



Labor Trafficking Cases 2008-2018: Data Analysis Report

Philip Gnaedig, MSW, CAST
Barbara Kaleff, NERA Economic Consulting
Elizabeth Newlon, PhD, NERA Economic Consulting



High-level analysis of CAST data, conducted using over 10 years of legal intakes in labor trafficking cases, illuminates some common narratives of exploitation CAST clients have endured. Distinctions emerge within a variety of industries, types of trafficking, and forms of recruitment. The goal in generating and sharing this data analysis lies in centering more attention on labor trafficking, sparking more discussion on prevention and response to labor trafficking, and equipping key stakeholders with industry-specific evidence for a better understanding of labor trafficking enterprises.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Identifying and combatting labor trafficking remain dynamic challenges. As a particularly hidden crime, which is perpetrated in a wide range of industries by a variety of criminal actors, labor trafficking represents a significant human rights abuse prevalent in our neighborhoods, cities and rural communities, and economies both micro and macro. The labor trafficking data project discussed in this report represents a collaborative effort to leverage available data on labor trafficking survivors to gain insight into the economics of the crime and the characteristics of the survivors. The ultimate goal of this project is to provide a road map for identifying where labor trafficking may be occurring in order to better root out this form of exploitation.

The Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST) has a long legacy of serving labor trafficked individuals. The data described in this report are a small window into the troubling stories of CAST clients' trafficking experiences. The high-level analysis, conducted by NERA Economic Consulting (NERA) presented here, highlights the following key themes as essential first steps to understanding what labor trafficking looks like for CAST's client population:

- Labor trafficked individuals include all gender identities, a variety of nationalities—both foreign nationals and U.S. citizens—and a diversity of experience when it comes to forms of abuse and coercion.
- Both minors and adults are trafficked for labor and a nontrivial portion of CAST labor trafficked clients are trafficked for both labor and sex.
- For many foreign national labor trafficking survivors, recruitment into their trafficking experience involves “above-ground” economic infrastructure, such as valid ports of entry, temporary visa programs, and employment placement agencies.
- Labor traffickers come from a wide spectrum of touchpoints with the survivor, including family members or friends, spouses, business owners, and employment agencies.
- The data analyses in this project illuminate the need to approach identification and prevention of labor trafficking in a systematic and multi-dimensional way.
 - These approaches should include collaboration between human trafficking survivor leaders, law enforcement, victim service providers, labor law experts, prosecutors, unions, immigrant rights groups, academics, along with economists and relevant industry experts.

BACKGROUND

Since its founding, CAST has successfully identified, engaged and supported survivors of all forms of human trafficking, including both sex and labor trafficking. As CAST expanded its partnership activities over the years, in particular its leadership in multi-disciplinary anti-trafficking task forces, CAST staff realized the need for victim service providers to lead the charge in bringing to light and educating key stakeholders on the ways in which labor traffickers perpetrate their crimes.

In 2015, CAST co-founded the Los Angeles Regional Human Trafficking Task Force¹ (LARHTTF) in partnership with the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department. In four years, the task force has grown to include a total of 38 formal partners², with representation from federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, healthcare providers, victim service providers, faith-based organizations, and non-profit educational programs. As part of its core priorities, the LARHTTF created a Labor Trafficking Subcommittee - oriented around sharing information across previously siloed stakeholders, enhancing effective practices for identifying and engaging labor trafficking survivors, and formulating data-driven solutions to identify more labor trafficking cases, investigate them, and hold labor traffickers accountable.

With leadership from the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office Sex and Labor Trafficking Unit, the diversity of participants in the Labor Trafficking Subcommittee evolved to include academics, economists, and data analysts, all with an eye for bringing their expertise to bear in the fight against labor trafficking. In 2018, Subcommittee member Dr. Elizabeth Newlon, a Director with NERA, facilitated a working pro-bono relationship with CAST, which came to include a data-sharing agreement. This relationship led to an examination of de-identified labor trafficking data from CAST's database. At the time of the data-sharing agreement, CAST provided over ten years of de-identified labor trafficking case data that had been collected in a secure agency database. NERA used the information CAST provided to complete a high-level analysis of the patterns in the labor trafficking experiences reported by survivors and to generate the subsequent tables and charts included in this report.

¹ "About Us," LA Regional Human Trafficking Task Force, <http://lahumantrafficking.com/about-us/>

² "LARHTTF Partners," LA Regional Human Trafficking Task Force, <http://lahumantrafficking.com/about-us/partners/>

DATA SOURCE

The NERA team generated the tables and charts in this report from a collection of 554 labor trafficking cases. Prior to analysis, all data were stripped of client-identifying information, including names, dates of birth, specific trafficking locations, etc.

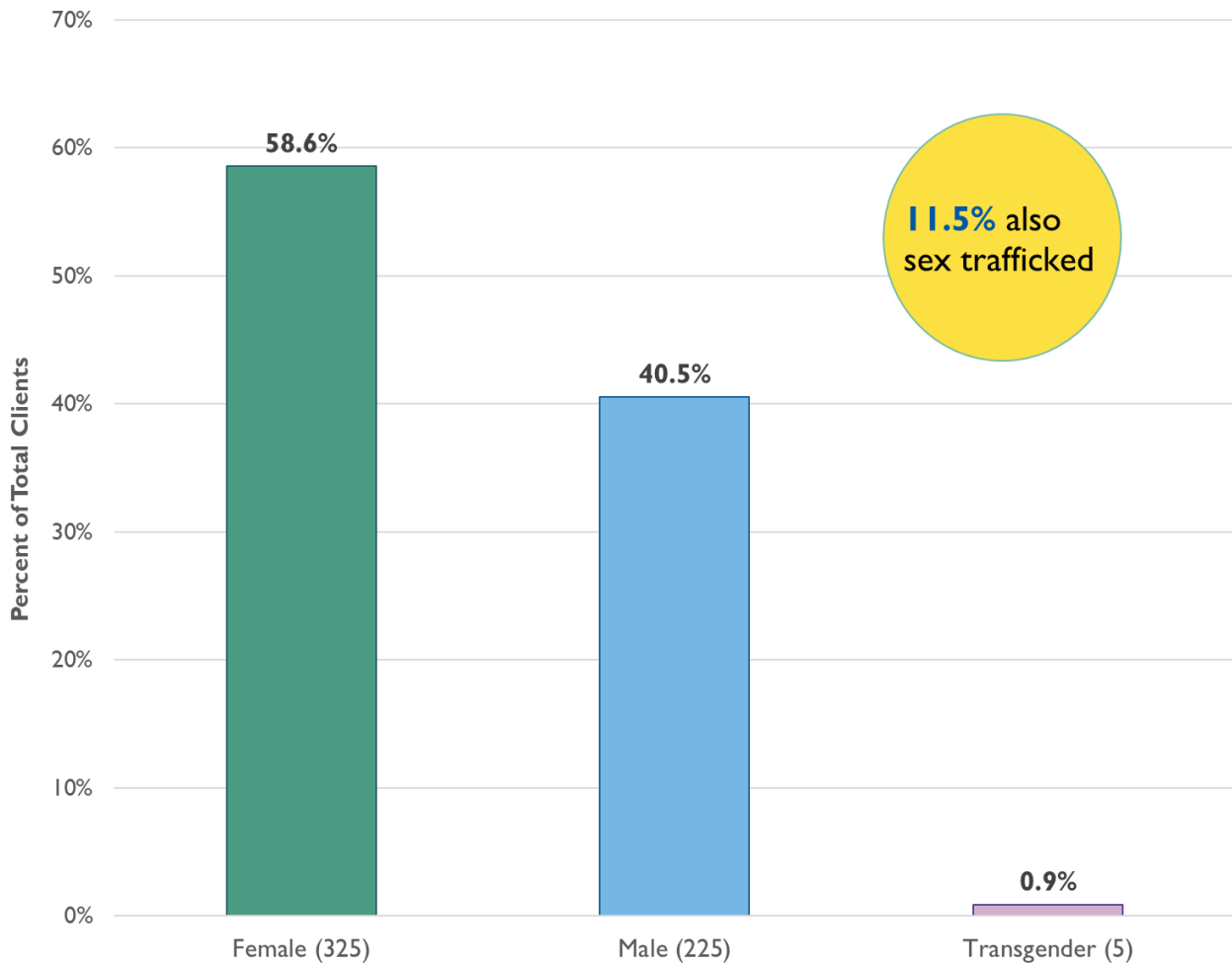
All of the 554³ cases analyzed by NERA consisted of human trafficking indicators gathered by CAST attorneys during factual intakes with clients as they entered into CAST services between 2008 and 2018. 82 variables comprise the factual intakes conducted. The information these interviews generate includes demographic data, specifics of labor trafficking sub-type by industry, forms of recruitment, forms of force, fraud and/or coercion employed by traffickers as well as many other topics related to the survivor's experience. The following analyses represent the high level analyses completed by NERA in an effort to depict the lived experiences of a select group of labor trafficking survivors identified in Los Angeles County.⁴

³ For certain analyses, a reduced number of intake records are cited as a result of omission in some markers in order to maintain a clean analysis.

