Task Force Agencies

Ohio Department of Agriculture
Ohio Department of Commerce
Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities
Ohio Department of Education
Ohio Department of Health
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (including the Ohio Children’s Trust Fund)
Ohio Department of Medicaid
Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
Ohio Department of Public Safety
Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
Ohio Department of Transportation
Ohio Department of Youth Services
Ohio State Cosmetology and Barber Board
State Medical Board of Ohio
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Dear Fellow Ohioans,

I am proud to announce Ohio’s recent progress in the fight against human trafficking.

In January of this year, I signed Executive Order 2021-02D that expands the Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force to include five additional state agencies that will assist the Task Force in employing a wider range of targeted strategies to combat the exploitation of men, women, and children in this state.

The complexity of the crime of human trafficking must be met with a mobilized and deliberate state government response. For this reason, I have called on 14 state agencies to continue the work of building a sustainable policy framework that prevents exploitation, supports survivors, and prosecutes offenders.

Over the past three years, the Task Force has addressed some of the largest prevailing barriers to combating human trafficking, such as increasing access to services for child trafficking victims identified through the juvenile justice system.

The Task Force agencies, both new and old, have intentionally pursued measures to remove barriers and fill the gaps that exist in our systems. Today, as a result of our work, more victims are identified and connected to supportive services, more citizens experiencing vulnerabilities are reached with prevention education, and law enforcement agencies have more tools to aid in the prosecution of traffickers.

The following report highlights the Task Force’s major accomplishments from 2019 and 2020 and includes an overview of our 2021-2022 Task Force priorities. Through sustained collaboration, we will continue to see success in the fight against human trafficking.

Very respectfully yours,

Mike DeWine
Ohio Governor
Building a Comprehensive State Response

Under the leadership of Governor Mike DeWine, the Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force made significant progress in 2019 and 2020 to enhance the state’s anti-trafficking policy landscape.

In January 2021, Governor DeWine signed Executive Order 2021-02D to create a stronger and more comprehensive response to human trafficking. The order expanded the Governor’s Human Trafficking Task Force by adding five additional state agencies to assist in pursuing multi-system strategies to combat human trafficking. The new Task Force agencies include:

- The Ohio Department of Commerce
- The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities
- The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
- The Ohio Department of Transportation
- The State Medical Board of Ohio

The order also charged the Task Force with developing bi-annual priorities based on the gaps within Ohio’s anti-trafficking response system. The 2021-2022 Task Force priorities can be found on page 14.

In 2019 and 2020, prior to the expansion of the Task Force, the administration prioritized the development of comprehensive policies to prevent trafficking, serve survivors, and prosecute offenders. The Task Force leveraged state, local, and federal partnerships, survivor leadership, and data-driven strategies to develop a sustainable and cost-effective policy infrastructure to combat human trafficking.

In addition to the progress made by the Governor’s Human Trafficking Task Force, Governor DeWine also signed two pieces of legislation into law, enhancing Ohio’s ability to prosecute traffickers and connect victims to important legal protections:

- **Senate Bill 5**
  - Increased penalties for the offense of promoting prostitution (third-degree felony for the second offense and second-degree felony for the third and subsequent offenses) (Sec. 2907.22)

- **House Bill 431**
  - Removed distinction in the elements of “trafficking in persons” regarding victims who are under age 16 and victims who are age 16 and 17 (Sec. 2905.32)
  - Created the offense of “engaging in prostitution” to prohibit a person from recklessly inducing, enticing, or procuring another to engage in “sexual activity for hire” (Sec. 2907.231)
  - Adjusted safe harbor procedures for minor victims of human trafficking (Sec. 2152.021)

The following report summarizes the Task Force’s accomplishments from 2019 and 2020, prior to its expansion in 2021.

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1 See Appendix 2 on page 19 for an overview of state and federal human trafficking laws.
On Aug. 6, 2019, the Governor’s Human Trafficking Task Force hosted members of the President’s U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking in Columbus to meet with local anti-trafficking leaders. The Council is comprised of survivors of human trafficking from diverse backgrounds who are appointed by the president for two-year terms. The Council provides advice and recommendations to the federal government to strengthen federal policy efforts in addressing sex and labor trafficking.²

The visiting Council members were Harold D’Souza, Tanya Gould, and Sheila White. Harold D’Souza is an Ohio resident and a strong partner of the Governor’s Human Trafficking Task Force.

