

ABSTRACT

Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: A Community Problem, A Community Solution

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Domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) is the commercial exploitation of US citizens under the age of 18. This phenomenon, though often hidden or ignored, is prevalent across United States and in our communities. This study begins by reviewing literature relevant to understanding and addressing DMST. This study then takes a closer look at the town of Waco, TX and how community members are addressing the issue of DMST in their community. Using a community-based participatory research approach, semi-structured interviews with eleven community members representing nine different community partners were qualitatively coded to identify common themes about strengths and assets, challenges and areas of growth, and future recommendations. Findings from this study can help to grow existing assets, address areas of growth in Waco and translate strengths found in Waco to other communities to aid their fight against DMST.

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PREFACE

This community assessment looks at the community of Waco, TX and the city's approach to addressing domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST). This strengths based-assessment is to prepare Waco to better identify and serve individuals affected by DMST. This assessment engages community members to identify assets that can be built upon as well as areas of growth in the community and in the community's preparedness to respond to the issue of DMST. It will also identify strengths that may be translated to other communities.

This thesis is organized through various chapters as follows. Chapter One: Literature Review. This will be a comprehensive literature review that will introduce the topic of domestic minor sex trafficking as well as language used in discussing and researching this topic, a description of methods of DMST, individuals who are exploited and exploiters, risk factors and relevant policy. This literature review will also give a brief overview of Waco, TX including locations, demographics etc.

Chapter Two: Methods. This section will describe the methods through which data are gathered and analyzed. Community participatory methods including qualitative interviews were conducted and analyzed for common themes.

Chapter Three: Result. This will identify current assets in identifying and serving individuals affected by DMST in Waco, TX as well as analyze what is not found, gaps in services, and needs in the community. Common themes will be identified, analyzed and displayed through coding of qualitative interviews.

Chapter Four: Discussion. This chapter will discuss the findings in the research and the implications of those findings. This chapter will explore the strengths, areas of growth and future recommendations for Waco.

CHAPTER ONE

Literature Review

Over 21 million people are currently being trafficked today (Mapp, 2016). Of those identified as trafficking victims approximately 58% were sex trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation (Hodge, 2014, p.112). These are women, men and children who are being sold and exploited for another's sexual gratification. Human trafficking, and specifically sex trafficking, has gained attention in the media and in academic research in recent years. Despite this increase in attention, it is often viewed as an international problem that solely takes place in other countries and only claims foreign victims. Less attention has been paid to trafficking that occurs in our neighborhoods right here in the United States. Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST) is the trafficking of US citizens who are considered minors because of their ages. Some experts believe that DMST is the most under reported, under identified, and most severe form of sexual exploitation facing today's children and youth (Souther, 2014). Though awareness of trafficking is growing, there is still a long way to go. Researchers are just beginning to take notice of the large-scale issue of trafficking. Most the literature on this issue has been produced in the last five to ten years. There is even less research on the topic in relation to minors, or DMST. To properly raise awareness of DMST, to increase the proper identification of those affected and to provide services and proper treatment for individuals affected by DMST, researchers need to increase their study of this topic.

This literature review is designed to give a comprehensive representation of the literature on DMST, paying special attention to definitions, risk factors, identification barriers, legislation, treatment, and services for individuals affected by DMST. It will also provide demographic information about Waco, TX to better understand the community in which this study is being conducted.

Definition

To address domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST), one must first understand what it is. A lack of understanding as well as a lack of a clear definition can be a huge barrier to effective identification. It is important for first responders, service providers, and the community in general to understand the definition and dynamics of DMST to identify and serve those who are affected by DMST, as well as prevent the continued growth of DMST (Jordan, Patel & Rapp, pp. 2-16). Researchers, service providers, and the media often use a variety of different language when addressing DMST. This use of inconsistent language adds to the confusion associated with the definition of DMST (Briere, Simon, & National Research Council (U.S.), 2014). There is a need for more consensus and general understanding of the terms and definitions that make up DMST. The following are important definitions to understand.

Human trafficking is defined by the United Nations as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of 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. Exploitation shall include at a minimum the exploitation of the prostitution or others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs” (Mapp, 2016, p.1-2).

The United States Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) defines severe forms of trafficking of persons in terms of both sex trafficking and labor trafficking. Since this literature review is focused on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking, it will not go into detail about labor trafficking although it is important to note that this crime is also very prevalent worldwide and in the US, warranting further attention as well. The TVPA defines sex trafficking as “the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by forced fraud or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age” (Mapp, 2016, p. 2) The TVPA (2000) defines a commercial sex act as “any sex act on account of which anything of value is given to or received by any person” (Reid & Jones, 2011, p. 209). ‘Anything of value’ could be considered money, but can also include food, shelter, protection, or anything deemed to have value (Gibbs, Hardison Walters, Lutnick, Miller & Kluckman, 2015, p. 1). Linda Smith, Founder of Shared Hope International, defines Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking as “the commercial sexual abuse of children through buying, selling, or trading their sexual services” (Kotrla, 2010, p. 182). The National Institute of Medicine/National Research Council Report offers a more complete, specific definition that defines DMST in terms of commercial sex exploitation and sex trafficking of minors. The report defines DMST as “a range of crimes of sexual nature committed against children and adolescents including: recruiting,

enticing, harboring, transporting, providing obtaining and/or maintaining (acts that constitute trafficking) a minor for the purpose of sexual exploitation; exploiting a minor for prostitution; exploiting a minor through survival sex...; using a minor in pornography; exploiting a minor through sex tourism, mail order bride trade, and early marriage; and exploited a minor by having her/him perform in sexual venues (e.g. peep shows or strip clubs)” (Briere, Simon, & National Research Council (U.S.), 2014, pp. 1-2).

There are three important things that should be noted about the federal definition of domestic minor sex trafficking. First for a person under 18, one is not required to show force, fraud, or coercion. Any commercial sex act by a minor is considered a severe form of sex trafficking (Mapp, 2016; Reid & Jones, 2011; Marcus, Horning, Curtis, Sanson, & Thompson, 2014). Second, transporting or moving an individual is not required for an act to be considered trafficking. The ‘or’ in the definition implies that trafficking can occur without the individual being moved at all (Mapp, 2016, p. 2). While some individuals are trafficked across state lines, or even internationally, many are trafficked right where they are living in their own neighborhoods. One study found only 30% of individuals in their study were trafficked across international borders (Mapp,2016). Third, DMST is not limited to the traditional understanding of sexual exploitation, such as prostitution or brothels, but this form of trafficking can include any commercial sex act, including those that do not involve the exchange of money.

There are several other definitions and terms that are helpful to understand DMST. First regarding DMST, a minor is considered an individual under the age of 18 (Briere, Simon, & National Research Council (U.S.), 2014). Minors who are trafficked can

be referred to in a variety of ways. This includes prostituted child, victim, child sex trafficking victim (CSTV), or survivor. Note the importance of not using language such as child prostitute or juvenile prostitute, because it implies that the minor is a willing participant (Briere, Simon, & National Research Council (U.S.), 2014) that is able to consent to the commercial sex act and frames the minor as a delinquent or criminal (Reid & Jones, 2011). This can lead to a phenomenon that Reid and Jones (2011) define as textual abuse. Textual abuse is the concept that we exploit and objectify minors in research by using language that minimizes the crime and does not acknowledge the minor's victimization (Reid & Jones, 2011).

Traffickers, pimps, and exploiters are all terms used to describe those who exploit children for financial gain (Briere, Simon, & National Research Council (U.S.), 2014). Johns or buyers are terms for those who purchase or obtain a commercial sex act from a minor (Loyd, 2011; Mapp, 2016). It is important to note that buyers are also considered to be participating in human trafficking as they are "obtaining" a commercial sex act (Mapp, 2016, p. 2). The terms trafficker and buyer will be used throughout this literature review to describe those who exploit minors. We will use person first language to emphasize that these individuals are not defined by their experience or what has happened to them. The terms individual affected by trafficking or individual affected by DMST will be used to describe trafficked minors.

Legislation

The following is a review of relevant legislation. This is not an exhaustive list but highlights some of the most prevalent legislation regarding DMST.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA)

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) was first passed in 2000. At the time, it was the first comprehensive federal law addressing the prevention and protection of individuals affected by human trafficking, as well as the prosecution of traffickers (Jordan et al.,2013). Since 2000, TVPA has been reauthorized by the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) of 2003, 2005, 2008, and 2013 (Jordan et al.,2013; Polaris Project, 2017). The 2005 reauthorization of the TVPA was the first time that trafficking of US Citizens and legal residents was included in the law. It also noted the vulnerable population of runaway and homeless youth, and established funding for individuals affected by domestic minor sex trafficking, including a program for minors (Mapp,2016; Polaris Project,2017).

The TVPA established several methods of prosecuting traffickers, preventing human trafficking, and protecting individuals affected by trafficking (Polaris Project, 2017). The TVPA addresses all forms of trafficking including labor trafficking and sex trafficking. It establishes human trafficking as a federal crime and created severe penalties for the act (Polaris Project, 2017). The federal law also established the Officer to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons to aid in preventions. The Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report, published each year, describes and ranks how countries are addressing human trafficking (Polaris Project, 2017). The TPVA also established the Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, whose members work to implement and uphold TPVA (Polaris Project, 2017). Each reauthorization has continued to aid the prevention, service

provision to individuals affected by trafficking and prosecution of traffickers (Polaris Project, 2017).

Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (JVTA)

The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (JVTA) of 2015 specifically states that buyers are considered to be equal to traffickers for sex trafficking offenses (Mapp, 2016). Originally in the TVPA, the word 'obtain' was meant to convey this aspect of JVTA, but confusion remained. The new act added the word "solicits or patronizes" to emphasize that those who purchase individuals are also guilty (Mapp, 2016, p. 112). This act also established the Department of Health and Human Services human trafficking line, along with creating the United States Advisory Council on Human Trafficking, which is led by survivors of human trafficking (Polaris Project, 2017).

The Mann Act 1910

The Mann Act of 1910, amended in 1978 and 1986, criminalized the transportation of minors and the coercion of adults traveling across states lines or foreign countries in order to engage in commercial sex. This is punishable with up to 20 years in prison and potentially more time if a minor is involved (Polaris Project, 2017; Souther, 2014). The Mann Act appears to be combatting DMST, however, traffickers and buyers are often not subjected to the act (Souther, 2014). The TVPA improved the federal anti-trafficking position and began to address the flaws of the Mann Act. This includes applying lawful punishment to both interstate and intrastate exploitation, entitling individuals affected

by trafficking to services and protections, and subjecting traffickers and buyers to penalties and fines that better reflect the severity of the crime (Souther, 2014).

Safe Harbor Laws

Children under both state and federal law should be considered victims of a crime, yet many are still arrested and charged as criminals. Therefore, Safe Harbor Laws were created in an attempt to address these inconsistencies and provide legal protection and services for trafficked minors. Under Safe Harbor Laws, minors are provided with immunity from prosecution for certain charges or placed in diversion programs that allow charges to be dismissed if the youth completes a specialized program (Polaris Project, 2017; Mapp, 2016). Currently, 34 states have passed Safe Harbor Laws, all of which vary from one another (Polaris Project, 2017). Most states define a minor as an individual under 18 and make provisions available for children who have engaged in commercial sex, although some states are beginning to include non-commercial sex and non-violent crimes in their version of Safe Harbor for minors affected by trafficking (Polaris Project, 2017).

PROTECT ACT

The Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools to End the Exploitation of Children Today, or PROTECT ACT was passed in 2003 (Polaris Project, 2017). The law established enhanced penalties for individual engaging in sex tourism with children in the US and in other countries. It also established the Amber Alert System and other methods to alert the public of missing, abducted, or exploited children (Polaris Project, 2017). Lastly, the

law established grants for transitional housing for survivors of child sexual assault (Polaris Project, 2017).

Issues Surrounding Legislation

There are still improvements to be made regarding legislation surrounding DMST, particularly surrounding the disparity between federal law, state law, and the arrest of minors. All 50 states have laws against human trafficking (Mapp, 2016). Typically states or local governments create their regulations for prostitution. Several states (32) have amended their laws to incorporate a better understanding of DMST, yet 15 states still require the child to prove force, fraud or coercion to avoid being charged with prostitution (Souther, 2014). This does not only conflict with federal laws, such as the TVPA, but it also conflicts with the status of minors. Minors are a protected class and by definition, they cannot consent to a sex act (Reid & Jones, 2011; Souther, 2014). Therefore, they should not be arrested and charged with a crime such as prostitution. There needs to be clear language in state laws that prevents minors from being arrested and charged, as well as fully implementing federal laws, which specifically state that minors under the age of 18 are considered victims of human trafficking and are victims as a crime rather than criminals (Souther, 2014).

Methods of DMST

To prevent DMST and to identify, serve, and restore minors who are affected by trafficking, it is important to understand the different methods DMST can take. The four

main methods are pimp controlled, gang controlled, familial, and survival trafficking. These four practices can be fluid and oftentimes minors may have experienced more than one method (Mapp, 2016).

Pimp Controlled

Pimp controlled trafficking is probably the most well-known form of human sex trafficking and is often how trafficking is portrayed in the media (Mapp, 2016). In this case, the trafficker is an individual known as a pimp. The pimp recruits minors and arranges the sale of the individual for a commercial sex act (Jordan et al., 2013). Most pimps are men but there are some women who act as pimps. Pimps sometimes use individuals under their control to recruit and help control others they are trafficking. This is often referred to as a “bottom girl” (Mapp, 2016, pp. 27 & 34). One study of individuals who had been trafficked found that 25% of participants were recruited by women while only 6% of participants had a female pimp (Mapp, 2016, p.31). Pimps are typically adults, but peer-pimping may occur where minors are exploited by their peers (Mapp, 2016).

In a 2007 study by the U. S Department of Justice ,75% of youth on the street involved in formal prostitution were under control of a pimp (Kotrla, 2010, p.183). It is hard to say if pimp controlled is the most common form of trafficking or not due to issues with identification, but it is the method that appears to affect a significant portion of minors who are trafficked.

Recruitment and selling. When recruiting girls or boys to be exploited, pimps often target vulnerable youth, such as those with low self-esteem, who are abused, bullied, or living on the streets (Mapp, 2016). Pimps will recruit in person, often in places with high

volumes of youth, like the mall, the beach (Mapp, 2016), movie theatres, schools (Fong & Berger Cardoso, 2009), arcades (Reid & Jones, 2011), parks, playgrounds, bars, (Jordan et al., 2013) and other places youth hang out. They may also target places where they are more likely to encounter specifically vulnerable youth, such as group homes, detention centers, group shelters (Mapp, 2016), foster homes, courthouses (Jordan et al., 2013), bus stations, or anywhere they see youths who appear to be runaways (Reid & Jones, 2013). The Internet is also a common place for pimps to recruit minors. Some pimps meet minors through modeling ads and other legitimate business fronts (Kotrla, 2010; Mapp, 2016). Other pimps find minors through social media sites, such as Facebook, Myspace (Kotrla, 2010; Mapp, 2016), chat rooms, and Black Planet (Holger-Ambrose, Langmade, Edinburgh & Saewyc, 2011). But the most common way pimps recruit is through their own neighborhoods and social networks (Mapp, 2016). The pimps know who is vulnerable and how to manipulate them. It is also likely if a youth lives in an area where trafficking is prominent they may view commercial sex exploitation as normal and may know others who are engaged in the act (Mapp, 2016).

Though some pimps may use force and violence to recruit victims, but many will act as a friend or boyfriend (Jordan et al., 2013; Mapp, 2016; National Center for Homeless Education (National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE), 2014). They will use manipulation and persuasion tactics, such as romantic relationships or monetizing sex, to draw in a youth (Mapp, 2016). They practice a type of psychological manipulation referred to as “grooming” (Jordan et al., 2013; Mapp, 2016). Grooming prepares the youth for the abuse that is going to occur (Mapp, 2016). When grooming a victim, an exploiter will work

to gain trust and build a bond with the youth. They may use flattery, gifts, favors or sexualized behaviors to draw in youths. By establishing a bond with a youth, pimps makes the transition to sexual exploitation easier and prevents the youth from leaving or testifying against their trafficker (Jordan et al., 2013). This process may also be referred to as “seasoning” (Jordan et al.,2013). Seasoning is a mixture of reward and punishment, acceptance and degradation. They build youths up and then tear them down and shame them. This whole process is used to intensify loyalty and create a bond between trafficker and youth referred to as a “trauma bond” (Jordan et al.,2014; Reid & Jones,2011). Trauma bonding is defined as “a form of coercive control in which the perpetrator [trafficker] instills in the victim fear as well as gratitude for being allowed to live,” (Reid& Jones, 2011, p. 219). Relationships built on trauma bonds often display intense and misplaced loyalty. A combination of loyalty, fear, seduction, shame, or exploitation connects the youth to their trafficker and makes it difficult for them to leave, seek help, or cooperate with those trying to help them (Reid & Jones, 2011). Pimps will isolate the youth and exploit their vulnerabilities further until they are fully dependent on the pimp (Reid & Jones, 2011). They also create a new identity for a youth. These youths often don’t have any form of identification and the pimp may give them a new identity and a new name, which can further hinder identification (Reid & Jones,2011; Jordan et al.,2014). This result of grooming from trauma bonds is often compared to “Stockholm syndrome” when hostages become attached to, and later defend, their captors (Jordan et al.,2014). Other terms used to describe this process may be brainwashing or programming (Jordan et al.,2014). In the study by Holger-Ambrose et al. (2011), minors affected by trafficking

reported being recruited by friends and boyfriends. They also reported that they saw their pimp as a form of protection.

