



# Human Trafficking: Prevention & Intervention in Arizona

ARIZONA HUMAN TRAFFICKING  
COUNCIL

[EndSexTrafficking.AZ.gov](https://EndSexTrafficking.AZ.gov)



Governor's Office  
of Youth, Faith and  
Family



“It is a great privilege to serve as the co-chairs of the Arizona Human Trafficking Council and to work with the incredibly dedicated and passionate members of the council. For the past 6 years, our council has worked diligently to be change makers in our community and make Arizona a model in the fight against trafficking. We have worked to raise awareness about the scourge of human trafficking, supported legislation to prevent trafficking and provide increased and better services to trafficking victims, and increased prosecutions of traffickers and explored ways to discourage buyers.

As a result of our united efforts more than 35,000 individuals have been trained to recognize the signs of trafficking; task forces across the state have been established and; age-appropriate, school-based curriculums have been created. The work that has been done and the accomplishments we have celebrated thus far are just the beginning. We look forward to continuing to serve as national leaders in the fight to end human trafficking”

- Cindy H. McCain & Gil Orrantia

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## Executive Summary

Human Trafficking - including labor trafficking, sex trafficking and child exploitation - is a pervasive and complex crime affecting states and cities across the United States. Arizona has seen the adverse effects of this terrible crime and has become a national leader in the fight against human trafficking. The state has successfully achieved shifts in attitudes, increased awareness, and developed and implemented multiple, innovative and dynamic strategies across various sectors to prevent and improve the response to incidences of trafficking and exploitation.

Through this report, the Arizona Human Trafficking Council (the Council) has summarized critical areas of work to prevent and combat human trafficking and exploitation across eleven critical sectors. Through the combined efforts of state and local government, non-profits, law enforcement, universities, and the community at-large, ***Arizona is creating systemic change to prevent and combat human trafficking.***

**Multi-disciplinary Teams** are key drivers to the success in Arizona. The Council - chaired by Mrs. Cindy McCain and Gil Orrantia, Director of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security, - is the statewide multidisciplinary body that supports work at the state and local level. The Council convenes, develops, expands, scales, and promotes best practices statewide. The Council also supports ongoing training and education across sectors to ensure prevention, identification, prosecutions, and services continue to improve throughout the state. Through the work of the Arizona Human Trafficking Council, more than ***35,000 people have been trained to recognize and react to human trafficking*** across multiple sectors and disciplines.

In addition to the Council, there are **several multidisciplinary teams throughout the state** that strengthen the collaborative and systemic approach to combating trafficking at regional and local levels. The Council convenes the task forces to learn and expand on best practices. These task forces engage government and community stakeholders: to increase public awareness about human trafficking; to meet the complex needs of victims; and to hold perpetrators accountable.

Arizona is also a leader in the development of **screening and identification tools** to combat human trafficking and child exploitation. The Council works closely with the Arizona State University Sex Trafficking and Intervention Research (STIR) Office and other partners to develop research and data gathering tools that enhance the state's ability to prevent, identify, and respond to these crimes.

The state of Arizona strives to ensure a comprehensive and trauma-informed response to victims of human trafficking and child exploitation. **Victim services** are at the center of Arizona's response to human trafficking. In addition to ensuring the continuum of victim services is comprehensive, Arizona has worked to ensure we have victim centered strategies, programs and initiatives in various sectors - including the judicial system, law enforcement, health care providers, behavioral health, and housing, among others.

As part of Arizona's victim centered practices, the state has worked to ensure **supports for caregivers**, including awareness campaigns and trainings designed to educate the public about the warning signs, protective factors, and support services available to caregivers. One critical

example of a multidisciplinary, victim-centered strategy that provides support for both victims and caregivers is the Maricopa County Juvenile Sex Trafficking Collaborative (the Collaborative). The Collaborative provides sex trafficked youth who are in the care and custody of the Arizona Department of Child Safety with immediate health and trauma-informed care across five service delivery phases: victim identification, assessment, treatment, placement, and tracking.

**Housing** is a critical need for victims of trafficking and child exploitation in that it prevents further victimization and supports recovery. Lack of stable housing increases the risk of, or vulnerability for, exploitation. There is also a need for housing services that support the unique needs of victims and that adequately address the level of intervention they require. Arizona is aggressively responding to general housing needs in the state, as well as developing innovative practices to support survivors.

In addition to supporting victims and caregivers, Arizona recognizes the need to target traffickers and the vital role of **law enforcement and prosecution** in a comprehensive approach to reduce demand. In Arizona, various law enforcement task forces have been established and have successfully investigated and prosecuted individuals and organizations involved in sex trafficking. These task forces consist of officers from federal, state, tribal, and local law enforcement. In Arizona this is not just a matter of increasing arrests and prosecutions. The state has come together to develop innovative and victim-centered strategies in our criminal justice system to support survivors and hold perpetrators accountable.

This great work has extended into Arizona's **judiciary system**. The Council has worked diligently for years to study and develop a plan to grow a targeted partnership and strategy in Arizona's judiciary system. Last year, as a result of the partnership with the Maricopa County Superior Court, Arizona implemented the STRENGTH Court, which strives to serve children who are victims of exploitation and trafficking by providing wrap-around services and a specialized calendar for this population.

**Demand reduction** is also a critical component of the work in Arizona. A great part of this work takes place through training professionals in numerous sectors to improve the identification of and response to this heinous crime. The Council has supported the training of over 35,000 individuals in the state of Arizona. This ongoing work has helped reframe and reshape the culture and response to exploitation in the state. A lot of this work has focused on our tourism, transportation and sports events industries.

In addition to identification and response, the state has developed bodies of work around **prevention efforts**. This includes a variety of statewide awareness initiatives, events, media, and community activities. The Council has worked with ASU and the McCain Institute to develop a web-based human trafficking education curriculum aimed at preventing and identifying human trafficking among school-aged youth.

In addition to the ongoing work in training and services, the Council has had a strong focus on **policy**, including making recommendations for critical **statutory and regulatory** changes that have solidified the state's commitment to improving the prevention and response to exploitation. Some key changes include: the establishment of the Council, creating a higher sentencing structure for traffickers; replacing the term "child prostitution" with "child sex

trafficking”; among others. Additionally, in 2017 the Navajo Nation Law Against Human Trafficking was enacted. The law provides the Navajo Nation with tools to prevent human trafficking, punish traffickers and assist and protect victims.

Finally, the state’s use of **data and research** continues to improve. In partnership with the ASU STIR Office, the Council continues to support data, research, evaluations, development of tools and trainings that will enhance the ongoing work and response to trafficking and exploitation. This work has led to data-driven prevention and intervention models and activities from which multiple sectors statewide have benefited.

## Introduction

Human trafficking is an insidious and complex crime that is often hidden in plain sight, making it one of the most difficult crimes to combat. The trafficking of persons including sex and labor trafficking, is a multi-billion-dollar criminal industry that according to the International Labour Organization, victimizes over 24 million people around the world.

Over the past six years, leaders in Arizona have worked diligently to address the factors that facilitate human trafficking, explore prevention tools, develop innovative and effective community response methods, and led the country in ongoing and robust community-based human trafficking research and training.

To this end, the Arizona Human Trafficking Council (the Council) aims to develop a comprehensive approach to addressing human trafficking that prioritizes trauma-informed practices for responding to victims and holds buyers and traffickers accountable. The Council works to equip state, local, and tribal efforts with knowledge and resources to ensure victims are identified and cared for, perpetrators are identified and held accountable for their actions, and conditions that facilitate trafficking are eliminated.

March 2019 serves as the five-year mark of the inception of the Arizona Human Trafficking Council. This Council report summarizes Arizona's efforts to-date in combating human trafficking while building an effective statewide comprehensive approach to meeting the needs of human trafficking victims and ensuring offender accountability.

The following sections of this report outline 11 complimentary approaches to combatting human trafficking in Arizona:

1. Multidisciplinary Team Response
2. Screening and Identification
3. Victim Services
4. Caregivers
5. Housing
6. Law Enforcement and Prosecution
7. Judiciary
8. Demand Reduction
9. Prevention
10. Legislation and Regulations
11. Data



## Key Principles of Arizona's Human Trafficking Response

The Council has identified the following principles as integral to supporting a comprehensive response to human trafficking and should be incorporated into all anti-trafficking efforts.

All anti-trafficking efforts should be:

- ❖ Trauma-informed
- ❖ Victim-centered
- ❖ Survivor-informed
- ❖ Comprehensive and systemic across state, local, and tribal governments and non-government sectors
- ❖ Collaborative
- ❖ Continuously evaluated for enhanced sustainability
- ❖ Strengths-based
- ❖ Culturally and linguistically responsive

The following icons are used to illustrate the presence of key activities that support each approach including:



Training & awareness



Policy and procedure



Implementation



Data & evaluation



Funding & sustainability

## Overview of the Arizona Human Trafficking Council

### History

On April 8, 2013, former Arizona Governor Jan Brewer established the Governor's Task Force on Human Trafficking via Executive Order 2013-04. Co-chaired by Mrs. Cindy McCain and Gil Orrantia, Director of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security, the Task Force was charged with identifying ways to reduce human trafficking in Arizona, examine current human trafficking laws, assist victims, and safeguard those most vulnerable. Following months of testimony from subject matter experts, the Task Force members submitted findings and recommendations to the Governor with the goal of strengthening state human trafficking laws, including increasing protections for victims, fortifying penalties for traffickers and solicitors, and facilitating a better overall statewide response to human trafficking.

One of the Task Force's main objectives was to examine existing state law in order to identify opportunities to strengthen Arizona's stance against human trafficking. The Task Force recommendations included amending laws to impact: increasing penalties against traffickers and buyers of sex; addressing online trafficking advertisements by prescribing licensure disclosures and creating criminal and civil penalties; and recognizing minor victims of human trafficking as victims under the law.

The Task Force was also credited with changing the attitudes, language and focus on human trafficking for the State of Arizona. In addition to recommendations that directly impacted legislative and policy changes in the state, there was a recognition that this topic required ongoing and multi-disciplinary attention at the highest level of state and local government. With this in mind, Governor Brewer created the Arizona Human Trafficking Council in 2014.

### Council Overview

The Arizona Human Trafficking Council was established by Executive Order 2014-05 on March 24, 2014. The Council was subsequently indefinitely renewed by Governor Doug Ducey through Executive Order 2015-12 on December 22, 2015.

