

An Examination of the Sex Trafficking Dilemma in Three States and the Prevalence of Task Force Involvement in the Prosecution of Human/Sex Trafficking Cases

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Introduction

There is a problem investigating and eliminating sex trafficking. Despite more attention being drawn to the problem by documentaries, such as the Jeffrey Epstein documentary and I am Jane Doe, etc., as well as celebrities that have spoken out on the topic, such as Ashton Kutcher and Blake Lively, there is not enough attention being drawn to the factors of sex trafficking, as well as the prostitution industry's involvement. This problem has negatively impacted victims of sex trafficking, especially those who are trafficked into prostitution rings. A possible cause of this problem is the high male demand for commercial sex and lack of education about the factors involved in sex trafficking. The purpose of this research study is to explore the prevalence of task force involvement in the prosecution of human/sex trafficking cases as well as the possible solutions that can be used to close the gap in the prosecution of human/sex trafficking cases (Brents, Jackson, Hausbeck, 2010) (Farley, 2007). Sex trafficking statistics are ever-changing because new data comes out every year, (American Civil Labor Union, Bejinariu, 2019, Human Trafficking Statistics by State 2020, 2020) and education about sex trafficking is not provided as much as it should be. There is a gap in the research specifically regarding the challenges that the legal system has in eradicating sex trafficking. In a study published by the U.S. Department of Justice, they studied law enforcement roles in human trafficking cases. They found that 90% of Federal agents did not know what their role was during a human trafficking investigation. This points out the major gap due to the challenges law enforcement has, and part of this gap can be fixed with better training and education. Law enforcement also has a challenge prosecuting due to other barriers such as the inability to identify cases, victim distrust of law enforcement, and language barriers (Clawson, Dutch, & Cummings, 2006). By doing research into the different elements that contribute to sex trafficking, and conducting interviews with law enforcement, task forces, and researchers through a qualitative method, this study brings new information to light that can be used to eradicate and eliminate sex trafficking.

Literature Review

Differentiating Between Sex Trafficking, Human Trafficking, and Smuggling

Smuggling, human trafficking, and sex trafficking are normally interconnected, but it is important to understand the difference among the three. Human smuggling is "the facilitation, transportation and illegal entry of a person across an international border in violation of one or more countries' laws regardless of deception or intent" (Winebrenner 2015). People will pay someone to smuggle them into another country, but what can happen is when they get to that country, they are not freed and, in that instance, become a victim of human trafficking. The U.N. Office on Drugs

and Crime defines human trafficking as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the treatment or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation” (Winebrenner 2015). A victim of sex trafficking is a subtype of human trafficking. Sex trafficking happens when the victim of human trafficking is held for the sole purpose of sex and/or is forced to participate in prostitution (Winebrenner 2015). Someone who is under the age of 18 and is soliciting prostitution is automatically a victim of sex trafficking, regardless of if they are consenting to it or not.

Three Major States

The World Population review released the human trafficking statistics by state for 2020.

It is important to understand that states with the highest rates of human trafficking do not necessarily have the highest number of cases, but that these states have the most number of cases per 100k people, meaning that it happens to a higher proportion of the population. The top ten states with the highest rates of human trafficking are:

1. Nevada (7.61 per 100k)
2. Mississippi (4.95 per 100k)
3. Florida (4.07 per 100k)
4. Georgia (3.88 per 100k)
5. Delaware (3.87 per 100k)
6. Ohio (3.83 per 100k)
7. Missouri (3.78 per 100k)
8. California (3.77 per 100k)
9. Texas (3.66 per 100k)
10. Louisiana (3.42 per 100k)

