



## DATA COLLECTION PROFILE

January 2026, NCJ 310661

# Human Trafficking Data Collection Activities, 2025

The Combat Human Trafficking Act of 2015 (CHTA) (34 U.S.C. § 20709(e)) requires the director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) to prepare an annual report on human trafficking. The report must include information on the following:

- arrests by state law enforcement officers for human trafficking offenses
- prosecutions of individuals in state courts for human trafficking offenses
- convictions of individuals in state courts for human trafficking offenses
- sentences imposed on individuals convicted in state courts for human trafficking offenses.

BJS obtains information on human trafficking through several data collections, including those on victim service providers, law enforcement, prosecution and adjudication, and corrections. For each collection, these data are available for some combination of the federal, state, local, and tribal levels.

The information in each data collection contributes to a general profile of human trafficking in the United States. Some differences exist across collections due to varying definitions of human trafficking, data availability, and other factors.

At the federal level, human trafficking offenses are defined according to federal statutes that include peonage, slavery, forced labor, sex trafficking, sexual exploitation and other abuse of children, and transportation for illegal sexual activity and related crimes. The classification of human trafficking offenses varies among state and local jurisdictions.

This report describes the BJS data collections and activities across various jurisdictional levels that include various offenses that may be categorized as human trafficking, and it presents the most recent statistical findings.

## COLLECTION, ANALYSIS, AND PROGRAMMATIC ACTIVITIES DURING 2024 AND 2025

In 2024 and 2025, BJS continued to examine options to modify its existing data collections and implement new approaches to report the data required by CHTA. In addition, BJS assessed the availability of data on human trafficking among criminal justice agencies at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels.

### Victimization

BJS's current collections are unable to produce estimates for the prevalence of human trafficking in the United States. In 2023 and 2024, BJS conducted a feasibility study into various methods for estimating this type of victimization. Working with Abt Global through a cooperative agreement, BJS conducted an environmental scan and convened an expert panel to discuss various methods for a potential pilot study. In 2025, BJS published a third-party report of these efforts,

*Human Trafficking Prevalence Estimation Feasibility Study* (NCJ 309951, BJS, January 2025).<sup>1</sup>

The **National Census of Victim Service Providers (NCVSP)** enumerates all victim service providers (VSPs) in the United States. The 2023 NCVSP was the second administration of the NCVSP, which was first conducted in 2017. VSPs were asked to provide information on:

- organizational structure and operations
- types of services provided to crime victims
- staffing levels
- funding sources
- impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on organizational operations.

<sup>1</sup>See <https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/human-trafficking-prevalence-estimation-feasibility-study>.

In the 2023 collection, VSPs provided data on whether they provided services for victims of human trafficking. They also provided data on whether their services primarily targeted human trafficking.

More information about the NCVSP, including forthcoming publications and products, is available on the BJS website.<sup>2</sup> The 2023 NCVSP dataset, which includes information on services for victims of human trafficking, will be available through the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data.

## Law enforcement

The FBI is required to collect human trafficking data under the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008. As a result, the FBI established the **Human Trafficking (UCR-HT)** data collection as part of its Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program in 2013.

The UCR collects data on human trafficking based on the following definitions:

- Commercial sex acts—inducing a person by force, fraud, or coercion to participate in commercial sex acts, or in which the person induced to perform such act(s) has not attained 18 years of age.
- Involuntary servitude—obtaining of a person(s) through recruitment, harboring, transportation, or provision, and subjecting such person by force, fraud, or coercion into involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery (not to include commercial sex acts).

State UCR programs and local law enforcement agencies that participate in UCR-HT provide counts of offenses, case clearances, and arrests for human trafficking for the purpose of commercial sex acts or involuntary servitude. Law enforcement agencies document these human trafficking offenses in their record management systems.

In 2021, the FBI UCR Program transitioned from a summary-based system of offense counts to an incident-based system. Agencies report crime data, including data on human trafficking offenses, to the FBI's **National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)**. NIBRS collects more information on both types of human trafficking offenses than the summary-based system.

For each incident, NIBRS collects the demographic characteristics of the victims, the number of associated victims and offenders, the location and time of the incident, and whether a weapon was present. NIBRS also provides information on whether the incident was cleared by an arrest.

Beginning with data for 2021, national estimates of crime known to law enforcement were based on NIBRS data. To calculate national estimates, BJS and the FBI partnered with RTI International to establish a new set of statistical procedures to incorporate the NIBRS data structure and account for agencies that did not report data to the system. In October 2022, the FBI published the first set of national estimates derived from the new methodology.<sup>3</sup>

In December 2024, BJS published *Human Trafficking Incidents Reported by Law Enforcement, 2022 – Statistical Tables* (NCJ 309499, BJS, December 2024).<sup>4</sup> According to this report, in 2022, there were an estimated 2,950 incidents of human trafficking involving an estimated 3,570 victimizations. Most human trafficking incidents (81%) and victimizations (78%) were related to sex trafficking in 2022. Findings are based on national estimates of crime known to law enforcement reported to the FBI via NIBRS. Additional information on sex and labor trafficking by victim sex and age, race, number of victims per incident, number of offenders per incident, relationship of alleged offenders to victims, location of incidents, weapon use and type, and clearance type is reported.

