

NORTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THEIR ABILITY TO COMBAT
HUMAN TRAFFICKING

By

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Honors Thesis

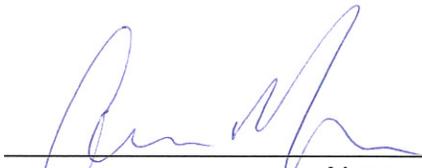
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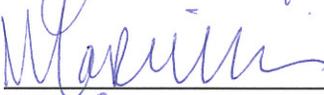
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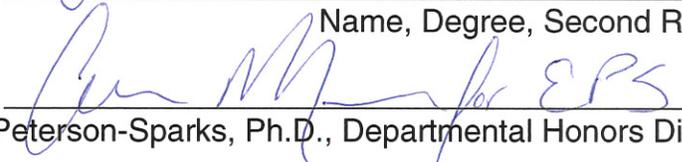
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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Human trafficking, also known as “modern day slavery,” is a global crime that has grown tremendously throughout history and can be seen internationally and within every state (Guardian Group, 2016). Human trafficking encompasses numerous aspects of slavery, but can incorporate its broad range by being defined as procurement of labor or services specifically through the use of force, fraud, or coercion (IACP, 2006). The key reason for human trafficking is the purpose of exploitation of the victim, which typically involves sexual or labor exploitation (Aronowitz, 2009).

Human trafficking in the United States is largely perpetuated through the Internet and is used to fund the expansion of organized crime (Guardian Group, 2016). The American public is generally very unaware and uneducated about the depths of this crime. Many associate human trafficking with prostitution or smuggling, when there is a distinct difference. Many also assume that human trafficking is not an issue within the United States, but is a problem in underdeveloped countries. However, a study conducted in 2001 stated that as many as 325,000 children in the US, Canada, and Mexico are at risk annually of becoming victims of sex trafficking (Guardian Group, 2016). Human trafficking is also estimated to bring in between \$8 billion to \$10 billion per year to organized crimes globally (RIPPLE, 2007). The scope of this crime is unseen and under addressed by American society.

In the United States, there has been a fairly recent push for legislation to create and mandate federal statutes that define and regulate human trafficking.

The most widely used is the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act of 2000 (TVPA), which has been updated regularly to fit the changing atmosphere of human trafficking (International Association of Chiefs of Police, 2006). The TVPA established human trafficking, enriched previous anti-trafficking laws, and provided federal benefits and services to human trafficking victims. The TVPA provided three steps that are necessary for a case to be defined as human trafficking: an action, a means, and a goal. Action is the capturing, transporting, or harboring of the victim. The means involves the use of force, fraud, coercion, abduction, trickery, deception, or abuse in order to obtain the victim. Lastly, the goal is the exploitation of the victim that can be seen in slave labor in countless facets of employment, sweat shops, abuse and lack of payment for the victim, massage parlors, strip clubs, brothels, and the intricate and extremely underground sex trade industry that has recently made its way into the Internet (Aronowitz, 2009). The TVPA also promotes prosecution, protection, and prevention as their method of fighting human trafficking.

North Carolina combats human trafficking within NC General Statutes Chapter 14 Article 10A, where it defines human trafficking within the state and classifies the punishment for committing the crime. The statute's greatest strength is its in-depth definitions of the type of human trafficking, such as coercion. The definition of "coercion" in the statute aligns with further definitions and examples of using coercion in human trafficking that will be discussed further. The main similarities include the use of coercion through threats or violence to force a victim into human trafficking. The statute also defines

deception similarly to literature on the topic, by creating a false illusion to the victim in order to gain their “consent” that is not actual consent to the reality of the circumstances they will be forced into. Throughout my study, I will examine the implications of committing the crime of human trafficking and whether the legislation in place meets the needs of the victim and is thorough enough to meet the seriousness of the crime based on interviews with law enforcement and non-profit management.

This study will examine the current methods in place for law enforcement in North Carolina to combat human trafficking and whether it is adequate based on the scope of the crime. In order to understand the true scope of human trafficking in the United States, this study will first analyze the history of human trafficking and its causes by researching literature and other studies present on the topic (Chapter 2). The methodology of the research design will be presented in Chapter 3.

By gaining a better understanding of human trafficking and the seriousness of the crime, this study will then compare my literature review and findings from other scholars to interviews with both law enforcement and non-profit organizations, the two main forces that fight human trafficking. It will also review and present the current legislation on human trafficking, both in the United States and North Carolina, to see if the laws in place meet the needs that the literature presents. Chapter 4 will present findings through interviews and analysis of legislation with conclusion of my findings in Chapter 5. By comparing the experiences that law enforcement and non-profit organizations have with

human trafficking, their use of the law, and the actual scope of the crime, I expect to find that legislation does not fully cover the needs of victims and that law enforcement are not currently capable of addressing the crime of human trafficking because of the legislation.

