



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

SUMMARY | NCJ 254803

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State attorneys general offices in 43 states, the District of Columbia, and three territories reported information about their human trafficking laws in 2018 to a survey conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics. 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. Maryland and Virginia were the only two states that had no labor-trafficking statutes.

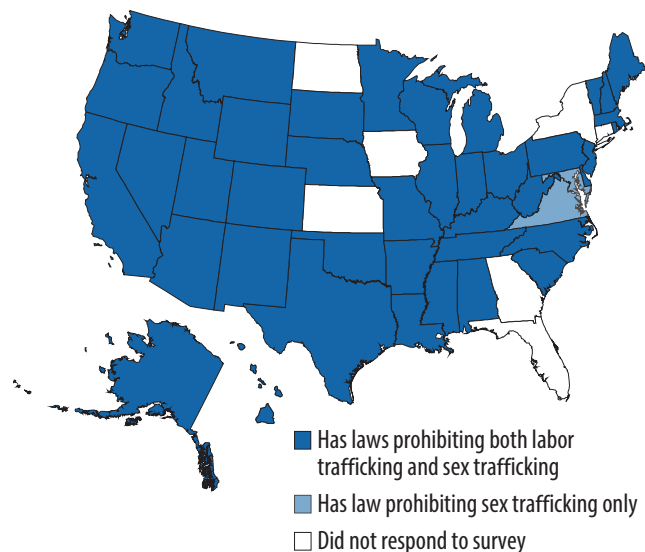
Meanwhile, 30 states, American Samoa, and Guam reported having only criminal jurisdiction, 11 states and the Northern Mariana Islands reported civil and criminal jurisdiction, 1 state reported only civil jurisdiction, and 1 state and the District of Columbia reported no jurisdiction over sex-trafficking cases. For the purposes of the survey, labor and sex trafficking were defined in a manner consistent with the federal definition of the terms, outlined in the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000.

Cases, offenders, and victims

Among responding attorneys general offices in 2018, human-trafficking cases were most commonly referred to them by state and local police departments. Offices also had varying authority over labor- and sex-trafficking cases. They more commonly prosecuted criminal than civil cases and sex-trafficking than labor-trafficking cases.

In 2018, 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. And more offices reported sex-trafficking cases involving both minor and adult victims than only minor or only adult victims.

States and territories with human-trafficking laws, 2018



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

Staff, resources, and services

Offices varied in the number of assistant attorneys general they had on staff in 2018: 26 offices reported having 150 or fewer assistant attorneys general, while 16 offices reported having more than 150. Most offices had access to computer forensic experts (37 offices) and crime analysts (31 offices). The majority of offices had victim advocates or victim services providers, with counseling (40 offices), housing (38 offices), and drug treatment (36 offices) being the most common types of services offered. Twenty-nine offices reported providing training or education on human trafficking to the general public in 2018. Offices also trained law enforcement (28 offices), businesses (26 offices), local prosecutors (26 offices), and judges (11 offices).

The full report (*Human-Trafficking Offenses Handled by State Attorneys General Offices, 2018*, NCJ 254803), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics are available on the BJS website at www.bjs.gov.