



NORTH TEXAS COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT 2025 REPORT

*Download this report, and
access the supplemental
reports, resources, and
directories here:*



BROUGHT TO YOU BY

Engage Together Project for North Texas is made possible by a grant from the Adair Foundation, and is accomplished in collaboration with many partners, including especially the task force and coalition leadership working across North Texas: 5 Stones Task Force, C7 Human Trafficking Coalition, and the North Texas Coalition Against Human Trafficking. Additional local support and leadership for this project include Southern Methodist University's Office of Engaged Learning & SMU's Human Trafficking Data Research Project, Unbound Now, and The Net FW. National partners include Belmont University's Data Collaborative, Pomerol Partners and Qlik. Special thanks also to the National Human Trafficking Hotline and Dark Watch.

Learn more about each of these partners by going to the Project website at engagetogether.com/dfw.

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SMU
SMU Human Trafficking Data
Research (HTDR) Project

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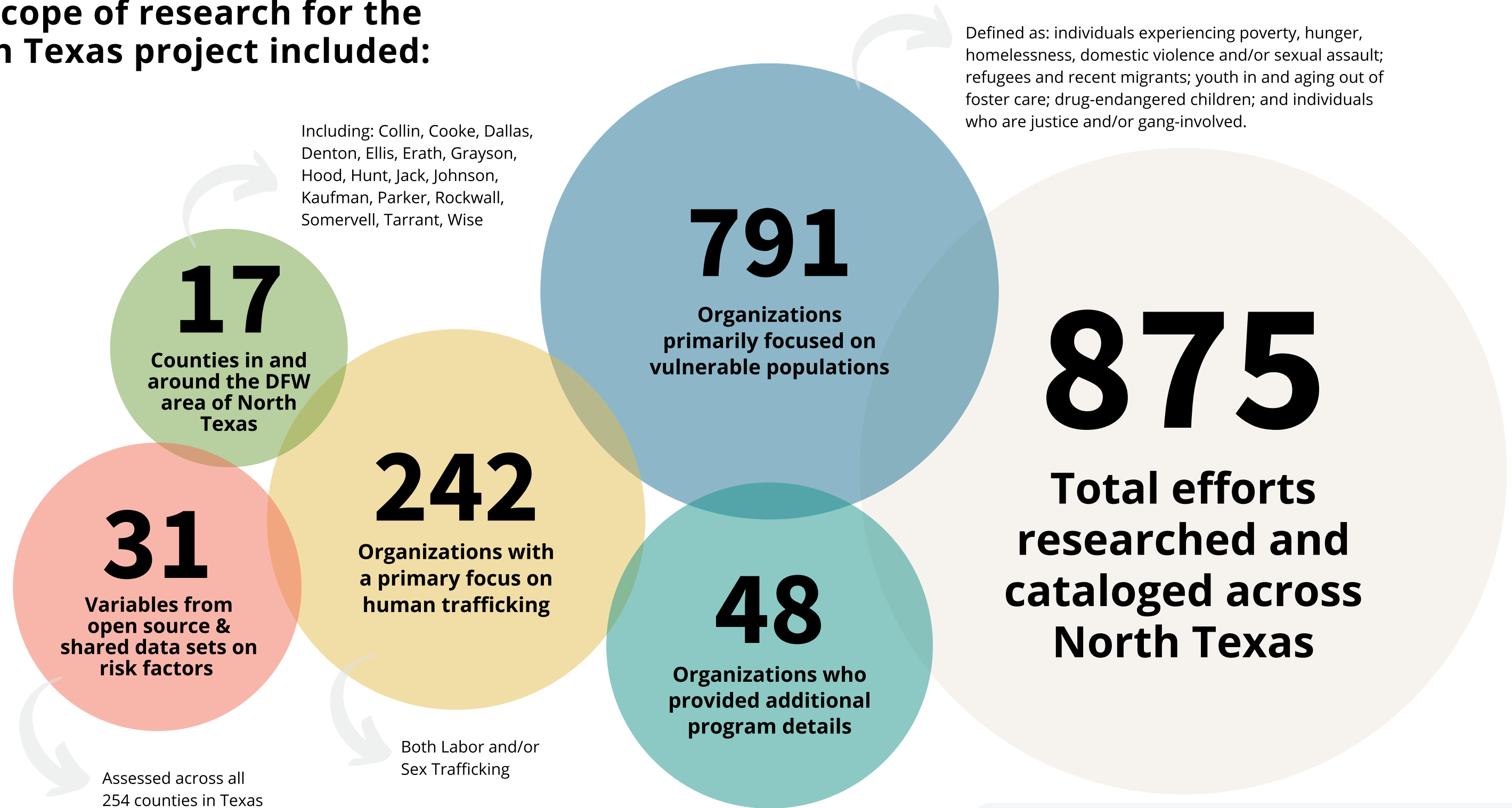


WHAT IS A COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT?

An assessment of the current strengths, gaps, needs, vulnerabilities and opportunities for community-wide engagement to end and prevent human trafficking across North Texas.

