

National State of the Field Study (NSS 2.0)

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the study?

Broadly, the goal of the National State of the Field Study (NSS 2.0) is to understand what the anti-trafficking field needs in order to align, act, and sustain collective impact. Building off of the National Survivor Study (NSS 1.0), which asked the question, "What do survivors need to thrive?" this study seeks to answer the question, "What does the field need to succeed?"

Specifically, the study has five primary objectives:

1. Develop and validate a comprehensive Human Trafficking Intervention Framework
2. Develop a systems-based taxonomy of actors across the anti-trafficking ecosystem
3. Conduct structural and relational network analyses
4. Develop shared goals, measures of progress, and common language for the field
5. Build nationally coordinated strategy and infrastructure

The findings for each of these objectives will be shared publicly, as our aim is to create an evidence base that can be utilized by the entire anti-trafficking field.

What do you intend to do with the study findings?

We anticipate that there will be multiple external products as a result of this study. The primary will be a public "State of the Field" report, which will include our taxonomies, methods, network analysis, survey results, and focus group insights. Additionally, we intend to use the results of this study as a benchmark for future iterations of this work, allowing us, as a field, to methodically track progress and identify gaps.

What IRB reviewed and passed your research proposal?

Our research protocol was reviewed by Gallaudet University and determined to be exempt research based on the low risk to professionals in the field and the fact that we will not be asking for personal information. If you would like to see confirmation of our IRB approval, please contact us at data@polarisproject.org

Where can I see more information about the study?

Please feel free to visit our website, polarisproject.org/national-state-of-the-field-study to learn more and see our preliminary work. For any additional questions, please feel free to reach out to our team at data@polarisproject.org