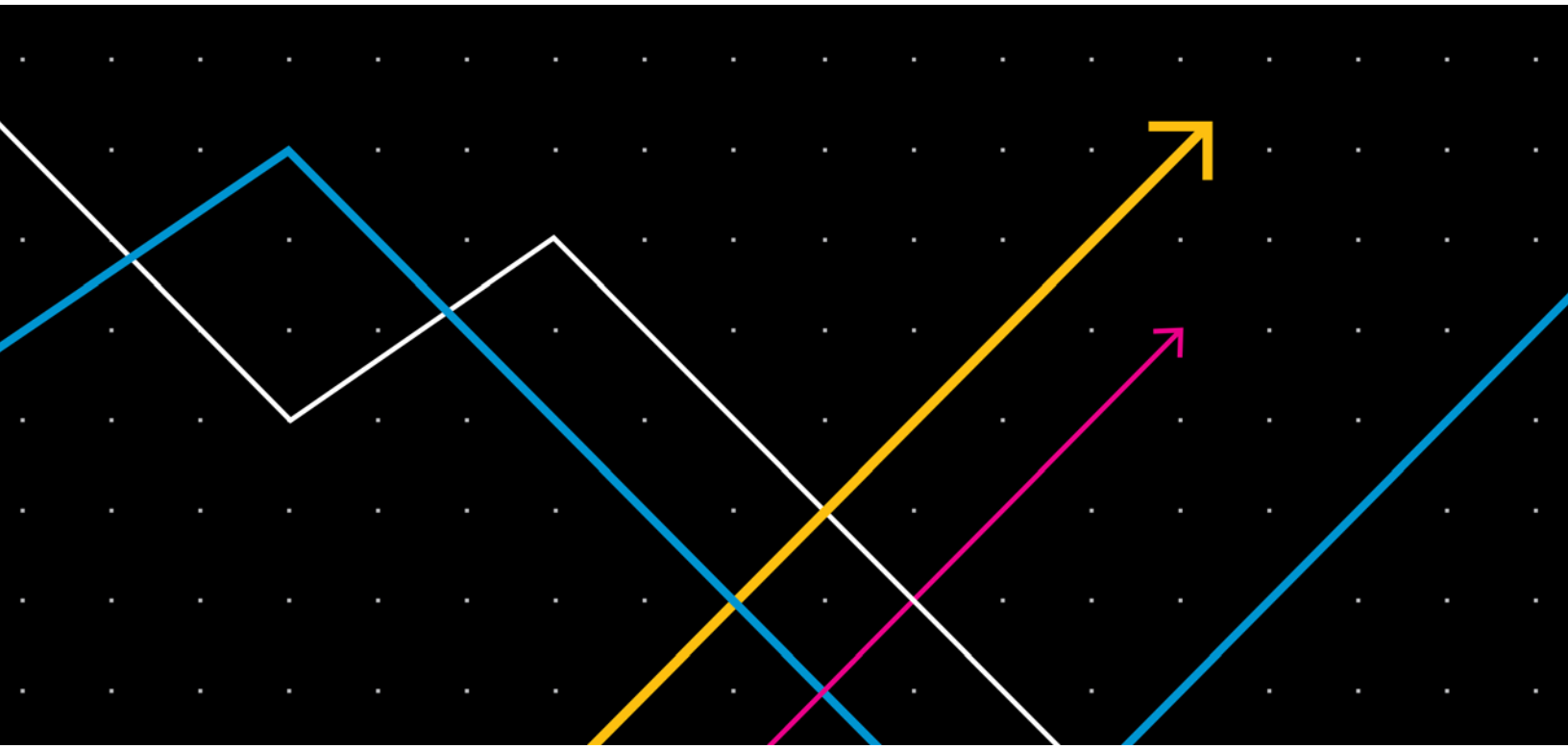

RESEARCH REPORT

Pretesting a Human Trafficking Screening Tool in the Child Welfare and Runaway and Homeless Youth Systems

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Executive Summary

Despite the fact that youth involved in the child welfare (CW) and runaway and homeless youth (RHY) systems are particularly vulnerable to being trafficked, there is no consensus screening tool to identify trafficking experiences among such youth. In order to better serve youth trafficking victims, this study developed a Human Trafficking Screening Tool (HTST) and pretested it with 617 RHY- and CW-involved youth. This research established that the screening tool is accessible to youth and easy to administer, and that both the full-length tool and a shorter version were effective in identifying youth who are trafficking victims in RHY and CW systems, though additional research with more youth is needed.

Methodology

The tool was pretested with 617 youth, ages 12 to 24, across 14 RHY and CW settings in New York, Texas, and Wisconsin from March to November 2016. The survey captured their trafficking experiences as well as demographic characteristics and other life experiences related to trafficking (e.g., running away, drug abuse). The 19-item HTST was embedded in a longer *Life Experiences Survey*, along with a 6-item short-form version called the HTST-SF. The full HTST took approximately two minutes to complete, while the HTST-SF took less than a minute. Most youth completed the survey in an anonymous self-administered electronic form. A random 25 percent were administered the survey by a practitioner, who also recorded their own perspective on the youth's trafficking status.

Key Findings

Overall, the HTST (which measures both lifetime and past-year experiences) and the HTST-SF **performed equally well at capturing trafficking experiences** for most youth. Sampled youth were mostly 18 to 24 years old and in RHY-system settings.

- **HTST covered the key dimensions of youth's trafficking experiences**, according to Urban Institute researchers, members of the HHS study team, and RHY and CW youth helping on the study's youth advisory council.
- **HTST could be implemented and understood in RHY and CW settings**. Practitioners assessed the tool as easy to administer and youth's responses as truthful and understanding HTST

questions. Further, youth's inclination to respond was not affected by whether the tool was self- or practitioner administered.

- **Responses to the HTST were correlated to known trafficking risk factors and outcomes**, including running away from home, being kicked out of one's home, abusing prescription or over-the-counter drugs, trading sex for something of value on their own (i.e., without the presence of a third-party exploiter), being arrested, and seeking help.
- **The HTST correctly predicted trafficking victimization**. For approximately 6 in 10 youth, the HTST correctly predicted youth to be trafficking victims according to administrating practitioners' beliefs and observations. Additionally, the HTST correctly predicted 8 in 10 times which youth were not trafficking victims, according to practitioners' beliefs and observations.
- **The short form of HTST performed equally well as the full version**, with regard to all measures of validity. Since the HTST-SF took less than a minute to administer, it would appear preferable when time is an issue, unless practitioners are interested in capturing more specific dimensions of youth's trafficking experiences. **Table 3 on page 21** shows the long form of the tool, and **Figure 2 on page 30** lists the questions from the short form.

Conclusion

Responses to the 19-item HTST and 6-item HTST-SF were correlated with several known risk factors and outcomes associated with trafficking victimization, including running away from home, being kicked out by parents/guardians, exchanging sex on their own for something of value, abusing over-the-counter drugs, and seeking help. Further, both tools correctly identified trafficking victims 6 in 10 times and nonvictims 8 in 10 times, based on practitioners' assessments of youth's trafficking experiences. Given that practitioners also provided positive feedback on the tools, which took two minutes or less to administer, this study concludes that both the HTST and HTST-SF are accessible, effective tools for screening youth for human trafficking in CW and RHY settings. Given limited samples of certain subpopulations, we recommend additional testing of youth under age 18 and youth in CW settings, in addition to further validation work with a nationally representative sample of youth.

Introduction

Study Purpose

The purpose of this study was to develop and pretest a human trafficking screening tool (HTST) to capture the victimization experiences of young people involved in the child welfare (CW) and runaway and homeless youth (RHY) systems, as practitioners in these systems lacked such a consensus screening tool. The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) contracted with the Urban Institute to develop this tool in response to the 2014 Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, which mandated that federally-funded CW providers and agencies adopt human trafficking identification practices.[1] This act followed two decades of research showing that CW and RHY youth are especially vulnerable to trafficking exploitation, given their unstable living circumstances, likely exposure to family abuse or neglect, and diminished socioeconomic resources.

Research Questions

We sought to develop and pretest HTST in a self-administered form that was accessible to RHY and CW youth and could also be administered by practitioners serving such youth. After an extensive review of existing tools, we created a 19-item HTST and a short form ("HTST-SF") that included 6 items. We then collected pretest data to answer the following research questions:

1. Does the HTST appear on its face to measure the indicators of trafficking victimization, and are these indicators comprehensive?
2. Is the HTST feasible to implement within the CW and RHY contexts, as measured by its readability, understandability, and ability to produce truthful responses?
3. Do youth's responses to questions on the HTST cluster in statistically supported and theoretically meaningful ways (e.g., into dimensions of force, fraud, and coercion)?
4. Can the HTST distinguish youth who are trafficking victims from those who are not likely to have been victims?

[1] See Public Law No: 113-183.

5. Does the HTST's validity hold across subsamples of youth defined by age, involvement in CW or RHY systems, and geographic location, and by whether the tool is self-administered or practitioner administered?
6. Can the HTST-SF perform as well as the full version HTST?

Background Information

Youth in the CW and RHY Systems Are at Heightened Risk for Human Trafficking

While young people of all backgrounds can experience human trafficking, those involved in the CW and RHY systems—youth populations that frequently overlap[2]—are particularly vulnerable to exploitation and victimization. RHY and CW youth often have limited economic resources, unstable living environments, previous experiences with parental or caretaker abuse and neglect, and struggles with health and substance abuse issues (Courtney, Terao, and Bost 2004; Courtney et al. 2011; Oldmixon 2007; Pecora et al. 2005; Tucker et al. 2011; Tyler and Cauce 2002). Each of these realities puts RHY and CW youth at heightened risk for trafficking exploitation and related traumatic victimization, including exchanging commercial sex on their own to meet basic needs or for something of value (Dank et al. 2015; Williams and Frederick 2009).

Many Trafficking Victims Have Prior CW Involvement

Young people placed in foster care, kinship care, state and private residential settings, and other out-of-home care, including emergency shelters, are at especially high risk of trafficking. Several studies of young people exchanging sex on their own for something of value and those who experienced physical or sexual victimization have found high rates of prior CW system involvement. One study found that 75 percent of identified sex-trafficking victims had experienced a foster care placement (Gragg et al. 2007). The risk of being trafficked is not only limited to children who are removed from their homes and placed in foster care. It also applies to children who had active cases in the child welfare system but were never removed from their homes, including those experiencing in-home care or in-home investigations and involvement by child welfare agencies (Freeman and Hamilton 2008; Lankenau et al. 2005). In a study examining trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) of children in New York City, 69

[2] It is common for runaway and homeless youth to have also been involved in the CW system either immediately before experiencing housing instability or at another point in their lives (Pergamit and Ernst 2011).

percent of CSE victims had prior CW involvement in the form of an abuse or neglect investigation (Gragg et al. 2007). These studies do not represent the entire CW-involved population. Yet findings about CW youth's increased vulnerability to victimization and pathways into exploitation have been consistently confirmed by both research and practitioner experiences (Gragg et al. 2007; Williams and Frederick 2009).

Many Trafficking Victims Have Runaway or Homelessness Histories

As with studies of CW-involved victims of human trafficking, studies of youth involved in trafficking have found high rates of running away, or of homelessness after running away or after an adult caretaker kicked them out of their homes without providing alternative residential arrangements. Gragg and coauthors (2007) found that all CSE youth they surveyed had run away from home at least once, and most of the sexual exploitation youth experienced occurred when they were away from home. Another New York City–based study found that nearly all sampled CSE victims were homeless or had experienced frequent residential instability (Curtis et al. 2008). Housing instability and a lack of basic resources elevate the risk that RHY youth will be targeted by exploiters (Williams and Frederick 2009).

Research has explored the experiences of not only youth recruited by third-party exploiters, but also runaway and homeless youth who may become involved in commercial sex *without* a specific exploiter. These young people exchange sex to meet basic needs, as they often face significant challenges obtaining housing, services, food, and safety. Studies have shown that RHY often report entering the commercial sex market after being approached by a potential customer on the street, while an even greater number of girls, boys, and transgender youth report that they were initiated into the commercial sexual economy through friends (Dank et al. 2015). Youth who exchange sex for something of value most often do so independently, absent a pimp or other exploiter, in exchange for shelter, food, clothing, or other basic necessities (Curtis et al. 2008; Walls and Bell 2011).

Approximately 40 percent of runaway and homeless youth identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning/queer (LGBTQ); these youth are at highest risk for human trafficking. Several studies have found that LGBTQ youth make up a disproportionate fraction of RHY (Cochran et al. 2002; Durso and Gates 2012; Ray 2006). Further, homeless LGBTQ youth frequently engage in illegal activities to support themselves, including exchanging sex for monetary and nonmonetary resources to survive—even more so than heterosexual RHY (Freeman and Hamilton 2008; Walls and Bell 2011). These situations put runaway and homeless LGBTQ youth at an elevated risk of being trafficked.

Identifying Victims of Trafficking Has Been Challenging

One primary challenge for practitioners, researchers, and policymakers has been to effectively, accurately, and appropriately identify human trafficking victims to help address their needs (Clawson and Dutch 2008; Laczko and Gramegna 2003; Okech, Morreau, and Benson 2011). Often, stakeholders who might identify victims lack deep awareness and understanding of the issue or hold differing definitions of who constitutes a human trafficking victim. Victims themselves may lack an understanding that their experiences are considered trafficking. Further, victims can have complex relationships with exploiters involving deep feelings of fear or strong emotional ties, making victims reluctant to engage with law enforcement, immigration officials, and other governmental institutions due to fears of reprisal. Victims may also be reluctant to engage with officials because they fear being arrested for prostitution, being deported, or being led into social service systems they wish to avoid, given service providers' mandatory reporting requirements.

Many Stakeholders Are Well Positioned to Identify Trafficking Victims

Deciding *who* can or should identify victims is also a challenge. Law enforcement engaged in criminal investigations has been, up to now, the primary identifiers of human trafficking (particularly sex trafficking). Yet opportunities to identify victims in other settings, including medical facilities, human service organizations, businesses, and schools, are becoming more widely recognized (Clawson and Dutch 2008).[3] Advocates, practitioners, and researchers from varied fields recognize the need to improve identification capacity across health and human services systems. Nurses and doctors, social workers, domestic violence and sexual assault practitioners, and school personnel may regularly encounter victims but need better tools to identify or recognize signs of victimization (Clawson and Dutch 2008; Hodge 2014; Isaac, Solak, and Giardino 2011; McClain and Garrity 2010; Okech, Morreau, and Benson 2011).

