



Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force

Governor's Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force Report





Task Force Agencies

Ohio Department of Agriculture

Ohio Department of Commerce

Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities

Ohio Department of Education

Ohio Department of Health

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
(including the Ohio Children's Trust Fund)

Ohio Department of Medicaid

Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

Ohio Department of Public Safety

Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

Ohio Department of Transportation

Ohio Department of Youth Services

Ohio State Cosmetology and Barber Board

Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission

State Medical Board of Ohio

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Letter from the Anti-Trafficking Coordinator

Dear Reader:

Through Governor Mike DeWine's Executive Order 2021-02D signed on Jan. 29, 2021, the Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force was expanded to enhance Ohio's work responding to and preventing human trafficking. The inclusion of five new state agencies expanded the Task Force's scope and its ability to pursue innovative, strategic, and comprehensive strategies to combat human trafficking.

In 2021 and 2022, the Task Force addressed longstanding barriers to combating human trafficking, such as: improving the children services process for identifying child victims of trafficking, increasing access to diversion programs for trafficked minors within the juvenile justice system, and building pathways to employment for survivors.

This administration has leaned into the great task of building a sustainable policy framework that comprehensively responds to human trafficking today and one that will last into the future.

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State agencies have leveraged their roles in strategic ways to both remove barriers and build solutions to the gaps that exist in our systems. The contributions of state agencies have furthered the work of justice in ways that are meaningfully and tangibly felt by communities.

While we celebrate the progress, we also acknowledge the need. There is more work to be done to identify and prosecute labor trafficking, to support innovative housing solutions for survivors, and to ensure that individuals who experience exploitation can access critical treatment and services.

The following report highlights the Task Force's major accomplishments from 2021 and 2022 and includes an overview of our 2023-2024 Task Force priorities.

Thank you to our state, federal, and local partners for your leadership and partnership in this work. Together, we will continue to make strong and lasting progress in the fight against human trafficking.

Sincerely,



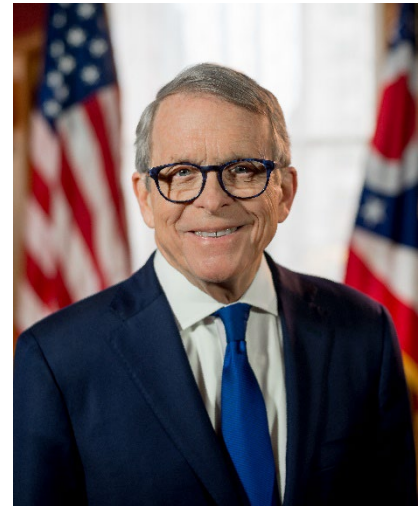
Maria Busch
Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, State of Ohio

Building a Comprehensive State Response

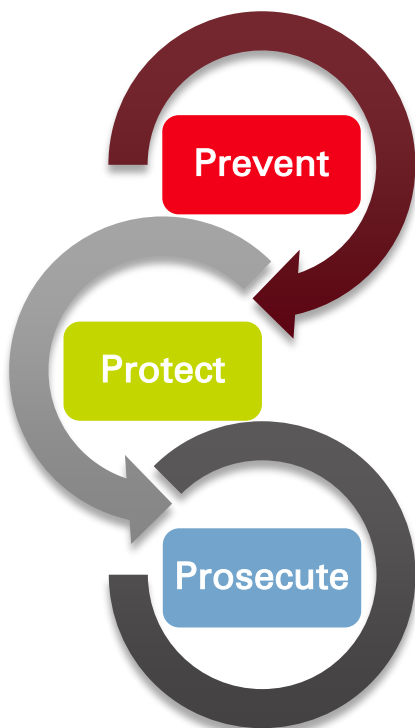
Under Governor Mike DeWine’s leadership, the Governor’s Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force has continued to marshal the resources of state agencies to help identify victims of human trafficking, support the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking, connect survivors to treatment and supportive services, and prevent human trafficking before it starts.

In 2021, Governor DeWine signed Executive Order 2021-02D to expand the Governor’s Task Force to include five new agencies to enlist additional resources toward the state’s coordinated response to human trafficking. Following the signing of the executive order, the Task Force, now inclusive of 15 agencies, developed 2021-2022 priorities based on identified gaps in the state’s anti-trafficking response.

In the last two years, the Governor’s cabinet agencies developed and implemented a wide range of policy goals and initiatives aimed at addressing the identified priorities, inclusive of *preventing* trafficking, *protecting* survivors, and *prosecuting* offenders in partnership with local and federal partners. [See Appendix A for the Priorities Scorecard](#), summarizing the priorities and progress.



Governor Mike DeWine signed Executive Order 2021-02D on January 29, 2021, to expand the Governor’s Human Trafficking Task Force.



Ohio’s 3P Framework

The following pages outline Ohio’s anti-trafficking policy initiatives implemented in 2021 and 2022. These initiatives are organized within the “3P” framework (Prevent, Protect, Prosecute) for responding to trafficking. In reality, many of the initiatives are cross-cutting supports necessary to a successful, comprehensive, and sustainable response.

Key Policies and Laws

By making human trafficking a policy priority, the Governor's Task Force is uniquely positioned to leverage state agencies to implement a wide range of policies aimed at identifying and assisting survivors. Below is a summary of policies enacted since 2019.



PREVENTION

Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) added human trafficking awareness information to permits issued by ODOT to every driver who drives through the state with an oversize/overweight load (2019).

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) added human trafficking indicators to the Children Services Safety Assessment and to the Safety Factor Field Guide for Public Children Services Agencies (2021).

Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services added human trafficking training to the Peer Supporter Certification online eBased Academy Courses (2021).

Ohio Department of Commerce trained its Wage and Hour investigators on identifying and investigating labor trafficking (2021).

Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission (OTIC) has made human trafficking educational materials and videos available at each of the 14 service plazas (2021).

ODJFS updated its human trafficking training requirements to ensure that new caseworkers complete training that is approved by the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program per Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 5101:2-33-55 (2022).

ODOT added human trafficking awareness information to oversize/overweight permits, and the OTIC made human trafficking educational materials and videos available at its service plazas.





PROTECTION

Ohio Department of Youth Services added human trafficking screening at several new points, including 30 days post-intake, seven days pre-release, and 30 days post-release (2019).

Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction's Adult Parole Authority (APA) assigned regional human trafficking liaisons for all APA regions (2021).

Ohio Department of Medicaid created a state-funded medical assistance category for victims of human trafficking who are not U.S. citizens under rule 5160:1-5-08 (2019) and disseminated a Frequently Asked Questions document for Medicaid enrollers on how to enroll non-citizen victims of human trafficking into this program (2021).