There are several methods through which pimps will sell the youth they are exploiting. Massage parlors, strip clubs, brothels, escort services, and pornography are all commercial sex businesses through which youths could be exploited (Holger-Ambrose et al., 2011; Kotrla, 2010; Mapp, 2016; NCHE, 2014). Youths are also exploited on the street, through ads, and by word of mouth. (Mapp, 2016), and at truck stops (NCHE, 2014) The Internet is not only used for recruitment but also as a selling point. Youth are advertised in ads, and on sites like Craigslist, Blackplanet, and Backpage (Mapp, 2016; Reid & Jones, 2011; Holger-Ambrose et al., 2011). Craigslist typically takes down these ads, but some ads may remain posted. While Backpage claims their ads are only intended for adults, there is little way to regulate this claim (Mapp, 2016). Chat rooms and social media platforms are also outlets that can be used (Holger-Ambrose et al., 2011; Mapp, 2016). The Internet is a marketing tool that uses minimal resources to reach the widest audience. It is also faster and easier to keep secretive. Many have also noted that the Internet may appear safer and more convenient than working the streets to both traffickers and those being trafficked (Holger-Ambrose et al., 2011).

Gang Controlled & Organized Crime

Another form of trafficking that is growing in occurrence and awareness is gang controlled trafficking and organized crime. Sex trafficking is a profitable enterprise because humans are not finite resources (Mapp, 2016). Additionally, there are less issues with border control, especially if the girls are trafficked domestically and therefore are

not crossing any international borders (Mapp, 2016). Girls are considered “high yield, low risk” (Mapp, 2016, p. 39).

Recruitment and selling. Gang controlled trafficking shares some similarities with pimp controlled trafficking. The gang is acting as the pimp and exploiter. Gangs primarily target girls because most buyers are male, and because of the large stigma associated with homosexuality in gangs (Mapp, 2016). For gangs, most youths are recruited using social media (Mapp, 2016). Gangs will also use their personal networks to recruit from neighborhoods, schools, and other public places (Mapp, 2016). They often will focus their efforts on runaway youth (Jordan et al., 2013; Mapp, 2016). Some gangs have been known to throw skips parties, these occur during school hours and allow gangs to target and recruit local youth (Mapp, 2016). Gangs will use girls to recruit other girls. They may also employ a “snatch and grab” method where they will kidnap girls who are already in their lives who are working the streets in what is considered their territory (Mapp, 2016 p. 40). Gangs may also use drugs and easy access to drugs to draw in and recruit youth (Jordan et al., 2013). There is evidence of gang involvement in child pornography. Some gangs have been known to purchase children from their parents for a monthly fee to use the child in pornography (Jordan et al., 2013).

Gangs often employ similar methods of grooming that establish trauma bonds and gang loyalties (Mapp, 2016). The gang uses members known as recruiters to befriend the girl and take her through the grooming process, while others may take a gorilla pimp approach by using fear and violence (Mapp, 2016). The gang mentality of “gang over all else” is indoctrinated into the girls. Just like individual gang membership, the gang, as a

whole, is an identity and place of belonging (Mapp, 2016, p. 41). The girls may see their exploitation as just a way to make money or something they must do for the gang (Mapp, 2016). In this way, the gang takes the form of a dysfunctional family. Though not all gangs allow for girl members, some girls may become members of the gang by being “jumped in”; beaten or “sexed in” by sleeping with a member. However, this form of membership sets her at a lower status than the boy members (Mapp, 2016, p. 41). This loyalty, as well as additional dynamics of gang involvement, can make identifying and treating individuals exploited through gang controlled trafficking even more complex than traditional pimp controlled trafficking (Mapp, 2016). If a youth has a child with a gang member, the child may be raised by the gang and used as a control technique (Mapp, 2016). Also, drugs can be used for the control of the youth of a gang (Jordan et al., 2013).

Gangs will typically stick to their own territory when exploiting youth. They fear being caught so they will often sell via word of mouth, business cards, or by the girls going door-to-door (Mapp, 2016). Girls are also exploited within the gang (Mapp, 2016).

Familial Trafficking

There is little available literature about familial trafficking. Familial trafficking occurs when the exploiter is a member of the youth’s family (Mapp, 2016). Often, familial trafficking is misidentified merely as child sexual abuse. Familial trafficking differentiates from child sexual abuse in that something of value is exchanged for the child (Mapp, 2016). Like the definition stated earlier trafficking occurs when something of value, such as money, drug, utilities or etc. are exchanged for a sexual act. In familial trafficking, the mother is the most common trafficker. These mothers are often either acting as the

madam who arranges “dates” for money or an addict who exchanges the child for drugs (Kotrla, 2010; Mapp, 2016) or as a mentor who is training their daughter how to be a prostitute (Mapp, 2016). Incest can also be a major component of familial trafficking (Mapp, 2016).

Minors who have been exploited by family have been found to be much younger than minors who are trafficked by unrelated parties (Mapp, 2016). They are also more likely to have witnessed domestic violence and experience, abuse, neglect, or abandonment (Mapp, 2016). And despite a lack of presence in the literature, familial trafficking has been found to be a prevalent form of trafficking. Studies conducted in Kentucky and New York City found that 82% and 32% of individuals who had been trafficked, respectively, had been trafficked by family members (Mapp, 2016, pp.44-45). In the case of familial trafficking or familial prostitution, as it may be referred to, the people who are presumed to keep the child safe are in fact the ones putting the child at the highest risk (Kotrla, 2010).

Survival Trafficking

A third-party exploiter does not have to be present for trafficking to occur. When youth are on the streets and have no means to make money they may resort to exchanging their bodies to meet their survival needs (Holger-Ambrose, 2011). This act has been termed “survival sex” (Mapp, 2016, p.46). The Trafficking Victims Protection Act notes that “obtaining” a person for a commercial sex act is included under the definition of sex trafficking (Mapp, 2016, p. 2). And the definition of commercial sex act also specifies that is an “anything” of value for the act (Gibbs et al., 2015, p.1). This could

include food, shelter, clothing, drugs, or variety of things that a youth on the street might need to survive. Youth are often recruited by friends, peers, or even customers. One of the major difficulties with survival sex is some do not consider the act a form of trafficking. Many understand trafficking as something that only occurs when a third-party exploiter is present and they exclude survival sex as a legitimate form of trafficking (Mapp, 2016). This contention over the definition of trafficking creates barriers to proper identification, as well as hinders an accurate count of minor affected by trafficking.

Prevalence

Sex trafficking, both foreign and domestic, is the third largest and the fastest growing criminal activity occurring worldwide (Cecchet & Thoburn, 2014). Though sex trafficking is a big issue, it is difficult to determine the prevalence of sex trafficking and even more specifically DMST. It is estimated that between 1,400 and 2.4 million minors are exploited each year (Gibbs et al., 2015). This estimate is large and vague, making it difficult to be considered credible. Other experts have estimated the number of minors who are trafficked to be over 100,000 (Kotrla, 2010), 300,000 (Cecchet & Thoburn, 2014), or 400,000 (Fong & Berger Cardoso, 2009) however they too cite issues with validity (Kotrla, 2010). These estimates often exclude minors engaging in survival sex and minors exploited through familial trafficking; therefore, the data may not accurately describe the prevalence of DMST (Fong & Berger Cardoso, 2009). Additionally, early studies may not account for trafficking that occurs via the Internet (Mapp, 2016). The lack of reliable data representing the prevalence of DMST is due to the hidden nature of the crime (Reid & Jones, 2011), lack of significant education about the issue (Kotrla,

2010), barriers to identification, reporting inconsistencies (Fong & Berger Cardoso, 2009), as well as a lack of an effective, scientific way to measure the prevalence of the crime (Gibbs et al., 2015). To better understand the severity of this issue, scholars need to create a credible estimate of the number of individuals affected by all types of sex trafficking. Despite a clear estimate, researchers and experts still agree that DMST is a serious, wide spread problem that should be addressed and estimate that up to 325,000 minors are at risk of being trafficked and exploited (Kotrla, 2010). The University of Texas recently released a report regarding the prevalence of human trafficking in Texas. They estimate that 313,000 individuals in Texas have been trafficked and 79,000 minors are trafficked in Texas (Busch-Armendariz, Nale, Kammer-Kerwick, Kellison, Torres, Heffron, & Nehme, 2016, p.13).

Unfortunately, this is not a new phenomenon. The prevalence of DMST will continue to rise in a culture that is tolerant and continues to create a demand for this form of sex trafficking (Kotrla, 2010). The simple fact is if there were no demand for DMST, the phenomenon would not exist (Kotrla, 2010). Traffickers are a part of a profitable human trafficking industry that is estimated to make \$150 billion dollar annually, worldwide (International Labour Organization (ILO), 2014). Ninety billion of that profit is estimated to be from the commercial sex industry (International Labour Organization (ILO), 2014). Some experts predict that incidences and profits of human trafficking could surpass drug and arms trafficking in the upcoming years (Jordan et al., 2013).

Risk Factors for DMST

DMST can affect anyone. Persons of any race, ethnicity, social class, or gender could be drawn in to DMST (Gibbs et al., 2015). Though all youth can and are affected by DMST, there are several risk factors that make an individual more vulnerable than their peers.

Societal Factors

There are several societal factors that increase the risk for Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking. Education, employment, and economic barriers for minorities, including racial minorities as well as sexual minority youths, create a society where some youth struggle to meet their basic needs (Mapp, 2016). Racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, and other forms of discrimination in the structures of society can contribute to these barriers and lead to other vulnerabilities in youth (Holger-Ambrose et al., 2011).

The sexualization of women in the media and the high exposure to sexual content also puts our society at risk. The glamorization of prostitution and pimping in music and other forms of media normalizes the commercial sex industry, creating a culture that is indifferent to sexual exploitation (Kotrla, 2010). The representation of the commercial sex industry in the media often glorifies the industry and excludes the details of manipulation, threats, and hurt those in the industry face. The legal, adult sex industry continues to perpetuate the idea that it is normal and acceptable to buy and sell another human being to meet one's sexual desires (Mapp, 2016). Unfortunately, we have created a culture of tolerance (Kotrla, 2010). DMST would not exist without this demand (Kotrla, 2010).

Media exposure not only contributes to a culture of tolerance, but a high exposure to the media can also increase the risks of being recruited or encountering a trafficker. Social media sites, chat rooms, etc. can all be places trafficker use to find vulnerable youth (Kotrla, 2010, Mapp, 2016). With the prevalence and wide array of social media, many traffickers can find crucial information about an individual through their social media page, as well as use it as a tool for recruitment (Mapp, 2016). One wrong click and a minor could be chatting with a trafficker.

Individual and Family Factors

As mentioned previously, traffickers tend to target youth who are vulnerable. These vulnerabilities can be a result of a variety of different factors. The following are individual and family factors that make a youth vulnerable and more susceptible to be affected by DMST.

Age. The average age for a minor entering the commercial sex trade is 12-14 (Mapp, 2016; Reid & Jones, 2011) and minors trafficked by family members are typically even younger (Mapp, 2016). There is also research to suggest the average age of entry for boys may be younger than girls (Reid & Jones, 2011).

The youth's age makes them vulnerable for a variety of reasons. First, adolescence is a vulnerable time in development. At this stage of development, youth are often heavily influenced by their peers and often engage in risk-taking behavior (Reid & Jones, 2011). A youth's impulsivity and risk-taking behavior tie back to their developing brains. The frontal lobe and prefrontal cortex of the brain, which control behavior, planning and risk management (Mapp, 2016) are some of the last areas of the brain to

fully develop (Reid & Jones, 2011). Youth often place priority on sensation seeking (Reid & Jones, 2011) and are unable to fully assess the potential negative consequences of their actions (Mapp, 2016). Additionally, any significant trauma they endure during adolescence is likely to affect the youth's developing brain and creating lasting effects (Reid & Jones, 2011). The brain is most vulnerable to trauma during development. Because of this, the youth's age not only makes him or her more vulnerable to being exploited, but also to the youth carrying lasting effects from this exploitation (Mapp, 2016; Reid & Jones, 2011). These effects will be discussed in more detail later.

Youth are also heavily influenced by peers and their environment and they may make poor decisions sexually because they lack knowledge or experience (Reid & Jones, 2011). A youth's age also makes them vulnerable because they are dependent on others. Dependency is a key characteristic of childhood and adolescences (Reid & Jones, 2011). They often rely on the adults in their lives for emotional, financial, and social support. Unfortunately, sometimes the adults they encounter put the youth in vulnerable positions, whether they are trafficking the youth directly or just placing the youth in an environment that makes them more vulnerable to being exploited. Last, the fear of contracting AIDS or other sexually transmitted infections has increased the demand for virgins, who are often minors (Reid & Jones, 2011).

Because of minor status and laws protecting this vulnerable class, 18-20 year-olds have become susceptible to exploitation (Mapp, 2016). These older individuals may be aging out of care or even had entered the commercial sex industry at a younger age but are now no longer protected under the definition of minor. Traffickers may target this

group because they are still vulnerable and cannot fall under the definition of minors, therefore, making it more difficult to classify trafficker's actions as actual trafficking (Mapp,2016). Though the exploitation of 18-20 year-olds does not meet the definition for DMST, this could be a potential gap in services and an area of future research and attention.

Sex and Gender. Though more attention is directed at girls in the literature, it is important to acknowledge that boys are trafficked as well (Mapp, 2016). Some population based studies even suggest that boys are equally likely to be exploited as girls; despite having a smaller representation in services and literature (Holger-Ambrose et al., 2011; Mapp, 2016).

Sexual minority youth are often vulnerable for being exploited through DMST (Mapp, 2016). They also have a higher risk for being homeless. In the previously mentioned study on homeless and street-involved youth, researchers found that LGBTQ youth make up 20-30% of the homeless youth population and only 2%-3% of the general population (Holger-Ambrose et al., 2011, p.328). With higher rate of homelessness, LGBTQ youth are at a higher risk for being exploited. Discrimination, as discussed earlier, can also play a role in enhancing LGBTQ youth's vulnerabilities.

Poverty. Some may see trafficking as a means to make money. Having a lack of economic opportunity may push youth towards trafficking. They may see commercial sex trade as a place to earn money for themselves and for their family (Mapp, 2016). Impoverished neighborhoods are more likely to have a higher presence of trafficking, traffickers, and legal prostitution. An exposure to these acts increases the risk for minors

to be trafficked. Youth in these areas may know someone in the commercial sex industry or may even have friends or family members who are being exploited (Cecchet & Thoburn, 2014; Mapp, 2016). In cases of familial trafficking, sometimes minors are trafficked in trade for something of value, such as money or even utilities or rent (Mapp, 2106). Growing up in poverty has also been found to have negative effects on brain development that can affect academic success and decision making (Mapp, 2016), which in turn, can make youth more vulnerable to exploitation.

Runaway, homeless and throwaway youth. One of the most vulnerable populations is runaway or “throwaway” youth (Mapp,2016). The term “throwaway” youth means youths whose families told them to leave or knew they were leaving and did nothing to prevent or stop them from leaving (Mapp, 2016, p. 22). Federal statistics have shown that 75% of youth who have left home are not reported by their families due to anger or relief that the child is gone and no longer causing them problems (Mapp, 2016, p. 22). It is estimated that nationally 450,000 to 2.8 million children and youth runaways are thrown away from home every year (Kotrla, 2010, p.183). Runway youth often leave for a reason and many of these reasons are related to other risk factors such as family dysfunction and abuse, social service involvement, sexuality, poverty, etc. (Jordan et al., 2013; Mapp, 2016) and may not want to return home. Because of this, there are limited options of where runaways can go. They may be looking for a “new family” which could make them vulnerable to pimps’ or gangs’ manipulation (Mapp, 2016). Homeless youth are often approached within 48 hours to be sexually exploited, (Jordan et al., 2013) and experiencing homelessness for more than one month has also proven to increase a

youth's chances of being exploited (Holger-Ambrose et al., 2011). Some of these youths will be lured in by peers or pimps while others will participate in survival sex to have shelter and food, in order to meet other needs. Researchers suggest that at least one out of five homeless youth will engage in survival sex (Holger-Ambrose et al., 2011, p. 327).

Child Welfare & Juvenile Justice involvement. Many minors affected by DMST have prior child welfare involvement. In 2014, the National Center for Missing and Exploited found that 68% of endangered runaways who were sexually exploited had previous child welfare involvement. In a 2013 raid conducted by the FBI, 60% of recovered youth previously were in foster care (Mapp, 2016, p.18). Many of these children come from backgrounds of abuse, neglect, and other factors that contribute to being at risk from DMST. Children in the child welfare system are vulnerable and are often likely to run away, especially those in residential treatment facilities (Mapp,2016). And when these children go missing, unfortunately they lack priority and have the tendency to fall through the cracks (Mapp, 2016). Children in the child welfare system are also vulnerable to aging out of the system and are left vulnerable.

Many minors affected by DMST had prior juvenile justice involvement or will become involved due to being trafficked. The same risk-taking and altered decision making that makes these youths vulnerable to be trafficked can lead them to make other decisions that would land them in the juvenile justice system (Reid & Jones, 2011). Additionally, often when youth are found they are treated as criminals rather than victims of crime. Instead of getting the care they deserve and are entitled to under TVPA they are

arrested (Souther,2014). In juvenile justice centers may be the only place that is available to youth that may aid them in getting off the streets and safe (Souther,2014).

Family Dysfunction, Abuse & Domestic Violence. A child who grows up in dysfunction could have a higher risk for being exploited (Mapp, 2016). A parent's inability to meet their children's needs, a lack of parental supervision, abuse, neglect, domestic violence, parental mental health problems, and substance abuse and addictions can all put children at a higher risk for being trafficked (Jordan et al., 2013; Gibbs et al.,2015; Mapp,2016). Witnessing domestic abuse in the home can send the message that violence in a relationship is normal and expected (Mapp, 2016). This point of view can be easily manipulated by traffickers. When a child is raised in dysfunction it becomes their normal and they are at risk for being exploited (Mapp, 2016; Wilson & Windom, 2010).

