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Attitudes of human trafficking in Nevada

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ATTITUDES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NEVADA

by

Krystal Jane Letourneau

Bachelor of Arts
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
2005

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the

**Master of Arts in Criminal Justice
Department of Criminal Justice
Greenspun College of Urban Affairs**

**Graduate College
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
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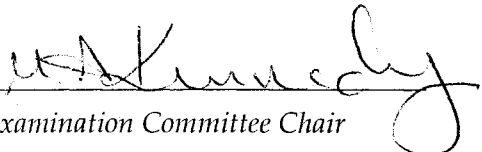
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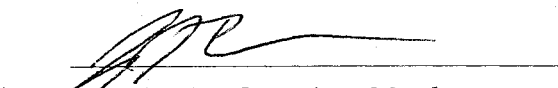
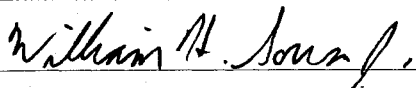
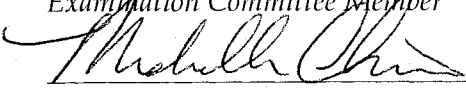
Attitudes on Human Trafficking in Nevada

is approved in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Arts in Criminal Justice


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ABSTRACT

ATTITUDES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NEVADA

by

Krystal Jane Letourneau

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Associate Professor of Criminal Justice
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A form of modern day slavery is going on in this country that indentures and oppresses many young children, women, and men, forcing them into prostitution or domestic servitude. This modern slavery is called human trafficking and new efforts are beginning to address this social problem in the United States. For example, the US is attempting to increase its prosecution of the traffickers or pimps. The United States has a policy in place that allows the victims of trafficking to stay in the United States as a witness until their traffickers are prosecuted. Once the trial is over, however, the victims are then forced to leave and return to their home country (Congress 2000).

The scientific community has no idea if the general public has recognized human trafficking is even a problem or is aware of the extent of the problem due to a dearth of research. It is important to gauge the general public's understanding of the problem of trafficking because if the general public assumes the problem is quite small or only happens in other countries, then it is possible that politicians have the same assumptions. Any legislation based on misinformation may be problematic and not assist the victims it intends to.

This study focused on perceptions of human trafficking among students currently living in a State with one of the largest trafficking problems in the United States (Farley, 2006). Participants were polled as to their perceptions of victims of trafficking. Their attitudes were considered in light of the assumptions expressed in the Trafficking of Victims Protection Act of 2000 and its two amendments.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A modern day form of slavery is going on in this country that indentures and oppresses many young children, women, and men, forcing them into prostitution or domestic servitude. This modern slavery is called human trafficking and new efforts are beginning to address this social problem in the United States. For example, the US is attempting to increase its prosecution of the traffickers or pimps. The United States has a policy in place that allows the victims of trafficking the ability to stay in the United States as a witness until their traffickers are prosecuted. Once the trial is over, however, the victims are forced to leave and return to their home country (Congress 2000).

The United States defines trafficking in persons as “All acts involved in the transport, harboring, or sale of persons within national or across international borders through coercion, force, kidnaping, deception or fraud, for purposes of placing persons in situations of forced labor or services, such as forced prostitution, domestic servitude, debt bondage or other slavery-like practices” (Miko and Park 2003, 3).

The number of people who might be able to testify under this immigration provision is hard to estimate. Because trafficking victims are hard to find or there could be language barriers when trying to communicate with victims, estimating the amount of

victims in the United States is difficult. The government is unable to accurately estimate the number of victims that could benefit from current immigration protections.

Despite this difficulty in assessing the number of victims, it is clear that human trafficking is a serious problem both in the United States and internationally. Human trafficking has become a financially lucrative business with fewer risks than the drug trade (Schauer and Wheaton 2006, 164). According to the Trafficking in Persons Report by the Department of State 2005, \$1-\$3 billion is estimated to be earned by traffickers each year. Trafficking estimates are that 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked each year world wide, with at least 14,500 to 17,500 trafficked into the United States annually (Department of State 2005). The Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (VTVPA) was designed to help these victims and to increase the prosecution of offenders.

Both government responses and academic discussion acknowledge the severity of the issues, "Human Trafficking is one of the fastest growing forms of international and intranational commerce and crime" (Schauer and Wheaton 2006, 155). Since 2000, the VTVPA has been revised twice, once in 2003 and once in 2005. Both revisions were intended to help strengthen the original act by doing two things - increasing the sentences for offenders and increasing the number of visas available for victims trafficked into the United States. Researching the issues addressed by the VTVPA is important. Estimating the numbers of victims that could be helped is difficult to do and even best estimates may be incorrect. Researchers have no idea if the general public has recognized that trafficking is even a problem or is aware of the extent of the problem. These assumptions have never been tested before. It is important to gauge the general public's understanding

of the problem of trafficking because if the general public assumes the problem is quite small and/or only happens in other countries, it is very likely that politicians have the same assumptions. If politicians created the VTVPA based on false assumptions then the Act may not be helping the way it was intended to assist victims.

The assumptions about trafficking that underlie the VTVPA also extend into law enforcement. According to Wilson et. al, local law enforcement agencies are the frontline contact with victims and their traffickers so they need to address the issue of trafficking directly. These researchers designed a study where 163 local law enforcement agencies were solicited for their participation in a survey regarding attitudes and perceptions of trafficking as well as the need for police training. Most reporting police agencies felt that trafficking was a problem for federal law enforcement. However, almost half of the respondents stated that trafficking in the United States is not a problem (Wilson, et. al 2006, 150-160).

The Department of State annually monitors the success of the VTVPA and as a result of this monitoring process, the Act has been amended twice in the hope of making it more successful at combating trafficking and assisting victims. The amendments to the Act have increased the number of visas authorized to be given out each year but so far, the US has fallen short of this number. In this case, the United States is increasing a resource that is not being used.

Each year, the Department of State publishes a report outlining the progress for the previous year with regard to trafficking. The 2006 report describes the most recently authorized grant of \$25 million to be distributed by the Attorney General to state and local law enforcement agencies. The money is intended to be used to “investigate and

prosecute buyers of commercial sex; educate individuals charged with or attempting to purchase commercial sex; and collaborate with local Non Government Organizations (NGO) who are skilled at providing services to victims.” (Department of State 2006, 23)

An additional \$10 million was made available to local governments and NGOs as administered through the Department of Health and Human Services to “help survivors of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation” (Department of State 2006, 23).

While the money the United States spends on trafficking is increasing, the fact victim visa quotas are not being filled is not addressed. The funding allocated for trafficking might be more useful in assisting victims in another way and/or making the visa availability more known to the public. Increasing the money spent on trafficking is a good thing but not if it is spent in ways unhelpful to victims due to faulty assumptions made by the politicians and/or the general public.

There has been no literature, or is it no public information that provides estimates of the number of victims VTVPA fund has helped or the number of offenders this law has prosecuted because identifying victims can be very difficult. Further, the government has failed to disclose any research that may have been conducted on the extent of the problem of trafficking or on the best practices to combat trafficking. The politicians who created this law may have had good intentions but they either do not have the research to base their actions on or they are not releasing the information. Without this background information, this law may be targeting the wrong problems and therefore may be ineffective at helping victims or prosecuting offenders. The law was shaped by the attitudes, perceptions, and opinions of trafficking of the politicians who wrote the act.

Unfortunately these attitudes, perceptions, and opinions may be misinformed and may be different than those of the general public.