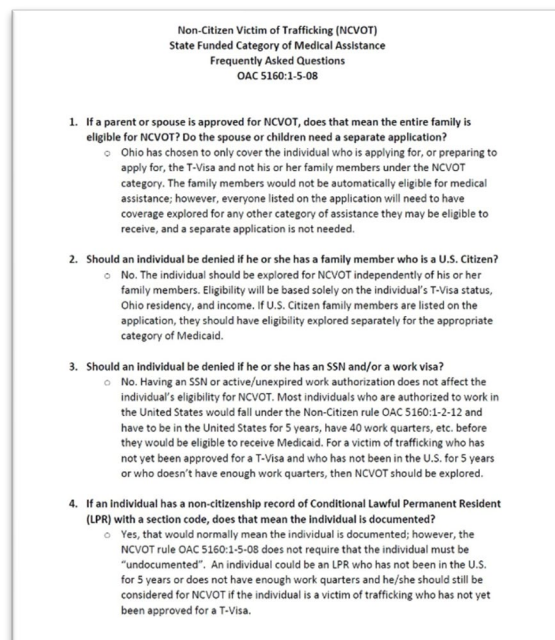
Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) added human trafficking services as a project category to its Violence Against Women Act Request for Proposals (2021 & 2022).

Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) implemented additional points of human trafficking screening, including a pre-release screen (2021 & 2022).

Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) created a process for ensuring all expunged records of human trafficking survivors do not appear in BMV records (2022).

ODRC added human trafficking victim and offender flags to the Department Offender Tracking System¹ (2022).

ODOT created the Empowerment Through Employment program to provide survivors with meaningful employment opportunities at ODOT while reducing employment barriers (2022).



Ohio Department of Medicaid created a Frequently Asked Questions document for how to enroll non-citizen victims of human trafficking.

¹ The Department Offender Tracking System (DOTS) enables follow-up and service continuity for incarcerated identified as potential victims of human trafficking. [See page 11 for more information.](#)



PROSECUTION

ODRC's Chief Inspector's Office Intelligence Services Unit analysts received training on human trafficking; this training is being used to assist in identifying perpetrators of human trafficking within state prisons (2021).

ODPS trained the Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center (ONIC) analysts on human trafficking; this training is being used to assist in identifying potential victims of human trafficking in narcotics-related casework and in developing ONIC procedures for triaging potential cases (2022). The ONIC established a policy for triaging cases involving suspected child sexual abuse material in 2020.

SB 288 increased the penalty for purchasing sex from someone with a developmental disability from a misdemeanor to a felony offense (2022).



ONIC analysts are trained on human trafficking. The ONIC assists law enforcement agencies and drug task forces by providing investigation and case support. Additionally, ONIC and ODPS staff lead information-sharing networks that bridge traditional law enforcement and criminal justice with stakeholders across industries that have interest in Ohio's drug threat landscape.

Preventing Human Trafficking of Children and Youth

Educating School Staff

Per Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 3319.073 (B), "Each (school) board shall incorporate training in school safety and violence prevention, including human trafficking content...For this purpose, the board shall adopt or adapt the curriculum developed by the department or shall develop its own curriculum in consultation with public or private agencies or persons involved in school safety and violence prevention programs."

In 2013, the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), in partnership with the Governor's Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force, created written training content for educators and made it freely available on the ODE website to help school districts meet the ORC requirements for training. The online guidance is updated annually.



ODE and the Governor's Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force created a free online training for educators to help school districts meet the ORC requirements.

In 2022, in order to create an updated and easily accessible training resource, the Human Trafficking Task Force partnered with service providers, educators, advocates, law enforcement, and survivors of human trafficking to develop a training video that districts can utilize to meet the training requirement.

The training video is currently available on the Governor's Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force website and the Ohio Department of Education's website². In 2023, the Ohio Department of Public Safety will work with stakeholders to make the video easily accessible to districts in Ohio through their online learning management systems.

Prevention Activities with At-Risk Youth & Connection to Direct Services

In November 2021, the Ohio Children's Trust Fund awarded \$1.3 million in grants to 11 organizations to develop and implement human trafficking prevention programs across Ohio, as well as to provide direct services to minor and youth victims of human trafficking. The multi-tiered grant program includes:

² The video can be accessed at www.humantrafficking.ohio.gov in the "Resources" section, under "Awareness Resources."

1. Human trafficking victim support services for minors

From December 2021 through June 2022, the grantees served 839 children identified as victims of human trafficking or at risk of trafficking. Services include comprehensive case management, medical and behavioral health services (including trauma therapy, substance use treatment, equine therapy, and relapse prevention services), specialized education, and credit recovery. Grantees have reported notable progress in the healing and recovery of the children they serve.

“...youth we are currently serving have had an increase in stabilization, reduction in substance use, improvement in school attendance and academic performance, and several have been linked with mentoring or another natural support.” - Gracehaven

2. Training and professional development for those implementing human trafficking victim support services

Most of the grantees offered human trafficking training to child-serving professionals that focused on the fundamentals of sex and labor trafficking, and participants were asked to complete a pre/post assessment.

Some key takeaways include:

95%

of participants indicated they were “knowledgeable,” “very knowledgeable,” or had “expert knowledge” on how to identify youth at risk for trafficking, compared to 70 percent who had little to no knowledge in the pre-test.

97%

of participants indicated they were “knowledgeable,” “very knowledgeable,” or had “expert knowledge” about the factors that put youth at risk for sex trafficking, compared to 56 percent who had little to no knowledge in the pre-test.

94%

of participants indicated they were “knowledgeable,” “very knowledgeable,” or had “expert knowledge” about where to connect sex trafficked youth to services they might need, compared to 75 percent who had little to no knowledge in the pre-test.

3. Human trafficking prevention initiatives for minors

In February 2022, the Ohio Children’s Trust Fund and its partners offered a virtual training for the five organizations that received funding to implement the Youth Human Trafficking Prevention Curriculum in SFY 2022-2023.

Addressing Mental Health of At-Risk and Trafficked Youth

In November 2021, the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services awarded \$3 million in grants to address the coronavirus pandemic’s profound impact on the mental and emotional well-being of children and youth by increasing recovery supports for youth survivors of human trafficking and those at risk.

Grantees provided direct services to youth, trained child-serving professionals, and engaged in capacity-building activities.

Grantees included:

- Cleveland Rape Crisis Center (\$1,314,946)
- Collaborative to End Human Trafficking (\$807,284)
- Health Recovery Services (\$523,450)
- Ohio Family Counseling (\$354,320)

GRANTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Number of Outreach Events/Activities	483
Number of Community Partnership Meetings to Enhance Collaboration	10
Number of Internal Trainings Related to the Grant	42
Number of Community Trainings	102
Number of Youth Served	218
Of the Youth Served, How Many Have Been Victims/ Survivors of Human Trafficking	17
Of the Youth Served, How Many Were at Risk of Human Trafficking	87

Leveraging Corrections to Identify and Serve Survivors

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) has enlisted its divisions to implement a comprehensive response to trafficking—inclusive of identifying potential victims, connecting victims to services during and post-incarceration, and gathering intelligence in furtherance of investigations.

Increased points of screening

In 2013, ODRC began utilizing a human trafficking screening tool at reception to connect victims with trauma therapy in their institution. In 2021 and 2022, ODRC added new points at which incarcerated individuals are screened in addition to reception. This is consistent with screening recommendations to screen when individuals are more stable and comfortable with staff³. Today, in addition to reception, incarcerated individuals are screened:

- during a biopsychosocial assessment, which is completed during a mental health evaluation;
- if there is a Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) referral; and,
- 90 days prior to release.

