

2014 Ohio Human Trafficking Data from State Sources

As defined in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, the legal definition of ‘trafficking in persons’ is:

- a) Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age; or 22 USC §7102 (9)(A).
- b) The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, coercion for the purpose of subsection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery. 22 USC §7102 (9)(B).

In 2012, Ohio’s “Safe Harbor” law, HB 262, was enacted to significantly increase protections for victims of human trafficking and penalties for traffickers (ORC 2905.32). Importantly, the statute requires local law enforcement to report the number of human trafficking cases to the Ohio Attorney General’s office “to be released annually” (ORC 109.66). In 2014, HB 130 (the *End Demand Act*) was also enacted to further guide the prosecution of purchasers of commercial sex from minors (e.g. ORC 2905.32 (A)(2)). Since 2012, countless efforts have been made to identify, rescue and restore victims of human trafficking. In support of the intent of these laws and to better understand the extent of human trafficking in Ohio, **Table 1 below** provides summary data on cases reported by Ohio’s agencies and partners that have identified potential or confirmed victims of trafficking in persons. In addition to identification and providing services, these agencies and partnerships support training and education efforts.

Table 1. January 2014 to December 2014 Human Trafficking Case Data as Reported by State Sources

	Ohio Network of Children’s Advocacy Centers	SACWIS	State Refugee Coordinator	Ohio Attorney General	HHS Grant Partnership
No. Victims Identified	83	44	4	181	9
Victim Age					
Age 30 and older	0	-*	2	11	-*
Age 21-29	0	-*	1	50	-*
Age 18 - 20	12	-*	1	71	-*
Age 16-17	55	-*	0	23	-*
Age 15 and younger	16	-*	0	4	-*
Victim Sex					
Female	80	-*	2	147	8
Male	3	-*	2	34	1
Type of Trafficking					
Sex Trafficking	83	39	-*	173	6
Labor Trafficking	0	2	-*	8	2
Both Sex and Labor Trafficking**	-*	3	-*	-*	1
Training					
Individuals Trained	6851	1566	-*	4975	448

**Data unavailable in reporting; **Individuals included under this category were trafficked in both sex and labor trafficking instances, and are not included in the Sex Trafficking and Labor Trafficking counts.*

Explanation of State Data Sources in Table 1

The Ohio Network of Child Advocacy Centers (ONCAC) provides support, education, and networking opportunities to enhance Ohio’s response to child abuse, including minors who are victims of human trafficking. Within a Children’s Advocacy Center, agencies and professionals work together to reduce the trauma young victims experience from interaction with a confusing system and to enhance the system’s ability to respond to child maltreatment. Through a grant partnership with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, ONCAC began to reporting identified cases of human trafficking in July 2013. The data is reported quarterly to meet state and federal grant requirements. As of March 2015, the ONCACs have identified and served 131 victims of sex trafficking and 4 victims of labor trafficking. In 2014 alone, ONCAC identified 83 sex trafficking cases.

The Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information Systems (SACWIS) is the case management system utilized by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, along with 88 county public children service agencies, to assist staff in managing workloads and provide current data. Human trafficking reporting was integrated into the system in November 2013. In 2014, 44 records of human trafficking were identified, as reported by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services – Refugee Services Section (JFS Refugee) operates as part of a national and international effort to assist people displaced from their countries. The Refugee Services Section also serves victims of human trafficking, with reporting beginning in 2008. In 2014, JFS – Refugee Services confirmed identification of and served 4 victims of human trafficking.

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine’s Office (AG’s Office) provides data collected state-wide from local law enforcement related to human trafficking investigations, arrests, prosecutions, and convictions of traffickers. As required by Ohio’s “Safe Harbor” Law enacted in 2012, the Ohio Attorney General’s releases an annual Human Trafficking report summarizing activities of the Ohio Human Trafficking Commission. Based on the 2014 report, 181 potential victims of human trafficking were identified by local law enforcement.

The Combating Trafficking in Persons in Ohio (CTIPOhio) program, funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, provides assistance to foreign-born victims of human trafficking in Ohio. Through a grant partnership with the Office of Criminal Justice Services, The Salvation Army of Central Ohio/Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition, The Salvation Army of Greater Cincinnati/End Slavery Cincinnati, and the Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition, and additional outreach partners, the program identified nine victims of human trafficking in 2014, with grant activities beginning in October of 2014.

Data Limitations

Ohio has made notable progress in data collection efforts since HB 262 passed in 2012. Through training and awareness, the number of reported cases is increasing from both law enforcement and victim service providers. However, given the relative newness of state laws (and awareness of the federal law) and well-documented complexities in underreporting and identification of trafficking victims, there is much work to be done in reliably determining the extent to which the crime is a problem both in Ohio and the United States. The data compiled in Table 1 is the *first step* in creating a statewide overview of the number of victims identified and referred for services in local communities. It is critical to note that the numbers reported in Table 1 should not be aggregated across different sources as there may be instances in which a single individual is being served by multiple agencies.

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