

ANNUAL  
REPORT

OFFICE OF THE OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL

# Human Trafficking

## 2025



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OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL



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 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 data and demographic information about victims, offenders, and consumers associated with the investigations. The Ohio Attorney General's Office compiles this data 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 2025, 137 law enforcement agencies submitted data to the BCI regarding suspected violations of ORC 2905.32 – reports that originated from the counties of Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Lake, Lorain, Lucas, Madison, Marion, Stark, Summit, and Van Wert.

Across the reported cases, law enforcement identified 138 suspects in violation of 2905.32, leading to 34 arrests and 17 criminal convictions. Many of the reported investigations and cases are still ongoing. The charts that follow further detail the data reported.

### Potential victims

In 2025, law enforcement agencies reported a combined total of 168 potential victims, with 158 of those involving sex trafficking and 10 involving both sex and labor trafficking.

| Gender           | Potential victims |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Male             | 2                 |
| Female           | 165               |
| Other            | 1                 |
| No gender listed | 0                 |

| Age        | Potential victims |
|------------|-------------------|
| 12 & under | 5                 |
| 13-15      | 13                |
| 16-17      | 21                |
| 18-20      | 11                |
| 21-29      | 38                |
| 30-40      | 44                |
| 41-59      | 25                |
| 60-84      | 6                 |
| 85 & older | 0                 |
| Unknown    | 5                 |

| Race                               | Potential victims |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| White                              | 80                |
| Black                              | 45                |
| Asian/Pacific Islander             | 21                |
| American Indian/<br>Native Alaskan | 1                 |
| Hispanic                           | 14                |
| Multi-Racial                       | 1                 |
| Other                              | 1                 |
| Unknown                            | 6                 |

### Suspected traffickers

Law enforcement agencies reported a combined 138 suspected human traffickers in 2025, including 114 involving sex trafficking, three involving labor trafficking, and 21 involving both sex and labor trafficking.

| Gender           | Suspected traffickers |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Male             | 93                    |
| Female           | 45                    |
| Other            | 0                     |
| No gender listed | 0                     |

| Age        | Suspected traffickers |
|------------|-----------------------|
| 17 & under | 0                     |
| 18-20      | 5                     |
| 21-29      | 19                    |
| 30-40      | 39                    |
| 41-59      | 68                    |
| 60-84      | 4                     |
| 85 & older | 1                     |
| Unknown    | 2                     |

| Race                               | Suspected traffickers |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| White                              | 41                    |
| Black                              | 46                    |
| Asian/Pacific Islander             | 30                    |
| American Indian/<br>Native Alaskan | 0                     |
| Hispanic                           | 16                    |
| Multi-Racial                       | 1                     |
| Other                              | 2                     |
| Unknown                            | 2                     |

## Suspected consumers

In 2025, law enforcement agencies identified 188 suspected consumers (buyers), including 186 involving sex trafficking and two involving both sex and labor trafficking.

| Gender           | Suspected consumers |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Male             | 157                 |
| Female           | 1                   |
| Other            | 30                  |
| No gender listed | 0                   |

| Age        | Suspected consumers |
|------------|---------------------|
| 17 & under | 0                   |
| 18-20      | 1                   |
| 21-29      | 3                   |
| 30-40      | 21                  |
| 41-59      | 53                  |
| 60-84      | 46                  |
| 85 & older | 1                   |
| Unknown    | 63                  |

| Race                               | Suspected consumers |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| White                              | 112                 |
| Black                              | 6                   |
| Asian/Pacific Islander             | 38                  |
| American Indian/<br>Native Alaskan | 0                   |
| Hispanic                           | 2                   |
| Multi-Racial                       | 0                   |
| Other                              | 0                   |
| Unknown                            | 30                  |

Social and economic factors can contribute to human trafficking victimization. Law enforcement agencies identified these factors in cases from 2025:

- Criminal history: 19
- Drug, alcohol or other dependency: 41
- Homelessness: 26
- Immigration status: 9
- LGBTQ+ youth: 0
- Poverty: 16
- Prior abuse: 18
- Missing youth: 18
- Unsafe home: 16

Traffickers use varying methods of recruitment. Law enforcement agencies identified the following recruiting methods in cases from 2025:

- Drugs: 38
- Employment: 21
- Family/friends: 24
- Housing/shelter: 23
- Jail/prison/detention center: 2
- Relationship building: 22
- Missing youth: 16
- Acting as a significant other: 8
- Social media: 23

Human trafficking may involve the movement of victims across cities, states or countries. Law enforcement agencies identified these trafficking routes and modes of transportation in cases from 2025:

| Trafficking routes   | Reported cases |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Across city lines    | 43             |
| Across county lines  | 33             |
| Across state lines   | 28             |
| Across country lines | 13             |

| Mode of transportation | Reported cases |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Motor vehicle          | 64             |
| Airplane               | 13             |
| Watercraft             | 0              |

The following offenses were included with the violations of ORC 2905.32 reported for 2025:

| Ohio Revised Code                                                                               | Federal Statutes                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2903.11 – Felonious assault                                                                     | 8 USC § 1324 – Bringing in and harboring certain aliens            |
| 2907.02 - Rape                                                                                  | 18 USC § 1503 – Influencing or injuring officer or juror generally |
| 2907.07 - Importuning                                                                           | 18 USC § 2251A – Selling or buying of children                     |
| 2907.21 – Compelling prostitution                                                               | 18 USC § 2422 – Coercion and enticement                            |
| 2907.323 – Illegal use of a minor or impaired person in nudity-oriented material or performance |                                                                    |
| 2919.25 – Domestic violence                                                                     |                                                                    |



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# Human Trafficking Annual Report

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