CLARIFYING THE DEFINITION OF DOMESTIC SEX TRAFFICKING:
PERPECTIVES OF EXPERTS IN THE SACRAMENTO AREA

A Project

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by
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Division of Social Work
Abstract

of

CLARIFYING THE DEFINITION OF DOMESTIC SEX TRAFFICKING:

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Melissa Harter

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Domestic sex trafficking is modern day slavery of United States citizens or individuals with legal residence within the United States. There is still limited understanding of the issues concerning the domestic sex trafficking population who are predominately woman and children (U.S. Department of State, 2009). The most comprehensive study to date shows between 100,000 and 300,000 minors are currently being trafficked within the United States (U.S. Department of Justice, 2007). California is considered a top location of human trafficking in the United States and Sacramento is identified as one of five primary cities for sex trafficking (Harris, 2012; WEAVE, 2013). With little research available about the domestic sex trafficking population in Sacramento, this qualitative and quantitative study provides insight to the topic of domestic sex trafficking in the Sacramento area by surveying 21 experts who work with or have knowledge of this
population. Not only do the experts of this study help determine a common definition of domestic sex trafficking in the Sacramento area, this study also reveals clarity as to who the Sacramento domestic sex trafficking victims are, what their needs are, and how outreach and services can be improved to adequately assist this population.

_______________________, Committee Chair
Dr. Francis Yuen, DSW

_______________________
Date
We would like to express the deepest appreciation for the experts who volunteered to participate in our survey questionnaire. We are hopeful your expertise will be beneficial in improving the services provided to the domestic sex trafficking population.

We offer our gratitude to Dr. Yuen for his structure and guidance to assist us in the completion of this project. We are grateful for his dedication of time and advice that was essential to the success of this project.

We would like to give a special thank you to Bridgette Castillo for generously giving her time, recommendations, and counsel to support us through the writing of this project.

Finally, we give thanks to our families who have encouraged and emotionally supported us throughout this project. I offer my gratefulness to my children, Jacob and Meghan Cazadio for the patience they have shown which allowed me to help finish this project.
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CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

Human trafficking is the third largest criminal industry in the world (Macy & Johns, 2011). After narcotics and arms sales, trafficking is estimated to be the largest source of revenue for organized crime (U.S. Department of State [USDS], 2004). Human trafficking is often referred to as modern day slavery and is best understood as the illegal trade of human beings where perpetrators profit from the control and exploitation of others (Hepburn, 2010; Hodge, 2008; Hughes, 2007; Kotrla, 2010; TVPA, 2000 STAT. 1466; Logan, 2009). Estimating the prevalence of human trafficking is challenging due to the hidden nature of the crime however, the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2005 indicated about 2.4 million people are victims of trafficking at any given time (Geneva, ILO, 2005; Wyler & Siskin, 2010; Logan, 2009). In June 2012, the ILO released a more accurate estimate of 20.9 million human trafficking victims worldwide at any given time with 4.5 million victims being trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation (International Labour Organization, 2012). Other estimates of human trafficking vary considerably and range from 4 million to 27 million (U.S. Department of State, 2007; Logan, 2009).

Background of the Problem

Studies have identified the United States to be one of the top 10 destinations for human trafficking (Hepburn, 2010). According to the U.S. Department of State, between 14,500 and 17,500 victims are trafficked into the United States every year (U.S. Department of State, 2007). This estimate does not include the quantities of marginalized
U.S. citizens who are trafficked domestically within the context of the United States (Logan, 2009).

Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation is the fastest growing form of human trafficking (Macy & Johns, 2011). Sex trafficking is a transnational issue which deprives people of their basic human rights, freedom, and undermines the health, safety and security of all nations (Macy & Johns, 2011). Sex trafficking victims often suffer severe physical and emotional abuse, rape, threats against self and family, document theft, and sometimes death (Macy & Johns, 2011). More than half of individuals trafficked each year are believed to be trafficked for sexual exploitation, with about 80 percent of victims being women and children (U.S. Department of State, 2009; ILO, 2005).

International trafficking often over shadows the severity of domestic trafficking. Although public attention to the issue of sex trafficking within the United States has greatly increased over the past decade, many people remain unaware there are more U.S. citizens who are victims of sex trafficking than foreign nationals (Hughes, 2007). Recent studies have revealed traffickers are finding that American youth are easier to recruit and sell than foreign victims because there is no need to cross international borders (Washington State Office of the Attorney General, 2010). As far as the prevalence of minors trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation, one of the most comprehensive reports up to date suggests there are between 100,000 and 300,000 minors within the United States who are sexually exploited, with up to 325,000 more youth at risk for
becoming such victims. (Estes & Weiner, 2002; Hughes, 2007; U.S. Department of justice, 2007a; Kotrla, 2010)

**Statement of the Research Problem**

Sacramento is among 18 cities recognized as a center for human trafficking in the United States. The Sacramento area is considered among the top five cities in the United States experiencing an epidemic of sex trafficking of minors, but there is still limited research and/or understanding of the domestic sex trafficking population of all ages in the greater Sacramento area (WEAVE, 2013; Markoff & Blicher, 2011). While there are several programs designed to help the domestic sex trafficking population in Sacramento such as WEAVE and My Sister’s House, most services are limited to assisting minors specifically. One of the goals of this study is to bring clarity to the definition of domestic sex trafficking in relation to the greater Sacramento area by collecting information from experts who have experience with the domestic sex trafficking population and/or knowledge of the topic. The additional intention of this study is to gain insight into the issues and services surrounding the domestic sex trafficking population for purposes of future research on the topic.

**Purpose of the Study**

This study aims to clarify the definition of domestic sex trafficking for the purpose of future service development to better serve the domestic sex trafficking population. The study results represent the perspectives of experts in the Sacramento area who are knowledgeable about the topic or have experience with domestic sex trafficking. The study attempts to answer five overarching questions:
1) What is the common definition of domestic sex trafficking according to experts in the Sacramento community?

2) What is the definition of the domestic sex trafficking problem in the Sacramento area?

3) What are the current challenges and barriers in accessing and serving the domestic sex trafficking population?

4) What services need to be improved to better access and service the domestic sex trafficking population?

5) What services are recommended to better access and serve the domestic sex trafficking population?

**Theoretical Framework**

Ecological perspective is the guiding theoretical framework for this research study to better understand the issues concerning the domestic sex trafficking population in the greater Sacramento area. The ecological perspective has long been a cornerstone of social work practice by focusing on the transactions between individuals and their environments (Greene, 2008). An ecological framework allows for behavior and/or issues to be examined from a myriad of lenses. The development of an individual stems from interactions within their environment over a lifetime. Taking into consideration that individuals are multifaceted, the ecological perspective allows for the exploration of several influences in an individual’s lifetime and does not lay blame on any one area. Not only does the ecological perspective examine an individual’s home environment, but also the interaction of the individual’s community and resources. By gaining insight into
the developmental, environmental, and system dynamics of the domestically sex trafficked population, the ability to ameliorate the issues and better serve this population would be enabled.

Although there are domestic sex trafficking individuals who are male, the majority of this population are female. Feminist theory recognizes the United States as a patriarchal society which influences an imbalance of power amongst men and women (Greene, 2008). Feminist theory considers how women’s internal realities are influenced by their array of external experiences. By seeking the meaning of a woman’s experiences and not just a clinical interpretation, feminist theory uniquely fosters connectedness and empowerment of woman. As with the domestic sex trafficking population, many women do not recognize they are being oppressed. Empowerment of women and/or the domestic sex trafficking population is possible by bringing awareness of oppression to an individual as well as society.

**Definition of Terms**

**Human Trafficking**

Human trafficking is often synonymous with modern day slavery and refers to the criminal act where perpetrators profit from the control and exploitation of others (Hodge, 2008). Human trafficking is an umbrella term that includes trading in persons for various purposes including forced labor, sex exploitation, bonded labor, debt bondage, domestic servitude, forced child labor, and child soldiery (Androff, 2010). The common denominator for all forms of trafficking scenarios is the use of force, fraud, or coercion to
exploit a person for profit. According to the *California Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2005*, the official definition of human trafficking is:

All acts involved in the recruitment, abduction, transport, harboring, transfer, sale or receipt of persons, within national or across international borders, through force, coercion, fraud or deception, to place persons in situations of slavery or slavery-like conditions, forced labor or services, such as forced prostitution or sexual services, domestic servitude, bonded sweatshop labor, or other debt bondage. (p. 26)

**Sex Trafficking**

Sex trafficking refers to a form of human trafficking which persons are traded for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Sexual exploitation refers to the process by which individuals are induced by force, fraud, or coercion into illegal sex industries where they are again forced to perform sexual services for a profit. Persons trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation are forced into positions of prostitution, street work, live sex shows, stripping, pornography, mail-order bride services, or sex tourism (Kotrla, 2010; Hepburn, 2010). According to the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TPVA), sex trafficking also includes persons who are “induced to perform commercial sex acts and have not yet attained 18 years of age” (TVPA of 2000, p. 1470).

**International Sex Trafficking**

International sex trafficking refers to the involuntary recruitment of persons from their country of origin by the means of coercion, manipulation, fraud, or deception, and transported across international borders for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation (TVPA of 2000, 2000; Dutch, Salomon, & Grace, 2009). International victims are likely
to come from countries where poverty, corruption, and conflict are significant and are recruited by traffickers by false promises of a better life in another country (Macy & Johns, 201; Hodge & Lietz, 2007).

**Domestic Sex Trafficking**

The definition of domestic sex trafficking used within this thesis study is according to the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008. It refers to the involuntary recruitment of persons for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation by means of force, coercion, manipulation, fraud, or deception, within the boundaries of the United States in which victims are United States citizens or have permanent legal residence (TVPRA, 2008; Clawson, Dutch, Salomon, & Grace, 2009). Definitions of domestic sex trafficking within this thesis study also include any citizen or legal resident of the United States under the age of 18 years old that is used for the purpose of sexual exploitation in the boundaries of the United States through sexual servitude, regardless of the absence of economic leverage, manipulation, fraud, coercion, threats, force and violence (TVPA, 2000).

**Experts**

Within the context of this project, the term expert will refer to participants from the Sacramento area that are highly knowledgeable and/or have experience with the domestic sex trafficking population. The experts are professionals in human services, law enforcement, and other services that have direct knowledge and practice experience working with the victims of domestic sex trafficking.
Justification

Social workers are always searching for how to better serve their clients. According to the National Association of Social Workers’ (NASW) *Code of Ethics* (2011), social worker’s primary goal is to “enhance human well-being and help meet basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty.” The domestic sex trafficking population is a population who are likely to be vulnerable, oppressed, and poverty stricken. Social workers have the duty to be aware and be able to identify signs of domestic sex trafficking to assist in combating the exploitation of a vulnerable and manipulated population.

The National Association of Social Workers’ Code of Ethics (2011) also states, “Social workers seek to enhance the capacity for people to address their own needs.” Social workers have a duty to advocate in the best interest of their clients, especially for individuals who may not be allowed to have a voice of their own. Social workers also have a duty to the general welfare of overall society according to the National Association of Social Workers’ Code of Ethics (2011). Since the threat of domestic sex trafficking is a serious consideration for new victims, social workers need to be equipped with an understanding of the issues in order to help prevent potential dangers to a vulnerable population. The impact of domestic sex trafficking affects the physical, psychological, and emotional well-being of a victim that in turn affects society and resources. By learning more about the sex trafficking population in the greater Sacramento area, social workers have the opportunity to better serve this population.
currently, but also implement education and prevention to protect future potential victims.

Statement of Collaboration

Melissa Harter and Johanna Longero certify their collaboration on the research, study, and analysis of the findings while completing this thesis project on domestic sex trafficking in the Sacramento area.
The following chapter presents the emerging literature on the subject of sex trafficking on the global, national, and local level. The discussion within this literature review will explore the current themes and discussion of the issue of sex trafficking including the extent, primary victims, risk factors, and current legislation.

**Human Trafficking**

Human trafficking is a form of modern day slavery which involves the illegal trade of human beings in which perpetrators profit from the control and exploitation of others (Hodge, 2008; Hepburn, 2010; Logan, 2009; Hughes, 2007; Kotrla, 2010; TVPA, 2000 STAT. 1466). There are various forms of human trafficking that all include the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of exploitation for profit or personal services (TVPA, 2000 STAT. 1466). Human trafficking is one of the most significant human rights violations in contemporary society and is the third largest criminal industry in the world (Hodge, 2008; Macy & Johns, 2011). After narcotics and arms sales, trafficking is estimated to be the largest source of revenue for organized crime (U.S. Department of State, 2004). Human trafficking has been estimated to produce revenue of seven to ten billion US dollars worldwide untaxed every year (Cole, 2009; Logan et al., 2009; Overbaugh, 2009; U.S. Department of State, 2008; McClain & Garrity, 2010).

Due to the hidden nature of the crime, estimates to the extent of human trafficking tend to vary drastically and have changed significantly throughout the years due to increased awareness. The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates there are at
least 2.4 million persons in the process of being trafficked at any given moment with an estimate of affecting 12.3 million persons worldwide (Wyler & Siskin, 2010).

