

REMARKS OF  
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HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVALENCE REDUCTION INNOVATION FORUM  
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Thank you, Susan [Snyder]. It's a privilege to join Ambassador Richmond and Assistant Secretary Johnson and all our wonderful researchers today. I want to say how much I appreciate the work you're all doing to widen our field of knowledge about human trafficking. And I'm so pleased that the Department of Justice can be one of the major partners in this effort to improve research around prevalence.

We know that this a long-standing issue, and we're glad to be part of a great team of federal agencies and national experts who are working to tackle it. Research is one of the primary functions of the Office of Justice Programs, of which my office, the Office for Victims of Crime, is part. OJP's National Institute of Justice is the federal lead for public safety research, and human trafficking remains one of our top priorities.

We've invested substantial resources in expanding our base of evidence, and we'll be making even more research awards this year. I hasten to add that this is part of an even larger overall investment in fighting human trafficking. Last year, OJP awarded more than \$100 million to help state and local agencies investigate trafficking cases and serve trafficking victims. Grants from my office, the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention are funding trafficking task forces, training law enforcement and serving thousands of survivors every year, including young victims. And I'm proud that this year – in response to requests from the field – we're supporting a new program to provide housing for trafficking victims, investing more than \$30 million to ensure survivors of trafficking have safe, stable housing.

We know there's tremendous interest from Congress, from those of us in the federal government and from practitioners in the field to understand the prevalence of human trafficking in the U.S. We all know that measuring human trafficking is very challenging. Research has found that no single method will accurately estimate both sex and labor trafficking, and child and adult victims – or, to add even another layer – across various sectors.

We know that, at this stage in the game, we're not in a position to provide overall estimates, so we understand that it's important to fund targeted studies. This will help ensure that we're understanding, identifying and measuring the problem correctly.

I wanted to share a bit about what we are doing to lay the groundwork for addressing this challenge. We're funding a number of studies to identify methodologies, sampling strategies and screening tools to measure both sex and labor trafficking in the U.S.

Here's a sampling of some of the work NIJ is doing:

- We've developed sampling strategies to better identify labor and sex trafficking victims in New York City.
- We've assessed the ability of the child welfare system in Florida to identify domestic minor sex trafficking.
- We created a prevalence estimate for labor trafficking in North Carolina and for migrant workers in San Diego County, California.
- We developed identification methods for assessing prevalence in trafficking among homeless and runaway youth in the Atlanta metro area.
- We're testing estimation methodology for hidden populations within established data systems. Our hope here is to get better estimates of prevalence in local jurisdictions.
- And we're testing multiple systems estimation, or MSE. As many of you know, MSE is a statistical technique used in the international sphere to produce prevalence estimates. We used MSE to estimate trafficking prevalence in three U.S. jurisdictions, using Uniform Crime Reporting and victim service data.

This past January President Trump remarked, "The inherent dignity, freedom and autonomy of every person must be respected and protected. Despite the progress we have made and the momentum we have built toward ending human trafficking, there is still more to be done."

The work that you all are doing is vital to safeguarding all people from the threat of human trafficking. On behalf of the Department of Justice, the Office of Justice Programs and my boss, Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Katie Sullivan, thank you for your continued commitment. We stand ready to assist and look forward to hear about all the amazing ongoing work.

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