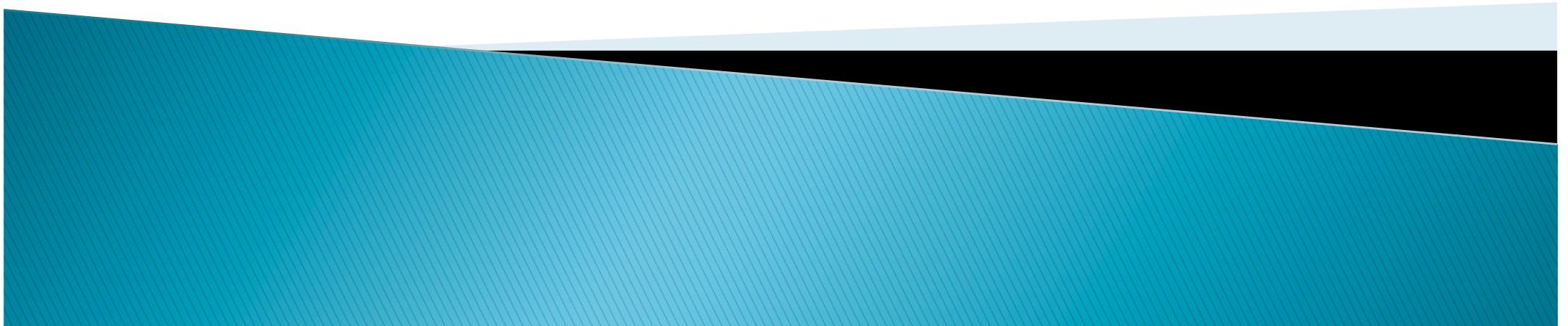


# Vermont Human Trafficking 2013 Survey Results

Analysis by Courtney Schaad, Give Way to Freedom  
July, 2013



# Goals of the Survey

To assess service providers' knowledge and awareness of Human Trafficking in Vermont & to identify characteristics of trafficking

- The results can inform the Task Force in prioritizing training and capacity development
- Some questions from the 2010 Vermont Human Trafficking survey were incorporated to develop longitudinal data

To identify those agencies throughout the State that can provide services to victims of Human Trafficking


- The findings will be used to inform the development of a Human Trafficking specific resource directory
  - The findings can identify potential gaps in services
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# Method

An 18 question Survey Monkey survey was distributed online, through The Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services' database, to a wide variety of service providers throughout the State. 512 service providers received the initial survey.

- The survey was composed of multiple choice and open ended questions
  - Members of the Victim Services Subcommittee worked together to create recommended questions for the survey, incorporating a few from the 2010 VT survey in an effort to generate longitudinal data
    - The Vermont Center for Crime Victim Services utilized many of these recommended questions while making some changes and additions prior to distribution

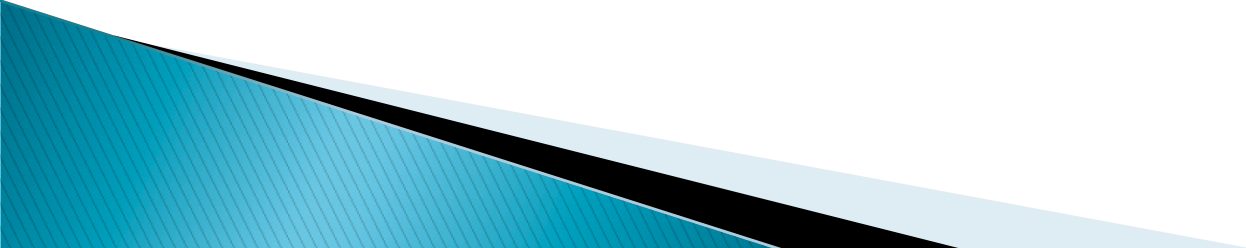
A letter accompanied the survey that shared the definition of Human Trafficking, as defined by the US Trafficking Victims Protection Act, as well as the Vermont Human Trafficking Statute, Act no 55



# Respondent Demographics

- ▶ A total of 136 individuals responded from a wide variety of agencies/disciplines


(respondents could check more than one category when applicable)

