

2022 Annual Report



Office of the South Carolina
Attorney General



ALAN WILSON
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Human trafficking continues to impact communities across South Carolina. In 2022, we saw a substantial increase in labor trafficking cases while the number of children identified as sex trafficking victims continued to rise as well. The crime remains varied and multifaceted. However, we know that those who commit these offenses often target the most vulnerable amongst us.

Given the complexities of these cases, the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force takes a multi-sector, strategic approach to preventing and responding to the crime. This includes collaborating with state and national partners as well as stakeholders in communities across South Carolina. The Task Force is currently comprised of 12 multidisciplinary subcommittees, 11 mandated member agencies, an advisory council, nine regional task forces, and nearly 800 individual members. By the end of 2023, we will add four additional regional task forces that will help ensure statewide community-level, coordinated responses to the crime.

The State Task Force will focus on additional capacity building efforts throughout 2023. These will include strengthening the subcommittees, expanding the advisory council of subject matter experts, and developing by-laws to support the regional task forces and state-level subcommittees. We will also increase sector specific training, offer prevention education to schools across the state, launch a higher education initiative, and roll out the state level certification for service providers.

As we recognize the progress made in 2022, I would like to note the significance of this year. The State Task Force celebrated its tenth anniversary. That is 10 years of service and commitment to the people of South Carolina. Each member has strengthened efforts over the past decade to prevent and respond to human trafficking within our state. I urge you to continue efforts in 2023 as we remain focused on the goal of eliminating human trafficking and protecting our communities.

Thank you for your continued hard work and perseverance.

Alan Wilson, Chair
SC Human Trafficking Task Force

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South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force

Overview of State Task Force

Human Trafficking is the use of force, fraud, or coercion to compel a person into commercial sex acts, labor, or services against their will. Inducing a minor into commercial sex is considered human trafficking regardless of the presence of force, fraud, or coercion. This is a multi-billion-dollar criminal industry that denies freedom to nearly 50 million people around the world. Traffickers' exploitative practices affect every country in the world, including the United States, by diminishing and destroying communities, their sense of security, and the global economy.

With 11 mandated member agencies, two appointed non-governmental organizations, nearly 800 individual members, 12 subcommittees, an advisory council, and nine regional task forces, the Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force is committed to continually improving anti-trafficking efforts across the state of South Carolina. This is accomplished through diverse, multi-disciplinary partnerships that engage with victims and survivors of human trafficking. Given that victims are not homogenous and come from numerous cultural backgrounds, the Task Force continues to promote the development and implementation of trauma-informed, culturally sensitive, and comprehensive victim-centered approaches to human trafficking. The Task Force is committed to calling attention to the vulnerabilities that human traffickers routinely exploit, especially as they pertain to individuals from marginalized or underserved communities. The goal is to ensure all stakeholders can best identify and assist all victims.

This past year was particularly noteworthy as the Task Force recognized its 10th anniversary. Additionally, it received the first state funds since its mandated formation in 2012. The Task Force expresses its sincere gratitude to the South Carolina General Assembly for a recurring financial appropriation that prioritized the anti-human trafficking efforts in our state. These funds will allow the Task Force to increase its reach and capacity across the state. To effectively prevent, respond to, and prosecute this crime, collaboration will continue to be of utmost importance. The Task Force is thankful for the hard work of all those who contributed to the anti-human trafficking movement in 2022 and is hopeful that we will continue to grow and strengthen together in 2023.

Legislatively Mandated Membership

In addition to the Office of the South Carolina Attorney General, the following members are 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



Office of the Attorney General, South Carolina Crime Victim Services



The Department of Social Services



A representative from the Office of the Governor



HENRY MCMASTER
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 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.

Purpose of the State Human Trafficking 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;
- Create and disseminate materials to increase the public's awareness of the extent of trafficking in persons, both US citizens and foreign nationals, within the United States.

South Carolina Human Trafficking State Plan

Legislation

In 2012, the General Assembly passed the first comprehensive human trafficking legislation in South Carolina. A portion of the bill included the development of a state plan outlining the approach to preventing the crime and a coordinated response to victims' specialized needs. The State Plan was released in the summer of 2014, providing the first framework for task force members. For the past eight years, the plan has guided numerous goals and initiatives. While priorities have periodically shifted throughout the state, the State Plan has been a benchmark for measuring the State Task Force's successes.

Progress

The State Task Force continues to collect data from members and partner organizations. In 2022 the Task Force received funding to hire a Statistical and Research Analyst to develop its first comprehensive statewide data collection system. The data collected will inform service provision development. It will also help better target communities across the state when planning awareness campaigns, prevention education, and general outreach.

Efforts to train multiple professional sectors have continued throughout 2022. The emphasis has primarily been focused on law enforcement, lawyers, and victim service providers. These efforts have focused on the ability to identify a victim of human trafficking, thoroughly investigate cases, and provide trauma-informed, victim-centered care to survivors. There has also been a slowly growing civil relief component to trainings coupled with general dialogue on the topic among stakeholders.

The Law Enforcement Subcommittee, under the leadership of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED), has made strides in strengthening networks among local, state, and federal agencies. This has included an increase in information sharing as well as mutual support in investigating cases. They have also trained investigators across the state on best practices when responding to both labor and sex trafficking cases. The Subcommittee's goal is to continue such efforts in 2023 utilizing Memorandums of Understanding for Task Force member law enforcement agencies and a response protocol for each region.

The State Task Force has also increased its emphasis on assisting foreign national victims, educating members of juvenile courts regarding those who have committed a crime because of their victimization, and the use of the internet to target victims. The latter will be incorporated in the prevention education efforts launching across the state in 2023.

Continued Challenges

The State of South Carolina continues to struggle with providing adequate services to all victims of human trafficking. There is a dire need for increased services for both children and adults. Currently the state has one organization providing residential care for minor female sex trafficking survivors and another providing residential care for adult female sex trafficking survivors. While there is a community-based program that works with male victims, there are currently no residential programs for boys or men. Furthermore, there

are no residential programs to support survivors of labor trafficking. The lack of services continues to be the biggest challenge for all stakeholders in our state.

It is the goal of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force to pilot an Acute Crisis Care & Resource Center in the near future. This would provide the opportunity for law enforcement and child welfare professionals to transport minor victims to a secure residential setting where the children can receive immediate crisis stabilization, forensic interviews and exams, and the multi-disciplinary team can meet at the location to determine next steps in services for the victim. Ultimately we would like to see a minimum of four centers across the state. These facilities will be designed for all minor victims of human trafficking.

Updates to the State Plan

The State Task Force is planning to release an updated version of the State Plan in January of 2024. Therefore, staff at the Attorney General's Office will be working throughout 2023 to solicit input from members as well as other stakeholders throughout South Carolina. We will be encouraging members of the Survivor Advisory Subcommittee to provide their input to help guide next steps in supporting victims and survivors of both sex and labor trafficking.

Financial Appropriations

First Financial Appropriation

In 2022 the South Carolina General Assembly appropriated \$1.7 million in recurring funds to the Office of the South Carolina Attorney General's Human Trafficking Task Force. The funds will be used in the prevention of the crime, support to state subcommittees and regional task forces, the development of a data collection system and its ongoing use, prosecution of human trafficking cases, multi-sector training, and public awareness. The financial appropriation positions the Task Force to execute its strategic response across South Carolina.

Increase in Staff

The following staff members were hired or are actively being recruited following the financial appropriation. These roles were created to align with the Task Force's Strategic Response Plan that aims to prevent the crime, improve responses throughout South Carolina, and hold perpetrators accountable for their crimes.

Monique Garvin, Deputy Director – Deputy Director Garvin will oversee efforts to increase awareness of the intersection of other Violence Against Women Act crimes and human trafficking. Additionally, she manages projects related to the following areas: prevention education, grant writing, data collection, direct services for adults, survivor engagement, interfaith initiatives, higher education partnerships, and legislation. Deputy Director Garvin will also work with the Director to launch innovative initiatives and form new partnerships with state and national stakeholders.

Mandy Bowden, Human Trafficking Program Coordinator – Ms. Bowden is assigned to the Midlands area of the state. In her role, she will provide technical support to the regional task forces within her area. Furthermore, Ms. Bowden is a lead on a Higher Education Initiative that will launch in 2023. This will include collaborating with schools and other Task Force staff in the development of materials to be distributed on campuses across the state. She will also be involved with the following subcommittees: Prevention Education and Outreach, Legal Innovations, and Direct Services (Adults). Ms. Bowden will identify needed training in the Midlands and, in partnership with other staff, coordinate the provision of sector-specific opportunities within the area.

James Massie, Human Trafficking Program Coordinator – Mr. Massie is assigned to the Lowcountry and will provide support to the regional task forces within this area. He is the lead, along with the Legal Innovations Subcommittee, in launching the state's first specialized court for juvenile victims of human trafficking. Mr. Massie will also provide support to the following subcommittees: Law Enforcement, Direct Services (Minors), and Interfaith. He will identify needed trainings within the Lowcountry and, in partnership with other staff, coordinate the provision of sector-specific opportunities within the area. Mr. Massie will also be involved in efforts to engage the public using a media campaign featuring athletes and coaches in South Carolina.

Nikki Brown, Human Trafficking Program Coordinator – Ms. Brown is assigned to the Pee Dee area of the state. She will provide support to the one existing regional task

force and, in 2023, help launch two additional regional task forces in the area. Ms. Brown is the lead on the first state-level certification program for specialized and supplemental providers. She will provide support to the following subcommittees: Direct Services (Minors), Data & Research, Legal Innovations, Survivor Advisory, and Healthcare. Ms. Brown will also focus on maternal and child health in relation to human trafficking.

Aryaa Regmi, Human Trafficking Program Coordinator – Ms. Regmi is assigned to the Upstate and will provide support to existing regional task forces and, in 2023, help launch a new regional task force as well as relaunch another to strengthen the structure and approach. She is the point person for labor trafficking efforts that will include rebuilding the state subcommittee, developing the first labor trafficking-specific awareness campaign, and identifying areas for training that will help multiple sectors in their response to the crime. Ms. Regmi will also focus on cultural diversity trainings and improving services for foreign national victims. She will provide support to the following subcommittees: Labor Trafficking, Data & Research, Survivor Advisory, and Direct Services (Adults).

Abby Zilch, Human Trafficking Program Assistant (Communications) – Ms. Zilch will work closely with the Director and the Graphic Designer to develop awareness campaigns. She will manage updates to the Task Force’s website including the creation of the online resource directory and a statewide calendar of events and training opportunities. In her role, Ms. Zilch will also write a monthly newsletter, update social media posts, notify Task Force members about meetings and events, and produce a podcast focused on anti-human trafficking efforts in South Carolina. She will also assist regional task forces with their online presence and other communications-related projects.

Human Trafficking Program Assistant (Training and Outreach) (Currently Recruiting) – This position will be responsible for assisting the Program Coordinators in identifying and planning multiple sector-specific trainings throughout the state. This will include reserving locations, recruiting presenters, and securing continuing education credits. Additionally, the position will manage an online training hub that will provide basic training opportunities for an array of professions as well as others seeking general knowledge about the crime of human trafficking. The Program Assistant will also aid in the development of training videos that will be included in the online hub.

Megan Raymer, Human Trafficking Prosecutor - Ms. Raymer moved from her position as Assistant Attorney General - VAWA Prosecution to a role that will primarily support the prosecution of those accused of trafficking in persons. With her knowledge and experience in prosecuting victim-involved cases, she is positioned well, alongside her colleagues in Special Victim Prosecution, to tackle complex, lengthy cases. Additionally, Ms. Raymer will continue assisting professional trainings of other lawyers throughout the state.

Bill Ogle, Information Technology Specialist – Mr. Ogle’s primary responsibility is to provide support to members of the Human Trafficking Task Force staff at the Office of the Attorney General. This includes assistance with resolving issues with the online training

hub, the data collection system, the website, the resource map, and the online training and event calendar. Any IT needs at trainings, conferences, or State Task Force meetings will also rely on the assistance of Mr. Ogle and his colleagues in the IT Department.

Tristan Broadwater, Recruitment Coordinator/HR Assistance – Ms. Broadwater was hired to assist with staff recruitment, manage Human Resources issues, and other related matters. She has been central to supporting the expansion of staff hired to execute the Strategic Response Plan.

Human Trafficking Victim Advocate (Early Recruitment Phase) – With the increase in cases and an additional prosecutor focused on human trafficking cases, a victim advocate will be onboarded as the advocate for all trafficking victims throughout the prosecution of their cases. This individual will specialize in using skills proven to work best in supporting human trafficking victims through the legal process. This individual will also use a trauma-informed and victim-centered approaches throughout their work. Furthermore, the advocate will attend conferences and trainings to stay informed about emerging and best practices in working with both sex and labor trafficking victims.

Graphic Designer (In the Hiring Process)–

This individual will be responsible for creating campaign materials to be used online, on billboards, in public service announcements, and other locations. The Graphic Designer will also create materials for trainings, in partnership with the program coordinators and program assistant, and brochures that can be shared at speaking events. Additionally, the role will be responsible for the development of graphics that support the statewide prevention education efforts, the higher education initiative, and the labor trafficking initiative. This staff member will also provide assistance to regional task forces as they develop websites, logos, and social media accounts as well as other projects within their counties.

Human Trafficking Prevention Education Coordinator (In the Hiring Process)

(Mainstream) – This position will be responsible for providing prevention education curricula in schools, afterschool programs, and other youth serving groups. The individual will work with members of regional task forces as well as State Task Force staff to ensure community participation through the delivery of specialized curricula. Additionally, the Prevention Education Coordinator will be responsible, in partnership with the graphic designer, for the development of age-appropriate posters and other items for use in schools, youth serving groups, and the resource page on the Task Force website. The Prevention Education Coordinator will also support the Prevention & Outreach and Higher Education Subcommittees.

Human Trafficking Prevention Education Coordinator (Currently Recruiting)

(System-Involved Youth) – This role will be responsible for providing prevention education to young people residing in group homes, foster families, and other residential facilities. The latter will include those involved with the juvenile justice system in South Carolina as well as young people receiving support for mental health diagnosis. The Prevention Education Coordinator will also provide support to community-based

programs working with system-involved youth. This role will require collaboration with regional task forces, state-level subcommittees, and other stakeholders. It will also require the individual to accompany the Director and Deputy Director to meetings of the South Carolina Joint Council on Children and Adolescents.

Statistical and Research Analyst (Currently Recruiting) - This role will require the development of a comprehensive statewide data collection system that includes all the Violence Against Women Act crimes (human trafficking, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and harassment). Ideally the system will also collect data regarding dating violence once legislation is passed to define the crime in South Carolina. The individual will be responsible for managing the system and collecting data from various stakeholders. Throughout the year, the analyst will compile data for reports to inform efforts made by the state and regional task forces and support grant efforts by stakeholders interested in building additional specialized services in our state. Furthermore, the analyst will lead larger research projects with partners at institutions of higher education as well as partners in various professional associations. This individual will also support the Data & Research, Prevention Education, and Higher Education Subcommittees.

Human Trafficking Investigator (Currently Recruiting)

This position will work closely with the Human Trafficking Prosecutor, the Human Trafficking Victim Advocate, SLED, and other relevant staff and agencies to promote successful prosecution of human trafficking throughout the state. The Human Trafficking Investigator will also attend relevant trainings, webinars, conferences and other events to stay current on relevant knowledge regarding trauma-informed, victim-centered investigative knowledge and best practices.

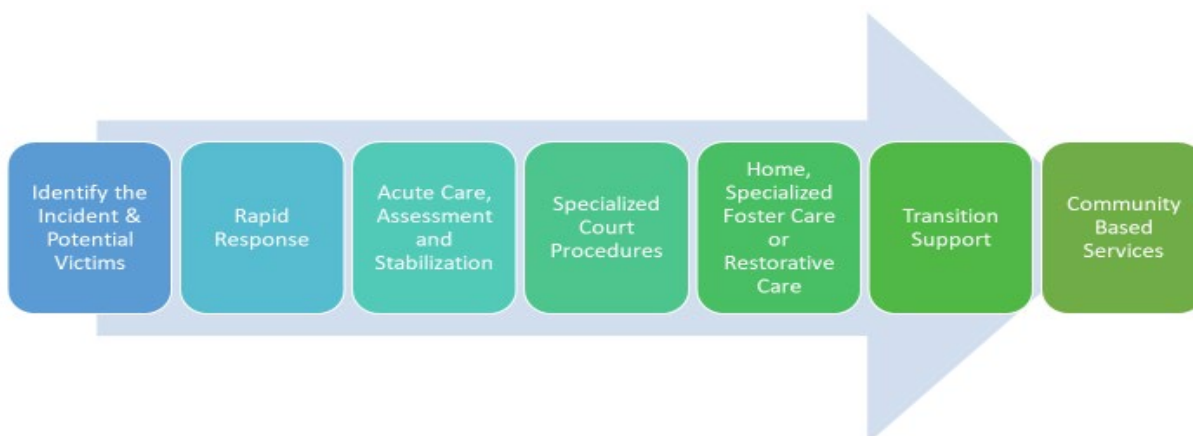
Remaining Funds

The remaining funds will aid in securing additional office space to house staff, as well as provide a meeting space for Task Force subcommittees and a location to film training videos, interview stakeholders for online awareness campaigns, and produce the podcast to help bring added awareness about anti-human trafficking efforts across the state. There are also funds allocated for trainings, prevention education, and community awareness resources. Lastly, the financial appropriation will be used for software, printing costs, and similar office-related expenses.

Strategic Response Plan

The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force spent the past six years developing a strategic approach that would help prevent the crime in our state, improve coordinated responses among multidisciplinary stakeholders, and best serve victims and survivors. In 2022 the Task Force began to implement next steps of the state's Strategic Response Plan, depicted in the graphic below. These steps reference cases involving minor victims as the primary focus in the execution of the statewide plan. However, the plan is adaptable in responding to the needs of victims and survivors of adult human trafficking with slight modifications.

Continuum of Care Model

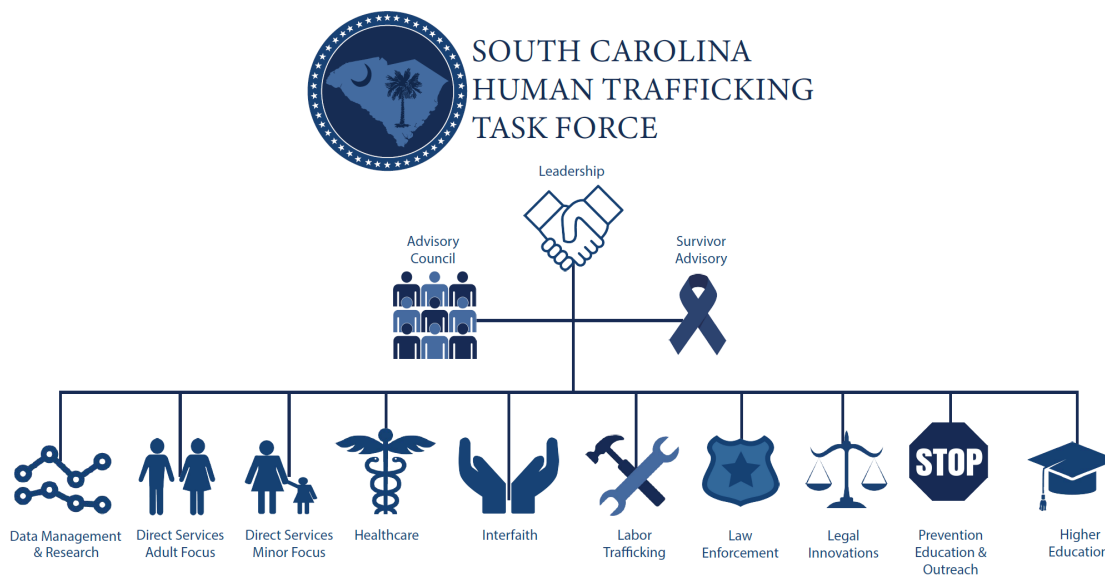


The planning began in January of 2017 with the development of the first continuum of care model. Initially the model was designed to clearly identify the steps in responding to the needs of minor victims of human trafficking. At the time there was no designated state agency responsible for responding to minor victims and coordinating their care. In 2018, legislation passed that changed the definition of abuse and neglect. The legislative change positioned the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS) to be responsible for minor victims of human trafficking regardless of whether the offender was a parent, guardian, or unknown. This legislative shift strengthened the first segment of the continuum of care model by helping law enforcement and healthcare providers identify potential victims and place them under the care of DSS. Prior to the change of legislation, the only option was to return the minor to their parent or guardian without knowing whether or not the perpetrator was a family member. Meanwhile the State Task Force continued to address the ability of stakeholders to identify potential victims through coalition building, trainings, and public awareness campaigns.

Expansion of the State Subcommittees

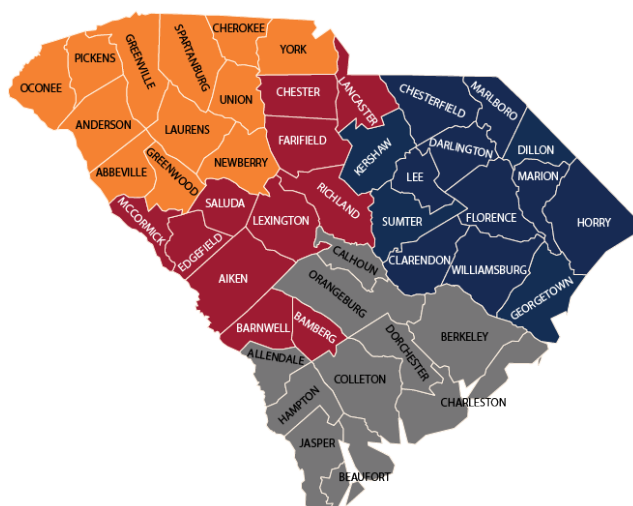
In January of 2017 the Task Force had one subcommittee, Direct Service Providers. However, in order to ensure all segments of the continuum were realized, 11 additional multidisciplinary subcommittees were formalized. Each subcommittee was composed of subject-matter experts who could lend their expertise to the expansion of the State Plan. Most importantly, the subcommittees positioned survivor voices to contribute their unique perspectives to ongoing goals and initiatives.

In 2023 State Task Force staff will focus on strengthening subcommittee structures and expanding the capacity through ongoing support of special initiatives within and across the various sectors.



Dividing the State

The next step in the Continuum of Care Model was encouraging coordinated, rapid responses to cases while ensuring support services for victims. While the Task Force and its members were consistently trying to educate stakeholders, there was a need to build stronger networks across the state. Task Force leadership decided to split the state into four areas that aligned, as closely as possible, with state-level law enforcement and child welfare agencies' models. This would allow for network building within these areas while also identifying a human trafficking point person from each of the state agencies in all four areas. Furthermore, each area would be composed of regional task forces that divided efforts into even smaller, more manageable scales.



Coordination of Services by Area

The division of the state into four areas allows for better coordination among network stakeholders. There are identified professionals from child welfare and state law enforcement who can respond as needed to support other professionals who may encounter human trafficking cases. The areas also help identify gaps in resources and where the most critical needs are to ensure a rapid response to both sex and labor trafficking. In 2023, the State Task Force will encourage regional task forces to complete community resource mapping to also help identify such gaps. Staff will work with communities lacking resources to help identify ways to meet the needs of victims and survivors as well as identify those who may be eligible to complete the state certification process for specialized or supplemental service providers.

State-level Certification

Legislation passed in 2018 positioned the Attorney General's Office, as the lead of the State Task Force, to develop criteria to certify direct service providers to work effectively with victims and survivors. The development and execution of a training for those working solely or primarily with human trafficking survivors was the first step in ensuring a baseline of knowledge in agencies across the state. Additionally, it positioned the Task Force to ensure referrals made by the National Human Trafficking Hotline would include providers unlikely to revictimize those seeking services.

In January of 2019, the Victim Service Provider Certification for Human Trafficking was piloted in Columbia for professionals from across the state. South Carolina became the first in the nation to launch a state-level requirement of those working solely with human trafficking victims and survivors. The curriculum included some of initial training topics covered in the general Victim Service Provider Certification with an emphasis on human trafficking. Specialized training topics covered in 2022 included trauma, labor trafficking, and guiding principles for service providers.

Below are the curriculum topics covered in each certification course.

15 Initial Hours Including:

- SC Victim's Rights and Statutes (2 Hours)
- Crime Victim Compensation (1 Hour)
- Ethics (1 Hour)
- Criminal Justice System/Court Procedures (2 Hours)
- Communication (2 Hours)
- Multidisciplinary Collaboration (2 Hours)
- Self-Care (1 Hour)
- Specialized Training (4 Hours)

*Plus 12 Yearly Credits of Continuing Education

In 2023 the State Task Force will begin certifying agencies across the state as specialized or supplemental providers (please reference the initiatives section for more details).

Resource Directory

Also included in the 2018 legislation was a mandate for the State Task Force to develop a certification process followed by a resource directory for law enforcement and family courts. The State Task Force will develop an online resource map directory to identify specialized and supplement services by county. The map will also include Sexual Assault Forensic Excellence (SAFE) designated facilities, law enforcement agencies with established Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) with the Task Force, and, eventually, information about Acute Crisis Care & Resource Centers. As the State Task Force certifies agencies, vetted agencies and services will be added to the map. The resource directory will be located on the Task Force pages of the South Carolina Office of the Attorney General's website.

Advisory Council

As the State Task Force became increasingly aware of cases involving vulnerable populations, priorities were shifted to partner with additional subject-matter experts. However, Task Force leadership realized that it was at its capacity in relation to expanding the number of subcommittees. The Advisory Council was formed based on identified vulnerable populations. In 2023 the Task Force will add additional experts to provide input on more populations that may be at added risk of exploitation.

Increased State Task Force Staff

In 2022 the South Carolina General Assembly positioned the Task Force to further implement the Strategic Response Plan by allocating recurring funds to support these efforts. The allocation of funds enabled the hiring of additional staff to support state-level subcommittees, regional task forces, and statewide initiatives. Please reference the Financial Appropriations section for more details about the responsibilities of the new staff members.

Formalized Prevention Education and Outreach

Members of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force have consistently recognized the need for comprehensive prevention education across the state. While the regional task forces include prevention education in their subcommittees, the State Task Force recognized the need to provide additional support. The goal was to onboard education coordinators can establish relationships with mainstream schools, youth serving groups, child welfare agencies, and others working with young people. For more information on the education coordinators' responsibilities, please reference the Financial Appropriation section of this report.

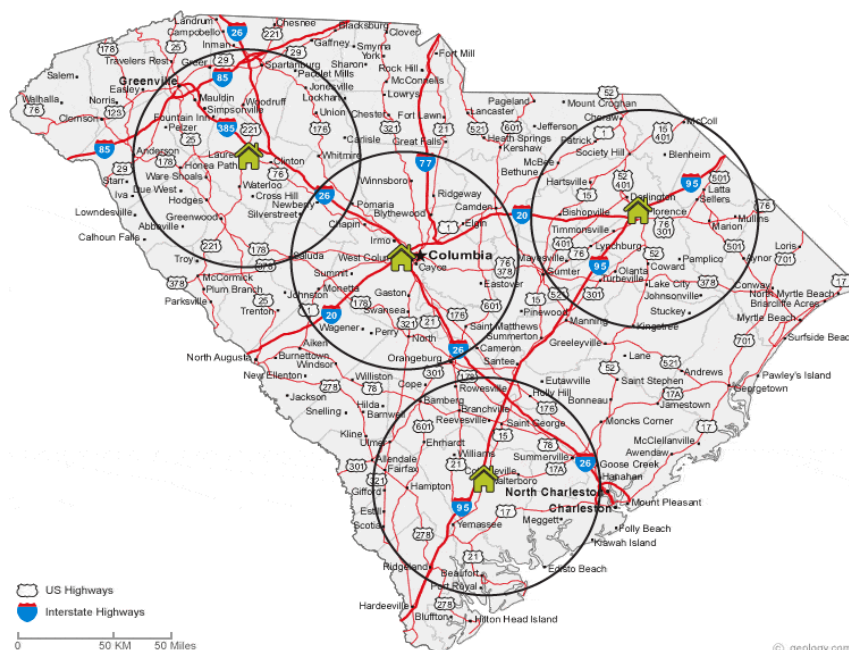
Comprehensive Data Collection

While the State Task Force increases its support of subcommittees and regional task forces, it is also planning to launch a comprehensive data collection system in 2023. The Task Force will hire a statistical and research analyst responsible for establishing the system, collecting data, and producing reports that will benefit anti-human trafficking efforts in South Carolina. We are excited to incorporate this important component into the larger efforts.

Acute Crisis Care and Resource Centers

In 2018, legislation required the Office of the South Carolina Attorney General, as the Chair of the State Task Force, to develop criteria for Acute Crisis Care and Resource Centers. In 2023 the criteria will be finalized, and the goal will be to identify a partner willing to pilot a center in one of the four areas. Ideally the state will eventually have a minimum of four with one in each of the areas (example below). The centers will be designed for law enforcement and child welfare professionals to transport suspected minor human trafficking victims to a residential center where they will receive immediate crisis stabilization, forensic interviews and exams, and to allow time for the multi-disciplinary team (MDT) to meet and determine next steps in the child's services. In addition to the centers providing meeting spaces for MDTs, there will also be offices for law enforcement and child welfare, medical rooms, counseling rooms, residential facilities for all minor victims, and other resource areas to benefit the response to human trafficking cases.

While the State Task Force works on identifying funding sources to actualize these facilities, it is also acutely aware that the centers will be designed for short-term services. Currently there is a lack of longer-term services for minor labor and sex trafficking victims in South Carolina. The Acute Crisis Care and Resource Centers need additional services within the state for appropriate referrals to be made on a case-by-case basis. Services include specialized foster care placements, long-term restorative care programs, and community-based support services for victims and their families. Without these longer-term services, the centers will become bottlenecked with cases and children will remain in a program designed for shorter-term needs.



Expansion of Quality Services for Victims and Survivors

In order to meet the needs of minor victims and successfully pilot an Acute Crisis Care and Resource Center, the State Task Force will actively seek resources to support efforts

to expand services across the state. The initial efforts will be made through the community resource mapping process to determine what supplemental programs could be certified to specifically support the Department of Social Services family preservation cases. The Task Force will also provide technical assistance to those trying to launch programs to support minor victims. Lastly, leadership will meet with national and regional stakeholders to explore the possibility of establishing programs in South Carolina. The comprehensive data collection system will provide formal reports regarding the levels of need throughout the state and, more specifically, in each of the four areas of the state.

Next Steps

As State Task Force members focus on the aforementioned steps within the plan, additional priorities will be identified in 2023. We are eager to gather input from all stakeholders regarding obstacles within their communities, then provide the support needed to better equip professionals from all sectors in our efforts to prevent, respond to, and prosecute cases in South Carolina.

Legislation

In 2012, the first comprehensive human trafficking legislation passed in South Carolina to create a legal framework that would establish a coordinated response to the crime. Consequently, legislation continues to serve a pivotal role in preventing, responding, and prosecuting human trafficking in our state. In formulating systemic approaches to addressing human trafficking, confronting the ways in which power, control, and abuse present and intersect with human trafficking is critical in the development of solutions. In highlighting these intersections, we expand the availability and accessibility of services to crime victims and improve the state's coordinated response. As a result, the State Task Force has identified legislation that aligns with the primary goal of preventing, protecting, and responding to the needs of victims of human trafficking.