Many individuals affected by DMST have suffered prior abuse before being sexually exploited. This past abuse makes them vulnerable for future abuse (Mapp, 2016). Trauma resulting from childhood abuse and neglect can rewire the brain making it more vulnerable (Mapp, 2016). Chronic neglect may result in low impulse control, low self-confidence, low self-esteem, and poor social skills. Abuse and maltreatment have shown to alter brain structure in the cerebellum, corpus callosum, amygdale, and connections in the limbic system. These changes affect emotional and behavioral functioning, including difficulty understanding and regulating emotion, underdeveloped empathetic responses, increased aggression, and increased impulsivity (Mapp,2016; Reid & Jones,2013). Individuals who have prior experience of child sexual abuse have a higher vulnerability for sexual re-Victimization (Reid & Jones, 2011). Youth who have experienced childhood

sexual abuse often experience low self-esteem, feelings of powerless, as well as face shame and stigmas (Reid& Jones, 2011). This, in combination with low self-esteem, could result in earlier sexual behavior and put them at risk for being sexually exploited. The changes their brain has endured as a result of this abuse may make them less likely to protect themselves from sexual exploitation or to recognize their exploitation (Wilson & Widom, 2010). Research suggests that girls who had younger age of entry to the sex industry were more likely to have been a victim of childhood sexual abuse (Jordan et al., 2014).

Race, Ethnicity and Culture. DMST affects minors of all races and ethnicities, that being said, race, ethnicity and culture can result in vulnerabilities that make a youth more susceptible to DMST (Mapp, 2016). These specific vulnerabilities will not be discussed a length but it is import to acknowledge the possible influence of race, the ethnicity and culture on DMST.

Disabilities. There is little research around this vulnerability. Minors with disabilities can be vulnerable to manipulation. Processing, attention, and learning disabilities can create vulnerabilities in youth related to decision making and impulsivity (Mapp, 2016). Youth that are intellectually disabled can be at risk for being taken advantage of, especially if this is coupled with other risk factors (Mapp, 2016). There is little research in disabilities as risk factor and it would beneficial to explore this topic further (Mapp, 2016).

Identification

One of the major issue surrounding DMST is a lack of identification. If minors go unidentified, they will not receive the services that they desperately need to leave a life of DMST and move towards restoration. A lack of awareness of DMST, a lack of knowledge about the definitions and legislation about DMST, and perceptions about individual affected by DMST are major barriers to identification (Jordan et al., 2013).

Many minors who are affected by DMST do not self-identify as victims of DMST; because of this they are not likely to self-refer or seek services for themselves (Jordan et al., 2013). Due to grooming, manipulation, or a general lack of knowledge about DMST many minors are unaware that they are being trafficked. Many youths who bond with their traffickers do not see their traffickers for whom they actually are, but rather they see them as a friend, boyfriend, or even a family member (Mapp, 2016; Reid & Jones, 2011). Other youths fear the authorities because they have been taught to or due to prior experiences with law enforcement (Jordan et al., 2013). They may fear being arrested or facing retaliation from their trafficker (Jordan et al., 2013). Many youths shuffle through so many different systems that they no longer trust adults and do not see the benefit of cooperating with law enforcement or service providers (Musto, 2013). Others feel shame and do not want to disclose their involvement (Jordan et al., 2013). These youths do not recognize the signs of manipulation and exploitation in their own lives. One way to better aid identification is to educate youth, those involved in DMST as well as at risk to be trafficked, on the signs and risk factor of DMST. Through proper education, they will

recognize when they may be targeted or when they are being trafficked. Preventative curriculum could help prevent DMST as well as lead to more self-identification.

Another issue is misidentification. Under the TVPA, any minor who is exploited for a commercial sex act in exchange for anything of value is considered a victim of severe human trafficking and is entitled to the protections and services provided by the TVPA (Souther,2014). Unfortunately, often minors affected by DMST are arrested and treated as criminals rather than victims of trafficking. Then they are processed through the juvenile justice system rather than directly connected to services (Souther, 2014). If this occurs, minors are arrested; they may not be able to access the services they need (Jordan et al., 2013; Souther, 2014). Minors affected by DMST are arrested because law enforcement may be unaware of the federal legislation surrounding DMST or their state's legislation may be unclear about prostituted minors and even conflict with the TVPA (Souther,2015). Law enforcement or service providers may not recognize the minor as a victim or trafficking due to lack of understanding of DMST or the minor's attitude during their interactions may not be reflective of someone victimized. In cases of survival sex when there is no third-party exploiter, law enforcement may not recognize that this is still DMST, since youth do not fit the media's typical image of a trafficked youth (Mapp, 2016). Some enforcement officers may arrest and misidentify minors as an effort to help and get the minor off the streets because of a lack of alternative options (Musto, 2013).

First responders and workers in systems such as child welfare and juvenile justice have an important opportunity to aid in the identification of minors affected by DMST. By understanding the signs of trafficking and having knowledge about vulnerable youth, they

will be better able to recognize when they encounter an exploited youth. There needs to be more training and collaboration in order to better identify minors who are affected by DMST, to connect them to services, and to meet their needs. Staff at hospitals, schools, mental health facilities, and other places that may encounter vulnerable youth should also train themselves as they, too, can be a valuable asset to the identification of minor who are being exploited. These first responders and service providers must understand the complex trauma youth endure and the ways this could affect their interactions (Jordan et al., 2013). Due to fear and/or manipulation or coaching from exploiters, youth are often unwilling to work with first responders and service providers, appearing aggressive, uncaring, and unwilling to accept help (Jordan et al., 2013). Specific training on how to interview and intervene with traumatized youth is valuable in these situations. This training should be trauma informed and survivor centered. Training on the laws surrounding DMST, as well as available resources, may aid in lowering the amount of youth misidentified as criminals (Jordan et al., 2013).

Common Indicators of DMST

The following are indicators of DMST that may aid in the identification.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Excess amounts of cash ▪ Hotel room keys ▪ Lying about age/ false ID ▪ Inconsistencies in stories ▪ Lack of knowledge about community or whereabouts ▪ Inability or fear to make eye contact ▪ Restricted/scripted communication ▪ Claims being adult despite adolescent features ▪ Visible signs of abuse (i.e. bruises, cuts etc...) ▪ Behaviors consistent with PTSD, such as hypervigilance, fear or anxiety ▪ History of childhood abuse ▪ History of running away ▪ Complaints by teacher of inappropriate behaviors in classroom and inability to focus, often appearing confused | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Change in physical appearance (such as expensive clothes or accessories, sexually suggestive clothes or makeup, frequent changes in color or style of hair ▪ A tattoo a child is reluctant to explain ▪ A facial scar (which like tattoos may be used to brand a child as property of an owner) ▪ Exhaustion ▪ Multiple cell phones ▪ Feeling that she or he must check phone constantly ▪ Language from “the life”, using a street name calling boyfriend daddy ▪ Disconnection from family or caregivers ▪ Poor supervision at home ▪ Failure to go home after school ▪ Abrupt changes in behavior or relationships ▪ Expressing suicidal ideation ▪ Cutting/ self-harm ▪ Exchanging money in hall with other students | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Involvement with a male who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Is older ○ Goes by a street name ○ Always has a lot of money but child does not know his job ○ Is violent and controlling ○ Buys the child a cell phone ▪ History of multiple STIs and/or pregnancies ▪ Excessive amount of time online, may have sexually explicit profiles on Facebook, Black planet or etc..., frequents chat rooms ▪ An interest in pornography ▪ Lack of parental awareness of where child is or who they’re with after school ▪ Frequent sleepovers with “friends” ▪ Unexplained absences from school |
|--|---|---|

(Mapp, 2016, p.54-55; NCHE,2014, p.4-5)

Buyers

Most research surrounding buyers focuses on international purchasing of children and pornography in the United States. Therefore, there is a need for more focused research on buyers in the United States. Research suggests that most buyers are white males engaging in prostitution who may find minors appealing as virgins or because they are less likely to have sexually transmitted diseases (Jordan et al., 2014).

Researchers have established three categories for buyers which includes the following: situational, preferential, and opportunistic (Jordan et al., 2013). First, situational buyers purchase sex from vulnerable minors because the minors are valuable. Second, preferential buyers seek out minors due to a sexual preference. Last, opportunistic buyers do not care about age, willingness, or status as a minor (Jordan et al., 2013).

Often buyers choose to ignore the possibility that the individual may not be a willing participant. They continue with the assumption that the individuals, in this case the child, is selling sex by choice (Mapp, 2016). To address the demand that continues to fuel DMST, researchers must address the notion of prostitution and commercialized sex being a victimless crime. Also, individuals need to challenge the culture of tolerance that is prevalent in society. Some ways to we can address this would be to raise awareness through community education and/or “john schools”, addressing the misconception that prostitution is a victimless crime and creating a stigma around purchasing children for sex act (Mapp, 2016). As well as following through on penalties for engaging in a commercial sex act with a minor. Though this is outlined as sex trafficking in TVPA, often buyers do not face the full penalty for their crime (Mapp, 2016).

Individuals Affected by DMST

Individuals affected by sex trafficking and DMST face many hardships and dangers. They are often sold 10 -15 times a day six days a week to meet their quota and are unable to keep any of the money for themselves (Jordan et al., 2013). On occasions that elicit high demand for trafficking, such as sporting events or concerts, this number could

increase to 45 times a day (Jordan et al., 2013; Mapp, 2016). Not only are they constantly exploited, but they are often put in harm's way in the process. In a study by Farley et al. (2003), 82% of the sample reported being physically assaulted, 73% reported being raped, and of that 73%, 60% reported having been raped more than five times (Mapp, 2016, p.67). While violence occurs at the hands of exploiters, often much of the violence individuals who are trafficked experience is from the buyers. In a study of women who had been trafficked, 8.5% reported rape by their pimp and 26.2% reported being assaulted by their pimp. But 42.7% of these women reported being raped by a buyer and 54.8% reported being assaulted by buyers (Mapp, 2016, p.67). Individuals who are trafficked are exposed to sexually transmitted infections (STIs), may be pregnant or have other sexual health problems due to the nature of their exploitation (Mapp, 2016).

In Farley's study (2003), 95% of participants reported physical ailment resulting from their exploitation over a year and half after getting out (Mapp, 2016, p.67). Thirty to forty percent of individuals involved in prostitution, including adults, attempt suicide (Crecchet & Thoburn, 2014, p.3). They have a mortality rate 40 times greater than the average youth (Crecchet & Thoburn, 2014, p.3). If a youth's exploitation continues, their outlook on survival only begins to look worse, as women who are trafficked have a mortality rate 200 times the national average and they are 18 times more likely to be murdered (Crecchet & Thoburn, 2014, p.3). In addition to the potential physical dangers, the complex trauma a youth endures creates persistence and severe emotional psychological effects (Clawson et al., 2008, p.2). Individuals who are trafficked may suffer from anxiety, panic disorders, major depressive disorder, substance abuse, eating,

disorders (Clawson et al., 2008, p.2), dissociative disorders, conduct disorders, ADHD, OCD, adjustment disorders, suicidal ideation, cutting and self-harm, or posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) (Jordan et al., 2013, p.360). These individuals may also experience issues such as lacking faith in their own judgment, a lack of trust for others, and a poor view of men (Mapp, 2016).

Once social services identify individuals are being trafficked the story does not end. Individuals exiting a life of trafficking face a plethora of new challenges and barriers. The complex trauma they endured is not something that is easily undone. Often individuals who have been trafficked have nowhere to go. If services are not accessed efficiently and administered effectively, these individuals may turn back to the only life they know – the life of sex trafficking.

Treatment & Aftercare Services

Treatment of individuals who are affected by trafficking and DMST is not a simple onetime fix. Service providers must focus on the here and now of immediate needs, but they must also attend to their long-term needs. (Gibbs et al., 2015). They need crisis intervention, support, assistance with basic needs such as food, clothing shelter, medical services, dental services, sexual health services, mental health services, legal assistance, employment, and financial assistance (Gibbs et al., 2015). First, service providers must address immediate needs. This often involves safety planning, medical attention, crisis intervention, and locating emergency shelter before they can move on to more long term solutions (Gibbs et al., 2015). Once immediate needs have been met, service providers can begin services that will help establish stability. These may include, but are not limited

to, counseling, transitional living or residential services, family counseling or family reunification, legal assistance, and employment assistance. (Gibbs et al., 2015) Due to the effects of complex trauma in the lives of individuals affected by trafficking, staff and programs must be trauma informed and trauma specific. Being trauma informed means “knowing the history or past and current abuse in the life or your clients” and to “understand the role that violence and victimization play in the lives of most consumers of services and to use that understanding.” (Clawson et al., 2008, p. 6). Moreover, being trauma informed means allowing services to be distributed in a way that facilitates participation and designing service systems that accommodate the vulnerabilities of trauma survivors (Clawson et al., 2008). Trauma specific services are often components of mental health care. They include a variety of trauma specific techniques in their service provision to address post traumatic effects (Clawson, 2008, p. 6). Currently, there is little evidence based practice surrounding work with individuals affected by DMST. Typical treatments may include elements from Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), Integrative Treatment of Complex Trauma (ITCT) or Dialectical Behavioral therapy (DBT). This has also been paired with psychoeducation for survivors to understand their own trauma and physiological needs (Mapp, 2016). There is a need for more clinical research and evidence based practice in order to establish better practices for minor who are trafficked (Cecchet & Thoburn, 2014; Mapp, 2016). By having this foundation, service providers can be better equipped in understand the complexity and impact of trauma on individuals affected by DMST. Case management also plays a vital role in service provision. Since individuals who have been trafficked have a variety of

different needs, effective trauma informed case management can be a valuable asset (Gibbs et al., 2015; Mapp, 2016). Case workers can help navigate complex systems, advocate for survivors, track progress, and act as a support system (Gibbs et al., 2015). Street outreach is another way to reach out to minors who are affected by trafficking. In a study of minors who have interacted with outreach staff, the minors noted that it was important for workers to be honest and respectful, build trust, offer youth with resources, be non-judgmental, provide facilities without bars in the windows, and care about the youth in which they interact (Holger-Ambrose et al., 2011). Input from survivors in service planning, as well as working with individuals who have been trafficked, can be very helpful for service providers and better inform their services (Briere, Simon, & National Research Council (U.S.), 2014). Peer mentoring and support can also be beneficial for minors who have been trafficked because they can model positive relationships (Clawson et al., 2008; Mapp, 2016). Ideally, holistic wraparound services specific to DMST would be available all in one location that is easily accessible to minors. Unfortunately, this is rarely the case. There are few DMST specific programs in the country. Moreover, there are many barriers and challenges facing service providers.

The first challenge many individuals affected by DMST face in receiving treatment and aftercare services is finding protective shelter. There are few protective shelters for just minors (Kotrla, 2010; Holger-Ambrose et al., 2011). Locating emergency shelter, let alone long term housing for youth, is very difficult and often leads to having to pick the “best of worst choices” which often means juvenile detention centers, the home from which they fled, or other unsecure facilities that put them at risk for running back to the

streets (Koltra, 2010, p. 184). Due to a lack of DMST specific programs, youth are often being served by other service providers. These staff members, while well-meaning, may not understand the complexity of the trauma these youths have faced and the variety of needs they need met. This could be particularly true for child welfare systems since many children who have been trafficked do not want or are unable to return to their own homes. Collaborative training of staff in relevant systems and programs, is beneficial to ensure that youth are still receiving services despite not being in a DMST specific program (Clawson et al., 2008). This is especially important in the child welfare system, regarding awareness and service provision (Briere, Simon, & National Research Council (U.S.), 2014). Also, service providers often lose touch with the youth or must discontinue the client relationship for one reason or another (Clawson et al., 2008). Since some of their needs require long term attention and engagement, this hinders them from getting the effective treatment that they need (Clawson et al., 2008).

Another challenge is access and availability of services. Many individuals affected by DMST have trouble gaining access to services, such as mental health care or medical services (Clawson et al., 2008). This is true for a variety of reasons - youth may be unaware of available resources, there may be a lack of appropriate resources, youth may lack the identification, proper paperwork, or payment in order to access care (Clawson et al., 2008). Last, there is little research or evidence based practice on appropriate clinical service specific to DMST. This is an area that warrants more attention and research (Cecchet & Thoburn, 2014). There is currently not enough recent research and literature on the number of how many minors successfully transition out of DMST. This is a hole in

the research that needs to be addressed. We need to know the successes and failures of our programs and approaches to assess their effectiveness (Cecchet & Thoburn, 2014). There is also a need for research and development of specific treatment and service facilities for minors. Boys are also often excluded from services. Because of this, it would be beneficial to also address this gap in services (Mapp, 2016).

Waco, TX

Waco is a mid-sized city located in central Texas. Waco, TX is a part of McLennan County. Interstate I-35 runs through the middle of Waco connecting Waco to big cities such as Dallas and Austin that are just over 100 miles north and south, respectively. Waco has an estimated population of around 127,796. Waco is a young city, its inhabitants have a median age of 28.7 years old (US Census Bureau, 2015). In Waco, approximately 30.5% of the population is under the age of 19 and another 19.8% are between the ages of 18-24 (US Census Bureau, 2015), while they would not fit the specific definition of DMST as mentioned previously, young adults, especially those aging out, could be a vulnerable population. The poverty rate of Waco is 29% which is close to double the national average of 14.5%. (US Census Bureau, 2015). As discussed earlier, poverty can be a risk factor for a youth being trafficked.