The goal of this research is to explore attitudes, perceptions and opinions on human trafficking. There is no empirical research on people's comprehension of the problem of human trafficking into the United States. This study will focus on the assumptions or concepts expressed in the Victims of Violence and Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000. The purpose of this study is to assess attitudes towards the growing problem of human trafficking in Nevada and the United States. By understanding the attitudes and perceptions of the public, researchers will gain knowledge on where public education may need to be focused. In addition, attitudes towards the wording and assumptions underlying the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 will be assessed. For example, support for the fact that the act was written to assist only victims of a certain age group and not all victims will be assessed. With that knowledge the research community can explore whether assumptions made in the Trafficking Act match the beliefs of people in Nevada.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Unfortunately, there is limited research available on trafficking and on the attitudes and perceptions the general public holds about trafficking. However, some research reports, such as the Trafficking in Persons Report, have assessed the effectiveness of the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 and why it may not be working as intended. By studying past research on the VTVPA and the ineffectiveness of the VTVPA, the research community can demonstrate the need to understand what people's perceptions and attitudes are about trafficking, and as an extension, the need for public education in the area of human trafficking.

The VTVPA was intended to provide assistance to victims who wish to receive federal and state assistance. Assistance could include remaining in the country temporarily or permanently, help pursuing prosecution and conviction of their traffickers, and other provisions (e.g., United States citizenship and immigration). The President signed the legislation into law on October 28, 2000. The law passed with assistance from the Trafficking in Persons and Worker Exploitation Task Force, a group that attempts to combat trafficking and includes membership from the FBI, INS, and the Department of Labor. The VTVPA permits prosecution in non violent coercion situations used to force victims into work in which they will be subject to "serious harm." The act also increases

prison terms from 10-20 years for slavery violations and includes life in prison for those cases that involve death, kidnapping, or sexual abuse of the victim (United States Department of Justice 2000).

The VTVPA has had two reauthorizations since its inception. The first amendment was in 2003. Changes in the law included: T-Visas (visas that allow victims to stay in the country if they can prove “extreme hardship” will happen to them if they return home and they must testify against their trafficker(s)). The visas became available to siblings of victims under age 18 or age 21 if the victim is not married. Federal funds were put in place to be used for transit shelters, as well as, the United States government were to hold public awareness campaigns, victims may sue traffickers, the language was changed to “more clearly include US citizen victims,” and funds were authorized for research for international and domestic trafficking (Salvation Army USA 2003).

The 2003 reauthorization, although based on good intentions, did not do many of the things that it was intended to do. For example, the public awareness campaign, which was funded under the reauthorization, still has not happened. The funds for research have been authorized but the research has not been done. Unfortunately, these are two key pieces in understanding and preventing trafficking. Public awareness of the problem of trafficking is significant in reducing trafficking. If the public is aware that trafficking is occurring in this country, then education can begin to prevent trafficking. Schools can teach children the dangers and techniques of traffickers as well as how to avoid situations where a victim might be coerced. The education of trafficking could continue into college, which could benefit future law, as well as, prevent trafficking of the children of the college students. Research is important in understanding and preventing trafficking

because without the research being done, the United States does not know if their efforts in reducing trafficking is really working or if the efforts are being put into the wrong devices. For example, putting funding into transit shelters may not be effective because victims do not even know they exist, therefore, the money would be more useful in public awareness to victims that assistance is available.

In 2003, the Congressional Research Service conducted a review of the available literature. According to this study, \$32 million was set aside to combat trafficking and to help victims of trafficking. The United States joined forces with Europe to combat trafficking transnationally. The question arises about whether the law should only protect victims of “severe forms of trafficking.” Severe forms of trafficking mean sex trafficking. Even the victims of severe forms of trafficking must prove that they are “in the United States as a direct result of trafficking and that they have a well-founded fear of retribution if they are returned to their country of origin.” Currently, the law only allows these victims to obtain a T-Visa and obtain temporary/permanent citizenship (Miko and Park 2003, 13-21).

In 2005, a reauthorization was again signed into law. This reauthorization states “no known studies exist to quantify the problem of trafficking in children for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation in the United States” (The Orator News and Information). In addition, the link between the involvement of employees or contractors in the United States Government and Armed Forces and trafficking is mentioned for the first time. The reauthorization also states no later than 180 days after the enactment of the document, the United States will carry out a study to identify the “best practices for the

rehabilitation of victims of trafficking in group residential facilities in foreign countries” (The Orator News and Information).

Again, the 2005 act was created with good intentions; however, many of the plans are not being utilized. The 2003 reauthorization created funds for research, while the 2005 reauthorization mentions that research has not been done. Again, the reauthorization states a study will be completed no later than 180 days after the enactment, and to date no study has been published following the enactment.

Recently a small amount of research, conducted primarily by the US Dept of Justice, has been done, analyzing the United States government’s reactions to human trafficking. Analysis focused on the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000, its amendments, and funding given to help fight human trafficking (Department of State 2006). The main conclusion is that the VTVPA of 2000 has indeed created a task force to prevent trafficking, allows harsher sentences for pimps, and provides more victim assistance (Department of State 2005). This government analysis is really only an evaluative summary of the Act and its amendments as opposed to scientific research.

In reality, the VTVPA is failing to do as intended. The requirements for receiving aid for the victims are very stringent and unobtainable in many cases. For example, Harvard Law Review states, “the high threshold fails to recognize the nature of modern trafficking schemes and disregards many victims” (Harvard Law Review 2006, 2579). The act is also ineffective because it requires law enforcement cooperation. Victims of trafficking usually are suffering from some sort of psychological disorder as a result of their victimization and those demonstrating these disorders often have a hard time cooperating with law enforcement (Harvard Law Review 2006, 2579). The VTVPA

granted fewer than 500 T-Visas since the enactment of the law in 2000; however, 5,000 T-Visas are allowed to be given out per year. Professionals argue that the low number of victims receiving the T-Visas is due to the lack of clear definitions (Harvard Law Review 2006, 2579).

The VTVPA allows for some victims to qualify for a T-Visa, which allows the victim to stay in this country. This is important because some victims may not be able to return home due to embarrassment or if they are able to escape or return home, they may not be able to tell their families of what the traffickers made the victims do (Bell 2001, 167). Therefore, it is important to allow the victim the opportunity to stay in this country. These victims did not come across the United States border by choice. They were forced or coerced into migrating here. This is very different from current immigration laws. These victims are only here because they were forced to enter a work force that they did not choose. Some may make a better life for themselves here in the United States than they could have back in their hometown. They may be embarrassed to return home because of the work they did here in the United States. For example, a young girl is forced into prostitution and may not want to go back home because of the shame and guilt she feels for the prostitution she was forced into. Also, with severe forms of trafficking, as well as, illegal labor forms of trafficking, the chance of obtaining a disease (i.e. a sexually transmitted disease, mental disorders, etc.) may be higher than if the victim was not exposed to that work. The medical care in the United States may be better than where the victim originally lived and therefore, the victim may want to stay in the country.

Schauer and Wheaton state “the United States ranks as the world’s second largest destination/market country (after Germany) for women and children trafficked for purposes of sexual exploitation in the sex industry” (Schauer and Wheaton 2006, 146). These researchers also point out the difficulty of defining human trafficking. The most useful definitions of human trafficking come from the United Nations. This states “trafficking in persons” shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. “Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs. (b) The consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation set forth in subparagraph (a) of this article shall be irrelevant where any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) have been used” (Schauer and Wheaton 2006, 149).

Raymond and Hughes (2001) did a study on sex trafficked victims and found it is very difficult to find victims that fit the definitions of what a trafficked victims is as defined by the VTVPA of 2000. They found it is hard to find victims regardless of what the VTVPA defines a victim as because victims are under such harsh situations such as living with pimps, and being victims of coercion, punishment, and fraud. The researchers also found that many victims are unaware of their rights from the VTVPA. One of the most interesting and useful recommendations from the article was suggestion about ways

to let victims know their rights (Raymond and Hughes 2001, 7-9). This study did not address public perceptions of the problems associated with trafficking. Raymond (2002) compared trafficking victims in five countries. She repeated her findings from 2001 by stating that trafficked women in the United States have found it almost impossible to find assistance due to the nature of the confined and isolated sex industry (Raymond 2002, 10-15).

