
THE BUSH SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC
SERVICE



FROM FLASHLIGHT
TO SEARCHLIGHT

A SUSTAINABLE INFORMATION PROGRAM FOR SEX
TRAFFICKING VICTIMS IN TEXAS

VERSION 2.0

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*In partnership with the Human Trafficking and Transnational/Organized Crime Section
within the Office of the Attorney General of Texas*

About the Project

This project is a product of the Bush School of Government and Public Service Capstone Program. It expands upon a previous project that mapped the legal pathways for domestic minor sex trafficking victims and the resources available to them in the Brazos Valley. It expands victim information and resource models by applying them to broader geographic areas and additional categories of victims for the Human Trafficking and Transnational/Organized Crime Section of the Texas Office of the Attorney General. This project lasted one academic year and involved ten second-year Master students. They have reviewed the literature on trafficking, validated and revised the previous project, created a visual model for the legal pathways of international trafficking victims, mapped the victim resources available in two additional Texas counties, and developed a more comprehensive, bilingual resource model and website that can be updated by community leaders into specific resource guides for any Texas region.

About the Client

The Human Trafficking and Transnational/Organized Crime Section (HTTOC) is an initiative of the Texas Office of the Attorney General. The HTTOC was formed by Attorney General Ken Paxton in 2016 to combat human trafficking across the state of Texas. Since then, the section has coordinated with the federal government and California Attorney General's Office to shut down Backpage.com, developed and produced the "Be the One" training video to mobilize all Texans against trafficking, assisted in human trafficking case prosecutions to result in multiple felony convictions and 441 years of prison time for traffickers in Texas, and trained more than 25,000 people in person across the state on human trafficking.

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Sincerely,

The Searchlight Capstone Team

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The goal of this project, “From Flashlight to Searchlight: A Sustainable Information Program for Sex Trafficking Victims in Texas,” was to expand upon work done by a 2018-2019 capstone team. The previous team provided a comprehensive understanding of, and approach to, service provision for domestic minor sex trafficking victims in Texas. This work sought to expand and refine that approach and was done for The Human Trafficking and Transnational/Organized Crime Section (HTTOC) of the Texas Attorney General’s Office. Work completed by the 2019-2020 capstone team included the development of the attached report, a service provision website and handout shell to be distributed to counties across Texas, and a user manual for each of those shells. Further, this project applied the newly developed shell to Montgomery and Waller counties, demonstrating the applicability of deliverables across counties of varying sizes. These products will assist the HTTOC and Texas communities as they seek to improve the legal, health, and other outcomes of trafficking victims.

Background

Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion and results in the exploitation of vulnerable populations. Understanding this exploitation is critical for determining the necessary services for trafficking prevention and victim recovery. Research has identified populations most susceptible to trafficking, including children in welfare and juvenile justice systems, runaways, homeless youth, women, LGBTQ+ and minority groups, and disabled individuals. Identifying these risk factors has also led to an understanding of victim needs post-trafficking. These needs largely fall into three categories: immediate, intermediate, and ongoing, and include the exigencies for safe and secure housing, food, healthcare, and legal services. Providing services to meet these needs requires overcoming logistical, policy, and psychological barriers. However, if those needs are met, short and long-term outcomes for victims can be improved.

Research Process

Our team took a two-tiered approach to this project. In the first phase, we validated the work done by the 2018-2019 capstone team. We determined the accuracy and scalability of their findings and the applicability of the products they developed to our project. In the second phase, we developed revised products including a fillable resource guide and website shell. The HTTOC intends to distribute these products to counties across the State of Texas.

Phase I

Methodology I. Our review of the previous team’s work began by validating the 2018-2019 team’s literature review. In the second step of our validation, we assessed both sides of the resource guide the team created and the process they used to create those guides.

Findings & Conclusions I. Validation of the 2018-2019 team’s work led us to three major conclusions:

- 1. The 2018-2019 literature review was incomplete in explaining the needs of, and service provision for, human trafficking victims.*
- 2. When contacted, service providers included in the resource guide had varying degrees of willingness to accept trafficking victims and some tended to distance their organization from association with sex trafficking victims.*
- 3. Overall, the 2018-2019 approach made headway identifying service providers but was not holistic enough to provide for all victim needs.*

Phase II

Methodology II. We developed revised products during the second phase of our methodology. To revise prior work, we conducted a literature review with an increased focus on the needs of trafficking victims and modified the format of the handout and website shells. Alterations to the deliverable shells included developing a user manual, adjusting the layout and formatting of the products, adding language and visual components to assist international trafficking victims, and including a case management category. These modifications were done based on findings from Phase I, as well as our own research and client feedback.

Findings & Conclusions II. In total, we formed five major conclusions:

- 2.1 Because of continuous changes in service provider availability, a more sustainable process of resource management is required.*
- 2.2 Varying levels of resource availability determine communities' ability to address trafficking and provide victims with services.*
- 2.3 Cultural differences, along with differences between legal pathways for domestic and international victims, contribute to international victims' distinct service needs.*
- 2.4 Geographic disparities in awareness of human trafficking, lead to limitations in those communities' ability to address it.*
- 2.5 Different goals between law enforcement, prosecution, and service providers contribute to difficulties in effective collaboration throughout prosecution and victim recovery.*

Recommendations

Our own and the previous team's work suggest multiple areas for improvement for policies and communication in the human trafficking domain. We suggest multiple recommendations, both to communities in general and to our client, service providers, and law enforcement agencies. Our recommendations include enhancing training and outreach, increasing collaboration, and filling service gaps. We also suggest potential areas for future research, including further study into vulnerable populations, resource availability across various geographies, the use of faith-based service providers, policy alternatives, and how to build a more compelling narrative about human trafficking.

Conclusion

This report, when used in conjunction with the accompanying online and hard-copy resource guide templates, can assist communities in increasing collaboration between service providers. Further, by advocating community ownership of these guides and increased understanding of trafficking, we are encouraging communities to recognize their current service providers and to examine potential needs for further services. Thus, we have broadened our focus from "Flashlight to Searchlight" by expanding the applicability of these tools, and, hopefully, increasing the availability and quality of victim services.

INTRODUCTION

The Problem of Sex Trafficking and the Purpose of Focusing on Service Provision

Sex trafficking is a complex social challenge that results in severe harm to vulnerable individuals in communities. Additionally, sex trafficking leads to substantial economic and societal costs. Minor and youth sex trafficking alone costs Texas approximately \$6.6 billion annually (Busch-Armendariz et al., 2016). Additionally, victims of sex trafficking face high psychological costs and recovery is often challenging. Trafficking victims often suffer from chronic severe trauma (Scott, Ingram, Nemer & Crowley, 2019). Both individual and economic costs can be alleviated through adequate social service provision for victims. Victims may require health or social services as they prepare to re-enter society, and these services can reduce the likelihood that a victim will return to a life of trafficking. If victims face barriers to service availability, however, these barriers may lead to increased economic and societal costs of trafficking. Although sex trafficking is present across several Texas regions, access to victim recovery services differs across geographies, meaning some areas more effectively assist victims than others (Kellison et al., 2019). This project recognizes and explores these differences as well as other barriers to necessary recovery services. When these barriers are overcome, the State of Texas may see an overall decrease in total sex trafficking cases, and improved outcomes for previously victimized individuals.

Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to expand upon previous research in order to provide a more comprehensive understanding of—and approach to—service provision for sex trafficking victims in Texas. The previous project, “Light in the Darkness” (2019), asked how mapping the resources available to Texas domestic minor sex trafficking victims could assist service providers. This project expands that focus from “Flashlight to Searchlight” by exploring the following research questions:

1. *What can be learned and adjusted from the previous project?*
2. *How can our revised templates, deliverable handouts and a website, be scaled up or down? How can deliverables be applied in other Texas regions?*
3. *How can we revise our product to improve service provision and outcomes for trafficking victims?*

Project Outline

The aforementioned research areas guided the project. The project began with a comprehensive literature review, which includes an exploration of victim needs and the ways in which service providers can most effectively meet those needs. Following the literature review is a description of the two-phased approach to this project. Phase I consists of Methodology I and Findings/Conclusions I; in this phase we validated and assessed the previous project’s literature review and victim resource guides. The findings and conclusions from this phase inform the methodology of Phase II, which describes the process of developing a revised literature review and resource guides. These products include an increased focus on the needs of trafficking victims. The five conclusions in Findings and Conclusions II are drawn from Methodology II and inform the subsequent recommendations for the client, service providers, law enforcement, and future researchers. Appendices contain the deliverable products, which are intended for use by the HTTOC, Texas counties, communities, and anti-trafficking coalitions.

Project Audience and Utility

Our client, the HTTOC, as well as Texas counties and anti-trafficking coalitions, are the primary beneficiaries of this project. In addition, this project may provide utility to other social service providers in Texas as well as the faculty, staff, and students of The Bush School of Government and Public Service. Our client requested deliverable products, including visuals outlining the legal process of prosecuting traffickers and a resource guide of available services for victims in various counties. The legal process visual is available for both domestic and international victims and is intended to serve as a resource for furthering their understanding of the legal process they must undergo. Additionally, we provided our client with a website shell for counties and coalitions to map victim services utilizing our resource guide. Deliverable products will be distributed by the HTTOC to counties across Texas in order to improve victim outcomes. In addition to benefiting the HTTOC in their effort to reduce human trafficking in the State of Texas, novel findings, methodologies, and processes will contribute toward future learning for faculty, students, and staff in the capstone and Public Administration programs at the Bush School.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The Needs of Trafficking Victims

Human trafficking uses a variety of ways to exploit the most vulnerable in our society; understanding this exploitation is critical to providing services necessary for prevention and victim recovery. Sex trafficking is defined as a “commercial sex act induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age” (Trafficking Victims Protection Act, 2000, p. 8). Research into sex trafficking has identified common vulnerable populations and tactics used by traffickers to exploit victims. Children in the welfare and juvenile justice systems, runaways, homeless youth, females, disabled individuals, and LGBTQ+ individuals, for example, experience a heightened risk of being trafficked (e.g., Boukli & Renz, 2019; Greeson, Treglia, Wolfe, Walsch, & Gelles, 2019). Victims are targeted by traffickers through the use of tactics such as force, coercion, befriending, and seduction. An understanding of the risk factors of various groups and the tactics used to victimize them is necessary for recognizing their needs.

After exiting a trafficking situation, victims experience an array of aftereffects that necessitate aftercare services (McGuire, 2019). Macy and Johns (2011) classify necessary victim services into three categories: immediate, intermediate, and ongoing needs. In addition to these categories, specific populations need additional services. International victims, for example, require services similar to those of domestic victims, but may also necessitate services based upon their immigration status and understanding of the U.S. legal pathway. Similarly, vulnerable populations, such as homeless adults and children, racial/ethnic minorities, and LGBTQ+ individuals, may require specialized services depending upon the complexities of their individual cases. Following Macy and Johns' (2011) expanded framework for aftercare service delivery, this review consolidates relevant available literature regarding the needs of trafficking victims, categorized by type of need and victim.

Emergency/Immediate Needs

After identification, trafficking victims face a number of immediate and emergency exigencies that must be met prior to determining secondary needs. Upon escape or removal from a trafficking environment, a victim's primary need is safety; specifically, safety and protection from situations that contributed to their victimization (Clawson & Dutch, 2008; Clawson, Dutch, Salomon, & Grace, 2009; McDonald & Middleton, 2019). Safety needs are most often met in conjunction with emergency housing and shelter (Clawson & Dutch, 2008; GAO, 2016). During this time, governments, service providers, and community members also aim to provide victims with food, clothing, and other basic necessities such as laundry services (Clawson & Dutch, 2008; Clawson et al., 2009; Rajeev, Goddard, Pearson-Ayala & Ades, 2019). Provision of shelter and other emergency services are of chief concern upon a victim's removal from trafficking. In addition to emergency safety and shelter services, victims require immediate medical assistance and health screenings (Clawson et al., 2009; Barnert, Kelly, Godoy, Abrams, Rasch, & Bath 2019). Immediate medical services typically include screenings for sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy, and any physical injuries (Clawson & Dutch, 2008; Ades, Wu, Rabinowitz, Bach, Goddard, Pearson-Ayala, & Green, 2019). Other immediate needs may include emergency substance abuse services, emergency mental health care, and family reunification (Twigg, 2017; Ravi, Pfeiffer, Rosner, & Shea, 2017). After these immediate needs are met, victims and service providers can address longer-term victim needs.

Intermediate/Ongoing Needs

After trafficking victims' immediate and emergency needs are met, they require services such as case management, healthcare, and legal aid. Failure to provide intermediate and ongoing services can impede victims' continued recovery and reentry into a life of normalcy (Ravi, et al. 2019). A primary ongoing need of trafficking victims is a continuum of case management to provide an individualized treatment plan that can set victims on a path towards long-term recovery (Hounmenous & O'Grady, 2019; McGuire, 2019). Case management services often include continuing assistance to meet victims' safety needs and ensuring that victims are not revictimized. After receiving initial emergency healthcare, victims require a continuation of this care by way of week-to-week healthcare appointments (Ades et al., 2019). Similar to physical health care, victims need to receive mental health care, including intensive therapy and counseling (Kenny, Helpingstine, & Weber, 2019; McDonald & Middleton, 2019). Additionally, victims have an ongoing need for legal aid, including immigration, custody services, and legal advocacy to bring justice against the victims' traffickers (Ades et al., 2019; Kulig & Butler, 2019; Luminais, Lovell, & McGuire, 2019; Ravi et al., 2019). Following these intermediate and ongoing needs, victims face further requirements for long-term recovery.

Long-Term Needs

Long-term needs essential to victim recovery include long-term housing (Duncan & DeHart, 2019), life skills training (Cerny, Maassen, & Crook, 2019; Mangum, Doucet, Blanchard, & Alig, 2019), family reconciliation (Fraser, 2015; Pandey, Tewari & Bhowmick, 2018), education (Preble, Cook & Fults, 2019), and employment (Hounmenous & O'Grady, 2019). Long-term housing may be provided through government or private entities. For example, The Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) may provide trafficking victims with housing and rehabilitation services, particularly if the victim is a minor. In some residential treatment centers, victims receive life skills training (Twigg, 2017). Life skills training includes "building healthy relationships with peers, grocery shopping, navigating public transportation, cooking, and building a support network among healthcare providers" (Twigg, 2017, p. 263). Family reconciliation, if appropriate, may consist of family counseling, visitations, or re-establishing family connections (Pandey et al., 2018; Twigg, 2017). Additionally, access to adequate education and employment support are essential to victims' reintegration into society (Preble, Cook, & Fults, 2019; Proffer, 2019). Even if trafficking victims access services to address their immediate and intermediate needs, they will remain at risk for revictimization if their long-term needs are left unmet (Viergiver, Thorogood, van Driel, Wold, & Durande, 2019).

International Needs

While many needs are universal to international and domestic trafficking victims, international victims face significant legal demands because they were brought into the United States through illegal means. Several legal options are available to victims as they seek to either gain U.S. citizenship or return to their home country. One such option is T-Visas, which provide trafficking survivors with access to a comprehensive array of benefits and services in exchange for their cooperation with law enforcement throughout the prosecution of their traffickers. Survivors of severe trafficking situations, including sex and labor trafficking, are eligible to apply for a T-Visa (USCIS, 2019). T-Visas were established under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TPVA) and allow trafficking survivors to remain in the United States for up to four years as they work with law enforcement to prosecute their traffickers (USCIS, 2019). T-Visas also provide trafficking survivors with access to assistance covering a broad spectrum of needs. Receipt of a T-Visa, for example, provides trafficking victims with access to housing, food, income, and employment assistance; English language training; medical, dental, and mental health services; and foster care (USCIS, 2019). Additionally, T-Visas attempt to mitigate a common concern among victims: victim trafficker retaliation against family members. T-Visas allow victims to apply for immediate family members to obtain T-Visas and travel to the United States. Although victims often face an urgent need for services provided by the T-Visa, the process of obtaining a T-Visa is not immediate. Prior to being granted a T-Visa, trafficking victims may qualify for emergency assistance to address immediate needs as they transition to public life (Clawson & Dutch, 2008).

The complex range of international trafficking victims' needs requires various advocates, such as lawyers, translators, and service providers. Upon escape or removal from a trafficking situation, international victims may need translators to communicate the legal process as well as the services available to survivors. Translators ease survivor feelings of isolation and help facilitate legal conversations (Clawson & Dutch, 2008). Legal needs of survivors are highly related to immigration status; while many survivors prefer to remain in the United States, some wish to return to their home country. Translators, lawyers and nonprofit or government providers can assist victims in filing T-Visas or coordinating safe repatriation in their home country (DOJ, 2015). Lawyers and translators can also assist underage trafficking survivors in finding appropriate housing, healthcare, and education services. Specifically, the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) program is the main legal authority that acts in the interest of underage international trafficking survivors (Clawson & Dutch, 2008). In addition to lawyers and translators, service providers have identified unique needs of international victims, which include healthcare and employment assistance (Clawson & Dutch, 2008). A collaborative approach to rehabilitation is essential for international victims.

Needs of Special Populations

The literature recognizes several exceptionally vulnerable populations that require special resources for recovery from trafficking and prevention of revictimization. This includes some aforementioned populations, such as homeless adults and children, racial/ethnic minorities, and LGBTQ+ individuals. This section will address the specific needs of these and other groups, followed by the studied risk factors that may be connected to specialized needs, and finally, the emerging frameworks and approaches that may allow providers to better assist these populations.

Identified Needs of Special Populations. While a relatively large amount of literature recognizes the heightened vulnerabilities of certain populations to sex trafficking, relatively few studies identify how these groups require additional or specialized services. For example, homeless young adult victims of sex trafficking require additional services that agencies do not currently provide (Frey, Middleton, Gattis, & Fulginiti, 2019; Chisolm-Straker, Makini, Sze, Einbond, White, & Stoklosa, 2018). Specifically, some young adult survivors identified parenting classes as a need—for some, to regain custody of their children—at Crisis Centers in Newark and Atlantic City, where on-site parenting classes were not routinely offered (Chisolm-Straker et al., 2018). Specific healthcare needs and resources identified as important to LGBTQ+ sex trafficking victims include having an environment inclusive to LGBTQ+ individuals and specific education or training on LGBTQ+ youth-competent care (Boukli & Renz, 2019; Boswell, Temples, & Wright, 2019). In addition to homeless and LGBTQ+ individuals, research finds that children and youth within the child welfare system are at heightened risk of being sex trafficked (Latzman, Gibbs, Feinberg, Kluckman, & Aboul-Hosn, 2019). Addressing the needs of underage victims of sex trafficking calls for more services and policies specifically informed by the vulnerabilities associated with underage victims (Fedina, Williamson, & Perdue, 2016). Lastly, while all victims of sex trafficking require extensive mental health care, runaway victims of sexual exploitation suffer an increased risk of significant and sometimes unseen mental health issues such as PTSD, self-harm, and suicidal ideation and attempts (Bounds et al., 2019). Service providers assisting runaway victims of sex trafficking have found success rehabilitating victims through specialized services, including nurse-practitioner home and community visits, intensive case management, and empowerment groups (Bounds, Edinburgh, Fogg, & Saeywc, 2019). These studies suggest the need for specialized services for particularly vulnerable populations, as well as additional research in order to provide more effective services.

Risk Factors Associated With Special Population Needs. Throughout the literature, many studies identify special populations that are at greater risk of sex trafficking and specific risk factors in such populations. For example, traffickers are drawn to exploit those who experience economic instability, political instability, emotional vulnerabilities, violence, and lack of social support (Boswell et al., 2019). Identifying these instabilities and vulnerabilities as risk factors can allow service providers and policymakers a greater understanding of the complex issues and needs that contribute to trafficking and risks for revictimization.

Race and internalized racism can be risk factors of sexual exploitation for some youth. Black women and girls are disproportionately prosecuted for prostitution, but their narratives are seldom heard. Current policies and service providers do not anticipate the complexity and problems of applying the current victim service model to women of color and other minority groups (Hurst, 2015; Phillips, 2015). Key characteristics identified as especially high-risk factors for homeless and runaway trafficked youth include maltreatment as children, involvement with child protective services, and high rates of living apart from biological parents during childhood (Greeson et al., 2019). It was also found that domestic sex trafficking victims are significantly more likely to be a racial/ethnic minority than non-trafficked adults in the commercial sex industry (Fedina et al., 2016). Ultimately, the identification of these youth risk factors associated with race and ethnicity assists in the recognition of specialized needs for minority victims.

Extant research has identified congruent and additional factors that lead to increased vulnerability of minors for sexual exploitation within special populations. These factors include child neglect and abuse, involvement in the child welfare system, substance abuse, poor family support, limited education/employment opportunities, running away, and being LGBTQ+ (Rothman, Farrell, Paruk, Bright, Bair-Merritt, & Preis, 2019; Fedina et al., 2019). Another study suggested that these risk patterns, coupled with meeting their exploiters on the street after running away from such home backgrounds can lead to trafficking (Reed, Kennedy, Decker, & Cimino, 2019). Familial instability is a key risk factor across all three identified relationship pathways (Reed et al., 2019). Lastly, as repeatedly noted, children in the child welfare system are deemed high-risk. Sub-factors that create an extremely high risk for sex trafficking in this population include running away from home, using drugs and alcohol, having been sexually active before the age of eighteen, or having hitchhiked (Panlilio, Miyamoto, Font, & Schreier, 2018). This shows that increased support of higher-risk groups, such as LGBTQ+ individuals, low-income groups, minorities, and children in foster care could help reduce trafficking.

Emerging Frameworks and Approaches to Special Population Needs. The numerous aforementioned factors and layers of risk may increase an individual's probability of sexual exploitation. Additionally, each individual from a particularly vulnerable population may require different services after being trafficked. Emerging research into these needs suggests a holistic approach to service provision. One such approach is to cluster risk factors into four key vulnerabilities: economic insecurity, housing insecurity, education, and migration (Schwarz, Alford, Daley, Ramaswamy, Rauscher & Britton, 2019). The four key vulnerabilities perspective also suggests a chain-of-risk model in which trafficking is driven by an accumulation of risk factors and a continuum that includes vulnerabilities, violence, and trauma (Schwarz et al., 2019). An alternative approach recognizes all risk factors noted in the literature but establishes a multi-tiered traumagenic social-ecological framework—an approach that offers expansion beyond a focus on specific risk factors to allow for a greater understanding of the complex relationships between such factors (Finigan-Carr, Johnson, Pullmann, Stewart, & Fromknecht, 2019). The purpose of this framework is to address broader social factors, political factors, and other environmental factors, as well as the processes behind sex trafficking and the need to address related structural inequalities that lead to the overwhelming levels of exploitation of specific groups. Recommendations include more services and responses that have sensitivity training for racial, gender, and sexual discrimination and stereotypes (Finigan-Carr et al., 2019).

Barriers to Serving Victims' Needs & How to Overcome Them

Although the diverse needs of trafficking victims are increasingly recognized by service providers as well as government and law enforcement agencies, barriers to meeting these needs persist. These include legal and policy barriers, psychological barriers, practical and logistical barriers, as well as barriers specific to international victims and other special populations. Overcoming these challenges requires a variety of actions by service providers, communities, and government agencies.

Legal & Policy Barriers

Victims' ability to receive necessary services is challenged by policy and legal barriers. Legal advocates and service providers have a responsibility to correctly implement trafficking laws, which may create conflicting approaches. Typically, this conflict stems from the language of trafficking-related laws. For example, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 includes definitions and stipulations that dictate the role of service providers and law enforcement agencies in managing trafficking cases. Service providers aim to support their clients by providing for their needs and respecting the role of law enforcement in prosecuting traffickers. A 2011 survey found, however, that service providers have low confidence in law enforcement to understand and value the needs of their clients (Peters, 2015). Service providers' distrust of law enforcement may be due to a difference in perspective regarding the importance of individual trafficking cases. In particular, law enforcement may prosecute trafficking victims for 'prostituting' rather than recognizing them as victims in need of services (Korte, 2019). Moreover, research suggests that investigators and prosecutors often prioritize cases that can be successful and support the victim as a means of acquiring information to help corroborate the case against a trafficker (Peters, 2015). Similarly, criminal justice authorities focus on victim recovery when it affects prosecution. Law enforcement agencies justify this by stating that their role is to defend the interests of all victims, while service providers have the capacity to focus on individual victims and individual needs (Peters, 2015).

In contrast, law enforcement agents tend to believe that the intentions of service providers are good, but that non-governmental providers lack the resources to maintain legal custody over victims throughout the recovery process (Peters, 2015). In order for victims to provide valuable information on their traffickers, they need stability. Stability is achieved as a result of meeting a victim's needs; service providers do this well (Peters, 2015). To overcome legal and policy barriers, some cities have dedicated portions of their courts to assist victims of human trafficking and prostitution. If defendants choose to participate in these alternative programs, they are treated as victims rather than criminals and are connected to resources for drug and mental illness counseling, housing, and other necessary services to aid in their recovery (Hand, 2013). Other cities have utilized an 'abolition model' in which the focus of prosecution is forced onto the perpetrator rather than the trafficking victim. These tools allow cities to attempt to eradicate trafficking while still supporting victims.

Psychological Barriers

In addition to legal and policy barriers, there are psychological barriers to providing victims with the appropriate care. Providers of all types of services face barriers to understanding the significant psychological damage done to trafficking victims. Victims often suffer complex forms of PTSD, which may be unfamiliar to therapists lacking experience with trafficking victims (Kenny et al., 2019). The psychological barriers to healing for survivors center on the shame and stigma related to their trafficking experiences (Fong & Cardoso, 2010). After escaping the control of a trafficker, the survivor may react negatively when she perceives a similar sense of control from an aftercare service provider (Finigan-Carr, Johnson, Pullmann, Stewart, & Fromknecht, 2019). For these reasons, victims often require complex psychological and medical treatments that are best addressed through an integrated care plan.

Education of healthcare practitioners that addresses the complex needs of survivors should begin before the practitioners encounter their first trafficking victim. In some cases, these challenges are met through changing curricula for medical schools and nursing programs to focus on trafficking identification and treatment. (Borham, Dawgert, & Triano, 2019; Bounds et al., 2019; Reap, 2019). For example, these programs can introduce future healthcare providers to the concept of commercially exploited sex trafficking in order to most effectively develop tailored therapeutic interventions for victims (Schwarz et al., 2019). Ultimately, psychological barriers to treatment can be overcome through the development of the victim's belief in their own safety as well as a relationship of trust between the victim and healthcare provider (Farrell et al., 2019; McGuire, 2019).

