



**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES  
Division of Protection and Permanency  
COA Accredited Agency**

**Matthew G Bevin**  
Governor

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**Vickie Yates Brown Glisson**  
Secretary

November 1, 2017

Matthew G. Bevin  
Governor  
700 Capitol Avenue, Suite 100  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dear Governor Bevin:

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services presents the fifth report regarding child victims of human trafficking. This report has been prepared in accordance with KRS 620.029(2)(b) effected by the Human Trafficking Victims Rights Act (2013 Ky. Acts. ch. 25) and reflects activities and services since enactment of the law.

If you have any questions, or if further clarification is needed, please contact Adria Johnson, Commissioner of the Department for Community Based Services, at (502) 564-3707.

Sincerely,

  
Vickie Yates Brown Glisson  
Secretary

Enclosure



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**Vickie Yates Brown Glisson**  
Secretary

November 1, 2017

David Byerman, Director  
Legislative Research Commission  
Capitol Building, Room 300  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dear Mr. Byerman:

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services presents the fifth report regarding child victims of human trafficking. This report has been prepared in accordance with KRS 620.029(2)(b) effected by the Human Trafficking Victims Rights Act (2013 Ky. Acts. ch. 25) and reflects activities and services since enactment of the law.

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Sincerely,

  
Vickie Yates Brown Glisson  
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Enclosure

# Human Trafficking Report

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Department for Community Based Services  
Cabinet for Health and Family Services

November 1, 2017

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## **Introduction**

In accordance with KRS 620.029(2)(b), the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (cabinet) submits the annual report outlining the cabinet's response for child victims of human trafficking following the enactment of the Human Trafficking Victims Rights Act (Act) during the 2013 Regular Session. This report details the cabinet's efforts to implement requirements of the Act to ensure the safety of child victims, collaborate among multiple agencies during the course of investigations and response, and continue efforts to increase staff skill level to better serve victims. The report provides available statistics and data regarding the number of reports received involving an alleged child victim of human trafficking, investigative determinations, and services provided.<sup>1</sup>

## **Section I: Implementation**

The cabinet's Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) has worked closely with human trafficking experts, including the Catholic Charities' Human Trafficking Program and the Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs (KASAP). Department staff regularly attends the Louisville, Lexington, Frankfort, Shelbyville, London, Northern Kentucky, Bullitt County and Nelson County human trafficking taskforce meetings, as well as the quarterly statewide human trafficking and subcommittee meetings. Department staff networks with law enforcement, victim services, and other professionals to build stronger community-based responses to human trafficking cases. Since the enactment of the Act, DCBS has been involved with or managed the following efforts:

- Collaboration with KASAP, Catholic Charities, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities, Kentucky Association of Children's Advocacy Centers, Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky (PCAKY), Kentucky Attorney General's Office, and other agencies to participate in and/or conduct educational opportunities and work collaboratively to enhance the response to human trafficking cases among community partners;
- Statewide trainings specialized for various audiences, including community partners, DCBS staff, and the public, regarding human trafficking and the Kentucky mandatory reporting laws related to KRS 620.030;
- Child Protection Branch participation in frequent webinars, trainings, conferences, and forums regarding human trafficking and services for victims and their families across the state. In addition, the Child Protection Branch has participated in phone calls and conferences with other states discussing human trafficking response, accessing services, and service delivery to victims and their families;
- Provision of technical assistance and additional guidance to DCBS field staff regarding screening, investigating, and documentation of human trafficking referrals; and
- Numerous updates to existing DCBS policies and procedures to comply with federal requirements, including Pub. L. 113-183 Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act. The investigative and assessment tool was updated to include assessment for human trafficking. Additionally, the state's child welfare database (TWIST) was updated to indicate an individual's status as a human trafficking victim and to distinguish between labor and sex trafficking.

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<sup>1</sup> The number of reports, the number of victims, and the number of perpetrators will not add up across the categories, because it is possible to have multiple children and/or perpetrators in a single report.

## Section II: Kentucky Human Trafficking Child Victim Investigations

DCBS has received human trafficking reports from various sources, including law enforcement, schools, friends, neighbors, relatives, community partners, and medical personnel as well as anonymous reporters. Human trafficking investigations arose from a variety of reported scenarios, including:

- Commercial sexual exploitation in exchange for drugs, money, shelter, or something else of value;
- Victim identified as having a trafficker, buyer, or “boyfriend”;
- Victims advertised for commercial sex on various social media sites, including Facebook, Twitter, [backpage.com](http://backpage.com), [craigslist.org](http://craigslist.org) and other websites;
- Victim working in a massage parlor;
- Victim working in a strip club;
- Commercially exploited runaway victims from other states; and
- Victim traveling/working with magazine, candy, or other sales.

### Geographic Area

Since the inception of human trafficking reporting in Kentucky in 2013, there have been 582 reported incidents involving 697 alleged victims. During the 2016 reporting period, there were 169 reported incidents involving 208 victims consisting of three labor trafficking and 166 sex trafficking reports. In 2017, there were 217 reported incidents involving 250 victims consisting of four labor trafficking and 213 sex trafficking reports. For this report, incidents are organized by DCBS service region<sup>2</sup> and are displayed in Table 1. The majority of reports originate from the Louisville area.

