

THE MEDIA'S PORTRAYAL OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING VERSUS
EXPERIENCES:
UNDERSTANDING HUMAN TRAFFICKING FROM THE SURVIVOR'S
PERSPECTIVE BY ANALYZING MEDIA PORTRAYAL OF HUMAN
TRAFFICKING AND DEBUNKING THE MYTHS

by

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ABSTRACT

KATHERINE SANDERS. The Media's Portrayal of Human Trafficking Versus Experiences: Understanding Human Trafficking from the Survivor's Perspective by Analyzing Media Portrayal of Human Trafficking and Debunking the Myths. (Under the direction of DR. MATTHEW PHILLIPS)

Not much is known about how the media portrays human trafficking. Human trafficking can be defined as the involuntary procurement, movement, trade and exploitation of labor under conditions of coercion and force. Individuals can be trafficked for many different purposes, such as sex, labor, or illegal adoption. The public tends to believe common myths that have been dispersed over time. This study used media articles to understand if the media is dispersing these myths or if they are aligning with the literature. The sample included 151 survivors who shared 550 direct quotes of their experiences. Three methods were used to analyze the data: bivariate analyses, word frequencies, and topic modeling. The results indicate that domestic females are primarily trafficked for sex and international survivors are primarily trafficked for labor. These results align with the literature, indicating that the media is actually promoting survivor's experience and dispelling the myths.

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Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a modern form of slavery. Numerous scholars suggest that human trafficking is the third-largest and third most profitable trafficking crime, behind drug and gun trafficking (Bales & Soodalter, 2009; Logan, Walker & Hunt, 2009). As Bales and Soodalter (2009) best illustrate:

It turns out that slaves are all around us, hidden in plain sight - the dishwasher in the kitchen of the restaurant where you and your family dined last night; the kids on the corner of Forty-First Street, selling cheap trinkets for a dollar; the man in the gray overalls, sweeping the floor of the big-named department store where you buy your Christmas presents. What they share in common is that their lives are not their own, and they deserve better (13).

There are an estimated 12.3 million people trafficked worldwide (Hepburn & Simon, 2010). Eight hundred thousand individuals are estimated to be trafficked from country to country (Jac-Kurcharski, 2012; Logan, Walker & Hunt, 2009; Scarpa, 2008). This astounding number does not include those who are trafficked within their own countries. There can only be estimates of those being domestically trafficked because sometimes the statistics are based on the number of immigrants, whether documented or undocumented (Logan, Walker & Hunt, 2009; Peters 2015; Scarpa, 2008). The exact number of US citizens that are trafficked is unknown and the estimates are usually highly inflated (Bales & Soodalter, 2009).

Defining Trafficking

There are several definitions of human trafficking but the one most applicable to individuals trafficked domestically comes from the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000. Human trafficking is defined, through this act, by the US Department of State as:

The recruitment, harboring, transporting, supplying or obtaining a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of involuntary servitude or slavery; or sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform sex acts is under 18 years of age (Logan, Walker & Hunt, 2009, p. 4)

To simplify, human trafficking can be defined as the involuntary procurement, movement, trade, and exploitation of labor under conditions of coercion and force (Richmond, 2015). Kara (2009) states that for researchers to understand human trafficking, it must be analyzed on a “molecular” level. This analysis involves dissecting and understanding the three main components: procurement, movement, and exploitation.

Procurement. The five common ways of procuring international survivors¹ are deceit, sale by family, seduction/romance, recruitment by former slaves, or abduction respectively. However, deceit and seduction/romance are common among domestic US human trafficking survivors respectively (Kara, 2009). To start, deceit can be defined as

¹ There is much debate within the literature about the use of “victim” versus “survivor.” Survivor tends to have a more positive connotation and since this thesis is about individuals who have lived-through and overcame their experiences, this paper will use the term “survivor.”

anything from a false job offer to a fraudulent marriage offer. This is the most common form of procurement used by traffickers, both international and domestic. Survivors acquired through this tactic generally are vulnerable due to low economic status, unable to receive a job offer due to bias (such as being a woman), or wars and environmental factors that cause displacement (Kara, 2009). A more common form of procurement for international survivors is sale by family. This occurs when families are struck with poverty or displacement. Sometimes, the trafficked individual continues deeper into the slave or labor trade because the families are greedy and enjoy the payment they receive from slave traders (Kara, 2009).

Third, seduction or romance tactics are used as a recruitment tool. Regarding romance, “loverboys” are men who approach attractive, vulnerable women and start professing their love to them. They shower these women with gifts and entice them to migrate to a rich country. Often, the “loverboys” will provide the women with fake documents and send them by train or plane alone, telling the survivor to meet up with a “friend” when they arrive and that they will follow soon. The “friend” the loverboys mention is a trafficker. Seduction tactics are much like romantic ones in that these men will use anything and everything to seduce. This could even mean that a recruiter will father children before luring them into the sex trade (Kara, 2009). Fourthly, survivors are recruited by former slaves with the promise of a better life. Sex slaves often use various mechanisms to survive their situation, and sometimes that involves feeling that the life of a slave is the best life they deserve. Lastly, abduction is the least common type of procurement because abduction makes it harder for traffickers to transport internationally

or domestically. If kidnapped, often individuals are drugged or beaten throughout their journey (Kara, 2009).

Movement and exploitation. Once procured, the survivors are moved generally from poorer areas of the country to richer (domestic) or from a poverty-stricken country to a wealthier one (international). Exploitation begins the moment a person is trafficked (Kara, 2009). Survivors are raped, beaten, starved, drugged, and humiliated for two primary reasons. The first is strictly for the pleasure of the traffickers. The second reason is because this makes survivors more submissive and easier to sell. Several survivors are never actually sold because they are procured, moved and exploited by the same organization or trafficker. Exploitation continues when they reach their destination because the traffickers want to ensure that they will not try to escape (Kara, 2009). Escape is rarely an option. For those that do escape, they have numerous obstacles that come into play when trying to restart their life. Survivors could be infected with HIV or other STDs, suffer from a drug or alcohol addiction, shunned by their families, and often have few chances of getting employment which further victimizes them. Countless survivors are also re-trafficked (Kara, 2009).

Trafficking versus smuggling. Human trafficking is not the same as human smuggling, or smuggling of migrants as the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (2017) defines it. Numerous individuals and the media confuse and interchange these two terms causing for misuse and a lack of understanding about each term. Smuggling of migrants is the use of financial or other means to enter a country illegally (Richmond, 2015; United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime [UNODC], 2017) where the individual being smuggled has consent (Jac-Kucharski, 2012). Based on the definitions above, it is

easy to conclude that human trafficking and human smuggling are different; however, some scholars have found that the original motives among trafficked individuals and migrants being smuggled are the same: poverty, lack of job opportunity, and/or political uncertainty (Jac-Kucharski, 2012).

Where Human Trafficking Occurs

Human trafficking is not solely an European or Asian issue; it is an issue that stretches across all boards of the world, including the United States. As mentioned earlier, there are an estimated 12.3 million people are trafficked worldwide. Of those 12.3 million, 800,000 are trafficked internationally (Hepburn & Simon, 2010; Jac-Kurcharski, 2012; Logan, Walker & Hunt, 2009; Scarpa, 2008), however this is only an estimate (Fong & Cardoso, 2010).

The United States is one of the top ten countries for human trafficking (Hepburn & Simon, 2010). It is estimated that 14,500 to 17,500 people are trafficked into the United States internationally each year (Bales & Soodalter, 2009; United States Department of Health and Human Services [HHS], 2009) either by plane from East Asia or Europe or by crossing the United States/Mexican border (Kara, 2009). Due to their immigration status, the perception that law enforcement officers are untrustworthy instilled by the traffickers, and the criminal things they were forced into, such as prostitution, the survivors believe that it will be hard for law enforcement to look past their crimes and identify them as victims, not just criminals (Richmond, 2015). This perception is exactly what the traffickers hope will be internalize, so that control can be maintained (Kotrla, 2010; Logan, Walker, & Hunt, 2009; Peters, 2015).

However, law enforcement and government officials have been developing protections for survivors, such as the enactment of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) which developed the “T” visa (Batstone, 2010; HHS, 2009; Peters, 2015;). This visa allows for international trafficking survivors to remain in the United States for five years if it could be proven that deporting them back to their country would cause them to suffer “extreme hardship involving unusual and severe harm” (Batstone, 2010, p. 231; Richmond, 2015). The survivors must also be willing to cooperate with law enforcement and the courts to obtain this visa. After three years with the “T” visa, survivors can apply for permanent residency. They can also apply for nonimmigrant status for their spouses, children, and parents if the survivor is under the age of 21. The purpose of this act is to have survivors feel more comfortable approaching law enforcement about their experiences and for them not to be criminalized; however, as of 2010, fewer than 1,000 survivors have obtained a “T” visa or were able to remain in the United States (Batstone, 2010).

Problems with Estimates

The estimates of individuals trafficked into the United States has been heavily criticized. Scholars have argued that the methodology and sources used to make these estimates are flawed and inaccurate because it is causing the estimates to become inflated. Therefore, numerous reports and government agencies have discontinued providing estimates (Richard, 2015). Cases of individuals trafficked domestically are very different from cases of individuals trafficked internationally. When international survivors are involved, there are immigration issues in addition to coercion. With domestic survivors, the primary issues are psychological damage and coercion (Bales &

Soodalter, 2009). Some estimates of human trafficking do not include these factors. The annual percent of human trafficking cases that are solved or closed each year by law enforcement is approximately 1%. This statistic only includes those who have been trafficked internationally. There are no measures or estimates for domestic cases that have been solved or closed (Bales & Soodalter, 2009).

Types of Human Trafficking

There are multiple purposes of human trafficking beyond labor and sex. The government primarily focuses on the forced prostitution aspect of human trafficking because it is estimated to make up about half of those who are trafficked. Individuals who are trafficked domestically make up approximately one-fourth of the total number, while there are an unknown number of people working in the agricultural sector (Bales & Soodalter, 2009). The different forms of exploitation depend on trafficked individual's age and sex (Scarpa, 2008).

Sex

It is estimated that 43% are trafficked for sexual exploitation (Hepburn & Simon, 2010). The annual number of individuals trafficked for sex to North America is about 0.9% of the global total whereas the number of total human trafficking victims is about 1.1%. Of the 0.9% of individuals trafficked for sex, approximately 98% are women and girls (Fong & Cardoso, 2010; Hepburn & Simon, 2010; Kara, 2009). The average age of children being lured into sexual exploitation is between ages 11 and 14. The available data has shown that some children are as young as five years old (Kotrla, 2010). Majority of individuals internationally trafficked to the United States is not for sex work, but rather for agriculture, domestic/factory work, and street peddling. Individuals who are

domestically trafficked are generally trafficked for sex. This low percentage of those who are internationally trafficked to the United States for sex could be because it is expensive to transport from different countries. Secondly, US law enforcement and other judicial system officials are not as prone to corruption compared to other countries, therefore it makes it more difficult to traffic individuals into the United States for sex trafficking (Kara, 2009). Sex trafficking survivors are vulnerable to deceit due to poor economic conditions.

Sex trafficking can have both “commercial” and “noncommercial” purposes. Commercial purposes include prostitution, stripping, and pornography, while noncommercial purposes include mail order brides or forced marriages. Non-commercial sex trafficking is more about the country’s customs instead of outright human trafficking (Cole & Sprang, 2015; Scarpa, 2008). Whether for commercial or noncommercial purposes, the sex trafficking industry has three main business models: pimp-directed, family-directed and establishment-directed. The common attribute shared by all three models is that that all rely on communication and profit. Traffickers will shift their business model if they feel that law enforcement is pressuring their operations (Richard, 2015). The most common model used is the “pimp-directed.” Here, the pimp directs the survivor’s actions and takes all of the earnings. However, because this model is one of the most common, it makes it easier for law enforcement to recognize and disassemble (Richmond, 2015). Lately, the pimp model has been glamorized by the media by portraying the pimp to have nice cars, clothes, and money. A “culture of tolerance” as Kotrla (2010) describes for the United States is how the nation glorifies sex via prostitution. Because of this, children are lured to the sex business because it is what they

are socialized to think as normal. Television, music, clothing, and Internet and other forms of entertainment have helped develop this tolerance. Achieving the “pimp” status is perceived as a status symbol (Kotrla, 2010). The “family-directed” model involves a family member as the trafficker and the survivor being children of all ages. The trafficker in this model exploits those whom he/she are supposed to protect and love. The family dynamic makes it tougher for law enforcement to recognize as human trafficking (Richmond, 2015).

“Establishment-directed” sex trafficking is where businesses such as nail salons, massage parlors, and restaurants operate as covers for sexual activity that goes on within the establishment (Richmond, 2015). There are six common venues for exploitation (Kara, 2009). The first and most common is a brothel, which are located internationally (Kara, 2009; Richmond, 2015). Another common venue located internationally for sexual exploitation are massage parlors. Hotels and the streets are becoming less popular due to almost every country enacting laws that make prostitution illegal, and because the hotels themselves have become less secure. Finally, clubs and apartment complexes are common among Europe, East Asia, and the United States. Apartments are miniature brothels operated by small organizations with approximately six to eight trafficked individuals (Kara, 2009). Identifying acts of human trafficking can be difficult because the business may have legitimate work and services provided therefore it may not be apparent that the workers are trafficked (Richmond, 2015).

Even though sex trafficking is illegal in every country, the risks of being caught are minimal compared to other forms of profit-generating crime. There are several reasons why sex trafficking continues to thrive despite multiple policy, law enforcement

and media attempts. To start, even though sex trafficking is continually misunderstood and misrepresented, individuals, thanks to the media, are becoming more aware of the issue. Secondly, several law enforcement agencies are not organized enough to work internationally and are often underfunded. Thirdly, laws against sex trafficking are rarely enforced, and most countries are not consistent with enforcement. Finally, there have been very few agencies and scholars to tackle the business and economic side of the industry to better understand how to reduce sex trafficking (Kara, 2009).

Labor

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 defines labor trafficking as “the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery” (Owen et al., 2015, p. 348). Hepburn and Simon (2010) estimate that 32% of individuals trafficked fall under this category while 25% of trafficked individuals are subjected to both sex and labor trafficking. Women and girls are approximately 56% of the individuals trafficked for forced labor while boys and men are the remaining 44%; children are estimated to make up 40% to 50% (Hepburn & Simon, 2010). Unlike some instances of sex trafficking, it is very uncommon for people trafficked for labor to have a relationship of some sort with their trafficker (Owen et al., 2015).

Individuals trafficked for forced labor are rarely within sights of the consumer, making it harder for law enforcement to find survivors. The crime happens within the production aspect of a company (Richmond, 2015). Agriculture and restaurant venues often have multiple traffickers and multiple trafficked individuals. In contrast, domestic

servitude only has one trafficked individual and typically one or two traffickers. In some cases, individuals trafficked for domestic servitude were enlisted by employment agencies who utilized fraud and coercion (Bales & Soodalter, 2009; Owen et al., 2015). Domestic servants are extremely difficult to identify because they have no co-workers and are usually isolated within the home.

Passports are confiscated, trafficked individuals are forced to pay off their debt of visa and travel fees (debt bondage), work very long hours with little to no breaks, and are underpaid or not paid at all. Debt bondage is defined as a situation in which the person initiating the loan increases the loan's interest overtime to gain control of the individual, ensuring that they will never leave (Scarpa, 2008). Necessities such as food and living costs are often deducted from the money that they earn, in turn forcing the survivors to stay in the business for most of their lives (Batstone, 2010; Scarpa, 2008). As time passes, some individuals enter a "Stockholm syndrome" state where they ultimately accept their fate or learn to solely depend on their captors (Kara, 2009). Individuals are often not fed properly or enough, and often are blackmailed to keep compliant. This usually involves the traffickers threatening to harm the trafficked individual's family (Bales & Soodalter, 2009; Owen et al., 2015; Scarpa, 2008). The same methods used to force people into compliance are used to prevent them from escaping. Being bound to their debt and fear of threat to themselves or their families outweighs the burden of forced labor (Bales & Soodalter, 2009).

For the traffickers, domestic servitude is more about saving money than making money (Bales & Soodalter, 2009). The purpose is to coerce people to provide their services for personal benefits, not about making a profit. Also, it is the cheapest form of

slavery because the trafficker can provide little to no provisions for the trafficked individual. For instance, the trafficker can feed the trafficked individual only enough so that they have the energy to work. Traffickers of domestic servants have total control of the mind and body. This usually is in the form of threats and violence towards the trafficked individual. Eventually, they become dependent on the trafficker, and is unable to leave. Most household slaves are teenage females, but some can be women, and they are usually foreign. Domestic servants are very different from individuals trafficked for sex, because the sex trafficking industry frequently moves its location of operation and never stays in one place like domestic slaves.

There are a variety of reasons why some trafficked individuals do not attempt to escape. First, many are afraid of being beaten or killed or of the trafficker harming their family members and of the police. Also, trafficked individuals may be convinced to feel that they must repay their “debt”. They also are isolated linguistically and geographically which adds to the fear. Sometimes, they internalize the situation as something that is their fault and that they deserve to be in this situation. Lastly, trafficked individuals can form bonds with the children in the home if they are working as domestic house slaves (Bales & Soodalter, 2009).

Slavery of agricultural workers is one of the three largest forms of human trafficking in the United States (Bales & Soodalter, 2009). Typically, workers live in migrant towns or labor reserves. Workers in the fields are usually from South America, Mexico, and Haiti. Approximately 95% of individuals trafficked for agriculture are males and are young. Workers have rigid schedules set up by crew leaders and are paid extremely low wages. They work from before dawn to sundown. They have minimal

choices on food for lunch - either they bring a packed bag from home or they eat what the convenient stores around the fields provide. These convenience stores prices are inflated and often too expensive for the workers. Workers also have minimal choice in where to live (Bales & Soodalter, 2009). Usually these towns have dilapidated trailer parks, apartments, or huts for the workers to live in, commonly filled with 10 to 15 other men. Rent is inflated beyond what the workers are getting paid because this keeps them in the cycle of debt. Workers continue to give almost all their hard-earned money to the trafficker, leaving them hardly anything left over. This also keeps them trapped to the job.

Picking crops, such as tomatoes or oranges, is physically demanding. Often, the worker spends majority of the hours bent over picking the crop. The only time the worker stands up is to carry the extremely heavy bucket full of crops to the truck. Like everything else the workers deal with, the pay is not nearly enough for them to cover the costs of living. Most workers would have to pick two and a half tons a day just to make the equivalent of minimum wage. This usually entails working twelve to thirteen-hour days, if there is even enough work. The worker must be available every day around dawn for work. If it turns out that there is no work that day, then the worker is unable to make money, making it difficult to pay rent or buy groceries. Harvesting crops is also very unpredictable, making having a set schedule much more difficult (Bales & Soodalter, 2009).

Bondage in regard to agricultural slavery usually involves a weapon (Bales & Soodalter, 2009). The bosses and crew leaders make it well known that the workers cannot escape or inform police about their situation. These threats often extend out to the

worker's family. Workers also face the bondage of isolation: geographically and linguistically. Most workers have no idea where they are in the United States and know little to no English. Some of these labor reserves are remotely located, but some can be located off major highways or interstates. In either situation, the worker not understanding English or knowing where they are creates a feeling like they are on another planet (Bales & Soodalter, 2009).

Illegal Adoption

Worldwide, roughly 40,000 intercountry adoptions occur, which accounts for 15% of all adoptions (Alexander, 2014). Intercountry adoption is defined as a child being taken out of their native homeland², moved to a different country for the adoption, but still being a citizen of their native homeland. The United States ranks first in the realm of adoptions (intercountry and domestic), with intercountry adoptions accounting for 15% of all United States adoptions (Alexander, 2014). In addition to the number of children who are adopted legally, there are several children who are adopted illegally. An important inference that Scarpa (2008) notes is that illegal adoption can only be considered human trafficking if the child is taken for future exploitations such as labor, sex, or forced marriage. If someone kidnaps a child for their personal benefit, such as to raise as their own, it is classified as a kidnapping under the TVPA and other federal statutes. (Scarpa, 2008).

² Intercountry adoption differs from international adoption in that intercountry adoption is the parent and child have different citizenships regardless of the location they reside. It is about the shifting of one parent's rights to the other, much like domestic adoption.

Because intercountry adoptions cross borders and governments, it is often hard to uncover if the adoption was in fact illegal. Illegal adoption acts are usually not facilitated within the United States, but more often overseas. However, many policies, such as The Hague Adoption Convention, have made headway into ensuring that the correct legal processes are followed when adopting. Alexander (2014) notes three common illegal adoption acts that transpire. To start, sometimes parents are coerced or even forced to sell their children to orphanages. Sometimes, parents are not fully informed of the consequences of giving up their child. The Hague Adoption Convention clearly states that consent must be freely given and must not have any conditions attached, including monetary incentives. If proper consent is not given, the child cannot be adopted. This also includes children who were abducted before traffickers try to sell them.

Secondly, Article 16 of The Hague Adoption Convention states that the birth country is to provide a report including family history, adoptability, child's identity and medical needs, and other important information. If the report is not provided or falsified in any way, then the child is technically not eligible for adoption (Alexander, 2014). Finally, some countries do not follow The Hague Adoption Convention, therefore they do not meet the same standards or requirements as countries that do, like the United States. This could present problems for the receiving country because the child could not be adoptable (Alexander, 2014). To ensure the proper procedures are being followed, the United States handles intercountry adoptions in three ways: by following and complying with The Hague Adoption Convention (even if that means rejecting a country who does not), giving immigration officers the right to deny potential orphan visas, and by prosecuting those who are involved with illegal adoptions (Alexander, 2014).

Characteristics of Survivors

The following section includes estimates since, as previously stated, estimates are the only statistics to be provided. According to Jac-Kucharski (2012) and Scarpa (2008), eighty percent of all domestically trafficked individuals are female, while half of that percentage are children. Most domestically trafficked individuals are between the ages of 12 and 14 and approximately 27% of trafficked minors identify as LGBT (Batstone, 2010; Fedina, Williamson, & Perdue, 2016; Fong & Cardoso, 2010). Racial and ethnic minorities are twice more likely to be trafficked as minors compared to their white counterparts (Fedina et al., 2016). The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) suggests that approximately 1.2 million children are trafficked worldwide. Internationally trafficked individuals often come from Southeast Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe (Fong & Cardoso, 2010).

Within the United States, Kotrla (2010) notes that US minors are the most vulnerable population recruited into human trafficking. It is estimated that there are anywhere between 300,000 and 400,000 minors involved in sex trafficking within the United States, not including the estimated 325,000 who are at risk for being trafficked (Fong & Cardoso, 2010; Kotrla, 2010). The estimates of children being trafficked and then exploited into prostitution has also been misused and criticized. Children who are at risk of sexual exploitation are between 244,181 and 325,575. However, this does not indicate the number of children who are trafficked within the United States. Again, the exact number of children who are trafficked within the United States is unknown due to reporting issues (Cole & Sprang, 2015; Fong & Cardoso, 2010; Richmond, 2015). Children who live close to international borders have an increased risk in being

trafficked, not just within their own country but internationally as well. It is estimated that between 10-15% of United States citizen and foreign citizens who were homeless are trafficked through international and national networks. (Fong & Cardoso, 2010). In Fedina et al. (2016) study conducted in the United States, 62.7% of the traffickers were family-based, with 45.8% of those being parents or guardians of the children. Only 16.9% were trafficked by a stranger. Fifty percent of the individuals had an older significant other before entering the sex industry (Fedina et al., 2016). As stated earlier, older pimps often acting as “loverboys” will coerce or manipulate younger females into the sex trafficking industry. Finally, 47.1 to 52% of traffickers used the internet to exploit individuals (Fedina et al., 2016).

The similarities between cases of human trafficking include small wages, long hours, seized passports and other important documents, and the threat/action of physical, mental and emotional harm (Hepburn & Simon, 2010; Logan, Walker, & Hunt, 2009). Common risk factors of minors being trafficked or forced into prostitution include poverty, running away from home or being homeless, having a history of abuse, little parental support, mental health issues, and have been in and out of the foster care system. Running away is one of the strongest predictors for domestic child sex trafficking (Fedina et al., 2016; Fong & Cardoso, 2010; Kotrla, 2010). However, it is unclear to what extent these risk factors apply to children becoming immersed within the sex industry. For instance, some minors engage in “survival sex,” or the selling of sex for money, food, drugs, and shelter. Other minors are coerced into the sex industry as an outcome of their risk factors (Fedina et al., 2016). Fedina et al. (2016) found that individuals who had friends that sold sex or children who had family members involved in sex work were

significantly associated with domestic child sex trafficking. The “family-directed” business model mentioned earlier is a common pathway into exploiting children within the sex industry. Family and peer involvement within the sex industry increases the risk of domestic trafficking (Fedina et al., 2016).

Consequences of the trafficking experience on people are detrimental. They can experience damage to their mental/physical health, sustain injuries or diseases, or even die while in captivity (Scarpa, 2008). Women and children who are engaged in sex trafficking or forced prostitution often experience physical and sexual violence, harassment, have an increased risk of contracting HIV or other sexually transmitted infections, unplanned pregnancies, and have an increased risk in contracting other types of infectious diseases (Fedina et al., 2016). Children in the sex industry often have untreated mental health issues, such as suicidal thoughts and depression, which can often lead to long-term physical and mental health issues.

Myths and Truths

There are several common misconceptions about human trafficking. To begin, the notion that slavery is a historical footnote and not a modern-day struggle needs to be deconstructed (Richmond, 2015). “One of the greatest challenges America faces in ridding itself of slavery is that nearly all Americans think they know exactly what slavery looks like: an African American, in chains, picking cotton under the hot southern sun” (Bales & Soodalter, 2009, p. 135). Even using the most conservative estimate of individuals of human trafficking, there are more internationally trafficked individuals compared to the approximate 9.5 million slaves that sailed the Atlantic. A further issue with calculating an estimate is that underreporting is commonplace with human

trafficking. Because the traffickers want to keep their criminal enterprise hidden, and because trafficked individuals are too afraid to come forward, this leaves problems for law enforcement even becoming aware of cases. Trafficked individuals are often too afraid to talk either because they are here illegally or because of the traffickers' ability to convince them that law enforcement officers will punish them (Richmond, 2015). Misusing the data, being unable to collect data accurately, and providing inflated statistics are some of the reasons why individuals tend to doubt that human trafficking/slavery problem exists today.

