

Validating the Human Trafficking Screening Tool for Justice-Involved Youth

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June 20, 2023

Funding Note: This document was prepared by investigators listed above under grant number 2019-JG-E01-V6465 for the Ohio Offices of Criminal Justice Services. The content and views presented in this report are those of the authors and do not represent the official positions or policies of the Ohio Offices of Criminal Justice Services or the Ohio Department of Youth Services.

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Executive Summary

Determining the most effective ways to identify victims of human trafficking has been a growing policy priority for agencies across the state of Ohio. Between 2013-2018, Anderson et al. (2019) estimated between 970 and 1,097 known victims of human trafficking across the state over a three-year period—the majority of whom were youth who encountered youth-serving agencies. Further, between 4,083 and 4,338 youth were identified as being “at-risk” during this time (Anderson et al., 2019). Importantly, justice system involvement, running away, foster care or child protective service placement, and homelessness increased risk of human trafficking victimization (Anderson et al., 2019). Given the risk of human trafficking victimization among justice system-involved youth, the goal of this study was to test the reliability and validity of the Ohio Department of Youth Services’ Human Trafficking Screening Tool (ODYS HTST) for youth who had been assessed for the possibility of human trafficking.

Starting in 2017, with funding from the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), the ODYS HTST was developed by a multidisciplinary team of subject matter experts. The screening tool was based on Florida’s Department of Children and Families and Department of Juvenile Justice’s tool by the same name. The substantive content of the tool was based on several existing screening tools (e.g., Shared Hope International’s *Intervene Practitioner Guide and Intake Tool*, Vera Institute’s *Screening for Human Trafficking: Guidelines for Administering the Trafficking Victim Identification Tool (TVIT, 2014)*, Covenant House’s *Human Trafficking Interview and Assessment Measure (2013)*, and research from the National Human Trafficking Resource Center. The tool was adapted through changing the language of specific questions and adding questions to make the tool more youth and Ohio-specific. This study sought to establish whether the ODYS HTST was a valid screening tool for juvenile legal system-involved youth who experienced human trafficking. Approximately three years of administrative screening data for 2,010 assessments were analyzed for this report.

This study includes data from all ODYS human trafficking assessments between March 2019-August 2022, demographic variables of youth, and trafficking outcomes as designated by ODYS. The ODYS HTST includes 59 questions across six domains: background information, demographic information, youth personal background, living conditions, work information, and leaving or running away from home. Upon completion of the screening, screeners identified the youth as one or more of the following: non-victim, a victim of sex trafficking, a victim of labor trafficking, indicated-sex trafficking (potential victim/suspicion of trafficking but more information is needed), or indicated-labor trafficking.

Descriptive statistics are presented first, with 93.5% of the sample male, 61.6% Black (26.89% White), and an average age of 18.88 years old. Roughly one-fifth of youth had earned some type of high school completion. Across 46 assessments that had one type of human trafficking victimization outcome 13 were sex trafficking victims, four were labor trafficking

victims, 18 were potential sex trafficking victims, and 11 were potential labor trafficking victims. Descriptive measurement and predictive validity tests provided evidence that the ODYS HTST is working as intended. First, the assessment-level analysis and the youth-level analysis were consistent and provided insight into possible areas for streamlining the tool. Results from the comparative analysis and Phi correlation coefficients demonstrated that victims of human trafficking were significantly more likely to be flagged for each of the major domains on the ODYS HTST, except for gang involvement, compared to non-victims and suggest no association between gang involvement and human trafficking victimization. Finally, area under the curve (AUC) analyses evidence of tattooing or branding and gang involvement were not predictive of human trafficking victimization. Taken together, these tests suggest that, overall, the ODYS HTST performs as intended. However, some assessment areas demonstrated stronger validity. To measure differential validity of screening and assessment instruments, we merged and analyzed Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) data as well as Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) assessment data with the ODYS HTST data files. Overall, the OYAS and PREA measures performed poorly when modeled to predict any trafficking victimization outcome, highlighting the need for a trafficking-specific assessment.

Results from this study contribute to several implications and recommendations. First, considering how the item and domain measure up against each other, it is helpful to think of the domains as an “orbit.” In this model, coerced or commercial sex acts while away and evidence of gifts for sex are the primary or central orbit, while strong correlates of sex trafficking, including questionable financial support, evidence of unsafe online activity, evidence of confinement, and excessive running away make up the secondary orbit. The orbit model may also be helpful when practitioners and researchers want to make data-informed decisions when refining the instrument. For example, gang involvement and tattoo-related questions are likely poor indicators of human trafficking risk among juvenile justice system-involved youth. Similarly, the romantic relationship measure may only be a useful indicator if youth have significantly older partners. Finally, the ODYS HTST is constructed as an index of risk factors, rather than a measure with clear items that load onto broader risk factors. A scale-based version of the tool could be useful to produce an overall score that predicts human trafficking victimization. Overall, findings in this report provide evidence that the ODYS HTST performs well at differentiating human trafficking victimization outcomes among system-involved youth.

Study Overview

The purpose of this project was to test the reliability and validity of the Ohio Department of Youth Services' Human Trafficking Screening Tool (ODYS HTST) for youth assessed through the Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS) for possible human trafficking victimization. Whereas there are many shared risk factors and similarities among youth involved with the juvenile justice system and other vulnerable youth populations, justice-involved youth are a distinct subpopulation that has received limited attention in the human trafficking screening and assessment validation literature despite being considered an at-risk group. The purpose of this study was to establish if the ODYS HTST is a valid screening tool for juvenile justice populations experiencing or indicated at risk for human trafficking. In this report, we analyze approximately three years of administrative screening data collected by ODYS with a sample of 2,010 assessments. This report presents information on the features of the sample, psychometric properties of the ODYS HTST, and differential predictive validity of the tool relative to other assessment measures commonly used with justice-involved youth. We provide a summary of key findings in the discussion with several recommendations for future research, policy, and practice.

Background

Human Trafficking Definitions

Under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, human trafficking may include sex and/or labor trafficking and covers a broad segment of youth experiencing forms of sexual exploitation. Sex trafficking is defined as “the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purposes of a commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age” (22 *USC* § 7102). Under this federal statute, anyone engaged in commercial sex under the age of 18 is a victim of sex trafficking regardless of whether the elements of force, fraud, or coercion are present because minors are unable to consent to commercial sex. Labor trafficking is defined as “the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purposes of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery” (22 *USC* § 7102).

Ohio's Definition

In recent years, the Ohio Governor's Office, alongside local and state child-serving agencies, has prioritized understanding and addressing human trafficking—especially youth populations at high-risk for trafficking victimization. In December 2010, the first human trafficking law in Ohio was passed, taking effect in March 2011, and amendments to this

legislation were passed in 2012, 2014, 2018, 2021, and 2022. Human trafficking is currently defined in Ohio by Ohio Revised Code Section 2905.32 (Trafficking in Persons) as:

(A) No person shall knowingly recruit, lure, entice, isolate, harbor, transport, provide, obtain, or maintain, or knowingly attempt to recruit, lure, entice, isolate, harbor, transport, provide, obtain, or maintain, another person if either of the following applies:

(1) The offender knows that the other person will be subjected to involuntary servitude or be compelled to engage in sexual activity for hire, engage in a performance that is obscene, sexually oriented, or nudity oriented, or be a model or participant in the production of material that is obscene, sexually oriented, or nudity oriented.

(2) The other person is less than eighteen years of age or is a person with a developmental disability whom the offender knows or has reasonable cause to believe is a person with a developmental disability, and either the offender knows that the other person will be subjected to involuntary servitude or the offender's knowing recruitment, luring, enticement, isolation, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, or maintenance of the other person or knowing attempt to recruit, lure, entice, isolate, harbor, transport, provide, obtain, or maintain the other person is for any of the following purposes:

(a) For the other person to engage in sexual activity for hire with one or more third parties;

(b) To engage in a performance for hire that is obscene, sexually-oriented, or nudity oriented;

(c) To be a model or participant for hire in the production of material that is obscene, sexually-oriented, or nudity oriented.

(B) For a prosecution under division (A)(1) of this section, the element "compelled" does not require that the compulsion be openly displayed or physically exerted. The element "compelled" has been established if the state proves that the offender overcame the victim's will by force, fear, duress, intimidation, or fraud, by furnishing or offering a controlled substance to the victim, or by manipulating the victim's controlled substance addiction.

Similar to the federal statute, this definition addresses minor victims differently from adults. Prior legislation in Ohio stated that if an individual is under the age of 16, then law enforcement does not need to prove that the individual was compelled to engage in commercial sexual activity (ORC 2905.32 [A][2]). If an individual is between 16- and 17-years-old, law enforcement officials do not need to prove that the minor was compelled to engage in commercial sexual activity if the trafficker was in a "position of authority" over the victim (defined in section 2907.03 of the ORC, which includes parents or persons acting in loco parentis, teachers, coaches, and others) (2905.32 [A][3]). This statute also addressed labor trafficking, as it prohibits "involuntary servitude." In 2021, and again in 2022, Ohio passed state law that eliminated this tiered definition to align the ORC definition with the TVPA

definition, considering anyone under the age of 18 as a victim of sex trafficking if the individual is engaged in commercial sex.

The Scope of Human Trafficking in Ohio

The exact number of youth who have experienced human trafficking is challenging to determine since it is difficult to identify cases of sex trafficking and/or labor trafficking (Finkelhor et al., 2017). Given these measurement challenges, most prevalence estimates of human trafficking victimization suffer from several limitations (Franchino-Olsen et al., 2020). In 2019, Anderson and colleagues published a prevalence study of trafficking victims in Ohio between 2013-2018, with a focus on youth and young adult populations. Using existing agency data, aggregate reports, and newspaper reports of human trafficking, they estimated between 970 and 1,097 known victims (95% confidence interval) and between 4,083 and 4,338 (95% confidence interval) at-risk individuals during this time period. Roughly 87% of individuals were identified as sex trafficking victims and 82.6% of identified victims were female. Relevant to the current report, 85.5% of victims identified by state and local agencies were youth – largely reflective of data collection from youth-serving or youth-focused agencies. Over half (57.6%) of the victims were White, followed by 35.4% Black, and 6.4% Multiracial. The study reports more detailed demographics (e.g., percentage Hispanic/Latino; citizenship status) by individual data source rather than aggregated (Anderson et al., 2019). Finally, the authors documented that justice system involvement, running away, foster care or child protective services placement, and homelessness increased youth vulnerability to human trafficking victimization (Anderson et al., 2019). Indeed, other research has documented shared risk factors between human trafficking victims and justice-involved youth including history of abuse and neglect, poor family attachments, truancy, substance use, and mental health concerns (Albanese, 2007; Clarke et al., 2012; Cole & Sprang, 2014; Cole et al., 2016; Moore et al., 2017; Reid et al., 2017; Roe-Sepowitz, 2012; Varma et al., 2015; Williams, 2015).

