

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Human Trafficking Trends in the District of Columbia CY 2018

Prepared By: Charleá S.L. Robinson, MA, MSIS
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About CJCC

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) is an independent agency in the District of Columbia that serves as the forum for District and federal agencies to identify cross-cutting issues and achieve coordinated solutions for the criminal and juvenile justice systems. CJCC was established by the DC Council in 2001 and by Congress in 2002.

CJCC is the home of the DC Statistical Analysis Center (SAC). The mission of the SAC is to apply the highest level of scientific rigor and objectivity in the study of criminal justice policies, programs and practices, and to identify activities that improve the administration of justice. The SAC aims to produce empirical research and analysis that informs stakeholders and enhances policy decision-making in the District.

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INTRODUCTION

The *Prohibition Against Human Trafficking Amendment Act of 2010* (D.C. Law 18-239) requires that a report on human trafficking in the District of Columbia be issued every 36 months. CJCC issued the first two reports in February 2018 and March 2019, which included information on human trafficking cases that were active at any point during calendar years 2016 and 2017, respectively, as well as information about known offenders and victims associated with those cases.

The initial report established a baseline on human trafficking in the District of Columbia, and subsequent reports can be used to determine whether there are any trends with respect to human trafficking incidents identified by or reported to law enforcement, prosecutors, and service providers. This report addresses the following questions for calendar years 2016, 2017, and 2018.

1. What is the nature of human trafficking in the District, including how victims are recruited and the extent to which there is movement within and outside of the District?
2. How many human trafficking investigations, arrests, prosecutions, and convictions occurred?
3. What is the demographic information of offenders and victims of human trafficking?

To understand the nature of human trafficking and the extent to which it was investigated and prosecuted, the CJCC analyzed data from criminal justice agencies that investigate and prosecute human trafficking in the District as well as governmental and nongovernmental victim service agencies. Additionally, the CJCC attended DC Human Trafficking Task Force meetings, trainings, and seminars and obtained information from the National Human Trafficking Hotline.¹

HUMAN TRAFFICKING – THE NATIONAL LANDSCAPE

Victims may fall prey to two types of human trafficking: sex and labor.² Sex trafficking involves compelling victims to engage in commercial sex acts by force, fraud, or coercion. Generally, sex trafficking involves escort services, pornography, illicit massage businesses, brothels, and outdoor solicitation. Labor trafficking also involves force, fraud, or coercion, and victims are confined to servitude or debt bondage. Labor trafficking typically involves agriculture, domestic work, restaurants, cleaning services, and carnivals.³

At the federal level, human trafficking cases are generally investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) within the Department of Justice (DOJ); U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations (ICE-HSI) within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS); and the Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) within the Department of State (State). ICE-HSI often investigates human trafficking cases that involve foreign nationals, and DSS typically investigates cases that involve foreign diplomats. Federal human trafficking cases are prosecuted by a United States Attorney's Office (USAO) or the Civil Rights Division within DOJ. DOJ prosecutors oftentimes work closely with law enforcement officials when investigating human trafficking cases, prior to filing charges in court.

According to the *2019 Trafficking in Persons Report*, during fiscal year 2018, DHS opened 849 investigations of suspected human trafficking, DOJ formally opened 657 investigations, and State opened 148 human-trafficking related cases. During fiscal year 2018, DOJ initiated a total of 230 human trafficking prosecutions where 386 defendants were charged with human trafficking or human trafficking-related offenses (both decreases from the previous fiscal year). Of the prosecutions initiated, 213 were for sex trafficking and 17 were for labor trafficking.⁴

¹A full description of the methodology used to conduct the analysis can be found in the first Human Trafficking report published by the CJCC, which is located on the Publications tab of the public-facing Justice Statistical Analysis Tool (JSAT): www.DCJSAT.net.

² See Appendix II for a full description of sex and labor trafficking under federal and District law.

³ Polaris Project website: <https://polarisproject.org/human-trafficking/>

⁴ Department of State, *2018 Trafficking in Persons Report* (2018): <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/282798.pdf>.

While law enforcement data can shed some light on the extent to which human trafficking is occurring, developing a comprehensive understanding of the prevalence of human trafficking can be challenging for several reasons. First, human trafficking is often underreported by victims due to fear—fear of retribution from their trafficker, fear of being arrested for criminal activity they engaged in as a result of the trafficking, and, for noncitizens, fear of deportation—among other factors. Second, enumerating individuals who received human trafficking services may be duplicative as victims may receive services from multiple agencies. Third, there are inadvertent but unavoidable inconsistencies by which agencies and service providers collect, store, report, and update data and case information. Therefore, while reporting the number of human trafficking cases and known offenders and victims identified by law enforcement can provide some indication of the prevalence of human trafficking, it is by no means a complete picture. There are, however, additional information sources that can supplement data reported by law enforcement, including information from social service providers, as well as the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

The National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH) - a product of the National Human Trafficking Resource Center managed by Polaris - provides referrals, online resources, and reporting services for victims of human trafficking, as well as individuals or agencies who come in contact with victims. Victims often seek referrals for housing, legal services, crisis counseling, shelter, transportation, and case management. Calls to the hotline are generally made by medical professionals, faith-based organizations, representatives of NGOs, family members or friends of trafficking victims, or the victims themselves. In CY 2018, the NHTH received 41,088 contacts (e.g., phone calls, emails, texts, online chats, and webforms) and 10,949 reports of human trafficking incidents from across the United States; of those, 236 contacts and 84 reports were specific to the District of Columbia.⁵

THE NATURE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE DISTRICT

Based on the information received from local law enforcement officials and prosecutors, which is also supported by the data received from service providers, the majority of the human trafficking cases in the District involve sex trafficking, where victims were lured by their traffickers and coerced into the commercial sex industry using grooming techniques or other mechanisms such as social media and newspaper ads. In the cases where victims responded to ads to work for massage parlors, upon being hired, they were instead coerced into performing sexual acts in addition to, or instead of, providing massage services. Recruitment through social media is common, and victims can be lured (groomed) with false promises of love, employment, or stability. Then, through physical, sexual or mental abuse (e.g., threatening to harm the victim’s family) and economic manipulation, they are forced to remain in the trafficking environment.⁶