The Council is administered by the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF) and is charged with collecting and analyzing data on human trafficking in Arizona; developing recommendations to provide human trafficking victims with appropriate services; fostering greater collaboration among law enforcement, non-profit organizations, government agencies, and the community at large; promoting public awareness about human trafficking, victim services, and prevention; and working to develop and facilitate training for first responders, law enforcement, and professions who serve the population.

Council membership represents individuals from a variety of Arizona state agencies including the Departments of Homeland Security, Tourism, Health Services, Child Safety, Public Safety, and Transportation. The Council also includes representatives from law enforcement, county attorney's offices, non-profits, universities, the state legislature, the Navajo Nation, and the survivor community. The Council's multidisciplinary membership and approaches has informed how Arizona is tackling human trafficking from multiple angles. One of the key principles of the Council is its commitment to collaborative input in supporting comprehensive responses to

human trafficking. The Council works in partnership with various coalitions and task forces throughout the state, as human trafficking cannot be fought in one city or town alone.

### Subcommittees

The Council works to accomplish its mission with the assistance of four subcommittees including:

#### *Training/Data & Research*

Over 35,000 individuals have been trained through the work of the Council. This subcommittee works to develop and facilitate training on the identification of, and response to, trafficking victims across the state of Arizona. These trainings are informed by research and promote multidisciplinary collaboration. Key principles incorporated into training efforts include a commitment to ensuring that trainings are survivor-informed, victim-centered, strengths-based and above all, trauma-informed. The subcommittee is also charged with collecting and analyzing data on human trafficking in Arizona. This research is conducted by academic partners from Arizona State University and has explored important research questions regarding the impact of the Super Bowl and large sporting events. Other research has included exploring human trafficking among homeless youth, juvenile probationers, adult probationers, and Arizona-specific sex and labor trafficking cases.

#### *Outreach & Awareness*

The goals for the Outreach and Awareness subcommittee is to increase the awareness of human trafficking among Arizona citizens and to equip them to aid in the identification of potential trafficking situations, to create safe and accepting avenues for victims to disclose abuse, and to connect victims to trauma-informed services to ensure healing. The subcommittee works to expand public awareness and facilitate community engagement of the issue of human trafficking through community presentations, developing outreach materials, and creating dynamic public service announcements.

#### *Policy*

The Policy subcommittee strives to improve the quality and access to care received by victims to best meet victims' needs as well as ensuring offender accountability by strengthening prosecution for traffickers and sex buyers. This subcommittee develops policy recommendations to improve Arizona's response to human trafficking. Policies regarding human trafficking include victim protections, state statutes and city codes impacting criminal records, language and terms used to define and describe human trafficking, enhancing tools for law enforcement and prosecutors to find buyers and traffickers, and developing necessary services through legislative action.

#### *Victim Services*

Through data collection, network mapping, and new communication tools, the Victim Services subcommittee enhances the network of services for human trafficking victims in Arizona. The subcommittee identifies gaps in care, engages new community partners, and ensures that victim services are survivor informed, victim centered, strengths-based and trauma-informed.

Through a collaborative approach, the subcommittee works to identify and recommend solutions based on best practices in addressing lapses in victim services.

## Multidisciplinary Team Response to Human Trafficking

Arizona is committed to building and strengthening a collaborative, systemic response to human trafficking. Across the state task forces and coalitions engage government and community stakeholders: to increase public awareness about human trafficking; to meet the complex needs of victims; and to hold perpetrators accountable. A brief summary of some of these entities is included in this section.

As part of Human Trafficking Prevention Month – January 2019, the Council hosted its First Annual Human Trafficking Council Symposium in partnership with the McCain Institute and the City of Phoenix. The Symposium was attended by over 100 individuals representing statewide and local human trafficking task forces and coalitions, county attorneys, law enforcement, service providers and other stakeholders from across the state. The goal of the Symposium was to provide a dedicated time for agencies and nonprofits to learn and work collaboratively to improve Arizona’s response to trafficking.

The event provided a broad networking platform and unique opportunity for comprehensive approaches to coordination, education, and victim service provision. The event featured seven different panels on: human trafficking data; education and prevention; law enforcement intervention; victim focused trauma-informed care; victim services; and the role of the Judiciary. Key takeaways and areas of focus for the state moving forward included working on expanding human trafficking prevention education in schools and examining ways to change policies that adversely affect victims during trial.

### 2016 Arizona Guidelines: Regional Response to Youth Sex Trafficking

On November 16, 2015, the Council, with support from the McCain Institute, hosted a Solutions Summit to review and test a model protocol for responding to minor victims of human trafficking in Arizona. The Summit convened more than 70 stakeholders from around the state, representing state and local law enforcement, prosecutors, victim service providers, survivors, family advocacy centers, community-based advocates, and medical and education professionals to provide feedback on the draft protocol. As Arizona moves to combat domestic minor sex trafficking, numerous professionals and concerned citizens with a deep desire to bring justice and healing to those affected offered their time and talents. It is vital to understand the sequencing and processes required for an effective response. To this end, these guidelines outlined a multidisciplinary approach that respects the roles and objectives of the various disciplines.

Due to the efforts of the Summit, the Arizona Guidelines for Developing a Regional Response to Youth Sex Trafficking were developed. The purpose of the guidelines is to aid in the identification of minor victims of sex trafficking, as well as those at risk, and to provide a coordinated and consistent victim-centered response based on best practices.

### Pinal County Juvenile Probation Task Force

The Pinal County Juvenile Probation task force includes both an internal team, comprised of juvenile probation staff, as well as an external collaborative team that meets periodically to address human trafficking. The external team includes representatives from the Department of Child Safety (DCS), various law enforcement agencies, and the health care provider for children in foster care.



This task force tracks county-level data; provides outreach to individuals identified at risk of human trafficking as well as confirmed victims; conducts annual juvenile probation staff training; collaborates with local law enforcement and DCS offices concerning victim needs; identifies gaps and/or barriers to effective service delivery; and continually strives to improve outcomes in addressing victim needs and holding perpetrators accountable.



Examples of accomplishments include: the adoption of a standard assessment/checklist to aid in victim identification; development of an internal victim database, known associates, and a timeline/note page for each victim; development of human trafficking indicator cards with accompanying agency protocols to use as a tool and aid in the field to standardize response to human trafficking.



### The City of Phoenix Human Trafficking Task Force

The City of Phoenix Human Trafficking Task Force is a city-based taskforce originally created in preparation for Super Bowl XLIX (in 2015) to address and combat human trafficking. The task force continued its efforts beyond Super Bowl XLIX with the goal of implementing a sustainable plan that would set Phoenix apart as a national leader in combating human trafficking. The task force is led by Phoenix Vice Mayor Jim Waring and includes seventeen appointed community leaders and City of Phoenix employees.



The Task Force developed the City of Phoenix Compass Plan which outlines strategic and operational actions designed to make Phoenix a leader in preventing and combating human trafficking and providing services to its survivors. The four-point plan includes: awareness, outreach, law enforcement, and victim services. The plan encourages the exploration of innovative and bold solutions to address this critical issue and as such, continually evolves and is updated to reflect best practices and innovative strategies as they develop. The taskforce has developed PSAs, placed signs with an onsite trafficking helpline number in Phoenix airport bathrooms, and worked with hotels, and large event coordinators.



The Taskforce was crucial in the creation of Starfish Place, a permanent supportive housing location with onsite resources for victims of human trafficking. In 2013, the Phoenix Housing Department purchased a 15-unit multi-family community that included a mixture of two- and three- bedroom apartments units on 1.8 acres with a 6,800 square-foot resident services building. Since opening in 2017, Starfish Place has had 13 residents.

### The Coalition Against Human Trafficking Northern Arizona

The Coalition Against Human Trafficking Northern Arizona (CAHT-NAZ) is a nonprofit grassroots organization dedicated to combating human trafficking in the Verde Valley of Arizona by increasing awareness about this growing problem. CAHT-NAZ is comprised of members of the community that have a passion to end human trafficking.



CAHT-NAZ provides human trafficking education; provides a networking platform for those interested in combatting human trafficking; and collectively partners with diverse groups including law enforcement, schools, community organizations, businesses, faith-based organizations, government agencies, first responders and service providers to help eradicate human trafficking.

CAHT-NAZ is working with a domestic violence shelter on plans to open a shelter for trafficking victims in the Verde Valley.

### The Arizona Coalition for Victim Services

The Arizona Coalition for Victim Services (ACVS), established in 1999, is a nonprofit network of individuals, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations that provide direct services to crime victims and/or technical assistance to direct service providers. The task force is led by the Arizona Attorney General's Office and includes representation from local police departments, nonprofits, county attorney's office, and state agencies.



The purpose of ACVS is to: facilitate communication among those agencies that provide services to crime victims; improve the quality of services provided to crime victims through education, training and advocacy; and educate and advocate at all governmental levels regarding issues that affect victims and providers of victim services. ACVS and its members coordinate with state funders and critical external partners to advocate for necessary financial support and sustainability on behalf of human trafficking victims.



Since 2004, ACVS has maintained the Arizona Victim Assistance Academy, (AVAA), which is a 40-hour, National Advocate Credentialing Program, providing an accredited curriculum for new advocates to learn the basics of victimology and victimizations, victims' rights, self-care and restitution. To date, over 800 advocates have attended the AVAA basic training. AVVA hosts a variety of additional training opportunities focused on advanced field topics and leadership, and partners with other agencies and organizations for conferences such as The Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence and Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council.



The ACVS Relocation Project is a small-scale project designed to help victims of crime physically relocate to a place of safety when there is a likelihood of continued victimization and other resources are unavailable or inadequate at their local residence. Referrals are accepted from social service providers or criminal justice agencies (requests made directly from crime victims are not accepted).

### The Flagstaff Initiative Against Trafficking

The Flagstaff Initiative Against Trafficking (FIAT) is a community collective of professional service providers and volunteers committed to end human trafficking. FIAT is comprised of service providers, law enforcement, medical personnel and volunteers from the Flagstaff area.

Since the Initiative's inception in August 2017, FIAT has successfully identified 63 adults and 36 youth in their community who have been trafficked and assisted in the identification of available community resources for response and healing. Members of the Initiative have participated in various sting operations, posted decoy ads in partnership with AZ TRUST (Training and Resources United to Stop Trafficking) and identified nearly 600 individuals attempting to purchase sex with a minor in the community.