Crime statistics published by the FBI only represent offenses known to law enforcement and therefore do not account for all human trafficking that occurs in the United States. Additional data on human trafficking is available through the FBI's Crime Data Explorer.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup>For more information, see *Estimation Procedures for Crimes in the United States Based on NIBRS Data* (NCJ 305108, BJS, August 2022) at <https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/estimation-procedures-crimes-united-states-based-nibrs-data>.

<sup>4</sup>See <https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/human-trafficking-incidents-reported-law-enforcement-2022-statistical-tables>.

<sup>5</sup>See <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov>.

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<sup>2</sup>See <https://bjs.ojp.gov/data-collection/ncvsp>.

Prosecution and adjudication

BJS has sponsored periodic data collections on criminal trial and appellate litigation in state courts since 1986. Its current collection, **Criminal Cases in State Courts (CCSC)**, is an administrative collection that gathers data on the number and attributes of cases closed in state trial courts of general jurisdiction. The CCSC is designed to examine data on the processing of felony cases in state courts and to collect case information from electronic court records. BJS will use this collection to produce national estimates of activities in state courts and to provide information on case characteristics and outcomes.

Through the CCSC, BJS requests case-level data extracts from case management systems maintained by state courts. These case-level data contain detailed information about the matter before the court, including defendant demographic information, the type of legal representation of the defendant, the court charges at the time of both case filing and disposition, adjudication status of the case, and the sentence imposed (when applicable). The detailed data can be used to answer a variety of questions about the work of state courts and the administration of justice in those institutions.

After initial data collection and processing are complete, BJS will be able to assess the extent to which the CCSC can provide information on prosecutions, convictions, and sentences imposed by state courts for human trafficking offenses.

The **Federal Justice Statistics Program (FJSP)** compiles statistical information on defendants charged with a human trafficking offense across stages of the federal criminal justice system. The FJSP collects, standardizes, and reports on administrative data received from six federal justice agencies: the U.S. Marshals Service, Drug Enforcement Administration, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, Federal Bureau of Prisons, and U.S. Sentencing Commission.<sup>6</sup>

Human trafficking offenses are defined according to the three categories of federal statutes: peonage, slavery, forced labor, and sex trafficking, 18 U.S.C. §§ 1581–1595; sexual exploitation and other abuse of children, 18 U.S.C.

<sup>6</sup>For more information on the FJSP, see *Federal Justice Statistics, 2023* (NCJ 309946, BJS, March 2025) at <https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/federal-justice-statistics-2023>.

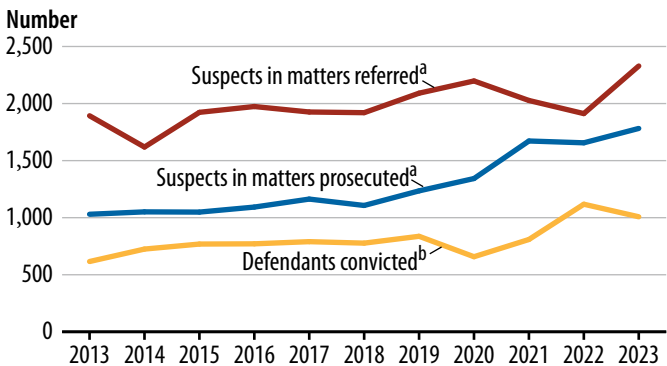
§§ 2251–2251A; and transportation for illegal sexual activity and related crimes, 18 U.S.C. §§ 2422–2423.<sup>7</sup>

Through the FJSP, the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys provides BJS with federal prosecution data, including the title and section of the U.S. criminal code (used to identify human trafficking by statute) and whether U.S. attorneys decided to prosecute the suspect. BJS also receives data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, including the number of defendants convicted and sentenced for a human trafficking offense and the length of the imposed prison term.

The number of persons investigated and prosecuted for a human trafficking offense increased from fiscal year 2013 to 2023 (**figure 1**). A total of 2,329 persons were referred to U.S. attorneys for human trafficking offenses in fiscal year 2023, a 23% increase from 1,893 in 2013. The number of persons prosecuted for human trafficking increased by 73% from 2013 to 2023 (from 1,030 to 1,782). The number of persons convicted of a human trafficking offense increased from 616 in 2013 to 1,008 in 2023.

