ENGAGE TOGETHER®

REGIONAL REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

ALABAMA 2026

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

Engage Together Project for Alabama is made possible by a partnership with the Alabama Attorney General's Office and The WellHouse, and is being accomplished alongside a host of local and national partners too. Special thanks also to the Institute of Data and Analytics at the University of Alabama and Dark Watch. Learn more about the project and partners by going to the project website at engagetogether.com/project/alabama.

REGIONS & COUNTIES

This report includes regional assessments for the three regions of Alabama, the Northern District, Middle District, and Southern District. That breakdown is as follows:
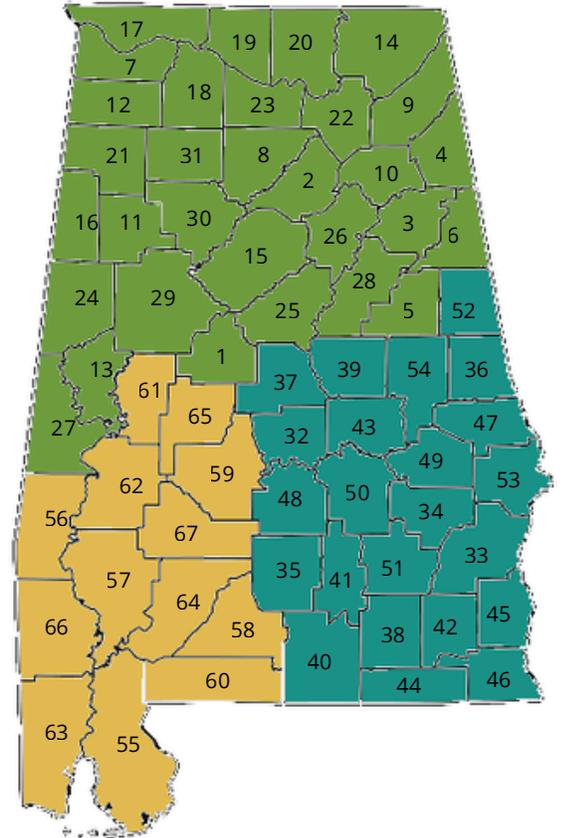
NORTHERN (31 COUNTIES)

1. Bibb
2. Blount
3. Calhoun
4. Cherokee
5. Clay
6. Cleburne
7. Colbert
8. Cullman
9. DeKalb
10. Etowah
11. Fayette
12. Franklin
13. Greene
14. Jackson
15. Jefferson
16. Lamar
17. Lauderdale
18. Lawrence
19. Limestone
20. Madison
21. Marion
22. Marshall
23. Morgan
24. Pickens
25. Shelby
26. St. Clair
27. Sumter
28. Talladega
29. Tuscaloosa
30. Walker
31. Winston

MIDDLE (23 COUNTIES)

32. Autauga
33. Barbour
34. Bullock
35. Butler
36. Chambers
37. Chilton
38. Coffee
39. Coosa
40. Covington
41. Crenshaw
42. Dale
43. Elmore
44. Geneva
45. Henry
46. Houston
47. Lee
48. Lowndes
49. Macon
50. Montgomery
51. Pike
52. Randolph
53. Russell
54. Tallapoosa

SOUTHERN (13 COUNTIES)

55. Baldwin
56. Choctaw
57. Clarke
58. Conecuh
59. Dallas
60. Escambia
61. Hale
62. Marengo
63. Mobile
64. Monroe
65. Perry
66. Washington
67. Wilcox

OVERALL RESPONSE

Of the **165 organizations** that reported efforts to address human trafficking in the Northern District of Alabama...

