

# Human Trafficking

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## Introduction

Our problem is human trafficking. Human trafficking is a problem because humans should not be being taken against their will and forced to do something they don't want to. It's an inhumane way of making money and getting sexual pleasure from women or in some cases men. We all wanted to do something that could help teens in danger. We thought of teen pregnancy but that was more so focused on women and none of us could relate to the fear of being pregnant considering our circumstances. That's when we moved to the Congo Rape Crisis. We discussed that topic and soon came to the conclusion that the Congo was too far away for any of us to do anything to be hands on help, and that sparked the idea of human trafficking in Cleveland. It's local and a serious issue that teens can go through as well as adults. We have learned that most people living in Cleveland, Ohio don't feel as if the Human Trafficking epidemic is as big as it actually is. It's often not spoken about and because Cleveland isn't one of the biggest contenders in the epidemic. We also learned that women are more affected rather than men. There are many organizations in Cleveland that help with human trafficking, it's just hard to get in contact with them. This is probably because they are focused on saving people and helping through a hard time so they don't have time to answer questions about a school project. We did leave many voicemails and emails but no one got back to us so we took a different route and instead of doing interviews we did surveys. One example of these organizations is the Renee Jones Empowerment Center, located on W 65th St, in Cleveland, Ohio. Most of the time these organizations take people in and help them. Like the Renee Jones center. They find women that are being trafficked and they give them a care package and a card, with the option of seeking help. They don't force them to come with them or call the police quite yet. They use that as a way to show the women that they are friendly and are actually trying to help. They provide support groups for women and help them get back on their feet.



## Survey

A survey was a good choice because we needed an actual answer to our research question. Observing people wouldn't have necessarily given us an answer to our question because we couldn't observe people without asking blatant questions. Doing interviews would've also been a great idea but we didn't really have the time to do things along the lines of that due to our school schedule and likelihood of participants. We wanted to ask our survey questions to young adults typically from ages 14-25. We chose this age because it was the most common age group for human trafficking. It would also be easier for us to contact people in this age group due to our schools location. The only specific thing we were looking for was to find the answer to our research question. We asked about their experiences with human trafficking as well. We think another important factor in observing/surveying participants was watching their reaction and reading their body language while answering the questions. Gender and age wasn't the main focus of the survey. We were more so focused on the general idea people had about human trafficking. On top of that, we picked people based on how available they looked, meaning it was completely random. We didn't ask any type of open ended questions. We wanted to keep our survey as brief as possible so people would be more inclined to take our survey. We didn't have many questions to ask. One multiple choice question that was asked was on a scale of 1-5 (1 being not bad 5 being extremely bad) rate the human trafficking crisis in Cleveland Ohio. Then people were given the option to pick a number 1-5. That's about as close to a multiple choice question we had. The rest of the questions were 'yes' or 'no' questions which can be considered multiple choice as well, but there weren't many options and it was more of a straightforward process.



## Observation

Observations can be the best way to collect data. It was the easiest way to collect data given the amount of time we were supposed to complete our surveys. We observed/surveyed students (high school and college students). We spent from 15-20 minutes collecting the data, but only took a few minutes to analyze/mark down the responses. The CSU campus and at CIHS. More than 75% of the participants marked 'no' for all four questions-- they took a survey. The average answer trend, as mentioned before, was 'no'. Most of the participants underestimated the presence that human trafficking has in Northern Ohio, or more specifically Cleveland, Ohio.

## Recommendations

- the Renee Jones Empowerment Center. Located on W 65th St, in Cleveland Ohio.  
<http://rjecempower.org/>
- Collaborative to end Human Trafficking  
<https://www.collabtoendht.org>
- Human Trafficking hotline- 888-373-7888  
<http://humantraffickinghotline.org/>



## Main References

"What Is Human Trafficking?" Department of Homeland Security, 17 Oct. 2018,  
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