2023 Legislative Priorities

Human Trafficking Statewide Standardized Trainings

Statewide coordination of anti-human trafficking efforts will require specialized trainings to various sectors and cross-sector trainings to enhance the provision of services to victims. To ensure best and emerging practices as well as accurate information to each sector, the State Task Force will be positioned to establish criteria and vet trainings for professional sectors. Additionally, the Task Force will support efforts to formalize the standardization of trainings across the state.

Legal Protections for Exploited Minors

The State Task Force will support legislation to expand the definition of sexual exploitation to include minor victims. This inclusion will allow minor victims of trafficking to raise coercion as an affirmative defense to nonviolent offenses committed as a direct result of their victimization.

Dating Violence (H. 3582)

Although violence and abuse occur across the lifespan and do not discriminate against age, gender, race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status, some populations are disproportionately impacted. Since South Carolina's current domestic violence legislation only considers adult victims over the age of 18, existing legislation does not comprehensively account for minor or adult victims of dating violence. Given that one of the most common relationships between traffickers and victims is romantic, this legislation is particularly relevant in preventing victimization.

Breaking the cycle of violence requires stakeholders to create solutions that target populations across the lifespan. One way to systemically address the prevalence of interpersonal violence is to increase education, awareness, and protection of victims and vulnerable populations. As such, this legislation will define dating violence, require the inclusion of dating violence education in the existing Comprehensive Health Education Curriculum (Erin's Law), and require local school boards to develop and implement policies on the topic of dating violence.

Victim Address Confidentiality (H. 3443)

Victims of crime experience various risk factors that jeopardize their access to safety before, during, and after the exploitation. For many crime victims, the greatest threat and most lethal forms of violence occur after the abusive relationship has ended. Consequently, this legislation will develop an Address Confidentiality Program to protect the public records of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and human trafficking.

Unlawful Dissemination of Sexually Explicit Materials (H. 3468)

With increased consumption of technology and social media, perpetrators are able to increase and diversify their methods of exploitation. Victims experience heightened vulnerability because there are escalated forms of abuse and more opportunities to groom, threaten, and sustain harm. This bill will amend the South Carolina Code of Laws by creating the offense of unlawful dissemination of sexually explicit materials.

To discuss or suggest relevant legislation, please contact Monique Garvin, Deputy Director of the Violence Against Women Act Programs and South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force at moniquegarvin@scag.gov .

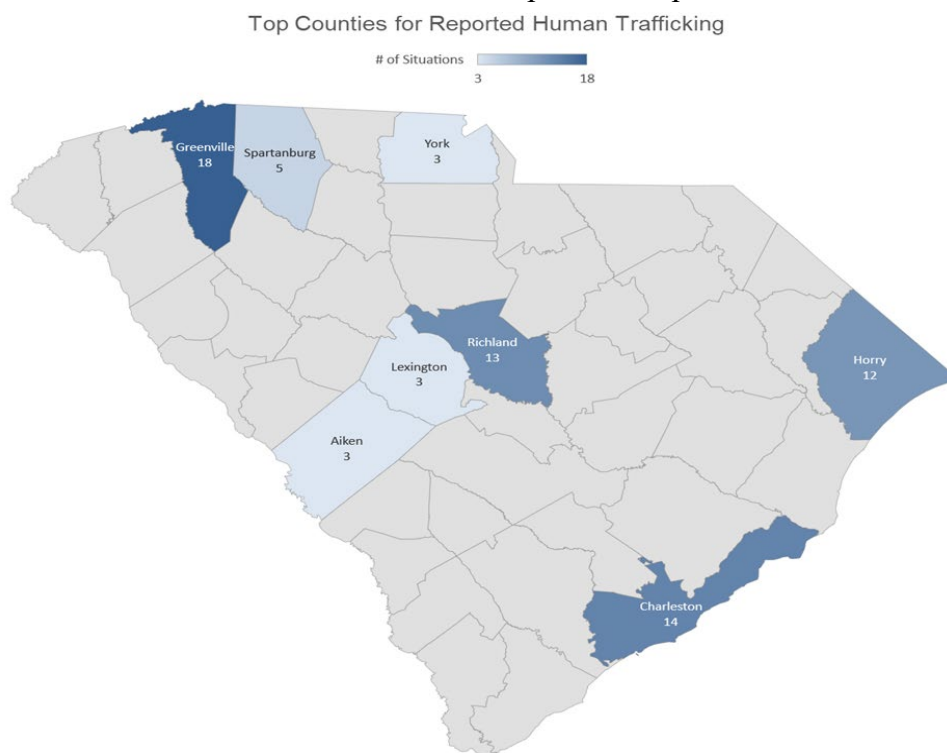
South Carolina Specific Data

National Human Trafficking Hotline Data

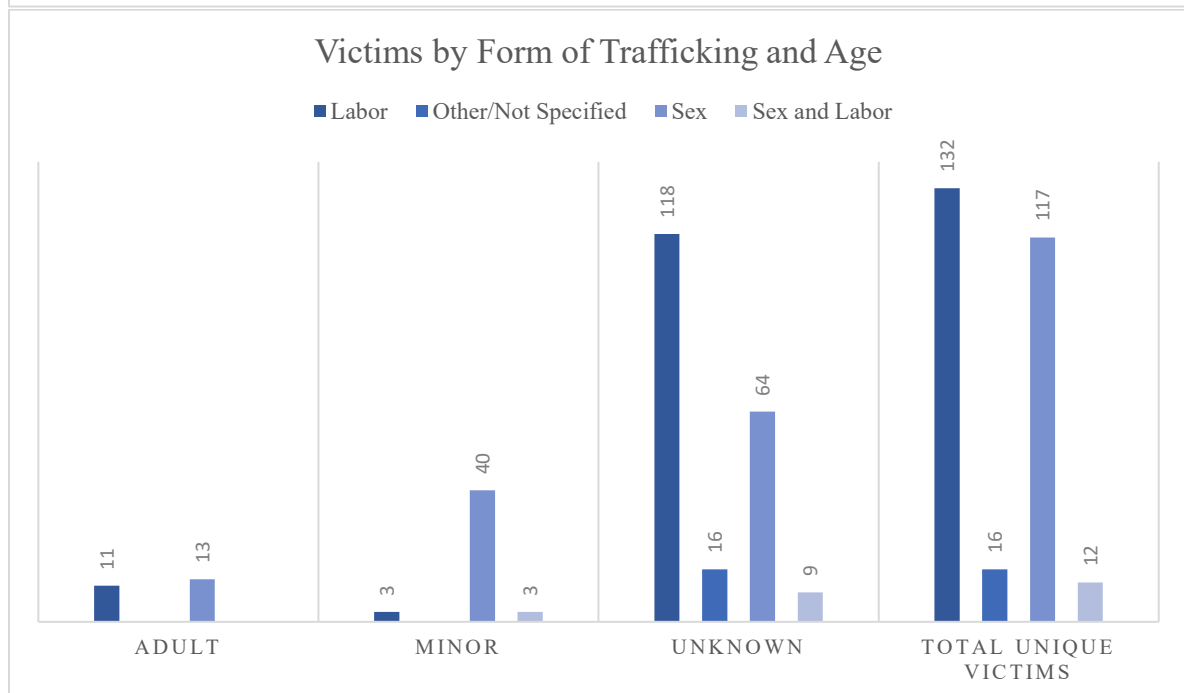
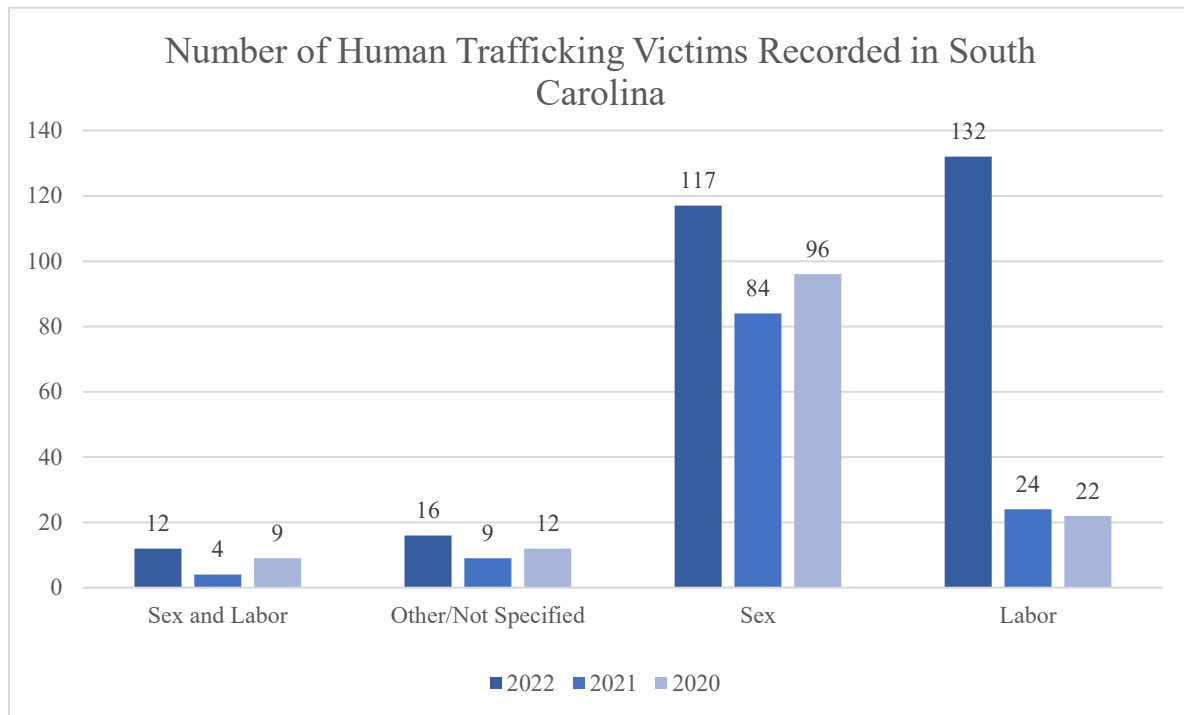
The partnership between the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force and the National Human Trafficking Hotline continues to emphasize the need to report potential cases of human trafficking in South Carolina. The National Hotline's provision of clean data to the Task Force aids in shaping South Carolina's strategic response to human trafficking. It also supports an array development of services that support victims and survivors. The Task Force's promotion of the National Hotline streamlines the process to determine the magnitude of the crime, ensures the deliverance of information to law enforcement and prosecutors, and ultimately vets the direct service providers who protect, support, and serve victims of human trafficking.

Given the complexities of maintaining and ensuring clean data, the National Human Trafficking Hotline provided 2021 statistics pertaining to human trafficking in South Carolina. The magnitude and prevalence of human trafficking in South Carolina continues to grow, and 2022 is not an exception. It is important to note that the statistics provided *do not* represent a comprehensive report on human trafficking cases in South Carolina. However, the report does serve as a resource to the cases reported through various methods (i.e., phone calls, emails, online tip report, SMS, or Webchat) to the National Hotline within a single timeframe. The data is accurate through December 5, 2022. The total number of trafficking cases reported to the National Hotline was 124 in 2022, with 277 likely victims.

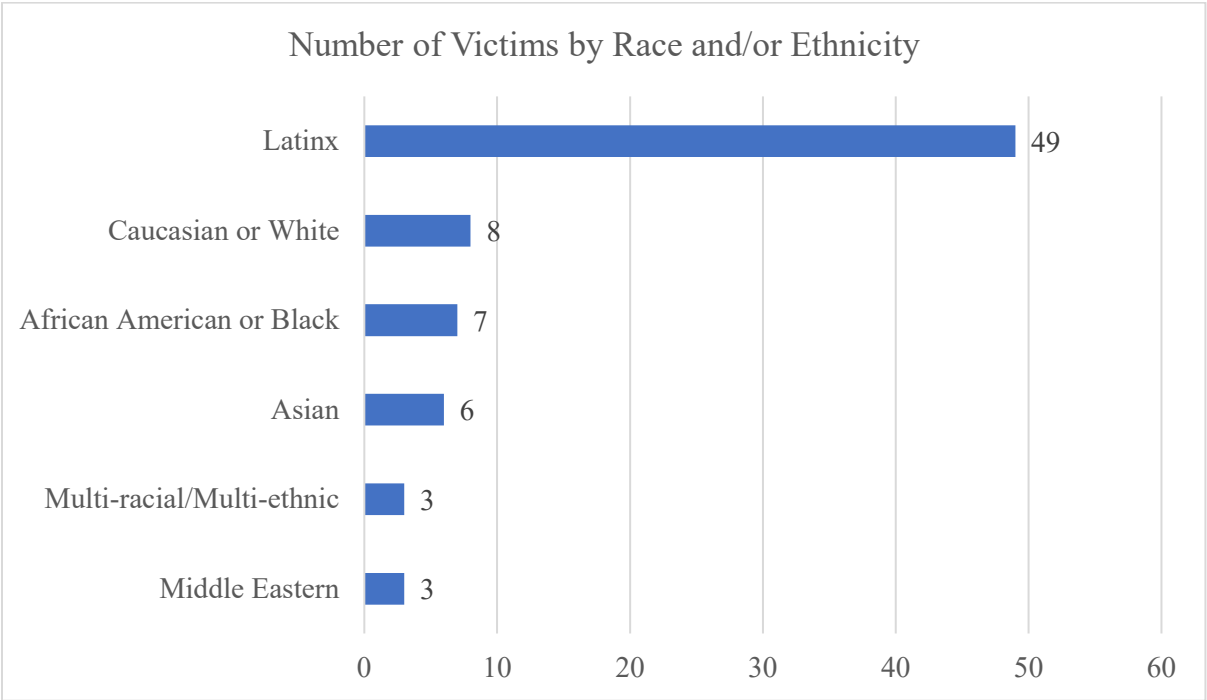
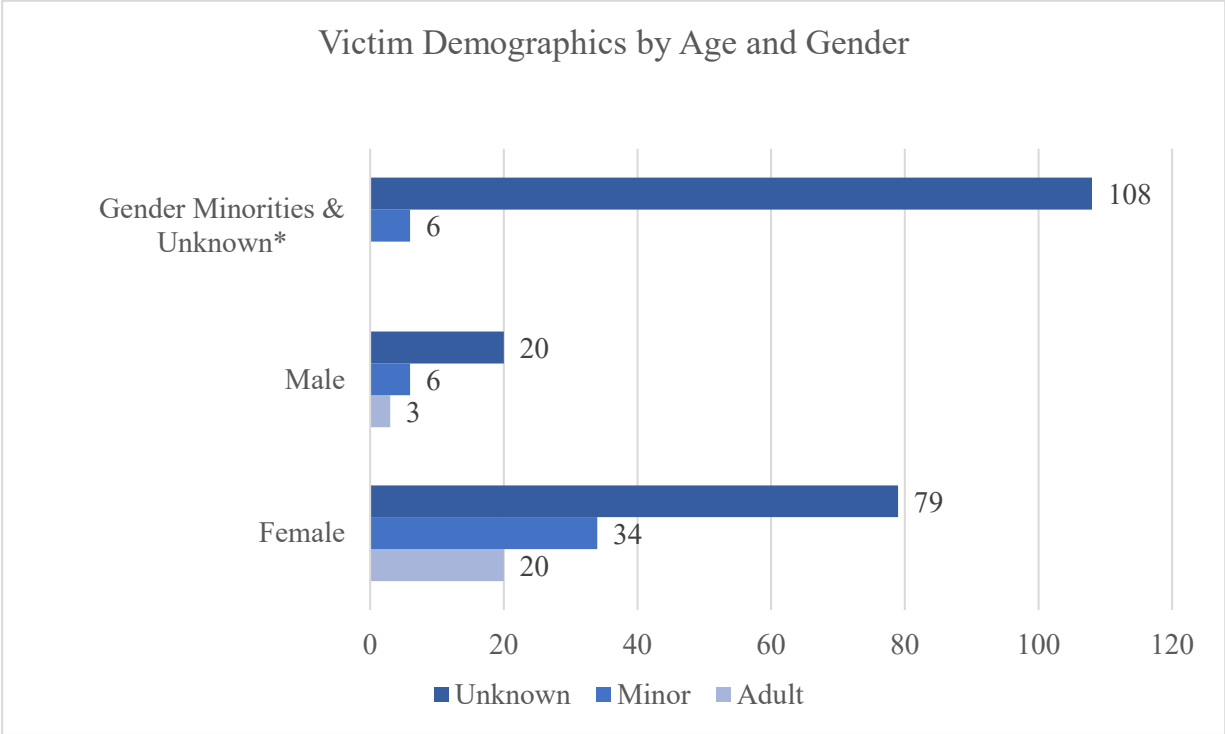
In 2021 the Task Force set out to bring awareness and lift capacity in the response to labor trafficking cases, prevention education, and service provision. In 2022 South Carolina saw a 128% increase in the use of the hotline that emphasized reports related to labor trafficking,



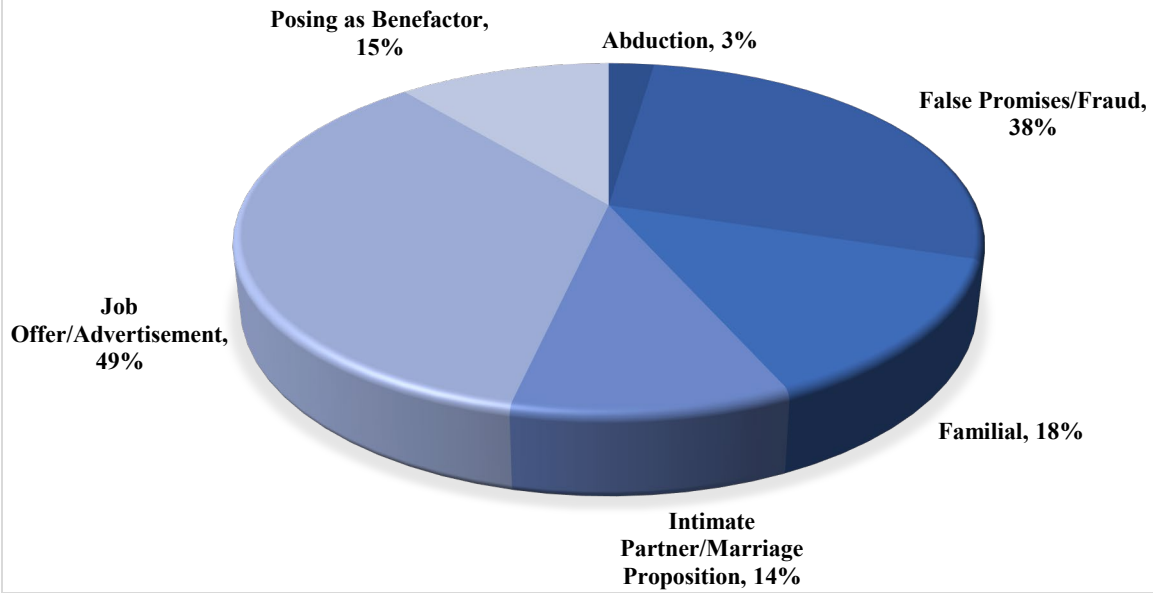
top recruitment methods and venues, and the demographics of victims. Geographically, human trafficking cases were reported the most in Greenville, Charleston, Richland, Horry, and Spartanburg Counties, with Greenville making its way back to the top since 2017. The following charts should not be compared with more rigorous academic studies because they represent a limited sample of actual victims or trafficking incident data and do not report all existing victims or incidents of human trafficking.



The 2022 National Hotline data showed a significant increase of reported human trafficking incidents where Latinx individuals were identified as victims. The data also shows there was a 450% increase in victims for labor trafficking, a 44% increase of victims who identified as Latinx, and an increase in labor trafficking within the Forestry/Reforestation venue from 2021 to 2022.

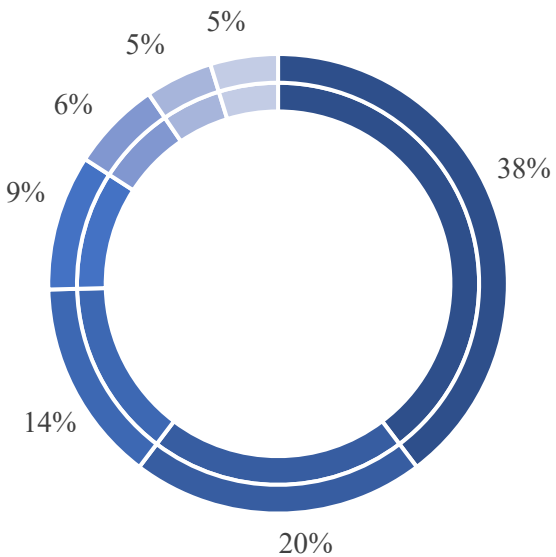


Top Recruitment Methods

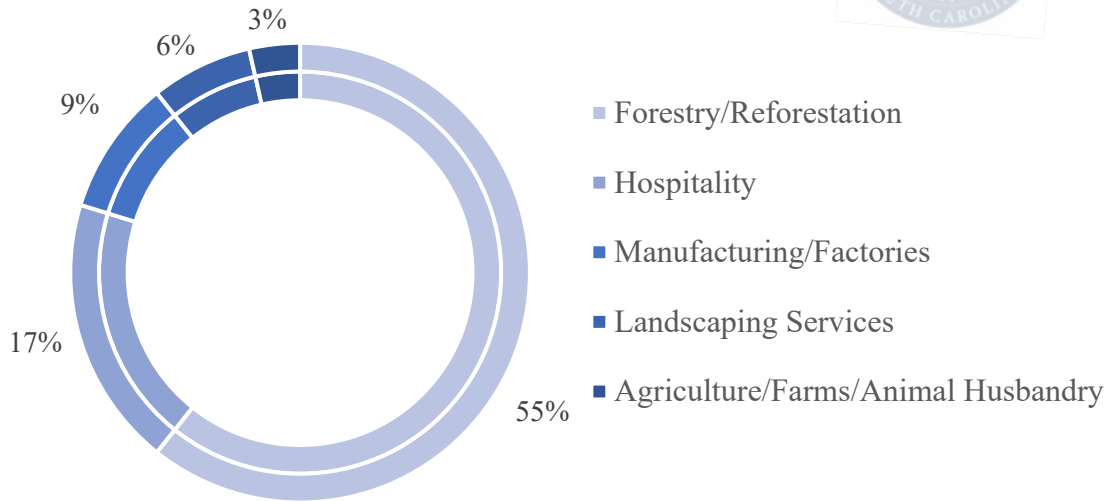


Top Sex Trafficking Venues

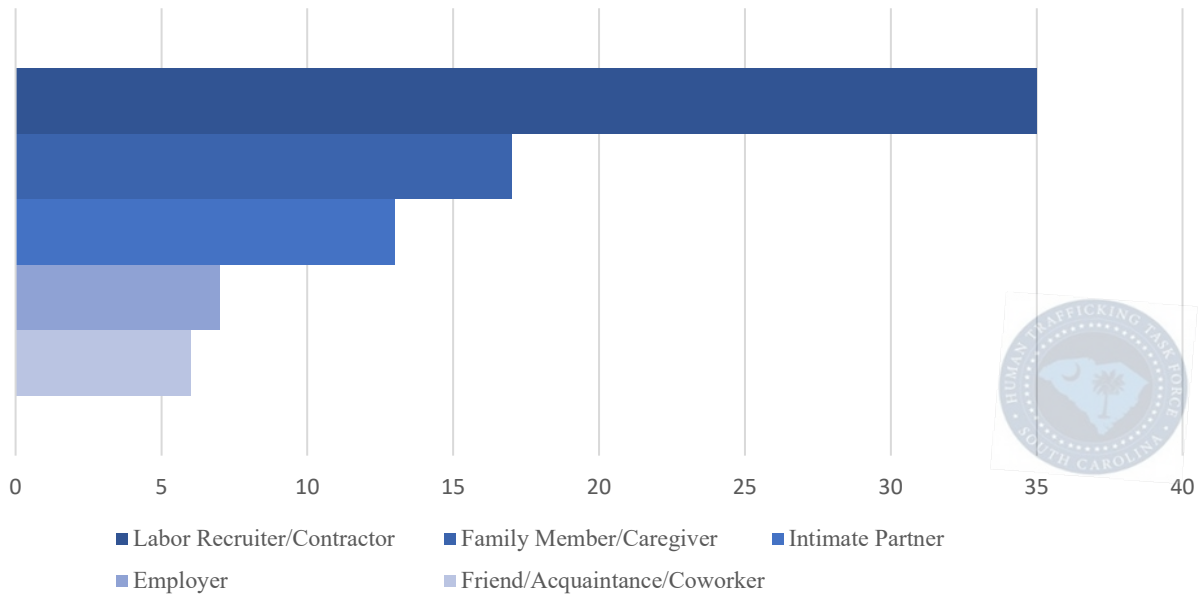
- Hotel/Motel-Based Commercial Sex
- Pornography
- Illicit Massage/Spa Business
- Personal Sexual Servitude
- Residence-Based Commercial Sex

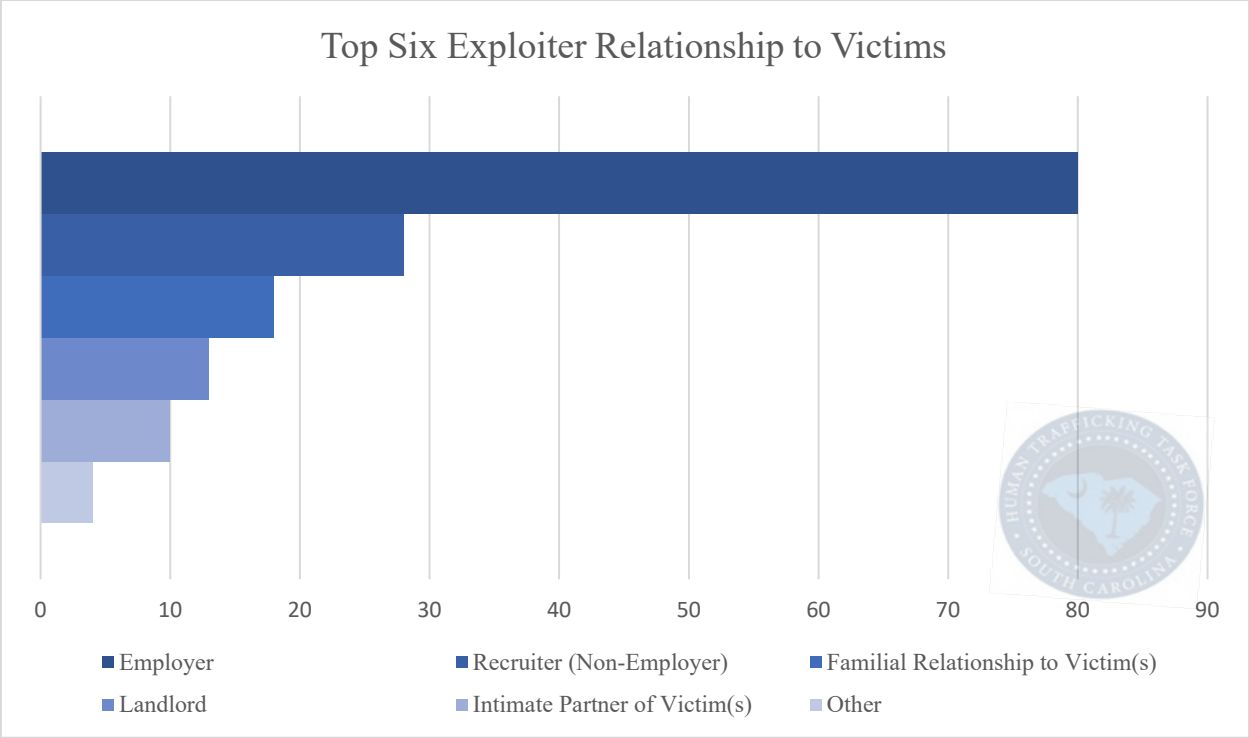


Top Labor Trafficking Venues



Top 5 Recruiter Relationship to Victims



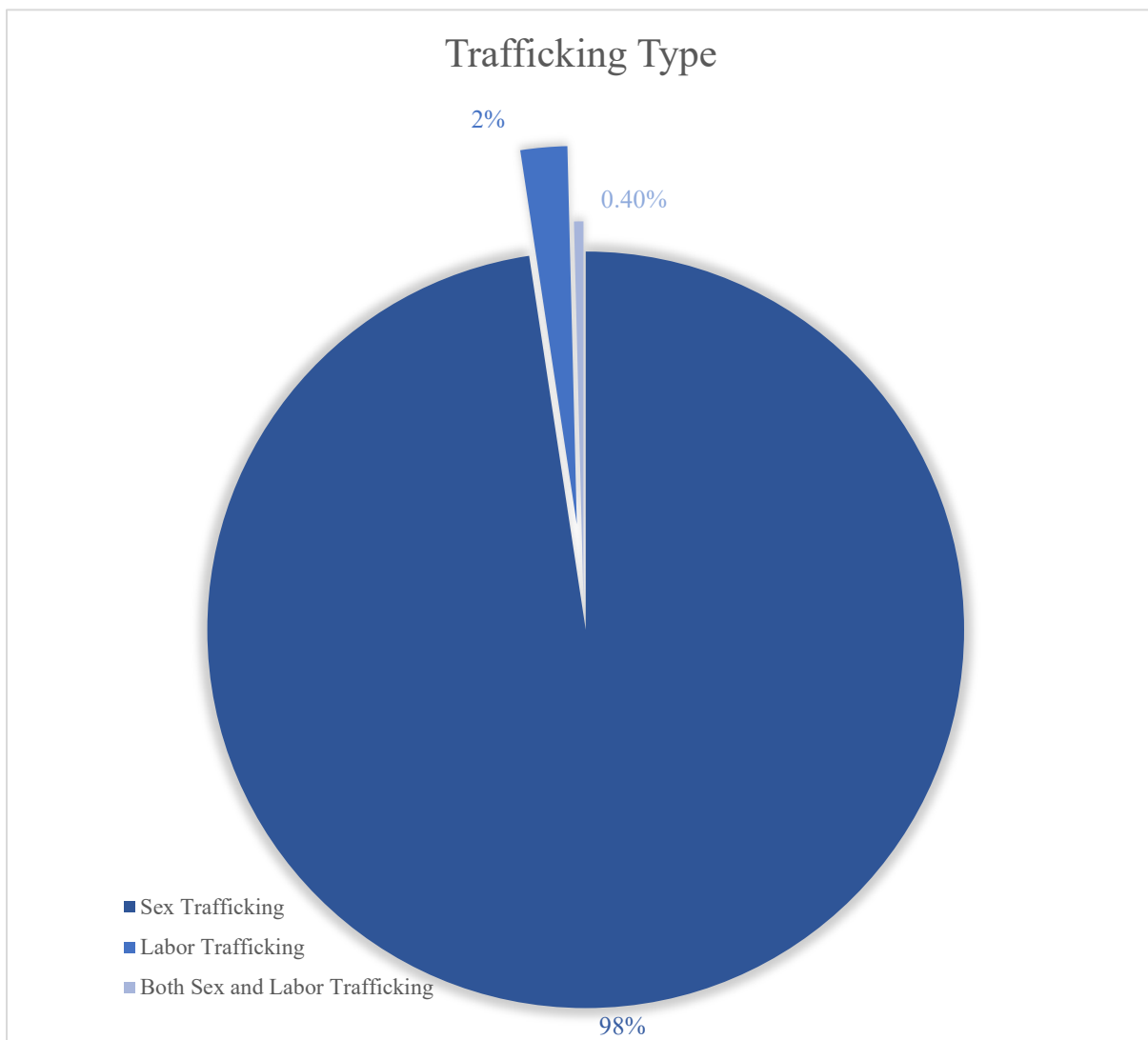


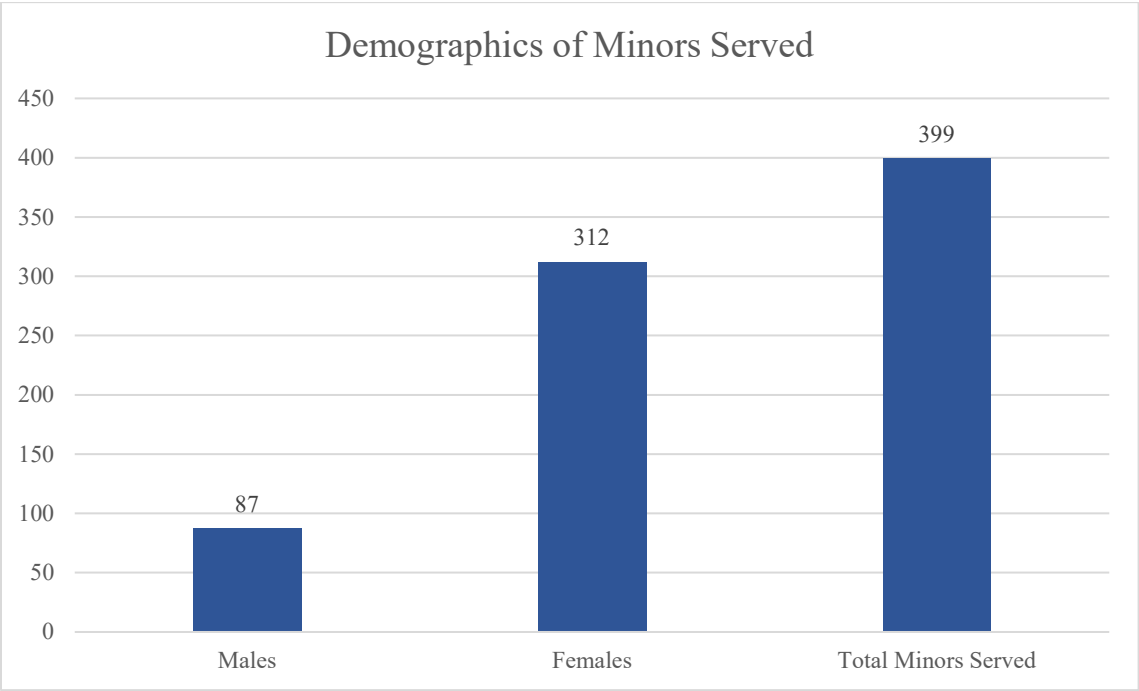
South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