For the purpose of this research, the researcher focused on the top three states: Nevada, Mississippi, and Florida. There has been a lot of research done on trafficking in Nevada. Sex trafficking is very prevalent there due to the legalization of prostitution. Legal brothels of Nevada have been subject to much research. In an article about human trafficking in Nevada, the paper highlighted what human trafficking is, the statistics, and case numbers in Nevada compared to the National average, and programs that Nevada has put in place against human trafficking. They compared the types of human trafficking reported as well, it was found that in Nevada 89% of human trafficking victims are victims of sex trafficking as well (Bejinariu, 2019). Human trafficking has recently made the news in Mississippi because of a human trafficking operation that was recently busted by an undercover sting. Five men were arrested for the exploitation of a child and procuring sexual servitude of a minor. Although the suspects were from other areas, the crime took place in Mississippi and the charges were also made in Mississippi (WLBT Digital, 2020). The rea-

son human trafficking is being talked about more and researched in specifically Mississippi is that the first annual Mississippi Human Trafficking Summit was held on January 31st of 2020. The Summit was attended by more than 400 federal, state, tribal, and local law enforcement officers, victim service providers, prosecutors, nonprofits, policymakers, and social workers. This marks a step in bridging the gap of challenges law enforcement agencies have with sex trafficking cases. With the Mississippi Human Trafficking Council being formed in 2019, the widespread awareness of human trafficking in Mississippi is only just beginning. The Council aims to be victim-centered to prevent trafficking, prosecute traffickers, and protect victims. This will also aid in the gap with law enforcement (Department of Justice, 2020). This gap regarding law enforcement is also addressed in the research study, "Florida's task force approach to combat human trafficking: an analysis of country-level data", published by Police Practice and Research. This study brings up the fact that while the number of estimated prosecutions for human trafficking are slowly rising, there are still major issues. For example, many times officers will prosecute sex trafficking cases as misdemeanor prostitution offenses, rather than human trafficking cases (Huff-Corzine, Sacra, Corzine, Rados, 2017). There is a very close association in Florida between tourism and sex trafficking. The two are directly correlated and that is one of the reasons why the trafficking rates in Florida are so high (Huff-Corzine, Sacra, Corzine, Rados, 2017). Luckily, Florida has created a Statewide Council on Human Trafficking and has made major steps forward in prosecuting sex trafficking cases. Many of the task forces have meetings quarterly and discuss future operations as well as conduct training with law enforcement. There are three parts of task forces. One part consists of law enforcement, which focuses on arresting traffickers and recovering victims, DCF (Department of Children and Families) assistance focuses on juvenile victims, and NGO's (Non-Governmental Organizations) focuses on mostly adult victims and identify services that will help and provide assistance to the victim. The conclusion of the study by Police Practice and Research found that the odds of a trafficking arrest being made in Florida increased by over 39 times when an agency was involved in the investigation. This means that task forces are directly linked to the closing of the gap involving law enforcement. By providing increased training and awareness, task forces help law enforcement have a more victim-centered approach and make more sex trafficking arrests (Huff-Corzine, Sacra, Corzine, Rados, 2017).

How Victims Are Trafficked

Human trafficking (including sex trafficking) is considered a modern-day form of slavery. It is estimated by the U.S. Department of State that 14,500 to 17,500 people are trafficked into the United States every year, and this does not even include victims inside the U.S. (Department of State, 2020). Women and children are more at risk to be trafficked, especially into sex trafficking. Factors like gender discrimination, illiteracy, poverty, regional conflicts, low levels of education, and a lack of job opportunities make women more vulnerable to being trafficked. This is because these factors cause more women to migrate in search of better opportunities, leading them to trust "employers" who use fraud, force, and coercion to lead women into job situations where the woman ends up being trafficked (American Civil Labor Union). The American Civil Labor Union has also researched methods traffickers use to coerce and exploit their victims. The methods include physical abuse; where victims are beaten, sexually abused, and raped. Victims may also be deprived of adequate essentials such as food, water, sleep, and shelter. Psychological abuse is also used as methods of deprivation, isolation, and threats. These threats may include traffickers saying that they will kill or harm the victim's family and friends if the victim does not comply. Verbal abuse is used to make the victim feel ashamed and isolated. Traffickers will also often cut the victim off from the outside world. All these methods of abuse can cause the victim to become disoriented and fearful. Traffickers may also use legal processes such as depriving the victim of legal documents and threaten deportation or arrest if the victim does not comply. These methods are important to know and understand in order to move forward with advances in helping victims (American Civil Labor Union).

