



HUMAN TRAFFICKING OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Outreach, Survey, Data Review, and Recommendations

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This Memorandum of Understanding between the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities and the Idaho Anti-Trafficking Coalition.

The Idaho Anti-Trafficking Coalition (IATC) will review its agency data to identify victims of crimes who have identified as having a disability. Where possible, the IATC will provide a summary of the identified types of disabilities impacted.

The IATC will conduct outreach and survey statewide criminal justice programs, probation and parole, independent living centers, and the parent training and information center. The purpose of surveying these specific agencies is to collect data where individuals who identify as a victim of crimes, have identified as having a disability, and to learn of agency assessments that may collect this data. Specific attention will be paid to this data collection for those individuals who are victims of crime who have identified as having a disability that also intersects with race, immigrant status, non-English speaking, and limited English proficiency.

A final report will be due on January 5, 2023, to include:

1. The results of findings will include:
 - a. the prevalence of victims of crimes who identify as having a disability.
 - b. the prevalence of victims of crimes who identify as having a disability and also intersects with race, immigrant status, non-English speaking, and limited English proficiency.
 - c. the prevalence of victims of crimes by type of disability.
 - d. narrative findings including informative quotes from agency personnel.
2. The IATC will provide recommendations for making a systemic change that requires victim assistance programs to collect data regarding disability.
3. The IATC will provide recommendations based on findings for educating the disability community about this topic.
4. The IATC will provide this report in English using plain language guidelines in a word format.
5. The IATC will provide an Executive Summary using plain language and infographics of the findings and recommendations of their study.

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ANTI-TRAFFICKING COALITION



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Purpose:

The Idaho Anti-Trafficking Coalition (IATC) surveyed a sampling of 70 statewide disability agencies, victim assistance providers, and 10 local, county, and state/government agencies throughout Idaho to understand how they serve individuals with disabilities who are victims of a crime, specifically human trafficking. The IATC used a brief survey to identify which programs offered a structured intake process and/or assessment tool for proper identification. In addition, the IATC researched the structure, policies and procedures, qualifications for services, assessment tools, program data collection, outcomes, and grievances of a variety of statewide residential programs. The discoveries can be used to inform best practices for responding to victims with disabilities and increasing access to services for them. This is not an exhaustive list of agencies and programs in Idaho; however, the discoveries were invaluable.

Survey and Research Summary:

People with disabilities are not inherently more vulnerable to human trafficking, but rather that traffickers exploit their vulnerability. People with disabilities are more likely to be targeted by perpetrators due to their perceived vulnerability. Individuals may lack access to appropriate resources and are more likely to be victimized due to their lack of access to services that could help them report and seek justice for the crime. ¹ People with disabilities and other classifications may be more likely to be victims of crime due to social stigma and discrimination, which can lead to a lack of understanding of their rights and a lack of access to justice. ²

IATC pays specific attention to data collection on individuals who are victims of crimes, have disabilities, and are discriminated against or otherwise marginalized. Victims of human trafficking who have disabilities and other classifications can face unique barriers that can prevent them from accessing the support and services they need. These include language and communication barriers, cultural misunderstandings, and a lack of familiarity with the legal and social systems in the country they are in. ³ Additionally, victims with disabilities are more likely to experience further trauma and exploitation, as they may be particularly vulnerable to coercion and abuse. Collecting data on individuals who have disabilities that intersect with other classifications is essential in order to provide them with the appropriate specialized care and services and will help to ensure that their unique experiences and needs are heard and addressed. ⁴ Ultimately, IATC hopes to use this report summary to inform policymakers and service providers in their efforts to better support and protect those who are most vulnerable.

Statewide Data Collection and Record Keeping:

¹ Source: National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence. (2020). People with Disabilities and Domestic and Sexual Violence. Retrieved from

https://www.ncdsv.org/images/People_with_Disabilities_and_Domestic_and_Sexual_Violence.pdf

² Source: "Crime and Disability," The Arc, <https://www.thearc.org/what-we-do/criminal-justice/crime-and-disability>.

³ Source: "Human Trafficking and People with Disabilities." National Center on Disability and Journalism, University of Arizona, ncdj.org/stories/human-trafficking-and-people-with-disabilities/.

⁴ Source: "Intersectionality and Disability: Understanding the Intersection of Multiple Identities and Oppressions." Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund, www.dredf.org/intersectionality-and-disability/.

