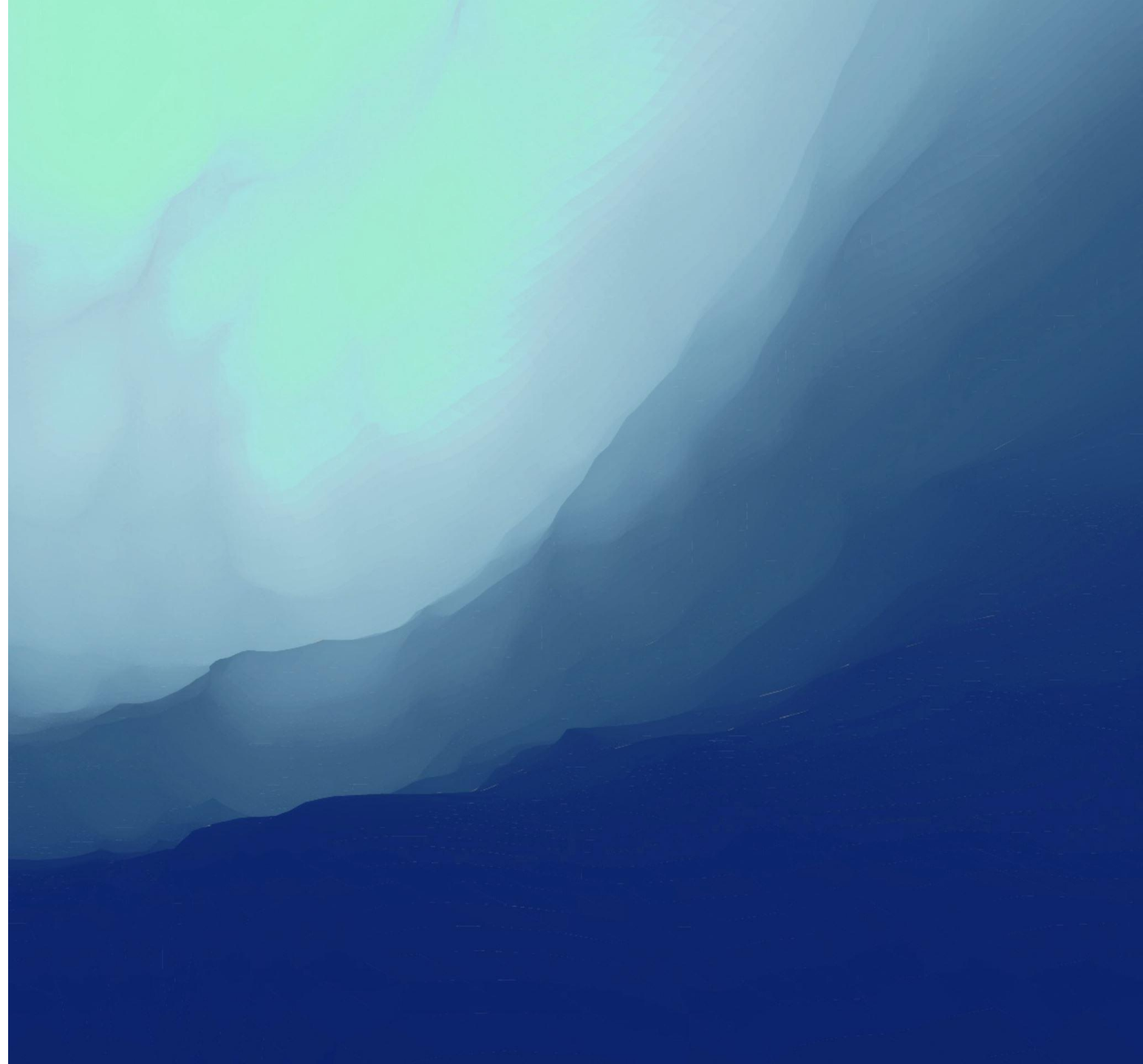


---

# UNDERSTANDING AND ADDRESSING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN YOUR WORK

Bethany Gilot,  
National Consultant on  
Anti-Trafficking Policy  
and Practice





---

# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Define and understand human trafficking
- Discuss strategies for identification and reporting suspected human trafficking
- Highlight projects that support the integration of human trafficking and mental health initiatives
- Provide resources for additional learning