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

59% are working to address **labor trafficking**

Age Group	
Children (0-12)	147
Youth (13-17)	156
Adults (18+)	136
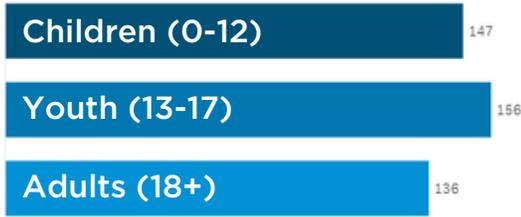
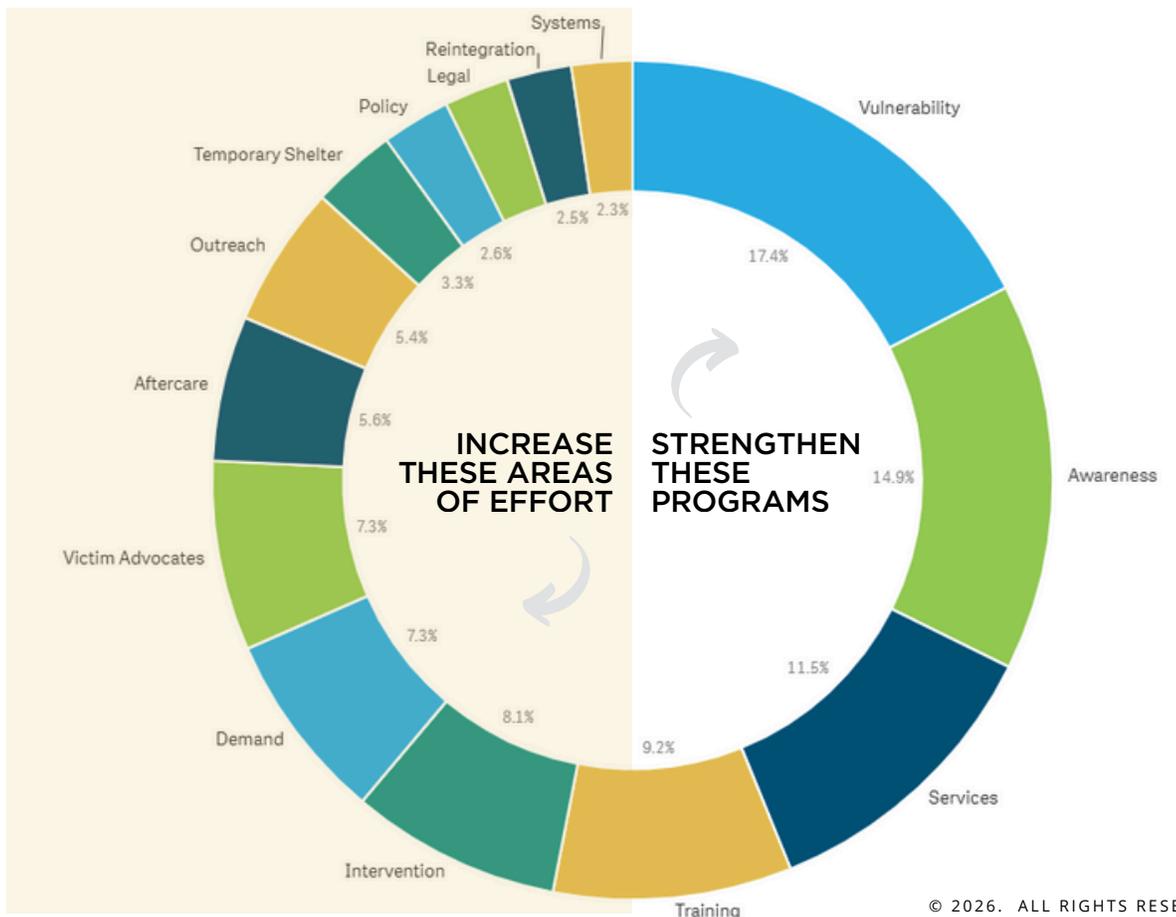**Nonprofits** carry 46% of the effort, followed by government (19%), and then educators (8%). All other sector engagement ranges from 0-6%.

county 🔍	% Active Orgs	Service Organizations ▼
Totals	**100%**	**165**
Jefferson,AL,USA	55%	91
Madison,AL,USA	48%	79
Shelby,AL,USA	46%	76
Tuscaloosa,AL,USA	46%	76
Morgan,AL,USA	44%	73
Cullman,AL,USA	44%	72
St. Clair,AL,USA	44%	72
Blount,AL,USA	43%	71
Calhoun,AL,USA	43%	71
Walker,AL,USA	43%	71

The **programmatic breakdown** of efforts to address human trafficking across the 31 counties of the Northern District is as follows:

INCREASE THESE AREAS OF EFFORT

STRENGTHEN THESE PROGRAMS

Systems 2.3%
Reintegration
Legal 2.5%
Policy 2.6%
Temporary Shelter 3.3%
Outreach 5.4%
Aftercare 5.6%
Victim Advocates 7.3%
Demand 7.3%
Intervention 8.1%
Training 9.2%
Services 11.5%
Awareness 14.9%
Vulnerability 17.4%

OVERALL RISK ASSESSMENT

5 of the counties in the Northern District have a greater than 85% overall **Vulnerable Population Index score** (which indicates extreme risk for the presence of human trafficking):
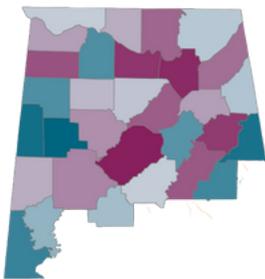
- **Calhoun 96%**
- **Jefferson 91%**
- **Franklin 90%**
- **Talladega 88%**
- **Etowah 85%**

