

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Human Trafficking Trends in the District of Columbia: CY 2016 - 2020

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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 federal funding and participation on the CJCC was authorized 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

In 2010, the *Prohibition Against Human Trafficking Amendment Act of 2010* (D.C. Law 18-239) was passed mandating a report on human trafficking for the District of Columbia to be released to the public every three years. To date, three data reports have been issued by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) regarding human trafficking in the District of Columbia. The first of these reports was issued in February 2018, which included a review of human trafficking cases that were active at any point during calendar year 2016 in addition to information about identified Suspects and victims connected with those cases. Two subsequent reports were published in March 2019 and May 2020 for human trafficking trends in the District of Columbia during calendar years 2017 and 2018, correspondingly. These reports can be located on the CJCC website here: <https://cjcc.dc.gov/page/statistical-analysis-center>. This and future reports will be available through the CJCC's online public portal: the Justice Statistical Analysis Tool (<https://www.dcjsat.net/>).

In the February 2018 report, the goal was to create a reference point for human trafficking in the District of Columbia. This report contains five calendar years of data from CY 2016 - 2020 which will be used to identify any potential trends in human trafficking incidents identified by or reported to law enforcement, prosecutors, and service providers. For each calendar year, this report seeks to answer the following questions.

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 Suspects and victims of human trafficking?

In order to fully comprehend the way in which human trafficking is addressed in the District of Columbia, CJCC evaluated data provided by local and federal criminal justice agencies that investigate, make arrests, and prosecute human trafficking in the District. Data were also collected from governmental and non-governmental entities that provide victim services. It is important to note that even with administrative data from federal and local law enforcement entities, and victim service agencies offering some insight into the extent to which human trafficking is occurring, there are still some obstacles that make it difficult to provide a full picture of human trafficking within the District. This is particularly problematic for determining its prevalence with respect to victims. Some existing issues identified include: victims' fear of reporting, limited resources that make it difficult for non-profit organizations to track victim data, and the potential for double-counting across service providers.

Human trafficking is usually underreported by victims because they are afraid for reasons such as: retaliation from their trafficker(s), being arrested for criminal activity they engaged in as a result of the trafficking, or deportation for non-citizens. Additionally, some of the nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) contacted for this report have stated that they simply did not have the funding for staff to collect and provide data, or the software necessary to track victims at a more detailed level to respond to the requirements of this report. Lastly, individuals who received human trafficking services may be duplicative as victims may receive services from multiple agencies. Personally identifiable information is not requested for this report as victim privacy and confidentiality are a priority among each of the agencies and organizations from which data were requested for the safety and protection of each victim. As such, victim totals are not based on unique individuals and include individuals who may have received services from multiple agencies or received services from one agency on multiple occasions. Additional information sources that can supplement data reported by law enforcement and victim services agencies have been employed. CJCC routinely attends DC Human Trafficking Task Force meetings, HOPE Court meetings, trainings, and seminars and obtains information from the National Human Trafficking Hotline website.¹

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.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING – THE NATIONAL LANDSCAPE

While there are many types of human trafficking that exist such as trafficking for forced labor, criminal activities, sexual exploitation, and organ removal, the two most often seen in the District are sex and labor.² With sex trafficking, adult victims are often induced to participate in sexual acts by force, fraud, or coercion. “Force, fraud, or coercion” is not required to determine sex trafficking when minors are caused to engage in commercial sex. Typical ways in which sex trafficking presents include escort services, illicit massage parlors, pornography, brothels, and street solicitation. Labor trafficking also involves force, fraud, or coercion, but in this instance, victims are forced into servitude. Labor trafficking may present in multiple ways to include construction, agricultural work, domestic work, restaurants, cleaning services, and hair or nail salons.³

Federal agencies that typically investigate human trafficking cases include 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); the Diplomatic Security Service (DSS) within the Department of State (State); the Department of Defense (DoD); and, the Department of Interior (DOI) has historically reported human trafficking investigations for purposes of the annual *Trafficking In Persons* report published by the State Department. 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 *2021 Trafficking in Persons Report*, during fiscal year 2020, DHS opened 947 investigations of suspected human trafficking; DOJ formally opened 663 investigations; State opened 95 human-trafficking related cases; and the Department of Defense (DoD) investigated 160 human trafficking-related cases. During fiscal year 2020, DOJ initiated a total of 210 human trafficking prosecutions, where 337 defendants were charged with human trafficking or human trafficking-related offenses (both decreases from the previous fiscal year). Of the prosecutions initiated, 195 were for sex trafficking and 15 were for labor trafficking.⁴

The National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH) is a product of the National Human Trafficking Resource Center managed by Polaris, which provides referrals, online resources, and reporting services for victims of human trafficking as well as individuals or agencies who come in contact with victims. In most cases, victims are in need of referrals for housing, legal services, crisis counseling, shelter, transportation, and case management. Calls to the hotline are usually made by medical professionals, faith-based organizations, representatives of NGOs, family members or friends of trafficking victims, or the victims themselves. In CY 2020, the NHTH received 51,667 contacts (e.g., phone calls, emails, texts, online chats, and webforms) and 10,583 reports of human trafficking incidents from across the United States; of those, 185 contacts and 41 reports were specific to the District of Columbia.⁵

² Department of State, *2021 Trafficking in Persons Report (2021)*: https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/TIP_Report_Final_20210701.pdf. Types of Human Trafficking, Interpol website: <https://www.interpol.int/en/Crimes/Human-trafficking/Types-of-human-trafficking>

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/>; City and County of San Francisco Human Rights Commission website: <https://sf-hrc.org/what-human-trafficking#:~:text=The%203%20most%20common%20types,the%20U.S.%20Department%20of%20State>.

⁴ Department of State, *2021 Trafficking in Persons Report (2021)*: https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/TIP_Report_Final_20210701.pdf

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

THE NATURE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE DISTRICT

In the District, the majority of human trafficking cases involve sex trafficking, based on data provided by local and federal law enforcement officials and prosecutors as well as governmental and nongovernmental service providers. In many of the instances, victims were enticed and coerced to engage in commercial sex acts after being groomed by traffickers or lured through social media tactics or newspaper ads promising work. “Grooming” occurs when traffickers seduce victims with stability through finances or fake promises of love to gain their trust before forcing them into labor or sex trafficking using physical, sexual, or emotional abuse tactics and financial manipulation. This can include threatening to harm the victim or the victim’s family or taking away their employment or financial stability.⁶

Based on the information received for this report, victims may be transported throughout the District or outside of the District to Virginia, Maryland, or other states to meet with potential “buyers.” These buyers may have been solicited through various means to include brothels, strip clubs, online advertising, and on the streets.

