

ARIZONA JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Request for Council Action

Date Action Requested:	Type of Action Requested:	Subject:
March 24, 2016	<input type="checkbox"/> Formal Action/Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Overview and Future Efforts

FROM:

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 - Mr. David Redpath, Operations and Budget Manager
 - Ms. Deborah Kurth, Research Manager
- Juvenile Justice Services Division, Administrative Office of the Courts

DISCUSSION:

Juvenile Justice Services Division staff will present on the historical context of the DMC in Arizona, as well as ongoing and future efforts to combat this problem.

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION:

Information only

AOC JJSD Minor Victims of Sex Trafficking Update

The Juvenile Justice Services Division (JJSD) of the AOC of Arizona is committed to developing the capacity of Juvenile Probation Officers to better identify youth on their caseloads, as well as new individuals who enter the probation system, who may be minor victims of sex trafficking, by providing training on the signs and symptoms that these victims may be exhibiting. Juvenile standard and intensive probation officers working in the field, and staff that supervise them are the target group for a series of regional trainings on sex trafficking. In addition, a special subset of county probation staff was identified by each probation department to receive more intensive training in order to act as a local “sex trafficking specialist”, able to respond to questions and assist with coordination of resources. AOC staff have been identified to act as support and resources for those specialists as the Minor Victims of Sex Trafficking project continues to move forward.

Current Activities In Progress:

In partnership with the Governor’s Office of Family, Faith and Youth and the School of Social Work at Arizona State University (ASU), JJSD has implemented the following activities:

- Identified and trained 15 “sex trafficking specialists” from county Juvenile Probation Departments to act as local resources
- During the fall 2015 trained over 550 juvenile probation staff in the dynamics of sex trafficking, as well as signs and symptoms often exhibited by youth who are victims
- In collaboration with ASU conducted a statewide Survey on Prevalence of Sex Trafficking Cases within Juvenile Probation which was completed in November 2015
- Contracted for a written report on the prevalence of sex trafficking victims on Juvenile Probation caseloads in Arizona, to be completed by ASU and provided to JJSD by the end of 2015
- In collaboration with ASU, developed an informational brochure to be provided to the Juvenile Probation Departments as a follow-up to the regional trainings
- Developed a video/CBT training format for use in booster, follow-up and new-hire staff training
- Developed a data flag in the JOLTS AZ that will identify potential and confirmed victims of sex trafficking which was implemented 1-1-16. This will enable data collection, reporting, and analysis of the incidence and needs in the probation population

Future Activities:

Developing a 12-month plan to enhance the capacity of juvenile justice system partners to respond to the needs of minor victims of sex trafficking by:

- Providing expert training to the current JJSD contracted providers, and local Regional Behavioral Healthcare providers on the provision of services to juveniles, including victims of sex trafficking, from a trauma-informed perspective
- Finalizing an Arizona adaptation of a validated Human Trafficking Screening Tool for use by selected county probation staff who have been trained in its administration

- Provide training to AOC-contracted providers and RBHA providers on identifying and treating juveniles who are victims of sex trafficking
- Create AOC service specifications for an array of services, for which providers may offer proposals of service in their local Probation jurisdictions
- Through additional training and support, AOC / JJSD to support efforts across the juvenile justice stakeholder system to identify and intervene with minor victims of sex trafficking
- Exploring the potential for a specialized/problem solving court for minor victims of sex trafficking

**Report on the Incidence of Sex Trafficking in Arizona's Juvenile Probation
Departments**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Report on the Incidence of Sex Trafficking in Arizona's Juvenile Probation Department

The identification of minor sex trafficking victims in the United States is complicated by a number of factors including: victims being fearful of self-identifying to those who can offer assistance due to shame, stigma of being labeled a prostitute, fear of the consequences from their offender and to their offender, mistrust of the criminal justice system, as well as having limited knowledge and awareness of how their commercial sexual exploitation falls into the category and definitions of sex trafficking. Systems that serve minors in the United States including the child welfare and juvenile justice systems currently have limited capacity to identify sex trafficking victims. This limitation is due to the fact that few states are participating in the development and use of a valid screening tool and/or have not implemented flags within the system to both establish an ongoing count of sex trafficking victims and report information to those who serve the youth.

The purpose of this study is to capture the rate of occurrence of sex trafficking among juveniles involved in Arizona's juvenile justice system. Also, recommendations were collected from juvenile probation officers and staff on how the Arizona juvenile probation system can best serve the sex trafficked juveniles on their caseloads. Once the incidence rate of sex trafficking victims among juveniles involved in the Arizona Juvenile Probation System (adjudicated and non-adjudicated) in Arizona was collected, recommendations for targeted services and systems changes were developed in partnership with the Arizona Administrative Office of the Court, which administers the Arizona Juvenile Probation system.

