

In fiscal year 2015, 1,923 suspects were referred to U.S. attorneys with human trafficking as the lead charge—39% for peonage, slavery, forced labor or sex trafficking; 32% for production of child pornography; and 29% for transportation for illegal sex activity. This was a 41% increase from the 1,360 suspects referred to U.S. attorneys in 2011.

Federal human-trafficking laws prohibit the coercion of persons to perform labor, services, or commercial sex acts. The full report presents statistics on peonage and slavery statutes in the U.S. criminal code including human-trafficking offenses covered by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015.

Human-trafficking referrals

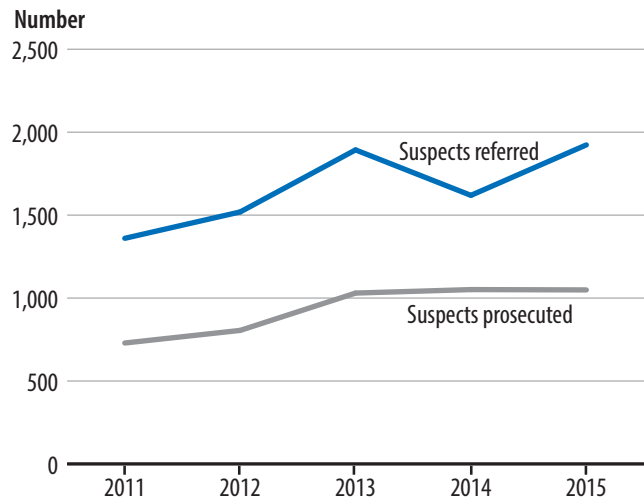
From 2011 to 2015, referrals of suspects to U.S. attorneys for sex trafficking increased 82% and referrals for the production of child pornography increased 44%. Referrals for forced labor decreased 6%. In 2015, the FBI (52%) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (19%) referred the most human-trafficking suspects to U.S. attorneys. Nearly 6 in 10 (59%) human-trafficking suspects referred to U.S. attorneys in 2015 were prosecuted in U.S. district courts.

Prosecuting human-trafficking crimes

Overall, more than 9 in 10 (93%) human-trafficking defendants were convicted in 2015. Ninety-six percent of defendants charged with production of child pornography were convicted, followed by 92% of those charged with transportation for illegal sex activity and 89% of those charged with peonage, slavery, forced labor, or sex trafficking.

The number of human-trafficking defendants sentenced annually to prison increased from 132 in 2000 to 759 in 2015. The median prison sentence for defendants convicted of human trafficking in 2015 was 180 months. That was up from a median

Suspects in matters referred to and prosecuted by U.S. attorneys for human trafficking, 2011–2015



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, based on data from the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, National Legal Information Office Network System database, fiscal years 2011–2015.

prison sentence of 30 months in 2000. In 2015, human-trafficking defendants convicted for production of child pornography offenses (240 months) had the longest median prison term, followed by defendants convicted of sex trafficking of children (159 months) and transportation for illegal sex activity (120 months).

Characteristics of human-trafficking suspects

Most defendants charged with a federal human-trafficking offense in 2015 were male (88%). In addition, the most common race was white (57%), and 94% were U.S. citizens. Other findings include—

- Twenty-four percent of defendants were black and 17% were Hispanic.
- Thirty-seven percent of defendants were ages 25 to 34.
- Eighteen percent of defendants were age 24 or younger.

The full report (*Federal Prosecution of Human-Trafficking Cases, 2015*, NCJ 251390), related documents, and additional information about the Bureau of Justice Statistics can be found at www.bjs.gov.