Traffickers may solicit prospective “buyers” through such means as residential brothels, on the streets, in strip clubs, or advertising online through websites. In these instances, victims may be transported by their “pimps” within the District or across the District’s borders to and from Maryland, Virginia, and other states. It is important to note that it is not mandatory to transport victims across city, state, or country boundaries for a case to be considered human trafficking.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASES IN THE DISTRICT - INVESTIGATIONS, ARRESTS, AND PROSECUTIONS

Investigations and Arrests

In the District of Columbia, human trafficking cases are investigated by the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) as well as the FBI, ICE-HSI, and DSS field offices located in the Washington, DC metropolitan region. MPD and the FBI provided information on human trafficking investigations and arrests for the purposes of this report. During CY 2018, MPD and the FBI Washington Field Office (FBI-WFO) investigated a combined total of 65 alleged human

⁵ Statistics from the National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH) website: <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/states>.

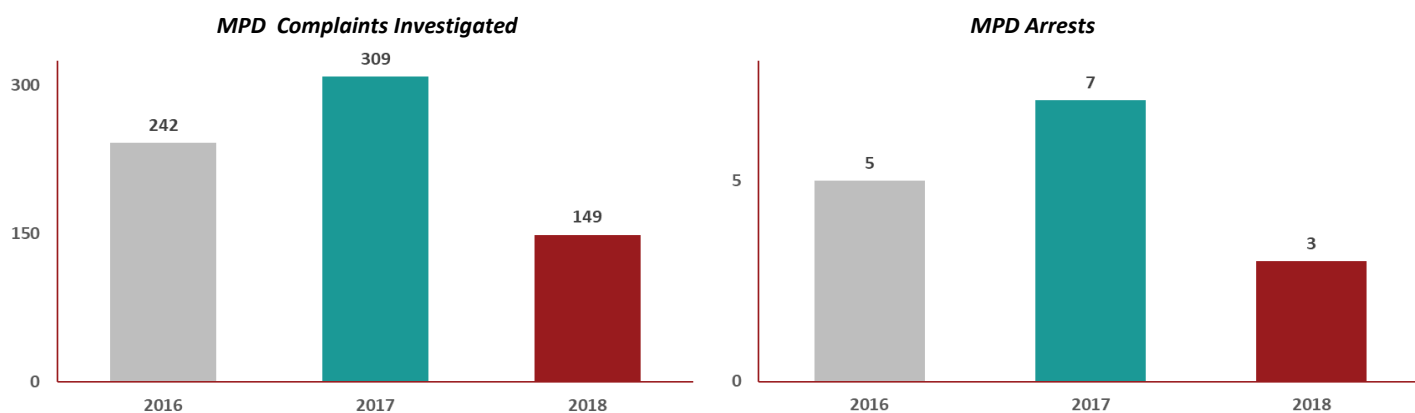
⁶ Based on interviews with law enforcement partners: MPD and FBI-WFO.

trafficking-related incidents in the District of Columbia and made a total of 18 human trafficking-related arrests.⁷ MPD ultimately determined that many of the alleged incidents investigated were for prostitution.⁸

Two units within MPD have primary responsibility over trafficking-related cases – the Human Trafficking Unit and the Youth and Family Services Division (YFSD). The Human Trafficking Unit, which investigates both prostitution and human trafficking-related offenses, has shifted its operational activities to primarily focusing on the “johns” or those seeking to pay for the services of sex workers, rather than the sex workers themselves. The Unit received and investigated 54 complaints of human trafficking in CY 2018 and made one arrest for human trafficking in coordination with Montgomery County, MD. This case was prosecuted in Montgomery County, and the suspect was convicted. The Unit also made two (2) additional arrests for pandering and 513 arrests for solicitation of prostitution, for a total of 516 arrests in CY 2018.

MPD’s Youth and Family Services Division, which is responsible for investigating child abuse, exploitation, and missing persons cases, among other youth-related matters, also investigates allegations or potential incidents of human trafficking. In recent years, YFSD has been responsible for investigating a higher number of those types of allegations due to enhanced training and a victim-centered approach. YFSD has increased its training and operational work in identifying potential victims of trafficking as they are often in the best position to identify those most at-risk due to the nature of their work. In 2018, YFSD investigated 95 allegations of child trafficking and made two arrests. In one case, believed to have a nexus to child sex trafficking, one suspect was arrested on charges of Pandering and Simple Assault. The second case involved one suspect arrested on charges of sex trafficking of children, among other related charges.⁹

Figure 1: MPD Human Trafficking Cases, CY 2016 - CY 2018



Source: Metropolitan Police Department, Human Trafficking Unit and Youth and Family Services Division

