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Assessing the Under-Reporting of Minor Victim Sex Trafficking

Summary Report

Prepared for

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1. Problem and Purpose

Attention to human trafficking has surged in recent years, particularly with respect to trafficking of children. As defined by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (Public Law 106-386),¹ human trafficking includes the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain labor or commercial sex. Commercial sex is defined as the exchange of any sexual act for something of value, including money, shelter, or protection. The TVPA stipulates that force, fraud, or coercion need not be present to establish sex trafficking if the victim is less than 18 years of age. The definition of labor trafficking does not vary by age.

Both the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-183) and the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-22) designate key responsibilities for addressing human trafficking to the child welfare system, including preventing, identifying, providing services, and reporting. However, better understanding of the prevalence and characteristics of minor trafficking victims is needed to guide policy and practice within criminal justice, child welfare, and juvenile justice systems. Therefore, this grant addresses the under-identifications of minor victims of sex trafficking, and the characteristics and experiences of children with investigated allegations of human trafficking.

2. Methods

2.1 Data and Measures

The study population consists of 1,047,081 children who were either in custody of the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) on January 1, 2011 or had investigated allegations of human trafficking between January 1, 2011 and December 31, 2017. For these children, data include all child welfare events, such as investigated maltreatment allegations, out-of-home placements, and missing from care episodes, between birth and age 18 (or December 31, 2017).

All data used in this study come from the DCF administrative data system, provided to RTI following removal of identifying information. Variables include child characteristics (date of birth, sex, race, Hispanic ethnicity), allegations (date, type of maltreatment, investigation findings), placements (supervised in-home care or out-of-home placement in foster care, relative care, group homes, residential treatment facilities), and missing from care episodes

¹ Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 and subsequent reauthorizations, commonly referred to as the Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

(date missing and returned). Data use agreements were established between RTI International and DCF prior to release of data, and study procedures were approved by human subjects review boards at RTI International and DCF.

2.2 Analysis

Analyses include both descriptive and multivariate methods. For Tables 1 through 12, descriptive statistics compare allegations and children who are the subject of these allegations, and include frequencies, medians, and Chi-square tests. For variables that might be moderated by a child's age, such as number of placements prior to the most recent investigation, odds ratios (ORs) were generated using a logistic regression model that included the child's age at the most recent investigation. To avoid biases created by children aging out of the child welfare system's supervision at age 18, we limited analyses of maltreatment allegations following a child's initial trafficking allegation by excluding children ages 17 years from that analyses and limiting the analysis to maltreatment allegations within one year following the first trafficking allegation.

Analyses of labor trafficking (Tables 5–8) are limited to 4,711 children with allegations of sex or labor trafficking recorded after January 1, 2013, when DCF implemented separate allegation categories for sex and labor trafficking. Analyses of human trafficking associated with missing from care episodes (Tables 9–12) are limited to 36,997 children who experienced out-of-home placements while aged 10 years or more.

To avoid biases created by children aging out of the child welfare system's supervision at age 18, we limited analyses of maltreatment allegations following a child's initial trafficking allegation by excluding children ages 17 years from that analyses and limiting the analysis to maltreatment allegations within one year following the first trafficking allegation (Tables 8 and 11).

Analyses of under-identification used two statistical approaches to estimate unidentified trafficking victimization among children without trafficking allegations. Mark-recapture models considered the subpopulation with any allegations of human trafficking and estimated the population prevalence of trafficking victimization from the prevalence of repeated trafficking allegations. Mixture models estimated the predicted probability of being trafficked for all non-trafficked children while fixing the probability of being trafficked to 1 for children who had been investigated for trafficking.

Risk analyses for trafficking are based on 1,047,081 children with maltreatment allegations of any type of that were investigated between 2011 and 2017. We used logistic regression

models to examine the risk of ever being investigated for sex or labor trafficking (Tables 13–14). Parametric survival models with a logistic distribution² were used to examine predictors of time before a child experienced a human trafficking investigation. Data for children who never had a sex trafficking allegation included all child welfare events prior to age 18, or prior to December 31, 2017 (censored data). The predictor variables included gender, race/ethnicity, missing child episodes, age, placement history, and past investigations for sexual abuse, psychological abuse, physical abuse, threats, neglect, and family violence.

3. Key Findings

3.1 Children with Investigated Allegations of Human Trafficking

Characteristics of Investigated Human Trafficking Allegations (Table 1)

- Between 2011 and 2017, DCF investigated 8,044 allegations of human trafficking, involving 6,223 unique children. Nearly half (45%) of these were found to have credible evidence of harm (verified or not substantiated), with half of these risking to the level of “preponderance of evidence” (verified).
- Among allegations specifying the type of trafficking, 90% were for sex trafficking.
- Nearly one-fifth (19%) of trafficking allegations involved children in child welfare supervision at the time. Of these, the most common placement settings were congregate care (group homes or residential treatment; 42%), or missing from care (36%)

Characteristics of Children with Investigated Allegations for Human Trafficking, as of Children’s Most Recent Investigation (Table 2)

- Among 1,047,081 children with investigated maltreatment allegations, 6,223 (0.59%) had any allegations of human trafficking.
- Compared to other children with investigated allegations of child maltreatment, children with human trafficking allegations were disproportionately female (84% vs. 50%), older (median age 16 years vs. 8 years), Black or other race (58% vs. 54%), and more likely to have previous investigated maltreatment (80% vs. 53%) and multiple prior investigations.

Child Welfare Experiences of Children with Investigated Allegations for Human Trafficking, as of Children’s Most Recent Investigation (Table 3)

- Among children with previous investigations, children with human trafficking allegations were more likely than others to have investigations for all forms of maltreatment. The largest disparity was for prior allegations of sexual abuse (33% vs. 5%), although few children in either group had experienced only sexual abuse.

² We compared models with Weibull, exponential, Gaussian, logistic, log-normal, and log-logistic distributions, and the smallest Akaike’s information criterion (AIC) was used to select the logistic distribution as the best fitting distribution for the parametric survival model.

