

**ENGAGE
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TENNESSEE COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT 2023 REPORT

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Engage Together Project for the state of Tennessee was made possible by a grant from and the partnership of the TBI Human Trafficking Task Force, and was accomplished in collaboration with many partners, including especially the Task Force leadership, Tennessee Counter Trafficking Alliance (TCTA), Belmont University's Data Collaborative, Pomerol Partners and Qlik.

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Learn more about each of these partners and download the supplemental reports by going to the Project website at engagetgether.com/project/tn.

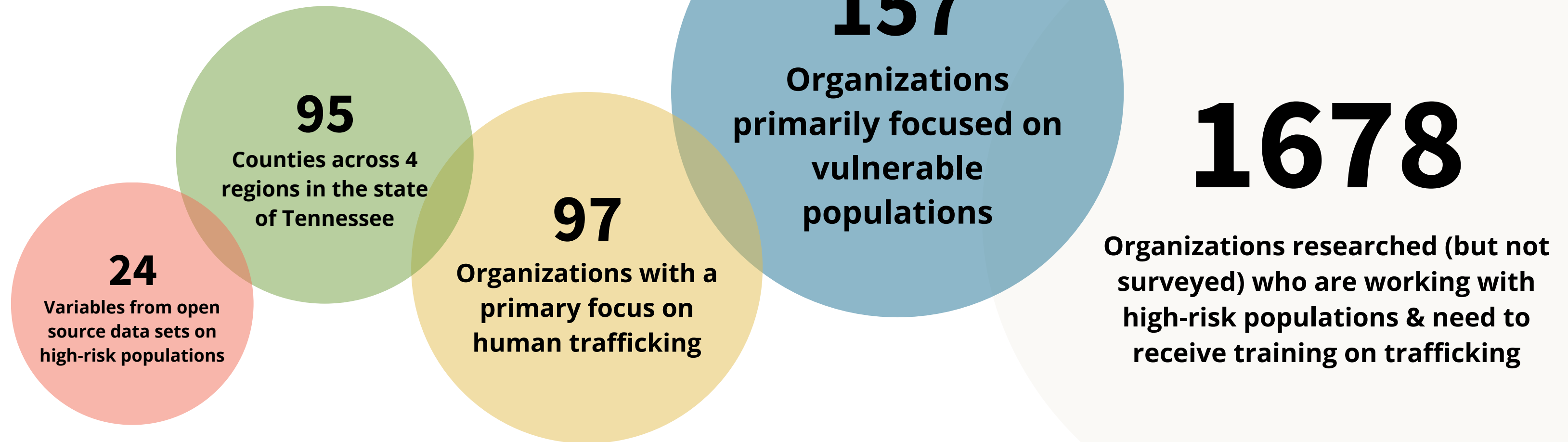


WHAT IS A COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT?

An assessment of the current strengths, gaps, needs, vulnerabilities and opportunities for community-wide engagement to end and prevent human trafficking in all 95 counties of Tennessee.

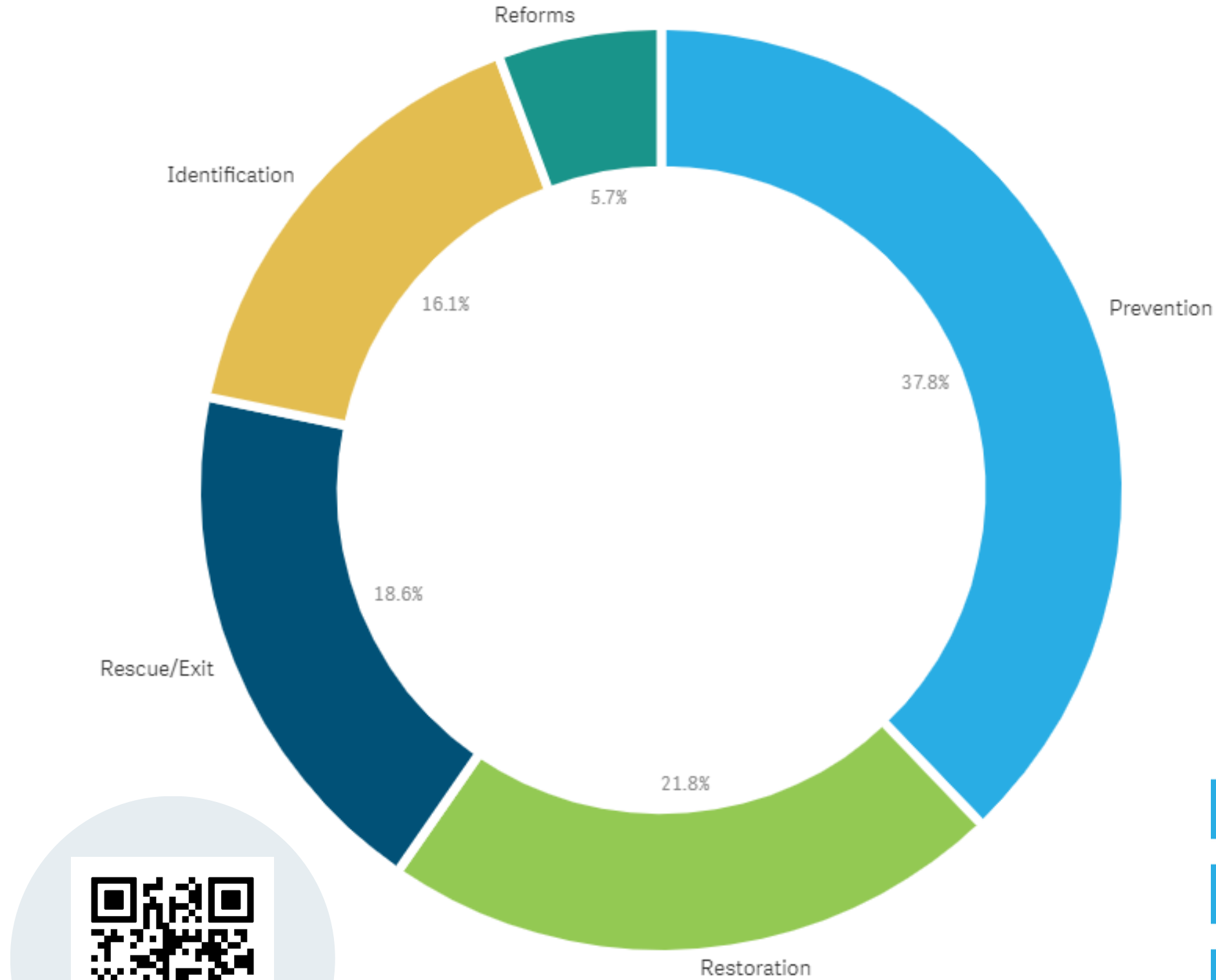
RESEARCH SCOPE

254 organizations submitted surveys detailing their efforts to end and prevent human trafficking, or else support vulnerable populations.



DOWNLOAD THIS REPORT, SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS, AND THE STATEWIDE DIRECTORY AT [ENGAGETOGETHER.COM/PROJECT/TN](https://engagetogether.com/project/tn).

BY PROGRAM



BY PRIMARY SERVICE

Tennessee's efforts are currently highly concentrated in PREVENTION (37.8%), followed by RESTORATION (21.8%). Programs that focus on RESCUE/EXIT, IDENTIFICATION, and REFORMS will need to be strengthened.

BY HUMAN TRAFFICKING TYPE

68% of agencies reported a primary focus on supporting at-risk populations. Of the 97 organizations that work to directly address human trafficking, 100% of respondents focus on sex trafficking, while only 37% are working to address labor trafficking.

At-Risk Populations 68%

Sex Trafficking 38%

Labor 14%

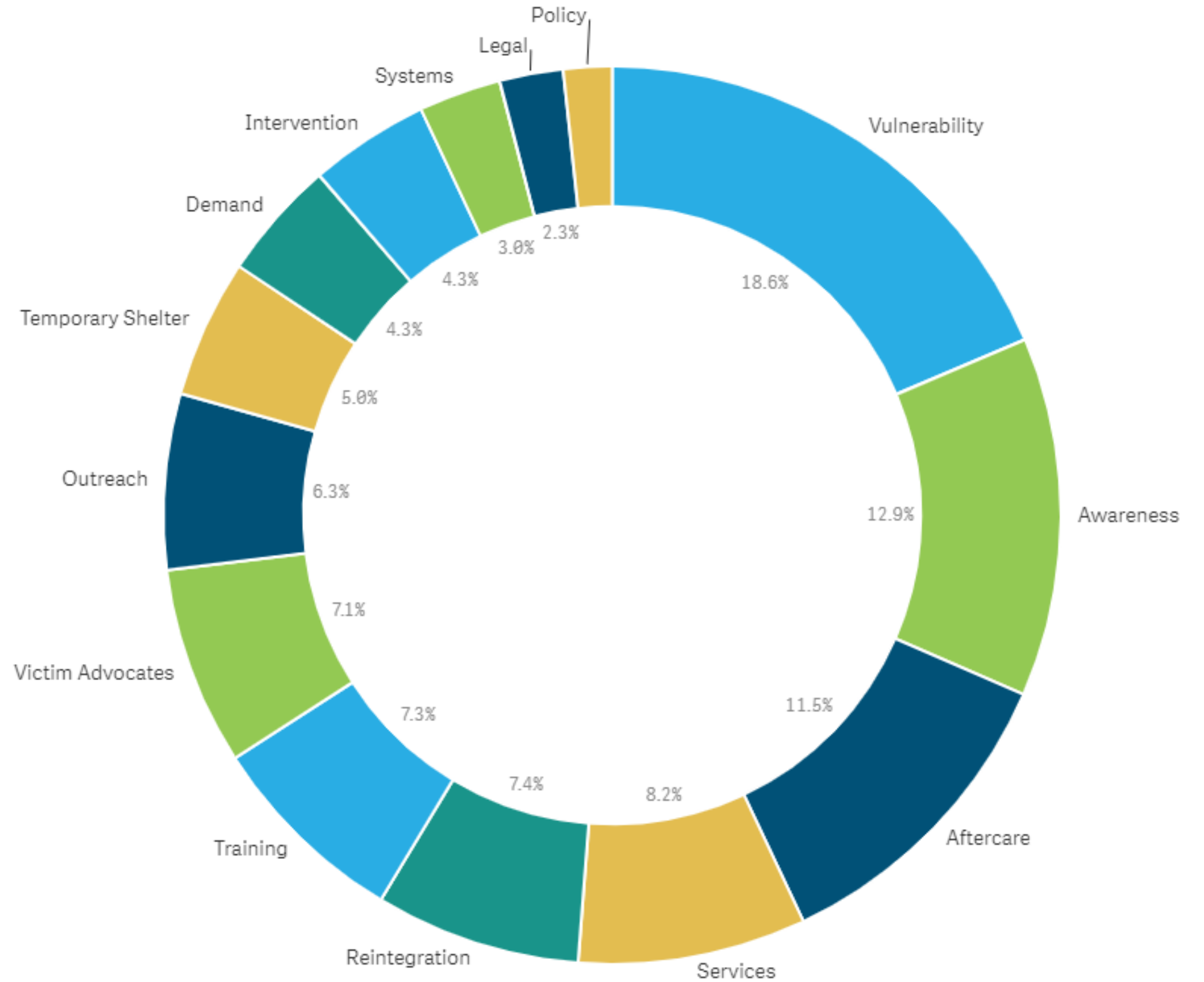
BY PROGRAM

BY SUB-CATEGORY

Just over 50% of efforts in Tennessee are currently concentrated in 4 of 14 sub-categories: Vulnerability, Awareness, Aftercare, and Services.

Concerning Aftercare and Services, the majority of the 57 organizations working to provide these programs for HT victims and survivors reported a current capacity to serve between 1-50 individuals per year. Except for Shelby and Davidson County, there are less than 10 such programs available in each county. Hence, there is still a need to increase both capacity and reach in these program areas.

Areas of effort that need special attention and strengthening include: increasing availability of Temporary Shelters and Victim Advocate programs; building Reintegration pathways for survivors; expanding Training of all those in a position to recognize and respond to human trafficking along with Outreach to at-risk populations to increase Interventions; and improving efforts that address Demand.



BY DEMOGRAPHIC



The majority of programs reported being able to serve all genders, and most, both citizens and non-citizens. The highest concentration of available programs and services in the Tennessee, however, are for **adult female citizens**.

And the programs available to this particular demographic are highly concentrated in aftercare and addressing vulnerability.



When comparing programmatic efforts across age groups, what is common to all is the **need for increased Identification** efforts for those in a position to recognize and respond to both labor and sex trafficking in all locations.



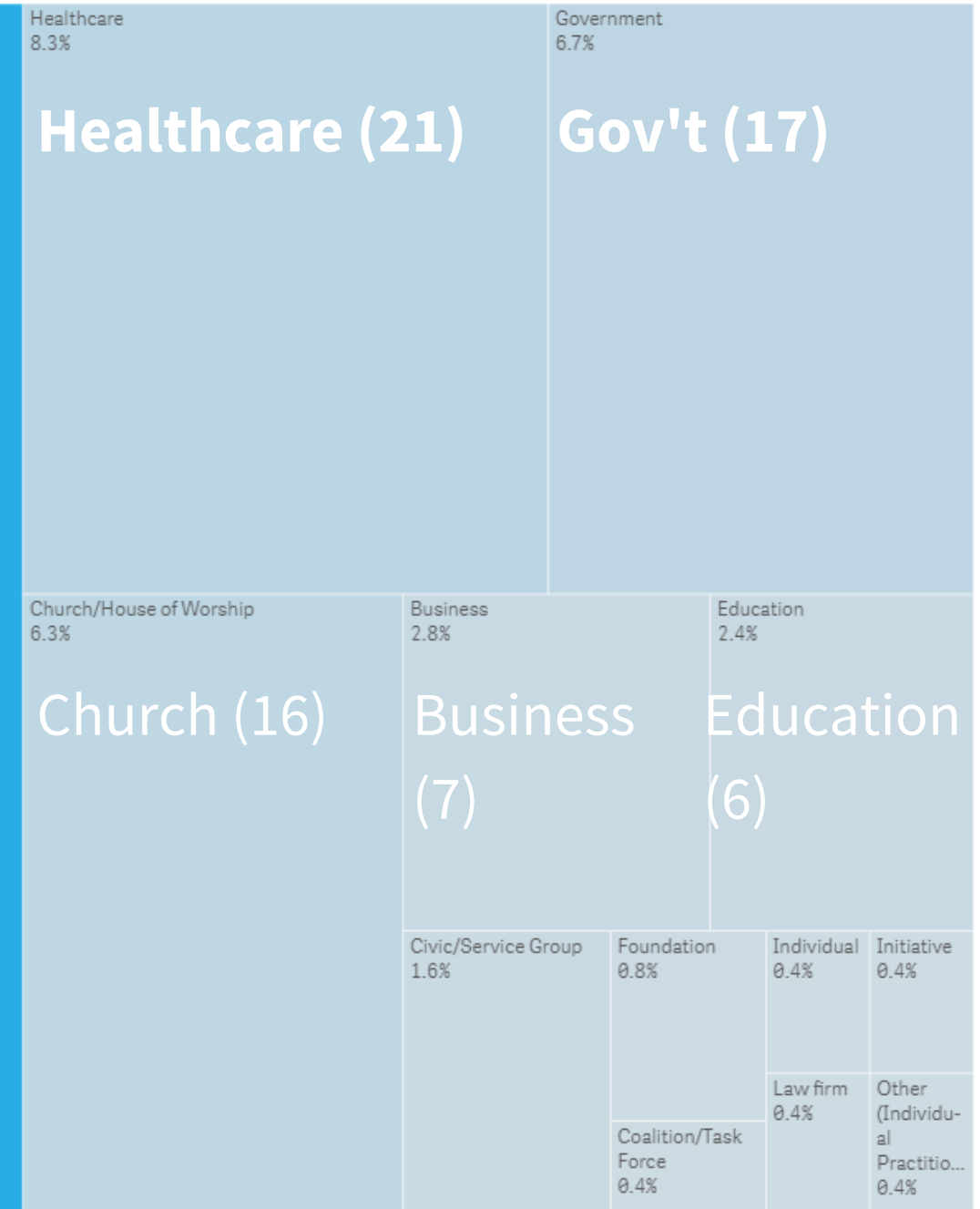
■ Prevention ■ Restoration ■ Rescue/Exit ■ Identification ■ Reforms

BY SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

Nonprofit
69.3%

Nonprofit efforts are highly concentrated in supporting vulnerable populations, raising awareness, and providing services during exit/rescue and aftercare for survivors. Government efforts are mostly focused on raising awareness, training, victim advocacy, outreach, and intervention. The majority of healthcare efforts are aimed at serving vulnerable populations and providing aftercare support (with only 3.4% reporting having received or provided human trafficking training to their HCPs).

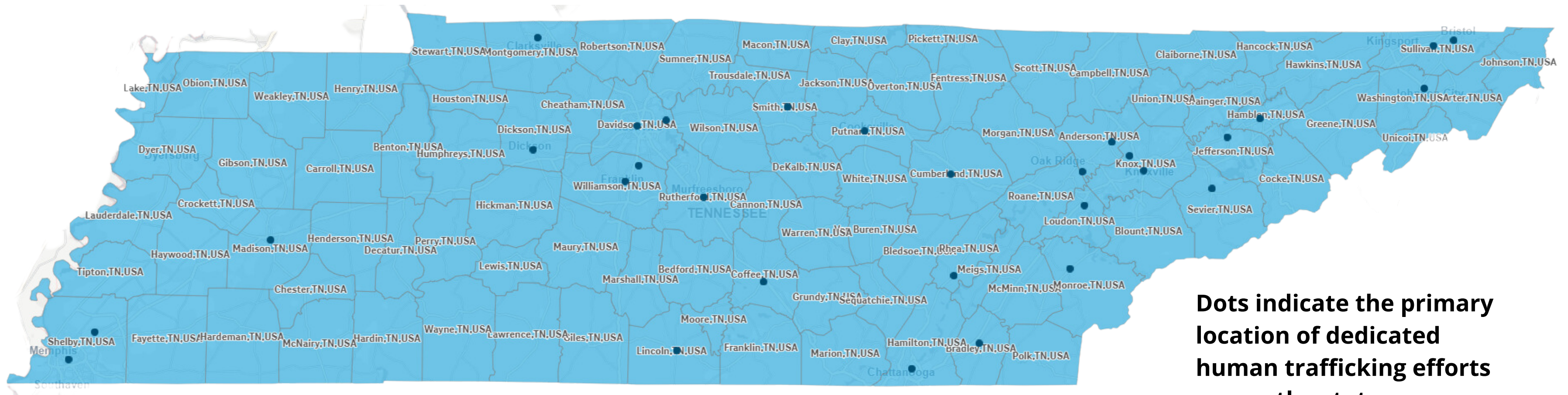
Nonprofit (176)



Presently, there is very limited engagement by Churches, Civic/Service Clubs, Businesses, Education, and Foundations; and no reported engagement by Professional Associations.

BY GEOGRAPHY

The 10 counties with the **most reported efforts** to end and prevent human trafficking include: Davidson, Shelby, Williamson, Hamilton, Rutherford, Cheatham, Dickson, Knox, Putnam, and Robertson.

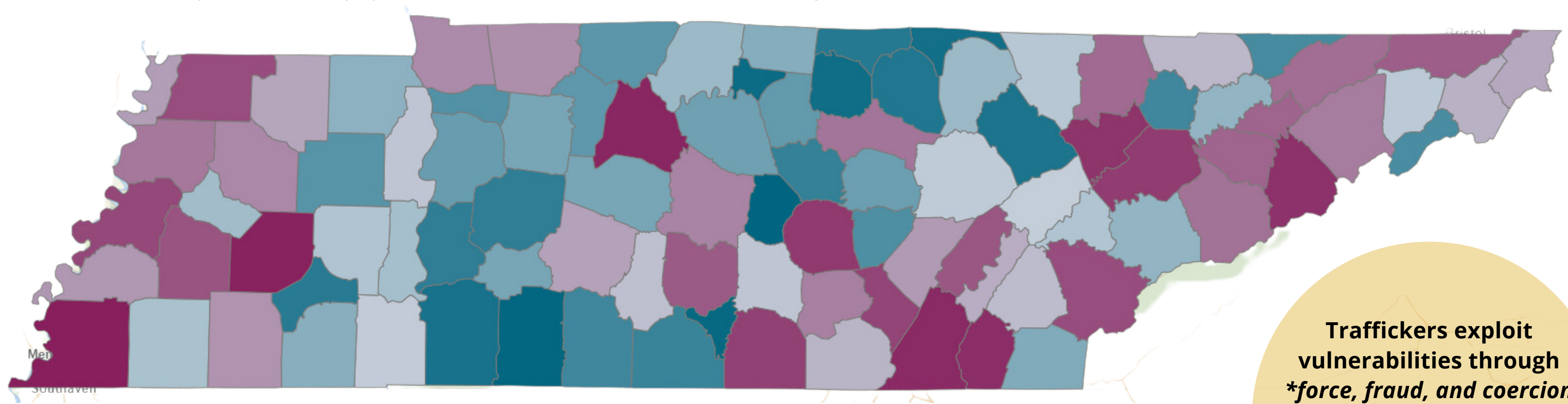


Dots indicate the primary location of dedicated human trafficking efforts across the state

The 10 counties with the **least reported efforts** to end and prevent human trafficking include: Crockett, Gibson, Greene, Hancock, Hardin, Hawkins, Haywood, Lauderdale, Weakley, and Fayette.

BY VPI SCORE

The **Vulnerable Population Index (VPI) score** is developed from a variety of publicly available data sources to help identify which counties have a prevalence of populations that are most at-risk of trafficking in Tennessee.*



*Those most at-risk of human trafficking in Tennessee:

- Individuals experiencing **homelessness**, especially runaway and homeless youth
- **Gang-Involved** Youth
- Youth in and aging out of **foster care**
- **Drug-endangered** children
- Refugees and recent **migrants**
- Those who have already suffered other types of **abuse or exploitation** (e.g. domestic violence and sexual assault)

The top 10 counties with the highest risk for human trafficking include:

- | | |
|-------------|--------------|
| #1 Shelby | #6 Cocke |
| #2 Madison | #7 Anderson |
| #3 Davidson | #8 Warren |
| #4 Hamilton | #9 Knox |
| #5 Bradley | #10 Franklin |

Traffickers exploit vulnerabilities through ****force, fraud, and coercion*** luring victims with promises of work, shelter, food, and support.

CURRENT PERSPECTIVES

In addition to sharing about what they do, who they serve, and where that happens, each participating organization also shared its top three tangible, funding, and service needs - along with thoughts regarding current challenges and successes in the anti-trafficking efforts in Tennessee.

PRIORITIES

Based on all the research and data gathered throughout this Engage Together Project, here are our top five recommended priorities and next steps for the State of Tennessee.

1

Improve IDENTIFICATION efforts by TRAINING all organizations and professions who are in a position to recognize & respond to human trafficking

While awareness efforts are well underway in Tennessee, training efforts that provide profession-specific details on the indicators likely to present in local settings, and the protocols and partnerships to activate once identifications are made, need to increase. Priority professions to train in every community include:

- Healthcare Providers**
- Child-Serving Professionals**
- Law Enforcement**
- 1,600+ Organizations Working to Support High-Risk Populations**

All these groups will need to receive training, but immediate priority should be those who serve in counties with VPI scores above 80%.

2

Increase RESCUE/EXIT and RESTORATION program capacity

As trainings increase, so will identifications. This will necessitate a **proactive approach to increasing the availability and accessibility** of temporary shelters, services, victim advocates, and aftercare programs for all victims and survivors of human trafficking - whether labor or sex trafficking, adult or minor, male or female, citizen or non-citizen. Further, there needs to be a concentrated effort to **build out reintegration pathways** to educational attainment and/or living wage jobs so that those impacted by human trafficking can have the best possible care and opportunity to prosper post-exit/rescue.

3

Improve DATA COLLECTION efforts

In order to accurately assess the risk of human trafficking in communities across the state, and also to reach out to vulnerable populations for prevention and early intervention efforts, data collection and reporting needs to improve in the following priority areas: the number and location of **youth aging out of foster care, runaway and homeless youth, and unaccompanied minors; and counties** noted in the County-Level Report that lack data.

4

Increase efforts to address LABOR TRAFFICKING

Across the state and in every region, efforts to address labor trafficking are minimal. Given the number of high-risk industries located in Tennessee and the prevalence of refugees or recent migrants (including seasonal and migrant workers), there needs to be **a dedicated effort** to increase trainings on labor trafficking, including equipping high-risk populations with the knowledge they need to stay safe or self-report.

5

Catalyze MULTI-SECTOR engagement across the board

To expand and resource all the programs and services needed to identify victims and support survivors, multi-sector engagement needs to be mobilized. Businesses, healthcare, educators, churches/houses of worship, foundations, civic clubs, professional associations, and more will need to come alongside the efforts of local nonprofits and government agencies to **meet needs and fill gaps**.

SUPPLEMENTALS

This Report includes the statewide assessment and recommendations based on the findings of Engage Together® Project for the State of Tennessee. For additional reports and supplementals, such as the Regional and County-Level Reports, the Directory, and the Vulnerable Population Index one-sheet, go to engagetgether.com/project/tn.



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