Secondly, the idea that people must be transported to be considered trafficked is false (Logan, Walker & Hunt, 2009). Trafficking does not necessarily mean that a person is taken from one country and moved to another. There is nothing in the law to suggest that trafficking always involves movement from one country to another. It could be solely domestic movement, within the borders of a single country. Also, there is nothing in the law to mandate that the trafficker or trafficked individual must be foreign (Cole & Sprang, 2015; Richmond, 2015).

The myth that chains, bars, and beatings are necessary elements in human trafficking cases is false (Richmond, 2015). Interestingly, not every human trafficking case involves physical bondage. Some cases involve labor or sexual exploitation by using coercion. Psychological coercion is just as dangerous as physical intimidation. Conventional wisdom may hold that since the trafficked individual did not have a gun to their head or locks on the doors, they had opportunity to escape. This is also not true, because while they may be behind unlocked doors, it does not matter if they were so afraid for their well-being or that of their families to escape that they felt they were

unable to leave. Traffickers generally use the least amount of force and coercion necessary (Richmond, 2015). If threats to harm the individual's families or to not send money that was promised to the families enough to keep them fearful and submissive, then traffickers do not need to spend money on things such as guards, surveillance systems or even restraints (Richmond, 2015).

Another common misunderstanding is that human trafficking primarily entails sex trafficking. Human trafficking does not just consist of sex trafficking. Labor trafficking is an extremely common form of trafficking, especially within the United States. Labor trafficking cases are more difficult to identify because the trafficked individuals are not usually seen by the public. In contrast, individuals trafficked for sex have full contact with customers, giving law enforcement a chance to intervene. Labor trafficking cases can also be more difficult to identify because if the trafficked individuals are found, the traffickers may be charged with non-human trafficking sentences, such as domestic violence or workplace violence. Just because more individuals are identified in sex trafficking does not mean that they are primarily coerced in the sex trafficking industry. It just insinuates that it is harder to identify other forms of trafficking such as labor trafficking (Richard, 2015).

Another common myth is that all traffickers use the same business model (Richard, 2015; Scarpa, 2008). Perhaps the only common element in all human trafficking cases is money. The human trafficking enterprises is built on someone in power exploiting someone vulnerable all to make a profit. However, just because money is the most common element, does not insinuate that all models are the same. For example, there are three different business model types within the sex trafficking

industry; pimp-directed, family-directed and establishment-directed models all rely on communication and money to be successful, but have different types of people in charge (Scarpa, 2008). Finally, the idea that individuals within the same “type” of trafficking having the same experiences is another myth. A person trafficked for forced labor may have more in common with an individual who was forced into prostitution than another person trafficked for forced labor (Peters, 2015).

Current Approach

An in-depth study of the personal testimonials of trafficking survivors and the media’s portrayal of human trafficking is needed, and has been ignored throughout literature. By assessing the media’s ideas of human trafficking and what they are saying about survivor’s experiences, this study will show that most outlets lean towards utilizing the common myths of human trafficking and not applying sound research. One gap that the literature has is the variable of location in regards to domestically in the United States. Much of the human trafficking literature does not analyze the locations of survivors, where it is where they were trafficked from or trafficked to. This study intends to address this knowledge gap by conducting an in-depth analysis of the media’s portrayal of trafficking and the testimonials taken directly from survivors. The goal of this thesis is to include identifying characteristics and risk factors that human trafficking survivors possess to accurately paint a picture of the survivors based on empirical data and their own testimony.

The research questions that will be answered are as follows: what do these survivors look like (demographic characteristics? Do demographic characteristics differ between the different types of human trafficking or region? Is one specific region of the

country higher in one type of human trafficking than the other? Are there any survivor testimonies of the forms that are not as prominent or well known, such as illegal adoptions, and how do these experiences differ from survivors of more common purposes (like sex and labor trafficking)?

Methodology

Data Sources

Prior to beginning data analysis, two data sets were created to capture information of the media's portrayal of survivor's experiences of human trafficking. The first includes 19 basic demographic information for the sources and information on the survivor including region, entry age, type of harm/injury, and purpose of trafficking. The second contains verbatim excerpts of the testimonials recorded in each article, with 550 survivor excerpts among the 151 survivors. Each excerpt ranges from seven to 30 words, depending on the survivor. These two data sets were connected by using common ID numbers for the source and the survivor³.

Three different search engines were used to gather the data: Google, Bing, and Yahoo!, using a standard a list of search terms. The list of search terms was derived from consulting the literature and human trafficking scholars and practitioners. By contacting these scholars and practitioners, proper search terms were created to find the specific stories that fit the criteria. It also allowed for a narrow focus of finding survivor stories. For example, individual terms such as “domestic minor sex trafficking,” “survivor

³ The survivor ID and source ID are separate variables because some sources contained more than one survivor's story. Every survivor got a unique number as well as every news story. Even if two sources came from the same news outlet (such as CNN or MSNBC), the hyperlink varied, thus the two stories had different number IDs. The survivor ID and source ID variables are present in both data sets.

stories,” and “human exploitation” were searched. In addition to typing these terms independently, they were also strung together to create phrases such as “human trafficking survivor stories in Oregon,” or “commercial sexual exploitation of children in America” (see Appendix A for the complete list of search terms used).

After typing in a specific search term, generally starting with broad search terms then working to specifics, online news articles and websites would be opened and skimmed to ensure that the article met the following criteria. Articles would not be included in data collection if the following occurred: (1) the article contained fewer than 40 words of direct survivor testimony (unless there was more than one survivor in which case there had to be three sentences or more), or (2) the article focused on a documentary, book, law, organization more than recording and telling the survivor’s story.

Documentary in this instance is where a writer is more focused on the subject of human trafficking in general and not a specific story. Most authors writing news articles are focused on the project itself not about sharing survivor’s specific experiences. Even if the documentary contains a story or two, the news articles about that documentary do not share the story because they do not want to spoil the documentary. Therefore, documentaries were excluded from the analysis. The following section discusses the variables captured and the coding schemes used.

Measures

In the basic article demographic data set, there were 19 variables that were gathered, including entry age, exit age, race, sex, purpose of trafficking, type of harm/injury, international status, country of origin, region of the country from and

trafficked to, type of source, and name of source including unique identifier variables⁴. Table 1 contains the breakdown, total, and percentage of each variable. Entry and exit age are defined as the age in years at which the survivor was initially trafficked and when the survivor broke free respectively. The variable race is categorized as “White,” “Black,” “Native American,” “Asian,” “Pacific Islander,” and “other,” paralleling the US Census. The racial category “unknown” was also used if the journalist omitted racial information. Sex is categorized as male or female. The purposes of human trafficking were categorized into five categories: “human⁵,” “sex,” “labor⁶,” “sex and labor,” and “illegal adoption.” Type of harm/injury is a categorical variable that describes additional harm the survivor encountered while trafficked. The four options are physical, psychological, both, or none. The variable was coded as physical harm if the survivor described physical beatings, chains, restraints, and malnourishment or being denied food by the trafficker. Physical harm does not include the rape of sex trafficked survivors. Psychological harm denotes that the survivor experienced the threat of harm to self or family, being unable to leave, or having a gun to their head⁷. The category “both” is used when the survivor recounting their personal experience discusses both physical and psychological harm. Finally, “none” refers to the survivor not describing physical or psychological harm beyond those incurred during the primary purpose of their

⁴ Unique identifiers include survivor ID, source ID, and the hyperlink (if applicable).

⁵ Two survivors did not specify the purpose they were trafficked but rather stated they were “human trafficked,” therefore a separate category was created.

⁶ The labor category encompasses the three types of labor trafficking mentioned earlier: agricultural labor, domestic servitude and forced marriages.

⁷ A commonly encountered circumstance in the data.

trafficking. It is important to note that while the survivor may not have discussed additional harm or injury, that does not mean that they did not experience it.

The regional component of the study was broken down into six different variables: international, country of origin, state trafficked from, state trafficked to, region trafficked from, and region trafficked to. The international variable is a binary variable that was coded “international” if the survivor is not from the United States or “domestic” if the survivor was from the United States. The country of origin variable is a nominal variable that records where the survivor was originally (see Appendix B for complete list of countries including in the study). If the international variable was coded as domestic, then it automatically coded country of origin as United States. “Unknown” was also used in this variable if survivors did not specify where the country they originated from. The state trafficked from and trafficked to are the states where survivor was located before and during the trafficking experience (See Appendices C and D respectively for complete list). In some instances, survivors were trafficked within the state they were from.

Region to and region from refers to the breakdown of the United States into four regions (West, Midwest, South, and Northeast) that parallels how the Census Bureau divides the United States. The “Western” region contains Alaska, Hawaii, California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Idaho, Utah Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana. The “Midwestern” region contains North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio.

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of Media Sample

Distribution of Numerical Variables					
	Min	Max	Mean	SD	NA
Entry Age	2	27	15	NA	55
Exit Age	5	42	19.08	NA	103
Distribution of Categorical Variables					
Race/Ethnicity	<i>White</i>	<i>Black</i>	<i>Hispanic</i>	<i>Asian</i>	<i>Native American</i>
	48 (31.8%)	34 (22.5%)	14 (9.3%)	14 (9.3%)	1 (0.7%)
	<i>Pacific Islander</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Mixed</i>	<i>Unknown</i>	
	1 (0.7%)	1 (0.7%)	3 (2%)	35 (23.2%)	
Sex	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>			
	20 (13.2%)	131 (86.6%)			
Purpose of Trafficking	<i>Labor</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Labor & Sex</i>	<i>Human</i>	<i>Illegal Adoption</i>
	28 (25.2%)	103 (68.2%)	2 (1.3%)	2 (1.3%)	6 (4%)
Type of Harm/Injury	<i>Psychological</i>	<i>Physical</i>	<i>Both</i>	<i>None</i>	
	28 (25.2%)	32 (21.2%)	30 (19.9%)	51 (33.8%)	
Citizenship	<i>International</i>	<i>Domestic</i>	<i>Unknown</i>		
	49 (32.5%)	101 (66.9%)	1 (0.7%)		
Region Trafficked From	<i>Northeast</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>Midwest</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>Unknown</i>
	16 (10.6%)	33 (21.9%)	14 (9.3%)	16 (10.6%)	23 (15.2%)
	<i>NA</i>				
	49 (32.5%)				
Region Trafficked To	<i>Northeast</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>Midwest</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>Multiple</i>
	17 (11.3%)	36 (23.8%)	27 (17.9%)	29 (19.2%)	13 (8.6%)

	<i>Unknown</i>				
	29 (19.2%)				
Type of Source	<i>Online News</i>	<i>Website</i>	<i>Magazine</i>	<i>Book</i>	<i>Video</i>
	77 (51%)	56 (37.1%)	6 (4%)	5 (3.3%)	4 (2.6%)
	<i>Blog</i>				
	3 (2%)				
Local/National	<i>Local</i>	<i>National</i>			
	53 (35%)	98 (65%)			

The “Southern” region, being the largest, contains Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware. Finally, the “Northeastern” region, the smallest of the four, contains New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. If the survivor was trafficked to states across multiple regions, then the category “multiple” was used. Sometimes, survivors omit where they are from or where they were trafficked to for personal safety. If that was the case, then the relevant variables would be coded as “unknown”.

The type of source variable refers to where the original data were found: online news, government or human trafficking specific websites, scholarly books on human trafficking, blogs, magazines, and videos. The variable, “name of source”, listed the specific sources of the online news article or blog followed by a unique hyperlink (See Appendix E for complete list). Lastly, the dichotomous categorical variable local or national refers to whether the source is from a national or local website or news outlet.

This variable is intended to show if journalists from a local setting discuss human trafficking differently than those from a national outlet.

In the survivor testimonial data set, the only two variables included are survivor testimonial and context information from article. The survivor testimonial variable is a text corpus that contains all direct quotes from the survivor. Each quotation was stored in separate rows but contained the unique survivor ID. A quote in this study is considered anything the survivor specifically stated that is not separated by text written by the author of the article. For example, if article number three quoted survivor number four six different times throughout the article, then there would be six rows of excerpts in the data, all containing the article ID label “3” and survivor ID “4”. Following survivor number four’s excerpts would be survivor number five and her four rows of excerpts. In total, there are approximately 550 survivor excerpts among the 151 survivors. Each excerpt ranges from seven to 30 words, depending on the survivor. The article context variable is also a text corpus that contains everything from the article that is not a direct survivor quote. This includes the journalist summarizing the survivor’s events or sharing statistics about human trafficking. For example:

...It all started with a chance meeting at a train station. She was going to visit a friend when a young man told her she was beautiful. They exchanged phone numbers. Then started communicating often. Soon he was buying her clothes and gifts. She thought they loved each other. She would do anything to make him happy. Including - sell her body...

(PAHomepage, 2017)

Since the context information from the article is backing up survivor quotes, this variable is stored as one field again presenting the corresponding survivor ID. This variable is used to analyze how the journalist writes about their experience and which quotes the journalist chooses to publish.

Methods

Bivariate analysis. Once the data were collected, the analysis began in a three-step process. The first step included bivariate analysis of the demographic dataset. By conducting these analyses, we were able to see what the data looked like and what needed to be investigated further. To start, entry age by sex was observed. A t-test was conducted to determine if the difference between the means of the two groups was statistically significant. The mean of the female group is 15.08889 while the mean of the male group is 13.66667. The results indicated a t-value of 0.75493 with a p-value of 0.4522. Due to this p-value, the mean difference is not significant. One would not expect to find a difference of mean entry ages for males and females in the general population of trafficked individuals. Exit age by sex was also observed. A t-test was conducted to determine if the difference between the means is significant. The mean of the female group is 19.33333 while the mean of the male group is 15.33333. A t-test was conducted since the means of the two groups were statistically different. The results indicated a t-value of 1.1386 and a p-value of 0.2608. Due to this p-value, the difference of means are not significant. Table 2 below illustrates both entry and exit age analyzed by sex.

To take it one step further, entry and exit age were analyzed against purpose of trafficking and sex. Table 3 below depicts the results of this analysis. The average entry age for a female trafficked for sex is 15.05, while the average entry age for males

trafficked for sex is 12. Females in this sample were over the procurement age that the literature discusses, however, males aligned with the literature. The average entry age for a male trafficked for labor is 17. This also aligns with the literature, which states that males trafficked for labor are generally young.

Table 2: Bivariate Analysis of Age by Sex

	Male	Female
Mean Entry Age	13.7	15.1
Mean Exit Age	15.3	19.3

Table 3: Analysis of Age by Sex and Purpose of Trafficking

	Male Sex	Male Labor	Female Sex	Female Labor
Mean Entry Age	12	17	15.05	17.25
Mean Exit Age	15.33	NA	19.84	21.33

One would not expect to find a difference of mean entry ages for males and females in the general population of trafficked individuals. Because both entry age and exit age results were not significant, this means that entry age and exit age is not dependent on sex. Therefore, it does not matter whether the survivor is a male or a female, anyone at any age could be trafficked. The literature states that while the average entry age of individuals trafficked for sex are between 11 and 14, studies like this one have shown individuals to be trafficked as young as four years old.

Next, the purposes of trafficking by sex were analyzed by running a chi square test because both variables analyzed were both nominal. Table 4 illustrates all purposes

of trafficking analyzed by sex. The chi square value of table 4 is 17.853 with a p-value of 0.001319. This means that purpose of trafficking is statistically dependent on the survivor's sex. Table 5 illustrates the two most common purposes of trafficking (sex and labor trafficking) by survivor's sex. The chi square value of Table 5 is 16.0683 with a p-value of 0.000324. This means that the two most common purposes of trafficking are statistically dependent on survivor's sex. Based on the results illustrated in Tables 4 and 5, females are generally trafficked more for sex while males are generally trafficked for labor.

Table 4: Bivariate Analysis of Purpose of Trafficking by Sex

	Female	Male	Total
Human	1 (50%)	1 (50%)	2 (1.3%)
Illegal Adoption	5 (83.3%)	1 (16.6%)	6 (3.9%)
Labor	27 (71.1%)	11 (28.9%)	38 (25.2%)
Sex	97 (94.2%)	6 (5.8%)	103 (68.2%)
Sex & Labor	1 (50%)	1(50%)	2 (1.3%)
Total	131 (86.7%)	20 (13.2%)	151 (100%)

Table 5: Bivariate Analysis of Sex and Labor Trafficking by Sex

	Female	Male	Total
Labor	27 (71%)	11 (29%)	38 (26.6%)
Sex	97 (94.2%)	6 (5.8%)	103 (72%)
Sex & Labor	1 (50%)	1 (50%)	2 (1.4%)
Total	125 (87.4%)	18 (12.6%)	143 (100%)

The purpose of trafficking was then analyzed by race by using another chi square test. A chi square test was used because both variables were nominal variables. Table 6 illustrates all purposes of trafficking analyzed by race. The chi square value of Table 6 is 106.06 with a p-value of 7.272×10^{-19} . This means that purpose of trafficking is not statistically dependent on race. Table 7 illustrates the two most common purposes of trafficking (sex and labor trafficking) by four categories of race (white, black, other, and unknown). The chi square value of Table 7 is 44.4467 with a p-value of 6.00532×10^{-8} . This means that the two common purposes of trafficking are not statistically dependent on race. Based on the results illustrated by Tables 6 and 7, race does not relate to the purpose of trafficking. Even though in this sample Asians are trafficked for Labor and Whites are trafficked for sex, these findings are not statistically significant.

Table 6: Bivariate Analysis of Purpose of Trafficking by Race

	Human	Illegal Adoption	Labor	Sex	Sex & Labor	Total
Asian	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	12 (85.7%)	2 (14.3%)	0 (0%)	14 (9.3%)
Black	0 (0%)	5 (14.7%)	8 (23.5%)	21 (61.8%)	0 (0%)	34 (22.5%)
Hispanic	1 (7.1%)	0 (0%)	9 (64.3%)	3 (21.4%)	1 (7.1%)	14 (9.3%)
Mixed	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (100%)	0 (0%)	3 (2%)
Native American	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	1 (0.7%)
Other	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (0.7%)
Pacific Islander	0 (0%)	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (0.7%)
Unknown	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	4 (11.4%)	30 (85.7%)	1 (2.9%)	35 (23.2%)
White	1 (2.1%)	0 (0%)	4 (8.3%)	43 (89.6%)	0 (0%)	48 (32%)
Total	2 (1.3%)	6 (4%)	38 (25.2%)	103 (68.2%)	2 (1.3%)	151 (100%)

Table 7: Bivariate Analysis of Sex and Labor Trafficking by Race

	Labor	Sex	Sex & Labor	Total
White	4 (8.5%)	43 (91.5%)	0 (0%)	47 (32.9%)
Black	8 (27.6%)	21 (72.4%)	0 (0%)	29 (20.3%)
Other	22 (68.8%)	9 (28.1%)	1 (3.1%)	32 (22.4%)
Unknown	4 (11.4%)	30 (85.7%)	1 (2.9%)	35 (24.5%)
Total	38 (26.6%)	103 (72%)	2 (1.4%)	143 (100%)

The purpose of trafficking was then analyzed by the dichotomous variable international/domestic by using a chi square test. A chi square test was used because both variables were nominal. Table 8 illustrates all purposes of trafficking analyzed by citizenship. The chi square value of Table 8 is 199.96 with a p-value that is less than $2.2e-16$. This means that purpose of trafficking is statistically dependent on citizenship. Table 9 illustrates the two most common purposes of trafficking analyzed by citizenship. The chi square value of Table 9 is 108.533 with a p-value of 0.00001. Based on the results illustrated by Tables 8 and 9, domestic survivors are trafficked for sex and international survivors are trafficked for labor. These results correlate with the literature.

Table 8: Bivariate Analysis of Purpose of Trafficking by Citizenship

	Human	Illegal	Labor	Sex	Sex &	Total
		Adoption			Labor	
Domestic	1 (1%)	0 (0%)	2 (1.9%)	97 (96%)	1 (1%)	101 (66.9%)
International	1 (2%)	6 (12.2%)	36 (73.5%)	5 (10.2%)	1 (2%)	49 (32.5%)
Unknown	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	1 (0.6%)
Total	2 (1.3%)	6 (3.9%)	38 (25.2%)	103 (68.2%)	2 (1.3%)	151 (100%)

Table 9: Bivariate Analysis of Sex and Labor Trafficking by Citizenship

	Labor	Sex	Sex & Labor	Total
Domestic	2 (2%)	97 (97%)	1 (1%)	100 (69.9%)
International	36 (85.7%)	5 (11.9%)	1 (2.4%)	42 (29.4%)
Unknown	0 (0%)	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	1 (0.7%)
Total	38 (26.6%)	103 (72%)	2 (1.4%)	143 (100%)

The purpose of trafficking was then analyzed by the types of harm variable using a chi square test. A chi square test was used because both variables were nominal. Table 10 illustrates all purposes of trafficking analyzed by types of harm. The chi square value of Table 10 is 22.778 with a p-value of 0.02967. This means that harm of any type is dependent on purpose of trafficking. Table 11 illustrates the two most common purposes of trafficking (sex and labor) analyzed by types of harm. The chi square value is 9.68352 with a p-value of 0.138628. This means that harm of any type of harm is not statistically dependent on the two most common types of trafficking. Based on the results illustrated in Tables 10 and 11, survivors of sex trafficking do not share about the harm they endured during their experience, but if they do share about the harm they endure, it is usually physical harm. For survivors of labor trafficking, they mostly endure psychological harm during their experience. These results correlate with the literature.

Table 10: Bivariate Analysis of Purpose of Trafficking by Types of Harm

	Physical	Psychological	Both	None	Total
Human	0 (0%)	2 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (1.3%)
Illegal Adoption	0 (0%)	1 (16.7%)	0 (0%)	5 (83.3%)	6 (3.9%)
Labor	7 (18.4%)	15 (39.5%)	8 (21%)	8 (21%)	38 (25.2%)
Sex	24 (23.3%)	20 (19.4%)	21 (20.4%)	38 (36.9%)	103 (68.2%)
Sex & Labor	1 (50%)	0 (0%)	1 (50%)	0 (0%)	2 (1.3%)
Total	30 (19.9%)	51 (33.8%)	32 (21.2%)	38 (25.2%)	151 (100%)

Table 11: Bivariate Analysis of Sex and Labor Trafficking by Types of Harm

	Physical	Psychological	Both	None	Total
Labor	7 (18.4%)	15 (39.5%)	8 (21%)	8 (21%)	38 (26.6%)
Sex	24 (23.3%)	20 (19.4%)	21 (20.4%)	38 (36.7%)	103 (72%)
Sex & Labor	1 (50%)	0 (0%)	1 (50%)	0 (0%)	2 (1.4%)
Total	32 (22.4%)	35 (24.5%)	30 (21%)	46 (32.2%)	143 (100%)

Finally, the last bivariate analysis ran on the data was the dichotomous variable international/domestic by sex. A chi square test was used because both variables were nominal. The chi square value is 8.5691 and the p-value is 0.0356. This means that citizenship is dependent on sex. Based on these results illustrated in Table 12, domestic survivors of human trafficking are female while males are usually trafficked for labor. These results correlate with the literature.

Table 12: Bivariate Analysis of Sex by Citizenship

	Female	Male	Total
Domestic	93 (92.1%)	8 (7.9%)	101 (66.9%)
International	37 (75.6%)	12 (12.4%)	49 (32.5%)
Unknown	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	1 (0.6%)
Total	131 (86.8%)	20 (13.2%)	151 (100%)

Word frequencies. After analyzing the demographic dataset to better understand the variables collected, an analysis of the testimonial dataset was conducted. The second portion of the methodology section was analyzing how frequently words occurred through the testimonials within the testimonial dataset. Before analysis could be conducted, the dataset needed to be parsed and converted into a text corpus (a collection of documents). Parsing refers to the process of taking unstructured text and structures it for analysis. Once the dataset became structured, it allowed for processes such as lemmatization⁸, case folding, and removing stop words to be conducted. Lemmatization refers to the process of finding the base form of a word. For example, the words “survivor” and “survivors” definitionally mean the same thing, although one form of the word is plural. However, when analyzing these words and creating topics around them, the system would read these words as two separate entities instead of reading as the same word. This process is important because when clustering words into topics or seeing how frequently words occur throughout the dataset, we want “survivor” and “survivors” to be treated equally. Case folding is the technique that converts capital letters throughout the

⁸ Lemmatization was used versus the process stemming because after the dataset was stemmed, it caused for the system to be unable to produce topics and results.

document to lower case letters. Much like lemmatization, case folding is used so that the word “survivor” is equal to “Survivor”. Lastly, while the purpose of this thesis is to analyze survivor testimonials, not all words within the English dictionary are beneficial to understanding survivors’ experiences. Removing stop words such as “the”, “a”, “of”, “and”, “to”, and other articles create a better link between other words within the dataset. In addition to removing stop words, other words were removed from the bar graph⁹. This decision was made because some words were commonly used throughout the testimonials but did not associate with other words to understand survivors’ experiences. For example, the word “didnt” was removed from the bar graph because it did not associate with other words to create a picture of the survivors’ experience. Thus, it was removed from the bar graph that illustrates the 25 most frequently used words.

After processing the dataset, a document term matrix was created to view how popular terms are within the dataset. A document term matrix is a mathematical matrix that characterize the frequency of terms that occur within a corpus. In the matrix, rows correspond to all documents in the dataset while columns coincide to terms (EMC Education Services, 2015). The first evaluation conducted was of all testimonials. Then, six different subsets of testimonials (sex trafficking, labor trafficking, international, domestic, male, and female survivors) were created to understand the frequency of terms within each subset and how these results related to other subsets. These results were best illustrated by utilizing a combination of bar charts and word clouds for each subset and the entire testimonial dataset. The bar chart only represents the 25 words most frequently

⁹ The full list of removed words are found in Appendix F.

used. To illustrate all words used and how frequently, a word cloud was generated. A word cloud is a visual representation of data, like a bar chart. Font color and size matter within a word cloud. The larger the word, the more frequent that word appeared within the database. The direction and layout of each word is only for aesthetics. Word clouds and bar charts are used to illustrate how frequent terms appear within each subset and how these frequencies relate to other subsets.

