



Human Trafficking: Identifying the Crisis

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Project Abstract

We proposed a short-term research project that delved into how accurately a Utah Valley University student can identify human trafficking when presented with multiple scenarios, while also suggesting preventive measures based on those results. We hypothesized that most students can easily identify sexual exploitation as human trafficking but may not be as familiar with forced labor and its various forms.



Literature Review

Research shows that sexual exploitation accounts for 4% of all human trafficking, yet it accounts for most human trafficking investigations and arrests (Bailey 2018). We are attempting to identify if this trend is due a misunderstanding of what human trafficking is. We believe that knowledge is the first step towards real change, and that by better identifying human trafficking scenarios we can help eliminate bias.

Bailey, M. (2018). U.S. Policy on Human Trafficking, A Partial Solution for a Perplexing Global Human Rights Problem. *Indonesian Journal of International & Comparative Law*, 5(4), 607–644.

Research Design and Data Collection

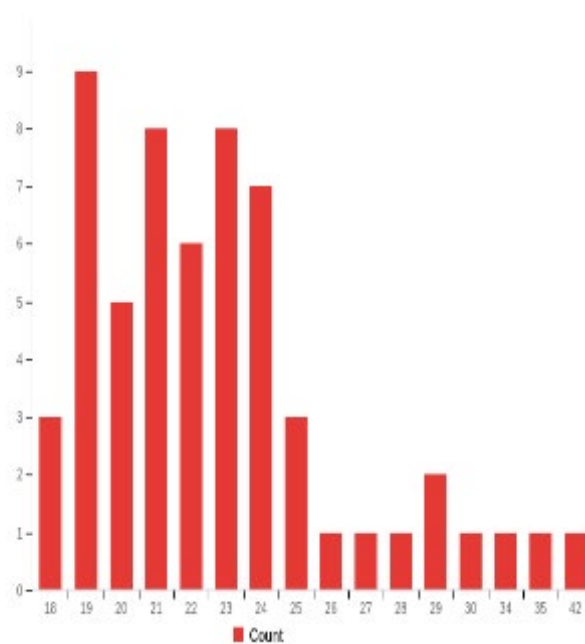
Using Qualtrics surveys distributed through UVU student emails provided by our course, we gathered general data that was sorted by student gender and age. The Qualtrics survey tested for basic knowledge, and then presented a series of scenarios where the participant had to identify whether the situation was human trafficking.



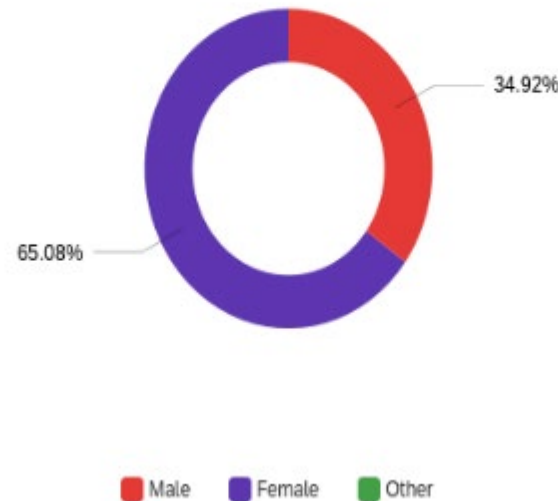
Survey Sample Size

The Survey was distributed 500 times and received 65 total completed survey responses. Everyone that opened the link agreed to take the survey. The number of respondents to the survey were female at 65.08% and male at 34.92%, with the average age being 22.97.

Participants' Ages (58 responses)



Participants' Genders (63 responses)



Confidence Interval and Level

The Confidence Interval is: $\pm 0.96\%$.
Population Size: 40,936
Sample Size: 500
Population Proportion: 1.22%
Confidence Level: 95%



Response Rate

Our response rate was 13%, which is the average response rate when a survey is distributed. In order to increase survey responses we sent out short reminder emails every few days with a message asking recipients to take the survey.

Forced Labor and Sexual Exploitation

Forced Labor: "Forced labor can be understood as work that is performed involuntarily and under the menace of any penalty. It refers to situations in which persons are coerced to work through the use of violence or intimidation, or by more subtle means such as manipulated debt, retention of identity papers or threats of denunciation to immigration authorities." - International Labor Organization

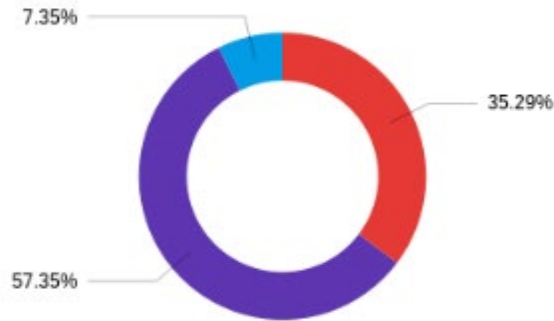


Sexual Exploitation: "Actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another." -World Health Organization

Preliminary Questions

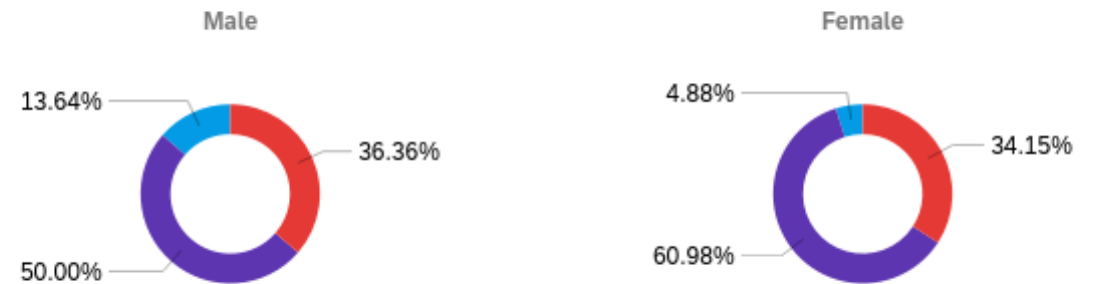
Do you feel confident in your understanding of what human trafficking is?

Confidence in Understanding What Human Trafficking is (68 responses)



■ I feel very confident. ■ I feel somewhat confident. ■ I do not feel confident.

Confidence in Understanding What Human Trafficking is (22 male and 41 female responses)

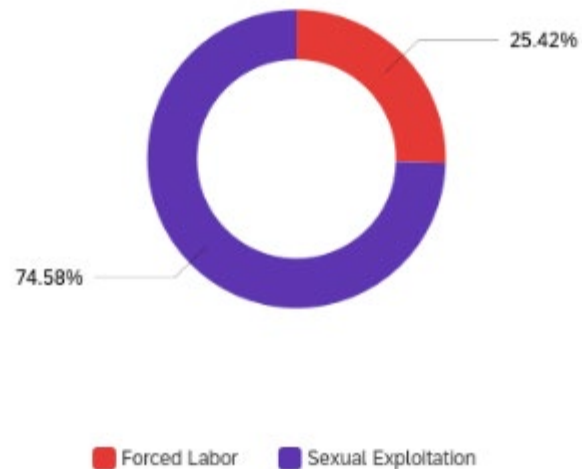


■ I feel very confident. ■ I feel somewhat confident. ■ I do not feel confident.