- Among children with previous investigations, children with trafficking allegations were more likely to have been in out-of-home care (30% vs. 9%), to have been in congregate care (20% vs. 2%), and to have been missing from care (16% vs. 1%).

Characteristics of Children With and Without Prior Child Welfare Involvement, at the Time of their First Human Trafficking Allegations (Table 4)

- Among children with human trafficking allegations, those with no prior child welfare involvement were more likely to be male (24% vs. 14%) and similar in age (median age 15 for both groups).

3.2 Labor Trafficking among Children

Characteristics of Labor and Sex Trafficking Allegations (Table 5)

- Between 2013 and 2017, DCF investigated 558 allegations of labor trafficking, representing 9% of trafficking allegations with specified type for that period. Compared to sex trafficking allegations, labor trafficking allegations were more likely to be verified (29% vs. 24%), but also more likely to be not indicated (60% vs. 52%).
- Investigations for labor trafficking allegations were more likely to include allegations for other forms of maltreatment (38% vs. 26%), compared to investigations for sex trafficking allegations. However, these other forms of maltreatment were less likely to be verified as maltreatment by parents or caregivers (20% vs. 27%).
- Labor trafficking allegations were much less likely to involve children who were in child welfare supervision at the time of the allegation, compared to sex trafficking allegations (6% vs. 20%).

Characteristics of Children with Investigations of Labor and Sex Trafficking, as of Children's Most Recent Investigation (Table 6)

- Compared to those with only sex trafficking allegations, children with any labor trafficking allegations were younger (median age 15 vs. 16), more likely to be male (55% vs. 12%), more likely to be Black or other race (67% vs. 59%) or Hispanic (26% vs. 18%), and less likely to have prior child welfare involvement (66% vs. 84%).

Child Welfare Experiences of Children with Investigated Allegations for Labor and Sex Trafficking, as of Children's Most Recent Investigation (Table 7)

- Among children with prior child welfare involvement, those with any labor trafficking allegations are more likely to have only one prior investigation (29% vs. 14%) than children with only sex trafficking allegations.
- Children with any labor trafficking allegations were less likely to have prior allegations for all forms of maltreatment than children with only sex trafficking allegations, but particularly for sexual abuse (21% vs. 43%).
- Children with any labor trafficking allegations were less likely to have previously been in out-of-home placement (23% vs. 38%) or missing from care (7% vs. 22%), compared to children with only sex trafficking allegations.

Subsequent Child Welfare Experiences of Children with Labor and Sex Trafficking Allegations (Table 8)

- Among children who are aged 16 years or less at the time of their first human trafficking allegation, those with any labor trafficking allegations are less likely to have a subsequent allegation within one year than those with only sex trafficking allegations (29% vs. 44%). This is true for all forms of maltreatment (except labor trafficking), but particularly for sexual abuse (4% vs. 9%) and sex trafficking (5% vs. 16%).

3.3 Human Trafficking among Youth who Are Missing from Foster Care

Characteristics of Youth with One or More Episodes of Missing from Care (Table 9)

- Among children with any out-of-home placements age 10 or more, 19% had at least one missing from care episode.
- Children with missing from care episodes are equally likely to be female, and more likely to be Black or other race (50% vs. 42%), compared to those with no missing from care episodes.
- Children with missing from care episodes are more likely to have experienced all forms of maltreatment, compared to those with no missing from care episodes.
- Children with missing from care episodes have a median of 10 prior placements, compared to 2 placements for those with no missing from care episodes.

Characteristics of Missing from Care Episodes With and Without Human Trafficking Allegations (Table 10)³

- Missing from care episodes that include human trafficking allegations are more likely to involve youth who are female (95% vs. 61%), or White (49% vs. 45%), compared to episodes that do not include trafficking allegations.
- Missing from care episodes that include human trafficking allegations are more likely to be missing from foster care (24% vs. 18%) and less likely to be from congregate care (71% vs. 79%), compared to episodes that do not include trafficking allegations.
- Among trafficking allegations occurring during missing from care episode, 12% were of unspecified type (used primarily before 2013), 87% for sex trafficking, and 2% for labor trafficking.

Characteristics of Youth With and Without Human Trafficking Allegations while Missing from Care (Table 11)

- Among youth with at least one missing from care episode, 7% had an allegation of human trafficking while missing. Youth who experience human trafficking allegations while missing from care are more likely to be female (93% vs. 52%), to have any allegations of sexual abuse (63% vs. 33%), and physical abuse (82% vs. 73%) or psychological abuse (44% vs. 35%), compared to youth with no trafficking allegations while missing from care.

³ Note these are percentages of runaway episodes, not youth.

Experiences of Youth with Human Trafficking Allegations while Missing from Care (Table 12)

- The mean age for the first human trafficking allegation while missing from care was 16.0 years. The mean number of missing from care episodes that include human trafficking allegations was 1.4.
- Among trafficking allegations that occurred while youth were missing from care, 70% were the first human trafficking allegation for that youth.
- Most (60%) youth with trafficking allegations while missing from care did not have any additional trafficking allegations after their first.
- Most youth who experience trafficking while missing from care had prior missing from care episodes without trafficking allegations; the mean number of such episodes was 10.6.

3.4 Risk Profiles for Human Trafficking

Logistic regression results (Table 13)

- Males are at .25 times the risk of a sex trafficking allegation than females, while children of unknown gender (n= 13,974) are at .72 times the risk of a sex trafficking allegation than females.
- White children are at .58 times the risk of a sex trafficking allegation compared to black children, while children of other race are at .71 times the risk of a sex trafficking allegation compared to black children.
- One additional year of age at first maltreatment allegation increased the risk of a trafficking allegation by 14%.
- Being in family care reduced the risk of sex trafficking (OR=.72) while all other forms of care, being removed from care, and being missing from care increased the risk sex trafficking.
- All forms of maltreatment investigation increased the risk of sex trafficking, except for investigations for family violence (n= 134,965), which reduced the risk (OR=.82).

