

Arizona Human Trafficking Council

Annual Report



2021



The Governor's Office
of Youth, Faith
and Family



Arizona Human
Trafficking Council

EndSexTrafficking.AZ.gov



STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
GOVERNOR

MARIA CRISTINA FUENTES
DIRECTOR

December 31, 2021

Governor Doug A. Ducey
1700 W Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor,

It has been an honor to serve as Co-Chair of the Arizona Human Trafficking Council. This report serves as a summary of the great work carried out by the members of the Council, its workgroups, and our state task forces during these unprecedented times. The expertise, talent and passion of these professionals continue to expand and improve our ability to prevent and respond to this heinous crime throughout Arizona.

On behalf of the council, and our former Co-Chairs, Mrs. Cindy McCain and former Director of Homeland Security Gil Orrantia, I am proud to share the outcomes and accomplishments of the Council for this calendar year. During the last year, the Council heard from issue-area experts on topics related to cyber security, law enforcement, victim services, current legislation, national responses to prevent and respond to human trafficking, and the impact of COVID-19. These presentations have helped inform the Council's understanding of human trafficking and strategies for further education, prevention, and intervention. We have also continued to deploy a statewide multi-disciplinary approach in our work efforts and we have continued to share Arizona's success stories nationally.

On behalf of the Council, the many other stakeholders across the state and the victims whose lives we seek to improve, I want to express gratitude for your commitment to the Council and your leadership in the fight to end trafficking. It is our hope that our continued efforts and collaborative partnerships increase prevention, improve the way we serve victims, increase successful prosecutions of traffickers, and better support all of those that are affected by this terrible crime.

Sincerely,

Maria Cristina Fuentes
Chair
Arizona Human Trafficking Council

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Arizona Human
Trafficking Council

COUNCIL PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE

Governor Doug Ducey indefinitely renewed the Arizona Human Trafficking Council by signing Executive Order 2015-12 on December 22, 2015. The Council is administered by the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family (GOYFF). The Council is charged with collecting and analyzing data on human trafficking in Arizona; developing recommendations to provide human trafficking victims with appropriate services; fostering greater collaboration among law enforcement, non-profit organizations, government agencies, and the community at large; promoting public awareness about human trafficking, victim services, and prevention; and working to develop and facilitate training for first responders, law enforcement, and professions who serve the citizens of Arizona. The following report captures the many accomplishments of the Council in 2021 and its collaborative partnerships in six broad areas: training, outreach and awareness, victim services, policy, state and national collaboration, and research.

In addition to full Council meetings, the Council further develops its work through four workgroups:

DATA & RESEARCH

The Data & Research Workgroup develops and facilitates training on the identification of, and response to, trafficking victims across the state. Trainings provided by this Workgroup are informed by research and promote multidisciplinary collaboration, including: education on the warning signs of human trafficking; state and local response resources; the issue of demand; school based prevention education; and a study of Arizona specific trafficking cases. The Workgroup is also charged with collecting and analyzing data on human trafficking in Arizona. This research is conducted by academic partners from Arizona State University and has explored important research questions regarding the impact of large sporting events. Other research has included exploring human trafficking among homeless youth, juvenile probationers, adult probationers, and Arizona-specific sex and labor trafficking cases.

OUTREACH & AWARENESS

The Outreach & Awareness Workgroup strives to expand public awareness and facilitate community engagement around the issue of human trafficking through community and stakeholder partnerships, presentations, outreach materials, education, volunteer training, special event coordination, and public service announcements. The Workgroup strives to ensure a shared community understanding, so that every citizen can aid in the identification of potential trafficking situations and work to create safe and accepting avenues for victims to disclose abuse, and connect victims to trauma-informed services to ensure healing.

POLICY

The Policy Workgroup strives to improve the quality and access to care received by victims to best meet victims' needs and ensure offender accountability by strengthening prosecution for traffickers and sex buyers. This Workgroup reviews current policy and develops recommendations on improving the quality of care for victims, as well as strengthening prosecution for traffickers and purchasers. Policies regarding human trafficking include: victim

protections, state statutes and city codes impacting criminal records, language and terms used to define and describe human trafficking, enhancing tools for law enforcement and prosecutors to find buyers and traffickers, and developing necessary services through legislative action. The Workgroup strives to unmask myths related to victims' rights, educate all Arizona State Legislators, and identify areas where collaboration can be improved.

VICTIM SERVICES

Through data collection, network mapping, and collaborative efforts, the Victim Services Workgroup enhances the network of services for human trafficking victims in Arizona. The Workgroup identifies gaps in care, engages new community partners, and ensures that victim services are survivor-informed, victim-centered, strength-based, and trauma-informed. Through a collaborative approach, the Workgroup works to identify and recommend solutions based on best practices in addressing lapses in victim services.

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

In accordance with Executive Order 2015-12, the Council is composed of individuals appointed by the Governor who serve at his pleasure without compensation. The following members currently serve on the Arizona Human Trafficking Council:

Maria Cristina Fuentes, *Chair*
Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family

Sarah Chung
Valley of the Sun United Way

Sarah Beaumont
Phoenix Children's Hospital

Lois Lucas
Catholic Charities

Nathaniel Brown
Navajo Nation Council

Zora Manjencich
Arizona Attorney General's Office

Marsha Calhoun
American Airlines

Rachel Mitchell
Maricopa County Attorney's Office

Heather Carter
Greater Phoenix Leadership

Sheila Polk
Yavapai County Attorney

Regina Cobb
Arizona State House of Representatives

Jill Rable
HonorHealth

Doug Coleman
Apache Junction Justice Court

Dominique Roe-Sepowitz
Arizona State University

Jennifer Crawford
Tucson Police Department

Tim Roemer
Arizona Department of Homeland Security

David Curry
Arizona Department of Transportation

T.J. Shope
Arizona State Senate

Michael Faust
Arizona Department of Child Safety

Heston Silbert
Arizona Department of Public Safety

Jim Gallagher
Phoenix Police Department

Brian Steele
Phoenix Dream Center

Don Herrington
Arizona Department of Health Services

Jim Waring
Phoenix City Council

Debbie Johnson
Arizona Office of Tourism

Michael Wisehart
Arizona Department of Economic Security

Joseph Kelroy
Administrative Office of the Courts

SUMMARY OF COUNCIL ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2021, the Council continued its work to educate the public on human trafficking, support victim services programs, and bring Arizona stakeholders together to improve Arizona's response to trafficking. As the COVID-19 Pandemic continued to impact our state, the Council adapted its operations to the changing environment and implemented innovative solutions to bring together stakeholders from across the state through virtual platforms to improve Arizona's response to trafficking.

