



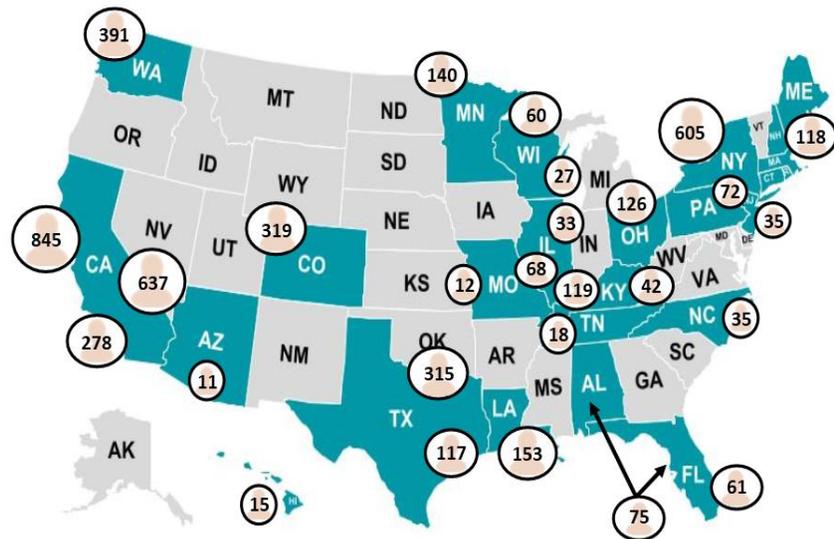
## Rescue & Restore Victims of Human Trafficking Regional Program FY 2008 – 2017 Data Fact Sheet

### About the Rescue & Restore Regional Program

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) launched the Rescue & Restore Victims of Human Trafficking (Rescue & Restore) Regional Program in 2008 to expand coalition building within the HHS Rescue & Restore Campaign. The Rescue & Restore Regional Program provided funding to grantees to establish or improve anti-trafficking coalitions, outreach, and identification of victims of human trafficking. Grantees worked to create and sustain a local response to human trafficking through outreach, public awareness, partnerships, training, and technical assistance. The program funded 48 grantees from FY 2008 to FY 2017 across 27 service areas throughout the United States.<sup>1</sup>

### Number of Individuals Identified

Over the course of the Rescue & Restore program, grantees identified 4,727 foreign nationals, U.S. citizens, and lawful permanent residents who experienced labor and/or sex trafficking through direct outreach and referrals from agencies, law enforcement, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, good Samaritans, and self-identified individuals who had experienced human trafficking (see figure 1).<sup>2</sup>



**Figure 1. Location of Adults and Minors Identified Who Experienced Trafficking, FY 2008 – 2017**

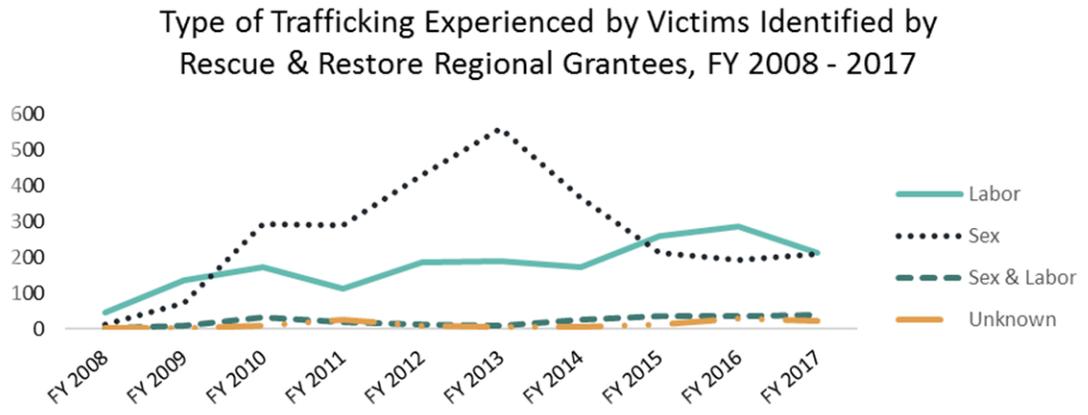
<sup>1</sup> Service areas: California Bay Area, Central Valley California, Southern California, Central and Western Ohio, Central Arizona, Central Colorado, Central Kentucky, Central Missouri, Eastern Missouri and Southern Illinois, Eastern Pennsylvania, Hawaii, Kentucky, Middle Tennessee, Minnesota, New England, New York City and Long Island, North and Central Alabama and Florida, North Carolina, North Texas, Northern Illinois, Southeast Florida, Southeast Louisiana, Southeast Texas, Southeast Wisconsin, Southern New Jersey, Washington, and Wisconsin.

