



CHAPTER VI
REGIONAL OVERVIEWS

CHAPTER 6 - REGIONAL OVERVIEWS

WESTERN AND SOUTHERN EUROPE³⁸⁸

- Most detected victims are adult women, but men and boys are being increasingly detected.
- Sexual exploitation remains the most detected form of trafficking, however, trafficking for forced labour and trafficking for other purposes, mainly for criminal activity and exploitative begging, are being increasingly detected.
- Convicted traffickers are mainly adult men. The majority are comprised of citizens of the country of conviction. However, a large share of persons convicted for trafficking in persons is made up of foreigners.
- Most detected victims are foreigners. Central and South-Eastern European victims are less commonly detected when compared to the past. Victims from Sub-Saharan Africa remain a significant share of the victims detected in this subregion.
- Countries in this subregion are increasingly detecting their own nationals as victims of trafficking.

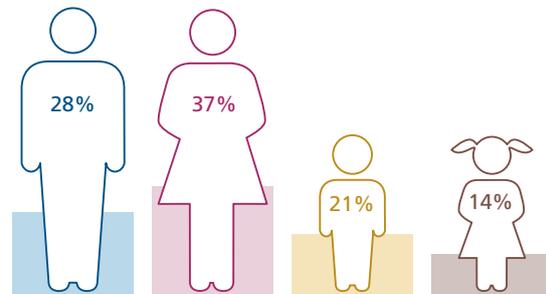
Profile of the victims

While the relative majority of the trafficking victims detected in this subregion continue to be women (37 per cent), the share of boys increased from 6 per cent in 2016 to 21 per cent recorded in 2018. This can mainly be explained by a few countries in the subregion, which reported a significant number of boy victims compared to other victim profiles. One example of this pattern is the increasing detection of boys trafficked for the purpose of drug trafficking in the United Kingdom (see the text box on *Trafficking for exploitation in criminal activities – a double victimization* on page 50).

Overall, Western and Southern Europe reported the greatest shares of male victims globally, both men and boys, comprising 49 per cent of the total. Moreover, this

³⁸⁸ This subregion consists of the following countries: Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

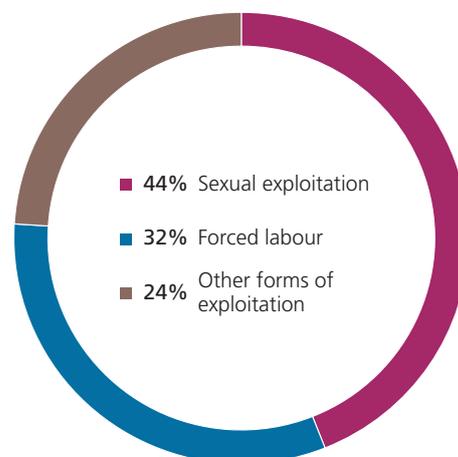
FIG. 94 Shares of detected victims of trafficking in Western and Southern Europe,* by age group and sex, 2018 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

*Based on information on the sex and age of 11,839 victims detected in 21 countries in Western and Southern Europe.

FIG. 95 Shares of detected victims of trafficking in Western and Southern Europe,* by forms of exploitation, 2018 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

*Based on information on the form of exploitation for more than 11,330 victims detected in 19 countries in Western and Southern Europe.

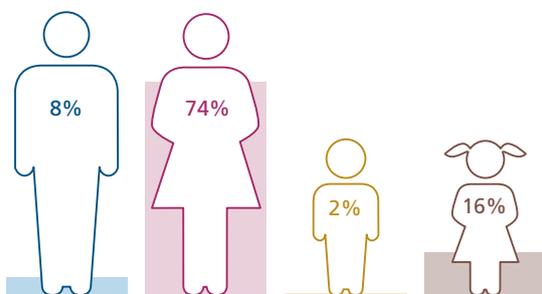
subregion recorded an increase of 10 percentage points in detected child victims from 2016 to 2018 (25 per cent to 35 per cent).

Forms of exploitation

Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation continues to be the most commonly detected form in this subregion, followed by forced labour. However, trafficking for “other purposes” experienced the greatest increase,

FIG. 96 Shares of detected victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation, by age group and sex, 2018 (or most recent)

12 countries (n=2,016 victims whose sex, age group and form of exploitation was reported)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 97 Shares of detected victims of trafficking for forced labour, by age group and sex, 2018 (or most recent)

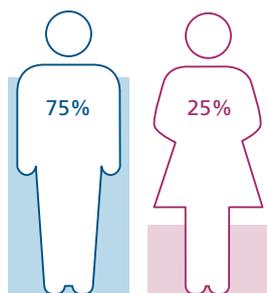
12 countries (n=874 victims whose sex, age group and form of exploitation was reported)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 98 Shares of persons investigated or arrested for trafficking in persons, by sex, 2018 (or most recent)

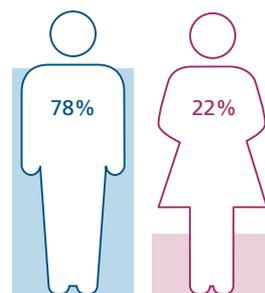
10 countries (n=3,365)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 99 Shares of persons prosecuted for trafficking in persons, by sex, 2018 (or most recent)

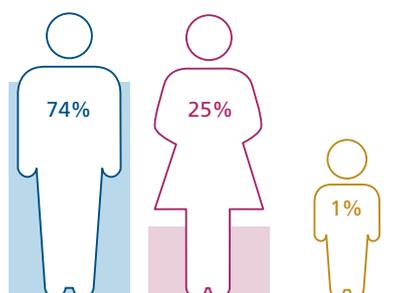
9 countries (n=2,441)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 100 Shares of persons convicted of trafficking in persons, by age group and sex, 2018 (or most recent)

11 countries (n=1,092 persons convicted)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

rising from 7 per cent in 2016 to 25 per cent in 2018, more than double the global average of 12 per cent. This increased share is mainly due to high numbers of victims exploited in forced criminal activity and exploitative begging, as detected in some countries in the subregion.

The share of victims trafficked for the purpose of forced labour did not vary greatly from 2016, though Belgium, Luxembourg, Portugal and the United Kingdom reported more victims of trafficking for forced labour than for sexual exploitation.

The subregional breakdown of detected forms of exploitation for forced labour did not significantly change, with the share of forced labour cases increasingly moderately to 32 per cent in 2018, compared to 27 per cent of the total cases of exploitation detected in 2016.

Most detected victims of sexual exploitation continue to be women, amounting to 74 per cent of the subregional total in 2018. When looking at breakdowns of detected male victims trafficked for sexual exploitation,

there tends to be more men than boys reported in general. Conversely, men make up the majority of detected victims who were trafficked for forced labour in this sub-region (63 per cent).

Profile of the offenders

The vast majority of those investigated/arrested, prosecuted and/or convicted for trafficking in persons in this subregion are males. In 2018, the share of males in each of these categories made up more than 75 per cent of offenders and was more than double that of females. The ratio of males to females prosecuted and convicted remained similar to that of the last reporting period. About one per cent of total persons convicted were boys.

Most of the traffickers (64 per cent) who are convicted in Western and Southern Europe are foreigners in the countries of conviction. These foreigners are mainly other European citizens, the majority from South-Eastern Europe with smaller numbers from other Western and Southern European and Central European countries. Other recorded offenders are mainly citizens of East Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. As with other patterns in trafficking in persons, these profiles did not significantly change over the last few years.

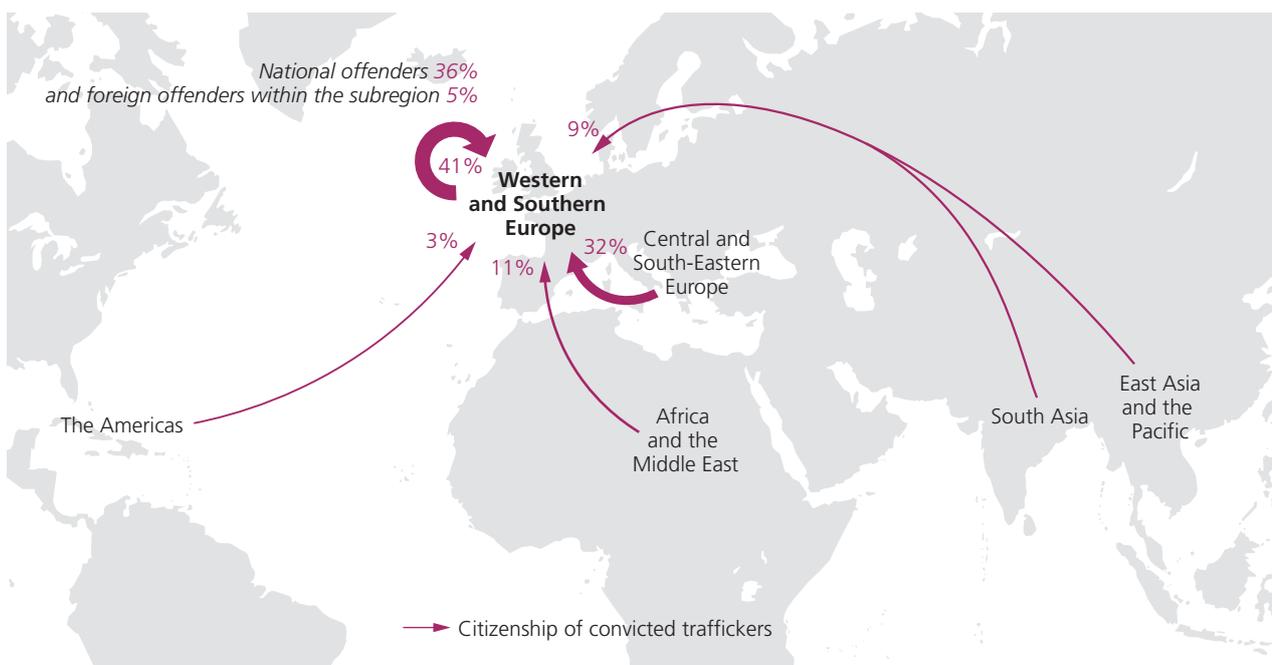
Trafficking flows affecting Western and Southern Europe

In line with the global trend, the detection of own nationals as trafficking victims has been increasingly recorded across the countries of Western and Southern Europe. The flow of detected victims from Central and South-Eastern Europe has drastically declined since 2014, however, victims from these countries are still detected in most countries in Western and Southern Europe. The share of victims from Sub-Saharan Africa has overall remained stable over the last ten years. Notably, Sub-Saharan Africa is the largest non-European region of origin of detected trafficking flows into Western and Southern Europe.

The largest proportion of the flow from Sub-Saharan Africa remains victims trafficked from West Africa, with about 13 per cent of the total victims detected from this subregion, similar to the values recorded in 2016 (15 per cent). Meanwhile, the share of the flow from East Africa has increased from 3 per cent to 6 per cent. While victims from West Africa are detected in almost every country of Western and Southern Europe, victims from East Africa are reportedly mainly trafficked to the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, France and a few other countries.

MAP. 9 Shares of traffickers convicted in Western and Southern Europe, by region of citizenship, 2018 (or most recent)

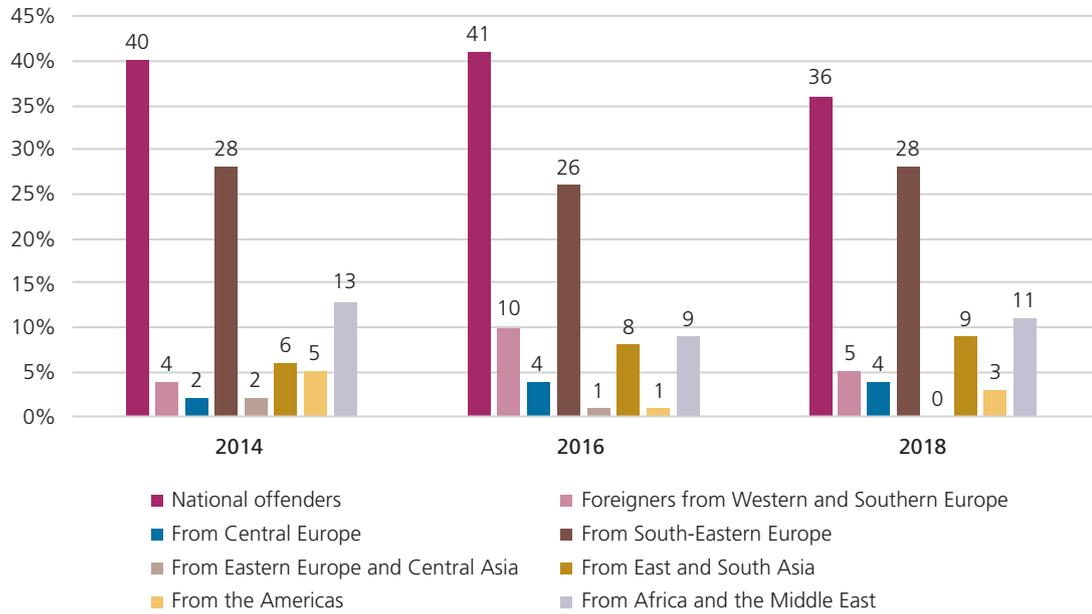
10 countries (n=1,015 persons convicted)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

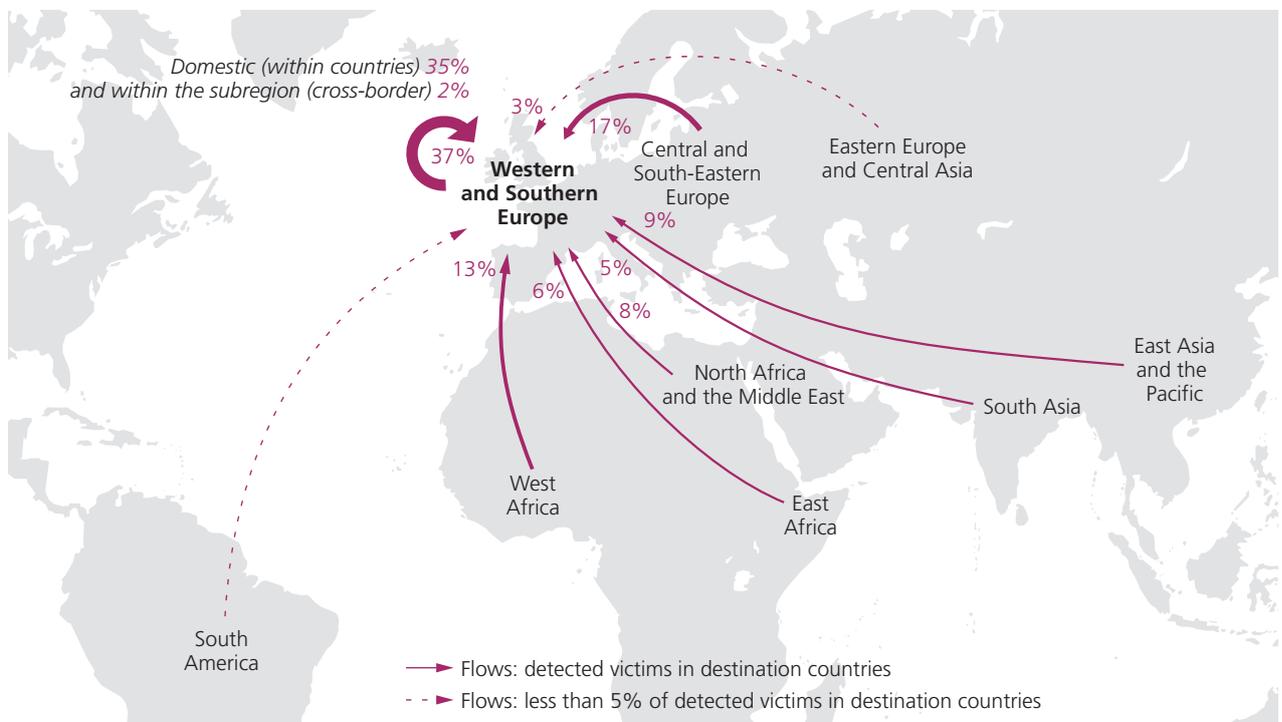
Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

FIG. 101 Trend in the shares of traffickers convicted in Western and Southern Europe, by region of citizenship, 2014, 2016 and 2018



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

MAP. 10 Shares of trafficking victims detected in Western and Southern Europe, by major areas of origin,* 2018 (or most recent)

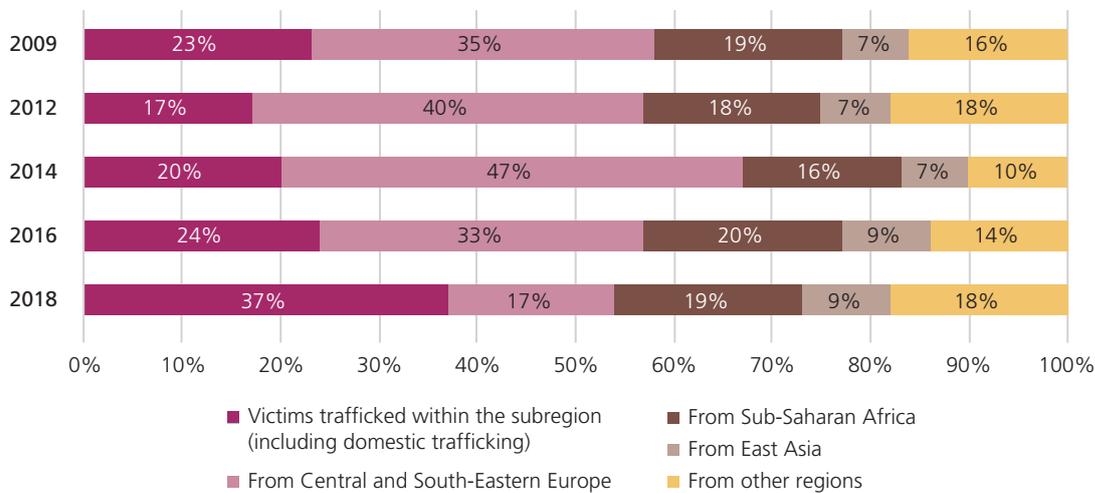


Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

*Based on information on the citizenship of 7,810 detected victims detected in 20 countries in Western and Southern Europe.

