



Maryland

Department of
Human Services

Child Sex and Labor Trafficking Calendar Year 2024 Data

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

December 1, 2025

REPORT REQUIREMENT

This report is hereby submitted in response to the following reporting requirement:

(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 and labor trafficking made in the State in the preceding year;

(ii) the outcome or disposition of reports of child sex trafficking and labor 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 safety and well-being of Maryland's children are our highest priorities. We envision a Maryland where all children are safe from abuse and neglect, thriving in permanent homes, and surrounded by loving families. We are committed to relentless and continuous improvement. Since 2013, the Department of Human Services (DHS) has actively tracked reports of alleged child sex trafficking to monitor and respond to these complex incidents. The data below includes the number of reports received by Child Protective Services (CPS) and the outcomes of each investigation on a statewide level.

CPS investigations can have one of three dispositions defined in 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 insufficient evidence to support a finding of "indicated" or "ruled out."
- **Ruled out** -- a finding that physical or sexual abuse, or neglect did not occur.

In December of 2024, after passage of [House Bill 508](#) "Children—Labor Trafficking" (2024), the Department developed training for all CPS workers and supervisors on responding to and investigating reports of labor trafficking. In subsequent calendar years, these modifications will enable the department to:

- Competently address the needs of alleged victims of all forms of trafficking;
- Provide effective referrals to alleged victims;
- Employ a trauma-informed approach when responding to alleged victims;
- Gather precise data related to these efforts.

REPORTS OF ALLEGED CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING INVESTIGATED BY MARYLAND CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES IN CALENDAR YEAR 2024

Data Source: CJAMS, 9/2/2025

Total Number of Reports	Indicated	Unsubstantiated	Ruled Out	Number of Referrals Made to a Regional Navigator*
117	51 (44%)	13 (11%)	53 (45%)	214

*More referrals are made than investigations initiated, because referrals include victims up to age 24. CPS only investigates reports concerning children aged 17 and under.

County	Number of Reports Screened
Anne Arundel	12
Baltimore City	28
Baltimore County	26
Calvert	8
Cecil	1
Charles	3
Frederick	4
Garrett	2
Harford	5
Howard	4
Montgomery	1
Prince George's	3
Somerset	2
St. Mary's	4
Washington	13
Wicomico	1
Total	117

We are partnering with external organizations including the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, the Board of Education, Blue Dot, and the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force to explore new ways to combat trafficking as well as address the evolving technologies used in trafficking. SSA's Human Trafficking Program Specialist will also meet with out-of-home care teams from each jurisdiction to educate them on behaviors and advancing technologies that may indicate trafficking. We will also reinforce our internal policies [#23-02 Human Trafficking](#) and [#23-01 Children and Young Adults in State Care or Under State Supervision Who Are Missing](#) to ensure a consistent response to trafficking and missing youth across Maryland.

Note: On October 1, 2024, [House Bill 508](#) “Children—Labor Trafficking” (2024) went into effect recognizing labor trafficking as a form of child physical abuse and providing referrals to the RNPG when there is suspicion of labor trafficking. In preparation for this change, the Department added labor trafficking to our electronic case management system, CJAMS, as a maltreatment type for Child Abuse and Concern for Trafficking. Future legislative reports will incorporate labor trafficking investigation data.