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Trafficking and Uninformed Law Enforcement

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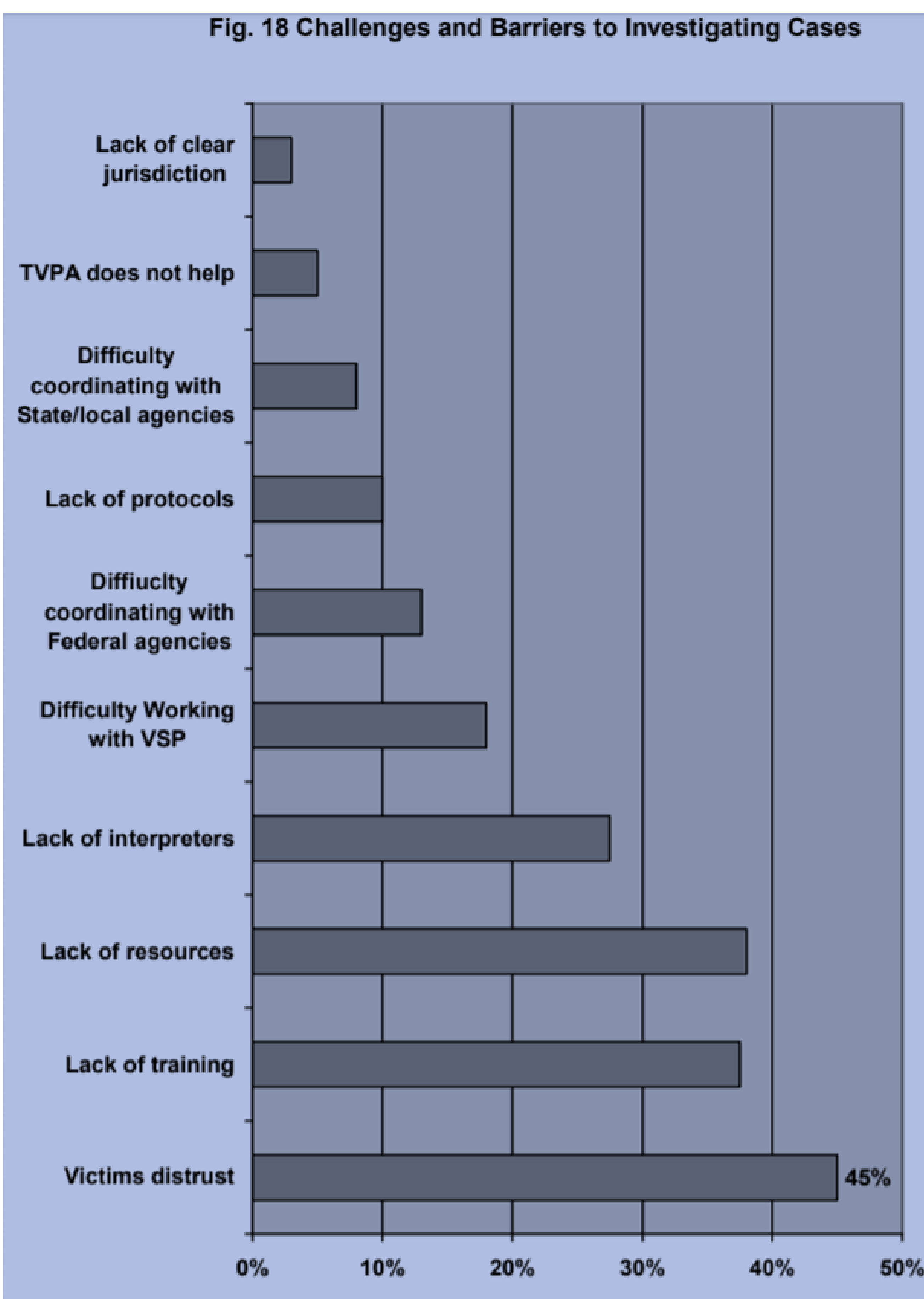
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Trafficking and Uninformed Law Enforcement

