



SHINE THE LIGHT

HUMAN TRAFFICKING CONFERENCE
MAY 15, 2018



Vista Maria



- Mission to provide care, treatment and education to vulnerable youth.
- Over 130 years of service to children and families throughout Michigan.
- Serve over 450 at-risk youth on a daily basis through a continuum of care.
- Over 15 years ~ treatment programs for ***domestic and refugee*** victims of trafficking.

Human Trafficking Defined by TVPA

Sex Trafficking

Commercial sex act induced by force, fraud or coercion, or in which person performing the act is under age 18 (proof of force, fraud or coercion not required).

Labor Trafficking

Using force, fraud or coercion to recruit, harbor, transport, obtain or employ a person for labor or services in involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery.

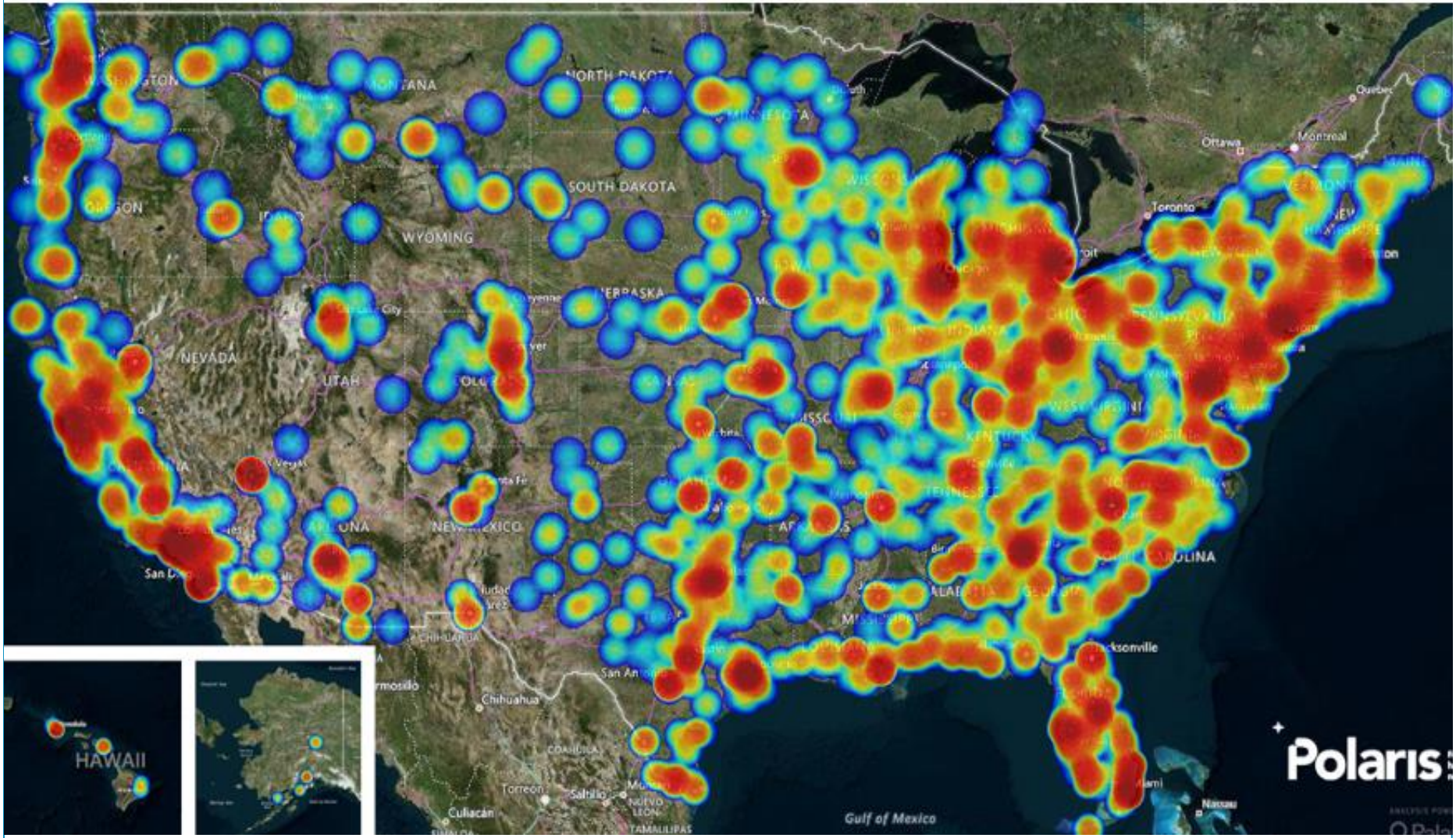
Human Trafficking whether sex or labor involves exploitation of an individual.