CHANGES IN LEADERSHIP

In 2021 the Council experienced two transitions in leadership. In April 2021, Gilbert (Gil) Orrantia retired as Director of the Arizona Department of Homeland Security, after 11 years as Director and after 39 years in public safety. Director Orrantia and Mrs. McCain were the founding Co-Chairs of the Arizona Human Trafficking Task Force in 2013, which became the Arizona Human Trafficking Council in 2014. Their leadership of the Council over the last eight years has been crucial to the fight against trafficking in the state. Director Orrantia's creative thinking, problem solving, and ability to get a variety of stakeholders to work together to discuss best practices for victims of human trafficking was an integral part in the formation of the Arizona Human Trafficking Symposium. At the February 2021 Council Meeting, Governor Ducey recognized Gil with a Commendation for his dedication and tireless efforts to ensure Arizona was free of exploitation during his tenure as Co-Chair of the Council. The Council thanked him for his many years of selfless service to the community. Director Maria Cristina Fuentes of GOYFF was announced as the new Co-Chair of the Council.

Near the end of the year, upon her confirmation to serve as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture, Mrs. Cindy McCain resigned as Co-Chair of the Arizona Human Trafficking Council. Mrs. McCain has been a tireless advocate and leader in human trafficking prevention efforts in our state and around the world. During her tenure as Co-Chair, Mrs. McCain played an integral role in leading efforts to combat human trafficking and increase multi-agency collaboration to prevent and respond to trafficking in our state. She was also an adamant advocate for victims and the need to increase and improve services and support for those recovering from this heinous crime. Mrs. McCain's passionate advocacy, ability to rally leaders across sectors, and her support for survivors has had an immeasurable impact on anti-trafficking efforts across Arizona.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Throughout 2021, Council members organized and participated in a variety of activities that furthered the mission of preventing - and improving the state's response to - human trafficking. These events also provided learning opportunities for Council members and other stakeholders, and demonstrated how the Council's efforts are far reaching and applicable across the state and country.

Arizona Human Trafficking Prevention Month

Governor Doug Ducey proclaimed January 2021 as Human Trafficking Prevention Month to recognize Arizona's commitment to combatting human trafficking, protecting victims' rights, and restoring their freedom and dignity. Throughout the month, the Arizona State Capitol Dome was lit blue as part of a human trafficking public awareness campaign. Multiple municipalities, counties, and state agencies joined awareness efforts throughout the month by lighting their buildings blue and by circulating resources on recognizing the signs of human trafficking.

Additional resources and information can be accessed on the GOYFF website at endsextrafficking.az.gov.

Arizona Human Trafficking Council Symposium

The Council, in partnership with the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith, and Family and the McCain Institute for International Leadership, hosted the third annual Arizona Human Trafficking Council Symposium on January 28, 2021. The Symposium convened stakeholders from across Arizona to strengthen multidisciplinary collaboration efforts to improve the response to trafficking throughout the state.

The Symposium featured a panel on the Arizona Human Trafficking Regional Taskforces, a presentation on Changes in the Human Trafficking Landscape, and a panel on Victim Services and Service Providers. Regional Taskforce members from Coconino, Maricopa, Mohave, Pima, Pinal, and Yavapai counties shared how services in their regions adapted to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Additionally, they offered insight into enhancing collaboration among community partners to increase awareness of human trafficking. Victim service providers discussed the barriers their organizations had been experiencing during the pandemic, the survivor-informed techniques that drive their work, and how they provide assistance to at-risk populations. The symposium concluded by recognizing Sergeant Mark Doty with a Gubernatorial Commendation for his tireless efforts to ensure Arizona is free of exploitation during his 25-year career with the Phoenix Police Department and as a sergeant of the Human Exploitation and Trafficking Unit. Symposium attendees included representatives from law enforcement, health care, social services, non-profits, education, and government.

Arizona Board of Fingerprinting Training

On February 16, 2021, the Council hosted a training session on recidivism, specific to sex offenders, for the Arizona Board of Fingerprinting providing training to eight attorney's from the Arizona Board of Fingerprinting and the Maricopa County Attorney's Office. This training came as a recommendation of multiple discussions across our victim services workgroup, policy workgroup and insights from law enforcement partners. The training included information on risk factors for those who may engage in sexual contact with children and traits of someone who may have or could sexually violate a child; manipulation by abusers; and rehabilitation for abusers. The training was coordinated through the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family with the assistance from the Maricopa County Prosecutor's Office and the McCain Institute for International Leadership and is anticipated to be an on-going training opportunity between the partners.

Quarterly Regional Human Trafficking Task Force Meetings

The Council Co-Chairs convened four Quarterly Regional Human Trafficking Task Force Meetings in 2021. These meetings are designed to bring together the many regional task forces in Arizona to collaborate, exchange information and best practices, discuss needs, and update the Council on regional activities. Representatives of the following regional task forces participated in these meetings: Arizona Coalition of Victim Services, Central Arizona United to Stop Exploitation Taskforce, Coalition Against Human Trafficking in Northern Arizona, Flagstaff Initiative Against Trafficking, Phoenix Human Trafficking Taskforce, Pinal Alliance Against Trafficking Coalition, Southern Arizona Anti-Trafficking Unified Response Network, Yavapai County Trafficking Taskforce, Mohave County Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence Coalition, and the McCain Institute for International Leadership.

National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children & Youth in the United States

The National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States was established in 2017 pursuant to the [Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014](#). The Committee advises the U.S. Attorney General and the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services on practical and general policies that are designed to improve the nation's response to the sex trafficking of children and youth. Governor Ducey was appointed to the Committee in 2018 and remains the only elected official to serve on the Committee. In September 2020, the Committee published its interim report, [Best Practices and Recommendations for States](#). The interim report contained more than 127 recommendations to provide states with resources and examples to combat the sex trafficking of children. Additionally, the report included 34 recommendations for federal agencies. In March 2021, following the release of this report, the Committee requested that states assess the extent to which they have worked to address the sex trafficking of children and youth by completing the Committee's Recommendations and State Self-Assessment Survey. Through the collaborative efforts of the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family and its partners - Arizona State University's Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research (STIR), the McCain Institute for International Leadership, regional human trafficking task forces and coalitions, child welfare providers, law enforcement, victim service providers, tribal leaders, and other key stakeholder groups - Arizona submitted its survey response in August 2021. In 2022, the Committee will publish a final report describing the efforts of each state to implement its recommendations.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

During the past year, the Council heard from issue-area experts on topics related to victim services, law enforcement, national responses to combat human trafficking, and regional responses to human trafficking amid the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic. The Council continued to learn about best practices and ways to increase collaboration at the state level. This understanding has helped facilitate the Council's efforts to ensure that Arizona remains a leader in combatting human trafficking. Presentations included:

[Law Enforcement Agencies](#)

*State v. William James McElroy Jr.
Lacey Fischer, Maricopa County Attorney's Office
December 8, 2021*

The State v. William James McElroy Jr. case was prosecuted in 2021. William James McElroy, the defendant, was a career criminal with a history of violent offenses. On January 26, 2021, McElroy's minor trafficking victim was recovered by [Phoenix Police Department](#). However, prior to this date, the victim and the defendant's niece, interacted with law enforcement entities on three occasions and were not identified as trafficking victims. Throughout this time the victims suffered ongoing threats by Mr. McElroy and additional victimization. If responding patrol officers would have had the benefit of additional training specific to the identification of trafficking victims, the victims - and perpetrator - could have likely been identified sooner.

