Identify, Respond, Prevent: Addressing Human Trafficking among Juvenile Justice- and Child Welfare-Involved Youth

Final Technical Report

Prepared for

National Institute of Justice
U.S. Department of Justice
810 7th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20531

Prepared by

Stacey Cutbush Starseed
Marianne Kluckman
Stephen Tueller
Samuel Scaggs
Lilly Yu
BeLinda Weimer
RTI International
3040 E. Cornwallis Road, PO Box 12194
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
www.rti.org

Award Number 2018-MU-MU-0033

December 2023

RTI INTERNATIONAL

Identify, Respond, Prevent: Addressing Human Trafficking among Juvenile Justice- and Child Welfare-Involved Youth

Final Technical Report

Prepared for

National Institute of Justice
U.S. Department of Justice
810 7th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20531

Prepared by

Stacey Cutbush Starseed
Marianne Kluckman
Stephen Tueller
Samuel Scaggs
Lilly Yu
BeLinda Weimer
RTI International
3040 E. Cornwallis Road, PO Box 12194
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709
www.rti.org

December 2023

This project was supported by Award No. 2018-MU-MU-0033, awarded by the National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Justice. The research team acknowledges the critical contributions of generous participation from the Florida Department of Children and Families, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, and Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

Contents

Figures

Number **Page**

Tables

Number Page

List of Acronyms

AUC	area under the curve
CAT	Community Assessment Tool
CFI	comparative fit index
CW	child welfare
DCF	Department of Children and Families
DJJ	Department of Juvenile Justice
EFA	exploratory factor analysis
FDLE	Florida Department of Law Enforcement
HR	hazard ratio
HTA	human trafficking allegation
HTST	Human Trafficking Screening Tool
JJ	juvenile justice
OR	odds ratios
RMSEA	root mean square error of approximation
SEM	structural equation models

Executive Summary

Executive Summary

The National Institute of Justice–funded Trafficking in Persons grant, Identify, Respond, Prevent: Addressing Human Trafficking among Juvenile- and Child Welfare-Involved Youth, was conducted by RTI International. This project was designed to inform the identification of and service provision response to human trafficking among children with child welfare (CW) and juvenile justice (JJ) involvement with the goal of advancing research, policy, and practice. To achieve these goals, RTI's proposed study had four main objectives:

Objective 1: Improve identification of trafficking victimization within the JJ population.
Objective 2: Inform response to at-risk and trafficked children in both the CW and JJ systems.
Objective 3: Identify children most at risk for initial and subsequent trafficking allegations in both populations.
Objective 4: Understand JJ and adult criminal legal system involvement among persons who have had prior human trafficking allegations.

To accomplish these objectives, RTI conducted analyses using administrative data from the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF), Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), and Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). The final analysis datasets included all children born on or after January 1, 1993, who had at least one maltreatment allegation before February 29, 2020. All DCF, DJJ, and FDLE information from 1993 through February 29, 2020, was retained in the analysis files. We chose to include only data through February 2020 to minimize any impacts of COVID-19 on CW or JJ reporting and practices.

ES-1. Assess the Predictive Validity of the Human Trafficking Screening Tool

We evaluated Florida's Human Trafficking Screening Tool (HTST) (see Appendix A) to determine its validity as a screening tool. The HTST is an instrument developed jointly by Florida's DJJ and DCF for the purpose of identifying youth who are at risk for or who have experienced labor and/or sex trafficking victimization. We assessed the predictive validity of the HTST for two outcomes: (1) DJJ designation of *likely experienced trafficking*, and (2) a *verified* outcome of a DCF investigation for human trafficking. Analyses were replicated in two populations: a sample of all DJJ youth screened with the HTST and the subset of youth referred to DCF among whom 23.8% had a verified trafficking allegation. Logistic regression results showed the HTST to have good to excellent predictive validity. Exploratory factor analysis (EFA) results indicated good internal reliability and identified three factors: sex trafficking risk, labor trafficking risk, and environmental risk.

Overall, results indicated the HTST can be adopted in other JJ settings in different jurisdictions or states, and EFA results suggested that an HTST short form could be developed to reduce staff burden. Future research should assess how implementation factors affect the HTST's performance and investigate the relationship between staff's HTST implementation experiences

and screening outcomes to determine whether and how HTST implementation impacts the instrument's reliability and validity.

ES-2. Examine Characteristics and System Experiences among Children who Have Experienced a Human Trafficking Abuse Allegation

To understand the characteristics of children who have experienced human trafficking, through descriptive and regression analyses, we examined the demographics, lifetime CW and JJ histories of victims of sex and/or labor trafficking. We found that nearly half of children with a human trafficking allegation (HTA) were already involved in DCF at the time of the allegation, a quarter were already involved in DCF a*nd* DJJ at the time of their first HTA, and a quarter had no prior system involvement at the time of their first HTA (i.e., their first HTA initiated their DCF involvement). Female children who experienced trafficking are more likely to be involved in DCF (with or without DJJ involvement) than involved in no system. Black children with an alleged trafficking incident were more likely than White children to be involved in both systems compared with DCF only, and children who experienced labor trafficking allegations were less likely than those who experienced sex trafficking to be involved in either system.

These findings indicate that increasing routine mandatory screening for human trafficking victimization for high-risk CW-involved children is warranted and that decriminalizing Black children through JJ diversion, particularly among those who have experienced human trafficking victimization, should be prioritized through policy and practice. Future research should (1) examine temporality of system involvement and HTAs, and (2) explore the underreporting and under-identification of human trafficking among males.

ES-3. Investigate Both Initial and Subsequent Human Trafficking Allegations among Crossover Children

We also examined predictors of initial and subsequent HTAs among children involved in both the JJ and CW systems. We conducted logistic regression models to identify longitudinal predictors of initial and subsequent trafficking victimization among system-involved youth as well as survival analysis to identify time between the first and second HTAs. Study findings showed that the median number of days until a child's first HTA was 5,662 days, or 15.5 years, and the median number of days until a subsequent HTA was only 189 days, or about 6 months. Age, sex, race, and ethnicity significantly predicted initial and subsequent trafficking victimization. In addition, we found that prior maltreatment (all types), prior placement history, and prior missing child events increased the odds of having an initial HTA, whereas prior maltreatment and prior missing child events increased the odds of having a subsequent HTA. Children with a history of physical abuse and neglect and prior missing child events experienced a second allegation more quickly than those who did not. With respect to DJJ involvement, children with prior community supervision, referral without adjudication, or prior residential facility placement were at increased odds for initial human trafficking victimization compared

with children who did not have those experiences, whereas only prior community supervision and referral without adjudication increased the odds of a subsequent HTA.

In sum, findings suggested that DJJ is a critical player in preventing both initial and subsequent child trafficking victimization and that increased attention to human trafficking identification and response trainings, screening and monitoring, and improved policy and practice may improve primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention of trafficking victimization. Future research on specific DCF and DJJ involvement characteristics that predict initial and subsequent victimization may advance a more nuanced perspective capable of advancing appropriate secondary and tertiary prevention strategies germane to specific sub-populations or trajectories.

ES-4. Examine Subsequent DJJ Involvement After Experiencing a Human Trafficking Victimization Allegation

We conducted descriptive and logistic regression analyses to identify youth characteristics, prior DCF experiences, and prior DJJ experiences that predict a JJ referral following an initial HTA as well as survival analysis to identify time from HTA to a JJ referral. Being male and being Black were significant predictors of a JJ referral *following* an HTA. Children with prior physical abuse, children with prior neglect, and, to a lesser degree, children with a prior missing child event were significantly more likely to experience a JJ referral following an HTA. Prior physical abuse and prior neglect ushered in a subsequent JJ referral at twice the rate of those who have not experienced prior physical abuse and neglect. Compared to children without a referral prior to their HTA, those who had one prior referral were 8 times more likely and those with multiple referrals were 18 times more likely to have a subsequent JJ referral following their HTA. Similarly, children with a prior JJ referral experienced a subsequent JJ referral 25 times more quickly than those without a prior JJ referral, and children with multiple prior JJ referrals experienced a subsequent JJ referral 90 times more quickly than those without a prior JJ referral. The number of referrals prior to an HTA was *the* strongest predictor of subsequent referrals following trafficking victimization.

These findings underscore the need for specialized and immediate intervention when children with prior JJ involvement experience an HTA to prevent additional JJ involvement. Additional research is needed to better understand the precipitating factors resulting in Black children experiencing a subsequent JJ referral following an HTA, their system experiences following said referral, and effective intervention strategies designed to prevent their subsequent JJ involvement. Future research should also investigate how and why being Hispanic or Other non-Hispanic functions as a protective factor and consider understanding how and why physical abuse and neglect—and not sexual abuse or psychological maltreatment—predict subsequent JJ involvement following trafficking victimization. Finally, additional research on specific DJJ and DCF involvement characteristics may improve the understanding of child trafficking victimization as a risk factor for future or ongoing JJ involvement.

ES-5. Examine the Direct and Moderating Effects of Childhood Human Trafficking Victimization on Early Adult Criminal Legal System Involvement

Finally, we investigated the characteristics and experiences of children for whom no HTA was investigated, those who had one HTA, and those who had more than one HTA. Regression models indicated that individuals with one HTA were almost twice as likely to have an adult arrest and those with multiple HTAs were two and a half times as likely to have an adult arrest compared to those without any HTA. In addition, among all individuals, those with only one JJ referral were less likely to have an adult arrest, while those with multiple referrals were almost twice as likely to have an adult arrest compared to those without any JJ referral. Whether an individual had multiple JJ referrals was the largest predictor of whether they had an adult arrest, and that effect increased the more HTAs they experienced. Having only one JJ referral compared to having no referral was a protective effect for individuals with no HTA. Specifically, those with one JJ referral had 26% lower odds of being arrested as an adult compared to those with no JJ referral. However, individuals with multiple HTAs were more than 6 times as likely as individuals with no JJ referrals to have an adult arrest.

Our findings show that human trafficking victimization is a risk factor associated with sustained involvement in the criminal legal system. These findings also serve as a springboard for future research to investigate how negative or traumatic childhood experiences, JJ and CW system contact, and delinquency interact to affect the risk of adult criminality and Criminal Legal System (CLS) involvement among victims of human trafficking.

Section 1: Introduction

1. Introduction

In recent years, federal and state agencies, social service providers, and other frontline organizations have invested substantial resources in screening and identifying child victims of trafficking. Despite such investments, accurate identification of trafficking risk and victimization remains challenging. Accurate identification is complicated by lack of victim self-identification, definitional complexities, variability in policies and protocols, and dynamics of victimization (e.g., control and manipulation by the perpetrator) as well as agencies' lack of resources, training, and victim rapport.

Federal and state legislation has sought to improve screening and identification of human trafficking victims. Some legislative mandates require youth-serving agencies (e.g., JJ, CW, social service agencies) to screen for trafficking victimization among youth. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 legally redefined child prostitution as human trafficking victimization, leading to an institutional shift in how youth-serving agencies respond to suspected and confirmed victimization. The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 mandated that state CW agencies receiving federal grants develop human trafficking screening procedures. Many states have also passed legislation mandating human trafficking screening and identification by CW agencies (Charm et al., 2022) and requiring JJ agencies to improve screening practices (Andretta et al., 2016; Cole & Sprang 2020; McCoy, 2022; Lee, 2018). Although such legislation is a positive step in improving identification of and providing services to victims of human trafficking, many child victims of human trafficking continue to be arrested and detained for human trafficking victimization and related offenses, and others still encounter juvenile or CW systems due to issues co-occurring with their victimization, which may exacerbate their likelihood of future delinquency (Dierkhising et al., 2023; Kennedy et al., 2022).

Many human trafficking screening tools screen only for sex trafficking, and these tools have not been validated in the general population of minors, let alone specifically for youth-serving agencies and settings, namely JJ agencies. Although validated screening tools for both labor and sex trafficking exist for CW settings and runaway and homeless youth (Basson, 2017; Dank et al., 2017), there is a lack of validated tools for use in the JJ setting, and those tools that are validated assess only sex trafficking (Basson, 2017). Without effective and efficient screening tools, JJ agencies are ill equipped to identify trafficking victimization and associated offenses, thereby impeding aims to decriminalize trafficking victims for their exploitation and divert them from JJ system involvement into supportive services.

CW and JJ agencies are some of the most important settings in which to identify and respond to human trafficking victimization. Children involved in the JJ and CW systems exhibit shared risk factors, well-established trajectories from early maltreatment to later delinquency, and frequent crossover between the two systems. Dual system–involved children with past or current involvement in the CW and JJ systems represent a significant proportion of those in the JJ system (Herz et al., 2019). This high prevalence of dual system involvement is concerning for system advocates and policymakers because of what it suggests about these children's life experiences and potential future outcomes.

Relatedly, little is known about human trafficking victimization among children with CW and JJ involvement or what predicts *repeat* or *subsequent* human trafficking victimization. Knowledge on predictors of *repeat* trafficking victimization is necessary to inform appropriate responses to initial HTAs and effectively prevent future victimization. Without proper responses and interventions that address the underlying causes of initial victimization, children may be susceptible to repeat trafficking victimization and its attendant harms.

Minors are often propelled into the JJ system because of their exploitation or associated delinquency (e.g., forced criminality). Across several studies, researchers have examined trafficking victimization patterns and characteristics specific to JJ-involved minors, including participants in human trafficking specialty courts (Bath et al., 2020; Cook et al., 2021), adjudicated male youth (O'Brien et al., 2017), youth arrested for trading sex (Naramore et al., 2017), and single- and dual system–involved minors (Pullmann, Roberts et al. 2020, Dierkhising et al., 2023, Scaggs, Starseed et al. 2024). Still, the temporality of the victimization-justice involvement relationship continues to be a topic of research inquiry because of its implications for how the JJ system should respond to human trafficking, including overall prevention of underlying risks for both system involvement and victimization(Franchino-Olsen 2021), justice-based intervention and treatment (Bath et al., 2020), and diversion to other systems (Abrams et al., 2021).

Most JJ-involved children eventually stop their delinquent and criminal involvement (Farrington, 1986), but those who do persist with justice system involvement are characterized by adverse childhood experiences and maltreatment, which aggravates their risk of continued justice system involvement and ongoing or future trafficking (Rhoades et al., 2016). Prior studies consistently found evidence that maltreatment during childhood produce enduring traumatic experiences and a host of detrimental outcomes such as social, psychological, and behavioral issues (Baetz, 2015; Boland et al., 2021; Cuadra et al., 2014; Howel et al., 2017; Jung et al., 2015; Nikulina et al., 2011; Topitzes et al., 2011). As this vulnerable population ages, the scars of maltreatment often manifest into delinquent behavior and, if not intervened, can elevate risk of entanglement with the JJ and criminal legal system.

This report summarizes the results of research using administrative data from the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF), Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), and Law Department of Enforcement (FDLE) to improve identification of and response to human trafficking among children with CW and JJ involvement.

Section 2: Goals and Objectives

2. Goals and Objectives

2.1 Study Goal and Objectives

The overarching goals of this study were to identify trafficked and at-risk youth among system-involved youth and to identify opportunities to enhance policy and practice. To achieve these goals, RTI's study had four objectives:

Objective 1: Improve identification of trafficking victimization within the JJ population.
Objective 2: Inform response to at-risk and trafficked youth in both the CW and JJ systems.
Objective 3: Identify children most at risk for initial and subsequent trafficking allegations in both populations.
Objective 4: Understand JJ and adult criminal legal system involvement among persons who have had prior human trafficking allegations.

To accomplish these objectives, we conducted analyses using administrative data from the DCF, DJJ, and FDLE to do the following:[1]

- Assess the predictive validity of the Human Trafficking Screening Tool (HTST) developed by DCF and DJJ to identify trafficking risk and victimization among system-involved youth.
- Examine characteristics and system experiences among children who have experienced an HTA.
- Investigate both initial and subsequent HTAs among crossover children.
- Examine subsequent DJJ involvement *after* experiencing a human trafficking victimization allegation.
- Examine the direct and moderating effects of childhood human trafficking victimization on early adult criminal legal system involvement.

2.2 Data Sources

Data used in the analysis for this report was from the administrative systems of DCF, DJJ, and FDLE. The request for data from DCF was for all children born on or after January 1, 1993. DCF submitted deidentified data directly to RTI. To prevent RTI from being able to identify children but allow analysis of information for the same individual across all three systems, DCF also sent DJJ personally identified information for the same sample of children. DJJ staff used both machine and manual review to match the child IDs from the DCF and DJJ administrative systems. More specifically, DJJ used combinations of the child's name, date of birth, Social Security numbers, race, and sex to generate matches and also review and assess partial

[1] In the original proposal, Objective 3 listed here was broken out into two research questions (one focusing on initial and one focusing on repeat victimization). Additionally, Objectives 4 and 5 listed here were originally combined into one research question. When preparing manuscripts, we decided to reorganize the objectives in this manner to make it easier for readers to understand.

matches. This procedure was then applied to the FDLE data, resulting in a crosswalk of IDs between all three administrative systems. DJJ then transmitted DJJ and FDLE data to RTI.

Data received from DCF included demographics and a complete history of allegations, removals, and placements, including any reported missing child events. Data received from DJJ included a complete history of HTST screenings, referrals, services, and assessments. Data received from FDLE included information on any adult arrests.

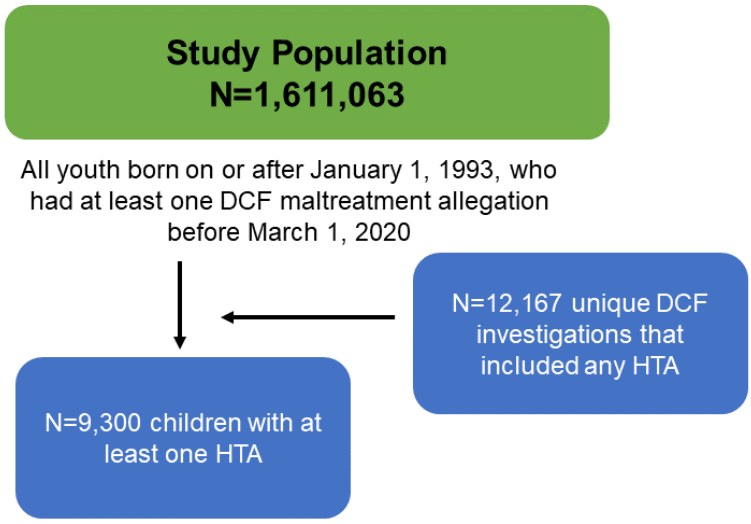
The final analysis datasets included all children born on or after January 1, 1993 who had at least one maltreatment allegation before February 29, 2020. All DCF, DJJ, and FDLE information from 1993 through February 29, 2020 was retained in the analysis files. We chose to include only data through February 2020 to minimize any impacts of COVID-19 on CW or JJ reporting and practices.

In the DCF data, allegation information included the date the report was received[2], specific allegation types (e.g., burns) and the most serious finding for each allegation type. The finding could be (1) **verified**, meaning the majority of credible evidence supports a conclusion that the harm was a result of exploitation, abuse, or neglect; (2) **not substantiated**, if there is not enough credible evidence; or (3) **not indicated**, if there is no credible evidence to support the allegation. In analysis, the categories of "not indicated" and "not substantiated" were combined into a category of "not verified." Specific allegation types not related to human trafficking were combined into four binary variables indicating the investigation included any report of neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, or psychological maltreatment. There were three specific allegation types in the data related to human trafficking. Prior to 2013 only one HTA type ("human trafficking") was used. In 2013, two new allegation types allowed DCF staff to indicate either "human trafficking commercial sexual exploitation of children" or "human trafficking labor." If an investigation contained any of these three specific HTA types, a binary variable was created indicating human trafficking had occurred. Overall, any investigation could include multiple allegation types in multiple overall categories.

In the final analysis file, there were 12,354 investigations that included any of the three types of HTAs. However, some children (N=372) had more than one investigation for a reporting date. This occurs when more than one person makes a report to DCF for the same incident of maltreatment, or the report can have multiple perpetrators, which would result in more than one investigation. To allow the analysis to include all the information on each unique trafficking reporting date, any human trafficking investigations with the same reporting date were combined. The most serious finding among all the indicated HTA types was kept, but unique combinations of any specific allegation types were created. This resulted in allegation types of "Human trafficking, unspecified, only," "Sex trafficking only," "Labor trafficking only," "Sex and labor trafficking," and "Sex and unspecified human trafficking." After consolidating the multiple records per reporting date, the analysis included a total of 12,167 human trafficking investigations for 9,300 children (Figure 1).

[2] Information on the date each maltreatment type occurred is not available. In its place we are using the date DCF received the report.

Figure 1. Study Population



Section 3: Predictive Validity of Florida's Human Trafficking Screening Tool

3. Predictive Validity of Florida's Human Trafficking Screening Tool

3.1 Research Questions

Human trafficking screening tools are important for frontline service organizations and government agencies to identify trafficking victimization, to provide resources and support for victims, and to divert youth from JJ involvement. Child victims of human trafficking who fail to receive supportive services and who are instead punished for their victimization risk having their exploitation exacerbated by JJ system involvement. There is a need for a human trafficking screening tool that screens for both sex and labor trafficking in JJ settings that has been validated with a justice-involved population. Therefore, we evaluated the HTST to determine its validity as a screening tool. Although there have been qualitative studies of DCF workers implementing the HTST (Magruder, 2022), there were no published validation studies of the HTST.[3] We sought to answer the following research questions:

How effectively does the HTST identify *likely human trafficking victimization* among children screened by DJJ, as defined by the HTST screening conclusion?

How effectively does the HTST identify *verified human trafficking victimization* among children reported to DCF, as defined via a verified outcome of a DCF trafficking investigation?

What proportion of trafficking allegations resulting from the HTST are verified by DCF following investigation?

Which components of the HTST are most predictive of findings of *likely* or *definitely trafficked,* as defined by the HTST screening conclusion?

Which components of the HTST are most predictive of findings of *verified HT,* as defined via a verified outcome of a DCF trafficking investigation?

3.2 Methods[4]

3.2.1 The Human Trafficking Screening Tool

The HTST is an instrument developed jointly by DJJ and DCF for the purpose of identifying youth who are at risk for or who have experienced labor or sex trafficking victimization. In this section, we summarize the development and application of the HTST, followed by a description of the population the HTST has screened. We then explain the analytic techniques used to answer the current study's research questions.

[3] Magruder (2022) mentions findings from a validation study of the HTST that is an unpublished report internal to DCF to which the authors of this report did not have access.
[4] The source for the methods presented in this section can be located in the original manuscript currently under review at *Child and Youth Services Review* titled "Assessing the Predictive Utility of Florida's Human Trafficking Screening Tool among Crossover Youth."

Administration of the Human Trafficking Screening Tool

DJJ staff typically administer the HTST as part of the JJ intake process, during which they evaluate the youth's risk to reoffend, potential risk to self or others, need for referrals to appropriate diagnostic and treatment services within the community, and eligibility for secure detention. DJJ staff do not administer the HTST to all youth during intake; however, administration is mandatory when youth provide certain responses to the Community Assessment Tool (CAT), a tool used to implement evidence-based services and interventions (Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, 2021).[5] Specifically, an HTST is required when any of the following indicators appear during intake: a prostitution-related charge in the youth's history;[6] any history of running away from home or having been kicked out of the home more than four times; any history of sexual abuse; the presence of a sexual offense in the youth's current offense record or offense history; the youth's personal disclosure of being trafficked; or a report of human trafficking by a parent, guardian, law enforcement officer, medical or service provider, child protective services, or a juvenile probation officer.[7]

Human Trafficking Screening Tool Measures

The HTST is composed of several sections, including demographics, youth background, living conditions, employment, running away, and sexual exploitation. Specifically, it contains 14 indicator questions related to the following 14 topics:

- Evidence of unsafe online activity
- Evidence of suspicious/trafficking-related tattooing/branding
- Evidence of unsafe living environment
- Evidence of deceptive payment practices
- Evidence of forced labor
- Evidence of excessive running away
- Evidence of questionable financial support while away
- Evidence of coercion to stay on the run
- Evidence of sexual activities for money, support, or gifts
- Evidence of inability to leave
- Evidence of forced identity deception
- Evidence of sexual exploitation

[5] The Juvenile Justice Information System (DJJ's internal portal for entering developments in cases under the department's supervision) displays a pop-up window alerting the screener that an HTST must be completed. This window displays a link to the HTST webform and cannot be dismissed by the screener without opening the HTST in response.

[6] In 2016, Florida House Bill 545 was enacted to prevent minors from being charged with prostitution. However, some youth could have prostitution-related charges from before 2016 in their history.

[7] The latter two indicators must be evaluated by staff; the remainder are pulled automatically from DJJ's Juvenile Justice Information System.

Evidence of compensation for sexual activity

Evidence of potential trafficking from information provided by parent/guardian

Each indicator question in each section is preceded by a varying number of related questions. The DJJ staff administering the HTST complete those related questions first, then endorse "yes" or "no" for a summative indicator question at the end of each section indicating the presence or absence of evidence related to that topic. The instrument does not provide specific instructions or criteria for how many, if any, of the preceding related questions must be positive for the summative indicator to be endorsed as "yes." In addition, at the end of the HTST, an overall question (Q50) states, "Indicate the likelihood that the youth is a victim of trafficking." The five response options are "definitely not," "likely not," "not sure," "likely is," and "definitely is." The instrument does not provide specific instructions or criteria on how many, if any, of the preceding summative indicators must be positive or negative to select the appropriate answer. If the staff chose "not sure," "likely is," or "definitely is," the staff are instructed to call the DCF Abuse Hotline.