NOTE: For a case to be classified as human trafficking, it is not necessary for victims to be transported across city, state, or country boundaries. A full description of the federal and local definitions of human trafficking can be found in the first Human Trafficking report published by CJCC, which is located on the Publications tab of the public-facing Justice Statistical Analysis Tool (JSAT).

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, the FBI, and ICE-HSI provided information on human trafficking investigations and arrests for the purposes of this report. During CY 2020, MPD, the FBI Washington Field Office (FBI-WFO), and ICE-HSI investigated a combined total of 131 alleged human trafficking-related incidents in the District of Columbia and made a total of 21 human trafficking-related arrests.^{7,8} DHS-HSI investigated one labor trafficking offense in CY 2020. As a result, detailed case information is not available for this report, however it is included in the combined totals throughout this report.

There are two units within MPD’s Investigative Services Bureau (ISB) that are primarily responsible for human trafficking identification and enforcement activities: the Human Trafficking Unit and the Youth and Family Services Division (YFSD). The mission of the Human Trafficking Unit is to assist the Department’s personnel in the investigation and prosecution of all human trafficking and prostitution related offenses. The unit is dedicated to assisting victims of human trafficking and committed to identifying and investigating those responsible for keeping human beings for the purpose of forced servitude. In CY 2020, the Human Trafficking Unit received and investigated 66 complaints of human trafficking and made no arrests. During calendar year 2019, the Human Trafficking Unit received and investigated 62 complaints of human trafficking and made no arrests.

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

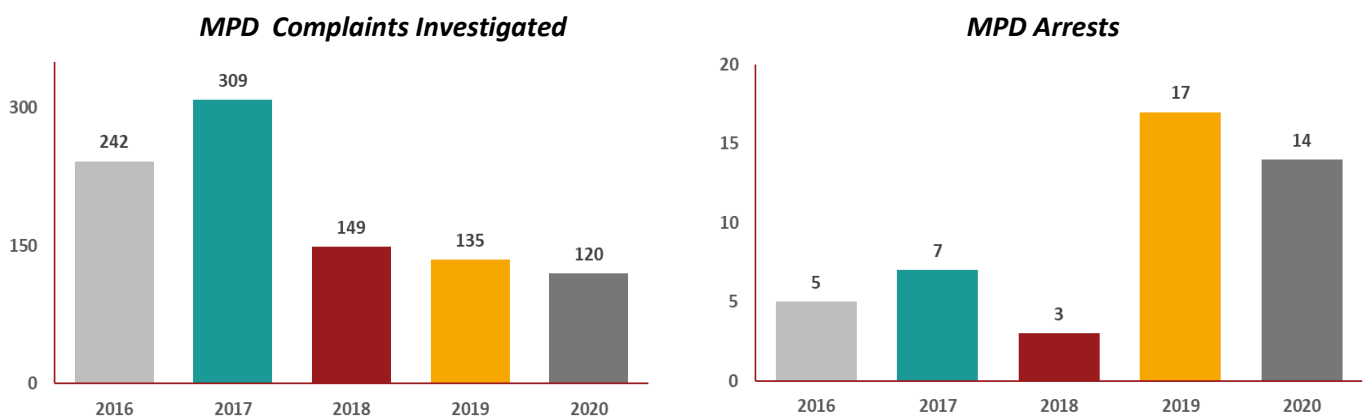
⁷ Information on investigations, arrests, prosecutions and convictions for the District of Columbia was collected and is being reported by calendar year.

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.

MPD’s YFSD is responsible for investigating child abuse and neglect, child sexual abuse and exploitation (including child pornography and child prostitution), juvenile missing persons (under the age of 18 years) and parental kidnapping, adult missing persons, and persons in need of supervision (PINS). Additionally, YFSD manages the Juvenile Processing Center where juvenile arrestees are processed; the Absconder Unit, which works to locate youth in abscondence; and the Investigating Internet Crimes against Children Unit. In recent years, YFSD has been responsible for investigating a higher number of human trafficking 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 calendar year 2020, YFSD investigated 54 allegations of potential child sex trafficking. During this timeframe, there were 14 arrests in 13 cases that were identified as human trafficking-related cases. In calendar year 2019, there were 73 allegations of potential child sex trafficking investigated by Youth Division. During this timeframe there were 17 arrests in 11 cases that were identified as human trafficking-related cases.

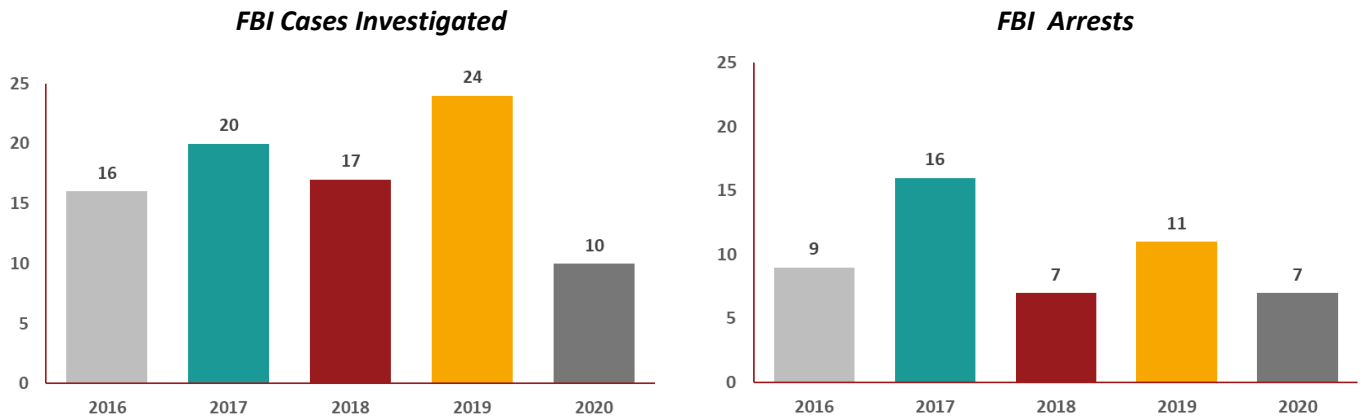
Figure 1: MPD Human Trafficking Cases, CY 2016 - CY 2020



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

The FBI-WFO had 10 human trafficking cases in the District that were active at some point during CY 2020, all of which were for sex trafficking. Two of the 10 cases involved one suspect and two victims, the remaining eight cases involved one victim and one suspect each. At the end of CY 2020, 7 cases were pending investigation, 2 were closed administratively, and one was closed with a conviction.