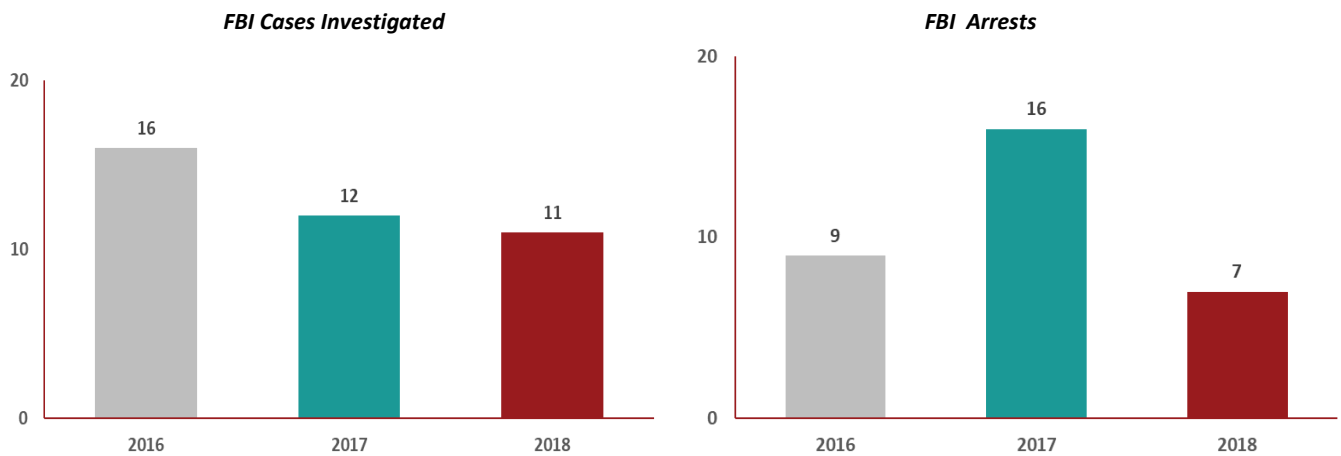
The FBI-WFO had 11 human trafficking cases in the District that were active at some point during CY 2018, all of which were for sex trafficking. Eight of the 11 cases involved two or more suspects and two or more victims, the remaining three involved one victim and one suspect each. All 11 cases were still pending investigation (5) or pending in court (6) at the end of CY 2018. The FBI made 7 human trafficking arrests during CY 2018; each of the cases associated with these arrests is pending in court.

⁷ Information on investigations, arrests, prosecutions and convictions for the District of Columbia was collected and is being reported by calendar year.

⁸ In 2018, there were staffing increases in MPD’s Human Trafficking Unit and an increased focus on street operations. Additionally, HTU no longer had members assigned to the FBI Task Force on a full time basis; therefore, the unit did not receive the same number of referrals (complaints of human trafficking) for investigation. HTU also referred cases to Youth Division as they had detectives on the FBI Task force who focused on investigations. Much of the human-trafficking-related investigations and enforcement that cross state boundaries are handled by the FBI.

⁹ Additional arrests in this case were made in calendar year 2019.

Figure 2: FBI-WFO Human Trafficking Cases, CY 2016 – CY 2018



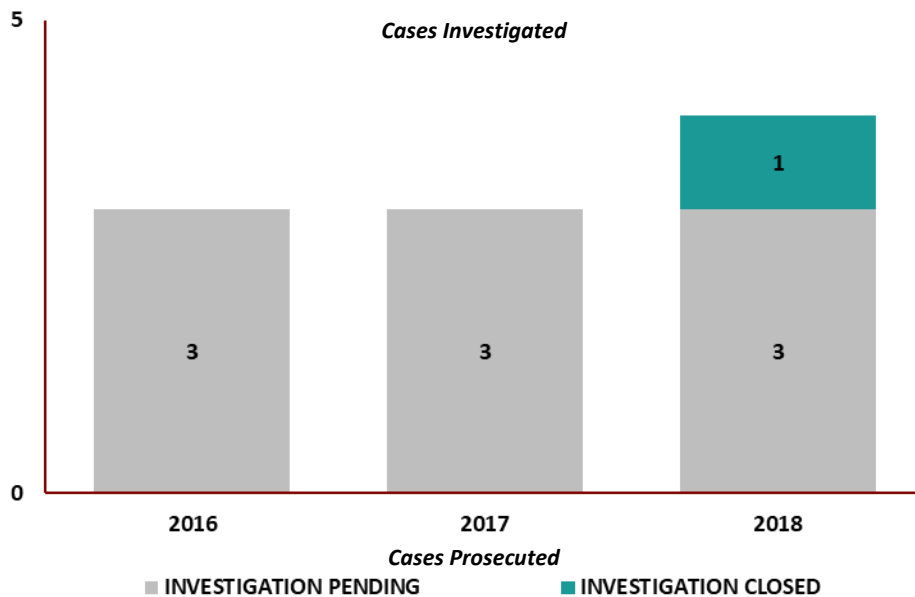
Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington Field Office, Child Exploitation Task Force

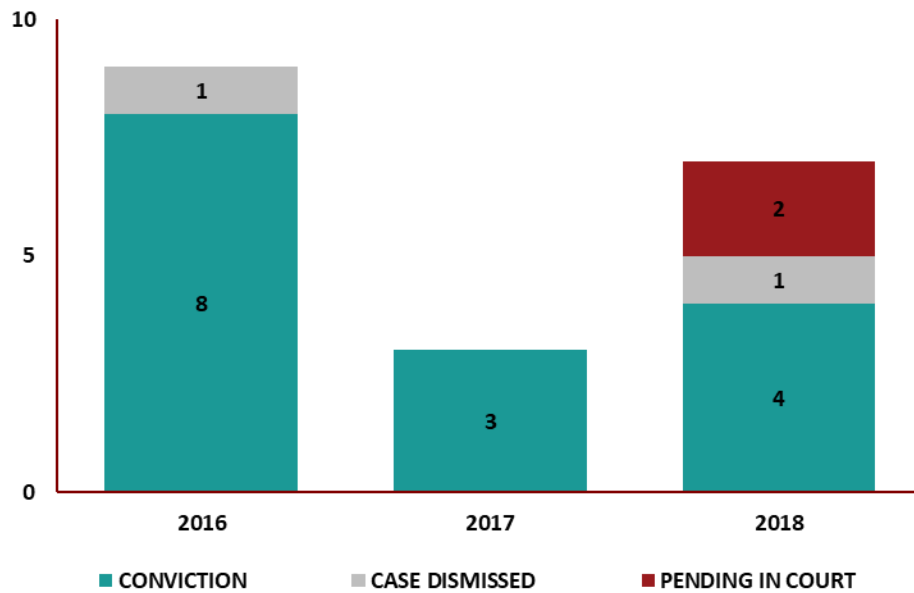
Prosecutions and Convictions

During CY 2018, the United States Attorney’s Office (USAO) for the District of Columbia identified a total of 11 human trafficking cases that were either under investigation or being prosecuted. Of the 4 cases that were investigated during CY 2018, 1 was closed and 3 are still pending. Of the 7 cases that were prosecuted (i.e., charges filed in court), 4 resulted in a conviction, 2 are still pending in court, and 1 case was dismissed.