It is also important to understand various methods in identifying the victims of human trafficking. These methods are often directly related to how the victim is trafficked. In a research article published by the National Dis-

trict Attorneys Association, they outline ways to identify victims of trafficking. Trafficking is broken up into three distinct categories: recruitment, movement, and exploitation. Commonly, victims will often be tricked into the first category and consent to being recruited. Most of the previous research done on identifying trafficking victims focuses on foreign-born victims, or victims that were smuggled into the U.S. and were then trafficked (Tiapula, Millican, 2008). In regards to the purpose of this research paper, there needs to be research done on identifying victims of trafficking that were trafficked within the U.S. borders, as well as research done on how victims are trafficked inside the U.S. Research should also be done on the comparison between victims of trafficking inside the U.S. (focusing on top three states), and foreign-born victims trafficked in the U.S.

Prostitution

The legalization of prostitution is a controversial subject that is often debated. One question regarding prostitution is whether making prostitution legal would harm the victims who are trafficked into it. Prostitution is a very important topic in my paper since sex trafficking and prostitution are directly related. One journal article focuses on the technological advances that have permitted pimps, traffickers, and sex buyers, the use of websites for prostitution, online advertising, message boards, dating, and sugar daddy sites, live streaming video, and the involvement of organized crime in online trafficking. The research done has also shown how online prostitution is most common on sites such as Craigslist and Backpage. Even though those sites' purpose is not the sale of sex, pimps and buyers have code words that are used for the sale and solicitation of prostitutes (Farley, Franzblau, & Kennedy, 2013). These code words are used in these online sites to conceal the sale of sex. In an article by a sex trafficking outreach organization in Nevada, they stated the code words that are often used for the online purchase of sexual services. Some words include, daddy: which refers to a prostituted women's pimp, trick/date: signifies the act of prostitution or a person buying a victim, and the game/the life: referring to the sex trade as a whole (awakenreno.org). These are just some examples in the vast list of vocabulary that Johns (men who solicit prostitutes), and pimps use to communicate.

Research has also been done on the effects of male demand on the prostitution and sex trafficking industry. Prostitution would not be such a market for sex trafficking if it wasn't so popular. Research has shown that high male demand normalizes prostitution. In a journal article focusing on the male demand of prostitution by Northwest University School of Law, they analyzed studies that showed if test groups of men who were caught soliciting a prostitute, were then educated on how common sex trafficking is in the prostitution industry and how common it is that the prostitute has been a victim of sex trafficking, those test groups were never caught soliciting a prostitute again (Yen, 2008). Studies like this show the importance of education on the prostitution industry and sex trafficking in general. Every current theme in the literature is that most prostitutes are victims of sex trafficking. Because human trafficking for sexual exploitation has increased drastically in the past few years, research has shown that most of the trafficked victims are forced to work as prostitutes (Yen, 2008). An article from the Chronicle of Higher Education focuses on a different point of view, however. The authors discuss research done on legal brothels in Nevada. Many of the researchers that have conducted studies on legal brothels have conflicting opinions. One researcher, Barbara G. Brents, an associate professor of sociology who has done nearly 20 years of research on Nevada's legal brothels, believes that they are "one of many possible solutions to concerns about the exploitation of women in sex work" (Schmidt, 2011). This point of view is not very popular in the research done on prostitution in legal brothels. Most beliefs are that of Melissa Farley, a clinical psychologist, researcher, and executive director of Prostitution Research and Education. She states she "has rarely seen people as harmed' physiologically and physically as the women who work in legal brothels in Nevada" (Schmidt, 2011). These clashing points of view have led to more debate on the prostitution industry and have shifted the discussion to focus more on the lives of women involved in the work.

