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Juristat

Trafficking in persons in Canada, 2024

by Danielle Sutton-Preddie

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Trafficking in persons in Canada, 2024: Highlights

- From 2014 to 2024, there were 5,070 human trafficking incidents reported by police services in Canada, representing an average annual rate of 1.2 incidents per 100,000 population.
- Over this period, the average annual rate of police-reported human trafficking was highest in Nova Scotia (4.1 per 100,000 population) and Ontario (2.0). These were the only provinces whose rates exceeded the national annual average.
- From 2014 to 2024, most (85%) human trafficking incidents were reported by police in census metropolitan areas. During this period, the highest average annual rates were reported by police in Thunder Bay (8.0 per 100,000 population) and Halifax (6.4).
- About two in five (39%) human trafficking incidents include multiple violations, most commonly for offences related to the sex trade, followed by physical assault offences.
- Consistent with previous findings, from 2014 to 2024, the vast majority (93%) of identified victims of police-reported human trafficking were women and girls, two-thirds of whom were younger than 25.
- Compared with women and girl victims, men and boy victims of human trafficking were generally older and more often involved in incidents with multiple victims.
- From 2014 to 2024, most (82%) persons accused of human trafficking were men and boys. When the accused were women and girls, they were younger than men and boys.
- The type of relationship between victims and accused differed by victim gender. Women and girls most often shared an intimate relationship with their accused (36%) while men and boys were most often trafficked by someone with whom they shared a business relationship (46%).
- From 2013/2014 to 2023/2024, there were 1,281 cases with at least one human trafficking charge completed in adult criminal courts in Canada.
- Overall, there were more than twice as many human trafficking cases and three times as many charges completed in 2023/2024 compared with 2013/2014.
- Human trafficking cases average more charges and take longer to complete in court than other violent offence cases.
- A small proportion (10%) of human trafficking cases completed from 2013/2014 to 2023/2024 resulted in a guilty finding, but of those convicted, 78% resulted in a custodial sentence.

Trafficking in persons in Canada, 2024

by Danielle Sutton-Preddie

Trafficking in persons, also known as human trafficking, involves recruiting, transporting, sheltering or controlling the movements of a person for the purposes of exploitation, usually for sexual reasons or forced labour (Department of Justice Canada, 2024; Public Safety Canada, 2025c). Human trafficking does not require the crossing of international borders and can occur entirely within a single country, including within local communities, cities, and rural areas. It often relies on manipulation, coercion, deception, or abuse of power, making vulnerable individuals—such as migrants, youth in care, Indigenous women and girls, and those experiencing poverty—particularly at risk (Department of Justice Canada, 2024; Hodgins et al., 2023; MMIWG, 2019; Public Safety Canada, 2024).

Canada has legislation to combat human trafficking both domestically and transnationally, as outlined in the *Criminal Code* and the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (IRPA), respectively (see Text box 1). Further, the Government of Canada is renewing the *National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking* (Public Safety Canada, 2025b).[1] By incorporating the voices of victims and survivors, Indigenous peoples, law enforcement agencies, frontline service providers, community advocates and other levels of government, the renewed National Strategy will ensure that Canada's approach remains effective, modern, victim-centred, trauma-informed and culturally sensitive.

The true extent of human trafficking, in Canada and internationally, is unknown. Despite having comprehensive legislation, human trafficking is difficult to detect and measure due to its hidden nature, where victims are frequently unrecognized or misidentified, and many are reluctant to report the crime to authorities. Victims may not disclose their situation to law enforcement due to safety concerns, fear of deportation, or fear of other legal or criminal repercussions—particularly if they were coerced into acts such as recruiting others into trafficking (Luz, 2020; Department of Justice Canada, 2024). Other deterrents to reporting include feelings of shame, a general distrust or lack of confidence in authorities, or because they do not view themselves as victims (Baird & Connolly, 2023; Beatson et al., 2017; Department of Justice Canada, 2024; Macy et al., 2021; Public Safety Canada, 2025c). Detection also depends in part on the number of resources, training and specialized units among police services. As such, the data presented in this *Juristat* article likely underestimate the true prevalence of human trafficking in Canada.

This *Juristat* article uses data from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey to examine trends and characteristics in human trafficking incidents that were reported by police in Canada from 2014 to 2024.[2] Data from the Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS) are also presented to examine decisions and outcomes of human trafficking cases completed in the adult criminal courts between 2013/2014 and 2023/2024.

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Text box 1
Human trafficking frameworks in Canada

Before human trafficking was explicitly recognized in law, such cases were prosecuted in Canada under broader offences like kidnapping, forcible confinement, extortion, sexual assault and organized crime provisions (Department of Justice Canada, 2024). Over time, Canada's legal framework evolved to include specific criminal offences, mandatory minimum sentences and an overarching National Strategy that emphasizes both enforcement and survivor support.

***Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (IRPA)**

- **2002**: Section 118 of IRPA prohibits cross-border human trafficking into Canada by means of abduction, fraud, deception, or coercion.
- IRPA also prohibits human smuggling, which is distinct from trafficking. Human smuggling involves persons paying to be illegally transported across international borders with the promise of freedom after arriving in the destination country.

***Criminal Code* of Canada**

- **2005**: The first human trafficking offences were added to the *Criminal Code*:
  - Section 279.01: Trafficking in persons
  - Section 279.02: Receiving financial or material benefit from trafficking
  - Section 279.03: Withholding or destroying identity documents to facilitate trafficking
  - Section 279.04: Defines exploitation in the context of trafficking
- **2008/2009**: The first human trafficking case under these new provisions was completed in adult criminal court.
- **2010**: Section 279.011 introduces mandatory minimum sentences for trafficking minors (i.e., children and youth under the age of 18).
- **2012**: Amendments allow prosecution of Canadian citizens and permanent residents for trafficking offences committed abroad and provides interpretive guidance to judges on determining whether exploitation occurred (subsection 279.04(2)).
- **2014**: Mandatory minimum sentences were extended to:
  - General trafficking offences (section 279.01)
  - Receiving material benefit from trafficking children (subsection 279.02(2))
  - Withholding or destroying documents to traffic children (section 279.03(2))

Following the 2012-2019 National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking, in **2019**, a National Strategy was implemented, establishing a unified, Government of Canada-wide, approach to combat human trafficking. It aims to support and empower victims and survivors, prevent future instances of trafficking, enhance protection for those at greatest risk, hold traffickers accountable for their crimes, and strengthen collaboration with provinces, territories, and partner organizations (Public Safety Canada, 2019). In **2025**, the government is in the process of renewing the National Strategy.

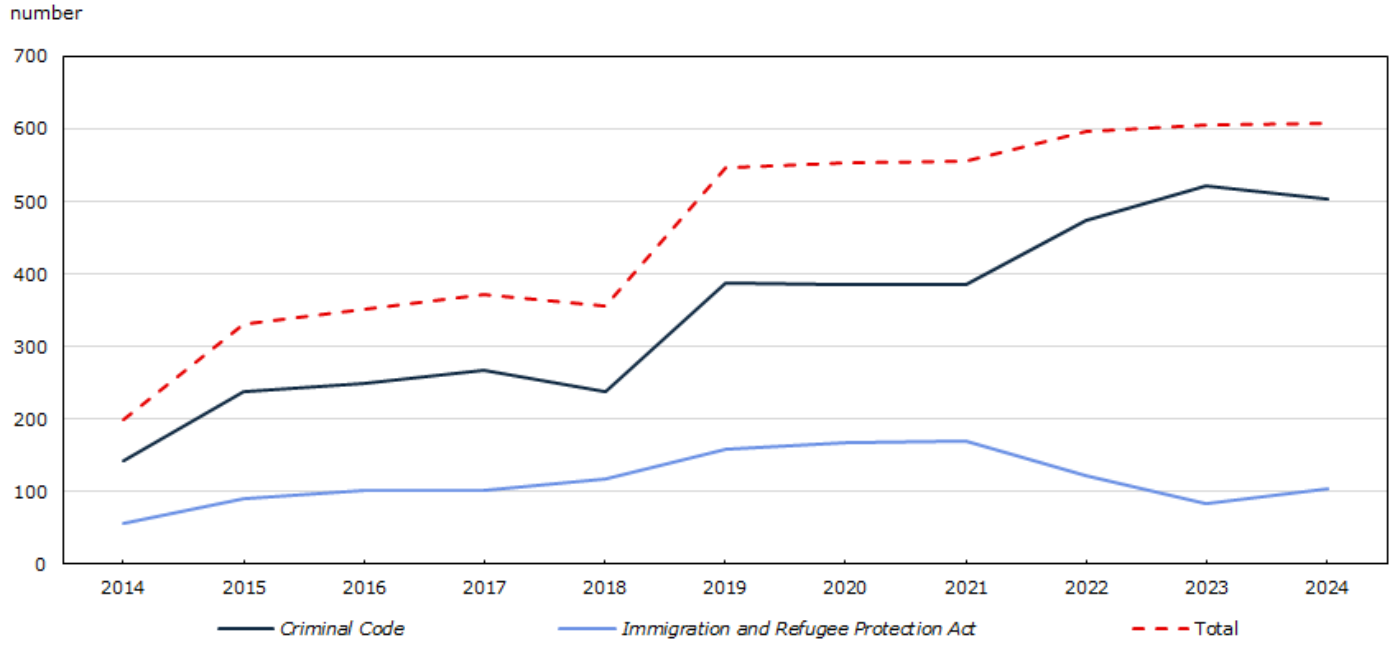
Section 1: Police-reported human trafficking

Police-reported human trafficking has generally increased year-over-year since 2014

From 2014 to 2024, there were 5,070 human trafficking incidents reported by police services in Canada,[3] representing an average annual rate of 1.2 incidents per 100,000 population.[4] Of these incidents, most (75%) were for *Criminal Code* violations and the remainder (25%) involved *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (IRPA) offences, which involve trafficking across international borders. In all, incidents of human trafficking accounted for 0.02% of all police-reported incidents of crime during this time.

