Southwest 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 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 largely rural Southwest Region of the state of Missouri, service inventory data reveal some key themes (see Table 1). Resource scarcity overall is apparent in the data across all the counties, with the exception of food pantries in Greene county. Service availability is comparatively higher in Jasper and Green counties compared to other counties in the region, however, services are limited in these counties as well.
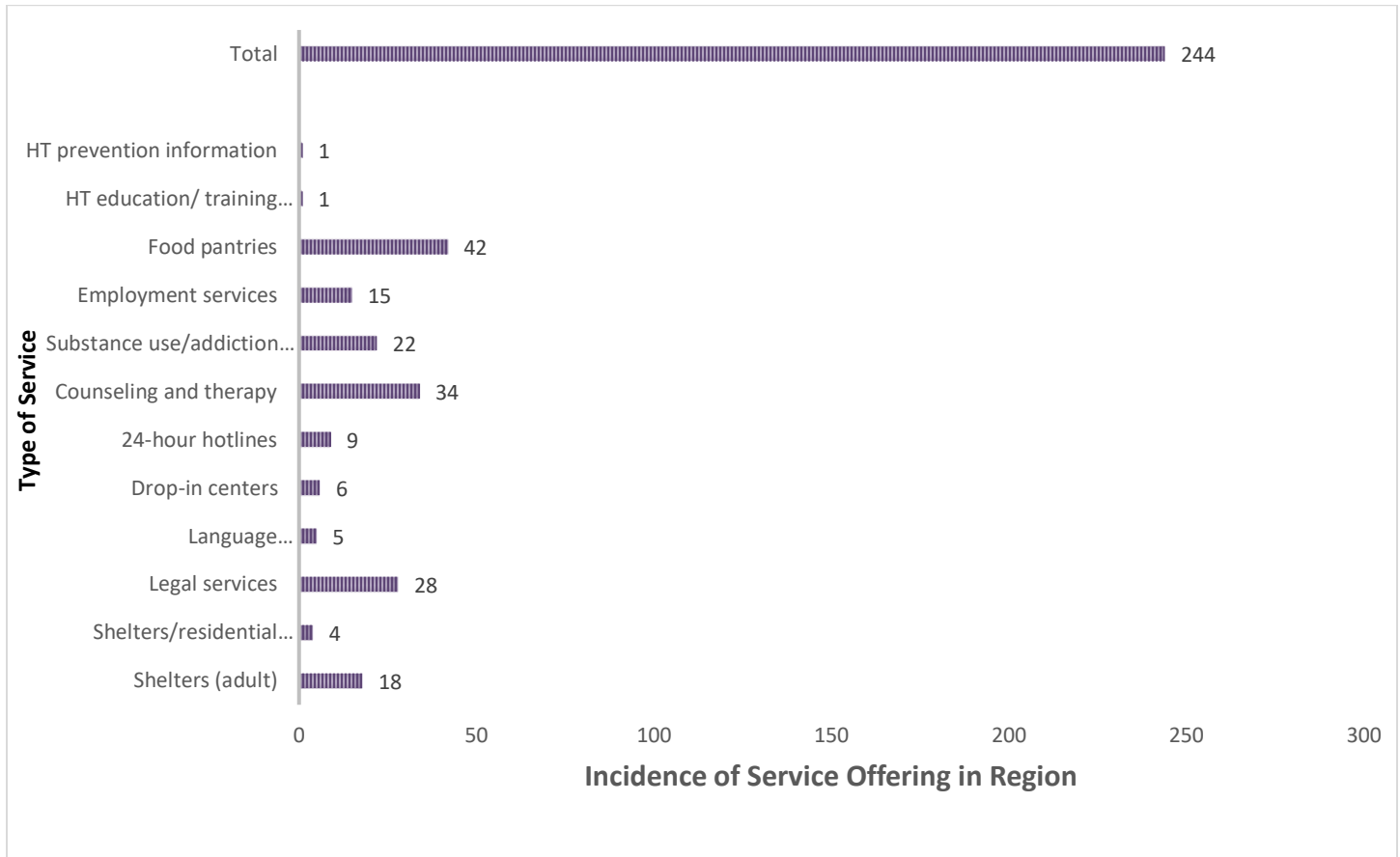
County	Shelters (adult)	Shelters/residential (youth)	Legal services	Language access services	Drop-in centers	24-hour hotlines	Counseling and therapy	SUD services	Job services	Food pantries	HT education/ training	HT prevention	Total
Dallas	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	4
Hickory	1	0	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	9
Polk	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	8
St. Clair	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	2	0	0	6
Cedar	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	1	0	2	0	0	8
Bates	1	0	2	0	0	0	3	2	0	3	0	0	11
Vernon	1	0	1	0	1	1	5	1	2	1	0	0	13
McDonald	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Newton	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	5
Jasper	4	0	2	2	1	2	3	5	4	6	0	1	30
Dade	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	4
Barton	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	4
Lawrence	0	1	2	0	0	1	3	3	1	5	0	0	16
Barry	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	1	2	0	0	7
Stone	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	5	0	0	7
Taney	1	0	2	0	0	1	3	3	2	2	0	0	14
Texas	1	0	2	0	0	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	8
Howell	3	0	2	0	0	1	5	3	2	3	0	0	19
Wright	0	1	1	0	1	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	7
Douglas	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	6
Webster	0	0	2	0	0	1	3	2	1	3	0	0	12
Christian	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	9
Ozark	1	0	2	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	7
Greene	3	2	4	2	0	0	1	3	3	9	1	0	28