<sup>7</sup>For more information about the classification of federal human trafficking offenses, see *Federal Prosecution of Human-Trafficking Cases, 2015* (NCJ 251390, BJS, June 2018) at <https://bjs.ojp.gov/library/publications/federal-prosecution-human-trafficking-cases-2015>.

**FIGURE 1**  
**Human trafficking suspects referred to and prosecuted by U.S. attorneys and human trafficking defendants convicted, fiscal years 2013–2023**



Note: See appendix table 1 for counts.  
<sup>a</sup>Includes suspects in matters where the lead charge was a human trafficking crime under a substantive federal statute or program category. The lead charge is the primary basis for referring the matter to a U.S. attorney and is usually, but not always, the charge with the greatest possible sentence.  
<sup>b</sup>Includes defendants in cases where the most serious charge was a human trafficking crime under a substantive federal statute. Includes felony defendants, Class A misdemeanants in cases handled by U.S. district judges or U.S. magistrates, and other misdemeanants in cases handled by U.S. district judges. The most serious offense is the one with the greatest statutory-maximum sentence at case termination, as determined by court personnel. Defendants in more than one case are counted separately.  
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, CaseView database; and Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Criminal Master File, fiscal years 2013–2023.

Of the 1,160 defendants charged with any of the three types of human trafficking offenses in U.S. district court in fiscal year 2023:

- 92% were male
- 63% were white
- 17% were black
- 16% were Hispanic
- 96% were U.S. citizens (table 1).

Of the 183 defendants charged with peonage, slavery, forced labor, and sex trafficking, 74% were male and 54% were black. In comparison, of the 559 defendants charged with sexual exploitation and other abuse of children, 94% were male and 71% were white.

## Corrections

The **National Corrections Reporting Program (NCRP)** collects person-level administrative data annually on state prisons from participating jurisdictions, including information about custody status, admissions, releases, and parole entries and discharges. For this program, BJS has implemented a standardized offense code for human trafficking. This code includes state offenses for sex trafficking or transport, child prostitution, forced labor trafficking, human trafficking, and similar crimes.

**TABLE 1**  
**Characteristics of human trafficking defendants in cases charged in U.S. district court, fiscal year 2023**

Defendant characteristic	Total		Peonage, slavery, forced labor, and sex trafficking		Sexual exploitation and other abuse of children		Transportation for illegal sex activity	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Total</b>	1,160	100%	183	100%	559	100%	418	100%
<b>Sex</b>								
Male	1,063	91.9%	135	74.2%	526	94.1%	402	96.6%
Female	94	8.1	47	25.8	33	5.9	14	3.4
<b>Race/Hispanic origin*</b>								
White	673	62.7%	45	26.8%	367	70.6%	261	67.8%
Black	182	17.0	90	53.6	62	11.9	30	7.8
Hispanic	176	16.4	29	17.3	72	13.8	75	19.5
American Indian or Alaska Native	19	1.8	1	0.6	7	1.3	11	2.9
Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Other Pacific Islander	23	2.1	3	1.8	12	2.3	8	2.1
<b>Age</b>								
18–24	159	13.7%	32	17.5%	75	13.4%	52	12.5%
25–34	409	35.3	63	34.4	190	34.1	156	37.4
35–49	421	36.4	60	32.8	214	38.4	147	35.3
50–64	139	12.0	22	12.0	67	12.0	50	12.0
65 or older	30	2.6	6	3.3	12	2.2	12	2.9
Median age	35 years		33 years		35 years		35 years	
<b>Citizenship</b>								
U.S. citizen	1,101	96.1%	170	94.4%	538	97.3%	393	95.2%
Documented non-U.S. citizen	19	1.7	4	2.2	5	0.9	10	2.4
Undocumented non-U.S. citizen	26	2.3	6	3.3	10	1.8	10	2.4

Note: The unit of count was a defendant interviewed, investigated, or supervised by federal pretrial services. Data were missing for the following: sex (3), race or Hispanic origin (87), age (2), and citizenship (14).

\*Excludes persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, unless specified.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Probation and Pretrial Services Automated Case Tracking System, fiscal year 2023.

The most recent NCRP data available are for the year 2023. For the 48 states that reported information to NCRP for that year:

- 37 reported at least one person with a human trafficking offense was admitted to, held in, or released from custody or post-custody community supervision
- 916 state prison admissions were for a human trafficking offense
- 676 persons were released from state prison after serving a sentence for a human trafficking offense
- 2,220 persons were in the custody of a state prison serving a sentence for a human trafficking offense at yearend

- 157 persons who had been imprisoned for a human trafficking offense began a term of post-custody community supervision
- 124 persons who had been imprisoned for a human trafficking offense exited their term of post-custody community supervision (not shown in tables).

