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Human Trafficking: Physical and Non-Physical Force Factors and Their Links to Victim Industry

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**Human Trafficking: Physical and Non-Physical Force Factors and Their
Links to Victim Industry**

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Fall 2022

Abstract

This paper examines the occurrence of different types of physical and non-physical force factors with two distinct human trafficking industries: sex trafficking and labor trafficking. This research's main goal is to identify if there are specific uses of force that are more likely to be used in either sex or labor trafficking. The Human Trafficking Study, a database housed at the University of Arkansas, is used as a sample for this study. Two-sided, two sample proportion tests were conducted to establish if there is a statistical significance between the amount of physical force used in sex trafficking and the amount of physical force used in labor trafficking. The same test was conducted for non-physical force. Then, two-sided, two sample proportion tests were run on each individual type of physical and non-physical force factors to see if there are variables that are more likely to occur in a specific industry of human trafficking.

It was found that out of the total 808 sex trafficking cases within the database, 50.37% of the cases included some sort of physical force. Out of the 126 labor trafficking cases, 43.65% of cases had an act of physical force occur. Several variables where a significant difference was found between sex and labor trafficking cases were the occurrence of Beating/Assault/Physical Abuse, Forced Sex, Physical abuse of a family member, and Sexual assault, Torture, and others.

Overall, the findings of this study can have many great implications for the future of human trafficking detection and intervention by helping aid law enforcement, health professionals, and individuals within society in discovering victims.

Keywords: human trafficking, sex trafficking, labor trafficking, physical force, non-physical force

Contents

Introduction -----	4
Literature Review-----	6
Rational-----	10
Methods-----	11
Findings-----	14
Discussion-----	21
Conclusion-----	24
References-----	26

Introduction

According to the World Population Review 2021, Human trafficking is a very prevalent issue within the United States affecting people of all genders, races, and nationalities with an “estimated 199,000 incidents occurring within the United States every year” (World Population Review, 2021). The United States is one of the top countries for human trafficking instances in the world. This alarming fact allows for a lot of room for improvement in prevention and early-detection methods, starting with bringing awareness of the issue to the general population. (World Population Review, 2021).

According to the U.S Department of Justice in 2021, human trafficking consists of

- “a) Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or
- b) The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery (22 U.S.C. § 7102(9)).”

Even though according to the office of the attorney general of the District of Colombia, human trafficking is the “second largest and fastest growing criminal industry in the world,” there is not enough awareness of the problem (Office of the Attorney General D.C., 2022). Surprisingly, this issue is not being more highly considered by policy makers especially considering it affects such a large population of individuals. Research shows that women and children are especially vulnerable to being victimized finding that “women make up around 70%” of victims and “children account for half” of all trafficking victims within the U.S. the average age of a sex trafficking victim being as young as 12 years old (OVC Archive, 2005;

Office of the Attorney General D.C., 2022). Due to these concerning statistics, bringing awareness of this issue to the general population is imperative. The ways that traffickers manipulate their victims are rarely talked about, which can lead to people being unaware of potentially dangerous situations they may be in. Research on this topic will make people more conscious of the different types of force, both physical and non-physical, used by traffickers to trap their victims in undesirable situations. Knowing these tactics can help people identify dangerous situations for themselves and others. If people are more knowledgeable about the ways in which traffickers manipulate their victims, in both physical and non-physical ways, they may be less likely to find themselves in these unfortunate situations. This will also help policy makers, health providers, and individuals to better assess the issue and help the victims. The purpose of this study will be to develop a better understanding of the use of the two different types of force in human trafficking cases: physical force and non-physical force. Physical force is an act by traffickers that affects a victim's physical body. Non-physical force is any attempt to influence victims through actions that do not alter a victim's person. By defining these concepts, people will be able to be more intentional in spotting signs of trafficking in their current environments.

Based on this definition provided in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 earlier discussed, we can capture several distinct types of human trafficking, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking. Within those two types of trafficking, there are even more subsections that fit the qualifications for the criminal offense of human trafficking. To achieve these crimes, traffickers use a variety of distinct types of force. The force inflicted on victims can be both physical and non-physical, including physical attacks, statements of intention of harm, and many more. Looking at the prevalence of the occurrence of these specific force tactics within

human trafficking cases can give researchers important insight into the patterns of human traffickers.

