

# UNITED AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS: HIGHLIGHTS

LOUISVILLE, KY



Metro United Way

Human Trafficking is a complex global social problem and a crime that involves the exploitation of humans for monetary gain or personal benefit for the traffickers and buyers (U.S. Department of State, 2020).

**PURPOSE OF REPORT:** To provide a comprehensive landscape analysis of the current state of human trafficking and anti-trafficking efforts in our local community and identify major needs and gaps in services related to prevention, awareness, and survivor supports/services. Download full report [HERE](#).

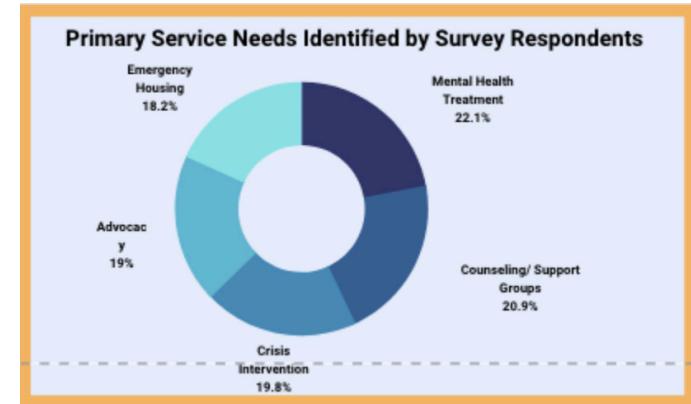
*“Recent data from Department of Community Based Services shows we are investigating at least 200 cases of child trafficking annually in Kentucky and 94% of these victims already have a history with child welfare, which tells us our most vulnerable children are at serious risk of becoming trafficked.”*

—Only 31% of key informants report that staff and/or volunteers at their agency receive training on recognizing and reporting suspected human trafficking

## KEY REPORT FINDINGS:

- There is still a clear need for **greater awareness and education** about human trafficking for service providers and systems.
- Children and young adults are vulnerable to trafficking in our community and need more **comprehensive services and interventions**.
- Funding for prevention and direct services at multiple levels—local, state, federal, private—is **fragmented and sometimes absent**.
- Community strengths to leverage **trauma-informed care** is an integral part of existing services in some areas and offer opportunities for broader expansion.
- Collaboration is happening, yet there is also a need for improving **cooperation and coordination** in anti-trafficking efforts in the city.
- The Greater Louisville region needs more **understanding of available resources and procedures** after identifying people who have experienced or are experiencing human trafficking.
- A gap in availability of safe and affordable housing for human trafficking survivors is particularly prevalent in the existing network of social services.

*“I didn’t know what happened to me when I was 16 was human trafficking. I just thought this guy I was with was helping take care of me when I ran from my (residential) placement.” — Youth Survivor*



—Only 12% of survey respondents reported that formal procedures or protocols are in place for treating or serving human trafficking survivors

—Less than 30% of providers report that their agency screens for human trafficking

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Individual Level

- Expand access to services that assist with basic needs
- Improve access to emergency and safe housing

### Program Level

- Ensure commitment to training for law enforcement
- Support organization and system capacity-building efforts

### Community Level

- Improve cross-agency collaboration among partners
- Build and support coalitions to push for policy changes
- Raise awareness of risk factors
- Implement trauma-informed training in all systems

### Policy Level

- Ensure adequate and appropriate levels of public and private funding
- Implement universal screening procedures to identify survivors