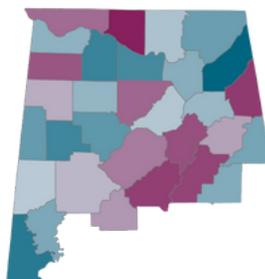*Please review the County-Level Reports for more details at this link.*
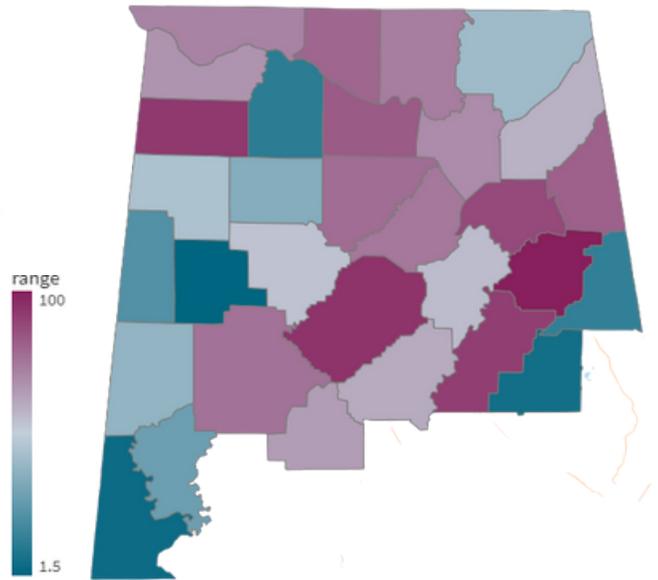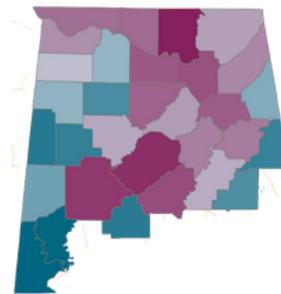

range
100

1.5

BY TYPE OF VULNERABILITY

DEMOGRAPHIC

LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

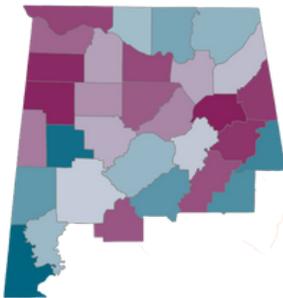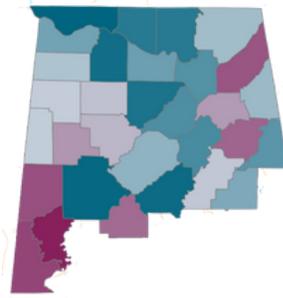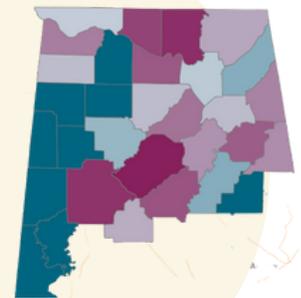**AT-RISK INDUSTRIES**

YOUTH

SOCIO-ECONOMIC

KNOWN* HUMAN TRAFFICKING ACTIVITY

*Known but not yet identified

SUMMARY

The Northern District of Alabama is at **extreme risk of human trafficking**. Current anti-trafficking efforts are highly concentrated in addressing vulnerability, raising awareness, providing immediately accessible services, and training. Nonprofits are carrying the majority of the weight. Services are primarily supporting youth female victims of sex trafficking.

TOP 5 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Increase efforts to identify both **labor and sex trafficking** in the region by proactively educating at-risk populations to empower them with the knowledge they need to stay safe or self-report.
- Engage the **Department of Agriculture & Industry** to prevent human trafficking that may be occurring especially in the regions farming, forestry, manufacturing, and construction industries.
- **Train all educators, child-serving professionals, and healthcare professionals** that move beyond awareness to developing assessment tools, onsite protocols, and local partnerships.
- **Educate children and youth** on all forms of sexual abuse, including human trafficking, familial trafficking, and online grooming and exploitation.
- **Mobilize a multi-church partnership** initiative to meet needs and fill gaps for at-risk populations in their local community.

OF NOTE

- **5 of the 12 highest risk** counties for human trafficking are located in the Northern District, including: Calhoun, Jefferson, Franklin, Talladega, Etowah. However, active efforts to address human trafficking in Franklin, Talladega, and Etowah are minimal and will need to be strengthened.
- The greatest risk factors for human trafficking in the Northern District are **at-risk industries** (which include the prevalence of business types and industries where victims of labor and/or sex trafficking are often exploited), followed closely by **youth vulnerabilities** (which include prevalence of at-risk youth, including chronically absent, homeless, disconnected, runaway, and/or justice-involved youth; children in and aging out of foster care; child victims of crimes; unaccompanied minors; and minors with disabilities). Decreasing the prevalence of these vulnerabilities and supporting those experiencing them will have a direct, immediate, and positive impact on preventing human trafficking.
- As trainings increase, identifications will follow. The Northern District will need to prioritize catalyzing **multi-sector engagement** to increase available resources for both current efforts and future needs.

NORTHERN DISTRICT

OVERALL RESPONSE

Of the **120 organizations** that reported efforts to address human trafficking in the Middle District of Alabama...

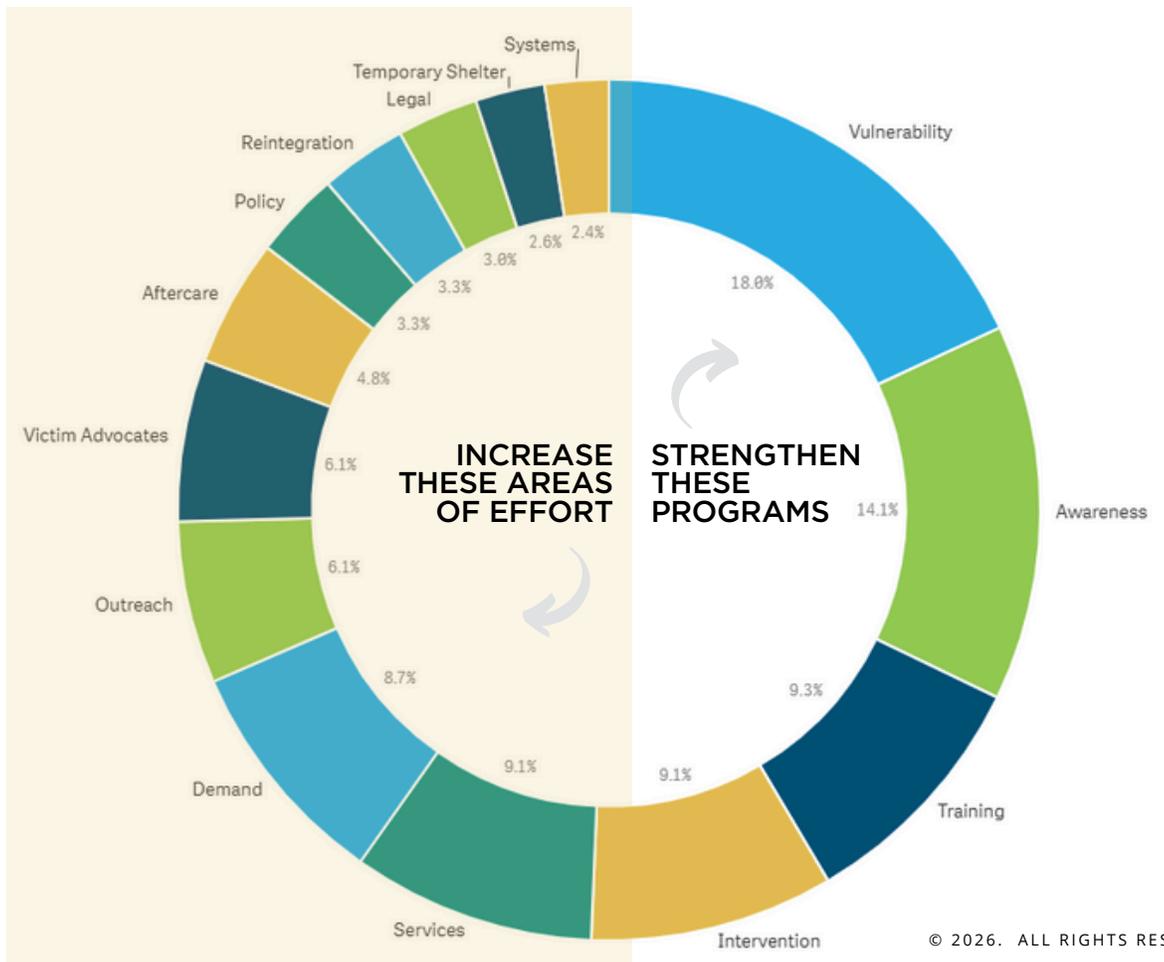**98%** are working to address **sex trafficking**

69% are working to address **labor trafficking**

Children (0-12)	111
Youth (13-17)	113
Adults (18+)	103

county 🔍	% Active Orgs	Service Organizations ▼
Totals	**100%**	**120**
Lee,AL,USA	61%	73
Autauga,AL,USA	60%	72
Elmore,AL,USA	60%	72
Montgomery,AL,USA	60%	72
Houston,AL,USA	59%	71
Butler,AL,USA	58%	70
Chilton,AL,USA	57%	69
Dale,AL,USA	57%	69
Barbour,AL,USA	57%	68
Crenshaw,AL,USA	57%	68

Nonprofits carry 37% of the effort, followed by government (31%) and professional associations (8%). All other sector engagement ranges from 0-4%.

