



HUMAN TRAFFICKING SCREENING TOOL FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

Principal Investigator: Linda Hill, MD, MPH | Co-Investigator: Chelsea Isom, MD, MPH

BACKGROUND

Human trafficking is an egregious crime that often occurs in plain sight, with roadways playing a critical role in trafficking operations. Law enforcement patrolling transportation systems are well-positioned to identify and respond to situations of human trafficking. Based on information received from law enforcement personnel and subject matter experts, a validated screening tool and educational resources would greatly benefit officers in the field as they serve on the frontlines of combating human trafficking within their communities.

OVERVIEW

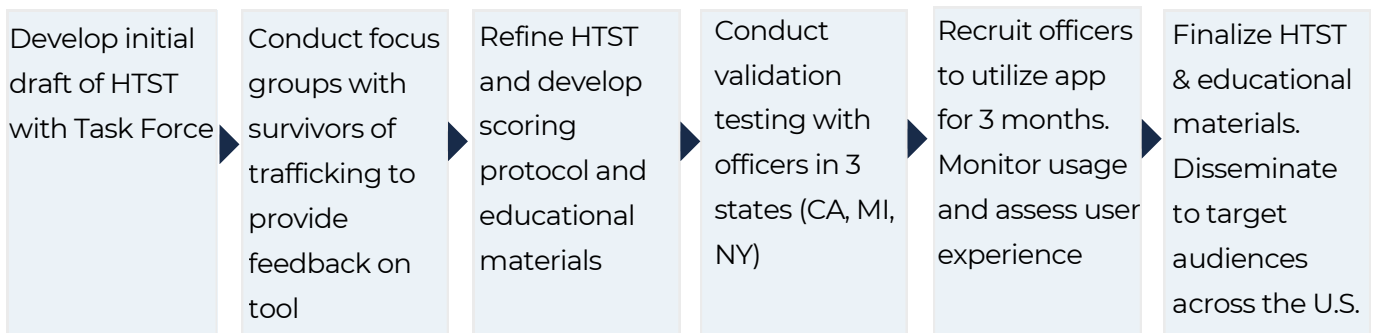
In 2024, UC San Diego Transportation Research and Education for Driving Safety (TREDS), in partnership with TAT (formerly known as Truckers Against Trafficking), was awarded funding from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) to develop, validate, and disseminate a Human Trafficking Screening Tool (HTST) for law enforcement. Educational materials will also be developed to instruct officers on proper utilization of the tool.

A Task Force of subject matter experts, to include survivors, victim advocates, law enforcement, and prosecutors are assisting in the development of the HTST, scoring protocol, and educational materials, as well as advise on methodologies for validation and pilot testing.

GOAL

To increase law enforcement officers' knowledge and proficiency in identifying and responding to human trafficking as they patrol roadways and transportation systems.

METHODS



IMPACT

Access to a mobile, validated, and survivor-informed screening tool will enable law enforcement to accurately identify, assess, and effectively respond to incidents of human trafficking. The HTST will ultimately aid in the recovery of victims and contribute to anti-human trafficking efforts throughout the nation.