

National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States

Preliminary State Self-Assessment Survey Overview

January 2022

The National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States (the Committee) advises the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) on the Nation's response to the sex trafficking of children and youth in the United States. The Committee consists of representative members whose diverse experience and background enable them to provide balanced points of view with regard to carrying out the duties of the Committee.

Katherine Chon, Director of the HHS Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP), is the Committee's Designated Federal Officer.

Glen (JR) Ujifusa, Jr., Senior Deputy District Attorney, Multnomah County District Attorney's Office, Supervisor of the Human Trafficking Team, Drug Unit and Property Crimes Unit, is Chairperson of the Committee.

The members of the Committee are:

- Rebecca Bender – Founder, Rebecca Bender Initiative (Oregon)
- Justice Bobbe J. Bridge, ret. – Founding President and CEO, Center for Children & Youth Justice (Washington)
- Marissa Castellanos, MSW – Program Director, Bakhita Empowerment Initiative, Catholic Charities of Louisville (Kentucky)
- Kimberly S.G. Chang, MD, MPH – Family Physician, Director of Human Trafficking and Healthcare Policy, Asian Health Services (California)
- Detective Captain Pi Downsborough, ret. – Commander of the High Risk Victim Unit, Massachusetts State Police (Massachusetts)
- Governor Doug Ducey (Arizona)
- Joel Marc Filmore, Ed.D., LCPC, LPC – Owner and CEO, Lighthouse Professional Counseling Center (Illinois)
- Jordan Greenbaum, MD – Medical Director, Global Initiative for Child Health and Well-Being, International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (Virginia)
- Stacey Katz, Psy.D. – CEO, WestCoast Children's Clinic (California)
- Judge Robert Lung – District Court Judge, 18th Judicial District; Consultant/Survivor/Presenter (Colorado)
- Camille Naaktgeboren, Ph.D. – Microbiology Professor (Nevada)
- Christine Raino, Esq. – Senior Director of Public Policy, Shared Hope International (District of Columbia)
- Judge John J. Romero, Jr. (Ret.) – Children's Court Division of the Second Judicial District Court; Past President of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (New Mexico)
- Kathy Sauve – Housing, Youth and Family Resources Director, Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (Minnesota)
- Staca Shehan – Vice President, Analytical Services Division, National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (Virginia)
- Glen (JR) Ujifusa, Jr., Senior Deputy District Attorney, Multnomah County District Attorney's Office, Supervisor of the Human Trafficking Team, Drug Unit and Property Crimes Unit (Oregon)
- Yasmin Vafa, Esq. – Co-founder and Executive Director, Rights4Girls (District of Columbia)
- John Vanek – Consultant; Retired Lieutenant, San Jose Police Department (Nevada)
- Erin Williamson, LCSW, MPA – Vice President of Global Programs, Love 146 (Connecticut)

Learn more about the Committee members: <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/partnerships/the-national-advisory-committee/nacmembers>

Federal Agencies

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:
 - Administration for Native Americans
 - Children’s Bureau
 - Family and Youth Services Bureau
 - Office on Trafficking in Persons
 - Office of Refugee Resettlement
- U.S. Department of Justice:
 - Office of the Deputy Attorney General
 - Office of Justice Programs

Public Comment Submissions

Pursuant to the provisions of the [Federal Advisory Committee Act](#) and the [Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014 \(P.L. 113–183\)](#), the Committee receives [public comments](#) to inform their work. Thank you to all who submitted comments that have informed this report

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The National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States (the Committee) was established in January 2017, as authorized by the [Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014 \(P.L. 113–183\)](#). The Committee consists of representative members whose diverse experience and background enable them to provide balanced points of view with regard to carrying out their duties. The Committee advises the Secretary of HHS and the Attorney General on practical and general policies to improve the Nation’s response to the sex trafficking of children and youth in the United States.

The Committee’s statutory responsibilities include:

- Advising on the development and implementation of successful prevention and intervention efforts for children and youth who have experienced or are exposed to conditions that make them vulnerable for sex trafficking.
- Recommending administrative or legislative changes necessary to use programs, properties, or other resources owned, operated, or funded by the federal government to provide safe housing for children and youth who have experienced or are vulnerable for sex trafficking.
- Developing two tiers of recommended best practices for states to follow in combating the sex trafficking of children and youth.
- Sharing best practices and recommendations with state governors and child welfare agencies.

Between September 2018 and December 2021, Committee members participated in ten public meetings (minutes posted [here](#)) and received [public comments](#) to inform their work. In accordance with the requirements under P.L. 113-183, in September 2020, the Committee published their interim report, [Best Practices and Recommendations for States](#), which contains a full set of recommendations and supporting resources that states may consult as they work to improve their response to the sex trafficking of children and youth. The report includes 127 recommendations to states and 34 recommendations to federal agencies. The recommendations are divided into twelve sections:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Multidisciplinary Response (MDR) | 7. Judiciary |
| 2. Screening and Identification | 8. Demand Reduction |
| 3. Child Welfare | 9. Prevention |
| 4. Service Provision | 10. Legislation and Regulation |
| 5. Housing | 11. Research and Data |
| 6. Law Enforcement and Prosecution | 12. Funding and Sustainability |

Within each section, the Committee developed two tiers of recommended best practices for states to follow. Throughout 2021, states were asked to identify a point of contact to collaborate with human trafficking task forces, child welfare agencies, law enforcement, prosecutors, courts, other government agencies, non-government organizations, and other relevant groups to evaluate their state’s efforts to implement the Committee’s recommendations and highlight innovative and successful work. The Committee requested for the point of contact to work closely with individuals and agencies across disciplines who work with and encounter children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking to gather information as they complete the assessment. For each recommendation, states were asked to assess the extent to which they have worked to address the sex trafficking of children and youth by choosing the recommendation tier that best describes their work (Tier I or Tier II), as appropriate.

The [deadline for states to submit the State Self-Assessment Survey was June 23, 2021](#), but the Committee [provided an extension through October 29, 2021](#). Following this extension, some states requested and received additional extensions through December 2021. The Committee also requested for federal agencies to provide initial responses to applicable recommendations by October 29, 2021. At the time that this preliminary report was drafted, one state had submitted a partial self-assessment (Hawai'i) and at least two states indicated their intent to submit their surveys at a later time (Iowa, North Carolina). One state (Washington) submitted their complete self-assessment after the Committee drafted this preliminary report. Thus, this preliminary report summarizes tier selections made by the 29 states that submitted complete responses to the State Self-Assessment Survey by December 10, 2021. A separate addendum to this report summarizes the responses received from federal agencies.

Per federal statute ([P.L. 113–183](#)), “the final report [summarizing state efforts to implement the recommendations within the Committee’s 2020 [Best Practices and Recommendations for States interim report](#)] shall be submitted not later than 4 years after the establishment of the Committee.” Due to initial delays in convening the Committee, as well as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic that hindered Committee activities, the Committee is submitting a *preliminary* final report. This report provides a high-level summary of the State Self-Assessment Survey results. The Committee will statutorily sunset in January 2022. However, the Committee has been authorized to operate as a discretionary advisory committee for an additional 24 months. Through this extension, the Committee will submit a more comprehensive report that is inclusive of responses and updates received from states after December 10, 2021, and that analyzes the narrative information states submitted to accompany their tier selections. Both reports will be submitted to Congress and displayed on the HHS OTIP website.

OVERVIEW

As of the completion of this report, a total of 29 State Self-Assessment Surveys were completed and submitted to the Committee. State Self-Assessment Surveys were received from: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The Committee received a completed State Self-Assessment Survey from Washington but was unable to include the results in this report due to timing constraints. A partially completed State Self-Assessment Survey was submitted by Hawai'i. The remaining states have requested additional time to complete the State Self-Assessment Survey due to various factors impacting their state; have indicated that they hope to submit their self-assessment in the future; or have not provided any updates to the Committee regarding their plans to complete the self-assessment.

Responses to the Committee's federal recommendations have been received from federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Justice and various offices across HHS.

CONSIDERATIONS

Participation in the State Self-Assessment Survey was encouraged but not required. Participating states were asked to assess their progress toward meeting each of the Committee's recommendations based on existing policies and practices in their state. State responses reflect how each recommendation was interpreted by contributors, the information accessible to contributors, interpretation of state efforts on each recommendation, and the availability of data specific to state efforts on recommendations. These factors embed subjectivity in each state's assessment of their progress and impact both the tier selections and narrative responses ultimately reported to the Committee.

Despite the inherently subjective nature of the State Self-Assessment Survey, the Committee believes that these state responses illuminate areas of strength and potential growth and highlight additional resource needs. The process of completing the State Self-Assessment Survey provided opportunities for states to collaborate locally to collect data and draft responses. As a result, many states reported they were able to make specific plans to adjust policies and practices in response to recommendations and evaluate their efforts across disciplines.

OVERVIEW OF STATE SELF-ASSESSMENT SURVEY RESPONSES

As noted above, a total of 29 State Self-Assessment Surveys were completed and submitted to the Committee as of December 10, 2021. Furthermore, as noted, partial (Hawai'i) and recently received (Washington) survey responses were excluded from this preliminary report and the results that follow.

The Committee provided 127 total recommendations to states in their [interim report](#). The recommendations are divided into 12 different sections, each with a different number of associated recommendations. The number of recommendations related to each section is provided in the chart below:

Best Practices and Recommendations for States Interim Report Sections	Total Number of Recommendations
1. Multidisciplinary Response	8
2. Screening and Identification	8
3. Child Welfare	19
4. Service Provision	7
5. Housing	13
6. Law Enforcement and Prosecution	11
7. Judiciary	15
8. Demand Reduction	5
9. Prevention	16
10. Legislation and Regulation	5
11. Research and Data	12
12. Funding and Sustainability	8
	127

For each recommendation, states were asked to assess the extent to which they have worked to address the sex trafficking of children and youth by choosing the recommendation tier that best describes their work (Tier I or Tier II), as appropriate. The specific Tier I and Tier II language varies by recommendation. See examples below:

Recommendation 1.1

Train members of sex trafficking-specific MDTs on the goals, principles, and protocols of MDT collaboration.¹² A shared understanding of protocols and recurring training is imperative to ensure that children and youth who experience sex trafficking receive needed services and a continuum of care.¹³

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of trafficking-specific MDTs train their members on the goals, principles, and protocols of MDT collaboration.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of trafficking-specific MDTs train their members on the goals, principles, and protocols of MDT collaboration.

Recommendation 1.3

Establish a multidisciplinary statewide response to the sex trafficking of children and youth that is supported by relevant policies and procedures.

Tier I: Establish a formal, written statewide multidisciplinary response to the sex trafficking of children and youth.

Tier II: Document that at least one county is implementing a multidisciplinary response to the sex trafficking of children and youth or participates in a statewide or regional multidisciplinary response and that the state has an established plan for increasing participation in MDTs in the state.

In general, the tiers are defined as follows:

- **Tier I:** Although initial steps have been taken, the state has not yet substantively addressed the sex trafficking of children and youth.
- **Tier II:** The state can provide examples of practices and policies implemented within their state to address the sex trafficking of children and youth.

States also had the option to describe the process used to assess their state and any data sources used to inform their self-assessment. If a state was not able to select a tier, they were instructed to select “Not Applicable” or “N/A” per the guidance below:

- **N/A:** This option should be selected if your state’s efforts do not appear to meet standards set in Tier I or Tier II. This option can also be selected if your state is currently unable to provide a Tier I or Tier II response (e.g., data is not currently available.) If N/A is chosen, you will be asked to provide justification for the selection.

Four of the 127 recommendations, specifically recommendations **4.5**, **5.9**, **9.9**, and **9.10**, are unique. For these recommendations, the Tier II option was defined as “Not Applicable” or “N/A” (see example below). These recommendations are **excluded** from summary tabulations throughout the report to not skew the tier selection results.

Recommendation 4.5

Establish privileged communication between children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking and those providing specialized services, including survivors providing peer-to-peer services.

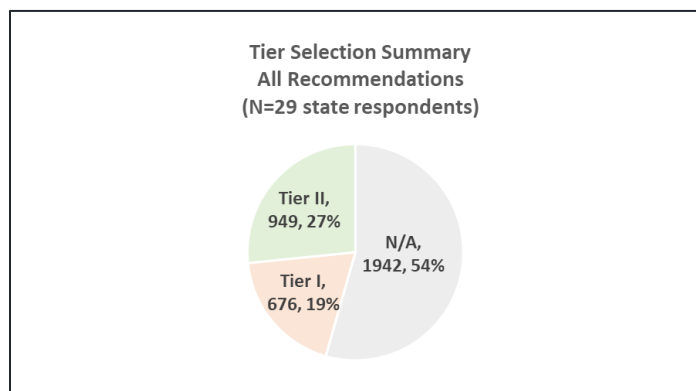
Tier I: Statutorily guarantee privileged communication to providers trained to work with children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking.

Tier II: Not applicable

Thus, of the **123** remaining recommendations, respondents from 29 states selected Tier I a total of 676 times (19 percent of all selections made) and Tier II a total of 949 times (27 percent of all selections made). States selected N/A a total of 1,942 times in response to the 123 recommendations, representing 54 percent of all selections.

States provided narrative details identifying a variety of reasons for why they chose N/A. These reasons include but are not limited to:

- Lack of data or lack of access to information specific to the recommendation
- Related policy does not exist
- Overall policy exists but does not extend specifically to children and youth
- Measures differ among counties or are not consistent across the state
- Conclusion that the state does not meet the Tier I requirement for the recommendation
- Content of the recommendation as written does not apply to the state

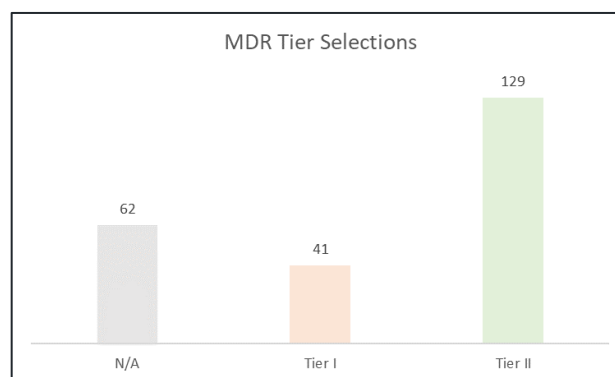


COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS ACROSS SECTIONS

Of the 12 sections in the Committee's [interim report](#), states made the most Tier II selections for Multidisciplinary Response-related recommendations, where 56 percent of selections were Tier II, 18 percent Tier I, and 27 percent N/A. States selected Tier II for 34 percent of Screening and Identification-related recommendations, for 34 percent of Child Welfare-related recommendations, and for 32 percent of Legislation and Regulation-related recommendations. See charts and tables below describing these results:

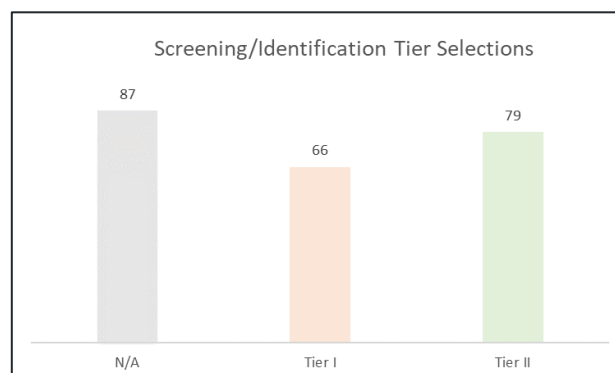
Multidisciplinary Response Tier Selections (8)	Count	Percentage
N/A	62	26.72%
Tier I	41	17.68%
Tier II	129	55.60%
Total	232	100%

A total of 29 states made one selection each on 8 Multidisciplinary Response-related recommendations, resulting in 232 total selections.



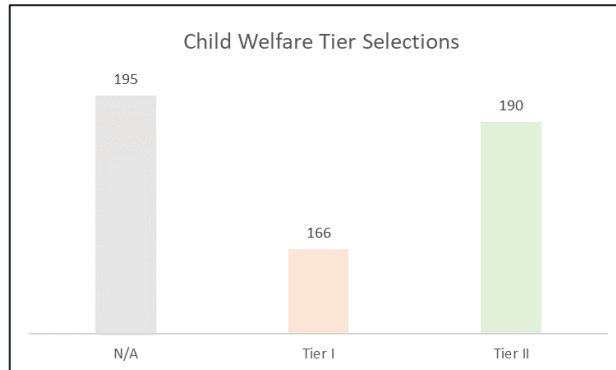
Screening and Identification Tier Selections (8)	Count	Percentage
N/A	87	38%
Tier I	66	28%
Tier II	79	34%
Total	232	100%

A total of 29 states made one selection each on 8 Screening and Identification-related recommendations, resulting in 232 total selections.



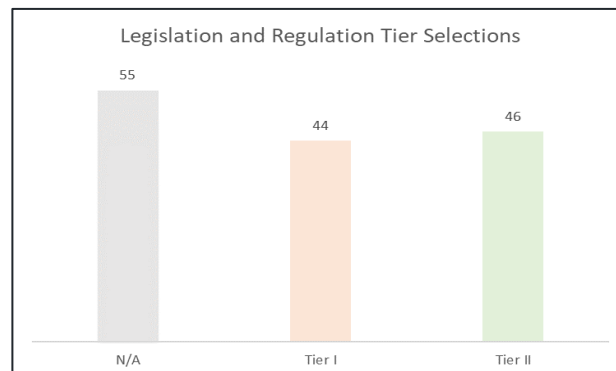
Child Welfare Tier Selections (19)	Count	Percentage
N/A	195	35.39020%
Tier I	166	30.12704%
Tier II	190	34.48276%
Total	551	100%

A total of 29 states made one selection each on 19 Child Welfare-related recommendations, resulting in 551 total selections.



Legislation and Regulation Tier Selections (5)	Count	Percentage
N/A	55	38%
Tier I	44	30%
Tier II	46	32%
Total	145	100%

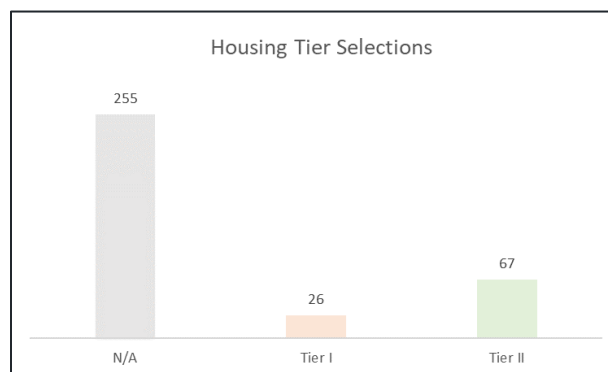
A total of 29 states made one selection each on 5 Legislation and Regulation-related recommendations, resulting in 145 total selections.



States selected N/A most frequently on Housing-related recommendations, with 19 percent of selections indicating Tier II, 7 percent indicating Tier I, and 73 percent indicating N/A. After Housing, states selected N/A the most on recommendations related to Prevention (70 percent), Demand Reduction (66 percent), and Research and Data (64 percent). See charts below describing these results:

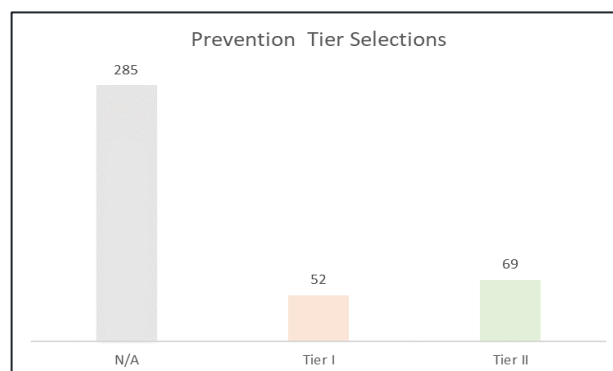
Housing Tier Selections (13)	Count	Percentage
N/A	255	73.28%
Tier I	26	7.47%
Tier II	67	19.25%
Total	348	100%

A total of 29 states made one selection each on 13 Housing-related recommendations, resulting in 348 total selections.



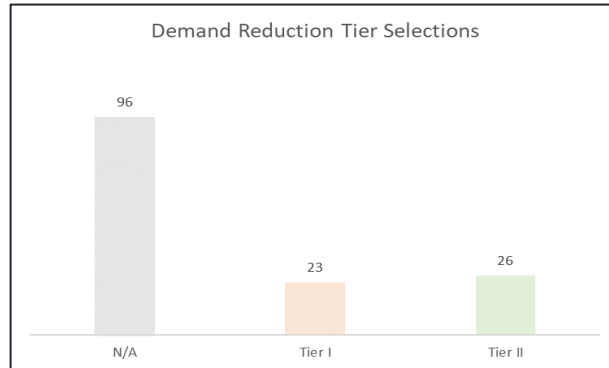
Prevention Tier Selections (14)	Count	Percentage
N/A	285	70%
Tier I	52	13%
Tier II	69	17%
Total	406	100%

A total of 29 states made one selection each on 14 Prevention-related recommendations (excluding 9.9 and 9.10), resulting in 406 total selections.