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

Components of Human Trafficking

There are two main components that define and make up the crime of human trafficking: coercion and deception. Coercion in North Carolina is defined as causing or threatening to cause bodily harm to any person, exposing or threatening to expose any fact or information that if revealed would tend to subject a person to criminal investigation, destroying any form of identification such as a passport or immigration document in order to contain the victim, or providing a controlled substance to a person (Article 10A 14-14.10.). Deception is defined as creating another's impression of something that is false and which the accused knows to be false, maintaining the status of a person arising from a pledge by that person of his or her personal services as a security for debt, or promising benefits that the accused does not intend to deliver (Article 10A 14-14.10.). The accused that is exploiting victims of human trafficking uses all of these aspects.

The United States has federal laws against human trafficking, but also abides by the United Nations Trafficking Protocol, which is clearer in its concern and awareness for human trafficking regarding children (Aronowitz, 2009). Many are under the incorrect assumption that all victims of human trafficking have been brought into the crime by full deception or coercion. While this is more accurate with minor victims, it is more realistic to view the nature of the crime and the three components on a spectrum of various levels of coercion and deception (Aronowitz, 2009).

The stereotypical image of coercion used by a captor is the image of complete abduction of the victim. In reality, this is hardly the case with adult victims and is very rarely what happens with child labor. There are instances where children are drugged by traffickers and captured from their homes to forcibly serve as child soldiers. The typical instance, though, is that in other countries parents sell their children under the false belief that their children will gain a better way of life through education or work when truly they are selling their children, unknowingly, into human trafficking. Rarely are they selling to captors or for their own profit (Aronowitz, 2009).

The coercion experienced by parents of minors to sell their child for a “better life” is similar to what adult victims experience. Many women who are bought into human trafficking are promised a new job or education in America to escape the poverty of their current lives (Aronowitz, 2009). This is classified more as deception, but the two components regularly work together for the captor. The occupation of prostitution, usually in the form of a “stripper” or “dancer,” is also advertised to women as glamorous and desirable in order to gain their trust and deceive them into human trafficking. This reduced form of deception involves women who are conscious of some sort of sexual contact or acts within their “new job” but are not agreeing to the abuse and violence used to keep them as indentured servants (Aronowitz, 2009).

There are numerous studies that have been conducted, one in particular from the Russian Federation Human Rights Organization, that indicated that most women today in prostitution willingly entered into the career but were

completely unaware of the slavery that would exist once they were “hired” (Aronowitz, 2009). Characteristics of forms of slavery in these instances include being forced to “pay back” their captor to earn back their passport, the threat of their illegal status as a citizen in a new country, or an exuberant amount that is unattainable to pay back for their freedom (Aronowitz, 2009).

Sex Trafficking

Sex trafficking, the most well known method of human trafficking, is an allusive crime that is widespread within the United States. Within the first five years of operation, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center received 9,298 reports of human trafficking (Polaris Project, 2012). Of those reports, 64% involved sex trafficking, with the most common method of sex trafficking being pimp controlled and taking place among hotels, truck stops, and online. Sex trafficking has been reported in all areas of the United States, from urban to suburban to rural. The nature of the crime does not limit itself to any particular demographic or lifestyle. The current statistics on the numbers of all procedures of human trafficking are also seen as an underestimate. Due to the constant fear that victims live in, lack of trust with police, and the traumatization from experiencing human trafficking, many cases go unreported (Combating Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors, 2013). The vast majority of Americans, especially those in careers such as education and health care who are more likely to come across a sex trafficking victim, are typically unaware of the signs of sex trafficking and are unable to report the crime.

A typical victim of sex trafficking is predominantly a minor or adult female, targeted because of their vulnerability due to previous abuse or homelessness where the perpetrator can easily work their way into the victim's life through violence, threats, and most commonly debt bondage to keep them within the sex trade industry (Combating Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors, 2013). In the United States, sex trafficking is characteristically pimp controlled, within residential brothels or commercial-front brothels (Polaris Project, 2012). Pimps, or traffickers, are overwhelmingly male and use facilities such as hotels and traffic stops to sell their victims. In the majority of reports received by the NHTRC, the victims controlled by pimps were sold and advertised online (Polaris Project, 2012). Further examined in the development of human trafficking will be a discussion on the growth in the Internet and how it has facilitated human trafficking with a much more sinister ease for the benefit of traffickers.

The relationship between a pimp and their victim normally reflects a relationship of domestic violence. Pimps enslave their victims by first becoming their "boyfriend" and lavishing them with gifts and adoration in order to gain their trust, much like an abuser (Polaris Project, 2012). The relationship then turns manipulative and the pimp begins selling her for sexual acts with a consistent and growing pace (Guardian Group, 2016). Forty percent of reported cases of sex trafficking defined as pimp controlled were involving female minors (Polaris Project, 2012). This is consistent and proves the model of the domestic violence comparison between the pimp and the trafficked. This percentage also reflects

the high number of female child runaways who are extremely vulnerable to being enticed by pimps.