FIG. 102 Trends in shares of trafficking victims detected in Western and Southern Europe, by major areas of origin, 2009-2018



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

At the same time, victims from East Asia have been detected in almost every country of this subregion, although as a relatively low share compared to the total detected victims. Despite the low percentage, most countries in this subregion report at least a small number of detected victims mainly from South-East Asia.

This is similarly the case with the flow from South Asia. While the overall proportion remains at about 5 per cent, most countries in Western and Southern Europe reported detected victims from South Asia, even if in small numbers. Over the period measured, Western and Southern European countries recorded an increasing number of detected victims from North Africa (6 per cent), including victims from the Maghreb and Sudan.

Relatively low numbers of victims from Eastern Europe and Central Asia have been detected. Low numbers of victims from the Middle East have also been detected. The proportions of victims from South America, Central America and the Caribbean detected in Western and Southern European countries continue to be minimal.

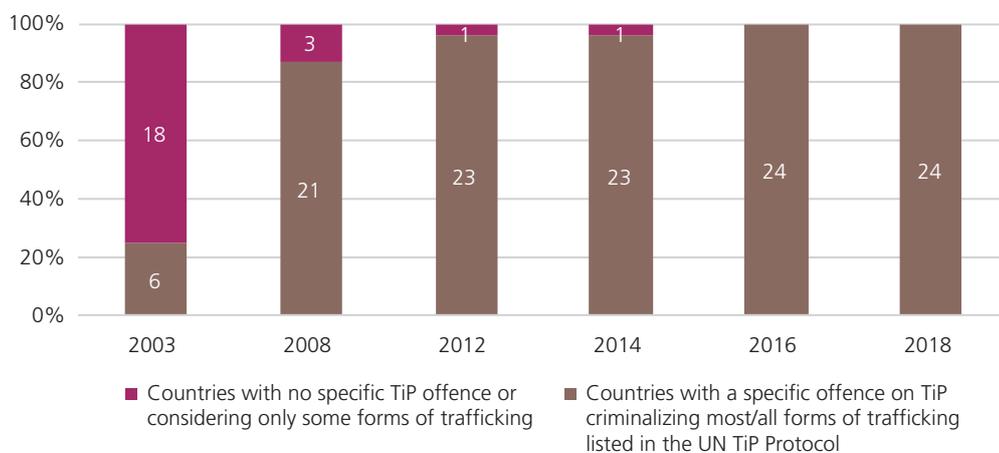
Criminalizing trafficking in persons

Most of the countries of Western and Southern Europe introduced the specific offence of trafficking in persons after the United Nations Trafficking in Persons Protocol entered into force in December 2003. By November 2008, most of these countries had legislation criminalizing trafficking in persons as defined in the Protocol.

The number of convictions recorded in this subregion is above the global average, and conviction rates have generally increased since 2011. However, it is below the levels recorded in Eastern Europe and Central Asia or in Central and South-Eastern Europe.

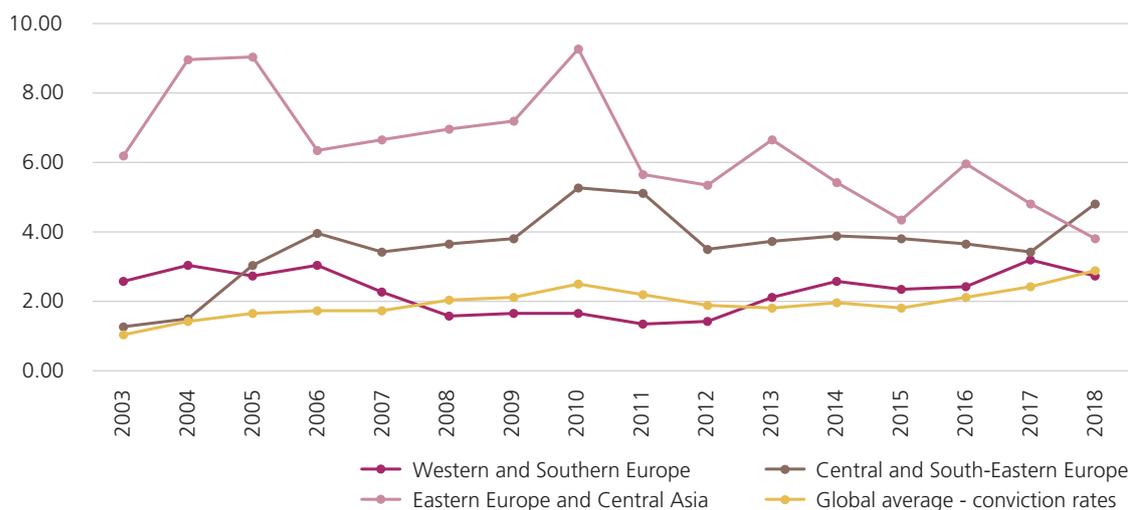
Similar to conviction rates, the number of victims detected per 1,000,000 has generally increased since 2010.

FIG. 103 Number of countries in Western and Southern Europe introducing a specific offence on trafficking in persons, December 2003 –August 2018



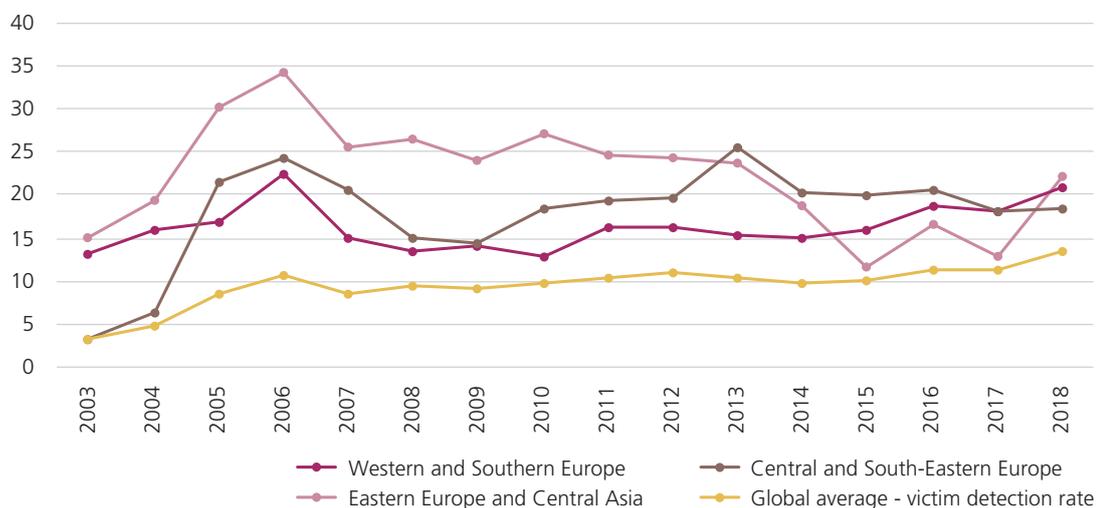
Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 104 Average conviction rates (per 1,000,000 population) globally and by subregions in Europe and Central Asia, 2003-2018



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 105 Average victim detection rates (per 1,000,000 population) globally and by subregions in Europe and Central Asia, 2003-2018



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

CENTRAL AND SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE³⁸⁹

- Most detected victims are adult women. The profile of the victims does not appear to have changed significantly over the years.
- The majority of detected victims continue to be trafficked for sexual exploitation, though there have been minor increases in the shares of victims trafficked for forced labour.
- Convicted traffickers are mainly adult men. The largest citizenship group is nationals of the country of conviction.
- This subregion is a significant origin of trafficking in persons for Western and Southern Europe. Victims from these countries are rarely detected in other parts of the world.
- This subregion is characterized by significant levels of domestic trafficking, though victims from East Asia and from Eastern Europe have also been detected in these countries.

Profile of the victims

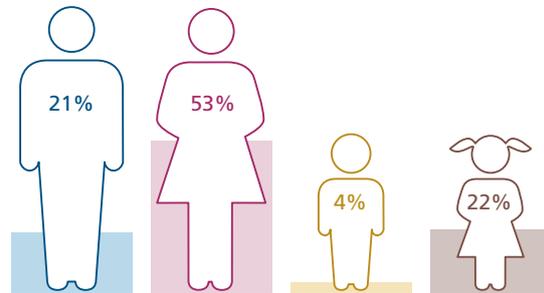
The age and sex composition of detected victims in this subregion remains similar to 2016. In 2018, there was a slight decrease in girl victims and a slight increase in men victims detected. Yet, this subregion continues to report among the lowest shares of male victims globally, with women and girls together comprising about 75 per cent of the total detected victims.

Forms of exploitation

In Central and South-Eastern Europe, most detected victims continue to be trafficked for sexual exploitation, though there were minor increases in the shares of victims trafficked for forced labour or for other purposes from 2016. Croatia, for example, recorded more detected victims trafficked for forced criminal activity than any other form, while Poland similarly recorded more victims trafficked for forced labour than any other form. Bulgaria

³⁸⁹ This subregion consists of the following 16 countries: Czechia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Slovakia (Central Europe) and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia (South-Eastern Europe).

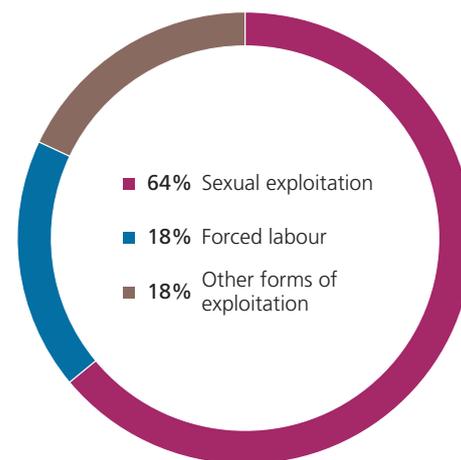
FIG. 106 Shares of detected victims of trafficking in Central and South-Eastern Europe,* by age group and sex, 2018 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

*Based on information on the sex and age of 1,732 victims of trafficking in persons detected in 16 countries in Central and South-Eastern Europe.

FIG. 107 Shares of detected victims of trafficking in Central and South-Eastern Europe,* by forms of exploitation, 2018 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

*Based on information on the form of exploitation for 2,138 victims of trafficking in persons detected in 16 countries in Central and South-Eastern Europe.

recorded cases of trafficking of pregnant women for the purpose of selling their babies for illegal adoption. The vast majority of detected victims who have been trafficked for sexual exploitation in this subregion continue to be females. This number is mostly comprised of women, with some countries detecting a significant number of girls as victims of this form of trafficking. Males are detected in far smaller numbers, with boys being reportedly more trafficked than men for sexual exploitation. While trafficking for forced labour mainly affects men, the percentage of female victims – who are largely women – is relatively high, amounting to about 30 per cent of victims in this subregion.

FIG. 108 Shares of detected victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation, by age group and sex of the victims, 2018 (or most recent)

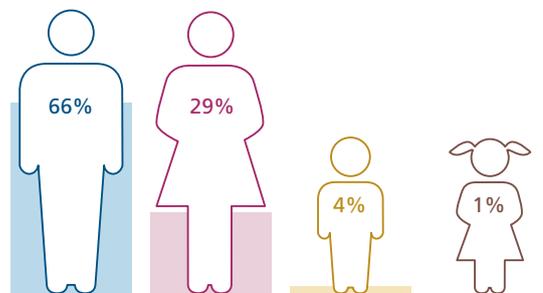
12 countries (n=1198 victims whose sex, age group and form of exploitation was reported)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 109 Shares of detected victims of trafficking for forced labour, by age group and sex of the victims, 2018 (or most recent)

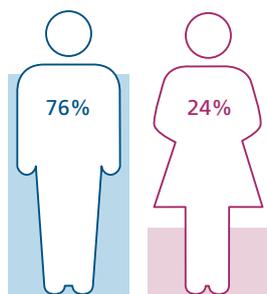
12 countries (n=228 victims whose sex, age group and form of exploitation was reported)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 110 Shares of persons investigated or arrested for trafficking in persons in Central and South-Eastern Europe, by sex, 2018 (or most recent)

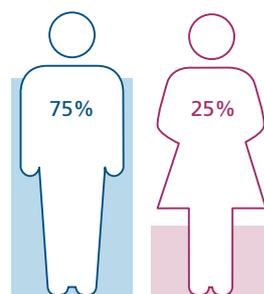
12 countries (n=530)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 111 Shares of persons prosecuted for trafficking in persons in Central and South-Eastern Europe, by sex, 2018 (or most recent)

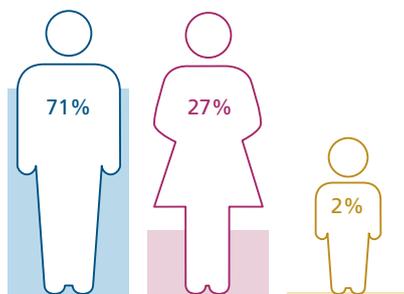
12 countries (n=390)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 112 Shares of persons convicted of trafficking in persons in Central and South-Eastern Europe, by age group and sex, 2018 (or most recent)

10 countries (n=88)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

National authorities in the subregion also detected victims trafficked for other purposes including forced criminal activity, exploitative begging and forced marriages. Trafficking for exploitation in begging was recorded in the Western Balkans, as well as in other parts of this subregion. Trafficking for forced criminal activity was reported by both the Baltic and Western Balkan countries.

Profile of the offenders

As in other parts of Europe, far more males are investigated/arrested, prosecuted and/or convicted for trafficking in persons in Central and South-Eastern Europe than females. 71 per cent of persons convicted were men and about 2 per cent were boys. The proportion of male and female offenders remains stable from the previous reporting period.

The vast majority of the people convicted of trafficking in persons in this subregion are citizens of the country of conviction (84 per cent). Of the foreigners convicted, most of them are citizens of other countries in Central and South-Eastern Europe or from Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

The charts below show the difference in the citizenship profiles of convicted traffickers in Western and Southern Europe and in Central and South-Eastern Europe. This can be understood by recognition of the different positions these two subregions have in the trafficking process: the former is primarily a destination for trafficking victims, while the latter acts primarily as a source.

Trafficking flows affecting Central and South-Eastern Europe

Central and South-Eastern Europe is primarily a subregion of origin for detected victims who are trafficked to Western and Southern Europe. In 2018, 17 per cent of the victims detected in Western and Southern Europe were citizens of Central and South-Eastern Europe. Victims from this subregion have also been detected in other countries within Central and South-Eastern Europe (10 per cent); Victims have also been detected and repatriated from Eastern Europe.

While half of all victims detected in the subregion are citizens of the country of detection, Central and South-Eastern Europe is also a destination for cross-border victims of trafficking. A significant flow originates from the countries of East Asia. Lower numbers of victims originating from Eastern Europe are also detected.

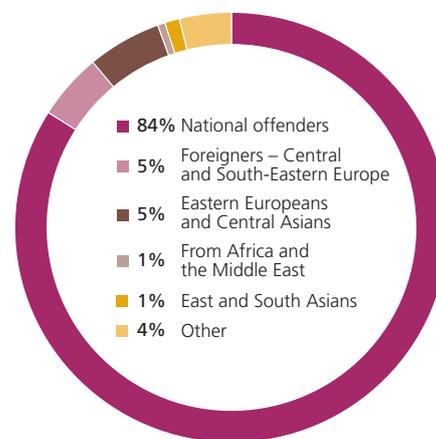
Criminalizing trafficking in persons

All countries in Central and South-Eastern Europe had introduced the offence of trafficking in persons in line with the United Nations Trafficking in Persons Protocol by August 2012. Most of them had already introduced such an offence before Protocol came into force in December 2003. Many of the countries in this subregion have long-standing legislation regarding trafficking in persons.

The number of convictions recorded in this subregion is above the global average. It is above the level recorded in the countries in Western and Southern Europe and, in 2018, higher than Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Conviction rates have generally increased since 2003.

