

SECTION 2

Data Collection

Introduction

Human trafficking is the exploitation of someone for their services or work through the use of coercion, force or fraud. Colorado’s human trafficking laws include both involuntary servitude and sexual servitude. Involuntary servitude, as defined by Colorado Revised Statute (C.R.S) § 18-3-503, is when “a person knowingly sells, recruits, harbors, transports, transfers, isolates, entices, provides, receives or obtains by any means another person for the purpose of coercing the other person to perform labor or services.” Sexual servitude, defined by C.R.S § 18-3-504, is when “a person knowingly sells, recruits, harbors, transports, transfers, isolates, entices, provides, receives or obtains by any means another person for the purpose of coercing the person to engage in commercial sexual activity.” A person commits human trafficking of a minor for sexual servitude if the person

- (I) Knowingly sells, recruits, harbors, transports, transfers, isolates, entices, provides, receives, obtains by any means, maintains, or makes available a minor for the purpose of commercial sexual activity; or
- (II) Knowingly advertises, offers to sell, or sells travel services that facilitate an activity prohibited pursuant to subsection (2)(a)(I) of this section.

Since 2014, the Colorado Human Trafficking Council (the Council) has collected data on the incidence of human trafficking in Colorado. In this report, the data from the most recent

complete three-year spread are presented where available. Data sources often use differing timetables, such as calendar years versus fiscal years; timetables are disclosed with each data source in this report for comparison purposes. Calendar year (CY) refers to January through December. Federal fiscal year (FFY) refers to October through September. This report has been used by legislators, professionals in various fields and researchers to further the work to address this form of harm and to better understand how human trafficking happens in Colorado.

Who Is Involved in Human Trafficking Situations?

Human trafficking is experienced in Colorado by many different people. There is no single profile of a trafficking victim. Human trafficking can take place in many ways, as the requirements for meeting the common definition are broad. Someone must coerce, force, and/or trick someone's labor and/or services from them. The relationships between the individuals can be numerous. Traffickers can be employers, parents or intimate partners, to name a few examples. Because of the breadth of situations and individuals involved in trafficking, collecting data from a variety of sources can help illuminate these different experiences, as someone may be willing and able to receive services from some systems and not others. The Council collects data from state and national hotlines, Colorado service providers, and the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) to understand the incidence of human trafficking within the state.

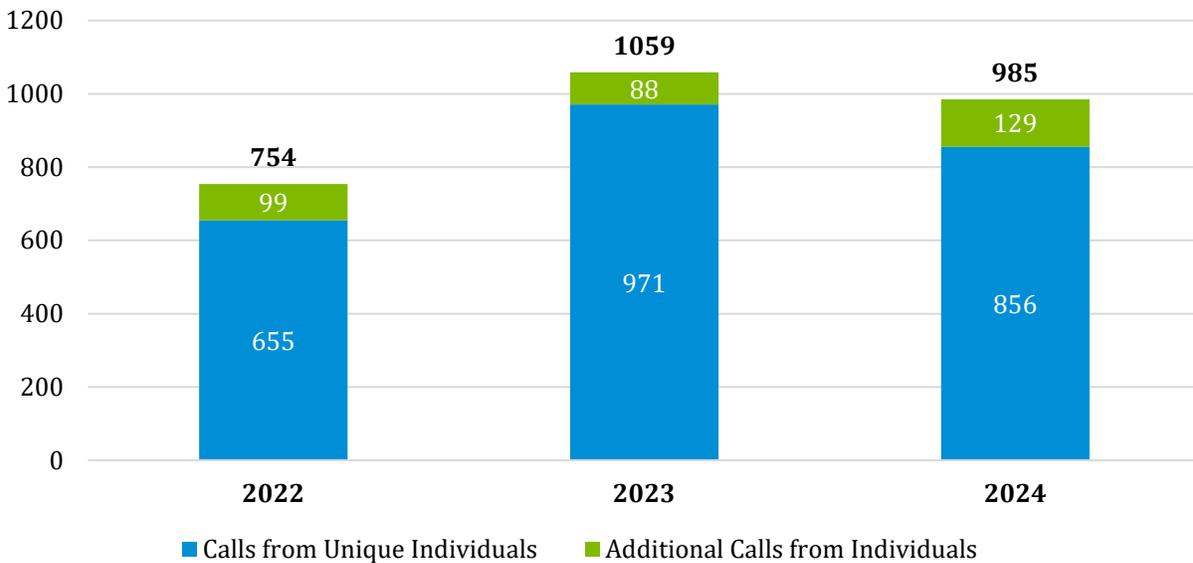
Number of Trafficking Situations

Colorado's Human Trafficking Hotline receives calls statewide. Individuals call for information about resources and/or to report tips. In 2024, 45% of callers were survivors of human trafficking, 25% were front-line professionals (e.g. law enforcement, service providers, health care workers, etc.), 22% were community members, and 8% were friends and family of the individual suspected of being trafficked.² Figure 1 shows the number of calls versus unique individuals who contacted the hotline from calendar year 2022 to 2024.

² Laboratory to Combat Human Trafficking, interview by Camerron Resener, September 2025, Colorado's Human Trafficking Hotline Statistics.

Total calls to Colorado’s Human Trafficking Hotline increased from 754 calls in 2022 to 1,059 calls in 2023 and then slightly decreased to 985 calls in 2024.

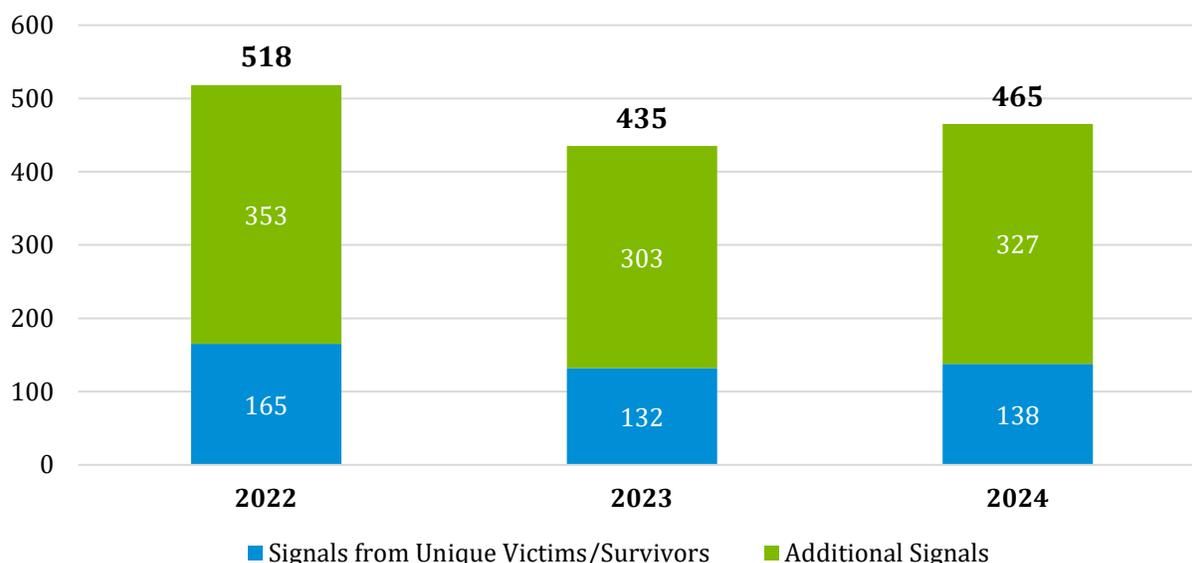
Figure 1: Colorado’s Human Trafficking Hotline—Calls vs. Unique Individuals, CY 2022–2024



Data source: Colorado’s Human Trafficking Hotline data were obtained from the Laboratory to Combat Human Trafficking.

In addition to Colorado’s Human Trafficking Hotline, the National Human Trafficking Hotline (NHTH) receives calls from individuals in Colorado both to request information on resources and to provide tips. Figure 2 shows the number of signals from unique victims and survivors and additional signals received by the NHTH from CY 2022 to 2024. Signals refer to instances the hotline is contacted (this includes by phone, text or e-mail), and situations refer to unique experiences. A unique experience may include several contacts to the hotline. Signals to the NHTH from Colorado decreased from 518 in 2022 to 435 in 2023 and then increased to 465 in 2024.

Figure 2: National Human Trafficking Hotline—National Signals from Colorado, CY 2022–2024

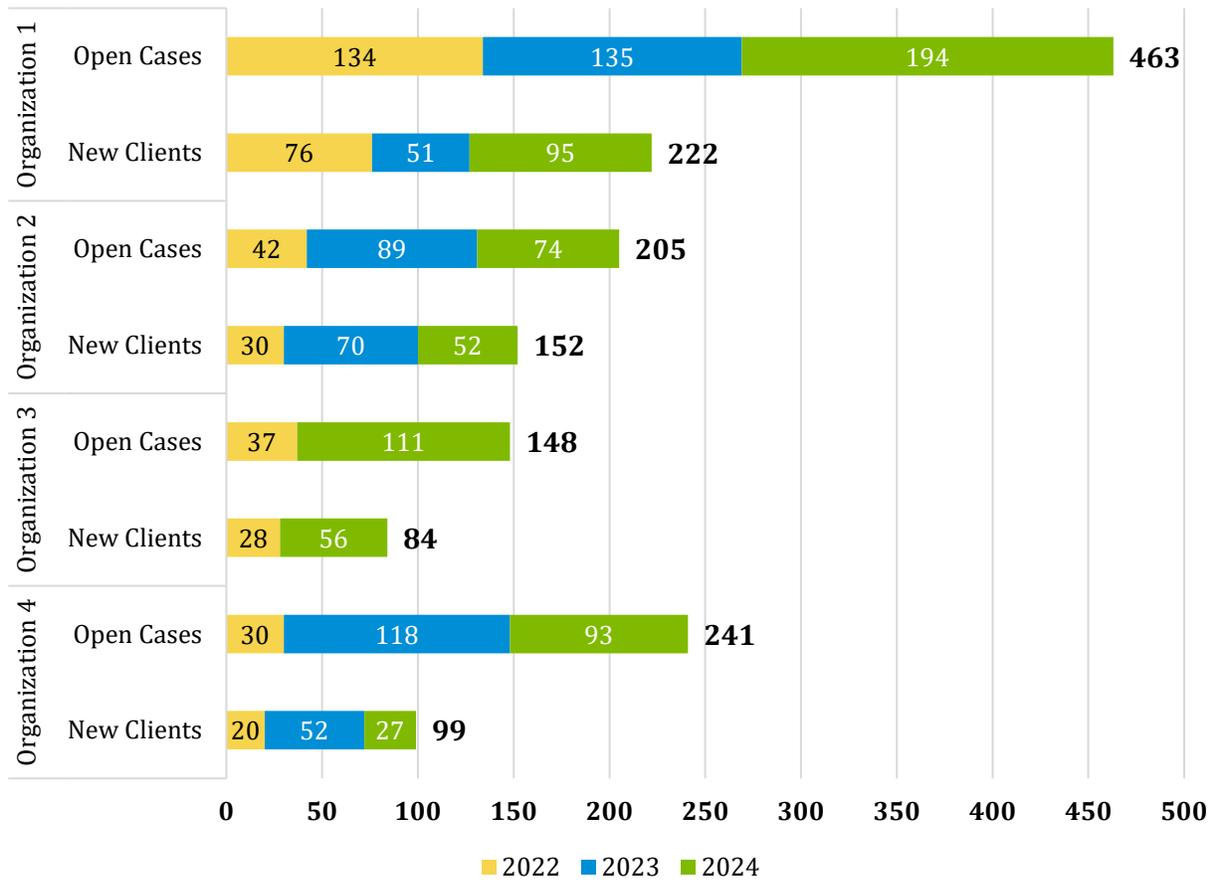


Data source: National Human Trafficking Hotline data were obtained from Polaris.

Not all situations of human trafficking interface with a hotline. This report includes information from service providers to explore another view of incidence. From 2022 to 2024, four organizations were funded by the U.S. Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) to address human trafficking. Figure 3 shows the number of clients seen by these four organizations. These data cannot be combined across organizations, as individuals may visit several organizations for a varied number of services, and the data cannot be deduplicated at this time.

Organization 1 had an increase in the number of open cases each year: 134 open cases in 2022 (with 76 new clients), 135 open cases in 2023 (with 51 new clients) and 194 open cases in 2024 (with 95 new clients). Organization 2 had 42 open cases in 2022 (with 30 new clients), 89 open cases in 2023 (with 70 new clients) and 74 open cases in 2024 (with 52 new clients). Organization 3 saw an increase in both open cases and new clients each year documented. Organization 3 had 37 open cases in 2022 (with 28 new clients), increasing to 111 open cases in 2024 (with 56 new clients); data was not provided for 2023 at the time of publication. Organization 4 had 30 open cases in 2022 (with 20 new clients), 118 open cases in 2023 (with 52 new clients) and 93 open cases in 2024 (with 27 new clients).