In terms of year-over-year trends, the number of police-reported human trafficking incidents has increased steadily since 2014, apart from a decline noted in 2018 (Chart 1).[5] The number of police-reported human trafficking incidents increased marginally in 2024 compared with 2023, from 605 to 608 incidents.

Chart 1
Police-reported human trafficking, by statute, Canada, 2014 to 2024



Note: This chart is based on aggregate data. Counts are based on the most serious violation against the victim for *Criminal Code* offences and the most serious violation in the incident for *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* offences. Excludes data reported by the Canadian Forces Military Police.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

It should be noted, however, that human trafficking is an especially complex crime, where some individual incidents only become apparent from their connection with other human trafficking incidents. As such, incident counts may shift following additional police investigation. For instance, there were initially 570 incidents of human trafficking reported in 2023 but, following annual revision, there are 605 incidents. As such, comparisons using the latest year of data should be avoided.[6]

Rates of human trafficking in Nova Scotia and Ontario continue to exceed national average

Like previous human trafficking trends in Canada (Conroy, 2022; Heidinger, 2023; Statistics Canada, 2024), from 2014 to 2024, the highest average annual rates of police-reported human trafficking in the provinces were documented in Nova Scotia (4.1 incidents per 100,000 population) and Ontario (2.0) (Table 1). These were the only provinces whose rates exceeded the national annual average of 1.2.

While the rate of police-reported human trafficking has declined (-44%) in Nova Scotia since its peak in 2020, the rate in 2024 (4.5 per 100,000 population) was triple the national rate (1.5). Of note, in 2024, there were more IRPA than *Criminal Code*

offences reported by police in Nova Scotia (60% versus 40%); this ratio has not been observed since 2017, when 66% of Nova Scotia's human trafficking incidents were IRPA offences.

The high rate of human trafficking in Nova Scotia has been attributed in part to its coastal location, with its ports and transportation links. Specifically, Nova Scotia serves as a key node in a human trafficking corridor that facilitates the movement of victims, either originating from, or passing through Atlantic Canada to other parts of the country (CCTEHT, 2021). The high rate in Ontario, on the other hand, is better explained by being Canada's most populous province, having multiple international border crossings including Canada's busiest airport, and being home to the Highway 401—a major trafficking route that connects multiple urban centres and facilitates rapid movement of victims between cities and across the U.S. border (CCTEHT, 2021).

When looking at 2024 alone, four other provinces—Prince Edward Island (2.8 incidents per 100,000 population, with 5 total incidents), Ontario (2.3, 374 incidents), New Brunswick (2.0, 17 incidents) and Saskatchewan (1.9, 23 incidents)—exceeded the national rate of human trafficking, but to a smaller extent.

Number and rate of police-reported human trafficking incidents higher in census metropolitan areas

From 2014 to 2024, the vast majority (85%) of human trafficking incidents were reported by police in Canada's largest urban centres, referred to as census metropolitan areas (CMAs),[7] a finding which held true in 2024 (83%) (Table 2).

Generally consistent with previous years (Conroy, 2022; Heidinger, 2023; Statistics Canada, 2024), from 2014 to 2024, close to half (45%) of all human trafficking incidents were reported by police in five CMAs: Toronto (1,038 incidents, 20% of all incidents in Canada), Ottawa (416, 8.2% of all incidents),[8] Halifax (326, 6.4% of all incidents), Montréal (272, 5.4% of all incidents) and London (217, 4.3% of all incidents). During this time, police services in Thunder Bay and Halifax reported the highest average annual rate of human trafficking incidents (8.0 and 6.4 per 100,000 population, respectively).

It follows then, that the average annual rate of human trafficking incidents reported by police between 2014 and 2024 was twice as high in CMAs compared with non-CMAs (1.4 versus 0.7 incidents per 100,000 population).

In 2024 specifically, the highest rate of human trafficking was reported by police services in Guelph (11 per 100,000 population),[9] followed by Halifax (7.5)[10] and Thunder Bay (6.1). These rates were much higher than the overall rate of human trafficking incidents for the CMAs in Canada, which was 1.6 incidents per 100,000 population.

About two in five human trafficking incidents contain multiple violations, more than half of which are related to the sex trade

A human trafficking offence—under the *Criminal Code* or IRPA—was listed as the most serious offence in the vast majority (96%) of human trafficking incidents reported by police from 2014 to 2024.[11] Of all human trafficking incidents reported during this period, three in five (61%) involved human trafficking as the only violation, whereas the remaining 39% had at least one other type of violation.[12]

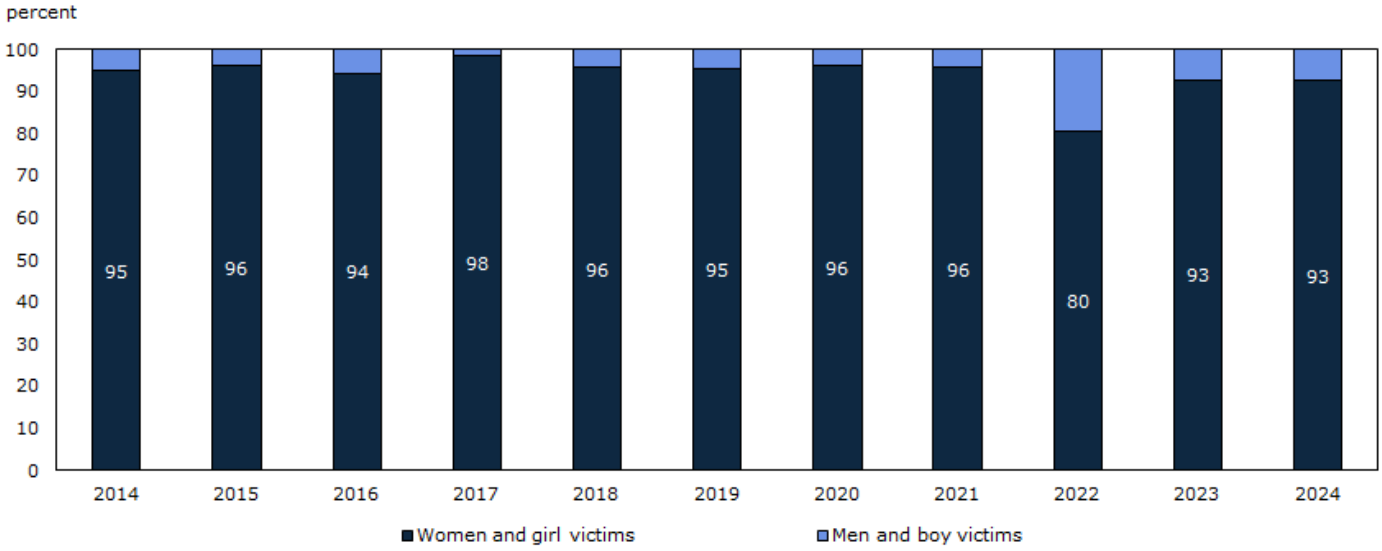
Of the human trafficking incidents with at least one additional violation, about half (53%) had an additional violation related to the sex trade.[13] While it is not possible to determine the type of human trafficking with available data—whether it was sexual exploitation, forced labour, another type of trafficking or a combination of multiple types— the high proportion of associated offences related to the sex trade could signal the presence of sex trafficking in these cases. Sex trafficking and sex work are often conflated; however, sex trafficking is unique as persons are forced, deceived or coerced into participating in sexual activity—without true consent—for the purposes of exploitation.

Approximately one-third (34%) of human trafficking incidents with multiple violations included a physical assault offence, 30% included a sexual offence (e.g., sexual assault), and 10% included a deprivation of freedom offence (e.g., kidnapping, forcible confinement).[14]

Most detected victims of human trafficking are women and girls

From 2014 to 2024, there were 3,429 incidents of police-reported human trafficking in which victims were identified, representing a total of 4,075 detected victims.[15] Overall, during this period, and in 2024 specifically, the vast majority of human trafficking victims (93%) were women and girls, while the remaining 7% were men and boys.[16] These proportions have remained relatively stable over time, with the exception of 2022, where 80% of detected victims were women and girls and the remaining 20% were men and boys (Chart 2).