The Idaho Anti-Trafficking Coalition (IATC) continues to review and analyze its own agency data to identify victims of crimes who have self-identified as having a disability. IATC furthers its review through outreach, sample surveys, statewide reporting and data review of various programs and agencies throughout Idaho that serve individuals with disabilities who are victims of crimes, specifically human trafficking. Additionally, IATC analyzes individual cases internally in order to identify systemic gaps and barriers to appropriate services and supports, identify needs, and promote safe policy practices across all systems.

Through this research project, we discovered a lack of identification, systemwide assessment tools, reporting and monitoring, and data collection throughout Idaho, making it difficult to determine the true scope of the problem in Idaho. This is due to a number of factors, including the fact that throughout the state disability programs surveyed do not include identifying victims of crimes, specifically human trafficking. Direct victim assistance programs report on “self-identified” as a person with a disability, and the disability category includes all disabilities, which are not broken down by disability.

Assessment and Intake Process:

Idaho does not have a statewide assessment tool or intake process for local, state, and government agencies and programs that provide services and support for people with disabilities or victims of human trafficking. This lack of a centralized system means that victims of human trafficking with disabilities must rely on a patchwork of services and resources, as each agency may have different requirements and processes for providing support. Additionally, many agencies may not be adequately equipped or trained to provide service to people with disabilities, leaving them without access to the resources they need. This lack of a unified system can leave victims of human trafficking with disabilities vulnerable to further exploitation and unable to access the help and support they need. Without a state-structured data tool and program monitoring, it can be difficult to create effective policies and protocols to address the issue and provide appropriate services to victims. Without an assessment tool or formal intake process to properly identify individuals can lead to an inability to accurately measure the scope of the problem and allocate resources accordingly. Finally, it is impossible to track progress and measure the effectiveness of interventions and outcomes for individuals. The lack of data collection can result in a lack of awareness and public understanding of the issue, undermining efforts to end the human trafficking of individuals with disabilities.

Program Oversight and Accountability:

Statewide program oversight and accountability are essential when serving victims of human trafficking who have disabilities in Idaho because it ensures that victims are provided with the necessary services and resources to help them heal and rebuild their lives. It also provides a platform for agencies and organizations to coordinate their efforts through a safe continuum of care. Additionally, it ensures that victims receive appropriate and consistent care and that service providers are held accountable, ensuring that victims with a disability have the highest quality of care and that their rights are protected.

People with disabilities may face barriers while navigating a variety of systems, and some may have difficulty communicating with service providers and may not be properly identified when encountered

by law enforcement or social services.⁵ People with disabilities may not be aware of their rights or may not be able to access services due to stigma, language barriers, and geographic isolation. Many victims are not aware that they are a victim of human trafficking, especially if the controller is a family member or legal guardian. Victims of human trafficking may not be willing to disclose their disability for fear of further exploitation or discrimination. Without targeted data, it is impossible to accurately assess the prevalence of people with disabilities who are victims of human trafficking.

People with disabilities whom a controller exploits are often taken advantage of because of their disabilities. The controller may use the disability as a way to manipulate or control the person by exploiting their inability to make decisions, their dependence on the controller, or their lack of access to resources. The controller may also use the disability to create an unequal power dynamic or to exert control over the person's life. This can include physical, emotional, or financial abuse. Furthermore, the controller may also take advantage of the person's disability in order to access their money or possessions or to use them as a source of labor.

Stigma and Discrimination:

Stigma and discrimination can put victims of human trafficking with disabilities, as well as those intersecting with race, immigrant status, LGBTQ, non-English speaking, and English as a second language, at higher risk in a variety of ways.⁶ This can lead to being targeted for forced labor or sexual exploitation, given lower wages, and subjected to inhumane working or living conditions. People with disabilities may be subjected to abuse and exploitation due to their perceived vulnerability or may not even know that society condemns this type of abuse. Additionally, victims of crimes with disabilities may encounter law enforcement or other officials who are untrained, resulting in a lack of proper identification, accommodations, and victim rights.⁷ Individuals may also face additional challenges in terms of accessing justice, seeking medical and psychological care, and receiving appropriate legal protection. This can make them even more vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

Stigma and discrimination can have a devastating effect on victims of human trafficking who have a disability, and those who are otherwise marginalized. Stigma and discrimination can lead to feelings of isolation, shame, and fear, making it difficult for victims to seek help. Victims may be afraid to disclose their identity or experiences due to fear of further discrimination or even violence. This can lead to a lack of access to resources and support, making it even more difficult for victims to escape their situation and rebuild their lives. Additionally, stigma and discrimination can lead to a lack of understanding and acceptance from society, making it difficult for victims to reintegrate into their communities.

