

Collaborating to Address Trafficking in Rural Communities: Lessons from the Field

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Welcome to the Webinar!

Presenters:

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Christina Sambor, FUSE

Facilitator: Elena Dineen, Futures Without Violence

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COLLABORATING TO ADDRESS TRAFFICKING IN RURAL COMMUNITIES: LESSONS FROM THE FIELD

*Presented by Futures Without Violence in partnership with the
U. S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women*

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Presenters

Ana Vallejo, Ms. Vallejo is a co-director and attorney at VIDA Legal Assistance, a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the rights of immigrant survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence, trafficking in persons, and other violent crimes. From 2011 - 2013 Ms. Vallejo also served as the Project Coordinator for the Human Trafficking Academy of the Graduate Program in Intercultural Human Rights at St. Thomas University School of Law. For almost 15 years Ms. Vallejo has represented numerous human trafficking victims forced into commercial sexual exploitation and involuntary servitude. She is also a member of the Florida Statewide Human Trafficking Taskforce.

Christina Sambor is the Coordinator of FUSE-statewide anti-trafficking coalition in North Dakota, the Director of the North Dakota Human Trafficking Task Force, and co-chair of the ND Attorney General's Human Trafficking Commission. She works with non-profit partners, state agencies, law enforcement and elected officials to fund and coordinate direct services to survivors, proactive law enforcement investigations, and to facilitate cross-disciplinary cooperation, education and coordination in the fight against human trafficking.



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Poll Questions

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Experience with anti-human trafficking & collaboration work

- ☐ No experience
- ☐ Basic – under 3 years
- ☐ Intermediate – more than 3 years
- ☐ Advanced – more than 5 years
- ☐ Expert – more than 10 years

Geographic location

- ☐ Rural
- ☐ Suburban
- ☐ Urban working in rural
- ☐ Urban
- ☐ Other



As a result of this webinar, you will be better able to:

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- Describe the unique needs of trafficked survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in rural communities.
- Highlight the benefits of collaborating with community-based organizations to address human trafficking in rural communities.
- Identify examples of existing cross-sector collaborative anti-trafficking models in rural North Dakota and Florida.



Human Trafficking Defined

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Trafficking means recruiting, abducting, facilitating, transferring, harboring, or transporting a person, by threat or use of force, coercion, fraud or deception or by the purchase, sale, trade, transfer or receipt of a person, for the purpose of subjecting that person to involuntary servitude, peonage, slavery, slave-like practices, sex trafficking, or forced or bonded labor services.

(The full text of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act of 2000 can be found at www.usdoj.gov/vawo/laws/vawo2000/ under 22 U.S.C. 7102)



Human Trafficking Defined Overview

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There are three categories of human trafficking victims:

1. Those under 18 involved in commercial sex acts
2. Those 18 or over involved in commercial sex acts through force, fraud or coercion
3. Those forced to perform labor and/or services in conditions of involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery through force, fraud or coercion