Logistic parametric survival regression results (Table 14)

- In this table, the column labeled "exp(Estimate)" is the factor by which time before experiencing a trafficking allegation is multiplied for a given group relative to the reference group (survival time).
- Time to a sex trafficking allegation was over 24 times longer for males than females, and twice as long for children of unknown gender than for females.
- Children of other races experienced trafficking .36 times sooner than black children, while time prior to a sex trafficking allegation was over three times longer for white children than black children.
- Children in non-family care, those with missing from care episodes, and those with sexual abuse allegations experienced sex trafficking allegations much sooner than those without these characteristics.

- Time prior to a sex trafficking allegations was 2.54 times longer for children with allegations of exposure to family violence than children who did not have such allegations.

3.5 Under-Identification of Human Trafficking

- Preliminary estimates using mark-recapture models and mixture models estimated that between 3 and 17% of children age 10 or more may have experienced sex or labor trafficking. This compares to investigated allegations of trafficking for 1.2% of these children.
- Expert review suggested that models include children of all ages, but be restricted to estimating under-identification of sex trafficking, based on differences between characteristics of children with sex trafficking allegations and children with labor trafficking allegations (see Section 3.2).
- Among all children with investigated allegations, 0.55% had investigated allegations of sex trafficking. Mark-recapture models estimated a rate of 1.23%, or 2.25 times the observed rate. RTI is currently running mixture models for under-identification of sex trafficking.
- Findings for both mark-recapture and mixture models will be reported in a publication by Stephen Tueller, to be submitted in early 2019.

4. Implications for Criminal Justice and Youth-Serving Agencies

The child welfare system has become the focal point of the response to human trafficking of children, as a result of recent legislation at the federal and state levels. The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (Pub Law 113-83) and the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (Pub Law 114-22) require that the child welfare system work closely with law enforcement and the juvenile justice system, among others, in preventing, identifying, and responding to child trafficking, with special provisions for children who are missing from out-of-home care. Safe Harbor laws in many states divert young people arrested or detained on prostitution or related charges to services from child welfare or other youth-serving agencies.

Analyses conducted within this grant thus are critical in describing young victims of human trafficking who may encounter the criminal justice system. Based on indicators available from child welfare data, they are the most vulnerable members of a vulnerable population, with more extensive histories of prior maltreatment. They are disproportionately female, although studies of runaway and homeless youth suggest that males may be equally likely to be trafficking victims.

Although efforts in many jurisdictions focus largely on sex trafficking, the experience of Florida confirms that labor trafficking does occur in substantial numbers within the United States—here comprising 10% of all human trafficking allegations. Law enforcement is a critical partner in identifying indicators of labor trafficking and referring potential victims for investigation by the child welfare system, because labor trafficking victims are far less likely to have had previous child welfare involvement, compared to sex trafficking victims, and more likely to encounter law enforcement in community settings.

Children who are missing from foster care are particularly vulnerable to human trafficking. Those with missing from care episodes are six times more likely to have investigated allegations of human trafficking than other children; for most of these youth, their first identified trafficking allegation occurred during a missing from care episode. Law enforcement is again a critical partner in identifying young people who may be missing from care (or have run away from home) and facilitating their safety.

Even in Florida, where child welfare efforts have far exceeded those in other states, human trafficking of children is likely under-identified. Our statistical models suggest that actual victimization may be between 3 and 15 times what is identified by the Florida's child welfare agency. This finding underscores the need for attention to potential trafficking by law enforcement and other child-serving personnel, screening within juvenile justice settings, and referral of potentially trafficked young people to child welfare agencies for more thorough investigation, particularly those with risk profiles suggesting vulnerability to trafficking.

5. Products

5.1 Presentations

Tueller, S. J, Gibbs, D. A., & Kluckman, M. N. (2018, November). *Risk Profiles for and Under-identification of Child Sex Trafficking Allegations*. American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA.

Latzman, N. E., Feinberg, R. K., Gibbs, D. A., & Kluckman, M. N. (2018, November). Human trafficking among youth missing from out-of-home care in Florida. American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA.

Gibbs, D. A., Tueller, S. J, & Kluckman, M. N. (2018, November). *Domestic Labor Trafficking and the Child Welfare Population*. American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA.

Gibbs, D.A. (2018, October). *Human Trafficking and the Child Welfare Population in Florida*. Florida Human Trafficking Summit, Orlando, Florida.

- Gibbs, D.A. (2018, September). *Best Practices for Combatting Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth: What Does Research Tell Us?* National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth, Washington DC.
- Gibbs, D. A. (2018, August). *Sex and Labor Trafficking and the Child Welfare Population in Florida*. Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Human Trafficking Summit. Houston, TX.
- Latzman, N. E., Feinberg, R. K., Gibbs, D. A., & Kluckman, M. (2018). *Trafficking experiences during missing from care episodes in the Florida child welfare population*. International Family Violence Research Conference, United States.
- Gibbs, D. A., Tueller, S. J., & Kluckman, M. N. (2018, July). *Human Trafficking and the Child Welfare Population in Florida*. International Family Violence Research Conference, United States. International Family Violence Research Conference, Portsmouth, NH.
- Gibbs, D. A., Aboul-Hosn, S., & Kluckman, M. N. (2018, July). *Domestic labor trafficking of children in Florida*. International Family Violence Research Conference, United States. International Family Violence Research Conference, Portsmouth, NH.
- Tueller, S. J., Gibbs, D. A., & Kluckman, M. N. (2018, July). *Modeling trafficking risk profiles and under-identification of trafficking victimization*. International Family Violence Research Conference, United States. International Family Violence Research Conference, Portsmouth, NH.
- Gibbs, D. A., Tueller, S. J., & Kluckman, M. N. (2017, November). *Estimating Under-Identification of Minor Victim Sex Trafficking in a Child Welfare Population*. American Society of Criminology, Philadelphia, PA.
- Gibbs, D. A., Tueller, S. J., & Kluckman, M. N. (2017, September). *Minor Victims of Human Trafficking the United States Child Welfare Population*. European Society of Criminology, Cardiff, Wales.
- Gibbs, D. A., Kluckman, M. N., & Tueller, S. J. (2017, May). *Minor Victims of Human Trafficking in Florida's Child Welfare System*. Children's Bureau Trafficking Grantees' Conference. Washington, DC.
- Gibbs, D. A., Kluckman, M. N., & Tueller, S. J. (2016, November). *Identifying and Serving Minor Victims of Human Trafficking in Florida*. American Society of Criminology, New Orleans, LA.