Chart 2
Victims of police-reported human trafficking, by gender and year, Canada, 2014 to 2024



Note: Excludes victims whose gender was coded as unknown. In the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey, victim information is reported by police for *Criminal Code* incidents of human trafficking, but not for *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* violations. As a result, analysis of victim characteristics include all victims involved in a human trafficking incident where a *Criminal Code* offence was the most serious violation. Given that small counts of victims identified as "non-binary" may exist, the UCR Survey data available to the public has been recoded to assign these counts to either "women and girls" or "men and boys" in order to ensure the protection of confidentiality and privacy.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database.

While the *Criminal Code* and the UCR Survey do not distinguish human trafficking incidents by the type of exploitation, the spike in men and boys as victims in 2022 likely reflects an increase in police-reported labour trafficking in that year. Of the 97 men and boys who were victims of human trafficking in 2022, three-quarters (75%) were detected in multiple victim incidents,[17] and among these men and boys, 85% reportedly shared a business relationship with their accused.[18] These findings lend support to other data which consistently show that types of human trafficking are often gendered, with women and girls comprising most sex trafficking victims and men and boys predominating as victims of labour trafficking (Beatson et al., 2017; Department of Justice Canada, 2024; UNODC, 2024).

Text box 2
Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada

The Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (FINTRAC) is Canada's financial intelligence unit. By analyzing financial transaction reports, FINTRAC plays a key role in preventing, identifying and deterring money laundering activities.

In 2016, FINTRAC collaborated with banks and law enforcement agencies to launch Project Protect, a joint effort focused on combating money laundering activities connected to human trafficking for sexual exploitation. In 2023/2024, this initiative was expanded to include the laundering of proceeds related to labour trafficking.

Labour trafficking is a widely underreported type of human trafficking where persons are recruited, transported or sheltered and then coerced and exploited for their work or services (Public Safety Canada, 2022). Labour trafficking cuts across industries but is more common in those that employ low-wage or seasonal workers (e.g., agriculture, construction, caregiving, hospitality) (Public Safety Canada, 2022). Despite it being largely underreported, there is some indication (e.g., increase in demand for migrant labour, media reports of high-profile cases) that labour trafficking remains a pressing and potentially escalating concern in Canada (FCJ Refugee Centre & CCTEHT, 2023; Public Safety Canada, 2025a).

Since the inception of Project Protect in 2016, FINTRAC has generated close to 2,000 disclosures relating to human trafficking overall, assisting police services in helping numerous victims and preventing future recruitment (FINTRAC, 2024). Specific to labour trafficking, FINTRAC had 147 actionable financial intelligence disclosures under Project Protect in the 2023/2024 reporting year, 43% of which were identified proactively (FINTRAC, 2024).

By following the money, FINTRAC assists police in identifying persons involved, both as victims and accused persons, in human trafficking where financial reports can corroborate existing investigative material to assist in the prosecution of perpetrators.

One in ten incidents of police-reported human trafficking has multiple victims

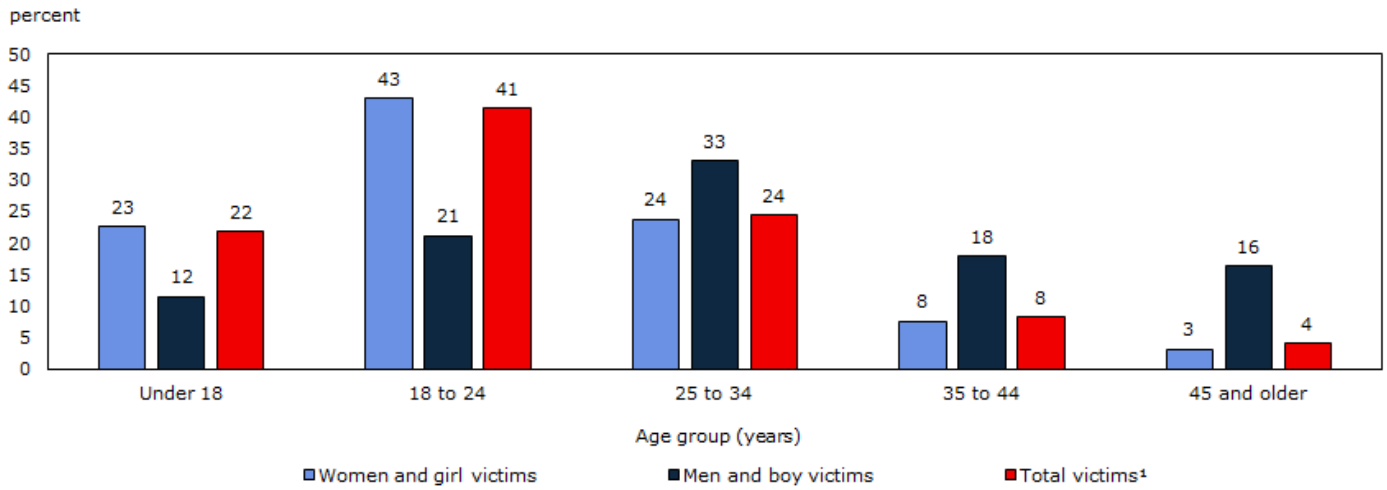
From 2014 to 2024, 1 in 10 (10%) police-reported incidents of human trafficking involved multiple victims. Of these incidents, the number of victims ranged from two to 49, with an average of 2.9 victims per incident, most (82%) of whom were women and girls and the remaining 18% were men and boys.

Among victims who are women and girls, 22% were involved in incidents with multiple victims, while for men and boys, nearly two-thirds (64%) were involved in multiple victim incidents. The latter proportion, however, is influenced by the spike of men and boy victims detected in 2022. When 2022 victims are excluded, the figure for women and girls remains the same, whereas 59% of all men and boys were involved in multi-victim incidents. These findings lend support to prior research showing that the number of victims per incident differs by the type of human trafficking where labour trafficking cases average more victims than cases of sexual exploitation (UNODC, 2024).

Nearly two-thirds of human trafficking victims are younger than 25

Of the 3,954 detected victims of police-reported human trafficking between 2014 and 2024 where victim age was known, the largest proportion (41%) were aged 18 to 24, followed by those aged 25 to 34 (24%) and younger than 18 (22%) (Chart 3). In all, close to two-thirds (63%) of human trafficking victims were younger than 25.

Chart 3
Victims of police-reported human trafficking, by gender and age group, Canada, 2014 to 2024

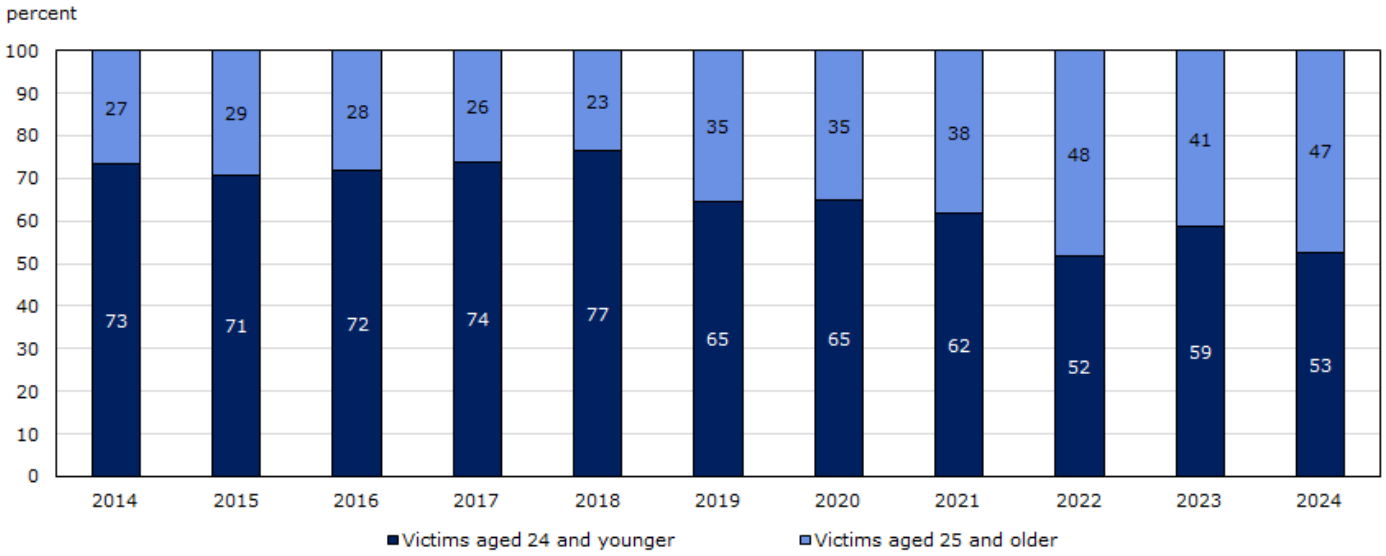


1. Includes victims whose gender was unknown.
Note: Victims aged older than 110 years are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category and victims whose age was reported as 80 years or older, but were identified as possible instances of miscoding. In the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey, victim information is reported by police for *Criminal Code* incidents of human trafficking, but not for *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* violations. As a result, analysis of victim characteristics include all victims involved in a human trafficking incident where a *Criminal Code* offence was the most serious violation. Given that small counts of victims identified as "non-binary" may exist, the UCR Survey data available to the public has been recoded to assign these counts to either "women and girls" or "men and boys" in order to ensure the protection of confidentiality and privacy.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database.

