



INHOSPITABLE TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE HOTEL INDUSTRY: PROJECT OUTCOMES

PROJECT GOALS

TRAIN staff to implement *BEST* practices that prevent the exploitation of children and women in hotels and motels.

IDENTIFY victims and connect them with services.

CHANGE attitudes to respect the dignity of trafficking survivors.

Trafficking and Hotels

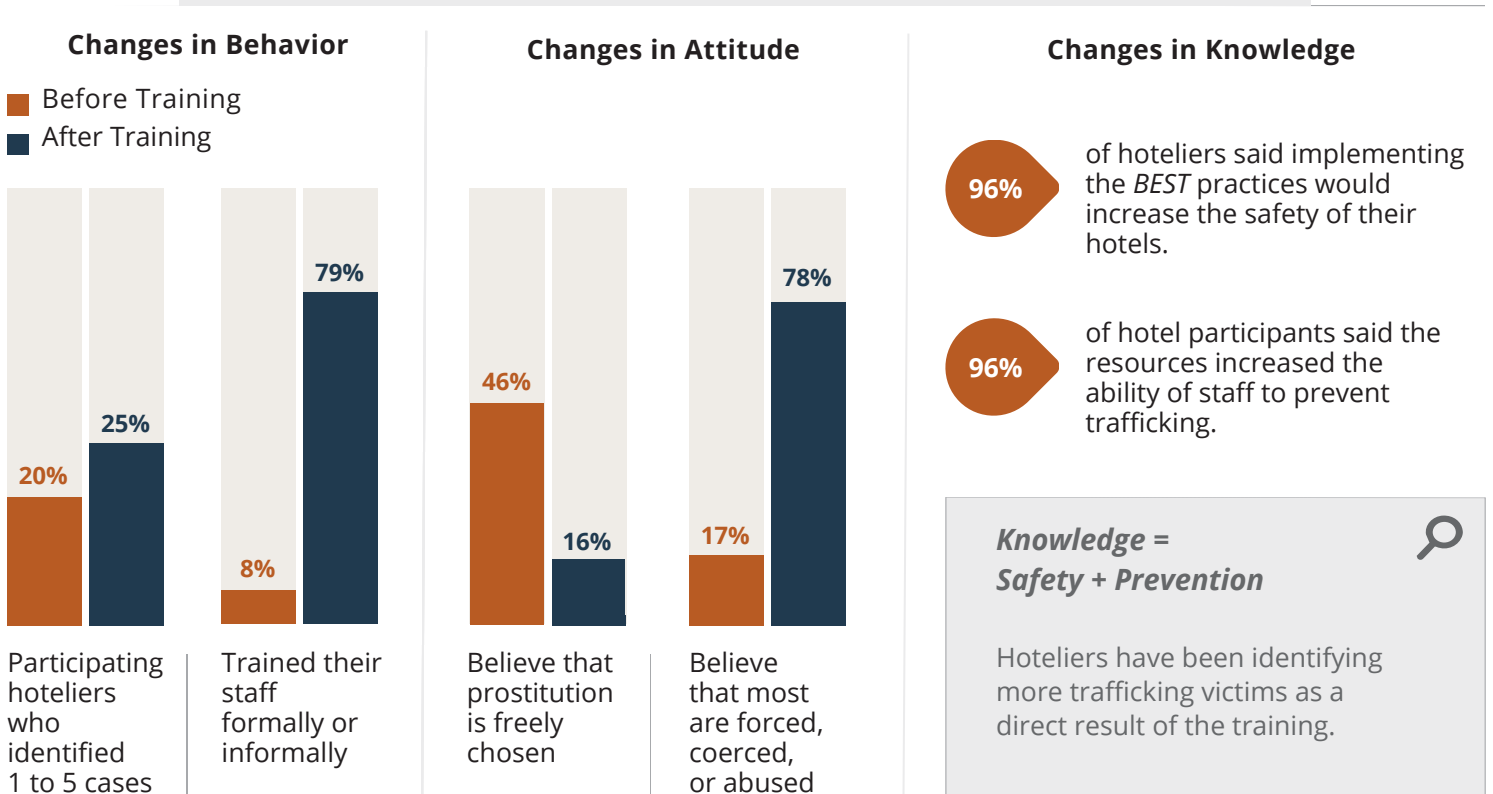


In 2021, **80%** of sex trafficking cases took place at a hotel.*

Over 11,000 properties have staff trained to prevent trafficking.

TRAINING OUTCOMES

In 2019, researchers from Arizona State University evaluated the outcomes of BEST's Inhospitable to Human Trafficking program and found significant social change.



Knowledge = Safety + Prevention

Hoteliers have been identifying more trafficking victims as a direct result of the training.

Additional Training Outcomes

- 70% ▶ Spoke with company/chain leadership
- 19% ▶ Wrote new hotel policies
- 79% ▶ Trained more employees on human trafficking
- 39% ▶ Posted signs about human trafficking
- 34% ▶ Strengthened relationship with local law enforcement
- 10% ▶ Invited law enforcement to do a sting operation

ABOUT INHOSPITABLE TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Derek Caldwell rented a room at a luxury hotel in downtown Seattle where he allegedly sold Candice** for commercial sex. Candice was a 15 year old girl. In that same room Caldwell pressured another girl, Amy,** into taking nude pictures of herself so that he could post escort ads on backpage.com. Amy was only 13 years old. A police detective in Seattle saw the ads, rescued the girls, and had Caldwell arrested. Caldwell was convicted of attempted human trafficking. But according to a reputable study, traffickers are prostituting an estimated 300 to 500 children like Candice and Amy on any given night in greater Seattle/King County.

Human trafficking is a crime that involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to compel a person into work or prostitution. When a person under the age of 18 is prostituted, s/he is also considered a victim of sex trafficking. Police, FBI, and prosecutors are working hard to stop this crime yet they need assistance from those who are on the front lines of this exploitation.

Educating hotel employees is one of the most important steps toward prevention of sex trafficking. Of the sex trafficking-related cases prosecuted in King County, 63% of the crimes took place in hotels and/or motels. The hotels ranged from economy motels on the outskirts of town to luxury hotels in the heart of downtown.**

The Inhospitable to Human Trafficking project was first developed by BEST in partnership with the Washington Lodging Association, the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, the Seattle Hotel Association, and victim service providers. Thanks to the partnership of human trafficking task forces, law enforcement departments, destination marketing organizations, and local lodging associations throughout the state, the project has engaged over 525 participants in trafficking-prevention efforts in the following counties: King County, Pierce County, Snohomish County, Yakima County, and Spokane County.

*References available at www.bestalliance.org/references.

** Names have been changed.