---

# POLL

- Have you received training on human trafficking before?
  - A) Yes
  - B) No
  - C) Yes, but I could use a refresher



# HUMAN TRAFFICKING DEFINED

## **Labor Trafficking**

The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

## **Sex Trafficking**

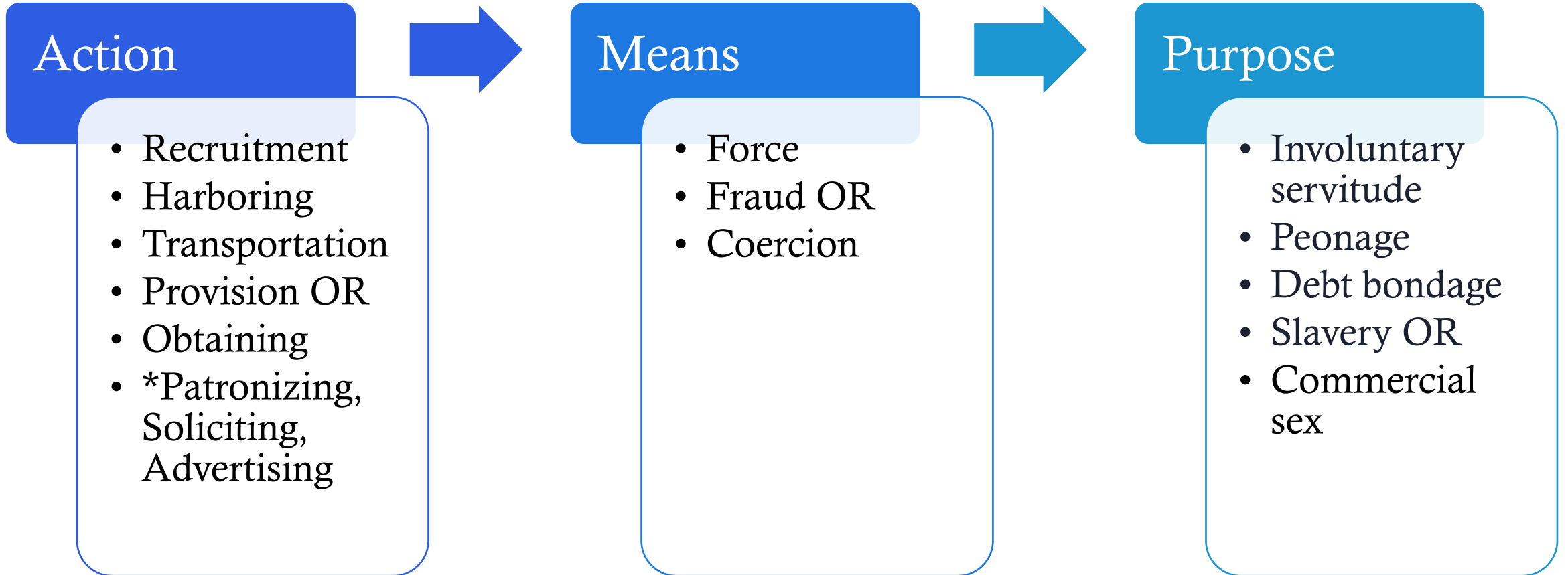
The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, soliciting or advertising of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age. A “commercial sex act” is any sex act on account of which anything of value is given to or received by any person.

Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, Pub. L. No.106-386, 8 U.S.C. §1101, §7101, 114 Stat. 1464 (2000).  
<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/BILLS-106hr3244enr/pdf/BILLS-106hr3244enr.pdf>

Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (JVTA), Pub. L. No. 114-22, 18 U.S.C. §1591, 129 Stat. 227 (2015)

# ELEMENTS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

---





ADDRESSING  
MYTHS,  
MISCONCEPTIONS  
& HARMFUL  
IMAGERY



---

# VENUES IN WHICH SEX TRAFFICKING CAN OCCUR

- Escort services
- Illicit massage businesses
- Internet-based sex work
- Illicit sex work
- Bars and strip clubs
- Pornography

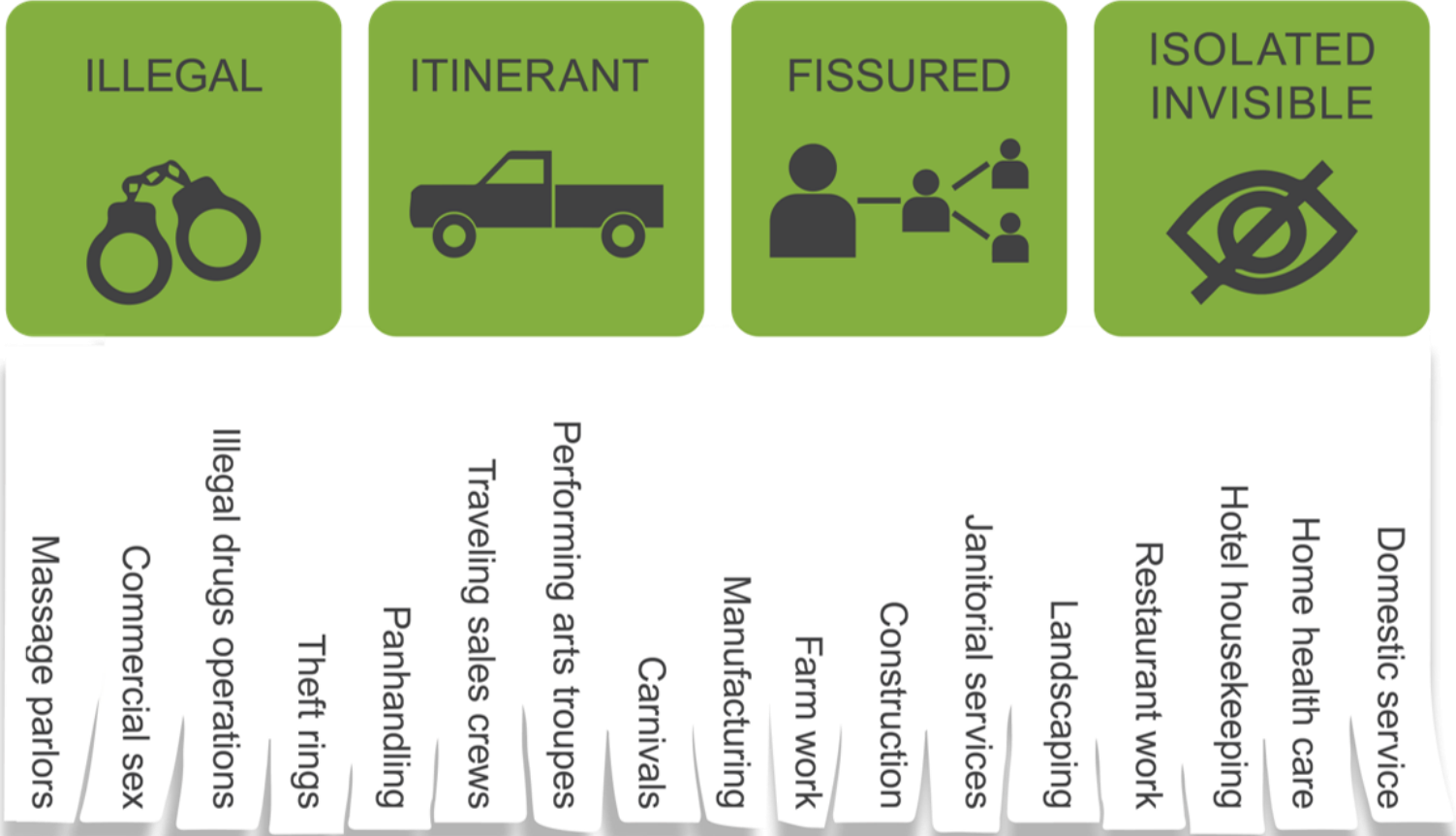
---

# LABOR TRAFFICKING





# WHERE DOES LABOR TRAFFICKING OCCUR IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

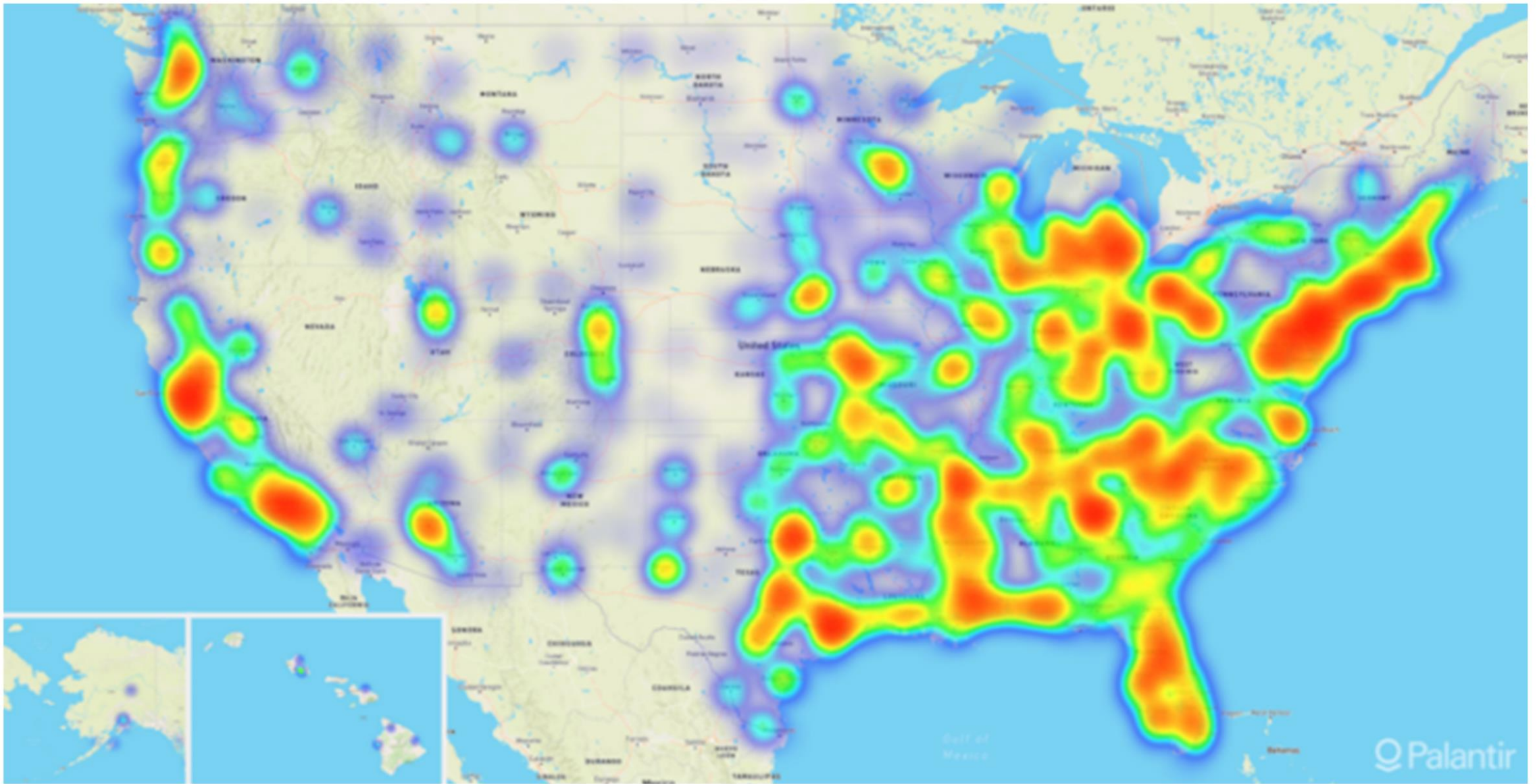


---

