



Canadian Centre to
End Human Trafficking

Human Trafficking Trends in Canada 2019-2024

Media briefing guide



About the Centre

The Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking (the Centre) is a national charity, established in 2016, dedicated to ending all types of human trafficking in Canada. We bring together partners across sectors to align efforts, build capacity and strengthen the national response to human trafficking.

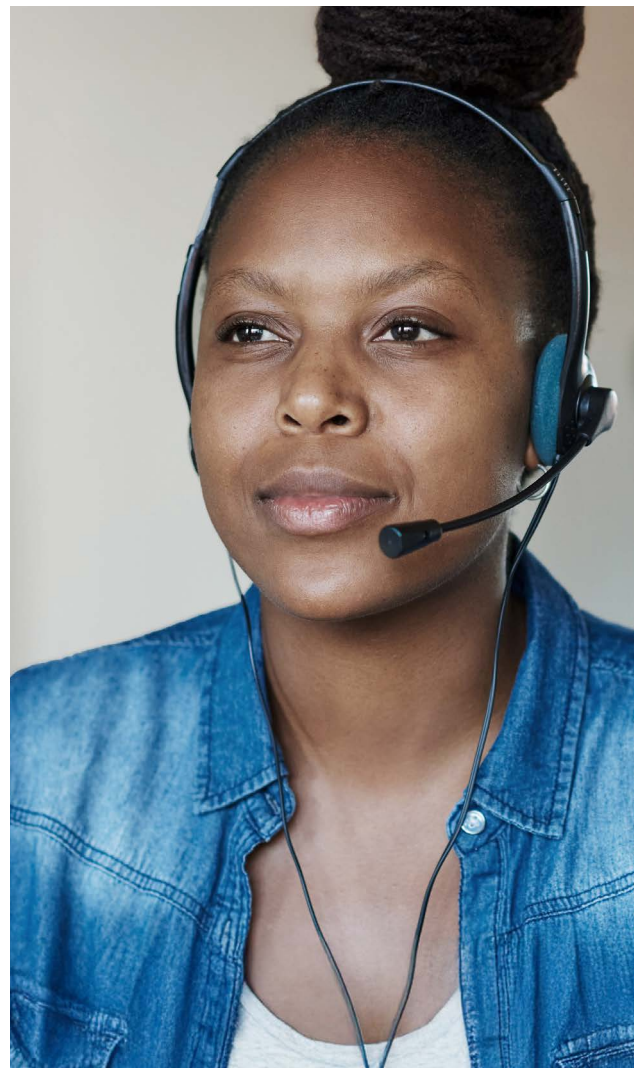
In May 2019, the Centre launched the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline. This confidential, multilingual and trauma-informed service operates 24/7/365 to connect victims, survivors and others impacted by trafficking with local supports, services and law enforcement, if they so choose.

About this report

Human Trafficking Trends in Canada (2019–2024) brings into focus six years of data collected by the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline. The data reveal a nation struggling to address an issue that is often hidden in plain sight.

Media contact

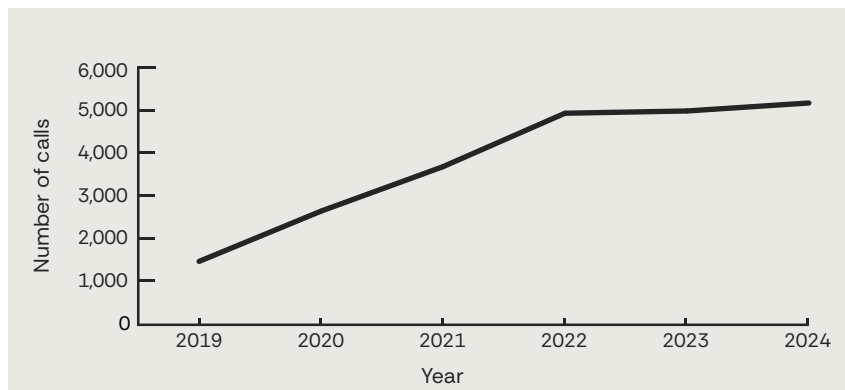
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Key Findings

1. Calls to hotline surpass 5,000 in 2024: demand for hotline services keeps growing

Figure 1. Hotline calls per year, 2019–2024



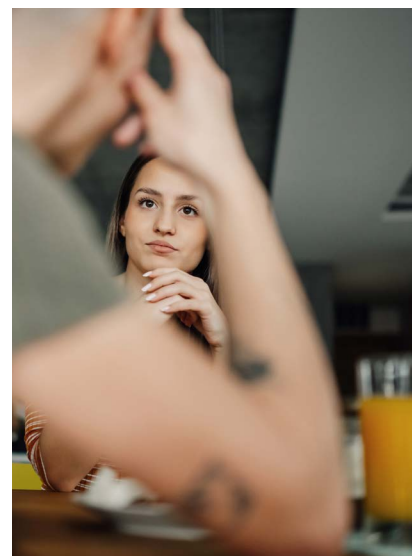
- The Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline has received nearly 23,000 calls since 2019; calls increased to over 5,100 last year.
- The growing call volume underscores the need to invest in prevention efforts and trauma-informed supports for the thousands of people in Canada affected by human trafficking.