Arizona's Juvenile Probation Department has around 236 juvenile probation officers and in 2015 has served an average of 3,849 juveniles per month through standard and intensive probation. Juveniles being served by Arizona's Juvenile Probation system can be living at home, group homes, foster homes, residential treatment programs, transitional housing or in a detention center.

To obtain the rate or incidence of sex trafficking victims among juvenile probationers in Arizona, all juvenile probation officers were mandated to attend a sex trafficking-specific training. A total of 567 juvenile probation officers, juvenile probation supervisors, other probation staff (surveillance officers, detention officers, treatment supervisors) and community partners were provided with a three-and-a-half hour in-person sex trafficking 101 training. This training included expert trainers, researchers, survivor speakers, sex trafficking specific social service agency providers, and a review of actual cases of sex trafficking of a minor in Arizona. After the training, the attendees were surveyed about the incidence of having sex trafficked victims on their current caseloads. The intent of the survey was to establish the incidence rate of sex trafficking victims among

juvenile probationers in Arizona, as well as to establish details about the sex trafficking victims. This included: the sex trafficking experience of identified victims, specifically their age when they were first sex trafficked, who is/was the sex trafficker and whether they are still being trafficked, and if they are also involved with the child welfare system, history of mental health diagnosis, substance abuse problems, family challenges, such as absent or incarcerated parents, and how the sex trafficking victimization was discovered by the juvenile probation officers.

Victims of Sex Trafficking Receiving Services from Arizona Juvenile Probation

- Of the 492 probation staff including juvenile probation officers, surveillance officers, detention officers, supervisors, administrators and treatment officers from juvenile probation that attended the sex trafficking 101 training, 179 (36.2%) completed the online survey.
- 103 (57.5%) of the respondents reported they had at least one client on their current caseload that was a victim of sex trafficking.
- Forty-nine (47.5%) of the 103 juvenile probation workers that identified having at least one victim was a standard probation officer.
- A total of 271 sex trafficking victims currently receiving services from Arizona Juvenile Probation were identified.
- When applied to the monthly average of adjudicated youth on probation of 3,849, the reported number of sex trafficking victims, 208, totals 5.4% of the monthly juvenile probation population.
- Seven respondents (23.5%) reported that they believed one of the sex trafficking victims they identified was currently being sex trafficked.
- Twenty-seven of the respondents provided details about 34 sex trafficking victims receiving juvenile justice services through Arizona Juvenile Probation Department.
- Of these 34 cases:
 - 29 (85.3%) were female, 4 (11.8%) were male, and 1(2.9%) was identified as transgender.
 - 17 (50%) were White, 10 (26.5%) were African American, 7 (20.6%) were Hispanic and 1 (2.9%) was mixed race.
 - 17 (50%) were also involved in the Arizona Department of Child Safety.
 - 13 (38.2%) identified the sex trafficking victim's boyfriend as the sex trafficker, a friend was the sex trafficker for 9 (26.5%) clients, and for 5 (13.7%) cases the sex trafficker was a parent or family member.
- Of the 34 cases, the following risk factors were identified:
 - Homelessness 7 (20.6%) cases.
 - History of sexual abuse 17 (50%) cases.
 - Having an older boyfriend/girlfriend 14 (41.2%) cases.
 - Being addicted to drugs or alcohol 22 (64.7%) cases.
 - A diagnosis of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder 8 (23.5%) cases.
 - Previous involvement in the juvenile justice system 21 (61.8%) cases.
 - History of running away 30 (88.2%) cases.
 - A mental health diagnosis was present in 23 (67.6%) cases.

Recommendations for Services for Arizona Juvenile Probation by Arizona Juvenile Probation Staff

There are currently very limited services within Arizona's Juvenile Probation system designed to serve sex trafficking victims. At the trainings provided as a part of this study, juvenile probation officers were informed of upcoming changes being implemented by the Arizona Administrative Office of the Court to include: a flag within the juvenile case management systems, the development of a screening tool to help identify sex trafficking victims, and the development of a Sex Trafficking Juvenile Probation Specialist in each of the fifteen Arizona counties to be a point of contact for juvenile probation officers with sex trafficking victims on their caseloads. Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts is also working with contracted treatment providers to serve sex trafficking victims.