Practical & Logistical Barriers

A variety of practical and logistical barriers prevent victim access to appropriate services and care. Foremost among the logistical barriers is the complexity of both human trafficking cases and victims' needs. Due to the diverse range of victim needs aforementioned in this literature review, it is understandably difficult for a singular provider to supply the services that will satisfy all needs at once. Victim care necessitates coordination among several providers. However, a lack of coordination among such providers has historically been a barrier to meeting victims' needs and has hindered their care (Clawson & Dutch, 2008; OVC, 2013). Overcoming this barrier requires increased availability of centralized case management for victims and increased collaboration between varying providers, government agencies, and stakeholders (Clawson & Dutch, 2008; DOJ, 2017; OVC, 2013; Texas OAG, 2018). Centralization of cases and increased consistency of service provision benefits victims, providers, and law enforcement by saving time and resources and improving victim outcomes (Clawson & Dutch, 2008).

Even when centralized case management is used, some logistical and practical barriers persist. These barriers include lack of available service providers, identification requirements, waitlists, distance to providers, and affordability of services (Clawson & Dutch, 2008). For example, victims in rural areas may struggle to locate necessary services, especially specialized healthcare or therapeutic services (Clawson & Dutch, 2008). Even when these types of providers are available, they often require long drives, have long waiting lists, or associated fees (Clawson & Dutch, 2008). Finally, many service providers—including health treatment centers, employment and career training centers, and some shelters and food banks—require identification. Victims often do not have legal identification due to citizenship status or because they lost it to their trafficker or to law enforcement as evidence. Overcoming these barriers requires a multifaceted approach, including increasing the availability of pro bono services, increased grant financing for such services, and the use of mobile clinics (Clawson & Dutch, 2008; GAO, 2016; DOS, 2019). Increased financing and availability of low-cost and free services, as well as increased mobile legal and health clinic outreach to rural communities, will increase accessibility to services for victims and decrease wait times and travel requirements.

Barriers Specific to International Victims

International trafficking victims face the same barriers to assistance as domestic survivors, but also face unique challenges, such as lack of cultural awareness by service providers, Visa requirements, and language barriers. A service provider's lack of understanding regarding a victim's unique international culture, for example, can lead to an incorrect evaluation of the victim's needs and premature termination of services (Hurst, 2015). In addition to cultural barriers, international victims face unique legal barriers to escaping trafficking situations. The T Visa, which serves as a legal means to benefits and services in the United States, can only be granted to persons who have been identified as trafficking victims by a law enforcement agency (Rosenblatt, 2017). Once trafficking victims have been identified, they face a complex legal process (e.g., Rosenblatt, 2017). Finally, challenges within the legal and healthcare systems are exacerbated if survivors cannot speak fluent English. Without adequate language support, non-English speakers are less likely to trust their healthcare provider and have a strong preference for bilingual service providers (HHS, 2016). International trafficking victims have unique and complex barriers to care, thus complicating the process of identifying and empowering these individuals. Research has suggested that access to translation or bilingual legal services helps emphasize a "victim-oriented" approach to care and develops trust between legal professionals and trafficking victims (Lenzerini, 2009). Such supplemental services help eliminate barriers to service provision for international survivors.

Barriers Specific to Other Vulnerable Populations

Populations particularly vulnerable to sex trafficking experience significant barriers to necessary resources and recovery largely by default. In addition to experiencing difficulty accessing services outlined in this review, vulnerable populations may lack access to necessary special resources (Phillips, 2015; Chisolm-Straker et al., 2018; Finigan-Carr et al., 2018). This is due in part to the common narrative of an “ideal” or idealized victim of sex trafficking often envisioned as ignorant domestic women or ‘Third World’ women trafficked transnationally and simply waiting for a heroic rescue. The dominant narratives of trafficking can be racist and gendered, recreating and perpetuating stereotypes that overshadow various types of victims and their needs (Hu, 2019). Similarly, some identities—particularly certain ethnic and sexual orientation identities—are at odds with traditional resource structures and narratives (Boukli & Renz, 2019). The needs of individuals with disabilities are similarly at odds with traditional structures; these individuals face barriers to necessary social support structures as well as effective participation in the criminal justice process, as they experience prejudice and a lack of appropriate accommodations when interacting with law enforcement and the judicial system (US Department of State, 2016). Overall, the literature suggests that avenues to overcoming these barriers include providing more inclusive preventative and aftercare resources, expanding upon the typical narratives around sex trafficking victims, and approaching the problem through frameworks that address the broad, underlying structures related to risk and vulnerability.

Literature Gaps

Despite significant strides in theory and understanding in recent years, literature gaps persist. For example, although there is a basic understanding that needs differ based on the type of victim, there is a continuing lack of specific information about the needs of distinct victim categories. For example, victims vary based on location, socioeconomic status, gender, race, etc., but they also vary in how they entered trafficking. Victims can be brought into trafficking through a desire for jobs, running away, grooming by family members or significant others, or through online relationships. There has been little to no research into how different entrance patterns could require different services. For example, those who run away might have higher needs for shelter, while those who formed broken/grooming relationships may have an increased need for relationship counseling. Similarly, although research recognizes that prevention of trafficking among high-risk populations is important, there is little research on resources specifically for vulnerable populations, including LGBTQ+ and at-risk youth. This either means that these resources and service providers are not being studied, or that they do not exist. Likewise, no one has created a specific and concrete legal pathway for international victims. Additionally, service gaps remain. Service provision is not consistent across the country, or even the state of Texas, and service providers often fail to work together to provide collaborative and comprehensive care to victims. Although available research recommending case management exists, no current work provides a comprehensive assessment addressing these service gaps. Finally, little to no research has been conducted into faith-based organizations that care for sex trafficking victims. Many faith-based anti-trafficking organizations provide services to victims in Texas specifically, raising questions regarding the differences and outcomes for victims served by faith-based and secular organizations. These persistent gaps lead to difficulty evaluating victim needs and ultimately, providing victims with the best possible services during their recovery.

The research, findings, and recommendations we provide in this report, in conjunction with the website and handouts, work to address several of these gaps. First, through research of international victims' experiences and legal encounters, we formed a straightforward graphic of an international victims expected legal pathway that prosecutors and service providers could use to advise victims who are currently entering the legal system. This graphic can be found in Appendix A (Trafficking Legal Pathway). Additionally, we built upon previous capstone work and academic research to form a website and a handout that communities will be able to use to identify service gaps for both trafficking victims in general, and for specific populations, as well as to provide comprehensive and collaborative services and case management. Screenshots of and a link to the website can be seen in Appendix B (Website Handout), and a copy of the handout can be found in Appendix C (Resource Guide). These measures will serve to close both literature and service gaps, as well as to help improve the experiences of trafficking survivors.

METHODOLOGY AND FINDINGS

Our team approached this project by expanding on the 2018-2019 team's research question. That research question was two-part:

- 1. Can mapping the resources available to Texas DMST victims provide significant assistance in their recovery?*
- 2. How can mapping the resources available to Texas DMST victims significantly assist those providing the resources?*

We divided our project into two parts: validation of prior work and expansion on previously unexplored areas of study. Our methodology is divided into two phases that match these goals. In phase one, we validated the previous team's findings to ensure the accuracy and scalability of findings. In phase two, we expanded the previous team's research by revising templates and deliverables to be applicable to a broad range of communities and creating products that would ultimately improve outcomes for trafficking victims. From these two phases, we established conclusions concerning the relevance of the 2018-2019 project's literature review, the applicability of their deliverables, and the need to take a more holistic approach to the needs of trafficking victims. Additionally, we created a more comprehensive literature review and modified our deliverables. Upon completion, our team established five major conclusions concerning how to best reach service providers and the gaps and barriers that still exist in trafficking cases.

2018-2019 Capstone Project

In order to expand on the 2019 findings, we began by validating the prior team's materials. Prior work focused on the resources needed for domestic minor sex trafficking victims, with a specific emphasis on service providers in the Brazos Valley region. The previous team compiled relevant literature and press articles in order to create a resource template for victim services. The template included five domains the group deemed necessary for victim recovery after trafficking. These five domains were identified based on discussions with practitioners and a review of available literature. The domains are: healthcare, legal services, food and shelter, counseling, and employment services. After establishing this template, the team identified relevant service providers across the Brazos Valley region. Ultimately, the team created a one-page listing of relevant providers, phone numbers, addresses, and services specific to the organization that may be of use to trafficking victims. The team intended for the template to be scalable to other counties. In order to fulfill this goal, the team created a skeleton document for replication.

Client Expectations

Our client, the HTTOC of the Texas Attorney General's Office is responsible for the prosecution of sex traffickers in some sex trafficking cases. Specifically, the office prosecutes cases after receiving approval from the jurisdiction in which the case originated. Often, the HTTOC's success in prosecuting cases relies on the availability of survivors to testify against their captors. Trafficking victims, however, may feel uncomfortable about testifying against their trafficker for fear of retribution or due to misunderstandings related to the legal process. For this reason, the HTTOC requested that the previous capstone team create a victim resource and legal processes guide. This guide aimed to clarify the legal process in sex trafficking cases. The previous team created a one-page handout that depicted the prosecution preparation process for trafficking victims. The legal process handout and victim resource template were used by the client as they facilitated citywide immersive training programs throughout the state aimed at raising awareness of the legal process in trafficking cases. In a Beaumont citywide immersive training session, for example, the client equipped first responders, healthcare personnel, hospitality organizations, and community leaders with tools to fight trafficking using the one-page legal guide and resource skeleton. The client requested that our capstone team build upon the initial template and products for similar immersion programs in other municipalities. To meet these needs, we developed a revised handout and a website shell that communities can easily populate with local resources and use to deliver information to victims.

Phase I: Validating the 2018-2019 Team's Work

In order to determine areas that should be expanded upon in our research, we sought to validate prior findings. To identify research areas for expansion or revision, we generated several guiding questions. Those questions included:

- *Do the 2018-2019 findings capture the broad range of literature related to domestic minor sex trafficking?*
- *Did previous work capture the numerous challenges faced by victims of trafficking?*
- *Did the team's deliverables address those challenges?*
- *Did previous work address geographic disparities in access to recovery resources?*

Through this framework, we identified the strengths and weaknesses of the 2018-2019 team's final report and deliverable products.

Methodology I

Validating the Literature Review. To assess the strength of the prior literature review, our team first reviewed the citations to determine their relevance to the scope of our report. The 2018-2019 team collected a variety of sources to build a narrative on the magnitude of domestic minor sex trafficking. This narrative focused heavily on healthcare provision and communication theory. However, a review of the literature led our team to find that many other services affect the recovery of sex trafficking victims. Thus, in our report, we aimed to diversify the range of service providers to include case management, counseling, housing, and other services.

Validating the Resource Guide. After assessing the literature review, we analyzed the handout, website, and service provider list created by the previous team. In order to validate the products, our team called the service providers mentioned in the products. These calls helped our team determine if the listed services adequately meet the needs of human trafficking victims. The previous team aimed to identify service providers for all trafficking victims; however, due to the diverse demographics of victims, some services were targeted to specific victim populations. With this fact in mind, we expanded on the previous team's resource template to determine if providers were capable of assisting victims of various demographic backgrounds, including language and residency status. This process allowed us to determine the strengths and weaknesses of the 2018-2019 products. We found the team's depiction of the legal pathway and victim needs particularly strong, but also identified areas for expansion through our project. One major goal was to incorporate case management and resources for international victims into our findings, as these areas were not addressed in prior work.

Validating Processes for Resource Guide Formation. A primary goal of this project was to create a scalable resource guide for sex trafficking victims. To test the scalability of the previous product, we used the prior team's methods for finding service providers in two previously unexplored counties: Montgomery and Waller. These counties are located north and northwest of Houston, respectively, and are considered small and large counties by population. We chose these two counties in order to test the scalability of the resource guide in different settings. A detailed explanation of how these two counties compare to the counties studied by the 2018-2019 team can be found in Appendix D (County Selection).

After identifying suitable counties for our analysis, we replicated the previous team's processes and consulted with our client to determine new ways to find information. First, we identified service providers through internet searches, the 2018-2019 team's preferred method. Identifying accurate resource information through internet searches proved difficult for our team. We found that many sources were inaccurately described online; often we were unable to properly determine requirements for services or services offered by providers. In consultation with our client, the client suggested utilizing networks of service providers to develop a deeper understanding of service delivery across counties. Through consultation and product validation, we revised our approach to identifying providers and adjusted our methodology (further discussed in Findings I and Methodology II).

Findings and Conclusions I - Validation of 2018-2019 Products

Our team formed three major conclusions regarding the efficacy of the previous capstone product:

- 1.1 *The 2018-2019 literature review was incomplete in explaining the needs of, and service provision for, human trafficking victims.*
- 1.2 *When contacted, service providers included in the resource guide had varying degrees of willingness to accept trafficking victims and tended to distance their organization from association with sex trafficking victims.*
- 1.3 *Overall, the 2018-2019 approach made headway identifying service providers but was not holistic enough to provide for all victim needs.*

These initial findings and, ultimately, the conclusions drawn from them, allowed us to refine our goals, discuss potential improvements with our client, and create complete and relevant products. Initial findings and conclusions are discussed in detail below.

Conclusion 1.1: The Need for an Expanded Literature Review. Through careful review of prior work, our team identified areas to expand the 2018-2019 literature review. First, the sources used in the literature review did not always focus on the research questions. Although sources used provided context for trafficking as a healthcare and humanitarian issue, the review lacked information regarding best practices for service providers, an important emerging area of sex trafficking research. Moreover, most of the sources provided did not discuss potential victim needs or how to best address those needs. Second, the 2018-2019 team's literature review focused on theories for healthcare provision and communication rather than on victims. Our purpose, refined by client request, was based directly on victims' needs and how to best address these needs. In order to more adequately address the needs of victims and strategies to address them, we expanded our literature search to create a review that better addressed client expectations. This will be discussed in Phase II.

Conclusion 1.2: The Need for Product and Process Revision. While validating the 2018-2019 resource guide, our team discovered that many previously identified service providers were unaware of their inclusion in the guide or lacked the capacity to accommodate all trafficking victims. This conclusion was formed by multiple findings. First, most of the organizations on the resource list indicated that they were unaware of their inclusion in the resource guide. This may be a result of frequent staffing changes, which appeared common among service providers in the Brazos Valley region. Second, many of the providers listed had restrictions on services based on citizenship status, state residency, and identification requirements. These restrictions were particularly prominent in regard to international victims, potentially due to legal restrictions placed upon service providers in serving undocumented victims. Third, several organizations either no longer existed or were unwilling to serve trafficking victims. In many cases, individuals working with the organizations were uncomfortable discussing trafficking or using the term "trafficking victims" to refer to potential clients. Because of this, we needed to begin using language, such as "victims of violence," in order to make service providers more comfortable sharing information with us. Finally, by attempting to replicate the 2018-2019's resource guide formation process for Montgomery and Waller counties, we discovered that their process of using informal internet searches left gaps in provider discovery and data collection. For example, providers did not always include qualifications or requirements for services on websites. Through these findings, we concluded that different methods for resource list creation were necessary to generate an accurate and comprehensive resource guide. These changes will be discussed in Phase II of this paper.

Conclusion 1.3: The Need for a More Holistic Approach. Through our validation process, we concluded that the 2018-2019 approach was not holistic enough to provide trafficking victims with all necessary services. We came to this conclusion through multiple findings. Although the 2018-2019 report discussed the need for increased collaboration of service providers, the resource list split service provision into five distinct categories: food and shelter, healthcare, counseling, legal services, and employment. True integration and coordination of service provision would require an increased focus on case management and organizations which provide multiple services or assist victims in coordinating with numerous service providers. Second, the 2018-2019 literature review largely focused on human trafficking in specific domains, such as in healthcare adjacent fields, rather than as a societal issue that has multiple ramifications for individuals and society. These findings led us to adopt a more holistic approach to our own work and had direct consequences for not only our methodology, but also the products created by our team, as discussed in Phase II.

Phase II: Creation of Processes and Products

Knowledge gained from the validation of the previous team's work informed the second stage of our research and product formation process. We chose to expand the literature review to include information regarding the ways in which services are used by victims. Of special import was the way case management, the sixth domain identified in the victim recovery literature, was used to provide networks of services for victims. These insights gave shape to updated deliverables for our client. The new approach included revised questions asked to service providers, such as if they offer foreign language services, and expanded models to assist our client in serving victims to the greatest extent possible. In total, this phase led to findings about continuing service gaps and victim needs and allowed us to form recommendations for best practices in serving trafficking victims.

Methodology II

Writing the Literature Review. The 2018-2019 team built a case for the needs of domestic minor sex trafficking victims in Texas, but, at our client's request, we expanded our research to include the needs of international victims, which also led us to research the needs of special populations. Our goal was to capture a more substantial and thorough review of a variety of literature sources addressing these populations. Additionally, our team added a section on barriers to serving victims and how these can be overcome. This research led us to discover the importance of case management, or integrated systems for managing victims' cases, and its role in ensuring adequate services for victims. Our goal in expanding the literature review was to make the deliverables more applicable to a variety of victims.

Developing Deliverables. Based on research conducted for the literature review, our team chose to expand the handout and website to be inclusive of the specific needs of a larger range of victims. In regard to the legal pathway, we considered the difficulties international victims may face in understanding the United States legal system. From this consideration, we developed a pathway that included specifications for international victims and translated key terms into Spanish for Spanish-speaking victims. Additionally, to incorporate relevant resources on the handout, our team modified the categorization of services. The revised handout includes two major categories: case management and resources specific to meeting a certain need (housing or legal, for example). In order to assist victims unfamiliar with the English language, the handout includes graphic icons with descriptions for each icon in English and Spanish. These modifications allow larger audiences of victims to utilize the products.

In regard to deliverable products, our mission was to create a skeleton website and resource guide scalable to any county in Texas. To demonstrate the capacity of each skeleton document, we created sample websites and resource guides for Montgomery and Waller County. In accordance with our findings surrounding the 2018-2019 team's products, we attempted to utilize coalitions and provider networks to create resource lists, rather than solely using internet searches and phone calls. However, due to time and resource constraints, we ultimately continued utilizing informal searches and phone calls at this stage of the process. After determining which resources to include for the two counties, we developed a handout for each county with location-specific case managers and other resources. With guidance from our client, our team also modified the presentation of trafficking myths on the legal process document. Myths were included on the handout, along with facts refuting the myths, to dispel common misunderstandings regarding the legal process. Previously, myths were presented as underlined, bolded statements and were not easily distinguishable from facts. The myths have been reworded, and we established more distinction between the presentation of myths versus facts. Lastly, based on conversations with the HTTOC, we developed a new website shell that can be easily distributed to and completed by local communities. We developed a user manual for completing skeleton products to allow for a seamless transition of ownership from our team to our client.

Findings and Conclusions II

By expanding the 2018–2019 team’s work to create our processes, report, and products, our team formed four major conclusions:

- 2.1 Because of continuous changes in service provider availability, a more sustainable process of resource management is required.
- 2.2 Varying levels of resource availability determine communities’ ability to address trafficking and provide victims with services.
- 2.3 Cultural differences, along with differences between legal pathways for domestic and international victims, contribute to international victims’ distinct service needs.
- 2.4 *Geographic disparities in awareness of human trafficking lead to limitations in some communities’ ability to address it.*
- 2.5 *Different goals between law enforcement, prosecution, and service providers contribute to difficulties in effective collaboration throughout prosecution and victim recovery.*

As a result of these conclusions, we formed recommendations that may lead to enhanced legal and wellness outcomes for trafficking victims. We intend to improve victim outcomes through more comprehensive products, allowing victims greater ability to assist our client with the prosecution of traffickers.

Conclusion 2.1: The Need for Sustainable Resource Management. Through the creation of our handout and website, we concluded that there is a need to develop a more sustainable method of managing these products and community resource lists. We came to this conclusion through various findings. First, as discussed previously, informal provider search methods, such as internet searches and phone calls, are inadequate and result in gaps in provision lists. Moreover, the number of providers in an area and information regarding service providers’ availability is continuously in flux. For example, through our initial searches, we found providers whose contact information changed, providers that no longer existed, and new providers that formed since the 2018–2019 team completed their search. Additionally, other issues, such as translators leaving their positions, created scenarios in which previously provided services were no longer available. Finally, neither the Bush School nor HTTOC possesses the resources to continuously manage and update state-wide resource lists. In accordance with these findings, HTTOC recommended utilizing anti-trafficking coalitions for resource management. Utilization of pre-established networks in a given area to manage the website, handout, and resource lists can result in more accurate and reliable products. A thorough list of these coalitions can be found in Appendix E (Texas Coalitions). Thus, the utilization of these organizations can meet the need for more sustainable resource management.

Conclusion 2.2: Resource Availability and Its Effects on Service Provision. Through our literature review, discussions with our client, and conversations with service providers, we concluded that geographic disparities in resource availability result in service gaps. This conclusion was formed based on multiple findings. First, in our attempt to create resource guides for Montgomery and Waller counties, we identified dramatic differences in the overall number of services available. Additional research revealed a second, stark difference that may lead to between-county resource availability. Across the United States, localities may reject the issue of sex trafficking altogether, perpetuating notions that sex trafficking is nonexistent in the area (Gallucci, 2019). If agencies do not consider trafficking a pervasive issue or recognize a need to address it, they cannot collaborate with other organizations to provide resources for victims. Further, our research showed that certain areas within the state of Texas—generally more urban areas—have higher concentrations of resources available to victims than others. The literature suggests that these resources vary in their ability to serve especially vulnerable populations such as children, at-risk groups, and non-English speakers. Although certain regions have coalitions specifically aimed at addressing human trafficking and helping victims, other regions do not. In this way, some areas of the state have both fewer resources for trafficking victims and fewer opportunities for collaboration between providers that do exist. These factors lead to gaps in service provision.

Conclusion 2.3: Differences in Domestic and International Legal Pathways Affect the Needs of International Victims. Initial conversations with our client and subsequent reviews of academic and government reports led us to conclude that differences between legal pathways for international and domestic victims exist, and those differences create additional needs for international victims. One finding that led us to this conclusion was that, as discussed in the international needs portion of this report, international trafficking victims are able to apply for, and have the possibility of being granted, a T-visa. While T-visas have the potential to provide access to the urgent services required by trafficking victims, the process of obtaining them is lengthy and fewer T-visa applications are approved with each passing year (DOS, 2018). The T-visa application process may generate additional fear among international victims. For example, if a victim is denied a T-visa, he or she can be deported (USCIS, 2018). Additionally, language barriers create difficulties for prosecutors, service providers, and law enforcement agents in communicating with international victims about the legal process. International victims need lawyers who are aware of the international legal ramifications of their cases and who can either speak the victim's home language or provide translation services. Finally, we identified a general lack of information regarding the legal process for international victims. We found evidence that international victims require specific visas and a well-trained legal team, but our sources were unable to provide further information. In combination, these findings led us to conclude that relevant stakeholders can more effectively serve international victims if they have a comprehensive understanding of the specific needs of the population. In order to adjust for the unique components of international cases, we created a new version of the 2018-2019 team's legal pathway graphic to help make legal processes more transparent for international victims. This graphic is shown in Appendix A (Trafficking Legal Pathway).

Conclusion 2.4: Lack of Understanding of Human Trafficking Leads to Limited Community Engagement. Conversations with our client, in tandem with our research and literature review, led us to conclude that some communities lack an understanding of human trafficking. This lack of understanding leads to shortcomings in communities' ability to address trafficking. An example of misunderstanding trafficking victims occurs when law enforcement agencies misapprehend trafficking victims, even children, as prostitutes (Korte, 2019). While this originates in problematic policies that allow for the arrests of victims as criminals, law enforcement officers may still misapprehend trafficking victims when they have the discretion to do otherwise. Ultimately, this shows an overall lack of understanding of the consent in human trafficking. Additionally, as discussed previously, our initial conversations with service providers portrayed their discomfort with using the terms "trafficking" or "trafficking victim." Victims' needs cannot be met if service providers lack understanding of trafficking and the ways trafficking affects victims. While some service providers may be uncomfortable with terms like "trafficking," others who regularly use it may misuse other terms such as "rescue" and "restore." "Rescue" is the identification and removal of a victim from trafficking, and "restore" typically refers to the intended process and outcome of aftercare services for victims (Preble & Black, 2020; Gonzalez, Spencer, & Stith, 2019; Muraya & Fry, 2016; Hodge, 2014).

The literature revealed that many anti-trafficking service providers use these terms without consideration of the paternalism and problematic power dynamics that may accompany them. Similarly, few researchers have surveyed victims about their needs, and the frequency in which service providers directly ask victims about their impression of needs is unclear. When the perspective of trafficking victims is not included in the language or narratives of anti-trafficking efforts, this can result in a limited understanding of trafficking and victims' needs. These findings, and the conclusion that a lack of understanding of trafficking persists in some communities, highlight the need for continued training and community engagement.

Conclusion 2.5: The Different Goals of Stakeholders Responding to Trafficking. All organizational stakeholders that recognize trafficking as a problem desire to combat it; however, organizational differences in approach, along with divergence in desired outcomes, create conflict. We found that prosecutors like the HTTOC seek witness involvement throughout a trial because this is often imperative for a successful case against traffickers. However, prosecutors seek this involvement despite the fact that victims' involvement will necessitate exposure to trauma, closeness to their perpetrators, and changing court dates which lead to prolonged cases. Service providers may be willing to help prepare victims for trial, but their goal is not the conviction of the trafficker. Rather, they focus on victim recovery, which tends to involve a focus on assisting victims as they transition toward a new phase in life. On a broader level, the criminal justice system and social service agencies have other objectives they can achieve independently of each other, which makes it difficult for them to collaborate effectively toward common anti-trafficking goals (Gallagher and Surtees, 2012). Ultimately, these findings led us to conclude that differing and sometimes conflicting goals result in a process that can add challenges to victims' experiences, as well as barriers to effective and unified collaboration against trafficking.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Upon further review of the research, we identified multiple areas for improvement regarding policies and communication in the human trafficking domain. These recommendations are applicable to service providers, government agencies, and community members. Additionally, because human trafficking is a complex social issue, we recommend further research into best practices in relation to trafficking prosecution and victim recovery.