For the 19 human trafficking cases prosecuted by USAO from CY 2016 – CY 2016, 15 have resulted in a conviction.

Figure 3: USAO Human Trafficking Cases, CY 2016 – CY 2018





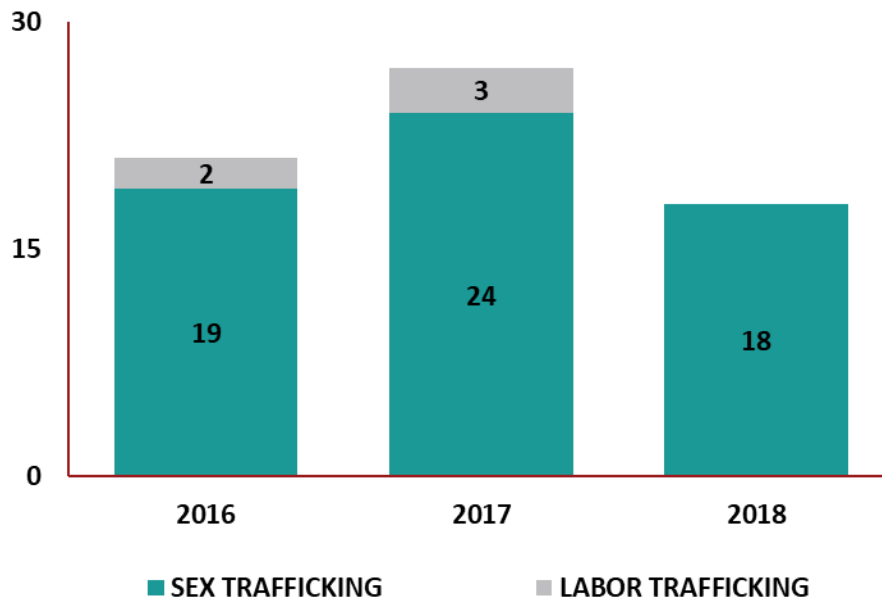
Source: United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, Sex Offense/Domestic Violence Division

HUMAN TRAFFICKING OFFENDER AND VICTIM DEMOGRAPHICS

Offender Demographics

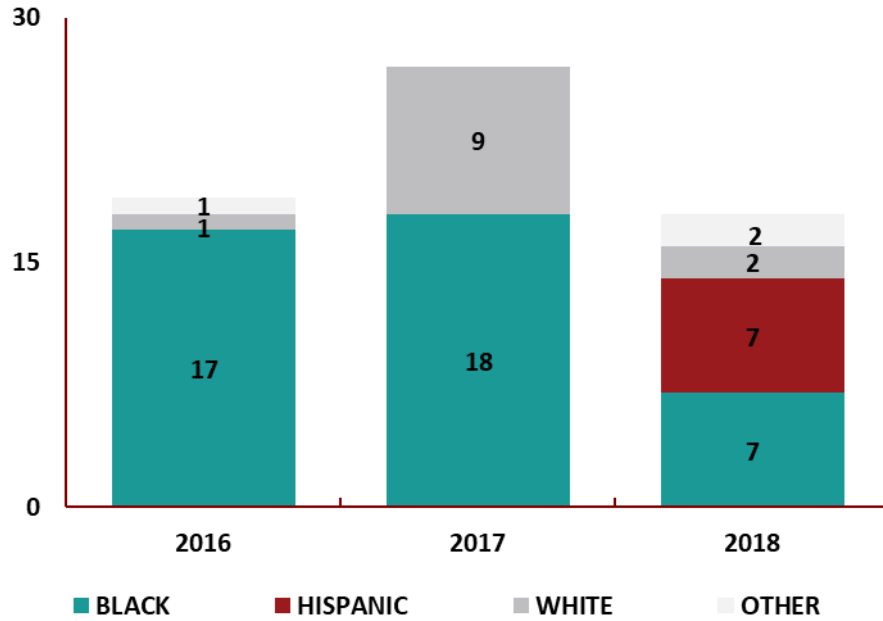
Of the individuals who were under investigation, arrested, or prosecuted for human trafficking offenses in the District from CY 2016 - CY 2018, the vast majority of them were suspected of sex trafficking. Most of the suspects were Black/African American males and U.S. citizens between the ages of 26 and 45 years, although there was increased racial diversity among suspects during CY 2018.

Figure 4: FBI-WFO and MPD Human Trafficking Offender Counts by Trafficking Type, CY 2016 - CY 2018



