



SOUTH FLORIDA COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT 2025 REPORT

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access the supplemental
reports, resources, and
directories here:*



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Engage Together Project for SFL is made possible by a grant from a local family foundation, and is accomplished in collaboration with many partners, including especially the task force and coalition leadership working across South Florida: Broward Human Trafficking Coalition, Broward Human Trafficking Task Force/FBI Human Trafficking Task Force, Intercept Task Force of Southwest Florida, Miami-Dade Human Trafficking Coalition, and Southwest Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking. Additional local support and leadership for this project include the University of South Florida BRIGHT Project, St. Thomas University Human Trafficking Academy, United Abolitionists, Quest 2 Freedom, and SheMeHer. 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/sfl.

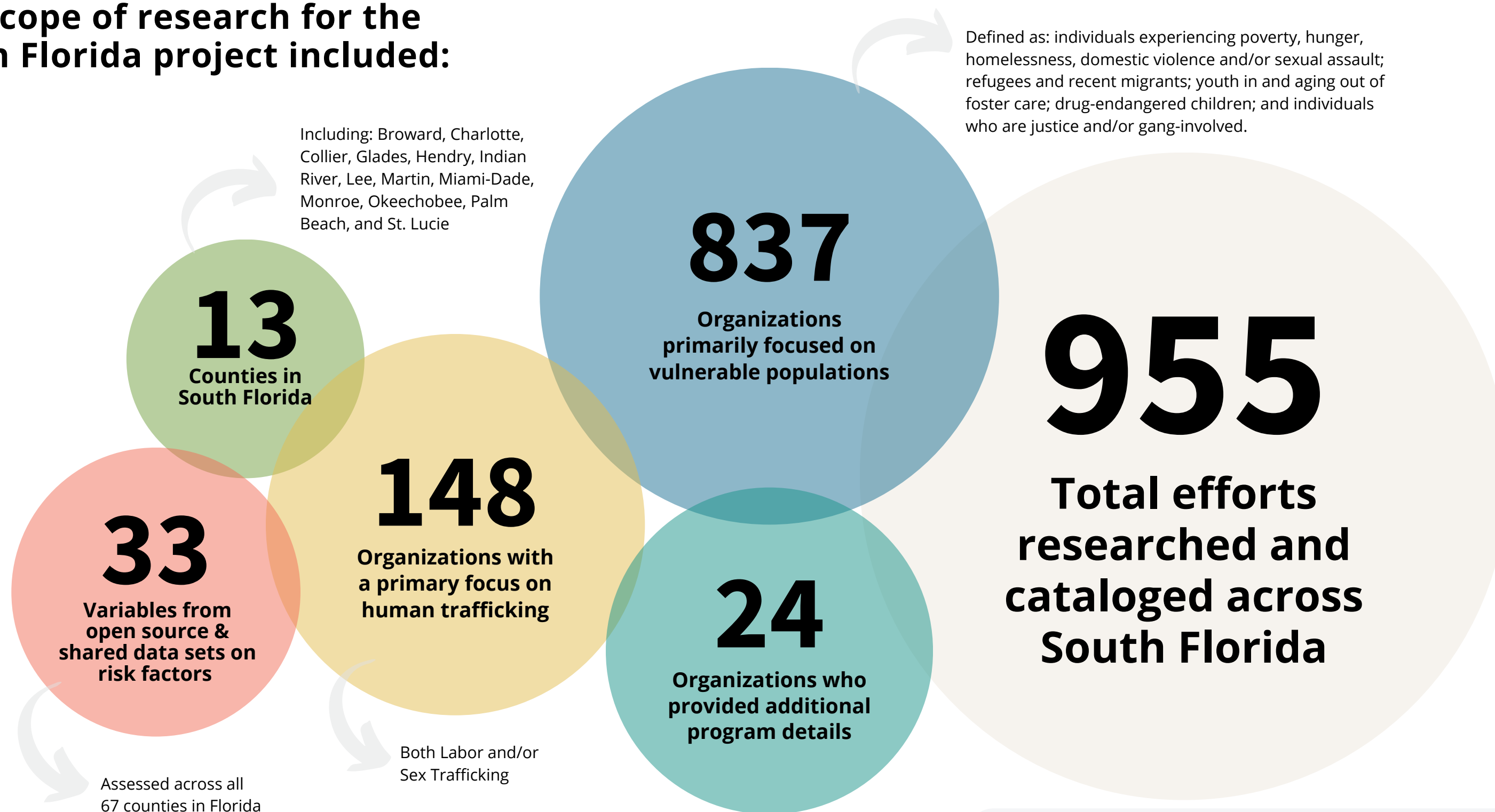


WHAT IS A COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT?