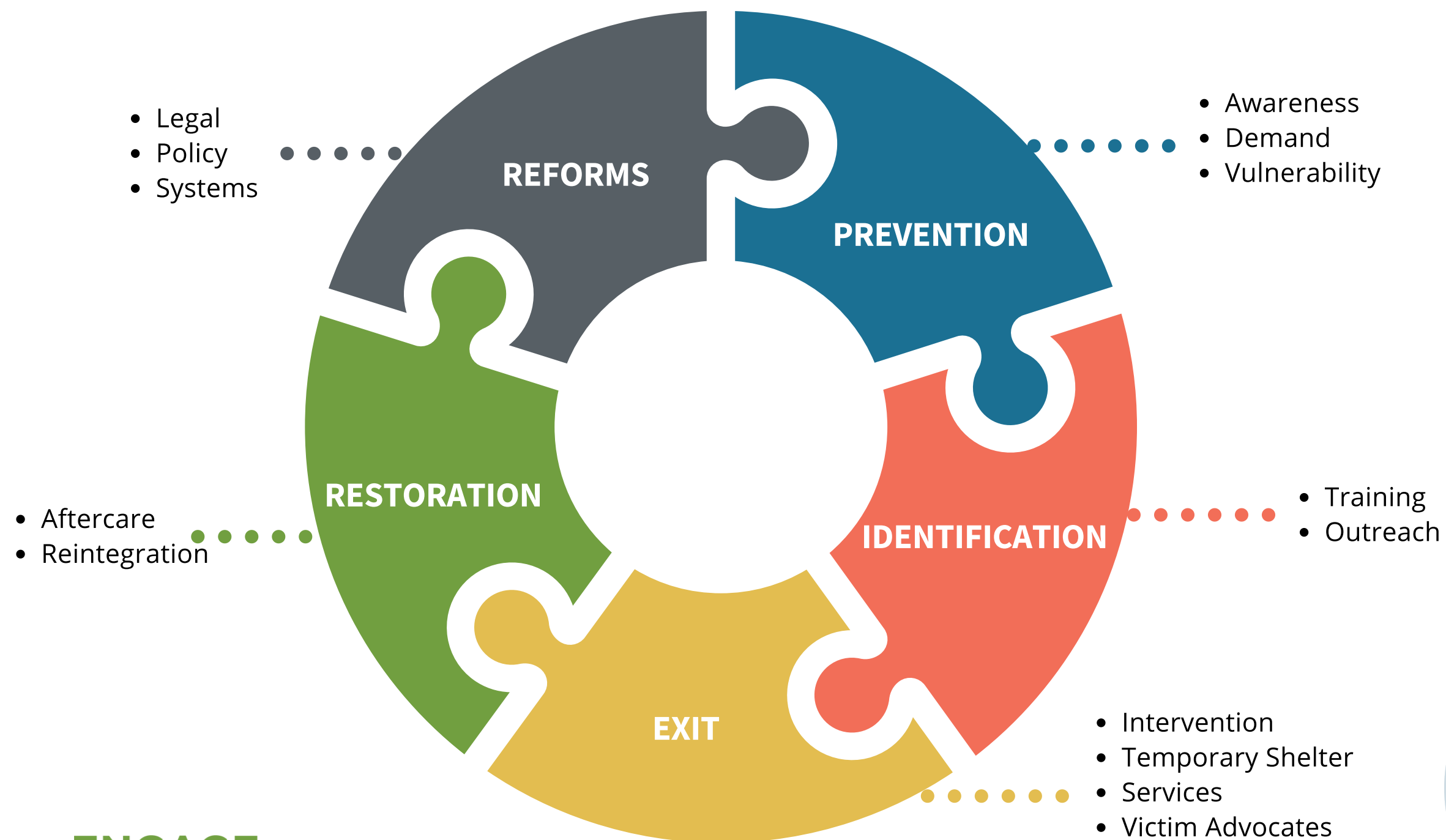
RESEARCH SCOPE

The scope of research for the North Texas project included:



Download this report, supplemental reports, and the North Texas directory at engagetogether.com/dfw.

RESEARCH SCOPE



ETP includes research and assessments of all efforts by every sector related to labor and sex trafficking, for adults and minors, citizens and foreign nationals.



Learn more about program areas and definitions [at this link.](#)

RESEARCH SCOPE

To assist in developing **community-based prevention and early intervention strategies**, we also include within the scope of research:

**+ THOSE SERVING
AT-RISK & VULNERABLE
POPULATIONS, INCLUDING**