Once the victim was identified and recovered, the investigation on Mr. McElroy uncovered a slew of victims in his past whom he had threatened or intimidated to cooperate with his endeavors. He was also successful in victim and witness intimidation with the goal of impeding investigations and prosecution. Fortunately the detective on this case worked very diligently to follow-up on threats and ensure these victims felt comfortable to testify.

Once the victims were identified, because of victim-centered and deliberate work by law enforcement throughout the investigation and trial, this case yielded a successful prosecution, which resulted in a 141 years in prison sentence for the defendant.

Studying the life of this case offers the following lessons and recommendations to improve upon investigations and prosecution in the future:

1. Increase training for law enforcement - perhaps at the academy so they are ready on day 1, and throughout the department - with the goal of improving victim identification and response.
2. Improve the process - and increase number of instances - where prosecutors carefully and deliberately consider requests for protective orders on certain information related to cases, victims and/or witnesses with the goal of minimizing the use of case related information for threats and intimidation of witnesses.
3. Increase investment and presence of victim advocates to aid in the victim-centered approach, building trust and support for victims throughout the investigation and trial processes.

*Law Enforcement Preparedness for Large Events: Super Bowl LVII
Mary Gleason, Federal Bureau of Investigation
October 20, 2021*

The FBI is an intelligence-driven and threat-focused national security organization with both intelligence and law enforcement responsibilities. The FBI gathers, shares, and analyzes intelligence, both to support its own investigations and those of its partners to better understand and combat the security threats facing the United States.

The Greater Phoenix Area Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Task Force operates out of the FBI field office in Phoenix. The Task Force brings together a variety of law enforcement agencies to address and combat human trafficking. In September 2021, the FBI began working with Phoenix, Mesa, Tempe, Chandler, and Scottsdale law enforcement agencies to initiate planning for Super Bowl LVII. They will also be connecting with the Glendale Police Department, the Arizona Department of Public Safety, and prosecutors from Maricopa County and the U.S. Attorney's Office regarding training, education, and messaging for this event.

Large gatherings such as the Super Bowl are identified by the FBI as a Level 1 Special event due to their national significance. Level 1 Special Events require interagency support, and a designated stand-up unit. In preparation for Super Bowl LVII, the FBI is working to:

- Develop consistent messaging across agencies
- Identify best practices to address the threat of trafficking
- Discourage trafficking activities
- Rescue individuals being trafficked
- Conduct outreach to hotels in the area to educate staff on trafficking awareness and prevention
- Create and distribute reference cards for local law enforcement which includes indicators of trafficking as well as trafficking hotlines

In collaboration with the FBI Special Events Coordinator, the team will train Super Bowl LVII staff and volunteers, and they will be partnering with field offices that have previously supported Level 1 events to enhance preparation and planning for Super Bowl LVII, and other large events throughout the community.

Criminal Enterprises and Illicit Massage Businesses

*Chad Brink, Arizona Attorney General's Office
September 22, 2021*

[The Arizona Attorney General's Office \(AGO\)](#), in collaboration with the [Arizona Financial Crimes Task Force](#), has been involved in illicit business investigations for the past seven years with a focus on money laundering to uncover the criminal organizations involved with human trafficking. During this time, they have uncovered a large network of wire transfers in and out of the country through nonprofit organizations, ATMs, and real estate designed to launder funds for illicit activities. During these investigations, the AGO has seen an increasing trend in the use of electronic banking and the use of virtual currencies for human trafficking activity.

The [State of California Department of Justice](#) recorded an increase from \$5.3 million in 2008 to over \$135 million in 2014 in “adult services advertising” on Backpage. This accounted for 90% of Backpage’s annual revenue. The investigation led to the imposition of anti-money laundering regulations on Backpage. Following the investigation, Visa, Mastercard, American Express, and other major money services declined business with Backpage, and Backpage began using Bitcoin as its main currency. Though Backpage is no longer operational, this illustrates the need for law enforcement to continue investigating these criminal trends and gain a better understanding of digital currencies. As digital currency continues to expand, victim rescue operations, customer reduction operations, and illicit massage business investigations will become more resource-intensive and time-sensitive.

Cyber Security Update

*Director Tim Roemer, Arizona Department of Homeland Security
September 22, 2021*

In April 2021, Arizona’s cyber security operations were moved from the [Arizona Department of Administration](#) to the [Arizona Department of Homeland Security \(AZDOHS\)](#), and the cyber security team was integrated into the [Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center \(ACTIC\)](#). ACTIC, operated by the [Arizona Department of Public Safety \(DPS\)](#), bringing together state and local law enforcement, as well as federal partners like the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). In October 2021, Governor Ducey launched Arizona’s new Cyber Command Center at ACTIC to serve as Arizona’s headquarters for coordinating statewide cybersecurity operations. The center is a central location for cybersecurity professionals and local, state, and federal agencies to prevent and respond to cyberattacks, providing an ideal location to enhance public-private partnerships that protect Arizonans against cyberthreats.

Data breaches occur when cybercriminals gain unauthorized access to computers or networks and steal private, sensitive, or confidential personal and financial data. As technology and digital spaces continue to evolve, there is an increased need to provide education to individuals on the signs of phishing, the importance of strengthening password protections, and methods to protect personal information.

National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System

*Bonnie Locke
September 22, 2021*

The [National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System \(NLETS\)](#) is a not-for-profit computer-based message switching system that links together and supports every state, local, and federal law enforcement, justice, and public safety agency for the purposes of sharing and exchanging critical information. The types of data being exchanged varies from motor vehicle and drivers' data, to Canadian and Interpol databases located in Lyon France, to state criminal history records and driver license and corrections images. Operations consist of more than 1.6 billion transactions a year to over 1 million PC, mobile and handheld devices in the U.S. and

Canada at 45,000 user agencies and to 1.3 million individual users. NLETS includes representation from all fifty states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and Canada along with numerous federal agencies and various associate members.

NLETS recently began engaging in discussions with the [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children \(NCMEC\)](#) and [Polaris](#) to support increased collaboration of relevant human trafficking information with law enforcement.