The Initiative has developed a best-practice protocol for responding to both youth and adult cases of human trafficking in the community. This procedure is shared with social service agencies, law enforcement, medical personnel, shelters, and those that work closely with victims of human trafficking in the form of an easy to understand flowchart that includes current contact information for available services.



FIAT has worked diligently on raising community awareness and education about human trafficking. In 2018, they hosted trainings for a variety of local agencies and personnel across Northern Arizona including: law enforcement, medical personnel from Flagstaff Medical Center, students and faculty of Northern Arizona University, staff and parents of children attending Flagstaff Unified School District Staff, Catholic Charities staff, Flagstaff Shelter Services staff, Department of Child Safety staff, Coconino County Community Services staff, staff of Flagstaff County Health Department, Coconino County Court staff, as well as medical personnel on the Navajo Reservation. Specific attention has been focused on increasing awareness with local businesses and recreation centers in Flagstaff including how to identify red flags and warning signs and ways to report suspected human trafficking activity.



In 2019, FIAT plans to work closely with Northern Arizona University faculty to provide information and training in classrooms, as well as the Flagstaff Medical Center training coordinator to provide new and seasoned staff with extensive human trafficking training.



### Yavapai County Trafficking Task Force

Developed in 2017, the Yavapai County Trafficking Task Force consists of approximately 35 members representing the following disciplines: advocacy, mental health, law enforcement, public safety, adult probation, juvenile probation, and medical professionals. The Task Force ensures members stay up to date with the latest data, evaluation, and best practices in the area of human trafficking prevention by providing training for members. In turn, Task Force members train staff within their respective agencies as well as team up to conduct local trainings. An example of these efforts included a training at the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office during their monthly in-service. As a result, human trafficking training has been incorporated into the standard training received by new recruits at the Northern Arizona Regional Training Academy (NARTA).



### Southern Arizona Anti-Trafficking Unified Response Network

In 2015, the Tucson Police Department (TPD) and CODAC Health Recovery and Wellness, Inc. (CODAC) were awarded a three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime and Bureau of Justice Assistance for the development of a human trafficking task force in Southern Arizona. The task force, formally known as the Southern Arizona Anti-Trafficking Unified Response Network (SAATURN), covered the geographic areas of Pima, Cochise, and Santa Cruz counties in Southern Arizona.

Through the collaboration of the TPD, Homeland Security Investigations, the U.S. Attorney's Office, and CODAC, the task force worked to; improve the prosecutions of human trafficking crimes; educate the public, first responders, and service providers on recognizing potential victims of trafficking; and increase the delivery of victim services.

### FBI Task Force

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) works human trafficking cases under its Crimes Against Children and Human Trafficking program. The FBI has found that the most effective way to investigate human trafficking is through a collaborative, multi-agency approach with our federal, state, local, and tribal partners. In concert with this concept, FBI Phoenix created a task force prior to the 2015 Super Bowl, and with the encouragement and full support of the Council co-chairs, agreed to maintain the task force permanently. The ultimate goal of this task force is to recover victims and investigate traffickers at the state and federal level.

### Central Arizona United to Stop Exploitation Joint Task Force

The Central Arizona United to Stop Exploitation (CAUSE) project is a partnership between the International Rescue Committee (IRC) Phoenix, the Phoenix Police Department, Phoenix Dream Center, and StreetLightUSA, that works with the Arizona's U.S. Attorney's Office, Homeland Security Investigations, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to increase the capacity to investigate, prosecute, and provide comprehensive services to all victims of human trafficking using a collaborative model. CAUSE has identified and served victims of labor and sex trafficking including female, male, and transgender victims, minors, adults as well as domestic and foreign nationals. Through their collaborative efforts, the task force provides culturally competent, language specific, and trauma and survivor informed services. These services include case management, medical, dental, mental health, and legal services as well as assisting with transportation, financial assistance programs and employment.

Through the joint effort of the task force members, CAUSE has trained 5,000 individuals on collaboration and building multidisciplinary relationships; strategies to identify victims; techniques for screening and interviewing; procedures for reporting; resources available for trafficking victims; culturally and linguistically appropriate services; health and trauma consequences; volunteer training; and other topics

## Screening and Identification as a Response to Human Trafficking:

Arizona is committed to improving methods of screening for identification of human trafficking. Quick and accurate identification allows victims to begin the healing process and to receive the support and services they need. Because the crime is difficult to recognize and victims often do not self-identify, it is believed to be vastly underreported.

The Council aims to improve screening and identification through increased training for professionals that work with vulnerable populations.

### Research Study: Incidences of Sex Trafficking in Arizona Juvenile Probation System

Arizona is fortunate to have Arizona State University (ASU), a leading public research university invested in the topic of preventing trafficking. In 2015, ASU's Sex Trafficking and Intervention Research Office (STIR) conducted a study focused on the incidences of sex trafficking within Arizona's Juvenile Probation system.



The desired outcomes of this study were:

- to continue to build knowledge about the scope of sex trafficking in Arizona;
- to provide a targeted training to juvenile probation officers on trafficking;
- to gather information from probation officers about current caseloads and potential victims of sex trafficking; and
- to gather information on probation officer opinion on how to improve policy, programming, and interventions related to sex trafficking victims.



The results of the study included:

- responses from 179 juvenile probation officers;
- of those 57.5% (n=103) identified at least one sex trafficking victim on their current caseload;
- a total of 271 juvenile victims of sex trafficking were identified; and 34 detailed cases were identified (half of these also were reported to be involved with the Arizona Department of Child Safety); and
- themes of what led to sex trafficking from among the 34 detailed cases included: direct recruitment by a boyfriend or friends; drug addiction; and running away from home.

The following recommendations were made to strengthen Arizona's Juvenile Probation System response to sex trafficking:

- create an agency-wide sex trafficking-specific protocol;
- develop diagnostic tools;
- develop specialized caseloads that are sex trafficking-specific;
- create specific interventions for sex trafficked youth;
- provide additional therapeutic services for sex trafficked youth;
- provide continuing training for staff working with sex trafficked youth; and
- expanding introductory sex trafficking training to all detention staff, guardian ad litem, county attorneys, and defense attorneys.

### Research Study: Incidence of Sex Trafficking in Maricopa County Adult Probation

Arizona State University's STIR Office conducted a study of the incidence of sex trafficking within Maricopa County's Adult Probation system in 2018. Maricopa County Adult Probation is one of the largest probation departments of its kind in the nation. It serves the nearly four million residents of Maricopa County with the goal of reducing crime through: implementation of evidenced based practices; provision of timely and accurate information to Arizona Superior Court to support decision making; and providing services and supports to crime victims.



The aims of this particular study were:

- to train adult probation officers on how to identify sex trafficking victims and traffickers. This required increasing awareness and understanding of sex trafficking situations, the unique culture of sex trafficking, and the negative outcomes experienced by victims of sex trafficking (including physical and mental health problems and relationship and trust issues). In addition, a key focus of training was to emphasize the value of partnering between probation and law enforcement to identify and disrupt sex trafficking and assist in connecting victims to services; and
- to gather information from adult probation officers about their current caseloads and potential victims of sex trafficking.



The findings from this study suggest that sex trafficking victims and sex traffickers exist within the adult probation system and previously were not identified through any systematic assessment or flag. Recommendations made based on this study included:

- enhancing targeted therapeutic services; and
- deepening the connection between adult probation and law enforcement to combat sex trafficking in our community.

### Trainings on Screening and Identification

The Council facilitated the following audience-specific training on human trafficking that emphasizes the importance of screening and identification:



Department of Child Safety & Juvenile Probation: human trafficking identification and prevention training was provided to 1,100 Department of Child Safety officers and 547 juvenile probation officers in 2015.

Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections: In 2016 training was provided to Arizona's Department of Juvenile Corrections staff who serve youth in long-term detention. A total of five training sessions were held: 34 staff attended the Sex Trafficking 101 training and 16 of those staff also attended Advanced Sex Trafficking training; 12 clinical staff attended training that would equip them to provide Sex Trafficking Awareness and Recovery (STAR) in group therapy sessions. The STAR group is an 11-week psychoeducation group using a cognitive behavioral framework to support building awareness and experiencing narration of trauma and sex trafficking experiences.

### Court Appointed Special Advocates

In August and November of 2016, a specialized training was provided for 48 Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs). The training incorporated specific information pertinent to the role of CASAs such as: the federal definition of sex trafficking; the similarities and differences between domestic violence and sex trafficking situations; red flags for sex trafficking situations; and recruitment techniques and types of traffickers. The training also included scenarios involving youth in child welfare situations, introduction to trauma-informed work with sex trafficking victims and exploring the trauma bond with the sex traffickers.

### School Nurses Training

In December 2018, training was provided to 34 school nurses, counselors, and administrative workers. The training covered the basics of human trafficking, warning signs, and how to respond in a suspected trafficking situation. The vast majority of attendees stated they had never received any education about human trafficking before and several thought of an instance where they might have seen it and didn't recognize trafficking.

### Forensic Nurse Examiners

In 2018, three statewide medically-focused trainings were provided for forensic nurse examiners and sexual assault responders. In addition, a focus group was conducted that included eleven nursing professionals who come into contact with trafficking victims. As a result of this training, consensus was reached that additional work is needed that is focused on victim identification and victim support. Next steps identified included: development of a statewide toolkit to identify and track how many people are in health systems in need of victim services; developing and implementing an existing protocol for identification of human trafficking in health care settings.

### Human Trafficking in Native Communities Seminar

On June 11, 2015, the Arizona Department of Homeland Security, in partnership with the Arizona Human Trafficking Council, conducted a Human Trafficking in Native Communities seminar at the Gila River Indian Community's Wild Horse Pass Corporate Center. This one-day Tribal training brought together Tribal leaders, law enforcement, first responders, and community stakeholders to address the issue of human trafficking in Indian Country. The Seminar was attended by 65 participants representing 10 Tribes.

## Victim Service Provision as a Response to Human Trafficking

The State of Arizona strives to ensure healing and well-being for victims of human trafficking through the delivery of victim-centered and trauma-informed services. The Council evaluates, recommends, and aids in the implementation of strategies to effectively provide immediate and sustained services to victims.

