

Policy

Ohio's minimum sentence for a conviction of all forms of human trafficking is 10 years. The maximum sentence for a conviction of all forms of human trafficking is 15 years, which is significantly lower than the national averages.

Ohio has passed 14 of the 25 trafficking-related policies included in this report, with zero passed in 2024.

💡 *Ohio sentencing minimums and maximums by trafficking type, compared to national average*

	Minor Sex	Adult Sex	Minor Labor	Adult Labor
OH Minimum (US Average)	10 (8.2)	10 (3.2)	10 (5.5)	10 (2.8)
OH Maximum (US Average)	15 (74)	15 (51.3)	15 (65.9)	15 (44.7)

Prevention

3 of 8 Policies Passed

- ✗ Age Verification for Porn Sites
- ✗ CSEC Screening
- ✗ Data Repository
- ✗ Education for Students
- ✓ Regulation/Licensing
O.A.C.R. 2772-20-03(G), 2012,
O.A.C.R. 4713-1-14, 2013
- ✓ Reporting
O.R.C. § 109.66, 2012
- ✗ Task Force
- ✓ Training for Educators
O.R.C. § 3319.073(B), 2014

Protection

4 of 8 Policies Passed

- ✗ Affirmative Defense
- ✓ Civil Action
O.R.C. § 2307.51, 2012
- ✗ Posting Hotline Number
- ✓ Restitution
O.R.C. § 2929.18(A)(1), 2010
- ✗ Safe Harbor: Immunity
- ✗ State Hotline
- ✓ Survivor Assistance
O.R.C. § 5101.87, 2012
- ✓ Vacating Prior Convictions
O.R.C. § 2953.36(A)(1), 2151.358(E),
2012

Prosecution

7 of 9 Policies Passed

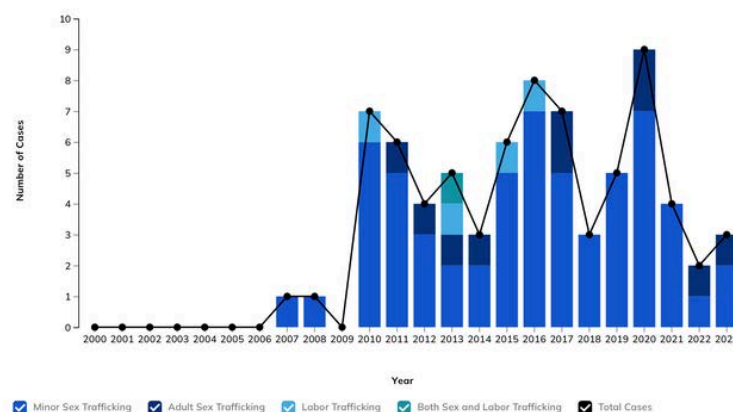
- ✓ Asset Forfeiture
O.R.C. § 2981.02(A)(1), 2010
- ✗ Buying Sex is Felony
- ✓ Criminalization
O.R.C. § 2929.14, 2004; 2905.32,
2011; 2929.14, 2019
- ✓ Drug-Based Coercion
O.R.C. § 2905.32, 2022
- ✓ Increased Investigative Tools
O.R.C. §§ 2933.51(I)(1), 2933.54(A),
2011
- ✓ Low Burden for Minors
O.R.C. § 2905.32(a)(2), 2014
- ✗ Mistake of Age
- ✓ Purchasing is Trafficking Act
O.R.C. § 2905.32(A), 2014
- ✓ Training for Law Enforcement
O.R.C. § 109.745, 2012



Federal Prosecution

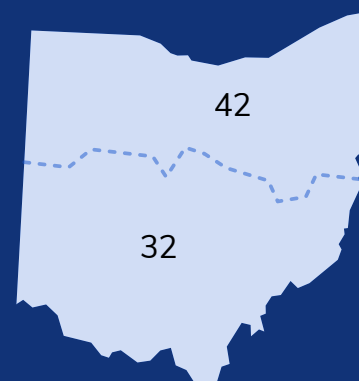
There have been 74 total federally prosecuted cases filed in Ohio from 2000-2023 representing a total of 121 defendants and 177 victims. Of these cases, 80% (n=59) are classified as minor sex trafficking, 14% (n=10) are adult sex trafficking, 5% (n=4) are labor trafficking, and 1% (n=1) are both sex and labor trafficking.

🔍 Federal cases of human trafficking prosecuted by year and trafficking type in Ohio

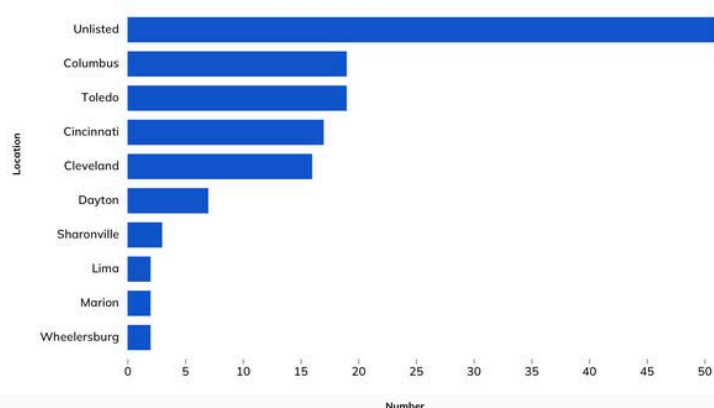


Federal Cases Prosecuted by District

Ohio's two federal districts handled 74 cases, representing 3% of the national total. There were 42 cases filed in the Northern District, which includes the cities of Cleveland and Toledo. The Southern District, containing Cincinnati, and Dayton, filed 32 cases.

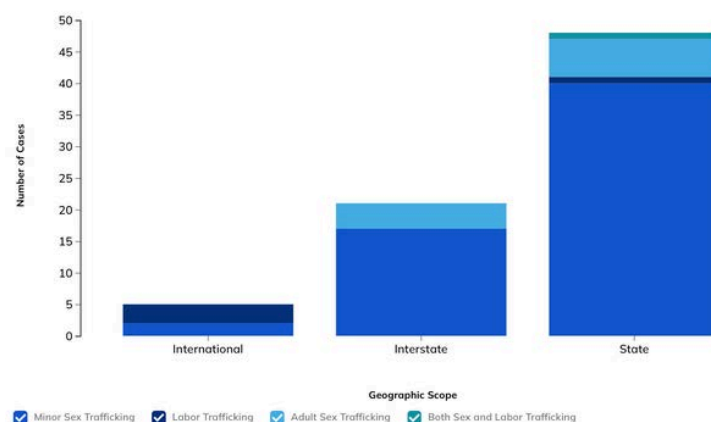


🔍 Trafficking incidents in Ohio reported by city



From cases prosecuted nationwide, there were 172 trafficking locations referenced in Ohio. Among Ohio's cities, Toledo and Columbus had the most trafficking location references with 19, followed by Cincinnati with 17. Additionally, there were 51 instances where the trafficking city was "Unlisted" (i.e., not specified in the court documents).

🔍 International, interstate, and state cases in Ohio categorized by trafficking type



Cases are "international" if the crime involved more than one country, "interstate" if more than one U.S. state, and "state" if only one U.S. state. Of all cases, 7% (n=5) are international, 28% (n=21) interstate, and 65% (n=48) state, with minor sex trafficking accounting for 40%, 81% and 83%, respectively.

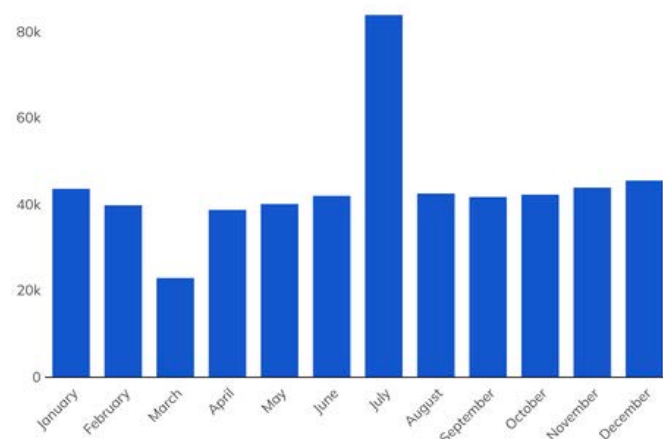


Commercial Sex Advertisements and Illicit Massage Businesses

Commercial sex advertisements are extracted by the University of Alabama from websites that may be used to facilitate human trafficking. In Ohio, a total of 525,697 ads were posted in 2024, with the highest peak occurring in July (83,751).

Data on illicit massage businesses (IMBs) is provided by The Network, which defines an IMB as an establishment that puts on the facade of a legitimate massage business in order to facilitate commercial sex services. In 2024, Ohio was assessed to have 190 IMBs operating in the state.

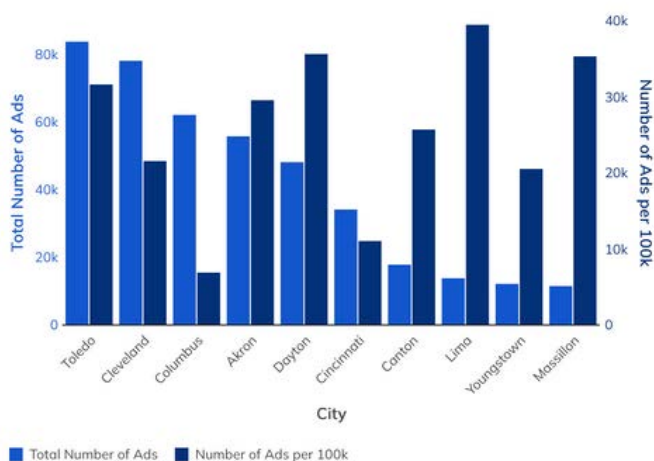
💡 Number of ads in Ohio per month in 2024



525,697 Ad Posts

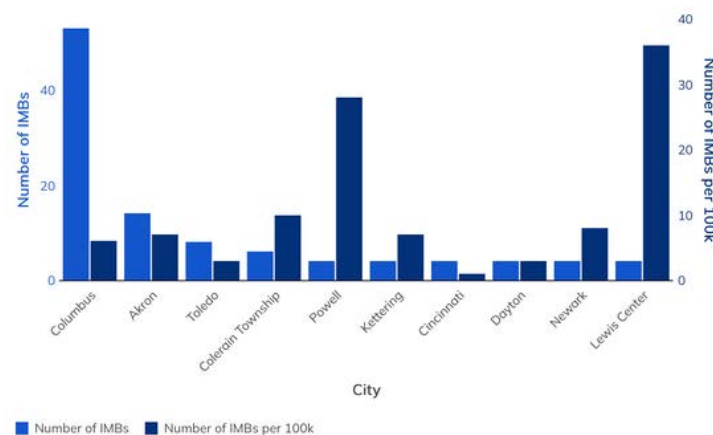
190 Illicit Massage Businesses

💡 Top ten Ohio cities by total ads and ads per 100k population



Toledo, Cleveland, and Columbus lead Ohio cities in total number of commercial sex ads. When adjusted for population, Lima, Dayton, and Massillon are the top three cities.

💡 Top ten Ohio cities by total IMBs and IMBs per 100k population



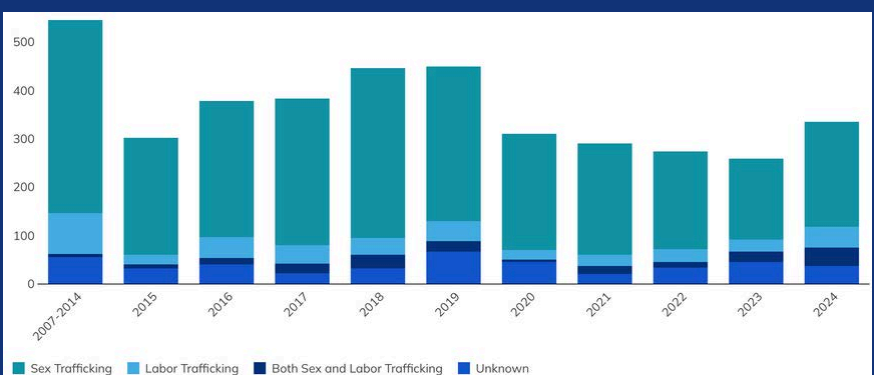
Columbus (53), Akron (14), and Toledo (8) lead Ohio cities in total number of IMBs. When adjusted for population, Lewis Center (36), Powell (28), and Colerain Township (10) are the top three cities.



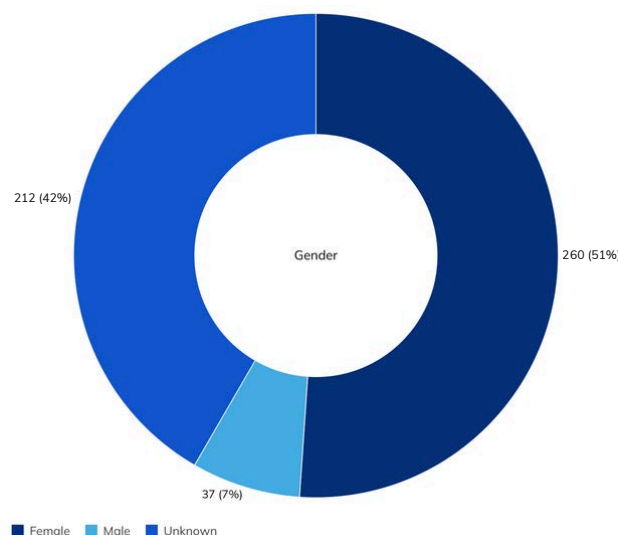
Situations Reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline

The National Human Trafficking Hotline publishes data on “situations” of human trafficking that have been reported to the Hotline. A situation may involve one or more potential victims. In 2024, Ohio had 334 reported situations and a total of 509 potential victims. 216 cases involved sex trafficking, 44 involved labor trafficking, 37 involved both sex and labor trafficking, and 37 were of unknown trafficking type. 49% of potential victims were adults and 51% were female.

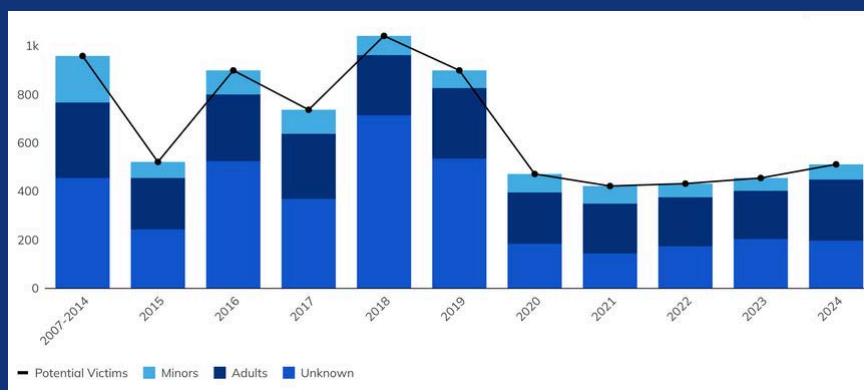
💡 Total situations by trafficking type in Ohio over time



💡 Ratio of female to male potential victims in 2024



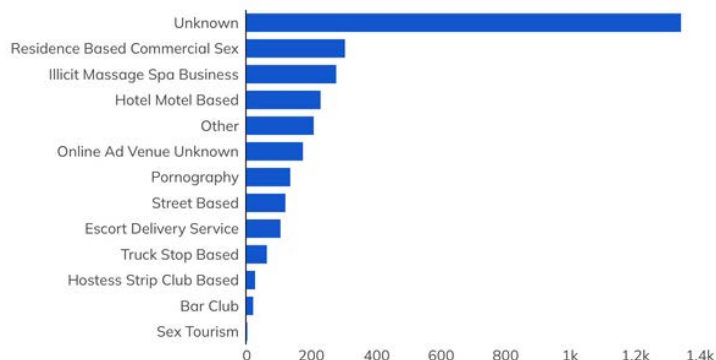
💡 Total potential victims in Ohio categorized by age group over time



Trafficking Venues

The Hotline reports a variety of venues where trafficking occurred. Across all years, the top three known sex trafficking venues in Ohio were residence based commercial sex, illicit massage spa business, and hotel motel based. The top three known labor trafficking venues were domestic work, traveling sales crew, and unknown.

💡 Top sex trafficking venues in Ohio



💡 Top labor trafficking venues in Ohio