Figure 3: Colorado Clients Funded by Office for Victims of Crime, CY 2022–2024

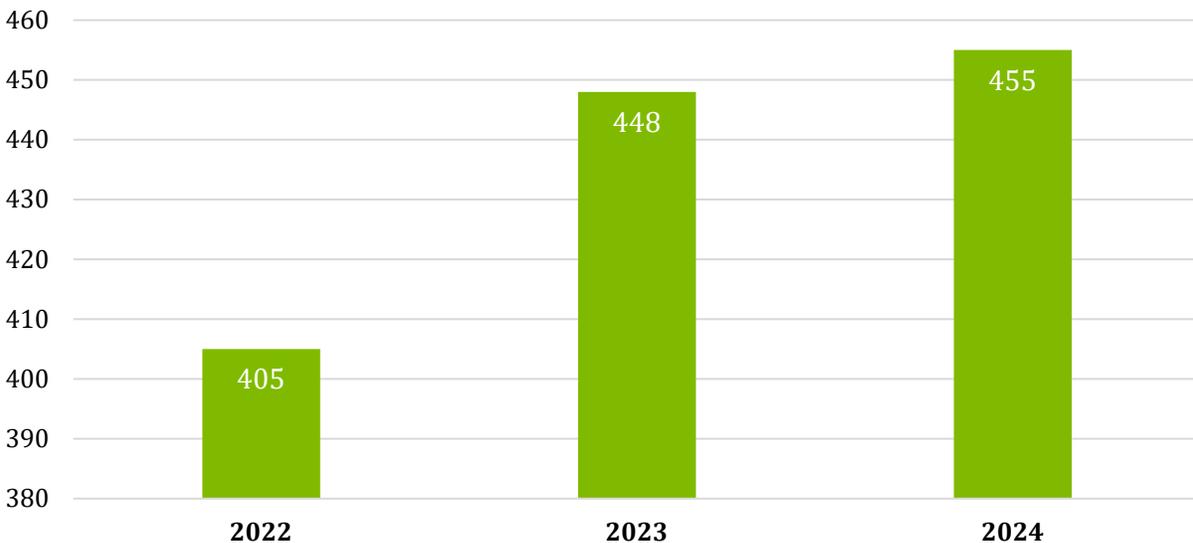


Data source: Colorado data were obtained from four Colorado-based grantees of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)/OVC human trafficking grant programs.

Note: Clients were unable to be deduplicated between organizations. Clients are often referred between organizations, especially from Organizations 2–4 to Organization 1, to access specialized services.

Colorado Department of Human Services is a vital partner in identifying human trafficking situations for minors. Figure 4 shows the number of referrals that reference sex or labor trafficking from CY 2022 to 2024. In this period, referrals increased each year from 405 to 448 to 455.

Figure 4: Referrals that Reference Sex or Labor Trafficking, CY 2022–2024



Data source: Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Child Welfare.

At times, agencies investigated referrals for allegations that were not initially identified as sex or labor trafficking situations but, during the investigation, were determined to be instances of sex and/or labor trafficking. For example, an agency investigated a child’s situation based on another form of abuse or neglect and later determined the child to be a victim of sex or labor trafficking.

Figure 4’s referrals for assessments include multiple forms of abuse or neglect, including an allegation of sex or labor trafficking during the course of the investigating, and are separate from the assessments of child abuse and/or neglect shown in Figure 5. The assessments in Figure 5 were investigated specifically for allegations of sex or labor trafficking. The possible outcomes of an assessment by county departments include the following:³

- **Founded:** “Founded’ means that the abuse and/or neglect assessment established by a preponderance of the evidence that an incident(s) of abuse and/or neglect occurred. ‘Founded’ can also be utilized in a referral when there is a law enforcement fatality investigation with no surviving child sibling, or a law enforcement investigation of a third-party incident of abuse and/or neglect.

³ Colorado Division of Criminal Justice, Office for Victims Programs, *2023 Colorado Human Trafficking Council Annual Report* (Lakewood, CO: Colorado Department of Public Safety, 2023), p. 45.

'Founded' and 'confirmed,' as used in 19-3-308 - 308.5, C.R.S., are interchangeable in these rules.”⁴

- **Unfounded:** “‘Unfounded’ means that the abuse and/or neglect assessment established that there is clear evidence that no incident of abuse and/or neglect occurred.”⁵
- **Inconclusive:** “‘Inconclusive’ means that the abuse and/or neglect assessment established that there was some likelihood that an incident(s) of abuse and/or neglect occurred but assessment could not obtain the evidence necessary to make a founded finding.”⁶
- **FAR:** “‘Family Assessment Response (FAR)’ means the differential response track established for low and moderate risk situations where no finding of abuse and/or neglect is made.”⁷
- **Program Area 4 (PA4):** Program for Youth in Conflict is when “services are provided to reduce or eliminate conflicts between a child/youth and their family members, which may include the community, when those conflicts affect the child/youth’s well-being, the normal functioning of the family or the well-being of the community. The focus of services shall be on alleviating conflicts, protecting the child/youth, family, and the community, re-establishing family stability, and/or assisting the youth to emancipate successfully. Target groups for PA4 are children and youth who are beyond the control of their parents or guardians; and, children and youth whose behavior is such that there is a likelihood that they may cause harm to themselves or to others or who have committed acts that could cause them to be adjudicated a delinquent child by the court.”⁸ There are no findings associated with an assessment that has a PA4 outcome.

⁴ Colorado Secretary of State’s Code of Regulations, *Department of Human Services’ Social Services Rules: Overview of Child Welfare Services*, last edited May 30, 2025, p. 8.
<https://www.sos.state.co.us/CCR/GenerateRulePdf.do?ruleVersionId=9694&fileName=12%20CCR%202509-1>.

⁵ Ibid., p. 16.

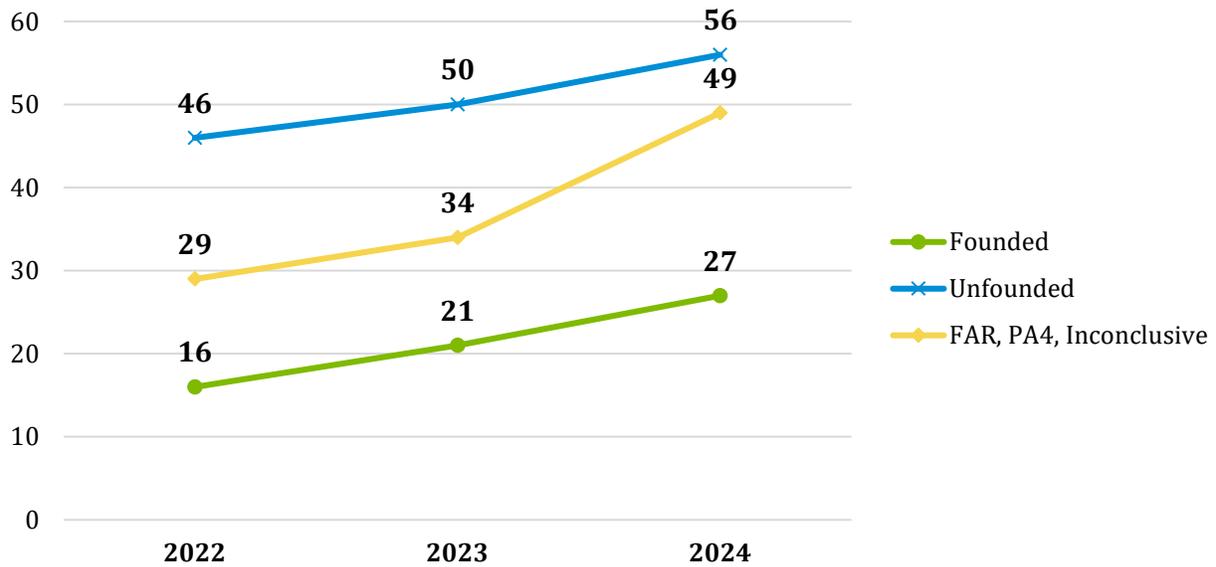
⁶ Ibid., p. 10.

⁷ Ibid., p. 7.

⁸ Ibid., 2.

Founded outcomes of allegations increased from 16 in 2022 to 21 in 2023 to 27 in 2024. Notably, FAR, PA4 and Inconclusive outcomes increased from 29 in 2022 to 34 in 2023, finally jumping to 49 in 2024.

Figure 5: Outcomes of Assessments with an Allegation of Human Trafficking, CY 2022-2024



Data source: Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Child Welfare.

Individuals Being Human Trafficked and Human Traffickers

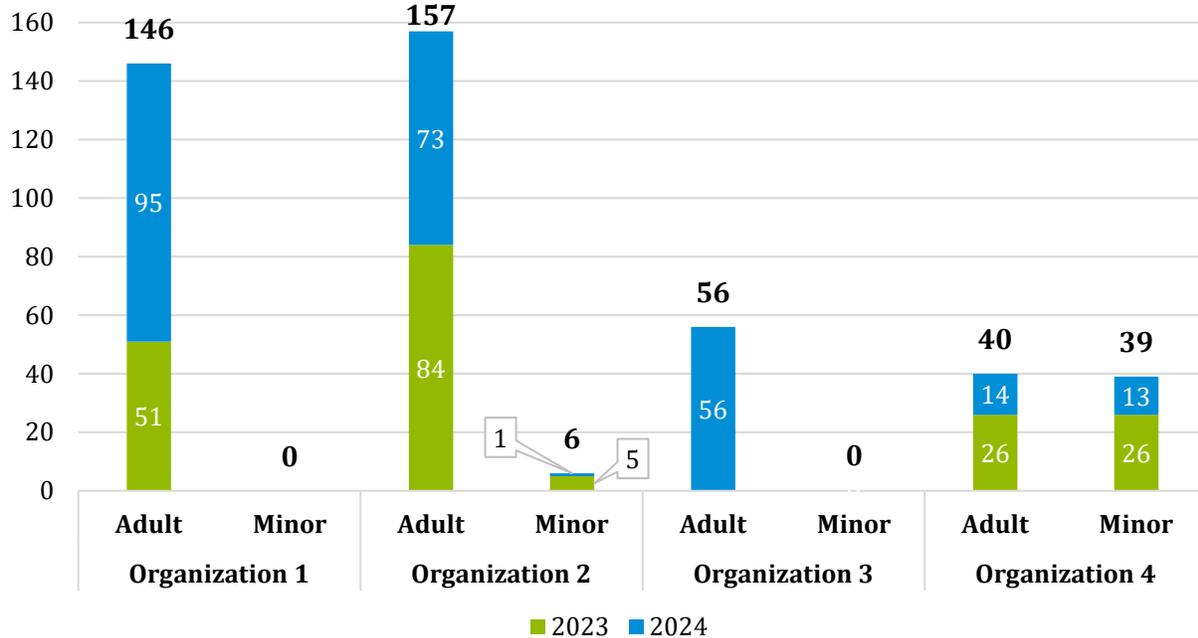
Demographics of who is being trafficked are broad. There are often misconceptions about the individuals who are being harmed and those who are doing the harming. Demographic data from a variety of sources can help address stereotypes of whom the crime affects.

While collection methods for demographic data can be flawed, without including demographic data, policymakers and funders are left deciding which demographics to focus on without understanding the realities of community experiences. Data collected from service providers, CDHS and the judicial system track these demographics.

In Colorado, both adults and minors are experiencing human trafficking. Figure 6 shows the number of new Colorado clients funded by OVC involving adults versus minors (a minor is a person under 18) in CY 2023 and 2024. Organization 1 served 51 adults in 2023 and 95 adults in 2024; it served no minors with this funding. Organization 2 served 84 adults and 5 minors in 2023 and 73 adults and 1 minor in 2024. Organization 3 served 56 adults in 2024 and no minors; 2023 data for this organization is not available at this time.

Organization 4 served 26 adults and 26 minors in 2023 and 14 adults and 13 minors in 2024.

Figure 6: New Colorado Clients Funded by Office for Victims of Crime by Age, CY 2023-2024

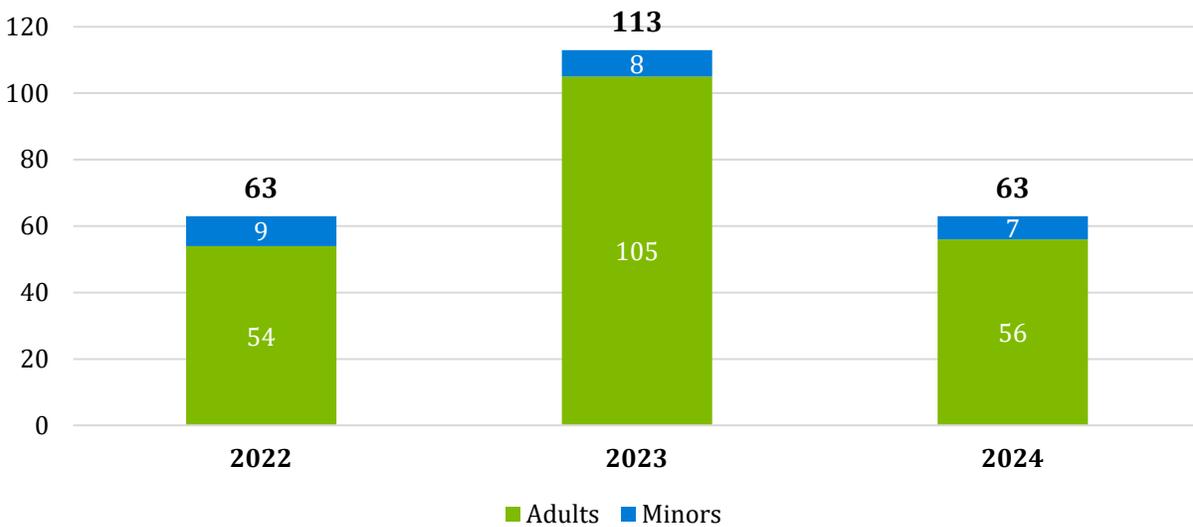


Data source: Colorado data were obtained from four Colorado-based grantees of the U.S. DOJ/OVC human trafficking grant programs.

Note: Clients were unable to be deduplicated between organizations. Clients are often referred between organizations, especially from Organizations 2-4 to Organization 1, to access specialized services.

Figure 7 shows new Colorado cases involving adults versus minors served by the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) from CY 2022 to 2024. The vast majority were adults, with only 24 minors among the 239 clients during the three years.

Figure 7: New Colorado Cases by Adults vs. Minors, CY 2022–2024



Data source: U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants. Note: All clients in this dataset are foreign nationals.

