

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

CCUSA RESEARCH BRIEF



Working to Reduce Poverty in America.

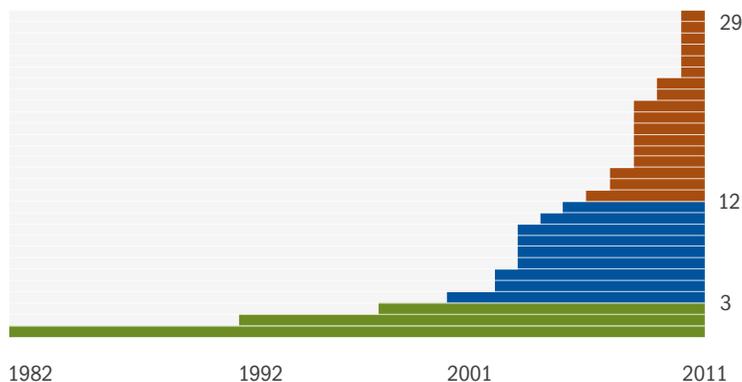
OVERVIEW

Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) and its member agencies have been combating human trafficking for more than three decades. In 2012, CCUSA commissioned a survey of its member agencies providing services to victims of human trafficking to better understand the characteristics of victims they serve, the types of services they provide, and the challenges they face in this work. The survey received responses from 29 agencies across 19 different states. This report presents the key findings from the survey, as well as insights gained through complementary focus groups.¹

DEDICATED TO THE ISSUE

Catholic Charities agencies began providing services to victims of human trafficking **31 years** ago, in 1982. Anti-trafficking initiatives are rapidly spreading through our network, with almost 60 percent of respondents beginning their services in 2007 or later.

Catholic Charities agencies with anti-trafficking programs, by year started:



SERVING ALL DEMOGRAPHICS

Catholic Charities agencies responding to the survey reported serving a total of **239 human trafficking** victims in the past 12 months. These victims included men and women, minors and adults, and US citizens and foreign nationals.

GENDER AND AGE

Agencies served an average of



NATIONALITY

Victims served by agencies were much more likely to be foreign nationals than US citizens.

Agencies served an average of



¹ The research that forms the basis of this report was conducted by the Center for the Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University. The survey was conducted in the fall of 2012, and received responses from 29 of the 40 Catholic Charities agencies across the country that provide services for victims of human trafficking. Between November 2012 and April 2013, four focus groups were conducted in Ft. Myers, Florida; Cleveland, Ohio; Louisville, Kentucky; and Salt Lake City, Utah. For further information about this study contact CCUSA at socialpolicy@catholiccharitiesusa.org.

Addressing Labor and Sex Trafficking

57% Labor Trafficking Victims

Among the victims served by Catholic Charities agencies in the last year, victims of labor trafficking were more prevalent than victims of sex trafficking.

43% Sex Trafficking Victims

Identifying Gaps in Services

CCUSA's network directly provides, or works with collaborative partners to provide, holistic services including shelter, child care, and immigration services. However, focus groups revealed a number of gaps in services. The quotes below from service providers highlight a few of the most significant gaps:

Facing Barriers and Challenges

How much are these a barrier or challenge to your agency in providing service to trafficking victims?

Percentage responding "somewhat" or "very much"

	2005	2013
Lack of adequate funding	86%	96%
Lack of adequate resources	80%	92%
Difficulty coordinating with Federal agencies	66%	38%
Language barriers	56%	26%
Lack of knowledge about victims' rights	36%	14%

Over the past eight years, significant progress has been made in reducing some barriers to serving victims of human trafficking. In 2013, almost no agencies reported a lack of knowledge of victims' rights, suggesting an overall increase in awareness and training. Furthermore, responses indicate that agencies have also become more adept at coordinating with government agencies and overcoming language barriers. However, Catholic Charities agencies have increasingly struggled find adequate funding and resources to provide these services in their communities.



Working to Reduce Poverty in America.

2050 Ballenger Avenue, Suite 400 · Alexandria, VA 22314
703.549.1390 · www.CatholicCharitiesUSA.org

