Kansas City 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 in the Kansas City region.

Service Inventory

In the Kansas City Region, service inventory data reveal some key patterns (Table 1). The region's most abundant service offering is food pantries, with the least available service offering being human trafficking education/training and prevention information. There is a discrepancy between the number of adult shelters and the number of youth shelters, as there are far more adult shelters available. All counties are service deserts insofar as Youth Shelter/ Residential, with the exception of the four counties largely encompassing Kansas City. Service inventory data indicates that Carroll is the most underserved county, with only three service offering types in total. Every county except for Johnson County has access to mental healthcare services (substance use disorder services, counseling and therapy). Language access services are not widely available, and are primarily concentrated in the four counties that Kansas City largely spans. This part of the region is the most served by far, which is expected as it has a much higher population density and related need for services.

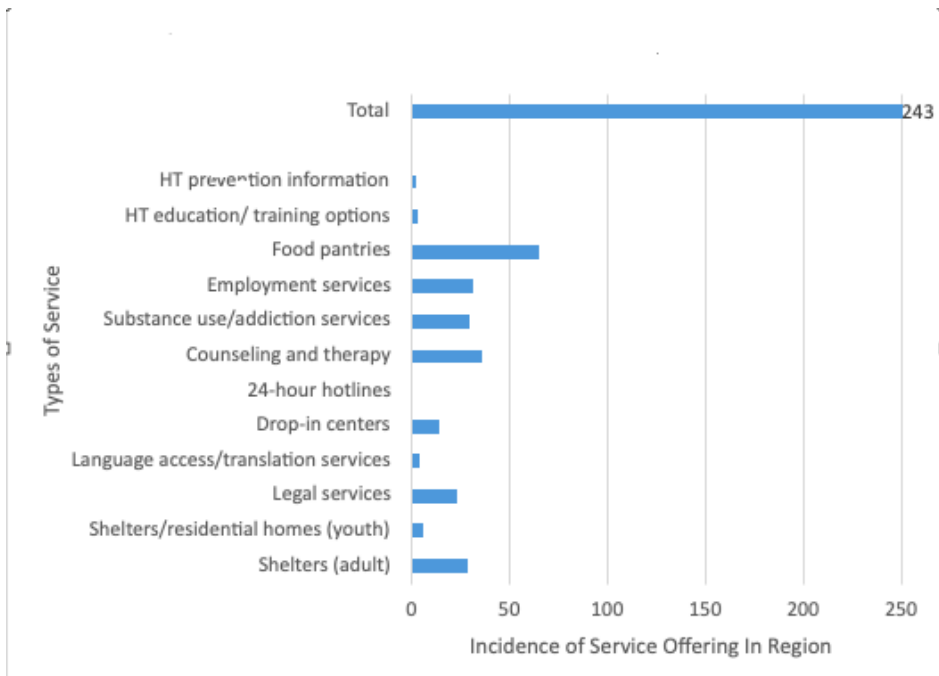**Table 1: Kansas City Region: Service Inventory by County**

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 Education and Training	HT Prevention Curriculum		Total
Carroll	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0		4
Henry	3	0	2	0	0	0	7	3	1	4	0	0		20
Johnson	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0		6
Lafayette	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	2	1	5	0	0		13
Saline	1	0	2	0	1	0	6	0	0	3	0	0		13
Pettis	2	0	3	1	3	0	6	5	4	6	1	0		31
Benton	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	2	1	0	0		8
Ray	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	2	0	0		6
KC (Jackson,	20	6	10	3	8	0	11	17	22	41	2	2		142

Cass, Clay, Platte)													
Total	29	6	23	4	14	0	36	30	31	65	3	2	

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. KC does not include the neighboring Kansas bi-state area, a limitation of the available data.

Combining service inventory data for the region provides a macroscopic view of service availability throughout the region. Services that appear to be significantly lacking overall include human trafficking prevention information and education and training opportunities, language access and translation services, and youth shelters and residential homes (see Figure 1). This suggests the need for funding to expand existing services in these areas.

