

2025 State Human Trafficking Report

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About the State Human Trafficking Report

What is the 2025 State Human Trafficking Report?

The 2025 State Human Trafficking Report, published by Allies Against Slavery, is an analysis of state-level anti-trafficking policies and federal prosecutions across all 50 states. The report examines 20 specific policies across prevention, protection, and prosecution categories for each state. It also provides data on federally prosecuted human trafficking cases in each state from 2000 to 2022. Each state profile includes policy implementation details, criminal penalty comparisons, federal case statistics, and geographic analysis of trafficking incidents.

Why is this report significant?

This report represents the first time that comprehensive state policy data and federal prosecution data have been combined into a single resource for all 50 states. It establishes a baseline understanding of the current anti-trafficking landscape and provides a unique contribution by offering complete coverage of all states using consistent methodologies, analyzing policy frameworks across crucial domains, revealing prosecution patterns over two decades, and providing an evidence-based roadmap for strengthening anti-trafficking responses.

How is the State Report different from the Shared Hope International State Report Cards?

While Shared Hope International's State Report Cards focus primarily on child sex trafficking laws and assign letter grades to states based on their legal frameworks, the State Human Trafficking Report takes a broader approach. It examines state policy

adoption across three domains (prevention, protection, and prosecution) for both sex and labor trafficking affecting adults and minors. Additionally, the report incorporates federal prosecution data spanning 22 years. Rather than assigning grades, the report presents data that allows stakeholders to understand specific policy gaps and prosecution trends.

How is the State Report different from the Federal Human Trafficking Report published by the Human Trafficking Institute?

There are several key differences between the State Human Trafficking Report and the Human Trafficking Institute's Federal Human Trafficking Report. The Human Trafficking Institute focuses exclusively on federal case data to improve understanding of the federal prosecutorial response to trafficking. The State Human Trafficking report combines this prosecution data with state-level policy adoption across prevention, protection, and prosecution domains, providing a view of both the policy environment alongside the federal enforcement landscape. Further, Allies Against Slavery's Lighthouse Data platform offers dynamic and interactive visualizations of both the federal case data and the state policy frameworks, allowing stakeholders to filter data in many ways to gain insights into national and regional trends. This combination of datasets helps stakeholders understand how legislative frameworks and prosecutorial practices intersect in addressing human trafficking.

It is also worth noting that the total number of federally prosecuted human trafficking cases contained in the State Human Trafficking Report varies from the numbers contained in the Human Trafficking Institute's Federal Human Trafficking Report, as well as the numbers published by the Bureau of Justice Statistics. The variability in these numbers is primarily due to different search methods and inclusion criteria used by each organization. Contact us to learn more about how these methodologies differ.

What are the key findings from the report?

The report reveals that states have enacted a total of 695 anti-trafficking policies since 2003, demonstrating significant momentum in legislative responses. States with the most

comprehensive policy frameworks include Florida, Tennessee, and Washington (each with 18 out of 20 policies), while others like Idaho have significant policy gaps (only 7 out of 20 policies).

Prevention policies continue to lag behind prosecution and protection policies across most states. While 50 states have criminalized human trafficking, only 17 states have mandated Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) screening.

Federal prosecution data shows a significant bias toward cases involving minor victims of sex trafficking, which account for over double the number of adult sex trafficking and labor trafficking cases combined. The most populated states have the highest numbers of federally prosecuted cases, but when normalized by population, South Dakota leads in prosecutions per capita.

Across the 22-year period analyzed, federal prosecutions involved 4,589 defendants and identified 12,132 victims. The data reveals striking differences in victim numbers by trafficking type: minor sex trafficking cases average 3 victims per case, adult sex trafficking 6 victims per case, and labor trafficking cases average 28 victims per case.

How can states, agencies, and organizations use this report?

This report provides valuable insights for various stakeholders:

State policymakers and legislators can identify gaps in their anti-trafficking frameworks, compare their approach to national trends, develop targeted legislation, and evaluate their balance of prevention, protection, and prosecution efforts.

Law enforcement agencies can understand trends in federal prosecutions, identify patterns in case types, develop more effective training programs, and support grant applications with data-driven evidence.

Service providers can use the data to advocate for policy changes, develop prevention-focused programming, guide resource allocation, and inform staff training priorities.

Anti-trafficking coalitions can develop strategic plans based on identified needs, prioritize advocacy efforts on critical policy gaps, create educational materials about state-specific trafficking trends, and engage diverse stakeholders with evidence-based information.

How was the methodology for this report developed?