Survey Questions and Responses:

The IATC did a sampling survey interviewing 70 agencies throughout Idaho that provide services for people with disabilities or direct victim assistance.

⁵ Source: "People with Disabilities and System Navigation: Challenges and Opportunities," National Council on Disability, October 2017, <https://ncd.gov/publications/2017/people-disabilities-system-navigation>.

⁶Source: "Stigma and Discrimination: The Impact on Victims of Human Trafficking." Polaris, www.polarisproject.org/human-trafficking/stigma-and-discrimination/.

⁷ Source: "Victims with Disabilities: Understanding Their Needs and Accommodations." National Center for Victims of Crime, www.victimsofcrime.org/help-for-crime-victims/get-help-bulletins-for-crime-victims/

1. 35 victim assistance programs were asked if they report individuals with a disability during their intake process; 25 organizations answered that they do not report individuals with a disability during their intake process, while 10 organizations answered yes.
2. 35 disability agencies were asked if they report victims of human trafficking; 26 said they do not ask individuals during their intake process if they are a victim of human trafficking, 1 reported that they do, and 8 either did not know or declined to answer.
3. A simple random sample of 10 mental health agencies, crisis centers, juvenile detention centers, probation and parole, and residential care facilities were asked if they report victims of human trafficking and individuals with disabilities. Three mental health agencies said they do report individuals with disabilities, but do not report victims of human trafficking. Two crisis centers reported that they do not collect data on people with disabilities or victims of human trafficking. Two detention centers said they collect data on disabilities and victims of human trafficking. One probation and parole agency reported that they collect data on disability and human trafficking. Two residential care facilities were surveyed; one said they report on disability and human trafficking, while the other facility said that, while they do collect data on disability, they do not collect data on human trafficking.

Disability Service and Support agencies and Direct Victim Assistance and Service Providers:

Victims of crimes organizations that are funded by the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) are organizations that provide direct services to victims of crime. These organizations typically provide physical, emotional, and financial support to victims of crime. They may also provide specialty services, such as shelter and housing assistance, and legal assistance. Organizations that are funded with VOCA funds are required to report back to the Idaho Council of Domestic Violence and Victim Assistance (ICDVVA) which houses the state funding. There are 26 victimization subsets in which an individual can self-report their victimization(s), including Sex trafficking and labor trafficking. Individuals can voluntarily identify themselves as belonging to one or more of these special populations. This can help organizations better understand the needs of these populations and provide targeted services and support.

In addition, individuals may self-report a special classification of populations, i.e. homeless, LGBTQ+, English as a second language, and an individual with a disability; cognitive, mental, and physical. ⁸

Victim assistance providers generally do not collect or report data about the disability status of their clients, as this information may not be viewed as necessary to the primary focus of their mission, providing direct services to victims of crimes. ⁹ Additionally, organizations may inquire about a victim's disability status if it is relevant to their services. In such cases, the organization may ask the individuals if they have a disability in order to ensure access to additional resources. However, not all victim assistance providers receive funding through state VOCA funds and may choose not to collect data and report multiple victimization, disabilities, or other classifications.

⁸ Source: "Victim Services: Special Populations." National Criminal Justice Reference Service, https://www.ncjrs.gov/ovc_archives/victim_services/specialpopulations.html.

⁹ Source: National Center for Victims of Crime. (n.d.). Disability and Victimization. Retrieved from <https://victimsofcrime.org/help-for-crime-victims/get-help-bulletins-for-crime-victims/disability-and>

Developmental disability agencies focus on providing services and support to individuals with disabilities, such as home care, nursing aid services, disability advocacy, and accessing other community resources. Collecting data on victimization does not seem to be on their radar because it is not part of the standard intake process and most agencies didn't find the information necessary for their scope of work. As Some agencies felt that the information may be helpful to have, but weren't sure what they would do with that information. Most agencies reported that the information would not change the way they provide services and support. Many disability service agencies reported they do not have the training or infrastructure to provide the necessary support and resources.

