

**ENGAGE
TOGETHER®**

REGIONAL REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

TENNESSEE 2023

This Report includes regional assessments and recommendations based on the findings of Engage Together® Project for the State of Tennessee. It is a supplemental resource to the 2023 Tennessee Statewide Community Assessment Report and the County-Level Reports & Recommendations.

This Project was made possible by a grant from and the partnership of the TBI Human Trafficking Task Force, and was accomplished in collaboration with many partners, including especially the Task Force leadership, Tennessee Counter Trafficking Alliance (TCTA), Belmont University's Data Collaborative, Pomerol Partners and Qlik.

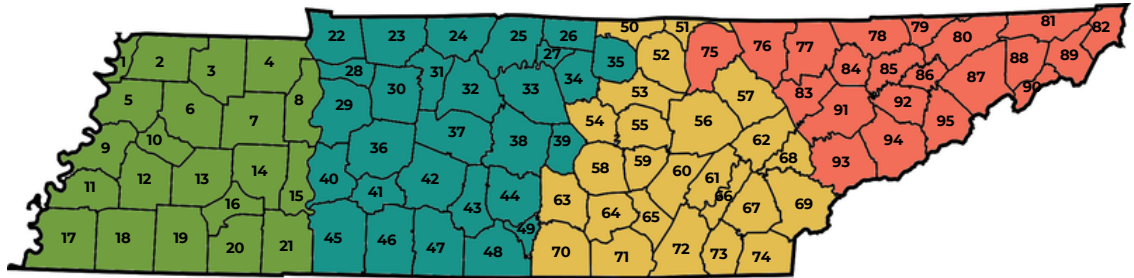
Learn more about each of these partners and download the supplemental reports by going to the Project website at engagetgether.com/project/tn.

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REGIONS & COUNTIES

This report includes regional assessments for the four regions of Tennessee as defined by the TBI Human Trafficking Task Force (West, Middle, East, and Upper East). That breakdown is as follows:



WEST

- | | | |
|------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. Lake | 8. Benton | 15. Decatur |
| 2. Obion | 9. Lauderdale | 16. Chester |
| 3. Weakley | 10. Crockett | 17. Shelby |
| 4. Henry | 11. Tipton | 18. Fayette |
| 5. Dyer | 12. Haywood | 19. Hardeman |
| 6. Gibson | 13. Madison | 20. McNairy |
| 7. Carroll | 14. Henderson | 21. Hardin |

EAST

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 50. Clay | 63. Coffee |
| 51. Pickett | 64. Grundy |
| 52. Overton | 65. Sequatchie |
| 53. Putnam | 66. Meigs |
| 54. Dekalb | 67. McMinn |
| 55. White | 68. Loudon |
| 56. Cumberland | 69. Monroe |
| 57. Morgan | 70. Franklin |
| 58. Warren | 71. Marion |
| 59. Van Buren | 72. Hamilton |
| 60. Bledsoe | 73. Bradley |
| 61. Rhea | 74. Polk |
| 62. Roane | |

MIDDLE

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| 22. Stewart | 33. Wilson | 43. Marshall |
| 23. Montgomery | 34. Smith | 44. Bedford |
| 24. Robertson | 35. Jackson | 45. Wayne |
| 25. Sumner | 36. Hickman | 46. Lawrence |
| 26. Macon | 37. Williamson | 47. Giles |
| 27. Trousdale | 38. Rutherford | 48. Lincoln |
| 28. Houston | 39. Cannon | 49. Moore |
| 29. Humphreys | 40. Perry | |
| 30. Dickson | 41. Lewis | |
| 31. Cheatham | 42. Maury | |
| 32. Davidson | | |

UPPER EAST

- | | | |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| 75. Fentress | 84. Union | 90. Unicoi |
| 76. Scott | 85. Grainger | 91. Knox |
| 77. Campbell | 86. Hamblen | 92. Jefferson |
| 78. Claiborne | 87. Greene | 93. Blount |
| 79. Hancock | 88. Washington | 94. Sevier |
| 80. Hawkins | 89. Carter | 95. Coker |
| 81. Sullivan | | |
| 82. Johnson | | |
| 83. Anderson | | |