# WHAT WE KNOW





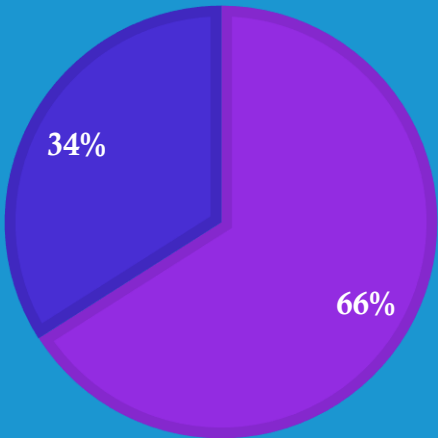


National Human Trafficking Hotline. (2022). *Polaris Analysis of 2021 Data from the National Human Trafficking Hotline*. Polaris.  
<https://polarisproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Polaris-Analysis-of-2021-Data-from-the-National-Human-Trafficking-Hotline.pdf>

# History of Child Abuse and Neglect

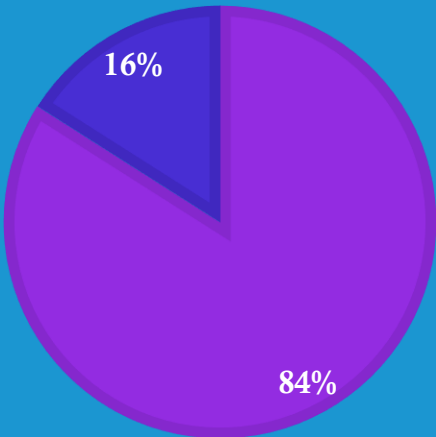
## Prior maltreatment: labor trafficking