Human Exploitation Unit

Detective Mike Russo, Chandler Police Department

June 2, 2021

The [Human Exploitation Unit](#) of the Chandler Police Department was established in 2015. The Human Exploitation Unit works to detect, investigate and rescue juveniles and adults who are victims of human trafficking, primarily for purposes of illicit sexual acts. To meet these objectives, the Human Exploitation Unit uses several investigative techniques to capture serious offenders responsible for recruiting, physically abusing, and controlling individuals into a life of prostitution. The Chandler Police Department employs a task force model through the East Valley Human Trafficking Task Force (EVHTTF) to support the efforts of the Human Exploitation Unit and enhanced agency collaboration, which places Arizona ahead of many other states.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the department shifted many of its operations into a virtual format. Over the past year, the Human Exploitation Unit has conducted multiple human exploitation investigations, including the following:

- In February 2021, the Human Exploitation Unit engaged in a case involving a trafficking suspect who was trying to lure a victim into the life of prostitution in St. Louis, Missouri, by providing the victim with transportation. In coordination with the [Federal Bureau of Investigation \(FBI\)](#) and other agencies, the suspect was apprehended.
- In May 2021, the Human Exploitation Unit investigated a case involving an inmate using smuggled digital devices to make contact with the outside world to traffic women. The devices were seized and prosecutors are working toward extending the inmate's time in prison.

In cooperation with the FBI, the Chandler Police Department's Human Exploitation Unit trained law enforcement organizations in Idaho to support the establishment of units that specialize in human trafficking.

Human Exploitation and Trafficking Unit

Sergeant Nick Lien, Mesa Police Department

June 2, 2021

The [Human Exploitation and Trafficking \(HEaT\) Unit of the Mesa Police Department](#) was established to combat the rising activity surrounding sex trafficking within the City of Mesa. Throughout 2021, the Mesa HEaT Unit engaged in multiple sting operations, including Operation Leather Mitt, Operation No Name, Operation Labor of Love, Operation On the Flip Side, Operation Trigger Point, and Operation Broken Hearts. Operation Leather Mitt was a cost-effective and short-term operation with limited resources that resulted in six arrests: four for domestic minor sex trafficking and two for luring for child sexual exploitation. Operation No Name is an ongoing multi-national and multi-state investigation with a large Mesa Police Department and Phoenix Police Department presence. As of June 2021, the operation issued 23 search warrants and made 23 arrests. In addition to the arrests, 14 victims have been rescued through Operation No Name.

Operation Broken Hearts
Lieutenant Dave Saflar, Phoenix Police Department
June 2, 2021

Operation Broken Hearts was a multi-agency undercover virtual operation involving the [Phoenix Police Department](#), [Chandler Police Department](#), [Homeland Security Investigations](#), [Tempe Police Department](#), [Mesa Police Department](#), and the [Arizona Attorney General's Office](#).

Throughout the operational period of one week, officers and detectives targeted the demand for child sex crimes and human trafficking by placing advertisements on websites and apps commonly sought out by suspects seeking illegal sex acts with children. The suspects that solicited and/or made deals for various sex acts were subsequently arrested. In total, 37 suspects were arrested, ranging from 21 to 66 years of age. The department has recently shifted its operations approach to encourage communication between different units to ensure more successful sentencing for those involved in human trafficking.

Human Exploitation Unit
Sergeant Nick Alamshaw, Scottsdale Police Department
June 2, 2021

The [Scottsdale Police Department](#) launched its [Human Exploitation Unit](#) in June 2021 as a priority of the new police chief, Jeff Walther. The Human Exploitation Unit is utilizing a multidisciplinary approach to proactively and reactively identify and rescue children and adults who are the victims of sex trafficking, computer-facilitated sexual exploitation, prostitution, and [Internet Crimes Against Children \(ICAC\)](#). The Unit falls under the Crimes Against Persons Division of the department and operates out of the [Scottsdale Family Advocacy Center](#). The Human Exploitation Unit engages in Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Operations, Child Sexual Exploitation Operations/Investigations, Proactive Investigations, Hotel/Parking Lot Operations, Buyer Enforcement Operations, Community Education, First Responder Education, Patrol Education, and Community Partnerships.

[Policy Improvements](#)

Update: Arizona's Child and Youth Sex Trafficking Report Card
Rachel Mitchell, Maricopa County Attorney's Office
December 8, 2021

On November 17, 2021 [Shared Hope International](#) released its [Report Cards on Child & Youth Sex Trafficking on the 50 states](#). All states received overall grades of "D" and "F", except FL who received a "C." Arizona received an "F" grade in all categories of the [report card](#). A review by Ms. Mitchell identified inconsistencies in Shared Hope International's assessment of Arizona, particularly in the matters concerning criminal law in the state.

In criminal law, it is important to remember that it is not found in just one section of the law, but rather it is a collection of the law that includes statutes of general and specific applicability, criminal rules of procedure, rules of evidence, caselaw, and the federal and state constitutions. A deep understanding of the collection of criminal law can provide a better picture of Arizona against Shared Hope International's assessment. A full summary of Ms. Mitchell's presentation can be found in the meeting minutes. However, some notable points include:

1. Shared Hope International Policy Goal 1.2 states that "Arizona's commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) laws do not criminalize purchasing or soliciting commercial sex with a minor." This is a false claim. When coupled with the definition of prostitution under [A.R.S. § 13-3211](#), Arizona aligns with Shared Hope International's aim of enacting CSEC laws that criminalize the purchasing or soliciting commercial sex with

a minor. Additionally, Arizona has also codified [A.R.S. § 13-3554](#) to address the luring of a minor for sexual exploitation.

2. Policy Goal 1.3 recommends that Arizona “enact a CSEC law that addresses an array of exploitive conduct engaged in by traffickers.” Shared Hope International’s assessment ignores [A.R.S. § 13-3212](#) and other laws that encompass and address an array of exploitive conduct engaged in by traffickers.
3. Policy Goal 1.6 claims that “Arizona’s trafficking law does not expressly allow for business entity liability.” When looking at [A.R.S. § 13-105](#) there are definitions that affect all of Arizona’s criminal statutes. Here the definition of a “person” is not only defined as a human being, but is also extended to apply to a business. Therefore, businesses in Arizona can be held liable under state trafficking laws. One of the statutes that is used to go after these illegal enterprises is [A.R.S. § 13-2312](#), which prohibits the profiting of racketeering. Both child sex trafficking and sex trafficking are covered under the definition of racketeering in [A.R.S. § 13-2301](#). Shared Hope International claims in Policy Goal 2.8 that “Arizona law does not provide child sex trafficking victims with an affirmative defense to violent felonies committed as a result of their trafficking victimization.” As previously discussed, this claim is false. Arizona allows for duress defense as well as justification for the use of deadly physical force under [A.R.S. § 13-405](#) and the justification for the use of force in preventing crime under [A.R.S. § 13-411](#). Providing greater immunity to victims can motivate traffickers to pressure victims to be the ones to commit more crimes.
4. Policy Goal 5.1 recommends that Arizona “amend state law to provide a hearsay exception that applies to non-testimonial evidence in cases involving commercial sexual exploitation of children under 18 years of age.” Arizona had a statute that would allow this under A.R.S. § 13-1416, but was ruled unconstitutional due to an issue of separation of powers. In Arizona, the legislature does not make the rules of evidence, rather that power is delegated by the state constitution to the state supreme court. This recommendation also has federal constitutional implications which could run afoul of the law, particularly with the sixth amendment.
5. Policy Goal 5.2 recommends that Arizona “strengthen existing statutory protections to allow all commercially sexually exploited children to testify by an alternative method regardless of the child’s age and the offense charged.” Arizona already has the means to do this, but it is limited to children under the age of 15, in [A.R.S. § 13-4253](#). Shared Hope International’s report also makes no mention of the following efforts Arizona has taken: advanced forensic interviewing training, law enforcement academy training by prosecutors, and the STRENGTH Court program

Without the additional context, some of which is outlined in this presentation, the report provides a bleak outlook on Arizona’s efforts even though the Council and its members have made significant progress over the years to prevent trafficking, improve the identification and prosecution of these crimes and support victims. The State of Arizona, and this Council, care deeply about combating trafficking and work tirelessly to support victims.

