



# Human-Trafficking Offenses Handled by State Attorneys General Offices, 2018

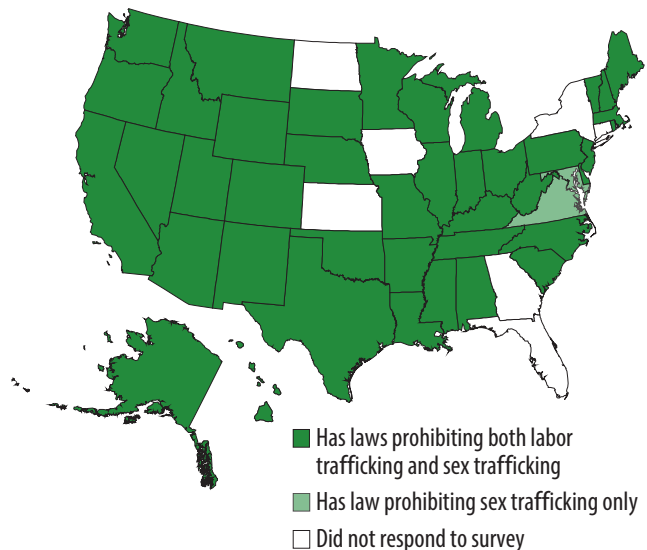
Suzanne M. Strong, Ph.D., *former BJS Statistician*

State attorneys general offices in 43 states, the District of Columbia, and three territories reported information about their human trafficking laws ([map 1](#)) in 2018 to a survey conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). For labor-trafficking cases, offices in 26 states, American Samoa, and Guam reported having only criminal jurisdiction, 14 states and the Northern Mariana Islands reported having civil and criminal jurisdiction, 2 states reported only civil jurisdiction, and 1 state and the District of Columbia reported no jurisdiction in 2018 ([map 2](#)). Regarding sex-trafficking cases, 30 states, American Samoa, and Guam reported having only criminal jurisdiction, 11 states and the Northern Mariana Islands reported civil and criminal jurisdiction, 1 state reported only civil jurisdiction, and 1 state and the District of Columbia reported no jurisdiction over sex-trafficking cases ([map 3](#)). While attorneys general offices have some characteristics in common, comparisons between them should not be made.

The 2018 Survey of State Attorneys General Offices on Human Trafficking was sent to the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the five permanently inhabited U.S. territories. The survey asked about jurisdiction over labor and sex trafficking and about civil and criminal cases involving human trafficking.

MAP 1

States and territories with human-trafficking laws, 2018



Note: Based on human-trafficking laws reported by attorneys general offices. Not shown: American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands had laws prohibiting both labor trafficking and sex trafficking; the District of Columbia had a law prohibiting sex trafficking only; and Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands did not respond to the survey.  
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of State Attorneys General Offices, Human Trafficking, 2018.

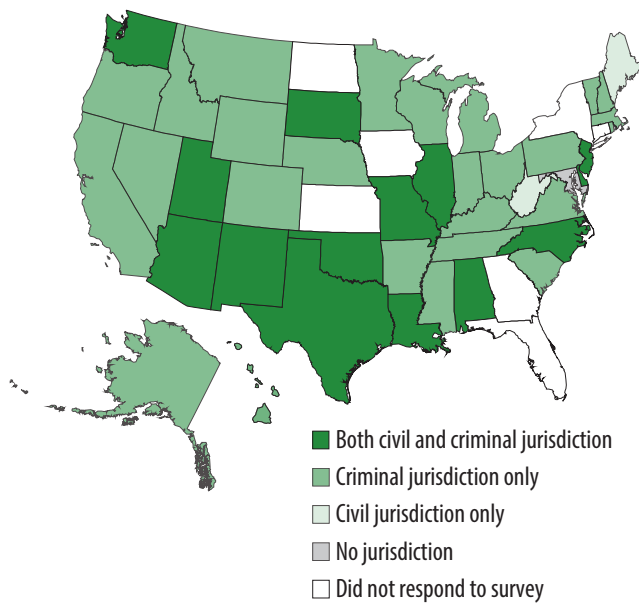
## HIGHLIGHTS

Among responding attorneys general offices in 2018—

- Human-trafficking cases were most commonly referred to attorneys general offices by state and local police departments.
- More offices reported prosecuting human-trafficking cases involving individual offenders than offenders that were businesses or groups of individuals.
- More offices reported labor-trafficking cases involving only adult victims than both minor and adult victims.
- More offices reported sex-trafficking cases involving both minor and adult victims than only minor or only adult victims.
- The majority of attorneys general offices offered victim services, with counseling and housing being the most common.
- Maryland and Virginia were the only two states that had no labor-trafficking statutes.

