



UNIVERSITY *of* MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

PARI: PREVENTION OF ADOLESCENT RISKS INITIATIVE

State-Wide Strategic Plan

Stakeholder Survey Summary Report

September 2024

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Introduction & Approach

Purpose of the Stakeholder Survey These responses to the online Strategic Planning surveyed gathered qualitative and quantitative information about the experiences and perspectives of people working in the anti-human trafficking field in Maryland.

The information gathered is intended to inform the strategic plan and help guide how the state approaches anti-human trafficking work going forward.

Overall Approach: The Prevention of Adolescent Risks Initiative (PARI) of Maryland Baltimore School of Social Work (UMBSSW) created an online survey which was distributed widely among any individuals and agencies that currently serve human trafficking victims, or that may serve victims in the future. Survey responses came from a varied, multidisciplinary group of stakeholders.

The following is an overview of key themes from those responses. Please see the appendix for the quantitative survey question data. If you would like access to additional survey response data, please contact the project team at UMBSSW PARI to discuss which data is available for review.

Participants

191 participants responded to the online survey, which was open from June to October 2024.

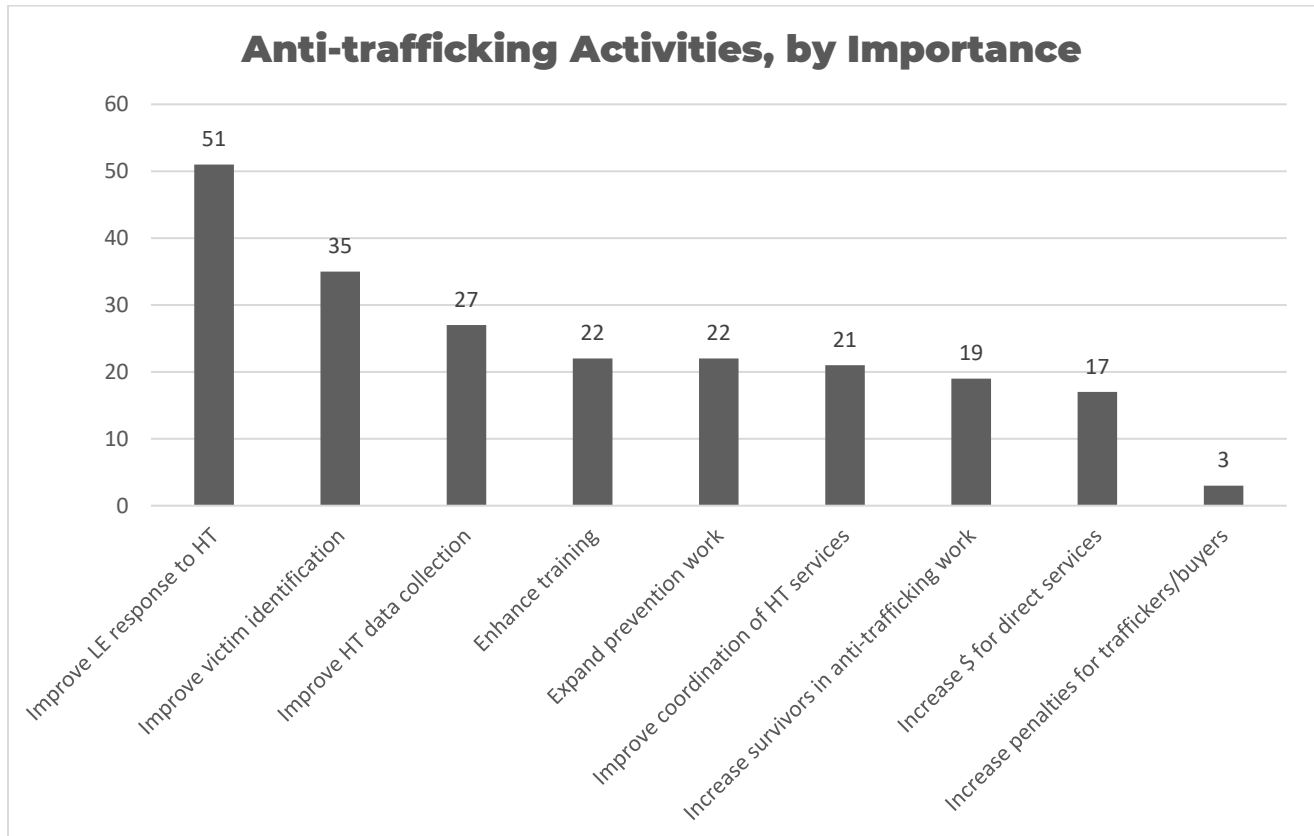
The link to the survey was distributed widely among anti-trafficking task forces, agencies, and relevant nonprofit communities and issue groups.

