2017 Ohio Human Trafficking Data from State Sources

As defined in the federal 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, (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 subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery, (22 USC §7102 (9)(B)).

In 2012, Ohio legislators passed legislation (ORC 2905.32) guiding the identification of victims of trafficking in persons. Additional legislation guiding the prosecution of traffickers and purchasers of commercial sex from minors has since been implemented (e.g. ORC 2905.32 (A)(2)). Table 1 provides summary data from 2017 on those cases from Ohio's agencies and partners that have identified potential or confirmed victims of trafficking in persons.

Table 1. January 2017 to December 2017 Human Trafficking Case Data as Reported by State Sources[+]

[+]*The numbers reported in Table 1 should not be aggregated across different sources as there are likely instances in which a single individual is being served by multiple agencies.*

	Ohio Network of Children's Advocacy Centers	SACWIS	JFS Refugee Services	Ohio Attorney General	Health and Human Services Grant Partnership
Target Population	Minors	Minors	Refugees	General public	Foreign national and Domestic victims
No. Victims Identified	92	23	2	208	96
Age 30 and older	-	-	-	56	-
Age 21-29	-	-	-	69	-
Age 18 - 20	5	0	-	39	-
Age 16-17	43	14	-	24	-
Age 13-15	40	8	-	12	-
Age 12 and younger	4	1	-	2	-
Minor—Age Unspecified	-	-	-	-	5
Adult—Age Unspecified	-	-	-	6	86
Age Unknown	-	-	-	-	5
Female	90	23	-	193	93
Male	2	0	-	7	2
Transgender	-	-	-	-	1
Unspecified	-	-	-	8	-
Sex Trafficking Cases	58	22	-	185	84
Labor Trafficking Cases	-	-	-	23	4
Both Sex and Labor Trafficking[a]	1	1	-	-	8
High Risk For Trafficking	33	-	-	-	-
Total Victims Identified Since 2014	327	172	15	743	218

[a]*Individuals included under this category were trafficked in both sex and labor, and are not included in the Sex Trafficking and Labor Trafficking rows.*

Description 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 and to enhance the system's ability to respond to child maltreatment. Through a grant partnership with the Governor's Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, ONCAC began reporting identified cases of human trafficking in July 2013. The data are reported quarterly to meet state and federal grant requirements. Since the grant partnership began in July of 2013, **354** victims of human trafficking have been identified by Ohio's children advocacy centers. In 2017, ONCAC reported identification of **92** victims of human trafficking. The 2017-2019 grant agreement was executed in November 2017. Therefore, 2017 data reflects January – June and November – December.

The Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) is the case management system utilized by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, along with 88 county public children services agencies, to assist staff in managing workloads and provide current data. Human trafficking reporting was integrated into the system in November 2013. In 2017, **22** indicated or substantiated cases were identified in SACWIS, as reported by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services – Refugee Services Section (ODJFS Refugee Services) 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 certified by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, with reporting beginning in 2008. In 2017, ODJFS Refugee Services served **two** individuals who were identified as victims of human trafficking.

The [Ohio Attorney General's Office](#) collects data 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, law enforcement must report the number of human trafficking cases identified annually to the Ohio Attorney General's Office (ORC 109.66). In [2017](#), local law enforcement identified **208** (potential and confirmed) victims of human trafficking.

[The Combating Trafficking in Persons in Ohio](#) (CTIPOhio) grant program, funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), provided assistance to foreign national victims of human trafficking in Ohio. Although funding for CTIPOhio ended in June 2017, the Office of Criminal Justice Services along with grant partners The Salvation Army of Central Ohio/Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition, The Salvation Army of Greater Cincinnati/End Slavery Cincinnati, and Lutheran Social Services/Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition applied for and received similar funding through HHS for an additional three years through the department's [Look Beneath the Surface Regional Anti-Trafficking Program](#). Program efforts were expanded to include identification and assistance for domestic victims of human trafficking, in addition to foreign national victims. Through the efforts of grant partners and local outreach partners, the programs identified **96** victims of human trafficking in 2017.

Data Limitations

Ohio has made notable progress in data collection efforts since HB 262 passed in 2012. However, given the relative newness of state laws (and awareness of the federal law) and well-documented complexities resulting in underreporting and identification of trafficking victims, there is much work to be done in reliably determining the prevalence of the crime both in Ohio and the United States. The available data are not meant to act as a prevalence estimate within the systems that are reporting, but rather an indicator of screening and identification within the systems. The data compiled in Table 1 are 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 are likely instances in which a single individual is being served by multiple agencies.

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