



# LONG BEACH HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

## **Mission:**

The Long Beach Human Trafficking Task Force (LBHTTF) is a multidisciplinary community-based collaboration of stakeholders who partner to combat human trafficking through prevention, protection, and prosecution.

# MARIAH SEWE

SURVIVOR LEADER,  
CEO OF SURVIVOR MENTALITY FOUNDATION  
CORE TEAM MEMBER OF THE LBHTTF  
SUB COMMITTEE OCHTTF

[SURVIVORMENTALITY20@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SURVIVORMENTALITY20@GMAIL.COM)

# HT 101:

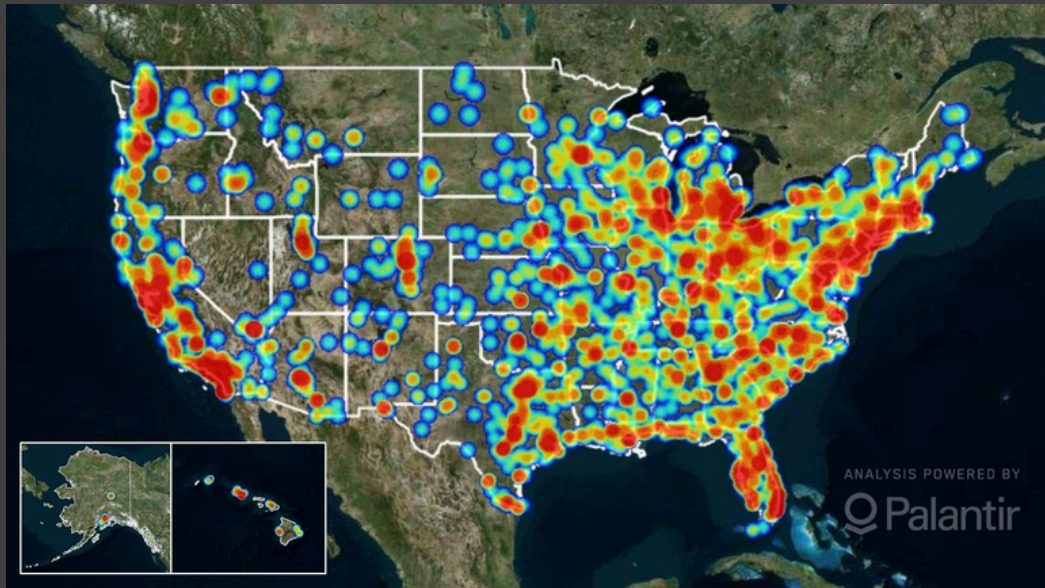
- WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND HOW DOES IT HAPPEN?
- WOMEN & GIRLS ARE THE MOST AFFECTED
- HUMAN TRAFFICKING + THE OLYMPICS

# Federal Definition

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and its subsequent reauthorizations recognize and define two primary forms of human trafficking:

- Sex trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act in which a commercial sex act is induced by **force, fraud, or coercion**, or in which the person induced to perform such act has **not attained 18 years of age**. (22 U.S.C. § 7102(11)(A)).
- Forced labor is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery. (22 U.S.C. § 7102(11)(B)).

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE UNITED STATES



[polarisproject.org](https://polarisproject.org)

Most common types of  
trafficking in the United States



Forced  
Labor



Sexual  
Exploitation



**The average age of entry into sexual exploitation in the United States is 12-14 years old.**

US Dept of State, 2019



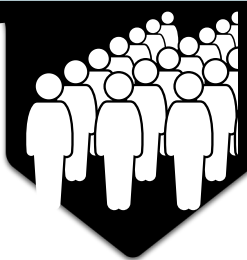
**The International Labor Organization estimates that there are over 400,000 victims of labor trafficking in the United States.**

International Labor Organization, 2017



**The NCMEC reported a 98% increase in reports of suspected child sex trafficking online between 2018 and 2019.**

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, 2019



**The Polaris Project estimates that there are hundreds of thousands of sex trafficking victims in the United States.**

Polaris Project, 2021



**Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Francisco account for 3 of the 13 hotspots in the United States.**

Dept of Homeland Security

# STATISTICS AFFECTING WOMEN AND GIRLS

## **Global prevalence**

71% of human trafficking victims worldwide are women and girls, while 29% are men and boys.