Literature Review

While the research available on specific types of physical and non-physical force used within distinct trafficking industries is minimal, there is other existing research that can provide great context for better understanding how human traffickers influence and entrap their victims in a cycle of abuse. The current research mostly looks at two variations of data: 1. the force factors used in one specific human trafficking industry, for example, analyzing all different force factors used in sex trafficking. Or 2. one type of force factor and how it is used in all industries. An example of this would be looking at the use of physical assault within all types of human trafficking cases. This information is useful in better understanding victims' experiences while being trafficked, which can be difficult to fully grasp from an outside perspective. This research helps to understand how victims find themselves stuck in their situations. This study hopes to add to the current literature by exploring the possible correlation between distinct types of force, both physical and non-physical, to specific trafficking industries. This data will aid in the effort to solidify prevention and early detection methods. To do this though, it is important to discuss previously established studies to gain a better understanding of how traffickers gain such power over their victims.

While there is not an extensive amount of literature on the diverse types of force used in the different industries of human trafficking cases, there is research that has been done on the frequency of physical violence within human trafficking cases. In a study done interviewing anonymous traffickers linked to an underground commercial sex trafficking ring, researchers found that “fifteen percent of respondents to this study reported using violence to control their

employees.” They also found a significant correlation between the use of physical violence being used alongside verbal threats finding that “while only eleven respondents discussed using violence, their reports indicated that physical violence was always used in conjunction with other forms of coercion” (Dank et al., 2014). This helps researchers to better understand how and why these people are being coerced into these hazardous situations.

Since it has been found that physical force is not the only type of manipulation method at work in most trafficking cases, distinguishing between the different elements of force being used is essential for developing better prevention and screening methods. A study that explored deeper into the distinct types of forces being used in trafficking cases was a study done interviewing child trafficking victims. These researchers reported victims experiencing many other forms of force other than threats of physical violence, including “isolation, monopolization of perception, induced debility or exhaustion, occasional indulgences, demonstration of omnipotence, degradation, and enforcement of trivial demands” (Baldwin et al., 2015). The variety of types of influence that is being used on trafficking victims of all ages is important to acknowledge because limiting research to more commonly known types of coercion leaves part of the equation of how traffickers manipulate their victims out. Another study done on child human trafficking cases also concluded that forms of non-physical manipulation are the primary form of force used on children within their sample. In 2015 the researcher, Rosenblatt, found that traffickers would use tactics like creating a personal bond with the child to create a level of trust, making the victims “vulnerable to being dependent on the traffickers for their every need” (Rosenblatt, 2015). A similar study that analyzed how adolescent girls were being recruited by pimps found that girls are most recruited by either finesse pimping or guerilla pimping. “Finesse pimping involves using kindness and psychological games to lure adolescents into the lifestyle of the sex trade industry” while “guerilla pimping involves using violence, threats, intimidation, or

aggression to recruit and enslave the victim,” distinguishing the difference in force being used within sex trafficking (Shared Hope International; Williamson & Prior, 2009).

These studies bring to light the idea that non-physical force is prevalent in all types of human trafficking cases. There have also been several research studies that have taken place focusing on the specific non-physical force factor of threats. Survivor interviews from a study done on human trafficking in the U.S. “revealed that perpetrators commonly threatened to employ connections they had to people in positions of power to harm the victim or their family, although it was not always clear that perpetrators actually had powerful criminal ties” (Owen et al., 2014). These, often, empty threats are so easily believed because trafficking victims are often undocumented people or people taking part in illegal activities like prostitution or drug use. These individuals believe their illegal statuses will be brought to the authorities if they do not comply with their traffickers’ wishes. This information is useful to explain a survivor's experience and how they were kept in their situation, but this research in this field is limited in linking diverse types of force to distinct types of human trafficking.

Another factor that needs to be taken into consideration when analyzing the effects of any crime is the role the internet plays in it. Since the internet is such a large part of society nowadays, it is important to understand how it can affect crimes like human trafficking. Within recent years law enforcement has begun including pornography charges as being considered human trafficking due to the similarities in the nature of the crime. Both crimes are preying on vulnerable people in order to make a profit. “Pornography plays a unique role in fueling the human trafficking industry by both contributing to the demand for more traditional forms of sex trafficking and creating another route to profit for traffickers who enslave victims to produce pornographic media” (Luzwick, 2017). Pornography is extremely accessible to most individuals which can make it easy for people to continue down an internet trail that will lead them to

material where participants are underage. Since this illegal content is so easy for people to find, it increases the demand for content, therefore increasing the demand for pornography producers to find people to create content with. People trafficked into the pornography industry are subject to similar, if not identical, treatment as people trafficked into the sex trafficking industry. In a 2003 survey, 49% of people "currently or recently in prostitution" reported that their traffickers made pornographic material of them while they were engaged in prostitution (MacKinnon, 2005). In another study done in 2008, the idea that pornography is used to coerce victims into prostitution was discussed. Researcher David Hodge found that people being coerced into filming pornographic content are influenced by threats of blackmail, deportation, or threats to other victims or family members to continue creating explicit content. It was also found that in some cases if these attempts of non-physical force "are unsuccessful, violence may be used to force victims into prostitution" (Zimmerman et al., 2003). Physical force like being "beaten, stabbed, raped, strangled, and even murdered in more extreme cases" can occur in pornography trafficking environments, just like other industries of human trafficking (Hughes, 2004a; Raymond & Hughes, 2001). This study will include pornography cases, focusing on those that include the act of producing and distributing pornographic because it aligns with the definition provided by the U.S. Department of Justice in 2021 that sex trafficking consists of "commercial sex acts induced by fraud, force, or coercion" (U.S. Department of Justice, 2021).

