



# SHELTER BEDS FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS IN THE UNITED STATES

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Between January and June 2012, Polaris Project conducted a survey of anti-trafficking organizations providing shelter services with the goal of estimating the total number of shelter beds available to human trafficking survivors in the United States.

**The survey resulted in the following findings:**

**519**

**Shelter beds exclusively designated for human trafficking survivors.**

+

**1416**

**Additional shelter beds available to human trafficking survivors.**  
These beds are located in organizations that have a human trafficking-specific program and serve human trafficking survivors in addition to other populations.

=

**1935**

**Total shelter beds available to human trafficking survivors.**  
This represents 519 + 1416.

## METHODOLOGY

Polaris Project receives hotline calls from and on behalf of human trafficking survivors every day and shelter is the most frequent referral request. Human trafficking-specific shelters and programs are especially rare for male survivors. In the absence of human trafficking-specific shelter options, survivors rely on shelters that serve the homeless, domestic violence survivors, at-risk youth, and other vulnerable populations. However, human trafficking survivors also need specialized services that are not always available at these facilities, and survivors may not always meet the required criteria to access services. Polaris Project undertook this survey in order to more precisely identify gaps in shelter provision for human trafficking survivors.

**Goal:** This survey is intended to estimate the total number of shelter beds available to human trafficking survivors in the United States at the time of the survey.

**Approach:** The survey was administered by Polaris Project staff between January 2012 and June 2012. We contacted approximately 150 shelters with anti-trafficking programs throughout the United States and the U.S. Territories.

In conducting the survey, Polaris Project contacted each organization by phone to determine the total number of shelter beds available to human trafficking survivors. We also inquired as to the type of shelter, survivor populations served at each location, and any requirements or restrictions surrounding age, immigration status, gender, and the type of trafficking he/she experienced.

**Definitions:** For the purposes of this survey, a shelter bed refers to any bed that is available for at least one overnight stay and affiliated in some way with a non-governmental, non-profit organization that serves human trafficking survivors, exclusively or through a human trafficking-specific program or funding stream. The organizations may provide shelter in house or through a formal partnership with another shelter facility. In some cases, a shelter bed may be located outside of a traditional shelter facility, provided that the primary organization maintains a formal partnership with the entity that manages the bed.

While Polaris Project learned of many organizations that have the capacity to coordinate shelter for human trafficking survivors, the survey results exclusively include beds affiliated with:

- ✓ Single-issue anti-trafficking organizations that provide shelter to human trafficking survivors;
- ✓ Victim services organizations with a human trafficking-specific program or funding stream that provide shelter to human trafficking survivors as well as other vulnerable populations;
- ✓ Victim services organizations with shelter that have reserved one or more beds for human trafficking survivors.

The survey does not include beds affiliated with:

- ≠ Anti-trafficking organizations that coordinate shelter for human trafficking survivors or provide linkage services to local shelters that do not have a human trafficking-specific program;
- ≠ Victim services organizations with shelter that have served human trafficking survivors in the past and are willing to accommodate survivors on a case-by-case basis, but do not have a program or funding specifically dedicated to serving survivors of human trafficking;
- ≠ Anti-trafficking organizations that are in the process of opening a shelter;
- ≠ Exclusively government-run facilities.

## IMPORTANT POINTS TO NOTE

### **The list of shelters is not exhaustive.**

- Polaris Project maintains a national referral database from which we drew organizations to be included in the survey. We also contacted organizations that were not previously in the database but which we learned of in the process of the surveyor from other partners in the field. However, there may be additional organizations in the United States with beds for survivors of human trafficking that are not included in the survey. If you are aware of shelter beds not included in this survey, please contact the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) at [NHTRC@polarisproject.org](mailto:NHTRC@polarisproject.org).
- The number of organizations with funding for human trafficking beds as well as the number of survivors each organization is able to house is constantly changing.

### **This survey is time-limited.**

- The results of this survey reflect the number of beds that were counted between January 2012 and June 2012 during the administration of the survey.
- Though there are several anti-trafficking shelters opening in the near future and many organizations in the process of procuring funding to serve human trafficking survivors, those organizations and beds were not counted during this survey.

### **Inclusion in this list does not indicate endorsement by Polaris Project.**

- In the process of conducting this survey, Polaris Project did not vet, evaluate, or approve any of the organizations included. Any information provided herein should not be interpreted as endorsement of or recommendation for a shelter by Polaris Project.