**Table 1 – Number of Incidents by DCBS Service Region**

Region	Year		2015 (10/1/2014- 9/30/2015)	2016 (10/1/2015- 9/30/2016)	2017 (10/1/2016- 9/30/2017)	Totals
	2013	2014				
Jefferson	14	13	18	29	32	106
Salt River	12	03	11	19	31	76
Cumberland	0	15	15	27	33	90
Eastern Mountain	07	06	09	21	16	59
Northeastern	02	07	10	13	14	46
Southern Bluegrass	03	04	11	17	13	48
The Lakes	0	06	13	19	13	51
Two Rivers	01	02	05	07	19	34
Northern Bluegrass	01	01	07	17	46	72
<b>Statewide Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>582</b>

<sup>2</sup> DCBS Service Regions: <http://chfs.ky.gov/dcbs/serviceregions.htm>

### Victim Demographics

While alleged victims of human trafficking range in age from infants through age 17 years, most victims are between the ages of 14 and 17 years. During the 2017 reporting period, four of the 250 alleged victims were marked as unknown due to their identities remaining unknown despite efforts made to identify the victim. Age distribution is displayed in Table 2, and gender is displayed in Table 3.

**Table 2 – Age of alleged trafficking victims N=697**

Age of the victim	2013	2014	2015 (10/1/2014- 9/30/2015)	2016 (10/1/2015- 9/30/2016)	2017 (10/1/2016- 9/30/2017)	Totals
Infant	03	0	0	0	0	03
1 year of age	02	0	0	0	0	02
2 years of age	02	01	01	05	03	12
3 years of age	0	01	0	04	01	06
4 years of age	01	00	0	01	02	04
5 years of age	01	01	02	03	04	11
6 years of age	0	0	0	07	03	10
7 years of age	0	0	01	04	02	07
8 years of age	01	02	0	06	03	12
9 years of age	01	03	04	06	12	26
10 years of age	0	03	01	02	09	15
11 years of age	02	04	03	03	06	18
12 years of age	02	02	02	12	12	30
13 years of age	02	04	19	18	22	65
14 years of age	05	10	16	23	37	91
15 years of age	11	09	19	33	46	118
16 years of age	04	16	22	48	45	135
17 years of age	14	17	24	30	40	125
Unable to locate/Unknown	0	0	01	03	03	07
<b>Statewide number of alleged victims</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>697</b>

Females are most frequently the target of human trafficking and account for 208 of the 250 alleged victims, while males account for 42 of the 250 alleged victims. Gender distribution is displayed in Table 3 below.

**Table 3 – Gender of alleged trafficking victims N=250**

Female	208 (83%)
Male	42 (17%)

### Assessment Findings

All reported victims have received services through the investigative process. Community services provided to the children who are the victims in these cases include:

- Mental health and trauma counseling;
- Referrals to Catholic Charities and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for victims advocacy;
- Children's Advocacy Center services;
- Residential placement;
- Placement and custody with alternative caregivers;
- Medical evaluations as needed for immediate and ongoing services;
- Detoxification and drug treatment services;
- Language services and cultural needs;
- Legal services;
- Educational services; and
- Clothing, hygiene, and nutritional services.

For the 2017 reporting period:

- Thirteen children were placed outside of the familial home due to human trafficking allegations. Placements included foster homes, private child caring facilities, or relatives. Services were provided to the victims and families in those settings.
- In 130 cases, drugs were identified to have been provided to the victim or involved in the trafficking.
- Criminal charges were made in 14 investigations with reported charges that included human trafficking, sodomy, sexual abuse, unlawful transaction with a minor, and illegal sex act with a minor.
- Of the 250 alleged victims, 246 were American-born, and four were foreign-born.
- Of the 217 cases, 204 had prior DCBS history, and 13 did not have prior DCBS history.
- A caretaker was alleged to be the perpetrator of 139 of the 250 total alleged victims. A non-caretaker was alleged to be the perpetrator of 175 of the 250 total alleged victims. In some cases, both a caretaker and non-caretaker were listed as perpetrators in the case.

**Table 4 – Human trafficking investigative findings N=250**

	<b>Caretaker</b>		<b>Non-caretaker</b>
<b>Substantiated</b>	27	<b>Confirmed</b>	27
<b>Unsubstantiated</b>	72	<b>Not confirmed</b>	77
<b>Pending</b>	38	<b>Pending</b>	71
<b>Unable to locate</b>	2	<b>Unable to locate</b>	0
<b>Total</b>	139		175



### **Section III: Conclusions and Planned Efforts**

DCBS representatives continue to partner with community providers to ensure that trafficking victims are receiving trauma-informed care and other supportive services to address the multiple needs of specific victims. In addition, staff from the DCBS Child Protection Branch consults with field personnel on each human trafficking investigation. Children's Advocacy Center services are obtained as necessary for trafficking cases. Law enforcement is notified of every investigation. Law enforcement was involved in 97% of the 217 cases and declined to investigate approximately 3% of the alleged human trafficking cases identified by DCBS.

Planned future efforts include:

- DCBS will continue to attend taskforce and subcommittee meetings, conduct trainings as needed, and provide technical assistance to field personnel.
- DCBS staff will continue to work with community providers in the efforts to implement new programs and services to address the needs of the victims of human trafficking.

