

*The National Governors Association Center for Best Practices distributed a questionnaire about human trafficking along the I-95 corridor states in advance of the executive policy forum on the topic. The information presented below is a high-level summary of the responses. This information is **not** a comprehensive review of state practices, but is instead a summary of what the forum participants are aware of in their states.*

**Scope.** States along the I-95 corridor report limited knowledge about the scope of the human trafficking problem in their state or region.

- A report entitled “Florida Responds to Human Trafficking” published by the Florida State University Center for the Advancement of Human Rights recognizes Florida as “one of the top three destination states within the United States”.
- South Carolina reports that, due to its compliance with the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS), it has a large database of information that could allow for the analysis and examination of nuances and trends in behavior, but within that data human trafficking offenses are not readily identifiable though some possible indicator categories (i.e. kidnapping, prostitution, fraud) are captured.
- In Pennsylvania, Catholic Social Services, an Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) grantee, collects data on international human trafficking in the Commonwealth.
- New York reports that the Vera Institute of Justice is currently completing a federally-funded design of a new data collection instrument to assess the extent of human trafficking in New York City.

**Legislation.** Several states have passed legislation to address human trafficking, though the scope of the legislation varies widely.

- Maine created a task force to study areas that need addressing and to report to the legislature on its findings.
- Georgia has passed legislation that defines human trafficking and outlines penalties.
- In 2004, Florida enacted a section within the state statutes that defines human trafficking and identifies certain acts as criminal. In 2006, the Governor signed a more comprehensive law that requires training of law enforcement officers in basic recruit school, requires the development of training standards for prosecutors, and adds language relative to trafficking in the recovery of damages in a civil cause of action.
- South Carolina passed legislation that creates the offense of trafficking, defines it and creates a penalty for the offense.
- Pennsylvania has proposed legislation under consideration.
- Connecticut enacted a law creating criminal penalties of up to 20 years in prison for human trafficking. The Public Act also includes the charge of racketeering under which violators are subject to imprisonment up to 20 years, a \$25,000 fine, or both. Violators forfeit to the state all property acquired, maintained, or used in the racketeering activities.

**Investigations/Prosecutions.** No states report any prosecutions of human trafficking under state law. However, several states have been the site of investigations.

- In Florida, three cases have been filed under the state law since 2005, but the cases were dropped by prosecutors likely in favor of federal prosecution.
- Several states have collaborated with federal agencies on investigations of human trafficking including Virginia (where a federal investigation resulted in six arrests), Florida, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York (the second largest trafficking ring prosecuted federally in the United States was in Suffolk County).
- Pennsylvania reports that the Commonwealth has assisted other jurisdictions in investigations.

**Services.** Most states serve domestic trafficking victims through programs that are embedded within existing social service programs for domestic violence, sexually exploited youth, runaways, etc.

- In Florida, victims of human trafficking are assisted by organizations such as the Florida Freedom Partnership and the Coalition of Immokalee Workers.
- In Pennsylvania, Catholic Social Services of Philadelphia is the OVC grantee designated to provide comprehensive case management services to adult immigrant pre-certified victims of international human trafficking that surface in PA, NJ, DE and most of MD.
- The New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA) contracts with local providers to offer refugee services for foreign national trafficking victims.
- The Massachusetts Trafficked Victims Outreach and Services Network (TVOS) provides a variety of services. It is a network of community based organizations, governmental agencies, and law enforcement personnel that coordinates legal advocacy, medical and mental health care, housing, and other forms of assistance.

**Inter-State Collaboration.** I-95 corridor states report that no formal system of inter-state communication or collaboration currently exists. Some states have internally developed policies and procedures for distributing information. Other states reach out to law enforcement in other jurisdictions and states on a case-by-case basis. Nearly every state indicated an interest in participating in a more structured information/intelligence-sharing system.

- The Maine Community Policing Institute (MCPI) at the University of Maine at Augusta held a Human Trafficking Conference with nearly 200 attendees, including some from out-of-state. MCPI will be providing Human Trafficking Awareness training from Maine to Virginia starting this fall.

**Training.** Several states have either recently developed a training curriculum or are planning to do so in the near future. The topics covered and the training time varies greatly from state to state.

- In Florida, community partners currently offer training. In January 2007, the Florida Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission will implement a curriculum for the “standards” training of basic recruits in law enforcement. Development of an advanced 40-hour course will follow.
- This year the Virginia Department of State Police will initiate at least one hour of training dedicated to immigration issues, including how to recognize victims of human trafficking. This will be incorporated into the basic school for Troopers.
- In South Carolina, the Carolinas Institute for Community Policing offers a course that concentrates on recognizing trafficking victims including signs and symptoms, investigation, considerations, how to protect witnesses, and immigration issues. The South Carolina Victims Assistance Network, which trains direct service providers, first offered training on human trafficking in 2005.
- In Pennsylvania, Catholic Social Services of Philadelphia is available to train state and local officers and is working with the Philadelphia Police Department to develop and offer training to local law enforcement agencies.
- The New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice has developed a training curriculum for state and local law enforcement in the state. The Division has offered this training for approximately one year.
- The Connecticut State Police Task Force has issued a video presentation on human trafficking that is being used during officer in-service trainings. The video teaches front-line officers to recognize human trafficking victims and is being distributed to all Connecticut law enforcement agencies. Connecticut’s legislation also mandates funding

- to develop training programs and makes it available to the Division of State Police, the Chief State's Attorney, local police departments and community organizations.
- The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services has provided training to participants from a variety of state law enforcement agencies. The OTDA Bureau of Refugee and Immigration Affairs has trained refugee service providers and law enforcement outside of New York City. Safe Horizons has received a federal grant to provide training to law enforcement and social service providers within New York City.

**Specific Needs.** A broad range of needs were identified, including information sharing, training, and funding.

- Most of the states cite the need for a formalized and structured method of sharing information between states, as well as between agencies within states. Some states also indicated an interest in creating a statewide task force to address the inter-agency collaboration and information sharing issues.
- Several states emphasize the need for dedicated funding for counter-trafficking activities – including training, investigations, and victims services.
- Many states mentioned the need for ongoing training and the development of training curriculum.
- Three of the responding states indicated a need to increase awareness of human trafficking not only among the public, but also among law enforcement and service providers.
- Some other identified needs include model legislation, improved coordination between government agencies and NGOs, improved data collection, and identification of direct methods to reach victims.