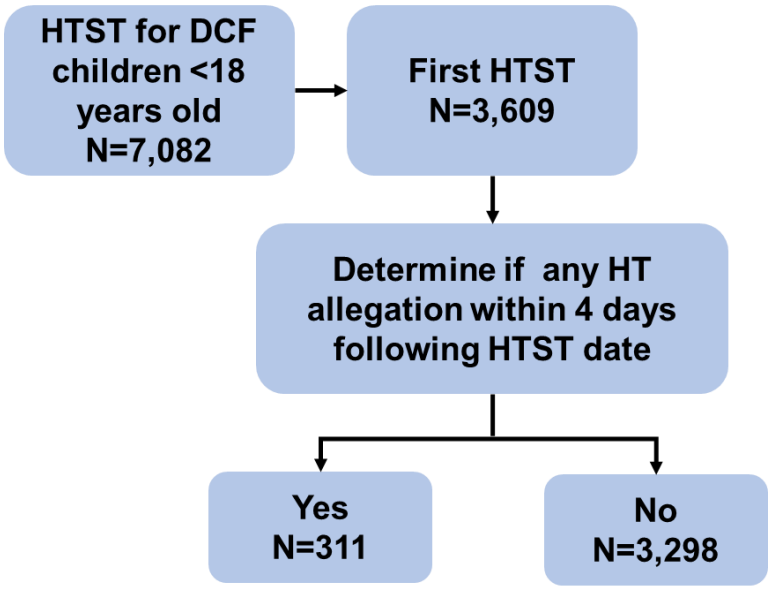
3.2.2 Data

We used data from HTST administrations that occurred from January 2016 through April 2019 in the analysis. In total, 7,492 HTST administrations for 3,771 youth in the DCF sample occurred during this time. Because HTAs are captured only for youth younger than age 18, we removed data from HTST administrations on individuals aged 18 or older (N=372). In the data, 37 youth were assessed using the HTST two or three times in a day. We retained the HTST record with the most non-missing information on the 14 screening indicators and overall indicator and dropped the other administrations for that day (N=38). If there was a tie in terms of the amount of non-missing information across the records, we chose the earliest HTST administration for that day. This resulted in 7,082 eligible HTST administrations. Because youth could have multiple HTST administrations (although most had only one), information from the earliest HTST for each youth was used in the final analysis (N=3,609). Figure 2 summarizes the data included in these analyses.

At the end of the HTST, the DJJ screening staff are required to indicate the likelihood that the youth is a victim of trafficking (Q50). For these analyses, we combined categories of "definitely not," "likely not," and "not sure" into "not likely" and categories of "definitely is" and "likely is" into "likely." Of the N=3,609 youth, 3,578 had a response to this question. Of those 3,578 youth, 236 (7%) were considered "likely" victims of trafficking at the time of their first HTST administration in our analyses, and 3,342 (93%) were considered "not likely" victims of trafficking at the time of their first HTST administration in our analyses.[8]

[8] Although agency policy requires screening staff to report potential trafficking to the Florida Abuse Hotline for "not sure," "likely is," and "definitely is," this analysis explores the decision-making process of screening staff, when assigning a value for Q50 independent of agency policy requirements.

Figure 2. HTST Analysis Population



We then matched the HTST data to the DCF allegation data to determine whether an HTA was received by DCF at any time between the DJJ screening date and 4 days after, for a total of 5 days (i.e., screen date, 72 hours to report, plus an extra day). As outlined in DJJ Human Trafficking Procedures, DJJ supervisors should ensure that all reports to DCF have been completed within 72 hours of screening. We added an extra day to capture as many reports as possible (i.e., in the event of a delay in reporting an allegation to DCF). After matching the HTST data to DCF allegation data, we found that the vast majority (91%, N=3,298) of HTST administrations did not have a subsequent DCF HTA. Of the 9% (N=311) of children who had an HTA within 4 days, 24% (N=74) were verified.

3.2.3 Analytical Approach

Research Question 1 and Research Question 2

RQ1 asked how well the HTST directly identifies “likely” or “definite” human trafficking victimization by DJJ. This determination indicates high risk or identification of trafficking based on the HTST alone and should lead to a DCF referral. RQ2 asked how well the HTST leads to a verified HTA by DCF. This determination is an official conclusion via a formal DCF investigation. For both RQs, the overall validity of the HTST prediction is measured using the area under the curve (AUC), which is interpreted as the probability that a randomly selected youth with an HTA has a higher score on the predictor than a randomly selected child without an HTA.

The HTST's predictive efficacy was estimated using three constructions of the HTST:

- The five-point "likely trafficking victim" item from the HTST (Q50): This item can only be used to estimate DCF verification for RQ2, because the outcome for RQ1 is Q50 itself
- Predicted probabilities when the RQ1 and RQ2 outcomes are regressed on the 14 HTST indicators
- Predicted probabilities when the RQ1 and RQ2 outcomes are regressed on the 14 HTST indicators controlling for demographic variables

We used a logistic regression model to estimate the predicted values for the latter two constructions of the HTST. Results from these regression models provided odds ratios (ORs) as effect size estimates of how strongly each of the 14 HTST summative indicators predicts the two trafficking victimization outcomes ("likely" or "definitely" trafficked as defined by the HTST screening recommendation and a verified outcome of a DCF trafficking investigation). In addition, these RQ2 analyses are fit in the full sample of all youth screened with the HTST (i.e., how well the HTST predicts DCF-verified trafficking overall), and separately among the subset of youth with an HTA (i.e., how well the HTST predicts DCF-verified trafficking among those youth with an HTA referred within 4 days from HTST administration).

We estimated the AUC for all feasible combinations of the two trafficking outcomes (HTST "likely" or "definitely" trafficked; DCF-verified trafficking investigation outcome), both constructions of the HTST (the HTST summary indicator of "likely" or "definitely" trafficked, which is also one of the outcomes, and individual HTST items), and population (full population of 3,609 children who received the HTST and the 311 children referred by DJJ to DCF for investigation of an HTA). Using conventions defined by Safari and colleagues (2016), the AUC is interpreted as follows: 90–100=excellent; 80–90=good; 70–80=fair; 60–70=poor; 50–60=fail.

Research Question 3

To answer RQ3, we estimated the proportion (and standard error) of N=311 HTAs following the HTST that were verified as human trafficking by DCF based on an investigation.

Research Question 4 and Research Question 5

Using HTST data from youth who were investigated for an HTA (N=311), we fit exploratory factor analysis (EFA) models with 1 to 4 factors to the 14 HTST items. The best-fitting EFA model was selected using the model fit indices root mean square error of approximation (RMSEA; values<0.05 and a p-value near 1 for the test RMSEA<0.05 indicate good fit), the comparative fit index (CFI; values>0.095 indicate good fit), and the clarity of the factor structure (i.e., minimal factor cross-loading, no large negative factor loadings, and no negative residual variances). We selected the EFA model that meets these criteria with the fewest factors. The factor structure is the pattern of HTST items that load onto each latent factor. EFA models with

Geomin[9] rotated loadings were estimated using Mplus 8 (Muthén & Muthén 1998) via the MplusAutomation (Hallquist & Wiley 2018) R package (R Core Team 2018).

Once we determined a factor structure, we used these factors to predict the two trafficking outcome variables—DJJ findings of "likely" trafficked or "definitely" trafficked (RQ4) and DCF-verified human trafficking (RQ5)—using structural equation models (SEMs) fit using Mplus 8. SEMs were fit to all 311 youth. Coefficients from regressing either of these two outcomes on the factors were exponentiated to provide effect size estimates as ORs.[10] The factor structure associated with each factor was then interpreted as to how groups of HTST items collectively predict the RQ4 and RQ5 outcomes.

3.3 Results[11]

3.3.1 Descriptive Statistics

Descriptive statistics detailing the characteristics of the population of youth screened with the HTST are presented in Table 1, where we analyzed data on 3,609 HTST administrations. Slightly more than half of youth were female (52%) and White (51%), and 13% were Hispanic. The mean age of youth was 15 at the time of HTST administration. More than half (56%) had none of the 14 HTST human trafficking screening indicators marked positively. About one-third (30%) indicated evidence of excessive running away, 15% indicated sexual exploitation, and 12% showed questionable financial support while away from home. Other screening indicators ranged from 1% to 8%. The mean number of positive human trafficking indicators on the HTST was 1.

[9] Geomin is an oblique type of factor rotation, meaning that correlations between the factors are allowed to be non-zero.
[10] In logistic regression, the coefficient for a predictor is typically labeled β and is on the scale of the log odds. Exponentiating β (i.e., the natural logarithm to the power of β) transforms β to the OR scale providing an effect size estimate.
[11] The source for the results presented in this section can be located in the original manuscript submitted to *Child and Youth Services Review* titled "Assessing the Predictive Utility of Florida's Human Trafficking Screening Tool among Crossover Youth."

Table 1. Characteristics of First HTST Administration per Child

		Likeliness of trafficking from HTST as determined by DJJ (Q50) N (%)			HTA outcome following DCF investigation N (%)			
Item	Total N (%)	Not likely/ Not sure	Likely	P-value	No allegation	Not verified	Verified	P-value
Total	3,609 (100.0)	3,342 (100.0)	236 (100.0)		3,298 (100.0)	237 (100.0)	74 (100.0)	
Sex								
Female	1,886 (52.3)	1,644 (49.2)	218 (92.4)	0.00	1,622 (49.2)	194 (81.9)	70 (94.6)	0.00
Male	1,722 (47.7)	1,697 (50.8)	18 (7.6)		1,675 (50.8)	43 (18.1)	4 (5.4)	
Race								
Black	1,436 (39.8)	1,316 (39.4)	109 (46.2)	0.07	1,298 (39.4)	98 (41.4)	40 (54.1)	0.14
White	1,834 (50.8)	1,716 (51.3)	103 (43.6)		1,689 (51.2)	117 (49.4)	28 (37.8)	
Other	339 (9.4)	310 (9.3)	24 (10.2)		311 (9.4)	22 (9.3)	6 (8.1)	
Ethnicity								
Non-Hispanic	3,141 (87.0)	2,911 (87.1)	202 (85.6)	0.50	2,874 (87.1)	203 (85.7)	64 (86.5)	0.80
Hispanic	468 (13.0)	431 (12.9)	34 (14.4)		424 (12.9)	34 (14.3)	10 (13.5)	
Age at HTST								
8–13	424 (11.7)	401 (12.0)	21 (8.9)	0.32	399 (12.1)	22 (9.3)	3 (4.1)	0.34
14	535 (14.8)	500 (15.0)	29 (12.3)		488 (14.8)	34 (14.3)	13 (17.6)	
15	815 (22.6)	755 (22.6)	53 (22.5)		751 (22.8)	46 (19.4)	18 (24.3)	
16	939 (26.0)	865 (25.9)	65 (27.5)		848 (25.7)	70 (29.5)	21 (28.4)	
17	896 (24.8)	821 (24.6)	68 (28.8)		812 (24.6)	65 (27.4)	19 (25.7)	
Screening location								
Juvenile Assessment Center[a]	1,162 (32.2)	1,089 (32.6)	67 (28.4)	0.36	1,071 (32.5)	79 (33.3)	12 (16.2)	0.03
Unit (probation caseload)[b]	1,892 (52.4)	1,744 (52.2)	128 (54.2)		1,729 (52.4)	116 (48.9)	47 (63.5)	
Other	555 (15.4)	509 (15.2)	41 (17.4)		498 (15.1)	42 (17.7)	15 (20.3)	

(continued)

Table 1. Characteristics of First HTST Administration per Child (continued)

		Likeliness of trafficking from HTST as determined by DJJ (Q50) N (%)			HTA outcome following DCF investigation N (%)			
Item	Total N (%)	Not likely/ Not sure	Likely	P-value	No allegation	Not verified	Verified	P-value
Number of positive screenings indicators (out of 14)								
0 items	2,003 (55.5)	1,961 (58.7)	13 (5.5)	0.00	1,969 (59.7)	27 (11.4)	7 (9.5)	0.00
1 item	806 (22.3)	794 (23.8)	11 (4.7)		748 (22.7)	46 (19.4)	12 (16.2)	
2 items	334 (9.3)	306 (9.2)	27 (11.4)		280 (8.5)	48 (20.3)	6 (8.1)	
3 items	191 (5.3)	156 (4.7)	35 (14.8)		149 (4.5)	34 (14.3)	8 (10.8)	
4 items	95 (2.6)	68 (2.0)	27 (11.4)		57 (1.7)	28 (11.8)	10 (13.5)	
5 items	52 (1.4)	25 (0.7)	27 (11.4)		30 (0.9)	15 (6.3)	7 (9.5)	
6 items	44 (1.2)	18 (0.5)	26 (11.0)		22 (0.7)	15 (6.3)	7 (9.5)	
7 items	32 (0.9)	9 (0.3)	23 (9.7)		15 (0.5)	12 (5.1)	5 (6.8)	
8+ items	52 (1.4)	5 (0.1)	47 (19.9)		28 (0.8)	12 (5.1)	12 (16.2)	
Unsafe Online Activity (item 1)	263 (7.3)	178 (5.3)	85 (36.0)	0.00	181 (5.5)	55 (23.3)	27 (36.5)	0.00
Suspicious/Trafficking-Related Tattooing/ Branding (item 2)	70 (1.9)	38 (1.1)	32 (13.6)	0.00	49 (1.5)	14 (5.9)	7 (9.5)	0.00
Unsafe Living Environment (item 3)	242 (6.7)	158 (4.7)	84 (35.6)	0.00	178 (5.4)	47 (19.9)	17 (23.0)	0.00
Deceptive Payment Practices (item 4)	65 (1.8)	30 (0.9)	35 (14.8)	0.00	41 (1.2)	17 (7.2)	7 (9.5)	0.00
Forced Labor (item 5)	25 (0.7)	8 (0.2)	17 (7.2)	0.00	15 (0.5)	5 (2.1)	5 (6.8)	0.00
Excessive Running Away (item 6)	1,068 (29.8)	892 (26.7)	174 (73.7)	0.00	860 (26.2)	156 (66.1)	52 (70.3)	0.00
Questionable Financial Support While Away (item 7)	436 (12.2)	286 (8.6)	149 (63.1)	0.00	297 (9.1)	101 (42.8)	38 (51.4)	0.00
Coercion to Stay on the Run (item 8)	95 (2.6)	43 (1.3)	52 (22.0)	0.00	56 (1.7)	26 (11.0)	13 (17.6)	0.00
Sexual Activities for Money, Support, or Gifts (item 9)	169 (4.7)	65 (1.9)	104 (44.1)	0.00	86 (2.6)	50 (21.2)	33 (44.6)	0.00

(continued)

Table 1. Characteristics of First HTST Administration per Child (continued)

		Likeliness of trafficking from HTST as determined by DJJ (Q50) N (%)			HTA outcome following DCF investigation N (%)			
Item	Total N (%)	Not likely/ Not sure	Likely	P-value	No allegation	Not verified	Verified	P-value
Inability to Leave (item 10)	185 (5.2)	142 (4.2)	43 (18.2)	0.00	146 (4.5)	27 (11.4)	12 (16.2)	0.00
Forced Identity Deception (item 11)	36 (1.0)	16 (0.5)	20 (8.5)	0.00	23 (0.7)	7 (3.0)	6 (8.1)	0.00
Sexual Exploitation (item 12)	532 (14.8)	412 (12.3)	120 (50.8)	0.00	438 (13.4)	65 (27.5)	29 (39.2)	0.00
Compensation for Sexual Activity (item 13)	177 (4.9)	80 (2.4)	97 (41.1)	0.00	99 (3.0)	47 (19.9)	31 (41.9)	0.00
Information from Parent/Guardian Suggests Potential Trafficking (item 14)	291 (8.1)	135 (4.0)	156 (66.1)	0.00	160 (4.9)	95 (40.3)	36 (48.6)	0.00
Likelihood that the youth is a victim of trafficking (Q50)								
Definitely not	1,363 (38.1)	1,363 (40.8)		0.00	1,355 (41.5)	7 (3.0)	1 (1.4)	0.00
Likely not	1,345 (37.6)	1,345 (40.2)			1,318 (40.3)	22 (9.3)	5 (6.8)	
Not sure	634 (17.7)	634 (19.0)			478 (14.6)	126 (53.4)	30 (40.5)	
Likely is	193 (5.4)		193 (81.8)		95 (2.9)	71 (30.1)	27 (36.5)	
Definitely is	43 (1.2)		43 (18.2)		22 (0.7)	10 (4.2)	11 (14.9)	

DCF=Florida Department of Children and Families; DJJ=Florida Department of Juvenile Justice; HTST=Human Trafficking Screening Tool.

[a] Juvenile Assessment Centers, as defined in Florida statute 985.135 (1), exist to "provide collocated central intake and screening services for youth referred to [The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Chapter 985 Section 135 - 2022 Florida Statutes - The Florida Senate (flsenate.gov)]." In practice, Juvenile Assessment Centers in Florida serve as temporary holding facilities for youth taken into custody by law enforcement while DJJ completes the intake process and decides whether to release the youth or place them under some form of detention.

[b] Juvenile probation officers are responsible for administering delinquency risk assessment tools during intake and thereafter as part of the regular workload for case supervision. Consequently, juvenile probation officers are also responsible for administering human trafficking screenings with the HTST when the youth's responses to the risk assessment indicate that the youth may be at risk for human trafficking.

[c] At the conclusion of the HTST administration, the DJJ staff administering the HTST indicates likeliness of trafficking from the HTST as determined by DJJ (Q50). The answer choices are "definitely not," "likely not," "not sure," "likely is," and "definitely is." For analysis purposes, we combined "definitely not," likely not," and "not sure" into "not likely/not sure," and we combined "likely is" and "definitely is" into "likely."

[d] At the conclusion of a DCF investigation, the DCF staff conducting the investigation indicates whether the trafficking is not verified or verified. If there was not a human trafficking allegation within four days of the HTST administration, those children appear in the "no allegation" column.

Several important associations are shown in Table 1. As has been found in prior research, females were at greater risk of trafficking than males as defined by both outcomes. Screening location was unassociated with the HTST "likely" trafficked outcome, whereas verified DCF allegations were less likely for screenings from juvenile assessment centers and more likely for screenings from probation caseload units than for no allegation outcomes or not verified. Having positive responses on more HTST items was associated with greater risk of having both outcomes, and each HTST item individually increases the risk of having the two trafficking outcomes.

3.3.2 HTST's Predictive Efficacy (RQ1 and RQ2)

Results for analyses evaluating RQ1 and RQ2 are shown in Table 2. RQ1 assesses the magnitude of the relationship between each of the HTST items and the final conclusion of the HTST ("likely" or "definitely" trafficked as flagged in Q50); results for RQ1 are shown in the first two columns of Table 2. The first column shows the effect of all HTST items as estimated using the OR from a logistic regression model.

The second column repeats the first, adjusting for demographic characteristics. Six HTST items emerged as key drivers in logistic regression models predicting the HTST conclusion variable (Q50): "information from parent/guardian suggests potential trafficking," "forced labor," "unsafe living environment," "suspicious tattooing/branding," "sexual activities for money, support, or gifts," and "compensation for sexual activity." Youth with the HTST item "potential trafficking" endorsed by the DJJ screener were 10 to 12 times more likely than those who did not have "potential trafficking" endorsed to be identified as a "likely" or "definite" human trafficking victim by DJJ as defined by the HTST screening conclusion. Children with "unsafe living environment" or "suspicious tattooing/branding" were over 3 times more likely to be identified by a DJJ screener as a "likely" or "definite" human trafficking victim. Also, children with "sexual activities for money, support, or gifts" or "compensation for sexual activity" endorsed on their HTST were nearly 3 times as likely to be deemed as a "likely" or "definite" human trafficking victim.

The effects of most HTST items attenuated somewhat when controlling for demographic characteristics, in which being a female (relative to being a male) was the largest demographic predictor of the HTST screening conclusion being "likely" or "definitely" trafficked. The exception was children with "forced labor." This item was significant at the 0.05 level in the model with demographics in which these youth were over 6 times more likely than those who did not have "forced labor" endorsed to be identified as a "likely" or "definite" human trafficking victim by DJJ. For both models, the AUC values are "good" to "excellent," indicating good model fit (see the bottom row of Table 2 for AUCs).

Table 2. Area Under the Curve and Logistic Regression Odds Ratio Estimates

Outcome variable	HTST Q50 (RQ1)		DCF-verified trafficking allegation (RQ2)					
Sample	All screened youth (N=3,609)		All screened youth (N=3,609)			Youth referred to DCF (N=311)		
Model	HTST items only (OR)	HTST items & demo (OR)	HTST Q50 only (OR)	HTST items only (OR)	HTST items & demo (OR)	HTST Q50 only (OR)	HTST items only (OR)	HTST items & demo (OR)
HTST Q50								
Likely Trafficking Victim			17.62***			2.02***		
HTST Items								
Unsafe Online Activity	1.58*	1.46		1.83*	1.66		1.57	1.39
Suspicious/Trafficking-Related Tattooing/Branding	3.26***	2.80**		1.19	0.97		1.32	1.29
Unsafe Living Environment	3.51***	3.37***		1.02	1.00		0.85	0.85
Deceptive Payment Practices	1.00	1.39		0.57	0.64		0.61	0.68
Forced Labor	5.22*	6.42**		1.74	1.75		2.53	2.47
Excessive Running Away	1.51*	1.47*		2.21**	2.03**		1.07	0.92
Questionable Financial Support While Away	1.72**	1.78**		1.17	1.16		0.84	0.95
Coercion to Stay on the Run	2.13**	2.13**		0.88	0.88		1.06	1.15
Sexual Activities for Money, Support, or Gifts	2.92***	2.61***		3.17**	2.73**		1.93*	1.90
Inability to Leave	0.95	0.98		1.05	1.14		1.24	1.24

(continued)

Table 2. Area Under the Curve and Logistic Regression Odds Ratio Estimates (continued)

Outcome variable	HTST Q50 (RQ1)		DCF-verified trafficking allegation (RQ2)					
Sample	All screened youth (N=3,609)		All screened youth (N=3,609)			Youth referred to DCF (N=311)		
Model	HTST items only (OR)	HTST items & demo (OR)	HTST Q50 only (OR)	HTST items only (OR)	HTST items & demo (OR)	HTST Q50 only (OR)	HTST items only (OR)	HTST items & demo (OR)
Forced Identity Deception	2.48*	2.11		1.84	1.76		2.06	2.05
Sexual Exploitation	1.77**	1.46*		0.70	0.61		0.85	0.85
Compensation for Sexual Activity	2.77***	3.00***		2.58**	2.71**		1.98*	1.96*
Information from Parent/Guardian Suggests Potential Trafficking	12.13***	10.07***		2.91***	2.31**		1.03	0.97
Demographic Variables								
Age		0.98			1.03			0.96
Race: Black (vs. White)		1.38			1.68*			1.84*
Race: Other (vs. White)		1.01			0.89			1.18
Gender: Female (vs. Male)		6.24***			8.89***			3.51**
Ethnicity: Hispanic (vs. non-Hispanic)		0.75			0.99			1.16
AUC	0.85	0.95	0.89	0.86	0.89	0.59	0.65	0.70

AUC=area under the curve; DCF=Florida Department of Children and Families; demo=demographic characteristic; HTST=Human Trafficking Screening Tool; OR=odds ratio; RQ=research question. ***=p-value<0.01; **=p-value<0.05; *=p-value<0.10

Results for RQ2 are in the remaining columns of Table 2. RQ2 assesses the magnitude of the relationship between the HTST and a DCF-verified trafficking allegation. This assessment is performed in three ways: the HTST conclusion regarding trafficking risk or victimization (Q50 of the HTST, which we dichotomized to define the outcome variable in the first two columns of Table 2 but used as an uncategorized five-point item in the RQ2 analyses), all HTST items, and all HTST items controlling for demographics. Columns 3, 4, and 5 show results in the full sample of youth for whom DJJ completed an HTST assessment; and columns 6, 7, and 8 show results for the subsample of youth for whom a DCF investigation of an HTA was completed.

There are three general patterns. First, the ORs and AUCs are much larger for the full sample of all screened youth than for the subsample who had DCF investigations, and more HTST items have significant results. This pattern is unsurprising because there is a restriction of the range of the underlying risk in this subsample (i.e., the youth who had an allegation and theoretically had the greatest risk of having been trafficked as determined by the HTST). Range restrictions reduce variance, which typically results in lower predictive power of a model, as seen in Table 2.

Second, in the full sample, the summary item Q50 is as good a predictor as all the HTST items combined, as can be seen by similar AUC values between the third column (AUC=0.89) and the fourth and fifth columns (AUC=0.86 and AUC=0.89, respectively). However, this pattern does not hold in the subsample of youth referred by DJJ to DCF: the AUCs are much lower and are poor for Q50 alone (AUC=0.59), with moderate improvement when using all HTST items (AUC=0.65) and fair prediction when using all HTST items plus demographic variables (AUC=0.70).

Third, the strongest HTST item predictors of a DCF-verified trafficking allegation differ in overall magnitude and relative ordering of magnitudes when predicting DCF-verified allegations versus predicting “likely” or “definitely” trafficked youth from the HTST Q50 conclusion. For RQ2 in the full sample, the four strongest HTST items are “sexual activities for money, support, or gifts,” “information from parent/guardian suggests potential trafficking,” “compensation for sexual activity,” and “excessive running away.” Youth with these HTST items indicated were 2 to 3 times more likely to have a DCF-verified allegation than those without those items. In the subsample of youth with an HTA, there were no HTST items significant at the 0.05 level, but females were 3.5 times more likely than males to have a verified allegation in the model with demographics.

3.3.3 Verified Human Trafficking Allegations (RQ3)

The proportion of children with a trafficking allegation following the HTST who had an allegation that was verified as human trafficking by DCF following an investigation was 23.8%.

3.3.4 HTST Factors (RQ4 and RQ5)

The three-factor EFA model fit the HTST items well: RMSEA=0.04, P(RMSEA≤0.05)=87, CFI=0.98. The factor loading structure for the three-factor EFA model is shown in Table 3. Items 1, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, and 14 loaded onto the first factor, which was labeled “Sex trafficking risk,” because most items explicitly included sexual behavior. Items 4, 5, and 11 loaded onto the

second factor, which was labeled “Labor trafficking risk,” because these items focused on forced labor and identity deception. Items 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, and 14 loaded onto the last factor, which was labeled “Environmental risk,” because most of those items were not sex or labor specific. Items 1, 7, 8, and 14 were cross-loaded for the first and third factors. Item 10 (inability to leave) did not load onto any of the three factors.