From 2020 to 2021, the number of positive screens nearly doubled after adding the additional points of screening.

<i>Calendar Year</i>	2020	2021	2022	Total
<i>Total Screens</i>	15,256	16,244	19,394	50,894
<i>Total Potential Victims Identified</i>	262	521	513	1,296

Pre-Release Screen

Near the end of 2022, ODRC added a four-question human trafficking assessment that is administered to all incarcerated individuals 90 days prior to release. This screen gauges vulnerability to being trafficked post-release. This screening was added as an additional checkpoint because:

1. Individuals’ circumstances may have changed during incarceration (e.g. loss of support system, change of living situation, they may have accrued debt during incarceration, they may have made connections with traffickers during incarceration).
2. Multiple touchpoints ensure ODRC is doing its due diligence in identifying those at-risk and minimizing the likelihood of vulnerable individuals falling through the cracks.

³ Williamson, Celia, et al. 2017. Assessment of Human Trafficking Screening Tool: Final Report.

3. Unit staff conduct this assessment, and unit staff typically have greater familiarity with incarcerated individuals than other ODRC staff who conduct assessments.

If an individual answers "yes" to any of the four questions, the unit staff completes a "Referral to Holistic Services" form, and for those identified as at-risk, unit staff, mental health staff, the Adult Parole Authority regional human trafficking liaison, and reentry coordinator conduct a reentry meeting to properly address reentry needs such as housing, employment, and treatment.

Department Offender Tracking System

In order to ensure that ongoing follow-up is offered to potential victims who are identified through the screening tool, ODRC added a human trafficking survivor flag in the Department Offender Tracking System (DOTS). This flag is accessible by mental health staff, parole, and reentry coordinators to ensure that potential victims receive mental health services in their institution and are connected to appropriate resources post-release to help prevent re-exploitation.

Adult Parole Authority

In 2021, the Adult Parole Authority (APA) assigned regional Human Trafficking Liaisons for all six of its parole regions in Ohio. The liaisons attend their respective human trafficking coalition meetings, connect with human trafficking law enforcement task forces, and become familiar with the trafficking-specific resources in their areas. This is to allow for efficient connection to supportive services for parolees who may be trafficked or at-risk of being trafficked and timely law enforcement intervention if a parolee is engaging in human trafficking. There are currently 19 APA human trafficking liaisons covering the six regions.

Juvenile Justice Interventions for Child Trafficking Victims

Ohio Department of Youth Services Screening Policy

In 2022, the Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS) focused on continued use of the Ohio Department of Youth Services Human Trafficking Screening Tool and ongoing implementation of policy to increase points of screening and establish a post-screening response protocol. As in 2020, if a youth is identified as trafficked, the youth is added to the behavioral health caseload and connected to a community-based, trafficking-specific organization for comprehensive case management, individualized psychoeducation, and support. Below are the screening and identification data from 2021 and 2022.

<i>Calendar Year</i>	2021	2022	Total
<i>Total Screens</i>	321	581	902
<i>Total Potential Victims Identified</i>	9	10	19

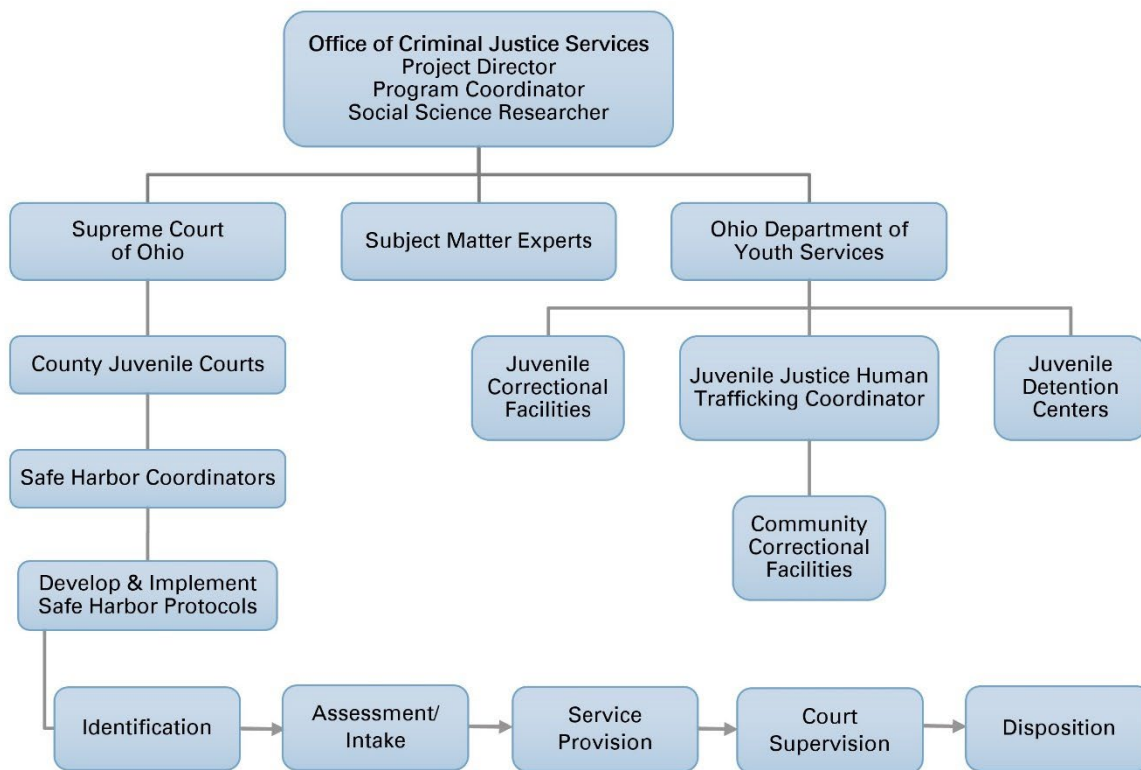
In addition to strengthening identification and response procedures, ODYS updated human trafficking training requirements for internal staff, equipping them to better recognize and support youth who have experienced trafficking. Beginning in fiscal year 2023, all ODYS employees are now required to complete a 1.5-hour virtual training that focuses on establishing a thorough understanding of human trafficking, realistic indicators of trafficking in Ohio, and the ODYS policy and response protocol.

Improving Outcomes for Child and Youth Victims of Trafficking

In 2020, the Ohio Department of Public Safety’s (ODPS) Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) was awarded \$987,926 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime through the *Improving Outcomes for Child and Youth Victims of Human Trafficking* grant program. Ohio used the funds to build capacity of the juvenile justice system to identify and respond to human trafficking through the following three program objectives:

1. Build capacity of juvenile justice agencies to identify victims of human trafficking;
2. Train communities to respond to human trafficking of minors, and;
3. Facilitate county-based coordination of victim services.