## MAP 2

### Jurisdiction of attorneys general offices over labor trafficking, 2018

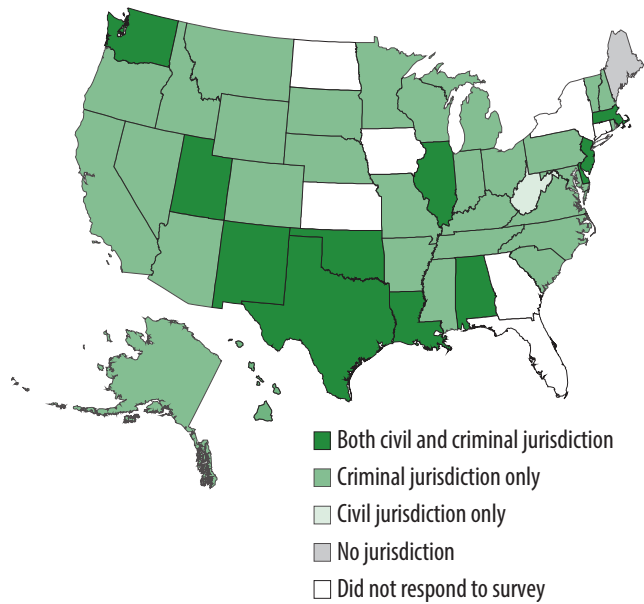


Note: Criminal jurisdiction includes original criminal jurisdiction, concurrent criminal jurisdiction, and criminal jurisdiction by invite. Arkansas, Hawaii, Kentucky, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin reported unknown civil jurisdiction. Maine reported unknown criminal jurisdiction. Maryland passed an anti-labor trafficking law in April 2019. See *Methodology* for information on Georgia. Not shown: American Samoa and Guam reported criminal jurisdiction only; the Northern Mariana Islands reported both civil and criminal jurisdiction; the District of Columbia reported unknown civil jurisdiction and no criminal jurisdiction; and Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands did not respond to the survey. See appendix table 1 for details.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of State Attorneys General Offices, Human Trafficking, 2018.

## MAP 3

### Jurisdiction of attorneys general offices over sex trafficking, 2018



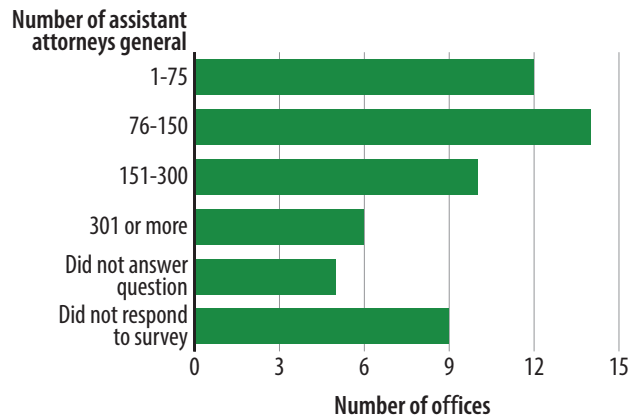
Note: Criminal jurisdiction includes original criminal jurisdiction, concurrent criminal jurisdiction, and criminal jurisdiction by invite. Not shown: American Samoa and Guam reported criminal jurisdiction only; the Northern Mariana Islands reported both civil and criminal jurisdiction; the District of Columbia reported unknown civil jurisdiction and no criminal jurisdiction; and Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands did not respond to the survey. See appendix table 2 for details.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of State Attorneys General Offices, Human Trafficking, 2018.

## State and territory laws and attorney general staffing

Attorneys general offices in 43 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Marianas Islands responded to the survey. Attorneys general offices varied in the number of assistant attorneys general they had on staff in 2018. Twenty-six offices reported having 150 or fewer assistant attorneys general, while 16 offices reported having more than 150 (figure 1).

**FIGURE 1**  
Number of attorneys general offices that reported assistant attorneys general on staff, 2018



Notes: See appendix table 3 for details.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of State Attorneys General Offices, Human Trafficking, 2018.

## Defining human trafficking

The Survey of State Attorneys General Offices, Human Trafficking (SSAGO-HT) used the federal definition of human trafficking under the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA). The survey instructed attorneys general offices to use their state’s or territory’s definition if it differed from the federal definition.

**Labor trafficking**—the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery (22 U.S.C. § 7102 (11)(B)).<sup>1</sup>

- **Involuntary servitude**—a condition of servitude induced by means of any scheme, plan, or pattern intended to cause a person to believe that, if the person did not enter into or continue in such condition, that person or another person would suffer serious harm or physical restraint; or the abuse or threatened abuse of the legal process (22 U.S.C. § 7102(8)).
- **Debt bondage**—the status or condition of a debtor arising from a pledge by debtor of his or her personal services or those of a person under his or her control as a security for debt, if the value of those services as

reasonably assessed is not applied toward liquidation of the debt or the length and nature of those services are not respectively limited and defined (22 U.S.C. § 7102(7)).

**Sex trafficking**—the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, obtaining, patronizing, or soliciting of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act, in which the commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion (22 U.S.C. § 7102(12); 18 U.S.C. § 1591(a)(2)). It includes commitment of such acts while knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that the victim is a minor (defined as someone younger than age 18) (18 U.S.C. § 1591(a)(2)).