Different age patterns exist by gender. For instance, twice as many women and girl victims of human trafficking were between the ages of 18 and 24 compared with men and boy victims (43% versus 21%). Likewise, the proportion of girls younger than 18 outnumber similarly aged boys (23% versus 12%). The largest proportion of men and boy victims, on the other hand, were between the ages of 25 and 34 years (33%).

In terms of year-over-year patterns, victims aged 24 and younger consistently outnumbered victims aged 25 and older. However, the magnitude of difference has decreased over time (Chart 4). It is possible these changing trends are due to shifts in traffickers targeting older individuals, improved identification of older victims, and social or economic factors making certain adults more vulnerable. Additionally, victims who were trafficked at younger ages may remain under the control of a trafficker as they grow older, and broader demographic trends like an aging population increase the number of adults at risk.

Chart 4
Victims of police-reported human trafficking, by age group and year, Canada, 2014 to 2024



Note: Victims aged older than 110 years are excluded from analyses due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category and victims whose age was reported as 80 years or older, but were identified as possible instances of miscoding. In the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, victim information is reported by police for *Criminal Code* incidents of human trafficking, but not for *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* violations. As a result, analysis of victim characteristics include all victims involved in a human trafficking incident where a *Criminal Code* offence was the most serious violation.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database.

Majority of persons accused of human trafficking are men and boys

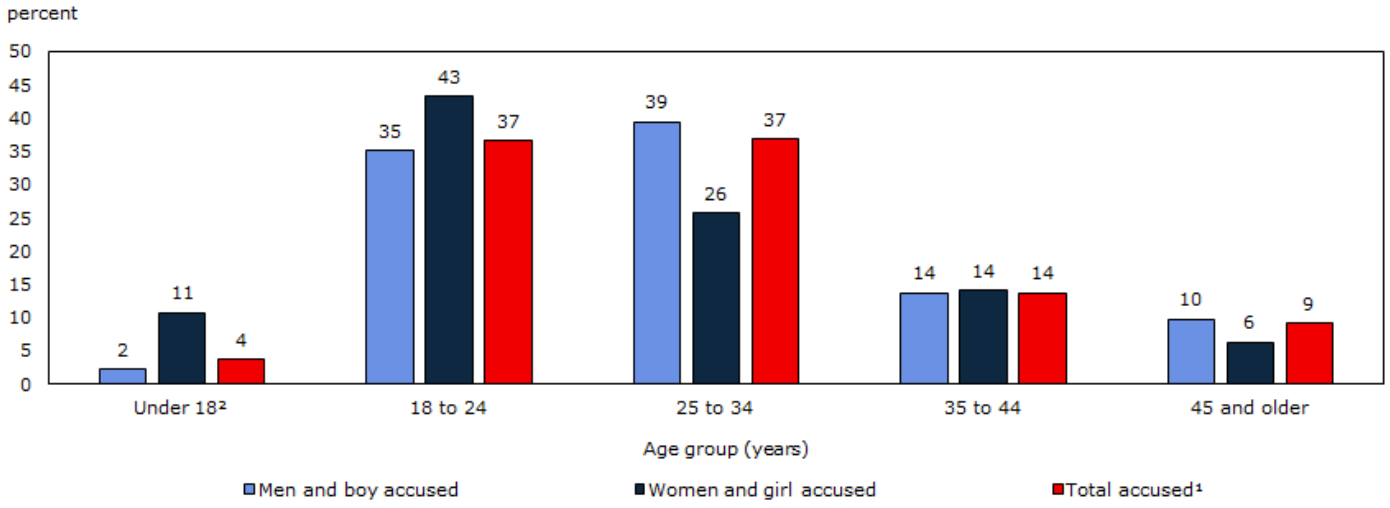
From 2014 to 2024, there were 2,838 persons accused of police-reported human trafficking. Of these accused, most (82%) were men and boys while about one-fifth (18%) were women and girls. This gender ratio has remained generally consistent year over year.

Research shows that the roles of women and girls in human trafficking cases are often complex and blurred. For example, women and girls accused of human trafficking may have once been victims themselves, could remain under the control of traffickers, and may have limited roles in the enterprise, such as recruiting other women and girls (Baird & Connolly, 2023; Department of Justice Canada, 2024; Millar & O'Doherty, 2020; UNODC, 2024). Moreover, women and girls may be perceived as better positioned to appear trustworthy during the early stages of recruitment and are thus tasked with luring other girls (Broad, 2015; Kiensat et al., 2014).

Most persons accused of police-reported human trafficking are between the ages of 18 and 34

Persons accused of human trafficking varied in age, with the youngest being 14 and the oldest 80 years old. The median age of these accused was 27 years old. Overall, about three-quarters (73%) were between the ages of 18 and 34. Fewer persons accused of human trafficking were aged 35 to 44 (14%), 45 and older (9%), or between the ages of 12 and 17 (4%)[19] (Chart 5).

Chart 5
Accused persons of police-reported human trafficking, by gender and age group, Canada, 2014 to 2024



1. Includes accused persons whose gender was unknown.
2. Includes accused persons aged 12 to 17.

Note: Excludes those with unknown age and those where age was greater than 110 due to possible instances of miscoding of unknown age within this age category. Given that small counts of accused persons identified as "non-binary" may exist, the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey data available to the public has been recoded to assign these counts to either "women and girls" or "men and boys" in order to ensure the protection of confidentiality and privacy.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database.

These patterns, however, were driven largely by the predominance of men and boys as accused persons. Women and girls accused of human trafficking were younger, with a median age of 23 years, compared to men and boy accused (median age 27 years). More specifically, close to half of women and girls accused of human trafficking were between the ages of 18 and 24 (43% versus 35% of men and boys) and 12 to 17 (11% versus 2% of men and boys).

When an accused is identified, most human trafficking incidents are cleared by charge

From 2014 to 2024, a large proportion (59%) of police-reported incidents of human trafficking were not cleared,[20] due largely to there being insufficient evidence to proceed with a charge. Of the incidents that were cleared, the vast majority (90%) were cleared by the laying or recommendation of charges and the remaining 10% were cleared otherwise.[21] The proportion of accused cleared by charge remained relatively consistent year over year, with a low of 85% in 2015 to a high of 93% reported in 2016 and 2017.

Overall, from 2014 to 2024, a slightly higher proportion of women and girl accused were cleared by the laying or recommendation of a charge compared with men and boy accused (92% versus 90%).

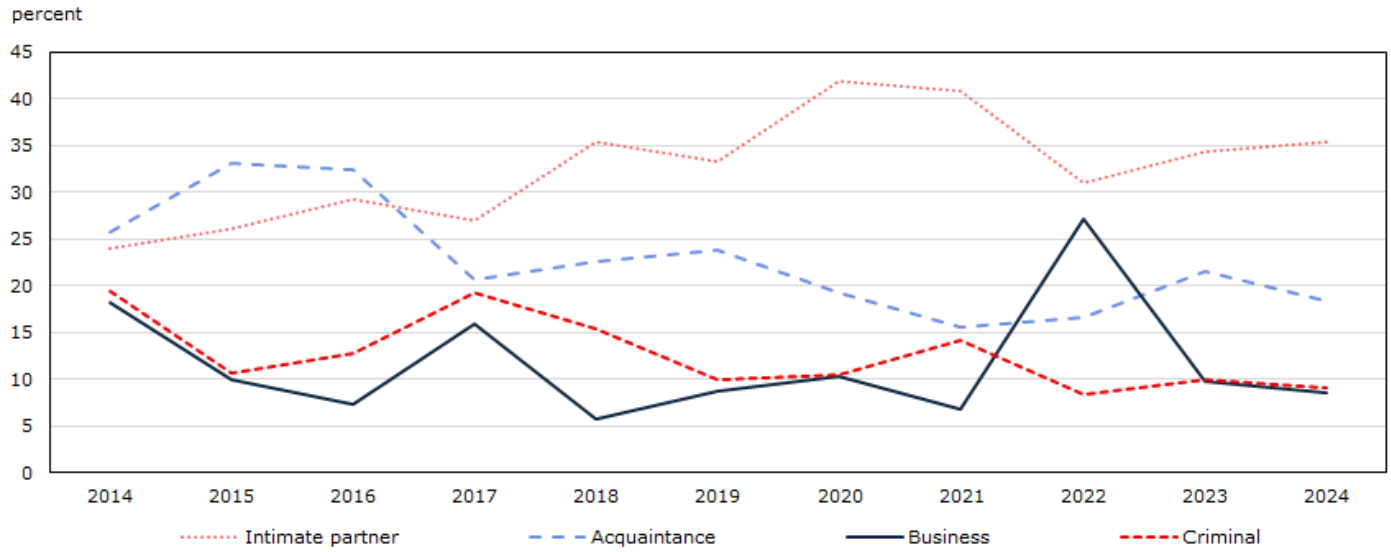
Intimate partner relationships most common among victims and persons accused of human trafficking

Consistent with prior trends, from 2014 to 2024, police-reported human trafficking most often involved victims and accused persons who were intimate partners (34%),[22] acquaintances (22%),[23] or were criminal (12%)[24] or business (12%)[25] associates.