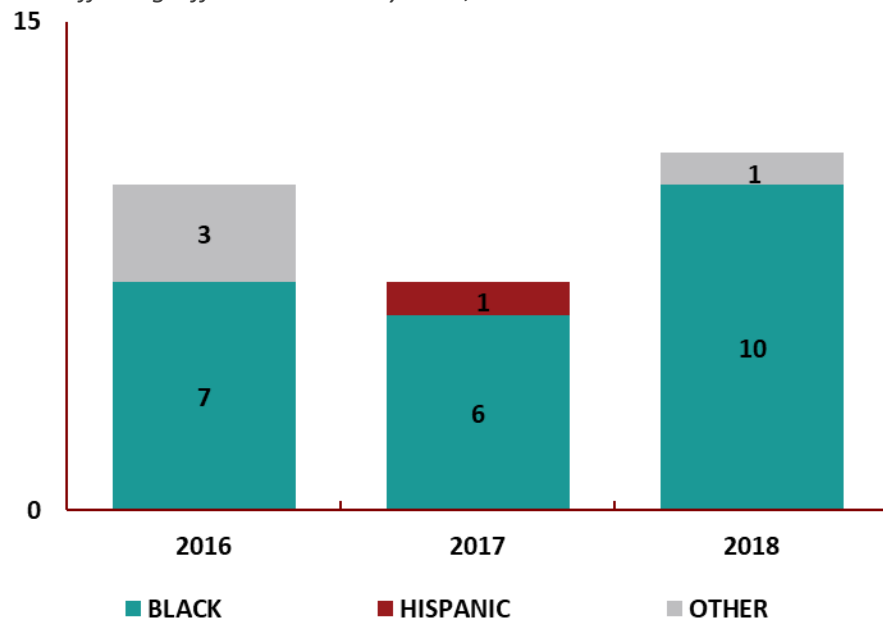
Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington Field Office, Child Exploitation Task Force
Metropolitan Police Department, Human Trafficking Unit and Youth and Family Services Division

Figure 5: FBI-WFO and MPD Human Trafficking Offender Counts by Race, CY 2016 - CY 2018



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington Field Office, Child Exploitation Task Force
Metropolitan Police Department, Human Trafficking Unit and Youth and Family Services Division

Figure 6: USAO Human Trafficking Offender Counts by Race, CY 2016 - CY 2018



Source: United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, Sex Offense/Domestic Violence Division

During CY 2018, the FBI investigated 17 individuals who were suspected of committing human trafficking offenses in the District, 7 of whom were arrested. Of the 17 individuals suspected, 7 were Hispanic/Latino and 6 were Black/African American. With respect to age, the majority of suspects were 36 – 45 years (7) or 26 – 35 years (6). Eight of the suspects identified by the FBI-WFO were U.S. citizens and 9 suspects were non-U.S. citizens or their citizenship was unknown.

MPD arrested 3 individuals during CY 2018 for human trafficking. All three suspects were Black/African American adult males whose charges include, but are not limited to “Pandering, Kidnapping, and No Permit,” “Sex Trafficking of Children by Force, Fraud, or Coercion,” and “Transportation for Illegal Sexual Activity” and other related charges.

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of Human Trafficking Offenders Identified by FBI-WFO and MPD, CY2018

OFFENDER AGE RANGE	BLACK/ AFRICAN AMERICAN	HISPANIC/ LATINO		WHITE/ CAUCASIAN		RACE/SEX UNKNOWN
	MALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	
< 18 YEARS						
18+ YEARS	9	5	2	1	1	2
18 - 25 YEARS		1				
26 - 35 YEARS	4	1			1	
36 - 45 YEARS	2	3	2			
46+ YEARS				1		

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington Field Office, Child Exploitation Task Force
Metropolitan Police Department, Human Trafficking Unit and Youth and Family Services Division

The USAO also identified 11 suspects or defendants as part of its CY 2018 human trafficking investigations and prosecutions, 5 of whom were arrested. Ten of the 11 suspects or defendants were Black/African American. Six of the 11 suspects were between 18 and 35 years. Six of the 11 suspects were U.S. citizens, while the other 5 were non-U.S. citizens or their citizenship was unknown.

Table 2: Demographic Characteristics of Human Trafficking Offenders Identified by USAO, CY2018

OFFENDER AGE RANGE	BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN			RACE/SEX UNKNOWN
	MALE	FEMALE	OTHER/ UNKNOWN	
< 18 YEARS				
18+ YEARS	7	1	1	
18 - 25 YEARS	2	1		
26 - 35 YEARS	3			
36 - 45 YEARS	1			
46+ YEARS	1			
UNKNOWN/NO DATA				1

Source: United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia, Sex Offense/Domestic Violence Division

Table 3: Human Trafficking Offenders Identified by FBI-WFO, MPD, and USAO by Citizenship, CY2018

OFFENDER CITIZENSHIP	FBI-WFO	MPD	USAO
U.S. CITIZEN	8		6
NON-U.S. CITIZEN/UNKNOWN	9	3	5
TOTAL	17	3	11

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington Field Office, Child Exploitation Task Force
Metropolitan Police Department, Human Trafficking Unit and Youth and Family Services Division
United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia, Sex Offense/Domestic Violence Division