- 50.0% State Agency
  - 29.4% Medical/Mental Healthcare
  - 22.2% Child Welfare
  - 18.3% Advocacy Services
  - 17.5% Victim Services
  - 17.5% Serving people with Disabilities
  - 15.9% Housing
  - 15.1% Sexual Violence
  - 14.3% Domestic Violence
  - 13.5% Immigration/Refugee services
  - 13.5% Youth Services
  - 5.6% Language Interpretation
  - 4.8% Law Enforcement, Prosecution
  - 4.0% Legal services, LGBTQ services
- 

# Respondent Demographics

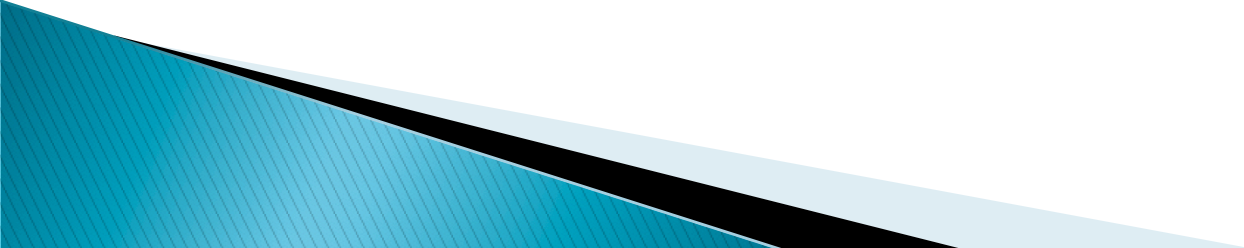
- ▶ Responses were received from service providers representing 14 Vermont Counties or providing services Statewide

(respondents could check more than one county if applicable)

- 30.0% Chittenden
  - 27.3% Statewide
  - 12.9% Franklin
  - 11.4% Windsor
  - 10.6% Addison, Grand Isle, Lamoille, Washington
  - 9.8% Bennington, Orange, Rutland
  - 9.1% Caledonia, Windham
  - 7.6% Essex
  - 6.8% Orleans
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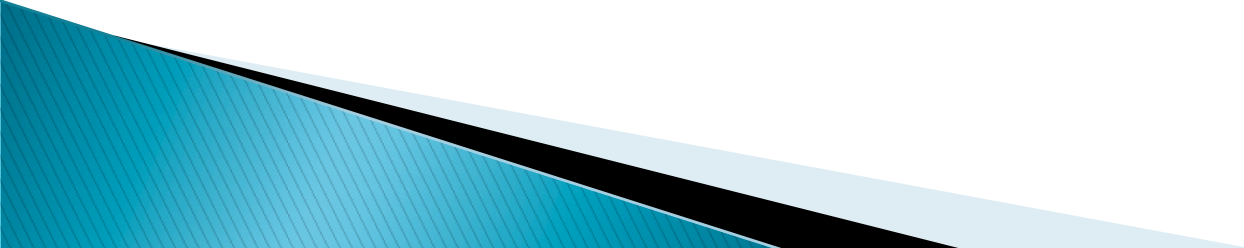
# Respondents' sense of the scope of labor trafficking within Vermont

17% of survey respondents commented that they are aware of labor trafficking either through direct experience or through word of mouth

- ▶ “We see many undocumented people trying to receive healthcare services, some people come accompanied by another person who is not a relative and does all the primary talking or is very controlling of the topics of conversation”
  - ▶ “Clients are forced to participate in drug trafficking to support habits or out of fear of retaliation and threats of violence”
  - ▶ “We have been aware of a couple situations in which a woman has been married to a man who uses her as a servant”
- 


# Respondents' sense of the scope of labor trafficking within Vermont

17% of survey respondents commented that they are aware of labor trafficking either through direct experience or through word of mouth

- ▶ “We have recently been concerned that some of the families we work with, particularly single moms, are being targeted to use their apartments as bases to run drugs from larger areas”
  - ▶ “The one instance of trafficking I saw was trafficking for welfare benefits. I observed a woman who brought a series of out state “nieces” with dependent children and either developmental delays or language barriers who quickly became indebted to the older woman and had to leave their children with her to go to work even though they felt their children were not safe. The young women became indebted to the older women who took their IDs...”
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# Respondents' sense of the scope of labor trafficking within Vermont