Participant "Fast Facts":

- **# of survey responses: 191**
- **Fields Represented:**
 - Social services
 - Mental health
 - Law enforcement
 - Legal representation
 - Juvenile justice
 - Medical
 - Nonprofit organizations
 - Immigration/Immigrant support
 - Task force participants
 - Municipal employees
- **10% of respondents were survivors of trafficking.**

Themes

| Challenges, Successes & Priorities | Descriptions/Notes |
|---|---|
| Most Frequent Challenges <i>Note: Respective number of responses in parenthesis</i> | Access to resources & services (34) Difficulty identifying victims (16) Challenges with service provision (14) Lack of awareness/understanding of HT (11) Helping underserved populations (8) Prosecution and policy challenges (8) Challenges with prevention efforts (5) |
| Most Frequent Successes <i>Note: Respective number of responses in parenthesis</i> | Helping HT survivors (35) Anti-trafficking stakeholder collaboration (23) Awareness raising and training (17) Community support (7) Prevention and increasing survivor involvement (2) Passing new anti-trafficking laws (1) |
| Anti-trafficking Activities, by priority <i>Note: Respective number of responses in parenthesis</i> | The top 5 activities stakeholders felt should be taken: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve law enforcement response to HT (51) 2. Improve identification of victims (35) 3. Improve HT data collection (27) 4. Enhance training on HT (22) 5. Expand prevention work (22) |