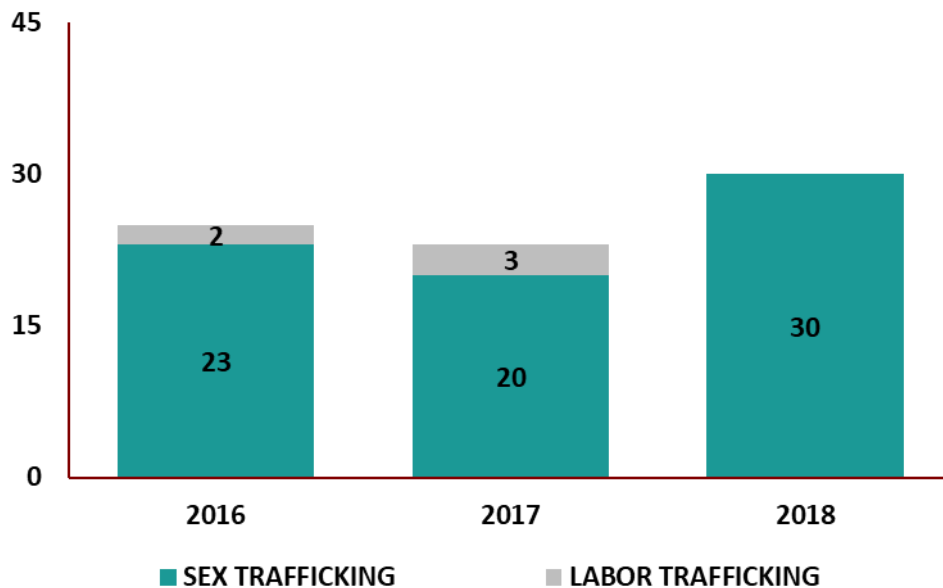
Victim Demographics

The information provided below on human trafficking victims in the District is based upon individuals who were identified as part of a law enforcement investigation or prosecution, were youth in custodial care, or received victim services from a non-governmental entity. The number of victims identified by service providers is significantly higher than the number identified by justice system agencies as victims are less likely to report their victimization to law enforcement for a number of reasons: fear of not being believed, fear of being arrested for a crime, fear of deportation if they are not legal residents of the United States, or they may have an affinity for their trafficker and do not realize they need help. Regardless of the source, human trafficking victims identified in the District of Columbia during CY 2018 were primarily Black/African American females under the age of 18 years (30.4%), who were frequently U.S. citizens.

Victims Identified by Law Enforcement

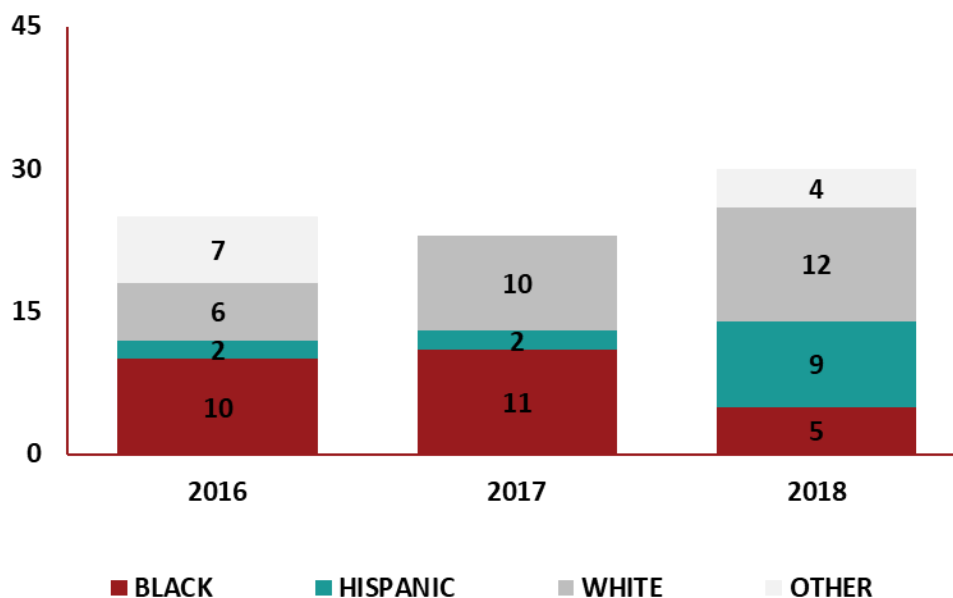
During CY 2018, FBI-WFO and MPD identified a total of 30 human trafficking victims, all of whom were victims of sex trafficking. The FBI-WFO identified 26 of the 30 sex trafficking victims, and MPD identified 4 of the victims. Whereas in previous years, the predominant racial subgroup for human trafficking victims identified by FBI-WFO and MPD was Black/African American, during CY 2018 the number of White/Caucasian (10) and Hispanic/Latino (9) victims identified exceeded the number of Black/African American (4) victims. The predominant age group for victims was 18 - 25 years old (10), and citizenship was almost equally split between U.S. citizens and non-U.S. citizens.

Figure 7: FBI-WFO and MPD Human Trafficking Victims Counts by Trafficking Type, CY 2016 - CY 2018



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington Field Office, Child Exploitation Task Force
Metropolitan Police Department, Human Trafficking Unit and Youth and Family Services Division

Figure 8: FBI-WFO and MPD Human Trafficking Victim Counts by Race, CY 2016 – CY 2018



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington Field Office, Child Exploitation Task Force
Metropolitan Police Department, Human Trafficking Unit and Youth and Family Services Division

The USAO identified 17 sex trafficking victims, 8 of whom were Black/African American females under 18 years of age and U.S. Citizens. Seven victims were females between the ages of 18 and 25 years: 3 were Black/African American, 3 were White/Caucasian, and 1 victim’s race was Other/Unknown. The following tables show a breakdown of victims by race/ethnicity, age range, and citizenship for each reporting law enforcement agency.

Table 4: Human Trafficking Victims Identified by FBI-WFO, MPD and USAO by Race/Ethnicity, CY 2018:

VICTIM RACE	FBI-WFO	MPD	USAO
BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN	3	2	12
HISPANIC/LATINO	9		
WHITE/CAUCASIAN	10	2	3
OTHER/UNKNOWN	4		2
TOTAL	26	4	17

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington Field Office, Child Exploitation Task Force
Metropolitan Police Department, Human Trafficking Unit and Youth and Family Services Division
United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia, Sex Offense/Domestic Violence Division

Table 5: Human Trafficking Victims Identified by FBI-WFO, MPD and USAO by Age Range, CY 2018

VICTIM AGE RANGE	FBI-WFO	MPD	USAO
< 18 YEARS	5		8
18+ YEARS	21	4	9
18 - 25 YEARS	10		7
26 - 35 YEARS	4		
36 - 45 YEARS	3		
46+ YEARS			1
UNKNOWN/NO DATA	4		1
TOTAL	26	4	17

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington Field Office, Child Exploitation Task Force
 Metropolitan Police Department, Human Trafficking Unit and Youth and Family Services Division
 United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, Sex Offense/Domestic Violence Division

Table 6: Human Trafficking Victims Identified by FBI-WFO, MPD, and USAO by Citizenship