For the State Human Trafficking Policy Database, we conducted comprehensive searches using state legislatures' online portals and legal research platforms. We evaluated each law against clear definitions in our State Human Trafficking Policy Glossary, compiled qualifying statutes into a digital library, and employed a binary coding scheme for each policy type. For validation, we sent state policy summaries to subject matter experts in all 50 states, receiving feedback from 25 states.

For the Federal Human Trafficking Prosecutions Database, we identified cases through Bloomberg Law using a keyword-based search strategy, filtered to ensure only true human trafficking cases remained, downloaded court documents for each case, and had trained researchers code hundreds of variables at both case and defendant levels. Each case underwent review by a second coder to ensure reliability.

What are the limitations of this report?

The report acknowledges several important limitations. The policy database assesses only whether a state has adopted certain policies, not their effectiveness in implementation. It focuses exclusively on legislative actions and doesn't capture executive orders or other non-codified policies. It also examines only whether a state has a particular law or not; it does not examine or compare the content. The federal prosecution data reflects only cases the government chooses to prosecute, which is influenced by strategic considerations and priorities, and may reflect biases in the criminal justice system rather than the true nature of trafficking. This report should never be used to assess the prevalence of human trafficking.

How Allies can Support States and Organizations

Who is Allies Against Slavery?

Allies Against Slavery harnesses data to illuminate and eradicate human trafficking through its innovative data platform and strategic partnerships. Since 2010, we have worked to dismantle silos, build networks, and shine a light on the vulnerabilities that lead to exploitation. Our pioneering software, Lighthouse, aggregates national and statewide data to help professionals, leaders, and policymakers identify victims, coordinate care, and understand trafficking trends. To date, Allies' solutions have helped identify over 20,000 youth with clear concern for human trafficking across the United States. We are building a future where every community has the data it needs to combat and prevent human trafficking. Learn more about Allies here: <https://www.alliesagainstslavery.org/>.

How can Allies help states implement the report's findings?

Allies can help states better understand the report's findings and turn the data into action. We provide deeper analyses of state-specific policy and data gaps, recommend model legislation, and help states improve their data capabilities by leveraging Lighthouse to enhance existing systems. We work with diverse stakeholders—from governor's offices to service providers—to create comprehensive data solutions that inform policy and practice.

What success has Allies had implementing data-driven approaches in states?

Allies has established successful models for state human trafficking databases. Our partnerships combine institutional leadership, sustainable funding, and technological innovation. In Texas, our work has led to the processing of nearly 190,000 screenings and

identification of over 18,000 youth with clear concern for human trafficking. In Louisiana, we've helped automate data collection from service providers and streamlined annual reporting to state legislators. Our newer partnership with the University of South Florida is supporting implementation of Florida's statewide data collection mandate established by Senate Bill 7064.

These implementations demonstrate our ability to work within diverse state contexts, adapt to different policy frameworks, and create sustainable data solutions that inform anti-trafficking efforts.

Additional Information

How can I access the full State Human Trafficking Report?

The full report with individual state profiles is available for download at www.alliesagainstslavery.org/research.

Will Allies release this report in future years?

Yes, the State Human Trafficking Report will be updated annually to track policy progress and prosecution trends across all 50 states. Future editions will incorporate stakeholder feedback and may include additional metrics and analysis as new data sources become available.

How can I access and use the Lighthouse platform?

There are several ways to access Lighthouse and the data that informs the State Report.

- [Lighthouse Insights](#) – this data is available on Allies' public website and is freely accessible. This new data hub translates complex data into accessible and actionable information for the public, media, and policymakers to catalyze informed action at every level of society.
- [Lighthouse Screening](#) – this tool is available for organizations working with vulnerable populations to identify those at risk for exploitation, connect them with services, and understand trends in the communities they serve. These include direct service providers, advocates, social services, schools, healthcare providers, and others. Only licensed sites and approved users at those sites can access Lighthouse Screening. [Request access](#).
- [Lighthouse Data](#) – Allies helps state and national government agencies meet requirements to collect and report human trafficking data. Lighthouse aggregates and visualizes state and national data, helping stakeholders make informed

decisions, allocate resources, and address human trafficking more efficiently and accurately. These include law enforcement, government, policymakers and think tanks, private sector, service providers, researchers and academics, and other research organizations. Only licensed sites and approved users at those sites can access Lighthouse Data. [Request access](#).

How can I contact Allies for media inquiries or partnership discussions?

For media inquiries, please contact Tad Druart at (512) 497-9880 or tdruart@piercom.com.

For partnership discussions, please reach out to our team at <https://www.alliesagainstslavery.org/contact-us>.