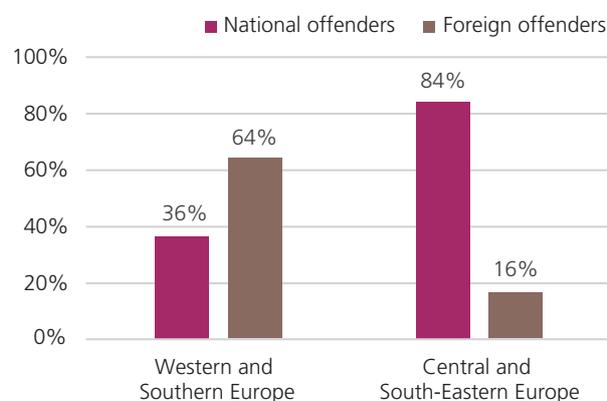
The number of victims detected per 1,000,000 has also generally increased since 2003, though a more stable trend has been recorded since 2010. This is in line with a general rise in conviction rates.

FIG. 113 Shares of offenders convicted in Central and South-Eastern Europe, by citizenship, 2018 (or most recent)
14 countries (n=168)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 114 Comparison of the shares of national and foreign citizens convicted in Western and Southern Europe and in Central and South-Eastern Europe, 2018 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

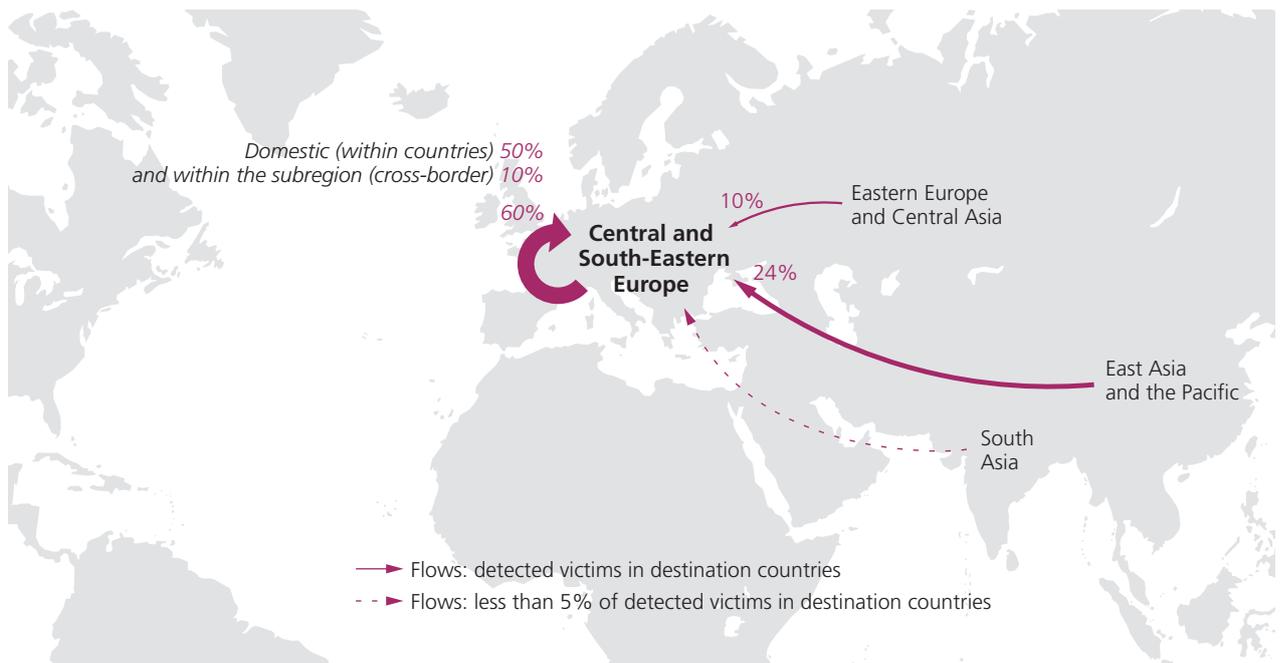
MAP. 11 Destinations for trafficking flows from Central and South-Eastern Europe, 2018 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

MAP. 12 Shares of victims detected in Central and South-Eastern Europe,* by subregion, 2018 (or most recent)

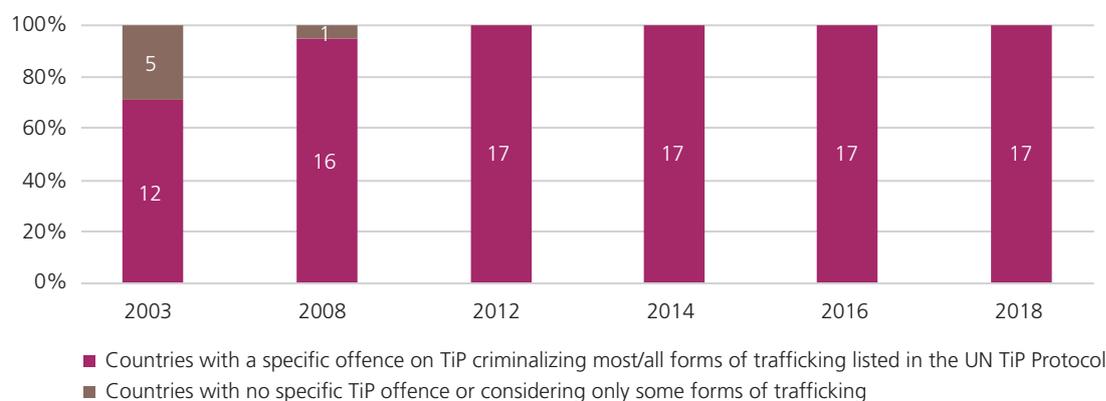


Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

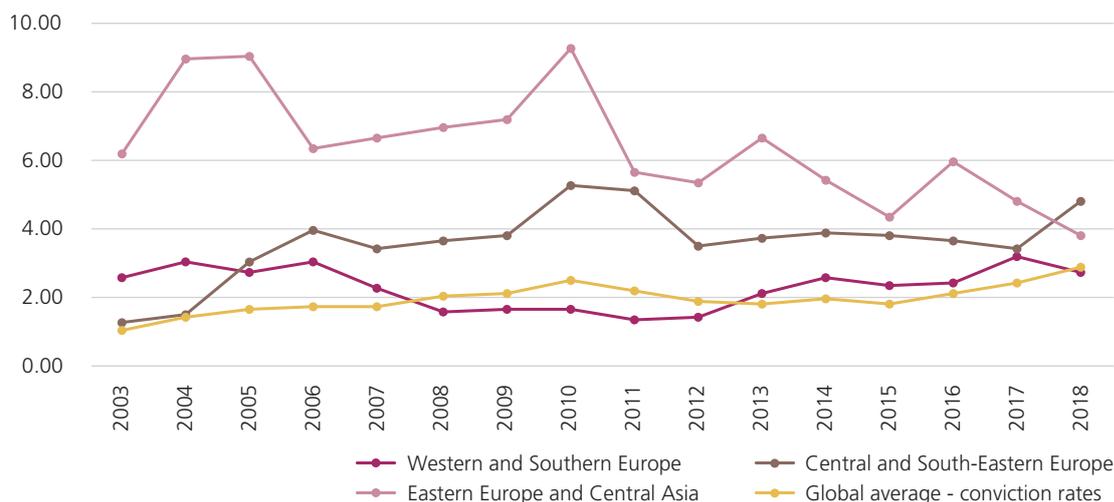
*Based on information on the citizenship of 843 victims of trafficking in persons detected in 16 countries in Central and South-Eastern Europe.

FIG. 115 Number of countries in Central and South-Eastern Europe introducing a specific offence on trafficking in persons, December 2003-August 2018



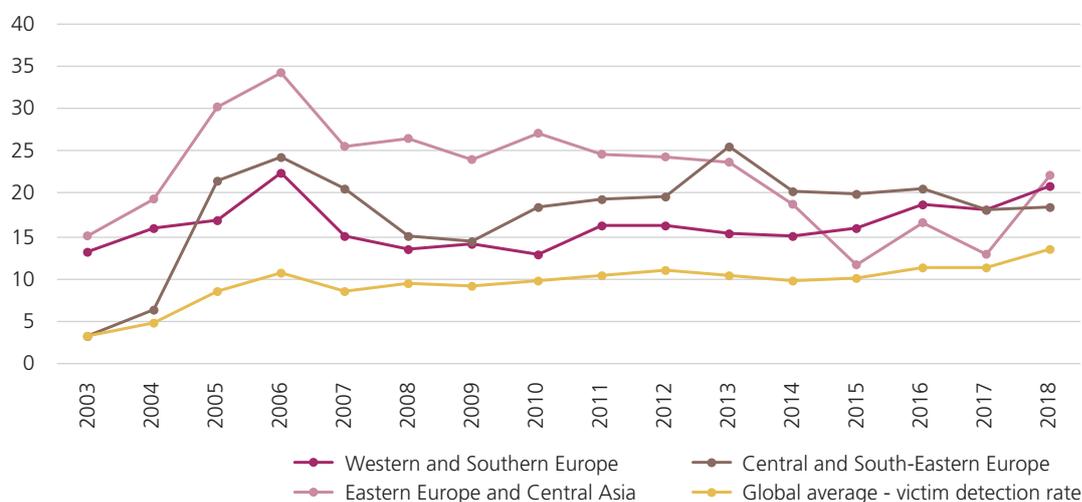
Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 116 Average conviction rates (per 1,000,000 population) globally and by subregions in Europe and Central Asia, 2003-2018



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 117 Average victim detection rates (per 1,000,000 population) globally and by subregions in Europe and Central Asia, 2003-2018



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA³⁹⁰

- Most detected victims are adult women, though adult men have also been significantly detected. Detection of minors as victims of trafficking remains limited compared to adults.
- The majority of detected victims are trafficked for forced labour.
- This subregion is characterised by a considerable share of women prosecuted and convicted for trafficking in persons.
- Countries in this subregion are characterized by significant levels of domestic trafficking.
- This subregion is a relevant origin of trafficking in persons for Central and South-Eastern Europe. Victims from these countries are detected in Western and Southern Europe and in the Middle East.

Profile of the victims

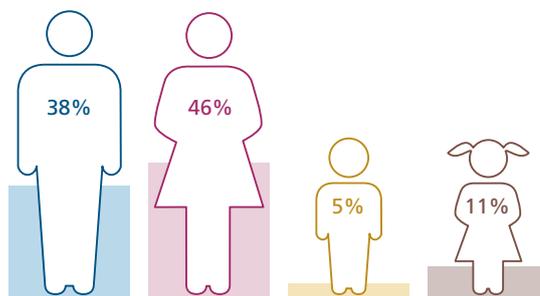
The majority of the victims detected in Eastern Europe and Central Asia continue to be adults, in particular women. On the whole, however, the subregion continues to report a greater share of men victims in comparison to other areas (the global average being 20 per cent). Across the subregion, the share of detected child trafficking remains minimal compared to other parts of the world. Regarding the sex of the detected child victims, the countries in Central Asia continue to report more victims who were boys than girls. Meanwhile in Eastern Europe, the number of detected victims who were girls was generally higher than that of boys. Yet, countries in Eastern Europe and countries in Central Asia broadly record the same patterns in victim profile.

Forms of exploitation

The majority of the detected victims in Eastern Europe and Central Asia in 2018 were trafficked for forced labour. Countries in Central Asia are characterized by a

³⁹⁰ This subregion comprises of 7 countries in Eastern Europe and of 5 countries in Central Asia. Eastern Europe consists of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Central Asia includes Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

FIG. 118 Shares of detected victims of trafficking in Eastern Europe,* by age group and sex, 2018 (or most recent)



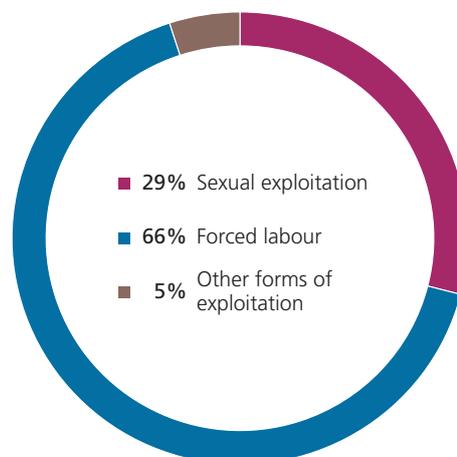
Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.
*Based on information on the sex and age of 866 victims of trafficking in persons detected in seven countries in Eastern Europe.

FIG. 119 Shares of detected victims of trafficking in Central Asia,* by age group and sex, 2018 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.
*Based on information on the sex and age of 710 victims of trafficking in persons detected in five countries in Central Asia.

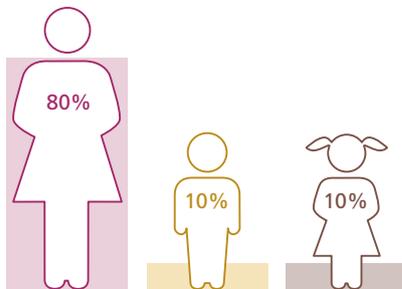
FIG. 120 Shares of detected victims of trafficking in Eastern Europe and Central Asia,* by forms of exploitation, 2018 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.
*Based on information on the forms of exploitation for 2,475 detected victims in 12 countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

FIG. 121 Shares of detected victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation, by age group and sex, in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, 2018 (or most recent)

6 countries (n=281 victims whose sex, age group and form of exploitation was reported)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 122 Shares of detected victims of trafficking for forced labour, by age group and sex, in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, 2018 (or most recent)

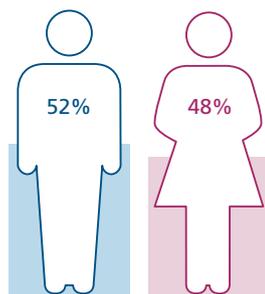
6 countries (n=470 victims whose sex, age group and form of exploitation was reported)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 123 Share of persons investigated or arrested for trafficking in persons in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, by sex, 2018 (or most recent)

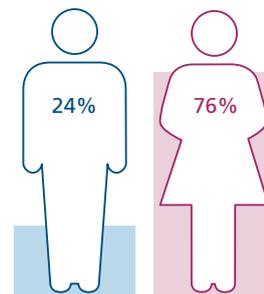
4 countries (n=118)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 124 Shares of persons prosecuted for trafficking in persons in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, by sex, 2018 (or most recent)

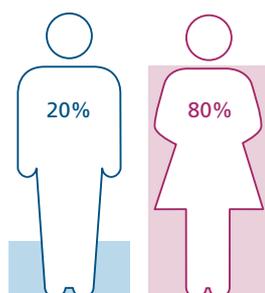
5 countries (n=493)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 125 Shares of persons convicted of trafficking in persons in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, by sex, 2018 (or most recent)

6 countries (n=475)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

larger share of victims trafficked for sexual exploitation, compared to Eastern Europe. However, it is important to note that together, Eastern Europe and Central Asia report one of the greatest shares of victims who were trafficked for forced labour.

Other forms of exploitation detected in this subregion include mainly trafficking for exploitative begging and, to a lesser extent, trafficking for mixed exploitation. Most of the detected victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation are women, with girls detected to a lesser extent. Females made up nearly all (90 per cent) of the detected victims for this form of trafficking. Nearly all victims of trafficking for forced labour are adults, with a far larger share of men (83 per cent) than women.

Profile of the offenders

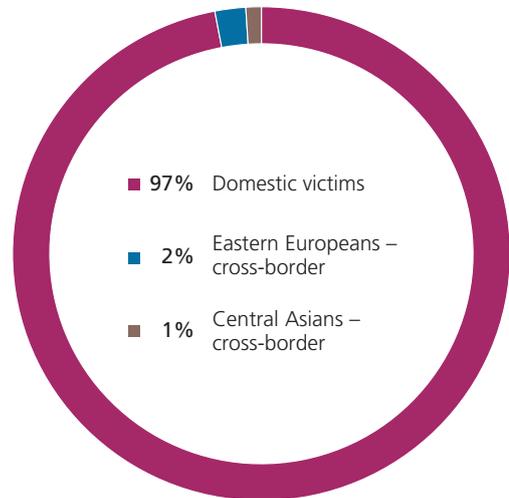
This region reports among the highest numbers of females prosecuted and convicted globally. Females comprised 76 per cent of those prosecuted and 80 per cent of those convicted during the reporting period (see *Profile of the offenders* in chapter 1). The proportions of males and females investigated or arrested for trafficking remained nearly equal. All persons investigated/arrested, prosecuted and/or convicted for trafficking in persons in this region were all adults.

The overwhelming majority (97 per cent) of those convicted of trafficking in 2018 were citizens of the country of conviction in the six countries in the subregion that reported on offender citizenship.

Trafficking flows affecting Eastern Europe and Central Asia

Eastern Europe and Central Asia is primarily a subregion of origin for victims trafficked within their national borders (domestic trafficking) and within the subregion. Victims from Eastern Europe are also detected in countries of Western, Central and South-Eastern Europe, such as Germany, Czechia, Poland and Slovenia, for instance, while victims from Central Asia have been detected in Turkey.