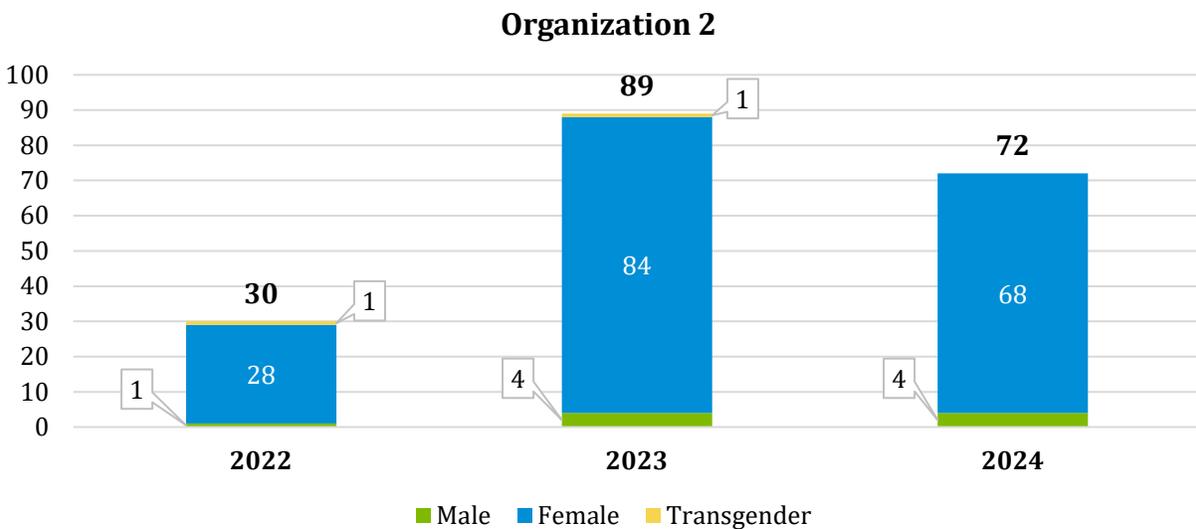
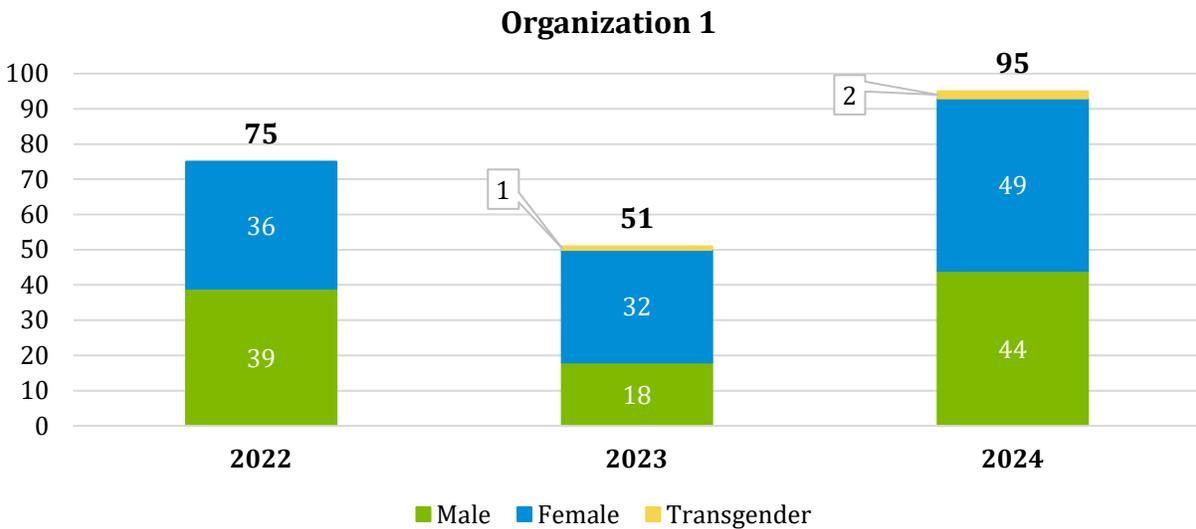
Individuals of all genders are experiencing human trafficking in the state. Figure 8 shows the number of new Colorado clients funded by OVC by gender from CY 2022 to 2024.

Figure 9 shows the number of new Colorado cases by gender in the same three-year period based on data from the Trafficking Victim Assistance Program (TVAP), funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and managed by USCRI. Figure 10 shows the gender breakdown of assessed minors provided by CDHS from CY 2022 to 2024. Not all assessed minors in figures 10, 11 and 12 are human trafficking victims. Please refer to Figure 5 for the assessment outcomes breakdown.

In Figure 8, Organization 1 served an almost equal number of male and female clients in 2022 and 2024. In 2022, it served 39 males and 36 females. In 2023, it served 18 males, 32 females and one transgender individual. In 2024, it served 44 males, 49 females and two transgender individuals. Organizations 2 and 3 served majority females. Organization 2 served nine males over the three years, 180 females and two transgender individuals. Organization 3 served 20 females, seven males and one transgender individual in 2022 and 47 females, 13 males and two transgender individuals in 2024. Organization 4 served four males, 15 females and one individual whose gender is not reported in 2022, 18 males and 34 females in 2023, and 13 males, 13 females and one nonbinary individual in 2024.

Figure 9 averages an almost 1:2 ratio of male to female clients over the three years, with 92 male clients and 144 female clients. TVAP served three transgender clients during this time. Comparatively, Colorado’s Division of Child Welfare served almost a 1:4 ratio of male to female clients over the three years, with only 69 male clients and 250 female clients.

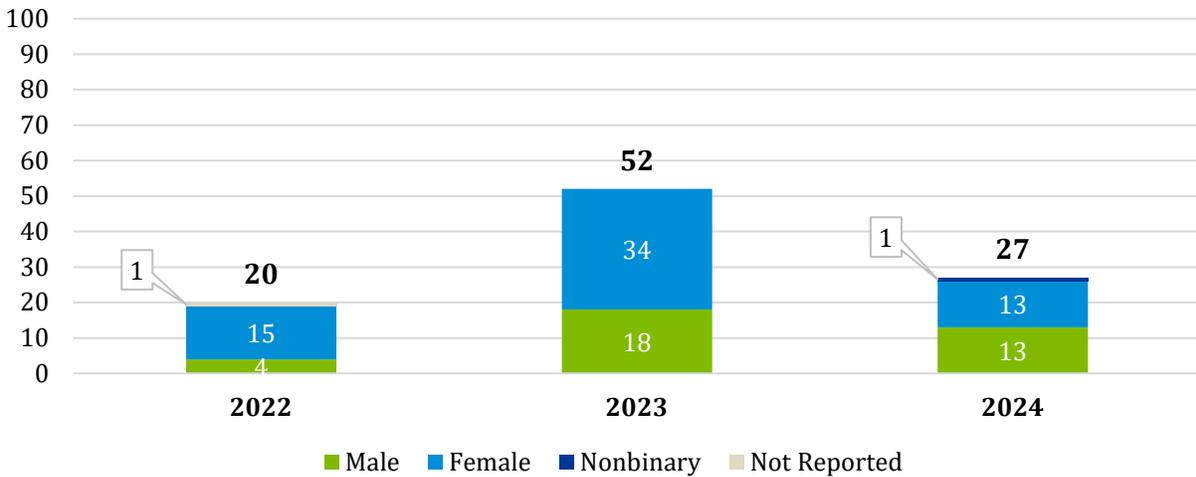
Figure 8: New Colorado Clients Funded by Office for Victims of Crime by Gender, CY 2022–2024



Organization 3



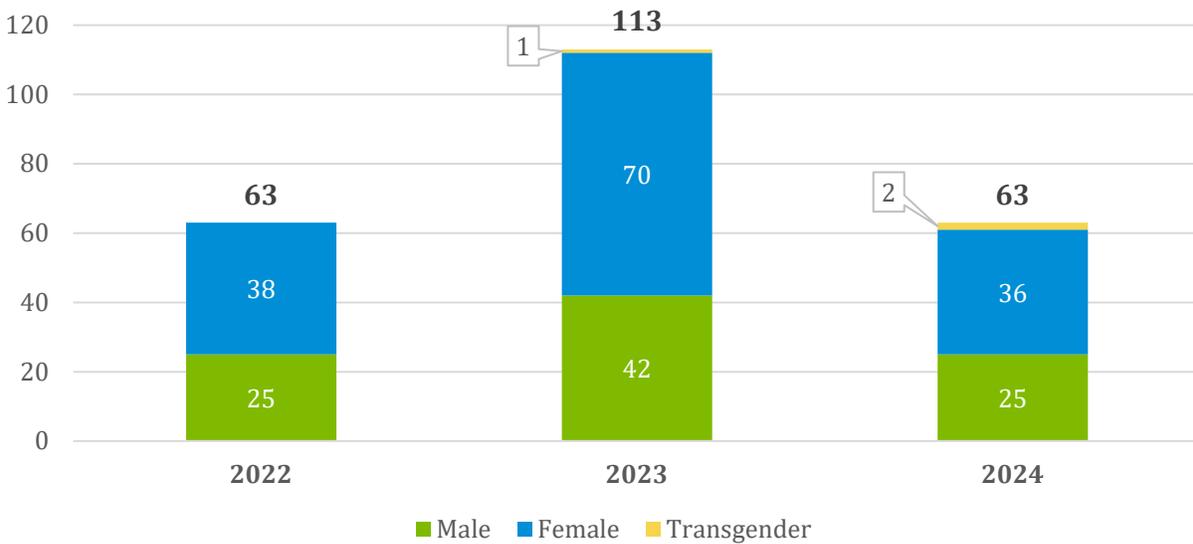
Organization 4



Data source: Colorado data were obtained from four Colorado-based grantees of the U.S. DOJ/OVC human trafficking grant programs.

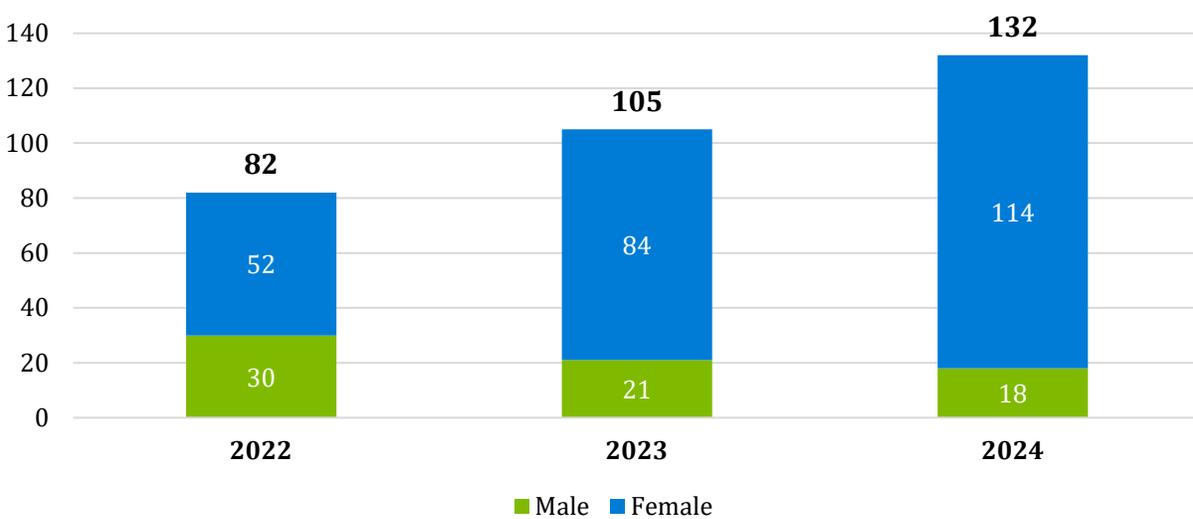
Note: Clients were unable to be deduplicated between organizations. Clients are often referred between organizations, especially from Organizations 2–4 to Organization 1, to access specialized services. Data for 2023 was not provided by organization 3.

Figure 9: New Colorado Cases by Gender, CY 2022–2024



Data source: Trafficking Victim Assistance Program, U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants.

Figure 10: Gender Breakdown of Assessed Minors, CY 2022–2024



Data source: Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Child Welfare.

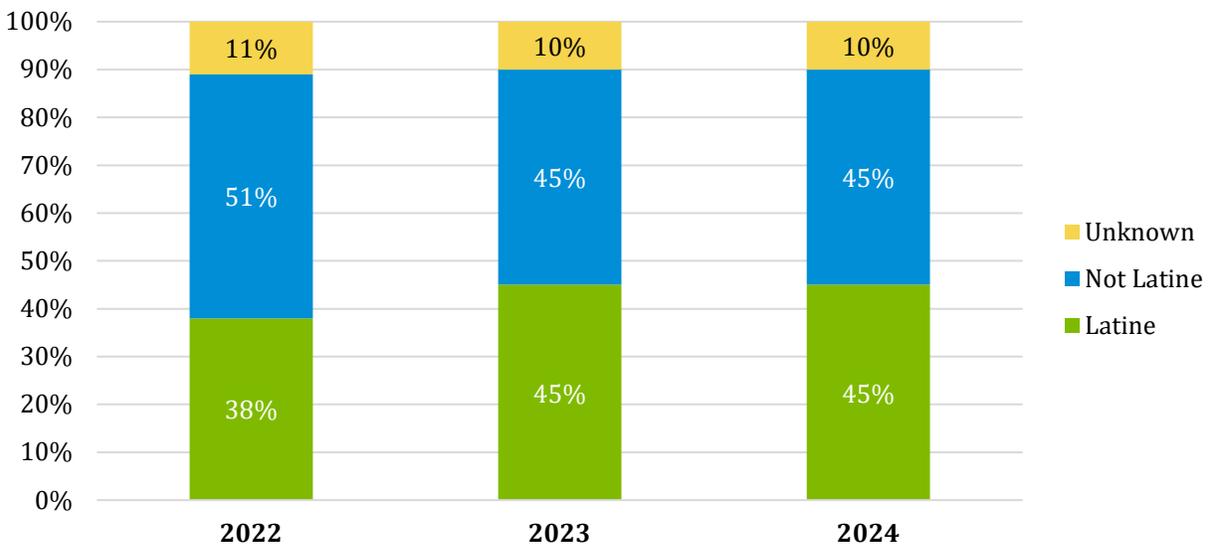
CDHS also collects information on the ethnic and racial demographics of assessed minors. The Council has concerns⁹ about how those entering demographic data determine a minor’s racial and ethnic data and whether this information is assessed in the same way by

⁹ Legislation to address this systemic limitation passed in 2024. House Bill 24-1046 requires Colorado Department of Human Services to review the screening process used by county departments and hotline system operators to align demographic collection practices with best practices and cultural competency efforts.

each member of staff across all counties. As such, the data have been included but should be considered carefully. Figure 11 shows the ethnic breakdown of assessed minors from CY 2022 to 2024. Figure 12 shows the racial breakdown of minors in the same timeframe.