Research into the prevalence of human trafficking among individuals with disabilities is limited due to the lack of national or international studies that collect such data. However, there are reports that suggest that having a disability increases the risk of criminal victimization. For instance, the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, found that the rate of violent victimization against people with disabilities is more than double the rate of those without disabilities.¹⁰

Analysis of Pilot Program with Local Crisis Centers:

The IATC partnered with two local crisis centers as part of a pilot project to help identify gaps in proper identification, coordinated care, and appropriate services for victims of human trafficking, including those with disabilities and/or special classifications, by providing an assessment of the needs of each individual. This pilot project included a memorandum of understanding, and the IATC would provide training for staff/personnel, direct collaborative support, and offer case management to individuals identified. The crisis centers agreed to include a pilot assessment tool based on indicators and questions, an evaluation of the victims' physical and mental health, as well as their social and economic needs, and a safe referral process to IATC case management.

Additionally, the assessment included an analysis of the victims' access to resources and services available to victims of human trafficking with a disability, such as access to appropriate medical care, legal services, and housing. The IATC plans to develop strategies to address these gaps, such as providing additional resources and services to victims of human trafficking with a disability and coordinating care between different service providers throughout the state.

Finally, the pilot project of the two crisis centers has proven beneficial to IATC in analyzing and identifying the systemic improvements necessary for proper identification, coordination of community resources and referrals, and specialized protocols that ensure safe access to services, autonomy, privacy, and support.

Informative Agency Quotes:

Disability agencies reported not collecting specific data regarding victimization, such as human trafficking, and some agencies that provide services across all disabilities and victimization, such as Idaho Legal Aid, collect self-reported data. When asked if their organization/agency collected data on disability and victims of crimes, specifically human trafficking, their response was, "Yes, but we do not ask for the specific type of disability, and information regarding human trafficking is available to indicate as either a primary or secondary victimization type for domestic violence, stalking, sexual

¹⁰ Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. (n.d.). Disability and Victimization. Retrieved from <https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=6372>

assault, and/or crime victims." Another agency that serves people with disabilities and victims of crimes answered, "If we had this information, we might concentrate our efforts to establish support and education in more specific areas, but as it is, our strategy is to let our community affiliates guide us in what kinds of resources are needed to support their communities."

Other Considerations:

Idaho offers a variety of residential programs to help children, youth, and adults in need of extra support. Some child and youth residential programs offered include therapeutic/ residential care, wilderness therapy, residential treatment, and treatment facilities. Adult programs include residential or nursing care, treatment, transitional housing, and sober living. Programs may provide individual and group therapies, family counseling, treatment, nursing care, recreational activities, educational opportunities, individualized care plans, and holistic therapies.

IATC discovered a lack of residential program transparency in various programs' policies, procedures, and guidelines, reporting quality assurance and outcomes, and resident bill of rights due to the lack of standardized care. ¹¹ This lack of transparency means that the programs are not held accountable for their practices and policies. For example, the lack of oversight can lead to misdiagnoses, nonaccredited therapies, denial of accommodations/modifications, unmanaged medication management, medication and physical restraint, neglect, and exploitation. ¹² Other discoveries were staff shortages, lack of staff training and qualifications, and lack of safety and proper care monitoring. ¹³

Conclusion:

Upon evaluation, the IATC recommends developing a technical working group from a wide array of organizations to coordinate a response that promotes the well-being and safety of victims of crimes with disabilities and to establish core standards and guidance, a centralized monitoring system for quality service delivery, and a comprehensive data collection and reporting system to track incidents of abuse, neglect, and exploitation in state program settings.

Additionally, IATC recommends an operational, unmonitored, private, abuse and complaints hotline, for all state residential and treatment programs, available for use 24 hours a day in order for children, youth, and adults to contact the authorities if necessary.

Finally, IATC recommends implementing a Child and Youth Ombudsman program in Idaho. Ombudsman programs play an important role, as they provide a safe and confidential way for children and youth in out-of-home programs can receive assistance in resolving problems, help to identify systemic issues, and advocate for policy changes that can improve the system. Ombudsman programs are also beneficial to the community, as they can help to ensure that children and youth are receiving the best possible care and services. ¹⁴

¹¹ Source: "Residential Programs in Idaho: A Call for Quality Assurance and Transparency." Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities, 2019, www.icdd.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Residential-Programs-in-Idaho

¹² K.L. Smith, "The Need for Transparency in Residential Treatment Programs for Children and Youth," *Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing*, vol. 33, no. 4, 2020, pp. 181-186.

