

2022 IMPACT REPORT

A Ray of Hope

ALIGHT
ALLIANCE TO LEAD IMPACT IN
GLOBAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING

2022



GET IN TOUCH



alightnet.org



connect@alightnet.org



Survivor Intake Line - 720.608.6039 (M-F, 9-5pm MST)



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[@ALIGHTtoEmpowerSurvivors](https://www.youtube.com/ALIGHTtoEmpowerSurvivors)



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Seasonal Newsletter

bit.ly/35ISGXX

Join ALIGHT National Attorney Network

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Donate

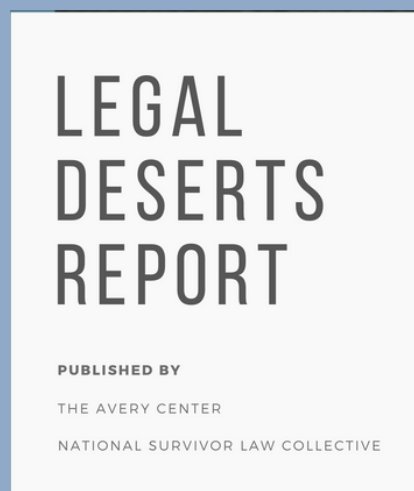
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ABOUT ALIGHT

Founded in 2015, ALIGHT is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that leverages technology and legal networks to help human trafficking survivors, not just one at a time, but at scale. **Our mission** is to empower human trafficking survivors on their journey to true freedom and holistic healing.

To help survivors finally escape the all too common cycle of violence and exploitation, ALIGHT connects survivors to specialized pro bono attorneys who fight for their rights. With critical legal services, victims who have escaped trafficking can overcome legal problems that are insurmountable alone, enabling them to successfully gain independence and rebuild their lives.

The **2021 Legal Deserts Report** identified a concerning lack of trauma-informed legal services focused on human trafficking survivors' unique needs. ALIGHT is one of only 16 organizations confirmed in the U.S. that provides comprehensive, specialized and free legal services to survivors of all forms of trafficking, regardless of gender identity, race, age or any other protected class.



OUR TECH-BASED MODEL



ALIGHT has pioneered the use of real-time matching technology (think: Lyft for pro bono legal services) to connect survivors' very specific legal needs to a *mobilized* army of attorneys with 20+ areas of legal expertise. In this way, ALIGHT bridges the worlds of human trafficking survivors and attorneys who want to help. The ALIGHT National Attorney Network includes attorneys in leading national law firms and solo practices across the country, providing real and measurable assistance to survivors and their families.

In 2020, the American Bar Association, which is an association of lawyers and law students that is the national voice of the legal profession, recognized the importance of the ALIGHT model.

In 2021, the Freedom Collaborative, which is the largest online community platform for service providers and activists working to end human trafficking, forced labor and exploitation with stakeholders across 100 countries, acknowledged that ALIGHT's model is "unique in the world."



LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

One of the greatest compliments to our work is when a survivor of human trafficking returns to us, year after year, for more assistance as their legal issues continue to be uncovered. This shows real confidence in our ability to help. Another is when a survivor tells other survivors that they should reach out to the ALIGHT community for help.

It means that we have earned their trust. Together, our community gives hope to those who are still in darkness and feel alone or lost.

Since launching our pilot in 2017, ALIGHT has been building on that foundation of trust. Trust of the survivors seeking help at a critical time in their recovery. Trust of the pro bono attorneys who generously contribute their expertise to fight for the rights of survivors. And, finally, trust of our community of supporters and partners who are committed to making a difference in the lives of survivors and in all our lives by making our society more just, inclusive and rich with survivors' voices and talents.

Many survivors have legal cases that take years to resolve. **Together, in 2022 we have helped a total of 113 survivors regain their lives** and be productive members in their communities. We provided support on 226 cases, ranging from child custody to bankruptcy.

Thank you for being **A Ray of Hope** for survivors, their families and our society. Remember, hope multiplies.

Sincerely,
Marianna Kosharovsky

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2022 IMPACT AT A GLANCE

113
Survivors

50 new
survivors
with new
matters

63 survivors who
either returned with
new matters in 2022,
or have matters
continued from
previous years

This information is based on what is known to ALIGHT at the time of issuing this report, and may be amended in future reporting as more information comes in.