Refugees and recent
migrant populations

Justice- and gang-
involved individuals

Those experiencing
homelessness, poverty,
or **hunger**

Drug-endangered
children & youth in and
aging out of **foster care**

Those who **have already suffered**
other types of abuse or exploitation
(DV/SA)

WHY?

Because traffickers exploit vulnerable people, luring victims with promises of work, shelter, food, and support. Addressing vulnerabilities in your community is critical to prevention.



**+ EVERY EFFORT
BY EVERY SECTOR**

Churches & Houses of Worship
Civic/Service Clubs
Businesses
Foundations

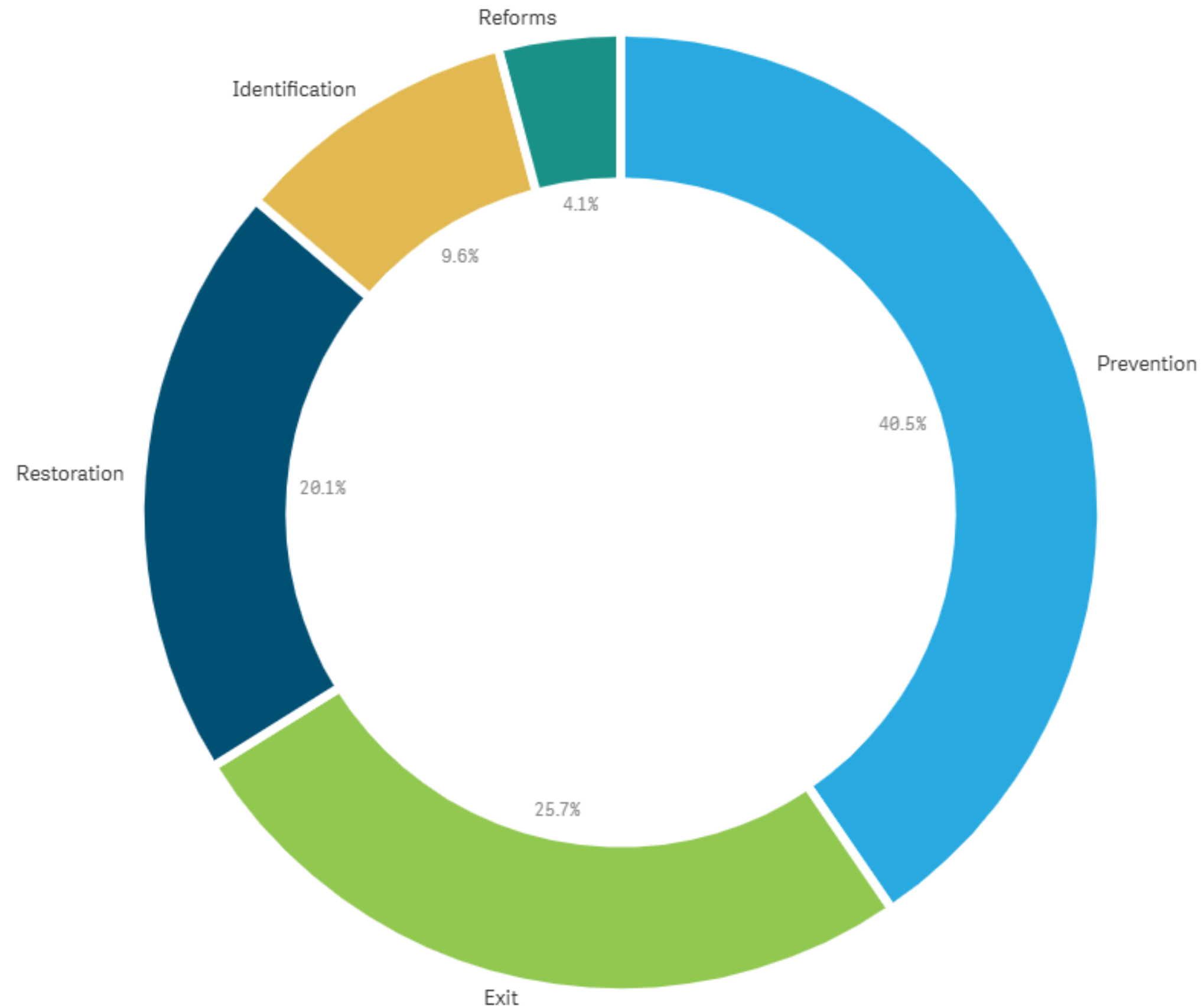
Government
Legal
Healthcare
Individual Practitioners

Nonprofits
Professional Associations
Education
Taskforces & Coalitions

CURRENT RESPONSE TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The following is an assessment of the current efforts to directly address either labor or sex human trafficking in the 17 counties of North Texas as of May 2025.

BY PROGRAM



BY PRIMARY SERVICE

Efforts to address human trafficking in North Texas are currently highly concentrated in PREVENTION (40.5%), followed by Exit (25.7%) and Restoration (20.1%). Programs that focus on IDENTIFICATION (9.6%), and REFORMS (4.1%) will need attention and strengthening.

BY HUMAN TRAFFICKING TYPE

Of the 242 organizations that work to directly address human trafficking in North Texas:

98% are working to address **sex trafficking**

80% are working to address **labor trafficking**

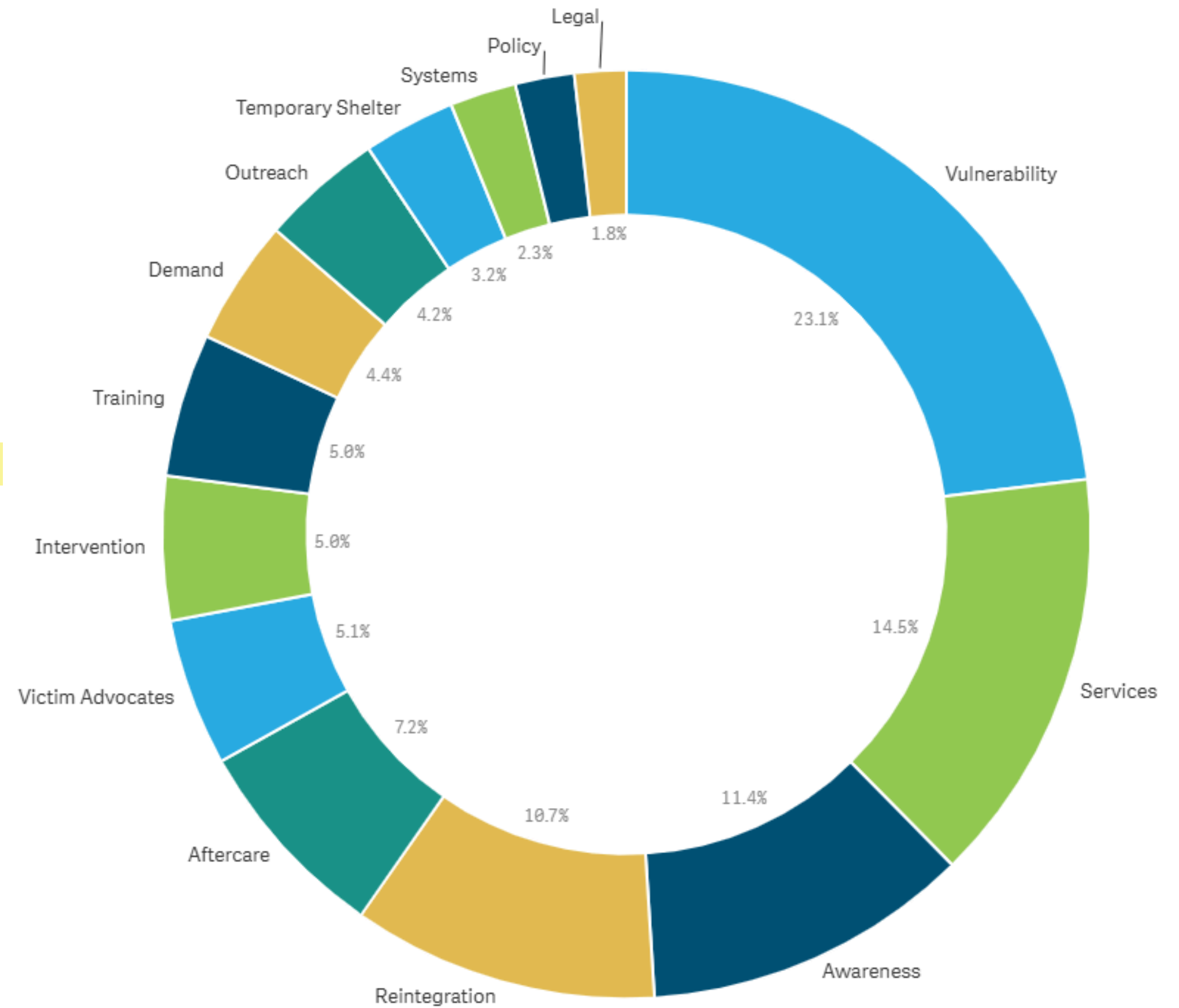
BY PROGRAM

BY SUB-CATEGORY

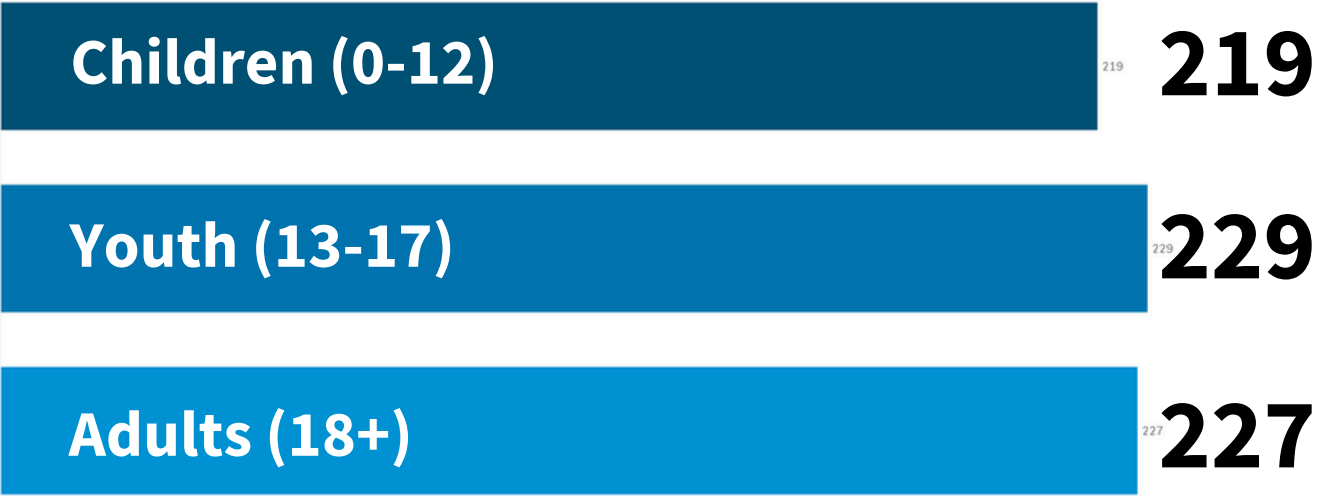
Nearly 50% of efforts to address human trafficking across the 17 counties of North Texas are currently concentrated in 3 of 14 sub-categories: addressing Vulnerability, providing Services, and raising Awareness.

Concerning Services, the majority of the 113 organizations working to provide this type of support for HT victims and survivors include nonprofits (55) and law offices (45). Nearly all Services are primarily concentrated in 4 of the 17 counties in North Texas: Dallas, Tarrant, Collin, and Denton. Hence, there is a need to increase both the capacity and accessibility of these types of programs and services.

Areas of effort that need special attention and strengthening include: increasing availability of Temporary Shelters and Victim Advocate programs; strengthening Aftercare support, including building Reintegration pathways for survivors; expanding Training of all those in a position to recognize and respond to human trafficking along with Outreach to at-risk populations to increase Interventions; and improving efforts that address Demand.