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

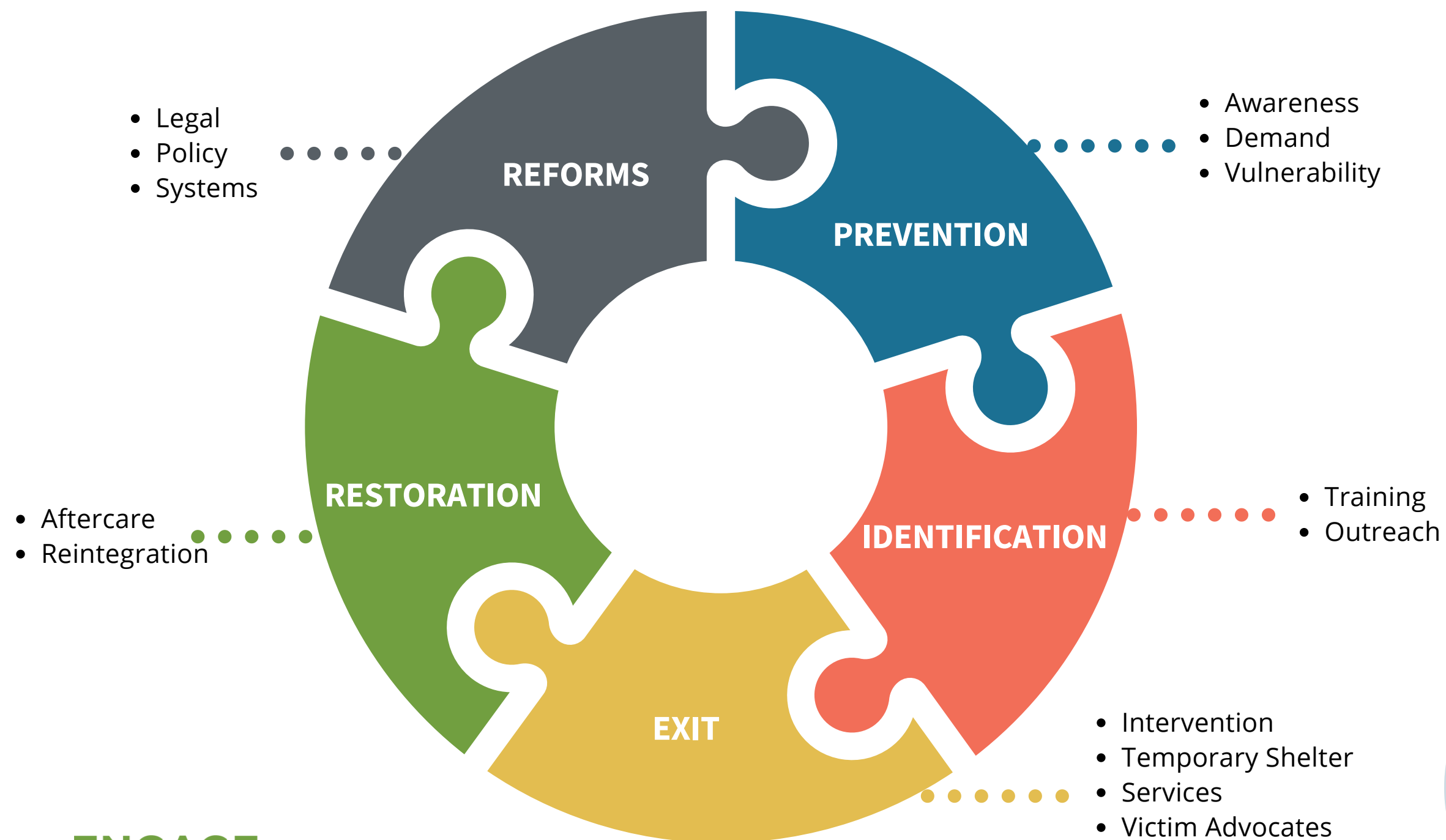
RESEARCH SCOPE

The scope of research for the South Florida project included:



Download this report, supplemental reports, and the South Florida directory at engagetogether.com/sfl.