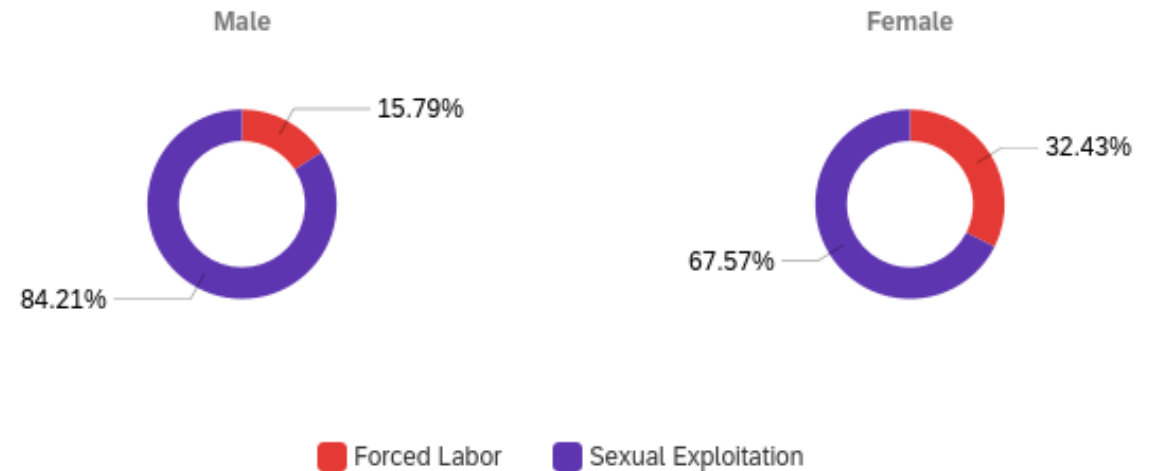
Preliminary Questions

Which do you think occurs more frequently, forced labor or sexual exploitation?

Forced Labor vs Sexual Exploitation Being More Frequent (59 responses)



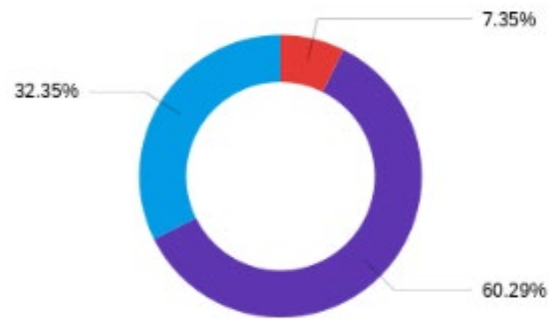
Forced Labor vs Sexual Exploitation Being More Frequent (19 male and 37 female responses)



Preliminary Questions

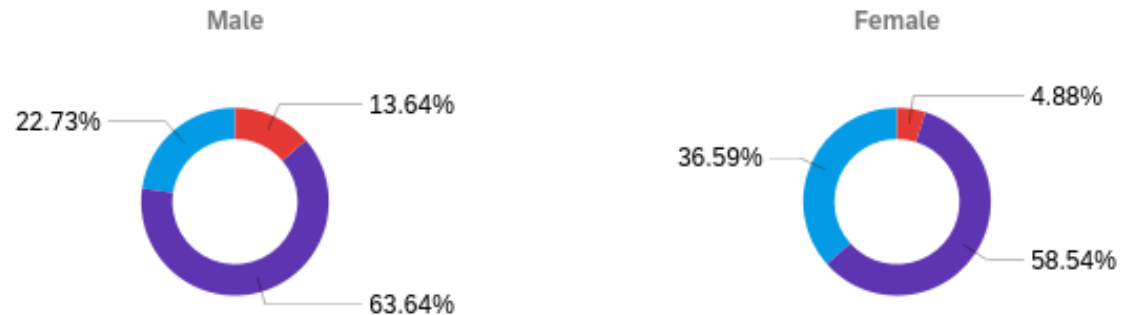
How confident are you that you could recognize human trafficking if you saw it?

Confidence in Ability to Recognize Human Trafficking (68 responses)



Very Confident Somewhat Confident Not Confident

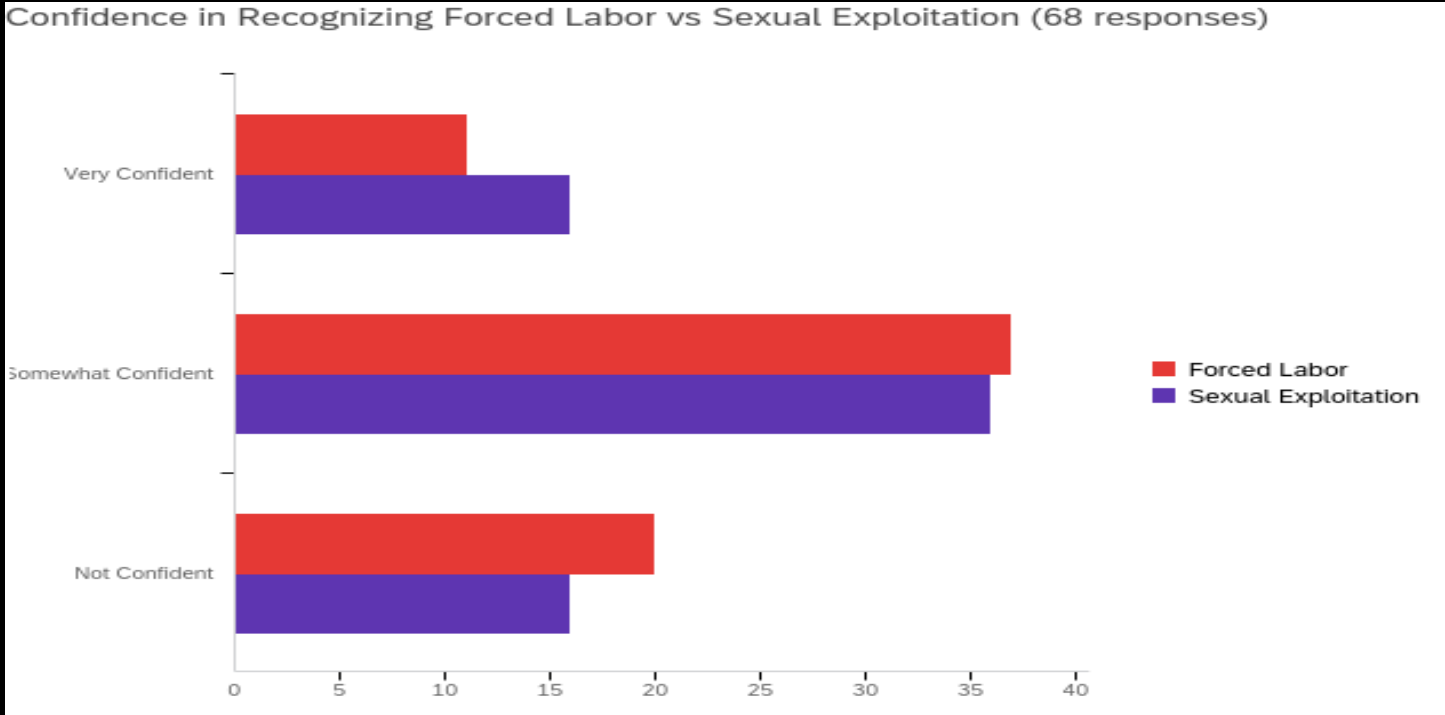
Confidence in Ability to Recognize Human Trafficking (22 male and 41 female responses)



Very Confident Somewhat Confident Not Confident

Preliminary Questions

How confident are you that you could recognize forced labor or sexual exploitation?

