THE UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA at CHAPEL HILL

Victims and Women at Risk of Human Trafficking– Identifying and Responding in North Carolina Adult Corrections

Overview of Project and Key Findings

April 22, 2021

PRESENTERS

REBECCA J. MACY, PROFESSOR & *L. RICHARDSON PREYER DISTINGUISHED CHAIR FOR STRENGTHENING FAMILIES*, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL, SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

CYNTHIA FRAGA RIZO, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL, SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

NICOLE SULLIVAN, DEPUTY SECRETARY FOR ANALYSIS, PROGRAMMING, AND POLICY, DIVISION OF ADULT CORRECTION AND JUVENILE JUSTICE, NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

This project was supported by the North Carolina Department of Public Safety Reentry Programs and Services (#DPS-22238379-JEC) through a grant from the North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission.

In addition, a graduate student research assistant and other team time was supported by an award from the Dean's Office as well as the L. Richardson Preyer Distinguished Chair for Strengthening Families Chair at the School of Social Work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this product are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety or the North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission.

Acknowledgements

- Our UNC-CH Team: Tonya B. Van Deinse, Christopher J. Wretman, Jia Luo, L. B. Klein, Corey A. Shuck
- Christine Shaw Long, Executive Director of the North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission
- All the staff at the North Carolina Department of Public Safety who helped with this project: Felicia R. Freeman, Linda Mitterling, and Ming Trammel
- For their help with and support of the national correctional leaders' survey, all the staff at the Correctional Leaders Association, and especially Jill Stewart

Presentation

- Background
- Project activities
- Key findings
- Next steps

Handouts

- **Full Final Report– *please keep close hold***
  - ***Contact Rebecca for the file rjmacy@email.unc.edu***
- **Executive Summary– *please share widely***

BACKGROUND

Correction, Trafficking, and Women

- Human trafficking—a pressing problem
  - The use of force, fraud, or coercion to compel a person into commercial sex acts, labor, or services against their will
- Correctional system involvement among women is on the rise
- Correctional involvement associated with trafficking victimization
- Thus, these intersecting issues of may be especially pressing for many women

Before, During, After Corrections

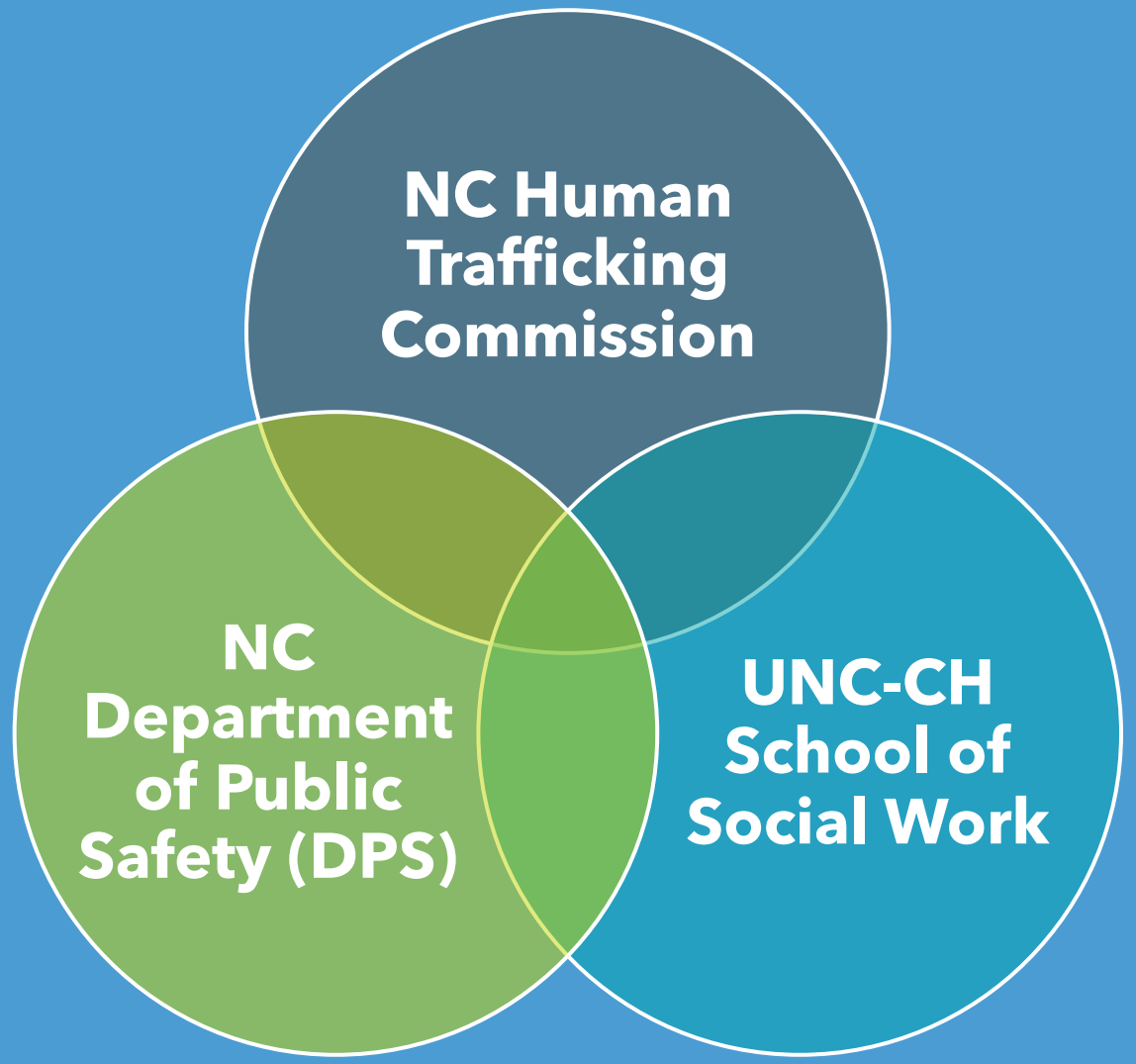
- Trafficking may be a part of women's lives before entering correctional settings
- Women may be contacted by recruiters or traffickers during their time in correctional facilities
- Women may be targeted by traffickers as they leave correctional facilities to return to their home communities

