

The U.S. Department of Education Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools (OSDFS) sponsors and coordinates a number of list serves to promote communication, collaboration, and the sharing of ideas, information, and resources for school emergency management. As a part of this communication, OSDFS manages list serves for current and prior Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) grantees, prior Emergency Response and Crisis Management (ERCM) grantees, State Safe School Center Directors, and School Security Chiefs and law enforcement officials to discuss and respond to key emergency management issues. These list serves help provide OSDFS with a better understanding of past, present, and emerging issues in our nation's schools and provide useful insights into possible solutions and the opportunity for OSDFS to explore various strategies for addressing the emergency concerns of schools.

One emerging concern for schools and school districts is child and human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of children. Increases in reports of international and domestic human trafficking have created a need for further investigation into the underlying issues of this growing concern. As part of new efforts to combat and prevent child and human trafficking, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools queried list serve members for feedback on the prevalence and degree of human trafficking within their respective jurisdictions.

The following report summarizes list serve members' responses to this query. Because the information shared via this list serve has broad applicability to the wider school emergency management field, OSDFS has redacted the responses received and is posting this summary for general reference. Included is a chart that displays individual responses from school districts and their respective states that showcases the varying levels of awareness of the issue and the general concerns school districts have regarding child and human trafficking.

This query received seventy-one (71) responses from twenty-seven (27) states.

Seventeen respondents stated that YES, HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS A PROBLEM within their jurisdiction: (n=17, 24.6%):

- California (6)
- Colorado (2)
- Mississippi (1)
- New Mexico (1)
- New York (2)
- Oregon (1)
- Tennessee (1)
- Texas (2)
- Washington (1)

Fifty-four respondents stated that NO, HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS NOT A PROBLEM within their jurisdiction: (n= 52, 75.4%)

- Arizona (1)
- California (7)
- Colorado (1)
- Connecticut (1)
- Georgia (3)
- Hawaii (1)
- Iowa (2)
- Idaho (1)
- Illinois (2)
- Indiana (1)
- Louisiana (1)
- Massachusetts (1)
- Maryland (3)
- Michigan (2)
- Montana (1)
- New Jersey (2)
- New York (2)
- Ohio (2)

- Oklahoma (1)
- Pennsylvania (1)
- South Carolina (3)
- Tennessee (2)
- Texas (5)
- Utah (1)
- Virginia (5)
- West Virginia (2)

Responses generally consisted of three elements:

1. Whether or not child or human trafficking is an issue in their jurisdiction;
2. What types of response the jurisdiction has made to address the issue of child and human trafficking, and
3. What factors have been identified that either contribute to or help to combat the issue of child and human trafficking.

Those who reported human trafficking or child exploitation as an issue provided descriptions of various methods utilized to address the problem, such as: establishing a Task Force; collaborating with law enforcement, child welfare services, and other community agencies; providing training for law enforcement, school staff and administrators, and students; working with community outreach and mental health professionals; and, providing increased services for at-risk and homeless youth.

One of the main identified barriers to preventing child and human sexual exploitation and trafficking is the fact that this type of activity is often underground and hidden; the true extent of the problem may not be known. In fact, schools may be the last to know about these problems in their community, since exploited youth often don't attend schools, have run away, or are trafficked from foreign countries and do not reach out for help. Although providing training appears to be one of the more common prevention methods, a lack of funding to schools and other organizations decreases the ability to train and educate on this issue. Identifying at-risk behaviors and providing appropriate interventions are also seen as viable methods of preventing child exploitation; however, treatment services and resources to help these at-risk individuals are minimal.

The following chart provides a detailed summary of individual responses. Responses are first categorized by "yes" or "no" answers, and then listed alphabetically by state.