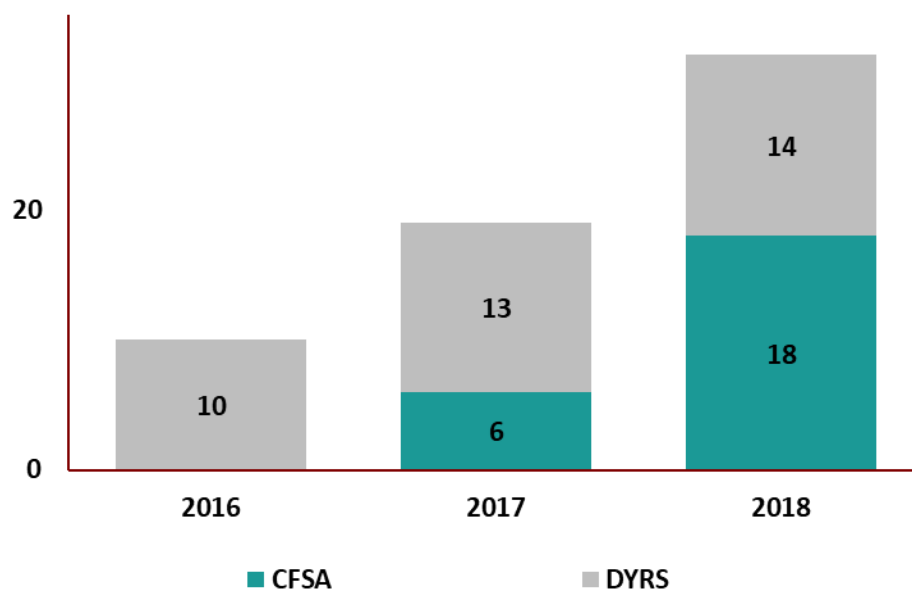
VICTIM CITIZENSHIP	FBI-WFO	MPD	USAO
U.S. CITIZEN	14		11
NON-U.S. CITIZEN/UNKNOWN	12	4	6
TOTAL	26	4	17

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington Field Office, Child Exploitation Task Force
 Metropolitan Police Department, Human Trafficking Unit and Youth and Family Services Division
 United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, Sex Offense/Domestic Violence Division

Victims Who Are Youth in Custodial Care

The Sex Trafficking of Children Prevention Amendment Act of 2014, enacted by the DC Council in 2014, required the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) and the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS), effective January 2015, to begin screening youth under their custodial care who may be at risk for sex trafficking. The numbers reflected below are for sex trafficking only.

Figure 9: Sex Trafficking Victim Counts for CFSA and DYRS, CY 2016 - CY 2018



Source: DC Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA)
 DC Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS)

CFSA identified 113 youth during CY 2018 based on referrals received who were suspected victims of sex trafficking or sexual exploitation (by a caregiver or by a non-caregiver). Upon further investigation, 18 allegations were substantiated. Of the 18 cases where allegations were substantiated for sex trafficking, 12 victims were Black/African American, 4 was Hispanic/Latino, and 2 victims' races were unknown. There were 15 females and 3 males identified. CFSA stated that services are offered to many of the families they encounter regardless of whether the allegations are substantiated. CFSA has identified several risk factors with the youth they serve, such as: history of abscondence, running away, physical and sexual abuse, substance abuse, juvenile justice involvement, engagement in sexual relations, and mental health diagnoses.

On average, it took up to 40 days from the time a case involving sex trafficking was referred to the date that the investigation was marked as closed. Once closed the case was either connected to an existing open case or opened for in-home or out-of-home services. Victims were offered referrals to service providers specializing in sex trafficking, mental health, and substance abuse. It is important to note that with updates to practice protocols and data tracking for this population, there is an expectation that the numbers will increase in the coming years.

During CY 2018, DYRS identified 14 youth in its care who were *suspected* victims of human trafficking. The youth suspected by DYRS as victims of human trafficking were all Black/African American females. At the time of entry into DYRS custody, 9 of the victims were between the ages of 14 and 15 years, 4 were 16 - 17 years, and one was under the age of 14. In addition to staff experiences in assisting youth under DYRS care, DYRS relies on the results of the Sex Trafficking Assessment Review (STAR) as a supplemental tool to confirm suspected victims of human trafficking. The STAR is administered by the Child Guidance Clinic within the Court Social Services Division (CSSD) to identify children who may have been sexually exploited.

Table 7: Demographic Characteristics of Human Trafficking Victims Identified by NGOs, CY2018

REPORTING AGENCY	BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN		HISPANIC/LATINO		OTHER/UNKNOWN
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	FEMALE
CFSA	2	10	1	3	2
DYRS		14			

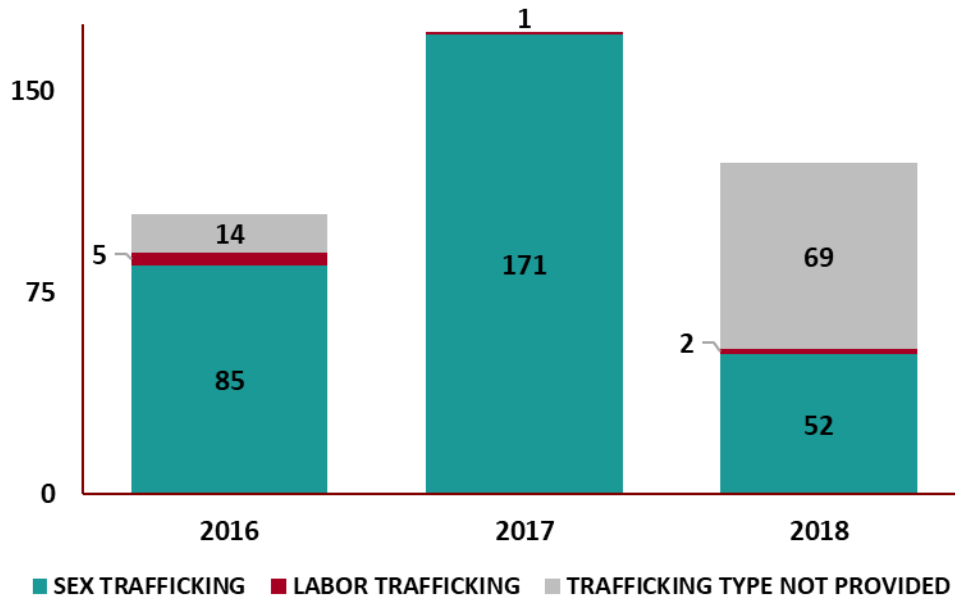
Source: DC Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA)
DC Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS)

