



Central Region

Human Trafficking Service Inventory and Needs Assessment

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Background and Methods

In 2019, a small research team developed a [needs assessment](#) and demographic snapshot of human trafficking in the State of Missouri and the neighboring Metro East St. Louis area of Illinois. The needs assessment data were reanalyzed in 2021 and now reflect [CATE](#) regions. A research team also developed a [resource guide](#) of key resources survivors are most likely to indicate needing/ using for all Missouri counties and 8 counties in the Metro East St. Louis area. In 2020-2021, a small research team quantified the resource guides, developing a comprehensive service inventory. This report includes regional needs assessment and service inventory data, along with brief descriptive narratives depicting identified resource gaps for the Central Region.

Service Inventory

In the Central Region, service inventory data reveal some key patterns (see Table 1). Services appear to be largely concentrated in Boone County, which encompasses the Columbia metropolitan area. In contrast, five or fewer services are available in Howard, Osage, and Morgan Counties. The Central Region has zero human trafficking prevention services and only two trafficking training and education resources. Shelter is limited, with no offerings for adults in Gasconade, Crawford, Dent, and Morgan counties. Shelters for youth are only available in Boone, Cole, Phelps, and Pulaski Counties. The few language access services are limited to the center of the region while drop-in centers are concentrated in the center and south. The region has only two 24-hour hotlines, both in Laclede County. Food pantries appear to be available in all counties while Job Services and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Services are available in a majority of counties.

TABLE 1: CENTRAL REGIONAL SERVICE INVENTORY BY COUNTY

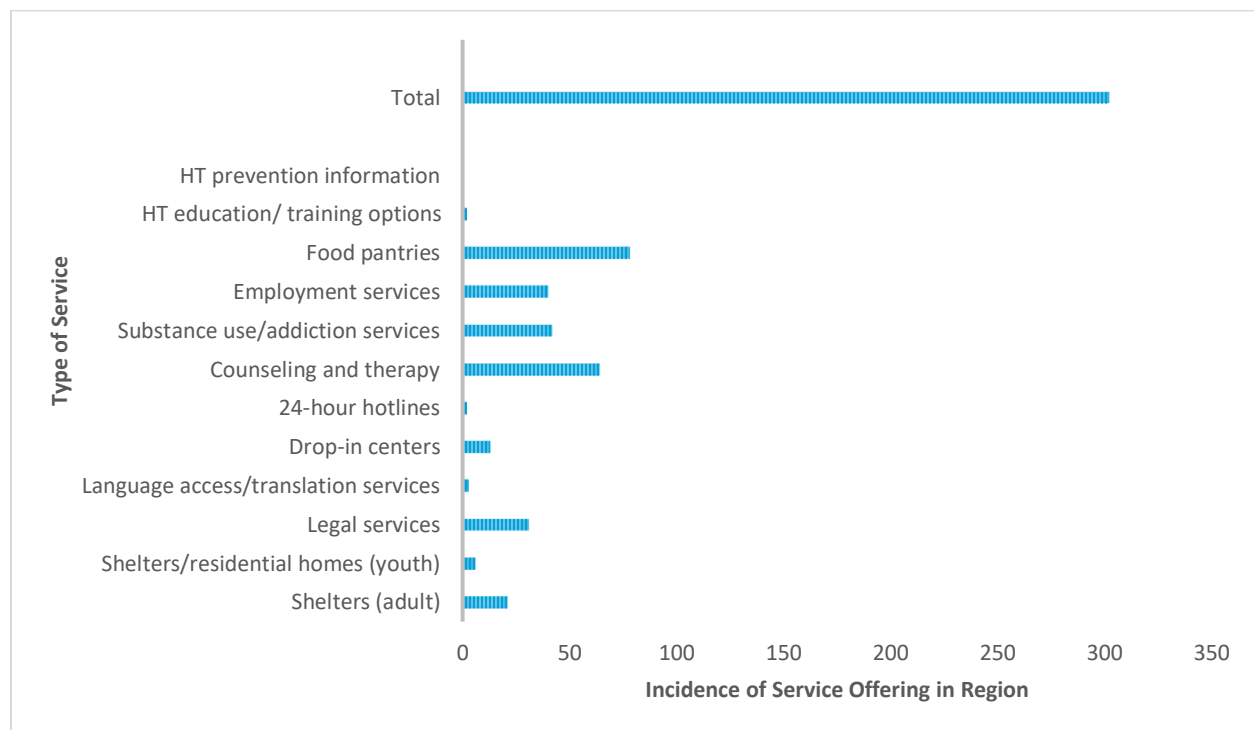
County	Shelters (adult)	Youth shelters/residential	Legal services	Language access services	Drop-in centers	24-hour hotlines	Counseling and therapy	SUD services	Job services	Food pantries	HT training and education	HT prevention	Total
Howard	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	5
Boone	5	2	11	2	3	0	33	10	11	16	1	0	94
Cooper	2	0	2	0	0	0	3	4	2	3	0	0	16
Moniteau	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	4	0	0	9
Cole	2	2	4	1	1	0	4	6	5	10	0	0	35
Osage	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	5
Gasconade	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	0	2	0	0	10
Maries	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	6

Crawford	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	2	3	6	0	0	15
Dent	0	0	5	0	3	0	1	5	1	6	0	0	21
Phelps	3	1	1	0	3	0	5	2	6	7	0	0	28
Pulaski	1	1	1	0	1	0	4	1	2	4	0	0	15
Laclede	2	0	1	0	0	2	2	1	3	4	0	0	15
Camden	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	3	2	2	1	0	13
Miller	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	2	4	0	0	11
Morgan	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	4
Total	21	6	31	3	13	2	64	42	40	78	2	0	302

Note: Services were only counted in the counties they were located in to avoid duplication of counts, although service providers often serve neighboring counties and some serve statewide.

When combining service inventory data for the region, services that appear to be significantly lacking in the region overall include youth shelters and residential homes, language access services, drop-in centers, and human trafficking training, education, and prevention services (see Figure 1). This underscores the need for centralized coalition activities, such as those provided by CATE.

FIGURE 1: CENTRAL REGIONAL SERVICE INVENTORY



Note: Services were only counted in the counties they were located in to avoid duplication of counts, although service providers often serve neighboring counties and some serve statewide.

Needs Assessment

Needs assessment data complements service inventory data to show not only what is available, but what service providers indicate is needed in their region (Figure 2, next page). Providers indicate sex trafficking prevention programming, as well as training in law enforcement, courts, schools, and healthcare facilities, to be very high-level needs. Because the inventory only shows two training services in the Central region, trafficking prevention and education are areas the region may focus on as it expands its service offerings.

Service providers report a very high level of need for adult shelters, transitional housing, and general housing assistance, indicating demand for such services exceeds availability. Providers report a slightly lower, though substantial, need for youth shelters. Youth shelters are sparse throughout the region, with six offerings concentrated in four of the sixteen counties. While adult shelters are more abundant, survivors in the four currently unserved counties may benefit from local shelters or transportation (reported as very high level need) to shelters in neighboring counties. Other very high level needs that indicate a need for expansion include legal assistance, peer mentorship and mental healthcare.

Other services with moderate to high need, such as drop-in centers, job training, and education assistance, appear somewhat adequate but could be expanded to currently unserved counties. While service providers ranked the need for language access services slightly lower than other categories, the low number total of these services may indicate that the need for them is not met.

FIGURE 2: CENTRAL REGIONAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