Polaris Project (2012) strived to answer the question of who is actively recruiting these victims, where it occurs, and the methods used to recruit victims. Their findings all equally support the above material that sex trafficking in the United States is usually seen in the format of a “boyfriend” manipulating a girl or woman into their personal sex trade. Eighty-two percent of the 422 analyzed cases were pimps as recruiters. Approximately 55% of the recruitment happens socially through a friend or at a party, or in a public place. Roughly 67% of the methods used are by the pimp showing romantic interest or acting as a benefactor where they promise to provide necessities such as food, water, and shelter (Polaris Project, 2012).

There is usually a view of sex trafficking by the American public as something similar to the film “Taken” where a young, wealthy woman is traveling and is suddenly and abruptly abducted by someone she has never met (Guardian Group, 2016). Americans also assume that sex trafficking is the same thing as prostitution- the legal selling of one’s body for sex. Hollywood has also glamourized the image of a prostitute who is self-made and empowered by working for herself. The reality of this being the case is rare and most women in prostitution are victims of abuse and sex trafficking. When studying these percentages, it is clear that this is not the typical case and that sex trafficking happens in places where many Americans live their daily lives and would never assume to see sex trafficking occur. Sex trafficking occurs in public places such

as malls, parks, gas stations, hotels, and airports where Americans frequently visit. The sizeable percentage of 67% of pimps using the relational or benefactor method also shows that the crime is highly allusive and difficult to prevent in the beginning stages (Guardian Group, 2016).

Because pimps woo minors and women into sex trafficking by the use of a romantic relationship or providing them with things they desperately need, especially if they are homeless, it appears in the eyes of law enforcement, non-profits, and society as nothing of criminal concern. Sex trafficking is often discovered by law enforcement from secondary crimes, such as money laundering, that are more easily seen (Aronowitz, 2009). Many victims willingly go with their captors (Guardian Group, 2016). This process of building trust with their victims that pimps use means that victims, at first, are willingly interacting with pimps and consenting to a relationship with them, although they are unaware of his true intentions. This willingness also makes it difficult to identify the relationship as sex trafficking. It doesn't appear as a definitive crime. Pimps are usually experienced in the process of enticing and coercing their victim into sex trafficking and are well versed at their craft. They know the amount of time it typically takes before their victim is bringing in \$500 to \$1,000 a day (Guardian Group, 2016). At this point, the relationship shifts from willingness to enslavement and use of violence and abuse reveals itself, thus trapping the victim.

Commercial-front brothels are establishments set up to disguise commercial sex trafficking by performing to serve as a legitimate business.

These “businesses” are usually in the form of massage parlors and spa services (Polaris Project, 2012). Commercial-front brothels are characterized by their high percentage of foreign-born victims, with 90% of them from Asian countries. Only 12% of victims of commercial-front brothels contacted the NHTRC directly, meaning that these victims are heavily monitored and watched by their captors. They are typically smuggled or brought into America from Asian countries, as referenced previously, under the impression of a much different type of work. The dependence of a captor, especially when smuggled or coerced into the United States from another country, is illustrated in this study with the low percentages of this type of crime being reported. In fact, most reports of commercial-front brothels were from bystanders in the community who recognized suspicious activity within and surrounding the business (Polaris Project, 2012). While these tips were helpful, they had no direct contact with the victims and were unable to give further information needed to understand the operation of the business so that law enforcement could act.

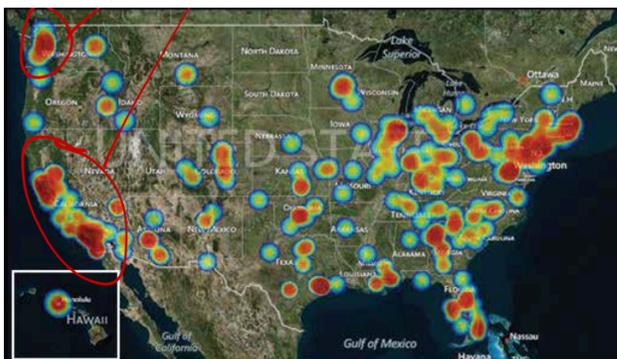


Figure 1.1 Location of Commercial-Front

Brothel Cases: The majority of these cases are on the West Coast with closer proximity to Asia.

Residential brothels take place within a home, apartment, townhouse, or any private property, making it a difficult venue to identify for law enforcement.

Typically, there are multiple victims in one brothel and were forced to provide commercial sex in 15 minute increments, often resulting in 30-40 customers per day. Of the 213 cases reported, 59% were Latin American trafficking networks (Polaris Project, 2012). It appears that brothels, both residential and commercial, are using victims that are being brought in from other countries. This strategy used by pimps and traffickers to smuggle and coerce victims from other countries is an effect of the immense poverty seen in these regions of Latin America and Asia that victims often are trying to escape, which will be discussed in more detail further on. When traffickers deceive victims by providing them with a “way out” with a false job in the United States, vulnerable victims are much more likely to accept the offer.



Figure 1.2 Location of Residential Brothel

Cases: The majority of these cases are in close proximity to the Mexico border.

Labor Trafficking

Labor trafficking statistics are lower than sex trafficking in the United States, but the issue is much more prevalent than the numbers provide. This form of trafficking is also more specific to certain regions of the United States. Labor trafficking is defined as trafficking within industries looking for cheap labor

and use typical components of trafficking to maintain that labor (Polaris Project, 2102). These include coercion and threats to force people to work against their will.

The presence of force plays a much different role with labor trafficking than it does sex trafficking. By law, sex trafficking does not require evidence of force, deception, or coercion to be considered human trafficking. Labor trafficking is central to the use of force for work labor. Without evidence of the components of coercion, deception, or force, it is much more difficult for law enforcement to recognize and act on labor trafficking. Communities also have much more trouble recognizing labor trafficking. Sex trafficking, due to its nature and heavy use of minors as victims, also receives more media attention than labor trafficking. Therefore, society is much less aware of the issue and prevalence of labor trafficking and lacks education on how to recognize labor trafficking (Polaris Project, 2012).

The NHTRC analyzed labor trafficking within domestic work, sales crews, and agriculture to find significant national and regional tendencies. Labor trafficking cases analyzed had a significantly higher percentage of adult males. This is much different demographic and target group of victims as compared to sex trafficking.

With 550 potential cases reported, domestic work was the highest count of labor trafficking cases (Polaris Project, 2012). Domestic work occurs within the home and typically only one victim is “hired.” Their work includes childcare, cooking, cleaning, and household work. The location of the home, much like

residential brothels, leaves the victim highly isolated the style of the crime the most difficult to recognize by law enforcement. Victims of labor trafficking reported working 10 to 20 hours daily with little to no pay, verbal and physical abuse from their captor, and very limited access to any communication with anyone outside of the home. The highest percentage of victims came from Asian regions, specifically the Philippines, and Mexico (Polaris Project, 2012). Again, like commercial-business brothels, these victims are enticed by deception of better work to escape poverty. They are also far more unlikely to know their labor rights like Americans may be. The regions they are coming from have far less labor and worker rights than the United States, thus limiting their awareness and knowledge of true worker laws such as fair wage and working conditions.

Victims of sales crew labor trafficking were typically recruited with promise of travel and high wages. They reported to be deprived of food and stranded or abused when they didn't meet difficult quotas. The majority of reports came from victims that were primarily adult U.S. citizens, both male and female. Their most dire request when reporting their crime was transportation to go home as they were often left stranded by their trafficker in an unknown city (Polaris Project, 2012).

Labor trafficking within agriculture underreported with only 92 reports received by the NHTRC (Polaris Project, 2012). Many agricultural trafficking cases reference exploitative practices that are within the spectrum of trafficking but are not considered sufficient enough to meet the standards of labor trafficking. Victims of agricultural trafficking tend to be among the flocks of

migrant farmworkers who are seasonal workers harvesting crops and raising farm animals (Polaris Project, 2012). Many of these victims tend to be undocumented workers, making it easy for the accused to deceive and coerce their victims to work for very little pay with the threat looming over their heads of being turned in and deported (Guardian Group, 2016). The average number of victims involved in agricultural trafficking was 16.9 victims per case (Polaris Project, 2012), which supports the claim that many victims are families (Guardian Group, 2016).

The main difficulty with agricultural trafficking is that they typically occur in rural areas where law enforcement and other agencies have difficulty picking up on the crimes taking place or connecting with victims (Polaris Project 2012). An example of this difficulty was discussed with Deputy Sheriff Frank Rodriguez, who provided an instance where victims of agricultural trafficking were living and working in the most remote areas of Moore County, North Carolina and were disguised by their captor as hired workers. They usually live in tent villages and avoid all contact with law enforcement from fear of being deported. Rodriguez discussed the implications of deception being played out in these cases where victims are coming to these agricultural areas for work but are clueless to the living conditions, little pay, and grueling hours.

Labor exploitation involves crimes that put victims at a high risk for human trafficking and reflect many of the characteristics of sex trafficking and labor trafficking (Polaris Project, 2012). Forms of labor exploitation include domestic violence, child abuse, and homeless and missing children. Forms of labor

exploitation also appear in the workforce in the method of sexual harassment, poor work wages, dangerous working conditions, yet these cases usually lack coercion or deception, thus making them unqualified as labor trafficking (Polaris Project, 2012). The most common violation was poor wages and abusive hours where victims were denied overtime pay. Labor exploitation can be useful to law enforcement because they are such strong indicators of cases that develop into labor trafficking.

Causes of Human Trafficking

Within the next decade, human trafficking is predicted to pass the drug market in terms of profit (Wheaton, Schauer, & Galli, 2010). The cheap labor and services with detrimental costs to victims, but a heavy amount of demand with low costs to the accused motivates and drives the human trafficking market. The more people become vulnerable to exploitation and suppliers are constantly needing the lowest costing services, whether that be the sex industry or labor market, it is becoming easier for human trafficking to grow (Wheaton, Schauer, Galli, 2010). This process of cheap supply and high demand in turn benefits captors and fuels this crime. By analyzing the economic structure of human trafficking and these vulnerable populations that fall victim to this crime, the causes of human trafficking are seen as interdisciplinary and cross-sectional among triggers such as the economy and poverty.

Literature presenting economic models and ways that they fuel human trafficking largely bases their presented data on the rational-choice theory and the model of supply and demand. By using the rational-choice theory, scholars

assume that individuals, the traffickers and employers, are using all information available to them and are making their rational choices based off of that information. They then compare their choices to the costs and benefits to gain the highest profit possible (Wheaton, Schauer & Galli, 2010). The global economic market connects buyers and sellers based on the labor demand of that particular market. In terms of human trafficking, that market, as illustrated previously, is the sex industry or the labor market. The human trafficking market model in Wheaton, Schauer, and Galli's (2010) research is defined as a "monopolistically competitive industry with many sellers (human traffickers) offering many buyers (employers) differentiated products (vulnerable individuals) based on price and preferences of the individual employers (pg. 117)." Examples of these employers are agricultural farmers, immigrant businesses with window front displays that they are "massage parlors" or strip clubs, and employers of domestic work (Guardian Group, 2016).

One cause of human trafficking that is connected with the economy seen throughout literature is the tension between the economic need for masses of people to migrate and the restrictions of migration, especially in the United States and other developed countries (Chuang, 2006). Because of this tension, human traffickers are able to supply a source of cheap labor that flourishes in an underground market to these regions that have a demand for victims of human trafficking. The market for human trafficking is unique, allowing the crime to grow with vast speed. It is easy for traffickers to enter and exit the market because of the monopolistic aspect of the crime (Wheaton, Schauer & Galli, 2010). Although

there are many sellers in the market, the costs of participating in human trafficking are much lower than the benefits. There are also many outlets through which traffickers can funnel their victims. The victims have hardly any say over their right to work, their hours of work, the type of work, or the pay (Bales, 1999). The many different uses for victims makes the market much more of a monopoly where the trafficker has control over their selling price (Wheaton, Schauer & Galli, 2010).

In a legal market, the individual is able to control the flow of money. Consumers have power in the market because the product is for them. As laborers, they have control over the time they want to provide based on the compensation provided by their employer. Individuals maximize their economic utility, their own cost and benefit system between labor and leisure time, when making decisions (Wheaton, Schauer & Galli, 2010). Economists use “push factors” (Othman, 2006) such as social status, gender, age, wealth, and education along with wages and hours worked to determine labor supply decisions that individuals make. Individuals must also factor in their local economy, politics, and globalization, called pull factors, when making labor decisions (Othman, 2006). Sociologists theorize that these push and pull factors are what cause vulnerability within certain populations, another cause of human trafficking (Wheaton, Schauer & Galli, 2010). Vulnerable populations are far easier for traffickers to pick up and sell. As discussed earlier when presenting literature on the topic of labor exploitation, the same indicators for trafficking are what make populations vulnerable. Domestic violence, poverty, urbanization,

lacks of educational and employment opportunities, and immigration cause a population to be vulnerable, which then causes human trafficking (Ejalu, 2006).

Previously presented was the research that showed that traffickers deceive victims on the basis that higher wages and “better opportunities” are available by crossing international and national markets through relocation. The indicators of vulnerability, such as low education and poverty, are driving causes for victims to fall trap to traffickers and their deception. The example of families selling their children because they are under the false expectation that they are providing them with a “better life” is not just one example but the fundamental reasoning that victims use when agreeing to the false reality given by the trafficker. Relocating is driven by helping their family, alleviating a family’s financial burden, or hopes of a better life in countries such as the United States through the images seen on television or the Internet (Wheaton, Schauer & Galli, 2010).

In the human trafficking market, traffickers and employers work together where traffickers provide workers and employers continuously use traffickers to provide victims. The business of human trafficking is vigorous and constantly changing. The sense of a human trafficker is similar to a predator, where they are watching for vulnerable populations and shifts in demand in order to profit. They use the rational-choice theory to find the highest benefits from the most vulnerable populations by selling them to the least costly employers, the ones that will minimize their crime coming to light by law enforcement (Wheaton, Schauer & Galli, 2010). This is typically seen in “businesses” like the sex industry

and labor market where operations and literal business happens underground. Much of human trafficking goes unrecognized by law enforcement. The TVPA has had less than a few hundred federal prosecutions since January 2001. This is important because human trafficking is a billion dollar industry, meaning that it is growing at a rapid pace but is not being caught by law enforcement. This lack of law enforcement and their use of authority opens up the market even more by reducing costs and adding benefits to traffickers.

Summary

In conclusion, it is evident by the research presented that human trafficking is an overwhelmingly large issue. The billion-dollar industry with low numbers of reports and convictions is evidence that the efforts currently in place to stop this crime are in need of improvement (RIPPLE, 2007). The two types of human trafficking, sex and labor, are widespread crimes throughout the United States and exist within North Carolina. Deception and coercion are the major characteristics of human trafficking, where the crime typically runs along a moving spectrum of deception and coercion. Victims of sex trafficking are predominantly female and the majority of Americans are unable to recognize the crime. Sex trafficking is unique by its nature as it is a manipulative and emotionally controlling crime where the perpetrator lures in his victim by means of deception or coercion (Article 10A 14-14.10.). Sex trafficking is evident in the form of brothels, massage parlors, or underground pimp rings (Guardian Group, 2016). Labor trafficking is also very difficult to recognize as the perpetrators often have power over their victims, resulting in very few reports. Labor trafficking is

commonly seen in rural areas of agriculture or in domestic labor settings (Polaris Project, 2012).