Table 3. GEOMIN Rotated Factor Loadings from the Three-Factor Exploratory Factor Analysis Model (N=311)

Human Trafficking Screening Tool items	Sex trafficking risk	Labor trafficking risk	Environmental risk
1. Unsafe Online Activity	0.295*	-0.093	0.288*
2. Suspicious/Trafficking-Related Tattooing/Branding	-0.070	0.278	0.507*
3. Unsafe Living Environment	0.036	0.243	0.511*
4. Deceptive Payment Practices	0.016	0.631*	0.216
5. Forced Labor	-0.134	1.171*	0.005
6. Excessive Running Away	0.004	-0.111	0.754*
7. Questionable Financial Support While Away	0.332*	-0.001	0.727*
8. Coercion to Stay on the Run	0.412*	0.074	0.282*
9. Sexual Activities for Money, Support, or Gifts	0.917*	-0.045	0.007
10. Inability to Leave	0.144	0.212	0.161
11. Forced Identity Deception	0.326	0.513*	-0.328
12. Sexual Exploitation	0.617*	0.138	0.054
13. Compensation for Sexual Activity	0.997*	0.000	-0.234
14. Information from Parent/Guardian Suggests Potential Trafficking	0.299*	0.125	0.409*

* Factor loading is significantly different from 0 at the 0.05 level.

The Structural Equation Model (SEM) for RQ4 used the environmental risk factor and sex trafficking risk factor to predict the binary DJJ indicator of “likely” or “definitely” trafficked and fit fairly well: RMSEA=0.06, P(RMSEA≤0.05)=0.22, CFI=0.93. The effect of the standardized factors was OR=1.33 for the environmental risk factor and OR=1.58 for the sex trafficking risk factor. The labor trafficking risk factor was not predictive of the DJJ indicator of “likely” or “definitely” trafficked.

The SEM for RQ5 used the environmental risk factor and sex trafficking risk factor to predict a DCF-verified trafficking allegation and fit fairly well: RMSEA=0.05, P(RMSEA≤0.05)=0.49, CFI=0.93. The effect of the standardized factors was OR=1.46 for the sex trafficking risk factor. The environmental risk factor and the labor trafficking risk factor were not predictive of a DCF-verified trafficking allegation.

Section 4: Characteristics and Predictors of Dual System Involvement among Child Victims of Human Trafficking

4. Characteristics and Predictors of Dual System Involvement among Child Victims of Human Trafficking

4.1 Research Questions

The CW system is pivotal in identifying and responding to child human trafficking victims. Children who have experienced human trafficking—or are at risk of victimization—are increasingly recognized as also being served in the JJ system. However, little is known about human trafficking victimization among children in the JJ population or among children with CW and JJ involvement. Only by understanding the characteristics of dual system–involved child victims of trafficking can JJ and CW systems across the country appropriately intervene and respond.

To expand the understanding of the characteristics of dual system–involved children who have experienced HTAs, we explored the following research questions:

What are the characteristics of HTAs?

What are the characteristics of children at the time of their first HTA?

What are the predictors of single and dual system involvement at the first HTA?

4.2 Methods[12]

4.2.1 Data

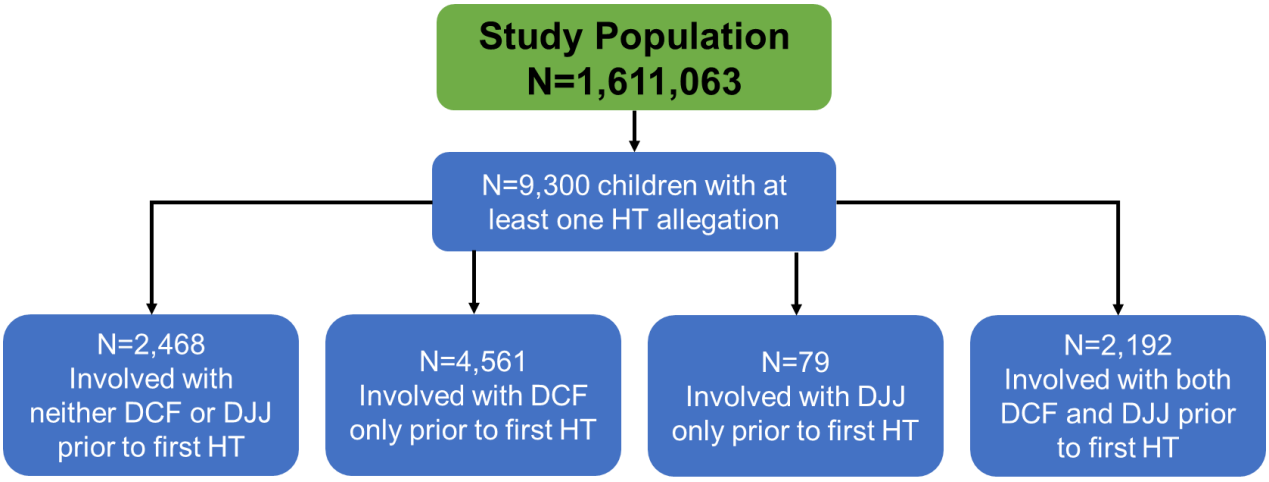
To establish involvement in DCF or DJJ at the time of the HTA, the date of the *first* HTA for each child was used (N=9,300). To determine prior DCF involvement, this date was compared with the first allegation of any kind. If the HTA was not the first allegation of any kind for the child, then they were considered “involved” in the DCF system at the time of their HTA. In other words, there had been a report or investigation about possible maltreatment before the HTA, and the child was already electronically in the DCF system. If the HTA was the first allegation, then the child was considered “not involved” in DCF at the time of their human trafficking allegation; the human trafficking allegation initiated their involvement with DCF. Similarly, the date of the first HTA was compared with the date of the earliest delinquency offense or DJJ services received date. In Florida, children are not arrested; instead, they are taken into custody based on probable cause where they are charged with a law violation. A “referral” is the process of directing a child to DJJ based on an allegation of a criminal law violation (Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, 2021). However, this time, the HTA date had to be 5 days or more after the DJJ date for the child to be considered “involved” in the DJJ system. This was to avoid counting instances where the HTA was the result of DJJ screening using the HTST. As part of the DJJ

[12] The source for the methods presented in this section can be located in the original manuscript published in *Child Abuse and Neglect* titled "A Statewide Analysis of Characteristics and Predictors of Dual System Involvement among Child Victims of Human Trafficking.

screening process, the HTST is administered to children who are considered at higher risk of human trafficking. If, as a result of the answers to the HTST, the DJJ staff member determines the child might have been trafficked or if they are unsure, they then contact the DCF Abuse Hotline and make a report. The staff member has 3 days to make this call. Importantly, this tool was first piloted by DJJ in 2012 and its use by the agency was expanded statewide in 2015, so a very limited number of children were called into the DCF Abuse Hotline from a DJJ referral/DJJ staff prior to 2015.

Because we considered the screening and allegation report to be the same event, we did not count children with their HTA within 4 days (we gave staff an extra day) from their first DJJ date as being DJJ involved. For example, if a child had been arrested for the first time on January 1 and had their first HTA on January 3, we would consider this child as "not involved" in the DJJ system at the time of the allegation. However, if the allegation was on January 6 or after, the child would be considered "involved." Children were categorized as (1) not involved in either system, (2) involved in DCF only, (3) involved in DJJ only, or (4) involved in both systems at the time of their first HTA (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Dual System Involvement Analysis Population



4.2.2 Analytical Approach

Analyses included descriptive frequencies of demographic- and allegation-specific characteristics for all HTAs. After determining system involvement at the time of the child's first HTA, crosstabs were produced showing similar characteristics for each of the four involvement groups: DCF only, DJJ only, DCF and DJJ, neither DCF nor DJJ. Additionally, frequencies for variables specific to DCF and DJJ, such as placements, missing child reports, and referrals, were generated for each group. Because the numbers of children involved in DJJ only at the time of the allegation (N=79) were small, this group was removed from the bivariate analysis, which allowed chi-square values to be calculated.

Multinomial logistic regression models were produced, predicting the type of system involvement. The models controlled for year of the allegation; age at the time of the allegation; sex, race, and ethnicity of the child; type of trafficking; and the most serious finding of the HTA. In addition to the children involved in DJJ only at the time of the allegation (N=79), children with unknown sex (N=88) and with sex and unspecified trafficking (N=6) were removed from the model due to the small number of children in these categories. A total of 173 children were removed from the models. The trafficking categories of “sex and labor trafficking” and “labor trafficking only” were combined in the models into “labor trafficking with or without sex trafficking.” Additionally, the most serious findings of “not substantiated” and “no indicator” were combined into “non-verified.” Two multinomial logistic regression models were run: one with the neither system group as the reference category and one with DCF-only involvement as the reference category. A second set of models was generated using only children for whom the HTA was verified (N=1,832). This model did not include the most serious finding.

4.3 Results[13]

4.3.1 Descriptive Statistics

4.3.1.1 Characteristics of Human Trafficking Allegations (RQ1)

Table 4 shows the characteristics of all HTAs (N=12,167). The earliest year with an allegation is 2008.[14] Prevalence increased through the years, with almost 2,000 HTAs in 2019. The vast majority (75%) of allegations included sex trafficking allegations. Only 7% of allegations included labor trafficking. About a quarter (24%) of allegations were verified. Almost two-thirds (64%) of children were 15–17 years of age at the time of the HTA.

[13] The source for the results presented in this section can be located in the original manuscript published in *Child Abuse and Neglect* titled "A Statewide Analysis of Characteristics and Predictors of Dual System Involvement among Child Victims of Human Trafficking.

[14] DCF did not track HT allegations prior to 2008.

Table 4. Characteristics of Human Trafficking Allegations

Characteristics	N	%
Total allegations	12,167	100
Year received		
2008	3	0.0
2009	72	0.6
2010	240	2.0
2011	482	4.0
2012	742	6.1
2013	800	6.6
2014	857	7.0
2015	1,373	11.3
2016	1,710	14.1
2017	1,894	15.6
2018	1,796	14.8
2019	1,907	15.7
2020[a]	291	2.4
Type of trafficking investigated		
Sex trafficking only	9,179	75.4
Human trafficking, unspecified, only	2,114	17.4
Labor trafficking only	792	6.5
Sex and labor trafficking	76	0.6
Sex and unspecified trafficking	6	0.0
Most serious investigation finding		
No indicator	6,477	53.2
Not substantiated	2,815	23.1
Verified	2,875	23.6
Age at allegation		
0–8	752	6.2
9–12	1,073	8.8
13	945	7.8
14	1,637	13.5
15	2,514	20.7
16	2,735	22.5
17	2,511	20.6

(continued)

Table 4. Characteristics of Human Trafficking Allegations (continued)

Characteristics	N	%
Sex		
Female	10,360	85.1
Male	1,714	14.1
Unknown	93	0.8
Race and ethnicity		
White, non-Hispanic	3,377	27.8
Black, non-Hispanic	3,900	32.0
Other, non-Hispanic	2,568	21.1
Hispanic	2,322	19.1
First allegation	2,547	20.9
First HTA	9,300	76.4
Living situation on allegation received date		
In DCF placement	2,304	18.9
In DJJ commitment	52	0.4
Not in placement	9,811	80.6
Involved in DJJ system before allegation	3,844	31.6
Involved in DCF system before allegation	9,620	79.1

[a] Numbers for 2020 are small because this analysis used only allegations through February 2020.

Most children with HTAs were female (85%). The distribution of HTAs was somewhat equitable across racial and ethnic groups, from 19% Hispanic to 32% White, non-Hispanic. This was the first allegation of any type for 21% of the children and was the first HTA for roughly three-quarters (76%) of the children. Less than 20% of the children had been removed from their home and were living in some kind of placement at the time of the HTA (any DCF placement, which included family, congregate care, or other, 19%; DJJ residential facility placement, less than 1%). In the Florida JJ system, placement of a child may include detention and residential commitment. Detention centers are short term in that a child might be there for only a few days or a few weeks. Residential commitment programs can be longer, perhaps 6–9 months for nonsecure programs (these were split into low- and moderate-risk programs at the time of the study) or 9–12 months for high- or maximum-risk programs.

4.3.1.2 Characteristics of Children at First Human Trafficking Allegation (RQ2)

Table 5 shows the system involvement of children at the time of their first HTA. About a quarter of children were not involved in either system at the time of the allegation (N=2,468; 27%) or both systems (N=2,192; 24%), respectively. About half were involved in DCF only (N=4,561; 49%), with the remaining less than 1% involved in DJJ only (N=79). Again, the children involved in DJJ only were removed from the analysis due to their small sample size. The total column in

Table 5 reflects only the remaining three groups. Children involved in neither system had the highest percentage of allegations involving labor trafficking (15%). Children involved in DJJ were older because DJJ involvement did not start until at least age 6. Children in any system were more likely to be female (ranging from 82% to 86%) than children in neither system (74%). The racial makeup of the children between groups exhibited large differences. Almost half (45%) of children in neither system were categorized as "other, non-Hispanic," whereas only 8% of children in DCF and DJJ were "other, non-Hispanic." The percentages of children who were either Black, non-Hispanic or White, non-Hispanic tripled between the "neither" and "both" groups (15% to 43% and 12% to 36%, respectively). Conversely, the percentage of Hispanic children in both DCF and DJJ (13%) was less than half the percentage of Hispanic children involved in neither system (28%). Higher percentages of children experienced each of the different DCF allegation types before their first HTA in the DCF and DJJ groups compared with the DCF-only group. The same pattern is true for children with any placements, multiple placements, any missing child reports, and multiple missing child reports. Most children with DJJ involvement had other violent, property, or other offense types. Almost half of children involved in both systems had any prior DJJ community supervision (45%) and less than 10% had any prior DJJ residential facility commitment (9%).

Table 5. Characteristics of Children at the Time of Their First Human Trafficking Allegation

	Involved in DJJ and DCF systems at time of allegation N (%)			Total	p-value
Characteristic	Neither (no prior DCF allegations or DJJ referrals)	DCF only (at least one prior DCF allegation, no prior DJJ referrals)	DCF and DJJ (at least one prior DCF allegation and DJJ referral)		
Total children	2,468 (100)	4,561 (100)	2,192 (100)	9,221 (100.0)	
Year received					
2008	3 (0.1)	0	0	3 (0.0)	<.0001
2009	37 (1.5)	24 (0.5)	10 (0.5)	71 (0.8)	
2010	68 (2.8)	85 (1.9)	59 (2.7)	212 (2.3)	
2011	128 (5.2)	169 (3.7)	131 (6.0)	428 (4.6)	
2012	176 (7.1)	237 (5.2)	215 (9.8)	628 (6.8)	
2013	148 (6.0)	231 (5.1)	238 (10.9)	617 (6.7)	
2014	199 (8.1)	278 (6.1)	213 (9.7)	690 (7.5)	
2015	257 (10.4)	489 (10.7)	301 (13.7)	1,047 (11.4)	

(continued)

Table 5. Characteristics of Children at the Time of Their First Human Trafficking Allegation (continued)

	Involved in DJJ and DCF systems at time of allegation N (%)			Total	p-value
Characteristic	Neither (no prior DCF allegations or DJJ referrals)	DCF only (at least one prior DCF allegation, no prior DJJ referrals)	DCF and DJJ (at least one prior DCF allegation and DJJ referral)		
2016	341 (13.8)	629 (13.8)	287 (13.1)	1,257 (13.6)	
2017	343 (13.9)	779 (17.1)	289 (13.2)	1,411 (15.3)	
2018	316 (12.8)	744 (16.3)	216 (9.9)	1,276 (13.8)	
2019	389 (15.8)	787 (17.3)	205 (9.4)	1,381 (15.0)	
2020	63 (2.6)	109 (2.4)	28 (1.3)	200 (2.2)	
Type of trafficking investigated					
Sex trafficking only	1,582 (64.1)	3,527 (77.3)	1,535 (70.0)	6,644 (72.1)	<.0001
Human trafficking, unspecified type only	523 (21.2)	692 (15.3)	579 (26.4)	1,794 (19.5)	
Labor trafficking only	336 (13.6)	317 (7.0)	67 (3.1)	720 (7.8)	
Sex and labor trafficking	26 (1.1)	21 (0.5)	10 (0.5)	57 (0.6)	
Sex and unspecified trafficking	1 (0.0)	4 (0.1)	1 (0.0)	6 (0.1)	
Most serious investigation finding					
No indicator	1,643 (66.6)	2,736 (60.0)	1,055 (48.1)	5,434 (58.9)	<.0001
Not substantiated	398 (16.1)	943 (20.7)	603 (27.5)	1,944 (21.1)	
Verified	427 (17.3)	882 (19.3)	534 (24.4)	1,843 (20.0)	
Age at first trafficking allegation					
0–8	288 (11.7)	438 (9.6)	0	726 (7.9)	<.0001
9–12	273 (11.1)	650 (14.3)	66 (3.0)	989 (10.7)	
13	192 (7.8)	423 (9.3)	160 (7.3)	775 (8.4)	
14	289 (11.7)	667 (14.6)	326 (14.9)	1,282 (13.9)	
15	406 (16.5)	880 (19.3)	551 (25.1)	1,837 (19.9)	
16	512 (20.7)	811 (17.8)	556 (25.4)	1,879 (20.4)	
17	508 (20.6)	692 (15.2)	533 (24.3)	1,733 (18.8)	
Sex					
Female	1,833 (74.3)	3,856 (84.5)	1,893 (86.4)	7,582 (82.2)	<.0001
Male	566 (22.9)	688 (15.1)	297 (13.5)	1,551 (16.8)	
Unknown	69 (2.8)	17 (0.4)	2 (0.1)	88 (1.0)	

(continued)

Table 5. Characteristics of Children at the Time of Their First Human Trafficking Allegation (continued)

Characteristic	Involved in DJJ and DCF systems at time of allegation N (%)			Total	p-value
	Neither (no prior DCF allegations or DJJ referrals)	DCF only (at least one prior DCF allegation, no prior DJJ referrals)	DCF and DJJ (at least one prior DCF allegation and DJJ referral)		
Race and ethnicity					
White, non-Hispanic	307 (12.4)	1,487 (32.6)	791 (36.1)	2,585 (28.0)	<.0001
Black, non-Hispanic	367 (14.9)	1,402 (30.7)	939 (42.8)	2,708 (29.4)	
Other, non-Hispanic	1,098 (44.5)	828 (18.2)	169 (7.7)	2,095 (22.7)	
Hispanic	696 (28.2)	844 (18.5)	293 (13.4)	1,833 (19.9)	
Living situation on allegation received date					
In DCF placement	41 (1.7)	647 (14.2)	534 (24.4)	1,222 (13.3)	<.0001
In DJJ commitment	0	0	39 (1.8)	39 (0.4)	
Not in placement	2,427 (98.3)	3,914 (85.8)	1,619 (73.9)	7,960 (86.3)	
Any prior sexual abuse allegations	0	1,420 (31.1)	931 (42.5)	2,351 (25.5)	<.0001
Any prior physical abuse allegations	0	2,497 (54.7)	1,708 (77.9)	4,205 (45.6)	<.0001
Any prior neglect allegations	0	3,644 (79.9)	1,963 (89.6)	5,607 (60.8)	<.0001
Any prior psychological maltreatment allegations	0	1,009 (22.1)	763 (34.8)	1,772 (19.2)	<.0001
Any prior other types of allegations	0	2,498 (54.8)	1,482 (67.6)	3,980 (43.2)	<.0001
Both prior sexual abuse and any other types of allegations	0	1,299 (28.5)	919 (41.9)	2,218 (24.1)	<.0001
Any prior placements	0	1,265 (27.7)	1,000 (45.6)	2,265 (24.6)	<.0001
Three or more prior placements	0	682 (15.0)	696 (31.8)	1,378 (14.9)	<.0001
Ten or more prior placements	0	198 (4.3)	342 (15.6)	540 (5.9)	<.0001
Any prior missing child reports	0	434 (9.5)	575 (26.2)	1,009 (10.9)	<.0001
Three or more prior missing child reports	0	242 (5.3)	423 (19.3)	665 (7.2)	<.0001
Ten or more prior missing child reports	0	88 (1.9)	232 (10.6)	320 (3.5)	<.0001

(continued)

Table 5. Characteristics of Children at the Time of Their First Human Trafficking Allegation (continued)

	Involved in DJJ and DCF systems at time of allegation N (%)			Total	p-value
Characteristic	Neither (no prior DCF allegations or DJJ referrals)	DCF only (at least one prior DCF allegation, no prior DJJ referrals)	DCF and DJJ (at least one prior DCF allegation and DJJ referral)		
Most recent offense prior to HTA					
Murder/manslaughter	0	0	1 (0.0)	1 (0.0)	n/a
Sex offense	0	0	27 (1.2)	27 (1.2)	
Robbery	0	0	22 (1.0)	22 (1.0)	
Other violent offense	0	0	721 (32.9)	721 (32.9)	
Burglary	0	0	100 (4.6)	100 (4.6)	
Property offense	0	0	466 (21.3)	466 (21.3)	
Drug offense	0	0	109 (5.0)	109 (5.0)	
Weapons offense	0	0	20 (0.9)	20 (0.9)	
Other	0	0	726 (33.1)	726 (33.1)	
Any prior DJJ community supervision	0	0	978 (44.6)	978 (10.6)	n/a
Any prior DJJ residential facility commitment	0	0	196 (8.9)	196 (2.1)	n/a
Mean age at first DJJ involvement	-	-	13.3	13.3	n/a
Mean number of referrals before allegation	-	-	4.3	4.3	n/a

4.3.2 Predictors of Single and Dual System Involvement at First Human Trafficking Allegation (RQ3)

Table 6 presents the results of the multinomial logistic models predicting involvement in DCF only, DCF and DJJ, or neither system. The first two sets of columns in Table 6 show results from the model with the neither system group as the reference category and the final set of columns show results from the model with DCF-only involvement as the reference category. The purpose of showing results under all combinations of reference categories is analogous to pairwise comparisons for a predictor variable in ANOVA models, but for the dependent variable for a multinomial regression model. Compared with males, females were more than 1.6 times more likely (odds ratio [OR]=1.6) to be involved in DCF only compared with neither system at the time of the first HTA, slightly more likely (OR=1.2) to be involved in both systems compared with neither system, and less likely (OR=0.8) to be involved in both systems compared with DCF only. Black, non-Hispanic children, compared with White, non-Hispanic children, were more

likely to be involved in DCF and DJJ compared with DCF only (OR=1.2), whereas children classified as other, non-Hispanic and Hispanic children were less likely than White, non-Hispanic children to be involved in either system (OR=0.1, OR=0.2, respectively) compared with neither. Children whose allegation was verified were more likely to be involved in DCF (OR=1.2) and both systems (OR=1.5) compared with neither system and more likely to be involved in both systems (OR=1.2) compared with DCF only. Children with labor trafficking allegations compared with those with only sex trafficking allegations were less likely to be involved in DCF only (OR=0.5) or both systems (OR=0.3) than neither system and less likely to be involved in both systems (OR=0.5) compared with DCF only.

Table 6. System Involvement Predictors at Time of First Human Trafficking Allegation per Child (N=9,127)

	DCF involvement only vs. neither			DCF and DJJ involvement vs. neither			DCF and DJJ involvement vs. DCF only		
Characteristic	OR	95% CI	p-value	OR	95% CI	p-value			OR
Year of allegation	1.17	(1.13 - 1.21)	<.0001	0.99	(0.96 - 1.03)	0.7608	0.85	(0.83 - 0.88)	<.0001
Age	0.97	(0.95 - 0.98)	<.0001	1.29	(1.26 - 1.33)	<.0001	1.34	(1.30 - 1.38)	<.0001
Sex (reference category=male)									
female	1.58	(1.36 - 1.82)	<.0001	1.22	(1.01 - 1.46)	0.0354	0.77	(0.66 - 0.91)	0.0021
Race (reference category=White, non-Hispanic)									
Black, non-Hispanic	0.84	(0.71 – 1.00)	0.0463	1.03	(0.86 - 1.24)	0.7594	1.23	(1.08 - 1.39)	0.0016
Other, non-Hispanic	0.12	(0.10 - 0.14)	<.0001	0.06	(0.05 - 0.07)	<.0001	0.50	(0.41 - 0.61)	<.0001
Hispanic	0.24	(0.20 - 0.28)	<.0001	0.17	(0.14 - 0.20)	<.0001	0.71	(0.60 - 0.84)	<.0001
Most serious finding (reference category=non-verified)									
Verified	1.26	(1.09 - 1.45)	0.0016	1.52	(1.29 - 1.79)	<.0001	1.21	(1.06 - 1.38)	0.0044
Type of trafficking (reference category=sex trafficking only)									
Human trafficking, unspecified type only	0.80	(0.66 - 0.98)	0.0298	0.82	(0.65 - 1.02)	0.0744	1.02	(0.84 - 1.22)	0.8675
Labor trafficking with or without sex trafficking	0.51	(0.42 - 0.61)	<.0001	0.26	(0.20 - 0.35)	<.0001	0.52	(0.40 - 0.69)	<.0001

Table 7 shows the results from the models restricted to those children with a verified abuse allegation. The first two sets of columns show the results from the model with neither system group as the reference category and the final set of columns show results where DCF-only involvement is the reference category. Females were around twice as likely (OR=1.9) to be involved in DCF only or both systems (OR=2.2) than in neither system at the time of the first HTA. Children classified as other, non-Hispanic, compared with White, non-Hispanic children, were less likely to be involved in any system (OR=0.04–0.1) and a third as likely to be involved in both systems (OR=0.3) than in DCF only. Results were similar for Hispanic children who were less likely than White, non-Hispanic children to be involved in either system (OR=0.2–0.3) and less likely to be involved in both systems versus DCF only (OR=0.7). Children with labor trafficking allegations compared with those with sex trafficking allegations only were less likely to be involved in both systems than in neither system (OR=0.3) and DCF only (OR=0.4).