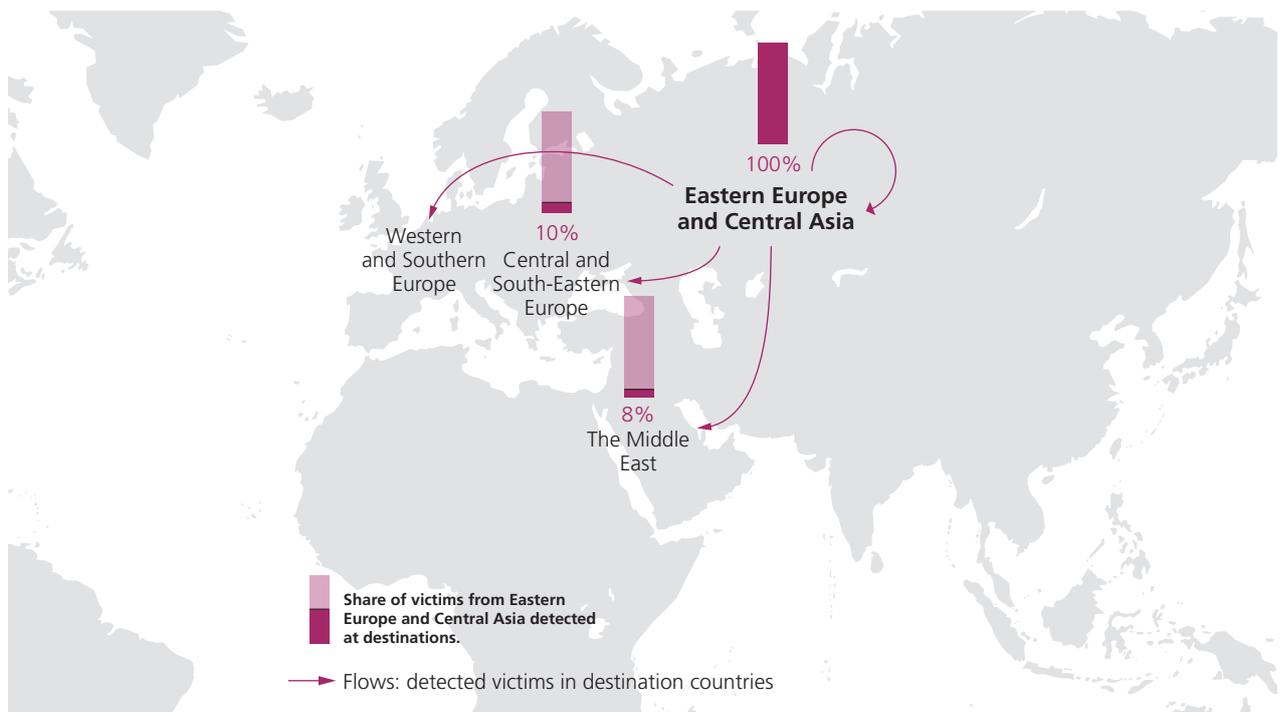
FIG. 126 Shares of trafficking victims detected in Eastern Europe and Central Asia,* by area of citizenship, 2018 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

*Based on information on the citizenship of 456 detected victims in 11 countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

MAP. 13 Destinations for trafficking flows from Eastern Europe and Central Asia, 2018 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Victims from this region have also been detected in the Middle East, and in smaller numbers in North America. However, in general, the flows of victims to countries outside of Europe are limited.

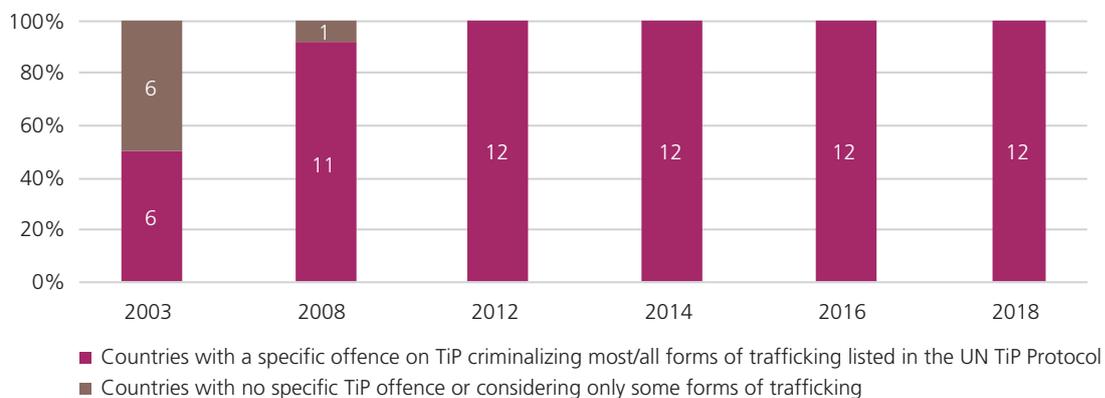
Criminalizing trafficking in persons

All countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia had introduced a specific offence of trafficking in persons in line with the United Nations Trafficking in Persons Protocol by August 2012. Six countries had already introduced such an offence in the process of ratification of the protocol, and five did so right after the Protocol came into force.

The number of convictions recorded in this region has been the highest level recorded globally since 2003. However, the conviction rate per 1,000,000 has been generally decreasing over the last 10 years. Nevertheless, today, the conviction rate in the region remains among the highest in the world.

The number of victims detected per 1,000,000 has also generally decreased over the last 15 years, similar to the conviction rate. However, the number of victims detected in relation to the population remains among the highest globally.

FIG. 127 Number of countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia introducing a specific offence on trafficking in persons, December 2003-August 2018



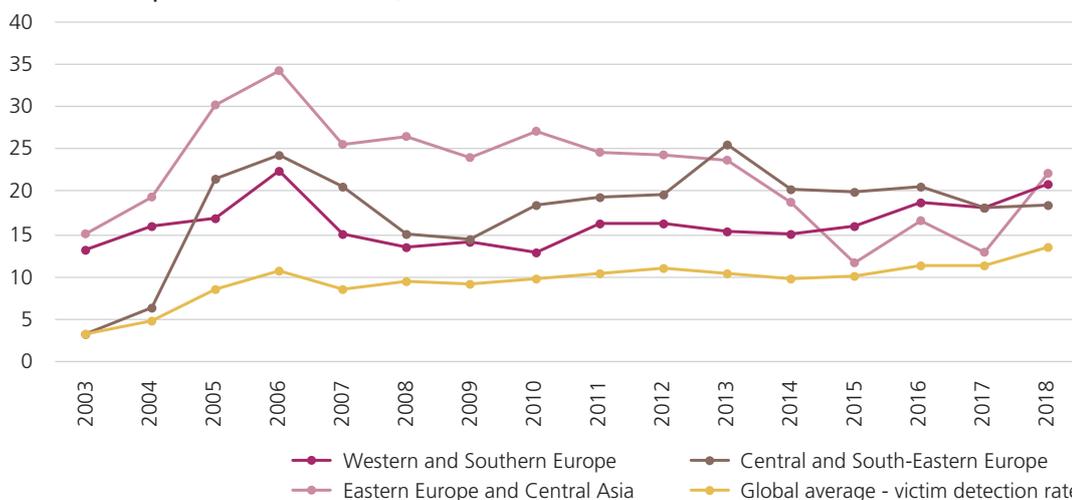
Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 128 Average conviction rates (per 1,000,000 population) globally and by subregions in Europe and Central Asia, 2003-2018



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 129 Average victim detection rates (per 1,000,000 population) globally and by subregions in Europe and Central Asia, 2003-2018



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

SOUTH ASIA³⁹¹

- Children and adult women are almost equally detected, accounting for 45 and 44 per cent of total victims detected respectively.
- The majority of detected victims are trafficked for forced labour.
- Victims from this subregion are commonly detected in the Middle East. Victims are also trafficked to East Asia, Western and Southern Europe and North America.
- Countries in this subregion are characterized by significant levels of domestic trafficking.

Profile of the victims

The largest group of detected victims continues to be women, with a large share of children, both girls and boys. This region records among the highest share of children among total victims detected, second only to Sub-Saharan Africa.

Forms of exploitation

The information on the forms of exploitation for trafficking cases detected in South Asia were reported by India,

Nepal and Sri Lanka. Based on this information, it appears that the detected victims of trafficking for forced labour make up more than half the share of victims in this subregion. Notably, trafficking for the purpose of forced marriage is recorded as a main form of exploitation after sexual exploitation and forced labour. Trafficking for the purposes of exploitative begging and forced criminal activity were also reported in the region.

Profile of the offenders

There is no available information regarding the sex profiles of the persons convicted of trafficking in South Asia, and very limited information regarding the profiles of those arrested or prosecuted for trafficking in persons for the reporting period. Of those arrested, based on information from Nepal, males comprised 74 per cent of the total.

Trafficking flows affecting South Asia

The majority of detected victims in South Asia are citizens of the country of detection or are trafficked from another country within the subregion.

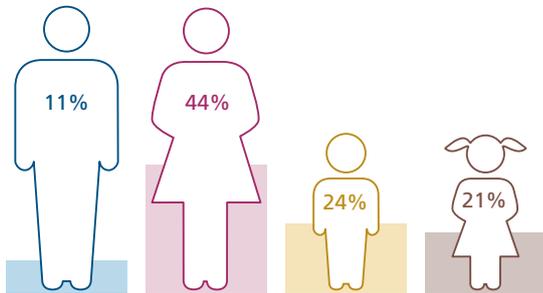
South Asia is an origin area for trafficking to the rest of the world. The main destinations appear to be the Middle East, East Asia and the Pacific, Western and Southern Europe and North America. South Asian victims were also detected, in limited numbers, in East and Southern Africa.

Criminalizing trafficking in persons

Most South Asian countries introduced the specific offence of trafficking in persons in line with the UN definition after December 2003, when the United Nations Trafficking in Persons Protocol entered into force.

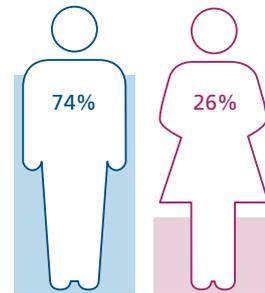
³⁹¹ This subregion includes Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

FIG. 130 Shares of detected victims of trafficking in South Asia,* by age group and sex, 2018 (or most recent)



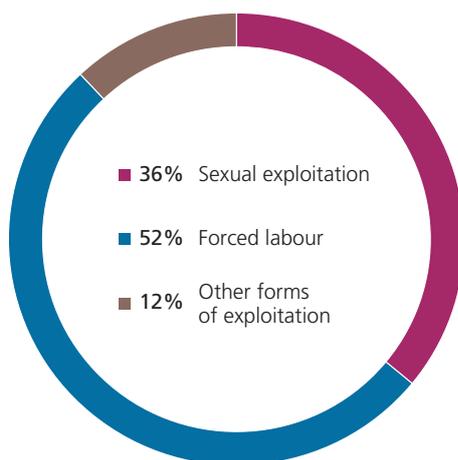
Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.
*Based on information on the age and sex profile of 7,644 victims of trafficking detected in seven countries.

FIG. 132 Shares of persons arrested for trafficking in persons in Nepal, by sex, 2018



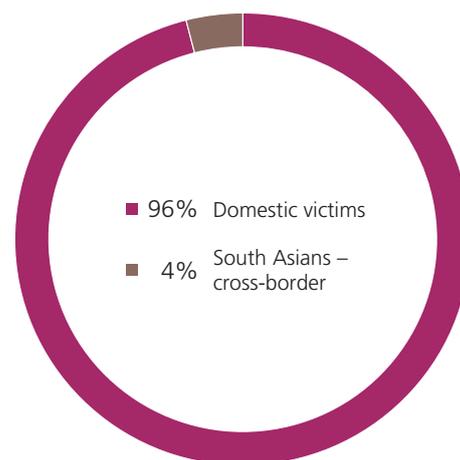
Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 131 Shares of detected victims of trafficking in South Asia,* by form of exploitation, 2018 (or most recent)



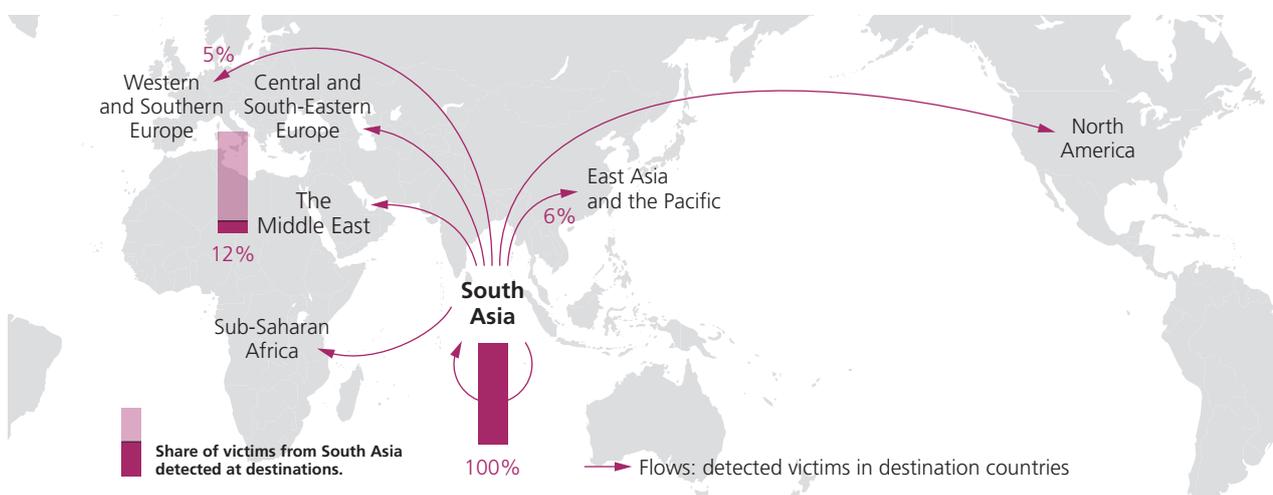
Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.
*Based on information on the forms of exploitation for 5,124 victims of trafficking detected in three countries.

FIG. 133 Shares of trafficking victims detected in South Asia, by area of citizenship, 2018 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

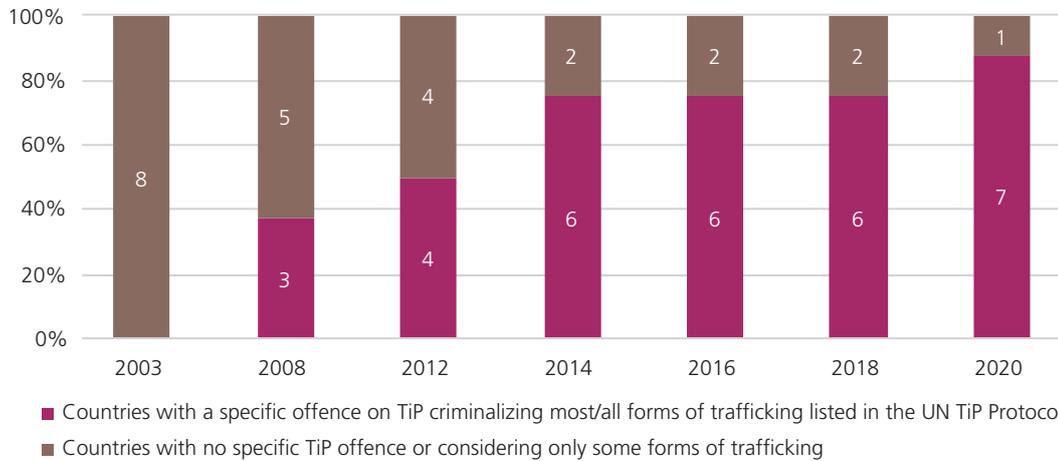
MAP. 14 Destinations for trafficking flows from South Asia, 2018 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

FIG. 134 Number of countries in South Asia introducing a specific offence on trafficking in persons, December 2003-August 2020



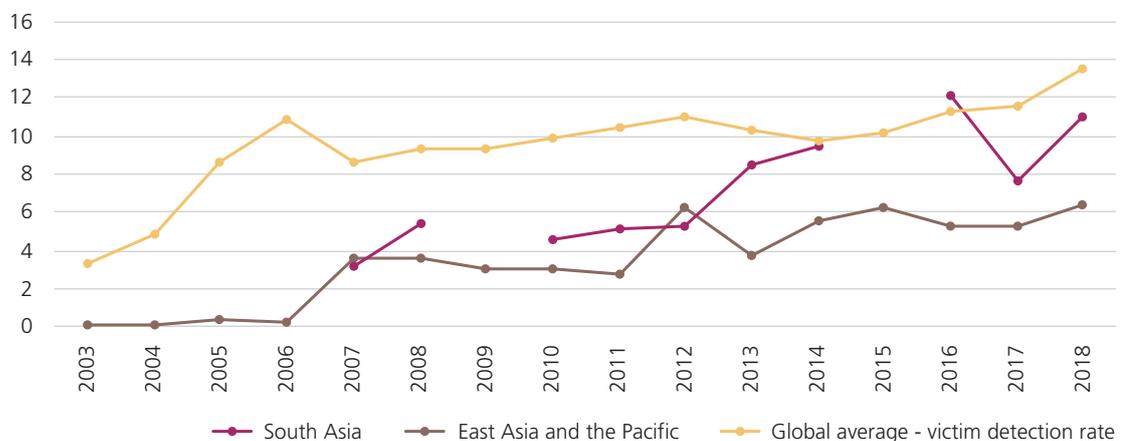
Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 135 Average conviction rates (per 1,000,000 population) globally, in South Asia and in East Asia and the Pacific, 2003-2018



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 136 Average victim detection rates (per 1,000,000 population) globally, in South Asia and in East Asia and the Pacific, 2003-2018



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC³⁹²

- About a half of the detected victims in this region are adult women. Children account for about one third of total detected victims.
- The majority of detected victims in East Asia and the Pacific continue to be trafficked for sexual exploitation.
- Women account for the majority of persons investigated and prosecuted, and about a half of those convicted for trafficking in persons.
- Victims from East Asia and Pacific have been detected in all regions and most subregions globally. Victims from East Asia have largely been detected within East Asia and the Pacific, in the Middle East, Europe and the Americas.
- This region is characterized by significant levels of both domestic and intraregional trafficking.