As a community and region, Waco and McLennan County have already begun to take steps to address human trafficking and domestic minor sex trafficking. Through local anti-trafficking organizations like UnBound, and the creation of the Heart of Texas Trafficking Coalition, awareness of this human trafficking is continuing to grow throughout the community (Witherspoon, 2017). The McLennan County sheriff's office

which is housed in Waco, has conducted several stings that have gained a lot of attention. Three stings in 2015 resulted in 94 arrests (Smith, 2015) and an online sting in 2016 resulted in 61 arrests (Hoppa, 2016). Over the past few years, Waco has grown its trafficking investigations, trafficking prosecutions and services to those who have been trafficked (Smith, 2016) and the improvements have not gone unnoticed. In 2017 McLennan County ranked fourth out of 30 agencies who participated in the National John Suppression Initiative (Hoppa, 2017). The Heart of Texas Trafficking Coalition was one of seven projects nationwide who were recently selected to receive a \$1.5-million grant from the US Department of Justice to continue strengthening their fight against human trafficking (Smith, 2016). Waco has plenty of assets to build on as well as areas to continue to grow. Waco is facing the trafficking crisis head on. There are many strengths in the community that can be built upon and serve as a model for other communities. There are areas of growth that community will continue to identify and work on growing to fully fight this issue.

Moving Forward

There is still a long way to go in understand the dynamics of DMST, as well as creating strategies to prevent and address this issue. Most of the research on this issue is new and has only begun to present itself in the literature in the past 10 years despite being an issue for much longer. There are several areas of research that would benefit from more specific attention. These include males affected by trafficking, who are often left out of the literature. It would serve those individuals better if we sought more research and continued to make society aware that trafficking does not only affect young

women. There should be continued research on disabilities as a vulnerability in trafficking. Also, there is a need for more evidence based practice on the treatment of individuals who have been trafficked as well as a need for evidence based trainings for first responders and staff who are likely to interact with these individuals. It would also be beneficial for researchers to identify the number of minors affected by DMST to have a better idea of the scope of this issue. Better understanding of the laws surrounding DMST, allowing state law to be in accordance with federal law, as well as better advocacy and awareness in communities would all be a beneficial start to making improvements to address this issue. The literature is generally lacking on models or strategies to address domestic minor trafficking at a community level. The following research study will identify strengths and areas of growth for Waco, TX in their efforts to address DMST in their community. It will also identify recommendations for the community as well as strengths that other communities can learn from and model their own approaches to addressing this complex issue.

CHAPTER TWO

Methods

The objective of this study is to assess the community of Waco, TX in her preparedness to identify and serve individuals who have been affected by domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST). Since domestic minor trafficking is an issue in our communities, we can start with local communities to create effective change. This study is a community assessment that identifies assets that have opportunities to be built upon, as well as areas of growth in the community and the community's preparedness to respond to the issue of DMST. This study will conduct qualitative interviews with community assets. These community members and organizations will be referred to as community partners throughout the study. By conducting interviews with community partners who interact, or have the potential to interact with minors who have been trafficked, we gain a better holistic picture of the services and strengths that are already available in the community. Moreover, we can utilize professional opinions on how to improve current services and address where there may be gaps in these services. This assessment provides information that may improve the Waco community in preparing to address domestic minor trafficking. The strengths of Waco, as well as the recommendations gathered in this assessment, may serve as models to other communities and help to increase their own preparedness.

Community Based Participatory Research

Community based participatory research (CBPR) involves the community in the research process. CBPR developed as a way to encourage partnership between academic researchers and communities to discover valid findings and interpret these findings into relevant practices and policy changes (Lightfoot, McCleary, & Lum, 2014). It can involve quantitative or qualitative methods and emphasizes collaboration and community ownership of the data discovered (Lightfoot, McCleary, & Lum, 2014).

Interviews

The principal investigator conducted semi- structured qualitative interviews with 11 community partners representing 9 community organizations. These interviews give a more holistic look at assets within the community. They also provide community expert advice on the current and future prevention, identification, and service provision in Waco. Interviews took place at the organization where the individual works. The principal investigator conducted the interviews in person and recorded them using a pocket-sized recorder. Each subject gave written consent to the researcher. An example of the informed consent can be found in Appendix A. The interviews lasted no longer than an hour and a half. The principal investigator recorded and transcribed the interviews to assess the information presented in the interview. The interview guide, which includes interview questions and prompts, can be found in Appendix A.

The principal investigator transcribed the interviews. The principal investigator then coded the interviews using open, emergent coding to identify themes. Themes are commonalities that present themselves throughout the data (Richards & Morse, 2007).

When themes were identified, the principal investigator assigned them a word or phrase known as a code and recorded open codes in the margins. As more and more codes were identified and themes started to emerge, the principal investigator organized these codes into categories.

The principal investigator organized codes into tables. There was a table for each of the following six topics: populations Served, interactions with DMST, understanding of DMST, strengths and assets, challenges and areas of growth, and recommendations. The principal investigator organized the open codes into the first column of the tables. The principal investigator assigned each community partner a bullet point to indicate from which interview the information was gathered. A key identifying the bullet point associated with the organization can be found in the Appendix B. From the open codes, the principal investigator identified general axial codes and listed them in the second column of the tables. From these codes, the principal investigator identified several themes and listed in the third column. These were considered sub-themes that together built the major themes presented in the 11 interviews. The themes served as the basis of the recommendations at the end of the thesis. Selected quotes from the interviews also provide support to some of the identified themes. The table containing the codes and themes can be found in Appendix B.

Participants

The principal investigator identified interview participants using non-probability, purposive sampling. Additionally, the principal investigator used snowball sampling as several interviewees suggested additional community members whose input would be

beneficial to the study. The principal investigator identified participants by word of mouth referrals, prior knowledge of the community, and community resource guides. The participants are individuals representing organizations that interact or have the potential to interact with minors who have been trafficked. Most interview participants were in leadership positions at their organization. These organizations they represent have been identified as assets for prevention, identification, and service provision for individuals affected by domestic minor sex trafficking.

The principal investigator contacted 11 organizations via email or phone to request their participation, as well as set up a time for an interview. Their participation was completely voluntary. Though each organization's name remained open, the participants were given the option of keeping his or her own name confidential as outlined by the informed consent. If the participant selected to keep their name confidential the principal investigator removed their name from the transcription of their interview. All interviews were kept on a password protected computer and were deleted once they had been transcribed. 11 participants representing nine local organizations were able to participate in interviews within the timeframe in which the study was conducted. The nine participating organizations include: The Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children, the Bill Logue Juvenile Justice Center, Communities In Schools, Jesus Said Love, The McLennan County District Attorney's Office, SHE is Freedom, Texas Department of Family Protective Services, UnBound Waco, and the Waco Police Department Crimes Against Children Unit.

The results from these interviews are presented in the next chapter. This will later be followed by a discussion of the themes presented throughout the interviews with community partners.

CHAPTER THREE

Results

The following are the results from the qualitative interviews with community partners. Eleven community partners represented nine community agencies. Each agency was represented by one interview participant, except for the McLennan County District Attorney's (DA) Office who had three representatives participate. All data from the interviews will be attributed to the organization the participant represents, including all three interviews from the DA's office.

The results are displayed by topic, including, populations served, interactions with DMST, community understanding of DMST, community understanding of individuals affected by DMST, strengths & assets, challenges & areas of growth, and recommendations. The data is then discussed by the themes and subthemes that emerged from the collective interviews.

Populations Served

The nine agencies interviewed serve adults, children, juveniles, individuals affected by trafficking or the commercial sex industry, individuals who have committed a crime, runaways, schools, communities, community partners, and professionals. Agencies serve individuals in Texas, McLennan County, nationwide, and worldwide. These agencies represent a wide array of disciplines. From this point forward any agency or interviewee will be referred to as a community partner.

Interactions with DMST

The nine community partners were asked about their interactions and experiences with DMST and individuals affected DMST. The community partners have interacted with DMST in a variety of ways. From the 11 interviews, five main themes were identified that describe community partners' experiences and interactions with DMST and individuals affected by DMST.

Coalition and Collaboration

Community partners address DMST through involvement in the Heart of Texas Trafficking Coalition, Collaboration and Networking. Eight community partners mentioned being involved with the Heart of Texas Trafficking Coalition. Two community partners also pointed out partnerships in the community, one mentioned interacting through collaboration, and one mentioned networking opportunities they have had in the community. Another mentioned addressing DMST through multi-disciplinary teams.

Grant

Community partners addressed DMST through work with the federal grant. Three community partners mentioned working with the federal grant Waco recently received. One, Communities In Schools (CIS), specifically mentioned working as a fiscal agent of the grant while others including Jesus Said Love, UnBound and The Advocacy Center mentioned providing or housing personnel funded under the grant.

Identification

Community partners mentioned identifying youth who have been trafficked and there being overlap in the populations they serve. Two community partners mentioned some type of overlap in the populations they serve. Jesus Said Love mentioned overlap in clubs they worked within Jesus Said Love goes into local strip clubs to work with the women who work there. Through their work, they have not only established relationships with the women in the clubs, but also they have built rapport with the clubs' management which has led to the identification of at least one adult who had been trafficked. CIS pointed out the overlap between the at-risk students they work with in their drop-out prevention programs and students at-risk for being trafficked. These partners, and others, work with similar populations who can create opportunities for individuals who have been trafficked to be identified or provided intervention.

Addressing Demand

Community partners addressed DMST by addressing demand. One community partner, Jesus Said Love, specifically mentioned the STOP Demand program they had with the DA's office that targets buyers. Community partners also address the demand for DMST through investigations and prosecution of traffickers. Two community partners mentioned prosecuting cases and one, the DA's office, mentioned preparing cases and youth who have been trafficked for trial.

Services

Community partners address DMST through specific anti-trafficking work and services. Two community partners, UnBound and SHE Is Freedom, are agencies specifically targeted at addressing trafficking, one community partner, Jesus Said Love, also specifically works with persons who are commercially exploited. Community partners mentioned five times trafficking specific services, such as survivor advocacy, human trafficking counselor, and human trafficking case manager. These community partners either currently offer or will be offering these services under the grant. Some community partners addressed DMST by connecting people to resources and strengthening families. One community partner mentioned their role connecting families and moms to resources. They spoke of empowering moms and in doing so taking a generational approach to prevent these families' children from being affected by DMST.

Community Understanding of DMST

Four major themes about the community's understanding of DMST emerged in the 11 interviews representing the nine community partners.

Definition

There is a legal definition of DMST. DMST involves force, fraud, coercion, manipulation, transporting, harboring, exploiting, or marketing (Mapp,2016). One community partner specifically mentioned that there was a legal definition, but all nine of the community partners mentioned different component of the legal definition of DMST. Community partners made eight mentions of force, fraud, coercion, manipulation,

or enticing. Three community partners mentioned transporting, and one community partner also mentioned harboring, or marketing of persons. Three community partners referred to DMST as either commercially exploited children, trafficking children, or pimping children. The community partners understand that minors cannot consent to sexual acts and do not have to prove force, fraud, coercion etc. to make the case for domestic trafficking. Two community partners were sure to explicitly mention that minors need not show force/fraud etc. and that minors cannot give sexual consent.

Community partners understand that DMST is commercial sexual exploitation and there is an exchange or a profit from a sexual act. Eight community partners mentioned selling sex or prostitution. Community partners understand that this exchange or profit could be for money, drugs, or to meet survival needs such as food, shelter, and clothing. Eight community partners mentioned trafficking, exploitation, or an exchange or sale. Three specifically mentioned an exchange for money. Three specifically mentioned an exchange for drugs. One community partner, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TDFPS) pointed out that the exchange may be to meet survival needs such as food, shelter, or clothing.

Methods of Trafficking

Community partners understand that DMST can happen through several different methods including sex, pornography, recording, and prostituting. The community partners mentioned the varying methods of DMST, the DA's office made the important note that it is not always prostitution. Other various methods mentioned by three community partners were online methods, pornography, recordings, and the

commercial sex industry. Two community partners mentioned where DMST can take place including hotel/ motels or clubs. One respondent from Jesus Said Love stated, “What we have learned is 70% of trafficking cases come through the commercial side. So, because of how many strip clubs there are in Texas we would be naïve to think that there’s not any type of trafficking case happening in strip clubs.”

Prevalence

Community partners understand that DMST happens everywhere, in big towns and small towns and can affect anyone. They understand that it is a nationwide problem that is prevalent in our country, in our state, and in our community. Six community partners mentioned that DMST happens everywhere, in all types of communities or can affect everyone. All nine community partners mentioned DMST’s prevalence and five explicitly mentioned its prevalence in Waco. It should be noted that no community partners mentioned a specific prevalence rate or number of individuals affected by DMST in the Waco community.

Individuals Who Are Trafficked and Traffickers

Community partners understand that DMST involves minors - individuals under age 18. Age of entry can start as young as 12,13, or14. They also understand that both boys and girls can be affected by DMST. Eight community partners mentioned minors, children, or kids to describe individuals who are affected by DMST. Vulnerable or at-risk youth are often at a higher risk of trafficking. Community partners made over 20 mentions of different risk factors and vulnerabilities that youth face. There were 10 specific

mentions of youth being vulnerable, at-risk, looking for love, having low self-esteem or being targeted, two mentioned poverty, six mentioned home life or environment and family problems, two mentioned school problems or dropping out, two mentioned traumas, and five mentioned drugs or addiction. Six community partners mentioned minors affected by trafficking being runaways. Four community partners mentioned behavioral and mental health problems individuals who are trafficked face. They are also often involved with systems such as Child Protective Services or juvenile but it is important to note that these individuals are not criminals because of DMST. One community partner mentioned Child Protective Services involvement and five mentioned juvenile justice or criminal involvements.

Community partners understand that DMST involves an adult as well, this adult could be a pimp, gang member, or just a common adult. Four community partners mentioned the role of adults, with one specific mention of gang members and pimps. The Waco Police Department Crimes Against Children reported there being a high demand for trafficked minors.

Strengths and Assets

Community partners were asked about strengths and assets they saw in the community. Eight major themes regarding strength and assets were identified in the 11 interviews with community partners. Several main themes have underlying subthemes that help to explain the multifaceted strengths within the community.

Community Approach

Collaboration. A strength in Waco is the collaboration in the community and partnerships. There has been collaboration between prosecution, law enforcement, and the community in general. They collaborate to take a unified approach in which they are collaborating rather than duplicating services. These partnerships and collaboration help to link community resources and increase access and connections. All 11 interviews with the community partners made several mentions related to collaboration and partnerships. A Jesus Said Love responder stated, “Waco has displayed beautifully what working together can really accomplish for a city as a whole.” Three community partners mentioned the idea of coming together for a unified approach. A responder from CIS mentioned the collaborative effort seeks to “work together rather than duplicate services.” Two community partners mentioned the multidisciplinary nature of the collaboration, partnerships and the community approach. A responder from the DA’s office stated, “McLennan County sort of started getting all its resources together and started having quarterly roundtable meetings and just to bring everybody to the table...I’ve looked at other places in the state and we really are on top of it probably more than you see a lot of place. We have schools involved, we have non-profit organizations involved, we have defense attorneys to come extent... prosecutors [and] brought a lot of different people from the community together...”. They continued to share about this multidisciplinary approach and stated, “I think that Waco’s strength is that... we’ve got partners from all different areas working to try and fight this.”

The Heart of Texas Trafficking Collation. A strength in Waco is the Heart of Texas Trafficking Coalition. The coalition help aid the collaboration and partnerships throughout

the county. Through collaboration community partners can use their own strengths and expertise to contribute to addressing DMST. The coalition aids in networking in and resources sharing and strengthens Waco and Heart of Texas fight against DMST. All 11 of the interviews with community partners mentioned the coalition as a strength. A responder from CIS said, "The coalition had brought this subject to light here in Waco" and they shared that "one of the positive things here is that we have one coalition that's working together." Three community partners mentioned resource sharing, information sharing or networking. Responders from CIS mentioned using strengths and expertise to play a role in addressing DMST. They state, "because of our role in the collation we kind of stepped up and said that's something we have experience handling...." in reference to their work with the coalition and the federal grant. UnBound shared about the need for the coalition and its beginning. They shared, "people just weren't really communicating or working together and that, in anything, limits what you can do...we had our first meeting in January of 2015 and had like 70 people from 45 different agencies and just the first meeting was so cool because we just had everyone go around and share why are you here and what are you seeing and you have people from law enforcement, educators, medical professionals...Waco Center for Youth, CPS, everyone is saying here's how we're seeing this affect our sphere so I think just seeing everyone like, oh, this is our common issue that none of us know what to do with, was huge." Grants that provide funds to programs and personnel in the community are strengths. The federal grant Waco reviewed is a huge asset. Five community partners mentioned the grant or the specific components of the grants. Jesus Said Love respondents shared that even the fact that

Waco has received this grant is a testament to the work that is being done here. They shared, “Natalie and Susan and UnBound and the whole coalition had done so much to even get Waco to place where we’ve been awarded that grant.”

Community Awareness. Community awareness is a strength. All community partners mentioned awareness as being a strength and it was mentioned 13 times throughout the interviews. Nine specifically mentioned community awareness and there were specific mentions of awareness in juvenile, awareness of holes, and the awareness of collaboration that is happening in the community. A Jesus Said Love responder shared “I think people are kind of finally waking up to the reality that collaboration on a large scale has to be happening because this is such a large-scale issue.” Another strength regarding awareness is the presence of DMST in the local media. Two community partners mentioned the role media coverage can play in spreading community awareness, especially in regard to the stings that have occurred in Waco. A TDFPS responder stated “I think more people are becoming aware of it. I mean human sex trafficking has happened for years and years. I think it’s come to light the last two or three years, I mean, really to the forefront especially in the news and stuff, so more people in the communities are aware.”

Community Understanding. A strength is the community’s understanding of DMST. Six community partners mentioned understanding in the community as a strength including understanding DMST, understanding forms of DMST, understanding youth who are affected by DMST, and that these youth understand that they have been victimized. A responder from the Advocacy Center shared, “[DMST is] not just child sexual abuse.” A

respondent from the DA's office shared a similar sentiment, "I would say five years ago...we were still thinking...of child abuse as being something that happens at home, something that happens when a child is abducted by a stranger and not a situation where a child has taken steps to commodify themselves when, in truth, it's just doing something to survive they had no...options. So, I feel like we're doing a much better job treating them with respect and treating them as people who are surviving a great deal..." UnBound also touched on the importance of understanding DMST, they shared "I think the biggest breakthrough is people seeing trafficking as trafficking, whereas before they would have just thought, oh, troubled youth or... runaway or just sexual abuse case. They're really seeing trafficking, which is so huge."

Community Concern. A strength is that there is concern about DMST in the community. Community members and leaders recognize it is problem. Nine of the community partners mentioned either concern or priority placed on addressing DMST, one community member specifically mentioned the concern of those in leadership positions. A study participant from the Advocacy Center shared, "I feel most of the members of our community that have a lot of power would now sit down at the table and recognize that this is a problem and we want to do something about that...". An interviewee from DA's Office stated, "Honestly, leadership in this community has done a fantastic job really just embracing this as an issue...It got traction and it hasn't dies off. Everybody's still very interested in it and invested in it and you just see a lot of people who are coming to the table still trying to...make it better, raising awareness, raising public awareness." A study participant from CIS shared "It's great that our community has

been able to come together and say that this is important to us, driving this out, and making it an unwelcome place for human traffickers.” A respondent from the Bill Logue Juvenile Justice Center mentioned that in the community the heart and passion is there. Another added strength is the governor’s state level involvement and other elected officials. Community partners mentioned the governor’s office also for taking this issue seriously and the creation of the Governor’s Task Force on Human Trafficking five times. Not only is there concern in Waco but DMST is becoming an issue of concern at the state level.

Community Education. Educating the community and offering continuing education opportunities for professionals have been a strength to addressing DMST. Community partners mentioned the large role education can play in the community six times. There were also five mentions of conferences that have been held in the community, or that community members had attended to become more educated on the topic.

Other Communities. A strength is the success that is occurring in Waco and how it can influence other communities. Community partners mentioned the success in the community five times. A CIS research study respondent shared, “Just in the last couple of years there have been more arrests in the Waco area than some of the major cities in the US. I don’t think there is more of it here. I think we’re looking for it and we’re working to, to drive it out. And so, I think that speaks really well to the strength that the Waco community has, that there is this coalition that willing to take a stand and shed a light on this subject and really try to make a difference.” A respondent from SHE Is Freedom

expressed a similar thought, “It’s incredible that people have been able to recognize that it’s an issue here in Waco and it has made bigger cities take note and be like ‘if it’s happening in Waco then it’s definitely happening here.’”

Community Partners

Community partners and individuals in the community are considered strengths. Specific community partners were mentioned multiple times in every interview with community partners. Examples of these include the following. UnBound was mentioned by eight of the community partners. When discussing UnBound and the work they have done in the community, a Bill Logue Juvenile Justice Center respondent shared, “If it weren’t for them Waco would probably still be in the dark about what’s going on.” Jesus Said Love was mentioned five times. Community partners mentioned the Advocacy Center seven times. Bill Logue Juvenile Justice Center was mentioned eight times. Two community partners specifically mentioned their screenings and two mentioned their staff as a strength. The DA’s office and Abel Reyna were mentioned eight times, the Cove was mentioned twice, the Family Abuse Center was mentioned three times, CIS was mentioned twice, Dr. Jasmine Khan was mentioned one time, Judge Cooley was mentioned twice, Family Health Center was mentioned once, Klaras Center was mentioned once and MHMR was mentioned once. Community partners even mentioned that individuals could be assets. For example, a respondent from the DA’s office shared, “I think even one teacher recognizing, you know, I don’t know how long I’m going to have this kid. I better try and tell her she’s worthwhile in the three months that she’s here, like it’s really amazing all the people behind the scenes that I think are really assets without

even knowing it.” Churches are other community partners that are considered strengths. Four community partners mentioned churches or church services as assets.

Services

Specific services such as counseling, case management, and family services are strengths. Community partners mentioned these types of services eight times throughout the interviews. Waco is working to provide and strengthen specific services for individuals affected by DMST. An UnBound respondent shared “I think a lot of time... these victims get picked up by one agency and then kind of pin-balled around and maybe aren’t getting best access to everything that they need and we’re really working to enrich services that we do have here with more training.”

Trainings

A strength in the community is trainings for the community and community professionals. Community partners mentioned trainings as an asset five times. Some professionals that have been trained that were mentioned include social workers, case workers, health professional, law enforcement, nurses, and first responders. Jesus Said Love interviewees shared their personal experience stating, “For us as an organization training has been huge just learning and better understanding signs to look for process to develop once you see it.” These trainings have been beneficial in so many ways. One strength as a result of training and education is the growth in the way community partners are interacting with youth who have been trafficked. Community partners mentioned

improved interactions with youth four times. It is important to show respect in these interactions and it can be beneficial for interactions to be nurturing.

Addressing Demand

A strength is addressing demand. This has been done through prevention programs and legal action. There were nine mentions of addressing demand. Two mentioned the stings by the Sheriff's office, one mentioned harsher legal punishments and two community partners mentioned prevention program that target buyer retention. Community partners mentioned prosecutions, legal process, or DA office as a strength 14 times. The Waco Police Department also mentioned incorporating DMST into their hotel/motel safety training.

Law Enforcement

Law enforcement entities are strengths at all levels, both federally and locally. Law enforcement has grown in understanding, victim interactions, investigations, and stings. All 11 community partners made several mentions of law enforcement. The Waco Police Department, including their Victim Services and Crimes Against Children Unit were specifically mentioned eight times by several community partners. The Sheriff's Department was also mentioned seven times by community partners. They specifically mentioned the human trafficking detective and the multiple stings three times. Community partners noted law enforcement improved interactions with victims. TDFPS also named federal agencies like the FBI, the DEA, and the ATF US Marshall as community assets. Law enforcement involvement has been a vital part of Waco's growth in

addressing DMST. A Bill Logue Juvenile Justice Center respondent shared “Our police are on board with us...in a lot of other cities it’s not like that, the police are still looking at these kids like they’re prostitutes which is not how we ever want it to be looked at.” UnBound spoke highly of growth of law enforcement stating, “They just hadn’t received a lot of training on it, they hadn’t seen cases that they’d identified as trafficking before, so they were really miss-categorizing things or just missing thing, ... they’re just amazing at it now.” A respondent from the Waco Police Department Crimes Against Children spoke of the collaboration between law enforcement personnel stating, “Human trafficking is never something that happens once and it happens in one place. I mean, just by nature it’s transient and we often cross jurisdiction boundaries. Having the ability to... have a counterpart in another agency that would have jurisdiction or can assist is great.”

Identification

The growth in identification is a strength in the community. This includes identifying youth affected by DMST, knowing signs, and red flags. A strength is also self-identification for youth as a result of education and awareness. There are 14 mentions throughout almost all of the community partner interviews regarding identification. There were five mentions about knowing signs or red flags identification and two mentions of identification in juvenile, both from screening and self-identification after receiving education. A Bill Logue Juvenile Justice Center interviewee shared “We started having girls come forward with, you know, not necessarily calling themselves victims but, you know, like, oh, my friend...and that turned into, oh, it’s happening to me”. They also spoke of an improved screening processes. “We have a multi-angle approach to trying to

catch and not let anyone fly under the radar.” A respondent from the DA’s office shared about helping victims self-identify. They shared, “I do think...that our recognizing that they have been mistreated in some way, communicating to them that they have been mistreated and that they deserve better than that...or that they have been exploited and they don’t recognize that, I do feel like that...will help them down the road.” Respondents from the TDFPS attributed a lot of the success with identification to the awareness that is happening in the community. They shared, “Now since it’s brought to the forefront they, the community, will identify with it better that way and will call into local law enforcement.”

Engaging with Youth

Schools. The engagement in the schools is a strength. Community partners mentioned schools or involvement in the schools nine times, including two mentions of CIS. A respondent from the DA’s office shared, “One of the most important things we feel is like getting into our schools and getting out places so that these people that are...coming into contact with these kids everyday can start to see the signs and hopefully prevent it.”

Investing in youth. A strength is investing in youth and building those relationships. Community partners mentioned investing in youth six times through mentoring programs, contact with kids, relationships, and investing in kids. A DA’s office respondent shared that in her experience often these youth have the impression that they have no worth. She shares, “Often times I’ve found that no one has told them that

they're worth anything and...so anyone telling them that... I think is helpful to them down the road.”

Challenges and Areas of Growth

Community members were asked about the challenges and the area of growth throughout the community. Four major themes were identified regarding challenges and areas of growth in the community.

Misconceptions and Misidentification

A challenge is misconceptions about DMST and individuals who are affected by DMST. To combat this we can improve the community's understanding of DMST and individuals affected by DMST. Community partners made nine mentions of issues with misconceptions or understanding. Some misconceptions were about DMST, understanding what it is, where it happens and its prevalence. ADA's office respondent shared, “The more people's eyes get open to what's going on, the more people have a drive to kind of help with this because I really feel like this is one of those areas that once people understand not only what human trafficking is, that it's not just what we see on the movies, but it's a sex slavery industry that's covering the United States in small towns and in big towns...it's not just an international problem, it's a local problem.” UnBound stated, “It's something that's so overlooked, even people talk about child prostitutes which is actually not a thing because a child cannot be a prostitute. Or they have this idea that adult sex trafficking is this international thing... and people don't want to accept that

domestic minor sex trafficking happens, but in Waco that's what we see more than anything." Some misconceptions surround individuals who are affected by DMST are who is considered a victim of DMST, misclassifying them as criminals or prostitute, understanding their mindset and back story, or their past trauma. SHE Is Freedom respondents shared the struggle of people understanding that just because an individual who is affected by DMST does not appear to want help doesn't mean that they are not in need of it. They expressed some people see an unwilling youth and think that they don't want help and it's not worth the time but they shared the hope that people will "just understand that each of these girls is worth the time..." They also shared that people need to understand "the survivors and the complexity of it or at least understanding that there is complexity to it."

Then there are the misconceptions that the victims themselves may have about their situation. For example, UnBound respondents shared about their work with minors who have been trafficked stating, "It's not dramatic like, 'this huge thing happened to me that's shocking' to them it's like these little choices they made and these little relationships they're made become this slippery slope into sex trafficking. Where a lot of the time they think they chose it and or they just think it's normal or, um, just have so many misconceptions about it and that's one that when we come in and educate them about.

There is a challenge because minor affected by DMST are often arrested either because of misidentification or trying to keep them safe and off the streets. Two community partners mentioned the challenge of minors being arrested. One mentioned

that they may arrest victims to keep them safe, but inadvertently the victims are treated like criminals. A respondent from the DA's office spoke about this sharing, "I feel like there's some girls who understand why we make those decisions, otherwise, we're treating them like criminals, which is really not what we want to do but there are very few lockdown facilities if they don't have mental health problems, you have to get them to a place where they're not going to fall right back into it and that's extremely difficult."

Services and Aftercare

There is a need to improve aftercare service to help victims transition to survivors and increase specific resources both locally and statewide. Community partners mentioned 19 times throughout all 11 interviews that there is a need for aftercare and specific aftercare services. An UnBound respondent noted the need and shared, "We're working to really try and create a little more specialization that maybe there would be in bigger cities." There is a need to improve services that are trauma informed and specific and that address multiple issues including drug addiction, mental health, and trauma. All interviews mentioned services and specific services. Two community partners mentioned specifically trauma informed services and three mentioned rehabilitation. All community partners mentioned several times, at least 20, the many issues that victims may face in addition to being trafficked including drugs, mental health and trauma. Three mentioned the importance of holistic services that address all the issues victims are facing. For example, an interviewee from the DA's office shared, "We probably need more in place treatments where they can go and have their drug addiction issues addressed and have their mental health issues addressed, also that's very specifically targeted towards girls

who have been involved in trafficking.” There is a need for more transitional service to help victims transition back. Three community partners specifically mentioned the need for transitional services, transitional housing, or services to help transition back to school or community. A Jesus Said Love respondent shared, “I think you can see a trend sometimes of girls going through an aftercare/ safe house type of program and it’s really wonderful but then they go back into, to regular normal and it’s really difficult and the reality is like all the threats that were out there before are still out there when they go back.” Additionally, services are expensive. There is a need for more funding of specific services. Eight community partners mentioned the need for funding. Four specifically mentioned a lack of funding. Three mentioned that it is expensive to provide services.

There is also need to help create support systems for youth, as well as, communication or outreach to victims. Four community members mentioned support systems of some sort. Some examples mentioned were church support, peer support, and outreach to victims. There is a challenge because often victims are repeat runaways or at risk for re-victimization or returning to their exploiter. Six community partners mention re-victimization or running away. There is a challenge of CPS restrictions or other systematic challenges. Two community partners mentioned restrictions of Child Protective Services and other systematic challenges that negatively affect minors affected by DMST. A respondent from the Waco Police Department Crimes Against Children shared, “I think the most frustrating thing is when we identify a victim of sex trafficking and come to find out that the, the processes that are in place to protect this child and to stop what’s going on have kind of failed.”

Placements

There is a need for more placements, locally and nationwide. Placements need to be safe and secure, but also appealing and somewhere that youth are willing to go. Community partners made multiple mentions related to placements, lack of placements or need for placements in every interview. In total, there were over 20 mentions related to placements. Three community partners specifically mentioned issues of safe/ secure placements. Two specifically mentioned the need for specialized placements and two specifically mentioned having the challenge of a lack of local placements. One community partner mentioned that some placements require a criminal charge for minor to be able to be placed there. Three community partners mentioned the lack of appeal of placements. An UnBound participant shared, “Of course if they’re a DMST victim you don’t want to charge them with prostitution. They didn’t commit that crime because legally they can’t. But you also can’t expect to take this child and put them in a home and just have them be like “I’m safe and happy” and just thrive. They’re going to run away, they’re going to cause problems. So safe and secure is really important.” One community partner mentioned a possible need for an emergency drop in center for youth that they could come to voluntarily to have a safe place to stay and meet their immediate needs.

Continued Awareness, Education and Identification

A challenge is that there is a resistance to talk about DMST or a denial that it is happening especially with younger children. Three community partners mentioned that there is a resistance to admit that it is happening in our community and denial to talk to

children about it. A respondent from CIS explained, “Unfortunately there are a lot of people that don’t want to discuss the subject, ya know, it’s hard... I think that’s a lot of people that ya know, ‘This couldn’t happen to my kids!’ ‘This couldn’t be happening in my community!’ but unfortunately it is happening and in the central Texas area.” There is a need to continue awareness including awareness of risk factors, dangers, signs of trafficking and now it happens. Nine interviews mentioned a need to continue raising awareness. Some specific areas they mentioned include continued awareness around how DMST happens and its presence in media/news. A challenge is the online dangers and risks. The DA’s office interviewees brought up the challenge of online dangers and risks. They shared, “with the cyber age...we are literally inviting anyone into our homes with our phones and with our tablets and with things like that and parents just quite frankly can’t ever know what’s going on and there’s no kid that’s truly safe from human trafficking.”

There is a need to continue to increase education including in schools, the community, law enforcement, churches, juvenile. It would be beneficial to have education geared toward middle schoolers. Community partners mentioned 11 times a need to continue education. The DA’s office respondents shared, “Once your eyes are open to that it’s so hard to turn away from it and that’s what I feel like really is the area that we can grow the most is just continuing to push education and push those bounds in our communities, our schools, our churches...just anywhere we can because once people understand what this really is and once you meet a survivor of human trafficking it’s almost impossible to close you heart and your mind to what’s going on.” They shared

education should be continued for law enforcements, juvenile justice workers, schools, and the community in general. Two mentioned the need to specifically target at risk youth and ensure education is targeted at middle school students, not only high school students. One of these partners was from the DA's office; they were discussing the need to educate middle schoolers. They shared, "That's kind of the median age where kids sort of get trapped by drugs and all those kind of things and I think sometimes if they're not aware that that's out there it's harder for them to protect themselves or even be aware that somebody's trying to do something like this because, I think, It can start sort of innocuously enough." There is a need to continue improving identification and continuing to know the signs and identify victims. Three community partners mentioned improvements in identification. One explicitly mentioned the need to continue improving identification in juvenile detention. One community partner mentioned need for consistency in reporting DMST to improve identification and services.

Recommendations

Community partners recommend a holistic community approach to addressing DMST. All community partners pointed to multiple methods to approach DMST holistically as a community. DMST is an issue with many components and the best way to fully approach it is holistically. Seven themes were identified as community partner recommendations.

Trainings

Community partners recommend increasing trainings. Community partners made 10 recommendations of increasing training, including role specific professional trainings and routine trainings. A Waco Police Department Crimes Against Children interviewee stated the importance of, “Getting police officers, getting school counselors, getting doctors and lawyers on the same page to realize that sometimes a foul mouthed 15-year-old who does meth might be victim of trafficking.” An Advocacy Center respondent also shared, “I think more training specific to your role or your role position in DMST is only going to be helpful.”

Engage Community Health Organizations

Community partners recommend engaging community health organizations and staff. Four community partners encouraged involving community health organizations more when addressing DMST and trafficking in general. Jesus Said Love respondents shared a specific example when health care training would have been an asset. They stated, “We had trafficking case that we dealt with as an organization and a woman we were working with who had been trafficked in like four different cities ...and actually an employee at a club spotted it and called us which was amazing... [she went to] two hospitals and at both hospitals she wasn’t allowed to speak, her pimp was in the room with her and no one questioned it.” Health care professionals are in an opportune place to identify individuals who are trafficked if they have training to do so.