Responses Indicating that “YES, Child/Human Trafficking IS an Issue in Our Schools”

Organization	State	Is Child Trafficking an Issue?	Response to Problem	Current Identified Needs
Respondent #1	CA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, this is a current issue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked with law enforcement, child welfare, probation and community agencies to assess and analyze the history of 15 female students to identify trends in behaviors • Considering a facility where these students' mental health needs can be addressed • Considering passing a law that enhances prostitution or pandering within 100 yards of areas where youth/children congregate • Considering creating a special education program to meet the educational and mental health needs of these students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many indicators are apparent prior to juveniles engaging in sexually exploitative activities
Respondent #2	CA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, although not necessarily in schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Police Department Metro Task Force on Human Trafficking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not all "traffic" children end up in schools • Majority of children are from broken homes or foreign countries • Lack of awareness does not indicate lack of a problem
Respondent #3	CA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, locally 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Supervisor set up a task force 	
Respondent #4	CA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, in several communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant Funds (Children's Justice Fund Grant) received to develop a TASK Force • Funding provides local training for law enforcement, social services, educators, and other child service agencies • 2-year effort to increase awareness, enhance enforcement, and influence policy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific training for investigative law enforcement personnel
Respondent #5	CA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, this has been a problem in the past • The extent of the problem is unknown 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although schools may not always be aware of the issue, it does occur often
Respondent #6	CA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, this is an issue in Southern California • The problem has just recently begun to be recognized in schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District is forming a Task Force (with OCDE) • Discussions are being held with outreach consultants and psychologists • Training will be conducted for law enforcement • A campaign may be launched at the 4th grade level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students "work" but attend school with spotty attendance on Mondays and Fridays • There is an apparent Las Vegas "circuit"

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Organization	State	Is Child Trafficking an Issue?	Response to Problem	Current Identified Needs
Respondent #7	CO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, there has been at least one case reported recently 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking to get FBI & US Attorney involved 	
Respondent #8	CO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, this is an issue in Colorado 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colorado Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force • A local shelter and resource for Homeless Youth offers street outreach and police intervention, if needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victims often have a personal history of sexual assault or abuse • Drug habits may influence entry into child prostitution • Runaway teens are vulnerable to child prostitution • The need for recognition of commercial juvenile "prostitutes" to be seen as "victims"
Respondent #9	MS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, this is a concern in the State 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A training presentation class on human trafficking, funded by the USDOJ and developed in collaboration with the Gulf States Regional Community Public Safety Institute, is offered to all law enforcement agencies and school districts. 	
Respondent #10	NM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, this is an issue in New Mexico • No issues in the School District 		
Respondent #11	NY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, there is one known recent case • The community has drug usage and prostitution issues 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information is required to identify the issue • Education and curriculum is needed to inform students and staff
Respondent #12	NY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, this is an issue in the state. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New York Anti-Trafficking Coalition's Anti-Human Trafficking Law passed June, 2009: penalties for traffickers, services for victims. • Anti-Trafficking Law 2007: Increased prison time from 2-7 to up to 25 years. • NY Center for School Safety provides workshops, trainings and collaborates with community stakeholders 	
Respondent #13	OR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, this is a current issue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly task force meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of treatment and resources available when youth are picked up.
Respondent #14	TN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, this has been a problem in the Latino community 		

Organization	State	Is Child Trafficking an Issue?	Response to Problem	Current Identified Needs
Respondent #15	TX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, this a problem in the larger border cities 		
Respondent #16	TX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, this is an issue in El Paso, TX 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community is on the US/Mexico border • Funding is needed to improve communication between schools, law enforcement, and prosecutors
Respondent #17	WA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, this is an issues for the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police Department operates an undercover unit • District has tried to intervene • Looking for programs to include as part of health education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early identification is a problem • Additional staff and staff training are needed • Parent education is important • Bystander effect is crucial since many victims' friends know, but don't know what to do.