Research shows that both physical and non-physical force factors are used within all instances of trafficking but the question of why these force factors work to keep victims in their situation is a deeper issue. The effects that these acts of force have on victims vary depending on factors like age, gender, and socioeconomic status, but they all leave lasting effects on victims. One study done to analyze the different tools used to screen for signs of trafficking hospitals found that "health consequences include acute injuries, sexually transmitted infections,

complications from forced or poorly performed abortion, anxiety, depression, traumatic and post-traumatic stress, and suicidality (Ahn, Alpert, Purcell, et al., 2013). Another study focused on internationally trafficked individuals found that the effects of the initial force factors used to traffic them, in the beginning, have life-long effects because at times Many victims of human trafficking are not seeking rescue “they fear a greater uncertainty if they leave their traffickers, being without means of transportation, resources for food, clothing, or a place to live.

Internationally trafficked victims have the added fear of navigating a foreign health care and social service system with their unique language and cultural barriers (Logan et al., 2009). This is an alarming concept that trafficked individuals believe that being coerced and lacking free will is a better alternative than being free of their trafficker's control, but it gives researchers better insight into how to seek out these individuals in their effort to eliminate human trafficking across the world. By looking at the distinct types of physical and non-physical force factors and analyzing the correlation that each type of force has to the industry as will be done in this study, it will allow for prevention and screening methods to be refined so that law enforcement, medical professionals, friends, and family of individuals can detect possibilities of trafficking more quickly, minimizing traumatic experiences victims must endure.

Rational

After looking at the existing literature, it is clear that there is a gap in the research about how the exact strategies used by human traffickers to entrap their victims relate to specific trafficking industries, which is what this research will be looking at more closely. My specific research questions will explore physical and non-physical force factors within a sample of human trafficking cases to see if there is any correlation between the type of physical and non-physical force and the type of case it is. Based on preexisting literature, it can be concluded that physical and non-physical force is usually paired together to influence victims, but it is unclear if

specific types of force within the physical and non-physical categories are more common within a type of industry. This study will dive deeper into this question by testing if there is a statistical significance in the instances of types of physical and non-physical force in each industry. By looking at the association between the type of force used in each case and the type of human trafficking that is being committed, it will allow for prevention strategies to be emplaced based on whether the case is labor trafficking or sex trafficking. This research will also allow for awareness to be made about what manipulation tactics to look out for in the real world to prevent future cases.

Methods

For this study, a preexisting data set will be used to narrow down the sample. The Human Trafficking Study (HTS) was created in 2015 by Christopher Shields at the University of Arkansas. Now housed as a component of the Terrorism Research Center at the University of Arkansas, the HTS contains information on more than 1,100 federal human trafficking cases. Human trafficking cases are identified by searching U.S. Attorneys website around the US and identifying cases with elements of human exploitation. Cases are selected based on criteria that include the use of force, fraud and coercion coupled with indicators of labor exploitation, peonage, debt bondage, sexual exploitation, and pornography of minors. Once selected, documents from the court cases are collected using the PACER system (a system that provides digital access to federal court documents). Secondary data is collected from media reports that may have covered the cases. From these documents, data are collected on the legal components of these cases, including statutory charges, case processing variables, the types of motions filed, and case outcomes. Additional data are collected on defendant demographics, victim demographics, and whether the cases involved international or domestic networks of perpetrators, or independent offenders. Finally, data is collected on factors unique to trafficking,

such as recruitment methods and methods used to control victims, and whether the victims applied for immigration protection or compensation. This study will use 934 cases that have already been coded to answer this study's research questions about the connections between physical and non-physical force and its prevalence within sex and labor trafficking cases.

To determine the force factors involved in each case, it must first be decided how to define the variables. In this study, the definition of what is considered sex trafficking is any case that involves the following:

- Sex work: work where sex is provided in exchange for commercial gain.*
- Pornography: visual material depicting sexually explicit content.*

This allows for researchers to analyze more than one type of sex trafficking and instead lumps all subtypes of sex trafficking into one definition for the purpose of coding. In this study, the definition of what is considered labor trafficking is any case that involves the following:

- Domestic Work: work associated with child-rearing or housekeeping.*
- Agricultural Labor: work done to cultivate plants or livestock.*
- Factory Labor: work within a factory setting.*
- Service Work Labor: work where a service is provided to a client.*
- Education Work: Work within a school setting.*

This definition again allows for distinct types of labor trafficking to be analyzed under the definition of labor trafficking. This variable was necessary to lump together because there are many ways that labor trafficking victims are used by their traffickers.

The next concept that is being studied in this research is the force factors within each case. Since there are many ways a trafficker can manipulate their victim, this concise definition was used because these were the most frequent types of physical and non-physical force seen within the 934 cases coded. In this study, the definition of what is considered physical force is any case that involves the following:

- Beating/assault/physical abuse: The victim being beaten, assaulted, or physically mistreated while being trafficked.*
- Forced sex (with animal or human): The victim being forced to have sexual intercourse with a human or animal while being trafficked.*
- Physical abuse of a family member: The victim's family member being physically mistreated while being trafficked.*
- Physical use of a firearm: The victim having a firearm physically used to harm them while being trafficked.*
- Sexual assault: The victim being sexually touched without consent while being trafficked.*
- Tattoo/branding: The victim being tattooed, or branded, or having any modification added to their body while being trafficked.*
- Torture (mutilations, disfigurement): The victim's body being seriously damaged or altered to inflict severe pain while being trafficked.*

In this study, the definition of what is considered non-physical force is any case that involves the following:

- Coercion of mentally ill: The victim being taken advantage of due to a mental illness while being trafficked.*
- Debt bondage: The victim being forced to do unpaid labor in order to repay a debt.*
- Drug addiction: The victim being controlled by their drug addiction while being trafficked.*
- Emotional coercion: The victim being emotionally manipulated while being trafficked.*
- Extended workdays/withheld sleep: The victim being subject to extended workdays or being deprived of sleep while being trafficked.*
- Fraud, force, coercion: The victim being subject to fraud, force, or coercion while being trafficked.*
- Held papers or documents (including forgeries): The victim's legal documents being withheld or forged while being trafficked.*
- Threats: The victim being subject to traffickers' verbal intent to physically harm them.*
- Legal guardianship: The victim being trafficked by a legal guardian.*
- Recorded phone calls/privacy invasion: The victim's privacy being invaded, or the victim being recorded while being trafficked.*
- Sale or threat of sale: The victim being sold or threatened to be sold to another person while being trafficked.*
- Threat w/ a gun: The victim being threatened with a gun while being trafficked.*
- Threaten other victims: The victim being coerced by threats to another person while being trafficked.*
- Threats: The victim being subject to traffickers' verbal intent to physically harm them.*
- Withheld clothing: The victim being deprived of clothing while being trafficked.*
- Withheld food: The victim being deprived of food while being trafficked.*
- Withheld money: The victim being deprived of money they earned while being trafficked.*

After the cases within the Human Trafficking Database were checked for coding accuracy by trained interns for these specific variables, tests were run to test the association between each variable. Two-sided, two sample proportion tests were conducted to establish if there is a statistical significance between the amount of physical force used in sex trafficking and the amount of physical force used in labor trafficking. The same test was conducted for non-physical force. Then, two-sided, two sample proportion tests were run on each individual type of physical and non-physical force factors to see if there are variables that are more likely to occur in a specific industry of human trafficking. It is expected to see a higher amount of sex related physical force like “sexual assault” and “forced sex” to be seen within sex trafficking due to the nature of the crime being centered around the selling of sexual services. It is also hypothesized that force factors that include another victim like “threaten other victims” and “physical abuse of a family member” will be seen more often in labor trafficking due to 23.8% of the labor trafficking sample within the HTS including victims that are undocumented individuals who usually come to the United States in groups.

Findings

Two-Sided, Two Sample Proportion Test: Physical vs. Non-Physical Force

Type of Force	Sex <i>N</i> = 808	Labor <i>N</i> = 126	95% CI	P-value
<u>Physical</u>	407/808 50.37%	55/126 43.65%	$[- 0.0267 < p_1 - p_2 < 0.1611]$	0.1605
<u>Non-Physical</u>	627/808 77.60%	104/126 82.54%	$[- 0.0280 < p_1 - p_2 < 0.1268]$	0.2111
<u>Could not determine: Physical</u>	200/808 24.75%	65/126 51.59%	$[0.1838 < p_1 - p_2 < 0.3530]$	<0.0001
<u>Could not determine: Non-physical</u>	181/808 22.40%	22/126 17.46%	$[- 0.0280 < p_1 - p_2 < 0.1268]$	0.2111