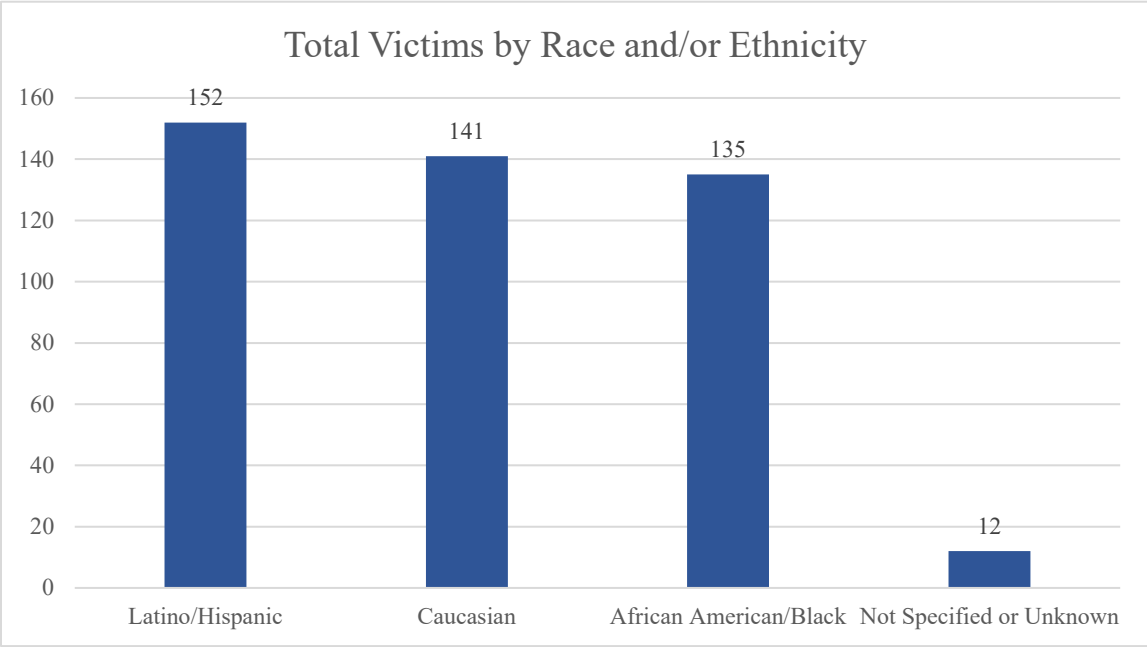
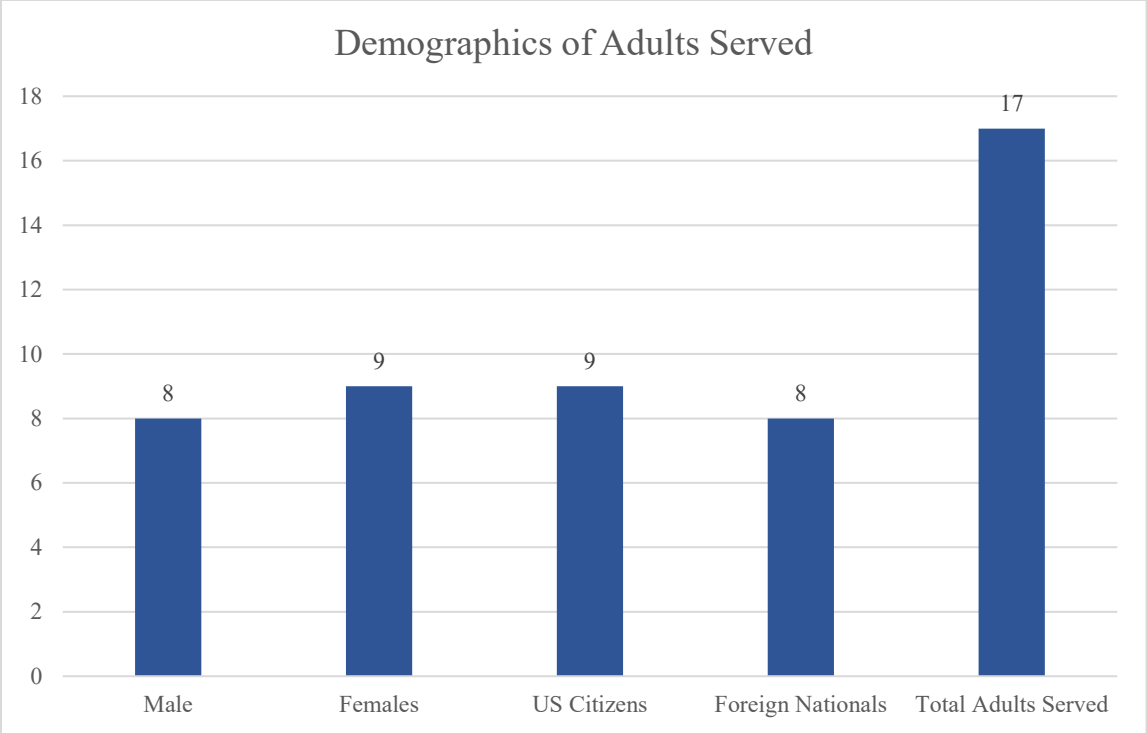
South Carolina Law Enforcement Division continues to lead efforts in conducting human trafficking investigations, on behalf of the Governor and the Attorney General, while providing technical assistance and manpower to other law enforcement agencies.

Lieutenant Jade Roy leads the statewide Human Trafficking Unit and prioritizes streamlining data collection processes between state and local law enforcement agencies.

The data highlighted below provides demographic information for the total 416 cases involving human trafficking in South Carolina for the year 2022. Of the total, 399 cases involved minors, while 17 involved adults.







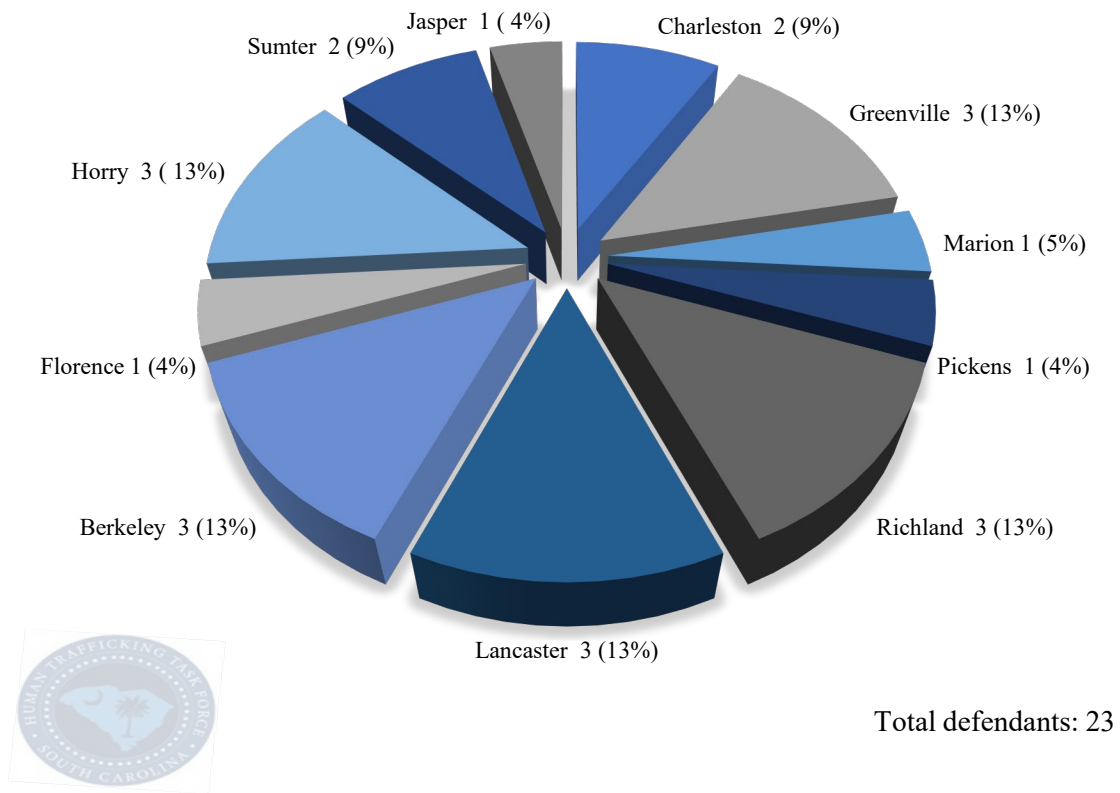
South Carolina Courts

Pending and Closed Court Data

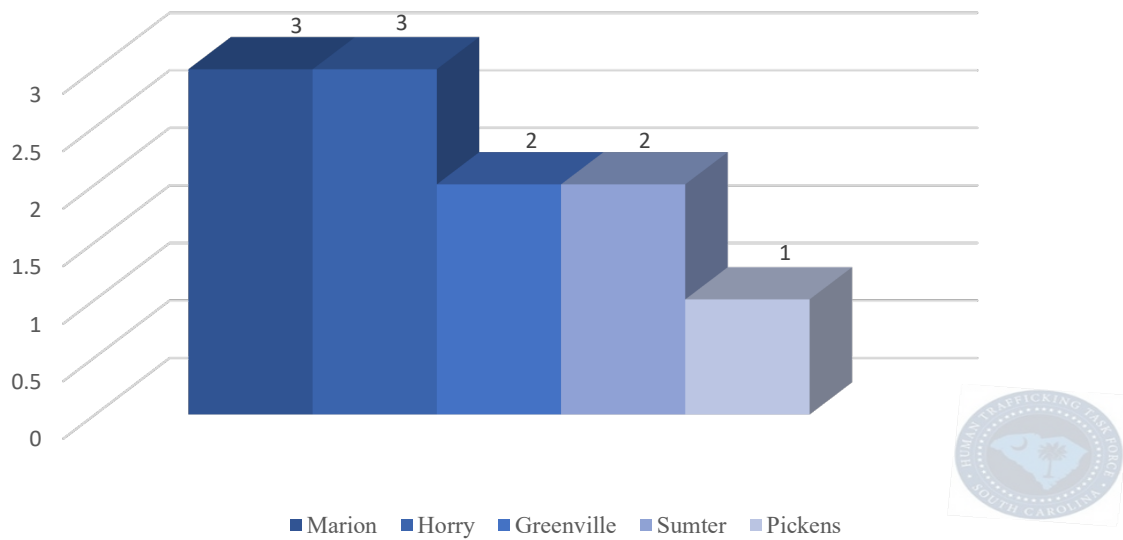
- In 2022, 23 different defendants had charges for human trafficking, some with more than one charge, totaling 34 charges of human trafficking in the South Carolina state courts.
- One defendant pled guilty in 2022 to three charges of human trafficking, while 19 charges were dismissed in exchange for the plea. The defendant was sentenced to five years in prison, credited for serving 185 days; and the remainder suspended to probation for three years.
- The first jury trial involving human trafficking of a minor in state court resulted in a conviction in Lancaster County. The case was prosecuted by the Attorney General's Office. The case was investigated by the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office with the support of SLED and the Department of Homeland Security. The defendant was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole due to this conviction and his prior record.
- A total of 32 cases were closed in 2022: 28 were dismissals. Of the 28 dismissals, all but six were related to guilty pleas on related charges or the adoption of the case by the federal government.
- Local law enforcement worked with state and federal law enforcement agencies investigating cases. Currently trafficking cases are being reported faster than law enforcement's capacity to investigate them. In 2022 the number of charges brought in state court doubled from six to 12 with 10 new defendants. The investigations are ongoing.
- As trafficking cases continue to rise statewide, investigators continuously work with service providers and prosecutors to increase the number of arrests and closed cases. While the current composition of cases primarily reflect sex trafficking, reported labor trafficking cases continue to increase.

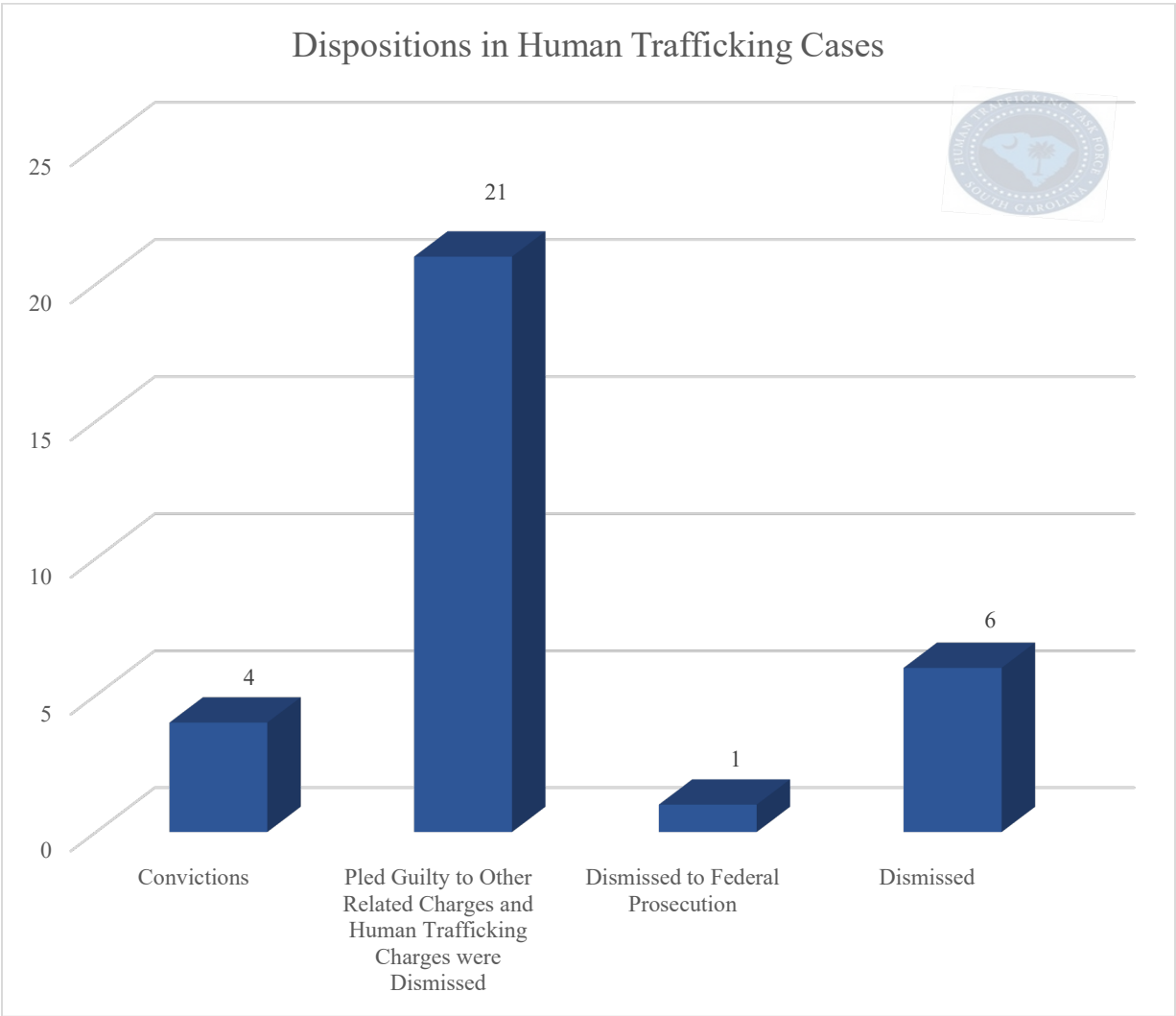
Pending Human Trafficking Charges by County		
County	Number of Charges	Percentage
Florence County	7	21%
Richland County	6	18%
Berkeley County	3	9%
Greenville County	3	9%
Horry County	3	9%
Lancaster County	3	9%
Marion County	3	9%
Sumter County	2	6%
Charleston County	2	6%
Pickens County	1	3%
Jasper County	1	3%
Total	34	100%

Defendants with Pending Human Trafficking Charges by County



Human Trafficking Arrests in 2022 by County

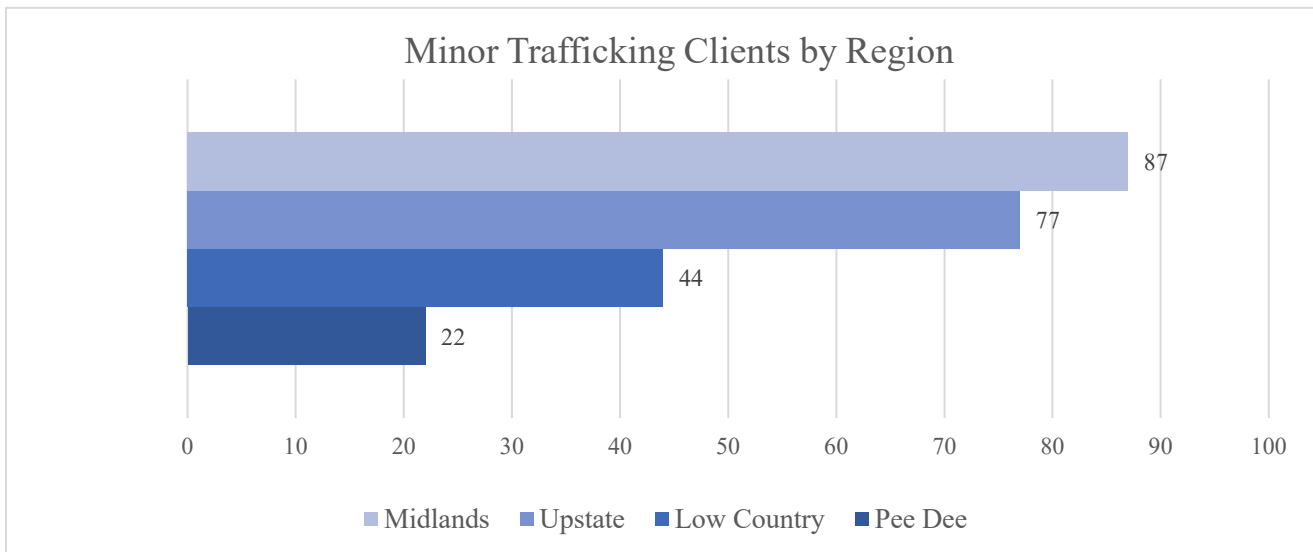
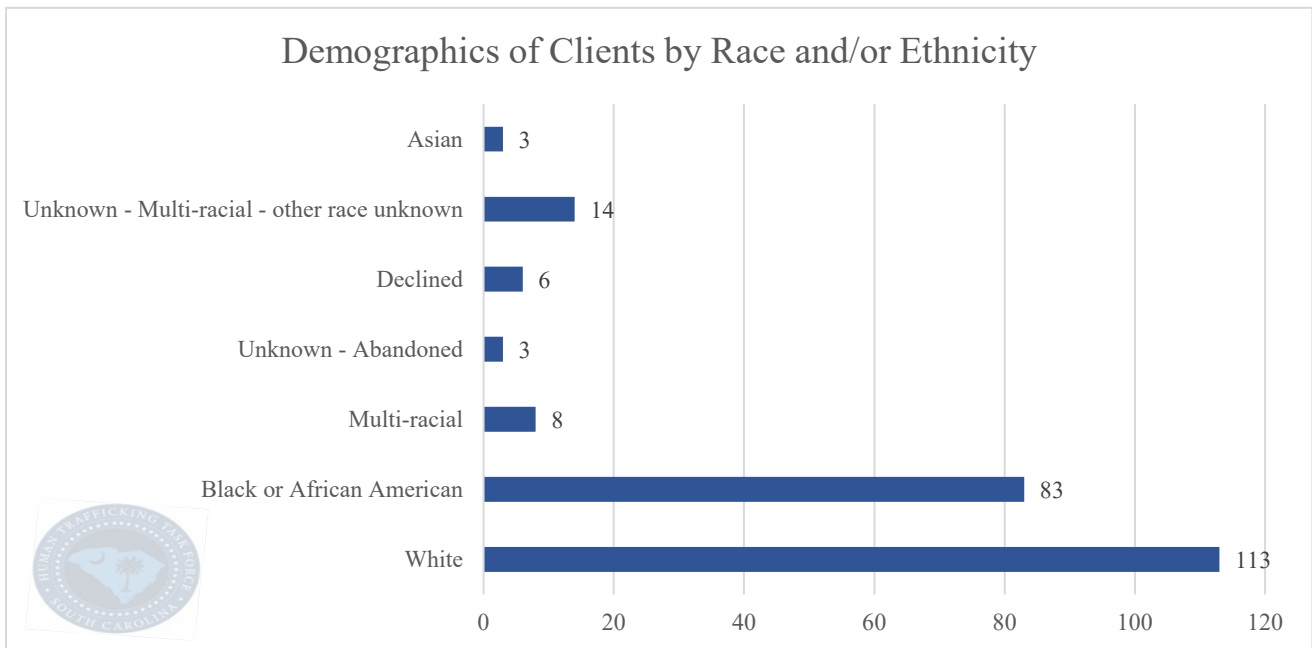


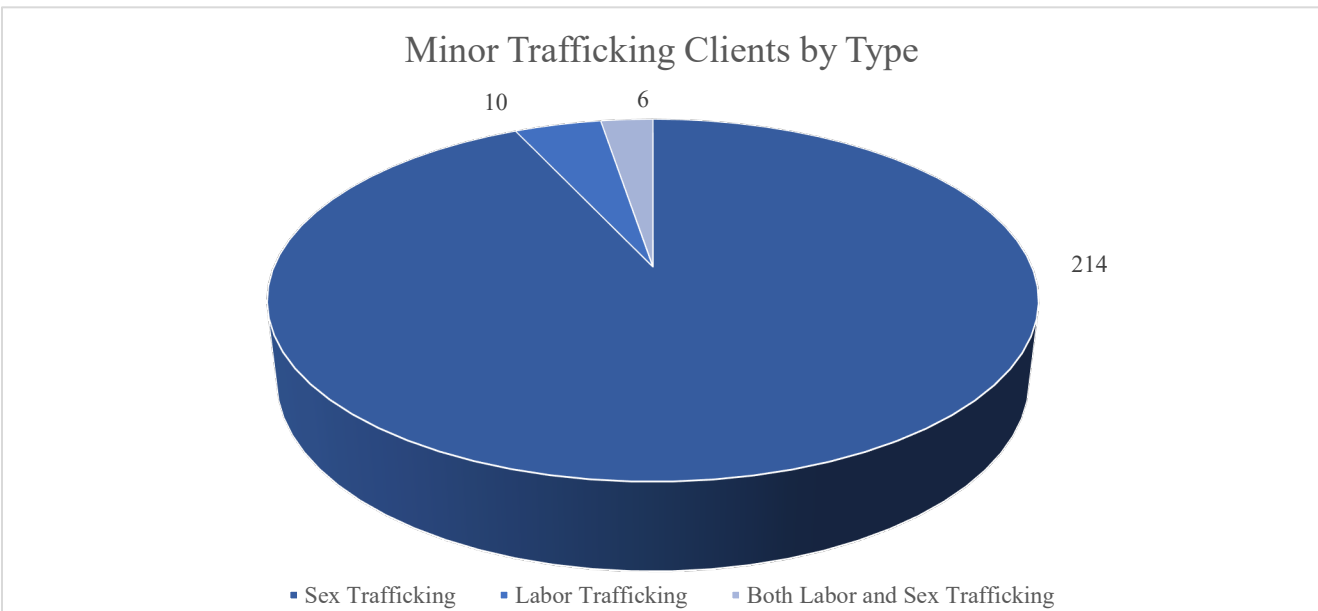
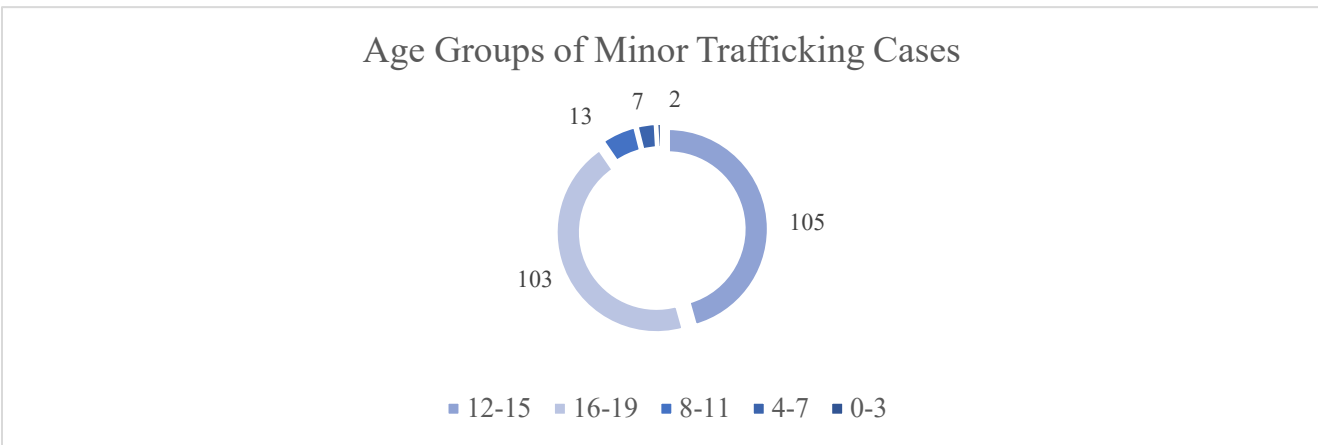
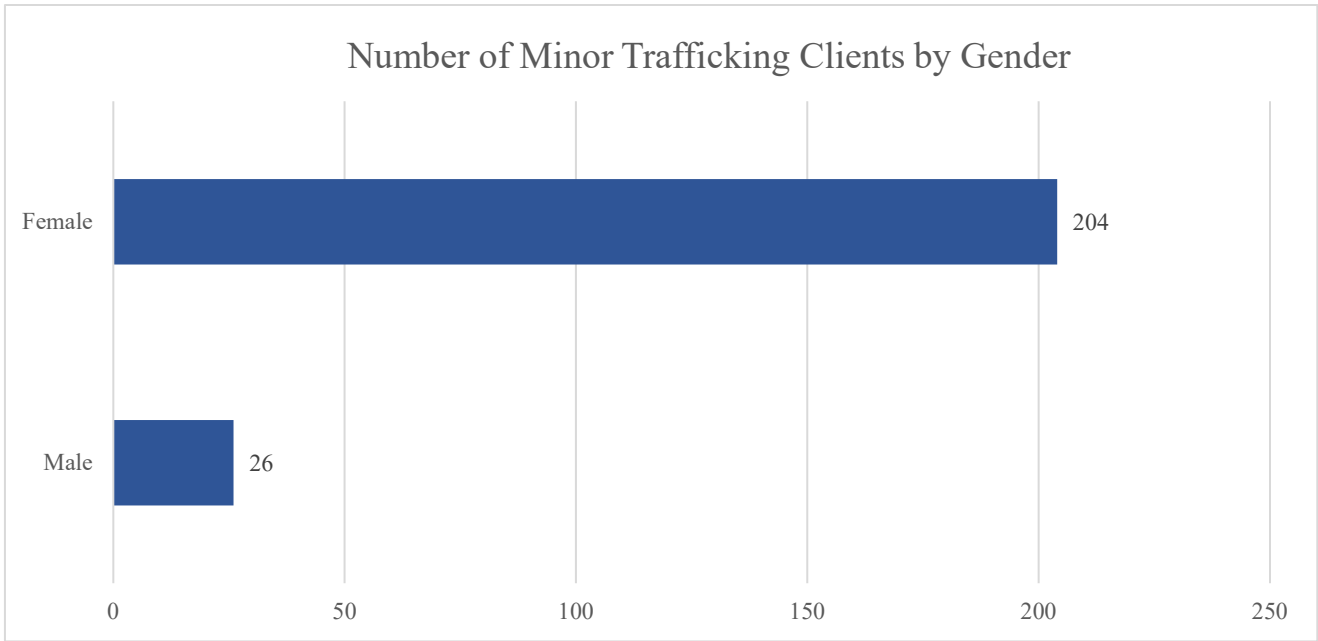


South Carolina Department of Social Services Data

South Carolina Department of Social Services is tasked with investigating, identifying, and coordinating services for children and youth who may have experienced human trafficking. A child is a victim of trafficking in persons as defined in §16-3-2010, including sex trafficking, regardless of whether the perpetrator is a parent, guardian, or other person responsible for the child's welfare.