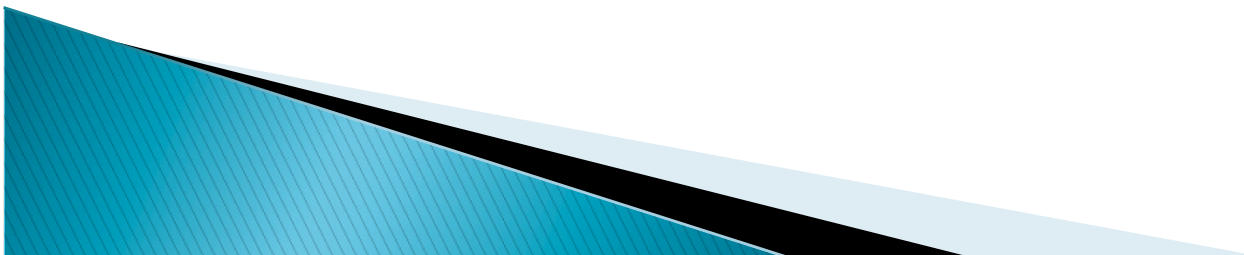
Respondents expressed concerns about immigration/migrant worker conditions and where the line gets crossed to be trafficking

- “My sense is that it exists on a small scale, but there is a fairly large amount of wage and hour violations”
  - “Some migrant workers have not been paid and live in terrible conditions”
  - “ I am aware that labor trafficking exists in VT. Cases that are cut and dry trafficking cases I am not sure I can confirm, but I often wonder where the line of trafficking begins and where the line of stretching a broken immigration system ends...”
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# Respondents' sense of the scope of sex trafficking in Vermont

**\*\*Sexual Exploitation was added to this question about sex trafficking, therefore, the results were harder to delineate**

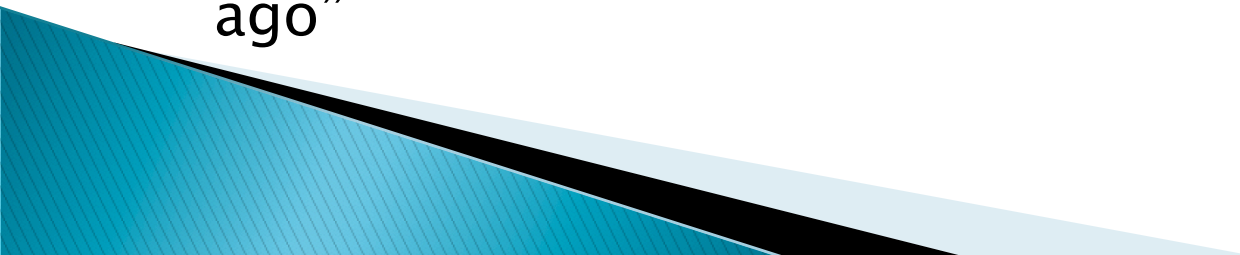
- In trying to identify only those responses specific to sex trafficking, it appears that approximately 29% of respondents commented that they are aware of sex trafficking going on either through direct experience, anecdotal information, news etc.



# Respondents' sense of the scope of sex trafficking in Vermont

- ▶ “We have had 2 suspected cases of sex trafficking. The situations were both with couples that could not consistently describe their relationship or the emotional disturbance on the medical call. There was a lot of confusion while in their homes and the setting was uncomfortable. We were certain that although they said they were the only ones in the home, that there were others in the home as well”
  - ▶ “We have gotten several reports of young women being brought to farms to provide sex to farm workers. Other anecdotal reports of women being brought into the State from other countries to serve as prostitutes. The reports we have heard involve both young girls who are citizens and women who are immigrants”
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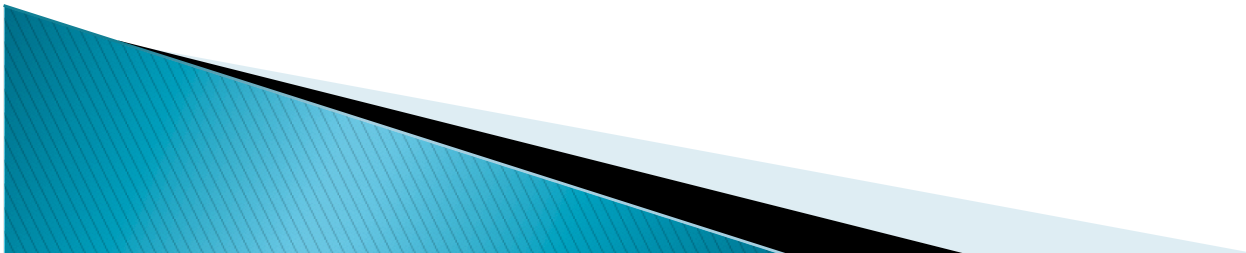
# Respondents' sense of the scope of sex trafficking in Vermont