- **Commercial sex act**—any sex act on account of which anything of value (e.g., money, drugs, food, shelter, rent, or the promise of anything of value) is given to or received by any person (22 U.S.C. § 7102(4)). A third party may or may not be involved.
- **Coercion**—involves threats of serious harm to or physical restraint against any person; any scheme, plan, or pattern intended to cause a person to believe that failure to perform an act would result in serious harm to or physical restraint against any person; or the abuse or threatened abuse of the legal process (22 U.S.C. § 7102(3)). Coercion may include psychological manipulation, documents confiscation, and shame- and fear-inducing threats to share information or pictures with others or to report information to authorities.

<sup>1</sup>This definition is based on the TVPA’s definition for “severe forms of trafficking in persons” that was not identified as sex trafficking. The TVPA does not use the term “labor trafficking.”

## Human-trafficking cases, offenders, and victims

Attorneys general offices reported a variety of sources of human-trafficking cases, with most offices saying that cases were referred by local police (26 offices) and state police (22 offices) (table 1). Attorneys general offices also had varying authority over labor- and sex-trafficking cases (i.e., all human-trafficking cases that the offices dedicated resources to, whether during the investigation, pre-indictment, pre-filing,

case-filing, or final-disposition stage). In 2018, a total of 21 offices reported handling 1 to 10 criminal cases of sex-trafficking minors and 3 offices reported handling 26 or more such cases (table 2). Fifteen offices reported no criminal cases of sex-trafficking minors, and 28 reported no civil cases of sex-trafficking minors. Criminal cases were more common than civil cases, and sex-trafficking cases were more common than labor-trafficking cases in 2018.

**TABLE 1**  
Number of attorneys general offices that reported source of human-trafficking referrals, 2018

Type of source	Received referral			Did not respond to survey
	Yes	No	Unknown	
<b>State/local agency</b>				
Local police	26	18	3	9
State police	22	22	3	9
District attorney's office	15	28	4	9
<b>Federal agency</b>				
Federal Bureau of Investigation	12	29	6	9
Department of Homeland Security	11	31	5	9
U.S. Attorney's Office	9	33	5	9
Department of Labor	3	37	7	9
<b>Other organization</b>				
Trafficking hotline	18	21	8	9
Health-care/mental-health provider	14	25	8	9
Public-interest group/National Center for Missing & Exploited Children <sup>a</sup>	14	24	8	9
Social worker/foster care/school	12	26	9	9
Other <sup>b</sup>	5	17	6	9

<sup>a</sup>One attorney general office that responded to the survey did not respond to this question.

<sup>b</sup>Includes media organizations, departments of children's services, immigration attorneys, fair-labor divisions of attorneys general offices, international law enforcement (INTERPOL), firefighters, paramedics, code enforcement, and other municipal agencies. Counts include only attorneys general offices that responded "other" (not required) to this question.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of State Attorneys General Offices, Human Trafficking, 2018.

**TABLE 2**  
Number of attorneys general offices that handled human-trafficking cases, by type of case and victim, 2018

Cases handled by offices	Labor trafficking*		Sex trafficking			
	Civil	Criminal	Civil		Criminal	
			Adult victims	Minor victims	Adult victims	Minor victims
Total	56	56	56	56	56	56
0	24	27	27	28	20	15
1-10	3	11	1	1	11	21
11-25	0	0	0	0	4	0
26 or more	0	0	0	0	4	3
Unknown	3	0	1	1	0	0
No jurisdiction	17	9	18	17	8	8
Did not respond to survey	9	9	9	9	9	9

\*The survey did not ask about victim age in labor-trafficking cases.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of State Attorneys General Offices, Human Trafficking, 2018.

Offices that did handle cases were asked if they had brought charges in addition to the trafficking charges. Fifteen offices reported also bringing charges of promoting or compelling prostitution in sex-trafficking cases, and 13 reported also bringing charges of sexual exploitation of a minor (table 3). Of the offices that handled labor-trafficking cases, four reported also bringing fraud charges, while three reported also bringing charges of wage-and-hour violations of state labor codes and charges of money laundering.

Far fewer offices reported closing human-trafficking cases (due to convictions, acquittals, or dismissals) than handling them. In 2018, three offices reported closing labor-trafficking cases due to a conviction, while 16 offices reported closing sex-trafficking cases due to a conviction (table 4). No office reported the acquittal of defendants in labor-trafficking cases in 2018. During that time, three offices reported the dismissal of charges in labor-trafficking cases, and five offices reported dismissals of sex-trafficking cases.