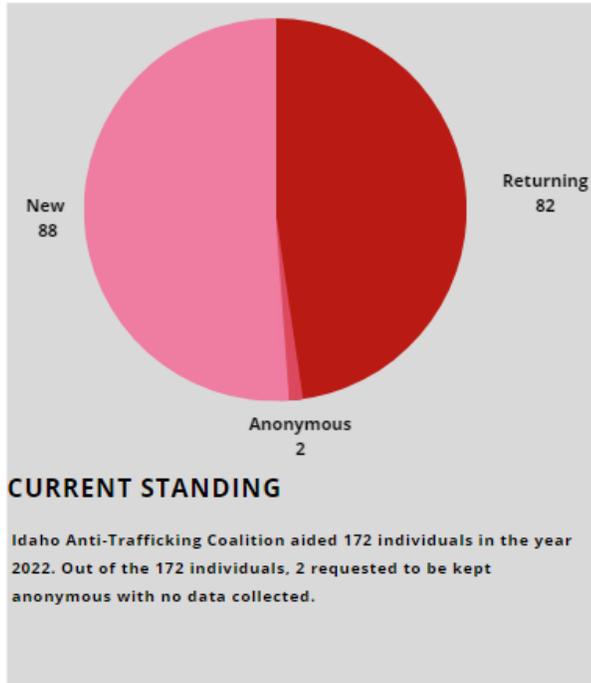
¹³ Source: "Idaho Direct Care Shortage: Staffing, Training, and Safety Challenges." Idaho Health Care Association, www.idhca.org/idaho-direct-care-shortage-staffing-training-and-safety-challenges/.

¹⁴ Source: "What is an Ombudsman Program?" National Association of State Ombudsman Programs, <https://www.nasop.org/what-is-an-ombudsman-program/>.