Profile of the victims

In East Asia and the Pacific, women represent the largest share of detected victims. Children account for about one third of the victims detected in 2018, while one in five detected victims is an adult man. East Asian countries reported women or girls more frequently. The information received from the countries in the Pacific refers to large shares of girl victims of trafficking in the Solomon Islands, men detected in New Zealand and women, girls and men detected in Australia.

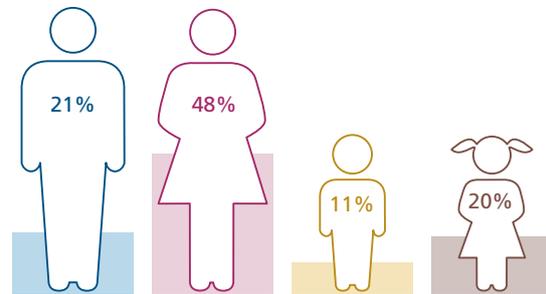
Forms of exploitation

Countries in East Asia and the Pacific detect large numbers of victims who were trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Less than one third of the victims are trafficked for the purpose of forced labour.

Among the other forms of exploitation detected, victims trafficked to produce sexual abuse material (pornography) and trafficking for forced marriage have been reported.

³⁹² This subregion comprises 13 countries in East Asia and 6 countries in the Pacific. East Asia consists of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste. The Pacific includes Australia, Cook Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau and Solomon Islands.

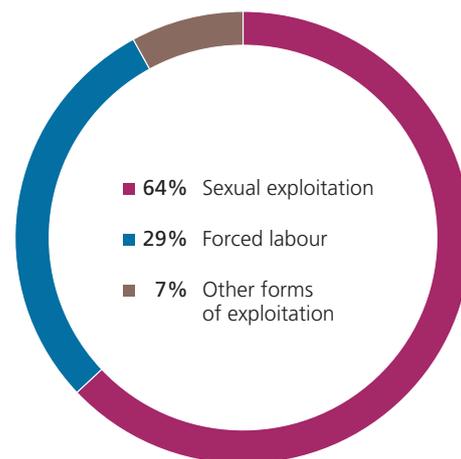
FIG. 137 Shares of detected victims of trafficking in East Asia and the Pacific,* by age group and sex, 2018 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

*Based on information on the sex and age of 5,969 victims detected in 19 countries and territories.

FIG. 138 Shares of detected victims of trafficking in East Asia and the Pacific,* by form of exploitation, 2018 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

*Based on information on the form of exploitation for 5,144 victims detected in 16 countries.

Countries in this subregion report a higher share of girls trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Adult men are mainly reported to be trafficked into forced labour. The subregion, however, records a relatively high and equal share of males (men and boys) trafficked for sexual exploitation and females (women and girls) for forced labour, at 28 per cent.

Profile of the offenders

Countries in East Asia and the Pacific report a large share of females prosecuted and convicted for trafficking in persons. Females accounted for 56 per cent of prosecu-

FIG. 139 Shares of detected victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation, by age group and sex, 2018 (or most recent)

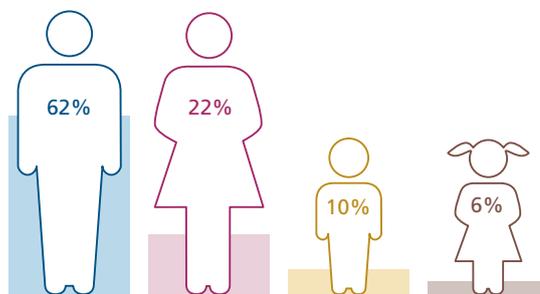
9 countries (n=1435 victims whose sex, age group and form of exploitation was reported)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 140 Shares of detected victims of trafficking for forced labour, by age group and sex, 2018 (or most recent)

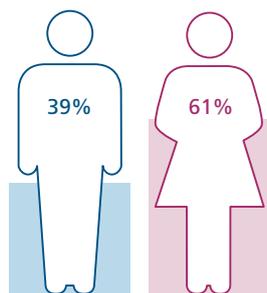
9 countries (n=473 victims whose sex, age group and form of exploitation was reported)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 141 Shares of persons investigated and/or arrested for trafficking in persons in East Asia and the Pacific, by sex, 2018 (or most recent)

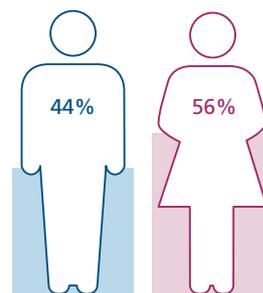
7 countries (n=1,236)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 142 Shares of persons prosecuted for trafficking in persons in East Asia and the Pacific, by sex, 2018 (or most recent)

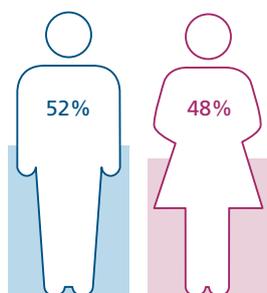
9 countries (n=1,233)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 143 Shares of persons convicted of trafficking in persons in East Asia and the Pacific, by sex, 2018 (or most recent)

9 countries (n=888)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

tions in the reporting period while males accounted for 52 per cent of the convictions. Far more females were suspected of or arrested for trafficking in persons (61 per cent) than males (see *Profile of the offenders* in chapter 1). The vast majority of convicted traffickers are citizens of the country of conviction, while some 5 per cent are foreigners, mainly from other countries in the subregion.

Trafficking flows affecting East Asia and the Pacific

Victims from East Asia and the Pacific have been detected in all regions and most subregions globally – in about 60 different countries. Both the diversity of the flows and the number of victims detected indicate that trafficking from East Asia has a global dimension. The flows from countries in East Asia to the Middle East and the European subregions are particularly significant. Victims have

also been detected in North America, with a few detected in Central and South America. In addition, victims from East Asia have been repatriated from Sub-Saharan Africa.

This region is also an important destination for subregional cross-border trafficking and domestic trafficking flows. Affluent countries of East Asia tend to be destinations for victims trafficked within the subregion, usually from neighboring countries. For example, Malaysia is a

destination for victims trafficked from other South-East Asian countries, and Thailand is a destination for victims trafficked from countries of the Greater Mekong area. Australia and Malaysia report detection of victims of domestic trafficking, as well as victims from South-East Asia and from South Asia.

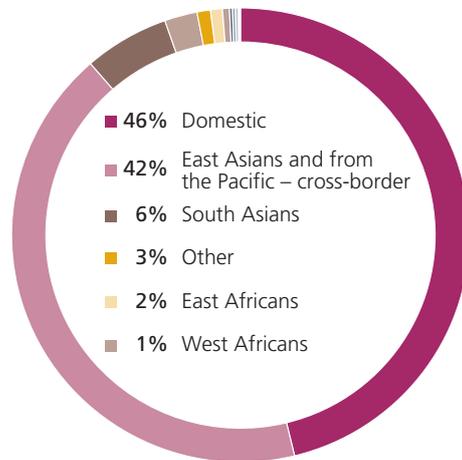
Relatively few victims were detected as being from Sub-Saharan Africa and South America.

FIG. 144 Shares of traffickers convicted in East Asia and the Pacific, by area of citizenship, 2018 (or most recent)
9 countries (n=916)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 145 Shares of victims of trafficking detected in East Asia and the Pacific,* by area of citizenship, 2018 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

*Based on information on the sex and age of 1,429 victims detected in 19 countries.

MAP. 15 Destinations for trafficking flows from East Asia and the Pacific, 2018 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

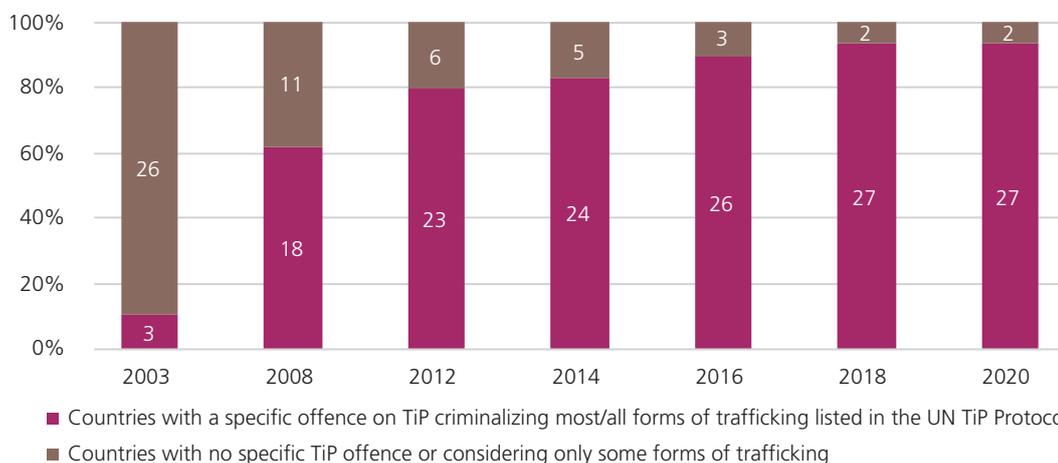
Criminalizing trafficking in persons

Most of the countries in East Asia and the Pacific introduced the specific offence of trafficking in persons according to the UN definition immediately following the entry into force of the United Nations Trafficking in Persons Protocol in 2003. Nine countries introduced a specific offence on trafficking in persons over the last ten years.

The number of convictions per 1,000,000 people recorded in this subregion has generally been lower compared to European levels. However, the conviction rate per 1,000,000 has been generally increasing over the last 15 years.

Correspondingly, the number of victims detected per 1,000,000 has also increased since the United Nations Trafficking in Persons Protocol entered into force. Nevertheless, the number of victims detected in relation to the population remains at a lower level compared to other parts of the world.

FIG. 146 Number of countries in East Asia and the Pacific introducing a specific offence on trafficking in persons, December 2003-August 2020



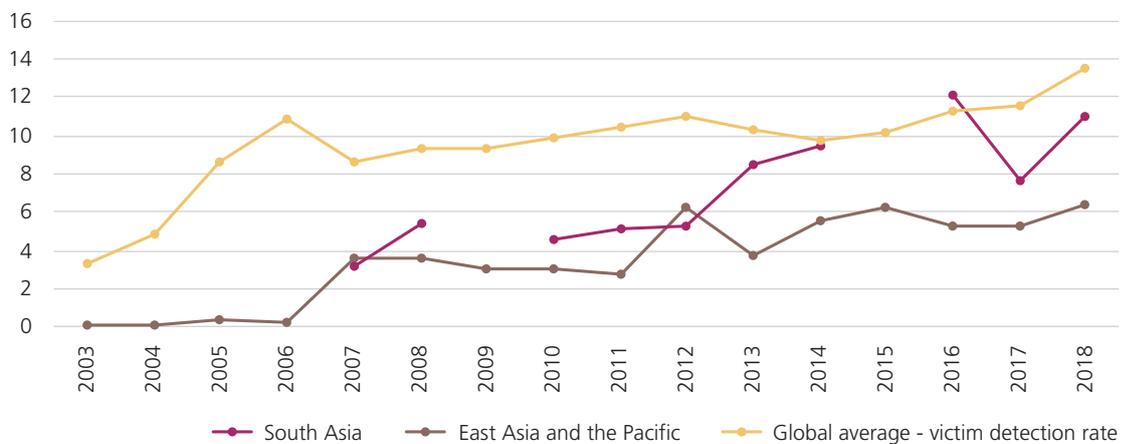
Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 147 Average conviction rates (per 1,000,000 population) globally, in South Asia and in East Asia and the Pacific, 2003-2018



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 148 Average victim detection rates (per 1,000,000 population) globally, in South Asia and in East Asia and the Pacific, 2003-2018



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN³⁹³

- Countries in North America detect more adult women than any other victim profile, while Central America and the Caribbean is characterized by a substantial detection of underage girls and adult women.
- The majority of detected victims in North America, Central America and the Caribbean are trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation.
- North American countries are characterized by an increasing share of victims trafficked within their own countries; mainly female victims trafficked for sexual exploitation.
- Countries in Central America and the Caribbean detect own nationals and victims from some countries in South America. At the same time, victims from these countries are detected in the richer countries of North and South America.

³⁹³ These subregions comprises 3 countries in North America and 9 countries in Central America and the Caribbean. North America consists of Canada, Mexico and the United States of America. Central America and the Caribbean includes the Bahamas, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago.

Profile of the victims

In Central America and the Caribbean, most of the detected victims in 2018 are girls and women, equalling 79 per cent of the total detected trafficking victims in this subregion. In particular, the share of girls as a proportion of the total detected victims, at 40 per cent in 2018, remains among the largest percentage of girl victims of trafficking recorded worldwide.

In North America, females continue to account for an even larger share of detected victims than in Central America and the Caribbean during the reporting period. This pattern was observed in all three countries in this subregion and follows the global trend for the reporting period.

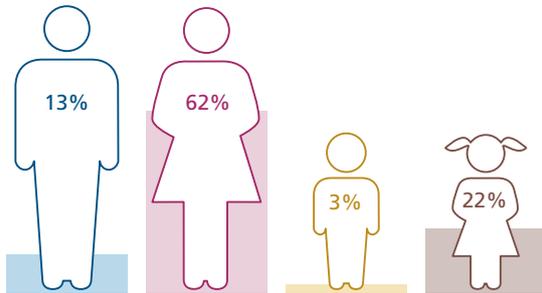
FIG. 149 Shares of detected victims of trafficking in Central America and the Caribbean,* by age group and sex, 2018 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

*Based on data on sex and age of 506 victims detected in 9 countries in Central America and the Caribbean.

FIG. 150 Shares of detected victims of trafficking in North America,* by age group and sex, 2018 (or most recent)



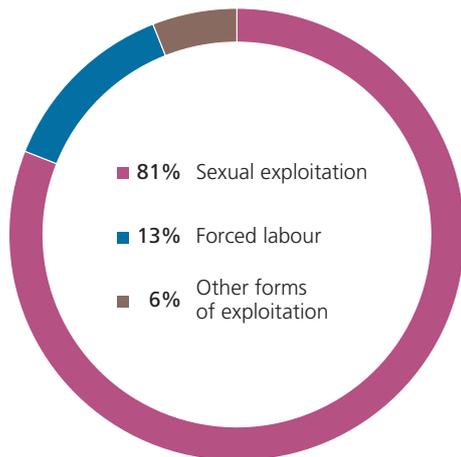
Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.
 *Based on data on sex and age of 9,301 victims detected in three countries in North America.

Forms of exploitation

In North America, Central America and the Caribbean, sexual exploitation is the most commonly detected form of trafficking (over 70 per cent), which is among the highest recorded globally. The share of detected victims trafficked for forced labour ranges between 13 and 22 per cent in the two subregions.

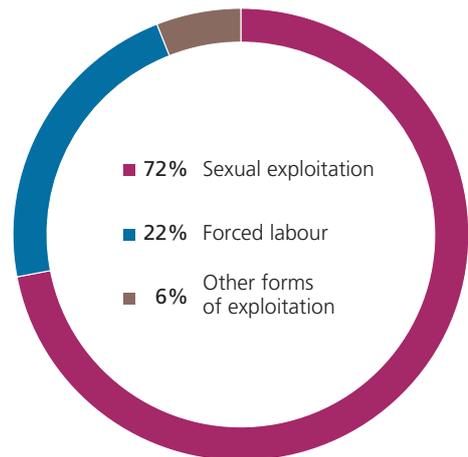
In North America, victims are also trafficked for mixed forms of exploitation (sexual and forced labour), as well as for exploitative begging, forced criminal activity and forced marriage. In Central America and the Caribbean, children are also trafficked for the purpose of exploitative begging, for forced criminal activity and for some forms of illegal adoption.

FIG. 151 Shares of detected victims of trafficking in Central America and the Caribbean,* by form of exploitation, 2018 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.
 *Based on data on form of exploitation for 645 victims detected in seven countries in Central America and the Caribbean.