Screening for Human Trafficking Victimization

Several tools have been developed to screen for human trafficking victimization experiences among children, youth, and adults. In this context, screening and assessment tools can be brief or comprehensive instruments defined by their intended goal to identify human trafficking victimization in a population of interest (RTI International, 2021). In general, these screening tools include questions related to safety, fraud, coercion, money, force, sexual acts, living conditions, working conditions, physical and mental health, associations and possessions, police interaction and arrests, appearance and presentation, and immigration and travel (Chisholm-Straker et al., 2019; Macy et al., 2021; National Human Trafficking Resource Center, 2011). The number of questions on these screening tools can vary widely (item range = 4 to 112), with a mean of 25 question ($SD = 24$) (Macy et al., 2021). In a recent meta-analysis on human trafficking screening and assessment, Macy and

colleagues (2021) reported that 10 out of 22 trafficking tools included youth-specific questions, one tool was specific to a juvenile justice context, and only five of the instruments offered any data on the reliability and validity of the instrument¹. Given the differences in the definition of sex trafficking between youth and adults (e.g., no requirement of force, fraud, or coercion in commercial sex if the person is a minor), and the increased risk of trafficking for youth, particularly those who are system-involved, it is important to validate human trafficking tools to identify at-risk youth and victims of trafficking.

Regarding youth-specific tools, screenings have been implemented and validated in various youth-serving agencies. The Commercial Sexual Exploitation-Identification Tool (CSE-IT) was developed by the West Coast Children's Clinic and validated during a pilot-test in juvenile justice, community organization, and the child welfare system (Basson, 2017). The CSE-IT data was compared to another validated instrument (Crisis Assessment Tool/Childhood Severity of Psychiatric Illness) to assess criterion and concurrent validity, which resulted in a 92% correlation between the two tools ($Rho = 0.93$; $SE = 0.2$; Pearson $G2 = 3.07$; $p = 0.08$; Basson, 2017). Factor structure and reliability were determined using Exploratory Factor Analysis (Basson, 2017). The EFA reduced the tool from 10 to eight domains. The eight domains are: Housing and Caregiving, Prior Abuse or Trauma, Physical Health and Appearance, Environment and Exposure, Relationships and Personal Belongings, Signs of Current Trauma, Coercion, and Exploitation (Basson, 2017; Haley et al., 2017). The tool demonstrated internal reliability, with reported Cronbach's alpha ranging between 0.654 and 0.869 across the domains with a final factor structure that included items with factor loadings greater than 0.30 (Basson, 2017).

In a comprehensive study of adults and youth in community settings, the Vera Institute of Justice validated the Trafficking Victims Identification Tool (TVIT) using factor analysis to develop five scales (Simich, 2014). The Cronbach's alpha for the entire tool, which included five separate scales, was 0.910. The Sex Trafficking scale and Labor Trafficking scale both demonstrated strong internal consistency, with a Cronbach's alpha of 0.817 and 0.753, respectively (Simich, 2014). The TVIT correctly classified 96.8% of respondents as sex trafficking victims, with 98.9% sensitivity and 92.1% specificity. Further, 94.1% of respondents were correctly classified as labor trafficking victims by the TVIT, with 94.1% sensitivity and 90.6% specificity. Discriminant and convergent validity were assessed by analyzing correlations between scales, and verified validity, especially between labor or sex trafficking (Simich, 2014). Weighted Cohen's Kappa was between 0.829 and 0.860 and provided evidence of criterion validity (Simich, 2014). Variables within each scale were tested to determine which variables predicted each scale's composite score and trafficking designation (Simich, 2014). All five scales were predictive of general trafficking designations using Nagelkerke pseudo R^2 and -2 log likelihood models (Simich, 2014). The longer version

¹The five instruments that have reported reliability and validity data include the Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Identification Tool (CSE-IT); the Human Trafficking Interview and Assessment Measure (HTIAM-14); the Human Trafficking Screening Tool (HTST); the Quick Youth Indicators of Trafficking (QYIT); and the Trafficking Victims Identification Tool (TVIT).

of the tool correctly predicted 91.1% of cases, compared to the shorted version, which correctly predicted 88.8% of cases. Finally, the models (long version with scales, long version with all predictors, and short version) were slightly more reliable at predicting outcomes for males compared to females. These models also had high predictive power, strong correlations with trafficking victimization likelihood, and Area Under the Curve (AUC) measures. Similarly, all models had high prediction percentages, strong correlations between predicted probabilities, victimization likelihood, and AUCs across age groups. When examining the predictive power of trafficking models broken out by continents of birth, the short version outperformed the long version with scales in predicting outcomes for individual from Asia, but not other countries. However, both the long and short version predicted outcomes well for individuals from Asia and Latin America (Simich, 2014).

Chisolm-Straker and colleagues (2019) further validated the TVIT in a sample of homeless young adults. They utilized five screening questions from the TVIT and estimated the validity of these items using a logistic regression model using the Human Trafficking Identification and Measurement (HTIAM-14) (Chisolm-Straker, 2019). The HTIAM-14 has been validated in homeless youth, as it accurately predicted 92% of trafficking victims in a sample of 60 youth (Bigelson et al., 2013). Findings from this study validated the new screening tool, the Quick Youth Indicators for Trafficking (QYIT) which utilized four questions and was adapted from the HTIAM-14 (Chisolm-Straker, 2019). Among homeless youth, the QYIT resulted in 87.6% sensitivity and 76.5% specificity. The AUC in this study was 0.87 (Chisolm-Straker, 2019).

The State of Ohio has invested substantial resources in building capacity to identify and serve victims of trafficking through state and local court systems, including the development of the Ohio Department of Youth Services' Human Trafficking Screening Tool. The current study examined the reliability and validity of ODYS HTST. It is particularly important to screen for human trafficking among justice-involved youth as trafficking victimization is a risk factor for engagement in delinquency, especially among girls (Cole et al., 2016; Finkelhor & Ormrod, 2004; Varma et al., 2015; Williams, 2015). Further, youth who are exploited sexually or for labor purposes may also be forced to engage in crimes that can bring them into contact with the legal system. This mislabeling of victimization resulted in punishment when many of these youth required treatment and intervention to disrupt their victimization (Farrell et al., 2014). The ODYS HTST contains 59 questions across six sections. This study examined the validity of this tool in a sample of youth screened by ODYS between March 2019 and August 2022.

Methods

Data and Sample

Data from this study was provided from the Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS). ODYS shared a comprehensive, de-identified dataset that included (1) the ODYS

HTST instrument with item-level responses for all assessments completed between March 2019 – August 2022, (2) youth-level information tied to each ODYS HTST including demographic variables (e.g., age at assessment, gender, race/ethnicity), petitioned offenses, and corresponding assessments (e.g., OYAS risk measure and PREA assessment); and (3) trafficking outcome as reported by ODYS as a positive screen for trafficking victimization, case indicators that ODYS used to flag youth for trafficking victimization, or information provided gathered at a later date by ODYS staff that indicated trafficking victimization.

Ohio Department of Youth Services Human Trafficking Screening Tool

In 2017, the Improving Outcomes for Child and Youth Victims of Trafficking grant program funded by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) provided funding to create a human trafficking liaison position within ODYS. The role of the liaison position created opportunities for identifying human trafficking, building relationships with community-based organizations and prevention groups, providing training and technical assistance, and increasing internal capacity within ODYS to respond to human trafficking. Part of this grant supported work associated with the creation of the Ohio Department of Youth Services Human Trafficking Screening Tool (ODYS HTST) for youth. The ODYS HTST was adapted from several screening tools and resources including Shared Hope International's *Intervene Practitioner Guide and Intake Tool*, Vera Institute's *Screening for Human Trafficking: Guidelines for Administering the Trafficking Victim Identification Tool (TVIT, 2014)*, Covenant House's *Human Trafficking Interview and Assessment Measure (2013)*, and research from the National Human Trafficking Resource Center. Using these tools as a starting point, the ODYS HTST was developed by a multi-disciplinary team and went through several rounds of edits with subject matter experts (e.g., juvenile justice, child welfare, victim services agencies). The team ensured the final tool was both youth-specific and relevant to the Ohio context – and was approved for use by OVC in 2019, funded under their Improving Outcomes grant. Given these capacity building efforts to identify and serve victims through the court system, ODYS rolled out specific policies that outline procedures if youth are screened positive for human trafficking that support a continuum of care. The ODYS human trafficking liaison serves as a resource for follow up and to monitor effectiveness of screening and service referral processes. Given that context, it is critical for ODYS staff and partnering organizations to have information about the validity of the newly adapted assessment tool.

Appendix A includes the full measure. The screening tool contains 59 questions in six sections:

1. **Background Information.** This section asked four questions related to the details of the screening including the date screened, the location the screening occurred, the screener's name, and the mode of screening (i.e., the presence of an interpreter).
2. **Demographic Information.** This section includes information about the youth's name, ID#, sex, race/ethnicity, and preferred language.

3. **Youth Personal Background.** In this section, youth were asked questions about schooling, internet use (including websites and applications used), whether the youth has met with someone they met online, romantic relationships, and information about youths' possible tattoo and scarring or branding. After the youth responded to these questions, screeners noted whether there was evidence of unsafe online activity and evidence of suspicious/trafficking-related tattooing/branding.
4. **Living Conditions.** This section asked the youth about the type of residence they were living in, who resided in the home, who paid for their living situation, and whether they had ever had contact with Children's Services. Screeners indicated whether there was evidence of an unsafe living environment.
5. **Work Information.** This section addressed youths' experiences with work, or anything they have done where they received something of value (e.g., food, money, clothing, a place to stay, drugs, or gifts) for their efforts. Youth were asked if they supported themselves before entering the facility and if so, how they supported themselves. They were asked how much money they made, how they received the money, if they had been promised money they did not receive, if their family owed anyone money, if they lived and worked in the same place, and if they were able to quit without punishment. Finally, the youth were asked what they would want to do in the future. Throughout this section, screeners noted whether there was evidence of deceptive payment practices and evidence of forced labor.
6. **Leaving or Running Away from Home.** Youth were asked if they had ever run away, stayed away, or left home without permission. If youth answered yes to this question, they were then asked how many times they had run away, how long they were gone for, where they stayed when they left, and how they supported themselves when they were away from home. Those who had run away were also asked if they kept their own money or if someone kept it for them. Further, they were asked who they stayed with while they were away and if that person ever gave them things they needed (e.g., money, food, drugs, clothes). Other questions included whether they left town when they were away from home, if anyone did not allow them to return home, their reason for leaving home, if they felt uncomfortable or unsafe while they were away, and if they were asked to engage in sexual activities to get something they needed or wanted (e.g., dancing, stripping, posing for photos, or sex of any kind). All youth, regardless of whether they had run away from home or not, were asked if anyone had ever locked doors or windows to prevent them from leaving, had forced them to use false identification, had received something of value in exchange for sex, and about possible gang involvement. Screeners indicated whether there was evidence of the following risk factors or exploitation practices: excessive running away, coercion or force to stay on the run, evidence of sexual activities for money, support, or gifts, inability to leave, forced identity deception, and compensation for sexual activity.