During the Council’s visit, the members met with the Task Force to provide guidance on state-level policy and discussed the Council’s most recent report which included recommendations to states regarding underserved populations and survivor-informed leadership.³ The visiting members also met with local survivor leaders, social service providers, the U.S. Department of Labor, the Ohio Governor’s Office, and the Ohio Attorney General’s Office.

Preventing and Responding to Exploitation of Children

During State Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021, the Ohio Children’s Trust Fund and the Governor’s Human Trafficking Task Force awarded $700,000 to organizations to respond to the needs of at-risk and trafficked minors. The grantees were funded to 1) provide treatment and services to identified victims of human trafficking, and 2) provide training and professional development to providers implementing victim support services for trafficked minors.

Seven organizations from various regions of the state were funded through this initiative:

- Cleveland Rape Crisis Center (Great Lakes Region)
- Family Resource Center of Northwest Ohio (Northwest Region)
- RAHAB Ministries (Northeast Region)
- Community Action Agency of Columbiana County (Northeast Region)
- Crime Victim Services (Western Region)
- Dayton Children’s Hospital (Western/Southwestern Region)
- Gracehaven (Central Region)

From July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021, these organizations served 106 minor victims of human trafficking and an additional 134 at-risk minors. Services included individual counseling, art and music therapy, medical exams, forensic interviews, mental health services, housing assistance, and medical assistance. The grantees also trained 1,086 child-serving professionals.

Human Trafficking Awareness & Transportation

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has leveraged its touchpoints with commercial drivers, pilots, and the general public to strategically reach Ohioans with human trafficking awareness information. Beginning in August 2019, ODOT added human trafficking awareness content to every Oversize/Overweight Special Hauling Permit issued by the state to truck drivers and other permit-holders traveling through Ohio, which averages 350,000 permits per year.

In 2019, ODOT also added human trafficking awareness information to the approximately 8,000 private plane registration packets mailed to private plane owners and to its quarterly newsletter disseminated to its contractors and local public agencies. Lastly, ODOT coordinated the placement of tear-off stickers featuring the National Human Trafficking Hotline in restroom stalls of the rest areas overseen by ODOT.
Reaching Survivors in State-Run Facilities

State agencies providing direct services have developed standardized screening processes for identifying and serving potential trafficking victims within their facilities. Below are data representing the efforts of the Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS), the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC), and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OMHAS) to identify and serve survivors in 2019 and 2020.

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES

In March 2019, ODYS adopted its new screening tool to more accurately identify victims within a juvenile justice context. Designed as a conversational guide to screen for high risk indicators of trafficking, the tool encourages screeners to ask open-ended questions, avoid listing possible responses, and pose follow-up questions to clarify youth responses. A unique aspect of this tool is the inclusion of questions related to labor trafficking that may occur in the context of gang-involved youth; the tool screens for youth who are compelled to engage in illicit commercial activity by gang members.

In conjunction with updating its screening tool, ODYS implemented a policy to increase the number of times each youth is screened. Prior to the new policy, all youth committed to the custody of the Department were screened once upon intake. However, as of March 2019, youth are screened upon intake, 30 days post-intake, 7-days pre-release, and 30-days post release to parole. These additional points of screening are intended to allow youth to build rapport with screeners to increase the likelihood of disclosure.

If a youth is identified as trafficked, the youth is added to the behavioral health caseload at the facility and connected to a community-based, trafficking-specific organization for comprehensive case management, individualized psychoeducation, and support.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calendar Year</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Screens</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Positive Screens</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION AND CORRECTION

Throughout 2019 and 2020, the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) continued to screen every inmate at reception. At the end of 2018, ODRC updated the language of its screening
questions based on recommendations made in the state-funded screening tool evaluation. Specifically, ODRC simplified the language to prevent screeners from attempting to paraphrase questions and modified questions to assist in identifying labor trafficking.

Following the implementation of the updated tool, identification of trafficking survivors increased by more than 250 percent from 2018 to 2019. When inmates screen positive for trafficking concerns, they are connected to mental health services in their facility. In some instances, survivors are also connected to trafficking-specific, trauma-informed programming within their respective facility.

Further, in 2019, the Office of the State Anti-Trafficking Coordinator hosted a webinar on human trafficking and trauma-informed care for ODRC staff to assist the agency in more effectively identifying and serving survivors in the institutions. The webinar was attended by 160 ODRC staff members, including correctional facility staff. The content was presented by Carly Mesnick, LPCC-S, former Program Manager for the Mount Carmel Crime and Trauma Assistance Program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calendar Year</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Screens</td>
<td>22,711</td>
<td>15,256</td>
<td>37,967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Positive Screens</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>534</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OHIO DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES**

In 2019 and 2020, OMHAS continued to screen for sex and labor trafficking in the state’s six regional psychiatric hospitals. If a staff member identifies a potential trafficking victim, he or she is then connected with the appropriate services. Hospital staff are trained on trauma-informed care and participate in human trafficking trainings.

Additionally, one of the state psychiatric hospitals, Appalachian Behavioral Healthcare, offered its screening services to its surrounding community. OMHAS will consider broadening the availability of screening services to the surrounding communities of the other hospitals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calendar Year</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Screens</td>
<td>5,131</td>
<td>4,099</td>
<td>9,230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Positive Sex Trafficking Screens</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Positive Labor Trafficking Screens</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Potential Trafficking Victims Identified</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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4 In 2015, the Ohio Department of Higher Education awarded funds to the University of Toledo (UT) to evaluate Ohio’s Human Trafficking Screening Tool. UT provided recommendations to improve implementation.

5 The number of screenings within the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC) reduced from 2019 to 2020 because overall intake was reduced. In response to COVID, the overall number of intakes fell demonstrably in 2020 and ODRC continues to regulate the number of intakes into 2021.

6 The total number of individuals screened through the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services decreased in 2020 due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on state mental health hospitals.
Improving Outcomes for Child Victims of Trafficking

In 2017, the Ohio Department of Public Safety’s Office of Criminal Justice Services was awarded a $1.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime through the Improving Outcomes for Child and Youth Victims of Human Trafficking grant program. Ohio used the funding to build capacity of the child welfare and juvenile justice systems to identify and respond to human trafficking through the following four program goals:

1. *Increase the expertise of child welfare intake screeners and caseworkers to identify victims.*
2. *Reduce barriers to services for trafficked children and youth by promoting and implementing screening protocols for identifying and referring victims and addressing local system coverage to ensure proper service delivery.*
3. *Implement a screening process for identifying minor victims of trafficking in juvenile courts.*
4. *Increase the number of Ohio counties in compliance with Ohio’s safe harbor legal statute, allowing for enrollment in diversion programs to address delinquency charges for juvenile trafficking victims.*

As a result of cross-agency partnerships, significant strides were made in ensuring the consistent identification of and response to trafficked youth. The Office of Criminal Justice Services and its partners trained child welfare and juvenile justice professionals, developed a new screening tool based on feedback from an external evaluation, and developed an updated policy for the Ohio Department of Youth Services to incorporate additional screening points for youth who enter the state’s facilities.

To accomplish a more unified statewide response, the grant funding was used to hire three grant liaisons housed at agencies with statewide reach that provide direct support to public children services agencies, juvenile courts, and children’s advocacy centers: the Public Children Services Association of Ohio, the Ohio Department of Youth Services, and the Ohio Network of Children’s Advocacy Centers.

*To implement a survivor-informed project, the grant team reached out to survivor expert advocates to form the Survivor Advisory Panel. The Panel members were compensated as expert consultants to assist with the development of grant deliverables, offer knowledge about systems and programs, and participate in the trainings provided to child-serving professionals. During the 3-year grant period, the group met a total of 25 times to discuss project activities and to assist in the development of training content and deliverables.*
TRAINING

Identifying & Responding to Juvenile Victims of Human Trafficking

At the beginning of the grant period, a grant-led needs assessment identified a repeated request for more in-depth training on the trafficking of youth. In response, the project developed an eight-hour training for child-serving professionals.

Delivered by the liaisons, a rotating member of the Survivor Advisory Panel, and rotating legal subject matter experts, the training focused on the legal landscape of human trafficking, localized data on the impact of trafficking, the dynamics of exploitative relationships, building empathy for survivors, vulnerability factors for exploitation, developing a multidisciplinary response to trafficking, and applying safe harbor law to juvenile justice-involved survivors of trafficking.

Evaluations by participants indicated an increase in knowledge post-training and overwhelmingly positive feelings about the training. From 2018 through February 2020, this training was taken by 2,067 child-serving professionals across 30 counties.

Virtual Training

In March 2020, like many Ohioans, the grant team became limited to virtual engagement due to the coronavirus pandemic. In response, the team adapted the all-day training to a virtual format; the eight-hour training was split into two days of four-hour sessions.

Additionally, in partnership with the Survivor Advisory Panel and other subject matter experts, the grant team developed a series of six 90-minute webinars: Labor Trafficking in Ohio, The Legal Landscape of Human Trafficking, Dynamics of Exploitation, Justice System-Based Intervention, Rethinking Public Awareness, and Substance Abuse, Trauma, and Human Trafficking. The virtual trainings were attended by 2,343 individuals, including child-serving professionals, anti-trafficking coalitions, state employees, and others.

Counties that have received training are shaded and include the number of trainings provided in each county.
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES HUMAN TRAFFICKING SCREENING TOOL

Based on an evaluation of the screening tool used by the Ohio Department of Youth Services (ODYS) prior to 2018, ODYS updated the tool to include more simplified language and indicators of both sex and labor trafficking. (For more information about this tool and its implementation, please refer to page 5.)

During the grant period, ODYS connected 38 youth to a trafficking-specific organization for services as a result of the implementation of the new screening tool.

CHILD RESPONSE WORKING GROUP

In October 2020, the grant team partnered with the Central Ohio Reach and Restore Coalition to host a virtual Child Response Working Group for key stakeholders in central Ohio. The working group was designed to leverage the expertise of local child-serving professionals and anti-trafficking experts to assist frontline workers in identifying and serving trafficked youth in their communities. The working group meeting included three panel discussions which took place virtually over three hours to discuss:

- The role of coalitions in Ohio’s anti-trafficking response.
- Interventions for trafficking victims in juvenile justice systems.
- The role of social services providers in building a community response to trafficking.

In total, the 81 registrants represented Champaign, Crawford, Delaware, Pickaway, Licking, Richland, Fairfield, Fayette, Morrow, Knox, Logan, Marion, Union, and Madison counties.

Promoting Restorative Justice Models

In 2019, the Ohio Department of Public Safety partnered with CATCH Court, the human trafficking specialized court docket within the Franklin County Municipal Court, to produce a training video series to assist courts in creating a specialized docket for adult survivors of human trafficking. Partners from the Supreme Court of Ohio, the Franklin County Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Board, Franklin County Municipal Court, the Franklin County Prosecutor’s Office, and a graduate of the CATCH Court program were interviewed on the purpose of a specialized docket and how to pursue its development.

Video topics:

- Human Trafficking: How it Occurs and Who is Impacted
- Building Effective Partnerships
- Starting a Specialized Docket
- How to Attain Certification through the Supreme Court of Ohio
- Identifying Victims of Trafficking in Court
- An Inside Look at the CATCH Court Program
- The Tangible Impact of Restorative Justice

This video series is available for free on www.humantrafficking.ohio.gov on the “Resources” page.
Understanding Human Trafficking Prevalence in Ohio

Obtaining reliable data related to the prevalence of human trafficking nationally and locally has been a long-standing barrier in creating an informed anti-trafficking response.⁷ In recent years, significant progress has been made at the policy level in collecting trafficking-specific data; however, the lack of data and estimates of the number of individuals trafficked in Ohio has remained a gap in national and local knowledge.

To address this gap, the Ohio Department of Public Safety’s Office of Criminal Justice Services awarded the University of Cincinnati with funding to research the prevalence of human trafficking in Ohio with a focus on minors. The results of the study were completed in February 2019. The full report and executive summary are available at www.humantrafficking.ohio.gov.

**KEY FINDINGS⁸**

- Based on available data, there were 1,032 known victims during the study timeframe (2014 to 2016). This removed all identified duplicates and included aggregate reports. Given the barriers in removing duplicates from aggregate data, additional adjustments were made for potential overlap in aggregate counts and individual records.

- Approximately 4,209 at-risk individuals were identified based on youth presenting with common risk factors for trafficking victimization.

- Researchers identified approximately 1,200 at-risk individuals within juvenile justice data. These cases are reported separately from the estimates above due to differences in definitional criteria.

Medicaid Eligibility for Foreign National Victims

Foreign national victims of human trafficking face significant barriers to accessing services.⁹ While immigration remedies are available to undocumented survivors, the wait time to receive remedies can last up to and over one year. This prevents survivors from accessing health care for an extended period of time, thus delaying critical treatment.

To respond to this gap, the Ohio Department of Medicaid created a new state-funded medical assistance category for victims of human trafficking who are not U.S. citizens. Under Rule 5160:1-5-08, an individual is eligible for this assistance if the individual has applied for or is in the process of preparing to file for a T-visa, is an Ohio resident, and has a monthly income at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level. As of April 2021, 11 human trafficking victims had enrolled in this program.

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⁸ Estimates for known victims and at-risk individuals are based on 95% confidence intervals; 1,032 known victims (95% CI = 970, 1,097); 4,209 identified at-risk individuals (95% CI = 4,083, 4,338).

Supporting Regional Anti-Trafficking Response Efforts

In 2017, the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) was awarded competitive funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office on Trafficking in Persons to administer the *Look Beneath the Surface Anti-Trafficking Program* from 2017 to 2020 to build capacity of the state’s ability to identify and respond to human trafficking. The project’s objectives were to: identify and refer victims of trafficking to services, provide training and technical assistance, build capacity of anti-trafficking coalitions, and promote public awareness.

OCJS partnered with four Core Regional Coalition Partners (CRCPs) to carry out the project objectives: the Lucas County Human Trafficking Coalition, the Central Ohio Reach and Restore Coalition, End Slavery Cincinnati, and Tusc Against Trafficking (the anti-trafficking coalition in Tuscarawas County). OCJS provided funds to each CRCP to hire a regional coordinator to lead the implementation of grant activities.

The CRCPs established partnerships with culturally-specific organizations and individuals with a lived experience of human trafficking to better reach underserved populations that may be experiencing heightened vulnerability to trafficking. By the end of 2020, the CRCPs established memoranda of understanding with a total of 38 local outreach partners that worked with the coalitions to reach potential victims with supportive services.

| Victims identified and referred for services | 745 |
| Outreach events conducted | 988 |
| At-risk individuals reached through outreach activities | 16,847 |
| Professionals trained and provided with technical assistance | 16,968 |
| People exposed to public awareness materials | 712,712 |

**OUTREACH & IDENTIFICATION**

Given the broad reach of the local outreach partners and CRCPs, outreach activities included the facilitation of outreach groups in a women’s prison and in county jails, street outreach, drop-in center outreach, migrant farm worker outreach, and a partnership with promotoras (community health workers who work in Spanish-speaking communities) to conduct door-to-door outreach in northwest Ohio. Additionally, Tusc Against Trafficking engaged at-risk youth (including likely unaccompanied minors and children in foster care) by hosting discussion sessions in venues such as church youth group activities and child safety events.

**TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

Ohio’s *Look Beneath the Surface Regional Anti-Trafficking Program* prioritized strategic training audiences, inclusive of professionals who would likely come into contact with potential victims of human trafficking. Grant partners trained 16,968 professionals from diverse disciplines, including but not limited to: parole officers, psychiatric hospital staff, local health departments, local boards of developmental disabilities, school resource officers, school guidance counselors, law enforcement, fraud detection banking professionals, and hotel staff.
PUBLIC AWARENESS

The Office of Criminal Justice Services and CRCPs disseminated the Look Beneath the Surface campaign materials to children and youth, healthcare professionals, faith-based communities, and the general public. The project also utilized Ohio’s public awareness campaign materials, which are translated in Spanish, Mandarin, French, and Arabic.

Additionally, CRCPs purchased ad space in culturally-specific publications to reach immigrants with information about human trafficking. These publications included *New Americans Magazine* which is distributed in central Ohio, and *La Prensa* which is distributed in northwest Ohio.

Lastly, Tusc Against Trafficking released a ten-episode podcast series which highlighted human trafficking-related topics, such as vulnerabilities faced by the foreign national community in eastern Ohio and online safety for children and youth.

COALITION CAPACITY BUILDING

To build coalition capacity, CRCPs utilized Ohio’s Human Trafficking Coalition Model to annually self-assess the status of their coalition. In cases where discrepancies were identified, coalitions pursued strategies to address any identified weaknesses. The CRCPs also provided technical support to developing coalitions in surrounding counties. They ultimately found that the presence of a grant-funded regional coordinator allowed the coalitions to prioritize outreach, training, and capacity building, which would have previously been under-prioritized due to the pressing need to provide direct victim services to growing caseloads.

As a result of the project’s success, two CRCPs identified other grants to continue funding their respective regional coordinator to serve as a coalition specialist to carry on the work that was started and institutionalized under the Look Beneath the Surface project.

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10 The Human Trafficking Coalition Model can be found at [www.humantrafficking.ohio.gov](http://www.humantrafficking.ohio.gov) on the “Coalitions” page.
Providing Training & Technical Assistance

The Governor’s Human Trafficking Task Force continued to provide extensive training and technical assistance to ensure that key individuals in a position to assist survivors understand the signs and appropriate response.

OHIO’S HUMAN TRAFFICKING COALITION CAPACITY BUILDING CONFERENCE

The Office of the State Anti-Trafficking Coordinator seeks to work alongside human trafficking coalitions in Ohio to both learn from their regional expertise and provide capacity-building opportunities to enable growth and break down system barriers to accessing services at the local level. To do so, the Ohio Department of Public Safety held the Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition Capacity Building Conference in June 2019 for leaders of Ohio’s anti-trafficking coalitions.

The conference included: an update from the Governor’s Human Trafficking Task Force, an overview of Ohio’s new human trafficking prevalence study, a panel discussion on where and how to access funds for human trafficking projects, a guided coalition self-assessment workshop, guidance on the use of images in human trafficking awareness and training materials, and guidance on survivor engagement, compensation, and leadership development. Over 70 leaders from Ohio’s anti-trafficking coalitions attended, representing approximately 20 anti-trafficking coalitions from all regions of the state.

COSMETOLOGY & BARBER BOARD INSPECTORS

In 2020, the Ohio State Cosmetology and Barber Board hosted a human trafficking training for 44 of its Board and staff members, including inspectors, to strengthen their knowledge of exploitation within the health, beauty, and massage industry. In 2019, the Board also worked with the Ohio Department of Public Safety to create a human trafficking training video for its licensees to view as part of the license renewal process.

OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL TROOPERS

In 2020, the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) added a Human Trafficking Refresher Training as a requirement for troopers. Approximately 600 troopers completed the 8-hour human trafficking training in 2020; however, the trainings were paused due to the spread of COVID-19. These trainings will be resumed in 2022. Speakers include OSHP intelligence analysts, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, individuals with a lived experience of human trafficking, and OSHP’s Licensing and Commercial Standards.
2021 – 2022 Task Force Priorities

While significant progress has been made in Ohio’s response to human trafficking, it is critical that the state continues to identify and close system gaps. The following priorities were developed following the signing of Executive Order 2021-02D and will guide the work of the Governor’s Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force in 2021 and 2022.

The U.S. Department of State’s 3P framework to prevent trafficking, protect victims, and prosecute offenders guides Ohio’s strategy to build a foundation for a comprehensive response model.

### PREVENTION

- Make available prevention and awareness materials for minors, youth, and child-serving professionals ([Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and Ohio Department of Education](#))
- Conduct labor trafficking-specific outreach and training to raise awareness of state and federal human trafficking laws and community resources for at-risk populations ([Ohio Department of Commerce, Ohio Department of Agriculture, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio Department of Health](#))
- Provide discipline-specific human trafficking training to state and local partners ([All agencies](#))

### PROTECTION

- Increase access to needed services for survivors of human trafficking, with an emphasis on shelter and housing, case management, and medical detox ([Ohio Department of Public Safety, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Ohio Department of Health, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction](#))
- Build pathways to employment for survivors of human trafficking ([Ohio Department of Transportation, Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Ohio Department of Public Safety](#))
- Reduce barriers for foreign national trafficking survivors to access services and benefits ([Ohio Department of Medicaid, Ohio Department of Public Safety, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services](#))
- Build capacity of the juvenile justice system to utilize Ohio’s safe harbor law for trafficked minors ([Ohio Department of Youth Services, Ohio Department of Public Safety](#))
- Provide resources and guidance to support local child welfare response protocols ([Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, Ohio Department of Public Safety](#))

### PROSECUTION

- Support law enforcement efforts to investigate potential cases of human trafficking through state agency partnerships ([State Medical Board, Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, Ohio Department of Public Safety](#))
APPENDIX
Appendix 1: Governor DeWine’s Executive Order

MKE DEWINE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

Executive Order 2021-02D

Instructing State Agencies to Provide Human Trafficking Training, Investigate Human Trafficking Cases, and Coordinate Services and Treatment for Victims of Human Trafficking

WHEREAS, in 2019, the University of Cincinnati’s School of Criminal Justice conducted a study of human trafficking within the State of Ohio. This study was funded by the Office of Criminal Justice Services and found that between 2014 and 2016, there were 1,032 known victims of human trafficking in Ohio, and an additional 4,209 people who were at risk for human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, Ohio reported the fifth-highest number of human trafficking cases to the National Human Trafficking Hotline compared to other states. Reported cases identified men, women, and children who were compelled into providing commercial sex acts and forced labor for the profit of often violent traffickers; and