CW Providers Face Specific Challenges in Screening for Human Trafficking

Child welfare providers, including social workers, residential facility staff, and other personnel may be well positioned to identify human trafficking victims and connect them with services. But CW providers

[3] See the Department of Health and Human Services Office on Trafficking in Persons' SOAR (See, Observe, Ask, Respond) training materials for health care providers and settings (February 7, 2017).

frequently focus investigations of harm only on parents, guardians, caretakers, or members of the home and thus are likely to miss many common trafficking situations (Fong and Cardoso 2011; Gibbs et al. 2015).[4] Some states have begun or are considering categorizing human trafficking as a form of child abuse. Yet these actions are not consistent across the United States, and the inconsistent policies hinder child welfare workers' ability to identify and investigate trafficking allegations.[5] And, as previously mentioned, victims may understand that CW workers have mandatory reporting responsibilities; many fear being returned to a system from which they ran away or becoming further entrenched in a system they do not believe is best serving their needs.

There Is No Consensus on How to Effectively Screen for Human Trafficking

Although practitioners and policymakers have supported the development of effective tools and protocols to identify trafficking victims, they do not agree how these tools should look. This reality has been complicated by the federal government mandating that CW- and RHY-funded programs develop identification practices without specifying how. Whether tools should be interview or survey based, when they should be administered, and whether and how to validate them are issues under active discussion. Macy and Graham (2012) reviewed 20 screening documents and found overall consensus on trafficking indicators and questions, but much uncertainty regarding whether these tools could effectively identify victims with diverse backgrounds and needs. The study also found that of the 20 tools, only one was based on actual data on victims. Although a few additional tools have since been created and validated using data (Bigelsen and Vuotto 2013; Simich et al. 2014), these uncertainties still exist. Both RHY and CW practitioners would benefit from a human trafficking tool that takes into account their specific needs and challenges in identifying youth who have been victimized. The frequently short-term or episodic nature of youth's engagement with RHY service providers points to a need for a short, quick-to-administer tool.

[4] Although identifying victims in runaway and homeless youth programs also presents challenges, there is little to no research or literature documenting them.
[5] The 2015 Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act amended the federal definition of child abuse and neglect to include sex trafficking. States that identify minors as victims of sex trafficking will also consider them to be victims of child abuse and neglect and sexual assault. This change will go into effect May 2017.

An Effective Trafficking Screening Tool Would Help Providers Address Victims' Needs

Studies have shown that the services youth victims receive should be—but often are not—tailored to address the specific needs of trafficking victims, because service providers lack training in identifying and addressing the needs of trafficked youth (Gragg et al. 2007; Williams and Frederick 2009). Development of an effective human trafficking screening tool could help providers identify and better serve victims' needs. Victims of sex trafficking often face significant social stigma as well as difficulty accessing appropriate social services. It is thus particularly important for providers to understand how to assess whether youth are victims of trafficking and how to best link them to services that will address survivors' needs as they move toward self-sufficiency.

Methodology

To create and validate the Human Trafficking Screening Tool (HTST), we executed the following steps:

1. Conducted a comprehensive review of current human trafficking screening tools and protocols and other field's relevant tools and protocols;
2. Selected relevant questions from the existing tools and protocols to develop the HTST;
3. Developed a broad *Life Experiences Survey*, which included the HTST;
4. Received feedback from a youth advisory council; and
5. Programmed and tested the survey.

To pretest the survey, we recruited 14 runaway and homeless youth and child welfare agencies in three states to administer the tool to a total of 617 youth respondents. To begin to validate the HTST, we conducted statistical analyses to determine the effectiveness of the tool in identifying both sex and labor trafficking.

Building the Trafficking Screening Tool

Comprehensive Review of Existing Human Trafficking Tools and Protocols

The first step in creating the human trafficking screening tool was to conduct a comprehensive review of all existing human trafficking screening tools and protocols as of December 2014. The tool review had two primary purposes. First, the review provided us with an in-depth understanding of the array of existing human trafficking screening tools, including existing screening methods, strengths and weaknesses, the populations and types of trafficking for which screening tools have been developed, and the validation methods, if any, for existing tools. Second, the review identified questions commonly asked across the tools and provided our tool with a source of existing tested questions.

To develop a comprehensive list of existing tools, we reviewed tools from several sources, including tools identified by HHS, tools known to us based on previous work and contacts, and Internet searches of human trafficking tools. While not every tool clearly identified its creator or creation process, most were developed by researchers, health and human services agencies at the state level, practitioners, service providers, and other nonprofit organizations. We also had individualized discussions with 27 state and local human trafficking task forces and coalitions to ask if they knew of any tools being used in

their jurisdictions. We ultimately identified and reviewed 40 human trafficking screening tools, 19 of which screened for both sex and labor trafficking in all populations, 8 for both types of trafficking in minors, 9 for sex trafficking in minors, 3 for labor trafficking in all populations, and 1 for labor trafficking in adults. See **appendix A** for a full list.

We reviewed each tool for several characteristics, including format, administration processes, targeted population, validation method, and definitions of human trafficking. **Appendix B** presents a full list of reviewed tool characteristics.

Across the tools, we found that most were checklists of observable indicators of trafficking (e.g., tattoos, bruises) or questions to ask potential victims. Only two of the tools were validated, with a third undergoing validation at the time of the review. The majority of tools had only one version, with most being quite short (approximately four or five questions). The screening tools were most commonly available only in English, although some were translated into Spanish and one was translated into three additional languages. The tools did not provide guidelines on navigating mandatory reporting requirements; although some briefly mentioned the existence of mandatory reporting, laws they did not specify what reporting procedures might be conducted based on answers the tool provided.

All the reviewed tools were to be administered to a client or potentially identifiable victim by a practitioner or staff member. Most tools were paper based or assumed to be paper based (because the tools lacked information on computerized administration). Tools were administered in various settings where potential victims of trafficking could be encountered, such as health care, law enforcement and corrections, child welfare agencies, and runaway and homeless youth agencies. Some tools included administration guidelines or protocols, but most only provided a list of questions, with no protocols or implementation guidelines. Few tools provided information on how they were created.

The tools we reviewed had several key strengths we borrowed when developing our tool. Most were comprehensive and could be used for all populations and trafficking types, while others were targeted to minors but also screened for both forms of trafficking, sex and labor. The tools that provided administration guidelines often featured tips for administrating the tool, including best practices in asking sensitive questions. Some tools were also piloted with youth or practitioners actively working with victims of trafficking, and included their feedback during development.

Only two of the tools had been validated. One tool was geared toward foreign-born adults, and therefore was not directly relevant to our target population of CW- and RHY-involved youth. This tool was also particularly long, with a mix of 70 write-in and multiple choice questions. The other validated tool was geared toward our target population but validated through a small sample of only 11 youth,

and only in an RHY setting. Most tools lacked information on how they were developed, including why particular indicators or questions were chosen. Many also did not provide any context for how, when, and where the tools should be used.

Review of Other Fields' Screening Tools and Protocols

Finding that few tools targeted our intended population (young people between the ages of 12 and 24 in RHY and CW settings), we also scanned screening tools in other relevant fields. We reviewed a smaller number of tools measuring intimate partner violence and child abuse and trauma to learn how other fields screen for victimization and trauma and which methodologies they use to create tools. We ultimately reviewed five screening tools from other fields using the same method to categorize questions as for human trafficking tools **(included in table 1)**.

All five nontrafficking protocols had been validated. Two of the intimate partner violence tools were short (four questions) to enable use in clinics and hospitals, situations when contact with potential victims is brief. This encouraged us to develop and validate a short-form screening tool to be used in homeless outreach and other one-time encounters with potential victims of trafficking in RHY situations. In addition, we wished to mitigate the challenge of administering an extremely long tool to a young person in any setting, short term or not.

Development of a Tool That Covered Multiple Dimensions of Trafficking Experiences

Based on our review, we sought to create a tool that would be statistically validated, short (less than 10 to 15 questions), screen for all forms of trafficking, and could be used and understood by youth of all gender identities and sexual orientations from ages 12 to 24. As part of our review, we categorized each question based on common themes and categories to identify what questions were commonly asked and to ensure that we did not overlook particular questions or types of questions during our review and subsequent tool development. We categorized the approximately 1,400 questions across 40 tools via the categories in **table 1**.

TABLE 1

Screening Tool Question Categorization

Abuse—Emotional
Abuse—Physical
Abuse—Relationship
Appearance
Child Welfare Experience
Criminal History/CJ Involvement/Perceptions of CJ and LE
Demographic Information
Family Background
Health—Mental/Emotional
Health—Physical
Labor/Working Conditions
Living Conditions
Migration/Immigration Experience
Recruitment Experience
Runaway/Homeless Experience
Sexual Behavior
Sexual Exploitation/Abuse/Trafficking/Commerce
Trafficker/Recruiter/Manager Characteristics
Trafficking Evidence (General)
Recruitment Experience

Source: Urban Institute, Human Trafficking Screening Tool pretest validation study (2017).

Based on this categorization, we developed key questions to provide background information and information on youth's experiences to test the validity of specific human trafficking–related questions. These questions were sourced from all reviewed protocols, with our team revising their wording as necessary. The HTST consisted of both a long version (19 items) and a short-form version (6 items), the HTST-SF. In consultation with HHS, we decided to embed the entire HTST into a longer survey for several reasons. First, based on past experiences interviewing youth about their trafficking histories, we concluded that youth are more inclined to answer sensitive questions truthfully if they are part of a broader effort to capture information on their life experiences. Thus, we titled the survey the *Life Experiences Survey* (see **appendix C**). A second reason to embed the HTST in a broader survey was so that we could identify and test additional risk factors that CW and RHY providers can target for their services,[6] all of which are suspected to be highly correlated with youth being trafficked or at risk of being trafficked.

[6] These risk factors include foster care involvement, experiences running away or being kicked out, arrest history, and drug use and abuse history.

Feedback from Youth Advisory Council

A key goal in developing the HTST was to create a tool that was youth friendly and appropriate to our target population, and that contained understandable language and concepts that could elicit trustworthy and nontriggering responses. Therefore, we convened an eight-member youth advisory council composed of youth who have had RHY, CW, or trafficking-related experiences and incorporated their feedback and comments as part of tool development.

To convene the youth advisory council, we conducted recruitment and outreach through various service providers, RHY organizations, and CW agencies across the country. We also disseminated flyers and recruitment materials through the Urban Institute's social media accounts as well as organizations advocating for former CW-involved youth. Each member of the youth advisory council completed an application and participated in an interview, and was provided with an honorarium.

Once a draft of the survey was created and reviewed by our team and HHS, Urban asked the youth advisory council to review the tool and provide written feedback as well as verbal feedback via a webinar conference. We also incorporated the youth advisory council's feedback into subsequent drafts, including after it was formatted for online use and uploaded into the web-based survey application Qualtrics. Qualtrics allows surveys to be administered using a computer, via customized survey links, or using any mobile device, via a mobile application.

Survey Programming and Administration

Once the tool was finalized, the survey was programmed into Qualtrics in both English and Spanish for implementation in all pretest sites. We provided tablets loaded with the Qualtrics application so that organizations without desktop computer access or reliable Wi-Fi access were able to administer the tool. In addition to programming an electronic version of the survey, we created a paper version in case a site was unable to accommodate an electronic survey or a young person preferred to complete the survey on paper. However, sites were encouraged to use the electronic version because of its ease, efficiency, and usability. In fact, all youth completed the survey electronically.

We also decided to administer the survey in two different ways: self-administered and practitioner administered. This twofold method was employed for two primary reasons. One was to help validate the HTST's predictions of which youth were trafficking victims. Another was to assess the veracity of youth's responses and their understanding of survey questions, by comparing responses with practitioners' information and perspectives. We also hypothesized that youth might be more honest in

answering questions about trafficking experiences and other risky behaviors if they could do so completely anonymously (i.e., by using the self-administered version, compared with answering the questions to a practitioner).

Accordingly, 25 percent of youth sampled were randomly selected to receive the practitioner-administered survey based on their birth month. Those with birthdays in October, November, or December received the practitioner-administered survey, while those with birthdays in other months received the self-administered version. For the 142 practitioner-administered surveys, we included a small set of questions to the end—after the youth had completed their portion of the survey—that asked practitioners whether they believed the young person understood the survey questions, had been truthful, had exchanged sex on their own for something of value, and had been a victim of trafficking.

Programming the survey into the Qualtrics platform itself was, at times, complicated because of varying consent and assent forms, audio features, screening questions specific to certain organizations, and questions in the tool that triggered follow-up questions. In total, four different consent and assent forms were required based on age and administration format.[7] A short series of screening questions determined which version of the consent or assent form the participant needed to complete. For sites that asked us to track the surveys administered at their organization, the survey first asked about location, then whether the person's birthday was in October, November, or December. Finally, the survey asked whether the participant was under 18 or 18 or older. Using Qualtrics' display logic feature, we were able to direct participants to the correct consent or assent form.

Except for the aforementioned additional screening questions, all iterations of the electronic survey had the same base set of questions and answer options. In the paper version, the participant could see all questions that could be asked and would have to follow a convoluted set of skip logic arrows. In the electronic version, any questions not applicable to the participant (based on their answers to previous questions) were automatically skipped. The exception was that if a youth answered "I choose to skip this question" (the last answer option for every question), they would still trigger the corresponding follow-up questions. As mentioned above, the practitioner-administered tool also included specific validation questions, that is, Qualtrics would display validation questions for the practitioner to answer after the youth finished their portion of the survey.

To distinguish between youth surveyed at a runaway and homeless youth organization and youth surveyed in a child welfare setting, we embedded location data to create custom links for each partner organization. These embedded location data were not available for organizations that chose to use the

[7] Informed consent was required for youth age 18 and over; informed assent was required for youth under age 18.

Qualtrics offline application. Instead, we added a location question to identify where the survey was taken. For organizations that requested tablets, we loaded the tablets with both the offline application and customized online versions of the survey.

To ensure accessibility, we recorded each survey question in both English and Spanish, uploaded the files to the audio distribution site SoundCloud, then manually embedded the files within each question. In the practitioner-administered surveys it was not necessary to record audio versions of the consent or assent forms, because a practitioner read the youth the forms. Participants taking the self-administered version could choose to take the survey with earbuds (provided by the Urban Institute) and listen to the questions instead of reading them. While we thought it was important to provide this option, we found that on smaller devices, such as tablets, Qualtrics did not load embedded audio files well. We had to use SoundCloud and embed a sound player into every question manually because the tablets did not have Adobe Flash, and as a result could not use the Qualtrics audio feature.

Tool Testing

We generated electronic and paper versions of the *Life Experiences Survey* (which embedded both the long- and the short-form screening tools) with appropriate skip patterns, as described above. Urban staff and the youth advisory council reviewed the survey for length, appropriate skip patterns, question response categories, and ease of use.

Urban piloted the survey in two separate sites in Washington, DC, to test feasibility of administration and *face validity* (how well the HTST questions appear they would assess trafficking experiences). A total of nine youth were recruited from two sites operated by Sasha Bruce Youthwork, a local organization that provides support and services to runaway and homeless youth. At both sites, surveys were administered on a tablet through Qualtrics in either online or offline modes. Youth took the survey all in one room but on separate tablets.

Participants were able to follow along on the tablet as a survey administrator read the instructions and consent form aloud. None of the youth expressed concerns regarding the clarity of instructions or consent. They understood that they could stop taking the survey at any time and seek help from available resources.

Overall, the participants expressed that the questions were clear. Youth suggested a few minor edits to the nontrafficking portions; accordingly, we added an educational option of "currently in a GED program" and clarified the question on relationship with birth family to reflect that some youth

maintained relationships with a few family members. With regard to the face validity of the trafficking instrument embedded in the survey, participants understood individual questions but wanted to be reminded of the survey's definition of work more frequently while answering the questions.

Based on this feedback from pilot participants, we revised some questions and were able to determine that the *Life Experiences Survey* could be administered in an offline tablet mode, even in a group setting, because the youth's individual responses were protected from others' views. Further, the questions included in the survey—particularly those in the trafficking instrument—had a strong degree of face validity. Youth clearly understood what the questions were asking and understood how the questions progressed. It was also reassuring that none of the youth perceived the questions to be triggering or invasive; while the participating youth expressed that the questions were detailed and thorough, they did not believe they were overly-personal or traumatizing.

Research Clearance

After finalizing the tool, we applied for and received research clearance from Urban Institute's institutional review board (IRB). Through that process, we further refined our protections for youth and made some minor changes to the final procedures, consent forms, and recruitment materials. We worked with HHS to apply for and receive expedited clearance from the Office of Management and Budget, under the generic clearance mechanism for pretesting surveys established by the Administration for Children and Families' Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation.

Implementing the Pretest

The purpose of this study was to develop and pretest a trafficking screening tool with a purposive sample that includes diverse race/ethnic, gender, age, and sexual-orientation characteristics of CW- and RHY-involved youth. This pretesting provided data to evaluate how answers compared between the short and long forms of the tool among this diverse purposive sample of youth, and how answers compared between self-administered and practitioner-administered versions of the tool. For the pretest, we administered the tool, embedded in a longer survey that asked about demographics and life experiences, to a sample of 617 youth ages 12 to 24. Youth from programs in several sites in New York, Texas, and Wisconsin voluntarily participated in the study. This pretesting was an initial step in a broader effort to create, pilot test, and further validate a screening tool that could be used across RHY

and CW settings. In future stages, the tool might be revised based on the findings of this study and undergo further testing and validation.

To carry out this pretest, we recruited partner organizations in four localities in three states: Houston, Texas; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; New York City; and Rochester, New York. (See **appendix D** for a full list of our pretest partners.) After securing our partners' participation, we trained them in the tool-pretesting procedures and worked with them throughout the administration process. This included training the staff to recruit youth, administer the cognitive screener (described in further detail below), oversee the completion of both practitioner- and self-administered surveys, and provide youth with a site-specific resource card upon completion of the survey, in addition to a $25 Visa gift card. Finally, we collected data from completed surveys as well as feedback on the tool-administration process.

Site Recruitment and Training

Recruitment began by us reaching out to our contacts across several target states. We aimed for a set of states that represented geographic and demographic diversity. We reached out to service providers, as well as experts in CW and RHY policy and services within target states. As the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014 mandated federally-funded CW agencies to identify youth sex trafficking victims by September 2015, several sites had concurrent efforts to pretest or validate other trafficking screening tools in either CW or RHY settings, which presented challenges to recruitment. Two additional challenges appeared in securing participation from programs operating in CW settings. First, several states did not provide services in settings in which a survey could be administered (e.g., services in group homes). Second, the research-permission process for surveying youth in CW settings proved difficult because CW staff could not efficiently obtain the necessary level of parental consent. Ultimately, we found partners in four locations across three states and began concentrating our recruitment of service providers in Houston, Texas; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; New York City; and Rochester, New York.

We set up calls with service providers known to us and solicited names from local sources for other providers. We aimed to work with at least one CW provider and one RHY provider in each location. We also ensured we had at least one service provider that served youth under age 18 and one that served youth over age 18 in each location, and aimed, where possible, to include at least one provider that served large numbers of LGBTQ youth. We explained the study procedures and our expectations of study partners in each site before securing a commitment to collaborate. Our partners included CW drop-in centers, RHY drop-in centers, residential treatment centers, CW group homes, and emergency

shelters. The full list of providers who partnered with us on the pretest is included in **appendix D.** In total, we worked with six CW providers and eight RHY providers.

We established memoranda of understanding with partners as appropriate. In many cases, local research permissions were required for service providers, particularly CW agencies, to participate. We obtained research permission from the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, the New York City Administration for Children's Services, the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, the Western Institutional Review Board (which served as the IRB for the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families), the research review board of Covenant House New York, the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston (so that an affiliated medical fellow could administer the surveys), and the Hillside Family of Agencies' IRB in Rochester. As noted above, we also secured permission from the Urban Institute's IRB and clearance from the Office of Management and Budget. We worked with sites to determine whether their internal processes or policies required that children under age 18 receive permission from a caseworker or parent to participate in the survey. Where required, we developed consent forms and worked out procedures with sites for obtaining this consent.

Once we formalized our collaboration, we talked with sites about administration, including whether sites had wireless Internet and computers that could be used for the study or whether they would need us to provide tablets. We also worked with the sites to determine who would administer the surveys, who would provide participating youth with any needed services, and how many surveys they could complete. Based on this information, we allocated surveys across providers within each study location. We then scheduled half-day in-person trainings at each site, combining training across several organizations whenever possible. During the training, we briefed organizations about the purpose of the study, the process we had used to develop the survey, and the contents of the survey. We then trained practitioners to administer the survey, with emphasis on the procedures we had established to protect the safety and privacy of participating youth. Following the training, we distributed study materials (gift cards and trackers,[8] tablets where needed, headphones, resource cards, cognitive screeners, administration guidelines and cheat sheets, and our contact information) to each site. Whenever possible, we stayed on while sites administered their first few surveys, to provide sites hands-on assistance in getting comfortable with the study procedures and protections.

[8] Each participating organization received a gift card tracker to track how many gift cards were given out and when. This was strictly for accounting purposes, and youth were only asked to mark the tracker with a symbol or initials to indicate that they received the gift card. No identifying information was collected.

Pretest Administration

Our pretesting plan called for administering the tool to 600 youth ages 12 to 24 in diverse CW and RHY settings, through two administration modes. All survey responses were anonymous, with no identifying information recorded.[9] All survey responses were recorded through Qualtrics online survey software and uploaded through secure transfer to a secure online server. Three-quarters of the youth self-administered the tool on a computer or a tablet in English or Spanish, with audio available for youth with limited reading skills. One-quarter of youth had the tool administered to them by a service provider. The provider read questions aloud, youth responded verbally, and practitioners recorded the answers in either a computer or a tablet.

At each site, we ensured that we obtained a strong mix of surveys from CW and RHY service providers. However, because many of our CW providers were required to obtain caseworker or parental permission before youth could take the survey, not as many surveys were completed with youth in CW settings as we had initially planned. Our RHY providers were able to recruit and survey more youth than our CW providers. While this allowed us to slightly surpass the goal of 600 total surveys administered, it also resulted in a smaller proportion of youth under age 18 being surveyed.

These limited subpopulations of youth surveyed in CW settings and under age 18 still met the minimum needed sample sizes to reach most conclusions regarding the validity of the 19-item HTST and the 6-item HTST-SF. As described in VanVoorhis and Morgan (2007), a general rule of thumb for the minimum necessary sample size is 50 individuals plus the number of items being evaluated (i.e., 19); therefore, the minimum subpopulation of sample sizes needed was 69 youth in CW settings and 69 youth under age 18. A total of 82 youth in CW settings as well as 151 youth under age 18 were surveyed. However, for the 25 percent of the sample who received practitioner-administered surveys, both sample sizes were under the minimum required: 24 and 40, respectively. Therefore, we strongly recommend retesting HTST's validity regarding its true positive rate (*sensitivity*) and true negative rate (*specificity*) at identifying trafficking victims and nonvictims according to practitioners' reports for both youth in CW settings and for youth under age 18.

[9] In one case, when our screening tool was jointly administered with a local site's own screening tool, a project-specific identifier was attached to the youth's response, solely to compare the youth's responses on the two screening instruments. The identifier was unique to this study and was not linked in any way to any other personal identifier. In this site, our consent forms explained to youth that their data would be shared in deidentified form, in this manner and for this sole purpose.

We also aimed to reach variation in the race/ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation of youth surveyed. Throughout the administration process, we checked on these demographic breakdowns as the sample accumulated.

Each site adhered to administration methods designed to ensure high-quality data collection and to protect the youth's privacy. Service providers recruited youth through their own locally developed methods. All youth ages 12 to 24 in a CW or RHY setting were eligible to participate, provided they had not already taken the survey at that or another location. In some cases, local permission processes required that youth obtain parental or caseworker consent. In one location, local requirements stated that youth had to be recruited indirectly through posted flyers, rather than being approached about the study. In most settings, providers were able to tell individual youth and groups of youth about the study and invite them to participate. Providers were asked to clearly explain the purpose of the study, explain the privacy protections, and mention that youth would receive a $25 gift card to thank them for their participation. All potential youth participants were told that the study was a life experiences survey, so that word did not spread that it was a survey specifically on trafficking.

Once youth expressed interest in taking the survey and any required caseworker or parental consent was obtained, providers found a time and location to administer the survey. The survey began with a cognitive screener that asked youth very basic questions such as the current month, year, and day of the week, and asked youth to memorize a list of three simple words and repeat it back. This was to ensure that the young person was in the proper mindset to take the survey. Youth who did not pass the cognitive screener were excluded from the study.

For those who passed the screener, a practitioner launched the online survey on a computer or a tablet. The survey first asked respondents where they were taking the survey; whether their birthday was in October, November, or December (to randomize youth into the practitioner- or self-administered survey mode); and whether under age 18 or older (to load in the correct consent or assent form). The practitioner then read the youth the consent/assent form. The form covered the study's benefits and risks and explained how the youth's survey answers would be stored and how they would be used. The consent form for youth under age 18 notified them that if they revealed certain experiences, service providers would be mandated by law to notify child welfare authorities—and law enforcement in some sites. Which answers triggered which response was different for each site and its applicable laws and regulations.

If youth consented/assented to participate in the study, they began taking the survey in either self-administered or practitioner-administered mode. In either case, youth were set up in a private location,

where others could not see or hear their survey answers. For self-administered surveys, practitioners were asked to remain nearby to answer any questions that might arise and to assist young people who might be triggered by the questions.

At the end of the self-administered surveys, youth notified service providers that they were done. They were provided a $25 Visa gift card, as well as a card listing the national human trafficking hotline, the national suicide prevention hotline, and local resources. At the end of practitioner-administered surveys, practitioners gave youth the gift cards and resource cards, and then answered a short practitioner survey to obtain their personal opinions as to a youth's trafficking involvement. This survey assessed whether the youth was truthful in answering the survey, whether they understood the survey questions, and whether the practitioner thought the survey respondent had been a victim of sex or labor trafficking or had exchanged sex for something of value but without the presence of a third party exploiter. These closed-ended questions were followed by open-ended response fields for providers to give more information to contextualize their responses.

The *Life Experiences Survey* usually took around 15 minutes, and the practitioner survey took an additional 10 minutes. Youth who self-disclosed that they were victims of trafficking or other exploitation and abuse after taking a self-administered survey or who otherwise asked for help were connected with services following the usual procedures on site.

Surveys taken on a computer or tablet connected to the Internet were immediately transferred to a secure online database run by Qualtrics. Surveys taken on a tablet in offline mode were manually uploaded by providers once the tablets were connected to wireless Internet.[10] Providers could not see survey answers during transmission.

We remained in contact with service providers throughout survey administration. We held follow-up calls shortly after administration began, to answer any early questions and check adherence to our administration guidelines. We shared e-mail addresses and telephone numbers for our entire project team so that sites could be in touch immediately with any questions or feedback. Following administration at each site, we held a follow-up call to solicit feedback on the survey experience, the usefulness of the screening tool, and suggestions for future improvement.

[10] Because the tablets could not be connected to hardwired Internet, offline surveys had to be uploaded to the Qualtrics server through a wireless Internet connection.

Analytic Strategy

The focus of this study was to develop and pretest the HTST to determine its feasibility for implementation in CW and RHY settings and its validity for identifying potential trafficking victims. Toward this end, the analytic strategy focused on validating the HTST using several criteria to address the research questions. Validation analyses included those evaluating the HTST's face and content validity, feasibility for implementation, factorial validity and internal consistency reliability, convergent validity, concurrent validity, sensitivity and specificity, variations by subgroups, and performance relative to the shorter HTST-SF. Each analysis is defined and explained below under "Findings."

Sample Composition

In total, 617 youth completed the *Life Experiences Survey* with each state providing roughly one-third of the sample. As noted above, challenges in recruiting child welfare sites led to an imbalance in the sample between CW and RHY youth (**table 2**).

TABLE 2

Human Trafficking Screening Tool *Life Experiences Survey* Sites by Setting

Site	Child welfare	Runaway and homeless	Total
New York	17	192	209
Texas	27	194	221
Wisconsin	38	149	187
Total	**82**	**535**	**617**

Source: Urban Institute, Human Trafficking Screening Tool pretest validation study (2017).

Because our sample was purposive, none of the characteristics and experiences here necessarily represent youth in CW or RHY settings, or any general incidence of trafficking or other circumstances in this youth population. However, we report sample characteristics that provide context to understand and evaluate the tool validation. Furthermore, these characteristics were correlated with responses to questions that make up the screening tool. Please see Appendix E for the breakdown of the sample composition, including demographics, foster care and running away from home experiences, and arrest and drug abuse histories.

Findings

This section summarizes validation of the HTST, whose questions are shown in table 3. **The HTST and the HTST-SF[11] performed equally well at capturing the trafficking experiences of most youth in the sample, who were largely 18 to 24 years old and in RHY-system settings.** The remainder of this section describes HTST validity findings in response to the research questions.[12]

TABLE 3

Human Trafficking Screening Tool Questions

#	Did someone you work for...	Hypothesized domain
1	Physically force you to do something you didn't feel comfortable doing	Force
2	Lock you up, restrain you, or prevent you from leaving	Force
3	Physically harm you in any way (beat, slap, hit, kick, punch, burn)	Force
4	Trick you into doing different work than was promised	Fraud
5	Make you sign a document without understanding what it stated, like a work contract	Fraud
6	Refuse to pay you or pay less than they promised	Fraud
7	Restrict or control where you went or who you talked to	Coercion
8	Deprive you of sleep, food, water, or medical care	Coercion
9	Not let you contact family or friends, even when you weren't working	Coercion
10	Keep all or most of your money or pay	Coercion
11	Keep your ID documents (e.g., ID card, license, passport, social security card, birth certificate) from you	Coercion
12	Threaten to get you deported	Coercion
13	Threaten to harm you or your family or pet	Coercion
14	Physically harm or threaten a coworker or friend	Coercion
15	Force you to do something sexually that you didn't feel comfortable doing	Commercial sex exploitation
16	Put your photo on the Internet to find clients to trade sex with	Commercial sex exploitation
17	Force you to engage in sexual acts with family, friends, or business associates for money or favors	Commercial sex exploitation
18	Encourage or pressure you to do sexual acts or have sex, including taking sexual photos or videos	Commercial sex exploitation
19	Force you to trade sex for money, shelter, food, or anything else through online websites, escort services, street prostitution, informal arrangements, brothels, fake massage businesses, or strip clubs	Commercial sex exploitation

Source: Urban Institute, Human Trafficking Screening Tool pretest validation study (2017).
Notes: Response choices were "yes," "no," or "skip." Respondents were asked whether each item had ever occurred and whether it had occurred in the past year.

[11] The HTST-SF questions are provided at the end of this section.
[12] Although we present HTST validity tests regarding lifetime experiences of trafficking, our tests of past-year experiences were substantively similar.

HTST Covered the Key Dimensions of Youth's Trafficking Experiences

The 19 questions on the HTST were reviewed and determined to be comprehensive by multiple Urban Institute researchers, members of the Youth Advisory Council, and the HHS study team. Each reviewer concluded that the HTST sufficiently captured the range of youth's labor- and sex-trafficking experiences. Reviewers also believed the six questions on the HTST-SF captured key dimensions of trafficking experiences (e.g., force, fraud, coercion, sex exploitation). These reviews established face validity (whether questions truly measured trafficking) and content validity (whether questions covered the full range of trafficking experiences).

HTST Could Be Implemented and Understood in RHY and CW Settings

Feasibility. Practitioners said the *Life Experiences Survey* was easy to administer and would be useful to service provision. Youth took approximately 15 minutes to complete the full survey, with the HTST taking approximately two minutes and the HTST-SF less than a minute to complete.

Readability. Nine in 10 practitioners believed youth understood the survey questions. This finding agreed with the HTST's readability index, which measured at a 6th-grade level, typically covering youth 11 and older.[13]

Truthfulness. Nine in 10 practitioners also agreed youth were truthful in their responses. Few youth (9 percent) chose to skip any HTST questions, and the number skipped did not differ between modes of administering HTST—either self-administered or administered by practitioners. The number of youth's "yes" responses also did not differ between the self- and practitioner-administered HTST for questions regarding lifetime experiences of trafficking. Only minimal differences were observed for questions regarding past-year trafficking.[14] Therefore, practitioners who administer this tool to youth, including mandatory reporters, can be confident that youth will likely provide the same responses as they would under a self-administered tool.

[13] The HTST's Automated Readability Index averaged 6.9 across all 19 questions (for the formula, see "The Automated Readability Index (ARI)," Readability Formulas, accessed March 17, 2017).
[14] The minimal but statistically significant difference for past-year trafficking victimization was an average sum of 1.26 versus 1.22 "yes" responses for the self- versus practitioner-administered versions.

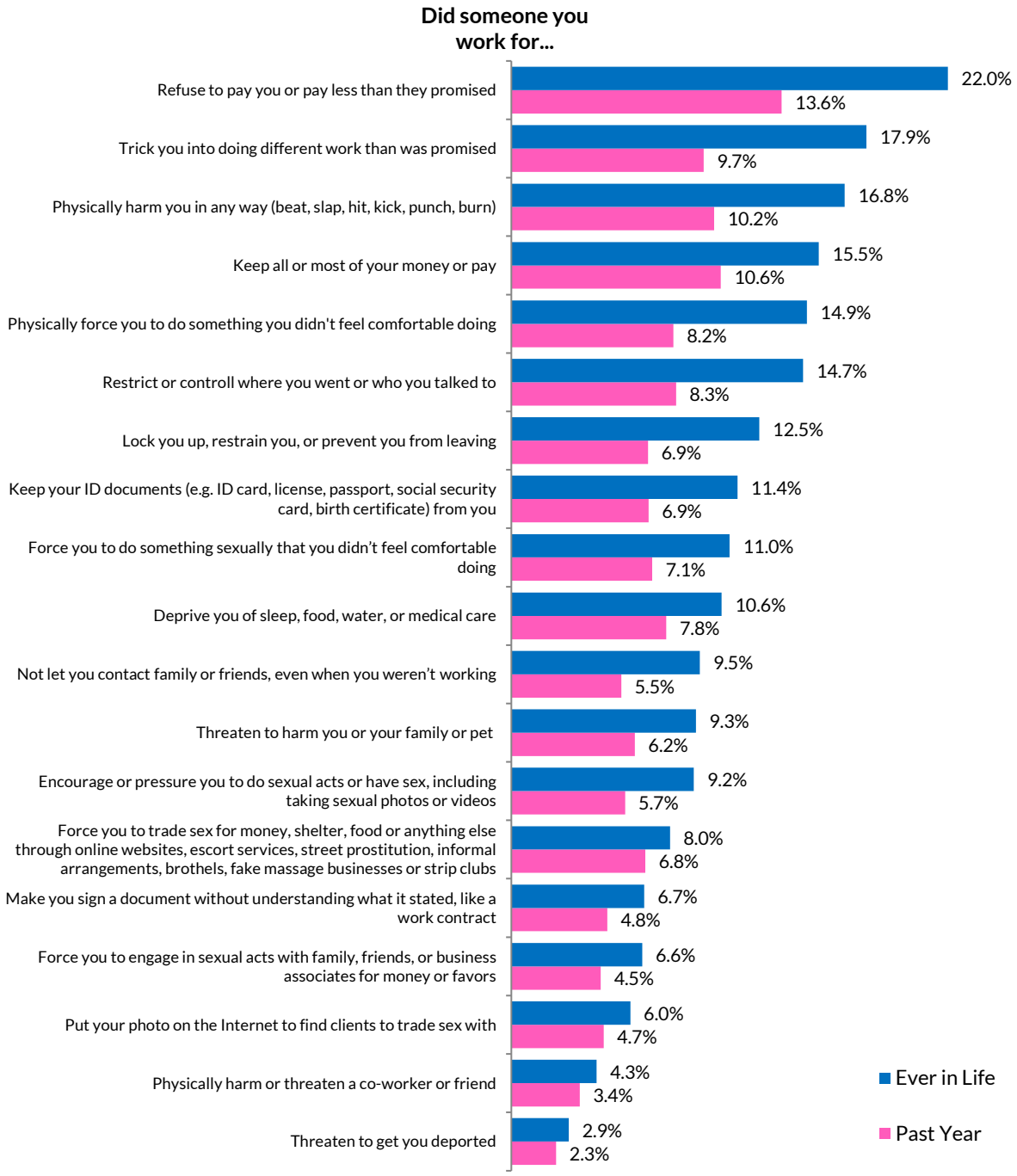
Youth's "Yes" Responses to HTST Ranged from 2 to 22 Percent

The frequencies of youth's "yes" responses show that the HTST questions were relevant to their lived experiences. **Figure 1** shows affirmative responses to each of the 19 questions, with responses separated by whether victimizations occurred "ever in life" or in the past year. Most frequently, youth reported working for an employer who refused to pay what had been promised (22 percent) or who had tricked them into doing different work than had been promised (18 percent). By contrast, the fewest youth reported having had an employer physically harm or threaten a coworker or friend (4 percent) or threaten to get them deported (3 percent).[15] Overall, 40 percent of youth reported one or more HTST incidents in their lifetimes and 27 percent reported one or more in the past year. Because the HTST was not tested on a representative sample of youth, these response rates do not represent an accurate estimate of the prevalence of human trafficking among RHY or CW youth in each organization, state, or the country overall.

[15] These latter two items—having had an employer physically harm or threaten a coworker or friend or threaten to get them deported—should be included in retests of HTST involving higher proportions of immigrant youth.

FIGURE 1

Youth's "Yes" Responses to the Human Trafficking Screening Tool



Source: Urban Institute, Human Trafficking Screening Tool pretest validation study (2017).
Notes: Youth were allowed to skip individual items; valid *Ns* ranged from 573 to 584, or 93 to 95 percent of the 617-person sample.

"Yes" Responses to HTST Grouped in Consistently Meaningful Ways

Youth's "yes" responses to HTST questions grouped into three meaningful dimensions of trafficking, which measured three groupings: (1) force with coercion, (2) fraud with coercion, and (3) sex exploitation (see **table 4**). These groupings were supported by a factor analysis, which indicated youth who experienced one type of trafficking were also likely to report another type within the same grouping. This finding established the "factorial validity" of the HTST, that is, whether affirmative responses tend to move together (i.e., correlate with each other) in conceptually meaningful ways. See **appendix F** for technical factor analysis results. **Note**: Only 2 of the 19 questions did not group well with others: those measuring employers' threats of deportation and employers' threats against coworkers or friends. These were the HTST questions with the lowest frequencies of "yes" responses.

Internal consistency. We also examined the consistency of "yes" responses within each dimension of trafficking (i.e., force with coercion, fraud with coercion, sex exploitation) and across all dimensions (i.e., the full HTST). This measured how well HTST questions captured the same rather than different concepts. Accordingly, "internal consistency reliabilities" were calculated for each dimension and for the full HTST using Cronbach's alpha. All values were shown to be acceptably strong, or well above 0.7; for the full HTST, the alpha was 0.922 (see **appendix F** for others).

Convergent validity. Another measure showing how meaningfully youth's responses to HTST questions grouped is "convergent validity," or the degree to which sums of "yes" responses for each trafficking dimension moved together. Youth's responses to questions within each of the three different dimensions of trafficking—force with coercion, fraud with coercion, and sex exploitation—were strongly correlated with other responses within each of those categories at values ranging from 0.510 to 0.737. This showed strong convergent validity for the tool.

HTST Responses Were Related to Trafficking Risk Factors and Outcomes

Youth's responses to the HTST (and to the HTST-SF) were related to other *Life Experiences Survey* questions known to be risk factors or outcomes of human trafficking. We measured these relationships by calculating the correlations between "yes" responses to each; the correlations are then used to assess the HTST's "concurrent validity." Concurrent validity checks whether youth who answered "yes" to trafficking questions also answered "yes" to things we know to be related to trafficking, as either risk

factors or outcomes. For example, did youth who said "yes" to several questions on the HTST also indicate a high number of times running away, being kicked out of their homes, abusing drugs, or exchanging sex on their own for something of value? As shown in **table 4**, youth said yes to many of the risk factors.

HTST responses were significantly correlated (i.e., moved together more than by chance) with the number of times youth ran away from home, were kicked out of their homes, abused prescription or over-the-counter drugs, exchanged sex on their own for something of value , were arrested, and sought help. By contrast, the HTST and HTST-SF were not significantly correlated with foster care involvement. These findings indicate that both the HTST and the HTST-SF had strong concurrent validity.

TABLE 4

Correlations between HTST/HTST-SF and Risk Factors/Outcomes of Trafficking Victimization

Risk factor/outcome	HTST	HTST-SF
How many times have you run away from your parent's or guardian's home?		
Correlation	.218	.156
Significance	.000	.000
N	565	585
How many times have you been thrown out or kicked out of your parent's or guardian's home?		
Correlation	.200	.223
Significance	.000	.000
N	556	574
How much total time (in years) have you spent in foster care, adding together all foster care placements over the course of your life?		
Correlation	.075	.066
Significance	.081	.121
N	538	560
In the past month, have you abused prescription or over-the-counter drugs—that is, used more frequently or in larger doses than prescribed?		
Correlation	.189	.175
Significance	.000	.000
N	573	594
In the past month, how often have you had five or more drinks on one occasion?		
Correlation	.062	.107
Significance	.139	.009
N	570	591
In your life, have you ever—on your own—traded sex for money, shelter, food, or anything else?		
Correlation	.386	.481
Significance	.000	.000
N	566	568
Have you ever been arrested?		
Correlation	.042	.079
Significance	.319	.056

Risk factor/outcome	HTST	HTST-SF
N	571	592
Have you been arrested three or more times in your life?		
Correlation	.073	.088
Significance	.081	.032
N	575	595
Have you ever tried to get help for the situations described in this survey?		
Correlation	.306	.278
Significance	.000	.000
N	560	579

Source: Urban Institute, Human Trafficking Screening Tool pretest validation study (2017).

HTST Findings Were Related to Practitioners' Reports of Trafficking Victimization

As stated previously, about 25 percent of youth were randomly selected to take the practitioner-administered *Life Experiences Survey*, which meant the HTST questions were asked by those youth's practitioners. After the survey, practitioners indicated whether they thought those youth had been victims of trafficking. We compared practitioners' and youth's responses to assess how often the HTST's correctly predicted who had been a victim. The HTST's sensitivity, or true positive rate, at predicting trafficking victimization was 61 percent. This means that for approximately 6 in 10 youth, the HTST correctly predicted the youth to be a trafficking victim according to the administering practitioner's beliefs. By contrast, the HTST's specificity, or true negative rate, was 84 percent. This means that for over 8 in 10 youth, the HTST correctly predicted which youth were *not* trafficking victims according to practitioner's beliefs.

Although general preference is for a sensitivity rating of 70 percent or above, we note two things: First, the tool's predictions of the youth's trafficking victimizations could be *more* accurate than practitioners' assessments of the youth's trafficking victimizations. Second, the concurrent validity of trafficking risk factors and outcomes with HTST's designation of trafficking victims is strong. This supports the tool's performance as measuring somewhat higher than 61 percent. Finally, repeating these tests on a larger sample of practitioners would be worthwhile, to see if HTST predictions exceed 6 in 10.

