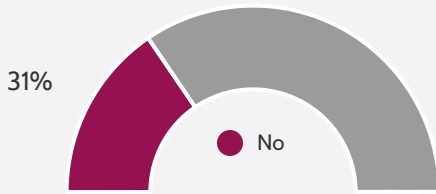


2019 Law Enforcement Assessment of Sex Trafficking in Wisconsin

Five Key Takeaways

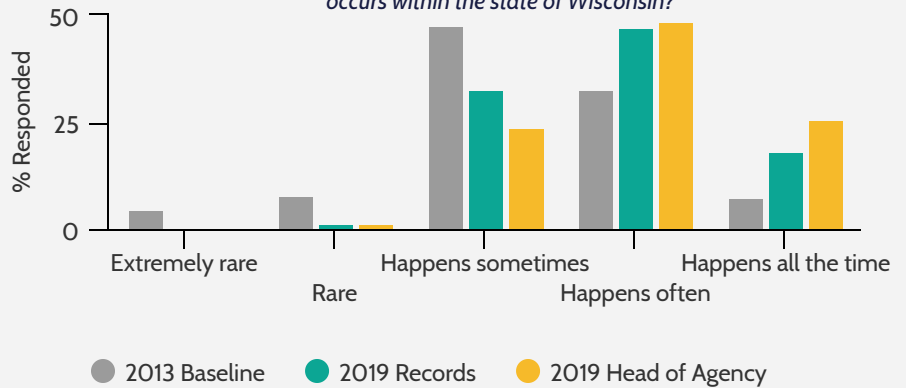
1. Data entering practices vary by agency.



Does your agency differentiate between prostitution and sex trafficking cases when they are entered into the records management system?

2. Law enforcement opinions are changing.

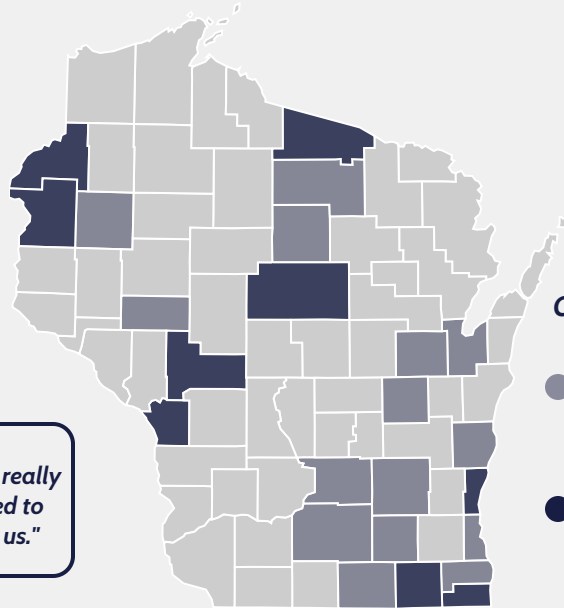
How often would you say that human trafficking occurs within the state of Wisconsin?



3. Uniform Crime Reporting data is more incomplete than previously thought.

“We currently have no coding for sex trafficking as an option.”

“I think that society in general is uninformed as to what sex trafficking really is. I think many cases are not reported to the police or reported incorrectly to us.”

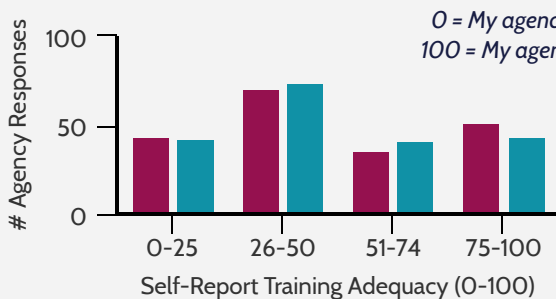


“We had a couple incidents where officers suspected possible sex trafficking, but could not prove it. These incidents were marked as prostitution.”

Counties identified as having sex trafficking cases known to law enforcement

- Fifteen counties with at least one sex trafficking incident sent to the Wisconsin UCR program between 2015-2018 (light blue)
- An additional 9 counties identified as having at least one sex trafficking incident known to law enforcement from the survey (2014-2018) that were not sent to the UCR program (dark blue)

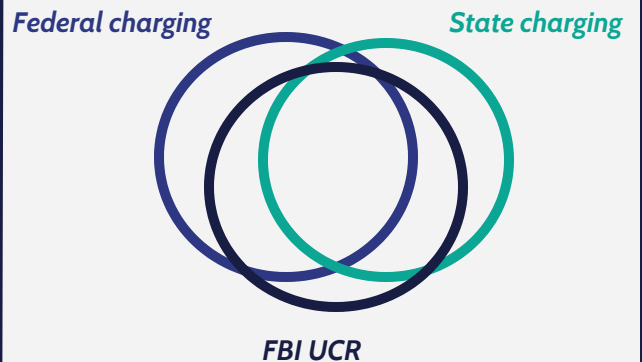
4. Chiefs and sheriffs are reporting a need for more law enforcement training to identify and handle sex trafficking cases.



“We are always looking at new training opportunities. I think my detectives are well trained and aware, but my patrol officers could use more training.”

- Differentiating trafficking from prostitution
- Handling human trafficking cases

5. “Sex Trafficking” definitions are inconsistent.



2019 Law Enforcement Assessment of Sex Trafficking in Wisconsin

Five Key Takeaways

- **Agency data entering practices vary by agency and across the state.**

Agencies were asked whether they differentiate between prostitution and sex trafficking when entering cases into their records management system (RMS), as well as what the circumstance(s) might be (if any) for a confirmed case to not be entered as trafficking. Almost a third of agencies are not differentiating between prostitution and sex trafficking; it is unknown if these agencies would by default label the case as prostitution or as trafficking. Depending on how the RMS works, this decision on how to classify/label a case likely determines how it will be sent to the Uniform Crime Reporting program. Due to the non-differentiation, sex trafficking cases might be labeled as prostitution, and prostitution cases might be labeled as sex trafficking.

- **Law enforcement opinions are changing.**

In a 2013 DOJ Report, 39.79% of respondents (from the criminal justice system as well as service providers) believed human trafficking occurred “often” or “all the time” in Wisconsin. In 2019, 74.38% of chiefs and sheriffs and 65.57% of respondents to the Records Survey believed this to be true.

- **Uniform Crime Reporting data is more incomplete than previously thought.**

The UCR program did not have a mechanism in place to collect sex trafficking incidents from Summary-Based Reporting agencies until 2019. Incident-based reporting agencies should have had the capability of sending sex trafficking cases to UCR since 2015. Some agencies indicated on the survey they do not have the option to classify a case as sex trafficking, and some agencies appeared unable to search for cases, based on their response of “*I Don’t Know*” when asked if any cases were labeled as sex trafficking. The map shows counties with at least one agency that answered they do differentiate between prostitution and trafficking and they do have case(s) labeled as sex trafficking between 2014-2018, but the UCR program has never received an incident of sex trafficking from that county.

- **Police chiefs and sheriffs are reporting a need for more training for law enforcement to identify and handle sex trafficking cases.**

Chiefs and sheriffs were asked to rate their agreement with two statements – “*I feel my agency is adequately trained to differentiate between trafficking and prostitution*” and “*I feel my agency is adequately trained to handle human trafficking cases*” on a scale of 0-100, with higher numbers indicating higher agreement/more adequately trained. The average score for all responders was about 50 for both questions, and many heads of agencies added comments indicating they wanted more training available to their staff.

- **“Sex Trafficking” definitions are inconsistent across data sources.**

The definitions used to charge sex trafficking in federal court and in Wisconsin are not identical; the FBI’s UCR definition of sex trafficking is also different from both state and federal charging statutes. The FBI UCR definition of “Human Trafficking – Commercial Sex Acts” is “*inducing a person by force, fraud, or coercion to participate in commercial sex acts, or in which the person induced to perform such act(s) has not attained 18 years of age.*” For example, someone might be charged in Wisconsin with trafficking under state statute, but the case might not meet the FBI’s UCR definition of sex trafficking. Therefore, the case might not be included in UCR data submissions, which are the official crime stats for the state and for the nation. This makes comparing data across sources (e.g. UCR vs. criminal history vs. survey) challenging.