Following are examples of service delivery modalities for individuals who have been (or are at risk of) human trafficking:

### The Maricopa County Juvenile Sex Trafficking Collaborative



Ensuring compliance with the federal mandates of the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014, the Maricopa County Juvenile Sex Trafficking Collaborative (the Collaborative) provides sex trafficked youth who are in the care and custody of Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS) with immediate health and trauma-informed care across five service delivery phases: victim identification, assessment, treatment, placement, and tracking. Members of the Collaborative include law enforcement agencies throughout Maricopa County, DCS, St. Luke's Behavioral Health, Mercy Care, and the service provider community. Key components of the Collaborative include:

- *Victim identification:* Victims are identified by law enforcement, DCS social workers, detention center staff, or through the STRENGTH court. Once identified, victims are served through St. Luke's Medical Center's specialized and trauma-informed Observational Services Center for Children and Adolescents (OSCA);
- *Victim Assessment & Treatment:* OSCA provides a comprehensive 23-hour psychiatric evaluation which assesses the child for danger to self and provides recommendations for individual therapy, which is provided within 48 hours of release from OSCA;
- *Placement:* In situations where community placement is recommended, OSCA coordinates with the Maricopa County Placement Specialist (MCPS), and the Maricopa County Child Welfare Program Coordinator on the assessment recommendations, inclusive of DCS identified placement, and determines appropriate placement. OSCA then coordinates with the Qualified Service Provider (QSP) to ensure continuity of care and to provide treatment recommendations, and with local law enforcement or DCS for transportation, depending on which party identified the potential victim. The MCPS coordinates with DCS and the placement facility to ensure all necessary documents are sent and ensures that all treatment recommendations are followed. Higher level of care intervention is dependent on medical care necessity. If higher level of medical care necessity is not met, an Emergency Child and Family Team is convened to implement alternative community placement plans; and
- *Tracking:* Youth considered to be at high-risk for trafficking as well as those that are confirmed victims of trafficking, are followed by the Collaborative members to ensure appropriate levels of placement and recommended behavioral health interventions are provided.



Since the Collaborative's inception, 89% of the youth served through the protocol have successfully avoided re-victimization. Prior to the organic development of the Collaborative, the run-away rate for trafficked victims in placements was over 80%. The increase in stable housing provides the opportunity for more targeted, holistic, and multi-disciplinary interventions to assist the victims to exit their sex trafficking situations.

In 2019, Arizona State University's STIR Office began an evaluation of the Collaborative for the following purposes:



- perform a process evaluation of the collaborative including interviews with eight partners representing law enforcement, clinical providers, and residential program staff as well as eight youth who received services;
- development of a commonly utilized data collection tool to standardize client information shared across collaborative members;
- analyze and report on Collaborative utilization, descriptions of clients served, and the trends and changes that have occurred over the two years of the program 2017 to 2019; and
- creation of a program manual (including policy and process procedures) that will allow for replication of the model as well as program fidelity.

### The Phoenix Dream Center




The Phoenix Dream Center offers human trafficking survivors a safe and secure home coupled with a "family care model of service" which models a healthy family home life as an essential and powerful tool in meeting the deeper needs of trafficking victims. The Dream Center staff are strategic about working to genuinely relate to victims on a level that is real, open, honest and forthcoming. The model also includes a focus on forgiveness and "forever-family" that supports victims through difficult life situations, both during and beyond the program.

At Dream Center, a trauma-informed approach is key to meeting the therapeutic healing needs of victims. On site services include a broad spectrum of behavioral health and medical health care services such as Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), group therapy, individual therapy, equine therapy, K-9 therapy, art therapy, emotion regulation therapy and PTSD counseling at no cost to victims. Therapeutic and medical services are provided on site, in coordination with Phoenix Children's Hospital, Dignity Health, Life Health and Wellness, and Williams Eye Care.

Education is another key element to Dream Center's victim services model. A fully accredited high school is located on campus where victims can get their high school diploma and take college preparatory classes. Dream Center also coordinates with local colleges like Grand Canyon University, Arizona State University, Carrington College, Art Institute, Argosy University and Brookline College to identify scholarship opportunities for post-secondary education.


### StreetLightUSA



Since opening in 2011, StreetLightUSA has served more than 1,200 girls, providing crisis intervention, stabilization and housing, through a variety of programs and services tailored to meet the needs of young girls who have been (or are at risk of being) victims of sex trafficking. Program elements include:

- trauma-informed therapeutic residential care;
- victim centered specialized ongoing case management
- on-site education, including art and equine therapy;
- coordination of mental health and medical services;
- behavioral support and mentoring; and
- life skills and vocational training.

### one·n·ten




one·n·ten is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving and assisting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth ages 14 to 24. Research has shown that this population faces greater risks of human trafficking than their non-LGBTQ peers. one·n·ten provides youth with a variety of tools and opportunities to improve self-esteem and self-acceptance and envisions a world where all LGBTQ youth and young adults are embraced for who they are, actively engaged in their communities, and empowered to lead.

one·n·ten's service delivery model aims to reduce the risks of trafficking for this population, and to identify and provide support to trafficking victims. Program elements include:

- creation of a safe space, mentally and physically, for youth of all socio-economic and cultural backgrounds. Youth have the option to speak with peers or volunteers in a supervised setting;
- weekly discussion groups and fun, social networking events. Twice a month one·n·ten leads a group specifically focused on sex trafficking victimization prevention, with topics such as building healthy boundaries, power and control, healing from sexual trauma, etc.;
- resources to promote healthy choices and living including a variety of homeless resource navigation hours by appointment during the week as well as housing assessment for long term housing options;
- when a youth discloses that they are exchanging sex for food and/or a place to stay, they are offered resources such as a "safe" shelter for victims of sex trafficking; and
- referrals for mental health clinics and medical clinics.

### Phoenix Children's Hospital



Thousands of youth live on the streets of Phoenix, many in desperate need of medical treatment. They are at an increased risk of illness, injury, depression and trafficking. Phoenix Children's Hospital (PCH) has developed signature community outreach programs that serve specific populations with serious healthcare needs who may have limited access to health care.

PCH's program treats infants, children and youth (birth through age 24) who identify as being homeless or at-risk of being homeless. They are provided treatment regardless of insurance status or ability to pay. The mobile medical units and fixed site clinics operate Monday through Friday at numerous sites across the Valley. The mobile medical units travel to areas where homeless and at-risk children, adolescents and young adults are known to gather.



*Mobile Medical Unit (MMU):* In the fall of 2000, an innovative partnership was formed between Phoenix Children's, Children's Health Fund and HomeBase Youth Services resulting in "Crews'n Healthmobile," a 35-foot Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) that offers free, comprehensive medical care directly to Phoenix homeless youth. Since inception, the program has grown from one MMU hosting four weekly clinics to three MMUs and three fixed-site clinics providing care to youth through more than 30 half-day clinics each week. The Program's clinics span approximately 30 miles across the Phoenix Metropolitan area. Each mobile medical unit is equipped with exam rooms, an intake area, a pharmacy, a laboratory and a triage area which includes state-of-the-art technology.

Three fixed-site clinics provide additional care to youth and young adults. One is located within UMOM New Day Centers, the largest shelter for homeless families in Phoenix, Arizona. Another is located at Children First Leadership Academy, a K-8 charter school where the vast majority of youth are living at or below the federal poverty level and are at risk of homelessness. The third clinic is located at Phoenix Dream Center. The program serves multiple shelters, residential/transitional living group homes, drop-in centers, and schools, all who serve the young homeless population living in our community.

Each clinic is staffed with a PCH physician, clinical team member (nurse or medical assistant) and registrar. Additionally, most of the clinics that need immediate in-clinic behavioral health care have a behavioral health therapist or psychiatrist practicing in conjunction with the medical team.

The Crews'n Healthmobile and Wellness Center at UMOM are Level III Patient-Centered Medical Homes recognized by the National Center for Quality Assurance (NCQA). This recognition authenticates PCH's efforts to provide the highest level of care to homeless youth and young adults living in the Valley.

#### Catholic Charities Diversion Program



Originating in 2001, Catholic Charities Diversion Program is one of the most unique programs in the United States reflecting a partnership with the City of Phoenix prosecutor's office. As an alternative to jail time for prostitution related activities, sex-trafficked individuals are offered the option to attend Catholic Charities Diversion Program. Program elements include:

- 36-hours of education and self-exploration intended to facilitate victim healing and increased self-esteem;



- case management support; and
- employment assistance including job placement.



A study of the program authored by the City of Phoenix Prosecutor’s Office found that the program had an eighty-six percent success rate.

#### Yavapai Family Advocacy Center

In 1999, the Yavapai County Children’s Justice Task Force recommended the establishment of a forensic center to provide victim-centered services and a shared space for investigators, prosecutors, child protection, sexual assault nurses, and forensic interviewers to work. The Yavapai Family Advocacy Center (YFAC) serves both child and adult victims of interpersonal violence which is a prevalent issue in trafficking.



The YFAC works with local law enforcement and DCS to reduce trauma to victims by providing a safe and supportive environment, and facilitating a team approach to advocacy, investigation and prosecution. YFAC is supported by local and regional governments, law enforcement agencies, social service providers, medical and mental health professionals and the Yavapai County Attorney’s Office.

#### Phoenix Family Advocacy Center



The Phoenix Family Advocacy Center provides comprehensive services to victims of domestic and sexual violence, homicide and other violent crimes (including those that have been or are at risk of human trafficking). The Center model incorporates a unique, victim-oriented, collaborative approach to investigate, intervene and prosecute domestic violence and sexual/physical abuse cases as well as physical assault. Program elements include:

- community education on the impact of violence;
- counseling;
- long-term case management for victims through partnership agencies such as EMPACT-SPC and Jewish Family and Children’s Services, Shelter Without Walls; and
- on-site forensic medical exams through a partnership with the HonorHealth forensic nurse examiners under provisions of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). These exams are provided at no charge and there is no requirement for a police report to be made.

#### Phoenix Starfish Place



Starfish Place opened in the fall of 2017 to provide permanent housing and services to individuals and families impacted by human trafficking. A collaboration between the City of Phoenix public housing authority and Arizona State University, Starfish place provides safe and stable housing along with supportive services to victims. A 6,800 square-foot resident services building contains on-site services and support. Case managers and clinicians at Starfish Place provide residents with everything from counseling to basic life lessons and five ASU School of

Social Work interns work in all aspects of the program. Examples of groups that residents may attend include:

- Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT), STAR group, mindfulness programming, peer support, nurturing parenting, and drug and alcohol counseling group;
- tutoring support for the children;
- cooking classes bi-monthly;
- trauma-focused play-based treatment for the children; and
- a Reading in Pajamas group is provided to the children of victims.