■ Yes ■ No

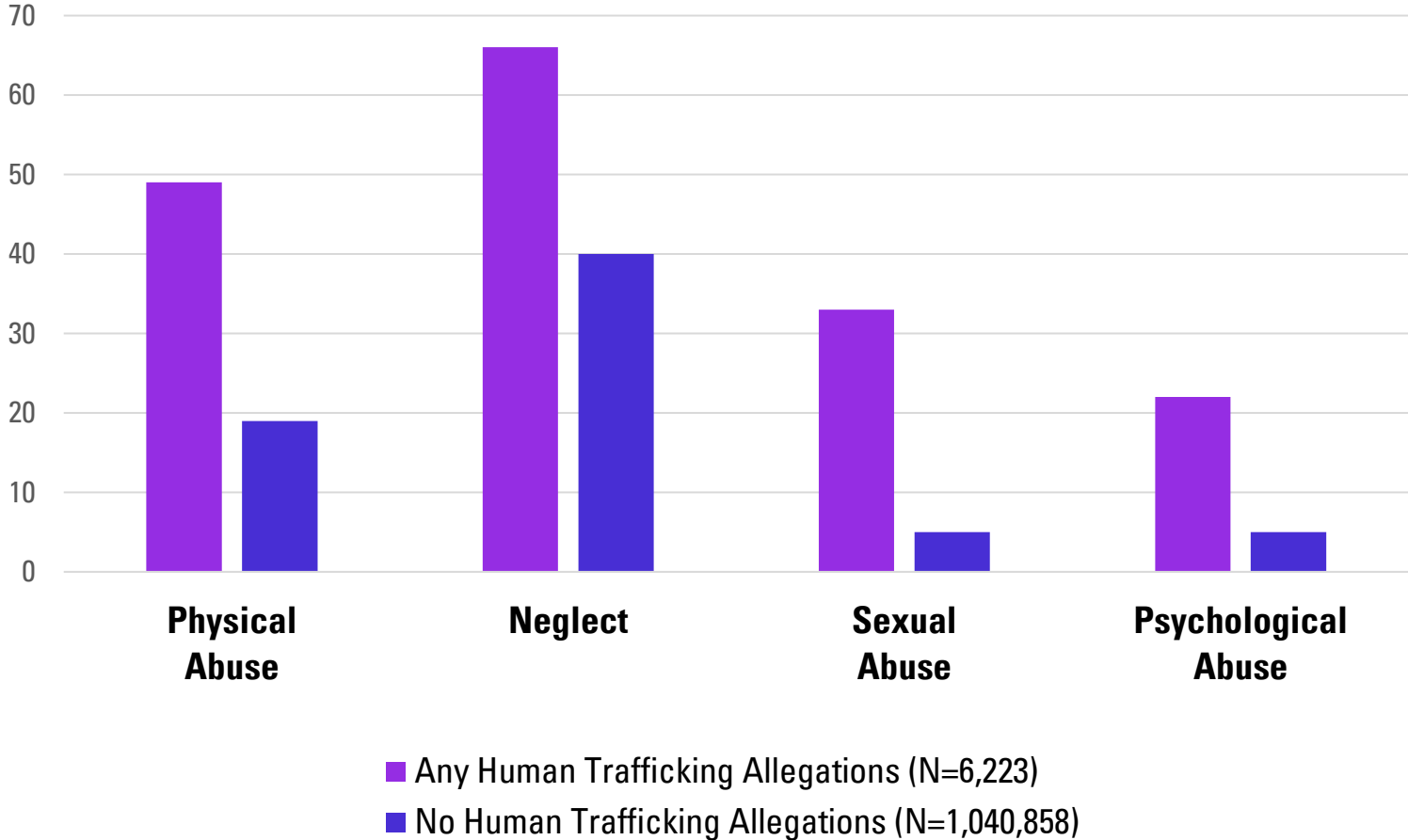


## Prior maltreatment: sex trafficking

■ Yes ■ No



## Number of Children With Prior Allegations (by Type of Maltreatment)



SOURCE: Gibbs, D. A., Aboul-Hosn, S., & Kluckman, M. (2020). Child labor trafficking within the U.S.: A first look at allegations investigated by Florida's Child Welfare Agency. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, 6(4), 435-449. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23322705.2019.1594551>

# RISK FACTORS AND VULNERABILITIES

---

Adverse Childhood Experiences

All forms of child abuse and neglect

Prior exploitation

Separation from family/community

Rejection by family

Community violence

Involvement in the juvenile/criminal justice system

Immigration status

Limited employment opportunities

Family history of trafficking victimization

Substance misuse

---

# THE IMPORTANCE OF MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS

Persons experiencing HT may experience trauma that results in mental health complications

Mental health professionals are a vital component of identification and support efforts and can receive training to support identification of persons who may not self-identify or recognize their victimization

Persons who have experienced HT may not initially want help or see themselves as needing assistance making trauma-informed identification efforts vital.

Mental health professionals are uniquely equipped to provide short and long-term trauma-informed care that can meet the wholistic needs of persons who have experienced/are experiencing HT.

There is a continuous need to build on existing research regarding evidence-based interventions and promising practices in addressing the mental and behavioral health needs of persons who have experienced HT.



---

# WHAT WE CAN DO



# SCREENING FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING

## VALIDATED TOOLS

National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States. (2020). *Best practices and recommendations for states*.