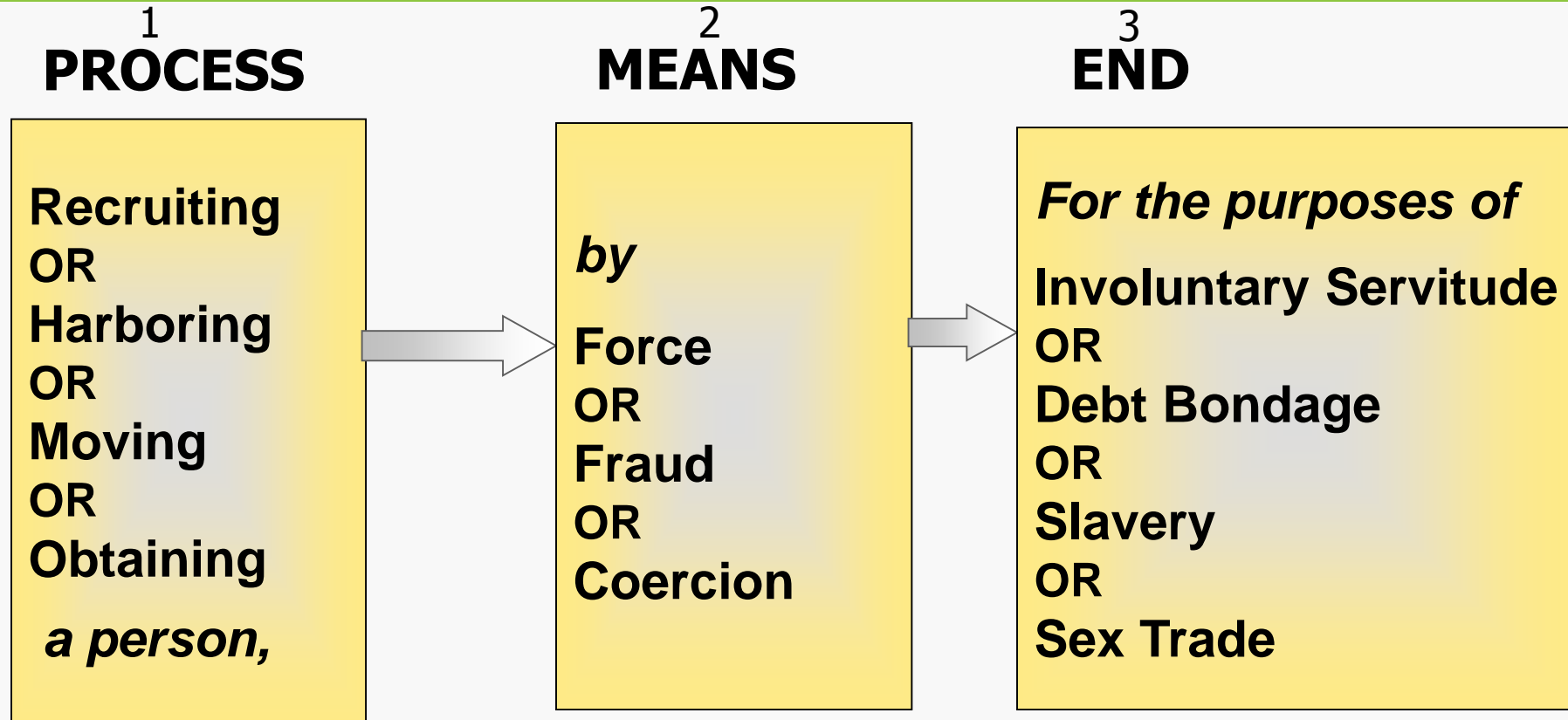
(The full text of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act can be found under 22 U.S.C. 7102)

www.usdoj.gov/vawo/laws/vawo2000/



Three Elements Of Trafficking

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Unique Considerations for Addressing the Needs of Survivors of Trafficking in Rural Communities

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Risk factors in Rural Communities include:

- Increased poverty rates
- High demand for low-skill and manual labor vs. demand for low cost operations
- Fluctuating work forces and populations
- Many human trafficking victims know their perpetrators, especially in small, rural communities



Common Economic Sectors Where Trafficking May Be Found In Rural Communities

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Survivors of trafficking may be found in various sectors of the economy:

- Sex Trafficking
- Agriculture
- Resorts and Spa's
- Restaurants
- Construction
- Domestic Work

**Have you seen
trafficking in other
industries in rural
communities?
What industries?**



Addressing Human Trafficking Within Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Programs in Rural Communities

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- Leverage resources in a particular community
- Like domestic violence and sexual assault, trafficking is about power and control and exploitation of people
- Domestic violence and sexual assault programs have vast experiences working with survivors of violence
- Survivors may have similar needs for basic services and safety planning



Possible Similarities Between Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault and Trafficking Survivors

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- Restriction on freedom of movement
- Isolation
- Financial control
- Intimidation
- Physical and sexual violence
- Fostering of drug and alcohol dependencies due to their situations



Addressing Human Trafficking in Rural North Dakota

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FUSE North Dakota

Formed in summer 2014

Statewide anti-trafficking coalition in North Dakota. FUSE is a space for advocates, direct service providers (including DV/SA service providers), law enforcement, and allied partners who are seeking to develop and implement a coordinated, comprehensive response to the sex and labor trafficking crisis in North Dakota.



Why did FUSE form?

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- Domestic violence and youth shelters serving trafficking victims
- Law enforcement taking victims to shelters, identified the crucial role of advocates in aiding successful investigations and prosecutions
- Shelters providing services to victims in the interim, expressed need for training/resources to continue work



Importance of Collaboration

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Collaboration and coordination with different community partners and across communities is key to increasing the capacity of domestic violence and sexual assault service providers to serve survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault who have been trafficked.