Zimmerman points out that an estimated 50,000 victims are trafficking into the United States each year, only 1,000 are identified victims according to the VTVPA. This is due to the way the VTVPA defines victims and the way the act is worded. Zimmerman found that the VTVPA defined coercion without a full conception of what coercion means in terms of victimization (Zimmerman 2005, 38). Without a full conception of what coercion means, the concept of coercion is left up to each individual judge and each individual case. Unfortunately, many victims are led into human trafficking on the basis of coercion. Without a complete and consistent definition of what coercion is, some victims may not be considered victims at all. This also makes the estimates of how many victims are brought into the country each year lower than what it would be if the definition of coercion was clear and included all the “reasonable” elements of what coercion is. A possible solution may be to use the definition for coercion for sexual assault. The Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act may be flawed due to faulty logic and problematic wording combined.

Some critics argue that current labor and immigration law enforcement actually creates incentives for trafficking in the United States (Chacon 2006, 2979). For example, the VTVPA focuses on sex trafficking and therefore, excludes labor exploitation, which

“exacerbates workplace exploitation by constructively laying blame upon many noncitizen workers for their exploitation,” (Chacon 2006, 2980). In other words, the VTVPA blames labor force victims of trafficking for their victimization by excluding labor force victimization in the act itself. Because the government created the VTVPA without conducting any research on the topic, the act fails to be effective in the prevention and education of trafficking (Chacon 2006, 3021). Again, Chacon goes on to say that with blurred definitions of what a victim is, and what trafficking is, also makes the law ineffective (Chacon 2006, 3022).

The focus on sex trafficking is important because it is a severe form of trafficking, however, that does mean that other forms of trafficking are not being focused on adequately. The lack of focus and lack of a clear definition creates confusion for law enforcement and NGO’s. Also, the discussion of trafficking is often tied to the discussion of coercion. However, the definition of coercion, with regard to human trafficking, has never been defined. Sometimes, the public confuses trafficking with illegal smuggling of persons into the country (Loff and Sanghera 2004, 566). Because of a lack of focus on other areas of trafficking, the other areas victims are being trafficked into are not protected as well under the VTVPA which is unfortunate because all victims of trafficking, regardless of which field their trafficking occurs, are going to suffer and are going to need assistance and protection.

One severe forms of trafficking, sex trafficking, is the main focus of most of the research and legislation. Unfortunately, the focus of sex trafficking may be at the “expense of trafficking for other purposes, such as agricultural labor, domestic work, and organ harvesting” (Jahic and Finckenauer 2005, 25). With the debate on the definition of

trafficking, and even more important, the debate on the definition of trafficked victims many are using the anti-trafficking movement to promote positions on prostitution and immigration. The authors worry that this may move the anti-trafficking movement into one of political conflict and self-interest (Jahic and Finckenauer 2005, 32).

Acknowledgement in the US of the problem of trafficking has occurred relatively recently. Legislation to deal with trafficking in the US has only been in place for six years. Without empirical research the difficulties of identifying victims of trafficking will remain elusive. Perhaps research is scarce because finding victims who are willing to talk and willing to be exposed to researchers is particularly difficult. Perhaps victims choose to remain silent and/or ask to remain anonymous because of fear. Perhaps victims are unaware of resources that are available to help them and they stay away from government agencies as they are in the country illegally. The pain and suffering that these victims have been through may create a boundary line where they feel that they do not want to tell people about their experiences. Recounting experiences recreates the pain and suffering for these people. Another obstacle is that field research is difficult and time consuming. Any insight into comprehension of trafficking issues will help frame future legislation and build support for resources currently being spent on this problem.

According to R. Bell (2001), trafficking has become a critical problem. Men are recruiting women by putting advertisements in newspapers offering jobs that do not exist. These women are given tourist visas, which are taken away when they reach their destination. The women are then forced to pay the "debt" they accrued while being transported. Many methods are used to gain control over the victims of trafficking. These include, but are not limited to, being beaten, tortured, and drugged (Bell 2001, 166).

Youth are trafficked into the United States, similarly to adults, by using false parents that bring them into this country (Schauer and Wheaton 2006, 147).

Wilson, et. al. studied the perceptions and attitudes of police about human trafficking in the United States. Their findings suggest that most law enforcement agencies felt that human trafficking is a problem for federal law enforcement to combat and human trafficking is not a problem for the United States (Wilson, et. al 2006, 155-156). However, as mentioned previously, statistics indicate that trafficking is a problem for the United States. Yet, these local agencies are stating that the federal law enforcement agencies should be the agencies to combat trafficking in the United States. That is faulty logic since it is the local patrol men/women who are going to come into contact with victims first and have the opportunity to help victims and assist victims in ways that may not be available if their victimization is overlooked, while waiting for a federal agency to step in and disseminate the situation. Local law enforcement agencies should have the clearest understanding of what the problem looks like for the United States. If the local law enforcement agencies have misperceptions of the true problem of trafficking, then it would be reasonable the general public will have misperceptions of the problem in the United States.

Trafficking is the third largest criminal industry in the world with revenues of \$9.5 billion annually (Harvard Law Review 2006, 2574). With billions of dollars earned by traffickers each year, it is not difficult to understand why human trafficking has become such a large criminal industry. While drugs can only be sold once, trafficking victims will continue in their indentured relationship for years. A smuggling relationship ends once the person crosses the border whereas trafficking keeps the victims paying

money to their traffickers for a very long time. Traffickers are using physical and psychological abuse to maintain control over the victims (Harvard Law Review 2006, 2575). With such a large problem and scarce education and public awareness, it is easy to see why the efforts of the United States are not effective. Efforts are hindered by the lack of a clear definition of coercion with regard to human trafficking.

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

Research Question

A research questionnaire was created to survey current perceptions about human trafficking among students currently living in Nevada, a State with one of the largest trafficking problems in the United States (Farley 2006). The research questions for this study included: Do students underestimate the problem of human trafficking; Are they aware of trafficking concerns in Nevada; Are they supportive of the current laws designed to stop trafficking; and, Do they support an increase in efforts to assist trafficking victims. The research questions for this study were: the general public had limited knowledge of the human trafficking problem in the U.S., the general public was largely unaware of the trafficking problem in Nevada, and the general public would agree that more assistance should be provided to trafficking victims.

Participants

Participants were primarily undergraduate students at UNLV. They were recruited through the Criminal Justice subject pool and through volunteer participation through select classrooms. Classroom participation was a voluntary exercise in a handful of classes where professors volunteered to have the study run in their classes. The final sample included 398 students. 38% of participants were male and 62% of participants

were female. Participants ranged in age from 18 to over 60. The distribution of participants' ages can be seen in Table 1.

The majority of the participants were Caucasian. The ethnicity of the participants can be viewed in Table 2. Other ethnicities included African-American, Asian, Polynesian, Hispanic, and an "other" category. Those who chose more than one category for ethnicity were placed in their first choice and a note was made that they considered themselves other ethnicities as well.

Participants were asked their current majors at university. This demographic question was an open-ended question with the intention of capturing all possible majors. If a participant was a dual major, a note was made, but participants were coded according to the first major that they indicated. Table 3 presents the different college majors of the participants.

The vast majority of participants' first language is English. English accounted for 87% of the participants' first language. Spanish followed with 5%, Tagalog and Korean both accounted for 1%, Italian, Russian, Bulgarian, and Romanian had .6%, and Serbian, Polish, Bosnian, Chinese, Gujarati, Cantonese, Navajo, Kikuyu, Filipino, and Arabic accounted for .3% of the participants' first language.