[https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/otip/nac\\_report\\_2020.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/otip/nac_report_2020.pdf)

Tool Identifier	In-Depth	Short/Rapid	Demographic	Environment	Available Online
Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool (CSE-IT)		X	Ages 10+; sex trafficking only	Multiple settings, including child welfare and juvenile justice systems, schools, homeless youth shelters, health care and mental health settings	X
Human Trafficking Interview and Assessment Measure (HTIAM-14)		X	Homeless youth; sex trafficking and labor trafficking	Service provider setting	X
Human Trafficking Screening Tool (HTST/HTST-SF)	X	X	Ages 18–24; sex trafficking only	Runaway and homeless youth system settings	X
Quick Youth Indicators for Trafficking (QYIT)		X	Homeless youth; sex trafficking and labor trafficking	Service provider setting	X
Short Screen for Child Sex Trafficking		X	Ages 12–18; sex trafficking only	Health care setting	X
Vera Institute's Trafficking Victim Identification Tool (TVIT)	X	X	Ages 13+; sex trafficking and labor trafficking	Not specified	X



# IF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS DISCLOSED OR SUSPECTED

## **The person is a child (as defined by your state)**

Assess and address immediate safety needs

Report all cases of suspected or confirmed human trafficking to your child welfare agency per your state's mandated reporting requirements.

## **The person is NOT a child**

Assess and address immediate safety needs

Is the person who is experiencing or may be experiencing trafficking ready to report on their experience?

- If no, support the person and address any needs
  - **If yes, then you can call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 and/or local law enforcement**
-

---

# FEDERAL LAW REQUIREMENTS

As a result of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (JVTA) (2015), sex trafficking falls within the definition of child abuse and neglect within the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)

As a result of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2022 (TVPRA), labor trafficking falls within the definition of child abuse and neglect per CAPTA

Mandated reports must report concerns of sex and/or labor trafficking as child abuse per state and local child welfare reporting requirements

---

# ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Learn about your state and/or community's responses to human trafficking
    - Which type(s) of trafficking are included in my state's definition of child abuse and neglect?
    - Are there required screening and reporting practices?
    - Are there commonly utilized screening tools or other resources?
    - Are there community trainings on HT available?
    - Are there specialized services or providers in my community that are equipped to support persons who have experienced trafficking?
    - Are there local human trafficking task forces that I can engage with to receive further education or understand local resources?
-

---

# REGION IV RAISE PROJECT WORKPLAN

**Goal:** We envision a system of care within HHS Region 4 that comprehensively integrates state legislation and policy, direct service provision, and all other strategies and initiatives addressing mental and behavioral health, substance use disorder, and human trafficking. This integrated system of care response will:

- Increase human trafficking knowledge and practice...within policy and programs addressing substance use disorder and mental/behavioral health.
  - Increase mental/behavioral health and substance use disorder knowledge and practice...within policy and programs addressing human trafficking.
  - Ensure that policy and service approaches meet the needs of persons of all ages, genders, sexual orientations, races, ethnicities, and immigration statuses, including necessary accommodations for persons with disabilities.
- 



---

# REGION IV RAISE PROJECT WORKPLAN



Prevention



Training



Collaboration and Partnerships



Access to Care/Quality of Care

---

# Q&A





# RESOURCES

- [Interventions to support the mental health of survivors of modern slavery and human trafficking: A systematic review](#)
- [Psychological Perspectives on Human Trafficking: Theory, Research, Prevention, and Intervention](#)
- [SOAR Online | NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER \(hhs.gov\)](#)
- [Guiding Principles for Agencies Serving Survivors of Trafficking](#)
- [Home - Polaris \(polarisproject.org\)](#)
- [National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States Report \(hhs.gov\)](#)
- [Toolkit for Building a Human Trafficking School Safety Protocol \(hhs.gov\)](#)
- [Safety Planning Information | National Human Trafficking Hotline](#)

“Look at me. See me as I am; a human being with feelings...Help me. Listen to me. Help me tackle the trauma. Provide me with support systems and a safe space to rise and become the noble being I was meant to be.”  
(RTI, 2021)

---

# THANK YOU!

Bethany Gilot, National Consultant  
on Anti-Trafficking Policy and  
Practice

[bethanygilot@outlook.com](mailto:bethanygilot@outlook.com)