The Hotel Industry

The hotel industry plays a much bigger role in the sex trafficking industry and the prostitution industry than people realize. There have been various cases where the sex trafficking victim sued a hotel for complying with their traffickers, and in some cases, benefitting financially from their compliance. For example, in the Yale Law & Policy Review, they list multiple cases where the hotel or hotel owners were tried. In the case of Kanubhai Patel, he would rent rooms to people charged as sex-trafficking co-conspirators and would charge them with higher rates. He would also open the gates of the motel to allow the women to bring their customers back to their rooms. He was aware that the people he was renting his rooms out to were pimps who coerced, and in some cases, forced women to engage in prostitution. According to court documents, he was also aware of how the pimps would brutally beat their victims, made clear by the broken appliances and blood on the walls of the motel rooms. Instead of reporting the damage and the pimps to whom he rented rooms, he complied because he was gaining financially from it. Patel ended up pleading guilty to “one count of benefitting financially from peonage, slavery, and trafficking in persons, in violation of 18 U.S.C. & 1593A” (Rothberg, 2019). In the case of Faizal Bhimani, Bhimani was prosecuted on one count of sex trafficking by force and coercion conspiracy and another count of sex trafficking by force and coercion. The entity that owns the hotel was indicted as well with the same charges (Rothberg, 2019).

Research has also been done on the legal framework, the collateral litigation between hotels and their insurance providers, the hotel industry’s reaction to the recent litigation, as well as failed attempts to eradicate sex trafficking through self-regulation (Rothberg, 2019). The research done is very important to my paper because it offers up a whole new environment that is being used in the sex trafficking industry. Because of the substantial body of research that has been done on hotels involved in sex trafficking and prostitution, it is evident that the hotel industry plays a large part in the dilemma of sex trafficking.

With a better understanding of factors such as prostitution, and the hotel industry, as well as differentiating between smuggling, human trafficking, and sex trafficking, the researcher will be able to understand the dilemma of the sex trafficking industry, focusing on the three states with the highest rates of trafficking, as well as move forward in proposing solutions to reduce sex trafficking.

Method

After the comprehensive study of the literature on differentiating between sex trafficking, human trafficking, and smuggling, as well as the top three states for trafficking and how victims are trafficked, the researcher conducted a content analysis to identify the major themes that correlate with sex trafficking focusing on three states with the highest rates of trafficking, as well as a gap in the current research regarding challenges the legal system, specifically law enforcement, faces when attempting to eradicate sex trafficking. To propose new solutions for eradicating and eliminating sex trafficking, a qualitative method was used to conduct the study. The researcher will be using primary data in the form of interviews that were conducted with law enforcement, task forces, and researchers. Law enforcement are from the three major states and the researcher chose different law enforcement spread out across the state. This ensures limited sampling bias. The same approach was used with task forces. The questions that were asked in interviews have reduced researcher bias because they are the same set of questions for all law enforcement, the same set of questions for all members of task forces, and the same set of questions for all researchers. The researcher also asked follow-up questions to ensure the validity of the data as well as clarify responses. Limits that were placed on the nature of acceptable data were just whether or not questions were answered appropriately and/or thoroughly. All interviewees remained anonymous.

By analyzing interview responses, the researcher explored methods that law enforcement is currently using to bridge the gap, as well as any new methods not yet implemented. This data helped the researcher identify and propose new solutions that can be used to eliminate and eradicate sex trafficking, as well as offer up solutions to close the gap of challenges the legal system, specifically law enforcement, has with eliminating and eradicating sex trafficking.

Procedure

The researcher emailed police departments and task forces from Miami and Tampa FL, Reno and Las Vegas, NV, as well as Jackson and Gulfport, MS. This is how contact information for law enforcement that specializes in human/sex trafficking was obtained. Researchers who had published works on human/sex trafficking were also emailed. They were emailed a specific script (see appendix A) When a response was received, a link to a Google form containing the interview questions was sent back (see appendix C). It is important to note that there was no need for consent forms due to every participant remaining anonymous (see appendix B). Once all the data from the participants were received in the Google Form, the researcher created a frequency table of the questions and responses for each set of interviews (see tables 1, 2, and 3)

Results

The purpose of this research study was to explore sex trafficking as well as the possible solutions that can be used to close the gap between law enforcement and the prosecution of human/sex trafficking cases. Law enforcement has many challenges in prosecuting these cases. These challenges include barriers such as the inability to identify cases, victim distrust of law enforcement, and language barriers (Clawson, Dutch, & Cummings, 2006). Part of this gap can be fixed with better education and training. Victim distrust (victims not coming forward/opening up to law enforcement because they don't trust them), and language barriers can be harder to fix (Clawson, Dutch, & Cummings, 2006). By conducting interviews with law enforcement, task forces, and researchers, new information on human/sex trafficking as well as how to close the gap with law enforcement and the prosecution of cases is brought to light. This section analyzes the demographics of the participants and significant findings from the interviews that were conducted.

Demographics

Three separate interviews with three groups of people; law enforcement who work with human/sex trafficking cases, members or leaders of a human trafficking task force, and researchers who have conducted studies regarding human/sex trafficking were conducted. In total, there were 8 participants. 4 of which were law enforcement, 2 of which were members/leaders of a task force, and the remaining 2 were researchers.

Of the 4 participants that were law enforcement, one was a Police Lieutenant, two were Detectives, and the remaining one was a Law Enforcement Sergeant-SID. All law enforcement participants were male. Of the 2 participants who participated in the task force interview, one was on the chair of the Pasco County Commission on Human Trafficking, and the other was the Mississippi Statewide Human Trafficking Coordinator. Both are female. The last 2 participants were researchers who participated in my Researcher interview. One was male while the other was female. Race and age were not asked since that information is irrelevant in this study.

In the law enforcement interviews conducted, questions were asked specifically regarding the gap addressed in the literature review. This gap is in the prosecution of human and sex trafficking cases. This gap can be closed with increased training and increased task force involvement.

Table 1

Interview Responses-Law Enforcement

Questions	Participant 1	Participant 2	Participant 3	Participant 4
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Position	Police Lieutenant-NV	Major Crimes Detective-FL	Law Enforcement- SID-FL	Detective Miami DadePD-FL
How closely do you work with human trafficking task forces?	Very closely	Very closely	Very closely	Very closely
How often do you work with human/sex trafficking cases?	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily
Have you ever worked with prostitution cases?	Rarely	Yes	Yes	Yes
If so, how many of those prostitution cases could have been mislabeled?	None	Hard to answer, it depends on if the victim comes forward	None	Hard to answer
Have you ever received any specialized training on human/sex trafficking?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
If so, by who/what department?	Multiple gov agencies and non-profits	Multiple gov agencies and non-profits	Multiple gov agencies and non-profits	Multiple gov agencies
If so, elaborate on what you were trained on/if you have reoccurring training.	Victim centered training centered to update human trafficking recognition	Survivors discussing their experiences	Identifying, investigating, interviews, and building cases	Multiple times a year

How many of your peers receive training?	Entire agency	Most, if not all	Every deputy	Every officer receives a basic training
Is training on human/sex trafficking required?	Yes	Yes	Yes, as of last year	Yes
How do you deal with factors such as victim distrust and language barriers when working on cases?	Victim centered approach	Relationships with non-profits	Non- governmental organizations	Victim centered approach, translators
What are steps taken to have a victim-centered approach?	If a victim asks for help, a task force member is dispatched immediately	Agency victim advocates, non- profits, open line of communication	Victim advocates, comfortable setting	Building trust
When working on prostitution cases, how do you make sure that the prostitutes aren't victims of sex trafficking?	Training	Interviews, victim advocates, nonprofits	Victim advocates	N/A
Are there any improvements you think need to be made on how your department prosecutes human trafficking/sex trafficking cases?	Yes	Yes	No	No

If so, how does your department plan on addressing and fixing those issues?	Experience, training, collaboration	Training, collaboration	n/a	n/a
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The information in the above table displays the responses collected in the Law Enforcement interviews. Questions were asked specifically to address the gap with law enforcement. It was found in the literature review that this gap can be closed with the proper amount of training (Clawson, Dutch, & Cummings, 2006). Questions were also asked about certain factors including victim distrust, language barriers, and prostitution. It was found that all participants work with and prosecute human/sex trafficking cases daily and that all work very closely with a human/sex trafficking task force. When asked about training and how the participants deal with barriers like victim distrust, the two answers across the board were having a victim-centered approach and working with nonprofits. Half of the participants acknowledged a gap in their department and how they prosecute cases, but half of the participants did not despite all participants having similar responses. There was no major correlation between these two participants, just that they were both located in Florida. But participant 2 was also located in Florida and addressed a gap. One participant, however, stated that every officer requires basic training, versus other responses of just deputies or just the agency. This participant also answered that they did not believe there were any improvements to be made in how their department prosecuted cases. These responses show that the gap with law enforcement can be fixed with better training and that it is important to implement the required training for all officers.

There is a gap in this research because the researcher was unable to get responses from any law enforcement officers in Mississippi. This has to do with the limitations on the researcher still being in high school and having to reach out to people through email. The researcher suggests further research looking at the types of training, as well as law enforcement's opinion on the gap in Mississippi.

In the task force interviews conducted, questions were designed to see if the task forces were actively involved with law enforcement and the prosecution of human/sex trafficking cases. As well as just general questions regarding the gap with law enforcement.

Table 2

Interview Responses-Task Forces

Questions	Participant 1	Participant 2
Job Title	MSD, Chair Pasco County Commission on Human Trafficking	Mississippi Statewide Human Trafficking Coordinator
How much have you worked with law enforcement in the past 5 years?	Regular contact	Regular contact
In the past year?	Regular contact	Regular contact

What organizations do you primarily work with?	N/A	MS Bureau of Investigation,MS Bureau of Narcotics
Are these organizations primarily focused on humantrafficking/sex trafficking?	N/A	Human trafficking
Does this specific task force have a training program specifically focused on sex trafficking and human trafficking that law enforcement incorporates?	As a County Commission- training offered to the public to increase awareness, work with task forces led by law enforcement, law enforcement reaches out to either regional task force or FDLE for training	Yes, developing statewide one

When was this program first implemented and how rigorous is it?	N/A	Training law enforcement for the past five years.
In a human trafficking/sex trafficking case, briefly explain what your role is.	Implement macro-level initiatives to increase awareness, provide education, advocate for victims/survivors, provide assistance for victims/survivors, and support efforts of antitrafficking organizations	Oversee the unit, ensure training, equipment, intelligence, and partnerships with state and federal prosecutors.
What are some extra steps you believe law enforcement needs to take when prosecuting human/sex trafficking cases?	N/A	Patience, making victim recovery first, identifying the signs and separating the victim from the trafficker, send child victims to a local Children's Advocacy center
Have you noticed a difference in the past few years in the way law enforcement prosecutes human/sex trafficking cases?	Law enforcement has become more aware that they need to partner with direct service organizations who offer more support to victims so that the victims can testify against their trafficker	Yes, a lot of prosecutors are trying cases without the victims testifying
In your opinion, do you think there is a gap in the way law enforcement prosecutes human/sex trafficking cases?	N/A	A lot of cases are not identified as human trafficking, or maybe tried under another crime the attorneys are more comfortable and familiar with
What do you believe can be done to help resolve that gap?	N/A	Training and relationship building.

The information in the responses from the task force interviews directly correlates with the responses from the law enforcement interviews. When asked about the gap with law enforcement, Participant 2 explained how some cases are not identified as human trafficking cases. This was identified in the literature review as one of the main causes of the gap. When asked about how to close that gap, participant 2 stated how training was the best way. This is also what most of the law enforcement responses were as well. There was also a similarity between the answers to question 10. The question was about any difference noticed in the past few years with how law enforcement prosecutes trafficking cases. Both participant 1 and participant 2 mentioned victim testifying. Participant 1 explained the need for victim support so that the victim(s) can testify. While participant 2 explained how law enforcement is trying

to move away from making victims testify. This is because the victim’s testifying can bring up trauma and be harmful to the victim. So, despite the difference in answers, both participants equally stressed the need for victim support. This is new information, that was not addressed in the literature review. Consistent responses throughout the interview were emphasizing the need for training, victim advocates, as well as victim assistance/recovery.

There is a gap in these responses because there are only responses from a task force in Mississippi, and a county commissioner board in Florida. There is no representation for Nevada. The researcher suggests that further research be done involving task forces located in Nevada.

In the researcher interviews conducted, questions were aimed at the information researchers had on the gap as well as human/sex trafficking in general. The questions also aimed to point out specific factors to the high rates in the three states.

Table 3

Interview Responses-Researchers

Questions	Participant 1	Participant 2
The main focus of research	Factors that increase the likelihood of trafficking victimization, work to	Sex work and the sex industry

	promote more screening for HT victimization	
How long have you been researching?	5 years	28 years
The biggest breakthrough in research.	Examining interrelatedness of childhood maltreatment and adverse childhood experiences and HT victimization.	Understanding the great diversity in sex work.
Have you done any research regarding legal brothels in the state of Nevada?	No	Yes
If so, do you believe legal prostitution in brothels has an impact on sex trafficking?	N/A	Yes
Do you believe that having legal prostitution in brothels makes it harder for law enforcement to find and help victims of sex trafficking?	Depends on the extent of monitoring, the problem is a course of corruption of officials in whatever system is developed.	No, it makes it much easier for managers, other sex workers, and law enforcement to help and find victims. Some sex workers can leave coercive pimps by coming to the legal environment of a brothel.
Have you done any research regarding the influence of the tourism industry in Florida, relating to human trafficking and sex trafficking?	No	No
How does the hotel industry in Florida affect human/sex trafficking?	Traffickers rent rooms and floors for victims to work out, any hotel that rents rooms for periods on less than a night, the issue is how hotels distinguish trafficking	N/A
Have you done any research regarding human/sex trafficking in Mississippi?	No	No

Do you believe that there is a gap in the way law enforcement prosecutes	Yes, thought that demand- side (those paying) should be punished as harshly as supply(those trafficking), the gap	Yes, law enforcement seeks an individual that is forcing someone, and in many cases where a sex worker needs
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<p>human/sex trafficking cases? Please explain your response.</p>	<p>has gotten better over the last 10 years</p>	<p>help, arresting someone won't help. Problems are poverty, inequality, lack of decent jobs, homelessness. Because sex work is illegal, individuals must rely on some sort of third party.</p>
<p>In your opinion, what are important steps that need to be taken to eliminate and eradicate human/sex trafficking?</p>	<p>Universal and target prevention efforts, safety plans in school, trauma bonding, viable options for runaway teens, support groups for parents</p>	<p>Better social safety net, better health care, housing, food, good-paying jobs, mental health care, people in positions of power fighting against discrimination, good laws against exploitation, kidnapping, and organized crime. Need to involve sex workers in the conversation along with trafficking victims.</p>

The information from the researcher's interview responses is very important to this study. Especially the responses regarding legal brothels in Nevada, as well as how to eliminate and reduce sex trafficking. Participant 2's researcher regarding legal brothels in Nevada shows a big shift. Participant 2 stated how having prostitution legal helps law enforcement find victims of sex trafficking easier. This is a new outlook that was not found in the literature review. This new information also suggests a need for more research to be done in the varying perspectives on sex work. As well as if legal sex work helps law enforcement or makes it harder for them to prosecute cases. It is a very different perspective than the more common perspective of legal prostitution making it harder for law enforcement to find victims of sex trafficking. Both participants also had very important responses to what steps need to be taken to eradicate and eliminate human/sex trafficking. Participant 1's response focused mostly on issues that can be fixed directly such as better prevention efforts, and safety plans in school. While participant 2's response focused more on systematic issues that will take a lot longer, and way more people to address, such as health care and housing. Both responses, however, show a need for a major shift in thinking, not just within law enforcement, but nationally.

Unfortunately, neither researcher had researched human/sex trafficking in Mississippi. This is one limitation that is seen throughout the research conducted: not enough responses on Mississippi. Because Mississippi was one of the states with the highest rate of human/sex trafficking, the researcher suggests further research conducted, specifically on Mississippi.

Some other limitations in the research are that the researcher is still only in high school. This causes limited time and resources available. The researcher also had a hard time contacting people to interview, this caused a limited number of responses. These limitations caused the findings to be more focused on Florida and Nevada.

Conclusion

Overall, the findings in all the responses combined show patterns in the need to address the gap with law enforcement. Ways this can be done include training across the whole department, the use of victim advocates and trauma-

bonding, setting up safety plans in school, creating more awareness, and having better prevention methods. All of these solutions start with law enforcement being a part of a task force. In the law enforcement interviews, all law enforcement was a part of a task force or partnered with one. This showed a commonality in their answers regarding training and knowledge of human/sex trafficking. It is going to be a long time before human/sex trafficking is completely eradicated, but these improvements must be made to move forward.

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