



# SHERIFF'S OFFICE

A TRADITION OF SERVICE SINCE 1856

## **Immigration Forum San Mateo County Human Trafficking Program**

**Welcome!**

**February 19, 2020**

San Mateo County Sheriff's Office  
Carlos G. Bolanos, Sheriff



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## **Introduction**

Pamela Estes,

Human Trafficking Advocacy Coordinator

San Mateo County



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## SMC Human Trafficking Program

- 2014: County Law Enforcement HT Protocol
- 2015: SMC Human Trafficking Program created
  - Coordinator Position Created
  - Largely funded by Measure K, a countywide, voter-approved sales tax extension for local needs
- July – Nov. 2017: Program Coordinator position empty
- October 2017: Human Trafficking Advocacy Position Created
- December 2017: John Vanek hired
- January 2018: Pamela Estes hired



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## SMC Human Trafficking Program

Human Trafficking Program Coordinator

*Lt. John Vanek, SJPD (Ret.)*

- SJPD Human Trafficking Task Force
- Consulting for Federal, State, Local, and Private
- Author, *The Essential Abolitionist: What you need to know about human trafficking & modern slavery*





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## SMC Human Trafficking Program

Human Trafficking Advocacy Coordinator

*Pamela Estes*

- Attorney
- Certified Sexual Assault Counselor
- Certified Human Trafficking Advocate
- Co-Creator of the Human Trafficking Awareness Campaign, *Before Our Very Eyes*



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## SMC Human Trafficking Program

Creation of a County-wide Collaborative, *The San Mateo County Human Trafficking Initiative (HTI)*

- Gives every stakeholder the opportunity to get involved
- Creates a network to identify victims
- Helps leverage individual efforts for the County
- Promote information sharing and collaboration
- Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 12:30-2pm, Belmont Sports Complex (usually)
- If interested in the HTI, ask to be added to the Contact List



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## Who's Involved in the Response to Human Trafficking in SMC?

Many SMC agencies and organizations - Local Law Enforcement Agencies, FBI, HSI, Freedom House, StarVista, County Office of Education, DA's Victim Services,, SF FBI Citizen's Academy, Freedom House, Bay Area Anti-Trafficking Coalition, California Massage Therapy Council, faith-based organizations, Keller Center for Family Violence at San Mateo Medical Center, HT Task Force at Dignity Health Sequoia Hospital, Rape Trauma Services (CSEC), Worldsong Aid, SOS Silicon Valley, STOP Slavery – Catholic Sisters, Human Services Agency (CSEC), Probation Dept., and more located inside and outside of the county...



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## The Crime of Human Trafficking: Human Trafficking Defined

Sex Trafficking of  
Minors -  
Commercial Sexual  
Exploitation of Children  
(CSEC)  
(No force, fraud or coercion  
required.)

Sex Trafficking of  
Adults  
(The elements of this crime require  
proof of force, fraud or coercion.)

Labor Trafficking  
(This crime includes involuntary  
servitude, peonage, debt bondage,  
etc..)  
The elements of this crime are the  
same for adults and minors.)





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## Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) 2000

- **Protection:** The TVPA increased the U.S. Government's efforts to protect trafficked foreign national victims including, but not limited to:
  - Providing assistance to victims of trafficking, many of whom were previously ineligible for government assistance; and
  - Establishing non-immigrant status for victims of trafficking if they cooperated in the investigation and prosecution of traffickers (T-Visas, as well as providing other mechanisms to ensure the continued presence of victims to assist in such investigations and prosecutions).
- **Prosecution:** The TVPA authorized the U.S. Government to strengthen efforts to prosecute traffickers including, but not limited to:
  - Creating a series of new crimes on trafficking, forced labor, and document servitude that supplemented existing limited crimes related to modern slavery and involuntary servitude; and
  - Recognizing that modern slavery takes place in the context of force, fraud, or coercion and is based on new clear definitions for both trafficking into commercial sexual exploitation and labor exploitation.
- **Prevention:** The TVPA allowed for increased prevention measures including, but not limited to:
  - Authorizing the U.S. Government to assist foreign countries with their efforts to combat trafficking, as well as address trafficking within the United States, including through research and awareness-raising; and
  - Providing foreign countries with assistance in drafting laws to prosecute trafficking, creating programs for trafficking victims, and assistance with implementing effective means of investigation.