- ▶ “We considered a victim we worked with last spring to be a potential HT victim. We have heard anecdotal evidence of several potential sex trafficking cases, as well as a circumstance in southern Vermont that is presenting several indicators of sex trafficking”
  - ▶ “Over the years we have worked with many young women who ran away and were trafficked by “boyfriends” who they met at places like bus stations. We also have had suspicions of hotels because of comments that women made who were seeking other kinds of support”
  - ▶ “My sense is based on the few places that get “busted” and make the news, as the massage parlor in Essex several years ago”
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# Respondents' sense of the scope of sex trafficking in Vermont

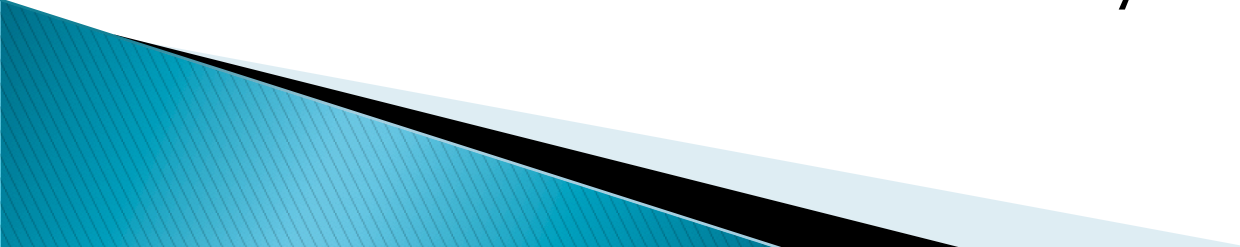
**A common confusion/debate over what constitutes sex trafficking versus voluntary prostitution or survival sex was expressed. Respondents reported knowledge of prostitution rings, survival sex and sex in exchange for drugs and not necessarily knowing if it was/is trafficking**

- “Prostitution does exist in VT. I am uncertain where the line of sex trafficking meets willing participant. I know that even after a “prostitution” (or trafficking) ring was broken, farm workers are still being serviced on farms. Employers seem to turn a blind eye to this activity”
- “My “sense” is that youth who are homeless and/or couch surf are subjected to sexual exploitation, drug mulling, etc”
- “Some prostitution going on in local rest areas and truck stops, I think the women are coming from other areas/cities/countries”



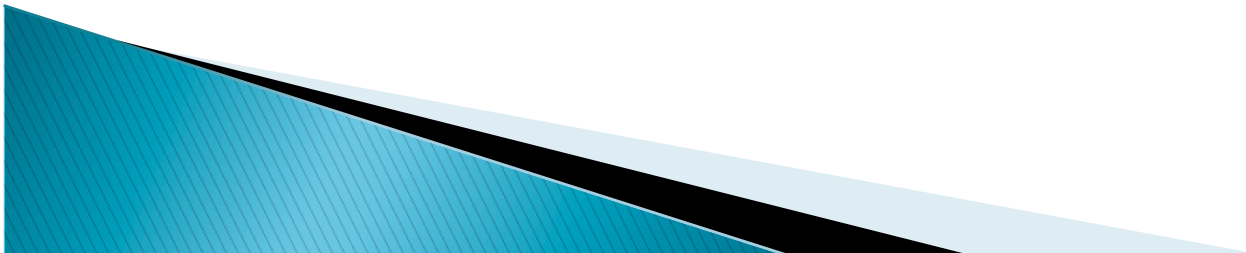
## Respondents working with potential Human Trafficking victims

The percentage of respondents who report working with potential victims remains relatively consistent. The 2013 study had more than twice the number of respondents and reached a broader geographical region

- In 2010, 26% out of 58 respondents stated that they had worked with potential victims
  - In 2013, 22.5% out of 136 respondents stated that they had worked with potential victims
    - 56.6% were not sure if they had or not
- 

# Potential Victim Demographics

- ▶ Respondents reported working with between 1–5 potential Human Trafficking victims
  - This is consistent with the results from the 2010 survey
- ▶ The 2013 study indicates that the majority of potential victims are between 16–30 years of age
  - The majority of victims were reported to be between the ages of 16–18 and 21–30. The next biggest group was between the ages of 19–21, followed by 31–40.
  - The 2010 survey indicated that the majority of victims were between 15–25.