Topic modeling. The third and final portion of the analysis process was analyzing survivor testimonials using topic modeling. Topic modeling examines words from a corpus, determines the themes by forming different topics, and illustrates how they are associated (EMC Education Services, 2015). There are many different types of topic models but the one used throughout this study is latent Dirichlet allocation (LDA). LDA represents the corpus as mixtures of topics that provide certain probabilities. A topic is defined as a cluster of words that relate to one another, and each word within the topic is weighted (EMC Education Services, 2015). These results are illustrated by figures and images.

Results

The methodology section above discusses the dataset, followed by the creation of six different subsections. This section will follow the layout of the methodology section by diving into the entire dataset and each subset individually.

All Survivor Testimonials

The first text analysis procedure conducted was of all testimonials. The figure above shows the 25 most popular words in descending order from left to right within the survivor testimonial dataset. In addition, a word cloud was also generated to show the

relationship of all the words used in the testimonial dataset and is presented in Figure 1 below.

As seen with the bar plot and word cloud illustrated in Figures 1 and 2, the word “going” appeared within the testimonials over 140 times, causing it to be placed within the center of the word cloud, in large gray font. To take it a step further, we analyzed other words that were associated with “going” and found words like “home,” “guy,” “left,” “work,” “car,” and “boyfriend”. This means that these words either appeared before or after the word “going” and produce a certain theme. The theme associated with “going” insinuate the survivors left to go somewhere and were then trafficked. Another example is the word “life”. “Life” can be seen within the dataset over 120 times and while not as large as the word “going” within the word cloud, still larger than most words. The words associated with “life” are “shame,” “years,” “walking,” “stint,” “journey,” “stigma,” “violent,” and “trauma”. These words create a theme about the life of the trafficking survivors, before and after.

In addition to analyzing the topics found within testimonials, the variable region was also examined. Figures 3 and 4 illustrates the states where survivors were trafficked from and the states where survivors were trafficked to. Survivors excluded their locations for safety reasons. This exclusion caused for a very small number of survivors to provide their location. The numbers in the legend represent the number of survivors.

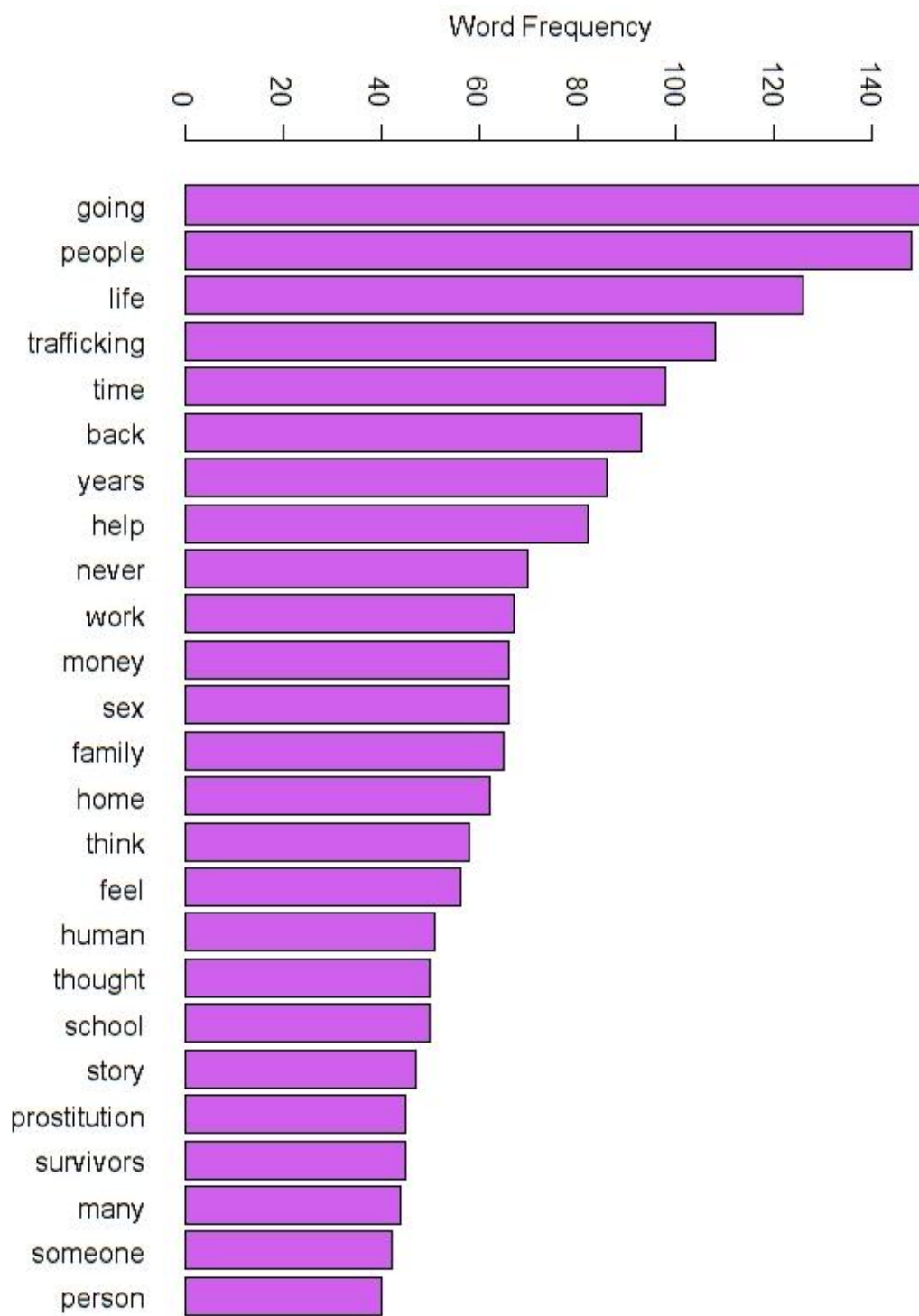
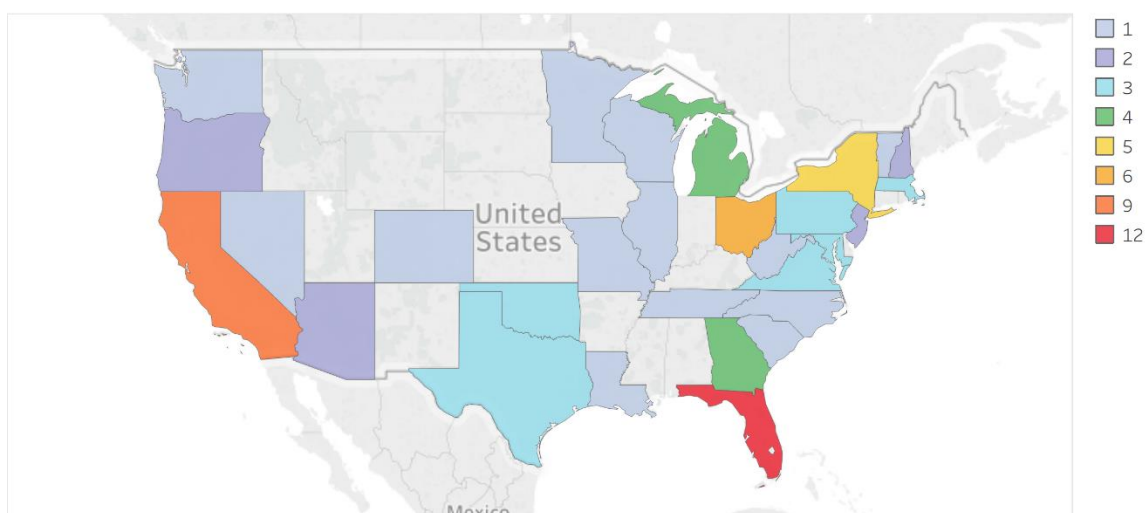


Figure 1. Bar graph of all human trafficking survivor testimonial words.

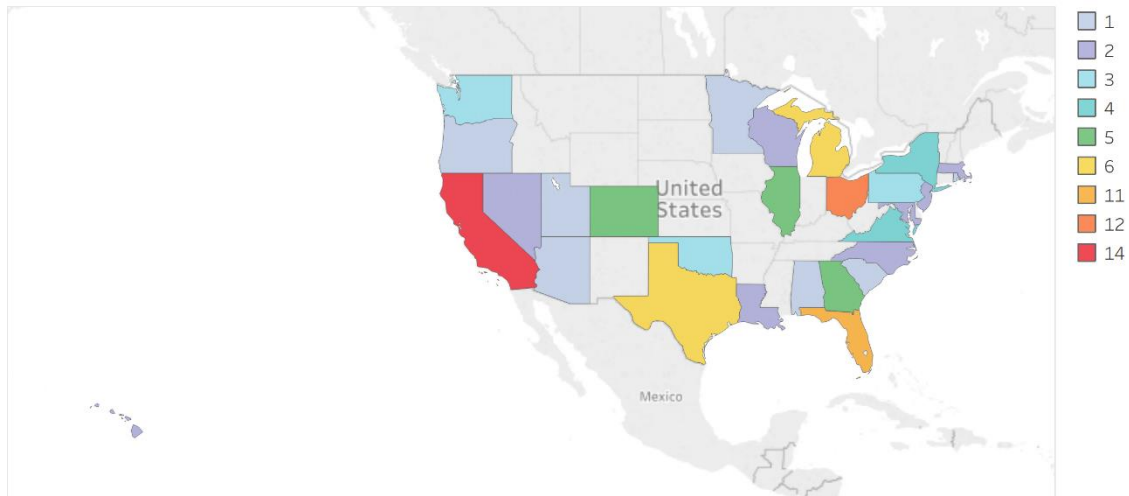
State Trafficked From



Survivors who did not disclose their location or survivors who were internationally trafficked to the United States were omitted from this map.

Figure 3. States where survivors were trafficked from.

State Trafficked To



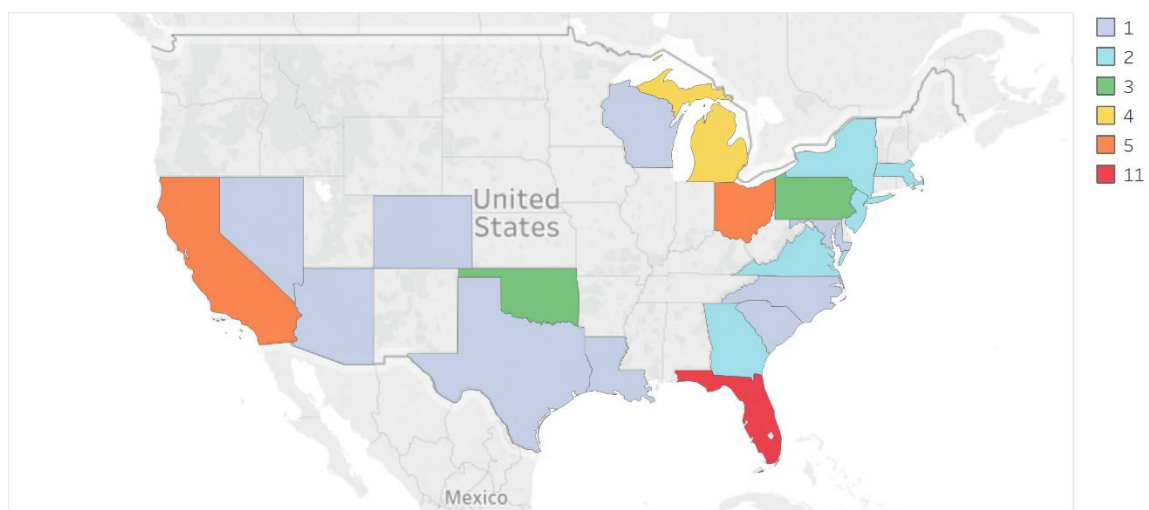
Survivors who did not disclose their location and survivors who were trafficked to multiple states were excluded from this map.

Figure 4. States where survivors were trafficked to.

Based on Figure 3, 12 survivors were trafficked from Florida while nine were trafficked from California. Many states had only one survivor trafficked from them, including

Washington, Nevada, North Carolina, and Tennessee. Compared to the previous map above, there seems to be more movement with the “trafficking to location” variable. The number of survivors trafficked to North Carolina, for example, are larger than the number of survivors trafficked from North Carolina. California has the highest number of survivors trafficked (14) while states like Minnesota, Oregon, and Utah have the least (one). States that are grayed out in the maps above illustrates that no survivors reported to be trafficked from or trafficked to these locations. Figure 5 represents survivors who were trafficked within the same state they were originally from.

Same State



This map illustrates the number of survivors who were trafficked within the same state they were from.

Figure 5. Number of survivors who were trafficked from the same state.

The numbers in the legend represent the number of survivors. Based on Figure 5, 11 survivors were trafficked within Florida, while nine states had only one survivor.

Referring to the literature, domestic survivors are moved generally from poorer areas of the country to wealthier areas.

Sex Trafficking Survivors

Figure 6 illustrates the 25 frequent words used within the first subset observed, sex trafficking survivor testimonials. In addition, a word cloud was also generated to show the relationship of all the words used in the sex trafficking testimonial subset and is presented in Figure 7. The word “trafficking” was the 15th most frequent word used among sex trafficking survivors while “sex” was ranked 17th, as shown by the bar chart. The word cloud illustrates that the terms “sex” and “trafficking” are the same color and font size, indicating they weighted the same. This means that sex trafficking survivors used the terms “sex” and “trafficking” almost the same amount of times. Sex trafficking survivors among this dataset used words such as “like,” “just,” “can,” “told,” and “want” more frequently than more common sex trafficking “buzzwords”. This led to an additional analysis of other words association with these common words. For example, the word “like” was used over 150 times among sex trafficking survivors and was highly associated with words such as “high,” “crystal,” “ecstasy,” and “dealing”. The theme these words paint is a picture of survivors’ involvement with drugs. On the other hand, the word “told” was highly associated with words such as “weeks,” “night,” “working,” “dancing,” and “police” are indicative of a theme involving the lies that survivors are told (that they would simply just be dancing or working nights, but really they would be working in the commercial sex industry).

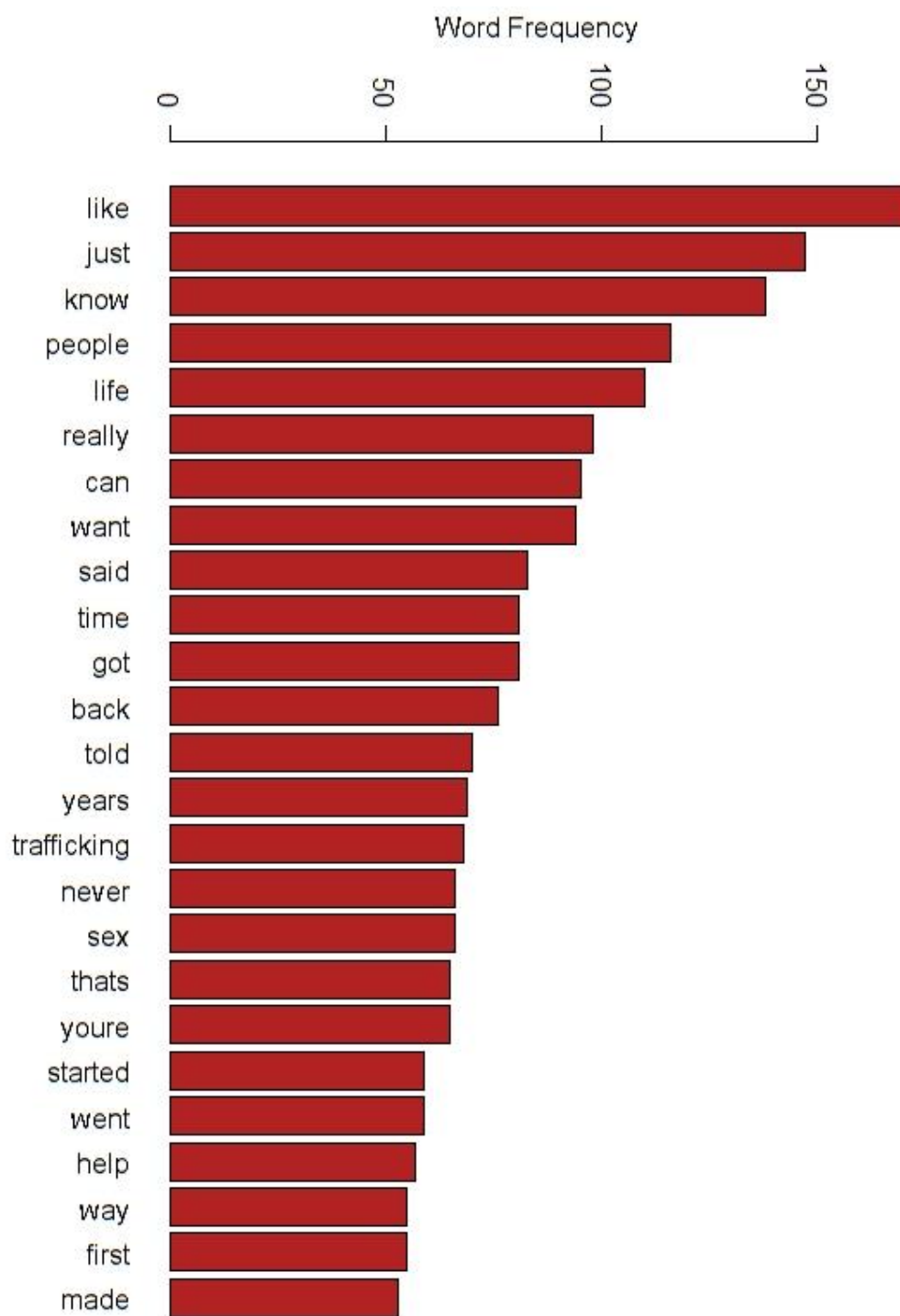
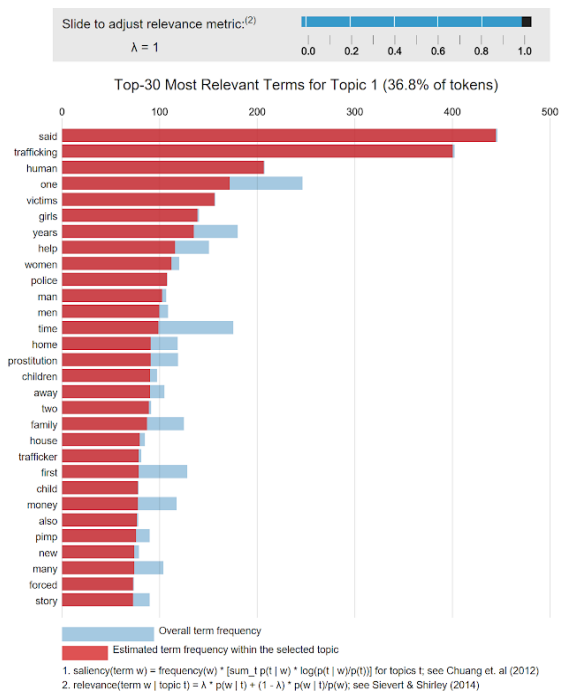
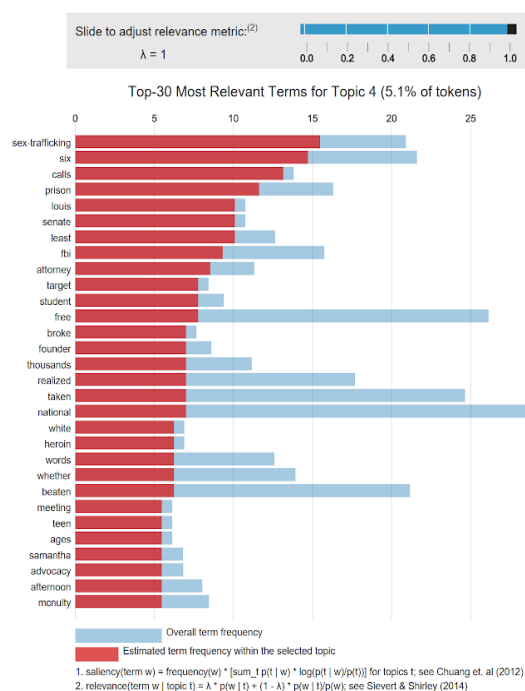


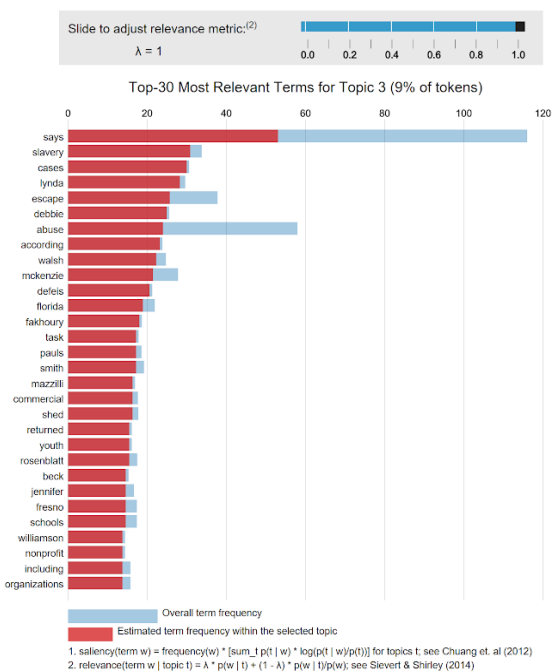
Figure 6. Bar graph of sex trafficking survivor testimonial words.



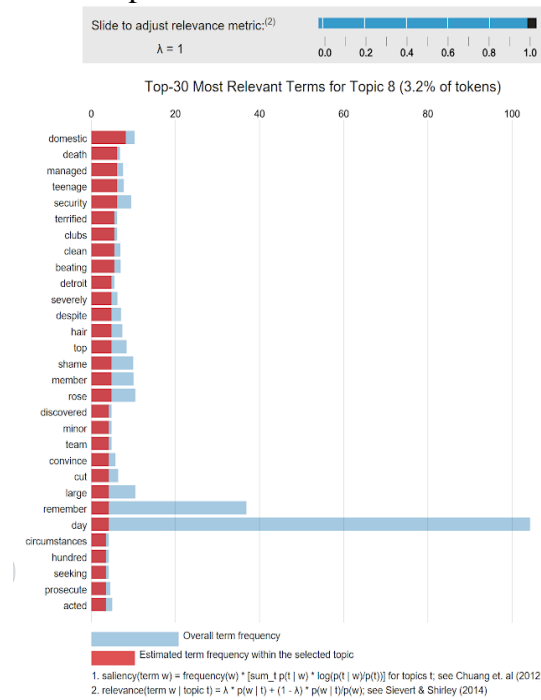
Topic 1



Topic 4



Topic 3



Topic 8

Figure 8. Topics derived from sex trafficking survivor testimonials.

These themes are also illustrated through topic modeling. When running the topic modeling function, ten different topics were produced. Only four topics are in Figure 8 because they have interesting findings and themes. The rest of the topics that were generated are found in Appendix G. The figure above shows the first topic revolving around a theme of how they were trafficked, whether it was through prostitution or by family members at a young age. Topic three is the more personal side of sex trafficking by having the names of survivors, traffickers, and locations. Topic four has a legal theme while topic eight contains how the survivors felt and what they were doing/experiencing. The red bars illustrate term frequency within the selected topic. The blue bar underneath the red bar is the overall term frequency. All four topics represent a powerful illustration of sex trafficking survivor testimonials and what they are saying about their experiences.

Labor Trafficking Survivors

Figure 9 below illustrates the 25 most frequent words used in all labor trafficking survivor testimonials. A word cloud was also generated to illustrate all the words used by labor trafficking survivors. The word “trafficking” was the most frequently word used among labor trafficking survivors while “work” was ranked 9th according to the bar graph. The word cloud illustrates “trafficking” being the most common word by the large font and only gray word in the visualization. “Work” and “survivors” are weighted the same because they are the same color and same font size. Besides the word “trafficking,” labor trafficking survivors among this dataset used words such as “going,” “just,” “told,” “want,” and “like” more frequently than more common labor trafficking “buzzwords”. This led to an additional analysis of other words association with these common words.