What is Child Sex Trafficking?



- Defined as “the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purposes of a commercial sex act.”
- Any youth under 18, who is exploited through commercial sex, where something of value such as money, drugs or a place to stay is traded for sexual activity is a victim of sex trafficking.

Trafficking in the U.S.



Vulnerable Youth



Child's age ~ females between 12 to 14 years
~ males between 9 to 12 years

Risk Factors for youth:

- Runaways and/or child welfare exposure
- Low self-esteem, social isolation, frequent internet use (posting/chatting),
- Risk taking behaviors,
- Conflict with parents/lack of family cohesion,
- Parental failure to monitor online activity,
- Children harassed or bullied into sexting, photos, etc.

Who are the Traffickers?



Sex traffickers & pimps are:

- Trusted adults or family members.
- “Boyfriends” and influential females.

Sex traffickers & pimps use:

- Pseudo relationships to ensure loyalty.
- Threats, abuse or intimidation.
- On and off line solicitation.
 - ✦ Parties
 - ✦ Teen “hang-outs”
 - ✦ Malls



Characteristics of Grooming



- **Manipulation**
 - Money, flattery, sexualized games, force or threats
 - Increase dependency on the trafficker
- **Accessibility**
 - Friendship – relationship
 - Exclusivity
 - Unconnected to everyday life
- **Rapport Building**
 - Replicate behavior to young persons beliefs or interests
 - Mutuality – learning together
 - Isolating



Trauma Survivors: Phases of Treatment



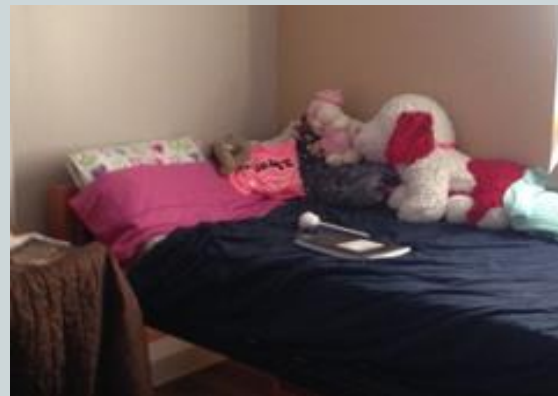
- Safety and stabilization
 - Suicidal and or self abusive episodes
 - Self mutilation
 - Addiction or self medicating
- Processing traumatic memories
 - Post traumatic stress disorder
 - Depression and or withdrawal
 - Severe misplaced emotional bonds (Stockholm Syndrome)
- Re-establishing positive social connections
 - Social networks
 - Employment
 - Permanent housing

Wings Treatment Program ~ October 2014



- **Treatment Housing opened** January of 2015.
- Launched/improved **emergency intake processes**.
- Served 53 clients in 2017.
 - Emergency intakes ~ 13 in 2016, 20 in 2017 and 11 2018 ytd.
 - Programming includes:
 - ✦ 9 mos. intensive therapy and schooling.
 - ✦ 9 mos. community reintegration and independent living.
- Today, 22 clients in residence.
- Planning additional treatment housing ~ 2018/2019.
(stabilization housing and emergency intake center)

