

Statistics Canada -2014 Report

Rate of police-reported human trafficking violations nearly doubled between 2013 and 2014

- In 2014, Canadian police services reported 206 violations of human trafficking in Canada, accounting for less than 1% of all police-reported incidents. Expressed as a rate, there was less than one police-reported violation of human trafficking for every 100,000 Canadians.
- After a slight decrease between 2009 and 2010, the police-reported number and rate of human trafficking has continued to increase. Between 2013 and 2014, the rate of human trafficking violations almost doubled (0.33 per 100,000 population and 0.58 per 100,000 population, respectively). It is important to note that the increase in human trafficking violations may be influenced by improved methods of reporting, detecting and investigating these incidents ([Public Safety Canada 2012](#)).

More than half of police-reported human trafficking incidents involve another offence

- Within any one criminal incident, there can be a number of offences committed. Between 2009 and 2014, there were 506 police-reported incidents that involved a violation of human trafficking. Of these incidents, 279 (55%) involved at least one other violation. Human trafficking was the most serious violation in the majority of incidents that involved more than one violation (88%).
- Among the 246 incidents where human trafficking was the most serious offence in an incident involving more than one violation, 61% had a secondary offence that was prostitution-related.
- Among the 33 police-reported incidents where human trafficking was not the most serious violation, these incidents were most commonly related to kidnapping/forcible confinement (36%), sexual assault (level 1) (18%), and assault (all levels) (18%).

Victims of police-reported human trafficking are mostly young, mostly women

- Between 2009 and 2014, there were 396 victims of police-reported human trafficking. The vast majority of these victims were female (93%).
- Victims of human trafficking were generally young. Among victims of human trafficking reported between 2009 and 2014, close to half (47%) were between the ages of 18 and 24. Additionally, one-quarter (25%) of human trafficking victims were under the age of 18.
- The majority (91%) of victims of human trafficking reported by police between 2009 and 2014 knew the person accused of the crime. More specifically, the most common relationship between the victim and accused was a business relationship (23 %), followed by a casual acquaintance (22%), and a non-spousal intimate partner (18%).

- Between 2009 and 2014, 100 human trafficking victims, or 3 in 10 victims (30%) experienced physical injury as a result of the human trafficking incident reported by police, the majority of injuries were reported as being minor.^{Note 8} Of those victims who reported an injury, the most common cause of injury was from physical force (81%).

Persons accused of human trafficking tend to be men

- The majority of people accused of police-reported human trafficking between 2009 and 2014 were male. More specifically, police services identified 459 persons accused of human trafficking, 83% of whom were male.
- Persons accused of human trafficking were most commonly between the ages of 18 to 24 (41%) and 25 to 34 (36%)

Majority of human trafficking court cases result in finding of stayed or withdrawn

- Statistics Canada collects information on court cases involving human trafficking through the Integrated Criminal Court Survey (ICCS). According to the ICCS, from 2005/2006—when human trafficking legislation was introduced—to 2013/2014, there were 53 completed adult criminal court cases where a human trafficking offence was the most serious offence. It is important to note that this method of analysis does not describe all completed cases processed by the courts that had a human trafficking charge as part of the case.
- Of the 53 completed adult human trafficking cases, the majority (58%) resulted in a finding of stayed or withdrawn, while close to one-third (30%) resulted in a guilty finding.
- Of those guilty cases, almost one-quarter of accused were sentenced to custody (23%), 21% received a sentence of probation, and 13% received other sentences. From 2005/2006 to 2013/2014, there were two human trafficking cases where the accused was acquitted.