HTST's Validity Held Up across Most Subgroups of Youth

We explored whether the HTST's validity varied for subgroups of youth defined by age (under 18 compared with 18 and older), organizational setting (CW or RHY), geographic location (New York, Texas, or Wisconsin), and whether the tool was self- or practitioner administered. Across all subgroups, the HTST showed "yes" responses that clustered in consistently meaningful ways; specifically, internal consistency reliabilities were very high (above 0.9) across all subgroups (see **table 5**). Additionally, for almost all subgroups, HTST was significantly related to risk factors/outcomes associated with trafficking, including youth's reports of running away, abusing prescription or over-the-counter drugs, and exchanging sex on their own for something of value. This meant that HTST's concurrent validity held up across subgroups. Finally, we examined the HTST's sensitivity and specificity—or the true positive and true negative rates—which were available for approximately 25 percent of youth in each subgroup. The HTST's true negative rate was about 80 percent or higher for all subgroups, meaning HTST's predictions of who was not a victim accorded with practitioners' beliefs 8 in 10 times. Further, the HTST's true positive rate was above 50 percent (chance) for all but two subgroups, meaning more than half the time HTST predictions of who was a trafficking victim accorded with practitioners' beliefs.

For two subgroups of youth who received practitioner surveys, the HTST's sensitivity was below chance; these were for youth under 18 and youth in CW settings. However, both subgroups were below the minimum size needed to make definitive conclusions, which is typically 50 plus the number of HTST indicators (or 50 plus 1969 youth). Therefore, we strongly recommend retesting the HTST's sensitivity against larger samples of youth under 18 and in CW settings.

TABLE 5

Examination of Variations in HTST's Validity across Subsamples of Youth

Subsample	HTST reliability	HTST concurrent validity: running away	HTST concurrent validity: drug abuse	HTST concurrent validity: sex in exchange for something of value	Sensitivity (%)	Specificity (%)
Youth's age						
Under 18	.921	.237***	.155**	.364***	44.4	83.3
18 and older	.925	.106	.326***	.496***	64.3	82.0
Organization type						
CW	.926	.143	.401***	.791***	50.0	82.4
RHY	.921	.217***	.170***	.357***	61.7	83.9
Geographic location						
New York	.930	.164***	.235**	.401***	53.3	81.8

Subsample	HTST reliability	HTST concurrent validity: running away	HTST concurrent validity: drug abuse	HTST concurrent validity: sex in exchange for something of value	Sensitivity (%)	Specificity (%)
Houston	.923	.246**	.055	.312***	54.5	91.3
Milwaukee	.911	.178*	.306***	.459***	78.6	79.4
Method of administration						
Self (youth)	.935	.178***	.137**	.344***	n/a	n/a
Practitioner	.918	.253**	.356***	.520***	60.8	83.5

Source: Urban Institute, Human Trafficking Screening Tool pretest validation study (2017).
Note: HTST's reliability was measured as Cronbach's alpha, concurrent validity as Pearson's correlations (*** $p<.001$, ** $p<.01$, * $p<.05$), and sensitivity/specificity as percentages correct according to practitioners' assessments.
CW=child welfare; n/a = not applicable; RHY=runaway and homeless youth

The Short Form of HTST Performed Equally Well as the Full Version

We explored whether the HTST short form (HTST-SF) could produce equivalent estimates of a youth's likelihood of trafficking victimization. The HTST-SF was asked just before the full HTST in the *Life Experiences Survey* and included the six questions shown in **figure 2**. Youth's "yes" responses ranged from 6 to 22 percent of the sample, which showed the HTST-SF had relevance to youth's lived experiences. Because the HTST was not tested on a representative sample of youth, these response rates do not represent an accurate estimate of the prevalence of human trafficking among RHY or CW youth in each organization, state, or the country overall.

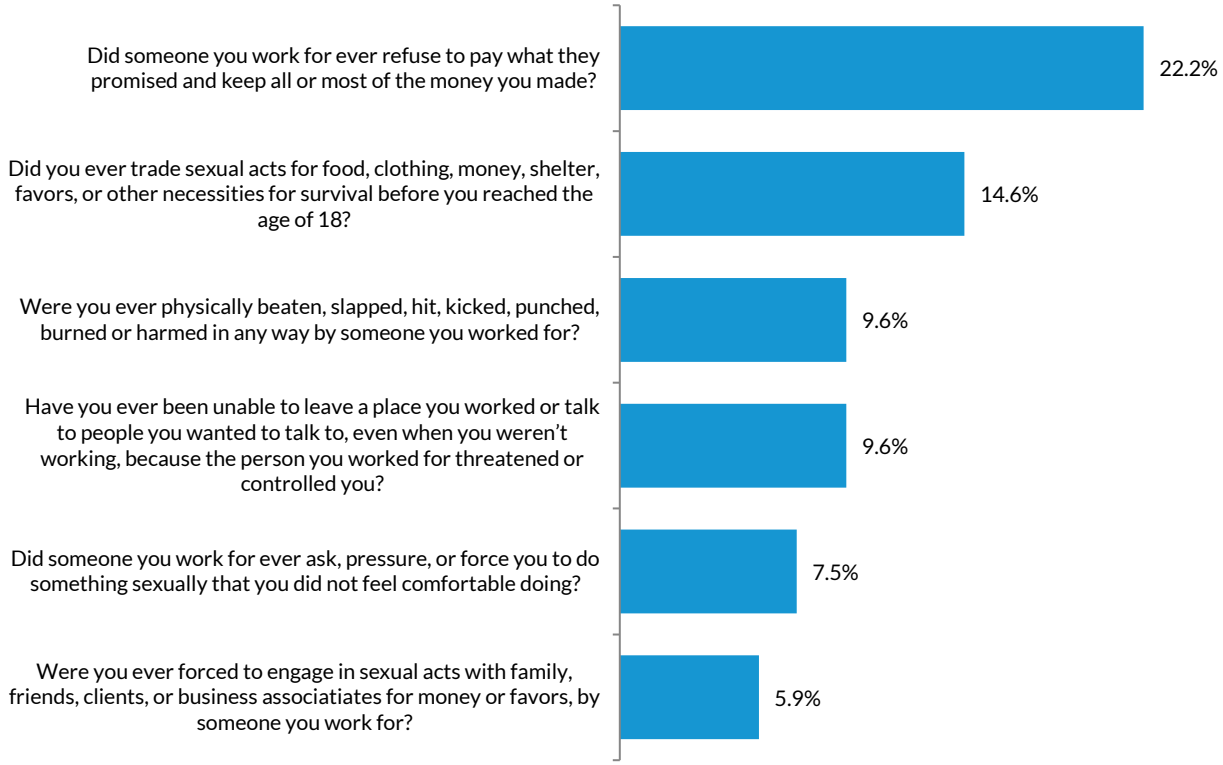
Three tests comparing the HTST-SF with the full HTST showed equivalent performance. First, HTST-SF responses grouped together in consistently meaningful ways (reliability was 0.722). Second, HTST-SF responses were significantly correlated (moved together) with risk factors and outcomes associated with trafficking, as shown previously in **table 4**. And third, the HTST-SF's sensitivity (true positive rate) was 60 percent and its specificity (true negative rate) was 77 percent, meaning its predictions accorded with practitioners' beliefs 6 in 10 times regarding which youth were victims and 8 in 10 times regarding who was not a victim.

Finally, we note that the six-item HTST-SF was strongly related to the HTST (correlation value of 0.703). Given that the HTST-SF took less than a minute to administer and performed equally to the

HTST at identifying trafficking victims, it would appear preferable, unless one is interested in measuring specific dimensions of youth's trafficking experiences.

FIGURE 2

Youth's "Yes" Responses to the HTST-SF



Source: Urban Institute, Human Trafficking Screening Tool pretest validation study (2017).
Note: Youth were allowed to skip individual items; valid *N*s ranged from 573 to 584, or 93 to 95 percent of the 617-person sample.

Implementation

In the weeks following the completion of pretesting, we conducted debriefs with practitioners at each site to collect feedback on tool administration. All but one of the participating organizations provided feedback. The discussion consisted of general questions regarding the ease and challenges of administering the survey, impressions of the tool from participants' and practitioners' views, recruitment, requests for services following tool administration, and recommendations on how to improve the tool. In this section, we summarize the challenges that came out of these conversations.

Feedback Overview

Youth Perceptions of the *Life Experiences Survey*

Practitioners reported that youth found the survey to be engaging and understandable. They felt that their youth clients reacted positively to taking the survey due to its electronic format and the questions asked. Few youth asked clarifying questions through the course of the survey. And, although some youth reported feeling that the questions were quite personal, they also stated that the survey provided them the opportunity to reflect on past experiences.

Administration Burden

In addition to technical ease of use, practitioners noted that the survey did not take long to administer with an average completion time of approximately 15 minutes. The practitioner-administered version understandably took longer because practitioners had to read every question and response choice, likely at a pace slower than participants are used to reading. A few surveys took longer than 30 minutes to administer, but practitioners did not mention that administration was burdensome.

Respondent Truthfulness

Despite the serious and personal nature of the questions, practitioners reported that youth generally seemed to respond truthfully, although some youth in practitioner-administered surveys opted to skip

questions they found too personal.[16] While some practitioners reported youth being less forthcoming or more uncomfortable during practitioner-administered surveys, the overall sense was that there was not a huge discrepancy in truthfulness between survey administration modes.

Abuse and Trafficking Disclosure

During administration of the survey, a few youth disclosed abusive or trafficking situations to practitioners. Within this small group, some asked to speak with someone else or sought a different resource within the organization. Additionally, some practitioners stated that youth approached them several days after the survey to disclose abusive or trafficking situations. Practitioners felt that the survey opened the door for youth to approach them, once the young person determined they were ready to disclose this information and could trust the practitioner. However, practitioners did not document these various occurrences, thus, we do not have a specific number of youth who disclosed this information after completing the survey.

Practitioner Perspectives

Some practitioners expressed that they found the survey better than the screening tool their organization/community currently requires them to use. As part of the federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act, participating CW agencies were mandated to begin identifying youth sex trafficking victims in their care starting October 2015. Some participating CW agencies reported that our screening tool was preferable to the tool they were using (which varied by agency) and was more effective at screening youth for trafficking. For example, both youth and practitioners noted that while the survey contained many personally sensitive questions, most youth were not distressed by them. Additionally, practitioners said that the general demographic questions created a flow that eased youth into the more specific trafficking questions.

Administration Challenges

The administration challenges that presented themselves during the pretest were specific to the youth's understanding of certain questions, technological capacity, and administration logistics. Practitioners

[16] We compared the questions skipped during the practitioner-administered surveys to the questions skipped during the self-administered surveys and found no differences.

observed that respondents who found the survey challenging were those who had learning or other disabilities, such as dyslexia and hearing issues. Some respondents, particularly younger ones, also struggled to understand some of the terms because they had reading comprehension issues or the concepts were difficult. However, practitioners were able to answer comprehension-related questions. Whether or not a youth was taking the practitioner-administered version, a practitioner had to be in the room at all times to check for signs of distress or address any questions.

Survey Questions

Practitioners reported three challenging sets of survey questions. Two were related to survey programming and one was related to comprehension. Because of a programming complication on Urban's end, youth born in the United States had difficulty entering their country of birth. Youth also inconsistently interpreted the definition of work in our questions, such that some may not have reported experiences we would consider work. As previously mentioned, the screener question "have you ever worked" posed challenges in the first version of our survey. We therefore deleted that question and instead had all youth answer work related questions, but this issue remained, albeit at a lesser degree. Youth's main difficulty with the question was understanding what we meant by work, despite our providing a detailed definition[17]. We recommend further piloting to determine other ways to phrase the concept of work in order to apply to all intended situations.

Survey Programming

Limitations in our survey software created a perceived sense of repetition. Our inability to program a matrix that asks respondents whether they had completed certain work experiences "in the last six months" and "ever in your life" resulted in similar questions appearing on two consecutive pages. This seemed repetitive to some respondents. As a result, many participants appeared to become frustrated or confused because they thought they had already answered the questions. Presenting the two variants for these questions in a simpler format could reduce such frustrations

[17] See Appendix C, Section H for a definition of work and work-related questions.

Survey Technology

We also had a few issues with the technology used to administer surveys. Sites that used our tablets because they lacked their own computers or had weak Wi-Fi Internet connections often found surveys needed to be reloaded or restarted during administration. Even in the offline setting that did not require an Internet connection, a few practitioners reported glitches with the audio files causing the survey to shut down suddenly. Other sites had technology challenges related to their own computers, but once those problems were sorted out, survey administration continued smoothly.

Sites that did not have a dedicated computer to administer the survey or a coordinated group of practitioners, found the logistics of setting up youth to take the survey challenging. Practitioners that used a mobile laptop said that having a dedicated desktop may have been easier. Practitioners with a variety of staff thought that having one or two dedicated staff to handle all steps in administration would have helped with coordination and handoff.

Even though minor challenges occurred, practitioners thought the survey was easy to administer, did not pose a significant burden, and was a useful tool for their organizations. They also found it to be a useful tool to broach the topic of trafficking with young people and stated that youth responded well.

Lessons Learned and Further Testing

Based on feedback from practitioners, as well as the difficulty of meeting all target demographics with the sample of youth who completed the Life Experiences Survey, we recommend several additional considerations for testing to make the HTST more applicable to all youth in CW and RHY programs, as well as to providers' day-to-day realities.

Survey Sample

Although the survey and the HTST was administered to a diverse sample of youth, we recommend that the tool be tested further on the following populations:

- More youth under the age of 18. Most of our sample was 18 and older, with only 25 percent consisting of minors.
- More youth currently in a child welfare setting. Only 9 percent of our sample took the survey in a CW setting.
- More foreign-born, noncitizen youth. Only 5 percent of our sample immigrated to the United States.
- A broader population of youth (e.g., a representative sample across a state or states) to better establish the general validity of the tool.

Question Wording

Based on feedback from partner organizations that administered the tool, the definitions of "work" and "employer" should be modified to better reflect the variety of youth's experiences. We trained practitioners to communicate the definition of "employer" as anyone who had given youth something of value in exchange for some sort of work. This included informal employers, such as family members, friends and peers, and exploiters, as well as traditional employers, such as business owners or managers. However, due to survey length considerations, we did not include this nuanced definition within the survey itself. Similarly, our definition of work as "anything done for something of value in return"—which included both formal and informal work—did not resonate fully and consistently with all youth and did not reflect trafficking experiences in which the young person did not view their experiences as "work."

Thus, an additional definition of work and trafficking that has been thoroughly vetted by youth should be tested to preface the relevant questions in order to ensure that all youth can relate to the work questions in the HTST.

Administration Methods

The Life Experiences Survey was offered in both paper and electronic formats, but all 14 partner organizations either had their own computers and Internet or used a tablet provided by us. In reality, not all agencies would have access to the electronic version and likely would need to administer the tool via paper and pencil. Therefore, further testing should be done of the paper version.

We pretested the survey and tool in both self- and practitioner-administered formats. One possibility that may need future testing is to administer the tool in a hybrid format: having a youth self-administer the survey/HTST with the knowledge that a practitioner will see their answers afterward. This may mollify some concerns about the youth's truthfulness and comfort during a practitioner-administered tool, but completed tools that indicate trafficking experiences would then be identifiable so providers may connect youth with follow-up care and services. Additionally, since only approximately one-quarter of the sample took a practitioner-administered survey, it would be important to further test the validity of the HTST with a larger practitioner-administered sample.

Conclusion

By creating and pretesting the HTST, the Urban Institute has developed a 19-item tool and a 6-item short version (HTST-SF) that identified trafficking victims 61 percent of the time and nonvictims 84 percent of the time, based on its agreement with practitioners' assessments of youth's trafficking experiences. HTST responses were significantly correlated with several risk factors and outcomes associated with trafficking victimization, including running away from home, being kicked out by parents or guardians, exchanging sex on their own for something of value, and abusing over-the-counter drugs.

Practitioners gave positive feedback on the *Life Experiences Survey* and its ease of administration, and agreed that youth understood the HTST questions and gave truthful responses. The HTST was also accessible to the targeted youth population: items were written at a 6th-grade level and youth spent only about two minutes completing the HTST and less than a minute completing the HTST-SF. Based on these findings, we conclude that the HTST and HTST-SF is an accessible, easy-to-use set of screening tools for identifying youth who are victims of human trafficking in child welfare and runaway and homeless youth settings.

Appendix A. List of Reviewed Screening Tools

Comprehensive Human Trafficking

Tool	Creator	Year
Department of Children and Families Human Trafficking Nursing Toolkit	Connecticut Department of Children and Families	n.d.
Model Canadian Screening Tool to Help Identify a Potential Victim of Human Trafficking	Department of Justice Canada	n.d.
Human Trafficking Identification: Screening Tool and Report	Indiana Protection for Abused and Trafficked Humans Task Force	n.d.
Operational Indicators of Trafficking in Human Beings	International Labour Organization	2009
Screening Tool for Human Trafficking Victims	Kentucky Rescue and Restore Coalition	2010
Standardized Screening Trafficking Questions	Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force	2013
Screening Protocol Tailored for the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (DRC) and the Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS) A	Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force	2013
Screening Protocol Tailored for the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (DRC) and the Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS) B	Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force	2013
Comprehensive Human Trafficking Assessment Tool	Polaris Project	2011
Human Trafficking Assessment for Medical Professionals	Polaris Project	2010
Human Trafficking Assessment for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Programs	Polaris Project	2011
Human Trafficking Assessment for Airlines and Airports	Polaris Project	2011
Human Trafficking Assessment Tool for Domestic Violence Programs	Polaris Project	2011
Human Trafficking Assessment Tool for Educators	Polaris Project	2011
Human Trafficking Incident Report	Toledo-Lucas County Department of Health	n.d.
Screening Tool for Victims of Human Trafficking for Law Enforcement	US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children, Youth and Families (ACYF)	n.d.
Screening Tool for Victims of Human Trafficking for Health Care Providers	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACYF	n.d.
How to Identify a Human Trafficking Victim	United States Conference of Catholic Bishops	2014
Trafficking Victim Identification Tool (TVIT)	Vera Institute for Justice	2014

Minor Comprehensive Human Trafficking

Tool	Creator	Year
Human Trafficking Interview and Assessment Measure (HTIAM-14)	Covenant House	2013
Rapid Screening Tool (RST) for Child Trafficking	Loyola University, Chicago & International Organization for Adolescents (IOFA)	2011
Comprehensive Screening and Safety Tool (CSST) for Child Trafficking	Loyola University, Chicago & IOFA	2011
Human Trafficking Assessment for Runaway and Homeless Youth	Polaris Project	2011
State of Florida Department of Children and Families Human Trafficking of Children Indicator Tool	State of Florida Department of Children and Families	2009
Guidance to States and Services on Addressing Human Trafficking of Children and Youth in the US	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children, Youth and Families (ACYF)	2013
Emerging Practices Within Child Welfare Responses	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, ACYF	2013
Rapid Human Trafficking Assessment (RHTA)	New Jersey Department of Children and Families	n.d.

Minor Sex Trafficking

Tool	Creator	Year
CSEC Screening Protocol	Asian Health Services & Banteay Srei	2012
Project Respect CSEC Checklist Data Collection User Guide	Center for Children & Youth Justice	n.d.
State Model Protocol for Commercially Sexually Exploited Children	Center for Children & Youth Justice (CCYJ) & YouthCare	2013
Confronting Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Sex Trafficking of Minors in the US	Institute of Medicine of the National Academies	2013
Portland State University CSEC Screening Interview	Portland State University	n.d.
Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Practitioner Guide and Intake Tool	Shared Hope International	2010
Sexually Exploited Minors (SEM) Needs and Strengths	West Coast Children's Clinic	2012
Human Trafficking Decision Map	Connecticut Department of Children and Families	2014
CSEC Protocol	Grossmont Union High School District	2011

Labor Trafficking

Tool	Creator	Year
Hard to See, Harder to Count	International Labour Organization	2012
Human Trafficking Assessment for Domestic Workers	Polaris Project	2014
San Diego Labor Trafficking Survey	San Diego State University	2012

Adult Labor Trafficking

Tool	Creator	Year
Indicators of Labor Trafficking among North Carolina Farmworkers	RTI International & San Diego State University	2013

Appendix B. List of Reviewed Tool Characteristics

Category	Characteristics
Background and basic characteristics	Protocol type (checklist; list of questions; survey; interview protocol; list of red flags or indicators;
Background and basic characteristics	Languages other than English
Background and basic characteristics	Existence of shortened version or alternate format
Background and basic characteristics	Guidelines for mandatory reporting if targeted population is under 18
Background and basic characteristics	Tool weaknesses
Questions and length	Total number of sex trafficking questions
Questions and length	Total number of labor trafficking questions
Questions and length	Total number of other abuse questions
Administration	Total number of questions in tool
Administration	Self- or practitioner-administered
Administration	Computerized or paper format
Administration	Administration location and setting
Target population	Gender (male, female, transgender and gender nonconforming individuals)
Target population	Appropriateness for LGBTQ populations
Target population	Age (Under 14, under 18, 18–21, 21 and older)
Target population	Native Americans
Target population	Citizenship (US-born citizen; foreign-born citizens; noncitizens)
Human trafficking definitions	Adult sex trafficking
Human trafficking definitions	Minor sex trafficking
Human trafficking definitions	Adult labor trafficking
Human trafficking definitions	Minor labor trafficking

Appendix C. *Life Experiences Survey*

Are you under the age of 18? Yes No

CONSENT/ASSENT FORM—appropriate for the respondent's age (below 18 or 18 and above)

Please choose ONE response unless the question states that it is possible to choose more than one response.

Section A: About You

1. How old are you?
   Now we are asking your specific age, not just whether you are an adult or a minor.
   - O Enter age in years: years
   - O I choose to skip this question

2. How do you identify your gender?
   - O Female
   - O Male
   - O Genderqueer
   - O Intersex
   - O Transgender female
   - O Transgender male
   - O Transgender
   - O I choose to skip this question
   - O Other: specify

3. What is your sexual orientation?
   - O Heterosexual/straight
   - O Gay
   - O Lesbian
   - O Bisexual
   - O Queer/questioning
   - O Asexual
   - O I choose to skip this question
   - O Other: specify

4. Are you Hispanic, Latino, or of Spanish origin?
   - O Yes
   - O No
   - O I choose to skip this question

5. What is your race? (You may select one or more:
   - O American Indian or Alaska Native
   - O Asian
   - O Black or African American
   - O Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
   - O White
   - O I choose to skip this question
   - O Other: specify_____

6. Do you have any children of your own, or are you or your partner currently pregnant?
    - O Yes
    - O No
    - O I choose to skip this question

Section B: School

7. Are you currently in school?
    - O Yes
    - O No
    - O I choose to skip this question

8. What is the highest level of education you finished?
    - O 4th grade
    - O 5th grade
    - O 6th grade
    - O 7th grade
    - O 8th grade
    - O 9th grade
    - O 10th grade
    - O 11th grade
    - O Attended 12th grade but did not graduate
    - O High school diploma
    - O GED
    - O Attended some college
    - O 2-year, vocational, or technical degree
    - O Bachelor's degree or higher
    - O I choose to skip this question
    - O Other (Specify_____)

9. Are you currently in a GED program?
    - O Yes
    - O No
    - O I choose to skip this question

10. How many times did you skip school in the past 12 months?
    - O Never
    - O Once
    - O 2-3 times
    - O 4-10 times
    - O More than 10 times
    - O I have not been in school in the last 12 months
    - O I choose to skip this question

Section C: Birthplace

Note that not everyone will answer every question. For some questions, you must follow the instructions next to your answer choices.

11. Where did you grow up? If you were raised in more than one place, please list the place where you spent the most time.
    - O United States: State_____ **(answer only if grew up in USA)**
    - O Country_____
    - O I choose to skip this question

12. Were you born in the United States?
    - O Yes if you choose Yes, **SKIP NOW TO SECTION E: FAMILY**
    - O No if you choose No, **ANSWER QUESTION 13 BELOW**
    - O I choose to skip this question if you choose to skip the question, **ANSWER QUESTION 13 BELOW**

13. Are you a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident (with a green card)?
    - O Yes
    - O No
    - O I choose to skip this question

IF YOU ANSWERED QUESTION 13, PLEASE CONTINUE ON TO SECTION D

Section D: Immigration

Before starting this question, a reminder: anything you report about your immigration experience or immigration status will be completely confidential and will in no way be linked to your name.

14. How did you first come to the United States?
    - O On my own
    - O With a family member
    - O With friends
    - O I choose to skip this question
    - O Other_____

15. Did anyone help or force you to come to the United States?
    - O Yes—somebody *helped* me if you choose yes (helped), **CONTINUE to question16 below**
    - O Yes—somebody *forced* me if you choose yes (forced), **CONTINUE to question 16 below**
    - O No if you choose No, **SKIP NOW TO SECTION E: FAMILY**
    - O I choose to skip this question if you choose to skip the question, **CONTINUE to question 16 below**

16. Who was this?
    - O Your parent(s)
    - O A family member other than a parent
    - O A friend of yours
    - O A friend of your family

- O An employer or potential employer
- O A spouse/ or partner
- O I choose to skip this question
- O Someone else: Specify_____

17. Did you and/or your family borrow from or owe any money to the person (or people) who helped or forced you to come to the US?
    - O Yes
    - O No
    - O I choose to skip this question

18. How did/do you pay the person or people who helped or forced you into the U.S.?
    - O Paid promptly (either at the beginning or after the service was provided)
    - O I work(ed) for the person who helped/forced me to come to the U.S. to pay off my debt.
    - O Pay (or paid) little by little, over time, but I never worked for this person
    - O I did not have to pay them back.
    - O I choose to skip this question
    - O Other (please specify)_____

19. Do you still owe money to the person or people who helped or forced you into the U.S.?
    - O Yes
    - O No
    - O I choose to skip this question

20. Did they ever hold your ID card, driver's license, passport, social security card, birth certificate or other ID without your permission?
    Mark one:
    - O Yes
    - O No
    - O I choose to skip this question

21. Did the person or people who brought you into the U.S. ever physically harm you (punched, slapped, hit, kicked, burned, etc.)?
    - O Yes
    - O No
    - O I choose to skip this question

22. Did the person or people who helped or forced you into the U.S. ever sexually harm you (rape, sexual harassment, unwanted sexual contact or experience, unwanted sexual photos or videos)?
    - O Yes
    - O No
    - O I choose to skip this question

Section E: Family

23. Have you ever been in foster care?
    - O Yes if you choose yes, **CONTINUE to question 24 below**

- O No if you choose no, **SKIP NOW to question 34 in this section**
- O I choose to skip this question if you choose to skip the question, **CONTINUE to question 24 below**

24. Are you currently in foster care?
    - O Yes
    - O No if you choose no, **SKIP NOW to question 26 in this section**
    - O I choose to skip this question

25. Which of the following best describes your current foster care placement?
    - O With my foster parent(s) who are unrelated to me
    - O With relatives who are also my foster parents
    - O In a group home or residential facility
    - O I choose to skip this question
    - O Other (specify) _____

26. How much total time have you spent in foster care, adding together all foster care placements over the course of your life?
    - O Enter Time in years_____years
    - O I choose to skip this question

27. How many different foster care placements have you had in your life?
    - O 1
    - O 2-3
    - O 4-6
    - O More than 6
    - O I choose to skip this question

28. How old were you when you were first placed in foster care?
    - O Enter Age in years_____years **enter 0 if you were less than one year old**
    - O I choose to skip this question

29. How long have you been in your current or most recent foster care placement?
    - O Less than 6 months
    - O 6 months to 1 year
    - O 1 to 5 years
    - O More than 5 years
    - O My whole life
    - O I choose to skip this question

For this segment of questions, please refer to your answer to Question 25 (Which of the following best describes your current foster care placement?) and follow the instructions next to each question:

30. Only answer if your answer to Question 25 was "**With my foster parent(s) who are unrelated to me**" or "**I choose to skip this question**." Otherwise, continue.
    What is your relationship like with your current foster family?
    - O Very good
    - O Good

- O Okay
- O Bad
- O Very bad
- O I choose to skip this question

31. Only answer if your answer to Question 25 was "**With relatives who are also my foster parents**" or "**I choose to skip this question**." Otherwise, continue.
What is your relationship like with the adult relatives you live with?
    - O Very good
    - O Good
    - O Okay
    - O Bad
    - O Very bad
    - O I choose to skip this question

32. Only answer if your answer to Question 25 was "**In a group home or residential facility**" or "**I choose to skip this question**." Otherwise, continue.
What is your relationship like with the adults in your group home?
    - O Very good
    - O Good
    - O Okay
    - O Bad
    - O Very bad
    - O I choose to skip this question

33. Only answer if your answer to Question 25 was "**I choose to skip this question**." Otherwise, continue.
What is your relationship like with the adults where you live?
    - O Very good
    - O Good
    - O Okay
    - O Bad
    - O Very bad
    - O I choose to skip this question

34. Do you have contact with your birth family?
    - O Yes
    - O No if you choose no, **SKIP NOW to question 36 in Section F: Housing, otherwise, continue.**
    - O I choose to skip this question

35. What is your relationship like with your birth family?

    People often have better or worse relationships with some family members than others. Thinking of all of your relationships with members of your birth family, how would you describe your relationship with them **overall**?
    - O Very good
    - O Good

- O Okay
- O Bad
- O Very bad
- O No contact
- O I choose to skip this question

Section F: Housing

36. Over the last month, where did you sleep **most nights**?
    - O In a house or apartment with my immediate family (parent or guardian) that we rent or own
    - O At another family member's house or apartment
    - O At the house or apartment of a foster parent
    - O At a group home
    - O At my own apartment (I pay rent)
    - O Temporarily staying with friends or couch surfing
    - O At my boyfriend/girlfriend/partner's home
    - O At a shelter
    - O In a transitional housing program
    - O A treatment facility or center (hospital, detox, etc.)
    - O Inside a car, abandoned building, squat, etc.
    - O Outside in the park, on the street, in a tent, etc.
    - O At a transit station (subway or bus station or the airport)
    - O A jail, prison, or detention facility
    - O Hotel/motel
    - O I choose to skip this question
    - O Other *(please specify)*: _____

37. How safe do you feel when you sleep there?
    - O Very safe
    - O Safe
    - O Somewhat safe
    - O Unsafe
    - O Very unsafe
    - O I choose to skip this question

Section G: Running Away

38. Have you ever run away from your parent or guardian's home?
    - O Yes
    - O No
    - O I choose to skip this question

39. Have you ever been kicked out of your home by your parent or guardian?
    - O Yes

- O No
- O I choose to skip this question

For this segment of questions, answer all questions 40 to 44 if your answer to Question 38 (Have you ever run away from your parent or guardian's home?) was "yes", or "I choose to skip this question". Otherwise, skip to Question 45.