**Introducing Sex Trafficking**

Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation is the fastest growing form of human trafficking (Macy & Johns, 2011). More than half of individuals trafficked each year are believed to be trafficked for sexual exploitation, with approximately 80 percent being women and minors under the age of 18 (ILO, 2005; U.S. Department of State, 2009). Sex trafficking involves the practice by which individuals are forced under fraudulent pretenses into illegal sex industries where they are coerced into performing sexual services for a profit. Victims of sex trafficking are forced into prostitution, live sex shows, stripping, mail-order bride services, sex tourism, brothels, hostess clubs, online escort services, brothels disguised as massage parlors, strip clubs, or pornography (Hepburn, 2010; Kotrla, 2010; Polaris Project, 2010; U.S. Department of State, 2007).

The common discussion around the topic of sex trafficking tends to focus on individuals who are trafficked over international borders. Although public attention on international sex trafficking within the United States has increased awareness of the issues over the past decade, many people remain unaware that there are a significant number of U.S. citizens who are victims of sex trafficking (Hughes, 2007; Kotrla, 2010). Though there is limited research that focuses exclusively on the topic of domestic sex trafficking, a recent report from the Attorney General revealed that traffickers are finding American youth are easier to recruit and sell than foreign victims because there is no need to cross international borders (Attorney General, 2010). The only estimates of
domestic sex trafficking in the United States are represented through studies of minors at risk.

**Impact of Sex Trafficking**

Due to the hidden nature of the crime, high levels of under-reporting, and lack of uniform data collection systems for tracking the numbers of trafficking victims identified, it is extremely difficult to attain an accurate estimate to the extent of sex trafficking (Logan, Walker, & Hunt, 2009; USDS, 2010). According to the U.S. Department of State, approximately 800,000 victims annually are trafficked across international borders worldwide, and between 14,500 and 17,500 of those victims are trafficked into the United States (U.S. Department of State, 2007). The International Labor Organization however, estimates there are nearly 1.39 million victims forced into trafficking for sexual purposes every year worldwide with estimates vastly increasing (U.S. Department of State, 2009).

**The Magnitude of Sex Trafficking**

Studies indicate sex trafficking is the most prevalent form of trafficking in the United States (National Clearing House on Families & Youth, 2005). California is one of the largest sites of human trafficking in the United States (Harris, 2012). The extensive international border, major harbors, airports, powerful economy, large immigrant population, and the sex industries make California a prime target for traffickers (California Attorney General’s Office, 2007). Los Angeles is known to be one of the top three points of entry into the United States for victims of trafficking (WEAVE, 2013). Victims tend to be trafficked in a “trafficking triangle” from Los Angeles, California to Las Vegas, Nevada, and to Sacramento, making it difficult for law enforcement to locate...
potential survivors (WEAVE, 2013). Some of the other trafficking gateways designated in California are San Francisco, San Diego, Los Angeles, San Jose, Berkeley, and Anaheim (National Clearing House on Families & Youth, 2005).

There is limited research the true extent and nature of human trafficking in California. Over the years many cases of human trafficking have been reported in California, yet no accurate estimates have been configured. In 2004 and 2005, the U.S. Department of Justice awarded grants of $450,000 to five California law enforcement agencies in San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland and San Jose to establish human trafficking task forces to aid in the identification and rescue of human trafficking victims and in the investigation and prosecution of traffickers (California Attorney General’s Office, 2007). Between December 1, 2005 and March 12, 2007, California’s five Task Forces reported there were 559 potential victims identified (California Attorney General’s Office, 2007).

In June 2003, the FBI, in conjunction with the Department of Justice Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, launched the Innocence Lost National Initiative which focuses exclusively on addressing the growing problem of domestic sex trafficking of children in the United States (FBI, 2003). As of June 2012, 47 dedicated task forces and working groups throughout the U.S., including California task forces have recovered over 2,100 children who have been sexually exploited (FBI, 2003). The FBI announced June 26th, 2012, agents working under the Innocence Lost initiative rescued 79 sex trafficking victims under the age of 18 and the arrested 104 pimps across the United States during Operation
Cross Country VI. The three-day sex trafficking sweep consisted of 57 cities throughout the United States (Cratty, 2012; Fisher, 2012). Fisher from the Examiner reports California accounted for 24% of the sexually exploited minors rescued in the operation and 22% of the arrested pimps (Fisher, 2012). The FBI reported the minors and pimps were recovered from four cities in California including the San Francisco Bay area, Sacramento, Los Angeles, and San Diego (Fisher, 2012).

Sacramento is among 18 cities identified as a hub for human trafficking in the United States and among the top 5 cities in the United States experiencing an epidemic of sex trafficking of minors under the age of 18 (WEAVE, 2013; Markoff & Blicker, 2011). Sacramento’s large immigrant population and prime location on the I-5 corridor at the intersection of Interstate 80 and Highway 50 are just a few of the characteristics which makes Sacramento particularly susceptible to human trafficking (Markoff & Blicker, 2011). In an interview with Jeffrey Morris, FBI agent who served four years on the Sacramento Task Force as a part of the Innocence Lost, reported that Sacramento’s location between Oakland, Reno, and Los Angeles also plays a factor in why trafficking is so prevalent in the Sacramento area (Morris, 2012). Morris explained during his four years serving on the task force, the team recovered over 200 minors who were victims of sex trafficking (Morris, 2012).

As a part of the Sacramento Division of the FBI and multiple local and state law enforcement agencies, Morris participated in the three-day sex trafficking sweep of 57 cities throughout the United States operating under the Innocence Lost Initiative known as Operation Cross Country VI (Morris, 2012). Operation Cross Country VI resulted in
the rescue of 79 minor victims of sex trafficking and the arrest of 104 pimps (Cratty, 2012; Fisher, 2012). Of the 79 victims recovered and 104 pimps arrested, six victims and six pimps were recovered in the Sacramento area (Cratty, 2012; Fisher, 2012).

Perceptions, Understandings, and Culture of Tolerance

There has been an attempt to determine the difference between prostitution and sex trafficking. Prostitution has long been commercialized and promoted as a choice in the United States, but by changing the label of “prostitute” to “sex trafficked” there is an attempt to identify the trafficked individual as a victim without choice (Farley, 2006). Others try to define the choice of prostituting by age and not identifying an adult as a victim of sex trafficking when most sex trafficking victims were introduced to commercial sex exploitation as minors (Smith, 2010). Any distinction is difficult to make between an adult prostitute and a sex trafficked minor since the individual carries the same past trauma and experiences after turning 18 years of age (Smith, 2010). An argument has been made that the only difference between an adult prostitute and a sex trafficked minor is the stage the victim is in (Smith, 2010). Prostitution has been identified as the long term consequence of a minor being sex trafficked (Smith, 2010). Also, prostitution creates the demand for sex trafficking (Farley, 2006). Earlier intervention may be the key to preventing long term consequences of sex trafficking (Smith, 2010).

The United States has a long history of glamorizing and commercializing the sex trade industry through movies, music, and video games (Kotrla, 2010). More recently, the term “pimp” has become synonymous with being positive and good in such programs
as *Pimp My Ride* which is about making cars better or cooler. Movies such as *Pretty Woman* and *Hustle and Flow* glamorize the lifestyle of prostitution and pimping by creating a stereotype of being a positive choice with opportunity for a better life, materialism, and love. Hollywood movies tend to avoid the true violence and harm of the prostitution and pimping lifestyle. From the movie *Hustle and Flow,* the song, “It’s Hard Out Here for a Pimp” won an Oscar for best song. The normalization of the commercial sex industry contributes to the factor that young people are lured into the sex trade industry (Kotrla, 2010). The famous slogan “What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas” gives visitors of Las Vegas permission to indulge in careless sexual behavior outside of the visitor’s normal standards (International, 2007). By glamorizing prostitution and pimping, popular culture reduces the moral barriers in regards to the true nature of how trafficked women and children are treated (International, 2007).

Society has not yet identified prostitution and pornography as a form of torture (Farley, 2006). According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary (2013), torture can be defined as “anguish of body or mind; something that causes agony or pain; the infliction of intense pain to punish, coerce, or afford sadistic pleasure”. All of the definitions can be used to explain the experience of being trafficked into prostitution or pornography. In the United States, the torture endured while involved in prostitution and pornography is disguised as commercialized “adult entertainment” and accepted, but the same degrading torture inflicted on prisoners of Abu Ghraib is deemed outrageous (Farley, 2006). Not only are the consequences to the tortured victims similar, but the perpetrators bond over sharing and participating while inflicting degrading torture to the victims (Farley, 2006).
Perpetrators, Traffickers, and Pimps

The perpetrators, otherwise known as “sex traffickers” or “pimps” in the United States are defined as individuals who recruit, transport, harbor, obtain, and exploit victims by using force, threats, lies, or other physical and psychological methods of control (U.S. Department, 2009). As previously discussed, the traffickers target emotionally immature and vulnerable girls to recruit for sex trafficking due to the ability to easily manipulate and control the victims (International, 2007). While men and women participate in the trafficking of girls and women into the illegal sex industry, men generally control the sex trafficking ring and use women to manage the trafficking victims (International, 2007).

Sex trafficking is hierarchical with the pimp having all of the power, but the pimp designates specific and the most experienced victims with authorities over the newer victims (International, 2007). Research indicates sex trafficking victims more than likely become perpetrators by taking an active role in the trafficking process. Female traffickers, recruiters, or “madams” often started in the illegal sex industry as sex trafficked victims (Carina, Breuil, Siegel, Reenen, Beijer, & Roos, 2011). Sex trafficked women and young girls are successfully used to recruit new victims by gaining the potential victim’s trust as a friend (International, 2007). By using the sex trafficking victims to recruit young girls, the perpetrator’s identity is protected from penalties (McClain & Garrity, 2010).
**Methods of Recruitment**

There are different approaches to luring adolescents into the sex trade industry. Often traffickers share the same ethnicity, culture, and background as the victims which allows the traffickers to have a better understanding of the victim and also allows the victim to identify with the trafficker (Polaris Project, 2010). Common styles of entrapping victims include a combination of guerilla pimping and finesse pimping (Williamson & Prior, 2009; McClain & Garrity, 2010). Guerilla pimping is the use of violence, threats, and force such as kidnapping to enslave victims, but is often used after the potential victim becomes emotionally attached to the trafficker after being manipulated with finesse pimping (Williamson & Prior, 2009; McClain & Garrity, 2010). Many traffickers start a relationship with the potential victim with the use of finesse pimping which involves kindness and psychological games to entice young girls into sex trafficking (Williamson & Prior, 2009; McClain & Garrity, 2010). The traffickers are able to create the illusion that the potential victim is in control and the trafficker is able to rescue and help the victim from the victim’s problems (International, 2007). Often, the trafficker or “pimp” will approach the potential victim as a boyfriend in order to gain the affections and trust of the potential victim. According to one survivor,

“I was 14 years old and the way the pimp came at me was that first I didn’t even know that he was a pimp. He came at me like a boyfriend. Yes he was an older boyfriend but he cared about me…6 months later he told me ‘Let’s run away together. We can have a beautiful house and family.’ And I believed him, and we ran away and then the story changed and I met the other girls that he had in his
stable. I had to go out every night and work the streets—the alternative was being
gang raped by a group of pimps while everyone watched.” --Tina Frundt, Founder
of Courtney’s House, and Survivor of domestic minor sex trafficking.
(International, 2007)

Once the victim has been lured by the pimp or recruiter into the sex trafficking
ring, the pimp will “groom” or “break-down” the sex trafficking victim using the
approach of debilitation, dread, and dependency, which is similar to that of a political
torturer, in order to have complete physical and psychological control over the victim
(Polaris Project, 2010; Farley, 2006). A systematic process of cruelty including physical,
sexual, and emotional abuse is used to strip away the victim’s previous identity and
create total dependence on the trafficker (Polaris Project, 2010). Intimidation tactics are
used to encourage the victim to feel vulnerable and fearful in order to prevent the victim
from attempting to escape or seek help (McClain & Garrity, 2010). Through
brainwashing, indoctrinating, and physical assaults, the perpetrator insures the sex
trafficked victim will comply will all demands of johns and pimps (Farley, 2006). In the
end, the sex trafficked victim is left with no sense of self autonomy and completely
submissive becoming trauma bonded or showing signs of Stockholm syndrome where the
victims begin to identify with the perpetrator (Farley, 2006, Merriam-Webster dictionary,
2013).

**Profit of Trafficking**

Most studies do not focus on the profit making aspect of domestic sex trafficking,
but the primary motivating factor for sex trafficking is the ability to make money (Huges,
Traffickers are able to keep 100% of the profit from the sex trafficked victims (Polaris Project, 2010). A common practice among perpetrators is to place the sexually exploited victim into debt bondage by forcing the victim to earn a specific quota of income which keeps the victim in perpetual servitude (Polaris Project, 2010). Some quotas range from $500.00 to $1000.00 a night and the trafficked victims cannot return to the traffickers until the quota is filled. One trafficker who traffics three victims can earn more than $600,000.00 a year (Polaris Project, 2010). In general, domestic sex trafficking profits do not go to only one exploiter, but to a network of profiteers (Hughes, 2005). In Oakland, California, police identified 218 minors between the ages of 11 and 15 being sex trafficked by 155 pimps in 2002 (Hughes, 2005). The estimated earnings for the network of pimps for a year was $32,700,000.00 if each of the minors worked 300 days of the year at $500.00 a day (Hughes, 2005).