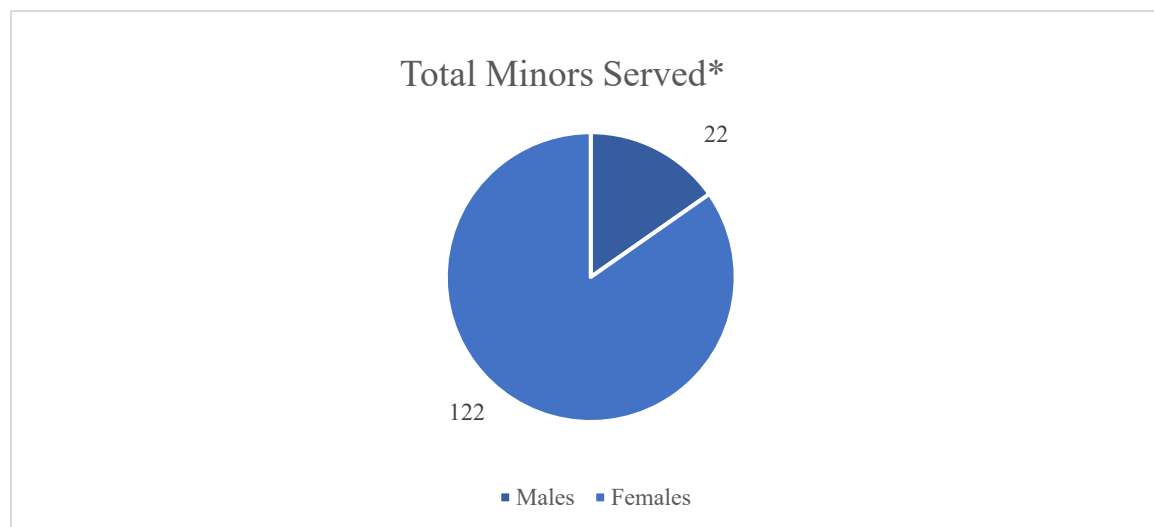
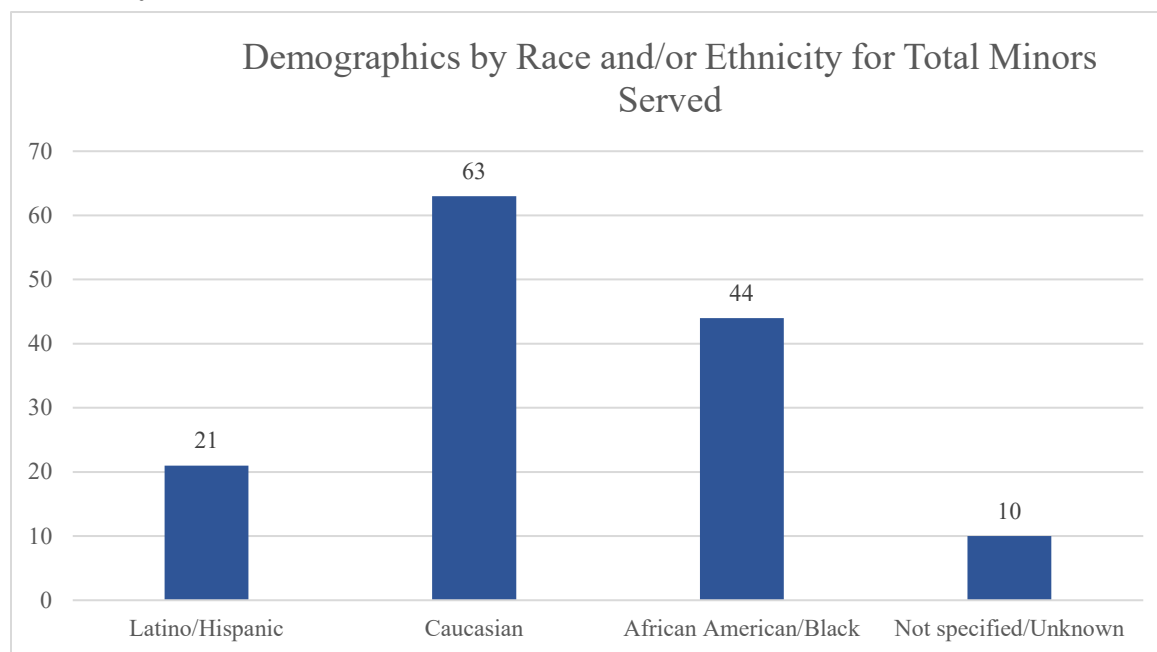
In 2022 SC Department of Social Services served 230 minor victims in all service types (investigation, family preservation, and foster care). Please refer to the following graphs for demographics of clients served.





South Carolina Network of Children’s Advocacy Centers

The South Carolina Network of Children’s Advocacy Centers (SCNCAC) is an accredited state chapter of the National Children’s Alliance (NCA). There are 17 primary Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) in South Carolina, and many are regional CACs that cover multiple counties. There are also 11 satellite centers operated by regional CACs in the state. Together they provide an array of child-focused services to children. The graphs below highlight demographics of the 144 child trafficking victims that were served by a CAC in 2022.

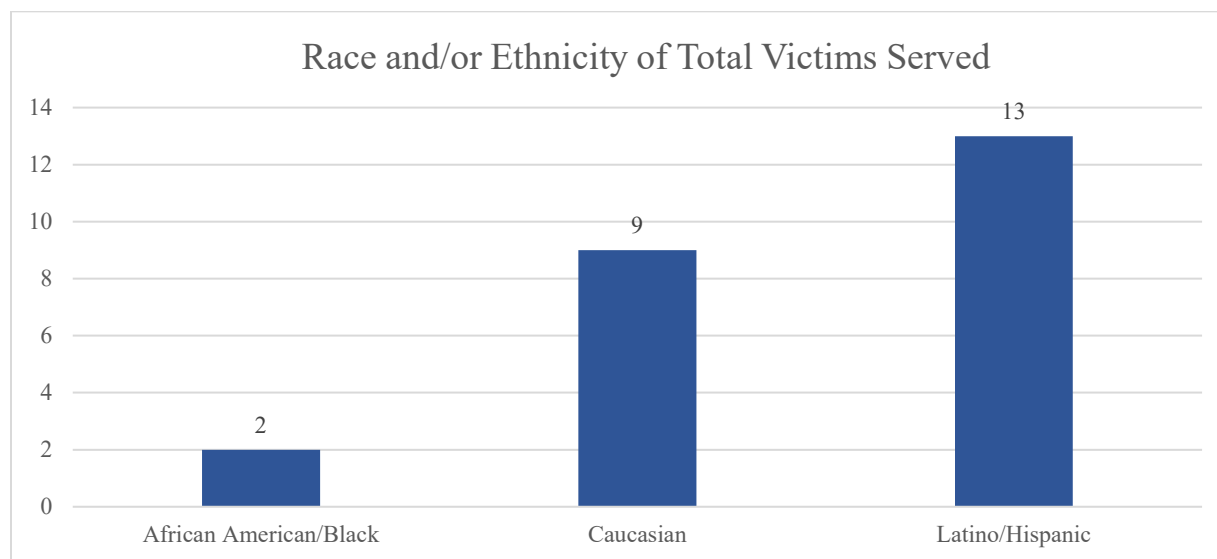
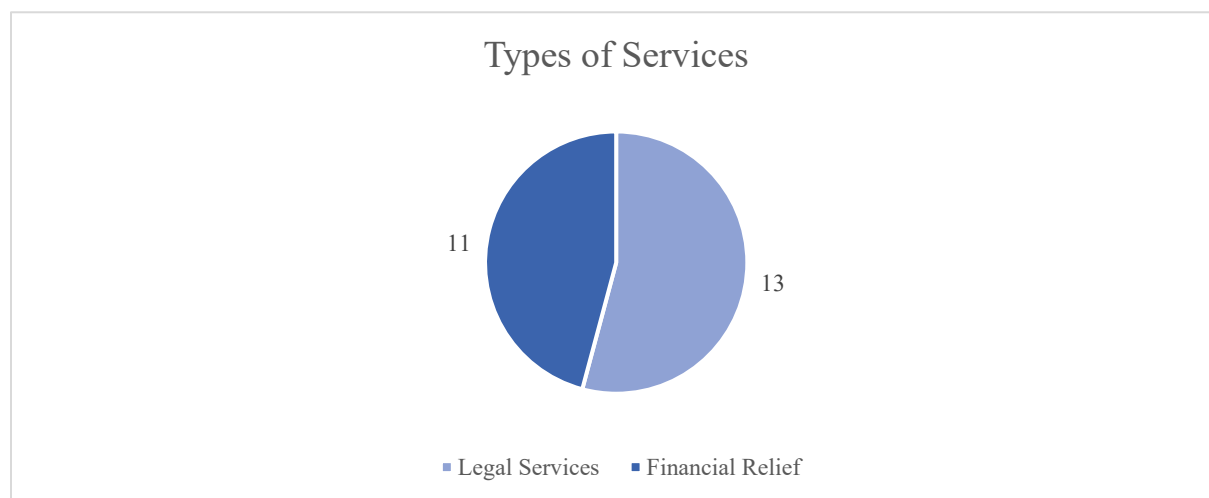


*Data above does not include demographic information from all Children’s Advocacy Centers in South Carolina.

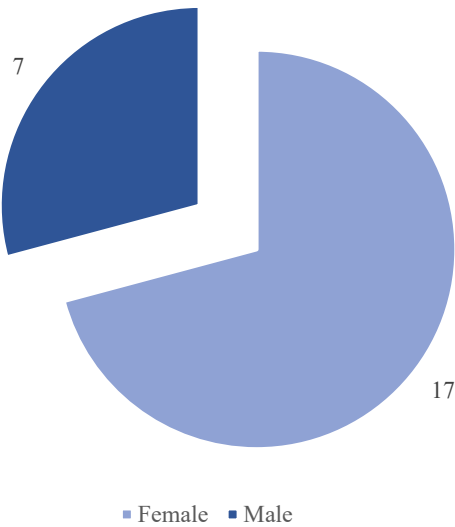
South Carolina Victim Assistance Network

The South Carolina Victim Assistance Network (SCVAN) is a 501(c)(3) organization, created in 1985 in response to a mandate in the South Carolina Victim's Bill of Rights. This network of service providers was formed to better protect and serve victims of crime.

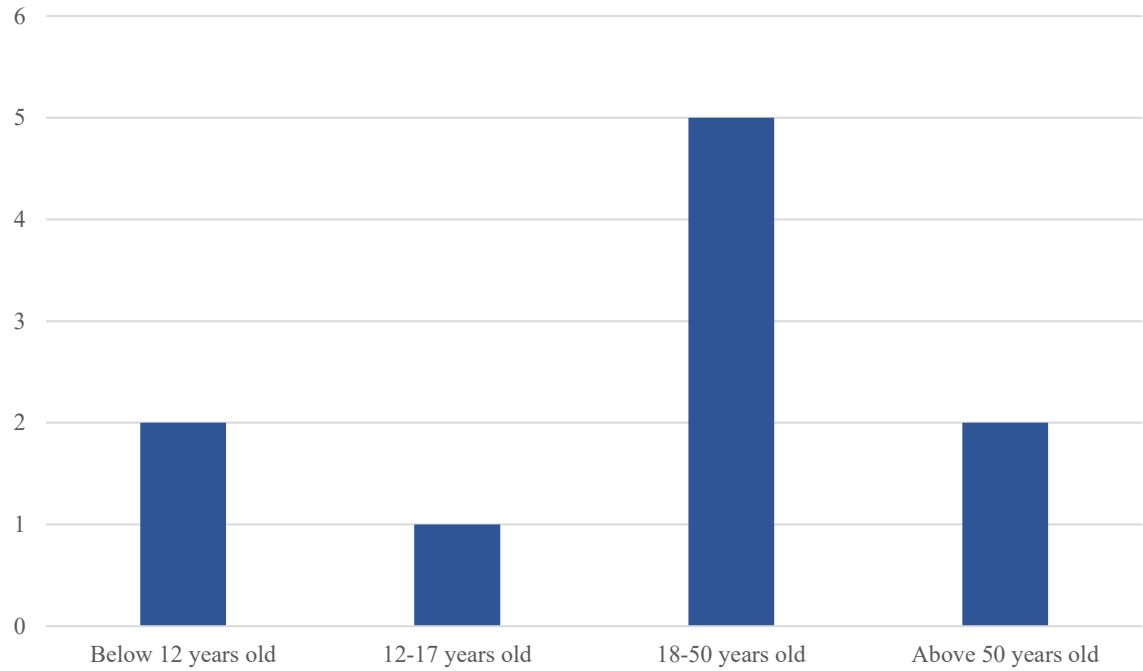
The graphs below provide additional information regarding the 24 human trafficking victims served at SCVAN in 2022.



Gender of Overall Victims



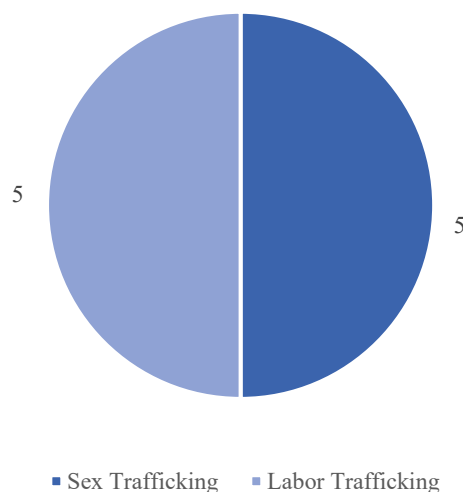
Age Range of Victims That Received Legal Services



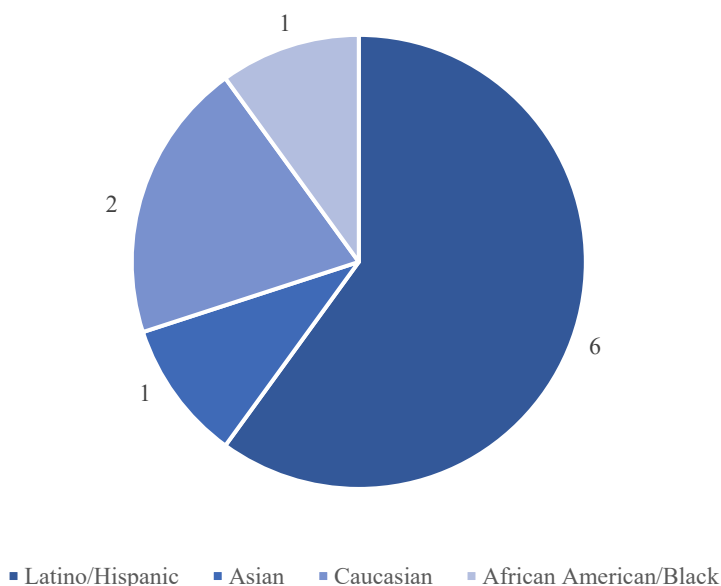
South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA)

The South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA) is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. SCCADVASA serves as the collective voice promoting the prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault in South Carolina for member service providers. The graphs below highlight demographics of the 10 human trafficking victims that were served by SCCADVASA's member agencies in 2022.

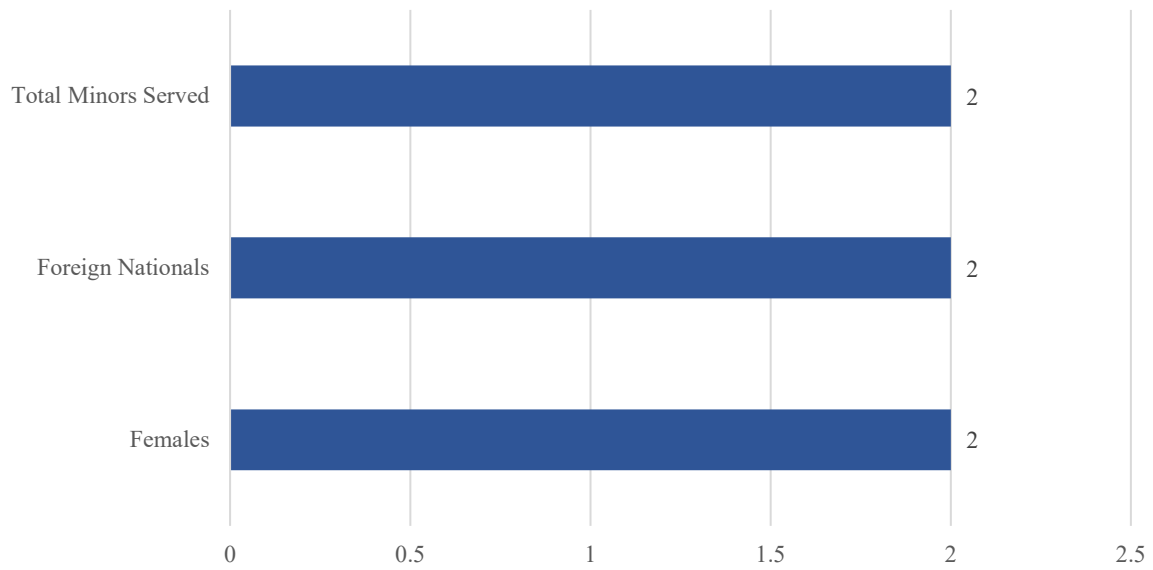
Type of Trafficking



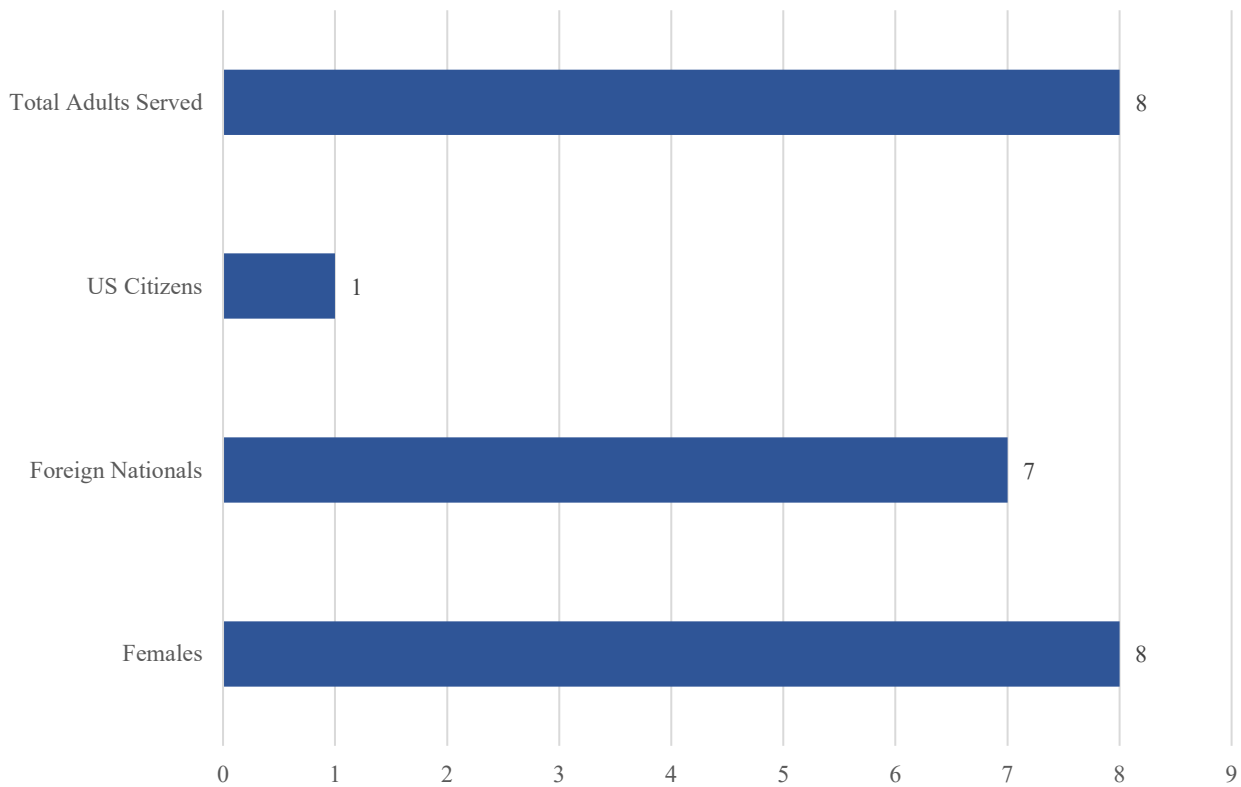
Demographics by Race and/or Ethnicity of Total Victims Served



Demographics of Total Minors Served



Demographics of Total Adults Served



National and State Partnerships

The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force honors collaboration in its approach to preventing the crime and providing specialized services to victims and survivors. The goal of these partnerships is to aid in combating human trafficking throughout South Carolina, the Southeast region, and the United States. 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 collaborate with partners across the nation, Attorney General Alan Wilson and his staff actively contribute to regional and national workgroups.

New National Partnership



In 2022 the State Task Force established a new partnership with Soul Survivor Ink, nationwide 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to screening and matching clients with provider professionals willing to cover or remove tattoos.

Many survivors endure “branding” tattoos that are constant physical reminders of their past victimization. The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force will collaborate with Soul Survivor Ink to coordinate partnerships with South Carolina tattoo artists, aestheticians, and removal technicians. These partnerships will provide tattoo removals and/or cover-ups for victims of human trafficking. Soul Survivor Ink compensates their affiliate partners to eliminate costs to victims.

Soul Survivor Ink does not have any affiliate partners in South Carolina. However, a statewide solicitation for talented tattoo artists and removal technicians will officially launch in 2023. The goal is to acquire at least one of each in the four geographical regions of our state. Further information on this initiative will be provided to Task Force members, and professionals will be added to the resource map in the upcoming year as participating affiliates are identified.

National Partnerships



National Compendium of State-Run
Anti- Human Trafficking Initiatives



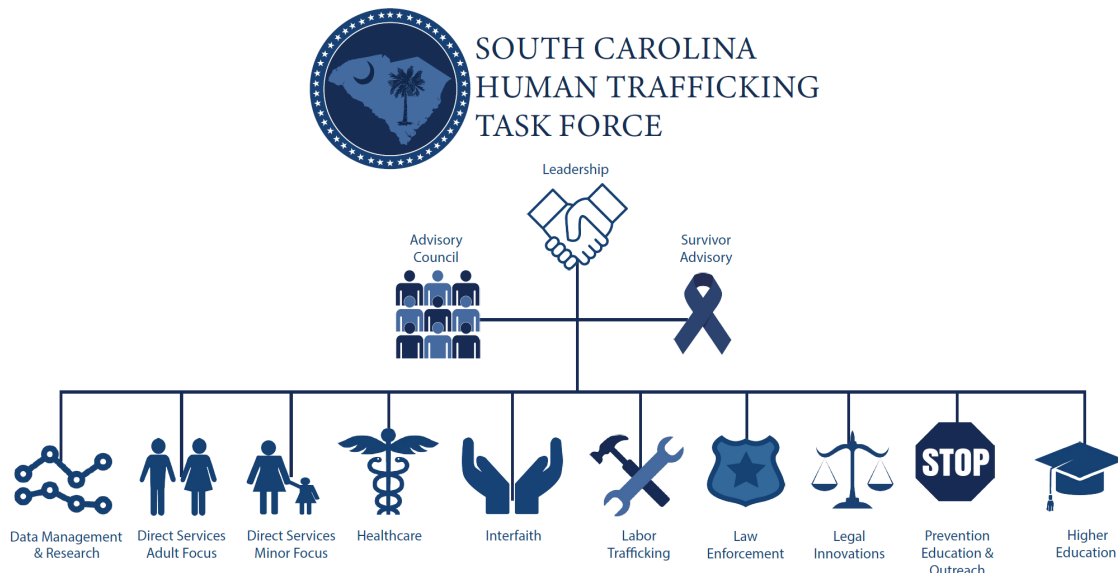
State Partnerships



Indigenous
Women's Alliance



State Task Force Subcommittees



As a result of the General Assembly’s financial appropriation of recurring funds in 2022, the State Task Force is positioned to enhance the coordination and implementation of the State Plan through the concerted efforts of the State-level Subcommittees and Regional Task Forces. Both groups are composed of multisector community members and organizations in an effort to combat sex and labor trafficking at the local and state level. With increased staff at the State Task Force, human trafficking program coordinators have been assigned to each of the four areas and the state-level subcommittees. They will provide ongoing assistance and support to the leadership of each workgroup. To ensure consistency and sustainability of these efforts, the Task Force will formalize the support in two phases.

Phase I: Capacity Building and Strengthening

This phase will standardize the structure and goals across each group for improved coordination and collaboration on the regional and state level. Consequently, the main priority will be ensuring each subcommittee has a chair and/or co-chair to organize their members around a shared mission and vision with clear goals and objectives. Based on experience and expertise, State Task Force Leadership will collaborate with community stakeholders to strategically identify subcommittee governance, build out the composition of members in each subcommittee, and formalize those relationships through memorandums of agreements/understandings.

In 2023 the State Task Force Leadership will also finalize bylaws to provide basic guidelines for the conduct and management of the State and Regional Task Force affairs. This structure will develop a uniform definition of roles, duties, and expectations across State Subcommittees and Regional Task Forces in South Carolina. Relevant documents created by state-level subcommittees may include subject-specific guidelines, manuals, and other resources, as necessary.

Phase II: Prevention Education, Public Awareness and Outreach, Professional Training, Resource Mapping

This phase takes a four-prong approach to operationalizing the goals of the State Plan through prevention education, public awareness, professional training, and resource mapping. The first two components focus on prevention education, public awareness, and outreach to general populations who need primary and prevention education. These populations might include places of worship, libraries, institutions of higher education, local community organizations, and others who do not require specialized knowledge.

The third component targets professionals who are actively engaged in anti-trafficking prevention and response. The priority for this segment of the approach is targeted toward providing specialized trainings to relevant professions with an emphasis on cross-sector collaboration, coordination, and partnerships. Subcommittees, in collaboration with Regional Task Forces, should prioritize their efforts on increasing knowledge across sectors and improving systems of care to enhance service provisions.

As service needs exceed available resources in our state, the fourth component prioritizes resource mapping and accessibility. In concordance with the State Task Force efforts, State Subcommittees and Regional Task Forces should continuously assess and identify existing services and resources at the local and regional level. Concurrently, groups should recognize and mitigate gaps in service provisions to streamline existing goals and set future priorities. Although few agencies offer programming and services solely focused on supporting trafficking victims, other existing agencies and structures can be positioned to complement and provide wraparound services. Services can include case management, counseling, crisis care and outreach, support groups, etc. In 2023 we are eager to move forward with certifying supplemental agencies throughout the state to accomplish this goal.



Leadership

Purpose: 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 active 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.



Survivor Advisory

Purpose: To provide survivor-informed recommendations to The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force to enhance regional and statewide program and services, identify existing and potential barriers and opportunities, and leverage their expertise to achieve Task Force goals.

2023 Goals: The Survivor Advisory will work with each State subcommittee to amplify survivor voices. This will be accomplished through having survivors attend various subcommittee meetings to offer feedback and input on various Task Force initiatives. Additionally, the Survivor Advisory will continue to collaborate with Citadel to gather survivor feedback through surveys given to various service provider organizations. The subcommittee hopes to compile and apply the feedback to better serve survivors of human trafficking in South Carolina. Finally, the subcommittee will continue to attend meetings to advocate for gaps in legislation and increased victim protection.

To contact the Survivor Advisory Subcommittee Chairs, please email Kat Wehunt, Executive Director, The Formation Project, kat@theformationproject.org and Grecia Sanchez, estefiglz2191@gmail.com.



Data Management and Research

Purpose: The Data Management and Research Subcommittee mission is to collect, analyze, and interpret relevant data to understand the implications of human trafficking, enhance service provisions, inform prevention and intervention strategies, and provide policymaking recommendations related to human trafficking and its intersections.

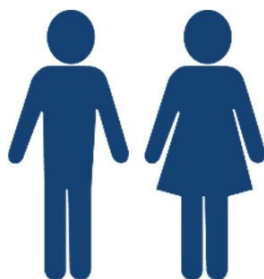
2022 Highlights: In 2022 the Data Management and Research subcommittee fully staffed and onboarded their subcommittee members.

2023 Goals: In 2023 the Data Management and Research subcommittee continues to prioritize the identification of a centralized data collection system. Adopting and implementing a centralized data collection system that is sustainable, secure, confidential, and efficient to generate multi-agency reporting is an ongoing priority. The Data and Research Subcommittee will schedule stakeholder meetings from the State and Regional Task Forces to create a code book and sharing agreement with potential data collection warehouse stakeholders.

In addition to a centralized data collection system, the subcommittee will meet with other states to learn their data retrieval strengths and areas of improvement. These vital conversations will help the subcommittee and State Task Force develop and implement trainings for best practices around collecting quantitative and qualitative data. These trainings will be a necessary component within the State certification process and made available to stakeholders and interested organizations.

Finally, the subcommittee realizes that there are existing gaps in research that address marginalized populations. To combat this, the subcommittee will construct a literature review that analyzes peer-reviewed articles and publications. This research and literature review will go on to help frame research questions for the subcommittee and State Task Force wish to analyze. Once research questions are solidified, the subcommittee will attempt to conduct interviews and surveys to delve deeper into various human trafficking patterns and themes. With increasing research and knowledge regarding victims of trafficking, this will position the State Task Force to pursue culturally specific funding opportunities.

To contact the Data Management/Research Subcommittee Chair, please email Dr. Liyun Zhang, Research Scientist, USC Children's Law Center
zhang349@mailbox.sc.edu



Direct Services: Adult Focus

Purpose: To help coordinate service providers across the state to better respond to the needs of adult victims and survivors through improved communication and information sharing; and to help shape State Task Force initiatives through reference to best and emerging practices in the field.

2022 Highlights: The subcommittee continued to work on developing a network of service providers to accomplish goals aligned within the State Task Force’s strategic response protocol. In October of 2022 several adult-serving agencies had staff complete the Victim Service Provider: Human Trafficking (VSP-HT) training certification, which equipped professionals who directly serve human trafficking victims. Those agencies included Lighthouse for Life, the Formation Project, Jasmine Road, and Doors to Freedom.

2023 Goals: The subcommittee will address the lack of emergency beds, housing, and transportation available to victims. This will include collaborating with organizations in the state trained to become supplemental service providers. The subcommittee will also coordinate ongoing and advanced training opportunities for human trafficking professionals. This subcommittee will advise and provide feedback on the state-level certification requirements for service-providing agencies.

To contact the Direct Services Adult Focus Subcommittee, please email Beth Messick, Jasmine Road at beth@jasmineroad.org.



Direct Services: Minor Focus

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

Highlights: In 2022 the subcommittee focused on addressing human trafficking of minors to other child-serving agencies throughout the state. In spring 2022 committee chairs coordinated and facilitated a strategic planning meeting with nine child-serving state agencies. Of those represented agencies, the committee identified and ranked six priorities.

Training: Several state agencies do not have specified policies, procedures, and/or sector-specific training curricula to address human trafficking of minor children.

Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Response: There is need for effective communication across state systems to align MDT response, reporting, screening, data collection, prevention education, and basic and advanced training curricula.

Housing: There are not enough residential services who are specialized to address and treat the needs of victims of trafficking.

Screening and Identification: There is no uniform way to screen for risk and identify for sex and/or labor trafficking throughout the state.

Prevention Education: There are little to no prevention and education services in the schools and other programs that serve minor children without child welfare, juvenile justice, or mental health involvement.

Service Provision: There is a lack of comprehensive services for children in South Carolina and youth between 18 and 21.

In Fall 2022 other stakeholders were identified to further expand efforts of the subcommittee at regional and community levels.

To contact the Direct Services Minor Focus Subcommittee Chairs, please email Angela B. Kelly, Victim Services Manager, SC Department of Juvenile Justice AngelaBKelly@dj.j.sc.gov **and** Kayla Capps, Deputy Director of System Improvement, Department of Children's Advocacy Kayla.Capps@childadvocate.sc.gov.



Healthcare

Purpose: The mission of the Healthcare Subcommittee is to provide trauma-informed, victim-centered care to victims of trafficking seeking healthcare services in South Carolina.

2023 Goals: In 2023 the Healthcare subcommittee will continue its efforts to develop an implementation guide and training curriculum for healthcare systems and professionals.

To contact the Healthcare Subcommittee Chair, please email: Shawn Armstrong at starmstrong03@gmail.com.



Higher Education

Purpose: The Higher Education Subcommittee's mission is to collaborate with post-secondary institutions to coordinate a collegiate strategy and response to human trafficking with an emphasis on awareness, education, training, and resource development.

2022 Highlights: The Higher Education Subcommittee was a new initiative for 2022 and will be closely entwined with the Prevention Education and Outreach Subcommittee. Initial research began this year into human trafficking curricula and campaigns at the college level. A human trafficking program coordinator was hired this year has been leading the early-stage efforts and is seeking a subcommittee chair for this committee.

2023 Goals: As a newer subcommittee, a chair and members will need to be established. The subcommittee will engage colleges and universities to commit to comprehensive human trafficking efforts within their institutions and campuses. This will include encouraging a pledge to be taken at the leadership level of the institution to have a human trafficking informed and free campus. The subcommittee will work towards identifying the criteria for meeting the pledge such as displaying awareness materials; receiving training for students, staff, and campus law enforcement; and holding a campus human trafficking awareness event. The subcommittee plans to work with a graphic designer and advisory individuals to create awareness materials for the college age group. Age-appropriate campaigns and trainings will be developed for use at institutions of higher learning. The subcommittee and human trafficking program coordinator will work closely on the training efforts with an education coordinator who will be hired in early 2023.

To contact the Higher Education Subcommittee, please email Mandy Bowden, Human Trafficking Program Coordinator, mandybowden@scag.gov.



Interfaith

Purpose: The Interfaith Subcommittee will assist in developing human trafficking 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.

2022 Highlights: In 2022 the Richland County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force (RCATTF) facilitated a zoom panel presentation to 40 faith leaders of the Interfaith Partners of South Carolina. The Interfaith Subcommittee will continue their partnership with the Coastal Human Trafficking Task Force (CHTTF) on their 2023 Human Trafficking Interfaith Conference. Also in 2022, we welcomed the new Interfaith Subcommittee Chair, Julie Todaro, who support the development of new ideas for the Upstate Task Force and their Interfaith Subcommittee. Additionally, on October 15, 2022, the Upstate Freedom Walk event was held with over 100 participants involved in taking one step at a time to spread the awareness of Human Trafficking in South Carolina.

2023 Goals: In 2023 the Interfaith Subcommittee will assist the Lexington, Edgefield, McCormick, and Saluda (L.E.M.S.) Task Force with their Faith and Educator Leaders' Roundtable in Saluda County. Starting in January 2023, in partnership with RCATTF, the subcommittee will lead the region's hotline poster distribution. Additionally, subcommittee chair Roger Acton will present at the Human Trafficking Interfaith Conference, taking place in Myrtle Beach on January 19th and 20th.

Moving forward, The Interfaith Subcommittee will expand capacity by assembling a team of diverse faith-based members, with two interfaith leaders per region: Upstate, Midlands, Pee Dee, and Lowcountry. These leaders will serve two-year terms. Virtual and in-person meetings with all regional interfaith subcommittee leaders will be hosted quarterly to exchange ideas and improve statewide interfaith work. The subcommittee aims to partner with Tri-County Task Force and their Interfaith Subcommittee, with support from the Charleston Interreligious Council on the Youth Rally on Human Trafficking awareness, while engaging youth ministries of all faiths to participate.

In 2023 the subcommittee will provide initial training in key markets for faith leaders from a South Carolina Attorney General (SCAG) provided and vetted training resource. This will be done to establish trafficking awareness and proper response with newly listed, trained, and supportive faith communities. Finally, the Interfaith Subcommittee will develop and continue supporting the Lowcountry Interfaith Subcommittee strategy and their projects for 2023. The subcommittee will also work with SCAG team members to help the 2nd Judicial District, LEMS, and other new regional task force teams to establish Interfaith Subcommittees by year's end.

To contact the Interfaith Subcommittee Chair, please email Chair Roger Acton, Faith Based & Victim Services Project Director, South Carolina Victim Assistance Network, roger@scvan.org.



Labor Trafficking

Purpose: The Labor Trafficking Subcommittee's mission is to increase community awareness and trainings to direct service providers on the typologies of labor trafficking, the identification of national and foreign-born adult and minor victims, and the development of sector-specific best practices and resources.

2022 Highlights: The Labor Trafficking Subcommittee continued to advocate for awareness and trainings around the State with the inclusion of Labor Trafficking in the 2022 VSP-HT webinar. The subcommittee also welcomed a staff liaison and co-chairs focused solely on bolstering public education efforts, investigations, and victim services that target the crime.

2023 Goals: The Labor Trafficking subcommittee will launch the official awareness campaign for the state in 2023. This will comprise various sector-specific outreach materials to target the various demographic. Currently, the subcommittee believes there is an absence of outreach to Hispanic communities. To combat this, the subcommittee will launch a labor trafficking PSA in collaboration with Latinx media outlets and radio stations. In addition, the subcommittee will work with the Commission for Minority Affairs to expand existing programming to support the state's ethnic minority groups and community needs.

The subcommittee and State Task Force recognizes sex and labor trafficking are not exclusive to any race, gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or disability. As such, the labor trafficking awareness campaign will be diverse, equitable, and inclusive. This will be accomplished in stages to ensure every outreach and resources are accessible and community-informed. In 2023 the subcommittee will focus on forestry/reforestation, the illicit massage industry, and temporary guest/worker visas. These sectors were chosen due to their increasing prevalence and lack of existing outreach, awareness, and training materials.

As the subcommittee continues to maneuver the labor trafficking awareness campaign and initiative, there will be increased efforts to develop a digital and print resource guide to include sector-specific information. Labor trafficking training(s) will also be a required and component within the state certification process.

To contact the Labor Trafficking Subcommittee Chairs, please email: Lucyana Roldan, US Department of Labor, Roldan.lucyana@dol.gov, and Abdalis Toro, SC Dept. of Employment & Workforce, AToro@dew.sc.gov.



Law Enforcement

Purpose: The Law Enforcement Subcommittee collaborates and assists all law enforcement and social services agencies across the state with ongoing human trafficking investigations and trainings.

2022 Highlights: In 2022 the Law Enforcement Subcommittee continued collaboration with local and regional human trafficking task forces in their ongoing efforts to combat human trafficking. The subcommittee also conducted proactive commercial sex operations around the state to curb the demand for commercial sex as well as to identify potential victims of trafficking. Over 1,000 law enforcement officers from around the state received anti-human trafficking training, and the subcommittee continues to strengthen the knowledge base and understanding of human trafficking for stakeholders involved in the state's anti-trafficking efforts.

2023 Goals: The Law Enforcement Subcommittee will develop and finalize a cross-system memorandum of understanding (MOU) for Law Enforcement organizations involved with the State Task Force. The subcommittee will draft a Law Enforcement Response Protocol (per region), for officers that will provide detailed guidelines for aiding victims of Human Trafficking. Lastly, there will be continued efforts in providing additional human trafficking training to Law Enforcement officers throughout the state.

To contact the Law Enforcement Subcommittee Chairs, please email Captain Connie Sonnefeld, South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, csonnefeld@sled.sc.gov, **and** Lieutenant Jade Roy, Human Trafficking Unit, South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, jroy@sled.sc.gov.



Legal Innovations

Purpose: To establish a network of professionals who can provide legal support to trafficking survivors; and to promote judicial programs that address the needs of trafficking survivors navigating the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

2022 Highlights: With the hiring of several human trafficking program coordinators toward the end of 2022, the SC Office of the Attorney General was able to focus legal innovation efforts toward a specialized court initiative for minor human trafficking victims. The program coordinators have attended trainings, conducted research, and initiated meetings in efforts to learn about current best-practice specialized youth courts in the country such as the HOPE court in Washington D.C., GRACE court in Miami, Florida, and Chatham County Juvenile Court in Savannah, Georgia. The program coordinators have begun to form members of the subcommittee, including a chair to lead the efforts. Staff and leadership of the subcommittee will be attending the specialized court in Georgia to observe proceedings and meet with the overseeing judiciary.

2023 Goals: In the coming year, a team of dedicated members who provide a variety of expertise within the judicial system will be assembled to assist in the creation of a specialized court for youth victims of human trafficking. The subcommittee will be identifying the pilot region and qualified community-based service providers; developing a manual for the specialized court that will lay out the system infrastructure; and creating an MOU for involved partners. Trauma-informed trainings for judiciary professionals will be included in the planning process for this subcommittee.

To contact the Legal Innovations Subcommittee, please email Dr. Aleksandra Chauhan, South Carolina Commission on Indigent Defense, ACHauhan@sccid.sc.gov.



Prevention Education and Outreach

Purpose: The Prevention Education & Outreach Subcommittee's mission is to provide technical assistance and support to service providers and community organizations on implementing effective, age-appropriate, and trauma-informed human trafficking awareness and prevention education strategies.

2022 Highlights: In 2022 the Prevention Education Subcommittee conducted a needs assessment of the nine Regional Task Forces to understand current prevention education activities in each region. The needs assessment collected information about their outreach and awareness practices, educational presentations, prevention education programming, and challenges related to coordinating prevention and outreach strategies in their respective regions. The Subcommittee reviewed and analyzed survey data and scheduled follow-up conversations regarding some of the information that was received. The information collected will continue to assist in strategic planning efforts in this area.

2023 Goals: In 2023 the Prevention Education Subcommittee will support the Prevention Education Initiative in prioritizing various projects. These include the creation and implementation of best practice guidelines, cross-functional collaboration with sexual assault/domestic violence organizations, providing consistent awareness presentation materials, providing evaluation tools, and creating public awareness and outreach campaigns. These projects will require collaboration between the State Task Force and the Regional Task Forces. For more information regarding these projects please reference the Prevention Education section under the Task Force Initiatives within this report.

To contact the Prevention Education and Outreach Subcommittee, please email
Dr. Pam Imm at drpamimm@gmail.com.

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.

Historically, the U.S. anti-human trafficking field has embraced the idea 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. 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 2023.

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, Senior Consultant Community Outreach, Eldercare Trust Fund, Geriatric Loan Forgiveness | South Carolina Department of Aging

Individuals with Disabilities – Disability Rights South Carolina

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

2023 Population Groups to Advance – Runaway Youth, Homeless Populations, Cultural Sensitivity and Awareness, People of Color, Technology, Finance, and LGBTQIA2S+

To learn more about the Advisory Council, please email Kathryn Moorehead,

Director of the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force, kmoorehead@scag.gov.

Task Force Initiatives

Communications

In 2023 the objective of the State Task Force communications will be centered on expanding our reach to new audiences. To effectively achieve this goal, the progression of the communications initiatives will be encouraging a consistent online presence at the State and Regional Task Force levels, increasing shared communication within the State Task Force, and eliminating language barriers to be inclusive of all people in South Carolina.

Misinformation about human trafficking continues to perpetuate a false reality to the public. Social media is especially harmful to the circulation of these myths, due to the boundless nature of the internet. To combat this issue, the State and Regional Task Forces are encouraged to be as consistent and active online as possible. Each Regional Task Force encompasses communities that are not yet reached by efforts. Increasing the output of accurate information to our communities will build the foundation needed to start changing the public's misconceptions about this crime.

The Human Trafficking Task Force Newsletter will increase its publications from quarterly to monthly. This enables each of the nearly 800 members within the Task Force to have more frequent updates from member agencies and provide more accurate and relevant communication to the counties they serve. Strengthening communication starts with the State Task Force allowing an active and more frequent dissemination of pertinent information. Our website will strive for a similar goal of providing updates as timely as possible. One new feature for the website will be an interactive calendar. This will be a cohesive place for members within the Task Force to share community events, state and regional task force meetings, and other occasions.

In the upcoming year, the State Task Force will venture into the podcasting arena. Our goal is to define human trafficking in our state, how the State Task Force was established, landmarks over the past decade, and invite agencies across our Task Force to share information. Each agency has unique perspectives on what this crime looks like in South Carolina, and a podcast will serve as a seamless platform for those conversations to become accessible to the people of our state.

Lastly, the translation of our resources and materials, into other languages than English, will be a priority in 2023. The impact of human trafficking is nondiscriminatory. We believe our communications need to be accessible to all individuals in South Carolina and the diverse languages within our state. While there are many other languages to account for, translations of Spanish, Mandarin, Slavic, Hindi, and Korean are the priorities in 2023. We will also be focused on developing resources for citizens with disabilities such as deaf and hard of hearing.

Labor Trafficking

Labor trafficking includes situations of debt bondage, forced labor, and involuntary child labor. Oftentimes, the trafficker uses violence, threats, lies and coercion to force people to work against their will in various industries. To date, much of the emphasis in South Carolina has been on sex trafficking with labor trafficking being overlooked and underreported. However, the data laid out within this report demonstrates the utmost urgency for continued labor trafficking awareness, outreach, and services in South Carolina and nationwide.

The State Task Force continued the inclusion of labor trafficking in the 2022 VSP-HT certification training. Furthermore, in 2022 the State Task Force saw growth internally, that was accompanied by the increased capacity to bring labor trafficking to the forefront. There is a major gap in labor trafficking education in communities across the Southeast. Thus, to narrow this discrepancy, the State Task Force will launch an awareness campaign specific to this form of exploitation to ensure state leaders, service providers, and the public are better equipped to identify and support victims of labor trafficking.

The awareness campaign will encompass the sectors that fall under the greater umbrella of labor trafficking. Sectors include but are not limited to farming/agriculture, health and beauty services, restaurants/food service, construction, manufacturing, and domestic work. The State Task Force, with support from the Labor Trafficking Subcommittee, the Department of Labor, as well as the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce, will first explore labor trafficking in forestry/reforestation, the illicit massage industry, and temporary guest/worker visas. Data from 2022, within each of the previous listed sectors, is substantial and goes to show that these are the top labor trafficking industries in the state.

In South Carolina, from January 2022 to December 2022, there were approximately 7,550 foreign workers with H-2A visas (agricultural workers), and around 7,780 foreign workers with H-2B visas (temporary non-agricultural workers). The aim is to make certain individuals know their rights in the workplace. Victims of labor trafficking are not homogenous and oftentimes face some vulnerability. Vulnerabilities include, but are not limited to, gender, socioeconomic status, immigration status, etc. This puts these individuals at a greater risk of exploitation. To ensure the State Task Force is reaching every community, especially non-English speaking populations, the labor trafficking and communications initiatives will coincide with one another. In 2023, the two initiatives hope to develop and launch, along with other projects, a Public Service Announcement (PSA) specific to labor trafficking for Latinx media outlets.

Lastly, the State Task Force will increase labor trafficking trainings for other sectors that were not noted in the Hotline data. This includes medical professionals, law enforcement, prosecutors, child welfare, and service providers who may unknowingly be working with victims and survivors. These opportunities will be promoted in the Task Force monthly newsletters, the online calendar, and at quarterly meetings.

Specialized Service Provider Certification

Prepare	Before applying for the Specialized Service Provider Certification, potential agencies must ensure that their staff meets the requirements for and completes the Victim Service Provider Certification for Human Trafficking Professionals (VSP-HT). Agencies should also complete the Guiding Principles Organizational Self-Assessment to reflect on the strengths and needs of their organizations.
Apply	An electronic portal application will be required to collect general information about the organization that includes mission statement, organizational structure, policies and procedures, population served, services provided, state licenses to provide services (i.e., DSS License, DJJ license, DHEC etc.), and other essential documents. Non-profit organizations will need to provide proof of on-going compliance with the Secretary of State requirements including information about board members and the financial documentation.
Site Visit	Facility Standardized Assessment (SC Human Trafficking Standards and Guidelines)
Review Board	The Direct Services for Minors or the Direct Services for Adults Subcommittee and a survivor-led review board will evaluate applications and rate victim/survivor-centered services.
Letter of Determination	Letter will include approval or denial of certification. In this phase, applicants will be provided a list of areas for improvement. The agency will be enrolled in a technical assistance program offered by the Attorney General's Office. The technical assistance program will provide direct service providers with resources, tools, and knowledge to effectively provide trauma-informed services. This will include engaging victims and survivors, efficiently tracking pertinent data related to demographics, service provisions, and gaps in program quality at multiple levels.
Verification Entry	After approval for certification, the State Task Force will enter an organization with programmatic details and specializations into the Resource Map on the Attorney General's website. The organization will also be required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to commit to a multidisciplinary team (MDT) approach. There will be requirements around reporting, screening, data collection, prevention and education, and training curricula.
Issuance of Certification	The agency will receive their certification, a letter signed by the Attorney General, and a certification sticker to place on the outside window of the organization.

Resource Mapping

The State Task Force plans to highlight service providers who offer specialized and supplemental services to victims of human trafficking into an online resource map. The implementation of a legislatively mandated resource directory in a map design will provide community partners, stakeholders, and case managers the opportunity to source service-specific needs by county. This will allow for appropriate referrals based on the individual needs of their clients. Resource mapping plays a central role in ensuring an agency receives the Specialized Service Provider or Supplemental Service Provider Certifications. Providers that do not receive certification through the State Task Force will not be included in the online resource map nor will they be listed as a resource via the National Human Trafficking Hotline. The information solicited in the certification process will be used on the Task Force's resource map and relayed to partners at the national level. As each agency receives re-certification, their services will be updated to reflect those available to victims and survivors.

Technical Support

The purpose of the technical assistance program is to build the capacity of all South Carolina's service providers who serve victims and survivors of human trafficking effectively, efficiently, and benevolently. The Office of the Attorney General is legislatively mandated to maintain criteria for direct service providers to prevent re-victimization and help ensure victims and survivors receive quality services.

The Task Force recognizes the state's gaps in specialized services for human trafficking populations and champions the array of service providers who provide supplemental services, knowingly or unknowingly, to victims. These settings may include survivors housed in domestic violence and/or sexual assault organizations. They may also include foster homes and congregate care settings, agencies that support migrant workers, homeless shelters, programs designed to support alcohol and substance use disorders, mental health providers, and other such services. In addition to the technical assistance offered through the Specialized Service Provider Certification process, supplemental service providers may request multi-tiered technical assistance based on the needs of their organization. At the completion of this process, agencies may qualify to be recognized as a human trafficking Supplemental Service Provider in South Carolina.

Components of technical support will vary depending on the needs of professional sectors. They may include advanced trainings provided to specialized service providers as well as customized trainings that are curated to meet the needs of law enforcement, healthcare, supplemental service providers, courts, and other professions. Technical support will include topics such as the intersection of human trafficking and mental health, substance use disorders, other VAWA crimes, and language accessibility. Additionally, there will be on-going support in developing policies and procedures that reflect best and emerging practices within the anti-human trafficking field.

Specialized Human Trafficking Court for Youth

The State Task Force recognizes the importance of decreasing the gaps in services for minor victims of human trafficking. One way to combat this issue is through the implementation of a specialized court for youth victims of this crime. The State Task Force supports these efforts in conjunction with 9th Circuit Family Court Judge Michelle P. Forsythe and the Chair of the Legal Innovations Subcommittee, Dr. Aleksandra Chauhan. The goal is to assemble multidisciplinary and inter-jurisdictional collaboration to respond and deliver services to system-involved children and youth. There has been effective communication with professionals across the nation that have established specialized courts for this population of minor victims.

Recently, The State Task Force conducted virtual discussions with Chatham County Juvenile Court Judge, Roxanne E. Formey, who oversees H.O.P.E. Court in Savannah, GA, to collect information on the operation of their court and review the policies and procedures in place. In addition, subcommittee members have connected with Rashida Prioleau, of H.O.P.E. Court in Washington, DC, to gather insight on the inner workings of their human trafficking court. Goals also included court observation, a roundtable discussion, and an accumulation of lessons learned for efficient implementation. Additional data and research have been collected and reviewed from G.R.A.C.E. Court of Miami, FL, S.T.A.R. Court of Los Angeles, CA, and several other specialized human trafficking courts.

In 2023 Subcommittee members will continue to diligently collect comprehensive best-practices and emerging best practices research for system-involved minor victims of human trafficking. The reviewed literature of these specialized courts will be utilized as an instrument to streamline direct services to youth victims, ensure trauma informed victim-centered trainings for involved staff, and build capacity through partnerships and collaboration with state agencies and service providers.

Higher Education

The State Task Force recognizes the ongoing need to engage young people on the topic of human trafficking to prevent their potential victimization. Given the decreased or lack of financial, social, and familial support, college students may experience increased vulnerability to trafficking as they enter a new chapter of their lives. Past efforts in higher education were stalled due to the pandemic's impact on campuses across the state. Nonetheless, with the increase in online recruitments during the pandemic, addressing this population has become even more pressing. As campuses recover and resume normal operations, efforts within higher education are a priority for the State Task Force.

In 2023 partnerships with colleges and universities will be formed so that campus wide awareness campaigns and training opportunities can be initiated. Leadership of higher education institutions will be asked to pledge for their communities to be human trafficking-free campuses. The Human Trafficking Program Coordinator assigned to this initiative will work closely with the Higher Education Subcommittee to identify the criteria that will be required for the pledge.

At this time, training will be a component to better inform staff and administrators about how to identify and respond to human trafficking. Campus law enforcement agencies will also be requested to attend training as well as other employees on campus. The pledge will also include an agreement to host awareness events on campus for those within their respective communities. Institutions will form anti-human trafficking clubs to position members to assist with planned events and wider campaigns. Another pledge item may be to include a human trafficking elective courses to learn more about the crime and its intersection with various career paths.

Awareness materials specific to the colleges and universities will be developed and available to participating campuses. Staff will work with the new graphic designer, as well as advisory groups from the schools, to design the new campaign materials. The stakeholders will be asked to assist in the creation of university specific anti-trafficking products such as t-shirts, stickers, posters, and other awareness materials.

The State Task Force looks forward to securing pledges from college and university presidents across the state in 2023. Undoubtedly, it will be a meaningful initiative to prevent and respond to human trafficking on campuses across South Carolina.

Prevention Education

The Prevention Education Initiative will prioritize the formalization of anti-human trafficking education and outreach to youth. This initiative will support providers and community organizations in establishing and implementing effective, age-appropriate, victim-centered, and trauma-informed awareness and prevention education.

In 2022 the Prevention Education Subcommittee conducted a needs assessment of the nine regional task forces to understand current prevention education activities in each region. The needs assessment collected information about their outreach and awareness practices, educational presentations, prevention education programming, and challenges related to coordinating prevention and outreach strategies in their respective regions. This assessment provided valuable feedback and informed the development of 2023 action items. Consequently, in addition to building out the infrastructure of the Prevention Education subcommittee at both the state and regional levels, the initiative will prioritize the implementation of the following for the upcoming year:

Best Practices Guidelines

Most of the current regional task force prevention efforts are implemented utilizing various curricula. As such, the Prevention Education Initiative will develop best practice guidelines. These guidelines will provide a framework for how to engage in trauma-informed, evidenced-based, age-and-audience appropriate education and awareness practices. The guidelines will be informed by existing literature, research, and collaboration with regional task force prevention education chairs.

Cross-functional Collaboration

The Prevention Education Initiative will focus on engaging and fostering opportunities with domestic violence and sexual assault agencies, relevant task forces, and work groups statewide. These partnerships will identify existing gaps in knowledge and awareness related to human

trafficking and its intersection with crimes like domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, harassment, internet crimes against children and other relevant topics. Given the scope of this initiative, the partnerships will target professionals, community members, and organizations working with youth populations.

Awareness Presentations

The Prevention Education Initiative will collaborate with regional task forces to co-create region-specific awareness presentations separate from youth curricula. These presentations will be aligned with the best practice guidelines to increase uniformity and consistency of presentations to the general population.

Evaluation System

To measure the effectiveness of the prevention education and outreach strategies across the state, the prevention education subcommittee will encourage Task Force members engaged in anti-trafficking community education work to utilize uniform evaluation tools and methods.

Resources will be developed by the subcommittee to measure impact, effectiveness, efficiency of resources, and to target outreach efforts across the state.

Public Awareness and Outreach

Based on the data from the needs assessment, the majority of the current efforts for the regional task forces are focused on awareness and outreach. As such, the Task Force will collaborate with State Task Force staff and relevant subcommittees to create awareness materials, events, and other public outreach strategies. The campaign will also focus on consistent messaging, understanding, and reaching targeted audiences and subgroups, and accessibility of resources across diverse demographics.

System-Involved Education Coordinator

In 2023, The State Task Force will onboard two Education Coordinators responsible for providing prevention education to youth in diverse settings. While one education coordinator will manage outreach to youth in schools and community groups, the other coordinator will provide education to youth residing in group homes, foster families, and other residential facilities. The Prevention Education Subcommittee will work closely with both Education Coordinators to provide and elicit feedback to inform aforementioned priorities and future goals.

Training and Special Events

2022 Efforts

In 2022 the State Human Trafficking Task Force supported the efforts of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) programs to inform stakeholders across the state about domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, harassment, and human trafficking. Members of the Task Force staff also presented at conferences, special events, and trainings hosted by Task Force members and other community partners. The presentations were provided to law enforcement, service providers, healthcare workers, lawyers, commercial drivers, members of faith communities, child welfare professionals, and others eager to learn more about anti-human trafficking efforts in our state.

The State Task Force also conducted a multi-day Victim Service Provider training specifically for those working with human trafficking victims and survivors. The VSP-HT remains the first step in ensuring that all professionals working solely or primarily with trafficking survivors are knowledgeable about such topics as how the court system works in South Carolina, ethics, victim rights, trauma, communication with survivors, and self-care when providing support to those that experienced complex trauma during their victimization. The VSP-HT also provides information to professionals about labor trafficking. The latter is critical as we identify increased polyvictimization including sexual abuse, physical abuse, witnessing violence, and potentially being both sex and labor trafficked.

The South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force also celebrated its 10th Anniversary by sponsoring a Columbia Fireflies baseball game to bring awareness to the crime in our state. Leadership and members were invited to celebrate the anniversary. The event was a success in terms of increased networking amongst stakeholders, amplified awareness about human trafficking, and the dissemination of information on how to report tips to the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

2023 Training and Special Events

In 2023 the State Task Force intends to increase the number of trainings, conferences, and special events offered to individuals in an array of professions. There will be one point person on staff that will be responsible for coordinating the events along with input from State Task Force members and regional task forces. Additionally, the Human Trafficking Program Coordinators will play a role in identifying potential training topics by professional sector in collaboration with the subcommittees. This will help ensure that there is consistency in messaging across the state within each of the areas.

To date, the Task Force has identified multiple events that it intends to host in 2023. These include large conferences, specialized trainings, and public awareness initiatives. Below, there is a non-comprehensive list of events being planned for the upcoming year.

- In partnership with the Department of Mental Health, the State Task Force will host a statewide conference specifically designed for professionals working in the clinical mental health field. The conference will be offered to clinical staff at state agencies working directly with children, adolescents, and adults.
- The Task Force will offer a minimum of two Victim Service Provider trainings for human trafficking professionals (VSP-HT). Given the strict criteria for qualifying for the training, it is likely that professionals will want to attend from all areas of the state. The Task Force will accommodate the agencies by offering each cohort a full day in person class and the remainder of the training will be offered online. This will allow for in-person networking amongst professionals, easier staff scheduling at the agencies, and less travel for the professionals attending the training.
- There will be additional trainings offered throughout the year to aid the VSP-HT certified professionals in meeting their required continuing education credits. We will solicit input from those who are VSP-HT certified to identify needed areas for professional development. This input will position the Task Force to provide training that will

positively impact the ongoing work of professionals in supporting victims and survivors. The trainings will include subject-matter experts from both within South Carolina and, as needed, national experts in their fields.

- As the Law Enforcement Subcommittee begins implementing Memorandums of Understanding with agencies across the state, the Task Force will develop online introductions to human trafficking including identifying victims, responding to victim needs, and investigating cases. The subcommittee will also work with Task Force staff to identify more advanced trainings that will be offered to those identified as the leads on cases at their agencies. The latter trainings will be offered in person only. The events will be coordinated within the four separate areas of the state to allow for network building and shorter travel times.
- There will also be an increased focus on better educating School Resource Officers across the state. To complement the Prevention Education Initiative, the Task Force will also offer trainings to SROs and those working closely with community-based youth groups.
- The statewide efforts to assist professionals in the legal field will also continue. There will be additional trainings offered to prosecutors, defense attorneys, juvenile court attorneys, family court judges, victim advocates, and others who may be involved in a potential human trafficking case. The primary focus of these trainings will be how to identify and respond to the needs of victims of human trafficking.
- As the Healthcare Subcommittee restructures, there will be additional trainings offered within specialized fields as well as training on how to implement a response protocol at each medical facility. Additionally, the Task Force will continue its partnership with the South Carolina Forensic Nurse Task Force by supporting the Sexual Assault Forensic Excellence (SAFE) Certification trainings. The SAFE hospitals, agencies, and communities will be added to the Task Force's resource directory upon its launch in 2023. This will enable stakeholders a means of locating nearby facilities that provide both pediatric sexual assault exams and those for adult victims.
- In partnership with the South Carolina Network of Children's Advocacy Centers and the University of South Carolina's Children Law Center, the State Task Force will deliver a specialized training for certified forensic interviewers. It will be designed to provide interviewers with added knowledge of how to work specifically with potential minor victims of human trafficking. Currently, there are a limited number of forensic interviewers with advanced knowledge in working with minor sex trafficking victims and a need identified to increase the number of experts across the state for both sex and labor trafficking cases.
- The State Task Force, in partnership with the North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission, will launch a biennial state conference on the alternate years that North Carolina offers their conference. Each state will promote and participate in the alternating conferences to help share information across the Carolinas while maintaining the states' close working relationship.
- As the US Department of Health and Human Services and the Administration for Children and Families continues to facilitate the Region 4 Human Trafficking Workgroup

composed of the eight southeastern states, the State Task Force will remain active in efforts to coordinate amongst the states. This will include attending the quarterly meetings, promoting an action plan to educate stakeholders regarding the intersections of human trafficking, mental health, and substance use disorders, and strengthening the law enforcement networking amongst the eight state level agencies. The latter will include hosting a meeting of law enforcement leads in addition to the provision of advanced training to complement their efforts to identify and respond to human trafficking throughout the South.

