



Unveiling Nevada's Priorities Through an Investigation of Sex Trafficking Policy

Gabrielle Blunier & Mentor Dr. Melody Huslage

gblunier@unr.edu



School of Social Work

Values-Oriented Leaders.sm

Abstract

Nevada faces higher rates of sex trafficking compared to other states. Additionally, legalized brothels and the sex economy play a role. This study compiles Nevada laws and policies enacted from 2015–2025, categorizes them into a table, and conducts qualitative thematic analysis with triangulation via supply-and-demand economic interpretation. Trends are identified to show what these efforts prioritize, and findings are disseminated to inform future evidence-based legislative responses to sex trafficking.

Methods

Policy List

- Use NRS and running list of key words (sex trafficking, child exploitation, etc.)
- Emphasis on sex trafficking legislation/policy from 2015-2025

Category of Impact/Priority

Base Categories:

- Survivors
- Buyers
- Traffickers
- Sex Economy

Additional Categories

- Definitions
- Prevention

Excel used to track and count law/policy list and impact category

Qualitative Thematic Analysis and Economic Triangulation

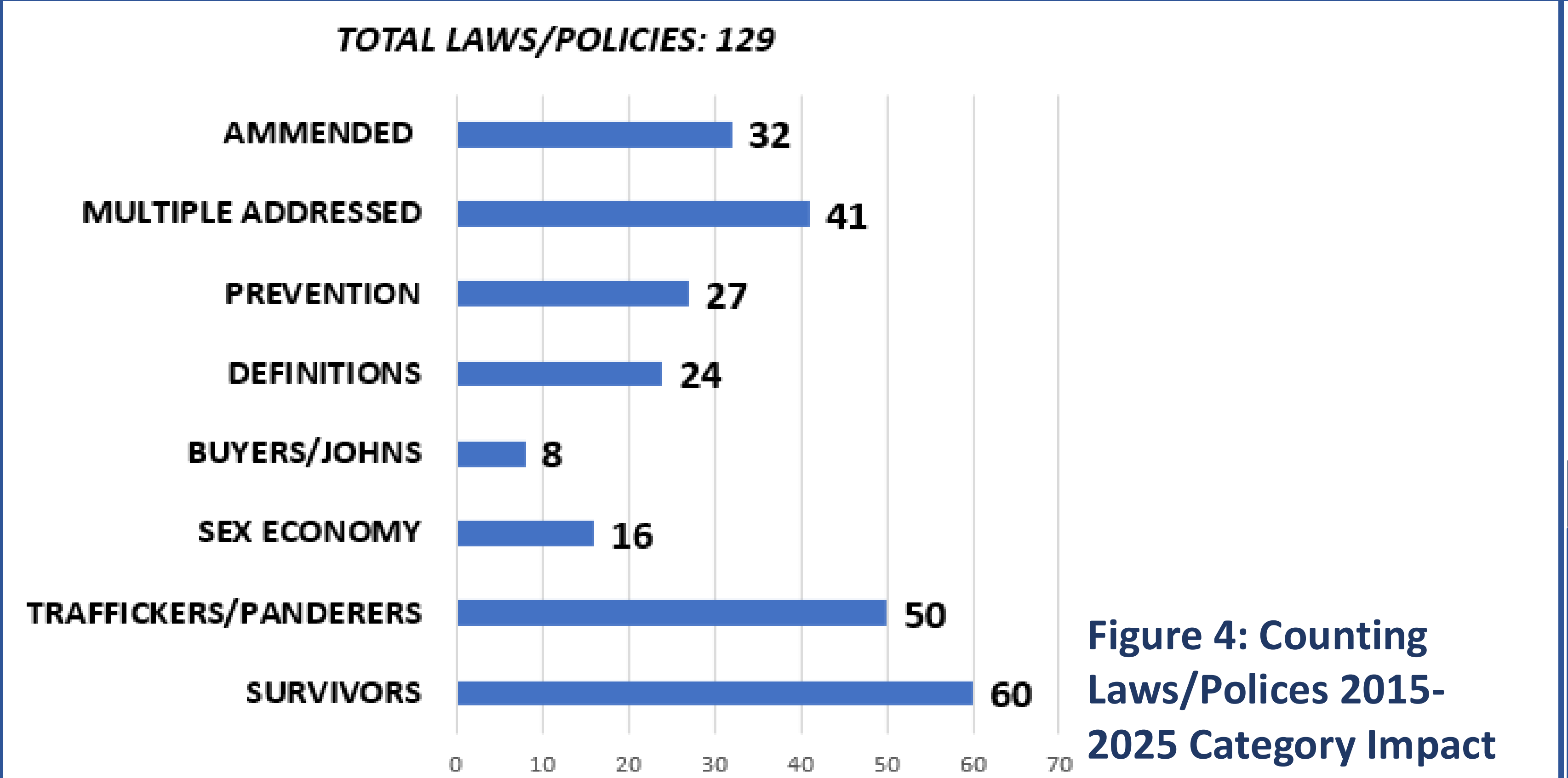
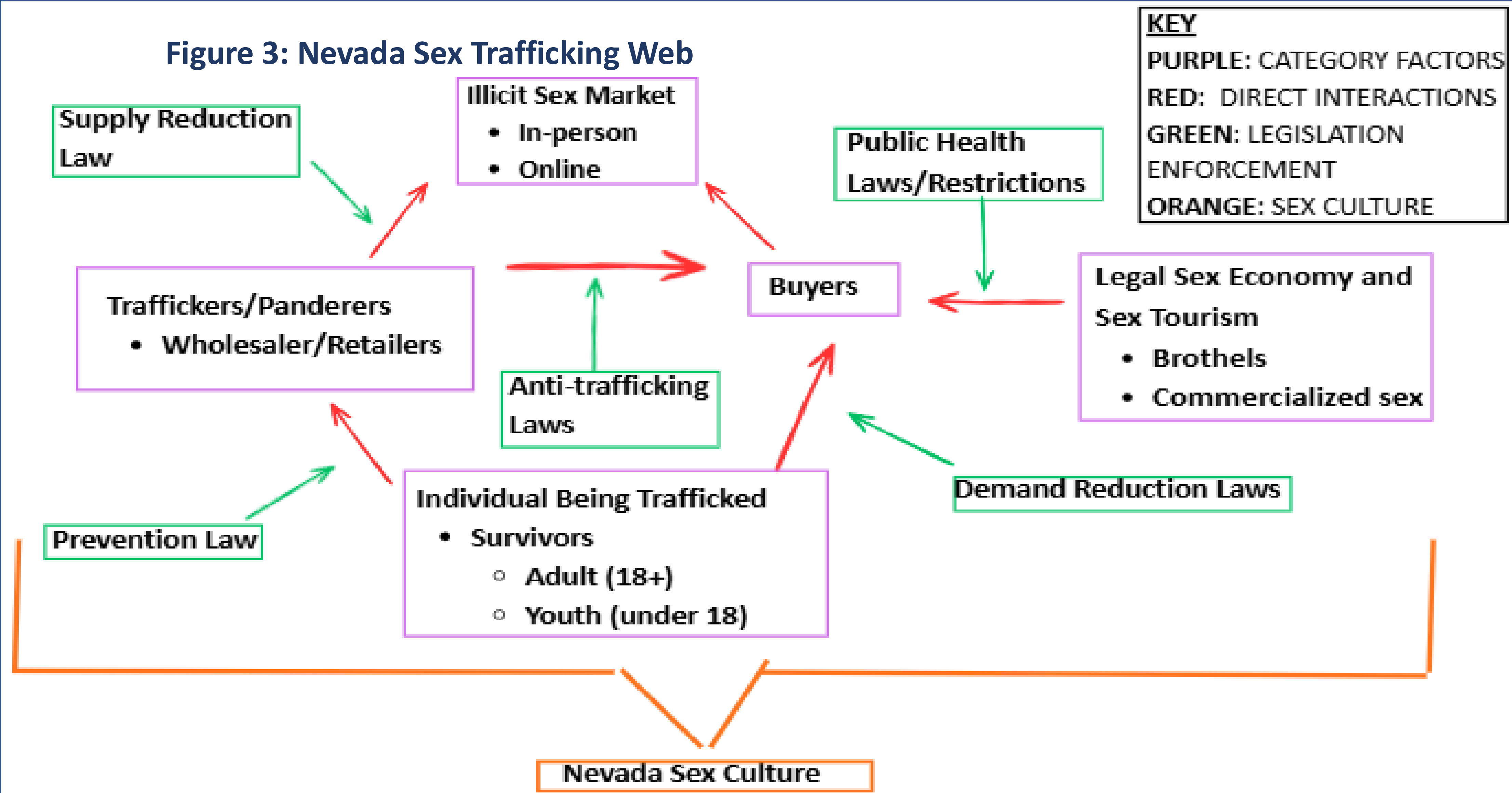
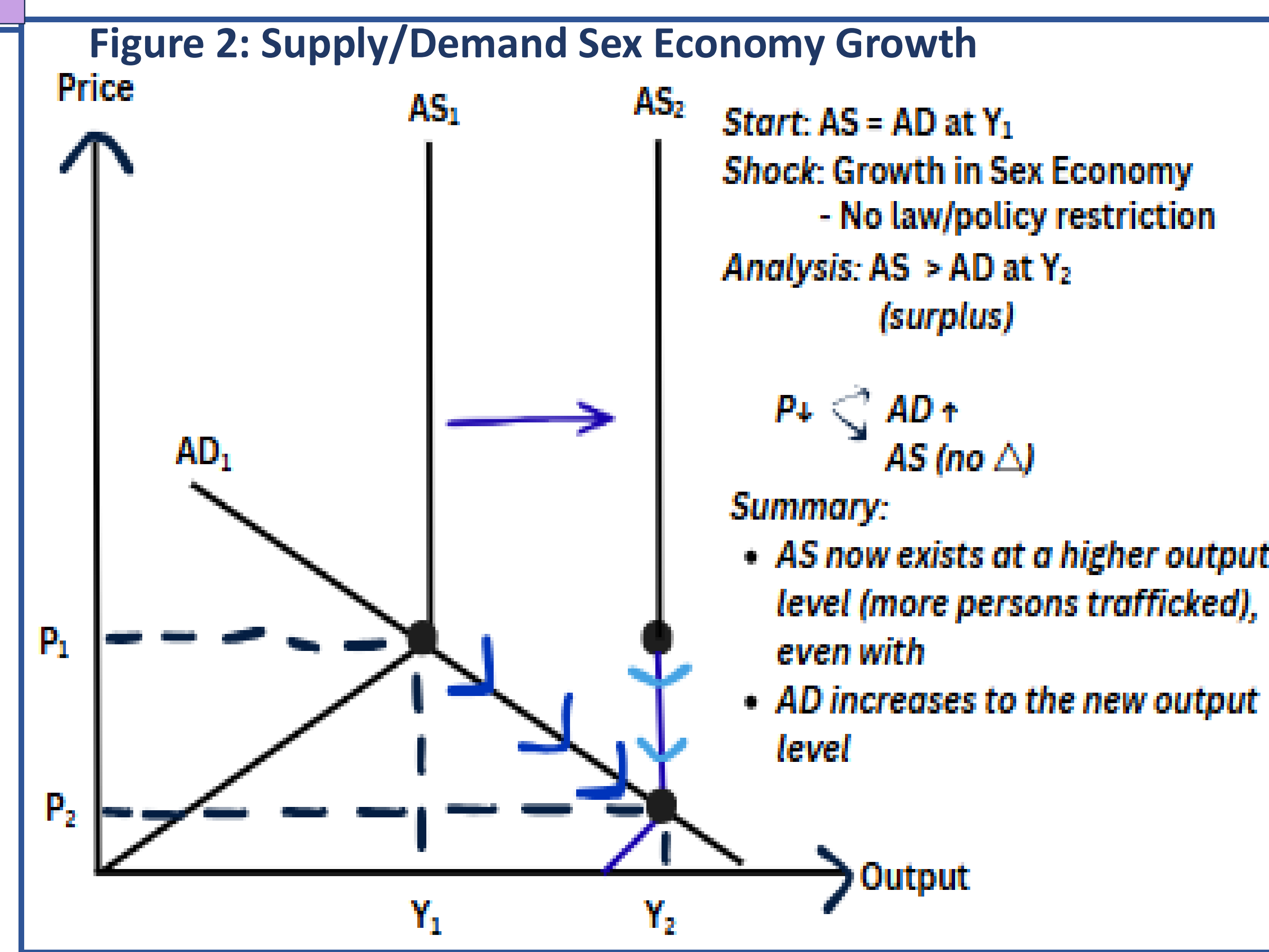
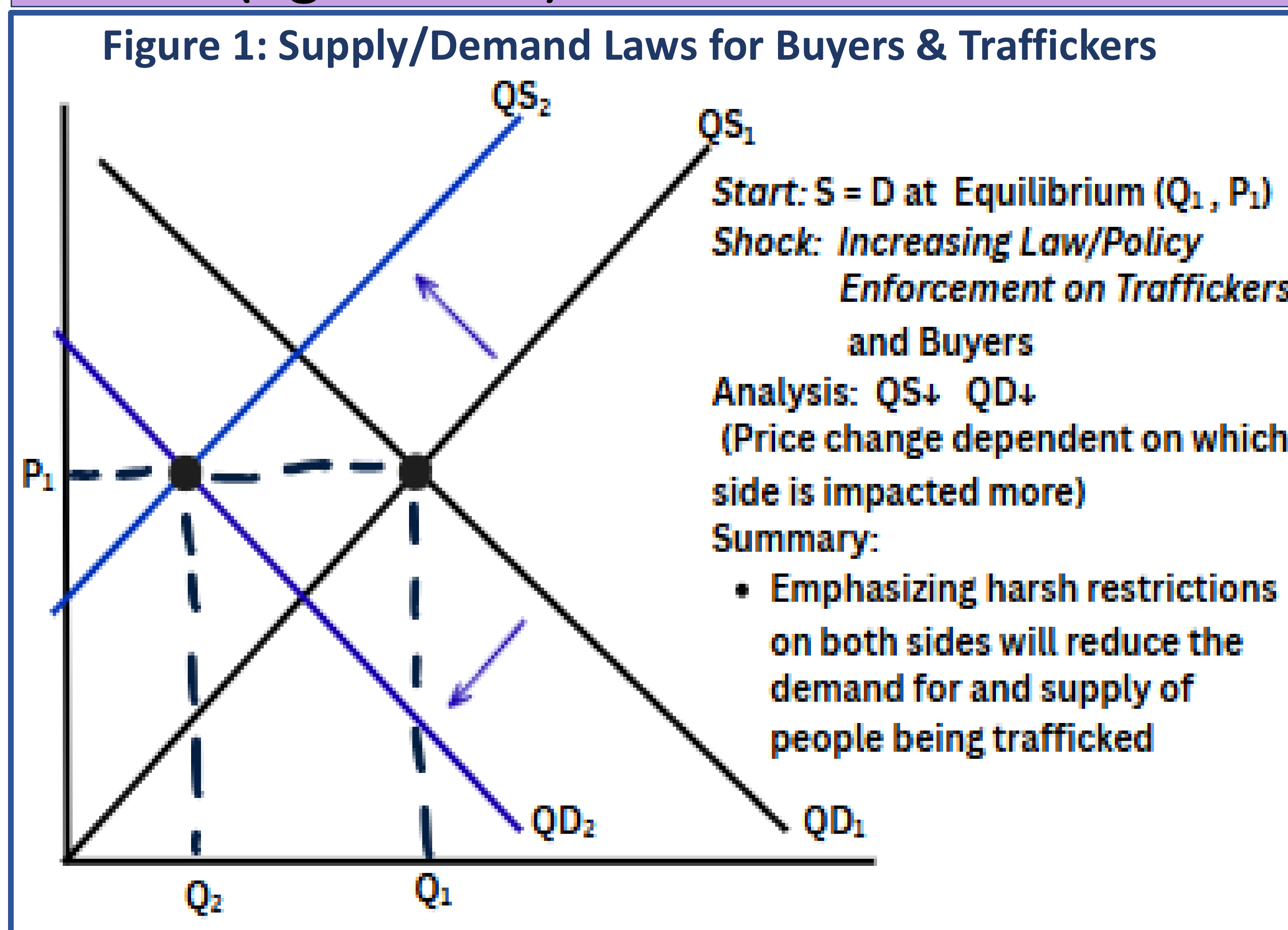
- Literature review comparison to findings
- Triangulation of legislation into supply/demand market analysis
 - micro and macro levels

Research Question

What do Nevada's sex trafficking laws/policies prioritize?

- What laws/policies exist?
- What purpose do they serve (i.e. category impact)?
- Is there any focus on the sex economy?

Results (figures 1-4)



Future Directions

Policy Makers and Legislative Action

- Addressing gaps with laws/policies:
 - Buyer category
 - Sex economy category
- Prevention:
 - Preventing trafficking before it occurs
 - Resource development to support high risk individuals

Discussion

Legislation and policy

- **Laws/policies are survivor focused**
 - Less emphasis on adults compared to youth survivors
 - 60/129 laws/policies focused on survivors
- **Laws/policies focus on traffickers more than buyers**
 - 50/129 trafficker focused laws/policies
 - 8/129 buyer focused laws/policies
 - Legislation prioritizing traffickers and buyers decreasing quantity of people being trafficked
 - Quantity supplied and demanded decreases
- **Sex Economy/Nevada Sex Culture**
 - 16/129 laws/policies focused on sex economy restrictions
 - Unrestricted growth in sex economy leads to:
 - Higher level of aggregate supply \rightarrow more people trafficked
 - Higher level of aggregate demand \rightarrow more buyers wanting sex services

References



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