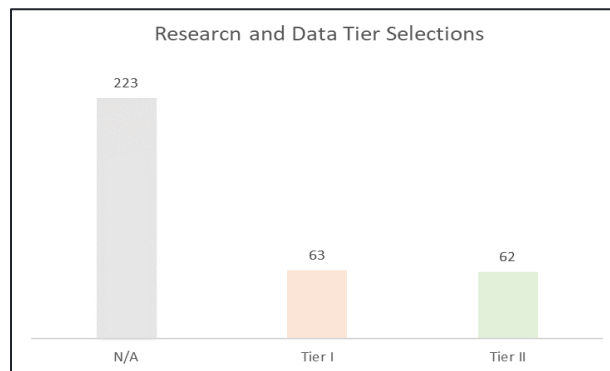
Demand Reduction Tier Selections (5)	Count	Percentage
N/A	96	66%
Tier I	23	16%
Tier II	26	18%
Total	145	100%

A total of 29 states made one selection each on 5 Demand Reduction-related recommendations, resulting in 145 total selections.



Research and Data Tier Selections (12)	Count	Percentage
N/A	223	64%
Tier I	63	18%
Tier II	62	18%
Total	348	100%

A total of 29 states made one selection each on 12 Research and Data-related recommendations, resulting in 348 total selections.



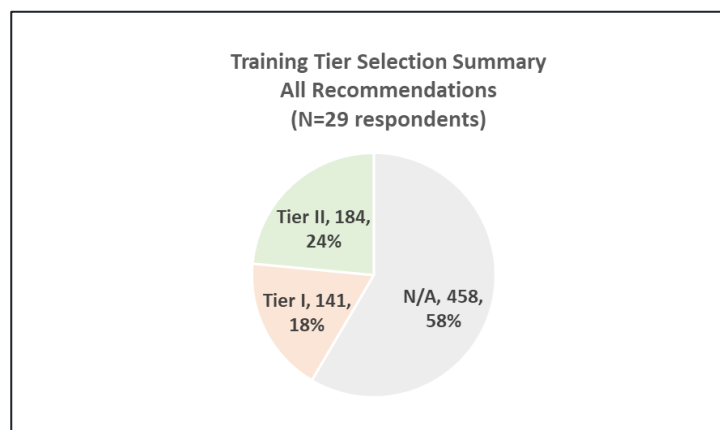
COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS ACROSS SUBSECTIONS

Within each section of the [Committee's interim report](#) (except Section 10: Legislation and Regulation and Section 12: Funding and Sustainability), recommendations are distributed across three subsections: Training, Policies and Procedures (Policy/Procedure), and Implementation. Each of the 12 sections have a different number of Training, Policy/Procedure, or Implementation-related recommendations. See

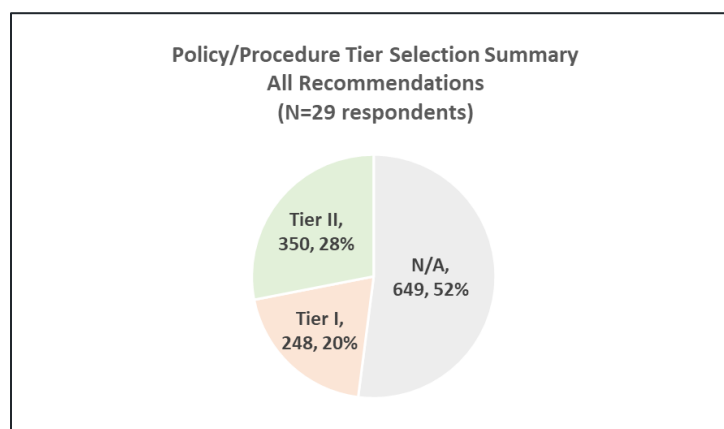
below for a breakdown of the number of recommendations related to each subsection within each of the 12 sections of the report:

Report Section	Total Number of Recommendations (Recs)	Number of Training-Related Recs	Number of Policy/Procedure-Related Recs	Number of Implementation-Related Recs	Number of General Recs
Multidisciplinary Response	8	2	2	4	-
Screening and Identification	8	3	4	1	-
Child Welfare	19	4	9	6	-
Service Provision	7	3	2	2	-
Housing	13	1	6	6	-
Law Enforcement and Prosecution	11	4	2	5	-
Judiciary	15	3	7	5	-
Demand Reduction	5	2	2	1	-
Prevention	16	4	7	5	-
Legislation and Regulation	5	-	-	-	5
Research and Data	12	1	5	6	-
Funding and Sustainability	8	-	-	-	8
Total	127	27	46	41	13

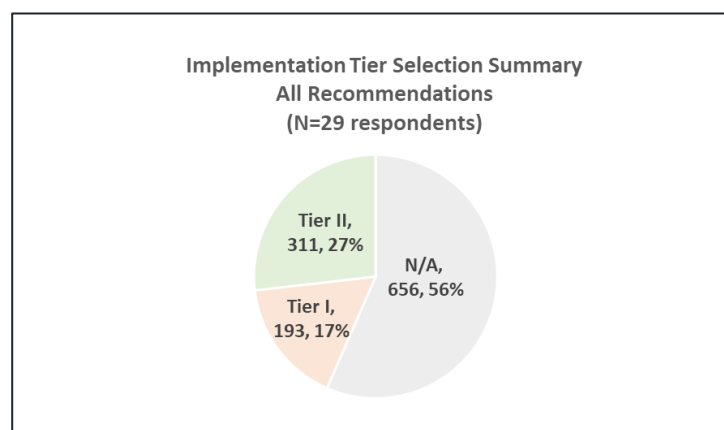
Among these three subsections, states selected Tier II most frequently for Policy/Procedure-related recommendations (28 percent), followed by Implementation-related recommendations (27 percent), and finally Training-related recommendations (24 percent). See charts below describing these selections across subsections:



A total of 29 respondents made one selection each on 27 recommendations categorized as Training-related, resulting in 783 total selections.



A total of 29 respondents made one selection each on 43 recommendations categorized as Policy/Procedure-related, resulting in 1247 total selections. Note that selections made for Policy/Procedure-related recommendations 4.5, 9.9, and 9.10 are excluded. See the Cross-Section Overview for additional information.



A total of 29 respondents made one selection each on 40 recommendations categorized as Implementation-related, resulting in 1160 total selections. Note that selections made for Implementation-related recommendation 5.9 is excluded. See the Cross-Section Overview for additional information.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS ACROSS STATES

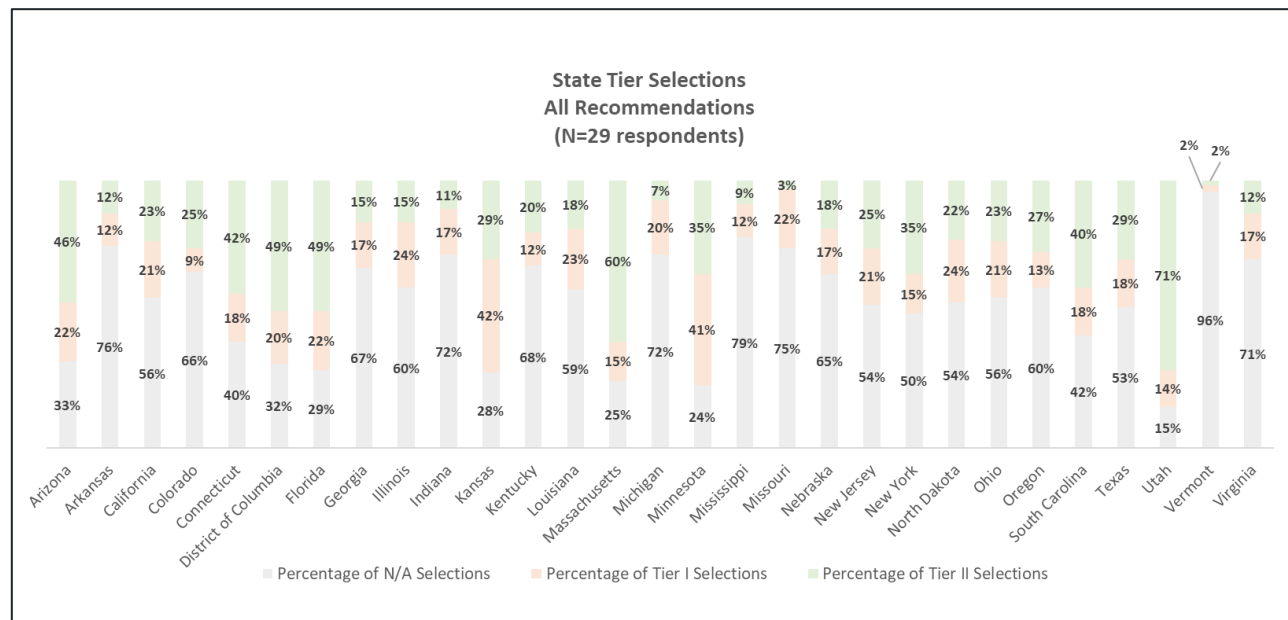
In general, while Tier I indicates that a state has taken initial steps to address the Committee's recommendations and Tier II indicates that the state has made substantive progress to address the Committee's recommendations, tier selection results do not necessarily indicate that any one state is doing "more" or "less" to address the sex trafficking of children and youth than another state.

Respondents selected tiers for each recommendation based on their own subjective understandings of their state's efforts and implementation goals. Some selections were informed by official state data sources, while others were made based on the personal awareness of the individuals who collaborated with their designated state respondent to submit the State Self-Assessment Survey.

For some of these recommendations, especially those with a high percentage of N/A selections, states provided accompanying narrative describing the factors that contributed to their inability to select a tier. Some of these N/A-related narratives describe how the state is working to address the

recommendation, perhaps in different ways than those provided by the Committee. Other N/A-related narratives explain how the state is conducting activities recommended by the Committee, but that data is not available to affirm whether a certain implementation target has been met. The Committee will analyze these N/A selections in greater depth in their forthcoming comprehensive final report.

With these considerations in mind, the percentage of Tier I, Tier II, and N/A selections made by the 29 state respondents on 123 recommendations (excluding recommendations 4.5, 5.9, 9.9, and 9.10) is provided below:



OVERVIEW OF RESPONSES FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES

Responses from federal agencies to the 34 federal recommendations were provided in narrative format, where applicable.

Some recommendations have already been addressed by federal agencies through:

- Written guidance to states and agencies on implementation of relevant federal policies
- Reports from states and agencies on efforts to address the recommendation through policy or practice

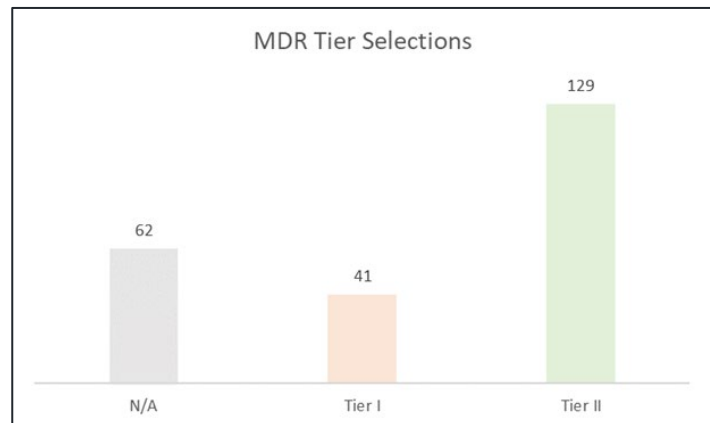
Federal agencies identified the challenges to implementing recommendations that are not currently being implemented in either policy or practice. These challenges include:

- Lack of federal policy to support implementation of the recommendation and/or limitations in federal statutory authority
- Lack of funding and/or resources for implementation
- Variance between federal policy and state plan requirements

- Marginal use of federally provided resources to build capacity at the state level through specialized training and technical assistance
- Need for states and agencies to request specific guidance and support from federal agencies
- Federal process for issuing guidance is incongruent with the recommendation
- Lack of clarity on the meaning or scope of the recommendation

As of December 2021, two federal agencies responded to 26 of the Committee's 34 recommendations. Three other federal agencies indicated that they would be providing their responses in January 2022.

States should develop a multidisciplinary system of care approach that relies on cross-system collaboration and incorporates youth voices. An effective multidisciplinary response to the sex trafficking of children and youth must include the coordination among victim and support service providers, health and mental health care providers, legislators, law enforcement, prosecutors, public defenders, educators, and the commercial sector. An effective system will achieve outcomes at three levels, with an observable causality between outcomes at all three levels: 1) state, tribal, or territorial systems; 2) local systems; and 3) service delivery.



Under this section of the report, there are 8 total recommendations, 2 of which are related to Training, 2 Policy/Procedure, and 4 Implementation. Of the 232 total selections made by 29 state respondents for these 8 recommendations, 56 percent were Tier II, 18 percent Tier I, and 27 percent N/A.

Multidisciplinary Response Tier Selections (8)	Count	Percentage
N/A	62	26.72%
Tier I	41	17.68%
Tier II	129	55.60%
Total	232	100%

TRAINING

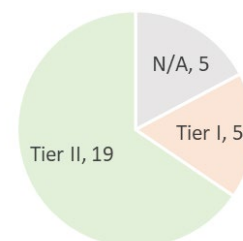
Requirements for professionals typically involved in multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) should include clear, trauma-informed response protocols that enable those working with children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking to go beyond the identification of trafficking concerns to connect survivors to needed services.

Recommendation 1.1

Train members of sex trafficking-specific MDTs on the goals, principles, and protocols of MDT collaboration. A shared understanding of protocols and recurring training is imperative to ensure that children and youth who experience sex trafficking receive needed services and a continuum of care.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of trafficking-specific MDTs train their members on the goals, principles, and protocols of MDT collaboration.

Recommendation 1.1



Tier II: Document that at least 75% of trafficking-specific MDTs train their members on the goals, principles, and protocols of MDT collaboration.

Recommendation 1.2

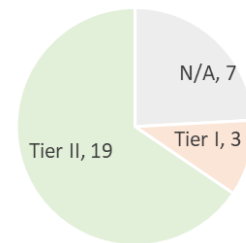
Ensure a consistent, shared foundational understanding about the multidisciplinary approach to addressing the sex trafficking of children and youth to help participants identify victims and connect them with resources with minimal technical barriers or miscommunications.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of MDTs that serve child and youth sex trafficking victims specifically train their members on responding to the sex trafficking of children and youth.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of MDTs that serve child and youth sex trafficking victims specifically train their members on responding to the sex trafficking of children and youth.

Federal: Identify key components to be included in training on a multidisciplinary approach to addressing the sex trafficking of children and youth to ensure consistency countrywide.

Recommendation 1.2



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

States must develop policies and procedures that outline their multidisciplinary approach to ensure that all children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking receive appropriate, well-planned, and consistent responses. Policies and procedures should also allow for individual, organizational, and regional flexibility so that first responders and providers can meet the needs of each victim.

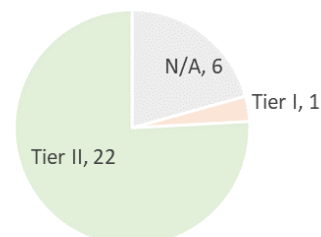
Recommendation 1.3

Establish a multidisciplinary statewide response to the sex trafficking of children and youth that is supported by relevant policies and procedures.

Tier I: Establish a formal, written statewide multidisciplinary response to the sex trafficking of children and youth.

Tier II: Document that at least one county is implementing a multidisciplinary response to the sex trafficking of children and youth or participates in a statewide or regional multidisciplinary response and that the state has an established plan for increasing participation in MDTs in the state.

Recommendation 1.3



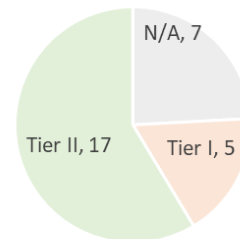
Recommendation 1.4

Develop MOUs for MDTs that serve child and youth sex trafficking victims that outline shared principles, membership terms, roles and responsibilities for team members, and confidentiality policies.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of MDTs that serve child and youth sex trafficking victims have created and implemented an MOU.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of MDTs that serve child and youth sex trafficking victims have created and implemented an MOU.

Recommendation 1.4



IMPLEMENTATION

It is critical that states have MDTs with comprehensive representation from a wide range of disciplines. States should have MDTs that review individual cases as well as MDTs that focus on the macro and systemic issues that may arise when addressing the sex trafficking of children and youth.

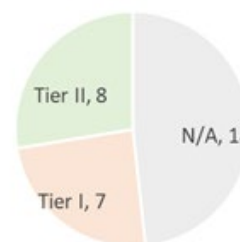
Recommendation 1.5

Conduct a community mapping and needs assessment specific to responding to the sex trafficking of children and youth to assess gaps in representation on MDTs as well as service availability.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of counties have conducted a community mapping and needs assessment specific to responding to the sex trafficking of children and youth.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of counties have conducted a community mapping and needs assessment specific to responding to the sex trafficking of children and youth.

Recommendation 1.5



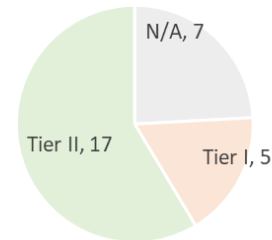
Recommendation 1.6

Ensure MDTs have the capacity to assess and respond effectively to cases involving children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking regardless of custody or involvement in the child welfare system.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of MDTs have at least one team member with expertise on the topic of sex trafficking of children and youth.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of MDTs have at least one team member with expertise on the topic of sex trafficking of children and youth.

Recommendation 1.6



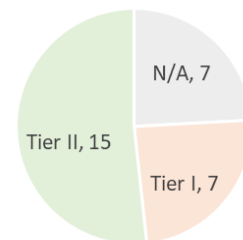
Recommendation 1.7

Establish a sex trafficking-specific MDT or develop a modified MDT approach to address the complexity of sex trafficking cases.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of MDTs have established or participate in a sex trafficking-specific MDT or have developed a modified MDT approach.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of MDTs have established or participate in a sex trafficking-specific MDT or have developed a modified MDT approach.

Recommendation 1.7



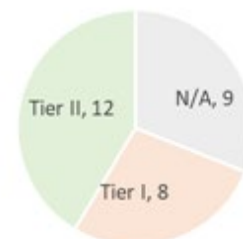
Recommendation 1.8

Establish one or more MDTs to address the macro and systemic issues that may arise when addressing the sex trafficking of children and youth at the community level.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of counties have a local MDT or participate in a statewide MDT that addresses macro and systemic issues that arise when addressing the sex trafficking of children and youth.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of counties have a local MDT or participate in a statewide MDT that addresses macro and systemic issues that arise when addressing the sex trafficking of children and youth.

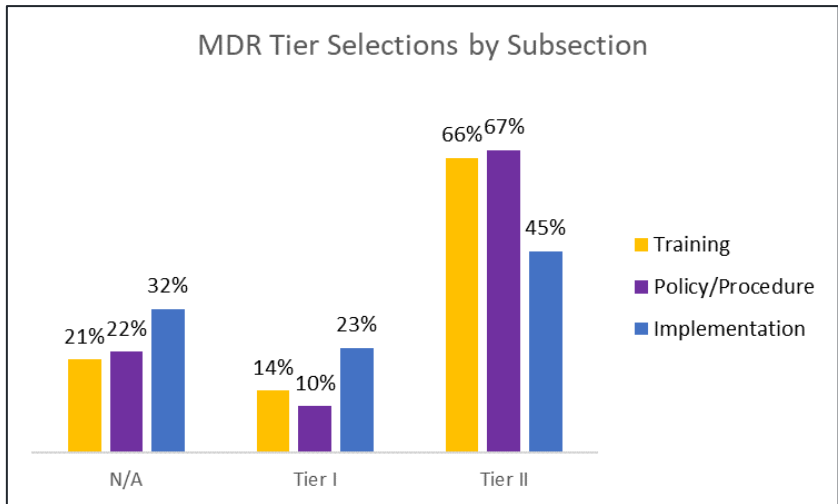
Recommendation 1.8



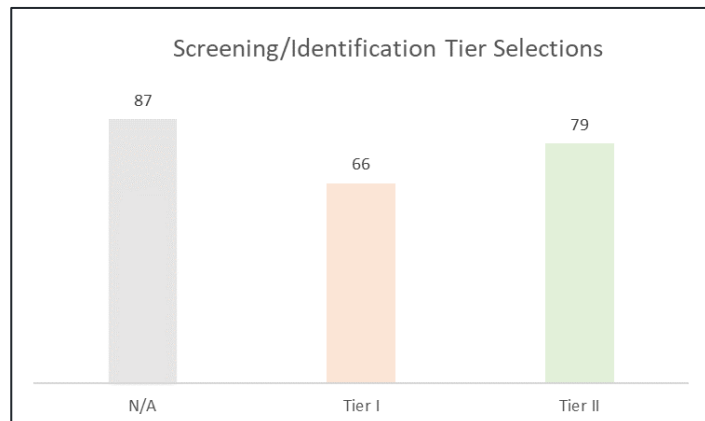
SURVEY RESULTS

Within the MDR section, states selected Tier II more for recommendations related to Policy/Procedure (67 percent) and Training (66 percent), while selecting Tier II less for Implementation-related recommendations (45 percent).

As states more commonly selected Tier II over Tier I across the entire section, this appears to indicate that states have made considerable progress in addressing the sex trafficking of children and youth through multidisciplinary responses.