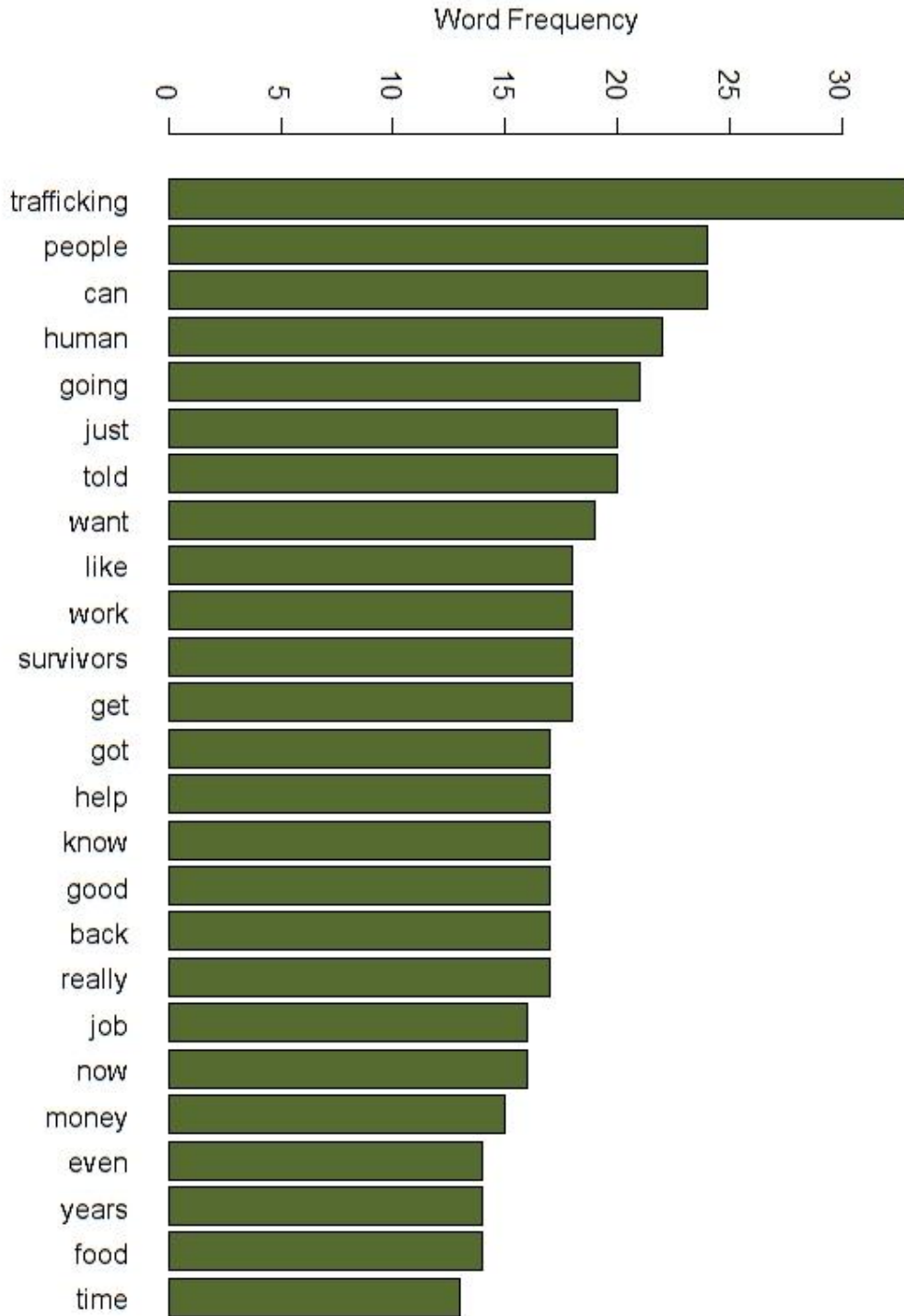
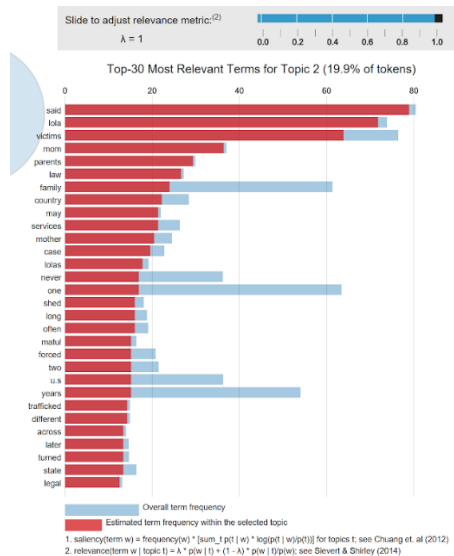
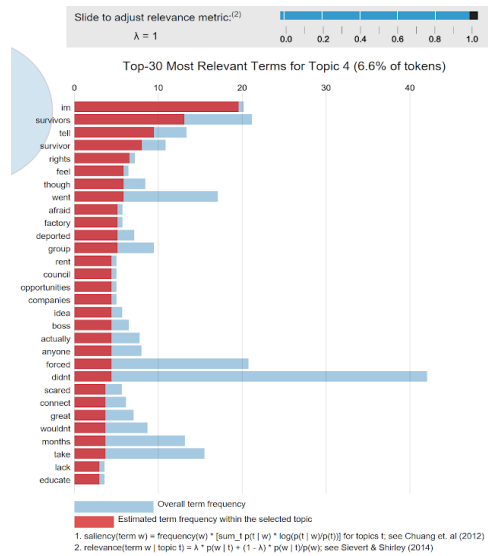


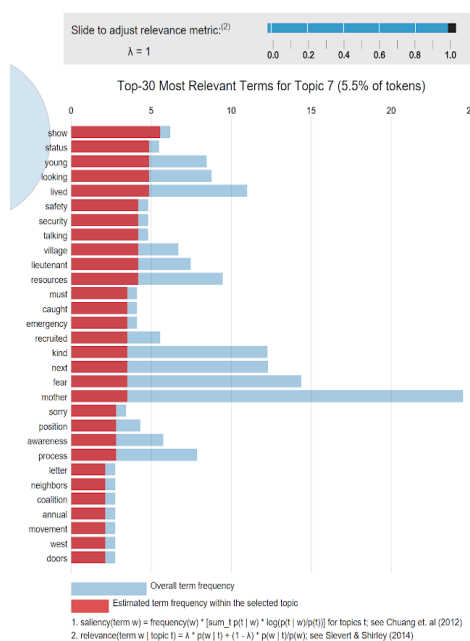
Figure 9. Bar graph of labor trafficking survivor testimonial words.



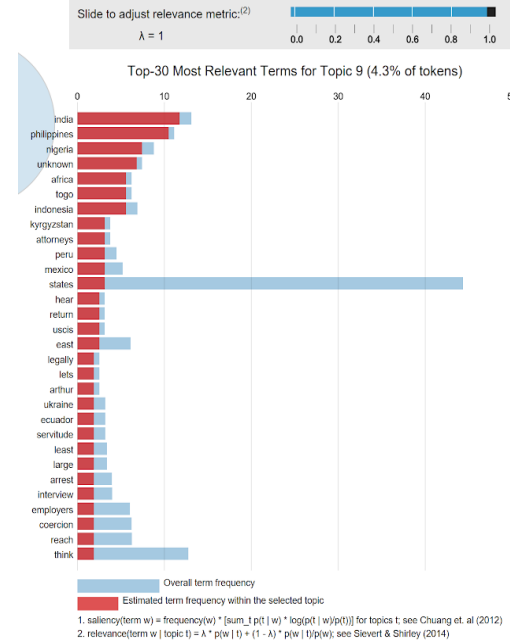
Topic 2



Topic 4



Topic 7



Topic 9

Figure 11. Topics derived from labor trafficking survivor testimonials.

words such as “deported,” “afraid,” “American,” and “angry” are indicative of a theme involving the lie of what would happen to survivors who go to the police or tell someone of their condition.

These themes are also illustrated through topic modeling. When running the topic modeling function, ten different topics were produced. Only four topics are in Figure 11 because they have interesting findings and themes. The rest of the topics that were generated are found in Appendix G. The figure below shows topic two is not quite defined as other topics. The findings are interesting and thus presented in this thesis, however the topic does not fit a specific model found within the literature. Topic four represents how the survivors felt during their experience and the consequences that would happen if they told anyone. Topic seven fits more in with the agricultural industry while topic nine contains the primary locations of where these survivors were from. The red bars illustrate term frequency within the selected topic. The blue bar underneath the red bar is the overall term frequency. All four topics represent a powerful illustration of labor trafficking survivor testimonials and what they are saying about their experiences.

Comparing sex and labor trafficking survivors. Labor survivor testimonials differ from sex survivor testimonials in many ways. To start, the word “survivors” was used more frequently among individuals trafficked for labor than individuals trafficked for sex. This means that when individuals trafficked for labor share about their experiences, they recognize themselves as survivors of trafficking more than individuals trafficked for sex. Labor trafficking survivors’ topics indicate the agricultural scene and what would ever happen if they told anyone of their experience. These topics coincide with the literature in that they were afraid to tell anyone because they did not trust law

enforcement. In contrast, sex survivors discussed about their experiences involving sex, drugs, and pimps more than labor survivors discussed work and “bosses”. Sex trafficking survivors also had a topic that was themed around the law and policy, indicating that they deal with the law more than labor trafficking survivors. This coincides with the literature indicating that while there are not necessarily more individuals trafficked for sex compared to labor, they are just more visible. The next four subsets fall in line with common words and themes that were found with labor and sex trafficking subsets.

International Survivors

Figure 12 below illustrates the 25 most frequent words used in all international trafficked survivor testimonials. A word cloud was also generated to illustrate all the words used by labor trafficking survivors. Trafficking and people are weighted the same because they are the largest words and centered within the visualization. The word “visa” while towards the center of the word cloud is very small and in a brown color that is weighted the same as those on the outside of the circle. This means that international survivors are not using the word “visa” as often as other words. Besides a few of the international survivor “buzzwords” such as “survivor,” “trafficking,” and “trafficker”, other more common words such as “help,” “can,” “know,” “want,” and “told” occurred more frequently. This lead to an additional analysis of other words association with these common words. For example, the word “get” was highly associated with words such as “kids,” “afraid,” “police,” and “American”. The theme among these words is the life that survivors wanted for their family, but were afraid to tell law enforcement what they were going through. The themes found among internationally trafficked survivors aligned with themes found with labor trafficking survivor subset. This indicates that these survivors

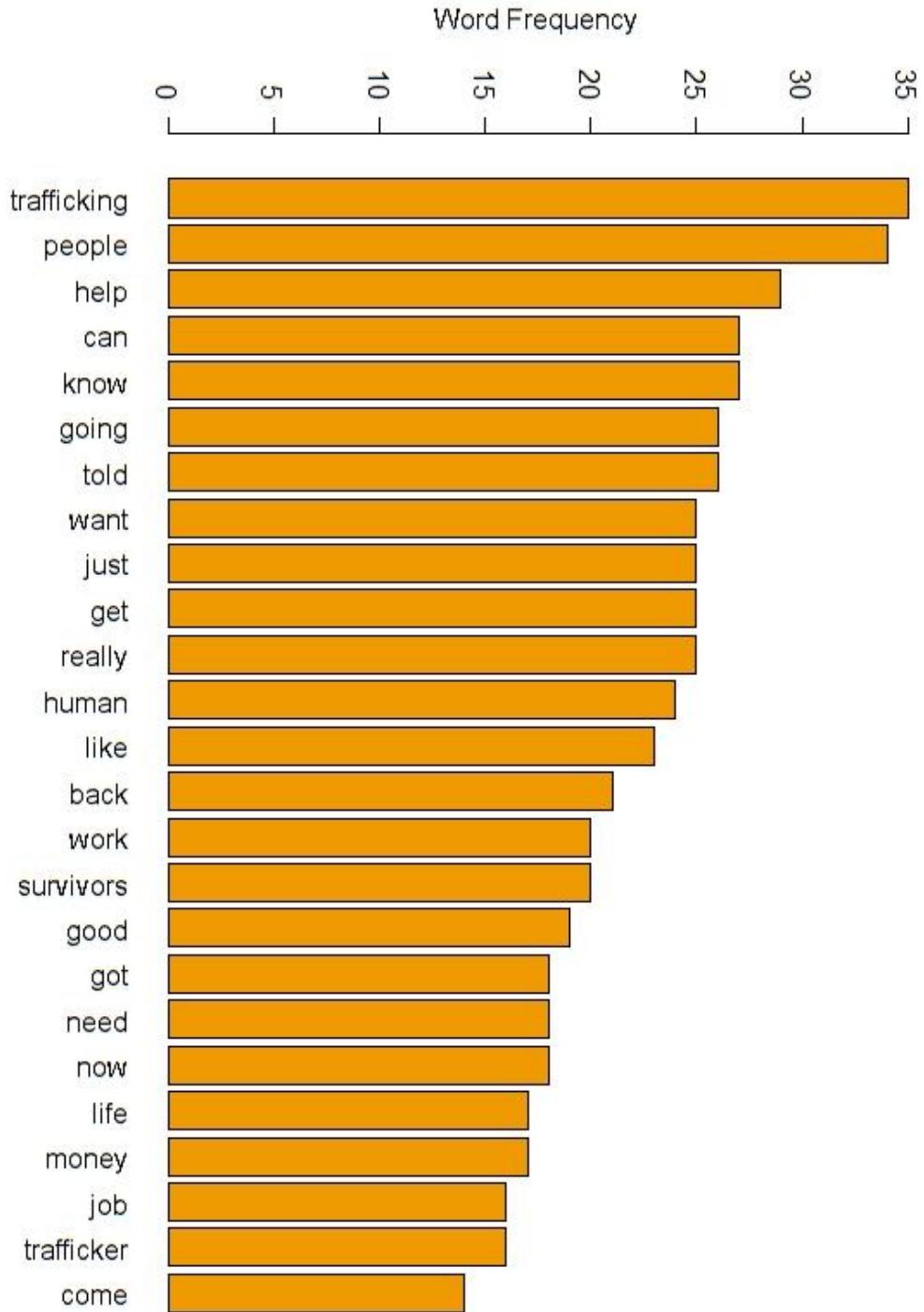
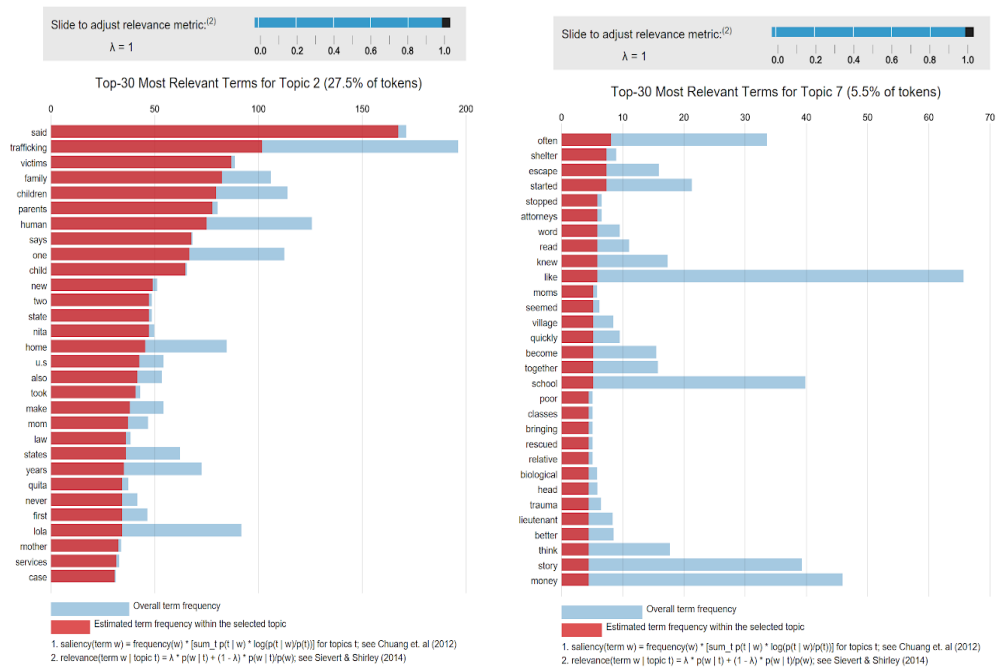
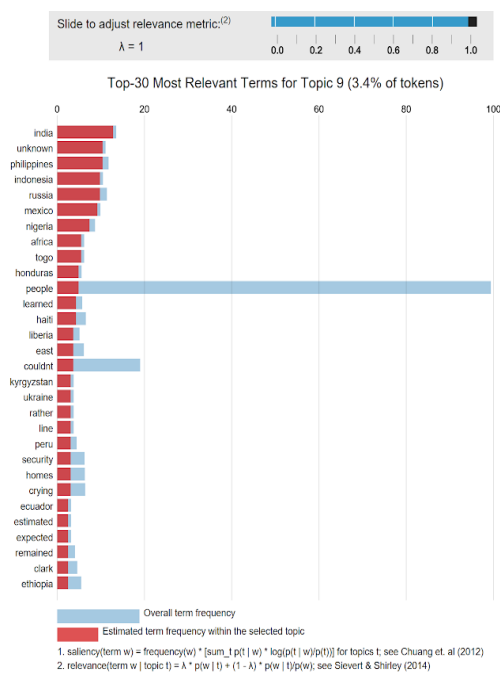


Figure 12. Bar graph of international survivor testimonial words.



Topic 2

Topic 7



Topic 9

Figure 14. Topics derived from international survivor testimonials.

because they have interesting findings and themes. The rest of the topics that were generated are found in Appendix G. The figure above shows topic two represents the experience of forced labor survivors, usually a housemaid. Topic seven is about the survivors after their trafficking experience while topic nine contains the primary locations of where these survivors were from. The red bars illustrate term frequency within the selected topic. The blue bar underneath the red bar is the overall term frequency. All three topics represent a powerful illustration of international survivor testimonials and what they are saying about their experiences.

Domestic Survivors

Figure 15 below illustrates the 25 most frequent words used in all domestically trafficked survivor testimonials. A word cloud was also generated to illustrate all the words used by labor trafficking survivors. The word “trafficking” was the 13th most frequent word used among domestically trafficked survivors according to the bar graph. The word cloud illustrated above show “sex” and “prostitution” being used often by domestically trafficked survivors. Survivors among this subset used words such as “like,” “just,” “know,” “really,” and “want” more frequently than more common trafficking “buzzwords”. This led to an additional analysis of other words association with these common words. For example, the word “just” was highly associated with words such as “probation,” “high,” “begging,” and “dealing”. The theme these words paint is a picture of survivors’ involvement with drugs and law enforcement while trafficked. On the other hand, the word “told” was highly associated with words such as “weeks,” “night,” “working,” “dancing,” and “police” are indicative of a theme involving the lies that survivors are told (that they would simply just be dancing or working nights, but really

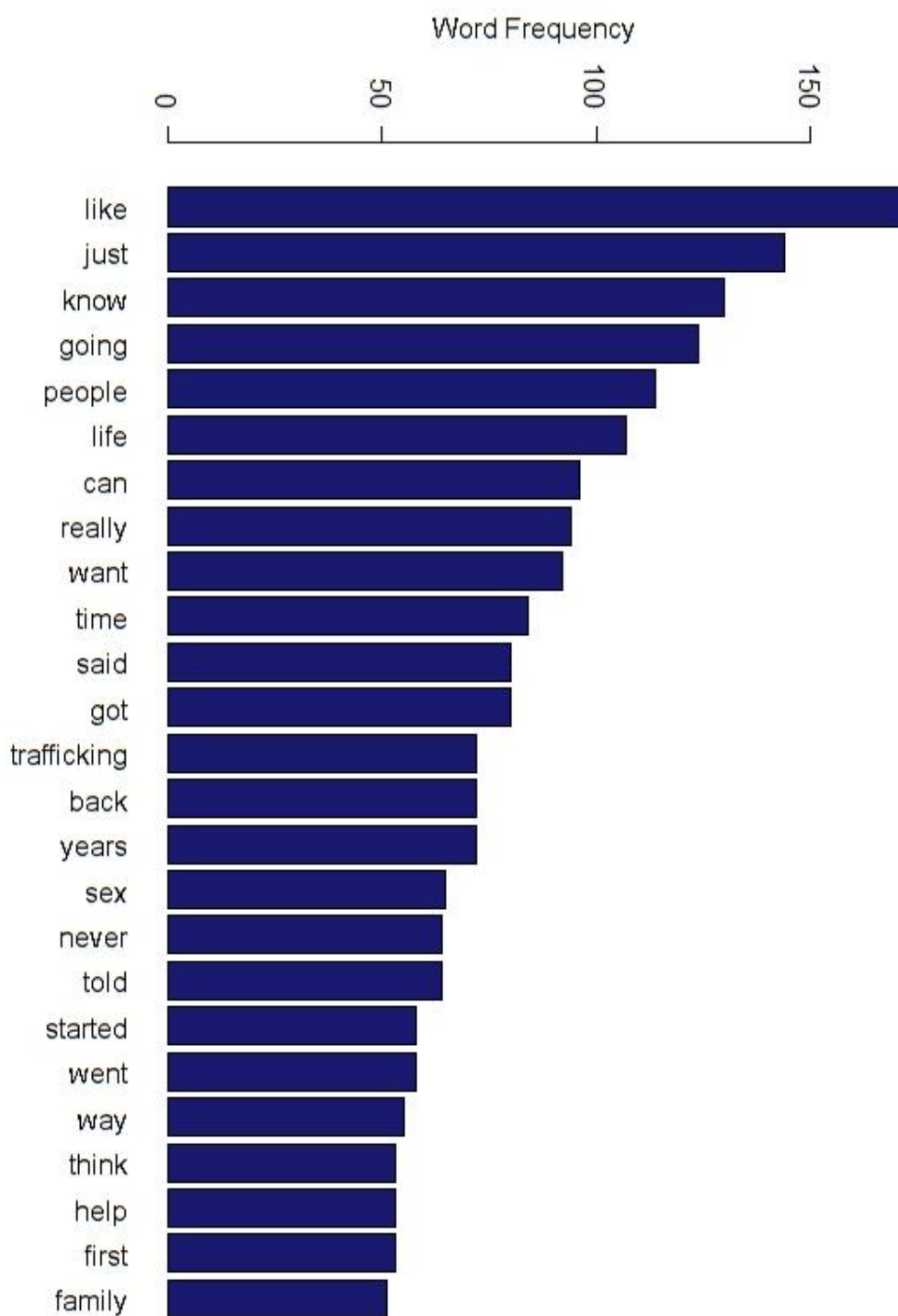


Figure 15. Bar graph of domestic survivor testimonial words.

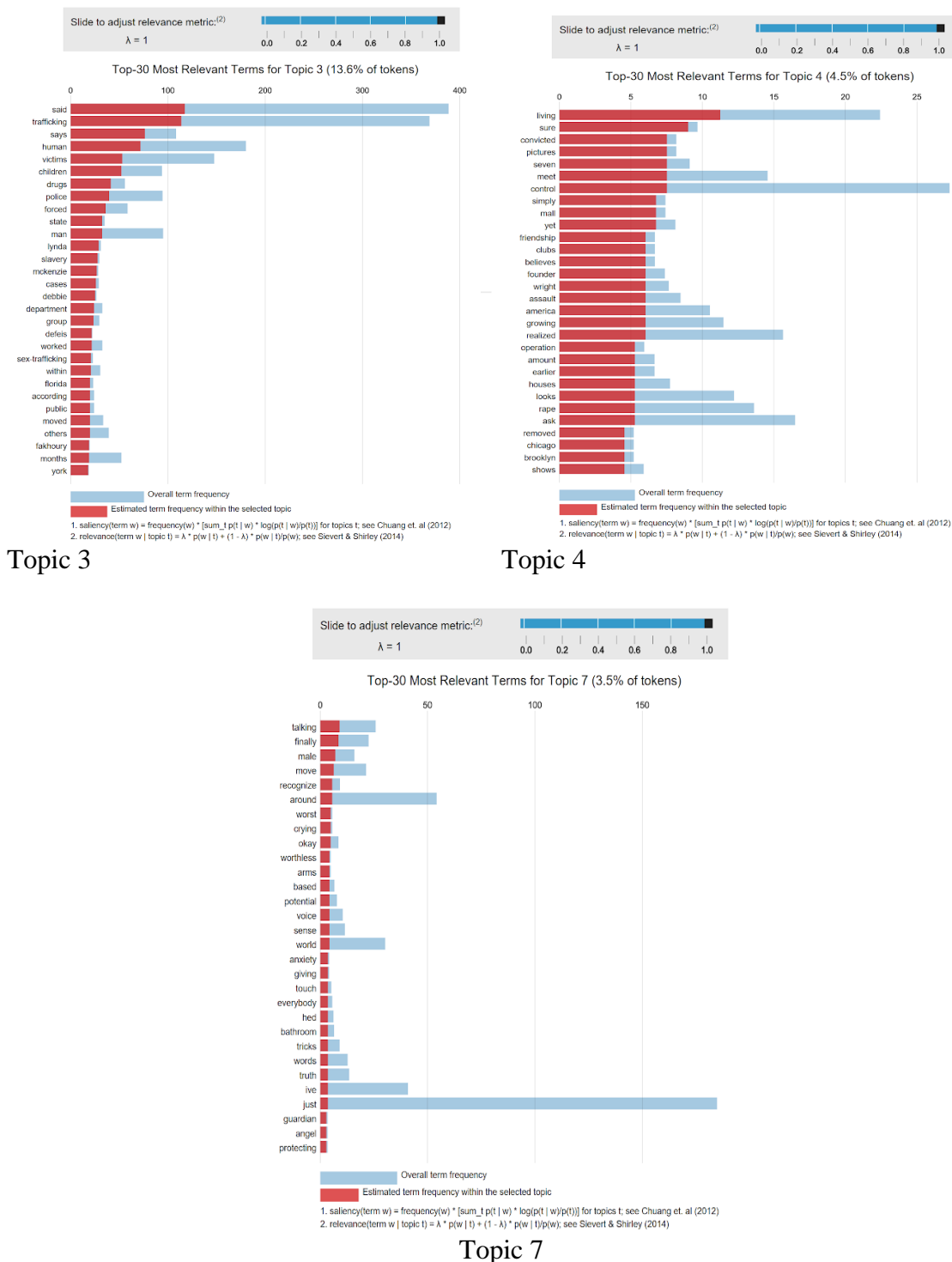


Figure 17. Topics derived from domestic survivor testimonials.

These themes are also illustrated through topic modeling. When running the topic modeling function, ten different topics were produced. Only three topics are in Figure 17 because they have interesting findings and themes. The rest of the topics that were generated are found in Appendix G. Topic three revolves around a theme of survivor experiences with law enforcement and the legal system. Topic four is not quite defined as other topics. The findings are interesting and thus presented in this thesis, however the topic does not fit a specific model found within the literature. Topic seven contains how the survivors felt during their experience and the consequences that would happen if they told anyone. The red bars illustrate term frequency within the selected topic. The blue bar underneath the red bar is the overall term frequency. All three topics represent a powerful illustration of domestic survivor testimonials and what they are saying about their experiences.

Comparing international and domestic survivors. International survivor testimonials differ from domestic survivor testimonials in many ways. To start, international survivors are from many of the countries that literature indicates are common. Many of the topics include words like “poor” and “escape” to indicate that these survivors were lured in through deceit and false promises of the American Dream. Deceit is the most common form of procurement of international survivors according to the literature. In contrast, domestic survivors have a topic that is undefined. Some of the words within topic four, such as “friendship,” “believes,” and “removes” indicate words about their procurement. The literature states that deceit and seduction/romance are the two most common forms of procurement for domestic survivors. The deceit of believing their friendship and trusting their trafficker lead for these domestic survivors to be

trafficked. Topic seven contains how the survivors felt during their experience and the consequences that would happen if they told anyone. These words back up the literature in that domestic survivors endure psychological damage and coercion. They feel trapped in their experience and cannot tell law enforcement because they will be criminalized. As mentioned before, the themes found among domestically trafficked survivors aligned with themes found with sex trafficking survivor subset. This indicates that these survivors who were trafficked for sex were mostly domestic.

