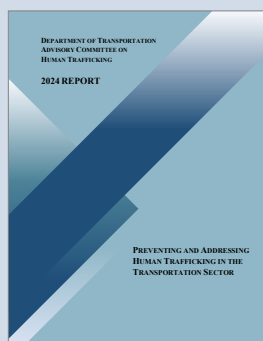


DOT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING 2024 REPORT: RESEARCH-RELATED RESOURCES



The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Advisory Committee on Human Trafficking (ACHT) develops triennial reports with recommendations and best practices on countering human trafficking across the transportation sector. The 2024 ACHT report includes recommendations for the U.S. Congress, USDOT, other Federal agencies, States and State DOTs, private and local transportation entities, law enforcement, associations, non-governmental organizations (NGO), and technology companies.

Committee recommendations address:

Leadership & Funding: A top-level commitment to combat human trafficking with dedicated funding to prevent and address human trafficking across all modes of transportation, including policy development, training and awareness, data collection, information-sharing, and victim and survivor support.

Policies & Reporting: Zero-tolerance counter-trafficking policies with a comprehensive approach, including firm leadership, dedicated funding, strong partnerships, clear reporting protocols, impactful training and awareness, consistent report tracking, and solid survivor support.

Partnerships: Effective public and private partnerships to increase identification, share information, and maximize their collective impact.

Training & Awareness: Effective training and public awareness for transportation employees and travelers that facilitate their recognition and reporting of suspected instances of human trafficking using free, survivor-informed materials that are trauma-informed, person-centered, and culturally responsive.

Research, Data & Information-Sharing: Tracking and sharing reports of human trafficking that intersect with the transportation sector and expanding research on each mode of transport.

Victim & Survivor Support: Strategic placement of survivor-informed public awareness materials, integration into corporate social responsibility programs, providing travel vouchers to support individuals being subjected to human trafficking in their escape and survivors in their recovery, and offering dedicated employment opportunities.



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Select Recommendations

While most of the 123 recommendations in the 2024 ACHT report apply to every mode of transportation, following are select research-related recommendations:

FOR THE U.S. CONGRESS

Collect Data: Fund USDOT to track the counter-trafficking efforts of transportation organizations that are Transportation Leaders Against Human Trafficking signatories, including tips reported, policies, training, public awareness, and partnerships through a central database.

Facilitate Cross-Border Cooperation: Authorize and fund the DOJ to develop a report of recommendations on how to harmonize federal and State laws to combat human trafficking and enhance cross-border cooperation, including transnational threats of technology-facilitated trafficking.

Facilitate Identification and Tracking of Transport-Related Human Trafficking: Congress should specifically allocate funding for DOJ to undertake a feasibility study to determine how best to support the integration of transportation-related trafficking convictions to support the tracking of transport-related human trafficking crimes across existing federal data collection platforms. The study should include interagency collaboration and consideration of developing uniform data elements and a data dictionary for transportation-related trafficking convictions, including the implementation and tracking of the CDL lifetime disqualification rule.

Increase Tracking of Human Trafficking Crimes: Enact legislation that requires prosecutors to track when human trafficking is prosecuted under non-human trafficking statutes.

Improve Data Collection: Enact legislation requiring public agencies to report non-duplicative transport-related human trafficking data through established data collection efforts and require data collection efforts to integrate the data into their analyses, reports, and recommendations.

FOR STATES

Enhance Information-Sharing: Increase information-sharing efforts with law enforcement about trends in the transportation sector to support the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases.

FOR USDOT

Encourage Digital Devices for Assessment: Encourage transportation organizations to provide digital devices for their employees to assess potential trafficking situations by referencing indicator checklists and including a reporting link to facilitate increased and more uniform data collection.

Expand TRB Engagement: Continue and support engagement with the Transportation Research Board on counter-trafficking research efforts, including the Human Trafficking in Transportation Common Interest Group Steering Committee and the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (20-121A) project on Countering Human Trafficking: A Toolkit for State DOTs. Fund prevalence studies and multimodal research projects.

FOR OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES

Facilitate Identification and Tracking of Transport-Related Human Trafficking: The DOJ should undertake a feasibility study to determine how best to support the integration of transportation-related trafficking convictions to support the tracking of transport-related human trafficking crimes across existing federal data collection platforms. The study should include interagency collaboration and consideration of developing uniform data elements and a data dictionary for transportation-related trafficking convictions, including the implementation and tracking of the CDL lifetime disqualification rule.