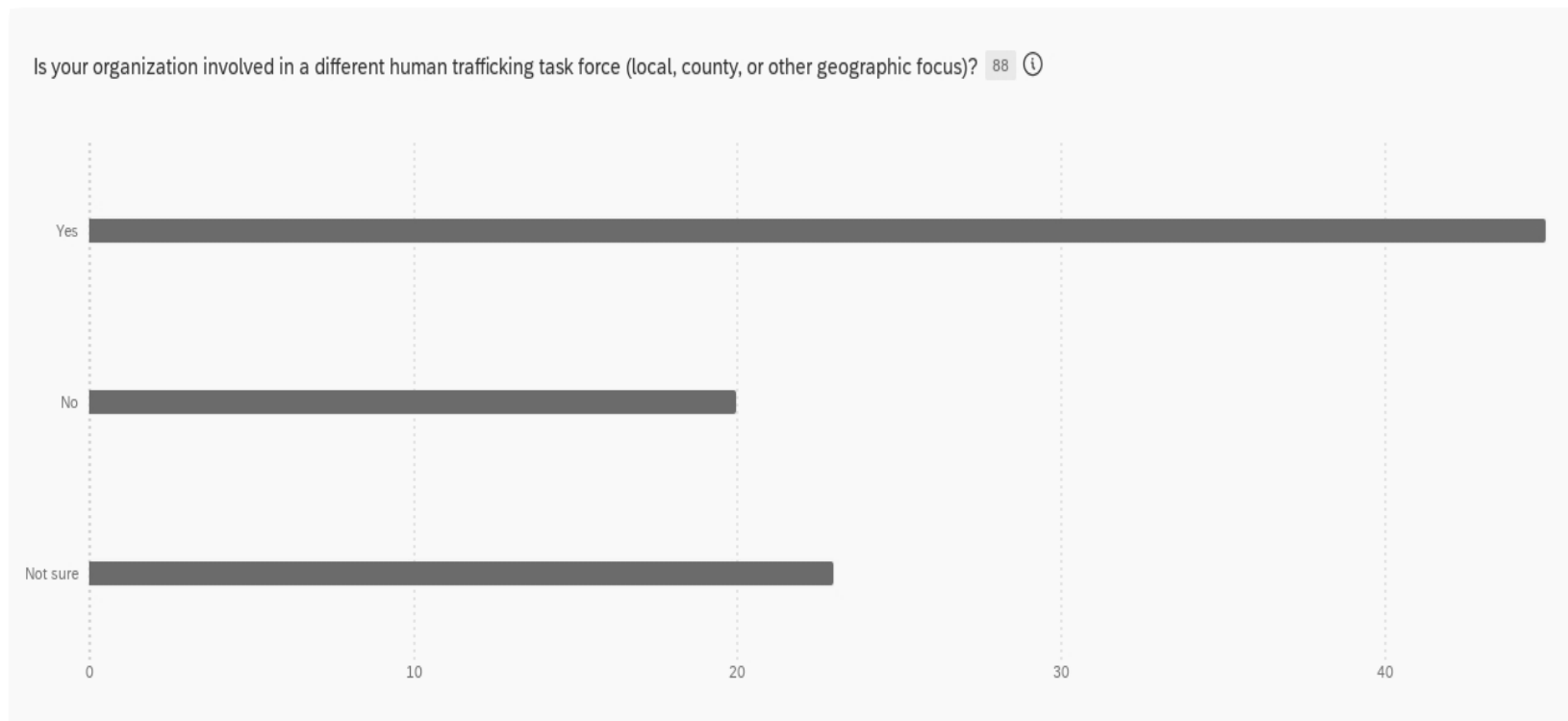


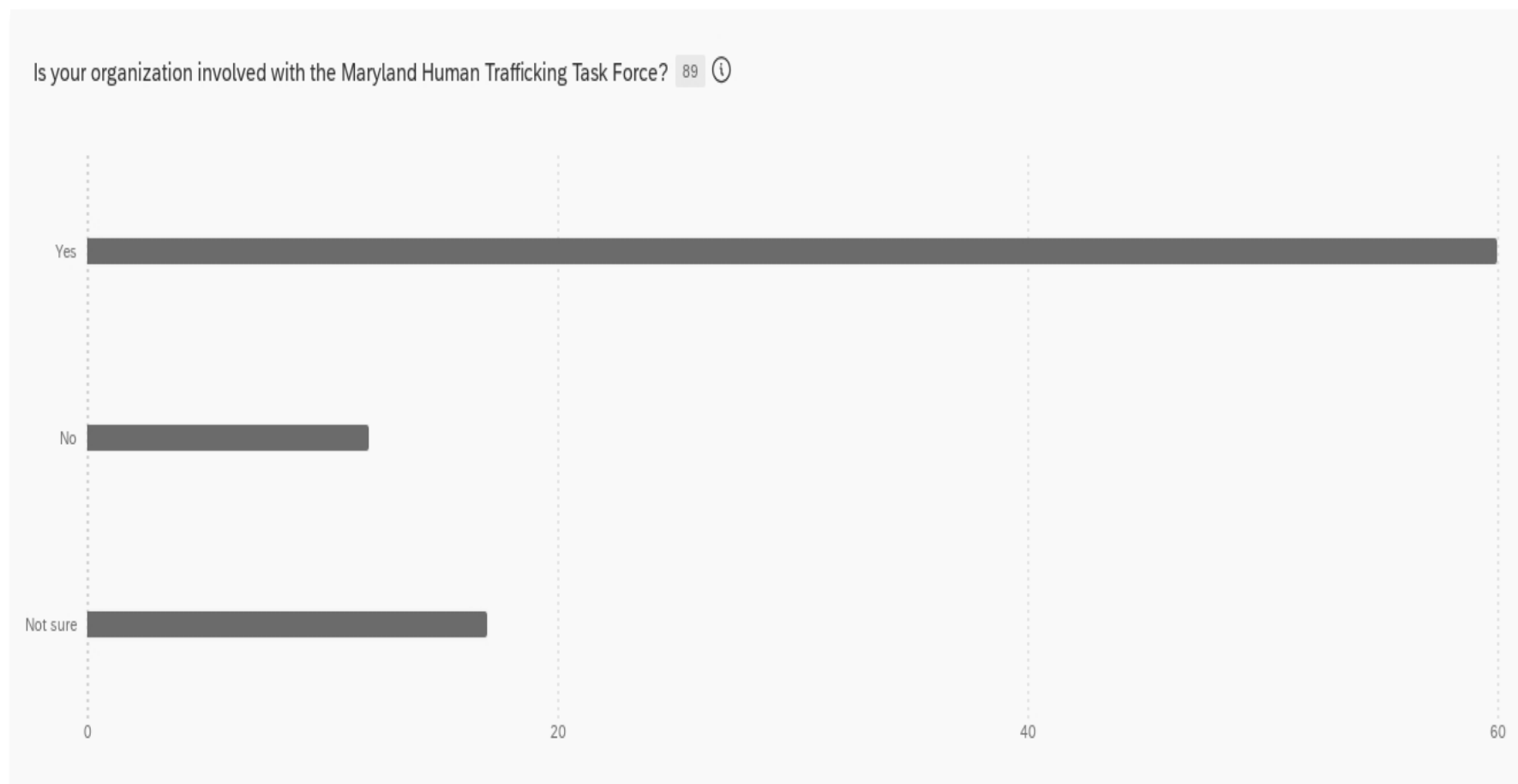
| Primary Themes | Description/Notes |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Underserved Populations | <p>Challenge: Certain populations are underserved by current anti-trafficking efforts, including undocumented immigrants, transgender people, residents of rural areas, agricultural workers, and the Deaf community.</p> |
| Legislation/Policy | <p>Success: The passage of policies like Safe Harbor and Regional Navigators benefitted the anti-human trafficking field. Additional policies like vacatur and protections against criminalization of victims were also helpful.</p> <p>Challenge: Laws or enforcement of policies that criminalize survivors are very harmful.</p> |

| Primary Themes | Description/Notes |
|---|--|
| Access to resources and services (34 responses) | <p>Challenges: Lack of housing of all kinds was by far the biggest challenge noted by stakeholders (18 responses). Lack of trained mental health providers (6) and a lack of longer-term services (2) were also problematic.</p> <p>Other needed services include substance abuse treatment, transportation, language access, survivor mentorship, and <i>pro bono</i> legal services.</p> |
| Challenges with service provision (14 responses) | <p>Challenges: The most frequently cited challenges with service provision were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Victim engagement/continuation in services (7) 2. Lack of funding (6) 3. Victim distrust and lack of cooperation (5) 4. Preventing grooming and recruitment in programs (2) |
| Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force | <p>Success: Respondents indicated primarily positive feelings about the MHTTF and praised the group's helpfulness (13), collaboration among members (7), responsiveness (3), passionate and active membership (3), and the support offered (3).</p> <p>Challenges: Suggestions for improvement included more communication between the MHTTF and local task forces (2), efforts to prevent duplication of effort (1), improve information sharing on cases and data sets (1), and the need to develop more innovative approaches to fighting HT (1).</p> |
| Effective services | <p>Success: Stakeholders named several programs, services, and agencies they found to be effective at serving HT survivors. These included the Blue Dot/SAFE Program at Mercy Hospital (9), Regional Navigator Program (8 responses), UM SAFE Center (7), TurnAround (8), Araminta (4), Baltimore City HT Collaborative (4), Fairgirls (2), LifeCrisis Center HT Program (2), and the Frederick Co. HTTF (2).</p> |