States should build and strengthen the capacity of professionals — especially those working in runaway and homeless youth programs, juvenile and criminal justice systems, school systems, health care, and state and tribal child welfare systems — to identify children and youth who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing sex trafficking. Screening for sex trafficking is vital to identify children and youth who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing sex trafficking, and to ensure they can access the services they are entitled to receive.



Under this section of the report, there are 8 total recommendations, 3 of which are related to Training, 4 Policy/Procedure, and 1 Implementation. Of the 232 total selections made by 29 state respondents for these 8 recommendations, 34 percent were Tier II, 28 percent were Tier I, and 38 percent N/A.

Screening/Id Tier Selections (8)	Count	Percentage
N/A	87	38%
Tier I	66	28%
Tier II	79	34%
Total	232	100%

TRAINING

States should include identification strategies tailored to professional roles and responsibilities as part of recurring, standardized training on a comprehensive response to the sex trafficking of children and youth.

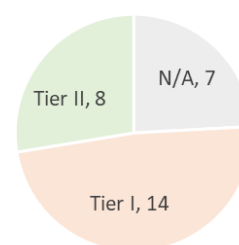
Recommendation 2.1

Incorporate information on vulnerabilities, risk factors, and indicators into training regarding the sex trafficking of children and youth for all employees of public agencies that directly serve children and youth.

Tier I: Document that training for employees of public agencies includes information on vulnerabilities, risk factors, and indicators of sex trafficking of children and youth and that at least 25% of employees have received the initial training.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of employees have received the initial training.

Recommendation 2.1



Federal: Develop minimum standards for training administered by runaway homeless youth, Title IV-E funded, and unaccompanied children programs that pertains to the identification and screening of children and youth who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing sex trafficking.

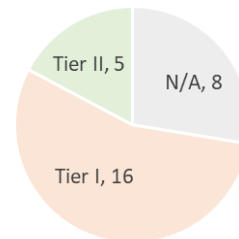
Recommendation 2.2

Incorporate information on vulnerabilities, risk factors, and indicators into training regarding the sex trafficking of children and youth for all law enforcement, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and judges.

Tier I: Document that training includes information on vulnerabilities, risk factors, and indicators of sex trafficking of children and youth.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of employees have received the initial training.

Recommendation 2.2



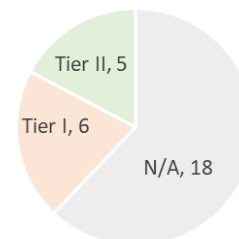
Recommendation 2.3

Require advanced training for professionals who implement screening tools in all government-run organizations that serve children and youth, including juvenile and criminal justice agencies. Advanced training includes information about building rapport, strengths-based approaches, trauma reactions, de-escalation techniques and stress management, securing privacy and confidentiality, documentation, and mandated reporting.

Tier I: Establish policies that require advanced training for professionals who screen for sex trafficking victimization. Document that at least 25% of professionals have received advanced training.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of professionals have received advanced training.

Recommendation 2.3



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Prior to incorporating a screening tool into routine practice, clear trauma- and survivor-informed policies and procedures must be implemented. State agencies should have policies that outline administration of screening tools; adhere to federal, state, and tribal reporting requirements and definitions; and determine response protocols across all systems of care.

Recommendation 2.4

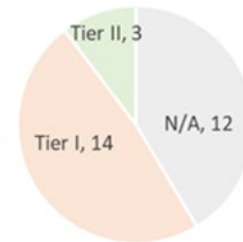
Implement policies and procedures that require universal screening for all children and youth receiving services through runaway homeless youth, Title IV-E funded, and unaccompanied minor programs.

Tier I: Establish policies that identify one or more validated screening tools to be used statewide.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of children and youth age 13 and older have been screened using this tool. Use the screening process to screen for labor trafficking as well, adding additional questions to the tool as needed.

Federal: As part of the funding process, review program policies to ensure they require universal human trafficking screening for all children and youth who receive services.

Recommendation 2.4



Recommendation 2.5

Ensure that policies and procedures of Title IV-E funded programs align with the amended definition of an abused and neglected child under the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (JVTA) and the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA). The amended definition includes situations of sex trafficking where the perpetrator is not a parent or lawful caregiver.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of programs have policies and procedures that align with the amended definition of an abused and neglected child under the JVTA and CAPTA.

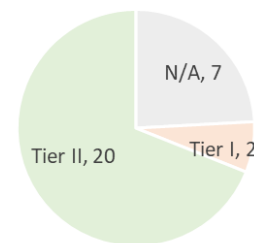
Tier II: Document that at least 75% of programs have policies and procedures that align with the amended definition of an abused and neglected child under the JVTA and CAPTA.

Federal: The Committee recommends that the HHS Children's Bureau ensures child welfare policies and procedures in states receiving CAPTA funding include definitions that align with the amended definition of an abused and neglected child under the JVTA and CAPTA. Additionally, the Committee recommends that the HHS Children's Bureau provide technical assistance to states who have not yet incorporated the amended definition into their state child abuse statutes.

Federal: In future versions of the Child Maltreatment Report by the HHS Children's Bureau, the Committee recommends expanding the special focus section on sex trafficking based on state submissions to include:

- States that accept reports of sex trafficking by adult non-caregiver offenders and include this as a maltreatment type, as required by the JVTA and CAPTA;

Recommendation 2.5



- States that limit the definition of non-caregiver to situations in which the perpetrators were members of the child’s household;
- Expanded reporting beyond substantiated reports, including the number of children and youth suspected to be victims of sex trafficking by a caregiver or non-caregiver;
- The number of reports a state screened in and screened out that included allegations of sex trafficking by caregivers or non-caregivers.

Recommendation 2.6

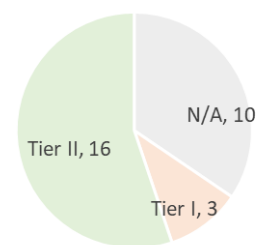
Ensure that policies and procedures of Title IV-E funded programs require screening for the identification of children and youth who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing sex trafficking, in accordance with the [Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act \(P.L. 113–183\)](#).

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of programs have policies and procedures that align with the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of programs have policies and procedures that align with the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act.

Federal: The Committee recommends that the HHS Children’s Bureau provide technical assistance to help Title IV-E agencies identify children and youth who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing sex trafficking.

Recommendation 2.6



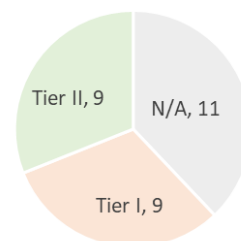
Recommendation 2.7

Ensure that policies and procedures of juvenile justice facilities require screening for the identification of children and youth who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing sex trafficking, in accordance with the [Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018 \(P.L. 115–385\)](#).

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of juvenile justice facilities have policies and procedures that align with the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of juvenile justice facilities have policies and procedures that align with the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018.

Recommendation 2.7



IMPLEMENTATION

Screening and assessment for sex trafficking of children and youth should aim to identify risk, needs, and the most responsive services to ensure that all children and youth are provided with services appropriate to their experience and needs.

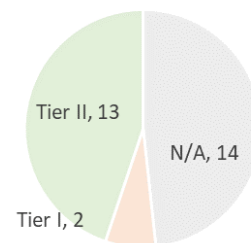
Recommendation 2.8

Ensure that multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) have established MOUs that include response protocols for when a screening tool suggests sex trafficking victimization or the risk of sex trafficking victimization, and that these protocols stipulate that an in-depth assessment must be provided to determine service needs.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of MDTs have established MOUs with appropriate response protocols.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of MDTs have established MOUs with appropriate response protocols.

Recommendation 2.8

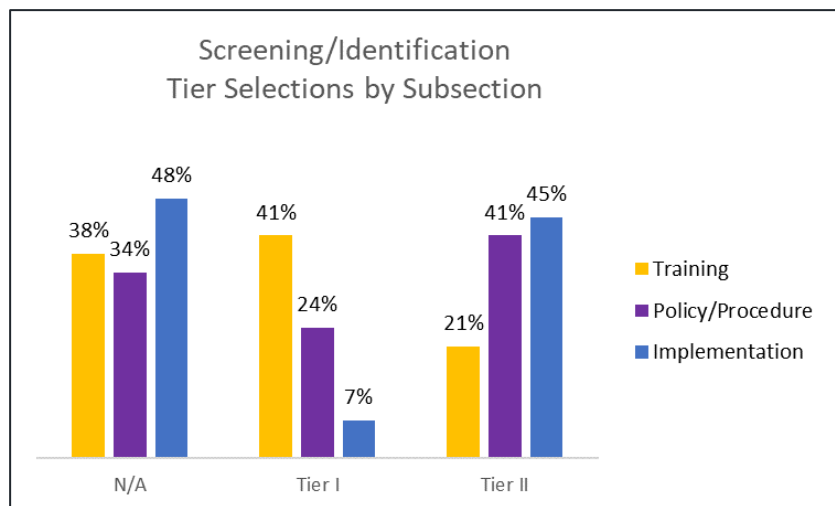


SURVEY RESULTS

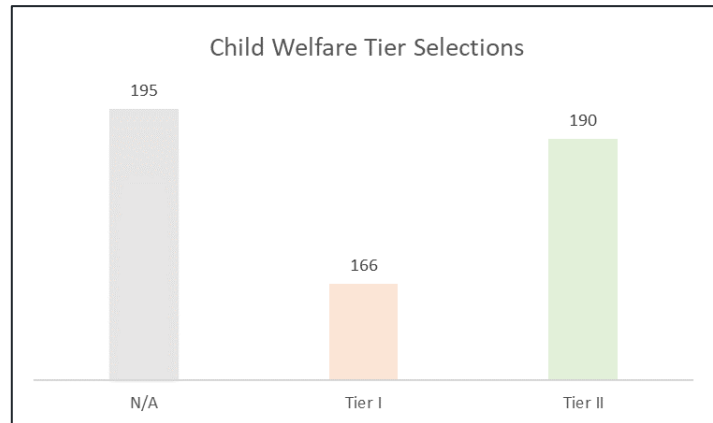
As noted above, within the Screening and Identification section, states selected Tier II (34 percent) more than Tier I (28 percent). Based on these self-assessments, it appears that state work on Screening and Identification recommendations related to Implementation and Policy/Procedure is relatively strong.

Additionally, there were many N/A responses across all Screening and Identification

recommendations. Since screening and identification is a critical first step in the overall state response to the sex trafficking of children and youth, the high number of N/A responses may be notable. The Committee will further evaluate the narratives accompanying N/A responses in their forthcoming report.



State and tribal child welfare systems are responsible for promoting the well-being of children and youth by ensuring their safety and strengthening families, including those affected by sex trafficking. Further, all state and tribal Title IV-E agencies must implement policies and procedures for identifying, documenting, and providing appropriate services for victims of trafficking.



Under this section of the report, there are 19 total recommendations, 4 of which are related to Training, 9 Policy/Procedure, and 6 Implementation. Of the 551 total selections made by 29 state respondents for these 19 recommendations, 34 percent were Tier II, 30 percent Tier I, and 35 percent N/A.

Child Welfare Tier Selections (19)	Count	Percentage
N/A	195	35.39020%
Tier I	166	30.12704%
Tier II	190	34.48276%
Total	551	100%

TRAINING

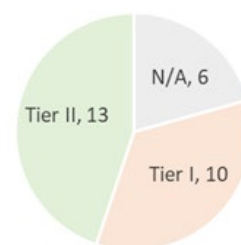
Child welfare professionals and those closely associated with the child welfare system (e.g., contracted providers) should receive introductory and advanced training on preventing, identifying, and responding to children and youth who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing sex trafficking. In addition, the child welfare system should offer training to caregivers (including, but not limited to, biological parents, foster parents, kin, fictive kin, and adoptive parents) related to the sex trafficking of children and youth.

Recommendation 3.1

Require initial and ongoing training regarding sex trafficking for all child welfare professionals.

Tier I: Establish minimum standards for introductory and advanced training to help all staff recognize signs of trafficking (including familial trafficking), risk factors for trafficking, and dynamics of trafficking; understand the impact of trauma and victim rights; and intervene once a child or youth is identified as a trafficking victim. Document that at least 25% of child welfare professionals (including supervisors and managers) have received training.

Recommendation 3.1



Tier II: Document that at least 75% of child welfare professionals (including supervisors and managers) have received training.

Federal: Establish guidance for minimum standards for training (including frequency and topics) for state and tribal child welfare professionals and those closely associated with the child welfare system (e.g., contracted providers) to ensure states comply with requirements in the [Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act \(JVTA\)](#) (i.e., all child protective service workers must receive training to identify, assess, and provide comprehensive services to children and youth who are known or suspected victims of sex trafficking). Ensure state plans under the [Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act \(CAPTA\)](#) include provisions and procedures for training child welfare workers to identify, assess, and provide comprehensive services to children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking.

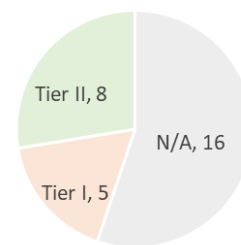
Recommendation 3.2

Require initial and ongoing training regarding sex trafficking for all providers contracted by or credentialed through the child welfare system. Establish policies that require providers to complete initial and periodic training to recognize signs, risk factors, and dynamics of trafficking; understand the impact of trauma and victim rights; and provide trauma-informed care for children and youth who have experienced exploitation.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of providers have received the initial training.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of providers have received the initial training.

Recommendation 3.2



Recommendation 3.3

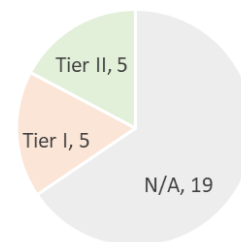
Require training regarding sex trafficking for all foster parents. Establish policies in the child welfare system that require all state licensed foster parents and foster homes to receive training regarding sex trafficking (including definitions, risk factors, potential indicators, available services, and victim rights).

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of all state licensed foster parents have received the initial training.

Tier II: Document that at least 25% of privately licensed foster parents have received the initial training.

Federal: Establish guidance for minimum standards for training in terms of frequency and content for foster parents providing specialized homes for children and youth who have experienced sex

Recommendation 3.3



trafficking. Direct grants to support the development and evaluation of specialized foster care placements for children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking.

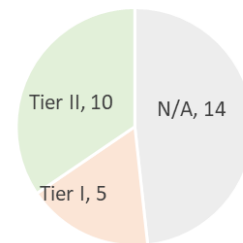
Recommendation 3.4

Offer training regarding sex trafficking for caregivers who are not system-involved.

Tier I: Develop or identify a caregiver curriculum and make it available in 25% of counties.

Tier II: Develop or identify a caregiver curriculum and make it available in 75% of counties.

Recommendation 3.4



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

To ensure a systemic response that addresses sex trafficking of children and youth effectively, states should ensure that their statutes, policies, and procedures support the child welfare system in identifying, assessing, and providing services to known or suspected victims of sex trafficking.

Recommendation 3.5

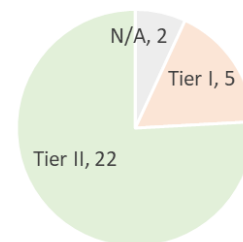
Ensure that state statutes designate the child welfare system as the state system responsible for identifying, assessing, and providing services to known or suspected victims of sex trafficking.

Tier I: Ensure that child abuse definitions in state statutes include sex trafficking as defined by the [Trafficking Victims Protection Act \(TVPA\) of 2000, as amended](#), which includes updates to the [Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act \(CAPTA\)](#).

Tier II: Ensure that child abuse definitions in state statutes include cases of sex trafficking in which the perpetrator is not a parent or lawful caregiver.

Federal: The Committee recommends that HHS issue a memo to clarify that states are required to update their statutory definition of child abuse to include all cases of sex trafficking, regardless of the involvement of a parent, caregiver, or third party, per the [Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act \(JVTA\)](#) and in compliance with the [Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act \(CAPTA\)](#).

Recommendation 3.5



Recommendation 3.6

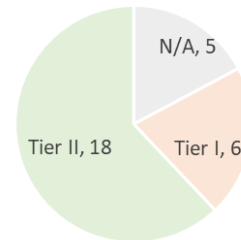
Ensure that the policies and procedures of all child welfare and Title IV-E agencies include guidelines for identifying, assessing, and providing services to known or suspected victims of sex trafficking. Such policies and procedures should ensure known or suspected victims are able to receive services without requiring that they enter the care or custody of the child welfare system.

Tier I: Establish policies and procedures for identifying, assessing, and providing services to all known or suspected victims of sex trafficking, regardless of the involvement of a parent or caregiver.

Tier II: Offer services, directly or through referrals to outside agencies, to all children and youth identified as known or suspected victims of sex trafficking. Document provision of services or referrals in at least 75% of applicable cases.

Federal: The Committee recommends that HHS issue a memo to clarify that states must update policies and procedures regarding child welfare including procedures for identifying, investigating, and offering services to all known or suspected victims of sex trafficking. Ensure state plans under the [Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act \(CAPTA\)](#) include provisions and procedures for responding to reports of suspected sex trafficking. Ensure state plans under Title IV-E include policies and procedures for identifying, documenting, and determining appropriate services for any child or youth who has experienced or is at risk of experiencing sex trafficking and is in the placement, care, or supervision of a Title IV-E agency.

Recommendation 3.6



Recommendation 3.7

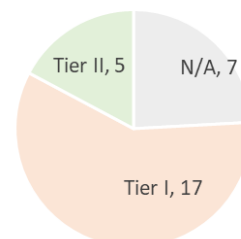
Establish definitions and universal screening procedures for children and youth ages 13 and older who come in contact with the child welfare system to identify those who may have experienced sex trafficking victimization.

Tier I: Establish policies and procedures within the child welfare system to screen children and youth for sex trafficking.

Tier II: Systematically track and document children and youth who have been screened for sex trafficking. Document that at least 75% of children and youth have been screened.

Federal: The Committee recommends that HHS issue a memo to define and operationalize the screening of children and youth who have potentially experienced or are at risk of experiencing sex trafficking. Such guidance should caution states to define suspected trafficking broadly enough to include children and youth that demonstrate indicators of sex trafficking and at risk broadly enough

Recommendation 3.7



to expand access to targeted prevention programs and specialized services when appropriate to prevent future victimization of children and youth.

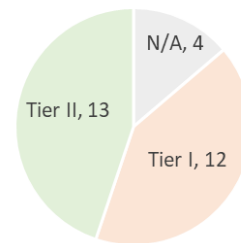
Recommendation 3.8

Require initial and ongoing assessments of children and youth who are suspected or confirmed victims of sex trafficking and in the care or custody of the child welfare system to identify their needs and determine the most appropriate, least restrictive placement option.

Tier I: Establish policies that require assessments to determine placement in the least restrictive housing options.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of children and youth have been assessed and placed in the least restrictive housing options.

Recommendation 3.8



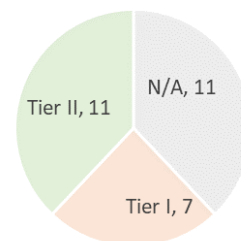
Recommendation 3.9

Require placement facilities used or funded by the child welfare system (including group homes) to have policies and procedures that address running away, peer recruiting, external safety threats, and other safety risks to residents.

Tier I: Review licensing requirements to ensure that placement facilities are required to have the relevant policies and procedures, and document that at least 25% of all licensed placement facilities have relevant policies and procedures.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of all licensed placement facilities have relevant policies and procedures.

Recommendation 3.9



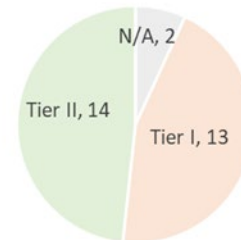
Recommendation 3.10

Report all missing or abducted children and youth to law enforcement and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC).

Tier I: Establish policies and protocols in all Title IV-E agencies to report all missing or abducted children and youth in their care to law enforcement and NCMEC within 24 hours.

Tier II: Track and document all missing or abducted children and youth and associated reports to law enforcement and NCMEC. Document that reports were made within 24 hours in at least 75% of cases.

Recommendation 3.10



Recommendation 3.11

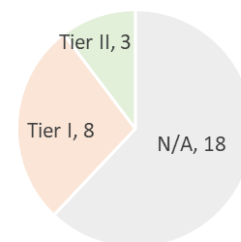
Develop policy guidance for reporting all cases of foreign national minor victims of sex trafficking to the HHS Office on Trafficking in Persons in accordance with the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended. Ensure that the guidance addresses immigration assistance and support for the victim.

Tier I: Establish policies in all Title IV-E agencies to report all cases of foreign national minor victims of sex trafficking to the HHS Office on Trafficking in Persons within 24 hours, regardless of whether they are accompanied.

Tier II: Systematically track and document all cases involving foreign national minor victims of sex trafficking and associated reports to the Office on Trafficking in Persons. Document that reports were made within 24 hours in at least 75% of cases.

Federal: The Committee recommends that HHS issue a memo specifying that the TVPA of 2000, as amended, requires states to implement policies and procedures for referring all cases involving foreign national minor victims of human trafficking (suspected or determined) to the HHS Office on Trafficking in Persons within 24 hours, regardless of whether the minor is accompanied. Ensure state plans under Title IV-E include requirements to report foreign national minor victims to the HHS Office on Trafficking in Persons per the TVPA of 2000, as amended, which requires federal, state, or local officials to notify HHS within 24 hours after discovering a foreign national child under the age of 18 who may be a victim of sex or labor trafficking to facilitate the provision of assistance (22 U.S.C. § 7105).