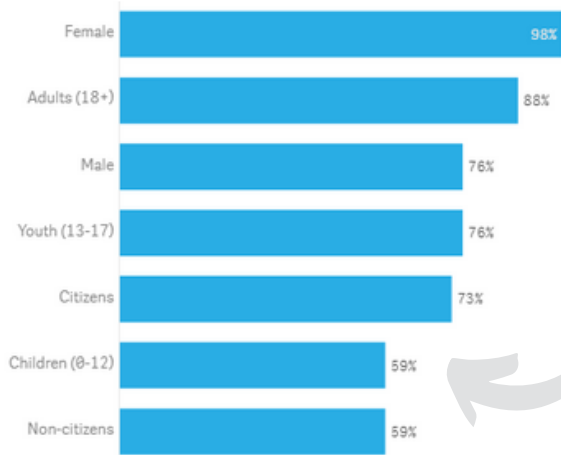
ACCESS & DOWNLOAD THE STATEWIDE REPORT, COUNTY-LEVEL REPORTS, AND THE DIRECTORY AT [ENGAGETOGETHER.COM/PROJECT/TN](https://engagetogether.com/project/tn)

SNAPSHOT

Of the **41 organizations** that reported efforts to address human trafficking in the West Region of Tennessee...

100% are working to address **sex trafficking**

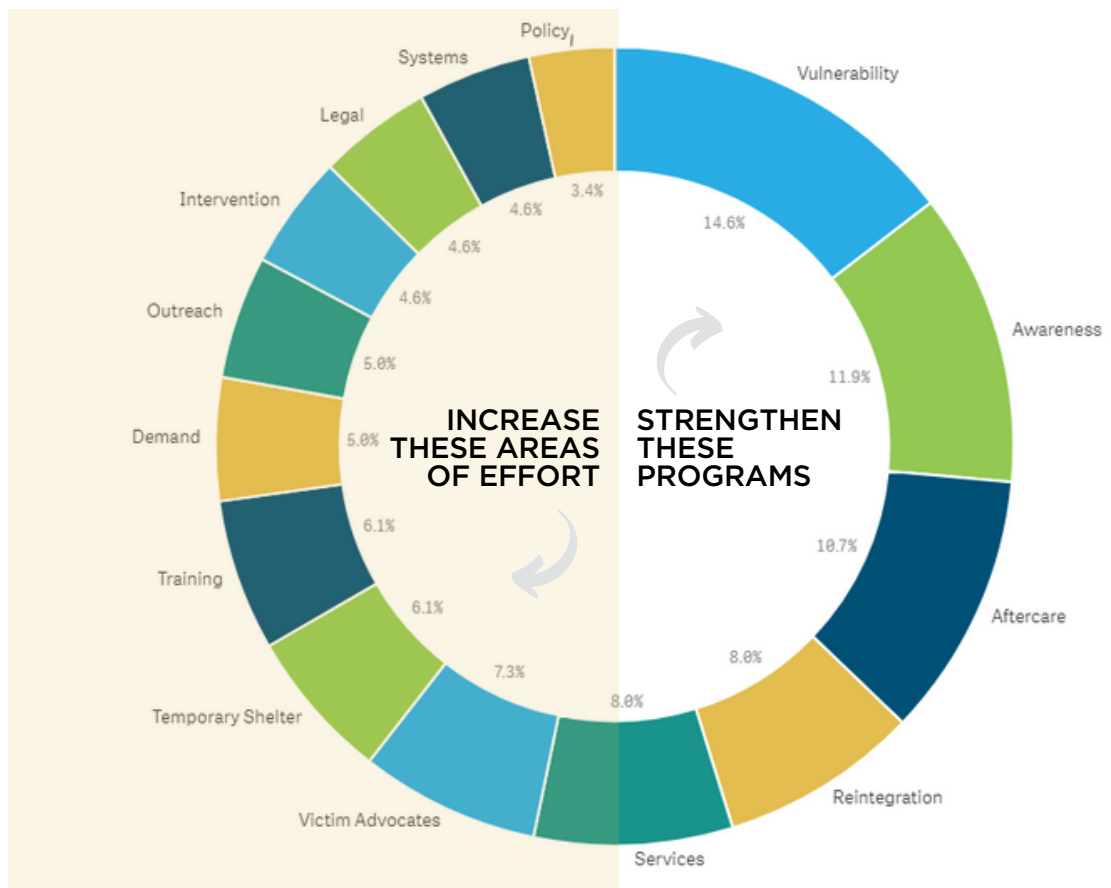
39% are working to address **labor trafficking**



Nonprofits carry 63% of the effort, followed by government (16%) and churches/houses of worship (7%). There is currently less than a 2% engagement by all other sectors.

