



Vermont Data Snapshot

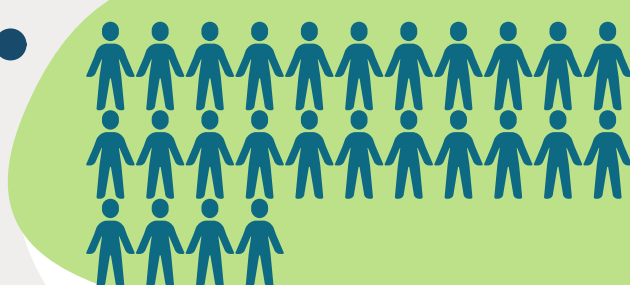
Human Trafficking Awareness & Prevention

While every state's definitions vary slightly, human trafficking is generally understood to be a crime involving the exploitation of people through force, fraud, coercion, threat, or deception for the purposes of sexual exploitation or labor exploitation. Victims of trafficking can include adults and minors of all genders, as well as both U.S. citizens and foreign nationals. **Based on current statute and rules, Vermont's DCF-FSD only investigates sex trafficking of minors.**

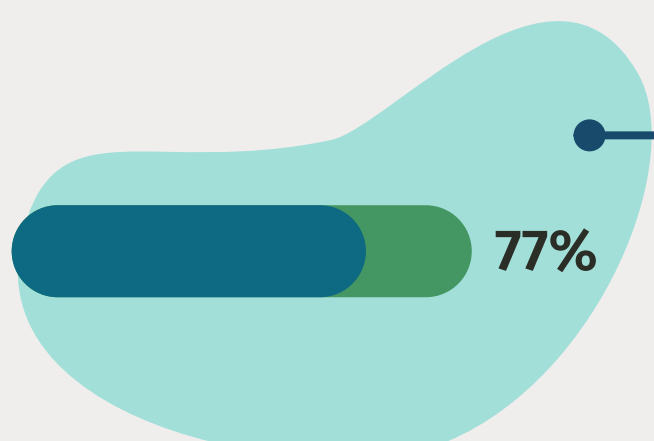
2023 HT Reports

In 2023, DCF-FSD accepted and investigated 26 new reports of child sex trafficking.

An additional 28 unaccepted reports were flagged for sex trafficking.



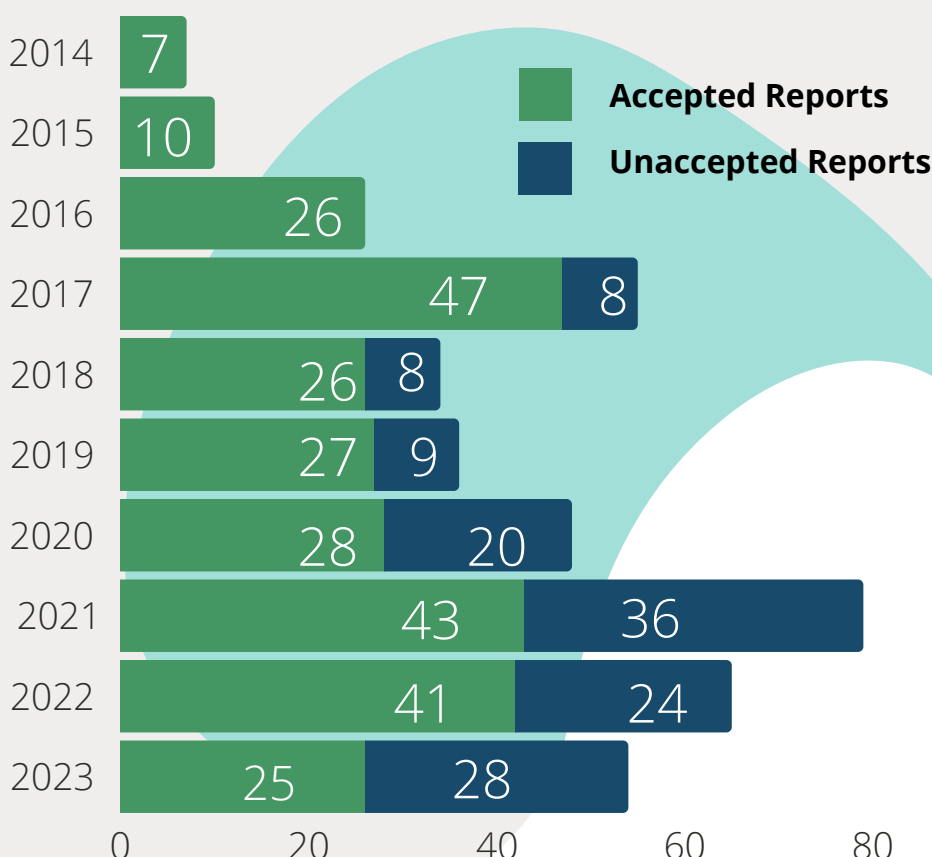
Gender



Within the 26 accepted reports, approximately 77% of the child victims were female. **20 reports involved girls and 5 involved boys, and 1 transgender youth.**

In 2023, the youngest child victim was 2 years old.

Ages ranged from 2-17.



8 out of 26 of the accepted reports in 2023 involved familial trafficking

6 out of 28 unaccepted reports in 2023 involved familial trafficking allegations

Want to learn more about familial trafficking? Check out the resource page below for training opportunities!

Nationally, approximately 28% of the perpetrators of trafficking were women.

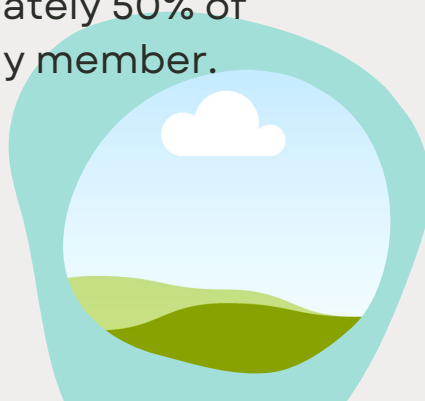
Nationally, the average trafficker's age was 28.5.

Did you know child sex trafficking is more common within families? ?

A Harvard University study done in 2023 concluded that globally, approximately 50% of children were trafficked by a family member.

Did you know?

Vermont has two human trafficking case managers who work closely with children and adults who have been trafficked or at risk of being trafficked? **Trissie Casanova**, LISW is our agency's Human Trafficking Consultant and can refer children, youth and adults to these case managers for ongoing support that is confidential.



Human Trafficking is Highly Personal



According to Polaris, online recruitment for trafficking increased by **22%**, with the internet being the top recruitment location.

Familial trafficking is on the rise

According to one study, in 2020, there was a **47%** increase in familial trafficking



Nationally, the average age of children experiencing familial trafficking is **3**. Most reports to a CPS/DCF agency have themes of truancy or other types of maltreatment.

Victim identification is difficult and these children are less likely to run away because they do not understand the level of exploitation, and they are dependent on their family members to provide for their basic needs in order to survive.



The unique relationship between the trafficker, the victim, and the presence of an economic exchange make familial trafficking different from incest.

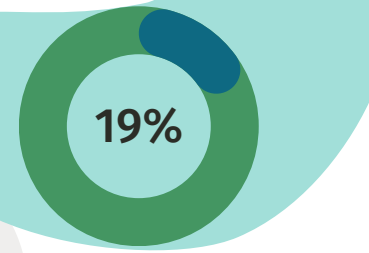
“The potentially diminished capacity of victims to productively contribute to society due to their trauma is a hidden cost of the crime that continues well after the criminal activity concludes.”

Missing & Runaway Youth

Trends show that when children run away frequently or for long periods of time, they tend to be running from an unsafe situation or to an unsafe situation.


According to NCMEC, in 2021, 1 in 6 runaways were likely victims of child sex trafficking.

19% of those were in the care of CPS/DCF during their runaway episode.



According to data from the Vermont Intelligence Center, being in DCF custody triples the likelihood that a youth will be entered as a missing person more than once before they turn 21.

Youth in DCF custody are more likely to be on the run for 8 or more days than their peers who are not in DCF custody.



NEWS CLOSE TO HOME: On 12/14/2023 Jeffrey Coolidge, 58, of Montpelier, VT, was arraigned on 2 charges of aggravated sexual assault of a child. Mr. Coolidge is currently held in federal custody on federal charges relating to the possession, production, and distribution of child sexual abuse material (CSAM). He was previously convicted in 1997 of sexual assault and L&L with child. The defendant pleaded not guilty and remains held in custody on the pending federal charges.

Resource Page

Copy and paste these links into your browser! You can also explore many more free trainings on the National Criminal Justice Training Center and Shared Hope webpages!

An Exploration of Family-Facilitated Child Sex Trafficking (1 hr)

<https://ncjtc.fvtc.edu/trainings/TR00010526/TRI0010527/an-exploration-of-family-facilitated-child-sex-trafficking>

Familial Trafficking in America- Study and Survivor Implications (1 hr)

<https://webinars.sharedhope.org/product/familial-trafficking2023/>

Other Resources:

Polaris operated the National Human Trafficking Hotline

<https://polarisproject.org/>

National Human Trafficking Hotline

1-888-373-7888

or text BE FREE 233733

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

<https://www.missingkids.org/home>

Resources for parents and youth on online safety to include sexting, sextortion, online supervision, and exploitation

<https://parents.thorn.org/>