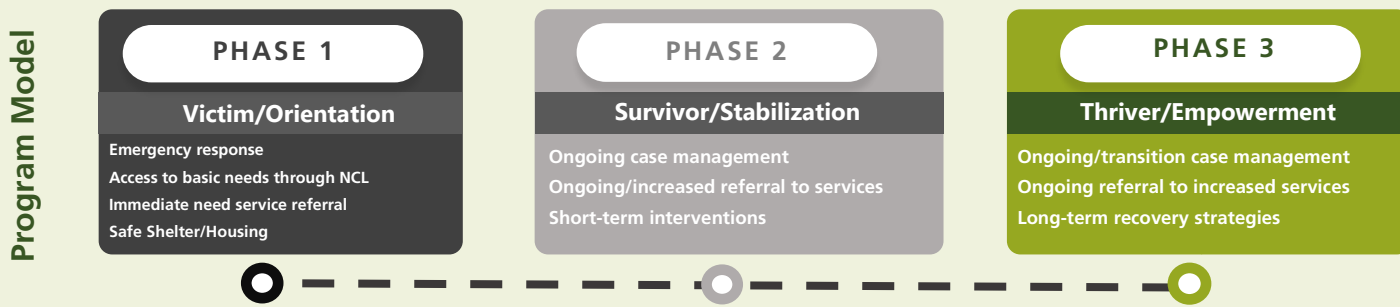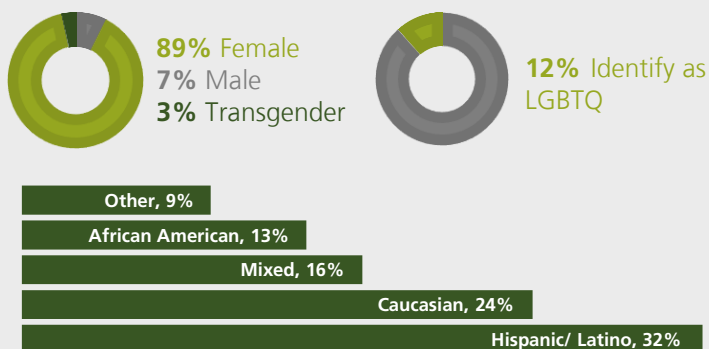## Project overview

Project LIFE is an advocacy program implemented by North County Lifeline (NCL) that provides critical intervention services to victims of human trafficking in the San Diego Region. Project LIFE provides a range of trauma informed services including victim advocacy, emergency response, crisis intervention and safety planning, intensive case management, peer support, counseling, housing and residential coordination, and linkage to community resources. Through its extensive experience providing responsive services and advocacy to victims, NCL identified the most critical period for survivor engagement in services occurs through emergency response services, including placement in safe shelter. Additionally, NCL observed that when housing is successfully secured with minimal barriers, it results in increased trust with the service provider and a greater likelihood the survivor will reach self-sufficiency. Lack of adequate short-term housing for trafficking survivors in San Diego County has served as a barrier to stabilization. In response to this housing gap, funding was sought and awarded by the Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) for a three year time frame (10/1/2017 – 9/30/2020) with the purpose of ensuring all survivors of human trafficking can access culturally sensitive, gender responsive, and trauma informed housing and services.

Program Model

PHASE 1

Victim/Orientation

- Emergency response
- Access to basic needs through NCL
- Immediate need service referral
- Safe Shelter/Housing

PHASE 2

Survivor/Stabilization

- Ongoing case management
- Ongoing/increased referral to services
- Short-term interventions

PHASE 3

Thriver/Empowerment

- Ongoing/transition case management
- Ongoing referral to increased services
- Long-term recovery strategies

Figure 1: Gender, sexual orientation, and ethnicity

89% Female
7% Male
3% Transgender

12% Identify as LGBTQ

- Other, 9%
- African American, 13%
- Mixed, 16%
- Caucasian, 24%
- Hispanic/ Latino, 32%

NOTE: Cases with missing data not included. Percentages may not equal 100% due to rounding.

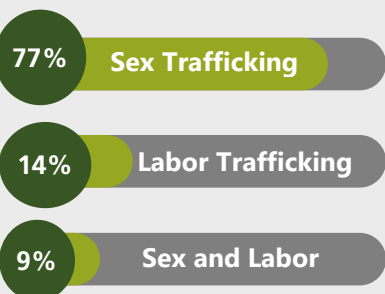## Figure 2: Countries of origin

74% overall
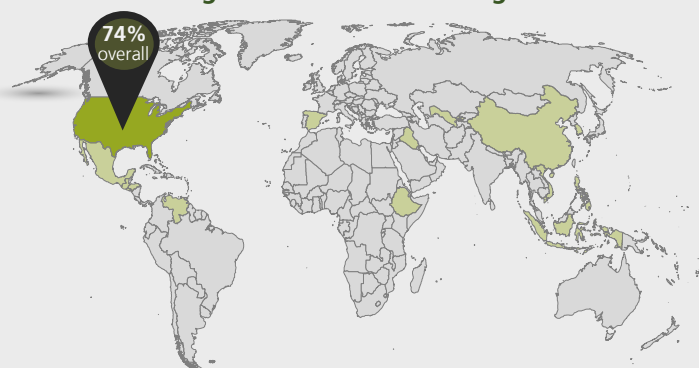
Most clients named the United States of America as their country of origin (74%), with 9% from Mexico, and 3% each from China and Honduras. The remaining clients (11%) identified countries in Asia, Afric, South America, and Eastern Europe as their place of origin.
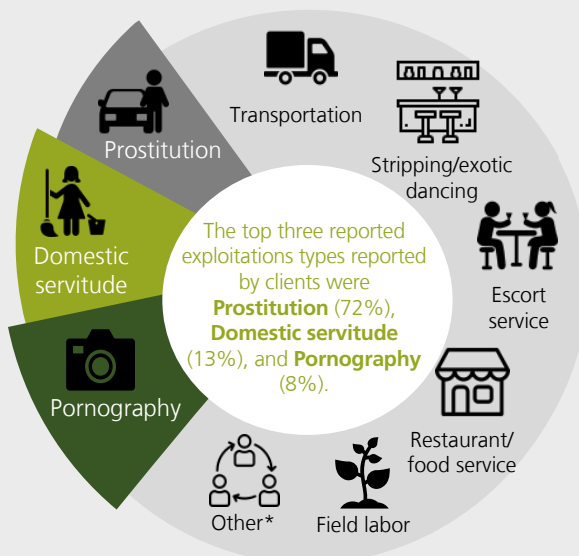
Project staff gathered information on trafficking previously experienced by clients to inform intensive case management strategies and therapeutic goals.

Figure 3: Exploitation summary

PRIMARY TYPE OF TRAFFICKING

- **77%** Sex Trafficking
- **14%** Labor Trafficking
- **9%** Sex and Labor

TRAFFICKING TYPES

Transportation

Stripping/exotic dancing

Prostitution

Escort service

Domestic servitude

The top three reported exploitations types reported by clients were **Prostitution** (72%), **Domestic servitude** (13%), and **Pornography** (8%).

Pornography

Restaurant/ food service

Other*

Field labor

TRAFFICKING SETTINGS

57% Hotel/Motel

36% Private Home

26% Street

1%–7% Other (Parking Lot, Strip Club, Bar, Massage Parlor, Casino, Office, Bus Station, Construction, Brothel, Factory, Restaurant, Retail, Agriculture/Farm, Group Home, Other)
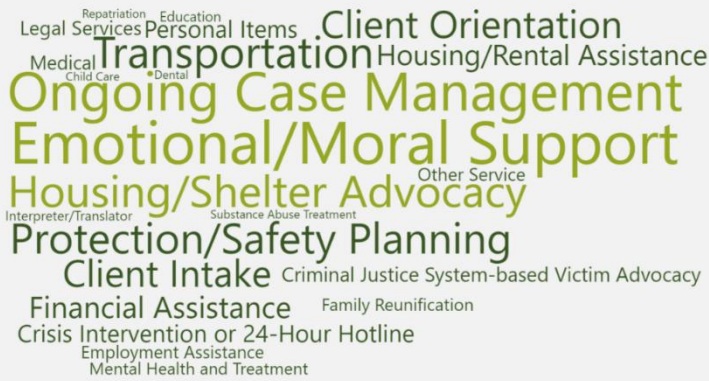
NOTE: Percentages do not equal 100 due to multiple responses per client. Cases with missing data not included.

Figure 4: Top services delivered

Project LIFE provided and/or facilitated the connection to **25 different service types** over the study period, consistent with what was anticipated as the greatest need for those entering services in a state of active crisis and/or with unsafe and unstable housing. The top three most common services provided to clients were **Emotional/Moral Support** (98%), **Ongoing Case Management** (90%), and **Housing/Shelter Advocacy** (69%).

Word cloud: Repatriation, Education, Legal Services, Personal Items, Client Orientation, Medical, Transportation, Housing/Rental Assistance, Child Care, Dental, **Ongoing Case Management**, **Emotional/Moral Support**, Other Service, **Housing/Shelter Advocacy**, Interpreter/Translator, Substance Abuse Treatment, **Protection/Safety Planning**, Client Intake, Criminal Justice System-based Victim Advocacy, Financial Assistance, Family Reunification, Crisis Intervention or 24-Hour Hotline, Employment Assistance, Mental Health and Treatment

Figure 6: Housing-specialization highlights

Placement Types

80% Emergency
42% Transitional
35% Long-Term

Setting Types

- Shelter — 66%
- Friends/Family — 38%
- Hotel/Motel — 35%
- Other — 25%
- Independent — 13%
- Other Victims — 2%

NOTE: Percentages do not equal 100 due to multiple responses per client.

87% of clients served received housing placements.

Over **two-thirds** of clients received Housing/Shelter support (69%).

More than **two-times** the number of clients achieved stable housing scores in their Matrix post-assessment (17% at pre to 37% post Matrix score).

Figure 5: Matrix domains

The **Matrix** is an assessment tool used to inform the case plan of client needs at intake and assist staff in monitoring client progress towards stability and ultimately self-sufficiency. The matrix measures client improvement in terms of **level of stability** across domains. Possible scores are:
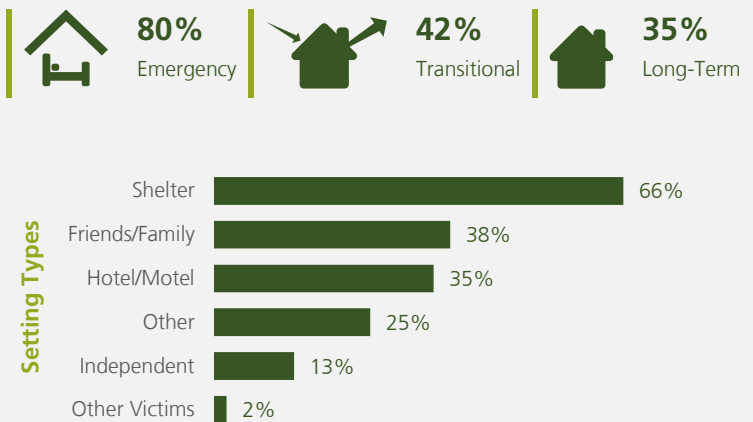
- 1-2: in crisis or vulnerable
- 3: stable
- 4-5: safe/self-sufficient or thriving

Percentage of clients demonstrating progress toward stability from their Matrix completed at intake to their most recent Matrix score:

	Pre	Post	Difference
Financial	2%	33%	31%
Basic needs	16%	41%	25%
Shelter/ housing	17%	37%	20%
Education/ employment	9%	27%	18%
Health/ medical	26%	43%	17%
Transportation	21%	35%	14%
Social and emotional health	15%	29%	14%
Mental health	24%	32%	8%
Immigration/ legal	22%	29%	7%
Safety	30%	31%	1%

What did the Matrix reveal about clients?

- Clients generally shifted from less stable to more stable between their first Matrix assessment and their most recent.
- The greatest proportion of clients made gains toward increased stability in the **Financial**, **Basic Needs**, and **Shelter/housing** areas.
- The greatest shifts towards the end goal of safe/self-sufficient or thriving were in the **Safety**, **Shelter/housing**, and **Transportation** domains.
- Outcomes indicate that access to emergency services, housing, and ongoing supportive services through NCL allows for shifts toward stabilization and empowers survivors to begin their journey toward reaching their long-term goals.