The **programmatic breakdown** of efforts to address human trafficking across the 23 counties of the Middle District is as follows:

INCREASE THESE AREAS OF EFFORT

STRENGTHEN THESE PROGRAMS

Vulnerability 18.0%
Awareness 14.1%
Training 9.3%
Intervention 9.1%
Services 9.1%
Demand 8.7%
Outreach 6.1%
Victim Advocates 6.1%
Aftercare 4.8%
Policy 3.3%
Reintegration 3.3%
Legal 3.0%
Temporary Shelter 2.6%
Systems 2.4%

OVERALL RISK ASSESSMENT

5 of the counties in the Middle District have a greater than 85% overall **Vulnerable Population Index score** (which indicates extreme risk for the presence of human trafficking):
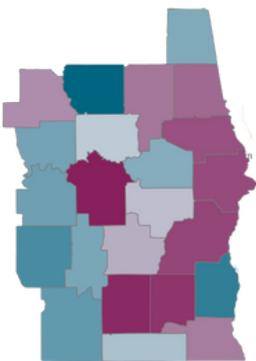
- **Houston 100%**
- **Dale 99%**
- **Montgomery 94%**
- **Lee 93%**
- **Barbour 87%**

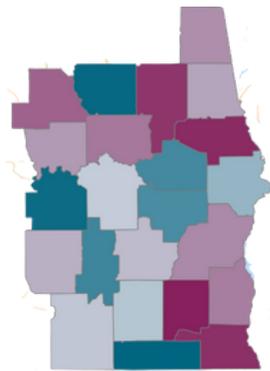*Please review the County-Level Reports for more details at this link.*
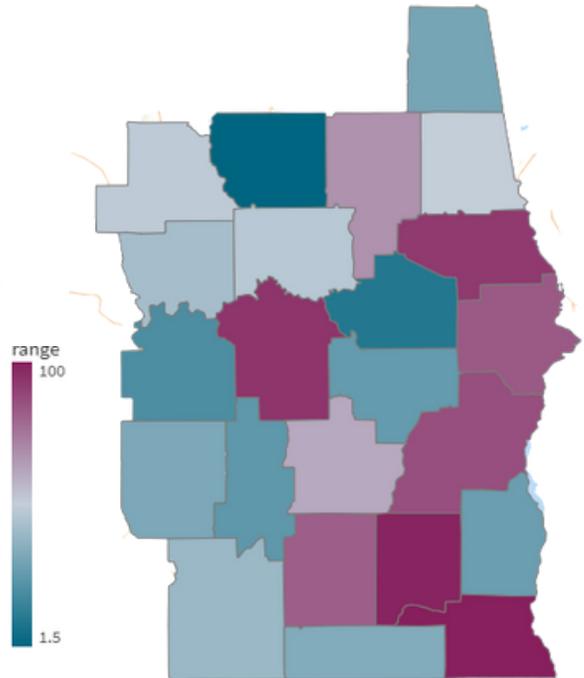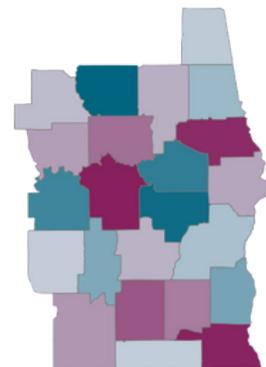

range
100

1.5

BY TYPE OF VULNERABILITY

DEMOGRAPHIC

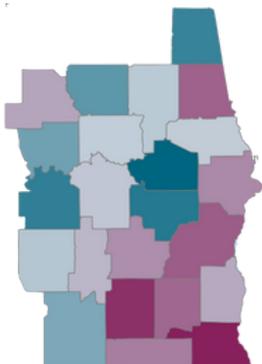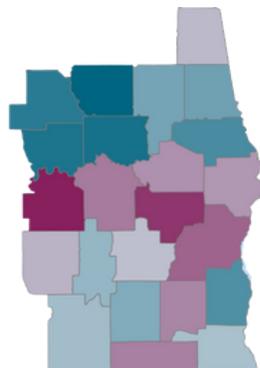

LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

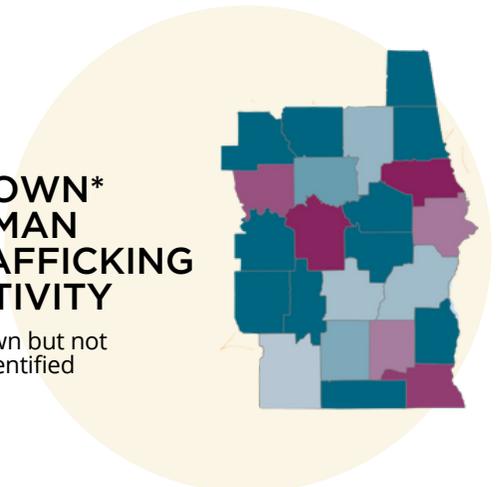**AT-RISK INDUSTRIES**

YOUTH

SOCIO-ECONOMIC

KNOWN* HUMAN TRAFFICKING ACTIVITY

*Known but not yet identified

SUMMARY

The Middle District of Alabama is at extreme risk of human trafficking. Current anti-trafficking efforts are highly concentrated in addressing vulnerability, raising awareness, training, and intervention. Nonprofits and government agencies are carrying the majority of the weight. Services are primarily supporting youth female victims of sex trafficking.

TOP 5 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Increase **demand reduction** efforts that target both buyers and traffickers, as data indicates high demand for sex trafficking in the Middle District.
- Provide **training** that moves beyond awareness to all frontline professionals in all counties on both labor and sex trafficking.
- **Educate vulnerable populations**, particularly foreign-born non-citizens, limited English proficiency, and migrant workers with the knowledge they need to stay safe or self-report.
- Ensure local **availability and accessibility** of services and support for all survivors, including especially legal services, temporary shelters, victim advocate programs, aftercare and reintegrative pathways.
- Increase **multi-sector engagement** of businesses, churches, civic clubs, professional associations, healthcare, and educators to meet needs and fill gaps for at-risk populations and survivors.
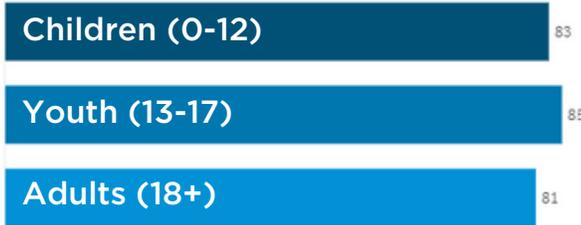
OF NOTE

- The Middle District has the **highest concentration of at-risk counties** for human trafficking in the state of Alabama, including the top two highest counties in Alabama, **Houston (100%) and Dale (99%)**.
- Several counties in the Middle District **lack the data** needed to fully assess risk to human trafficking, which may be a result of underreporting and/or the need to increase the capacity of local agencies to collect data.
- The greatest risk factors for human trafficking in the Middle District are **demographic vulnerabilities** (which include population density and prevalence of identified risk factors within that population, e.g. foreign-born and not a citizen, single-parent households, and individuals with disabilities) and **local environment vulnerabilities** (which include prevalence of crimes that are often correlated with or can escalate to trafficking, e.g. domestic violence, sexual assault, weapons or drug offenses). Decreasing the prevalence of these vulnerabilities and supporting those experiencing them will have a direct, immediate, and positive impact on preventing human trafficking.

MIDDLE DISTRICT

OVERALL RESPONSE

Of the **93 organizations** that reported efforts to address human trafficking in the Middle District of Alabama...

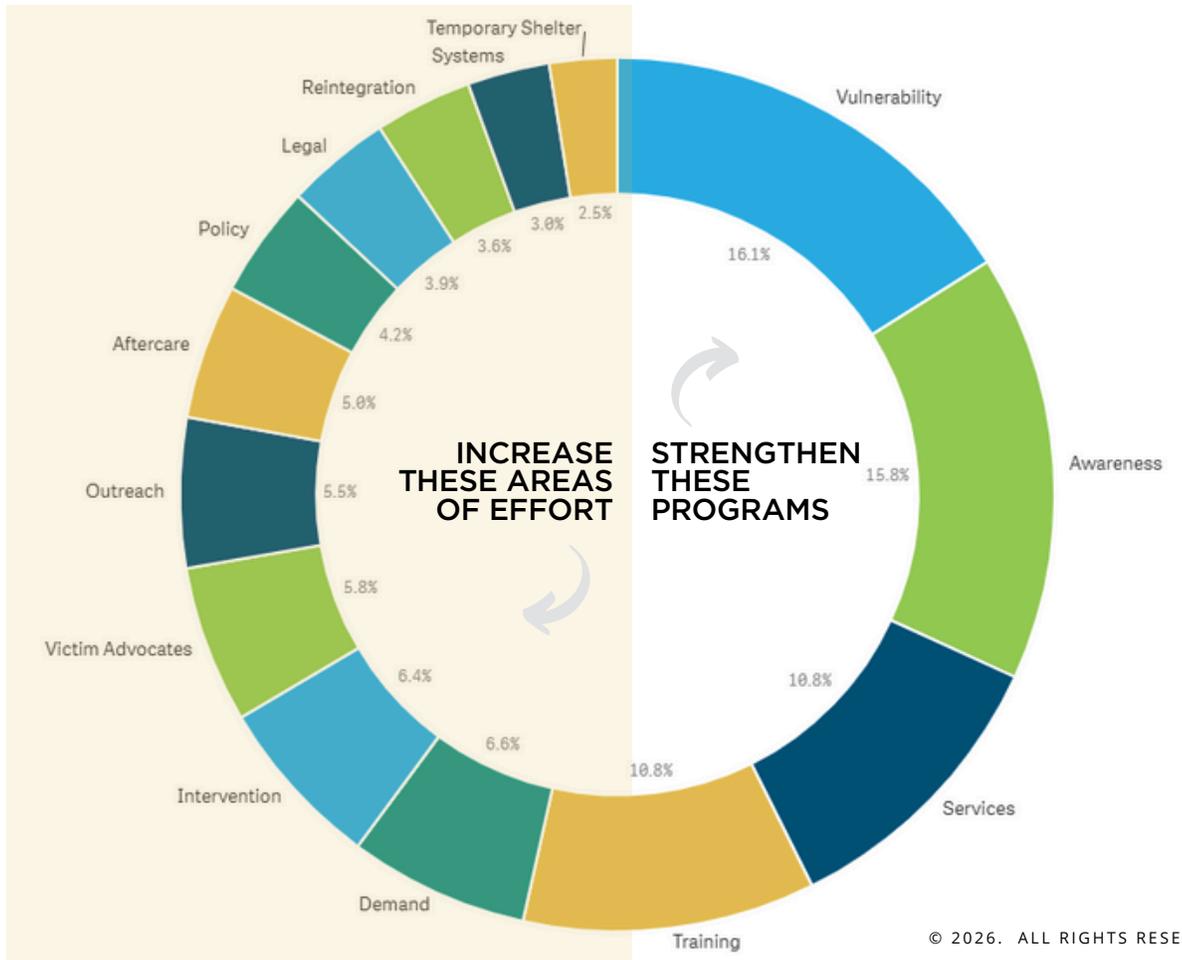**99%** are working to address **sex trafficking**