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

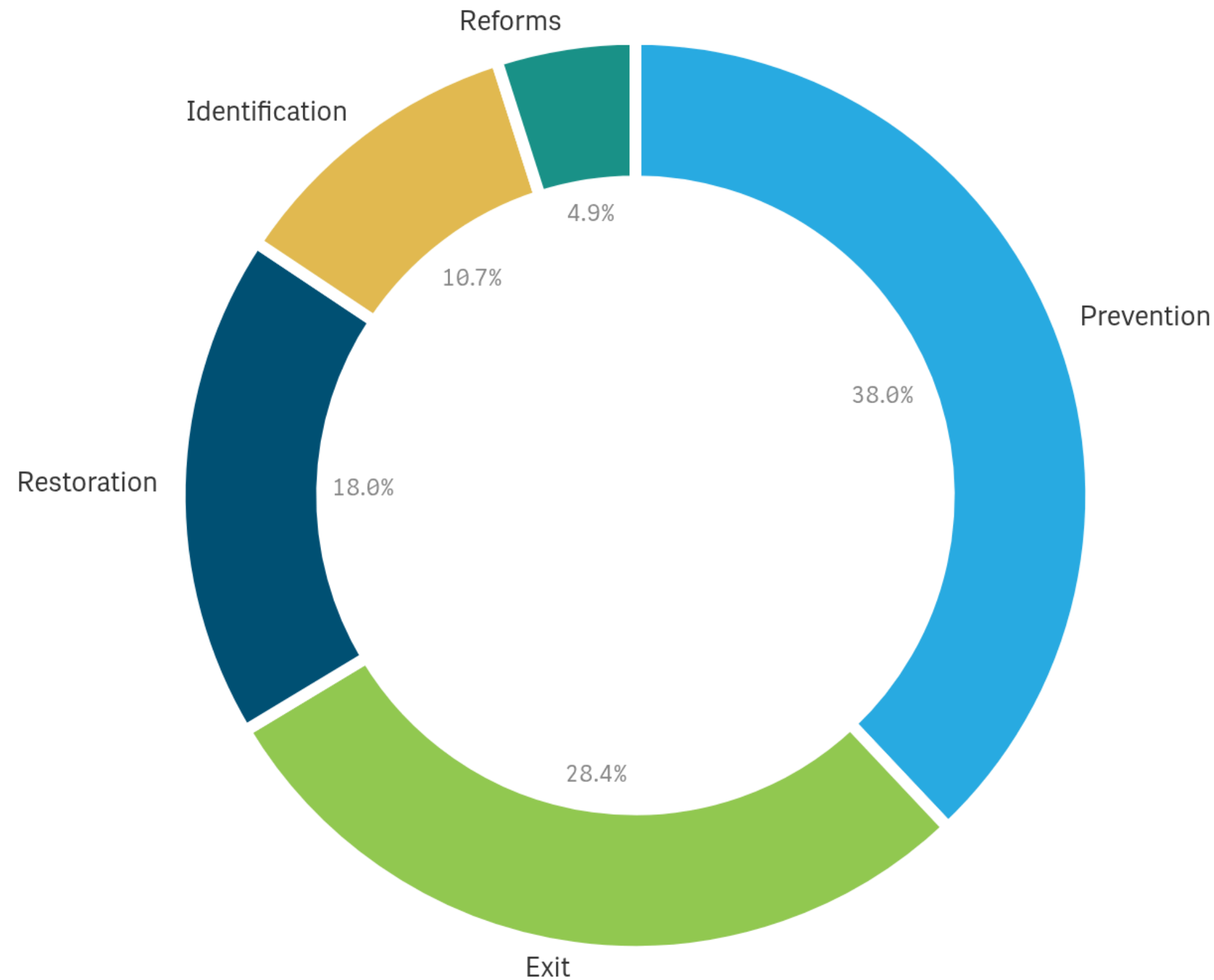
Government
Legal
Healthcare
Individual Practitioners

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 13 counties of South Florida as of May 2025.

BY PROGRAM



BY PRIMARY SERVICE

Efforts to address human trafficking in South Florida are currently highly concentrated in **PREVENTION (38.0%)**, followed by Exit (28.4%) and Restoration (18.0%). Programs that focus on **IDENTIFICATION (10.7%)** and **REFORMS (4.9%)** will need to be strengthened.

BY HUMAN TRAFFICKING TYPE

Of the **148 organizations** that work to directly address human trafficking in South Florida:

99% are working to address **sex trafficking**

82% are working to address **labor trafficking**

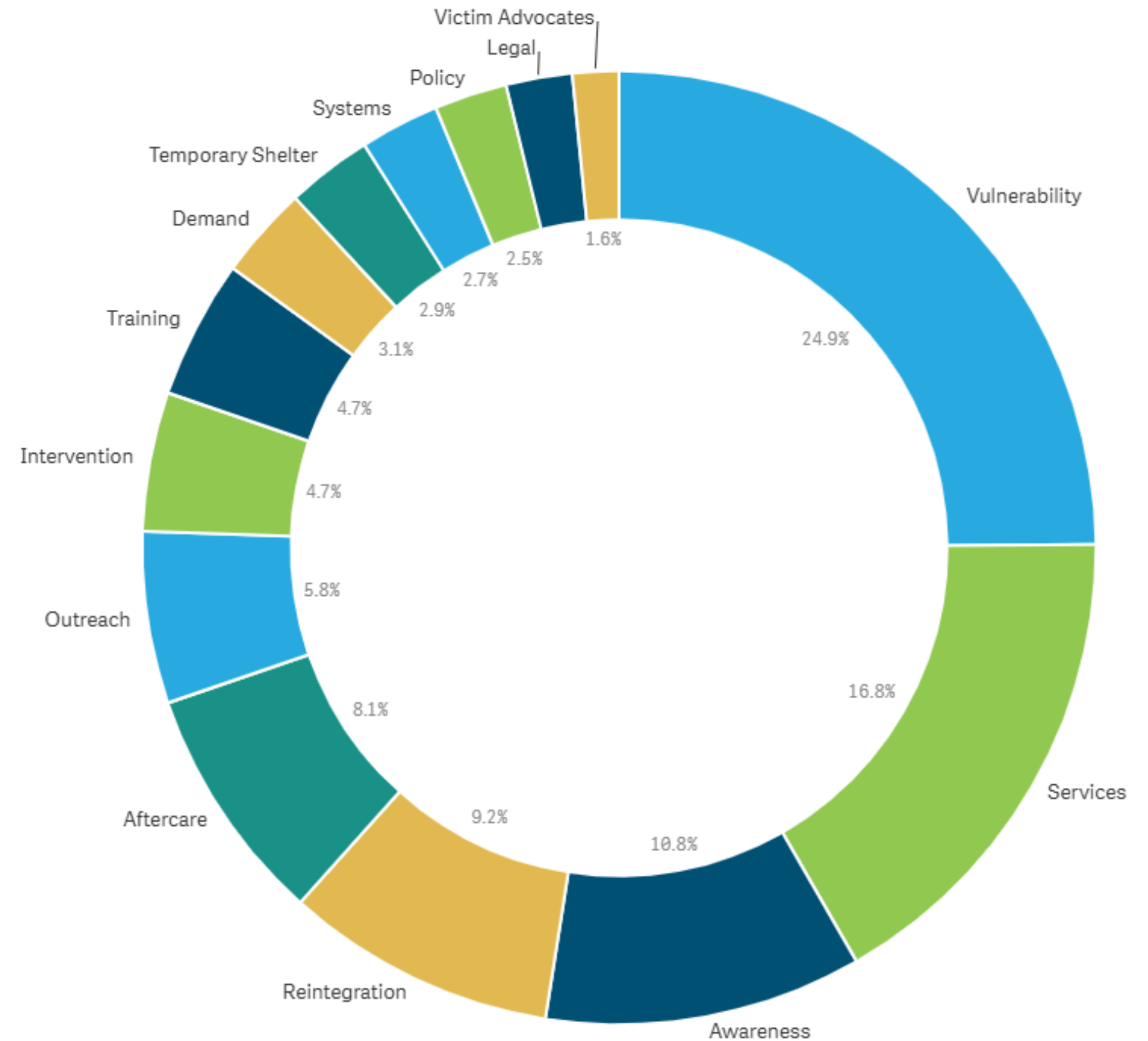
BY PROGRAM

BY SUB-CATEGORY

Just over 50% of efforts in South Florida are currently concentrated in 3 of 14 sub-categories: addressing Vulnerability, providing Services, and raising Awareness.

Concerning Services, the majority of the 75 organizations working to provide this type of support for HT victims and survivors include law offices (42), nonprofits (20), and government agencies (8). The majority of Services are primarily located in 4 of the 13 counties in SFL: Miami-Dade (44), Broward (25), Lee (10), and Palm Beach (10). Hence, there is still a great need to increase both the availability 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 Advocates programs; expanding efforts to address Demand; expanding Training to all those in a position to recognize and respond to human trafficking along with Outreach to at-risk populations to increase Interventions; and strengthening Aftercare support, including building Reintegration pathways for survivors.



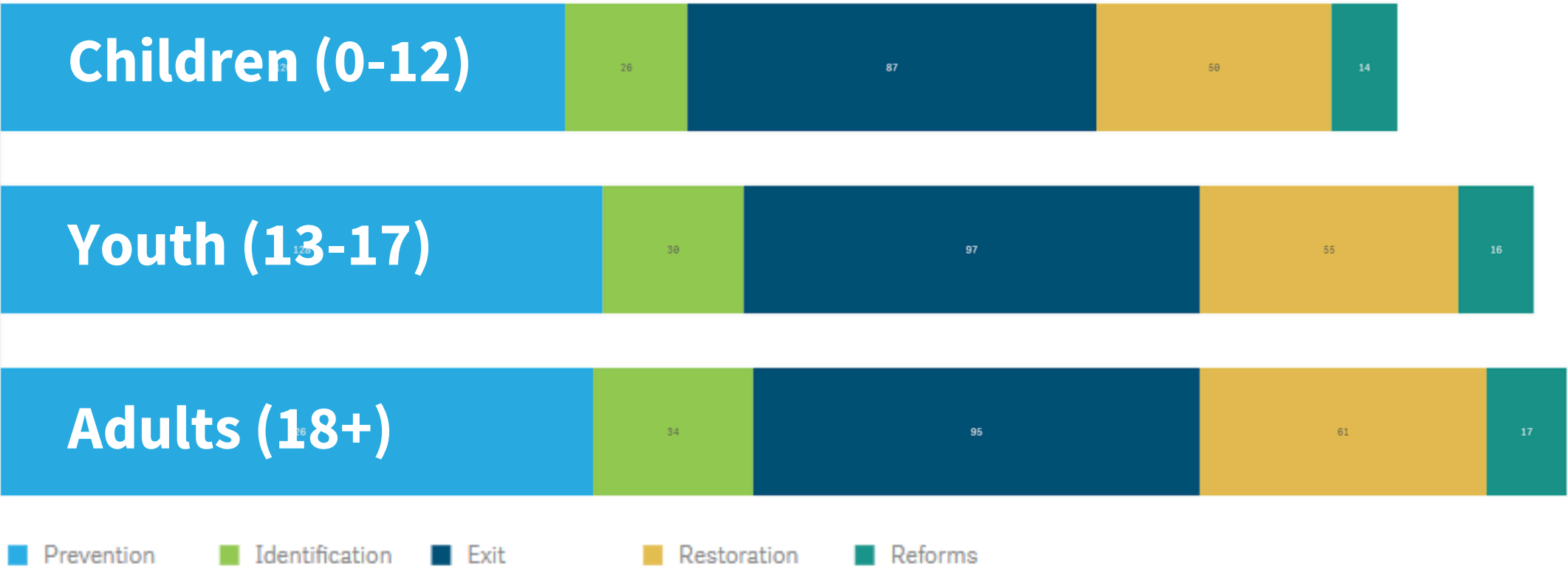
BY DEMOGRAPHIC



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 in South Florida, however, are for adult female survivors of sex trafficking.