Recommendation 3.11



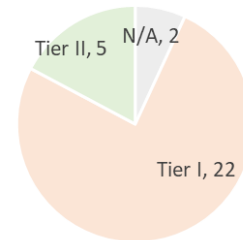
Recommendation 3.12

Increase the maximum age at which children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking can receive child welfare services as authorized by the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (P.L. 113–183).

Tier I: Establish policies that increase the maximum age to 21 years.

Tier II: Establish policies that increase the maximum age to 24 years.

Recommendation 3.12



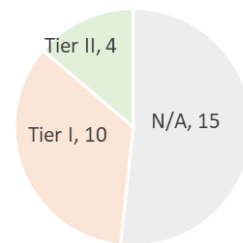
Recommendation 3.13

Ensure that policies and procedures related to interstate compacts (e.g., Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children; Interstate Commission for Juveniles) specifically address responding to cases of sex trafficking of children and youth.

Tier I: Establish policies and procedures for responding to cases of sex trafficking of children and youth in interstate compacts.

Tier II: Provide examples of effective responses to cases of sex trafficking of children and youth in interstate compacts.

Recommendation 3.13



IMPLEMENTATION

Systems should be established to support child welfare workers in identifying, assessing, and providing comprehensive services to known or suspected victims of sex trafficking. Further, standardized responses are critical to ensure that all children and youth who come to the attention of the child welfare system are appropriately screened for sex trafficking and have access to specialized services and support.

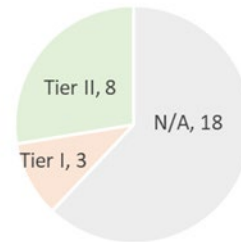
Recommendation 3.14

Screen all reports to the state’s child abuse and neglect hotline for indicators of sex trafficking using a validated screening tool.

Tier I: Document that a validated screening tool has been used to screen at least 25% of reports.

Tier II: Document that a validated screening tool has been used to screen at least 75% of reports.

Recommendation 3.14



Recommendation 3.15

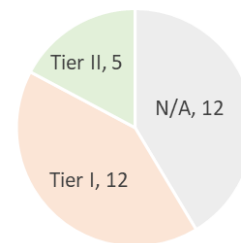
Screen all children and youth who have been missing from care for potential sex trafficking victimization, in accordance with the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (P.L. 113–183). Screening should occur each time the child or youth returns to care.

Tier I: Establish and implement policies and procedures for screening all children and youth who have been missing from care for potential sex trafficking victimization. Document that a validated screening tool has been used in at least 25% of cases.

Tier II: Document that a validated screening tool has been used in at least 75% of cases to screen children and youth who have been missing from care for potential sex trafficking victimization.

Federal: The Committee recommends that HHS issue a memo to clarify that state child welfare entities must assess all children and youth who have been missing from care for potential sex trafficking victimization. Ensure state plans under Title IV-E include protocols for determining the child or youth’s experiences while absent from care, including whether the child or youth has experienced sex trafficking victimization.

Recommendation 3.15



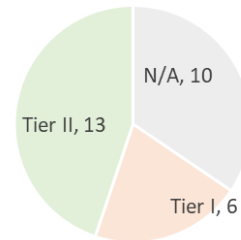
Recommendation 3.16

Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment of children and youth when initial screening indicates potential or clear signs of sex trafficking.

Tier I: Document that a comprehensive needs assessment has been conducted in at least 25% of cases in which there are potential or clear signs of sex trafficking.

Tier II: Document that a comprehensive needs assessment has been conducted in at least 75% of cases in which there are potential or clear signs of sex trafficking.

Recommendation 3.16



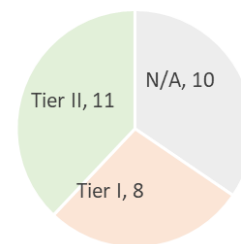
Recommendation 3.17

Offer trafficking-specific services to children and youth who demonstrate potential or clear signs of sex trafficking.

Tier I: In at least 25% of cases, offer specialized services (directly or through referrals to outside agencies) from providers trained to work with children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking.

Tier II: In at least 75% of cases, offer specialized services (directly or through referrals to outside agencies) from providers trained to work with children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking.

Recommendation 3.17



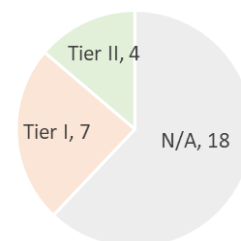
Recommendation 3.18

Provide specialized foster care services to children and youth who demonstrate potential or clear signs of sex trafficking.

Tier I: Establish a specific category in the rate structure for specialized foster care placements for children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking.

Tier II: Document that at least 50% of children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking or are potential victims receive specialized foster care placements when needed.

Recommendation 3.18



Federal: The Committee recommends that HHS direct grants to support the development and evaluation of specialized foster care placements for children and youth who have experienced trafficking.

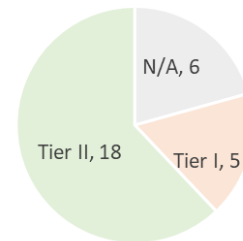
Recommendation 3.19

Ensure that child welfare professionals participate in all human trafficking task forces and interagency groups that address the sex trafficking of children and youth.

Tier I: Document participation in at least 50% of state and county task forces, multidisciplinary teams, and committees.

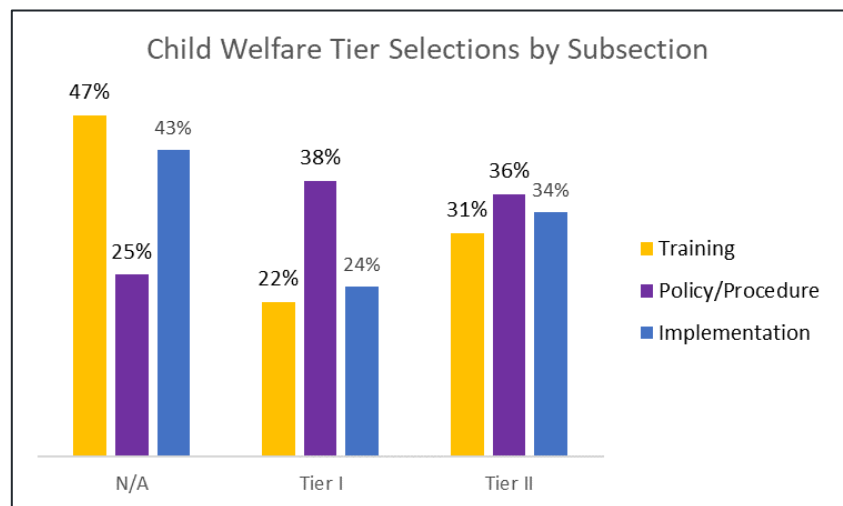
Tier II: Document participation in at least 75% of state and county task forces, multidisciplinary teams, and committees.

Recommendation 3.19



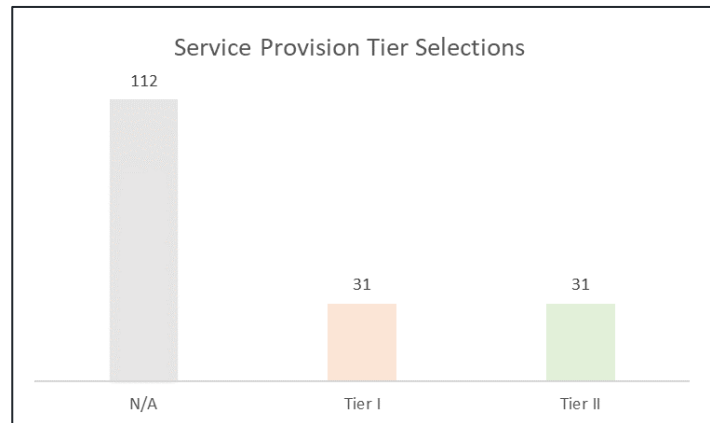
SURVEY RESULTS

Within the Child Welfare section, states selected Tier II more than Tier I for both the Implementation and Training subsections (34 percent and 31 percent, respectively). While states selected Tier I more frequently than Tier II for recommendations within the Policy/Procedure subsection, results suggest that states appear to also be successful in developing policies and procedures to direct state-level child welfare responses to child and youth sex trafficking, as they selected Tier II responses more frequently than the other subsections (36 percent).



Additionally, there were many N/A responses across all Child Welfare recommendations. Since child welfare systems play a critical role in the overall state response to the sex trafficking of children and youth, the high number of N/A responses may be notable. The Committee will further evaluate the narratives accompanying N/A responses in their forthcoming report.

Children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking require a wide range of emergency and long-term services tailored to meet their individual needs. Services must address underlying vulnerabilities and risk factors that put children and youth at risk of exploitation, and provide life skills training, mentoring, education support, and job training.



Under this section of the report, there are 7 total recommendations, 3 of which are related to Training, 2 Policy/Procedure, and 2 Implementation. Of the 174 total selections made by 29 state respondents on 6 of these recommendations (excluding recommendation 4.5), 18 percent were Tier II, 18 percent Tier I, and 64 percent N/A.

Service Provision Tier Selections (6)	Count	Percentage
N/A	112	64%
Tier I	31	18%
Tier II	31	18%
Total	174	100%

TRAINING

Providers working with at-risk children and youth should be required to receive baseline and ongoing training on identifying and responding to known or suspected victims of sex trafficking.

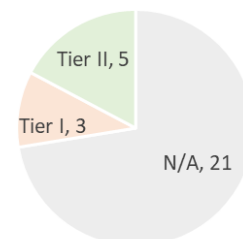
Recommendation 4.1

Require initial and ongoing training regarding sex trafficking for all employees who provide direct services to children and youth and are employed by public agencies (including juvenile justice, child welfare, education, health, behavioral health, and all other public entities frequented by children and youth).

Tier I: Mandate, through policy or statute, that all employees of public agencies serving children and youth receive initial and ongoing training.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of employees of public agencies serving children and youth have received the initial training.

Recommendation 4.1



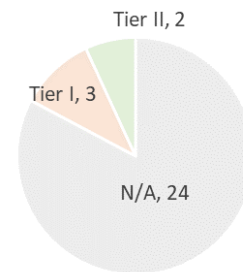
Recommendation 4.2

Require initial and ongoing training regarding sex trafficking for providers contracted and credentialed by public agencies who work with at-risk children and youth, including providers in health care, behavioral health, rape crisis, runaway and homeless youth, refugee resettlement and immigration, and legal services.

Tier I: Establish policies that require initial and ongoing training for contracted and credentialed providers.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of all contracted and credentialed providers have received the initial training.

Recommendation 4.2



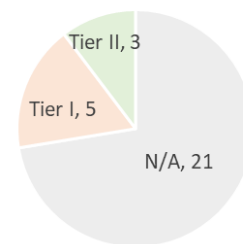
Recommendation 4.3

Require that professionals working in fields that may intersect with sex trafficking (e.g., teachers, mental health providers, social workers, caseworkers, and nurses) receive initial and ongoing training regarding sex trafficking.

Tier I: Establish statutory requirements that professionals in such fields receive training.

Tier II: Ensure that licensing bodies have established minimum standards for training, including standards related to content and frequency.

Recommendation 4.3



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Many of the service needs for children and youth who have experienced trafficking are met through local nonprofit agencies that operate under their own policies, practices, and procedures. To ensure that all children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking receive quality care, states should establish minimum standards of care specific to serving this population.

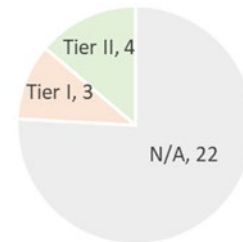
Recommendation 4.4

Establish standards of care for state-funded services provided to children and youth who exhibit potential or clear signs of sex trafficking.

Tier I: Establish standards of care for services provided to children and youth. Document that standards of care have been incorporated into at least 25% of state grants and contracts.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of contracted and credentialed providers have included standards of care in their policies and procedures.

Recommendation 4.4



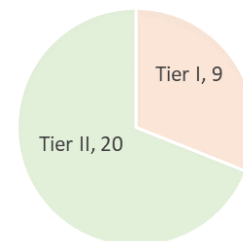
Recommendation 4.5¹

Establish privileged communication between children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking and those providing specialized services, including survivors providing peer-to-peer services.

Tier I: Statutorily guarantee privileged communication to providers trained to work with children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking.

Tier II: Not applicable

Recommendation 4.5



IMPLEMENTATION

Within each state, availability of services for children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking depends on a wide range of factors. Because the complex and unique needs of this population cannot be met by a single agency, states should develop collaborative systems that support the provision of services based on local needs and resources and incorporating standards of care.

¹ Four of the 127 recommendations, specifically recommendations 4.5, 5.9, 9.9, and 9.10, are excluded from summary tabulations throughout this report so as to not skew the tier selection results. See the Cross-Section Overview for additional information.

Recommendation 4.6

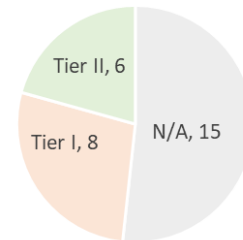
Conduct a statewide assessment of services available to children and youth who exhibit potential or clear signs of sex trafficking (including services for boys, LGBTQ2S+ individuals, indigenous populations, those with special needs or disabilities, those who are pregnant or parenting, and those experiencing both labor and sex trafficking).

Tier I: Conduct a statewide assessment.

Tier II: Document that gaps identified in the assessment have been addressed.

Federal: Prioritize capacity building and funding for programs that provide or would like to expand to provide services to boys, LGBTQ2S+ individuals, indigenous populations, those with special needs or disabilities, and those experiencing both labor and sex trafficking.

Recommendation 4.6



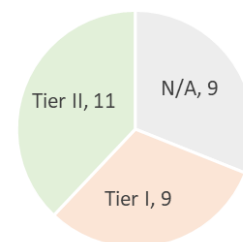
Recommendation 4.7

Establish county or regional responses to coordinate service provision to children and youth who exhibit clear or potential signs of sex trafficking. Responses should consider the child's culture and community, prioritizing access to culturally competent services whenever possible.

Tier I: Establish regional service responses in at least 25% of counties.

Tier II: Establish regional service responses in at least 75% of counties.

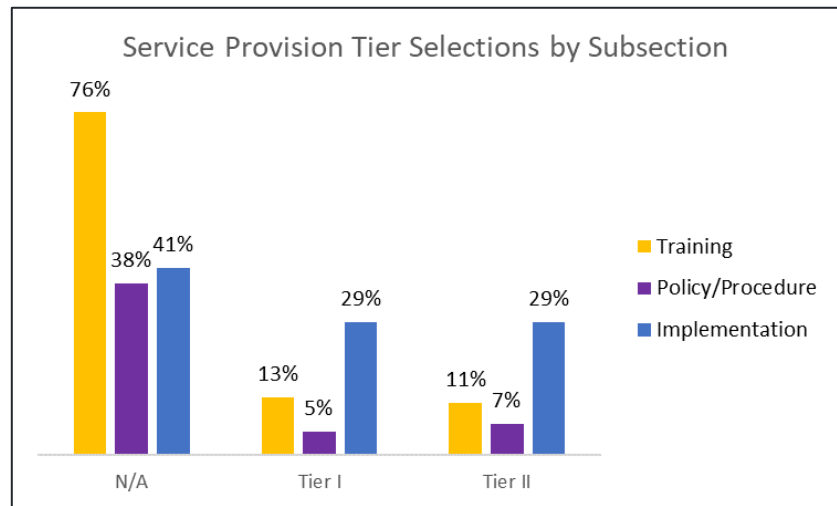
Recommendation 4.7



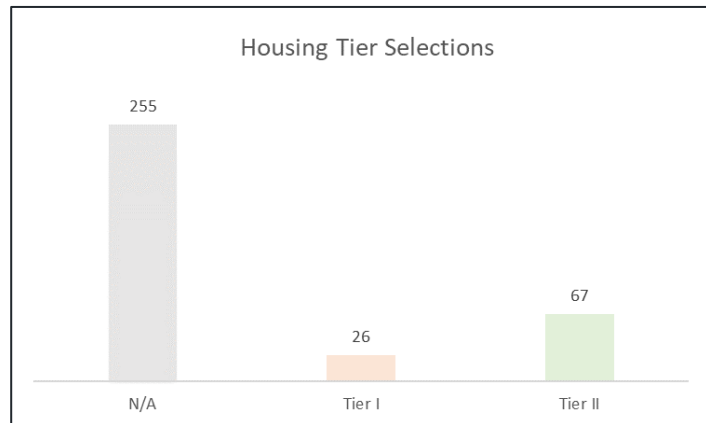
SURVEY RESULTS

Within the Service Provision section, states selected N/A more for Training-related recommendations (76 percent) than Implementation- and Policy/Procedure-related recommendations (41 percent and 38 percent, respectively). States selected Tier II and Tier I for Policy/Procedure-related recommendations the least among subsections (7 and 5 percent, respectively) and selected Tier II the most for Implementation-related recommendations (29 percent).

Since service provision and especially the training of service providers is critical in the overall state response to the sex trafficking of children and youth, the high number of N/A responses may be notable. The Committee will further evaluate the narratives accompanying N/A responses in their forthcoming report.



Due to the range of presenting factors among children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking, housing needs vary greatly. This section addresses the housing needs of children and youth who are not involved with the child welfare system (i.e., not in care of the state).



Under this section of the report, there are 13 total recommendations, 1 of which is related to Training, 6 Policy/Procedure, and 6 Implementation. Of the 348 total selections made by 29 state respondents on 12 recommendations (excluding recommendation 5.9), 19 percent were Tier II, 7 percent Tier I, and 73 percent N/A.

Housing Tier Selections (12)	Count	Percentage
N/A	255	73.28%
Tier I	26	7.47%
Tier II	67	19.25%
Total	348	100%

TRAINING

All housing providers must be trained in the dynamics of sex trafficking, the concepts of trauma-informed care, and the rights of children and youth. This includes staff of organizations that are expanding their services to include individuals who have experienced trafficking (e.g., domestic violence shelters).

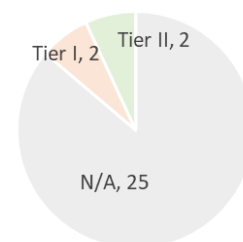
Recommendation 5.1

Require initial and ongoing training for all staff of publicly funded housing programs on recognizing signs, risk factors, and dynamics of sex trafficking; understanding state statutes, the impact of trauma, and victims' rights; and how to intervene and provide services (including referral) for potential and confirmed victims of trafficking.

Tier I: Establish policies that require and set minimum standards for training. Document that at least 25% of staff have received the training.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of staff have received the training.

Recommendation 5.1



Federal: Ensure that training regarding sex trafficking is required for all staff of shelters and housing programs that receive federal funding.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Flexible, clear, and deliberate state policies are needed to ensure that each local community develops and maintains long-, medium-, and short-term housing options appropriate for youth victims of human trafficking. Most states have policies and procedures that govern the development of shelters for children and youth, but they should be reviewed and modified to address the specialized needs of those who have experienced sex trafficking.

Recommendation 5.2

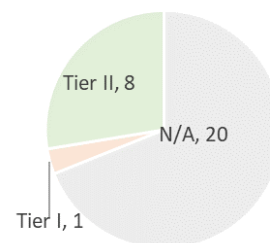
Review and amend licensing requirements for all shelters and housing for children and youth to ensure that they are able to address substance misuse, mental and physical health, continued services if the child or youth runs away, and other needs of children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking.

Tier I: Review licensing requirements and document that at least 25% of all licensed shelters and housing for children and youth have relevant requirements.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of all licensed shelters and housing for children and youth have relevant requirements.

Federal: Federal housing programs should allow for maximum flexibility in administration of programs at the local level. For example, in some cases, it is appropriate for the service provider, not the individual, to hold the lease as part of the program.

Recommendation 5.2



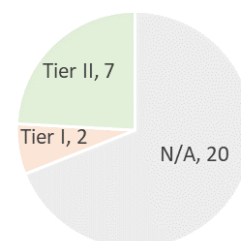
Recommendation 5.3

Require publicly funded housing programs to conduct initial and ongoing assessments of each resident's needs to determine the most appropriate, least restrictive housing option.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of programs have policies and procedures for initial and ongoing assessments and endeavor to use the most appropriate, least restrictive housing option.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of programs have policies and procedures for initial and ongoing assessments and endeavor to use the most appropriate, least restrictive housing option.

Recommendation 5.3



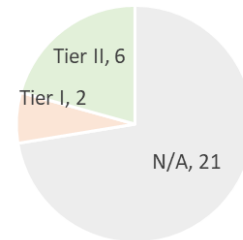
Recommendation 5.4

Establish policies and procedures within publicly funded housing programs that address the complex issues related to child and youth sex trafficking (e.g., running away, external safety threats, and other safety risks to residents).

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of organizations that house children and youth who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing sex trafficking have the relevant policies.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of organizations that house children and youth who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing sex trafficking have the relevant policies.