**TABLE 3**  
**Number of attorneys general offices that pursued additional charges in human-trafficking cases, by type of case and charge, 2018**

Type of additional charge	Sex-trafficking cases		Labor-trafficking cases	
	Yes	No/unknown	Yes	No/unknown
Child endangerment	4	20	0	8
Conspiracy	8	16	~	~
Contributing to the delinquency of a child	7	17	~	~
Domestic abuse/assault	3	21	1	7
Fraud	1	23	4	4
Kidnapping/child stealing	2	22	0	8
Wage-and-hour violation of labor code	~	~	3	5
Money laundering	5	19	3	5
Pandering	6	18	~	~
Promoting or compelling prostitution/pimping	15	9	~	~
Purchase/sale of an individual	2	22	0	8
Sexual abuse	8	16	2	6
Sexual assault of a minor	11	13	~	~
Sexual exploitation of a minor	13	11	~	~
Other charges	10	11	3	5

Note: Twenty-three offices reported handling no sex-trafficking cases, and 40 offices reported handling no labor-trafficking cases.

~Not applicable.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of State Attorneys General Offices, Human Trafficking, 2018.

**TABLE 4**  
**Number of attorneys general offices that closed criminal human-trafficking cases, by reason for closure, 2018**

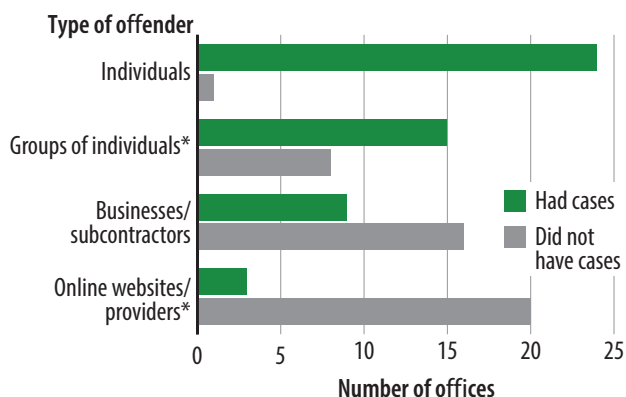
Cases closed by offices	Reason for closure		
	Defendant guilty	Defendant not guilty/acquitted	Case dismissed
<b>Labor trafficking</b>			
1 or more cases	3	0	3
No cases	33	36	33
No jurisdiction	11	11	11
Did not respond to survey	9	9	9
<b>Sex trafficking*</b>			
1 or more cases	16	3	5
No cases	20	16	31
No jurisdiction	11	11	11
Did not respond to survey	9	9	9

\*Seventeen attorneys general offices that responded to the survey did not respond to this question.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of State Attorneys General Offices, Human Trafficking, 2018.

Most attorneys general offices reported that an individual (24 offices) or a group of individuals (15 offices) was the offender in civil and criminal human-trafficking cases in 2018 (figure 2). Three offices reported that a website or internet provider was the offender. The majority of attorneys general offices said that they usually prosecuted individuals in human-trafficking cases (20 offices), followed by groups of individuals (5 offices) (not shown in figure).

**FIGURE 2**  
Number of attorneys general offices that reported type of offender in human-trafficking cases, 2018



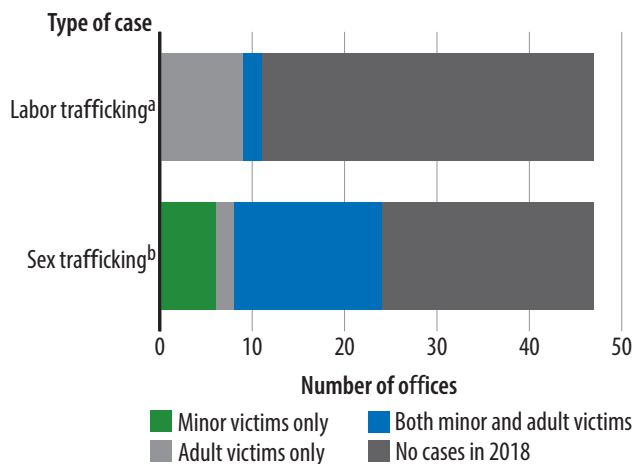
Note: Twenty-two offices reported no human-trafficking cases in 2018, and nine offices did not respond to the survey.

\*Two states did not know if the offenders were online websites or providers or were part of a group of individuals.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of State Attorneys General Offices, Human Trafficking, 2018.

More attorneys general offices reported sex-trafficking victims than labor-trafficking victims in 2018. Sixteen offices reported both minor and adult victims of sex trafficking, and two offices reported both minor and adult victims of labor trafficking (figure 3).

**FIGURE 3**  
Number of attorneys general offices that reported type of victim in human-trafficking cases, by type of case, 2018



Note: Nine offices did not respond to the survey.

<sup>a</sup>Two of the adult-victim-only cases included adult victims and unknown minor victims.

<sup>b</sup>One of the minor-victim-only cases included a minor victim and unknown adult victims.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of State Attorneys General Offices, Human Trafficking, 2018.

## Specialized support and victim services

Most attorneys general offices had victim advocates (41 offices) or victim services providers (35 offices) on staff or as consultants for support in human-trafficking cases (table 5). Most offices also had access to computer forensic experts (37 offices) and crime analysts (31 offices).