Male Survivors

Figure 18 below illustrates the 25 most frequent words used in all male trafficked survivor testimonials. A word cloud was also generated to illustrate all the words used by labor trafficking survivors. The male subset was the only subset that did not align with another subset. Referring to tables five and nine, males were internationally and primarily trafficked for the purpose of labor. Based on this demographic information, the male subset should align with the international and labor trafficking subsets. While there are some common themes among the male, international and labor subsets, a portion of the males were domestic and trafficked for sex. Since the male sample was small, it seems that the male topics are a combination of labor and sex trafficking subsets, which in turn create their own unique subset of results.

The word “trafficking” was the 3rd most frequent word used among male trafficked survivors while “work” and “human” was ranked 7th and 12th on the bar graph respectively. The word cloud shows the words “human,” “trafficking,” and “people” are used frequently, however “sex” and “employer” are weighted the same. There is not much variance in weight between most of the words used within male survivor

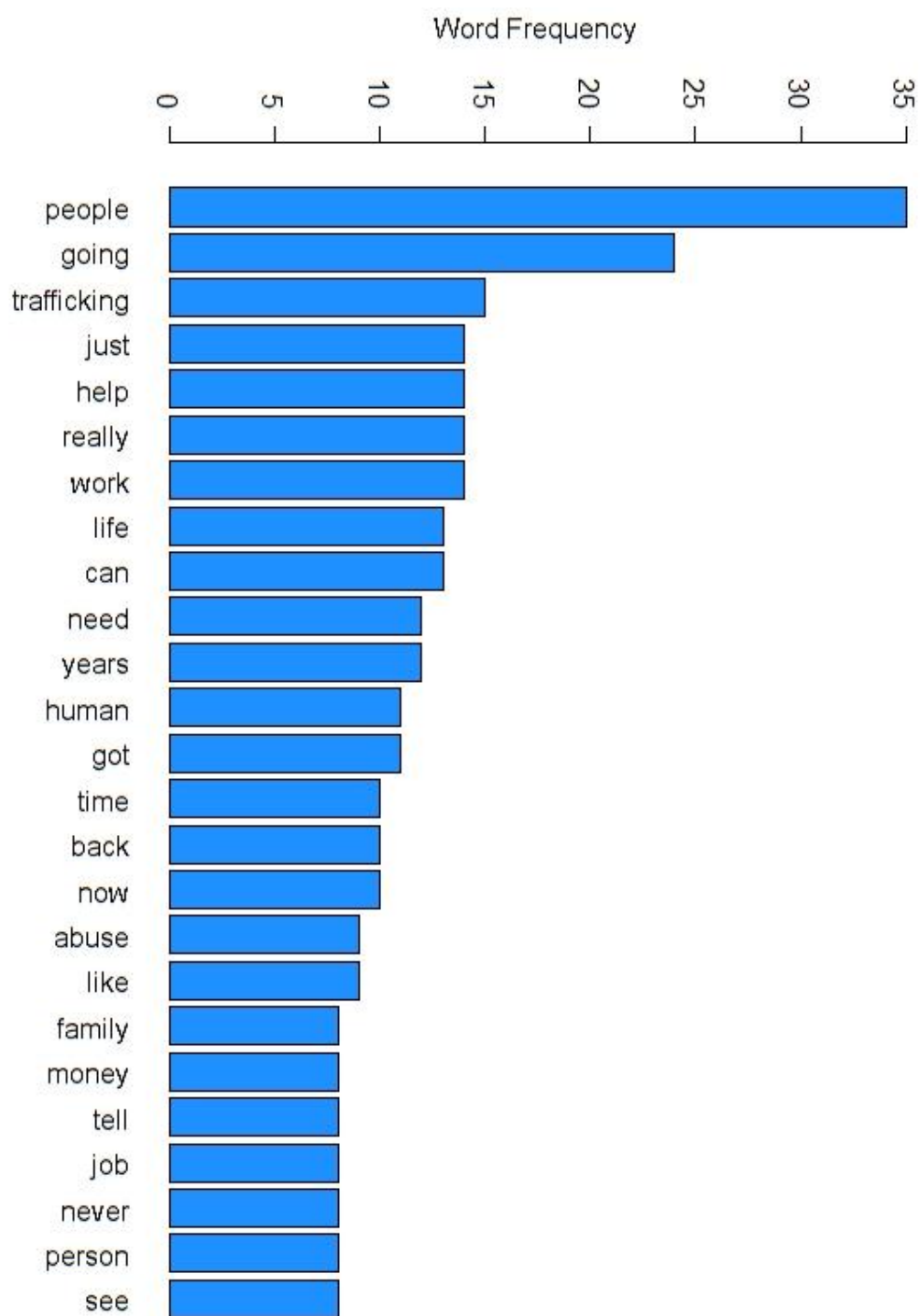
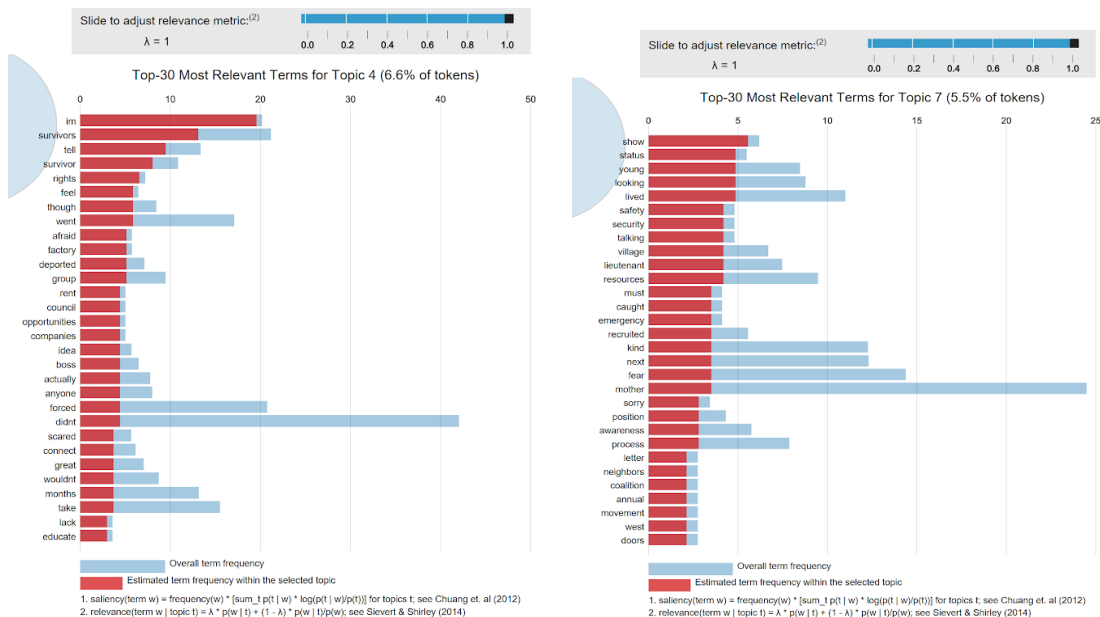
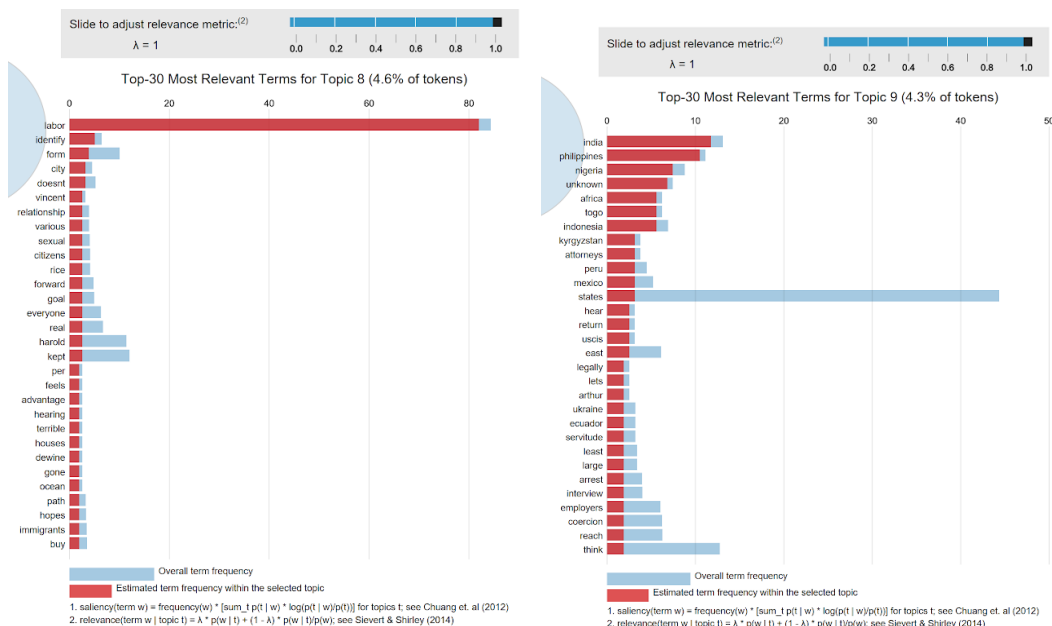


Figure 18. Bar graph of male survivor testimonial words.



Topic 4

Topic 7



Topic 8

Topic 9

Figure 20. Topics derived from male survivor testimonials.

and “sex” indicating a theme about not realizing they were being trafficked for sex. On the other hand, the word “now” was highly associated with words such as “afraid,” “criminal,” “country,” and “deported,” are indicative of a theme involving the lies that survivors are told when trafficked for the purpose of labor (that they would be deported back to their country if they told police).

These themes are also illustrated through topic modeling. When running the topic modeling function, ten different topics were produced. Only four topics are in Figure 20 because they have interesting findings and themes. The rest of the topics that were generated are found in Appendix G. The figure below shows topic four revolving around how the survivors felt during their experience and the consequences that would happen if they told anyone. Topic seven is not quite defined as other topics. The findings are interesting and thus presented in this thesis, however the topic does not fit a specific model found within the literature. Topic eight fits the theme of what the survivors experienced while topic nine contains where the survivors are initially from. Topics four, seven and nine are identical to the labor trafficking topics. The red bars illustrate term frequency within the selected topic. The blue bar underneath the red bar is the overall term frequency. All four topics represent a powerful illustration of male survivor testimonials and what they are saying about their experiences.

Female Survivors

The final subset analyzed was the female trafficked survivors. Figure 21 below illustrates the 25 most frequent words used in all female trafficked survivor testimonials. A word cloud was also generated to illustrate all the words used by labor trafficking survivors. The word “trafficking” was the 10th most frequent word used among female

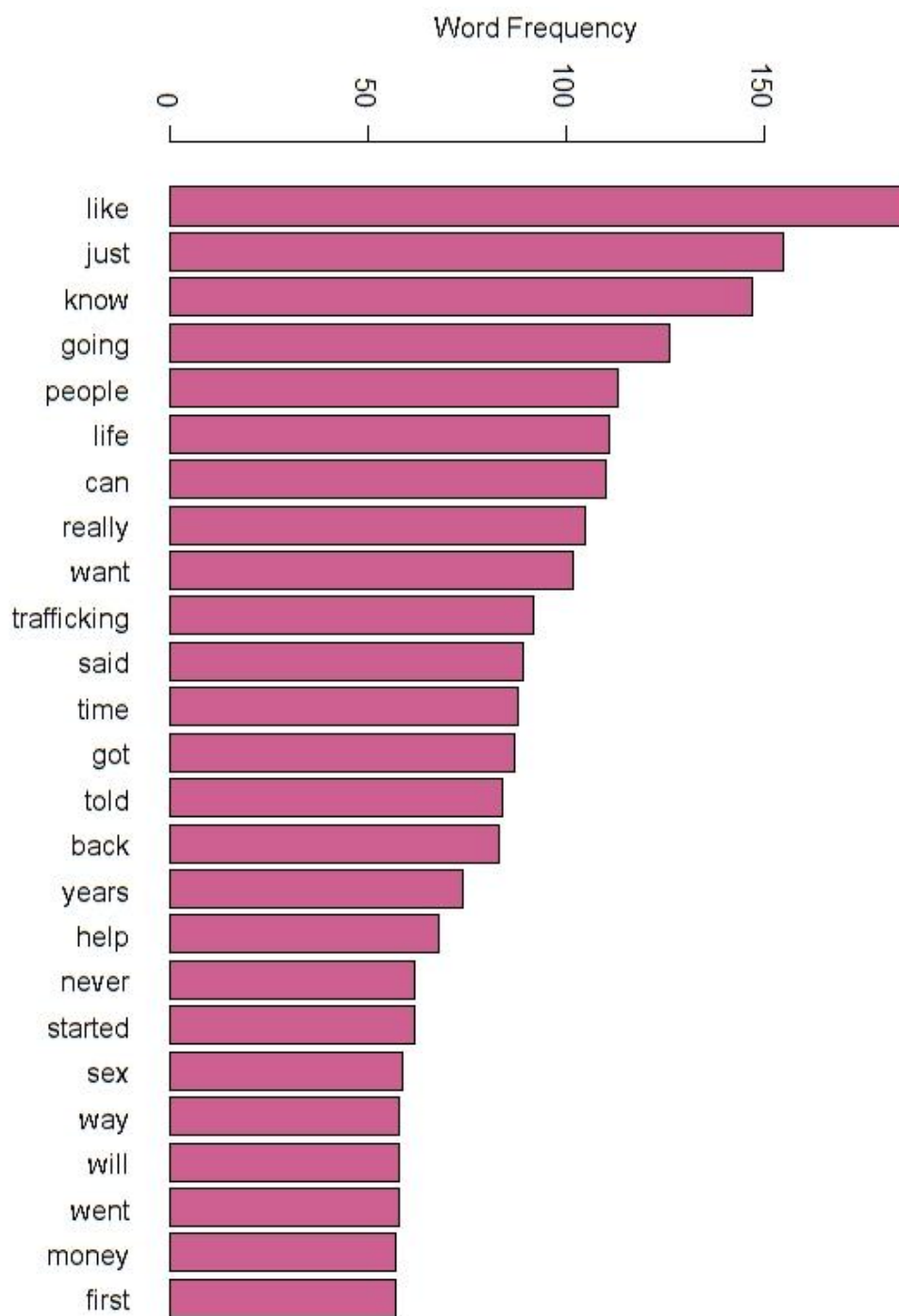


Figure 21. Bar graph of female survivor testimonial words.

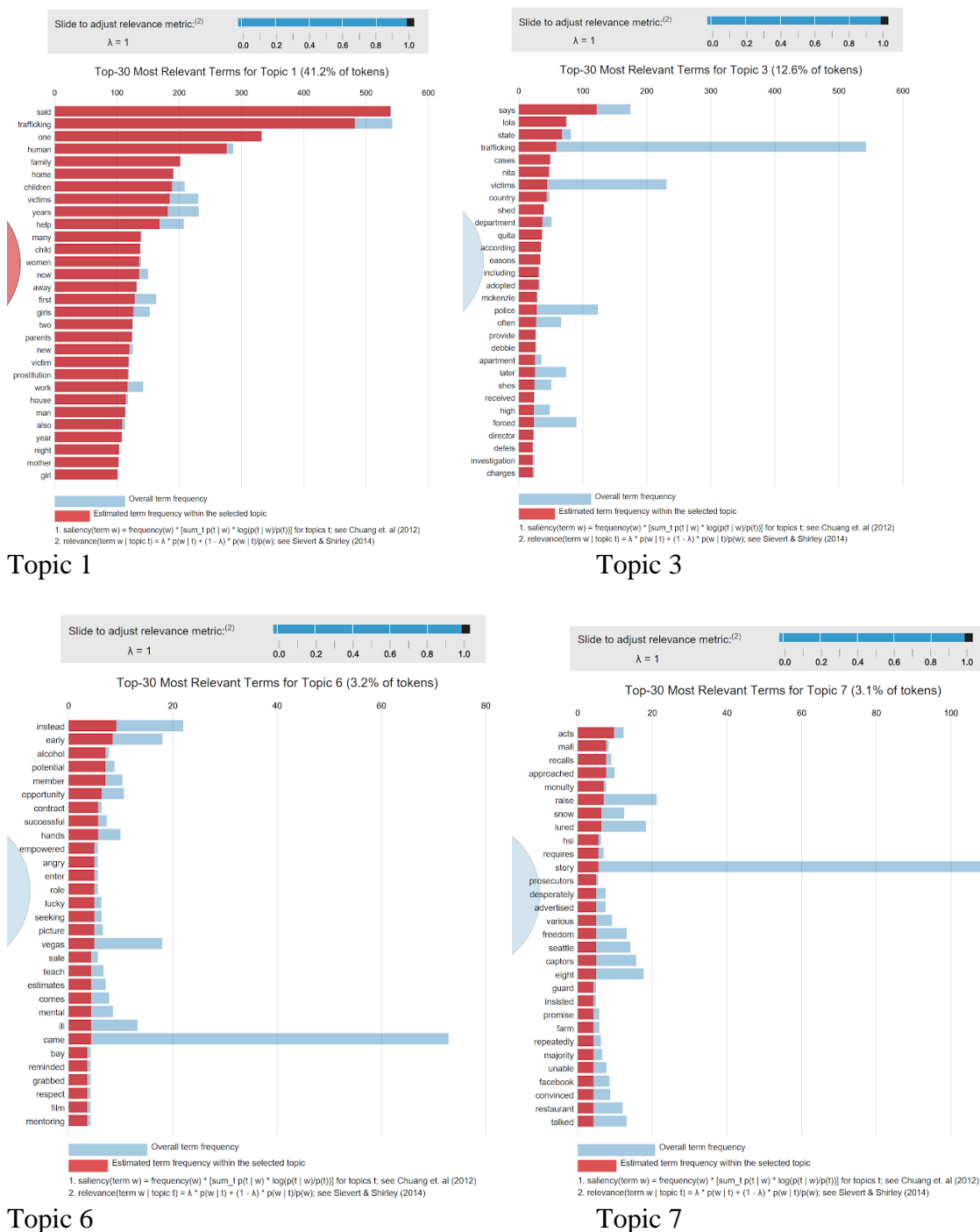


Figure 23. Topics derived from female survivor testimonials.

trafficking buzzwords. For example, the word “really” was highly associated with words such as “Vegas,” “angry,” “high,” and “remember” indicating a theme about being trafficked for sex while under the influence of drugs. The themes found among female trafficked survivors aligned with themes found with sex trafficking and domestically trafficked survivor subsets. This indicates that these survivors who were trafficked for sex were mostly domestic, female survivors.

These themes are also illustrated through topic modeling. When running the topic modeling function, ten different topics were produced. Only four topics are in Figure 23 because they have interesting findings and themes. The rest of the topics that were generated are found in Appendix G. Topic one revolves around a theme of the experience of forced labor survivors, usually a housemaid. Topics three, six, and seven are not quite defined as other topics. The findings are interesting and thus presented in this thesis, however the topic does not fit a specific model found within the literature. The red bars illustrate term frequency within the selected topic. The blue bar underneath the red bar is the overall term frequency. All four topics represent a powerful illustration of female survivor testimonials and what they are saying about their experiences.

Comparing male and female trafficked survivors. Male survivor testimonials differ from female survivor testimonials in many ways. To start, male survivors are primarily trafficked for labor and are international, which is backed up with the literature. The literature indicates that males are trafficked primarily for agricultural work. Male survivors spoke more about them being survivors or using the words “human” and “trafficking” more than female survivors. In contrast, female survivors are primarily trafficked for sex and are domestic, which is also backed up with the literature. The

literature also indicates that females undergo physical and psychological harm during their experiences. This is indicated from the testimonials when survivors talk about being fearful or the beatings that they endured.

It is important to remember that all individual experiences are different. While there were generalized themes from individuals trafficked for the same purpose, that does not necessarily mean that all individuals had the exact same experience. So, for instance, an individual trafficked for sex may not have been fed drugs/alcohol like a counterpart, but rather had a gun to their head like an individual trafficked for labor. Overall, the data showed that each subset had themes that were common, but each experience is different.

The overall picture with these six subsets and the testimonials is that what survivors are experiencing is exactly what the literature is saying. For example, every subset had a topic that discuss some type of harm that survivors experienced, even after escaping their trafficker. Many experienced contracting STDs, drug/alcohol addictions, unwanted pregnancies, and PTSD. Overcoming these obstacles was also mentioned within the literature. Another example is that the demographic characteristics align with the literature. As depicted in the previous tables and topics, domestic females are generally trafficked for sex while international survivors are generally trafficked for labor. When news articles and other forms of media are reporting on specifically the survivor experience, the media aligns with the literature. There are no myths being broadcasted because the media is only stating the facts, which is what the survivor is indicating about their experience.

Conclusion

Many research questions were asked at the beginning of this study and one way or another these questions have been answered. To start, one of the main questions asked was what do survivors of human trafficking look like (demographically speaking)? The bivariate analysis of each variable answered this question. When survivors disclosed their ages, survivors are averaged to be 13 - 15 years old when trafficked and approximately 15-20 when they are free. The sample of males were low (20 survivors) compared to the female sample (131 survivors) but majority of males were trafficked for the purpose of labor while females were trafficked for the purpose of sex. Whites, blacks, and unknown (those who did not want to disclose their race or journalists who did not report on that) were trafficked for sex while Asians and Hispanics were trafficked for the purpose of labor. Survivors who were domestically trafficked were trafficked for sex and primarily female while survivors who were internationally trafficked were trafficked for labor and primarily male. Labor trafficking survivors endured psychological harm while sex trafficking survivors endured physical or they did not specify the type of harm they endured.

The second question asked was about demographic characteristics differing between the different types of human trafficking or regions? Is one specific region of the country higher in one type of human trafficking than the other? The first half of the question has already been answered from the previous question; however, region was a variable that was not discussed much because there was not enough information collected from the results. As previously stated, many survivors do not disclose their information for safety reasons. Because of the underreporting, this produced low numbers to map and

analyze. Many states were null, even though human trafficking occurs everywhere in the United States. Future research must be conducted to further understand regionality and how it is affected by human trafficking.

The final question asked was are there any survivor testimonies of the forms that are not as prominent or well known, such as illegal adoptions, and how do these experiences differ from survivors of more common purposes (like sex and labor trafficking)? Like the variable region, there was not enough information collected from the results about illegal adoption. There were only six survivors total in this category, and all six were minors. Because of the sample size, there was not enough to compare between illegal adoption, sex, and labor. Future research must be conducted to further understand illegal adoption and where it falls within the human trafficking realm.

The whole point of this thesis project is to understand how the media portrays human trafficking compared to the research literature. Does the media do a good job of debunking common myths? Is the media doing a good job of sharing survivors' stories and making sure they are being heard? The answers to these questions are simply yes. Yes, the media does a good job of debunking common myths. Yes, the media does a good job of sharing survivors' stories. When the media shares the survivor's story and does not deviate from that story, the media also aligns with the literature and promotes truth, not myths.

Study Limitations

Like all research projects, there are always limitations; this specific project is no exception. To start, one limitation of the study is the sample size. There were 151 survivors who told their stories to the news and other forms of media with 550 quotes

from the survivors. While that was gathered within a three month period by one person, it is on the smaller side when it comes to sample size. It would have been better to have 1,000 survivors share their stories. Another limitation is that the only way to gather the data was the use of search engines. Only being able to use the internet and any databases provided by the university limited my selection of finding survivor testimonials. Due to the time constraint of this study being a thesis project, having no money to put into the research, and being limited to scouring the internet via search engines, limitations occurred.

Directions of Further Research

There is always a need for further research with every study. In this case, there are three areas that need further research within the realm of the media reporting on human trafficking. To start, there needs to be a study that compares news articles that discuss human trafficking in general to those that contain survivor stories. As stated before, this study found that when the media only shares what the survivors experience, they align with the literature. However, media is not always perfect when reporting on human trafficking in general and in turn usually promotes the myths mentioned earlier. That is why there needs to be a study to see how far the media is from the literature when they just report on human trafficking without a survivor to share the facts and their experience.

Secondly, there needs to be more information on organ trafficking and illegal adoption. While originally this study included organ trafficking, there were no survivors who shared their story of organ trafficking with the media during the time of data collection. There were stories on organ trafficking in general or about a family member who died from organ trafficking but no survivors of organ trafficking. Since there were

none, organ trafficking was removed from this study. However, organ trafficking is becoming prominent in the media and within society and needs to be researched. There needs to be a study conducted on survivor testimonials who share their experiences of being trafficked for their organs. In addition, there also needs to be more research done on illegal adoption. The sample size for illegal adoption in this study was six. Because of this sample size not many inferences were made.

Lastly, there needs to be further research on the regional component of trafficking in the United States. The data collected from this study were interesting and able to make inferences from, however there were many states within the regions that were null because survivors were not from there or trafficked to those states. Human trafficking is everywhere in the United States. So, it is hard to imagine that some states do not see encounter human trafficking. This region variable not being conclusive is due to the small sample size previously mentioned in the limitations section. If there is a study conducted with a healthy sample size, region should be an interesting variable to analyze.

Policy Implications

Even with study limitations and the need for future research, there are important policy implications from this study. To start, how the media covers this topic is important. If the media sticks to the survivor's story and does not deviate, they align with the literature. The media affects policy and police procedure. If politicians and lawmakers are passing bills that are not based on the literature, then the myths we are trying to debunk keep getting pushed into society. And if the media promotes the myths and not the survivor's experiences, then we get into this cycle of not truly helping the problem.

In addition to the media reporting on the myths, we need to re-evaluate how law enforcement are being trained. Many international survivors are afraid of law enforcement because they are afraid of being deported. Many are unaware of the “T” visa enacted under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, even once they are out of their trafficking situation. We need to inform and educate law enforcement about this visa because they are usually the initial contact with trafficking survivors. As of 2010, fewer than 1,000 survivors obtained a “T” visa. Part of that is because survivors are still too afraid to lean on law enforcement for help. When law enforcement, policy makers, and the media are all aligned and promote survivors’ stories, we can help to reduce the myths of human trafficking and promote the truths to educate more people.

