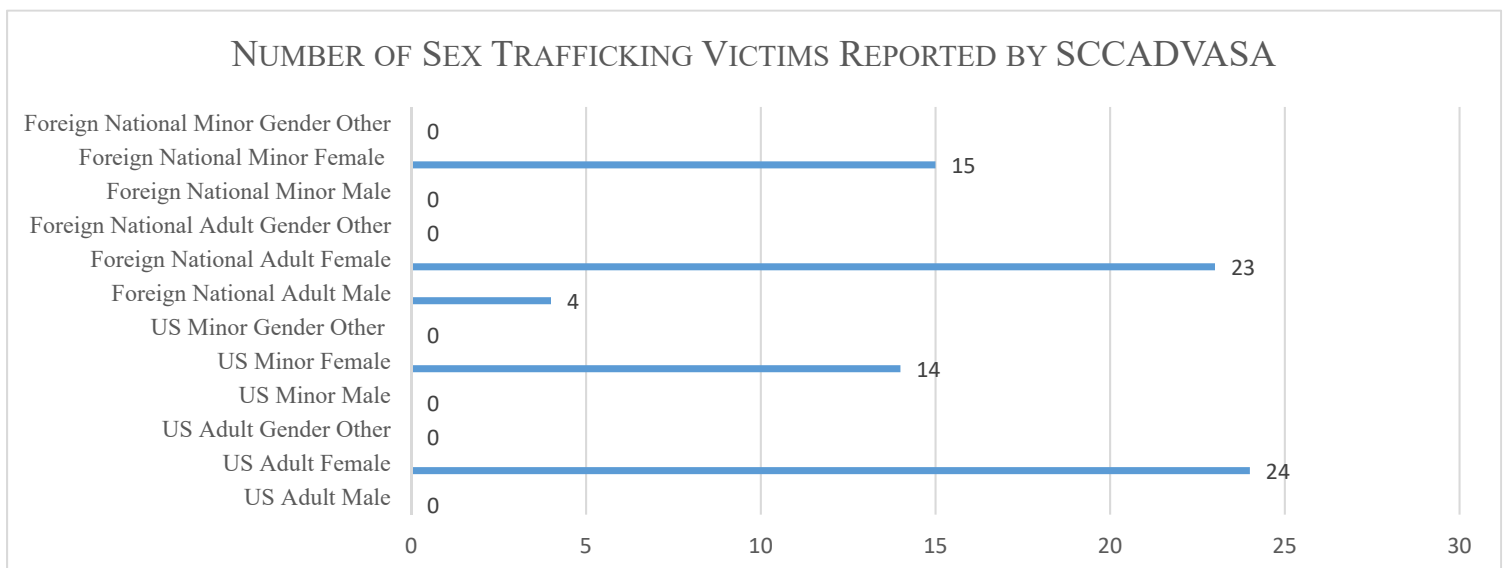
# STATE TASK FORCE MEMBER REPORT OUT



The South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA) is a statewide organization that serves as the collective voice promoting the prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault in South Carolina. SCCADVASA serves various populations, to include minors, adults, foreign nationals, LGBTQ+,

disabled, elderly (65+), males, and females. There are 22 Domestic Violence (DV) and Sexual Assault (SA) Member Organizations that SCCADVASA supports, such as providing appropriate training opportunities, best practices when dealing with specific populations, and technical assistance. Additionally, SCCADVASA supports victims of human trafficking throughout the state of South Carolina as well. Approximately 84 total victims of human trafficking were served by the 22 member organizations aforementioned. A majority of the victims served were victims of sex trafficking. However, four (4) foreign national adult males were provided services for labor trafficking.

Please contact **Marie McDonald** at [mmcdonald@sccadvasa.org](mailto:mmcdonald@sccadvasa.org) for any human trafficking related matters.



## STATE TASK FORCE MEMBER REPORT OUT



Fresh Start Healing Heart's mission is to compassionately walk beside survivors of human trafficking, while also providing safe housing, immediate needs and restorative services for emotional, spiritual, physical, educational, and financial healing. Fresh Start Healing Heart provides support throughout the state of South Carolina, but primarily focuses on the coast of South Carolina. This organization has experience working with various backgrounds including minors, adults, Foreign Nationals, LGBTQ+, Substance Abuse Disorders, Elderly (65+), males and females. Wrap around restorative services are provided for all ages and community outreach is a continuous effort made by Fresh Start Healing Heart. While various services are offered through this organization, the services that are most requested by survivors are case management, counseling and mentoring, and housing assistance. Fresh Start Healing Heart has served 11 victims of sex trafficking in 2021, to include eight (8) US Adult Females, one (1) US Minor Female, and two (2) Foreign National Adult Females. Additionally, a Foreign National Adult Female of labor trafficking was also served. Any questions regarding human trafficking related issues for Fresh Start Healing Heart can be directed to **Sheila Roemeling** at [healingheartstart@gmail.com](mailto:healingheartstart@gmail.com).



**PICKENS COUNTY  
ADVOCACY CENTER**

Pickens County Advocacy Center serves the community of Pickens County in South Carolina. Pickens Advocacy Center's mission is to support survivors of sexual assault and abuse through treatment services and to end sexual violence in the Pickens County community through education, advocacy, and collaboration. The facility serves various populations, such as minors, adults, males, females, Foreign Nationals, LGBTQ+, disabled, and elderly (65+). Pickens County Advocacy Center assists all victims of sexual assault, ensuring their rights are protected by providing informational resources during the reporting and examination process. Additionally, free counseling services are offered to survivors of sexual assault and secondary survivors. Pickens County Advocacy Center is active in prevention education and community outreach by speaking at various career fairs, health fairs, classrooms, businesses, and other community organizations regarding the agency's services, as well as sexual assault services. The most requested service is mental health counseling. Pickens County Advocacy Center did not serve any victims of human trafficking in 2021. However, their facility is equipped to support human trafficking victims and victims with a disability. Any questions regarding human trafficking related cases for Pickens County Advocacy Center can be directed to **Cristel Stancil** at [cstancil@pcadvocacy.org](mailto:cstancil@pcadvocacy.org) or visit Pickens County Advocacy Center's website, <https://www.pcadvocacy.org>.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The South Carolina Office of the Attorney General would like to thank all the members of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force for their hard work and dedication to the cause. Collaboration is critical in the human-trafficking movement to successfully prevent the crime, protect our communities, and prosecute the cases. Together, we will continue to make progress in combating human trafficking in South Carolina.

In closing, we would like to recognize contributions made to this report by the following individuals. Thank you for your dedication to the cause and ensuring that anti-human trafficking efforts across the state are recognized each year.

Rebekah Battersby, Office of the South Carolina Attorney General

Ashni Bhojwani, Office of the South Carolina Attorney General

Heather Weiss, Office of the South Carolina Attorney General

Matt Wills, Office of the South Carolina Attorney General

Jamesetta Lovett, South Carolina Judicial Branch

Christina Lee, Data Systems Manager, Polaris/ National Human Trafficking Hotline

Support Services, Office of the South Carolina Attorney General

State Task Force Subcommittee Chairs

Regional Task Force Chairs

If you have any questions about the 2021 South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force Annual Report or any related inquiries, please contact:

Kathryn Moorehead, Director  
VAWA and Human Trafficking Programs  
South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force | Email: [kmoorehead@scag.gov](mailto:kmoorehead@scag.gov)  
Office of South Carolina Attorney General | PO Box 11549 | Columbia, SC 29201



@SC\_HTTF



/SCHumanTrafficking  
TaskForce

[HumanTrafficking.SCAG.gov](http://HumanTrafficking.SCAG.gov)