Division of Child Welfare saw a slight increase from 38% Latine¹⁰ minors in 2022 to 45% Latine minors in 2023, staying flat between 2023 and 2024 (see Figure 11.) Figure 12's racial demographics only include White, Black/African American and undisclosed categories in 2022 and 2023, with a majority of clients racially identified as White (ranging from 70% to 73%). In 2024, the percentage of White and Black/African American racially categorized minors stayed similar (68% White, 16% Black/African American), but new categories of Asian, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and Multi-race brought the undisclosed category from 15% in 2022 and 2023 to 5% in 2024.

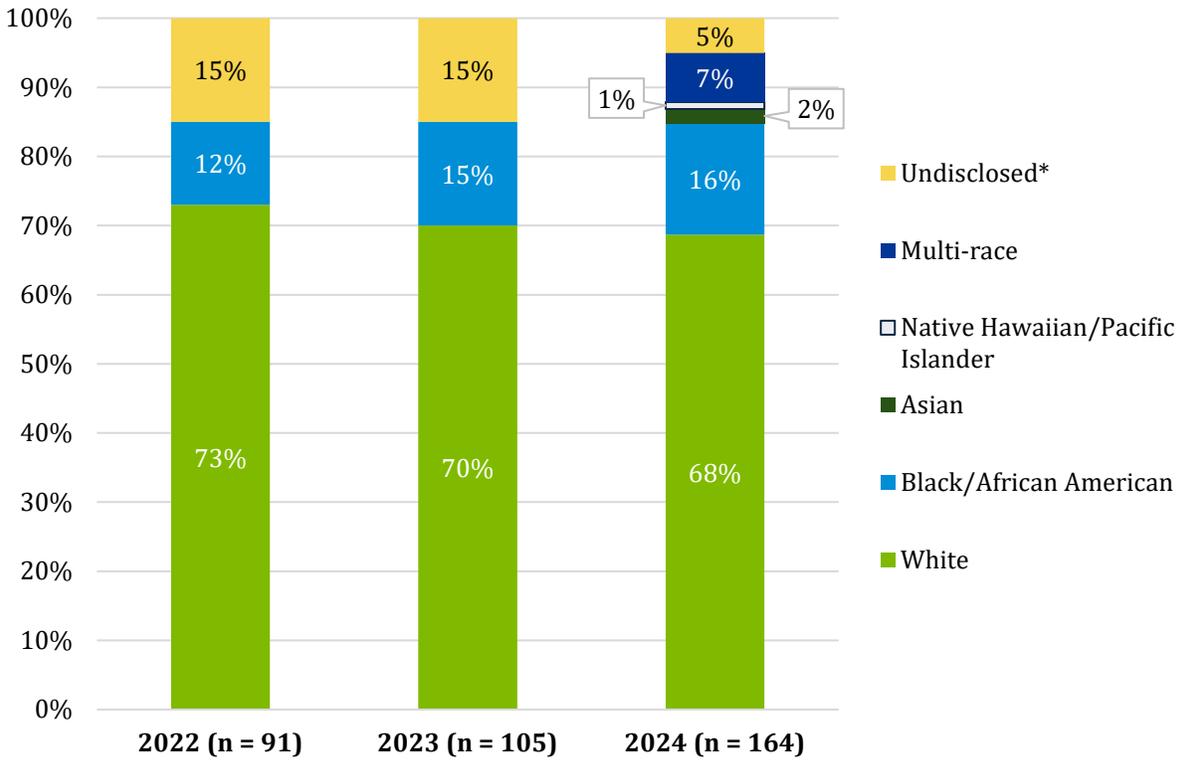
Figure 11: Ethnic Breakdown of Assessed Minors, CY 2022-2024



Data source: Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Child Welfare.

¹⁰ Latine is a term referring to Latin American heritage. It is a gender-neutral term, an alternative to Latino/a or Latinx.

Figure 12: Race Breakdown of Assessed Minors, CY 2022–2024

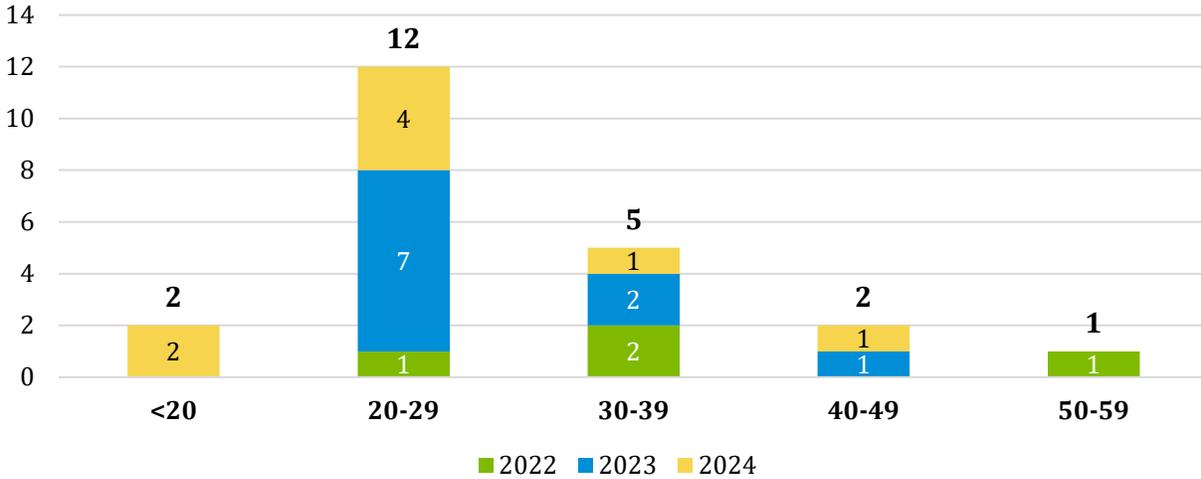


Data source: Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Child Welfare.

Note: *A new category, “Declined to Answer,” was added to data from Division of Child Welfare in 2024. These data have been added to the category “Unknown” in this year’s report for consistency of categories from CY 2022 to 2024.

There are also misunderstandings about who human traffickers are. Situations of human trafficking that become prosecutable cases track the age of the perpetrator. Figure 13 shows the age of the individuals convicted of human trafficking from CY 2022 to 2024. The highest number of individuals were between the ages 20 and 29, with 12 people. Two people were younger than 20. Five individuals were 30 to 39. Two individuals were 40 to 49. One individual in the timeframe was 50 to 59.

Figure 13: Age at Offense of Individuals Convicted of Human Trafficking, CY 2022–2024

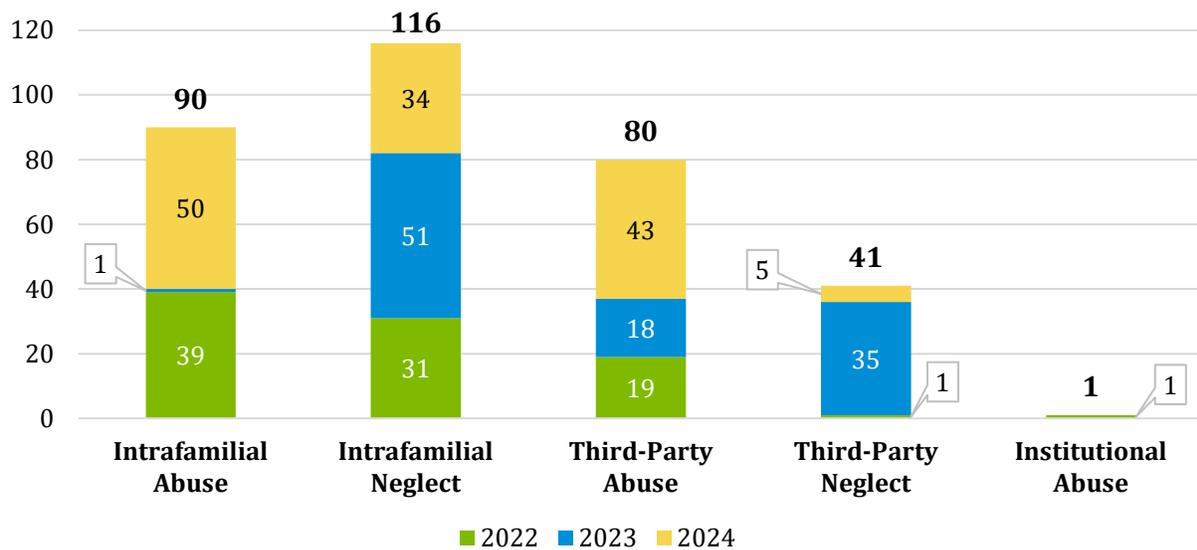


Data source: The number of total cases was calculated using information obtained through the Judicial Branch’s Integrated Colorado Online Network (ICON) information management system via the Colorado Justice Analytics Support System (CJASS). The case status for each filing was last obtained from the Colorado State Courts – Data Access system on October 8, 2025, by DCJ staff.

Additionally, CDHS collects data on who the potential offender is in cases that are referrals of human trafficking, shown in Figure 14. Over the three years, 90 trafficking allegations were intrafamilial abuse, 116 were intrafamilial neglect, 80 were third-party abuse, 41 were third-party neglect and one was institutional abuse. "Abuse and neglect are actions or omissions that threaten the health or welfare of a child. Abuse typically consists of physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, while neglect focuses on a deprivation of necessities, an environment that is injurious to the child, a lack of supervision, failure to protect a child, or medical neglect."¹¹

¹¹ Title 19 – Children’s Code, C.R.S. § 19-1-103 (2024).

Figure 14: Potential Perpetrators of Child Abuse and Neglect with a Referral of Human Trafficking, CY 2022–2024



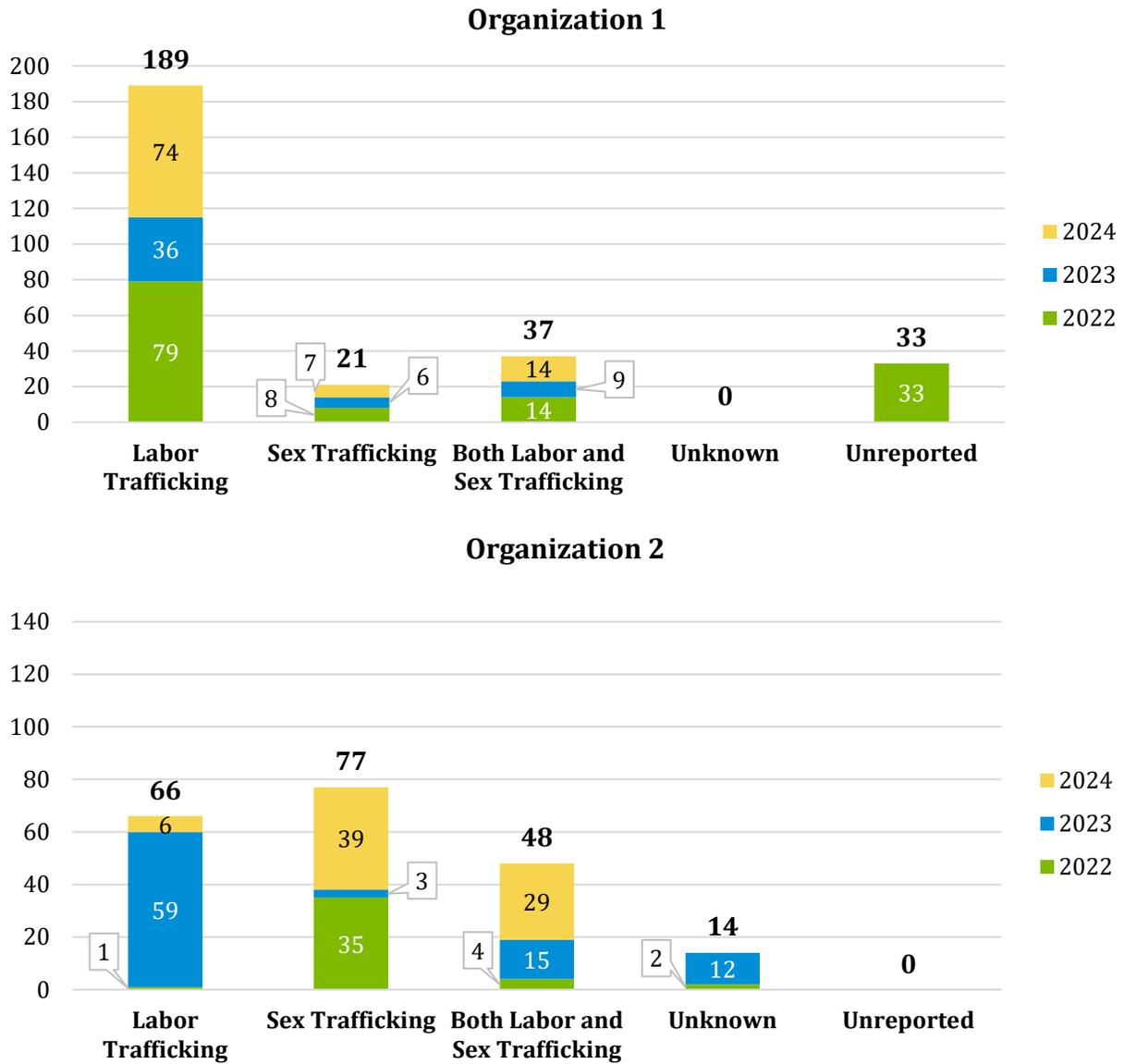
Data source: Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Child Welfare.