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## Relief Specific to Immigrant Community

Certification or Eligibility Letter:

Under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is the sole Federal agency authorized to certify foreign adult and minor victims of human trafficking so that they are eligible for federal and State benefits and services to the same extent as refugees admitted to the United States. Certification and Eligibility Letters are issued by the HHS Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR).



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## Relief Specific to Immigrant Community

The following are some of the specific benefit programs for which trafficking victims with a Certification or Eligibility Letter can apply:

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Women, Infants and Children (WIC)
- Medicaid
- Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
- Refugee Medical Assistance (RMA)
- Medical Screening
- One-Stop Career Center System
- Unaccompanied Refugee Minors (URM) Program



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## Relief Specific to Immigrant Community

### Continued Presence:

- Continued Presence (CP) is a one-year form of immigration relief that Federal law enforcement officials request on behalf of a victim of a severe form of trafficking who is also a potential witness.
- Continued Presence allows the victim to remain in the United States during the course of an investigation or prosecution as well as obtain an Employment Authorization Document (EAD).
- CP is granted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.



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## Relief Specific to Immigrant Community

### T-Visa:

- The TVPA created the T visa, a nonimmigrant status that allows a foreign victim of human trafficking to remain in the United States for up to four years.
- The law also allows certain members of a T visa holder's family to apply for derivative T visa status.
- T nonimmigrant status is granted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.



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## The Crime of Human Trafficking: Myths About Human Trafficking

“Human Trafficking is  
always or usually a  
violent crime.”



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## The Crime of Human Trafficking: Myths About Human Trafficking

"Human Trafficking is always or usually a violent crime."

"Human trafficking involves moving, traveling or transporting a person across state or national borders."



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## The Crime of Human Trafficking: Myths About Human Trafficking

"Human Trafficking is always or usually a violent crime."

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"Only undocumented foreign nationals get trafficked in the United States."





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## The Crime of Human Trafficking: Myths About Human Trafficking

"Human Trafficking is always or usually a violent crime."

"Human trafficking involves moving, traveling or transporting a person across state or national borders."

"Only undocumented foreign nationals get trafficked in the United States."

"Traffickers target victims they don't know."



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# IT CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE

NO MATTER RACE, AGE OR GENDER

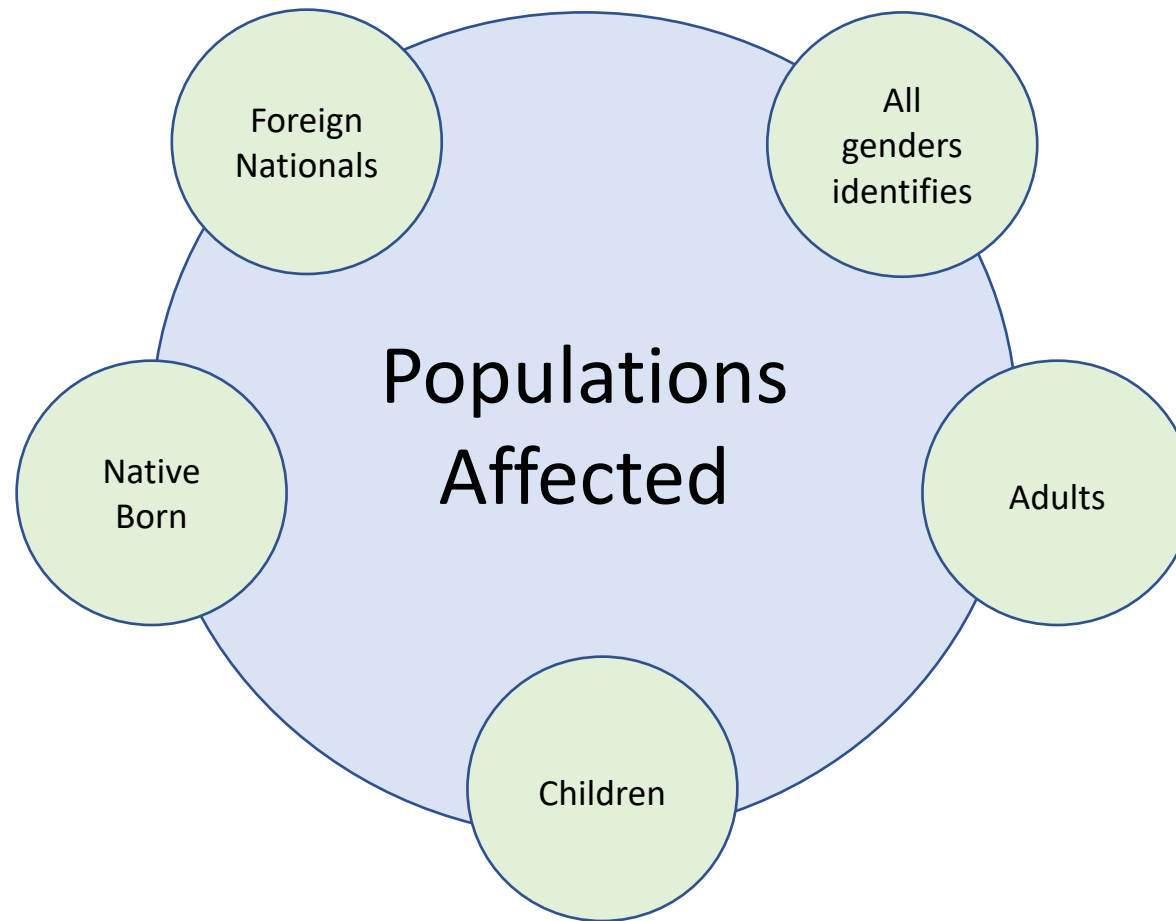




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## The Crime of Human Trafficking: Who Are Victims?