In this ongoing three-year program, ODPS partners with the Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS) and the Supreme Court of Ohio as sub-grantees. The Supreme Court of Ohio then funds Safe Harbor Coordinator positions at two juvenile courts (detailed below), and funds are used at ODYS to employ a Human Trafficking Liaison, who is tasked with overseeing all trafficking-related protocols and activities at ODYS. Additionally, funds are used to engage subject matter experts in this project, including an attorney from Advocating Opportunity (a non-profit organization that specializes in legal representation and advocacy for trafficking survivors) and a consultant with lived experience of human trafficking. This paid survivor consultant lends her expertise to every aspect of the project, from program and materials development to training creation and facilitation.



Partnership with County Juvenile Courts

Ohio law offers legal protections for juvenile justice-involved minor victims of trafficking, including the provision of diversion programming when charged with an offense related to their victimization. To increase the use of these critical safe harbor legal protections, in the fall of 2021, the Supreme Court of Ohio awarded competitive grants to Hamilton County Juvenile Court and Delaware County Juvenile Court.

By the beginning of 2022, both courts hired a Safe Harbor Coordinator, who is responsible for expanding the county juvenile justice response to youth who have experienced trafficking. Each coordinator is charged with developing diversionary safe harbor programs, in which justice-involved youth survivors of trafficking are connected to rehabilitative, supportive services in the community rather than directed to a purely punitive response. To improve identification of trafficked youth, the coordinators are responsible for developing multidisciplinary county-specific plans for screening, assessment, and resource connection.

In both Hamilton and Delaware counties, efforts of the Safe Harbor Coordinator have resulted in increased identification of trafficking victims, who are then referred to pertinent services. In 2022, Hamilton County Juvenile Court identified **69 youth** who were either experiencing trafficking or considered at high risk for victimization; during that same time frame, Delaware County Juvenile Court identified **24 youth** who were either experiencing trafficking or considered at high risk for victimization.

Training Program

As a critical part of this program, the grant team developed and provides an eight-hour training for child-serving professionals called "Identifying and Responding to Juvenile Victims of Human Trafficking." Delivered by the ODYS Human Trafficking Liaison, a legal subject matter expert from Advocating Opportunity, and a consultant with lived experience of trafficking, the training focuses on the legal landscape of human trafficking, localized data on the impact of trafficking in Ohio, the dynamics of exploitative relationships, building empathy for survivors, vulnerability factors for exploitation, developing a multidisciplinary response to trafficking, and applying safe harbor law to juvenile justice-involved survivors of trafficking. This training is being offered both virtually and in-person, and thus far, the team has trained 605 professionals over the course of 14 trainings.

To supplement the introductory "Identifying and Responding to Juvenile Victims of Human Trafficking," over the course of 2022, the training team and grant coordinator developed a more advanced training for professionals titled "Serving Youth Survivors of Trafficking." This interactive training offers technical and practical support to practitioners who work with youth who have been trafficked, covering a variety of topics including how to develop treatment and service plans, how to build rapport and engage youth survivors, and how to implement a variety of service models. The training team will begin facilitating this content in the spring of 2023.

Human Trafficking Screening Tool

In 2022, ODPS developed a web-based training on how to utilize and implement the ODYS Human Trafficking Screening Tool. This interactive course, housed on the ODPS Training Campus, is freely available to the public. Upon completion of the training, participants receive a copy of the screening tool, which they can begin using immediately.



Emily Dunlap, Senior Staff Attorney with Advocating Opportunity, trains child-serving professionals.



Enhancing Children Services Anti-Trafficking Response Efforts

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

To build county children services' capacity to identify and respond to human trafficking, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) made revisions and updates in 2021 and 2022 related to training children services workers on human trafficking, screening for trafficking concerns, and assessing families for situations of trafficking.

Training

While training on human trafficking has been a longstanding requirement for ODJFS caseworkers, updates to the Ohio Administrative Code now require that caseworkers complete human trafficking training that is approved by the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program, the statewide learning management system. This ensures caseworkers throughout the state are receiving effective, high-quality education on human trafficking.

In November of 2021, the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program leadership also facilitated a meeting with its contracted trainers to discuss the importance of trauma-informed language and imagery in presentations, updates regarding human trafficking data, the ethical sharing of survivor stories and case studies, and presenting on trafficking through a lens of survivor empowerment.

Screening

When a concern of child maltreatment is reported to a county-administered public children services agency (PCSA), the PCSA must screen the concern to determine whether it meets the threshold for further investigation or resource connection. To assure screening decisions are made as uniformly as possible across counties, ODJFS provides PCSAs with a screening guidance manual.

In 2022, ODJFS updated screening guidance to integrate human trafficking concerns into other existing forms of child maltreatment. If a report indicates a child is engaging in commercial sex and the caregivers are aware of the exploitation but not making efforts to keep the child safe, for instance, updated screening guidance would allow the PCSA to accept a referral of neglect with a human trafficking specification, identifying the caregivers as the alleged perpetrators of said neglect.

Assessing

In 2021 and 2022, ODJFS updated the safety assessment to include more considerations of human trafficking. The assessment is utilized by children services caseworkers to gather information about the family and make determinations regarding the safety of the child(ren) and the direction of the case plan.

In addition to updating the assessment instrument itself, ODJFS also revised the Safety Assessment Field Guide, which aids caseworkers in completing the safety assessments. Updates were made to include potential indicators of trafficking situations and questions caseworkers can utilize to assess for a potential trafficking situation.

Closing Gaps in Services for Survivors

Increasing Access to Emergency Shelter

One of the most frequently cited gaps in services for trafficking victims is emergency shelter⁴. Due to the similarities of the abuse experienced by victims of human trafficking, domestic violence, intimate partner violence, and sexual assault, domestic violence programs are often well-suited to meet the housing needs of human trafficking victims.

According to Polaris, a nonprofit anti-trafficking organization, domestic violence programs have “unique staff education on interpersonal violence, a nuanced understanding of safety concerns, confidential locations, holistic services (such as counseling and case management), and a focus on trauma-informed care.”

In 2021 and 2022, the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) employed several strategies to increase access to emergency shelter for victims of human trafficking.

1. Training with the Ohio Domestic Violence Network

In 2021 and 2022, OCJS partnered with the Ohio Domestic Violence Network to provide in-depth training to domestic violence programs on identifying and serving victims of human trafficking. The trainings were attended by 327 people in 2021 and 130 people in 2022, totaling 12 hours of training between the two years. The trainings covered practical service considerations for serving trafficking victims, accessing trafficking-specific resources, law enforcement partnerships, screening for human trafficking, and how to serve foreign national survivors.

2. Development of Guidance for Violence Against Women Act Applicants and Grantees on Serving Survivors of Human Trafficking

The OCJS Services developed and released a guidance document for domestic violence and sexual assault providers, *Guidance for Violence Against Women Act Applicants and Grantees on Serving Survivors of Human Trafficking*. The document summarizes the relationship between human trafficking and domestic violence, dating violence, and sexual assault, and how those programs can overcome unique barriers to serving human trafficking victims, such as employment requirements for residents, legal issues, and substance use histories.

