

# Characteristics of Suspected Human Trafficking Incidents, 2008-2010

U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, *Bureau of Justice Statistics* (April 2013)

Complete report at: <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cshti0810.pdf>

## Key Findings

- Federally funded task forces opened 2,515 suspected incidents of human trafficking for investigation between January 2008 and June 2010.
- About 8 in 10 of the suspected incidents of human trafficking were classified as sex trafficking, and about 1 in 10 incidents were classified as labor trafficking.
- Federal agencies were more likely to lead labor trafficking investigations (29%) than sex trafficking investigations (7%).
- Among the 389 incidents confirmed to be human trafficking by high data quality task forces—
  - ✓ There were 488 suspects and 527 victims.
  - ✓ More than half (62%) of the confirmed labor trafficking victims were age 25 or older, compared to 13% of confirmed sex trafficking victims.
  - ✓ Confirmed sex trafficking victims were more likely to be white (26%) or black (40%), compared to labor trafficking victims, who were more likely to be Hispanic (63%) or Asian (17%).
  - ✓ Four-fifths of victims in confirmed sex trafficking incidents were identified as U.S. citizens (83%), while most confirmed labor trafficking victims were identified as undocumented aliens (67%) or qualified aliens (28%).
  - ✓ Most confirmed human trafficking suspects were male (81%). More than half (62%) of confirmed sex trafficking suspects were identified as black, while confirmed labor trafficking suspects were more likely to be identified as Hispanic (48%).
- Among trafficking incidents opened for at least one year, 30% were confirmed to be human trafficking, 38% were confirmed not to be human trafficking, and the remaining incidents were still open at the end of the study period.
- The confirmed human trafficking incidents open for at least a year led to 144 known arrests.
- Identifying the characteristics of individuals involved in human trafficking was problematic overall. The quality of the data was associated more with the task force itself than with the date the case was opened or the type of suspected trafficking.
- The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), also in the Office of Justice Programs, provides grant funding to victim service agencies in many of the BJA-funded task force locations. The OVC funds support comprehensive services to human trafficking victims. Between January 2008 and June 2009, OVC awarded grants to 32 task force agencies to provide services to foreign national victims of human trafficking. OVC expanded the victim services initiative to include U.S. citizens who are minors beginning in late 2009, and in 2010 began to include all victims of trafficking, regardless of citizenship or age.