To better understand who these programs and services are available to support, please see the chart to the left.

As reported by the 90 organizations working to address human trafficking and/or working to support vulnerable populations in the West Region, the **programmatic breakdown** of those efforts is as follows:



SUMMARY

The West Region of Tennessee is at **severe risk of human trafficking**. Current anti-trafficking efforts are highly concentrated in raising awareness and providing local aftercare and reintegration programs. Nonprofits are carrying the majority of the weight. Services are primarily supporting adult, female, citizen survivors of sex trafficking.

TOP 5 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Increase efforts to **identify** victims of **both labor and/or sex trafficking** by training all those in a position to recognize and respond to it, prioritizing those who are already supporting vulnerable populations
- Expand **victim advocate programs, temporary shelters,** and immediately accessible **services** for all victims of human trafficking
- **Mobilize** businesses, churches, civic clubs, and professional associations to partner with local efforts and meet identified needs in their area
- Provide **training** for all educators, child-serving professionals, and healthcare professionals that move beyond awareness to developing assessment tools, onsite protocols, and local partnerships
- Improve **outreach** efforts to vulnerable populations to empower them with the knowledge they need to stay safe or self-report

OF NOTE

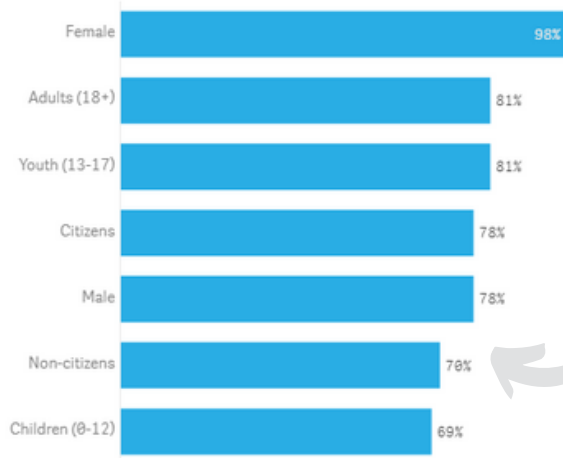
- **The two highest risk counties in the entire state of Tennessee are located in the West Region: Shelby and Madison.**
- The greatest risk factors for human trafficking in the West Region are **socio-economic vulnerabilities** (which include the prevalence of those experiencing poverty and food or housing insecurities), followed closely by **local environment vulnerabilities** (which include prevalence of sexual assault, domestic violence, drug offenses and related crimes). Whatever can be done to decrease the prevalence of these vulnerabilities and support those experiencing them will have a direct, immediate, and positive impact on preventing human trafficking.
- As trainings increase, identifications will follow. The West Region will need to prioritize catalyzing **multi-sector engagement** to increase available resources for both current efforts and future needs.

SNAPSHOT

Of the **54 organizations** that reported efforts to address human trafficking in the Middle Region of Tennessee...