Two-Sided, Two Sample Proportion Test: Types of Physical Force

Type of Physical Force	Sex <i>N</i> = 808	Labor <i>N</i> = 126	95% CI	P-value
<u>Beating/Assault/Physical Abuse</u>	200/808 24.75%	45/126 35.71%	[0.0270 < $p_1 - p_2$ < 0.1922]	0.0093
<u>Forced Sex (with animal or human)</u>	139/808 17.20%	8/126 6.34%	[0.0402 < $p_1 - p_2$ < 0.1770]	0.0018
<u>Physical abuse of a family member</u>	1/808 0.12%	1/126 0.79%	[0.0014 < $p_1 - p_2$ < 0.0142]	0.0164
<u>Physical use of firearms</u>	16/808 1.98%	4/126 3.17%	[- 0.0153 < $p_1 - p_2$ < 0.0391]	0.3907
<u>Sexual Assault</u>	166/808 20.54%	11/126 8.73%	[0.0445 < $p_1 - p_2$ < 0.1917]	0.0017
<u>Tattoo/Branding</u>	11/808 1.36%	0/126 0%	[- 0.0066 < $p_1 - p_2$ < 0.0338]	0.1879
<u>Torture (mutilations/disfiguration)</u>	3/808 0.37%	4/126 3.17%	[0.0118 < $p_1 - p_2$ < 0.0442]	0.0007
<u>None</u>	270/808 33.41%	43/126 34.13%	[- 0.0814 < $p_1 - p_2$ < 0.0958]	0.8735
<u>Could not determine</u>	115/880 13.07%	22/126 17.46	[- 0.0206 < $p_1 - p_2$ < 0.1084]	0.1820

Two-Sided, Two Sample Proportion Test: Types of Non-Physical Force

Type of Non-Physical Force	Sex <i>N</i> = 808	Labor <i>N</i> = 126	95% CI	P-value
<u>Coercion of mentally ill</u>	3/808 0.37%	2/126 1.59%	[- 0.0015 < $p_1 - p_2$ < 0.0259]	0.0807
<u>Debt bondage</u>	23/808 2.85%	29/126 23.02%	[0.1586 < $p_1 - p_2$ < 0.2448]	<0.0001
<u>Drug addiction</u>	103/808 12.75%	1/126 0.79%	[0.0605 < $p_1 - p_2$ < 0.1787]	<0.0001
<u>Emotional coercion</u>	233/808 28.84%	30/126 23.81%	[- 0.0341 < $p_1 - p_2$ < 0.1347]	0.2430
<u>Extended workdays/withheld sleep</u>	19/808 2.35%	23/126 18.25%	[0.1201 < $p_1 - p_2$ < 0.1979]	<0.0001
<u>Fraud, force, coercion</u>	335/808 41.46%	36/126 28.57%	[0.0370 < $p_1 - p_2$ < 0.2208]	0.0060
<u>Held papers or documents (including forgeries)</u>	19/808 2.35%	40/126 31.75%	[0.2483 < $p_1 - p_2$ < 0.3397]	<0.0001
<u>Legal guardianship</u>	16/808 1.98%	0/126 0%	[- 0.0046 < $p_1 - p_2$ < 0.0442]	0.1111
<u>Recorded phone calls/privacy invasion</u>	11/808 1.36%	2/126 1.59%	[- 0.0197 < $p_1 - p_2$ < 0.0243]	0.8375

<u>Sale or threat of sale</u>	7/808 0.87%	2/126 1.59%	$[- 0.0112 < p_1 - p_2 < 0.0256]$	0.4424
<u>Threat w/ a gun</u>	30/808 3.71%	2/126 1.59%	$[- 0.0129 < p_1 - p_2 < 0.0553]$	0.2235
<u>Threaten other victims</u>	13/808 1.61%	6/126 4.76%	$[0.0050 < p_1 - p_2 < 0.0580]$	0.0198
<u>Threats</u>	257/808 31.81%	77/126 61.11%	$[0.2030 < p_1 - p_2 < 0.3830]$	<0.0001
<u>Withheld clothing</u>	3/808 0.37%	2/126 1.59%	$[- 0.0015 < p_1 - p_2 < 0.0259]$	0.0807
<u>Withheld food</u>	13/808 1.61%	14/126 11.11%	$[0.0635 < p_1 - p_2 < 0.1265]$	<0.0001
<u>Withheld money</u>	120/808 14.85%	35/126 27.78%	$[0.0595 < p_1 - p_2 < 0.1991]$	0.0003
<u>None</u>	102/808 12.62%	8/126 6.35%	$[0.0022 < p_1 - p_2 < 0.1232]$	0.0422
<u>Could not determine</u>	71/808 8.79%	15/126 11.90%	$[- 0.0232 < p_1 - p_2 < 0.0854]$	0.2615