62% are working to address **labor trafficking**

Children (0-12)	83
Youth (13-17)	85
Adults (18+)	81

county 🔍	% Active Orgs	Service Organizations
Totals	**100%**	**93**
Mobile,AL,USA	78%	73
Baldwin,AL,USA	77%	72
Escambia,AL,USA	73%	68
Monroe,AL,USA	72%	67
Conecuh,AL,USA	71%	66
Dallas,AL,USA	71%	66
Marengo,AL,USA	71%	66
Washington,AL,USA	71%	66
Wilcox,AL,USA	71%	66
Clarke,AL,USA	70%	65

Nonprofits carry 39% of the effort, followed by government (23%) and professional associations (11%). All other sector engagement ranges from 0-4%.

The **programmatic breakdown** of efforts to address human trafficking across the 13 counties of the Southern District is as follows:

Temporary Shelter Systems 2.5%
Reintegration 3.0%
Legal 3.6%
Policy 3.9%
Aftercare 4.2%
Outreach 5.0%
Victim Advocates 5.5%
Intervention 5.8%
Demand 6.4%
Training 6.6%

Vulnerability 16.1%
Awareness 15.8%
Services 10.8%
10.8%

INCREASE THESE AREAS OF EFFORT

STRENGTHEN THESE PROGRAMS

OVERALL RISK ASSESSMENT

1 of the counties in the Middle District has a greater than 85% overall **Vulnerable Population Index score** (which indicates extreme risk for the presence of human trafficking):
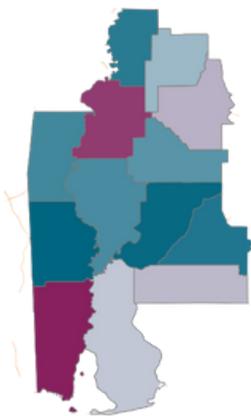
- **Mobile 96%**

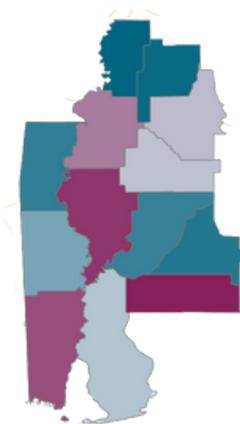*Please review the County-Level Reports for more details at this link.*
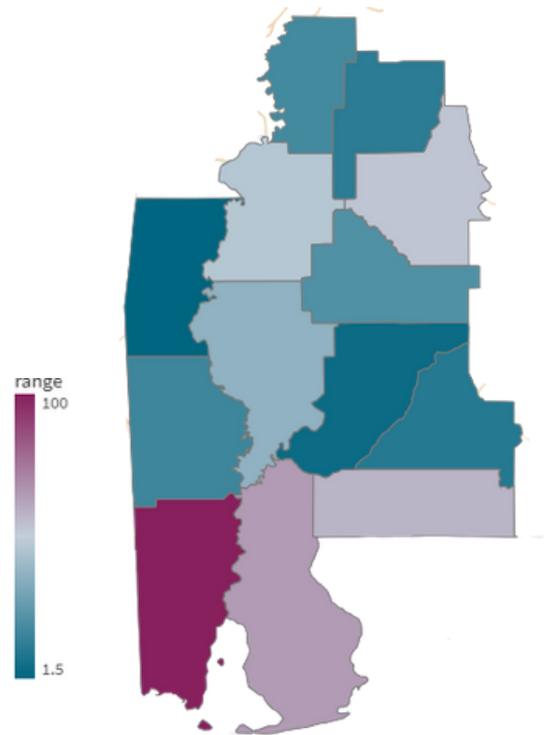
range
100

1.5

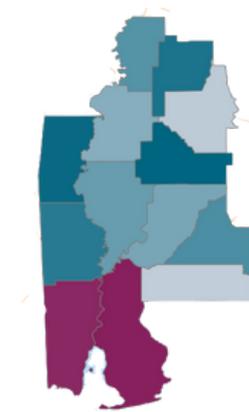## BY TYPE OF VULNERABILITY

DEMOGRAPHIC

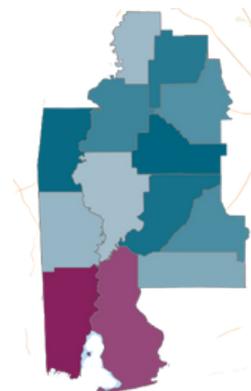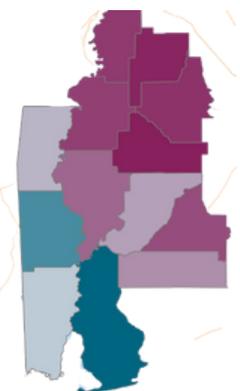
LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

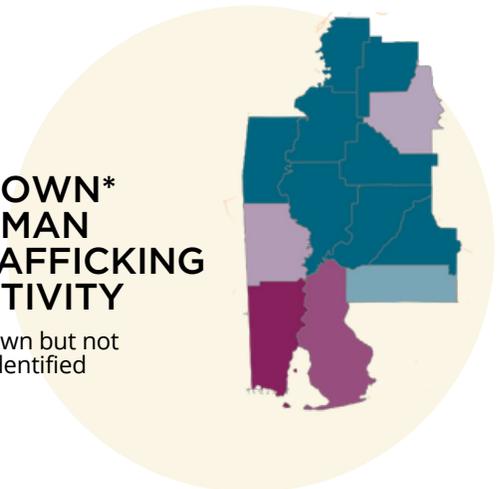**AT-RISK INDUSTRIES**

YOUTH

SOCIO-ECONOMIC

KNOWN* HUMAN TRAFFICKING ACTIVITY

*Known but not yet identified

SUMMARY

The Southern District of Alabama is at **high risk of human trafficking**. Current anti-trafficking efforts are highly concentrated in addressing vulnerabilities, raising awareness, providing immediately accessible services, and training. Nonprofits are carrying the majority of the weight, and services are primarily supporting youth female victims of sex trafficking.

TOP 5 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Increase efforts to identify **labor and sex trafficking**, including familial trafficking in the region by proactively educating at-risk populations and training frontline professionals, especially healthcare.
- Engage the **Alabama Tourism Department** in high tourist areas to prevent and identify human trafficking with strategies that include human trafficking signage in targeted locations, training of hospitality, rest areas, public transit, and related sectors, and collaboration with Florida's adjacent counties.
- Increase the capacity of local agencies to **collect data**, as many counties lack data in key areas needed to assess risk and response.
- **Traffickers exploit socio-economic vulnerabilities** by luring victims first with promises of work, shelter, food, and support. Mobilizing multi-sector community to meet the basic needs of vulnerable youth and families will directly impact prevention from exploitation.
- Increase the availability and accessibility of **victim advocates, temporary shelters, aftercare** and **reintegrative** supports for all survivors.

OF NOTE

- **Mobile County** in the Southern District is the third highest risk county for human trafficking in the state of Alabama.
- Mobile and Baldwin counties in Alabama are directly next to Escambia County, Florida, which is the highest risk county in Florida for presence of human trafficking. It will be critical to engage in **multi-state collaborations with Florida** to address risk and response spanning across these counties.
- The greatest risk factors for human trafficking in the Southern District are **socio-economic vulnerabilities** (which include the prevalence of individuals experiencing financial, housing, food, or job insecurities) and **local environment vulnerabilities** (which include prevalence of crimes that are often correlated with or can escalate to trafficking, e.g. domestic violence, sexual assault, weapons or drug offenses). Decreasing the prevalence of these vulnerabilities and supporting those experiencing them will have a direct, immediate, and positive impact on preventing human trafficking.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

ENGAGE TOGETHER®

Engage Together® Project exists to strengthen community response to end and prevent human trafficking. Learn more at engagetogether.com.

For more details on the Alabama project, its partners, and to access and download all reports and directories, go to engagetogether.com/alabama.