<sup>2</sup> The data and analyses presented in this document refer to individuals who were screened and verified by Rescue & Restore grantees as having experienced human trafficking. Grantees do not provide detailed data on potential or suspected victims of human trafficking.

## Type of Trafficking Experienced by Adults and Minors

Although grantees primarily identified adults and minors who had experienced sex trafficking, their identification of individuals who experienced labor trafficking increased by 17% each year on average (see figure 2).

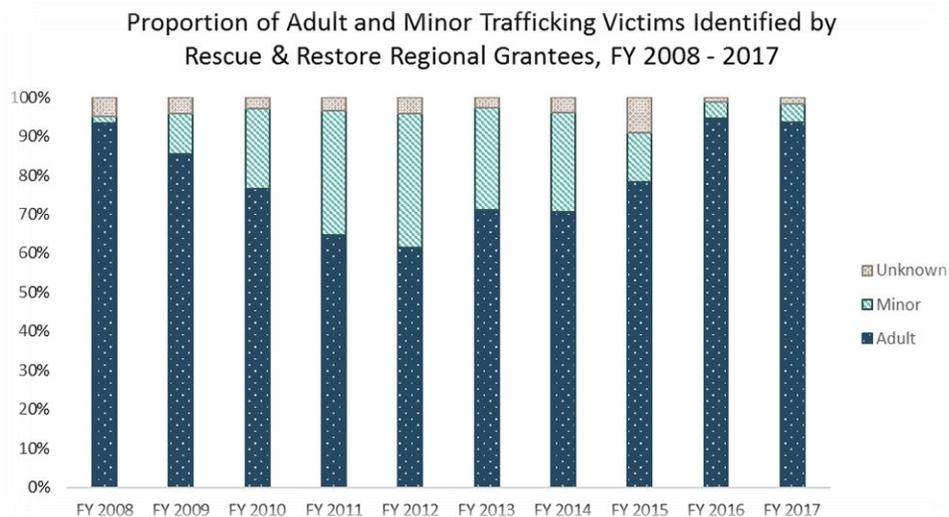
**Figure 2: Type of Trafficking Experienced by Adults and Minors Identified, FY 2008 – 2017**



## Proportion of Adults and Minors Identified

Although grantees consistently identified more adults than minors who had experienced human trafficking, they also improved their identification of minors — 25% of those identified in FY 2014 were minors, compared to 2% in FY 2008 (see figure 3).

**Figure 3: Proportion of Adults and Minors Identified, FY 2008 – 2017<sup>3</sup>**



At the end of FY 2014, the third iteration of the Rescue & Restore grant directed grantees to identify only foreign nationals who had experienced human trafficking. Because most of the minors previously identified were U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents, the data shows a sharp decline in minors identified after FY 2014.

## Age of Individuals Who Experienced Human Trafficking

From FY 2008 to FY 2014, the majority of individuals identified as having experienced human trafficking were 16 to 20 years old. Adults aged 21 to 25 made up the second largest age category.

### Average Age

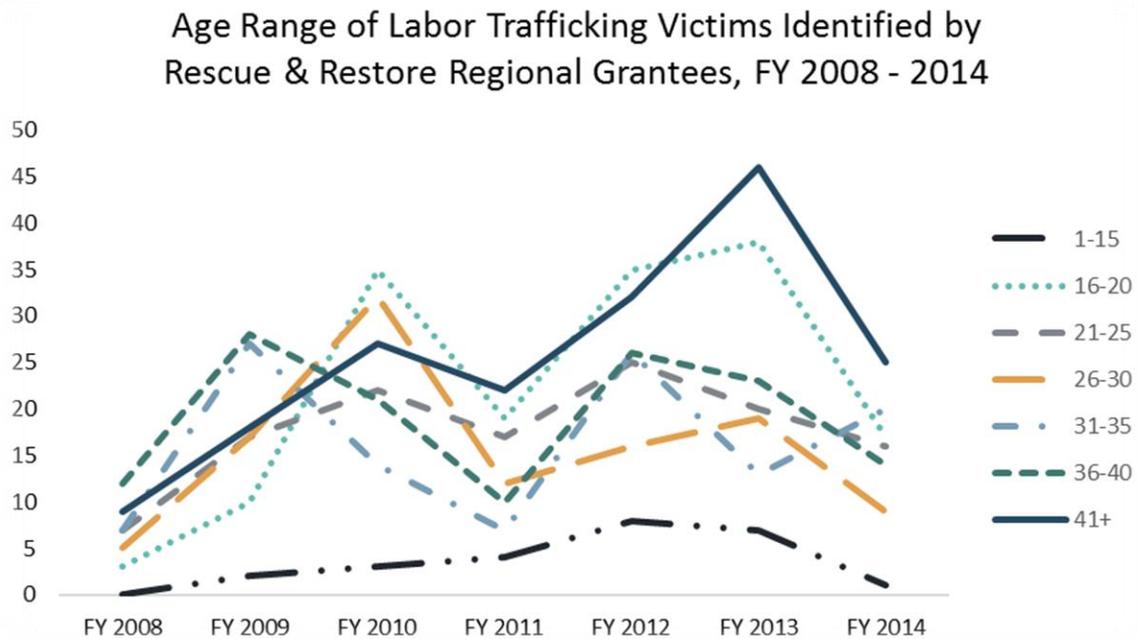
- Labor Trafficking — 31 years old
- Sex Trafficking — 22 years old
- Both Labor and Sex Trafficking — 28 years old