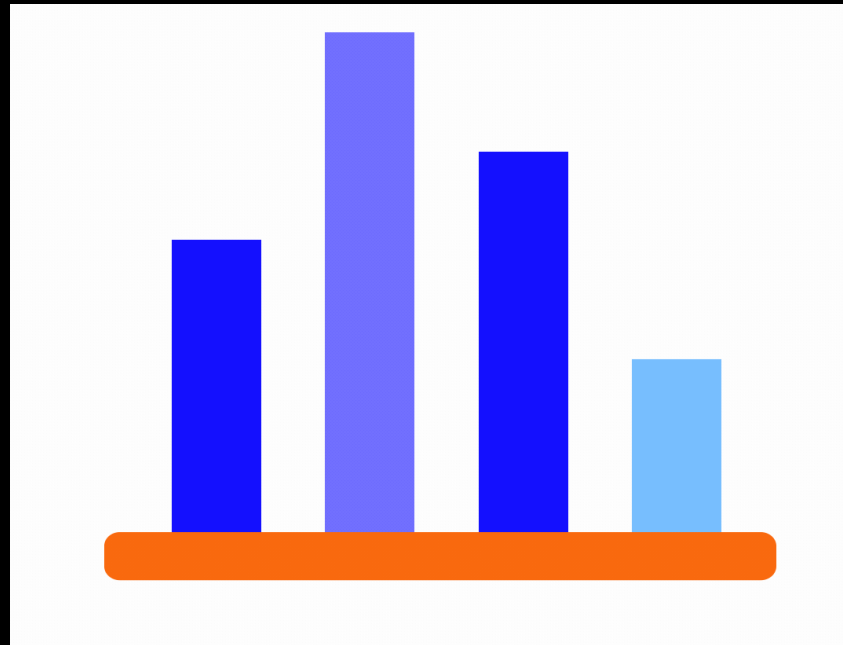


Confidence in Recognizing Forced Labor vs Sexual Exploitation (22 male and 41 female responses)



Hypothetical Situations

Each survey participant was presented with 6 different hypothetical situations regarding human trafficking and asked to identify whether they would report the incident as human trafficking.



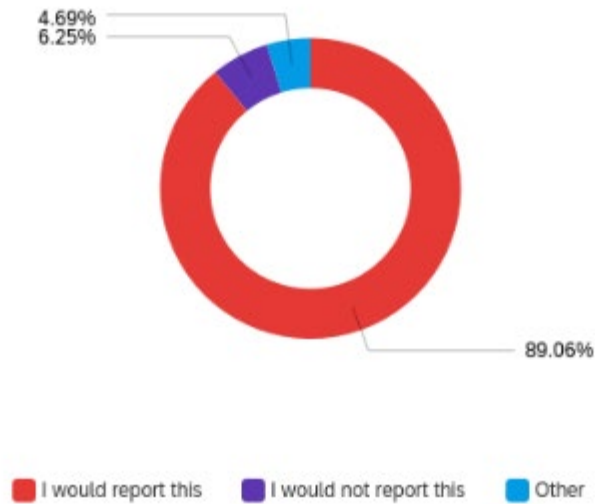
Situation 1

You are a new employee at the front desk of a motel. One of your coworkers tells you that the boss allows certain customers to rent rooms by the hour. In these special cases, you are not supposed to check for ID or enter their information into the hotel system.

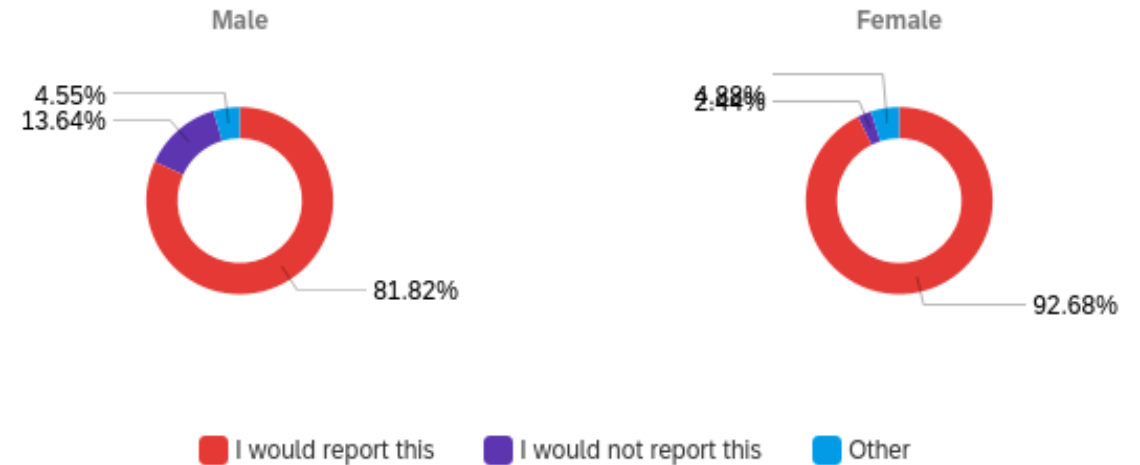


Situation 1: Results

Scenario #1, hotel rooms are rented by the hour with no ID checks for specific customers.
(64 responses)



Scenario #1, hotel rooms are rented by the hour with no ID checks for specific customers.
(22 male and 41 female responses)



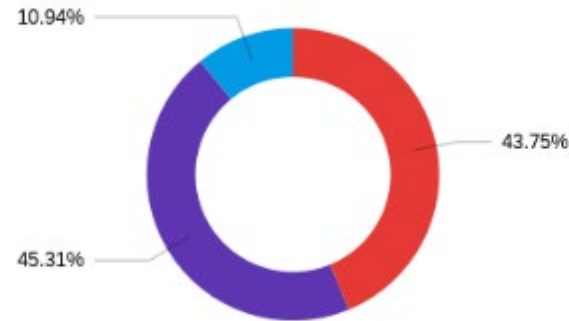
Situation 2

A large farm in your town provides housing and work for new migrant workers once they arrive from Mexico. The farm has a reputation for long hours and very low pay. None of the workers speak English, and they rarely come to town.