2. Labour trafficking cases surge by over 300% — but sex trafficking remains most prevalent

- The number of labour trafficking cases identified by the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline has risen by over 300 per cent compared to the 2020–2022 average.
- Migrant workers and international students remain at high risk of labour trafficking.
- Sex trafficking accounts for nearly 70 per cent of cases identified by the hotline.

People can contact the hotline through four different methods: phone calls, web chats, email and web forms. The term “calls” includes all four methods of communication with hotline staff.

Since the hotline was launched in May 2019, the data for that year only include seven months.



3. No corner of Canada is immune to human trafficking

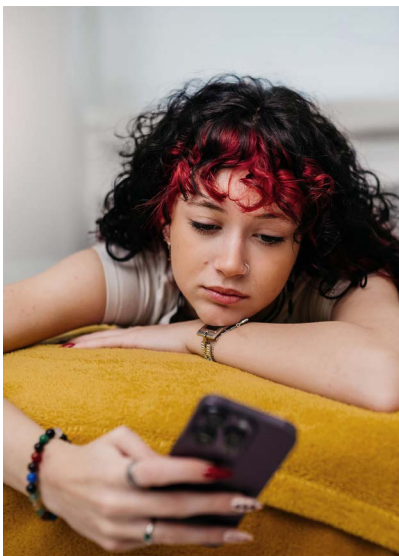
- Human trafficking affects every type of community in Canada, from major urban centres to small towns.
- The hotline recorded the highest number of human trafficking incidents in Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia, and Quebec, though incidents are likely underreported in smaller provinces.
- About 1 in 6 trafficking cases occurred in rural or small towns, underscoring the need for prevention and supports beyond urban centres.

Figure 2. Human trafficking incidents recognized by the hotline, by province, 2019–2024

Province/Region	% of incidents
Ontario	66%
Alberta	11%
British Columbia	9%
Quebec	7%
Manitoba	3%
Saskatchewan	2%
Atlantic provinces	2%
Territories	<1%

Note: Percentages may not total to 100 due to rounding.

The higher proportion of trafficking incidents identified in Ontario may reflect the province’s higher population relative to other provinces, as well as the provincial government’s higher overall investments (e.g., awareness initiatives, dedicated police units, support programs for survivors, etc.) which may enhance Ontario’s ability to detect trafficking.



“The data shows urgent needs: more prevention, more survivor supports, and better understanding of trafficking’s realities.”

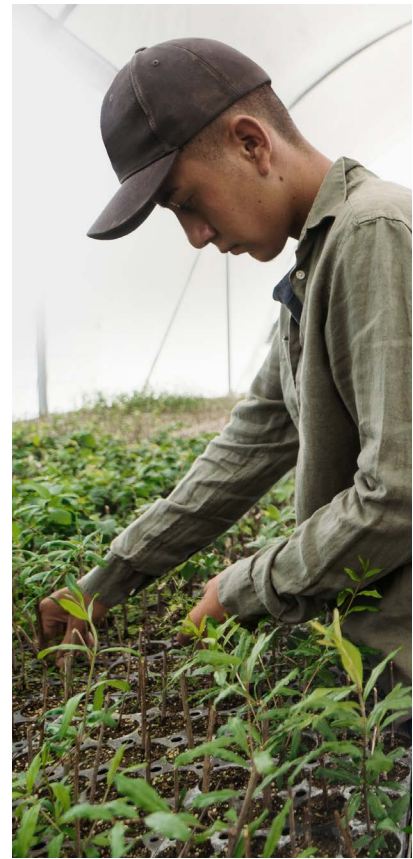
— Julia Drydyk, Executive Director

4. Victims and survivors require services that meet their specific needs

- Sex trafficking victims and survivors most often need housing, health-related services, case management, and legal supports.
- Labour trafficking victims and survivors most often need legal, case management, employment and income supports.
- Fear of deportation, language barriers, and lack of supports make it hard for many victims and survivors of labour trafficking to access services.

5. Beyond the data: the urgent gaps in Canada's anti-trafficking response

- Myths and misconceptions about human trafficking continue to hinder meaningful action.
- Effective prevention, education, and trauma-informed services are key to supporting victims and survivors, and to stopping human trafficking before it starts.



For guidance on ethical, responsible, and trauma-informed coverage of human trafficking, consult the Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking's media reference guide. It provides practical advice on language, imagery, and interviewing to help journalists report with care and accuracy.