Increasing Support to Human Trafficking Survivors Through Collaboration

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North Dakota 2015 Census Estimates

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756,926 residents

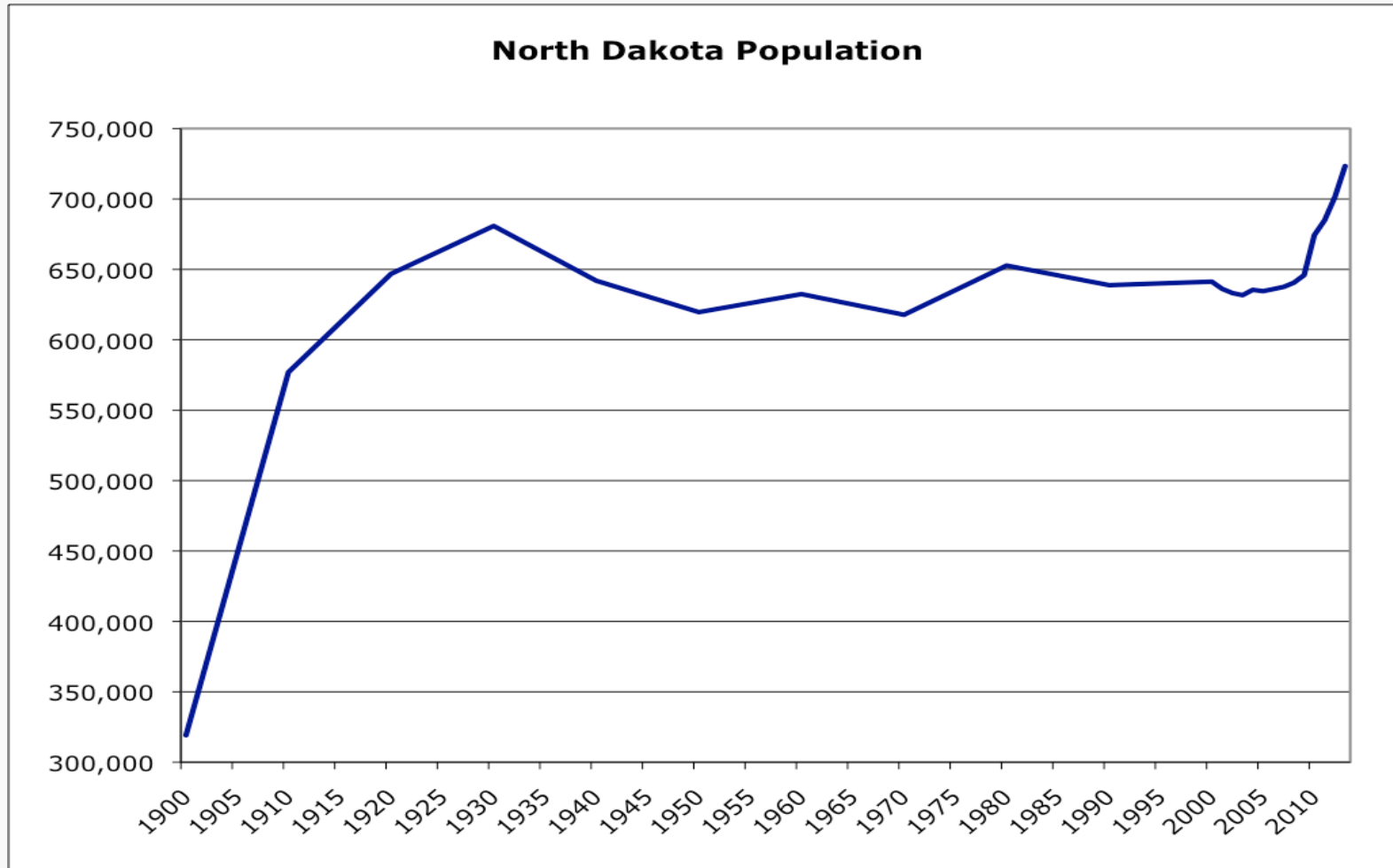
- 88.6% white
- 2.4% African American
- 5.5% American Indian or Alaska Native
- 3.5% Hispanic or Latino
- 1.4% Asian
- .1% Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
- 1.8 % Two or more races

Source: <http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/PST045215/38>



History of North Dakota Population Growth

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North Dakota Population

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Thirty-six out of fifty-three counties are designated as “frontier”.

Less than six people per square mile.



Source: Center for Rural Health – University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences, <http://www.med.und.edu/family-medicine/frontier.pdf>



North Dakota Human Trafficking Task Force

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- Federally funded with matching funds over 3 year grant period
- Director, **3 “navigators”**, 1 Grant Support Specialist
 - Work with local law enforcement affiliates and service providers in North Dakota
- Grant funds to local service providers to provide comprehensive services
- Statewide 24/7 crisis response
- Data collection
- **Training/Technical Assistance**

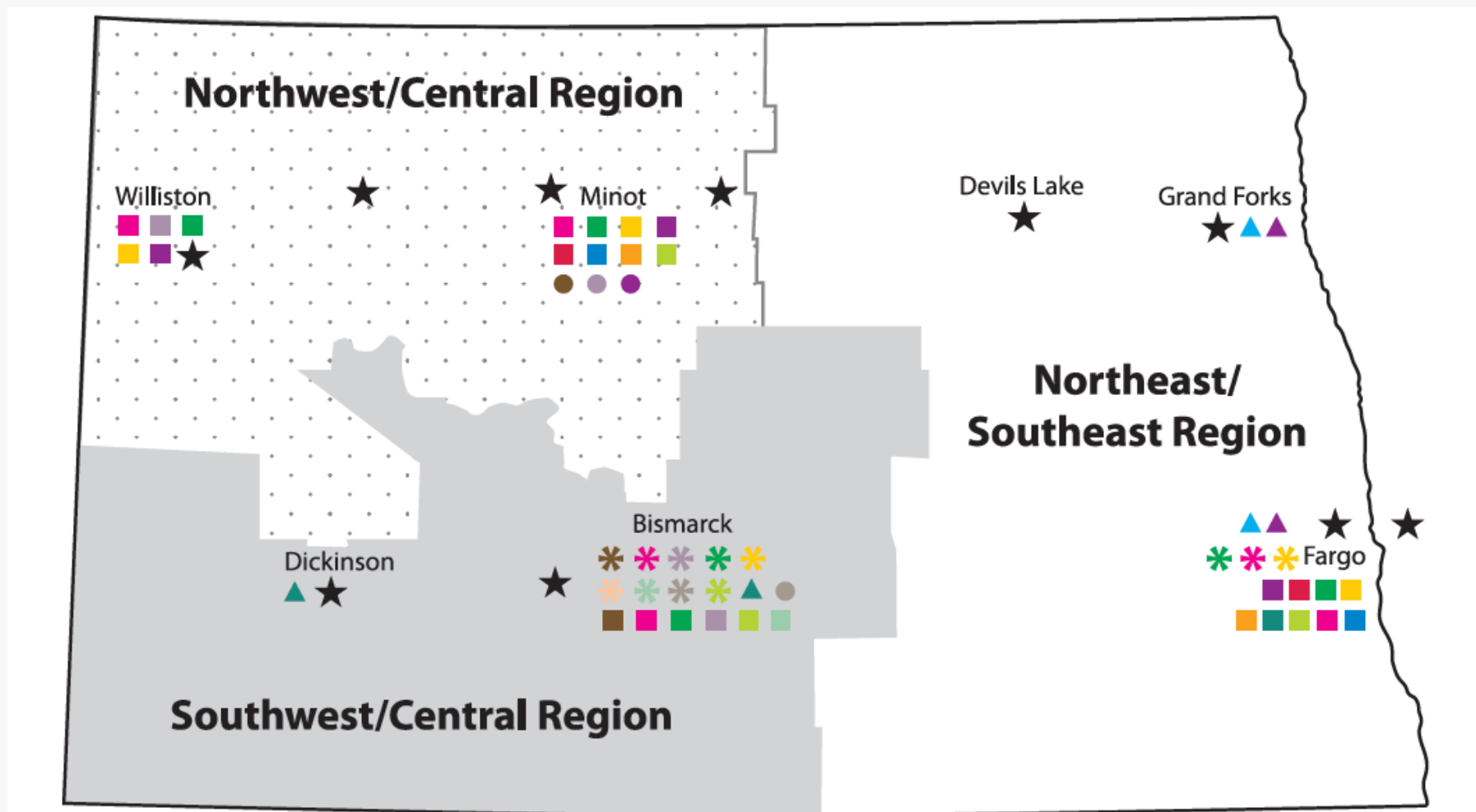


Navigators

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- 3 Navigators – Cover all of North Dakota
- Supportive resource if/when trafficking or suspected trafficking victims are identified;
- Help connect survivors with services
- Provide referral and supportive case management services, education and community outreach, and development of, or training and technical assistance for, local multi-disciplinary teams in their region





Map Key:

● In-house case management
 ● Shelter/housing/substance
 ● Victim advocacy
 ● Forensic interviewing

● Literary education/ job training
 ● Life skills training
 ● Employment assistance
 ● Transportation assistance

● Mental health treatment
 ● Medical care
 ● Emergency intake assessment
 ● Emergency case management

● HHSOOR certification services
 ● 24-hour law enforcement response
 ● Legal services
 ● In-house intake assessment

■ Services for adults over 22
 * Services for youth under 22
 ▲ Services for youth under 18
 ● Services for youth & adults
 ★ Host home locations

Collaborations with local organizations

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- **Domestic violence/sexual assault programs:**
 - Provide deep community connections and knowledge
 - Have relevant experience
 - Have often led collaborative efforts
 - Can advise on community relations/potential pitfalls
- **Challenges:**
 - Resource limitations
 - Logistics in collaborating across large geographic areas
 - Trafficking-specific, trauma-informed, survivor-centered training needs



Navigator Training and Technical Assistance to Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Service Providers

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- Navigators provide training and technical assistance to DV/SA service providers and MDT on human trafficking.
- Topics may include:
 - Effective collaboration with law enforcement
 - Intake and case management
 - Specific impacts of trafficking related trauma on relationships
 - Tribal-specific considerations
 - Motivational Interviewing
 - Positive Youth Development



What has been helpful?

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- Leadership and support from community based organizations and law enforcement
- Support and funding
- Dedicated leadership in each region
- Coordinated responses based on feedback from different regions



Progress

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Data:

- Backpage – April 29 – May 3, 2015: 733 ads posted statewide in 5 days
- At least 150 survivors served in 2014
- From November 2015 to October 2016, 44 people served directly by NDHTTF, 143 incidents of technical assistance.
- From November 2015 to July 2016, 35 trafficking cases investigated



Going forward...

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- Large scale cooperation requires constant coordination
 - Three statewide bodies finding their "lanes"
- Funders used to traditional metro task forces need to adjust to rural/statewide model
- Staff turnover – build a deep bench and have dedicated leadership
- Community denial/burnout
 - Focus on illustrating demand
- Build a regional/national network
- This is as much art as science!



Why this model?

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Coalitions/Task forces implemented around the country

- Broader coalitions
- Training/TA to rural areas with less formal training
- Capacity building
- Community organizing
- Maximizing close relationships in smaller communities
- Help remedy longstanding systems issues



Assisting Human Trafficking Survivors in Florida's Rural Communities

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VIDA Legal Assistance, Inc.

The mission of VIDA Legal Assistance, Inc. is to advance the rights of immigrant survivors.

VIDA represents immigrant survivors of violent crimes, particularly domestic violence, sexual assault/abuse, and trafficking in persons throughout Florida.





Changed from Rural to Urban as of 2010 Census

Urban per 2010 Census

Source: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/%5C/provider-and-partner-resources/community-health-workers/health-professional-shortage-designations/Rural%20Counties%20Map%202016.pdf>

Unique Considerations in Farmworker Communities in Florida

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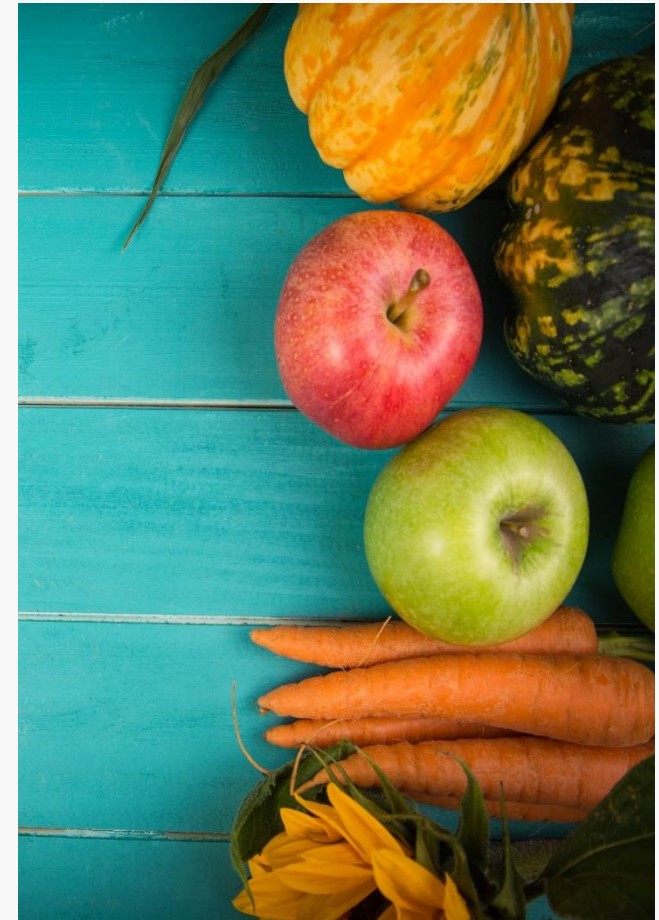
- Fluctuating work force (seasonal and migrant workers) and population
- Large geographic areas
- Geographically isolated communities and inadequate transportation infrastructure
- Limited access to services
- Language access considerations



Circumstances that May Affect Human Trafficking Survivors in Agricultural Industry

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- Immigration status may be connected to employer (H2A, H2B visas)
- Employer may be providing housing and may not allow the person to live off site
- Interview workers separately and note workplace power dynamics
- Intersection of labor trafficking/sex trafficking/domestic violence



Unique Needs of Labor Trafficking Survivors

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- Individualized case assessment needs
- Multi-survivor cases and housing concerns
- May have employment claims and remedies requiring specialized assistance
- Under-recognized forms of trauma
- Fewer criminal law resources dedicated to labor trafficking cases



Labor Trafficking Intersection with Domestic Violence

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- How To Distinguish “INTERSECTION” Cases:
 - Must include a labor component (involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, slavery)
 - Labor could be in the home or at the trafficker/abuser’s business or trafficker benefits from proceeds (e.g. agricultural case, prostitution, sale of daughter)
 - Some form of fraud, coercion, and/or force



Case Example

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In 2001, a man was sentenced to 9 years in federal prison on slavery and kidnapping charges. A young woman was forced to work against her will in the tomato fields and as a domestic servant. Farmworker advocates, immigration advocates, and the Department of Justice collaborated to address the needs of the survivor.



Community Response to Survivor in Case Example

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- Worker Rights Organization
- DV/SA service provider
- Immigration Legal Services
- Victim Witness
- Law Enforcement



VIDA's Approach to Addressing Human Trafficking in Rural Communities

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- Roaming Attorney Project
 - Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence
 - DV/SA Service Centers in Rural Communities



VIDA's Collaboration with Worker's Right Organization

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- Developed relationships with farmworker rights organization (Coalition of Immokalee Workers) and ethnic community based organizations to provide services to trafficking survivors.
- Coordinate legal services, housing, transportation
- Leveraging each agencies knowledge and capacity to provide increase services to survivors.



Immokalee, FL Pilot Project – Workplaces Respond to Domestic and Sexual Violence

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Worker rights' groups + Service providers + Employer + FUTURES



- Coalition of Immokalee Workers
- Fair Food Standards Council
- Vida Legal Assistance
- Tomato Growers
- FUTURES



Lesson's Learned and Challenges

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- Limited Resources and need for Flexibility
- Leveraging of expertise and resources from each partner
- Information Sharing and Confidentiality
- Presence in the community
- Cultural Competence and language access
- Use of technology



Take Aways

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- Collaborate across jurisdictions and sectors and take time to build relationships with partners
- Share Resources
- Cross-Sector Training
- Learn industries in rural areas
- Coordinate services
- Involve domestic violence and sexual assault programs in collaborations and provide training and resources.



Questions?



Resources:

Collaborating with Community Based Organizations and Faith Based Communities to Address Human Trafficking- Webinar

<https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/collaborating-with-community-based-organizations-and-faith-based-communities-to-address-human-trafficking/>

Labor Trafficking and the Intersection with Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault – Webinar

<https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/labor-trafficking/>

Collaborating to Help Trafficking Survivors: Emerging Issues and Practice Pointers

<http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/userfiles/file/ImmigrantWomen/Collaborating%20to%20Help%20Trafficking%20Survivors%20Final.pdf>

Human Trafficking in Rural Communities

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/resources/human-trafficking-rural-communities>

<http://www.ciw-online.org/slavery/>

Human Trafficking and Farmworkers

<http://freedomnetworkusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Farmworkers-FINAL-1.pdf>

**We offer this list of resources as a reference. Their content does not represent the views of FUTURES or Presenters.*



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The webinar recording and information will be available in a few days at: <https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/resources-events/webinars/>

For questions or additional information please contact Monica Arenas: marenas@futureswithoutviolence.org