Data were compiled from several Excel files obtained from ODYS (base file, PREA assessments, mental health information, substance abuse treatment, offenses, and OYAS assessments) and imported into Stata for cleaning and merging into two master files: one at

the individual youth level and one at the assessment level. Variables were organized, coded, and renamed based on the placement of corresponding questions in the ODYS HTST to facilitate analysis. For example, prefixes identified the section of the assessment tool (s1, s2, etc.) and the suffix represents the question number within that category. All missing data was recoded to exclude cases from analysis with a reason for missingness retained when given (".n" for cases marked null, ".r" for refused, etc.).

The initial files provided were at the assessment level, with some youth undergoing multiple assessments. Youth may be screened up to four separate times while involved with ODYS. The first screening point is for every youth upon intake into the facility. The second possible screening point is if the youth is in the facility for more than 90 days. The third possible screening point is seven days prior to their release. Finally, youth may receive an assessment after their release to parole. All screeners are trained ODYS staff, in which the staff primarily completing the ODYS HTST are the behavioral health staff and parole officers. The behavioral health staff complete screenings for youth in facilities whereas parole officers complete screenings for youth released to parole (Gaffey & O'Bryan, personal communication, March 29, 2023).

No youth should have more than four screens unless they are recommitted to ODYS for a new offense. Some youth have fewer follow-up screens for various reasons – they might have been released sooner without notice in time to complete a pre-release screen, they might have been in isolation due to COVID-19 precautions, or they might have moved to another facility. These multiple screening points are critically important due to disclosure barriers. For instance, when a youth first enters a facility, they may be uncomfortable or may not have the existing relationships with staff necessary for disclosure. Over time, as comfort levels and trusting relationships increase, youth might disclose at a later point. This also allowed for ODYS staff to screen for potential exploitation occurring in the facility by using multiple screening points (Gaffey & O'Bryan, personal communication, March 29, 2023).

Though the initial base file contained many of the relevant variables for the tool, additional variables were taken from supplemental Excel files provided, which were then cleaned and merged into the base file as needed (for example, offense data and official child services contacts). Initial coding was retained where possible, however, some variables were re-coded for the purpose of analysis (for example, some variables such as school attendance were dichotomized to better reflect the intent of the tool question).

To facilitate individual-level analysis, a new numeric identifier, as well as a sequencing variable, was created to facilitate conversion to wide format. In total, 2,010 assessments were given to 1,117 unique youth. Five cases were dropped due to extensive missing data. The total valid sample included 1,112 unique youth. Results reported throughout the study utilize assessment-level information (with corrections for clustering at the individual level using robust standard errors, wherever possible). In interpreting these results, unless indicated as youth-level, all interpretations should be made at the assessment level. These findings do

not count the prevalence of youth victims of human trafficking in the juvenile justice system but rather the number of assessments that corresponded with any indicated human trafficking outcome.

Trafficking Outcomes

After finishing the screening questions, screeners asked youth if there was anything else they would like to share and noted any comments made during this time. Upon completion of the screening, screeners noted if they noticed any nonverbal indicators of past victimization as well as indicators that the youth's responses may have been false. Finally, screeners would identify the youth as one or more of the following: non-victim, victim of sex trafficking, victim of labor trafficking, indicated-sex trafficking (suspicion of trafficking but more information is needed), or indicated-labor trafficking. This indication can be based on several factors including the nature of the presenting charges (e.g., soliciting, loitering) or other indicators of engaging in commercial sex, youth disclosure of sex or labor trafficking (inside or outside of the screening process), and/or substantiation from another source (e.g., local juvenile courts, existing children's services reports, community-based prevention groups). Given the low base rate of trafficking victimization in the overall sample of assessments (2.29% of assessments were followed up with any indication of trafficking victimization), these outcomes were combined into one binary variable to indicate risk for trafficking victimization and/or indicated trafficking victimization (either sex trafficking or labor trafficking).

Ancillary Measures

Beyond the variables directly included in the tool, several ancillary measures were provided from ODYS. First, offense history as well as sentence length (in days) were included. For the purpose of analysis, offense history was consolidated and coded as a count variable to assess overall frequency of juvenile justice involvement. Second, information from risk and need assessments (specifically pertaining to need domains) was provided. Youth involved in the Ohio juvenile justice system are given assessments using the OYAS (Ohio Youth Assessment System) tool at various points of involvement, including intake- which is designed to identify risk level as well as needs of the youth across domains including family and living arrangements, education, substance use and peers (Latessa et al., 2009). Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) assessments were also provided by ODYS for those youth who were placed in custody (750 unique youth). Measures included identification as potential sexual abuse victims and abusers as well as a dichotomous measure which indicated if a youth was identified as LGBTQIA+. Regarding substance use issues, records of self-reported substance use (including type of substance used) as well as official records of substance use treatment were included. ODYS also provided additional contextual measures including official records of child protective services contacts (including reasons for contact and a dichotomous measure indicating if the youth was adopted) and mental health variables

(history of counseling, binary measure of psychiatric assessment provided, history of sexual abuse).

Sample Characteristics

Table 1 includes descriptive statistics at the youth-level ($n = 1,113$) for all cases that include valid (non-missing) information. Overall, the sample was heavily skewed male, at 93.5% of the valid sample with 61.6% Black youth and 26.89% White youth. The average youth was 18.88 years of age with a range from 12.9 to 23.6 years of age. Approximately one-fifth (21.2%) of the sample had obtained either a diploma, GED, or some other certificate of completion. The modal number of offenses per youth was two with a wide range in sentence length ($M = 584.5$ days, $SD = 648.7$ days).

Table 1. Youth-Level Descriptive Information ($N = 1,113$)

	Mean or %	Frequency or SD	Min	Max	% Missing
Demographics					
Male	93.53%	1041	-	-	0
Female	6.47%	72	-	-	0
Black	61.64%	686	-	-	0.09
White	26.89%	299	-	-	0.09
Hispanic	3.51%	39	-	-	0.09
Mixed Race	4.68%	52	-	-	0.09
Other	3.28%	36	-	-	
Age	18.88	-	12.9	23.6	0
Diploma/GED	21.21%	236	-	-	0
Offenses	4.09	(2.44)	1	20	0
Sentence Length in Days	584.57	(648.71)	0	5,615	0

Analytic Plan for Reliability and Validity

A variety of psychometric tests were conducted to achieve the study's aim of estimating the reliability and validity of the ODYS HTST with justice-involved youth. First, item and subscale definitions were examined along with the psychometric properties of the assessment with a focus on the descriptive statistics (e.g., means and standard deviations). Second, bivariate relationships and correlational coefficients were examined across domains. Third, psychometric properties of convergent (e.g., theoretically similar constructs) and discriminant (e.g., theoretically distinct constructs) validity were measured using additional screening and assessment tools provided by ODYS (referred to as "ancillary measures" throughout the report) – primarily relying on the Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) data and the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) screening tool information. Correlations and validity checks were conducted on the dependent variable ("positive"

screens for human trafficking victimization) based on inputs provided to label how positive cases are determined (e.g., what it means to be flagged for human trafficking through means available in ODYS).

Predictive validity testing was conducted using “positive” screens to determine correct classification of youth who have experienced trafficking and youth who have not experienced trafficking. A receiver operating characteristics (ROC) area under the curve (AUC) analysis was used to examine the sensitivity and specificity of the measure at both item and subscale levels. ROC AUC analysis is a useful approach to analysis as it is more robust to low base rates (e.g., if there is a limited number of positive screens in the sample) than regression models. ROC AUC values range from 0 (a perfect negative classification) to .5 (a chance 50/50 classification) to 1.0 (a perfect positive classification). In other words, the coefficient reflects the likelihood that a randomly selected youth trafficking victim will score differently on a given item than a randomly selected youth who was not a victim of trafficking to determine sensitivity, specificity, and correct classification of items. AUC values (categorized by trafficking outcome and measure), standard errors, and confidence intervals will be reported and interpreted. Validity was examined across all possible outcomes. At the most aggregated level, validity was determined through a binary measure of victim vs. non-victim in which the victim would include all possible response options (e.g., labor trafficking, sex trafficking, indicated, confirmed). SPSS 28 and Stata IC 16.1 were used to complete the data merging, cleaning, and analysis.

Results

The results are organized into two main sections. The first section includes descriptive statistics for each of the measures – beyond the sample characteristics presented in the methods section and item-level analysis for items on the ODYS HTST and, where applicable, the ancillary measures. The second section includes a series of predictive validity analyses (e.g., correlations, area under the curve). This set of analyses allows us to address the broader research aim to understand the measurement properties of the ODYS HTST to determine its reliability and validity with a sample of justice-involved youth.

Dependent Variable: Human Trafficking Victimization

The dependent variable used to assess the reliability and validity of the ODYS HTST was any form of human trafficking victimization – determined as either a potential victim of labor or sex trafficking or a substantiated victim of labor or sex trafficking based on the Ohio Revised Code definition of human trafficking. At the individual level, there was fluctuation in youth identification from assessment to assessment which complicates interpretation when

using youth-level information rather than assessment-level information². To illustrate, at the first assessment, 1,081 youth were identified as non-victims and 31 were labeled as victims. At assessment one, 10 youth (0.90%) were identified as sex trafficking victims, two youth (0.18%) as labor trafficking victims, 10 youth (0.90%) as potential sex trafficking victims, and 9 youth (0.81%) as potential labor trafficking victims. When considering follow-up assessments (e.g., the same youth received multiple assessments during their time in ODYS), several more youth were reclassified as a victim of human trafficking whereas several youths were reclassified as nonvictims. Given these fluctuations at the youth-level, it's critical to analyze the data at the assessment-level to determine the reliability and validity of the ODYS HTST on the assessment outcome. In total, 46 assessments in the sample had at least one type of HT victimization outcome classification. Table 2 displays the frequencies of outcome type by assessment.

Table 2. Human Trafficking Victimization Outcome Type by Assessment

	N	Frequency
Nonvictim	1964	97.71%
Sex Trafficking Victim	13	0.65%
Labor Trafficking Victim	4	0.20%
Potential Sex Trafficking Victim	18	0.90%
Potential Labor Trafficking Victim	11	0.55%
Total	2010	

A Note on Gender Differences. Assessments completed on girls had much higher rates of indication for any form of human trafficking, despite the smaller proportion of girls in ODYS custody. There were 108 assessments completed on ODYS-involved girls, of which 21 of those 108 assessments were indicated for trafficking victimization (19.4% base rate). There were 1,902 assessments completed on ODYS-involved boys, of which 25 of those 1,902 assessments were indicated for trafficking victimization (1.3% base rate). Given the small sample of assessments that were indicated for human trafficking victimization ($n = 46$), it is challenging to engage in any comparative or inferential statistics given the small sample size, but these characteristics provide important context about who – and what type of trafficking victimization – is most readily identified through this screening system.

ODYS HTST Descriptive Statistics

Table 3 provides the descriptive statistics for the primary measure, the ODYS HTST, across domains three through six (as sections one and two of the screening tool were

²Different screeners could account for some of this variability. All employees were required to take training and learn the administration of the HTST. However, ultimately, this process relies on the screeners to be the expert and relies on their knowledge of human trafficking and assessment administration.

covered in the sample characteristics presented in Table 1 or were related to the format and date of the assessment). The universe of cases included a total of 2,015 assessments (with 5 assessments dropped due to substantial missing data). Using the sequence command in Stata 16.1, we identified 1,117 unique youth within this sample of assessments. The majority of youth had two or three assessments completed (23.7% of youth had one ODYS HTST assessment; 31.7% of youth had two ODYS HTST assessments; 31.7% of youth had three ODYS HTST assessments). The total number of ODYS HTST assessments ranged from 1 – 12 per youth.

Table 3. Descriptive Statistics for the ODYS HTST—Assessment-Level (*n* = 2,015)

Variables	<i>N</i>	Mean (SD)/%	% Missing
Youth attends school	1475	73.79%	0.79
Average attendance over 2 weeks ^a	1521		0.79
0 days	128	8.42%	
1-5 days	314	20.64%	
6-10 days	1079	70.94%	
Internet access	1872	93.98%	1.14
Flagged for use of Backpage	6	0.30%	0.25
Met in person with someone from internet	760	38.21%	1.29
Evidence of Unsafe Online Activity	66	3.30%	0.69
In a relationship	1022	51.23%	0.99
Age of significant other	1996		0.94
Less than 10	1	0.05%	
10-15	127	12.49%	
16-17	472	46.41%	
18-21	369	36.28%	
22 or older	48	4.72%	
Tattoos	--	--	--
Scars or Brands (purposefully inflicted)	99	4.92%	0.20
Evidence of Tattooing or Branding	11	0.55%	0.60
Unstable housing (shelter, car, etc.)	39	1.94%	0.35
Living arrangements	1995		0.99
Family/guardians	1718	86.12%	
Friend	52	2.61%	
Lived alone	74	3.71%	
Other	151	7.57%	
Pay Rent	629	31.34%	0.40
Child services contact (self-report)	816	40.96%	1.14
Unsafe Living Environment	63	3.14%	0.45
Self-sufficient	553	27.57%	0.45
Flagged for reported income source (dancing, etc.)	6	0.30%	0.20
Hourly wage ^b			
Less than 8.15/hr	29	7.71%	

Table 3. Descriptive Statistics for the ODYS HTST—Assessment-Level (n = 2,015)

8.15-less than 15/hr	197	52.39%	
15-25/hr	63	16.76%	
More than 25/hr	87	23.14%	
Not paid for work	8	0.40%	0.20
Owed promised payment for work	124	19.38%	0.85
Family Owes Money	9	1.41%	0.50
Deceptive Payment Practices	18	0.90%	1.04
Live and Work in Same Place	--	--	--
Unable to Quit Job	132	8.47%	1.54
Forced Labor	9	0.45%	0.40
Ever Ran Away from Home	953	47.77%	0.99
# of Times Ran Away from Home	1991		1.19
0 times	1033	51.88%	
1-5 times	615	30.89%	
6-10 times	127	6.38%	
11-20 times	79	3.97%	
More than 20 times	137	6.88%	
Length of Time Gone (Last instance)	1989		1.29
Not applicable/never ran away	1037	51.14%	
1 to 6 days	422	21.22%	
1 to 4 weeks	250	12.57%	
2 to 3 months	157	7.89%	
4 months or longer	123	6.18%	
Excessive Run Away	220	11.02%	0.89
Stayed with suspected trafficker ^c	4	0.20%	1.74
Received gifts from runaway companion ^c	567	28.14%	1.09
Questionable Financial Support	96	4.81%	1.04
Left town when ran away ^c	371	37.70%	0.84
Prevented from returning home ^c	50	2.48%	0.94
Evidence of Run Away Coercion	20	1.00%	0.65
Sex work to support when ran away ^c	9	0.45%	0.25
Supported by trafficker/pimp ^c	2	0.10%	0.25
Evidence of Commercial Sex Acts While Away	30	1.50%	0.69
Money held when ran away ^c	24	2.5%	1.74
Felt unsafe ^c	137	13.48%	1.04
Self-report of sex acts for support ^c	28	2.76%	0.85
Self-reported confinement	74	3.72%	0.60
Evidence of Confinement	39	1.95%	0.60
Self-report False identification	15	0.75%	0.75
Evidence of False Identity	7	0.35%	0.60
Self-report gifts for sex acts	26	1.31%	1.14
Evidence of Gifts for Sex Acts	25	1.25%	0.50

Table 3. Descriptive Statistics for the ODYS HTST—Assessment-Level (*n* = 2,015)

Gang Involvement	438	22.29%	2.48
Forced/felt unsafe with gang activities ^d	52	10.06%	1.99
Gang compensated for forced activity ^d	59	11.41%	1.99

Notes: "Live and Work in Same Place" did not have an equivalent measure in the data and the tattoos question included a wide variety of open-ended response that could not be captured in summary format. ^aOf those who attended school (contingency questions) ^bWages, ability to quit etc.-frequencies calculated as % of subset with jobs, ^cCalculated as percent of those who had run away (contingency questions), ^d calculated as % of those in gang (based on contingency questions)

Descriptive Summary by Section

Youth Personal Background

The majority of assessments indicated that youth were attending school (73.79%) and among those who were attending school, school attendance averaged 6-10 days every two weeks (70.94% of the assessment sample). At the youth level, the percentage attending school fluctuated by assessment period with multiple youth dropping off at each additional assessment point in time – likely as a function of their system involvement as analyses for the first assessment only indicated that 73.03% of youth reported that they attended school prior to their current assessment.

Approximately 93% of assessments reported that youth had internet access. Most reported use of multiple types of websites or apps including YouTube, TikTok, Facebook, gaming sites and apps, music apps, and Instagram. The use of Backpage was indicated in six assessments (0.30%). Over a third of assessments reported meeting someone from the internet in person (37.3%) with a total of 66 assessments flagged for unsafe online activity (3.30%). These statistics were consistent at the youth level, in which the majority of youth indicated having internet access at their first assessment (94.19%) and 37.82% of youth reported meeting someone from the internet in person. At first assessment, 3.52% of youth were flagged as having unsafe internet activity.

Over half the assessments indicated that youth were in a relationship (51.23%). The majority of assessments indicated the youth met their significant other through school (32.28%) or through friends (31.00%), with 9.28% indicating they had met their significant other online. These trends were consistent at the youth-level with 52.13% of youth reported to be in a relationship at their first assessment, but this proportion fluctuated by assessment point. Most youth met their significant other at school (33.92%) or through friends (28.82%). Overall, youth with more HTST assessments were less likely to be in a relationship. Approximately 12.59% of assessments reported the significant other as being age 15 or younger, 46.41% reported the significant other as being ages 16-17, 36.28% reported the significant other as being ages 18-21, and reported the significant other as being 4.72% 22 years or older. This age range variability was largely driven by the age of the youth being assessed as the age of the youth at the time of assessment and the reported age of their significant other was significantly correlated ($r = .31, p < .001$).

Finally, the ODYS HTST youth personal background section asked a series of questions about marks, scars, and tattoos to approximate youth risk for trafficking based on any flagged “branding.” Approximately 5% of assessments reported that youth had a scar with the source of the scar being from themselves in most instances (60.82%) followed by a friend (18.56%), family member (11.34%), gang member (5.15%), or romantic partner (4.12%). Evidence of branding was flagged in 11 assessments (0.55%). The majority of assessments indicated that youth had at least one tattoo ($n = 1,402$ assessments or 930 unique youth). Only one assessment was flagged for a suspected trafficker escorting youth to get a tattoo. No cases were flagged for tattoo meaning as suspected branding (e.g., the tattoo included a suspected trafficker’s initials/name or forced branding/ownership).

Living Conditions

The living conditions section asked questions about youth housing and child welfare system contact at the time of the assessment or prior to their DYS confinement. Approximately 86% of assessments reported that youth lived with family or guardians. The remaining assessments reported living with friends (2.58%), romantic partners (2.18%), alone (1.49%), or with another non-family/guardian person (7.49%). Approximately 2% of assessments indicated that youth were living in unstable housing conditions such as in vehicles, shelters, or were experiencing homelessness. About one third of assessments indicated that youth were contributing to rent, with one assessment as paying rent through commercial sex. Approximately 41% of assessments reported that youth had prior involvement with child and family services. Finally, 3% of assessments were flagged for unsafe living conditions. These patterns were consistent at the youth-level at first assessment: 31.35% of youth reported that they paid rent and 41.6% of youth self-reported any contact with child and family services.

Work Conditions

The overall sample of assessments indicated that approximately 28% of youth report being self-sufficient. Several trafficking-related indicators were flagged across assessments: evidence of deceptive payment practices ($n = 18$), evidence of forced labor ($n = 9$); unpaid labor ($n = 8$); supports self through stripping/exotic dancing ($n = 1$); supports self through door-to-door work ($n = 5$). About half of the assessments that reported self-sufficiency expressed that the youth’s parents approved of their work whereas 17.5% were unaware of the job at all and 20.5% explicitly disapproved of their work. Of those assessments that reported working, 7.7% reported earning less than \$8.15 per hour.

Running Away

Roughly (49.41%) of all assessments reported youth that had ever run away. However, there was a larger proportion of having ever run away among youth who had four or more

assessments. Those with more assessments did not necessarily have more instances of running away beyond the first few times, as the majority of assessments indicated youth the “ran away 1-5 times” (30.89%) compared to more times. A little over one-fifth (21.22%) of the assessments reported youth had been away from home for one to six days, followed by 12.57% being gone for one to four weeks, and 7.89% being gone for two to three months. Only 6.18% had been away for four or more months. Finally, 28.17% of assessments reported youth who received gifts from a runaway companion, with only four assessments (0.20%) reporting youth had stayed with a suspected trafficker.

Gang Involvement

Across assessments, 22.3% of youth reported any involvement with a gang. Among those who have ever been in a gang, approximately 10% of assessments indicated that youth were forced by a gang to do something that made them feel unsafe. Further, of those who had ever been in a gang, 11.4% of assessments indicated that youth reported that the gang received compensation for something they were forced to do. At the youth-level, when examining the first assessment completed, these patterns were consistent: 22.1% of youth reported having been involved with a gang; 11.3% reported having been forced to do something that made them feel unsafe by gang; and 11% of those who have ever been in a gang reported that the gang received compensation for something they were forced to do.

Ancillary Measures

Two ancillary measures were used to determine the differential validity of the ODYS HTST: the Ohio Youth Assessment System (OYAS) and the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) assessment. The descriptive statistics for the ancillary measure data sources are described in this section.

The OYAS provides an overall risk level assignment to each youth (e.g., low, moderate, or high) and taps into several pertinent criminogenic risk and need factors. Across seven domains, 32 items are measured in the OYAS tool to be significant predictors of new arrest. These domains include the following: (1) juvenile justice history, (2) family and living arrangements, (3) peers and social support networks, (4) education and employment, (5) pro-social skills, (6) substance abuse, mental health, and personality, (7) values, beliefs, and attitudes (Latessa, et al., 2009). The tool is scored and categorizes youth as low risk if the score is between 0-12, moderate risk for score 13-18, and high risk for scores 19-32.