Table 7. System Involvement Predictors at the Time of First Human Trafficking Allegation per Child, Verified Only (N=1,832)

	DCF involvement only vs. Neither			DCF and DJJ involvement vs. Neither			DCF and DJJ involvement vs. DCF only		
Characteristic	OR	95% CI	p-value	OR	95% CI	p-value			OR
Year of allegation	1.21	(1.12 - 1.30)	<.0001	0.98	(0.90 - 1.06)	0.6360	0.81	(0.76 - 0.87)	<.0001
Age	0.97	(0.91 - 1.02)	0.2338	1.17	(1.08 - 1.27)	0.0001	1.21	(1.13 - 1.3)	<.0001
Sex (reference category=male)									
female	1.86	(1.29 - 2.68)	0.0009	2.15	(1.37 - 3.39)	0.0009	1.16	(0.79 - 1.71)	0.4531
Race (reference category=White, non-Hispanic)									
Black, non-Hispanic	0.89	(0.57 - 1.40)	0.6179	0.90	(0.57 - 1.42)	0.6442	1.01	(0.77 - 1.32)	0.9672
Other, non-Hispanic	0.12	(0.08 - 0.18)	<.0001	0.04	(0.03 - 0.07)	<.0001	0.33	(0.22 - 0.5)	<.0001
Hispanic	0.25	(0.16 - 0.38)	<.0001	0.17	(0.11 - 0.27)	<.0001	0.69	(0.48 - 0.98)	0.0354
Type of trafficking (reference category=sex trafficking only)									
Human trafficking, unspecified type only	1.15	(0.69 - 1.91)	0.5949	1.29	(0.76 - 2.20)	0.3385	1.13	(0.75 - 1.69)	0.5624
Labor trafficking with or without sex trafficking	0.79	(0.52 - 1.20)	0.2650	0.33	(0.18 - 0.61)	0.0004	0.42	(0.24 - 0.73)	0.0021

Section 5: Human Trafficking among Crossover Children: Predicting Initial and Repeat Victimization

5. Human Trafficking among Crossover Children: Predicting Initial and Repeat Victimization

5.1 Research Questions

Involvement in the JJ and CW systems and maltreatment have been found to predict youth trafficking victimization (Fedina et al., 2019, Franchino-Olsen, 2021). However, few research studies have examined predictors of *repeat* or *subsequent* human trafficking victimization. Understanding the predictors of *repeat* trafficking victimization is necessary to inform and develop appropriate responses and interventions to initial trafficking allegations to reduce or prevent repeat trafficking victimization and its attendant harms. To contribute more research and provide additional understanding of the predictors of initial and repeat HTAs, we examined the following research questions:

What youth characteristics, prior DCF experiences, and prior DJJ experiences are associated with an initial trafficking allegation?

What youth characteristics, prior DCF experiences, prior DJJ experiences, and characteristics of initial trafficking allegations are predictive of subsequent trafficking allegations?

5.2 Methods[15]

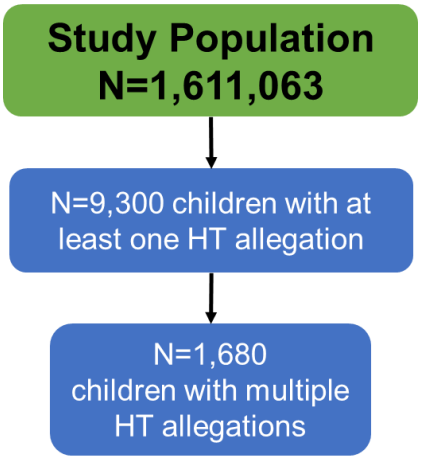
5.2.1 Data

The two human trafficking outcomes of this study were (1) whether a child had an HTA, and (2) whether there was a subsequent HTA[16] among those with an initial allegation (N=9,300). Figure 4 summarizes the data included in these analyses. We constructed predictor variables using information about events occurring before a reference date. Predictors included demographic information (age, sex, race, ethnicity), DJJ involvement (any time spent in residential facilities, any time spent in community supervision, referral type, and number of prior delinquency charges), and DCF involvement (prior allegations for sexual abuse, physical abuse, neglect, maltreatment, out of home placement, and missing child reports).

[15] The source for the methods presented in this section can be located in the original manuscript submitted to *Child Maltreatment* titled "Human Trafficking among Crossover Children: Predicting Initial and Repeat Victimization."

[16] DCF maintains a protocol to ensure that child abuse calls received during the course of an active investigation are assigned to the same investigator and encompassed within a single child abuse investigation, subject to the same case timelines.

Figure 4. Initial and Repeat Human Trafficking Allegations Analysis Population



For children who had an HTA, the reference date was the date of the allegation. For those without an HTA, the reference date was their 18th birthday or March 1, 2020 (the day after the last day of data in the analysis file), whichever was earlier. For survival analyses, children without an HTA were "censored" at this reference date, meaning the period of time to look for the event (i.e., an HTA) was stopped prior to finding the event of interest.

We used the reference date in constructing DJJ predictor variables (specifically whether the child had DJJ referrals, services, and assessments) to determine whether the child was placed in a residential facility, was under community supervision, had a referral, or had any other DJJ involvement on any date before the reference date. Additionally, we counted information on DCF placements and any DCF-reported missing child events that started before the reference date. We also reviewed allegation data to see if any neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, or psychological[17] maltreatment allegations were received **on or before** the reference date. We considered allegation types received on the same date as the HTA as occurring prior to the HTA for purposes of this analysis.

We also created a second reference date for children who had experienced an HTA. Analogous to the first reference date, the second reference date was the date of their second HTA. For those with a first HTA but without a second HTA, the second reference date was again either their 18th birthday or March 1, 2020, whichever was earlier. We used the same process to identify predictor variables happening before the second reference date. This time, events could have occurred at any point prior to the second reference date, including if it only occurred prior to the first reference date.

5.2.2 Analytical Approach

Analyses included descriptive frequencies, percentages, means, and sums of child demographic characteristics at the time of the first and second reference dates and events

[17] The *psychological maltreatment* indicator includes *mental injury* and *bizarre punishment.*

occurring prior to each reference date. We generated additional frequencies on characteristics of the first HTA for children with at least one HTA. We fit logistic regression models to the data to predict whether the child had an HTA and, of those with an allegation, whether a second HTA later occurred. The predictors were age at the reference date; sex, race, and ethnicity of the child; any DJJ involvement prior to the reference date; any prior sexual abuse; any prior physical abuse; any prior psychological abuse; number of prior placements; number of prior missing child events; and the number of prior DJJ referrals. Because the variable capturing any prior neglect was not significant in the crosstabs for any HTA, we did not include it in the logistic regression model predicting an HTA. However, it does appear in the logistic regression model for a *subsequent* HTA. Additionally, we included the most serious finding from the first HTA in the model for a subsequent HTA. We combined categories of "not substantiated" and "not indicated" into "not verified" for the analysis.[18]

We fit analogous parametric survival models with the same set of predictors as the logistic regression models to the data. The outcome variable in the first survival model was time to first HTA; we censored children who never experienced an HTA. The outcome variable in the second survival model was time to second HTA among children who had at least one HTA; we censored children who never experienced a second HTA. Preliminary analyses looked at the distribution of time to allegation and compared models with logistic, Gaussian, Weibull, exponential, lognormal, and loglogistic distributions using Akaike's Information Criterion (Akaike, 1974). The best fitting distribution was the Weibull distribution, which we ultimately used for the models reported in the results section.

5.3 Results[19]

5.3.1 Descriptive Statistics

As show in Table 8, less than 1% of children in the study had an HTA (N=9,300). However, of those with an allegation, 18% (N=1,680) had a subsequent HTA. Most children with an HTA were female (83%) compared to an equal split between sexes among children without an HTA. Among those with a subsequent HTA, 93% were female.

Among those without an HTA, only 7% had any sort of DJJ involvement, while a quarter of those with a first HTA and half of those with a subsequent HTA had some kind of previous DJJ involvement. Similar patterns hold for children who had experienced prior abuse. The percentages who had experienced each prior abuse type increase on every variable for those with no HTA, to those with at least one HTA, to those with multiple HTAs. For example, one-third of children without an HTA had a prior physical abuse allegation, almost half (49%) of those with an initial HTA also had a prior physical abuse allegation, and almost three-quarters (72%) of children with a subsequent HTA also had a prior physical abuse allegation. Only 10% of children without an HTA had a prior sexual abuse allegation, whereas over one-third (36%) of

[18] DCF provides the same services to children whose HTAs are verified as they do to children whose HTAs are not substantiated.

[19] The source for the results presented in this section can be located in the original manuscript submitted to *Child Maltreatment* titled "Human Trafficking among Crossover Children: Predicting Initial and Repeat Victimization."

those with an initial HTA also had a prior sexual abuse allegation and over half (53%) of children with a subsequent HTA also had a prior sexual abuse allegation. The percentages of children with a prior neglect allegation are more similar between the three groups but still increase from 69% of both children without an HTA and those with an initial HTA to 87% of children with a subsequent HTA. Less than 10% of children without an HTA had a prior psychological maltreatment allegation compared to one-fifth (21%) of those with an initial HTA and more than one-third (36%) of children with a subsequent HTA.

Table 8. Descriptive Statistics for Youth's History Prior to First and Second Human Trafficking Allegations (or Censoring for Those Without a Human Trafficking Allegation)

Characteristic	Total N (%)	Any HTAs			A second human trafficking allegation		
		No N (%)	Yes N (%)	p-value	No N (%)	Yes N (%)	p-value
Total children	1,611,063 (100)	1,601,763 (100)	9,300 (100)		7,620 (100)	1,680 (100)	
Demographics							
Year of birth							
1993-2006	856,938 (53.2)	848,485 (53.0)	8,453 (90.9)	<.0001	6,803 (89.3)	1,650 (98.2)	<.0001
2007-2020	754,125 (46.8)	753,278 (47.0)	847 (9.1)		817 (10.7)	30 (1.8)	
Age at first HTA/censoring							
0–10	556,995 (34.6)	555,954 (34.7)	1,041 (11.2)	<.0001	993 (13.0)	48 (2.9)	<.0001
11–12	181,792 (11.3)	181,113 (11.3)	679 (7.3)		560 (7.3)	119 (7.1)	
13–14	176,524 (11.0)	174,455 (10.9)	2,069 (22.2)		1,474 (19.3)	595 (35.4)	
15–16	161,037 (10.0)	157,279 (9.8)	3,758 (40.4)		2,978 (39.1)	780 (46.4)	
17	534,715 (33.2)	532,962 (33.3)	1,753 (18.8)		1,615 (21.2)	138 (8.2)	
Age at second HTA/censoring							
0–10					502 (6.6)	35 (2.1)	<.0001
11–12					284 (3.7)	61 (3.6)	
13–14					534 (7.0)	349 (20.8)	
15–16					1,046 (13.7)	842 (50.1)	
17					5,254 (69.0)	393 (23.4)	
Sex							
Female	789,486 (49.7)	781,839 (49.5)	7,647 (83.0)	<.0001	6,091 (80.8)	1,556 (92.8)	<.0001
Male	799,960 (50.3)	798,395 (50.5)	1,565 (17.0)		1,445 (19.2)	120 (7.2)	

(continued)

Table 8. Descriptive Statistics for Youth's History Prior to First and Second Human Trafficking Allegations (or Censoring for Those Without a Human Trafficking Allegation) (continued)

Characteristic	Total N (%)	Any HTAs			A second HTA		
		No N (%)	Yes N (%)	p-value	No N (%)	Yes N (%)	p-value
Race and ethnicity							
White, non-Hispanic	511,893 (31.8)	509,286 (31.8)	2,607 (28.0)	<.0001	2,143 (28.1)	464 (27.6)	<.0001
Black, non-Hispanic	343,637 (21.3)	340,888 (21.3)	2,749 (29.6)		2,112 (27.7)	637 (37.9)	
Other, non-Hispanic	452,213 (28.1)	450,110 (28.1)	2,103 (22.6)		1,809 (23.7)	294 (17.5)	
Hispanic	303,320 (18.8)	301,479 (18.8)	1,841 (19.8)		1,556 (20.4)	285 (17.0)	
DJJ involvement before HT/Censoring							
Prior DJJ involvement							
Any residential facility with or without community supervision	13,582 (0.8)	13,385 (0.8)	197 (2.1)	<.0001	383 (5.0)	92 (5.5)	<.0001
Any community supervision without residential facility	34,439 (2.1)	33,625 (2.1)	814 (8.8)		812 (10.7)	325 (19.3)	
Any referral but no adjudication	65,737 (4.1)	64,474 (4.0)	1,263 (13.6)		919 (12.1)	414 (24.6)	
No DJJ involvement	1,497,305 (92.9)	1,490,279 (93.0)	7,026 (75.5)		5,506 (72.3)	849 (50.5)	
DCF involvement before HT/censoring							
Any prior DCF involvement	1,609,407 (99.9)	1,601,763 (100.0)	7,644 (82.2)	<.0001	7,620 (100)	1,680 (100)	
Any prior sexual abuse allegations	169,873 (10.5)	166,537 (10.4)	3,336 (35.9)	<.0001	2,829 (37.1)	895 (53.3)	<.0001
Any prior physical abuse allegations	537,196 (33.3)	532,650 (33.3)	4,546 (48.9)	<.0001	3,701 (48.6)	1,201 (71.5)	<.0001
Any prior neglect allegations	1,107,056 (68.7)	1,100,622 (68.7)	6,434 (69.2)	0.3301	5,362 (70.4)	1,456 (86.7)	<.0001
Any prior psychological maltreatment allegations	148,977 (9.2)	146,994 (9.2)	1,983 (21.3)	<.0001	1,679 (22.0)	612 (36.4)	<.0001

(continued)

Table 8. Descriptive Statistics for Youth's History Prior to First and Second Human Trafficking Allegations (or Censoring for Those Without a Human Trafficking Allegation) (continued)

Characteristic	Total N (%)	Any HTAs			A second HTA		
		No N (%)	Yes N (%)	p-value	No N (%)	Yes N (%)	p-value
Mean number of prior placements	0.5	0.5	1.9	<.0001	2.6	5.4	<.0001
Mean number of prior missing child reports	0.0	0.0	1.0	<.0001	1.5	3.9	<.0001
Mean number of prior DJJ offenses	0.3	0.3	1.0	<.0001	1.5	2.5	<.0001
Most serious finding of first HT							
Not verified			7,440 (80.0)		6,230 (81.8)	1,210 (72.0)	<.0001
Verified			1,860 (20.0)		1,390 (18.2)	470 (28.0)	
Median number of days until first HTA			5,662 days				
Median number of days between first and second HTA						189 days	

The mean number of DCF placements and missing child events also increase for those with no HTA, to those with at least one HTA, to those with multiple HTAs. The mean number of prior DCF placements for those without any HTAs was 0.5, whereas for those with an allegation it was 2 placements prior to their first HTA. When looking at time until the second HTA, children with only one HTA averaged 2.6 placements, whereas those with multiple allegations averaged 5.4 placements prior to their second allegation. A similar pattern holds for missing child events. Children with no HTAs averaged zero missing child events, whereas those with an HTA averaged one missing event prior to their first HTA. Those numbers increase to almost 4 missing child events prior to a second HTA.

The mean number of prior DJJ delinquency charges for children without an HTA was 0.3, whereas children with an HTA averaged one offense per child. For those with a second HTA, the mean rose to almost 3 (mean=2.5) delinquency charges per child *prior to* the second HTA. The median number of days from birth until a child's first HTA was 5,662 days, or 15.5 years. The median number of days until a subsequent HTA was only 189 days, or about 6 months.

5.3.2 Youth Characteristics and Experiences Associated with Initial Human Trafficking Allegation (RQ1) and Subsequent Trafficking Allegations (RQ2)

Table 9 presents logistic regression model results on the scale of the odds ratio (OR) to give an effect size estimate for each predictor. The likelihood of having an HTA increased with age, with children aged 15 or 16 years old almost 9 times more likely (OR=8.49) as children aged 10 or less to have an HTA. The OR less than 1 (OR=0.71) at age 17 resulted because children were at risk for a shorter period; specifically, we censored them at age 18 if they were in the sample until they aged out and never had an HTA as a child. Girls were almost 5 times (OR=4.92) more likely than boys to have an HTA. Non-Hispanic Black children and non-Hispanic children of other races were one and a half times more likely (OR=1.48 and 1.53, respectively) and Hispanic children were one and one-third more likely (OR=1.37) than non-Hispanic White children to have an HTA. Children experiencing any kind of DJJ involvement were more likely to experience an HTA than those without, ranging from children who had experienced any prior residential facility placement (OR=3.86), to those with a referral but not adjudication (OR=4.80), to those with prior community supervision (OR=6.35). Children with prior physical (OR=1.27), psychological (OR=1.54), or sexual (OR=2.67) abuse were more likely than those without to have an HTA. Each DCF-recorded missing child event increased the odds of having an HTA by OR=1.06. A child with 10 missing child events was almost 2 times more likely to have an HTA (OR for 10 missing child events=1.06^{10}=1.79) than children without an event.

Table 9. Logistic Regression Results

Characteristic	First HTA (yes vs. no) (N= 1,589,446) Odds Ratio	95% CI	p-value	Second HTA (yes vs. no) (N=9,212) Odds Ratio	95% CI	p-value
Age at HTA/censoring (ref: 0–10 years old)						
11–12	1.87	(1.70 - 2.07)	<.0001	2.52	(1.61 - 3.96)	<.0001
13–14	5.12	(4.74 - 5.54)	<.0001	5.05	(3.45 - 7.40)	<.0001
15–16	8.49	(7.88 - 9.14)	<.0001	5.42	(3.75 - 7.82)	<.0001
17	0.71	(0.65 - 0.77)	<.0001	0.41	(0.28 - 0.60)	<.0001
Sex (ref: Male)						
Female	4.92	(4.64 - 5.20)	<.0001	2.95	(2.37 - 3.66)	<.0001
Race and ethnicity (ref: White, Non-Hispanic)						
Black, non-Hispanic	1.48	(1.40 - 1.57)	<.0001	1.38	(1.18 - 1.62)	<.0001
Other, non-Hispanic	1.53	(1.44 - 1.63)	<.0001	1.04	(0.86 - 1.27)	0.6680
Hispanic	1.37	(1.29 - 1.45)	<.0001	1.03	(0.85 - 1.24)	0.7830
Verified finding first HTA (ref: no)		n/a*		1.79	(1.54 - 2.08)	<.0001
Prior DJJ involvement (ref: No DJJ involvement)						
Any residential facility placement with or without community supervision	3.86	(3.11 - 4.79)	<.0001	1.43	(0.95 - 2.14)	0.0863
Any community supervision without residential facility placement	6.35	(5.70 - 7.06)	<.0001	2.22	(1.73 - 2.85)	<.0001
Any referral but no adjudication	4.80	(4.47 - 5.16)	<.0001	2.31	(1.92 - 2.77)	<.0001
Any prior neglect (ref: no)	--	--	--	1.43	(1.19 - 1.71)	0.0001
Any prior physical abuse (ref: no)	1.27	(1.21 - 1.33)	<.0001	1.48	(1.28 - 1.72)	<.0001
Any prior sexual abuse (ref: no)	2.67	(2.55 - 2.80)	<.0001	1.21	(1.06 - 1.38)	0.0046
Any prior psychological abuse (ref: no)	1.54	(1.45 - 1.62)	<.0001	1.22	(1.05 - 1.41)	0.0084
Number of prior DCF placements	1.01	(1.01 - 1.02)	<.0001	1.00	(0.99 - 1.01)	0.4936
Number of prior missing child events	1.06	(1.05 - 1.06)	<.0001	1.03	(1.02 - 1.04)	<.0001
Number of prior DJJ referrals	1.04	(1.03 - 1.05)	<.0001	1.02	(1.00 - 1.05)	0.1179

*The variable capturing any prior neglect was not significant in the crosstabs for any HTA; we did not include it in the logistic regression model predicting an HTA.

We ran a second logistic regression model on the subset of those children who had any HTA to predict a second HTA. As with the first model, the odds increase with age prior to age 17, ranging from OR=2.52 to OR=5.42 times as likely. Girls were still more likely (OR=2.95) than boys to have a subsequent allegation. Non-Hispanic Black children had higher odds (OR=1.38)

than non-Hispanic White children to have a subsequent allegation. Additionally, children whose first allegation was verified were almost twice as likely (OR=1.79) to have a subsequent allegation. Both children with prior DJJ community supervision and those with a referral but no adjudication were about twice as likely to have a subsequent allegation than children with no prior involvement (OR=2.22 and OR=2.31, respectively). Children with a residential facility placement did not have significantly different odds of having a subsequent allegation than children with no prior DJJ involvement. Children with prior neglect (OR=1.43), physical abuse (OR=1.48), psychological abuse (OR=1.22), or sexual abuse (OR=1.21), were all more likely than those without to have a second allegation.

Table 10 shows the results of the survival analysis looking at time to first HTA, and time from the first to the second HTA. Results of the survival models are shown by hazard ratio (HR). Like the OR, an HR greater than 1 indicates a predictor is a risk factor for an HTA and an HR less than 1 indicates a predictor is a protective factor. However, they are interpreted differently from the OR. For example, an HR=2 for a binary predictor indicates that children with that predictor have HTAs at twice the rate as children without the presence of that binary predictor.

In looking at time to first HTA, the trafficking rate for children aged 13–14 is 4 times the trafficking rate of children aged 0–10 (HR=4.21), whereas the rate of 15- and 16-year-olds is almost 7 times those aged 10 or younger (HR=6.61). For the first HTA, the trafficking rate for girls is almost 5 times the trafficking rate of boys (HR=4.79). Children with any prior sexual abuse allegation have a human trafficking rate that is two and a half times higher than children who did not have a sexual abuse allegation (HR=2.45).

In the analysis of children with at least one HTA, the HR for the second HTA were similar. The HR for ages 11–12 is almost 3 times the rate of children ages 0–10 (HR=2.86), whereas the rate for children 13–14 years of age is over 6 times the rate (HR=6.09), and for children 15–16 years of age is almost 6 times the rate (HR=5.74) when compared with children aged 10 or younger. Children whose first HTA was verified had a trafficking rate almost twice as high as children whose HTA was not verified (HR=1.74). Children who experienced prior physical abuse and prior neglect experienced a second HTA quicker than those who did not have prior physical abuse and neglect (HR=1.45 and HR=1.20, respectively). However, children with prior sexual abuse did not experience a second HTA any faster than those who did not.

Table 10. Parametric Survival Analysis Results

Characteristic	Time to First HTA (N= 1,589,446)			Time to Second HTA (N=9,212)		
	Hazard Ratio	95% CI	p-value	Hazard Ratio	95% CI	p-value
Age at HTA/censoring (ref: 0–10 years old)						
11–12	1.60	(1.45 - 1.76)	0.0000	2.86	(1.88 - 4.33)	0.0000
13–14	4.21	(3.89 - 4.55)	0.0000	6.09	(4.29 - 8.66)	0.0000
15–16	6.61	(6.14 - 7.11)	0.0000	5.74	(4.07 - 8.11)	0.0000
17	0.72	(0.66 - 0.79)	0.0000	0.70	(0.49 – 1.00)	0.0509
Sex (ref: Male)						
Female	4.79	(4.53 - 5.06)	0.0000	2.87	(2.37 - 3.47)	0.0000
Race (ref: White, non-Hispanic)						
Black, non-Hispanic	1.45	(1.37 - 1.53)	0.0000	1.20	(1.06 - 1.35)	0.0036
Other, non-Hispanic	2.11	(1.99 - 2.24)	0.0000	1.13	(0.97 - 1.32)	0.1164
Hispanic	1.51	(1.42 - 1.60)	0.0000	1.04	(0.90 - 1.21)	0.5931
Verified finding first HTA (ref: no)	--	--	--	1.74	(1.56 - 1.94)	0.0000
Prior DJJ involvement (ref: No DJJ involvement)						
Any residential facility placement with or without community supervision	0.28	(0.23 - 0.34)	0.0000	0.79	(0.58 - 1.07)	0.1261
Any community supervision without residential facility placement	1.45	(1.23 - 1.72)	0.0000	1.49	(1.16 - 1.92)	0.0017
Any referral but no adjudication	1.14	(0.95 - 1.38)	0.1611	1.67	(1.25 - 2.22)	0.0004
Any prior neglect (ref: no)	--	--	--	1.20	(1.03 - 1.40)	0.0228
Any prior physical abuse (ref: no)	1.19	(1.14 - 1.24)	0.0000	1.45	(1.29 - 1.64)	0.0000
Any prior sexual abuse (ref: no)	2.45	(2.34 - 2.56)	0.0000	1.02	(0.92 - 1.13)	0.6666
Any prior psychological abuse (ref: no)	1.46	(1.39 - 1.54)	0.0000	1.11	(1.00 - 1.24)	0.0515
Number of prior DCF placements	1.01	(1.00 - 1.01)	0.0008	1.00	(0.99 – 1.00)	0.1099
Number of prior missing child events	1.04	(1.03 - 1.04)	0.0000	1.01	(1.01 - 1.02)	0.0000
Number of prior DJJ referrals	1.03	(1.02 - 1.04)	0.0000	1.01	(0.99 - 1.03)	0.1867

Section 6: Child Trafficking Victimization as a Predictor of Subsequent Juvenile Justice Involvement

6. Child Trafficking Victimization as a Predictor of Subsequent Juvenile Justice Involvement

6.1 Research Questions

Children involved in human trafficking have high rates of JJ involvement, and JJ involvement creates conditions for further victimization (Bath et al., 2020, Franchino-Olsen, 2021) . The victimization-justice involvement relationship continues to be a topic of research inquiry because of its implications for how the JJ system should respond to human trafficking, including overall prevention of underlying risks for both system involvement and victimization (Franchino-Olsen, 2021), justice-based intervention and treatment (Bath et al., 2020), and diversion to other systems (Abrams et al., 2021) . To advance the literature on the temporal nature of the trafficking victimization-justice involvement relationship, we explored the following research questions:

Among children with an HTA, what youth characteristics and system-involvement experiences predict future JJ involvement?

Among children with an HTA that subsequently experience a JJ referral, what youth characteristics and system-involvement experiences predict different timing (or rates) for that JJ referral?

6.2 Methods[20]

6.2.1 Data

Based on input from DJJ staff, any DJJ referrals included in the data when the child was younger than 6 years of age were removed from the analysis file. Since this analysis focused on juvenile referrals, any referral for when the child was older than 17 was removed. Additionally, for the purposes of this analysis, only referrals where the offense description was not a court order or other administrative transfer were counted as a DJJ referral.

The population for this analysis was all children with at least one HTA of any type who were at least 6 years old by the end of the data collection period. There were 9,300 children who had at least one HTA and, of those, 9,177 children had a birthdate before March 1, 2014, which allowed them to turn 6 years old during the data collection period and therefore have the possibility of a DJJ referral (Figure 5).

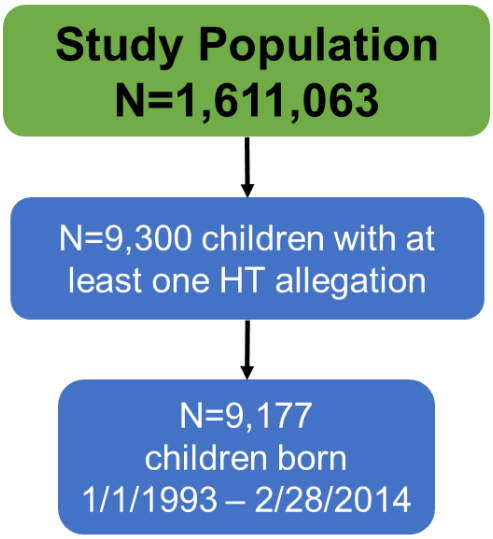
For the 9,177 children aged 6–17 in the analysis, there were 16,246 total charges categorized as an offense in the DJJ data that occurred *after* the child's first HTA. Taking the most serious

[20] The source for the methods presented in this section can be located in the original manuscript submitted to *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment, and Trauma* titled "Child Trafficking Victimization as a Predictor of Subsequent Juvenile Justice Involvement."

charge[21] for the first referral resulted in 2,123 children with at least one referral after their first HTA. The number of days from the child's first HTA to this first referral was counted. The number of referrals occurring before the child's first HTA was counted and categorized as zero, one, or more than one. Additionally, the most serious charge from those referrals was determined.

Variables were created to capture information about the period of time prior to their first referral *after* the first HTA. A reference date was created that was either the date of the first referral after the allegation or, if a child did not have any DJJ referral post-allegation, the earliest of their 18th birthday or the data collection end date (February 29, 2020). Binary indicators were created describing their DCF experience during this time period (birth through reference date). Variables were created for any prior sexual abuse allegations, prior physical abuse allegations, prior neglect allegations, prior psychological maltreatment allegations, prior DCF placements, and prior missing child reports.

Figure 5. Subsequent Juvenile Justice Involvement Analysis Population



6.2.2 Analytical Approach

Analyses included descriptive one-way frequencies of demographic characteristics for the 9,177 children in the sample as well as characteristics of their first HTA and DJJ history prior to their first HTA (reference date). We then generated crosstabs comparing whether the child had a DJJ

[21] Most serious charge was defined as the following, in order of severity: Person-related offenses result in physical or mental harm to another person and may consist of murder, manslaughter, or other violent crimes. Property offenses involve interference with the property of another person or party and may include larceny, theft, burglary, and arson. Drug offenses typically involve the illicit possession, use, sale or furnishing of any drug or intoxicating substance or drug paraphernalia. Public order offenses are acts that deviate from the normative social order and are disruptive to the social good; examples include disorderly conduct, public intoxication, and using threatening language directed at another person. Other offenses are criminal acts that cannot be included in other offense categories and may include traffic violations, financial or white-collar crimes, and other alcohol-related crimes.

referral after their first HTA with the demographic, prior allegation, prior placement, prior missing child reports, and prior DJJ involvement variables.

We produced a logistic regression model predicting a DJJ referral. The dependent variable was whether the child had a DJJ referral occurring at any point after the first HTA. Predictor variables in the model included year of birth[22]; age at first HTA; sex, race and ethnicity; number of DJJ referrals prior to the first HTA; the most serious finding and type of HTA; indicators for prior allegation types; prior DCF placements; and any prior missing child events. Since the number of children with "sex and unspecified trafficking" (N=6) was small, children in these categories were dropped from the model. Children with missing values on biological sex (N=86) were excluded from the model, which resulted in an overall number of children of 9,085. We also performed survival analysis using the same predictor variables where the number of days from the first HTA to the date of the first DJJ referral as the dependent variable. The number of days from the allegation to the reference date was used. Additionally, we determined the percentage of children with a DJJ referral for each value of the predictor variables. Finally, for those with a DJJ referral, the median number of years from the first HTA to the date of the first DJJ referral post-allegation was calculated.

6.3 Results[23]

6.3.1 Descriptive Statistics

As shown in Table 11, there were 9,177 children born between January 1, 1993, and February 28, 2014, who had an HTA. Over half (60%) were 15–17 years old at the time of their first HTA. The vast majority were female (83%), and there was a fairly even split between racial and ethnic groups: 20% Hispanic; 22% non-Hispanic other races; 28% White, non-Hispanic; and 30% Black, non-Hispanic. Most allegations (70%) occurred in 2015 or later and 20% were verified. Almost three-quarters (72%) of allegations involved sex trafficking, and only 8% involved labor trafficking. Almost three-quarters (74%) did not have a juvenile referral offense, 8% had one prior referral, and almost a fifth (18%) had more than one referral before their first HTA. Among the 26% of children with a prior juvenile referral, the most serious offense for two-thirds (68%) was a person-related offense.

Table 12 shows the results of crosstabs between demographic and allegation characteristics and whether the child had a DJJ offense after their first HTA. Higher percentages of children with a DJJ offense (34%) were White, non-Hispanic compared to those without a DJJ offense (27%). The same pattern was true for Back, non-Hispanic children (45% and 25%). Other, non-Hispanic children and Hispanic children represented smaller percentages of those with an offense compared to those without (8% vs. 26% and 13% vs. 22%, respectively). Children with

[22] To control for any differences in victimization prevalence or changes in reporting over time, the year of birth is included in addition to age at HTA. Including birth year in models ensures that the other parameters of interest are adjusted for any heterogeneous birth year cohort risk factor.

[23] The source for the methods presented in this section can be located in the original manuscript submitted to *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment, & Trauma* titled "Child Trafficking Victimization as a Predictor of Subsequent Juvenile Justice Involvement."

a DJJ offense had a higher percentage of verified first HTAs (23%) than children without a DJJ offense (20%). Over half (53%) of children with a DJJ offense had more than one prior DJJ offense before their first HTA compared to only 8% of the children without a DJJ offense. Similarly, half (49%) of children with a DJJ offense had a prior person-related DJJ offense compared to only 8% of the children without a DJJ offense. For each kind of prior maltreatment, children with a DJJ offense had higher percentages of experiencing the maltreatment than those without a DJJ offense: sexual abuse (49% vs. 37%), physical abuse (77% vs. 46%), neglect (90% vs. 68%), and psychological maltreatment (35% vs. 21%). Additionally, almost half (47%) of children with a DJJ offense had a prior DCF placement, and almost one-third (29%) had a prior missing child report. In comparison, 27% of those without a DJJ offense had a prior placement, and 12% had a prior missing child report.

Table 11. Children's First Human Trafficking Allegation

Characteristic	N	%
Total children	9,177	100.0
Demographics		
Age at first allegation		
0–10	917	10.0
11	255	2.8
12	422	4.6
13	780	8.5
14	1,288	14.0
15	1,854	20.2
16	1,905	20.8
17	1,756	19.1
Sex		
Female	7,571	83.3
Male	1,520	16.7
Race and ethnicity		
White, non-Hispanic	2,598	28.3
Black, non-Hispanic	2,742	29.9
Other, non-Hispanic	2,022	22.0
Hispanic	1,815	19.8
First allegation characteristics		
Year		
2008	3	0.0
2009	72	0.8
2010	221	2.4

2011	441	4.8
2012	658	7.2
2013	643	7.0
2014	687	7.5

(continued)

Table 11. Children's First Human Trafficking Allegation (continued)

Characteristic	N	%
2015	1,043	11.4
2016	1,242	13.5
2017	1,387	15.1
2018	1,241	13.5
2019	1,346	14.7
2020	193	2.1
Most serious finding		
Not verified	7,321	79.8
Verified	1,856	20.2
Type of trafficking allegation		
Sex trafficking only	6,551	71.4
Human trafficking, unspecified type only	1,845	20.1
Labor trafficking only	718	7.8
Sex and labor trafficking	57	0.6
Sex and unspecified trafficking	6	0.1
Number of juvenile referrals before first HTA		
Zero	6,772	73.8
One	761	8.3
Multiple	1,644	17.9
Most serious offense before first HTA		
None	6,772	73.8
Person	1,620	17.7
Property	603	6.6
Drug	68	0.7
Public order	110	1.2
Other	4	0.0

Table 12. Any Juvenile Offense After First Human Trafficking Allegation

		Any juvenile offense after first allegation N (%)		
Characteristic	Total	No	Yes	p-value
Total children	9,177 (100)	7,054 (100)	2,123 (100)	
Demographics				
Year of birth				0.0000
1993	97 (1.1)	72 (1.0)	25 (1.2)	
1994	203 (2.2)	139 (2.0)	64 (3.0)	
1995	316 (3.4)	213 (3.0)	103 (4.9)	
1996	405 (4.4)	248 (3.5)	157 (7.4)	
1997	539 (5.9)	338 (4.8)	201 (9.5)	
1998	709 (7.7)	487 (6.9)	222 (10.5)	
1999	923 (10.1)	658 (9.3)	265 (12.5)	
2000	1,061 (11.6)	809 (11.5)	252 (11.9)	
2001	1,096 (11.9)	842 (11.9)	254 (12.0)	
2002	1,057 (11.5)	831 (11.8)	226 (10.6)	
2003	818 (8.9)	631 (8.9)	187 (8.8)	
2004	578 (6.3)	493 (7.0)	85 (4.0)	
2005	380 (4.1)	323 (4.6)	57 (2.7)	
2006	271 (3.0)	255 (3.6)	16 (0.8)	
2007	171 (1.9)	163 (2.3)	8 (0.4)	
2008	134 (1.5)	133 (1.9)	1 (0.0)	
2009–2014	419 (4.6)	419 (5.9)	0	
Age at first HTA				0.0000
0–10	917 (10.0)	880 (12.5)	37 (1.7)	
11	255 (2.8)	220 (3.1)	35 (1.6)	
12	422 (4.6)	322 (4.6)	100 (4.7)	
13	780 (8.5)	540 (7.7)	240 (11.3)	
14	1,288 (14.0)	864 (12.2)	424 (20.0)	
15	1,854 (20.2)	1,287 (18.2)	567 (26.7)	
16	1,905 (20.8)	1,424 (20.2)	481 (22.7)	
17	1,756 (19.1)	1,517 (21.5)	239 (11.3)	
Sex				0.0310
Female	7,571 (83.3)	5,773 (82.8)	1,798 (84.8)	
Male	1,520 (16.7)	1,198 (17.2)	322 (15.2)	

(continued)

Table 12. Any Juvenile Offense After First Human Trafficking Allegation *(continued)*

		Any juvenile offense after first allegation N (%)		
Characteristic	Total	No	Yes	p-value
Race and ethnicity				0.0000
White, non-Hispanic	2,598 (28.3)	1,887 (26.8)	711 (33.5)	
Black, non-Hispanic	2,742 (29.9)	1,787 (25.3)	955 (45.0)	
Other, non-Hispanic	2,022 (22.0)	1,848 (26.2)	174 (8.2)	
Hispanic	1,815 (19.8)	1,532 (21.7)	283 (13.3)	
First HTA characteristics				
Year				0.0000
2008	3 (0.0)	3 (0.0)	0	
2009	72 (0.8)	54 (0.8)	18 (0.8)	
2010	221 (2.4)	140 (2.0)	81 (3.8)	
2011	441 (4.8)	302 (4.3)	139 (6.5)	
2012	658 (7.2)	421 (6.0)	237 (11.2)	
2013	643 (7.0)	375 (5.3)	268 (12.6)	
2014	687 (7.5)	481 (6.8)	206 (9.7)	
2015	1,043 (11.4)	767 (10.9)	276 (13.0)	
2016	1,242 (13.5)	977 (13.9)	265 (12.5)	
2017	1,387 (15.1)	1,123 (15.9)	264 (12.4)	
2018	1,241 (13.5)	1,038 (14.7)	203 (9.6)	
2019	1,346 (14.7)	1,186 (16.8)	160 (7.5)	
2020	193 (2.1)	187 (2.7)	6 (0.3)	
Most serious finding				0.0018
Not verified	7,321 (79.8)	5,678 (80.5)	1,643 (77.4)	
Verified	1,856 (20.2)	1,376 (19.5)	480 (22.6)	
Type of HTA				0.0000
Sex trafficking only	6,551 (71.4)	5,160 (73.1)	1,391 (65.5)	
Human trafficking, unspecified type only	1,845 (20.1)	1,213 (17.2)	632 (29.8)	
Labor trafficking only	718 (7.8)	627 (8.9)	91 (4.3)	
Sex and labor trafficking	57 (0.6)	49 (0.7)	8 (0.4)	
Sex and unspecified trafficking	6 (0.1)	5 (0.1)	1 (0.0)	

(continued)

Table 12. Any Juvenile Offense After First Human Trafficking Allegation *(continued)*

		Any juvenile offense after first allegation N (%)		
Characteristic	Total	No	Yes	p-value
Number of juvenile referrals before first HTA				0.0000
Zero	6,772 (73.8)	6,152 (87.2)	620 (29.2)	
One	761 (8.3)	372 (5.3)	389 (18.3)	
Multiple	1,644 (17.9)	530 (7.5)	1,114 (52.5)	
Most serious juvenile offense before first HTA				0.0000
None	6,772 (73.8)	6,152 (87.2)	620 (29.2)	
Person	1,620 (17.7)	580 (8.2)	1,040 (49.0)	
Property	603 (6.6)	238 (3.4)	365 (17.2)	
Drug	68 (0.7)	37 (0.5)	31 (1.5)	
Public order	110 (1.2)	45 (0.6)	65 (3.1)	
Other	4 (0.0)	2 (0.0)	2 (0.1)	
Any prior sexual abuse allegations	3,649 (39.8)	2,611 (37.0)	1,038 (48.9)	0.0000
Any prior physical abuse allegations	4,851 (52.9)	3,226 (45.7)	1,625 (76.5)	0.0000
Any prior neglect allegations	6,723 (73.3)	4,809 (68.2)	1,914 (90.2)	0.0000
Any prior psychological maltreatment allegations	2,251 (24.5)	1,507 (21.4)	744 (35.0)	0.0000
Any prior placements	2,892 (31.5)	1,885 (26.7)	1,007 (47.4)	0.0000
Any prior missing child reports	1,487 (16.2)	865 (12.3)	622 (29.3)	0.0000

6.3.2 Predictors of a JJ Referral after First HTA (RQ1)

Table 13 shows the results of the logistic regression predicting whether the child had a DJJ referral after their first HTA. The ORs are shown to provide an effect size estimate for each variable included in the model. ORs greater than 1 indicate that the predictor increased the likelihood of the outcome occurring, while an OR less than 1 indicates the outcome was less likely to occur. Children experiencing an HTA at ages 11–14 were about twice as likely to have a subsequent DJJ referral compared to children experiencing an HTA at ages 0–10 (ORs ranging 1.7–2.3). Children experiencing an HTA at ages 16–17 (OR=0.5, 0.1) were less likely than children experiencing an HTA at ages 0–10 to have a DJJ referral, partly due to the limited exposure time prior to the child aging out of the sample at age 18. Females were less likely than males (OR=0.7) to have a DJJ referral after their HTA. Black, non-Hispanic children were more likely (OR=1.3) than White, non-Hispanic children to have a DJJ referral, whereas Hispanic (OR=0.7) and non-Hispanic children of other races (OR=0.6) were less likely to have a DJJ referral compared to White, non-Hispanic children. Children with any prior DJJ offense were much more likely to have a DJJ referral after their first HTA, with children with one prior referral

almost 8 times more likely (OR=7.9) and children with multiple referrals over 18 times more likely (OR=18.1) compared with children without a prior DJJ referral. Children with a prior physical abuse allegation or prior neglect allegation were almost twice as likely to have a DJJ referral than those without (OR=1.7 and 1.8, respectively). Children with a prior missing child event were also more likely than children without to have a subsequent DJJ referral (OR=1.2).

Table 13. Logistic Regression Predicting DJJ Referral Post First Human Trafficking Allegation

Characteristic	Any DJJ referral after first HTA (yes vs. no) (N=9,085)		
	Odds Ratio	95% CI	p-value
Year of birth	0.84	(0.81 - 0.87)	<.0001
Age at first HTA (ref: 0–10 years old)			
11	1.84	(1.08 - 3.11)	0.0240
12	2.31	(1.47 - 3.64)	0.0003
13	2.26	(1.48 - 3.47)	0.0002
14	1.69	(1.10 - 2.60)	0.0158
15	0.99	(0.64 - 1.53)	0.9479
16	0.53	(0.33 - 0.84)	0.0071
17	0.14	(0.08 - 0.23)	<.0001
Sex (ref: Male)			
Female	0.74	(0.61 - 0.89)	0.0017
Race and ethnicity (ref: White, non-Hispanic)			
Black, non-Hispanic	1.26	(1.09 - 1.47)	0.0022
Other, non-Hispanic	0.61	(0.49 - 0.76)	<.0001
Hispanic	0.74	(0.61 - 0.90)	0.0021
Number of juvenile referrals before first HTA (ref: Zero)			
One	7.86	(6.52 - 9.47)	<.0001
Multiple	18.11	(15.37 - 21.34)	<.0001
Most serious finding (ref: Not verified)			
Verified	1.05	(0.90 - 1.23)	0.5249
Type of HTA (ref: Sex trafficking only)			
Human trafficking, unspecified type only	0.88	(0.72 - 1.08)	0.2342
Labor trafficking with or without sex trafficking	0.81	(0.61 - 1.09)	0.1623
Any prior physical abuse (ref: No)	1.74	(1.50 - 2.02)	<.0001

(continued)

Table 13. Logistic Regression Predicting DJJ Referral Post First Human Trafficking Allegation (continued)

Characteristic	Any DJJ referral after first HTA (yes vs. no) (N=9,085)		
	Odds Ratio	95% CI	p-value
Any prior sexual abuse (ref: No)	0.98	(0.86 - 1.12)	0.7601
Any prior neglect (ref: No)	1.83	(1.51 - 2.23)	<.0001
Any prior psychological maltreatment (ref: No)	1.05	(0.91 - 1.22)	0.4857
Any prior DCF placements (ref: No)	1.16	(0.98 - 1.37)	0.0822
Any prior missing child events (ref: No)	1.22	(1.01 - 1.49)	0.0438

6.3.3 Predictors of the Timing (or Rates) for a JJ Referral after First HTA (RQ2)

Table 14 presents the percentage of children with a DJJ referral post-allegation and, for those children with a DJJ referral after their first HTA, the median number of years from the date of the allegation to the date of the DJJ referral. Overall, about a quarter (23%) of children had a DJJ referral after their first HTA and, on average, did so in about 3.5 months (0.3 years) after their allegation. The median number of years for children without a prior DJJ offense was 0.6 compared to only 0.3 for children with one prior offense and 0.2 for children with multiple prior DJJ referrals. Children whose trafficking allegation was sex trafficking only had a smaller median time to offense (0.3) than children whose allegation involved labor trafficking (0.6).

Table 15 shows the HR from the survival analysis using the number of days until the first DJJ referral after the child's first HTA. Like the OR, an HR less than 1 indicates a predictor is a protective factor for a DJJ referral while an HR greater than 1 one indicates a predictor is a risk factor. Specifically, the HR=6.7 for children aged 11 at their first HTA means that those children have DJJ referrals at almost 7 times the rate as children aged 0–10 at the time of their first HTA. Youth aged 11–17 experienced DJJ referrals at a higher rate than those aged 0–10 (HR ranging 6.1–20.7). The DJJ referral rate for Black, non-Hispanic (HR=1.3) was higher than for White non-Hispanic children, whereas the rate was lower for other non-Hispanic children (HR=.04) and Hispanic children (HR=0.7). Children with any number of prior juvenile referrals had higher rates of DJJ referrals than children without a prior referral; children with one prior referral had rates almost 25 times higher (HR=23.7) and children with multiple prior referrals had rates over 90 times higher than children with no prior referrals (HR=91.3). Children with prior physical abuse (HR=2.0) and prior neglect (HR=2.3) experienced DJJ referrals at a higher rate than those without each of those prior maltreatment allegations.

Table 14. Median Times to First DJJ Referral After First Human Trafficking Allegation

Characteristic	% with DJJ referral (N=9,085)	Median years to first referral (N=2,119)
All children	23.1	0.29
Age at first HT		
0–10	4.0	3.36
11	13.7	1.78
12	23.7	0.68
13	30.8	0.40
14	32.9	0.36
15	30.6	0.26
16	25.2	0.24
17	13.6	0.15
Sex		
Female	23.8	0.29
Male	21.2	0.28
Race and ethnicity		
White, non-Hispanic	27.4	0.27
Black, non-Hispanic	34.9	0.30
Other, non-Hispanic	8.6	0.29
Hispanic	15.6	0.26
Number of juvenile referrals before first HTA		
Zero	9.2	0.63
One	51.1	0.32
Multiple	67.7	0.17
Most serious finding		
Not verified	22.5	0.28
Verified	25.8	0.29
Type of HTA		
Sex trafficking only	21.2	0.26
Human trafficking, unspecified type only	34.3	0.36
Labor trafficking with or without sex trafficking	12.8	0.57
Prior sexual abuse allegations		
Yes	28.4	0.33
No	19.6	0.25

(continued)

Table 14. Median Times to First DJJ Referral After First Human Trafficking Allegation (continued)

Characteristic	% with DJJ referral (N=9,085)	Median years to first referral (N=2,119)
Prior physical abuse allegations		
Yes	33.5	0.29
No	11.5	0.27
Prior neglect allegations		
Yes	28.5	0.30
No	8.5	0.20
Prior psychological maltreatment allegations		
Yes	33.1	0.33
No	19.9	0.27
Prior placements		
Yes	34.8	0.32
No	17.8	0.26
Prior missing child reports		
Yes	41.9	0.31
No	19.5	0.28

Table 15. Survival Analysis DJJ Referral Post First Human Trafficking Allegation

	Any DJJ referral after first HTA (yes vs. no) (N=9,085)		
Characteristic	Hazard Ratio	95% CI	p-value
Year of birth	0.92	(0.88 – 0.97)	0.0010
Age at first HTA (ref: 0–10 years old)			
11	6.67	(3.18 – 14.00)	0.0000
12	15.02	(8.02 – 28.16)	0.0000
13	20.74	(11.54 – 37.29)	0.0000
14	18.00	(10.05 – 32.25)	0.0000
15	12.93	(7.12 – 23.48)	0.0000
16	10.07	(5.39 – 18.81)	0.0000
17	6.09	(3.11 – 11.93)	0.0000
Sex (ref: Male)			
Female	0.69	(0.53 – 0.89)	0.0040
Race (ref: White, non-Hispanic)			
Black, non-Hispanic	1.26	(1.03 – 1.54)	0.0250
Other, non-Hispanic	0.44	(0.32 – 0.59)	0.0000
Hispanic	0.66	(0.51 – 0.86)	0.0020
Number of juvenile referrals before first HTA (ref: Zero)			
One	23.74	(18.09 – 31.16)	0.0000
Multiple	91.25	(72.65 – 114.61)	0.0000
Most serious finding (ref: Not verified)			
Verified	1.09	(0.88 – 1.34)	0.4500
Type of HTA (ref: Sex trafficking only)			
Human trafficking, unspecified type only	1.10	(0.84 – 1.44)	0.4730
Labor trafficking with or without sex trafficking	0.60	(0.40 – 0.90)	0.0130
Any prior physical abuse (ref: no)	2.03	(1.66 – 2.50)	0.0000
Any prior sexual abuse (ref: no)	0.86	(0.72 – 1.03)	0.1060
Any prior neglect (ref: no)	2.31	(1.77 – 3.01)	0.0000
Any prior psychological maltreatment (ref: no)	0.97	(0.80 – 1.19)	0.7950
Any prior DCF placements	1.14	(0.90 – 1.43)	0.2760
Any prior missing child events	1.24	(0.95 – 1.61)	0.1110

Section 7: The Direct and Moderating Effects of Childhood Human Trafficking Victimization on Early Adult Criminal Legal System Involvement

7. The Direct and Moderating Effects of Childhood Human Trafficking Victimization on Early Adult Criminal Legal System Involvement

7.1 Research Questions

There has been a multitude of research focusing on the trajectories of child victims of human trafficking; however, little research has focused on juvenile and adult criminal legal system involvement among child victims of human trafficking. Studies that have examined the relationship between JJ and subsequent criminal legal system involvement have used relatively small samples to test this relationship. Very few studies have linked records across JJ and adult criminal legal systems and, separately, across JJ and CW systems. To fill this gap, we examined the relationship between human trafficking victimization and JJ and adult criminal legal system involvement and the moderating role that human trafficking victimization plays in shaping this relationship. We specifically explored the following research questions:

Does having an HTA increase the probability of adult CLS involvement?

Does being referred to the JJ system increase the probability of adult CLS involvement?

Is the relationship between JJ system and adult CLS involvement moderated by having one or more than one HTA?

7.2 Methods[24]

7.2.1 Data

For this analysis, the number of unique reporting dates for childhood DCF investigations including any kind of human trafficking were counted for each individual. Individuals were then split into three HTA (HTA) groups: (1) no HTAs, (2) one HTA, or (3) more than one HTA. Any DJJ referrals where the offense description was not described as a court order or other administrative transfer and the referral occurred before the age of 18 were counted and categorized as none, one, or more than one referral during childhood.