Human Trafficking Experiences

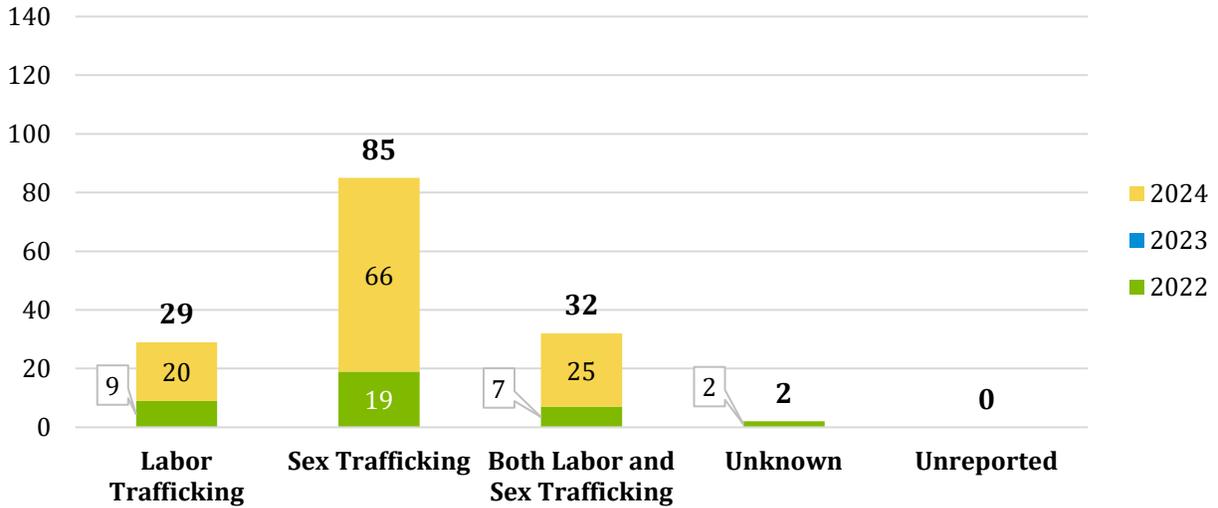
Human trafficking is often separated into two primary categories of labor trafficking and sex trafficking, also referred to as involuntary servitude and sexual servitude in Colorado. Data from service providers and the judicial system show breakdowns of what people’s trafficking experiences, including both labor and sex trafficking. Overall, the data show higher rates of labor trafficking reported from service providers but higher rates of sex trafficking reported from the hotline, child welfare and the judicial system.

Figure 15 shows the number of new Colorado clients funded by OVC by type of trafficking from CY 2022 to 2024. Figure 16 presents new Colorado cases by type of trafficking from CY 2022 to 2024, based on data from TVAP. Figure 17 shows situations by type of trafficking from the same period, based on data from Colorado’s Human Trafficking Hotline. Figure 18 shows national situations by type of trafficking during the CY 2022–2024 period. Figure 19 shows data from the Colorado Department of Human Services on the number of assessments that include an allegation of human trafficking, broken down by type of trafficking, from CY 2022 to 2024. Figure 20 shows Colorado judicial cases by type of trafficking in the same timeframe.

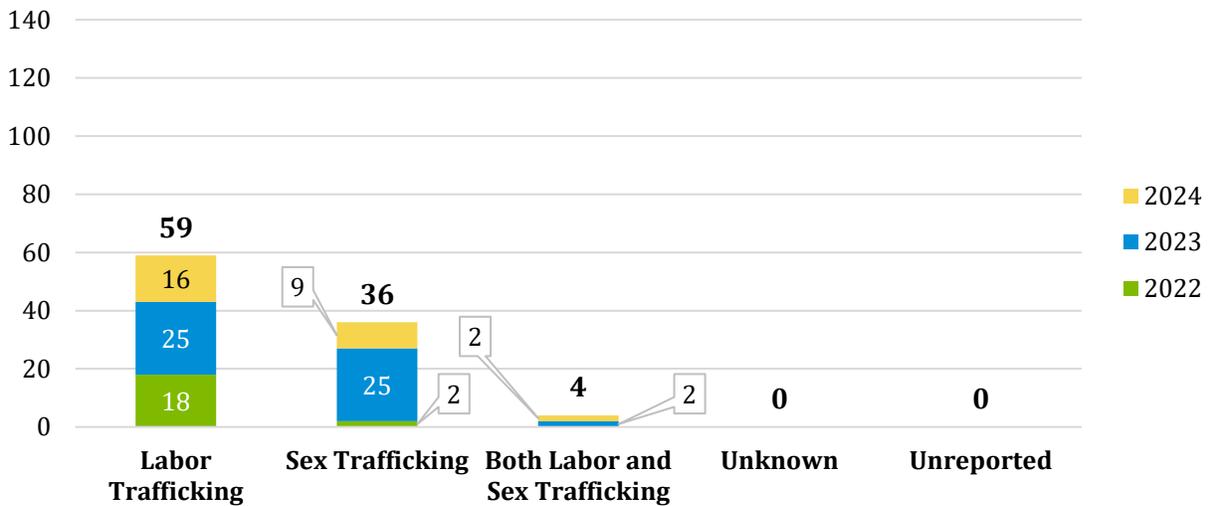
Figure 15: New Colorado Clients Funded by OVC by Type of Trafficking, CY 2022–2024



Organization 3



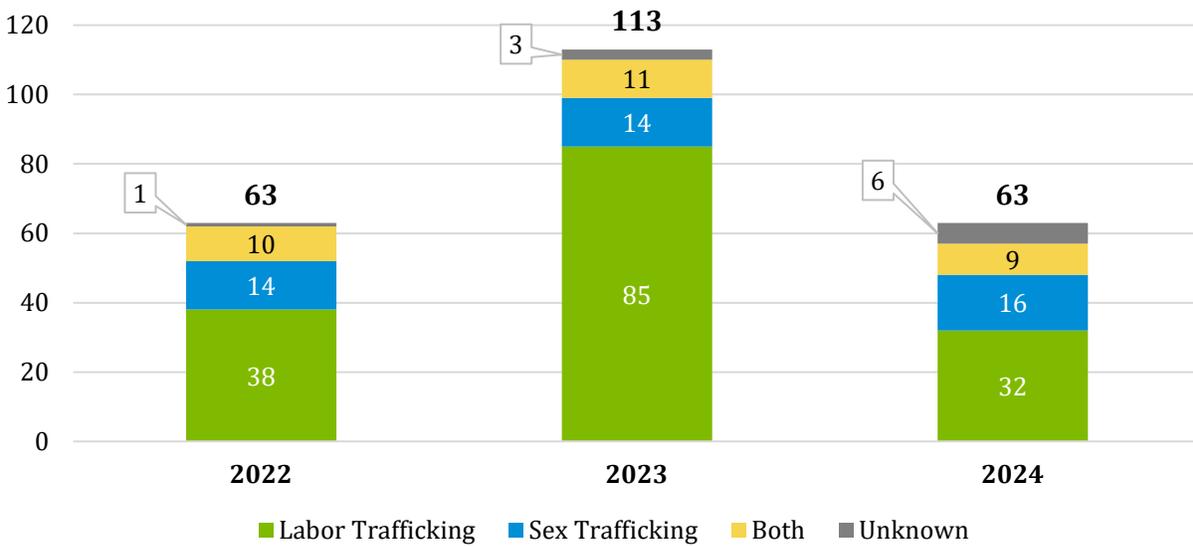
Organization 4



Data source: Colorado data were obtained from four Colorado-based grantees of the U.S. DOJ/OVC human trafficking grant programs.

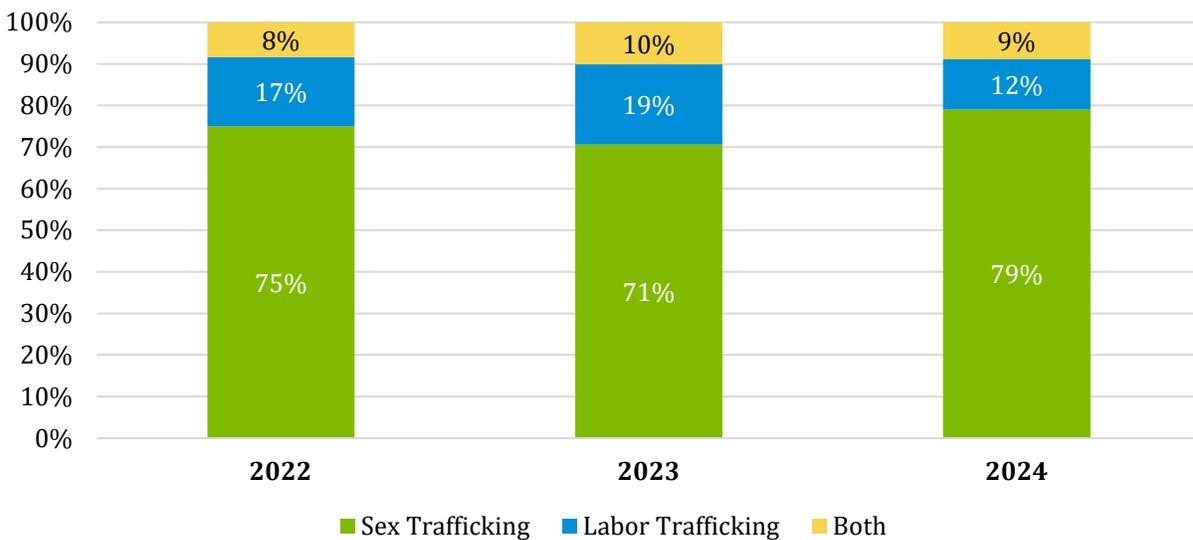
Note: Clients were unable to be deduplicated from 2022 to 2024 between organizations. Clients are often referred between organizations, especially from Organizations 2-4 to Organization 1, to access specialized services.

Figure 16: New Colorado Cases by Type of Trafficking, CY 2022–2024



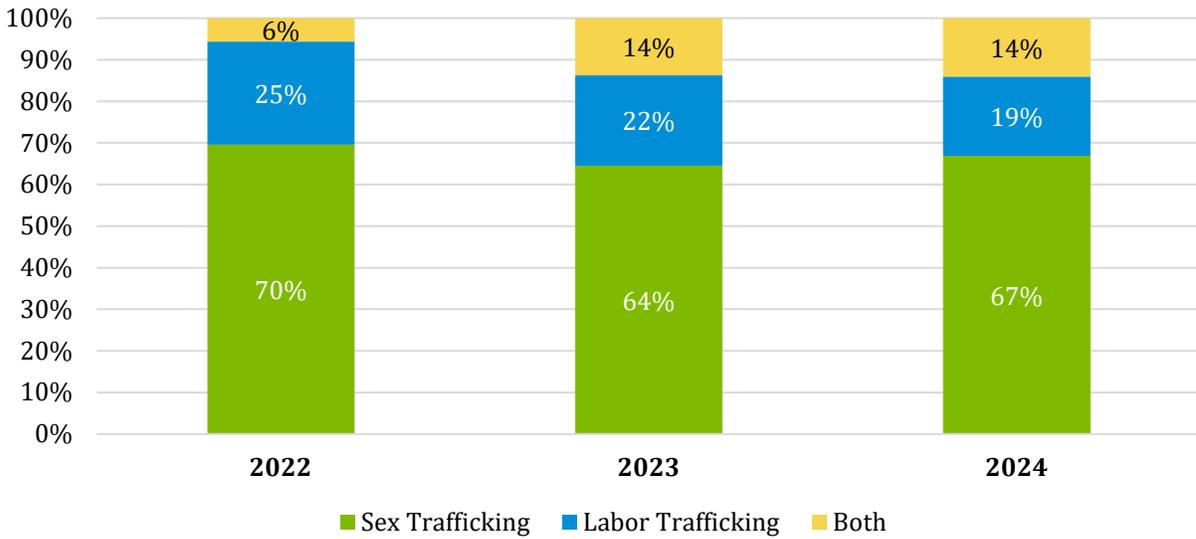
Data source: Trafficking Victim Assistance Program, U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants.

Figure 17: Colorado’s Human Trafficking Hotline—Colorado Situations by Type of Trafficking, CY 2022–2024



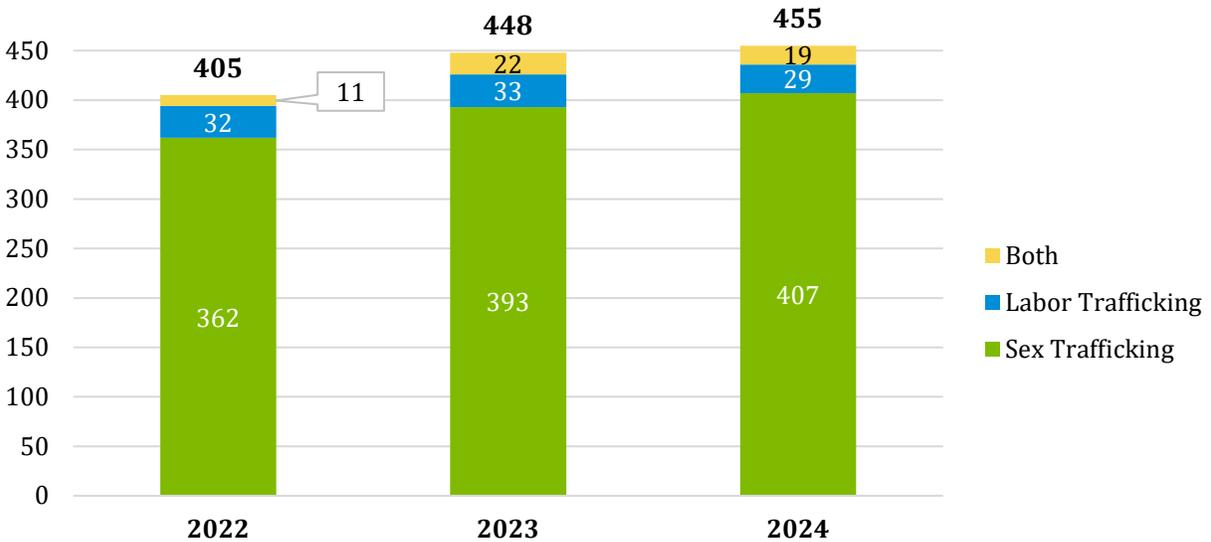
Data source: Colorado’s Human Trafficking Hotline data were obtained by the Laboratory to Combat Human Trafficking.

