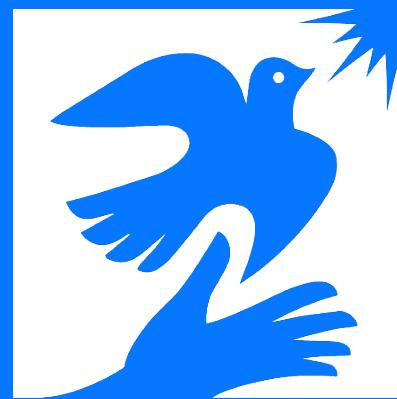




**Covenant  
House  
Alaska**

**Justice in Human  
Trafficking Week**

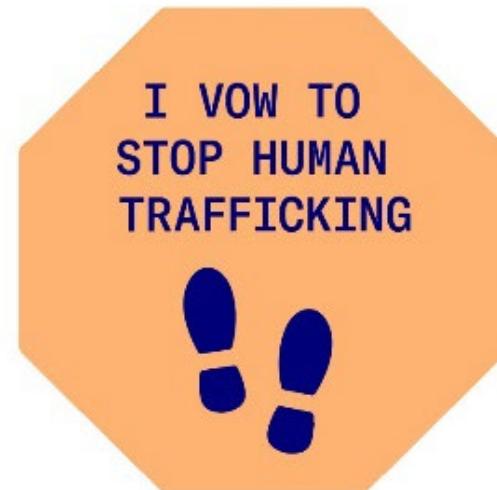


Covenant  
House  
Alaska

# Justice In Human Trafficking Week

## Presentation Outline

- ❑ Current Trends in Anchorage
- ❑ Preventing Vulnerability to Trafficking
- ❑ Expanded Community Education and Training
- ❑ Covenant House Alaska Trafficking Data
- ❑ Legislative Recommendations
- ❑ Current Proposed Legislation



## Current Trends

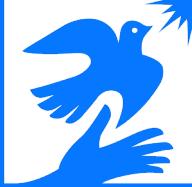
- Inadequate social safety net.
- Current statutes are insufficient.
- Federal anti-trafficking funding is cumbersome.
- No state or local anti-trafficking funding exists.
- Fentanyl has had a dramatic impact.



## Current Trends

- ❑ Generally, this community doesn't understand trafficking.
- ❑ Victims feel unsafe coming forward.
- ❑ Places where those experience homelessness continue to be recruiting grounds for traffickers.
- ❑ Traffickers using the intersection of forced criminality and trafficking as coercion.





# Preventing Vulnerability to Trafficking



- Education
- Health care
- Mental and Behavioral health care
- Substance use and misuse care
- Childcare
- Community
- Economic stability
- Policy and Law
- Food security
- Neighborhood and physical environment



# Expanded Community Education and Training

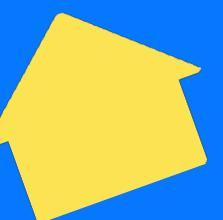
- Law Enforcement
- Justice System
- Service Providers
- General Community Members



# FY23 Covenant House Alaska Trafficking Data

## Screening Tools

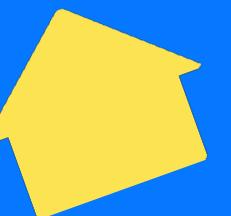
- Quick Youth Indicators for Trafficking (QYIT)
- Trafficking Victim Identification Tool (TVIT)



# FY23 Covenant House Alaska Trafficking Data

## Demographics

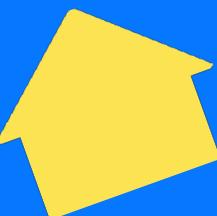
- 88 youth** were identified as highly vulnerable to trafficking by the QYIT · 9 youth disclosed experiencing trafficking before a QYIT screening.
- 27 youth** were confirmed as trafficking victims by TVIT or verbal disclosure.