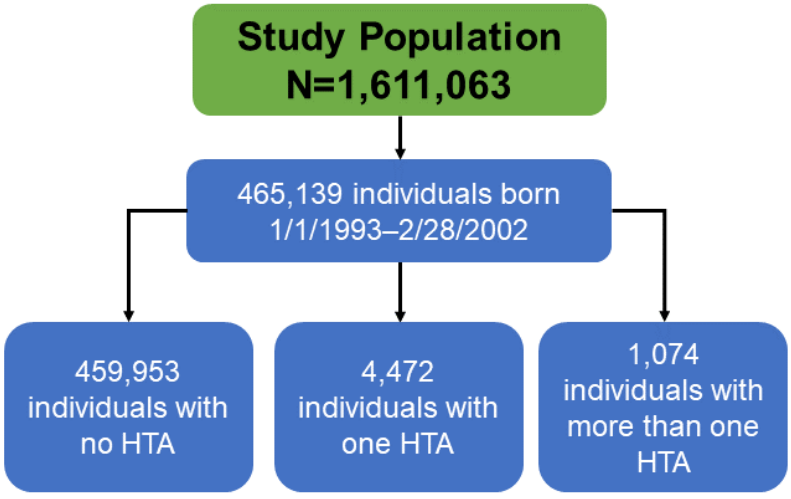
Because this analysis is looking at adult arrests, any individual with a birth date on or after March 1, 2002, was excluded. Each individual had to be 18 years old for at least 1 day during the analysis period, resulting in an overall population of 465,139 individuals. We created a binary indicator based on whether an individual had an adult arrest of any kind in the FDLE data. In total, there were 156,169 adult charges for the individuals in the sample. Reducing that to the most serious charge at the first arrest resulted in 31,045 individuals with an adult arrest.

[24] The source for the methods presented in this section can be located in the original manuscript submitted to *Justice Quarterly* titled "The Direct and Moderating Effects of Childhood Human Trafficking Victimization on Early Adult Criminal Legal System Involvement."

7.2.2 Analytical Approach

Analyses included descriptive two-way frequencies of demographic and childhood experiences for the 465,139 individuals in the sample by the 3 HTA groups (see Figure 6). These childhood experiences included binary indicators for each specific HTA sub-type, grouped allegation types, DCF placements, DCF missing child reports, number of DJJ referrals, DJJ residential confinement, DJJ community supervision, and, for those individuals with a DJJ referral, the most serious juvenile offense. We also computed two-way frequencies describing the 31,045 most serious charge characteristics on an individual's first adult arrest by HTA group. We ran additional two-way frequencies for each HTA group individually looking at childhood characteristics by whether the individual had an adult arrest. Chi-squared tests of independence were computed for these two-way frequencies. The mean number of DCF placements and DJJ referrals were also generated within each group. T-tests for differences in means were computed for means between those with an adult arrest and without. Finally, for the entire sample, we ran a logistic regression model predicting an adult arrest using year of birth, sex, race and ethnicity combination, and binary indicators of sexual abuse, physical abuse, neglect, psychological maltreatment, DCF placements and missing child reports, and a categorical variable holding the number of DJJ referrals grouped as zero, one, and more than one. Due to missing values on sex (N=4,125) the number of individuals in the model was reduced from 465,139 to 461,014. A second model was run adding the HTA group. To further assess any HTA group differences between childhood experiences and human trafficking, separate individual models were run for each HTA group.

Figure 6. Criminal Legal System Involvement Analysis Population



7.3 Results[25]

7.3.1 Descriptive Statistics

Table 16 shows the descriptive findings of childhood experiences for all individuals with a DCF maltreatment allegation who were born between January 1, 1993, and February 28, 2002. The first column is all individuals, and the remaining three columns show percentages based on the number of HTAs each individual experienced as a child. Almost all individuals (99%) had no HTAs. Of those with allegations (N=5,546), 81% had only 1 allegation. The remaining 1,074 individuals had multiple allegations. Of those without HTAs, 52% were female, rising to 84% of those with one HTA and 94% of those with multiple HTAs. The percentages of White, non-Hispanic children in each of the 3 groups decreased with an increase in HTA (45% to 30% to 28%) whereas the number of Black, non-Hispanic children increased (27% to 31% to 42%).

The percentages who had experienced sexual abuse, physical abuse, neglect, or psychological maltreatment also increased as the number of HTAs increase. For example, 41% of individuals with no HTA had a physical abuse allegation at some time before age 18, but 50% of individuals with one HTA and 76% of individuals with multiple HTAs had a physical abuse allegation. The same pattern holds true for individuals with any kind of DCF placement, a family care placement, or a congregate care DCF placement. The percentages who had experienced these placements increased with the number of HTAs. Of the individuals with no HTA, only 2% had a missing child report, whereas 16% of those with 1 HTA and almost half (47%) of those with multiple HTAs had a missing child report. Again, the percentages of individuals who had experienced any juvenile referrals, any residential confinement and any community supervision increased as the number of HTAs increased. Specifically, only a fifth (20%) of individuals with no HTA had any DJJ referrals, whereas over a quarter (28%) of individuals with 1 HTA had multiple referrals, and over a half (54%) of individuals with multiple HTAs had multiple DJJ referrals.

As shown in Table 17, a total of 31,045 individuals in the analysis had an adult arrest. The vast majority (98%) of these first arrests were individuals with no HTAs. Higher percentages of individuals with at least 1 HTA had their first arrest at age 18 (61% for multiple HTAs, 51% for 1 HTA) compared to only 37% of individuals with no HTAs. Overall, almost two-thirds (63%) of individuals who had been arrested were male, and about two-fifths were White, non-Hispanic (41%) or Black, non-Hispanic (40%). There were no significant differences between HTA groups on the type, degree, or level of offense.

[25] The source for the results presented in this section can be located in the original manuscript submitted to *Justice Quarterly* titled "The Direct and Moderating Effects of Childhood Human Trafficking Victimization on Early Adult Criminal Legal System Involvement."

Table 16. Childhood Experiences

Characteristic	All individuals N (%)	Individuals with no HTA N (%)	Individuals with one HTA N (%)	Individuals with multiple HTAs N (%)	p-value
Total children	465,139 (100)	459,593 (100)	4,472 (100)	1,074 (100)	
Demographics					
Year of birth					0.0000
1993	29,471 (6.3)	29,374 (6.4)	88 (2.0)	9 (0.8)	
1994	34,666 (7.5)	34,463 (7.5)	186 (4.2)	17 (1.6)	
1995	39,113 (8.4)	38,797 (8.4)	274 (6.1)	42 (3.9)	
1996	43,613 (9.4)	43,208 (9.4)	342 (7.6)	63 (5.9)	
1997	49,037 (10.5)	48,498 (10.6)	440 (9.8)	99 (9.2)	
1998	55,573 (11.9)	54,864 (11.9)	560 (12.5)	149 (13.9)	
1999	61,020 (13.1)	60,097 (13.1)	738 (16.5)	185 (17.2)	
2000	68,236 (14.7)	67,175 (14.6)	822 (18.4)	239 (22.3)	
2001	71,395 (15.3)	70,299 (15.3)	856 (19.1)	240 (22.3)	
2002	13,015 (2.8)	12,818 (2.8)	166 (3.7)	31 (2.9)	
Sex					0.0000
Female	240,676 (52.2)	235,955 (51.8)	3,717 (83.9)	1,004 (93.7)	
Male	220,338 (47.8)	219,557 (48.2)	714 (16.1)	67 (6.3)	
Race and ethnicity					0.0000
White, non-Hispanic	209,446 (45.0)	207,802 (45.2)	1,344 (30.1)	300 (27.9)	
Black, non-Hispanic	124,438 (26.8)	122,584 (26.7)	1,401 (31.3)	453 (42.2)	
Other, non-Hispanic	47,417 (10.2)	46,435 (10.1)	837 (18.7)	145 (13.5)	
Hispanic	83,838 (18.0)	82,772 (18.0)	890 (19.9)	176 (16.4)	
DCF Allegation history					
Any unspecified trafficking allegation	1,666 (0.4)	0	1,277 (28.6)	389 (36.2)	0.0000
Any sex trafficking allegations	3,801 (0.8)	0	2,861 (64.0)	940 (87.5)	0.0000
Any labor trafficking allegations	425 (0.1)	0	366 (8.2)	59 (5.5)	0.0000
Any sexual abuse allegations	69,953 (15.0)	67,688 (14.7)	1,627 (36.4)	638 (59.4)	0.0000
Any physical abuse allegations	192,741 (41.4)	189,685 (41.3)	2,236 (50.0)	820 (76.4)	0.0000
Any neglect allegations	307,743 (66.2)	303,678 (66.1)	3,089 (69.1)	976 (90.9)	0.0000
Any psychological maltreatment allegations	71,492 (15.4)	70,033 (15.2)	1,034 (23.1)	425 (39.6)	0.0000

(continued)

Table 16. Childhood Experiences (continued)

Characteristic	All individuals N (%)	Individuals with no HTA N (%)	Individuals with one HTA N (%)	Individuals with multiple HTAs N (%)	p-value
DCF placement history					
Any DCF placements	57,691 (12.4)	55,769 (12.1)	1,313 (29.4)	609 (56.7)	0.0000
Any family care DCF placements	54,019 (11.6)	52,365 (11.4)	1,139 (25.5)	515 (48.0)	0.0000
Any congregate care DCF placements	20,385 (4.4)	18,965 (4.1)	890 (19.9)	530 (49.3)	0.0000
Any missing child reports	9,442 (2.0)	8,232 (1.8)	705 (15.8)	505 (47.0)	0.0000
DJJ history					
Number of juvenile referrals					0.0000
Zero	370,416 (79.6)	367,192 (79.9)	2,828 (63.2)	396 (36.9)	
One	39,932 (8.6)	39,421 (8.6)	414 (9.3)	97 (9.0)	
Multiple	54,791 (11.8)	52,980 (11.5)	1,230 (27.5)	581 (54.1)	
Most serious juvenile offense					0.0000
Person	55,065 (58.1)	53,410 (57.8)	1,134 (69.0)	521 (76.8)	
Property	28,454 (30.0)	27,938 (30.2)	392 (23.8)	124 (18.3)	
Drug	5,837 (6.2)	5,764 (6.2)	58 (3.5)	15 (2.2)	
Public order	5,072 (5.4)	4,999 (5.4)	58 (3.5)	15 (2.2)	
Other	295 (0.3)	290 (0.3)	2 (0.1)	3 (0.4)	
Any residential confinement	13,210 (2.8)	12,699 (2.8)	317 (7.1)	194 (18.1)	0.0000
Any community supervision	44,230 (9.5)	42,759 (9.3)	990 (22.1)	481 (44.8)	0.0000

Table 17. Most Serious Charge on First FDLE Arrest

Characteristic	All individuals N (%)	Individuals with no HTA N (%)	Individuals with one HTA N (%)	Individuals with multiple HTAs N (%)	p-value
Total	31,045 (100)	30,413 (100)	441 (100)	191 (100)	
Demographics					
Age at arrest					0.0000
18	11,688 (37.6)	11,349 (37.3)	223 (50.6)	116 (60.7)	
19	7,038 (22.7)	6,895 (22.7)	99 (22.4)	44 (23.0)	
20	4,709 (15.2)	4,634 (15.2)	54 (12.2)	21 (11.0)	
21 and older	7,610 (24.5)	7,535 (24.8)	65 (14.7)	10 (5.2)	
Sex					0.0000
Female	11,608 (37.4)	11,083 (36.5)	352 (80.0)	173 (91.1)	
Male	19,389 (62.6)	19,284 (63.5)	88 (20.0)	17 (8.9)	
Race					0.0013
White, non-Hispanic	12,571 (40.5)	12,357 (40.6)	154 (34.9)	60 (31.4)	
Black, non-Hispanic	12,244 (39.4)	11,963 (39.3)	192 (43.5)	89 (46.6)	
Other, non-Hispanic	1,504 (4.8)	1,458 (4.8)	29 (6.6)	17 (8.9)	
Hispanic	4,726 (15.2)	4,635 (15.2)	66 (15.0)	25 (13.1)	
Charge characteristics					
Offense type					0.1576
Person[26]	8,994 (29.0)	8,811 (29.0)	132 (29.9)	51 (26.7)	
Property	7,579 (24.4)	7,411 (24.4)	118 (26.8)	50 (26.2)	
Drug	5,154 (16.6)	5,068 (16.7)	59 (13.4)	27 (14.1)	
Public order	8,813 (28.4)	8,621 (28.3)	130 (29.5)	62 (32.5)	
Other	505 (1.6)	502 (1.7)	2 (0.5)	1 (0.5)	
Degree					0.4220
Capital/life	106 (0.5)	104 (0.5)	1 (0.3)	1 (0.8)	
First degree	11,055 (47.1)	10,865 (47.2)	141 (45.9)	49 (38.6)	
Second degree	5,871 (25.0)	5,751 (25.0)	80 (26.1)	40 (31.5)	
Third degree	6,287 (26.8)	6,165 (26.8)	85 (27.7)	37 (29.1)	
Unknown	158 (0.7)	158 (0.7)	0	0	

(continued)

[26] Overall person offense types included simple assault or battery 64%; aggravated assault or battery 15%; robbery 8%; hit and run 4%; morals/decency related offense 3%; sexual assault 2%; family-related offenses 2%; murder or manslaughter 1%; kidnapping 1%; intimidation 0%; invasion of privacy 0%; sex offender violation 0%; lewd act with children 0%.

Table 17. Most Serious Charge on First FDLE Arrest (continued)

	All individuals	Individuals with no HTA	Individuals with one HTA	Individuals with multiple HTAs	p-value
Characteristic	N (%)	N (%)	N (%)	N (%)	
Level					0.6574
Felony	9,159 (38.7)	8,987 (38.7)	118 (38.1)	54 (42.5)	
Misdemeanor	14,419 (60.9)	14,154 (60.9)	192 (61.9)	73 (57.5)	
Unknown	86 (0.4)	86 (0.4)	0	0	

Table 18 shows the percentage of individuals who were arrested at any time as an adult (age 18 or older) among each HTA group. Among the no HTA group, 7% had an adult arrest, but that percentage increases to 10% in the one HTA group and 18% in the multiple HTAs group. Among individuals without any HTA, males made up a larger percentage of those with an arrest (64%) than those without (47%), and Black, non-Hispanic individuals made up a larger percentage of those with an arrest (39%) than those without (26%). However, other racial and ethnic groups compose lower percentages of those with an arrest compared to those without.

The percentages experiencing each kind of prior maltreatment among those with an adult arrest increase as the number of HTAs increases. For sexual abuse, the numbers increase from 15% in the no HTA group to 46% in the one HTA group to 68% in the multiple HTAs group. For physical abuse, the numbers increase from 50% to 71% to 88%, and for neglect, the numbers increase from 74% to 89% to 97%. Additionally, the percentage experiencing each kind of maltreatment is higher among the individuals with an arrest than those without, except for sexual abuse in the no HTA group. The percentage of individuals with a missing child report increases as the number of HTAs increases and is higher for those individuals with an adult arrest than for those without—ranging from 2% to 55%.

Smaller percentages of individuals with an adult arrest had zero juvenile referrals than those without an adult arrest across all HTA groups. The number of individuals with one JJ referral remains steady across all arrest and HTA groups, ranging from 7% to 9%. However, the percentage of individuals with multiple JJ referrals is higher for individuals with an adult arrest than those without an adult arrest across all HTA groups.

Table 18. Any FDLE Arrests

Characteristic	Any FDLE arrests								
	Individuals with no HTA			Individuals with one HTA			Individuals with multiple HTAs		
	No N (%)	Yes N (%)	p-value	No N (%)	Yes N (%)	p-value	No N (%)	Yes N (%)	p-value
Total children	429,180 (100)	30,413 (100)		4,031 (100)	441 (100)		883 (100)	191 (100)	
Demographics									
Year of birth			0.0000			0.0000			0.0000
1993	26,529 (6.2)	2,845 (9.4)		81 (2.0)	7 (1.6)		9 (1.0)	0	
1994	31,341 (7.3)	3,122 (10.3)		176 (4.4)	10 (2.3)		16 (1.8)	1 (0.5)	
1995	35,765 (8.3)	3,032 (10.0)		251 (6.2)	23 (5.2)		42 (4.8)	0	
1996	39,015 (9.1)	4,193 (13.8)		290 (7.2)	52 (11.8)		55 (6.2)	8 (4.2)	
1997	43,527 (10.1)	4,971 (16.3)		364 (9.0)	76 (17.2)		68 (7.7)	31 (16.2)	
1998	50,485 (11.8)	4,379 (14.4)		476 (11.8)	84 (19.0)		114 (12.9)	35 (18.3)	
1999	56,444 (13.2)	3,653 (12.0)		655 (16.2)	83 (18.8)		139 (15.7)	46 (24.1)	
2000	64,428 (15.0)	2,747 (9.0)		759 (18.8)	63 (14.3)		194 (22.0)	45 (23.6)	
2001	68,878 (16.0)	1,421 (4.7)		813 (20.2)	43 (9.8)		215 (24.3)	25 (13.1)	
2002	12,768 (3.0)	50 (0.2)		166 (4.1)	0		31 (3.5)	0	
Sex			0.0000			0.0195			0.0912
Female	224,872 (52.9)	11,083 (36.5)		3,365 (84.3)	352 (80.0)		831 (94.3)	173 (91.1)	
Male	200,273 (47.1)	19,284 (63.5)		626 (15.7)	88 (20.0)		50 (5.7)	17 (8.9)	

(continued)

Table 18. Any FDLE Arrests (continued)

Characteristic	Any FDLE arrests								
	Individuals with no HTA			Individuals with one HTA			Individuals with multiple HTAs		
	No N (%)	Yes N (%)	p-value	No N (%)	Yes N (%)	p-value	No N (%)	Yes N (%)	p-value
Race			0.0000			0.0000			0.0639
White, non-Hispanic	195,445 (45.5)	12,357 (40.6)		1,190 (29.5)	154 (34.9)		240 (27.2)	60 (31.4)	
Black, non-Hispanic	110,621 (25.8)	11,963 (39.3)		1,209 (30.0)	192 (43.5)		364 (41.2)	89 (46.6)	
Other, non-Hispanic	44,977 (10.5)	1,458 (4.8)		808 (20.0)	29 (6.6)		128 (14.5)	17 (8.9)	
Hispanic	78,137 (18.2)	4,635 (15.2)		824 (20.4)	66 (15.0)		151 (17.1)	25 (13.1)	
DCF Allegation history									
Any unspecified trafficking allegations	0	0		1,128 (28.0)	149 (33.8)	0.0104	310 (35.1)	79 (41.4)	0.1030
Any sex trafficking allegations	0	0		2,593 (64.3)	268 (60.8)	0.1398	764 (86.5)	176 (92.1)	0.0330
Any labor trafficking allegations	0	0		341 (8.5)	25 (5.7)	0.0424	47 (5.3)	12 (6.3)	0.5975
Any sexual abuse allegations	63,285 (14.7)	4,403 (14.5)	0.2022	1,423 (35.3)	204 (46.3)	0.0000	509 (57.6)	129 (67.5)	0.0116
Any physical abuse allegations	174,453 (40.6)	15,232 (50.1)	0.0000	1,923 (47.7)	313 (71.0)	0.0000	652 (73.8)	168 (88.0)	0.0000
Any neglect allegations	281,128 (65.5)	22,550 (74.1)	0.0000	2,698 (66.9)	391 (88.7)	0.0000	791 (89.6)	185 (96.9)	0.0015
Any psychological maltreatment allegations	64,884 (15.1)	5,149 (16.9)	0.0000	907 (22.5)	127 (28.8)	0.0029	336 (38.1)	89 (46.6)	0.0285
DCF placement history									
Any DCF placements	50,062 (11.7)	5,707 (18.8)	0.0000	1,117 (27.7)	196 (44.4)	0.0000	485 (54.9)	124 (64.9)	0.0115
Any missing child reports	7,021 (1.6)	1,211 (4.0)	0.0000	588 (14.6)	117 (26.5)	0.0000	400 (45.3)	105 (55.0)	0.0151

(continued)

Table 18. Any FDLE Arrests (continued)

	Any FDLE arrests								
	Individuals with no HTA			Individuals with one HTA			Individuals with multiple HTAs		
Characteristic	No N (%)	Yes N (%)	p-value	No N (%)	Yes N (%)	p-value	No N (%)	Yes N (%)	p-value
DJJ history									
Number of juvenile referrals			0.0000			0.0000			0.0000
Zero	347,189 (80.9)	20,003 (65.8)		2,685 (66.6)	143 (32.4)		385 (43.6)	11 (5.8)	
One	37,172 (8.7)	2,249 (7.4)		376 (9.3)	38 (8.6)		83 (9.4)	14 (7.3)	
Multiple	44,819 (10.4)	8,161 (26.8)		970 (24.1)	260 (59.0)		415 (47.0)	166 (86.9)	
Most serious juvenile offense			0.0000			0.2577			0.2350
Person	46,541 (56.8)	6,869 (66.0)		917 (68.1)	217 (72.8)		376 (75.5)	145 (80.6)	
Property	25,223 (30.8)	2,715 (26.1)		325 (24.1)	67 (22.5)		95 (19.1)	29 (16.1)	
Drug	5,262 (6.4)	502 (4.8)		49 (3.6)	9 (3.0)		10 (2.0)	5 (2.8)	
Public order	4,691 (5.7)	308 (3.0)		53 (3.9)	5 (1.7)		14 (2.8)	1 (0.6)	
Other	274 (0.3)	16 (0.2)		2 (0.1)	0		3 (0.6)	0	
Any residential confinement	9,936 (2.3)	2,763 (9.1)	0.0000	222 (5.5)	95 (21.5)	0.0000	122 (13.8)	72 (37.7)	0.0000
Any community supervision	35,719 (8.3)	7,040 (23.1)	0.0000	762 (18.9)	228 (51.7)	0.0000	333 (37.7)	148 (77.5)	0.0000

7.3.2 Direct Effect of Human Trafficking Allegation on Adult CLS Involvement (RQ1) and JJ Referral on Adult CLS Involvement (RQ2)

Table 19 shows the ORs from the two logistic models run on all individuals together. The OR gives an estimate of the effect size for each independent variable included in the model. The first set of columns shows a model predicting an adult arrest. The second set of columns shows the same model but with the addition of the HTA group. For the variables present in both models, the ORs are very similar. As for the main research questions, individuals with one HTA were almost twice as likely (OR=1.7) to have an adult arrest, and those with multiple HTAs were 2.5 times as likely (OR=2.5) to have an adult arrest compared to those without any HTA. In addition, individuals with only one juvenile referral were less likely (OR=0.7) to have an adult arrest, whereas those with multiple referrals were almost twice as likely to have an adult arrest compared to those without one (OR=1.8). As for other findings in the models, females were less likely than males to have an adult arrest (OR=0.5). Black, non-Hispanic individuals were almost twice as likely than White non-Hispanic individuals to have an adult arrest (OR=1.7), Hispanic individuals were slightly more likely than White non-Hispanic individuals (OR=1.1) and non-Hispanic individuals of other races were less likely than White non-Hispanic individuals to have an adult arrest (OR=0.7). Individuals experiencing sexual abuse, physical abuse or neglect allegations as children were more likely than those who had not experienced abuse to have an adult arrest (sexual abuse: OR=1.1, physical abuse: OR=1.3, neglect: OR=1.4). Individuals with any DCF placements were about a third more likely to have an adult arrest than those without (OR=1.3).

Table 19. Logistic Regression Predicting Any FDLE Arrests

Characteristic	All Individuals Excluding Number of HTAs (N=461,014)			All Individuals Controlling for Number of HTAs (N=461,014)		
	Odds Ratio	95% CI	p-value	Odds Ratio	95% CI	p-value
Number of HTA (ref: None)						
One	--	--	--	1.68	(1.52 - 1.87)	<.0001
Multiple	--	--	--	2.50	(2.12 – 2.96)	<.0001
Year of birth	0.87	(0.86 - 0.87)	<.0001	0.86	(0.86 - 0.87)	<.0001
Female (ref: Male)	0.54	(0.53 - 0.55)	<.0001	0.53	(0.52 - 0.54)	<.0001
Race and ethnicity (ref: White, non-Hispanic)						
Black, non-Hispanic	1.67	(1.63 - 1.72)	<.0001	1.67	(1.62 - 1.71)	<.0001
Other, non-Hispanic	0.73	(0.69 - 0.77)	<.0001	0.72	(0.68 - 0.76)	<.0001
Hispanic	1.09	(1.05 -1.13)	<.0001	1.08	(1.05 - 1.12)	<.0001
Any sexual abuse allegations (ref: No)	1.16	(1.12 - 1.20)	<.0001	1.14	(1.11 - 1.18)	<.0001
Any physical abuse allegations (ref: No)	1.34	(1.31 - 1.37)	<.0001	1.34	(1.30 - 1.37)	<.0001
Any neglect allegations (ref: No)	1.41	(1.37 - 1.45)	<.0001	1.41	(1.37 - 1.45)	<.0001
Any psychological maltreatment allegations (ref: No)	1.02	(0.99 - 1.06)	0.1547	1.02	(0.99 - 1.05)	0.2404
Any DCF placements (ref: No)	1.27	(1.23 - 1.32)	<.0001	1.27	(1.23 - 1.32)	<.0001
Any missing child reports (ref: No)	1.11	(1.04 - 1.19)	0.0017	1.04	(0.97 - 1.11)	0.2692
Number of juvenile referrals (ref: Zero)						
One	0.74	(0.71 - 0.77)	<.0001	0.74	(0.70 - 0.77)	<.0001
Multiple	1.78	(1.72 - 1.83)	<.0001	1.75	(1.70 - 1.81)	<.0001

7.3.3 Moderating Effects of Human Trafficking Allegation on JJ System and CLS Involvement (RQ3)

To ascertain any moderating effects of HTA on the JJ-CLS involvement relationship, Table 20 shows the results of models run separately by HTA group with the same independent variables as the model shown in Table 4. Overall, whether an individual had multiple juvenile referrals was the largest predictor of whether they had an adult arrest, and the effect increased the more HTAs an individual experienced, from almost twice as likely (OR=1.7) for individuals with zero HTA to 3 times as likely (OR=3.0) for those with one HTA, to almost 13 times as likely (OR=12.9) for individuals with multiple HTAs compared to those without a juvenile referral. Having only one juvenile referral was a protective effect for individuals with no HTA (OR=0.7), but individuals with multiple HTAs were more than 6 times as likely (OR=6.1) as individuals with no JJ referrals to have an adult arrest. As for other findings in the models, females were about half as likely to have an adult arrest across all HTA groups (OR=0.5–0.6). Among individuals with no HTA, Black non-Hispanic adults were almost twice as likely (OR=1.7), and Hispanics were slightly more likely (OR=1.1) to have an adult arrest compared to White non-Hispanic individuals. Among individuals with no HTA, individuals with a sexual abuse allegation were slightly more likely (OR=1.1) than those without an allegation to have an adult arrest. Among individuals in the zero and one HTA groups, those with childhood physical abuse allegations were more likely to have an adult arrest compared to those without (no HTA OR=1.3, one HTA OR=1.4). Individuals with zero or one HTA and at least one neglect allegation were more likely to have an adult arrest than those with no neglect allegations during childhood (OR=1.4, OR=2.1, respectively). Within the group of individuals with no HTAs, those with any DCF placement were slightly more likely to have an adult arrest than those without (OR=1.3).