Figure 18: NHTH—National Situations by Type of Trafficking, CY 2022-2024



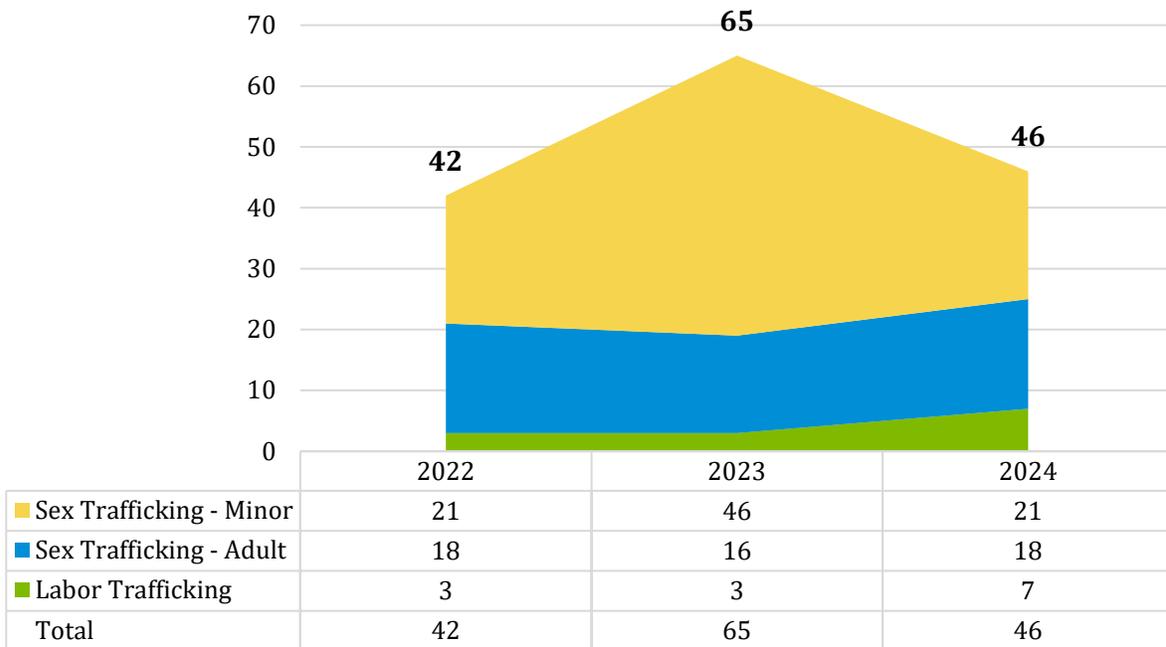
Data source: NHTH data were obtained from Polaris.

Figure 19: Number of Assessments that Include Allegation of Human Trafficking of Minors, CY 2022-2024



Data source: Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Child Welfare.

Figure 20: Colorado Human Trafficking Judicial Cases by Type of Trafficking, CY 2022–2024



Data source: The number of total charges was calculated using information on filings obtained through the Judicial Branch’s ICON information management system via the CJASS. The charge status for each filing was last obtained from the Colorado State Courts – Data Access system on October 8, 2025, by DCJ staff.

Vulnerabilities

There are many aspects of an individual’s life that traffickers can use to create a human trafficking dynamic or keep one going. Data from CDHS and service providers shed light on these experiences. Figure 21 shows the top 10 risk factors by year identified by the Colorado Division of Child Welfare from CY 2022 to 2024. Child welfare personnel use the High-Risk Victim Identification Tool (HRV Tool) in situations where a youth has gone missing from care or is suspected of being involved in human trafficking. The HRV Tool screens for risk factors that may apply to children and youth who are vulnerable to human trafficking.

The HRV Tool is not prescriptive in nature but instead helps users identify areas of risk, allowing each county to use its resources to address the concerns raised by the tool. It is “intended to be used to supplement comprehensive screening ... [but the] presence of multiple indicators on the checklist ... does not confirm [human]

trafficking/victimization.”¹² The tool is also used by the Colorado Division of Youth Services (DYS) and the Colorado Youth Detention Continuum (CYDC). Figures 22 and 23 show the top 10 risk factors identified by these two entities in CY 2023 and 2024. DYS and CYDC data were not available for CY 2022. Overall, mental health, family dysfunction, substance use, and school attendance rank high across all years and the three data sources.

Figure 21: Top 10 Risk Factors by Year Identified in DCW Using the HRV Tool, CY 2022–2024

	2022 (n = 82)	2023 (n = 69)	2024 (n = 66)
Highest Score	Mental Health	Mental Health	Mental Health
	Family Dysfunction	School Attendance	Family Dysfunction
	Substance Use	Family Dysfunction	School Attendance
	History/Current Abuse	3+ Runs in 12 Mos	History/Current Abuse
	School Attendance	Substance Use	3+ Runs in 12 Mos
Lowest Score	3+ Runs in 12 Mos	History/Current Abuse	Substance Use
	Run 20+ Days	Interest in Older People	Lack of Support
	Lack of Support	Lack of Support	Found with Older Adults
	Interest in Older People	Run 20+ Days	Interest in Older People
	Housing Insecurity	Housing Insecurity	Run 20+ Days

Data source: Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Child Welfare.

Note: The risk factors are ranked in frequency from highest score at the top of each column to lowest score at the bottom of each column. Many of the risk factors have been shortened for readability. The risk factors are: mental health; family dysfunction; drug charges/substance abuse (Substance Use); history of, or current concern about, sexual abuse, physical abuse or neglect (History/Current Abuse); truancy and/or not enrolled in school (School Attendance); three or more runs in 12 months (3+ Runs in 12 Mos); longest run more than 20 days (Run 20+ Days); lack of support system or supportive relationships (Lack of Support); in relationship/expressed interest in older men/women who may be intimate partner, friend or relative (Interest in Older People); homeless, not living with adults, couch surfing, etc. (Housing Insecurity); and relationship/found in the presence of older, non-related adults (Found with Older Adults).

* “Run” refers to a youth missing from care.

¹² “HRV Tool,” Denver Anti-Trafficking Alliance, 2022, December 19, 2023, https://denveralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Colorado-HRV-BLANK-Youth-Tool_Denver.pdf.

Figure 22: Top 10 Risk Factors Identified in DYS Using the HRV Tool, CY 2023–2024

	2023 (n = 183)	2024 (n = 181)
Highest Score	Substance Use	Substance Use
	Mental Health	Family Dysfunction
	Family Dysfunction	Mental Health
	Connection to Illicit Activities	School Attendance
	History/Current Abuse	Connection to Illicit Activities
Lowest Score	School Attendance	History/Current Abuse
	Gang Involvement	Gang Involvement
	Run 20+ Days	Lack of Support
	Lack of Support	3+ Runs in 12 Mos
	3+ Runs in 12 Mos	Run 20+ Days

Data source: Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Youth Services.

Note: The risk factors are ranked in frequency from highest score at the top to lowest score at the bottom. Many of the risk factors have been shortened for readability. The risk factors include the following: drug charges/substance abuse (Substance Use); mental health; family dysfunction; family, friends, and/or peers known to be involved in illegal commercial sex and/or criminal activities (Connection to Illicit Activities); history of, or current concern about, sexual abuse, physical abuse or neglect (History/Current Abuse); truancy and/or not enrolled in school (School Attendance); gang involvement; longest run more than 20 days (Run 20+ Days); lack of support system or supportive relationships (Lack of Support); and three or more runs in 12 months (3+ Runs in 12 Mos).

Figure 23: Top 10 Risk Factors Identified in CYDC Using the HRV Tool, CY 2022–2024

	2023 (n = 853)	2024 (n = 2,044)
Highest Score	Substance Use	Substance Use
	School Attendance	Family Dysfunction
	Mental Health	Mental Health
	History/Current Abuse	School Attendance
	Family Dysfunction	History/Current Abuse
Lowest Score	3+ Runs in 12 Mos	Connection to Illicit Activities
	Contact with Law Enforcement	3+ Runs in 12 Mos
	Gang Involvement	Gang Involvement
	Run 20+ Days	Contact with Law Enforcement
	Connection to Illicit Activities	Run 20+ Days

Data source: CDHS, Division of Youth Services, Colorado Youth Detention Continuum.

Note: The risk factors are ranked in frequency from highest score at the top to lowest score at the bottom. Many of the risk factors have been shortened for readability. The risk factors include the following: drug charges/substance abuse (Substance Use); truancy and/or not enrolled in school (School Attendance); mental health; history of, or current concern about, sexual abuse, physical abuse or neglect (History/Current Abuse); family dysfunction; three or more runs in 12 months (3+ Runs in 12 Mos); history of law enforcement contact related to prostitution or other charges that may occur while being trafficked (theft, drugs, assault)—may have multiple curfew violations (Contact with Law Enforcement); gang involvement; longest run more than 20 days (Run 20+ Days); and family, friends, and/or peers known to be involved in illegal commercial sex and/or criminal activities (Connection to Illicit Activities).

A person’s immigration status can be used—and often is used—by human traffickers to create or keep that individual in a human trafficking situation. In Colorado law, using a person’s legal status against them is a form of coercion. If a person is enticing someone’s labor through threats against their legal status, that is considered human trafficking. Table 1 shows the number of certification letters and T visas from CY 2022 to 2024, per data collected by the Office on Trafficking in Persons. Certification and T visas are two forms of immigration relief and support available to human trafficking victims and survivors. Table 2 displays the certification authority in the same timeframe. Certification letters are sent to adult recipients of services only. Finally, Figure 24 shows the reported number of victims served in Colorado from CY 2022 to 2024 through TVAP funding, which is exclusively for services to foreign national survivors of human trafficking.

Table 1: Office of Trafficking in Persons Certification Letters and T Visas Mailed to Recipients in Colorado CY 2022–2024

Benefits Start Date Fiscal Year	Total Number of Certification Recipients (Letters and T Visas)
2022	27
2023	30
2024	17
Total	74

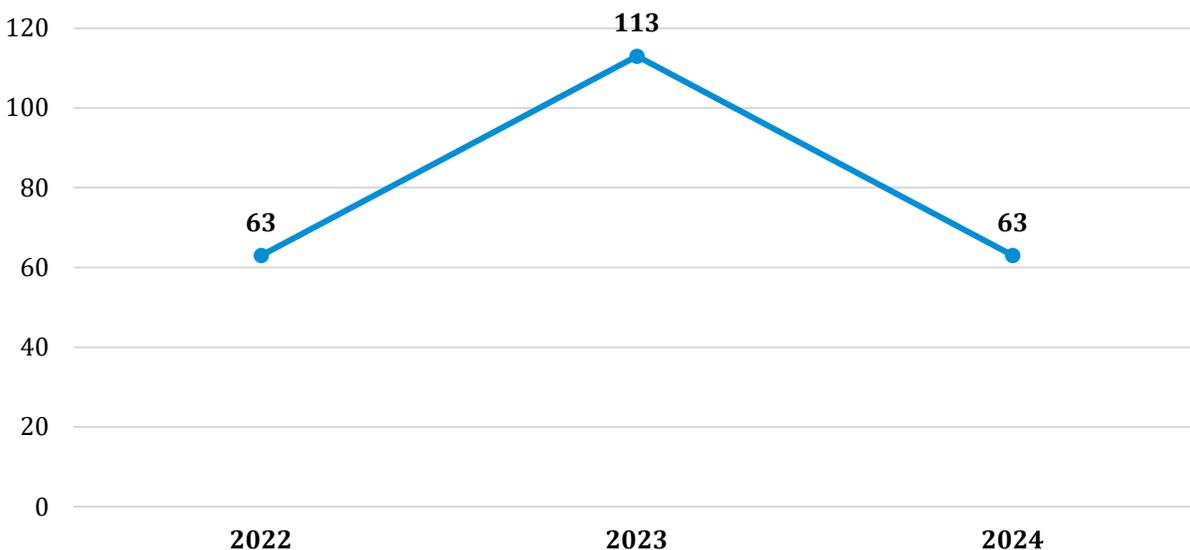
Data source: E-mail correspondence with U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, which runs the Trafficking Victim Assistance Program.

Table 2: Certification Authority for Certification Letter Recipients in Colorado, 2022–2024

Certification Authority	Total Number of Certification Recipients
Bona Fide T1	1
Continued Presence	13
T1 Nonimmigrant Status	60
Total	74

Data source: E-mail correspondence with U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, which runs the Trafficking Victim Assistance Program.

Figure 24: Trafficking Victim Assistance Program—Number of Victims Served in Colorado, CY 2022–2024



Data source: Trafficking Victim Assistance Program, U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants.

Note: 100% of clients in this dataset are foreign nationals.

