Office on Trafficking in Persons Research & Data Fact Sheet

TO:	ACF anti-trafficking grantees, organizations assisting populations at high risk for human trafficking, and other interested parties.
SUBJECT:	This fact sheet summarizes the data collection, evaluation, and research efforts of the Office on Trafficking in Persons.
REFERENCES:	Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (PL 106-386), Sections 105 and 107, as amended at 22 U.S. Code § 7103 and 7106; Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008, Section 108(a)(1), as amended at 22 U.S. Code § 7109a(a)
PURPOSE:	The Office on Trafficking in Persons (OTIP) coordinates with federal partners to expand interagency procedures to collect and organize data on human trafficking, evaluate anti-trafficking programs, and carry out research to strengthen the nation's response to human trafficking.
BACKGROUND:	As a member of the President's Interagency Task Force on human trafficking, HHS implements activities to measure and evaluate anti-trafficking programming, expand interagency procedures to collect and organize data, and engage in other significant research on human trafficking through partnerships, grants, and contracted services. HHS reports into the annual Attorney General's report to Congress on federal anti-trafficking efforts, strengthens data collection through system development, and integrates human trafficking data elements into data systems on populations at risk for human trafficking.

Data Collection and System Development

Through the Human Trafficking Data Collection Project[1], OTIP has examined current practices, standards, and technologies used for human trafficking data collection to understand human trafficking victimization and service needs. Improved data collection will inform program

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[1] Additional information on the Human Trafficking Data Collection Project can be found at
https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/research-policy/data-collection

evaluation efforts, measure program performance, increase the availability of evidence for researchers, and shape policies that respond to the needs of survivors.

In response to findings from the project, OTIP:
- **Established uniform data elements** across OTIP anti-trafficking victim assistance programs (Certification and Eligibility processes, Domestic Victims of Human Trafficking Program, and Trafficking Victim Assistance Program) by adapting data standards proposed by the Technical Working Group to revise and strengthen data collection
- **Supported integration of human trafficking data elements** into existing HHS databases, including the Runaway and Homeless Youth – Homeless Management Information System (RHY-HMIS)[2], National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS), Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS)[3], and the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10)[4].
- **Modernized case management system** through the development of Shepherd, an online platform that provides a streamlined way for individuals to request assistance for victims of human trafficking, facilitates secure transmission of information for case processing and service referrals, and strengthens data privacy, security, and confidentiality protection related to issuance of HHS Certification, Interim Assistance, and Eligibility letters.
- **Identified possibilities for interoperability** including through the development of standards for human trafficking data elements in the human services domain of the National Information Exchange Model.

Evaluation and Research Partnerships

OTIP participates in intra- and inter-agency efforts to improve data collection, sharing, and research. Currently, OTIP:
- **Coordinated with HHS partners** to develop a research agenda and summarize 15 years of HHS-funded research on human trafficking published in peer-reviewed journals
- **Supports efforts to estimate the prevalence of human trafficking** in the United States partnering with the HHS Office on Women's Health and the U.S. Department of State;
- **Contributed to the** Human Trafficking Systems Analysis and Technology Roadmap Advisory Group led by the Department of Homeland Security Science & Technology Directorate; and
- **Partners on program evaluations**[5] with ACF's Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation (OPRE) to assess key questions on program implementation in accordance with ACF's Evaluation Policy. OPRE is leading anti-trafficking evaluation projects, including on Domestic Human Trafficking and the Child Welfare Population, Evaluation of Domestic Victims of Human Trafficking Program (e.g. access to long-term housing options, substance use treatment, and integration of survivor-informed services), and Evaluation of National Human Trafficking Hotline Program (e.g. activities, procedures, organization, customer service, and immediate outcomes).

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[2] Includes data fields for commercial sexual exploitation/sex trafficking and labor exploitation/trafficking.
[3] Includes data fields for victims of sex trafficking prior to entering foster care and while in foster care.
[4] Includes data fields for confirmed and suspected sex trafficking and labor trafficking.
[5] Past evaluation projects can be found at https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/research-policy/program-evaluation