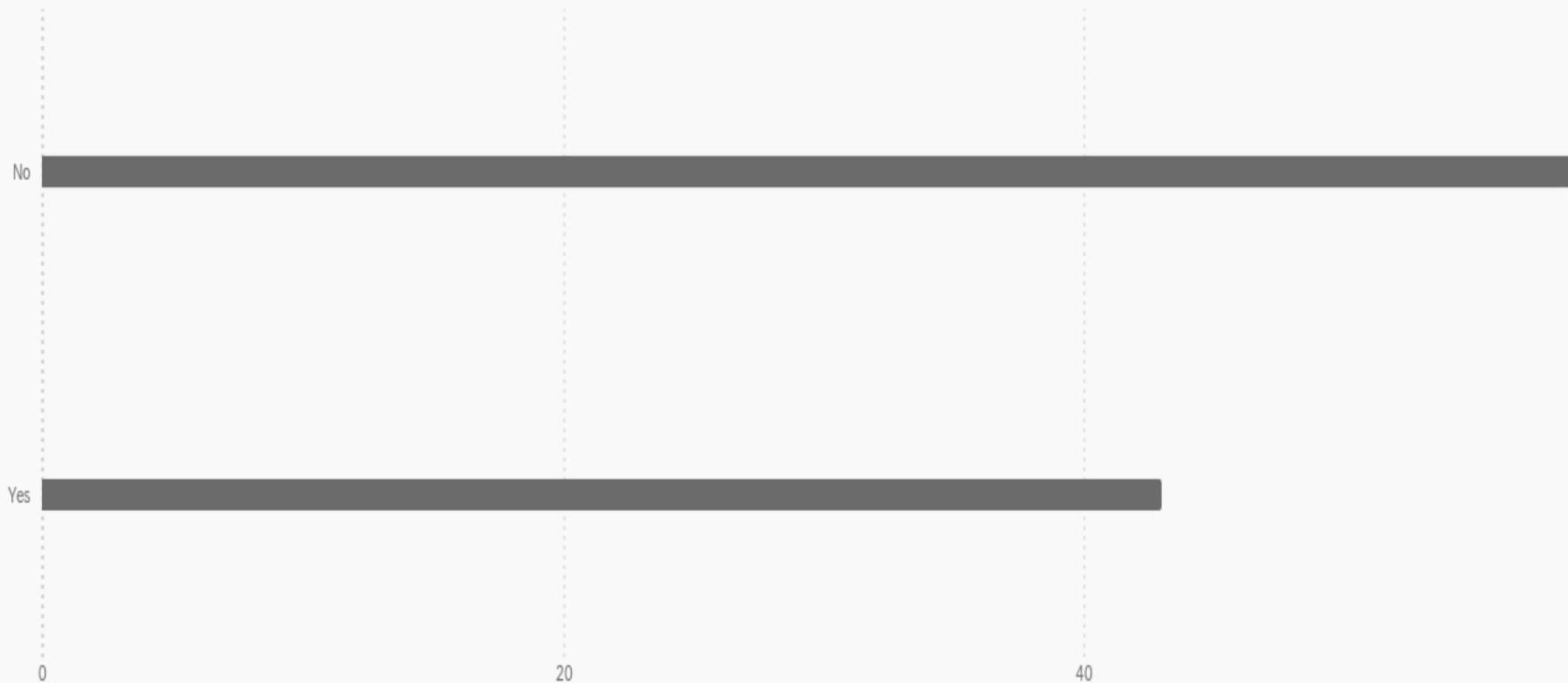
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|--|---|
| <p>Law enforcement response</p> | <p>Challenge: Stakeholders ranked “improve law enforcement (LE) response to trafficking” as the most important anti-trafficking activity to undertake. Criminalization of survivors and treatment of victims as offenders was frequently noted as a challenge, as was LE agencies refusing to provide certification for continued presence.</p> <p>Stakeholders felt LE need more training, particularly on labor trafficking and working with immigrant victims.</p> |
| <p>Child Protective Services Response</p> | <p>Successes: The 2012 law adding sex trafficking as a form of child maltreatment was widely seen as helpful in allowing CPS to respond to child trafficking cases. Several stakeholders noted collaboration with DSS as a success in their work.</p> <p>Challenges: Multiple stakeholders said it was difficult to get HT reports screened in by CPS, especially when the trafficker was not in a care-taking role. Responses also noted that CPS investigations were not thorough enough. Stakeholders wished that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was more guidance and training on reporting HT to CPS • All CPS staff were up to date on policies and procedures • Minors could more easily request their CPS records • It was easier for agencies to work with minors in CPS/DSS care |

