

# Human Trafficking in Kentucky



Dr. TK Logan, University of Kentucky  
*Kentucky Bar Association, June 2007*



# Agreement of use

- Copyright 2007, Dr. TK Logan
- For more information about this work please contact Dr. TK Logan at [tklogan@email.uky.edu](mailto:tklogan@email.uky.edu) or 859-257-8248
- Permission is granted to reproduce and distribute copies of this work for nonprofit educational purposes, provided that copies are distributed at or below cost and that the author, source, and copyright notice are included on each copy.



# Methods

- Statewide survey (9/19/2006-6/1/2007)
  - Experts or people with a special interest in Human Trafficking
  - Victim services (rape crisis and domestic violence shelters/services)
  - Homeless shelters (targeted shelters that served women)
    - Anyone else?
- Response (n=140/162)
  - 86% completed the hour long phone interviews
  - 6% refused
- Acknowledgments



# Respondents

AGENCY TYPE (N=140)	%	N
<b>Victim services</b>	<b>33.6%</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Legal</b> (local police, judges, attorneys, government agencies)	<b>22.9%</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Other services</b> (e.g., housing, social services, mental health, family services)	<b>22.9%</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Homeless shelters</b>	<b>10.7%</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Health</b> (e.g., SANE)	<b>7.9%</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Educators/Universities</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Refused to say</b>	<b>.7%</b>	<b>1</b>



# Experience with human trafficking in Kentucky?

- 46% said yes (n=64)



# Experience with human trafficking

AGENCY TYPE (N=64)	%	N
<b>Victim services</b>	<b>42.2%</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Legal</b>	<b>29.7%</b>	<b>19</b>
State or city law enforcement		8
Attorney/Judge		8
ICE/government		3
<b>Other services (e.g., housing, social services, mental health, family services)</b>	<b>17.2%</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Health (e.g., SANE)</b>	<b>6.3%</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Homeless shelters</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Refused to say</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>1</b>



# What does human trafficking in Kentucky look like?

- There appears to be 69 different cases that were examined:
  - 23.2% did not provide enough detail to classify into a type of exploitation, however of those cases 37.5% mentioned sexual assault.
- Cases that could be classified (minor details have been changed to protect confidentiality):
  - Prostitution (23.2%)
    - *(e.g., mention of prostitution, massage parlor, sexual assault by multiple people)*
  - Personal services (23.2%)
    - *(e.g., mention of domestic or sexual servitude with one person, domestic violence, or mail order bride)*
  - Labor (14.5%)
    - *(e.g., mention of farm labor, or general mention of forced work or labor, long work hours, no pay, mention of debt bondage)*
  - Restaurant (8.7%)
    - *(e.g., mention of restaurant work or labor specifically)*
  - Domestic (7.3%)
    - *(e.g., mention of domestic labor, work inside the home, domestic work for a family)*



# Type of human trafficking

- **Prostitution (23.2%)**

- “A prostitution case through a massage parlor was discovered, but it turned out to be a human trafficking issue. The girls were brought in from Asia and were held as indentured servants.”
- “These women who worked at a local restaurant were showing up at people’s homes, turns out the owner of the restaurant was prostituting them.”
- “One woman was a mail-order bride from the Philippines who was forced into prostitution by her husband after she had got into the U.S.”
- “Another woman was brought to the U.S. as a mail-order bride but when she got here she was told no man wanted her as a bride so they forced her into sexual acts.”
- “Smuggler handed victim over to rest of smuggling ring. Family was supposed to have someone pick her up. Ring decided immigrant women would be sex slaves.”



# Type of human trafficking

- **Personal services (23.2%)**

- “The victim had married an American man in her home country and came to U.S. on petition to come as his wife. He then forced her to work, she refused and then he resorted to physical and sexual violence.”
- “A women was raped by acquaintance, he used cultural and religious shame tactics and basically black-mailed her into becoming domestic servant and sexual slave.”
- “One lady came to the U.S. with her immigrant husband. He kept her chained in hotel room, used her as a sexual slave.”
- “One victim, who was smuggled into U.S., was sold to an immigrant man by the people who loaned her money to come into the U.S. This man basically used her as a sexual slave.”
- “A woman was in the U.S. legally with a temporary visa. She was working for a man and ended up getting involved in a romantic relationship with him. She was working 18 hour days and he was not paying her. He wouldn't let her leave the house except for work. He was also using sexual and domestic violence as a way to keep her intimidated.”