### **The number of organizations counted in this survey does not equate to the number of organizations serving human trafficking survivors.**

- There are many organizations across the United States that provide comprehensive social services to survivors of human trafficking but are not included in this list, based on the inclusion criteria on page 2.

### **Organizations have varying requirements for survivors to qualify for shelter.**

- The survey tracks basic demographic criteria required to access each shelter, including age, gender, nationality (foreign national or U.S. citizen), as well as type of human trafficking experienced (sex and/or labor). Some shelters may have more specific requirements for their shelter residents that are not reflected in the final bed count. Some examples include:
  - Some shelters may restrict services to specific age ranges. A shelter that serves minors and adults may be restricted to survivors between ages 16-22, while another shelter that serves minors may be open to survivors between ages 11-17.
  - Some shelters have faith-based requirements for residents, such as mandatory spiritual counseling or attendance at religious services.
  - Some shelters that serve minors require that the minor is emancipated or that he/she obtain parental consent or placement by a law enforcement or government agency before being accepted as a resident.

**This survey does not include all types of housing arrangements for human trafficking survivors.**

- Some organizations assist human trafficking survivors by providing hotel vouchers when there are no available beds. However, as these are not specific beds or locations, and as there is no set number of hotel beds available for survivors using these vouchers, this type of shelter option was not included in the final bed count. Polaris Project did not count the total number of organizations providing this service.
- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) administers two programs, the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program (URM) and Unaccompanied Children's Services (UCS), that operate shelter facilities or provide placement in shelter or foster care for unaccompanied foreign national minors in the United States, which may include human trafficking survivors. These shelter options were not included in this survey.
- Though there are various faith-based organizations, volunteer groups, and individual community members who are willing to shelter human trafficking survivors in their own homes, Polaris Project did not include these informal community placements in the shelter survey.

**Not all organizations with shelter responded to the survey.**

- Polaris Project was unable to reach about 13 agencies by phone or email during the time period allotted for the survey. Although they may offer beds to human trafficking survivors or know of other shelters that reserve beds for this population, those numbers were not included in the final bed count<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup>Organizations that were not able to be reached in the time frame of the survey include Project Respect (Madison, WI), Center for Young Women's Development (San Francisco, CA), Crisis House (El Cajon, CA), Casa Libre/Freedom House (Los Angeles, CA), Wichita Children's Home (Wichita, KS), Beauty From Ashes (Fort Myers, FL), Sacred Beginnings (Wyoming, MI), Center for the Pacific Asian Family Emergency Shelter (Los Angeles, CA), Rahab's Hideaway (Hilliard, OH), Larkin Street Youth Services (San Francisco, CA), Huckleberry House (San Francisco, CA), Dreamcatcher (San Francisco, CA), Freedom to Thrive (Birmingham, AL).

## FINDINGS

### **Beds Exclusively Designated for Human Trafficking Survivors = 519**

These beds are specifically and exclusively designated for human trafficking survivors, and they would remain empty if not used by this population. Individuals who are survivors of other crimes or are in need of shelter for other reasons would not be eligible for these beds.

- **49** organizations in the United States offer beds that fall into this category.
- **21** of these organizations are able to serve both sex and labor trafficking survivors in the shelter, while the remaining **28** organizations offered beds solely for sex trafficking survivors.
- **0** beds are exclusively designated for labor trafficking survivors.
- **348** of these beds (approximately 67%) are restricted to sex trafficking survivors, leaving only **171** beds available to labor trafficking survivors.
- **117** beds are available to male survivors, though only **2** of those are exclusively designated for males.
- **28** states did not have any beds exclusively for human trafficking survivors.
- **10** organizations contacted during this survey offer hotel vouchers or hotel points on a limited basis to human trafficking survivors as an alternative to emergency shelter.

### **Total Beds for Trafficking Survivors = 1,935**

These beds are located in shelters that are part of single-issue anti-trafficking organizations or organizations that have a human trafficking-specific program, funding stream, and/or specific beds in their shelter designated for human trafficking survivors. Shelters included in this count may focus on other vulnerable populations in addition to human trafficking survivors.

- **73** organizations in the United States and U.S. territories offer shelter beds that fall into this category.
- **41** of these organizations are able to serve both sex and labor trafficking survivors in the shelter, while the other **32** organizations offer beds solely for sex trafficking survivors.
- **430** of these beds (approximately 22%) are provided by a single shelter in Indiana called the Julian Center.
- This category includes the **519** beds designated exclusively for human trafficking survivors noted above.