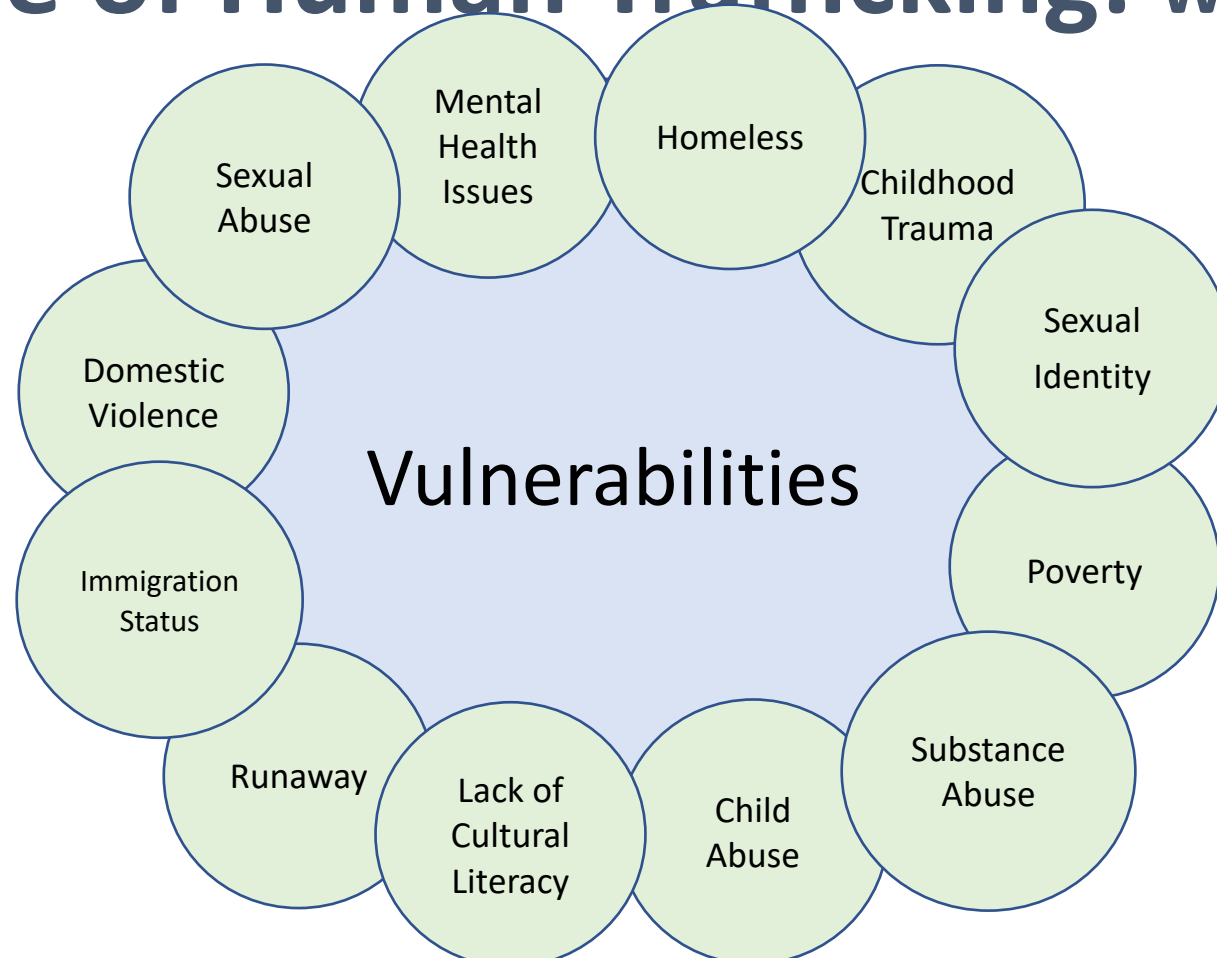




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## The Crime of Human Trafficking: Who Are Victims?





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## The Crime of Human Trafficking: Who Are Traffickers?

### Diverse

Adults, minors, foreign nationals, U.S. citizens, any gender identity

### Individuals/Networks

Small business owners, labor brokers, family members, intimate partners, gangs

### Manipulators/Exploiters

Force, threats, lies, document confiscation, psychological coercion,  
false promises, lure of love and affection

# Intersection of Human Trafficking with Industry

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ESCORT SERVICES

ILLICIT MASSAGE, HEALTH, & BEAUTY

OUTDOOR SOLICITATION

RESIDENTIAL

DOMESTIC WORK

BARS, STRIP CLUBS, & CANTINAS

PORNOGRAPHY

TRAVELING SALES CREWS

RESTAURANT & FOOD SERVICE

PEDDLING & BEGGING

AGRICULTURE & ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

PERSONAL SEXUAL SERVITUDE

HEALTH & BEAUTY SERVICES

CONSTRUCTION

HOTELS & HOSPITALITY

LANDSCAPING

ILLICIT ACTIVITIES

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

COMMERCIAL CLEANING SERVICES

FACTORIES & MANUFACTURING

REMOTE INTERACTIVE SEXUAL ACTS

CARNIVALS

FORESTRY & LOGGING

HEALTH CARE

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES



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## The Crime of Human Trafficking: Supply & Demand Model





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## National Human Trafficking

### Hotline:

1-888-373-7888

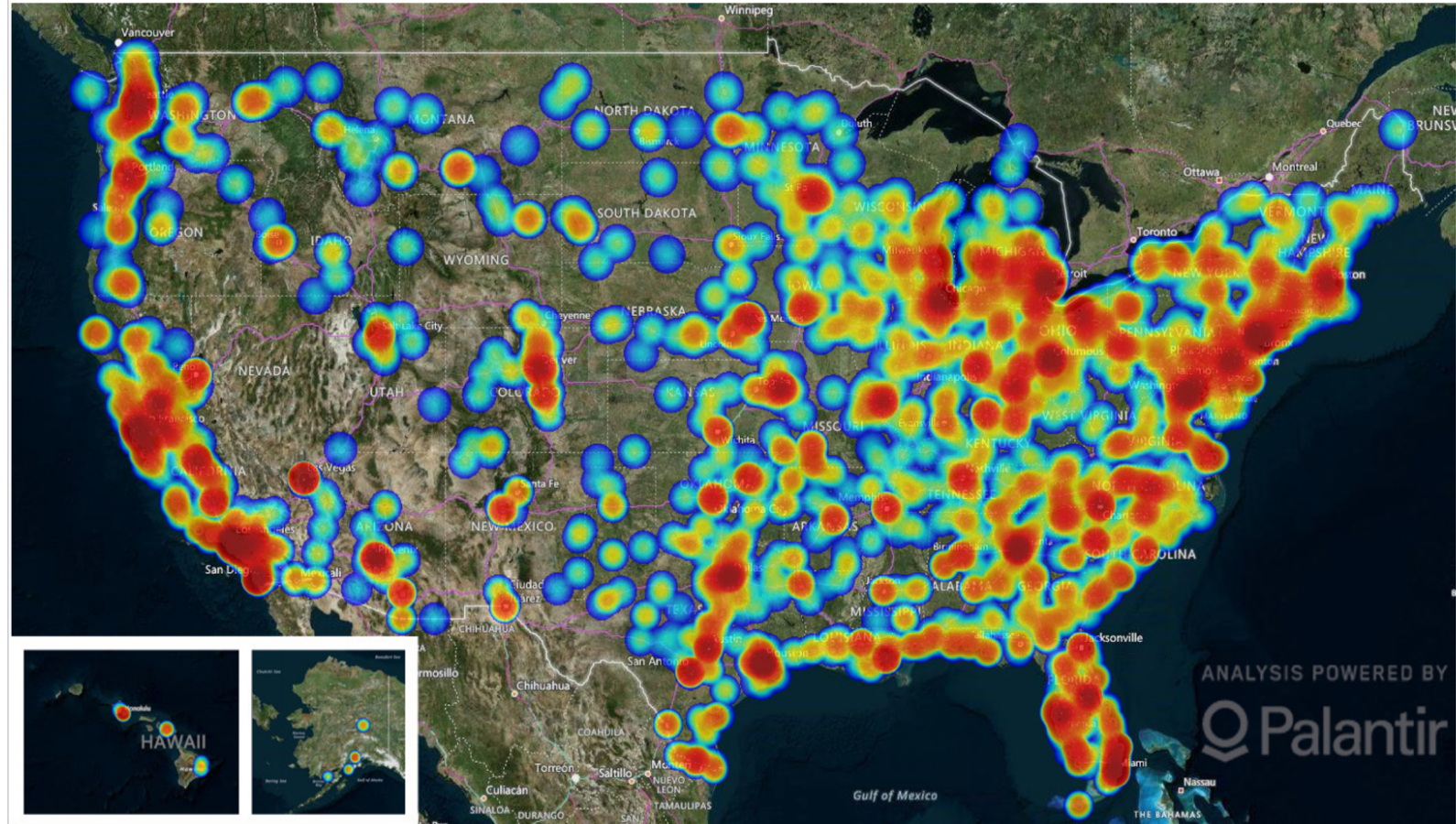
### Or Text

"BeFree" 2337333

### CA 2018:

- 4,395 + contacts
- 1,656 human trafficking cases

## Locations of Potential Human Trafficking Cases in the U.S.







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## Human Trafficking Statistics: California

The State of Human Trafficking 2012 – Former Attorney General, Kamala Harris

- 2010-12: California's nine regional human trafficking task forces identified 1,277 victims, initiated 2,552 investigations, and arrested 1,798 individuals.
- 72% of human trafficking victims are American.
- 56% were sex trafficking victims. Yet worldwide, sources indicate that labor trafficking is 3.5 times as prevalent as sex trafficking.
- Traffickers are reaching more victims and customers by recruiting and advertising online.



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## Human Trafficking Statistics: Local

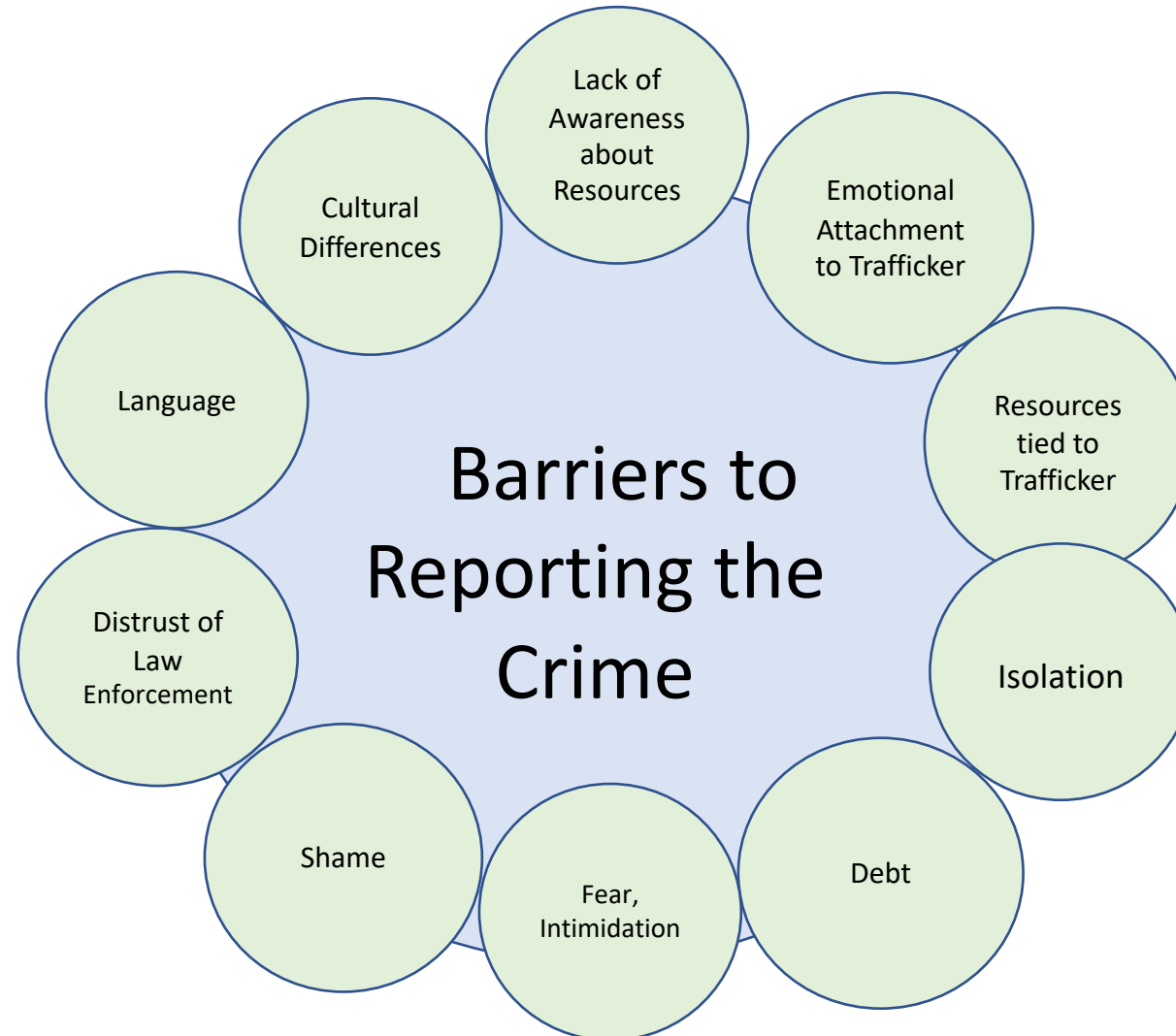
San Mateo County:

June 2018 Assessment: 2015-17, 103 victims served in the county,  
Between April 2018 to-date: Over 100 victims identified



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## SMC Human Trafficking Victim Response

### Current and in-county:

- Law Enforcement Protocol
- CSEC Protocol
- Adult Emergency Shelter – Star Vista
- CSEC Case Management – Rape Trauma Services
- Adult Case Management – D.A. Victim Services Div., International Rescue Committee (IRC), HT Advocacy Coordinator
- Long-term housing for adult females – Freedom House
- Legal Assistance for Immigration Support, etc. – Justice At Last, Bay Area Legal Aid

### Upcoming:

- Applying for Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) grant funding for direct victim services (2020) and housing (early 2021)



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## SMC Human Trafficking Case

Sex Trafficking:

Locations: the street, hotels, motels, apartments/condos, houses

Suspected: massage parlors

Labor Trafficking:

Industries: domestic help, daycare workers, home healthcare workers

Suspected: nail salons, restaurants, hotel cleaning staff, construction, etc.



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# WHAT YOU CAN DO TO STOP **HUMAN TRAFFICKING**





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## Thank you!

## Questions?

John Vanek,

- Human Trafficking Program Coordinator
- [jvanek@smcgov.org](mailto:jvanek@smcgov.org)

Pamela Estes,

- Human Trafficking Advocacy Coordinator
- [pestes@smcgov.org](mailto:pestes@smcgov.org)

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