Figure 2: FBI-WFO Human Trafficking Cases, CY 2016 – CY 2020



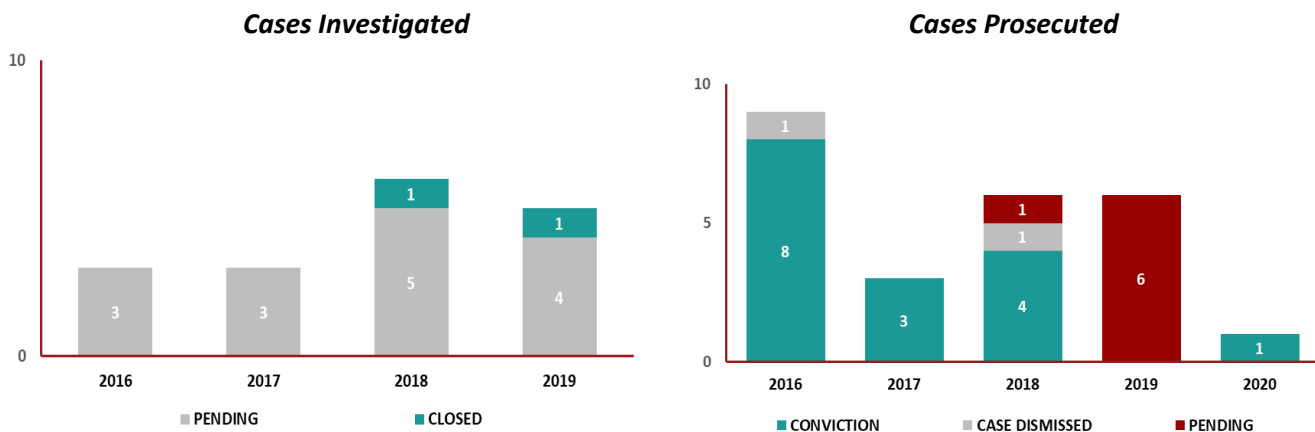
Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington Field Office, Child Exploitation Task Force

Prosecutions and Convictions

During calendar year 2020, there was one human trafficking case identified by the United States Attorney’s Office (USAO) for the District of Columbia that was being prosecuted, which resulted in a conviction. As cases within the USAO are ongoing, case statuses may change each year, or during the calendar year, from investigation (pending or closed) to prosecution (pending in court, conviction, dismissed, or closed administratively). The charts below reflect the status of active USAO cases during each calendar year that were either being investigated or being prosecuted.

Since calendar year 2016, the USAO has investigated 17 human trafficking cases where 2 have been closed without prosecution and 15 are pending investigation. Additionally, the USAO has prosecuted 25 human trafficking cases where 16 have resulted in a conviction, 2 have been dismissed, and 7 are pending in court.

Figure 3: USAO Human Trafficking Cases, CY 2016 – CY 2020



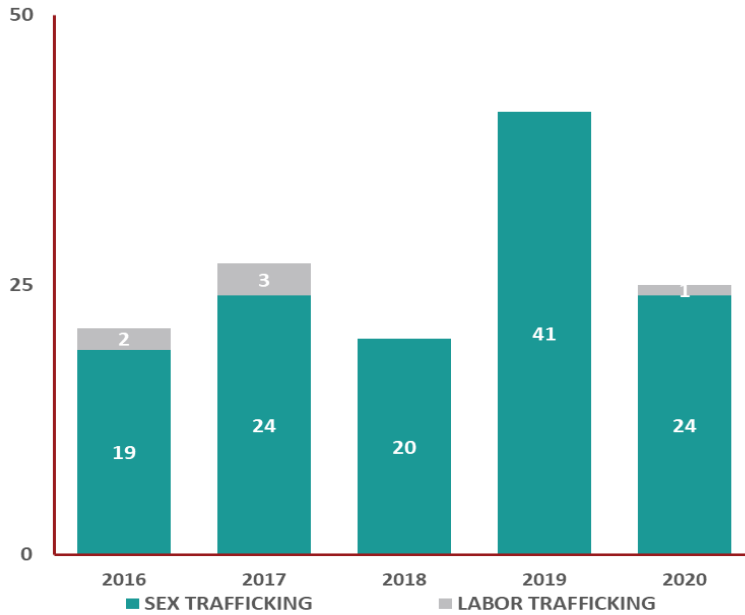
Source: United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia, Sex Offense/Domestic Violence Division

HUMAN TRAFFICKING SUSPECT AND VICTIM DEMOGRAPHICS

Suspect Demographics

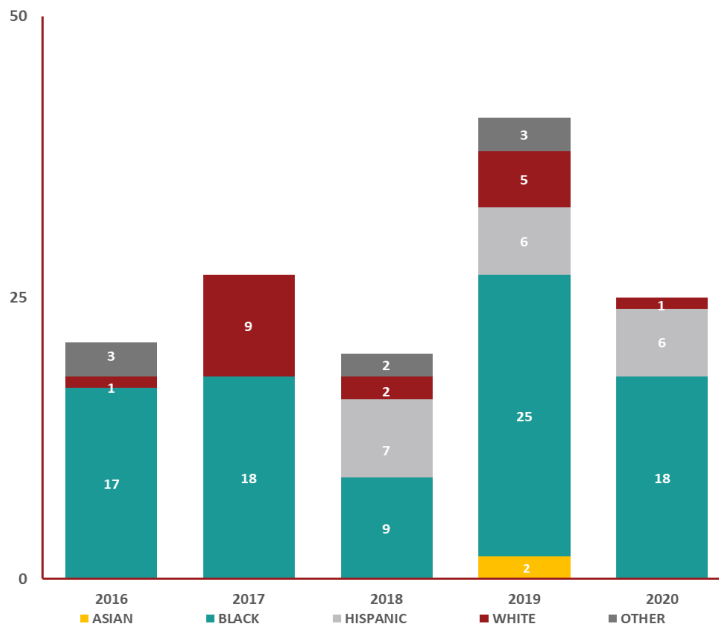
Individuals arrested for or suspected of human trafficking in the District from CY 2016 - CY 2020 were typically Black/African American males who are U.S. citizens between the ages of 25 and 39 years. Generally, these individuals were under investigation, arrested, or prosecuted for sex trafficking crimes.