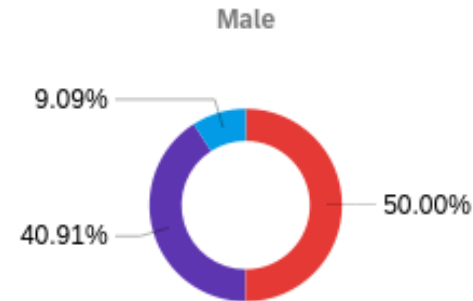
Situation 2: Results

Scenario #2, a farm provides housing and work for non-english speaking migrant workers, but is known for long hours, low pay, and the workers are rarely seen in town. (64 responses)

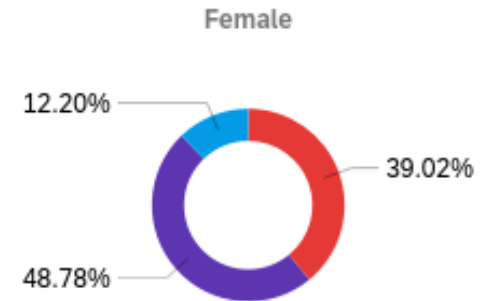


I would report this. I would not report this. Other

Scenario #2, a farm provides housing and work for non-english speaking migrant workers, but is known for long hours, low pay, and the workers are rarely seen in town. (22 male and 41 female responses)



I would report this. I would not report this. Other



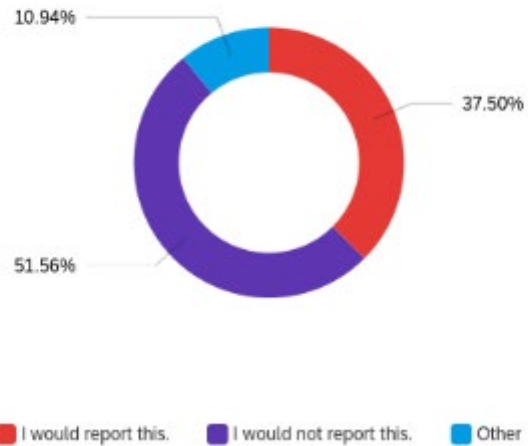
Situation 3

While walking by a construction site in the early morning, you notice that there are workers sleeping underneath some of the larger equipment. They have sleeping bags, and no one is working.

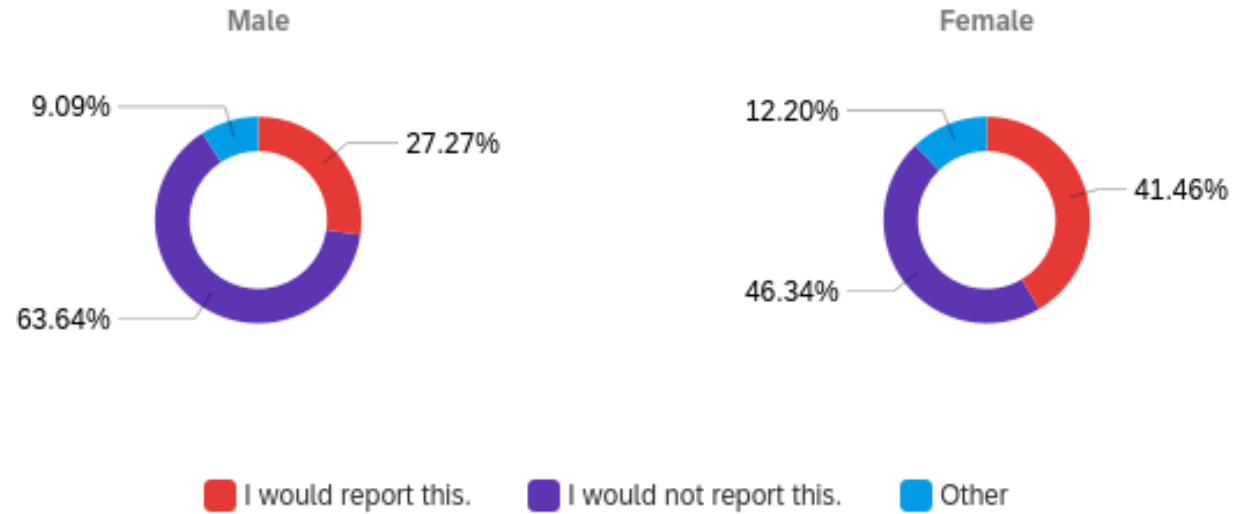


Situation 3: Results

Scenario #3, workers sleeping at a construction site. (64 responses)



Scenario #3, workers sleeping at a construction site. (22 male and 41 female responses)



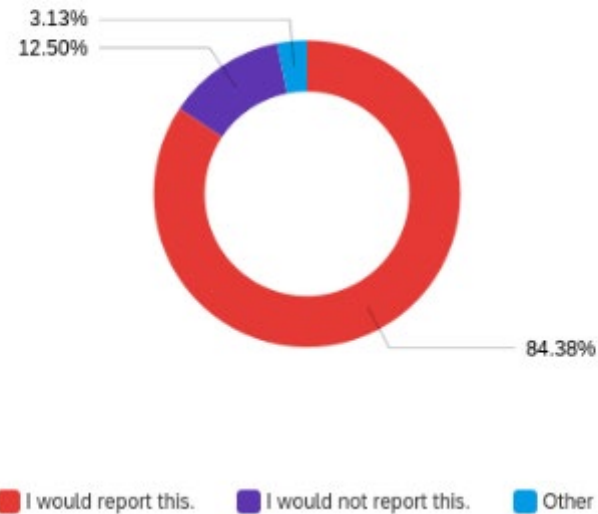
Situation 4



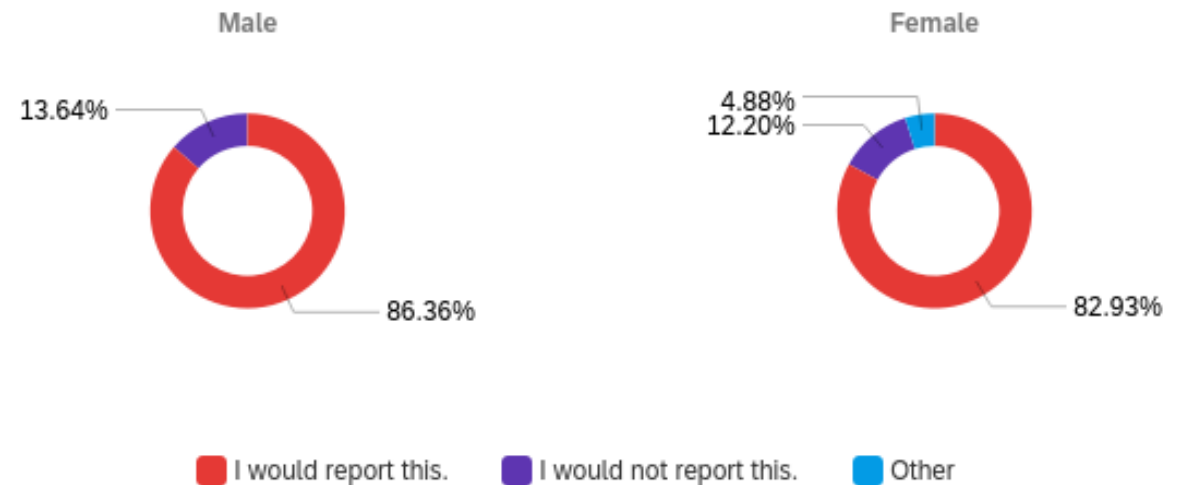
Your friend works for a storage facility downtown. He says his boss lets some customers rent out the larger shipping containers as cheap housing- off the books. Your friend complains that the shipping containers always smell afterwards, because so many people sleep in one.

Situation 4: Results

Scenario #4, a storage facility unofficially rents shipping containers as cheap housing to select customers. The containers always smell from the large amount of people sleeping in them. (64 responses)

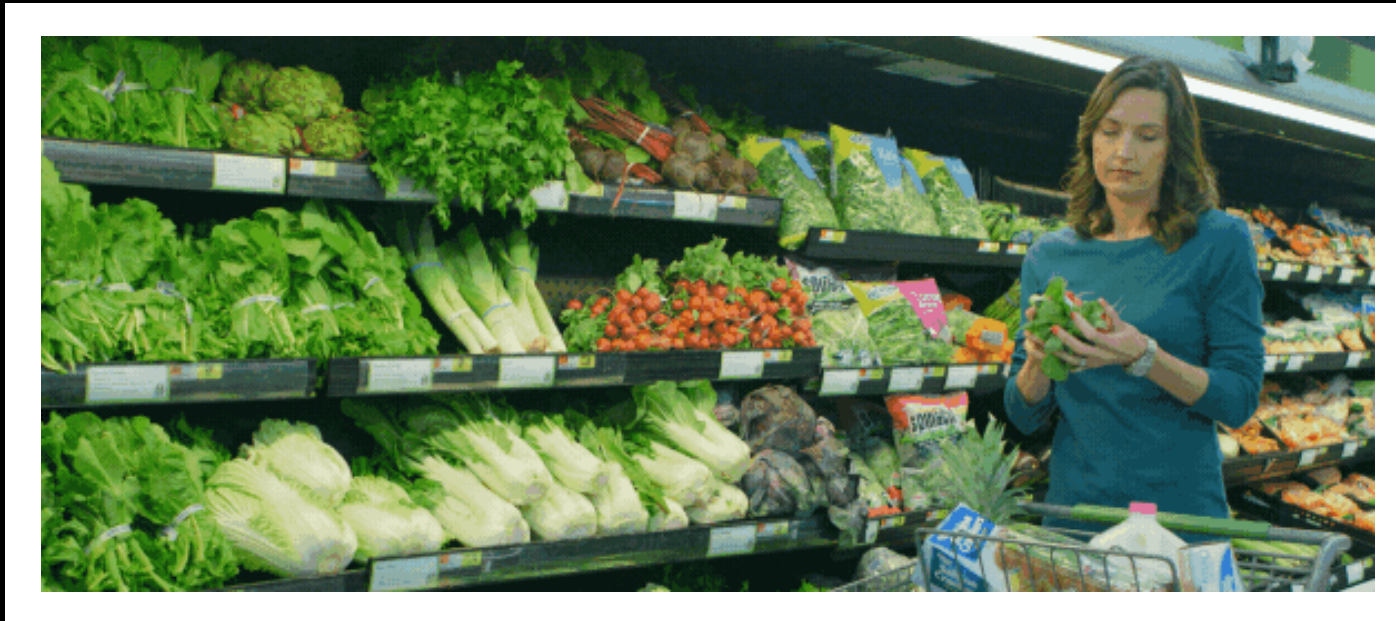


Scenario #4, a storage facility unofficially rents shipping containers as cheap housing to select customers. The containers always smell from the large amount of people sleeping in them. (22 male and 41 female responses)



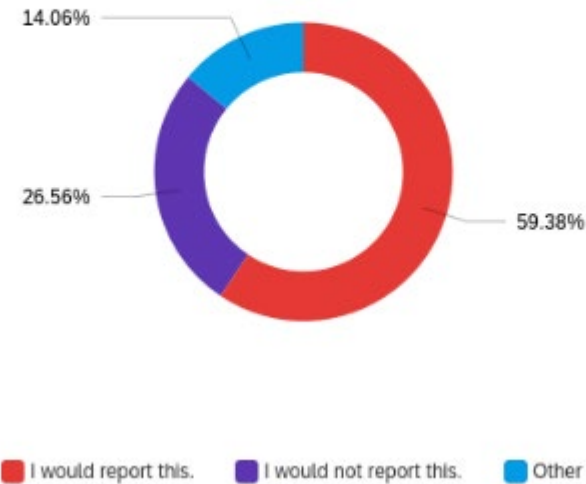
Situation 5

A boy you know from the grocery store tells you that the traveling sales company he works for isn't paying him what was promised but he's afraid to quit because he thinks he'll be deported.

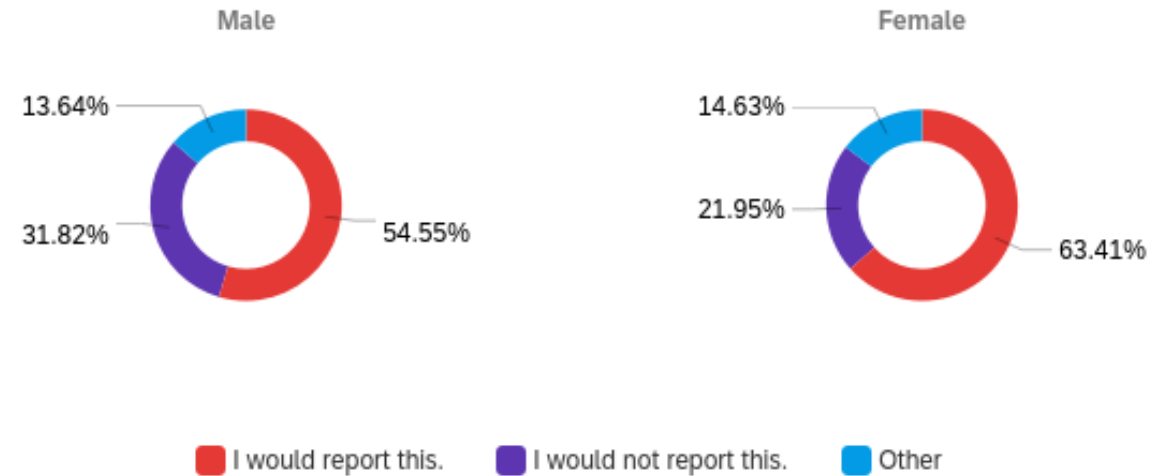


Situation 5: Results

Scenario #5, a boy is not being paid what his employer promised, and he is scared of quitting because he might get deported. (64 responses)



Scenario #5, a boy is not being paid what his employer promised, and he is scared of quitting because he might get deported. (22 male and 41 female responses)



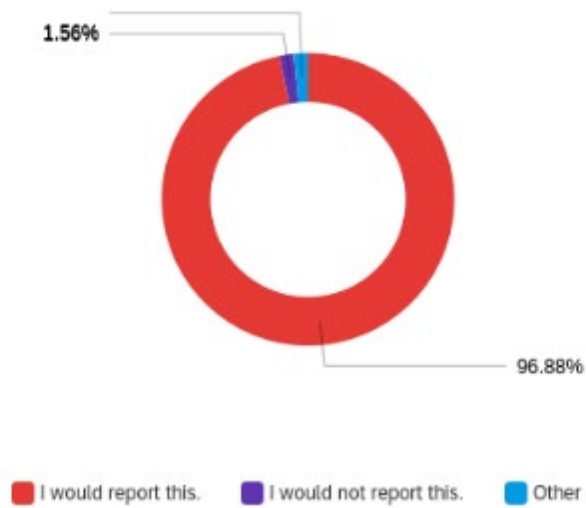
Situation 6

A sixteen-year-old girl you know from your church group ran away from home, and the rumors say she found work on the street. When you run into her at a gas station, she tells you she's afraid to leave because the man she works for made threats.