*Children’s Justice Task Force and Omnibus Bill
Rachel Mitchell, Maricopa County Attorney’s Office
April 7, 2021*

The [Children's Justice Act \(CJA\)](#) provides grants to states to improve the investigation, prosecution, and judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect, particularly child sexual abuse and exploitation, in a way that limits additional trauma to the child victim. This includes the handling of child fatality cases in which child abuse or neglect is suspected. As a requirement of the CJA, the [Children's Justice Task Force \(CJTF\)](#), was enacted through [Executive Order 2020-05](#), serving as Arizona's Multidisciplinary Task Force on children's justice. The Task Force is comprised of representatives from specific fields of service involved in handling child abuse and neglect cases.

As part of the CJA, the CJTF was tasked with conducting a three-year statewide assessment to identify large-scale issues in Arizona and establish recommendations regarding system improvements to the investigation, prosecution, and judicial handling of child abuse cases within the state. The assessment was launched in the spring of 2021 and resulted in policy, training, and system improvement recommendations for the investigation and prosecution of serious child abuse cases, as defined by [federal](#) statutes.

In 2019, Governor Ducey established the [Justice for Victims of Child Sexual Abuse Task Force](#) to provide recommendations to the state for further reforms to ensure victims are entitled to safety, healing, justice, and restitution. Many recommendations from the Task Force were included in [Senate Bill 1660](#), known as the Omnibus Bill, which includes requiring the [Arizona Department of Child Safety \(DCS\)](#) to ensure children eight years of age and older receive materials and resources about sexual abuse, child sex trafficking, and exploitation within 30 days of placement in out-of-home care.

[Research & Assessments](#)

2021 Youth Experiences Survey Study
Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz, Arizona State University
December 8, 2021

The 8th Annual [Youth Experiences Survey \(YES\) study](#) was administered by the [Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research at Arizona State University \(STIR\)](#) to determine service needs for particularly vulnerable populations and explore the prevalence of sex and labor exploitation. The average age of the study participants was 21.2 years old, 56.2% identified as female, and 33.7% identified as male. Over half of the participants, 53.9%, reported being raised in Arizona. 40.4% of the participants, or two out of every five, reported experiencing one form of exploitation. The full study can be found [here](#). Some highlights from the study include:

- The age in which participants experienced homelessness for the first time ranged from four to 23 years old, with the average age being 17.
- 46.1% of the participants reported experiencing homelessness for the first time under the age of 18.
- 12.4% of the participants reported experiencing both sex and labor exploitation.
- 23.6% of the participants reported experiencing sex trafficking, with the age range in which they experienced their first sex trafficking from 12 to 21 years old. The average age being 16.9 years old.
- Participants reported being sex trafficked for a place to stay, money, drugs, food, protection, and clothing.
- 33.3% of participants identified their relationship to their sex trafficker as being a friend, which was higher than the relationship of boyfriend compared to previous years' studies.
- Technology is often used as a tool to exploit victims of sex trafficking. 49.4% reported that technology was used to facilitate their exploitation.

- 23.6% of the participants also reported experiencing labor trafficking, with the age range in which they experienced their first labor exploitation experience being from 12 to 20 years old. The average age being 16 years old.
- The sectors of labor exploitation included domestic servitude, drug related, agriculture, child care, petty theft, restaurant, selling goods, and call center.
- Participants who experienced labor exploitation were significantly more likely to report attempting suicide, being kicked out for using substances, and having a current medical issue.

The data continues to show that the homeless young adult population is overrepresented by individuals who identify as LGBTQIA+. Participants who identified as LGBTQIA+ were significantly more likely to report: engaging in self-harm, attempted suicide, mental health diagnosis, anxiety diagnosis, and harrasment by peers. The findings of the 2021 YES study demonstrate the significant toll that homelessness takes on this young adult population, with addiction to substances prevalent post-homelessness and the presence of significant mental health challenges indicating that participants' ability to cope is being overwhelmed. The findings consistently demonstrate that this population is at an increased risk of sex trafficking and labor exploitation, due to the multitude of life challenges present as well as the pressing necessity for basic needs to be met, particularly money, shelter, and food. Efforts such as street outreach, mobile resource units, and drop-in centers can serve as touchpoints for prevention and intervention.

Juvenile Sex Trafficking Screening Tool
Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz, Arizona State University
December 8, 2021

The [Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research at Arizona State University \(STIR\)](#) in partnership with the [Maricopa County Juvenile Court System](#) developed a [Juvenile Sex Trafficking Screening Tool](#). From November 2017 to August 2020, the Maricopa County Juvenile Court System screened 12,340 youth using the 17-question screening tool. The predictive accuracy of the model with all the indicators as significant factors is 99.68%. It has been determined that the following six questions have the highest likelihood of identifying a sex trafficking victim:

- Uses any terminology referencing sex trafficking
- Personal items (hotel keys, large amounts of cash or gift cards, condoms, lubricants, lingerie, etc);
- Located with an adult that is not related to the youth or in a relationship with a much older person;
- Clothed inappropriately;
- The juvenile is unable to freely contact friends and family; and
- Indications in the police report that the juvenile may be trafficked.

If a juvenile self-discloses or there are reports by a family member, treatment provider, school, or another juvenile that the youth is being sex trafficked, the screening tool directs the screener to make a mandatory report to DCS and law enforcement, as well as not proceed with the screening tool. STIR is working with the [Administrative Office of the Courts](#) and juvenile probation experts around the state to integrate this screening tool. STIR is working with DCS on how they can integrate the tool into their work as well.

Arizona Human Trafficking Needs Assessment
Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz and Kimberly Hogan, Arizona State University
April 7, 2021

Through funding distributed by the [Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family \(GOYFF\)](#)'s STOP Grant Program, the [Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research at Arizona State University \(STIR\)](#) completed the [Human Trafficking in Arizona: Needs Assessment for Services and Training](#) in February 2021. Victim serving organizations across Arizona were surveyed regarding their ability to provide services for victims of human trafficking. The survey also collected information about what victim serving agencies needed to better serve victims of human trafficking. The survey was conducted with the participation of 100 victim-serving organizations in Arizona.