⁴ Note: CAST does not publicize the included data analyses in an effort to describe the prevalence of labor trafficking within Los Angeles County. It should be noted that lack of representation in the data sets does not equate non-existence in communities. CAST client data only includes those individuals who connect to the agency services via CAST's 24-hour hotline or through partner referral.

DEMOGRAPHICS

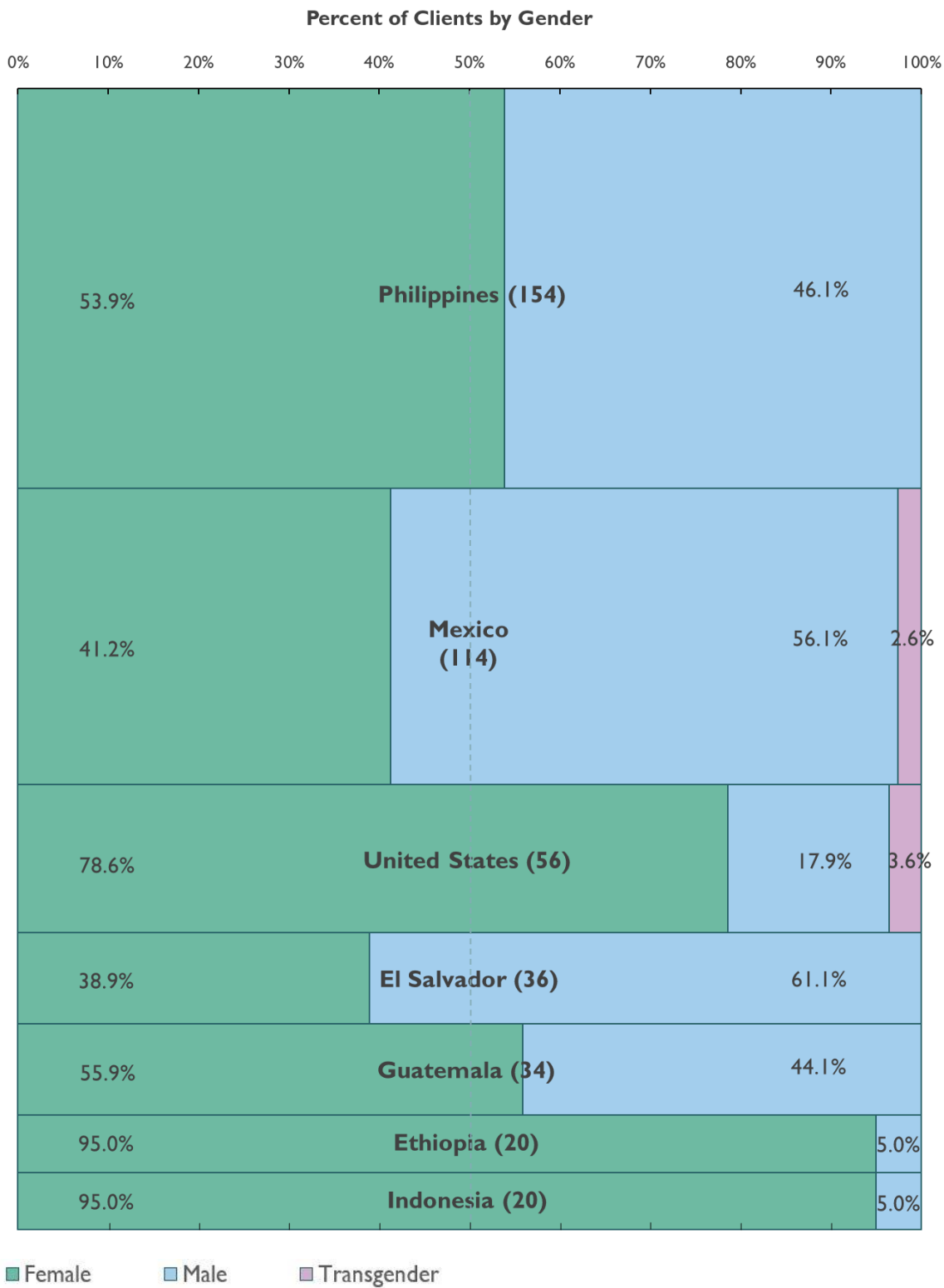
OVERALL GENDER COUNT AND PERCENTAGES



ANALYSIS OF COUNTRIES OF CITIZENSHIP

Geographic Area and Countries of Citizenship (1)	Count (2)	Percent of Total (3)
Southeast Asia <i>Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam</i>	193	34.8 %
North America <i>Canada, Mexico, United States</i>	171	30.9
Central America <i>Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua</i>	97	17.5
Africa & Middle East <i>Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Zambia</i>	40	7.2
South America <i>Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru</i>	18	3.2
East Asia <i>China, Japan, South Korea</i>	13	2.3
South Asia <i>India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka</i>	11	2.0
Eastern Europe & Russia <i>Albania, Belarus, Russian Federation, Ukraine</i>	8	1.4
Western Europe <i>Netherlands, United Kingdom</i>	3	0.5
OVERALL	554	100.0 %

COUNTRIES OF CITIZENSHIP AND GENDER



AGE TRAFFICKED FOR TOP THREE GEOGRAPHIC AREAS BY COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP

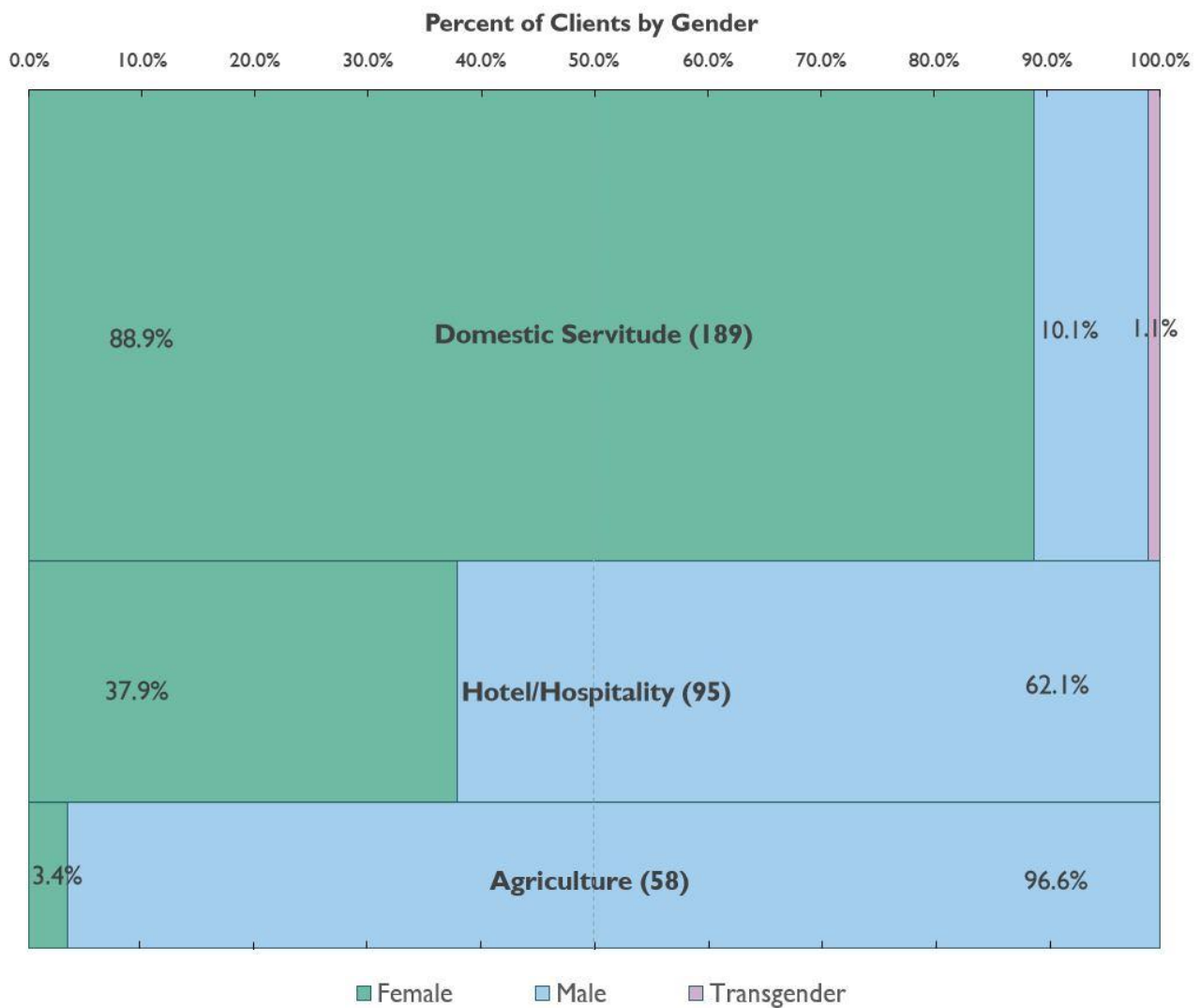
Geographic Area and Country of Citizenship (1)	Count (2)	Age When Trafficked			
		Mean (3)	10th Percentile (4)	Median (5)	90th Percentile (6)
Southeast Asia					
Philippines	156	34	25	35	46
Indonesia	20	29	21	32	38
Thailand	11	31	31	31	31
North America					
Mexico	114	27	17	26	38
United States	56	22	16	21	32
Central America					
El Salvador	36	21	10	17	52
Guatemala	34	22	13	24	29
Honduras	16	16	10	14	26
Nicaragua	8	32	21	26	56