Appendix: Maryland Human Trafficking Strategic Planning Survey Responses

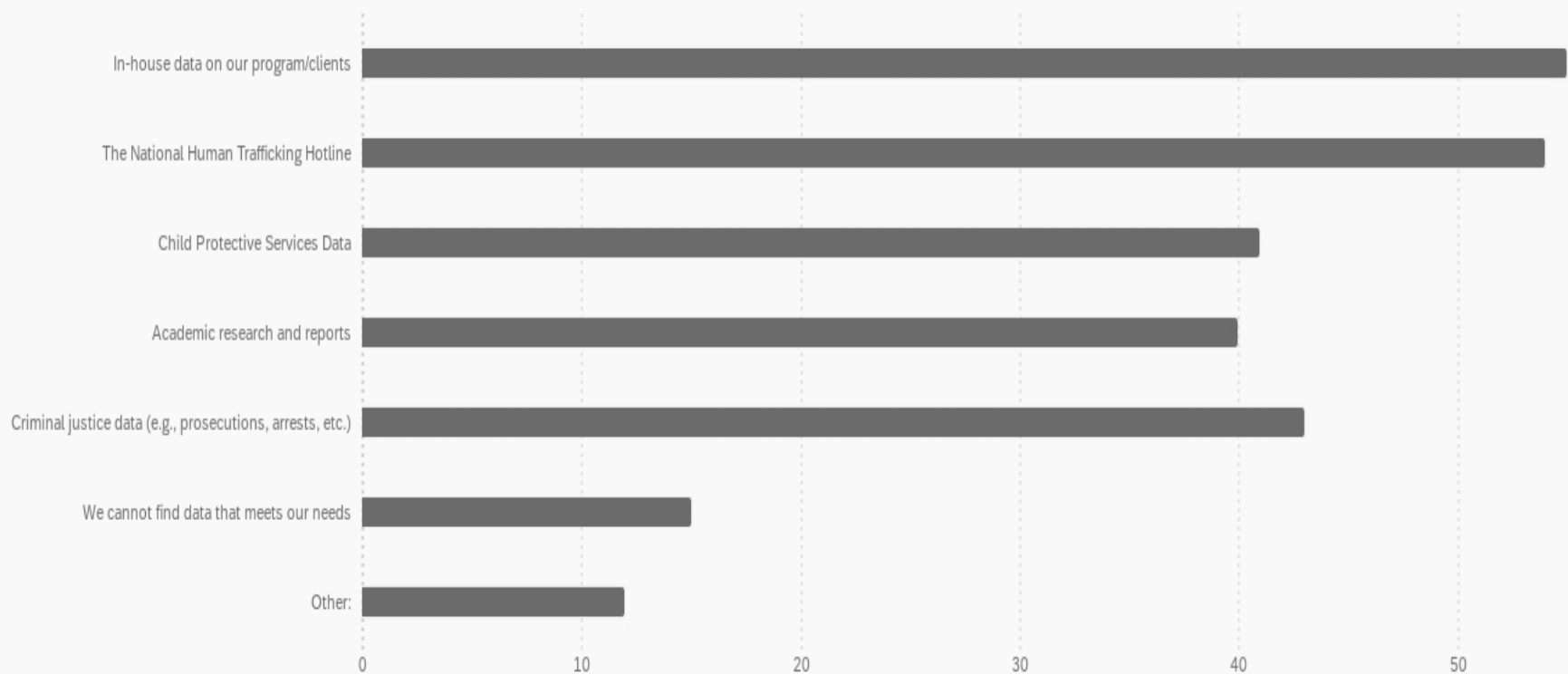




Have there been times where your program struggled to access quality data on human trafficking-related topics? If so, please describe the data you were looking for and struggled to find. 102 ⓘ