Table 20. Logistic Regression Predicting Any FDLE Arrests Separately by Group

	Any FDLE arrests (yes vs. no)								
	Individuals with no HTA (N=455,512)			Individuals with one HTA (N=4,431)			Individuals with multiple HTAs (N=1,071)		
Characteristic	Odds Ratio	95% CI	p-value	Odds Ratio	95% CI	p-value	Odds Ratio	95% CI	p-value
Year of birth	0.86	(0.86 - 0.87)	<.0001	0.93	(0.89 - 0.97)	0.0019	1.06	(0.97 - 1.15)	0.2367
Female (ref: Male)	0.53	(0.51 - 0.54)	<.0001	0.64	(0.49 - 0.84)	0.0012	0.55	(0.29 - 1.04)	0.0649
Race and ethnicity (ref: White, non-Hispanic)									
Black, non-Hispanic	1.68	(1.64 - 1.73)	<.0001	1.20	(0.95 - 1.51)	0.1369	0.93	(0.63 - 1.37)	0.7052
Other, non-Hispanic	0.73	(0.69 - 0.77)	<.0001	0.54	(0.35 - 0.83)	0.0053	1.05	(0.56 - 1.99)	0.8776
Hispanic	1.09	(1.05 - 1.13)	<.0001	0.89	(0.65 - 1.23)	0.4840	0.88	(0.51 - 1.51)	0.6345
Any sexual abuse allegations (ref: No)	1.14	(1.10 - 1.18)	<.0001	1.11	(0.89 - 1.37)	0.3587	1.09	(0.76 - 1.57)	0.6471
Any physical abuse allegations (ref: No)	1.33	(1.30 - 1.37)	<.0001	1.43	(1.12 - 1.84)	0.0045	1.60	(0.95 - 2.70)	0.0805
Any neglect allegations (ref: No)	1.40	(1.36 - 1.44)	<.0001	2.13	(1.53 - 2.98)	<.0001	1.68	(0.67 - 4.21)	0.2680
Any psychological maltreatment allegations (ref: No)	1.02	(0.99 - 1.06)	0.2321	0.87	(0.69 - 1.11)	0.2608	0.99	(0.70 - 1.42)	0.9651
Any DCF placements (ref: No)	1.28	(1.23 - 1.32)	<.0001	1.18	(0.89 - 1.56)	0.2455	0.96	(0.57 - 1.61)	0.8658
Any missing child reports (ref: No)	1.04	(0.97 - 1.12)	0.2647	0.96	(0.70 - 1.31)	0.7809	1.04	(0.64 - 1.71)	0.8681
Number of juvenile referrals (ref: Zero)									
One	0.73	(0.69 - 0.76)	<.0001	1.31	(0.89 - 1.93)	0.1670	6.10	(2.62 - 14.19)	<.0001
Multiple	1.72	(1.67 - 1.78)	<.0001	2.98	(2.34 - 3.81)	<.0001	12.91	(6.69 - 24.88)	<.0001

Section 8: Limitations

8. Limitations

Several limitations involving the validation of the HTST screening tool should be noted. First, we were not positioned to conduct an implementation study of the HTST, yet we have come to understand that there is substantial variability in how it is implemented, including variability in staff training and degree of experience using the HTST; different levels of staff skill in building rapport with children and administering the HTST in a trauma-informed manner; and variability in the timing (how soon after JJ referral), location (where administered), and privacy-level (who is present) of HTST administration. Second, the HTST's user instructions are skeletal and provide little guidance on scoring individual items, including criteria required to endorse Q50. In addition, the referrals from DJJ could not be linked to the allegation data from DCF and the data were associated only by date. Finally, a child's first HTST administration and human trafficking was investigated only among those with an actual allegation. Almost half of the youth with an HTST where Q50 was marked as "definitely" or "likely" trafficked did not have an allegation in the DCF data for human trafficking. There is no way to know whether the HTST correctly identified those youth as being trafficked or not because there was no DCF investigation. The validity of the HTST findings would be strengthened if a DCF investigation was mounted for all HT allegation cases that were called into DCF but not deemed appropriate for investigation. However, given agency resource limitations, this is impractical.

In addition to the limitations related to the HTST, there are important limitations to the administrative data. Most notably, the data are specific to youth within Florida, and the findings from this population may not be generalizable to CW and JJ settings in other states. In addition, there are limited demographic, DCF, and DJJ indicators within the linked administrative dataset. For example, race was confined to "White," "Black," or "Other," which impedes the ability to understand variability involving racial subgroups. Moreover, data on gender identity, sexual orientation, nationality, or primary language spoken were unavailable. Within the linked administrative data, there were minimal relevant DCF and DJJ indicators available beyond prior abuse, placements, missing child reports, referrals, and DJJ services received. Although the DJJ administrative data included assessment information, the indicators were present only for children with referrals and therefore could not be used when looking at the entire study population. Similarly, although we had access to data for a full cohort of individuals, some of the measures were dichotomous only (Yes/No), which offers a limited depiction of the experiences that led to systems involvement either in childhood or adulthood. Prior to 2013, DCF data only identified "human trafficking" and did not distinguish between sex and labor trafficking. Thus, there are a small number of labor trafficking cases to examine, which may be more difficult to identify and report to DCF and which may impact overall findings involving human trafficking.

Lastly, our proposed research plan indicated that we would include data from DJJ's Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT), which is a comprehensive instrument designed to assess the risks and needs of youth referred to the DJJ system. However, after better understanding the available PACT data, the study team elected not to use PACT data in our analyses. There were several reasons for this decisions: (1) Since the PACT data were collected only for

children who had a DJJ referral, any analysis involving data for DCF-only children would have missing values for PACT variables, and as a result their observations would be jettisoned from the dataset via listwise deletion. (2) None of our study research questions focused on DJJ-only children. Although DJJ information on counts of referrals and most serious offense can be legitimately assigned a value of “zero” or “none” for DCF-only children, this was not possible with the PACT data. For example, although information on school attendance or involvement with a gang or substance use is applicable to both DJJ and DCF children, we had this information only for children who were involved in DJJ. Unlike the legitimate assignment of “zero” or “none” values for DJJ information on counts of referrals and most serious offense for a DCF-only child, assigning a “zero” or “none” value for PACT variables was not appropriate, rendering the PACT data useless for our overarching study goals, objectives, and research questions. Future research may consider additional indicators included within the PACT data for a DJJ-only population in pursuit of other research questions.

Section 9:
Applicability of Research

9. Applicability of Research

9.1 Screening Tools: Policy and Practice

Our findings contribute to the extremely limited body of research involving human trafficking screening tools validated for JJ-involved youth. The HTST is now the first preliminarily validated sex *and* labor trafficking screening tool among JJ-involved youth designed for administration in a JJ setting. Our findings indicate that its predictive utility makes the HTST an important addition to Florida's response to youth human trafficking. Given the proliferation of safe harbor laws nationwide, other state JJ agencies should consider mandatory trafficking victimization screening practices at intake for all youth, as well as the possibility of adopting the HTST in their state-based response to youth trafficking victimization.

Our findings also suggest that the development of a short form of the HTST is warranted. Because a few substantive items cross-loaded onto "labor trafficking risk" and "environmental risk," and one item failed to load onto any factors, further instrument refinement is justified to differentiate the construct validity, psychometric properties, and predictive power of each factor and item loading within it. A short form would also reduce burden on agency staff in terms of time resource allocation.

We found that females who experienced trafficking were more likely to be already involved in DCF than to have no system involvement, that Black children with a trafficking allegation were more likely than White children to be involved in both systems compared with DCF only, and that children who experienced labor trafficking abuse allegations were less likely than those who experienced sex trafficking to be involved in either system at the time of the trafficking allegation.

Based on these findings, practitioners and policymakers should focus on increasing routine mandatory screening for human trafficking victimization for all CW-involved children at intake. In addition, efforts need to address decriminalizing Black children through JJ diversion, particularly those who have experienced human trafficking victimization and related offenses. These efforts need to apply an anti-racist lens (Cook et al., 2022) to practice and policy by "integrating cultural strengths in practice, incorporating the role of structural oppression and including diverse case scenarios in trainings, including diverse images on organizational outreach and materials, recruiting and hiring people of color in service provision, and working to address structural oppression" (Nichols et al., 2023).

9.2 Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary Human Trafficking Prevention Efforts

Age, sex, race, and ethnicity significantly predicted initial and subsequent trafficking victimization. In addition, we found that children who experienced prior physical abuse, sexual abuse, or psychological maltreatment were more likely to have an initial and subsequent HTA, while having a prior neglect allegation predicted a subsequent HTA. Also, the number of DCF placements, missing child events, and DJJ referrals increases, the odds of having an initial HTA

increases, whereas only a higher number of missing child events increases the odds of having a second HTA. About 1 in 5 children experienced trafficking revictimization with the median time of six months between first and second allegations. Additionally, among children with repeat HTA, children who had experienced any prior neglect, physical abuse or had a prior missing child event had shorter windows of time between their initial and subsequent trafficking victimization. These findings underscore the pivotal opportunity CW and JJ agencies have in preventing both initial and/or subsequent child trafficking victimization. To improve primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention efforts, youth-serving agencies can leverage these findings to 1) provide in-depth child trafficking victimization trainings for agency staff; 2) implement clear policy and practice involving screening all youth at intake; 3) program case management databases to flag youth who have evidence-based indicators of increased trafficking victimization risk; 4) improve supervision and monitoring of system-involved children with evidence-based indicators of increased trafficking victimization risk; 5) improve and expedite child welfare investigations of child trafficking allegations; and 6) expedite service provision and intervention among children who have a trafficking allegation (i.e., without waiting for the conclusion of the child welfare investigation of the child trafficking allegation).

9.3 Juvenile Justice and Adult Criminal Legal System Response to Human Trafficking Victims

Being male and being Black were significant predictors of a JJ referral *following* an HTA. Additionally, Black non-Hispanic children, compared with white non-Hispanic children experience JJ involvement after their first HTA more quickly, whereas non-Hispanic children of other races and Hispanic children experience JJ involvement at a slower rate. Children with prior physical abuse, prior neglect, and, to a lesser degree, a prior missing child event were significantly more likely than those without to experience a JJ referral following an HTA. Prior physical abuse and prior neglect led to a JJ referral following an HTA at twice the rate of those who had not experienced prior physical abuse or neglect. Compared to children without a JJ referral prior to their first HTA, children who had one or multiple JJ referrals prior to their HTA were much more likely (OR=7.9 and 18.1, respectively) to have a subsequent JJ referral following their first HTA. Having a JJ referral prior to an HTA was *the* strongest predictor of a subsequent JJ referral following trafficking victimization. Additionally, compared to children without a JJ referral prior to their first HTA, children who had one JJ referral experienced a subsequent JJ referral almost 25 times faster and children who had multiple prior JJ referrals experienced a subsequent JJ referral 90 times more quickly.

As one of the first examinations of children's JJ involvement *after* an HTA, our findings enhance understanding of patterns of children's JJ involvement after victimization. Further, the findings underscore the need for specialized and immediate intervention when children with prior justice involvement experience an HTA in order to prevent additional justice involvement. Additional research should seek to understand the precise types and causal mechanisms of JJ involvement both leading up to and following the child trafficking victimization experience; this information will assist youth-serving agency staff in designing targeted interventions to effectively respond to youth who are trafficked to prevent subsequent JJ involvement.

This study also found that child human trafficking victimization is a risk factor associated with sustained involvement in the adult criminal legal system. Our findings show that HTA among children had a direct effect on adult arrests. HTA also strengthened the relationship between juvenile justice involvement and later adult CLS involvement. Individuals with one HTA were almost twice as likely to have an adult arrest, and those with multiple HTAs were 2.5 times as likely to have an adult arrest compared to those without any HTA. Whether an individual had multiple juvenile referrals was the largest predictor of whether they had an adult arrest, and the effect increased the more HTAs an individual experienced. For individuals with no HTA, having only one juvenile referral (compared to no juvenile referral) was a *protective or deterrent* effect against adult arrest; however, for individuals with multiple HTAs, those with one juvenile referral were more than 6 times as likely as individuals with no JJ referrals to have an adult arrest. These findings clearly point to sustained involvement in the legal system as another deleterious consequence resulting from HT victimization. Future quantitative and qualitative research designed to test and understand, respectively, differential pathways among child trafficking victims who do and do not go on to experience adult CLS; identifying predictive risk and protective factors may help inform the development of evidence-based strategies designed to mitigate future harm.

Section 10:
Future Research

10. Future Research

Findings from this study indicate that the HTST is a preliminarily validated tool. However, more research on the HTST is needed. Specifically, future research should assess how implementation factors affect the HTST's performance and investigate the relationship between staff's HTST implementation experiences and screening outcomes to determine whether and how HTST implementation impacts the instrument's reliability and validity. Implementation factors to consider may include the timing, location, and precipitating circumstances involving the HTST administration; the screening staff's training on and familiarity with the HTST and use of trauma-informed approaches to tool administration and rapport-building skills; and staff's experience implementing the HTST, role in the JJ system, and approach to scoring summative items. Additional research on the HTST should focus on validating the HTST within subgroups in DJJ settings (e.g., by sex, gender identity, race/ethnicity) and in other JJ settings and states, providing additional insight for youth with repeat HTST observations, and investigating a subset of all HTAs to assess the HTST's specificity. Additional research should create a short form of the HTST based on the results from factor analyses.

In our statewide analysis of predictors of dual system involvement of child victims of trafficking, we did not investigate temporal patterns or pathways into single or dual system involvement even though we recognize that this is an important issue to consider and worthy of investigation in future research. Further, the linked administrative data we accessed did not include gender or nationality; further research should tend to diverse genders and the salience of domestic versus foreign national children.

When examining characteristics and system experiences among children who have experienced an HTA, future research should focus on advancing distinctions between sex and labor trafficking; further investigating the racial and ethnic disparities (by sex or gender) involving child victims who are system-involved; and the underreporting and under-identification of human trafficking among males (Barron & Frost 2018). Further research should also seek to understand how and why physical abuse and neglect—but not sexual abuse or psychological maltreatment—predict subsequent justice involvement following trafficking victimization.

In addition, although this study is the first to examine the direct and moderating effects of human trafficking victimization in childhood on CLS involvement in the form of arrest in early adulthood, it did not provide further understanding of the mechanism by which HTAs affect adult outcomes. More research is needed to further explore how negative childhood experiences, JJ and CW system contact, and delinquency interact to affect the risk of adult criminality and CLS involvement among victims of human trafficking. This work could take shape in more empirical research that establishes temporal order between childhood maltreatment, human trafficking victimization, and JJ involvement. Separately, research could assess the unique trajectories of individuals based on their JJ referrals and adult arrests. This assessment could benefit from comparing trajectories in system involvement with key developmental milestones along the life course.

Section 11: Conclusion

11. Conclusion

In this study, five separate sets of analyses were conducted using linked administrative data from the Florida DCF, DJJ, and FDLE. Results from these analyses advance research and can be used to inform policy and practice related to the identification of and response to human trafficking victimization among single and dual system-involved children. This study contributes to the limited body of research involving human trafficking screening tools validated for juvenile justice–involved youth. Through our evaluation, the HTST is now the first preliminarily validated sex *and* labor trafficking screening tool among juvenile justice–involved youth designed for administration in a juvenile justice setting. In addition, this study also illustrates the characteristics of child victims of sex and labor trafficking who are single and dual system involved at the time of a child's first human trafficking allegation and identifies factors that predict involvement in neither system, both systems, and the child welfare system alone. Third, our findings show child characteristics and system experiences that increase risk for an initial and subsequent human trafficking allegation. Fourth, this study reports child characteristics and system experiences that increase the risk for future justice involvement. Finally, it is the first to examine the direct and moderating effects of human trafficking victimization in childhood on CLS involvement in the form of arrest in early adulthood.

CW and JJ agencies play a pivotal role in preventing and responding to child trafficking victimization. CW and JJ agencies can use these findings to improve child trafficking screening and identification, improve child trafficking prevention and monitoring efforts, improve child trafficking welfare investigations, develop effective interventions designed to prevent trafficking victimization (initial or subsequent) and justice involvement (as a minor or adult). In addition, policymakers can leverage these findings to demonstrate the need for mandatory trafficking screening for all youth at CW and/or JJ intake and increased funding allocations to improve CW and JJ response.

References

Abrams, L. S., Mizel, M. L., & Barnert, E. S. (2021). The criminalization of young children and overrepresentation of Black youth in the juvenile justice system. *Race and Social Problems*, *13*(1), 73-84. https://doi.org/10.1007/s12552-021-09314-7

Akaike, H. (1974). A new look at the statistical model identification. *IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control*, *19*(6), 716-723. https://doi.org/10.1109/tac.1974.1100705

Andretta, J. R., Woodland, M. H., Watkins, K. M., & Barnes, M. E. (2016). Towards the discreet identification of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) victims and individualized interventions: Science to practice. *Psychology, Public Policy, and Law, 22*(3), 260–270. https://doi.org/10.1037/law0000087

Baetz, C. L. (2015). *A long-term follow-up of crossover youth: Young adult outcomes for maltreated youth in the juvenile justice system* [CUNY Academic Works].

Barron, I. M., & Frost, C. (2018). Men, boys, and LGBTQ: Invisible victims of human trafficking. In *Handbook of sex trafficking: Feminist transnational perspectives* (pp. 73-84).

Basson, D. (2017). *Validation of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool (CSE-IT). WestCoast Children's Clinic* https://www.westcoastcc.org/cse-it/

Bath, E. P., Godoy, S. M., Morris, T. C., Hammond, I., Mondal, S., Goitom, S., Farabee, D., & Barnert, E. S. (2020). A specialty court for U.S. youth impacted by commercial sexual exploitation. *Child Abuse & Neglect, 100*, 104041. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2019.104041

Boland, J., Rock, R., Johnson, A. K., Jones, M. A., Salekin, R. T., & Anderson, J. L. (2021). Pathways to incarceration: an examination of childhood maltreatment and personality psychopathology in incarcerated adults. *Psychology, Crime & Law, 27*(3), 253–264.

Charm, S., Latzman, N., Gilot, B., & Dolan, M. (2022). *Identifying and addressing human trafficking in child welfare agencies: Final Report (OPRE Report No. 2022–72)* (https://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/report/identifying-and-addressing-human-trafficking-child-welfare-agencies-final-report

Cole, J., & Sprang, G. (2020). Post-implementation of a Safe Harbor law in the U.S.: Review of state administrative data. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, *101*, 104320. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2019.104320

Cook, M. C., Le, P. D., & Garcia, J. J. (2022). Addressing racism in the domestic minor sex trafficking of Black girls: The role of public health critical race praxis. *Public Health Reports*, *137*(1_suppl), 10S-16S. https://doi.org/10.1177/00333549211058735

Cook, M. C., Talbert, R. D., & Thomas, B. (2021). A longitudinal study of justice characteristics among girls participating in a sex trafficking court program. *Health Justice*, *9*(1), 1. https://doi.org/10.1186/s40352-020-00127-1

Cuadra, L. E., et al. (2014). Child maltreatment and adult criminal behavior: does criminal thinking explain the association? *Child Abuse & Neglect, 38*(8), 1399–1408.

Dank, M., Yahner, J., Yu, L., Vasquez-Noriega, C., Gelatt, J., & Pergamit, M. (2017). *Pretesting a human trafficking screening tool in the child welfare and runaway and homeless youth systems*. Urban Institute.

Dierkhising, C. B., Eastman, A. L., & Chan, K. (2023). Juvenile justice and child welfare dual system involvement among females with and without histories of commercial sexual exploitation. *Children and Youth Services Review, 150*, 106989.

Farrington, D. P. (1986). Age and crime. *Crime and Justice, 7*, 189–250.

Fedina, L., Williamson, C., & Perdue, T. (2019). Risk factors for domestic child sex trafficking in the United States. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, *34*(13), 2653-2673. https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260516662306

Florida Department of Juvenile Justice. (n.d.). *Human trafficking screening tool: Administration guide*. https://www.flcourts.gov/content/download/217038/file/DJJ_Human_Trafficking_Screening_Tool.pdfFlorida Department of Juvenile Justice. (2021). *Community Assessment Tool*. https://www.djj.state.fl.us/partners-providers-staff/our-approach/risk-assessment-tools/community-assessment-tool

Franchino-Olsen, H. (2021). Vulnerabilities relevant for commercial sexual exploitation of children/domestic minor sex trafficking: A systematic review of risk factors. *Trauma, Violence & Abuse*, *22*(1), 99-111. https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838018821956

Hallquist, M. N., & Wiley, J. F. (2018). MplusAutomation: An R package for facilitating large-scale latent variable analyses in Mplus. *Structural Equation Modeling*, *25*(4), 621-638. https://doi.org/10.1080/10705511.2017.1402334

Herz, D. C., Dierkhising, C. B., Raithel, J., Schretzman, M., Guiltinan, S., George, R. M., Cho, C., Coulton, C., & Abbott, S. (2019). Dual system youth and their pathways: A comparison of incidence, characteristics and system experiences using linked administrative data. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence, 48*(12), 2432–2450.

Howell, K. H., et al. (2017). The relationship between types of childhood victimisation and young adulthood criminality. C*riminal Behaviour & Mental Health, 27*(4), 341–353.

Jung, H., et al. (2015). Does child maltreatment predict adult crime? Reexamining the question in a prospective study of gender differences, education, and marital status. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 30*(13), 2238–2257.

Kennedy, M. A., Cimino, A. N., & Decker, M. R. (2022). *Failure to appear: Domestic minor sex trafficking victims' experience with the juvenile justice system and their readiness to change, Nevada, 2016-2018*. U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR37251.v1

Lee, S. (2018). *Texas will start using screening tool to identify youth victims of sex trafficking*. KXAN Austin https://www.kxan.com/news/local/texas-will-start-using-screening-tool-to-identify-youth-victims-of-sex-trafficking/

Magruder, L. (2022). *Child welfare workers' experiences of screening for human trafficking victimization: Final report* (https://issuu.com/fsuchildwelfare/docs/htst_qualitative_report_2022_final?fr=sNmQ3ODQ1NjM5ODg

McCoy, S. (2022). *Legislative update series: State juvenile justice and access to services*. Shared Hope International https://sharedhope.org/2022/06/15/state-juvenile-justice-and-access-to-services/

Muthén, L. K., & Muthén, B. O. (1998). *Mplus user's guide (Eighth)*. Muthén & Muthén https://www.statmodel.com/download/usersguide/MplusUserGuideVer_8.pdf

Naramore, R., Bright, M. A., Epps, N., & Hardt, N. S. (2017). Youth arrested for trading sex have the highest rates of childhood adversity: A statewide study of juvenile offenders. *Sex Abuse*, *29*(4), 396-410. https://doi.org/10.1177/1079063215603064

Nichols, A. J., Preble, K., Cox, A., Nichols, E., & Amann, W. (2023). An examination of sex trafficking by race and ethnicity in the state of Missouri on state and local levels: Implications for anti-oppressive practice. *Journal of Human Trafficking*, *19*(6), 1-16. https://doi.org/10.1080/23322705.2023.2225993

Nikulina, V., Widom, C. S., & Czaja, S. (2011). The role of childhood neglect and childhood poverty in predicting mental health, academic achievement and crime in adulthood. *American Journal of Community Psychology, 48*(3–4), 309–321.

O'Brien, J. E., Li, W., Givens, A., & Leibowitz, G. S. (2017). Domestic minor sex trafficking among adjudicated male youth: Prevalence and links to treatment. *Children and Youth Services Review, 82*, 392-399. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2017.09.026

Pullmann, M. D., Roberts, N., Parker, E. M., Mangiaracina, K. J., Briner, L., Silverman, M., & Becker, J. R. (2020). Residential instability, running away, and juvenile detention characterizes commercially sexually exploited youth involved in Washington State's child welfare system. *Child Abuse & Neglect, 102*, 104423. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2020.104423

R Core Team. (2018). *R: A language and environment for statistical computing [R]. R Foundation for Statistical Computing* https://www.r-project.org/

Rhoades, K. A., Leve, L. D., Eddy, J. M., & Chamberlain, P. (2016). Predicting the transition from juvenile delinquency to adult criminality: Gender-specific influences in two high-risk samples. *Criminal Behaviour and Mental Health, 26*(5), 336–351.

Safari, S., Baratloo, A., Elfil, M., & Negida, A. (2016). Evidence based emergency medicine; part 5 receiver operating curve and area under the curve. *Emergency, 4*(2), 111.

Scaggs, S., Cutbush Starseed, S., Kluckman, M., Tueller, S., & Yu, L. (Forthcoming). A Statewide Analysis of Characteristics and Predictors of Dual System Involvement among Child Victims of Human Trafficking. *Child Abuse & Neglect*.