Highlighted outcomes of the assessment include:

- 81% of surveyed organizations report having the capacity to provide services to victims of sex trafficking.
- 29% of surveyed organizations provide services to victims of labor trafficking.
- Training, more clinical treatment for victims, and funding are the largest needs for organizations providing services to victims of sex trafficking and labor trafficking.

Recommendations from the assessment include:

- Creating victim-centered and trauma-informed sex and labor trafficking awareness training.
- Establishing sex and labor trafficking-specific screening protocols for juveniles and adults.
- Establishing sex and labor trafficking-specific clinical treatment interventions.
- Establishing sex and labor trafficking-specific programs for adults.
- Identifying social policies that provide funding support and service for adults and juvenile victims of sex and labor trafficking.
- Hosting events in a hybrid manner (video conferencing and in-person) on an annual or quarterly basis to provide training, share best practices, and make connections to increase capacity to serve human trafficking victims.

[State Partnerships](#)

[Business Community](#)

Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Garrick Taylor, Consultant

December 8, 2021

One of the primary functions of the [Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry](#) is to advocate for a competitive business environment in Arizona. That environment is disrupted, and is put at risk, with active threats of criminal enterprises engaged in smuggling of goods, people and trafficking. To aid in combating these crimes, the Arizona Chamber became part of [United to Safeguard America from Illegal Trade \(USA-IT\)](#).

USA-IT is a partnership between public and private sector organizations to protect Americans' security and prosperity from black market criminals. The impetus behind this partnership was the trafficking of illegal and counterfeit goods, which has become a critical issue relating to supply chain challenges and our country's security. For example, cigarette smuggling provides quick capital for networks to grow from one illegal activity to another including trade in arms, people, drugs, oil, antiques, and other illegal products. These criminal enterprises are very sophisticated. Traffickers that establish routes for illegal goods use the routes for the trafficking of people.

The Arizona Chamber is also very integrated in the tourism and transportation industries throughout the state. It supports initiatives to educate employees on the signs of trafficking. Through these efforts, Arizona businesses can ensure that tourist destinations in the state are not leveraged or exploited as liaison points for criminal activity.

[Victim Services](#)

CARE 7

Anastasia Stinchfield and Julia Martin, City of Tempe

June 2, 2021

[CARE 7](#) began in 1997 as a collaborative effort between [Tempe Police Department](#) and [Tempe Fire Medical Rescue](#) to respond to and address community calls outside the scope of law enforcement and emergency medical services. Over the last 24 years, CARE 7 has expanded its services in the following areas: domestic violence, auto accidents, sexual and physical assaults, suicides, homicides, residential fires, drownings, and other unexpected deaths. CARE 7 Programs provide on-scene assistance, support, and follow-up resources to meet a variety of needs through the Crisis Response Unit, Victim Services, Case Management and Veterans Services, High School Youth Specialists, and Trauma-Informed Care programming.

CARE 7 prides itself on its "Continuum of Care", providing support, assistance and referrals to community members in crisis. As part of CARE 7's efforts to pivot based on the needs of Tempe residents, a [YouTube channel](#) was established to provide trauma-informed support through a series of videos as part of their [COVID Care programming](#).

My Life My Choice Program

Kate Wyatt, Northland Family Help Center

February 18, 2021

The [Northland Family Help Center \(NFHC\)](#) in Flagstaff, Arizona, provides a safe haven, advocacy, counseling, and education to promote and restore healthy relationships. NFHC programs and services include the Domestic Violence Shelter, Youth Shelter, and the [Flagstaff Initiative Against Trafficking \(FIAT\)](#). Recently, NFHC engaged the juvenile probation department to increase youth engagement and outcomes.

The NFHC Domestic Violence Shelter provides housing for up to four months for individuals who are experiencing domestic violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking. People of all gender identities are welcome along with their children. The Youth Shelter is a 15-bed facility for runaway and homeless youth in the care of the Arizona Department of Child Safety and youth involved with the juvenile justice system. FIAT began in 2017 as a community collective of professional service providers and volunteers who want to end Human Trafficking. FIAT focuses its efforts on community education and support for trafficking survivors. As NFHC's programmatic work expanded, the My Life My Choice program was launched based on the need for more focused prevention efforts to help end human trafficking. NFHC has used funding through the Prevention Solution Fellowship to focus on staff training, program development, and curriculum for youth.

[Tribal Nations](#)

COVID-19 Update

Delegate Nathaniel Brown, Navajo Nation

February 18, 2021

The Navajo Nation has made great strides towards combating human trafficking in the last several years through the support of the Arizona Human Trafficking Council and partnerships developed through engagement with the Council. The [23rd Navajo Nation Council](#) approved [Resolution No. CJY-48-17](#), amending Title 17 of the Navajo Nation Code, which criminalizes human trafficking activities and includes provisions to strengthen Navajo Nation jurisdiction over non-Navajos who commit acts of human trafficking, coercion, or kidnapping against a Navajo person. The [24th Navajo Nation Council](#) established the [Sexual Assault Prevention Subcommittee](#) to protect child victims of violent crimes and to hold the perpetrators accountable. On October 10, 2020, the Navajo Nation enacted [Savanna's Act](#) and the [Not Invisible Act](#). Both are aimed at protecting Native Americans, with an emphasis on addressing the crisis of missing and murdered indigenous women and those of the LGBTQI community. Additionally, in October 2020, the Navajo Nation received a Presidential Award from the White House for their extraordinary efforts to combat Human Trafficking. The Navajo Nation is working to provide human trafficking training to cadets at the Navajo Nation Police Academy with the support of the Council.

[Regional Human Trafficking Taskforces](#)

*Southern Arizona Anti-Trafficking Unified Response Network
Det. Jennifer Crawford, Tucson Police Department
December 8, 2021*

SAATURN has continued to hold its Law Enforcement Subcommittee meeting on a regular basis. Turnout for these meetings is positive and there is increased interest for more organizations to join. The following are some investigative casework highlights from [Tucson Police Department](#):

- In partnership with [Homeland Security Investigations](#), they were able to recover a 14 year old runaway from Nebraska which resulted in the arrests of two traffickers;
- They assisted [Marana Police Department](#) in the recovery of an adult trafficking victim and also were able to arrest the perpetrator; and
- They assisted [Oro Valley Police Department](#) in the recovery of two missing 14 year old females and were able to make an arrest.

The Mercy Care Collaborative is operational and has been going well. SAATURN has been assisting the Collaborative to get more involved in these cases by serving as a point of contact and the Collaborative has been appreciative for this help. SAATURN is also continuing its outreach and education efforts. They partnered with the McCain Institute for International Leadership on social media training. Det. Crawford has also helped train lateral police officers that have transferred to Tucson Police Department. In October, in partnership with the Oro Valley Police Department, they hosted a multi-agency human trafficking awareness event at the Oro Valley Farmers Market. In preparation for 2022, SAATURN is reaching out to its partners ahead of the [Tucson Gem and Mineral Show](#). On January 5, 2022, the Tucson Police Department will be participating in a human trafficking panel following the premier of the movie [Wake Up](#).