Education, Awareness and Identification

Community partners recommend continuing education in schools, communities, and to youth. Community partners made four mentions encouraging to continue having education opportunities, programs, or events. For example, a TDFPS respondent said, “I think we need to put on classes for the public and the community to teach them about sex trafficking, what to look for, what, what the dangers are.” Six community partners mentioned recommendations to continue raising awareness, including specialized awareness, children/ student awareness, awareness of unusual things to look for, and awareness of community resources available in the community. A CIS respondent shared, “While the word is getting out, there’s still more people that need to know about it and until we completely wipe it out in our community it’s still very important to let potential victims be aware of it...and let the community be aware of things to watch out for and that sort of thing whether it’s a teacher in a high school or whether it’s a student ... things for them to watch out for, for their friends to watch out for... and for the community in general to be aware of ...to let them know what it looks like so they can make proper reports to police and law enforcement.” The community partners recommend continuing to improve knowing signs to improve identification. Six community partners recommended increasing knowledge of signs and increasing identification. They specifically mentioned caseworker identification. Jesus Said Love respondents’ recommended to improve identification it would be beneficial to know “practical signs, you know, so not just the concepts of what is, but how you would practically spot what to do if you spot a victim.”

Placements

The community partners recommend creating or finding secure long term placement as well as emergency shelter, a place to stabilize victims. Four community partners mentioned recommendations related to finding or establishing placements. Two specified long term placements, but one also mentioned emergency shelter/short term placements. A SHE Is Freedom's interviewee recommends to open SHE IS Freedom, a residential treatment facility for juvenile who have been trafficked that is still in the beginning phases, they shared they would recommend, "To get all the information out of all the things we could do if we had these programs and all the changes it can make how we can be such a great example for other cities throughout the country because Waco is small enough that it's kind of a microcosm of how things can be done but its large enough to have the problem that you know needs to be solved and, I mean, I think it would be an amazing place to have a good example of how here's one way to start and here's how it would work really well."

Prosecution of Traffickers

The DA's office respondents recommended to continue to prosecute cases. They shared, "Our office has done some really good prosecution of some of the people who have been arrested for trafficking." They continued, "We want to make sure we're finding kids who think that we're prosecuting people that are...abusing them because I think that sends a message that you're... [going to] get some real serious jail time." By continuing to

prosecute cases and hand legal punishments to traffickers they can continue to address DMST demand.

Law Enforcement Recommendations

Community partners recommended training for law enforcement at all levels. Community partners recommended three times continuing and expanding law enforcement trainings. Two recommended increasing trainings to street & patrol officers. One also recommended for training to increase for juvenile staff and probation officers. There has been much progress with law enforcement and more trainings on more levels of law enforcement could be very beneficial. A responder from the DA's office shared, "I really worry about how many old-school police officers that kind of think we're only in the business of helping people who need help, that I worry about, how many [youth who are trafficked] we don't see." The interviewees from the TDFPS recommend placing a higher emphasis on runaways by law enforcement. They shared, "It's not a priority, okay a runaway is not, it's just not. They've got so many other things that they can be doing, violent crimes, sex crimes, but when you get a runaway case and you look at it and go okay they're sixteen, they're seventeen, I'm going to go over to this murder, etc." TDFPS explains they need to be placing a higher emphasis on runaways because "runaways could eventually become that case." There was also one mention of needing to continue expanding and collaborating with other law enforcement agencies in the community and surrounding community.

Improve Services and Service Provision

Overall the community partners recommend improving services and service provision. Two community partners recommended seeking out best practice or practice informed research to help serve individuals affected by DMST. Three community partners recommended engaging youth who have been trafficked and creating survivor centered investigations and services. One community partner encouraged meeting youth who have been trafficked. Another community partner made a recommendation to develop specific interview protocol with youth who have been trafficked. Two community partners made recommendations to continuing investing in youth and in services to youth.

CIS respondents recommended learning from other communities. They shared, “We’re certainly looking at best practices through other coalitions, what other coalitions are doing we’ve already been a part of basically a roundtable on the governor’s office that hosted San Antonio, Houston, and us and it was great to be at that table.” They also shared, “Looking across the other states there maybe aren’t best practices in place yet because it’s so new.”

In some cases there is not much to see yet, so as a community, Waco can share her success and what is working in order to be an example to other communities. Funding and the question of how to pay for these services continues to be an issue. Community partners mentioned five times to increase resources and increase funding in order to increase resources.

CHAPTER FOUR

Discussion & Recommendations

This chapter will discuss major findings from the interviews with community partners. 11 community partners representing 9 community agencies participated in an interview. Each agency had one representative participate in the interview, with the exception of the McLennan County District Attorney's office who had 3 participants. This chapter will discuss Waco's understanding of DMST, the strengths and assets present in Waco, and the challenges and areas of growth in Waco. Recommendations for Waco will be discussed as possibilities to be considered for moving forward in addressing DMST as a community. Last, this chapter will highlight strengths in Waco that could be replicated in other communities to effectively combat domestic minor sex trafficking.

Understanding of Trafficking

Community partners in Waco appear to have a good understanding of domestic minor sex trafficking. They understand not only that trafficking involves force, fraud, coercion, or manipulation, but they also understand minors do not have to prove force, fraud, or coercion due to their status as a minor. This was mentioned in several interviews, but it would be beneficial to continue to acknowledge this in training and education so the community is clear that just by being a minor there is no need to prove force or coercion - it is automatically considered trafficking. Community partners showed

understanding that there is an exchange value for the sex act. Community partners also showed understanding that this is not always money. Many mentioned an exchange of drugs and others mentioned meeting survival needs such as food or shelter. The exchange of survival needs is another component to continue incorporating into our conversations, education, and trainings regarding DMST. By acknowledging the exchange of survival needs it could help to address the survival sex method of trafficking.

Additionally, community members showed understanding that DMST can take many forms such as sex, sexual acts, pornography, working in clubs, or online forms. There were several mentions of engaging in prostitution. While the community partner may have meant this as an exchange of sex for money, it is important to note due to their status as a minor, minors cannot engage in prostitution. Engaging in prostitution requires consent and minors under 18 cannot legally give consent. By referring to DMST as prostitution, it may give the incorrect impression of consensual sexual exchange rather than exploitation of a minor who by law cannot consent. Community partners showed understanding that this is a prevalent and nationwide problem that is occurring in Waco. It is important to continue to acknowledge this in conversations and trainings surrounding DMST so the community is aware that this is not a problem unique to foreign countries or big cities but rather an issue in their own backyards. Other areas of understanding that were expressed by community partners that are important to keep in mind is that DMST can affect anyone, despite there being risk factors that make a youth more vulnerable.. Also, DMST affects both boys and girls. It is easy to slip into thinking about girls being exploited and forget that DMST affects boys, too. To effectively address this issue and

create interventions and increase services, it is important to consider males affected by DMST in addition to females.

Strengths & Assets

The work happening in Waco in addressing DMST has caught attention at both the state and federal level. Community partners identified several strengths that speak to the success of the community in its fight against DMST. The following are some of the biggest strengths and assets currently present in the community.

First, the community involvement in Waco is a huge asset. Community members, community partners and community leaders are taking this issue seriously and are seeking ways to address it. Collaboration in Waco is a major strength that many community partners mentioned in their interviews. Collaboration among community partners is happening and it is key in addressing a community issue holistically. The collaboration that has formed in Waco has allowed for a multi-disciplinary approach in which community partners and community members are able to use their strengths, expertise, and connections to address DMST in all spheres of the community. A huge asset to facilitating this collaboration has been the Heart of Texas Trafficking Coalition. The opportunity to have partners come together to learn, network, and plan benefits the community's unified approach to addressing this issue as a whole. By increasing the numbers of organizations and people that Waco can incorporate into this coalition and have join the collaborative effort, the coalition will be able to impact more areas within the community. It could be beneficial to try to increase community member involvement in the coalition. There appears to be a good amount of community partners and

community service providers involved in the coalition. This could help to give a holistic picture of the community to engage more community members that represent different parts of the community and continue to expand and diversify the coalition. Perhaps a subcommittee of community members from varying neighborhoods in the community could express their concerns and the ways they experience DMST in their respective neighborhoods within the greater Waco community. The coalition is a huge asset in Waco, according to the community partners. It would be beneficial for the community to continue using this strength and expanding it to keep focusing on addressing this issue as a unified community by continued collaboration.

A huge asset to Waco is the federal grant the Heart of Texas Trafficking Coalition received to address trafficking and increase access of services. Many community partners mentioned the grant or certain aspects of the grant. The human trafficking counselor and case worker will help individuals affected by trafficking access service and get specific trauma informed services. The community can continue using these funds to address trafficking and DMST. The community can also seek out other funding opportunities and other grants to continue to help fund services for individuals affected by DMST.

Awareness was another strength in the community. The growing awareness in the community has helped bring the issue of DMST to light. If the community does not increase raise awareness of the issue, DMST will continue to happen without intervention and more youth will go unidentified. Not only is it important for the community to be aware that DMST is happening, but also for it to be aware of how it happens and what it can look like to aid in identification and prevention of minors who are being trafficked.

Awareness of collaboration and community resources are also beneficial to help intervene with youth affected by DMST and address this issue. It is important to continue building on this strength and raise awareness in all facets of the community, through community education, community campaigns, or community education. The presence of DMST in news coverage related to the stings and grant can add to the community awareness.

Education about this topic has been a huge asset to Waco's fight against DMST. Both general community education and education programs in schools and juvenile justice centers have helped to create a more educated and aware community at all levels. Community partners mentioned gearing this education at vulnerable youth or youth at vulnerable ages such as middle schoolers. There could be continued awareness through education programs in schools and in the community.

Trainings were another huge asset to the community. Trainings that occur in the community raises awareness and equip professionals and individuals to be better prepared to identify a minor who is trafficked or know the proper steps to take if they encounter a and individual being trafficked. Many individuals will interact with these youth in many different contexts and systems. We can build on the training assets by continuing to pursue more specialized training for specific roles of professionals who may interact with minors affected by trafficking. Many community partners cited these trainings to be beneficial and encouraged them to continue and expand. The more professionals trained to recognize and help the more youth that can be identified and connected to resources.

Additional strengths are programs that invest in youth in families. Meeting both physical and emotional needs can play a role in deterring a youth from being trafficked or may play a part in identifying a youth who has been trafficked. The community should continue to invest in programs that focus on the wellbeing of their youth and their families.

Many community partners mentioned specific organizations and other community partners who were assets. UnBound is a huge asset in addressing DMST. UnBound is an anti-trafficking organization that originated in Waco and has spread to three other U.S. cities and two other countries. They are a faith-based organization that activates local communities to fight trafficking through prevention, professional trainings, and survivor advocacy. In Waco they have helped bring the issue to the forefront of the community and have helped to facilitate most of the collaboration that is occurring with the coalition and other partnerships. They work to meet vulnerable youth where they are by going into the schools and into the juvenile justice center.

The Bill Logue Juvenile Justice Center has grown in its identification and screening for youth affected by DMST. It is a huge strength to have the juvenile justice system active and aware of what is happening. This asset can continue to grow through training for employees and continuing to screen for individuals who have been trafficked in their intake screenings.

The Advocacy Center for Crime Victims and Children offers many services to individuals affected by trafficking including forensic interviews, SANE exams and counseling.

Jesus Said Love is a large asset, as they serve persons who are being commercially exploited. Jesus Said Love seeks to share the love of Christ with women in the commercial sex industry. Though they mainly work with adults, their position in the clubs along with the rapport they have built with the staffs in the clubs is a huge asset to identifications and connections. They also positively impact families through resource connection and support.

The District Attorney's Office is an asset as well, as they are pursuing prosecutions for traffickers. Local law enforcement has been an important asset, as they improve in both identification and survivor interactions. Both Waco Police Department and the McLennan County Sheriff's office have made huge strides in identifying pimps and johns and conducting raids that identify these individuals. These municipal offices and departments are a vital part of Waco's approach to addressing DMST. The stings conducted by the Sheriff's office have taken an aggressive approach to address the issue from both sides. The human trafficking detective in the Sheriff's office has a unique and vital role. Other community partners like Communities In Schools, the Family Abuse Center, the County Health Organizations, the Cove, and local schools are assets to addressing DMST. They conduct various programs that focus on children and teens and therefore have potential for interventions and service provision to youth who are affected by DMST.

Challenges and Areas of Growth

Despite the amazing growth and plethora of strength in Waco, there is always area for growth. With an issue as complex as DMST, it is not without its challenges.

Community partners state that despite the awareness and education happening in the community, there are still people who are hesitant to admit or acknowledge that DMST is happening in Waco. Others acknowledge that it is happening, but they are hesitant to discuss it with middle school children despite that being the average age of entry for an individual's affect by DSMT. The best way to combat this resistance is to continue to spread awareness and emphasize the importance of speaking with younger children. The presence of education and awareness programs in the school could also help with this issue. There are also misconceptions about DMST and individuals affected by DMST. These misconceptions lead to misidentification or poor first interactions with youth. More training and education could help alleviate these misconceptions in the community and in professional contexts.

An area of growth that is not only present in Waco, but nationwide, is placements. There are few placements for youth affected by DMST once they are identified. As noted by many of the community partners, it is not as simple as building a placement facility. Many of these individuals have experienced prolonged trauma and need specific and trauma informed service. Additionally, many have mental health or behavioral problems and may also struggle with substance abuse and addiction. It would be beneficial to have these services available and easily accessible to youth in their placements. If they are not directly housed in their placements it would be beneficial to make youth and placements aware of the services available in their communities.

Youth affected by DMST also often run away and there are even fewer secure placements that do not require any kind of criminal charge. A desperate need for quick

shelter to get youths off the streets and safe has resulted in many youth affected by DMST getting arrested. Though this is sometimes done in pursuit of getting them shelter, it can still send the message of criminal actions and have implications that should not be applied to a victim of a crime. The Family Abuse Center can provide shelter for a short period, but there is a need for more emergency shelter specifically for youth affected by DMST. Another challenge surrounding placements is that they may not be appealing to youth. Currently, many of the placements are far away and further isolate youth from family or the community that they know and consider home. There is a need for emergency shelter to meet immediate needs of youth and a need for long term placements or transitional placements that help youth who have been trafficked transition back into their world. Many time youths who are exploited are involved in the juvenile justice center or the child welfare system and they may not have a safe placement to which to return.

There are several challenges facing youth affected by DMST so there is a need for specific and trauma informed services that are accessible to these youth. The grant Waco received supports some specific services. The community can continue to seek and advocate for specialized positions to work with youth affected by DMST. The community could also continue its trainings to enhance and inform positions that already exist rather than create all new positions. The more the community could expand training the better. Role specific training could better equip professionals to identify minors who are trafficked and intervene. While creating a new trafficking specific service may not be feasible, through training we can address trafficking issues in different contexts that enhance current practices to be more effective in serving youth affect by DMST. Ideally

specific services could be setup, but in the meantime, the community can look for any way to enhance existing services to be better informed about serving youth who are affected by DMST.

Limitation & Areas of Future Research

There are several limitations and areas of future research. Some limitations include a small sample of interviews. Some key organizations left out include the McLennan County Sheriff's Department and The Cove. More interview participants could have given more detail to the work happening in Waco. A limitation of the study is that it is only conducted in Waco and; therefore, is not guaranteed to be generalizable to other communities. While there is hope that what is working in Waco will work in other communities, it is not guaranteed. It would strengthen these findings to have more research on how communities are addressing DMST to see if they are finding similar approaches to what is happening in Waco.

Additional limitations that have come up in research are that there is not an accurate count of the number of youth effected by DMST. Also, there are not many services surrounding effective aftercare services for youth affected by DMST. These would be excellent areas of research to continue to create a holistic approach that is necessary to address DMST. Another area of research could be alternative placements for youth affected by DMST, such as specialized foster care placements. It would also be beneficial to have more research gaining perspectives from youth affected by DMST about what services they felt have been beneficial and where they see the biggest area of need.

Recommendations

The following are recommendations from community partners as well as personal recommendation based on the literature review and interviews with community partners.

- 1) Increase the number of trainings, specifically professional trainings that are specific to a person's role or job. Teachers would benefit from training, especially teachers at the middle or high school levels. This could be incorporated into the beginning of the year training for teacher, as a part of school professional development days, or as additional presentations. Because of the vast array of students a teacher comes into contact with, it could be beneficial for teachers to know proper signs and the proper steps to take if they think their student is being trafficked. Hospital staff and nursing staff would benefit from specific trainings. UnBound has done some of these training, but it would be beneficial to continue engaging community health partners and have more trainings. Staff in the medical field have a high likelihood of encountering an individual affected by DMST or trafficking. Training that would equip medical professionals to identify individuals who are being trafficked could be a huge asset. The training could be one time training or a routine training at these health centers, urgent care, doctor's offices, or hospitals. It could be beneficial to try and even incorporate this training into the curriculum or training for the job in the same way medical personnel are often taught to spot child abuse or domestic violence. Also, education that

helps to identify specific signs of trafficking could be helpful. Law enforcement has been a huge asset but they too could benefit from increased trainings. It could be beneficial to have routine trainings to detectives and officers on the definition of DMST and on identifying youth affected by DMST and engaging and interacting with the youth. It would also be beneficial to extend this training to all levels of law enforcement so this would include not only detectives but also street level cops or patrol officers. These trainings could be offered for TCOLS credit to help draw participants in to trainings. Professions like probation officer and case workers, particularly in Child Protective Services (CPS), would also benefit from trainings. The very nature of CPS is interacting with vulnerable youth and families. It would be beneficial to provide trainings that raise awareness and give practical tools for identifying and interacting with youth who have been exploited through DMST. Creating or increasing these trainings in all areas of the community could be an asset to continue to grow the community.