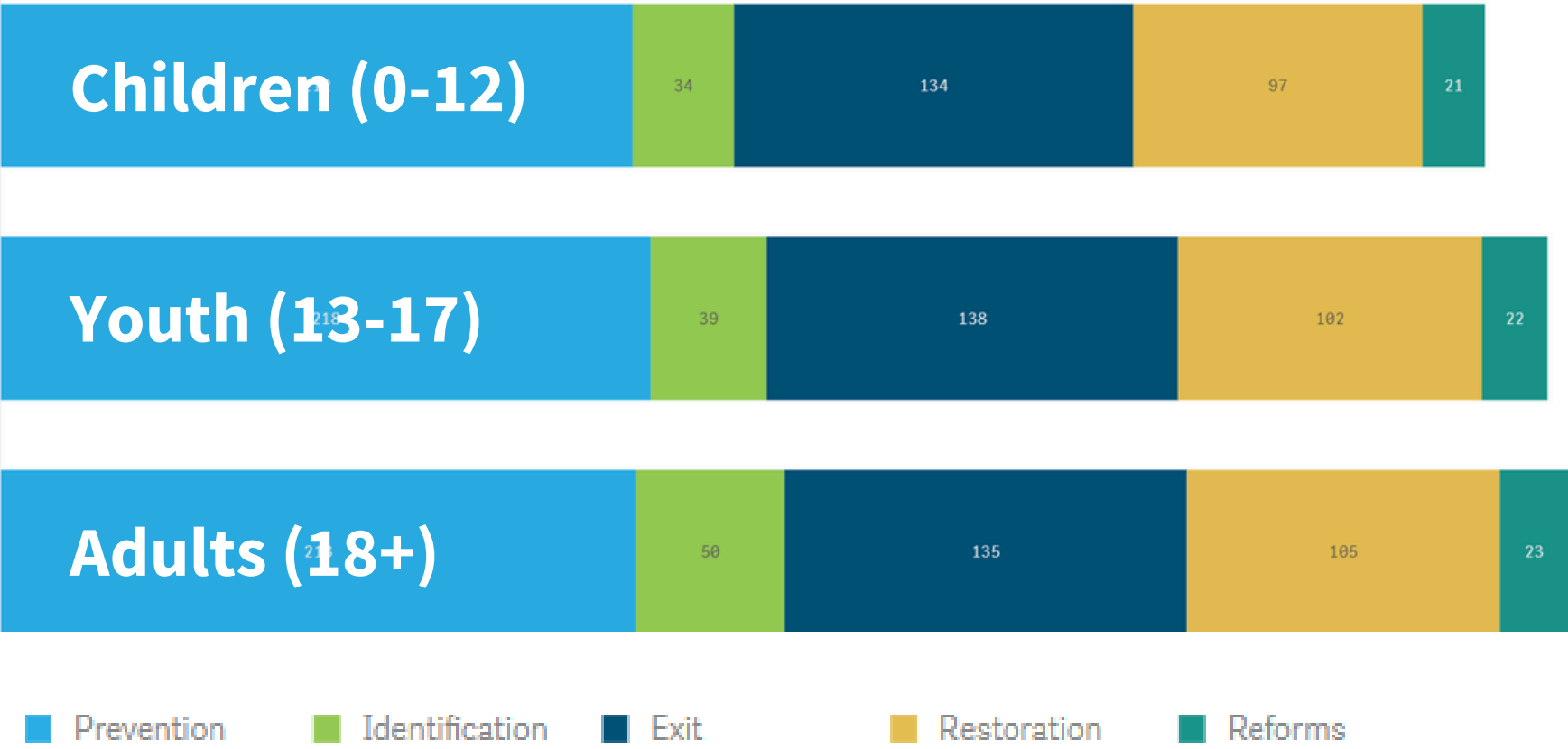
BY DEMOGRAPHIC



The majority of programs reported being able to serve all genders, and most, both citizens and non-citizens. The highest concentration of available programs and services across North Texas, however, are for youth sex trafficking victims.

And the programs available to this particular demographic are highly concentrated in addressing vulnerabilities and providing immediately accessible services upon exit.

When comparing programmatic efforts across age groups, what is common to all is the need for increased Identification efforts, including Training for those in a position to recognize and respond to human trafficking, and also Outreach to at-risk populations to help them understand how to stay safe or seek help.



BY SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

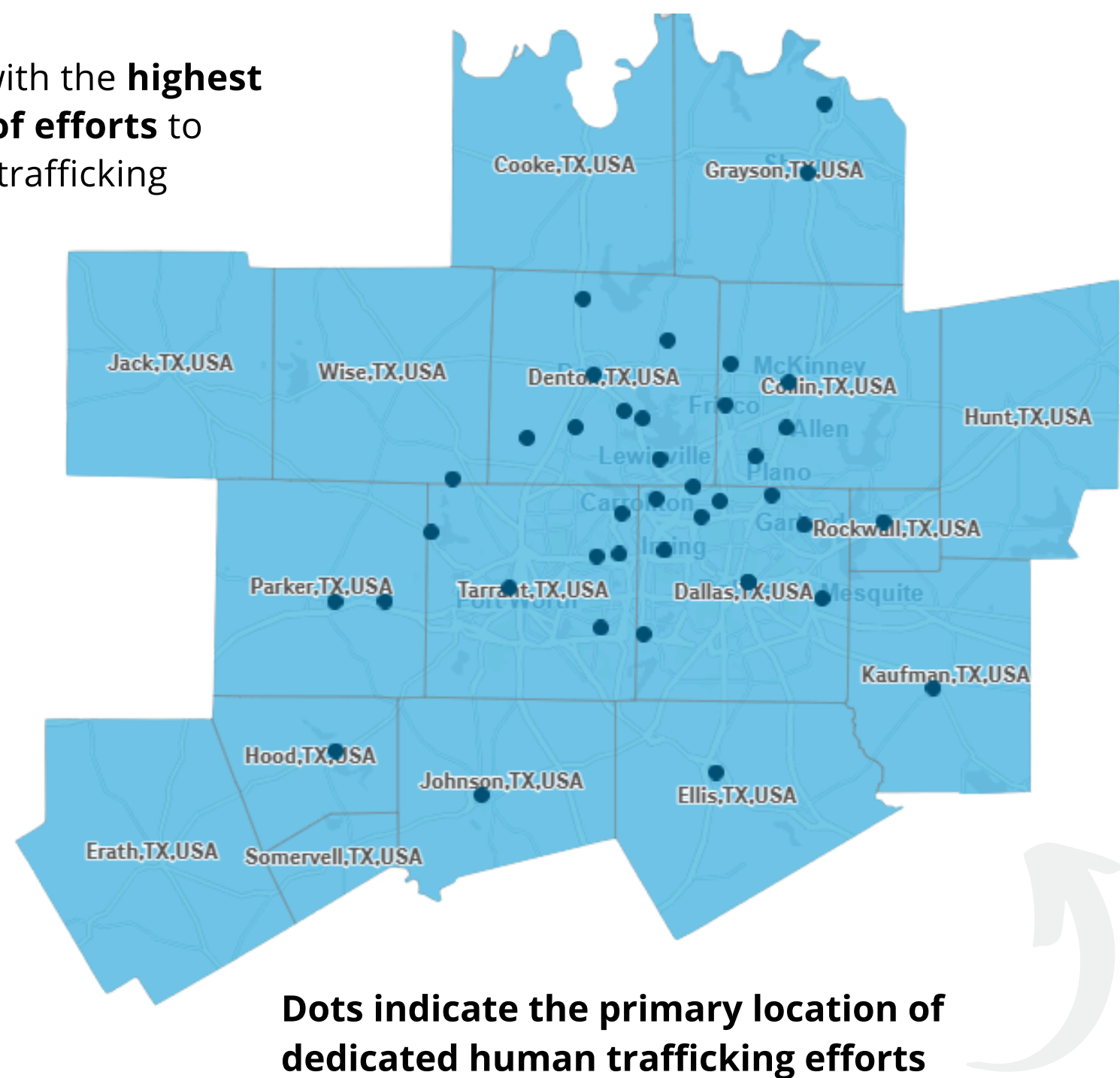


Presently, there is very limited engagement by Businesses, Foundations, Civic/Service Clubs, Individual Practitioners, and Professional Associations.

BY GEOGRAPHY

The 5 counties with the **highest concentration of efforts** to address human trafficking include:

- Dallas
- Tarrant
- Collin
- Denton
- Wise



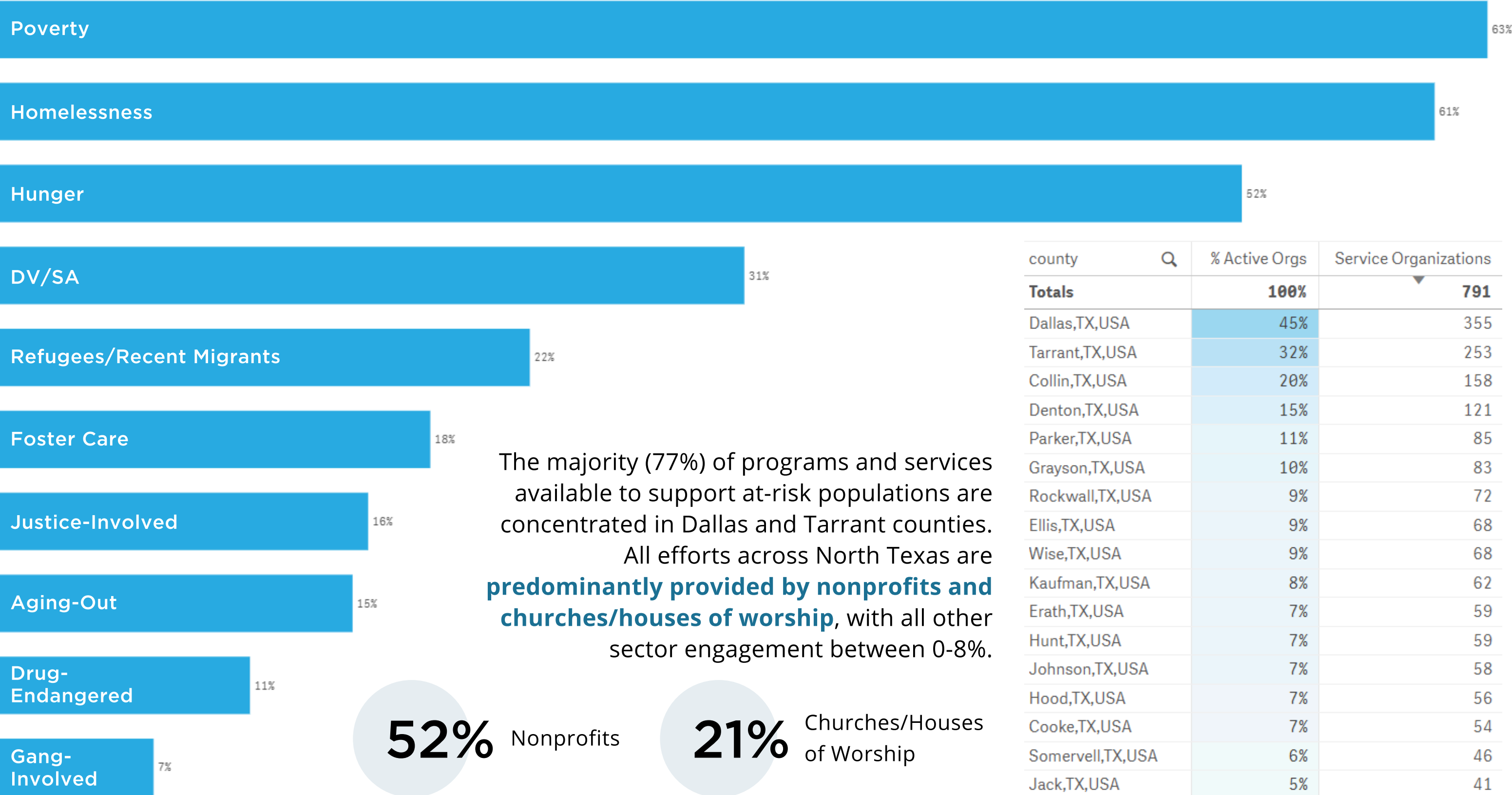
county	Q	% Active Orgs	Service Organizations
Totals		100%	242
Dallas,TX,USA		60%	145
Tarrant,TX,USA		47%	114
Collin,TX,USA		38%	92
Denton,TX,USA		35%	84
Wise,TX,USA		24%	58
Ellis,TX,USA		24%	57
Rockwall,TX,USA		24%	57
Grayson,TX,USA		23%	56
Parker,TX,USA		23%	56
Cooke,TX,USA		22%	54
Hunt,TX,USA		22%	53
Johnson,TX,USA		22%	53
Kaufman,TX,USA		22%	53
Hood,TX,USA		21%	52
Erath,TX,USA		21%	50
Jack,TX,USA		21%	50
Somervell,TX,USA		20%	49

CURRENT RISK FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The following is an assessment of the current risk for human trafficking in North Texas, based on the presence and prevalence of risk factors and vulnerable populations in each county.

AT-RISK POPULATIONS

Of the **791 organizations** supporting populations at high-risk of trafficking across the 17 counties of North Texas, those efforts are concentrated as follows:

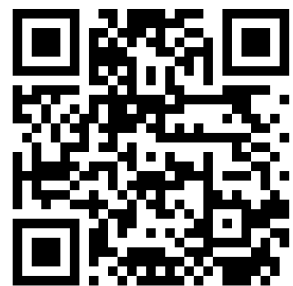
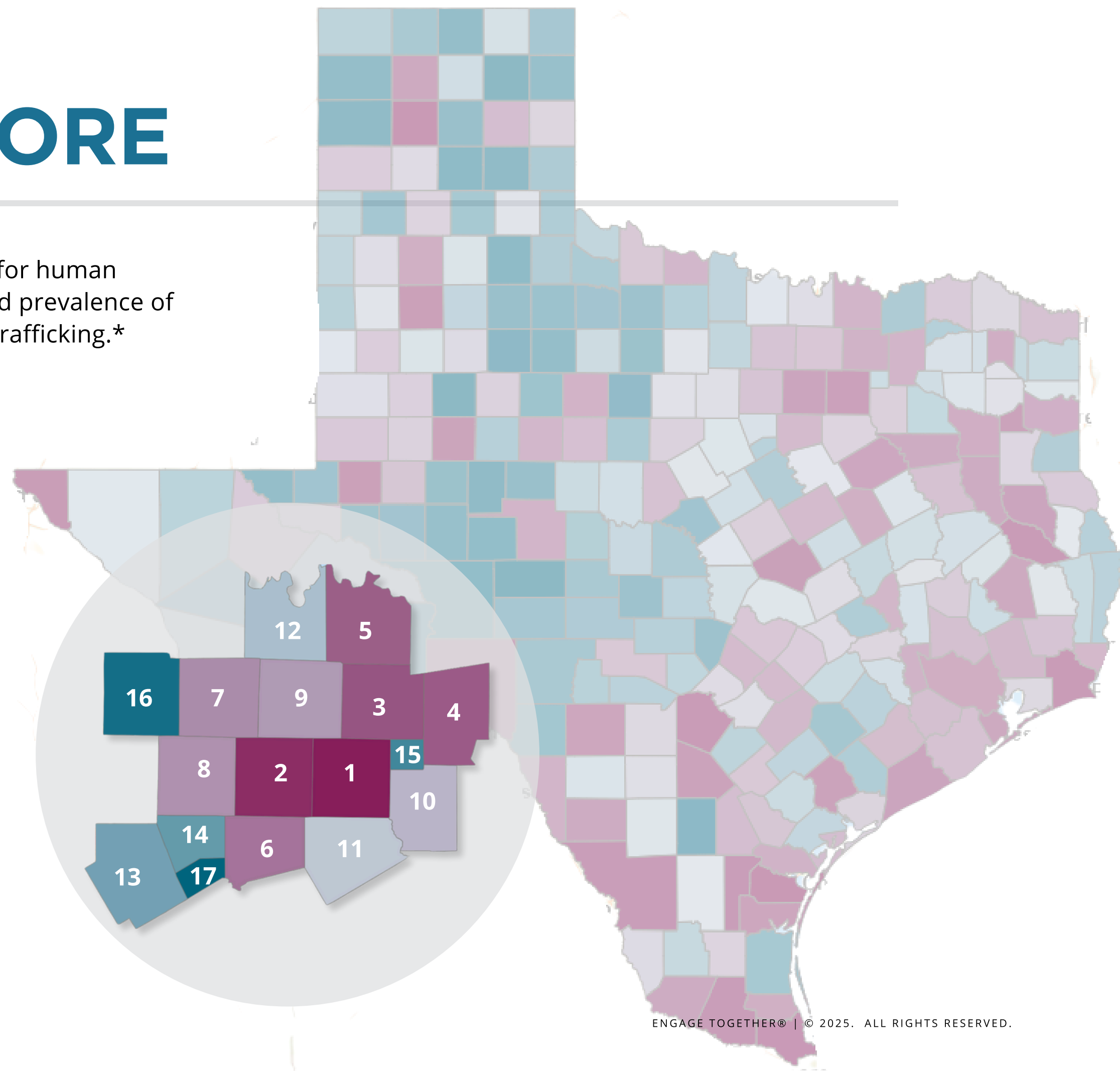


county	Q	% Active Orgs	Service Organizations
Totals		100%	791
Dallas,TX,USA		45%	355
Tarrant,TX,USA		32%	253
Collin,TX,USA		20%	158
Denton,TX,USA		15%	121
Parker,TX,USA		11%	85
Grayson,TX,USA		10%	83
Rockwall,TX,USA		9%	72
Ellis,TX,USA		9%	68
Wise,TX,USA		9%	68
Kaufman,TX,USA		8%	62
Erath,TX,USA		7%	59
Hunt,TX,USA		7%	59
Johnson,TX,USA		7%	58
Hood,TX,USA		7%	56
Cooke,TX,USA		7%	54
Somervell,TX,USA		6%	46
Jack,TX,USA		5%	41

VPI OVERALL SCORE

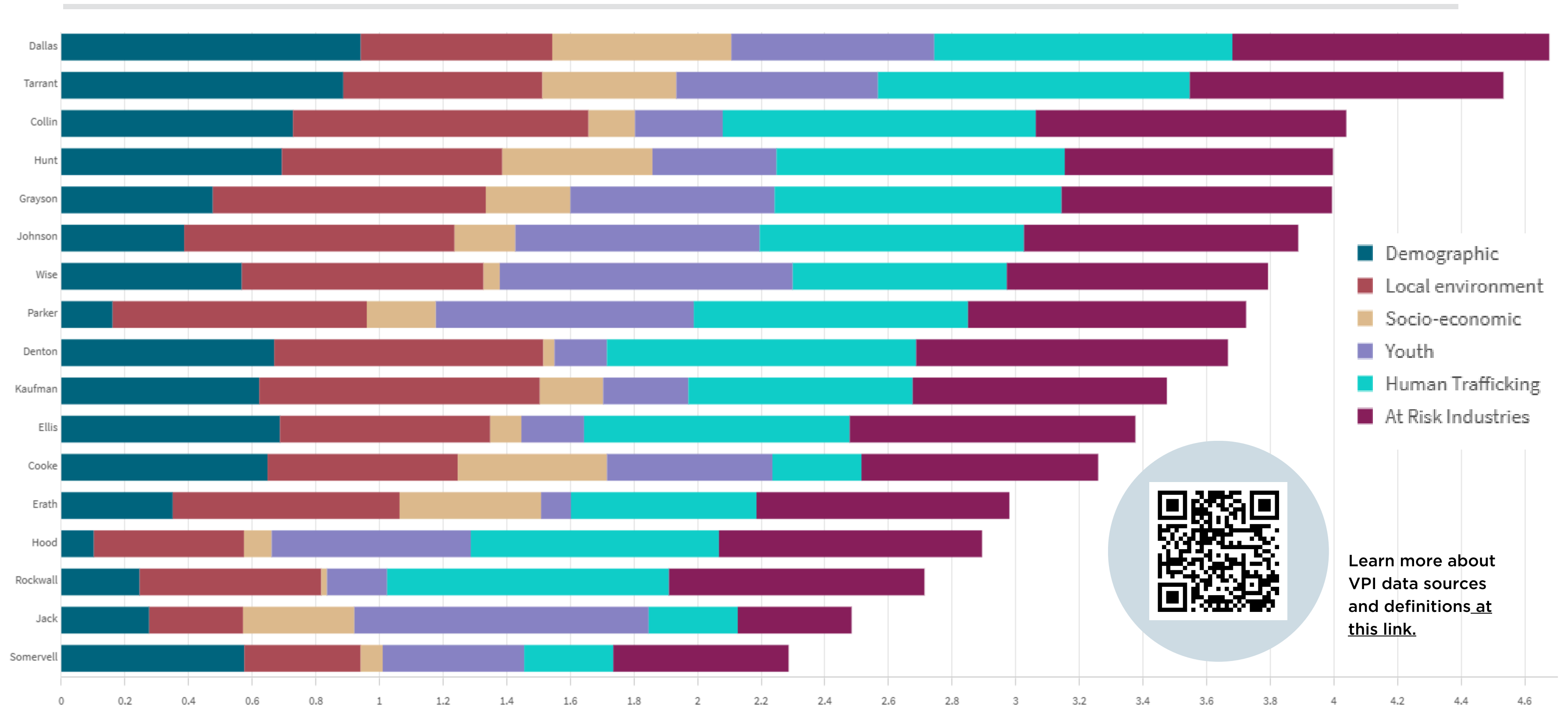
The **Vulnerable Population Index (VPI) Score** assesses risk for human trafficking by analyzing data that illuminates the presence and prevalence of known risk factors and/or populations vulnerable to human trafficking.*

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Dallas (95%) | 10. Kaufman (65%) |
| 2. Tarrant (92%) | 11. Ellis (62%) |
| 3. Collin (84%) | 12. Cooke (57%) |
| 4. Hunt (83%) | 13. Erath (47%) |
| 5. Grayson (82%) | 14. Hood (45%) |
| 6. Johnson (78%) | 15. Rockwall (38%) |
| 7. Wise (73%) | 16. Jack (31%) |
| 8. Parker (72%) | 17. Somervell (27%) |
| 9. Denton (71%) | |



Dive deeper and learn more by reading the County-Level Reports.

VPI COUNTY COMPARISON



Learn more about
VPI data sources
and definitions [at this link.](#)

CURRENT PERSPECTIVES

The organizations that provided additional program details also shared their top three tangible, funding, and service needs - along with thoughts regarding current challenges and successes in anti-trafficking efforts across North Texas.

CURRENT NEEDS



(NOTE: The larger the word, the more often it was mentioned in responses.)

Those items most requested to support individual needs include: housing, transportation, childcare, language interpretation, mental health, job-readiness, legal assistance, maternal health, and tangible items. The needs most requested by organizations include: funding to expand staff and program capacity, tech, training, and landscape and maintenance for buildings.

SUCCESS

Most respondents shared that a general awareness of human trafficking is growing, that efforts are victim-centered, and that there is strong collaboration between local organizations, law enforcement, and direct service providers dedicated to the cause.

& CHALLENGES

Challenges shared included the need to increase efforts to proactively identify victims, to convince key community stakeholders that human trafficking is an issue that needs to be locally prioritized and resourced, the lack of both immediate and long-term housing solutions, the need for increased support for all programs and services, and more dedicated efforts to decrease demand.

PRIORITIES

Based on all the research and data gathered throughout this Engage Together Project, here are our top five recommended priorities and next steps for North Texas.

1

Improve IDENTIFICATION efforts by TRAINING critical organizations and professions who are in a position to recognize & respond to human trafficking

While awareness efforts are well underway in North Texas, training efforts that provide profession-specific details on the indicators likely to present in local settings, and the local protocols and partnerships to activate once identifications are made, need to increase. Priority groups to train in every community include:

- ☐ Healthcare ☐ Child-Serving Professionals ☐ Local Gov’t & Civic Leaders
- ☐ 791+ Organizations Working to Support High-Risk Populations

All these groups will need to receive training across the region, but immediate priority should be to equip those who serve in counties with VPI scores above 80%. Further, the healthcare community currently represents only 4.1% of sector engagement in North Texas. Recent research has shown that up to 90% of victims of human trafficking in the United States present themselves to local healthcare settings, many times. Training healthcare providers is of critical importance for identification and care. For all groups, optimizing training resources and materials community-wide to be consistent with shared language, statistics, and protocols to follow will be important for identifications and interventions to succeed.

2

Strengthen CROSS-JURISDICTIONAL collaborations

Cross-county and cross-jurisdictional collaborations, leveraging shared knowledge, resources, and connections, would greatly increase the effectiveness of the following efforts in North Texas:

- ☐ Strengthen Response to Labor Trafficking ☐ Educate At-Risk Populations How to Stay Safe or Seek Help ☐ Advocate for Legal, Policy, and Systems Reforms

3

Increase EXIT and RESTORATION program capacity

As trainings and outreach increase, so will identifications and disclosures. This will necessitate a proactive approach to **increasing availability and accessibility** of support for survivors of labor or sex trafficking, especially victim advocates, immediately available services, temporary shelters, and aftercare support. Further, there needs to be a dedicated effort to build out **reintegration pathways** to educational attainment and/or living wage jobs so that those impacted by human trafficking can have the best possible care, community, and opportunity to prosper.

4

Dive deeper on DATA and RESEARCH

In order to even more accurately assess risk and response in North Texas, data needs to be gathered and analyzed to better illuminate: the # of verified and/or unverified **cases of CSEC** (commercial sexual exploitation of children); the # and county location of **unaccompanied minors, runaway youth, and youth aging out of foster care**; and prevalence and location of **gangs**. We also recommend research on **forced criminality** as a form of human trafficking in Texas.

5

Catalyze MULTI-SECTOR engagement across the board

Businesses, healthcare, educators, churches/houses of worship, foundations, civic clubs, professional associations, individual practitioners and more need to come alongside the efforts of local nonprofits and government agencies to **meet needs and fill gaps** across all 17 counties in North Texas.

SUPPLEMENTALS

This Report includes the overall assessment and recommendations based on the findings of Engage Together® Project for North Texas . For additional reports and supplementals, For additional reports and supplementals, including the County-Level Reports and Directory, go to engagetogether.com/dfw.





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