TABLE 1: SOUTHWEST REGIONAL SERVICE INVENTORY BY COUNTY

Total	18	4	28	5	6	9	34	22	15	42	1	1		244

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 include human trafficking prevention information and education and training options, as well as drop in centers, language access services, and shelter/ residential homes for youth (See Figure 1).
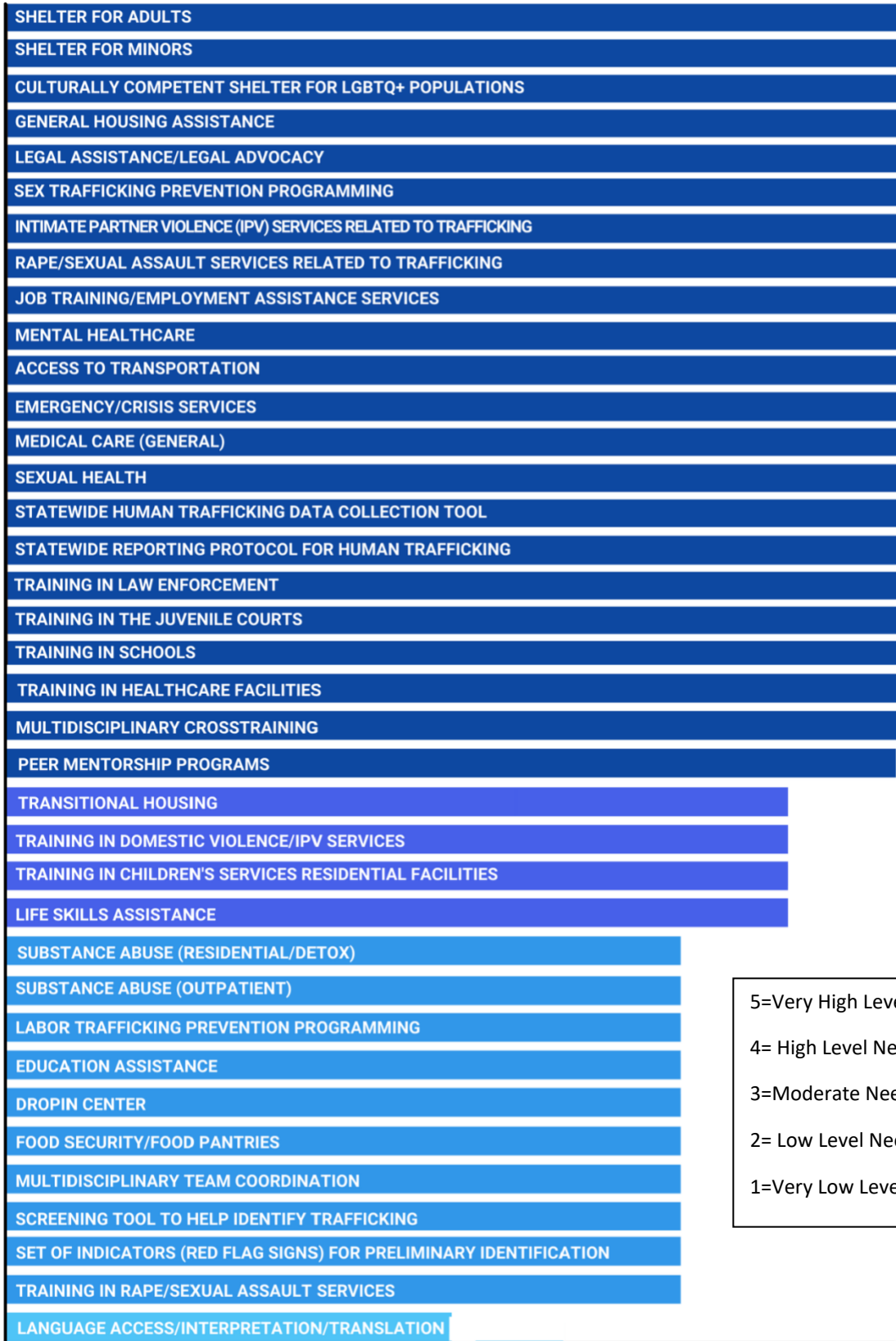
FIGURE 1: SOUTHWEST REGIONAL SERVICE INVENTORY

