

ANNUAL
REPORT

OFFICE OF THE OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

Human Trafficking

2024



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Each year, the Ohio Attorney General's Office is required to publish statistical data on suspected violations of Ohio's human trafficking statute (Section 2905.32 of the Ohio Revised Code). This information is self-reported by local law enforcement agencies through the Ohio Law Enforcement Gateway (OHLEG); it is not independently validated.

State and local law enforcement agencies that investigate violations of 2905.32 are required to report certain demographic information about victims, offenders, and consumers associated with the investigations. The Attorney General's Office compiles the data reported by local law enforcement for annual publication, per ORC Section 109.66.

This statutory report focuses exclusively on violations of 2905.32. It does not require reporting of much more common investigations often associated with human trafficking, such as violations of 2907.19, (commercial sexual exploitation of a minor), 2907.21 (compelling prostitution), 2907.22 (promoting prostitution), and 2923.32 (engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity). Accordingly, the numbers presented below significantly underrepresent the scope of human trafficking in Ohio.

Law Enforcement Statistics on Human Trafficking

Ohio law requires local law enforcement agencies to collect data on their human trafficking investigations and forward that information annually to the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation, part of the Ohio Attorney General's Office. In 2024, 243 agencies submitted that data to BCI, including the number of potential victims, traffickers, and buyers. The charts that follow detail the data reported for 2024 by local law enforcement.

Potential victims

Based on gender, females by far represented the most commonly identified victims of human trafficking in 2024. Across all genders, law enforcement reported a combined total of 117 potential victims, with 102 of those involving sex trafficking and 15 both sex and labor trafficking.

Gender	Number of potential victims
Male	18
Female	99
Other	0
No gender listed	0

Age	Number of potential victims
12 & under	10
13-15	8
16-17	5
18-20	12
21-29	33
30-40	20
41-59	18
60-84	10
85 & older	0
Unknown	1

Race	Number of potential victims
White	76
Black	17
Asian/Pacific Islander	21
American Indian/ Native Alaskan	0
Hispanic	1
Multi-Racial	1
Other	1
Unknown	0

Traffickers

Law enforcement agencies reported a combined 103 suspected human traffickers in 2024, including 85 suspected of sex trafficking and 17 suspected of both sex and labor trafficking.

Gender	Number of suspected traffickers
Male	56
Female	47
Other	0
No gender listed	0

Age	Number of suspected traffickers
17 & under	2
18-20	5
21-29	16
30-40	21
41-59	43
60-84	15
85 & older	0
Unknown	1

Race	Number of suspected traffickers
White	37
Black	29
Asian/Pacific Islander	35
American Indian/ Native Alaskan	0
Hispanic	0
Multi-Racial	2
Other	0
Unknown	0

Potential sex buyers

In 2024, law enforcement agencies identified a total of 713 people as suspected consumers of sex trafficking. This number does not include those arrested during statewide operations in 2024. No consumers of labor trafficking were identified in 2024.

Gender	Number of suspected consumers
Male	713
Female	0
Other	0
No gender listed	0

Age	Number of suspected consumers
17 & under	0
18-20	5
21-29	192
30-40	278
41-59	236
60-84	2
85 & older	0
Unknown	0

Race	Number of suspected consumers
White	657
Black	6
Asian/Pacific Islander	50
American Indian/ Native Alaskan	0
Hispanic	0
Multi-Racial	0
Other	0
Unknown	0

Social and economic factors can contribute to trafficking victimization. Law enforcement agencies identified these factors in 2024 cases:

- Criminal history: 19
- Drug, alcohol or other dependency: 33
- Homelessness: 18
- Immigration status: 11
- LGBTQ youth: 0
- Poverty: 11
- Prior victim abuse: 6
- Missing youth: 7
- Unsafe home: 4
- Unknown: 28

Traffickers utilize different methods of recruitment when victimizing. Law enforcement agencies identified the following recruiting methods in 2024 cases:

- Drugs: 29
- Employment: 16
- Family/Friends: 11
- Housing/Shelter: 7
- Jail/Prison/Detention Center: 3
- Relationship building: 4
- Missing youth: 7
- Significant other: 3
- Social media: 16
- Unknown: 27

Trafficking can involve the movement of victims across cities, states, or the country. Law enforcement agencies identified these trafficking routes and modes of transportation in 2024 cases:

Trafficking routes

- Across city lines: 25
- Across county lines: 18
- Across state lines: 14
- Across country lines: 11

Modes of transportation

- Motor vehicle: 54
- Airplane: 2
- Watercraft: 0
- Unknown: 21



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