## Supporting Caregivers as a Response to Human Trafficking

Ensuring that caregivers are adequately able to meet the needs of youth who may have been (or are at risk of) trafficking, is a critical component of Arizona's comprehensive plan to respond to human trafficking. The Council seeks to identify, establish, implement, and evaluate services and supports for caregivers of children and youth at risk of trafficking.

Caregivers may include relatives, foster parents, residential treatment providers and other individuals who formally or informally care for children and youth. The following effort focuses specifically on family foster homes under contract with the Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS)

The Collaborative: As mentioned previously, in the *Victim Service Provision section*, the Collaborative provides sex trafficked youth who are in the care and custody of DCS with immediate health and trauma-informed care across four service delivery phases: victim identification, assessment, treatment, and tracking. In addition to their victim services, the Collaborative also focuses on the needs of caregivers:

- the Collaborative partners meet once a month to develop training and education for foster parents who care for at-risk youth;
- in addition, they seek to recruit and identify foster parents who may be well suited to provide care to trafficked youth; and
- caregivers currently providing shelter for a trafficked youth are connected with a trauma therapist.

Human Trafficking 101: A Human Trafficking 101 training was developed and approved by the Council and has been expanded to a Train-the-Trainer model with more than 100 trainers developed in Arizona. This community education and training supports caregivers and others in identification, prevention and resources. It provides those that formally and informally care for children and youth with the resources to identify risk protective factors, vulnerabilities, and ways to help. The Human Trafficking 101 has been provided to thousands of community members including mental and behavioral health providers, medical professionals, educators, faith community members, and general community members.




## Housing as a Response to Human Trafficking

Decades of research has shown that the provision of safe and adequate shelter leads to improvement in the outcomes of many other issues, including personal health, economic stabilization, employability, and educational achievement. Housing as an approach to combat human trafficking offers benefits on two fronts, both in terms of prevention and as a critical supportive response to victims of human trafficking.


The Council is committed to ensuring that housing options are sufficient, and information is widely available so that human trafficking victims who are unable to stay, or return, to their families of origin have safe and stable options that support healing and well-being. Following are some of the Arizona efforts to ensure housing is available for victims (or vulnerable populations at risk of) human trafficking:

### The Phoenix Dream Center



The Phoenix Dream Center offers human trafficking survivors a safe and secure home. The facility is able to house up to 41 young women (and up to 12 babies) and up to 12 young men in luxury suite apartments or “Dream Rooms”. The Dream Center strives to create an esthetically beautiful space that allows victims of human trafficking to learn to trust, feel valued, and increase their long-term success. The Center employs a 24-hour trauma informed security team that provides safety for all residents on site. The Center is committed to providing residents a full “family care model of service” and supportive programming.

### StreetLightUSA



As mentioned above under *Victim Service Provision*, StreetLightUSA provides crisis intervention, stabilization and housing, through a variety of programs and services tailored to meet the needs of young girls at risk for and victims of child sex trafficking. They offer therapeutic residential care and specialized ongoing care through trauma-informed residential services.

### Phoenix Starfish Place

As mentioned above under *Victim Service Provision*, Starfish Place opened in the fall of 2017 to provide permanent housing and services to individuals and families impacted by human trafficking. The City of Phoenix public housing authority manages this 15-unit property which includes a mixture of two- and three- bedroom apartments on 1.8 acres, consisting of an additional 6,800 square-foot resident services building from which on-site supportive services are provided.

### Incarcerated Women’s Program


At the invitation of the Maricopa County Sheriff, the McCain Institute is providing funding for Dr. Roe-Sepowitz to develop a program to run sex trafficking recovery groups for trafficked women currently incarcerated to promote healing and break the cycle of victimization upon their release. The Maricopa County Sheriff’s office is also partnering with the National Criminal Justice Training Center and the McCain Institute to train their entire staff on human trafficking and what to do when it’s suspected within the County jail population.

## Law Enforcement and Prosecution as a Response to Human Trafficking

Arizona recognizes the vital role of law enforcement and prosecution in a comprehensive statewide approach. It is not simply a matter of increasing investigation, arrest and prosecution rates. The nature of human trafficking dynamics - especially when victims are minors - necessitates collaboration, consistency, data and information sharing, as well as nontraditional efforts that cut across a multitude of agencies and jurisdictions.

The Council works to develop, implement and evaluate strategies that foster an understanding of the complex processes of law enforcement and prosecution. Following are examples of how Arizona proactively identifies, investigates and prosecutes offenders while maintaining a trauma-informed and victim-centered response.

### The Arizona Attorney General's Office





The Arizona Attorney General's Office (AGO) coordinates strategies to stop human trafficking through training and prosecutions, with the overall goal of improving public safety. Since Attorney General Brnovich took office in January 2015, the AGO has obtained 62 convictions (55 sentencings, with 7 cases where the defendants pled guilty but are pending sentencing) that are connected to sex trafficking, child sex trafficking, or illegal enterprises/money laundering in the trafficking arena, such as massage parlors. As of January 2019, the AGO has approximately 46 pending sex trafficking-related prosecutions involving approximately 71 open defendants, 28 of which are online sting defendants accused of luring minors for sex or trying to buy sex from undercover detectives (no victim, sex buyer demand-reduction cases, undercover operations). The remaining defendants are either sex traffickers, their associates, or massage parlor illegal enterprise operators and associates.

AGO has prosecuted numerous individuals involved with the illegal sex trade through pursuit of the illegal acquisition and/or transfer of money associated with the trafficking of adults and children for sex. This is a victim-aware method of prosecution that utilizes a financial approach to prosecution with the desire to reduce the need for victims to act as primary witness in the prosecution of these crimes.

### Maricopa County Attorney's Office

Prosecutions related to human trafficking at Maricopa County Attorney's Office (MCAO) have improved in several ways:

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- technological advancements have made gathering evidence of these crimes much easier. MCAO is able to corroborate certain "dates" victims are able to recall with cell phone information, such as text messaging and application messages. MCAO is also able to show recruiting of victims through social media platforms recovered from cell phones and from social media platforms themselves;
  - through a collaborative team approach, detectives, prosecutors, and victim advocates work closely together on these cases, both to bring about a successful prosecution result but also allowing regular contact with victims to ensure sure their needs are met;



- law enforcement and prosecutorial increased awareness and identification of human trafficking allows for proper intervention and trauma-informed approaches to working with victims of these crimes. Greater understanding concerning the complexity of the bond between a victim and their trafficker allows for a more victim-centered approach to addressing the needs of the victim; and
- increased overall community awareness regarding the issue of human trafficking in Maricopa County and across the state. Community education is key to eliminating juror bias that often exists towards the victims of human trafficking.

### Phoenix Police Department - HEaT Unit

Human Exploitation and Trafficking (HEaT) Unit, formerly the Phoenix Vice Unit, is a specialized unit within the Phoenix Police Department responsible for the suppression and prevention of human trafficking in all its forms. The mission of this unit is:



- to recover the victims of child and adult sex trafficking;
- to identify, target, investigate and successfully prosecute the traffickers; and
- to work responsively and proactively with the seven Phoenix precincts to appropriately address crimes and community concerns related to human trafficking.

The HEaT Unit approaches these goals by proactively employing innovative and advanced undercover techniques along with investigative strategies to apprehend and successfully prosecute offenders. The HEaT Unit employs a variety of well-planned operations targeting different trafficking scenarios including:



- Street;
- Escort;
- Hotel Jammin Johns;
- Customer Apprehension;
- House of Prostitution;
- Human Trafficking Victim Recovery;
- Pimp Targeting;
- Massage Parlor Storefront; and
- Call out response.

As outlined above, in *Victim Service Provision*, the Phoenix Police Department and the HEaT Unit are members of the Collaborative and work together in addressing human trafficking.

### Maricopa County STRENGTH Court



The Council co-chairs have been working to implement a specialized trafficking court for several years. The Council has worked collaboratively with the Maricopa County Superior Court Judge to support the implementation of a specialized court or calendar that focuses on trafficking and provides “wrap-around” services to minor victims of trafficking. The STRENGTH (Strength Through Resilience \* Empower New Growth Through Hope) Court became operational as a specialized court calendar in 2018. The Superior Court of Maricopa County, the STRENGTH

court, and its stakeholders continue to investigate national best practices to improve supports and services based on the specific needs of each trafficked child.

Cases sent to the STRENGTH Court are identified through the Arizona Department of Child Safety, Mesa or Phoenix Police Departments, Mercy Maricopa (the Regional Behavioral Health Authority), juvenile corrections/detention, or juvenile probation. The multidisciplinary teams that participate in the hearings include a Mercy Care representative, a sex-trafficked survivor/advocate, the case manager, and the attorneys assigned to each individual case. The AGO Protective Services Section has two Assistant Attorneys General specifically assigned to the STRENGTH Court caseload.



Since the STRENGTH Court's inception, there has been a significant decline in the number of minor victims who have subsequently fled placement and returned to the streets. Additionally, at least two of the DCS victims have assisted with the identification and prosecution of their traffickers.



#### Arizona Peace Officers and Standards Training Board (AZPOST)

Arizona Peace Officers and Standards Training Board (AZPOST) has been training police recruits on the topic of sex trafficking since 2014. Each year, approximately 700 law enforcement officers graduate from Arizona police academies across the state.



In January 2015, AZPOST also created a sex trafficking DVD to train current law enforcement officers. This effort fulfilled a major recommendation of the Governor's Task Force on Human Trafficking which mandated sex trafficking identification training as a basic requirement for all new Arizona law enforcement recruits.

#### Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council (APAAC)

Since December 2014, APAAC has dedicated their web-based continuing education training module each December to the issue of human trafficking. This module was made available to more than 781 full-time state, county, and municipal prosecutors. APAAC also hosted, along with the Council and the McCain Institute, two full-day training seminars on prosecuting sex and labor trafficking cases. The trainings qualify for legal continuing education credit.