# Potential Victim Demographics

- ▶ In the 2013 survey, a single question asked about sex, gender and sexuality
  - 40.5% of respondents answered “not sure”, so it is difficult to state for certain how many were male, female, or transgender
    - 5.4% of the victims were reported as being male
    - 59.5% were reported as female, but it is believed that this number is actually around 94.6% and that the question design was flawed.
      - Gender should have been separate question from self identified sexuality
  - In 2010, 95% of the victims were reported to be female

# Potential Victim Demographics

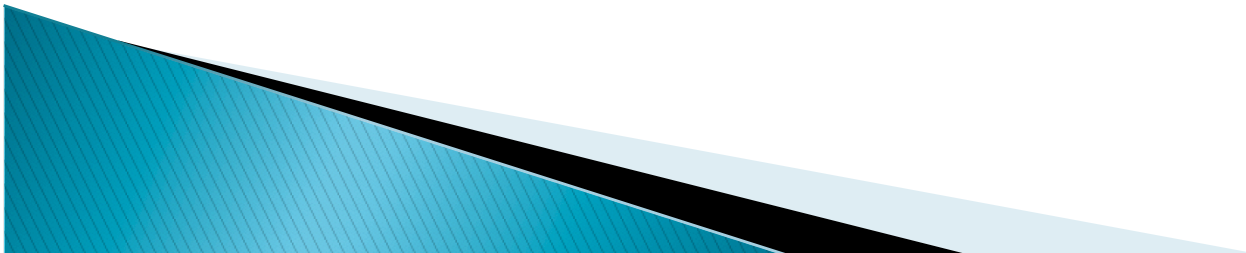
- ▶ 44.7% of respondents answered that they were “not sure” if potential victims were domestic or international
- ▶ 36.8% of potential victims were identified as US citizens
- ▶ 26.3% of potential victims were identified as being international
  - Nationalities cited:
    - Asian
    - Brazilian
    - Mexican
    - Somali
    - Thai

# Addressing the problem of Human Trafficking in Vermont

- ▶ 53.8 % of respondents stated that their agency can play a role in addressing Human Trafficking in Vermont
  - Respondents cited a willingness to be involved in awareness/ education campaigns, building a coordinated response, and wanting to provide appropriate referrals
  - Respondents identified unique roles to play in helping to reach out, raise awareness, and/ or identify potential victims
    - Parole officers being able to engage with offenders within the community to help identify and report problems
    - Reach Up staff, DCF and APS staff being in unique roles of engaging individuals and families within their homes and communities
  - Some respondents cited an ability to provide direct victim service (see direct services by county)
- ▶ 41.7% are not sure if their agencies can play a role

# Addressing the problem of Human Trafficking in Vermont

“I think that just being aware that Human Trafficking is a very real concern and that Vermont is not immune to this concern is a start. Now, I am more likely to ask questions when taking an intake, particularly about a runaway or homeless teen to find out if there is any indication that trafficking might be an issue”



# Addressing Human Trafficking–Direct Services by County as reported by survey respondents

## Addison County

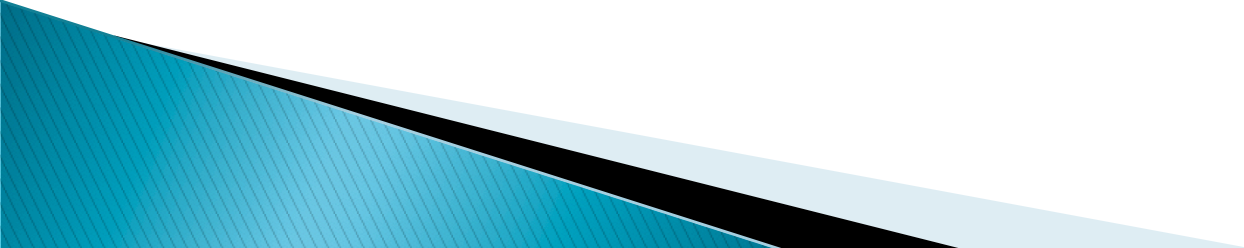
### ▶ Women Safe

- Equipped to support survivors of sex trafficking
- Are not able to support labor trafficking victims unless there is a clear sexual violence component
  - Assisting access to emergency housing (though no on-site shelter)
  - Access to interpreters
  - Needs assessment, emotional support, safety planning etc....
  - Assisting access to legal services