⁵ Age when trafficked is missing for 53% of all clients, and therefore age statistics only represent ages reported in the remaining data.

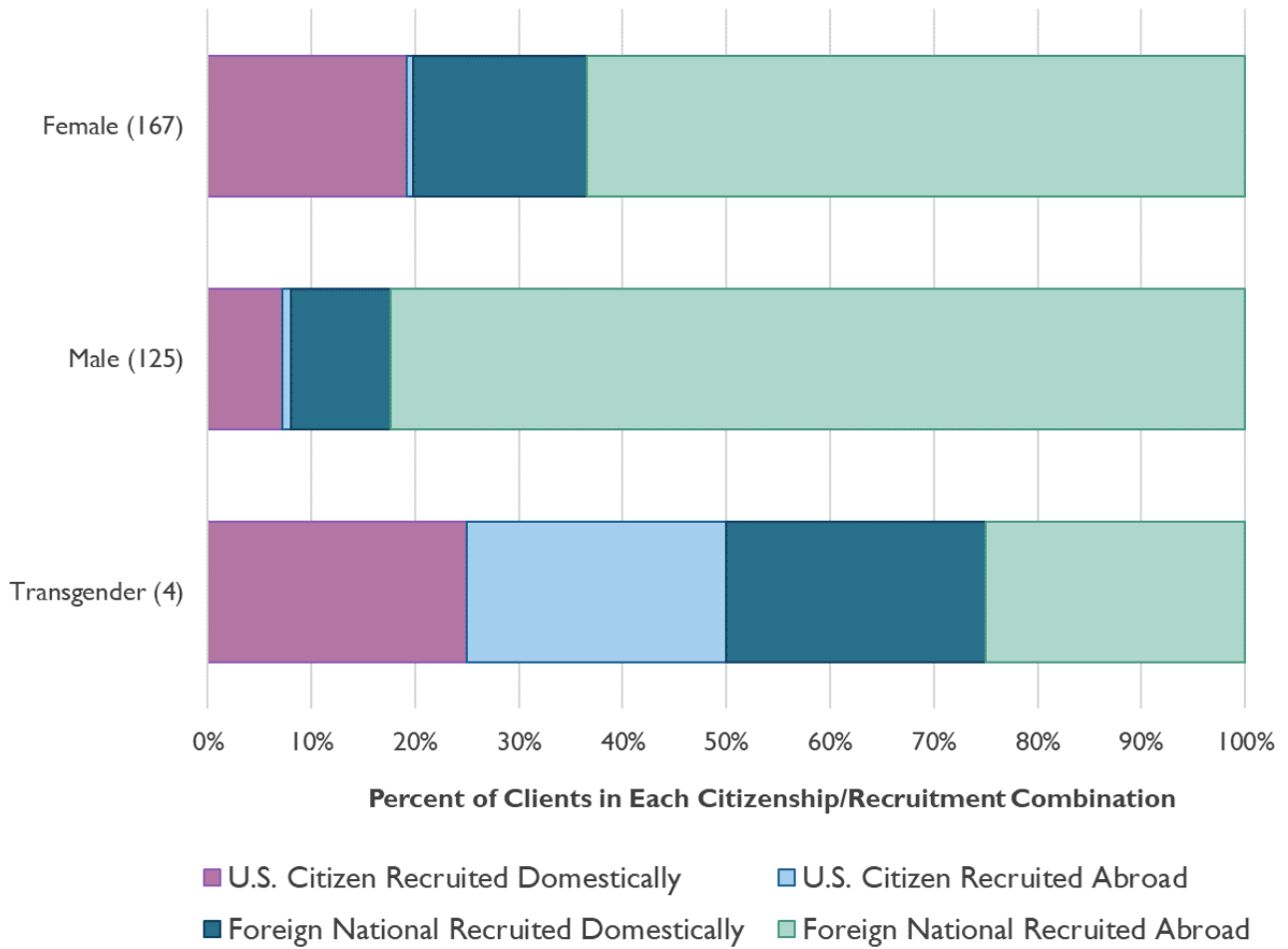
OVERVIEW OF CLIENT EXPERIENCES

For the analyses presented in this section, NERA utilized a wide variety of variables collected in the CAST factual intakes to depict aspects of CAST clients' labor trafficking experiences. The variables that were used included a combination of preset answer categories and free narrative details – all assessed during the factual intake. For these particular analyses, NERA focused on the following areas: field of work, method of entry into the United States, recruitment domestically or abroad, type of recruiter, and time in servitude.