And the programs available to this particular demographic are highly concentrated addressing vulnerabilities, providing immediately accessible services, and supporting aftercare.

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

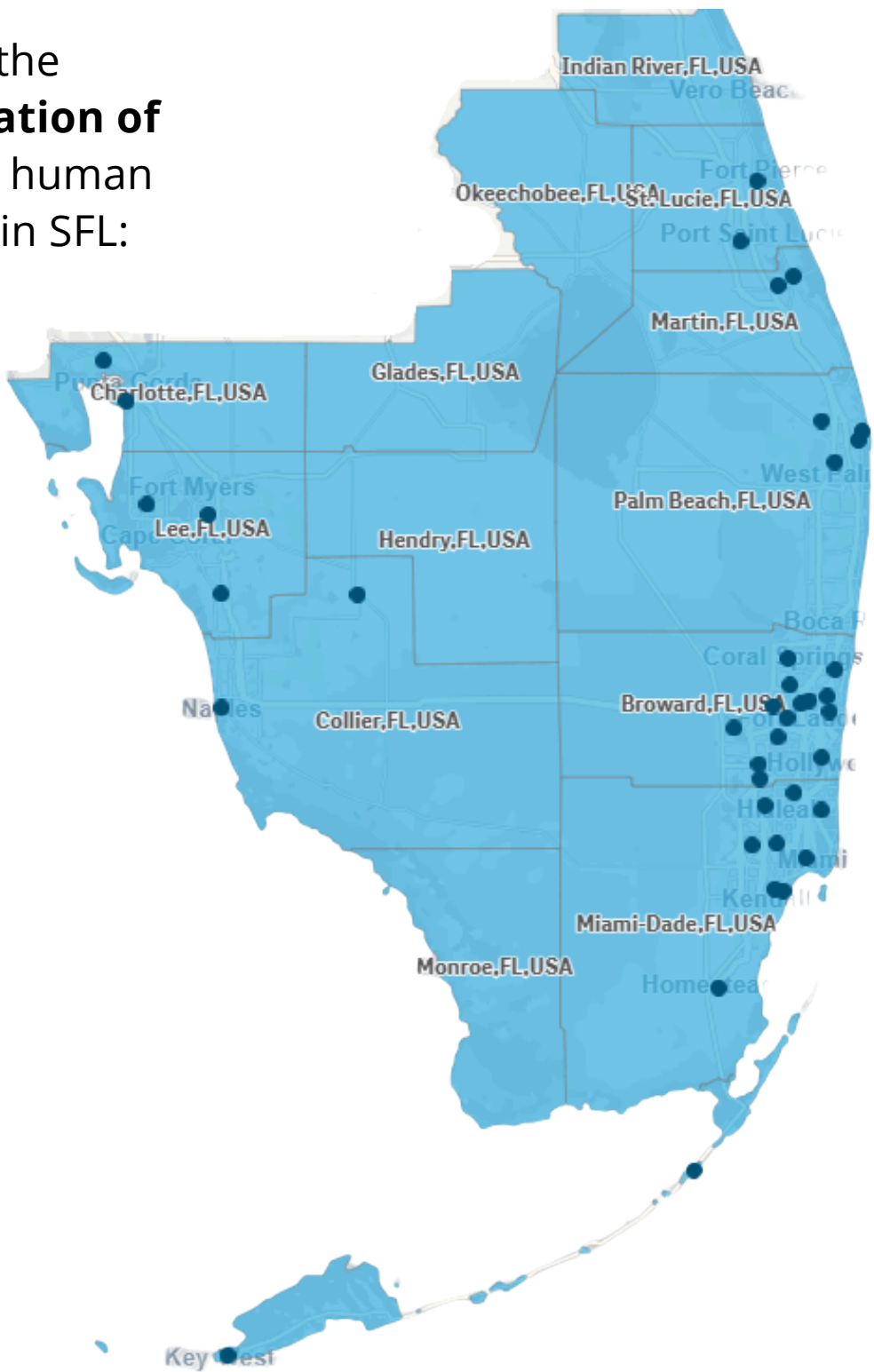


Presently, there is very limited engagement by Foundations, Businesses, Professional Associations, Churches/Houses of Worship, Civic/Service Clubs.

BY GEOGRAPHY

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

- Miami-Dade
- Broward
- Lee
- Palm Beach
- Collier



Dots indicate the primary location of dedicated human trafficking efforts across South Florida