**Johns/Buyers**

With a culture ingrained to be tolerant and accepting of male dominance and power, the purchasers of sex trafficked victims often go unnoticed (Hughes, 2005). Predominately, the buyers of sex trafficking are middle age white men who purchase sex to degrade, humiliate, and hurt women and children if they so choose (International, 2007). The men who buy sex are usually satisfied in their marriages and want to have sex without having to be polite. The purchasers of sex do not respect women and do not want to respect them. These men are not lonely and usually have sexually gratifying relationships. Men who purchase sex are often more likely to have a partner than those not purchasing sex (Hughes, 2005). There are three types of buyers including situational,
opportunistic, and preferential. Situational buyers are those who purchase minors for sex because the minors are available and vulnerable. Preferential buyers, like pedophiles, have a sexual preference and seek out specific markets for a target victim or service. Opportunistic buyers purchase sex indiscriminately and do not care about age or willingness of the victim due to the fact there is a normalization ingrained by the commercialization of society glamorizing prostitution from an early age (Smith, Vardaman, & Snow, 2009).

**Characteristics of Domestic Sex Trafficking Victims**

A common misconception of sex trafficked victims is that the victims are mostly foreign internationals. The reality is that victims of sex trafficking are increasingly domestic meaning the victims are United States citizens or have lawful residence in the United States (TVPRA, 2008). According to the Chief of the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice, Andrew Oosterbaan (2008), “there is an endless supply of victims in this country.” On average, 150,000 teens are exploited by sex trafficking each year in the United States alone (Attorney General, 2010). Traffickers are finding American girls easier to recruit and sell than foreign victims because there is no need to cross international boarders (Attorney General, 2010).

According to the U.S. Department of Justice (2007), sex trafficking of minors is at “epidemic proportions.” Regardless of age or race, all individuals can become victims of domestic sex trafficking, but individuals who are especially vulnerable to being victimized are young women and children since the demand for young females is much
greater than for males (International, 2007). Research has shown 80 percent of sex trafficked victims are female indicating young girls are specifically and aggressively targeted (U.S. Department of State, 2009; ILO, 2005). While sex trafficking victims can be of any age, research studies have shown approximately 70 percent of women involved in the commercial sex industry were victims of sex trafficking before the age of 18 (Kortla, 2010). On average, girls are recruited into sex trafficking between the ages of 12 to 14, while boys and transgender youth tend to be recruited younger with ages being between 11 and 13 (National Clearing House on Families & Youth, 2005). One reason such a high percentage of young girls are entering into sex trafficking is because the exploiters or traffickers commonly known as pimps in the United States are much younger than in previous years (International, 2007). Younger pimps can simply attract and recruit younger girls which are easier to manipulate and control.

Juveniles from every race and social class are potential victims of sex trafficking, but the majority of arrests made of sex trafficked victims come from poor families (National Clearinghouse on Families & Youth, 2005). Traffickers or pimps are known to target and recruit potential victims who are vulnerable with a range of issues which can include emotional, mental, and/or economical hardships (McClain & Garrity, 2010). At the highest risk of being sexually exploited are runaway, thrownaway, and homeless youth, however sex trafficked victims can be trafficked by their family members or acquaintances never needing to leave home (Estes, 2001). According to Shared Hope, a runaway is considered to be a minor 14 years old or younger that chooses to leave home and stay away for one night. A minor who is 15 years of age and older is considered a
runaway if the minor decides to leave home and stay away for two nights (International, 2007). On the other hand, thrownaway minors are forced to leave home by the minor’s parent or guardian or the minor’s parent or guardian refuses to allow the minor to return home (International, 2007). Runaway, thrownaway, and homeless youth are particularly vulnerable because once leaving home, 1 out of every 3 American teens on the street is lured into sex trafficking within 48 hours (Attorney General, 2010).

**Risk Factors for Domestic Sex Trafficked Victims**

The majority of sex trafficked victims in the United States are underage girls because adolescent girls are extremely susceptible to the deception of traffickers (International, 2007). One of the leading reasons young people are at risk of sexual exploitation is due to physical, sexual, and/or psychological dysfunction in the home (Domestic Human Trafficking of Children and Youth Initial Findings Brief, 2005). When young people are looking for emotional connections and basic needs, such as food, shelter, and clothing, young people can be easily manipulated when trafficking perpetrators show affection (National Clearing House on Families & Youth, 2005). At least 75 percent of sex trafficked victims are controlled by a pimp (International, 2007; Kotrla, 2010). One study of pimp-control and non-pimped controlled women showed the pimp controlled women experienced more traumas in the home growing up and had experimented with drugs, alcohol, and sex at an earlier age than the non-pimped women (Norton-Hawk, 2004). Personal issues including having poor self-esteem, chronic depression, and a lack of future goals or direction leaves adolescents open prey for sex traffickers to take advantage and control of the potential victim (Estes & Weiner, 2002).
Potential sex trafficking victims are not always, but typically known to be recruited in communities where rates of poverty, homelessness, and drug use are higher (Davis, 2006). Regardless of the potential victim’s socioeconomic status, there are other risk factors which make potential sex trafficking victims susceptible to traffickers include parental drug dependency, a prior history of physical abuse, and/or previous sexual assault (Estes, 2001). Prior histories of abuse and dysfunctional issues within the home are not isolated to lower socioeconomic communities. For example, one Las Vegas study of minors arrested for prostitution showed the connection between commercial sexual exploitation and being a prior victim with the arrested minors having a history of one or more incidents of sexual assault, physical abuse, family molestation, drug abuse, and/or attempted suicide (International, 2007). The majority of the arrested Las Vegas minors had a history of running away and several had been arrested for prostitution in the past (International, 2007).

**Risk Factors Related to Foster Care**

A significant risk factor for becoming a victim of sex trafficking is having grown up or spent time in the foster care system (International, 2007; Kotrla, 2010). Children are placed in the foster care system for circumstances involving some form of mistreatment with neglect being the leading cause of placement followed by physical, sexual, and/or emotional abuse. All of these abuses increase a child’s chance of engaging in risky behavior later in life (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, 2007; Smith, 2010; Stott, 2011). Not only are foster youth who run away from the foster care system at risk for becoming sex
trafficking victims, but the foster youth who reach an age which no longer qualifies them for foster care services, otherwise known as “timing out” of the system, are also at risk of becoming trafficked. Some of the risks include the lack of employment skills, affordable housing opportunities, and financial stability (Stott, 2011). The majority of foster youth population leave the foster care system below the poverty level and as many as forty percent become homeless increasing the chances of sex trafficking victimization (Stott, 2011).

Adolescents who have spent time in the foster care system have demonstrated higher incidences of engaging in high risk behaviors such as earlier drug and alcohol use, as well as earlier sexual activity than peers who have never been in the foster care system (Stott, 2011). Studies have shown females who have timed out of the foster care system being twice as likely as peers of the same age to engage in risky sexual behaviors such as having sex without a condom which increases the chances of contracting a sexually transmitted disease or becoming pregnant (Stott, 2011). In fact, foster care children have an increased threat of participating in high risk behaviors even with the intervention of the foster care system as compared to children who have never been removed from the family home have suffered similar neglect or abuses (Kortenkamp & Ehrle, 2002; Mech, 2003; Stott, 2011). Ideally, foster care was designed as a protective measure to improve the circumstances of a child’s life, but little evidence shows that foster care intervention leads to future stability (Stott, 2011). For the most part, foster care children have no better future success than children with dysfunctional issues who were not removed from
the family home and placed in foster care (Berzin, 2008; Buehler, Orme, Post, & Patterson, 2000; Kerman, Wildfire, & Barth, 2002; Stott, 2011).

Foster care, alone, is not considered the reason for increased risky behavior in adolescents and young adulthoods, but the pre-foster care neglect and abuses in combination with placement instability are attributed to the earlier high risk behaviors (Stott, 2011). The main significant difference between foster children and non-foster children who have suffered the same types of neglect and abuses is the foster children’s removal from the family home (Stott, 2011). Once removed from the home, children go to live in a variety of placements including homes with foster care parents, relatives, or group homes (“NSCAW”, 2007; Smith, 2010). Due to the design of the foster care system, children are often moved around which is considered to interfere with the emotional, social, and educational well being of the child (Stott & Gustavsson, 2010; Stott, 2011).

**Consequences to Victims of Domestic Sex Trafficking**

Serious consequences from the torture suffered by the domestic sex trafficking population create lasting physical and psychological repercussions. Victims of domestic sex trafficking often endure egregious physical, sexual, and psychological abuse creating issues related to the trauma. Often sex trafficked victims have been beaten, burned, and raped causing long term physical damage to the victim’s body (Clawson & Grace, 2007; Polaris Project, n.d.). Not only do victims have damage from untreated broken bones and wounds from physical abuse, but also suffer consequences from the sexual abuse with issues related to sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), exposure to HIV, and pregnancies.
Victims are at risk for malnutrition and drug dependence which are often methods used by traffickers to gain control over the victim (Clawson & Grace, 2007).

The mental health repercussions to victims created from systematic physical, sexual, and psychological torture is vast. Not only do domestic sex trafficking victims experience abuse themselves, but they also are witness to the torture of other domestic sex trafficking victims. The torture of domestic sex trafficking victims is deliberately used to distort the victims psychological and cognitive functioning (Engstrom & Okamura, 2004). Victims of sex trafficking often exhibit signs of severe anxiety, fear, depression, and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) similar to veterans of war (Clawson & Grace, 2007). Victims often suffer from low self esteem, shame, and guilt. The effects of the abuses can have degrading effects long after a victim has escaped being trafficked. For example, studies have shown women who have been forced into pornography suffer greater emotional and mental anguish long term due to the humiliation being recorded and viewed over and over again (Farley, 2006). For many women who are able to escape being trafficked, the victimization comes to an end, but for the women who escape being trafficked and were previously forced to participate in pornography, the victimization continues.

**Barriers to Serving Domestic Victims of Human Trafficking**

**Identifying Victims**

The most common and obvious challenge to identifying victims of domestic trafficking for those in the field is the hidden nature of the crime (Clawson & Dutch, 2009). In a study examining human trafficking experiences among 60 random counties
from 30 different states across the United States, Newton, Mulcahy, and Martin (2008) found that rather than street level prostitution it is now more common for traffickers to exploit their victims behind closed doors through escort services, massage parlors, and advertisements over the Internet (Newton, Mulcahy, & Martin, 2008). Law enforcement officials have acknowledged the use of hundreds of internet websites and social networking sites such as Facebook, MySpace, and Craigslist create significant challenges to identifying domestic victims (Clawson & Dutch, 2009; Oosterbaan, 2008; Kortla, 2010). Additionally, traffickers often move their victims quickly and frequently to ensure low risk of prosecution (Walters, J. & Davis, P. H. 2011). The consistent movement of victims and the increased use of internet exploitation cause great challenges for law enforcement and service providers to adequately identify and serve victims (Walters, J. & Davis, P. H. 2011).

Another significant challenge to identifying victims is the lack of standard protocol for identifying potential victims among law enforcement and service providing organizations. Standard protocols and procedures are necessary for ensuring the appropriate identification and service to trafficking victims (Caliber, 2007). The majority of studies focusing on improving services for victims of human trafficking tend to agree there is a significant need to develop, refine, and improve trafficking protocols and procedures among law enforcement networks and service providing agencies. These services may come in contact with potential victims of human trafficking (Clawson & Grace, 2007; Clawson, Dutch & Cummings, 2006; Newton, Mulcahy, & Martin, 2008; Caliber, 2007; Clawson, Small, Go & Myles, 2003). Based on interviews with 24 law
enforcement organizations across 60 counties across the United States, Newton, Mulcahy, and Martin found that most of the law enforcement respondents reported not having formal protocols or procedures for identifying, investigating, or responding to human trafficking cases (Newton, Mulcahy, & Martin, 2008). Among the few law enforcement respondents who reported to having formal trafficking procedures and protocols, the majority had very little understanding to what the existing protocols and procedures entailed (Newton, Mulcahy, & Martin, 2008).

In a comprehensive needs assessment for service providers and trafficking victims, Clawson, Small, Go, and Myles found through 128 telephone surveys and 98 interviews with services providers that only 28 percent of the respondents noted that they had formal procedures or protocols in place to assist them in serving trafficking victims (Clawson, Small, Go & Myles, 2003). Another study focusing on the identification of international and domestic victims of human trafficking in the United States surveyed a variety of service providing agencies. Several of the studies mentioned that many of the original protocols developed to screen for and interview potential victims are developed to target international victims and do not include questions relevant for identifying domestic victims (Clawson & Dutch, 2008a).

**Lack of awareness among Law Enforcement and Service Providers**

Many of the limitations to serving domestic victims of sex trafficking stem from the overarching lack of awareness that human trafficking does occur within domestic borders (Clawson & Grace, 2007). Most of the media attention related to human trafficking focuses specifically on international female victims of sex trafficking resulting
in a lack of understanding regarding domestic trafficking among community members, human service providers, and law enforcement (Clawson et al., 2009; Clawson & Grace, 2007). Based on interviews with law enforcement officials and service providing organizations serving domestic victims of human trafficking, the majority of outreach materials developed focus primarily on international victims of trafficking and provide little distinction to the differences between international and domestic human trafficking (Clawson et al. 2009; Clawson & Grace, 2007). As a result, many law enforcement officers and service providing organizations report to having little knowledge of domestic trafficking and how to appropriately identify and serve domestic victims (Clawson & Grace, 2007; Clawson, Dutch & Cummings, 2006; Clawson et al., 2009; Newton, Mulcahy, & Martin, 2008; Caliber, 2007).

According to the study findings of Newton, Mulcahy, and Martin (2008), the majority of law enforcement, prosecutors, and service provider respondents expressed limited understanding to the general problem of human trafficking, and could not differentiate domestic and international trafficking (Newton, Mulcahy, & Martin, 2008). In another study examining human trafficking experiences among a random sample of 60 counties across the United States, less than half of law enforcement respondents reported that officers in their unit had received training to recognize potential victims of human trafficking (Newton, Mulcahy, & Martin, 2008). The majority of studies exploring the understanding of human trafficking among law enforcement and service providing organizations indicate there is a significant need for adequate training to better understand the issue of human trafficking. The studies also help gain more awareness to
the distinction between domestic and international victims (Clawson & Grace, 2007; Clawson, Dutch & Cummings, 2006; Clawson et al., 2009; Newton, Mulcahy, & Martin, 2008; Caliber, 2007; Clawson, Small, Go & Myles, 2003).

**Lack of Funding**

Studies focused on improving services for victims of human trafficking have found lack of funding to be a frequently mentioned barrier preventing service providing organizations to adequately serving victims of human trafficking, particularly for domestic victims of human trafficking (Clawson, Small, Go & Myles, 2003; Caliber, 2007, Logan & Hunt, 2009; Estes & Wiener, 2002; Wyler, Siskin, & Seelke, 2009).

According to the, *FY2008 Attorney General’s Annual Report to Congress on U.S. Government Activities to Combat Trafficking in Persons*, funds provided under the TVPA by the federal government are dedicated for direct services to foreign victims and could not be used to assist domestic victims who were U.S. citizens (U.S. Department of State, 2009 p. 9; Wyler, Siskin, & Seelke, 2009). It was not until after 2008 that Congress began appropriating additional funds to Health and Human Services to “carry out the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000” to include domestic victims of human trafficking (Wyler, Siskin, & Seelke, 2009 p.31). Regardless of the extension of funds, the gap in funding and services between domestic and international programs remain pretty consistent (S. Rep. No. 112-096, 2011; United States Department of State, 2011), and very few programs have been developed to specifically serve domestic victims of human trafficking (Wyler, Siskin, & Seelke, 2009; Clawson & Dutch, 2007; Clawson & Dutch, 2008a).
In a study of Health and Human Service programs serving victims of human trafficking across the United States, Clawson and Grace (2007) identified a significant need for long term residential programs specifically for domestic victims of human trafficking. Additional service needs required by domestic victims of human trafficking include programs which provide basic shelter, food, and clothing, intensive case management, trauma focused mental health treatment, medical care, life skill and job training programs, and family reunification services. At the time of the study, Clawson and Grace (2007) identified only four shelters for domestic sexual trafficking victims which consisted of only 45 beds combined. Due to this obvious lack in services, victims are often referred to reside in shelter for domestic violence or homelessness victims which lack the resources to meet the needs of trafficking victims (Okech, Morreau & Benson, 2011; Wyler, Siskin, & Seelke, 2009). For example, Clawson and Grace (2007) documented how some runaway and homeless youth shelter programs impose restrictions to the length of time they can serve victims because they lack the adequate funding and resources to serve victims for any long periods of time. These time constraints make it extremely challenging for victims to build the necessary trust and begin any type of meaningful treatment. Limited funding and resources is a common challenge for many social service organizations to providing treatment and services specifically tailored towards this population. In fact, according to Estes’ and Wiener’s study on commercial sexual exploitation of children in the U.S. Canada and Mexico, nearly all participating nongovernment organizations who served children victims of sexual exploitation were reported to be severely under-funded with very limited resources (Estes & Wiener, 2002).
Chapter 3

METHODOLOGY

This exploratory study aims to further develop the definition of domestic sex trafficking in the Sacramento area. Specifically, it examines the perspectives of experts in the Sacramento community regarding their understanding of domestic sex trafficking, the presenting challenges to serving the domestic sex trafficking population, and service recommendations to better serve this population.

Study Design

The exploratory study design facilitates the better understanding of the issue of domestic sex trafficking and leads to further implications for research and service development (Yuen, Terao & Schmidt, 2009). This study utilizes purposive convenient sampling and snowball sampling strategies to collect qualitative and quantitative data through the distribution of an online survey questionnaire to members in the Sacramento, CA region who have expert knowledge on the topic of domestic sex trafficking.

Sampling Procedures

The original plan of the study was to recruit 15 to 20 expert informants. By the end of the study, 21 of respondents participated. This study included the participation of experts rather than the domestic sex trafficking population to minimize physical, psychological, and social risks towards the domestic sex trafficking population.

Experts who chose to participate in this study were not exposed to any professional or personal risks in excess to those encountered in a typical day. Experts who participated in the study were identified and recruited through purposive sampling
with the snowball sampling strategies to fulfill the study sampling objectives (Yuen, Terao & Schmidt, 2009). The consideration for qualifying experts was respondents who have experience with and are knowledgeable of the domestic sex trafficking population. 

Experts within the community were initially identified by the researchers through networking with local service providers who may have direct or indirect experience working with the domestic sex trafficking population. An email invitation was sent to identified experts requesting their participation in the study. Recommendations of additional experts who may be interested in participating in the study were requested through the emailed invitation for participants to forward. A total of 25 emails were sent out initially to request participation of the target respondents, with two subsequent reminder emails. At the closing of the survey, a total of 21 surveys were submitted with a response rate of 84%.

**Data Collection Procedures**

An online survey questionnaire was used to collect the qualitative and quantitative data for this study. The electronic survey questionnaire was conducted through SurveyMonkey.com and consisted of 26 open and closed ended questions (see Appendix B). The questions included within this survey explore the perspectives of experts regarding their understanding of domestic sex trafficking, the presenting challenges to serving the domestic sex trafficking population and service recommendations to better serve this population.
**Instruments**

The survey questionnaire contained 26 open and closed ended questions and conducted through a secure website, SurveyMonkey.com (see Appendix B). Items for the questionnaire were developed and organized by using the Table of Specifications (Yuen, Terao, Schmidt, 2009). The survey questionnaire was aimed to answer five overarching research questions:

1) What is the common definition of domestic sex trafficking according to experts in the Sacramento community?

2) What is the definition of the domestic sex trafficking problem in the Sacramento area?

3) What are the current challenges and barriers in accessing and serving the domestic sex trafficking population?

4) What services need to be improved to better access and service the domestic sex trafficking population?

5) What services are recommended to better access and serve the domestic sex trafficking population?

**Data Analysis**

The five overarching questions were used to guide the analysis of the survey questionnaire data. Content analysis was conducted for qualitative data and they were organized by common themes and patterns; particularly pertaining to the five overarching questions. Descriptive statistics was used to analyze the quantitative data. Measurements of central tendency and dispersion were used to provide basic understanding of the study
responses. Appropriate tests for difference and correlation were also used to further explore the study findings and their relationship and connections.

**Protection of Human Subjects**

The researchers submitted the human subject’s application to the Division of Social Work Human Subjects Review Committee and this study was approved as exempt (See Appendix C). This study is exempt due to the fact there is no perceived harm or discomfort to the experts who consent to participate in this study.

A consent form explaining the purpose of the study, the general design, research procedures, risks, voluntary participation, and confidentiality was included on the first page of the survey questionnaire (See Appendix A). Participants of the online survey questionnaire provided implied consent upon the final submission of the survey questionnaire. Participants were given the option to withdraw from the survey questionnaire at any point throughout the survey.

The online survey questionnaire was conducted through SurveyMonkey.com which allowed for participants to remain anonymous through encrypted software. All data collected through SurveyMonkey.com was confidential and only used for the purposes of this study. Upon completion of this project, all data would be destroyed by July 2013.
Chapter 4

STUDY FINDINGS AND RESULTS

The following chapter presents the findings of data collected through the online survey questionnaire focused on clarifying the definition of domestic sex trafficking in the Sacramento area for the purpose of future service development to better serve the domestic sex trafficking population. The study results represent the perspectives of experts in the Sacramento community who are knowledgeable about the topic and/or have experience with domestic sex trafficking. Twenty-five experts were invited to participate and twenty-one responses were collected. Respondents were not required to answer all of the questions to participate in the survey questionnaire, thus some data is based on only a portion of the sample group and presented accordingly. The survey questionnaire was broken into six sections based on the research questions presented in chapter three.

Respondent Information

The initial section of the survey questionnaire collected data regarding the respondents’ understanding and knowledge of the topic of domestic sex trafficking to ensure their qualification as “experts” on the issue of domestic sex trafficking. Survey respondents were collected through a snowball strategy that included a wide variety of service providers, law enforcement, advocates, outreach specialists, and survivors. The first question of the survey asked respondents to identify their role in the context of domestic sex trafficking (see Table 1). Because many individuals play multiple roles in this context, respondents were asked to mark all roles that apply between service
provider, advocate, outreach, and other. Based on seventeen responses, over half of the respondents identified themselves as service providers (n=9, 52.9%). Nearly half (n=8, 47.1%) also identified themselves as advocates and only small majority also identified themselves as outreach (n=4, 23.5%). Five respondents chose other to specify how they identified themselves in the context of domestic sex trafficking. Of these five respondents, two identified as members of law enforcement, one as administrator, one as foster youth, and one as a survivor.

Additional information was collected asking respondents whether they worked directly with domestic sex trafficking survivors. Based on twenty responses, the overwhelming majority (n=14, 70%) chose yes, while six respondents chose no (n=6, 30%). Respondents were additionally asked to identify how they gained their knowledge of domestic sex trafficking. The vast majority chose professional training/experience (n=18, 90%). Remaining responses varied from internet, TV, or newspaper (n= 11, 55%), academic/journal article (n=9, 45%), personal knowledge/experience (n= 8, 40%), and friends/family (n=4, 20%).

**Understanding and Familiarity of Domestic Sex Trafficking**

The final two questions of the section asked respondents to rate their understanding and familiarity of domestic sex trafficking on a five point Likert scale (see Table 2). Based on twenty responses, ten respondents rated their understanding of domestic sex trafficking as very good (n=10, 50%), while eight rated their understanding as good (n= 8, 40%), and two responded as having limited (n=2, 10%) understanding. Similar to the previous responses, half rated their familiarity if domestic sex trafficking
(see Table 3) as very familiar (n=10, 50%), while eight responded as familiar (n=8, 40%), and two responded with limited familiarity (n=2, 10%).

Table 1

**Respondent Identification**

![Bar chart showing how respondents identify themselves.](chart1.png)

Table 2

**Understanding of Domestic Sex Trafficking**

![Bar chart showing how respondents rate their understanding of domestic sex trafficking.](chart2.png)
Table 3

*Familiarity of Domestic Sex Trafficking*

**Definition of Domestic Sex Trafficking**

The second section of the survey questionnaire focuses on exploring how experts define the issue of domestic sex trafficking. Respondents were asked two open ended questions allowing respondents to elaborate on their definitions. To provide readers with a rich understanding of the perspectives of respondents, respondents were first asked to define sex trafficking. Thirteen of fourteen respondents mention sex trafficking involves some sort of financial gain or benefit through the exchange of various forms of sexual exploitation. Eight of fourteen mention sex trafficking includes the use of force, fraud, or coercion. Two of fourteen include acts of recruitment, transportation, transfer, and
harboring individuals for sexual services. One respondent included in their definition examples some of the various forms of sex trafficking:

Sex trafficking can present in the form of: "survival sex" (trading sex for shelter, food, etc) "underage stripping/dancing" “Escort services” When an individual exchanges a form of commodity for sex, that is sexual exploitation. (Respondent 12)

It is interesting to note all definitions collected reflect aspects the federal definition of Sex trafficking written in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TPVA), but majority are incomplete in comparison. In accordance with the TPVA, only one respondent provides a complete definition of sex trafficking by indicating that sex trafficking is:

A crime of violence committed against a human being wherein force, fraud, or coercion is used in order to sexually exploit that human being for commercial gain...OR in which that person is under the age of 18...(Respondent 4)

Two of fourteen responses include specific populations in their responses such as “youth” and “women/girls.” One respondent mentions the use of a “pimp” indicating that “…the "pimp" is the boss/owner of the women/girls.” Another respondent mentions “prostitution” indicating sex trafficking also involves “…receipt of persons for prostitution and/or other forms of commercial sexual exploitation using force, fraud, various means of coercion, and/or exploitation.”
Definition of Sex Trafficking Domestically

The second open-ended question allowed respondents to provide their definition of sex trafficking domestically. Submitted definitions were compared to the definition of domestic sex trafficking used within this thesis study seen in Chapter 1 which refers to the involuntary recruitment of persons for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation by means of force, coercion, manipulation, fraud, or deception, within the boundaries of the United States in which victims are United States citizens or have permanent legal residence (TVPRA, 2008; Clawson, Dutch, Salomon & Grace, 2009). Definitions of domestic sex trafficking also include any citizen or legal resident of the United States under the age of 18 years old that is used for the purpose of sexual exploitation in the boundaries of the United States (TVPA, 2000).

It is interesting to note that half of the fourteen definitions do not differentiate domestic sex trafficking from their previous definition of sex trafficking. Seven of fourteen definitions mention the United States. Five definitions indicate domestic sex trafficking as sex trafficking within the boundaries United States. Only two definitions indicate that domestic sex trafficking involves individuals who are from or are born in the United States. One specifies that domestic sex trafficking involves someone who resides in the United States. It is important to note that only one definition reflects a complete definition of domestic sex trafficking as it is written in chapter one stating that, “Domestic sex trafficking is the selling of sex within the U.S. borders. The victims are from the U.S.”
Although majority of definitions collected did not reflect the definition indicated by the researchers in chapter one, researchers found all definitions to be valuable to the nature of this thesis study. As this study clarified the definition of domestic sex trafficking in the Sacramento area, researchers wanted to note one response in particular which provided a brief introduction to the domestic sex trafficking problem in the Sacramento area. More discussion on the issue of domestic sex trafficking as it pertains to the Sacramento area is discussed in following sections.