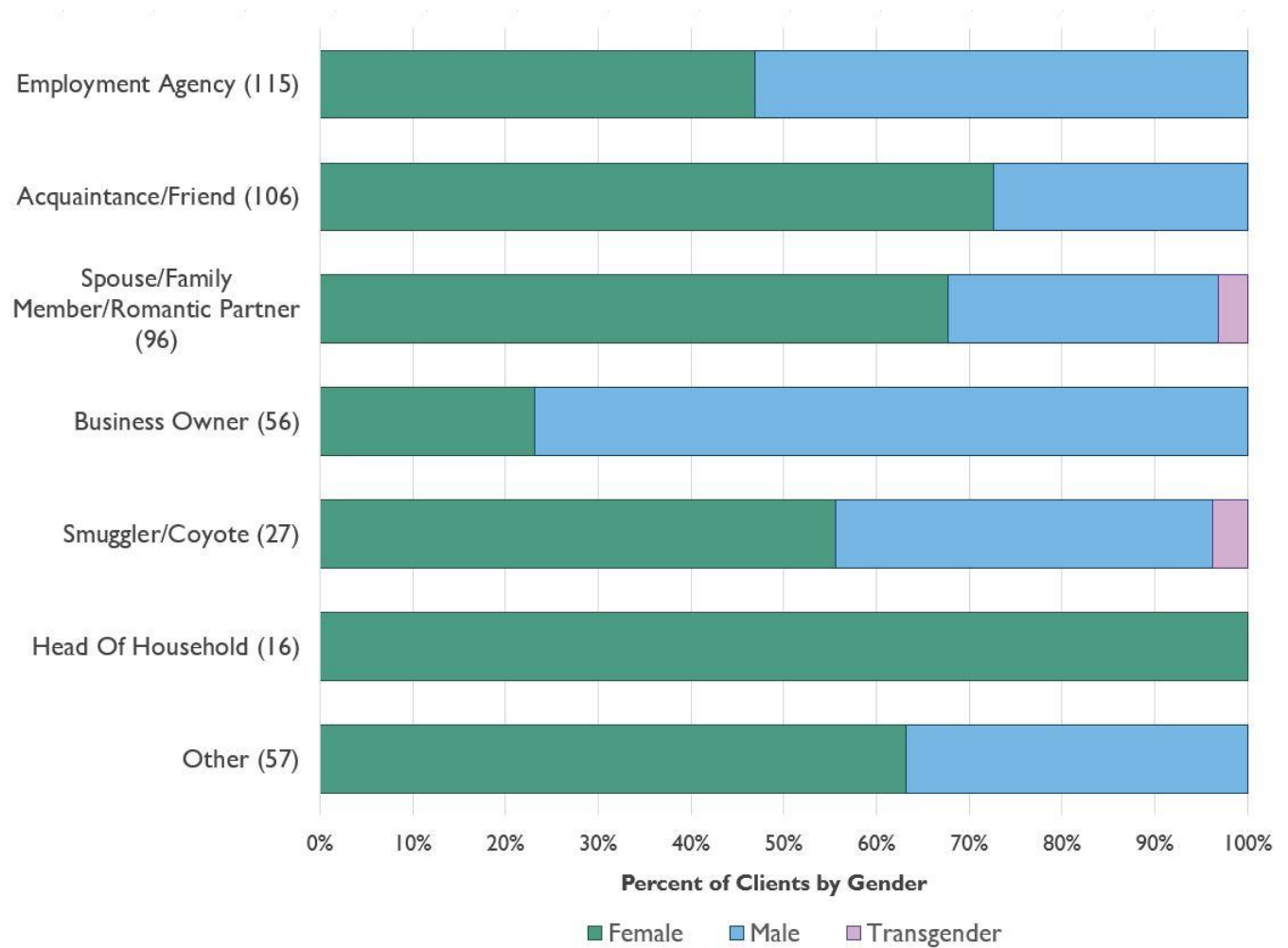
FIELD OF WORK AND GENDER



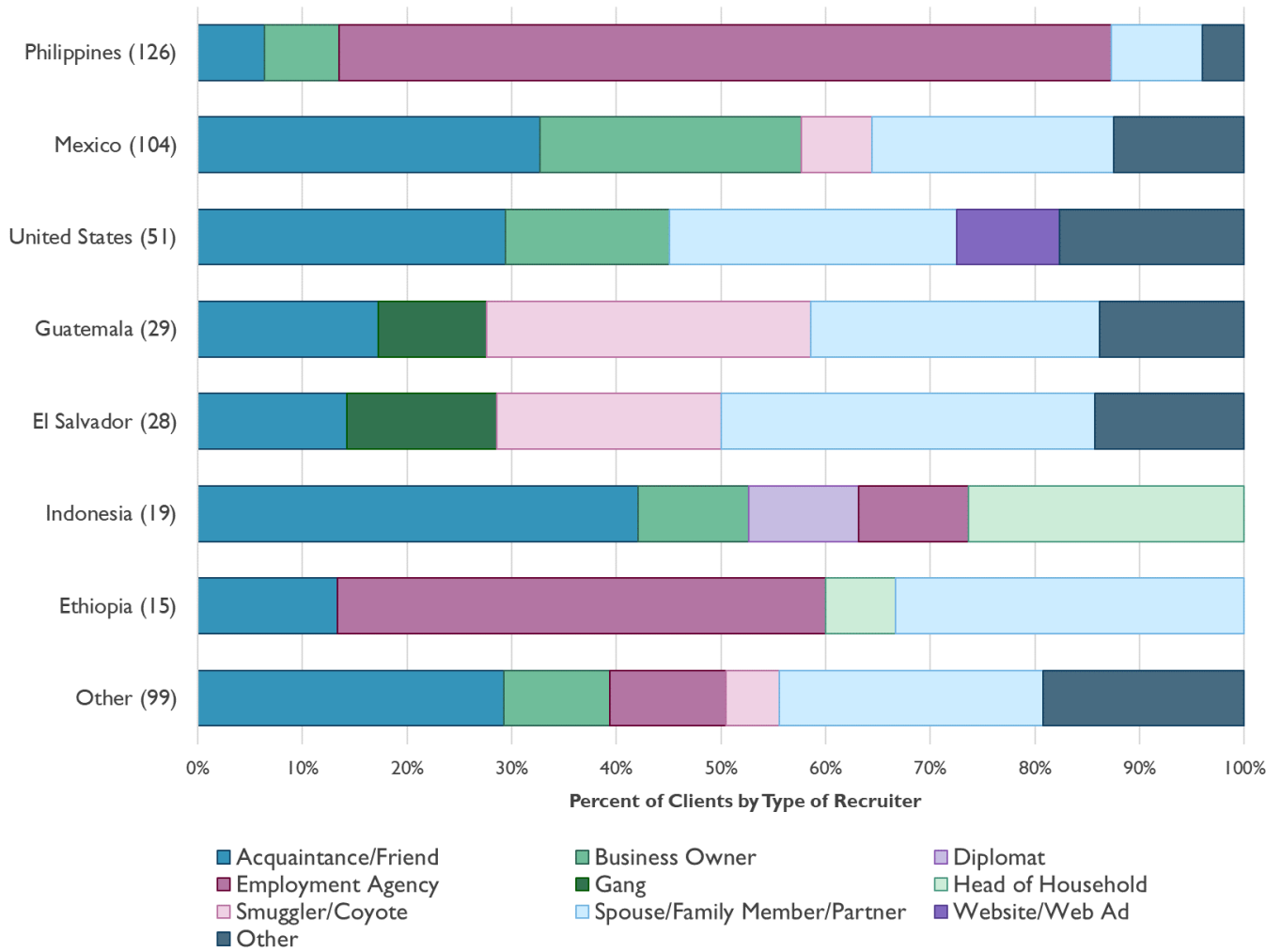
GENDER, CITIZENSHIP, AND DOMESTIC/NON-DOMESTIC RECRUITMENT



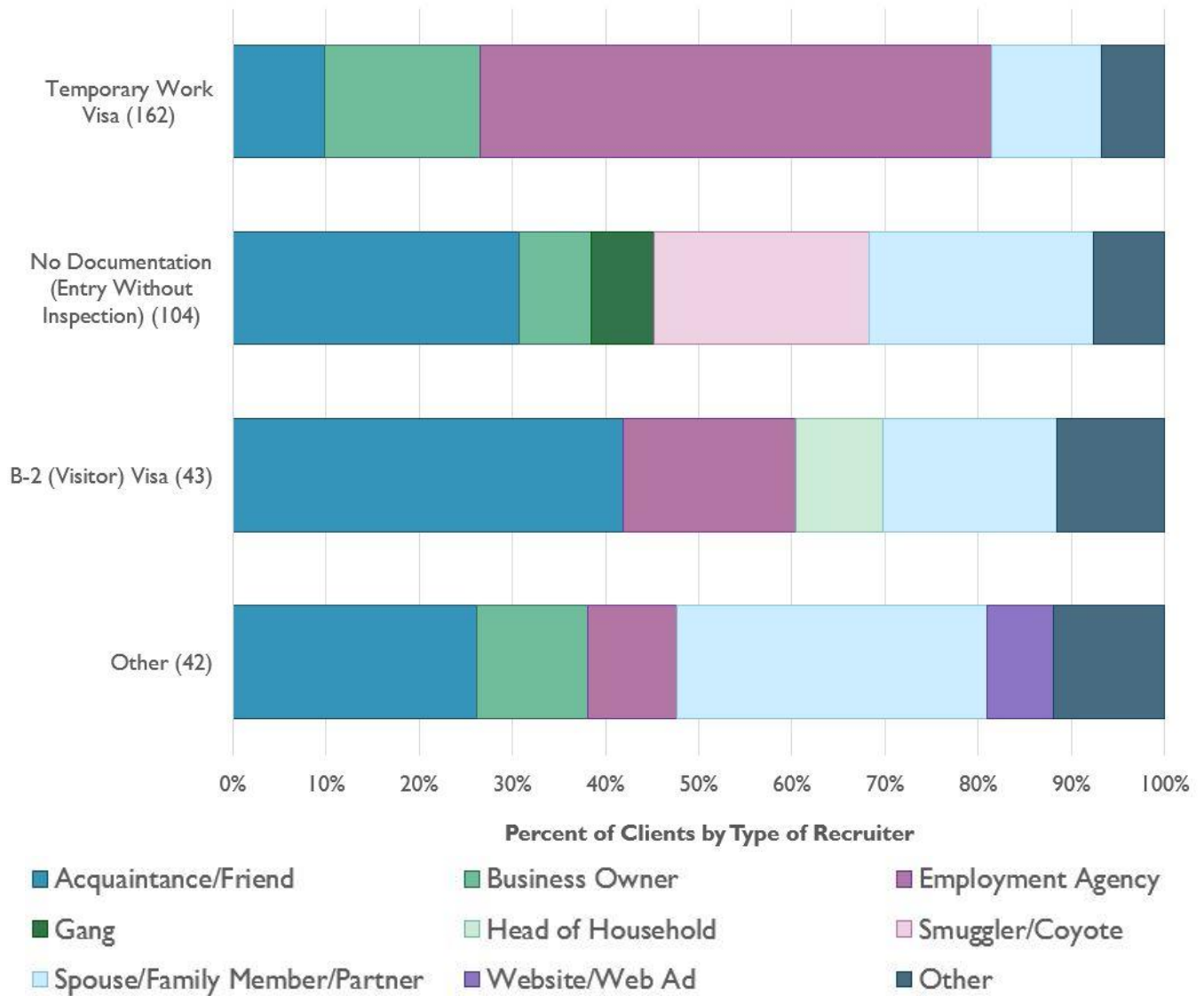
TYPE OF RECRUITER AND GENDER



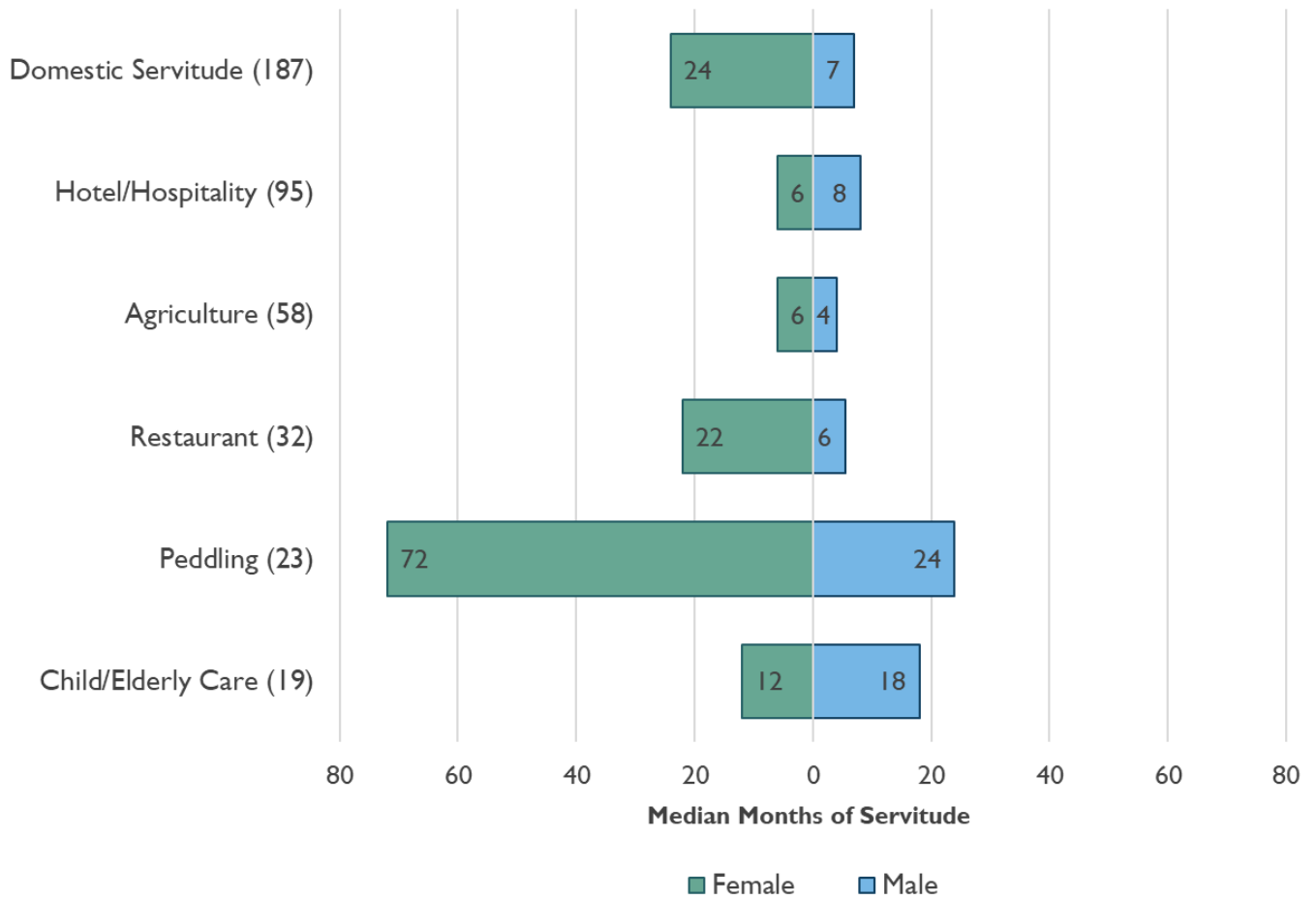
COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP AND TYPE OF RECRUITER



METHOD OF ENTRY AND TYPE OF RECRUITER



MEDIAN MONTHS OF SERVITUDE BY FIELD OF WORK AND GENDER

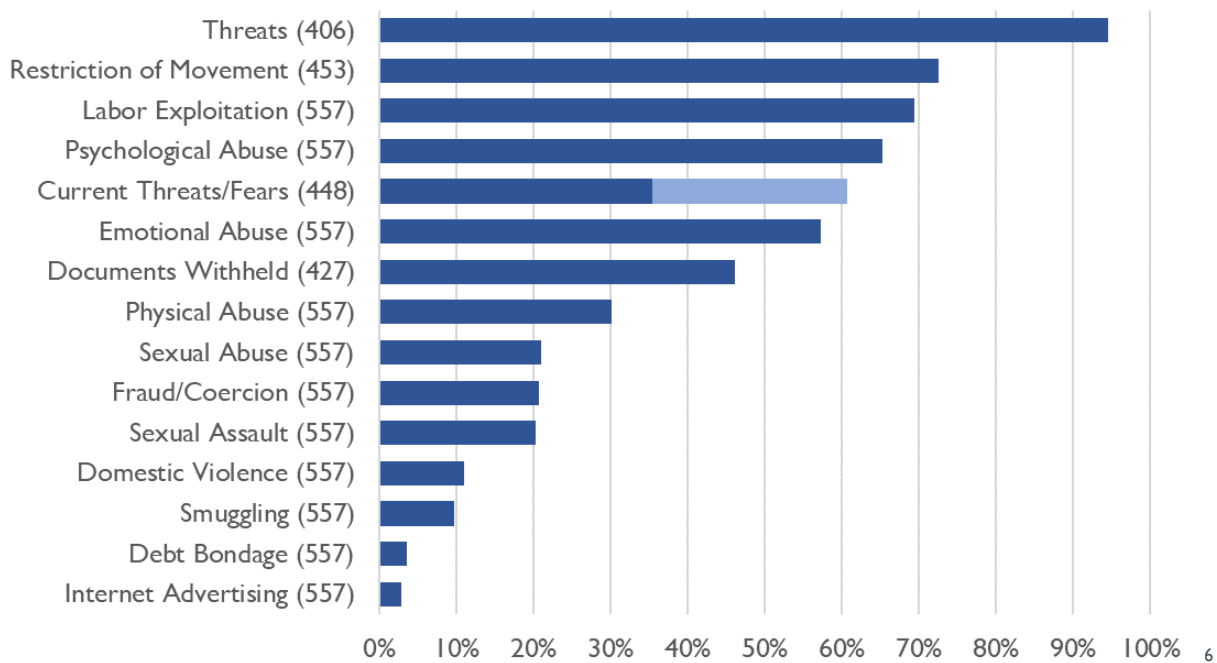


TRAFFICKING INDICATORS

Trafficking indicators collected during the factual intake process include descriptions of the forms of abuse, coercion and/or exploitation employed by labor traffickers to both psychologically and physically restrain their victims. These analyses highlight certain nuanced perspectives of the reality of labor trafficking, such as the rate of sexual assault as a coercive tactic in labor trafficking, or the role psychological coercion and threats play in establishing an atmosphere of fear and distress for trafficked persons. The following analyses highlight the rates at which CAST clients identified certain red flag or indicator categories, separated by field of work, during their factual intakes with CAST attorneys.