3. Added Human Trafficking Language to the Violence Against Women Act Requests for Proposals

OCJS administers the federal Violence Against Women Act grant dollars. In 2021 and 2022, OCJS included trafficking-specific language in the Requests for Proposals (RFPs) and prompted applicants to describe how trauma informed services are provided for victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking who may also be victims of human trafficking. The RFPs also included a footnote linking to the *Guidance for Violence Against Women Act Applicants and*

⁴ “On-Ramps, Intersections, and Exit Routes: A Roadmap for Systems and Industries to Prevent and Disrupt Human Trafficking.” Polaris, 2018.

Grantees on Serving Survivors of Human Trafficking to assist applicants in responding to the prompt and establishing processes for identifying and serving trafficking victims.

Increasing Access to Employment for Survivors of Human Trafficking

In 2022, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) developed and implemented a new program called Empowerment Through Employment to provide opportunities for survivors of human trafficking to enter the workforce with a state agency.

Program development occurred in three phases:

1. Networking and partnering with statewide organizations, service providers, and coalitions that currently serve survivors.
2. Providing information to partners about available positions within ODOT, who share the information with survivors.
3. Providing trauma-informed training to supervisors at ODOT who may potentially be working with individuals hired through the program.

The purpose of the program is to intentionally advertise positions to organizations that serve survivors of human trafficking across Ohio and help those survivors who apply to navigate barriers and requirements associated with state employment. ODOT has established a point of contact who will work with all of the survivors who apply for positions. This point of contact has also spent the past year forming relationships with organizations, service providers, and coalitions across the state that serve survivors.

The agency also created a trauma-informed training for all supervisors at the department. The purpose of the training is to help management become trauma-responsive within their departments, regardless of whether or not they will be overseeing the work of an individual hired through the Empowerment Through Employment program. ODOT has identified that a trauma-informed workplace is important for all employees and will serve as a helpful tool for management in all of their employee interactions. Once an individual is hired through the program, their status as a survivor will only be known by the ODOT point of contact, an



Empowerment Through Employment Program Goals

1. Providing meaningful employment opportunities
2. Becoming a more trauma-informed organization
3. Continuing to form additional partnerships throughout the state
4. Creating a safe place to work at ODOT for survivors without concerns of re-traumatization and with opportunities for growth

administrator in Human Resources, and by an individual responsible for running background checks. The ODOT point of contact will continue to provide them support as needed throughout their time with the department.

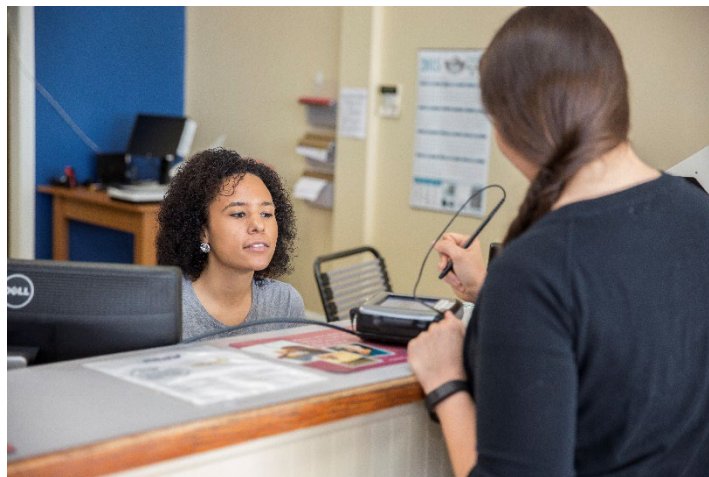
Breaking Down Barriers to Services, Systems, and Benefits for Foreign Nationals

Serving foreign national victims of human trafficking presents unique challenges when navigating federal and state systems. Starting in 2021, the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) held regular meetings with culturally-specific service providers from across the state to discuss the barriers to accessing services and benefits. Barriers include timely access to cash assistance and Medicaid, as well as challenges obtaining a State ID and a Social Security Number.

OCJS, in partnership with Advocating Opportunity, facilitated trouble-shooting conversations

with members of the Governor's Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force, including: Ohio Department of Medicaid, Ohio Department of Public Safety's Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV), and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS). As a result, the Governor's Human Trafficking Task Force has reduced barriers for victims, including:

- The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) created a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document for Medicaid enrollers on the process for enrolling non-citizen victims of human trafficking, per Ohio Administrative Code 5160:1-5-08. The guidance was based on common issues experienced by case managers and victims when going through the application process.
- ODJFS has provided direct assistance to county-level benefits enrollers on specific applications, which has resulted in quicker access to cash and food assistance for foreign national victims with a T Visa or Continued Presence.
- Ohio BMV worked with deputy registrar offices to schedule appointments for foreign national victims and provided the BMV offices with the list of required documents.
- ODJFS hosted a human trafficking training for Ohio growers and migrant farmworker outreach specialists with a focus on labor trafficking. The State Anti-Trafficking Coordinator facilitated a follow-up meeting with the ODJFS migrant farmworker outreach specialists to provide technical assistance on the differences between labor exploitation and labor trafficking and on outreach materials used to assist potential victims.



The Bureau of Motor Vehicles worked with deputy registrar offices to schedule appointments for foreign national victims.

Human Trafficking Awareness in Transportation

Ohio Department of Transportation and the Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission Anti-Trafficking Projects

The Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission (OTIC) dedicated resources to training its employees and the general public about human trafficking and how to report it. Through combined efforts by the Toll Operations, Service Plaza Operations, and Maintenance Department, as well as support from various administration departments including legal, training, and marketing, these initiatives are underway and ongoing.

THE OHIO TURNPIKE AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION INITIATIVES

Ohio Turnpike Service Plazas	Made educational materials and informational posters available at each of the 14 service plazas.
Permits	Issued 5,569 permits; all permits included the National Human Trafficking Hotline number, warning signs for sex and labor trafficking, and safety considerations for responding to human trafficking.
Customer Appreciation Events	Provided awareness materials to the traveling public during monthly Customer Appreciation Events.
Turnpike TV	Created short videos on human trafficking to be played on the closed-circuit televisions at all Ohio Turnpike Service Plazas.
Turnpike Website	Developed a dedicated human trafficking page on the Ohio Turnpike website with information about identification and reporting.
International Bridge, Tunnel, & Turnpike Association (IBTTA) Partnership	Partnered with the International Organization to create a webpage dedicated to human trafficking awareness; Participated in a virtual webinar with the IBTTA and nationally known anti-human trafficking non-profits, such as Polaris and Truckers Against Trafficking.
Trainings	April 2021 – Hosted a training for 105 Ohio Turnpike supervisors. March 2022 – Hosted a refresher course for all Service Plaza supervisors. July 2022 – Issued an online training for all radio room operators. October 2022 – Hosted a training for all service plaza employees.

Ohio Department of Transportation Awareness Activities

The following began in 2019 and have continued each year:

- Provided human trafficking awareness information on oversize/overweight permits issued to every driver driving throughout the state with an oversize/overweight load – approximately 350,000 issued/year.
- Provided human trafficking awareness information in private plane registration packets – approximately 8,000 mailed per year.
- Shared human trafficking awareness information in newsletters disseminated to contractors and local public agencies.

The following began in 2020 and have continued each year:

- Displayed human trafficking awareness information at rest areas overseen by ODOT
- Posted tear-away stickers with the National Human Trafficking Hotline number in rest areas overseen by ODOT.

The following began in 2021:

- Provided human trafficking training to COTA Transportation Systems Supervisors.
- Shared human trafficking awareness information on ODOT's social media sites and newsletter.

In 2022, ODOT continued their awareness efforts from 2021 and built upon these efforts with several new initiatives including:

- Launched ODOT anti-trafficking webpage.
- Added human trafficking awareness information to OHGO, a traffic app/website used by the public, news media, etc.
- Presented human trafficking awareness training/information to internal ODOT staff.



In 2022, the administration improved the state's rest area Travel TVs by creating content that is more engaging and effective. The above images are currently in rotation in Travel TVs located throughout Ohio.

Training and Technical Assistance

Mandatory Training for State Employees

In 2022, the Ohio State Highway Patrol and State Anti-Trafficking Coordinator provided virtual human trafficking trainings for state employees who perform duties of law enforcement officers, juvenile justice and adult corrections professionals, first responders, inspectors, and investigators. These trainings fulfill the requirement set forth in State of Ohio Administrative Policy HR-41 which requires certain state employees to complete three hours of live instruction on human trafficking. In 2022, 817 state employees completed the three-hour training on how to identify and respond to human trafficking.

State Agency	Number of Attendees
Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services	197
Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction	209
Ohio Department of Medicaid	109
Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities	57
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services	23
Ohio Board of Nursing	17
Ohio Department of Public Safety	16
Ohio Department of Health	10
Other	179
Total	817

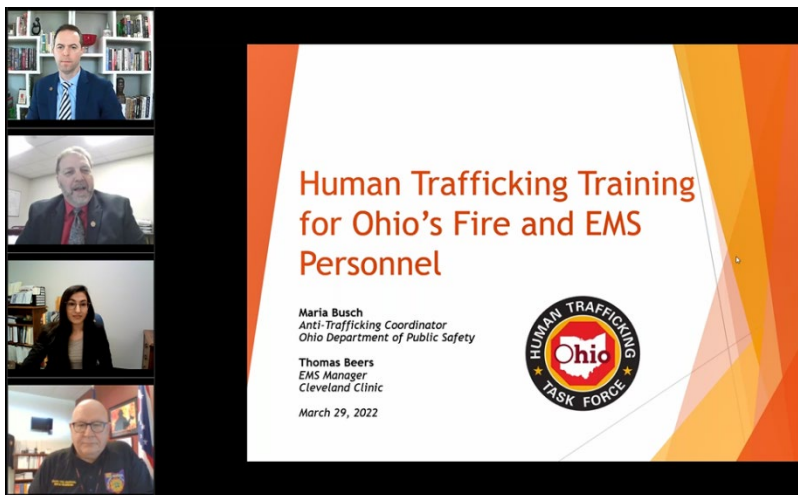
Continuing Education for Licensees of State Boards and Commissions

In 2015, the Governor’s Human Trafficking Task Force created a free, online 50-minute human trafficking course that is accepted by state boards and commissions as a Continuing Education Unit (CEU). The following table includes the number of licensees and other professionals who completed the training in 2021 and 2022.

State Board or Commission	2021	2022
State Chiropractic Board	110	421
Board of Nursing	30	99
Local County Health Department	--	19
Private Security/Private Investigator	30	19
Chemical Dependency Professionals Board	--	13
Ohio Board of Speech Language Pathology and Audiology	--	11
Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board	102	--
Other	317	337
Total	589	919

Fire and EMS

In March 2022, Ohio Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and the Ohio State Fire Marshal co-hosted a human trafficking training for fire and EMS personnel. The training was presented by the State Anti-Trafficking Coordinator as well as Thomas Beers, EMS Manager for the Cleveland Clinic. The virtual training included an overview of the nature and scope of human trafficking in Ohio and how fire and EMS personnel can identify and respond to human trafficking given their unique access to individuals in crisis and at-risk of exploitation. The training was attended by over 300 first responders.



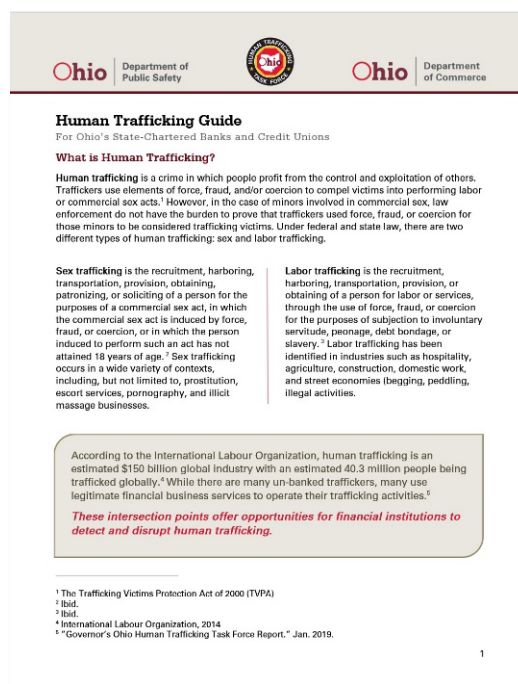
Ohio Emergency Medical Services and the Ohio State Fire Marshal co-hosted a virtual human trafficking training for state fire and EMS personnel.

Financial Institutions

In 2021 and 2022, the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) and the Ohio Department of Commerce (ODC) provided training and technical assistance to financial institutions. ODC houses the Division of Financial Institutions, which regulates state-chartered banks and credit unions. ODPS and ODC then worked with the Ohio Bankers League, the Ohio Credit Union League, and the Pawn Brokers Association of Ohio to host separate trainings for their members on human trafficking and how to submit Suspicious Activity Reports related to trafficking in FinCen. Training was also provided to ODC’s Division of Financial Institutions. In total, over 250 financial services professionals were trained.

In addition, the Office of Criminal Justice Services developed a *Human Trafficking Guidance Document for Financial Institutions*.

The document was reviewed by Polaris, a nonprofit anti-trafficking organization, and includes findings from much of its research on the intersection of human trafficking and the financial services industry.



Supporting Law Enforcement Efforts to Investigate Human Trafficking

State Medical Board of Ohio

In November 2022, the State Ohio Medical Board of Ohio (SMBO) and the State Anti-Trafficking Coordinator co-facilitated two regional trainings for local, state, and federal law enforcement on human trafficking occurring within the illicit massage industry. The trainings included presentations from SMBO investigators, Kathy Chen (Senior Program Advisor with The Network, an intelligence-driven counter-human trafficking organization), and Maria Busch, State Anti-Trafficking Coordinator.



SMBO hosted trainings on investigating human trafficking within illicit massage businesses.

The trainings were held in Dayton (hosted by the University of Dayton Human Rights Center) and Brunswick. Attendees included representation from 15 law enforcement agencies, including:

- Bureau of Criminal Investigations
- Strongsville Police Department
- Brunswick Police Department
- Medina Police Department
- Perkins Police Department
- Findlay Police Department
- Hancock County Sheriff's Office
- Dayton Police Department
- Dublin Police Department
- State Medical Board
- Cincinnati Police Department
- Delhi Township Police Department
- Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- U.S. Department of Labor

The training covered the SMBO's role in licensing massage therapy and investigating unlicensed practice of massage therapy. The Board also discussed how it can assist law enforcement in human trafficking investigations given its jurisdiction. Kathy Chen from The Network provided an in-depth look at the illicit massage industry, including how victims are recruited from their home countries, compelled, and exploited within the illicit massage industry in the United States and Ohio. In post training evaluations, 94% of attendees said they would recommend this training to other law enforcement officers.

Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center

In August 2022, the State Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, Ohio State Highway Patrol Intelligence Unit, and the Central Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force trained the Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center (ONIC) analysts on how to identify potential instances of human trafficking. The ONIC was established in 2019 and operates as part of the Ohio Department of Public Safety in Columbus, Cleveland, Toledo, and Cincinnati. Analysts assist law enforcement agencies and drug task forces by providing investigative support.

Given the intersection between human trafficking and controlled substances, ONIC analysts are in a unique position to identify potential human trafficking cases and refer leads to the assisted law enforcement agencies and human trafficking task forces.

America Rescue Plan Act

In 2022, Governor DeWine announced \$2.9 million in America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) awards to local law enforcement agencies to help prevent and investigate incidents of violent crime, including human trafficking. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grants allowed law enforcement agencies to hire personnel, assign personnel to human trafficking law enforcement task forces, and purchase new technology to assist in investigating human trafficking. Law enforcement agencies that received ARPA grants to combat human trafficking include: Mahoning County Sheriff's Office, Summit County Sheriff's Office, Boardman Police Department, Cortland Police Department, Warren Police Department, and the Ohio Attorney General's Office.



Governor DeWine announced a grant to the Cortland Police Department to assign a full-time officer to the Mahoning Valley Human Trafficking Task Force and to pay for overtime for undercover operations.

Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction Chief Inspector's Office

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction's Chief Inspector's Office intelligence analysts identify perpetrators who may be involved in human trafficking occurring inside and outside of state prisons. The Chief Inspector's Office also works with human trafficking law enforcement task forces to provide intelligence support to investigations.

Ohio State Highway Patrol Intelligence Analysts

The Ohio State Highway Patrol's Intelligence Unit provides 24/7 support to internal and external law enforcement with real-time analytical assistance and long-term case support. Several analysts are specifically trained to assist in human trafficking investigations. From July 2021 to July 2022, the Intelligence Unit responded to approximately 130 requests for assistance related to human trafficking investigations and approximately 36 requests related to child pornography investigations.



Ohio Department of Commerce

In 2021, the State Anti-Trafficking Coordinator partnered with Eyes Open International and Advocating Opportunity to train the Ohio Department of Commerce's wage and hour investigators on labor trafficking. The state's Wage and Hour Administration administers and enforces Ohio's minor labor law and minimum and prevailing wage laws. The investigators are therefore well positioned to identify cases of labor trafficking that may initially present as labor or contract disputes, labor exploitation, or minimum wage violations.

2023-2024 Task Force Priorities



PREVENTION

1. Centralize the state's human trafficking data onto the InnovateOhio Platform
 - *Agencies: Department of Public Safety (DPS), Ohio Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS), Department of Youth Services (DYS), Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (DRC), Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD), Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS)*
2. Provide training and technical assistance to state and local partners, with a focus on labor trafficking
 - *Agencies: All*
3. Connect school districts with human trafficking awareness and prevention curricula and resources for students
 - *Agencies: Ohio Department of Education (ODE), Ohio Department of Health (ODH), Department of Public Safety (DPS)*



PROTECTION

4. Partner with domestic violence programs to provide shelter to survivors of human trafficking
 - *Agencies: DPS*
5. Facilitate the provision of assistance to families and therapeutic foster parents to enable less-restrictive housing solutions for trafficked children and youth
 - *Agencies: DPS, ODJFS, DHS*
6. Leverage crisis continuum infrastructure to increase access to detox and mental health services for victims of human trafficking
 - *Agencies: OMHAS, DPS*



PROSECUTION




7. Connect law enforcement with culturally-competent field support to investigate human trafficking occurring in illicit massage businesses
 - *Agencies: Medical Board, DPS*
8. Leverage the Ohio State Highway Patrol to provide intelligence and investigative resources to further human trafficking investigations
 - *Agencies: DPS*

Appendix A: 2021-2022 Scorecard



PREVENTION

Strategy: Interdiction to assist at-risk minors and adults and create deterrence for offenders


Priority	Accomplishments	Status
<p>Make available prevention and awareness materials for minors, youth, and child-serving professionals</p>	<p>The Ohio Department of Public Safety and Ohio Department of Education developed a human trafficking training video for school staff.</p> <p>The Ohio Children’s Trust Fund awarded \$1.3 million in grants to organizations to provide human trafficking prevention programming for at-risk youth.</p>	
<p>Conduct labor trafficking-specific outreach and training to raise awareness of state and federal human trafficking laws and resources for at-risk populations</p>	<p>The Ohio Department of Commerce trained its Wage and Hour investigators in identifying and investigating labor trafficking.</p> <p>Ohio Department of Job and Family Services provided labor trafficking education to Ohio growers and Migrant Farm Worker Outreach Specialists.</p>	
<p>Provide discipline-specific human trafficking training to state and local partners</p>	<p>The State Anti-Trafficking Coordinator’s office provided extensive human trafficking training to strategic audiences, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire and EMS personnel • Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission • State investigators & inspectors • Financial institutions 	



PROTECTION

Strategy: Create safety nets for survivors and at-risk individuals


Priority	Accomplishments	Status
Increase access to needed services for survivors of human trafficking, with an emphasis on shelter and housing, case management, and medical detox	<p>Provided extensive training to domestic violence programs and added human trafficking to the state’s Violence Against Women Act RFP.</p> <p>Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services provided \$3 million in grants to organizations to provide services to victims and high-risk youth.</p> <p>Ohio Dept. of Rehabilitation and Correction assigned regional APA human trafficking liaisons to connect parolees with services.</p>	✓
Build pathways to employment for survivors of human trafficking	<p>Ohio Department of Transportation created the Empowerment Through Employment program to recruit and hire survivors of human trafficking into ODOT jobs.</p>	✓
Reduce barriers for foreign national trafficking survivors to access services and benefits	<p>The Ohio Department of Public Safety facilitated meetings with culturally-specific service organizations to address system barriers; worked with respective systems on solutions to barriers.</p> <p>Ohio Department of Medicaid created and disseminated guidance document to Medicaid enrollers on how to enroll non-citizen victims of human trafficking.</p>	✓
Build capacity of the juvenile justice system to utilize Ohio’s safe harbor law for trafficked minors	<p>The Office of Criminal Justice Services funded and worked closely with two juvenile courts to build safe harbor protocols and multidisciplinary teams to serve justice-involved victims of human trafficking.</p>	✓

<p>Provide resources and guidance to support local child welfare response protocols</p>	<p>Ohio Department of Job and Family Services updated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human trafficking screening guidance for initial referrals received by children services • Safety Assessment • Safety Assessment Field Guide • Ohio Administrative Code rules regarding human trafficking training for caseworkers 	
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PROSECUTION

Strategy: Support law enforcement, investigators, and regulators to assist investigations

Priority	Accomplishments	Status
<p>Support law enforcement efforts to investigate potential cases of human trafficking through state agency partnerships</p>	<p>The State Medical Board of Ohio and Ohio Department of Public Safety trained local law enforcement agencies on investigating human trafficking within illicit massage businesses.</p> <p>Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center received human trafficking training.</p> <p>Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction’s Chief Inspector’s Office started identifying perpetrators of human trafficking, including incarcerated individuals and those in the community under supervision.</p>	

Appendix B: Ohio Human Trafficking Data from State Sources

OHIO HUMAN TRAFFICKING DATA FROM STATE SOURCES

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

As defined in the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, trafficking in persons is:

SEX TRAFFICKING

Commercial sex acts induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age, (22 USC §7102 (9)(A)).

LABOR TRAFFICKING

The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery, (22 USC §7102 (9)(B)).

In 2012, Ohio legislators passed Ohio Revised Code (ORC) 2905.32, guiding the identification of victims of trafficking in persons. ORC 2905.32 (A)(2) has since passed, guiding the prosecution of traffickers and purchasers of commercial sex from minors.

Calendar Year 2021 - Data from State Sources

	ODYS	ODRC	OMHAS	SACWIS	ODJFS Refugee Services	Ohio Attorney General's Office - HTI
Target Population	Minors	Adults	Adults	Minors	Refugees	General Public
No. Victims Identified	9	521	7	62	8	138
17 years & younger	5	0	0	62	7	16
18 years & older	4	521	7	0	1	120
Age unknown	0	0	0	0	0	2
Female	7	486	6	51	6	133
Male	2	35	1	11	2	5
Transgender	0	0	0	0	0	--
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sex Trafficking	7	--	7	22	--	133
Labor Trafficking	0	--	0	38	--	0
Both Sex and Labor Trafficking*	2	--	0	2	--	5
High Risk for Trafficking	0	--	0	--	--	0
Unknown	0	--	0	0	8	0
Total Victims Identified**	64	1,441	73	353	45	1,535

*Individuals identified under "Both Sex and Labor Trafficking" were trafficked in both sex and labor and are not included in the Sex Trafficking and Labor Trafficking Rows.

**DYS began reporting trafficking information in 2015. DRC began screening and collecting data on their Mental Health Monthly Reports in 2013. Both agencies updated screening tools and protocols in early 2019. OMHAS began collecting data in 2015. All other agencies began identification and reporting in 2013/2014.

Calendar Year 2022 - Data from State Sources*

	ODYS	ODRC	OMHAS	SACWIS	ODJFS Refugee Services
Target Population	Minors	Adults	Adults	Minors	Refugees
No. Victims Identified	10	513	6	32	29
17 years & younger	8	0	0	32	18
18 years & older	2	513	6	0	11
Age unknown	0	0	0	0	0
Female	9	418	5	30	14
Male	1	95	1	2	15
Transgender	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
Sex Trafficking	7	--	6	12	--
Labor Trafficking	2	--	0	17	--
Both Sex and Labor Trafficking**	1	--	0	3	--
High Risk for Trafficking	0	--	0	--	--
Unknown	0	--	0	--	29
Total Victims Identified***	74	1,954	79	385	74

*At the time of publication, local law enforcement data had not yet been released.

**Individuals identified under "Both Sex and Labor Trafficking" were trafficked in both sex and labor and are not included in the Sex Trafficking and Labor Trafficking Rows.

***DYS began reporting trafficking information in 2015. DRC began screening and collecting data on their Mental Health Monthly Reports in 2013. Both agencies updated screening tools and protocols in early 2019. OMHAS began collecting data in 2015. All other agencies began identification and reporting in 2013/2014.

**ADDITIONAL
RESOURCES
FOR OHIO
DATA ON
TRAFFICKING
IN PERSONS**

The available data are not meant to act as prevalence estimates within the systems that are reporting, but rather as a lens to examine the number of victims identified and referred for services. In 2018, Anderson, Kulig and Sullivan from the University of Cincinnati released [Estimating the Prevalence of Human Trafficking in Ohio](#), which integrates data from these different sources into an estimate of the individuals identified as survivors of trafficking in persons within Ohio’s systems. Additionally, [Anderson, Kulig, and Sullivan \(2020\)](#) further describe the importance of standardizing conceptual and operational approaches of human trafficking measurement. For more information on human trafficking and Ohio’s response, visit www.humantrafficking.ohio.gov.

Description of State Data Sources

<p>Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS)</p>	<p>ODYS began screening all children and youth who enter ODYS facilities in 2014 and updated its screening tool and protocols in early 2019. As a member of the Governor’s Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force, the agency addresses trafficking through staff training, awareness and prevention activities for the justice-involved children and youth, screening tool implementation, and connection to services for individuals identified as having a lived experience of human trafficking. Between 2021 and 2022, 902 screenings occurred, and 19 individuals were identified as potential victims of trafficking.</p>
<p>Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections (ODRC)</p>	<p>The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) began screening in 2013, with updates to screening protocols in early 2019. ODRC addresses trafficking through screening during reception at an ODRC facility, as well as different touchpoints throughout an individual’s time at a given facility. The agency also provides training and education on human trafficking to both ODRC staff and incarcerated individuals. In 2021 and 2022, 31,741 screens were completed, and 1,034 individuals were identified as potential victims of human trafficking.</p>
<p>Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS)</p>	<p>The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS) began screening in 2015. As a member of the Governor’s Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force, OMHAS addresses trafficking through screening at reception at Ohio mental and behavioral health hospitals, as well as staff training and grant funding specifically for youth-serving agencies that work with survivors. In 2021 and 2022, OMHAS screened a total of 7,320 individuals and identified 13 individuals across the two years as potential victims of human trafficking.</p>
<p>The Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS)</p>	<p>The Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) is the case management system utilized by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, along with 88 county public children services agencies, to assist staff in managing workloads and provide current data. In calendar years 2021 and 2022, 94 indicated or substantiated cases of trafficking were identified in SACWIS, as reported by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.</p>
<p>Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS Refugee Services)</p>	<p>ODJFS Refugee Services operates as part of a national and international effort to assist people displaced from their countries. The Refugee Services Section also serves victims of human trafficking certified by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, with reporting beginning in 2008. In 2021 and 2022, ODJFS Refugee Services served 37 individuals who were identified as victims of human trafficking.</p>
<p>The Ohio Attorney General’s Office – Law Enforcement</p>	<p>The Ohio Attorney General’s Office collects data from local law enforcement related to human trafficking investigations, arrests, prosecutions, and convictions of traffickers. As required by Ohio’s Safe Harbor Law enacted in 2012, law enforcement must report the number of human trafficking cases identified annually to the Ohio Attorney General’s Office (ORC 109.66). In 2021, local law enforcement identified 138 (potential and confirmed) victims of human trafficking.</p>