Expand Transportation Intersections in State Department Materials: The Department of State should enhance attention to the transportation sector in their annual TIP Report, including USDOT and country efforts, to the extent that those efforts are related to the government's progress in meeting the TVPA's minimum standards (22 USC 7106).

FOR PRIVATE AND LOCAL TRANSPORTATION ENTITIES

Improve Data Collection: Report transport-related human trafficking data that includes tips reported, policies in place, the number and types of employees trained, public awareness efforts, and partnership engagements annually to USDOT.

Enhance Information-Sharing: Increase information-sharing efforts with law enforcement about trends in the transportation sector to support the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases.

FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

Improve Data Collection: Law enforcement agencies and fusion centers should track all human trafficking cases, including transport-related connections, and consistently report non-duplicative information through existing data collection avenues, including the federal Uniform Crime Reporting program.

Increase Cooperation Mechanisms: Expand cooperation mechanisms with other law enforcement agencies for more proactive intelligence gathering and sharing, and data analysis that can help to identify high-risk routes and trafficking hotspots to allow for more targeted enforcement.

FOR TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES

Increase Data-Mapping and Information-Sharing: Build on existing counter-trafficking mapping tools to increase solutions that address the global scope of the crime with data aggregation tools that facilitate large-scale information analysis in support of human trafficking investigations.

FOR ASSOCIATIONS AND NGOS

Provide Counter-Trafficking Training and Awareness: Transportation industry associations should provide survivor-informed training and awareness materials for members to learn how to recognize and report sex and labor trafficking, evaluate pre and post training knowledge, and provide a certificate of completion.

Expand Research: The Transportation Research Board should increase survivor-informed modal research on the scope, scale, and nature of human trafficking, including its impact on underrepresented and understudied industries (e.g., maritime, pipelines, etc.), and develop a report of survivor-informed recommendations on how existing data collection mechanisms within the sector can be utilized to better understand trafficking trends and risk factors, and how to align and harmonize research to avoid duplication and streamline progress.

Collect Transport Data: The National Human Trafficking Hotline should expand intake questions to include how the individual being subjected to human trafficking was or is being transported, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children should track the types of transportation used during episodes among missing children who were likely subjected to human trafficking.

Enhance Information-Sharing: Increase information-sharing efforts with law enforcement about trends in the transportation sector to support the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases.



Additional Resources

The 2024 ACHT report includes several counter-trafficking resources and tools, including:

MODEL COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY

A tool for transportation leaders to adapt and implement within their organizations for a comprehensive approach to counter-trafficking inclusive of leadership and funding, partnerships, legal compliance, social responsibility, employee responsibilities and reporting protocols, education and training, public awareness and outreach, data collection and information-sharing, and victim and survivor support.

ORGANIZATIONAL PROCLAMATION

A model proclamation for transportation entities to adopt as a demonstration of their commitment to combating human trafficking.

LEADERSHIP STATEMENT

For transportation industry leaders to take a stand against human trafficking as an example for their employees and stakeholders.

SAMPLE TRAINING & AWARENESS MATERIALS

For transportation employees and travelers to learn how to recognize and respond to human trafficking, including USDOT's bilingual, modal awareness training and public awareness materials.

INDICATORS

General and mode-specific indicators of human trafficking that transportation employees and travelers can use to recognize and report suspected instances of the crime.

QUICK IMPLEMENTATION GUIDES

Actionable mode-specific steps that State, local, and private transportation industry stakeholders can take to implement a robust, organization-wide comprehensive approach to combat human trafficking.

STATE & TERRITORY HUMAN TRAFFICKING LAWS INTERSECTING WITH TRANSPORTATION

Transport-specific counter-trafficking legislation in U.S. States and territories, including data collection, training requirements, and the posting of the National Human Trafficking Hotline number.

STATE HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCES

An overview of states with human trafficking task forces, including a few with transport representatives and one with transport-related efforts.

SUCCESSFUL FEDERAL MODAL CONVICTIONS

Mode-specific examples of successful convictions in cases involving human trafficking.

REPORTING HOTLINES

An overview of services provided by the primary national hotlines that receive human trafficking tips.



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