Our Statistics; January 1, 2022- December 31, 2022

TOTAL PERSONS SERVED- 172

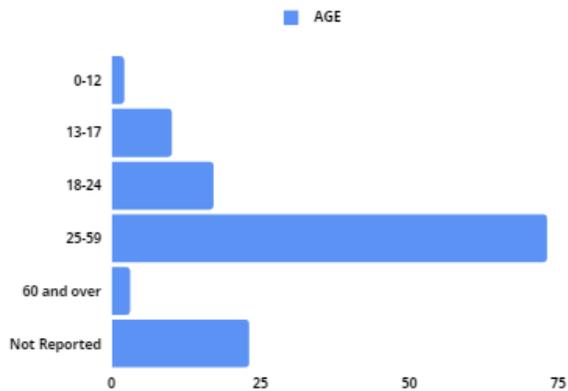
VICTIM DEMOGRAPHICS



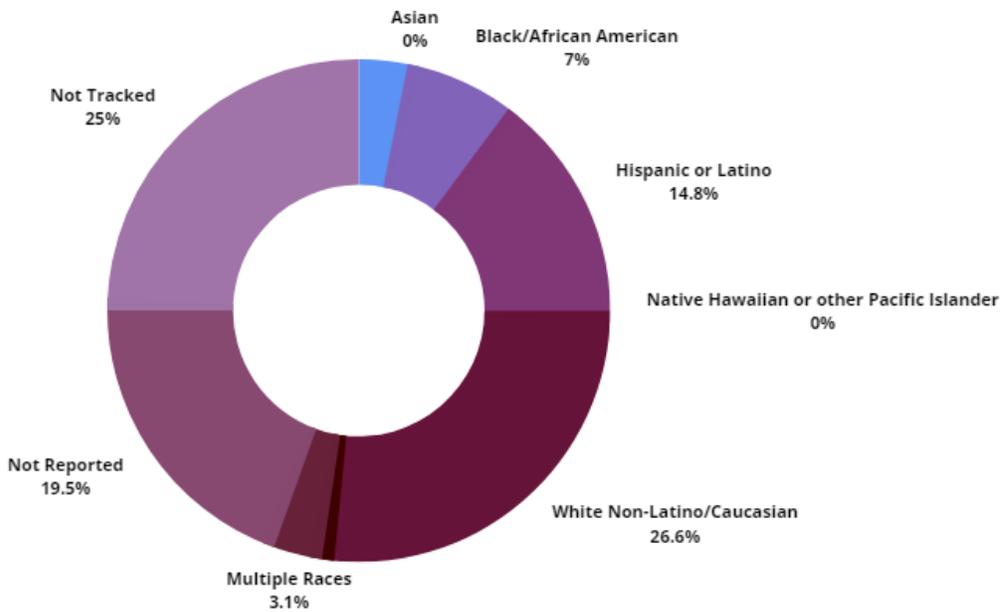
GENDER IDENTITY OF NEW CLIENTS SERVED

MALE-27
FEMALE-85
OTHER-7
NOT REPORTED-7

66%
FEMALE



RACE & ETHNICITY OF NEW CLIENTS



TYPES OF VICTIMIZATIONS:

On a national level, it is understood that self-identifying as a victim of sex trafficking is extremely low. From our data, 98 individuals self-identified as a victim of sex trafficking

ADULT PHYSICAL ASSAULT: 53
ADULT SEXUAL ASSAULT: 63
ADULTS SEXUALLY ABUSED/ASSAULTED AS CHILDREN: 34
ARSON: 2
BULLYING (VERBAL, CYBER, OR PHYSICAL): 79
BURGLARY: 11
CHILD PHYSICAL ABUSE OR NEGLECT: 54
CHILD PORNOGRAPHY: 17
CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE/ASSAULT: 48
DOMESTIC AND/OR FAMILY VIOLENCE: 117
DUI/DWI INCIDENTS: 9
ELDER ABUSE OR NEGLECT: 2
HATE CRIME: 12
HUMAN TRAFFICKING LABOR: 33
HUMAN TRAFFICKING SEX: 98
IDENTITY THEFT/FRAUD/FINANCIAL CRIME: 32
KIDNAPPING (NON-CUSTODIAL): 41
KIDNAPPING (CUSTODIAL): 2
MASS VIOLENCE: 5
OTHER VEHICLE VICTIMIZATION: 0
ROBBERY: 23
STALKING/HARASSMENT: 94
SURVIVORS OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS: 8
TEEN DATING VICTIMIZATION: 34
TERRORISM: 8
VIOLATION OF A COURT (PROTECTIVE) ORDER (OTHER): 13
NOT REPORTED: 8

98

SELF-IDENTIFIED AS VICTIMS OF SEX TRAFFICKING

TOP THREE

68.02% Domestic and/or Family
Violence

56.98% Sex Trafficking

54.65% Stalking/Harassment

**FROM OUR DATA, 128 INDIVIDUALS INDICATED THAT THEY WERE VICTIMS OF MULTIPLE CRIMES*

TYPES OF VICTIMIZATIONS

900

TOTAL

There are 26 subsets of crime victimization categorized by the Idaho Council on Domestic Violence and Victim Assistance. Out of 172 individuals aided, there were 900 counts of crime victimization.

