St. Louis 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.
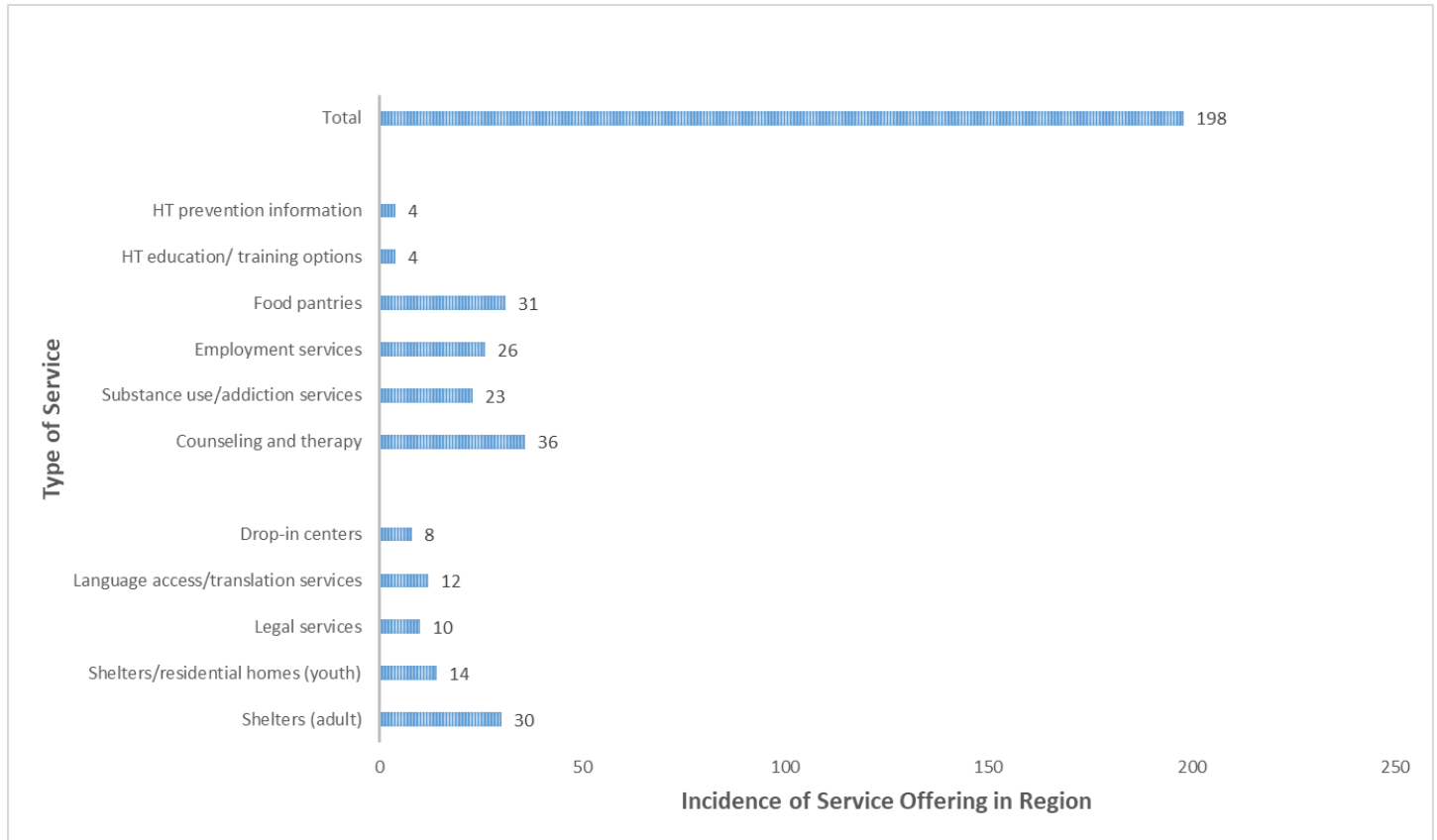
Service Inventory

Relative to other, geographically more expansive regions, St. Louis had a higher total number of services and fewer absolute gaps in services. This reflects the population density of the St. Louis region, and service offerings are overwhelmingly concentrated in the St. Louis City/County area—100 out of 198 total service offerings in the region. Several other St. Louis region counties had service offering gaps that are not reflected by the "total" numbers for the region—for example, five of the seven counties in the region did not have language access/translation resources, even though the *total* number of language access resources in the region was relatively high. Though human trafficking education and prevention offerings were available, they may be an additional area for expansion, given that only four offerings of education/training and four for prevention currently exist, underscoring the importance of existing services. Given the relative concentration of services in the St. Louis region, it is worth noting that St. Louis-area programming is serving a larger population than its actual geographic reach (i.e., neighboring counties), and service providers may be overburdened as a result.

FIGURE 1: ST. LOUIS REGIONAL SERVICE INVENTORY BY COUNTY

County	Shelters (adult)	Shelters/residential homes (youth)	Legal services	Language access/translation services	Drop-in centers	Counseling and therapy	Substance use/addiction services	Employment services	Food pantries	HT education/ training options	HT prevention information		Total
St. Louis City/County	22	9	5	10	7	17	9	13	4	2	2		100
St. Charles	3	1	1	2	0	5	4	3	4	1	1		25
Lincoln	1	1	0	0	1	5	3	1	1	0	0		13
Warren	1	0	1	0	0	2	2	3	2	0	0		11
Franklin	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	6	0	0		11
Jefferson	1	2	3	0	0	3	2	3	6	1	1		22
Washington	1	1	0	0	0	1	3	2	8	0	0		16
Total	30	14	10	12	8	36	23	26	31	4	4		198

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.

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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. The St. Louis region reported a wide variety of very high-level needs, with housing-related concerns (shelter for adults, shelter for minors, culturally competent shelter for LGBTQ+ populations, transitional housing, general housing assistance), mental healthcare, transportation, peer mentorship, and training in juvenile courts, residential facilities, rape/sexual assault services all receiving the highest-level needs rankings. Relative to other regions, St. Louis shows a higher volume and diversity of overall service offerings, commensurate with population density. Emergency crisis services, substance use disorder (residential/detox) services, and life skills assistance received a median 4.5 out of 5 needs rating, suggesting this is a regional gap potentially worth prioritizing as well. The lowest median ranking any option from the needs assessment received was a 3 out of 5, suggesting that service expansion should be multifaceted. As previously discussed, a large concentration of services existed in the St. Louis City/County area (indeed, over half of service offerings). Because of this, it may be worthwhile to examine whether the needs assessment results vary upon inter-county comparison.

FIGURE 2: ST. LOUIS REGIONAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Horizontal bar chart showing median response levels for various needs, from 1 to 5.

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

5=Very High Level Need

4= High Level Need

3=Moderate Need

2= Low Level Need

1=Very Low Level Need

MEDIAN RESPONSE