100% are working to address **sex trafficking**

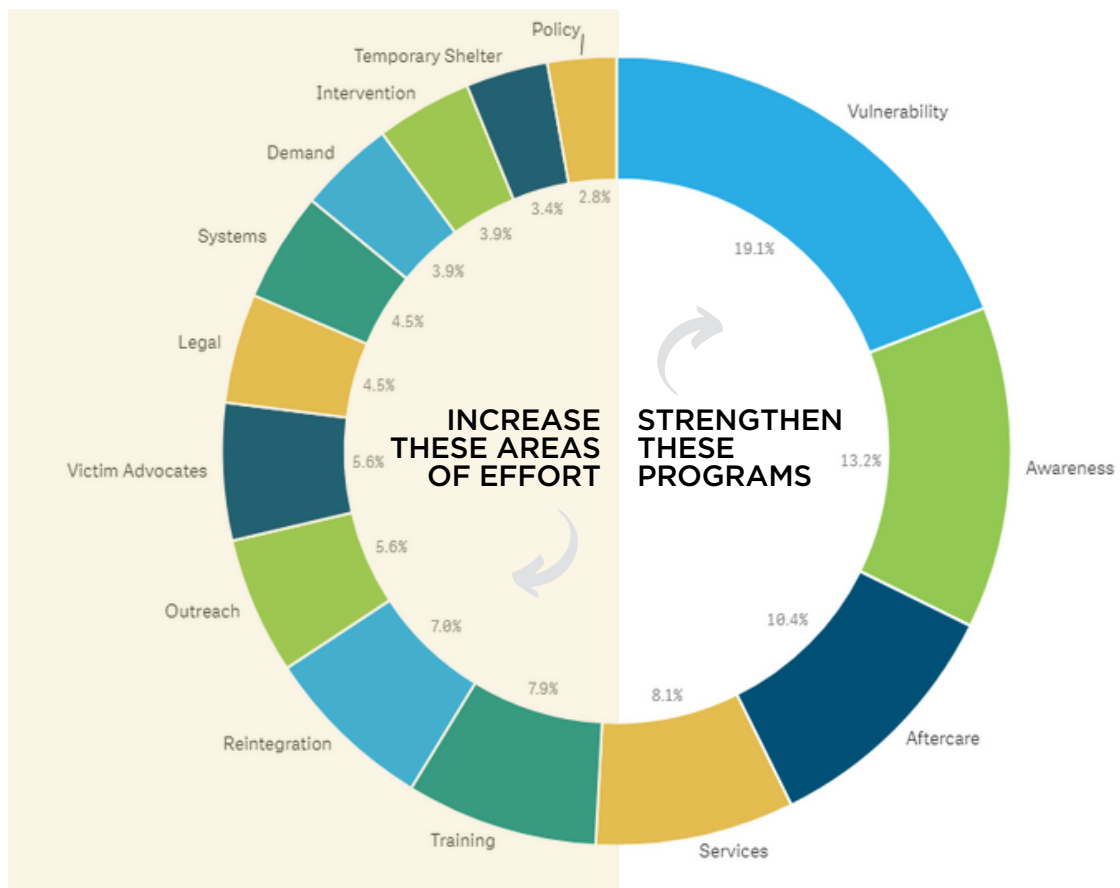
39% are working to address **labor trafficking**



Nonprofits carry 69% of the effort, followed by government (13%). Businesses, churches/houses of worship, healthcare, and civic clubs each carry 4%.

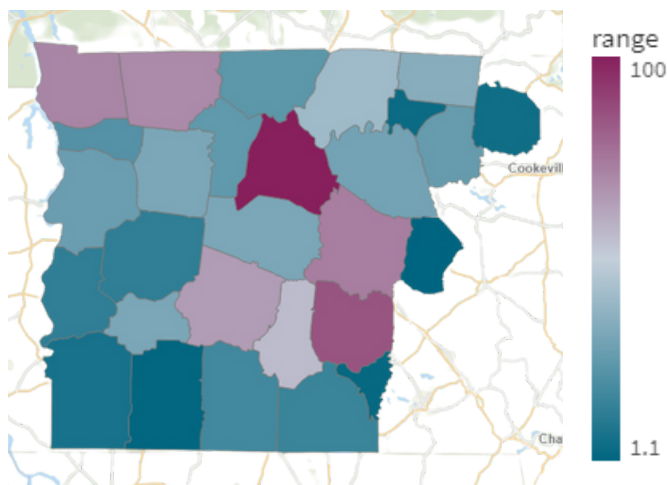
To better understand who these programs and services are available to support, please see the chart to the left.

As reported by the 125 organizations working to address human trafficking and/or working to support vulnerable populations in the Middle Region, the **programmatic breakdown** of those efforts is as follows:



REGION: MIDDLE

RISK ASSESSMENT



6 of the 28 counties in the Middle Region have a greater than 60% **Vulnerable Population Index score** (which indicates risk for the presence of human trafficking), with the top 10 counties of concern being:

- Davidson 97.9%
- Bedford 83.2%
- Rutherford 71.6%
- Stewart 69.5%
- Montgomery 68.4%
- Maury 63.2%
- Marshall 54.7%
- Sumner 40.5%
- Macon 34.7%
- Williamson 31.6%

IDENTIFIED NEEDS

The following **tangible, service, and funding needs** were shared by those working in the Middle Region to address human trafficking and/or support vulnerable populations. The larger the word, the more often it was shared across organizations.



DIRECTORY



Download the Directory for detailed information about how to support the needs of organizations in your area. Click on the QR code above or go to engagetgether.com/project/tn.

SUMMARY

The Middle Region of Tennessee is at high risk of human trafficking, and has a **high concentration of transient victims**. Davidson County is the **third highest risk county in the state**. Current anti-trafficking efforts are highly concentrated in raising awareness, providing services upon exit, and supporting aftercare. Nonprofits are carrying the majority of the weight. Services are primarily available to youth or adult citizen survivors of sex trafficking.

TOP 5 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Provide **training** that moves beyond awareness to all frontline professionals **in all counties on both labor and sex trafficking**
- **Equip vulnerable populations**, particularly non-citizens, at-risk youth, and individuals experiencing homelessness and/or domestic violence with the knowledge they need to stay safe or self-report
- Expand availability and accessibility of temporary **shelters** and **victim advocate** programs
- Build up partnerships and programs that will provide **reintegrative pathways** and opportunities for all survivors
- Increase **multi-sector engagement** of businesses, churches, civic clubs, professional associations, healthcare, and educators

OF NOTE

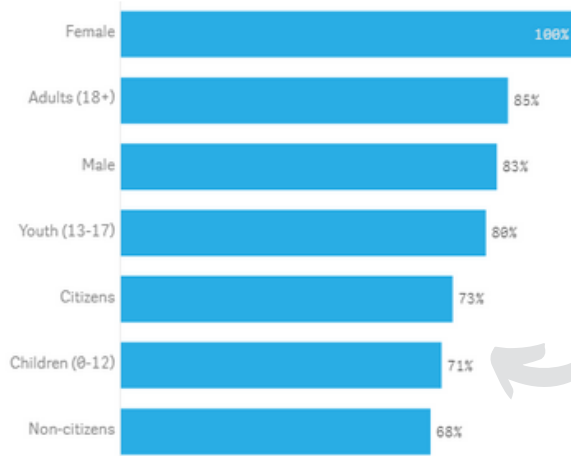
- The **greatest concentration** of anti-trafficking efforts are located in Davidson, Williamson, Dickson, Montgomery, and Jackson counties. While populations most at-risk are concentrated in Davidson, Bedford, Rutherford, Stewart, and Montgomery counties.
- The Middle Region is currently the **highest reporting region** for cases of human trafficking, and Davidson is the highest reporting county.
- The greatest risk factors for human trafficking in the Middle Region are **local environment vulnerabilities** (which include prevalence of sexual assault, domestic violence, drug offenses and related crimes), followed closely by **demographic vulnerabilities** (which include population density and prevalence of identified risk factors within that population, e.g. foreign-born and not a citizen, single-parent households, and individuals with disabilities). Whatever can be done to support and empower individuals experiencing these vulnerabilities will have a direct, immediate, and positive impact on preventing human trafficking.

SNAPSHOT

Of the **41 organizations** that reported efforts to address human trafficking in the East Region of Tennessee...

100% are working to address **sex trafficking**

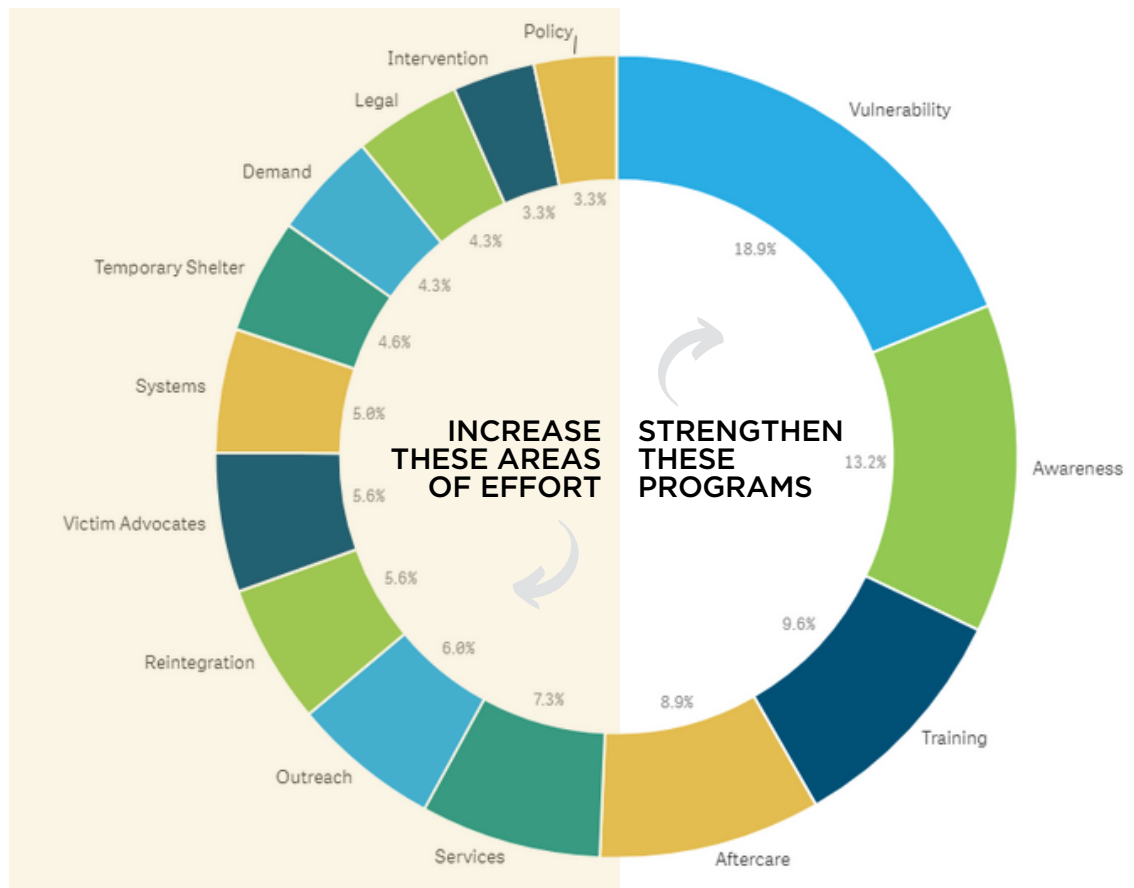
44% are working to address **labor trafficking**



Nonprofits carry 76% of the effort, followed by government (10%), businesses (7%), and healthcare (5%). No other sectors reported specific anti-trafficking efforts.

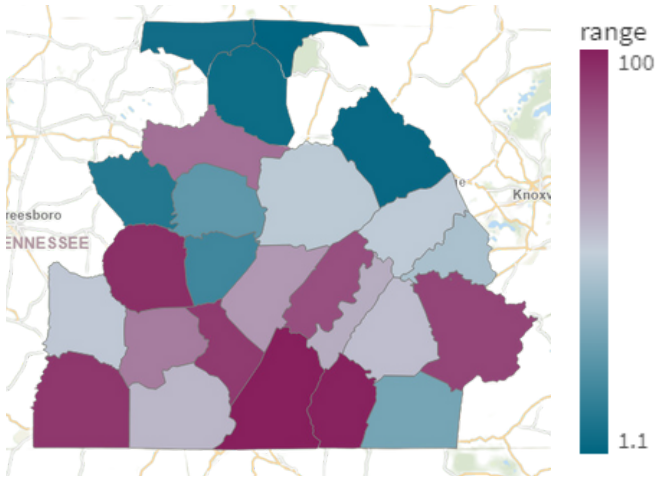
To better understand who these programs and services are available to support, please see the chart to the left.

As reported by the 96 organizations working to address human trafficking and/or working to support vulnerable populations in the East Region, the **programmatic breakdown** of those efforts is as follows:



REGION: EAST

RISK ASSESSMENT



11 of the 25 counties in the East Region have a greater than 60% **Vulnerable Population Index score** (which indicates risk for the presence of human trafficking), with the top 10 counties of concern being:

- Hamilton 96.8%
- Monroe 86.8%
- Bradley 95.8%
- Rhea 84.2%
- Warren 92.6%
- Putnam 75.8%
- Franklin 90.5%
- Grundy 72.6%
- Sequatchie 89.5%
- Bledsoe 65.3%

IDENTIFIED NEEDS

The following **tangible, service, and funding needs** were shared by those working in the East Region to address human trafficking and/or support vulnerable populations. The larger the word, the more often it was shared across organizations.



DIRECTORY



Download the Directory for detailed information about how to support the needs of organizations in your area. Click on the QR code above or go to engagetgether.com/project/tn.

SUMMARY

The East Region of Tennessee is at **high risk of human trafficking**. Current anti-trafficking efforts are highly concentrated in raising awareness, training frontline professionals, and providing aftercare support. Nonprofits are carrying the majority of the weight, and available services are primarily supporting youth and/or adult citizen survivors of sex trafficking.

TOP 5 RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Prioritize training** all those who provide support and services to vulnerable populations across all counties in the East Region, especially all **child-serving professionals** and healthcare providers, to recognize and respond to indicators of either labor and/or sex trafficking
- **Improve outreach efforts** to vulnerable populations to empower them with the knowledge they need to stay safe or self-report, especially migrant workers in the area
- Increase the number immediately accessible **victim advocates**, **temporary shelters**, and **services** for all victims of human trafficking
- Expand programming and/or partnerships to **support mental health** needs of survivors and at-risk individuals in local communities
- **Mobilize** businesses, churches, civic clubs, and professional associations to partner with local efforts and meet identified needs in their area

OF NOTE

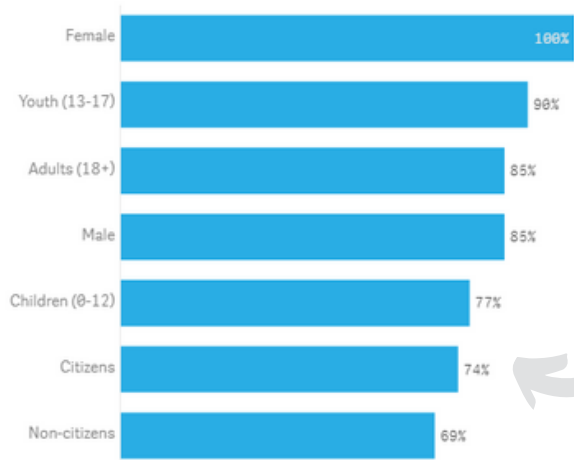
- **The East Region has the greatest concentration of high-risk counties in the state of Tennessee.**
- The greatest risk factors for human trafficking in the East Region are **youth vulnerabilities** (which include the prevalence of chronically absent, homeless, justice-involved, and/or disconnected youth, and minors with disabilities), followed by **demographic vulnerabilities** (which include population density and prevalence of identified risk factors within that population, e.g. foreign-born and not a citizen, single-parent households, and individuals with disabilities). Whatever can be done to decrease the prevalence of these vulnerabilities and support those experiencing them will have a direct, immediate, and positive impact on preventing human trafficking.

SNAPSHOT

Of the **39 organizations** that reported efforts to address human trafficking in the Upper East Region of Tennessee...