Offices with 76 to 150 assistant attorneys general typically had more access to support staff than smaller or larger offices did, though larger offices had more access to witness experts.

**TABLE 5**  
**Number of attorneys general offices that had specialized support persons on staff or as consultants, by size of office and type of support person, 2018**

Type of support person	Total	Size of office*			
		1-75	76-150	More than 150	Not reported
Victim advocate	41	10	13	14	4
Computer forensics expert	37	8	13	11	5
Victim services provider	35	8	11	13	3
Crime analyst	31	7	10	10	4
Witness expert	29	5	9	10	5
Total number of offices	47	12	14	16	5

Note: One office reported “unknown” when asked if it had a computer forensics expert on staff or as a consultant, and two offices reported “unknown” when asked if they had a crime analyst or witness expert on staff or as a consultant.

\*Based on the number of assistant attorneys general in the office.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of State Attorneys General Offices, Human Trafficking, 2018.

Of the 44 offices with criminal jurisdiction over sex-trafficking cases, 28 had access to witness experts, and 40 had access to victim advocates (table 6). Of the 17 offices with civil jurisdiction over labor-trafficking cases, 10 had access to witness experts, and 14 had access to victim advocates.

The majority of attorneys general offices also offered services to human-trafficking victims. In 2018, 40 offices made counseling available, 38 made housing available, and 36 made drug treatment available to victims (figure 4).

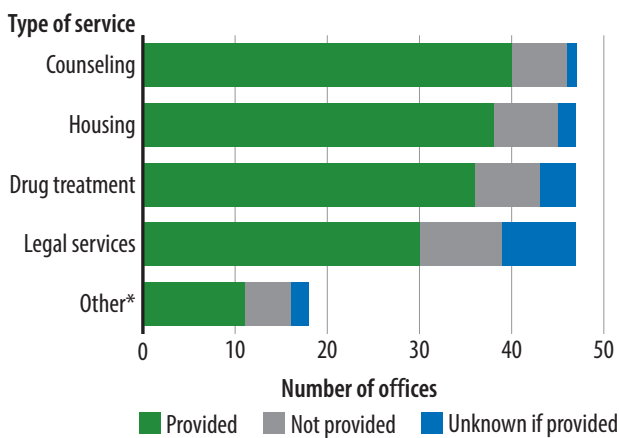
**TABLE 6**  
**Number of attorneys general offices that had specialized support persons on staff or as consultants, by type of human-trafficking jurisdiction and support person, 2018**

Type of support person	Type of jurisdiction over human-trafficking cases			
	Criminal		Civil	
	Sex trafficking	Labor trafficking	Sex trafficking	Labor trafficking
Victim advocate	40	39	13	14
Computer forensics expert	35	34	11	13
Victim services provider	33	32	11	13
Crime analyst	30	29	11	12
Witness expert	28	27	9	10
Total number of offices	44	43	13	17

Note: One office reported “unknown” when asked if it had a computer forensics expert on staff or as a consultant, and two offices reported “unknown” when asked if they had a crime analyst or witness expert on staff or as a consultant.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of State Attorneys General Offices, Human Trafficking, 2018.

**FIGURE 4**  
**Number of attorneys general offices that offered victim services, 2018**



Note: Nine offices did not respond to the survey.

\*Includes educational resources for minors, victim compensation, tattoo removal, assisting victims through the entirety of the court process, advocacy, aftercare, mental-health services, employment assistance, immigration services, and services provided by another agency.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of State Attorneys General Offices, Human Trafficking, 2018.



## Human-trafficking awareness

Twenty-nine offices reported providing training or education on human trafficking to the general public in 2018 (table 7). Offices also trained law enforcement (28 offices), businesses (26 offices), local prosecutors (26 offices), and judges (11 offices). Of the 16 offices with more than 150 assistant attorneys general, 10 trained businesses and three trained judges. Among offices with 76 to 150 assistant attorneys general, six trained businesses and five trained judges.

Twenty-six of the 44 offices with criminal jurisdiction over sex-trafficking cases trained the public and law enforcement, and 24 also trained prosecutors (table 8). Of the 13 offices with civil jurisdiction over sex-trafficking cases, 10 trained law enforcement and nine trained prosecutors and the public. Additionally, 30 offices reported that their staff received training on human trafficking in 2018 (not shown in tables).

**TABLE 7**

**Number of attorneys general offices that trained other entities in human-trafficking awareness, by size of office and type of entity trained, 2018**

Type of entity	Total	Size of office*			Not reported
		1-75	76-150	More than 150	
General public	29	9	8	9	3
Law enforcement	28	7	9	9	3
Businesses	26	7	6	10	3
Local prosecutors	26	6	8	9	3
Judges	11	2	5	3	1
Total number of offices	47	12	14	16	5

Note: Two offices reported “unknown” when asked if they trained the general public, three offices reported “unknown” when asked if they trained law enforcement and local prosecutors, and four offices reported “unknown” when asked if they trained businesses and judges.

