Human trafficking is a type of human rights abuse where people profit from the exploitation of others – mainly through the use of force, fraud or coercion to manipulate victims into engaging in sex acts or labor/services in exchange for something of value. All persons under age 18 who exchange sex for something of value are human-trafficking victims, regardless of whether force, fraud, or coercion is involved.

200 human-trafficking cases were filed since 2015 when Pennsylvania’s first comprehensive human-trafficking law (Act 105) took effect.

On these cases, 784 total human-trafficking offenses were filed:

- 33 cases in 2015
- 86 cases in 2016
- 238 cases in 2017
- 303 cases in 2018
- 124 cases in 2019

Demographics of defendants convicted:

- Gender: 74% Male, 24% Female, 2% Unreported
- Age: 38% 30-39, 32% 19-29, 15% 40-49, 11% 50-59, 2% 60-69

Types of offenses:

- 51% Involuntary servitude (duress through force, debt coercion, physical restraint etc.)
- 13% Trafficking in minors
- 12% Trafficking in individuals (benefits financially)
- 18% Trafficking in individuals (recruits/entices/solicits)
- 4% Other (obstruction of justice, unlawful conduct, nonpayment of wages etc.)

Victims of human trafficking may:

1. Not have access to their own travel or ID documents
2. Not be in control of their own financial records, money or bank account
3. Have very few personal possessions
4. Work excessively long/unusual hours with little or no pay
5. Not able to clarify their address/living situation

Counties with highest percentage of human-trafficking offenses filed:

- Lancaster: 33%
- Philadelphia: 12%
- Monroe: 7%
- Dauphin: 5%
- York: 5%
- Bucks: 4%
- Delaware: 3%
- Westmoreland: 2%
- Berks: 2%

All human-trafficking data is from 1/1/2015 to 12/31/2019. Human-trafficking offenses filed and disposed as convictions as recorded in Pennsylvania’s Common Pleas Case Management System (CPCMS) and Magisterial District Judge System (MDJS). Title 18, Sections 3012 (A and B), 3015 (A2i), 3016, 3013 (A), 3011 (A, A2, A1, B) and 3014.