Data provided included 3,510 unique OYAS assessments after removing duplicate cases. When merged with the ODYS HTST data, a total of 1,064 youth were given at least one OYAS assessment. If youth had more than one OYAS assessment, the assessments were matched by the closest date to the corresponding assessment.

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), passed in 2003, called attention to the issues with sexual victimization within secure facilities and mandated better practices in reporting, investigating, and preventing sexual assault in adult and juvenile facilities. PREA assessments serve as a way to identify both those who are at risk of being victimized themselves as well as those who are at high risk of abusive behavior towards others among those who are in secure facilities (Hastings et al. 2013). Specifically, under 28 CFR §115.41, facilities which detain youth are required to obtain information about the following characteristics:

- 1) Prior sexual victimization or abusiveness;
- 2) Any gender nonconforming appearance or manner or identification as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or intersex, and whether the resident may therefore be vulnerable to sexual abuse;
- 3) Current charges and offense history;
- 4) Age;
- 5) Level of emotional and cognitive development;
- 6) Physical size and stature;
- 7) Mental illness or mental disabilities;
- 8) Intellectual or developmental disabilities;
- 9) Physical disabilities;
- 10) The resident's own perception of vulnerability; and
- 11) Any other specific information about individual residents that may indicate heightened needs for supervision, additional safety precautions, or separation from certain other residents.³

Though there is no national standard tool for PREA assessment, as it is only required that an "objective screening instrument" (28 CFR §115.41) is used; information obtained related to these categories or others may be then used to place the youth in one of four classifications: nonvictims, potential victims, potentially abusive, and potentially both victims and abusive."

The PREA tool includes four assessment categorization outcomes: potential victim, potentially abusive, potentially both a victim and abusive, neither a victim nor abusive. The PREA assessment data included 1,420 assessments across 750 unique youth. Youth received anywhere from one to six PREA assessments ($M = 1.89$, $SD = 0.97$). The PREA assessments indicated that 80.1% of the sample was categorized as neither victim nor abusive, 12.2% of the sample was categorized as abusive, 5.6% were categorized as a victim, and 2.1% were classified as both a victim and potentially abusive. Two other assessment measures were pulled with the data including whether the youth received a mental health assessment ($n = 315$) and screening for child and family services involvement ($n = 446$). Given the small sample size relative to the HTST and the main ancillary measures, these were not included for further analysis.

³ 28 CFR §115.41 <https://www.prearesourcecenter.org/standard/115-41>

Predictive Validity Analysis

We employed several strategies to assess the predictive validity of the ODYS HTST in differentiating positive screens for human trafficking victimization. First, chi-square models and t-tests were used to estimate whether youth who were determined positive for human trafficking victimization scored differently on the ODYS HTST compared to youth who were not indicated as a victim of human trafficking. Second, correlation coefficients were calculated to determine the strength of the relationship between items of the ODYS HTST and human trafficking victimization. Third, receiver operating characteristic (ROC) area under the curve (AUC) were estimated to calculate the accuracy of the ODYS HTST to predict human trafficking victimization. Finally, binary logistic regression models were estimated to establish if the ODYS HTST items are significantly related to human trafficking victimization. Each of these statistical tests offers insight into the accuracy of the ODYS HTST to measure human trafficking victimization.

Comparative Analysis of the HTST by Victimization Outcome

The results of the comparative analysis – presented in Table 4 – suggest that indicated victims of human trafficking were significantly more likely to be flagged for each of the major domains on the HTST, except for gang involvement, compared to non-victims. The results presented in Table 4 and suggest that there is a significant difference in proportions between groups (victims compared to non-victims) but should not be interpreted for strength or magnitude (see Table 5 for information about the magnitude of these differences).

Table 4. Comparative Analysis of HTST Domains by Victimization Outcome

	<i>N</i>	<i>% Sample Flagged</i>	<i>Difference in Proportions</i>	<i>z-value</i>
Evidence of Unsafe Online Activity				
Victim	46	50.0%	-0.48	-17.94***
Non-Victim	1955	2.2%		
Evidence of Branding				
Victim	46	6.5%	-0.06	-5.55***
Non-Victim	1957	0.4%		
Unsafe Living Environment				
Victim	46	26.1%	-0.24	-9.03***
Non-Victim	1960	2.6%		
Deceptive Payment Practices				
Victim	45	15.6%	-0.15	-10.51***
Non-Victim	1961	0.6%		
Forced Labor				
Victim	46	13.0%	-0.13	-12.93***

Table 4. Comparative Analysis of HTST Domains by Victimization Outcome

	Non-Victim	1961	0.2%		
Excessive Run Away					
	Victim	46	71.7%	-0.62	-13.31***
	Non-Victim	1951	9.6%		
Questionable Financial Support					
	Victim	46	65.2%	-0.68	-19.362***
	Non-Victim	1948	3.4%		
Evidence of Run Away Coercion					
	Victim	46	30.4%	-0.30	-20.31***
	Non-Victim	1956	0.3%		
Evidence of Commercial Sex Acts While					
Away	Victim	46	60.9%	-0.61	-33.52***
	Non-Victim	1955	0.1%		
Evidence of Confinement					
	Victim	46	45.7%	-0.45	-21.70***
	Non-Victim	1957	0.9%		
Evidence of False Identity					
	Victim	45	13.0%	-0.13	-14.76***
	Non-Victim	1958	0.1%		
Evidence of Gifts for Sex Acts					
	Victim	46	50.0%	-0.50	-30.15***
	Non-Victim	1959	0.1%		
Gang Involvement					
	Victim	44	15.9%	0.07	1.03
	Non-Victim	1921	22.4%		

*** $p < .001$ **Correlations for ODYS HTST Domains and Victimization Outcome**

Phi correlation coefficients ($r\phi$), presented in Table 5, were calculated for each domain area on the ODYS HTST and if youth were indicated for human trafficking victimization. These coefficients (ranging from 0 to 1) measure the strength of association between the domain measure on the ODYS HTST (indicated as either yes or no) and trafficking victimization (also indicated as either yes or no). Generally, these correlations are classified as not associated ($< .10$), weak association (.10 to .24), moderate association (.25 to .37), and strong association ($> .37$). Evidence of unsafe online activity ($r\phi = 0.401$), questionable financial support ($r\phi = 0.434$), evidence of run away coercion ($r\phi = 0.454$), evidence of coerced or commercial sex acts while away ($r\phi = 0.749$), evidence of confinement ($r\phi = 0.485$), and evidence of gifts for sex acts ($r\phi = 0.637$), were strongly associated with indicated human trafficking victimization. Forced labor ($r\phi = 0.289$), excessive run away ($r\phi = 0.298$), and evidence of false identity ($r\phi = 0.330$), were moderately associated with human trafficking victimization. Evidence of tattooing or branding ($r\phi = 0.124$), unsafe living environment ($r\phi = 0.202$), and deceptive

payment practices ($r\phi = 0.235$) indicated a significant weak association with human trafficking victimization. Only gang involvement ($r\phi = -0.23$) demonstrated no association with human trafficking victimization and was not statistically significant.

Table 5. Correlations for HTST Domains and Victimization Outcome

Domain	Indicated for HT Victimization ($r\phi$)
Evidence of Unsafe Online Activity	.401***
Evidence of Tattooing or Branding	.124***
Unsafe Living Environment	.202***
Deceptive Payment Practices	.235***
Forced Labor	.289***
Excessive Run Away	.298***
Questionable Financial Support	.434***
Evidence of Run Away Coercion	.454***
Evidence of Commercial Sex Acts While Away	.749***
Evidence of Confinement	.485***
Evidence of False Identity	.330***
Evidence of Gifts for Sex Acts	.673***
Gang Involvement	-.023

*** $p < .001$

Receiver Operating Characteristics (ROC) Area Under the Curve (AUC) Analysis

Area under the curve (AUC) analysis, sometimes referred to as receiver operating characteristics (ROC) represents the probability that a victim of human trafficking is also indicated as a positive screen on each of the major domain areas – and non-victims of human trafficking victimization are not indicated on each of the domain areas. AUC values range from 0 to 1 and are robust when the outcome of interest has a low base rate. AUC values are classified as not predictive ($< .55$), weak (.56 to .64), moderately predictive (.65 to .71), or strong ($> .71$) (Hanley & McNeil, 1982). The AUC values across each of the HTST domains are presented in Table 6.

Table 6. AUC Values for Domain Indicators and HT Victimization Outcome

Domain	HT Victimization AUC [95% C. I.]
Evidence of Unsafe Online Activity	.733 [.637 - .830]
Evidence of Tattooing or Branding	.533 [.441 - .625]
Unsafe Living Environment	.615 [.517 - .713]
Deceptive Payment Practices	.567 [.471 - .662]
Forced Labor	.557 [.463 - .652]
Excessive Run Away	.801 [.719 - .883]
Questionable Financial Support	.809 [.722 - .896]
Evidence of Run Away Coercion	.650 [.550 - .749]
Evidence of Commercial Sex Acts While Away	.802 [.711 - .893]

Evidence of Confinement	.728 [.631 - .826]
Evidence of False Identity	.558 [.463 - .653]
Evidence of Gifts for Sex Acts	.755 [.659 - .851]
Gang Involvement	.470 [.386 - .555]

The strongest predictors of indicated human trafficking victimization were evidence of unsafe online activity (AUC = 0.733); excessive running away (AUC = 0.801); questionable financial support (AUC = 0.809); evidence of coerced or commercial sex acts while away (AUC = 0.802); evidence of confinement (AUC = 0.728); and evidence of gifts for sex acts (AUC = 0.755). Only evidence of runaway coercion (AUC = 0.650) was moderately predictive of indicated human trafficking victimization. Unsafe living environment (AUC = 0.615) and deceptive payment practices (AUC = 0.567) were both weakly associated with indicated human trafficking victimization. Three items, forced labor (AUC = 0.557), deceptive payment practices (AUC = .567), and evidence of false identity (AUC = 0.558), were technically weakly predictive, but were on the cusp of not predictive of indicated human trafficking victimization. Gang involvement (AUC = 0.470) and evidence of tattooing or branding (AUC = 0.533) were not predictive of human trafficking victimization.

Ancillary Measures and HT Victimization

Drawing on data from other commonly used assessment measures in the juvenile justice system, we calculated the strength and association between those assessments (similar to how correlations were calculated for the ODYS HTST in Table 5) to determine their convergent or discriminant validity with trafficking victimization outcomes. Table 7 presents the correlations for the seven domains measured by the OYAS, the OYAS total score, and whether youth were indicated or confirmed for human trafficking victimization. The only domain of the OYAS that had a significant association with trafficking victimization was peers and social support network ($r = .055$). This correlation, while statistically significant, is considered a weak association between the two variables. Youth who score higher on the peers and social support network domain of the OYAS may have slightly higher chances of trafficking victimization.