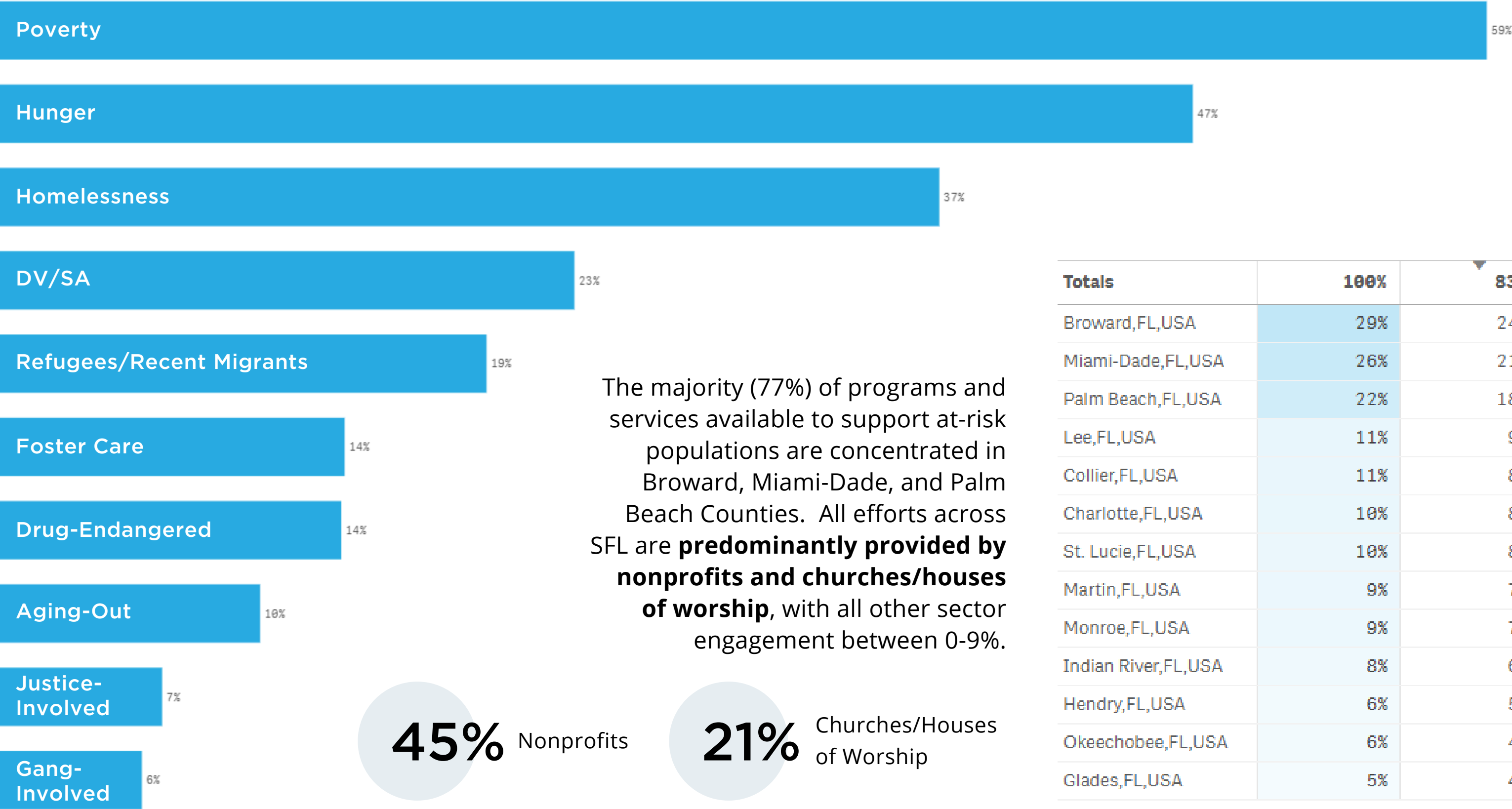
county	Q	% Active Orgs	Service Organizations
Totals		100%	148
Miami-Dade,FL,USA		56%	83
Broward,FL,USA		39%	58
Lee,FL,USA		24%	35
Palm Beach,FL,USA		20%	30
Collier,FL,USA		20%	29
Charlotte,FL,USA		18%	26
Hendry,FL,USA		17%	25
Martin,FL,USA		17%	25
Glades,FL,USA		16%	24
Monroe,FL,USA		16%	24
St. Lucie,FL,USA		16%	23
Indian River,FL,USA		15%	22
Okeechobee,FL,USA		15%	22

CURRENT RISK FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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

AT-RISK POPULATIONS

Of the **837 organizations** supporting populations at high-risk of trafficking across the 13 counties of South Florida, those efforts are concentrated as follows:

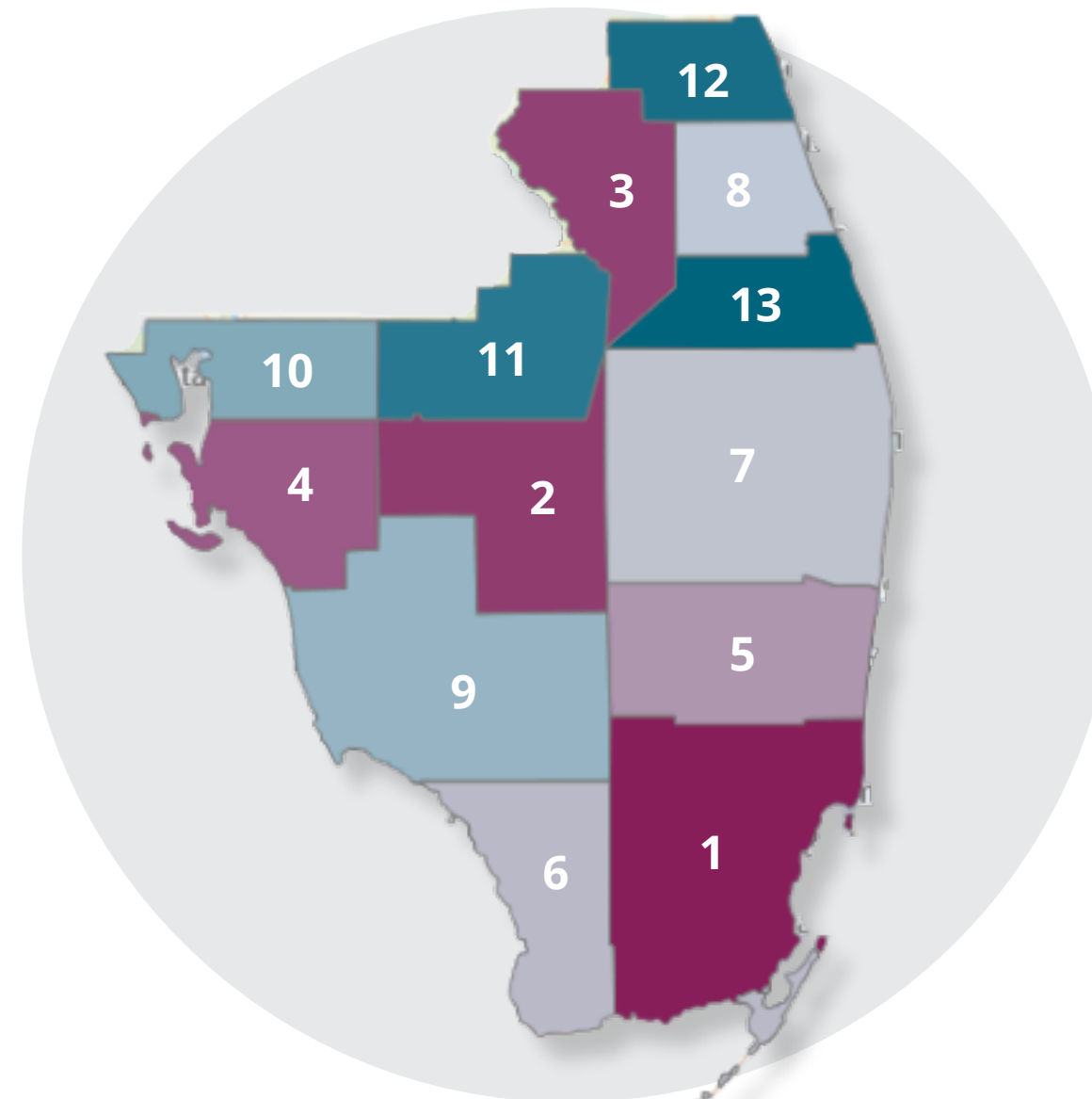


Totals	100%	837
Broward,FL,USA	29%	242
Miami-Dade,FL,USA	26%	217
Palm Beach,FL,USA	22%	183
Lee,FL,USA	11%	91
Collier,FL,USA	11%	88
Charlotte,FL,USA	10%	86
St. Lucie,FL,USA	10%	80
Martin,FL,USA	9%	77
Monroe,FL,USA	9%	74
Indian River,FL,USA	8%	63
Hendry,FL,USA	6%	51
Okeechobee,FL,USA	6%	49
Glades,FL,USA	5%	42

