


2015 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 on those cases from Ohio's agencies and partners that have identified potential or confirmed victims of trafficking in persons.

Table 1. January 2015 to December 2015 Human Trafficking Case Data as Reported by State Sources

	Ohio Network of Children's Advocacy Centers	SACWIS ^a (child welfare)	ODJFS Refugee Services	Ohio Attorney General's Office	Combating Trafficking-in-Persons grant
Target Population	Minors	Minors	Refugees	General public	Foreign national victims
No. Victims Identified	86	68	4	203	54
Victim Age					
Age 30 and older	1	0	2	62	- ^c
Age 21-29	0	0	2	57	- ^c
Age 18 - 20	6	0	0	16	- ^c
Age 16-17	30	42	0	30	- ^c
Age 13-15	35	20	0	27	- ^c
Age 12 and younger	3	6	0	3	- ^c
Minor - Age Unspecified	11	0	0	0	7
Adult - Age Unspecified	0	0	0	8	47
Victim Sex					
Female	80	62	4	196	44
Male	6	6	0	3	8
Unspecified	0	0	0	4	2
Trafficking Type					
Sex Trafficking Cases	84	63	- ^c	197	34
Labor Trafficking Cases	1	2	- ^c	6	16
Both Sex and Labor Trafficking ^b	1	3	- ^c	0	4

^aAvailable data is for SFY 2015 running from July 2014 – June 2015. ^bIndividuals 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. ^cData unavailable in reporting. ^dTotal will be updated when data from January – December 2015 become available.

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 Governor's Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force and 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. In 2015, ONCACs reported identification of 86 victims of human trafficking.

[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. From July 2014 to June 2015, 68 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 \(JFS Refugee Services\)](#) 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 US Department of Health and Human Services, with reporting beginning in 2008. In 2015, JFS Refugee Services served 4 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 [2015](#), local law enforcement identified 203 victims (potential and confirmed) of human trafficking.

[The Combating Trafficking in Persons in Ohio \(CTIPOhio\)](#) grant 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 54 victims in 2015.

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 resulting 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 are likely instances in which a single individual is being served by multiple agencies.

Please contact Kristina Nicholson at kcnicolson@dps.ohio.gov with any questions.