FIG. 152 Shares of detected victims of trafficking in North America,* by form of exploitation, 2018 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.
 *Based on data on form of exploitation for 8,490 victims detected in three countries in North America.

FIG. 153 Shares of detected victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation in North America, by age group and sex, 2018 (or most recent)

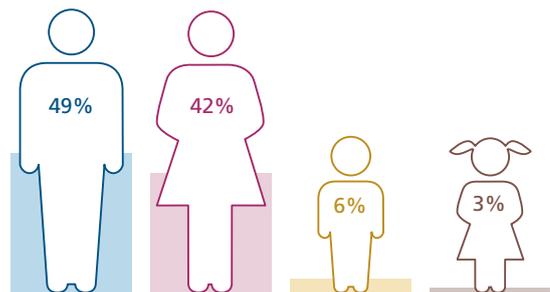
3 countries (n=6,183 victims whose sex, age group and form of exploitation was reported)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

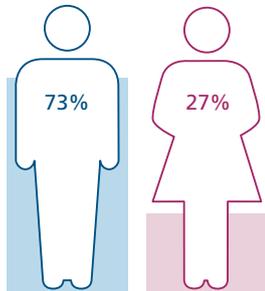
FIG. 154 Shares of detected victims of trafficking for forced labour in North America, by age group and sex, 2018 (or most recent)

3 countries (n=1,831 victims whose sex, age group and form of exploitation was reported)



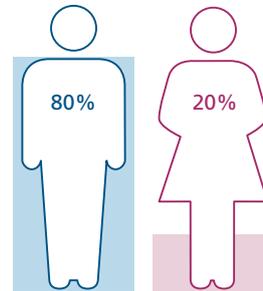
Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 155 Shares of persons prosecuted for trafficking in persons in Mexico and Canada, by sex, 2018 (or most recent)
(n=256)



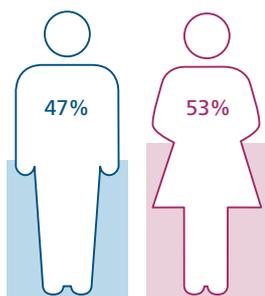
Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 156 Shares of persons convicted of trafficking in persons in Mexico and Canada, by sex, 2018 (or most recent)
(n=85)



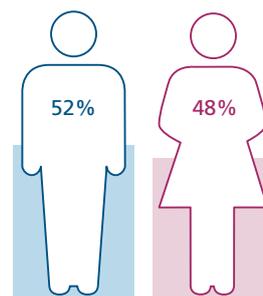
Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 157 Shares of persons investigated and/or arrested for trafficking in persons in Central America and the Caribbean, by sex, 2018 (or most recent)
4 countries (n=217)



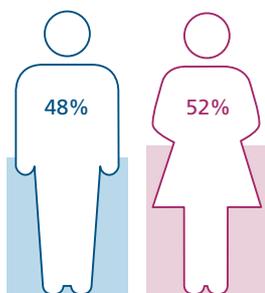
Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 158 Shares of persons prosecuted for trafficking in persons in Central America and the Caribbean, by sex, 2018 (or most recent)
6 countries (n=564)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 159 Shares of persons convicted of trafficking in persons in Central America and the Caribbean, by sex, 2018 (or most recent)
4 countries (n=71)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

As far as victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation are concerned, most victims in North America are adult women, while a higher share of girls is reported in Central America and the Caribbean. In North America, detected victims who are trafficked for forced labour are mainly adults, with men and women detected in similar shares. The victims detected in Central America and the Caribbean who are exploited in forced labour are girls and boys.

Profile of the offenders

Countries in Central America and the Caribbean continue to report large shares of female offenders, particularly in Central America. The proportions of males and females suspected of, arrested for and/or convicted of trafficking are similar, with a slightly greater share of females (see *Profile of the offenders* in chapter 1).

In North America, Mexico and Canada reported information on the sex of persons going through criminal

justice system procedures for trafficking in persons, with most of them are males.

In Central America and the Caribbean, data collected from six countries indicates that 85 per cent of convicted traffickers were citizens of the country of conviction with the remaining 15 per cent made up of offenders from other countries in Central America and the Caribbean or South America.

Trafficking flows affecting North America

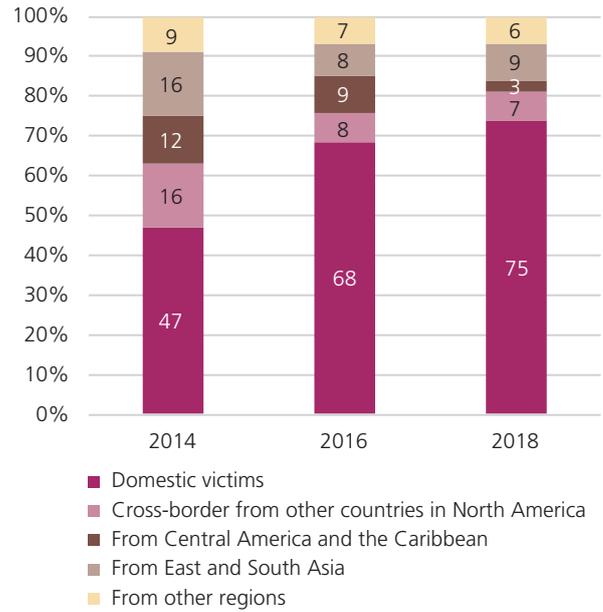
North America is a significant destination for both intraregional and transregional trafficking flows. Despite this, most detected victims were citizens of the country of detection. While this was the case for all three countries in the subregion, the United States, in particular, reports a large share of their own nationals as victims of trafficking.

In terms of transnational trafficking, the most significant flows into North America originate from countries in other parts of the Americas, though the number of victims from Central America and the Caribbean appears to be declining (from 9 per cent in 2016, to 3 per cent in 2018). A significant trafficking flow to North America originates from countries in Asia. The key origin countries are in South-East Asia, but also consist of other Asian countries on a smaller scale.

Yet, at the same time, very few North American victims are detected in other subregions of the world.

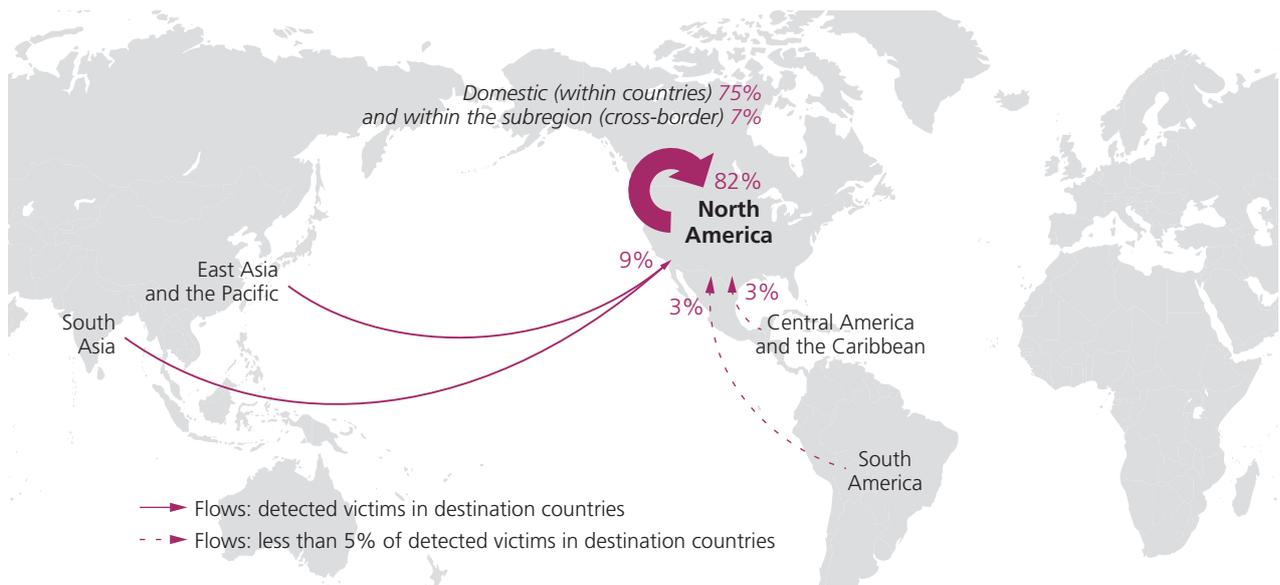
Countries in North America have been detecting increasing shares of domestic victims compared to past years. At the same time, more victims have been detected from other regions, such as South America (3 per cent) and Africa and the Middle East (2 per cent).

FIG. 160 Trend in shares of trafficking victims detected in North America, by area of citizenship, 2014 – 2018



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

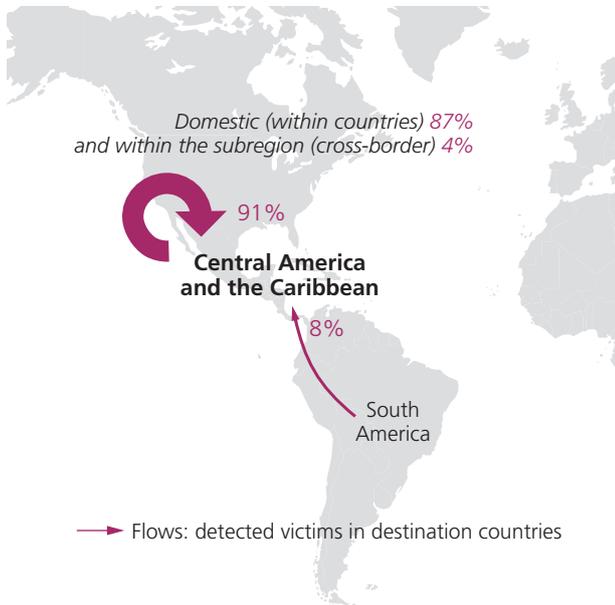
MAP. 16 Origins of trafficking victims detected in North America, 2018 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

MAP. 17 Origins of trafficking victims detected in Central America and the Caribbean, by subregion, 2018 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

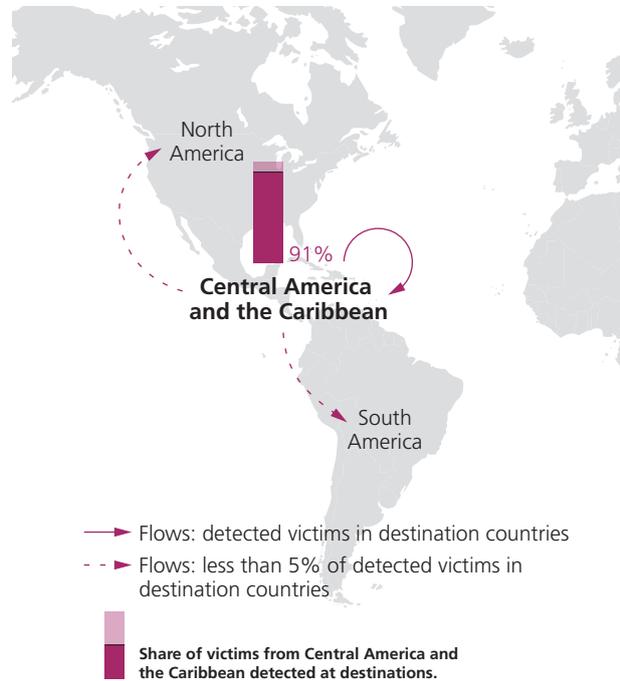
Trafficking flows affecting Central America and the Caribbean

Victims detected in Central America and the Caribbean are primarily citizens of the country of detection. The other significant flows are from South America and other countries in the subregion. These flows mainly move from south to north, from relatively poorer countries towards relatively richer countries across the border. As an illustration, victims from the northern part of Central America are trafficked to Mexico and to the United States. At the same time, victims from the northern parts of South America are trafficked to the southern countries of Central America. Overall, the trafficking flows affecting Central America and the Caribbean continue to be confined to the Americas, both in terms of their origin and destination.

Criminalizing trafficking in persons

The vast majority of countries of Central America and the Caribbean, and all three countries in North America, have an offence of trafficking in persons that follows the

MAP. 18 Destinations for trafficking flows from Central America and the Caribbean, 2018 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

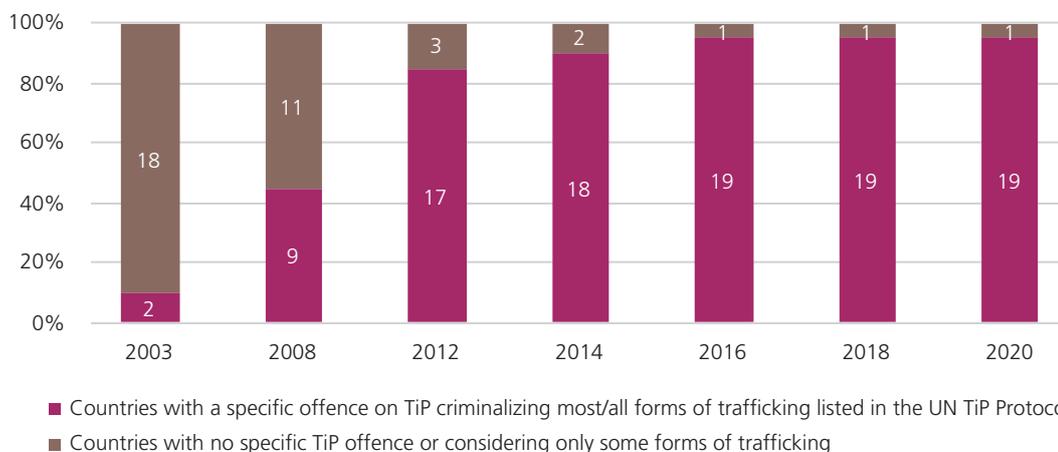
Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

United Nations Trafficking in Persons definition. Most of these countries introduced the offence of trafficking in persons between the end of 2008 and August 2012. Only one country in this subregion continues to have only a partial offence for trafficking in persons.

The number of convictions per 1,000,000 people recorded in North America indicates a general increase in conviction rates in the subregion since 2009. Similarly, conviction rates have been increasing in the subregion of Central America and the Caribbean, almost reaching the global average in 2018.

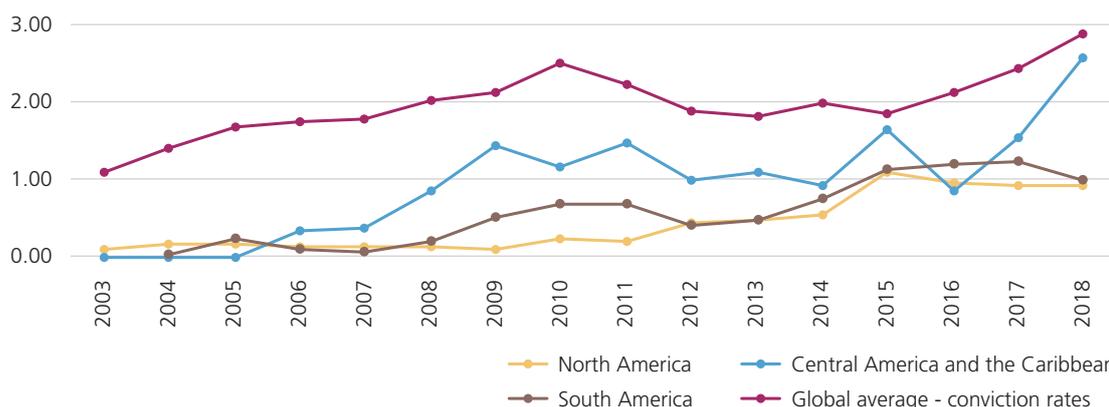
Similarly, both subregions have recorded an increase in the number of victims detected per 1,000,000 since the United Nations Trafficking in Persons Protocol entered into force.

FIG. 161 Number of countries in North America, Central America and the Caribbean introducing a specific offence on trafficking in persons, December 2003-August 2020



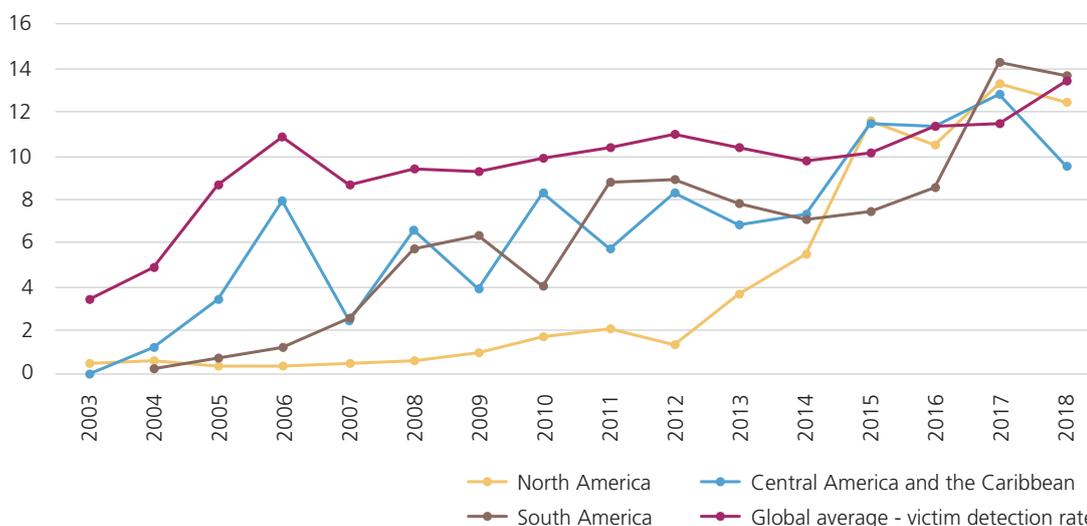
Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 162 Average conviction rates (per 1,000,000 population) globally and by subregions in the Americas, 2003-2018



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 163 Average victim detection rates (per 1,000,000 population) globally and by subregions in the Americas, 2003-2018



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

SOUTH AMERICA³⁹⁴

- Women represent the majority of victims detected in South America, while one in four detected victims is a man.
- The majority of detected victims in South America are trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation, while more than one third are trafficked for forced labour.
- Victims from South America have been detected in large numbers within South America and in Central America and the Caribbean.
- Victims from this subregion have also been detected or repatriated from North America, Europe, the Middle East and East Asia.

Profile of the victims

In this subregion, the vast majority of the detected victims of trafficking are females, making up 69 per cent of the total in 2018. While women make up the overwhelming majority, there was an increase from 12 per cent in 2016, to 25 per cent in 2018 in men detected as victims in this subregion.

Forms of exploitation

In line with the forms recorded in the previous years, there is an increasing trend for the majority of detected victims in South America to be trafficked for sexual exploitation (from 58 per cent in 2016 to 64 per cent in 2018).

Data from eight countries reporting this information in the subregion show that the overwhelming majority (96 per cent) of these victims are females, with more women than girls.

The second most commonly reported form is trafficking for the purpose of forced labour, although the share has remained at a similar level to 2018. Argentina and Chile reported more victims who had been trafficked for this purpose than for sexual exploitation.

This form of trafficking affected all groups of victims – women, men, girls and boys – in broadly similar numbers.

Data collected in this subregion show that, compared to other subregions, the share of female victims who were

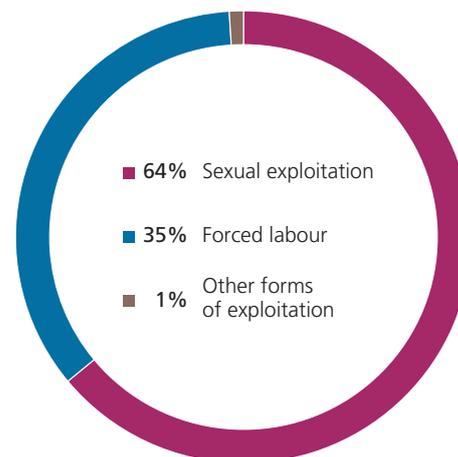
³⁹⁴ This subregion includes Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

FIG. 164 Shares of detected victims of trafficking in South America,* by age group and sex, 2018 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.
*Based on data on sex and age of 3,421 victims detected in 10 countries in South America.

FIG. 165 Shares of detected victims of trafficking in South America,* by forms of exploitation 2018 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.
*Based on data on forms of exploitation for 3,091 victims detected in 9 countries in South America.

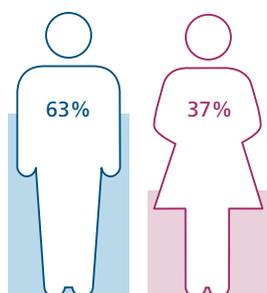
trafficked for forced labour in 2018 was large. About half of the detected victims of this form for trafficking are females, near-equally split between women and girls.

Profile of the offenders

The majority of offenders in South America continue to be men, accounting for around two thirds of those investigated/arrested, prosecuted and/or convicted of trafficking in 2018 in the subregion. While the share of female offenders remains low, the proportion is in line with the global average.

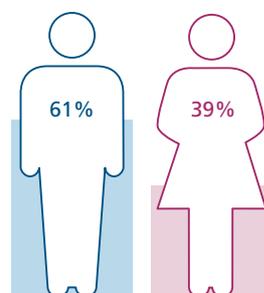
In terms of citizenships of convicted traffickers, over 80 per cent of those convicted in the court of first instance in six South American countries were citizens of those countries. Most of the remaining 16 per cent of offenders convicted were from other countries within the subregion.

FIG. 166 Shares of persons investigated and/or arrested for trafficking in persons in South America, by sex, 2018 (or most recent)
6 countries (n=409)



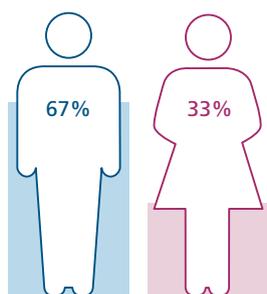
Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 167 Shares of persons prosecuted for trafficking in persons in South America, by sex, 2018 (or most recent)
8 countries (n=575)



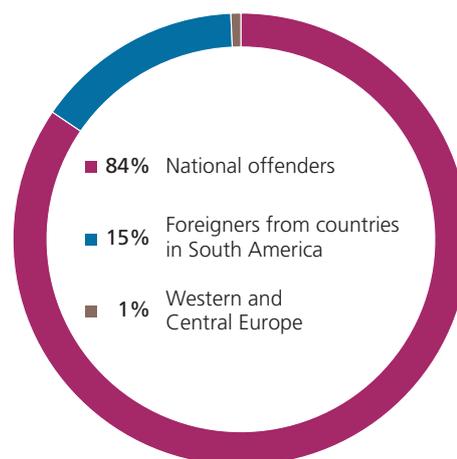
Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 168 Shares of persons convicted of trafficking in persons in South America, by sex, 2018 (or most recent)
6 countries (n=149)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 169 Shares of persons convicted of trafficking in persons in South America, by area of citizenship, 2018 (or most recent)
6 countries (n=139)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

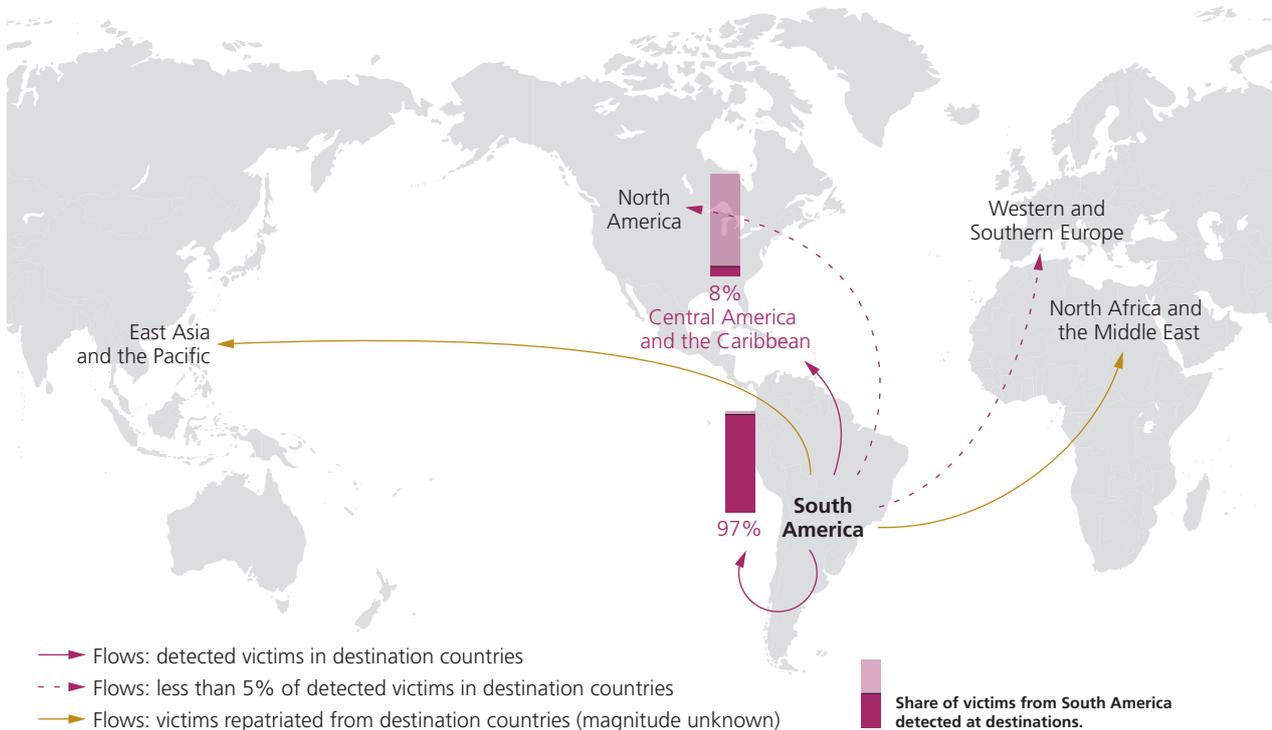
Trafficking flows affecting South America

The large majority of victims detected in South America are victims of domestic trafficking. These countries are also destinations for cross-border trafficking flows within South America. However, within the subregion, there is no clear pattern of origin and destination countries. For example, victims from Paraguay and the Plurinational State of Bolivia have been detected in Argentina, while victims from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela have been detected in Colombia and Peru. Brazil and Chile are also destinations for victims from Bolivia and Peru, among other states of origin, and Peru is also a destination for victims trafficked from neighbouring countries. Consequently, the trafficking flows within South America appear rather complex, but are also limited in terms of geographical reach, as most are limited to a nearby country. One exception seems to be the trafficking flows

originating from the Caribbean directed to the countries of the Southern Cone.

Flows out of South America are mainly directed to Central America and the Caribbean. In particular, victims from the northern part of South America are detected in the more affluent countries of the neighbouring subregion. South American victims have also been detected in North America and Western and Southern Europe. Repatriation data, however, show trafficking of South American victims is also directed to East Asia and the Gulf countries of the Middle East.

MAP. 19 Destination for trafficking flows from South America, 2018 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

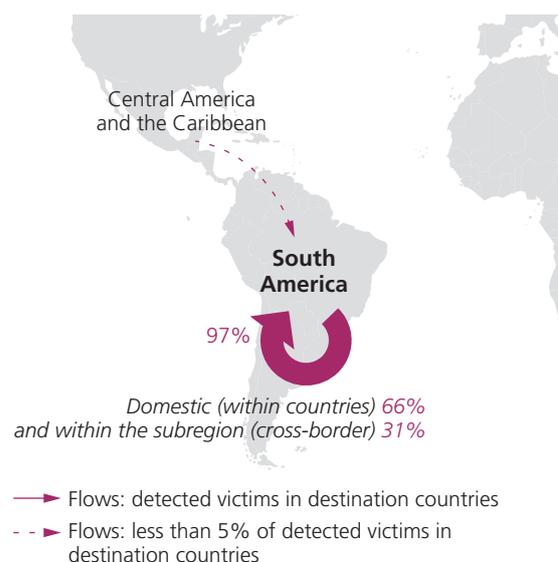
Criminalizing trafficking in persons

Most South American countries have a specific offence of trafficking in persons, in line with the United Nations Trafficking in Persons definition. The majority of countries introduced a specific offence on trafficking in persons between 2004 and 2012. As of August 2018, only one country in the subregion had partial legislation, with all other countries having introduced a specific offence for all forms of trafficking in persons.

The number of convictions per 1,000,000 people recorded in this region has been lower compared to Central American countries. However, the conviction rates per 1,000,000 have been generally increasing over the last 15 years.

Correspondingly, the number of victims detected per 1,000,000 in South American countries has also increased since the entry into force of the United Nations Trafficking in Persons Protocol, in line with the rise in conviction rates.

MAP. 20 Origins of trafficking victims detected in South America,* by subregion, 2018 (or most recent)

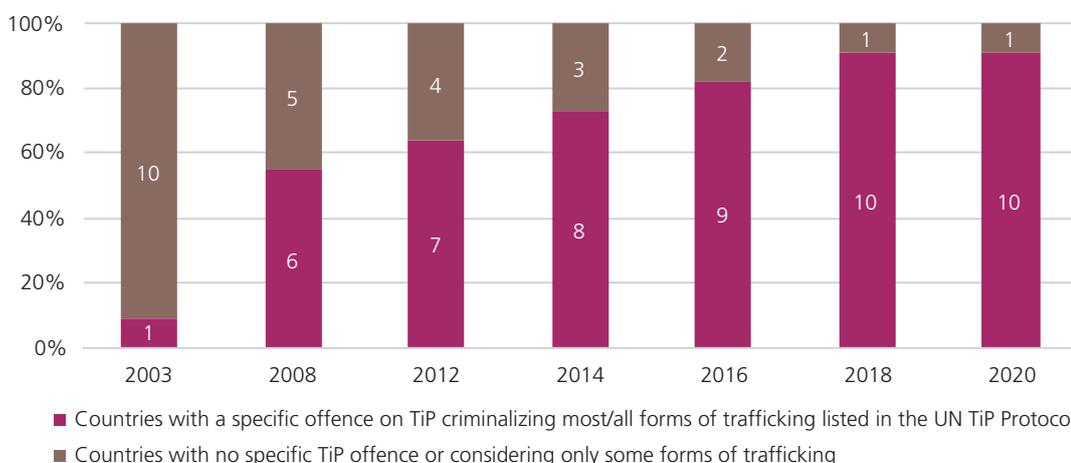


Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

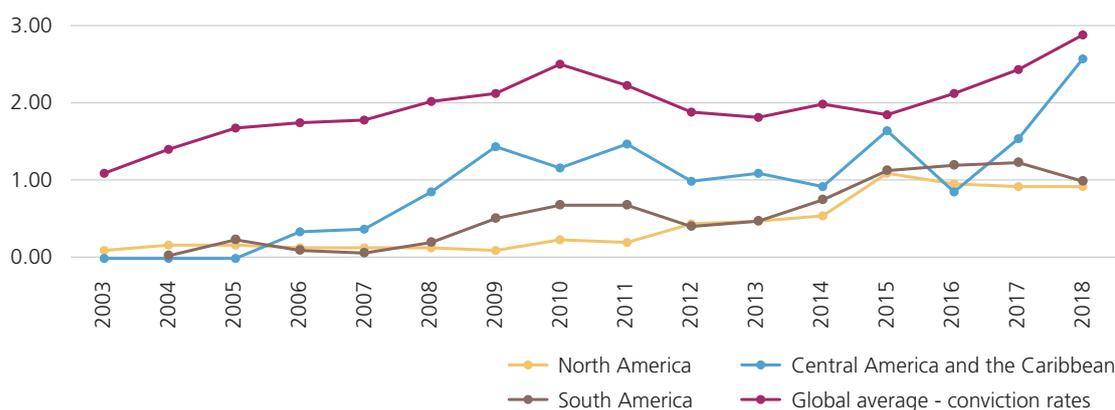
*Numbers refer to 3,243 detected victims in 11 countries of South America.

FIG. 170 Number of countries in South America introducing a specific offence on trafficking in persons, December 2003-August 2020



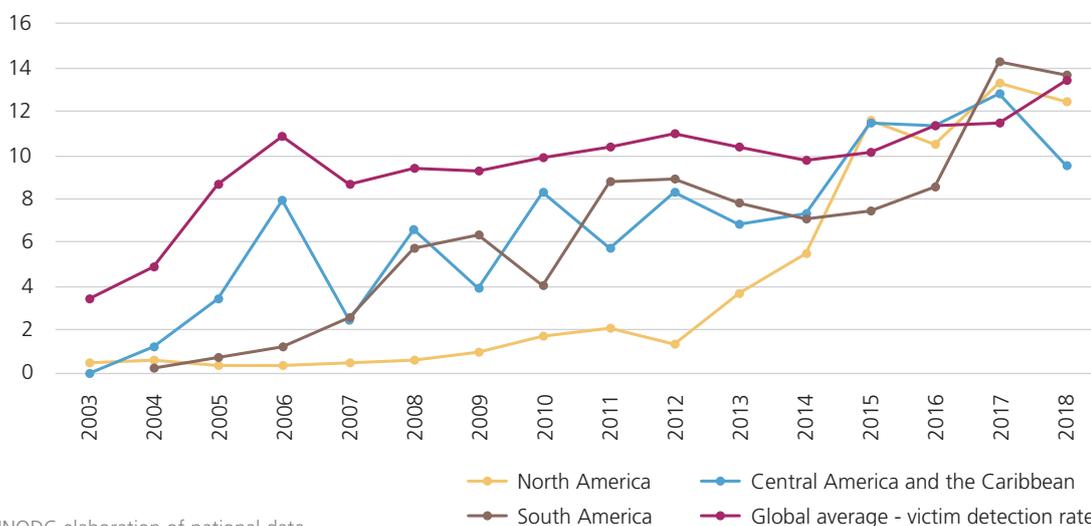
Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 171 Average conviction rates (per 1,000,000 population) globally and by subregions in the Americas, 2003-2018



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 172 Average victim detection rates (per 1,000,000 population) globally and by subregions in the Americas, 2003-2018



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA³⁹⁵

- Children represent the majority of victims detected in Sub-Saharan Africa, especially in West Africa. Southern African and East African countries tend to detect more adults than children.
- The majority of detected victims in Sub-Saharan Africa are trafficked for the purpose of forced labour.
- Trafficking flows out of Sub-Saharan Africa have a global dimension, with victims detected in Western and Southern Europe, in North Africa and in the Middle East. Victims from Sub-Saharan countries are also detected in North America and East Asia.
- As a destination of trafficking flows, most of the victims detected in this subregion are trafficked within their own countries or across the border from neighbouring countries.