Acknowledge and Identify Trafficking

- Human trafficking identification is complicated because of the hidden nature of the problem
- Thus, it is important that those who can offer help and information are aware of human trafficking and are prepared to respond
- Requires broad organizational and system acknowledgement and awareness

How can we best support correctional leaders and staff to be aware of and prepared to help women with trafficking?

Developing a Collaborative Partnership



Long-Term Goals

- Determine the prevalence of trafficking among adult women in the NC correctional system
- Ensure that victims, as well as women at risk, are identified and connected to helpful services and supports

Current Project Goal

- Develop an evidence-informed human trafficking identification and response guide as well as training materials tailored to NC correctional settings

PROJECT: August 2019–December 2020

Systematic Review: Screening, Identification, and Response

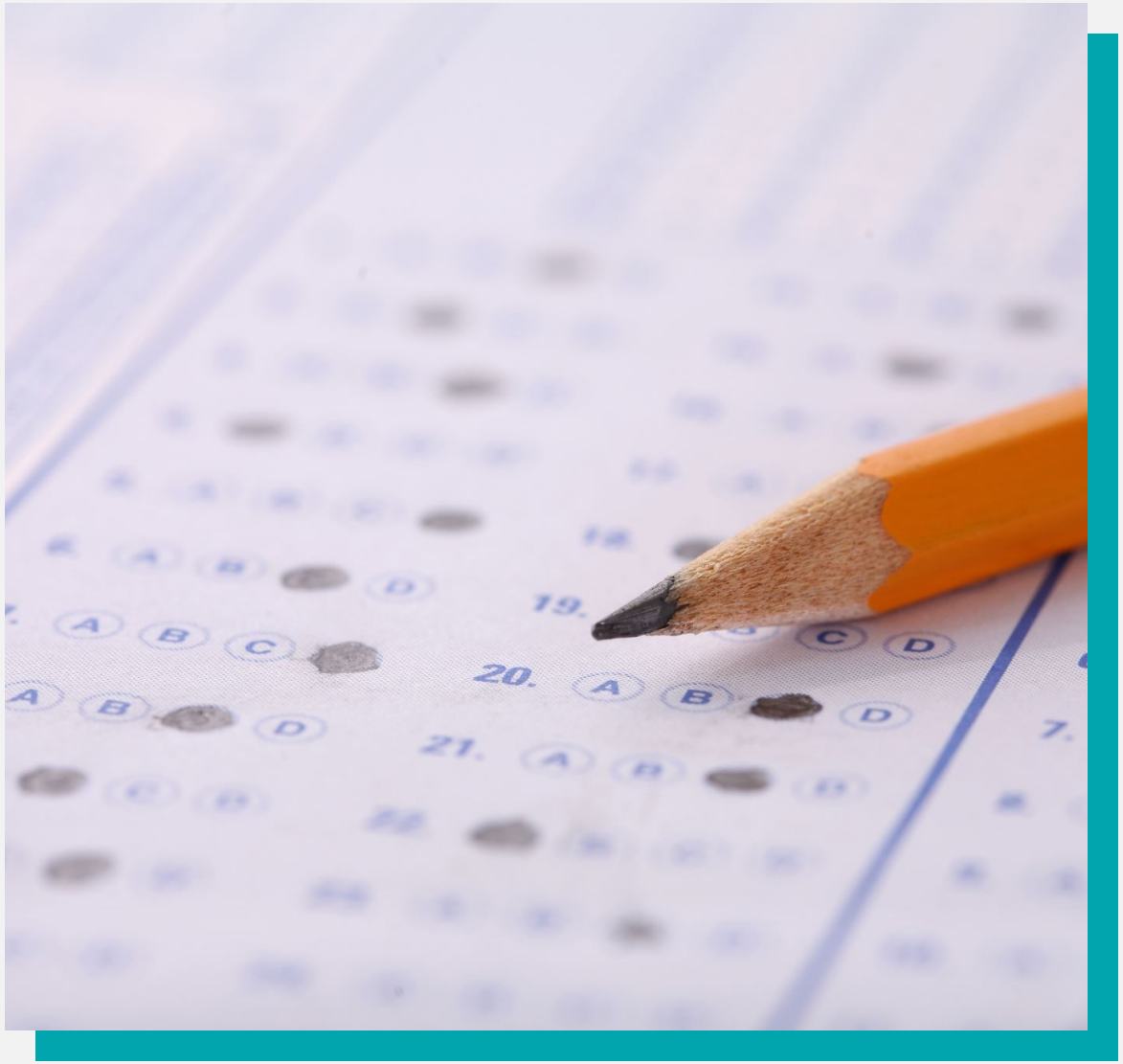
- Following rigorous protocols, the research team identified, summarized, and analyzed 22 screening tools from 27 documents

Systematic Review: Risk Factors and Indicators

- Following rigorous protocols, the research team identified, summarized, and examined 80 peer-reviewed articles that analyzed characteristics, correlates, and/or risk factors associated with human trafficking

National Correctional and Anti-trafficking Leaders Survey

- To identify instruments and protocols for identification and response, the team conducted surveys with correctional and anti-trafficking leaders
- A total of 46 stakeholders representing 28 states participated in the survey



Exploration of Existing NC Department of Public Safety (DPS) Data

- Explored data to examine the degree to which current NC DPS assessments, data tracking systems, and data indicators might be relevant for assessing trafficking risk among female inmates

KEY FINDINGS

Screening, Identification, and Response

- There is not yet clear practice or research consensus concerning specific questions that should be asked in trafficking screening
- Very few of the screening instruments currently in use have been evaluated
- Little of this work appears to be occurring in correctional settings

Risk Factors and Indicators

- There is growing interest in examining risk factors and indicators of human trafficking
- Much of this work has focused on risk factors at the individual and interpersonal levels
- Little research has examined human trafficking among people in correctional settings