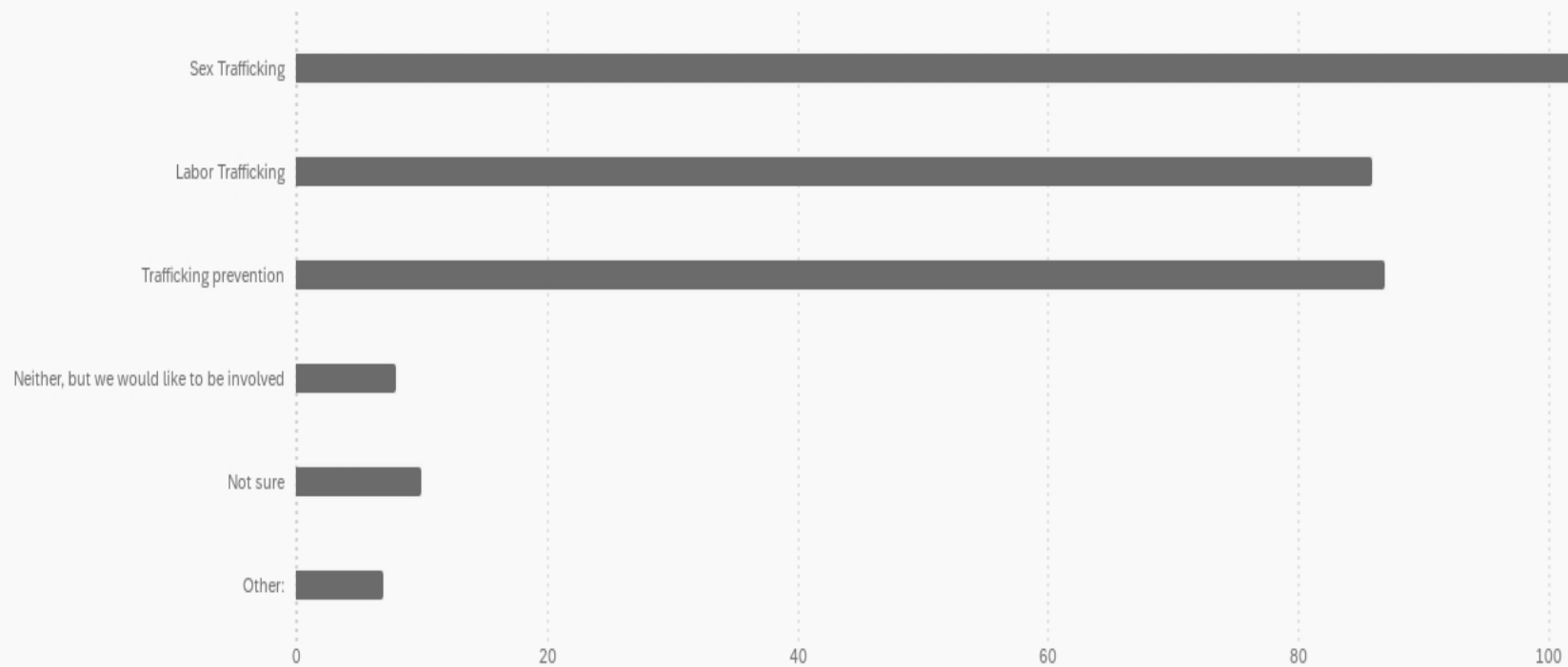


When your program needs to access data on human trafficking, what data sources do you use? (Select all that apply) 105 ⓘ