Most states that reported data to the NCRP included information on admissions. Of these states, between 27 and 33 states reported at least one prison admission related to a human trafficking offense each year from 2019 to 2023 (table 2). For states reporting admissions to the NCRP, the percentage of admissions related to human trafficking increased each year during this period.

**TABLE 2**  
**Number of states that reported admissions to the National Corrections Reporting Program and admissions to state prison for human trafficking, 2019–2023**

Year	Number of states that reported admissions to the NCRP	Number of states that reported at least one human trafficking admission to the NCRP	Total admissions	Admissions for human trafficking	
				Number	Percent
2019	46	28	512,204	631	0.12%
2020	46	30	304,326	400	0.13
2021	46	27	369,327	562	0.15
2022	46	28	404,939	823	0.20
2023	46	33	410,482	916	0.22

Note: Includes data for all states that reported admissions to the National Corrections Reporting Program (NCRP) from 2019 to 2023. See <https://bjs.ojp.gov/data-collection/national-corrections-reporting-program-ncrp>. The states that did not report are Arizona, Connecticut, Michigan (2019–2023), New Jersey (2019–2022), and Virginia (2023).

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Corrections Reporting Program, 2019–2023.

**REPORTS RELEASED IN 2025**

- *Human Trafficking Prevalence Estimation Feasibility Study*, NCJ 309951, BJS, January 2025

**SELECTED PREVIOUSLY RELEASED BJS REPORTS ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

- *Human Trafficking Incidents Reported by Law Enforcement, 2022 – Statistical Tables*, NCJ 309499, BJS, December 2024
- *Human-Trafficking Offenses Handled by State Attorneys General Offices, 2018*, NCJ 254803, BJS, March 2021
- *Federal Prosecution of Human-Trafficking Cases, 2015*, NCJ 251390, BJS, June 2018
- *Federal Prosecution of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Cases, 2004–2013*, NCJ 250746, BJS, October 2017

**APPENDIX TABLE 1**

**Counts for figure 1: Human trafficking suspects referred to and prosecuted by U.S. attorneys and human trafficking defendants convicted, fiscal years 2013–2023**

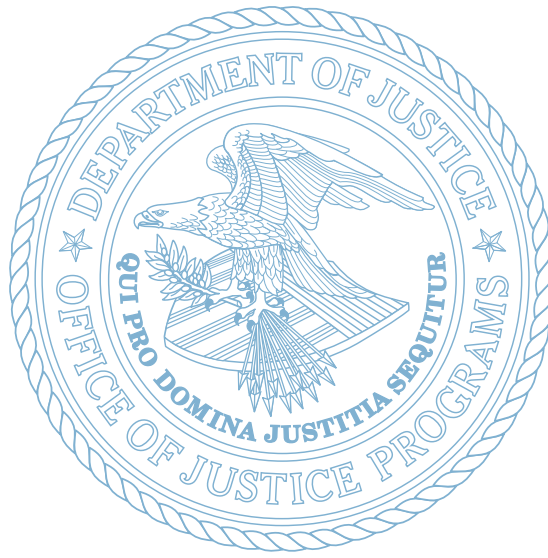
Fiscal year	Suspects in matters referred <sup>a</sup>	Suspects in matters prosecuted <sup>a</sup>	Defendants convicted <sup>b</sup>
2013	1,893	1,030	616
2014	1,619	1,051	725
2015	1,923	1,049	769
2016	1,974	1,093	771
2017	1,926	1,163	790
2018	1,920	1,107	777
2019	2,091	1,235	837
2020	2,198	1,343	658
2021	2,027	1,672	809
2022	1,912	1,656	1,118
2023	2,329	1,782	1,008
<b>Percent change</b>			
2022–2023	21.8%	7.6%	-9.8%
2013–2023	23.0	73.0	63.6

<sup>a</sup>Includes suspects in matters whose lead charge was a human trafficking crime under a substantive federal statute or program category. The lead charge is the primary basis for referring the matter to a U.S. attorney and is usually, but not always, the charge with the greatest possible sentence.

<sup>b</sup>Includes defendants in cases where the most serious charge was a human trafficking crime under a substantive federal statute. Includes felony defendants, Class A misdemeanants in cases handled by U.S. district judges or U.S. magistrates, and other misdemeanants in cases handled by U.S. district judges. The most serious offense is the one with the greatest statutory-maximum sentence at case termination, as determined by court personnel. Defendants in more than one case are counted separately.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, CaseView database; and Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Criminal Master File, fiscal years 2013–2023.





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. Kevin M. Scott, PhD, is the acting director.

This report was written by Amy D. Lauger, Mark Motivans, PhD; Danielle Kaeble; Andrea Gardner; Rebecca Bielamowicz, PhD; and Derek Mueller, PhD, *Former BJS Statistician*, contributed to this report. Stephanie Mueller verified the report.

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January 2026, NCJ 310661



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