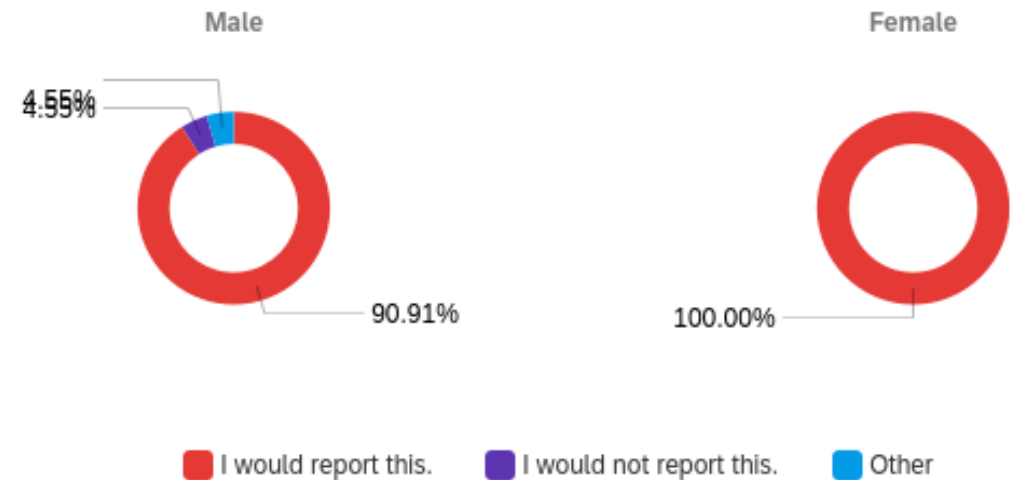


Situation 6: Results

Scenerio #6, a teen church girl ran away from home and is rumored to be working the streets. She is scared to leave because the man she works for has threatened her. (64 responses)



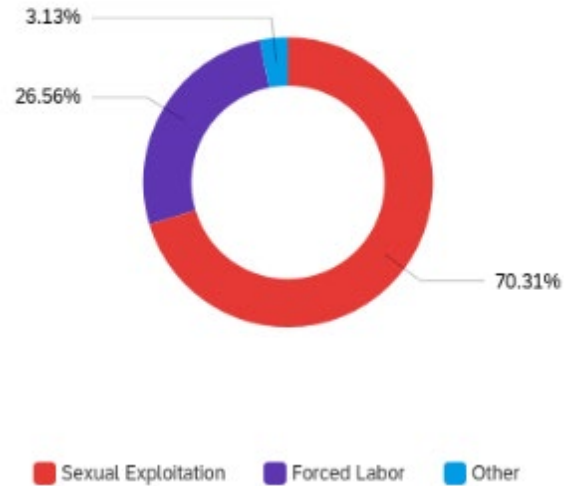
Scenerio #6, a teen church girl ran away from home and is rumored to be working the streets. She is scared to leave because the man she works for has threatened her. (22 male and 41 female responses)



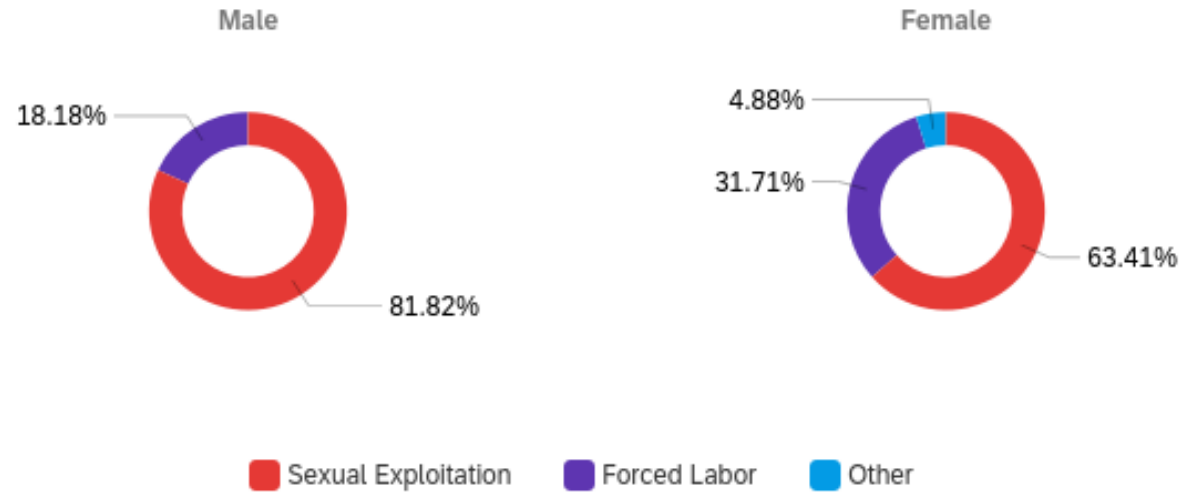
Post-Scenario Questions

What type of human trafficking do you believe is easier to recognize?

Easiest Type of Human Trafficking to Recognize (64 responses)



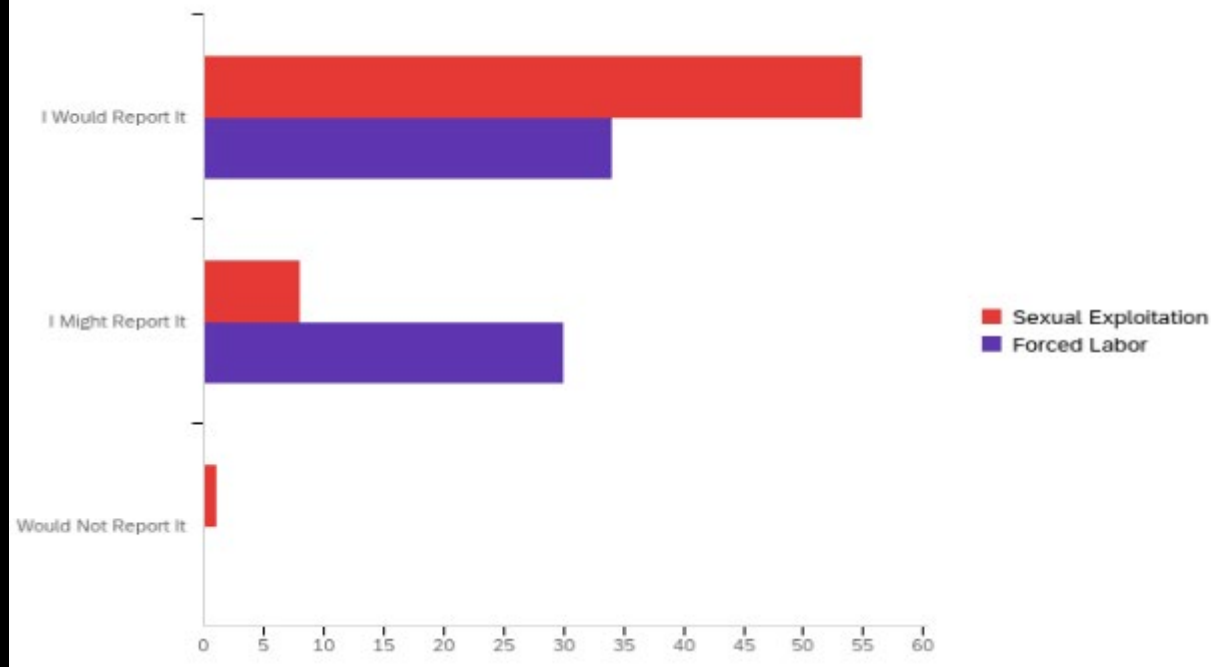
Easiest Type of Human Trafficking to Recognize (22 male and 41 female responses)