### Age Range

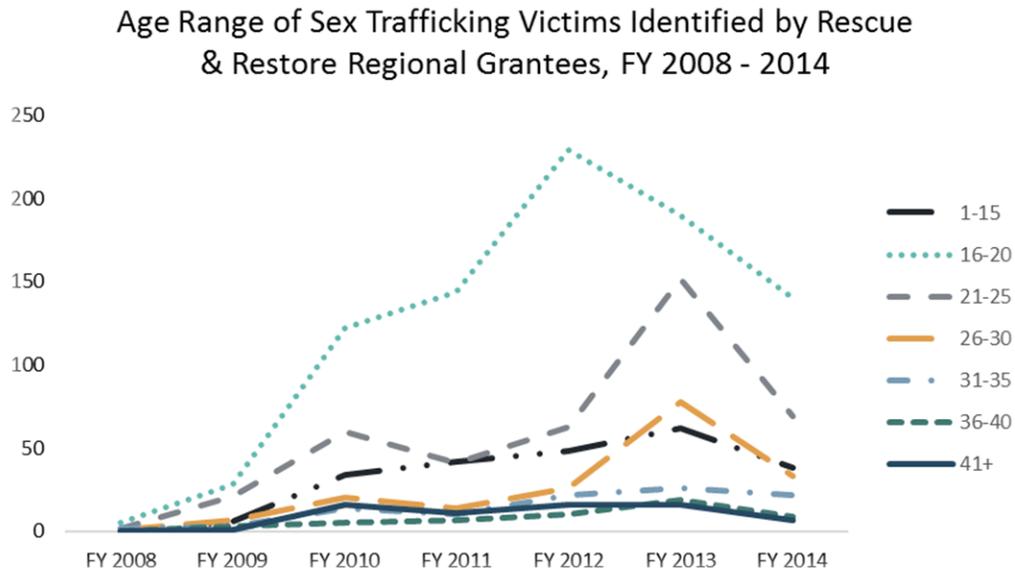
The age range of individuals who experienced labor trafficking was more evenly distributed than that of those who experienced sex trafficking.

- Labor Trafficking — There was a steady rise in those aged over 41, which peaked in FY 2013 and surpassed those aged 16 to 20 to become the leading age range of adults and minors identified (see figure 4).
- Sex Trafficking — Most of those identified were younger than 30 years old (see figure 5).

**Figure 4: Age of Individuals Who Experienced Labor Trafficking, FY 2008 – 2014**



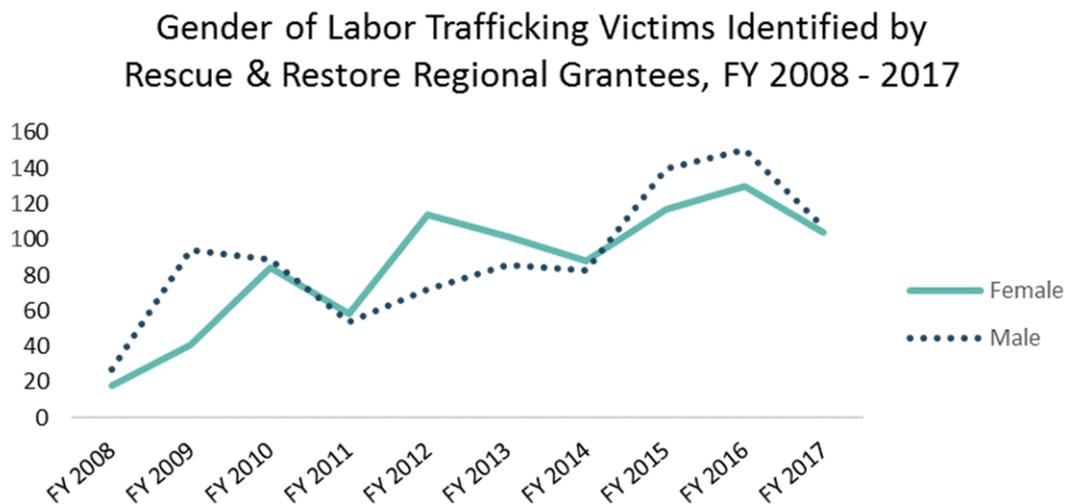
**Figure 5: Age of Individuals Who Experienced Sex Trafficking, FY 2008 – 2014<sup>4</sup>**



### Gender of Individuals Who Experienced Human Trafficking

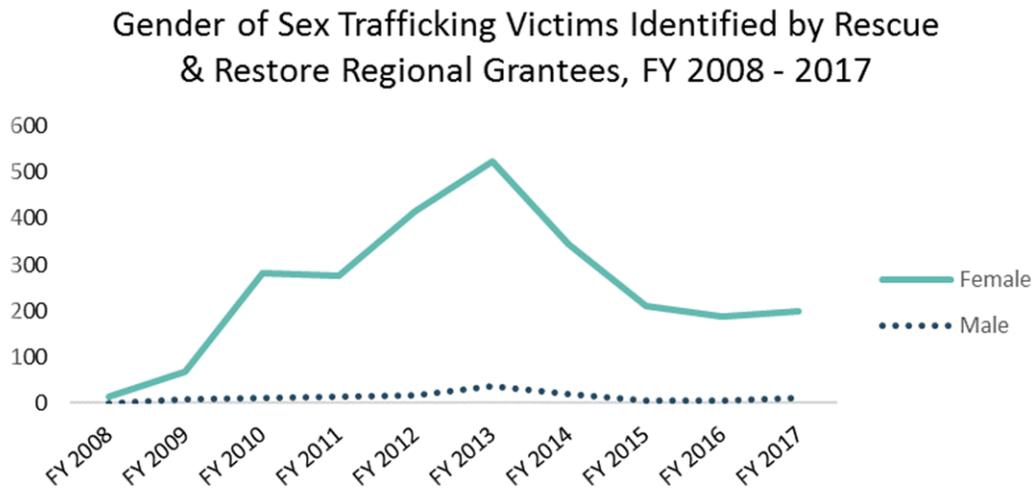
The vast majority of those identified by Rescue & Restore grantees from FY 2008 to FY 2017 were women. A more equal proportion of women and men were identified as having experienced labor trafficking in the same period, with the exception of FY 2008 and FY 2012 (see figure 6). Women most commonly experienced sex trafficking or both sex and labor trafficking across the FY 2009 to FY 2017 time period (see figures 7 and 8).

**Figure 6: Gender of Individuals Who Experienced Labor Trafficking, FY 2008 – 2017**



<sup>4</sup> At the end of FY 2014, in the third iteration of the Rescue & Restore grant, grantees were no longer required to specify the age of those who experienced human trafficking, which led to a decline in all age categories.

**Figure 7: Gender of Individuals Who Experienced Sex Trafficking, FY 2008 – 2017**



**Figure 8: Gender of Individuals Who Experienced Sex and Labor Trafficking, FY 2008 – 2017**



### Commonly Reported Industries by Gender

Domestic work, agriculture and field labor, construction, forced criminal and illicit activities, and restaurant and food service were the most commonly reported industries in which labor trafficking occurred.

- Labor Trafficking:** Men made up the majority of those who experienced labor trafficking within the agriculture and field labor, construction, and forced criminal and illicit activities industries. Women who experienced labor trafficking more commonly reported exploitation within domestic work. Men and women within the restaurant and food service industry reported exploitation in almost equal numbers.
- Sex Trafficking:** Those who experienced sex trafficking overwhelmingly experienced exploitation through commercial sex in a residential setting such as a brothel or hotel or through outdoor

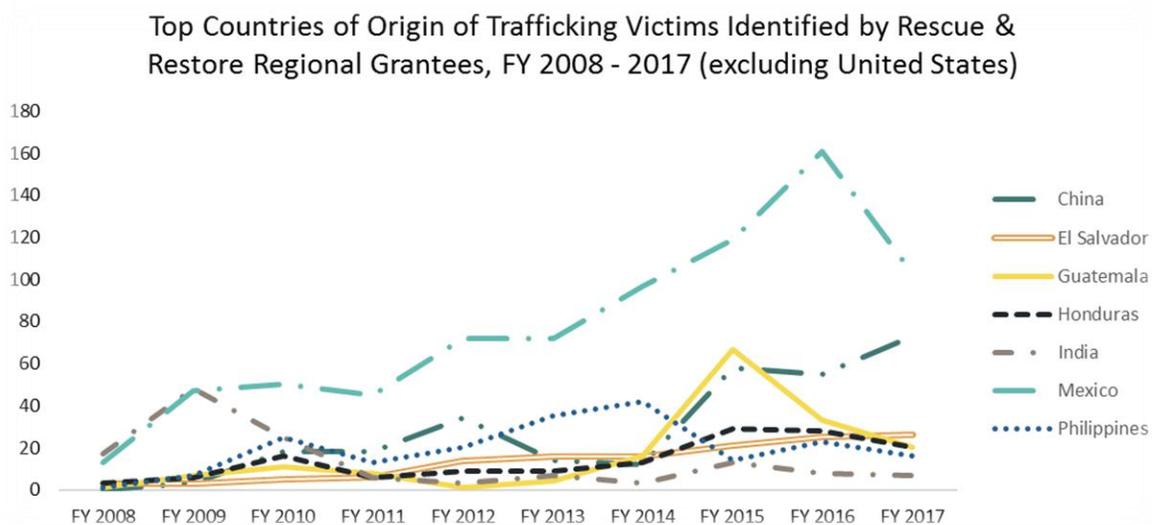
solicitation. Less commonly, they experienced exploitation within massage parlors through the illicit massage or health and beauty industries.

- **Both Labor and Sex Trafficking:** Those who experienced both sex and labor trafficking commonly reported experiencing exploitation through commercial sex, domestic work, personal sexual servitude, and the illicit massage and health and beauty industries.

## Countries of Origin of Those Identified

Rescue & Restore grantees identified individuals with various citizenship statuses who originated from many countries. Most of those identified were from the United States, followed by Mexico, China, the Philippines, Guatemala, Honduras, India, and El Salvador.

**Figure 9: Commonly Reported Countries of Origin of Adults and Minors Identified, FY 2008 – 2017 (excluding the United States)**



- **Mexico** is the most common foreign country of origin of those identified, with the number steadily climbing each fiscal year and peaking in FY 2016.
- **China:** The number of individuals identified from China increased in FY 2014 and continued to increase through FY 2017.
- **The Philippines:** In contrast, the number of those identified from the Philippines has ebbed and flowed, with peaks in FY 2010, FY 2014, and FY 2016 preceding gradual declines.
- **Guatemala:** There were moderate, gradual increases in the number of adults and minors from Guatemala that peaked in FY 2015.
- **Honduras:** The data shows a steady, incremental increase in the number of persons identified from Honduras.
- **El Salvador:** A similar trend can be seen in the number of individuals identified from El Salvador.
- **India:** There was a sharp increase in those identified from India from FY 2008 to FY 2009, followed by a sharp decline.

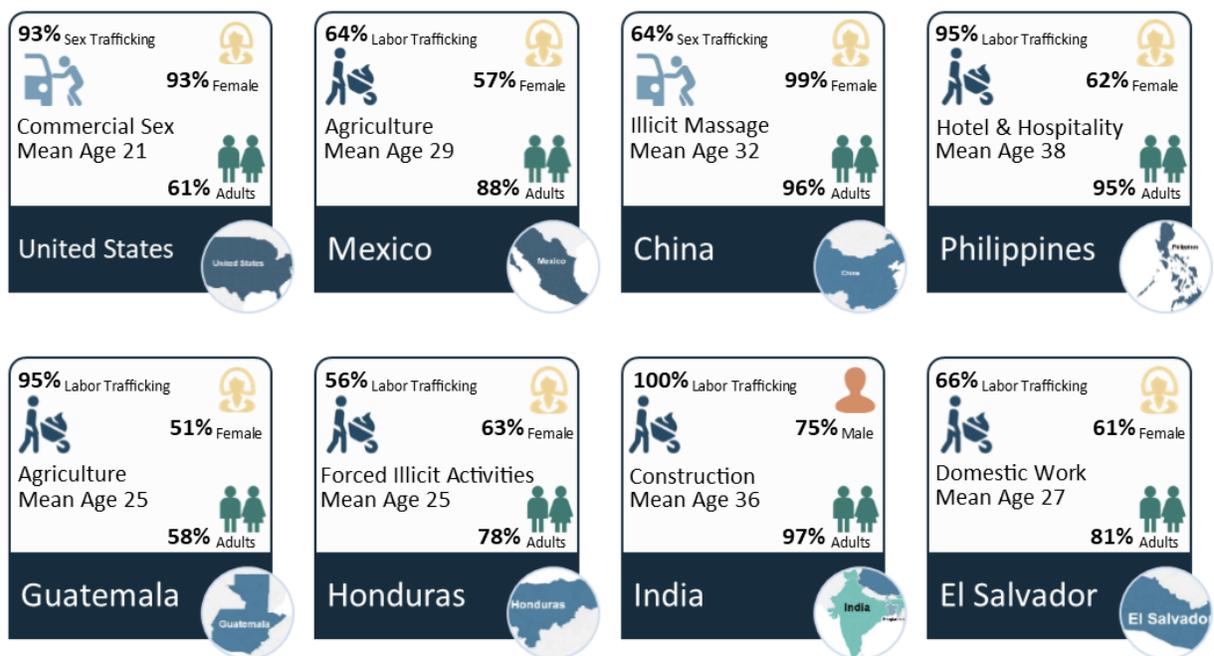
While the grantee data alone does not provide enough information to identify the causes for these fluctuations, additional research combining other data sources could shed light on the trends in this

dataset and potentially reveal correlation with other national or regional trends, such as migration patterns, industry changes, and impact of public awareness campaigns. The grantee data also reflects outreach strategies and tactics designed by community organizations reflective of local awareness levels, populations and markets vulnerable to human trafficking, and other geographic and time-specific considerations that may have influenced the victim identification and demographic data.