Protocol

The Human Subjects Protocol for this research project was approved by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Institutional Review Board on December 21, 2006 (OSP# 0611-2146). The consent form and the debriefing form were submitted and approved on the same date.

Table 1. Ages of participants

Age	Percentage
17-20	35%
21-25	51
26-30	7
31-35	2
36-40	2
41-45	2
46-50	1
Over 60	0.3

Table 2. Ethnicity of Participants

Ethnicity	%
African-American	8
Caucasian	64
Asian	8
Polynesian	2
Hispanic	12
Other	6

Table 3. College Majors of Participants

Major	%
Criminal Justice	34
Psychology	10
Counseling	13
Social Work	4
Education	8
Engineering	6
Hospitality	3
Science	4
Business	3
Arts	3
Health Sciences	3
Computer Engineering	1
Undeclared	1
Fine Arts	3
Other	5

Procedure

Participants completed the research questionnaire in private or in small groups in the Legal and Social Issues laboratory, as well as, and in classroom settings by invitation of the professor. The author, or specified students, was invited into these classrooms by the professor. The first 10-15 minutes of class was dedicated to the completion of the survey. All participants were told of the voluntary nature of participating in the survey.

No identifying information was collected with responses to keep answers confidential. Participants were told of the anonymity. If a participant had already completed the survey in the lab or another class, they were asked not to participate a second time. The participants were told of the harm and benefits of filling out the questionnaire before completing the survey through the consent form, which may be viewed in Appendix B. The consent form explained the study would be anonymous and also provided information regarding the study. For example, the consent form explicated that the study regarded attitudes about human trafficking, as well as, the importance of such a study. Students were also informed that not completing the study would not have a negative consequence on their grades. Participants completing their surveys through the research lab were made aware that they would still receive their participation credits for CRJ 104 even if they did not complete any or all of the questions that made them uncomfortable.

A debriefing form was also given to participants after completing the questionnaire. The debriefing form clarified the study's purpose. A phone number to contact counseling services on the University Campus was provided in case participants

felt they needed to speak with a counselor regarding the content of the questionnaire. A copy of the debriefing form may be viewed in Appendix C.

Materials

The questionnaire was designed by myself with assistance from Dr. M. Alexis Kennedy. The questionnaire includes 44 questions assessing attitudes towards victims of trafficking, including demographic questions. Participants were polled as to their perceptions of victims of trafficking through this tool. Their attitudes were considered in light of the assumptions expressed in the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 and its two amendments. The items were written by the author and vetted by Criminal Justice researchers. The scale used can be found in its entirety in Appendix A. The questions ask the participants their attitudes towards child victims versus adult victims and male versus female victims of trafficking. The questions attempt to measure participants' attitude of trafficking in the United States as well as the problem of trafficking in Nevada. Participants were asked to estimate the money made by traffickers in the United States yearly as well as how many victims are brought into the United States. Some questions ask about what the victims are forced to do while in the United States and in Nevada. Participants were also asked to estimate the age of the average victim as well as the gender. The majority of these questions are agreement items on a five-point scale. Some forced choice items and open-ended questions were included as well.

Demographic information was collected through a series of questions in the survey tool. The personal characteristics of the participants completing the questionnaires served as the independent variables (e.g., gender, age, experience working in

prostitution). The dependent variables were the attitudes, perceptions, and opinions of the participants. Assumptions about trafficking victims can be compared between items that depict different victims (e.g., do people hold different attitudes about child victims rather than adult victims). These attitudes were compared with the way the VTVPA has been worded.

The survey consisted of 44 questions in total. The first 4 questions were designed as forced choice due to the language of the question. Open-ended questions would have led to too many answers therefore a forced choice was utilized. These questions included estimating the age range and gender most likely to be trafficked, how many people are trafficked into the United States each year, as well as, how much money is earned by traffickers each year. The next 23 questions focused on attitudes about trafficking victims into the United States and into Nevada. These questions asked a range of questions about child versus adult victims. These questions focused on assumptions made about child victims and their rights versus adult victims and their rights. A 5-point Likert scale (strongly disagree, disagree, neither disagree nor agree, agree, strongly agree) was used for this portion of the survey. Two dichotomous (yes/no) questions were included in a section about the VTVPA's wording. The Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act allows for child victims to stay in the United States but it is not legal for adult victims to stay in the country. These two questions address that issue and asked participants if they agree or disagree with the VTVPA. A rank order type question was included for participants to rank the order of where victims of human trafficking are being placed in Nevada (brothels, street prostitution, and illegal workforce). Finally, a question asking if

there was anything not included in the survey that the participant would like to add ended the questionnaire.

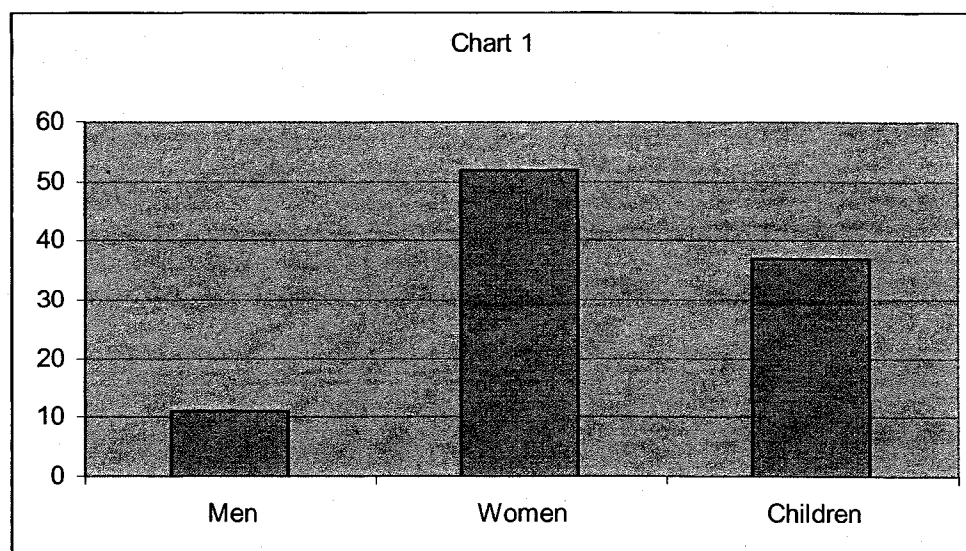
CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Results

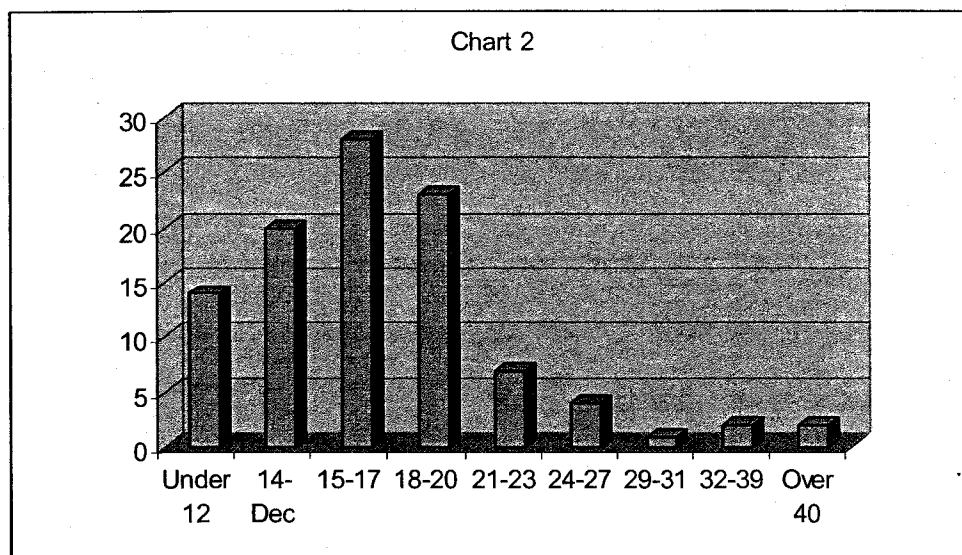
The first question asked of participants was whom they thought was trafficked most frequently into the United States: men, women, or children. Of the 398 respondents, 52% responded that they thought women were trafficked most often, 37% said children were trafficked more, and 11% said men were trafficked more often (see chart 1). According to the Trafficking in Persons Report 2005, women are trafficked into the United States the most, followed by children, and then men.