- 2) Continuing education. Along the same lines as training, another recommendation would be continuing education. First, there should be continued community education, such as town hall meetings or education events. A major area to continue to increase DMST education is in the schools. Doing school presentations, school groups, or having information about DMST in schools can help to make youth more aware of the dangers of DMST. This will help to prevent them from being affected by DMST or help them to self-

identify if they are currently or have ever been trafficked. It would be beneficial to continue to build partnerships with local schools, to not only educate teachers, but also educate students.

- 3) Establish a local placement within the county. Ideally a long term comprehensive treatment placement something like the one SHE IS Freedom is currently trying to set up. This needs to be a place that is safe, preferably secure and has lots of options and engagement opportunities for minors. If not a comprehensive long term treatment, it is recommended to establish an emergency placement. The community can work towards establishing an emergency shelter where youth can come to get off the street and there is assistance getting them connected to a permanent placements and services. This could help alleviate the problem of arresting youth in order to get them to a safe placement. It would be beneficial to speak with survivors about what they found helpful or appealing with placements.
- 4) Trauma informed services. Developing specific services that are trauma informed is recommended. Since there is not much evidence based practice surrounding this topic, it is also recommended to explore available evidence based practice as well as contribute to evidence based practice with any specific services that are established. Specific services would include specific counseling, which as a result of the grant, will begin to be an option in Waco. Other services may include drug treatments that consider the youth's context in which they were using. An additional service that may be beneficial and

feasible to implement is creating a peer support network. Ideally this could be a part of residential treatment, but in lieu of a residential treatment, it could be beneficial to set up some peer support groups. This could be in conjunction with the emergency shelter, but for youth who are struggling or have been affected by DMST this could give them the opportunity to support one another and learn from each other's progress. A mentorship component could be beneficial to youth with the transition from victim of DMST to survivor. A recommendation for more specific service does not only mean creating new services, but it also means working with existing services and existing placements to make them more trauma informed, so they are equipped to help youth who have been affected by DMST. This could include existing counseling services, medical services or even placements, like a specialized foster care placement or residential placement, which could offer some specialized services or could connect youth to more specialized service in the community. It would be beneficial to consult individual affected by DMST and explore with them what has been most helpful and beneficial for them. There could be more research surrounding effective practice, so consulting individuals affected by DMST could not only contribute to creating better informed service but could contribute to research surrounding best practice with youth affected by DMST.

APPENDICIES

APPENDIX A1: INFORMED CONSENT

INFORMED CONSENT

Baylor University
Diana R. Garland School of Social Work

Consent Form for Research

PROTOCOL TITLE: Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Hannah O'Donnell

SUPPORTED BY: Baylor University

This form is to give you important information about taking part in a research study. Please read it carefully. If any of the provided information does not make sense to you or you have any question regarding this study, please let us know. We would be happy to answer any of your questions.

Participation in this study is up to you. If you decide to participate we will ask you to sign this form. You will be provided with a copy of this form. If, at any time, you feel that you would like to withdraw from this study, there will be no penalty to you for having done so.

This researcher of this study is Hannah O'Donnell, who is under the supervision of faculty advisor, Dr. Gaynor Yancey.

Purpose of the research:

The purpose of this study is to assess the community of Waco, TX preparedness to address Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking. We are seeking to identify current assets as well as opportunities for additional services and areas for future growth in order to better inform our prevention, identification and service provision for victims of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking. We are asking for your voluntary participation in this study because you and your organization were identified as an asset that plays a role in possible prevention, identification, and service of minor victims.

Study activities:

If you choose to be in the study, you will participate in an interview addressing:

- Your organization's current knowledge and experience with Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking
- Current strengths of the community of Waco, TX addressing domestic minor sex trafficking

- Areas of growth for the community of Waco to better address Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking
- Current holes in services or research

Interviews will be audio recorded and transcribed. Content from interview will be included in final product.

Interviews will last no longer than 1 ½ hours.

Risks:

To the best of our knowledge, there are no foreseeable risks to you for taking part in this study.

Benefits:

There are no personal benefits to you from taking part in this research. The community of Waco and those affected and those at risk for being affected by Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking may benefit in the future from the information that is learned in this study. Other communities outside of Waco, TX may also benefit from what is learned in this study.

Confidentiality:

For the purpose of this research, content from the interview will be included in the final product.

The organization's name will be kept with research data in order to better understand its role in prevention, identification and service provision. This will also help understand the identification of services being offered and opportunities for additional services. By understanding the varying perspectives and fields that address Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking, we are hoping to create and show a holistic assessment. However, your name and role can be kept anonymous. Please indicate below:

I do do not consent to have my name and role included in the research data.

A risk of taking part in this study is the possibility of a loss of confidentiality. Loss of confidentiality includes having your personal information shared with someone who is not on the study team and was not supposed to see or know about your information. The researcher will protect your confidentiality if it is requested.

Compensation:

You will not be paid or compensated in any way for taking part in this study.

Questions or concerns about this research study

You can call us with any concerns or questions about the research. Our telephone numbers are listed below:

Hannah O’Donnell, Researcher:
(816) 830-5488
Hannah_ODonnell@Baylor.edu

Dr. Gaynor Yancey, Faculty Advisor:
(254) 710-6424
Gaynor_Yancey@Baylor.edu

If you want to speak with someone not directly involved in this research study, you may contact the Baylor University IRB through the Office of the Vice Provost for Research at 254-710-1438. You can talk to them about:

- Your rights as a research subject
- Your concerns about the research
- A complaint about the research

Taking part in this study is your choice. You are free not to take part or to stop at any time for any reason. No matter what you decide, there will be no penalty or loss of benefit to which you are entitled. If you decide to withdraw from this study, the information that you have already provided will be kept confidential. Information already collected about you cannot be deleted.

By continuing with the research and completing the study activities, you are providing consent.

Statement of Consent

Signature of Participant

I have read the information provide in this consent and understand the potential risk and benefits of participation. I have had the opportunity to ask questions. Any and all of my questions have been answered to my satisfaction and I have agreed to participate.

Signature of Subject

Date

APPENDIX A2: INTERVIEW PROTOCOL

Interview Protocol

1. What is your organization and what is its main function?
2. What is your role in this organization?
3. What is your understanding of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking?
4. In what ways does your organization address DMST specifically?
5. In your opinion, what are assets in Waco that aid in the prevention, identification, and service provision for victims of DMST. What are Waco's strengths?
6. Where do you see areas of growth in the way we address DMST, both in Waco and in other communities?
7. What additional services do you think should be offered to DMST victims?
8. What improvements or recommendations would you make to better prepare Waco as a community and make your organization better equipped to address DMST? Please be as specific as possible.
9. What organizations would you consider assets in addressing DMST?

APPENDIX B.1: INTERVIEW IDENTIFICATION KEY

Interview Identification Key

Each community partner was assigned a designated bullet point. Note that the three representatives from the District Attorney's office have the same bullet point. The bullet points were assigned as follows:

- The Advocacy Center for Crimes Against Children
- Bill Logue Juvenile Justice Center
- Communities In Schools (CIS)
- ❖ Jesus Said Love
- ✚ The McLennan County District Attorney's office (DA)
- SHE Is Freedom
- ✓ Texas Department of Family Protective Services (TDFPS)
- γ UnBound Waco
- Ω Waco Police Department Crimes Against Children

APPENDIX B2: CODE TABLES

Code Tables

Populations Served

Open	Axial	Theme
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults ▪ Young adults • Children ✓ Children ✚ Children removed from the home ▪ Students K-12 ⌘ Middle school students ⌘ High school students ✚ CPS cases Ω Children victims of crime • Victims of Crime • Victims of Childhood Sexual Abuse • Victims of Trafficking ❖ Women/ people in commercial sex industry ➤ Juvenile survivors of trafficking ○ Juveniles ○ Arrested or charged with crime ✚ Juveniles who have been arrested ⌘ Juveniles in detention ✚ Misdemeanors ✚ felonies ✚ Runaways ○ Runaways ▪ Waco ISD/ school districts ▪ Schools ❖ Across Texas ⌘ Texas ✚ McLennan County ✚ McLennan County ⌘ Community Ω Community ⌘ Community partners ⌘ Professionals ⌘ Medical ⌘ Attorneys ⌘ Advocates ⌘ Social Workers ⌘ Teachers ⌘ Parents ⌘ City employees ⌘ Volunteers ⌘ Other states ⌘ Other countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Adults – Children – Juveniles – Students – Victims of crime – Survivors of trafficking & commercial sex industry – Individuals who've committed a crime – Runaways – Schools – Texas – McLennan County – Community – Community partners – Professional – Nationwide – Worldwide 	<p data-bbox="1068 443 1417 642">Community partners served adults, children, juveniles, and survivors of trafficking or commercial sex industry, individuals who've committed a crime, runaways, schools, communities, community partners and professionals.</p> <p data-bbox="1068 1667 1417 1749">Community partners serve those in Texas, McLennan County, nationwide and worldwide.</p>

Interaction and experiences with DMST

Open	Axial	Themes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coalition ○ Coalition ▪ Heart of Texas Trafficking Coalition ❖ Coalition ✚ Coalition ✓ Coalition ∩ Coalition Ω Heart of Texas Trafficking Coalition Ω Partnerships ❖ Partnerships ✓ Collaboration ✚ Multi-disciplinary team ❖ Networking ✚ Referrals ○ Victims in juvenile ✚ Runaway shelter ○ Identification of victims ▪ Overlap in populations served ❖ Trafficking cases in club ❖ Resources ❖ Safe environment ❖ Work with moms ❖ Lifestyle & families ❖ Generational ❖ Empowerment of moms effects children ❖ Favor with management ❖ Specific protocol ❖ STOP DEMAND School ✚ Jurisdiction ✚ Prosecute cases Ω Prosecute cases ✚ Prepare survivors for trial ✚ Trial ✚ Legal process ✚ Community education Ω Community education ∩ Education Ω Trainings ∩ Trainings ∩ Community activation ∩ Awareness ✓ Investigate human trafficking cases Ω Investigate cases • Forensic interviews ➤ Goal to be long term placement for juvenile survivors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Heart of Texas Trafficking Coalition – Collaboration – Networking – Identification – Overlap in populations served – Resource connection – Strengthen families – Favor with management/connections – Addressing demand – Prosecution – Community Education – Education – Trainings – Community awareness – Investigations 	<p>Community partners have addressed DMST through involvement the Heart of Texas Trafficking Coalition, Collaboration and Networking.</p> <p>Community partners identify victims and have overlap in the populations they serve.</p> <p>Community partners have addressed DMST by connecting resources and strengthen families.</p> <p>Community partners address DMST by Addressing demand.</p> <p>Community partners address DMST by having rapport with strip club management.</p> <p>Community partners address DMST through investigations and prosecution.</p> <p>Community partners address DMST through community education, trainings, and community awareness.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Profit/ exchange of value/ trade ✓ Exchange of value Ω Receiving benefit from making child engage in act ✚ Paid ✚ Money ✚ Money • Money ✓ Money ✚ Drugs ✚ drugs • Drugs ➤ Drugs ✓ Food ✓ Shelter ✓ Clothing Ω Sexual activity ✚ Sex ✚ Sex • Sexual act ○ Sexual act ○ pornography • Recordings ▪ Online Ω Prostitution ▪ Prostitution ✚ Prostitution Ω Not always prostitution Ω Different offenses ➤ Selling sex ✚ Sex slavery business ❖ Commercial sex industry ❖ Clubs ✚ Hotels • Men/ women/girls/boys/ everyone Ω Everyone can be at risk ▪ Can affect everyone ✓ Longtime problem • Nationwide problem Ω Happens everywhere ✚ Small towns/ big towns ▪ Large presence ❖ Prevalent ▪ Present here (Waco) ✚ Holistic problem in community ✚ Prevalent ✓ Prevalent in Waco Υ Prevalent in Waco Υ 30 cases in Juvenile ○ Big problem ✓ Major problem ✚ Local ✓ kids 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Money – Drugs – Meeting needs – Sexual act – Pornography – Recordings – Online – Prostitution – Variety of methods – Industry/ clubs – Hotels – Everyone – Nationwide problem – Prevalent – Holistic Problem – Minor (under 18) 	<p>or to meet survival needs such as food shelter and clothing.</p> <p>Understand this can take place in hotels/ motels, clubs, online or etc.</p> <p>Understand that DMST happens everywhere, in big towns and small towns and can affect anyone.</p> <p>Understand that it is a nationwide problem that is prevalent in our country, in our state and in our community.</p> <p>Understands that it involves minors, so individuals under age</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kids ▪ Child ✚ Child ▪ Young ▪ Under 18 ∩ Under 18 ➤ Minors ✓ Runaways Ω High demand for children ✚ One child/ person or multiple children/ people ○ Involves an adult ✚ Older men ▪ Ignored/taboo ▪ Modern day slavery ✚ Boyfriended ✚ Gang members ➤ Pimp ✚ Not usually kidnapped ➤ Identity ✓ Survival ✓ Family ∩ US Citizen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Runaway - Demand - Adult involvement - Gangs - Pimp - Taboo 	<p>18. These minors are often runaways. There is a demand for minors.</p> <p>Understands that it involves an adult as well, this adult could be a pimp, gang member, or just an adult.</p>
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Understanding (cont'd)—Perception of Survivors