Table 7. Correlations for OYAS Domains and Victimization Outcome

OYAS Domains	HT Victimization (r)
Education and Employment	-.045
Family and Living Arrangements	.037
Juvenile Justice History	-.004
Peers and Social Support Network	.055*
Prosocial Skills	-.001
Substance Use, Mental Health, Personality	.043
Values, Beliefs, and Attitudes	-.005
Total Assessment Score	.025

Note: Pearson's r was calculated since OYAS domains are continuous.

*p < .05

Table 8 presents the phi correlation coefficients for the four major PREA indicators and trafficking victimization outcome. None of the four main PREA indicators (youth is a potential victim, youth is potentially abusive, youth is both a potential victim and potentially abusive, youth is neither a victim nor abusive) were correlated with human trafficking victimization.

Table 8. Correlations for PREA Indicators and Victimization Outcome

PREA Indicators	Indicated for HT Victimization ($r\phi$)
Potential Victim	.006
Potentially Abusive	.046
Potential Victim & Potentially Abusive	.025
Neither Victim nor Abusive	.034

Overall, these two measures provide important psychometric context for the ODYS HTST. First, it's clear that the ODYS HTST provides much stronger support for identifying and correctly classifying human trafficking victimization outcomes than the other assessments used by ODYS. Second, other measures commonly used to assess juvenile justice-involved youth are not correlated with human trafficking victimization outcomes. This implies there is some differential validity in these measures and highlights the importance of using a human trafficking-specific screening tool to measure human trafficking-related outcomes as the other measures used by ODYS do not provide any correlative or predictive support to measure possible human trafficking victimization.

Discussion and Recommendations

Youth who are involved in the juvenile justice system often have shared risk factors to youth who are victims—or at risk of becoming victims—of human trafficking (Cole et al., 2016; Finkelhor & Ormrod, 2004; Varma et al., 2015; Williams, 2015). Given these shared risk factors, there has been increased interest in screening for trafficking victimization among youth who are involved in the juvenile justice system. This study examined the validity of the ODYS Human Trafficking Screening Tool (HTST) among system-involved youth. Specifically, this study analyzed 1,113 unique youth across 2,010 assessments from March 2019 – August 2022 while in the Ohio Department of Youth Services.

Demographics and Victimization Outcomes

The majority of the sample was male (93.5%), and Black (61.6% compared to 26.89% White). The average age was 18.88 and 21.2% had earned some type of high school completion (diploma, GED, or other certification). The modal number of offenses per youth was two and the sentence length ranged from zero to 5,615 days ($M = 584.5$ days, $SD = 648.7$

days). In total, 46 assessments in the sample had one type of human trafficking victimization outcome classification, with 13 confirmed sex trafficking victims, four confirmed labor trafficking victims, 18 indicated sex trafficking victims, and 11 indicated labor trafficking victims. Key gender differences are also important to highlight here given that 19.4% of assessments completed on DYS-involved girls were indicated for human trafficking victims. This is much higher than the 1.3% of boys that indicated for human trafficking victimization. This means that even though girls present in DYS at a much lower rate than boys, juvenile justice-involved girls have significantly higher chances for experiencing and being indicated for human trafficking victimization.

Ancillary Measures

Measuring the differential validity of screening and assessment instruments is also critical to determine how useful an instrument is compared to other assessments that individuals receive while system-involved. To test this, we merged and analyzed OYAS risk assessment data as well as PREA assessment data with the ODYS HTST data files to determine if they were differentially correlated with human trafficking victimization outcomes. To test the strength and relationship between the HT victimization outcomes and the ancillary measures, correlation coefficients were calculated for the ancillary measures, similar to the phi correlation coefficients calculated between the ODYS HTST and human trafficking outcomes (see Table 5). The correlations for the ancillary measures did not provide evidence of predictive validity for human trafficking victimization. Overall, the OYAS and PREA measures performed poorly when modeled to predict any trafficking victimization outcome. The only exception was the peers and social support subscale of the OYAS that was weakly correlated with human trafficking victimization. There was no correlative evidence that supported the predictive validity of the PREA assessments with trafficking victimization.

This distinction is important for several reasons. First, that there is some evidence of discriminant validity and convergent validity when considering how highly correlated most measures of the ODYS HTST were with trafficking victimization in contrast to the negligible correlations produced when using the OYAS and the PREA measures. Second, from a practical standpoint, not duplicating efforts in settings that already expend significant resources on screening and assessment efforts may be important for streamlining staff workloads. Across juvenile justice settings, administrators and staff have many options for screening tools and assessments. However, this evidence out of Ohio provides support that practitioners more generally would do well to incorporate the ODYS HTST as part of their screening process given the discriminant validity of the ODYS HTST among juvenile populations. This is particularly beneficial in the state of Ohio, which currently requires ODYS staff to utilize this tool for trafficking screening.

ODYS HTST Descriptive Statistics

Youth received between one and 12 ODYS HTST assessments while involved with ODYS. Key descriptive statistics were considered in addition to the demographic data presented above. Across 2,015 assessments, 73.79% of youth attended school and 93% of assessments reported youth had internet access. A total of 66 assessments (3.30%) were flagged for unsafe online activity. Over half the assessments indicated that youth were in a relationship (51.23%), however youth with more ODYS HTST assessments were less likely to be in a relationship. Although several youth reported having scars, tattoos, and other marks, only one assessment was flagged for a suspected trafficker escorting youth to get a tattoo. No cases were flagged for tattoo meaning as suspected branding (e.g., the tattoo included a suspected trafficker's initials/name or forced branding/ownership). Approximately 41% of assessments reported that youth had prior involvement with child and family services and 3% of assessments were flagged for unsafe living conditions. Working conditions were also considered in the ODYS HTST assessment. Several trafficking-related indicators were flagged across assessments: evidence of deceptive payment practices ($n = 18$), evidence of forced labor ($n = 9$); unpaid labor ($n = 8$); supports self through stripping/exotic dancing ($n = 1$); supports self through door-to-door work ($n = 5$). About half (49.41%) of assessments reported youth had run away at least once. The proportion of youth who had run away increased among youth with four or more assessments. Across assessments, 22.3% of youth reported any involvement with a gang, with 10% of assessments indicating youth were forced by a gang to do something that made them feel unsafe. Among youth who had ever been in a gang, 11.4% of assessments indicated that youth reported that the gang received compensation for something they were forced to do.

Overall, these descriptive measurement and predictive validity tests provide evidence that the ODYS HTST is working as intended. This examination demonstrates consistencies between the assessment-level analysis and the youth-level analysis. As such, there is strength in using the assessment-level information, despite some clustering, because it provided the most information. More information is critical in the case of human trafficking victimization due to the low base rate in the overall sample. Indeed, there are some opportunities to streamline the assessment for improved utility among justice-involved samples.

Predictive Validity Tests

Several strategies were used to assess the predictive validity of the ODYS HTST. First, results from the comparative analysis suggest that indicated victims of human trafficking were significantly more likely to be flagged for each of the major domains on the ODYS HTST, except for gang involvement, compared to non-victims. Second, Phi correlation coefficients ($r\phi$), which measure the strength and direction between the variables of interest, indicated there was no association between gang involvement and human trafficking victimization.

Further, evidence of tattooing or branding, unsafe living conditions, and deceptive payment practices were also weakly associated with human trafficking victimization. Finally, area under the curve (AUC) analyses evidence of tattooing or branding and gang involvement were not predictive of human trafficking victimization. Additionally, evidence of false identity, unsafe living environments, deceptive payment practices, and forced labor demonstrated weak AUC predictive validity. Among the assessment areas that performed well based on their AUC values were questionable financial support, evidence of coerced or commercial sex acts while away, excessive running away, evidence of gifts for sex acts, evidence of unsafe online activity, and evidence of confinement. Taken together, these tests suggest that overall the ODYS HTST performs as intended, however, with some assessment areas demonstrating stronger validity.

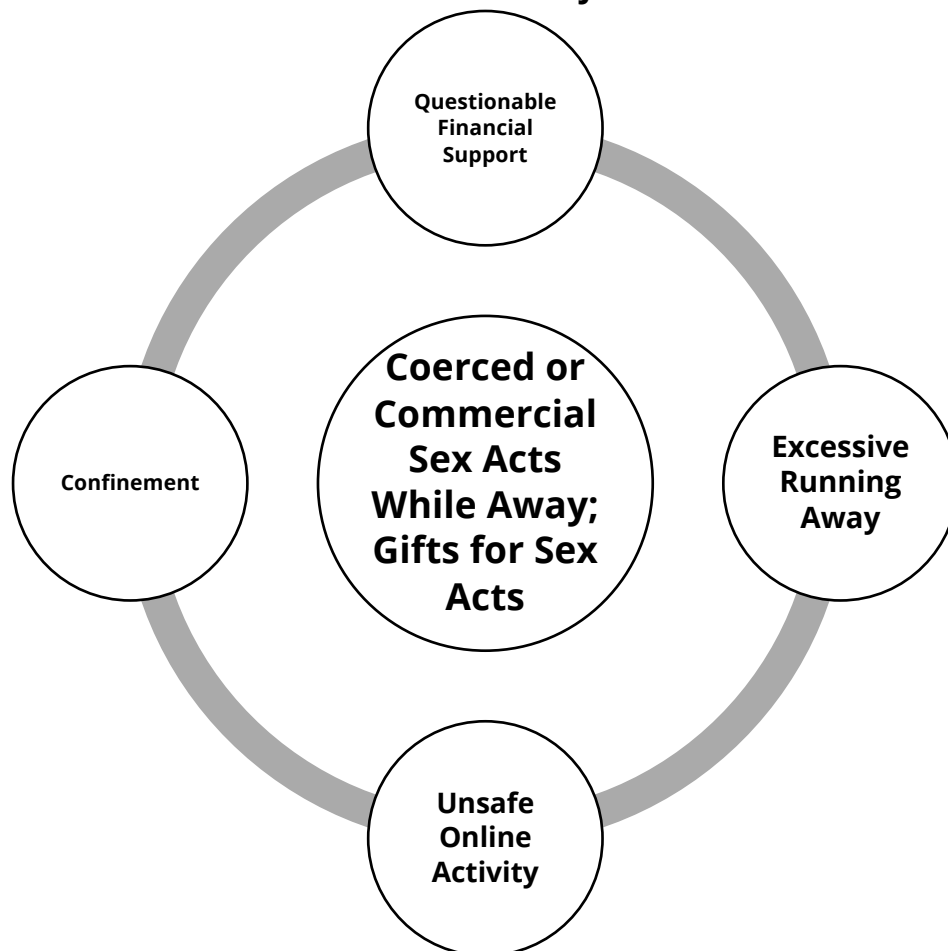
Implications and Recommendations

There are several important implications given the results of this study. First, it may be important to consider the “orbit” of domains and risk areas that agencies and organizations use when implementing the ODYS HTST with youth. Conceptualizing the ODYS HTST in this way may prove to be a useful way to prioritize risk areas that are most predictive of human trafficking victimization with youth involved in the juvenile justice system. Indeed, there are several items that clearly and directly relate to human trafficking victimization such as the items that inform the evidence of coerced or commercial sex acts while away domain and the evidence of gifts for sex acts domain. However, given that these domains directly measure sex trafficking victimization among minors (e.g., as reviewed in the definitions section, the legal definitions for sex trafficking include any commercial sex among minors regardless of presence of force, fraud, or coercion), these may be more challenging for screeners to get accurate information from youth upon initial assessment due to limited rapport and trust. Per ODYS policy, assessments may be completed at different points in time (e.g., upon facility intake, after 90 days, seven days prior to release, after release to parole). During the timeframe assessments are completed, it may be challenging for staff to build trust with youth to answer these direct, behaviorally specific questions that measure sex trafficking victimization. Indeed, fewer youth may have endorsed them due to rapport issues during the assessment process, or lack of trust between youth and the broader juvenile justice system. This could account for some of youth who had a difference in disclosures between assessments. However, multiple points of screening are important due to the common disclosure barriers previously discussed.