Recommendation 5.4



Recommendation 5.5

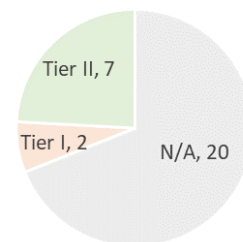
Establish policies and procedures that do not restrict children and youth who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing sex trafficking from accessing housing due to prior criminal justice involvement or substance misuse.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of publicly funded housing programs do not have such restrictions.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of publicly funded housing programs do not have such restrictions.

Federal: Ensure that federal housing programs do not restrict children and youth who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing sex trafficking from accessing housing due to prior criminal justice involvement or substance misuse.

Recommendation 5.5



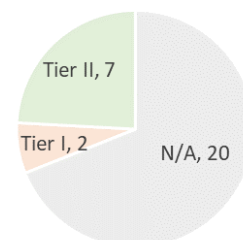
Recommendation 5.6

Ensure that publicly funded housing programs have policies and procedures for fulfilling basic needs (e.g., clothing, food, toiletries) of residents, and recognize that needs may differ based on ethnicity, culture, gender, and other factors.

Tier I: Document that at least 50% of programs have relevant policies and procedures.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of programs have relevant policies and procedures.

Recommendation 5.6



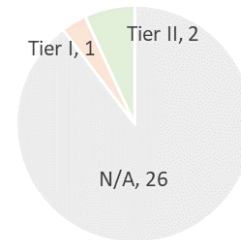
Recommendation 5.7

Establish policies and procedures within publicly funded housing programs that prioritize funding for families of children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking and are in need of housing.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of programs have relevant policies and procedures.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of programs have relevant policies and procedures.

Recommendation 5.7



IMPLEMENTATION

Housing programs and shelter programs should ensure a developmentally appropriate, warm and welcoming, secure and safe environment for children and youth. Staff should assess gap areas and develop programming that meets the unique needs of each child or youth who has experienced sex trafficking or is at high risk for exploitation.

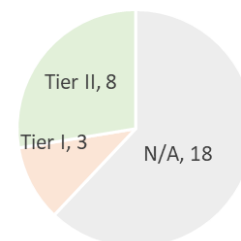
Recommendation 5.8

Conduct a community mapping and needs assessment to determine the availability of housing for children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking, including system-involved youth who become legal adults, communities of color, tribal community members, LGBTQ2S+ communities, youth who are parenting, males, non-English speaking youth, and people with disabilities.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of counties have conducted a community mapping and needs assessment.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of counties have conducted a community mapping and needs assessment.

Recommendation 5.8

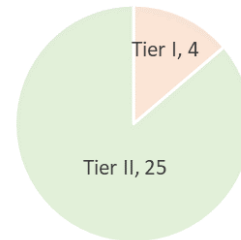


Recommendation 5.9²

Using findings from the community mapping and needs assessment, develop a community-informed strategic plan for the prioritization, development, and placement of additional housing services.

Tier I: Develop a state-led, community-informed strategic plan.

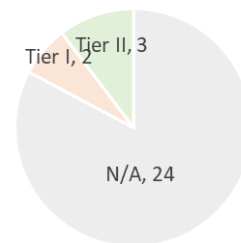
Tier II: Not applicable

Recommendation 5.9**Recommendation 5.10**

Using findings from the community mapping and needs assessment, ensure that housing services meet the needs of children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking, including system-involved youth who become legal adults, communities of color, tribal community members, LGBTQ2S+ communities, youth who are parenting, males, non-English speaking youth, and children and youth with disabilities.

Tier I: Document that housing programs meet at least 25% of the needs identified during the community mapping and needs assessment.

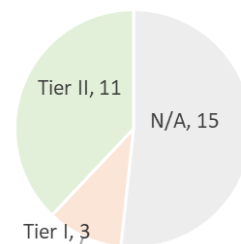
Tier II: Document that housing programs meet at least 75% of the needs identified during the community mapping and needs assessment.

Recommendation 5.10**Recommendation 5.11**

Develop and maintain a list of all housing options with staff who are trained and able to support and house children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking. The list will include contact information and types of housing and populations served (e.g., males, LGBTQ2S+, youth ages 18–24, etc.).

Tier I: Develop a list of all state housing options.

Tier II: Identify a staff position to maintain a list of all state housing options.

Recommendation 5.11

² Four of the 127 recommendations, specifically recommendations 4.5, 5.9, 9.9, and 9.10, are excluded from summary tabulations throughout this report so as to not skew the tier selection results. See the Cross-Section Overview for additional information.

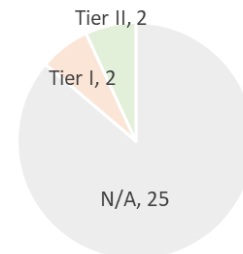
Recommendation 5.12

Create a manual for housing providers on housing options that includes specific guidance on meeting the needs of children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of organizations that determine the process for housing development have created a manual for housing providers.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of organizations that determine the process for housing development have created a manual for housing providers.

Recommendation 5.12



Recommendation 5.13

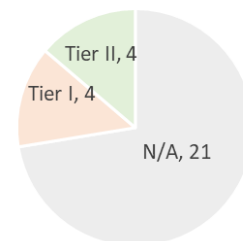
Ensure housing programs that work with children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking are survivor-informed.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of housing programs have incorporated survivor input, as evidenced by survivors holding positions on staff, advisory boards, planning committees, or in other significant roles.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of housing programs have incorporated survivor input, as evidenced by survivors holding positions on staff, advisory boards, planning committees, or in other significant roles.

Federal: Federal housing programs that fund shelters and housing should require that local housing organizations work with anti-trafficking organizations and/or survivors of trafficking throughout the process of housing development to ensure that the needs of survivors are considered.

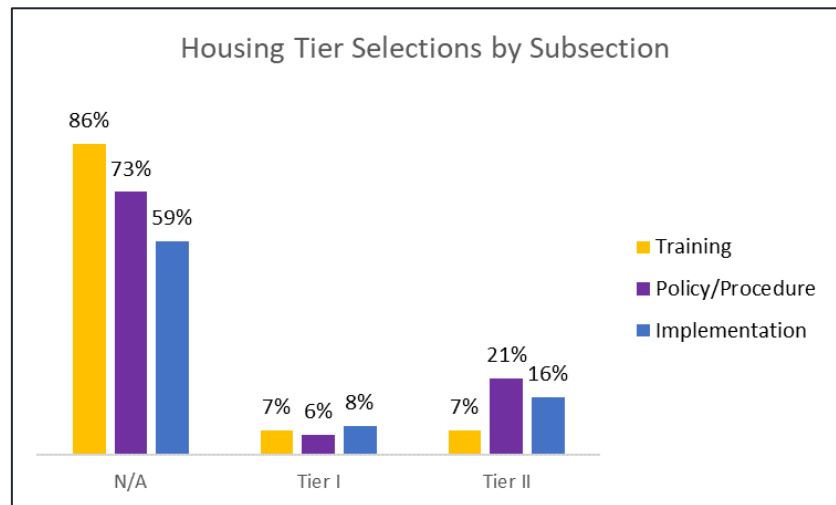
Recommendation 5.13



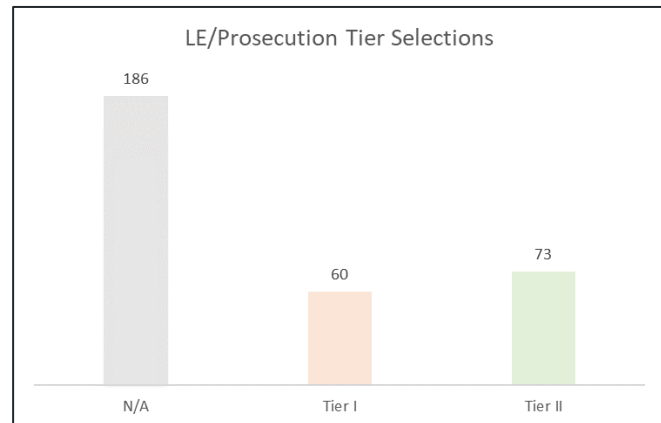
SURVEY RESULTS

Within the Housing section, states selected N/A at high rates, particularly for recommendations within the Training subsection (86 percent).

Since stable housing for children and youth experiencing sex trafficking is a critical first step in service delivery to facilitate safety, minimize vulnerability, and provide an environment that supports and addresses critical needs, the high number of N/A responses may be notable. The Committee will further evaluate the narratives accompanying N/A responses in their forthcoming report.



The response to the sex trafficking of children and youth by law enforcement and prosecution is complex. To achieve successful accountability and prosecution of offenders, agencies must embrace cooperation and coordination among multiple jurisdictions, including data and information sharing and non-traditional alliances. Through proactive efforts, states are better positioned to identify victims while improving accountability of offenders.



Under this section of the report, there are 11 total recommendations, 4 of which are related to Training, 2 Policy/Procedure, and 5 Implementation. Of the 319 total selections made by 29 state respondents for these 11 recommendations, 23 percent were Tier II, 19 percent Tier I, and 58 percent N/A.

Law Enforcement and Prosecution Tier Selections (11)	Count	Percentage
N/A	186	58%
Tier I	60	19%
Tier II	73	23%
Total	319	100%

TRAINING

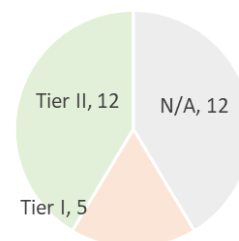
Training law enforcement, prosecutors, corrections staff, and other first responders to identify cases of sex trafficking and to interact with victims in a trauma-informed way will result in better corroborated investigations, which is essential to hold offenders accountable. Training should include a discussion of the nuances of interviewing suspected victims of sex trafficking and the benefits of working with service providers to meet the immediate needs of children and youth who have experienced trafficking.

Recommendation 6.1

Require training regarding the sex trafficking of children and youth for all law enforcement and first responders that includes trauma-informed, victim-centered approaches, with an emphasis on treating children and youth who have experienced trafficking as victims rather than offenders.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of law enforcement agencies have developed training protocols for the initial law enforcement certification/academy process and for officers already certified or sworn (in-service).

Recommendation 6.1



Tier II: Document that at least 75% of law enforcement agencies have developed training protocols for the initial law enforcement certification/academy process and for officers already certified or sworn (in-service).

Recommendation 6.2

Require advanced training regarding best practices and trends in conducting investigations for law enforcement investigators who work on sex trafficking cases. Offer advanced training to law enforcement who work on other types of offenses, including status offenses, which are likely to intersect with sex trafficking cases (e.g., organized crime, child abuse, and domestic violence prosecutions).

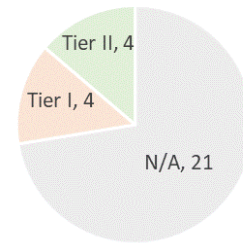
Advanced training may include:

- *Barriers to identification*
- *Building a case without victims' cooperation*
- *Case studies*
- *Continued Presence and T or U visa certifications for qualifying foreign national victims*
- *Greater focus on interview and interrogation practices*
- *Identification and collection of digital and online media evidence*
- *Impact of trauma on the developing brain*
- *Intersection between labor trafficking and sex trafficking*
- *Participation in multidisciplinary teams*
- *Review and integration of response protocols for missing/runaway children and youth*
- *Technical assistance for law enforcement and prosecutors regarding collaborating on implementation of the Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act (SESTA) and Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act (FOSTA) (P.L. 115–164) to hold websites accountable for knowingly facilitating the sex trafficking of children and youth*
- *Use of forensic interviews*
- *Use of technology to assist in the identification of victimization*

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of law enforcement agencies require advanced training for law enforcement investigators.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of law enforcement agencies require advanced training for law enforcement investigators.

Recommendation 6.2



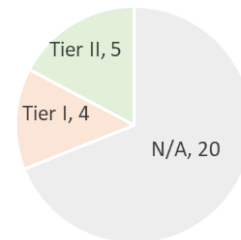
Recommendation 6.3

Require training for prosecutor's offices that includes information on criminal statutes, reporting requirements on behalf of minor victims of trafficking, indicators of sex trafficking, victim dynamics, forms of grooming and recruiting, buyers and demand, the connection between sex trafficking and child sexual abuse material, and local resources. Training should emphasize treating children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking as victims rather than offenders.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of federal, state, and local prosecutor's offices have implemented training protocols.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of federal, state, and local prosecutor's offices have implemented training protocols.

Recommendation 6.3



Recommendation 6.4

Require advanced training regarding best practices and trends in conducting investigations and prosecutions for prosecutors who work on sex trafficking cases. Offer advanced training to prosecutors who work on other types of offenses that are likely to intersect with sex trafficking cases (e.g., organized crime, child abuse, and domestic violence prosecutions).

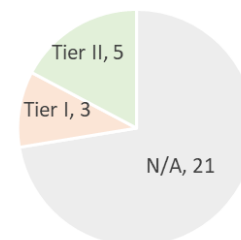
Advanced training may include:

- Case studies
- Creative techniques for holding traffickers and buyers accountable, including high-frequency buyers
- Prosecution of buyers seeking to engage in sex acts with children and youth
- Prosecution of sex trafficking cases without victims' cooperation
- Standards of care in service response
- Using courtroom protections during trials for witnesses who have experienced trafficking
- Victim restitution

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of state and local prosecutor's offices require advanced training for prosecutors.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of state and local prosecutor's offices require advanced training for prosecutors.

Recommendation 6.4



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A timely, pragmatic, and sensitive response to sex trafficking from law enforcement and prosecution improves a community's confidence in the legal process, increases reporting levels, and strengthens investigations, thereby facilitating a higher number of successful prosecutions. Investigative guidelines for law enforcement and prosecutors responding to children or youth who have experienced sex trafficking must incorporate prevention and intervention techniques while targeting the exploiter and addressing the purchase of commercial sex.

Recommendation 6.5

Develop and implement protocols for law enforcement that establish best practices for investigating the sex trafficking of children and youth and addressing their needs.

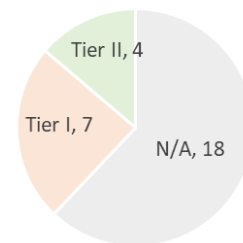
Considerations should include:

- *24/7 investigative response*
- *Children and youth who have possible criminal involvement*
- *Coordination with victim service providers and NGOs*
- *Cross-jurisdictional, multi-agency investigations and involvement*
- *Engaging and interviewing children and youth who are exhibiting signs of the trauma they have endured (e.g., hostility or responses that appear uncooperative), do not view themselves as victims, or have a trauma bond to their offender*
- *Introduction of evidence at the time of the interview*
- *Techniques for interviewing children and youth, including partnering with forensic interviewers or child advocacy/family justice centers and the potential need for multiple interviews or “conversations” to obtain a full account of what occurred*
- *Victim advocates/coordinators*

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of law enforcement agencies have implemented investigative protocols.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of law enforcement agencies have implemented investigative protocols.

Recommendation 6.5



Recommendation 6.6

Develop and implement protocols for prosecutors to enhance their ability to prosecute offenders while addressing the needs of children and youth who have experienced trafficking.

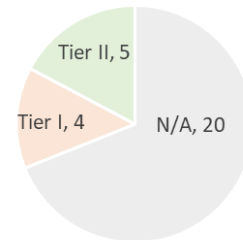
Considerations should include:

- *Clearly stated commitment to avoiding criminally charging children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking for crimes they committed during or as a result of their trafficking victimization*
- *Collaboration with juvenile justice, probation, other units in the court and criminal justice system, and child welfare; associated reporting requirements*
- *Continued Presence and T or U visa certifications for qualifying foreign national minor victims*
- *Fines, forfeiture, sex offender registry, and criminal restitution*
- *Specialty courts for traffickers and exploiters*
- *Steps to remove online child sexual abuse material*
- *Use of vacatur and expungement for children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking*

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of prosecutor's offices have implemented relevant protocols.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of prosecutor's offices have implemented relevant protocols.

Recommendation 6.6



IMPLEMENTATION

Children and youth who have experienced trafficking are often moved between cities, regions, and even states, resulting in multi-jurisdictional cases that often involve more than one investigative and prosecutorial agency. This dynamic necessitates the establishment of specialized investigative and prosecutorial units that have cross-jurisdictional authority. It is important to designate specific law enforcement officers and prosecutors in each police agency and prosecutor's office who will work on sex trafficking cases.

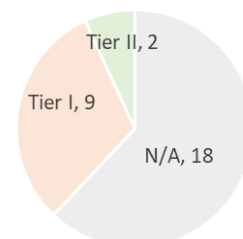
Recommendation 6.7

Each law enforcement agency should have at least one specially trained officer assigned to human trafficking cases.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of law enforcement agencies have at least one designated human trafficking officer.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of law enforcement agencies have at least one designated human trafficking officer.

Recommendation 6.7



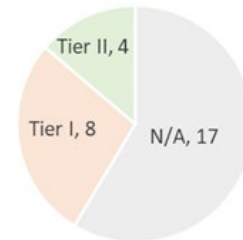
Recommendation 6.8

Each prosecutor's office should have at least one specially trained prosecutor assigned to human trafficking cases.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of prosecutor's offices have at least one designated human trafficking prosecutor.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of prosecutor's offices have at least one designated human trafficking prosecutor.

Recommendation 6.8



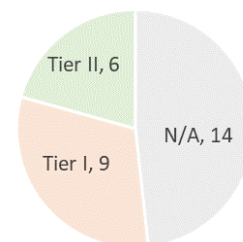
Recommendation 6.9

Law enforcement agencies should form non-traditional partnerships to facilitate the investigation of the sex trafficking of children and youth.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of law enforcement agencies have formed at least one non-traditional partnership.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of law enforcement agencies have formed at least one non-traditional partnership.

Recommendation 6.9



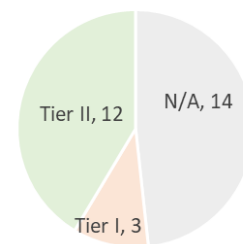
Recommendation 6.10

Develop and maintain a statewide directory of investigators, prosecutors, and human trafficking task forces that specialize in sex trafficking investigations and prosecutions or who have jurisdictional authority and can assist in cross-jurisdictional investigations.

Tier I: Develop a directory of investigators, prosecutors, and task forces.

Tier II: Identify a staff position responsible for maintaining the directory of investigators, prosecutors, and task forces.

Recommendation 6.10



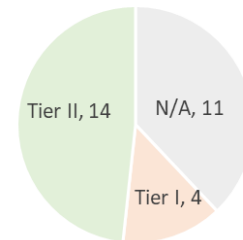
Recommendation 6.11

Ensure law enforcement and prosecutors participate in human trafficking task forces and interagency groups that address the sex trafficking of children and youth.

Tier I: Document participation in at least 50% of state and county task forces, multidisciplinary teams, or committees.

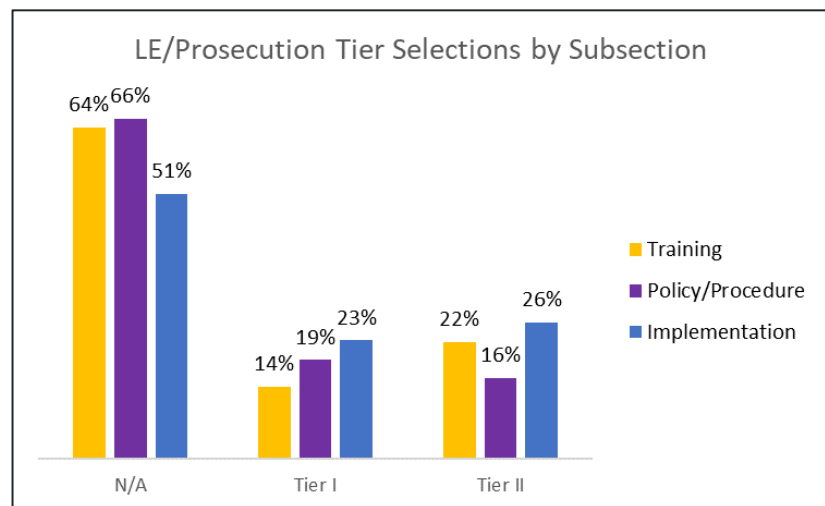
Tier II: Document participation in at least 75% of state and county task forces, multidisciplinary teams, or committees.

Recommendation 6.11



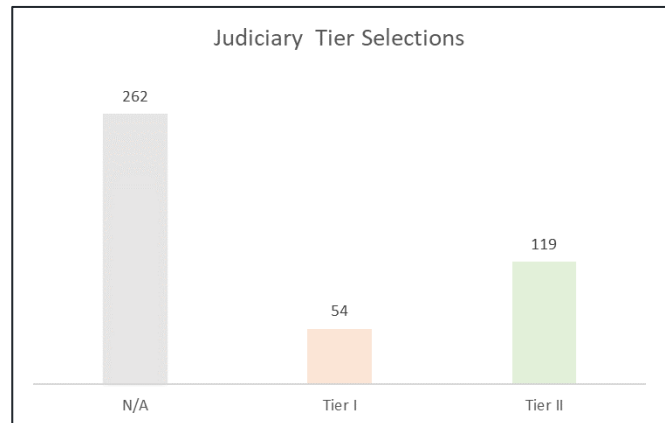
SURVEY RESULTS

Within the Law Enforcement and Prosecution section, states selected N/A the most across all subsections (64 percent for Training, 66 percent for Policy/Procedure, and 51 percent for Implementation). Of the three subsections, states selected Tier II for recommendations under the Training and Implementation subsections (22 percent and 26 percent, respectively) more often than for recommendations under the Policy/Procedure subsection (16 percent).



Since all three subsection categories are needed to strengthen partnerships between law enforcement and prosecution, the high number of N/A responses may be notable. The Committee will further evaluate the narratives accompanying N/A responses in their forthcoming report.

The judiciary's position is unique because of its contact with many stakeholders and its authority in criminal, civil, tribal, juvenile, and family matters. Judges in state and tribal courts have the ability to convene multidisciplinary collaborations and work across jurisdictions to respond and deliver services to children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking and hold offenders accountable.



Under this section of the report, there are 15 total recommendations, 3 of which are related to Training, 7 Policy/Procedure, and 5 Implementation. Of the 435 total selections made by 29 state respondents for these 15 recommendations, 27 percent were Tier II, 12 percent Tier I, and 60 percent N/A.

Judiciary Tier Selections (15)	Count	Percentage
N/A	262	60.23%
Tier I	54	12.41%
Tier II	119	27.36%
Total	435	100%

TRAINING

All judicial personnel and courthouse employees must receive foundational training so that they are better able to identify and respond to cases involving children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking. Juvenile and family court judges in particular should be trained so that they are able to retain oversight and apply trauma-informed court practices to proceedings involving children and youth who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing sex trafficking.

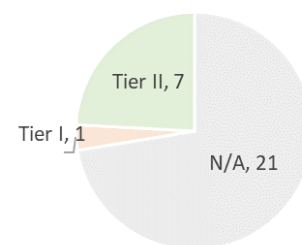
Recommendation 7.1

Court administrative authorities should implement required basic training regarding the sex trafficking of children and youth for judicial personnel and court employees.

Tier I: Document that the court administrative authority has implemented required basic training, and that at least 25% of judicial personnel and court employees have received basic training.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of judicial personnel and court employees have received basic training.

Recommendation 7.1



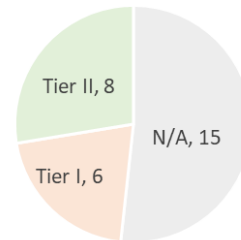
Recommendation 7.2

Juvenile justice agencies should implement required basic training regarding the sex trafficking of children and youth for all juvenile justice personnel.

Tier I: Document that juvenile justice agencies have implemented required basic training, and that at least 25% of juvenile justice employees have received basic training.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of juvenile justice employees have received basic training.

Recommendation 7.2



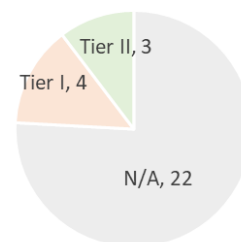
Recommendation 7.3

Criminal justice systems should implement required basic training regarding the sex trafficking of children and youth for all corrections employees.

Tier I: Document that the Department of Corrections has implemented required basic training, and that at least 25% of correctional employees have received basic training.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of correctional employees have received basic training.

Recommendation 7.3



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Policies and procedures to address the sex trafficking of children and youth within the judiciary and juvenile justice systems uphold victims' rights and hold offenders accountable. Policies and procedures must balance the competing and often contradictory interests of prosecution and defense, while ensuring that the criminal justice process does not cause further trauma to crime victims and maintains their safety.

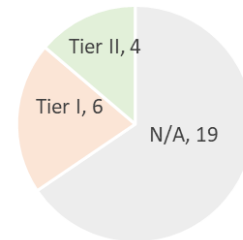
Recommendation 7.4

Review state, tribal, and local family, juvenile, and criminal court rules to ensure they adequately address court dynamics related to the sex trafficking of children and youth (e.g., safety, confidentiality, etc.).

Tier I: Review family, juvenile, and criminal court rules.

Tier II: Amend family, juvenile, and criminal court rules as needed.

Recommendation 7.4



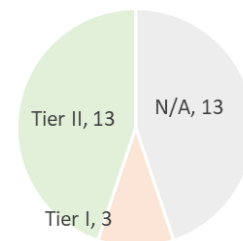
Recommendation 7.5

Ensure policies and procedures support victim participation and safety throughout the court process (e.g., closed-circuit cameras, victim advocates, etc.).

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of criminal courts have policies and procedures that support victim participation and safety.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of criminal courts have policies and procedures that support victim participation and safety.

Recommendation 7.5



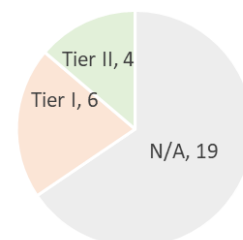
Recommendation 7.6

Review state, tribal, and local family, juvenile, and criminal court rules to ensure that they facilitate identification and adequate assessment of, as well as support service provision for, children and youth who have experienced trafficking. Consider establishing specialized courts or dockets for this population.

Tier I: Review family, juvenile, and criminal court rules.

Tier II: Amend family, juvenile, and criminal court rules as needed or establish specialized courts or dockets.

Recommendation 7.6



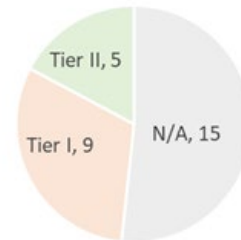
Recommendation 7.7

Review all licensing requirements for juvenile justice facilities and community-based programs to ensure they are able to address substance misuse, mental and physical health, and other needs of children and youth who have experienced trafficking. Amend requirements as needed.

Tier I: Review licensing requirements for juvenile justice facilities, including community-based programs.

Tier II: Amend licensing requirements as needed.

Recommendation 7.7



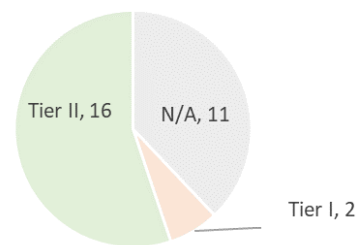
Recommendation 7.8

Require initial and ongoing assessments of children and youth in juvenile justice facilities, including community-based programs, to identify their needs and determine the most appropriate, least restrictive housing option.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of facilities and programs run by the juvenile justice system have relevant policies and procedures for initial and ongoing assessments and have made documented efforts to use the most appropriate, least restrictive housing option.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of facilities and programs run by the juvenile justice system have relevant policies and procedures for initial and ongoing assessments and have made documented efforts to use the most appropriate, least restrictive housing option.

Recommendation 7.8



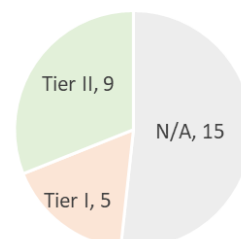
Recommendation 7.9

Establish policies and procedures within juvenile justice facilities and community-based programs that address running away, peer recruiting, external safety threats, other safety risks, and safety planning for children and youth.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of juvenile justice facilities and programs have relevant policies and procedures.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of juvenile justice facilities and programs have relevant policies and procedures.

Recommendation 7.9



Recommendation 7.10

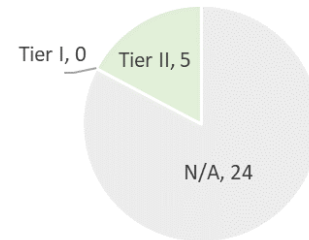
Judges should ensure local child welfare and juvenile justice policies include requesting a court hearing immediately when a child is missing from placement. Judges may consider some of the following actions, depending on their jurisdiction's laws, to encourage diligent efforts to locate a missing child:

- *Ensure law enforcement authorities immediately enter the child's name and identifying information into the FBI's National Crime Information Center's (NCIC's) Missing Person and Unidentified Person Files by providing documentation of such to the court.*
- *Judges can issue individual orders to social workers or juvenile justice workers or a standing order in their jurisdiction to report children missing from care to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) in compliance with the [Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act \(P.L. 113–183\)](#)*
- *Order agencies to take updated photographs of a child who returns to care from a runaway episode, under conditions that promote the child's safety so as not to re-traumatize them.*
- *Require agencies to maintain current photos that are easily accessible in an electronic file.*
- *Report to law enforcement immediately if the child is missing from placement or runs away and provide documentation of the report to the court.*

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of child welfare and juvenile justice policies include requesting a court hearing immediately when a child is missing from placement.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of child welfare and juvenile justice policies include requesting a court hearing immediately when a child is missing from placement.

Recommendation 7.10



IMPLEMENTATION

Courts and, in particular, judges play a critical role in the day-to-day implementation of justice and victims' rights. Judges must ensure that the court process is conducted in a timely and trauma-informed manner.

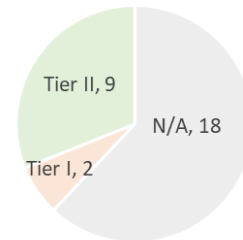
Recommendation 7.11

Create protocols for criminal, juvenile, and family courts that address the sex trafficking of children and youth, including the safety and confidentiality of and service referrals for victims.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of applicable courts have developed relevant protocols.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of applicable courts have developed relevant protocols.

Recommendation 7.11



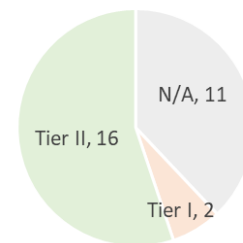
Recommendation 7.12

Consider the impact on and facilitate the input of crime victims with regard to plea agreements and sentencing.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of criminal courts have procedures that give victims the opportunity to comment on plea agreements and sentencing.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of criminal courts have procedures that give victims the opportunity to comment on plea agreements and sentencing.

Recommendation 7.12



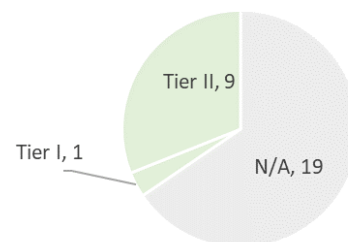
Recommendation 7.13

Invite victim advocates to be present during criminal, juvenile, and family court cases or dockets involving the sex trafficking of children and youth.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of applicable courts have invited a victim advocate who has received specialized training regarding human trafficking to be present during relevant cases or dockets.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of applicable courts have invited a victim advocate who has received specialized training regarding human trafficking to be present during relevant cases or dockets.

Recommendation 7.13



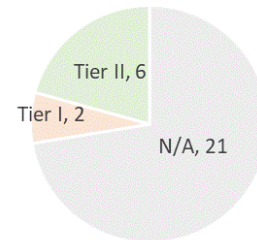
Recommendation 7.14

Consider victim restitution in all cases of sex trafficking of children and youth.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of convictions for the sex trafficking of children and youth have included victim restitution.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of convictions for the sex trafficking of children and youth have included victim restitution.

Recommendation 7.14



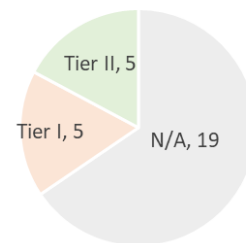
Recommendation 7.15

Ensure that judicial personnel participate in all human trafficking task forces and interagency groups that address the sex trafficking of children and youth.

Tier I: Document participation in at least 50% of state and county task forces, multidisciplinary teams, and committees.

Tier II: Document participation in at least 75% of state and county task forces, multidisciplinary teams, and committees.

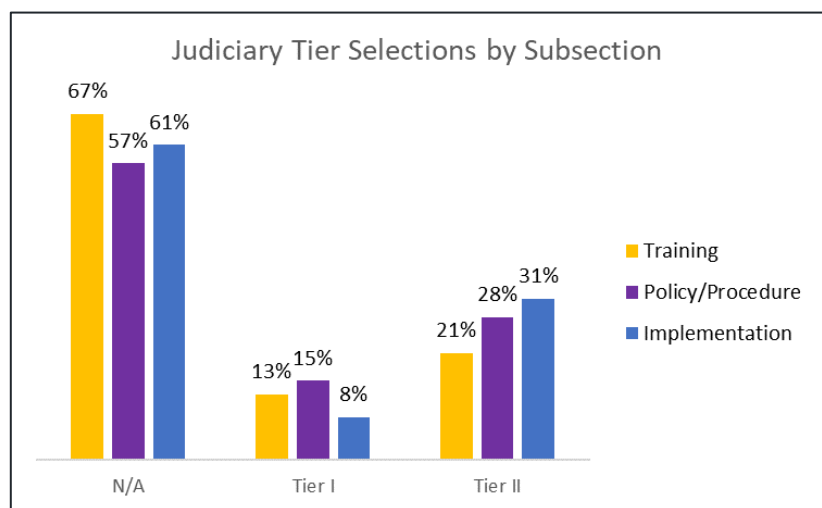
Recommendation 7.15



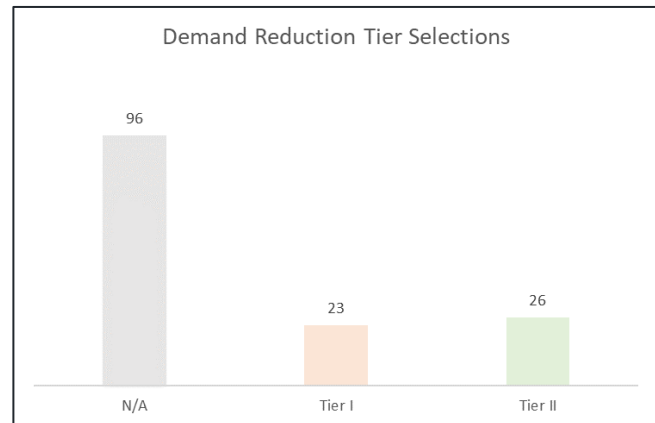
SURVEY RESULTS

Within the Judiciary section, states selected N/A the most across all three subsections (67 percent for Training, 57 percent for Policy/Procedure, and 61 percent for Implementation). However, when states did select a tier, they selected Tier II more often than Tier I for each subsection.

Since there is a continuing need for judiciary involvement in addressing the sex trafficking of children and youth, the high number of N/A selections may be notable. The Committee will further evaluate the narratives accompanying N/A responses in their forthcoming report.



For the purposes of this report, demand reduction refers to any effort to reduce the purchase of sex from a minor. As long as the demand to purchase sex with children and youth exists, traffickers will continue to view children and youth as commodities from which to profit. To address the sex trafficking of children and youth comprehensively, demand must be addressed through inclusion in states' response models.



Under this section of the report, there are 5 total recommendations, 2 of which are related to Training, 2 Policy/Procedure, and 1 Implementation. Of the 145 total selections made by 29 state respondents for these 5 recommendations, 18 percent were Tier II, 16 percent Tier I, and 66 percent N/A.

Demand Reduction Tier Selections (5)	Count	Percentage
N/A	96	66%
Tier I	23	16%
Tier II	26	18%
Total	145	100%

TRAINING

Training addressing demand reduction and human trafficking can help raise awareness that demand directly fuels the sex trafficking of children and youth. To discuss demand comprehensively, training should address the societal, community, relationship, and individual factors that facilitate demand and discuss how demand reduction efforts can be implemented at the public policy, community, organizational, interpersonal, and individual levels.

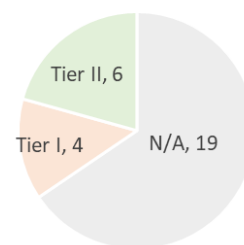
Recommendation 8.1

Integrate information on the importance of holding buyers accountable into all mandated training, especially training for law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of training for law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges includes information on reducing demand.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of training for law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges includes information on reducing demand.

Recommendation 8.1



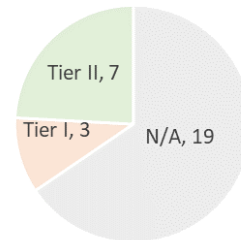
Recommendation 8.2

Integrate demand reduction efforts into public awareness and prevention efforts regarding sex trafficking.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of public awareness and prevention efforts include information on reducing demand.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of public awareness and prevention efforts include information on reducing demand.

Recommendation 8.2



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

To address demand effectively, law enforcement and prosecutors must implement policies and procedures that support and prioritize reducing demand in conjunction with investigations of sex traffickers over the arrest and adjudication of potential victims of sex trafficking. In addition, states should engage the public (e.g., local government agencies, military) and private sectors (e.g., private companies, foundations) to adopt policies that reduce demand.

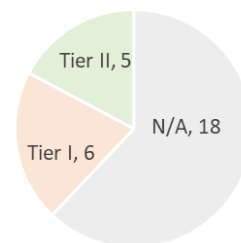
Recommendation 8.3

Establish policies within law enforcement agencies that support and prioritize reducing demand over arresting potential victims of sex trafficking, and support the use of demand reduction enforcement and prosecution to facilitate the identification and prosecution of buyers, traffickers, and exploiters, identify and locate potential victims, and promote community safety.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of law enforcement agencies have implemented relevant policies.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of law enforcement agencies have implemented relevant policies.

Recommendation 8.3



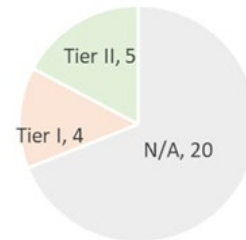
Recommendation 8.4

Establish policies within prosecutor's offices that prioritize the prosecution of buyers over the adjudication of potential victims of sex trafficking.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of prosecutor's offices have implemented relevant policies.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of prosecutor's offices have implemented relevant policies.

Recommendation 8.4



IMPLEMENTATION

Comprehensive response models to address sex trafficking must include efforts to reduce demand. Raising awareness and a zero-tolerance policy demonstrated by high-level leadership toward those who engage in commercial sex acts with children and youth are the first steps toward implementation.

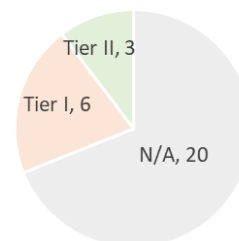
Recommendation 8.5

Engage in law enforcement efforts that target demand, especially high-frequency buyers.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of law enforcement agencies have conducted an initiative to reduce demand.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of law enforcement agencies have conducted an initiative to reduce demand.

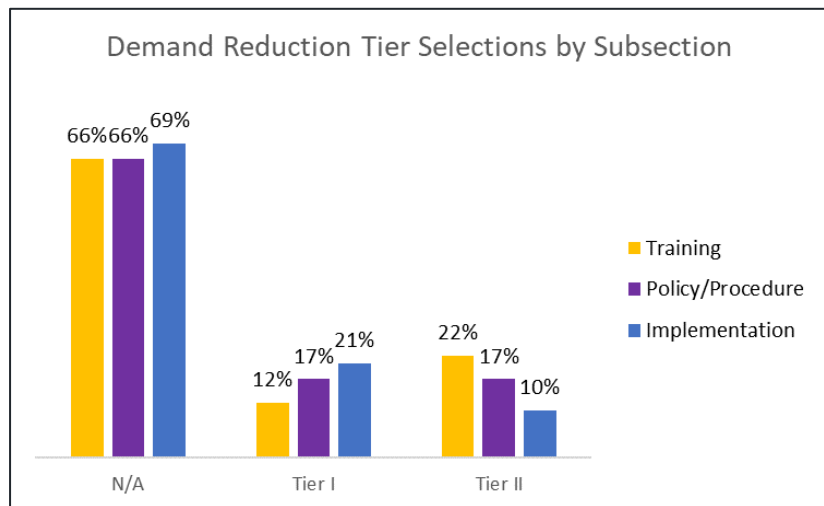
Recommendation 8.5



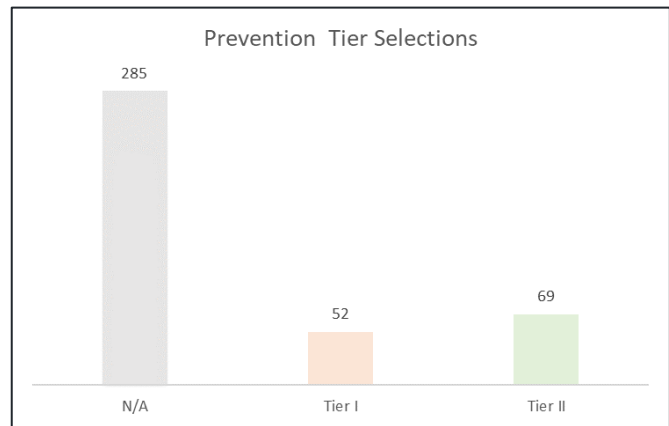
SURVEY RESULTS

Within the Demand Reduction section, states selected N/A at very high rates (66 percent for Training, 66 percent for Policy/Procedure, and 69 percent for Implementation).

Since addressing demand is an essential element in combatting sex trafficking and must be included in holistic approaches to reduce exploitation and hold offenders accountable, the high number of N/A responses may be notable. The Committee will further evaluate the narratives accompanying N/A responses in their forthcoming report.



Attention and resources must be allocated to effective prevention strategies to address the sex trafficking of children and youth. Children and youth, especially those most at risk, must be equipped with the knowledge and skills to identify trafficking and the harm it causes, understand the misconceptions about commercial sex and discourage its glamorization, and navigate risky and exploitative situations effectively.



Under this section of the report, there are 16 total recommendations, 4 of which are related to Training, 7 Policy/Procedure, and 5 Implementation. Of the 406 total selections made by 29 state respondents on 14 recommendations (excluding 9.9 and 9.10), 17 percent were Tier II, 13 percent Tier I, and 70 percent N/A.

Prevention Tier Selections (14)	Count	Percentage
N/A	285	70%
Tier I	52	13%
Tier II	69	17%
Total	406	100%

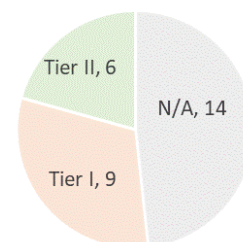
TRAINING

Primary prevention must incorporate training for all individuals who work with or provide services to children and youth, especially those who are most vulnerable. Such training should include baseline information on the public health approach and the three levels of prevention. Primary prevention efforts must focus on building protective factors, such as strengthening and creating healthy relationships, reducing risks within communal environments, and increasing buffers to violence.

Recommendation 9.1

Ensure that training for providers (including foster parents and runaway and homeless youth providers) who regularly engage with and could potentially intervene on behalf of children and youth includes information on the prevention of sex trafficking. Training should include information on systemic racism, cultural biases, and forms of discrimination, as they intersect with sex trafficking, as well as information and skill-building exercises on trauma-informed strategies for building resilience in children and youth.

Recommendation 9.1



Tier I: Document that at least 25% of training curricula for those who regularly engage with and could potentially intervene on behalf of children and youth include strategies to prevent the sex trafficking of children and youth.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of training curricula for those who regularly engage with and could potentially intervene on behalf of children and youth include strategies to prevent the sex trafficking of children and youth.

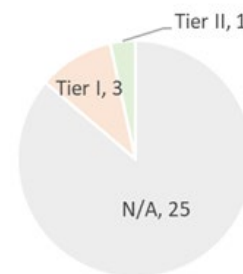
Recommendation 9.2

Ensure that providers in health centers funded through the Public Health Service Act Section 330 receive training and technical assistance to develop policies and procedures for employing a universal education approach to prevent and address the sex trafficking of children and youth.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of Section 330 health centers have received training and technical assistance.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of Section 330 health centers have received training and technical assistance.

Recommendation 9.2



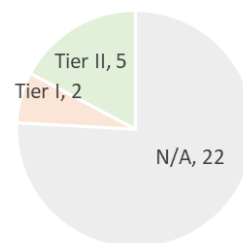
Recommendation 9.3

Ensure that all school staff, including those working with students in early childhood, receive training regarding the sex trafficking of children and youth. Training should include information on systemic racism, cultural biases, and forms of discrimination, as they intersect with sex trafficking, as well as information and skill-building exercises regarding trauma-informed strategies for building resilience in children and youth.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of school districts require training for staff.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of school districts require training for staff.

Recommendation 9.3



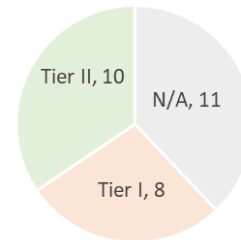
Recommendation 9.4

Conduct awareness events to educate community members, including caregivers, about human trafficking, prevention, bystander response, and demand for children and youth. Training should include information on systemic racism, cultural biases, and forms of discrimination, as they intersect with sex trafficking, as well as information and skill-building exercises regarding trauma-informed strategies for building resilience in children and youth.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of counties have conducted community awareness events.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of counties have conducted community awareness events.

Recommendation 9.4



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

States should be proactive in developing policies that respond to the chronic and acute risk factors that are sometimes exacerbated by system involvement. In addition to addressing risks, states should require that schools, child welfare systems, and juvenile justice systems provide comprehensive prevention education regarding sex trafficking to all system-involved children and youth as well as children and youth who are at risk of experiencing sex trafficking.

Recommendation 9.5

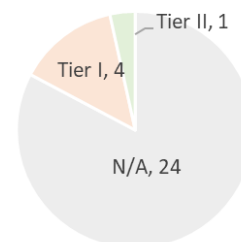
Ensure that providers in health centers funded through the [Public Health Service Act Section 330](#) have policies and procedures for employing a universal education approach to prevent and address the sex trafficking of children and youth.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of Section 330 health centers have relevant policies and procedures.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of Section 330 health centers have relevant policies and procedures.

Federal: Provide technical assistance to support Section 330 health centers in developing relevant policies and procedures.

Recommendation 9.5



Recommendation 9.6

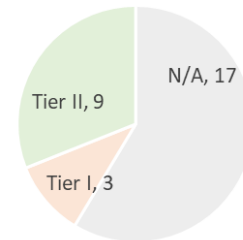
Ensure that state and local child welfare and juvenile justice agencies have conducted a comprehensive review to identify major risk factors for children and youth who are system-involved as well as opportunities to address these factors. This should include addressing vulnerabilities for sex trafficking at all socioecological levels.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of state and local child welfare and juvenile justice agencies have conducted a comprehensive review.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of state and local child welfare and juvenile justice agencies have conducted a comprehensive review.

Federal: Provide technical assistance to support child welfare and juvenile justice agencies.

Recommendation 9.6



Recommendation 9.7

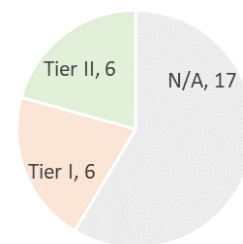
Using findings from the review, implement a strategic plan to guide the development and implementation of policies, procedures, partnerships, and programs that reduce the risk of experiencing sex trafficking for system-involved children and youth.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of child welfare and juvenile justice agencies have implemented strategies to reduce risk.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of child welfare and juvenile justice agencies have implemented strategies to reduce risk.

Federal: Provide technical assistance to support child welfare and juvenile justice agencies to address major vulnerability factors such as housing instability, family violence, substance misuse, and poverty.

Recommendation 9.7



Recommendation 9.8

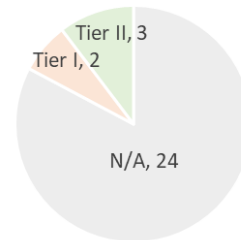
Establish policies and procedures that require middle and high schools to provide all students with basic information on sex trafficking. Require schools to provide research-based prevention education for students who are at risk of experiencing sex trafficking.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of school districts have relevant policies and procedures.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of school districts have relevant policies and procedures.

Federal: The Committee recommends that HHS provide guidance on minimum standards for prevention education on sex trafficking and identify examples of curricula for children and youth that meet such standards.

Recommendation 9.8



Recommendation 9.9³

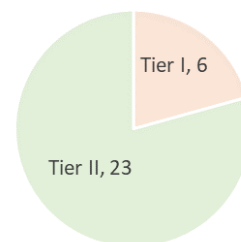
Establish policies and procedures requiring that all children and youth in the care of child welfare systems receive research-based prevention education on sex trafficking.

Tier I: Document that child welfare systems have relevant policies and procedures.

Tier II: Not applicable

Federal: The Committee recommends that HHS provide guidance on minimum standards for prevention education on sex trafficking and identify examples of curricula for children and youth that meet such standards. Further, the Committee recommends that federal agencies allow funding to be allocated to the provision and evaluation of prevention services.

Recommendation 9.9



³ Four of the 127 recommendations, specifically recommendations 4.5, 5.9, 9.9, and 9.10, are excluded from summary tabulations throughout this report so as to not skew the tier selection results. See the Cross-Section Overview for additional information.

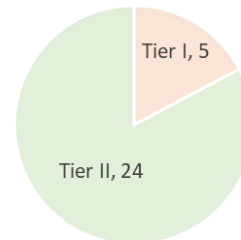
Recommendation 9.10⁴

Establish policies and procedures requiring that all children and youth in the care of juvenile justice systems receive research-based prevention education on sex trafficking.

Tier I: Document that juvenile justice systems have relevant policies and procedures.

Tier II: Not applicable

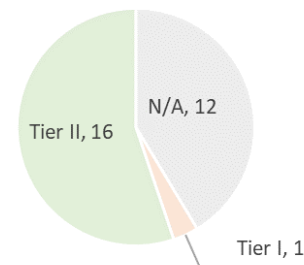
Federal: The Committee recommends that HHS provide guidance on minimum standards for prevention education on sex trafficking and identify examples of curricula for children and youth that meet such standards. Further, the Committee recommends that federal agencies allow funding to be allocated to the provision and evaluation of prevention services.

Recommendation 9.10**Recommendation 9.11**

Require all state-funded organizations serving system-involved children and youth to have policies and procedures for responding to disclosures of human trafficking and other forms of child abuse and neglect.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of organizations have policies and procedures for responding to disclosures.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of organizations have policies and procedures for responding to disclosures.

Recommendation 9.11**IMPLEMENTATION**

Prevention education efforts must incorporate skills-building, including the skills needed to build healthy relationships and respect for human rights, so that children and youth are able to respond to potentially dangerous and exploitative situations. Prevention efforts should include information on internet safety. In addition, information on available resources should also be provided to all children and youth who receive prevention education.

⁴ Four of the 127 recommendations, specifically recommendations 4.5, 5.9, 9.9, and 9.10, are excluded from summary tabulations throughout this report so as to not skew the tier selection results. See the Cross-Section Overview for additional information.

Recommendation 9.12

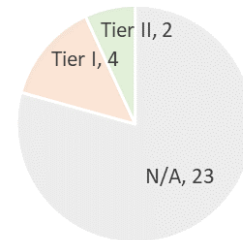
Provide all students in middle and high schools with information on sex trafficking and building healthy relationships (e.g., through assemblies, health class, or other prevention curricula).

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of middle and high schools have provided information on sex trafficking to students.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of middle and high schools have provided information on sex trafficking to students.

Federal: Issue guidance for social media platforms to set default privacy settings to the highest level for minors.

Recommendation 9.12



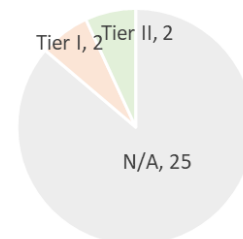
Recommendation 9.13

Provide research-based prevention education on sex trafficking to all students in middle and high school who are at risk of experiencing sex trafficking.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of schools have provided prevention education on sex trafficking to students who are at risk.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of schools have provided prevention education on sex trafficking to students who are at risk.

Recommendation 9.13



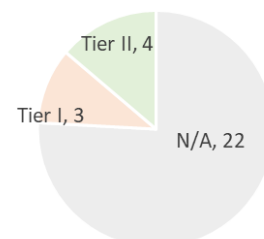
Recommendation 9.14

Ensure that all children and youth in the care of child welfare systems receive research-based prevention education on sex trafficking that is appropriate to their stage of development.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of children and youth have received prevention education.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of children and youth have received prevention education.

Recommendation 9.14



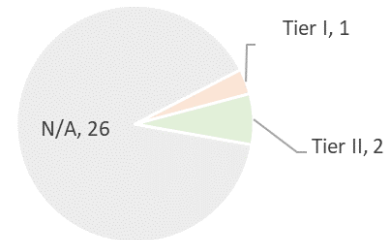
Recommendation 9.15

Ensure that all children and youth in the care of juvenile justice systems receive research-based prevention education on sex trafficking.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of children and youth have received prevention education.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of children and youth have received prevention education.

Recommendation 9.15



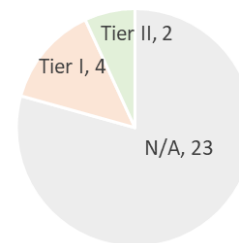
Recommendation 9.16

Ensure that violence prevention programs supported by state offices specifically address the sex trafficking of children and youth.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of violence prevention programs specifically address the sex trafficking of children and youth.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of violence prevention programs specifically address the sex trafficking of children and youth.

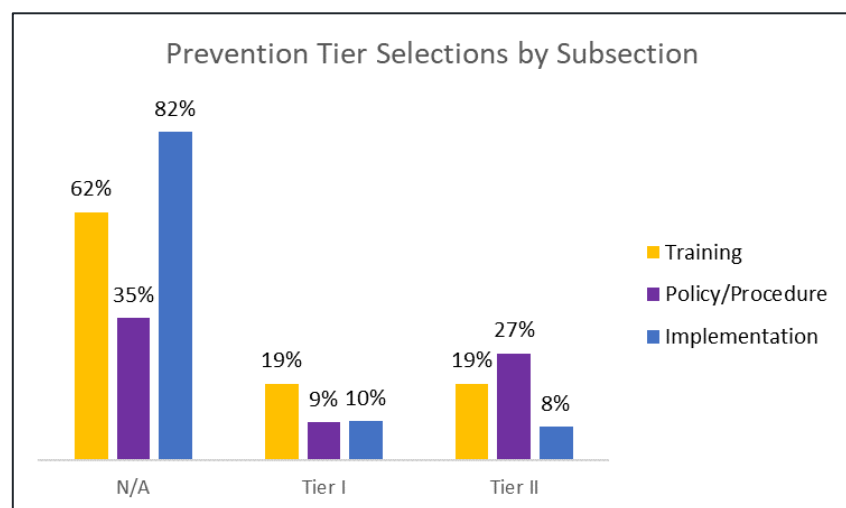
Recommendation 9.16



SURVEY RESULTS

Within the Prevention section, states selected N/A for subsections in varying amounts, with the Implementation subsection being the highest (82 percent). Though not as high, most responses in the Training subsection were also N/A (62 percent). The Policy/Procedure subsection had the lowest percentage of N/A selections (35 percent). Since states must incorporate robust prevention efforts that include implementation and

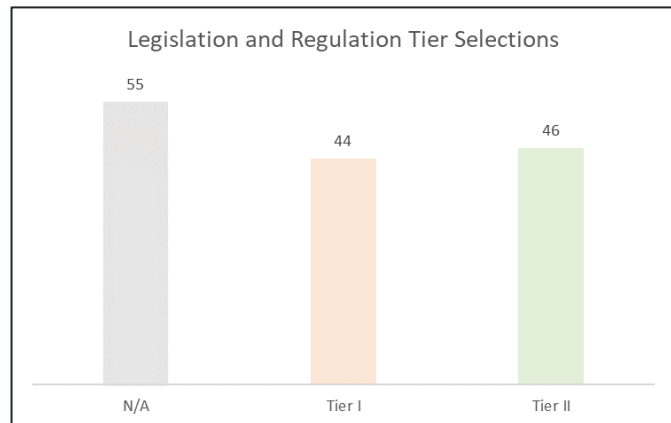
training to ensure exploitation does not occur, the high number of N/A responses may be notable. The Committee will further evaluate the narratives accompanying N/A responses in their forthcoming report.



States have the opportunity to use legislation to show their commitment to addressing and preventing the sex trafficking of children and youth. Policies and procedures should be used to hold traffickers accountable while improving and enhancing protective measures for those who are victimized and vulnerable. Legislative changes that are comprehensive and developed with broad input from stakeholders are more likely to be implemented successfully. Therefore, it is important that state executives, state agency administrators, and state legislators have access to

government and non-government reports and research and that they engage regularly with local subject matter experts and leaders, prioritizing survivor expertise to understand victimization trends, effectiveness of programs, and policies needed to address gaps and strengthen human trafficking laws. When preparing to advance legislative and regulatory changes, states should carefully consider the timeline to implement new legislation and regulations, including adequate preparation time for training, process changes, and budgeting. Input from stakeholders can help ensure legislative deadlines are feasible without placing an unnecessary burden on implementing entities.

Under this section of the report, there are 5 total recommendations, all of which are general recommendations (i.e., recommendations not related to Training, Policy/Procedure, or Implementation). Of the 145 total selections made by 29 state respondents for these 5 recommendations, 32 percent were Tier II, 30 percent Tier I, and 38 percent N/A.



Legislation and Regulation Tier Selections (5)	Count	Percentage
N/A	55	38%
Tier I	44	30%
Tier II	46	32%
Total	145	100%

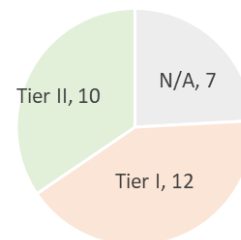
Recommendation 10.1

Remove criminal liability for victims under the age of 18.

Tier I: Remove criminal liability for prostitution for children and youth who are victims of sex trafficking and provide access to an alternative, coordinated, non-criminal, service-based response.

Tier II: Remove criminal liability for other offenses committed by children and youth as a result of their human trafficking victimization and provide access to an alternative, coordinated, non-criminal, service-based response.

Recommendation 10.1



Extend non-criminalization of prostitution and ancillary offenses for youth under the age of 24 in accordance with the foster care age coverage option within the [Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act \(JVTA\)](#).

Recommendation 10.2

Address the sex trafficking of children and youth by addressing demand.

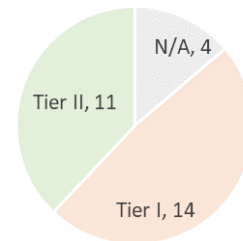
Demand can be addressed through the following legislative activities:

- *Confirm that the sex trafficking statute applies when an offender communicates with a law enforcement officer posing as a child.*
- *Enable sex buyers who promote the exchange of sex for money or anything of value among other potential buyers to be charged with a felony offense.*
- *Ensure that purchasing sex with a child or youth is a felony.*
- *Prohibit buyers of sex acts with children and youth from using a mistake of age defense.*
- *Require individuals convicted of purchasing sex with a child or youth to register as sex offenders.*

Tier I: Document that at least three of the above legislative activities have been enacted.

Tier II: Document that all of the above legislative activities have been enacted.

Recommendation 10.2



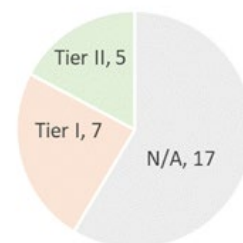
Recommendation 10.3

Hold online communication platforms accountable for knowingly assisting, facilitating, or supporting the sex trafficking of children and youth.

Tier I: Assess state laws, including cyber safety laws, to determine ability to hold offending websites and social media platforms accountable.

Tier II: Make changes to state laws as needed.

Recommendation 10.3



Recommendation 10.4

Protect victims as they proceed through the criminal justice process.

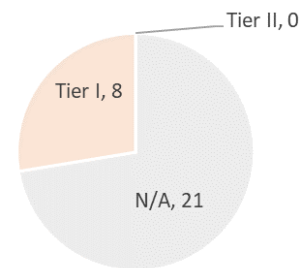
Trauma-informed victim-witness testimony and protections include, but are not limited to:

- *Making closed-circuit testimony an option for trafficking victims*
- *Making recorded depositions an option for trafficking victims*
- *Permitting hearsay exception for eligible statements by trafficking victims*
- *Providing protections to victims by prohibiting cross-examination by alleged perpetrators (pro per/pro se)*

Tier I: Document that at least three of the above legal protections have been enacted.

Tier II: Document that all of the above legal protections have been enacted.

Recommendation 10.4



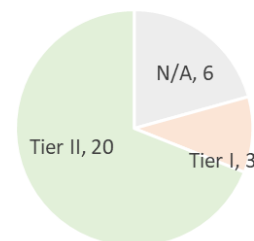
Recommendation 10.5

Ensure that state statutes designate the child welfare system as the state system responsible for identifying, assessing, and providing services to known or suspected victims of child sex trafficking.

Tier I: Ensure that child abuse definitions in state statutes include sex trafficking as defined by the [Trafficking Victims Protection Act \(TVPA\) of 2000, as amended](#), which includes updates to the [Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act \(CAPTA\)](#).

Tier II: Ensure that child abuse definitions in state statutes include cases of sex trafficking in which the perpetrator is not a parent or lawful caregiver.

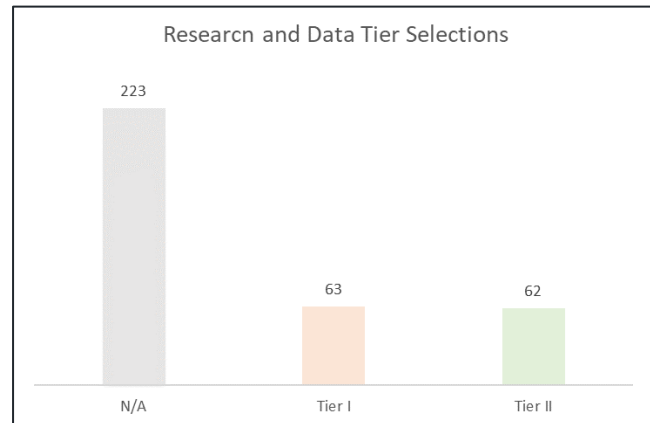
Recommendation 10.5



SURVEY RESULTS

Within the Legislation and Regulation section of the Committee's report, there are five recommendations but no subsections (Training, Policy/Procedure, and Implementation). For the State Self-Assessment Survey, states selected Tier II (32 percent), indicating they demonstrate advanced legislative and regulatory efforts), more often than Tier I (30 percent), indicating their legislative and regulatory efforts need improvement. Since adopting legislation, regulation, and policy ensures states continue their efforts regardless of leadership changes, creates systemic accountability, and supports a consistent long-term approach, the high number of N/A responses may be notable (38 percent). The Committee will further evaluate the narratives accompanying N/A responses in their forthcoming report.

Children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking interact with and are served by a multitude of public and nonprofit agencies. Data sharing across these agencies ensures that these children and youth have access to effective services, that service providers are held accountable to quality standards, and that services meet the needs of all children and youth who are exploited. Further, formal evaluation of staff training, staff behavior, victim services, and prevention efforts is critical to ensure optimal care of children and youth who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing sex trafficking.



Under this section of the report, there are 12 total recommendations, 1 of which is related to Training, 5 Policy/Procedure, and 6 Implementation. Of the 348 total selections made by 29 state respondents for these 12 recommendations, 18 percent were Tier II, 18 percent Tier I, and 64 percent N/A.

