



Human Trafficking, 2023

Human Trafficking, 2023, is the tenth report from the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program's Human Trafficking data collection. Fifty (50) states and the U.S. territories of Guam and Puerto Rico participated. The 2023 report shows a total of 3,244 incidents of human trafficking were reported: 2,486 were in the category of commercial sex acts, and 751 were instances of involuntary servitude. (Puerto Rico submitted seven incidents in the Total column and did not specify whether those incidents were under the category of commercial sex acts or involuntary servitude.) Agencies arrested 658 offenders in correlation with these incidents. Of these, 596 were adults and 62 were juveniles.

Participation

Since its inception in 2013, the FBI's Human Trafficking data collection has seen a steady increase in state participation as well as an increase in the number of incidents reported. The program will continue efforts to expand, gather, and make available information regarding human trafficking incidents.

Trafficking Victims Protection Act

In January 2013, as authorized by the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008, the FBI UCR Program began collecting offense and arrest data regarding human trafficking. The act requires the FBI to collect human trafficking offense data and to make distinctions between prostitution, assisting or promoting prostitution, and purchasing prostitution.

To comply with the Wilberforce Act, the FBI UCR Program created two additional offenses in the Summary Reporting System (SRS) and the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) through which the FBI UCR Program collects both offense and arrest data. The definitions for these offenses are:

Human Trafficking/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.

Human Trafficking/Involuntary Servitude: obtaining of a person(s) through recruitment, harboring, transportation, or provision, and subjecting such persons by force, fraud, or coercion into involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery (not to include commercial sex acts).

The data tables included in this report reflect the offenses and arrests recorded by state and local law enforcement agencies that currently have the ability to report the data to the FBI UCR Program. As such, they should not be interpreted as a definitive statement of the level or characteristics of human trafficking in the nation as a whole. The data declaration pages, which will help the user better understand the data, and the methodology used for the four following tables are located in the *Data Declarations and Methodology* section of this report. In addition, a Questions and Answers section about human trafficking data is provided as a supplement to this report.

Under the umbrella of the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, human trafficking data has traditionally been released on FBI.gov on the UCR Publications webpage. However, beginning in 2021, all UCR data is being released exclusively on the FBI's Crime Data Explorer (CDE) website, where data

users can access and sort a variety of data. The content of the CDE comes from data collections such as Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted, Hate Crime Statistics, the National Incident-Based Reporting System, and National Use-of-Force. UCR data from previous years will also be accessible on the CDE. Human Trafficking reports from previous years can also be accessed at <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s> in *Crime in the United States* publications.

Note: Regarding the data reported to the FBI UCR Program, it is important to note that these data represent only one view of a complex issue—the law enforcement perspective. However, due to the nature of human trafficking, many of these crimes are never reported to the local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies that investigate them. In addition to the law enforcement facet in fighting these crimes, there are victim service organizations whose mission it is to serve the needs of the victims of human trafficking. In order to have the complete picture of human trafficking, it would be necessary to gather information from all these sources.

The following Human Trafficking tables are available as part of this compressed file download:

Table 1
Human Trafficking
Offenses and Clearances by State, 2023

Table 2
Human Trafficking Arrests
by Age by State, 2023

Table 3
Human Trafficking Arrests
by Race by State, 2023

Table 4
Human Trafficking Arrests
by Ethnicity by State, 2023

Data Declarations and Methodology

Human Trafficking Table 1

Offenses and Clearances by State, 2023

The FBI collects these data through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program's Summary Reporting System and National Incident-Based Reporting System.

General Comment

This table includes the states that have added human trafficking offenses to their data collection. Even though a state program included human trafficking, the individual agencies in that state may or may not have added it to their collections. Each law enforcement agency is responsible for reporting its crime data directly to the FBI.

This table provides the volume of human trafficking offenses as reported by state. For UCR purposes, juveniles are individuals under the age of 18 years. Adults are 18 years of age or older.

Methodology

The data used in creating this table were from law enforcement agencies submitting one or more human trafficking incidents for at least 1 month of the calendar year. Also included are zero incident data for states that have incorporated human trafficking offenses in their data collection where no 2023 human trafficking incidents were reported to the FBI's UCR Program.

The published data, therefore, do not necessarily represent reports from each participating agency for all 12 months of the calendar year. When the FBI determines an agency's data collection methodology does not comply with national UCR guidelines, the figure(s) for that agency's offense(s) will not be included in the table, and the discrepancy will be explained in a footnote.

Human Trafficking Table 2

by Age by State, 2023

The FBI collects these data through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program's Summary Reporting System and National Incident-Based Reporting System.

General Comment

This table provides the number of juvenile and adult male and female persons arrested for human trafficking offenses by state in 2023. These data represent the number of persons arrested; however, some persons may be arrested more than once during a year. Therefore, the statistic in this table could, in some cases, represent multiple arrests of the same person. For UCR purposes, juveniles are individuals under the age of 18 years. Adults are 18 years of age and older.

Methodology

The data used in creating this table were from law enforcement agencies submitting one or more human trafficking arrests for at least 1 month of the calendar year. The published data, therefore, do not necessarily represent reports from each participating agency for all 12 months of the calendar year.

Human Trafficking Table 3

by Race by State, 2023

The FBI collects these data through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program's Summary Reporting System and National Incident-Based Reporting System.

General Comment

This table provides the number of persons arrested for human trafficking offenses by state in 2023 broken down by race of the arrestee. These data represent the number of persons arrested; however, some persons may be arrested more than once during a year. Therefore, the statistics in this table could, in some cases, represent multiple arrests of the same person. For UCR purposes, juveniles are under the age of 18 years. Adults are 18 years of age and older.

Methodology

The data used in creating this table were from law enforcement agencies submitting one or more human trafficking arrests for at least 1 month of the calendar year. The published data, therefore, do not necessarily represent reports from each participating agency for all 12 months of the calendar year.

Human Trafficking Table 4

by Ethnicity by State, 2023

The FBI collects these data through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program's Summary Reporting System and National Incident-Based Reporting System.

General Comment

This table provides the number of persons arrested for human trafficking offenses by state in 2023 broken down by ethnicity of the arrestee. These data represent the number of persons arrested; however, some persons may be arrested more than once during a year. Therefore, the statistics in this table could, in some cases, represent multiple arrests of the same person. For UCR purposes, juveniles are individuals under the age of 18 years. Adults are 18 years of age and older.

Methodology

The data used in creating this table were from law enforcement agencies submitting one or more human trafficking arrests for at least 1 month of the calendar year. The published data, therefore, do not necessarily represent reports from each participating agency for all 12 months of the calendar year.

Human Trafficking, 2023

Questions and Answers

Q: How long has human trafficking data been collected?

A: The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program began collecting human trafficking data in January 2013.

Q: What does it mean for an offense to be cleared?

A: An offense can be cleared by arrest or exceptional means.

An offense is cleared by arrest, or solved for crime reporting purposes, when at least one person is (1) arrested, (2) charged with the commission of the offense, and (3) turned over to the court for prosecution.

If an agency can answer all the following questions in the affirmative, it can clear the offense exceptionally.

1. Has the investigation definitely established the identity of the offender?
2. Is there enough information to support an arrest, charge, and turning over to the court for prosecution?
3. Is the exact location of the offender known so that the subject could be taken into custody now?
4. Is there some reason outside law enforcement control that precludes arresting, charging, and prosecuting the offender?

Generally, an offense can be exceptionally cleared when it falls into one of the following categories. (This list is not all-inclusive.)

1. Death of the offender.
2. Offender is prosecuted by state or local authorities in another city for a different offense or is prosecuted in another city or state by the federal government for an offense which may be the same.
3. Extradition denied/In the custody of other jurisdiction.
4. The handling of a juvenile offender—either orally or by written notice to parents—in instances involving minor offenses such as petty larceny.
5. Prosecution denied (for other than the lack of probable cause).

Although agencies may administratively close a case, this does not necessarily mean that the agency can clear the offense for UCR purposes.

Q: Were agencies that submitted less than 12 months of data included in the human trafficking report?

A: Yes, all submissions were included.

Q: What is the cutoff age for juveniles and adults?

A: For UCR purposes, juveniles are individuals under the age of 18 years. Adults are 18 years of age and older.

Q: What is the difference between the Summary Reporting System (SRS) and the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) collections?

A: The FBI's UCR Program administers two data collections—the SRS and NIBRS. The general concepts for collecting, scoring, and reporting UCR data are applicable to both the SRS and NIBRS. Both

systems collect information on crimes reported to law enforcement or crimes law enforcement have witnessed and include reports in which no one was arrested.

The SRS provides monthly reports on ten Part I offenses known to law enforcement and reports on persons arrested. The Part I offenses of murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, human trafficking—commercial sex acts, human trafficking—involuntary servitude, burglary, motor vehicle theft, larceny-theft, and arson are considered indicators of the level of crime occurring within the United States. Data are collected at the aggregate level and lack incident-level details for crimes other than homicide. Within the SRS, the Hierarchy Rule governs multiple offense reporting. When more than one crime was committed by the same person or group of persons and the time and space intervals separating the crimes were insignificant, then the crime highest in the hierarchy is the only offense reported.

NIBRS is a more detail-oriented crime data collection system that captures specific elements about crimes and offenders through incident-based reporting. These details include information such as the date, time, location, and circumstance of the criminal incident; the characteristics of the victim and offender (such as the age, sex, race, and ethnicity); victim/offender relationship; the involvement of weapons or drugs; property loss; whether the crime was motivated by bias; or if a computer was used to perpetuate certain types of crimes.

Q: What are the benefits of NIBRS?

A: NIBRS provides a more comprehensive view of crime in the United States and offers greater flexibility in data compilation and analysis. When used to its full potential, NIBRS provides greater detail about when and where a crime occurred, what form it took, and the characteristics of its victims and offenders. Because it provides a broader depiction of the data, NIBRS provides law enforcement agencies with more exact information with which to address the concerns of its constituency regarding crime in their communities and to allocate resources. Likewise, legislators, municipal planners/administrators, academicians, sociologists, advocacy groups, and the public are provided with access to more extensive crime information than the SRS can offer. The data allow a better opportunity to study crime and criminal behavior.

The FBI intends for NIBRS to become the law enforcement community's standard for quantifying crime. Efforts are underway to assist states not yet certified as NIBRS contributors and expand NIBRS' ability to provide national crime data management standards and services to inform, educate, and strengthen communities through the UCR Program.

On January 1, 2021, the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program transitioned to a National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) only data collection. Since the transition, the FBI's UCR Program has worked diligently to offer resources such as programming and technical support, training, and outreach to law enforcement agencies. Despite more than 11,500 law enforcement agencies submitting NIBRS data, participation for 2021 remained below a statistically acceptable level to be nationally representative. For the 2022 and 2023 data years, to provide nationally representative data, the FBI accepted Summary Reporting System data submissions from non-transitioned agencies.