General Recommendations: Enhance Training and Communication, Fill Service Gaps

Our research suggests a need to re-emphasize many of the 2018-2019 capstone team's recommendations for improvements in human trafficking victim identification and service provision. First, there is a continuing need to enhance training for all stakeholders involved in addressing human trafficking. Enhanced training is necessary for identifying trafficking victims and following best practices for meeting victim needs post-identification. This training should occur within organizations that specifically exist to assist victims, such as government agencies and nonprofit organizations. In addition to improvements for organizations that currently offer trafficking training, efforts should be made to provide training to community members that have a high likelihood of interacting with trafficking victims. For example, general training should be available to teachers and school administrators, healthcare providers, and law enforcement officials. Comprehensive training could lead to earlier and increased identification of victims and improved service provision, and therefore better long-term outcomes.

Second, we emphasize the 2018-2019 team's recommendation to encourage open communication between service providers, government agencies, and law enforcement. Generally, these actors should work toward improving partnerships, collaboration, and communication with a common, victim-centered approach that can help to relieve conflict caused by differing organizational goals. Victims' services are less effective if they are negatively affected by discontinuities in approaches across organizations. To facilitate open communication, we recommend the use of our resource guide and regular meetings between these groups. Challenges in open communication may arise if organizations use differing vocabulary when discussing needs of victims. In order to streamline communication between providers, communities should develop a consistent lexicon when referring to victims and the services they require. Opening communication channels between those who work to assist trafficking victims would limit service gaps, thus improving victim outcomes and their ability to testify against traffickers.

Finally, use of our resource guide can aid communities in understanding the needs of victims and where services may be lacking. Our guide groups essential victim services and allows communities to match organizations with each service category. As communities fill out the guide, they can identify underserved areas. If communities partner with neighbors, they may be able to fill these gaps. Additionally, if communities are financially able, they may be able to better target sources towards under resourced areas. Provision of a comprehensive array of services can improve victims' wellness outcomes. Our guide aims to target essential service areas through its groupings, which allow communities to pinpoint areas for improvement. Following these recommendations to enhance training, create a network of service providers, and to identify and address existing service gaps may help facilitate better outcomes for trafficking victims.

Recommendations for Our Client

As a significant force in the human trafficking field, the HTTOC has a responsibility to encourage best practices for addressing trafficking. We recommend that the HTTOC take steps to enhance communication and collaboration between stakeholder agencies and organizations. To further improve outcomes for trafficking victims, the HTTOC can make broader appeals by using financial and emotional arguments in order to ensure that trafficking is recognized as an important problem.

Recommendation #1: Utilize Coalitions as Part of an Anti-Trafficking Task Force

Sex trafficking is a multi-faceted issue, and effectively protecting victims and prosecuting traffickers requires collaboration between service providers, community stakeholders, and law enforcement. Victims must be identified before law enforcement can identify and prosecute traffickers. With proper training, community stakeholders can detect unusual activity and behavior that may signify human trafficking in the community. For example, because children are at increased risk for victimization, teachers can be trained to understand students at-risk for trafficking. Doctors can also be trained to identify signs of trafficking in patients. This means that the establishment of a task force of well-informed community members, specifically existing human trafficking coalitions, can strengthen communication between service providers and law enforcement. Research finds that service providers and law enforcement are prone to miscommunication while victims are receiving care and when assisting with the prosecution of traffickers. A task force of trained members of existing trafficking coalitions could provide increased community training and thus allow more open communication between victim advocates. By establishing such a task force, the HTTOC can more effectively identify and serve victims, while ultimately prosecuting their traffickers.

Recommendation #2: Build the Task Force Strategically

In order to develop a strong and comprehensive statewide task force, the HTTOC can compile a list of successful community leaders and coalitions that currently work to alleviate the effects of sex trafficking. Ultimately, these stakeholders can join the task force at the invitation of the HTTOC. Stakeholders can include coalition members and prosecutors from the HTTOC. These leaders can also recruit relevant community members that may interact with trafficking victims, such as teachers, nurses, and service providers, to join the task force and raise awareness about trafficking. Together, the task force can communicate to develop a standard protocol for identifying and reporting trafficking. This task force will allow more cohesion in trafficking identification and assistance for victims, which can lead to the more effective prosecution of traffickers. In addition to the establishment of a task force, the HTTOC will need to ensure that roles within the task force are stable if members leave their organizations while the task force is active. To do this, the HTTOC can designate a position in the office that will be the main point of contact for the task force. By establishing a position or designating this responsibility to a preexisting position, the HTTOC can ensure that the task force will remain active and allow consistent communication between task force members if the office experiences personnel changes.

Recommendation #3: Appeal to a Broader Audience by Utilizing Financial Appeals in Addition to Emotional Appeals

The HTTOC's primary state-wide campaign against human trafficking is titled "Be The One," and utilizes emotional appeals to mobilize Texans to participate in the fight against human trafficking (AG of Texas, 2020). Although the campaign provides strong emotional appeals, it does not include financial or other petitions that could potentially convince a broader audience that human trafficking is a problem. The campaign includes a fifty-minute video that features stories of trafficked individuals and how they were able to become survivors. These stories are incredibly emotional and, for individuals who are convinced by sentimental arguments, would garner broad support for HTTOC's anti-trafficking agenda. However, the campaign largely excludes other types of appeals that might motivate a broader audience to participate. For example, many individuals are more swayed by monetary arguments than they are by individual stories. For this reason, it would be important to include fiscal appeals and facts, such as the fact that minor youth sex trafficking costs Texas \$6.6 billion per year or that forced labor generates \$150.2 billion per year globally (Busch-Armendariz et al, 2016; Financial Action Task Force, 2018). Utilizing additional types of appeals would allow the HTTOC to gain support from a broader audience and potentially convince a greater number of community leaders that human trafficking is an important problem deserving of their attention.

Recommendations for Service Providers

Among law enforcement, prosecutors, and other organizational actors addressing trafficking, service providers are often the experts in victim-centered approaches and care. With this unique role, service providers have the responsibility—and greatest ability—to recognize and address special needs, as well as communicate those realities to other organizations they work with and the communities they work in. The following recommendations address ways in which service providers can begin or continue to pursue the most effective service provision and community engagement in the effort to fight trafficking.

Recommendation #1: Fill Service Gaps for Specialized Needs

Service providers should work to address the special needs of vulnerable populations and those that speak other languages. We realize that many service providers would gladly expand into these areas if they had the resources, and we hope that resources, services, and service networks will continue to strengthen and remember these populations as they continue to develop. Other providers remain unaware of these special needs and can more effectively serve victims after they have recognized unique needs. While many providers may not have the ability or mission to provide intensive, long-term care for individuals with layered vulnerabilities and traumas, there are many small steps that most organizations can take to better provide for beneficiaries. These steps can be as simple as posting inclusive, non-discriminatory language and messaging in an office or care center (Boukli & Renz, 2019). Similarly, permanent bilingual and multilingual services may be feasible for some organizations, but not all. Where appropriate, language options should be available when a provider's phone number is called. Throughout our research process, for example, we found several service providers utilizing bilingual phone services. Additionally, organizations with the ability to hire and keep bilingual and multilingual staff should do so. Finally, even in organizations where the staff is multilingual, they may still encounter victims who do not speak a language that is represented in the organization. A possibility for these organizations is tele-interpretation and online interpretation services, such as Language Line Solutions, which is currently used by some Houston hospitals. Ultimately, as resources permit, service providers should work to establish and strengthen inclusive services.

Recommendation #2: Challenge the Power Dynamics Currently Present in Service Provision

Commonly used terminology in trafficking services can disempower victims and disrupt their recovery process. For this reason, service providers should discontinue their use of certain terms and narratives that may contribute to problematic power dynamics between providers and victims. The literature review noted the need to critically reflect upon the standard use of the word ‘rescue’ and the paternalistic nature of the term. Additionally, we discovered common use of the word ‘restore’. The literature suggests that there is a need for service providers to question that term as well. Our research seems to confirm the one-sided type of relationship these terms imply; it is unclear whether social service providers actively ask and engage victims regarding their opinions on personal needs, or if service providers tend to assume what those needs are. There may be opportunities for service providers to take a more collaborative and empowering approach with victims in steps toward a new life far removed from trafficking. Beyond surveying victims regarding their needs, collaboration between victims and providers can manifest itself in choosing more thoughtful language and uplifting, diverse narratives. Empowering narratives from survivors are frequently termed a “survivor-led storytelling paradigm.” These paradigms challenge the sometimes paternalistic, racialized, and gendered undertones in social service provision for those who have been trafficked (Hu, 2019).

Recommendation #3: Emphasize the Importance of Anti-Trafficking Initiatives at the Community Level

Social service providers and other nonprofits may be the best leaders for shifting community mindsets to emphasize a greater understanding of trafficking. As described in the findings and conclusions portions of this paper, human trafficking may not be recognized as a priority in all communities, leading to the need for comprehensive education, training, and community engagement. Across the State of Texas, a number of well-established nonprofits have taken the initiative to provide anti-trafficking training to other nonprofit leaders. For instance, if anti-trafficking organizations exist within a community, they may take initiative to train and build connections with other, more peripheral, service organizations, such as food pantries, workforce agencies, or housing assistance groups. As demonstrated through our research, in some cases, these peripheral organizations are uncomfortable accepting trafficking victims, and are averse to terms like “trafficking” and “trafficking victim.” Collaboration with specific anti-trafficking organizations can shift providers’ feelings of discomfort in treating trafficking victims to a more comfortable perspective, in which providers perceive trafficking victims as simply other beneficiaries of their services. Additionally, these organizations could be more confident in knowing that they have a network of other engaged providers to assist with services outside of their scope. Training social service providers that are already established in the community could also serve as an initial step to building awareness of trafficking and engaging community residents. Finally, other initiatives that can emphasize the importance of trafficking awareness include campaigns like ‘Not In My City,’ led by the Brazos Valley area branch of an anti-trafficking nonprofit called Unbound. The ‘Not in My City’ campaign involves events in which the public is trained to recognize trafficking and provide trafficking awareness posters to local businesses.

Recommendations for Law Enforcement

Law enforcement personnel are often among the first actors to encounter and identify trafficking victims. Because of their crucial role in identifying victims, these agencies can more effectively serve trafficking victims when they are aware of the complexity of trafficking cases and victim needs. The recommendations provided below will assist those agencies in identifying best practices for meeting those needs.

Recommendation #1: Focus on Victims' Needs as Much as the Prosecution of Perpetrators

As emphasized by the Literature Review and Findings II portions of this paper, law enforcement agencies tend to focus on participation in trafficking as a crime, rather than on trafficking victims' need for services. Although law enforcement should continue its investigation and apprehension of trafficking perpetrators, law enforcement agencies should broaden their approaches to being more victim-centered. For example, rather than charging trafficking victims as prostitutes, or solely utilizing victims as witnesses to testify against traffickers, law enforcement and prosecution agencies should work directly with service providers and provider networks to ensure that victims' needs are met. These provider networks would be able to advise law enforcement agencies on potential best practices for handling trafficking cases. One way of implementing such an organizational change would be to execute changes in language use and local law enforcement policies. Once law enforcement agencies and service providers work together to meet victims' needs, victims are more likely to be stable witnesses in trafficking prosecution cases.

Recommendation #2: Ensure the Use of Appropriate Language and Policies

Utilization of victim-friendly policies and language can allow law enforcement agencies to better assist in victim identification and recovery. One primary example of a needed change in language is the utilization of the terms "trafficking victim" or "trafficking survivor" rather than "prostitute" or similar words. This shift in language is important because the use of "prostitute" suggests that the individual consented to how they were treated. By definition this is not the case for trafficking victims. Finally, some organizations suggest the use of "sex buyers" rather than "johns," to more accurately explain trafficking scenarios. Further examples of needed language changes have been identified by service providers, who would be better able to explain those changes than we could hope to do in this singular paper. Other important changes include policy changes, such as refraining from charging victims with crimes. One model for implementing this change is the abolition model, which will be more fully explained in the 'recommendations for future research' section. Overall, these policy and language changes will allow law enforcement agencies to alter their culture surrounding trafficking prosecution, and to better serve victims.

Recommendation #3: Devote Adequate Resources to Addressing and Preventing Human Trafficking

Finally, law enforcement agencies in Texas should devote adequate resources to fighting human trafficking through increased education and training, observing successful community models, and partnering with nearby jurisdictions. To encourage increased awareness of human trafficking, law enforcement agencies should finance human trafficking education and training opportunities for officers. Additionally, law enforcement agencies should observe communities that have been successful in addressing trafficking, such as Waco, and use their model as a way to develop new approaches. The Waco model includes a coalition that consists of stakeholders from various fields, such as SANE nurses, nonprofits, and law enforcement. The Waco model uses a collaborative, community oriented approach to raise awareness of human trafficking in central Texas and to educate community members on how to respond to suspected cases of trafficking. This approach has resulted in "more than 200 sex trafficking buyers" being arrested in McLennan County since 2014 (The Heart of Texas Human Trafficking Coalition, 2018). Small communities that, due to lack of funding or personnel, are unable to allocate resources directly to fighting human trafficking, should work with nearby communities, especially larger communities, to find partnerships for law enforcement and service provision. Implementing these measures will allow trafficking to be more adequately addressed, and victims to be found and assisted more quickly.

Recommendations for Future Research

Throughout our research, we identified several crucial, under-researched aspects of sex trafficking. These areas pertain to certain survivor populations, types of service providers, and policy alternatives. Future research can expand upon these areas in order to improve awareness of sex trafficking and enhance survivor outcomes.

Recommendation #1: Research Vulnerable Populations and Prevention Methods

We recommend further research into providers serving vulnerable populations deemed to be high-risk for trafficking victimization. Current research identifies service providers that take proactive measures to improve outcomes of vulnerable populations. These providers, termed preventative service providers, often serve abused children. Preventative service providers work in a proactive way, intending to stop trafficking before vulnerable populations encounter trafficking situations. For this reason, preventative service providers often lack services to treat victims after they have been trafficked. Future research can expand upon these findings to identify comprehensive service providers that treat vulnerable populations pre- and post-trafficking. Our team recommends that future researchers identify service providers that treat both the roots and the results of trafficking in order to provide minors with resources that can be vital to prevention and recovery.

In addition to research on comprehensive providers, we recommend research into vulnerability to sex trafficking. Victims are susceptible to trafficking at a variety of ages and situations, but there is a lack of research regarding the most effective time to implement preventative measures. We recommend identifying vital points in time when minors are more vulnerable to being trafficked, and identifying methods to lower that risk. Our hope is that future researchers will discover ways in which those interacting with minors, such as guardians and educators, can take preventative action against minor sex trafficking.

Recommendation # 2: Research Distinct Populations and Locations

We advise other researchers to look into the specific needs of distinct populations. For example, there is ample research discussing the role of gender, race, and socioeconomic status in regards to trafficking. Our team hopes that future researchers will further investigate these areas to expand the literature. Additionally, emerging research on the impact of the terminology often used by service providers, such as 'rescue' and 'restore', and the narratives they emphasize, which often lack diversity, deserves further investigation. Another topic that came up in our research but could not be fully investigated are trends that exist in locations and communities where service providers are located, why those trends occur, and how service providers can fill provision gaps. This further suggests a lack of research regarding distinct populations and locations, a literature gap which we hope will be addressed in the future.

Recommendation #3: Research Faith-based Organizations

When researching service providers in Brazos, Waller, and Montgomery counties, our team discovered many faith-based organizations that serve trafficking victims and survivors at various stages in their recovery. We recommend that future researchers investigate the ways in which organizations with faith-based missions approach victim recovery. Faith-based organizations are well established within many communities and understand the needs of their communities (Office on Trafficking in Persons, 2019). Future research may also explore the ways in which faith-based organizations advocate for a faith-based lifestyle among their beneficiaries, and how these choices impact a victim's life outcomes.

Recommendation #4: Research Potential Policy Approaches

Our team recommends the exploration of potential policy alternatives, specifically the prohibition, abolition, and legalization approaches. These three differing policy approaches have been considered and implemented in various cities, states, and countries. The prohibition approach prosecutes buyers and traffickers but may also prosecute victims (Pope, 2010). The abolition approach aims to reduce demand for sex buying through the prosecution of buyers and traffickers (Swedish Institute, 2010). The legalization approach suggests legalizing prostitution as a means to regulate the industry and improve the safety of prostitutes (Bretns & Hausbeck, 2005). The adoption of these policy alternatives can result in varying outcomes for perpetrators and victims of sex trafficking.

Recommendation #5: Using Research to Improve Buy-In

Our research has been motivated by a collective desire to build a thoughtful narrative around the topic of minor sex trafficking. As researchers of this topic, we are aware of the atrocities inflicted upon victims, the long recovery process survivors face, and the impact on systems beyond the individual victims. However, our research indicated that many providers and community members do not know the characteristics of trafficking, do not believe it exists, or do not think it is something that impacts them. From these discoveries, we suggest that future researchers identify best practices to bring attention to this issue. If an emotional appeal is not enough to make this issue a priority for certain audiences, bringing attention to the economic and societal impacts may be. Future researchers must work to understand their audience and tailor their appeal to them in order to most effectively communicate the importance of the topic.

CONCLUSION

The exploitation of men, women, and children through international and domestic human trafficking is a multi-billion dollar criminal industry that affects communities across the world, including those in Texas. Fortunately, through the work of the Human Trafficking and Transnational/Organized Crime Section (HTTOC) of the Texas Attorney General's Office and other organizations, the state is making strides to combat this crime. An important aspect of the fight against trafficking is immediate assistance and continued support for those most affected by it: victims.

As demonstrated through the literature review, victims of human trafficking require immediate, intermediate, and ongoing services for dietary, housing, healthcare, and economic needs. Additionally, special populations, including especially at-risk groups and international victims, require services specific to their individual needs. Meeting these needs requires overcoming policy, psychological, and logistical barriers and will be a lengthy process requiring the support of multiple agencies and organizations.

An examination of the literature, discussions with the HTTOC, and subsequent creation of online and hard-copy resource guides allowed us to highlight findings and recommendations that will guide counties and social service providers as they strive to better meet victims' needs. Although the HTTOC is making progress toward increased collaboration with organizations and coalitions state-wide, there is a continued need for enhanced communication between all stakeholders. Relevant stakeholders include law enforcement and government agencies, nonprofit, private, and public service providers, and the HTTOC itself. Further, some communities do not recognize human trafficking as a local problem, even if trafficking occurs within the community. In order to ensure that all communities understand trafficking and prepare for trafficking to occur, we recommend increased training and a wider variety of outreach methods such as task forces and new information campaigns. In combination, these processes will close service gaps and improve victim outcomes.

This report, in conjunction with the online and hard-copy resource guide templates, will assist communities in increasing collaboration between service providers. By emphasizing community management of these tools, we are encouraging communities to assess their existing and needed resources. Through self-management, communities will be more likely to focus on how they can improve upon their existing infrastructure for addressing human trafficking. Moreover, these products can be used by communities of varying sizes and demographics state-wide. Thus, we have broadened our focus from "Flashlight to Searchlight" by expanding the applicability of these tools, and, hopefully, increasing the availability and quality of victim services.

GLOSSARY

*We used the term “victim” throughout the paper to denote the need for services & the extent of harm done. However, we suggest using the term “survivor” in regular usage - it is more empowering and has a better connotation.

Abolitionist Model: This model holds that sex buyers are to blame for sex trafficking. If the buyers are punished, demand for commercially available sex will diminish. Also referenced as The Nordic Model because it reflects the approach followed in Scandinavian countries.

Aftercare Services: The general term used to describe the myriad of services needed by a survivor of commercial sexual exploitation after their emancipation from sexual trafficking.

Case Management: An approach to delivering and monitoring the needs of survivors across all relevant domains. Well-executed case management will stretch from rescue or emancipation until recovery has been achieved. It would be preferred that the same case manager remain in contact during the support time period (Clawson, Dutch, Salomon, & Grace, 2009; Hounmenou & O'Grady, 2019).

Coalitions: Loosely networked organizations that work together to provide services for survivors of human and sex trafficking. Evidence demonstrates these coalitions are heterogeneous with respect to their goals and ideologies. This heterogeneity may cause collaborative organizations to experience tension, especially when ideology plays a strong role (Gerassi & Nichols, 2018).

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC): This phrase is replacing the “domestic minor sex trafficking” phrase. Using the term “trafficking” implies there must be some type of movement of the victim to qualify. CSEC captures a broader picture of the scenario. Sex is being bought and sold using children (Finigan-Carr, Johnson, Pullmann, Stewart, & Fromknecht, 2019).

Committee: A committee is a formal subgroup of a larger organization. Members of a committee focus on specific issues relevant to the larger group. The membership is composed of individuals from different areas of an organization with the expectation they will offer diverse points of view. With respect to sex trafficking, a committee may be found in large service provision organizations, such as one that provides healthcare, education, or job preparation (Grigsby, 2008).

Complex Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (CPTSD): Complex post-traumatic stress disorder results from repeated trauma or victimization. It differs post-traumatic stress disorder in that the perpetrator delivers “prolonged, repeated trauma” where coercion is used (Herman 1992).

Defendant: An individual who is charged with having done something illegal (Capstone Team, 2018 - 2019).

Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST): This term refers to the sex trafficking of children under the age of 18 in the United States. (Capstone Team 2018 - 2019). **Dual Identification:** Girls rescued from trafficking environments are often identified as both the victim and the prostitute. Terms used to identify children in this situation may be described with derogatory and criminal labels. This issue can lead to a “victim-offender overlap.” As more research is developed, there is evidence of terms shifting to describe exploited children in terms of victimhood (Duncan & DeHart, 2019; Kulig & Butler, 2019; McGuire, 2019).

Ecological theory: This theory explains how children develop and interact with their environment. Under the circumstances of sex trafficking, this theory allows for a better understanding of the role played by society, community, interpersonal relationships, and the intrapersonal or individual level (Bronfenbrenner, 1981; Finigan-Carr et al., 2019).

Emancipation: This term applies to the event that signals a victim is free of the control of the trafficker. Emancipation, while similar to the term “rescue,” focuses on the freedom from control, rather than simply being rescued from trafficking (Reid, 2016).

Enmeshment: This term is used to explain why victims stay under the control of a trafficker. Enmeshment is an action which could include any of the following means: pregnancy, devaluation, complicity in crimes, financial control and intimidation (Reid 2016).

Entrapment: Entrapment references the process by which vulnerable youth may be recruited for sex trafficking. Tactics include offers of romance, trust-building activities, isolation, abduction, preying on the intellectually disabled, among other coercive techniques (Reid 2016).

Family Reintegration: The concept of reintegration of a survivor goes beyond reunification and reconciliation. The use of reintegration as a goal implies the survivor has successfully moved beyond their trafficking experience (Pandey, Tewari, & Bhowmick, 2018).

Family Reunification: The reunification of a victim with their family is considered an immediate need to be met. Reunification can be made more difficult if the child already had a difficult relationship with family members. Reunification does not imply reconciliation (Twigg, 2017).

Grand Jury: A jury of a group of citizens who explore and determine if criminal charges should occur from an event (Capstone Team, 2018 - 2019).

Grooming Phase: A predatory tactic that involves befriending an individual to lower their inhibitions and subjecting them to abuse (Capstone Team, 2018 - 2019).

Hidden Population (I): This phrase refers to children in the child protective services arena who are not only victims of sex trafficking, but have the added detriment of falling into the human trafficking population. What makes these children distinctive is their international background. Caseworkers may make mistakes in engaging them if the cultural element of their background is ignored (Fong & Cardoso, 2010).

Hidden Population (II): Hidden population is also used to describe sexually-exploited children who come through the healthcare system. Given that children can be exploited by their own family members, healthcare providers may be unaware of the danger in their lives (Barnert, Iqbal, Brce, Anoshiravani, Kolhatkar, & Greenbaum, 2017).

Human Trafficking: Using fraud, force, or coercion for sexual exploitation, forced labor, or organ harvesting (Capstone Team, 2018 - 2019).

Indictment: A formal accusation that someone has committed a crime (Capstone Team, 2018 - 2019).

Initiation Phase: The initiation phase is similar to the recruitment time period. Runaways, youth-at-risk due to family factors, sexual orientation, or homelessness are sources of vulnerability (Hopper, 2017).

Intimidation: The act of making someone fearful or uncomfortable (Capstone Team, 2018 - 2019).

Law Enforcement: For the purpose of this project, the term “law enforcement” is used to describe the individuals who apprehend people involved in criminal enterprise. These individuals are armed with a badge and weapon who exercise police power.

Legal Enforcement: For the purpose of this project, the term “legal enforcement” is used to describe the individuals who are officers of the court with the power to bring charges against those accused of a crime, empanel grand juries, and pursue prosecution in a court of law.

Maintenance Phase: Whereas enmeshment describes the tactics of the trafficker to keep a girl in the sex trafficking milieu, maintenance phase refers to the time period when enmeshment takes place (Preble, 2019).

Network: A network is composed of actors which have strong or weak ties that allow them to transmit information and, potentially, share resources. The goal is collaboration and support (Brass, Galaskiewicz, Greve, & Tsai, 2004, Schwarz et al., 2018).

Polyvictimization: Victims of sex trafficking often come from vulnerable populations. These children have frequently faced trauma long before they recruited into the commercial sexual exploitation through familial abuse or other systematic sources of abuse (Hopper, 2017).

Preventive Service Providers: A preventive service provider is one who encounters an at-risk for trafficking individual before they enter into the situation. Informing service providers of at-risk factors and behaviors can act as an intervention to keep minors from becoming victims. Research indicates risk factors are necessary, but not sufficient to entrap a person into becoming a trafficking victim.

Prevention: With respect to sex trafficking, researchers have identified a number of at-risk factors that appear in the stories of sex trafficking victims. Prevention is defined here as the ability to recognize these risk factors and to intervene in such a way as to shield a potential victim from falling prey to traffickers (Schwarz, et al., 2018).

Prosecutor: The lawyer who tries to prove that a defendant is guilty of a crime (Capstone Team 2018 - 2019).

Recruitment: This concept aligns with the initiation phase. It is during the recruitment phase when the trafficker appeals to the soon-to-be victim by offering support, resources, and affection (Hopper, 2017).

Rescue Phase: This phase occurs as the victim is exiting the trafficking situation and aligns most closely with the removal of the victim by law enforcement. It can be traumatic (Preble & Black, 2020).

Rescue, Recovery, and Reintegration: These descriptors match with the framework of immediate, intermediate, and long-term. This terminology offers more nuance and references activity rather than simply a temporal perspective (Muraya & Fry, 2016).

Restoration: This term references the process of returning a victim to psychological wellness (Hodge, 2014; Gonzalez, Spencer, & Stith, 2019).

Rhetoric of Trafficking: The need for society to see victims in a clean and pure way which contrasts with the reality of the lives of victims (Luminais, Lovell, and McGuire 2019).

SANE Nurse: Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner; a registered nurse who received special training to conduct exams of sexual assault victims (Capstone Team 2018 - 2019).

Service Providers: The term “service providers” refers to any individual, organization, church, non-profit or organization. The types of services vary in type, length of delivery, and the intensity of provision and reflect the numerous needs of a survivor (Clawson & Dutch, 2009).

Socio-Ecological Framework: This framework, based on ecological theory, incorporates social norms in the construction of risk factors for sex trafficking (Finigan-Carr, et al. 2019).

Stakeholder: An individual or group that has an interest in an organization, policy, concept, or event (Capstone Team 2018 - 2019).

Suicide Ideation: this term refers to a person who has contemplated suicide, thought about how to die by suicide or has confided to anyone the intent to commit suicide (Frey, Middleton, Gattis, & Fulginiti, 2019).

Survivor-led Storytelling Paradigm: The cry for “survivor-led storytelling paradigm” results from the plethora of misleading descriptions created by social service providers exhorting their success in helping survivors gain back their lives. The conflict is that the narratives told by social service providers focus less on the survivors’ stories. Instead, researchers discovered the service providing collaborators tend to focus on their role in the success of a survivor (Hu, 2019).

Task Force: A task force is formed with a specific charge from a larger organization to examine an issue or address an opportunity. The task force is armed with personnel and resources to solve a problem. At the completion of the work the task force is disbanded. In the context of sex trafficking, a task force might be found in organizations that want to study how their businesses might be affected by the crime (Grigsby, 2008).

Testify: To make a statement under oath based on personal knowledge as an example of evidence (Capstone Team, 2018 - 2019).

“The Life”: The subculture of sex trafficking. Girls, and sometimes boys, are under the control of a pimp to the degree that they cannot function outside “the life.” Even after rescue, a victim might return to “the life” because she knows nothing else, experiences a substance-related relapse, or is unable to obtain financial resources (see Shared Hope for additional terminology. <https://sharedhope.org/the-problem/trafficking-terms/>).

Transnational crime: Crimes that cross national borders (Capstone Team, 2018 - 2019).

Trauma-Bonding: This strong emotional tie occurs between two people when there is abuse and an imbalance of power (Hopper, 2017).

Trauma-Coercive Bonding: This type of bonding goes beyond the emotional tie. Not only does abuse and a power imbalance exist in the dyad, but the abuse and manipulation continues for long periods of time. Coupled with already dysfunctional experiences, children who are the recipients of this type of abuse and duration may be unable to ever make a full recovery (Sanchez, Speck, & Patrician, 2019).

Trauma-Informed Care: Care provision that takes into consideration the experience of violence on a victim’s development (Elliott, Bjelajac, Falot, Markoff, & Reed, 2005).

Traumagenic Model: This model examines the relationships across traumatic sexualization, stigmatization, betrayal, and powerlessness on the development and recovery from sex trafficking (Finkelhor & Browne, 1985; Finigan-Carr et al., 2019).

Witness: A person who sees an event, such as a crime or accident occur (Capstone Team, 2018 2019).

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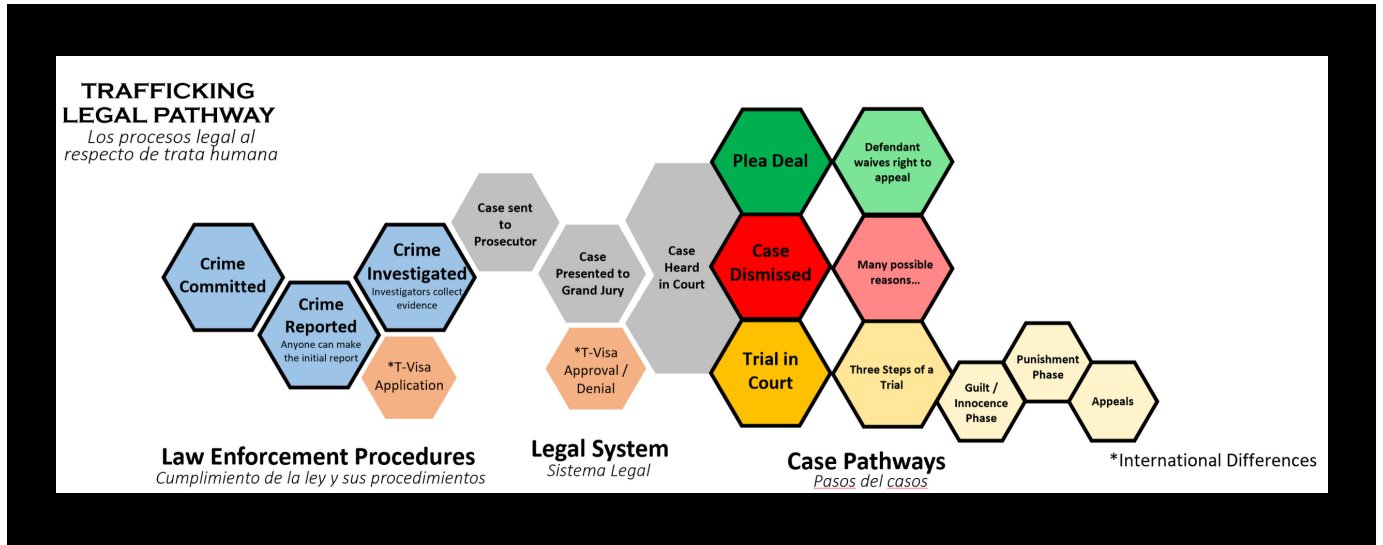
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APPENDIX A: TRAFFICKING LEGAL PATHWAY



APPENDIX B: WEBSITE GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

2020

Website Guidance Document

PREPARED BY: THE BUSH SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT AND
PUBLIC SERVICE CAPSTONE

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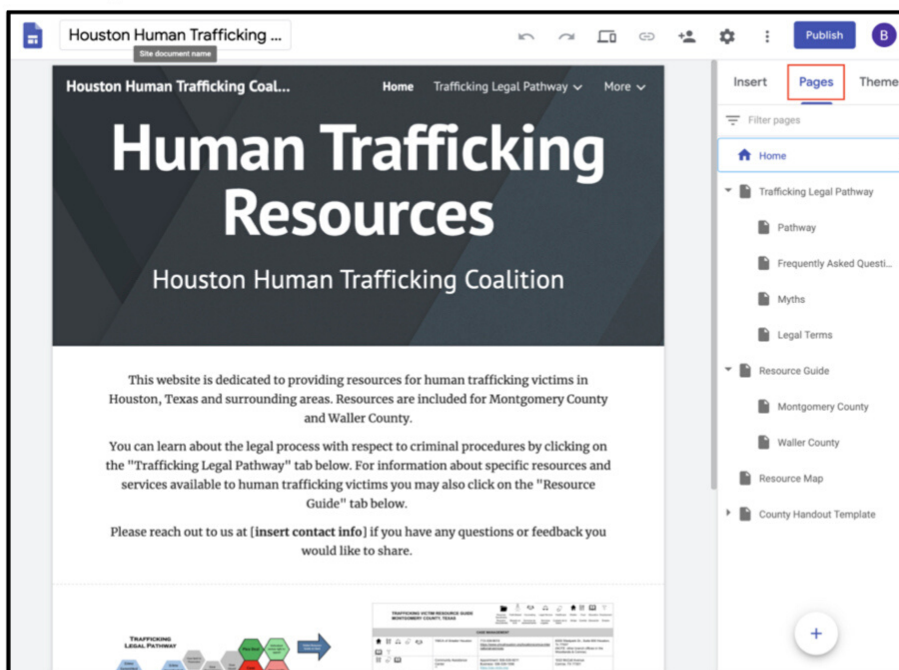
INTRODUCTION TO THE WEBSITE

Navigating the Guidance Document

- Links to each portion are provided in the Table of Contents. You can use these to skip to the portion you need help with, or you can follow along with the guidance document since it follows the order of the website pages.
- Screenshots are included to make the document easier to follow. The part of the screenshot that is referenced in the instructions is outlined by a red rectangle.

Navigating Pages

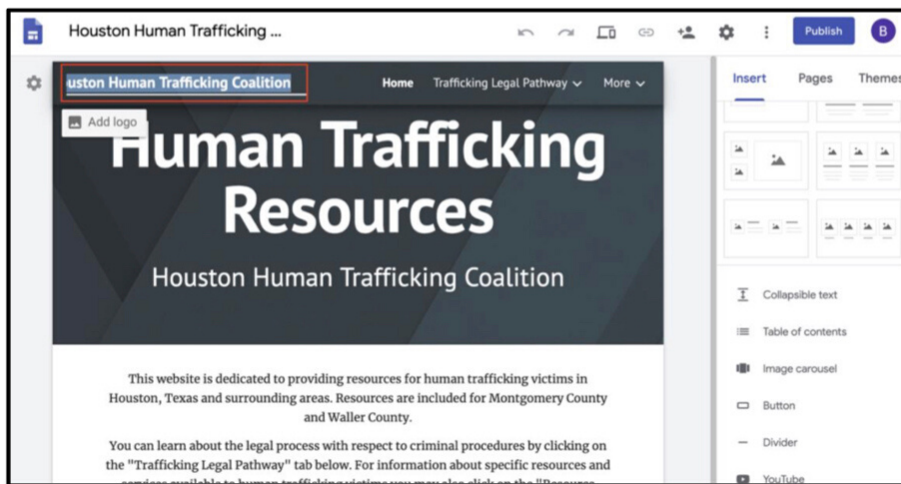
1. The template will automatically open to the home page. To navigate through other pages, go to the "Pages" tab in the side panel. From there, you can click on the webpage title that you would like to navigate to.



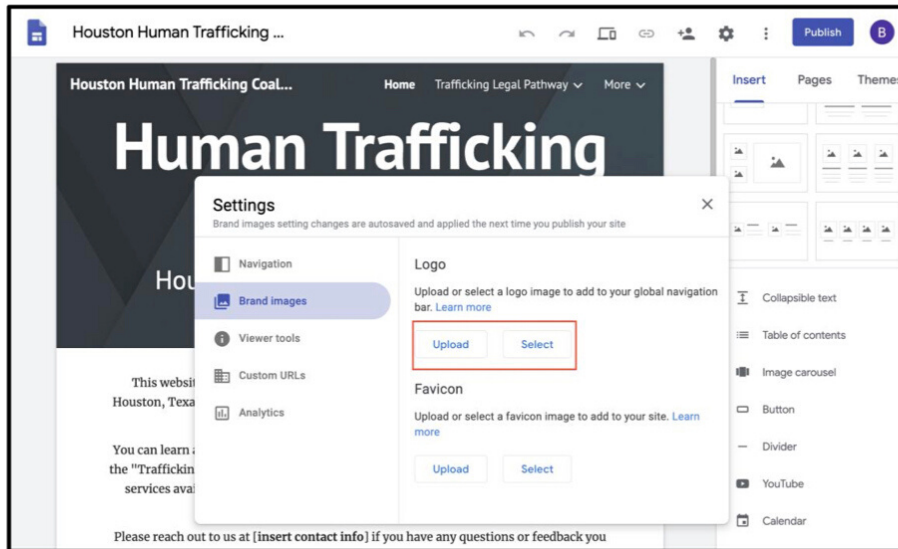
HOME

Editing the Title and Navigation Bar

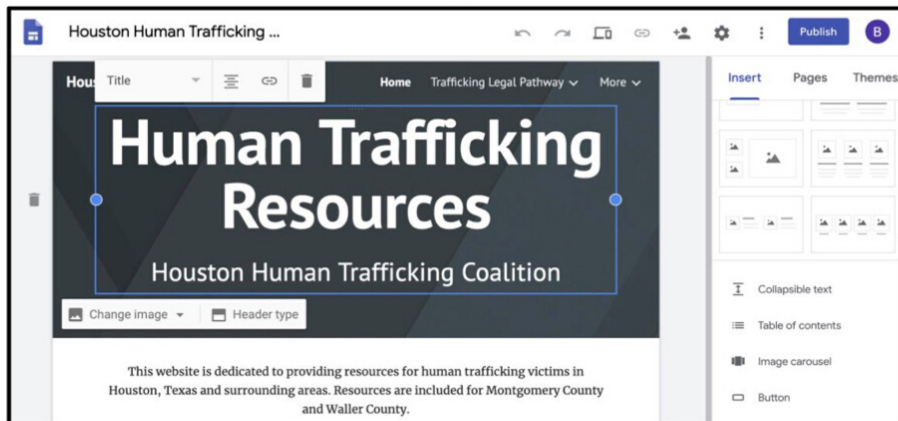
1. The first section of the home page is the title. You will need to change the title in the navigation bar and the main title. To change the title in the navigation bar, click on the portion that says, "Houston Human Trafficking Coalition", delete this title and place the name of your county or coalition.



2. You may also add a logo specific for your county or coalition by selecting “Add logo” that appears when you click the navigation bar title. This will open a pop up where you can choose to upload your logo. The logo and title you add will appear at the top of every page on your website.

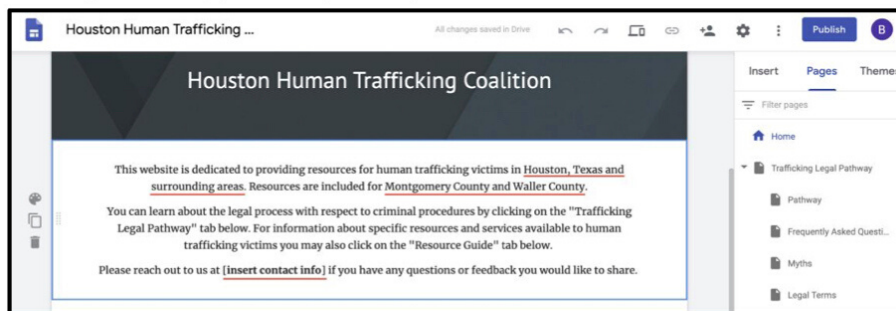


3. To edit the main title, click on the text “Human Trafficking Resources Houston Human Trafficking Coalition”. This will select the text box, allowing you to edit the title.



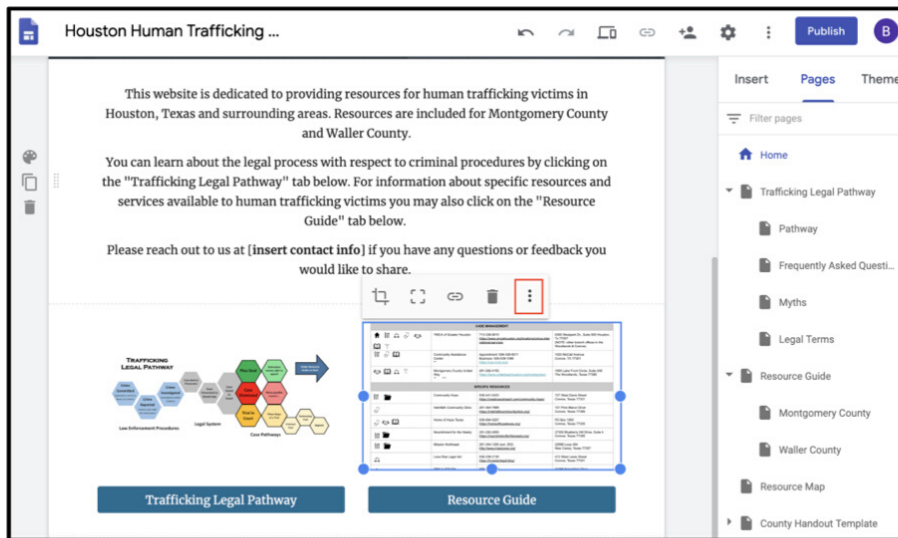
Editing Text

1. The second section of the home page is text that provides an overview of the website and introduces some of the resources included. To edit the text, simply click on the word(s) you would like to change and begin editing. You are welcome to use the wording provided in the template or to add your own. Underlined in red are the portions that you will need to edit if you are using the wording provided by the template.

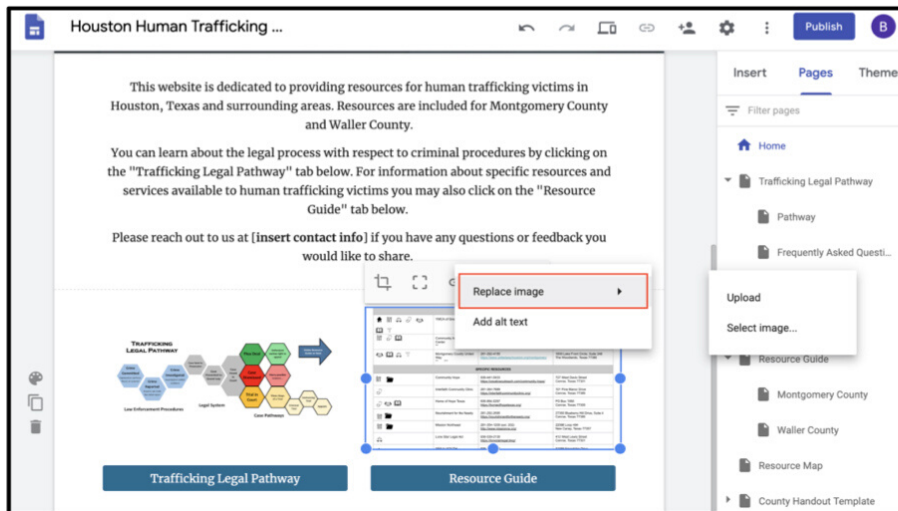
**Editing Images and Buttons**

1. The third section of the home page has two images with buttons underneath. The first image is the Trafficking Legal Pathway. This image should not change by county so you can leave the image from the template. Underneath the image, is a blue button labeled "Trafficking Legal Pathway". If you select the button and click on the edit button (pencil icon) you can see that this button links to the page titled "Trafficking Legal Pathway". You do not need to edit this link.

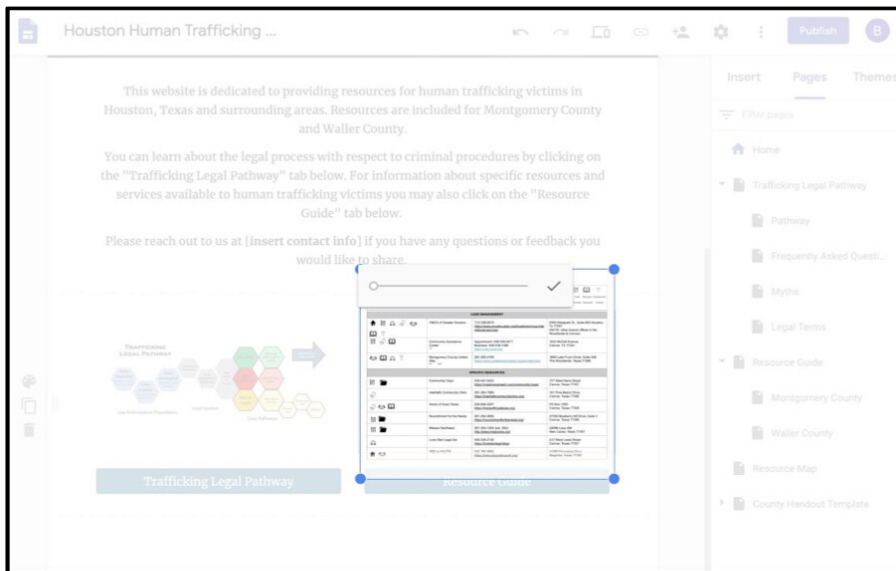
- You may want to change the resource guide image to match your county. To do this, select the resource guide image. Then, select the 3 vertically stacked dots.



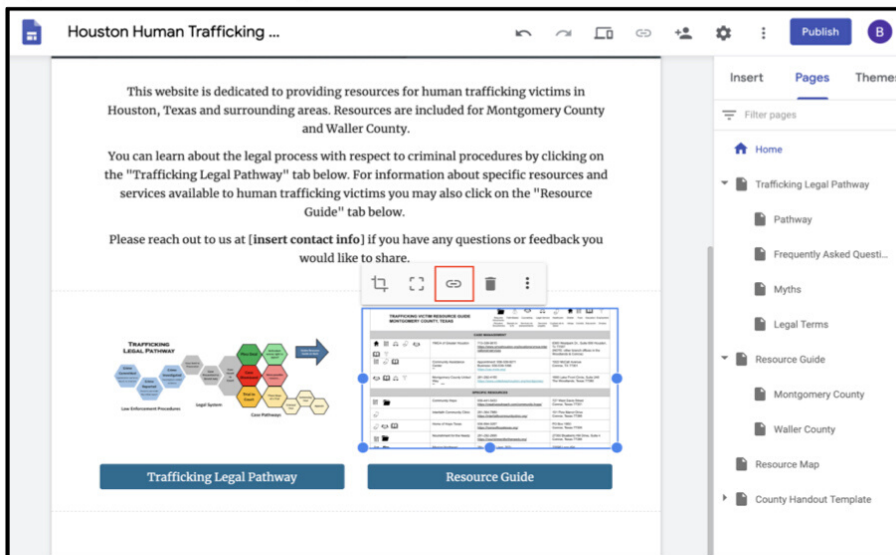
- Select "Replace image". If you would like to upload an image that is saved to your computer, select "Upload". If you would like to upload an image from your google drive, select "Select image" and select the "Google Drive" tab.



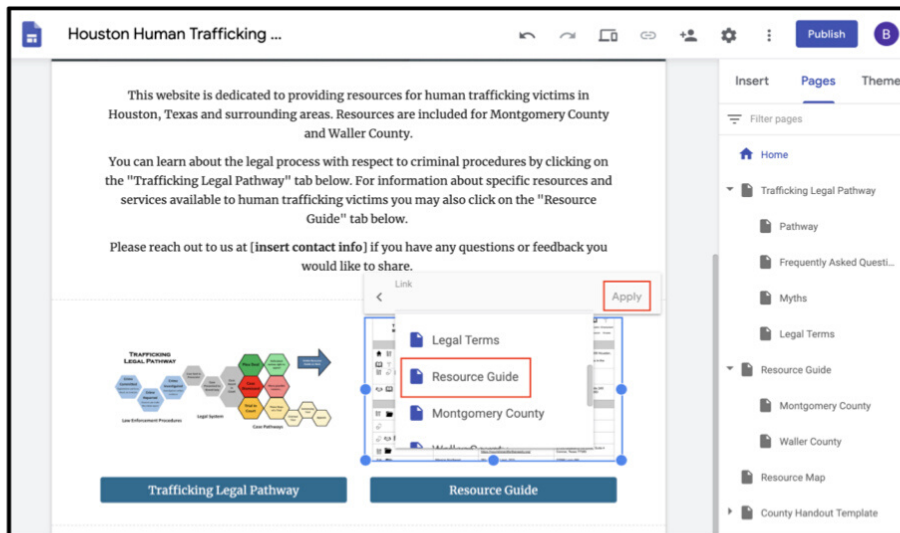
- The image can be adjusted to fit the image box. To move and resize the image, double click on the image. To move the image, select the image and drag it. To resize the image, move the circle on the bar that pops up and select the checkmark to save.



- Add a link to the image so that the user may select the image and be taken to the resource guide page. To do this select the image and click the link icon.



6. Scroll through the options under "This site" and select the page labeled "Resource Guide". Then select "Apply".



TRAFFICKING LEGAL PATHWAY

1. Navigate to the Trafficking Legal Pathway Page (see [Navigating Pages](#)).
2. The text is **not county/coalition specific**, however, you may make adjustments if you would like.
3. The PDF of the legal pathway does not need to be adjusted.
4. The four buttons at the bottom of the page are linked to their respective pages and do not need to be adjusted.

Pathway

1. Under "Pages", select the drop-down arrow to expand "Trafficking Legal Pathway". Then navigate to the page "Pathway".
2. This page is not county/coalition specific and does not need to be adjusted unless your organization would like to make changes.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Under "Pages", select the drop-down arrow to expand "Trafficking Legal Pathway". Then navigate to the page "Frequently Asked Questions".
2. This page is not county/coalition specific and does not need to be adjusted unless your organization would like to make changes.

Myths

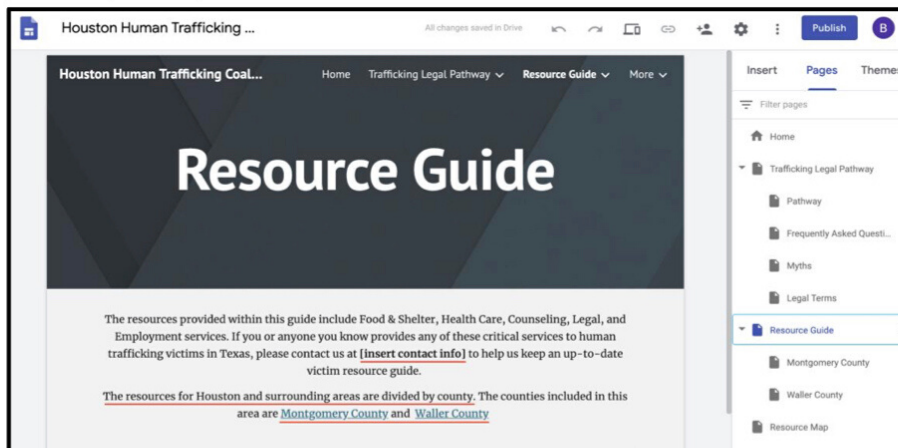
1. Under "Pages", select the drop-down arrow to expand "Trafficking Legal Pathway". Then navigate to the page "Myths".
2. This page is not county/coalition specific and does not need to be adjusted unless your organization would like to make changes.

Legal Terms

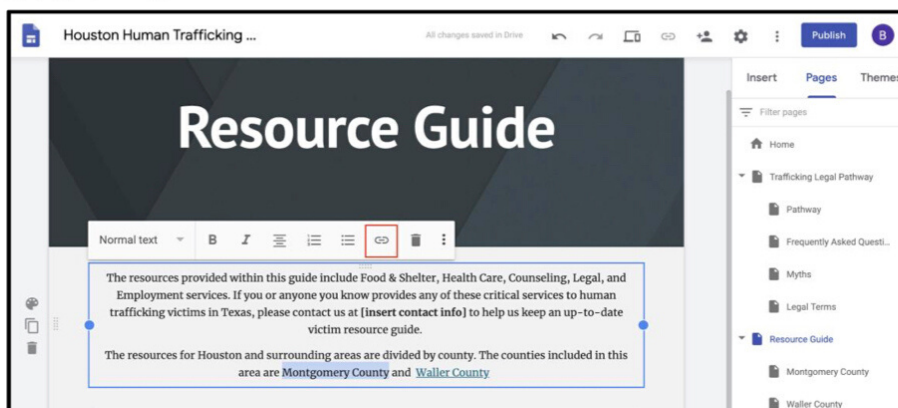
1. Under "Pages", select the drop-down arrow to expand "Trafficking Legal Pathway". Then navigate to the page "Legal Terms".
2. This page is not county/coalition specific and does not need to be adjusted unless your organization would like to make changes.

RESOURCE GUIDE

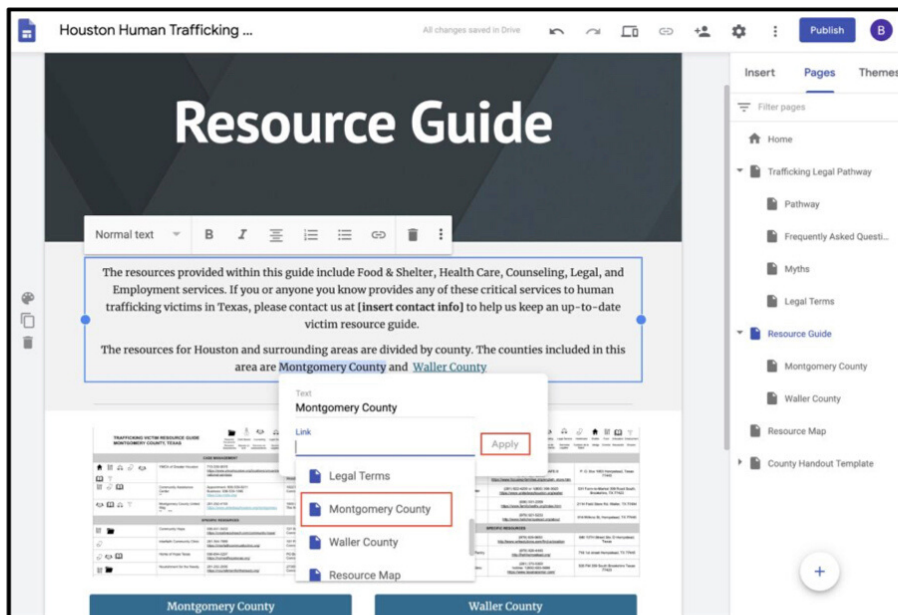
1. Navigate to the Resource Guide Page (see [Navigating Pages](#)).
2. Edit the text section of the Resource Guide to be specific for your county/coalition (see [Editing Text](#)). Underlined in red are the portions that you will need to edit if you are using the wording provided by the template.



3. To link county names to their pages, highlight the text you would like to assign a link to. Then select the link icon.



4. Scroll through the options under “This site” and select the page for the county you would like to link to. Then select “Apply”.



5. To edit the images and buttons on the Resource Guide page, see [Editing Images and Buttons](#).

Creating and Editing Pages for Individual Counties

Example being used is for Montgomery County

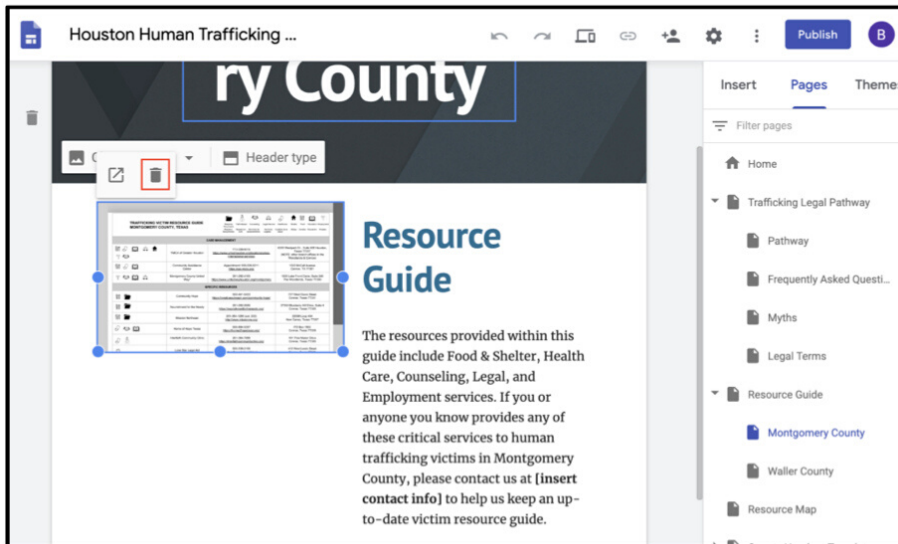
1. Under “Pages”, select the drop-down arrow to expand “Resource Guide”. Then navigate to the “Montgomery County” page.
2. Edit the title of this page to match your county (see [Editing the Title and Navigation Bar](#)).

Create Your County-Specific Resource Guide

1. You should have copied the materials and templates from the Google Drive shared with you to your personal or organization’s Google Drive. One of these materials is the “[Resource Guide Generic County](#)”. This is in PowerPoint format.
2. Download this PowerPoint
3. Edit the second slide to include resources for your county. The first column should consist of icons. These icons are available for you to use and are located on the first slide and on the upper right corner of the second slide. The second slide also includes the resource category that the icon represents in Spanish and English.
4. For more guidance on completing your county-specific resource guide, please see the guide that should be in your Google Drive.
5. When you have completed your resource guide, delete the first slide.
6. Go to “file” and export the PowerPoint as a PDF (make sure the file format drop-down menu says PDF before exporting).

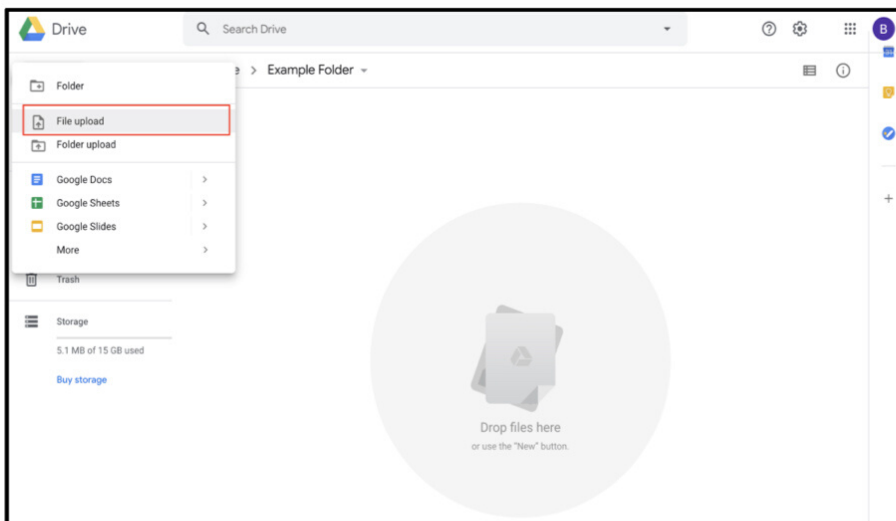
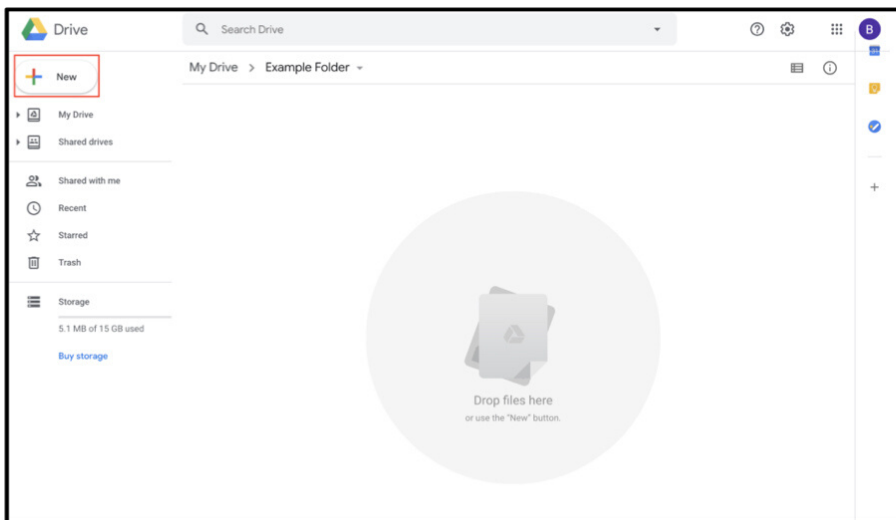
Embed a PDF

1. Delete the PDF that is embedded in the website template. This is done by clicking on the PDF and selecting the delete icon (trashcan).

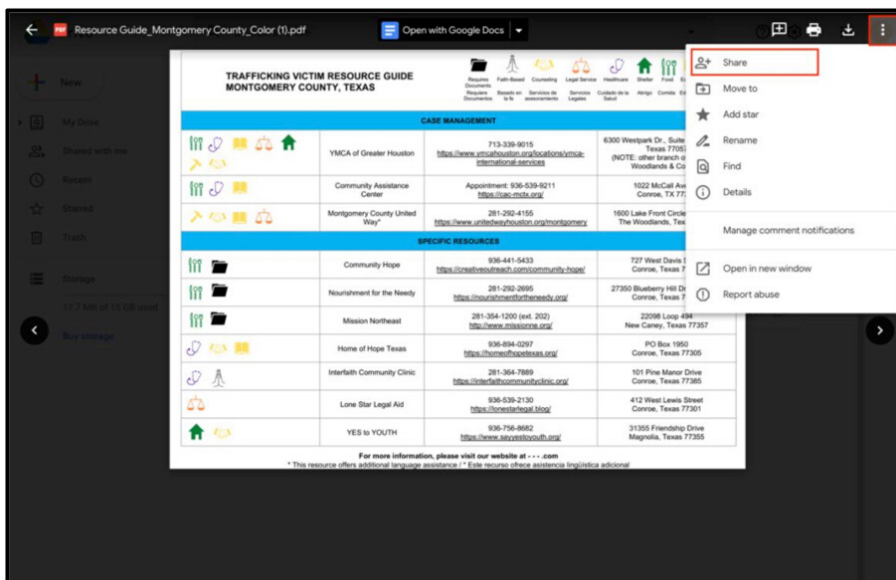


2. To embed a PDF of your county's resource guide, upload the PDF of your county's resource guide to your Google Drive. **NOTE:** make sure you are logged into the same google account for both Google Sites and the Google Drive.

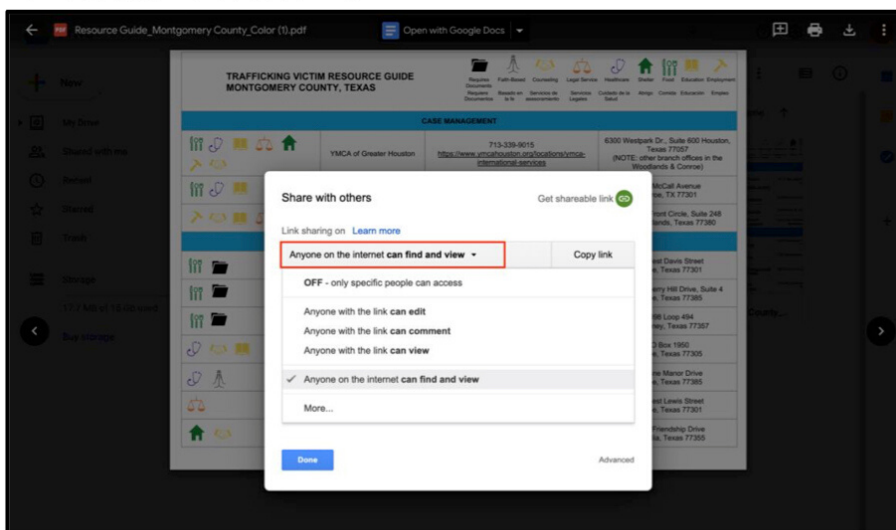
- To upload a PDF to Google Drive, you can drag and drop the PDF or go to “New” at the top left of the screen and select “File Upload”.



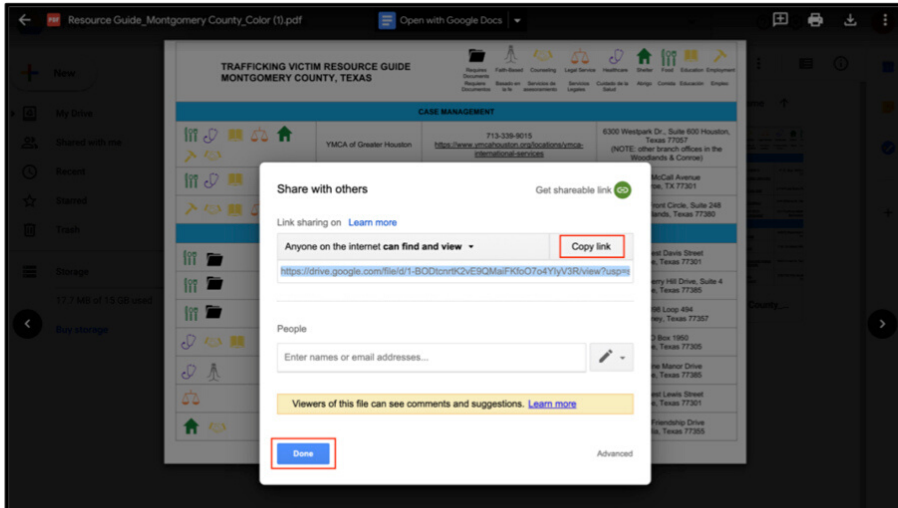
- Select the file once it has been uploaded. Then, click the three stacked vertical dots in the upper right corner. Then, click the “Share” option.



- A “Share with others” pop-up box will open. Make sure that “Anyone on the internet can find and view” is selected in the drop-down box.



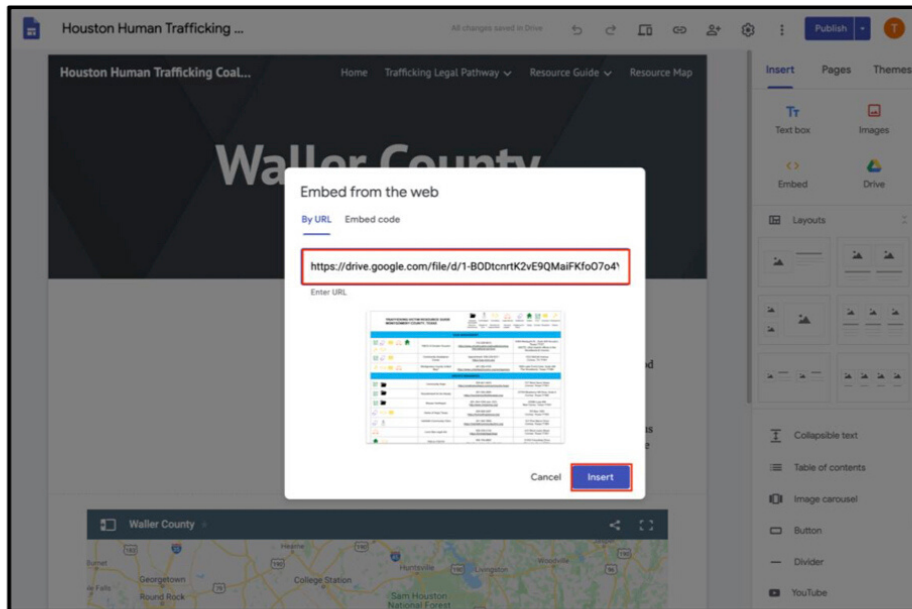
6. Select, "Copy link". Then, select "Done".



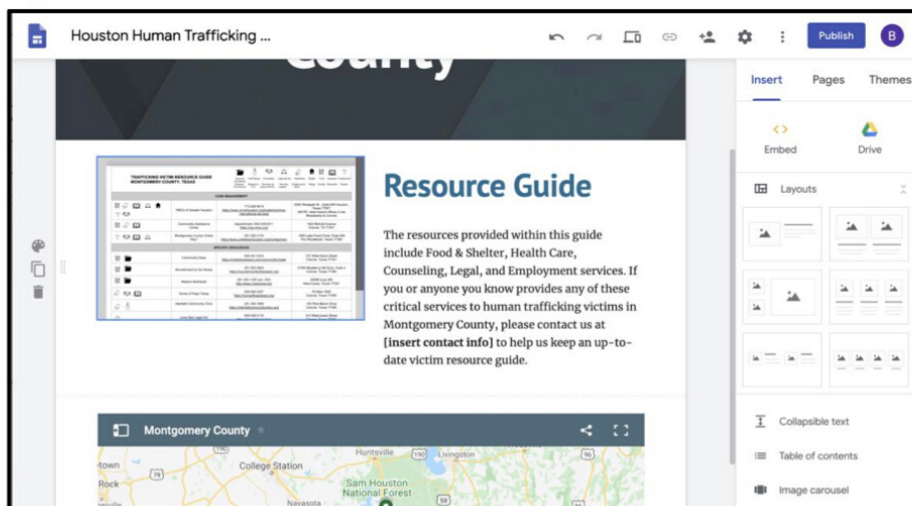
7. Return to Google Sites. Click on "Embed" under the "Insert" tab on the side panel.



- In the box labeled "Enter URL" paste the link to the resource guide for your county. Then click "Insert".

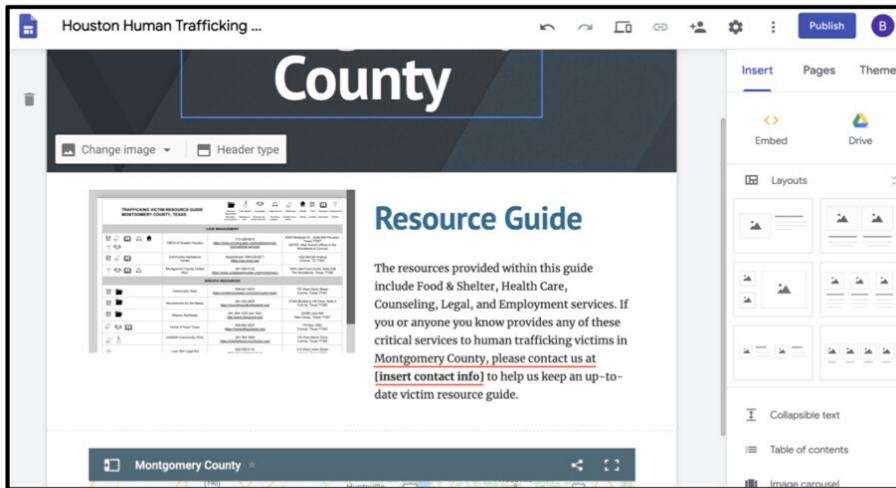


- The PDF will likely be embedded in a new section. To move the PDF, click and drag it to the original location.



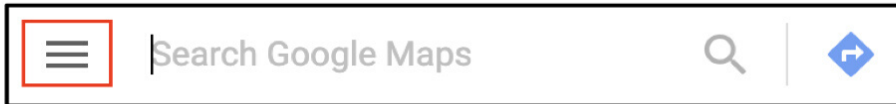
Edit the Resource Guide County-Specific Text

1. Edit the text section of the county's page to be specific for your county/coalition (see [Editing Text](#)). Underlined in red are the portions that you will need to edit if you are using the wording provided by the template.

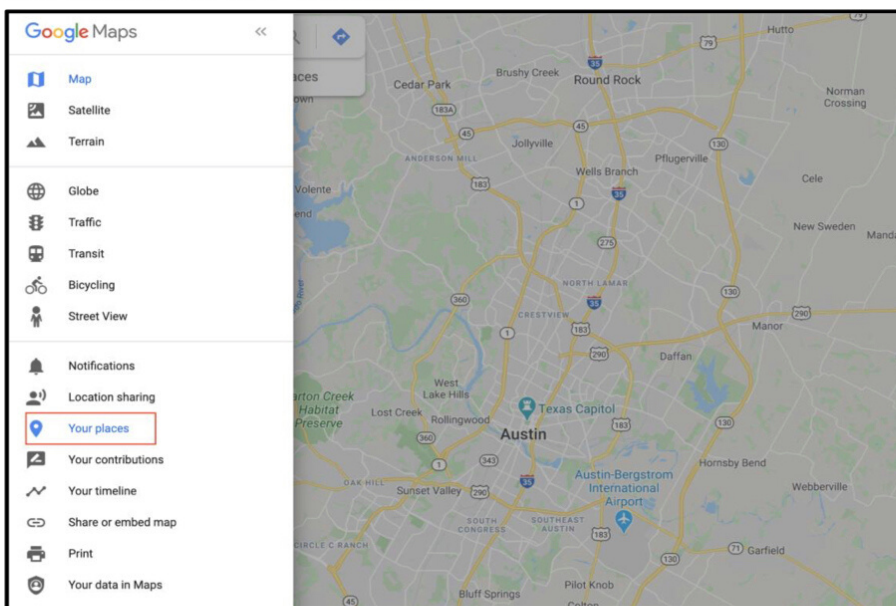


Building Your County-Specific Map

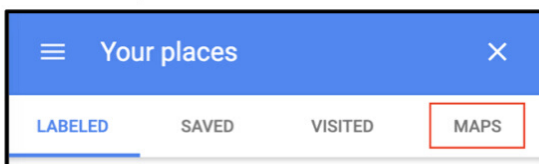
1. Go to Google Maps. **NOTE:** make sure that you are logged into the same Google Account while using Google Maps that you are using for your Google Site.
2. Open Google Maps menu (three stacked bars on the left of the search bar).



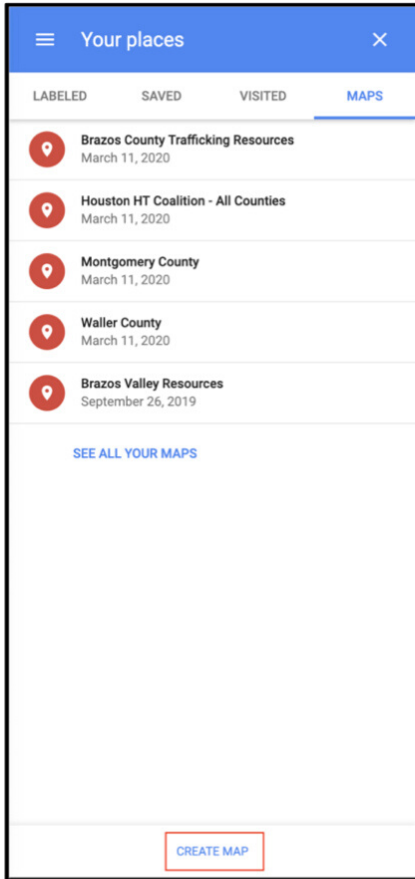
3. In the side panel, navigate to "Your places".



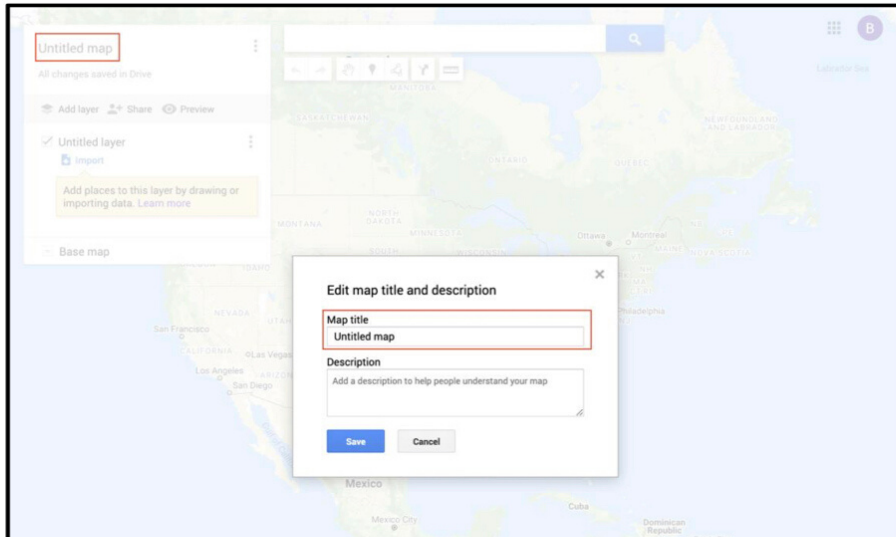
4. Go to the "Maps" tab.



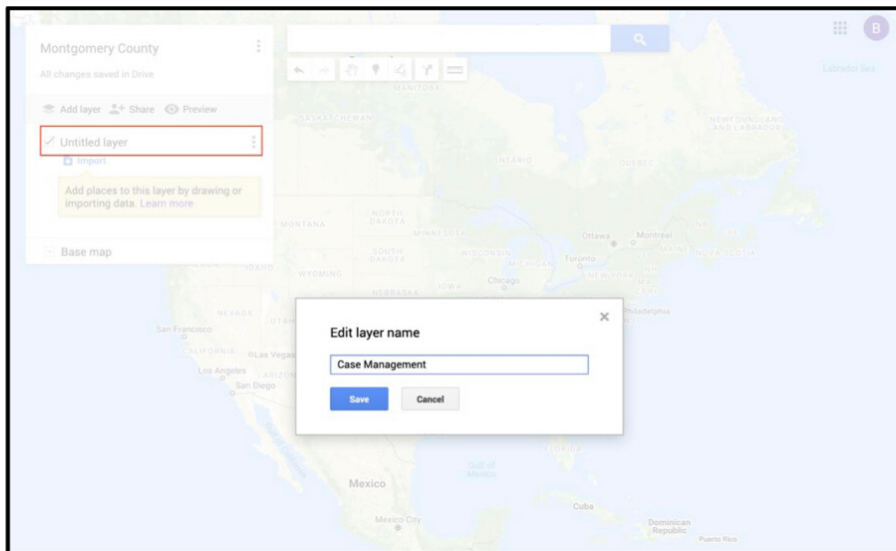
- 5. Select "Create Map" at the bottom of the side panel.



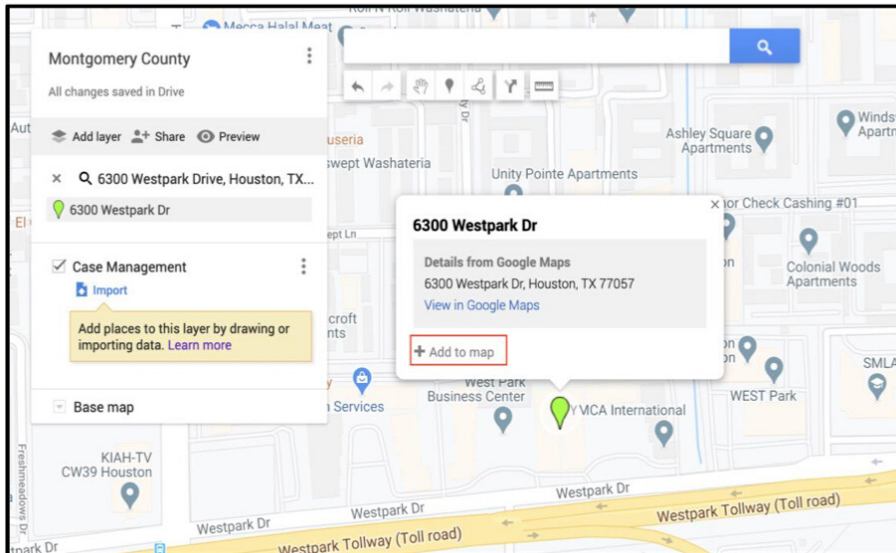
6. Double click on "Untitled map" to rename the map. Place the name for your map in the box under "Map title". You may also add a description of the map if you would like. Click the save button to continue. Note: in this example, the name of the map will be Montgomery County.



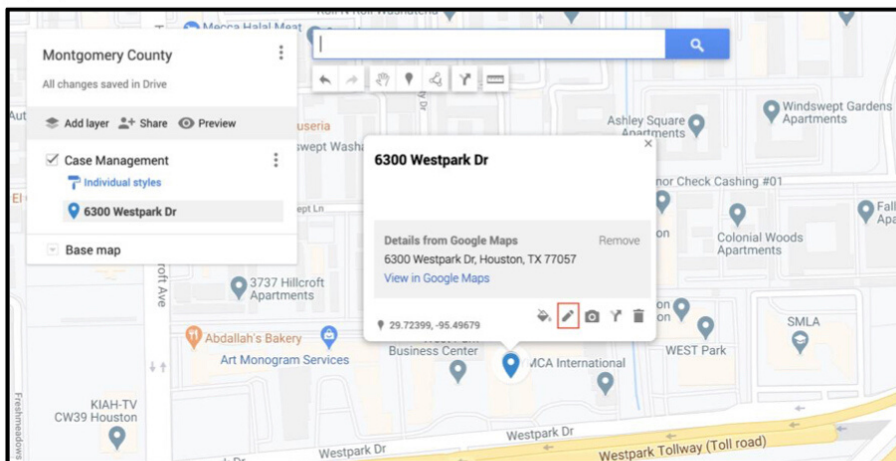
7. Double click on "Untitled layer" and add the name of the first resource category you would like to include. Note: in this example, the first category included was case management.



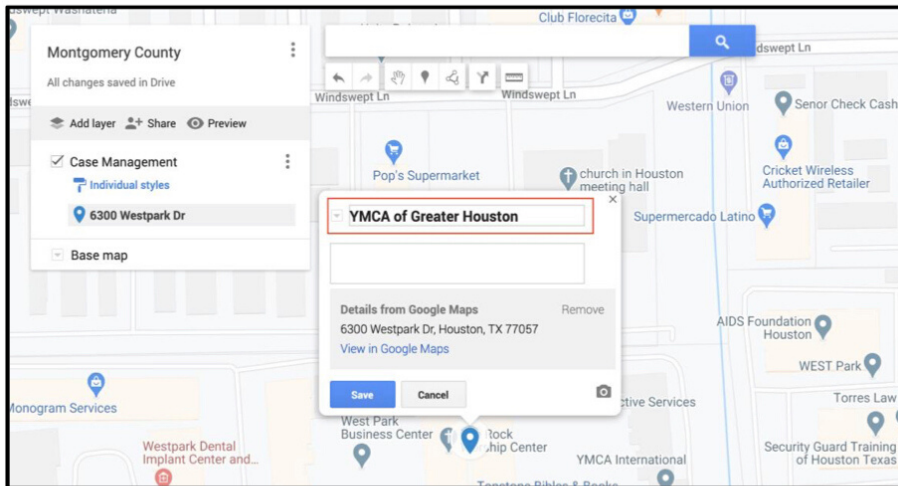
8. In the search bar, located at the middle top of the screen, type the address of the first location for the resource category. Select the correct address. Once selected, a pin will drop at the address you have entered. Select the "Add to map" option in the pop-up box.



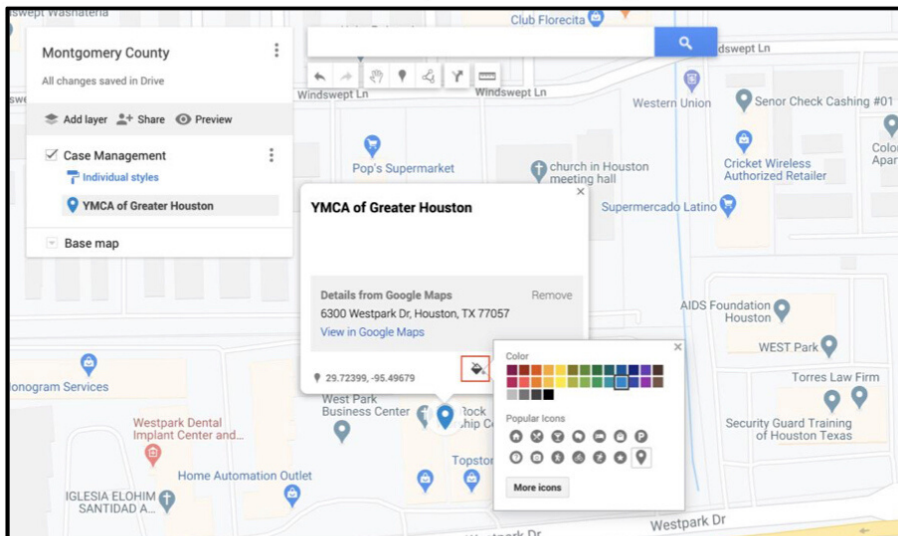
9. Once the location has been added to the map, click the edit icon (pencil) at the bottom of the pop-up.



- Here, you can edit the name of the location to the name that you want the user to see. Click save to continue. Note: in this example, the YMCA of Greater Houston is being added to the map.

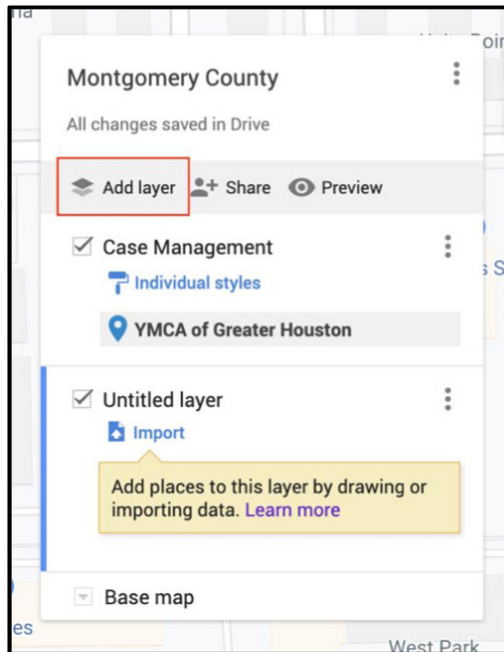


- Click the style icon (paint bucket) at the bottom of the pop up to modify the color of the dropped pin. Note: in this case, the case management color is light blue in order to correspond with the color-coded indicators located under the map on the website template.

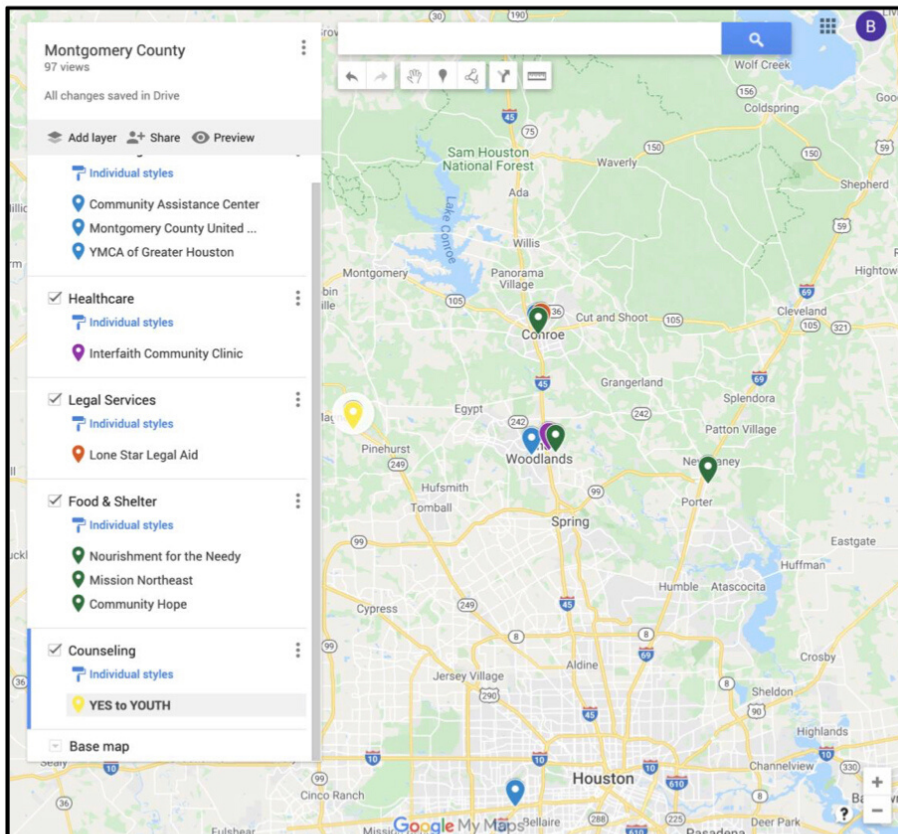


- Repeat steps 8-11 to add pins for all the locations in the chosen resource category layer. In this example, you would add all identified case management locations.

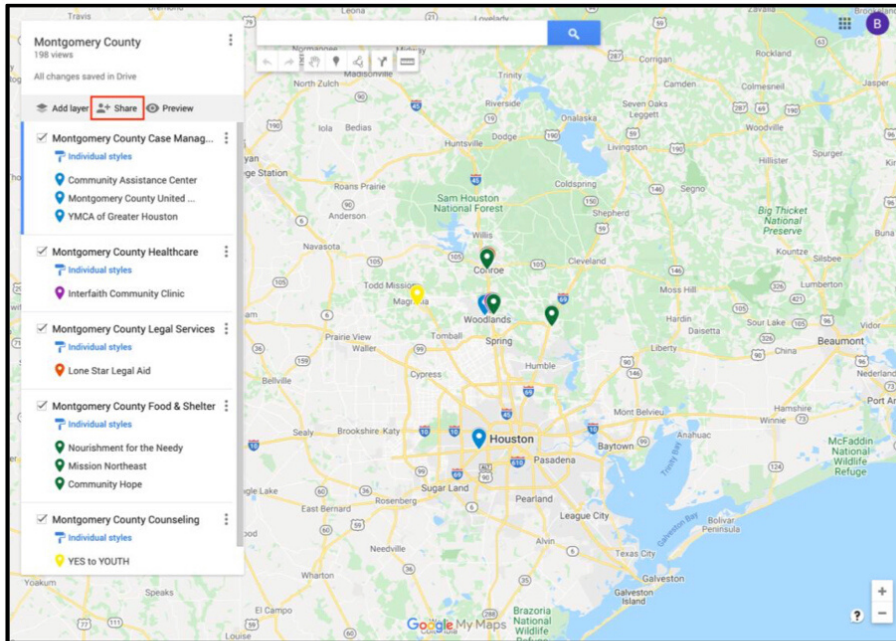
13. Add a new resource category by selecting "Add layer". Then, follow the instructions in step 7 to name the layer with your next resource category.



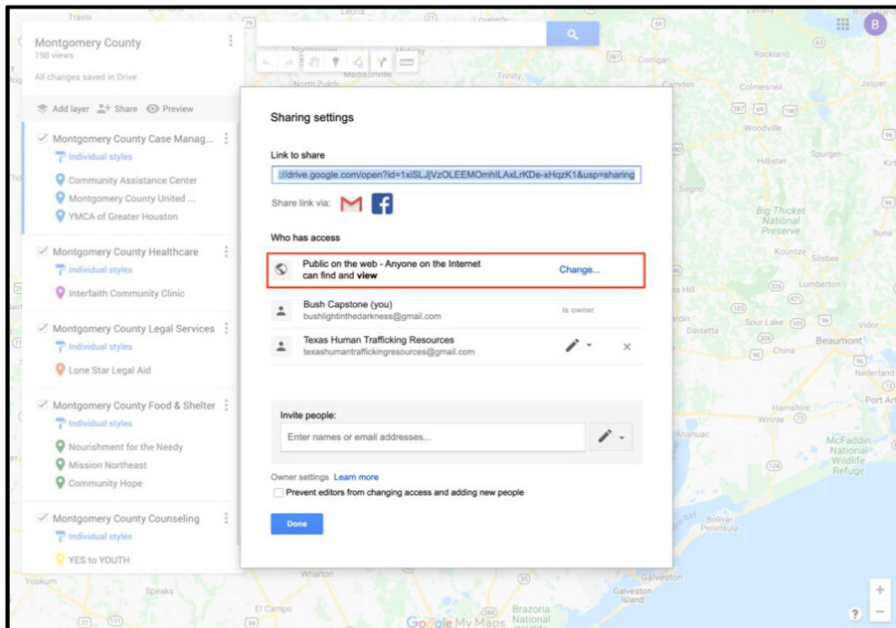
14. Continue adding layers (step 7) and locations (steps 8-11) until you have included all the locations that you would like the user to view. For the Montgomery County example the finished map looked like this:



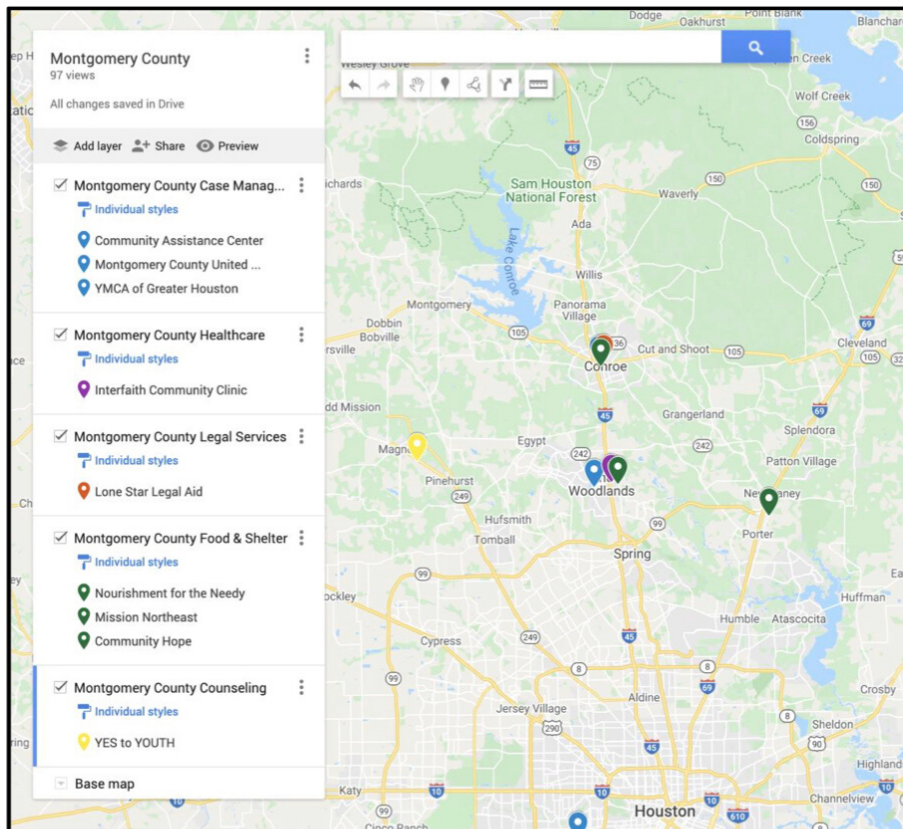
15. When the map is finished, select "Share"



16. Under “Who has access” make sure that “Public on the web – Anyone on the Internet can find and view” is selected. If this option is not selected, then select “Change”, select the “On - Public on the web” option, and select “Save”.



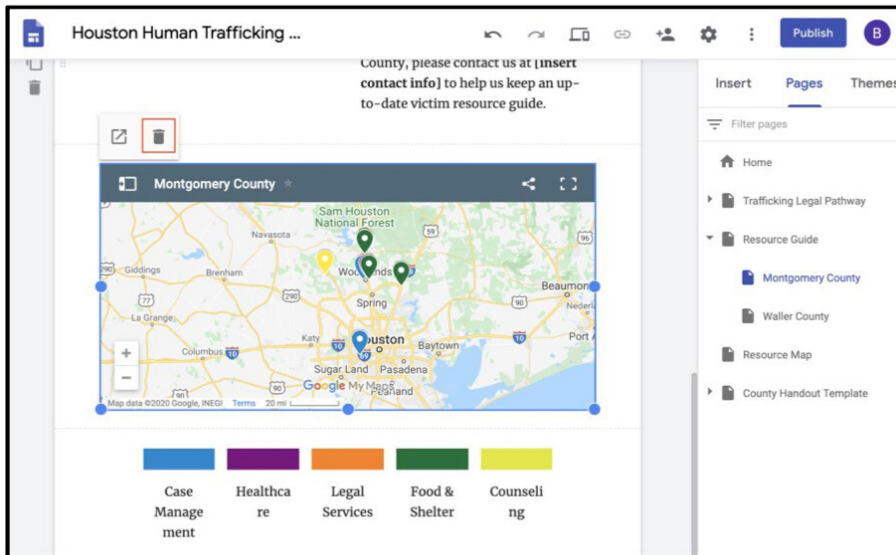
17. If you are making a map for more than one county, select “Create Map” (Step 5) and repeat steps 6-16. If you plan to merge your county maps, it is helpful to include the county name before the resource category name, for example:



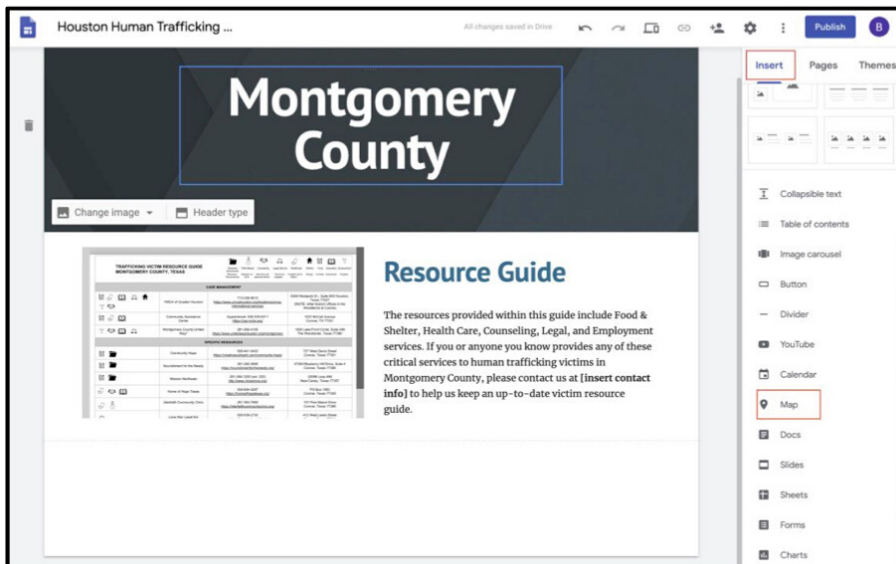
18. Your map is now complete. Return to your Google Site to embed the map in your webpage.

Embedding Your County-Specific Map

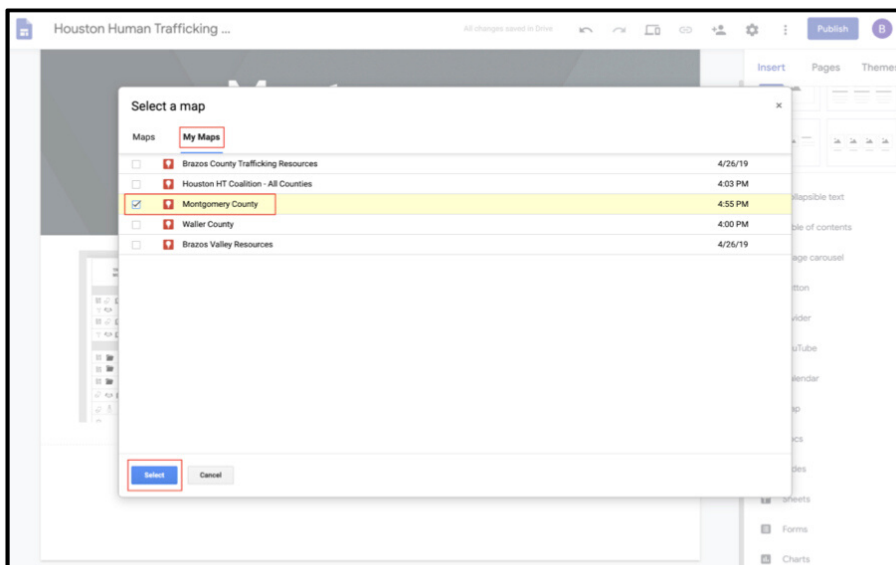
1. Delete the map that is embedded in the website template. This is done by clicking on the map and selecting the delete icon (trashcan).



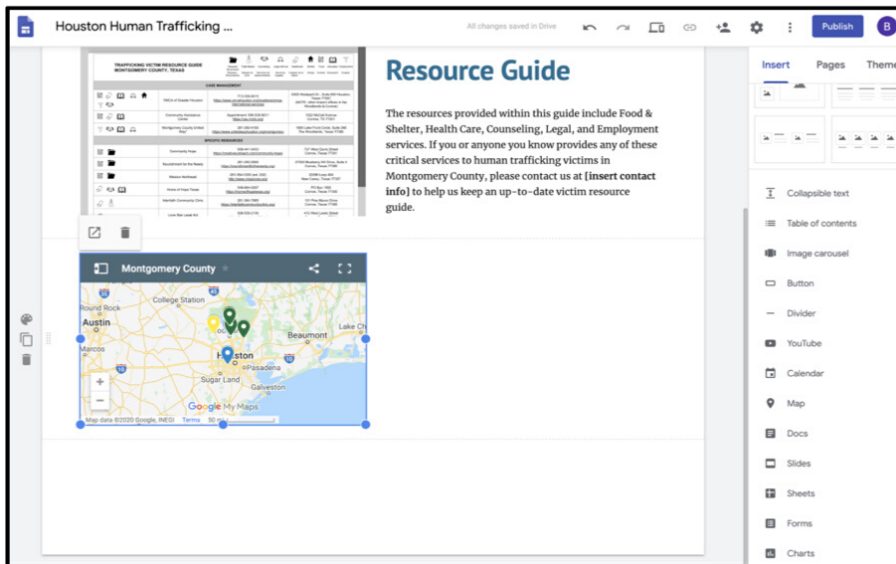
2. Select the "Map" option in the "Insert" tab located on the side panel.



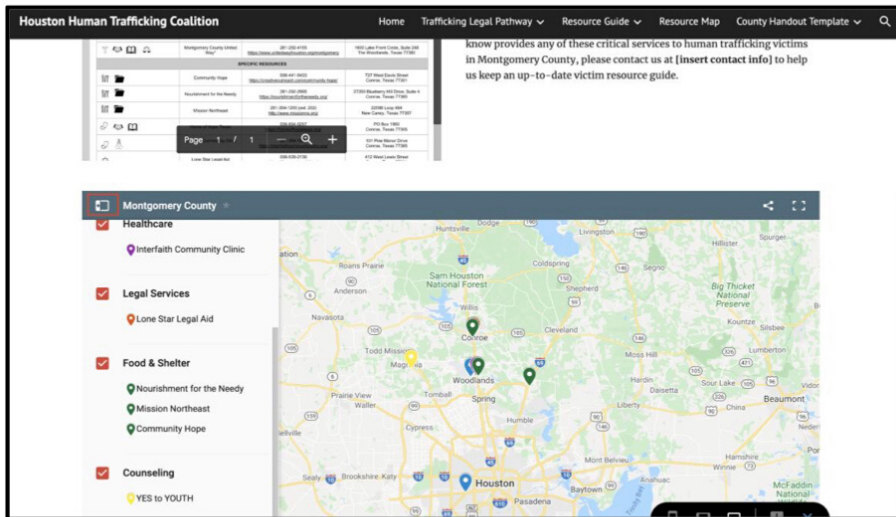
- In the pop up, select the "My Maps" tab. Then, select the box next to the map you would like to embed. Click the select button to continue.



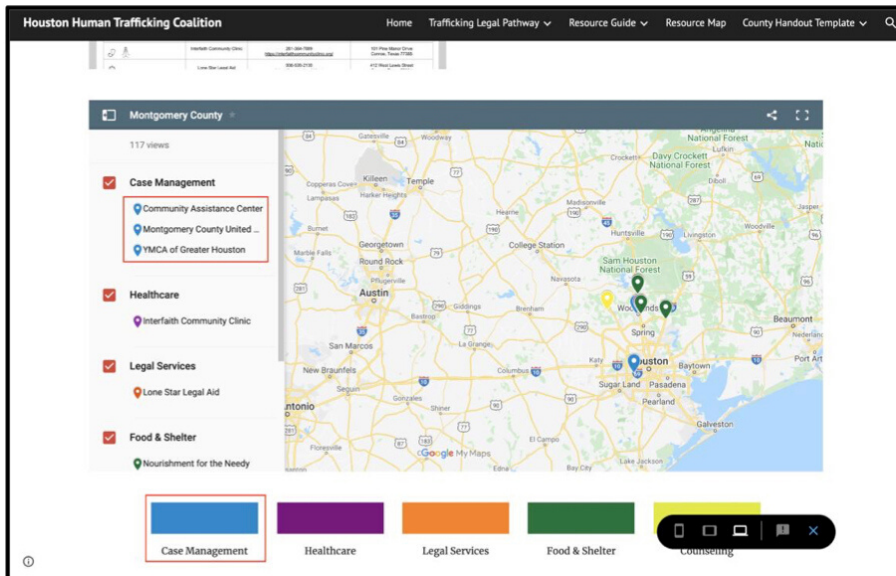
- Your map should now be embedded. If not already selected, click on the map to select and make adjustments. Click and drag the blue circles to adjust the map to your desired size.