National Leaders Survey

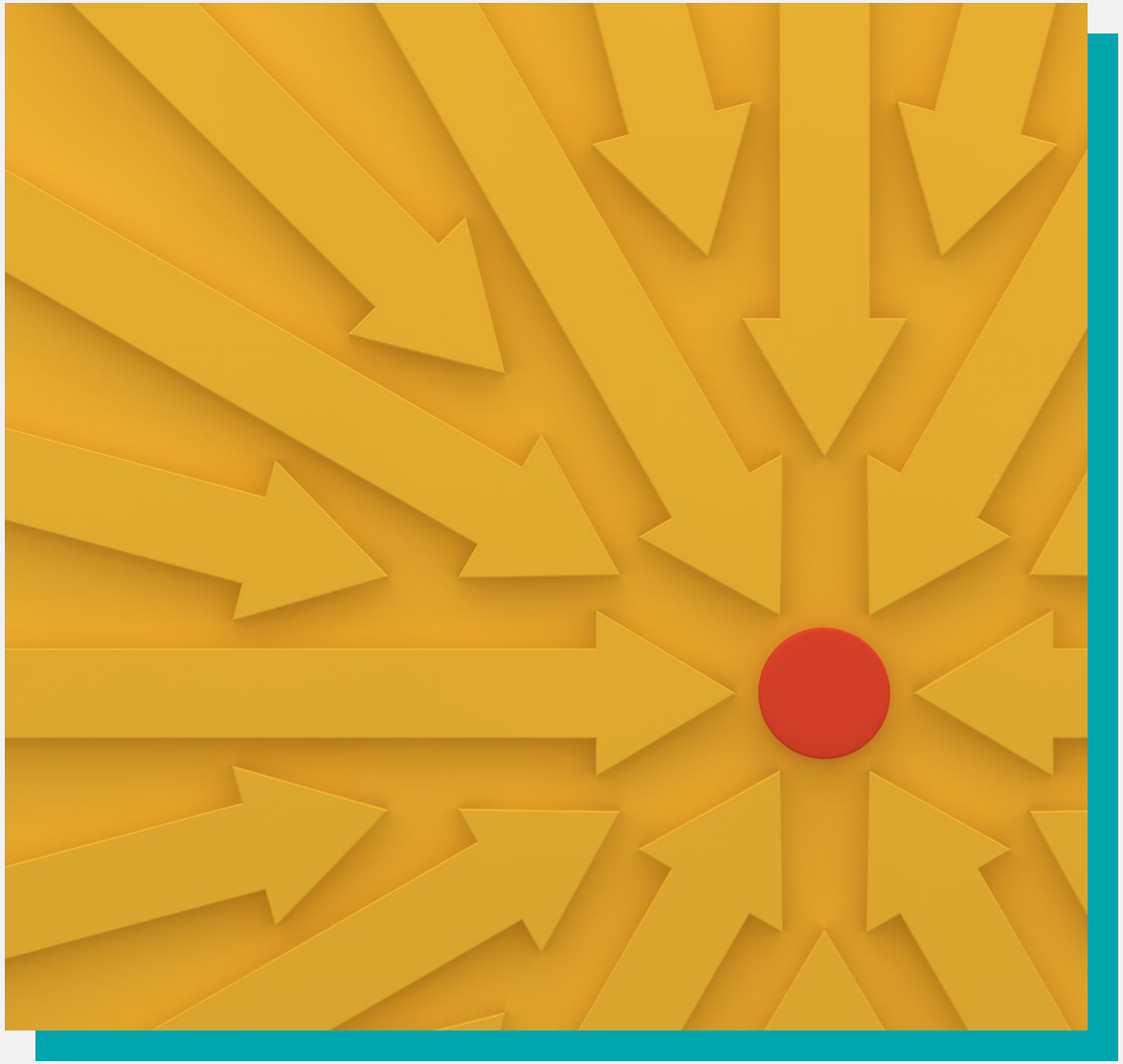
Despite stakeholders' perceptions regarding the importance of addressing human trafficking in correctional settings, there are currently limited efforts related to human trafficking screening, response, and training being carried out in correctional settings.

Exploration of Existing NC DPS Data

- NC DPS data currently being gathered on female offenders provide some ability to examine human trafficking at both the individual- and interpersonal-level
- Specifically, four primary types of data have been identified within the DPS system with potential relevance to identifying factors associated with human trafficking
  - Demographic data, family data, social data, and risk assessment data

Meeting Project Goals: Developing Products

- The *NC Correction Human Trafficking Identification and Response Guide*
- Training materials for NC DPS correctional leaders and staff



RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS

To Meet Long-Term Goals…

- Seek DPS leadership and staff input to ensure that products are subsequently tailored to NC correction

To Meet Long-Term Goals…

- Plan and evaluate a pilot anti-trafficking initiative in one correctional site

To Meet Long-Term Goals…

- Informed by the pilot, launch an anti-trafficking initiative throughout all NC correctional facilities

To Meet Long-Term Goals…

- Using NC DPS data, explore the development of a trafficking checklist and/or screening tool

To Meet Long-Term Goals…

- Ensure that next steps including survivor input and are also survivor-centered as well as trauma-informed

States, like North Carolina, have an opportunity to become leaders in addressing human trafficking by ensuring that women in correctional settings receive the help and support they need to escape human trafficking.

Our UNC-CH Research Team

- **Rebecca J. Macy,** Co-Principal Investigator
- **Cynthia Fraga Rizo,** Co-Principal Investigator
- **Tonya B. Van Deinse,** Co-Investigator
- **Christopher J. Wretman,** Co-Investigator/Data Analyst
- **Jia Luo,** Project Manager
- **L. B. Klein,** PhD Research Assistant
- **Corey A. Shuck,** MSW Research Assistant

THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL