

2020 Ohio Human Trafficking Data from State Sources

As defined in the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, *trafficking in persons* is:

- 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)).
- 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 a summary of those cases from Ohio agencies and partners that have identified potential or confirmed victims of trafficking in persons in calendar year 2020.

Table 1. January 2020 to December 2020 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.

	ODYS	ODRC	SACWIS	ODJFS Refugee Services	Ohio Attorney General	USHHS Grant Partnership
Target Population	Minors	Adults	Minors	Refugees	General public	Foreign national and domestic victims
No. Victims Identified	15	262	33	11	148	214
17 years of age & younger	15		33		32	15
18 years of age & older	0		0		115	199
Age Unknown	0		0	11	1	0
Female	11	262	30		147	196
Male	4		3		1	9
Transgender						8
Unknown				11		1
Sex Trafficking Cases	12		33		145	161
Labor Trafficking Cases	3		0		2	18
Both Sex and Labor Trafficking ^a					1	8
High Risk For Trafficking						
Unknown				11		27
Total Victims Identified*	55	920	291	37	1,397	871

* Both DYS and DRC began reporting trafficking information in 2015. Both agencies updated screening tools and protocols in early 2019. All other agencies began identification and reporting in 2013/2014.

**Shaded cells indicate that the information were not reported by the data source.

^aIndividuals 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

Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS)

The Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS) began screening all children and youth who enter ODYS facilities in 2014, and updated its screening tool and protocols in early 2019. As a member of the Governor's Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force, the agency addresses trafficking through staff training, awareness and prevention activities for the justice-involved children and youth, screening tool implementation, and connection to services for individuals identified as

having a lived experience of human trafficking. In 2020, 287 individuals were screened for trafficking, and **15** minors were identified as victims of human trafficking.

Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC)

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) began screening in 2014, and updated its screening tool and protocols in early 2019. As a member of the Governor’s Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force, ODRC addresses trafficking by screening all inmates at reception for indicators of human trafficking, as well as during different touchpoints throughout an individual’s time at a given facility. The agency also provides trafficking-specific services for identified victims, and provides human trafficking education to both ODRC staff and incarcerated individuals. In 2020, 15,256 screens were completed and **262** individuals were identified as victims of human trafficking.

The Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS)

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. In 2020, **33** indicated or substantiated cases of trafficking 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)

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 2020, ODJFS Refugee Services served **11** individuals who were identified as victims of human trafficking.

The Ohio Attorney General’s Office – Human Trafficking Initiative

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 2020, local law enforcement identified **148** (potential and confirmed) victims of human trafficking.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Grant Partnerships (HHS Grant Partnership)

The [Look Beneath the Surface Regional Anti-Trafficking Program](#) grant program, funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), provided assistance to foreign national and domestic victims of human trafficking in Ohio. Through the program, grant partners (i.e. The Salvation Army of Central Ohio/Central Ohio Reach and Restore Coalition, The Salvation Army of Greater Cincinnati/End Slavery Cincinnati, Lutheran Social Services/Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition and Noah’s Hope: Child Advocacy Center of Tuscarawas County/Tuscarawas Against Trafficking) and local outreach partners identified **214** survivors of human trafficking in 2020.

Additional Resources for Ohio Data on Trafficking in Persons

The available data are not meant to act as prevalence estimates within the systems that are reporting, but rather as a lens to examine the number of victims identified and referred for services. In 2018, Anderson, Kulig and Sullivan from the University of Cincinnati released [Estimating the Prevalence of Human Trafficking in Ohio](#), which integrates data from these different sources into an estimate of the individuals identified as survivors of trafficking in persons within Ohio’s systems. Additionally, [Anderson, Kulig, and Sullivan \(2020\)](#) further describe the importance of standardizing conceptual and operational approaches of human trafficking measurement. For more information on human trafficking and Ohio’s response, visit www.humantrafficking.ohio.gov.