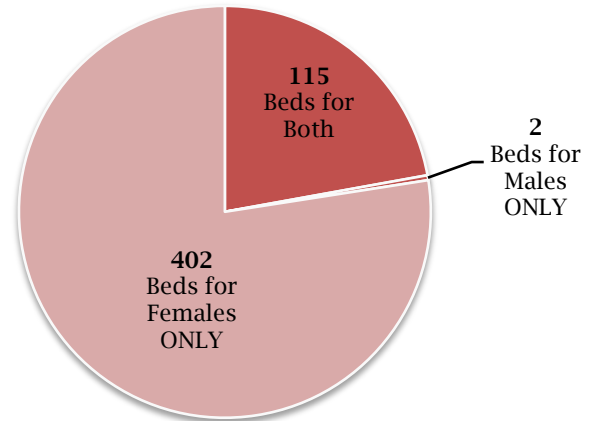
# EXCLUSIVE HUMAN TRAFFICKING BEDS

The following charts show the distribution of these shelter beds according to survivor populations served.

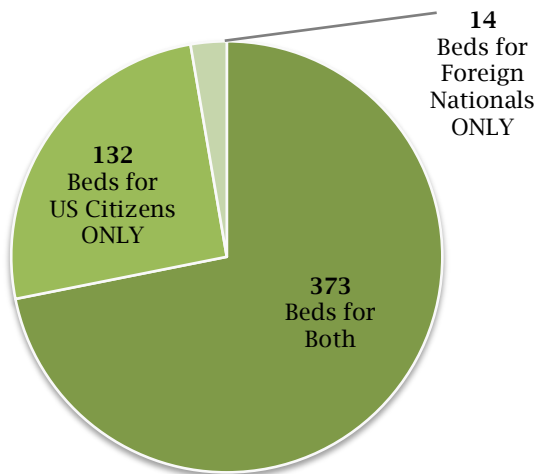
## Type of Human Trafficking



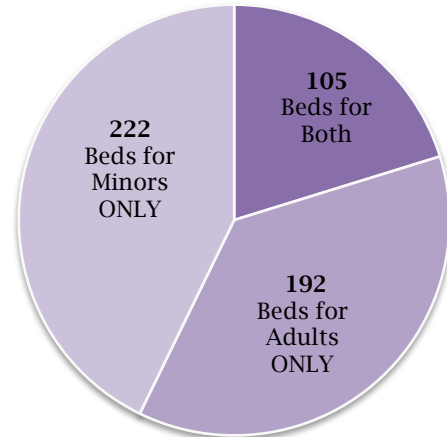
## Survivor Gender



## Survivor Nationality



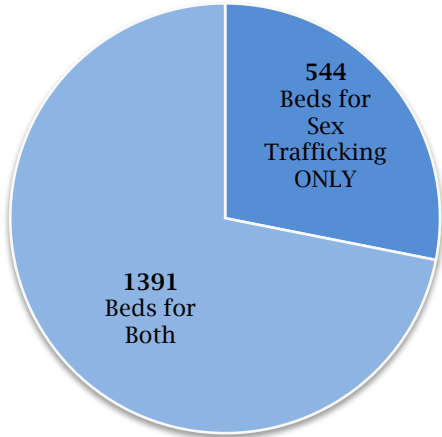
## Survivor Age



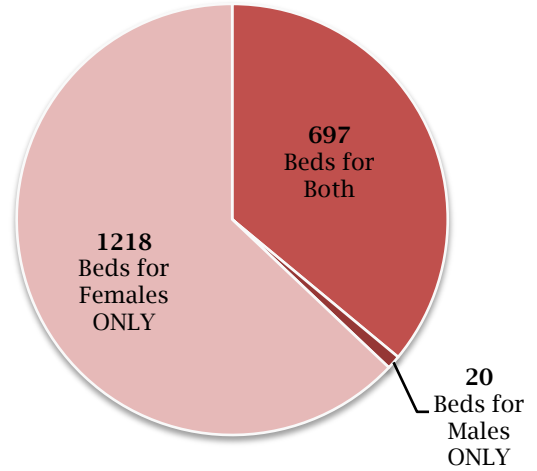
# ALL HUMAN TRAFFICKING BEDS

The following charts show the distribution of these shelter beds according to survivor populations served.