#### Yavapai County Sex Trafficking Symposium

In 2017, the Council hosted the Yavapai County Sex Trafficking Symposium which provided training on the dynamics of sex trafficking and an introduction to the Arizona Guidelines for Developing a Regional Response to Youth Sex Trafficking. The Symposium helped members from Yavapai County communities to identify victims of sex trafficking, as well as those at risk, and begin the collaborative process for developing/strengthening regional coalitions and multidisciplinary teams to provide a coordinated and consistent, victim-centered response to victims of sex trafficking. Eighty individuals attended the symposium including representatives from: law enforcement, first responders, forensic interviewers, county attorneys, DCS

investigators, medical professionals, victim service providers, probation staff, school staff, and community members.

#### School Resource Officer Training

In 2016, The Council, in partnership with Phoenix Police Department, provided two 90-minute trainings to 72 Arizona school resource officers (sworn law enforcement) as part of the annual Arizona School Resource Officer Association conference. The training included the federal descriptions of human trafficking, details about sex trafficking situations from both research and actual cases, and reviews of case studies of school-based sex trafficking scenarios. In 2019, additional school resources officers have been offered training by the ASU STIR office.



#### National Criminal Justice Training Center Training (NCJTC)

In September 2018, the Council presented at the Indian Federal Bar Association and at Implementing AMBER in Indian Country, hosted by the National Criminal Justice Training Center.

In order to bring greater focus and data to understanding the scope of human trafficking in tribal communities, the Navajo Nation works cooperatively with Indian Health Services, Navajo Nation police and the Indian Law program to gather data to inform national tribal issues.

With the passage of the Amber Alert in Indian Country Act, the NCJTC is tasked with rolling out training to implement Amber Alert throughout Indian Country. Included in the roll-out will be training on combatting human trafficking in Indian Country.




## The Judiciary as a Response to Human Trafficking


Because of its ultimate authority in criminal, civil, and juvenile matters impacting the continuum of human trafficking, the judiciary in state, tribal, and local courts are key in Arizona's comprehensive response to human trafficking.

The Council supports the judiciary in its efforts to convene multidisciplinary collaborations and cross-jurisdiction work to effectively respond in a victim-specific and trauma-informed manner to human trafficking.

### STRENGTH (Strength Through Resilience \* Empower New Growth Through Hope) Court




The Council co-chairs have been working to implement a specialized trafficking court for several years. They met with Judge Catherine Pratt, who oversees the successful STAR court in Compton, CA. She presented to the AZ Council on the STAR court in 2016 and met with stakeholders in Arizona including two interested judges. The co-chairs visited Judge Pratt's court in Compton and met with all of the supporting court and community staff involved in the STAR court. The Council met in 2018 with the new Maricopa County Superior Court Judge to discuss the implementation of a specialized court or calendar that would focus on trafficking and be able to provide "wrap-around" services to minor victims of trafficking. STRENGTH became operational as a specialized court calendar in 2018. The Superior Court of Maricopa County, STRENGTH, and its stakeholders continue to investigate national best practices to improve supports and services based on the specific needs of each trafficked child. Desired outcomes include:



The primary desired outcomes of the STRENGTH Court include:

- reduction in the amount of run-away activity;
- stabilization of medical and mental health needs;
- active engagement and participation in ongoing support services;
- reduction in the amount of school truancy/absences;
- reduction in the tendency to re-enter a sex trafficking lifestyle; and
- increase in the youth's positive social support network.



In addition, the STRENGTH Court supports the child victim to obtain the following goals, which may differ by referral source.

For referrals from Delinquency, the STRENGTH Court supports the child victim to:

- comply with their terms of probation;
- prevent new arrests or police contact related to sex trafficking or prostitution related activities;
- reduce the amount of run-away activity; and
- successful completion of educational goals.

For referrals from Dependency (DCS), the STRENGTH court supports the child victim to:

- reduce the amount of time in out-of-home care/dependency;
- increase the rate of permanency outcomes (reunification/adoption/legal guardianship);
- reduce incidences of re-entry into care;
- reduction in the amount of run-away activity; and
- successful completion of educational goals.

## Demand Reduction as a Response to Human Trafficking

Arizona works aggressively to reduce the demand for human trafficking. This focuses on the source and root of human trafficking as a societal issue. Without demand, there would be no need for supply.

The Council supports a wide variety of activities that are intended to disrupt the status quo demand for human trafficking. Following are examples of these activities:



### Shopping Mall Security Staff

Arizona's Homeland Security ICE and ASU STIR provided training for the heads of all mall security for the 15 Macerich shopping centers across Arizona in 2016. The training focused on how to identify, respond, and report occurrences of human trafficking in a trauma-informed and victim-centered manner. As part of the training, each attendee was provided a set of human trafficking "shoe cards" that could be placed in mall bathrooms so that victims may discretely read and take with them information for how to seek help.



### Baseball Security Staff

In 2017, the security staff of the Arizona Diamondbacks baseball stadium were trained to identify and respond to suspected trafficking activity. The training included federal definitions of trafficking, information about the dynamic relationship between victims and perpetrators, what victimization may consist of, and how security staff can identify potential trafficking situations, and develop a plan of action if a trafficking situation is observed.



### Super Bowl XLIX

In partnership with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign, awareness materials were distributed to more than 5,000 locations across Arizona prior to the 2015 Super Bowl hosted in the city of Glendale. Materials were created to inform and educate Arizonans about the fight against human trafficking and to promote the national hotline phone number. With the support of a local beer distributor, Blue Campaign posters and information on human trafficking was delivered to over 800 restaurants and taverns in the weeks prior to the game.



### Final Four Basketball 2017

In 2017, Phoenix hosted the Final Four of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I Men's Basketball Tournament. Attendance for the games themselves totaled more than 150,000 people. In addition, 100,000 fans attended associated events such as "Tip-Off Tailgate" and the "March Madness Music Festival". In preparation for the tournament and associated events, over 2,000 event volunteers were trained on how to identify, respond, and report occurrences of human trafficking in a trauma-informed and victim-centered manner. These trained volunteers interacted with tens of thousands of fans from March 31 through April 3, 2017.



## Truckers Against Trafficking

Founded in 2009, Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) educates, equips, empowers, and mobilizes the trucking industry to prevent human trafficking. As there are more truck drivers than law enforcement vehicles on America's roads, professional truck drivers are in a great position to be extra eyes and ears on the road to disrupt demand for trafficking. TAT has trained thousands of trucking industry members about sex trafficking including on how to identify, respond, and report occurrences of human trafficking in a trauma-informed and victim-centered manner. TAT training has resulted in a significant increase of reports of trafficking from truck drivers, aiding in victim recovery and the arrest of perpetrators.



In 2017, TAT introduced the "Everyday Heroes" truck that displays the National Human Trafficking Hotline number to increase awareness about the issue of human trafficking. TAT brought the "Everyday Hero's truck" to an Arizona Council meeting and the Governor held a press event commending TAT's work. The launch event also served as a fundraiser for TAT. Over 250 people attended Everyday Heroes training and \$85,000 was raised for TAT. The truck was purchased by J&L Transportation and is used every day as a conversation starter to share information with the general public about human trafficking and how to disrupt it. As a result of this outreach, Albertsons committed to placing stickers for the National Human Trafficking Hotline on 25,000 of their trucks.



## Uber

In 2017, Uber partnered with the McCain Institute and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to develop training to help their drivers identify and disrupt human trafficking. Uber drivers come into contact with a wide variety of the general public every day. Their unique role provides drivers with the opportunity to play a key role in stopping situations of human trafficking if they can recognize the signs. Resources and training tools were created specifically for Uber drivers in Arizona and across the nation.



The resulting training led Uber to adopt the ECPAT-USA Code of Conduct, which is an industry-driven initiative that works to ensure that children are not victims of sexual exploitation in travel or tourism.



## Tribal Casinos

In February 2018, the Council hosted a three-day human trafficking training for staff of three casinos operated by the Navajo Nation. Over 230 employees of the three casinos were trained from casinos located in Flagstaff, Arizona and Holbrook and Farmington, New Mexico.




## Prevention, Training and Awareness Efforts as a Response to Human Trafficking

Arizona ultimately seeks to prevent human trafficking from happening. In order to accomplish this vision, factors that create vulnerabilities to human trafficking must be removed at the individual, family, community, and societal levels.


The Council supports the development, implementation, and evaluation of tailored prevention strategies that target each of these levels. Following are examples of activities and tools that encompass the array of prevention efforts employed throughout the state:

### Tools and Trainings


#### *Preventing & Identifying Trafficking among School-aged Youth (Project STARFISH)*

 In 2015, Arizona State University, with support from the McCain Institute, partnered with former teachers and researchers to create a web-based human trafficking education curriculum aimed at preventing and identifying human trafficking among school-aged youth. Titled, “Project STARFISH (Sex Trafficking Awareness For Individual Strength and Hope)”, the curriculum is a free resource for educators that provides a safe and age-appropriate way to educate middle school and high school students on the issue of human trafficking. School administrators can access the online certification training to equip teachers, school social workers, and school nurses with the necessary information to appropriately respond to human trafficking. Once trained, teachers can in turn educate their students utilizing subject-specific lesson plans that can be incorporated into subjects such as: economics, English, history, journalism, photography, poetry, social justice, and theater. The website also provides a guide for hosting ten months of campus-wide awareness activities, quizzes, and brochures and permission slips for engaging parents.

#### *TEDX event - Perryville Correctional Facility for Women*

 In April 2018, Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz participated in a TEDx event which gathered a diverse set of speakers to discuss topics that related specifically to the women within Perryville Correctional Facility. Dr. Roe-Sepowitz’ talk, *In Plain Sight: Sex Trafficking Next Door*, addressed common misconceptions surrounding sex trafficking and highlighted the necessity of collaboration between key organizations like law enforcement, social services and the judiciary. Partnerships are essential to addressing the issue of sex trafficking by better understanding the role everyone plays in empowering victims and bringing traffickers to justice.

#### *See Something, Say Something Indicator Card*

 Developed in 2017, the card includes: common indicators to help recognize sex trafficking and the phone number to the Phoenix Police Department HEaT Unit Tip-Line. 5,000 Cards were distributed to volunteers working at various NCAA Final Four Events throughout the Phoenix metro-area. Since then, these cards are brought to all trainings and awareness events. In 2019, the Maricopa County Superior Courts placed these cards in two of their lobbies where over 1,000 people visit each day.

### *The Arizona Human Trafficking Speakers Bureau*



The Bureau provides education and outreach throughout Arizona on sex trafficking. The Speakers Bureau is comprised of members of the Council and professionals from a wide range of organizations and communities throughout the state who act as available subject matter experts to speak on human trafficking. Speakers have full access to training materials and aides including: a PowerPoint presentation, detailed talking points, and additional materials that can be incorporated into training presentations.

### *2018 Fall Speakers Series*



In August and September 2018, Arizona State University's STIR Office, in collaboration with community partners, hosted a fall speaker series that included national experts in the field of human trafficking. The free events included presentations on the symbiotic relationship between pornography and sex trafficking, and the reality of vicarious trauma and burnout for providers that work with trafficking victims. The presentations provided participants with insight on the socio-ecological factors that influence vulnerability as well as practical ways to incorporate and maintain self-care in a victim-centered practice. The audience for these events included students, community members, and advocates poised to make a positive impact in Arizona's anti-trafficking work.

### *Train-the-Trainer*



The purpose of the Train-the-Trainer sessions was to cultivate a group of professionals that can provide human trafficking presentations within their organizations, local community and around the state. In collaboration with Arizona State University's STIR Office, three Human Trafficking Train-the-Trainer sessions were conducted in 2016. 80 professionals completed the Train-the-Trainer sessions held in Prescott, Tucson and Phoenix. have full access to training materials and aides including: a PowerPoint presentation, detailed talking points, and additional materials that can be incorporated into training presentations

### *Human Trafficking Awareness Brochure*

Created in 2016, this brochure continues to be printed and distributed. The brochure includes information about human trafficking and available resources. The brochure is available to the community and organizations throughout Arizona and is downloadable on the Council's website.

### *Awareness Bracelets*

Throughout the month of January, as well as at trainings and awareness events throughout the year, the Council distributes blue bracelets. Updated in 2019, these bracelets have the "See Something Say Something" hashtag on the outside, with the national hotline and the Council's website on the inside. These bracelets create awareness of the issue as well as provide a resource to those that may need it and can be worn year-round.

### *Car Bumper Sticker*

In 2016, in collaboration with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), a human trafficking bumper sticker was created to raise awareness for the [EndeSexTrafficking.AZ.gov](http://EndeSexTrafficking.AZ.gov)

website as well as the National Hotline. These stickers were distributed and placed on all Arizona Department of Transportation vehicles.

### *Training Pamphlets*



In 2015, the Council partnered with Arizona State University's STIR Office to create a series of training pamphlets. These "What You Need to Know: Sex Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation" pamphlets target specific groups that either work with victims of human trafficking or those at risk of being trafficked, as well as informational pamphlets for parents and teenagers. They include:

- **Adult Probation Officer:** this tool informs Probation Officers on how to identify, report and respond to victims of trafficking. In November 2014, Maricopa County Adult Probation officers reported 165 adult victims of sex trafficking and 79 traffickers under their supervision.
- **Arizona Department of Child Safety:** this tool provides the Arizona Department of Child Safety employees with information on how to identify, report and respond to victims of sexual exploitation. In a recent study of youth in Arizona delinquency programs, 78% of domestic minor sex trafficking victims were also involved with the child welfare system.
- **Healthcare Provider:** this tool informs healthcare providers on how to properly identify, report and respond to victims of human trafficking in a medical setting. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services states that victims of sex trafficking often suffer from health-related problems including the physical effects of rape, as well as the physical effects of beatings and abuse, such as broken bones, dental injuries and untreated wounds.
- **Emergency Medical Service Providers:** this tool provides EMS providers with information on how to properly identify victims of human trafficking. EMS providers can be essential to front-line victim rescue and ultimate recovery.
- **Mental Health Providers:** this tool informs mental health providers on how to properly identify, report and respond to victims of trafficking. Sex trafficking victims have endured a high level of trauma and require services and interventions that do not inflict further trauma such as physical restraint, isolation or harsh verbal interrogation.
- **School Educators and Administrators:** this tool informs school educators and administrators on how to properly identify, report and respond to victims of trafficking. Most adolescents spend more time at school than anywhere else; therefore, schools are an ideal place for personnel to influence the health and safety of their students. This pamphlet has also been translated into Spanish.
- **"Teen Sex Trafficking Information":** this tool provides an overview of teen sex trafficking including important statistics including the fact that human trafficking is a \$9.8 billion industry, and at least 100,000 U.S. children are exploited in prostitution every year in America. This pamphlet has also been translated into Spanish.
- **"How to Talk to Your Kids About Human Trafficking":** this tool helps parents navigate what can be a challenging conversation to have with their children.

### *AGO Human Trafficking Awareness Program*



The Arizona Attorney General's Office (AGO) offers a human trafficking awareness program that targets youth, parents and the general public. The program focuses on prevention and is available statewide, free of charge. Trainings include information on the connection between social media and trafficking, warning signs, as well as healthy and unhealthy relationship indicators. Since January 2015, trainers have presented this program approximately 106 times to over 5,100 attendees while distributing over 8,000 education booklets. These trainings have taken place in 9 of Arizona's 15 counties (Coconino, Gila, Maricopa, Mohave, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, and Yuma). Specific audiences have included: staff and volunteers of foster care licensing agencies as well as school resources officers.

### Community Events

#### *Faith Summit on Human Trafficking*



Since its inception, one of the main priorities of the Council is to raise awareness. In November 2015 the Council hosted a faith summit on human trafficking that convened local faith leaders to discuss the harms of human trafficking and ways to speak to their memberships about purchasing commercial sex. The event launched an online multi-faith toolkit for continued use by religious leaders.

### Awareness Campaigns and Media Outreach

#### *EndSexTrafficking.AZ.gov website*

Launched in 2014, the EndSexTrafficking.AZ.gov website serves as an important tool to inform and encourage Arizonans to be a voice in the fight against this crime. Through this website, constituents can learn more about the issue, download a variety of resources, request a Human Trafficking 101 training, and contact the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family with any questions or concerns.

#### *Human Trafficking Prevention Month*

Since 2014, the Arizona's Governor's Office and the Council have hosted an annual statewide outreach and awareness campaign during the entire month of January. Beginning in 2016, the Governor of Arizona has issued official proclamations recognizing January as Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

#### *Lighting Arizona Blue*

Under Governor Ducey's leadership, the Capitol Dome is lit blue for human trafficking month. As the sun sets each night during the month of January, the copper dome on the Arizona State Capitol building slowly turns to blue. From near and far, this symbol shines bright to recognize the millions of people affected by human trafficking around the world. It symbolizes the continued commitment of the State of Arizona to ensure it is a zero-tolerance state for any form of human trafficking.

This has sparked a broader state initiative to light buildings blue in honor of trafficking victims, additional state, county, and city buildings have also been lit blue during the month of January



### *Arizona Department of Transportation Highway Signage*

In January 2019, Arizona's Department of Transportation incorporated human trafficking messaging into their large highway reader boards that are mounted for viewing by drivers. The signs displayed the message, "Human Trafficking. See it? Speak Up. 1-888-373-7888" continually over Martin Luther King Jr. weekend.

### *Filmed Public Service Announcements (PSAs)*

Several PSAs have been created and publicly aired since 2014. They have featured messages from Council Co-Chairs, the Governor, and survivors of human trafficking. Through partnerships with state agencies and the local broadcasting association, these PSAs were developed at a low-to-no-cost to reach a wide audience. In 2016, one PSA aired 710 times in the Phoenix metro area. During the NCAA Final Four in 2017, the Arizona Broadcasters Association (ABA) and the Arizona Human Trafficking Council's sex trafficking awareness PSA aired 474 times on eight different stations. The Arizona Daily Mix (featured on local channel, AZTV7, and streaming live online) featured a four-part series on human trafficking and internet safety.

### *Arizona State Lottery*

The Arizona State Lottery incorporates human trafficking awareness ads on thousands of point-of-sale lottery machines across the state during the month of January (Human Trafficking Prevention month) each year. The ads display a public service announcement regarding the importance of recognizing signs of human trafficking and providing the national hotline phone number that can be used to report suspected human trafficking. Approximately 3,000 machines run the ads daily, with each slide running for 10 seconds, ensuring that each human trafficking slide is displayed between 30-35 times an hour at each location.

## State and Tribal Legislation and Regulation as a Response to Human Trafficking

Arizona utilizes legislation and regulation to cement the state's commitment to addressing human trafficking and working towards prevention.

Following are examples of Arizona legislation, and administrative rules intended to effectively prevent and address human trafficking:

### House Bill 2454 - human trafficking; prostitution

In 2014 Governor Ducey signed HB 2454 into law. HB 2454 strengthened state law to increase penalties for human trafficking while improving and enhancing protective measures for the victimized and vulnerable.

Specifically, HB 2454:

- Creates a separate and higher sentencing structure for traffickers that increases the presumptive sentence:
  - From 10.5 years to 13.5 years for a first offense;
  - From 15.75 years to 25 years for a trafficker with a prior felony conviction; and
  - From 28 years to 31 years for a trafficker with two or more prior felonies;
- adds the language "or should have known" to the section of statute regarding a john who engages in prostitution with a minor who is fifteen, sixteen or seventeen and, therefore, limits the defense that the buyer did not know he was engaging in prostitution with a minor;
- allows any prior felony conviction to qualify for increased sentencing for traffickers, and for buyers who knowingly engaged in prostitution with a minor who is fifteen, sixteen or seventeen, or "should have known";
- adds an aggravating offense if a trafficker obtained a victim from a shelter for runaway youth, foster care, homeless persons or victims of human trafficking, domestic violence or sexual assault;
- adds an affirmative defense for victims of sex trafficking for the crime of prostitution and specifies that a victim's identifying and locating information is considered private when testifying in a court proceeding or when it is obtained by a prosecution or law enforcement agency;
- adds child prostitution, sex trafficking and labor trafficking to the list of acts that constitute racketeering;
- requires licensed escorts, escort businesses, massage therapists, and massage therapy businesses to include their license number in any advertisement for services, as well as to keep on file proof of the age of anyone depicted in an advertisement for services; and
- establishes advertising a minor for prostitution as a class 2 felony, or as a dangerous crime against children if the minor is under 15 years of ages.