40. If you ran away from your parent or guardian's home **over the past 6 months,** where did you stay/sleep most often?
    - O In a house or apartment with my immediate family (parent or guardian) that we rent or own.
    - O At the house or apartment of another family member
    - O At the house or apartment of a foster parent
    - O At my own apartment (I pay rent)
    - O Temporarily staying with friends or couch surfing
    - O At my boyfriend/girlfriend/partner's home
    - O At a shelter
    - O In a transitional housing program
    - O At a group home
    - O A treatment facility or center (hospital, detox, etc.)
    - O Inside a car, abandoned building, squat, etc.
    - O Outside in the park, on the street, in a tent, etc.
    - O At a transit station (subway or bus station or the airport)
    - O A jail, prison, or detention facility
    - O Hotel/motel
    - O I have not run away in the last six months.
    - O I choose to skip this question
    - O Other *(please specify)*: _____

41. How safe do you feel when you sleep there?
    - O Very safe
    - O Safe
    - O Somewhat safe
    - O Unsafe
    - O Very unsafe
    - O I have not run away in the past 6 months
    - O I choose to skip this question

42. How many times have you run away from your parent or guardian's home?
    - O Once
    - O Twice
    - O Three or four times
    - O Five or more times
    - O I choose to skip this question

43. How old were you the first time you ran away?
    - O Enter Age in years _____years

- O I choose to skip this question

44. Why did you run away?
    Please check all of the reasons that apply:
    - O Parents kicked/threw me out
    - O Physical abuse
    - O Emotional abuse
    - O Sexual abuse
    - O They had too many rules
    - O My parent chose their boyfriend/girlfriend/husband/wife over me
    - O They didn't accept me for who I am
    - O My parent was always drunk or on drugs
    - O I didn't get along with my parents/foster parents/guardians
    - O I didn't get along with the other kids I lived with
    - O My parents could not afford to take care of me
    - O I choose to skip this question
    - O Other (*please specify*): _____

For this segment of questions, answer all questions 45 to 49 if your answer to Question 39 (Have you ever been kicked out of your home by your parent or guardian) was "yes", or "I choose to skip this question". Otherwise, skip now to Question 50.

45. If you were kicked out by a parent/guardian **over the past 6 months,** where did you stay/sleep most often?
    - O In a house or apartment with my immediate family (parent or guardian) that we rent or own.
    - O At the house or apartment of another family member
    - O At the house or apartment of a foster parent
    - O At my own apartment (I pay rent)
    - O Temporarily staying with friends or couch surfing
    - O At my boyfriend/girlfriend/partner's home
    - O At a shelter
    - O In a transitional housing program
    - O At a group home
    - O A treatment facility or center (hospital, detox, etc.)
    - O Inside a car, abandoned building, squat, etc.
    - O Outside in the park, on the street, in a tent, etc.
    - O At a transit station (subway or bus station or the airport)
    - O A jail, prison, or detention facility
    - O Hotel/motel
    - O I have not been kicked out in the last six months.
    - O I choose to skip this question
    - O Other *(please specify)*: _____

46. How safe do you feel when you sleep there?
    - O Very safe

- O Safe
- O Somewhat safe
- O Unsafe
- O Very unsafe
- O I have not been kicked out in the past 6 months
- O I choose to skip this question

47. How many times have your parent or guardian thrown you out or kicked you out?
    - O Once
    - O Twice
    - O Three or four times
    - O Five or more times
    - O I choose to skip this question

48. How old were you the first time you were kicked out of your home by your parent/guardian?
    - O Enter Age in years _____years
    - O I choose to skip this question

49. Why did your parent or guardian throw you out or kick you out?
    Please check **all** of the reasons that apply:
    - O I didn't follow their rules
    - O My parent chose their boyfriend/girlfriend/husband/wife over me
    - O They didn't accept me for who I am
    - O My parents/guardian could not afford to take care of me
    - O I don't know
    - O I choose to skip this question
    - O Other (please specify): _____

50. Have you ever run away from foster care?
    - O Yes
    - O No
    - O I choose to skip this question

51. Have you ever been thrown out or kicked out of your home by a foster parent?
    - O Yes
    - O No
    - O I choose to skip this question

For this segment of questions, answer all questions 52 to 56 if your answer to Question 50 (Have you ever run away from foster care?) was "yes", or "I choose to skip this question". Otherwise, skip now to Question 57.

52. **Over the past 6 months,** where did you usually stay/sleep after you ran away from your foster home?
    Please check **all** that apply:
    - O In a house or apartment with my immediate family (parent or guardian) that we rent or own.

- O At the house or apartment of another family member
- O At my own apartment (I pay rent)
- O Temporarily staying with friends or couch surfing
- O At my boyfriend/girlfriend/partner's home
- O At a shelter
- O In a transitional housing program
- O At a group home
- O A treatment facility or center (hospital, detox, etc.)
- O Inside a car, abandoned building, squat, etc.
- O Outside in the park, on the street, in a tent, etc.
- O At a transit station (subway or bus station or the airport)
- O A jail, prison, or detention facility
- O Hotel/motel
- O I have not run away in the past 6 months.
- O I choose to skip this question
- O Other *(please specify)*: _____

53. How safe do you feel when you sleep there?
    - O Very safe
    - O Safe
    - O Somewhat safe
    - O Unsafe
    - O Very unsafe
    - O I have not run away in the past 6 months
    - O I choose to skip this question

54. How many times have you run away from foster care?
    - O Once
    - O Twice
    - O Three or four times
    - O Five or more times
    - O I choose to skip this question

55. How old were you the first time you ran away from your foster home?
    - O Enter age in years _____years
    - O I choose to skip this question

56. Why did you run away from foster care?
    Please check **all** of the reasons that apply:
    - O Physical abuse
    - O Emotional abuse
    - O Sexual abuse
    - O They had too many rules
    - O I wanted to see my family or my friends
    - O They didn't accept me for who I am
    - O I didn't get along with my foster parents or group home staff

- O I didn't get along with the other kids where I lived
- O I choose to skip this question
- O Other (*please specify*): _____

For this segment of questions, answer all questions 57 to 61 if your answer to Question 51 (Have you ever been thrown out or kicked out of your home by a foster parent) was "yes", or "I choose to skip this question". Otherwise, skip now to Section H: Work.

57. **Over the past 6 months,** where did you usually stay/sleep after you were kicked out of your foster home?
    Select all that apply:
    - O In a house or apartment with my immediate family (parent or guardian) that we rent or own.
    - O At the house or apartment of another family member
    - O At my own apartment (I pay rent)
    - O Temporarily staying with friends or couch surfing
    - O At my boyfriend/girlfriend/partner's home
    - O At a shelter
    - O In a transitional housing program
    - O At a group home
    - O A treatment facility or center (hospital, detox, etc.)
    - O Inside a car, abandoned building, squat, etc.
    - O Outside in the park, on the street, in a tent, etc.
    - O At a transit station (subway or bus station or the airport)
    - O A jail, prison, or detention facility
    - O Hotel/motel
    - O I have not been kicked out in the past six months.
    - O I choose to skip this question
    - O Other *(please specify)*: _____

58. How safe do you feel when you sleep there?
    - O Very safe
    - O Safe
    - O Somewhat safe
    - O Unsafe
    - O Very unsafe
    - O I have not been kicked out in the past 6 months
    - O I choose to skip this question

59. How many times have you been kicked out of foster care?
    - O Once
    - O Twice
    - O Three or four times
    - O Five or more times
    - O I choose to skip this question

60. How old were you the first time you were kicked out of your foster home?

- O Enter age in years _____years
- O I choose to skip this question

61. Why did your foster parent kick you out? Please check all of the reasons that apply.
    - O I didn't follow their rules
    - O My foster parent chose their boyfriend/girlfriend/husband/wife over me
    - O They didn't accept me for who I am
    - O I don't know
    - O I choose to skip this question
    - O Other (please specify): _____

Section H: Work

Have you ever done any kind of work/other activity for something in return from an employer, relative, friend, or stranger? This could mean that you received money, food, housing, drugs, or anything else.

- **"Work/other activity" can be something like being a server at a restaurant or working at a store, or something like selling drugs or trading sex.**
- **This could include doing it for someone even though you didn't want to.**

62. Have you ever been unable to leave a place you worked or talk to people you wanted to talk to, even when you weren't working, because the person you worked for threatened or controlled you?
    - O Yes
    - O No
    - O I choose to skip this question

63. Did someone you work for ever refuse to pay what they promised and keep all or most of the money you made?
    - O Yes
    - O No
    - O I choose to skip this question

64. Were you ever physically beaten, slapped, hit, kicked, punched, burned or harmed in any way by someone you work for?
    - O Yes
    - O No
    - O I choose to skip this question

65. Did you ever feel emotionally abused by someone you worked for?
    - O Yes
    - O No
    - O I choose to skip this question

66. Did someone you work for ever ask, pressure, or force you to do something sexually that you did not feel comfortable doing?
    - O Yes

- O No
- O I choose to skip this question

67. Were you ever forced to engage in sexual acts with family, friends, clients, or business associates for money or favors, by someone you work for?
    - O Yes
    - O No
    - O I choose to skip this question

68. Did you ever trade sexual acts for food, clothing, money, shelter, favors, or other necessities for survival before you reached the age of 18?
    - O Yes
    - O No
    - O I choose to skip this question

Remember:

- **"Work/other activity" can be something like being a server at a restaurant or working at a store, or something like selling drugs or trading sex.**
- **This could include doing it for someone even though you didn't want to.**

69. Thinking about all types of "work" above, have you ever done work for someone?
    - O Yes
    - O No if you choose no, SKIP NOW TO **SECTION I: OTHER LIFE EXPERIENCES, otherwise, continue.**
    - O I choose to skip this question

70. Which of the following kinds of work have you ever done for someone, keeping in mind that by "work" we mean anything you did to get money or something of value—including food, clothes, a place to stay, protection, drugs, or gifts—for yourself (or your family). Please check **all** that apply:
    - O Serving food in a restaurant or café
    - O Another type of job in a restaurant or café
    - O In a retail store (clothing store, grocery store, convenience store, at the mall, etc.)
    - O Doing construction work or other home repairs (painting, plumbing, electricity, etc.)
    - O Mowing lawns, shoveling sidewalks, or other yard work
    - O Office work (answering phones, filing, etc.)
    - O Selling items door-to-door
    - O Selling items, dancing, or performing on the street or in the subways
    - O Asking for change or donations on the street or in the subway
    - O Trading sex for money, clothes, shelter, or other things
    - O Participating in sexual videos or photos for money, clothes, shelter, or other things
    - O Stripping
    - O Babysitting
    - O Cleaning homes
    - O Delivering newspapers, restaurant food, groceries or other things to other people's homes
    - O Doing nails or braiding hair

- O I choose to skip this question
- O Other *(please specify)*_____

Employers, and people who help employers (e.g. managers, drivers, crew leaders, security, etc.), may use threats or lies to make you feel afraid to leave, complain, or seek help for your situation.

71. Have any of the following incidents happened to you at the hands of your employer or people working for your employer ever in your life, or in the past year?

Circle one response (Yes, No, or Skip) in each box under "Ever in your life?" and "in the past year?":

Did someone you work for …	Ever in your life?	In the past year?
Force		
a. Physically force you to do something you didn't feel comfortable doing	Yes No Skip	Yes No Skip
b. Lock you up, restrain you or prevent you from leaving	Yes No Skip	Yes No Skip
c. Physically harm you in any way (beat, slap, hit, kick, punch, burn)	Yes No Skip	Yes No Skip
Fraud		
d. Trick you into doing different work than was promised	Yes No Skip	Yes No Skip
e. Make you sign a document without understanding what it stated, like a work contract	Yes No Skip	Yes No Skip
f. Refuse to pay you or pay less than they promised	Yes No Skip	Yes No Skip
Coercion		
g. Restrict or control where you went or who you talked to	Yes No Skip	Yes No Skip
h. Deprive you of sleep, food, water, or medical care	Yes No Skip	Yes No Skip
i. Not let you contact family or friends, even when you weren't working	Yes No Skip	Yes No Skip
j. Keep all or most of your money or pay	Yes No Skip	Yes No Skip
k. Keep your ID documents (e.g. ID card, license, passport, social security card, birth certificate) from you	Yes No Skip	Yes No Skip
l. Threaten to get you deported	Yes No Skip	Yes No Skip
m. Threaten to harm you or your family or pet	Yes No Skip	Yes No Skip
n. Physically harm or threaten a co-worker or friend	Yes No Skip	Yes No Skip
Commercial Sex		
o. Force you to do something sexually that you didn't feel comfortable doing	Yes No Skip	Yes No Skip
p. Put your photo on the Internet to find clients to trade sex with	Yes No Skip	Yes No Skip
q. Force you to engage in sexual acts with family, friends, or business associates for money or favors	Yes No Skip	Yes No Skip

Did someone you work for …	Ever in your life?	In the past year?
r. Encourage or pressure you to do sexual acts or have sex, including taking sexual photos or videos	Yes No Skip	Yes No Skip
s. Force you to trade sex for money, shelter, food or anything else through online websites, escort services, street prostitution, informal arrangements, brothels, fake massage businesses or strip clubs	Yes No Skip	Yes No Skip