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Appendix A

Searched Terms Used in Data Collection

“human trafficking”	“labor trafficking”
“human exploitation”	“organ trafficking”
“modern day slavery”	“illegal adoption”
“slavery”	“survivor stories”
“human slavery”	“United States”
“human trafficking slavery today”	“America”
“sex trafficking”	“California”
“sexual exploitation”	“Washington”
“sex slave”	“Oregon”
“commercial sexual exploitation of children”	“Hawaii”
“domestic minor sex trafficking”	“Alaska”
	“North Carolina”

Appendix B

Country of Origin

United States - 101	Dominican Republic - 1
Unknown - 6	East Africa - 1
Philippines - 5	Ecuador - 1
India - 4	El Salvador - 1
Mexico - 4	Haiti - 1
Ethiopia - 3	Honduras - 1
Indonesia - 3	Kyrgyzstan - 1
Nigeria - 3	Latin America - 1
Ukraine - 3	Liberia - 1
Africa - 1	Peru - 1
Belarus - 1	Russia - 1
Cameroon - 1	Samoa - 1
Central America - 1	Togo - 1
China - 1	Vietnam - 1

Appendix C

State Originated From

Florida - 12	Colorado - 1
California - 9	Illinois - 1
Ohio - 6	Louisiana - 1
New York - 5	Minnesota - 1
Georgia - 4	Missouri - 1
Michigan - 4	North Carolina - 1
Massachusetts - 3	Nevada - 1
Maryland - 3	South Carolina - 1
Oklahoma - 3	Tennessee - 1
Pennsylvania - 3	Vermont - 1
Texas - 3	Washington - 1
Virginia - 3	Wisconsin - 1
Arizona - 2	West Virginia - 1
New Hampshire - 2	NA (International Survivors) - 49
New Jersey - 2	Unknown - 23
Oregon - 2	

Appendix D

State Trafficked To

California - 14	Massachusetts - 2
Ohio - 12	Maryland - 2
Florida - 11	North Carolina - 2
Michigan - 6	New Jersey - 2
Texas - 6	Nevada - 2
Georgia - 5	Wisconsin - 2
Illinois - 5	Alabama - 1
New York - 4	Arizona - 1
Virginia - 4	Minnesota - 1
Connecticut - 3	Oregon - 1
Oklahoma - 3	Rhode Island - 1
Pennsylvania - 3	South Carolina - 1
Washington - 3	Utah - 1
Colorado - 2	Unknown - 29
Hawaii - 2	Multiple States - 19
Louisiana - 2	

Appendix E

Name of Source

Polaris Project - 14	Las Vegas Sun - 1
World Without Exploitation - 12	Los Angeles Daily News - 1
CNN - 9	MLive - 1
Project No Rest - 9	NBC 6 South Florida - 1
US Department of Homeland Security - 7	NBC10 - 1
ABC News - 4	News 6 - 1
The Dragonfly Home - 4	News Channel 3 - 1
The Guardian - 4	News Channel 8 - 1
The Slave Next Door - 4	NJ.com - 1
The Washington Times - 4	Not for Sale - 1
Youtube - 4	Omaha World-Herald - 1
CBSDC - 3	PA Homepage - 1
Shreveporttimes.com - 3	Patheos.com - 1
Broadly. - 2	People - 1
Fox 19 - 2	Project Eve - 1
Huffington Post - 2	Providence Journal - 1
NBC News - 2	Reuters - 1
SafeHorizon - 2	Rotary - 1
NRP - 2	Tennessean - 1

The Advertisure-Tribune - 2	The Atlantic - 1
US Immigration & Customs Enforcement - 2	The Citizens' Voice - 1
Watermark Online - 2	The Clarion-Ledger - 1
WZZM13 - 2	The Florida Times (Union) - 1
App. - 1	The Herald Dispatch - 1
B+C - 1	The Maneater.com - 1
BBC - 1	The Record - 1
Bucks County Courier Times - 1	Tri-City Herald - 1
CBS - 1	Twin Cities Pioneer Press - 1
City and County of San Francisco - 1	US Department of State - 1
Crimson News Magazine - 1	USA Today - 1
Daily Mail - 1	Waco Tribune-Herald - 1
EBONY - 1	Women Against Child Trafficking - 1
End Slavery Now - 1	WRAL - 1
Fox News Opinion - 1	WSMV 4 - 1
INDYSTAR - 1	WUSA9 News - 1
KRGV - 1	
KULR8 - 1	

Appendix F

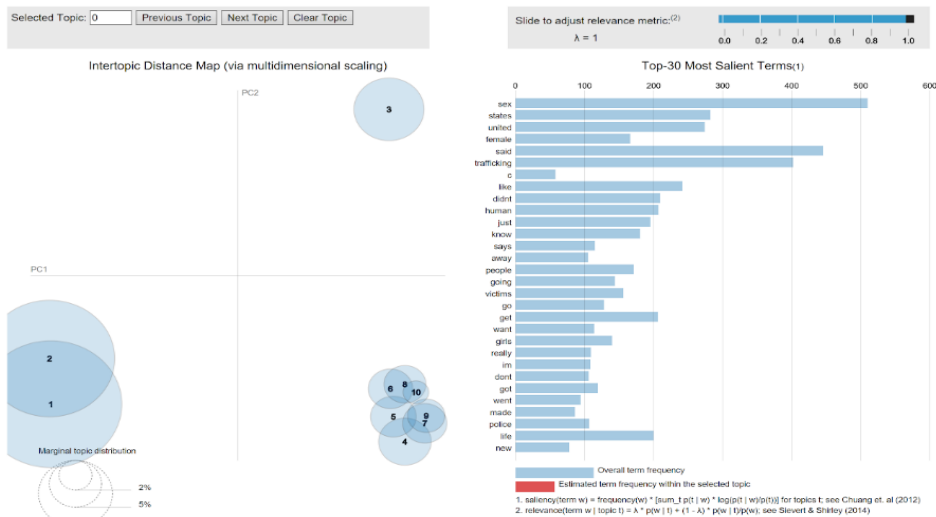
List of Omitted Words from Analysis

<u>Sex Trafficking</u>	<u>Male</u>	“Dont”
“Going”	“Want”	“Its”
“Get”	“Get”	<u>International</u>
“One”	“Know”	“Will”
“Didnt”	“One”	“One”
“Its”	“Much”	“Much”
“Dont”	“Didnt”	“Didnt”
“Im”	“Im”	“Its”
“Lot”	“Dont”	<u>Domestic</u>
<u>Labor Trafficking</u>	“Its”	“Get”
“Will”	“Thing”	“One”
“One”	<u>Female</u>	“Dont”
“Im”	“Get”	“Didnt”
“Its”	“One”	“Its”
“Much”	“Didnt”	“Im”
	“Im”	“Lot”

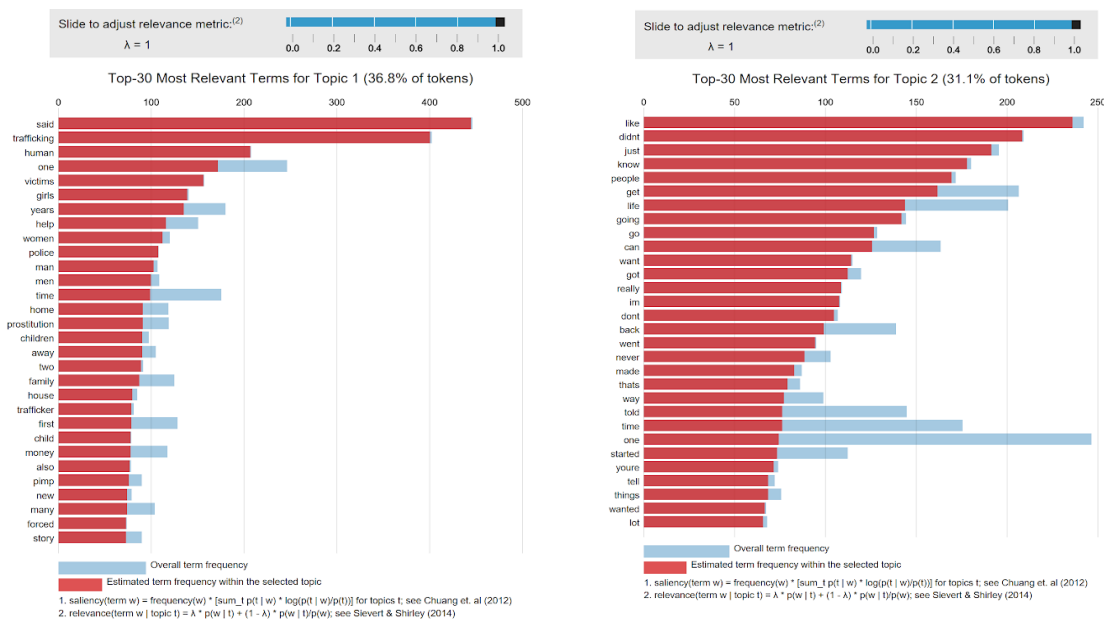
Appendix G

All Topics Analyzed

Sex Trafficking Survivors

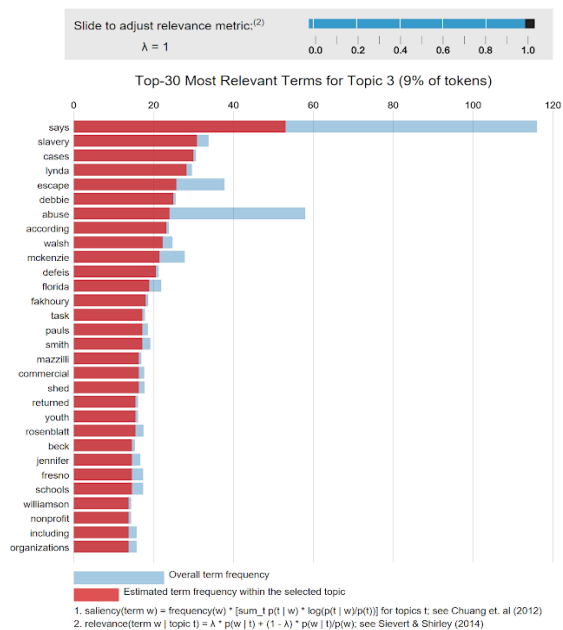


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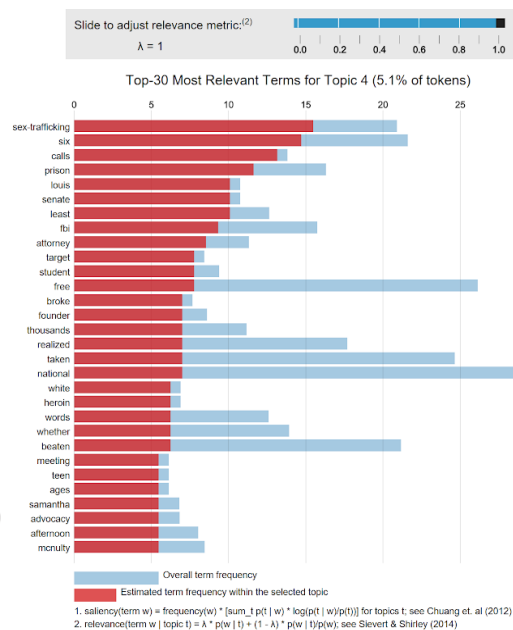


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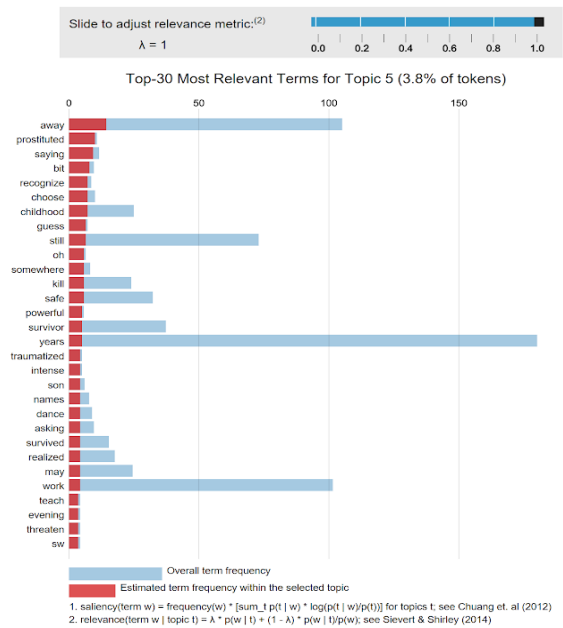
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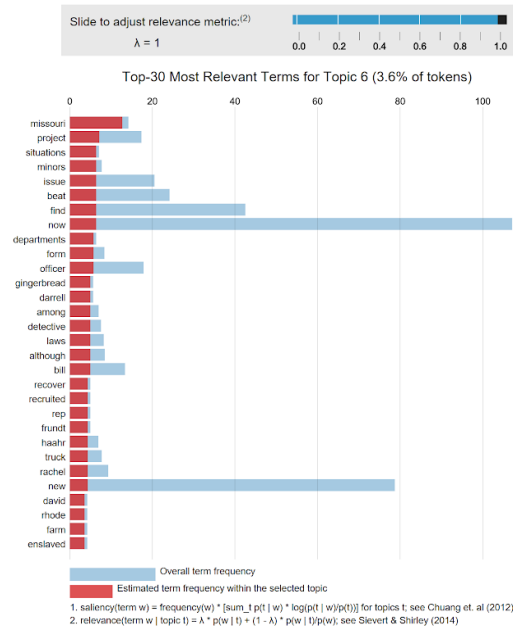
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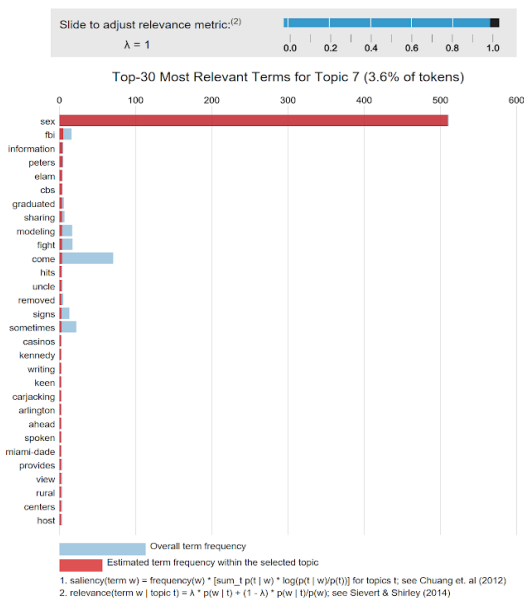
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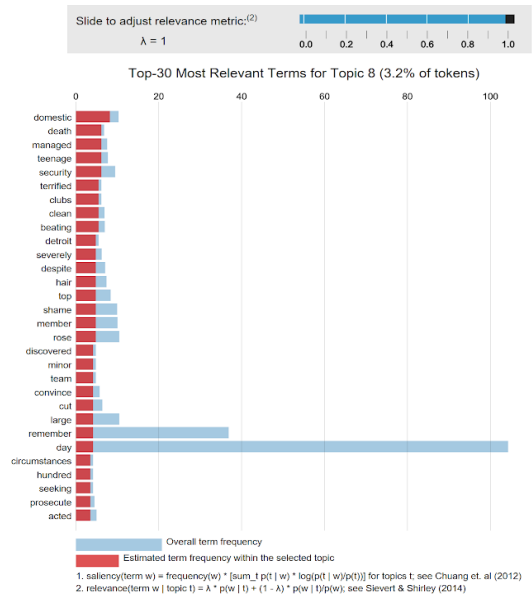
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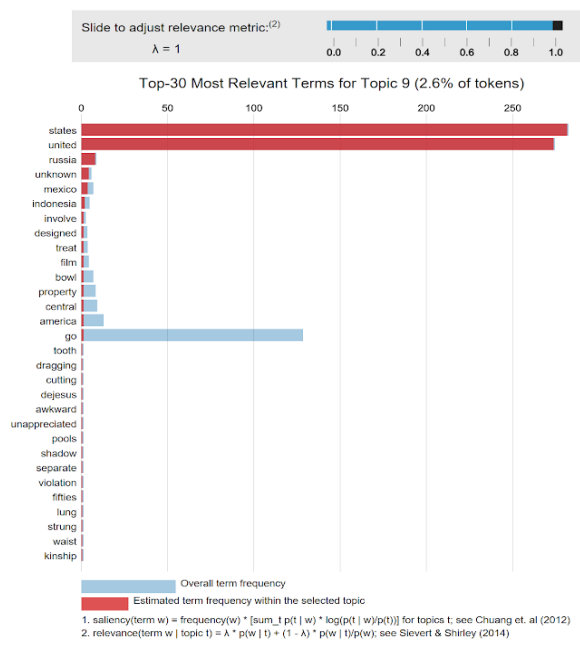
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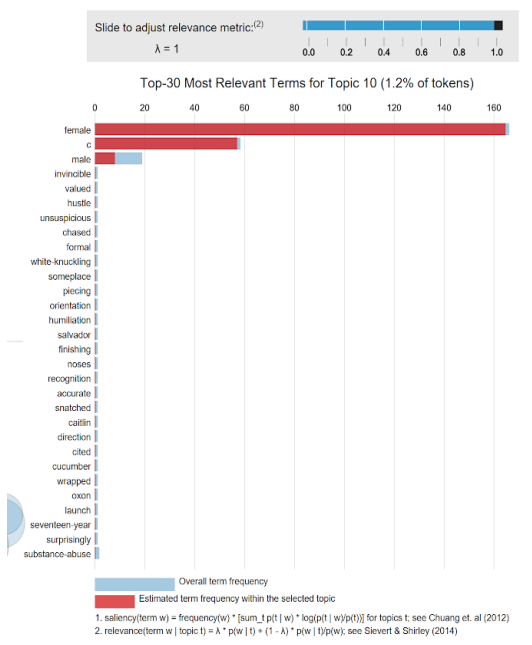
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Topic 8

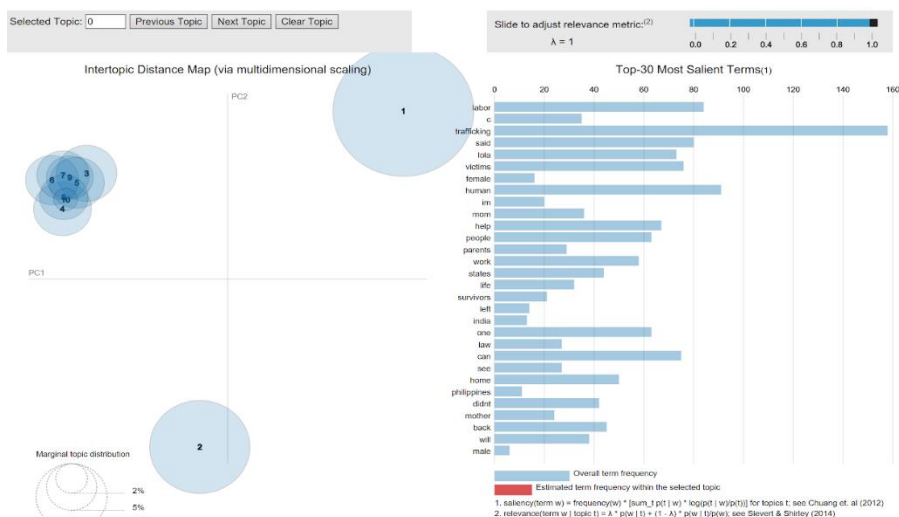


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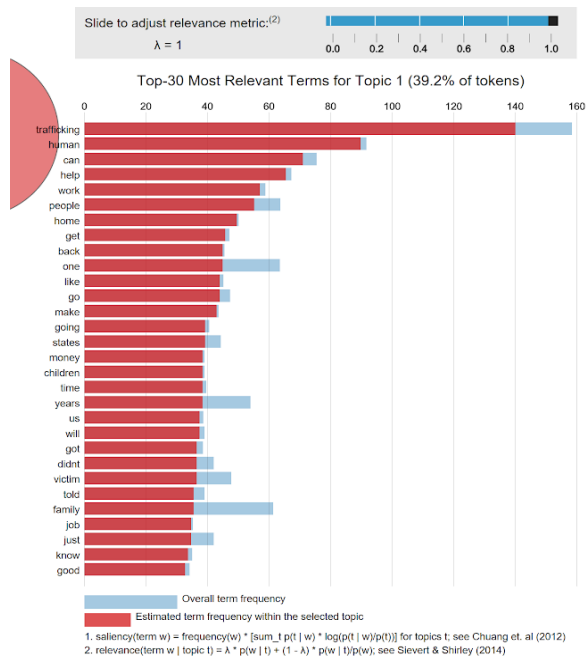


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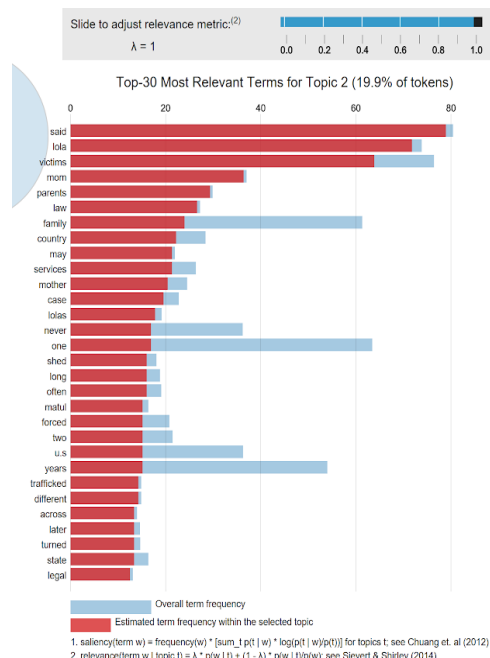
Labor Trafficking Survivors



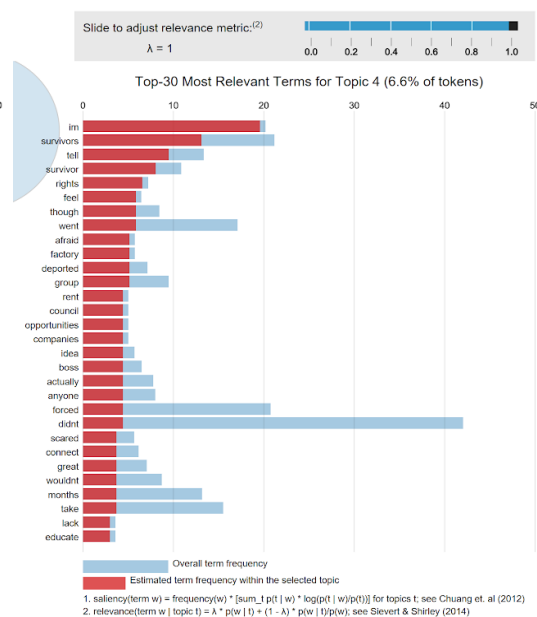
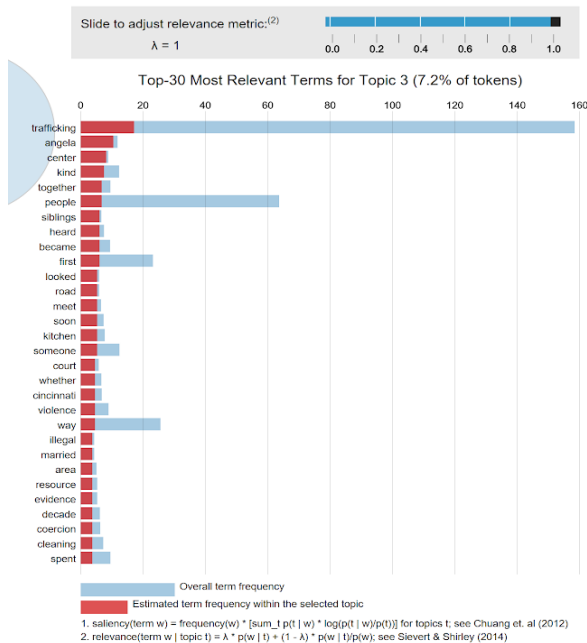
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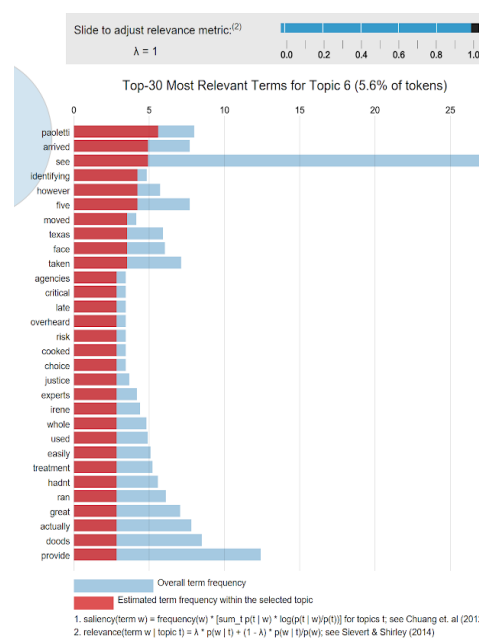
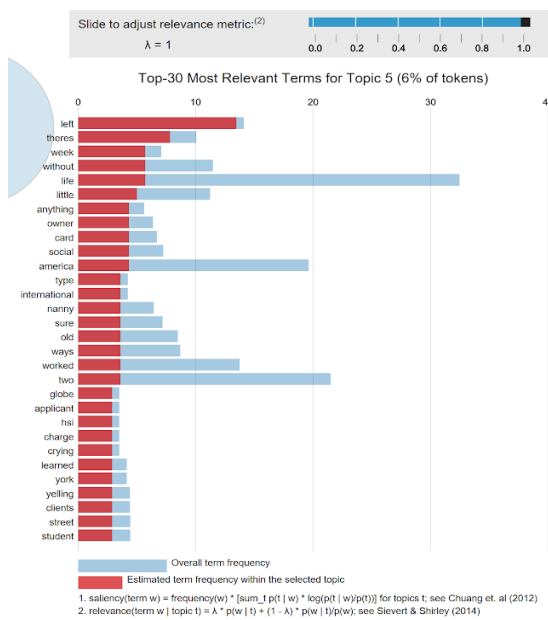