Topitzes, J., Mersky, J. P., & Reynolds, A. J. (2011). Child maltreatment and offending behavior: Gender-specific effects and pathways. *Criminal Justice and Behavior, 38*(5), 492–510.

Dissemination Activities

Scaggs, S. J. A., Gibbs, D., Gomez, K., & Gilot, B. (2019, November). *Human trafficking among juvenile justice involved, child welfare involved, and crossover youth in Florida*. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, CA.

Cutbush, S., Scaggs., S., Kluckman, M., Tueller, S., & Haggerty, J. (2022, November 17). *Human trafficking among juvenile justice involved, child welfare involved, and crossover youth in Florida*. American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA.

Tueller, S., Cutbush Starseed, S., Kluckman, M., Yu, L., Scaggs, S., Haggerty, S., & Weimer, B. (2023, November). *Assessing the predictive utility of Florida's Human Trafficking Screening Tool.* American Society of Criminology, Philadelphia, PA.

Cutbush Starseed, S., Tueller, S., Kluckman, M., Yu, L., Scaggs, S., & Larson, M. (2023, November). *Human trafficking among crossover children: Predicting initial and repeat victimization*. American Society of Criminology, Philadelphia, PA.

Kluckman, M., Scaggs, S., Cutbush Starseed, S., Tueller, S., Jasperson, N., Nyce, M., & Weimer, B. (2023, November). *The relationship between minor human trafficking victimization and adult criminal legal system involvement*. American Society of Criminology, Philadelphia, PA.

Cutbush Starseed, S., Tueller, S., Kluckman, M., Yu, Lilly, Scaggs, S., Haggerty, J., & Gomez, K. (2023). Assessing the predictive utility of Florida's Human Trafficking Screening Tool. Submitted to *Children and Youth Services Review*.

Scaggs, S., Cutbush Starseed, S., Kluckman, M., Tueller, S., & Yu, L. (2023). A Statewide Analysis of characteristics and predictors of dual system involvement among child victims of human trafficking. Submitted to *Child Abuse and Neglect: The International Journal*.

Cutbush Starseed, S., Yu, L., Tueller, S., Kluckman, M., & Scaggs, S. (2023). Human trafficking among dual system involved children: Predicting initial and repeat victimization. Submitted to *Child Maltreatment*.

Cutbush Starseed, S., Tueller, S., Kluckman, M., Yu, L., & Scaggs, S. (2023). Child trafficking victimization as a predictor of subsequent juvenile justice involvement. Submitted to *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment, & Trauma*.

Scaggs, S., Cutbush Starseed, S., Kluckman, M., Tueller, S., Jasperson, N., & Nyce, M. (2023). The direct and moderating effects of childhood human trafficking victimization on early adult criminal legal system involvement. Submitted to *Justice Quarterly*.

Appendix A. DJJ Human Trafficking Screening Tool

Human Trafficking Screening Tool (HTST) Instructions

This guide [1] is designed to help child welfare and delinquency professionals screen for possible youth victims of human trafficking. Protocol specifically for Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) staff has been inserted. Human trafficking may be suspected for a number of reasons. The following indicators will trigger JAC screeners and JPO intake staff to conduct the HTST with a youth:

- History of running away or getting kicked out 4+ times
  - Definition of running away or getting kicked out of home: Include times the youth did not voluntarily return within 24 hours, and include incidents not reported by or to law enforcement.
- History of sexual abuse
- Current incident or history of sexual offense

Note: the three triggers above will be pulled by JJIS. JAC screeners and JPO intake staff will be notified by their computer if the youth has any of the above three triggers.

- Youth's acknowledgement of being trafficked
- Report of human trafficking by parent/guardian, law enforcement, medical or service provider, teacher, child protective services, and/or juvenile probation officer

Note: JAC screeners and JPO intake staff must evaluate whether the youth has either of the two screening triggers above. The computer will not do this for you.

To ensure that the instrument is administered effectively, all screeners should follow the screening protocol set forth in this guide. It is important for screeners to understand that questions designed to screen for human trafficking are invasive by nature and may reveal that a youth is suffering from the effects of exposure to trauma. As such, screeners must take care to create a safe environment in which they establish rapport and trust with the youth. Additionally, screeners should be prepared to call upon therapeutic and legal staff in responding to the needs of trafficking victims.

Youth may be reluctant to respond due to a lack of trust, fear of consequences related to disclosure, and/or not viewing themselves as a victim. Strengths-based, non-judgmental, and trauma-informed approaches should be used to engage youth in a conversation to secure answers to the questions within the instrument, rather than reading items verbatim. Motivational interviewing techniques may also be used to gently question inconsistencies and encourage disclosure. The guidelines that follow provide instruction for following the screening protocol for administering the HTST and should be adhered to each time a screening is conducted.

[1] The contents of this guide and the screening tool were informed by the Shared Hope International (2010) Intervene Practitioner Guide and Intake Tool (see www.sharedhope.org), the research and reporting of the Vera Institute (2014) *Screening for Human Trafficking: Guidelines for Administering the Trafficking Victim Identification Tool (TVIT)* the Polaris Project (see www.PolarisProject.org), and the Covenant House (2013) *Human Trafficking Interview and Assessment Measure*.

HTST ScreeningProtocol

Screening Preparation

The screening should be conducted in a safe and non-threatening environment. Screeners should be well-prepared, comfortable working with victims of trauma, and recognize the need to ask questions in an appropriate manner that is sensitive to the needs of youth. The following guidelines should be followed when preparing to conduct a HTST screening:

- Read through the entire screening instrument and this Administration Guide, so that you are familiar with the instrument and able to conduct the screening in a conversational style, allowing the youth to direct the flow of discussion.
- Conduct the screening in a private, quiet environment designed to make the youth feel physically comfortable and safe.
- Be prepared to provide the youth with basic needs such as an interpreter, tissues, drink, food, clothing, medical or therapeutic care, and/or access to services, as appropriate.
- If an interpreter is necessary, he/she should be trustworthy (unknown to the youth being interviewed) and able to use the same wording as the screener when asking questions and the same wording as the youth when answering questions. Use of an agency or certified interpreter is preferred, and interviewers need to offer such to the youth when possible.
- Do not interview a youth in front of a suspected trafficker or individual who is exhibiting controlling behavior over the youth. Do not allow this person to interpret for youth if he/she does not speak fluent English.
- Recognize that dressing in uniforms, suits, or other formal attire may cause youth to fear that you are with immigration services or other enforcement agencies.
- Use strengths-based and trauma-informed care approaches during the screening, allowing youth to lead the direction of the conversation.
- The screening process may need to take place over multiple contact points if the screener judges that the youth needs more time. The screener may postpone the discussion to a later time when the youth is ready to discuss his/her experiences. When a youth displays acute signs of anxiety, the screener should consider contacting a trained mental health professional to complete a session with the youth.

The screening instrument contains a number of techniques used to help screeners administer the tool properly. Screeners should be familiar with these techniques which include the following:

- Instructions to screeners are provided in the HTST in *italics* throughout the instrument. These instructions guide screeners as to sub-questions that may need to be asked, sections that require information to be filled in, and questions that include prompts for further explanation.
- Introductory comments and questions to youth are in **bold typeface**. Introductory comments should be read to the youth. Screeners should use a conversational approach to secure answers to the HTST questions, being sensitive to the needs of youth who may be suffering from the effects of exposure to trauma.

- Singular items that in themselves require a mandatory report to the Florida Abuse Hotline will be highlighted in gray. An example is provided below:
  - Report of human trafficking by parent/guardian, law enforcement, medical or service provider, teacher, child protective services, and/or juvenile probation officer.
- Screeners should use professional judgment in deciding whether to preface a question or a prompt with phrasing such as, "Please tell me more about that" or "If you are comfortable, could you tell me about that?"
- Sections A, B, H, and I are preceded with the instruction – *(DO NOT READ TO YOUTH)* – these sections are intended to be completed by the screener and not asked of the youth.
- Please use the lines provided within the instrument to record youths' responses to open-ended questions.
- At the end of selected questions you will see this symbol ➲ which asks that screeners code for the likelihood that the youth's responses suggest any evidence of the problem targeted by the preceding item(s). An example is provided below:
  - Evidence of Unsafe Living Environment: *(Check one)* Yes _____ No _____

Item-by-Item Guide for Administering the Instrument

Section A is to be completed by the screener and not asked of the youth.

Section A – Background Information

(DO NOT READ TO YOUTH)

Note: JJIS will prepopulate some of this demographic data.

1. Date Screened: _____/_____/_____(MM/DD/YYYY)
2. Screening Center: _____
3. Screener Name: _____
4. Reason for Screening: *(Check all that apply)*
   - ☐ Law enforcement reports behaviors or circumstances indicative of youth being trafficked
   - ☐ Department of Juvenile Justice staff observations are indicative of youth being trafficked
   - ☐ School personnel report behaviors or circumstances indicative of youth being trafficked
   - ☐ Medical provider reports behaviors or circumstances indicative of youth being trafficked
   - ☐ Parent/guardian reports behaviors or circumstances indicative of youth being trafficked
   - ☐ Suspected trafficking is reported to the Abuse Hotline
   - ☐ Youth is referred by someone else *(Fill in)* _____
   - ☐ Youth acknowledges behaviors or circumstances indicative of being trafficked

- ☐ Youth has a history of running away 4 or more times, as indicated on the Positive Achievement Change Tool (PACT) assessment
- ☐ Youth has a history of sexual abuse, as indicated on the PACT assessment
- ☐ Youth's presenting offense is for prostitution or youth has a prior prostitution charge
- ☐ Youth has a history of sexual perpetration (as indicated by sex offense charges)

5. Mode of Screening:
   - ○ Interview completed without need for interpreter
   - ○ Interview completed with the assistance of an interpreter
   - ○ Interpreter needed, but unavailable

Section B is to be completed by the screener and not asked of the youth.

Section B – Demographic Information

(DO NOT READ TO YOUTH)

6. Youth's Name: _____
7. DJJID: _____
8. Referral ID: _____
9. DCF FSFN#: _____
10. SSN (last four digits): _____
11. Sex: _____
12. Race/Ethnicity: _____
13. Preferred Language: _____

Begin the screening by reading the following introductory comments to the youth:

This is an interview to better understand your current situation and experiences. I will be asking you questions about yourself. Try to be as honest as you can. Some questions may be sensitive and hard for you to answer. You do not have to answer anything you don't want to answer. You can take a break at anytime, ask to finish at a later time , or stop the session. I want you to know that you can trust me and that your safety is my priority. Everything you say will be kept completely confidential, unless you describe a situation where you or someone else is in immediate danger or at risk of being abused or hurting someone else. Before we get started, do you have any questions?

Section C – Youth Personal Background

I'd like to begin with some general questions about you and your personal background.

14. What is your date of birth? _____/_____/_____(MM/DD/YYYY)

15. What country were you born in? _____

16. What city do you live in? _____

16a. *(DO NOT READ TO YOUTH)* Was youth arrested outside the city in which he/she resides?

- ○ No
- ○ Yes

17. Do you go to school?

- ○ No *(If 'no,' skip to Item 18)*
- ○ Yes *(If 'yes,' proceed to Item 17a below)*
- ○ Refused to answer

17a. **Where do you go to school?** *(If school entered, ask item 17b)*

_____

17b. **How many days have you attended school in the last two weeks?**

- ○ 0 days
- ○ 1-5 days
- ○ 6-10 days
- ○ Not applicable/school not in session

18. Do you get on the Internet, Wi-Fi, or use phone or tablet apps?

- ○ No *(If 'no,' skip to Item 19)*
- ○ Yes *(If 'yes,' ask Item 18a below)*
- ○ Refused to answer

18a. **What kind of sites or apps do you use?** *(Check all that apply)*

- ☐ Twitter
- ☐ Instagram
- ☐ Snapchat
- ☐ Online game chat
- ☐ Instant messaging
- ☐ Facebook

- ☐ Tinder
- ☐ Craigslist
- ☐ Backpage
- ☐ Other apps or sites *(fill in)* _____
- ☐ Refused to answer

19. Have you ever agreed to meet someone you met online or through the Internet or through a phone app?

- ○ No
- ○ Yes *(If 'yes,' prompt by saying,* **Tell me more about that.**)
- ○ Refused to answer

20. So, do you currently have a boyfriend or girlfriend?

- ○ No *(If 'no,' skip to Item 21)*
- ☐ Yes *(If 'yes,' ask Item 20a and Item 20b below)*
- ☐ Refused to answer

20a. **How old is he/she?**

- ○ Less than 10 years old
- ○ 10 to 15 years old
- ○ 16 to 17 years old
- ○ 18 to 21 years old
- ○ 22 years or older
- ○ Refused to answer

20b. **How did you meet?**

- ○ Through a friend
- ○ At school
- ○ Through a family member
- ○ Online (Facebook, Internet, game console)
- ○ Public place (mall, movies, sports event)
- ○ Work
- ○ Other *(Fill in)* _____
- ○ Refused to answer

➲ Evidence of Unsafe Online Activity *(Check one)* Yes_____ No_____

21. Do you have any tattoos?

- ○ No *(If 'no,' skip to Item 22)*
- ○ Yes *(If 'yes,' ask Item 21a through Item 21c below)*

○ Refused to answer or responded no

☐ Staff observed tattoos *(If selected, ask items 21a through 21c below)*

21a. **What is the tattoo(s)?** *(Screener may respond to this item based on youth response and/or based on observation of the tattoo) (Check all that apply)*

- ☐ Dollar/currency sign, money bags
- ☐ Star/hearts
- ☐ Male name
- ☐ Female name
- ☐ Nickname or street name
- ☐ Refused to answer
- ☐ Other *(Describe)* _____

21b. **What does your tattoo(s) mean?** *(Check all that apply)*

- ☐ Family connection
- ☐ Personal meaning *(Fill in)* _____
- ☐ Romantic partner's name
- ☐ Gang-related
- ☐ Suspected trafficker's name/initials
- ☐ Forced branding/ownership
- ☐ No meaning
- ☐ Don't know the meaning
- ☐ Refused to answer
- ☐ Other *(Fill in)* _____

21c. **Who was with you when you got your tattoo(s)?** *(Check all that apply)*

- ☐ Family member
- ☐ Friend
- ☐ Romantic partner
- ☐ No one
- ☐ Suspected trafficker
- ☐ Gang member
- ☐ Refused to answer

22. Do you have any scars or brands that were made intentionally, not from an accident or injury?

(Screener should respond based upon youth answer and/or observation of visible scars)

- ○ No *(If 'no,' skip to Item 23)*
- ○ Yes *(If 'yes,' ask Item 22a)*
- ○ Screener observes mark(s), but youth denies mark(s) made intentionally
- ○ Refused to answer

22a. **Who was with you when you got your brand(s) or when you received the scar?** *(Check all that apply)*

- ☐ Family member
- ☐ Friend
- ☐ Romantic partner
- ☐ No one
- ☐ Suspected trafficker
- ☐ Gang member
- ☐ Refused to answer

➲ Evidence of Suspicious/Trafficking Related Tattooing/Branding: *(Check one)* Yes_____ No_____

Section D – Living Conditions

Next, I'd like to talk to you about where you live and the people you live with.

23. So, tell me about your current living situation. What type of place do you live in?

(Screener may prompt the youth by listing examples from below) (Check all that apply)

- ☐ House
- ☐ Apartment
- ☐ Group/foster home
- ☐ Car/van
- ☐ Shelter
- ☐ Rehabilitation facility
- ☐ Hotel or motel
- ☐ Part of a residence – garage, basement, shed
- ☐ Squat
- ☐ Traveling/in-between residences
- ☐ Homeless
- ☐ Refused to answer
- ☐ Other *(Fill in)* _____

24. Who lives with you? *(Check all that apply)*

- ☐ Father
- ☐ Mother
- ☐ Both parents
- ☐ Guardian
- ☐ Step-parent
- ☐ Relative(s)
- ☐ Friend(s)
- ☐ Romantic partner (girlfriend/boyfriend)

- ☐ By myself
- ☐ Refused to answer
- ☐ Other *(Fill in)* _____

25. Do you pay for where you live?

- ☐ No *(If 'no,' skip to Item 26)*
- ☐ Yes *(If 'yes,' ask Item 25a below)*

25a. How do you pay for where you live? *(Check all that apply)*

- ☐ Parents/relatives
- ☐ Friends
- ☐ Romantic partner
- ☐ Myself through employment/job
- ☐ Myself through selling drugs
- ☐ Myself through stealing
- ☐ Myself through engaging in sexual acts for money/material gain
- ☐ Panhandle/beg
- ☐ Refused to answer
- ☐ Other *(Fill in)* _____

25. Have you ever had any contacts or visits from the Department of Children and Families?
(Note, youth may use other terminology including HRS, CPS, CBC, and/or The State)

- ○ No
- ○ Yes
- ○ Refused to answer

➲ Evidence of Unsafe Living Environment *(Check one)* Yes_____ No_____

Section E – Work Information

Now I'd like to ask you some questions about work situations. What I mean by "work" is anything you have done where you have received something of value, like money, food, clothing, a place to stay, drugs, or gifts, in exchange for your efforts. This could include a more typical job like working at a fast-food restaurant or store, but may also include things that some kids have to do to survive when away from their homes, anything where you were given something of value for your efforts. So your boss may have been a typical employer or may have been a family member, friend, boyfriend or girlfriend, or someone you lived with or had a relationship with.

27. **So, do you have a job or did you have one before coming here?**

- ○ No *(If 'no,' skip to Item 35)*

○ Yes *(If 'yes,' continue to Item 28 below)*

28. What type of work do you do? *(Check all that apply)*

- ☐ Agricultural/farm work
- ☐ Housekeeping/janitorial work
- ☐ Door-to-door sales
- ☐ Restaurant work
- ☐ Construction
- ☐ Retail
- ☐ Nails/hair
- ☐ Massage
- ☐ Personal dancing, stripping, or similar activity
- ☐ Refused to answer
- ☐ Other *(Fill in)* _____

29. **How much money do you make an hour?** *(Screener may ask relative to the minimum wage rate)*

- ○ Below minimum wage *(Minimum wage is $8.05/hour in Florida)*
- ○ At or above minimum wage but less than $15 an hour
- ○ $15-$25 an hour
- ○ More than $25 an hour
- ○ Does not know
- ○ Refused to answer

30. Does your boss or supervisor owe you money?

- ○ No
- ○ Yes
- ○ Refused to answer

31. Do any of your family members owe your boss money?

- ○ No
- ○ Yes
- ○ Refused to answer

Screener may prompt for something else that is owed like a favor, house, property, or land.

32. Have you ever worked or done something for your boss without getting the payment that you thought you would get?

- ○ No *(If 'no,' skip to Item 33)*
- ○ Yes *(If 'yes,' ask Item 32a through Item 32c below)*
- ○ Refused to answer

32a. **What kind of work was it?** _____

32b. **What payment did you expect?** _____

32c. **What did you receive?** _____

➲ Evidence of Deceptive Payment Practices *(Check one)* Yes_____ No_____

33. Do you live and work at the same place?

- ○ No
- ○ Yes
- ○ Refused to answer

34. Can you quit or could you have quit your job at anytime without punishment from your boss or supervisor?

- ○ No
- ○ Yes
- ○ Refused to answer

➲ Evidence of Forced Labor: *(Check one)* Yes_____ No_____

35. **When you think about the future, what do you want to do when you get older?** *(Fill in)*_____

Section F – Leaving or Running Away from Home

I'd like for you to think about the past 12 months and times when you have been away from home.

36. Have you run away, stayed away, or left your home without permission in the past year?

- ☐ No *(If 'no,' skip to Item 37)*
- ☐ Yes *(If 'yes,' ask Items 36a through 36k below)*
- ☐ Refused to answer

36a. **How many times have you run away or left without permission?**

- ○ 1 to 5 times
- ○ 6 to 10 times
- ○ 11 to 20 times
- ○ More than 20 times
- ○ Refused to answer

36b. **How long were you gone the last time you left home?**

- ○ 1 to 6 days
- ○ 1 to 4 weeks
- ○ 2 to 3 months
- ○ 4 months or longer
- ○ Refused to answer

36c. **Where did you go when you left?** *(Check all that apply)*

- ☐ Friend's place
- ☐ Relative's place/other biological parent's place
- ☐ Romantic partner's place
- ☐ Motel/hotel
- ☐ Street
- ☐ Out of town
- ☐ Pro-social adult's place
- ☐ Anti-social adult's place
- ☐ Street gang
- ☐ Refused to answer

36d. **While you were away, how did you support yourself?** *(Check all that apply)*

- ☐ Family/relatives took care of me
- ☐ Friend(s) took care of me
- ☐ Romantic partner helped
- ☐ Worked (legal employment/jobs)
- ☐ Money through drugs
- ☐ Money/material gain/favors from prostitution, stripping or similar activities
- ☐ Didn't stay away long enough to need support
- ☐ Stealing
- ☐ Government assistance
- ☐ Panhandling
- ☐ Borrowed money from friends
- ☐ Trafficker/pimp
- ☐ Refused to answer
- ☐ Other *(Fill in)* _____

➲ Evidence of Excessive Running Away *(Check one)* Yes_____ No_____

36e. **While you were away, were you in control of your own money?**

- ○ No
- ○ Yes
- ○ Refused to answer

36f. **Who were you with while you were away?** *(Check all that apply)*

- ☐ No one
- ☐ Friends
- ☐ Romantic partner
- ☐ Suspected trafficker/pimp
- ☐ Guardian
- ☐ Family/relatives
- ☐ Street gang
- ☐ Refused to answer

36g. **Did that person(s) ever give you things like money, drugs or clothes?**

- ○ No
- ○ Yes
- ○ Refused to answer

➲ Evidence of Questionable Financial Support While Away *(Check one)* Yes_____ No_____

36h. **Did you leave town while you were away from home?**

- ○ No
- ○ Yes
- ○ Refused to answer

36i. **While you were away, did anyone you were with not allow you to go back home?**

- ○ No
- ○ Yes
- ○ Refused to answer

➲ Evidence of Coercion to Stay on the Run: *(Check one)* Yes_____ No_____

Sometimes people find themselves in situations where they feel unsafe, threatened, controlled or even tricked into doing something they didn't want to do. I am going to ask you a few questions about things that might have made you feel unsafe, threatened, controlled or tricked into doing something you didn't want to do.

36j. **While you were away, did you experience anything that made you uncomfortable?**

- ○ No
- ○ Yes; **if so, what?** *(Fill in)*_____
- ○ Refused to answer

36k. **Sometimes young people who are away from home can be taken advantage of and asked to do sexual activities in exchange for something of value. These activities can include dancing, stripping, posing for photos, or sex of any kind. While you were away, did anyone ever ask you to do something like that?**

- ○ No
- ○ Yes
- ○ Refused to answer

➲ Evidence of Sexual Activities for Money, Support, or Gifts: *(Check one)* Yes_____ No_____

Section G – Sexual Exploitation/Coercion/Control

37. In thinking about your past experiences, has anyone ever locked doors or windows or anything else to stop you from leaving work or home?

- ○ No
- ○ Yes
- ○ Refused to answer

➲ Evidence of Inability to Leave: *(Check one)* Yes_____ No_____

38. Has anyone ever forced you to get or use false identification, like a fake ID or fake green card?

- ○ No
- ○ Yes
- ○ Refused to answer

➲ Evidence of Forced Identity Deception *(Check one)* Yes_____ No_____

39. Has anyone ever pressured you to touch someone physically or sexually when you didn't want to?

- ○ No
- ○ Yes
- ○ Refused to answer

40. Has anyone ever asked/made you do anything sexually that you didn't want to do?

- ○ No
- ○ Yes
- ○ Refused to answer

41. Has anyone in your home ever done anything sexually to you that you didn't want?

- ○ No
- ○ Yes
- ○ Refused to answer

➲ Evidence of Sexual Exploitation: *(Check one)* Yes_____ No_____

42. Have you or someone else received something of value like money, a place to stay, food, clothes, gifts, favors, or drugs in exchange for your performing a sexual activity?

- ○ No
- ○ Yes
- ○ Refused to answer

➲ Evidence of Compensation for Sexual Activity *(Check one)* Yes_____ No_____

Screener, close out the interview by saying the following to the youth:

I want to thank you for being open with me and answering these questions. Do you have any questions or is there anything that you would like to talk about?

Section H – Parent/Guardian Information *(DO NOT READ TO YOUTH)*

Section H is to be completed by the screener.

43. Did you speak with the child's parent(s) or guardian(s)?
    - ○ No
    - ○ Yes (If yes to whom did you speak? _____)

If yes then ask items 44-47.

44. Does the parent/guardian report that youth has a cell phone that a third party/trafficker pays for or might be paying for?
    - ○ No
    - ○ Yes

45. Does the parent/guardian report that youth returns home from running away with hair/nails done, new clothing or money that were not provided by the parent/guardian?
    - ○ No
    - ○ Yes

46. Does parent/guardian report that youth has internet postings or text/cell phone messages that indicate youth may be exchanging sex for something of value to him/her?
    - ○ No
    - ○ Yes

47. If youth has a tattoo of someone else's name, does guardian verify this person is who youth says they are?
    - ○ No
    - ○ Yes

➲ Evidence of Potential Trafficking *(Check one)* Yes_____ No_____

Section I – Post-Screening Assessment

(DO NOT READ TO YOUTH)

Section I is to be completed by the screener.

48. Did you observe any nonverbal indicators of past victimization? *(If so, explain)* _____

49. Did you observe any indicators that the youth's responses may have been false? *(If so, explain)*

50. Indicate the likelihood that the youth is a victim of trafficking:
    - ○ Definitely not
    - ○ Likely not
    - ○ Not sure
    - ○ Likely is
    - ○ Definitely is

51. Provide up to three reasons for your answer in Item 50:
    1. _____
    2. _____
    3. _____

If you answered "not sure," "likely is," or "definitely is" call the Florida Abuse Hotline at 1-800-962-2873

Reminder: If you have personal knowledge that the youth is a victim of human trafficking, you must call the Florida Abuse Hotline.

If call is accepted by DCF:

- Email the completed tool to local DCF staff.
- Enter the appropriate human trafficking alert into JJIS.

52. What kind of service referrals, if any, will you make for the youth?