Changing Awareness of Human Trafficking

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The issue of human trafficking has received increased attention since the Trafficking Victims Protection Act was enacted in 2000. We assume that awareness is growing in the United States but this has not been tested. The current study measures increases in awareness about the issue of trafficking. Nearly 400 students were polled about their awareness in the spring of 2007. Attitudes towards government responses, awareness of the issue and support for victims were surveyed. The study was replicated 5 years later with over 500 new participants. This paper will analyze changes in awareness over time. Gender differences will also be presented. Attitudes towards trafficking will be considered in light of the assumptions underlying the TVPA and its reauthorizations.

### Methodology

**Awareness**

- **2005**
  - Women: 3.91
  - Men: 4.04

- **2013**
  - Women: 3.72
  - Men: 3.76

**Child Victims**

- **2005**
  - Women: 3.54
  - Men: 3.57

- **2013**
  - Women: 3.66
  - Men: 3.78

**Arrests in Nevada**

- **2005**
  - Women: 3.66
  - Men: 3.78

- **2013**
  - Women: 3.81
  - Men: 3.76

**Immigration Relief**

- **2005**
  - Women: 3.81
  - Men: 4.08

- **2013**
  - Women: 3.66
  - Men: 3.71

**Future Research**

- Future research should focus on using a community sample or obtaining a random sample in an effort to increase the ability to generalize this study.

### Limitations

The fact that the sample consisted of a non-random sample of criminal justice students at UNLV hinders the ability to generalize this study.

### Acknowledgments

Students supported the idea that the United States should support this issue and could do more to combat trafficking.