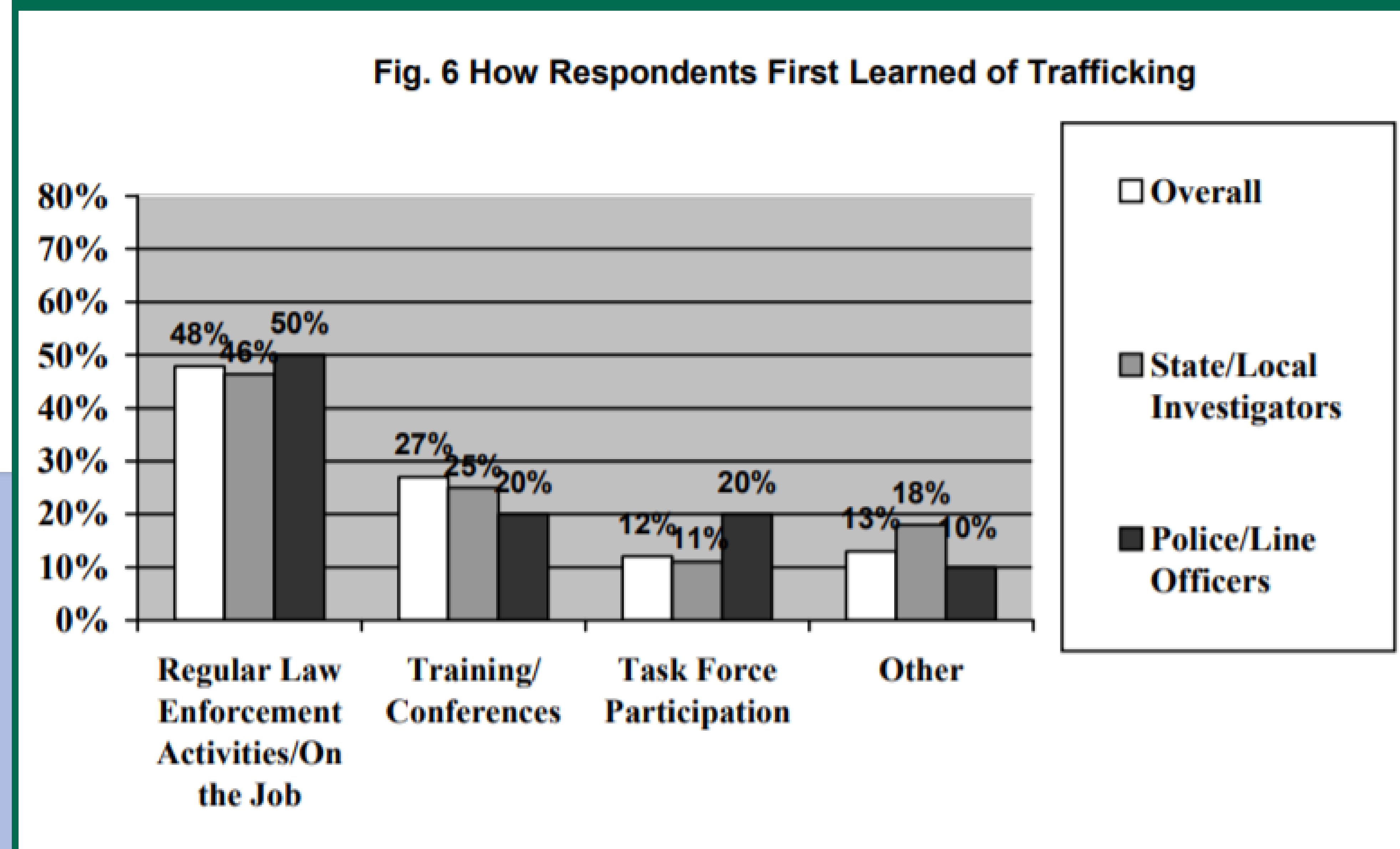
By: Colleen Nugent

In 2016, law enforcement agencies reported 1,196 human trafficking cases. But it is estimated that between 20,000 and 50,000 people are victims of trafficking every year in the US.



Lack of resources and training, and victims' distrust of law enforcement are the biggest challenges to investigations

Law Enforcement Officers rarely receive formal training on human trafficking.



Only 20% of police reported receiving training on how to identify and investigate trafficking cases. Increased education would mean increased identification of trafficking crimes, and increased justice for victims.

Potential Solutions:

- ❑ Mandate standardized training on how to identify and investigate trafficking.
- ❑ Make coordination between victim resources and law enforcement more cohesive
- ❑ Ensure that every officer is aware of resources such as the Trafficking Indicators designated by Homeland Security →

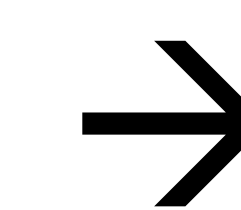
T-Visa = visa that permits trafficking victims and their families to stay in the U.S.

One part that improves this application is complying with any “reasonable request” from law enforcement.
Victims fear of police → less likely to contact or comply with police.

Justice for Her in India has seen substantial results from police training, such as:

- Officers learning to identify trafficking situations & interact with victims compassionately
- Improved police public reputation
- UN 2019 Trafficking in Persons Report claimed that India was making “significant efforts to eliminate [trafficking]”.

Scan for references and enlarged figures!



Trafficking Indicators	
<input type="checkbox"/> Is the victim in possession of identification and travel documents; if not, who has control of the documents?	<input type="checkbox"/> Has the victim or family been threatened with harm if the victim attempts to escape?
<input type="checkbox"/> Was the victim coached on what to say to law enforcement and immigration officials?	<input type="checkbox"/> Has the victim been threatened with deportation or law enforcement action?
<input type="checkbox"/> Was the victim recruited for one purpose and forced to engage in some other job?	<input type="checkbox"/> Has the victim been harmed or deprived of food, water, sleep, medical care, or other life necessities?
<input type="checkbox"/> Is the victim's salary being garnished to pay off a smuggling fee? (Paying off a smuggling fee alone is not considered trafficking.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Can the victim freely contact friends or family?
<input type="checkbox"/> Was the victim forced to perform sexual acts?	<input type="checkbox"/> Is the victim a juvenile engaged in commercial sex?
<input type="checkbox"/> Does the victim have freedom of movements?	<input type="checkbox"/> Is the victim allowed to socialize or attend religious services?

Report Suspicious Activity: **1-866-DHS-2-ICE** (1-866-347-2423)

www.dhs.gov/bluecampaign

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