Victims Identified by Non-Governmental Service Providers

The CJCC engaged non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in addition to government agencies to inform this report. Three of the DC Human Trafficking Task Force NGOs responded; among them, a total of 123 human trafficking victims were served.¹⁰

¹⁰ For the purposes of this report, Non-Governmental Service Provider agency names have been intentionally omitted to consider the confidentiality and safety of the victims and survivors of human trafficking they serve. Additionally, victim identities are sealed and as such total counts may be duplicative as they may include the same victims who received services across multiple providers depending on the need.

Figure 10: NGO Human Trafficking Victims Counts by Trafficking Type, CY 2016 - CY 2018

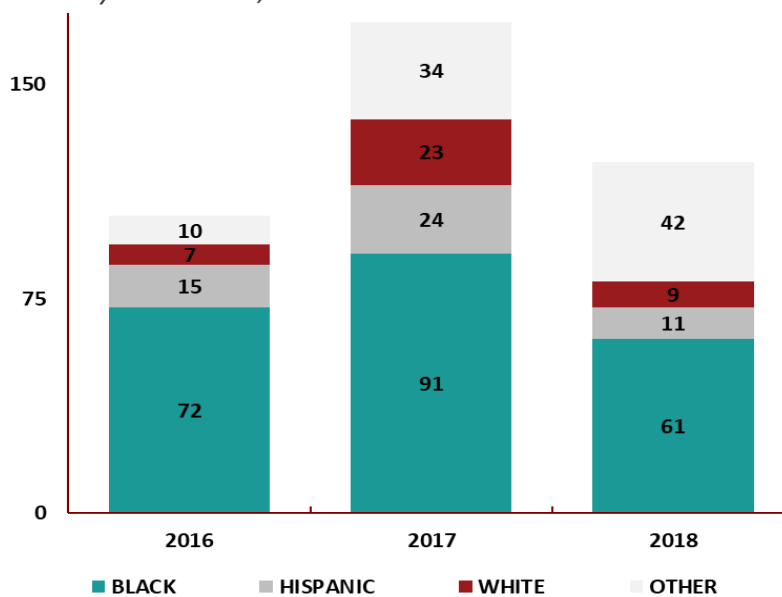


Source: Non-Governmental Service Providers that are members of the DC HTTF

Many of the victims were Black/African American (51.9%), female¹¹ (40.7%), and under the age of 18 (35%); although, 30% of victims were between the ages of 18 and 25 years. A number of victims' country of origin or citizenship (72.2%) and sex (56.9%) were unknown or undisclosed.

Victims receiving assistance from these three NGOs typically sought services for housing referrals, supportive counseling, crisis assistance, victim/witness advocacy, criminal defense, and record sealing.

Figure 11: NGO Victim Counts by Victim Race, CY 2016 - CY 2018



Source: Non-Governmental Service Providers that are members of the DC HTTF

¹¹ Some Non-Governmental Service Providers do not serve male victims. Therefore, low counts of male victims in this section should not be considered an indication that males are not victims of human trafficking or that they are not seeking services for human trafficking.

KEY TAKEAWAYS & FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

The purpose of this report was to review changes in the number and type of human trafficking investigations, arrests, and prosecutions in the District, as well as demographics of offenders and victims from CY 2016 to CY 2018. A key takeaway from the information provided in this analysis is that human trafficking reporting is complicated. Identifying, collecting, documenting, and reporting reliable, individual-level data on offenders and victims can be challenged by the incomplete nature of the data available, particularly considering that human trafficking offenses may not be reported to law enforcement. In the event that human trafficking incidents are reported to law enforcement, suspect and victim demographics may not be shared as a result of the sensitive nature of these types of cases, specifically those where investigations are ongoing. Considering this, it is difficult to identify real trends as there may be information missing that can help paint a full picture of human trafficking in the District of Columbia.

One consideration to alleviate missing information in reporting would be to expand existing operational partnerships among law enforcement, prosecutors, and service providers to include robust data collection and information sharing. The law enforcement agencies and NGOs that participate on the DC Human Trafficking Task Force (DC HTTF) offer cross-training among law enforcement agencies and service providers, provide relief to victims of human trafficking who are concerned about their immigration status, and participate in outreach via informational sessions to community members, schools, and other entities. In order to know what services are needed and effective, efficient data collection is essential to making informed decisions regarding the application of available resources, or procurement of new resources, to aid victims and service providers.

Since the first report issued by the CJCC, discussions have been held regarding a shared database of victims. This centralized database would provide the ability to estimate the number of unique human trafficking victims in the District. The new system would help report the actual number of victims impacted by human trafficking and gauging its prevalence in the District. The CJCC remains hopeful for a process or mechanism for service providers to determine whether they are assisting the same victims, which presents challenges in determining the number of unique human trafficking victims in the District.

The occurrence of human trafficking in the District of Columbia is not easily established. As such, this report should be used to comprehend the types of human trafficking instances that occur within the District and the demographics of the victims and offenders who have been identified. In compliance with the Prohibition of Human Trafficking Amendment Act of 2010, the CJCC will continue to collect data on human trafficking investigations, arrests, prosecutions, and convictions, and demographic information on the offenders and victims associated with those cases. These findings will be reported to the DC Council annually.