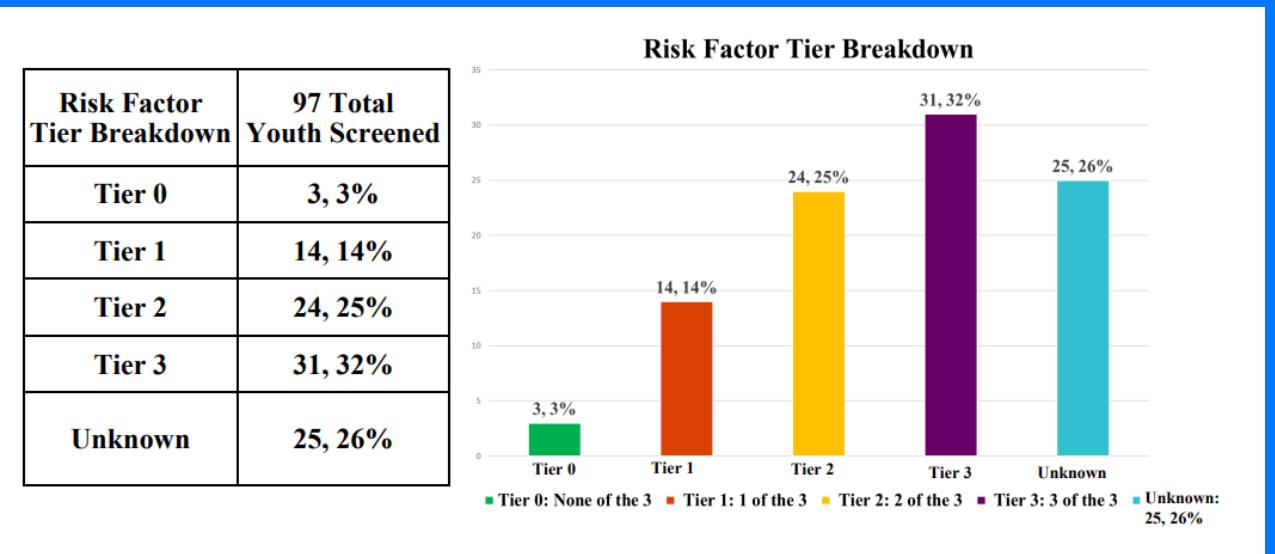
# FY23 Covenant House Alaska Trafficking Data

## Risk Factors

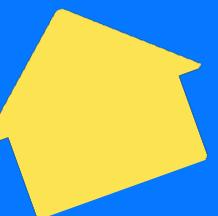
- Covenant House Alaska has identified **3 common risk factors** amongst their most challenging clients that they now screen for upon arrival. Of these identified risk factors, 57% of Covenant House Alaska identified trafficking victims have 2 or more of the following:
  - **Less than one permanent connection** in their life.
  - **Suffered from disorders** such as substance abuse, mental health or behavioral conditions.
  - **Had an income of less than \$1,341** monthly