These patterns were driven largely by findings for victims who were women and girls. For example, from 2014 to 2024, the largest proportion of women and girls were trafficked by an intimate partner (36%), followed by an acquaintance (22%) and by someone with whom they shared a criminal association (13%). Men and boys, on the other hand, were most often trafficked by someone with whom they shared a business relationship (46%), followed by acquaintances (13%) and strangers (13%).

When the type of relationship was examined over time for all victims, the proportion who were trafficked by an intimate partner has generally increased, especially during the early years of the COVID-19 pandemic, while those involving acquaintances have declined (Chart 6).

Chart 6
Police-reported human trafficking by accused-victim relationship and year, Canada, 2014 to 2024



Note: In the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey, victim information is reported by police for *Criminal Code* incidents of human trafficking, but not for *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* violations. As a result, analysis of victim characteristics include all victims involved in a human trafficking incident where a *Criminal Code* offence was the most serious violation. Given that small counts of victims identified as "non-binary" may exist, the UCR Survey data available to the public has been recoded to assign these counts to either "women and girls" or "men and boys" in order to ensure the protection of confidentiality and privacy.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database.

Text box 3
The Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline

The Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline, operated by the Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking, was established in May 2019 to provide localized support to anyone impacted by trafficking and other forms of exploitation. The confidential and multilingual hotline uses a victim-centred and trauma-informed approach to share information with callers, assist with safety planning, report tips to law enforcement under certain circumstances and connect people with thousands of social and legal services nationwide. The data collected by the hotline complement data captured by police and courts, and help to advance understanding of human trafficking in Canada.

The Centre collects and stores data on human trafficking cases that are disclosed to the hotline. In 2024, the hotline identified 466 cases of human trafficking involving 579 victims/survivors. Compared with 2023 data, the number of cases identified in 2024 increased 35%. A case refers to a unique situation or event that prompted someone to contact the hotline. Of the human trafficking cases identified by the hotline in 2024:

- Most (70%) involved sex trafficking, about one-fifth (22%) involved labour trafficking and 4% involved both sex and labour trafficking occurring in the same situation
- Cases of labour trafficking averaged more victims/survivors than cases of sex trafficking (1.7 versus 1.1 victims/survivors per case)
- Nearly half (44%) of all individuals who contacted the hotline were victims/survivors, while another 22% were family or friends of victims/survivors
- Individuals who contacted the hotline most often did so for the purpose of a referral (43%), followed by wanting professional guidance (32%)

- Referrals were most often made for health, mental health and addiction treatment (25%), while 19% were related to case management, 16% were related to shelter and housing, 12% were legal in nature and 10% were related to employment and income

The Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in over 200 different languages, including 27 Indigenous languages. It can be accessed by phone at 1-833-900-1010 or online at: www.canadianhumantraffickinghotline.ca.

Section 2: Human trafficking in adult criminal court

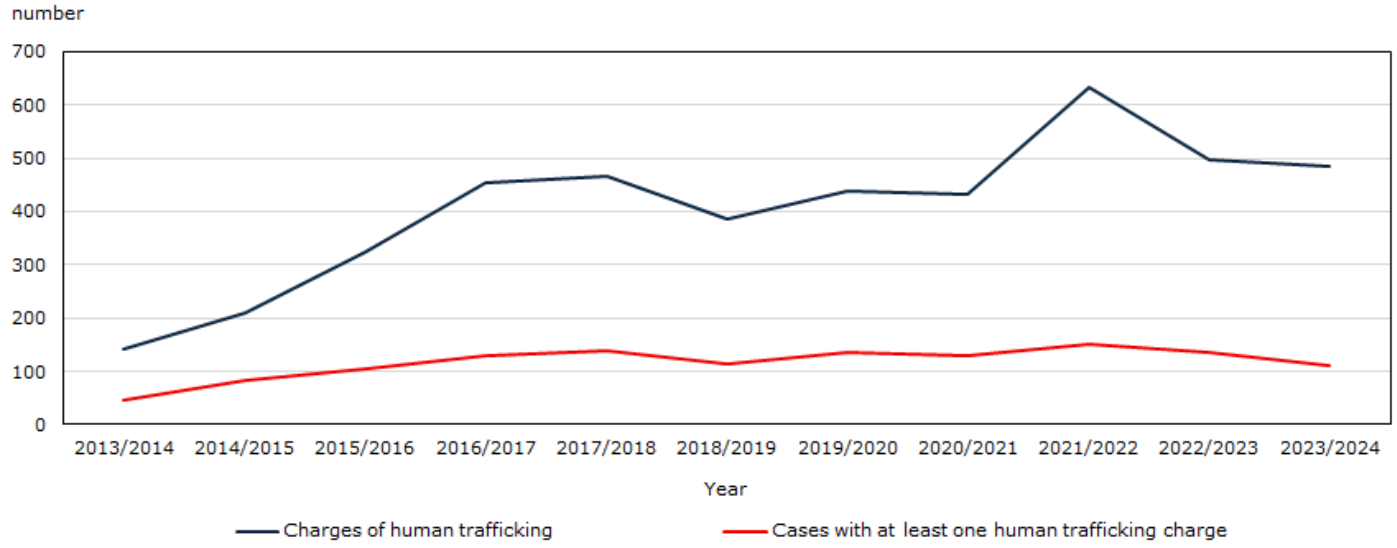
The Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS) provides administrative data on *Criminal Code* and other federal statute offences that are processed in Canadian adult criminal and youth courts. The ICCS collects information on court processing times, charge and case decisions, and sentencing outcomes. This section uses ICCS data to present information on cases with at least one human trafficking charge completed between 2013/2014 and 2023/2024 in adult criminal courts (for information about youth court, see Text box 4).

It is important to note that police-reported data and criminal court data on human trafficking may not align since charges differing from those laid by police may be pursued in court following Crown review or within the plea-bargaining process. Furthermore, since court cases enter the ICCS database only when cases are complete or deemed complete,[26] timelines for court data will often not mirror police-reported data.

Over past decade, increase in charges and cases of human trafficking completed in court

From 2013/2014 to 2023/2024, there were 1,281 cases involving 4,464 human trafficking charges completed in adult criminal courts in Canada.[27] In general, the number of human trafficking cases has increased over this time (Chart 7). In 2013/2014, there were 46 completed cases that involved at least one human trafficking charge, with a total of 142 human trafficking charges. In comparison, there were 112 human trafficking cases with 484 human trafficking charges completed in 2023/2024. In total, there were more than twice as many human trafficking cases and three times as many completed charges in 2023/2024 compared with 2013/2014.

Chart 7
Completed charges and cases related to human trafficking in adult criminal court, Canada, 2013/2014 to 2023/2024



Note: Data are based on the adult criminal court portion of the survey where accused persons were aged 18 and older at the time of the offence. Includes *Criminal Code* charges and cases only, excluding *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* offences. A case involves one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. Data exclude information from superior courts in Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, as well as municipal courts in Quebec, due to data availability. Data for Quebec were not available for 2021/2022, 2022/2023 and 2023/2024. Superior court data for Prince Edward Island were included as of 2018/2019.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

In 2023/2024, there was an overall decrease in the number of completed human trafficking charges and cases compared to the previous year. More specifically, there was a 17% decrease (112 versus 135) in the number of cases and a 2.6% decrease (484 versus 497) in the number of charges in 2023/2024 compared with 2022/2023.[28]

Most persons accused in human trafficking cases completed in adult court are men

Aligned with police-reported patterns, from 2013/2014 to 2023/2024, the majority (84%) of persons accused in cases with at least one human trafficking charge completed in adult criminal courts were men, while 16% were women.[29] Similar patterns were found for sex trade cases (85% of accused were men)[30] and other violent offence cases (82%).[31]

Among men accused in cases with at least one human trafficking charge, near equal proportions were between the ages of 18 to 24 (41.4%) and 25 to 34 (40.6%). Likewise, the largest proportion of women accused in these cases were aged 18 to 24 (47%), followed by women aged 25 to 34 (35%). Overall, regardless of gender, these accused were younger than persons accused in sex trade cases (53% were between the ages of 18 and 34) and other violent offence cases (54% were aged 18 to 34).

Human trafficking cases average more charges and take longer to complete than other violent offence cases

Of the 1,281 cases with at least one human trafficking charge completed in adult criminal courts from 2013/2014 to 2023/2024, there was an average of 18 charges per case. This was substantially higher than what was found for sex trade cases, which averaged 7 charges per case, and for those involving at least one other violent offence (average of 4 charges per case).

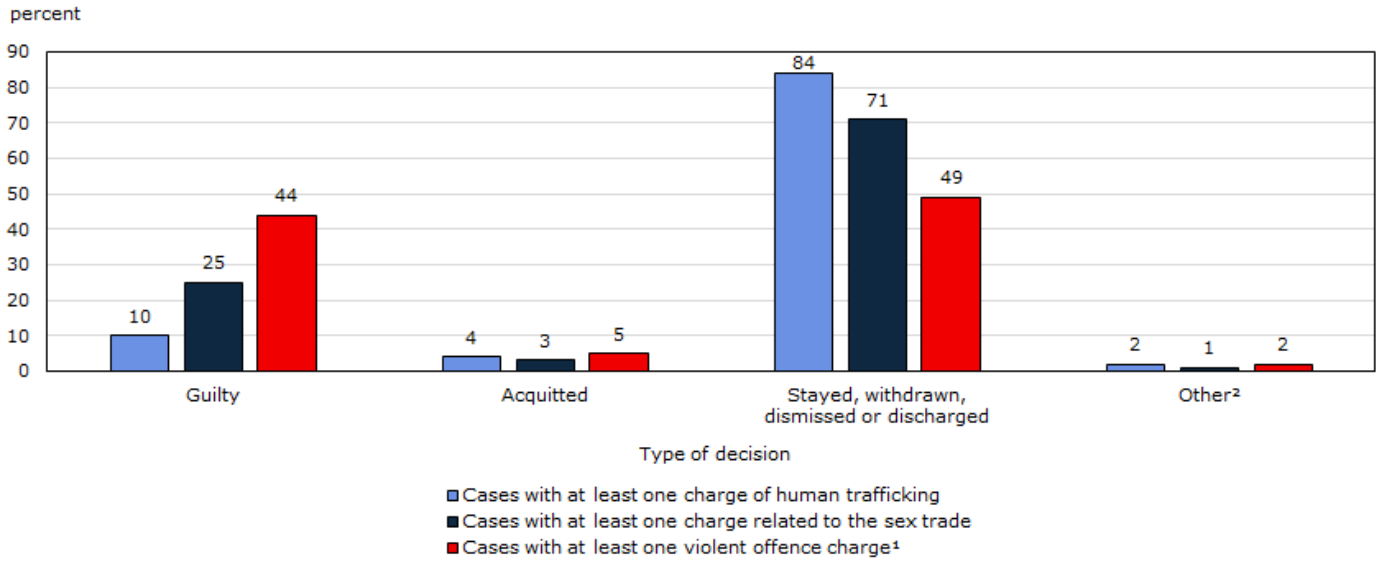
In all, 2% of the human trafficking cases completed during this time involved a single charge and the remaining 98% had multiple charges. More than three-quarters (77%) of the 1,253 multi-charge human trafficking cases also included a sex trade offence, and about three in ten included a charge of kidnapping or forcible confinement (27%), or a sexual offence charge (31%).[32]

Between 2013/2014 and 2023/2024, human trafficking cases took a median of 418 days to complete, almost twice as long as sex trade cases (219 days) or other violent offence cases (200 days).[33]

One in 10 completed human trafficking cases result in a finding of guilt

Between 2013/2014 and 2023/2024, for the large majority (84%) of completed adult criminal court cases involving at least one human trafficking charge was a stay, a withdrawal, a dismissal, or a discharge (Chart 8).[34] In comparison, 71% of sex trade cases and 49% of other violent offence cases resulted in either a stay, withdrawal, dismissal or discharge.

Chart 8
Most serious decision in completed adult criminal court cases, by selected offence, Canada, 2013/2014 to 2023/2024



1. Excludes cases with at least one charge of human trafficking and cases with at least one charge related to the sex trade.
2. Other decisions include being found unfit to stand trial, not criminally responsible and case waived out of province or territory. Includes any order where a guilty decision was not recorded, the court accepted a special plea, or arguments related to the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* were raised.
Note: Data are based on the adult criminal court portion of the survey where accused were aged 18 and older at the time of offence. Includes *Criminal Code* charges and cases only, excluding *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* offences. A decision is a judgment made by the court. A case involves one or more charges against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. Data exclude information from superior courts in Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, as well as municipal courts in Quebec, due to data availability. Data for Quebec were not available for 2021/2022, 2022/2023 and 2023/2024. Superior court data for Prince Edward Island was included as of 2018/2019.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Integrated Criminal Court Survey.

While it is possible many human trafficking cases resulted in a stay, withdrawal, dismissal or discharge due to Crown diversion practices, court backlogs, and resource constraints intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic (Department of Justice Canada, 2022), the successful prosecution of human trafficking cases can also carry unique challenges. For example, human trafficking cases require demonstrating evidence of control, coercion, or exploitation, which may be difficult to prove in court (Farrell et al., 2019; UNODC, 2020). Unlike other crimes, much of the evidence presented relies heavily on victim testimony, which can be inconsistent due to trauma, fear of retaliation, or distrust of authorities (Department of Justice Canada, 2024; Public Safety Canada, 2019), and these inconsistencies are strategically used by defense attorneys to undermine the Crown's case (Department of Justice Canada, 2024; Millar & O'Doherty, 2020). Other challenges to securing a conviction include defense attempts to undermine the victim's credibility by highlighting their immigration status, prior involvement in criminal activity or relationship with the accused (Department of Justice Canada, 2024).

A small proportion of human trafficking cases resulted in a guilty decision (10%).[35] Of human trafficking cases with a guilty decision, most (91%) involved a man as the accused.[36] Fewer human trafficking cases resulted in an acquittal (4%), or another type of decision (2%).[37] In contrast, a larger proportion of cases with a sex trade charge (25%) and cases with a violent offence charge (44%) resulted in a guilty decision.

Custodial sentence common among human trafficking cases with a guilty outcome

Since 2013/2014, most (78%) human trafficking cases with a guilty outcome for a human trafficking charge resulted in custody as the most serious sentence.[38] In comparison, cases involving a sex trade charge or a violent offence charge with a guilty decision less commonly resulted in a custodial sentence (46% and 41%, respectively).

Similar proportions of human trafficking cases with a guilty outcome for a human trafficking charge resulted in a sentence of probation (9%) or another type of sentence (12%).[39] Probation was more common for cases involving a sex trade charge or a violent offence charge with a guilty outcome (19% and 42%, respectively) than what was observed in human trafficking cases.

Text box 4
Completed human trafficking cases in youth courts

From 2013/2014 to 2023/2024, 5% of completed human trafficking cases involved a youth accused aged 12 to 17. During this period, there were 61 cases involving at least one human trafficking charge completed in youth court, totaling 141 charges. Of these cases, there was less of a gender divide relative to adult human trafficking cases. Specifically, close to six in ten (58%) human trafficking cases completed in youth court involved a boy accused and the remaining 42% involved a girl accused.[40]

All but one of the human trafficking cases completed in youth court over this period were multi-charge cases. Of these 60 cases, 40% also included a sex trade charge, 22% also included a sexual offence charge and 19% included a charge of kidnapping or forcible confinement.[41]

In youth court cases where there was a finding of guilt for the human trafficking charge, 42% resulted in a sentence of custody and supervision as the most serious sentence, 17% were sentenced to deferred custody and supervision, and 42% received probation. While custodial sentences for youth accused were comparatively less common than for adults (78%) found guilty of at least one human trafficking charge, the discrepancy aligns with the principles of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* whereby sentencing should adopt the least restrictive measures necessary to achieve responsibility, accountability, rehabilitation and reintegration (YCJA, 2002).

Summary

From 2014 to 2024, there has been an observed increase in police-reported human trafficking, defined as the recruitment, transportation, sheltering or controlling the movement of someone for the purposes of exploitation. While comprising about 0.02% of all police-reported crime in Canada, research shows human trafficking disproportionately affects those who are socially, economically and politically marginalized.

From 2014 to 2024, there were 5,070 police-reported incidents of human trafficking in Canada, representing an average annual rate of 1.2 incidents per 100,000 population. Consistent with previous patterns, the highest average rate was reported by police in Nova Scotia (4.1), followed by Ontario (2.0). Most (85%) incidents were reported by police in Canada's largest urban centres.

While women and girls comprise the vast majority of detected victims of police-reported human trafficking, incident characteristics differ from those of men and boy victims. Namely, women and girls tend to be younger, be involved in single-victim incidents and share an intimate relationship with their trafficker.

About three in five police-reported incidents of human trafficking were not cleared, but of those that were, nine in ten were cleared by the laying or recommendation of charges. Most (82%) accused persons were men and boys, a finding that has remained consistent over time.

The number of human trafficking cases and charges completed in adult criminal courts in Canada increased from 2013/2014 to 2023/2024. More specifically, there were about twice as many cases and three times as many charges completed in 2023/2024 compared with 2013/2014.

Human trafficking cases average more charges per case and take longer to complete in court than cases involving a sex trade offence and other violent offence cases. Few human trafficking cases result in a guilty decision, but of those that do, most accused are sentenced to custody.

Survey description

Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey was established in 1962 with the co-operation and assistance of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. The UCR Survey is a compilation of police-reported crimes that have been reported to federal, provincial or territorial, and municipal police services in Canada.

One incident can involve multiple offences. In order to ensure comparability, aggregate counts are presented based on the most serious offence in the incident as determined by a standard classification rule used by all police services. For human trafficking, *Criminal Code* offences reflect the most serious violation against the victim and *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* offences reflect the most serious violation in the incident. Where further detail is provided—such as characteristics of incidents, victims and accused persons—microdata from the Incident-based UCR are used, for which police services can report up to four violations for each incident. As such, the human trafficking-related offence may or may not be the most serious violation reported by police for the incident.

The option for police to code victims and accused persons as "non-binary" in the UCR Survey was implemented in 2018. In the context of the UCR Survey, the term "non-binary" refers to a person who publicly expresses themselves as neither exclusively male nor exclusively female. Given that small counts of non-binary victims and accused persons may exist, the UCR Survey data available to the public have been recoded with these victims and accused persons distributed in the "men and boys" or "women and girls" categories based on the regional distribution of victims' and accused persons' gender. This recoding ensures the protection of the confidentiality and privacy of victims and accused persons.

Integrated Criminal Court Survey

The Integrated Criminal Court Survey collects statistical information on adult and youth court cases involving *Criminal Code* and other federal statute offences.

All adult courts have reported to the adult component of the survey since the 2005/2006 fiscal year, with the exception of superior courts in Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, as well as municipal courts in Quebec. These data were not available for extraction from the provinces' electronic reporting systems and therefore, were not reported to the survey. Superior court data for Prince Edward Island was included as of 2018/2019.

The primary unit of analysis is a case. For this analysis, a human trafficking case requires at least one human trafficking charge and can include one or more charges (related or unrelated) against an accused person or company that were processed by the courts at the same time and received a final decision. A case combines all charges against the same person having one or more key overlapping dates (date of offence, date of initiation, date of first appearance, date of decision or date of sentencing) into a single case.

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Notes

1. The National Strategy was first launched in 2019 to establish a unified, Government of Canada-wide, approach to combat human trafficking. It aims to support and empower victims and survivors, prevent future instances of trafficking, enhance protection for those at greatest risk, hold traffickers accountable for their crimes, and strengthen collaboration with provinces, territories, and partner organizations to increase the effectiveness of the initiative (Public Safety Canada, 2019).

2. Human trafficking incidents reported to the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey may be undercounted due to differences in police reporting practices for this violation.

3. One incident can involve multiple offences. To ensure comparability, aggregate counts are presented based on the most serious offence in the incident as determined by a standard classification rule used by all police services. For human trafficking, *Criminal Code* offences reflect the most serious violation against the victim and *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* offences reflect the most serious violation in the incident. The data reflect the report date of an incident (i.e., when it came to the attention of police); therefore, a small number of human trafficking incidents that occurred prior to 2014 but were reported during the 2014 to 2024 reference period are included.

4. Data are based on the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Aggregate file.

5. It is important to note that rates between years may reflect differences in the recognition, reporting, and investigation of human trafficking incidents, and not necessarily higher rates of occurrence. Year-over-year differences in reporting may be influenced by a variety of factors, including the presence or absence of public awareness campaigns and the number of investigative resources allocated to police services.

6. Revisions to the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey are accepted for a one-year period after the data are initially released. For example, when the 2024 crime statistics were released, the 2023 data were updated with revisions that were made between May 2024 and May 2025. The data are revised only once before being permanently frozen.

7. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service. It is important to note that while official police-reported data on crime from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey use Statistics Canada's standard CMA names, the boundaries for the policing-based CMAs do not always fully align with the standard CMA geographic units used for disseminating information about the Census of Population.

8. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau census metropolitan area.

9. The high rate of human trafficking reported by Guelph Police Service in 2024 could be explained by their intensified efforts to address human trafficking, the introduction of new initiatives and the establishment of specialized teams and partnerships to respond more effectively (Guelph Police Service, n.d.). Moreover, Guelph is close to Highway 401, a common trafficking corridor, connecting it to other census metropolitan areas where trafficking networks may operate.

10. Nearly three-quarters (73%) of police-reported human trafficking incidents in Halifax were *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* violations.

11. Data are based on the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Trend Database.

12. Police services may, but are not required to, report up to four violations for each incident. As such, the human trafficking-related offence may or may not be the most serious violation reported by police for the incident. Reporting of additional violations is not mandatory and, therefore, information on additional violations may be underrepresented. Since police services can report up to four violations for an incident, percentages do not add up to 100.

13. Sex trade offences include obtaining sexual services for consideration, obtaining sexual services for consideration from a person younger than age 18, material benefit from sexual services, material benefit from sexual services provided by a person younger than age 18, procuring, procuring a person younger than age 18, advertising sexual services, public communication to sell sexual services and offences related to impeding traffic to buy or sell sexual services.

14. Percentages do not add up to 100 as some cases have more than one additional violation recorded.

15. In the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, victim information is reported by police for *Criminal Code* incidents of human trafficking, but not for *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* violations. As a result, analysis of victim characteristics include all victims involved in a human trafficking incident where a *Criminal Code* offence was the most serious violation.

16. Given that small counts of victims and accused persons identified as "non-binary" may exist, the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey data available to the public has been recoded to assign these counts to either "women and girls" or "men and boys" in order to ensure the protection of confidentiality and privacy. Percent calculation excludes victims whose gender was unknown.

17. More specifically, most of these victims were detected within three large-scale police investigations.

18. Business relationships include those in which the workplace or business involved is the primary source of contact. Examples include coworkers, business partners, employee-employer relationships as well as casual relationships between workers and clients.

19. Youth under the age of 12 cannot be held criminally responsible as per the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*.

20. Not cleared includes incidents that were open and still under investigation, incidents with insufficient evidence to proceed and incidents where the victim or complainant declined to proceed (no accused person identified).

21. Of incidents that were cleared otherwise, the largest proportion was cleared due to the victim requesting no further action being taken against the accused, followed by the incident being cleared by another agency and departmental discretion.

22. Includes current and former legally married spouses, common-law partners, or dating relationships. Also includes sexual relationships or those with a mutual sexual attraction but none of the other relationship options apply. Includes victims aged 12 and older.

23. Includes neighbours.

24. Relationships based on an illegal activity.

25. Refers to a relationship in which the workplace or business involved is the primary source of contact. Examples include coworkers, business partners, employee-employer relationships as well as casual relationships between workers and clients.

26. Cases are counted in the fiscal year in which they are completed. Every year, the Integrated Criminal Court Survey database is considered final at the end of March for the production of court statistics for the previous fiscal year. These counts do not include cases pending an outcome at the end of the reference period. If an outcome is reached in the next fiscal year, these cases are included in the completed case counts for that fiscal year. However, cases that are inactive for one year are deemed complete and the originally published counts for the previous fiscal year are updated and reported in the next fiscal year's data release.

27. As of 2005/2006, all adult provincial and territorial courts in the ten provinces and three territories reported to the survey. Information from superior courts in Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan as well as municipal courts in Quebec could not be extracted from their electronic reporting systems and was therefore unavailable. Superior court data for Prince Edward Island were made available in 2018/2019. The absence of data from superior courts in Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan may have resulted in a slight underestimation of the severity of sentences since some of the most serious cases, which are likely to result in the most severe sanctions, are processed in superior courts.

28. Like Uniform Crime Reporting Survey data, Integrated Criminal Court Survey data are revised one year after initially released. For example, there were originally 122 human trafficking cases reportedly completed in 2022/2023 fiscal year but, following annual revision, there are 135 cases. Comparisons using the latest year of data should therefore be made with caution.

29. Excludes accused persons whose gender or age was unknown. Accused age reflects the age at the date of offence.

30. Excludes cases with at least one charge of human trafficking.

31. Excludes cases with at least one charge of human trafficking and cases with at least one charge related to the sex trade.

32. Percentages do not add up to 100 as some cases have more than two concomitant charges.

33. In this section, other violent offence cases exclude cases with at least one human trafficking charge and cases with at least one sex trade charge.

34. Represents the most serious decision for a given offence of interest. For example, for human trafficking cases specifically, the type of decision for a case represents the most serious decision which was rendered on a human trafficking charge. This approach differs from the most serious offence method that is typically used when analyzing courts data. Court decisions for each charge in a case are ranked from most to least serious as follows: guilty; guilty of a lesser offence; acquitted; stay of proceeding; withdrawn, dismissed or discharged; not criminally responsible; other; and transfer of court jurisdiction.

35. Guilty findings include guilty of the charged offence, of an included offence, of an attempt of the charged offence, or of an attempt of an included offence. This category also includes guilty pleas, and cases where an absolute or conditional discharge has been imposed.

36. Percent calculation excludes guilty decisions where the gender or age of the accused was unknown.

37. Other decisions include being found unfit to stand trial, not criminally responsible and case waived out of province or territory. Includes any order where a guilty decision was not recorded, the court accepted a special plea, or arguments related to the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* were raised.

38. Among accused sentenced to custody where gender and age was known, the vast majority (91%) were men. It is possible to receive more than one sentence type in relation to a guilty charge in a case. Only the most serious sentence in the case is represented. Sentence types are ranked from most to least serious as follows: Custody; conditional sentence; probation; fine; and other (restitution, absolute or conditional discharge, suspended sentence, other).

39. Includes conditional sentences, fines, restitution and other adult sentences not otherwise listed.

40. Excludes youth accused whose gender was unknown.

41. Percentages do not add up to 100 as some cases have more than two concomitant charges.

Detailed data tables

Table 1
Police-reported human trafficking, by statute and province or territory, Canada, 2014 to 2024

	Human trafficking incidents reported in 2024				Human trafficking incidents reported in 2014 to 2024			
	Criminal Code	*Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*	Total		*Criminal Code*	*Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*	Total	
Province or territory	number		number	rate	number		number	average annual rate[1]
Newfoundland and Labrador	4	0	4	0.7	17	6	23	0.4
Prince Edward Island	5	0	5	2.8	5	0	5	0.3
Nova Scotia	19	29	48	4.5	312	140	452	4.1
New Brunswick	17	0	17	2.0	60	4	64	0.7
Quebec	34	1	35	0.4	412	29	441	0.5
Ontario	321	53	374	2.3	2,272	956	3,228	2.0
Manitoba	10	2	12	0.8	47	5	52	0.3
Saskatchewan	16	7	23	1.9	113	41	154	1.2
Alberta	34	11	45	0.9	264	82	346	0.7
British Columbia	41	2	43	0.8	279	13	292	0.5
Yukon	0	0	0	0.0	8	0	8	1.7
Northwest Territories	2	0	2	4.5	4	0	4	0.8
Nunavut	0	0	0	0.0	1	0	1	0.2
Canada	**503**	**105**	**608**	**1.5**	**3,794**	**1,276**	**5,070**	**1.2**

1. This rate is the average of the annual rates from 2014 to 2024.

Note: This table is based on aggregate data. Counts are based on the most serious violation against the victim for *Criminal Code* offences and the most serious violation in the incident for *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* offences. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based upon July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Excludes data reported by the Canadian Forces Military Police.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.

Table 2
Police-reported human trafficking, by statute and census metropolitan area, Canada, 2014 to 2024

Census metropolitan area (CMA)[1]	Human trafficking incidents reported in 2024				Human trafficking incidents reported in 2014 to 2024			
	Criminal Code	*Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*	Total		*Criminal Code*	*Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*	Total	
	number		number	rate	number		number	average annual rate[2]
St. John's	0	0	0	0.0	1	6	7	0.3
Halifax	11	29	40	7.5	188	138	326	6.4
Moncton	9	0	9	4.6	25	1	26	1.3
Saint John	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0
Fredericton[3]	2	0	2	1.5	..	..	..	..
Saguenay	2	0	2	1.1	3	0	3	0.2
Québec	3	0	3	0.3	54	5	59	0.7
Sherbrooke	1	0	1	0.4	4	0	4	0.2
Trois-Rivières	0	0	0	0.0	1	0	1	0.1
Drummondville[3]	0	0	0	0.0	..	..	..	..
Montréal	14	0	14	0.3	259	13	272	0.6
Gatineau[4]	4	0	4	1.1	46	0	46	1.2
Ottawa[5]	40	0	40	3.1	408	8	416	3.5
Kingston	0	1	1	0.5	7	26	33	1.7
Belleville–Quinte West[6]	0	2	2	1.6	..	..	..	..
Peterborough	1	2	3	2.1	41	16	57	3.9
Toronto[7]	132	16	148	2.3	727	311	1,038	1.6
Hamilton[8]	12	10	22	3.5	68	90	158	2.5
St. Catharines–Niagara	20	1	21	3.9	69	99	168	3.1
Kitchener–Cambridge–Waterloo	24	2	26	3.7	137	13	150	2.2
Brantford	3	2	5	2.9	19	7	26	1.5
Guelph	17	0	17	10.7	33	11	44	2.6
London	15	5	20	3.2	185	32	217	3.5
Windsor	3	3	6	1.2	35	59	94	2.3
Barrie	3	1	4	1.4	61	31	92	3.3
Greater Sudbury	4	1	5	2.6	39	1	40	2.1
Thunder Bay	8	0	8	6.1	63	50	113	8.0
Winnipeg	5	1	6	0.7	27	3	30	0.3
Regina	7	2	9	3.2	13	20	33	1.1
Saskatoon	3	2	5	1.3	66	16	82	2.2
Lethbridge[6]	1	0	1	0.7	..	..	..	..
Calgary	8	7	15	0.8	77	19	96	0.6
Red Deer[3]	4	0	4	3.5	..	..	..	..
Edmonton	5	4	9	0.5	84	56	140	0.9
Kelowna	7	0	7	2.8	29	0	29	1.2
Kamloops[3]	2	0	2	1.6	..	..	..	..
Chilliwack[3]	0	0	0	0.0	..	..	..	..

See notes at the end of the table.

Table 2
Police-reported human trafficking, by statute and census metropolitan area, Canada, 2014 to 2024

Census metropolitan area (CMA)[1]	Human trafficking incidents reported in 2024				Human trafficking incidents reported in 2014 to 2024			
	Criminal Code	*Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*	Total		*Criminal Code*	*Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*	Total	
	number		number	rate	number		number	average annual rate[2]
Abbotsford–Mission	1	0	1	0.5	9	0	9	0.4
Vancouver	15	1	16	0.5	144	9	153	0.5
Victoria	1	0	1	0.2	20	0	20	0.4
Nanaimo[3]	0	0	0	0.0	..	..	..	..
CMA total	**411**	**92**	**503**	**1.6**	**3,253**	**1,062**	**4,315**	**1.4**
Non-CMA total	**92**	**13**	**105**	**1.0**	**541**	**214**	**755**	**0.7**
Canada	**503**	**105**	**608**	**1.5**	**3,794**	**1,276**	**5,070**	**1.2**

.. not available for a specific reference period

1. A census metropolitan area (CMA) consists of one or more neighbouring municipalities situated around a major urban core. A CMA must have a total population of at least 100,000, of which 50,000 or more live in the urban core. To be included in the CMA, adjacent municipalities must have a high degree of integration with the central urban area, as measured by commuting flows derived from census data. A CMA typically comprises more than one police service. CMA populations have been adjusted to follow policing boundaries. The Oshawa CMA is excluded from this table due to the incongruity between the police service jurisdictional boundaries and the CMA boundaries. It is important to note that while official police-reported data on crime from the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey use Statistics Canada's standard CMA names, the boundaries for the policing-based CMAs do not always fully align with the standard CMA geographic units used for disseminating information about the Census of Population.
2. This rate is the average of the annual rates from 2014 to 2024.
3. As of the 2021 Census of Population, Fredericton, Drummondville, Red Deer, Kamloops, Chilliwack and Nanaimo became census metropolitan areas.
4. Gatineau refers to the Quebec part of the Ottawa–Gatineau census metropolitan area.
5. Ottawa refers to the Ontario part of the Ottawa–Gatineau census metropolitan area.
6. Following the 2016 Census of Population, Belleville–Quinte West (formerly known as Belleville) and Lethbridge were reclassified as census metropolitan areas. As such, data for the 2014-2024 period are not available.
7. Excludes the portions of Halton Regional Police Service and Durham Regional Police Service that police the Toronto census metropolitan area (CMA). Halton Regional Police Service and Durham Regional Police Service are included in the CMA total.
8. Excludes the portion of Halton Regional Police Service that polices the Hamilton census metropolitan area (CMA). Halton Regional Police Service is included in the CMA total.

Note: This table is based on aggregate data. Counts are based on the most serious violation against the victim for *Criminal Code* offences and the most serious violation in the incident for *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* offences. Rates are calculated on the basis of 100,000 population. Populations are based upon July 1 estimates from Statistics Canada, Centre for Demography. Excludes data reported by the Canadian Forces Military Police.
Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey.