NIJ

Category E: TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

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VIOLENCE & VICTIMIZATION RESEARCH DIVISION'S
COMPENDIUM OF RESEARCH ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

1993-2009

Compendium of Research on Violence Against Women: 1993-2009

CATEGORY E: TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS………………………………………1E

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2005-IJ-CX-0053:	**Assessing the Extent of Human Trafficking A Community Outreach Approach.**
Amount:	**$336,177**
PI:	**Nina Siulc**
Monitor:	**Karen J. Bachar**
Status:	**Completed**

The research team plans to conduct research on new methods for measuring and assessing the extent and nature of human trafficking in the United States. With its partner, the International Organization for Adolescents (IOFA), and the collaboration of nongovernmental organizations, including several member agencies of the New York City Community Response to Trafficking (NYC-CRT) project, the research team will design and conduct a multi-site field test of a new data collection instrument that will identify and gather data on individual victims of trafficking and provide critical information to law enforcement, service providers, and government officials. The research team will work with community and national advisory committees composed of practitioners, law enforcement, medical professionals, and researchers with experience working with trafficking victims and skilled in methodologies useful for working with vulnerable populations. By soliciting the input of experts in the field, the team will create a data collection instrument that serves the dual purpose of assisting service providers in identifying victims and providing researchers with data on victim demographics, migratory and employment histories, criminal networks, and the process of victim discovery. Following completion of data collection activities, iterative analysis of the resulting data and comparison with what is currently known will enable the team to assess the prevalence of trafficking to New York City, trace the relationships between different characteristics of trafficking victims, and offer insight into trends in the nature and methods of trafficking. In addition to producing this sort of generalizable data about a large sample of victims, the results will also enable Vera Institute staff to draw conclusions about how to implement the data-collection instrument on a national scale, will point to best-practices and standardized protocols for victim-identification, including establishing consensus on definitions of trafficking and victims, and will provide a framework against which to assess investigation, prosecution, and prevention efforts mandated by new federal human trafficking legislation

Project: NCJ# 224391
Measuring Human Trafficking Lessons from New York City – N.A. Weiner; N. Hala
The NYCTAP focused on applied measurement. Recognizing that the field of research and practice lacked the tools to reliably identify victims of human trafficking, the NYCTAP concentrated on developing those tools, collaborating with stakeholders. The NYCTAP designed a trafficking victim screening tool to collect standardized data on victims._. Lessons learned in the pilot form the basis for three sets of recommendations to (1) improve victim identification and data collection on human trafficking, (2) design a standardized trafficking victim screening tool and supporting toolkit for its administration, and (3) validate a standardized trafficking victim screening tool. The NYCTAP was undertaken to respond to the pressing need for more accurate measurements of human trafficking.

2006-IJ-CX-0008:	**A Case Study of Human Trafficking: The Transnational Movement of**
	Chinese Women for Sex Work
Amount:	**$284,287**
PI:	**James Finckenauer and Ko-lin Chin**
Monitor:	**Karen J. Bachar**
Status:	**Ongoing**

The research team is examining a number of key questions related to the illicit movement of Chinese women to other Asian countries and the United States for work in the sex industry. Specifically, the team will (1) Examine the underlying reasons for the illicit movement of Chinese women for the purpose of prostitution; (2) Explore the structure or social organization of the movement of Chinese women; (3) Understand the methods of recruiting, transporting and managing Chinese women by various participants in the smuggling/trafficking and sex businesses; (4) Investigate the economic aspects of smuggling/trafficking and prostitution; (5) Examine the social adjustment and settlement patterns among Chinese sex workers and the victimization of these sex workers by smugglers/traffickers and sex industry operators; (6) Analyze the individual and group characteristics of

smugglers/traffickers and their relationships with gangs and organized crime; and (7) Evaluate the problems and prospects of combating the movement of women from China to the rest of the world. The study involves several research sites: Hong Kong/Macau, Tokyo (Japan), Taipei (Taiwan), Bangkok (Thailand), Singapore, New York City, and Los Angeles. Approximately 315 face-to-face interviews with four categories of subjects at the research sites will be conducted. The subjects will include Chinese women working in the sex industry (n=140); sex industry operators (i.e., smugglers/traffickers, sex establishment owners, pimps, drivers) (n=70); legal authorities including law enforcement officers, judges, prosecutors and government officials (n=70); and representatives of victim services providers, NGOs, and advocacy groups (n=35). This research will greatly enhance understanding of human smuggling and trafficking by simultaneously tapping into all the players in the marketplace—victims, smugglers/traffickers, employers, and legal authorities. Specific answers to such questions as: who are the victims, who are the smugglers/traffickers, how does the business operate, how is it organized, what is the role of organized crime, what are the push/pull and supply/demand pressures, and what is the role of corruption, etc., will clearly advance understanding of this phenomenon

2006-IJ-CX-0010:	Prosecuting Human Trafficking Cases: Lessons Learned and Best Practices
Amount:	$189,420
PI:	Heather Clawson
Monitor:	Karen J. Bachar
Status:	Completed

To better understand prosecutors' ability to use these to prosecute and convict traffickers while also balancing the needs of trafficked persons, the research team will examine the effects of existing antitrafficking legislation from the perspective of the prosecution and identify critical challenges and barriers to successfully prosecuting cases. As part of this project, Caliber plans to conduct (1) a targeted survey of federal and state prosecutors in key trafficking states (n=150), (2) in-depth interviews with key subjects from the US Attorneys leading antitrafficking task forces, attorneys in states with anti-trafficking legislation, and international prosecutors and other CJ representatives (n=25), (3) legislation and legal case analysis, including a review of relevant state and federal statutes, anti-trafficking legislation from countries identified by the State Department as partners (Tier 1 countries) in the fight to eradicate trafficking, and a sample of human trafficking cases (B=75), and (4) identification of best practices resulting from the three previous activities (n=4 to 6). This study will provide key lessons learned and tested practices for prosecuting human trafficking for policymakers, prosecutors, and practitioners. This study also will provide recommendations for what is still needed by federal and State prosecutors in order for them to be effective in the fight against traffickers.

Product: NCJ# 223972
Prosecuting Human Trafficking Cases: Lessons Learned and Promising Practices – H. J. Clawson; N. Dutch; S. Lopez; S. Tiapula
The findings suggest that once human trafficking prosecutions have begun, guilty verdicts are likely. Just over 85 percent of the 298 cases prosecuted under the Federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) during the past 7 years have resulted in convictions. Prosecutors experienced in managing human-trafficking cases have collaborated with local, State, and Federal law enforcement agencies and nongovernmental organizations; assisted victims in accessing services; identified key evidence; and used proven prosecutorial techniques. Ongoing documentation, monitoring, and analysis of the prosecutions of human trafficking cases within Federal and State courts are needed so as to monitor progress. Convictions are just one measure of success. More information is needed on reduction in the prevalence of this crime and how effective work with trafficking victims is in helping them to reclaim their lives. Ten prosecutors who represented 13 offices involved in 86 percent of the 268 cases identified for the study advised other prosecutors to be patient and set low expectations, to be ready to make a significant investment of time, to be sensitive to the victims, to establish a good rapport with law enforcement, to use investigative techniques that normally would not be used, and to think proactively about what charges can be brought against the defendants. The 77 State and local prosecutors from 27 States who completed a survey noted the importance of having a collaborative and unified investigation, addressing the victims' needs, having sufficient resources, and the importance of training law enforcement officers and prosecutors to raise awareness of the problem.

2007-VT-BX-0001:	Finding Victims of Human Trafficking
Amount:	$293,198

PI:	**Phyllis Newton**
Monitor:	**Karen J. Bachar**
Status:	**Completed**

This is an exploratory study of the prevalence, context, and characteristics of human trafficking cases and victims across the country. The research team will interview State and local key stakeholders (N=240) about their experiences with human trafficking to collect information about victims, cases, and perpetrators they have encountered in their efforts to combat these activities. A primary focus of the interviews will be on identification of victims and potential victims that have not come to the attention of law enforcement. Using this information, good practices for finding trafficking victims and bringing traffickers to justice will be developed. The PIs will conduct extensive case file reviews, based on the results of the interviews, at four sites to locate cases that could have been charged as trafficking but were not. The overarching goal is to further available knowledge of human trafficking in the United States and expand understanding of how and why it occurs to enable state and local law enforcement find victims. Consistent with the solicitation, the research team proposed the following research objectives: (1) Provide a description of and document the numbers of unidentified victims of severe forms of human trafficking in the United States; (2) Interpret the issues, opportunities, and barriers for law enforcement with victims and building cases, apprehending, and successfully prosecuting traffickers, (3) Identify the characteristics of victims and perpetrators of human trafficking, (4) Determine the relationship between unlawful commercial sex acts and victims of human trafficking, (5) Uncover likely places where human trafficking victims will be found, (6) Examine the barriers encountered by law enforcement and service delivery organizations in certifying victims and developing cases of severe forms of trafficking, including the push and pull factors that initiate and maintain victim's involvement in human trafficking, and (7) Code case files to determine the number of cases that represented trafficking behavior but were charged under another offense.

Product: NCJ# 224393
Finding Victims of Human Trafficking – P.J. Newton; T.M. Mulcahy; S. E. Martin
The findings suggest that law enforcement respondents in sites with State trafficking statutes were more aware of the issue and were more likely to have received training and to have implemented proactive strategies to respond to the problem. Sites with State trafficking statutes also were more likely to have collaborated and/or to be actively collaborating with Federal authorities in responding to the problem. Several recommendations for policy and practice and future research are presented and discussed. Highlights of select recommendations include: (1) expand and provide training to law enforcement and prosecutors that clearly distinguishes the various trafficking offenses, such as smuggling, domestic human trafficking, and sex trafficking; and how to identify, investigate, make cases against perpetrators and find assistance for victims; (2) develop and provide technical assistance on maintaining adequate recordkeeping systems at the local level to track and monitor sex-related cases and investigations; and (3) make resources available for law enforcement and service providers to focus on human trafficking offenses.

2007-VT-BX-K002:	**Human Trafficking Literature Review**
Amount:	**$86,802**
PI:	**Elzbieta Gozdziack**
Monitor:	**Karen J. Bachar**
Status:	**Ongoing**

Investigators will conduct a comprehensive literature search on human trafficking and subsequent analysis of the rigor of the literature they uncover. To complete the literature review, the applicant will: (1) Develop criteria (appropriate for both quantitative and qualitative research) to objectively categorize and rank research-based literature on human trafficking according to its methodological merit, (2) Compile a comprehensive annotated bibliography of existing US and non-US publications (excluding media reports) on trafficking in human beings in a user-friendly and easily accessible electronic form, (3) Classify and rank bibliographic literature on trafficking in persons based on the ranking system developed in consultation with NIJ, (4) Complete a literature review based on the gathered information and reflecting the state of knowledge on human trafficking, and (5) Design a dissemination plan to provide different audiences with an easy access to the compiled annotated bibliography The products of this project will provide decision-makers with vital information to identify and protect victims and prosecute traffickers, craft effective policies, and develop efficient and culturally and linguistically appropriate programs. Those responsible for addressing human trafficking will be able to differentiate between sensational publications intended to raise awareness about trafficking, and serious literature, based on robust empirical research, intended to analyze

the root causes of human trafficking; provide estimates of the number of victims; map and analyze trafficking trends and routes; examine the different types of exploitation; understand the resiliency and the suffering of trafficked victims; and assess the appropriateness of treatment modalities and psychosocial programs aimed at rehabilitating victims.

Product: NCJ# 224392
Data and Research on Human Trafficking: Bibliography of Research-Based Literature – E. M. Gozdziak; M.N. Bump
This study reviewed more than 5,000 documents and from that created a database with 1,324 pieces of research on trafficking published in English in order to answer some basic questions about the state of research into human trafficking. Almost two-thirds of the works were journal articles and official reports. One of the questions we wanted to answer was: Who is conducting research in this area? The answer, not surprisingly, was a wide range of experts. Academics in the social sciences conducted the majority of trafficking research, with 62 percent of reports and 45 percent of journal articles. But legal scholars and criminal justice experts represented the second largest group of researchers, with 33 percent of reports and 29 percent of journal articles. This tells us that academics are not the only ones researching trafficking. Lawyers and criminal justice professionals are also contributing to our knowledge of trafficking. Another important question to ask is: What forms of trafficking are researchers focusing on? Sex trafficking was the most highly researched area of trafficking, followed by labor trafficking. Close to a third of journal articles and 10 percent of reports, however, did not identify the form of trafficking, preferring instead to focus on trafficking in a generic way. This suggests that the research on trafficking is diverse. We can arrive at a similar conclusion when we look at the populations of trafficking victims found in the research. Journal articles tended to be more generic in terms of the population that was targeted in the research. Almost half of the journal articles used a generic term of "trafficked victims" without specifying age or gender. Reports tended to be more specific. Women and girls were discussed in two-thirds of the reports on trafficking, with boys discussed in another fifth of the reports. Again, the conclusion we can draw is that trafficking research is not focused on one specific population. The research is diverse in its approach to victims.

For an index of all grants, go to http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/223572-grants-index.pdf.