SPECIAL CLASSIFICATIONS

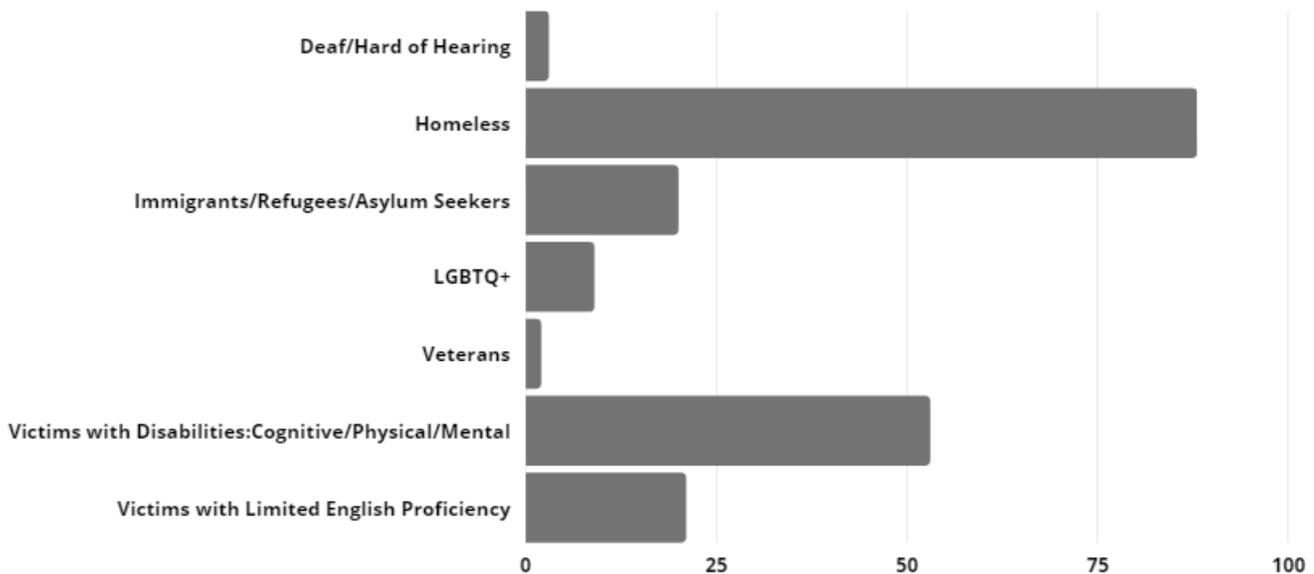
There are 8 subsets of special classifications categorized by the Idaho Council on Domestic Violence and Victim Assistance. Out of 172 individuals aided, there were 196 counts of special classifications. Traffickers often prey and target vulnerable populations. These populations carry a heightened risk of being exploited.

56
OF INDIVIDUALS
IDENTIFIED AS HAVING A DISABILITY

National Statistics show that 1 in 5 of homeless youth were identified as victims of some form of human trafficking



OVER
51%
REPORTED BEING HOMELESS



The IATC recommends that victim assistance programs and disability service programs collect data by implementing the following steps:

1. Develop and widely disseminate a standardized protocol for collecting data on disability and victimizations, specifically, human trafficking, that applies to all statewide programs.
2. Educate and train disability and victim assistance personnel on understanding and using the protocol.
3. Establish and maintain a central database that collects data on disability status from all victim assistance programs.
4. Develop and implement an evaluation process for assessing the data collection protocol's effectiveness and the data's accuracy.
5. Regularly report on the collected data and use it to inform policy and programmatic changes in disability programs and victim assistance programs.
6. Ensure that the collected data is used to inform the design and implementation of disability programs and services and victim assistance programs in order to meet the needs of victims with disabilities.

The IATC recommends educating the disability community and victim assistance providers about this topic:

1. Providing educational materials and resources to the disability community, such as fact sheets, brochures, and webinars.
2. Developing and implementing educational programs for the disability community to help them better understand the intersectionality and vulnerabilities within this topic.
3. Organizing and facilitating workshops, seminars, and other events to raise awareness about the topic.
4. Collaborating with disability organizations and agencies to create and disseminate informational materials.
5. Working with media outlets to create public service announcements and other materials to raise awareness about the topic.
6. Creating online resources and tools to provide easy access to information about the topic.
7. Engaging with the disability community to assess their needs and identify ways to improve their knowledge of the topic.
8. Develop partnerships with relevant organizations and stakeholders to increase access to information.
9. Develop a public awareness campaign to educate the community about the prevalence of human trafficking and the unique challenges faced by victims with disabilities.

Additional Recommendations:

1. Conduct a survey of current and former residential program participants in Idaho to understand their experiences of accessing and utilizing the services, and their perceptions of the program's effectiveness in addressing their needs.

2. Examine the current policies and practices of residential programs in Idaho in order to identify gaps in services and make recommendations for improvement.
4. Conduct qualitative interviews with staff at residential programs in Idaho to understand their perspectives on the needs and challenges of serving victims of human trafficking who have disabilities.
5. Evaluate the efficacy of existing trauma-specific approaches and training within youth residential programs in Idaho that are serving victims of human trafficking who have disabilities.
6. Assess the capacity of residential programs in Idaho to respond to the needs of victims of human trafficking who have disabilities and make recommendations for investment in improved services.
7. Implement an operational, unmonitored, private, abuse and complaints hotline, for all state residential and treatment programs, available for use 24 hours a day in order for children, youth, and adults to contact the authorities if necessary.
8. Implement a Child and Youth Ombudsman program in Idaho.