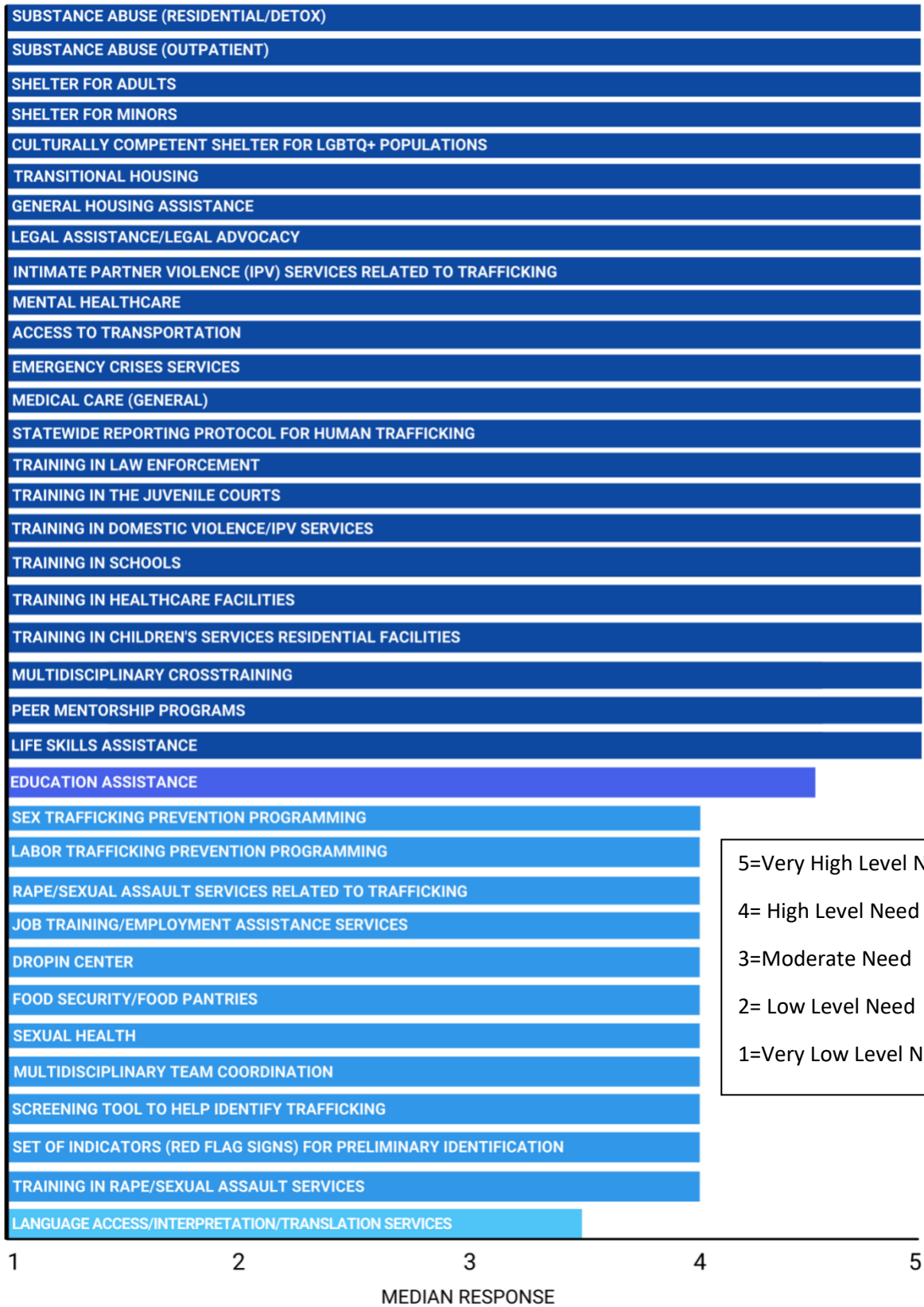**Figure 1: Kansas City Region – Regional Service Inventory**

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. The service inventory indicates a lack of human trafficking prevention information and education/training options, which the needs assessment data shows as a high-level need. Food pantries are reported to be highly needed in the Kansas City region, despite the seeming availability indicated in the service inventory data; demand for these services appears to outpace availability. Housing across the board (adult/ youth shelter, transitional and general housing assistance) was reported as a very high level need, as well as substance use disorder services, which are in need of expansion and funding. Mental healthcare continues to be a very high-level need, as demand, according to the needs assessment, outweighs the current services available. Peer mentorship and training needs across sectors were also reported as very high level needs.

Figure 2: Kansas City Regional Needs Assessment

Chart titled "MEDIAN RESPONSE" with horizontal bars for the following services (all rated at the maximum except where noted):

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

Legend:

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

X-axis: MEDIAN RESPONSE (1 to 5)