5.2 Manuscripts

Published:

- Gibbs, D. A., Henninger, A. M., Tueller, S. J., & Kluckman, M. N. (2018). Human trafficking and the child welfare population in Florida. *Children and Youth Services Review*.

In review or preparation:

- Gibbs, D. A., Aboul-Hosn, S., & Kluckman, M. (in revision). Child labor trafficking within the United States: A first look at allegations investigated by Florida's child welfare agency. *Journal of Human Trafficking*.

- Latzman, N. E., Gibbs, D. A., Feinberg, R. F., & Kluckman, M. (in revision). Human Trafficking among Youth Missing from Out-of-Home Care. *Children and Youth Services Review*.
- Tueller, S. J., Gibbs, D. A., & Kluckman, M. (to be submitted). Estimating Under-identification of Human Trafficking Allegations: Illustrations from the Florida Child Welfare Population. Journal to be determined.

Appendix 1: Tables

Table 1. Number and Characteristics of Human Trafficking Allegations

	All Human Trafficking Allegations (N = 8,044)	
	n	%
Year received		
2010 or earlier	152	1.9
2011	481	6.0
2012	747	9.3
2013	806	10.0
2014	859	10.7
2015	1,391	17.3
2016	1,733	21.5
2017	1,875	23.3
Types of trafficking investigated		
Human trafficking, unspecified type only	1,959	24.4
Labor trafficking only	538	6.7
Sex trafficking only	5,520	68.6
Multiple types of trafficking allegations	27	0.3
Most-serious investigation findings for trafficking allegations		
Verified	1,830	22.8
Not substantiated	1,796	22.3
Not indicated	4,418	54.9
Child status at time of allegation		
Not in placement	6,511	80.9
In placement	1,533	19.1
Placement type (for children in placement at time of allegation)		
Congregate care placement	640	41.8
Family care placement	298	19.4
Other care placement	45	2.9
Missing from placement	550	35.9
Total in placement	1,533	
Placement type from which child was "missing from placement"		
Missing from congregate care placement	341	62.0
Missing from family care placement	125	22.7
Missing from other care placement	32	5.8
Missing from supervision	52	9.5
Total missing from placement	550	
Region		
Central	2,008	25.0
Northeast	1,009	12.5
Northwest	623	7.7
Southeast	1,621	20.2
Southern	1,043	13.0
Suncoast	1,740	21.6

Table 2. Characteristics of Children With and Without Investigations for Human Trafficking (N = 1,047,081)

	Any Human Trafficking Allegations During Lifetime N = 6,223		No Human Trafficking Allegations During Lifetime N = 1,040,858		All Children N = 1,047,081		Odds Ratio (95% Confidence Interval)	Chi- Square <i>p</i> -value
	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Age at most recent investigation								
Median	16.0		8.0		8.0			
16 to 17 years	3,325	53.4	104,143	10.0	107,738	10.3		<.0001
10 to 15 years	2,367	38.0	301,142	28.9	303,509	29.0		
0 to 9 years	531	8.5	635,303	61.0	635,834	60.7		
Sex ^a								
Female	5,165	83.8	509,428	49.6	514,593	49.8	5.24 (4.89-5.60)	<.0001
Male	1,002	16.2	517,512	50.4	518,514	50.2		
Race								
Black or other	3,601	57.9	565,249	54.3	568,850	54.3	1.16 (1.10-1.22)	<.0001
White	2,622	42.1	475,609	45.7	478,231	45.7		
Hispanic ethnicity								
Non-Hispanic	5,058	81.3	846,806	81.4	851,864	81.4	0.99 (0.93-1.06)	0.8758
Hispanic	1,165	18.7	194,052	18.6	195,217	18.6		
Prior child welfare involvement								
Yes	4,994	80.2	550,102	52.8	555,096	53.0	3.63 (3.41-3.86)	<.0001
No	1,229	19.8	490,756	47.2	491,985	47.0		
Prior investigations								
0	1,229	19.8	490,773	47.2	492,002	47.0		<.0001
1	781	12.6	208,975	20.1	209,756	20.0		
2	623	10.0	116,571	11.2	117,194	11.2		
3+	3,590	57.7	224,539	21.6	228,129	21.8		
Delinquency ^b								
Yes	180	14.9	2,087	3.3	2,267	3.6	5.07 (4.30-5.98)	<.0001
No	1,030	85.1	60,580	96.7	61,610	96.4		

^a There were 56 children (0.9%) with human trafficking allegations and 13,918 children (1.3%) without human trafficking allegations whose sex was unknown.

^b Most children did not have an indicator of delinquency. There were 5,013 children (80.6%) with human trafficking allegations and 978,191 children (94.0%) without human trafficking allegations with unknown delinquency status.

Table 3. Child Welfare History of Children With and Without Investigations for Human Trafficking, as of Most Recent Investigation (N = 1,047,081)