- The user will be able to click on the icon next to the map title to expand a side panel. Then the user can filter the locations based on the type of resource they are searching for. Note: this screen capture is being viewed in preview mode to imitate what the user will see.



6. Your map pins should match the color-coded resource icons that are included in the website template. If wanted, you can edit the colors by changing the image above the resource category and changing the color of the pin on the map. Note: this screen capture is being viewed in preview mode to imitate what the user will see.

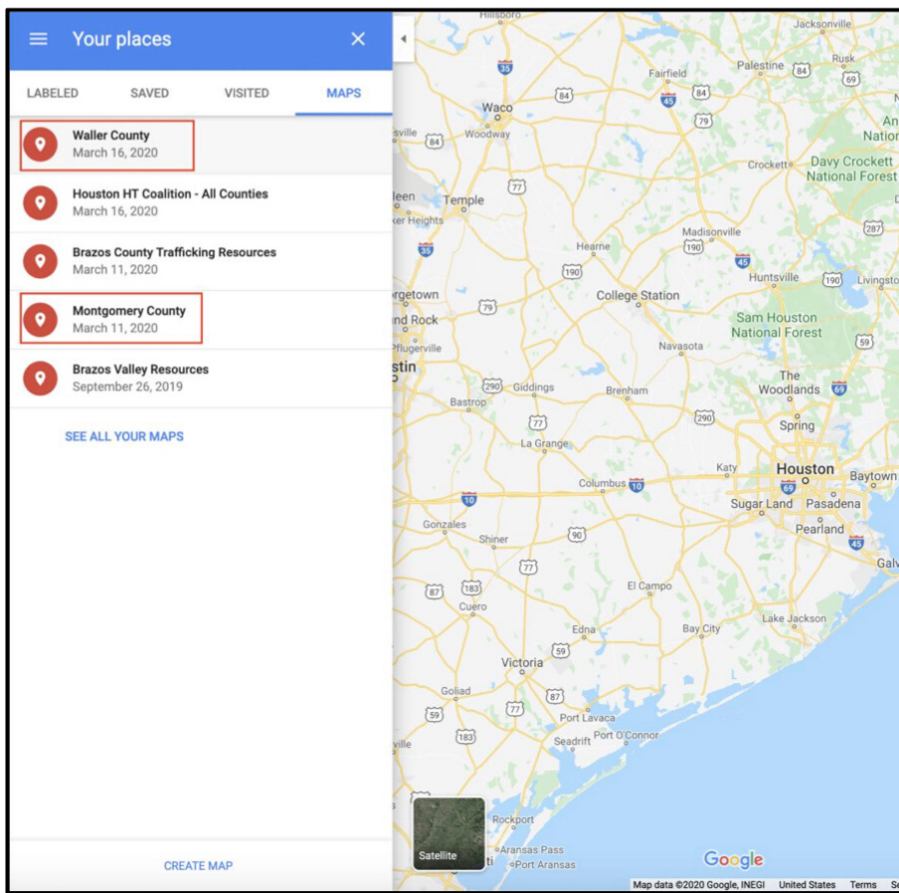


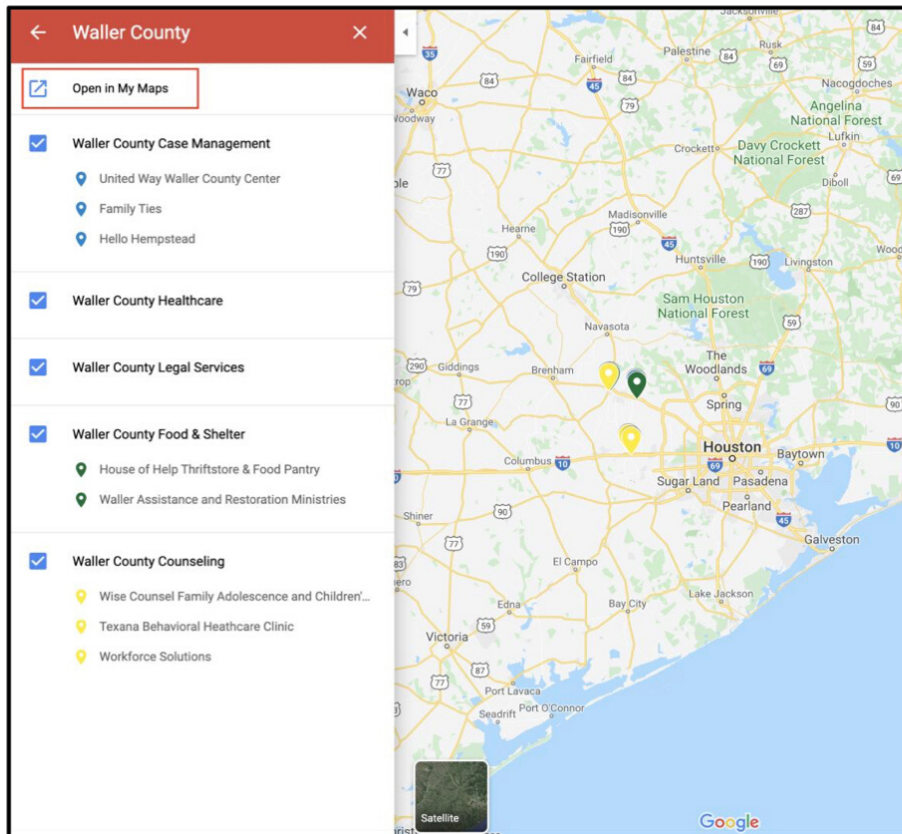
7. **NOTE:** The map will automatically update on the website. If you add new locations or make adjustments, you do not need to re-embed the map on your webpage.

RESOURCE MAP PAGE

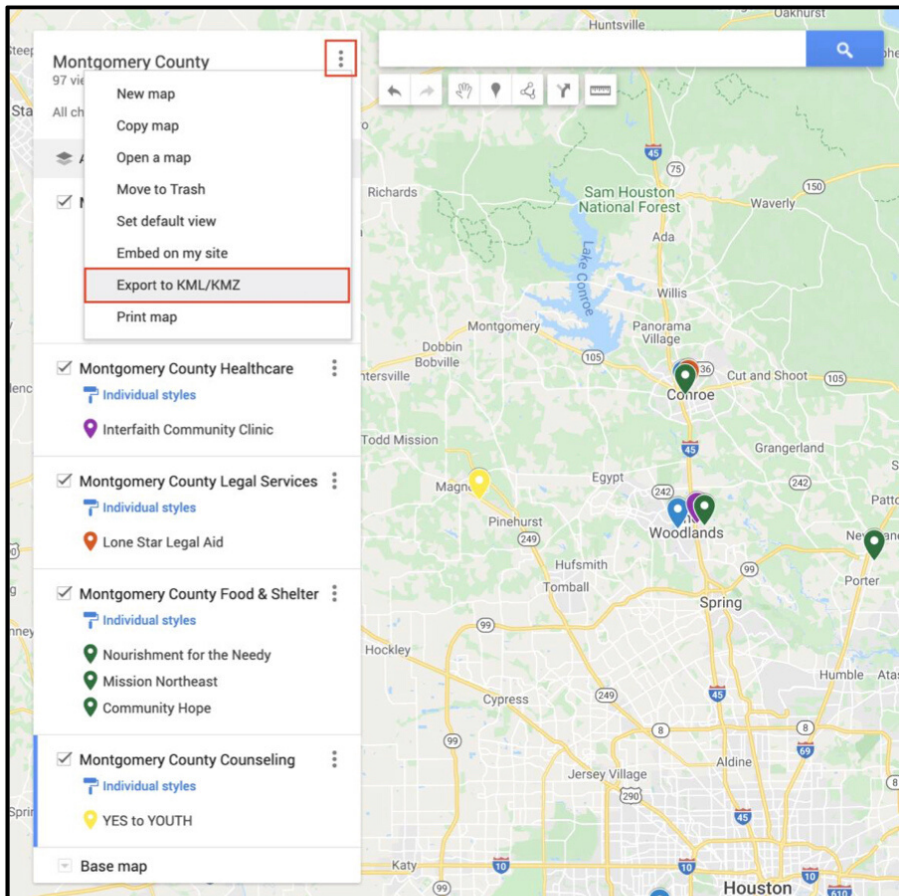
Merge Multiple Google Maps

1. Navigate to “Your Places” in the side panel of Google Maps (steps 1-4 from [Building Your County-Specific Map](#)).
2. Open each map that you would like to merge. Select, “Open in My Maps” at the top of the side panel. For this example, we will be merging Waller and Montgomery County maps.

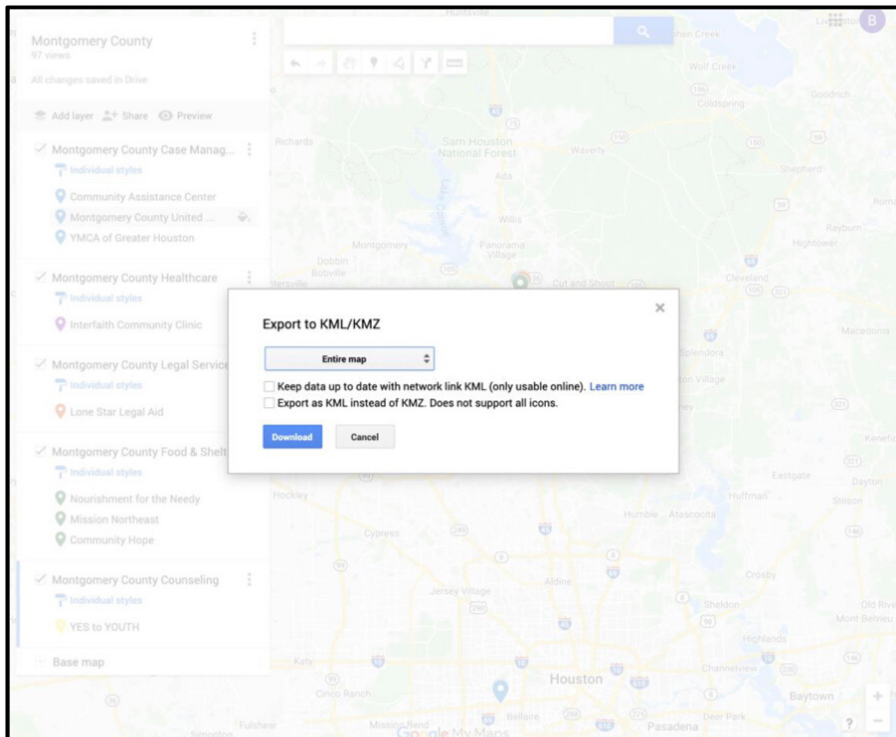




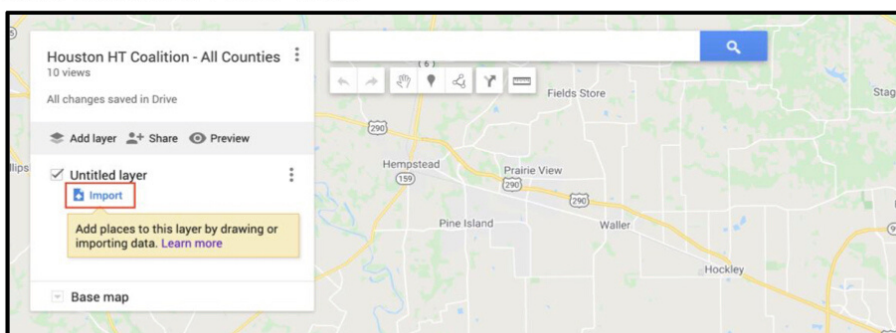
- Click on the 3 vertically stacked dots to the right of the county name and select "Export to KML/KMZ". Do this for each map that you would like to merge.



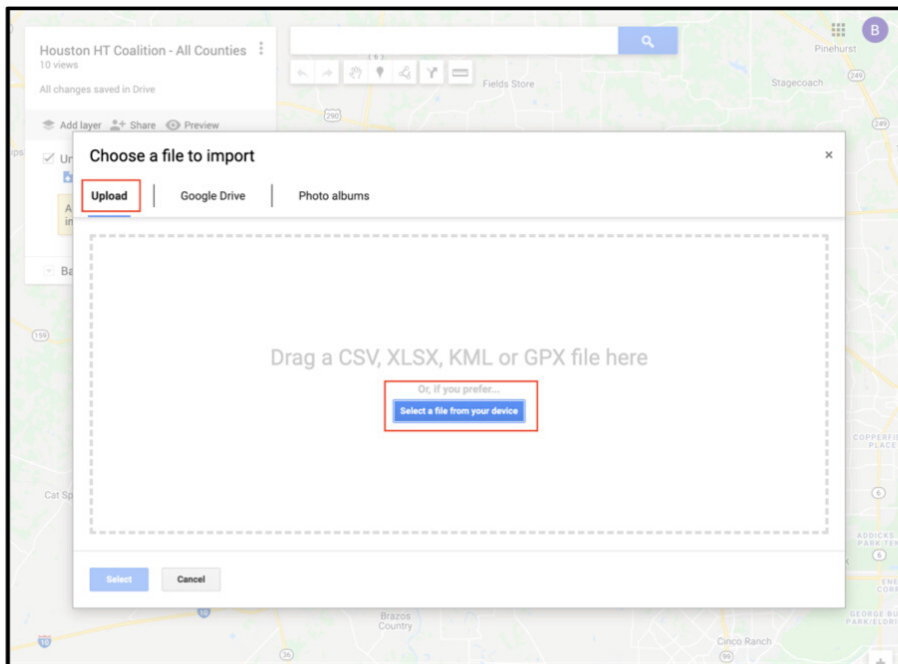
4. Select "Entire Map". You do not need to check either of the two options. Select "Download". The map will download as a .kmz file with the same name as the google map.



5. Return to "Your Places" in the side panel of Google Maps. Create a new map (see [Building Your County-Specific Map](#), steps 1-6). This will be the map for your merged county resources. In this example, the map name is "Houston HT Coalition - All Counties".
6. Under "Untitled layer", select "Import"

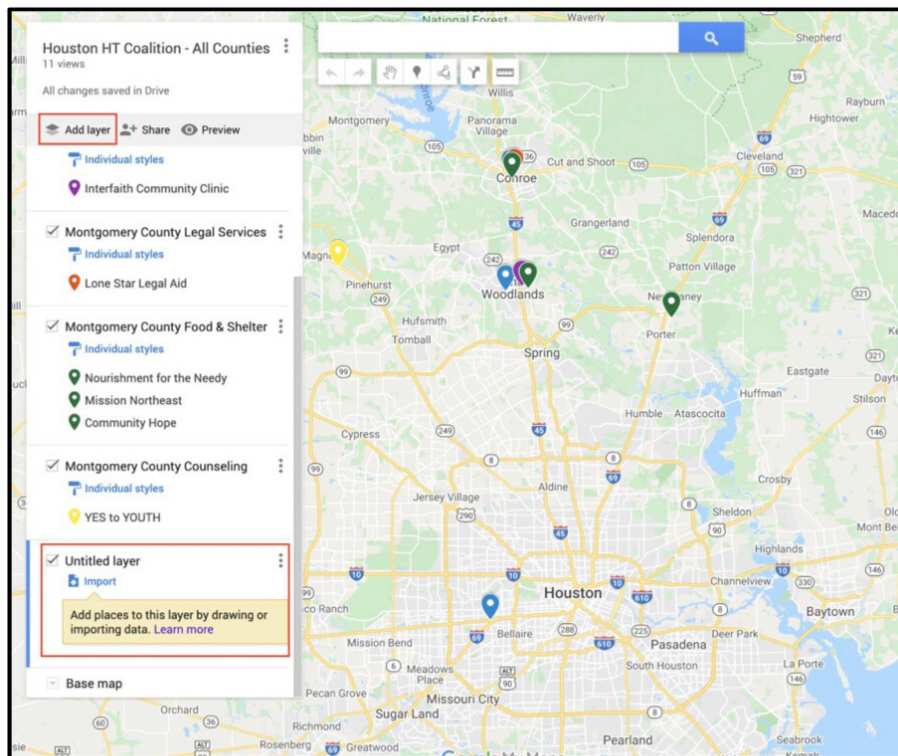


7. In the pop up, under the "Upload" tab, either 1) drag your .kmz file for the first county map you would like to add or 2) select "Select a file from your device" then choose the .kmz file for the first county map you would like to add.



8. Google Maps will import each layer and location as it appears on the original map.

9. To add another map, select “Add layer” and repeat steps 6-7 for each map you would like to include.



10. Once completed, you should have a map with each county's layers and resources.
11. Edit the share setting for the map before you embed it into your site (steps 15-16 from [Building Your County-Specific Map](#)).
12. **NOTE: This map does not automatically update like the others. If you would like this map to automatically update, you will need to enter each layer and location (steps 7-14 from [Building Your County-Specific Map](#)).**

Embedding Your Merged Map

1. To embed your merged map, follow the steps from [Embedding Your County-Specific Map](#)

APPENDIX C: RESOURCE GUIDE (FRONT)

TRAFFICKING LEGAL PATHWAY
Los procesos legal al respecto de trata humana

Victim Resource Guide on Back
Información de Recursos para Víctimas en la espalda de esta guía

Law Enforcement Procedures
Cumplimiento de la ley y sus procedimientos

Legal System
Sistema Legal

Case Pathways
Pasos del casos

*International Differences

Frequently Asked Questions:

Do I have to testify?
Please ask your prosecutor this question, the answer will depend on the details of your case.
¿Tengo que testificar?
Por favor, preguntarle a su fiscal. La respuesta dependerá según los detalles de su caso.

How long does this process take?
This process may take on average 1 to 2 years and can vary for every case.
¿Que tanto tiempo se toma este proceso?
El proceso puede variar para cada caso, pero normalmente entre 1 a 2 años.

Why should I come forward?
Coming forward can help prevent future trafficking and allows you to tell your story. It will also allow you to have a fresh start and take back control.
¿Porque debería presentarme?
Presentándose ayuda a prevenir el futuro del trata humana, y ayuda a que usted tenga una voz, y también a que usted tenga un nuevo comienzo, y retomar el control sobre su vida.

Why should I go through this process?
Because you are worth it!
¿Por qué debería pasar por este proceso?
¡Porque úd lo vale!

Facts & Myths:
Hechos y Mitos

MYTH: I am in this process alone.
Mito: No tengo apoyo en este proceso.

FACT: You are not in this alone. There are many resources available to you and many individuals, like victim service coordinators, who are fighting on your behalf.
Hecho: Tiene apoyo.

MYTH: The system doesn't care about someone like me.
Mito: El sistema no se preocupa para mí.

FACT: You may have had previous negative experiences with law enforcement, or the legal system that make you anxious about participating in the prosecution of your trafficker. While the legal system is not perfect, it is the **most effective way to ensure your safety and protect others from being victimized.** Talk to your prosecutor about your fears – you deserve justice, not judgement.
Hecho: El sistema legal no es perfecto, pero es la forma más efectiva de garantizar su seguridad y proteger a los demás.

Legal Terms:
Términos legales

Defendant - Someone who is accused of a crime.
El acusado- Persona acusada de un delito.

Grand Jury – A group of 12 people who decide whether a crime probably occurred and should be assigned to a court.
Gran Jurado- Un grupo de 12 personas que decidirán si un crimen ocurre y si será asignado a una corte

Indictment - A formal accusation that someone has committed a crime.
El procesamiento- Una acusación formal que alguien a cometido un crimen

Prosecutor - A state's attorney charged with seeking justice, who must prove the defendant committed the crime charged in the indictment.
Fiscal- Un abogado del estado encargado a buscar justicia, quien debe probar que el acusado cometiese el crimen acusado en la acusación

Testify - To tell the truth in court.
Testificar- Decir la verdad en la corte

Witness - A person who sees an event, such as a crime or accident take place.
Testigo- Una persona que vio un evento, por ejemplo un crimen o un accidente

APPENDIX C: RESOURCE GUIDE (BACK)

TRAFFICKING VICTIM RESOURCE GUIDE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, TEXAS

Requires Documents | Faith-Based | Counseling | Legal Service | Healthcare | Shelter | Food | Education | Employment
Requiere Documentos | Basado en la fe | Servicios de asesoramiento | Servicios Legales | Cuidado de la Salud | Abrigo | Comida | Educación | Empleo

CASE MANAGEMENT			
	YMCA of Greater Houston	713-339-9015 https://www.ymcahunouston.org/locations/ymca-international-services	6300 Westpark Dr., Suite 600 Houston, Texas 77057 (NOTE: other branch offices in the Woodlands & Conroe)
	Community Assistance Center	Appointment: 936-539-9211 https://cac-mcbx.org/	1022 McCall Avenue Conroe, TX 77301
	Montgomery County United Way*	281-292-4155 https://www.unitedwayhouston.org/montgomery	1600 Lake Front Circle, Suite 248 The Woodlands, Texas 77380
SPECIFIC RESOURCES			
	Community Hope	936-441-5433 https://creativeoutreach.com/community-hope/	727 West Davis Street Conroe, Texas 77301
	Nourishment for the Needy	281-292-2695 https://nourishmentforheneedy.org/	27350 Blueberry Hill Drive, Suite 4 Conroe, Texas 77385
	Mission Northeast	281-354-1200 (ext. 202) http://www.missionne.org/	22098 Loop 494 New Caney, Texas 77357
	Home of Hope Texas	936-894-0297 https://homeofhopetexas.org/	PO Box 1950 Conroe, Texas 77305
	Interfaith Community Clinic	281-364-7889 https://interfaithcommunityclinic.org/	101 Pine Manor Drive Conroe, Texas 77385
	Lone Star Legal Aid	936-539-2130 https://lonestarlegal.blog/	412 West Lewis Street Conroe, Texas 77301
	YES to YOUTH	936-756-8682 https://www.savvestoyouth.org/	31355 Friendship Drive Magnolia, Texas 77355

For more information, please visit our website at ---.com
* This resource offers additional language assistance / * Este recurso ofrece asistencia lingüística adicional

APPENDIX D: COUNTY SELECTION

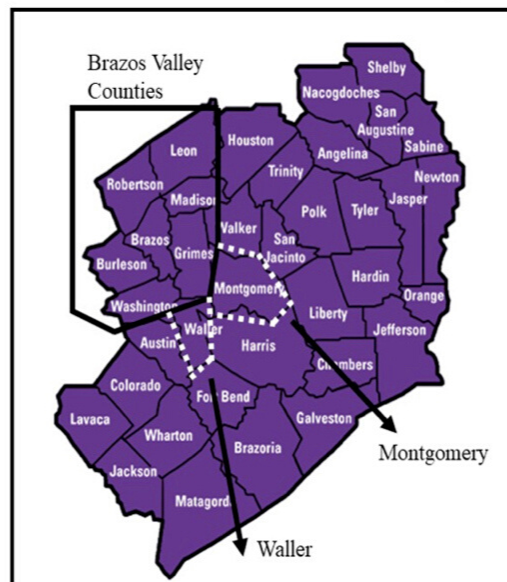
Introduction

The work completed by the 2018 - 2019 Capstone team focused on the seven counties that constitute the Brazos Valley. For the 2019 - 2020 capstone project, two new counties were added to test whether the resource guide process fit larger, more urban counties as well as smaller, semi-urban counties.

Montgomery County and Waller County were selected to evaluate the resource process for the second phase. Both counties share boundaries with Grimes County, part of the Brazos Valley. As shown in Figure 1, Montgomery County lies to the southeast of the original counties. Waller County shares a boundary with both Grimes and Washington County and a small portion of Montgomery County.

Important to selection was the proximity of both counties to Harris County, which is the third largest county in the country. Harris county is home to the city of Houston, which can be described as one of the top human trafficking locations in the country. In the following sections, the counties are compared to each other across four dimensions: age distribution, racial and ethnic diversity, median income for both food stamp and non-food stamp households, and household composition for families with children.

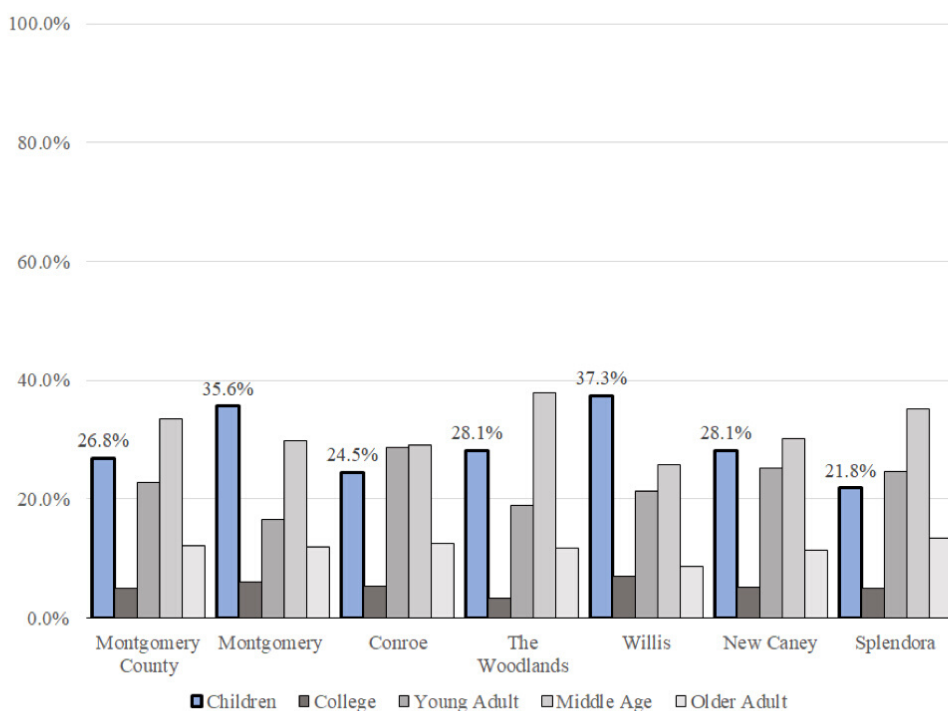
Figure 1
Counties of Central and Southeast Texas Surrounding Harris County



https://www.alz.org/texas/helping_you/areas_we_serve

Age Distribution

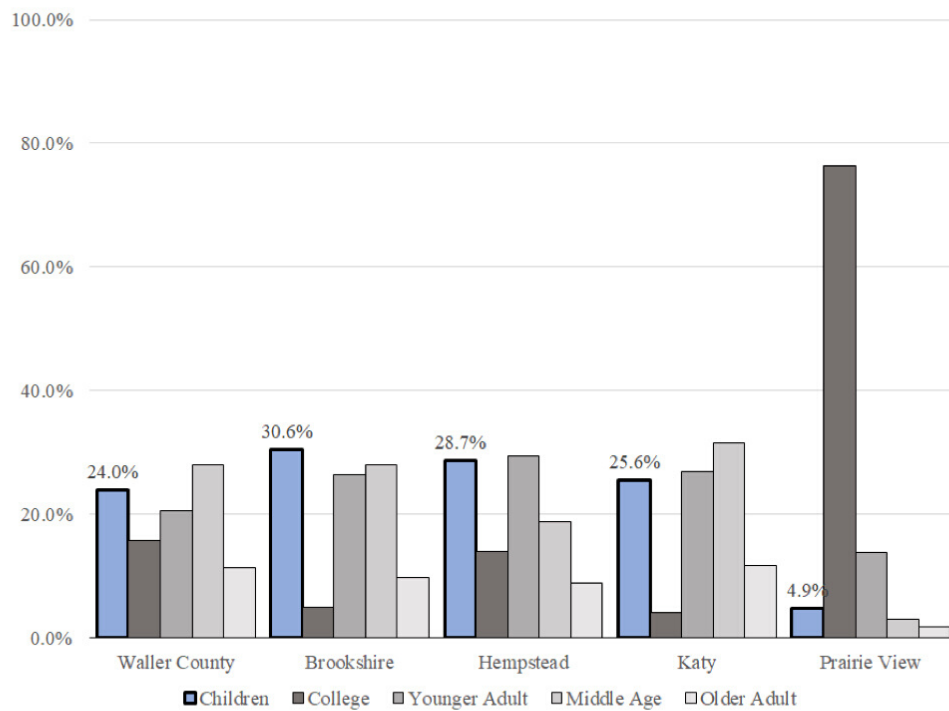
Figure 2
Montgomery County
Age Cohorts



In Figures 2 and 3, five age cohorts are presented. The “children” category represents the percentage of individuals under the age of seventeen. Individuals, 18 to 21, are categorized into the “college” group. Young adults represent people ages 22 through 39, while the “middle age” group constitutes individuals ages 40 to 64. The “older adult” category includes people 65 and older.