### Victimization Profiles Based on Country of Origin

Grantee data suggests that there are unique victimization profiles based on country of origin during the reporting period. Figure 9 details the most common demographics and exploitative experiences of those identified by Rescue & Restore grantees. The chart shows the most common demographic characteristics, including average age, gender, type of trafficking experienced, and industry where exploitation occurred for those identified from each of the most frequently reported countries of origin.

**Figure 10: Trafficking Victimization Profile in Commonly Reported Countries of Origin, FY 2008 – 2017**



### Differences in Exploitative Experience in Adults and Minors

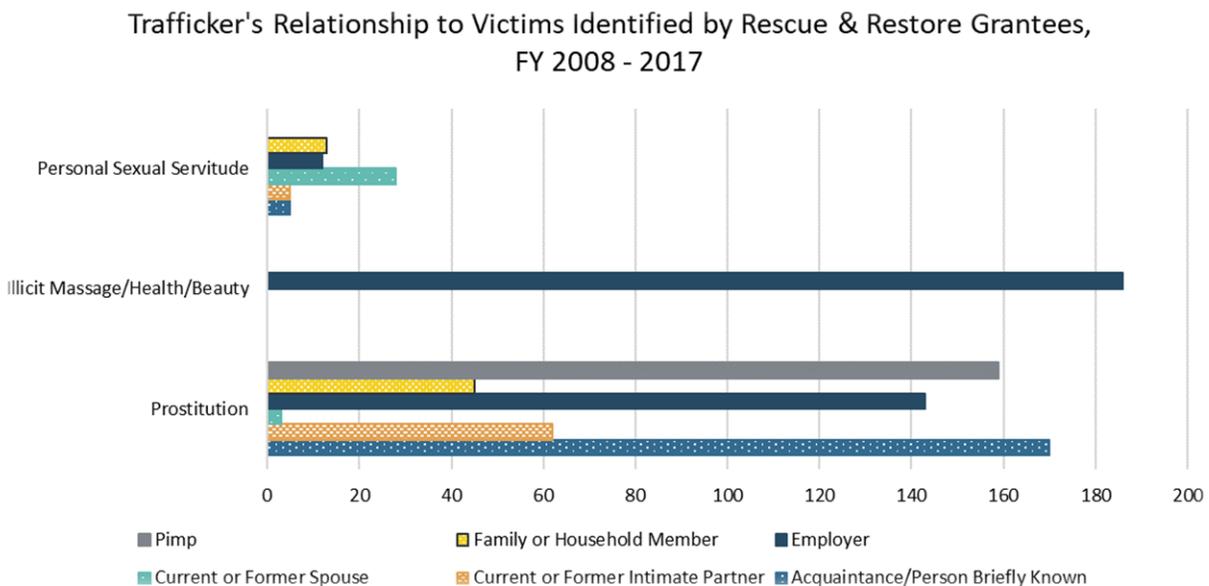
Grantee data suggests that there are differences in exploitative experiences between adults and minors who experience human trafficking. Among minors identified by grantees, exploitation commonly occurred through commercial sex, domestic work, forced criminal and illicit activities, and personal sexual servitude. Among adults, there was a greater diversity of industries — grantees reported that adults experienced human trafficking through commercial sex, domestic work, agriculture and field labor, illicit massage, health and beauty, construction, forced criminal and illicit activities, and the restaurant and food service industry.