Human trafficking's most direct cause is found within vulnerable populations. Lack of education and high poverty are two causes of vulnerability that results in becoming a victim of human trafficking. The supply and demand of the human trafficking market and its ability to run with fluidity in a hidden manner also causes the growth of the crime. The extremely cheap labor and relatively low costs for traffickers maximizes their benefits and gains for trafficking their victims (Wheaton, Schauer & Galli, 2010).

CHAPTER 3: METHODOLOGY

The purpose of this study is to better understand the crime of human trafficking to know whether the actions being taken by law enforcement in North Carolina are sufficient. The study included three interviews with law enforcement and two non-profits, one with national scope and one within North Carolina. By comparing their responses and experiences with the scope of the crime and current legislation, the sufficiency of law enforcement will be clearer. This chapter will discuss the methods used to find these conclusions.

Research Design

Interviews were conducted between June and October 2016 . Law enforcement agencies in Charlotte, Greensboro, Raleigh, and Hickory were contacted for interviews, but none replied to the request. A presentation at Appalachian State University by Justice Ministries on sex trafficking allowed me the opportunity to interview the President, Mark Blackwell, on his experience with law enforcement and his understanding of their training on sex trafficking. Jeffery Tieg of Guardian Group, a non-profit based in Bend, Oregon with a national scope of the crime was interviewed. The last interview with was Moore County Deputy Sheriff Frank Rodriguez. I used a non-profit interview template with Justice Ministries, both a non-profit and law enforcement interview template for Guardian Group because Tieg has experience in both realms, and a law enforcement interview template for Rodriguez. Both templates are attached.

Template Design

The law enforcement template was a compilation of ten questions that ranged from the interviewee's own definition of human trafficking to any experiences they have had with the crime. Most of the questions were framed to give a better understanding of their knowledge of the crime. By asking their own definition, awareness of the state legislation, and steps their department has in place to combat the crime, I wanted to compare their knowledge with the literature presented to understand whether their education of human trafficking was sufficient. Questions were also asked about their knowledge of any other states and their laws against human trafficking to compare North Carolina's ability of combating this crime to other states to see if North Carolina needed improvement or was leading in combating human trafficking.

The non-profit template asked about any experiences with law enforcement and their awareness of law enforcement training to better understand my interviewee's knowledge and perspective on the capability of law enforcement and tackling human trafficking in North Carolina. Questions were also asked about their knowledge of legislation and public funding given to law enforcement to combat human trafficking in order to understand the priority the state legislature has given this crime in regards to the seriousness of the scope presented in Chapter 2.

Research Question and Hypothesis

The goal of this study is to answer the question of whether law enforcement in North Carolina is sufficiently trained and equipped to combat

human trafficking. The hypothesis for the study is due to lack of resources and awareness, law enforcement is not sufficiently trained and is not adequately fighting human trafficking based on the magnitude of the crime.

Sample

The sample for my study is my three organizations _____. While each interview was conducted with the highest ranked and most knowledgeable source within each organization, there is potential for bias in my results. The largest discrepancy with my results is the small sample size of three organizations.

CHAPTER 4: ANALYSIS

Justice Ministries

My first interview was conducted over the phone with Mark Blackwell, the President and founder of Justice Ministries, a non-profit in Charlotte, North Carolina. Blackwell founded and built Justice Ministries from the ground up. They currently have strong relations with the Charlotte Police Department but had to do so by reaching out with consistent resistance at first. According to Blackwell, Charlotte Police Department was skeptical of outside organizations and Justice Ministries was no exception. They were able to begin a relationship with the presence of a female case manager, Amy Johnson, who ran the rehabilitation branch of Justice Ministries called Rise Up. Johnson oversees housing for women after rescue efforts, childcare, and counseling rehabilitation. Charlotte Police Department was in search of a female case manager to be on-site during busts and Johnson was used. As presented in the literature, victims of sex trafficking are deceived through false trust in their trafficker (Aronowitz, 2009). As a result, they have a high mistrust of law enforcement. The use of a female case manager by the Charlotte Police Department is a glimpse of awareness of the methods used by traffickers to batter and damage their victims and is used as a strategy to help women being trafficked.

Because of Johnson, the relationship between Justice Ministries and Charlotte Police Department grew in 2013 and hotline calls that were once only

received by victims began coming from Charlotte Police Department, thus expanding Justice Ministries' annual number of cases from roughly 30 to 100 in 2014. Because of the nature of human trafficking non-profits in general and Justice Ministries specifically, they usually specialize in rehabilitation and law enforcement focuses on the investigation and illegality of the case. According to Blackwell, Charlotte Police Department and law enforcement in North Carolina lack the adequate resources and funding needed for the after-care that is necessary for this crime and its victims. Non-profits like Justice Ministries are a great resource for law enforcement because they are essentially a free resource for rehabilitation.

When discussing the awareness that Blackwell has on law enforcement's educational training, there has been progress but the overall conclusion is that there is still not enough funding to provide adequate resources to police departments. Charlotte Police Department has recently integrated a "couple hours" of a general human trafficking training for new officers entering the program. There are also some FBI participants within Charlotte who have attended educational trainings offered by the community of Charlotte and Justice Ministries. Blackwell's experience is that the smaller the town or community, the less training they receive on human trafficking, even though it still exists in these areas. This is due to a lack of funding but also the priority of the crime in these areas and the general lack of awareness of the scope of the crime presented in the literature. Blackwell also noted that the ways in which these areas combat human trafficking often mirror those of developing countries that prosecute the

victims and not the traffickers through use of decentralized tactics and weak investigation. Blackwell suggested that law enforcement hire victim advocates, especially in metropolitan areas such as Charlotte, where they can be more specialized in understanding and fighting human trafficking. The lack of funding allocated in state legislation for human trafficking is limited and blocks possibilities such as these from occurring.

Moore County Sheriff's Department

I interviewed Moore County Deputy Sheriff Frank Rodriguez on his experience within law enforcement and the nature that his department and the state take on human trafficking. The two strongest points within the interview that compared with the literature and other interviews were the lack of education and rehabilitation for victims.

I was given access to the 2016 In-Service Law Enforcement Training Guide and its chapter on Human Trafficking Awareness. This chapter, according to Rodriguez, was the main source of training that was given to all law enforcement in 2016. Moore County law enforcement have had some supplemental training provided by non-profits and, while are urged by Rodriguez and others in command to attend, are outside the official training within this training guide. The North Carolina Justice Academy also presents an annual training that is standardized and presented by non-profits and community colleges. Most state deputies are sent to this training. A typical law enforcement officer receives roughly two hours of training annually, stated by Rodriguez.

The chapter began by defining human trafficking as a “global phenomenon that involves obtaining or maintaining the labor or services of another through the use of force, fraud, or coercion in violation of an individual’s human rights (pg. 5).” This definition is in line with the definition presented in the literature (IACP, 2006). Yet a key component discussed throughout numerous sources of literature presented is the use of deception along with coercion. This chapter only discussed coercion and use of force and fraud, which, in other sources, are seen as forms of coercion and not their own components of human trafficking (Aronowitz, 2009).

The chapter included the NC General Statute presented previously on human trafficking and then continued to list two forms of exploitation- sex trafficking and labor trafficking. As noted throughout this study, there is ample information within literature on the two types of human trafficking. Yet this chapter that is used as training for North Carolina law enforcement did an incredibly brief overview with short bullet points for characteristics of each form of human trafficking (pg. 9-10). The chapter then described the methods of control used by traffickers, characteristics of traffickers, and methods of rehabilitation. Due to the lack of in-depth analysis of human trafficking within this chapter provided for training, Rodriguez and I were both able to agree that more training is necessary to meet the scope of the crime.

Rodriguez also emphasized the difficulty that law enforcement has with what to do with victims after the initial bust of a human trafficking case. In areas like Moore County, there are few shelters and no non-profits specializing in

human trafficking that can accept victims of these crimes. Law enforcement must often release them with no rehabilitation from the damaging crime and victims regularly return to their traffickers. Rodriguez discussed that the current reporting mechanism is difficult because they have nowhere to put the victim. The Department of Social Services can place victims in homes only if they are juveniles. There is no other state entity that is provided by legislation to aid law enforcement in rehabilitation. The process is rarely “clean cut” and with a lack of steps laid out for law enforcement to take from the beginning of the case to the end, according to Rodriguez. Rodriguez also discussed a point made in the literature that victims rarely report due to lack of trust with law enforcement (Combating Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors, 2013) and if they do report, they hardly testify when the case makes it to court. Because there are so few reported cases in North Carolina, and especially Moore County, human trafficking naturally falls to a lower priority for law enforcement.

Guardian Group

Lastly, I interviewed Jeffrey Tiegs, founder of Guardian Group, a non-profit that specializes in military tactics to combat human trafficking. While they are located in Bend, Oregon, Tiegs has relations with military and law enforcement in North Carolina, along with federal agencies, thus giving him credentials and a wide knowledge of human trafficking that fits the scope of the crime. Tiegs' experiences have proven that it is very difficult to rehabilitate and restore victims of human trafficking and there is a lack of motivation for law enforcement to rehabilitate. The difficulty is, again, rooted in the nature of the crime and the

coercion and deception that grip the victim's emotional and mental stability (Aronowitz, 2009). Shelters, non-profits, and churches are given the responsibility of rehabilitating victims. Guardian Group has recently trained twelve local families alongside the Department of Social Services to provide short-term rehabilitation and shelter for victims. According to Tieg, the problem of human trafficking is relatively easy to fix with the use of communities, yet law enforcement and the general public lacks the knowledge or skills to fight it. Tieg also discussed the myth that law enforcement are "buyers" of human trafficking and that many victims he has encountered believe their traffickers and are fearful of law enforcement (Combating Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors, 2013). They avoid contacting law enforcement when given the opportunity, thus resulting in underestimated reports of human trafficking and the lack of priority that law enforcement gives the crime. Tieg also commented that law enforcement can have a passion for ending human trafficking but it is just "one of hundreds of crimes" that fall within their jurisdiction. It often isn't law enforcement's direct fault for the lack of strategic counter human trafficking efforts within their department; they simply have too much to handle to give it priority.

The training law enforcement receives is also hugely lacking because of the disconnection between non-profits who are usually holding trainings and law enforcement who are expected to combat human trafficking. 18% of law enforcement gets training on human trafficking at the very basic level of understanding of the crime (Guardian Group, 2016). Half of those departments

have a trained team that specializes in counter human trafficking efforts. Less than 1% of traffickers are taken to court on a human trafficking charge. Tiegs pointed out that the extremely low numbers are evidence of the lack of training that is resulting in 99% of traffickers escaping law enforcement and continuing to “get away” with this crime. Traffickers are usually convicted of other crimes such as drug charges but are unrecognized as traffickers because law enforcement lack awareness of the crime and characteristics to look for. Tiegs has rarely experienced any pushback from law enforcement but instead is eager for help because their role is law enforcement, not just a human trafficking defense agency. When discussing the role of Guardian Group and Tiegs’ understanding of human trafficking, the main improvements that need to be made are more national priority of the crime which would result in more resources allotted to law enforcement and laws that are fluid and up to date with the crime. Federal legislation is behind and, according to Tiegs, needs improvement and a shift from state legislation being the first to define and cover human trafficking, but more intense federal legislation. This would only happen if the crime itself was recognized for what it is- a global epidemic that touches every American community. By raising awareness on human trafficking and the scope of the crime, the effect would influence resources towards law enforcement and the way that law enforcement combats the traffickers and aids in the rehabilitation of victims.

CHAPTER 5: DISCUSSION

Summary of Findings

The purpose of this study was to analyze the causes and characteristics of human trafficking to better understand the scope of the crime. By better understanding human trafficking and how vast it is, I would be able to determine, based on interviews, the current status of law enforcement's role in fighting human trafficking and whether or not they are adequately equipped to combat human trafficking.

The study reviewed and compared research and literature on the topic of human trafficking by understanding the two main components traffickers use, deception and coercion (Aronowitz, 2009). The study reviewed and presented characteristics of sex trafficking and labor trafficking, the two main forms of human trafficking. The majority of sex trafficking victims are female and the majority of the traffickers are male (Combating Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors, 2013). The relationship between a victim and a trafficker often begins as a romantic relationship where the trafficker gains the victim's trust and then uses a combination of coercion and deception to enslave them (Polaris Project, 2012). Labor trafficking can be even more difficult to recognize, with statistics on the crime underestimated due to a lack of reporting. Labor trafficking in the United States is defined as trafficking within industries looking for cheap labor and use typical components of trafficking to maintain that labor (Polaris Project,

2102). Coercion and deception, often in the form of threats, force people to work against their will.

The study presented literature discussing the causes of human trafficking. The market for human trafficking is highly profitable because it lacks high costs and provides high benefits for traffickers through a high demand and easy supply of victims from vulnerable populations (Wheaton, Schauer & Galli, 2010). This flexible market that works in a trafficker's favor has caused the growth of human trafficking. Vulnerable populations, such as women and children living in poverty or with a lack of education, are easy victims for traffickers and are found in growing numbers throughout developing countries (Wheaton, Schauer & Galli, 2010). These growing vulnerable populations caused by plaguing poverty are providing a mass surplus in victims for traffickers, thus propelling the human trafficking market.

The information gathered within my interviews was abounding and compared easily with the literature presented. The conclusion is that law enforcement in North Carolina lacks the education and resources needed to combat human trafficking. This result is not directly their fault. Legislation needs to be revised to stay current with the mobility and underground nature of human trafficking while also allocating more funding so that law enforcement can fully fight human trafficking, from the first steps of the investigation to prosecution to rehabilitation of the victim. Efforts to create more intensive trainings on human trafficking must take place so that law enforcement can better recognize the crime and understand how it functions and grows within the state, local, and

federal jurisdictions. Stronger partnerships with non-profits and law enforcement within North Carolina would also alleviate the stress put on law enforcement to rehabilitate victims with little to no capability.

By creating units throughout law enforcement departments in North Carolina, a specialization and understanding of the crime on a deeper level would be achieved and would also positively impact law enforcement's goal of combating human trafficking. Changing the education process from training that is more of an overview of one of the largest global crimes to an in-depth understanding of the functions and characteristics of human trafficking, along with more funding towards rehabilitation, will improve North Carolina law enforcement's current ability to combat human trafficking.