WHEREAS, every region in Ohio – both rural and urban - is affected by human trafficking. Victims remain in the shadows of Ohio’s child welfare system, prisons and jails, schools, legitimate and illegitimate businesses, among other places; and

WHEREAS, in response to the nature and prevalence of human trafficking in Ohio, it is a priority of my administration to continue building a coordinated response to address human trafficking through prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnership; and

WHEREAS, to comprehensively address human trafficking, the goals of my administration are to prevent human trafficking through the development of strategies to reach at-risk populations, to reduce the demand for forced labor and commercial sex, to protect victims by ensuring that survivors receive the services and treatment they need to sustainably recover from the effects of their trauma through the availability of integrated physical, behavioral, and trauma treatments, and prosecute offenders through criminal justice training and capacity building.
NOW THEREFORE, I, Mike DeWine, Governor of the State of Ohio, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Ohio, do hereby order and direct that:

1. The Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force previously established in 2012 under Executive Order 2012-06K is hereby ordered to continue the coordinated statewide efforts to prevent human trafficking, identify and serve survivors, encourage a coordinated law enforcement system to investigate and prosecute these crimes, and to provide the services and treatment necessary for survivors to regain control of their lives. In carrying out these activities, the Task Force shall continue to focus on identifying sex and labor trafficking and serving survivors inclusive of men, women, and children, both foreign and domestic.

2. The Task Force shall be comprised of the following agencies:
   a. Ohio Department of Public Safety
   b. Ohio Department of Job and Family Services – including the Ohio Children’s Trust Fund
   c. Ohio Department of Health
   d. Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
   e. Ohio Department of Youth Services
   f. Ohio Department of Education
   g. Ohio Department of Agriculture
   h. Ohio Cosmetology and Barber Board
   i. Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction
   j. Ohio Department of Transportation
   k. Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities
   l. State Medical Board of Ohio
   m. Ohio Department of Medicaid
   n. Ohio Department of Commerce

3. The Task Force shall work in partnership with local anti-trafficking coalitions, law enforcement task forces, the courts, federal partners, and others to build a more coordinated and holistic state-level response to the crime of human trafficking.

4. The Office of Criminal Justice Services shall develop bi-annual Task Force priorities based on the gaps and opportunities within Ohio’s anti-trafficking response system.

5. The Office of Criminal Justice Services shall develop and release a bi-annual report, detailing Task Force accomplishments and status updates on the Task Force priorities.

6. The Task Force shall be led by the State Anti-Trafficking Coordinator housed within the Ohio Department of Public Safety’s Office of Criminal Justice Services. The Office of Criminal Justice Services shall have administrative authority over the Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force.
7. Within 120 days from the day this Executive Order is signed, the Task Force shall:

   a. Establish 2021 - 2022 priorities;
   b. Convene a Task Force meeting with agency directors;
   c. Evaluate current policy to find any barriers to identifying survivors of human trafficking and linking them with necessary services and treatments, and to recommend changes to policy if needed; and
   d. Collaborate with other Governor’s Office initiatives including, but not limited to, RecoveryOhio and the Office on Children’s Initiatives, to identify overlapping priorities and common goals.

8. Executive Order 2012-06K is rescinded and replaced by this Order.

I signed this Executive Order on January 29, 2021 in Cedarville, Ohio and it will not expire unless rescinded.

[Signature]
Mike DeWine, Governor

ATTEST:

Frank LaRose, Secretary of State
Appendix 2: Overview of State & Federal Human Trafficking Laws

Federal & State
HUMAN TRAFFICKING LAWS

Federal Law

**Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000**

“The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 created the first comprehensive federal law to address human trafficking, with a significant focus on the international dimension of the problem. The law provided a three-pronged approach: prevention through public awareness programs overseas and a State Department-led monitoring and sanctions program; protection through a new T-Visa and services for foreign national victims; and prosecution through new federal crimes.”

— POLARIS, www.polarisproject.org

As defined in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, the legal definition of “severe forms of trafficking in persons” is:

- **a)** sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age; 22 USC § 7102 (9)(A)
- **b)** the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjecting to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery. 22 USC § 7102 (9)(B)

**Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2015**

The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act is a comprehensive law addressing accountability and reporting of runaway and missing children in foster care. The law required review of Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) to ensure Ohio is in compliance with Public Law 113-183.

Federal law and OAC changes (OAC 5101.2-42-88) require state and local agencies to:

- Report each missing or abducted foster child to law enforcement and to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (1-800-THE-LOST, https://cmfc.missingkids.org/reportit).
- Determine the primary factors that contributed to the child's running away or being absent from care and to use these factors when determining future placements.
- Address the events and experiences that took place while the child was AWOL including determining whether the child was a sex trafficking victim.