## Individual's Relationship with Trafficker by Industry

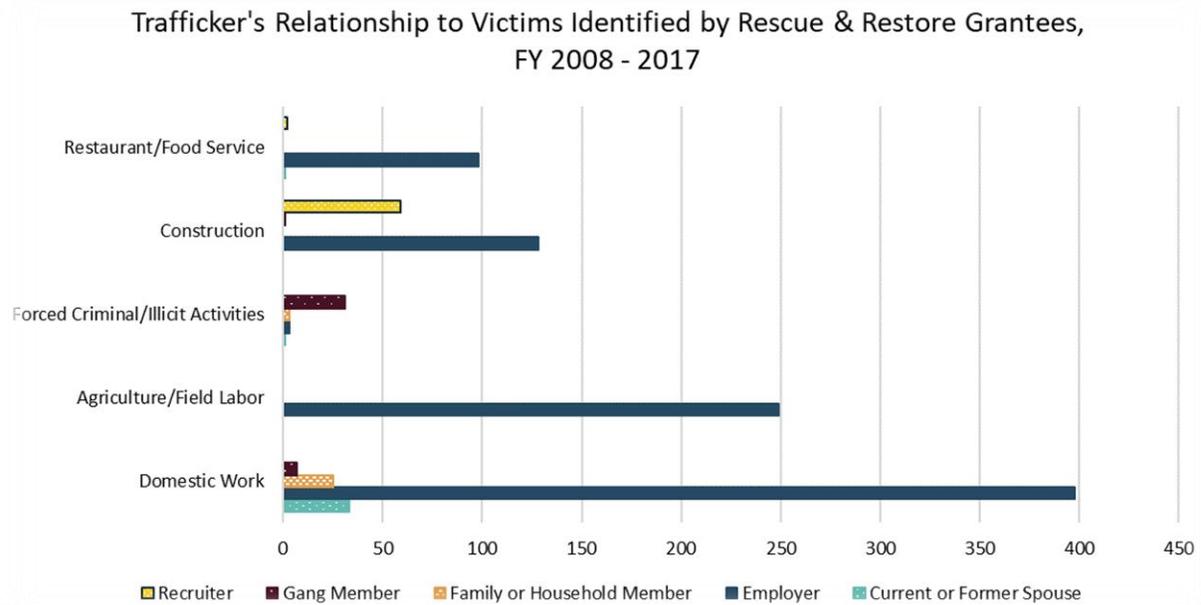
The type of relationship adults and minors had with their traffickers differed across industries.

- **Commercial Sex:** Most commonly, the trafficker was unknown to the individual or was an acquaintance acting as a pimp or playing the role of an employer, particularly in instances where the commercial sex took place in a brothel (see figure 11).
- **Personal Sexual Servitude:** The trafficker was often a current or former spouse, family or household member, or employer (see figure 11). In many instances, the trafficker was unknown to the individual.
- **Domestic work, agriculture and field labor, illicit massage, health and beauty, and restaurant and food service:** The trafficker was commonly reported as the employer of those individuals who experienced exploitation (see figure 12). **Domestic work:** In a minority of cases, individuals described the trafficker as a current or former spouse or as their family or household member (see figure 12).
- **Construction Industry:** The data shows a trend of traffickers acting as both recruiters and employers of those who experienced labor trafficking within the construction industry (see figure 12).
- **Forced Criminality:** In cases of forced criminality, the relationship between traffickers and those who experienced exploitation is often unknown or involves gang members or members of other organized, criminal enterprises (see figure 12).

**Figure 11: Relationship to Trafficker in Sex Trafficking Cases, FY 2008 – 2017**



**Figure 12: Relationship to Trafficker in Labor Trafficking Cases, FY 2008 – 2017**



### Referrals Provided by Grantees

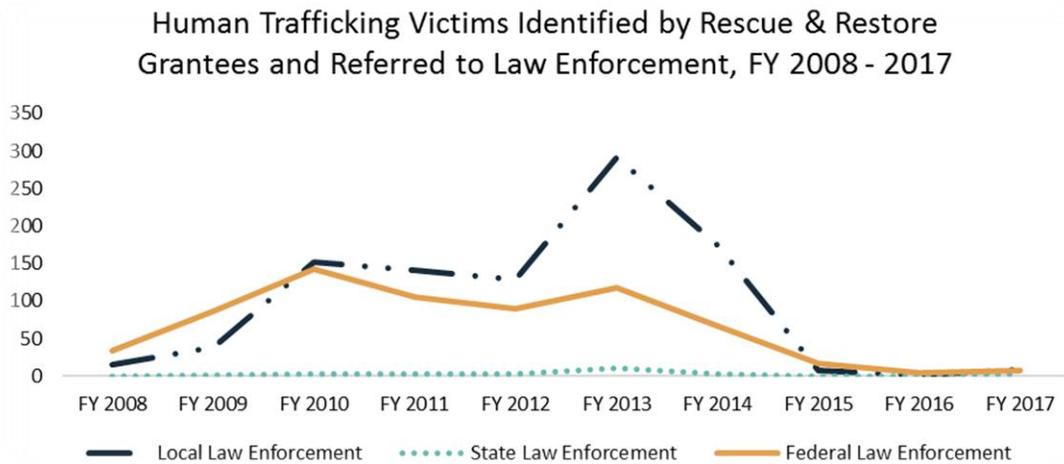
Upon identification, grantees connected those who experienced human trafficking and their family members to law enforcement, providers of legal services, and other service providers as requested by the individual.

#### Referrals to Law Enforcement

Grantees most commonly referred individuals who experienced sex trafficking to law enforcement (39%) while referring individuals who experienced labor (26%) or sex and labor (25%) trafficking to law enforcement at a lower rate.

