Human Trafficking Trends in Canada (2019-2022)

In May 2019, the Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking launched the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline ("Hotline") – a free, nationwide, confidential service that operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to connect victims/survivors with the services they need. To make these connections, The Centre maintains a National Referral Directory of 900+ service providers located across the country. Staff collect data through the Hotline to support victims/survivors and identify trends that are occurring.

The information presented here comes from this Hotline data. It is important to note that these figures only capture a very small subset of the total human trafficking cases that occur in Canada. While the Centre does not collect demographic data on all Hotline callers, we know that historically marginalized communities are underrepresented in the data, including Indigenous peoples, members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, Black people, and migrant workers. These and other data limitations are highlighted in the hyperlink below.

After reviewing Hotline data collected between May 2019 and December 2022, three broad trends emerged.

1. **Human trafficking remains a significant challenge in Canada**

   Between 2019 and 2022, the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline:

   - Received 12,706 calls
   - Identified 1,500 cases of human trafficking
   - Recognized 2,170 human trafficking victims/survivors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Calls</th>
<th>Trafficking Cases</th>
<th>Victims/Survivors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>1,459</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>358</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>2,637</td>
<td>421</td>
<td>666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>3,679</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>4,931</td>
<td>368</td>
<td>518</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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   **WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?**
   Human trafficking typically involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to exploit individuals and force them into providing labour or services, including sexual services, for the benefit of someone else.

   **Sex and labour trafficking were the most common forms of human trafficking**

   - Sex: 69% (1,029 cases)
   - Labour: 6% (88 cases)
   - Sex & Labour: 2% (32 cases)
   - Not specified: 22% (334 cases)
   - Other: 1% (17 cases)

2. **Human trafficking happens everywhere in Canada**

   Human trafficking happens in every region and community. Cases identified by the Hotline can include one or more trafficking incidents. Most trafficking incidents reported to the Hotline occurred in large urban centres with populations over 100,000 people.

   - 87% of trafficking incidents were reported in large urban centres (100,000+)
   - 8% in mid-sized cities (30,000 – 99,999)
   - 5% in small towns and rural communities (less than 30,000)

   This data is based on geographic data that callers voluntarily disclose to the Hotline. Not all callers provide this information.

   The majority of trafficking incidents disclosed to the Hotline occurred in Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia, and Quebec.

   - Ontario: 67%
   - British Columbia: 9%
   - Alberta: 10%
   - Quebec: 7%
   - Territories: <1%
   - Manitoba: 2%
   - Saskatchewan: 2%
   - Atlantic Provinces: 2%

   Services in greatest demand:
   - Shelter/Housing: 30%
   - Case Management: 19%
   - Supportive Counselling: 19%
   - Other Services: 14%
   - Legal: 9%
   - Financial Support: 6%
   - Health, Mental Health, and Addiction Treatment: 3%

3. **Victims/survivors depend on social services to heal from human trafficking and other traumas**

   These supports require additional funding and resources from federal, provincial, and municipal governments.

   - 22% of service partners in the National Referral Directory list human trafficking as their mission focus.
   - 16% of program and service referrals offered by partners in the Directory are human trafficking specific.

   Hotline staff provided 1,416 program and service referrals related to a trafficking case between 2019-2022.

   Approximately 37% of callers that contacted the Hotline about a trafficking case were victims/survivors.

For more information on the data, please click [here](#).