Figure 4: DHS-HSI, FBI-WFO, and MPD Human Trafficking Suspect Counts by Trafficking Type, CY 2016 - CY 2020



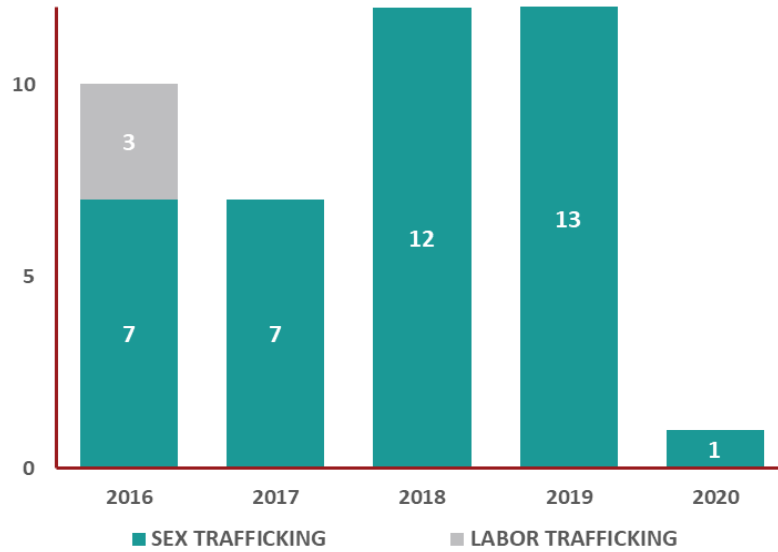
Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington Field Office, Child Exploitation Task Force
Metropolitan Police Department, Human Trafficking Unit and Youth and Family Services Division
U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Office of the Executive Secretariat

Figure 5: DHS-HSI, FBI-WFO, MPD Human Trafficking Suspect Counts by Race, CY 2016 - CY 2020



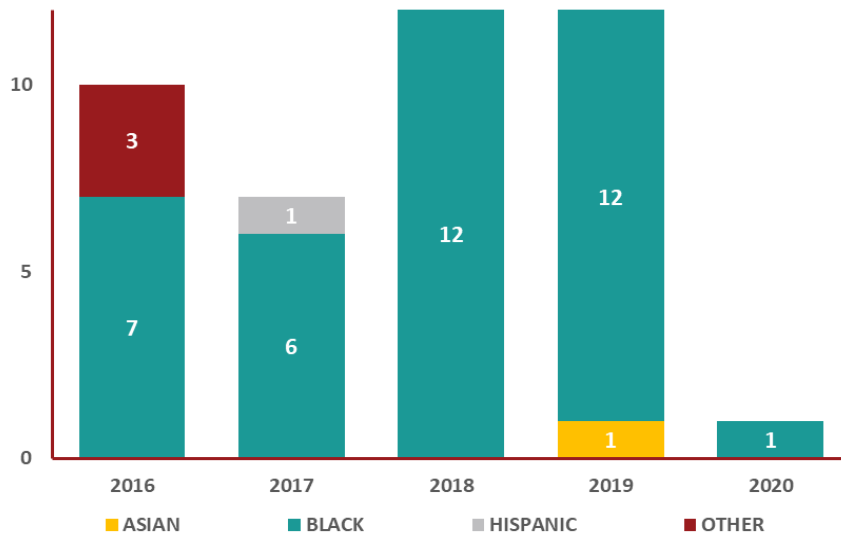
Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington Field Office, Child Exploitation Task Force
Metropolitan Police Department, Human Trafficking Unit and Youth and Family Services Division
U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Office of the Executive Secretariat

Figure 6: USAO Human Trafficking Suspect Counts by Trafficking Type, CY 2016 - CY 2020



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

Figure 7: USAO Human Trafficking Suspect Counts by Race, CY 2016 - CY 2020



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

From CY2016-CY2020, the FBI investigated 87 individuals who were suspected of committing human trafficking offenses in the District, 82 for sex trafficking and 5 for labor trafficking. Of the 87 individuals suspected, 46 were Black/African American, 16 were Hispanic/Latino, 16 were White/Caucasian, 8 were Other or of unknown race, and 1 was Asian; 74 were male, 9 were female, and 4 whose gender was not reported. With respect to age, suspects between the ages of 25 and 29 years appeared most frequently (21) followed by individuals 30-39 years (20), 40-49 years (16), 18-24 years (12), 50-59 years (7), 60+ years (2), 4 who were 18+ years and 5 of unknown age. Sixty-one suspects identified by the FBI-WFO over the last five years were U.S. citizens, 7 suspects were non-U.S. citizens, and 19 of the suspects had an unknown citizenship status. This breakdown is proportionately reflective of the individuals who were

arrested for human trafficking offenses in the District by the FBI-WFO. There were 48 individuals arrested for sex trafficking and 2 arrested for labor trafficking for a total of 50 arrests in the last five years.

During CY 2020, the FBI investigated 10 individuals who were suspected of committing human trafficking offenses in the District all for sex trafficking, 7 of whom were arrested. Of the 10 individuals suspected, 7 were Black/African American and 3 were Hispanic/Latino; 9 were male and 1 was female. With respect to age, suspects were 18-24 years (3), 25-29 years (3), 40-49 years (3), and 30-39 years (1). Seven of the suspects identified by the FBI-WFO were U.S. citizens, 1 suspect was not a U.S. citizen, and 2 suspects had an unknown citizenship status.

In the last five years (CY2016-CY2020), MPD arrested 46 individuals for sex trafficking offenses. Of these individuals arrested, 45 were adults (18+ years). The racial breakdown of these individuals includes Black/African Americans (41), Hispanic/Latino (2), White/Caucasian (2), and Asian (1); 38 were male and 8 were female. Charges for these individuals include “Pandering,” “Kidnapping,” “Sex Trafficking of Children,” “Sex Trafficking by Force, Fraud, or Coercion,” “Transportation for Illegal Sexual Activity,” and other human trafficking-related charges.

In CY 2020, MPD arrested 14 adult males for sex trafficking offenses. Of these individuals arrested, 11 were Black/African Americans, 2 were Hispanic/Latino, and 1 was White/Caucasian. MPD does not collect citizenship status at the time of arrest.

DHS-HSI investigated one labor trafficking offense in CY 2020 and made one arrest. As a result, detailed Suspect information is not available for this report, however it is included in the combined table totals below.

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of Human Trafficking Suspects Identified by DHS-HSI, FBI-WFO, MPD CY 2016 - CY 2020

OFFENDER AGE RANGE	ASIAN	BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN		HISPANIC/LATINO		WHITE/CAUCASIAN		OTHER RACE/ETHNICITY		RACE & GENDER UNKNOWN
	MALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	
< 18 YEARS			1							
18+ YEARS	2	78	8	15	3	13	4	2	1	2
18 - 24 YEARS		8		3		1				
25 - 29 YEARS		11	2	1	1	4	1		1	
30 - 39 YEARS		13		5	1		2			
40 - 49 YEARS		10		2	1	2		1		
50 - 59 YEARS	1	2		2		1		1		
60+ YEARS						2				
AGE UNK				1		1		1		2

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington Field Office, Child Exploitation Task Force Metropolitan Police Department, Human Trafficking Unit and Youth and Family Services Division U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Office of the Executive Secretariat

From CY2016-CY2020, USAO identified 43 suspects or defendants during its human trafficking investigations and prosecutions, 33 of whom were arrested. Of the 43 individuals suspected, 38 were Black/African American, 3 were Other or of unknown race, 1 was Hispanic/Latino, and 1 was Asian; 31 were male, 11 female, and 1 whose gender was not reported. With respect to age, suspects 18+ years (actual age was not reported or was unknown to include in one of the established age range categories)

appeared most frequently (10), followed by individuals 30-39 years (10), 25-29 years (8), 18-24 years (6), 40-49 years (5), and 50-59 years (2). Twenty-seven of the suspects identified by the USAO over the last five years were U.S. citizens, 2 suspects were non-U.S. citizens, and 14 of the suspects' citizenship status was unknown.

The USAO prosecuted one sex trafficking offense in CY 2020 which resulted in an arrest. As a result, detailed Suspect information is not available for this report, however it is included in the combined table totals below.

Table 2: Demographic Characteristics of Human Trafficking Suspects Identified by USAO, CY 2016 - CY 2020

OFFENDER AGE RANGE	ASIAN	BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN			HISPANIC/LATINO	OTHER RACE/ETHNICITY		RACE & GENDER UNKNOWN
	MALE	MALE	FEMALE	UNK	MALE	MALE	FEMALE	
< 18 YEARS								
18+ YEARS	1	23	10	1	1	2	1	
18 - 24 YEARS		2	3		1			
25 - 29 YEARS		6	2					
30 - 39 YEARS		7						
40 - 49 YEARS	1	2	1					
50 - 59 YEARS		2						
60+ YEARS								
AGE UNK								1

Source: 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 2020 were primarily Black/African American females under the age of 18 years who were frequently U.S. citizens. This breakdown is consistent with what has been seen over the last five years.

Victims Identified by Law Enforcement

Over the last five years, FBI-WFO, MPD, and DHS-HSI identified a total of 131 human trafficking victims, 6 of whom were victims of labor trafficking. The FBI-WFO identified 103 of the 131 trafficking victims (98 sex trafficking and 5 labor trafficking victims). Victims were primarily female (101) with 2 victim's gender unreported. Thirty-six of the victims were under the age of 18 years followed by victims 18-24 years (35), 30-39 years (10), 25-29 years (8), 40-49 years (3), and 11 victims whose ages were unknown or not reported. Of the 103 victims identified by FBI-WFO in the last five years, 35 were White/Caucasian, 29 were Black/African American, 24 were Hispanic/Latino, 14 were Other or of unknown race, and 1 was Asian. Seventy-one of the victims were U.S. citizens, 15 were non-U.S. citizens, and 17 of the victims' citizenship status was unknown or not reported.

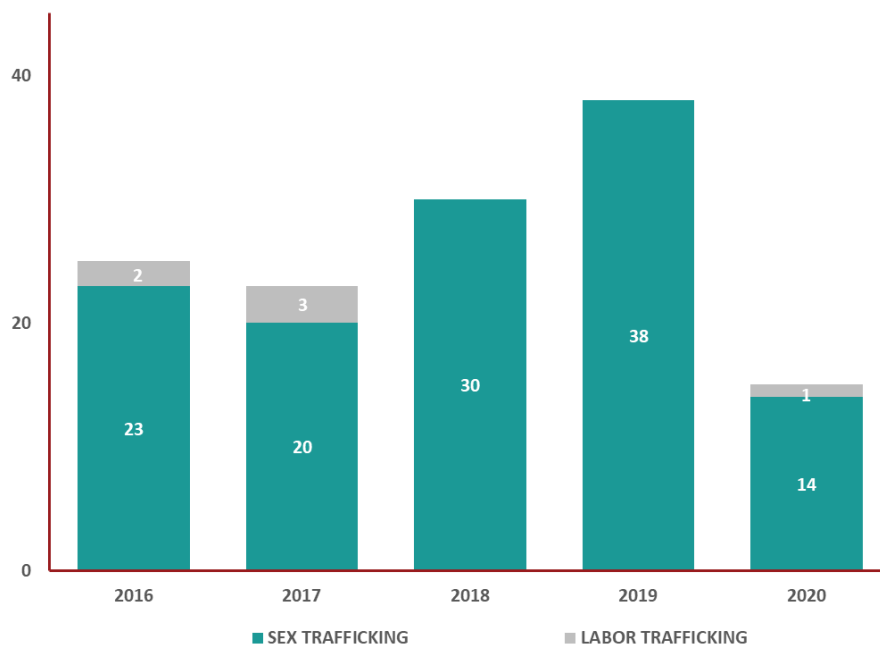
MPD identified 27 of the victims over the last five years, all of which were for sex trafficking, all of whom were female. Sixteen of the victims were under the age of 18 years and 11 were 18+ years. Of the 27 victims identified by MPD in the last five years, 19 were Black/African American, 7 were White/Caucasian, and 1 was Hispanic/Latino. Citizenship status is unavailable from MPD.

During CY 2020, FBI-WFO, MPD, and DHS-HSI identified a total of 26 human trafficking victims, 25 of whom were victims of sex trafficking. The FBI-WFO identified 12 of the 26 trafficking victims, all of which were for sex trafficking. All 12 victims were female, 7 of whom were under 18 years of age, followed by victims 18-24 years (2) and 3 victims whose ages were unknown or not reported. Of the 12 victims identified by FBI-WFO in the last five years, 7 were Black/African American, 4 were Hispanic/Latino, and 1 was Other or of unknown race. Eight of the victims were U.S. citizens and 4 of the victims' citizenship status was unknown or not reported.

MPD identified 2 of the victims during CY 2020, all of which were for sex trafficking. Both of the victims were Black/African American females; 1 under the age of 18 years and the other 18+ years.

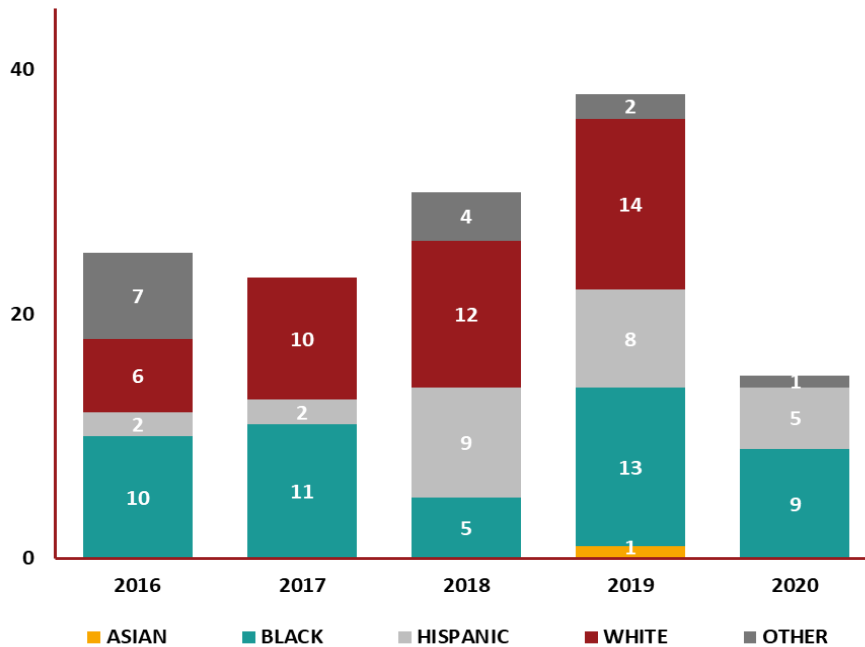
DHS-HSI investigated one labor trafficking offense in CY 2020. As a result, detailed victim information is not available for this report, however it is included in the combined totals below.