Criminal Justice Engagement

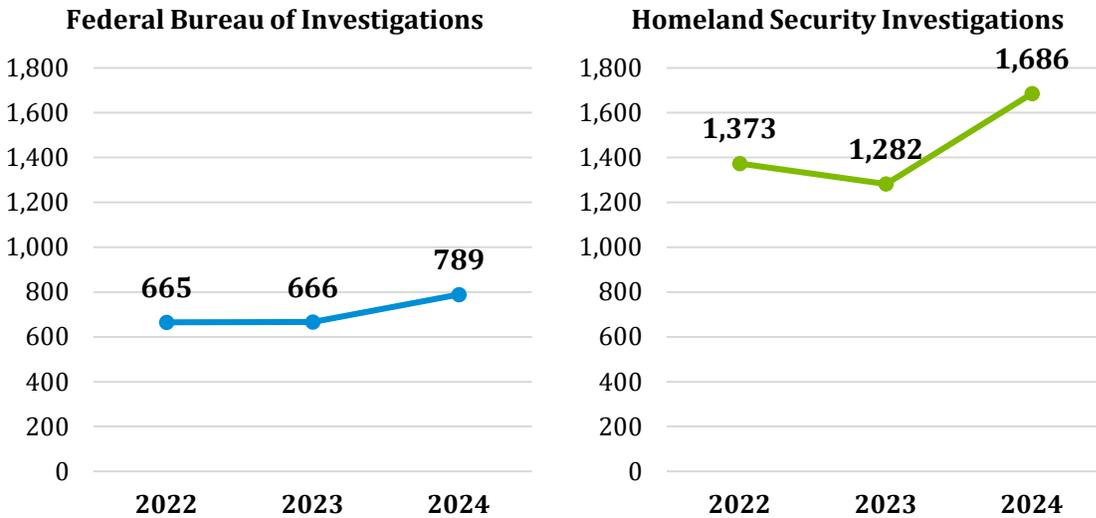
Many individuals who have experienced human trafficking do not engage with the criminal justice system for several reasons. Fear of being disbelieved or criminalized for their own actions that happened as part of their human trafficking experience, distrust in the criminal justice system because of prior individual or community-based negative experiences due to systemic bias, or lack of knowledge about legal rights are just a few reasons people do not engage with the criminal justice system. As a result, data from this system is incomplete. Though incomplete, some individuals do engage with the criminal justice system. A review of data from law enforcement and the judicial system¹³ helps us understand what those experiences are.

Figure 25 shows the number of national investigations of human trafficking from federal fiscal years 2022 to 2024. Figure 26 shows the number of interdictions of human

¹³ There were currently no U.S. Attorney’s Office Colorado cases from 2022–2024. USAO conviction data only include the federal human trafficking statutes 18 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 1589 and 1591. Additional statutes that have overlapped with human trafficking that the Council has collected in the past include the following: Mann Act/Transporting an Individual to Engage in Prostitution (18 U.S.C. § 2421), Facilitating Prostitution (18 U.S.C. § 1952(a)(3)), Coercion & Enticement (18 U.S.C. § 2422(a)) and Visa Fraud (18 U.S.C. § 1546).

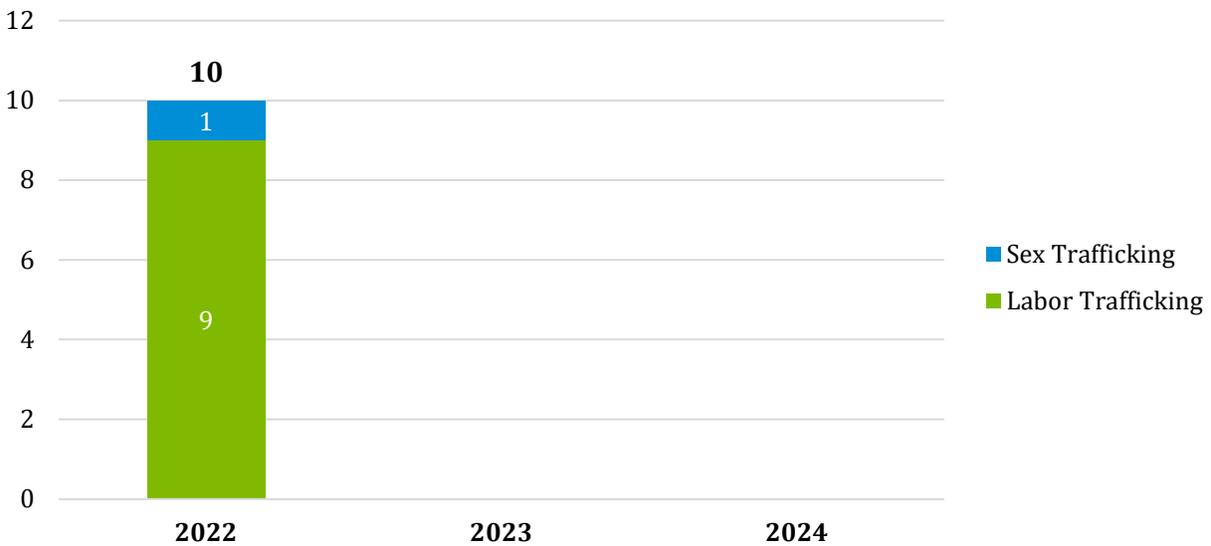
trafficking by Colorado State Patrol from CY 2022 to 2024. Figure 27 shows the number of Colorado investigations by the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s (FBI) Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Task Force for the same timeframe. For cases that reach a courtroom, Figure 28 shows the state-level human trafficking judicial cases by disposition from CY 2022 to 2024.

Figure 25: National Investigations, FFY 2022–2024



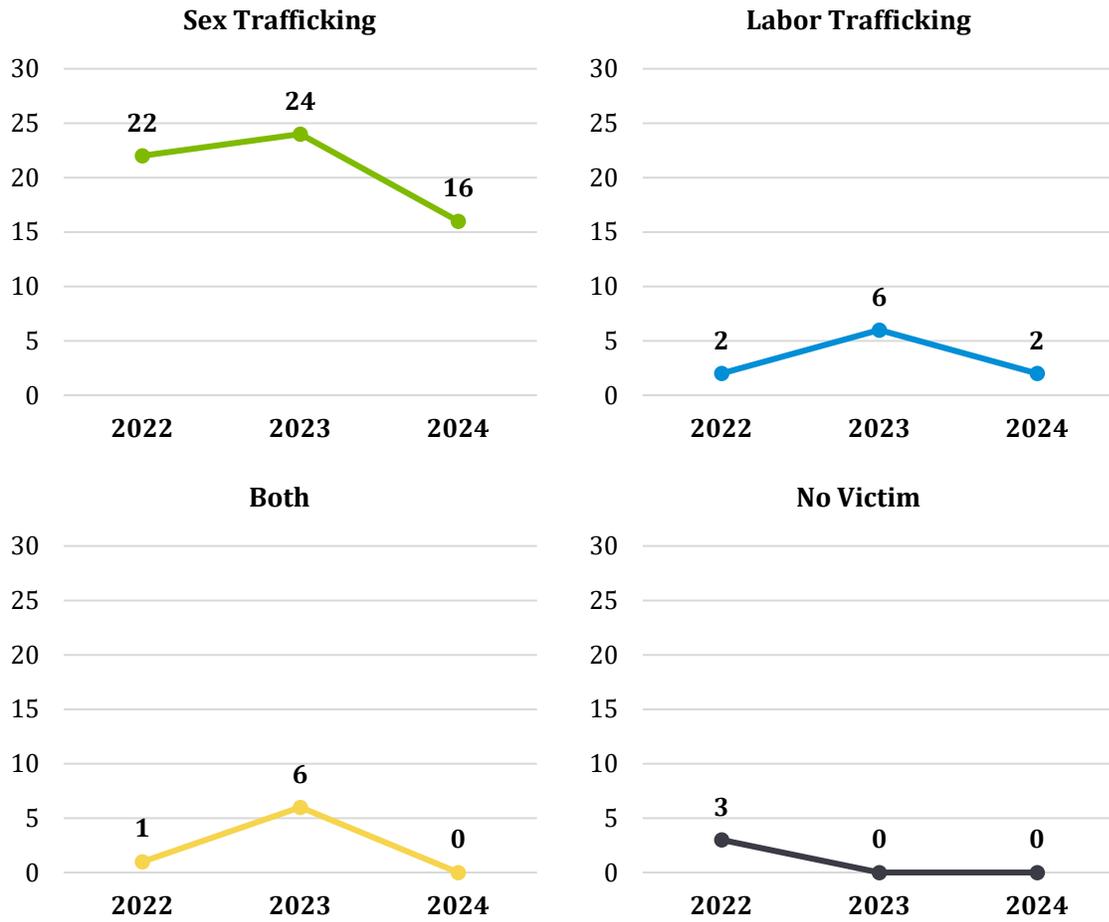
Data source: U.S. Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report (2023–2025)*.

Figure 26: Colorado State Patrol Interdictions, CY 2022–2024



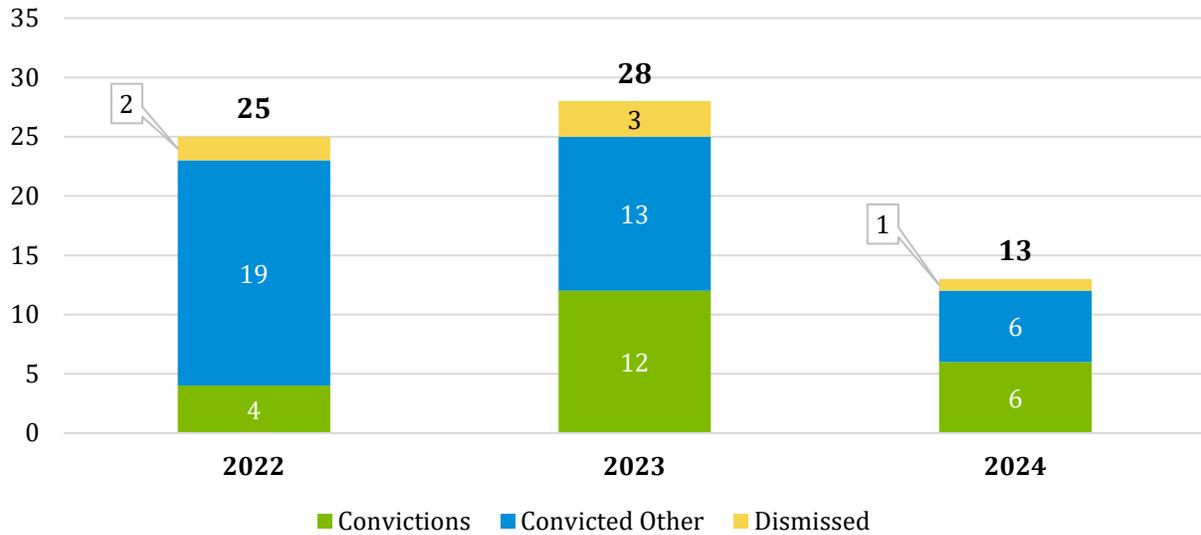
Data source: Colorado Department of Public Safety, Colorado State Patrol.

Figure 27: FBI Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Task Force—Colorado Investigations, CY 2022–2024



Data source: FBI-Denver field office.

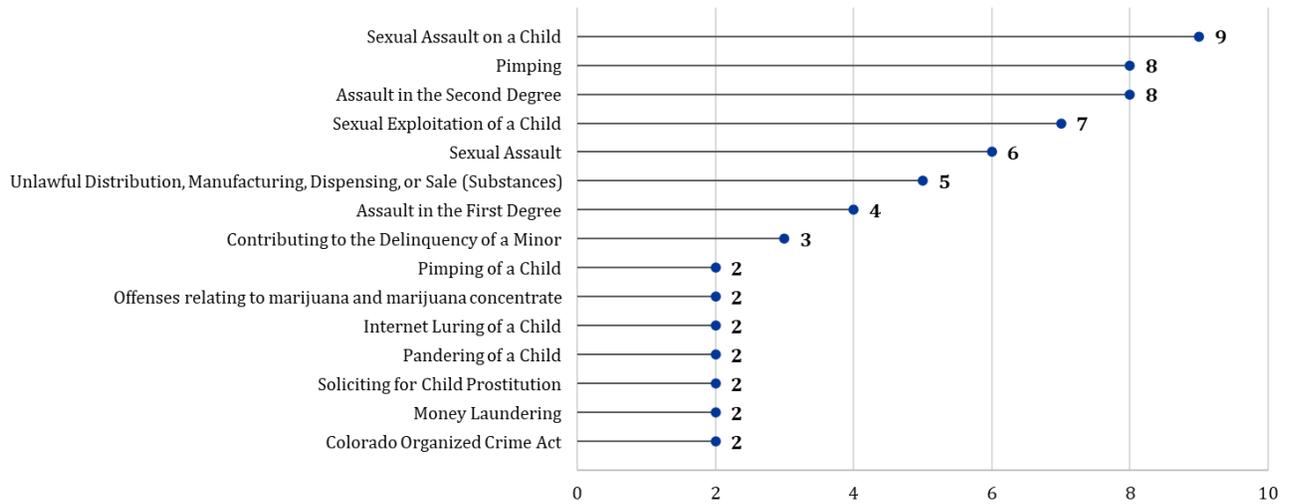
Figure 28: Colorado Human Trafficking Judicial Cases by Disposition, CY 2022-2024



Data source: The number of total charges was calculated using information on filings obtained through the Judicial Branch’s ICON information management system via the CJASS. The charge status for each filing was last obtained from the Colorado State Courts – Data Access system on October 8, 2025, by DCJ staff.

As seen in Figure 28, cases are often not convicted of human trafficking. For those cases, Figure 29 shows the ancillary charges of which defendants charged of human trafficking were officially convicted. Human trafficking convictions have been removed from the results to better illuminate the other crimes people are engaged in along with human trafficking.