116 new legal
matters
started in
2022

110 legal
matters
continued from
previous year

226 Legal
Services

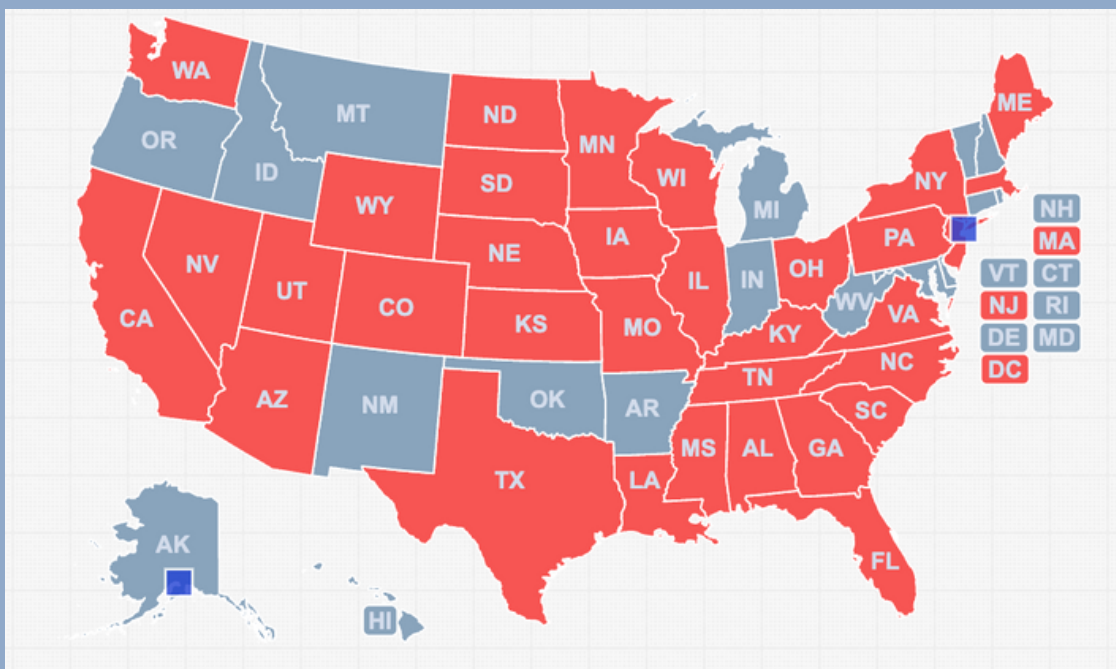
2022 IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Grew the National Attorney Network from 69 to 247 pro bono attorneys, thanks to key partnerships with leading national law firms.

BRYAN
CAVE
LEIGHTON
PAISNER **BLP**

Moye|White

Filled legal deserts by assisting survivors on cases in 33 states and Washington, DC



BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND TEAM

Board of Directors

Margaret Fraser, Chair
Robert Lantz, Treasurer
Rachel Niemiec, Secretary
William Healy, Member
Monica Trosclair, Member
Katherine Matheson, Member
Marianna Kosharovsky, ex officio Member

Team

Marianna Kosharovsky, Founder & Executive Director
Neysa Nankervis, Legal Associate
Clara Meyes, Intake Advocate
Amy Conley, Volunteer Program Associate
Anne Dunlop, Volunteer Development Associate
Megan Sakas, Volunteer Digital Marketing Associate
Talie Watzman, Volunteer Intake Consultant

Advisors to the Board

Skip Thurman, Communications Advisor
Carolyn Bond, Strategic Advisor
Nadav Cohen, Technology Advisor

Survivor Advisory Council

Grace Irene Tang
Megan Lundstrom
Rachel Niemiec

Legal Advisory Council

Bob Connelly
Edward Ramey
Michael Cheroutes
Stephen Jewett

OUR HISTORY

See how far we've come
together in 7 years

MAR 2015

ALIGHT is
founded as a
501(c)(3)
nonprofit



FEB 2017

ALIGHT starts
Mobilizing Justice
(as a pilot in
Denver, CO)

OCT 2020

ALIGHT reaches
milestone of
serving 100 unique
human trafficking
survivors



JUL 2021

ALIGHT contributes to the first labor
trafficking conviction in Denver by
assisting a survivor for 3+ years
(the perpetrator receives a historic
14 year sentence)

DEC 2022

ALIGHT has assisted

- 200+ unique survivors
- on 420 legal cases
- in 33 states and
Washington, DC



OUR PROGRAMS

Mobilizing Justice

The ALIGHT Mobilizing Justice Program connects individuals who have survived human trafficking to free legal help at a critical point in their recovery.