Figure 7: DHS-HSI, FBI-WFO, MPD Human Trafficking Victims Counts by Trafficking Type, CY 2016 - CY 2020



*Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington Field Office, Child Exploitation Task Force
Metropolitan Police Department, Human Trafficking Unit and Youth and Family Services Division
U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Office of the Executive Secretariat*

Figure 8: DHS-HSI, FBI-WFO, MPD Human Trafficking Victim Counts by Race, CY 2016 - CY 2020



*Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington Field Office, Child Exploitation Task Force
Metropolitan Police Department, Human Trafficking Unit and Youth and Family Services Division
U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Office of the Executive Secretariat*

From CY 2016-CY2020, the USAO identified 67 human trafficking victims, (42 sex trafficking and 25 labor trafficking victims). Victims were primarily female (40) with 27 victim’s sex unreported. Thirty-three of the victims were under the age of 18 years followed by victims 18-24 years (6), 40-49 years (2), and 26 victims whose ages were unknown or not reported. Of the 67 victims identified by the USAO in the last five years, 36 were Black/African American, 27 were Other or of unknown race, 2 were White/Caucasian, and 2 were Hispanic/Latino. Thirty-six of the victims were U.S. citizens, 1 was not a U.S. citizen, and 30 of the victims’ citizenship status was unknown or not reported.

The USAO prosecuted 1 sex trafficking offense in CY 2020 which resulted in an arrest. As a result, detailed victim information is not available for this report, however it is included in the combined table totals below.

Table 3: Human Trafficking Victims Identified by FBI-WFO, MPD, and DHS-HSI by Race/Ethnicity, Gender, and Age Range, CY 2016 - CY 2020

VICTIM AGE RANGE	ASIAN	BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN	HISPANIC/LATINO	WHITE/CAUCASIAN	OTHER RACE/ETHNICITY	
	FEMALE	FEMALE	FEMALE	FEMALE	FEMALE	UNKNOWN
<18 YEARS		24	14	11	3	
18+ YEARS	1	21	9	29	8	
18 - 24 YEARS		13	9	13	1	
25 - 29 YEARS	1	1		5	1	
30 - 39 YEARS		1		5	4	
40 - 49 YEARS		1			2	
AGE UNK		3	3	2	1	2

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 4: Human Trafficking Victims Identified USAO by Race/Ethnicity, Gender, and Age Range, CY 2018

VICTIM AGE RANGE	BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN	HISPANIC/LATINO	WHITE/CAUCASIAN	OTHER RACE/ETHNICITY
	FEMALE	FEMALE	FEMALE	UNKNOWN SEX
<18 YEARS	31	2		
18+ YEARS	5		2	1
18 - 24 YEARS	3		2	1
25 - 29 YEARS				
30 - 39 YEARS				
40 - 49 YEARS	2			
AGE UNK				26

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

As of January 2015, the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) and the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) are required under the District's Sex Trafficking of Children Prevention Amendment Act of 2014 to screen youth in their custody who are potentially at risk for sex trafficking. The numbers reflected below are for sex trafficking victims only.

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 for sex trafficking among 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. From the time a case that was referred for sex trafficking was referred to CFSA over the five-year review period, on average it was marked as closed within 41 days. Once cases are closed, they are either connected to an existing open case or opened for in-home or out-of-home services. Victims are then provided with 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 continue to increase in the coming years.

From CY2016-CY2020, CFSA identified 358 youth 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,

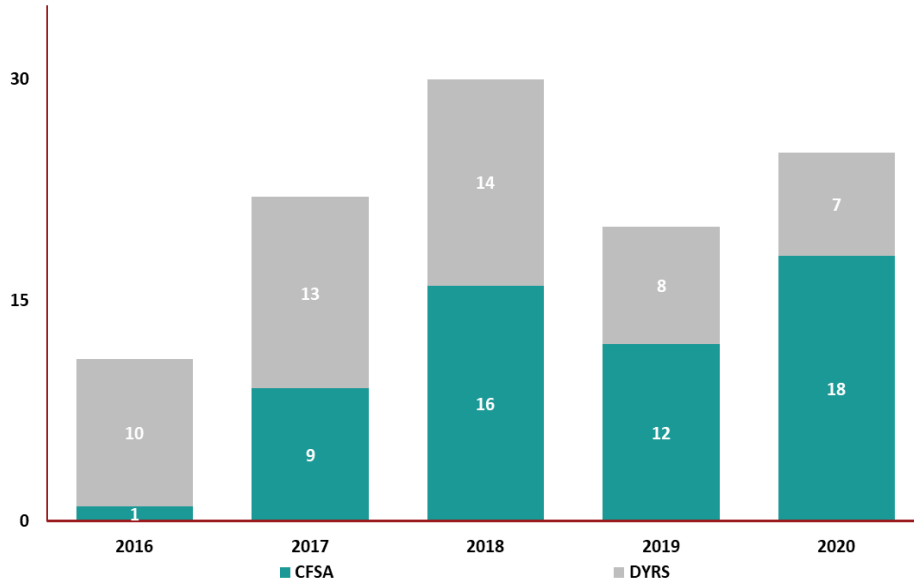
56 of these allegations were substantiated. Of the 56 cases where allegations were substantiated for sex trafficking, 36 victims were Black/African American, 7 were Hispanic/Latino, 11 victims' races were unknown, and 2 victims were White/Caucasian. There were 51 females and 5 males identified. Victim age ranges were from 6 years to 17 years which includes victims who were 15-17 years (36), 12-14 years (12), and <12 years (6). Forty-nine of the victims were U.S. citizens, 2 were non-U.S. citizens, and 5 of the victims' citizenship status was unknown or not reported.

In CY 2020, CFSA identified 105 youth based on referrals received who were suspected victims of sex trafficking or sexual exploitation (by a caregiver or by a non-caregiver). Further investigation revealed 18 of these allegations to be substantiated. Of the 18 cases where allegations were substantiated for sex trafficking, 12 victims were Black/African American, 1 was Hispanic/Latino, 3 victims' races were unknown, and 2 victims were White/Caucasian. All 18 victims were female and U.S. citizens. Victim age ranges include 15-17 years (8), <12 years (6), and 12-14 years (4).

DYRS employs the results of the Sex Trafficking Assessment Review (STAR) as a supplemental tool to identify and confirm suspected victims of sex trafficking in addition to staff experiences in supporting youth under DYRS care. STAR is administered by the Child Guidance Clinic within the Court Social Services Division (CSSD) to identify children who may have been sexually exploited. From CY2016-CY2020, DYRS identified 52 youth in its care who were *suspected* victims of human trafficking. With the exception of one, all youth suspected by DYRS to be a victim of human trafficking were Black/African American females (51 youth). Victim ages range from 15-17 years (27), 18-24 years (17), and 12-14 years (8). Victims ages 18 to 24 years entered into DYRS custody prior to turning 18 years.

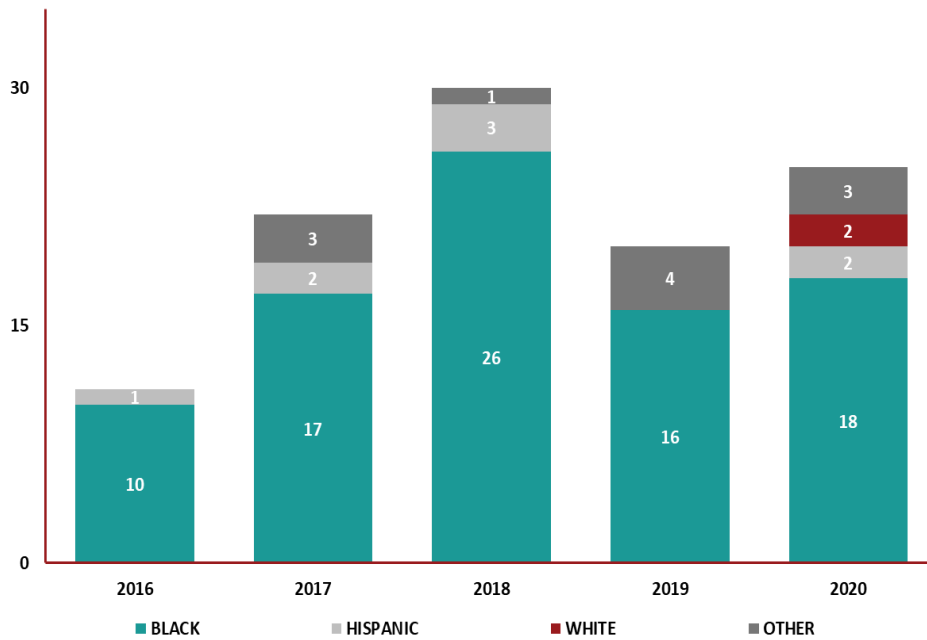
During CY 2020, DYRS identified 7 youth in its care who were *suspected* victims of human trafficking. The youth suspected by DYRS as victims of human trafficking were mostly Black/African American (6); one victim was Hispanic. All victims were female. Victim ages range from 15-17 years (4), 12-14 years (2), and 18-24 years (1).

Figure 9: Sex Trafficking Victim Counts for CFSA and DYRS, CY 2016 - CY 2020



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

Figure 10: Sex Trafficking Victim Counts for CFSA and DYRS by Race/Ethnicity, CY 2016 - CY 2020



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

Table 5: Demographic Characteristics of Human Trafficking Victims Identified by CFSA & DYRS, CY 2016 - CY 2020

VICTIM AGE RANGE	BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN		HISPANIC/LATINO	HISPANIC/LATINO	WHITE/CAUCASIAN	OTHER RACE/ETHNICITY	
	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	FEMALE	MALE
<12 YEARS	3		1		1	3	
12 - 14 YEARS	15	2	2			1	
15 - 17 YEARS	49	1	4	1	1	6	1
18 - 24 YEARS	17						

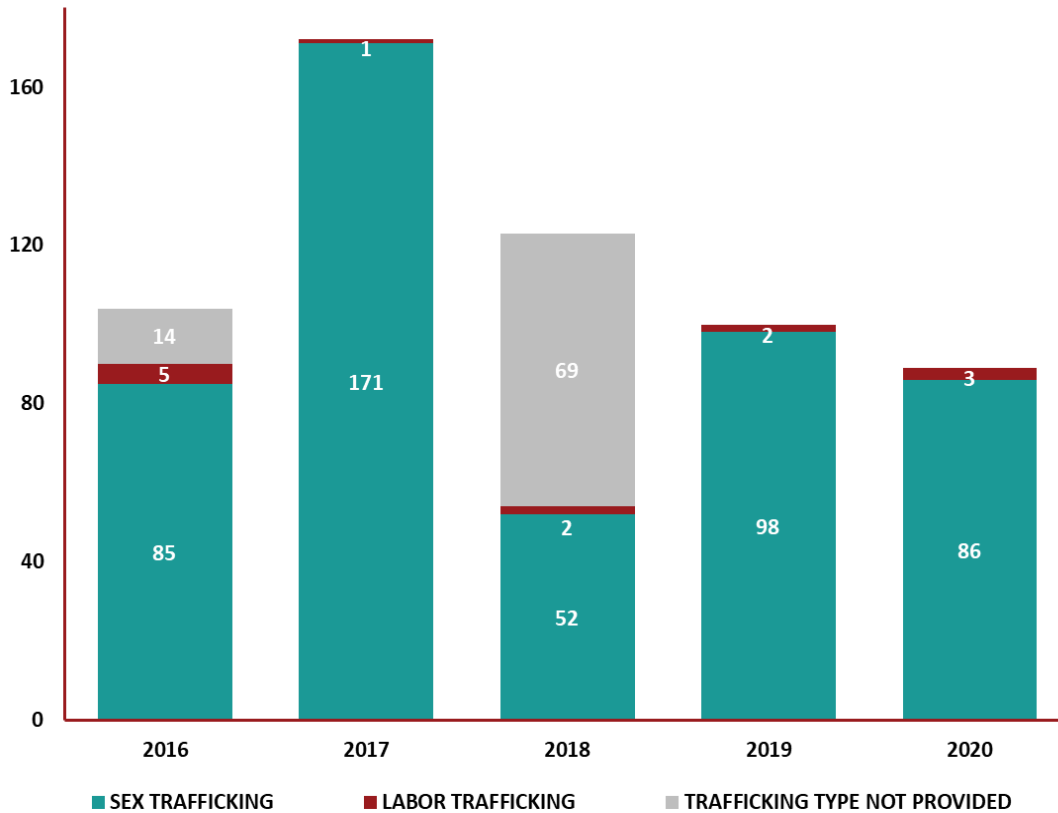
Source: DC Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA); DC Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS)

Victims Identified by Non-Governmental Service Providers

Every year since the inception of this report, CJCC has engaged more than 20 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in addition to government agencies to inform this report. Each year, anywhere from two to five of the NGOs listed on the DC Human Trafficking Task Force website respond. NGOs who are unable to respond to this request cite lack of resources (e.g., personnel and/or software capabilities). Among the NGOs who are able to respond with data from CY2016-CY2020, a total of 588 human trafficking victims were served. During CY 2020, data were obtained from three NGOs who provided services to 89 human trafficking victims.⁹

⁹ 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 or received services from the same agency over time.

Figure 11: NGO Human Trafficking Victims Counts by Trafficking Type, CY 2016 - CY 2020

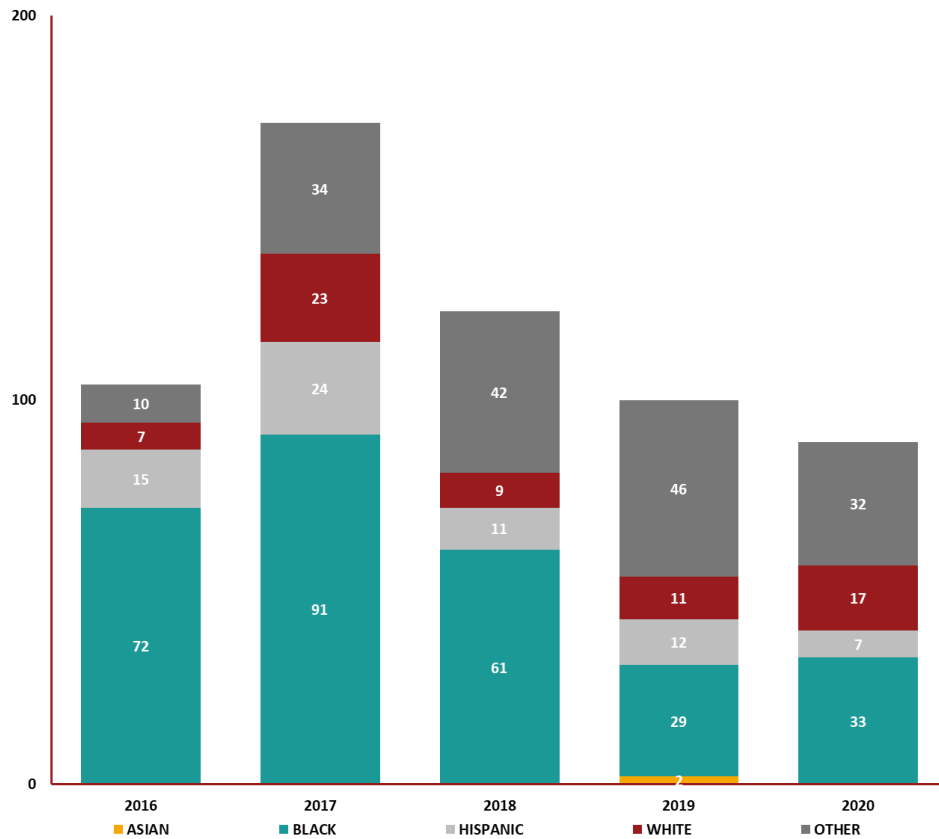


Source: Non-Governmental Service Providers that are members of the DC HTTF

Victims who received assistance from these NGOs usually sought services for housing referrals, supportive counseling, crisis assistance, victim/witness advocacy, criminal defense, and record sealing. From CY 2016-CY2020, the NGOs who provided data reported assisting 492 sex trafficking victims, 13 labor trafficking victims, and 83 victims whose trafficking type was not identified. Of these 588 victims, 286 were Black/African American, 164 were Other or of unknown race, 69 were Hispanic/Latino, 67 were White/Caucasian, and 2 were Asian. Victims were primarily female (492), which includes transgender female counts, 22 victims were male, and 74 victims' gender was unreported. There were 148 victims under the age of 18 years followed by victims 18-24 years (205), 25-29 years (89), 30-39 years (42), 40-49 years (19), 50-59 years (9), and 76 victims whose ages were unknown or not reported. Where collected, 261 of the victims were U.S. citizens, 27 were not a U.S. citizen, and 300 of the victims' citizenship status was unknown or not reported.

In CY 2020, the NGOs who provided data reported assisting 86 sex trafficking victims and 3 labor trafficking victims. Of these 89 victims, 33 were Black/African American, 32 were Other or of unknown race, 17 were White/Caucasian, and 7 were Hispanic/Latino. Victims were majority female (80) which includes transgender female counts and 9 victims were male. There were 41 victims under the age of 18 years followed by victims 18-24 years (19), 25-29 years (12), 40-49 years (7), 30-39 years (50), 50-59 years (4), and 1 victim whose age was unknown or not reported. Where collected, 3 of the victims were not a U.S. citizen and 86 of the victims' citizenship status was unknown or not reported.

Figure 12: NGO Victim Counts by Victim Race, CY 2016 - CY 2020



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

Table 6: Demographic Characteristics of Human Trafficking Victims Identified by NGOs, CY 2016 - CY 2020

VICTIM AGE RANGE	ASIAN	BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN			HISPANIC/LATINO			WHITE/CAUCASIA		OTHER RACE/ETHNICITY		
	FEMALE	FEMALE	MALE	UNK	FEMALE	MALE	UNK	FEMALE	UNK	FEMALE	MALE	UNK
<18 YEARS	1	56	2	6	16			4		43	9	11
18 - 24 YEARS		102	2	12	21		1	19	1	37	3	7
25 - 29 YEARS	1	32		11	13			11	3	12		6
30 - 39 YEARS		20	1	1	1			9	4	5		1
40 - 49 YEARS		6			1	1		5		5	1	
50 - 59 YEARS		3				2		4				
AGE UNK		29		3	9	1	3	6	1	21		3

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

KEY TAKEAWAYS & FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

The frequency with which human trafficking occurs in the District of Columbia is not easily determined. As such, this report should be used to obtain a general understanding of the types of human trafficking instances that exist within the District as well as the demographics of the victims and Suspects who have been identified. In compliance with the Prohibition of Human Trafficking Amendment Act of 2010, CJCC will continue to collect data on human trafficking investigations, arrests, prosecutions, and convictions, and demographic information on the Suspects and victims associated with those cases. These findings will be reported to the DC Council and online via the DC JSAT Public Portal annually (<https://www.dccjsat.net/>).

The details of this report provide a review of changes in the number and type of human trafficking investigations, arrests, and prosecutions in the District, as well as demographics of Suspects and victims from CY 2016 to CY 2020. 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 Suspects and victims can be hindered 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 for NGOs. 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. 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.