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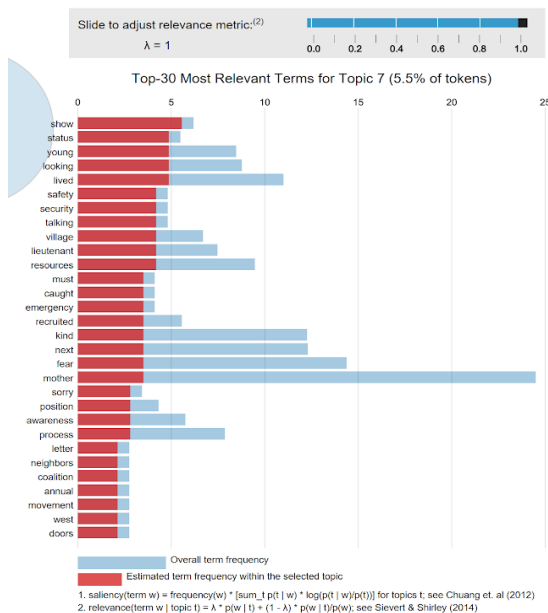
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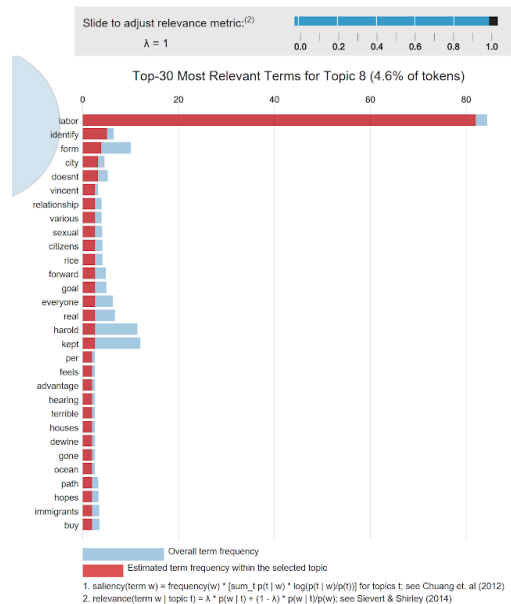


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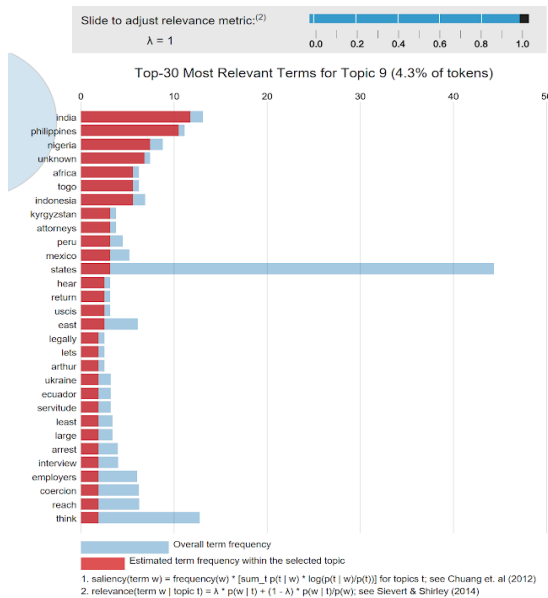
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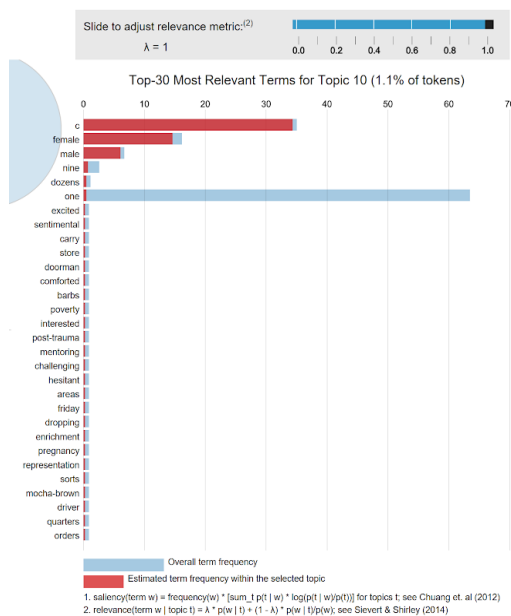
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Topic 8

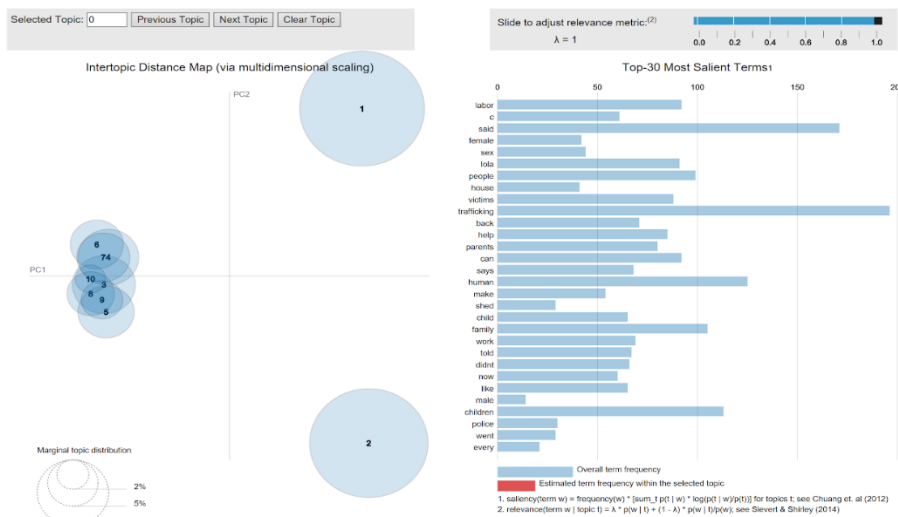


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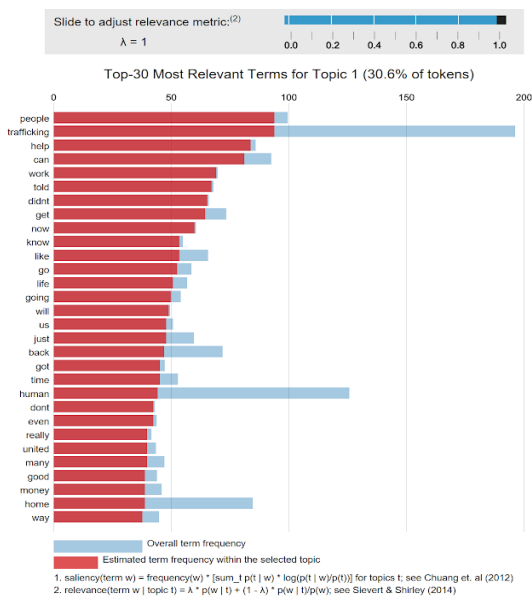


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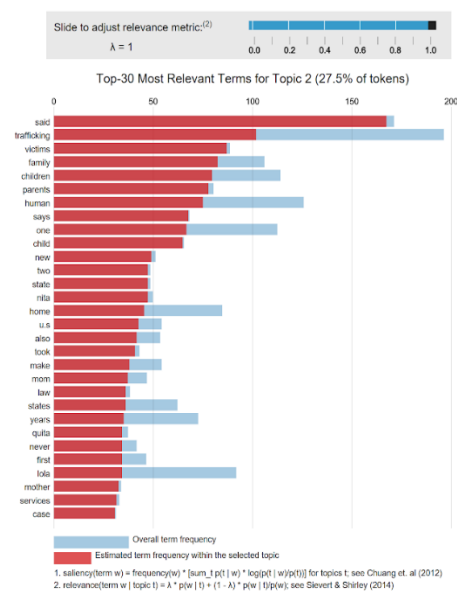
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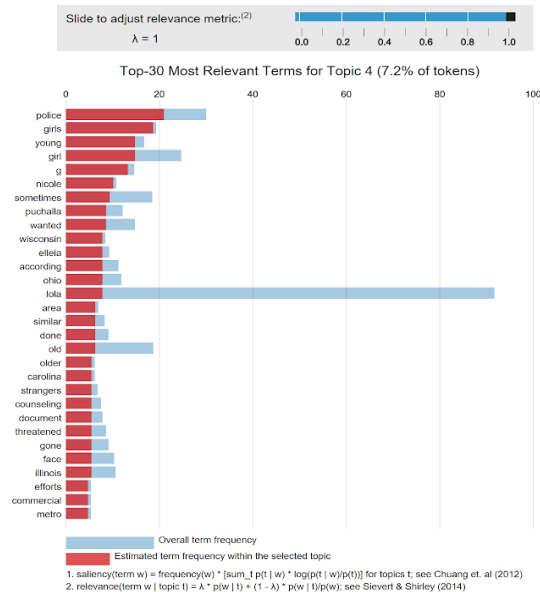
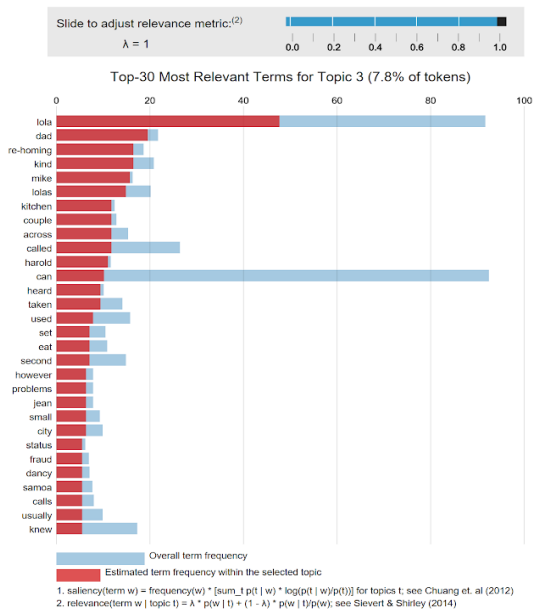
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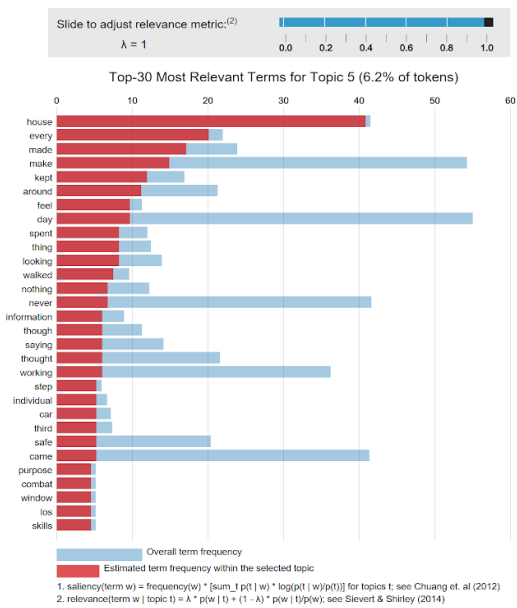


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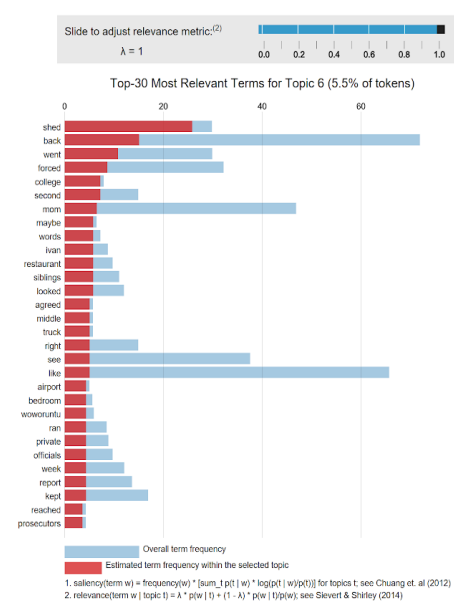


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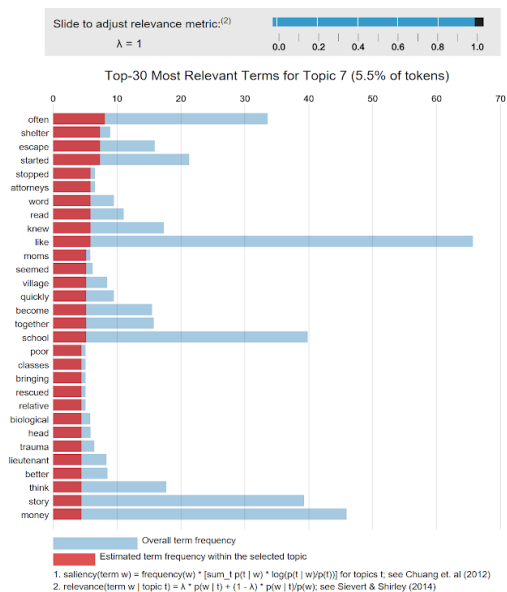
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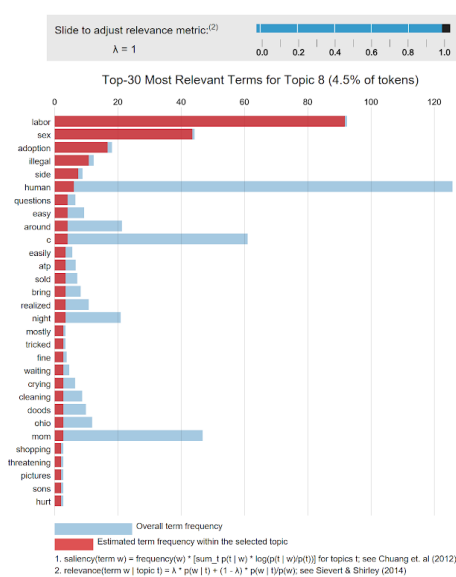
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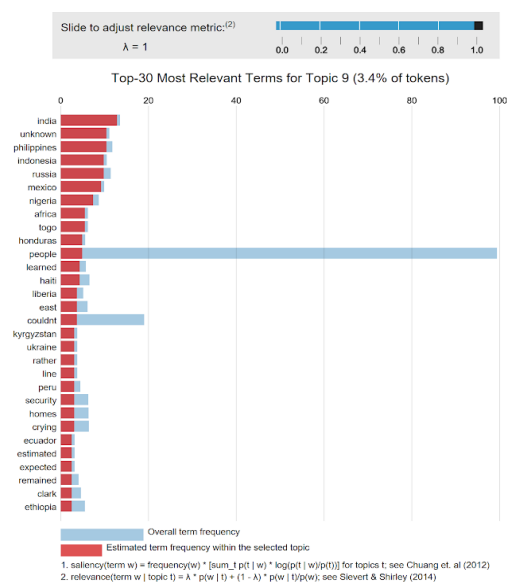
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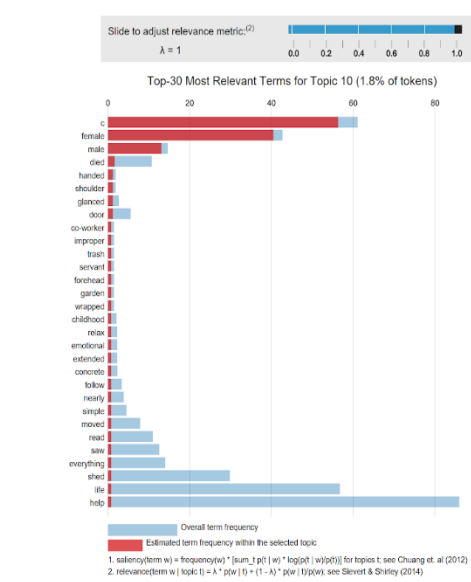
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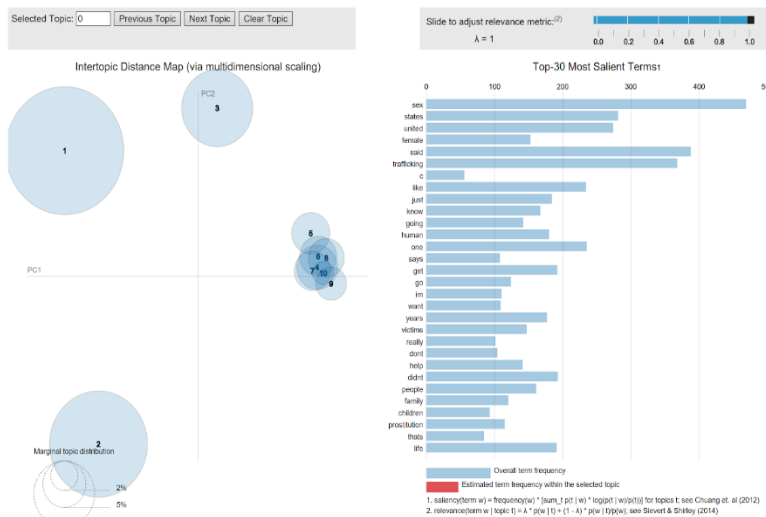


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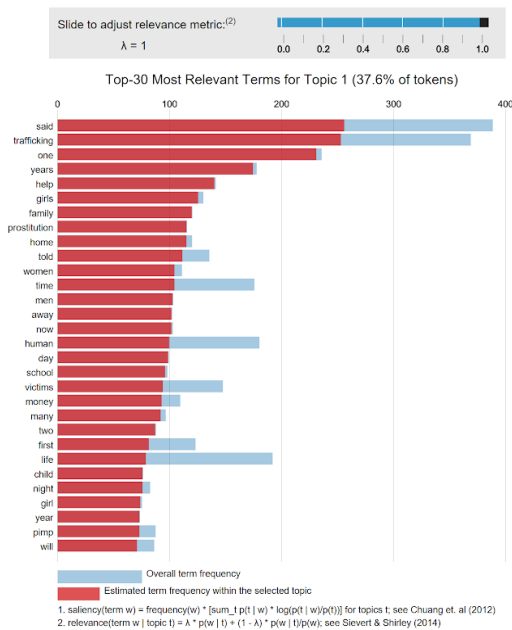


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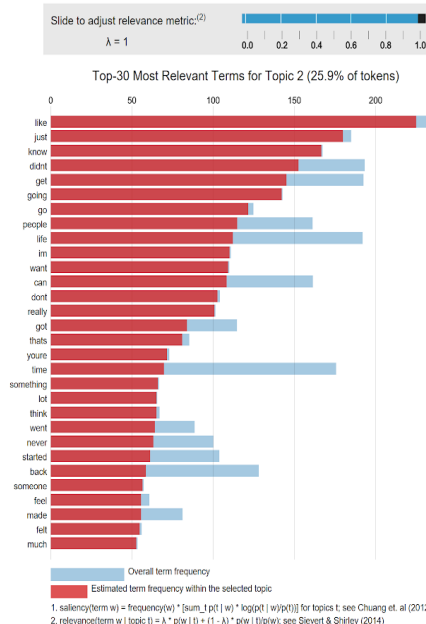
Domestic Survivors



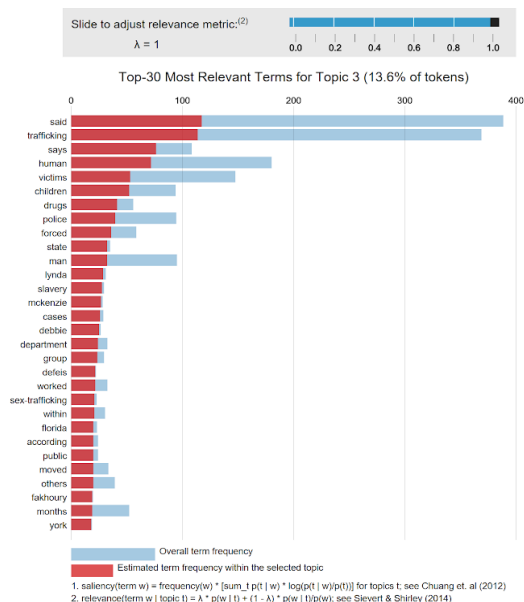
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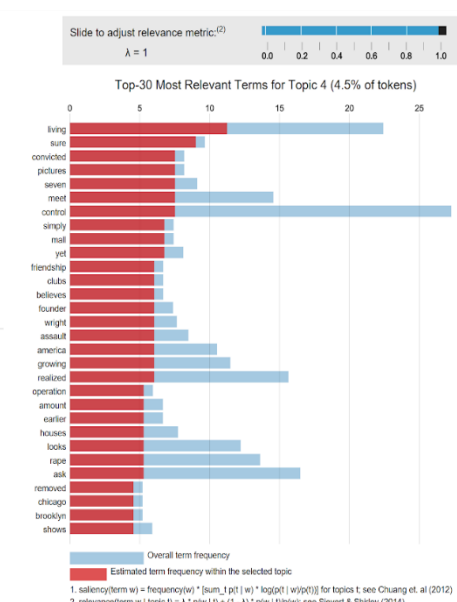
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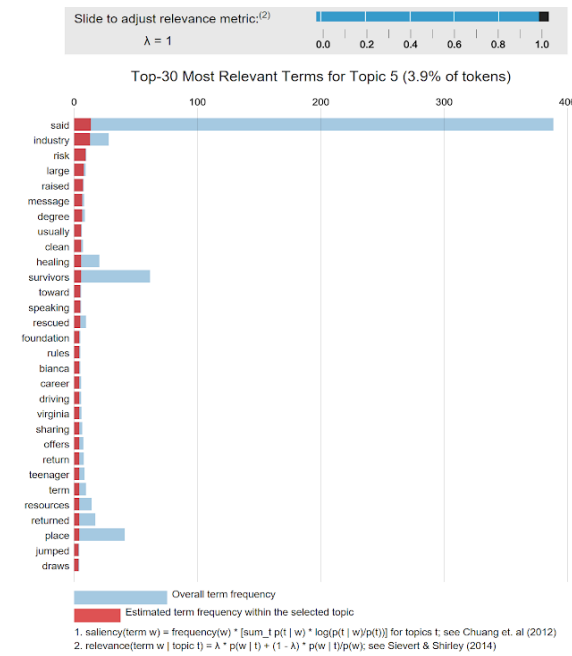
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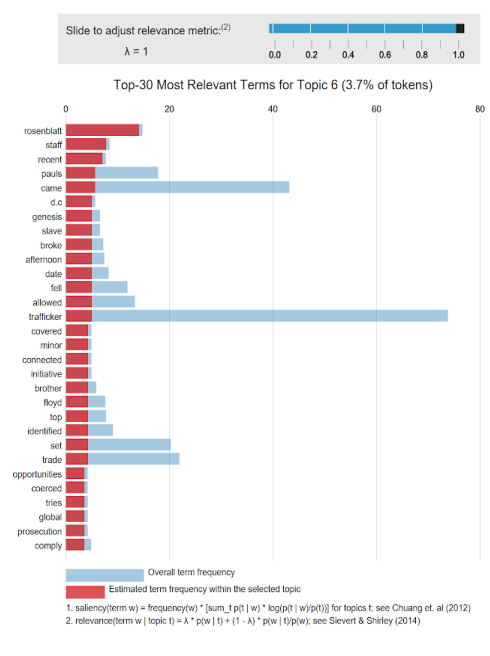
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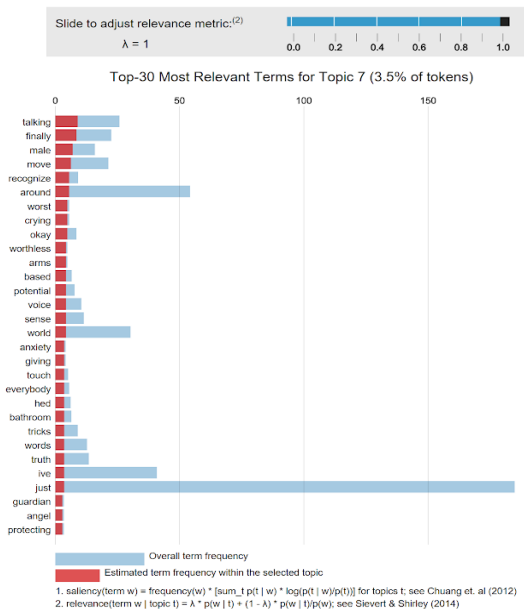
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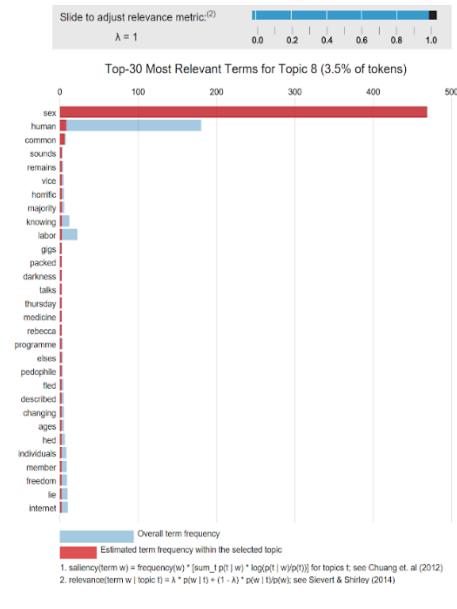
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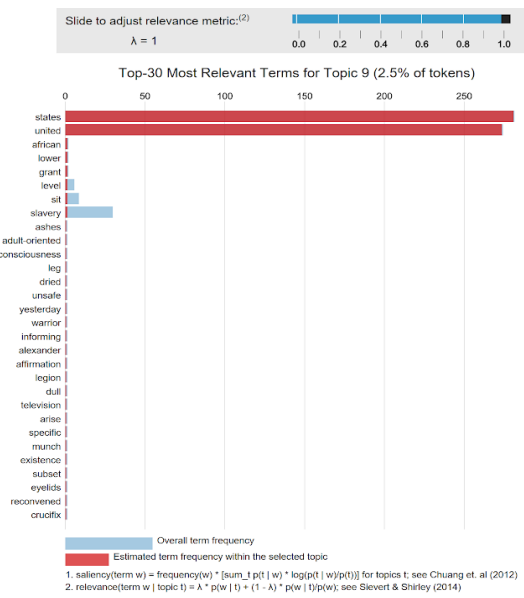
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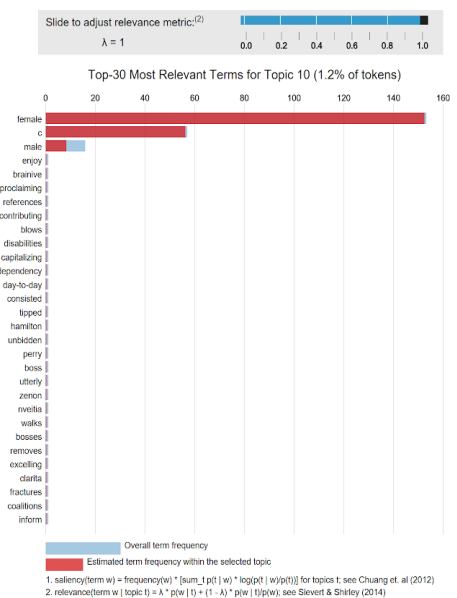
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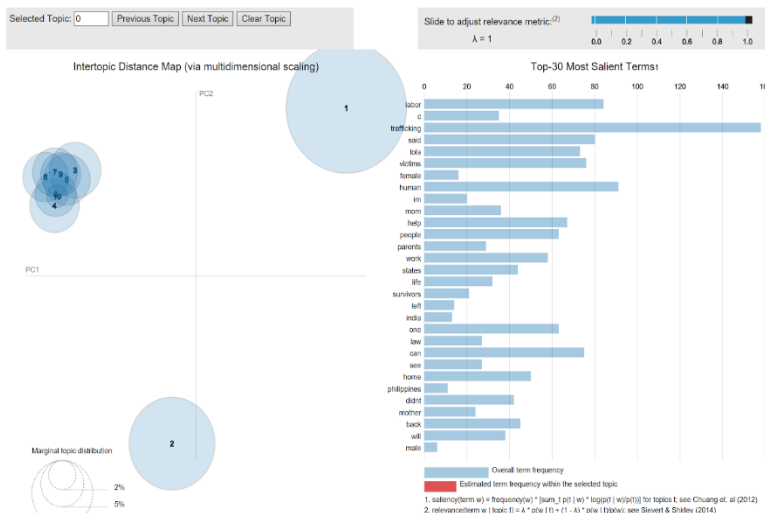