Domestically sex trafficking presents itself most obvious on Stockton Blvd and Watt Ave. If police do respond, it is the victim, and NOT the perp., who is taken to jail (or in most cases, juvenile hall) The more subtle side of sexual exploitation can be seen in our schools, foster care homes, at our light rail stations, and anywhere there is vulnerable youth desperate enough to sell their body for sex rather than continue to live in the hellish conditions they find themselves in.

(Respondent 12)

**Differences between Domestic Sex Trafficking and International Sex Trafficking**

In order to clarify the definition of domestic sex trafficking, researchers aimed to explore how experts differentiate domestic sex trafficking from international sex trafficking by asking respondent’s to rate the difference between items such as service needs, funding, public awareness, and definition (see Table 4). Similar to what is reflected in the literature presented in Chapter 2, over half of respondent’s (n= 9, 52.9%) indicated domestic sex trafficking and international sex trafficking are very different in respects to public awareness. In respects to service needs and funding, nearly fifty-three
percent of respondents (n=9, 52.9%) rated items as different. When it came to definition, it was most interesting to note that only a small minority (n=3, 17.6%) chose different, and nearly half (n=8, 47.1%) chose no difference between the definition of international sex trafficking and domestic sex trafficking.

**Definition of Domestic Sex Trafficking in the Sacramento Area**

**Severity and Awareness of the Issue**

In attempts to narrow the definition of domestic sex trafficking further, participants were asked specific questions about domestic sex trafficking in the Sacramento area. The first question asked to rank the severity of domestic sex trafficking in the Sacramento area based on their experience and/or knowledge of domestic sex trafficking. Based on the 15 responses collected to this particular question, the vast majority of responses indicated (n=14, 93.3%) the domestic sex trafficking problem in the Sacramento area is moderately to very severe. Only one respondent (n=1, 6.7%) marked the severity of domestic sex trafficking in the Sacramento area as limited.

To further draw on the community awareness of the domestic sex trafficking issue in the Sacramento area respondents, were asked to rank the community awareness based on their experience (see Table 5). Based on responses, majority (n=10, 66.7%) indicated community awareness of the issue of domestic sex trafficking is limited. Twenty percent of respondents (n=3) ranked community awareness within the Sacramento area as fairly aware, while the other approximately thirteen percent (n=2, 13.3%) ranked Sacramento’s community awareness as very limited.
Table 4

Differences between Domestic Sex Trafficking and International Sex Trafficking

![Chart showing differences between domestic and international sex trafficking in various aspects such as service needs, funding, public awareness, and definition.]

Table 5

Community Awareness in Sacramento Area

![Chart showing the level of awareness in the Sacramento community regarding domestic sex trafficking issues.]

Contributing Factors to Problems the Sacramento Area

This section of the survey questionnaire was an open-ended question allowing respondents to share their opinions to what they believe are the contributing factors to domestic sex trafficking problems in the Sacramento area. Many of the factors collected through responses reaffirm the risk factors reflected through literature noted in the Chapter 2 literature review such as educational factors (n=4, 28.6%), drug and alcohol abuse (n=3, 21.4%), poverty (n=3, 21.4%), lack of parental or caregiver involvement (n=3, 21.4%), and child abuse (n=2, 14.2%). The risk factors highlighted in this section were identified as commonalities among responses as risk factors contributing to the domestic sex trafficking problem in the Sacramento area (see Table 6).

As confirmed through literature, the most commonly mentioned risk factor identified through responses was lack of community awareness among the Sacramento area (n=5, 35.7%). Four responses mention the lack of education and involvement among professionals and educators (n=4, 28.6%). It is interesting to note that two of these four responses specifically mention lack of involvement and focus of law enforcement. Four responses mention lack of resources (money), services, and supports (n=4, 28.6). Three responses mention the high rate of runaway and homeless youth (n=3, 21.4%). It is interesting to note that three responses also mention social acceptance and glorification of the lifestyle as a contributing factor to domestic sex trafficking (n=3, 21.4%).

A particularly interesting factor mentioned through responses was the geographical location of Sacramento (n=4, 28.6). One respondent noted, “Our [Sacramento’s] geographical proximity to many major freeways means that Sacramento too often acts as
a hub.” Other responses take on similar patterns through indicating how Sacramento’s location between major cities such as San Francisco and Reno makes Sacramento an easy target for perpetrators:

Sacramento is located in between Oakland, Reno, Los Angeles. It is part of the circuit of pimps and prostitutes. There are a large amount of prostitutes that work in Sacramento that are from Oakland specifically. There are also very recognized "strolls” in Sacramento, so pimps know that their prostitutes will get clients on the street, besides internet prostitution. (Respondent 13)

Characteristics and Risk Factors

The next four questions of the survey questionnaire aimed to gather basic demographic information of population, gender, and race/ethnicity at the highest risk for domestic sex trafficking. Respondents were asked to rank each category from highest risk to least risk based on their experience (see Table 7). The first question requested respondents to rank populations perceived most at risk based on experience. Youth who are thrown out of their family home (thrownaway youth) was ranked as the most at risk population for domestic sex trafficking (n=5, 35.7%). Half of participants (n=7, 50%) indicated youth who run away from home (run away youth) as the second most at risk population for sex trafficking. Homeless youth was ranked as the third most at risk population for domestic sex trafficking (n=4, 28.6%).

The next question asked respondents to rank the risk for gender based on their perception to what gender may be at the highest risk for domestic sex trafficking. Confirming data presented in the Chapter 2 literature review, all respondents ranked
female (n=15, 100%) to be at the most risk for domestic sex trafficking. Transgendered
(n=9, 60%) was ranked to be at moderate risk. Lastly, majority agreed (n=9, 60%) that
males are the least at risk.

The following question asked respondents to rank the race/ethnicity prevalence in
the domestic sex trafficking population from one to four with one being the most at risk.
Of fourteen respondents, half of the respondents ranked African American (n=7, 50%) to
be the highest at risk race/ethnicity for domestic sex trafficking. Hispanic/Latino (n=4,
28.6%) was ranked to be at moderate risk. The risk for Caucasian/White (n=5, 35.7%)
was ranked as mild, and Asian and Pacific Islander (n=9, 64.3%) was ranked to be at the
population at least risk for domestic sex trafficking.

Finally, participants were asked to choose the predominant age range among the
domestic sex trafficking population (see Table 8). Based on fourteen responses, the
overwhelmingly majority of respondents (n=10, 71.43%) indicated that based on their
experience, the age range most predominate among the domestic sex trafficking
population is 15 to 19 years of age. A small portion of respondents (n=3, 21.43%)
indicated ages 10-14 as the most predominate age range among the domestic sex
trafficking population, and only one respondent (n=1, 7.14%) indicated 25 years of age
and older.
Table 6

*Contributing Risk Factors to Domestic Sex Trafficking in the Sacramento Area*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Factors</th>
<th>Percentage, frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack of community awareness</td>
<td>35.7%, 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>28.6%, 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Factors (i.e. dropout rate, poor academics, and failure of educational system)</td>
<td>28.6%, 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of education or involvement among professionals (service providers, law enforcement) and educators</td>
<td>28.6%, 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of resources, services, and supports (both preventative and restorative)</td>
<td>28.6%, 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social acceptance/ Glorification of lifestyle</td>
<td>28.6%, 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increased alcohol/drug abuse</td>
<td>21.4%, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High rates of poverty</td>
<td>21.4%, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of parental/caregiver involvement</td>
<td>21.4%, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High rate of runaway/homeless youth</td>
<td>21.4%, 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culturally diverse population</td>
<td>14.2%, 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Abuse</td>
<td>14.2%, 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 7

*Risk Ranking: Population, Gender, and Race/Ethnicity*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Level</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage, frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Highest Risk</td>
<td>Thrownaway youth</td>
<td>35.71%, 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate Risk</td>
<td>Run away youth</td>
<td>50%, 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Least Risk</td>
<td>Homeless Youth</td>
<td>28.57%, 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highest Risk</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>100%, 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate Risk</td>
<td>Transgendered</td>
<td>60%, 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Least Risk</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>60%, 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highest Risk</td>
<td>African American:</td>
<td>50%, 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate Risk</td>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>28.6%, 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mild Risk</td>
<td>Caucasian/White</td>
<td>35.7%, 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Least Risk</td>
<td>Asian &amp; Pacific Islander</td>
<td>64.3%, 9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 8

*Predominate Age Range*

Based on your experience, what is the predominant age range among the domestic sex trafficking population?
Identifying Challenges and Barriers

Section four of the survey questionnaire attempted to gather information from respondents regarding some of the challenges and barriers faced trying to serve the domestic sex trafficking population. This section also explores why the domestic sex trafficking population does not seek out services on their own.

Critical Challenges to Providing Services for Domestic Sex Trafficking Victims

This question of the survey questionnaire asked for respondents to mark the extent to which they agreed with issues considered critical areas of challenge to serving the domestic sex trafficking population (see Table 9). Significantly, all of the respondents strongly agreed or agreed that lack of resources, lack of adequate funding, and lack of community awareness were critical areas of challenge to providing services to the domestic sex trafficking population. Similarly, the majority of respondents strongly agreed (n=7, 50%) or agreed (n=6, 42.9%) that lack of adequate training for service providers was a critical challenge with only one respondent disagreeing (n=1, 7.1%).

According to the majority of respondents, other critical areas that are challenges to serving the domestic sex trafficking population include ineffective coordination with federal agencies, ineffective coordination with local agencies, and victim’s feelings of no support and isolation. Another notable response to this question was that the majority of respondents (n=12, 85.8%) strongly agreed or agreed was a critical challenge to serving the domestic sex trafficking population was the difficulty in identifying and reaching victims. One question of the survey questionnaire had a majority response where respondents disagreed (n=9, 60%) that safety concerns for staff was an issue.
The rest of the responses were less significant with almost half of respondents strongly agreeing or agreeing and almost half of respondents disagreeing on issues such as lack of knowledge of victim’s rights, cultural and language barriers, lack of formal rules and regulations, and victim’s legal rights. Only a slight majority (n=8, 57.2%) of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that lack of in-house regulations were a critical issue to serving the domestic sex trafficking population. Respondent number five added cultural incompetence to the survey questionnaire as a barrier or challenge to serving the domestic sex trafficking population.

Table 9

*Challenges Providing Services to the Domestic Sex Trafficking Population*
Reasons Domestic Sex Trafficking Victims Do Not Seek Services

This question of the survey questionnaire asked of the respondents to mark the extent to which they agree with reasons why the domestic sex trafficking population may not seek services (see Table 10). There were fourteen respondents for every reason in this section of the survey questionnaire. The majority of the responses in this section of the survey questionnaire demonstrated an overwhelming agreement amongst respondents regarding several of the reasons the domestic sex trafficking population do not seek out services. All of the respondents strongly agreed or agreed that fear of retaliation, lack of knowledge about available services, and lack of social support were reasons the domestic sex trafficking population do not seek out services. Other responses with all of the respondents strongly agreeing or agreeing included a lack of trust in the system and general fear. Several of the other reasons that the domestic sex trafficking population does not seek out services were notably significant with the majority of respondents strongly agreeing or agreeing with reasons such as the victim’s fear of prosecution, feelings of shame, and lack of knowledge about victim’s rights.

The majority of respondents also strongly agreed or agreed that not being able to identify self as victims and held in captivity also were identified as important reasons that the domestic sex trafficking population does not seek out services. Other reasons that the majority of respondents feel are reasons the domestic sex trafficking population does not seek out services include culturally inappropriate services and victims not having transportation. Respondent number sixteen added other reasons of why the domestic sex
trafficking population does not seek services such as social stigma, trauma bonding to pimp, Stockholm syndrome, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

**Identifying Needs for Improvement**

Section five of the survey questionnaire attempted to identify areas in need of improvement including existing services, medical services, residential and basic needs, as well as educational needs for better serving the domestic sex trafficking population.

Table 10

*Reasons Domestic Sex Trafficking Victims Do Not Seek Services*

![Graph showing reasons domestic sex trafficking victims do not seek services]

**Services in Need of Improvement**

This question of the survey questionnaire asked the respondents to mark the extent to which they agreed with services that need improvement to better serve the domestic sex trafficking population (see Table 11). Overwhelming majority of
respondents strongly agree or agree with the specialized services for the domestic sex trafficking population being in need of improvement. Notably, the vast majority of respondents strongly agree (n=8, 53.3%) or agree (n=6, 40%) that legal, advocacy, intensive case management, and outreach are critical services in need or improvements. Information and referrals, and service coordination were also among the services that the majority of respondents strongly agreed or agreed are in need of improvement. While the majority of respondents strongly agreed or agreed that an interpreter and court orientation are services in need of improvements, a few respondents did not agree the services were in as much need of improvement compared to the other services options.

