



Northwest 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 in 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.

Service Inventory

In the Northwest St. Louis Region, on the Kansas side of the bi-state area, service inventory data reveal some key patterns (Table 1). Andrew County offers the most services by far and Grundy County offers the second highest number of total services, which is approximately half the number available in Andrew County. Each county features one or more food pantries, but lacks shelters and residential homes for youth. In fact, Andrew County appears to be the only county with a shelter for youth in the Northwest region. Six of the counties have shelters and residential housing for adults, illuminating a disparity between adult and youth housing in the Northwest region. There is a lack of human trafficking education/training and prevention information in this region, as Andrew County is the only county with these services. Only five translation services and drop-in centers exist in the region. Virtual service deserts are apparent in many counties within this region.

Table 1: Regional Service Inventory by County: Northwest St. Louis Region

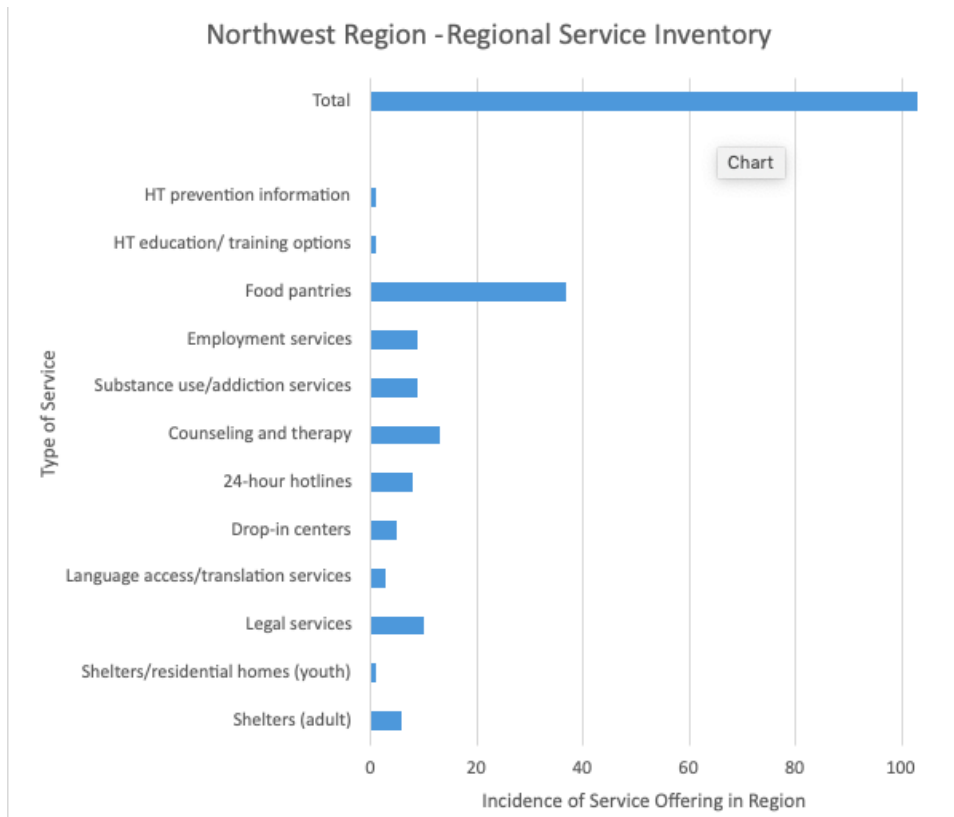
County	Shelters (adult)	Shelters/ residential (youth)	Legal services	Language access/ translation services	Drop-in centers	24-hour hotlines	Counseling and therapy	SUD services	Job services	Food pantries	HT education/ training	HT prevention		Total
Atchison	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	4	0	0		7
Holt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		1
Nodaway	1	0	1	0	1	1	2	1	1	1	0	0		8
Andrew	1	1	5	3	2	2	3	3	3	5	1	1		30
Buchanan	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	2	0	0		7
DeKalb	1	0	0	1*	0	1	1	0	0	3	0	0		6

Gentry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		1
Worth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0		3
Clinton (Missouri)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0		5
Mercer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0		2
Grundy	1	0	2	1	1	2	5	2	2	1	0	0		16
Livingston	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0		3
Harrison	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	2	0	0		2
Davies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0		2
Linn	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	2	0	0		6
Chariton	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0		3
Caldwell	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		2
Total	6	1	9	5	5	8	13	9	9	37	1	1		104

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 are Human Trafficking prevention information and education training options as well as translation services and drop-in centers. There are no shelters for youth and only six for adults (See Figure 1, next page).

FIGURE 1: NORTHWEST 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. Service providers report the Northwest region to be a region with immense service needs. Nearly all service were reported as very highly or highly needed. While there are several shelters for adults in the region, the needs assessment data conveys that shelters for both youth and adults are severely lacking relative to the identified need in the Northwest region. Housing is a service offering that is in dire need of funding and expansion. The needs assessment shows food pantries are moderately to highly needed, and language access services are moderately needed, but these are the only services that appear to largely meet the needs in the region. Needs assessment data show a very high level of need for human trafficking trainings in various organizational sectors, which coincides with the service inventory data showing a virtual service desert in this area. There is only one resource for training and education offered for the entire region, underscoring the importance of this resource as well as statewide resources. Mental healthcare (hotlines, substance use services, and counseling and therapy) is another service area in need of expansion. The service inventory indicates that mental healthcare services are among the more abundant service offerings in the region, but the needs assessment indicates they do not meet the demand/ need within the region. Almost all services in the service inventory are inadequate and in need of expansion according to the needs assessment data.



5=Very High Level Need
 4= High Level Need
 3=Moderate Need
 2= Low Level Need
 1=Very Low Level Need