VPI OVERALL SCORE

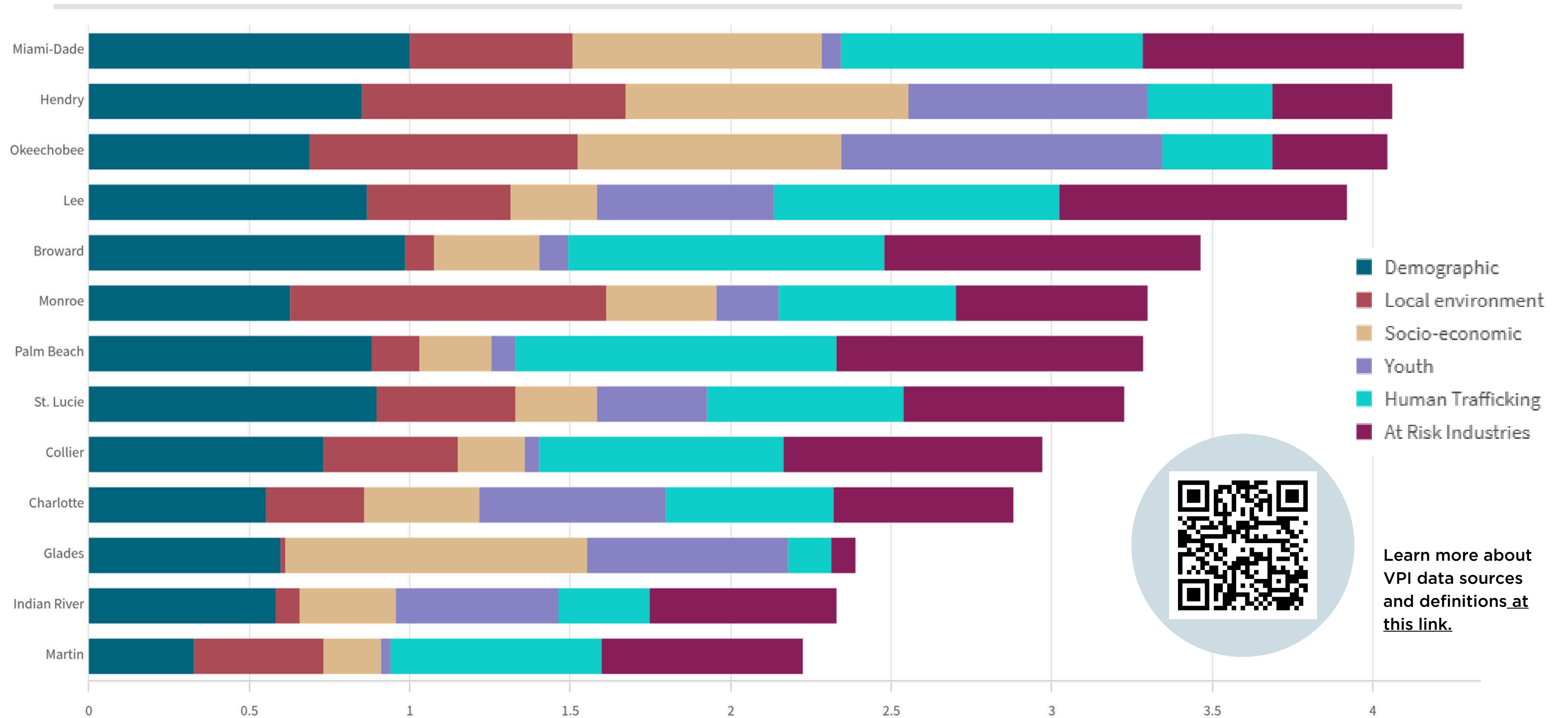
The **Vulnerable Population Index (VPI) Score** assesses risk for human trafficking by analyzing data that illuminates the presence and prevalence of known risk factors and/or populations vulnerable to human trafficking.*

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Miami-Dade (91%) | 8. St. Lucie (57%) |
| 2. Hendry (85%) | 9. Collier (48%) |
| 3. Okeechobee (84%) | 10. Charlotte (45%) |
| 4. Lee (79%) | 11. Glades (28%) |
| 5. Broward (67%) | 12. Indian River (25%) |
| 6. Monroe (60%) | 13. Martin (21%) |
| 7. Palm Beach (58%) | |



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 the anti-trafficking efforts in South Florida.

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 and rent assistance, transportation, mental health, laptops, legal assistance, and essential items. The needs most requested by organizations include: funding to expand program offerings and capacity, renovations, and landscaping needs, and technical support.

SUCCESS

Most respondents shared that community awareness and engagement is growing, that direct service providers work well together to meet needs and find resources, and that local collaborations are improving.

& CHALLENGES

However, challenges still remain in combatting myths and misperceptions about trafficking, prosecuting traffickers and buyers, training those in a position to identify victims of human trafficking, working with limited resources, building pathways for successful reintegration, and decreasing demand.

PRIORITIES

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

1

Catalyze MULTI-SECTOR engagement across the board

To expand and resource all the programs and services needed **to support victims, survivors, and at-risk populations** across SFL, mobilizing multi-sector engagement needs to be prioritized. Businesses, healthcare, educators, churches/houses of worship, foundations, civic clubs, professional associations, and more can come alongside local efforts to **meet needs and fill gaps**, often in ways that government and nonprofits cannot do but greatly need.

2

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 South Florida, 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 professions to train in every community include:

- ☐ **Healthcare Providers**
- ☐ **Child-Serving Professionals**
- ☐ **All 837 Organizations Working to Support High-Risk Populations**

The healthcare community currently represents only 3.4% of sector engagement in SFL. 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.

Note: 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.

3

Increase Victim Advocates programs, Temporary Shelters, and Reintegration support

Across SFL, **victim advocates and temporary shelters are the least available programs**, but are essential to success. Victim advocates, and particularly community-based advocates, provide critical support in helping survivors navigate complex systems and processes, and find needed resources and services. Reintegration support also needs strengthening. Mobilize your business, education, and faith-based sectors to help **build bridges and pathways to living wage jobs, education opportunities, housing solutions, and safe and supportive community** for all survivors.

4

Prioritize a strategic plan to address LABOR TRAFFICKING

Across SFL, efforts to address labor trafficking are minimal. Given the prevalence of populations and industries at high risk of labor trafficking throughout South Florida, there needs to be **a dedicated effort** to increase: community-wide engagement to prevent and identify labor trafficking, outreach to at-risk populations to educate them on how to stay safe or seek help, and services and programs accessible for labor trafficking victims and survivors.

5

Strengthen CROSS-JURISDICTIONAL collaborations

Opportunities to strengthen prevention, intervention, and care in SFL would be greatly enhanced if cross-jurisdictional collaborations were developed and aimed at strategies to address especially: **youth aging out of foster care, runaway and homeless youth, labor trafficking operations, illicit massage businesses (IMBs), and accessibility of needed services.**

SUPPLEMENTALS

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





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