To help survivors finally escape the exploitation cycle, ALIGHT matches them to the right attorney at the right time from the ALIGHT mobilized army of pro bono attorneys. With legal services and a survivor-centric approach, survivors can overcome legal problems that are insurmountable alone, enabling them to successfully gain independence and rebuild their lives in our community.

How?

By deploying a technology platform that bridges the worlds of human trafficking survivors and the legal community to match survivor requests for legal help (posted by their advocates) to specialized legal expertise.



OUR PROGRAMS

Trainings

297

ATTORNEYS TRAINED ON
TRAUMA-INFORMED
SERVICES

76

ATTORNEYS TRAINED ON
CULTURALLY-COMPETENT
LAWYERING

100

LAW STUDENTS, SERVICE
PROVIDERS,
PROSECUTORS, LAW
ENFORCEMENT TRAINED
ON SURVIVORS POST-
CRIMINALIZATION NEEDS

56

SERVICE PROVIDERS AND
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC
TRAINED ON HUMAN
TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS'
LEGAL NEEDS

118

ATTORNEYS TRAINED ON
HOW THEY CAN ASSIST
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
SURVIVORS

Since our inception, ALIGHT has focused on bringing new resources and advocates into the anti-trafficking movement. To this end, ALIGHT conducts training for attorneys, professionals and the general public on trauma-informed practices, spotting potential legal needs and identifying remedies for trafficking survivors and other specialized areas of human trafficking needs.

In addition, ALIGHT has created practical resource materials for those attorneys who want to assist trafficking survivors. We also provide assistance to service providers who may be interacting with human trafficking survivors but are not yet screening, identifying and connecting them with trafficking-specific resources.



OUR PROGRAMS

National Survivor Law Collective

NATIONAL LISTSERV

IN 2020, THE NSL COLLECTIVE CREATED THE FIRST NATIONAL LISTSERV OF ITS KIND THAT PROVIDES SURVIVOR ATTORNEYS NATIONWIDE WITH A RESOURCE TO CONNECT THEIR SURVIVOR CLIENTS WITH LAWYERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY, AS WELL AS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO FELLOW MEMBERS.

THE NATIONAL LISTSERV CURRENTLY HAS 70+ MEMBERS.

LISTSERV MEMBERS HAVE REQUESTED PRO BONO ATTORNEY/LEGAL SERVICES IN FL, UT, GA, CO, CA, AZ, HI, IL, MN, ND, TX, WI, NV, OR, OH, PA, NE, IN AND MORE.

Founded in 2020 at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Survivor Law Collective (NSL Collective) is a collaboration of private legal services organizations that have been individually providing pro bono legal services to trafficking survivors.

Following on the pivotal research in the 2021 Legal Deserts Report, ALIGHT and the NSL Collective continued our work by diving deeper into the issues uncovered in this research. In response to the findings, in Fall 2021 and Spring 2022, we convened a diverse cohort of stakeholders from the anti-trafficking movement in three sessions. The NSL Collective led a discussion on the current obstacles to comprehensive legal services for survivors of all forms of human trafficking and the root causes of the challenges that survivors face, along with solutions and opportunities to overcome these challenges.

The work on the “Legal Deserts 2.0 Report” continues. We look forward to sharing this comprehensive overview of the findings and discussions from these meetings with the goal of empowering practitioners, funders and members of the public to better understand and mitigate the obstacles that exist for survivors seeking legal services.