43% of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents who experienced sex trafficking were referred to law enforcement, while only 29% of foreign nationals were referred. Similarly, 40% of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents who experienced labor trafficking were referred to law enforcement, compared to 24% of foreign nationals. Many factors could contribute to differences in requests for law enforcement referrals, including potential distrust for authorities due to experiences in their home country or within the United States.

**Figure 13: Grantee Referrals to Law Enforcement, FY 2008 – 2017**

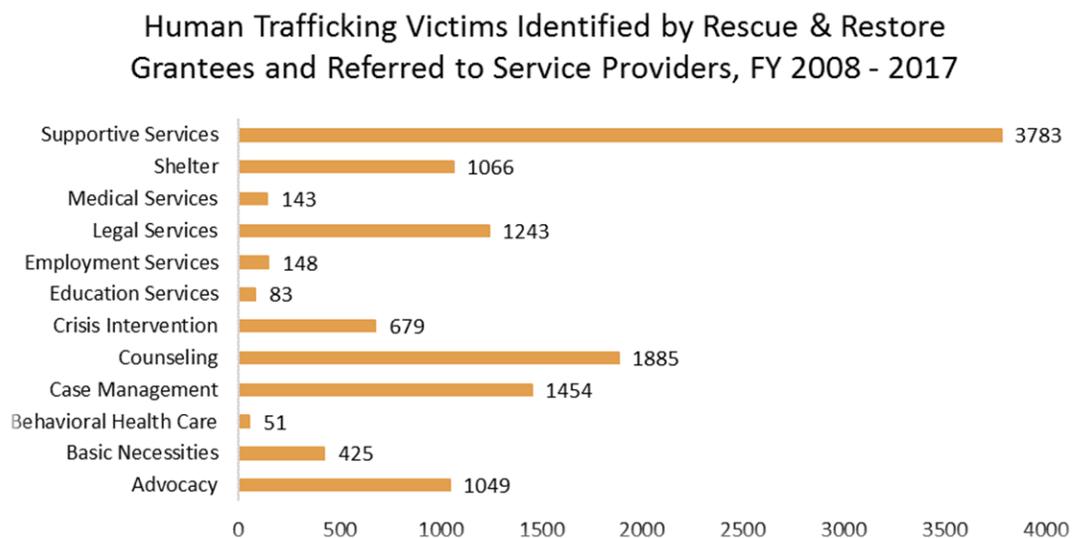


### Referrals to Other Services

While only 33% of those identified by Rescue & Restore grantees were referred to law enforcement, 91% were referred to organizations that provide advocacy, case management, and other services. Using a trauma-informed and person-centered approach, grantees provided individuals with information on resources available to them and allowed each person to determine which referrals they were ready to pursue.

Overall, grantees most commonly referred those identified to organizations providing supportive services (80%), counseling (40%), case management (31%), legal services (26%), shelter (23%), advocacy (22%), and crisis intervention (14%). Less commonly, individuals were referred to organizations providing basic necessities (9%), employment services (3%), medical services (3%), education services like English as a Second Language or GED preparation courses (2%), and behavioral health care (1%) (see figure 14).

**Figure 14: Referrals Provided upon Identification, FY 2008 – 2017**



## Long-Term Outcomes

Along with providing referrals, grantees attempted to remain in contact with those they identified to track long-term outcomes, such as whether the individual repatriated to their home country or obtained a letter of HHS Certification or Eligibility. Over the course of the grant (when known), 2% of foreign nationals identified repatriating to their home country while 19% reported obtaining HHS Certification or Eligibility.

## Further Research

The data provided by Rescue & Restore grantees offers an informative glimpse into who experienced human trafficking, the type of exploitation they experienced, and which referrals they needed at the time of their identification in specific geographic locations. While more research is needed to better understand and combat human trafficking and serve those who experience this form of victimization, this dataset along with other programmatic data could provide additional insights to inform anti-trafficking programs and policies.

**Appendix: Rescue and Restore Identification Data Table, FY 2008 – 2017**

Fiscal Year	Victims Identified	Age			Gender			Type of Trafficking Experienced			
		Adult	Minor	Unknown	Female	Male	Unknown	Sex	Labor	Sex & Labor	Unknown
2008	60	56	1	3	33	27	0	12	45	3	0
2009	214	183	22	9	114	100	0	72	135	7	0
2010	505	386	104	15	397	108	0	292	173	32	8
2011	443	287	141	15	369	73	1	289	113	17	24
2012	634	389	219	26	545	88	1	430	185	12	7
2013	763	543	199	21	637	125	1	561	188	9	5
2014	569	402	145	22	454	109	6	367	172	26	4
2015	515	403	65	47	361	153	1	213	258	34	10
2016	543	514	23	6	375	160	8	191	288	35	29
2017	481	450	23	8	354	125	2	208	212	40	21