

PART A:

Summaries of Project Request

Human trafficking has been described as the new modern-day form of slavery and although it is generally considered one of the most profitable transnational and/or global crimes (Farr, 2004), it has implications for local and state criminal justice systems in the United States (Wilson & Dalton, 2008). It is estimated that 600,000-800,000 victims of human trafficking are transported and enslaved in the United States each year (U.S. Department of State, 2005)-- an ostensibly small number compared to 4 million people believed to fall prey to this global crime annually (Beeks & Amir, 2006). Nonetheless, most trafficking victims in the United States are forced to labor against their will and/or enslaved in virtually every state and metropolitan city across the country (Caliber Report, 2006; Wilson & Dalton, 2008). Accordingly, municipal and/or state police are the first to often respond to incidences of human trafficking and state criminal justice systems are the initial actors to take steps toward prosecuting perpetrators. This research attempts to better comprehend police and prosecutorial responses to human trafficking in general and responses to trafficking victims in particular.