

Rescue & Restore Victims of Human Trafficking

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of Health and Human Services



Presentation Topics

- HHS' role in certifying and serving victims of trafficking
- About trafficking – where it occurs, traffickers' tactics and victim impact
- Federal and State laws
- Sources for trafficking information



TVPA – HHS Role

- Identify, certify, and serve victims of trafficking in persons
- Increase public awareness



What is Certification?

- Certification allows a foreign trafficking victim in the U.S. to access federally funded benefits and services to same extent as a refugee
- Benefits and services are available notwithstanding Title IV of PRWORA.



Who Issues Certification?

- The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) gave HHS authority to certify foreign victims of human trafficking in the United States.
- HHS/Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) issues certification letters to adults and eligibility letters to children.



Benefit-Issuing Agencies

- Accept certification or eligibility letter in lieu of immigration documentation
- Contact toll-free HHS trafficking victim verification line: 1-866-401-5510
- Return original letter to victim



Refugee Benefits for Certified Victims

- If victim is not eligible for TANF or Medicaid:
 - Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA)
 - Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA)
- Refugee Social Service Programs
- Matching Grant



Options for Minors with Eligibility Letters

- Unaccompanied Refugee Minor (URM) Program
- or
- TANF/Medicaid/SCHIP or Refugee cash/medical assistance



Victim Services

- National network of service providers
 - Continuity of services, case management
 - 101 agencies in 128 locations, currently
- State Refugee Coordinators - Oversee benefits and services for trafficking victims and refugees
- New resource guide for social service providers



Where Trafficking Occurs

- Sex Trafficking
 - Brothels, street prostitution, cantinas, stripping/exotic dancing, massage parlors
- Labor Trafficking
 - Domestic service, farms, factories, ranches, fisheries, hotels (tourism), janitorial services, restaurants, nail salons, door-to-door sales, panhandling, construction, landscaping



Traffickers' Tactics

- Groom or condition victim
- Foster a feeling of dependence on trafficker (boss, protector, boyfriend)
 - Isolate the victim
- Break down victim's defenses
- Cause fear through threats or actions



Impact on Victim

- Depression – mental health issues
 - Self-blame: feels shame or worthlessness
- Physical health problems
- Worry about family members
 - Family reunification / threats to family
- Outstanding debts
- Unfamiliarity with U.S. laws, systems