Therefore, it is important to consider how these various items and domains measure up to one another across each of the predictive validity tests (comparative analysis, correlations, and AUC values). Taken together, while the primary domains (the “central orbit”) that measure trafficking victimization include evidence of coerced or commercial sex acts while away and evidence of gifts for sex acts, the secondary orbit of strong correlates of human trafficking victimization (in order of strength across each test) include questionable

financial support, evidence of unsafe online activity, evidence of confinement, and excessive running away. Figure 1 visually depicts the primary and secondary orbits based on the predictive validity tests of the ODYS HTST.

Figure 1. Orbit of ODYS HTST Risk Domains with Justice-Involved Youth



Second, given there is some variability in the predictive validity of different items on the ODYS HTST, practitioners may consider streamlining the measure to prioritize the items that provide the strongest evidence of possible human trafficking victimization. Human trafficking victims score higher on ODYS HTST domains except for the gang involvement domain compared to non-victims. Further all domains except gang involvement were correlated with human trafficking victimization. Future work should refine the instrument, emphasizing the strongest predictors. For example, the romantic relationship measure may only be useful if youth have older partners. Future iterations of this tool could operationalize a measure of a significant older partners and condensing this tool to flag significant older partners. Additionally, gang involvement and tattoo-related questions are likely poor indicators of human trafficking risk among juvenile justice system-involved youth given these risk factors' prevalence in the general population of system-involved youth.

Third, the ODYS HTST operates as an index of risk factors, rather than a measure with clear factors and items that load on those broader factors. As such, future work should refine the instrument, emphasizing the strongest predictors and consider working to develop the screening tool as a scale. For instance, a scale will allow for examination of items that are both conceptually and empirically correlated with the domains and the domains are differentiated from one another in terms of what they are measuring. Each of the domains should be correlated with human trafficking victimization. Ideally, the measure would then allow practitioners and researchers to produce an overall score or risk level that should predict human trafficking victimization. A scale would be a much more straightforward way for practitioners to measure potential risk for trafficking victimization. As the tool is refined to function as a scale rather than an index, psychometric properties should be tested. Importantly, clustering the domain and risk areas, as well as adding additional items per area would be beneficial to test for the measure's internal consistency and reliability. Finally, beyond use in justice settings, the ODYS HTST could be adopted further with vulnerable populations such as in schools, juvenile courts, and health care settings.

Limitations

As with any analysis, there are several limitations that must be addressed. First, due to the low proportion of youth indicated for human trafficking, it was not possible to examine types of trafficking victimization (e.g., disaggregate by labor versus sex trafficking or possibly indicated versus confirmed cases). If possible, future research with larger sample sizes should prioritize differentiating between these types of trafficking victimization to validate any specific items or domains on the ODYS HTST that may be more or less predictive of one type of trafficking victimization or the other. Second, an inherent challenge of analyzing administrative data is a lack of consistency in missing or null information. However, only five cases were dropped in this analysis due to extensive missing data. Finally, although it is common to utilize a reliability or exploratory factor analysis in validation studies (see, e.g., Basson, 2017; Simich, 2014), one was not used in this analysis. The ODYS HTST is more of an index measure rather than a scale. Indeed, often only one or two self-report items were included per domain. As such, a reliability or exploratory factor analysis would not have supported this type of assessment.

Conclusions

Overall, the ODYS HTST performed well with respect to classifying and predicting human trafficking victimization outcomes. Coerced or commercial sex acts while away and evidence of gifts from sex acts were the areas that were the strongest predictors, followed by questionable financial support, evidence of unsafe online activity, evidence of confinement, and excessive running away. In contrast, gang involvement and tattoo-related questions were poor indicators of human trafficking victimization. Future refinement of the

tool should consider the strength of these items and their relevance to system-involved youth when seeking to streamline and improve the tool.

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Appendix A: Human Trafficking Screening Tool

HUMAN TRAFFICKING SCREENING TOOL FOR YOUTH

This project is supported by Cooperative Agreement No. 2017-VT-BX-K013 awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions contained herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice. References to specific agencies, companies, products, or services should not be considered an endorsement by the author(s) or the U.S. Department of Justice. Rather, the references are illustrations to supplement discussion of the issues.

Human Trafficking Screening Tool (HTST)

The contents of this guide and screening tool are based on the Human Trafficking Screening Tool (HTST) utilized by Florida's Department of Children and Families and Department of Juvenile Justice. The content of the HTST is informed by the Shared Hope International *Intervene Practitioner Guide and Intake Tool*, the research and reporting of the Vera Institute's *Screening for Human Trafficking: Guidelines for Administering the Trafficking Victim Identification Tool (TVTT)* (2014), the Covenant House *Human Trafficking Interview and Assessment Measure* (2013), and research from the National Human Trafficking Resource Center.

HTST Screening Preparation

The screening should be conducted in a safe and non-threatening environment. Screeners should be well-prepared, comfortable working with victims of trauma, and recognize the need to ask questions in an appropriate manner that is sensitive to the needs of youth. The following guidelines should be followed when preparing to conduct a HTST screening:

- Read through the entire screening instrument and Administration Guide, so that you are familiar with the instrument and able to conduct the screening in a conversational style, allowing the youth to direct the flow of discussion.
- Conduct the screening in a private, quiet environment designed to make the youth feel both physically and emotionally comfortable and safe.
- Be prepared to provide the youth with basic needs such as an interpreter, tissues, drink, food, clothing, medical/therapeutic care, and/or access to services, as appropriate.
- If an interpreter is necessary, he/she should be trustworthy (unknown to the youth being interviewed) and able to use the same wording as the screening when asking questions and the same wording as the youth when answering questions. Use of an agency or certified interpreter is required, and interviewers need to offer such to the youth when possible.
- Do not interview a youth in front of a suspected trafficker or individual who is exhibiting controlling behavior over the youth. Do not allow this person to interpret for youth if he/she does not speak fluent English.

- Recognize that dressing in uniforms, suits, or other formal attire may make youth uncomfortable.
- Use strengths-based and trauma-informed care approaches during the screening, allowing youth to lead the direction of the conversation.
- The screening process may need to take place over multiple contact points if the screener decides that the youth needs more time. The screener may postpone the discussion to a later time when the youth is ready to discuss his/her experiences. When a youth displays acute signs of anxiety, the screener should consider contacting a trained mental health professional to complete a session with the youth.
- For the purpose of this tool, “youth” refers to someone ages 10 through 24.

HTST Administration Guide

The screening instrument contains a number of techniques used to help screeners administer the tool properly. Screeners should be familiar with these techniques, which include the following:

- Instructions to screeners are provided in the HTST in italics throughout the instrument. These instructions guide screeners as to sub-questions that may need to be asked, sections that require information to be filled in, and questions that include prompts for further explanation.
 - Introductory comments and questions to youth are in bold typeface. Introductory comments should be read to the youth. Screeners should use a conversational approach to secure answers to the HTST questions, being sensitive to the needs of youth who may be suffering from the effects of exposure to trauma.
 - Avoid listing answer options unless the youth feels stuck. All questions should be open-ended rather than multiple choice.
 - Screeners should use professional judgment in deciding whether to preface a question or a prompt with phrasing such as, "Please tell me more about that," or "If you are comfortable, could you tell me about that?"
 - Screeners should inform the youth that the purpose of the screening tool is not to punish youth, nor will the screener seek identifying information about potential perpetrators if the youth is not comfortable disclosing. Screeners should help youth understand the purpose of the screening tool is to provide the most helpful, supportive care possible for the youth.
 - Screeners should follow state laws and agency guidelines regarding mandatory reporting. In general, screeners should advise youths that confidentiality will not apply if the youth describes a situation where someone is in immediate danger or at risk of being abused or hurting someone else.
-

Begin the screening by reading the following introductory comments to the youth:

This is an interview to better understand your current situation and experiences. I will be asking you questions about yourself. Try to be as honest as you can. Some questions may be sensitive and hard for you to answer. You do not have to answer anything you don't want to answer. You can take a break

at any time, ask to finish at a later time, or stop the session. I want you to know you can trust me, and your safety is my priority. What we discuss is confidential, unless you describe a situation where someone has been hurt or may be hurt physically, sexually, or emotionally.¹ If there is something you want to tell me about but you're not comfortable using names, you can tell me as much as you want, and I will not pressure you about sharing anyone's identity. I want to have this conversation to understand your experiences and how I can best help you; this is not about getting you or anyone you care for in trouble. Before we get started, do you have any questions?

¹To determine under what conditions confidentiality should be breached, screeners should adhere to mandated reporting requirements, as identified in Ohio Rev. Code § 2151.421.

Section A – Background Information

1. Date Screened: __ / __ / ____
2. Screening Location: _____
3. Screener Name: _____
4. Mode of screening:
 - Interview Completed without need for interpreter
 - Interview completed with the assistance of an interpreter
 - Interpreter needed, but unavailable

Section B – Demographic Information

5. Youth's name: _____
6. ID # : _____
7. Sex: _____
8. Race/ethnicity: _____
9. Preferred language: _____

Section C – Youth Personal Background

10. When you're not in a facility, do you go to school?
 - No (*If no, skip to item 11*)
 - Yes (*If yes, proceed to 10a*)
 - Refused to answer

10a. Where do you go to school? _____

10b. When you're not in a facility, how many days do you attend school in a typical two-week period?

 - 0 days
 - 1-5 days
 - 6-10 days
 - N/a
11. When you're not in a facility, do you get on the Internet, Wi-Fi, or use phone or tablet apps?
 - No
 - Yes (*If yes, proceed to item 11a*)

- Refused to answer

11a. What kind of sites or apps do you use?

- Twitter
- Instagram
- Snapchat
- Online game chat
- Instant messaging
- Facebook
- Tinder
- Plenty of Fish
- Craigslist
- Backpage
- Other apps or sites
- Refused to answer

12. Have you ever agreed to meet someone you met online or through the Internet or through a phone app?

- No
- Yes (*Prompt by saying, "Tell me more about that."*)
- Refused to answer

➤ Evidence of unsafe online activity? Yes ☐ No ☐

13. So, do you currently have a boyfriend or girlfriend?

- No (*If no, skip to item 14*)
- Yes (*If yes, proceed to item 13a and 13b*)
- Refused to answer

13a. How old is he or she?