- There will be a more formalized approach to supporting the interfaith communities in South Carolina. This will include targeted “train the trainer” opportunities in the four areas of the state and events to inform members of these communities about the ways to best support anti-human trafficking efforts in our state.
- Lastly, the State Task Force will develop and deliver, in collaboration with the subcommittees and regional task forces, labor trafficking training for all the professional fields engaged in anti-human trafficking in South Carolina. The training will first be offered to those in the fields identified as most prevalent in the 2022 National Human Trafficking Hotline data. Efforts will expand from there to include other professional sectors who may encounter potential cases.

As the Task Force progresses through 2023, it will identify additional areas of need for trainings and special events. All trainings, conferences, and other events will be added to the new online calendar to assist members in identifying relevant opportunities to increase their knowledge and better assist in preventing, responding, investigating, and prosecuting these cases.

Statewide Member Agencies

The U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division (WHD)



The U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division (WHD) enforces laws that establish minimum standards for wages and working conditions for workers in the U.S., including minimum wage, overtime pay, child labor, family and medical leave, worker protections for migrant workers and temporary worker programs, and the prevailing wages for government service and construction contracts. The mission of the WHD is to promote and achieve compliance with labor standards to protect and enhance the welfare of the nation's workforce. Through education and enforcement WHD engages workers, employers, and other stakeholders to ensure that workers know their rights and employers understand their responsibilities.

WHD has served 65 victims of labor trafficking in 2022. All 65 of these victims were foreign nationals, men, and of the Hispanic origin.

If you have any questions about WHD, please email the Labor Trafficking Subcommittee co-chair, **Lucyana Roldan** at roldan.lucyana@dol.gov, or visit the WHD website at <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd>.

South Carolina Law Enforcement Division



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

SLED supported 416 cases involving human trafficking in South Carolina in 2022. The cases included 399 minor victims, and 17 adults. SLED was able to secure funding for two additional fulltime positions and now have Special Agents in all four regions of the state to investigate human trafficking related crimes. Starting January 1, 2022, SLED collaborated with SCDSS and began to receive all human trafficking related intakes that were generated, either flagging a child as being a potential victim of trafficking or a confirmed victim of trafficking. This was done to ensure law enforcement investigative follow-up was taking place.

In 2022 SLED provided prevention education and/or training to over 600 law enforcement, SCDSS, victim service providers, educators, and EMS professionals across the state. SLED led four commercial sex operations to combat human trafficking in several regions around the state, resulting in the arrest of 13 sex buyers. SLED has assisted local law enforcement with several investigations this year resulting in the arrest of five individuals for human trafficking at the state level. Lastly, SLED also arrested three individuals with multiple charges to include trafficking in persons.

Various members of SLED are involved in the State and Regional Task Forces. Their presence and input allow for the regional task forces to adjust and focus on specific efforts, as well as red flags within their regions. If you have any questions, please email

Lieutenant Jade M. Roy at jroy@sled.sc.gov, or visit their website at <https://www.sled.sc.gov/Default>.

The South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services



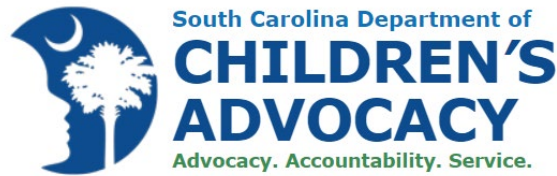
The South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Services (SCDPPPS) is charged with the community supervision of offenders placed on probation by the court and paroled by the State Board of Pardons and Paroles. SCDPPPS also supervises offenders through several community sanctions and help ensure that they meet specific conditions of parole. The SCDPPPS mission statement is, to prepare offenders under our supervision toward becoming productive members of the community; to provide assistance to the victims of crimes, the courts, and the Parole Board; and to protect public trust and safety. SCDPPPS has offices in all 46 counties in South Carolina. If you have any questions about SCDPPPS, please email **Ashley B. Dial** at Ashley.BatesDial@ppp.sc.gov or visit their website at <https://www.dppps.sc.gov>.

South Carolina Department of Corrections



The South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) protects the citizens by confining offenders in controlled facilities and by providing rehabilitative, self-improvement opportunities to prepare inmates for their re-integration into society. While it is unclear how many victims of human trafficking have been housed in a SC State Correctional Facility in 2022, there are numerous 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 questions with the South Carolina Department of Corrections, please email **Kenneth James** at james.kennethl@doc.sc.gov or visit their website at <https://www.doc.sc.gov>.

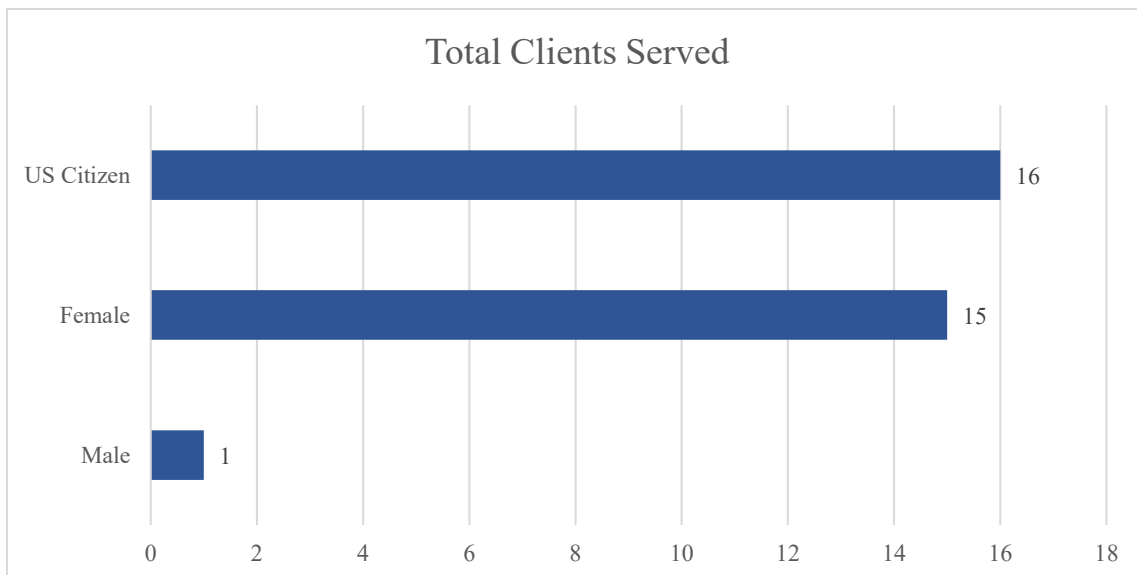
South Carolina Department of Children's Advocacy



The South Carolina Department of Children's Advocacy (SCDCA) was established by the South Carolina General Assembly in 2018 and began operation in July of 2019. The SCDCA champions advocacy, accountability, and service to improve outcomes for children served by state agencies in South Carolina. SCDCA envisions growing a community where children thrive.

In 2022 SCDCA served 16 minor victims of sex trafficking. 15 of these victims were female, while one was male. All 16 victims were citizens of the United States.

If you have any questions about SCDCA, please email **Kayla Capps** at Kayla.Capps@childadvocate.sc.gov or visit their website at <https://childadvocate.sc.gov/>.



The South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs



The South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs envisions all ethnic minority citizens of the State of South Carolina will be treated equitably and achieve economic prosperity through socio-cultural awareness, collaboration, policy change, and research. Their mission statement is as follows: To be a 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 through: community engagement and awareness, state recognition of Native Americans, collecting, diagnosing and analyzing collaborative data, acting as a liaison bridging 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 human trafficking.

If you have any questions, please email **Brenton Brown** at BBrown@cma.sc.gov or visit their website at <https://cma.sc.gov>.

South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce



The South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW) promotes and supports an effective, customer-driven workforce system that facilitates stability and economic prosperity for employers, individuals, and communities. DEW is responsible for paying unemployment insurance benefits, collecting unemployment taxes, helping people find jobs, matching businesses with qualified candidates, and collecting and disseminating state/federal employment statistics. DEW continues to make an increased effort to reach and advocate for vulnerable populations who may need support within employment and workforce in South Carolina.

In 2022 DEW served six male victims of labor trafficking.

If you have any questions, please email **Abdalis Toro** at AToro@dew.sc.gov or visit DEW's website at <https://dew.sc.gov/>.

South Carolina Office of the Attorney General



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.

The Crime Victim Ombudsman (CVO), a division within the Attorney General's Office, provides Legal Services, Victim Advocacy, and other types of services to victims of crime in South Carolina. The purpose of the CVO is to ensure that victims of crime are served equitably and treated fairly by the South Carolina criminal justice system and its victim service organization. In 2022 the Crime Victim Ombudsman served three female victims of human trafficking.

The Special Victims Prosecution Division at the Office of the South Carolina Attorney General is responsible for prosecuting criminal sexual conduct, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, harassment, and human trafficking cases. In 2022, the Attorney General's Office prosecuted the first state-level human trafficking case to go to a jury in South Carolina and received a conviction. There were 11 human trafficking cases that carried over from 2021, 21 cases that are currently open, and 24 cases closed.

If you have any questions about the South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force, please email **Kathryn Moorehead** at kmoorehead@scag.gov

If you have any questions about the Crime Victim Ombudsman, please email **Veronica Swain Kunz** at vkunz@scag.gov

If you have any questions about Human Trafficking Prosecution, please email **Heather Weiss** at hweiss@scag.gov, **Kinli Abee** at kabee@scag.gov, or Megan Raymer at mraymer@scag.gov.

United States Attorney's Office, District of South Carolina



The United States Attorney's Office mission is to protect and serve the citizens of the District of South Carolina through the ethical, vigorous and impartial enforcement of the laws of the United States and in doing so, to defend the 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 skills and integrity, seek to do justice in every matter.

The United States Attorney's Office has provided service to 40+ victims of sex and labor trafficking in 2022. Lastly, the Office had 6 new indictments and 4 closed cases. If you have any questions, please email **Carrie Fisher Sherard** at carrie.a.fisher@usdoj.gov, or visit their website at <https://www.justice.gov/usao-sc>.

South Carolina Department of Social Services



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 strengthen families. SCDSS collaborates with multiple members of the multidisciplinary team including other child-serving state agencies and community service providers to ensure that every child and family who are victims of human trafficking have access to the necessary services, resources, and level of care need to restore both the child and their families. In January 2022, South Carolina Department of Social Services began reporting all human trafficking reports made to the agency to South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) SCDSS also expanded the human trafficking program with the addition of a Program Assistance and began providing technical assistance to CPS Investigators through Human Trafficking Case Consultations which take place three weeks after an investigation starts. Currently, The Child Trafficking Program is house in the Office of Safety Management.

In 2022 SC Department of Social Services served 230 minor victims in all service types (Investigation, Family Preservation, and Foster Care).

If you have any questions, please email **Robin Anderson** at Robin.C.Anderson@dss.sc.gov, or visit their website at <https://dss.sc.gov/>.

South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice



South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice's (SCDJJ) mission is to impact and transform young lives, strengthen families, and support safe communities through target prevention and rehabilitation. Their vision is that you discover their strengths and abilities and become productive and successful citizens contributing to a safer South Carolina. In 2022, SCDJJ expanding their effort in recognize the risk factors associated with human trafficking and the need for specialized case management for youth who are high risk for human trafficking. SCDJJ also procured a fulltime statewide Human Trafficking Liaison to collaborate closely with the SCDSS and other agencies who provide services to the youth who are dually involved.

In April 2022 roughly 25% of human trafficking victims identified through SCDSS were dually involved with SCDJJ.

If you have any questions, please email **Angela Kelly** at AngelaBKelly@djj.sc.gov, or visit their website at <https://djj.sc.gov/>.

South Carolina Department of Mental Health



South Carolina Department of Mental Health's mission is to support the recovery of people with mental illnesses. Through a statewide Network of community mental health centers, clinics, hospitals, and nursing home the Department's clinical staff provide an array of medical and support services for children, adults, and families throughout the state. These services include those for victims of trafficking in person. SCDMH is prioritizing building capacity in their clinician's ability to screen, recognize, and report potential human trafficking victims who are receiving services.

In 2023 the Department will continue collaborating with other state agencies and stakeholders to meet individual needs of victims across the lifespan, will host a statewide conference alongside additional trainings for staff that address human trafficking in the mental health sector, and will implement a screening tool to help with identifying victims.

If you have any questions, please email **Louise Johnson** at louise.johnson@scdmh.org, or visit their website at <https://scdmh.net/>.

South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA)



The South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA) is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Their mission is as follows, SCCADVASA serves as the collective voice promoting the prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault in South Carolina. SCCADVASA provides general and legal technical assistance and training to Member Organizations, attorneys, victim service providers, child welfare staff and criminal justice professionals working directly with human trafficking victims whose victimization co-occurs with domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

SCCADVASA's Legal Assistance to Victims Contract Attorney Program provides free legal representation to human trafficking victims whose victimization co-occurs with domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. SCCADVASA also leads legislative and policy advocacy initiatives designed to improve South Carolina's systemic response to interpersonal violence. 100% of the staff at SCCADVASA have received sector-specific human trafficking training.

In 2022 SCCADVASA responded to over 50 human trafficking-specific technical assistance requests from attorneys, community-based and system-based victim advocates, law enforcement, human trafficking taskforce leaders, and child welfare agencies. Additionally, SCCADVASA's Legal Assistance to Victims Contract Attorney Program served 10 survivors of both sex and labor trafficking whose victimization included domestic and sexual violence by providing free victim's rights representation in the criminal justice process, immigration law services and other consultations in related civil legal matters.

If you have any questions, please email **Patricia Ravenhorst** at pravenhorst@sccadvasa.org, or visit their website at <https://www.sccadvasa.org/>.

South Carolina Victim Assistance Network



SCVAN's mission statement is, to be the voice for all victims of crime and those who serve them.

In 2022 SCVAN has provided direct services for 24 victims of human trafficking, financial relief for 11 victims, and legal services for 13 victims. Most of those victims who sought financial relief support were Caucasian Females, while many of those victims who sought legal services were of Hispanic origin and evenly divided between male and female.

In addition, SCVAN has provided technical assistance for 22 victims. This number includes phone calls, emails, and other submissions they received from partners and community members (including Victim Advocates, Law Enforcement, Children's Advocacy Centers, Attorneys, etc.) SCVAN worked with service providers to troubleshoot issues and give advice or consultation on different scenarios regarding trafficking, and its ancillary issues. By providing support for these individuals, SCVAN continues to build the framework that serves the victims of human trafficking and serves the victims indirectly. This holistic approach allows for a broader impact on communities impacted by human trafficking.

If you have any questions about SCVAN, please contact **Lauren Barnwell** at lauren@scvan.org, or visit SCVAN's website at <http://www.scvan.org/>.

The South Carolina Network of Children's Advocacy Centers



A non-profit 501(c)(3) membership organization and statewide leader in the response to child abuse representing all Children's Advocacy Center programs in South Carolina. Their mission is as follows: Empowering SC communities and Children's Advocacy Centers to deliver a best practice response to child abuse. CACs are child-friendly facilities where law enforcement, child protective services, mental health, medical, and other professionals work together to investigate abuse, help children heal, and hold offenders accountable.

If you have any questions, please email **Liz Szarkowski** at lszarkowski@cac-sc.org, or visit their website at <https://www.cac-sc.org/>.

South Carolina Indian Affairs Commission



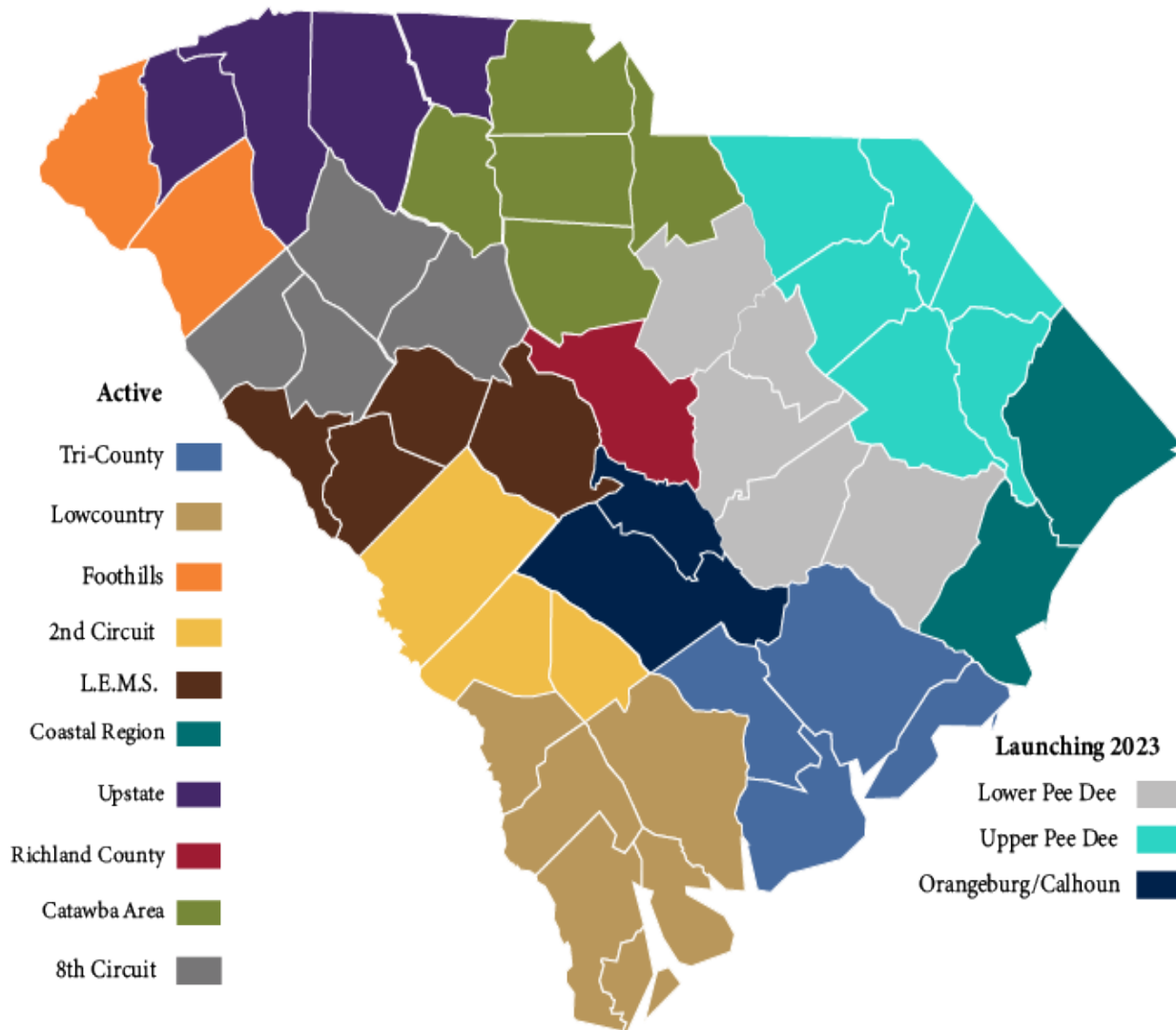
In order to promote the unity of Native American People living in South Carolina; the South Carolina Indian Affairs Commission (SCIAC) shall strive to protect our cultures and the environment, advocate for the unique human rights of Native Americans, and preserve the history and heritage of our people. The South Carolina Indian Affairs Commission shall strive for the betterment of Native American Indian People in the areas of Charitable, Education, Social, and Economic development, as well as cultural and traditional preservation as outlined, defined, and limited by Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code. The South Carolina Indian Affairs Commission was created to give South Carolina's legitimate historical tribes complete autonomy in their decision-making process. ****Serving the Consensus of the People**** SCIAC provides prevention education for ages 18-25+. In 2022 SCIAC was able to find funding for six months of no cost therapy for victims of trauma caused by human trafficking. Additionally, in 2022, SCIAC facilitated one outreach event and has served five female, U.S. citizen, Native American and/or Indigenous victims of sex trafficking. If you have any questions, please email **T. Lilly Little Water** at scindianaffairscommission@gmail.com, or visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SCIndianAffairsComission/>.

South Carolina Indigenous Women's Alliance



The South Carolina Indigenous Women's Alliance (SCIWA) shall exist to recognize, unify, and provide support and empowerment to all women of indigenous origin residing within or from the state of South Carolina. They recognize and support the roles and rights of indigenous women, their ancestral matrilineal traditions and relationship to the Earth. The South Carolina Indigenous Women's Alliance will seek to address the needs of indigenous women, children and families living in or from South Carolina, whether they are tribal members, urban or rural residents and without regard to race, creed, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender identity or sexual orientation. The Indigenous Women's Alliance of South Carolina offers comfort kits and no cost six months of therapy for women affected by violence and human trafficking. Additionally, in 2022 SCIAC facilitated one outreach event and has served five female, U.S. citizen, Native American and/or Indigenous victims of both labor and sex trafficking. If you have any questions, please email **T. Lilly Little Water** at indigenouswomenofsc@gmail.com, or visit their Facebook group page.

Regional Task Forces and Service Providers



Tri-County Regional Task Force



Mission: Implement a trauma-informed coordinated community response to end human trafficking in the Tri-County area.

2022 Highlights: Tri-County HTTF formalized their structure with nine subcommittees, and a Survivor Advisory Board with Chairs serving in 18-month terms.

Goals: The Task Force continues to work on defining the "Human Trafficking Continuum of Care" to identify the necessary resources and protocols for an effective community response. They hope to publish this by end of the term in June 2023. This document is necessary for identification of resource needs and measuring impact. Child Subcommittee will host their specialized training for mental health providers in May. Survivor Advisory Board will publish an annual report with recommendations. Legislative priorities include: 1) internet providing devices including a filter defaulted to "ON" to assist in shielding minors from the porn industry; 2) cyber sexual harassment; 3) updating the 1986 S.C. commercial sex code to account for human trafficking; and 4) education about the EARN IT Act (Federal).

Regional Task Force Chairs: Brooke Burris, bburris@tricityhttf.org Lauren Knapp, lnknapp@charlestoncounty.org

2023 Meeting Dates:

February 24th May 26th August 25th November 3rd

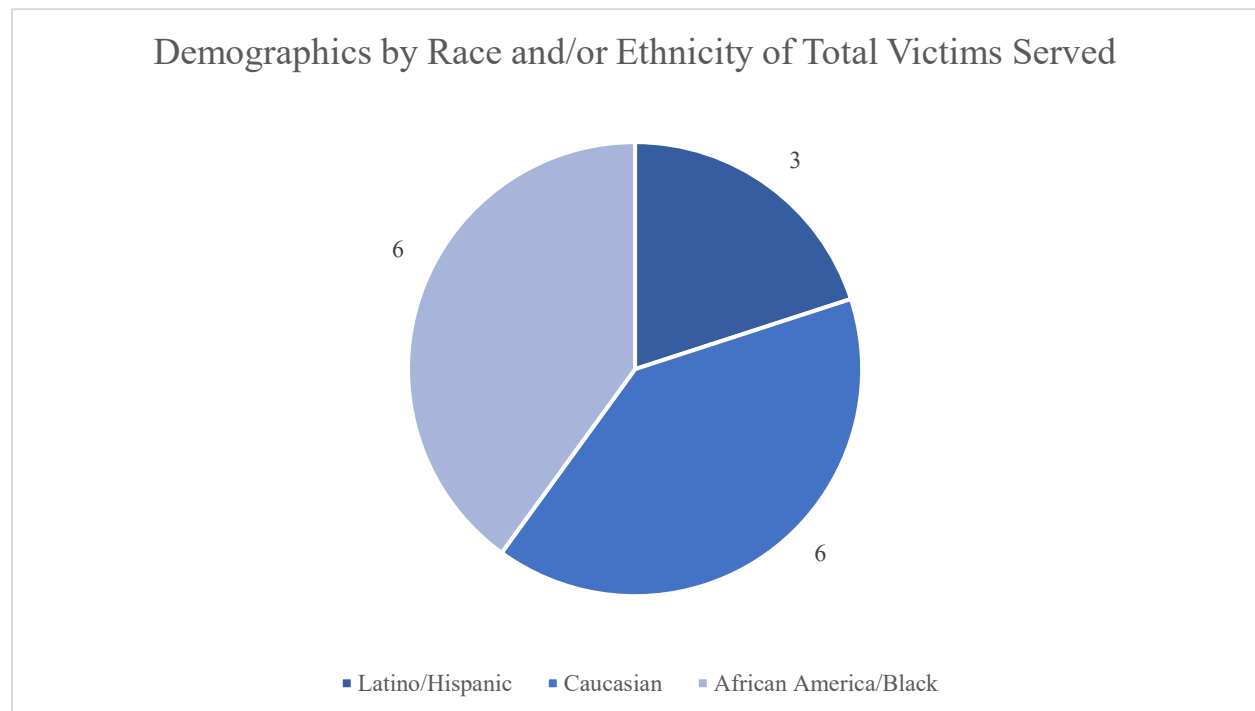
Doors to Freedom



Doors to Freedom is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that is more than just a residential facility. Doors to Freedom provides safe places for survivors of sex trafficking to experience a transformed life. They accomplish this through academic education, life skills, personal growth, and vocational training where they hope girls will find a new life, restored hope, and a beautiful future. Doors to Freedom's core values are compassion, humility, intentionality, loyalty, and diligence.

Doors to Freedom has served 15 victims of sex trafficking in 2022, with a majority being minor females. The following graph depicts the demographics by race and/or ethnicity.

If you have any questions about Doors to Freedom, please email **Sharon Rikard** at sharon@doorstofreedom.com or visit their website at <https://www.doorstofreedom.com/>.

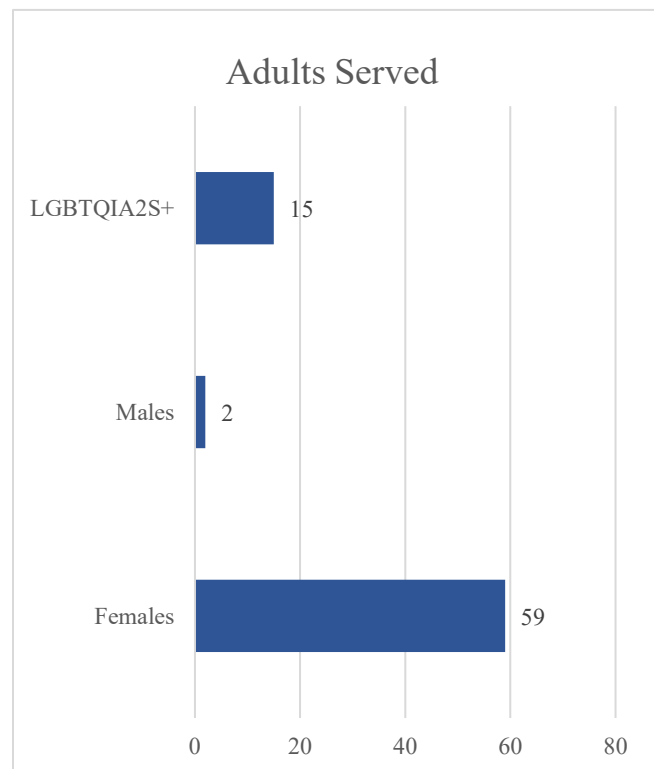
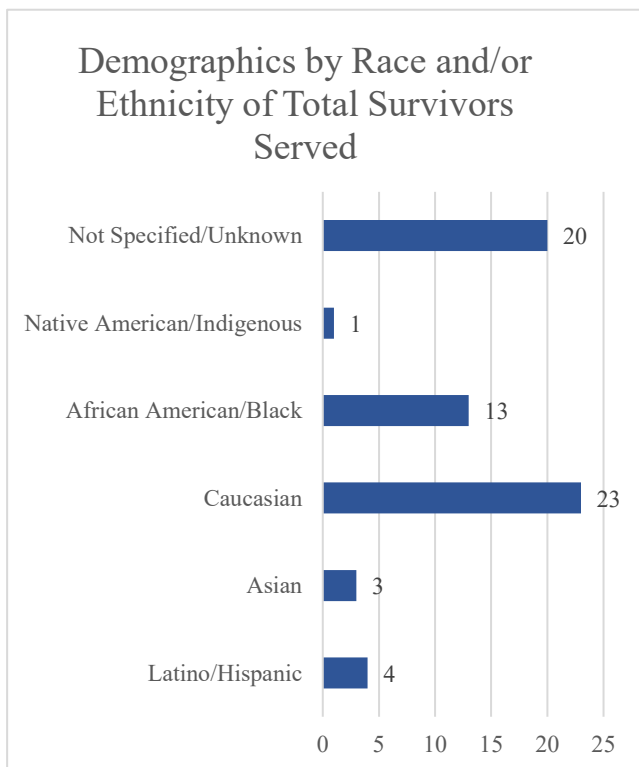


The Formation Project



The Formation Project (TFP) is a survivor-led nonprofit providing direct services to survivors of human trafficking. While collaborating with the Tri-County Human Trafficking Task Force, TFP recognized a gap in adult survivors offered in the Lowcountry for adult survivors of trafficking. TFP provides trauma-informed support, emergency shelter coordination, support groups, restorative group classes, peer mentorship, one-on-one coaching, and professional and personal development for survivors.

In 2022 TFP served 63 survivors of sex trafficking, and one survivor of labor trafficking. Most of the adults served were female. The following graph shows the adults served, and demographics by race and/or ethnicity. If you have any questions, please email **Mattie Critchfield Dodds** at mattie@theformationproject.org or visit The Formation Project's website at <https://www.theformationproject.org/>.

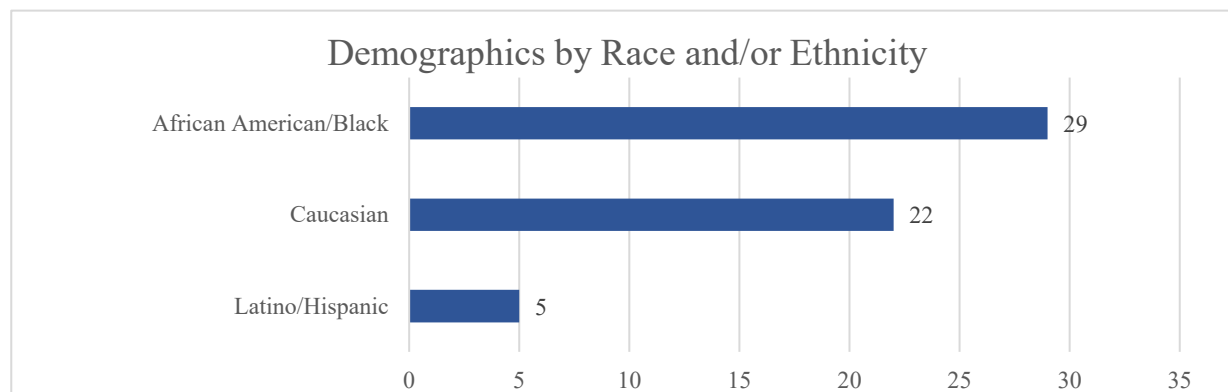
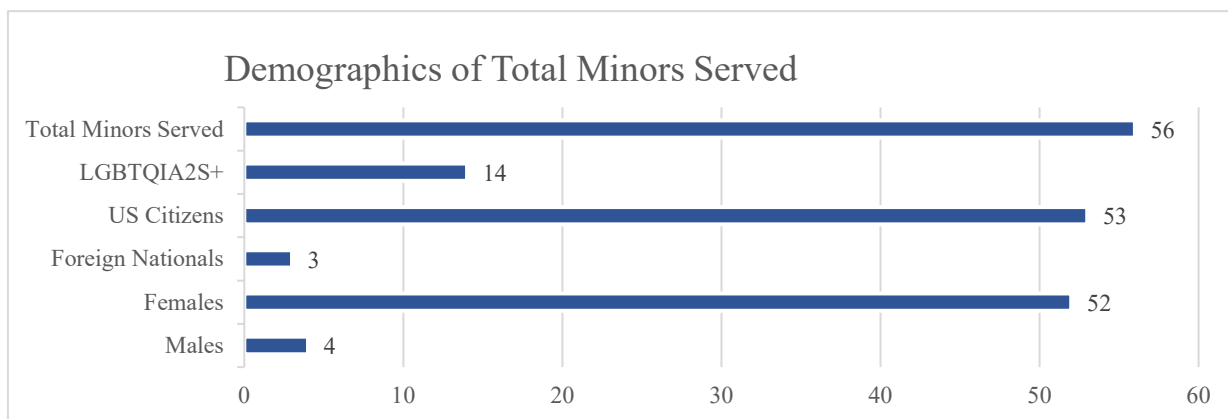


Dorchester Children's Advocacy Center



Dorchester Children's Advocacy Center (DCAC) provides a coordinated, evidence-based response to child abuse that reduces trauma and provides treatment for the children and families in their community in a safe child-focused environment. Dorchester Children's Advocacy Center is dedicated to creating communities in which children and families live free from abuse and are free to reach their full potential. Services at DCAC include forensic medical exams, MDT case coordination, individual and group therapy, forensic interviews, and family advocacy. DCAC provides prevention education for ages 11-18 and has facilitated four human trafficking specific outreach events in 2022. Starting in 2023, two people within DCAC have been authorized to offer Love146's #NotANumber prevention curriculum to youth in the area.

In 2022 DCAC has served 56 minors of sex trafficking. The following graphs show the demographics of minors served, in addition to demographics by race and/or ethnicity. If you have any questions, please contact **Nicole Hoffman** at nhoffman@dorchestercac.org, or visit their website at <https://dorchesterchildren.org/>.



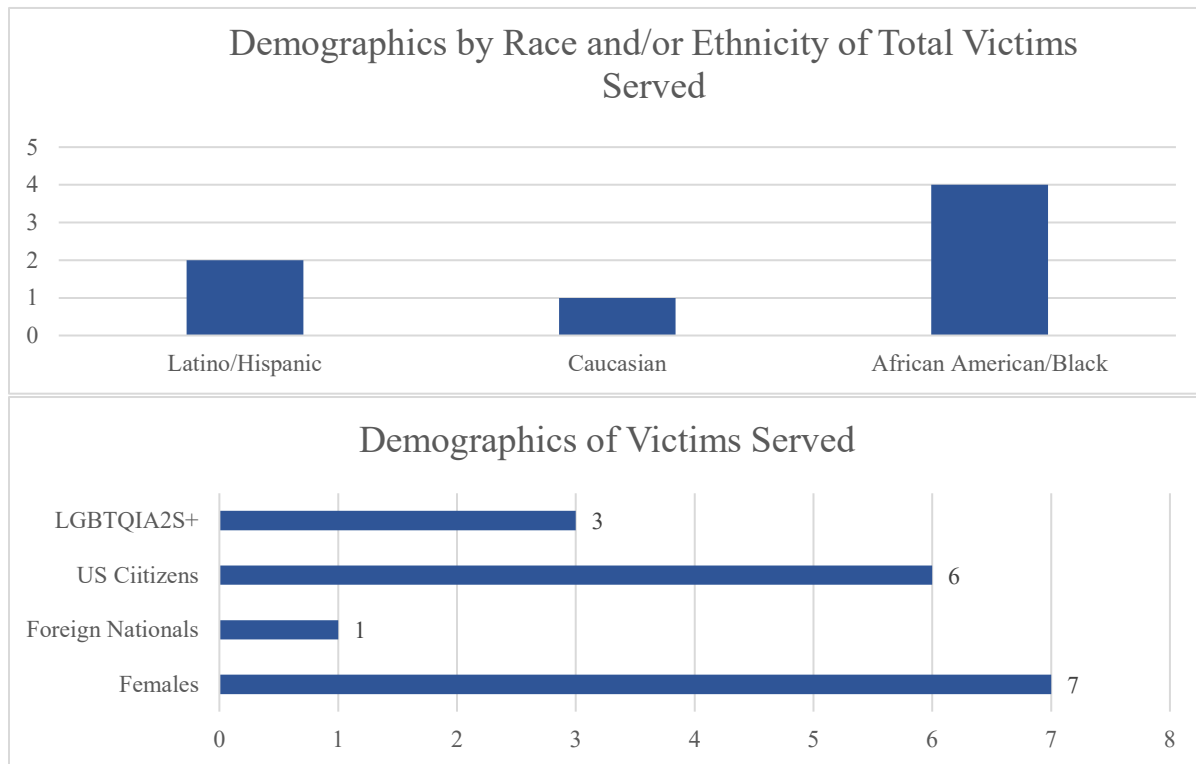
I AM VOICES



I AM VOICES INC. is a survivor led, 501(c)(3) organization based in North Charleston, SC, dedicated to serving women, especially those affected by sexual violence, sex trafficking, those aging out of foster care, and those experiencing homelessness. The mission of I AM VOICES is to provide restorative care to women who are at-risk or who have been victimized by sexual exploitation. Programs at I AM VOICES include a housing program, community flower garden, educational workshop, and an outreach program.

I AM VOICES served seven victims of sex trafficking in 2022, with a majority being female US citizens.

If you have any questions about, I AM VOICES INC., please email Founder/Executive Director, **Megan Manigault** at megan@iamvoices.org or visit I AM VOICES INC. website at <https://www.iamvoices.org/>.



Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) Child Abuse Pediatrics



The Medical University of South Carolina Child Abuse Pediatrics provides 24/7 consultations to health care centers in the Tri County area. Their team focuses on providing medical treatment for physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional/psychological abuse, and neglect. Their assembled staff involves three certified child abuse pediatricians, one board-eligible child abuse pediatrician, and one emeritus faculty member. They have five nurse practitioners and six pediatric nurse practitioners trained in sexual assault evidence collection.

The Medical University of South Carolina Child Abuse Pediatrics served nine female victims of sex trafficking in 2022, with all the individuals being US citizens.

If you have any questions about MUSC Child Abuse Pediatrics, please email **Katherine Fabrizio**, at fabrizi@musc.edu or visit their website at <https://musckids.org/>

Tri-County S.P.E.A.K.S. Sexual Assault Center



Founded in 1974 and located in Charleston, South Carolina, the Tri-County S.P.E.A.K.S. Sexual Assault Center offers essential services to victims and survivors of sexual violence through education, community engagement, sexual assault prevention and awareness in Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester counties. They provide confidential services to adults ages 18 and up at no-cost. This year, Tri-County S.P.E.A.K.S. Sexual Assault Center conducted 35 outreach events. For years, they have provided Prevention Education and assisted individuals from various ethnicity groups.

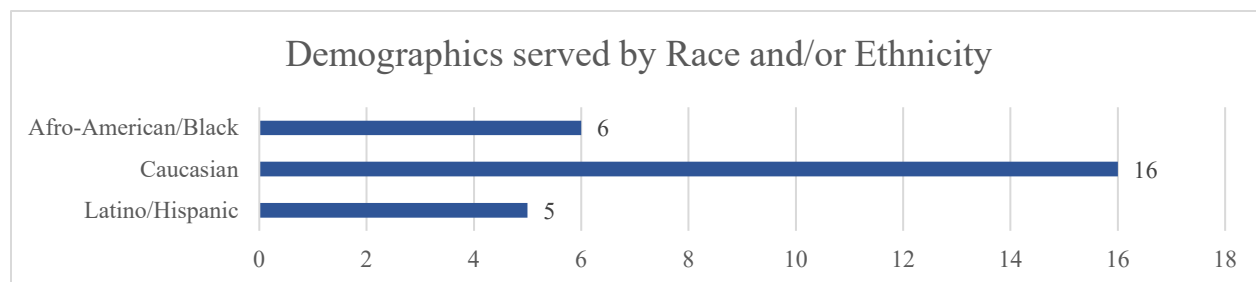
In 2022 they served 1 adult victim of human trafficking. If you have any questions about Tri-County S.P.E.A.K.S. Sexual Assault Center, please email **Shoshana Weiss** at shoshana@tricountyspeaks.org, or visit their website at <https://www.tricountyspeaks.org/>.

Dee Norton Children's Advocacy Center



Located in Charleston, South Carolina, the Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center has two locations that provide services to children and adults. The mission of the Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center is to prevent abuse, protect children and heal families. Dee Norton Children's Advocacy Center serves suspected youth of commercial sexual exploitation and labor trafficking. In 2022 Dee Norton was awarded a competitive grant by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) for its Improving Multidisciplinary Partnerships to Address Child Trafficking (IMPACT) Program. This marked the third time Dee Norton received this competitive grant, recognizing the organization as a leading expert in the field of child trafficking. The goal of the IMPACT Program is to ensure a trauma-informed community response to child trafficking while expanding and strengthening the trauma-informed services for minor victims of human trafficking in the community.

This year, Dee Norton CAC served 35 victims of human trafficking. Among the 35 served victims, four were adults, four minor males, and 25 minor females. In addition, there were 52 non-confirmed cases (suspected victims or youth at high risk for trafficking). The following graphs below show the demographics of victims served, in addition to demographics by race and/or ethnicity. If you have any questions, please contact **Rachael Garrett** at rgarrett@deenortoncenter.org, or visit their website at www.deenortoncenter.org.



Lowcountry Regional Task Force



Mission: The Lowcountry Human Trafficking Task Force strives to build productive relationships within the community to end human trafficking.

2022 Highlights: Members of the Lowcountry Human Trafficking Task Force and area law enforcement partners were recognized in 2022 by the South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson for their efforts in a multi-day human trafficking operation that netted 13 arrests, to include five from Hardeeville. Charges were related to commercial sex but also included drug and firearm offenses. Task Force members distributed human trafficking awareness materials at the annual Heritage Golf Tournament on Hilton Head Island in April and the 66th Annual Beaufort Water Festival in July. Task Force members collaborated to help a sex trafficking victim from Jasper County find safe shelter. Human trafficking awareness training was provided to the state's Department of Social Services directors in 2022. A virtual training was provided to the Social Justice Committee from the All-Saints Episcopal Church on Hilton Head Island.

Goals: The Task Force plans to update and refine their online presence, provide, or coordinate additional human trafficking training to law enforcement, create or coordinate better volunteering opportunities for task force members and interested community partners.

Regional Task Forces Chairs: Michelle Fraser, mfraser@scsolicitor14.org, Jojo Woodard, jojowoodardjr@jaspercountysc.gov

2023 Meeting Dates:

January 25th April 26th July 26th October 25th

14th Solicitor's Office



The Fourteenth Circuit Solicitor's Office is the primary prosecuting agency for the well-known Lowcountry area that consists of Allendale, Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper counties. This is the only identified five-county circuit in South Carolina. They have a Victims Services Center located within the Solicitor's Office headquarters. The 14th Circuit Solicitor's Office and associates initiated the Victims Services Center to aid victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child and elder abuse, and other crimes against vulnerable populations within the 14th Judicial Circuit.

During 2022 the 14th Circuit Victims Services Center reported serving one minor female and three adult female victims of human trafficking. If you have any questions for the 14th Circuit Solicitor's Office Victims Services Center, please contact **Erinn McGuire** at emcguire@scsolicitor14.org or visit their website at <https://scsolicitor14.org/>

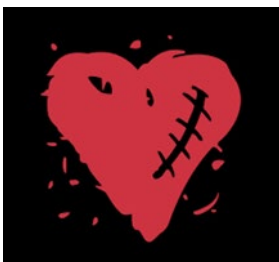
Hopeful Horizons



Hopeful Horizons is a children's advocacy, domestic violence and rape crisis center located in Beaufort, South Carolina and provide services to Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper counties for domestic violence and sexual assault. They aid in providing services to Allendale County for children's advocacy. They create safer communities by changing the culture of violence and offering a path to healing. Hopeful Horizons provide safety, hope and healing to survivors of child abuse, domestic violence and sexual assault through evidence-based practices and lead in ending abuse through primary prevention and education.

Hope Horizons has served two victims of sex trafficking in 2022, with both victims being minor females. If you have any questions about, Hopeful Horizons, please contact **Erin Hall** at halle@hopefulhorizons.org, or visit Hopeful Horizons website at <https://www.hopefulhorizons.org>.

Fresh Start Healing Heart



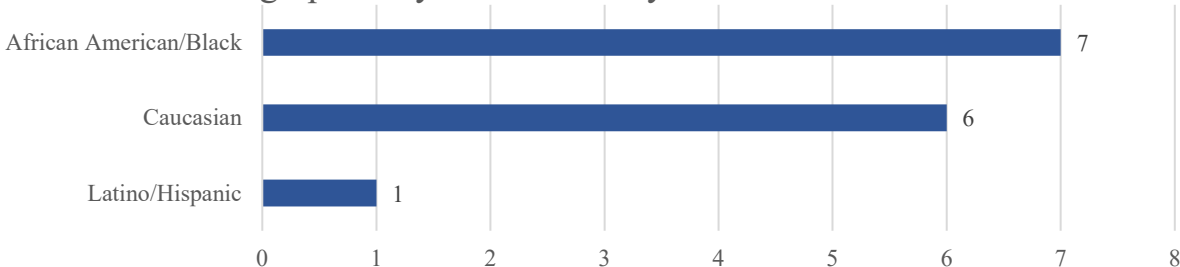
Fresh Start Healing Heart is a 501(c)(3) non-government organization that provide services to victims of human trafficking in the Lowcountry area of South Carolina. The organization focuses on delivering support and services to meet the basic needs of all housed victims, counseling to address one's emotional/psychological needs, and assisting everyone with reintegrating back into the community.

Fresh Start Healing Heart has served 14 victims of sex trafficking in 2022, to include 13 US Adult Females and one Foreign National Adult Female. All 14 victims served were sex trafficking cases. The following graphs illustrates the demographics by race and/or ethnicity, as well as all victims served. If you have any questions regarding the services that Fresh Start Healing Heart offer, please contact **Linda Noll** at lnoll2802@gmail.com, or visit their website at <https://www.freshstarthealingheart.org/>.

Demographics of Total Victims Served



Demographics by Race/Ethnicity of Total Victims Served

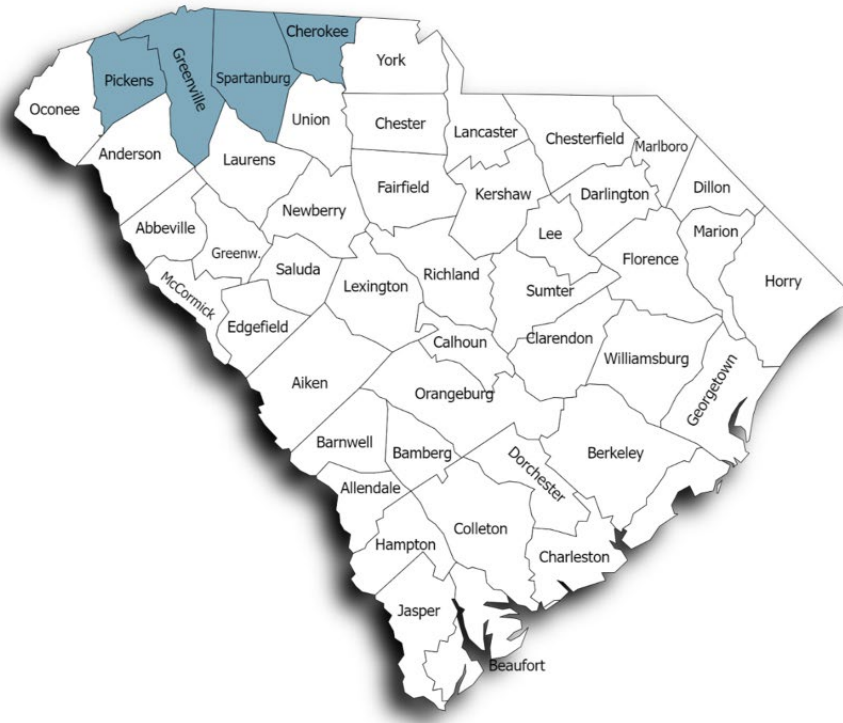


Orangeburg/Calhoun Regional Task Force



Upcoming Launch: 2023

Upstate Regional Task Force



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

2022 Highlights: The task force created and chaired a labor trafficking subcommittee and hosted the second annual Walk for Freedom with over 200 walkers bringing awareness to Travelers Rest and Greenville County.

Regional Task Force Chairs: Diana Kindley, dkindley@greenvillecounty.org and Michelle Cunningham, michelle.cunningham@dss.sc.gov

2023 Meeting Dates:

January 19th April 21st July 21st October 27th

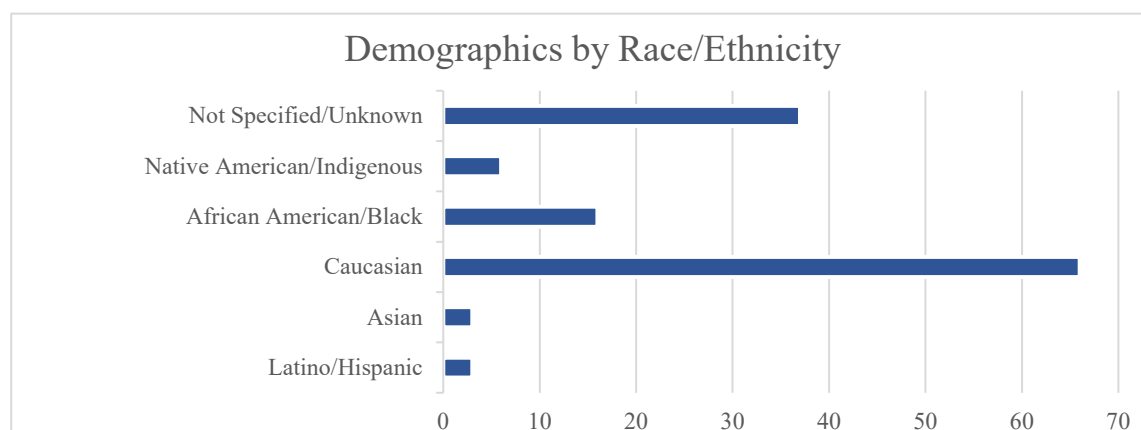
Jasmine Road



Jasmine Road is South Carolina's first two-year residential program for adult women survivors of human trafficking, prostitution, and addiction. Jasmine Road's residential program is in Greenville, SC but the organization serves the entire 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. Residential services at Jasmine Road include healthcare & dental services, trauma-informed therapy, addiction recovery treatment & support, creative & joy building opportunities, spiritual care, physical and mental health and wellness resources, employment readiness & career opportunities and continuing education. Jasmine Road also encompasses various social enterprise programs, including Jasmine Kitchen that offers stable and sustainable employment opportunities that maximizes positive social impact in the Greenville community, while generating funding for non-profit operations.

Jasmine Road has served 125 female survivors of human trafficking in 2022. The following graph represents the demographics by race and/or ethnicity of survivors served in 2022.

If you have any questions about Jasmine Road, please email **Beth Messick**, Executive Director of Jasmine Road at beth@jasmineroad.org or visit Jasmine Road's website, <https://www.jasmineroad.org>



Rivers of Justice



Rivers of Justice is an anti-human trafficking organization located in Greenville, SC and serves the Upstate region. Their mission to end domestic minor sex trafficking through prevention, education, demand, and action. In 2022, Rivers of Justice worked on the legislative round table to get bills passed related to human trafficking, especially of children, and put-up 25+ billboards in the Upstate related to child trafficking and internet safety. In addition, Rivers of Justice has a mentoring program in the school system for at risk children K-12. They have provided 25 outreach events for at risk children and children from the foster care system. Lastly, they have provided Darkness to Light trainings, free of charge, for individuals who work with vulnerable children. If you have any questions, please email **Dena Rapp** at dena@riversofjustice.org or visit their website at <https://riversofjustice.org/>.

Safe Harbor



Safe Harbor is a private 501(c)3 non-profit organization that offers a continuum of services for survivors of domestic violence and their children in Greenville, Anderson, Pickens, and Oconee Counties. Safe Harbor services include a 24/7 help line, safe emergency shelters, counseling for survivors of domestic abuse and their children, case management, assistance with filing for an order of protection, transitional housing, domestic violence education and parenting classes, and group support. Please note that services to human trafficking victims is limited to emergency shelter and advocacy services.

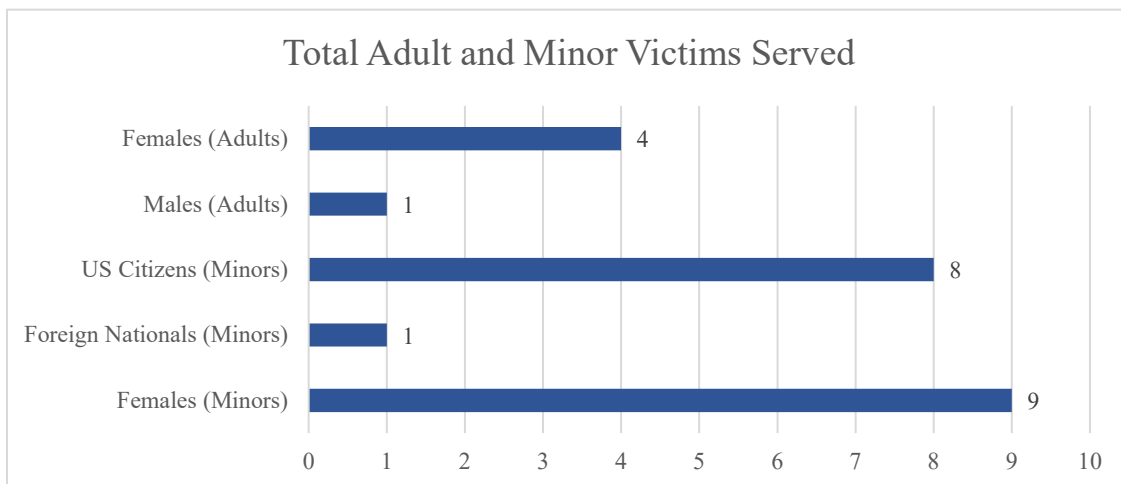
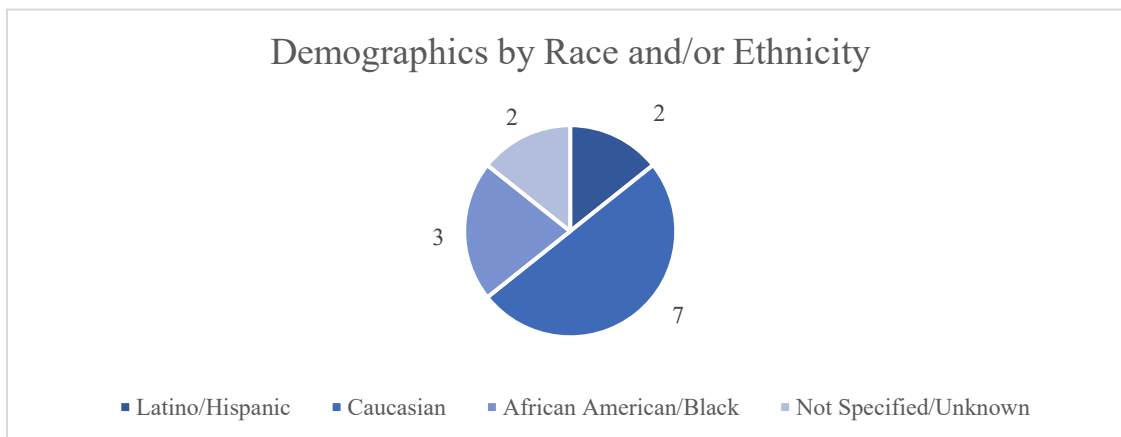
In 2022 Safe Harbor has served 361 adult victims of domestic violence, who received emergency shelter services. Out of the 361, eight were identified as female sex trafficking victims. If you have any questions, please email **Michelle Gilbert** at michelle.gilbert@safeharborsc.org, or visit their website at <https://www.safeharborsc.org/>.

Julie Valentine Center



Julie Valentine Center is a nonprofit organization in the Upstate that provides free, confidential services to sexual assault and child abuse survivors and their families. Their mission is as follows: To stop sexual violence and child abuse and the impact of these crimes through prevention, investigation, collaboration, treatment, and advocacy. Services at Julie Valentine include clinical mental health counseling, forensic interviewing, and pediatric sexual assault counseling.

In 2022 Julie Valentine has served 14 victims of sex trafficking. Nine of the 14 victims were minors, while the remaining five victims were adults. The following graphs depict the demographics by race and/or ethnicity, as well as minor versus adult victims. If you have any questions, please email **Kaci Rackley** at krackley@julievalentinecenter.org, or visit their website at <https://www.julievalentinecenter.org/>.



Foothills Regional 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.

Regional Task Force Chair: Maria Torres-Green, foothillshttf@gmail.com

2023 Meeting Dates:

January 19th April 20th August 17th November 16th

8th Judicial Circuit Regional Task Force



Upcoming Launch: 2023

8th Circuit Solicitor's Office



The 8th Circuit Solicitor's Office seeks to strike the balance of accountability and restorative justice, making the communities of Abbeville, Greenwood, Laurens, and Newberry counties a safer place to live, work and raise a family. The Eighth Circuit Solicitor's Office Victim Witness Program was developed to assist those who find themselves involved in the criminal justice system either as victims of a crime or as a witness.

In 2022 the 8th Judicial Circuit had served one minor victim of sex trafficking. With an upcoming Regional Task Force launch, the 8th Judicial Circuit hopes to increase their reach to support and advocate for more victims of human trafficking in the Abbeville, Greenwood, Laurens, and Newberry counties. If you have any questions, please email **Windy Chappell** at wchappell@greenwoodsc.gov, or visit their website at <http://www.scsolicitor8.org/>.

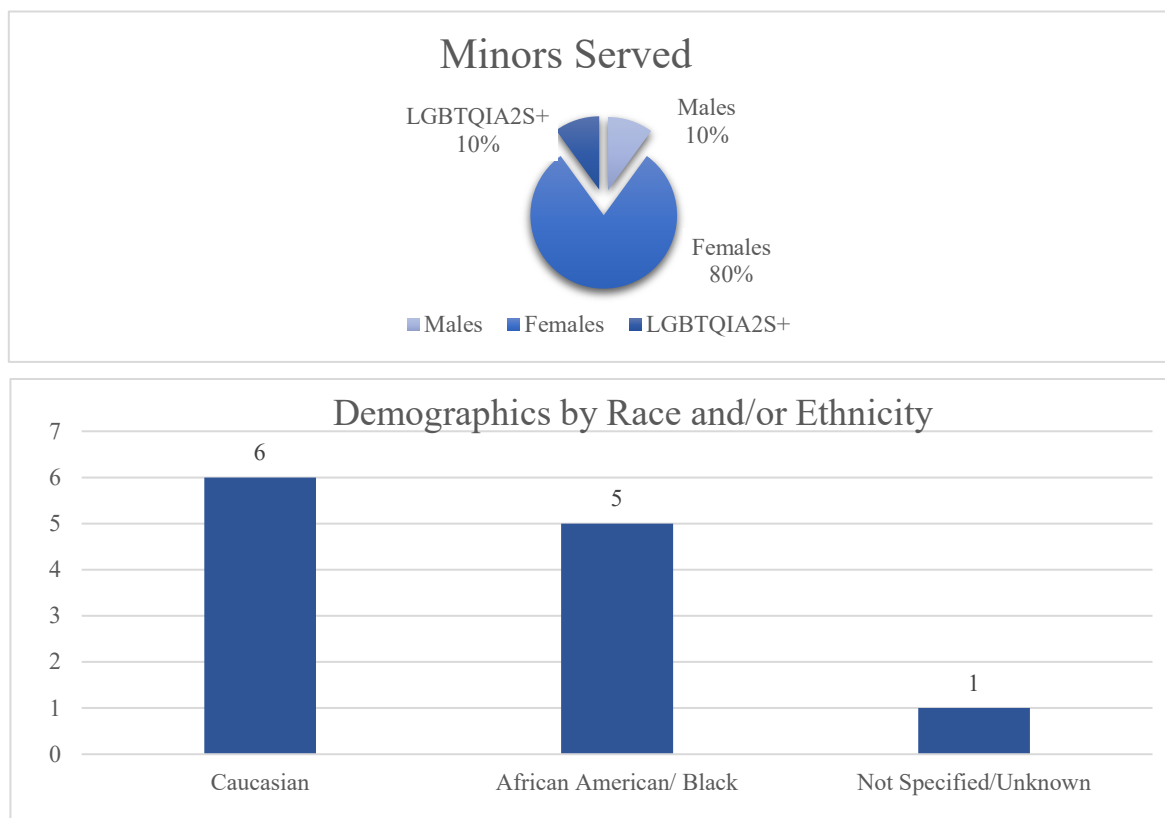
Beyond Abuse



Beyond Abuse is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that serves Abbeville, Greenwood, and Laurens counties in South Carolina. The mission is to lead our community beyond sexual violence and child abuse through awareness, advocacy, and action. Services at Beyond Abuse include 24/7 crisis response – hotline and emergency department on-call support, advocacy, therapy, assistance with filing victim's compensation, and education and awareness programs. In addition, children ages 17 and under who are referred by law enforcement agencies or the Department of Social Services may receive forensic interviews, child maltreatment medical exam, and multi-disciplinary team case reviews. Beyond Abuse operates one of 15 sexual assault programs and one of 17 accredited children's advocacy programs in South Carolina.

Beyond Abuse has served 12 victims/survivors of sex trafficking in 2022, with a majority being minor females as shown in the graph below. Additionally, the second graph depicts the demographics by race and/or ethnicity.

If you have any questions, please email **Jessica Bell** at jbelle@beyondabuse.info or visit their website at <https://beyondabuse.info>.



Catawba Area Task Force



Upcoming Relaunch: 2023

2nd Judicial Circuit Regional Task Force



Mission: The mission of the 2nd Judicial Circuit Human Trafficking Task Force is to combat human trafficking by providing training, education, and resources to promote a systemic, community-wide response while working collaboratively in a multidisciplinary format.

2022 Highlights: In January the task force placed bows and banners in Aiken, Barnwell, and Bamberg to promote awareness. An excel sheet was developed to better organize efforts, which was shared with other task forces. The task force transitioned back to in-person meetings, however, it is still utilizing a hybrid option. Lastly, members spoke at a few churches as requested, and hung posters in the Aiken Airport.

2023 Goals: 1) Continue to develop the excel sheet by populating mandated businesses in each tab and to make at least one visit to all locations ensuring the proper poster is in a conspicuous place. 2) Provide at least one training for law enforcement and Department of Social Services. 3) Continue to develop a resource list. 4) Solidify sub-committee members, chairs, and co-chairs. 5) Ask Aiken City Council for a proclamation on Jan 11th in effort to raise awareness for human trafficking. 6) Hold a youth summit on human trafficking.

Regional Task Force Chair: Maryann Burgess, mburgess@cacofaiken.org

2023 Meeting Dates:

February 10 th	April 21 st	June 23 rd
August 4 th	October 20 th	December 8 th

Helping Hands



Helping Hands is an emergency home for children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse, abandonment and/or neglect. They currently accept child victims of abuse, who do not have significant, maladaptive patterns of emotional or behavioral problems. Residents are primarily from Aiken County but can come from all over the state of South Carolina. Helping Hands staff teach their residents important life skills, support them emotionally, teach them coping skills, and provide educational/legal/medical advocacy. Helping Hands is committed to enriching the quality of life and well-being of children, youth, and families in need through a continuum of residential and community-based services to improve their health, independent living skills, educational outcomes, and/or resilience.

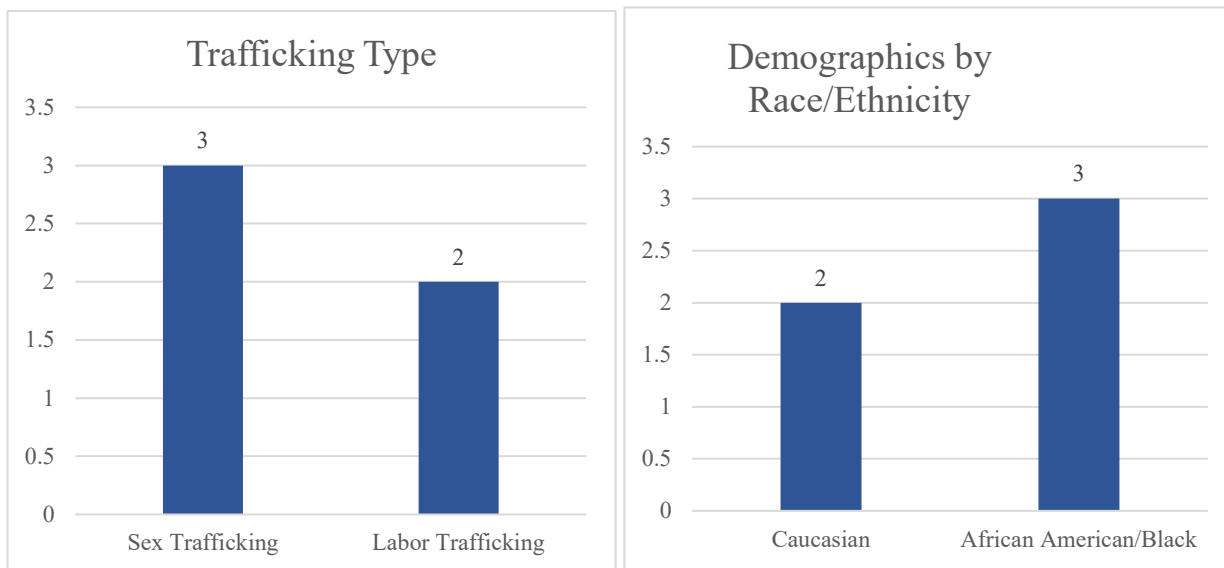
In 2022 Helping Hands facilitated two outreach events, and provided prevention education for ages up to 25. If you have any questions, please email **Monica Jeffcoat** at mjeffcoat@helpinghandsaiken.org, or visit their website at <https://helpinghandsaiken.org/>.

The Second Judicial Circuit Juvenile Arbitration Program



The Second Judicial Circuit Juvenile Arbitration Program is a community-based program that provides fast-track accountability for first-time youthful offenders charged with committing a nonviolent crime. These youth are diverted from the formal justice system to an arbitration hearing conducted in their community. Juvenile Arbitration holds young offenders accountable for their actions; increases competency and learning of young offenders so they can become productive, law-abiding citizens; and increases public safety by strengthening a community's capacity to prevent and control crime. The Juvenile Arbitration Program is in Aiken but serves the entire Midlands region. They provide prevention education for youth ages 11-18.

In 2022 The Juvenile Arbitration Program has served five female victims of human trafficking. Three of the five victims were victims of sex trafficking, while the remaining two were victims of labor trafficking. The following graphs show the trafficking type, as well as the demographics by race and/or ethnicity. If you have any questions, please email **Nina Spinelli** at nspinelli@aikencountysc.gov or visit their website at <https://www.scsolicitor2.org/JAP.php>.

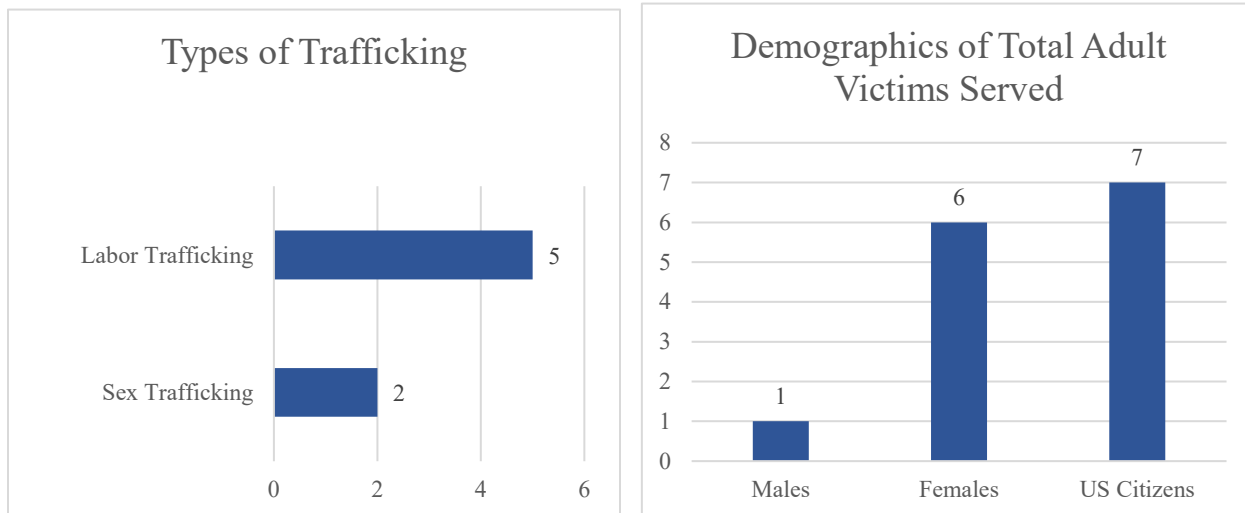


The Aiken Department of Public Safety



The Aiken Department of Public Safety's Mission is to maintain excellence in service through respect, professionalism, and transparency, to create and maintain dependable programs and strategies that foster our community partnerships, ensuring the City of Aiken is a secure place to live, work or visit. The Aiken Department of Public Safety Victim Services Division is designed to aid victims and witnesses of crime and other traumatic incidents in accordance with S.C Code of Laws Title 16, Chapter 13, Article 15, Victim and Witnesses Services.

In 2022 The Aiken Department of Public Safety has served five adult victims of labor trafficking, and two adult victims of sex trafficking. The following graphs show the type of trafficking, and the demographics by race and/or ethnicity. If you have any questions, please email **Eleanor Hunter** at ehunter@cityofaikensc.gov, or visit their website at <https://www.cityofaikensc.gov/offices/public-safety/>.



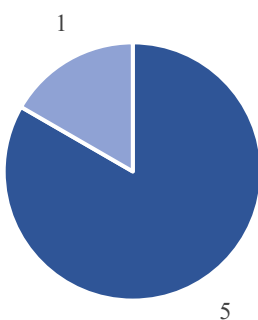
Child Advocacy Center of Aiken County



The mission of the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) of Aiken County is to provide intervention, treatment, and prevention services that promote healing for children and their families who have experienced abuse. All the healing services that children need – forensic interviews, medical care, advocacy support and counseling – are provided by experienced child abuse professionals in one safe location. The CAC of Aiken coordinates with other community agencies and professionals in order to ensure an effective response to cases of child abuse.

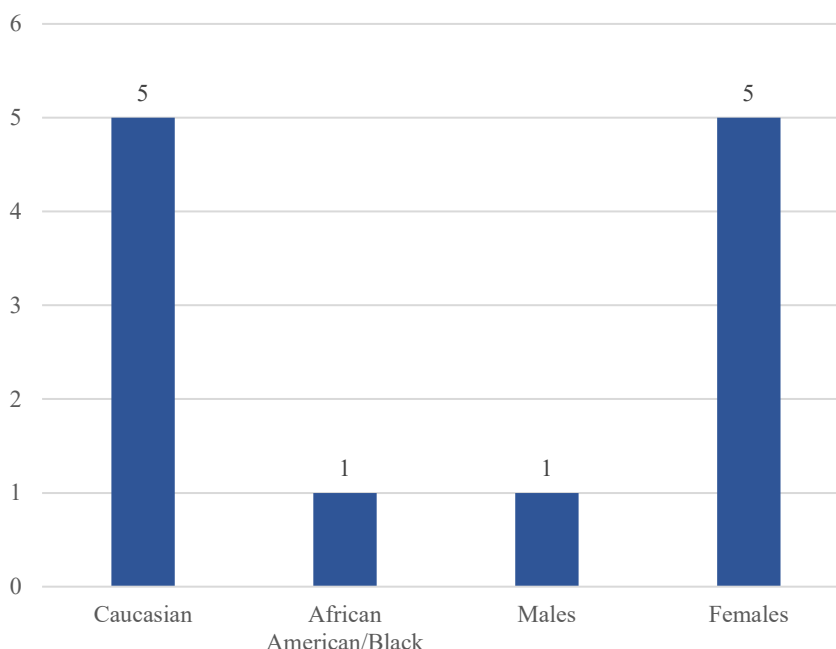
In 2022 The CAC of Aiken facilitated approximately 10 outreach events and has served at least five minor female victims of sex trafficking, and one minor male victim of labor trafficking. The following graphs show the demographics of all six minor victims. If you have any questions, please email **Maryann Burgess** at mburgess@cacofaiken.org or visit their website at <https://www.childadvocacyaiken.org/>.

Trafficking Type



■ Sex Trafficking
■ Labor Trafficking

Demographics of Minor Victims Served



Lexington, Edgefield, McCormick, Saluda (LEMS) Regional Task Force



2022 Highlights: The task force provided a booth with education and awareness materials at the South Carolina Sportsman Classic held at the fairgrounds in March. Hotline posters were distributed for posting at the South Carolina Farmers Markets. The task force has also engaged more members to join from neighboring counties by offering a hybrid meeting format hosted by the Columbia Metro Airport Department of Public Safety.

2023 Goals: The Task Force plans to host a panel luncheon with a guest speaker for Human Trafficking Awareness month. They will also be again pursuing a booth at the South Carolina Sportsman Classic and working with the State Task Force to obtain a booth at the South Carolina State Fair. Efforts will be made to ensure that smaller private airports have hotline posters displayed.

Regional Task Force Chair: Eric Russell, erussell@dickersoncac.org

2023 Meeting Dates:

February 14 th	April 11 th	June 13 th
August 8 th	October 10 th	December 12 th

Richland County Regional 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.

2022 Highlights: The Task Force highlighted January Human Trafficking Awareness Month by “Canvassing the County” with human trafficking hotline posters and hosting awareness events at colleges in Richland County (University of South Carolina and Columbia College).

Regional Task Force Chair: Jennifer Mason, mason.jennifer@richlandcountysc.gov

2023 Meeting Dates:

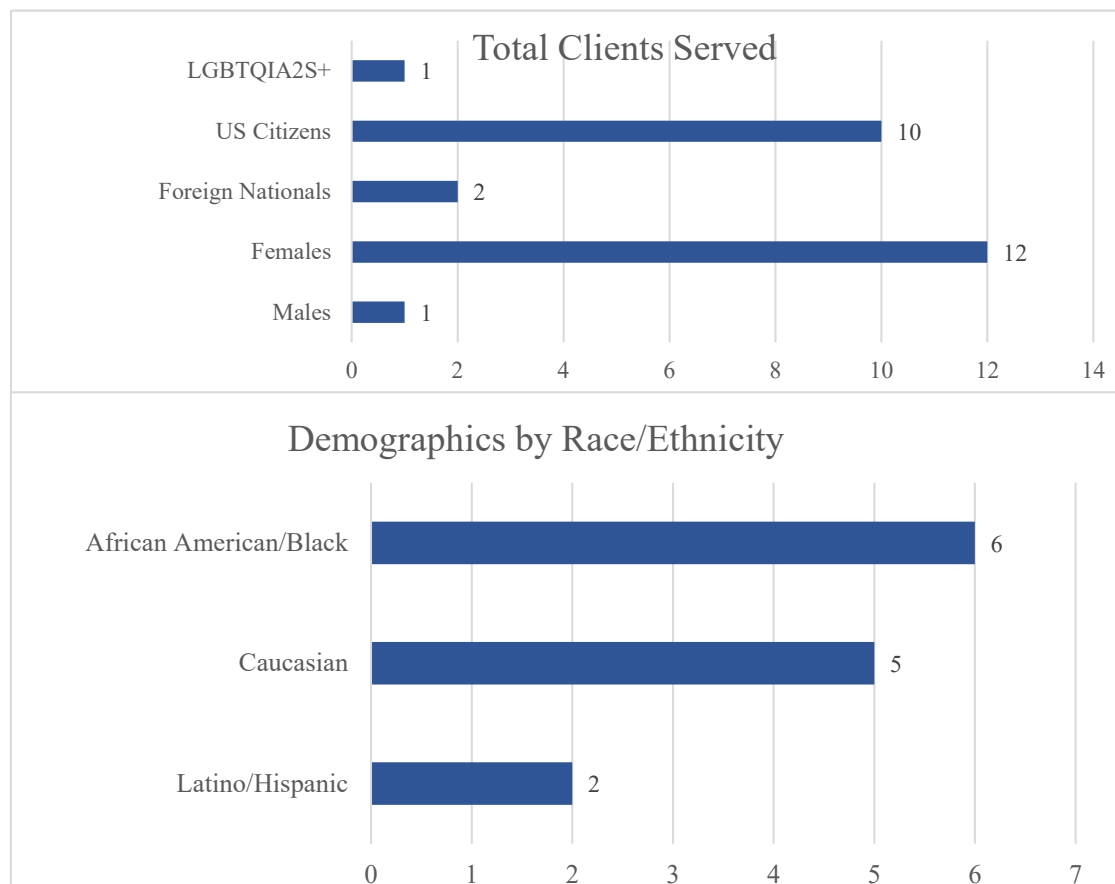
January 20 th	March 17 th	May 19 th
July 21 st	September 15 th	November 10 th

Richland County Court Appointed Special Advocates



The Richland County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) advocates for the best interests of abused and neglected children in Richland County Family Court by providing quality volunteer and legal representation to ensure each child a safe, permanent, nurturing home. Richland County CASA devotes staff solely to advocate for child victims of human trafficking, as well as to coordinate the Richland County Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force.

In 2022 Richland County CASA reported serving 13 minor victims of human trafficking. A majority of these were female and victims of sex trafficking. The following graphs delves deeper into the clients served and demographics by race and/or ethnicity. If you have any questions for Richland County CASA, please email **Jennifer Mason** at mason.jennifer@richlandcountysc.gov, at or visit their website at <https://rccasa.org/contact>.



Zonta Club of Columbia



Zonta Club of Columbia is affiliated with Zonta International, a global initiative established to uplift women and girls worldwide. 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. Zonta works with a variety of populations, but this year focused on women in transition who were struggling with a variety of issues as they were housed in a group home setting. Zonta partnered with the USC Nursing Department on this initiative to provide health-related information to the women.

Zonta has adopted the topic of human trafficking as an area of awareness focus. This year they hosted a virtual awareness presentation for all the Zonta groups in South Carolina about human trafficking data in South Carolina. If you have any questions, please email **Dr. Pam Imm** at drpamimm@gmail.com.

The Hive Community Circle



The Hive Community Circle is a survivor-led, survivor-driven support organization helping women and girls in South Carolina overcome the trauma of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking. The mission is to provide unwavering support and compassion to the most impacted, yet most underserved survivors in South Carolina. The Hive provides prevention trainings on various topic areas such as sexual assault and intimate partner violence, healthy relationships for parents, teens, and young adults, cultural humility trainings, BIPOC trauma-informed training, anti-oppression prevention and advocacy trainings, and community accountability trainings. In addition, The Hive offers evidence-based trauma counseling, peer healing circles, victim advocacy and wraparound services, and emergency economic relief for victims of human trafficking.

In 2022 The Hive has served one male victim of sex trafficking. If you have any questions, please email **Ari Foster** at ari@thehivecc.org, or visit their website at <https://www.thehivecc.org/>

Pathways to Healing



Pathways to Healing is a private, nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization, incorporated in 1983. One of 15 rape crisis centers in South Carolina, Pathways to Healing advocates for and supports survivors of sexual assault and abuse in Richland, Lexington, Newberry, Clarendon, and Sumter counties and educates the community to identify and prevent sexual violence. Their mission is ending sexual violence through advocacy, education, and supportive services. Pathways to Healing provides prevention education to schools and youth service agencies.

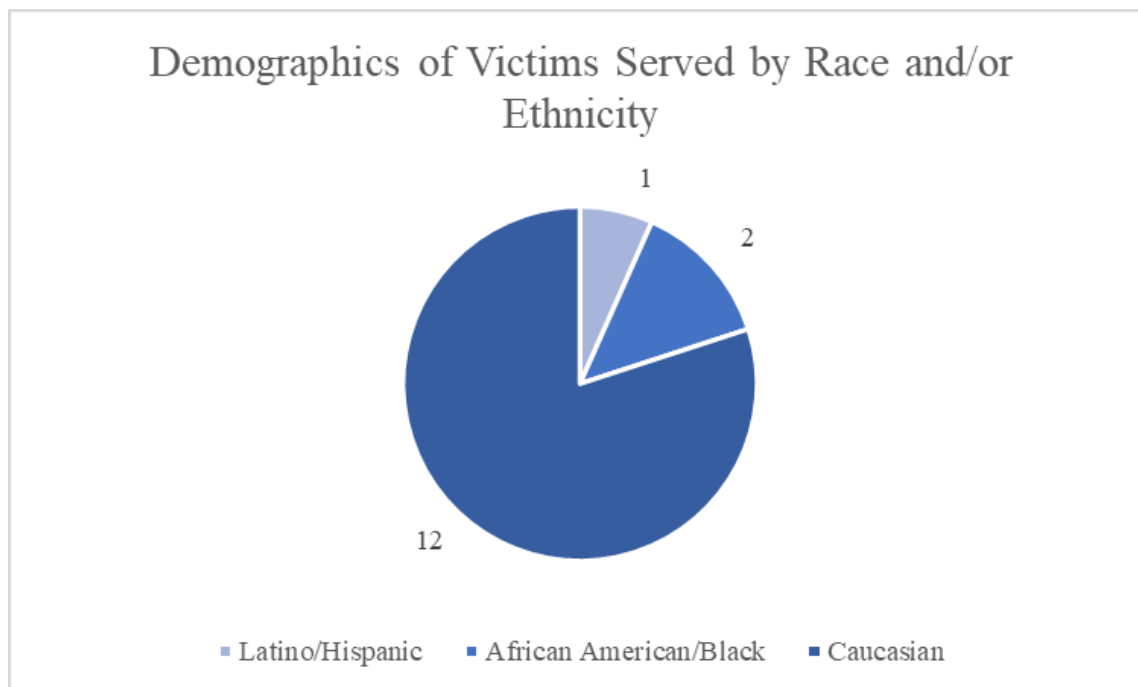
In 2022 Pathways to Healing has served 21 victims of sex trafficking. Two of the 21 victims were minor females, while the remaining 19 were adults. Pathways to Healing is represented at the Regional and State Task Force meetings by Tanisha Tate. If you have any questions, please email **Kristin Dickson** at kristind@pathwaystohealing.com, or visit their website at <https://pathwaystohealing.com/>.

Lighthouse for Life

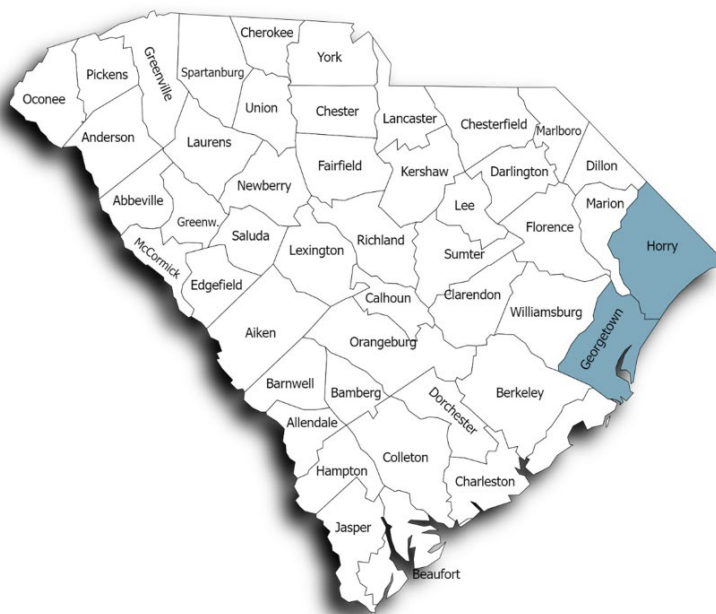


Lighthouse for Life is a Christian-based organization that serves human trafficking victims throughout the state of South Carolina. Lighthouse for Life's mission is to fight to eradicate human trafficking by educating our community and empowering survivors. Lighthouse provides resources, referrals, and physical needs assistance to victims, survivors, and their families. Lighthouse has secured an apartment called The Anchor that will provide transitional and emergency housing to victims and survivors of trafficking. This is not available for open referrals from the community except for emergency short term situations.

Lighthouse reported conducting 67 outreach events in 2022 and has a walk-through experience that allows someone to better understand the possible reality of a sex trafficking victim. In 2022 Lighthouse served 14 female victims and one male victim of sex trafficking, 11 of those were U.S. citizen adults, and four were minors. In addition, Lighthouse served five suspected victims of human trafficking. If you have any questions, please email **Lisa Kejr** at lisa@lighthouseforlife.org, or visit their website at <https://lighthouseforlife.org/>.



Coastal Region Regional Task Force



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

2022 Highlights: In 2022 the Coastal Region Human Trafficking Task Force partnered with the 15th Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office Diversion Program to provide prevention education to their clients. The task force also partnered with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and provided one hour training to law enforcement officers in Horry and Georgetown Counties. The task force also expanded its interfaith subcommittee, worked with local juvenile solicitors to help identify at-risk youth, and developed a mobile application to provide resources to law enforcement officers.

Goals: In 2023 the Coastal Region Human Trafficking Task Force plans to expand the mobile application to assist all law enforcement officers in Horry and Georgetown Counties; work with local non-profit organizations to identify potential human trafficking victims and offer referral assistance, as needed; and expand membership and prevention education in Georgetown County.

Regional Task Force Chair: Captain Sherri Smith, smithsh@horrycountysc.gov

2023 Meeting Dates:

February 20th

May 22nd

August 21st

November 20th

Horry County Police Department



The Horry County Police Department's mission is to provide quality law enforcement, detention, court security, and civil services to the citizens and visitors of Horry County, by treating others with dignity and respect, while being good stewards of the public's trust.

In 2022 the Horry County Police Department partnered with the 15th Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office Diversion Programs and provided bi-monthly awareness presentations to adults and juveniles who may be at risk of becoming a victim of trafficking. They also facilitated a one-hour training block for local law enforcement during National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI), 40-hour training classes and developed a mobile application that will be used by local law enforcement as a screening and referral tool. If you have any questions, please email **Captain Sherri Smith** at smithsh@horrycountysc.gov, or visit their website at <https://www.horrycountysc.gov/departments/police/>.

McLeod Regional Medical Center

McLeod Health

For the first time beginning in 2022, victims of sexual assault in the Pee Dee have access to specialized, trauma-informed care without having to leave the region with the establishment of the McLeod Health Forensic Nurse Examiner (FNE) Program. The McLeod Health Forensic Nurse Examiner Team delivers compassionate, expert care to victims of violence and neglect by utilizing the most up-to-date evidence-based, trauma-informed, and patient centered forensic nursing practices. The program initiated on January 10, 2022, and since that time, they have cared for 88 sexual assault/abuse patients. In that short time, they have also started a regional Sexual Assault Response and Resource Team (SARRT), excluded Horry County, and earned Level 1 SAFE Designation from the state.

In 2022 the FNE Program has served three victims of sex trafficking. Two of which were adult females, and one of which was a minor female. If you have any questions, please email **Shannon Scott** at Shannon.scott@mcleodhealth.org, or visit their website at <https://www.mcleodhealth.org/about-us/>.

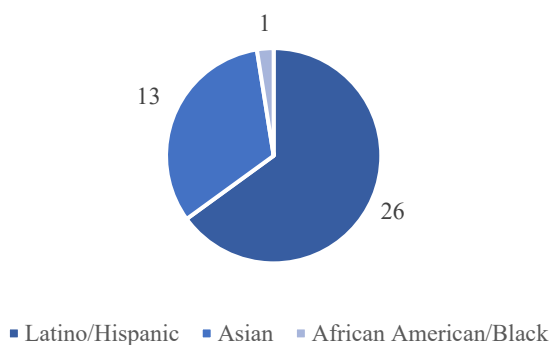
Engaging Minds Services, Inc.



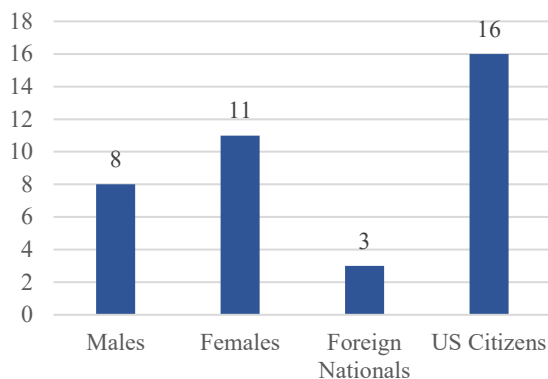
Engaging Minds Services, INC. is a non-profit organization located in the Pee Dee region. Engaging Minds strives to fulfill their mission to provide hope and empowerment to those who are affected by human trafficking and abuse. Engaging Minds provides prevention education for ages five and up in Horry and Georgetown Counties.

In 2022 Engaging Minds facilitated approximately 15 outreach events. Additionally, the organization has served 40 victims of human trafficking. 19 were minor victims, while 21 were adult victims. The following graphs show the type of trafficking, demographics for minor and adult victims served, as well as demographics by race and/or ethnicity of all victims served. If you have any questions, please email **Shelbia Cater Wiley** at swiley@engagingmindservices.org, or visit their website at <https://www.engagingminds.info/>

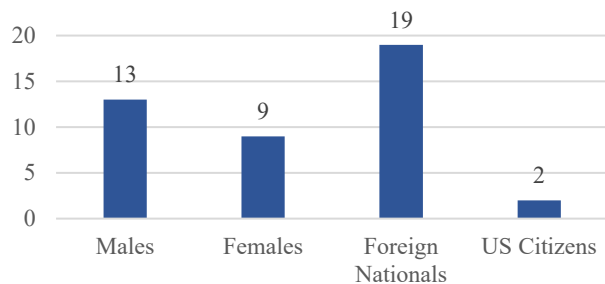
Demographics by Race and/or Ethnicity for Total Victims Served



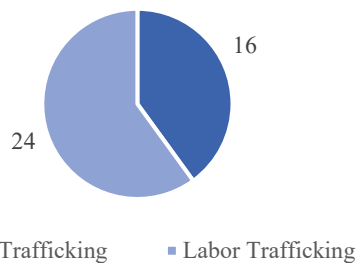
Demographics of Total Minors Served



Demographics of Total Adults Served



Trafficking Type



Upper Pee Dee Regional Task Force



Upcoming Launch: 2023

Lower Pee Dee Regional Task Force



Upcoming Launch: 2023

2023 Meeting Calendar

In 2023 the State Task Force will continue to meet quarterly. The location of the meetings has not yet been determined. However, the Task Force would like to thank the West Columbia Municipal Complex for providing a consistent place to host these meetings. We 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 3rd (Virtual)

Friday, June 2nd (In person)

Friday, September 1st (Virtual)

Friday, December 1st (In person)

Virtual meetings will be recorded. Recordings of the meetings 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, Abby Zilch, Human Trafficking 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) to complete a form or email schttfevents@scag.gov.

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 combatting human trafficking in South Carolina.

We would like to recognize the contributions made to this report by service providers across our state. Additionally, we would like to thank the following individuals for their work on the report. Thank you for your dedication to the cause and ensuring that anti-human trafficking efforts across the state are recognized each year.

Special Thanks to,

Office of the South Carolina Attorney General Staff

Kathryn Moorehead, Ed.M.
Director

Nikki Brown, MA
Program Coordinator

Monique Garvin, LMSW, MPA
Deputy Director

Aryaa Regmi, MA
Program Coordinator

Mandy Bowden, MCJ
Program Coordinator

Abby Zilch
Program Coordinator

James Massie, MSW
Program Coordinator

Heather Weiss, JD
Senior Assistant Deputy Attorney General

South Carolina Court Administration

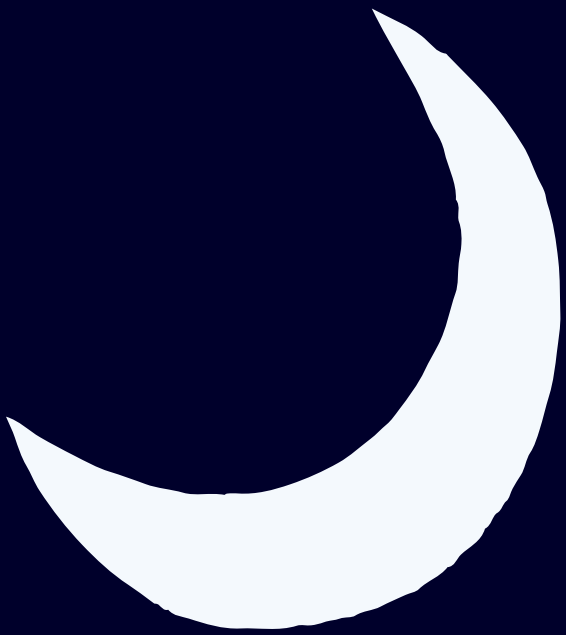
Jamesetta Lovett

Polaris/National Human Trafficking Hotline

Christina Lee, Data Systems Manager

The Office of the South Carolina Attorney General would also like to thank: State Task Force Subcommittee Chairs, Regional Task Force Chairs, and other agencies, organizations, and individuals who provided valuable feedback and recommendations for the 2022 Annual Report.

If you have questions about the 2022 Annual Report or would like additional information, please contact Kathryn Moorehead, Director, VAWA Programs/ South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force, at kmoorehead@scag.gov



/SCHUMAN
TRAFFICKING
TASKFORCE



@SC_HTTP