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Needs Assessment

Needs assessment data complements service inventory data to show not only service availability, but what service providers indicate is needed in their region (see Figure 2). Needs assessment results parallel the service inventory data, indicating a region with immense needs and service gaps. Very high level needs include shelter and housing, legal services, sex trafficking prevention programming and peer mentorship, medical and mental healthcare, transportation, emergency crisis services, and job training/ employment assistance. All of the needs were very high or high level needs, with the exception of language access services, which were reported as moderately needed. Despite food pantries and mental healthcare showing as the most prevalent services in the

region, they both ranked as high level and very high level needs respectively, suggesting that the demand for such services exceeds the availability.

FIGURE 2: SOUTHWEST REGIONAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

MEDIAN RESPONSE

Service	Median Response
SHELTER FOR ADULTS	5
SHELTER FOR MINORS	5
CULTURALLY COMPETENT SHELTER FOR LGBTQ+ POPULATIONS	5
GENERAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE	5
LEGAL ASSISTANCE/LEGAL ADVOCACY	5
SEX TRAFFICKING PREVENTION PROGRAMMING	5
INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV) SERVICES RELATED TO TRAFFICKING	5
RAPE/SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES RELATED TO TRAFFICKING	5
JOB TRAINING/EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE SERVICES	5
MENTAL HEALTHCARE	5
ACCESS TO TRANSPORTATION	5
EMERGENCY/CRISIS SERVICES	5
MEDICAL CARE (GENERAL)	5
SEXUAL HEALTH	5
STATEWIDE HUMAN TRAFFICKING DATA COLLECTION TOOL	5
STATEWIDE REPORTING PROTOCOL FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING	5
TRAINING IN LAW ENFORCEMENT	5
TRAINING IN THE JUVENILE COURTS	5
TRAINING IN SCHOOLS	5
TRAINING IN HEALTHCARE FACILITIES	5
MULTIDISCIPLINARY CROSSTRAINING	5
PEER MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS	5
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING	4.5
TRAINING IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/IPV SERVICES	4.5
TRAINING IN CHILDREN'S SERVICES RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES	4.5
LIFE SKILLS ASSISTANCE	4.5
SUBSTANCE ABUSE (RESIDENTIAL/DETOX)	4
SUBSTANCE ABUSE (OUTPATIENT)	4
LABOR TRAFFICKING PREVENTION PROGRAMMING	4
EDUCATION ASSISTANCE	4
DROPIN CENTER	4
FOOD SECURITY/FOOD PANTRIES	4
MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM COORDINATION	4
SCREENING TOOL TO HELP IDENTIFY TRAFFICKING	4
SET OF INDICATORS (RED FLAG SIGNS) FOR PRELIMINARY IDENTIFICATION	4
TRAINING IN RAPE/SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES	4
LANGUAGE ACCESS/INTERPRETATION/TRANSLATION	3

5=Very High Level Need

4= High Level Need

3=Moderate Need

2= Low Level Need

1=Very Low Level Need