

Data on Human Trafficking in Maryland

- In a survey done by the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force (MHTTF), victim service providers in Maryland identified 396 victims of sex and labor trafficking served in 2014. Of the 396 individual victims, 381 were sex trafficking victims and 15 were victims of labor trafficking. Of the sex and labor trafficking victims whose ages were reported, 56% were children¹.
- According to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, in 2019 there were 187 human trafficking cases reported in Maryland. This represents an 11% increase from reports to the hotline in Maryland in 2018 (n=168) and a 55% increase from Maryland's 2017 reports (n=121).²
- Of the 2019 cases of human trafficking reported to the national hotline, 68% involved sex trafficking (n=127), 19% involved labor trafficking (n=36) and 6% involved sex and labor trafficking (n=11).
- Between June 2013 and April 2020, over 671 reports of suspected child sex trafficking (CST) were reported to and screened in by Child Protective Services (CPS) units in Maryland's 24 local Departments of Social Services (LDSS) agencies.³ As of September 2019, the counties with the most CST reports are Baltimore City, Prince George's County, Washington County, Baltimore County, Anne Arundel County, Harford County and Montgomery County. Law enforcement agencies (local, state and federal) are the biggest referral source for these cases, reporting more than 30% of Maryland CST cases.⁴ Most alleged victims involved in these reports were aged 14-17 when first identified and primarily reside in Maryland, although over 20 confirmed minor victims were from other states (Pennsylvania, Texas, California, Florida, New York, West Virginia, Ohio, Michigan and North Carolina) were trafficked in Maryland.⁵
- The data on labor trafficking in Maryland is much less robust. The National Human Trafficking Hotline reports that in the Delaware – Maryland – Virginia/D.C. (DMV) area between January 1, 2015 and June 30, 2018, 384 potential victims of labor trafficking were identified, along with 96 victims of sex *and* labor trafficking. Nearly half (43%) of these potential victims were foreign nationals and reported being exploited in domestic worker situations (22%), hostess/strip clubs (10%), restaurants (7%), and peddling/begging rings (14%).⁶

¹ Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force. (2014). *Maryland Human Trafficking Victim Identification and Services Survey: Results from Calendar Year 2014*. Available at www.mdhumantrafficking.org/reports.

² Polaris Project, National Human Trafficking Resource Center. *National Human Trafficking Hotline Statistics*. Accessed January 19, 2021 at <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/states>.

³ 2013-2018 Child Electronic Social Services Information Exchange (CHESSIE), DHS- SSA, as analyzed and reported by the Child Sex Trafficking Victims Initiative, University of Maryland, School of Social Work.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ *Potential Victim Data Related to Labor Trafficking in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia Area: January 1, 2015-June 30, 2018.* National Human Trafficking Hotline and Polaris data.

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Updated January 19, 2021*

- Each summer on Maryland’s Eastern Shore, hundreds of women from Mexico arrive to work as crab pickers, most on H-2B visas.⁷ This industry is rife with labor abuses and exploitation, with some cases rising to the level of labor trafficking.

Prosecution Data on Human Trafficking in Maryland

- In 2018, Maryland had the second highest number of federally charged criminal defendants in the U.S. with 15 individuals facing human trafficking charges.⁸
- Maryland is not a “Safe Harbor” state and does not provide immunity for children from prostitution charges and there were 102 arrests of juveniles for prostitution & commercialized vice in Maryland between 2010 and 2017, including 17 arrests of children 10-14 in that timeframe.⁹
- In Baltimore City, between January 2013 and May 2015, 10 suspects were charged with human trafficking. Prosecutors dropped all charges in at least 8 of those cases.¹⁰
- In Maryland, between 2010 and 2014, 19 people were charged using the state felony human trafficking law and 215 were charged using the misdemeanor human trafficking provision.¹¹

⁷ *Picked Apart: The Hidden Struggles of Migrant Worker Women in the Maryland Crab Industry.* American University and Centro de los Derechos del Migrante, Inc. <https://cdmigrante.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/PickedApart.pdf>

⁸ 2018 *Federal Human Trafficking Report*, The Human Trafficking Institute, 2019.

<https://www.traffickingmatters.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/2018-Federal-Human-Trafficking-Report-High-Res.pdf>⁹

Crime in Maryland: 2010-2017 Uniform Crime Reports, Maryland State Police, Central Records Division.

¹⁰ Banister, J. (2015, May 27). Baltimore says trafficking a big problem, but charges against traffickers almost always dropped. *Capital News Service: CNS Maryland*, Retrieved from <https://cnsmaryland.org/home>.

¹¹ Banister, J., Driscoll, L., Evans, J. (2015, May 27). Maryland has some of nation's weakest human trafficking penalties but legislature fails to strengthen laws. *Capital News Service: CNS Maryland*, Retrieved from <https://cnsmaryland.org/home>.