# Type of human trafficking

- Labor (14.5%)

- “A victim and her husband came here to work on a farm, but that wasn’t what they were doing, ended up working with agriculture and were not being paid for their labor. They had a contract that changed throughout their time in America.”
- “He was a Mexican farm worker who had broken his legs while working. He couldn’t work so his employers just basically threw him away. He had no more food and had received no medical care for his legs.”
- “The fourteen year old son of a client was brought by a coyote from Mexico to the US and forced to work to pay off a debt.”



# Type of human trafficking

- **Restaurant worker (8.7%)**

- “Victim was in a rural county in Kentucky and worked at a restaurant. She was forced to work 12 hours a day but was not paid. She also lived in the owners home and was not allowed to leave except for work.”
- “Teenage boy was brought to Kentucky from Texas. He was promised a free ride to his family’s house and ended up in a different state to do restaurant labor.”
- “Hispanic workers from Texas were forced to work in a restaurant.”
- “One victim, a young male had signed a contract. He was basically an indentured servant and was working off a debt in a restaurant for very little pay. He had just got finished paying it off and was looking for services which is how we became aware of the case.”



# Type of human trafficking

- **Domestic (7.3%)**

- “A woman was working as domestic help for a family. She was threatened by the family that they would report to the police she had stolen stuff from them if she told anybody. Her passport was confiscated by the family and she had no control over her money. She was told she would have to work for five years to pay off her debt. She was instructed not to speak to others and to lie to neighbors about who she was if they happened to ask.”
- “A young girl was raped and beaten by a man; she lived with the man and his wife and was used for domestic chores inside their home and forced to work cleaning in a hotel as well.”
- “Several women were mail-order brides but ended up being sold as domestic workers.”

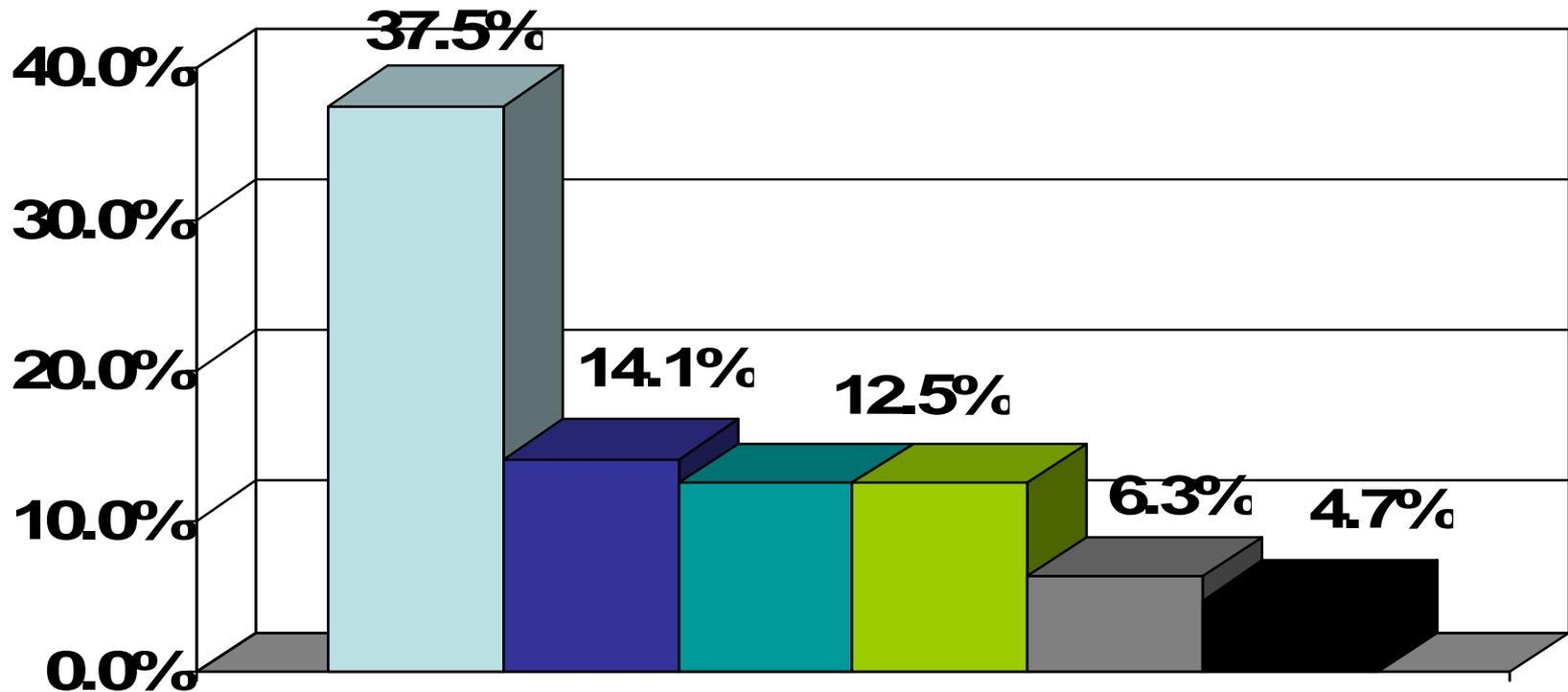


# What languages?

	%
Spanish	67.2%
Chinese	17.2%
Tagalog (Philippines)	12.5%
Russian	9.4%
Korean	7.8%
Indonesian	6.3%
Other (Arabic, Vietnamese, Cambodian)	1.6%



# How were these cases identified?





# What makes people vulnerable?

- Poverty related (96.4%)
- Personal characteristics (55.7%)
- Situational characteristics (36.4%)
- Forced (28.6%)



# Poverty related

- Poverty/need a job (84.4%)
- Want a better life (65.7%)
- Misled or tricked (57.8%)
- Need to support their family (17.2%)



# Personal characteristics

- Lack of education/knowledge (25%)
- Woman or child (17.2%)
- Bad choices (18.8%)
  - Substance use (9.4%)
  - Other bad choices (14.1%)
    - Made poor choices; Involved in criminal activities; Prior abuse/victimization;
- Cultural factors (7.8%)
  - Social acceptance in their culture; gender discrimination; come from powerless families; trafficking is culturally accepted/normal



# Situational characteristics

- Isolation (20.3%)
- Limited English (17.2%)
- Immigrant/undocumented immigrant (6.2%)



# Forced

- Forced (21.9%)
- Sold (7.8%)



# What keeps people entrapped?

- Fear (89.5%)
  - Fear of retaliation against them or their family; fear of law enforcement; fear of legal problems; fear of deportation
- Don't know how to get help (60.9%)
- Humiliation or shame (23.4%)
  - Loss of self, loss of control over life, loss of masculinity, being violated sexually, cuts to the core of who you are as a person
- Language and cultural factors (19.3%)
- Don't realize they are being trafficked (14.1%)
- Don't have any other options (10.4%)



# Victim needs

- 1. Living needs (87.5%)**
  - Basic living needs (76.6%)
    - food, clothing, housing
  - Counseling (40.6%)
  - Financial (25%)
  - Employment (17.2%)
  - Referrals to services (31.3%)
- 2. Legal (79.7%)**
- 3. Interpreter/language-related (32.8%)**
- 4. Safety/family safety (18.8%)**
- 5. Need help to get home (9.4%)**



# What should be kept in mind?

- Victims often present with other problems
  - Health needs, mental health, assault
- Victims and traffickers may not be stereotypical
- Needs are huge and multidimensional;  
Consequences are long-lasting
- Lack of public awareness facilitates the environment for human trafficking



# What should be kept in mind?

- Unless victims talk we won't know...
  - However we have to listen carefully
- Services typically do not have the resources to target or address this crime
  - It must be addressed as a community



# Summary

- **Human trafficking is a deprivation of entitlements and rights. The absence of entitlements and rights limits the ability to achieve a meaningful life.**
- **In the case of a migrant human trafficking victim they are deprived of citizenship; basic living needs such as food, health care, and safety; and as a worker whose labor is not recognized.**
- **Human trafficking can and does occur in Kentucky.**
- **It can only be addressed by all of us acknowledging that fact, understanding what it is, and potentially helping if it were to intersect our life.**

Thank you!

