

Human Exploitation and Trafficking (HEaT)

Mesa Police Department

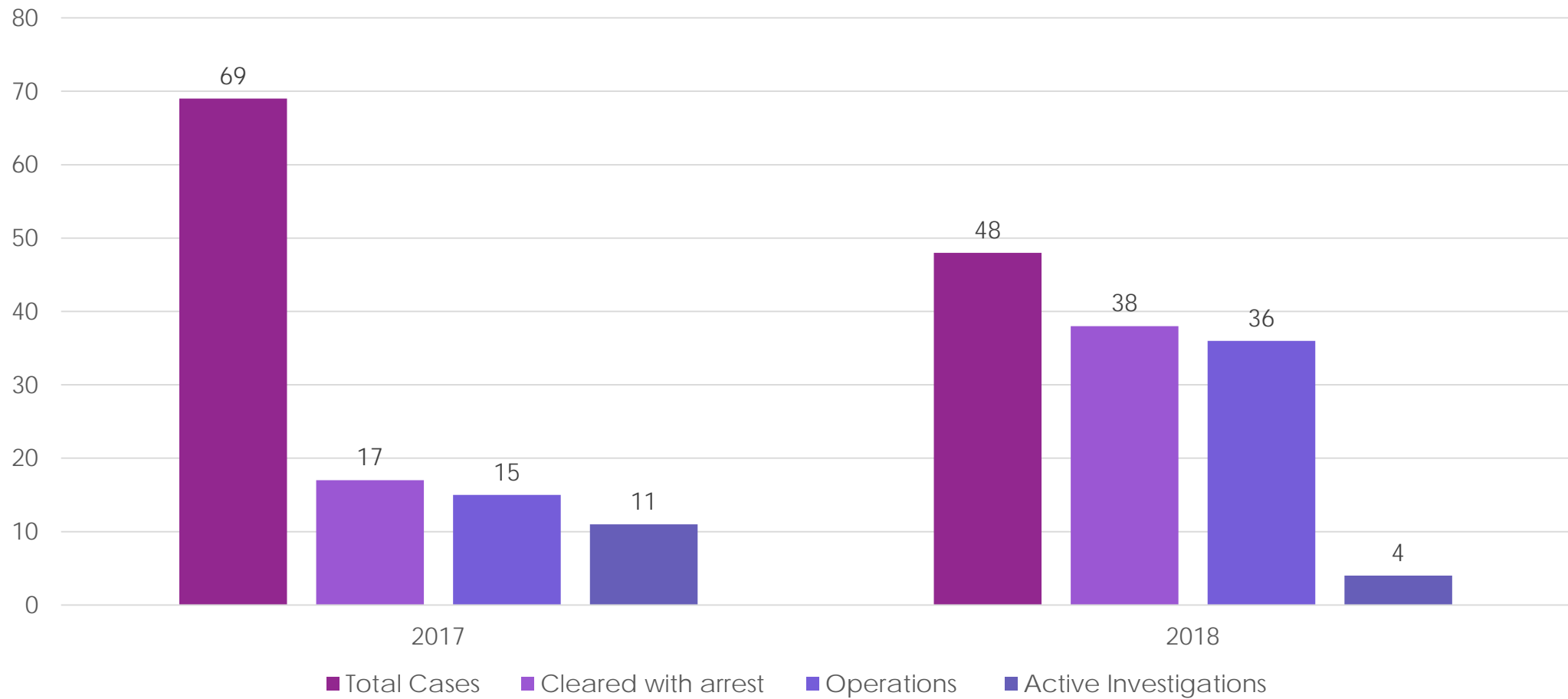
Human Trafficking:

- Mission: The HEaT Unit engages in a multi-disciplinary, comprehensive, and proactive approach to Human Exploitation and Trafficking through investigation, prevention, education, and advocacy.
 - Current Staffing: 1 Sergeant, 1 Detective, 1 Investigator and 1 Detective Vacancy.
- Human trafficking is form of modern-day slavery in which traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to control victims.
- The majority of Human Trafficking cases are Sex Trafficking cases.
- The Mesa HEaT Unit identifies victims and traffickers in the Human Trafficking industry. Once the victim is identified, resources for victim(s) through victim services and community partners are provided.
- The HEaT Unit provides education and training internally to COM employees and externally to community partners, groups and at risk children.

Non-Profit Partners

- **Hickey Family Foundation (HFF)**
 - Provides all of the funding for our operations, training, equipment and software.
- Operation Underground Railroad (OUR)
- Exodus Road
- Mesa Chamber of Commerce
- Arizona Anti-Trafficking Network (AATN)
- Valley Against Sex Trafficking (VAST)
- Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care (MMIC)
- ASU Sex Trafficking Intervention Research (STIR)
- Juvenile Sex Trafficking (JUST)

Human Trafficking Case Statistics



ACTIVE CASES 2017-2018

CASES	TOTAL	INVESTIGATING
Missing Persons cases	20	5
Regular cases	18	10
Adults rescued	36	10
Juveniles rescued	17	9

Free King Investigation

- Missing Persons unit brought a case of run away juvenile and information of persons being trafficked in April 2017
 - Travelled to Tucson and El Paso, Texas
 - Ads posted on Backpage.com and street level prostitution
 - Phoenix PD, Arizona DPS, Tucson PD, Marana PD, El Paso PD (Texas), East Valley Fusion Center, Mesa Victim Services, AZ DCS, Juvenile Probation, Adult Probation, Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care (MMIC).
- Outcomes
 - 5 juveniles and 3 Adults rescued
 - 2 traffickers arrested
 - 16 search warrants executed
 - 2 Pen registries

Operation Rocket

- 2 day undercover operation to target the buyers (demand) of online prostitution
 - Undercover ads posted on Backpage.com
- **Outcomes**
 - 21 arrests
 - Additional deals for illegal sex acts for money were arranged but detectives were unable to keep up with the demand
 - 470 persons responded to the undercover ads

Operation Rocket



Mesa Police Department Media Relations Office

Andrew Edwards



David Holmson



Humberto Echeverria



Michael Stryder



Michael Anderson



Paul Ingram



Myron Brady



James Kirkwood



Kyle Wheatley



Michael Yee



David Buhley



Manuel Ruiz



Jibendra Kunderla



Trevor Barnett



Travis Yeckel



David Knorr



Elijah Kelly (Unavailable)



Emilia Araujo



Chris Johnson



Jose Silva-Andrade (Unavailable)



Joseph Matthews



Operation Rocket

- Mesa Police DR 20180820395
 - Male subject contacted each undercover ad posted and demanded an illegal sex act for money
 - Demanded sex acts to occur in a public place
 - Was wearing a court ordered ankle monitor from a previous child prostitution conviction
- ***Charges filed from this investigation***
 - 3 counts of aggravated assault on law enforcement
 - 2 counts of criminal damage
 - Resisting arrest and hindering prosecution
 - Prostitution





Questions??