For more information:
https://polarisproject.org/policy-and-legislation/

Ohio’s Human Trafficking Law

As defined by the Ohio Revised Code Section 2905.32 (Trafficking in Persons), Ohio’s legal definition of human trafficking is:

“(A) No person shall knowingly recruit, lure, entice, isolate, harbor, transport, provide, obtain, or maintain...another person knowing that the person will be subjected to involuntary servitude or be compelled to engage in sexual activity...”

“...For a prosecution under division (A)(1) of this section, the element “compelled” does not require that the compulsion be openly displayed or physically exerted. The element “compelled” has been established if the state proves that the victim's will was overcome by force, fear, duress, or intimidation, or fraud.”

ORC 2905.32 (A)(2)

For minors under the age of 18, and for people with developmental disabilities, law enforcement officials do not need to prove that the minor was compelled to engage in commercial sexual activity.
Criminal Sanctions for Traffickers and Purchasers

- Trafficking in Persons is a first-degree felony, with a mandatory minimum of 10 years in prison. **ORC 2905.32 (E)**
- Sex traffickers are required to register as sex offenders (Tier II) and cannot live within 1,000 feet of a school. **ORC 2960.01 (F)(1)(g)**
- Obstruction of Justice is a felony of the second degree in human trafficking cases. **ORC 2921.32 (C)(6)**
- Advertising illicit massage parlor activity with the suggestion or promise of sexual activity is a prohibited activity punishable with a misdemeanor offense. (Sec. 2927.17)
- Purchasing sex from a minor is a felony of the third degree. (**Sec. 2907.21)**
- Compelling a minor to engage in sexual activity for hire is a felony offense, tiered as follows: **(ORC 2907.21 (A)(1))**
  - For minors under the age of 16, the penalty is a felony of the first degree.
  - For minors age 16-17, the penalty is a felony of the second degree.
- Engaging in Prostitution (purchasing sex from an adult) is a first-degree misdemeanor. (**Sec. 2907.231**)
- Promoting Prostitution is a felony offense:
  - Promoting Prostitution is a fourth-degree felony on the first offense, a third-degree felony on the second offense, and a second-degree felony on the third and subsequent offenses. (**Sec. 2907.22**)
  - Promoting Prostitution of a minor is a third-degree felony. **ORC 2907.22 (B)(2)(a)**

Protections for Victims

Safe Harbor for Minors

- Judges can sentence minors to diversion programs to receive needed protection and treatment through the juvenile justice system. **ORC 2162.021 (F)**
- Ohio’s law prohibits public disclosure of the names of minor victims of trafficking by law enforcement agencies, even if they have criminal records (the law contains exceptions for criminal justice professionals, parents, attorneys, child welfare agencies, and others). (**Sec. 149.435 (B)**)
- Courts can allow minors under the age of 16 to give testimony in preliminary hearings via closed circuit television to protect minors from facing traffickers directly. (**Sec. 2937.11 (D)(1)(a)**)
- Courts have the authority to terminate the parental rights of a parent convicted of trafficking his or her own child. (**Sec. 2151.414**)

Intervention for Adult Victims

- Permits courts to accept an offender’s request for intervention in lieu of conviction if the offender was a human trafficking victim at the time of the offense and that victimization was a factor leading to the offender’s criminal behavior.

Expungement

- Adults and minors who have prior convictions of prostitution, solicitation, or loitering to engage in solicitation may apply to the sentencing court to expunge the conviction of any offense, except murder, aggravated murder, and rape, if they can prove that their participation in the offense was a result of being a victim of human trafficking. **ORC 2953.38; ORC 2151.368 (E)**

Other Protections

- Victims can pursue civil damages against traffickers. **ORC 2307.51**
- The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services may administer funds for the purpose of treating, caring for, rehabilitating, educating, housing, and providing assistance for victims of human trafficking through the Victims of Human Trafficking Asset Seizure Fund. **ORC 5101.87**

Mandated Training

- Law enforcement officers are required to receive human trafficking training through the Ohio Peace Officers Training Academy. **ORC 109.73**
- School districts are required to incorporate human trafficking training content into safety and violence prevention training plans. **ORC 3319.073 (B)**

Data Collection

- Local law enforcement must report the number of human trafficking cases to the Ohio Attorney General’s Office to be released annually. **ORC 109.86**