*Pinal Alliance Against Trafficking Coalition
Stacie Blackburn, Pinal County Juvenile Court Services
October 20, 2021*

Over the last year, [Pinal County Juvenile Court Services](#), has revised their sex trafficking screening tool specifically to support minor victims. As youth enter the Pinal County Juvenile Justice System, focused attention is given to vulnerable youth including runaways, youth that are Department of Child Safety involved, those engaged with Tribal Social Services and/or

LGBTQIA+ youth. Written procedures for the use of the screening tool were implemented into the tool's launch, and further explain when and who to screen and how to enter the data in the proprietary database. The revised tool, created with the support of [Pima County Probation](#), [Maricopa County Probation](#), [ASU STIR](#), and the [Administrative Office of the Courts](#), was launched in Pinal County in September 2021.

The Pinal County Minor Victims of Sex Trafficking Collaborative partnered with the [McCain Institute for International Leadership](#), [Mercy Care](#), [Pinal County's Family Advocacy Center \(FAC\)](#), [Pinal County Public Health](#), Banner Hospital ([Banner](#), [Ironwood](#), [Goldfield](#)), [St. Luke's Behavioral Health Hospital](#), [Pinal County Juvenile Probation](#), [Pinal County Sheriff's Office](#) and [the Arizona Department of Child Safety \(DCS\)](#) to create and implement the Pinal County Prevention and Collaborative for Trafficked Youth, launching countywide in September 2021. Following this collaborative effort, Mercy Care created a flow chart to help providers identify the next steps for individuals identified as victims of trafficking. The Collaborative has also created a database that includes specific points of contact within support organizations and agencies to improve the way trafficking victims are served within Pinal County.

Yuma County Taskforce Update

Chief Richard Jessup, San Luis Police Department

April 7, 2021

Yuma County has strong inter-agency partnerships which strive to connect victims of trafficking with needed services and support. Law enforcement and community-based advocacy centers, including [Amberly's Place](#), [Healing Journey – Yuma](#), [Yuma Regional Medical Center](#), and the [Phoenix Dream Center](#), partner to provide a multi-disciplinary approach to the investigation, prosecution, and intervention of cases of child sexual and/or physical abuse, domestic violence, elder abuse, sexual assault, and human trafficking.

Regional law enforcement observes approximately 22,000 people crossing the US-Mexico border legally every day. This does not include the additional illegal border crossings taking place daily. Law enforcement agencies have a difficult time identifying trafficking victims due to agency-based processing procedures and a lack of training in recognizing the signs of human trafficking. Yuma County serves as a geographic center for migrant agricultural workers, and has an influx of visitors during dove hunting season, attracting hunters from other states and other countries. There are also multiple major trucking routes in Yuma County, adding to challenges faced by law enforcement when addressing human trafficking. Yuma County law enforcement has identified the need for additional training, community-centered educational opportunities, and additional trafficking resources. Yuma County law enforcement has initiated outreach to a variety of human trafficking-focused organizations to coordinate training to better serve victims of trafficking.

STATE AGENCY UPDATES

The Council received regular updates from state agencies on their efforts to curb human trafficking in Arizona and support services for victims of human trafficking. Presenters included:

Arizona Department of Child Safety

Director Michael Faust

The [Arizona Department of Child Safety \(DCS\)](#) works to engage Arizona children and families to ensure safety, strengthen families, and achieve permanency, creating family environments free from abuse and neglect for children to thrive.

DCS is preparing for the implementation of changes to the [Family First Prevention Services Act \(FFPSA\)](#). FFPSA was signed into law February 9, 2018 and seeks to reduce entry in foster care; limit the use of congregate care and improve the quality of care in congregate care settings; elevate the availability and quality of prevention services for families; and, encourage and support kinship care. DCS has developed a FFPSA implementation plan. In part, this plan seeks to increase foster home availability, including providers with an expanded skill set who are willing and able to accept children with high behavioral health and medical needs, as well as foster homes for large sibling sets. Additionally, DCS is working to create and certify qualified residential treatment programs to provide trauma-informed care and appropriate transition planning to support the ongoing treatment needs of the children.

The crisis at the border continues to negatively impact the child protection system in Arizona. DCS has engaged directly with the [U.S. Customs and Border Protection \(CBP\)](#) in situations involving the smuggling and trafficking of children into the country. The repatriation process is unclear, leading to questions and ongoing challenges around jurisdiction, and how jurisdiction and the vetting process for minors that present themselves at the border with or without U.S. documentation are handled. The increase of unaccompanied minors entering the U.S. without inspection has led to a greater level of competition for bed capacity across Arizona. In 2021, the [Office of Refugee Resettlement \(ORR\)](#) distributed more than \$800 million in grant funding to support child welfare homes for placements of unaccompanied minors. The additional funding targets child-welfare licensed facilities and has directed beds away from foster care, negatively impacting Arizona's child welfare system.

*Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family
Director Maria Cristina Fuentes*

The [Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family \(GOYFF\)](#) supports victims and families who have experienced domestic and/or sexual violence through grant-funded programs that strengthen Arizona communities and connect individuals to critical resources.

Annually, GOYFF's invests approximately three million dollars through the [STOP Violence Against Women Grant](#) which is administered by the [Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women](#). The goal of this funding is to foster partnerships with law enforcement, prosecution, victim serving organizations, and government entities. During the fall of 2020, a new grant cycle began with an additional emphasis placed on expanding services to sex trafficking victims through the following initiatives:

- [Arizona Department of Child Safety \(DCS\)](#) is developing a statewide response to serve victims of sexual exploitation. Department staff will identify and support victims through existing efforts and the coordination of resources among stakeholders in areas of health care, law enforcement, education, employment and housing.
- [Arizona Superior Court in Maricopa County](#) continues to facilitate two judicial calendars dedicated to meet the needs of juveniles in both delinquency cases and dependency cases who have been victims of sex trafficking. These calendars are called STRENGTH (Strength Through Resilience – Empower New Growth Through Hope) calendars. Program staff will focus on stakeholder collaboration, meeting immediate needs of victims, and providing educational support.
- [McCain Institute for International Leadership](#) is implementing a human trafficking response protocol for school communities including material development and hosting trainings to educate school personnel on human trafficking. Training topics will include:

barriers to identifying victimization; populations who are at increased risk or difficult to identify; increasing protective factors as a school community and trauma-informed responses. In addition, they are coordinating the Collaborative model expansion to counties outside of Maricopa by bringing together stakeholders in each county to produce a county specific protocol for identifying and providing a continuum of care for victims of trafficking.

- [ASU Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research \(STIR\)](#) will continue to focus on curriculum development and multi-disciplinary trainings. Program staff will develop materials and facilitate training around Arizona with a focus on special education providers; Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation and Re-entry staff and Pima County juvenile court staff.