100% are working to address **sex trafficking**

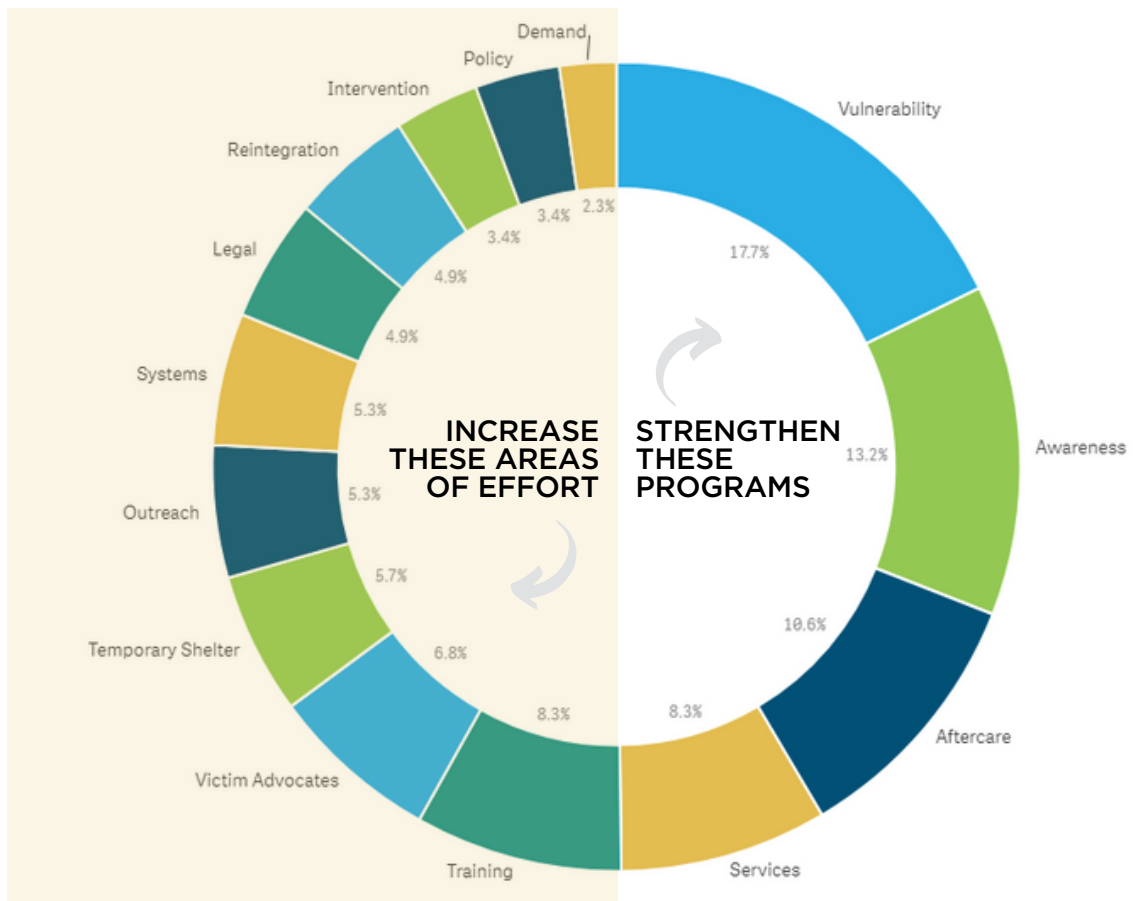
51% are working to address **labor trafficking**



Nonprofits carry 77% of the effort, followed by government (13%). All other sectors reported a less than 5% level of engagement.

To better understand who these programs and services are available to support, please see the chart to the left.

As reported by the 88 organizations working to address human trafficking and/or working to support vulnerable populations in the Upper East Region, the **programmatic breakdown** of those efforts is as follows:



SUMMARY

The Upper East Region of Tennessee is at **severe risk of human trafficking**. Current anti-trafficking efforts are highly concentrated in raising awareness and providing aftercare support and services. Nonprofits are carrying the overwhelming majority of the weight, and current programs and services are primarily supporting youth and/or adult victims of sex trafficking.

TOP 5 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Strengthen efforts to **identify** victims of **both labor and/or sex trafficking** by training all those in a position to recognize and respond to it, prioritizing those who are already supporting vulnerable populations
- Increase **victim advocate programs, temporary shelters,** and immediately accessible **services** for all victims of human trafficking
- **Mobilize** businesses, churches, civic clubs, and professional associations to partner with local efforts and meet identified needs in their area
- Improve **outreach** efforts to vulnerable populations to empower them with the knowledge they need to stay safe or self-report
- **Build pathways** to success for survivors of labor or sex trafficking by increasing reintegrative programs and supports, and by engaging businesses and educational institutions as partners in the effort

OF NOTE

- The Upper East Region has the **most active effort to address labor trafficking** in the state. These efforts are currently concentrated in raising community awareness and conducting trainings. Outreach to at-risk populations and services aimed at supporting labor trafficking victims still need to be strengthened.
- The greatest risk factors for human trafficking in the Upper East Region are **local environment vulnerabilities** (which include prevalence of sexual assault, domestic violence, drug offenses and related crimes), followed closely by **socio-economic vulnerabilities** (which include the prevalence of those experiencing poverty and food or housing insecurities), and also **youth vulnerabilities** (which include the prevalence of chronically absent, homeless, justice-involved, and/or disconnected youth, and minors with disabilities). Whatever can be done to decrease the prevalence of these vulnerabilities and support those experiencing them will have a direct, immediate, and positive impact on preventing human trafficking.

REGION: UPPER EAST

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Engage Together® Project exists to strengthen community response to end and prevent human trafficking. Learn more at engagetogether.com/project.

To access and download this report and all supplemental reports and resources for this Project, go to engagetogether.com/project/tn.