Open	Axial	Themes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Runaway ✚ Runaway status ✚ Runaway ✚ Runaway ✓ Runaway ✓ On street ○ Runaway ○ Run as coping skill ✚ Child in Need of Supervision (CHNS) ✚ Re-victimization ❖ risk factors ❖ Poverty ✓ Low income risk factors ❖ Trickle down/ generational ❖ Single parent ❖ Substance abuse is home ✚ Alcoholic home • Home life dysfunction ✚ Family dysfunction ▪ Home problems ▪ School problems ▪ At-risks students ✚ High risk environment ✚ Troubled youth ✚ Targeted ✚ Vulnerable youth ✚ Looking for something 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Runaway - Risk Factors - Poverty - Family dysfunction - School problems - Vulnerable youth 	<p>Victims are often runaways.</p> <p>Vulnerable or at-risk youth are often at a higher risk of trafficking, some of the vulnerabilities or risk factors include poverty, family dysfunction, school problems, or trauma.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Looking for love and support ✚ Body image ✚ Lacking basic skills ❖ Drop out at early age ❖ Trauma • Trauma bonding • Boyfriend • Addiction ✚ Addiction ✚ Drugs • Drugs Ω Drug/addiction • Boys ✚ Boys ✓ Male ✓ female • Girls ○ girls generally ✚ girls • Men • Women ▪ Everyone ✓ Kids Ω Children ✚ Child ▪ Child ❖ Underage ➤ Minors ✓ 14,15,16 Υ 14-15 years old ✚ Teenagers ➤ Women under 18 Υ Under 18 Υ Recruited around 12 ▪ Too young to give consent ✚ Any kind is potential victim ✚ CPS kids ✚ Residential Treatment center ○ Come through juvenile ○ Contact with juvenile ○ Involvement with juvenile ○ Minor crimes ○ Not criminals ✚ Criminal offenses ○ Clubs ✚ Behavioral health ✚ Mental health ✚ Mental illness Ω Behavior issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vulnerabilities - Trauma - Trauma Bonding - Drugs/ addiction - Males - Females - Minors - Recruit - CPS - Juvenile System - Not criminal - Club - Mental/Behavioral Health 	<p>Drugs and addiction often play a role and many youth are on drugs or struggle with substance abuse.</p> <p>Victims are minors and are under 18. Can start as young as 12,13,14. Both boys and girls are victims of DMST.</p> <p>Victims are often involved with systems such as CPS or juvenile.</p> <p>Victims are not criminals.</p> <p>Victims often have behavioral or mental health problems.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Resources increasing ○ Involving community resources ➤ Community resources ❖ Networking ⌋ Network/ training ❖ Education • Education (2) • Community education ○ Education (2) ✚ Education ✚ Continuing education ✚ SAFE conference • CHILD SAFE Conference • Conference • JUST Conference Ω Shared Hope International Juvenile Sex Trafficking Conference ○ Awareness • Awareness raised • Awareness (2) ▪ Awareness ➤ Awareness ⌋ Awareness / understanding ➤ Community awareness ❖ Awareness of collaboration ❖ Awareness in schools/ juvenile ✚ Victim awareness ⌋ Education to victims ✚ Community awareness ✓ Community Awareness ⌋ Community awareness ✚ Community recognition of holes • Understanding definition ➤ Understanding definition ✚ Understanding forms of DMST ○ Understand victims are victims ✚ Understanding victims ○ Victims know they're victims • Concern • Concern/Action ✚ Concern in McLennan County ➤ Community concern • Priority ▪ Important ▪ Effort/ priority ✚ Priority/ awareness ✚ County leadership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education - Conference - Community Awareness - Understanding - Community Concern - Priority - Law enforcement 	<p>Education has been a strength. Educating the community and offering continuing education opportunities for professionals.</p> <p>Conferences that service providers attend and that take place in Waco have increased education and are a strength.</p> <p>Community awareness is a strength. Awareness of the problem and understanding what DMST is and looks like, awareness of collaboration happening, awareness of hole still in the community, victim's awareness, and awareness in school and juvenile.</p> <p>A strength is the community understanding, of the forms of DMST, of victims and victims own understanding.</p> <p>A strength is that there is concern about DMST in the community. Community members and leaders recognize it is problem.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law enforcement • Local law enforcement ✓ Local Law Enforcement Ω Law enforcement Υ Law enforcement ✚ Law enforcement ✚ Law enforcement ✚ Law enforcement ▪ Law enforcement (3) ▪ FBI ✓ FBI ✓ DEA ✓ ATF ✓ US Marshal ✓ Waco Police Department ✚ Waco Police Department Victim Services ✚ Police Department Crimes Against Children • Waco Police Department Crimes Against Children • Waco Police Department ○ Waco Police department ➤ Waco Police Department ❖ Police Department • Law enforcement priority ○ Police buy in • Law enforcement awareness ✚ Law enforcement education ✚ Interviewing ✚ Identifying signs ✚ TCLOS credit ✚ Understanding victims ✓ McLennan County Sheriff (2) • Sheriff's Office (2) ▪ Sheriff's Department ➤ Sheriff Ω Sheriff Υ Sheriff's office ○ Human trafficking detective at sheriff's office • Stings Υ Stings • Addressing demand ❖ STOP Demand School ❖ Prevention Programs ❖ Prevention ❖ Target buyer retention • Harsher legal punishments ➤ Governor • Governor's office Υ Governor Sex Trafficking Team ❖ Tasks Forces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FBI - DEA - ATF - US Marshalls - Waco Police Department - Waco Police Department Crimes Against Children - Law Enforcement Education - McLennan County Sheriff - Human Trafficking Detective - Sting - Prevention by addressing Demand - Governor's office & tasks force - Grants 	<p>Law enforcement entities are strengths at all levels both federally and locally. Waco Police Department, especially crimes against children. Sheriff's department, especially human trafficking detective. Grown in understand, victim interactions, investigations and stings.</p> <p>Strength in addressing demand. Through prevention programs and legal action. Also, incorporating training into hotel/ motel training.</p> <p>A strength is the governor's state level involvement.</p> <p>Grants are strength 1.5 million of 3 years \$900,00 to Advocacy,</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Elected officials • Grant ▪ Grant ❖ Federal grant ❖ Aid to trafficking victims ❖ Preparation to get grant ▪ Three years ▪ Family health center ▪ UnBound ▪ Multifaceted ▪ Department of Justice ▪ Advocacy \$900,000 ▪ Sheriff's \$600,000 ▪ \$1.5 million over three years ○ State/Federal grants ⌘ Grant ❖ Funding resources • Personal • DMST focused • Survivor advocacy • UnBound (2) ▪ UnBound (2) ○ UnBound (2) ✚ UnBound ✚ UnBound ✚ UnBound (2) ➤ UnBound (2) Ω UnBound ○ Education groups client specific programs ○ Outreach programs ○ Counseling ▪ Counselor ✚ Counselors ✚ Psychologist ❖ Specialized counselor (sexual abuse/ trauma) ⌘ Human trafficking counselor ⌘ Dr. Jasmine Khan Ω Counseling Firms ○ Specific service connection ⌘ Human trafficking case manager ⌘ Increase access to services ✚ Volunteers ▪ Jesus Said Love (2) ✚ Jesus Said Love ➤ Jesus Said Love ⌘ Jesus Said Love ❖ Favor with club management ❖ Rapport with staff in clubs • Noticing red flags ○ Noticing signs/ red flags ✚ Recognize high risk/ risk factors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Funding – UnBound – Counselors – Specific services – Human trafficking counselor/ Human trafficking case manager – Services – Jesus Said Love 	<p>\$600,000 Sheriff's. and the work to get to a place to be able to receive the grant. Has help fund resources</p> <p>Specific services such counseling and case management. As well as counseling partners and family services.</p> <p>Community partners like the Advocacy Center, Jesus Said Love District Attorney, Cove, Klaras Center, Family Abuse Center, Family Abuse Center MHMR.</p> <p>Identification including identifying victims, knowing signs and red flags. Identification that occurs in community and juvenile is a</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increased identification/ knowing signs (2) ✚ Signs/identification ○ Identification ✓ Identification ➤ Identification ⌘ Identification ○ Identification in counseling (Juvenile) ✚ Identification in Juvenile (2) ○ Multi-angled approach to identification ✚ Identification/ self-identification (awareness) ○ Self-identification ○ Effective first interactions ○ Nurturing interactions ✚ Law enforcement interactions ✚ Respect ○ Reporting/ steps to take with victim ○ Reporting (2) ● District Attorney ▪ District Attorney ✚ District Attorney (2) ➤ District Attorney ✓ District Attorney (2) Ω District Attorney (2) ▪ Abel Reyna ● Abel Reyna ▪ US Attorney's Office ✚ Prosecutors/ Defense Attorneys ⌘ Prosecutors ➤ Prosecution ✚ Trials in community ○ Legal Counsel ● Cove ➤ The Cove ● Cheryl Pooler ❖ Juvenile ● Juvenile Probation ➤ Bill Logue Juvenile Justice Center Ω Juvenile (2) ⌘ Juvenile (identifying & screening) ○ Bigger screening process ○ Secondary assessment ✚ Judges ● Judge Cooley ▪ Judge Cooley ✚ Individuals ○ Klaras Center- Psychiatry ● Advocacy Center ▪ Advocacy Center (2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification - Red Flags/ signs - Self-Identification - Victim Interactions - Reporting - District Attorney - Abel Reyna - US Attorney - Prosecution/ trials - Cove - Cheryl Pooler - Juvenile - Screening/ identification - Judges - Judge Cooley - Klaras Center - Advocacy Center - Advocacy Center Services 	<p>strength. As well as self-identification for victims as a result of education and awareness.</p> <p>A strength is the growth in interacting with victims.</p> <p>A strength is prosecution of traffickers and assets are the District Attorney's office and Judges.</p> <p>There are strengths in Juvenile, especially in screening and identification and probation staff.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Advocacy Center ✚ Advocacy Center ✚ Advocacy Center ✓ Advocacy Center ∩ Advocacy Center prevention programs ∩ Advocacy Center (SANE & Forensic Interviews) ✚ Forensic interviewers ○ Extended counseling for sexual trauma ○ Counseling ○ Service to families ✓ Service Providers ❖ Prevention in families (trickle down/ generational) ∩ Strengthening families ❖ Prevention through meeting needs ▪ Family Health Center Ω Hospitals ○ Hospital trainings ○ Nurses ○ First responders ❖ Social workers ○ Probation officers ○ Training for probation officers ❖ UnBound trainings ✚ Trainings/ Role Specific ❖ Family Abuse Center ✚ Family Abuse Center ∩ Family Abuse Center ∩ Adult victims ∩ Case management Services ∩ Temporary placement for minors ✚ Shelter ✚ Safe place ○ Heart ○ Passion ▪ Good comparison/ good job ✚ Good compared to states progress ✚ Look at other communities ➤ Influence other communities ▪ Communities In Schools ➤ Communities in Schools ❖ Schools ✚ Schools ✚ Schools Ω School systems Ω School Districts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Services/ Family services – Health Care facilities/ health care personnel – First responders – Social workers – Probation officers – Training – Family Abuse Center – Family Abuse Center services – Placement/ shelter – Passion – Success – Comparison to communities – Schools / School districts 	<p>A strength is trainings for communities and professionals.</p> <p>Passion and heart for the addressing the issue.</p> <p>A strength in the success that is occurring in Waco able to compared to other communities.</p> <p>The engagement in the schools is strength.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Waco Independent School District ✚ Indian Springs Middle School ❖ Target at-risk ✚ MHMR ✚ Self-worth/ investing in youth ✚ Contact with kids/ prevention ☪ Mentoring programs ☪ Investing in kids ☪ Relationships Ω Anyone in contact with children ✚ Shelters ➤ News/ media ☪ News/ media ✓ Churches (2) Ω Church group Ω Antioch ✓ National Center for Missing and Exploited Children Ω CPS Ω Human Trafficking hotel/motel safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – MHMR – Investing in youth – News/Media – Churches – National Center for Missing and Exploited Children – Hotel/ Motel Safety 	<p>A strength is investing in youth and building those relationships.</p> <p>Strength can be the presence of DMST in the local media.</p> <p>Churches are considered strengths.</p>
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Challenges/ area of growths

<i>Open</i>	<i>Axial</i>	<i>Themes</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aftercare services ❖ Aftercare facilities ❖ Aftercare (2) ➤ Aftercare ➤ Help victims become survivors • DMST specific service/ personnel ✚ Specific services ☪ Increase specific services Ω More resources statewide Ω Resources for smaller departments Ω Collaboration with surrounding police departments • Specific intensive counseling ✓ Counseling ✓ Family counseling ➤ Long term treatment ○ Need trauma informed services ✚ Trauma informed care ○ Multifaceted issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Aftercare – Specific services/ resources – Law enforcement collaboration/ resources – Specific counseling – Trauma informed care 	<p>There is a need to improve aftercare service to help victims transition to survivors and increase specific resources both locally and statewide.</p> <p>There is a need to continue to collaborate with law enforcement departments.</p> <p>There is a need to improve services that are trauma informed and specific. Need services that address</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Treatment rehabilitation – address trauma (2) ❖ Rehabilitation (funding/resources) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug rehabilitation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Drugs ✚ Drug addiction issues ✚ Substance abuse ✚ Addiction ○ Need drug rehabilitation ➤ Junior Alcohol Anonymous ✚ Long-term trauma ⚡ Trauma <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Psychological trauma ✚ Depleted self-worth ✚ Wrap around/ multifaceted treatments ✚ Dual services/wrap around services—drug & mental health (2) ✚ Holistic approach to services ✚ Mental health issues ✚ PTSD ⚡ PTSD/ Mental illness ⚡ Trauma induced medical issues ❖ Transitional/ In-between services/ transition (2) ❖ Programs to reintegrate— schools/ communities ❖ Transitional / recovery home ❖ Few beds ➤ Specialized placements ⚡ Placement ⚡ Safe/ secure placement ⚡ Therapeutic placement v lockdown ⚡ Specialized placement ➤ Lack of placements ✚ Lack local placements ✚ Lack safe placements • Placement • Secure placement ❖ Out of state aftercare (away from family/ friends) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distant placement • Lack of placement (2) Ω Void in placement Ω Need long term placements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Long term placement ○ Placements try and fail ○ Need criminal charge for some placements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Multifaceted issues/ multifaceted treatment – Drugs/ substance abuse – Treatment/ rehabilitation – Trauma – Self-worth – Holistic/ wraparound services – Mental health issues/ treatment – Trauma induced medical issues – Transitional services – Lack of placements/ spaces – Specialized placement – Long term placements – Placement appeal – Placement distant – Secure/safe placements – Placement require charged 	<p>multiple issues including drug addiction, mental health and trauma.</p> <p>There is a need for more transitional service to help victims transition back.</p> <p>There is a need for more placements, locally and nationwide. Placements need to be safe and secure but also appealing and somewhere for girls are willing to go.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of appeal of placement ✚ Placement willing to go ➤ Placements where they want to be ➤ Emergency drop in shelter—voluntary, build rapport, short term, emergency need ○ SHE Is Freedom still a ways out ○ Avoid returning to situations ✚ Preventing re-victimization ✚ Re-victimization ✓ Repeat runaway ∩ Runaway ✓ Re-victimization • Arresting victims ✚ Inadvertently treat like criminals ○ Arrest to keep safe • Evaluation • Expensive ➤ Expensive ✚ Expensive ✓ funding ✚ Funding ○ Lack of funding ∩ Funding specific/ specialized environments ❖ Grants ○ Consistency in reporting ○ CPS restrictions ▪ Taboo subject / denial ✚ Taboo topic/ resistance to discuss with younger kids ✚ Taboo ✚ Don't limit education to high school ▪ More education ✚ More education—law enforcement, community ✚ More education—community, school. Churches ❖ More education and awareness—schools & Juvenile ✓ Education of risk factors for kids ✓ Education of danger of DMST ▪ Education to students at risk to be trafficked ▪ Targeted to at risk youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Emergency drop in shelter – Re-victimization/ repeat runaway – Criminalizing victims – Evaluation – Expensive – Lack funding – Consistency in reporting – CPS restrictions – Taboo/ resistance to discuss – Increase education – School – Community – Law enforcement – Churches – Juvenile – Risks & dangers – Prevention – Geared toward at risk/ middle school 	<p>There is a need for an emergency drop in shelter to help address immediate needs such as shelter or stabilizing.</p> <p>Challenge because often victims are repeat runaways or at risk for re-victimization or returning to their exploiter.</p> <p>Challenge because victims are often arrested either because of misidentification or trying to keep them safe and off the streets. This can inadvertently lead them to treating them as criminals.</p> <p>Challenge is that placements and services are expensive. There is a need for more funding of specific services.</p> <p>There is a need for consistency in reporting.</p> <p>Challenge of CPS restrictions.</p> <p>Challenge is that there is a resistance to talk about it or denial that its happening especially with younger children.</p> <p>There is a need to continue to increase education including in schools, the community, law enforcement, churches, juvenile. Also of the risks & dangers, prevention. It would be beneficial to have education geared toward middle schoolers.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Target middle school (12,13,14) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prevention specific education (students/schools) ❖ Training ✓ Awareness in news/ media representation ✓ Raising awareness and understanding ✓ Awareness-education ✚ Continue community awareness ✚ Awareness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness • Awareness/ prevalence of risk factors / signs ➤ Awareness of how it happens <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Awareness of signs ✚ Continue to improve identification in juvenile ➤ Identification/ signs of trafficking ➤ Unidentified victims <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to collaborate not duplicate ❖ Support system ➤ New Friends/ New Life/ peer support ➤ A place to go ➤ Faith/ church support ✚ Improve outreach ✚ Communicating with victims ✚ Interviewing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Make sure all on the same page ✚ Media misconceptions ✚ Understanding DMST ∩ Community misconceptions ∩ Victim misconceptions ∩ Understanding survivors ✚ Understand why youth are running <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Understanding mindset of the survivor ➤ Understand survivor complexity ➤ Help law enforcement ✚ Need trust/safety ➤ Relationships ➤ Self determination ✚ Victim involvement in trial ✚ Can always improve ✚ Online dangers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training - Awareness - Improved identification - Support - Outreach/ communicating with victim - Misconceptions - Understanding - Relationships - Online dangers - Defining success 	<p>There is a need to continue and increase trainings.</p> <p>There is a need to continue awareness including awareness of risk factors, signs of trafficking and how it happens.</p> <p>There is a need to continue improving identification and continuing to know the signs and identify victims.</p> <p>There is a need to help create support systems for youth, as well as communication or outreach to victims.</p> <p>A challenge is misconceptions about DMST and victims of DMST. We can improve the community's understanding of DMST and victims of DMST.</p> <p>A challenge is the online dangers.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Defining success/short term solutions ✓ Involving more people • Failed systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – More people 	
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Recommendations

Open	Axial	Themes
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better training ❖ Awareness training ❖ More training Ω Routine training ✓ Training Υ Training for middle school and high schools students ❖ Role-specific training • Job specific training (i.e. law enforcement, forensic interviewer) Υ Teacher trainings Υ Hospital training • Use research informed practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Look at best practice ○ Not criminals ○ Client centered/ best interests Ω Develop victim center investigations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Meeting survivors ○ Secure shelter ○ Long term placement ➤ SHE Is Freedom/ long term placement Υ Emergency shelter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stabilize in juvenile and set up services ○ Focus on aftercare following juvenile <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Awareness Υ Specialized awareness ✚ Continue community awareness ✚ Children awareness— dangers, recruitment, what it looks like ✚ Awareness at middle school and high school ✚ Continue awareness ✓ Awareness of unusual behavior ✚ More school involvement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education ✓ Community education ✚ Continue education ✚ Education in schools ✚ Educating youth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Drop-out prevention/ student success ▪ Know signs ▪ Identification ✓ Caseworker identification ❖ Understand signs/ identification (2) ✓ Identifying signs and red flags 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Trainings – Specific trainings (professionals, students) – Research informed practice – Victim center investigations/ services – Secure long term placement – Emergency shelter – Stabilize and connect to services – Awareness (children, schools, community, specialized, unusual behaviors) – Education (in schools, community, youth) – Identification/ know signs 	<p>Recommend increasing trainings, trainings for professionals and training for students.</p> <p>Recommend seeking out and following research informed practice.</p> <p>Recommend increase victim centered investigations and services.</p> <p>Recommend creating secure long term placement as well as emergency shelter, a place to stabilize victims.</p> <p>Recommend continue raising awareness.</p> <p>Recommend continue education in schools, communities and to youth.</p> <p>Recommend continue to improve knowing signs to improve identification.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Identification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Know resources ▪ Learn from other communities ❖ In more arenas ❖ All spheres ❖ More sectors ❖ Community approach ✚ Involving community health organizations ❖ Hospitals ❖ Nursing staff ❖ Hospital staff ✚ Continue prosecutions ✚ More resources for treatment ✚ Vehicle for raising funds ✓ Funding ∩ Funding for services for kids ✓ Funding for personnel ✚ Training patrol officers Ω Involve street level officers ✓ Specific interview protocol ✚ Training probation officers ✚ Investing in youth ✓ Priority on runaway Ω Everyone on the same page of understanding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aware of resources - Learn from communities - Holistic community approach - Community health organizations & staff - Continue prosecuting cases - Increase resource/ funding for resources - Training all levels (probation, street level officers) - Develop specific interview protocol - Invest in youth - Prioritize runaways - Community understanding 	<p>Recommend being aware of resources.</p> <p>Recommend learning from other community.</p> <p>Recommend a holistic community approach to addressing DMST.</p> <p>Recommend engaging community health organizations and staff.</p> <p>Recommend continue to prosecute cases.</p> <p>Recommend increasing resources and accessing funding to provide these resources.</p> <p>Recommend training for law enforcement at all levels.</p> <p>Recommend develop specific protocol for working with victims and survivors</p> <p>Recommend investing in youth and programs that invest in youth.</p> <p>Recommend placing a higher priority on runaways in law enforcement.</p>
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