	Any Human Trafficking Allegations During Lifetime N = 6,223		No Human Trafficking Allegations During Lifetime N = 1,040,858		All Children N = 1,047,081		Odds ^a Ratio (95% Confidence Interval)	Wald Chi-Square p-value
	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Prior allegations								
Human Trafficking	2,895	46.5	0	0.0	2,895	0.3		
Physical abuse	3,062	49.2	192,249	18.5	195,311	18.7	2.45 (2.33-2.57)	<.0001
Neglect	4,108	66.0	413,685	39.7	417,793	39.9	2.37 (2.24-2.50)	<.0001
Sexual abuse	2,032	32.7	52,770	5.1	54,802	5.2	5.49 (5.20-5.80)	<.0001
Psychological abuse	1,339	21.5	54,882	5.3	56,221	5.4	2.17 (2.04-2.31)	<.0001
Prior sexual abuse								
Sexual abuse only	54	0.9	5,911	0.6	5,965	0.6	1.03 (0.78-1.35)	0.8499
Sexual abuse and other types	1,978	31.8	46,859	4.5	48,837	4.7	5.94 (5.62-6.28)	<.0001
No sexual abuse	4,191	67.4	988,088	94.9	992,279	94.8	0.18 (0.17-0.19)	<.0001
First allegation before age 8	2,601	41.8	724,436	69.6	727,037	69.4	1.71 (1.62-1.81)	<.0001
Prior out-of-home placement								
Any placement	1,858	29.9	88,161	8.5	90,019	8.6	3.15 (2.98-3.33)	<.0001
3 or more placements	1,235	19.9	31,430	3.0	32,665	3.1	4.81 (4.51-5.14)	<.0001
Any family care	1,620	26.0	85,227	8.2	86,847	8.3	2.79 (2.63-2.95)	<.0001
Any congregate care	1,215	19.5	17,237	1.7	18,452	1.8	6.37 (5.96-6.81)	<.0001
Prior missing child report								
Any report	1,017	16.3	4,910	0.5	5,927	0.6	12.75 (11.82-13.76)	<.0001
3 or more reports	738	11.9	1,745	0.2	2,483	0.2	18.65 (17.01-20.46)	<.0001

^a Generated from logistic model, which also included age at most recent investigation.

Table 4. Characteristics of Children at Time of First Human Trafficking Allegations, With and Without Prior Child Welfare Involvement (N = 6,223)

	No Prior Child Welfare History N = 1,607		Prior Child Welfare History N = 4,616		All Children N = 6,223		Odds Ratio (95% Confidence Interval)	Chi-Square p-value
	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Child age								<.0001
Median	15.0		15.0		15.0			
16 or 17 years	678	42.2	1,787	38.7	2,465	39.6		
10 to 15 years	705	43.9	2,454	53.2	3,159	50.8		
0 to 9 years	224	13.9	375	8.1	599	9.6		
Sex ^a								
Female	1,194	76.2	3,971	86.3	5,165	83.8	0.51 (0.44-0.59)	<.0001
Male	372	23.8	630	13.7	1,002	16.2		
Region								<.0001
Central	389	24.2	1,179	25.5	1,568	25.2		
Northeast	162	10.1	662	14.3	824	13.2		
Northwest	116	7.2	401	8.7	517	8.3		
Southeast	340	21.2	869	18.8	1,209	19.4		
Southern	306	19.0	496	10.8	802	12.9		
Suncoast	294	18.3	1,009	21.9	1,303	20.9		
Region								
Southern or Southeast	646	40.2	1,365	29.6	2,011	32.3	1.60 (1.42-1.80)	<.0001
Other	961	59.8	3,251	70.4	4,212	67.7		

^a There were 41 children without prior child welfare history (2.6%) and 15 children (0.3%) with prior child welfare history with unknown sex.

Table 5. Number and Characteristics of Sex and Labor Trafficking Allegations, 2013-2017

	Labor Trafficking (N = 558)		Sex Trafficking (N = 5,498)		All Human Trafficking Allegations with Specified Type of Trafficking ^a (N = 6,056)		Odds Ratio (95% Confidence Interval)	Chi- Square <i>p</i> -value
	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Most-serious investigation findings for trafficking allegations								
Verified	159	28.5	1,332	24.2	1,491	24.6	2.49 (1.84-3.36) ^b	<.0001
Not substantiated	64	11.5	1,334	24.3	1,398	23.1		
Not indicated	335	60.0	2,832	51.5	3,167	52.3	2.47 (1.87-3.25) ^c	<.0001
Other (non-trafficking) allegations within investigation								
Yes	212	38.0	1,453	26.4	1,665	27.5	1.71 (1.42-2.04)	<.0001
No	346	62.0	4,045	73.6	4,391	72.5		
Percent verified ^d	42	19.8	387	26.6	429	25.8	0.68 (0.48-0.97)	0.0338
Allegation types within trafficking investigation								
Neglect	177	31.7	1,017	18.5	1,194	19.7	2.05 (1.69-2.48)	<.0001
Physical abuse	48	8.6	254	4.6	302	5.0	1.94 (1.41-2.68)	<.0001
Sexual abuse	21	3.8	598	10.9	619	10.2	0.32 (0.21-0.50)	<.0001
Psychological abuse	27	4.8	89	1.6	116	1.9	3.09 (1.99-4.80)	<.0001
Other ^c	31	5.6	181	3.3	212	3.5	1.73 (1.17-2.56)	0.0056
Child status on day before allegation								
In placement	34	6.1	1,108	20.2	1,142	18.9	0.26 (0.18-0.37)	<.0001
Not in placement	524	93.9	4,390	79.8	4,914	81.1		
New out-of-home placement within 0 to 7 days after trafficking allegation ^e								
Yes	18	3.4	116	2.6	134	2.7	1.31 (0.79-2.17)	0.2923
No	506	96.6	4,274	97.4	4,780	97.3		

^a Excludes 1,326 allegations of human trafficking of unspecified type before 1/1/2013 (when specific allegations for sex and labor trafficking were implemented) and 635 allegations of human trafficking of unspecified type after 1/1/2013

^b Odds Ratio values are from comparing verified allegations to not substantiated allegations.

^c Odds Ratio values are from comparing not indicated allegations to not substantiated allegations.

^d Based on percentage of 1,665 investigations for trafficking allegations that include allegations of other types of maltreatment.