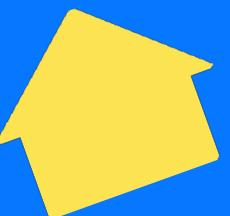
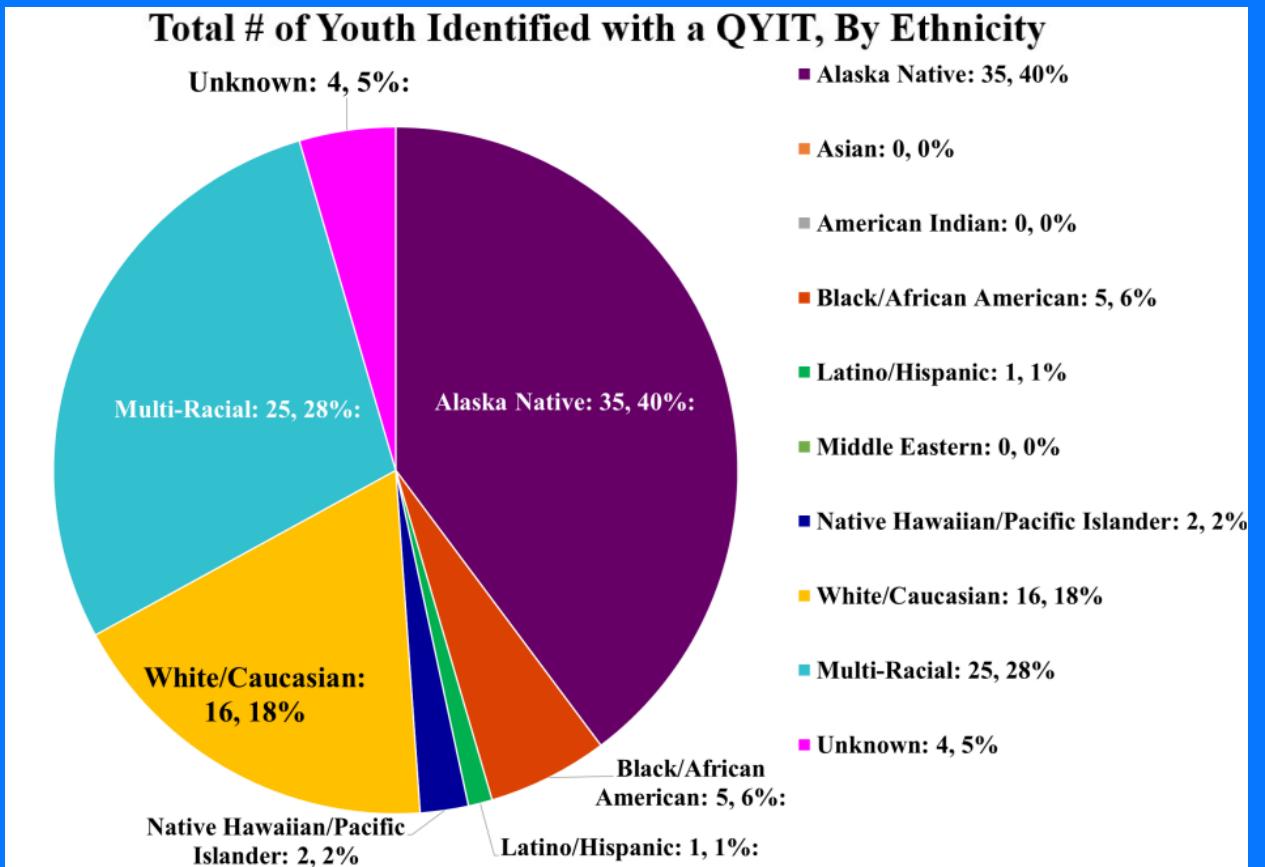
# FY23 Covenant House Alaska Trafficking Data



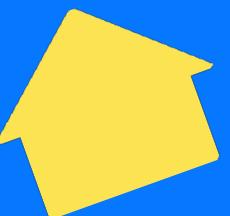
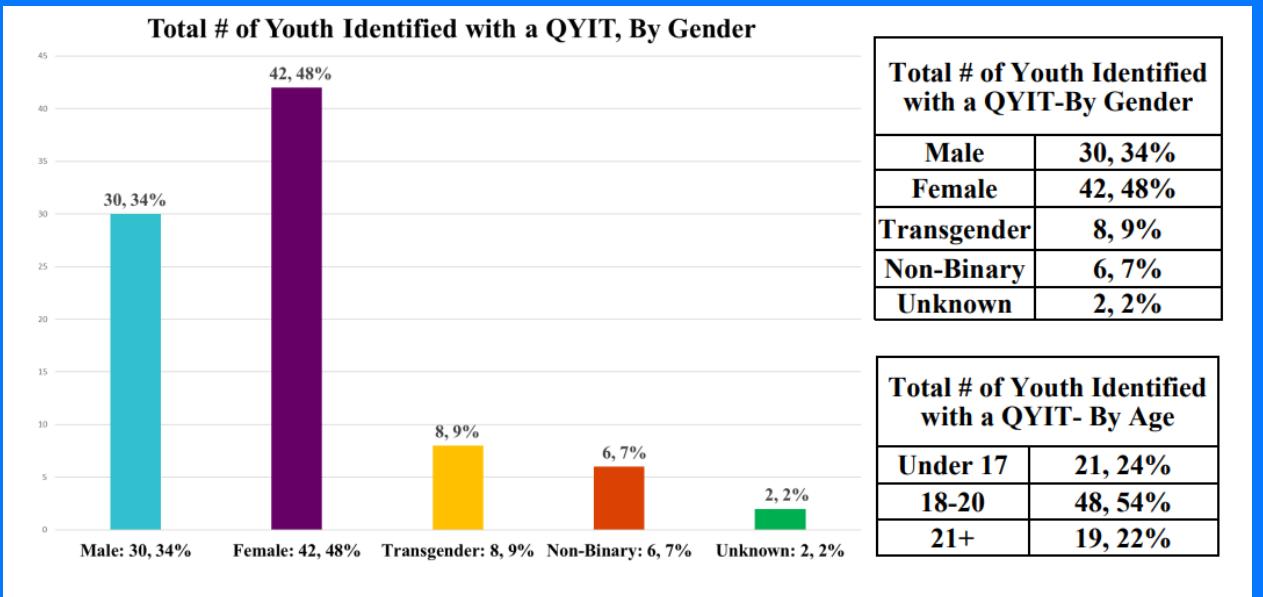
- Clients that have all risk factors 3 are classified as Tier 3
- Those that have 2 of the 3 are classified as Tier 2
- Those that have 1 of the 3 are classified as Tier 1
- Those who have none are classified as Tier 0.



