

QUICK GUIDE: Community Assessment for Multidisciplinary Task Forces

TASK/ACTIVITY

Conduct a data-driven community assessment, factoring in the experiences of task force stakeholders, to identify **areas within the community where vulnerabilities for trafficking exploitation may be occurring.**

*This is not a **needs** assessment. Think of it as more of a **threat/vulnerability** assessment.*

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

Focuses on identifying and understanding areas and causes of vulnerability

Used to develop outreach strategies and priorities

VS

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Focuses on assets and gaps in responding to cases and potential cases

Used to identify capacity-building priorities

REMINDER

*This assessment should cover **all** forms of trafficking and **all** victim demographics (e.g., age, sex, gender, race, ethnicity).*

GUIDANCE

WHAT

Use a mix of data and qualitative interviews to develop the community assessment. Successful task forces view this as both an activity and a process. It is an important initial step to ensure efforts are targeted and focused on trafficking in a particular jurisdiction. Regularly consider and update the community assessment to reflect changes in the area and new information.

WHO

Look to both task force members and others in the community to assist in the community assessment. A key question to ask potential contributors is whether they have knowledge of vulnerable populations within the community.

FUNDS

This does not have to be a formally funded project. Instead (or in the absence) of specific funding, leverage existing resources and assets such as task force members and partnerships with community organizations and local universities.

TIP

Engage your membership.
Use this as an opportunity to engage members of the task force. Host a discussion and/or brainstorm session to identify factors that create vulnerability to trafficking, and then work backward to identify what information might be available related to those factors.



CONSIDERATIONS

The considerations here are guidance, not a tool. You may include additional items based on your jurisdiction/geography. You may also exclude items that are not relevant for your area.

TASK FORCE & TASK FORCE MEMBER DATA

Victim Services

- How many victims received services in total?
- How many victims received services in a certain year?

Tips/Referrals

- Where are tips/referrals coming from?
- Where are tips/referrals not coming from?

Sex/Labor Trafficking

- What is the breakdown for victims identified by law enforcement in the course of an investigation?
- What is the breakdown for victims who received services from a task force member?

Demographics (e.g., age, gender, ethnicity, race)

- What is the breakdown for victims identified by law enforcement in the course of an investigation?
- What is the breakdown for victims who received services from a task force member?

Prosecutions

- How many total prosecutions?
- How many prosecutions in a certain year?

LANDSCAPE REVIEW & VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

Trafficking

- Of the industries known to be vulnerable to trafficking, how many are present in your geographic area?
 - Which ones?
 - Where are they located?
- How large are those industries (e.g., number of workers, percentage of overall economic activity)?
- Are businesses employing guest-workers (H2A, H2B, H1B visas)?
 - In what sectors?

Vulnerable Populations

- What percentage of the population is unstably housed?
- How many runaway/homeless youth are there?
- What percentage of the population is in poverty?
- How many youth are involved in the child welfare/juvenile justice systems?
- What percentage of the population is undocumented?
- How many wage and hour violations are there?

OTHER GROUPS/STAKEHOLDERS

- Regulatory agencies
- Community-based service providers
- Immigration and employment attorneys
- Street and youth outreach programs
- Advocacy groups (e.g., worker rights, disability rights)
- Other groups that regularly engage with vulnerable populations

DATA TYPES/SOURCES

- Data on presence of low-wage work within your area (e.g., manufacturing, agricultural, domestic, hospitality)
- Census data on population growth in immigrant communities
- Data on migration patterns/labor issues
- Geographic factors (e.g., highways, borders)
- Federal and state labor department data