72. If you answered "Yes" or "Skip" in any of the boxes in Question 71, please answer the question below. Otherwise, skip this question and move on to Question 73.
How old were you when you were first involved in any of these work situations?
    - O Enter age in years _____years
    - O I choose to skip this question

73. In your life, have you ever—on your own—traded sex for money, shelter, food or anything else? Do not count times when you were working for someone else.
    - O Yes if you choose yes, CONTINUE to question 74 below
    - O No if you choose no, SKIP NOW TO Question 76, otherwise, continue.
    - O I choose to skip this question if you choose to skip this question, CONTINUE to question 74 below

74. In the past year, did you—on your own—trade sex for money, shelter, food or anything else? Do not count times when you were working for someone else.
    - O Yes
    - O No
    - O I choose to skip this question

75. How old were you when you first traded sex for money, shelter, food or anything else on your own?
    - O Enter age in years _____ years
    - O I choose to skip this question

76. For these past work experiences, how did you find out about this work?
Select all that apply:
    - O Online ad
    - O Newspaper/magazine
    - O Friend
    - O Family member
    - O Partner
    - O Service provider
    - O I choose to skip this question
    - O Other

Section I: Other Life Experiences

77. Have you ever been arrested?

Mark one:
Yes

- O No if you choose no, SKIP NOW to **Question 81, otherwise, continue.**
- O I choose to skip this question

78. Have you been arrested as a child, an adult, or both?
Mark one:
    - O Child
    - O Adult
    - O Both
    - O I choose to skip this question

79. Have you been arrested 3 or more times in your life?
Mark one:
    - O Yes
    - O No
    - O I choose to skip this question

80. What were you arrested for most recently?
Please check **all** that apply:
    - O Curfew violation
    - O Skipping school
    - O Running away
    - O Shoplifting
    - O Drugs
    - O Prostitution or Prostitution related charge (for example, loitering, soliciting)
    - O Disorderly Conduct
    - O Assault
    - O Stealing a car
    - O Theft of services (for example, jumping the turnstile)
    - O Trespassing
    - O I choose to skip this question
    - O Other [specify_____]

81. In the past month, have you used drugs other than those prescribed by a doctor or those available "over-the-counter" (for example, marijuana, ecstasy or molly, heroin, crack, cocaine)?
    - O Yes
    - O No
    - O I choose to skip this question

82. In the past month, have you abused prescription or over-the-counter drugs—that is, used them more frequently or in larger doses than prescribed or directed?
    - O Yes
    - O No
    - O I choose to skip this question

83. In the past month, how often have you had five or more drinks on one occasion?

- O Never
- O 1 time per month or less
- O 2 to 4 times per month
- O 2 to 3 times per week
- O Daily or almost daily
- O I choose to skip this question

Section J: Help Seeking

84. Have you ever tried to get help for the situations described in this survey?
    - O Yes
    - O No
    - O I choose to skip this question

85. **Only answer if you chose "Yes" or "I choose to skip this question" for Question 84 (Have you ever tried to get help for the situations described in this survey?).**
    Otherwise, you are finished with the survey. Please read the concluding paragraph and take the resource card.
    Who did you go to for help?
    - O Parent
    - O Sibling
    - O Other family member
    - O Friend
    - O Foster parent
    - O Guardian
    - O Child welfare case worker
    - O Runaway/Homeless Youth Organization
    - O Police
    - O School official (e.g. guidance counselor, teacher)
    - O Health care professional (e.g. doctor, nurse, therapist)
    - O I choose to skip this question

Your responses on this survey are anonymous and confidential. However, if you would like to speak with someone about some of your responses to these questions, please approach the individual who read you the consent form. They are trained to help you if you wish to seek services.

Please remember that if you agree to speak to someone and seek services available to you, your answers relating to those services you request will no longer be anonymous. For example, if you seek drug treatment services, you will be disclosing your drug use to that person, but the rest of the survey will remain anonymous and confidential.

Thank you for participating in our survey!

The person who helped you start the survey will give you a card with resources that might help you or your family and friends.

Appendix D. Pretest Partners

Site	RHY Organizations	CW Organizations
Houston, TX	Covenant House Texas	Kinder Emergency Shelter
	Salvation Army	Parks Youth Ranch
	HAY Center	
NYC and Rochester, NY	Covenant House New York	Children's Village
	Hetrick Martin Institute	Hillside (Rochester)
	Ali Forney Center	
	Center for Youth (Rochester)	
Milwaukee, WI	Pathfinders	Mercy House
		Stages St. Rose

Appendix E. Sample Composition

Age. Across all pretest sites, most youth who took the survey were age 18 or over (75 percent), while one-quarter were under 18 (25 percent). Participants' ages ranged from 12 to 25. Both the average and the median age were 19 years.

Gender and sexual orientation. Most youth who participated in the pretest identified as either female (49 percent) or male (47 percent). A small percentage identified as genderqueer (1 percent) or transgender female (1.5 percent). Less than 1 percent identified as either transgender male (0.7 percent), transgender (0.7 percent), or other (0.8 percent).[18] About two-thirds of participants considered their sexual orientation to be heterosexual/straight (67 percent). Fourteen percent identified as bisexual, 9 percent gay, and 6 percent lesbian. Only a few participants identified as queer/questioning (0.7 percent), asexual (1 percent), or another other orientation (2 percent)[19].

Race and ethnicity. Over two-thirds of the sampled youth identified as black/African American (69 percent), one-sixth as white (17 percent),[20] 12 percent as multiracial, and 2 percent as American Indian or Alaska Native. Few youth identified as either Asian (0.5 percent) or Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (0.5 percent). Keeping with the Census Bureau's separation of Hispanic origin from race, about one-quarter of youth identified as being of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin (24 percent).

Pregnant or parenting. About one-fifth (21 percent) of participants reported having a child of their own, being currently pregnant, or having a partner who is currently pregnant.[21]

Birthplace. Nearly all youth (93 percent) reported that they were born in the United States. Of those who specified which state they grew up in, most reported one of the three states where pretesting took place.

Education/School

A little over one-third of the youth in the pretest said they were currently in school (35 percent), which included youth enrolled in high school, technical schools, and college programs (both two year and four

[18] Of the five people that responded "other," one individual identified their gender as androgynous, one as bigender, one as gender nonconforming, and two as genderfluid.
[19] Those who did not identify with any of the provided sexual orientation categories (n=12) reported themselves as demisexual (0.3 percent), no label (0.3 percent), omnisexual (0.2 percent), and pansexual (1 percent).
[20] "White" in this survey includes both white youth of Hispanic origin and white youth of non-Hispanic origin.
[21] Youth were not asked to specify which of the pregnant or parenting options applied to them.

year). Four percent of participants reported they were currently in a GED program. Nearly one-third said that had not been in school in the last 12 months (28 percent).

Most youth had not completed high school. Two percent had a college, two-year, vocational, technical, or higher degree and just over one-quarter had a high school diploma (26 percent). The largest share finished their schooling at 9th, 10th, or 11th grade (42 percent). An additional 7 percent attended 12th grade but did not graduate. Eight percent reported having finished below 9th grade.

Family

Most youth (81 percent) currently had contact with their birth families, with the largest percentage describing those relationships as "okay" (44 percent). Overall, 38 percent described their relationships with their birth families in positive terms ("very good" and "good"), and almost one-fifth (18 percent) described their relationships as negative ("bad" or "very bad").

Forty-four percent of youth reported having been in foster care at some time in their lives, with 9 percent reporting being in foster care at the time of survey administration (*n*=58). Of the 9 percent currently in foster care, most (81 percent) were in a group home or residential facility, while 11 percent were living with unrelated foster parents and 6 percent were living with relatives.[22] Of youth in foster care, the majority (84 percent) were under 18 (*n*=48).

The median length of time spent in foster care across all continuous and noncontinuous placements was four years, while the average length of time was six years and four months. Youth reported a median and average age of 8 for their age at first foster care placement. Most young people had more than one foster care placement; 40 percent had four or more placements.

Forty percent of youth who took the survey at an RHY organization had been in foster care at some point, and the average length of total foster care placement among this group was almost seven years (6.8). RHY youth were more likely to have only had one foster care placement in their lives (29 percent for RHY youth compared with 19 percent for CW youth).

[22] Two percent described their current foster care placement as "other."

Housing

The four most common residences reported by youth over the course of the last month were as follows: 20 percent in a shelter, 16 percent in an immediate family member's home, 13 percent temporarily with friends or couch surfing, and 10 percent with a nonimmediate family member**.** Youth 18 and older were more likely to temporarily stay with or couch surf with friends (15 percent compared with 6 percent of under-18 youth) and to be in a transitional housing program (7 percent compared with 1 percent of under-18 youth). Only youth 18 and older reported staying in their own apartment where they pay rent (11 percent). Youth 18 and older also reported sleeping inside abandoned structures or cars (3 percent), or outside on the street (7 percent). Youth under 18 were more likely to report being incarcerated (3 percent compared with 1 percent of youth 18 and older) or in a treatment facility (3 percent compared with 1 percent of youth 18 and older).

Running Away

Running away from home. Over half (55 percent) of all youth surveyed had run away from their parent's or guardian's home at some point (*n*=336), and over two-thirds (67 percent) had been kicked out by a parent or guardian at some point (*n*=408). More youth 18 and older ran away from home at some point than youth under 18 (65 percent of youth age 18 and older compared with 52 percent of under-18 youth). While under one-quarter (23 percent) of young people only ran away once, most had run away multiple times: 19 percent ran away twice, 27 percent ran away three or four times, and 31 percent ran away five or more times. On average, youth were 13.5 years old when they first ran away, with a median age of 14. The most common reasons for running away were emotional abuse (35 percent), physical abuse (32 percent), and not getting along with their parent/guardian (29 percent).

Kicked out of home. A majority (67 percent) of respondents had been kicked out of their home at one point by a parent or guardian. Of these youth, just under one-quarter (24 percent) were kicked out once (*n*=379), while most were kicked out more than once: 23 percent were kicked out twice, 30 percent were kicked out three or four times, and 23 percent were kicked out five or more times. A greater percentage of youth under 18 (72 percent) had been kicked out than had youth 18 and older (52 percent). Youth were 15 years old on average when they were kicked out, and the median age was 16. Youth were kicked out for a variety of reasons, with the most common ones being not following rules (41 percent), parent/guardian being unaccepting of the youth's lifestyle or identity (28 percent), and parent/guardian choosing their partner over their child (23 percent).

Running away from foster care. Of the sample youth who had ever been in foster care, 46 percent had run away from foster care (*n*=27) and 22 percent had been kicked out of their foster care placement at some point in their life (*n*=13). The majority of youth who had run away from foster care ran away more than once: 25 percent ran away once, 13 percent ran away twice, 21 percent ran away three to four times, and 42 percent ran away five or more times. Youth were, on average, 12.75 years old when they first ran away from a foster home, with a median age of 13.

Other Life Experiences

Arrest. Just over half (53 percent) of the youth had been arrested (*n*=320), with 42 percent of those youth having been arrested as a minor, 27 percent as an adult, and 31 percent as both. Forty-four percent were arrested three or more times. While respondents regardless of age had similar rates of arrest throughout their lives, more respondents 18 or older (87 percent) reported being arrested as a minor compared with respondents under 18 (27 percent). The most common reasons for the most recent arrest were assault (30 percent), disorderly conduct (16 percent), shoplifting (16 percent), and trespassing (15 percent).

Help seeking. Just over one-third of youth (34 percent) reported seeking help for situations described in the *Life Experiences Survey*, such as running away, homelessness, exploitative work experiences, alcohol and drug use, and criminal justice involvement; 45 percent sought help from a friend, 31 percent from an RHY provider, 30 percent from a health professional, and 30 percent from a parent. Of the youth who sought help, many also sought help from other family members, school personnel, and law enforcement.

Appendix F. HTST Factor Analysis

Factor analysis was used to distinguish the underlying dimensions (factors) of human trafficking across all 19 items on the HTST. We used principal axis factoring with orthogonal (Varimax) rotation. The results were examined against a number of criteria, including the theoretical meaningfulness of the extracted factors, review of each factor's Eigen value (ideally, above 1), the total variance explained by all factors (ideally, above 50 percent), the degree of variance in each item explained by the extracted factors (communalities; ideally, above 0.5), and the size of each item's primary factor loading (ideally, above 0.4). The table below shows the final, three-factor structure, which accounted for 62 percent of the variation among affirmative responses. Note that factor results are presented for the "ever in life" questions, but those for "past year" experiences were substantively similar. The internal consistency reliabilities of each factor and of the entire HTST are also shown in the table, as Cronbach's alpha, which indicates strong internal consistency in youth's "yes" responses for each dimension of trafficking and the HTST overall.

APPENDIX F. TABLE

HTST Factor Analysis and Internal Consistency Reliability

	Did someone you work for...		Factor Loading[a] F1 Force	Factor Loading[a] F2 Fraud	Factor Loading[a] F3 Sex	Comm-unalities
	Factor 1: Force with coercion	**.881**				
1	Physically force you to do something you didn't feel comfortable doing		.621			.573
2	Lock you up, restrain you or prevent you from leaving		.649			.574
3	Physically harm you in any way (beat, slap, hit, kick, punch, burn)		.752			.692
4	Restrict or control where you went or who you talked to		.591			.528
5	Deprive you of sleep, food, water, or medical care		.429			.417
6	Not let you contact family or friends, even when you weren't working		.471			.442
7	Keep your ID documents (e.g. ID card, license, passport, social security card, birth certificate) from you		.451			.281
8	Threaten to harm you or your family or pet		.623			.500
	Factor 2: Fraud with coercion	**.737**				
1	Trick you into doing different work than was promised			.528		.474
2	Make you sign a document without understanding what it stated, like a work contract			.464		.301
3	Refuse to pay you or pay less than they promised			.719		.577
4	Keep all or most of your money or pay			.622		.488

	Did someone you work for...		Factor Loading[a] F1 Force	Factor Loading[a] F2 Fraud	Factor Loading[a] F3 Sex	Comm-unalities
	Factor 3: Commercial sex exploitation	**.900**				
1	Force you to do something sexually that you didn't feel comfortable doing				.558	.587
2	Put your photo on the Internet to find clients to trade sex with				.757	.664
3	Force you to engage in sexual acts with family, friends, or business associates for money or favors				.696	.615
4	Encourage or pressure you to do sexual acts or have sex, including taking sexual photos or videos				.771	.731
5	Force you to trade sex for money, shelter, food or anything else through online websites, escort services, street prostitution, informal arrangements, brothels, fake massage businesses or strip clubs				.863	.841

Cronbach's alpha for the entire HTST was 0.922.

[a] Factor loadings are shown for the domain on which each item best converged (most undisplayed loadings were below 0.3).

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