Table 11

Specialized Services in Need of Improvement
Medical and General Health Improvement

This question of the survey questionnaire asked respondents to mark the extent to which they agree with the medical and general health services that need improvement to better serve the domestic sex trafficking population (see Table 12). The only response that not every respondent strongly agreed or agreed was a medical or general service in need of improvement was dental services. While the majority of respondents strongly agree (n=5, 33.33%) and agreed (n=7, 46.67%) that dental services need to be improved for the domestic sex trafficking population, a few of the respondents disagree (n=3, 20%). Importantly, all of the respondents strongly agreed or agreed that routine medical screenings for issues such as sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), pregnancy, and other health-related problems as well as mental health services are in need of improvement for the domestic sex trafficking population. All of the respondents also strongly agreed or agreed that services for drug treatment, self-help groups, counseling, and peer support groups for the domestic sex trafficking population are in need of improvement. Crisis intervention and trauma focused therapy were also services in need of improvement according to all of the respondents.

Residential and Basic Needs for Improvement

This question of the survey questionnaire asked respondents to mark the extent of which they agree with areas for improvement regarding the residential and basic needs necessary to better serve the domestic sex trafficking population (see Table 13). 15 respondents participated in this section of the survey questionnaire all respondents agreed that all residential and basic needs require improvement. The most significant needs for
improvement in this section of the survey questionnaire were for emergency shelter, short and long-term housing, and protection for victims with an overwhelming majority of respondents strongly agreeing on this issue. The majority of respondents also strongly agreed or agreed that clothing, food, transportation, and childcare were other basic needs that require improvement for domestic sex trafficking victims. Respondent number sixteen added that education and continuing education are also areas needing improvement.

Table 12

*Medical and General Health Services in Need of Improvements*
Educational Areas for Improvement

This question of the survey questionnaire asked respondents to mark the extent to which they agree with areas of education that are in need of improvement to better serve the domestic sex trafficking population (see Table 14). All of the respondents agreed with the educational areas for improvement which were provided in the survey questionnaire. All of fifteen respondents strongly agree (n=10, 66.67%) or agree (n=5, 33.33%) that life skills training was an area in need of improvement to better serve the domestic sex trafficking population. Of the respondents who participated in answering this question of the survey questionnaire, all strongly agreed (n=10, 76.92%) or agreed
(n=3, 23.08%) that job training was an area in need of improvement. Also noted was that all respondents strongly agreed (n=9, 60%) or agreed (n=6, 40%) that youth development programs are in need of improvement to better serve the domestic sex trafficking population.

Table 14

*Educational Areas in Need of Improvements*

The following services related to education need improvement to better meet the needs of the domestic sex trafficking population:

- Life Skills training
- Job training
- Youth development programs
Recommendations

Section six of the survey questionnaire allowed respondents the opportunity to provide recommendations of most effective ways respondents have found to serve the domestic sex trafficking population, as well as suggestions for improving services and outreach to the domestic sex trafficking population.

Most Effective Ways to Inform the Domestic Sex Trafficking Population of Available Services

This question asked respondents to mark the extent to which they agree with the most effective approaches to informing the domestic sex trafficking population of services (see Table 15). The majority of respondents who participated in this section of the survey questionnaire strongly agreed or agreed with the most effective ways to inform the domestic sex trafficking population of the available services provided in the survey questionnaire.

Word of mouth was marked as the most effective approach with the majority of respondents strongly agreeing (n=12, 80%) and agreeing (n=3, 20%). Interestingly, the majority of respondents agreed (n=12, 80%) that brochures or other written material can be an effective approach, but none of the respondents strongly agreed that the approach is the most effective to reaching the domestic sex trafficking population. The majority of respondents also strongly agreed (n=9, 63.3%) or agreed (n=4, 28.6%) that referrals were an effective approach to reaching the domestic sex trafficking population for services. Three respondents added other effective approaches for informing respondents of available services. Respondent number two listed social media, awareness campaigns,
radio and television, and information in schools as effective approaches to communicating available services to the domestic sex trafficking population.

Respondent number 13 identified back up with online initiatives as an effective approach for informing the domestic sex trafficking population of available services. Respondent number 16 suggestions included relationship building and mentoring.

Table 15

*Most Effective Ways to Inform the Domestic Sex Trafficking Population of Available Services*

![Bar chart showing responses to effectiveness of different services]

- The following services related to education need improvement to better meet the needs of the domestic sex trafficking population:
  - Life Skills training
  - Job training
  - Youth development programs

Legend:
- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- N/A
**Recommendations to Better Serve the Domestic Sex Trafficking Population**

This question of the survey questionnaire allowed respondents to make suggestions for better services to serve the domestic sex trafficking population. Of eleven respondents, three recommended more funding for training and education for service providers and survivors. Three respondents recommended an increase in training for medical professionals and sensitivity training for law enforcement, Child Protective Services (CPS), and social workers with one respondent stating, “There is an enormous disconnect between these service providers and the population they work with.”

Another respondent remarked, “It's also imperative that service providers that will be having direct contact with victims are adequately trained and accountable for the quality of services rendered.” Included in the need for more training were recommendations for more education and job training opportunities for survivors. Three of the respondents pointed out the need for emergency housing and shelters as well as adequate housing with one respondent stating, “There is a huge gap in services for emergency placement (especially for victims age 18-25). We can outreach to victims but what do we do when we have nowhere to put them. We have to develop emergency placement options.”

Two respondents recommend an increase in coordination and collaboration from service providers and law enforcement for immediate and follow up care of the domestic sex trafficking population. Of the eleven respondents, two made recommendations to use domestic sex trafficking survivors as service providers with one respondent stating, “Survivors of sexual exploitation need to be the main people providing services.”
Another respondent stated, “Utilization of survivors of sex trafficking as outreach workers....they know what to look for and how to talk to young people who have gotten themselves involved.” Respondent number two recommended more research regarding boys, men and the LGBT population that are trafficked. Another respondent recommended more severe penalties for sex traffickers and clients to better serve the domestic sex trafficking population.

**Recommendations for Outreach Services for the Domestic Sex Trafficking population in the Sacramento Area**

This question of the survey questionnaire allowed for respondents to provide recommendations for effective outreach services in the Sacramento area to better reach and connect with the domestic sex trafficking population. Eleven respondents who made recommendations for outreach services. One responded suggested the use of peer outreach, social networking, and dispersing information at school as well as using the media for outreach would be useful approaches in attracting the domestic sex trafficking population to services. One of the eleven respondents recommended locations for outreach to best reach the domestic sex trafficking populations such as juvenile detention centers, school sites, receiving homes, group homes and foster youth services.

Another respondent suggested the outreach be done at the service agency’s sites that work with substance abuse, housing, and youth. Another respondent recommended to “make quick, discreet fact sheets about what services are available in the Sacramento area for this community.” One responded recommended using advertising as a means of outreach such as advertisements on bus top benches and bus tops, on taxis, billboards,
and at shelters. Other recommendations for outreach included immunity from retaliation or prosecution of police, non threatening child care services within agencies for victims receiving services, and creating a system to reward individuals that provide tips leading to the rescue of a victim.

Other respondents recommended the providing more available housing for the homeless, mental health services, and mental health housing as forms of outreach to the domestic sex trafficking population. Two respondents of the eleven recommended street outreach with one respondent including internet outreach. One responded pointed out, “Directly meeting the victims where they are being exploited. Waiting for them to have contact with service providers will ensure that we are not effectively reaching 100s of exploited youth and women.”

Summary

The common definition of domestic sex trafficking revealed by this study involves sex trafficking within the United States. Experts who participated in this study determined the definition of domestic sex trafficking by only partially reflecting the legal definition of domestic sex trafficking which specifies that victims involved in domestic sex trafficking are United States citizens or have permanent legal residence (TVPRA, 2008; Clawson, Dutch, Salomon & Grace, 2009). Definitions of domestic sex trafficking within this thesis study also included any citizen or legal resident of the United States under the age of 18 years old (TVPA, 2000). There was also little distinction and even contradicting responses among experts to the differences between sex trafficking, international sex trafficking, and domestic sex trafficking. The lack in
consensus raises concern to how service providers can adequately meet the needs of the domestic sex trafficking population if there is no common understanding to the differences in definition between domestic sex trafficking and international sex trafficking.

There were several contributing factors identified to the domestic sex trafficking problem in Sacramento such as the city’s location, the lack of education of professionals, and a lack of community awareness. Some of the current and critical challenges to serving the domestic sex trafficking population in Sacramento included lack of funding, lack of resources, and the lack of community awareness on the topic. A few of the service needs that were determined in need of improvement were legal services, outreach, and service coordination. The recommendations provided by the Sacramento experts focused on education and training of service providers, law enforcement and medical professionals, and survivors. Chapter 5 will provide a more comprehensive explanation of the study’s overall findings and understanding to the answers of the five overarching questions posed in this study.
Chapter 5

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this study was to clarify the definition of domestic sex trafficking for the purpose of future service development to better serve the domestic sex trafficking population. Study results represent the perspectives of experts in the Sacramento community who are knowledgeable about the topic or have experience with domestic sex trafficking. The study answered the five overarching questions:

1) What is the common definition of domestic sex trafficking according to experts in the Sacramento community?

2) What is the definition of the domestic sex trafficking problem in the Sacramento area?

3) What are the current challenges and barriers in accessing and serving the domestic sex trafficking population?

4) What services need to be improved to better access and service the domestic sex trafficking population?

5) What services are recommended to better access and serve the domestic sex trafficking population?

A total of twenty-five experts in Sacramento, CA region were invited to participate in the study, and twenty-one survey questionnaire responses were collected. It is important to note results only reflect opinions of experts who were invited and willing to participate in the study. Results do not represent the total population of experts on the issue of domestic sex trafficking in the Sacramento area. Results do however provide
good insight to how this sample of experts defines the issue of domestic sex trafficking in the Sacramento area, and their perceptions of challenges, barriers, and service needs of the domestic sex trafficking population. Responses indicate the presence of common definition of domestic sex trafficking is severely lacking among experts in the Sacramento community. The findings from this study support the literature in terms of the challenges and barriers to serving and accessing the domestic sex trafficking population, and services needing improvement to better meet the need of the domestic sex trafficking population. Despite what is reflected through literature, this study also provides insight to the significant risk factors contributing to the problem of domestic sex trafficking in the Sacramento area. The following sections discuss overall findings, implications for social work, recommendations, limitations, and conclusions.

**Overall Findings**

**Definition of Domestic Sex Trafficking**

In exploring how experts defined sex trafficking, all collected responses reflect common themes to the legal definition of sex trafficking as defined in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA, 2000). Responses collected exploring how experts differentiate domestic sex trafficking confirm what is shown in literature and reflect a lack in common definition of domestic sex trafficking among experts in the Sacramento community. The vast majority of responses to this question neglected to specify the difference between sex trafficking and domestic sex trafficking. A small minority of responses reflected partial themes of the legal definition of domestic sex trafficking as defined in William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection
Reauthorization Act of 2008 which specifies domestic sex trafficking as the act of trafficking within the boundaries of the United States in which the victims are citizens of the United States or have permanent legal residence (TVPRA, 2008). Of fourteen responses, only one response came close to capturing the entirety of the definition by specifying, “Domestic sex trafficking in the selling of sex within the U.S. borders. The victims are from the U.S.” The only discrepancy with this response is the interpretation of “...from the U.S.” An individual can identify as being from the U.S. but have legal citizenship. Other responses reflecting themes of the legal definition specify domestic sex trafficking as an act occurring within United States boundaries or acts in which victims are born in the U.S. or “reside” in the U.S. but do not include both.

Reflecting on responses to other survey questions addressing differences between international and domestic sex trafficking also confirm a lack in clarity to the distinction between the two. In respects to definition, nearly half (n=8, 47.1%) agreed there is no difference between domestic sex trafficking and international sex trafficking. On the contrary, the vast majority (n=13, 76.5%) of respondents also agreed there is a difference between international and domestic sex trafficking in respects to service needs. These contradictory responses raise concerns to how service providers can adequately meet the needs of the domestic sex trafficking population if there is no common understanding to the differences in definition between domestic sex trafficking and international sex trafficking.
Definition of Domestic sex trafficking in Sacramento Area

Based on responses collected, the most significant risk factors contributing to domestic sex trafficking in the Sacramento area are lack of community awareness (n=5, 35.7%), the geographical location of Sacramento between Oakland, Reno, Los Angeles (n=4, 28.6%), educational factors (i.e. dropout rate, poor academics, and failure of educational system) (n=4, 28.6%). The lack of education or involvement among professionals (service providers, law enforcement) and educators (teachers, school staff, administrators) (n=4, 28.6%) are also considered risk factors. Other risk factors included lack of resources, services, and supports (both preventative and restorative) (n=4, 28.6%), and the general societal attitude towards the issue of domestic sex trafficking including social acceptance and glorification of the lifestyle (perceiving lifestyle as a choice) (n=4, 28.6%).

To further represent the perception of the domestic sex trafficking population in the Sacramento area, a composite figure was developed reflecting specific characteristics of individuals at highest risk for domestic sex trafficking:

Kayla is a 16-year-old African American who currently lives with her single mother in a tiny apartment in Sacramento. Kayla recently started partying more, cutting classes and her grades have begun to slip. Kayla’s mother is tired of her behavior and tells her she cannot live there any longer. Kayla is alone, has nowhere to go, and has been killing time at the corner store when a young man came up to her and started telling her how beautiful he thought she was. He told her that he would like to take her to dinner sometime and asked her if she already had a boyfriend. He seemed very nice and Kayla
thought this might be her chance to meet a man that wanted to take care of her. After all, he did say that if he were her boyfriend, he would buy her the nicest things and take good care of her. Kayla agreed to go out on a date.

She was very excited when he pulled up in a nice car and asked if she was ready to go. He took her to dinner at a restaurant much nicer than she had ever been to. After dinner, he took her to the mall and told her she could buy something nice for herself. Kayla felt like she met the man of her dreams and became his girlfriend that night. She lived with him for the next few weeks and he was taking very good care of her. She was in love.

Kayla had been with her new boyfriend for about three weeks when he started complaining about having money problems. He told Kayla she was going to have to help him earn some money so he could continue to take care of her. He told her that he knew of a place where she could work and earn good money. The next day, Kayla’s boyfriend took her to a house where several girls were living. She did not quite understand why her boyfriend would bring her to this house and got an uneasy feeling just being there. When she asked to leave, her boyfriend told her she would be living here for now and would be selling herself to earn money for him. When she protested, he beat her and later that night several men came in her room and raped her. Her boyfriend was now her pimp and trafficker.

**Challenges and Barriers**

Confirmed through literature, experts participating in this study identified the most critical challenges to providing services to domestic sex trafficking victims as lack
of resources (n=15, 100%), lack of funding (n=15, 100%), and lack of community awareness (n=15, 100%). A large majority of respondents also agree the lack of adequate training for service providers (n=13, 86.7%), difficulties in identifying and reaching victims (n=12, 80%), feeling of no support and isolation (n=10, 66.7%), and ineffective coordination with local and federal agencies (n=9, 60%) are also critical challenges to effectively serving the domestic sex trafficking population.

Also confirmed through literature were barriers contributing to reasons why the domestic sex trafficking population does not seek out services including fear of retaliation (n=14, 100%), lack of knowledge about available services (n=14, 100%), and lack of social support (n=14, 100%). A lack of trust in the system (n=14, 100%), and general fear (n=14, 100%) are just a few other reasons to why the domestic sex trafficking population does not seek out services. Other significant reasons identified include, feelings of shame (n=13, 92.8%), unable to identify themselves as victims (n=13, 92.8%), and fear of prosecution (n=12, 85.7%).

Services Needs

Specialized services identified included legal (n=14, 93.3%), advocacy (n=14, 93.3%), intensive case management (n=14, 93.3%), outreach (n=14, 93.3%), information and referral services (n=14, 93.3%) and service coordination (n=14, 93.3%). Medical services identified for needing improvement include routine medical screenings (i.e. STD screenings, pregnancy, and other health related screenings) (n=15, 100%), mental health services (n=15, 100%), drug treatment (n=15, 100%), and counseling services (n=15, 100%). Other specialized services included crisis intervention services (n=15, 100%),
trauma focused therapy services (n=15, 100%), peer support groups (n=14, 93.3%), and
self-help groups (n=14, 93.3%). The most significant needs for improvement specific to
residential and basic needs services include emergency shelter (n=14, 93.3%), short and
long term housing (n=14, 93.3%), and transportation (n=14, 93.3%). In respects to
education, all respondents indicated a need for improving life skills training (n=15, 15,
100%) and youth development programs (n=15, 100%).

**Recommendation to better Serve and Access the Domestic Sex Trafficking Population**

The final portion of the survey questionnaire consisted of open-ended questions allowing experts the opportunity to make suggestions to better serve access the domestic sex trafficking population. Reflecting on responses, the most significant suggestions made to better serve the domestic sex trafficking community included more training and education for service providers, responding professionals (i.e. medical staff, law enforcement), and survivors. Respondents also suggested increasing coordination between service providers and responding professionals.

A few respondents also mentioned increasing job opportunities for survivors and utilizing survivors to provide services to this population. Multiple respondents also indicated a significant need for developing emergency housing and shelters tailored to the domestic sex trafficking population. Overall responses suggesting how to better access the domestic sex trafficking population reflected themes of increasing outreach services, social networking, and dispersing information in areas such as schools, juvenile detention
centers, group home, and service providing agencies. Further discussion to these responses will be included in the following recommendation portion.

**Implications for Social Work**

According to the NASW *Code of Ethics*, it is the primary responsibility for social workers to “help people in need and address social problems” (NASW, 2011). Sex trafficking is a fast growing social problem and one of the most significant human rights violations in contemporary society (Hodge, 2008). With the recent recognition of human trafficking and international sex trafficking, society has developed a better understanding of the egregious abuses of human beings around the world, but there is still a limited understanding of the same inconceivable abuses occur to children and adults who are United States citizens or who legally reside in the United States. While there may be similarities in serving the sex trafficking population in general, this thesis project attempted to learn more about serving the domestic sex trafficking population in the Sacramento area specifically to clarify the definition to promote education and awareness of this topic in order to better address the growing social problem.

As social workers, there is not only a responsibility to advocate for victims of domestic sex trafficking, but also a responsibility to offer adequate services to meet the needs of this vulnerable population and properly address the social issues. Social workers are always searching for how to better serve their clients especially when there is limited research on the topic. According to the National Association of Social Workers’ (NASW) *Code of Ethics*, social worker’s primary goal is to “enhance human well-being and help meet basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and
empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed, and living in poverty.” The
domestic sex trafficking population is among one of the most vulnerable populations not
only to traffickers, but also to the criminal justice system and the misconceptions of
society. Social workers have a duty to advocate for in the best interest of their clients,
especially for victims of domestic sex trafficking who may not be capable of identifying
themselves as enslaved or victims. Social workers have a responsibility to educate the
public about the stigmas and misconceptions attributed to the domestic sex trafficking
population such as having a choice and/or being labeled delinquents or offenders (Kortla,
2010).

By demonstrating expert’s understanding of domestic sex trafficking in the
Sacramento area, social workers and service providers can improve their understanding
of how to better serve the domestic sex trafficking population. Social workers are also
required to seek information and knowledge in order to provide competent service to
clients (NASW, 2011). The knowledge inquired throughout the study will better equip
social workers and service providers how to best advocate on behalf of the domestic sex
trafficking population while working toward gaining the necessary resources and skills to
adequately address their needs. Continued education of the challenges, needs, and areas
for improvement of services available can assist social workers broker appropriate help
for the domestic sex trafficking population. Not only is it important for social workers to
develop a better understanding of how to better serve this population, but also how to
improve social worker’s and other professional’s ability to identify the domestic sex
trafficking population who do not often recognize they are being victimized.
Recommendations

The following section is a discussion of recommendations to address concerns and improve services for the domestic sex trafficking population. This discussion will not only aim to look at improving the quality of current services, but also explore ideas how to make services more accessible to the domestic sex trafficking population. This portion will incorporate suggestions made by experts in the survey questionnaire, as well as the recommendations made by researchers. In order to combat domestic sex trafficking, preventative and restorative action needs to be taken on macro, mezzo, and micro levels.

Macro

To increase efforts on the macro level, researchers suggest an increase in lobbying efforts to advocate for legislation specifically addressing the needs of the domestic sex trafficking population. Current State and Federal legislation needs to be revised to include a service definition for domestic sex trafficking to provide service providers a better understanding to how to adequately serve the domestic sex trafficking population. Lobbying and advocacy efforts should work towards the implementation of domestic sex trafficking legislation which enacts training mandates for law enforcement and service providers, establishes specific law enforcement protocols responding to human trafficking cases and procedures for identifying domestic sex trafficking victims, and strategies to enhance collaboration among Federal, State, and local law enforcement and victim service providers.

Based on survey questionnaire responses, lack of funding and resources were identified as a critical barrier to serving the domestic sex trafficking population.
Therefore, lobbying efforts should additionally push for domestic sex trafficking legislation to incorporate provisions to allocate specific grants and funds for developing new services and programs specifically tailored to supporting the domestic sex trafficking population, and improve existing programs and services in order to better meet the need of the domestic sex trafficking population. As confirmed through survey questionnaire responses, this means allocating funding so services and programs can implement or improve legal services, advocacy, intensive case management services, outreach efforts, medical services, and emergency shelter and residential services.

Advocacy for such provisions should also allocate funds to increase awareness among communities and improve education and training for service providers and responding professionals. A quality example of an organization, which provides services primarily on a macro level, is California Against Slavery (CAS). CAS is a human rights organization, which extends macro efforts to advocate and lobby for state laws and initiatives to protect victims of human trafficking and prosecute perpetrators. CAS was a primary sponsor and leader in the lobbying efforts of the Californians Against Sexual Exploitation Act (“CASE Act”) which passed in the general election in November, 2012 (CAS, 2012).

Mezzo

Efforts on the mezzo level can be implemented through the development of grassroots and community advocacy groups in communities such as Sacramento where domestic sex trafficking is considered severe. Community groups should include community members, service providers, responding professionals such as law
enforcement and medical staff, and survivors. Community advocacy groups can work to
heighten community awareness of domestic sex trafficking, change societal attitudes, and
address the stigmas against domestic sex trafficking through organizing awareness events
to educate the community. Community groups can additionally organize presentations
for school staff, law enforcement, and service providers to provide education about the
issue of domestic sex trafficking, the severity of the issue, risk factors, and effective
strategies to address the issue in their community.

Community groups will additionally serve as outreach to access and inform the
domestic sex trafficking population to the services and supports currently available. As
suggested by a survey questionnaire respondent, the development and distributions of
discrete pamphlets and brochures will be helpful in the efforts to inform victims about
existing services and support offered within the community. Also suggested by multiple
survey questionnaire respondents, the distribution of outreach information in relevant
settings such as school sites, juvenile detention centers, group homes, and foster youth
service agencies will be helpful in the efforts to inform victims of existing services in the
community.

Other service agencies to distribute outreach material include agencies that
provide services for at risk youth, substance abuse, or housing. A good example of a
community group in the Sacramento area is Sexually Exploited Children & Teens
(SECT). SECT is a community collaborative group of service providers committed to
reducing sexual exploitation of trafficked youth. SECT actually provides services on all
levels of micro, mezzo, and macro. Partners of SECT provide individual counseling
services at the micro level, facilitates advocacy and awareness trainings at the mezzo level, and lobbying efforts at the macro level (e.g., SECT, n.d., para. 1).

**Micro**

Recommendations for services on a micro level include practices aimed at supporting individuals who are survivors or are trying to escape the domestic sex trafficking lifestyles. As mentioned through literature and confirmed through survey questionnaire responses, Individual therapy and intensive case management are critical to adequately serving the domestic sex trafficking population on a micro level (Clawson & Grace, 2007; Estes & Wiener, 2002). Additionally, therapy services should incorporate trauma-focused interventions to in order to address the significant trauma the domestic sex trafficking population has endured (Clawson & Grace, 2007. Further service needs identified and confirmed through literature and survey questionnaire responses include programs providing legal services, medical services, emergency shelter, food, and clothing. Other needs for services consist of mental health treatment, medical care, life skill and job training programs, and family reunification services (Clawson & Grace, 2007; Estes & Wiener, 2002).

As suggested by respondents, the use of peer support from past survivors of domestic sex trafficking is necessary for supporting victims in these programs. The common experience of survivors brings a unique understanding that fosters a sense of comfort to victims seeking services. Providing peer support services additionally fosters hope. Allowing survivors the opportunity to help others instills a sense of purpose and meaning. Additionally, the process allows victims to identify with someone who has had
common experiences can lead a normal life and overcome the trauma associated with being a domestic sex trafficking victim. A quality example of an already existing service is Community Against Sexual Harm (CASH). According to the CASH website, CASH is a support service located in the Sacramento, CA region designed to support victims of sexual exploitation, sex trafficking, and prostitution and information to the community on commercial sexual exploitation. Many of the support counselors employed at CASH are former sex industry workers (e.g., CASH, n.d., para. 2).

Preventative recommendations for services on a micro level include supporting individuals who are particularly vulnerable of being recruited into domestic sex trafficking. Due to the lack of research on domestic sex trafficking, individuals who have been identified to be particularly vulnerable tend to be youth. Youth identified to be at the highest risk for being sex trafficked are runaway, thrownaway, and homeless youth (Attorney General, 2010; Estes, 2001; International, 2007). Other risk factors have been identified through literature and are reflected through survey questionnaire responses. Strategies for supporting vulnerable individuals could be providing peer and mentor services for at risk youth.

**Recommendations for Future Research**

As mentioned previously, there is limited research focused solely on the issue of domestic sex trafficking. The research which exists on the issue of domestic sex trafficking tends to focus specifically on children and youth who identify as female. Future research can expand to explore the experiences of transgendered or male populations who are trafficked for sex. Additional research efforts should also be taken to
explore domestic sex trafficking among the LGBT community. Based on responses from the survey questionnaire and previous literature, the lack of awareness to the issue of domestic sex trafficking is identified to be significant. On the contrary, the majority of literature, including this thesis study, looks specifically at the perspectives of service providers. It would be interesting to conduct a community assessment to gain insight to the actual extent the community is aware to the issue. The assessment can additionally test the knowledge of the community to identify areas needed for advocacy, educational and training possibilities.

**Limitations**

While the information gathered from this study was helpful to clarify the definition of domestic sex trafficking in the Sacramento area, there are several limitations of this study worth noting. The study only questioned experts who had experience or knowledge about working with the domestic sex trafficking population leaving room for biased opinions in the survey questionnaire. The limits of only having expert’s opinions on the topic does not allow for a comprehensive view of the topic. The literature review was based on the limited information available on the topic of domestic sex trafficking.