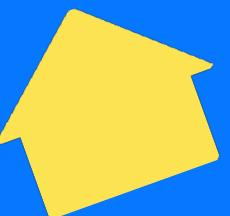
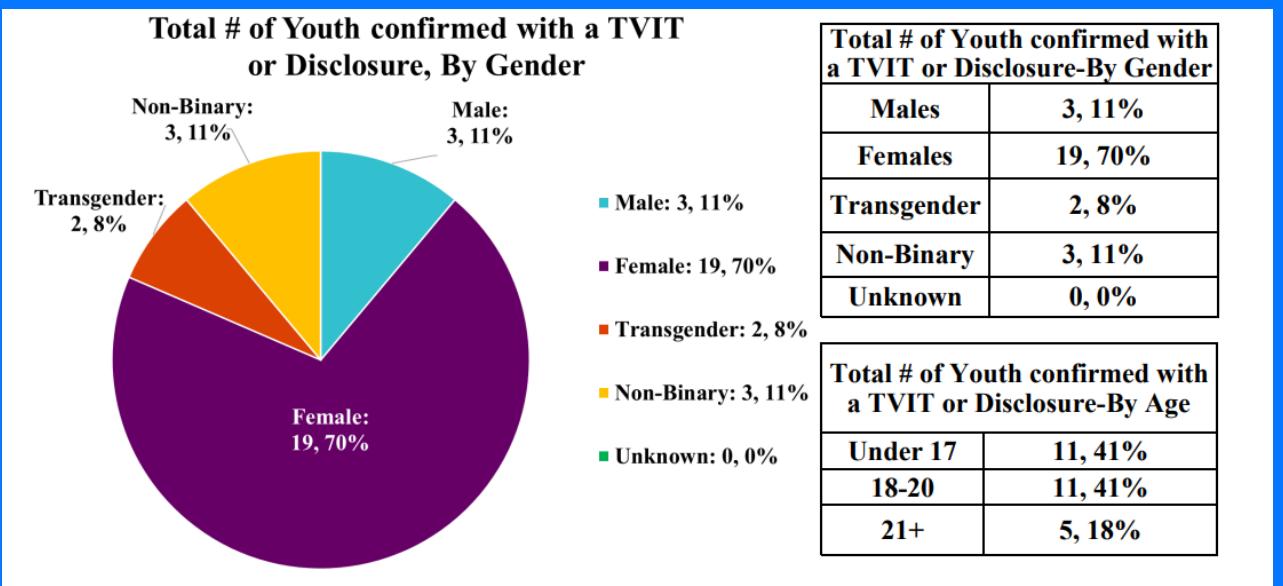
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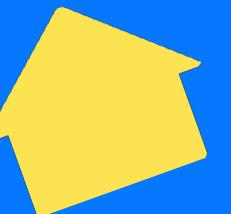
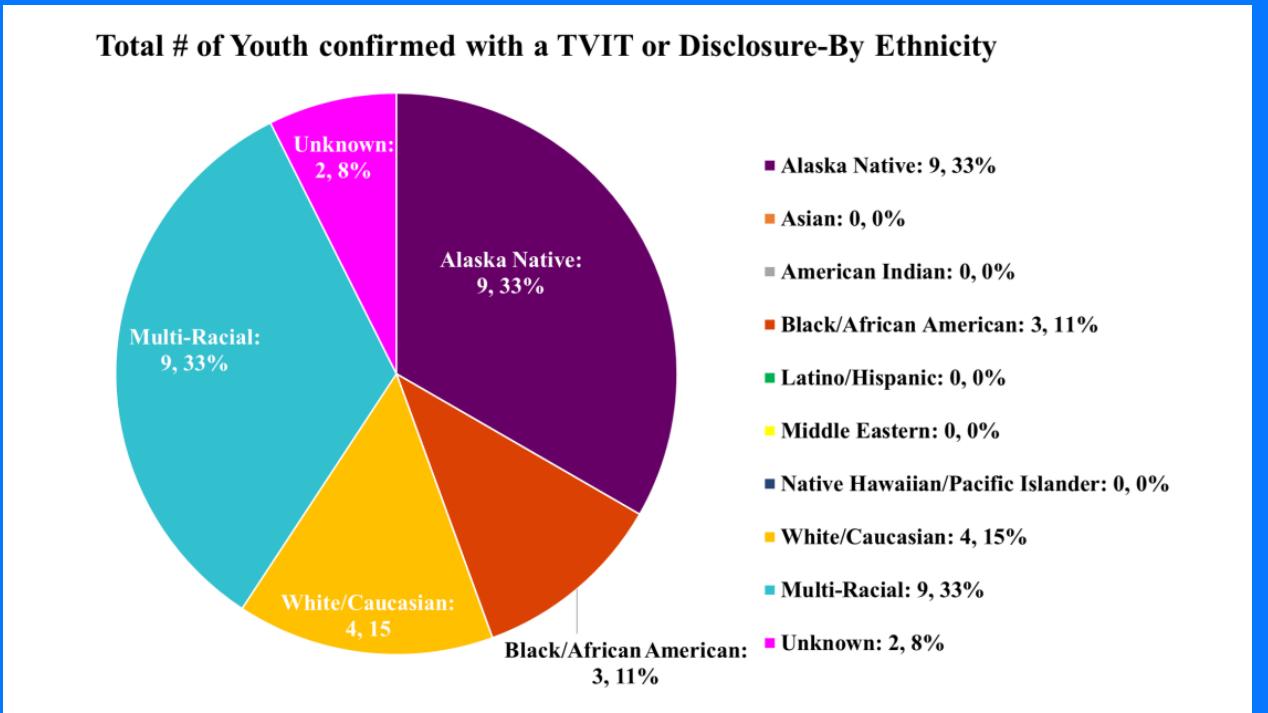
# FY23 Covenant House Alaska Trafficking Data



