

Goals for the Workshop on Human Trafficking



David Banks
Duke University & SAMSI

1. Purpose of the Workshop

It is important for policy-makers to estimate the amount of human trafficking, the location of human trafficking, and trends in human trafficking. The panelists in this room all have relevant expertise in such measurement, but from many different perspectives.

Our task is to evaluate various methodologies for studying the extent of human trafficking. We seek a methodology that is feasible, cost-effective, robust to assumptions, legal, admissible in court, and transparent.

There are several kinds of human trafficking, and the best methodology for one type, such as sex trafficking, may not be practicable in a different context.

This is not a new problem, and various techniques have been used or proposed in the past. During the next few days, the experts in this room will describe and compare these techniques. Some of the main ideas include:

- respondent driven sampling
- multiple systems estimation
- size-biased sampling/censored data/missing data
- clever use of administrative records
- economic models
- clever use of Internet data.

The end product will be a short report describing our findings.