The survey recipients were asked to identify what innovations they thought the Arizona's Juvenile Probation Departments could implement to address the issue of sex trafficking cases currently under probation supervision and they provided the following ideas:

- Create a sex trafficking-specific protocol to follow for any cases they suspect have been or are being sex trafficked. The protocol should include how to best develop a multi-agency collaboration.
- The development of sex trafficking-specific caseloads.
- Create specific interventions for the sex trafficked youth as they have different needs than youth who are just committing criminal acts.
- Continuing training and details about resources for these clients.
- Additional therapeutic services.
- Sex trafficking training for detention staff, guardian ad litem, county attorneys and defense attorneys.
- Develop ways to get parents involved and aware of this issue.
- More statewide collaboration on these cases.
- Have trainings provided to include law enforcement to expand the base of people working together on this problem.
- Conduct weekly meetings with resource staff to develop treatment/supervision alternatives and develop close working relationships.
- Trainings on how to recognize sex trafficking cases.
- Develop diagnostic tools to include survey questions and AZYAS interviews.
- Provide community education groups for youth and families.
- Provide trainings for onsite counselors and contracted clinical providers for juveniles on probation.
- Developing relationships with treatment agencies to provide services for victims of sex trafficking.
- Further training on how to initiate conversations with possible sex trafficking victims.
- Have the ability to set stronger release conditions such as making sure it is a parent picking them up.
- Developing trauma-focused sex trafficking therapies.

- More tools on how to investigate a sex trafficking case and the involvement of their family.

Report on the Incidence of Sex Trafficking in Arizona's Juvenile Probation Departments

Introduction

Sex trafficking of minors in the United States has captured the attention of the public, although the number of domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) victims in the United States is unknown and general estimates have huge variation with little evidence to support those numbers. Attaining an accurate count of the number of minors who have experienced sex trafficking has been a complex task with limited useful results, as studies on prevalence of sex trafficking often rely upon weak methodology and many service providers are not fully aware of the issues of DMST (Fedina, 2014). Determining the scope of the DMST problem is critically important as the number of victims in need of targeted services will influence local, state, and national decisions regarding the investment in needed policy changes, training needs of staff, and new services offered.

A new focus has been placed on the roles and responsibilities of the systems that sex trafficked youth are involved with, such as the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Dauber and Hogue (2011) found that youth served by multiple systems were more likely to have more unmet needs than their peers in contact with just one system. Youth in both the juvenile justice and child welfare systems have repeatedly been found to have many of the risk factors of sex trafficking including, a history of running away, sexual abuse, absent or neglectful parents, homelessness, and drug and alcohol use (Bounds, Julion & Delaney, 2015).

Great strides have been made nationally to keep youth from being charged with prostitution, with the acknowledgement and acceptance that any individual under the age of 18 involved with the commercial exchange for sex is considered a victim (Finklea, 2014). In Arizona, there have been cases in which law enforcement used „protective detaining“ with youth who are being sex trafficked, are detaining the victim for their safety, as they are likely to run away from services and return to their trafficking situation due to their bond with their trafficker (Halter, 2010). Increasingly the systems that serve youth are becoming aware that sex trafficked youth are being served by their systems but limited awareness by staff and few targeted services for referrals continue to be challenges.

It is known that there are sex trafficking victims being served by the juvenile justice system, as their risk factors are often criminogenic resulting in juvenile justice involvement through activities such as drugs and alcohol use, running away, fighting, and being involved in gang activity (Watson & Edelman, 2012). What is unknown, though, is how many youth currently in the juvenile justice system have been sex trafficked and what their specific treatment needs are regarding risk factors, mental health and substance abuse services.

Previous Research

This study is part of a series of studies exploring the incidence of sex trafficking within the criminal justice system. Each study began with a 3-4 hour sex trafficking 101 training, which included expert trainers, survivor speakers, and reviews of real case studies. A few weeks after the final training a survey was sent to the attendees regarding the incidence of sex trafficking victims within their caseloads.

The first study completed in May 2014 was conducted in partnership with the Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts and after a four-hour training, surveyed clinical therapists in agencies contracted to serve youth involved in juvenile probation services. Twenty-six agencies responded to the survey and identified 161 DMST victims currently receiving therapeutic services. The survey asked for specific information about the victims and 37 cases were explained in detail.

The second study was completed in February 2015 and was in partnership with Maricopa County Adult Probation and the Arizona State University McCain Institute for Global Leadership. A series of four-hour trainings for adult probation officers was attended by 186 adult probation officers from Maricopa County and 121 of them responded to a survey about sex trafficking victims and offenders on their caseloads. The adult probation officers reported 165 victims of sex trafficking and 79 sex traffickers on their caseloads.

These studies have confirmed the existence of sex trafficking victims within the adult probation system as well as the juvenile justice system. These studies led to the current study exploring the incidence of sex trafficking victims within the juvenile probation systems in Arizona.

Background

Previous research on the incidence of sex trafficking victims within the juvenile justice system has been limited, but the connection has been demonstrated in studies of sex trafficking victims being served in juvenile justice treatment services (Roe-Sepowitz, et al, 2014), incarcerated men and women in jails and prisons (Carlson & Shafe, 2010; Perdue et al, 2012) and homeless young adults (Covenant House, 2013; Roe-Sepowitz et al, 2014). Limitations within the research on sex trafficking victim involvement in the juvenile justice system include, few screening tools, limited awareness and education about sex trafficking among juvenile justice staff, and few ways to track and document the scope of sex trafficking victims served by a system that is not designed to detect and serve victims. Little is known about how large the population of sex trafficking victims within the juvenile justice system currently is. This information, along with details about the sex trafficking victims' issues and needs, will help to encourage the development of new services and programs targeted towards sex trafficking victims.

Research Frame

This study had two steps. The first step was to train juvenile probation officers and juvenile probation staff on how to identify sex trafficking victims. The ability to identify victims required increased awareness and understanding of the many different types of sex trafficking situations, the unique culture and language of sex trafficking, the risk factors and emotional and behavioral signs that may indicate sex trafficking is occurring, and ways to assess clients for sex trafficking involvement, as well as to be aware of the services available for identified sex trafficking victims in their communities. A new three and a half hour sex trafficking-focused training was developed using sex trafficking experts, sex trafficking survivors, researchers and service providers and made available to all of Arizona's juvenile probation staff. The Arizona Administrative Office of the Court (the Administrators of the Juvenile Probation system in Arizona and a partner on this study) required all juvenile probation officers to attend the training.

The second part of the study was to conduct a survey of the juvenile probation staff who attended the training to establish the number of the sex trafficking victims currently being served within Arizona's juvenile probation systems. The survey was electronic and sent to all juvenile probation staff attendees of the sex trafficking trainings.

The specific research questions for this study are:

1. What is the scope of sex trafficking victims involved in the Arizona Juvenile Probation Department (either adjudicated or non-adjudicated)?
2. Which job types were most reported by the juvenile probation officers who reported having sex trafficking victims on their caseloads?
3. What are the characteristics found among the sex trafficking victims reported including age, race, gender, who sex trafficked them, concurrent involvement in the child welfare system, risk factors, mental health and substance abuse problems, gang involvement and how the case was discovered?
4. What are the participants' recommendations for the Arizona Juvenile Probation system regarding developing innovative services for sex trafficking victims within juvenile probation services?

Participants

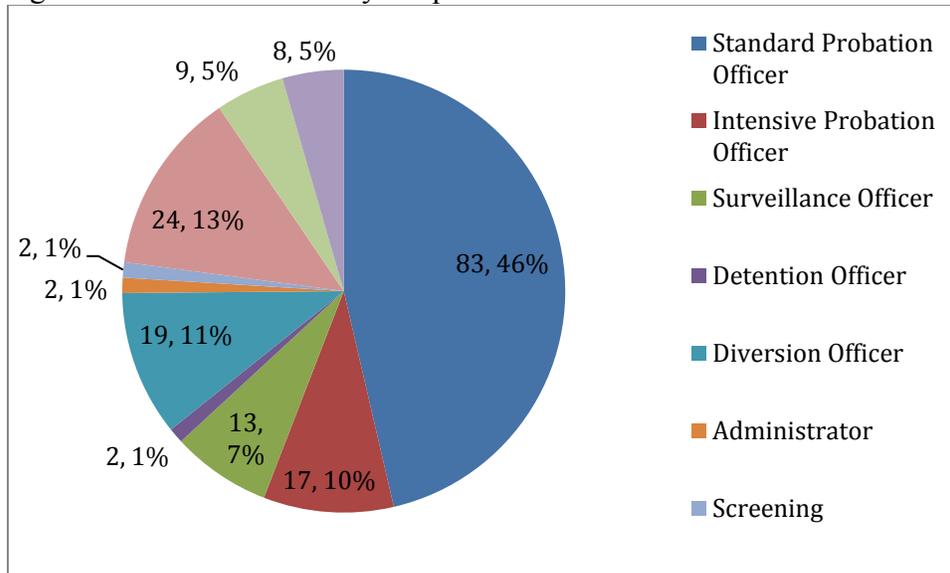
Sex trafficking focused trainings were provided to 567 juvenile probation staff from Arizona during six trainings held in August and September of 2015. The 492 attendees who were juvenile probation officers, detention officers, surveillance officers, supervisors, administrators and treatment officers were sent an electronic survey by the Arizona Administrative Office of the Court in mid-September with the survey open for participation for 14 days. The Arizona State University Institutional Review Board approved this study.

Locations by County of Juvenile Probation Staff Surveyed

Apache: 6	Greenlee: 1	Pima: 86
Cochise: 11	La Paz: 1	Pinal: 31
Coconino: 9	Maricopa: 241	Santa Cruz: 13
Gila: 10	Mohave: 12	Yavapai: 22
Graham: 6	Navajo: 14	Yuma: 28

Position types of the 179 respondents (probation officers, detention officers, surveillance officers, administrators, supervisors, and treatment officers) who completed the survey were varied with the largest group being Standard Probation Officers. See Figure 1 for details.

Figure 1: Positions of Survey Respondents.



The types of probation positions of the respondents included standard, intensive, and unsupervised probation, as well as diversion services and other (electronic monitoring, intake, pre-sentencing, and crossover youth in juvenile probation and child welfare system) services. The respondents then identified the case type provided to youth, which included standard probation (n = 69, 38.5%), other services (n = 59, 22%), intensive probation (n = 26, 14.5%), unsupervised (n = 11, 6.1%), and diversion (n = 14, 7.8%). The respondents reported that the average age of their clients ranged from age 12 to 18 years ($M = 15.37, SD = .84$).

Instrument

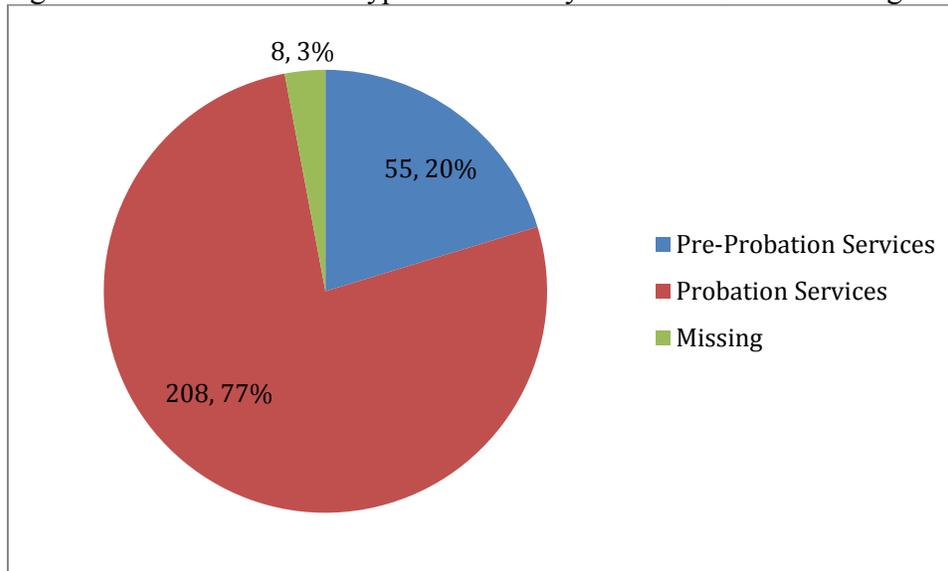
A 24-question survey was developed exploring the respondent's role in juvenile probation, caseload size, and the number of youth on their current caseload they believe have been sex trafficked as defined by an *exchange of sex for things like money, drugs, a place to stay, because of force, fraud or coercion*. The survey also included inquiry about details of each case they identified. The survey was constructed with seventeen

specific questions about the client including their age, when they were first sex trafficked, were they currently being sex trafficked, their gender, race, type of probation they were assigned, were they also involved in the child welfare system, what risk factors they display including: homelessness, sexual abuse, having an older boyfriend/girlfriend, moving frequently, addiction to drugs/alcohol, tattoos or brands, signs of violence, previous involvement in the juvenile justice system, absent or incarcerated parents, and a history of running away. Other questions included: to describe the client's pathway into sex trafficking, what was the relationship between the victim and their sex trafficker, do they have any mental health problems, any previous treatment for mental health or substance abuse, if they had any gang involvement, and how they discovered the client was a sex trafficking victim.

Findings about Sex Trafficking Victims

There were 271 sex trafficking victims identified by the 179 respondents. Of the 271 sex trafficking victims identified, 55 (20%) were from non-probation (diversion, detention, pre-adjudicated) caseloads and 208 (77%) were adjudicated youth on juvenile probation, 8 cases had missing information. This was determined by the role of the respondent (e.g. diversion staff, intensive probation officer) and applied to the number of youth they reported. Please see Figure 2.

Figure 2: Probation service types received by identified sex trafficking victims

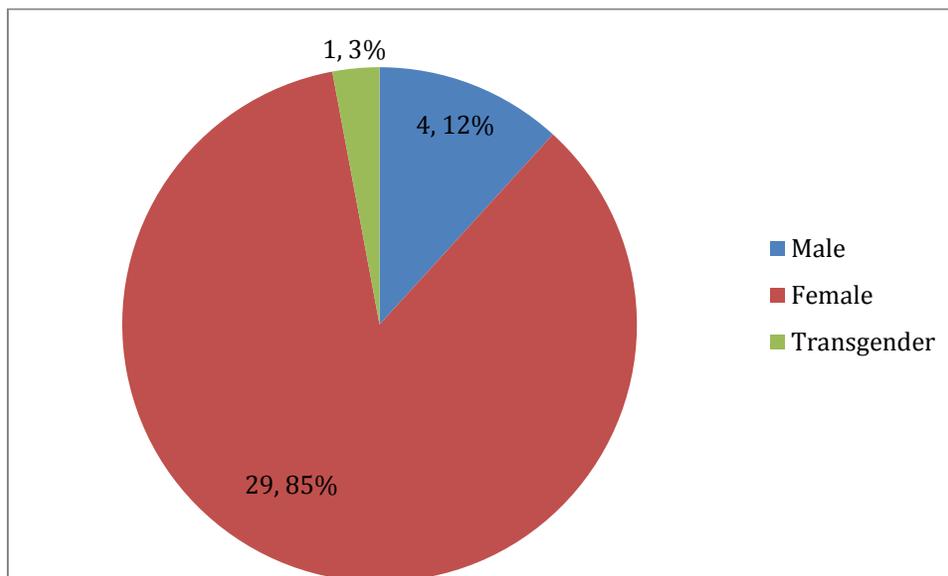


Detailed Cases

Specific data was provided on 34 (12.5%) sex trafficking victims from 27(26.2%) of the 103 respondents that identified having at least one sex trafficking victim on their caseload. Of the 34 sex trafficking victims, eight (2.4%) were thought by the respondent to be currently in a sex trafficking situation. Case information about sex trafficking was determined by the respondents from self-disclosure of the client (n=19, 55.9%), in case files/police reports (n=10, 29.4%), and other sources (n=1, 2.9%) with 4 cases (11.8%) missing this information.

Cases Described

The current age of the 34 sex trafficking victims ranged from 14 to 17 ($M = 15.9$, $SD = 1.06$) with two responses removed as the respondents stated the victim's current age is 18 making them former cases (the juvenile justice system only has jurisdiction to serve youth to the day before the 18th birthday). The age reported when the sex trafficking victims were first sex trafficked ranged from 4 to 17 ($M = 13.8$, $SD = 2.82$). Of the 34 cases, 85.3% ($n = 29$) were identified as female, 11.8% ($n = 4$) as male, and 2.9% ($n = 1$) as transgender.



The respondents identified the ethnicity of the sex trafficking victims as White ($n = 17$, 50%), African American ($n = 9$, 26.5%), Hispanic ($n = 7$, 20.6%), and mixed race ($n = 1$, 2.9%).

Half ($n = 17$, 50%) of the sex trafficking victims were reported to also be involved with the Arizona Department of Child Safety (AZDCS) and are called „crossover youth“. The type of AZDCS involvement was regarding child custody ($n = 10$, 58.8%), family services ($n = 4$, 23.5%), and unknown ($n = 3$, 8.8%).

Risk Factors

Experiences of the 34 sex trafficking victims included more than three quarters having a history of running away and almost two thirds having a substance abuse problem and having been previously involved in the juvenile justice system previously.

Risk factors of Sex Trafficking Victims	#	%
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Running Away	30	88.2%
Substance abuse	22	64.7%
Previous Involvement in Juvenile Justice System	21	61.8%
History of sexual abuse	17	50%
Absent Parent	15	44.1%
Older boyfriend/girlfriend	14	41.2%
Moving Frequently	9	26.5%
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	8	23.5%
Homelessness	7	20.6%
Signs of violence	6	17.6%
Incarcerated Parent	4	11.8%
Gang affiliation (trafficker)	4	11.8%
Tattoos/branding	2	5.9%

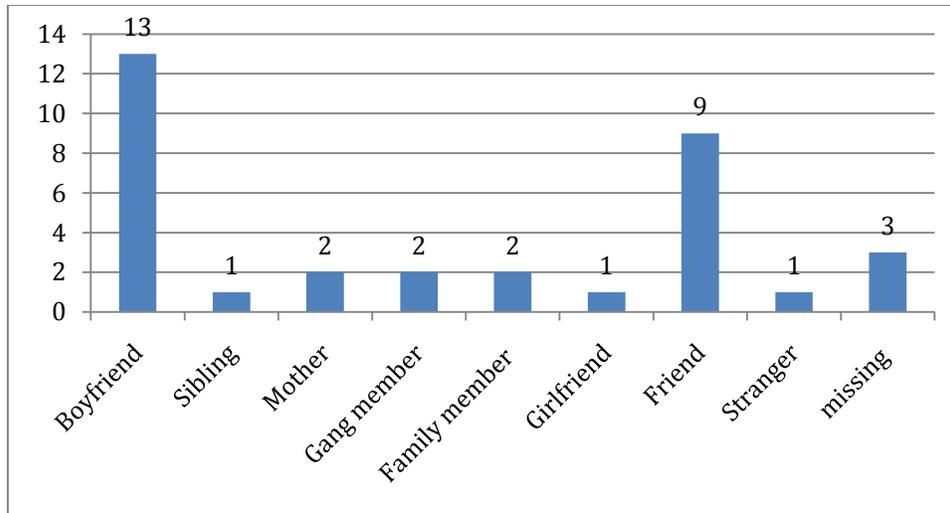
Pathways into Sex Trafficking

The pathways into the sex trafficking situations were described for 33 of the 34 sex trafficking victims. The responses about the pathways were read carefully and placed into categories of recruitment including: 1) boyfriend, 2) runaway, 3) family involvement, 4) friends, 5) absent parent, and 7) drugs. Responses were coded into each category represented in the brief narrative provided. In five cases there was more than one category identified and it was coded into both categories.

Recruitment Category	# of Sex Trafficking Victims	Example Descriptions
Boyfriend	11	“Juvenile had a 38 year old boyfriend”
Runaway	11	“Needed a place to stay as he was a runaway”
Drug addiction	4	“She was a meth/heroin addict”
Family	3	“Trafficked by parent”
Friends	5	“By older friends (males) that she stayed with while on runaway”
Absent/Neglectful Parent	2	“The parents neglected the juvenile”

Relationship to the Sex Trafficker

The victim’s relationship to the sex trafficker was identified, with the most common relationship being a boyfriend (n =13, 38.2%).



Mental Health and Substance Abuse Problems

More than two thirds of the identified sex trafficking victims were reported to have a mental health problem (n =23, 67.6%). The most prevalent disorders were depression (n =15, 44.1%) followed by anxiety (n =10, 29.4%), bipolar disorder (n=9, 26.5%), and oppositional defiant disorder (n =9, 26.5%). Mental health treatment was reported to have been provided to 13 clients (56.5%). Substance abuse was reported for 22 (64.7%) sex trafficking victims and less than half (n=10, 45.5%) had received substance abuse treatment.

Mental Health Problems of Sex Trafficking Victims		
	#	%
Mental Health Problem(s)	23	67.6%
Depression	15	44.1%
Anxiety	10	29.4%
Bipolar Disorder	9	26.5%
Oppositional Defiant Disorder	9	26.5%
ADD/ADHD	6	17.6%
Post Traumatic Stress Disorder	5	14.7%
Borderline Personality Disorder	2	5.9%
Dissociative Identify Disorder	1	2.9%
Antisocial Personality Disorder	1	2.9%

Recommendation for Service Changes by Juvenile Probation Staff

The probation officers and probation staff who attended the trainings and participated in the survey offered innovative ideas to serve sex trafficking victims within the juvenile probation systems. For instance, juvenile probation staff suggested the creation of sex

trafficking specific caseloads, having a clear response protocol, enhanced trainings for the other agencies serving the victims, and developing screening tools/ways to initiate conversations about possible sex trafficking victimization. Other probation staff recommended the development of methods to get parents involved and aware of this issue as well as ways to provide community education for youth.

Limitations of the Study

The findings from this study should be considered with caution regarding generalizing to all juveniles served by the juvenile probation system. This study did not survey those who served youth in detention except for seven positions in Arizona's juvenile detention centers. Also, only 179 (36.4%) of the 492 trained juvenile probation staff responded to the survey. A number of the respondents reported that they currently did not have a caseload but identified having known sex trafficking victims on their caseloads. This may include a time skew with the respondents including cases they had in the past although responding to a question about current cases. This should be considered when interpreting these findings. Finally, considering the secrecy and stigma regarding sex trafficking victimization, it is possible that the juvenile probation officers would not have been aware of their clients' victimization.

Discussion

This study has illustrated that there are at least 271 sex trafficking victims being served in the juvenile probation system in Arizona. These youth are most often adjudicated youth receiving probation services and less likely to be in diversion, detention or pre-sentencing services. This may be because the juvenile probation officer has increased exposure to their adjudicated clients and would have more opportunities through interactions and file reviews to learn about their possible sex trafficking victimization. More than half of the sex trafficking victim cases with specific details reported by the participants were discovered through the client's disclosure. This suggests that training juvenile probation officers on techniques and assessment skills to ask juvenile probation clients about their possible sex trafficking experiences is an important part of the detection process, as that information was not in the case files. The prevalence of self-disclosure compared to information in their case files also leads to the recommendation to develop a marker in case files about sex trafficking victimization so that information can be relayed to the others who may interact with that client in the juvenile probation system.

The gender distribution of the detailed sex trafficking cases reported was more than three quarters were female while males made up 11% of the victims and there was one transgender client identified. This suggests that services and treatments developed for sex trafficking victims should not be gender specific. One consideration is that the smaller percentage of reported male and transgender victims compared to female victims may be due to low disclosure rates by male and transgender victims possibly due to their fear of stigma or previously limited awareness by the juvenile probation staff that sex trafficking victims can be of any gender. It is possible that juvenile probation staff have not asked questions about

sexual exploitation with the male or transgender juveniles on their caseload or that there simply are less male and transgender victims of sex trafficking among minors served by juvenile probation services.

The ethnicity of half of the detailed cases was identified as White, while a quarter was African American and a fifth was Hispanic. Research continues to demonstrate that sex trafficking victimization is not characteristic of any particular ethnicity. Rather, the findings of this study, similar to other research on sex trafficking victims, suggest that certain risk factors such as child welfare involvement, previous juvenile justice involvement, a history of childhood abuse and running away, put juveniles at heightened risk of experiencing a sex trafficking situation.

The average age of first sex trafficking victimization of the detailed cases described was 13.8 years old. This is almost three years younger than the current overall average age of the clients. This finding supports the need to assess/screen juveniles of all ages involved in the juvenile probation system for sex trafficking victimization.

The sex trafficking victims were also reported to have been previously involved in the juvenile justice system in more than 60% of the cases.

Eight clients were identified as still being trafficked when the participant completed the survey. Specific protocol for current sex trafficking victimization should be developed to assist juvenile probation officers on how to address this situation. The protocol should include who to contact to report the child sex trafficking victimization and what community resources are available for the juvenile.

Involvement in multiple systems was found, with half of the detailed cases of sex trafficking victims also being involved in the child welfare system. The risk factors identified for the cases with detailed histories included attributes that are consistent with involvement in the child welfare system: more than three quarters having a history of running away and more than 60% having a substance abuse problem. Sexual abuse, an absent parent, and an older boyfriend/girlfriend were reported in over 40% of the detailed cases. Involvement in the child welfare system appears to be a consistent theme in the research for juveniles at risk for sex trafficking victimization due to the instability of the family unit, likelihood of abuse or neglect, and the resulting lack of support systems creating a situation that makes the juvenile vulnerable to exploitation.

Regarding various identified pathways into sex trafficking situations, two primary paths emerged from the data, 1) running away, and 2) a boyfriend sex trafficking them, were equally prevalent in the detailed sex trafficking cases reported in the study. In more than a third of the cases, the identified sex trafficker was the victim's boyfriend. This suggests that in the assessment for sex trafficking among vulnerable juveniles, targeted questions about exploitation in their relationships, particularly with their boyfriend, should be included. Also, it is important to better understand

the pathways in which juveniles are experiencing entry into sex trafficking situations, so that prevention and intervention efforts can be developed.

Recommendations

There are several recommendations for practice that have emerged from this study. Continued training opportunities for juvenile probation officers should be made available. The content of the future trainings should include developing and implementing assessment questions for all juvenile and should include direct questions regarding sex trafficking situation involvement, any exploitation in their relationships and details about risk factors including running away, substance abuse and mental health issues. Training on trauma-informed care will assist the juvenile probation officers in building rapport with the juvenile and may result in more disclosures of sex trafficking exploitation, as that appears to be the most likely way for a juvenile probation staffer to be informed. Also, a trafficking specific questionnaire should be developed and standardized for use with every juvenile on probation, regardless of age, gender identity, or ethnicity.

Education and awareness about sex trafficking victimization should be offered for juveniles involved in the juvenile justice system which would serve as possible prevention as well as lead to increased awareness and potentially, more self-disclosure. This education and awareness should be targeted at all juveniles involved in the juvenile probation system without focus on age, ethnicity or gender.

Finally, continued research is encouraged to better understand the scope and characteristics of juvenile sex trafficking in the state of Arizona.

Conclusion

This survey revealed that as understanding and awareness of sex trafficking is increasing, recognition of its prevalence is growing among probation staff. The finding that there are a significant number of victims, 271, that have been involved in the juvenile probation system in Arizona demonstrates the importance of recognition and treatment of this population. The complexity of needs and risk factors of this population is also apparent, illustrated by reported challenges of youth homelessness, history of sexual abuse, addiction, post-traumatic stress disorder, mental health diagnoses, and history of running away. Juvenile probation officers and juvenile probation staff are poised to provide a unique role in service provision to juvenile sex trafficking victims due to the ability of officers to collaborate with law enforcement to enhance safety and assist in protecting them from their trafficker and they can connect juveniles to support and therapeutic services.

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