# FY23 Covenant House Alaska Trafficking Data



# FY23 Covenant House Alaska Trafficking Data





# Legislative Recommendations



## Prevention

- The addition of Human Trafficking to the required teaching subject areas under AS 14.30.355 (Erin's Law) and AS 14.30.356 (Bree's Law) known as the Alaska Safe Children's Act.
- Ensure Alaska is compliant with US Public Law No: 117-301, Human Trafficking Prevention Act of 2022. This act requires the posting of contact information of the national human trafficking hotline in specific places.



# Legislative Recommendations



## Victims and Survivors

- Pass comprehensive “Safe Harbor” laws that allow young trafficking survivors to be treated as victims of a crime rather than as criminals.
- Provide **special protections to minors** by treating the minors as victims of crime, rather than criminals.
- A philosophical shift in child trafficking cases, where the **culpability is placed solely on the perpetrator**.
- Allow **vacatur of convictions** for those found guilty of crimes committed as a direct result of being trafficked.



# Legislative Recommendations



## Victims and Survivors

- ❑ Create alternatives to detention that provide specialized services for victims of human trafficking.
- ❑ Clearly define forced labor as a form of trafficking and provide penalties and remedies for the crime of labor trafficking.
- ❑ Allow for civil damages to be sought by trafficking victims.
- ❑ Add human trafficking victims to the list of those who receive privileged communication under statute with others like domestic violence victims, sexual assault victims and stalking victims.



# Legislative Recommendations



## Traffickers

- ❑ Build capacity of Federal, state, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement to investigate and prosecute human trafficking and its illicit proceeds using a trauma-informed, victim-centered approach.
- ❑ Enhance efforts to bring traffickers to justice by deploying a broad range of tools, including, where appropriate, financial sanctions, federal contracting suspension and debarment, and travel restrictions.
- ❑ Remove the defense that a trafficker did not know the age of a minor victim of trafficking at the time of the exchange.



# Legislative Recommendations



## Buyers

- Enhance efforts to bring buyers to justice by deploying a broad range of tools, including, where appropriate, financial sanctions, federal contracting suspension and debarment, and travel restrictions.**
- Impound the vehicles used in the act of buying sex of those charged with buying sex.**
- Publicly report those who are convicted of buying sex.**



# Legislative Recommendations



## Buyers

- Implement mandatory trafficking education for those who buy sex.**
- Remove the defense that a juvenile consented to a commercial sexual exchange.**



## Alaska HB68 “Governor’s Trafficking Bill”



- National models have shown to successfully address trafficking a **three-legged**, or holistic approach is necessary, that is, **public safety, victim's services, and public health combined**.
- Alaska HB68 2023-2024 includes provisions for **increased penalties for traffickers**, the potential to **vacate prostitution charges and low-level drug charges** and the introduction of the **“Patron of a Victim of Sex Trafficking”** crime to begin to penalize buyers.
- Based on the above recommendations **Covenant House Alaska and the Children’s Justice Act Task Force are in support** of the proposed provisions included in HB68 2023-2023. However, it is our position that the bill falls short of fully addressing all the issues of sex trafficking and would **advocate for a more comprehensive bill or additional bills** that include more of the recommendations above.



## Alaska HB254

### “Liability for publishing or distributing pornography to minors.”



- Covenant House Alaska is in favor of HB254.**
- Publishing and distributing pornography to minors is a grooming tool used by traffickers. HB254 will give law enforcement another tool use against them.



## Alaska HB259

“Establishing the Council on Human and Sex Trafficking.”



- Covenant House Alaska is in favor of HB259.**
  
- Enshrining the council on human and sex trafficking in state law would be beneficial to the strengthening of Alaska’s response to human and sex trafficking.



## Alaska HB264

“Requiring DFCS to adopt a uniform screening tool.”



- Covenant House Alaska and the is favor of HB264.**
- Uniform screening tools across the state would greatly increase our ability to identify those who are being trafficked allowing us to serve more survivors and better understand the magnitude of the issue.



## Alaska HB265

“Changing the term ‘child pornography’ to  
‘child sexual abuse material.’”



- Covenant House Alaska is favor of HB265.**
- Changing the language to reflect the child sexual abuse that is occurring when ‘child pornography’ is produced correctly identifies the action as child sexual abuse.



## Alaska HB67/SB65 “Victims Trauma Reduction Act.”



- ❑ **Covenant House Alaska is favor of HB67/SB65.**
- ❑ Repealing a Court Rule that requires victims to testify in person at grand jury proceedings, often only days after being victimized, to re-tell their story and re-live their trauma in front of a group of strangers – even though the victim has already provided the information (often audio recorded and/or videotaped testimony) to public officials, medical professionals, law enforcement, and/or a judge.



## Alaska HB235

“Require law enforcement to report MMIP to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System.”



- Covenant House Alaska is favor of HB235**
  
- Missing Murdered Indigenous Persons and Human Trafficking are directly linked due to the potential of those missing persons being trafficking victims. Strengthening our understanding of MMIP will help with Human Trafficking response.



## Alaska HB234

“Establishing the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Review Commission.”



- Covenant House Alaska is favor of HB234**
- Missing Murdered Indigenous Persons and Human Trafficking are directly linked due to the potential of those missing persons being trafficking victims. Strengthening our understanding of MMIP will help with Human Trafficking response.

# Questions?



## Contact Information

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Covenant House Alaska

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Children's Justice Act Task Force

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