Table 6. Characteristics of Children with Investigations for Human Trafficking, as of Most Recent Investigation, 2013-2017 (N = 4,711)

	Children with Any Labor Trafficking Allegations N = 532		Children with Only Sex Trafficking Allegations N = 4,179		All Children with HT Allegations N = 4,711		Odds Ratio (95% Confidence Interval)	Chi-Square p-value
	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Age at most recent investigation								
Median	15		16		16			
0 to 9 years	59	11.1	301	7.2	360	7.6	2.06 (1.71-2.48) ^a	<.0001
10 to 15 years	274	51.5	1,574	37.7	1,848	39.2		
16 or 17 years	199	37.4	2,304	55.1	2,503	53.1		
Sex ^b								
Male	287	54.6	475	11.5	762	16.3	9.27 (7.61-11.28)	<.0001
Female	239	45.4	3,665	88.5	3,904	83.7		
Race								
Black or other	357	67.1	2,464	59.0	2,821	59.9	1.42 (1.17-1.72)	0.0003
White	175	32.9	1,715	41.0	1,890	40.1		
Hispanic ethnicity								
Hispanic	136	25.6	732	17.5	868	18.4	1.62 (1.31-2.00)	<.0001
Non-Hispanic	396	74.4	3,447	82.5	3,843	81.6		
Prior child welfare involvement								
Yes	349	65.6	3,490	83.5	3,839	81.5	0.40 (0.33-0.49) ^c	<.0001
No	183	34.4	689	16.5	872	18.5		

^a OR compares children aged less than 16 years of age to children aged 16 or 17.

^b There were 6 children (1.1%) with any labor trafficking allegations and 39 children (0.9%) with only sex trafficking allegations whose sex was unknown.

^c Generated from logistic model, which also included age at most recent investigation.

Table 7. Child Welfare History of Children with Prior Involvement and Investigations for Sex and Labor Trafficking, as of Most Recent Investigation (N = 3,839)

	Children with Any Labor Trafficking Allegations N = 349		Children with Only Sex Trafficking Allegations N = 3,490		All Children with HT Allegations N = 3,839		Odds ^a Ratio (95% Confidence Interval)	Wald Chi-Square p-value
	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Total prior investigations								
1	102	29.2	490	14.0	592	15.4		
2+	247	70.8	3,000	86.0	3,247	84.6	0.43 (0.33-0.55)	<.0001
Prior allegations								
Neglect	264	75.6	2,902	83.2	3,166	82.5	0.62 (0.48-0.80)	0.0003
Physical abuse	184	52.7	2,171	62.2	2,355	61.3	0.76 (0.61-0.96)	0.0201
Sexual abuse	73	20.9	1,502	43.0	1,575	41.0	0.36 (0.28-0.48)	<.0001
Psychological abuse	65	18.6	987	28.3	1,052	27.4	0.65 (0.49-0.87)	0.0032
Sex trafficking	43	12.3	1,934	55.4	1,977	51.5	0.12 (0.08-0.16)	<.0001
Labor trafficking	158	45.3	0	0.0	158	4.1		0.9697
Unspecified human trafficking ^b	16	4.6	249	7.1	265	6.9	0.74 (0.44-1.25)	0.2612
First allegation before age 8	182	52.2	1,838	52.7	2,020	52.6	0.76 (0.60-0.96)	0.0231
Prior out-of-home placement								
Yes	80	22.9	1,322	37.9	1,402	36.5	0.52 (0.40-0.68)	<.0001
No								
Prior missing child report								
Yes	24	6.9	749	21.5	773	20.1	0.31 (0.20-0.48)	<.0001
No								

^a Generated from logistic model, which also included age at most recent investigation.

^b Human trafficking allegation not identified as either labor or sex trafficking.

Table 8. Maltreatment Allegations within One Year Following First Labor or Sex Trafficking Allegation (n=3,770)^a

	Children with Any Labor Trafficking Allegations N = 461		Children with Only Sex Trafficking Allegations N = 3,309		All Children with HT Allegations N = 3,770		Odds Ratio (95% Confidence Interval)	Chi-Square <i>p</i> -value
	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Allegation within 1 year following first trafficking allegation								
Yes (any type)	135	29.3	1462	44.2	1597	42.4	0.52 (0.42-0.65)	<.0001
No	326	70.7	1847	55.8	2173	57.6		
Type of subsequent maltreatment								
Neglect	74	16.1	909	27.5	983	26.1	0.50 (0.39-0.65)	<.0001
Physical abuse	33	7.2	364	11.0	397	10.5	0.62 (0.43-0.90)	0.0118
Sexual abuse	18	3.9	304	9.2	322	8.5	0.40 (0.25-0.65)	0.0001
Psychological abuse	12	2.6	139	4.2	151	4.0	0.61 (0.34-1.11)	0.1012
Sex trafficking	24	5.2	529	16.0	553	14.7	0.29 (0.19-0.44)	<.0001
Labor trafficking	39	8.5	0	0.0	39	1.0		<.0001

^a Does not include 941 children aged 17 years (71 with any labor trafficking and 870 with sex trafficking only).

Table 9. Characteristics of Youth with One or More Episodes Versus no Episodes of Missing from Out-of-Home Care (MFC) while Age 10 or Older (N=36,997)^a

	Youth with One or More Episode(s) of MFC N= 7,039		Youth with Zero Episodes of MFC N = 29,958		All Youth in Out-of-Home Care N=36,997		Odds Ratio (95% Confidence Interval) ^b	Wald Chi-Square p-value
	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Gender ^c								
Female	3,853	54.7	15,522	51.8	19,375	52.4	1.00 (0.94-1.06)	0.8731
Male	3,186	45.3	14,426	48.2	17,612	47.6		
Race								
Black and/or other	3,489	49.6	12,458	41.6	15,947	43.1	1.32 (1.24-1.40)	<.0001
White	3,550	50.4	17,500	58.4	21,050	56.9		
Hispanic ethnicity								
Hispanic	1,072	15.2	4,866	16.2	5,938	16.0	0.88 (0.81-0.95)	0.0020
Non-Hispanic	5,967	84.8	25,092	83.8	31,059	84.0		
Child maltreatment history								
Any physical abuse	5,197	73.8	17,132	57.2	22,329	60.4	2.09 (1.95-2.23)	<.0001
Any psychological abuse	2,509	35.6	7,637	25.5	10,146	27.4	1.44 (1.35-1.54)	<.0001
Any neglect	6,737	95.7	28,202	94.1	34,939	94.4	1.91 (1.67-2.20)	<.0001
Any sexual abuse	2,508	35.6	7,178	24.0	9,686	26.2	1.51 (1.41-1.61)	<.0001
Sexual abuse only	24	0.3	140	0.5	164	0.4	0.43 (0.27-0.69)	0.0004
Sexual abuse and other types	2,484	35.3	7,038	23.5	9,522	25.7	1.54 (1.45-1.65)	<.0001
Any human trafficking	1,113	15.8	550	1.8	1,663	4.5	6.11 (5.40-6.92)	<.0001
	Mean (SD), Median		Mean (SD), Median		Mean (SD), Median			
Age at first out-of-home placement	11.44 years (5.01), 13.22		10.35 years (4.37), 10.76		10.56 years (4.52), 11.02		0.94 (0.93-0.94)	<.0001
Out-of-home placement history	14.68 placements (15.22), 10		4.08 placements (5.34), 2		6.10 placements (9.19), 3		1.13 (1.12-1.13)	<.0001