As our work focused on commercial sexual exploitation of children in Texas, we were interested in what percentage of children under the age of seventeen were found in each location. In Figures 2 and 3, the “children” category is highlighted in blue with data labels above the relevant column.

Figure 3
Waller County
Age Cohorts



When comparing the age cohort distribution between Montgomery and Waller County, as well as several communities in each county, the distribution does not vary substantially with the exception of the Prairie View community in Waller County. Prairie View is the home of Prairie View A&M, a Historically Black College, where the predominant demographic is college age students.

Racial and Ethnic Diversity

Evidence has shown that many victims of commercial sexual exploitation come from vulnerable populations and, are often people of color. Figures 4 and 5 portray the racial and ethnic diversity of the two counties. Hispanic and black populations are highlighted with the relevant percentages.

Figure 4
Montgomery County
Racial and Ethnic Diversity

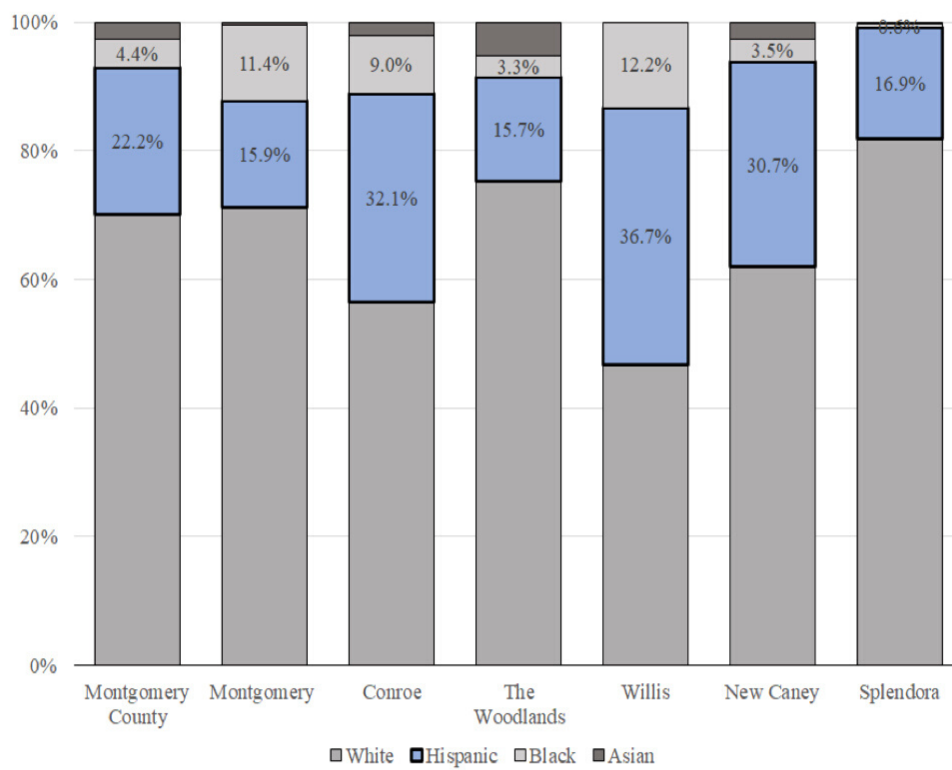
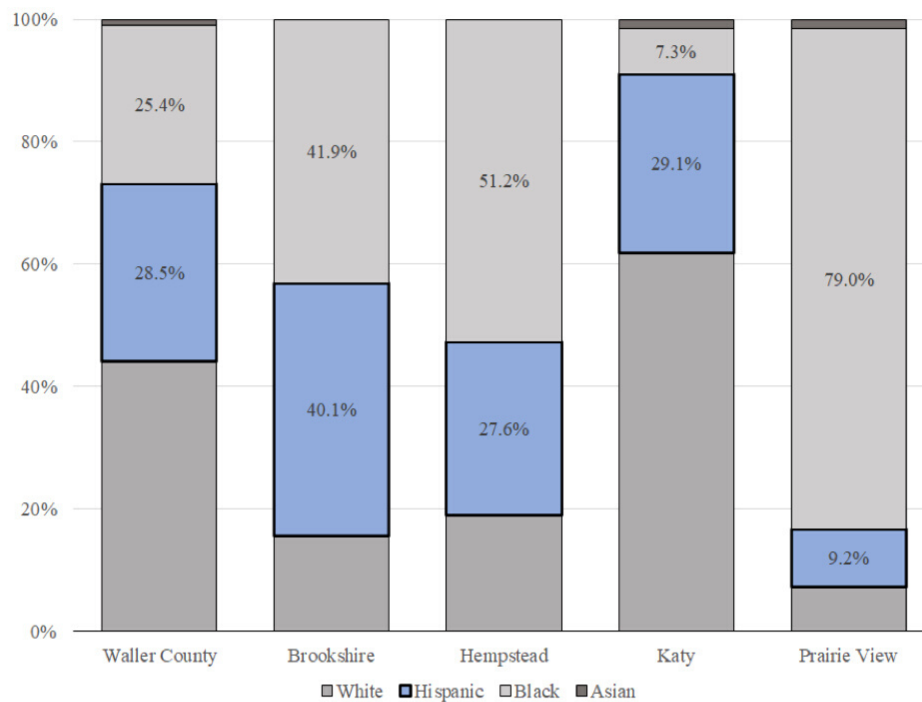


Figure 5
Waller County
Racial and Ethnic Diversity



Comparing racial and ethnicity profiles in Figures 4 and 5, it is clear that Montgomery County shows far less diversity than Waller County and the selected communities within it. Not unlike other counties in Texas, Montgomery and Waller counties have communities that are dominated by one racial or ethnic profile. For example, Splendora, a community on the eastern edge of the county has less than one percent of black residents, while Willis has 12.2 percent, the most of any of the communities studied.

In Waller County, the communities are much more diverse, specifically with respect to the representation of Hispanics. Further, as indicated above, Prairie View is nearly 80 percent black. Of all of the communities considered, Brookshire, located along Interstate 10 west of Houston, has the greatest percentage of Hispanics across both counties.

Food Stamp Usage

We learned that children who come from vulnerable populations are often at the greatest risk of falling into the world of commercial sexual exploitation of children. Using food stamps as a proxy measure for difficult family circumstances, Figures 6 and 7 compare the median household income for the county or municipality against the median household income for families who receive food stamps in that location.

Figure 6
 Montgomery County
 Median Household Income
 Food Stamp and Non-Food Stamp Households

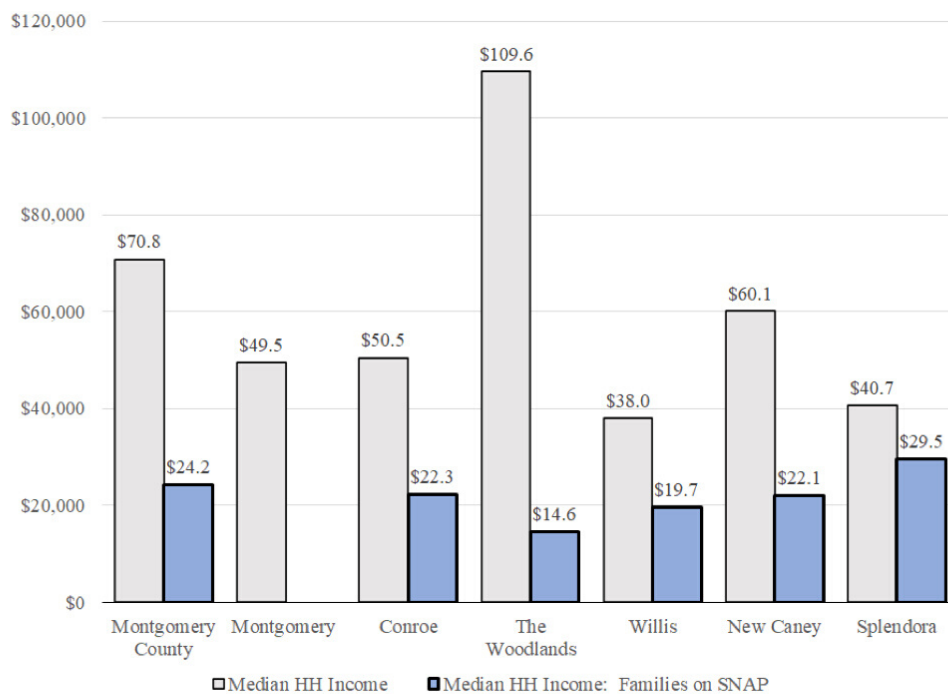
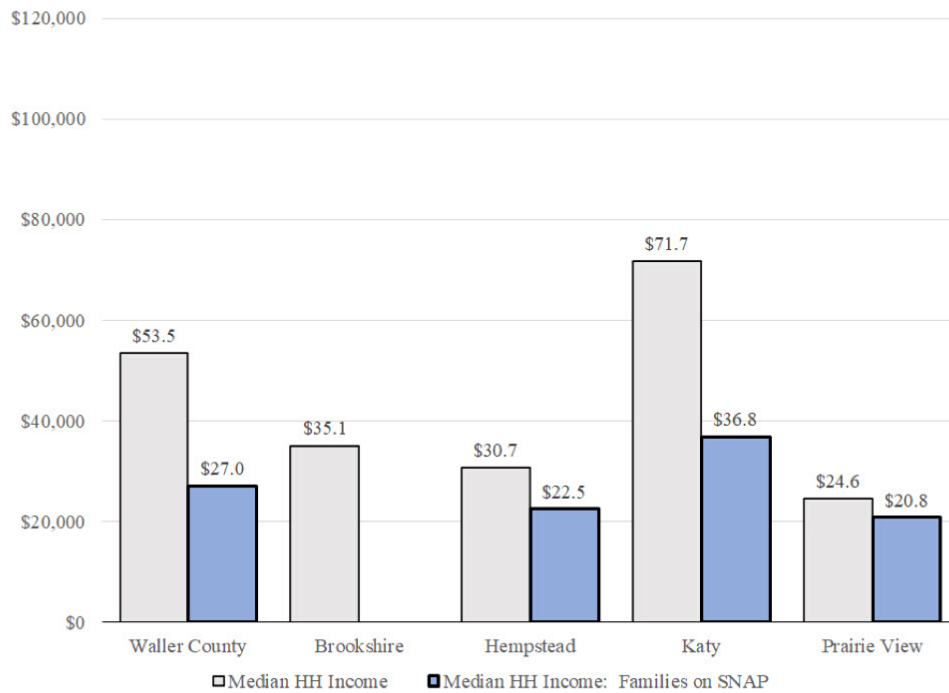


Figure 7
 Waller County
 Median Household Income
 Food Stamp and Non-Food Stamp Households



In Figures 6 and 7, we compare Waller and Montgomery Counties using median household income to uncover the distinctions in income levels. In both situations, there is one municipality that skews the data for the entire county. When comparing the data, substantial differences emerge, such as Prairie View in Waller County and, to a lesser extent, Splendora in Montgomery County.

Family Composition

Finally, family composition can also deliver a view into the percentage of potentially vulnerable citizens. Several risk factors discussed in the body of the paper are often associated with family composition, such as single parent households. In Figures 8 and 9, the distribution of two parent, single mother, or single father households are shown. These percentages are derived from households with children under the age of seventeen.

Figure 8
Montgomery County
Family Composition of Households with Children

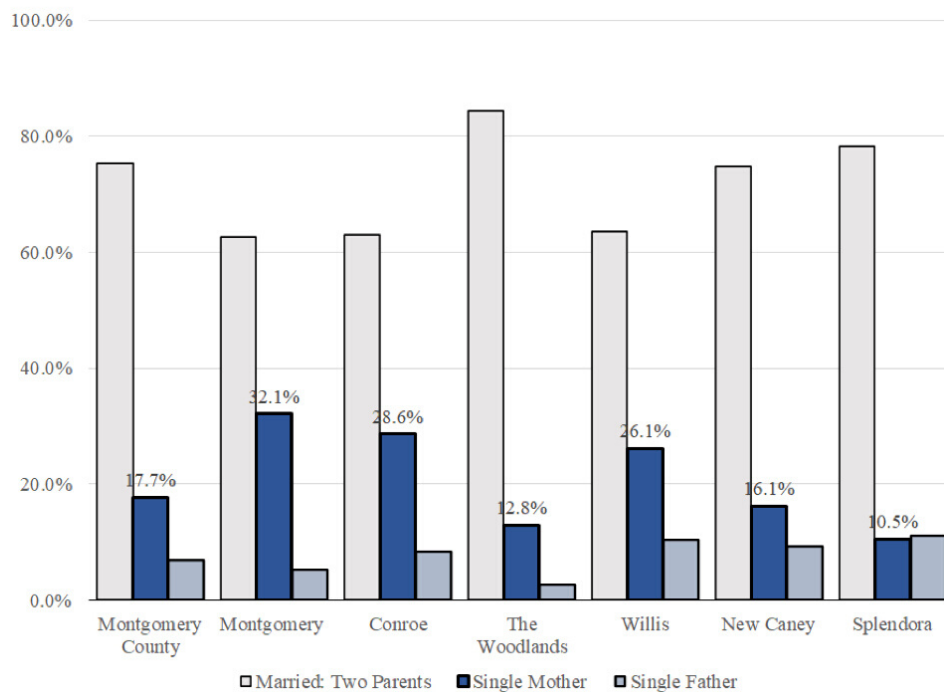
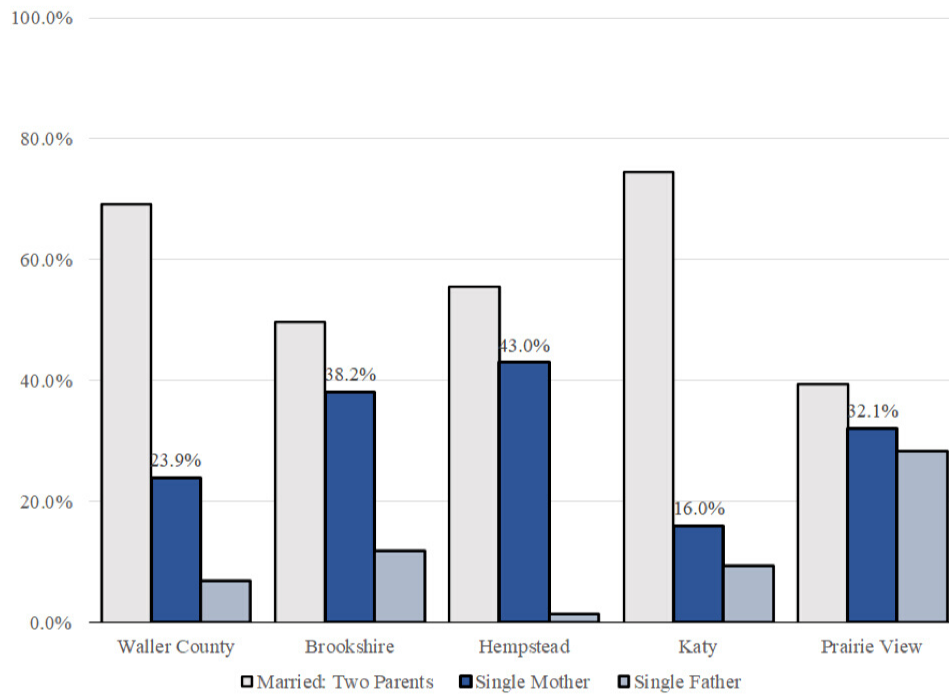


Figure 9
Waller County
Family Composition of Households with Children



In comparing Montgomery and Waller counties, substantial differences in several locations also exist as demonstrated by the percentage of families headed by single mothers. Compared to Montgomery County, Waller County shows a greater percentage of homes led by single parents, specifically single mothers.

Conclusion

While Montgomery and Waller Counties exhibit many of the same demographic profiles found in the first study from 2018 - 2019, some differences emerge. In this study, looking at the counties as well as several municipalities offers a level of granularity that exposes where the true difference lies.

APPENDIX E: TEXAS COALITIONS

Regional Task Forces/Coalitions

(Contact information for meetings and local resources)

<p>Abilene: Big Country Coalition Against Human Trafficking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lori Bunton (Regional Crime Victim Crisis Center) (325) 677-7895 lori@regionalvictimcrisiscenter.org 	<p>El Paso: El Paso County Anti-Human Trafficking Taskforce (EPCATT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jennifer Romero (FBI, El Paso Field Office) (915) 832-5429 desk or (915) 472-0867 cell jromero@fbi.gov • Cynthia Horton (Paso Del Norte Center of Hope) (915) 503-8008 chorton@epccinc.org • Haven't met in over a year
<p>Amarillo: Freedom in the 806 Coalition Against Trafficking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brandi Reed (Family Support Services) (806) 342.2500 ext. 2530 Breed@fss-ama.org • Meets Quarterly – No Set Schedule 	<p>Houston: Human Trafficking Rescue Alliance (HTRA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharad S. Khandelwal (Chair - U.S. Attorney's Office) (713) 567-9345 Sharad.Khandelwal@usdoj.gov • Sherri Zack (Deputy Chair - U.S. Attorney's Office) Sherri.Zack@usdoj.gov • Kesha Miller (Victim Witness Unit - U.S. Attorney's Office) Kesha.Miller@usdoj.gov • Quarterly Meetings; Monthly Meetings for LE & Service Providers
<p>Austin: Central Texas Human Trafficking Task Force</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kathi West (U.S. Attorney's Office, Western District) (512) 916-5858 kathi.west@usdoj.gov • Meets 3 Times a Year at Austin Office – No Set Schedule 	<p>Houston: Houston Rescue & Restore Coalition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Misa Nguyen (713) 874-0290 mnguyen@uaht.org
<p>Austin: Central Texas Coalition Against Human Trafficking (CTCAHT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Nehme (Allies Against Slavery) (512) 751-7123 john@alliesagainstsavery.org • Erica Schmidt (Refugee Services of Texas) eschmidt@rstx.org • Meets 4th Thursday of Every Other Month – 10/26 	<p>Longview/Tyler: East Texas Anti-Trafficking Team Partners in Prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sekettia Brantley (903) 237-1019 sbrantley@longviewtexas.gov • Meets Every 3rd Wednesday of the Month
<p>Bastrop: Bastrop County Coalition Against Human Trafficking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Brightwell sarah.brightwell3@gmail.com • Debbie Bresette debbie@bastropcares.org 	<p>Lubbock: Sex Trafficking Allied Response Team (START)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kim Stark (Voice of Hope/Lubbock Rape Crisis Center) (806) 763-3232 kim@voiceofhopelubbock.org • Meets 3rd Friday of the Month at 9:30a at Prosperity Bank, Garden Room, 1401 Ave Q, Lubbock
<p>Beaumont: Southeast Texas Alliance Against Trafficking (STAAT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kim Duchamp (Jefferson County District Attorney's Office) (409) 782-3181 kduchamp@co.jefferson.tx.us 	<p>Lubbock: Human Rescue Coalition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tricia Vowels (Co-Chair - Dept of State Health Services) Tricia.vowels@dshs.state.tx.us • Taiya Jones-Castillo (Co-Chair - Dept of State Health Services) (806) 783-6481 Taiya.jones@dshs.state.tx.us • humanrescuecoalition@gmail.com • Meets 1st Tuesday of the Month at 12p at Larry Combest Community Health & Wellness, 301 40th Street, Lubbock
<p>Bell County: Central Texas DMST Roundtable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dawn Owens (Bell County Juvenile Services) (254) 618-4291; Cell (254) 541-9326 dawn.owens@bellcounty.texas.gov • Meets 3rd Wednesday of Every Other Month 9a-11a – 11/15 	
<p>Corpus Christi: Coastal Bend Border Region Human Trafficking Task Force</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Cathy Miller (Chair - Texas A&M Corpus Christi) drcathymiller@gmail.com • https://texascbbrtaskforce.com/ 	
<p>DFW: North Texas Trafficking Task Force (NTTTF)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dow Croyle (U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District) (214) 659-8660 dow.croyle@usdoj.gov • Meets Quarterly in Arlington; 9a-11a General Session & 1p-3p Executive Session; Next meeting 11/8 	

APPENDIX E: TEXAS COALITIONS (CONT.)

Rio Grande Valley/McAllen: Rio Grande Valley (RGV) Human Trafficking Coalition
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigator Cano (Hidalgo County District Attorney's Office) (956) 292-7616 Marissa Cano (BCFS) (361) 290-9611 Marissacano1975@gmail.com Rosie Martinez (Hidalgo County District Attorney's Office) (956) 569-0231 rgvhtcl@yahoo.com Meets 3rd Wednesday of the Month

San Antonio: Alamo Area Coalition Against Trafficking (AACAT)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gina Arriaga (Bexar County Juvenile Probation) (210) 335-1810 gariaga@bexar.org Maricela Morales (Bexar County Juvenile Probation) (210) 335-1815 mmorales@bexar.org Includes South Texas Officers and Prosecutors (STOP) Task Force Against Human Trafficking Meets 2nd Tuesday of Every Other Month at 9a – 11/14

Tyler: Network to End Sexual Exploitation (NESE)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shannon Trest (Women's Center of East Texas) (903) 295-7846 Shannon@wc-et.org

Waco: Heart of Texas Human Trafficking Coalition (UnBound Waco)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natalie Garnett (254) 754-0386 ext. 134 Natalie.Garnett@UnBoundnow.org https://unboundnow.org/chapter/waco/ Meets Quarterly 10a-12p; 10/19/17 & 01/11/18

Additional Contacts

DPS Regional Victim Service Counselors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Victim Services Counselors are also a resource for referrals in your area. Regional contact information can be found on the DPS Victim Services website: https://www.dps.texas.gov/administration/staff_support/victimservices/pages/victimservicescounselors.htm

National Human Trafficking Resource Center and BeFree Hotline
<p>If there is not a coalition or task force in your area, call the NHTRC to find resources, report a tip, request training/technical assistance, or obtain general information: Call: 1-888-373-7888 Text: HELP to BeFree (233733) nhtrc@polarisproject.org www.traffickingresourcecenter.org</p> <p>The National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) is a national, toll-free hotline, available to answer calls from anywhere in the country, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, every day of the year in more than 200 languages. The NHTRC is operated by Polaris, a non-profit, non-governmental organization working exclusively on the issue of human trafficking.</p>

NOTE: The individuals listed on these pages are not the law enforcement or victim services points of contact. Contact the coalitions and task forces in your area for the appropriate individual for victim referral or to find out about local resources and meeting times.

APPENDIX F: RESOURCE GUIDE INSTRUCTIONS**Instructions for Filling in the Resource Guide****1. Resource Search**

- a. Google resources available to sex trafficking victims in your county. Below are sample google searches. The list is not exhaustive, but it does give you an idea about potential search phrases.
 - i. Victim resources of sex trafficking in (*county_name*) county
 - ii. Human trafficking resources (*county_name*) county
 - iii. (*county_name*) county sex trafficking resources (*county_name*) county free organization help trafficking victims
- b. Compile a list of every resource you find that could be applicable. This list does not need to be narrowed down right now, in fact it helps to have more resources than you wish to put on the guide so that you can narrow them down. Within the list include the name of the organization, pertinent contact information, if language assistance is provided, and resources that are associated with their organization. The website may not include all of this information, so you may have to call and find out.

2. Resource Confirmation

- a. Create a script to use when calling organizations to confirm resources available. Although each script may be tailored to the organization, a few things it must include:
 - i. Resources available to human trafficking victims
 - ii. Appropriate contact information for the organization
 - iii. Any limitations on who can access the resources
 - iv. Any identification requirements
- b. Call each business on your resource list that you compiled in 1B using the script you develop.
- c. During each call document all the information you are given from the contact. Also take note of a future point of contact within the organization.
- d. If organizations do not answer or are difficult to reach, remove them from the list. Additionally, if an organization has no resources or is not willing to serve victims of sex trafficking remove them from the list.

3. Resource Guide Completion

- a. After calling each business narrow your list down to at least three organizations that offer case management resources and at least four organizations that offer specific resources. An example of case management organizations offer three or more types of resources while a specific resource offers less than three types of resources.
- b. Fill in the chart using the final list of resources.
- c. We have provided a template and example document.