The first set of data that was analyzed was the occurrences of any type of physical or non-physical force at work in both sex and labor trafficking cases. It was found that out of the total 808 sex trafficking cases within the database, 50.37% of the cases included some sort of physical force. Similarly, out of the 126 labor trafficking cases, 43.65% of cases had an act of physical force occur. Then, the non-physical force variable was looked at within each industry of trafficking. 77.60% of sex trafficking cases and 82.54% of labor trafficking cases within the database recorded non-physical force being used on victims. The similarities in the relative frequency of both physical and non-physical force being used within both industries are unsurprising due to different industries being under the same umbrella of a more general human trafficking statute. Since all of these cases met the requirements needed to include human trafficking charges, they will all have the basic characteristics of an individual being manipulated into committing a commercial sex or labor act. These coercions can be “subtle or overt, physical or psychological” so it makes sense we would see similar rates of both types of force within all human trafficking cases (U.S. Department of Justice, 2022).

Next, the specific physical force factors that were being for within each case were analyzed regarding what industry the case took place in. As previously discussed, the physical force factors that were being coded were: Beating/Assault/Physical Abuse, Forced Sex (with animal or human), Physical use of firearms, Sexual Assault, Tattoo/Branding, Torture (mutilations/disfiguration), and None. Several variables like the occurrence of physical use of a firearm, tattoo/branding, and none were not significantly different for either type of trafficking. The physical use of a firearm was seen in 1.98% of sex trafficking cases and 3.17% of labor trafficking cases. Traffickers forcibly tattooing or branding their trafficking victims was also not seen very often in either industry with 1.36% of sex trafficking cases and 0% of labor trafficking cases seeing this tactic being used. The relative frequency of no physical force being used at all was also similar across the two industry types. It was found that 33.41% of sex trafficking cases and 34.13% of labor trafficking cases within the dataset found no evidence of physical force being used on victims.

The variables where a significant difference was found between sex and labor trafficking cases were the occurrence of Beating/Assault/Physical Abuse, Forced Sex (with human or animal), Physical abuse of a family member, and Sexual assault, and Torture (mutilation/disfiguration). When analyzing the relative frequency of beatings, assault, and physical abuse, it was found that this use of force was seen in just 24.75% of sex trafficking cases and 35.71% of labor trafficking cases. When viewing the difference in relative frequency with a 95% confidence interval, it was found that the differences were statistically significant, creating a p-value of 0.0093. The rate of traffickers forcing people under their control to have sex was found to be higher in sex trafficking cases with 17.20% of sex trafficking cases seeing this force factor being used, while only 6.34% of labor trafficking cases reported evidence of forced sex. When testing this correlation with a 95% confidence interval, a p-value of 0.0018 was

found. When the relative frequency of traffickers physically abusing victims' family members was tested with a 95% confidence interval, a statistically significant p-value of 0.0164 was found. 0.12% of sex trafficking cases saw this type of force compared to 0.79% of labor trafficking cases. Sexual assault was found to have a statistically significant difference across the two distinct types of industries as well. Data analysis showed that 20.54% of sex trafficking cases and 8.73% of labor trafficking cases saw this type of force being used. This created a p-value of 0.0017. The last physical force factor that significantly differed in sex and labor trafficking industries was the use of torture by traffickers on their victims. 0.37% of sex trafficking cases saw evidence of this type of force, while a significant increase of 3.17% of labor trafficking cases reported this type of force. When tests were conducted a 0.0007 p-value was found indicating that the occurrence of torture is significantly higher in labor trafficking cases within this data set.

Then, the specific non-physical force factors that were found within each case were analyzed regarding what industry the case took place in. The specific non-physical force categories that were being coded included Coercion of the mentally ill, Debt bondage, Drug addiction, Emotional coercion, Extended workdays/withheld sleep, Fraud, force, coercion, Held papers or documents (including forgeries), Legal guardianship, Recorded phone calls/privacy invasion, Sale or threat of sale, Threat / a gun, Threaten other victims, Threats, Withheld clothing, Withheld food, Withheld money, and None. Several variables like the occurrence of coercion of a mentally ill victim, emotional coercion, legal guardianship, the recording of phone calls/privacy invasions, sale or threat of sale, threats with a gun, and the withholding of clothing were not significantly different for either type of trafficking. Using a two sided, two sample proportion test with a 95% confidence interval the percent of sex trafficking and labor trafficking cases where traffickers coerced a mentally ill victim was 0.37% and 1.59% respectively. When