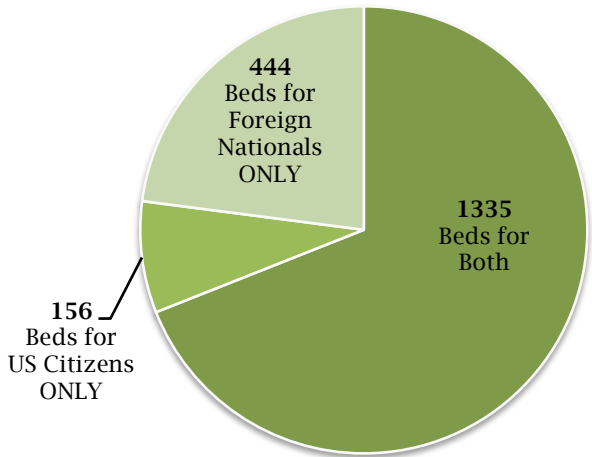
## Type of Human Trafficking



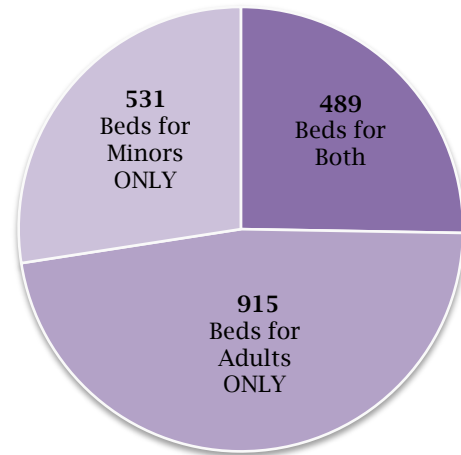
## Survivor Gender



## Survivor Nationality



## Survivor Age







The following table shows the full list of organizations with shelter beds for human trafficking survivors. The matrix contains shaded cells if the corresponding survivor populations are eligible for the beds at each organization. The second to last column on the right identifies which organizations offer all or some of their shelter beds exclusively and specifically to human trafficking survivors. The numbers of exclusive beds are indicated in parenthesis. *Note: this matrix does not depict the full range of populations served by each organization, only those eligible for shelter.*

### ORGANIZATIONS OFFERING BEDS FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS

State	City	Organization	U.S. Citizen	Foreign National	Male	Female	Adult	Minor	Exclusive?	# of Beds
AL	Birmingham	The Wellhouse	■	■		■	■	■	★	10
AZ	Laveen	Momma's House	■	■		■	■		★ (3)	8
	Phoenix	Dignity House Catholic Charities	■			■	■		★	8
	Phoenix	Streetlight Phoenix	■	■		■		■	★	48
	Phoenix	Phoenix Dream Center The Rescue Project	■	■		■	■	■	★	12
CA	Anaheim	Salvation Army Network of Emergency Trafficking Services (NETS)		■	■	■	■		★	3
	Fresno	Fresno EOC Sanctuary for Youth	■	■	■	■		■	★ (4)	40
	Los Angeles	Children of the Night	■		■	■		■	★	24
	Los Angeles	Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking (CAST)	■	■		■	■		★	9
	Los Angeles	Dream Center Project Hope	■	■		■	■		★	30
	Oakland	F.A.C.E.S.S. of Slavery (partner of New Day for Children) <sup>3</sup>	■	■	■	■		■	★	15
	Orange	Women's Transitional Living Center	■	■		■	■			50
	Morgan Hill	Community Solutions	■	■	■	■	■			14

<sup>3</sup> This organization has a total of 200 beds, but only 15 of those beds were immediately available for use at the time of this survey.

State	City	Organization	U.S. Citizen	Foreign National	Male	Female	Adult	Minor	Exclusive?	# of Beds
CA	Riverside	Operation Safehouse								59
	Sacramento	Courage House							★	6
	Sacramento	My Sister's House								6
	Sacramento	W.E.A.V.E., Inc.							★ (5)	41
	San Diego	Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition (BSCC)							★	6
	San Diego	Generate Hope							★	6
	San Diego	San Diego Youth and Community Services								20
	San Diego	SDS Hope House							★	5
	San Francisco	Asian Women's Shelter								15
	San Francisco	Freedom House							★	8
	San Jose	Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence								21
	Santa Ana	Community Service Programs, Inc. (CSP)							★	1
	Van Nuys	Mary Magdalene Project								6
DC	Washington	Polaris Project							★	6
	Washington	Sasha Bruce Network							★ (2)	45
FL	Clermont	Dream Home Run for Freedom							★	10
	Estero	Wings of Shelter							★	4
	Fort Lauderdale	Calvary Chapel							★	6