Research and Data Tier Selections (12)	Count	Percentage
N/A	223	64%
Tier I	63	18%
Tier II	62	18%
Total	348	100%

TRAINING

Training state stakeholders is essential in implementing legislative advancements and best practices for responding to the sex trafficking of children and youth. Researchers need training to understand the implications and nuances related to the sex trafficking of children and youth so they can help inform data collection efforts and use available data to build a knowledge base that will contribute to the field of effective models. States should consider using remote and online training options to facilitate widespread dissemination.

Recommendation 11.1

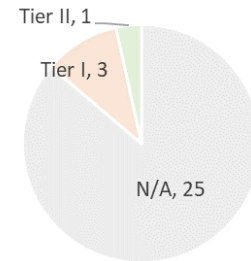
Train researchers who interact with children and youth who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing sex trafficking about the dynamics of sex trafficking and trauma-informed approaches.

Tier I: Document the identification or creation and active marketing of a training curriculum for clinical researchers.

Tier II: Document that state officials have met with all Institutional Review Boards at the major academic institutions within the state to advocate for mandatory training for researchers conducting studies on the sex trafficking of children and youth.

Federal: Develop minimum standards for training regarding conducting trauma-informed research on human trafficking.

Recommendation 11.1



POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Establishing policies that require sensitivity to and consistency with survivors' lived experiences ensures that research will not harm those it intends to help. With these protections in place, data collection can occur through mandatory human trafficking reports by state agencies to the legislature or government office responsible for synthesizing and disseminating data collected from state agencies.

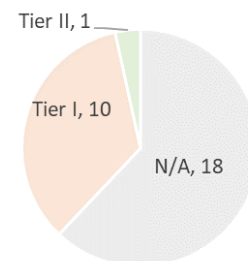
Recommendation 11.2

Ensure states are using standardized definitions and terminology when collecting and reporting data.

Tier I: Institute policies and protocols at state agencies that require the use of standardized definitions and terminology in the collection and reporting of data on the sex trafficking of children and youth.

Tier II: Require that state-funded programs and research comply with standardized definitions and terminology.

Recommendation 11.2



Recommendation 11.3

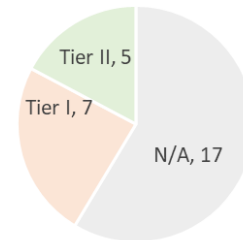
Develop and implement data sharing agreements to track cases of sex trafficking of children and youth, including information related to victim identification and service provision, across all state agencies. Such agreements should include standardized identifiers and definitions and established protocols regarding information sharing, protect the confidentiality of children and youth, and be limited in scope.

Tier I: Document that a data sharing agreement has been implemented in at least two child-serving systems (including criminal justice).

Tier II: Document that a data sharing agreement has been implemented in at least four child-serving systems (including criminal justice).

Federal: Issue guidance that defines key metrics (e.g., demographics, system involvement, service provision) that state agencies should include in data sharing agreements to ensure that youth are able to access services and coordinated care across multiple systems.

Recommendation 11.3



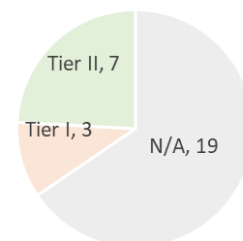
Recommendation 11.4

Develop and implement data sharing agreements between all public agencies and publicly funded private agencies that provide services to children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking. Such agreements should include standardized identifiers and definitions and established protocols regarding information sharing, protect the confidentiality of children and youth, and be limited in scope.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of counties, regions, or states have implemented an interagency data sharing agreement between relevant agencies that includes common data codes and definitions.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of counties, regions, or states have implemented an interagency data sharing agreement between relevant agencies that includes common data codes and definitions.

Recommendation 11.4



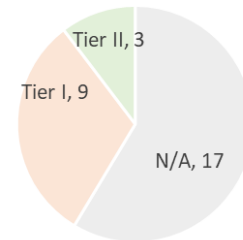
Recommendation 11.5

Require state agencies, including child welfare, juvenile justice, law enforcement, and prosecutor's offices, to collect and report aggregate data about the sex trafficking of children and youth and their agency's response to the state legislature or governor's office for public dissemination.

Tier I: Document that state agencies have established policies and procedures for collecting and reporting aggregate data to the state legislature or governor's office.

Tier II: Document that all state agencies have established policies and procedures for collecting and reporting aggregate data to the state legislature or governor's office.

Recommendation 11.5



Recommendation 11.6

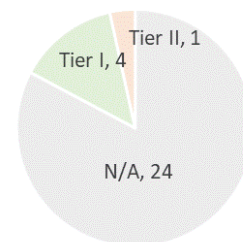
Require health centers funded through the [Public Health Service Act Section 330](#) to collect and report uniform data set measures.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of health centers have policies and procedures for collecting and reporting aggregate data on the sex trafficking of children and youth and their agency's response.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of health centers have policies and procedures for collecting and reporting aggregate data on the sex trafficking of children and youth and their agency's response.

Federal: The Committee recommends that the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) review proposed uniform dataset measures on human trafficking and develop a strategy to help Section 330 health centers increase engagement on this issue.

Recommendation 11.6



IMPLEMENTATION

Several states have enacted laws requiring agencies to report on their implementation of state and federal laws regarding the identification of and response to children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking. States should ensure data sharing agreements exist, especially among state agencies and tribal land, to facilitate proper use of data, maintain effective data sharing protocols, and protect the privacy of children and youth who have experienced trafficking.

Recommendation 11.7

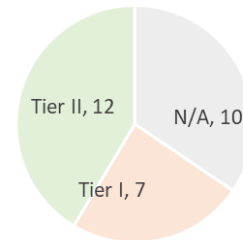
Evaluate training curricula regarding human trafficking to assess effectiveness and inform future revisions.

Tier I: Document that evaluations (e.g., pre-post tests) of one training curriculum have been collected and analyzed.

Tier II: Document that evaluations (e.g., pre-post tests) of two training curricula have been collected and analyzed.

Federal: Establish and/or fund a national database for evidence-based or evidence-informed training.

Recommendation 11.7



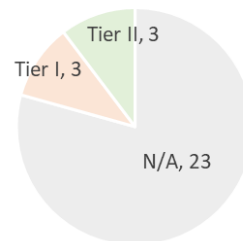
Recommendation 11.8

Devise a system for tracking all public awareness and prevention education programming and report data to the state legislature or governor's office for public dissemination.

Tier I: Develop a data collection system.

Tier II: Document data collection for at least 75% of counties and that data has been shared with the state legislature or governor's office.

Recommendation 11.8



Recommendation 11.9

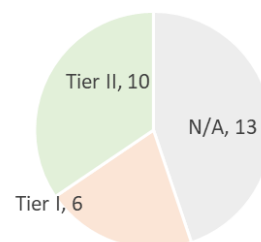
Collect aggregate data about the number of children and youth who are screened, assessed, and provided services (including housing) related to sex trafficking. Report data to the state legislature or governor's office for public dissemination.

Tier I: Develop a data collection system.

Tier II: Document data collection for at least 75% of counties and that data has been shared with the state legislature or governor's office.

Federal: The Committee recommends that HHS issue a memo to specify data collection requirements for states to report in the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) and the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS). Additionally, the Committee recommends that HHS issue data collection and evaluation recommendations for states seeking to evaluate data beyond federal data collection requirements.

Recommendation 11.9



Recommendation 11.10

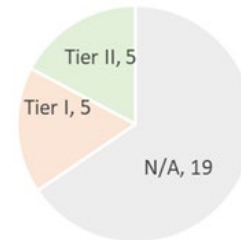
Establish a system for monitoring and evaluating services and housing provided to known or suspected victims of sex trafficking.

Tier I: Document that at least 25% of relevant public agencies and publicly funded private agencies have a system for monitoring and evaluating services and housing provided to known or suspected victims of sex trafficking.

Tier II: Document that at least 75% of relevant public agencies and publicly funded private agencies have a system for monitoring and evaluating services and housing provided to known or suspected victims of sex trafficking.

Federal: Provide funding for research and evaluation of programs providing specialized services and housing to known or suspected victims of sex trafficking.

Recommendation 11.10



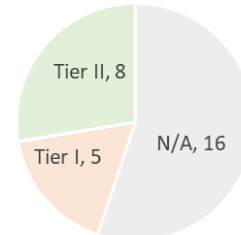
Recommendation 11.11

Collect data on the number of investigations, arrests, and prosecutions related to the sex trafficking of children and youth. Report data to the state legislature or governor's office for public dissemination.

Tier I: Develop a data collection system within the judicial branch.

Tier II: Document data collection for at least 75% of counties and that data has been shared with the state legislature or governor's office.

Recommendation 11.11



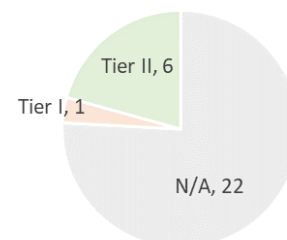
Recommendation 11.12

Develop a statewide system for gathering and disseminating data from agency reports on the implementation of state and federal laws that require the identification of and response to children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking.

Tier I: Publish an annual report on the effectiveness of state legislation and regulations.

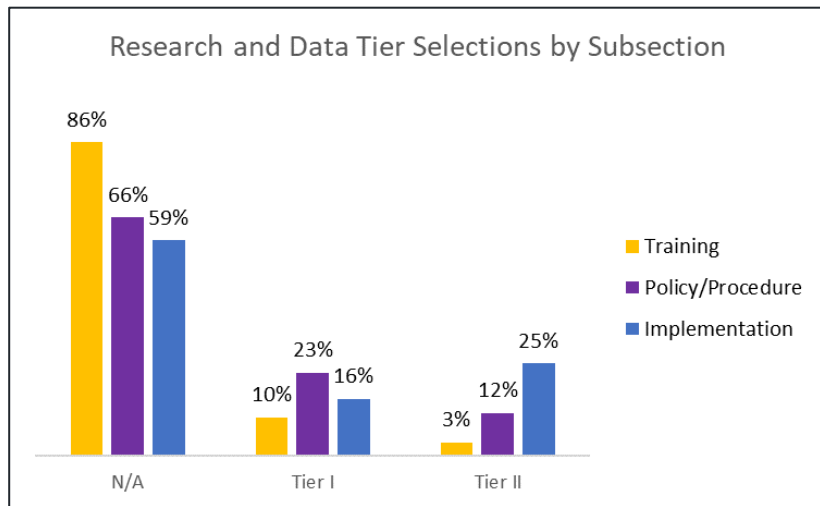
Tier II: Using results from the annual report, determine the need for additional legislative amendments.

Recommendation 11.12



SURVEY RESULTS

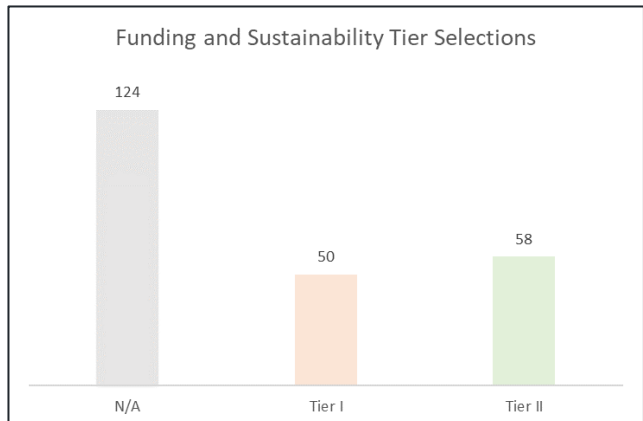
Within the Research and Data section, states selected N/A the most, particularly in the Training subsection (86 percent). When states did select a Tier, they chose Tier I more than Tier II for the Training and Policy/Procedure subsections (10 percent and 23 percent, respectively), while choosing Tier II more often for the Implementation subsection (25 percent).



Research and data impact

recommendations across every section of the report. Since states must have a strong evidence base that is substantiated by research and data to effectively recognize and respond to child sex trafficking, the high number of N/A responses may be notable. The Committee will further evaluate the narratives accompanying N/A responses in their forthcoming report.

The need for funding is significant in all disciplines and across all systems of care. As each dollar directly impacts services delivered and the continued ability to respond to the needs of children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking, developing innovative funding sources and partnerships will significantly enhance the success of state endeavors. Therefore, service providers, including those providing housing, must be able to obtain and maintain sustainable funding to meet victims' needs and provide the long-term support and services they require. In addition, criminal justice agencies must have adequate resources and investment in technology and personnel.



Under this section of the report, there are 8 total recommendations, all of which are general recommendations (i.e., recommendations not related to Training, Policy/Procedure, or Implementation). Of the 232 total selections made by 29 state respondents for these 8 recommendations, 25 percent were Tier II, 22 percent Tier I, and 53 percent N/A.

Funding and Sustainability Tier Selections (8)	Count	Percentage
N/A	124	53.4483%
Tier I	50	21.5517%
Tier II	58	25.0000%
Total	232	100%

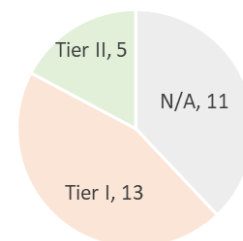
Recommendation 12.1

Pursue federal funding opportunities designed to help states address the sex trafficking of children and youth.

Tier I: Within a 12-month period, document that state agencies have pursued at least one federal funding opportunity.

Tier II: Within a 12-month period, document that state agencies have pursued at least three federal funding opportunities.

Recommendation 12.1



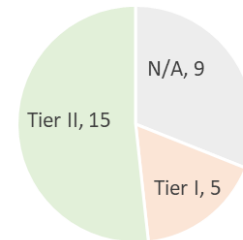
Recommendation 12.2

Use state block grants to address the sex trafficking of children and youth.

Tier I: Review block grants (e.g., VOCA, SSBG, CSBG, CDGB, PHHS) to identify where the state has discretion to amend or expand access to resources for victims of sex trafficking and amend as needed.

Tier II: Within a 12-month period, document that at least one block grant has been used to provide resources to victims of child and youth sex trafficking.

Recommendation 12.2



Recommendation 12.3

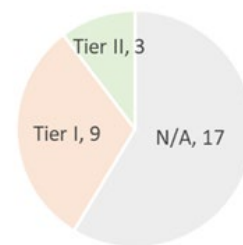
Develop policies and procedures that enable use of Title IV-E prevention services funds, authorized under the [Family First Prevention Services Act \(P.L. 115–123\)](#), to provide prevention education and meet the needs of children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking.

Tier I: Develop relevant policies and procedures.

Tier II: Document the use of Title IV-E prevention services funds in providing prevention education and meeting needs of children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking.

Federal: Issue a memo that clarifies that evidence-informed curricula on human trafficking can be included in the registry for the Family First Prevention Services Act.

Recommendation 12.3



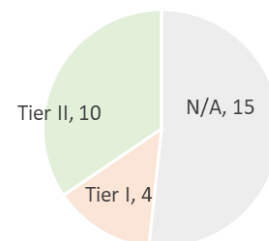
Recommendation 12.4

Establish dedicated state funding for services for children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking.

Tier I: Establish a competitive bid process to award funding to programs providing specialized services to children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking.

Tier II: Establish dedicated funding, appropriated annually, to support programs providing specialized services to children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking and use federal funding where applicable (e.g., Medicaid's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment [EPSDT] program).

Recommendation 12.4



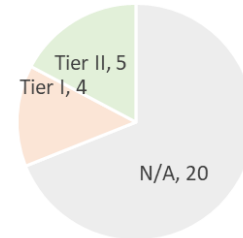
Recommendation 12.5

Use data to demonstrate the need for ongoing funding.

Tier I: Pass statutes requiring state agencies to submit data (e.g., arrest, prosecution, referrals to child welfare) related to the sex trafficking of children and youth.

Tier II: Document that state legislatures use submitted data to assess and allocate funding to address the sex trafficking of children and youth.

Recommendation 12.5



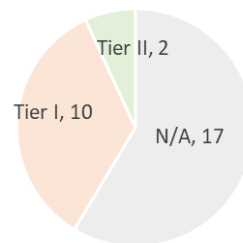
Recommendation 12.6

Ensure asset forfeiture, fees, and fines can be collected from crimes associated with the sex trafficking of children and youth.

Tier I: Assess current asset forfeiture statutes, including assessing a victim's ease of navigating the process and ability to access funds. Create or amend statutes as needed.

Tier II: Based on a random sample of case records, document that at least 75% of applicable cases show evidence of efforts to collect asset forfeiture, fees, or fines.

Recommendation 12.6



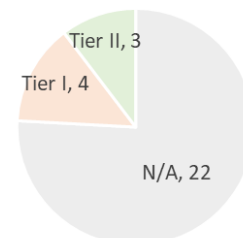
Recommendation 12.7

After victim restitution has been provided, use remaining asset forfeitures, fees, and fines collected from crimes associated with the sex trafficking of children and youth to support victim services.

Tier I: Based on a random sample of case records, document that at least 25% of applicable cases show evidence of efforts to use remaining funds to support victim services.

Tier II: Based on a random sample of case records, document that at least 75% of applicable cases show evidence of efforts to use remaining funds to support victim services.

Recommendation 12.7



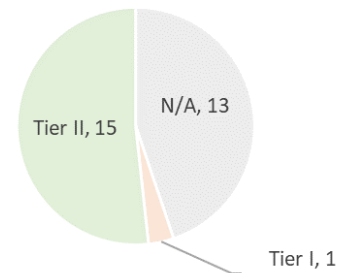
Recommendation 12.8

Develop public–private partnerships to support efforts to address the sex trafficking of children and youth.

Tier I: Within a 12-month period, document that at least two public–private partnerships have supported efforts to address the sex trafficking of children and youth.

Tier II: Within a 12-month period, document that at least five public–private partnerships have supported efforts to address the sex trafficking of children and youth.

Recommendation 12.8



SURVEY RESULTS

Within the Funding and Sustainability section of the Committee’s report, there are eight recommendations but no subsections (Training, Policy/Procedure, and Implementation). Within this section, states selected N/A the most for recommendations (53 percent). When states did select a tier, they selected Tier II (25 percent) slightly more than Tier I (22 percent). Similar to research and data, funding and sustainability impact all areas of an effective response. Since children and youth who experience sex trafficking often require many resources and services to address immediate and long-term effects, the high number of N/A responses may be notable. The Committee will further evaluate the narratives accompanying N/A responses in their forthcoming report.

The Committee would like to thank every person who contributed to this report and acknowledges the challenging times that each of you have encountered. We recognize the limitations and restraints that states have confronted, curtailing their ability to respond and contribute to the report.

The Committee requested and was recently granted a 24-month extension as a discretionary advisory committee to continue to give your voice an opportunity to be heard. We look forward to more input from stakeholders to improve services to children and youth who are vulnerable to experience sex trafficking and to eliminate sexual exploitation in the United States.

The National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States (the Committee) was established in January 2017, as authorized by the [Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act \(P.L. 113–183\)](#). The Committee advises the Secretary of HHS and the Attorney General on practical and general policies to improve the Nation’s response to the sex trafficking of children and youth in the United States.

Duties of the Committee also include:

- Advising on practical and general policies concerning the cooperation of:
 - Federal, state, local, and tribal governments
 - Child welfare agencies
 - Social service providers
 - Physical health and mental health providers
 - Service providers
 - Federal, state, and local law enforcement
 - Juvenile detention centers
 - State or local courts that conduct or supervise proceedings relating to child welfare or social services for children, youth, and families
 - Runaway and homeless youth programs
 - Schools
 - Gaming and entertainment industry
 - Businesses and organizations that provide services to youth
- Advising on the development and implementation of:
 - Successful interventions with children and youth who are exposed to conditions that make them vulnerable to, or victims of, sex trafficking
 - Recommendations for administrative or legislative changes so that programs, properties, or other resources owned, operated, or funded by the federal government may be used to provide safe housing for children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking and support entities that provide such housing or assistance
- Advising on best practices and recommendations for states regarding:
 - Sample training materials, protocols, and screening tools to prepare individuals who administer social services to identify and serve children and youth who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing sex trafficking
 - Multidisciplinary strategies to identify victims, manage cases, and improve services for children and youth who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing sex trafficking
 - Sample protocols and recommendations for effective, cross-system collaboration
 - Criteria and guidelines for establishing safe residential placements for foster children and youth who have experienced sex trafficking as well as those identified by law enforcement
 - Training guidelines for caregivers of children and youth that are being cared for outside of the child’s home
- Cross-system collaboration protocols and recommendations, including:
 - Strategies to identify victimization of children and youth
 - Strategies to collect, document, and share data across systems and agencies

- Strategies to help agencies better understand the type of sex trafficking involved, the scope of the problem, and the needs of the population to be served
- Strategies to address the demand for sex with children and youth
- Strategies to increase prosecutions of buyers
- Information on the degree of victim interaction with multiple systems

The Committee will coordinate with the National Governors Association, the Secretary of HHS, and the Attorney General to ensure that State Governors and child welfare providers are notified on a quarterly basis regarding best practices and recommendations. The Committee will notify states six months in advance that the Committee will be evaluating the extent to which states adopt the Committee's recommendations.

The Committee meets at least twice a year at the call of the Secretary of HHS. HHS ACF supports the Committee and maintains Committee records at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/partnerships/the-national-advisory-committee>.