

BJS: Bureau of Justice Statistics

Human Trafficking/Trafficking in Persons

About this Topic

According to The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) and its 2003, 2005, and 2008, human trafficking has occurred if a person was induced to perform labor or a commercial sex act through force, fraud, or coercion. Any person under age 18 who performs a commercial sex act is considered a victim of human trafficking, regardless of whether force, fraud, or coercion were present.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) funded the creation of the Human Trafficking Reporting System (HTRS). This system provides data on human trafficking incidents investigated between January 1, 2007, and September 30, 2008.

An incident is defined as any investigation into a claim of human trafficking or any investigation of other crimes in which elements of potential human trafficking were identified.

Summary Findings

Between January 1, 2007, and September 30, 2008 task forces reported investigating 1,229 alleged incidents of human trafficking.

- About 78% of these incidents were still under investigation at the end of the reporting period. Investigations were completed and closed during the 21-month reporting period for the remaining 22%.
- Less than 10% of alleged human trafficking incidents reported by task forces were confirmed as human trafficking, 10% were pending confirmation, and 23% had been determined not to involve any human trafficking elements.
- Sex trafficking accounted for 83% of the alleged incidents, 12% involved allegations of either labor trafficking, and 5% were other/unknown forms of human trafficking.

Of the 1,018 alleged sex trafficking incidents reported by task forces --

- 391 (38%) involved allegations of child sex trafficking and 627 (62%) incidents involved allegations of adult sex trafficking, such as forced prostitution or other sex trafficking crimes.
- Forced prostitution (46%) and child sex trafficking (30%) represented the largest categories of confirmed human trafficking incidents.
- Allegations of forced or coerced adult prostitution accounted for 63% of human trafficking investigations that were ultimately found not to involve human trafficking elements.

Data Collections & Surveys

- [Human Trafficking Reporting System \(HTRS\)](#)

Publications & Products

[Publications](#) [Data Tables](#) [Press Releases](#)

[Characteristics of Suspected Human Trafficking Incidents, 2007-08](#) Presents preliminary findings from the Human Trafficking Reporting System (HTRS) on alleged incidents of human trafficking reported by 38 federally funded task forces.

[Press Release](#) | [PDF](#) (189K) | [ASCII file](#) (34K) | [Spreadsheet](#) (Zip format 14K)

[Federal Prosecution of Human Trafficking, 2001-2005](#) Presents Federal criminal case processing statistics on peonage and slavery statutes in the U.S. criminal code with a focus on human trafficking offenses created by Congress in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

[PDF](#) (732K) | [ASCII file](#) (8K) | [Spreadsheet](#) (Zip format 3K) | [Codebooks and Datasets](#)

Related Links

- [Child Trafficking Digital Library](#)