Therapeutic Treatment Housing

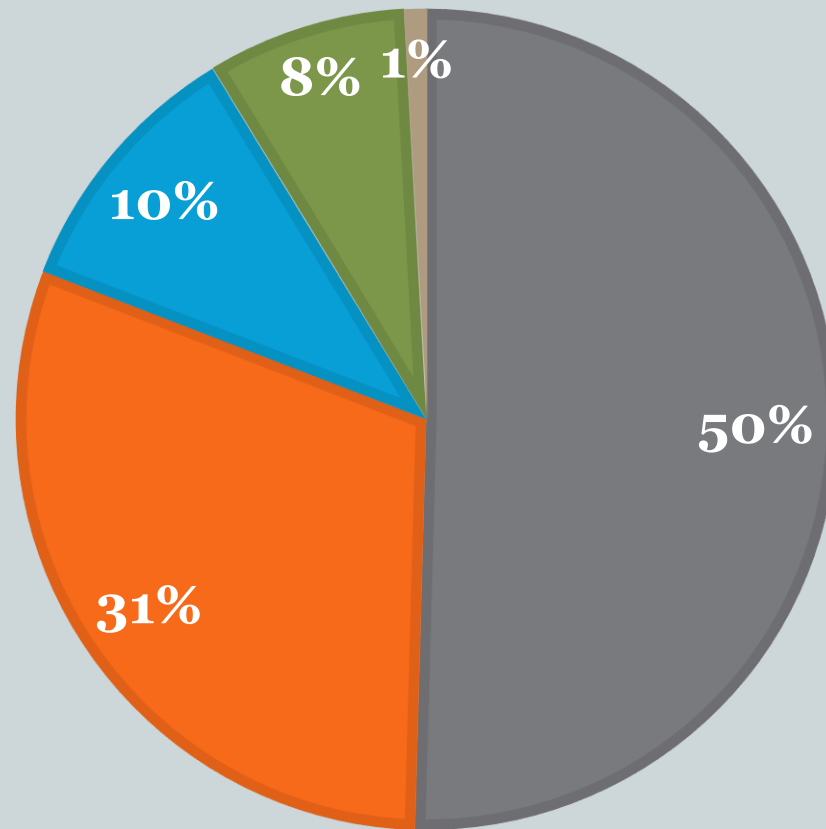


Demographics Wings Clients



RACE OF GIRLS SERVED SINCE 2015

■ African American ■ Caucasion ■ Hispanic ■ Bi-Racial ■ Native American

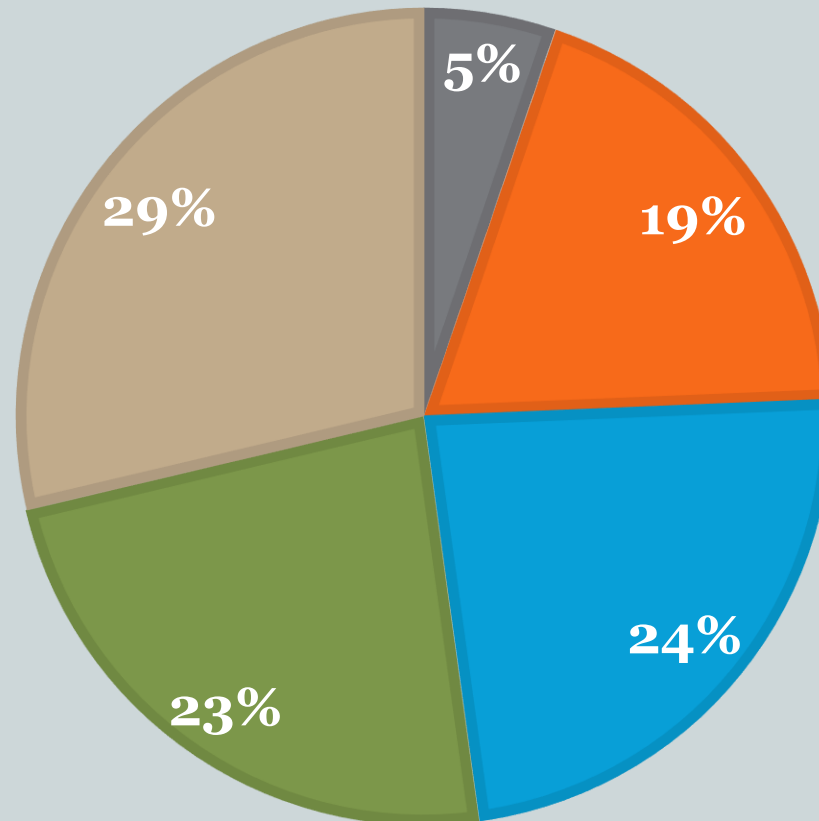


Demographics Wings Client



AGE OF GIRLS SERVED SINCE 2015

■ 12-13 ■ 14-15 ■ 16 ■ 17 ■ 18



Reporting, Reference and Questions

NHTRC

NATIONAL
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
RESOURCE CENTER

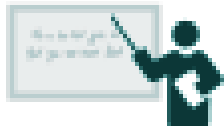
1-888-373-7888

Confidential, 24/7, toll-free hotline.

www.humantraffickinghotline.org



**REPORT
TRAFFICKING**



**ACCESS
TRAININGS**

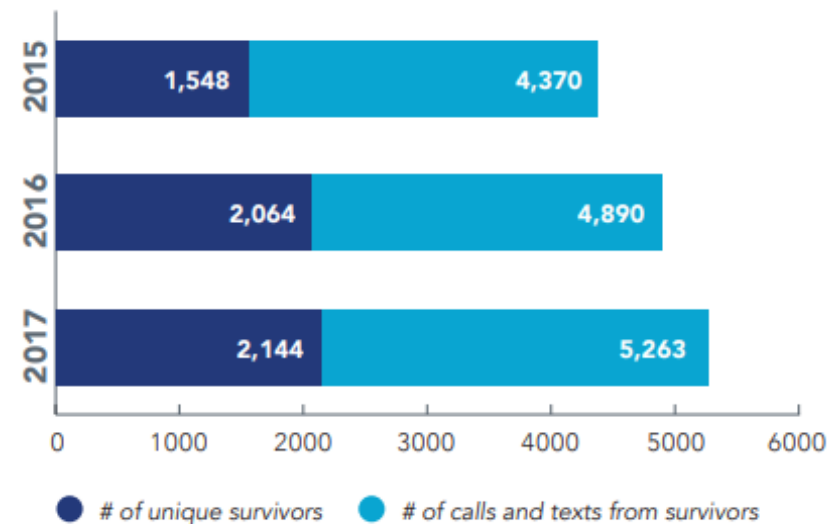


**INFORMATION
& RESOURCES**