Chart 1. Participant response to what gender is trafficked more often into the United States



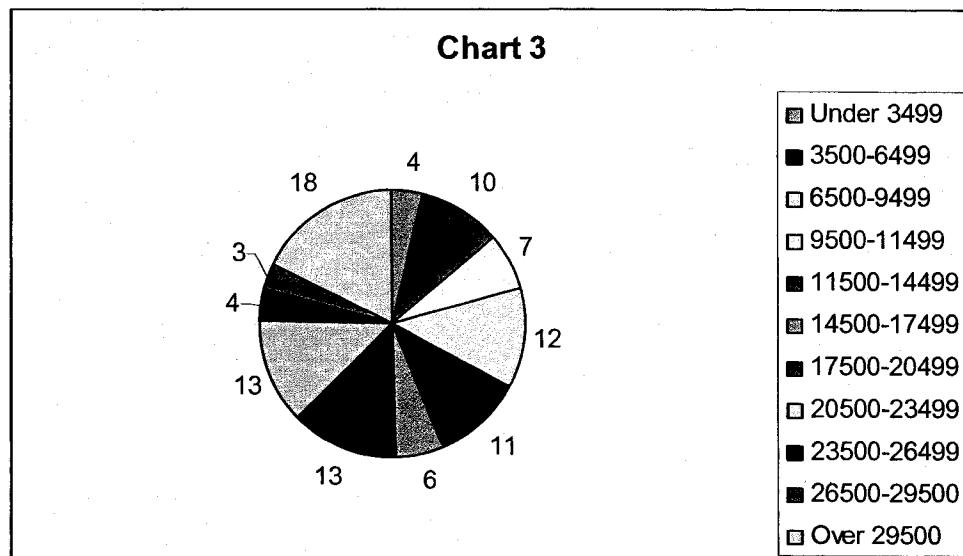
In the second question, participants were asked to estimate the average age range of victims trafficked. The most common response was 15-17 year olds. The frequency of responses are presented graphically in chart 2. Among participants, 14% stated that they believed under 12 years old were trafficked the most, 20% said 12-14, 28% choose 15-17, 23% picked 18-20, 7% believed 21-23, 4% said 24-27, 1% choose 29-31, 2% picked 32-39, while only 2% choose over 40 years of age (see chart 2). According to the Trafficking in Persons Report 2005, the average age of a trafficked victim is 19-21 years old.

Chart 2. Participant response to the average age range of victims being trafficked



Participants were also asked to estimate the number of victims trafficked into the United States each year. The most frequently selected response was the highest category of over 29,500 victims are being trafficked into the United States each year. Only 6% of participants choose the correct estimate of 14,500-17,499 victims trafficked to the United States each year (Department of State 2005). Many participants chose the mid-ranges of the forced choice responses. Chart 3 presents the choices made by the participants.

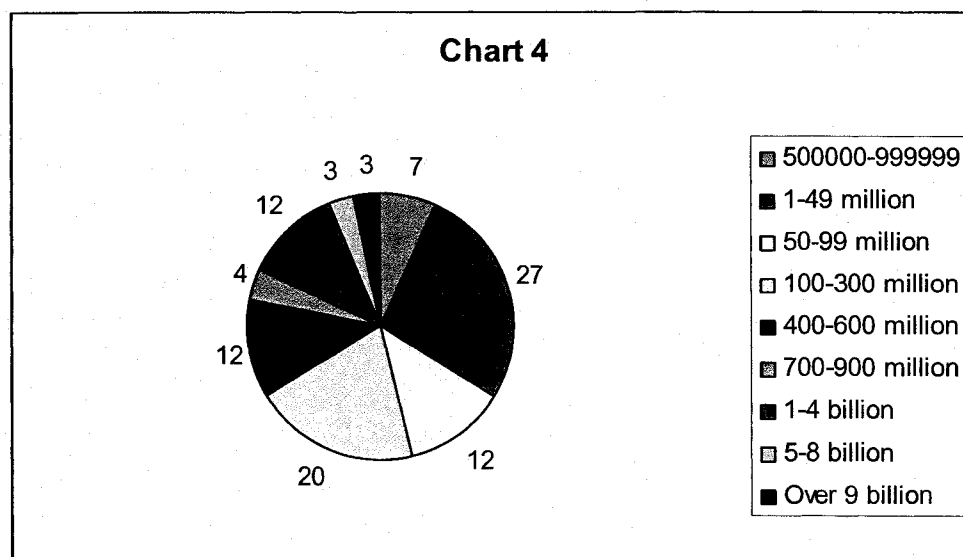
Chart 3. Participant response to how many trafficked victims are being brought to the US yearly



Question 4 asked participants to estimate the amount of money earned by traffickers each year. The most frequent response was the second lowest choice for

estimated profits (\$1 – 29 million per year). Only 12% of respondents chose the response reflecting the current estimates of profits of \$1-\$4 billion (Department of State 2005). Only a few respondents picked the 2 greatest forced choice responses. See Chart 4 for further details.

Chart 4: Participant response to the estimate amount of money earned by traffickers



Questions 5-28 asked participants to rate various items on an agreement-disagreement scale of 1-5 (strongly disagree to strongly agree). These questions were then grouped together according to the similarity of the questions for comparison. The four groups of questions include: blame and government responses; awareness of trafficking; awareness of Nevada issues; and, support for victims.

Questions 5, 6, 9, and 10 were grouped together for comparison in the blame and government responses category. The questions asked participants about assigning blame to the adult victims or about government reactions to the human trafficking dilemma. Mean agreement levels for these items can be seen in Table 4.

Table 5 compares the responses of men and women to these same items. Only one item varied by gender, “Adults who are victims of trafficking are partly to blame for being

The second group of items looked at awareness of trafficking generally. Questions 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14 were grouped together into this category and the means and standard deviations can be found in Table 6.

Gender differences were also considered for these items and can be seen in Table 7. Gender was considered as a variable due to the possible differences between men and women and the way they view victims. Only two of the six items differed by gender. Women were significantly more likely than men to agree with the following items, “Adults are currently being trafficked into the United States for forced prostitution.” and “Children are trafficked into the United States for forced labor.”

The third group of questions concerned trafficking in Nevada. The means for these 10 questions are found in Table 8. Only one item in this group of 10 items varied significantly when compared by gender. On the item, “Some of the girls in Detention centers in Nevada are actually trafficking victims”, women were significantly more likely to agree than men were. Means split by gender for this group of questions can be found in Table 9.

Table 4: Blame and government responses to human trafficking

Item	Mean	SD
5. We should punish the people who traffic children more harshly than those who traffic adults.	3.63	1.26
6. Adults who are victims of trafficking are partly to blame for being trafficked.	2.35	1.12
9. The United States is doing a good job at reducing trafficking into the country.	2.67	1.25
10. We need to sponsor preventative programs that target the people most likely to be trafficked into the United States.	3.89	.84

Item means range from 1.0 (strongly disagree) to 5.0 (strongly agree).

Table 5: Blame and government responses to human trafficking - compared by gender.

Item	Women n = 225	Men n = 135	<i>F</i>	<i>p</i>
5. We should punish the people who traffic children more harshly than those who traffic adults.	3.69	3.67	0.023	.88
6. Adults who are victims of trafficking are partly to blame for being trafficked.	2.24	2.54	6.32	.01
9. The United States is doing a good job at reducing trafficking into the country.	2.56	2.78	2.55	.11
10. We need to sponsor preventative programs that target the people most likely to be trafficked into the United States.	3.96	3.78	3.62	.06

Item means range from 1.0 (strongly disagree) to 5.0 (strongly agree).

Significant differences are indicated in bold

Table 6.Awareness of human trafficking

Item	Mean	SD
7. Men can be victims of trafficking.	4.25	.69
8. More people are trafficked into the US than are trafficked into other countries.	2.95	1.10
11. Children are currently being trafficked into the United States for forced prostitution.	3.97	.88
12. Adults are currently being trafficked into the United States for forced prostitution.	3.96	.82
13. Children are trafficked into the United States for forced labor.	3.68	.95
14. Adults are trafficked into the United States for forced labor.	3.87	.87

Item means range from 1.0 (strongly disagree) to 5.0 (strongly agree).

Table 7. Awareness of human trafficking - compared by gender.

Item	Women n = 225	Men n = 135	<i>F</i>	<i>p</i>
7. Men can be victims of trafficking.	4.32	4.22	1.75	.19
8. More people are trafficked into the US than are trafficked into other countries.	2.96	2.95	.006	.94
11. Children are currently being trafficked into the United States for forced prostitution.	4.05	3.91	2.26	.13
12. Adults are currently being trafficked into the United States for forced prostitution.	4.07	3.82	8.34	.004
13. Children are trafficked into the United States for forced labor.	3.81	3.54	7.11	.008
14. Adults are trafficked into the United States for forced labor.	3.91	3.89	.08	.78

Item means range from 1.0 (strongly disagree) to 5.0 (strongly agree).
Significant differences are indicated in bold

Table 8. Awareness of Nevada trafficking issues

Item	Mean	SD
15. Children are trafficked into Nevada from other countries.	3.71	1.26
19. Male victims are trafficked into Nevada from other countries.	3.56	.81
20. Female victims are trafficked into Nevada from other countries.	3.89	.76
21. Trafficking victims are working in brothels in Nevada.	3.50	.88
22. Children are more likely to be trafficked to Nevada to work in street prostitution than adults are.	3.16	.91
23. Children are more likely to be trafficked into Nevada to work in the labor force than adults are.	3.09	.86
24. There are no trafficking victims in Nevada.	1.63	.79
26. Trafficking victims are being trafficked to Nevada, but only to the Las Vegas area.	2.21	.83
27. Some of the prostitutes in Nevada's jails are actually trafficking victims.	3.90	.68
28. Some of the girls in Detention centers in Nevada are actually trafficking victims.	3.70	.65

Item means range from 1.0 (strongly disagree) to 5.0 (strongly agree).

Table 9. Awareness of Nevada trafficking issues- compared by gender

Item	Women n = 225	Men n = 135	<i>F</i>	<i>p</i>
15. Children are trafficked into Nevada from other countries.	3.66	3.71	0.42	.52
19. Male victims are trafficked into Nevada from other countries.	3.55	3.60	.412	.52
20. Female victims are trafficked into Nevada from other countries.	3.88	3.94	.578	.45
21. Trafficking victims are working in brothels in Nevada.	3.54	3.48	.366	.55
22. Children are more likely to be trafficked to Nevada to work in street prostitution than adults are.	3.23	3.13	.913	.34
23. Children are more likely to be trafficked into Nevada to work in the labor force than adults are.	3.09	3.10	.012	.91
24. There are no trafficking victims in Nevada.	1.63	1.66	.136	.71
26. Trafficking victims are being trafficked to Nevada, but only to the Las Vegas area.	2.22	2.12	.131	.72
27. Some of the prostitutes in Nevada's jails are actually trafficking victims.	3.72	3.69	.149	.70
28. Some of the girls in Detention centers in Nevada are actually trafficking victims.	3.71	3.66	.685	.005

Item means range from 1.0 (strongly disagree) to 5.0 (strongly agree).
Significant differences are indicated in bold

The final group of questions included questions about government support for trafficking victims. The means for these three items can be found in Table 10.

Comparisons of means according to gender are presented in Table 11. None of these items varied significantly by gender.

Question 30 asked participants whether the United States needs to provide more assistance to victims of trafficking. The answers were a forced choice yes or no. In 80% of responses, respondents stated that more assistance should be provided to victims of trafficking here in the United States. Question 31 asked participants whether t-visas should be allowed to adults instead of just child victims of trafficking. Again, the answers were forced choice yes or no. 75% of respondents stated that they believe that the t-visa should also be given to adult victims as well as child victims of trafficking.

Some demographics questions asked participants about their experiences with victims, law enforcement, the commercial sex industry, and services purchased from prostitutes. Frequencies for those questions are reported in Table 12. These questions were put at the end of the questionnaire to alleviate any concern that some would not answer them because of how personal they are. Other questions surrounded these questions as distractions in case any other participants tried to view another participant's answers.

These questions were included as potential dependent variables for analyses. However, due to the low percentage of yes answers and the fact that the means did not vary when including these items as variables, the analysis and data was not compiled for inclusion in this study.

Table 10.Support for trafficking victims

Item	Mean	SD
16. After completing testifying against offenders, the child victims of trafficking should be deported to their country of origin.	2.69	1.12
17. After completing testifying against offenders, the adult victims of trafficking should be deported to their country of origin.	2.84	1.53
18. The law should only assist victims of trafficking who are under the age of 18 to obtain citizenship, but not adult victims.	2.12	.982

Item means range from 1.0 (strongly disagree) to 5.0 (strongly agree).

Table 11. Support for trafficking victims - compared by gender

Item	Women n = 225	Men n = 135	<i>F</i>	<i>p</i>
16. After completing testifying against offenders, the child victims of trafficking should be deported to their country of origin.	2.64	2.72	.412	.52
17. After completing testifying against offenders, the adult victims of trafficking should be deported to their country of origin.	2.82	2.82	.001	.97
18. The law should only assist victims of trafficking who are under the age of 18 to obtain citizenship, but not adult victims.	2.04	2.12	1.86	.17

Item means range from 1.0 (strongly disagree) to 5.0 (strongly agree).
Significant differences are indicated in bold

Table 12. Demographic Questions

Item	% Yes (n)	% No (n)
Do you personally know any victims of trafficking?	3 (12)	97 (346)
Have you ever been in law enforcement?	6 (21)	94 (360)
Have you ever been in the commercial sex industry?	0	100 (360)
Have you ever purchased sex (or some other service) from a prostitute?	1 (4)	99 (356)

Question 31 was a rank order question designed to demonstrate the knowledge of participants' perception of where trafficking victims were being forced to work and which places more often than others. Unfortunately, this question is not included in the findings due to the complicated nature of the question. Many students chose to not answer this question and of those who did answer the question, a significant portion of participants did not use the rank system appropriately (i.e. putting more than one answer for number 1).

Question 32 asked participants if they would like to add anything that the author has not asked. Relatively few people responded to this item. The results are not included in this findings chapter but are available from the author.

Questions 41, 43, and 44 were included, as stated above, to conceal the other questions on the demographics section as to make it difficult for participants to try to view other participants' answers. These questions asked participants about social work, counseling, and psychology field experience. Because these questions were not intended to be utilized in the analysis portion, they are not reported here.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

Discussion

The research questions for this research study were supported. The participants had little knowledge on the subject of human trafficking as demonstrated through questions 1-4. The majority of participants underestimated the amount of money earned by traffickers each year and over estimated how many victims were being trafficked into the United States each year with the correct responses being \$1-\$3 billion and 14,500 to 17,499. The majority of participants also underestimated the ages of victims being trafficked into the US each year with the correct ages being 19-21. It should be noted that these federal estimates are ridiculously specific.