RATES OF OCCURRENCE OF INTAKE INDICATORS

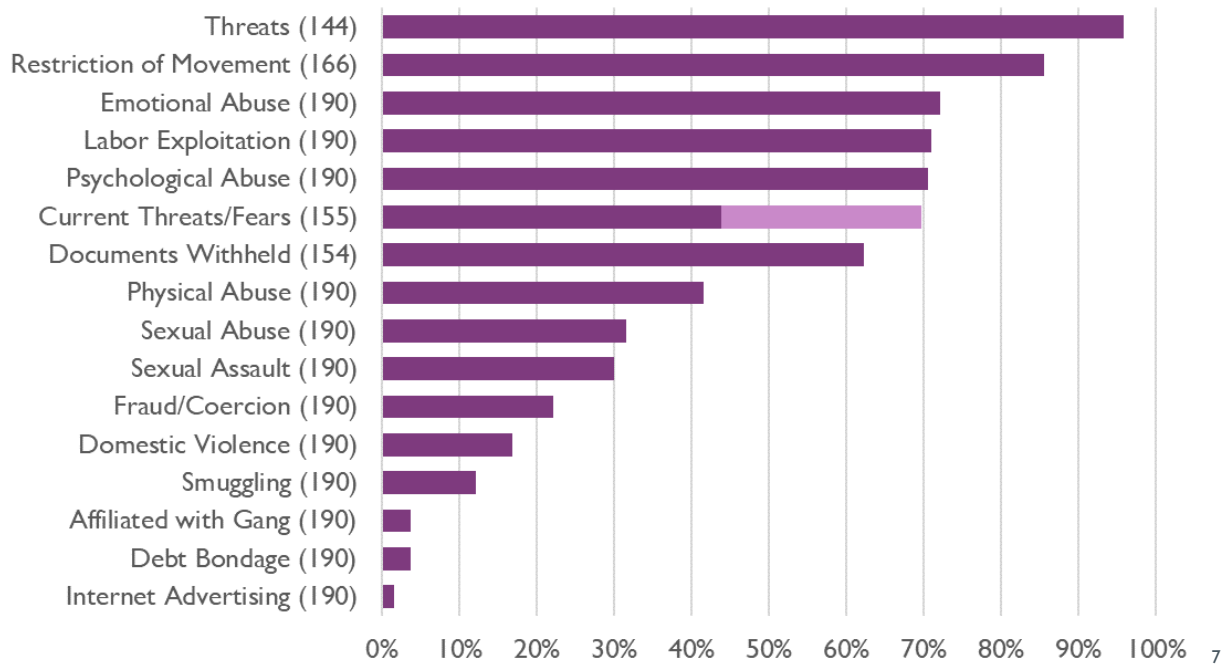
All Fields of Work



⁶ Rate of occurrence is determined by response of “Yes” for a given indicator. Missing responses are excluded from the denominator. Stated values following each indicator represent the number of non-missing observations for the indicator. The indicator for Current Threats/Fears contained an alternative answer of “Possible”. The percentage of these responses is represented in a lighter shade.

RATES OF OCCURRENCE OF INTAKE INDICATORS

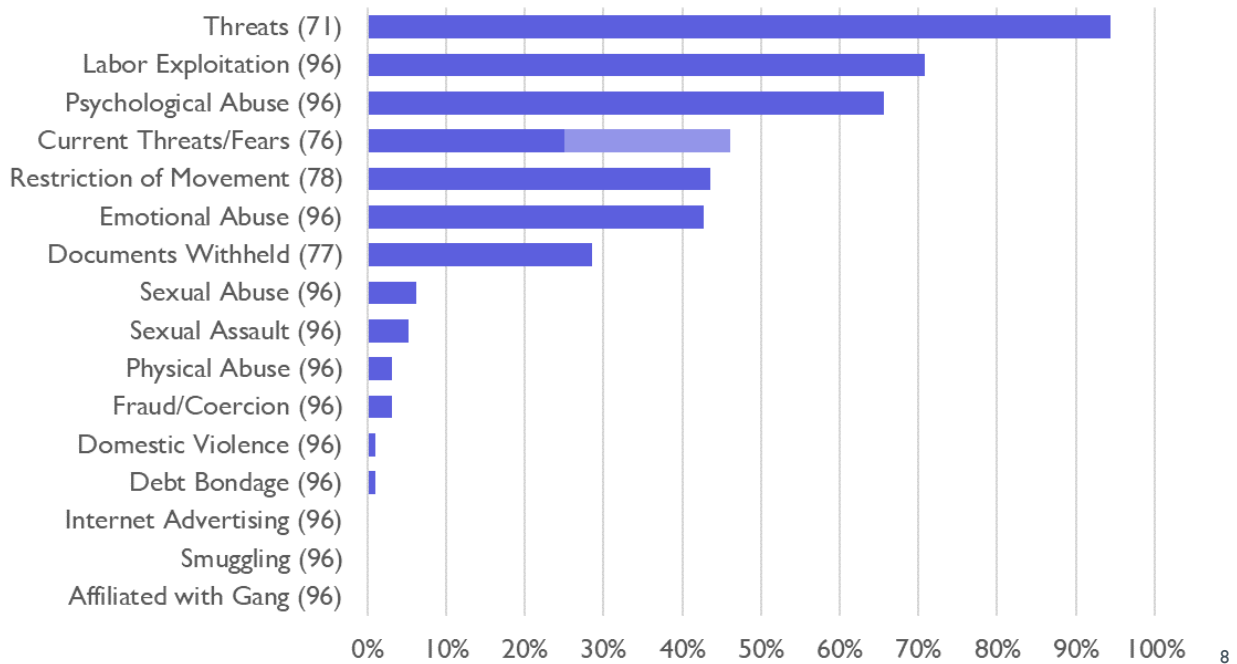
Field of Work: Domestic Servitude



⁷ Rate of occurrence is determined by response of “Yes” for a given indicator. Missing responses are excluded from the denominator. Stated values following each indicator represent the number of non-missing observations for the indicator. The indicator for Current Threats/Fears contained an alternative answer of “Possible”. The percentage of these responses is represented in a lighter shade.

RATES OF OCCURRENCE OF INTAKE INDICATORS

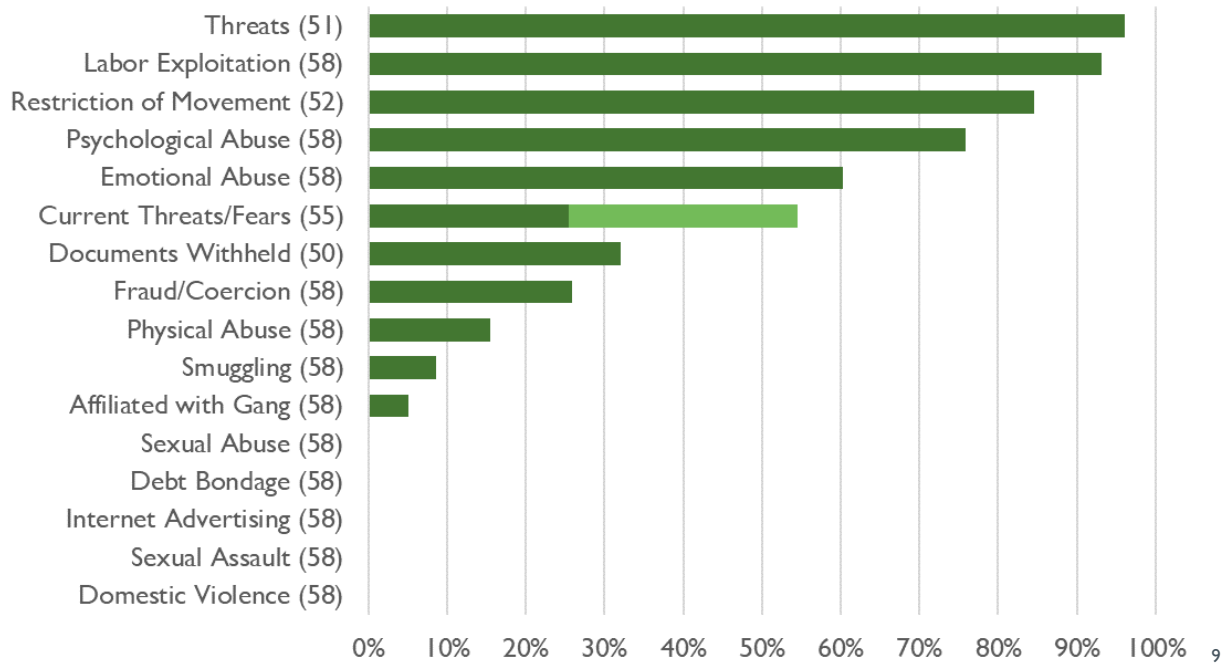
Field of Work: **Hotel/Hospitality**



⁸ Rate of occurrence is determined by response of “Yes” for a given indicator. Missing responses are excluded from the denominator. Stated values following each indicator represent the number of non-missing observations for the indicator. The indicator for Current Threats/Fears contained an alternative answer of “Possible”. The percentage of these responses is represented in a lighter shade.