- Less than 10 yrs old
- 10 to 15 years old
- 16 to 17 years old
- 18 to 21 years old
- 22 years or older

Refused to answer 13b. How did you you meet?

- Through a friend
- At school
- Through a family member
- Online
- Public place
- Work
- Other
- Refused to answer

14. Do you have any tattoos?

- No (*If no, skip to item 15*)
- Yes (*If yes, proceed to items 14a-14c*)
- Refused to answer
- Staff observed tattoo (*if selected, proceed to items 14a-14c*)

14a. What is the tattoo? (*Screener may respond to this item based on youth response **and/or** based on observation of the tattoo. Check all that apply.*)

- Dollar/currency sign, money bags
- Star/hearts
- Male name
- Female name
- Nickname/street name
- Refused to answer
- Other

14b. What does your tattoo mean?

- Family connection
- Personal meaning
- Romantic partner's name
- Gang-related
- Suspected trafficker's name/initials
- Forced branding/ownership
- No meaning
- Don't know the meaning
- Refused to answer
- Other

14c. Who was with you when you got your tattoo?

- Family member
- Friend
- Romantic partner
- No one
- Suspected trafficker
- Gang member
- Refused to answer

15. Do you have any scars or brands that were made on purpose, not from accident or injury? (*Screener should respond based upon youth answer **and/or** observation of visible scars*)

- No (*If no, skip to item 16*)
- Yes (*If yes, proceed to item 15a*)
- Screener observes mark(s), but youth denies mark(s) were made intentionally
- Refused to answer

15a. Who was with you when you got your brand or when you received the scar?

- Family member
- Friend
- Romantic partner
- No one
- Suspected trafficker
- Gang member
- Refused to answer

➤ Evidence of Suspicious/Trafficking-Related Tattooing/Branding: Yes _____ No _____

Section D – Living Conditions

Next, I'd like to talk to you about where you live and the people you live with.

Where were you living before you came here? What type of place were you living in? (*Screener may prompt youth by listing examples from below*)

House

Apartment

Group/foster home

Car/van
Shelter
Rehabilitation facility
Hotel/motel
Part of a residence (garage, basement, shed)
Couch-surfing
Staying in an abandoned building
Traveling/in-between residences
Homeless
Refused to answer
Other ____

16. Who lived with you?

- ☐ Father
- ☐ Mother
- ☐ Both parents
- ☐ Guardian
- ☐ Step-parent
- ☐ Relative
- ☐ Friend
- ☐ Romantic partner
- ☐ No one
- ☐ Refused to answer
- ☐ Other

17. Do you pay for where you live?

- ☐ No (*If no, skip to item 19*)
- ☐ Yes (*If yes, proceed to item 18a*)

18a. How do you pay for where you live?

- ☐ Parents/relatives
- ☐ Friends
- ☐ Romantic partner
- ☐ Myself through employment/job

- Myself through selling drugs
- Myself through stealing
- Myself through engaging in sexual acts for money/material gain
- Panhandle/beg
- Refused to answer
- Other

18. Have you ever had any contacts or visits from Children's Services? (*Note: Youth may use other terminology including CPS, JFS, HRS, CBC, DCF, DFS, and/or The State*)

- Yes
- No
- Refused to answer

➤ Evidence of unsafe living environment: Yes _____ No ____

Section E – Work Information

Now I'd like to ask you some questions about work situations. What I mean by "work" is anything you have done where you have received something of value (like money, food, clothing, a place to stay, drugs, or gifts) in exchange for your efforts. So your boss may have been a typical employer or may have been a family member, friend, boyfriend or girlfriend, or someone you lived with or had a relationship with.

19. Did you have to support yourself before coming here?

- No (If no, skip to item 27)
- Yes (If yes, proceed to item 21)

20. How did/do you support yourself? (Check all that apply)

- Agricultural/farm work
- Housekeeping/janitorial work
- Door-to-door sales
- Restaurant work
- Construction
- Retail

- Nails/hair
- Massage
- Personal dancing, stripping, or similar
- Refused to answer
- Drug trafficking
- Other (fill in)

21b. What does your parent/guardian/caretaker think of how you support yourself?

- ☐ Approve
- ☐ Disapprove
- ☐ They're not aware
- ☐ They have no opinion
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Refused to answer

21. How much money did you make per hour?

- ☒ Less than \$8.15/hr
- ☐ More than \$8.15/hr but less than \$15/hr
- ☐ \$15-25/hr
- ☐ More than \$25/hr
- ☐ Does not know
- ☐ Refused to answer

22. How do you receive money?

- ☐ Paid in cash by clients
- ☐ Paid in cash by employer/boss
- ☐ Money deposited into bank account
- ☐ Paid with check
- ☐ Paid in-kind through food, a place to stay, clothing, or other non-monetary items/gifts
- ☒ Not paid
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Refused to answer

23. Has anyone promised you money that you haven't received?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Refused to answer

24. Does your family owe anyone money that they need your help to repay?

- ☐ No
- ☒ Yes
- ☐ Refused to answer

Screeners may prompt for something else that is owed, like a favor, house, property, or land.

➤ Evidence of Deceptive Payment Practices? Yes ☒ No ☐

25. Do you live and work at the same place?

- No
- Yes
- Refused to answer

26. Can you quit or could you have quit your job at any time without punishment from your boss or supervisor?

- ☒ No
- Yes
- Refused to answer

➤ Evidence of Forced Labor? Yes ☒ No ☐

27. When you think about the future, what do you want to do when you get older? (fill in)

Section F – Leaving or Running Away from Home

28. Have you ever run away, stayed away, or left your home without permission?

- No (If no, skip to item 30)
- Yes (If yes, proceed to item 29a)
- Refused to answer

29a. How many times have you run away or left without permission?

- 1 to 5 times
- 6 to 10 times
- 11 to 20 times
- More than 20 times
- Refused to answer

29b. How long were you gone the last time you left home?

- 1 to 6 days
- 1 to 4 weeks
- 2 to 3 months
- 4 months or longer
- Refused to answer

29c. Where did you go when you left? (*check all that apply*)

- Friend's place
- Relative's place/other biological parent's place
- Romantic partner's place
- Motel/hotel
- Street
- Out of Town
- Pro-social adult's place
- Anti-social adult's place
- Street gang
- Refused to answer

29d. When you were away, how did you support yourself? (*check all that apply*)

- Family/relatives cared for me
- Friends cared for me
- Romantic partner helped
- Worked (legal employment/jobs)
- Money through drugs
- Money/material gain/favors from prostitution, stripping, or similar activities
- Didn't stay away long enough to need support
- Stealing
- Government assistance
- Panhandling
- Borrowed money from friends
- Trafficker/pimp
- Refused to answer
- Other

➤ Evidence of Excessive Running Away: Yes _ No ____

29e. While you were away, did you keep your money, or did someone keep it for you?

- ☐ I kept my money
- ☐ Someone kept my money for me
- ☐ Refused to answer

29f. Who were you with while you were away?

- ☐ No one
- ☐ Friends
- ☐ Romantic partner
- ☐ Trafficker/pimp
- ☐ Guardian
- ☐ Family/relatives
- ☐ Street gang
- ☐ Refused to answer

29g. Did that person(s) ever give you things like money, drugs, food, clothes, or other things you needed?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Refused to answer

➤ Evidence of Questionable Financial Support While Away? Yes _____ No _____

29h. Did you leave town while you were away from home?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Refused to answer

29i. While you were away, did anyone you were with not allow you to go back home?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Refused to answer

29j. Why did you leave home? (*check all that apply*)

- ☐ Abuse/neglect happening at home
- ☐ Unsafe in the community (explain how) _____
- ☐ To spend more time with friends

- To spend more time with romantic partner
- Forced out of the home by the family or friend
- Conflict at home
- Seeking more independence
- Other
- Refused to answer

➤ Evidence of Coercion or Force to Stay on the Run: Yes ☒ No ☐

Sometimes people find themselves in situations where they feel unsafe, threatened, controlled, or even tricked into doing something they didn't want to do. I am going to ask you a few questions about things that might have made you feel unsafe, threatened, controlled, or tricked into doing something you didn't want to do.

29k. While you were away, did you experience anything that made you feel uncomfortable or unsafe?

- No
- Yes (If so, what?)
- Refused to answer

29l. Sometimes young people who are away from home can be taken advantage of and asked to do sexual activities in order to get something they need or want.

These activities can include dancing, stripping, posing for photos, or sex of any kind. While you were away, did anyone ever ask you to do something like that?

- No
- Yes ☒
- Refused to answer

➤ Evidence of Sexual Activities for Money, Support, or Gifts? Yes ☒ No ☐

29. In thinking about your past experiences, has anyone ever locked doors or windows or anything else to stop you from leaving when you wanted to? (*If yes, prompt with, "Tell me about that."*)

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Refused to answer

➤ Evidence of Inability to Leave? Yes __ No ____

30. Has anyone ever forced you to get or use false identification, like a fake ID, green card, different name, different age, or something else?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Refused to answer

➤ Evidence of Forced Identity Deception? Yes _____ No __

31. Have you or someone else received something of value like money, a place to stay, food, clothes, gifts, favors, or drugs in exchange for you performing a sexual activity?

- ☐ No
- ☒ Yes
- ☐ Refused to answer

➤ Evidence of Compensation for Sexual Activity? Yes _____ No __

32. Have you ever been involved in a gang?

- ☐ Yes (*if yes, proceed to 33a*)
- ☐ No (*if no, skip the remaining questions*)
- ☐ Refused to answer

33a. How did you get involved?

- Using force through actual violence or threats of violence
- Convinced by gang members that joining would improve quality of life
- Recruited by caretakers who were gang members
- Convinced by gang members that gang involvement would provide protection
- No recruitment occurred (youth volunteered)
- Other
- Refused to answer

33b. Did gang leaders ever require you to do something you felt uncomfortable or unsafe doing?

- Yes
- No
- Refused to answer

33c. Did the gang ever receive money, jewelry, drugs, or anything else for something you were made to do?

- Yes
- No
- Refused to answer

Screeners, close out the interview by saying the following to the youth:

I want to thank you for being open with me and answering these questions. Do you have any questions or is there anything that you would like to talk about?

NOTES:

Post-Screening Assessment

Did you observe any nonverbal indicators of past victimization? If so, explain.

Did you observe any indicators the youth's responses may have been false? If so, explain.

In considering the totality of the assessment, please identify the youth as the following (check all that apply):

Non-Victim

There is no evidence the youth was exploited for labor or commercial sex.

Victim – Sex Trafficking

There is reason to believe the youth is a victim of commercial sexual exploitation.

Victim – Labor Trafficking

There is reason to believe the youth is a victim of labor exploitation.

Indicated – Sex Trafficking

There is suspicion the youth may be a victim of commercial sexual exploitation, but more information is needed.

Indicated – Labor Trafficking

There is suspicion the youth may be a victim of labor exploitation, but more information is needed.