This substantiates the research question that the general public does not have much knowledge in the area of human trafficking.

Participants were aware that trafficking is happening in Nevada. Per questions 15, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, and 28 the majority of participants agreed that men, women, and children are being trafficked in Nevada for a variety of reasons, forced labor and prostitution. The majority of participants believed that children are trafficked for prostitution more than labor force needs here in Nevada, which as stated in the Introduction and Literature Review, is not the case. This corroborates the research question that the general public is mostly unaware of the trafficking problem in Nevada.

Items 16, 17, and 18 proves the research question that the general public would agree that more assistance needs to be provided to trafficking victims. The items show that the majority of participants agree that assistance should be provided and more assistance is needed. Again, the research question that the general public would support more victim assistance being provided to victims of human trafficking and support more funding for these victims is proved with item 9 which states the majority of the participants do not believe the United States is doing all that it can to combat trafficking.

The means for questions 5-15 indicate that the general public understands that men, women, and children are being brought into the United States and forced into prostitution and forced labor. Most of the participants, however, believe that human trafficking is worse in other countries when compared to the United States, which is not the case.

There was a large agreement among participants regarding the punishment of those who traffic children. The majority of participants believe that those who traffic children should have harsher punishments than those who traffic adults (per question 5). However, question 10 asked if we should sponsor preventative programs targeting those most likely to be trafficked and the participants agreed. A vast majority agreed, per item 7, that men are victims of trafficking, which is true.

One surprising finding were the responses to the item, "Adults who are victims of trafficking are partly to blame for being trafficked" The author hypothesized that most of participants would see adults as partially to blame for their victimization but participants disagreed with this item.

Participants did not agree that trafficking is a larger problem for the United States than other countries, which is in direct opposition with what the author found in the literature review (question 8). Questions 11, 12, 13, and 14 asked participants if children and adult victims were being trafficked for prostitution and into forced labor. The participants agreed that both children and adult victims are being trafficked in both of these areas, which is true.

Items 27 and 28 asked participants if they believed that victims of trafficking were in Nevada jails and Nevada detentions. Again, the majority agreed with these statements, which is again correct.

Responses seemed to indicate that participants were not supportive of the current priorities in the laws designed to protect trafficking victims which was the third research question. First, the participants disagreed slightly with the statement, "The United States is doing a good job at reducing trafficking into the country." Second, participants disagreed with the statement, "The law should only assist victims of trafficking who are under the age of 18 to obtain citizenship, but not adult victims." Currently, the VTVPA does not allow adult victims to apply for citizenship. This same sympathy toward adult victims was expressed when participants disagreed with the item, "After completing testifying against offenders, the adult victims of trafficking should be deported to their country of origin." In other words, 75% of respondents disagreed with the current use of VTVPA.

There was support for the current government protections of child victims of trafficking. Participants disagreed with the statement, "After testifying against offenders,

the child victims of trafficking should be deported to their country of origin. They appeared to support allowing child trafficking victims to stay in the United States.

As with Wilson and colleagues' research (2006) participants in this study agreed that trafficking is not as large of a problem for the United States as with other countries. The same finding was presented in Wilson's research of police officers. Chacon's research was also supported as findings suggest that participants feel the VTVPA is ineffective which is largely due to the inconsistent definitions of what is a victim and who needs victim assistance.

Limitations

As with any study and especially due to the nature of doing research on human trafficking, this study has limitations. This study is very exploratory in nature. Only UNLV students were polled which limits generalizability. The research questions were designed to gain knowledge on what the attitudes and opinions are about human trafficking here in the United States and in Nevada. Unfortunately, public education is lacking in the area of human trafficking and that may be a limitation as some participants may confuse trafficking with smuggling or other immigration issues.

Recommendations for Future Research

The complete lack of research on the topic of human trafficking in the United States creates a need for more research to be done. Research should focus on how to prevent human trafficking, meet victim assistance needs, and estimate the amount of trafficking.

Human trafficking prevention research would be very beneficial to the United States' citizens. By preventing human trafficking, we would prevent the damage done to

victims and the public. Victims of human trafficking may suffer psychological and physical damage. Their health (mental, physical, and emotional) may be compromised after being victimized, just as with any other victimization. The general public would benefit from prevention studies because if trafficking of human beings can be prevented, than the financial cost for assistance for victims would be decreased and that money could be spent in other areas of public need. Also, the public does not want harm to be done to human beings and being trafficked causes harm. Therefore, prevention of trafficking would create a more peaceful United States.

Victim assistance research is needed. Assistance already exists for victims of trafficking but the effectiveness of these programs has yet to be studied. By researching the effectiveness of these programs, the scientific community would know which programs work and therefore could put more money into those that work and eliminate the programs that do not work. Also, research in the area of if more assistance needs to be in place for these victims and what that assistance should be in order to be beneficial to society and to victims of trafficking should also be considered for future studies.

Although assistance is in place for victims, the victims may not even be aware that assistance exists. If the victims are not aware of the assistance that exists for them to receive help, then the effectiveness of the victim assistance program would be very difficult to evaluate. Therefore, research needs to determine whether victims are aware of the assistance being provided currently, what efforts need to be made to ensure that victims are aware of the assistance, and what other programs would be beneficial to implement. These types of studies are crucial in determining if the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 is truly effective in providing victim assistance.

Although estimating the amount of trafficking in the United States is difficult and seemingly impossible, an effort needs to be made in order to give accurate statistics of the effectiveness of the VTVPA. The current numbers that most studies use to demonstrate the amount of the problem of trafficking is from the annual Trafficking in Persons report that is produced annually. However, problems with the numbers arise because of the change of definitions (discussed in the literature review). The same problem occurs in Uniform Crime Report data. For that reason, it would be beneficial to have a real estimate studied by researchers in order to accurately describe the problem of trafficking and the effectiveness of Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act.

Conclusions

The data collected supports the research question that UNLV students are unaware of how large the problem of human trafficking is, the current trafficking laws that assist child victims but not adult victims are not what the public wants to see as laws, the trafficking problem is under estimated, and the public supports more assistance for trafficking victims.

This study was designed to show that the crime of trafficking is largely underestimated by the general public and if the public was aware of the problem, the general public would choose to assist victims more than the current laws are allowing. The knowledge gained through this study exposed the need for public education and awareness of human trafficking, including the laws that need to be put into place to support victims and assist victims.

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APPENDIX A

RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE

The 2003 Trafficking in Persons Report defines human trafficking as “slave-like situations of forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation from which [individuals] cannot free themselves.” The following questions are regarding human trafficking **INTO** the United States or **INTO** Nevada from other countries.