## **International trafficking**

Around 80% of the 800,000 people trafficked across international borders each year are women and girls, and 50% are minors.

## **United States**

In the United States, sex trafficking is the most common type of trafficking. Estimates of the number of women and children forced into sexual slavery in the US each year range from 15,000 to 50,000



# COMMON SIGNS OF LABOR + SEX TRAFFICKING

- LACK OF ACCESS TO THEIR OWN DOCUMENTS
- LOCKS, FENCES, RESTRAINTS, OR GUARDS KEEPING PEOPLE IN
- UNACCOMPANIED MINORS WITHOUT GUARDIANS (ESPECIALLY WHILE TRAVELLING)
- COMMERCIAL SEX
- MIGHT HAVE TATTOOS OF THE ORGANIZATION/PIMP (CONSIDERED BRANDING)
- CAN'T INTERACT WITH ANYONE ON HIS/HER OWN – TRAFFICKER TALKING ON THEIR BEHALF (BANKS, PAY ATTENTION TO THIS)
- FORCED DRUG ABUSE
- OVERLY PROMISCUOUS AND/OR AGGRESSIVE YOUTH AND ADOLESCENTS (GIRLS AND BOYS!)
- KIDS WHO FALL ASLEEP CONSTANTLY IN CLASS
- KIDS WHO SUDDENLY START SHOWING UP TO SCHOOL WITH CLOTHING/ITEMS THEY NORMALLY COULDN'T AFFORD.

# VICTIMS

- Men, women, children
- Individuals, families, or groups
- They are diverse in race, class, religion, culture, and socioeconomic status
- Specific Population Examples:
  - Youth running away from unstable family environments
  - Homeless individuals (youth and adults)
  - Individuals with a history of childhood physical and/or sexual abuse
  - Immigrants and refugees
  - Men, women, and children involved in the sex industry

**CHILDHOOD TRAUMA + A LACK OF CONNECTEDNESS = HIGH VULNERABILITY**



PRESENTED BY:



# GROOMING & RECRUITMENT

**Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7mH93tQ4n8M>

# WHY IT STILL EXISTS

- SOME PARTS OF TRAFFICKING HAVE BECOME SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE
- GLAMORIZED THROUGH POPULAR MUSIC AND MOVIES
- GLAMORIZED WITHIN THE SEX INDUSTRY
- APPS LIKE ONLY FANS, SITES LIKE PORNHUB ARE EASILY ACCESSIBLE
- IT'S ALSO CALLED THINGS THAT SOUND LESS ILLEGAL SUCH AS:  
“CHILD PORN” OR “SEX WITH UNDERAGE WOMEN” (INSTEAD OF “CHILD RAPE”)
  - LABOR TRAFFICKING IS LESS PUBLICIZED (NAIL SALONS, WEED AND PRODUCE FARMING)
  - CURRENT LAWS LACK CONSEQUENCES AND DETERRENTS

PRESENTED BY:



# HOW HT AND CSEC AFFECT THE COMMUNITY

**NBC4 @ Starr King Elementary in Long Beach:**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=voy9Cz49PcM>**



# LBHTTF

**Formed in 2012**

## **Engagement**

Over 50 government, non-profit, private organizations with support from local community members.

## **Awards**

2022 Exemplary Partnership Award from Homeland Security Log Angeles

Recognition from Assembly member Josh Lowenthal of 69th District and Senator Lena Gonzalez of 33rd District

## **Current Leadership**

Melinda Lankford: The Salvation Army, Lead Agency

Vice Sgt. Chris Castillo: Long Beach Police Department

Teresa Gomez: City of Long Beach

Sherri Harris: Department of Homeland Security

Pamela Sepulveda: Cerritos Community College

Mary Anne Silvestri: ESTHER Ministry

Malyneath Vong: Global Fashion Mission, The Project Foundation

Mary White: GEMS Uncovered

Francesca Douglass-Franco: Humansave

Kit Katz: Dignity Health

Mariah Sewe: Survivor Advocate

PRESENTED BY:



Picture taken at the 2018 Long Beach Grand Prix

**Educate. Empower. Engage.**

Annual Youth Empowerment Safety Symposium

Convenience Store Awareness Outreach

Long Beach Bar Compliance Outreach

Long Beach Grand Prix Outreach

Community Rallies





# PREVALENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

Long Beach Police Department City Wide Crime Stats

- 2023- 9 arrests for HT
- 2024 YTD- 4 arrests for HT

vs.

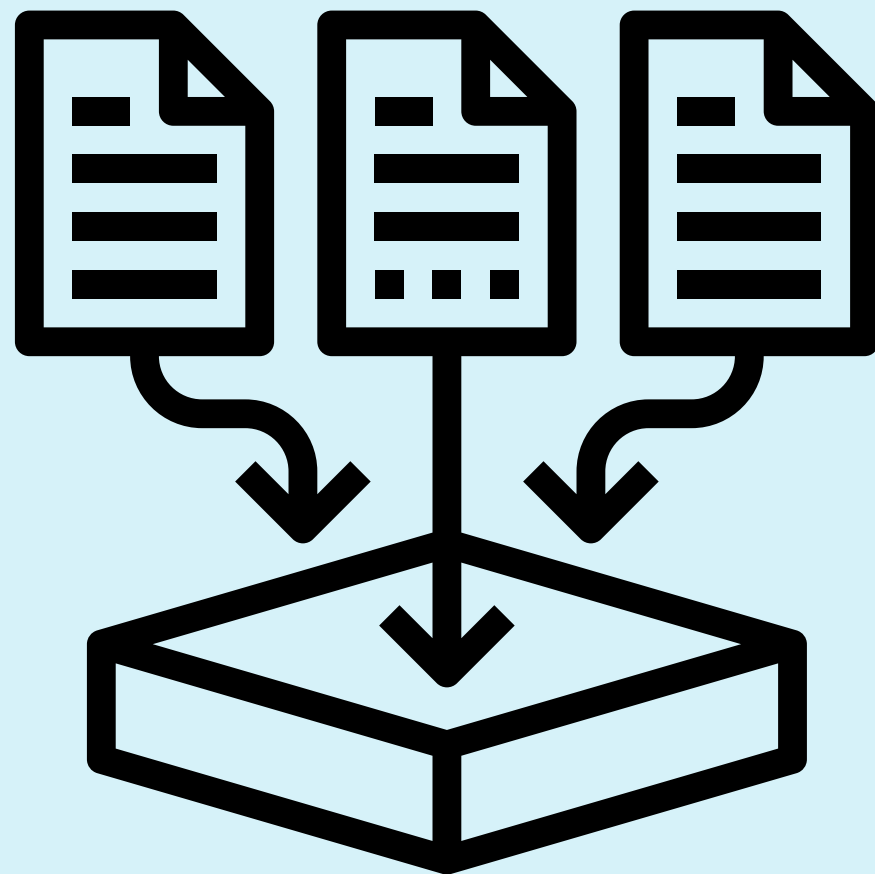
2024 Public Records Request for Arrest on HT related crimes in 2023:

- 13 rescues
  - 6 minors
  - 8 adults
- 10 citations for 647(B)
  - 4 "Johns"
  - 6 Sex Workers
- 21 Sex Workers offered services

vs.

Gems Uncovered for survivor services

- 2023- 47 participants with 625 outreach contacts
- 2024 YTD- 18 participants with 255 outreach contacts

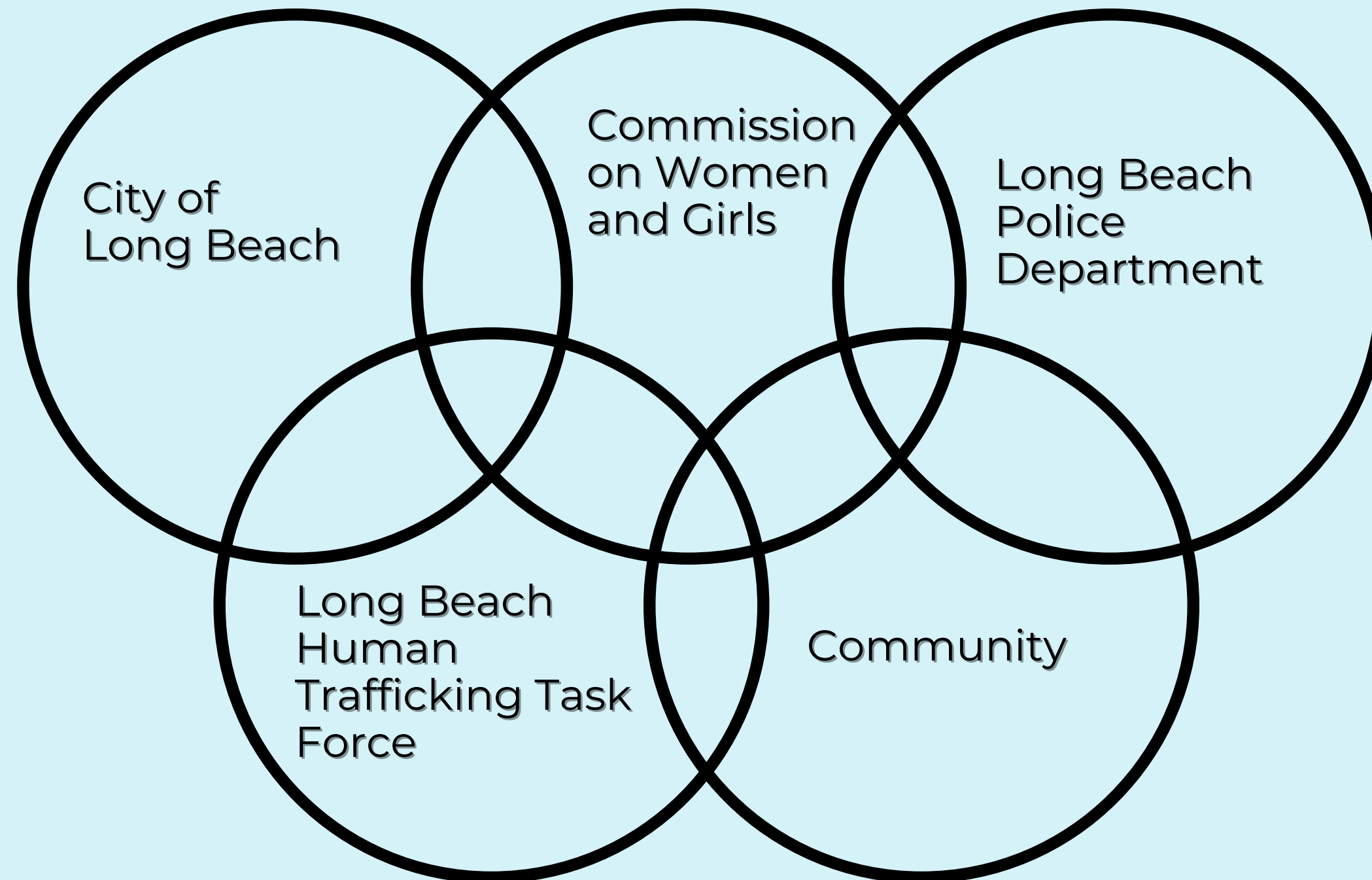




PRESENTED BY:



# COLLABORATION IS KEY



PRESENTED BY:



LONG BEACH  
HUMAN TRAFFICKING  
TASK FORCE

**THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR TIME AND  
INTEREST IN  
TAKING ACTION  
TO PROTECT OUR  
COMMUNITY.**