RATES OF OCCURRENCE OF INTAKE INDICATORS

Field of Work: **Agriculture**



⁹ Rate of occurrence is determined by response of “Yes” for a given indicator. Missing responses are excluded from the denominator. Stated values following each indicator represent the number of non-missing observations for the indicator. The indicator for Current Threats/Fears contained an alternative answer of “Possible”. The percentage of these responses is represented in a lighter shade.

NETWORK STRUCTURES

By sharing information and knowledge about labor trafficking activities, the LARHTTF Labor Trafficking Subcommittee has developed a robust understanding of how labor trafficking enterprises manifest. One valuable key to this understanding is the Department of Labor's trafficking network framework for labor trafficking of foreign nationals recruited abroad. The NERA team used this economic framework to identify specific types of trafficking networks within the CAST cases.

The Department of Labor's framework involves separating labor trafficking case facts into three stages: *Stage 1* - Recruitment and transport, *Stage 2* - Entry into the United States and job placement, and *Stage 3* - Labor trafficking.¹⁰ Stage 1 describes how a person who was trafficked was recruited in their home country to come to the United States (U.S.) to work. Foreign recruitment typically starts with a promise of a job. For this stage, the analyses describe where CAST clients originated and the type of recruiter encountered. In Stage 2, the person enters the U.S. and is placed with a trafficker. The analysis of Stage 2 presents the methods used to bring the CAST clients into the U.S.—such as a visa or smuggling—along with their types of traffickers. It is also possible to see U.S. citizens in Stages 1 and 2; the Department of Labor's framework can be simplified to cover domestic recruiting and trafficking by focusing on the type of recruiter and type of trafficker. Finally, in Stage 3 the person is forced to work for the trafficker. The analysis of Stage 3 is limited to a high-level description of the type of work that the CAST clients were forced to do for their traffickers.

In order to identify common network structures, Stages 1 and 2 are analyzed by type of work. Therefore, the experiences of CAST clients with similar Stage 3 outcomes are viewed together to reveal similarities and differences in the network structure across individuals who were forced to do similar work by their traffickers. The three types of work presented in this section were selected because there were enough cases in the data to make the analysis of trafficking experiences in these fields meaningful.

For the CAST survivors forced to perform Hotel/Hospitality and Agricultural work, there are indications of a clear pattern to the trafficking process. For instance, the CAST clients forced to work in Hotel/Hospitality businesses were almost exclusively recruited in the Philippines by an employment agency and brought into the U.S. using a temporary work visa. Once in the U.S., these survivors were trafficked by the owner or manager of a hotel or other hospitality business. In the hotel settings, these cases often included groundskeeping or housekeeping services while hospitality businesses captured in the data include a variety of business types, such as massage parlors or nail salons. For those forced to perform Agricultural work, the data indicate survivors were recruited in a variety of ways, but the

¹⁰ This three-stage model overlaps with the Action, Means, Purpose (AMP) model for identifying a specific case of human trafficking. The AMP elements can occur within any combination of the three network stages, sometimes all within each one. In other words, there are not always clear delineations between the harboring, recruitment etc. of a victim as well as the onset of the coercion, force and/or fraud process for the purposes of forced labor or commercial sex. ["Fact Sheet: Human Trafficking, OTIP-FS-18-01," Office on Trafficking in Persons, <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/resource/fshumantrafficking>]

majority of cases culminated with the individual being brought into the U.S. using a temporary work visa and trafficked by either the business owner or the recruiter.

Even for CAST clients forced to perform household services as a domestic servant (Domestic Servitude), there is a high-level discernable pattern. Survivors come from a wide range of countries; however, a majority are recruited by family or a friend and trafficked by a private household, including some who were forced to work by their family.

In some cases, the trafficking patterns identified in the CAST data provide a road map for further inquiry by enforcement stakeholders which may lead to proactive investigations of businesses employing individuals to perform these types of work. However, when the pattern points to a network of personal relationships and residential settings used to exploit workers, as it does for people being trafficked as domestic servants, there is not a clear avenue for enforcement to proactively identify trafficking victims.

Additionally, the LARHTTF Labor Trafficking Subcommittee has identified, through anecdotal case data, the ability and ease with which some trafficking operations engage in multiple industries. This fluidity can include victimization in myriad ways, for instance trafficking some victims for sex while also trafficking for labor in a restaurant; or holding a victim in domestic servitude at night while also forcing them to labor during the day in the agriculture industry.

The actionable patterns that emerge from these analyses justify a need to intervene with multi-disciplinary approaches to enhance the potential for prevention, early identification, and enforcement against traffickers. Key strategic stakeholders, such as the U.S. State Department and Department of Labor, who monitor certain visa-application processes for both workers and employers can intervene domestically and abroad by flagging potential trafficking cases while also equipping workers with comprehensive knowledge of U.S. labor and civil rights law. For instance, engagement of such stakeholders could increase scrutiny of both foreign and domestic employment agencies, who appear as frequent bad actors in some of the labor trafficking network analyses and are key players in the Hotel/Hospitality cases.

Rights-based education and outreach strategies targeting vulnerable groups across industries are paramount to engagement efforts within any of the three stages of the network model. Government actors should develop or reinforce relationships with non-governmental and community-based organizations who can increase rights-based awareness and access to resources, as they are often best positioned to encounter vulnerable, exploited or trafficked workers. These resources should include focus on amplifying the voices and expertise of trafficking survivors and exploited workers—the lived experience and insight survivors offer provide the clearest indicators of where to direct action.

Field of Work: **Domestic Servitude**

STAGE I		
Category	Count	Percent
(1)	(2)	(3)
Country of Citizenship		
Mexico	23	13.5 %
Philippines	22	12.9 %
United States	19	11.1 %
Indonesia	18	10.5 %
Type of Recruiter		
Spouse/Family Member/Romantic Partner	46	28.4 %
Acquaintance/Friend	40	24.7 %
Employment Agency	18	11.1 %

STAGE 2		
Category	Count	Percent
(1)	(2)	(3)
Method of Entry into US		
No Documentation (Entry Without Inspection)	44	31.2 %
B-2 (Visitor) Visa	27	19.1 %
Temporary Work Visa	26	18.4 %
Not Applicable (U.S. Citizen)	22	15.6 %
Type of Trafficker		
Private Household/Head Of Household	58	39.5 %
Spouse/Family Member/Romantic Partner	31	21.1 %
Business Owner/Manager	16	10.9 %

¹¹ To be included in these tables, a given statistic must represent at least 10% of clients for the category.

Field of Work: **Hotel/Hospitality**

STAGE I		
Category	Count	Percent
(1)	(2)	(3)
Country of Citizenship		
Philippines	84	97.7 %
Type of Recruiter		
Employment Agency	69	84.1 %

STAGE 2		
Category	Count	Percent
(1)	(2)	(3)
Method of Entry into US		
Temporary Work Visa	76	93.8 %
Type of Trafficker		
Business Owner/Manager	67	81.7 %

¹³ ¹⁴

Clients whose responses are unknown for each of Type of Recruiter, Method of Entry, and Type of Trafficker are excluded from the analyses.

¹² Percent is the percent of total clients in the Domestic Servitude field of work. Percent does not include clients whose responses are unknown for the category (Col. 1).

¹³ To be included in these tables, a given statistic must represent at least 10% of clients for the category.

Clients whose responses are unknown for each of Type of Recruiter, Method of Entry, and Type of Trafficker are excluded from the analyses.

¹⁴ Percent is the percent of total clients in the Domestic Servitude field of work. Percent does not include clients whose responses are unknown for the category (Col. 1).