Figure 29: Ancillary Charge on Which Defendants Charged of Human Trafficking Were Convicted, CY 2022–2024



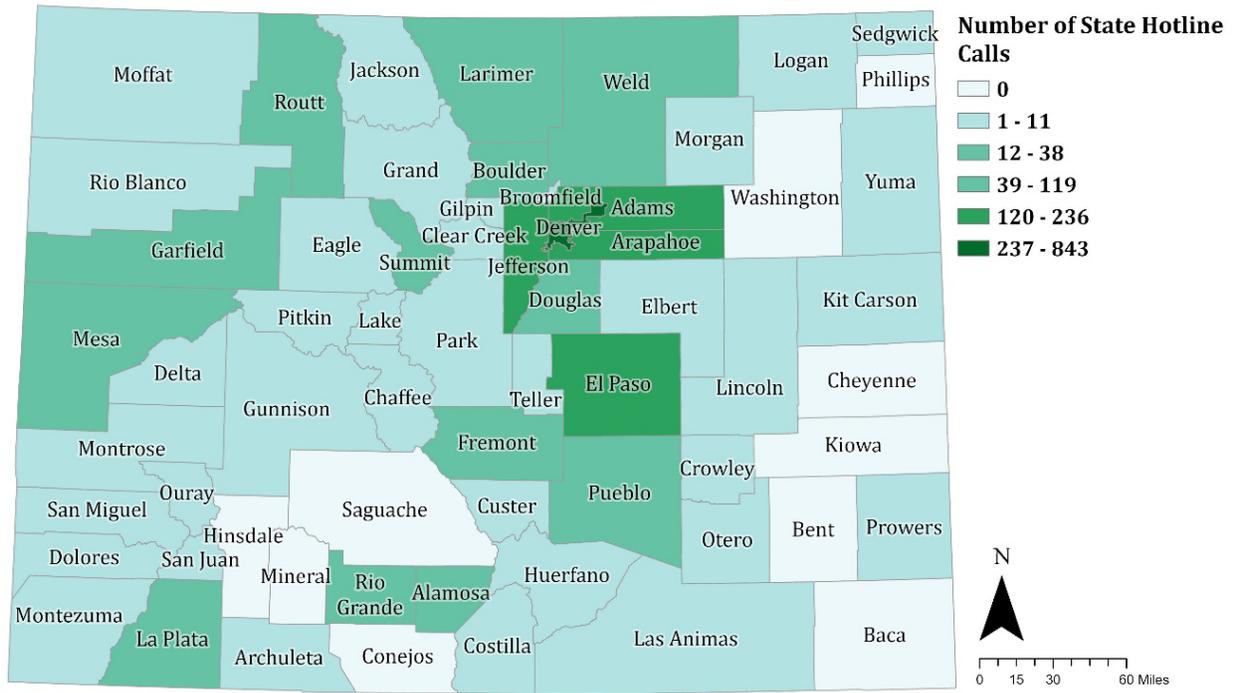
Data source: The number of total cases was calculated using information obtained through the Judicial Branch’s ICON information management system via the CJASS. The case status for each filing was last obtained from the Colorado State Courts – Data Access system on October 9, 2025, by the DCJ staff.

Note: The labels on the y-axis are all the title of the legal statute found in Colorado law.

Where Human Trafficking Is Documented in Colorado

Human trafficking happens across Colorado, no matter the region. Figure 30 shows the calls to Colorado’s Human Trafficking Hotline by county from CY 2022 to 2024. Figure 31 shows the reported incidents of human trafficking in the same timeframe based on information from the National Incident-Based Reporting System. These data are collected by law enforcement agencies in each county when the county files an incident of either labor or sex trafficking. While some counties may not reflect any human trafficking in these datasets, service providers and human trafficking experts have seen indicators of human trafficking in these regions. Therefore, human trafficking can exist in those areas, as well, but it may not have been identified yet.

Figure 30: Calls to Colorado’s Human Trafficking Hotline, CY 2022–2024



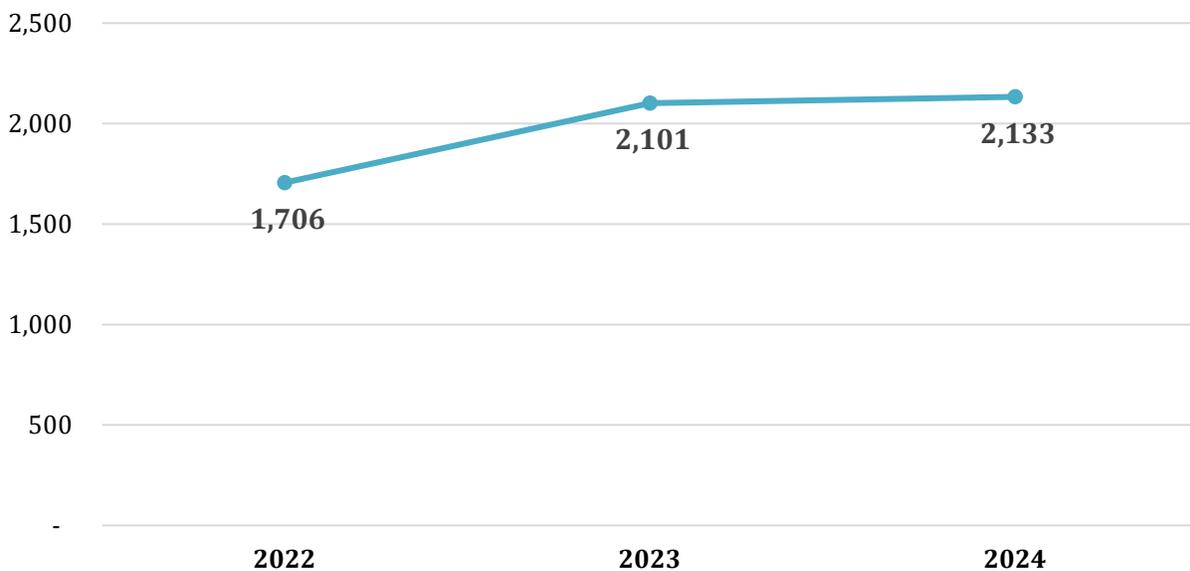
Data source: Laboratory to Combat Human Trafficking.

Public Engagement

Often, human trafficking incidents are underreported because of misconceptions by the public—including those who experience human trafficking—about what human trafficking experiences are like. Extreme portrayals in media create a sensationalized version that many individuals do not see themselves reflected in. Lack of self-identification and professional identification are crucial impacts on incidence data. The Council includes training and screening-tool data to highlight efforts made to improve identification and, subsequently, improve incidence data.

Education on the realities of human trafficking is one method of addressing misconceptions about what human trafficking is and is not. Many organizations are providing introductory and advanced training that addresses the myths and misconceptions about the crime. The Council’s training programs are among those offered in the state. Figure 32 shows the number of individuals from CY 2022 to 2024 who were trained with the Council’s courses, delivered by the Human Trafficking Team and volunteer facilitators. Over that period, 1,706 individuals were trained in 2022, 2,101 were trained in 2023, and 2,133 were trained in 2024. See Section 3 for more information on the Council’s training programs.

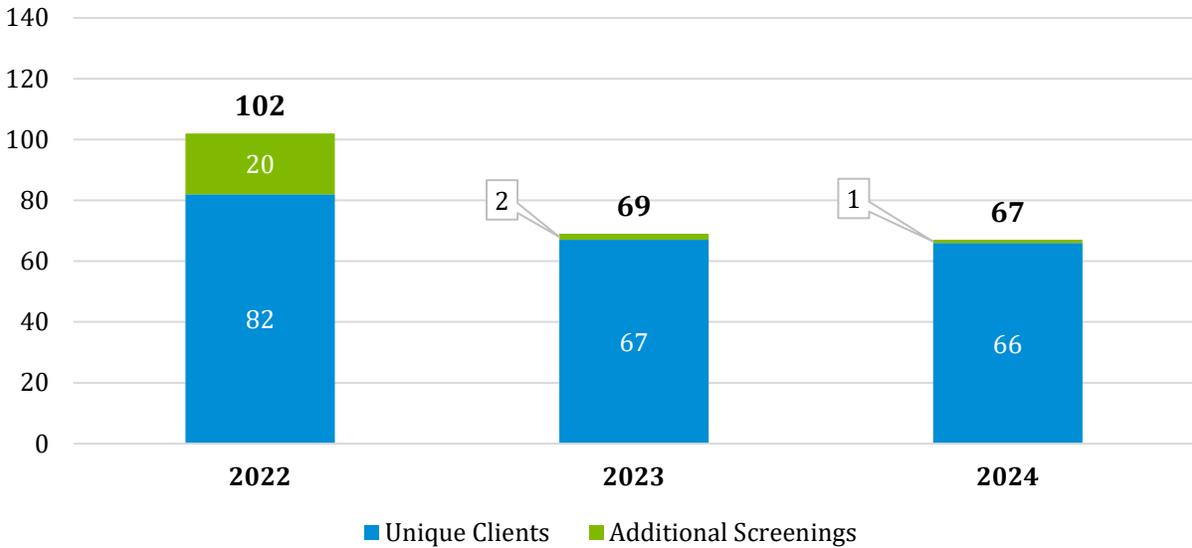
Figure 32: Number of Individuals Trained with Colorado Human Trafficking Council Training Programs, CY 2022–2024



Data source: Colorado Department of Public Safety, Office for Victims Programs.

The skilled use of screening tools is another way to address misconceptions about human trafficking. Figure 33 shows the total uses of the HRV Tool by Colorado DCW from CY 2022 to 2024. Individuals in any professional sector can raise concerns about possible human trafficking situations.

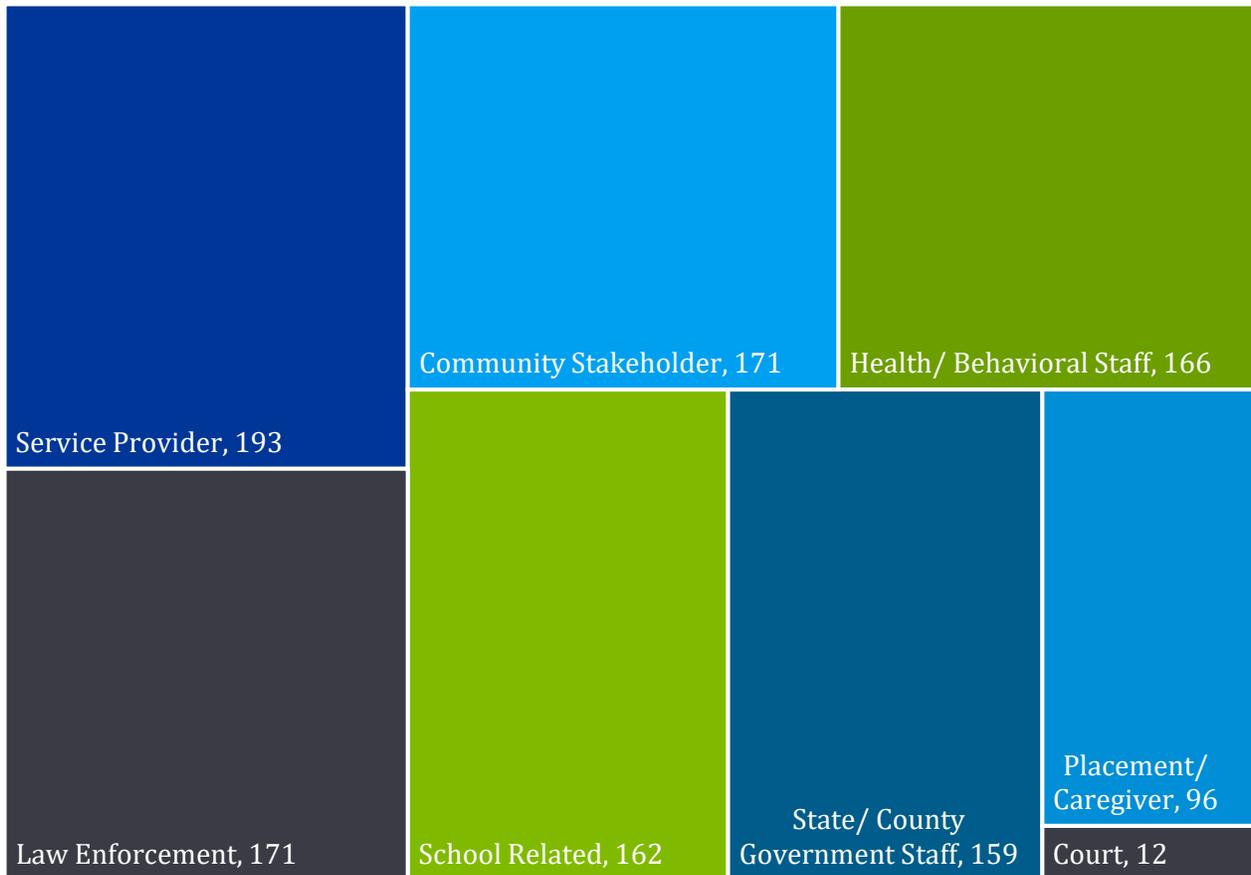
Figure 33: Total Uses of HRV Tool, CY 2022–2024



Data source: Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Child Welfare.

Note: In some instances, youth are screened on more than one occasion. These instances are captured in the “Additional Screenings” value.

Figure 34: Source of Report for Allegation of Human Trafficking of a Minor, CY 2022–2024



Data source: Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Child Welfare.

Figure 34 shows the sources of allegations of human trafficking of a minor that were reported to the DCW in CY 2022–2024. The current reporting sources are as follows: service providers (193 professionals), law enforcement (171 professionals), community stakeholders (171 individuals), health/behavioral staff (166 professionals), school-related staff (162 professionals), state/county government staff (159 professionals), placement/caregivers (96 individuals) and court-related staff (12 professionals). As more individuals learn about the realities of human trafficking, the Council hopes to see a more comprehensive and accurate representation in incidence numbers.