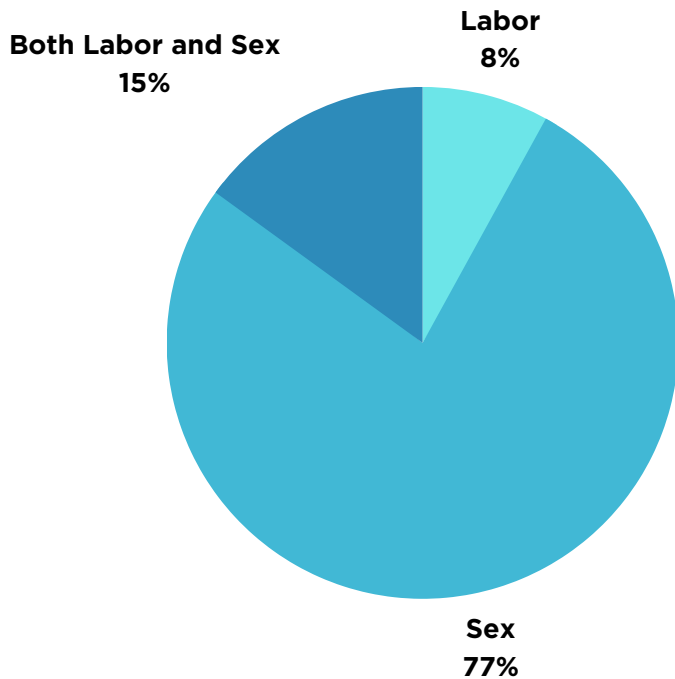
The Founding Members are:

- ALIGHT (Alliance to Lead Impact in Global Human Trafficking), CO and national
- Free to Thrive, CA
- Justice Restoration Center, FL and TN
- Trafficking Law Center, OR
- Moore & Van Allen PLLC, NC
- Paul Hastings LLP, NY and national



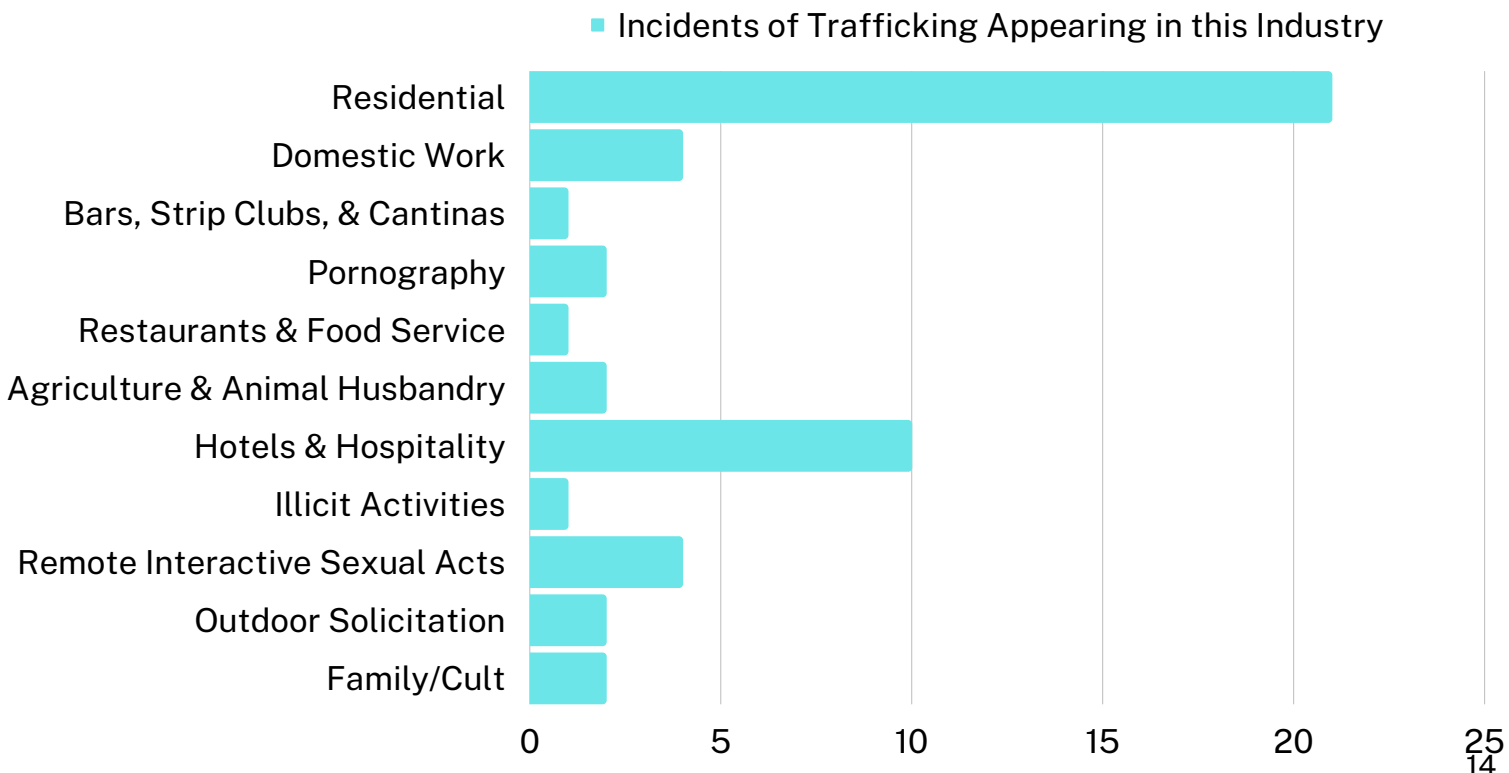
WHO WE SERVE

Based on the responses from survivors who agreed to disclose their demographic information, below is a picture of who ALIGHT served in 2022. This information is based on what is known to ALIGHT at the time of issuing this report, and may be amended in future reporting as more information comes in.

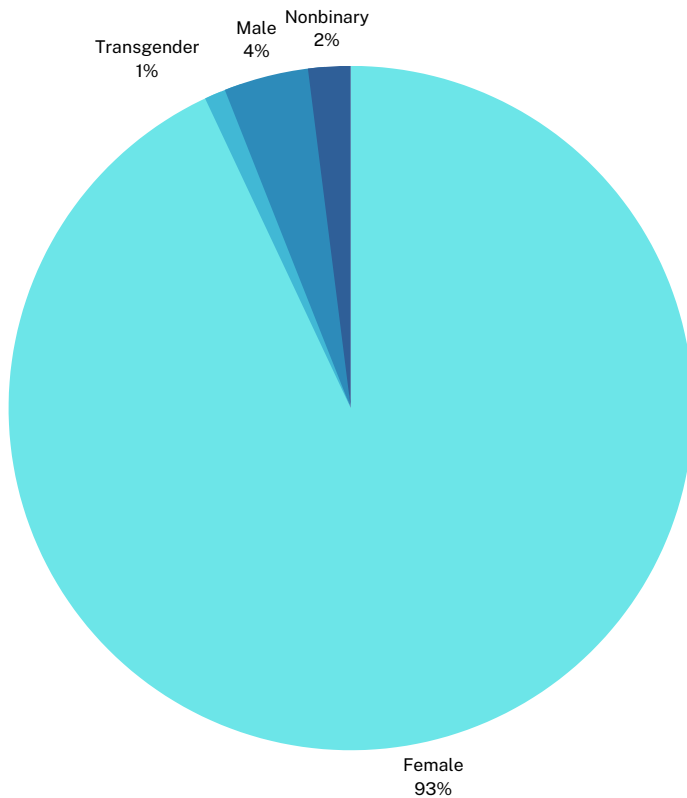


The majority of survivors experienced **sex trafficking**, followed by both sex and labor trafficking.

The top industry where survivors were trafficked for sex and/or labor was **Residential**, followed by **Hotels & Hospitality**.