^a Limited to youth with at least one-out-of-home placement at age 10 or older.

^b Generated from logistic model, which controlled for age at end of last placement (or age on 12/31/2017 if still in a placement on this date).

^c There are 10 (0.03%) children of unknown gender with zero episodes of missing from out-of-home care while age 10 or older.

Table 10. Characteristics of Missing from Out-Home-Care (MFC) Episodes in Florida between 2011 and 2017^a

	MFC Episodes With a HT Allegation N = 742		MFC Episodes Without a HT Allegation N = 56,581		All Missing from Out-of-Home Care Episodes N = 57,323		Odds Ratio (95% Confidence Interval) ^b	Wald Chi- Square p-value
	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Gender								
Female	701	94.5	34,370	61.4	35,431	61.8	10.77 (7.86-14.76)	<.0001
Male	41	5.5	21,851	38.6	21,892	38.2		
Race								
Black and/or other	380	51.2	31,384	55.5	31,764	55.4	0.84 (0.73-0.97)	0.0199
White	362	48.8	25,197	44.5	25,559	44.6		
Hispanic ethnicity								
Hispanic	120	16.2	8,218	14.5	8,338	14.6	1.13 (0.93-1.38)	0.2205
Non-Hispanic	622	83.8	48,363	85.5	48,985	85.4		
Type of out-of-home care from which missing								
Family based foster care	178	24.0	10,414	18.4	10,592	18.5	1.48 (1.25-1.76)	0.5516
Other ^c	38	5.1	1,288	2.3	1,326	2.3	2.51 (1.80-3.51)	<.0001
Congregate care	526	70.9	44,879	79.3	45,405	79.2		
"Gang-involved" ^d								
Yes	20	2.7	1,065	2.0	1,085	2.0	1.43 (0.92-2.24)	0.1161
No	717	97.3	53,687	98.0	54,404	98.0		
"Prostitution-involved" ^e								
Yes	272	36.9	4,438	8.1	4,710	8.5	6.60 (5.66-7.71)	<.0001
No	465	63.1	50,314	91.9	50,779	91.5		
Trafficking allegation type(s) ^f								
Unspecified	77	12.1						
Sex	551	86.8						
Labor	11	1.7						
	Mean (SD), Median		Mean (SD), Median		Mean (SD), Median			
Age at start of first MFC episode	16.01 years (1.22), 16.13		15.88 years (1.43), 16.10		15.88 years (1.43), 16.10		1.07 (1.02-1.13)	0.0120
Number of days missing	32.34 days (60.04), 9		8.53 days (29.05), 2		8.84 days (29.78), 2		1.01 (1.01-1.01)	<.0001

^a Limited to episodes for youth with at least one-of-home placement at age 10 or older

^b Generated from logistic model, which controlled for age at the start of the MFC episode.

^c Other includes visitation or short-term hospital stay.

^d There are 5 (0.7%) MFC episodes with a human trafficking allegation and 1,829 (3.2%) without a human trafficking allegation with unknown gang involvement.

^e There are 5 (0.7%) MFC episodes with a human trafficking allegation and 1,829 (3.2%) without a human trafficking allegation with unknown "prostitution" involvement.

^f Excludes 136 MFC episodes before 1/1/2013 (when specific allegations for sex and labor trafficking were implemented). Percentages shown are out of 795 MFC episodes.

Table 11. Characteristics of Youth With and Without Human Trafficking (HT) Allegations while Missing from Out-of-Home Care^a

	Youth with One or More HT Allegations while MFC N = 524		Youth Without a HT Allegation while MFC N = 6,515		All Youth with at Least One Episode of MFC N=7,039		Odds Ratio (95% Confidence Interval) ^b	Wald Chi-Square p-value
	n	%	n	%	n	%		
Gender								
Female	486	92.8	3,367	51.7	3,853	54.7	11.90 (8.51-16.62)	<.0001
Male	38	7.3	3,148	48.3	3,186	45.3		
Race								
Black and/or other	262	50.0	3,227	49.5	3,489	49.6	1.00 (0.84-1.20)	0.9860
White	262	50.0	3,288	50.5	3,550	50.4		
Hispanic ethnicity								
Hispanic	81	15.5	991	15.2	1,072	15.2	1.00 (0.78-1.28)	0.9968
Non-Hispanic	443	84.5	5,524	84.8	5,967	84.8		
Child maltreatment reports (any time)								
Any physical abuse	427	81.5	4,770	73.2	5,197	73.8	1.69 (1.34-2.12)	<.0001
Any psychological abuse	231	44.1	2,278	35.0	2,509	35.6	1.48 (1.24-1.78)	<.0001
Any neglect	497	94.9	6,240	95.8	6,737	95.7	0.89 (0.59-1.34)	0.5742
Any sexual abuse	330	63.0	2,178	33.4	2,508	35.6	3.47 (2.88-4.18)	<.0001
Child maltreatment reports prior to first episode of MFC								
Any physical abuse	382	72.9	4,388	67.4	4,770	67.8	1.33 (1.09-1.63)	0.0052
Any psychological abuse	192	36.6	1,984	30.5	2,176	30.9	1.30 (1.08-1.57)	0.0054
Any neglect	465	88.7	5,922	90.9	6,387	90.7	0.83 (0.63-1.11)	0.2066
Any sexual abuse	242	46.2	1,686	25.9	1,928	27.4	2.49 (2.08-2.99)	<.0001
Child maltreatment reports after first episode of MFC								
Any physical abuse	177	33.8	1,469	22.6	1,646	23.4	1.97 (1.63-2.39)	<.0001
Any psychological abuse	61	11.6	462	7.1	523	7.4	1.93 (1.45-2.57)	<.0001
Any neglect	293	55.9	2,763	42.4	3,056	43.4	1.90 (1.58-2.28)	<.0001
Any sexual abuse	151	28.8	756	11.6	907	12.9	3.24 (2.63-3.98)	<.0001
	Mean (SD), Median		Mean (SD), Median		Mean (SD), Median			
Age at first episode of MFC	14.80 years (1.59), 14.88		15.18 years (1.90), 15.45		15.15 years (1.88), 15.39		0.74 (0.71-0.78)	<.0001
Number of times MFC since age 10	22.07 times (21.99), 16		7.02 times (10.85), 3		8.14 times (12.67), 3		1.05 (1.04-1.05)	<.0001
Total number of out-of-home placements	23.69 placements (19.99), 18		13.96 placements (14.53), 9		14.68 placements (15.22), 10		1.03 (1.02-1.03)	<.0001

^a Limited to youth with at least one-of-home placement at age 10 or older^b Generated from logistic model, which controlled for age at the start of the most recent missing from out-of-home care episode.

Table 12. Experiences of Youth with One or More Human Trafficking (HT) Allegations while Missing from Out-of-Home Care (MFC) while Age 10 or Older (N=524)

	n	%	Mean (SD), Median
Age at first HT allegation while MFC			15.98 years (1.26), 16.09
12 years	7	1.3	
13 years	25	4.8	
14 years	96	18.3	
15 years	125	23.9	
16 years	130	24.8	
17 years	141	26.9	
Total number of MFC episodes that include HT allegations			1.42 episodes (0.79), 1
1	376	71.8	
2	99	18.9	
3 or more	49	9.3	
History of prior HT allegations			0.42 allegations (0.78), 0
First HT allegation occurred while MFC	368	70.2	
1 prior HT allegation	111	21.2	
2 or more prior HT allegations	45	8.6	
Placement at the time of prior allegation(s)			
Prior allegation while in child welfare placement	61	39.1	
Congregate care only	47	77.1	
Family care only	11	18.0	
Other care only	1	1.6	
Family & congregate care	2	3.3	
Prior allegation while not in child welfare placement	82	52.6	
Prior allegations while both in and outside of child welfare placement	13	8.3	
HT allegations subsequent to allegation that occurred while MFC			0.71 allegations (1.13), 0
No additional HT allegations recorded	314	59.9	
1 additional HT allegation recorded	116	22.1	
2 additional HT allegations recorded	53	10.1	
3 or more HT allegation recorded	41	7.8	
Number of times MFC prior to episode in which first HT allegation occurred			10.6 times MFC (14.42), 6
0 times	77	14.7	
1 to 5 times	178	34.0	
6 to 9 times	71	13.6	
10 or more times	198	37.8	

Table 13. Logistic Regression Risk Model Results: Sex Trafficking

	OR	Estimate	SE	p-value
Male (ref. Female)	0.25	-1.39	0.04	0.00
Unknown gender (ref. Female)	0.72	-0.32	0.14	0.02
Other Race (ref. Black)	0.71	-0.34	0.04	0.00
White (ref. Black)	0.58	-0.54	0.03	0.00
Hispanic (ref. Non-Hispanic)	1.14	0.13	0.04	0.00
Age at 1 st CWS Involvement	1.14	0.13	0.00	0.00
Ever in family care	0.72	-0.33	0.08	0.00
Ever in congregate care	1.62	0.48	0.07	0.00
Ever removed from care	2.48	0.91	0.09	0.00
Ever missing from family care	2.53	0.93	0.07	0.00
Ever missing from congregate care	3.24	1.18	0.07	0.00
Ever missing from other care	2.19	0.78	0.11	0.00
Ever missing from supervision	2.41	0.88	0.09	0.00
Physical Abuse Investigation	1.49	0.40	0.03	0.00
Neglect Investigation	1.41	0.35	0.03	0.00
Sexual Abuse Investigation	2.93	1.08	0.03	0.00
Psychological Abuse Investigation	1.48	0.39	0.03	0.00
Family Violence Investigation	0.82	-0.19	0.03	0.00
Threat Investigation	1.28	0.24	0.04	0.00

Table 14. Logistic Parametric Survival Regression Risk Model Results: Sex Trafficking

	Hazard Ratio	Exp(Estimate)	Estimate	SE
Male (ref. Female)	0.03	24.39	3.19	0.09
Unknown gender (ref. Female)	0.47	1.93	0.66	0.32
Other Race (ref. Black)	3.25	0.36	-1.03	0.09
White (ref. Black)	0.27	3.12	1.14	0.08
Hispanic (ref. Non-Hispanic)	1.61	0.66	-0.42	0.08
Age at 1 st CWS Involvement	0.88	1.12	0.11	0.01
Ever in family care	0.20	4.01	1.39	0.19
Ever in congregate care	3.47	0.34	-1.09	0.15
Ever removed from care	7.35	0.18	-1.74	0.21
Ever missing from family care	8.14	0.16	-1.83	0.16
Ever missing from congregate care	16.25	0.09	-2.43	0.16
Ever missing from other care	4.77	0.26	-1.36	0.23
Ever missing from supervision	7.90	0.16	-1.80	0.20
Physical Abuse Investigation	1.22	0.84	-0.18	0.07
Neglect Investigation	1.44	0.73	-0.32	0.08
Sexual Abuse Investigation	8.72	0.15	-1.89	0.07
Psychological Abuse Investigation	1.47	0.71	-0.34	0.08
Family Violence Investigation	0.34	2.54	0.93	0.07
Threat Investigation	0.90	1.10	0.09	0.09