exploring the relative frequency of emotional coercion in the two trafficking industries, 28.84% of sex trafficking cases and 23.81% of labor trafficking cases in the database showed evidence of the victim being subject to emotional coercion while being trafficked. The use of legal guardianship to traffic victims both industries was low, with 1.36% of sex trafficking cases and 0% of labor trafficking cases showing this tactic being used. Traffickers recording phone calls or invading victims' privacy were also uncommon in the dataset across industries with 1.36% of sex trafficking cases and 1.59% of labor trafficking cases reporting this occurring. Similar relative frequencies of traffickers selling or threatening to sell their victims occurred in 0.87% of cases in the sex trafficking industry and in 1.59% of cases in the labor trafficking industry. There was evidence of traffickers threatening their victims with guns 3.71% of the time in sex trafficking cases and 1.59% of the time in labor trafficking cases. Lastly, victims had their clothing withheld in 0.37% of sex trafficking cases and 1.59% of labor trafficking cases within this study. While their absolute frequencies vary from few to many, they do not happen at a significantly different rate depending on the industry of the trafficking case.

The variables where a significant difference was found between sex and labor trafficking cases were the occurrence of Debt bondage, Drug addiction, Extended workdays/withheld sleep, fraud, force, coercion, held papers or documents (including forgeries), Threaten other victims, Threats, withheld food, withheld money, and None. When analyzing the relative frequency of debt bondage being used to entrap victims, it was found that this use of force was seen in just 2.85% of sex trafficking cases and 23.02% of labor trafficking cases. When viewing the difference in relative frequency with a 95% confidence interval, it was found that the differences were significantly significant, creating a p-value of <0.0001 . The rate of traffickers using victims' drug addiction to traffic them was found to be higher in sex trafficking cases with 12.75% of sex trafficking cases seeing this force factor being used, while only 0.79% of labor

trafficking cases reported evidence of forced sex. When testing this correlation with a 95% confidence interval, a p-value of <0.0001 was found. When the relative frequency of traffickers subjecting their victims to extended workdays or not allowing them to sleep was tested with a 95% confidence interval, it was found that a statistically significant p-value of <0.0001 was apparent. 2.35% of sex trafficking cases saw this type of force compared to 18.25% of labor trafficking cases. The use of fraud, force, and coercion was found to have a statistically significant difference across the two different types of industries as well. Data analysis showed that 41.46% of sex trafficking cases and 28.57% of labor trafficking cases saw this type of force being used. This created a p-value of 0.0060. When the relative frequency of traffickers withholding important papers or documents (including forgeries) was tested with a 95% confidence interval, it was found that a statistically significant p-value of <0.0001 was apparent. 2.35% of sex trafficking cases saw this type of force compared to the 31.75% of labor trafficking cases. The non-physical force factor of threatening other victims to influence someone to do what they wanted was found to occur in 1.61% of sex trafficking cases and 4.76% of labor trafficking. When tested this created a p-value of 0.0198. When tested for a significant difference in the use of threat occurrence in sex and labor trafficking produced a p-value of <0.0001 . Threats were used in 31.81% of sex trafficking cases and 61.11% of labor trafficking cases. Traffickers withholding food from their victims occurred in 1.61% of cases in the sex industry and 11.11% of cases in the labor industry forming a statistically significant p-value of <0.0001 . Money was kept from victims to entrap them in their situation in 14.85% of cases in the sex industry and 27.78% of cases in the labor industry forming a statistically significant p-value of 0.0003. Evidence of no non-physical force factors was found in 12.62% of sex trafficking cases and 6.35% of labor trafficking cases. When tested, these proportions created a p-value of 0.0422. Examining these findings and applying them to what is known about each industry of trafficking

cases will help to explain why certain types of non-physical force are more common in certain industries.

Discussion

Many of these statistically significant differences in the relative frequency of force factors were to be expected based on prior knowledge about the nature of each industry. For example, the occurrence of physical force “forced sex” and “sexual assault” was seen much more frequently in sex trafficking cases. Since these victims are being trafficked for their sexual services, it means that traffickers are familiar with the sex trafficking industry, possibly even being a recipient of sexual services before becoming a trafficker. This would make it much more likely for them to use this type of force on victims since traffickers view victims’ sole purpose as to be sold for sexual services. A non-physical force factor that is used more commonly in sex trafficking is the abuse of drugs. This correlation is foreseeable due to research finding that sex trafficking is “inextricably linked with drug trafficking.” Many drug trafficking rings also turn to the sex trafficking industry “to increase profits and market control through diversification” (U.S. DEA, 2021). Because of this connection, drugs are easily accessible and provide ways that traffickers can further control their victims. Providing sex trafficking victims with drugs can make them more compliant and even boost their sex drive allowing them to see more clients in a short time frame. It also makes sense that drugs would not be as common in the labor trafficking industry because traffickers want their victims to be high performing which would not be possible if they were battling drug addiction. The last occurrence that was found to happen more frequently in sex trafficking was having no evidence of physical force. One reason for this could be the fact that many people participating in the act of selling sexual services initially do so willingly in order to make a living. Since they begin doing these acts willingly, there is no need

for traffickers to physically force victims. Instead, they use non-physical force factors like withholding money and verbal threats to entrap victims.

When analyzing force factors that were more prevalent in labor trafficking, it was found that both “physical abuse of family members” and the “threatening of other victims” were seen more often. One reason this is to be expected can be explained by an article published in the *International Affairs Review*, which stated that “in the United States, 72% of trafficking victims are immigrants” traveling to the U.S. in groups (Quinley, 2021). Some of these individuals travel with their families into the U.S. while others come by themselves but must be smuggled into the United States in groups. Both instances allow for more opportunities to use family members and other victims as leverage against a labor trafficking victim. Threatening and physically abusing the people within the group can influence someone to follow traffickers' commands because of their close ties to those individuals. Another variable that was found to be more prevalent in labor trafficking was the act of traffickers withholding victims' documents like passports or identification (both real and forged). This variable can also be connected to the fact that labor trafficking victims are more commonly undocumented and can be turned into the authorities for being in the country illegally without their official identification documents. If victims come into the country with false identification, this can also be used by the traffickers as leverage to make them compliant. Many labor trafficking cases have also reported evidence that traffickers use the tactic of debt bondage, or the act of lending victims money or providing housing with the promise of labor in return. Often, traffickers will make it sound like the people in debt to them will be able to quickly work off their debt, but then add extra debt over time, keeping victims stuck in their situations. This can be seen more often in labor trafficking because many undocumented individuals will offer up labor in exchange for being transported into the United States. These variables were predicted to be associated more closely with labor trafficking due to

the high amount of influence they can have on undocumented individuals. The last variable that was predicted to be associated with labor trafficking and was confirmed by the data was victims being subject to extended workdays or lack of sleep by their traffickers. While it may be assumed that sex trafficking would be more likely to see extended workdays, due to most sex trafficking activities being associated with happening at night, labor trafficking victims are more likely to be overworked and deprived of sleep. Since traffickers are not paying their victims fair wages, they are not concerned with having to compensate them for excessive hours, leading to them forcing victims to work many more hours a day than regular employees.

Some variables, like withholding money from victims and the use of torture on victims, had unexpected associations with specific industries. Both types of force were more strongly associated with labor trafficking, which is an interesting finding since there are no obvious reasons for this increase in occurrences from one industry to the other. While there may be unknown reasons for these findings, this statistical significance could also be a result of the lack of labor trafficking cases within the data set compared to sex trafficking cases, one of the limitations of this study. This difference in total cases for each industry could cause unexpected significant p-values because of the difference in sample proportions. Another explanation for these unanticipated significant p-values could be caused by coder error. Since the same person did not code all the physical and non-physical force factors for every case, there is a chance that some coders made slight mistakes or interpreted case documents differently than other coders did. The limitation that could be used to explain the unforeseen association between specific types of force and a certain industry could be due to the lack of case documents available for certain cases.

Since the Human Trafficking Study at the University of Arkansas is funded by research grants and only has access to a limited amount of money, researchers must be selective when

choosing what documents to access since they cost money to collect. This can lead to some cases having more informative case documents than others, limiting the accuracy of the study's findings. Different types of cases are also handled differently within the court systems with some requiring much more evidence collection than others, leading to inconsistencies in the number of documents available for each case. Variables are also, at times, difficult to define. Not every example of physical force or non-physical force will be included in this study since we had to define these variables in a way that would make coding possible. Overall, the findings will be generalizable because these cases are from every state and vary over many years. This will help researchers draw conclusions from the findings to aid in the effort to minimize human trafficking within the United States, whether that be by bringing general awareness to the public or implementing prevention strategies to stop trafficking cases before they even begin.

Conclusion

Overall, the findings of this study can have many great implications for the future of human trafficking detection and intervention. Being able to pinpoint ways that traffickers coerce their victims into specific industries will help aid law enforcement in discovering potential victims. For example, since prior research has found that a large majority of labor trafficking victims are a part of the vulnerable population of undocumented individuals, law enforcement can better spot signs of trafficking within this population by looking for evidence of force being used that is frequently found in this industry (i.e.: debt bondage, extended workdays, etc.). The same methods can be applied to detecting sex trafficking victims by having law enforcement focus on indications of force factors that have significantly connected to the sex industry (i.e.: sexual assault, drug addiction, etc.). These statistics can also be used when creating prevention methods,

making sure to put extra emphasis on the force factors that are most common in each industry so people can be aware when finding themselves in potentially dangerous situations. The increase in awareness of these tactics used by traffickers has the potential to save countless victims, giving them, their loved ones, and society's protectors like medical professionals and law enforcement the information they need to decrease the occurrence of these crimes.

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