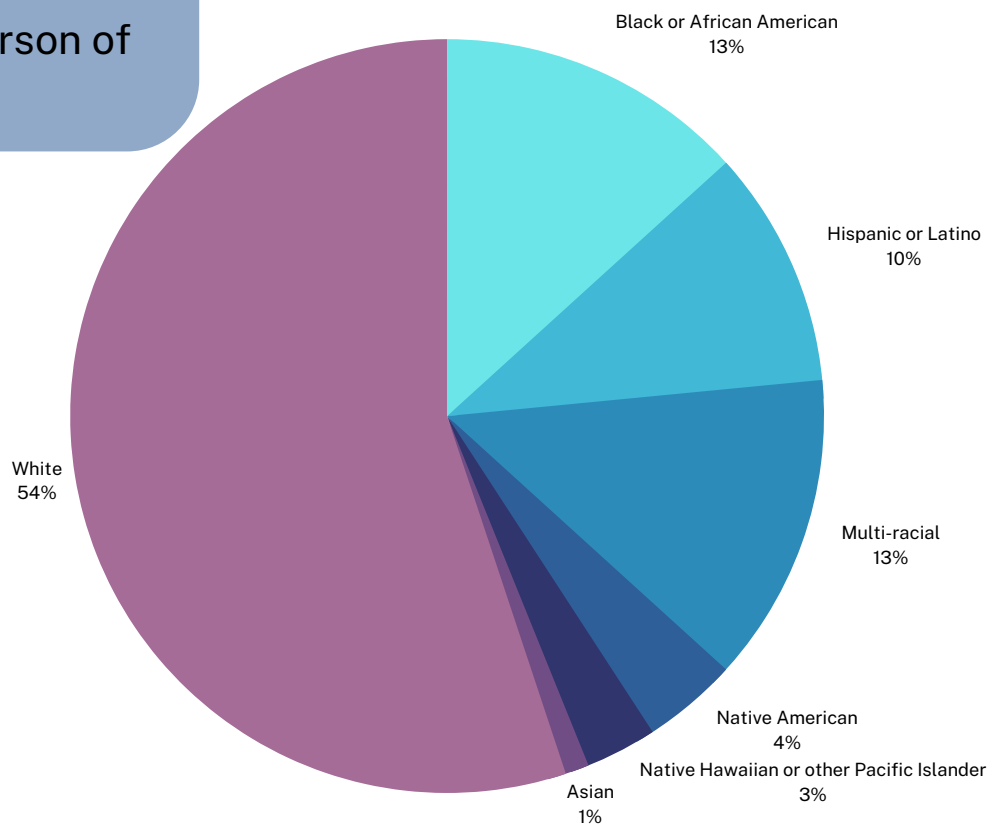


WHO WE SERVE



The vast majority of survivors identified as **female**.

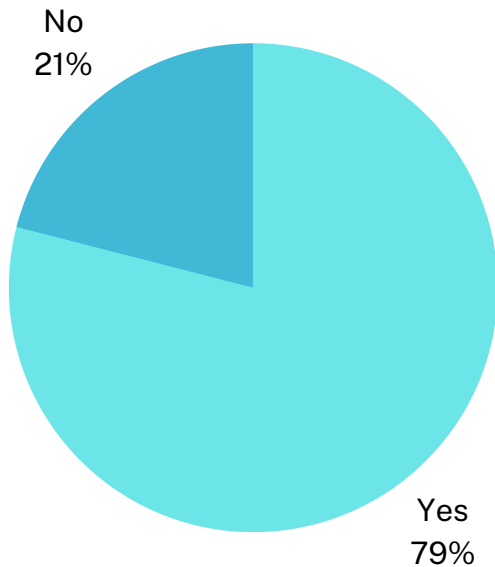
46% of survivors identified as a person of color.



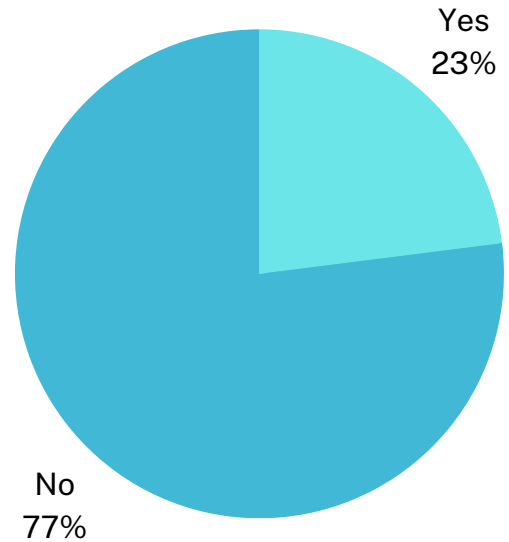
WHO WE SERVE

Survivors reported significant overlap with other at-risk groups, with **79%** having experienced homelessness and **23%** having experienced the foster care system.