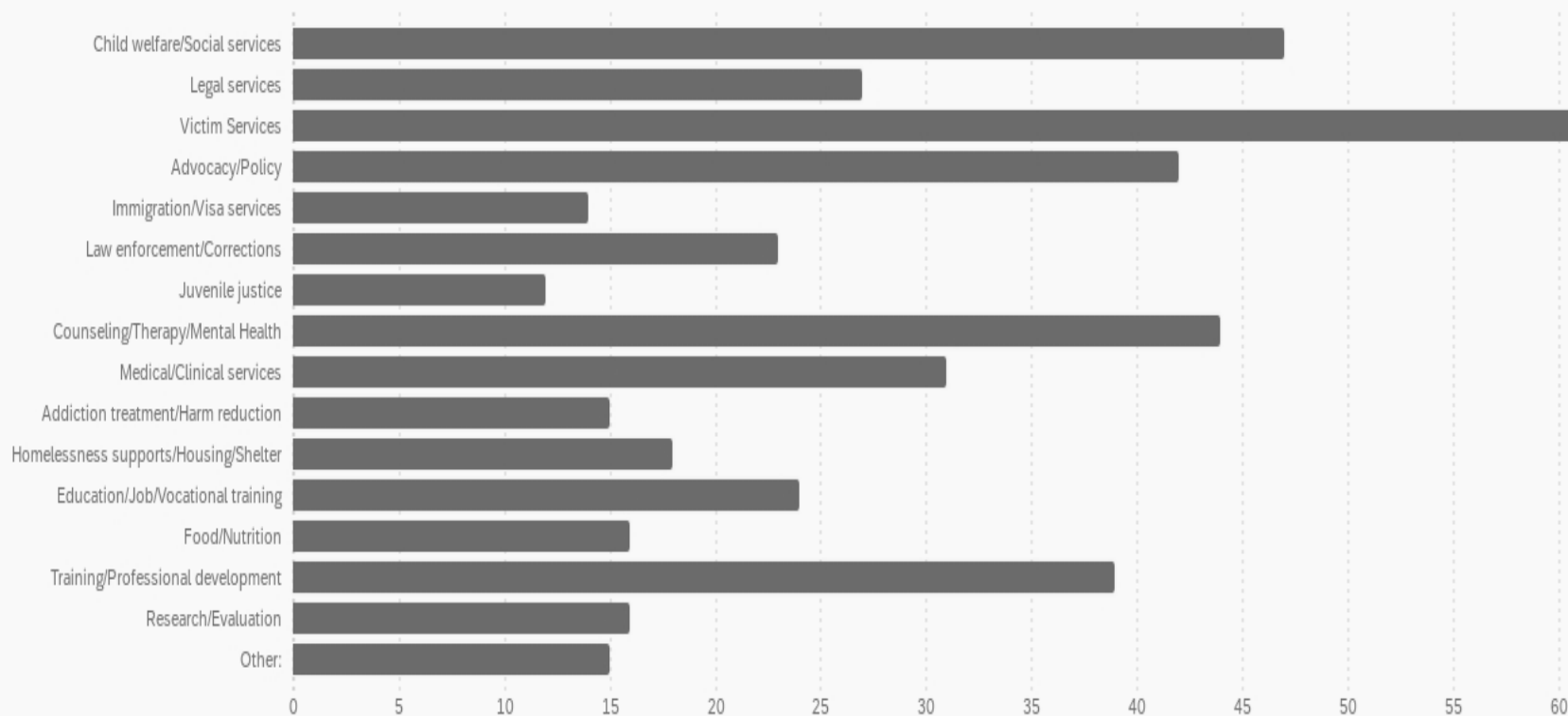


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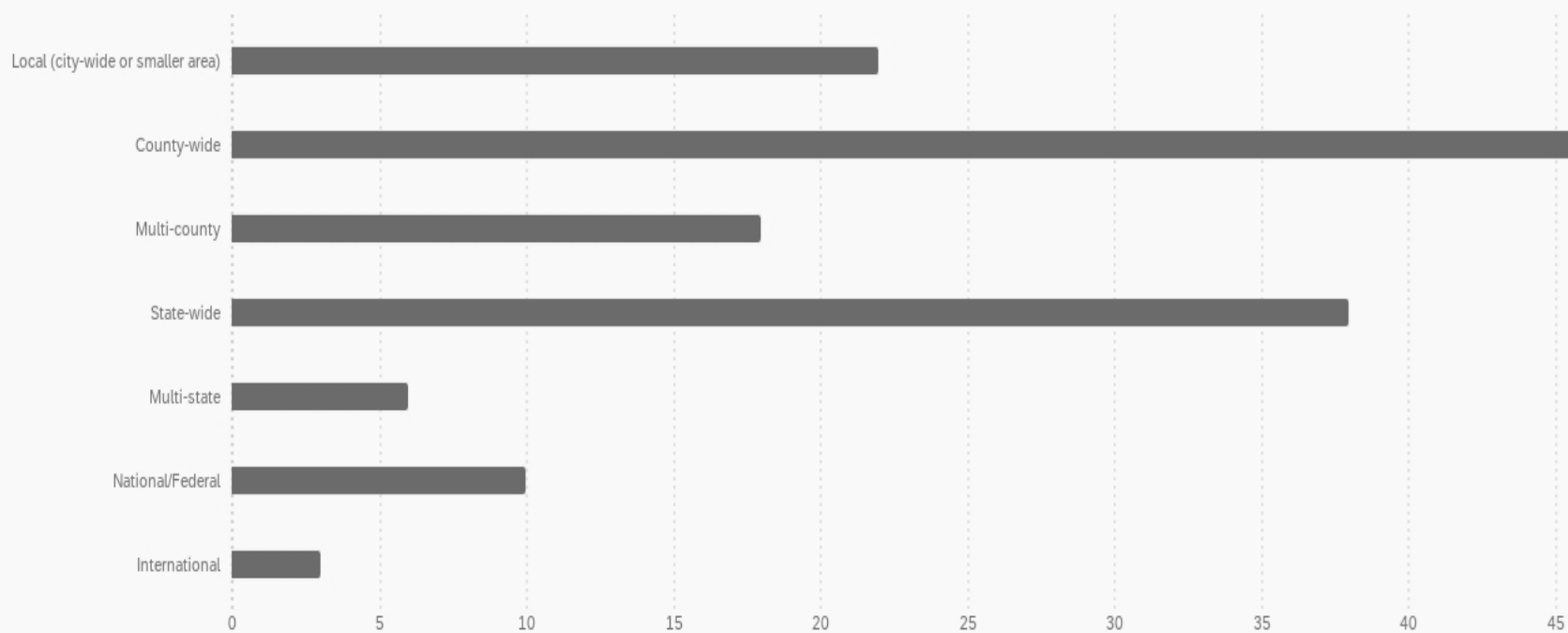
Does your organization advocate for or interact with people experiencing (select all that apply): 137 ⓘ

