



**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

Matthew G. Bevin
Governor

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Adam M. Meier
Secretary

November 1, 2018

Becky Harilson, Acting Director
David Floyd, Acting Director
Legislative Research Commission
Capitol Building, Room 300
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Dear Ms. Harilson and Mr. Floyd:

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services presents the sixth report regarding child victims of human trafficking. This report has been prepared in accordance with KRS 620.029(2)(b), created by the Human Trafficking Victims Rights Act of the 2013 Regular Session and reflects activities and services since enactment of the law.

If you have any questions, or if further clarification is needed, please contact Melanie Taylor, Assistant Director of the Department for Community Based Services' Division of Protection and Permanency, at (502) 564-6852.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Adam Meier".

Adam M. Meier
Secretary

Enclosure



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

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Human Trafficking

Report to Legislative Research Commission

Department for Community Based Services
Cabinet for Health and Family Services

November 1, 2018

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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.¹

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). DCBS staff regularly attends the Louisville, Lexington, Frankfort, Shelbyville, London, Northern Kentucky, Bullitt County, and Nelson County human trafficking task force meetings, as well as the quarterly statewide human trafficking and subcommittee meetings. DCBS 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 Human Trafficking Victims' Rights 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 KY (PCAK), Kentucky Office of the Attorney General, 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 field staff regarding screening, investigating, and documentation of human trafficking referrals;
- Numerous updates to existing policies and procedures to comply with federal requirements (P.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 as well as to distinguish between labor and sex trafficking.

¹ 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”;
- Victim advertised for commercial sex on various social media sites 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 787 reported incidents involving 949 alleged victims. During the 2017 reporting period, there were 217 reported incidents involving 250 victims consisting of four (4) labor trafficking and 213 sex trafficking reports. In 2018, there were 204 reported incidents involving 251 victims consisting of six (6) labor trafficking and 198 sex trafficking reports. For this report, incidents are organized by DCBS service region² 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						Totals
	2013	2014	2015 (10/1/2014- 9/30/2015)	2016 (10/1/2015- 9/30/2016)	2017 (10/1/2016- 9/30/2017)	2018 (10/1/2017- 9/30/2018)	
Jefferson	14	13	18	29	32	50	156
Salt River	12	03	11	19	31	30	106
Cumberland	0	15	15	27	33	21	111
Eastern Mountain	07	06	09	21	16	08	67
Northeastern	02	07	10	13	14	14	60
Southern Bluegrass	03	04	11	17	13	15	63
The Lakes	0	06	13	19	13	17	68
Two Rivers	01	02	05	07	19	25	59

² DCBS Service Regions: See Attachment A

Northern Bluegrass	01	01	07	17	46	24	96
Statewide Total	40	57	99	169	217	204	786

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 2018 reporting period, nine (9) of the 251 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 below, while gender is explained in Table 3. Please note that some data in Table 2 has been adjusted since the prior report due to attempts to organize the data collected in the early reporting periods.

Table 2 – Age of alleged trafficking victims N=949

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)	2018 (10/1/2017-9/30/2018)	Totals
Infant	03	0	0	0	0	0	03
1 year of age	02	0	0	0	0	01	03
2 years of age	02	01	01	05	03	02	14
3 years of age	0	01	0	04	01	0	06
4 years of age	01	00	0	01	02	03	07
5 years of age	01	01	02	03	04	03	14
6 years of age	0	0	0	07	03	06	16
7 years of age	0	0	01	04	02	03	10
8 years of age	01	02	0	06	03	05	17
9 years of age	01	03	04	06	12	08	34
10 years of age	0	03	01	02	09	04	19
11 years of age	02	04	03	04	06	07	26
12 years of age	02	02	02	12	12	13	43
13 years of age	02	04	19	18	22	21	86
14 years of age	05	10	16	23	37	28	119
15 years of age	11	09	19	33	46	36	154
16 years of age	04	16	22	48	46	52	188
17 years of age	14	17	24	29	40	50	174
Unable to locate/Unknown	0	0	01	03	03	09	16
Statewide number of alleged victims	51	73	115	208	251	251	949

Females are most frequently the targets of human trafficking and account for 204 of the 251 alleged victims, while males account for 44 of the 251 alleged victims. There are three victims in which gender is unknown. Gender distribution is displayed in Table 3 below.

Table 3 – Gender of alleged trafficking victims N=251

Female	204 (81%)
Male	44 (18%)
Unknown/Unidentified	03 (1%)

Assessment Findings

All reported and identified 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 2018 reporting period:

- Eighteen (18) 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.
- Drugs were identified to have been provided to 102 victims or involved in the trafficking of these victims.
- Criminal charges were made in 24 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 251 total alleged victims, 241 were American born, and ten (10) were foreign-born.
- Of the 204 incidents, 173 have prior DCBS history, thirty (30) do not, and one (1) is unknown.
- A caretaker was alleged to be the perpetrator of 150 of the 251 total alleged victims. A non-caretaker was alleged to be the perpetrator of 130 of the 251 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=251

	Caretaker		Non-caretaker
Substantiated	25	Confirmed	20
Unsubstantiated	76	Not confirmed	68
Pending	42	Pending	40
Unable to locate	07	Unable to locate	02
Total	150		130

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 Child Protection Branch consult with field personnel, as needed. Children's advocacy center services are obtained, as necessary, for trafficking cases. Law enforcement is notified of every investigation. Law enforcement was involved in 82% of the 204 incidents and declined to investigate approximately 8% of the alleged human trafficking cases identified by DCBS. There are 21 cases (10%) pending without that information reported.

Planned future efforts include:

- DCBS will continue to attend task force 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.
- In the fall of 2018, the Child Protection Branch and the Kentucky Office of the Attorney General began training all frontline supervisors throughout the nine (9) DCBS service regions. Trainings will conclude in December 2018.