\*Based on the number of assistant attorneys general in the office.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of State Attorneys General Offices, Human Trafficking, 2018.

**TABLE 8**

**Number of attorneys general offices that trained other entities in human-trafficking awareness, by type of human-trafficking jurisdiction and entity trained, 2018**

Type of entity	Type of jurisdiction over human-trafficking cases			
	Criminal		Civil	
	Sex trafficking	Labor trafficking	Sex trafficking	Labor trafficking
General public	26	26	9	13
Law enforcement	26	26	10	13
Businesses	23	23	7	11
Local prosecutors	24	24	9	11
Judges	10	10	4	5
Total number of offices	44	43	13	17

Note: Two offices reported “unknown” when asked if they trained the general public, three offices reported “unknown” when asked if they trained law enforcement and local prosecutors, and four offices reported “unknown” when asked if they trained businesses and judges.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of State Attorneys General Offices, Human Trafficking, 2018.

More than 80% (44 of 47) of offices participated in a federal, regional, or state task force (table 9). All offices that had 76 to 150 assistant attorneys general and all but one of the offices that had more than 150 assistant attorneys general participated in at least one human-trafficking task force.

More attorneys general offices (29) participated in the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force than any other task force, followed by other state task forces (26), other joint state/federal task forces (25), and anti-trafficking coordination teams (25).

All offices with civil jurisdiction over sex- or labor-trafficking cases and all but three with criminal jurisdiction participated in at least one task force (table 10). About 75% of offices with jurisdiction over civil sex- and labor-trafficking cases participated in other state task forces; the most common task force for offices with criminal jurisdiction was the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (28 offices with criminal sex-trafficking and 28 offices with criminal labor-trafficking jurisdiction).

**TABLE 9**

**Number of attorneys general offices that participated in human-trafficking task forces, by size of office and type of task force, 2018**

Type of task force	Total	Size of office*			
		1-75	76-150	More than 150	Not reported
Any task force	44	10	14	15	5
Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force	29	7	10	9	3
U.S. Department of Justice’s Human Trafficking Task Force	13	5	2	3	3
Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Innocence Lost Task Force	9	4	0	5	0
Other federal task force	15	3	5	7	0
Anti-trafficking coordination team	25	6	8	10	1
Other joint state/federal task force	25	4	10	10	1
Other regional task force	20	4	5	9	2
Other state task force	26	4	7	12	3
Total number of offices	47	12	14	16	5

Note: Six offices reported “unknown” when asked if they participated in the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Innocence Lost Task Force, four offices reported “unknown” when asked if they participated in other federal task forces and other regional task forces, three offices reported “unknown” when asked if they participated in the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, U.S. Department of Justice’s Human Trafficking Task Force, and other state task forces, two offices reported “unknown” when asked if they participated in other joint state/federal task forces, and one office reported “unknown” when asked if they participated in anti-trafficking coordination teams.

\*Based on the number of assistant attorneys general in the office.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of State Attorneys General Offices, Human Trafficking, 2018.

**TABLE 10**

**Number of attorneys general offices that participated in human-trafficking task forces, by type of human-trafficking jurisdiction and task force, 2018**

Type of task force	Type of jurisdiction over human-trafficking cases			
	Criminal		Civil	
	Sex trafficking	Labor trafficking	Sex trafficking	Labor trafficking
Any task force	41	40	13	17
Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force	28	28	7	9
U.S. Department of Justice’s Human Trafficking Task Force	11	11	3	4
Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Innocence Lost Task Force	9	9	2	3
Other federal task force	14	13	3	4
Anti-trafficking coordination teams	23	23	7	9
Other joint state/federal task force	23	22	7	9
Other regional task force	18	17	5	6
Other state task force	26	25	10	13
Total number of offices	44	43	13	17

Note: Six offices reported “unknown” when asked if they participated in the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Innocence Lost Task Force, four offices reported “unknown” when asked if they participated in other federal task forces and other regional task forces, three offices reported “unknown” when asked if they participated in the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, U.S. Department of Justice’s Human Trafficking Task Force, and other state task forces, two offices reported “unknown” when asked if they participated in other joint state/federal task forces, and one office reported “unknown” when asked if they participated in anti-trafficking coordination teams.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of State Attorneys General Offices, Human Trafficking, 2018.

In 2018, attorneys general offices said that having more victim services (30 offices), prosecutors (29 offices), and coordination with law enforcement (27 offices) was very important to improving human-trafficking prosecutions (table 11). Eleven offices indicated that

having more interpreters, dedicated human-trafficking investigators and analysts, coordination at the local and federal levels, training, and wraparound services for victims was very important.

**TABLE 11**  
**Number of attorneys general offices that reported type of resource needed to improve human-trafficking prosecutions, by importance of resource, 2018**

Type of resource	Very important	Moderately important	Slightly important	Not at all important	Did not respond to survey
Victim services <sup>a</sup>	30	11	3	1	9
More prosecutors <sup>a</sup>	29	8	8	0	9
Law enforcement coordination <sup>a</sup>	27	14	4	0	9
Civil enforcement coordination <sup>a</sup>	20	13	10	2	9
Other <sup>b</sup>	11	1	0	2	9

<sup>a</sup>Two attorneys general offices that responded to the survey did not respond to this question.

<sup>b</sup>Includes interpreters, cooperation with the U.S. Department of Justice, more investigators and dedicated advocates and analysts, greater jurisdiction to prosecute, more coordination at all levels, more education and advocacy, more services for victims, and training local law enforcement and prosecutors.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of State Attorney General Offices, Human Trafficking, 2018

## Methodology

The 2018 Survey of State Attorneys General Offices, Human Trafficking (SSAGO-HT) is the Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) first data collection on the roles of attorneys general in combatting human trafficking. BJS conducted the SSAGO-HT through a cooperative agreement with the Urban Institute (award number 2015-R2-CX-K027).

Attorneys general are the legal representatives of their state or territory. Their offices have varying criminal and civil authority, responsibilities, and roles. Each state and territory determines the scope of its attorney general's powers and responsibilities through constitutional law, statutes, regulations, and customs. The attorneys general of Alaska, Delaware, Rhode Island, and five U.S. territories act as the primary criminal prosecutor for all crimes occurring in their state or territory. In all other states, attorneys general have either concurrent authority with another prosecuting agency or must be invited by another prosecuting agency to join a case. Authority over civil cases varies. While offices do have some characteristics in common, comparisons between them should not be made.

### Universe identification

The initial universe included the attorneys general offices in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the five permanently inhabited U.S. territories. Connecticut, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, New York, North Dakota, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands did not respond to the survey.

## Survey response

The emailed, fillable-PDF survey began in late January 2019 and concluded in July 2019. The Urban Institute and consultant Cindy Lott called and emailed attorneys general offices that did not respond, identified a person in the office responsible for completing the survey, and encouraged response. Forty-three states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Marianas Islands responded to the survey, for a total of 47 responses and an overall response rate of 84%. Georgia's Office of the Attorney General provided a written response to the survey request but did not complete the survey. BJS did not attempt to weight the data for unit-level non-response because attorneys general offices vary widely in their jurisdictional and statutory responsibilities.

### Item non-response or imputation

Item non-response occurred when an attorney general office responded to the survey but did not answer all of the questions. Offices generally had the option of answering yes, no, unknown, or not applicable to each question. A response of "unknown" was treated as missing, while a response of "not applicable" was investigated to determine why the question did not apply to the office.

BJS determined that it could not impute item non-response for missing or unknown responses because of the non-random variations among attorneys general offices. As a result, data are presented in their original form, and notes identify when data are not reported.

## APPENDIX TABLE 1

### Jurisdiction of attorneys general offices over labor trafficking, 2018

Jurisdiction	Both civil and criminal jurisdiction	Civil jurisdiction only	Criminal jurisdiction only	No jurisdiction	Did not respond to survey
Alabama	■				
Alaska			■		
Arizona	■				
Arkansas <sup>a</sup>			■		
California			■		
Colorado			■		
Connecticut					■
Delaware	■				
District of Columbia <sup>b</sup>				■	
Florida					■
Georgia <sup>c</sup>					■
Hawaii <sup>a</sup>			■		
Idaho			■		
Illinois	■				
Indiana			■		
Iowa					■
Kansas					■
Kentucky <sup>a</sup>			■		
Louisiana	■				
Maine <sup>d</sup>		■			
Maryland <sup>e</sup>				■	
Massachusetts			■		
Michigan			■		
Minnesota			■		
Mississippi			■		
Missouri	■				
Montana			■		
Nebraska			■		
Nevada			■		
New Hampshire			■		
New Jersey	■				
New Mexico	■				
New York					■
North Carolina	■				
North Dakota					■
Ohio			■		
Oklahoma	■				
Oregon <sup>a</sup>			■		
Pennsylvania <sup>a</sup>			■		
Rhode Island			■		
South Carolina			■		
South Dakota	■				
Tennessee			■		
Texas	■				
Utah	■				
Vermont			■		
Virginia			■		
Washington	■				
West Virginia		■			
Wisconsin <sup>a</sup>			■		
Wyoming			■		

*Continued on next page*

**APPENDIX TABLE 1 (continued)****Jurisdiction of attorneys general offices over labor trafficking, 2018**

Jurisdiction	Both civil and criminal jurisdiction	Civil jurisdiction only	Criminal jurisdiction only	No jurisdiction	Did not respond to survey
American Samoa			■		
Guam			■		
Northern Mariana Islands	■				
Puerto Rico					■
U.S. Virgin Islands					■

Note: Criminal jurisdiction includes original criminal jurisdiction, concurrent criminal jurisdiction, and criminal jurisdiction by invite.

<sup>a</sup>Arkansas, Hawaii, Kentucky, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin reported unknown civil jurisdiction.

<sup>b</sup>The District of Columbia reported unknown civil jurisdiction and no criminal jurisdiction.

<sup>c</sup>See *Methodology* for information on Georgia.

<sup>d</sup>Maine reported unknown criminal jurisdiction.

<sup>e</sup>Maryland passed an anti-labor trafficking law in April 2019.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of State Attorneys General Offices, Human Trafficking, 2018.

## APPENDIX TABLE 2

### Jurisdiction of attorneys general offices over sex trafficking, 2018

Jurisdiction	Both civil and criminal jurisdiction	Civil jurisdiction only	Criminal jurisdiction only	No jurisdiction	Did not respond to survey
Alabama	■				
Alaska			■		
Arizona			■		
Arkansas			■		
California			■		
Colorado			■		
Connecticut					■
Delaware	■				
District of Columbia*				■	
Florida					■
Georgia					■
Hawaii			■		
Idaho			■		
Illinois	■				
Indiana			■		
Iowa					■
Kansas					■
Kentucky			■		
Louisiana	■				
Maine				■	
Maryland			■		
Massachusetts	■				
Michigan			■		
Minnesota			■		
Mississippi			■		
Missouri			■		
Montana			■		
Nebraska			■		
Nevada			■		
New Hampshire			■		
New Jersey	■				
New Mexico	■				
New York					■
North Carolina			■		
North Dakota					■
Ohio			■		
Oklahoma	■				
Oregon			■		
Pennsylvania			■		
Rhode Island			■		
South Carolina			■		
South Dakota			■		
Tennessee			■		
Texas	■				
Utah	■				
Vermont			■		
Virginia			■		
Washington	■				
West Virginia		■			
Wisconsin			■		

*Continued on next page*

**APPENDIX TABLE 2 (continued)**

**Jurisdiction of attorneys general offices over sex trafficking, 2018**

Jurisdiction	Both civil and criminal jurisdiction	Civil jurisdiction only	Criminal jurisdiction only	No jurisdiction	Did not respond to survey
Wyoming			■		
American Samoa			■		
Guam			■		
Northern Mariana Islands	■				
Puerto Rico					■
U.S. Virgin Islands					■

Note: Criminal jurisdiction includes original criminal jurisdiction, concurrent criminal jurisdiction, and criminal jurisdiction by invite.

\*The District of Columbia reported unknown civil jurisdiction and no criminal jurisdiction.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of State Attorneys General Offices, Human Trafficking, 2018.



### APPENDIX TABLE 3

#### Number of attorneys general offices that reported assistant attorneys general on staff, 2018

Jurisdiction	Number of assistant attorneys general				Did not answer question	Did not respond to survey
	1-75	76-150	151-300	301 or more		
Alabama					■	
Alaska		■				
Arizona				■		
Arkansas					■	
California				■		
Colorado			■			
Connecticut						■
Delaware		■				
District of Columbia	■					
Florida						■
Georgia						■
Hawaii			■			
Idaho		■				
Illinois				■		
Indiana		■				
Iowa						■
Kansas						■
Kentucky		■				
Louisiana		■				
Maine	■					
Maryland				■		
Massachusetts			■			
Michigan			■			
Minnesota		■				
Mississippi		■				
Missouri			■			
Montana					■	
Nebraska	■					
Nevada		■				
New Hampshire	■					
New Jersey		■				
New Mexico	■					
New York						■
North Carolina			■			
North Dakota						■
Ohio					■	
Oklahoma		■				
Oregon				■		
Pennsylvania			■			
Rhode Island		■				
South Carolina		■				
South Dakota	■					
Tennessee			■			
Texas					■	
Utah			■			
Vermont	■					
Virginia			■			
Washington				■		
West Virginia		■				
Wisconsin	■					
Wyoming	■					

*Continued on next page*

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**APPENDIX TABLE 3 (continued)****Number of attorneys general offices that reported assistant attorneys general on staff, 2018**

Jurisdiction	Number of assistant attorneys general				Did not answer question	Did not respond to survey
	1-75	76-150	151-300	301 or more		
American Samoa	■					
Guam	■					
Northern Mariana Islands	■					
Puerto Rico						■
U.S. Virgin Islands						■

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Survey of State Attorneys General Offices, Human Trafficking, 2018.

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The Bureau of Justice Statistics of the U.S. Department of Justice is the principal federal agency responsible for measuring crime, criminal victimization, criminal offenders, victims of crime, correlates of crime, and the operation of criminal and civil justice systems at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels. BJS collects, analyzes, and disseminates reliable statistics on crime and justice systems in the United States, supports improvements to state and local criminal justice information systems, and participates with national and international organizations to develop and recommend national standards for justice statistics. Doris J. James is the acting director.

This report was written by Suzanne M. Strong. George E. Browne verified the report.

Edrienne Su, David Fialkoff, and Brigit Baron edited the report. Carrie Epps-Carey produced the report.

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