1. Which group do you think are trafficked at the highest rate into the United States?
(Please select one answer)

Men _____

Women _____

Children _____

2. What is the age range of people that are most likely to be trafficking victims? (Please select one answer)

Under 12 _____

12-14 _____

15-17 _____

18-20 _____

21-23 _____

24-27 _____

29-31 _____

32-39 _____

40+ _____

3. Estimate the number of victims being trafficked into the United States each year.
(Please select one answer)

< 6,000 _____

6,000 - 9,999 _____

10,000 - 12,499 _____

12,500 - 14,499 _____

14,500 - 17,499 _____

17,500 - 19,999 _____

20,000 - 24,999 _____

25,000 - 29,999 _____

> 30,000 _____

4. Estimate the amount of money earned by traffickers in the United States each year.
(Please select one answer)

\$500,000-999,999 _____ \$1-49 million _____ \$50-99 million _____
 \$100-300 million _____ \$400-600 million _____ \$700-900 million _____
 \$1-4 billion _____ \$5-8 billion _____ \$9 billion or greater _____

Below are a series of statements about trafficking. We would like to know to what extent you disagree or agree with each one. Please indicate how much you **disagree** or **agree** with each statement by circling the appropriate number.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree Nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
5. We should punish the people who traffic children more harshly than those who traffic adults.	1	2	3	4	5
6. Adults who are victims of trafficking are partly to blame for being trafficked.	1	2	3	4	5
7. Men can be victims of trafficking.	1	2	3	4	5
8. More people are trafficked into the US than are trafficked into other countries.	1	2	3	4	5
9. The United States is doing a good job at reducing trafficking into the country.	1	2	3	4	5
10. We need to sponsor preventative programs that target the people most likely to be trafficked into the United States.	1	2	3	4	5
11. Children are currently being trafficked into the United States for forced prostitution.	1	2	3	4	5
12. Adults are currently being trafficked into the United States for forced prostitution.	1	2	3	4	5
13. Children are trafficked into the United States for forced labor.	1	2	3	4	5
14. Adults are trafficked into the United States for forced labor.	1	2	3	4	5
15. Children are trafficked into Nevada from other countries.	1	2	3	4	5

16. After completing testifying against offenders, the child victims of trafficking should be deported to their country of origin.	1	2	3	4	5
17. After completing testifying against offenders, the adult victims of trafficking should be deported to their country of origin.	1	2	3	4	5
18. The law should only assist victims of trafficking who are under the age of 18 to obtain citizenship, but not adult victims.	1	2	3	4	5
19. Male victims are trafficked into Nevada from other countries.	1	2	3	4	5
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree Nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
20. Female victims are trafficked into Nevada from other countries.	1	2	3	4	5
21. Trafficking victims are working in brothels in Nevada.	1	2	3	4	5
22. Children are more likely to be trafficked to Nevada to work in street prostitution than adults are.	1	2	3	4	5
23. Children are more likely to be trafficked into Nevada to work in the labor force than adults are.	1	2	3	4	5
24. There are no trafficking victims in Nevada.	1	2	3	4	5
25. Politicians in Nevada should focus on the problem of human trafficking in Nevada.	1	2	3	4	5
26. Trafficking victims are being trafficked to Nevada, but only to the Las Vegas area.	1	2	3	4	5
27. Some of the prostitutes in Nevada's jails are actually trafficking victims.	1	2	3	4	5
28. Some of the girls in Detention centers in Nevada are actually trafficking victims.	1	2	3	4	5

29. Currently the United States has the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act which has created the following: a human trafficking task force, harsher jail/prison time for traffickers, and a visa enabling child victims of trafficking under the age of 18 to stay in the country after testifying against their traffickers. Should child victims be allowed to stay in the country?

Yes _____

No _____

30. Should there be more assistance than that provided for child victims of trafficking than what is outlined in the previous question?

Yes _____

No _____

31. Currently the United States Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act only states that children may receive a visa to stay in the country after testifying against their traffickers. Should this law apply to adult victims as well as children victims?

Yes _____

No _____

31. Please rank the following from 1 to 3 with 1 being the most predominate or common in Nevada and 3 being the least predominate or least common in Nevada.

Trafficked victims work in brothels in Nevada _____

Trafficked victims work in street prostitution in Nevada _____

Trafficked victims work in an illegal work force in Nevada _____

32. Is there any thing else you want to add about human trafficking into the United States and/or Nevada?

The following section asks about whether you relate to different areas of society when trafficking may be involved. If you are uncomfortable answering the following questions, please remember you do not have to answer.

What is your major area of study? _____

Age: _____

Sex: Male _____ Female _____

Ethnicity: (Please circle as many as apply)

African-American Caucasian Asian Polynesian
Hispanic

Other: _____

What is your first language? _____

Do you personally know any victims of trafficking? YES _____ NO _____

Have you ever been in law enforcement? YES _____ NO _____

Have you ever been employed in the commercial sex industry? YES _____ NO _____

Have you ever been employed in social work? YES _____ NO _____

Have you ever purchased sex (or some other service) from a prostitute? YES _____
NO _____

Have you ever been employed in counseling? YES _____ NO _____

Have you ever been employed in the field of psychology? YES _____ NO _____

APPENDIX B

CONSENT FORM

Purpose of the Study

You are invited to participate in a research study. The purpose of this study is to gain knowledge about perceptions of criminal behavior and human trafficking.

Participants

You are being asked to participate in the study because previous research has shown that college level students share similar attitudes with other adults in the community at large.

Procedures

If you volunteer to participate in this study, you will be asked to do the following: complete an anonymous self-report questionnaire package consisting of questions about perceptions of criminal behavior and human trafficking. You will be asked to provide some demographic information (e.g., age, sex, and ethnic background). Your name will not be associated with or linked to the data, and your consent form will be stored separately from the data.

Benefits of Participation

There may be a direct benefit to you as a participant in this study. You may benefit from gaining direct knowledge about the process by which psychological data is collected in a university setting. We hope to learn more about the effectiveness of measuring attitudes towards prostitution.

Risks of Participation

There are risks involved in all research studies. This study may include only minimal risks. You might be uncomfortable answering some of the questions asked. You may choose not to answer any questions that make me feel uncomfortable. Participation is completely voluntary and you have the right to refuse to participate and withdraw from the study without jeopardizing your course grade. If you exercise your right to withdraw from the study before it is completed, you will still receive your research credit points.

Cost /Compensation

There will not be a financial cost to you to participate in this study. The study will take approximately 30 minutes of your time. You will not be compensated financially for your time. You will receive one (1) research credit point for CRJ 104 for your participation.

Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns about the study, you may contact Dr. Alexis Kennedy at **895-5122**. For questions regarding the rights of research subjects, any complaints or comments regarding the manner in which the study is being conducted you may contact **the UNLV Office for the Protection of Research Subjects at 702-895-2794**.

Voluntary Participation

Your participation in this study is voluntary. You may refuse to participate in this study or in any part of this study. You may withdraw at any time without prejudice to your relations with the university. You are encouraged to ask questions about this study at the beginning or any time during the research study.

Confidentiality

All information gathered in this study will be kept completely confidential. No reference will be made in written or oral materials that could link you to this study. All records will be stored in a locked facility at UNLV for 3 years after the completion of the study and publication of the results. After the storage time the information gathered will be destroyed.

Participant Consent:

I have read the above information and agree to participate in this study. I am at least 18 years of age. A copy of this form will be given to me.

Signature of Participant

Date

Participant Name (Please Print)

Participant Note: Please do not sign this document if the Approval Stamp is missing or is expired.

APPENDIX C

DEBRIEFING FORM

EXPERIMENT INFORMATIONAL FORM

* PLEASE READ *

Principal Investigator, Dr. Alexis Kennedy (895-5122)

Survey on attitudes toward human trafficking. This survey included items designed to measure attitudes towards human trafficking. This new study attempts to see how attitudes of Nevadans match the assumptions written into federal legislation designed to protect victims of human trafficking. Each year, the Secretary of State puts out a new publication called the "Trafficking in Persons Report" that highlights the severe forms of trafficking that the US is trying to combat. The Trafficking in Persons Report is also "intended to raise global awareness, to highlight the growing efforts of the international community to combat human trafficking, and to encourage foreign governments to take effective actions to counter all forms of trafficking in persons." Although these publications are available to the public, most people seem to have a different perception about the extent of the human trafficking problem in the United States.

Some of the questions asked today are personal and may have been unsettling. If you would like to talk further about any issues raised here, the following is a resource available to you:

Student Counseling & Psychological Services at UNLV
3627

895-

✓ **Confidential counseling on any topic**

References

Department of State. Trafficking in Persons Report, 2006.

VITA

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Graduate Faculty Representative, Dr. Michelle Chino, Ph.D.