# Addressing Human Trafficking–Direct Services by County as reported by survey respondents

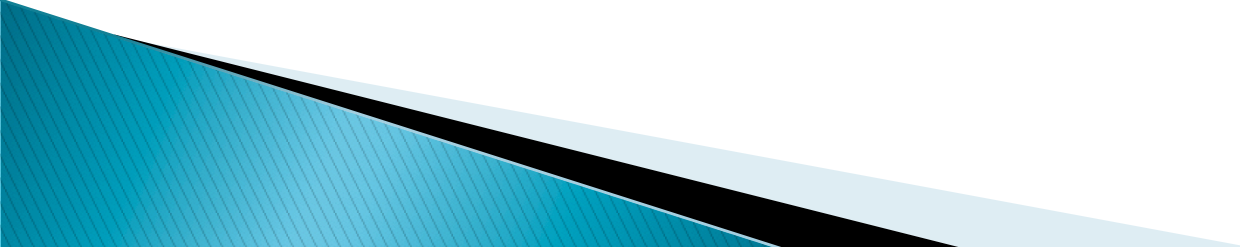
## Bennington County

### ▶ PAVE

- 24 Hour Hotline
  - Needs Assessment, Safety Planning
  - Shelter, independent apartment, single family
  - Case management
  - Legal Advocacy
  - Assist with finding permanent housing
- 

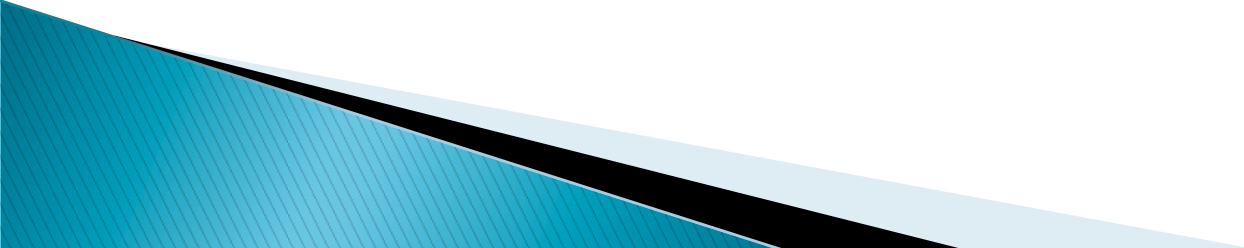
# Addressing Human Trafficking–Direct Services by County as reported by survey respondents

## Caledonia & Essex Counties

- ▶ Danville Rescue (EMS): (also serves Lamoille)
    - Provide emergency medical services and have the ability to report suspicious findings. We meet people at vulnerable times and have opportunities to communicate privately with patients
  - ▶ NEK Youth Services
    - 24/7 on-call services for youth
  - ▶ Reach Up (also serves Orange)
    - Social welfare program that can arrange meetings without obvious connections to other victim services– this allows staff to maintain contact with possible victims when other direct services have been sent away
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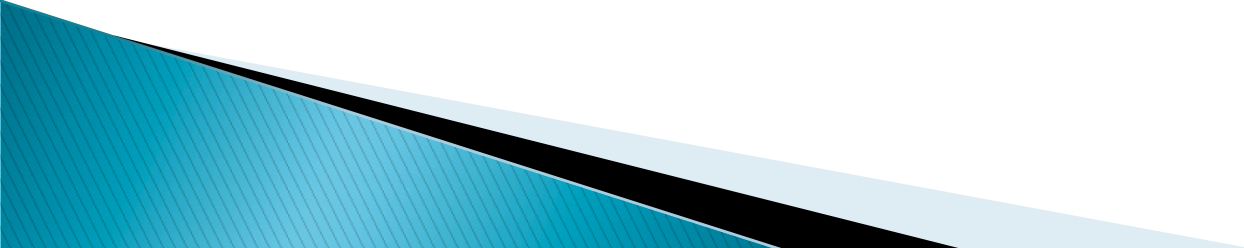
# Addressing Human Trafficking–Direct Services by County as reported by survey respondents

## Chittenden County

- ▶ Bridges to Health
    - First line reporters, Healthcare
  - ▶ Community Health Centers of Burlington
    - First line reporters
    - Healthcare, mental healthcare
    - Services for immigrants, refugees, undocumented workers
  - ▶ Committee on Temporary Shelter
    - Emergency shelter for adults and parents with minor children
  - ▶ HOPE Works
    - 24 Hour Hotline
    - Sexual Violence Services
    - Temporary Housing
    - Advocacy
- 


# Addressing Human Trafficking–Direct Services by County as reported by survey respondents

## Chittenden County cont..

- ▶ Migrant Education Program
  - ▶ Parallel Justice for Victims of Crime
  - ▶ Spectrum Youth & Family Services
    - Services for youth ages 14–22
    - Housing
    - Mental Health services
  - ▶ Women Helping Battered Women
    - Hotline
    - Shelter for female victims of violence
    - Legal advocacy for females
- 

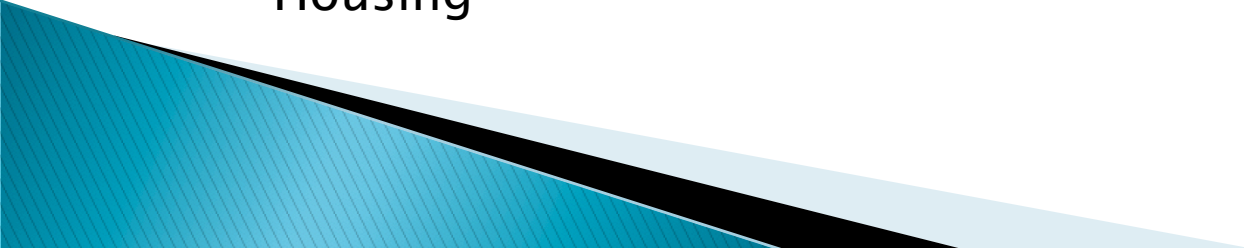
# Addressing Human Trafficking–Direct Services by County as reported by survey respondents

## Franklin/Grande Isle Counties

- ▶ Bridges to Health
    - First line reporters
    - Healthcare
  
  - ▶ Franklin County Court Division
    - Advocacy
    - Case Management
    - Legal Services
    - Youth Services, Victim Services
  
  - ▶ Northwest Unit for Special Investigations
    - Investigation
    - Victim Services
- 

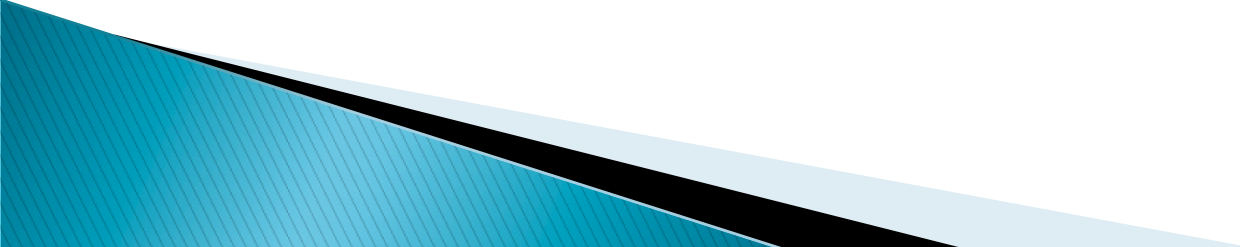
# Addressing Human Trafficking–Direct Services by County as reported by survey respondents

## Rutland County

- ▶ Rutland County Women's Network & Shelter
    - 24 Hour Hotline
    - Advocacy
    - Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence Services regardless of gender
    - Case Management
    - Individual and group counseling
    - 60 Shelter program for female victims and females with children
      - Paws program to allow pets
      - One Transitional apartment
      - A housing specialist to help with longer-term housing needs
    - Help with immigration issues
  
  - ▶ Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth /Vermont Achievement Center
    - Services for youth ages 13–22
    - Housing
- 

# Addressing Human Trafficking–Direct Services by County as reported by survey respondents

## Washington County

- ▶ Central Vermont Adult Basic Education, Montpelier Learning Center (also serves Lamoille and Orange counties)
    - Free educational resources
    - Language instruction for immigrants and refugees
  
  - ▶ Sexual Assault Crisis Team
    - 24 Hour Hotline
    - Shelter for male and female victims, as long as there is a sexual violence component to the trafficking situation
      - Advanced security system
    - Advocacy
    - Case Management
- 

# Addressing Human Trafficking–Direct Services by County as reported by survey respondents

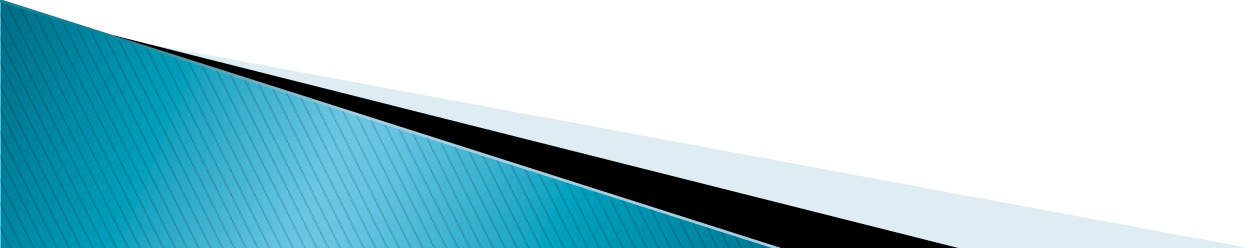
## Windham County

- ▶ Windham County Safe Place CAC/SUSI
  - Physical space is available for interviews with potential victims of both labor and sex trafficking

## Windsor County

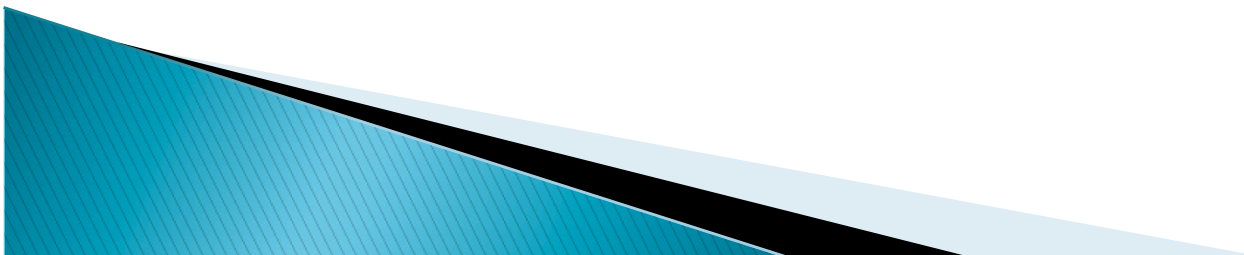
- ▶ South Royalton Legal Clinic (VT Law School)
  - Immigration legal services statewide
    - Representation of immigrants in human trafficking cases to get legal immigration status
  - Poverty legal services/legal aid for Windsor and Orange Counties
- ▶ WISE
  - Domestic & Sexual Violence Services
  - Advocacy

# Statewide Direct Services– as reported by survey respondents

- ▶ Adult Protective services (APS)
    - Services for vulnerable adults
  - ▶ Bridges to Health – UVM extension
    - Healthcare for migrant workers
  - ▶ Children with Special Health Needs
    - We may be able to assist victims who have special needs or who have children with special needs
  - ▶ Department of Children and Families (DCF)
    - We are the contact for all minor trafficking cases/issues and will conduct a joint sexual abuse investigation with law enforcement when a minor sex trafficking case arises
- 

# Statewide Direct Services – as reported by survey respondents

- ▶ Give Way to Freedom
  - Rapid Response Support System
    - 24 hour hotline
    - 24–48 hour emergency housing and services for male and female victim of labor and sex trafficking
    - Needs assessment, safety planning
    - Direct link to longer term care
- ▶ Partings and Endings
- ▶ Reach UP
- ▶ RU12? Community Center



## Statewide Direct Services– as reported by survey respondents

- ▶ South Royalton Legal Clinic
    - Representation of potential victims in Human Trafficking cases
  - ▶ Vermont Center for Crime Victims Services
    - Assist in paying for crime victims' related expenses
  - ▶ Vermont Immigration and Asylum Advocates
    - Advocacy, legal assistance and representation to any undocumented person who may be a potential Human Trafficking victim
- 