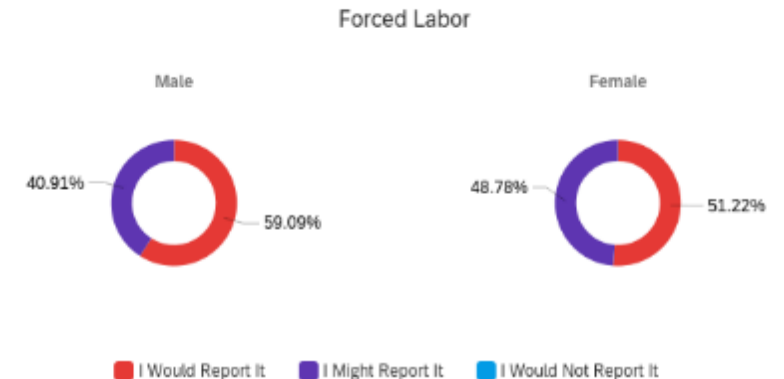
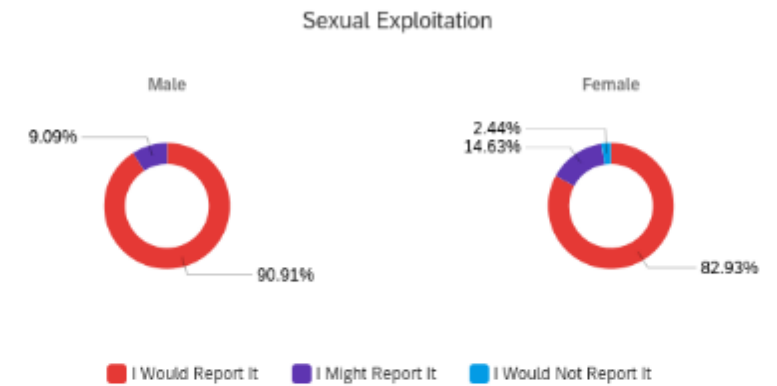
Post-Scenario Questions

How likely is it that you would report either instance of human trafficking, if you thought you recognized it?

Likelihood of Reporting Each Type of Human Trafficking (64 responses)



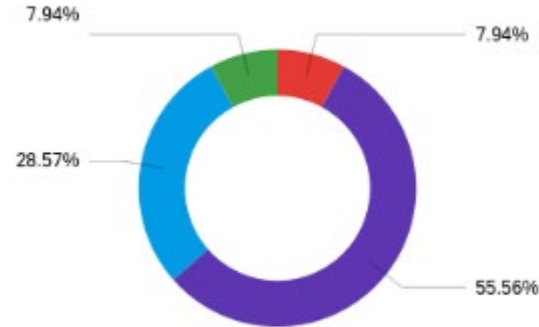
Likelihood of Reporting Each Type of Human Trafficking (22 male and 41 female responses)



Post-Scenario Questions

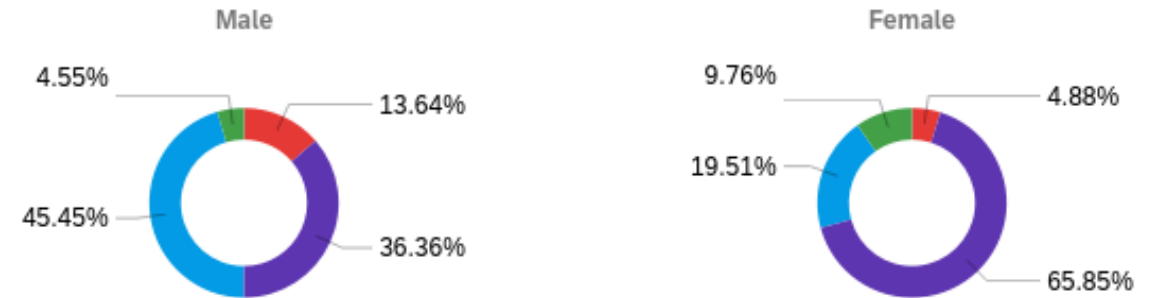
Which aspect of human trafficking do you believe is the focus of law enforcement?

The Focus of Law Enforcement (63 responses)



Forced Labor Sexual Exploitation Both are equally focused on. Neither is a focus.

The Focus of Law Enforcement (22 male and 41 female responses)

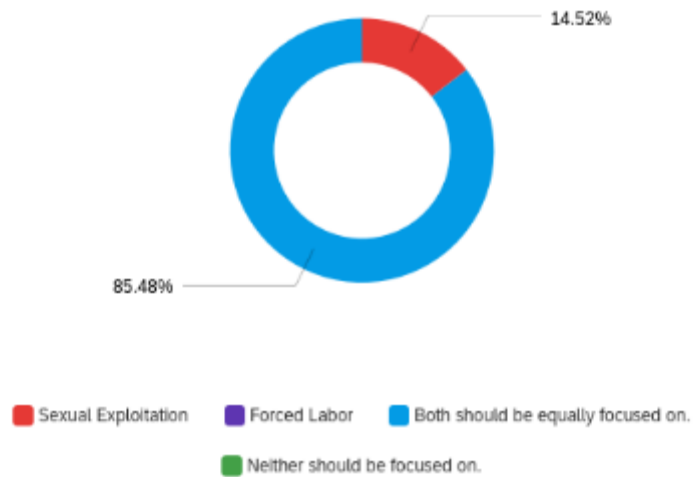


Forced Labor Sexual Exploitation Both are equally focused on. Neither is a focus.

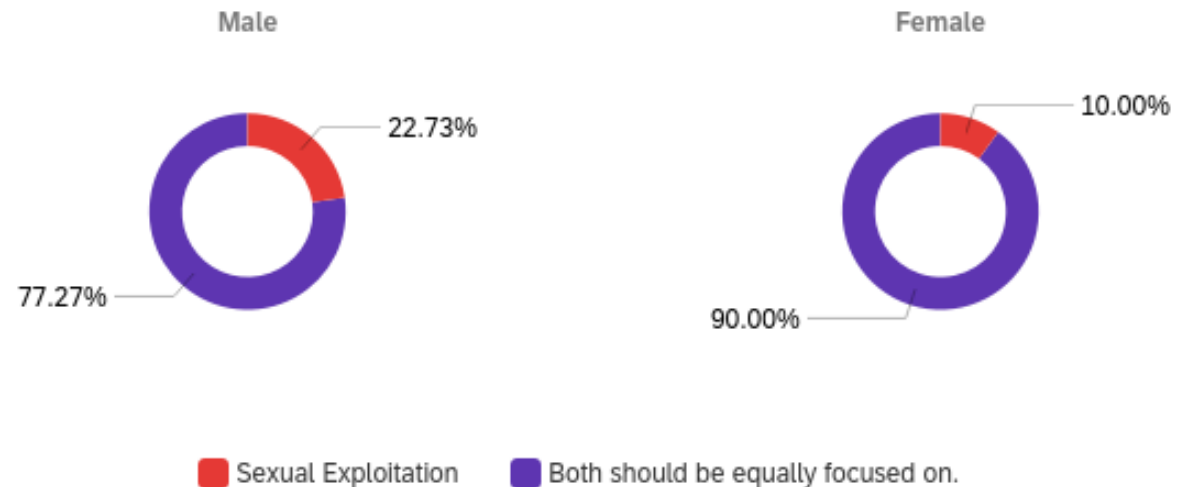
Post-Scenario Questions

Should law enforcement focus more of their efforts on stopping sexual exploitation or forced labor?

Where Law Enforcement Should Focus Their Efforts (62 responses)



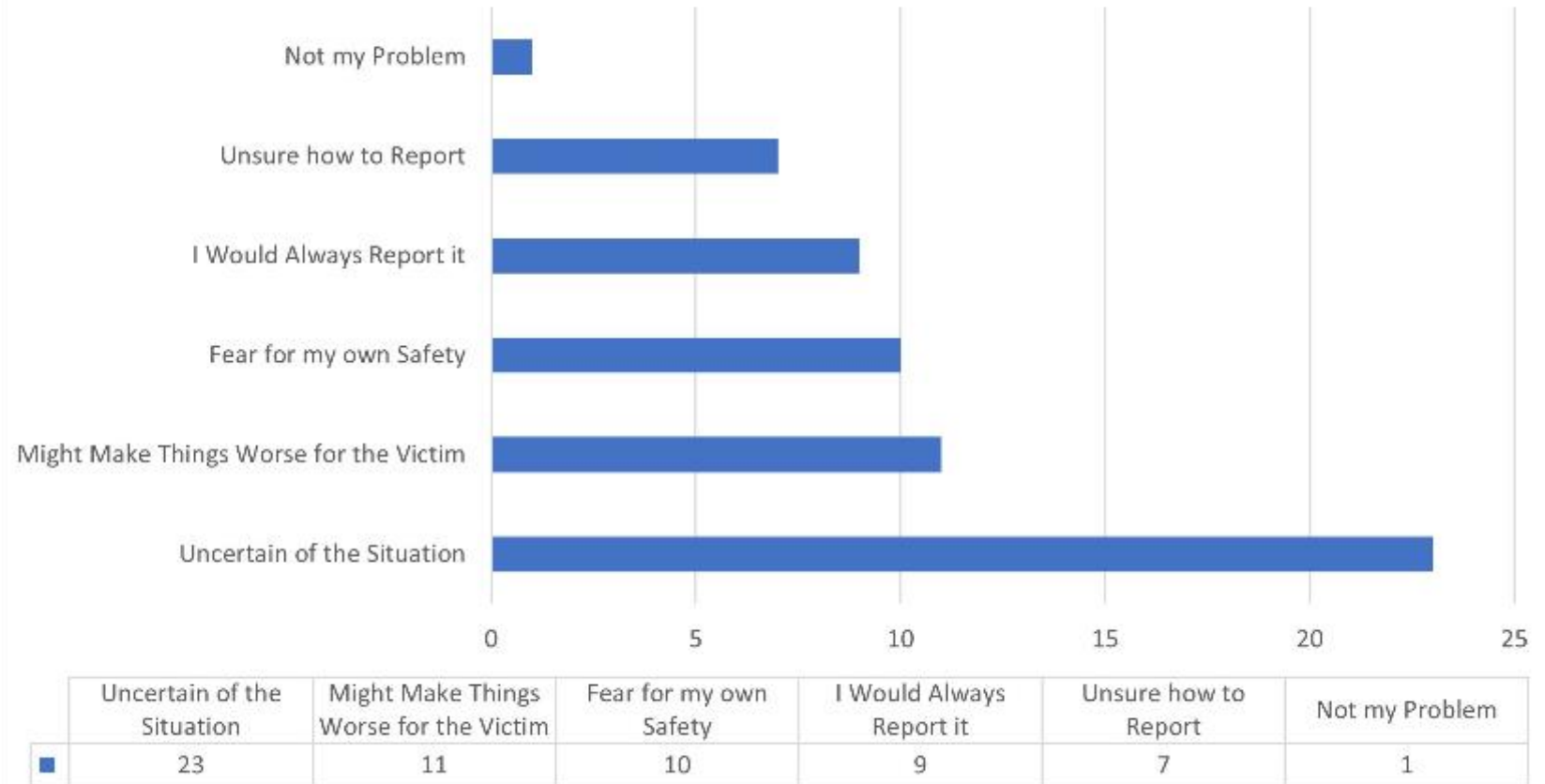
Where Law Enforcement Should Focus Their Efforts (22 male and 40 female responses)



Post-Scenario Questions

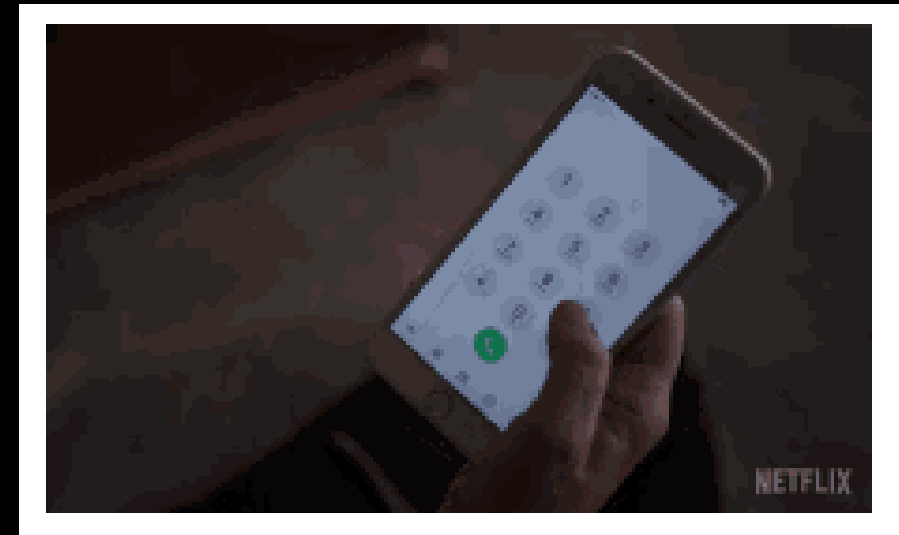
Why would you not be likely to report human trafficking if you thought you recognized it?

Themes From the Text Responses of the Question "Why would you not be likely to report human trafficking if you thought you recognized it?"



Research Conclusions

- Sexual exploitation is seen as being more common than forced labor, and men were more likely than women to say so.
- Few were very confident in their ability to recognize general human trafficking, but men were more confident than women.
- Men were more confident than women in recognizing both forced labor and sexual exploitation.
- The majority would report situations they believed to be sexual exploitation, but participants were less likely to report possible forced labor.



Research Conclusions

- Sexual exploitation was seen as easier to recognize, and men were more likely than women to say so.
- Sexual exploitation was seen as more likely to be reported than forced labor, and men were more likely than women to say so.
- Men were more confident than women in recognizing both forced labor and sexual exploitation.
- The majority would report situations they believed to be sexual exploitation, but participants were less likely to report possible forced labor.



Research Conclusions

- Sexual exploitation was seen as being more focused on by law enforcement than forced labor, and women were more likely to say so.
- The majority said law enforcement should focus on sexual exploitation and forced labor equally, but men were more likely than women, and those under 23 years old were more likely than those older, to say that sexual exploitation should be focused on more than forced labor.
- Future efforts should promote how to recognize and report possible human trafficking situations.