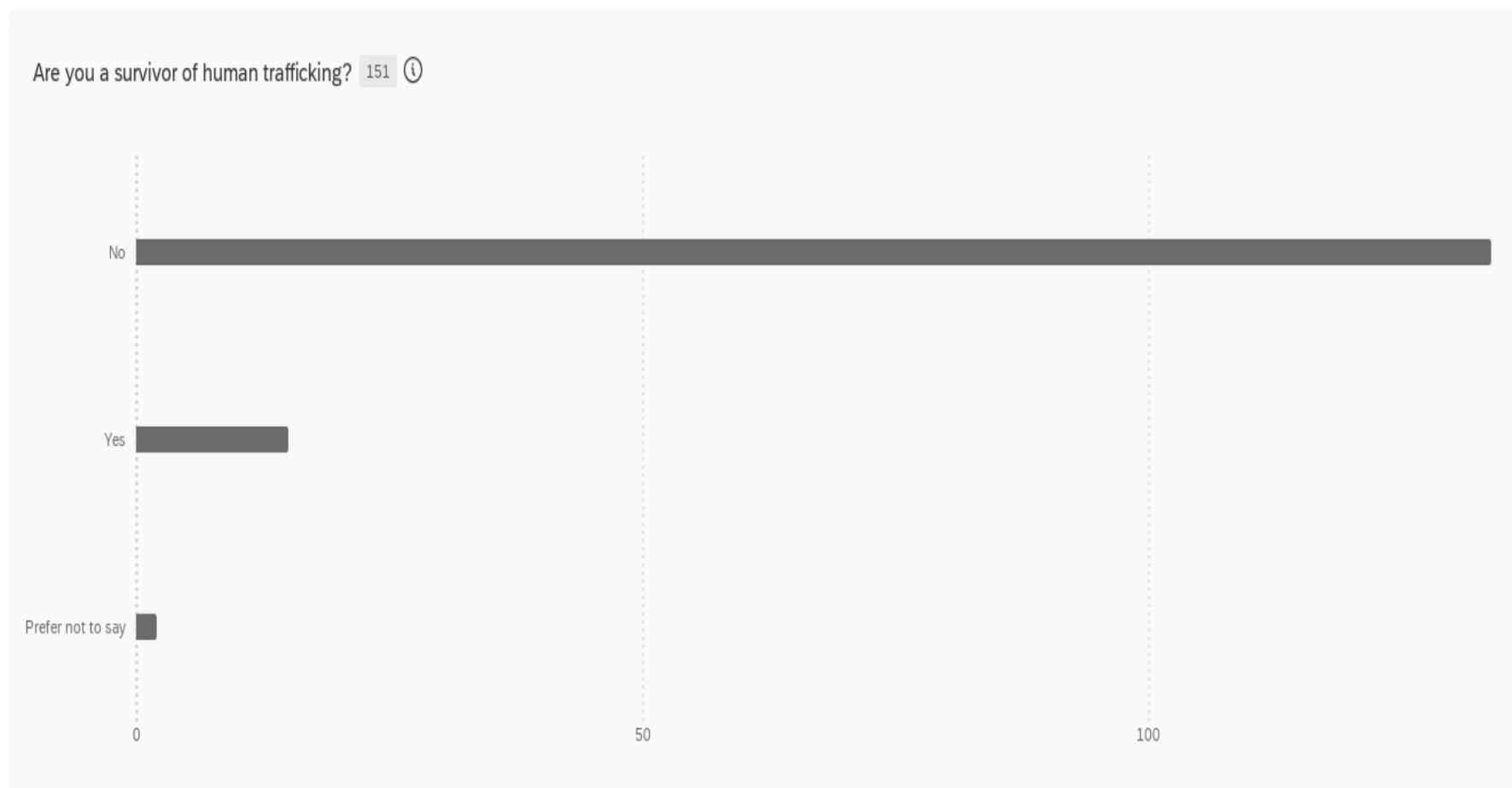


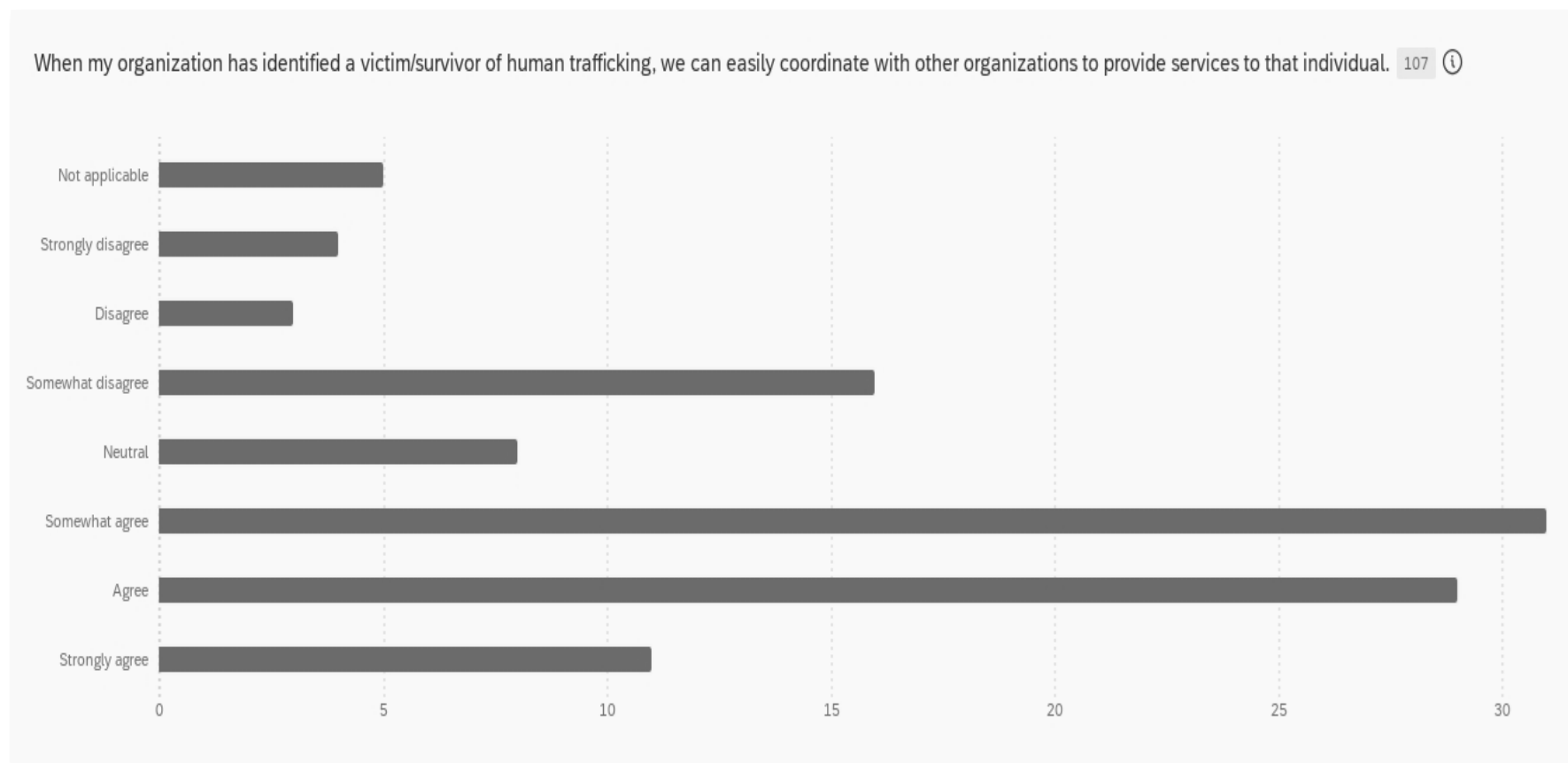
Select the field(s) that most closely represents the work your organization does. Please select all that apply: 144 ⓘ



What is the geographic scope of your organization's work? 144 ⓘ







When my organization has identified a victim/survivor of human trafficking, we can easily find services for that individual. 107 ⓘ