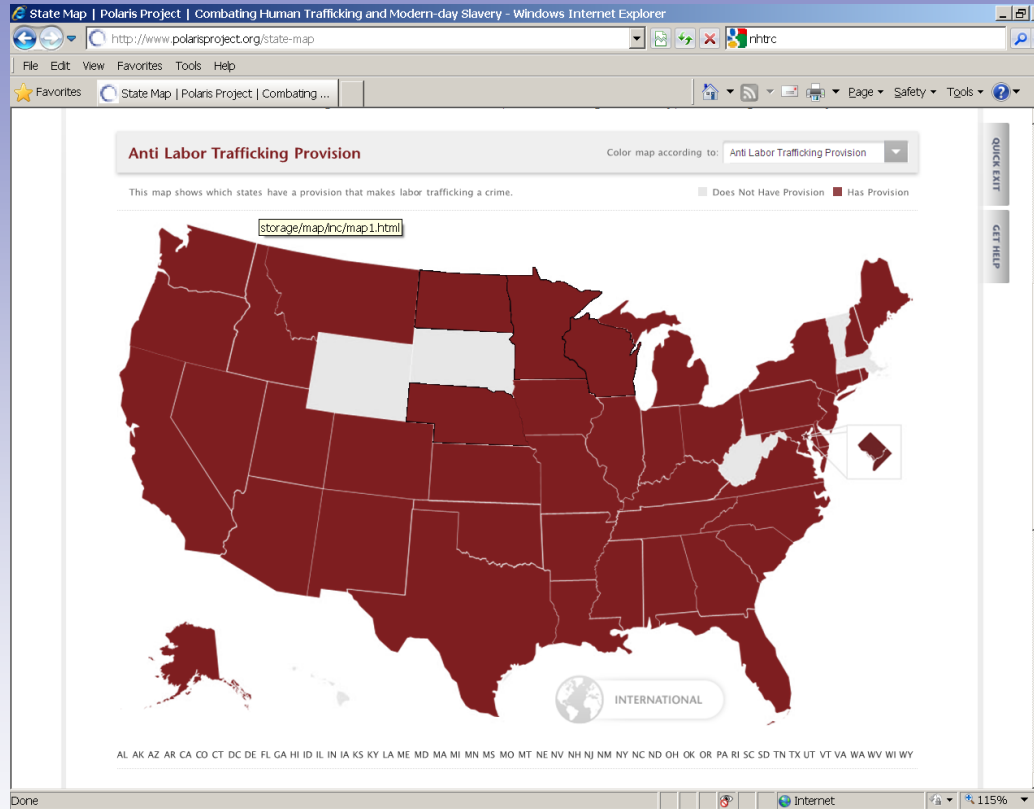


Federal Laws - TVPA

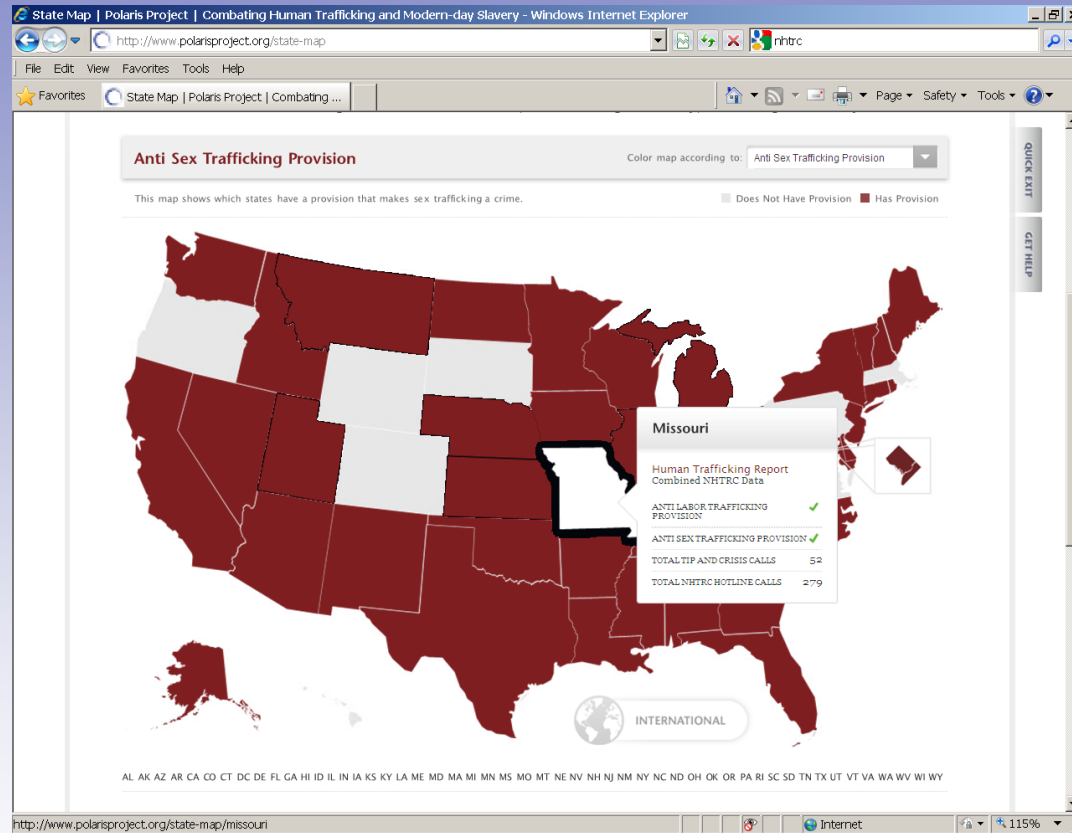
- The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) was enacted in 2000.
- First comprehensive national law addressing human trafficking; focuses on prevention, protection and prosecution
- There have been three reauthorizations and it may be reauthorized again in 2011



State Laws – Labor Trafficking



State Laws – Sex Trafficking



More Information!

- *Rescue & Restore Victims of Human Trafficking* campaign:
 - www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking
- National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC)
 - 1-888-3737-888 or NHTRC@polarisproject.org
 - www.traffickingresourcecenter.org



Thank You

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