Field of Work: **Agriculture**

STAGE I		
Category	Count	Percent
(1)	(2)	(3)
Country of Citizenship		
Mexico	36	63.2 %
Thailand	10	17.5 %
Type of Recruiter		
Business Owner	17	30.9 %
Spouse/Family Member/Romantic Partner	12	21.8 %
Employment Agency	12	21.8 %
Acquaintance/Friend	9	16.4 %

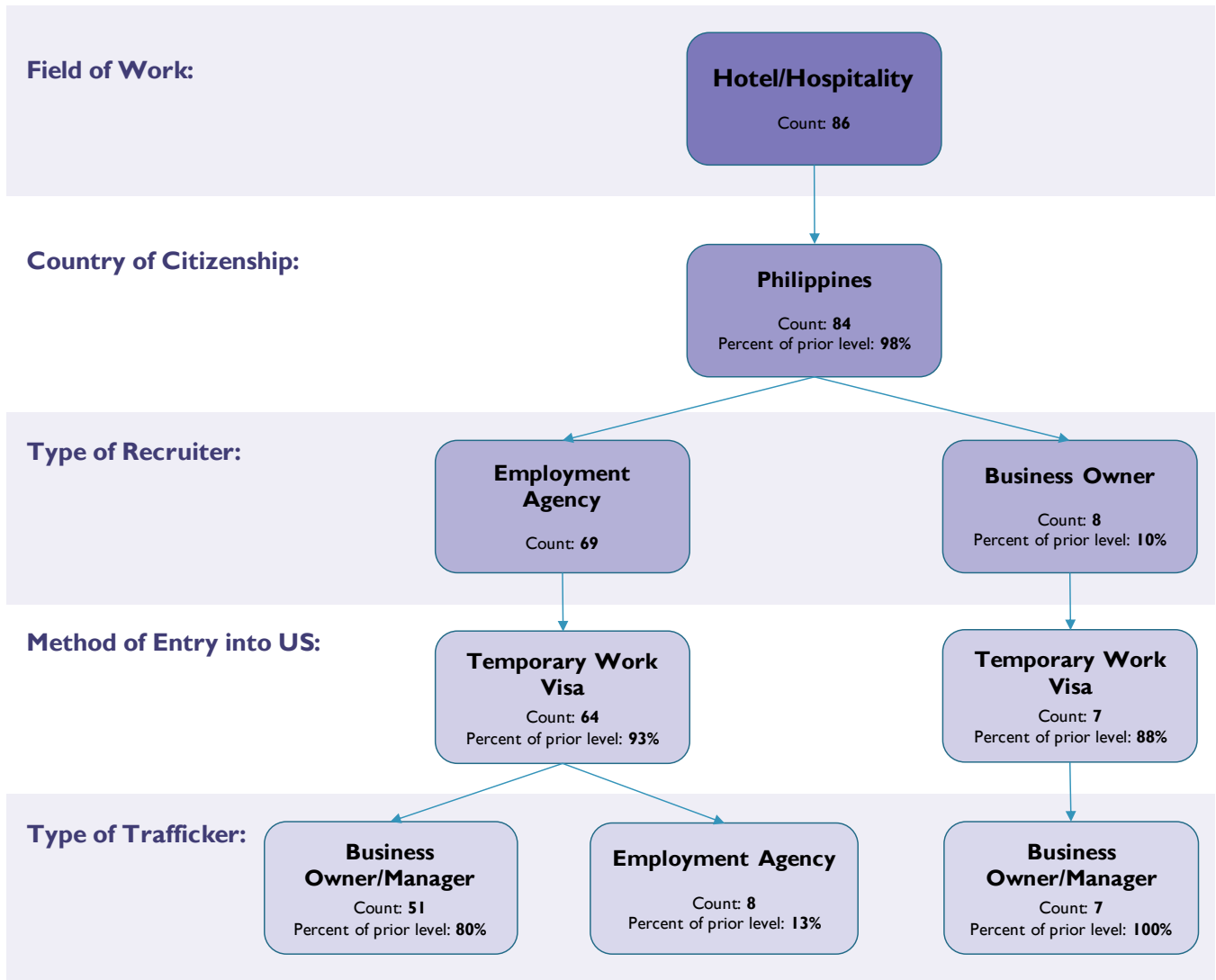
STAGE 2		
Category	Count	Percent
(1)	(2)	(3)
Method of Entry into US		
Temporary Work Visa	48	87.3 %
Type of Trafficker		
Business Owner/Manager	39	76.5 %
Recruiter	6	11.8 %

15 16

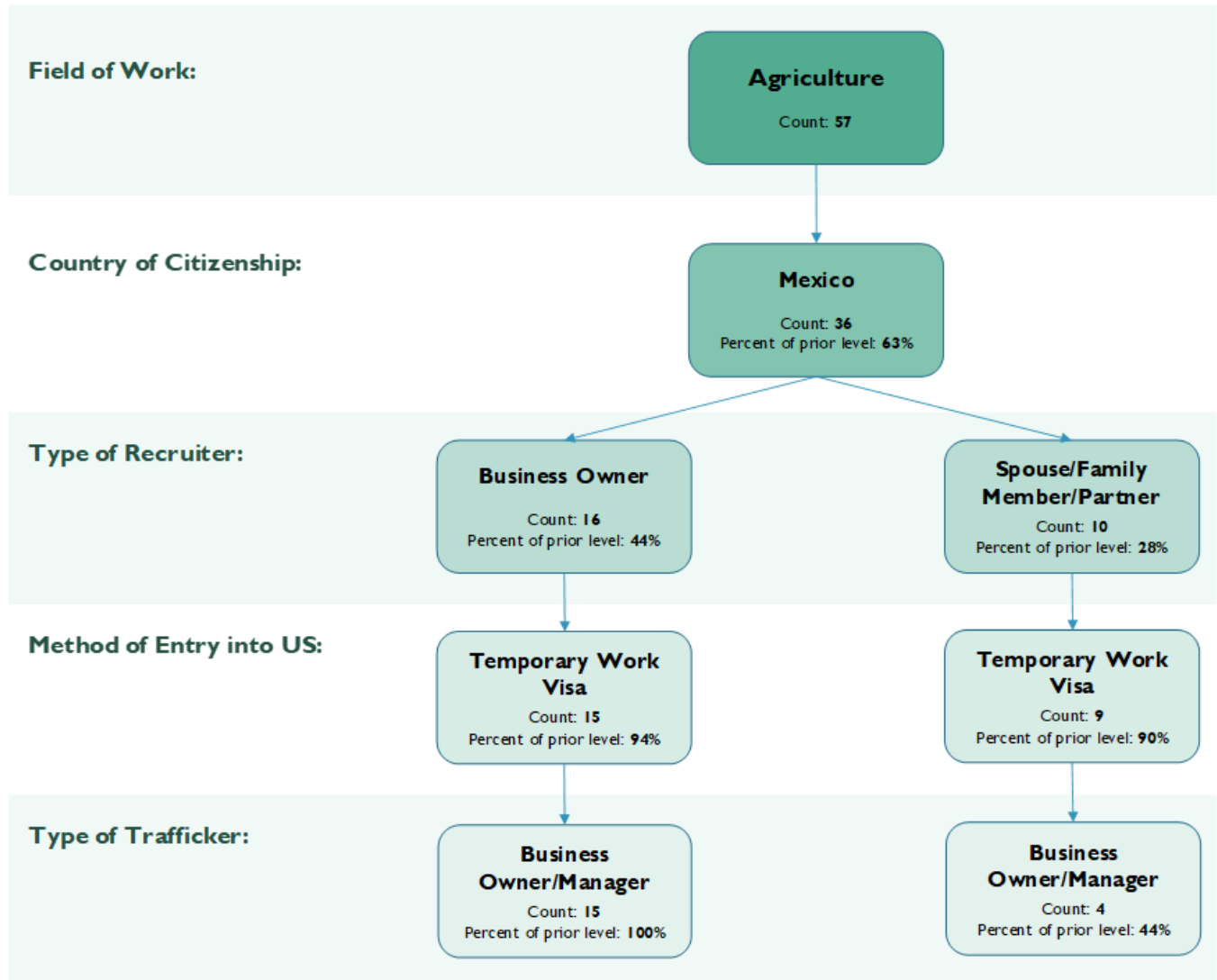
¹⁵ To be included in these tables, a given statistic must represent at least 10% of clients for the category. Clients whose responses are unknown for each of Type of Recruiter, Method of Entry, and Type of Trafficker are excluded from the analyses.

¹⁶ Percent is the percent of total clients in the Domestic Servitude field of work. Percent does not include clients whose responses are unknown for the category (Col. 1).

NETWORK STRUCTURE 1: Hotel/Hospitality



NETWORK STRUCTURE 2: Agriculture



CONCLUSION

The snapshots of labor trafficking experiences taken from these data highlight the need for a robust and nuanced understanding of this horrific crime if we are to effectively prevent and combat it in Los Angeles County and elsewhere. Policy makers must engage the issue from both the ground up and the top down, examining what elements make individuals and communities vulnerable to labor trafficking to begin with, as well as the economic structures that enable and perpetuate this form of abuse. As noted in the report, these data are only an initial step to understanding some of the experiences endured by labor trafficking survivors. Part of developing thorough tools to combat labor trafficking and ensure survivors are identified and protected will require dedication of resources to studying prevalence across the state of California and the entire United States.

To that end, we hope the analyses represented in the report inspires other victim service providers, survivor leaders, and any others who work with labor trafficking survivors, to review what valuable data material they may hold internally that would further inform the debate around this issue and the growing efforts to address it. The movement to eradicate human trafficking, including labor trafficking, succeeds primarily if the voices of trafficking survivors are uplifted and those stories complemented by data-driven approaches to push the discussion forward.