Text BeFree (233733)



**SURVIVORS WHO CONTACTED THE
HOTLINE DIRECTLY, BY YEAR:**



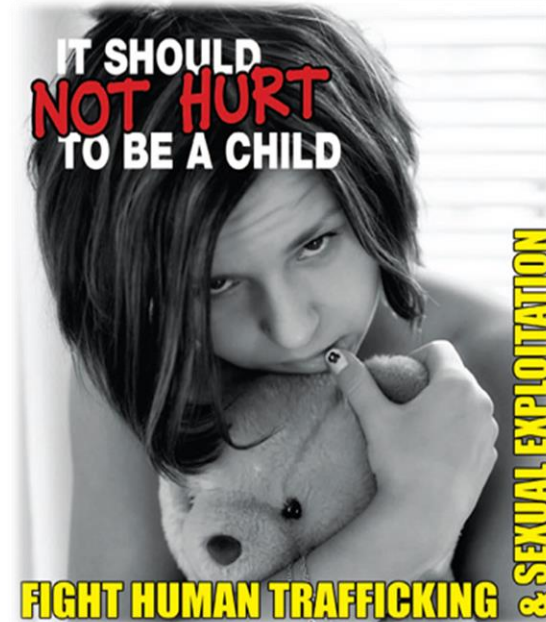
Resources



- **Vista Maria**
vistamaria.org
- **National Center for Missing and Exploited Children**
ncmec.org
- **National Human Trafficking Resource Center**
polarisproject.org
- **Slavery Footprint Made In a Free World**
Slaveryfootprint.org

References:

- Eliav and Smith – Internet sexual exploitation of children.
- Quayle, Allegro, Hutton, Sheath and Loof - Rapid skill acquisition and online sexual grooming of children.
- Wolak and Finkelhor, 2011 and 2013.
- NGO Alliance for Child Safety Online – literature review.



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