Throughout the three-year grant cycle, Arizona awardees will meet the needs of survivors through multi-disciplinary, collaborative, and victim-centered approaches.

A complete summary of Council meeting presentations can be found at: goyff.az.gov/htc.

COUNCIL WORKGROUP REPORTS

As part of the Council, four workgroups convene regularly to further develop the work. Workgroup accomplishments for 2021 include:

- Bringing awareness and training to over 3,000 stakeholders and community members, including educators, social workers, and juvenile and adult probation officers;
- Developing human trafficking training and public relations strategies for Arizona's mega-events;
- Collecting and reviewing data from the National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States' Recommendations and State Self-Assessment Survey; and,
- Developing a matrix on how service providers can best navigate the use of standardized trafficking identification tools.

DATA & RESEARCH WORKGROUP

The Data & Research Workgroup is Chaired by Dr. Dominique Roe-Sepowitz, Director of the Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research (STIR) at Arizona State University (ASU). Dr. Roe-Sepowitz has served on the Council since 2014. In 2021, members of the Data & Research Workgroup hosted 59 human trafficking training opportunities, reaching 3,060 individuals. Training audiences were made up of victim advocates, domestic violence shelter staff, clinical social workers/counselors, behavioral health staff, special education teachers, bus drivers, transportation specialists, acupuncture providers, foster parents, brain injury specialists, corrections staff, juvenile court judges, psychiatric hospital staff, juvenile and adult probation officers, domestic violence shelter staff, juvenile corrections staff, college students, and community members at-large.

Through the STIR Office, the Workgroup collaboratively published several studies. The STIR Office collects and publishes local and national data that is used to inform training, coordinate victim identification and services, and support a coordinated response to victims by

stakeholders such as law enforcement, social services, and health care professionals. In 2021, a statewide needs assessment was completed regarding sex and labor trafficking services and training. This report supports forecasting of how the Council can support growth in service provision across Arizona.

Ongoing Workgroup projects include the following:

- System-wide collaboration between the Arizona Department of Child Safety and the Arizona Administrative Office of the Court to utilize the Validated Juvenile Corrections Sex Trafficking Screening Tool developed by ASU and Maricopa County Juvenile Court in 2021. The screening tool was validated using data from the Maricopa Juvenile Court from 2017-2020.
- Developing and providing training opportunities and materials to multiple divisions of the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office and the Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation and Reentry. The project - Sex Trafficking Behind Bars - is training correctional staff from intake, classification, supervision, mental health, medical services, chaplains, investigations, intelligence, release planners, parole, and monitoring. The training opportunities are being provided in partnership with the City of Phoenix Police Department Human Exploitation and Trafficking (HEAT) Unit.
- Partnering with the Pima County Juvenile Court to build awareness, response, and capacity in the community to provide counseling and behavioral health services to child victims of sex trafficking in Pima County. This includes providing training to judges, juvenile court staff, juvenile probation staff, court-appointed special advocates, and clinical staff working with the court. The clinical staff training is three tiered: Sex Trafficking 101, clinical implications of sex trafficking, and sex trafficking awareness and recovery group training.
- Continuing work around the Sex Trafficking Special Education Project, in partnership with Koi Education, Dr. Angel Jannasch-Pennell, and Kimberly Peaslee. The project is focused on creating training materials that are accessible to special education providers. This includes awareness building among special educators and prevention materials designed for special education teachers to administer to the children in their classrooms. The prevention materials will be piloted by three special education classrooms.

In 2021 the Workgroup published several studies, including the following:

- Human Trafficking in Arizona: Needs Assessment For Services and Training
- Maricopa County Sex Trafficking Collaborative: Analysis of Three Years of Cases
- 2021 Youth Experiences Survey (YES)
- IRC 2021 Report
- CAUSE Task Force 2021 Report

The STIR Office also assisted the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family in collecting and synthesizing data for the National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States (NAC) Recommendations and State Self-Assessment Survey. Throughout the year, the Workgroup continued supporting street outreach events and drop-in center direct advocacy events.

OUTREACH & AWARENESS WORKGROUP

The Outreach & Awareness Workgroup is Chaired by Debbie Johnson, Director of the Arizona Office of Tourism. Debbie Johnson has served on the Council since 2014. In 2021, the Outreach & Awareness Workgroup focused its efforts on developing human trafficking training and public

relations strategies for Arizona's mega-events, including Super Bowl LVII. Preparations for Super Bowl LVII in 2023 will serve as a blueprint for supporting several other major events that will take place in the state in the coming years. The Workgroup has reviewed past efforts of the Council around mega-events and has met with the organizing committee for Super Bowl LVI to exchange best practices. The Workgroup intends to launch its efforts for Super Bowl LVII in February 2022.

POLICY WORKGROUP

The Policy Workgroup is Chaired by Sheila Polk, Yavapai County Attorney. Sheila Polk has served on the Council since 2014. In 2021, the Policy Workgroup continued to focus on identifying barriers that inhibit survivors from productively re-entering society. To this end, the Workgroup surveyed Councilmembers to solicit policy recommendations and ideas that would align the Workgroup's focus with the needs of the State. Additionally, the Workgroup reviewed the information gathered from Arizona's response to the National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States' Recommendations and State Self-Assessment Survey to further identify opportunities for policy area work.

VICTIM SERVICES WORKGROUP

The Victim Services Workgroup is Co-Chaired by Dr. Angela Salomon and Dr. Sarah Beaumont. Dr. Salomon, Director of Programs at StreetLight USA, has served as Co-Chair of the Workgroup since 2019. Dr. Beaumont, Medical Director of the Homeless Youth Outreach Program at Phoenix Children's Hospital (PCH), has served on the Council since 2018 and has served as workgroup Co-Chair since 2019. The goals of the Workgroup for 2021 and 2022 include:

- Developing a service providers list;
- Furthering support for faith-based providers;
- Identifying opportunities for cultural inclusivity within the scope of work of the Workgroup;
- Evaluating validated tools to capture and implement survivor-driven data and identifying service providers willing to implement them;
- Coordinating support efforts of collaboratives and other task forces throughout the state;
- Integrating YES study data into victims services;
- Identifying LGBTQIA+ youth specific needs as it pertains to human trafficking through trauma informed questioning;
- Identifying gaps in services for victims of labor trafficking; and
- Gathering information regarding financial barriers to behavioral and mental health services.

To align with the Workgroup's goals, the Victim Services Workgroup invited community partners to share information on ongoing efforts throughout the state to support victims of trafficking. These partners have included Care7 from the City of Tempe, the Office of Sex Trafficking Intervention Research at Arizona State University, and the Arizona Department of Child Safety, and the Pinal Alliance Against Trafficking Coalition. The Workgroup continues to collect information on standardized trafficking identification tools available to service providers in an effort to help providers identify the most appropriate tool for their scope of work and how to best navigate using these tools.