### House Bill 2553 - human trafficking victim; vacating conviction

In 2015 Governor Ducey signed H.B. 2553. The bill allowed a person convicted of prostitution to apply to the court to vacate their conviction if the court finds by clear and convincing evidence



that their participation in the offense was a direct result of being a victim of sex trafficking. This applies to a victim who was convicted either before or after the effective date of this act.

#### House Bill 2374 - child prostitution; offense



H.B. 2374 was signed into law by Governor Ducey in 2016. This law expands the offense of child prostitution to include knowingly providing a means for a minor to engage in prostitution. The main purpose of the bill was to allow prosecution of traffickers that have removed themselves from the scene of the crime by providing youth victims with cell phones, hotel rooms, and computers, in order to induce sexual acts for money. The bill designated the violation as a Class 2 felony.

#### House Bill 2238 - child sex trafficking; violations



On April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Governor Ducey signed legislation to make an important change in the definition of child sex trafficking. House Bill 2238 replaced the term “child prostitution” with “child sex trafficking”. The legislation added “child sex trafficking” to the list of offenses eligible for lifetime probation, increasing the severity of the punishment.

#### Tribal AMBER Alert



In 2016, AMBER Alert was initiated in 13 tribes and 10 pilot sites, including 2 tribes in the Phoenix area. As a result of this pilot, the Ashlyne Mike AMBER Alert in Indian Country Act passed in 2018. This allows for integration of tribal AMBER Alert systems into state AMBER alert systems. Since passage of the law, the AMBER Alert Training and Technical Assistance Program (AATTAP) provided guidance and coordination between tribes and states to access and integrate with State AMBER Alert plans as part of the 2018 Act.

#### Navajo Nation Law against Human Trafficking



In 2017, the Navajo Nation Council amended the Navajo Nation Criminal Code to enact the Navajo Nation Law Against Human Trafficking. The law provided the Navajo Nation with additional tools to prevent human trafficking, punish traffickers, and assist and protect victims.

#### Navajo Nation Sexual Assault Prevention Subcommittee



In 2018, the Navajo Nation developed a Sexual Assault Prevention Subcommittee that addresses any type of sexual violence including human trafficking. This subcommittee develops resources for public health professionals, law enforcement, sexual assault nurse examiners and schools.

## Use of Data and Research as a Response to Human Trafficking

Human trafficking research has steadily increased in Arizona since the inception of the Council. The regular provision of data and research about human trafficking to the members of the Council has led to important new victim-service program development, informed the development of prevention programming, and supported policing decisions based on research evidence.

Research and data collection activities led by Arizona State University's Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research (ASU STIR) in partnership with Arizona State University's McCain Institute for International Leadership have involved dozens of research projects on human trafficking which have led to data-driven prevention and intervention activities. Sextraffickinghelp.com, a website funded by a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau grant administered by ASU STIR, was created in response to the need for service providers to know where to get specialized help for trafficked victims. The website acts as an online clearinghouse listing up-to-date information on Arizona service providers that serve trafficked persons and are victim-centered and trauma-informed.

The Council continues to develop research activities in conjunction with ASU STIR and other data-driven organizations that contribute to the development of awareness programming, therapeutic interventions, policy and legal strategies to combat human trafficking, data-driven human trafficking policing, and programs to support the healing of victims. Following are examples of several projects implemented in Arizona that focused on the collection of, and use of data to inform human trafficking response and prevention initiatives:

### The Annual Youth Experience Survey

Since 2014, the Council has partnered with Arizona State University's STIR Office to produce a Youth Experience Survey (YES). YES is funded by The McCain Institute for International Leadership at Arizona State University with collaboration by the City of Tucson; Our Family Services; UMOM; and the STIR Office. The purpose of the survey is to provide insight to service providers and others on the challenges, experiences, and needs of the homeless young adult population. The survey is conducted annually and provides a snapshot of the trafficking experiences of Arizona's homeless youth population. Homeless runaway young adults (ages 18 to 25) are difficult to find and can be difficult to engage. This survey is given to homeless young adults in both Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona through homeless youth-targeted service providers. The data collected provides an insight into the complexity of the challenges, including sex and labor trafficking experiences, that homeless youth face.

Over the five years of the survey, sex trafficking was reported by participants at an average of 31.5%. LGBTQ participants were increasingly likely to report being a victim of sex trafficking. Other issues found more commonly among the sex trafficked group included suicide attempts, depression diagnoses, anxiety, posttraumatic stress disorder, and bipolar disorder. Sex trafficking victims were also found to be more likely to have been kicked out of their homes and having received previous residential treatment. Participants reported the role of technology in their exploitation, including the use of a smartphone, Facebook and Backpage.com.





### Exploring Sex Trafficking Impact and Prostitution Demand During the 2015 Super Bowl

In February 2015, Arizona State University's STIR Office, supported by The McCain Institute, produced a multi-year study reporting on the demand for prostitution during Super Bowl XLIX. Building upon previous research from the 2014 Super Bowl, in East Rutherford, New Jersey, researchers sought to quantify the net effect of the Super Bowl on local, regional, and national sex trafficking empirically, using source data collected from the leading internet based adult services website

Findings from data collected resulted in a number of surprising results. Overall the sex selling and sex buying markets significantly increased in both Northern New Jersey and Phoenix when the two years were compared. The study found that 73.3% of buyers were from local area codes, indicating the problem is local and not necessarily correlated with large-scale events. The overall increase in the sex buyer volume and the number of commercial sex ads indicated that public awareness and concern about sex trafficking and increased law enforcement attention on the crime has yet to reduce the overall demand for commercial sex or supply of sellers.

### A Four-Year Analysis of Labor Trafficking Cases in the United States

Conducted between 2013 and 2016 by Arizona State University's STIR Office, this study was conducted to determine reliable statistics on the prevalence, frequency, geography and particulars of labor trafficking.



The report identified 125 persons arrested for trafficking and 120 victims of labor trafficking. Cases of labor trafficking steadily increased over the four years, possibly a result of increased awareness and training within communities, or the increased use of labor trafficking language used by prosecutors and the media.

Noted implications for future research include the need to learn more about the role of foreign national individuals in the recruitment and labor trafficking of migrant workers, and labor exploitation experience in order to have a better understanding of evolving labor trafficking trends. Future research should also be focused on areas of the country with few or zero labor trafficking arrests as well as within hospitality, agriculture, and home health care agency industries.

### Law Enforcement Collaboration with Thorn

Thorn, Digital defenders of Children, is the first engineering and data science team with the sole purpose of combating online child sexual exploitation and abuse. Thorn partnered with the McCain Institute and the Arizona Human Trafficking Council to beta-test their now-nationally adopted child sex trafficking investigations tool - Spotlight - at Super Bowl XLIX in Phoenix. Arizona law enforcement officers working human trafficking cases utilized Spotlight in the days before, during, and after the Super Bowl and provided important feedback which was then

incorporated back into the tool. Spotlight is provided at no cost to law enforcement that allows them to quickly scan websites for trafficked victims and prioritize those likely to involve children. Spotlight is now used by over 9,300 law enforcement officers in all 50 states and Canada and has helped identify an average of 8 children per day. Spotlight was also added to new officer training at AZPOST, Arizona's police academy.

## Resources

Adult Probation Study: <https://www.mccainstitute.org/report-on-the-incidence-of-sex-trafficking-in-maricopa-county-adult-probati/>

Arizona Attorney General Office: <https://www.azag.gov/>

Arizona Coalition for Victim Services: <http://www.azcvns.net/>

Arizona Guidelines for Developing a Regional Response to Youth Sex Trafficking: [http://endsextrafficking.az.gov/sites/default/files/files/arizona\\_guidelines\\_for\\_developing\\_a\\_regional\\_response\\_to\\_youth\\_sex\\_trafficking.pdf](http://endsextrafficking.az.gov/sites/default/files/files/arizona_guidelines_for_developing_a_regional_response_to_youth_sex_trafficking.pdf)

Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board: <https://post.az.gov/>

Arizona Prosecuting Attorneys' Advisory Council: <https://www.apaac.az.gov/>

Arizona Sex Trafficking Response Resource: <http://sextraffickinghelp.com/>

ASU STIR: <https://socialwork.asu.edu/stir>

ASU STIR Resources: <https://socialwork.asu.edu/stir/training>

Catholic Charities Diversion Program: <https://www.catholiccharitiesaz.org/phoenix/sex-trafficking>

Coalition Against Human Trafficking: <https://www.coalitionagainsthumantrafficking-northernaz.org/>

Crews'n Healthmobile: <https://www.phoenixchildrens.org/crewsn-healthmobile>

FIAT: <http://northlandfamily.org/flagstaff-initiative-trafficking/>

GOYFF Resources: <http://endsextrafficking.az.gov/human-trafficking/resources>

International Rescue Committee: <https://www.rescue.org/united-states/phoenix-az>

Juvenile Probation Study: [http://sextraffickinghelp.com/wp-content/uploads/ASUJuvenileProbation-StudyFINAL\\_Dec2015.pdf](http://sextraffickinghelp.com/wp-content/uploads/ASUJuvenileProbation-StudyFINAL_Dec2015.pdf)

Maricopa Attorney's Office: <https://www.maricopacountyattorney.org/>

McCain Institute Resources: <https://www.mccainstitute.org/human-trafficking-mission/>

National Human Trafficking Hotline: <http://humantraffickinghotline.org/>  
1 (888) 373-7888

one-n-ten: <https://oneten.org/>

Phoenix Children's Hospital: <https://www.phoenixchildrens.org/>

Phoenix Dream Center: <https://www.phxdreamcenter.org/getconnected>

Phoenix Family Advocacy Center: <http://acfan.net/centers/phoenix-family.htm>

Regional Response to Youth Sex Trafficking June 2016: <http://endsextrafficking.az.gov/human-trafficking/resources>

Sex Trafficking Help (STIR): <http://sextraffickinghelp.com/>

Southern Arizona Against Sexual Assault: <https://www.sacasa.org/trafficking/>

Starfish Place: [https://www.phoenix.gov/housingsite/Pages/starfish\\_place.aspx](https://www.phoenix.gov/housingsite/Pages/starfish_place.aspx)

Streetlight: <https://www.streetlightusa.org/>

Thorn: <https://www.thorn.org/>

Truckers Against Trafficking: <https://truckersagainsttrafficking.org/>

UMOM: <https://umom.org/>

Yavapai Family Advocacy Center: <http://yfac.org/>

YES Survey : <https://www.mccainstitute.org/youth-experience-survey/>