Responses Indicating that “NO, Child/Human Trafficking is NOT an Issue in Our Schools”

Organization	State	Is Child Trafficking an Issue?	Response to Problem	Current Identified Needs
Respondent #1	AZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, not at this time 		
Respondent #2	CA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No awareness of any current issues in schools 		
Respondent #3	CA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No awareness of any current issues in schools No awareness of this as issue in the City of Fullerton 		
Respondent #4	CA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, not at this time 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no label for "sex trafficking," but there are labels for "child abduction"
Respondent #5	CA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, there have been no identified cases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officers have received training on this issue for the past three years The County Police Department has a unit dedicated to this issue The County Police Department has a training video and training handouts for officers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A "missing" student is not a rare occurrence
Respondent #6	CA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, this is not an issue in Napa County, but it is in San Francisco 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional response is needed to begin dialogue and problem-solving Immigration is a major issue
Respondent #7	CA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, not at this time 		
Respondent #8	CA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, no such activity in the area 		
Respondent #9	CO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No awareness of any such cases in the past 		
Respondent #10	CT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, not at this time 		
Respondent #11	GA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, at this time 		
Respondent #12	GA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, this is not a current issue in Glynn County 		

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Respondent #13	GA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, not at this time There has been one "isolated" incident 		
Respondent #14	HI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, not a significant issue 		
Respondent #15	IA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, no such activity in the area 		
Respondent #16	IA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, there have been no identified cases 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighboring Counties have a large migrant population Regulations are needed at the US-Mexico border Cultural Awareness Mental Health Interventions for potential victims
Respondent #17	ID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, this is not a current issue 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foreign "adoptions" may not always be legal
Respondent #18	IL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, not at this time 		
Respondent #19	IL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not an issue in the Greater St. Louis area at this time 		
Respondent #20	IN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No awareness of occurrences in Indiana Frequent topic on the Federal Radar 		
Respondent #21	LA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, this is not a current issue 		
Respondent #22	MA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, not at this time 		
Respondent #23	MD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No awareness of any current issues in schools There have been some cases in the region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several district staff have attended awareness training with police officers Commander of County Police Department School Safety Section is aware of the issue and need for prevention and education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growing immigrant population
Respondent #24	MD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No awareness of occurrences in the responding county. 		
Respondent #25	MD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, not at this time 		
Respondent #26	MI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, not at this time 		

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Respondent #27	MI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is not a problem 		
Respondent #28	MT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No awareness from vantage point of either local or regional issues 		
Respondent #29	NJ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No police awareness at this time 		
Respondent #30	NJ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, not at this time 		
Respondent #31	NY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not an issue to the point it is openly discussed No awareness of any such cases in the past 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is difficult to determine from a Department of Education standpoint
Respondent #32	NY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No issues in the district's transit inner city area. 		
Respondent #33	OH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, this is not a current issue in Cincinnati 		
Respondent #34	OH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No awareness of any such cases at this time 		
Respondent #35	OK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, not at this time 		
Respondent #36	PA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No police awareness at this time 		
Respondent #37	SC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, not at this time 		
Respondent #38	SC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No awareness of any current issues in schools 		
Respondent #39	SC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, no known incidences 		
Respondent #40	TN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, not at this time 		
Respondent #41	TN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, this is not a current issue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police department has attended seminars Concern is for the potential for a problem to exist, especially with higher immigrant populations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No way to track undocumented children and youth.
Respondent #42	TX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No, not a significant issue 		
Respondent #43	TX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No known instances associated with the 48 public and charter schools 		

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Respondent #44	TX	• No, no such activity in the area		
Respondent #45	TX	• No, there have been no identified cases		
Respondent #46	TX	• No, this is not a current issue.		• Opinion is, there may be some businesses that employ indentured servants.
Respondent #47	UT	• No, no known incidences		
Respondent #48	VA	• No awareness of any current issues in schools		
Respondent #49	VA	• No, no documented cases reported	• The County's Sheriff's Department formed a Task Force to look into all forms of human trafficking	
Respondent #50	VA	• No awareness of any current issues in schools		
Respondent #51	VA	• No, not at this time		
Respondent #52	VA	• No police reports on this issue at this time		
Respondent #53	WV	• No, not at this time		
Respondent #54	WV	• No, this is not an identified issue		