City and County of San Francisco

Department on the Status of Women



Human Trafficking in San Francisco: 2017 Data

Highlights from the 4th Report

In 2017, 22 public and non-profit agencies in the Task Force **identified 673 survivors of human trafficking**. It is important to note that the data is duplicated. To protect confidentiality, agencies provided aggregated, anonymous case counts, so it is possible that the same individual is counted by multiple agencies.



Survivors Identitified by Year

What are the demographics of reported cases?

- Age: 70% of cases were individuals under 25—23 percent were minors and 47% were youth between 18 and 24 years of age.
- **Gender**: The majority of reported cases were cisgender women. Only 20% were cisgender men and 5% were transgender women, transgender men, or gender non-conforming.
- Race: Overall, 73% of all reported cases were individuals who were people of color. The largest group of individuals were African American, followed by Hispanic/Latinx.

Where are the reported cases from?

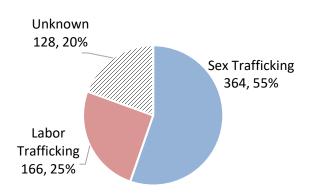
The majority of reported cases were individuals born and recruited in the United States, and who speak English fluently.

- **Birthplace**: One-third of individuals were born in the Bay Area. Of those who were born outside the United States, the largest number were born in Asia.
- Recruitment: The majority were recruited in the United States. Of those recruited in the United States, 51% were recruited in San Francisco.

33% were born in the Bay Area

In which industries were cases reported?

Type: 55% of cases were trafficking in commercial sex, 25% of cases were trafficking outside commercial sex, and 20% were unknown type. This is an increase in the proportion of cases involving the commercial sex industries and a decrease in cases outside those industries compared to 2016. The largest number of cases involved either outdoor solicitation or escort services. Outside commercial sex, the three industries with the most



- trafficking cases were: restaurants/food service, domestic work, and construction.
- Age by type: One-third of all cases in the commercial sex industry involved minors and one-half were youth between 18 and 24 years. Equal numbers of cases in non-sexual labor were youth between 18 and 24 years and adults over 25.

How were cases initially identified and what services did were provided?

- Initial Identification: The largest number of individuals were initially identified as human trafficking survivors by service providers in the Bay Area. The second largest source of identification was Family & Children's Services, who identified only minors and youth.
- Services: Case management was the most commonly provided service to survivors and education and training was the second most common. On average, more services were provided to minors than to youth between the ages of 18 and 24 or adults over 25. The most commonly reported service gaps were emergency shelter and housing for youth between the ages of 18 and 24.

Who are the alleged traffickers?

This information came from the Police Department and the District Attorney's Office, and the majority of individuals were not charged or prosecuted for trafficking, only investigated or arrested.

- Relationship to survivors: Consistent with previous years, most of the recruiters or traffickers were romantic partners. The second largest group of traffickers were unrelated employers.
- Police Investigations: During 2017, the San Francisco Police Department investigated 57 cases and arrested 25 suspects. The majority of alleged traffickers were cisgender men.
- Cases Charged: Also during 2017, the District Attorney's office obtained three human trafficking convictions and charged two cases. They have a pending case load of five.

Major accomplishments of the Task Force in 2018 include:

- Housing recommendations: Developed housing and placement recommendations for youth who have been trafficked or are at risk of being trafficked with the input of the Youth Advisory Board.
- Safety for Sex Workers: Continued implementing the Prioritizing Safety for Sex Worker policy through outreach. State bill AB2243, which was inspired by the San Francisco policy, was signed into law by Governor Brown in June 2018.
- **Tackling supply chains:** Passing of the Good Food Purchasing Program resolution at the Board of Supervisors, which encourages public entities that purchase food to ascribe to five values: food that is locally produced, sustainable, nutritious, respects animal welfare, and values the workforce.
- Strengthening the Task Force: Formalization of Mayor's Task Force membership and voting procedures by the Executive Committee.
- Diversity of perspectives: Increased input from those with lived experience. The first Youth Advisory Board was formed in 2017 through the leadership of Freedom FWD and Young Women's Freedom Center.