

Geospatial Characteristics of Sex Trafficking of Juveniles and Young Adults in Milwaukee:

Follow up to “Estimating the Magnitude of Sex
Trafficking M6 6522lw8d07 66 8f07 54 08f07 5.0118 0)1 (t)

Acknowledgements

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The Milwaukee Sexual Assault Review (MSAR) informed research questions, provided input on and interpretations of the data based on partners' professional experiences, and actively generated and contextualized recommendations. Project partners are also in the process of obtaining and incorporating data from MSAR partners Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF), Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, and Wisconsin Dept of Justice- Division of Criminal Investigations (DCI) for future supplements.

Proactive Outreach for the Health of Sexually Exploited Youth (POHSEY) has been an instrumental partner, providing interpretations of the data and recommendations from medical perspectives. Additionally, an ongoing collaboration with Dr. Wendi Ehrman of POHSEY seeks to incorporate POSHEY data for future iterations of this report, furthering the understanding of sex trafficking from multidisciplinary perspectives. Finally, we want to thank Claudine O'Leary from Rethink Resources for reviewing and providing feedback on drafts of this supplement.

Methodology

This section outlines the methodology for this supplement, including search questions and definitions. A full description of the methods used in this project can be found in the original [sex trafficking report](#)

Research Questions

The following research questions guided this supplementary report:

1. What is the demographic profile of individuals who were sex trafficked in Milwaukee?
2. Are there geographic trafficking hot spots in Milwaukee? If so, where?

Data Collection and Definitions

Incidents involving trafficking were identified through multiple narrative word searches of “trafficking,” “Backpage,” “prostitution,” and potential misspellings in MPD’s record management system. Inclusion criteria for victims were individuals 25 years of age or older who were listed as a victim, missing person, or person of interest (POI) in a police report narrative that referred to trafficking, Backpage, or prostitution. Individuals with experiences that matched the Wisconsin statutory definition of trafficking were included in this report as victims of trafficking.

Two types of geographic information were collected. The first, which seeks to further the understanding of the demographic characteristics of individuals who were trafficked, included the last known address of the victim reported at the time of the trafficking incident. Because only one address could be collected in the database, the most recent address was collected. For example, if a person was confirmed or believed to have been trafficked in both 2014 and 2016, the address the individual reported to police as their current address in 2016 was collected.

The second type of geographic information was collected to understand the spatial characteristics of sex trafficking itself. This included collecting the incident location as it was recorded in MPD’s records and the police district in which it was reported. An additional text box was created in the database to allow for documentation of other trafficking locations that were disclosed.

Inclusion Criteria

Based on the difference in availability of the two types of geographic information, two sample groups were created. For both groups, date of birth, race, sex, and tier classification (confirmed vs. believed victim) were required. Therefore, both sample groups were derived from the 231 individuals analyzed in the original sex trafficking report. For inclusion in the first sample group,

Results

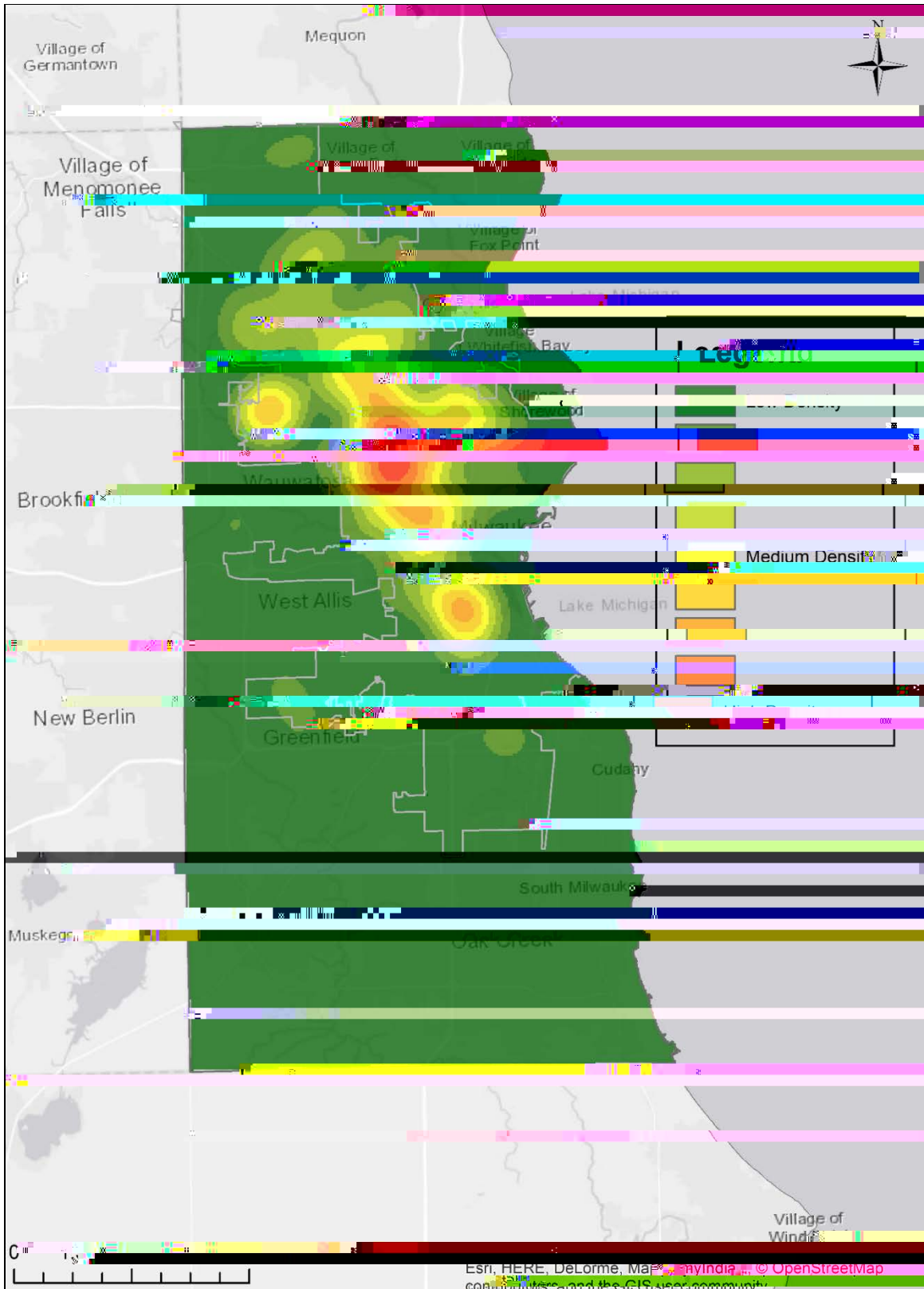
Individual's Last Known Residence

Of the original 231 individuals analyzed in the first sex trafficking report, essential information was available for 228 individuals. Four individuals were reported as homeless at the time of the trafficking incident, but one provided a zip code in the area in which they lived. Of the 228 individuals, 21 (9%) were last known to reside in Wisconsin. The remaining seven individuals (3%) resided in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and South Dakota.

Information on the city in which individuals were last known to reside was available for 220 individuals. The majority of individuals who were trafficked in Milwaukee resided in Milwaukee (200 individuals or 91%). Twenty individuals (9%) resided in a Wisconsin city other than Milwaukee. Seven individuals (3%) resided in a known city outside of Wisconsin.

Map 1 displays the population density of juveniles and young adults who were identified as victims of sex trafficking in MPD records in Milwaukee and lived in Milwaukee County based on their last known residence (N = 206).

Map 1: Last Known Residence of Individuals Identified as Victims of Sex Trafficking in MPD Records in Milwaukee, 2013 - 2016



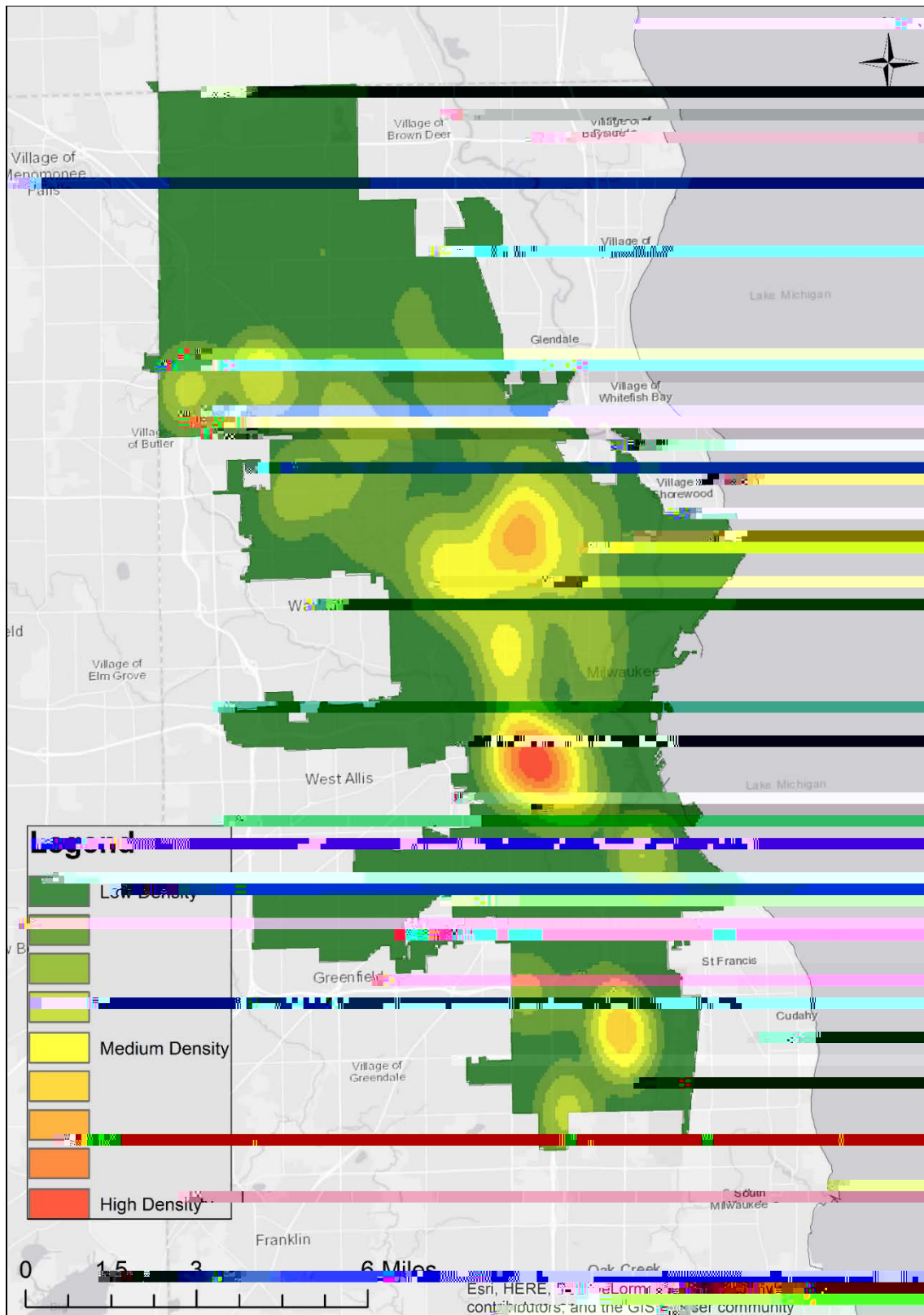
Trafficking Location

The location of incidents of sex trafficking identified in MPD records was available for 2 incidents of 18 individuals. There were slightly more adults than juveniles within this population. Of the 18 individuals for whom confirmed trafficking incident location information was available, 9 individuals (50%) were under 18 at the first recorded incident of trafficking between 2013 and 2016, and 9 individuals (50%) were over 18 in the initial report where 231 individuals were analyzed, 55% (126 individuals) were juveniles at first reported incident of confirmed or potential trafficking between 2013 and 2016, and the remaining 45% (105 individuals) were adults.

The number of trafficking incidents identified in MPD records in Milwaukee was broken down by address (Map 2), zip code (Map 3), and police district (Map 4). The density map (Map 2) clearly shows multiple hot spots of trafficking throughout the city with the highest density cluster on the south side of Milwaukee. The north side hot spot overlap with victims' last known residence and other violence in Milwaukee. A further examination of these hot spots can be found in the discussion section of this report.

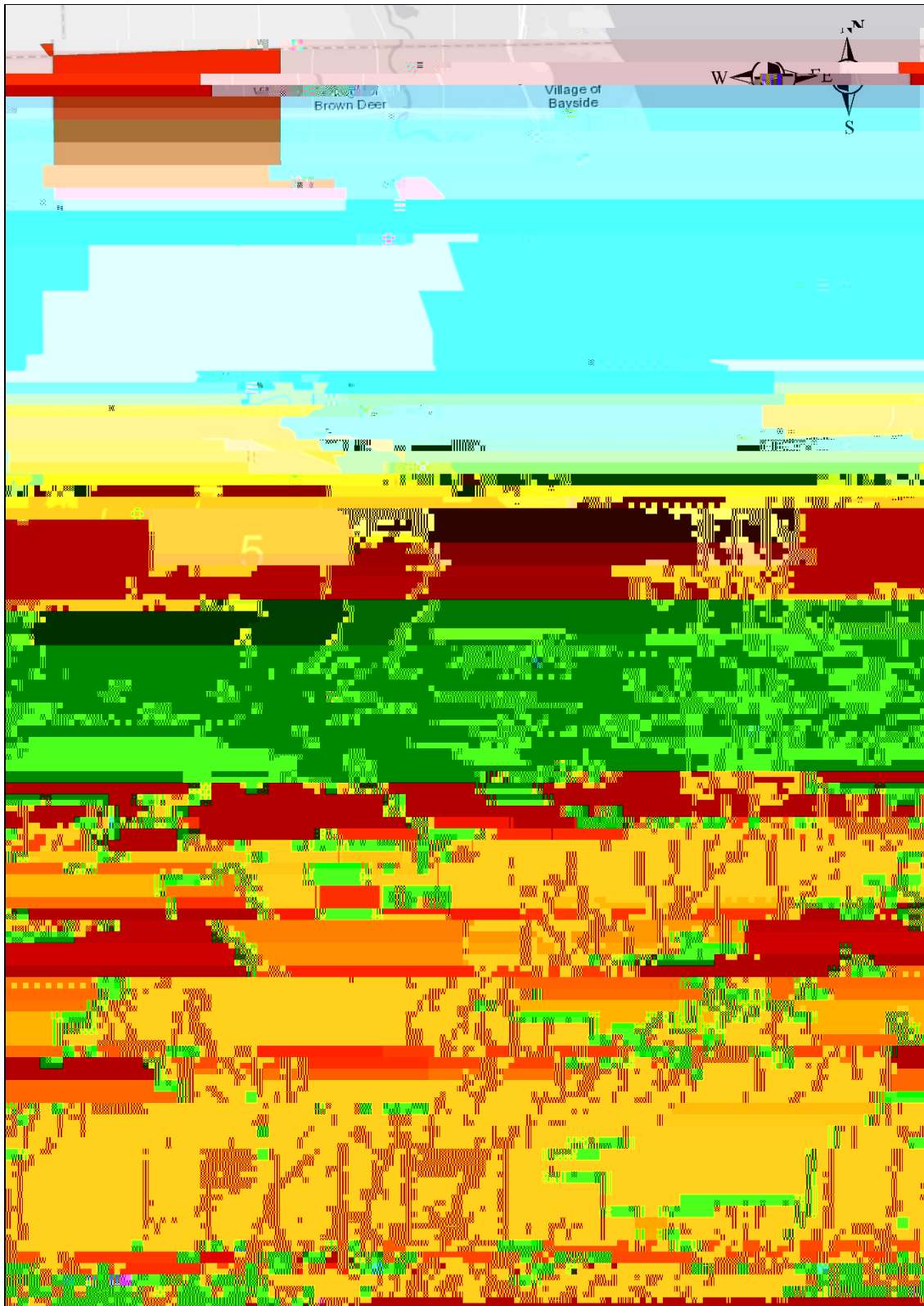
On the south side of Milwaukee, the largest hot spots of trafficking incidents were in the zip codes 53207 (27 incidents) and 53204 (25 incidents) (Map 3). These were also the largest hot spots in the city overall. On the north side of Milwaukee, 20 incidents were identified in both 53206 and 53225. Additional hot spots were identified at various points in the city. In the zip code 53210, 19 incidents of trafficking were identified and in the zip code 53221 (near General Mitchell International Airport) 16 incidents of trafficking were identified. High frequencies of trafficking occurred in every police district except District 1 (Map 4) which consists primarily of the downtown business area and Upper East Side.

Map 2: Incidents of Sex Trafficking Identified in MPD Records in the City of Milwaukee, 2013-2016



Map 3: Incidents of Sex Trafficking Identified in MPD Records in the City of Milwaukee by Zip Code, 2013-

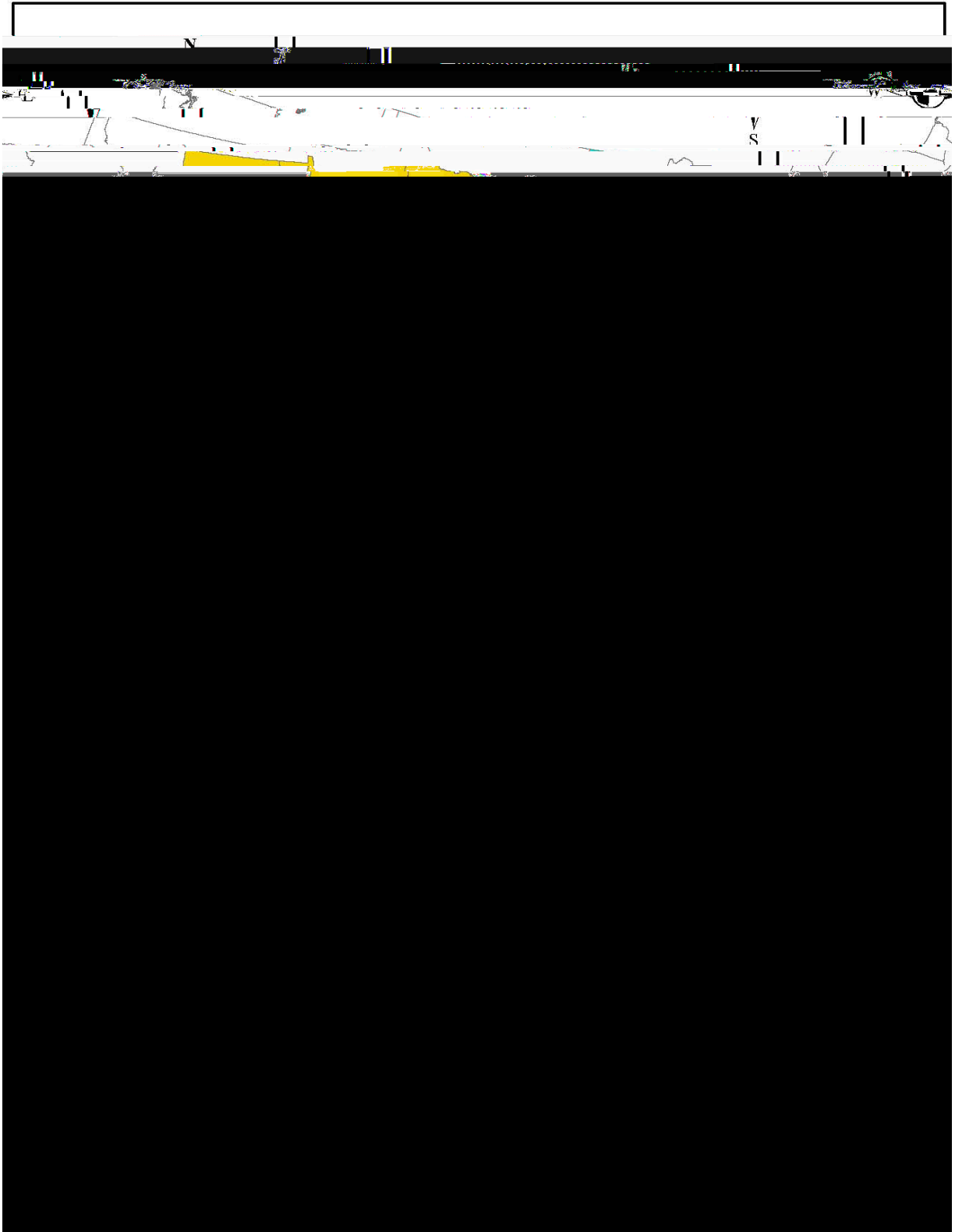
Map 4: Incidents of Sex Trafficking Identified in MPD Records in the City of Milwaukee by Milwaukee Police District, 2013-2016



Statewide and National Implications – Other locations

A narrative variable was included in the database to account for other locations individuals may have been trafficked in addition to being trafficked in the city of Milwaukee. The information is based on the individual's disclosure of other trafficking locations as well as recorded trafficking related contacts with other law enforcement agencies. Additional incident locations that were disclosed to MPD were limited in that the trafficking incident could not always be independently verified by law enforcement. Seventy individuals within the overall population (n=231) reported being trafficked in at least 42 cities across 20 states including Washington DC (Map 5). Within Wisconsin, individuals reported being trafficked in at least 30

Map 5: Additional Trafficking Locations Reported to MPD Beyond the City of Milwaukee, 2013-2016



Discussion

Limitations

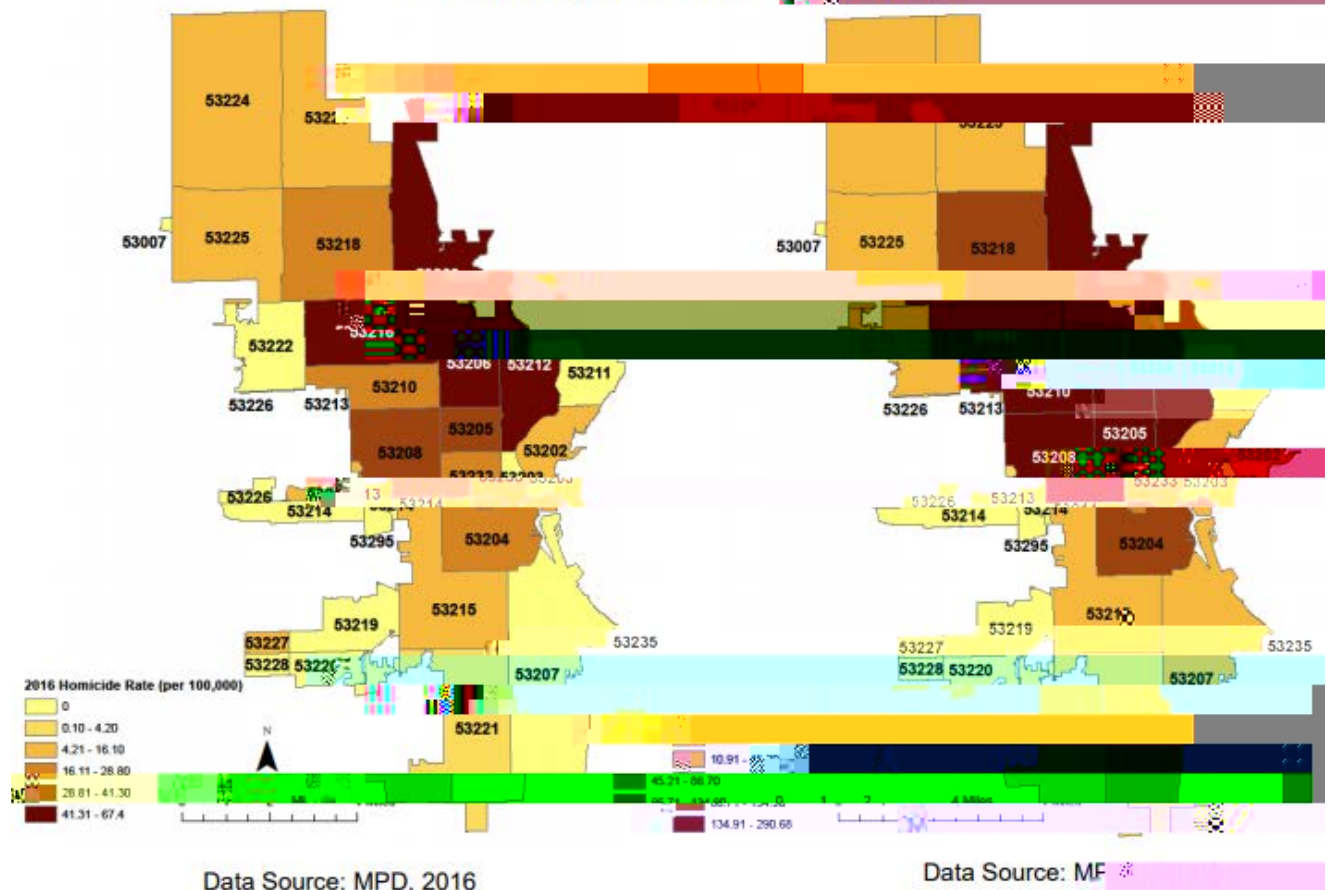
The limitations of this study and the data collected have implications for the findings presented and the interpretation of these findings. Most notably, this report only describes sex trafficking of juveniles and young adults who had contact with MPD between 2016 and 2018. Therefore, the findings should not be represented as the totality of sex trafficking in Milwaukee. Where possible, efforts were made to minimize the limitations. A comprehensive list of study limitations can be found in the [original report](#).

Diverging locations

We identified one trafficking incident hot spot that did not overlap with victim residence location in zip code 53207 on the city's south side. There were over 20 incidents identified in this zip code, but these incidents were not evenly distributed throughout the area. Almost one third of the incidents that occurred in 53207 were associated with one specific residence and one trafficker, while the remainder were associated with hotels/motels located near and General Mitchell International Airport. This indicates that there are certain areas and establishments that have characteristics that allow trafficking to flourish. In this example, proximity to the airport and 94 make it easy to get in and out of these neighborhoods.

incidents of trafficking were identified through a multitude of other types of interpersonal violence-related incidents, including kidnapping, battery, domestic violence, strangulation and suffocation, and false imprisonment. This indicates that the victims identified in this report encounter many challenges in their lives, both at the individual and neighborhood level. As a result, they may become more vulnerable to sex trafficking victimization. In addition, some of the areas where victim residence and trafficking incident location overlap have a high density of group homes that may be known to traffickers as locations where there are vulnerable children.

Figure 29. Homicide (left) and Nonfatal Shooting (right) Rate per 100,000 in the City of Milwaukee, 2016



Program through street outreach or as a diversion alternative to incarceration following a prostitution arrest by MPD. Initially the Sisters Program only had a single north side location, though they recently opened a south side location to also address prostitution and trafficking that occurs in that area. Programs such as this should be supported and expanded through funding, research, and further multidisciplinary collaboration.

Further research to identify why trafficking is occurring in certain areas—identify and address some of the environmental factors that enable trafficking to flourish: Research on sex trafficking is still relatively new and there are many topics related to trafficking that merit further examination. While our findings are not conclusive (trafficking may be occurring in areas that we did not identify), future research should examine the environmental factors that enable trafficking to flourish in certain areas, including what drives trafficking to other areas throughout the city, state and nation. By understanding these factors, prevention and intervention initiatives can be developed to prevent trafficking hot spots.

Develop alternative strategies for identifying locations where juveniles are trafficked: Many juveniles who were trafficked were excluded from this analysis because the location of the trafficking was unknown. Strategies for identifying where juveniles are trafficked should be developed to better understand the geospatial characteristics of sex trafficking of minors in Milwaukee. These strategies should be developed and deployed through collaboration between the community, criminal justice system, local healthcare systems, and social service and advocacy agencies.

References

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