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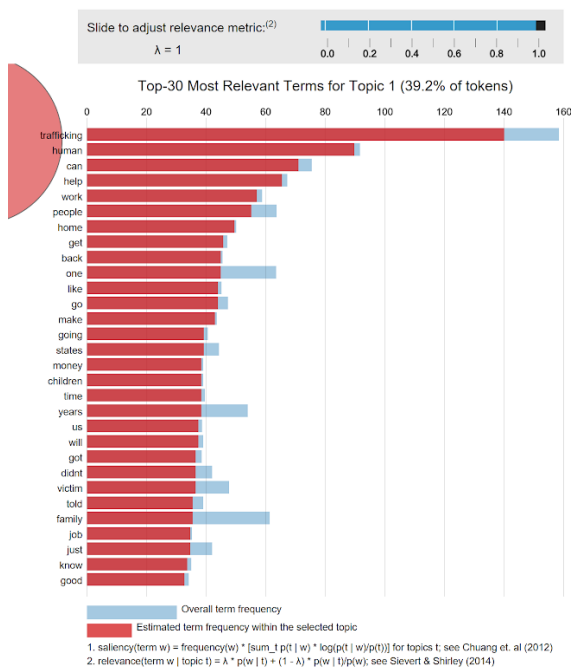


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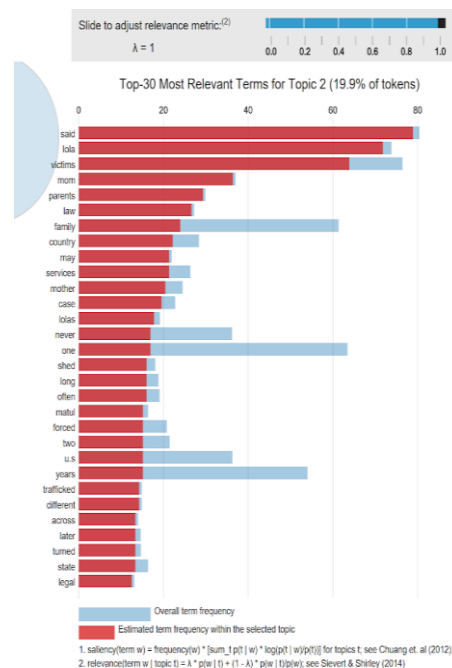
Male Survivors



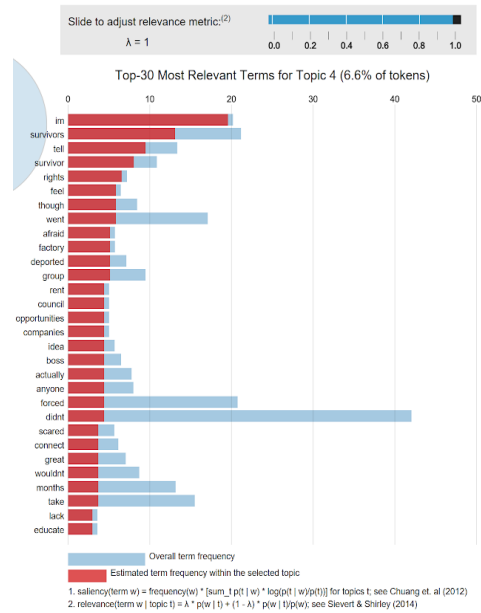
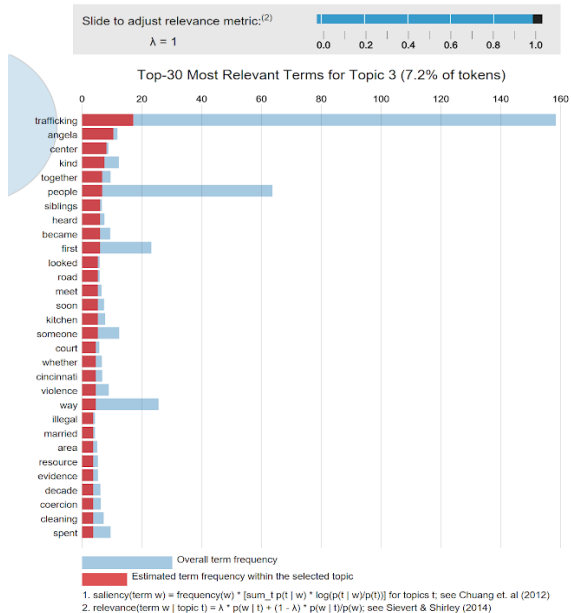
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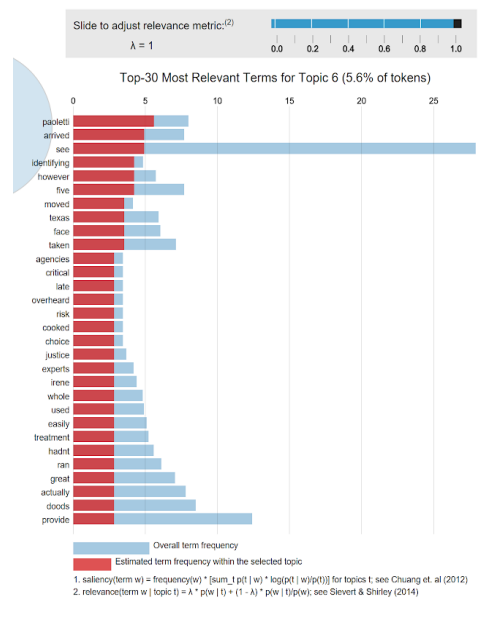
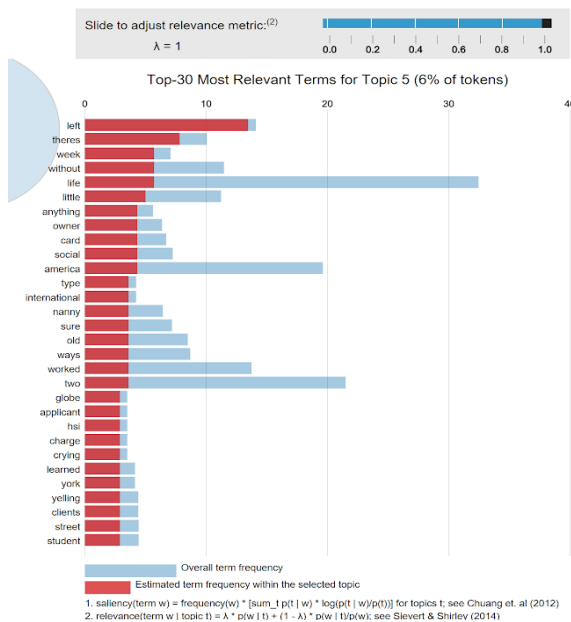


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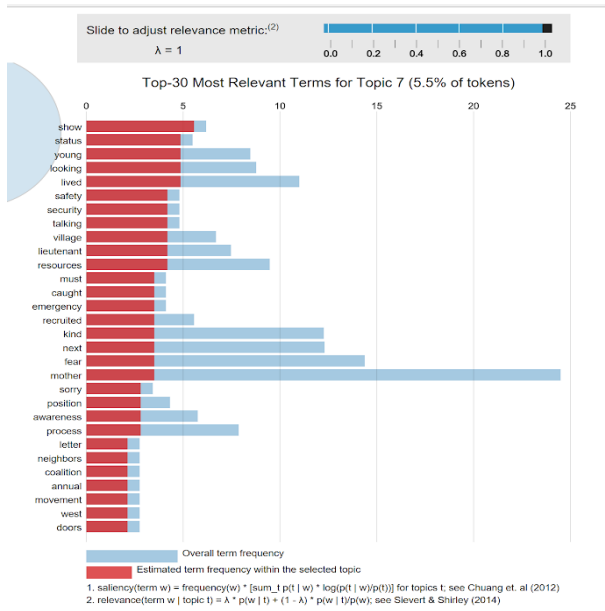
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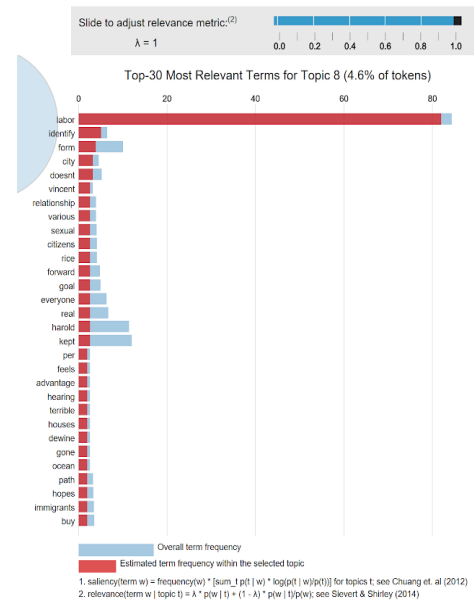


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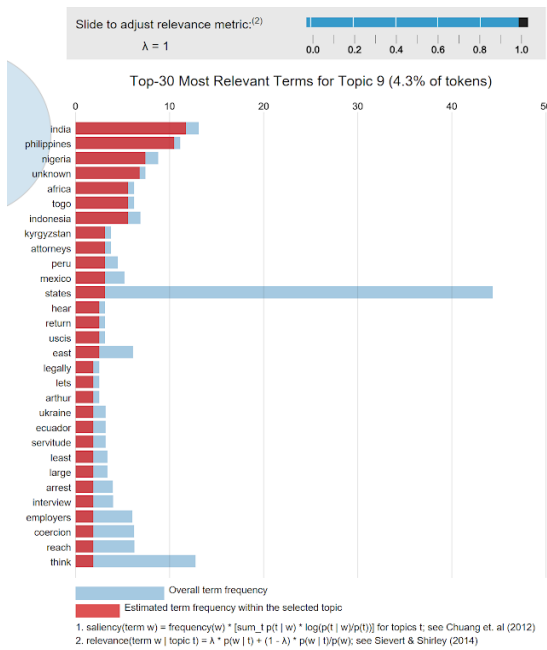
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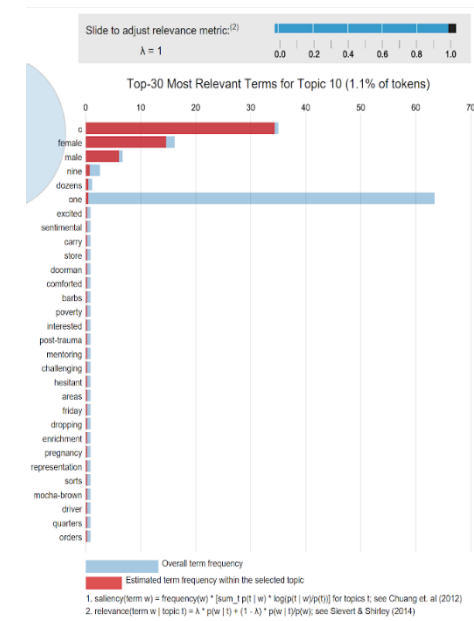
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Topic 8

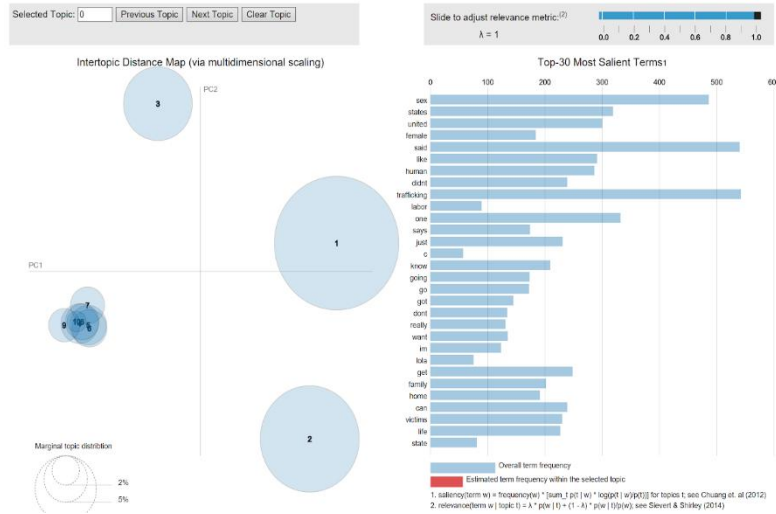


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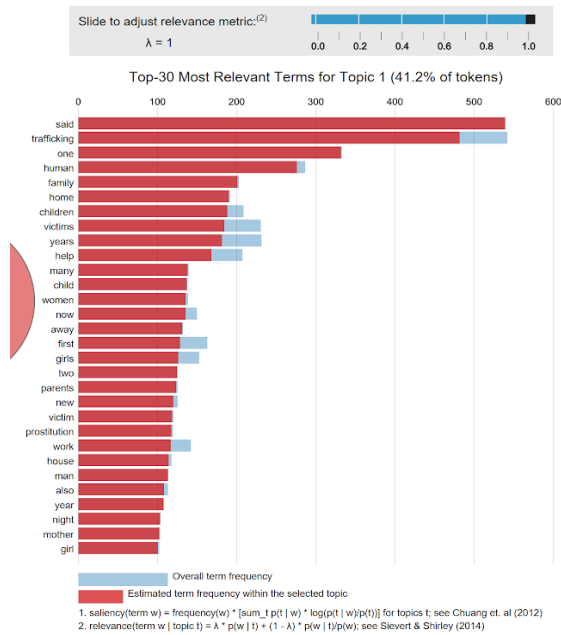


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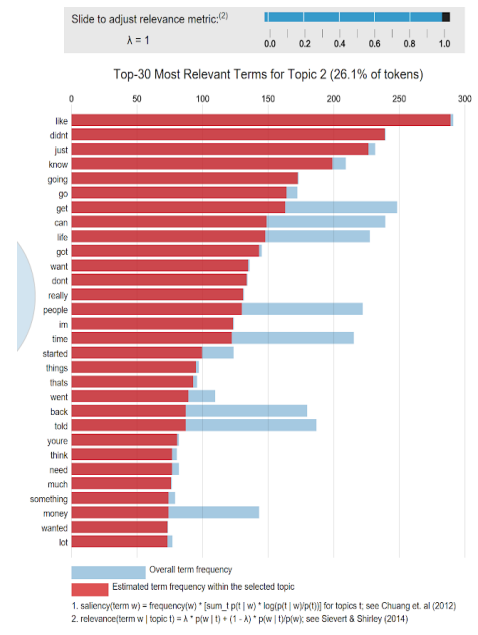
Female Survivors



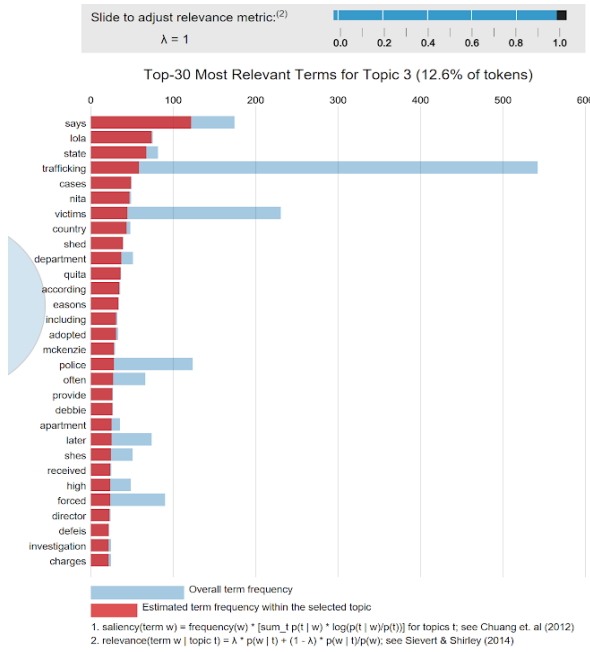
Overview



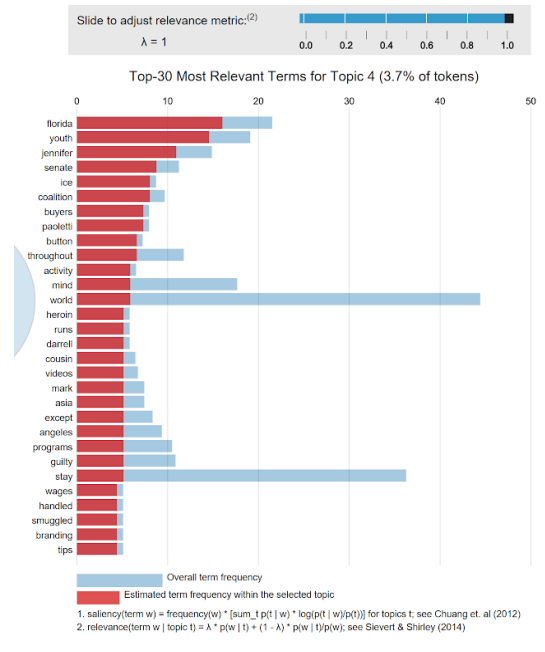
Topic 1



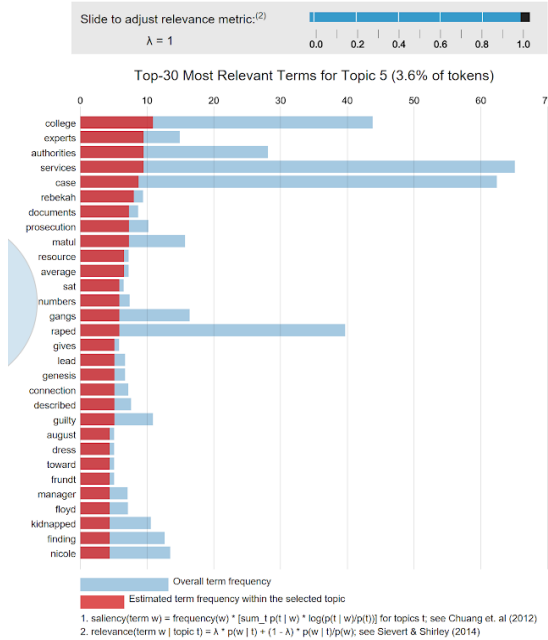
Topic 2



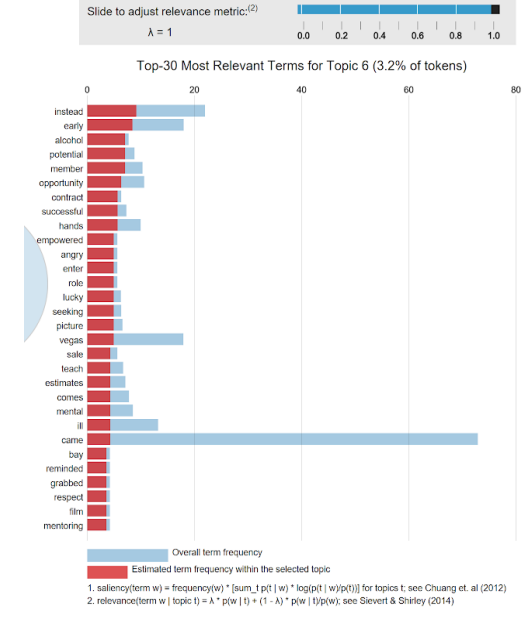
Topic 3



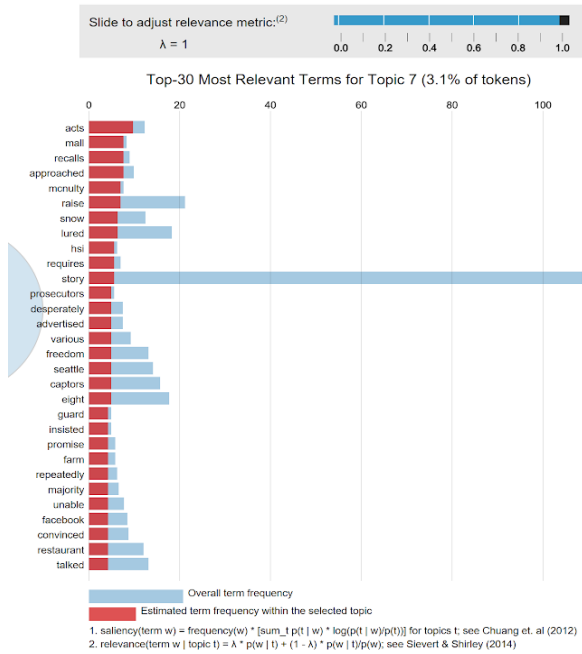
Topic 4



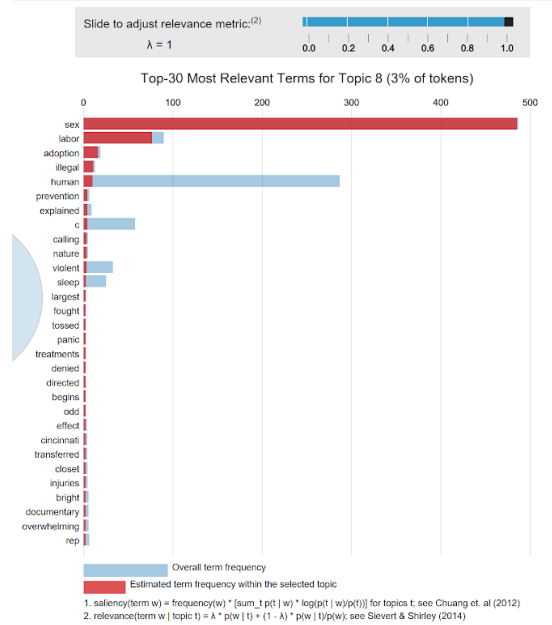
Topic 5



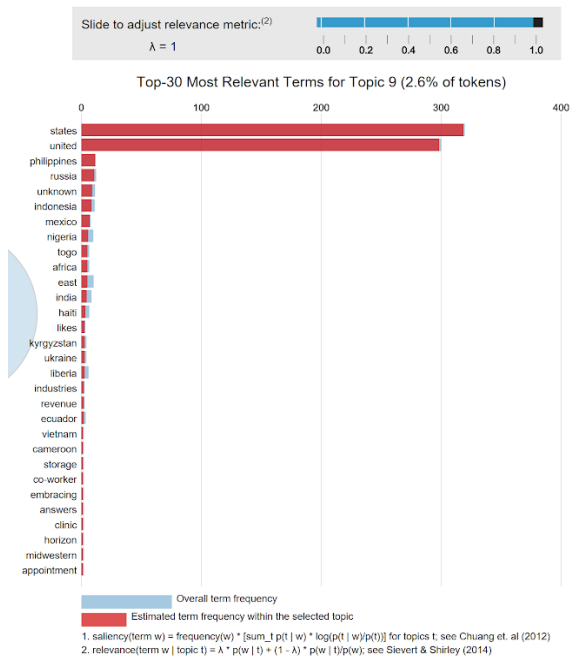
Topic 6



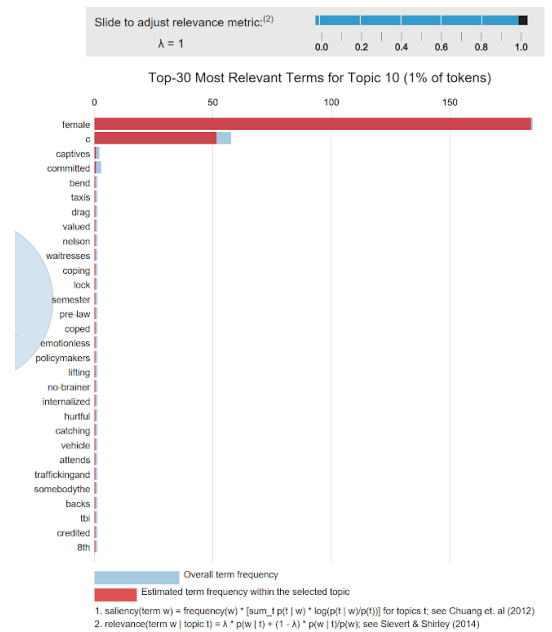
Topic 7



Topic 8



Topic 9



Topic 10