Typically, the information already researched is based on sex trafficking in general, which was applied to domestic sex trafficking, but does not provide a conclusive understand of the uniqueness of the topic. The majority of research of this thesis topic was limited to data which primarily focuses on youth and females specifically. Very few studies have been done to include the physical and emotion impacts of domestic sex trafficking population who are male, transgender, and/or over the age of eighteen leaving
this thesis study focused primarily on adolescent females. There is also limited research for the differences in needs and services available to the male, transgender, and over eighteen years of age domestic sex trafficked population which does not inclusively address how to best assist all victims of domestic sex trafficking.

**Conclusion**

With a lack of research on domestic sex trafficking, the gravity of the issue is still limited. Research for this study revealed significant deficiency of information on the topic of the domestic sex trafficking population. Current literature on the topic of human trafficking focuses primarily on international sex trafficking and does not allow for the uniqueness of needs and services for the domestic sex trafficking population. While domestic sex trafficking occurs around the United States, the city of Sacramento, California has been identified as one of the top five cities where domestic sex trafficking of minors is considered at epidemic proportions (WEAVE, 2013; Markoff & Blicker, 2011). Domestic sex trafficking is considered one form of modern day slavery with egregious treatment of victims which implores the attention of communities and society overall. There is no longer room to tolerate the torture and abuse of the domestic sex trafficking population.

The primary purpose of this study was to clarify the definition of domestic sex trafficking through exploring the perspectives of experts in the Sacramento area. Upon the analysis of survey responses, results reflect a lack in a common definition between experts in the Sacramento area and the legal definition of domestic sex trafficking used within this thesis study and authorized by the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims
Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008. According to the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008, domestic sex trafficking refers to the involuntary recruitment of persons for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation by means of force, coercion, manipulation, fraud, or deception, within the boundaries of the United States in which victims are United States citizens or have permanent legal residence (TVPRA, 2008; Clawson, Dutch, Salomon & Grace, 2009).

Definitions of domestic sex trafficking within this thesis study also include any citizen or legal resident of the United States under the age of 18 years old (TVPA, 2000). The common definition agreed upon by experts within this thesis study is defined as “sex trafficking within the United States”. The common definition determined by experts within this study only partially reflects the legal definition of domestic sex trafficking and lacks pertinent components to the definition necessary to clarify the definition of domestic sex trafficking and improve services for the domestic sex trafficking population. This lack of consensus among definitions represented throughout this study reflects a significant need for a common definition between legal and service definitions in order to adequately serve the domestic sex trafficking population.

In exploring perspective of experts on the issue of domestic sex trafficking within the Sacramento area, study results did provide unique insight into the problem of domestic sex trafficking in the Sacramento area, as well as the challenges and barriers to serving and accessing the domestic sex trafficking population. Based on survey results, the definition of the domestic sex trafficking problem in the Sacramento area is considered moderate to severe. African American females who have been thrown out of
their family home and are ranging in age from 15 to 19 are considered most at risk. As confirmed by the literature, the primary barrier to accessing and serving the domestic sex trafficking population is lack of community awareness.

This study also highlighted services in need of improvement to adequately assist the domestic sex trafficking population and are discussed in the recommendations portion of chapter five. The data collected from the survey questionnaire confirmed the findings in the literature that there is still much to be done to educate the community, law enforcement, and professionals about the misconceptions of domestic sex trafficking and the severity of this human rights violation. This study identified that social workers are in a position to advocate at all levels for the vulnerable and enslaved population of domestic sex trafficking. Overall, further research of the domestic sex trafficking population and their needs is required to obtain a more comprehensive understanding of the topic.
Appendix A

Consent Form

You are being invited to participate in a research study conducted by Master of Social Work students, Melissa Harter and Johanna Longero who attend California State University, Sacramento. This study aims to crystallize the definition of domestic sex trafficking for the purpose of future service development to better serve the domestic sex trafficking population. The study results represent the perspectives of experts in the Sacramento community who are knowledgeable about the topic or have experience with domestic sex trafficking.

The survey will contain 26 open and closed ended questions. The text boxes for the open ended questions can be enlarged by clicking and dragging the bottom right hand corner of the text box. The survey will offer an optional follow up interview if any participant feels the need to clarify or elaborate on the topic of Domestic Sex Trafficking. At the end of the survey, participants will be given the option to withdraw from the survey. The survey should not take longer than 45 minutes.

SurveyMonkey.com offers encrypted transfers of information to ensure the survey cannot be traced back to the survey participant. The information obtained through SurveyMonkey.com will be kept as confidential as the encrypted technology offers. Once the survey data is collected by the researchers, the data will be kept confidential and only used for the purposes of the study. After the study is completed, the survey data will be destroyed by June of 2013.

There is no perceived risk in participating in the survey.

No incentives are offered for participating in this research study. The participants may find personal satisfaction by contributing to the goal of better understanding and serving the domestic sex trafficking population.

For any further questions please contact Melissa Harter at xxxxxxxx@gmail.com, (530) xxx-xxxx or Johanna Longero at xxxxxxxx@comcast.net, (916) xxx-xxxx. Dr. Francis Yuen, Professor of Social Work at California State University, Sacramento is supervising this study and can be contacted at fyuen@csus.edu, (916) 278-7182.

By completing and submitting the survey, implied consent will be given by the participant. Check the “I agree” option to proceed with the survey. Participants have the option to withdraw from the survey at any time by clicking on the “withdraw from survey” option in the upper right hand corner of survey.

Thank you for your time and expertise.
Appendix B

Domestic Sex Trafficking Survey

Participant Information

By completing and submitting the survey, implied consent will be given by the participant. Check the “I agree” option to proceed with the survey.

☐ I agree

How do you identify yourself? (Mark all that apply)
☐ Service Provider
☐ Advocate
☐ Outreach
Other (specify):

Do you work directly with domestic sex trafficking survivors?
☐ Yes ☐ No

How did you gain your knowledge about domestic sex trafficking? (Mark all that apply)
☐ Personal knowledge/experience
☐ Friends/Family
☐ Academic/Journal articles
☐ Professional training/experience
☐ Internet/TV/News Paper
Other (specify):

How would you rate your understanding of domestic sex trafficking?
☐ Very Good
☐ Good
☐ Limited
☐ Very Limited
Not at all

How would you rate your familiarity of domestic sex trafficking?

- Very familiar
- Familiar
- Limited Familiarity
- Very Limited Familiarity
- Not at all

**Definition of domestic sex trafficking**

How would you define domestic sex trafficking?

How would you define sex trafficking domestically?

In your opinion, are there differences between international sex trafficking and domestic sex trafficking in respect to:

- Service needs
  - Very Different
  - Different
  - No Difference
- Funding
  - Very Different
  - Different
  - No Difference
- Public Awareness
  - Very Different
  - Different
  - No Difference
- Definition
  - Very Different
  - Different
  - No Difference

**Definition of the problem in the Sacramento area**

How would you rate the severity of domestic sex trafficking in the Sacramento area?

- Very Severe
- Moderate
- Limited
- Very Limited
- Not at all

In your opinion, what are the contributing factors to problems of domestic sex
trafficking in the Sacramento area?

12. How would you rate the awareness of the Sacramento community regarding domestic sex trafficking issues?
   - Very Aware
   - Fairly Aware
   - Limited
   - Very Limited
   - Not at all

13. Based on your experience, please rank the following populations with 1 being most at risk:
    - Youth who run away from home
    - Youth who run away from juvenile detentions and other institutions
    - Youth who are thrown out of their family home (Thrownaway youth)
    - Homeless youth
    - Foster youth
    - Gang affiliated youth

14. Based on your experience, please rank the gender prevalence of the domestic sex trafficking population with 1 being most at risk:
    - Female
    - Male
    - Transgendered

15. Based on your experience, please rank the race/ethnicity prevalence of the domestic sex trafficking population with 1 being the most at risk:
    - African American
    - Caucasian/White
If applicable, are there any other races/ethnicities you have identified as prevalent in the domestic sex trafficking population?

Based on your experience, what is the predominate age range among the domestic sex trafficking population?

- Younger than 10 years of age
- 10-14 years of age
- 15-19 years of age
- 20-24 years of age
- 25 years of age and older

Other (specify):

Identifying challenges and barriers

Please mark the extent to which you agree with the following statements:

(SA = Strongly Agree, A = Agree, D = Disagree, SD = Strongly Disagree, N/A=No Answer)

The most critical challenges I identify in providing services to domestic sex trafficking victims are…

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<th>SD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Lack of adequate resources</td>
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<td>b. Lack of adequate funding</td>
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<td>c. Lack of adequate training</td>
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<td>d. Lack of community awareness</td>
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<tr>
<td>e. Ineffective coordination with Federal agencies</td>
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</table>
f. Ineffective coordination with local agencies

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<th>SA</th>
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| g. Safety concerns of staff |
|----|---|---|----|-----|

| h. Lack of knowledge of victims’ rights |
|----|---|---|----|-----|

| i. Difficulty to identify/reach victim |
|----|---|---|----|-----|

| j. Cultural/language barriers |
|----|---|---|----|-----|

| k. Lack of formal rules and regulations |
|----|---|---|----|-----|

| l. Victims’ legal status |
|----|---|---|----|-----|

| m. Feeling of no support and isolation |
|----|---|---|----|-----|

| n. Lack of in house procedures |
|----|---|---|----|-----|

Other (please specify):

Some reasons trafficking victims do not seek services are..

| a. Fear of prosecution |
|------------------------|---|---|----|-----|

| b. Lack of social support |
|---------------------------|---|---|----|-----|

| c. Fear of retaliation |
|------------------------|---|---|----|-----|

| d. Lack of knowledge about available services |
|-----------------------------------------------|---|---|----|-----|

| e. Lack of social support |
|---------------------------|---|---|----|-----|

| f. Lack of trust in the system |
|-------------------------------|---|---|----|-----|

| g. Language differences |
|------------------------|---|---|----|-----|

| h. Lack of knowledge about victims’ rights |
|-------------------------------------------|---|---|----|-----|

| i. Feelings of shame |
|-----------------------|---|---|----|-----|

| j. General fear |
|-----------------|---|---|----|-----|

| k. Not able to identify self as a victim |
|-----------------------------------------|---|---|----|-----|

| l. Held in captivity |
|----------------------|---|---|----|-----|

| m. Culturally inappropriate services |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|----|-----|

| n. No transportation |
|-----------------------|---|---|----|-----|

Other (please specify):
**Identifying needs for improvement**

Please mark the extent to which you agree with the statements for items 19, 20, 21, 22, & 23

(SA = Strongly Agree, A = Agree, D = Disagree, SD = Strongly Disagree, N/A=No Answer)

The following specialized services need improvement to better meet the needs of the domestic sex trafficking population:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Legal</td>
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<td>b. Advocacy</td>
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<td>c. Intensive case management</td>
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<td>d. Outreach</td>
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<td>e. Info/referral</td>
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<td>f. Service Coordination</td>
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<td>g. Interpreter</td>
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<td>h. Court orientation</td>
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Other (please specify):

The following services related to medical and general health need improvement to better meet the needs of the domestic sex trafficking population:

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<tr>
<td>a. Dental services</td>
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<td>b. Routine medical screenings (i.e. STDs, pregnancy, and other health related problems)</td>
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<td>c. Mental health</td>
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<td>d. Drug treatment</td>
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<tr>
<td>e. Self-help groups</td>
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</table>
f. Counseling

g. Crisis intervention

h. Trauma focused therapy services

i. Peer-support groups

Other (please specify):

The following services related to residential and basic needs need improvement to better meet the needs of the domestic sex trafficking population:

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<tr>
<td>a. Short term/long term housing</td>
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<td>b. Clothing</td>
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<td>c. Food</td>
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<tr>
<td>d. Transportation</td>
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<td>e. Child care</td>
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<td>f. Protection</td>
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<td>g. Emergency shelter</td>
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Other (please specify):

The following services related to education need improvement to better meet the needs of the domestic sex trafficking population:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Life skills training</td>
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<td>b. Job training</td>
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<td>c. Youth development programs</td>
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Other (please specify):

**Recommendations**

Please mark the extent to which you agree with the statements

(SA = Strongly Agree, A = Agree, D = Disagree, SD = Strongly Disagree, N/A=No Answer)

In your opinion, what are the most effective ways to inform the domestic sex
trafficking population of services that are available?

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Method</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Brochures/other written material</td>
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<td>b. Community Outreach</td>
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<td>c. Word of Mouth</td>
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<tr>
<td>d. Referral</td>
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</table>

Other (please specify):

. What are your recommendations to better serve the domestic sex trafficking population?

. What outreach services do you recommend for attracting the domestic sex trafficking population to seek services in the Sacramento area?
To: Melissa Harter & Johanna Longero  Date: 11/30/2012
From: Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects

RE: YOUR RECENT HUMAN SUBJECTS APPLICATION

We are writing on behalf of the Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects from the Division of Social Work. Your proposed study, “Domestic Sex Trafficking,”

___ X ___ approved as ___ X ___ EXEMPT ___ MINIMAL RISK ___

Your human subjects approval number is: 12-13-019. Please use this number in all official correspondence and written materials relative to your study. Your approval expires one year from this date. Approval carries with it that you will inform the Committee promptly should an adverse reaction occur, and that you will make no modification in the protocol without prior approval of the Committee.

The committee wishes you the best in your research.

Professors: Maria Dinis, Jude Antonyappan, Teiahsha Bankhead, Serge Lee, Kisun Nam, Maura O’Keefe, Dale Russell, Francis Yuen

Cc: Yuen
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