

REPORT ON CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Completed pursuant to Family Law Article §5-704.4(g)(2)

December 1, 2022

REPORT REQUIREMENT

This report is hereby submitted in response to the following reporting requirement found under Family Law Article §5-704.4(g)(2):

(g)(2) Beginning December 1, 2019, the Department of Human Services shall annually report to the Governor and, in accordance with §2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on:

(i) the number of reports of child sex trafficking made in the State in the preceding year;

(ii) the outcome or disposition of reports of child sex trafficking made in the State in the

preceding year; and

(iii) the number of referrals made to regional navigators under this section in the preceding year.

Source: Family Law Article §5-704.4(g)(2)

BACKGROUND

The Department of Human Services has tracked data on reports of alleged child sex trafficking since 2013. Data collected includes the number of reports received by Child Protective Services (CPS), as well as the disposition of each investigation on a state-wide level. In 2019, the Child Sex Trafficking Screening and Services Act was passed into law, requiring law enforcement agents and Local Departments of Social Services who suspect or have reason to believe a child is a victim of sex trafficking to notify a Regional Navigator in their jurisdiction or region to obtain needed services for the child. The Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth & Victim Services (GOCPYVS) has been managing the application process, funding, and oversight of the Regional Navigator Program (RNPG). In 2019, three programs were awarded funding to implement RNPGs in Cecil, Montgomery, and Washington Counties. In 2020, seven additional programs were awarded funding to implement RNPGs in Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Frederick, Harford, Howard, and Prince George's Counties. In May 2022, GOCPYVS released a third notice of funding application to solicit proposals for RNPGs to support the remaining 14 jurisdictions in Maryland. The goal is to have full statewide implementation of the RNPG in all twenty-four jurisdictions by the end of 2022.

CPS investigations can have one of three dispositions as defined by Family Law §5-701:

- **Indicated** -- a finding that there is credible evidence, which has not been satisfactorily refuted, that physical or sexual abuse, or neglect did occur.
- **Unsubstantiated** -- a finding that there is an insufficient amount of evidence to support a finding of indicated or ruled out.
- **Ruled out** -- a finding that physical or sexual abuse, or neglect did not occur.

Presented in the table below is the data on reports of Child Sex Trafficking for CY 2021:

**Number of Reports of Alleged Child Sex Trafficking
Investigated by Maryland Child Protective Services in 2021**

Total Number of Reports	Indicated	Unsubstantiated	Ruled Out
94	32 (34%)	15 (16%)	47 (50%)

Number of Referrals to a Regional Navigator
*91

*Note- In CY21, there were Regional Navigator Programs serving the following ten counties: Anne Arundel, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Cecil, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George’s, and Washington. Full statewide expansion is expected by the end of CY22.