Homelessness

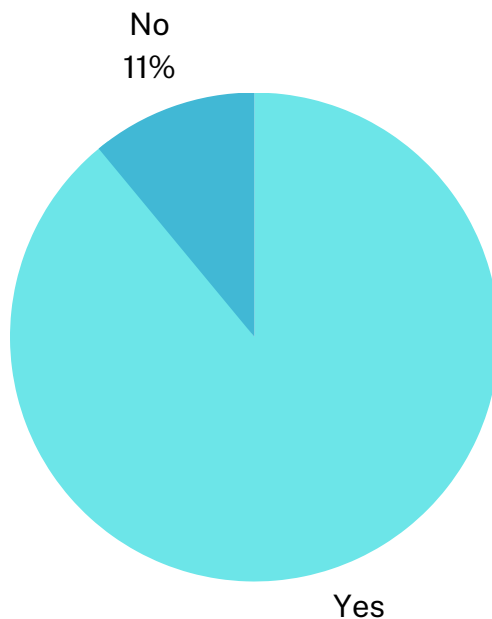


Foster Care



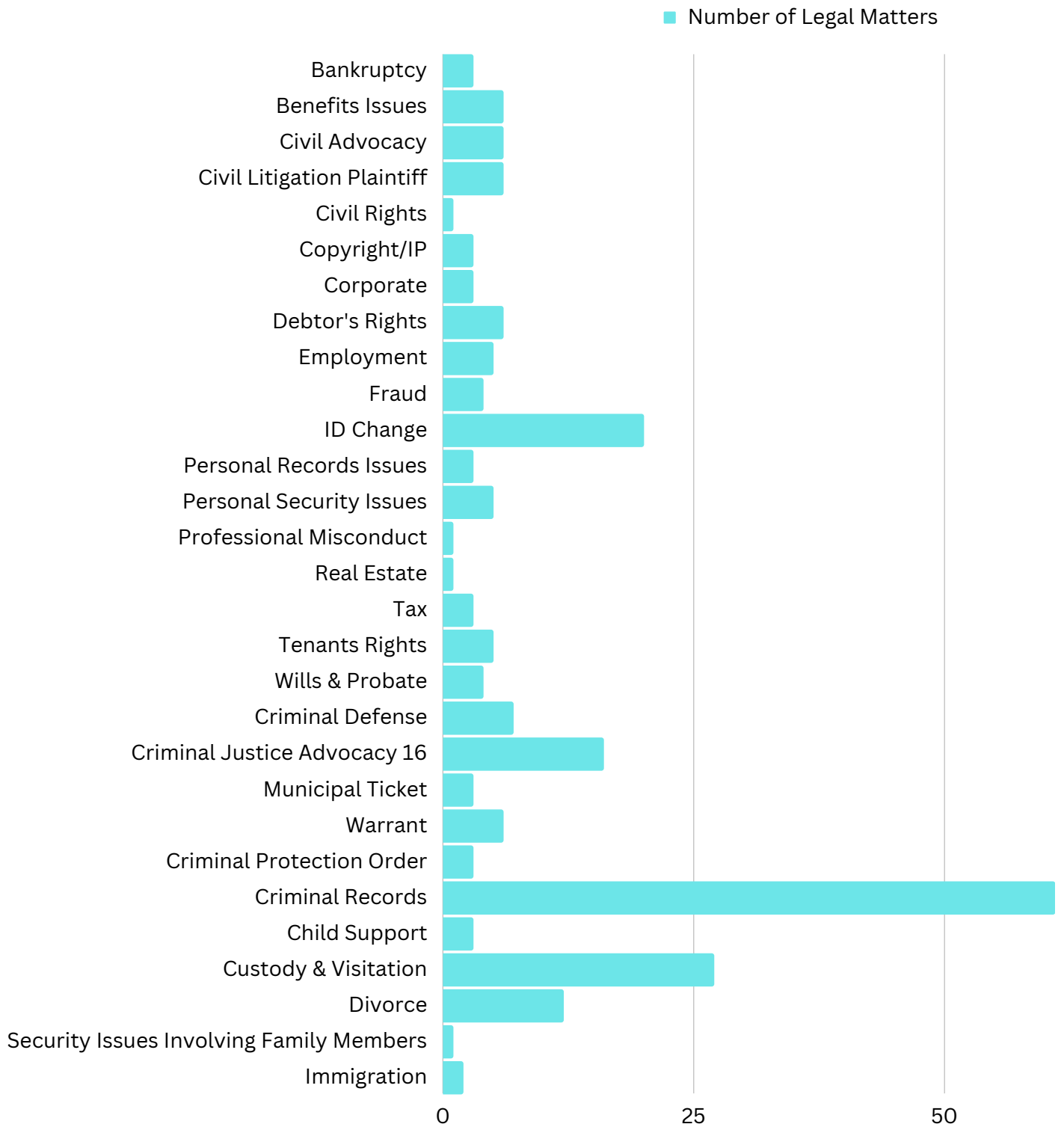
89% having experienced domestic violence.

Domestic Violence



LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDED

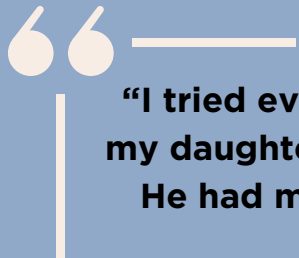
Of the 226 cases, 116 were new cases started in 2022 and 110 were cases from previous years that were still ongoing. Just as in 2021, the number one legal need of survivors was **Criminal Records**, followed by Custody and Visitation.



IN A SURVIVOR'S OWN WORDS



[Watch the video here](#)



"I tried everything that I could to figure out how to get [custody of my daughter] back without help. It's impossible. There was no way ... He had money, he had attorneys ... ALIGHT gave me that fighting chance. ALIGHT gave me my daughter back."

-Jasmine, survivor



This past summer, we were honored to have Jasmine speak to Denver 7 about ALIGHT's impact on her life. You can see the power of hope. With support, Jasmine can now turn to helping other survivors move forward in their lives.

HOW SURVIVORS FOUND US



- Survivor-led organizations like The Avery Center and BridgeHope
- Survivors we have already helped
- Victim services organizations like the Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance
- Civil rights organizations like Towards Justice
- Partners in The National Survivor Law Collective
- Directories like the National Human Trafficking Hotline, the National Domestic Violence Hotline, United Way 2-1-1
- Sex trafficking-specific services organizations like Reclaim Hope and Covered Colorado
- Domestic violence agencies like Family Tree and Safehouse Progressive Alliance Network
- Out-of-state providers
- Members of the ALIGHT Survivor Advisory Council
- Task forces
- District Attorney's offices

NATIONAL ATTORNEY NETWORK

We are grateful for attorneys at these firms and organizations for being part of our National Attorney Network in 2022!

This is the ALIGHT Army of Lawyers!

Antommara & Associates, LLC
Appeal to Justice
Arnold & Porter LLP
Bowlin & Schall LLC
Broxterman Alicks McFarlane PC
Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner
Castle Lantz Maricle, LLC
Chamberlain Hrdlicka
Coan, Payton & Payne, LLC
Dart, Adamson and Donovan
Dentons Durham Jones Pinegar
Denver Trial Lawyers
Drexler Law Group, LLC
Elie Zwiebel, LLC
Foulston Siefkin LLP
Gardner Smith & Hill
Gavin Halligan Law LLC
Gebhardt Emerson Moodie Bonanno LLC
Greenberg Traurig, LLP
Griffiths Law PC
Hernandez & Associates
Holland & Hart
Kontnik Cohen
Kutner Brinen, P.C.

NATIONAL ATTORNEY NETWORK

Law Office of Cassandra M. Kirsch, LLC
Law Office of Jessica Eve Jones, LLC
Law Office of Laura Harvell, P.C.
Levin Sitcoff PC
Livelihood Law
Mastro, Barnes & Stazzone
MiCreate
Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky & Popeo PC
Moye White LLP
Patricia Martin Law PLLC
Peak Legal Services, LLC
Pesch Law Office PC
Phelan Tucker Law LLP
Primera Law Group
Proff Law, LLC
Recht Kornfeld, P.C.
Riley Law LLC
Sawyer Legal Group
Segers Law
Shepherd, Finkelman, Miller & Shah
Silverstein & Pomerantz, LLP
Strindberg & Scholnick
Tierney Lawrence LLC
Towards Justice
Varner Faddis Elite Legal
Vedra Law LLC
Viner Disability Law
Wilhite Law Firm
WZW Family Law LLC

2023 PLANS: EXPANSION TO LOS ANGELES



ALIGHT Legal Associate
Neysa Nankervis at the
2023 National Convening
on Illicit Massage in L.A.

When ALIGHT was first launched, the focus was on pairing survivors with pro bono attorneys in Colorado. Since then, survivors from across the country have reached out to ALIGHT for assistance, having nowhere else to turn. The U.S. has “legal deserts” when it comes to legal services for survivors of human trafficking, where there is little or no help available.

Los Angeles in particular needs ALIGHT’s solution. Local organizations and government entities have identified the imbalance between the volume of need and available legal services. In our own work, we regularly receive survivor requests from the L.A. area.

ALIGHT looks forward to embarking on the next phase for replicating our successful model in this high-needs area. Following a period of needs assessment, we will be recruiting L.A. area attorneys, forging local partnerships and looking for funding to support implementation.