State	City	Organization	U.S. Citizen	Foreign National	Male	Female	Adult	Minor	Exclusive?	# of Beds
FL	Miami	Kristi House							★	6
GA	Decatur	Georgia Care Connection							★	14
	Peachtree City	Living Water for Girls							★	10
Guam	Saipan	GumaEsperansa - Karidat								11
HI	Honolulu	Pacific Alliance to Stop Slavery (PASS)							★	8
IL	Chicago	Salvation Army Promise House (Anne's House)							★	8
IN	Indianapolis	The Julian Center								430
KY	Louisville	The Center for Women and Families								76
	Louisville	Catholic Charities of Louisville							★	24
	Covington	Women's Crisis Center								27
MA	Arlington	Germaine Lawrence							★ (8)	77
	Quincy	Josephine Bakhita House							★	3
MD	Baltimore	TurnAround							★ (4)	13
MI	Detroit	Alternatives for Girls								24
	Grand Rapids	Wedgewood Christian Services							★	12
MN	St. Paul	Breaking Free							★	30
	St. Paul	Catholic Charities of St. Paul & Minneapolis							★	12
MO & KS	Kansas City	Veronica's Voice							★	6

State	City	Organization	U.S. Citizen	Foreign National	Male	Female	Adult	Minor	Exclusive?	# of Beds
NC	Asheville	Hope House							★	4
NY	Buffalo	International Institute of Buffalo							★	12
	Forest Hills	Lifeway Network							★	5
	New York	Girls Education & Mentoring Services (GEMS)							★	15
	New York	Jewish Childcare Association, Gateways Program							★	14
	New York	New York Asian Women's Shelter								40
	New York	Safe Horizon Streetwork Project								24
	New York	Sanctuary For Families							★ (2)	46
	White Plains	My Sister's Place								33
OH	Cincinnati	YWCA of Greater Cincinnati								88
	Toledo	Second Chance Toledo								9
OK	Oklahoma City	All Things New							★	6
	Tulsa	Bay Spring Villa								23
OR	Portland	Janus Youth Programs							★ (7)	19
PA	Philadelphia	Covenant House - Philadelphia								52
	Philadelphia	Dawn's Place							★	9
	York	YWCA - York								45

State	City	Organization	U.S. Citizen	Foreign National	Male	Female	Adult	Minor	Exclusive?	# of Beds
TN	Nashville	Magdalene - Thistle Farms							★	22
TX	Dallas	Mosaic Family Services							★	24
	Houston	Hope House							★	12
VA	Fairfax	Artemis House								34
	Manassas	Youth for Tomorrow								20
	Richmond	Safe Harbor								8
WA	Seattle	Youthcare							★ (11)	38
<b>Total Beds</b>										<b>1,935</b>

## TAKE ACTION

Polaris Project is a nonprofit organization committed to combating human trafficking and modern-day slavery, and to strengthening the anti-trafficking movement through a comprehensive approach. Polaris Project operates the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC), a national, 24-hour, toll-free, confidential hotline offering crisis assistance and support, referrals to victim services, tip reporting, innovative and up-to-date training tools, technical assistance, resources, and information on diverse topics affecting the anti-trafficking field. Call the NHTRC 24 hours a day, from anywhere in the United States, to get help, report a tip, or learn more.

To learn more about the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) or to request that your organization be added to our national contacts database and shelter list, please call us at 1-888-373-7888.

If you are seeking services for a survivor of human trafficking, please call 1-888-373-7888 for specialized victim services referrals and additional shelter options.

If your agency provides shelter to other victim populations and you would like to be connected with an anti-trafficking organization to discuss opening your shelter to human trafficking survivors, please call us for local referrals.

If you are considering starting a shelter or expanding your current shelter services to human trafficking survivors, we encourage you to consult the toolkit [\*Ten Essential Steps: Developing Housing Programs for Survivors of Human Trafficking\*](#) by Katherine Chon, Co-Founder of Polaris Project.

For additional information please visit [www.traffickingresourcecenter.org](http://www.traffickingresourcecenter.org) or to order the toolkit, visit [www.traffickinghousingtoolkit.org](http://www.traffickinghousingtoolkit.org).