Profile of the victims

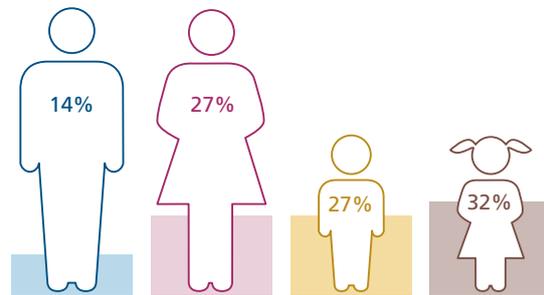
Most of the detected trafficking victims in Sub-Saharan Africa continue to be children, at about 60 per cent, with both boys and girls detected in significant proportions.

However, analysing the data by geographical areas shows that child trafficking continues to be more commonly detected in West Africa than in the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa. East and Southern African countries continue to detect larger shares of adults. East African countries have detected more adult males, while Southern African countries detect more women.

Countries in West Africa tend to detect more victims than other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. As a consequence, regional analyses regarding the profiles of victims largely reflect data from this part of the African continent.

³⁹⁵ This subregion includes 35 countries, which for analytical purposes can be divided into three areas, namely West Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo), East Africa (Kenya, Mauritius, Rwanda, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania) and Southern Africa (Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia).

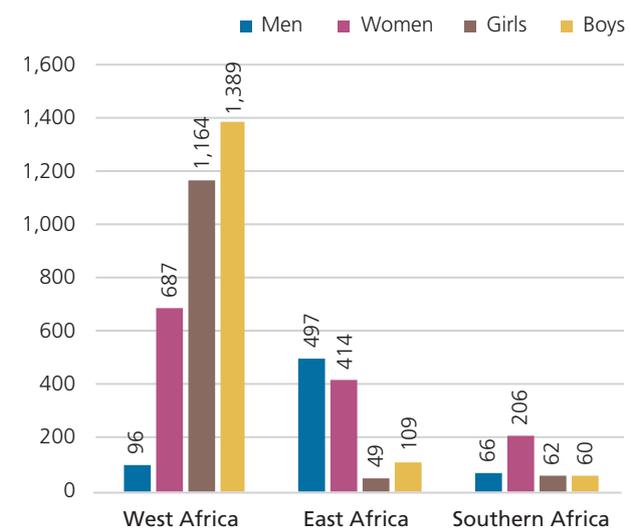
FIG. 173 Shares of detected victims of trafficking in Sub-Saharan Africa,* by age group and sex, 2018 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

*Based on data on sex and age of 4,799 victims detected in 26 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

FIG. 174 Numbers of detected victims of trafficking in Sub-Saharan Africa, by age group, sex and subregion,* 2018 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

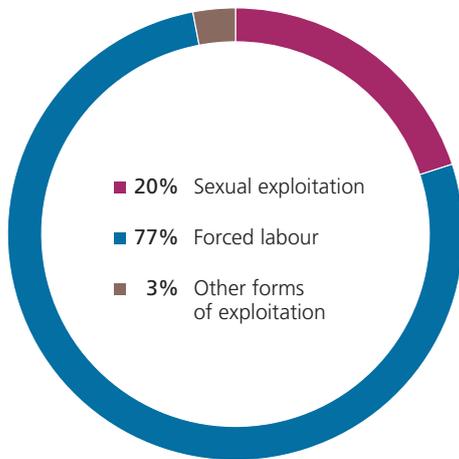
*Based on data on sex and age on victims detected in 13 countries in West Africa, 6 countries in East Africa, 7 countries in Southern Africa.

Forms of exploitation

Most of the victims detected in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2018 were trafficked for forced labour.

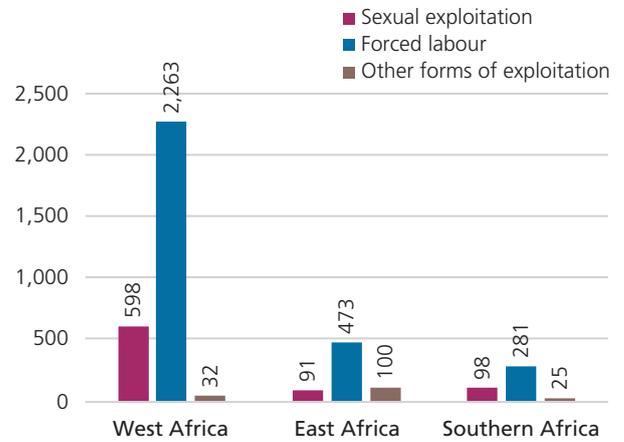
In spite of differing capacities to detect, record and report victims, the proportions of the different forms of exploitation remain largely the same in West, East and Southern Africa, with a predominance of victims of trafficking for forced labour in all areas. Among the other forms of exploitation, countries in this region reported trafficking for forced criminal activity, forced marriages and mixed forms of exploitation.

FIG. 175 Share of detected victims of trafficking in Sub-Saharan Africa,* by forms of exploitation, 2018 (or most recent)



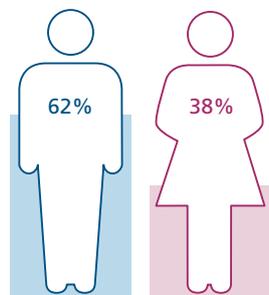
Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.
 *Based on data on forms of exploitation for 4,835 victims detected in 22 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

FIG. 176 Number of detected victims of trafficking in Sub-Saharan Africa,* by forms of exploitation and subregion, 2018 (or most recent)



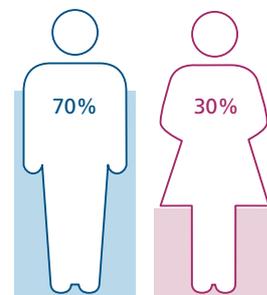
Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.
 *Based on data on forms of exploitation of detected victims in 10 countries in West Africa, 3 countries in East Africa and 7 countries in Southern Africa.

FIG. 177 Shares of persons investigated or arrested for trafficking in persons in Sub-Saharan Africa, by sex, 2018 (or most recent)
 7 countries (n=1,092)



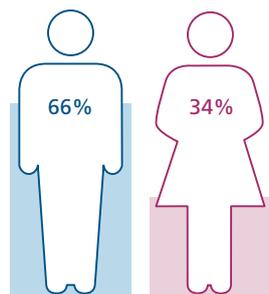
Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 178 Shares of persons prosecuted for trafficking in persons in Sub-Saharan Africa, by sex, 2018 (or most recent)
 9 countries (n=348)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 179 Shares of persons convicted of trafficking in persons in Sub-Saharan Africa, by sex, 2018 (or most recent)
 7 countries (n=121)



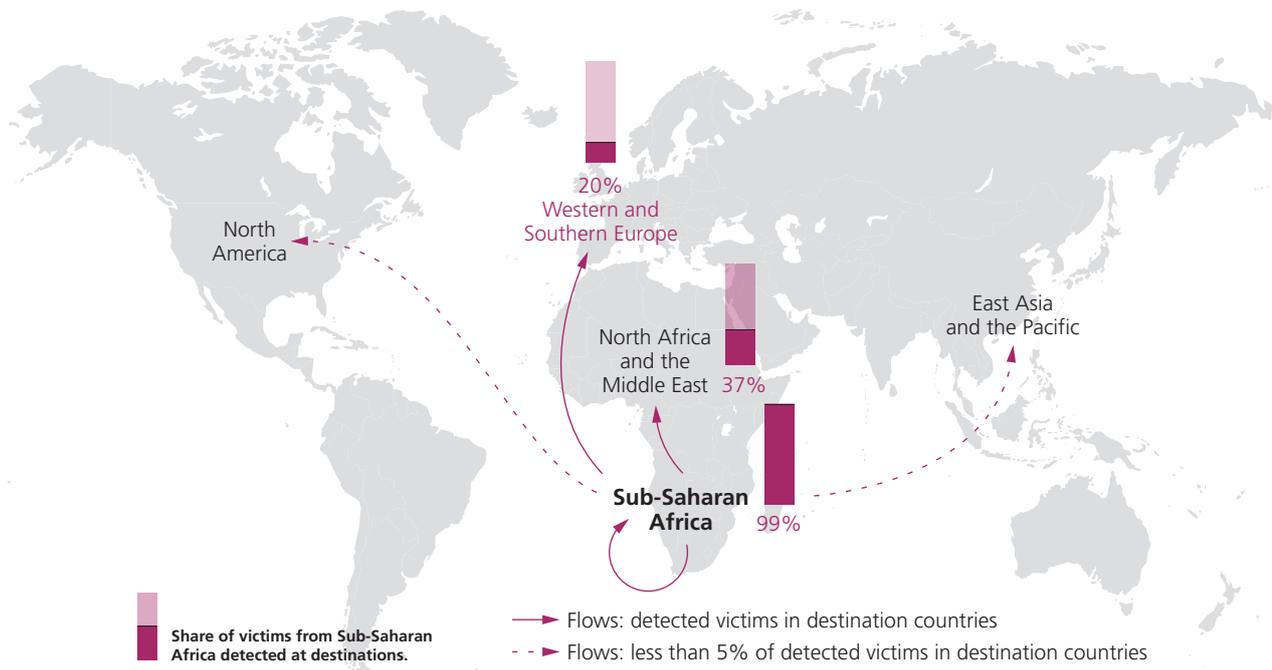
Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

Profile of the offenders

Most traffickers in this subregion continue to be males, in proportions broadly similar with global patterns. Countries in West Africa reported the highest share of females investigated/arrested for, prosecuted for and/or convicted of trafficking. Conversely, countries in Southern Africa reported the highest share of male offenders. Countries in East Africa reported that around 70 per cent of the offenders were males.

Data on the citizenship of the persons convicted of trafficking show that most are citizens of the country where they were convicted. In 2018, 12 countries in Sub-Saha-

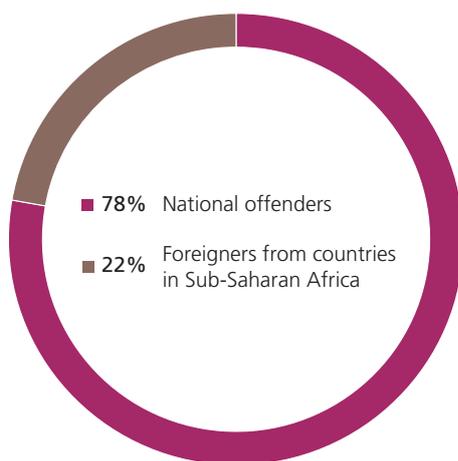
MAP. 21 Destinations for trafficking flows from Sub-Saharan Africa, 2018 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

FIG. 180 Shares of persons convicted of trafficking in persons in Sub-Saharan Africa, by area of citizenship, 2018 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

Sub-Saharan Africa reported that 78 per cent of convicted traffickers were citizens of these countries while 22 per cent were citizens of other countries in the subregion.

Trafficking flows affecting Sub-Saharan Africa

During the reporting period, victims from Sub-Saharan Africa were detected in, or repatriated from, countries in most subregions across the globe, making it a relevant region of origin for detected cases of trafficking in persons globally. Victims from all areas of Africa were detected in Western and Southern Europe in significant flows. Victims from West and East Africa were frequently detected in North Africa and the Middle East, including in the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council. Victims from West and East Africa were also detected in East Asia and North America.

Most of the victims detected in Sub-Saharan Africa are either citizens of the country of detection or citizens of other Sub-Saharan African countries. Furthermore, trafficked victims are generally trafficked within the same geographical area. For example, West African countries detect only victims from West Africa or victims who were domestically trafficked. Countries in East Africa detect foreign victims from other countries in East Africa, with very small numbers from West and Southern Africa along with victims trafficked from South Asia. The picture is similar in Southern Africa in terms of cross-border trafficking, including some victims trafficked from West and East Africa and from Asia.

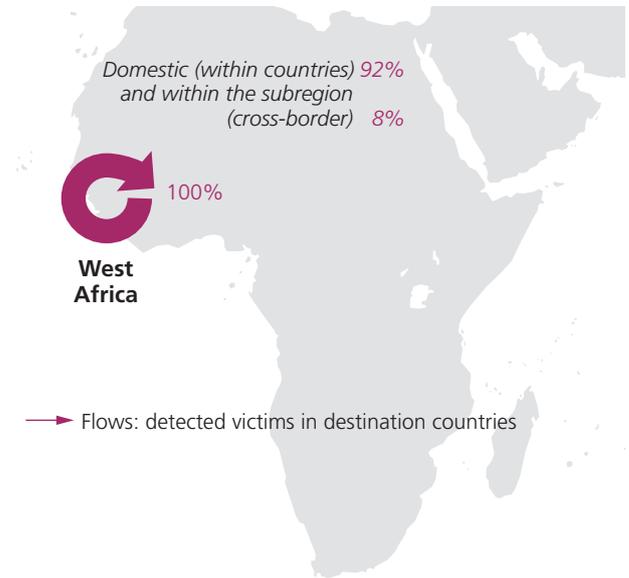
Criminalizing trafficking in persons

In the region, four countries in Sub-Saharan Africa have legislation that only criminalizes trafficking in children, while one country has no specific offence addressing this crime. Most other countries in this subregion introduced a specific offence in line with the United Nations Trafficking in Persons definition after 2009.

The number of convictions per 1,000,000 people recorded in Sub-Saharan Africa has been generally lower compared to the rest of the world. In addition, over the last 15 years, the conviction rate per 1,000,000 has been fluctuating between 0 and 1 persons, with no marked increase recorded.

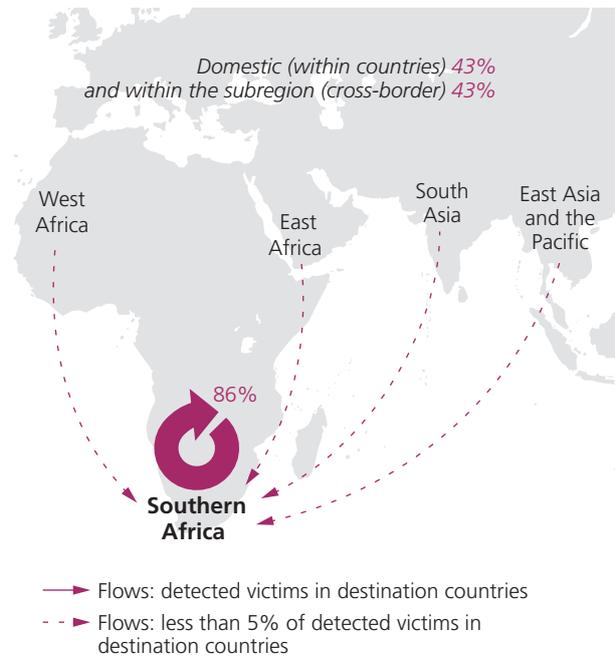
The number of victims detected per 1,000,000 in Sub-Saharan African countries has increased since the United Nations Trafficking in Persons Protocol entered into force. The number of detections, however, remains among the lowest compared to other regions.

MAP. 22 Origins of trafficking victims detected in West Africa, 2018 (or most recent)



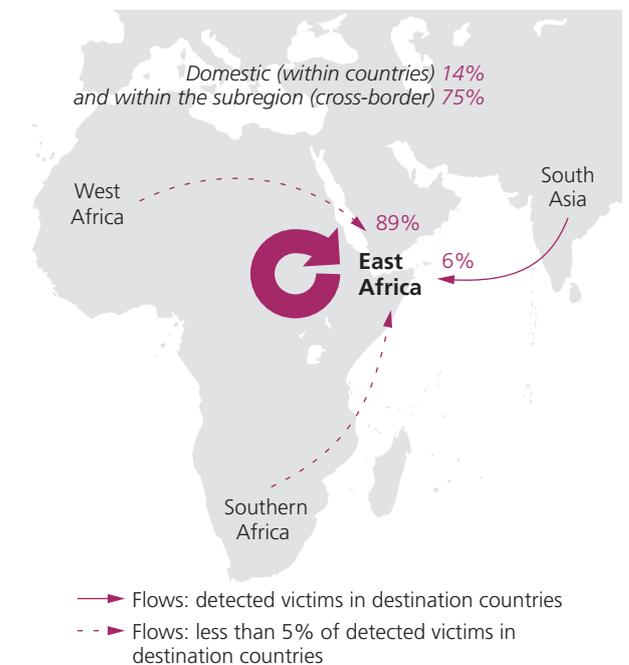
Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.
 Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

MAP. 23 Origins of trafficking victims detected in Southern Africa, 2018 (or most recent)



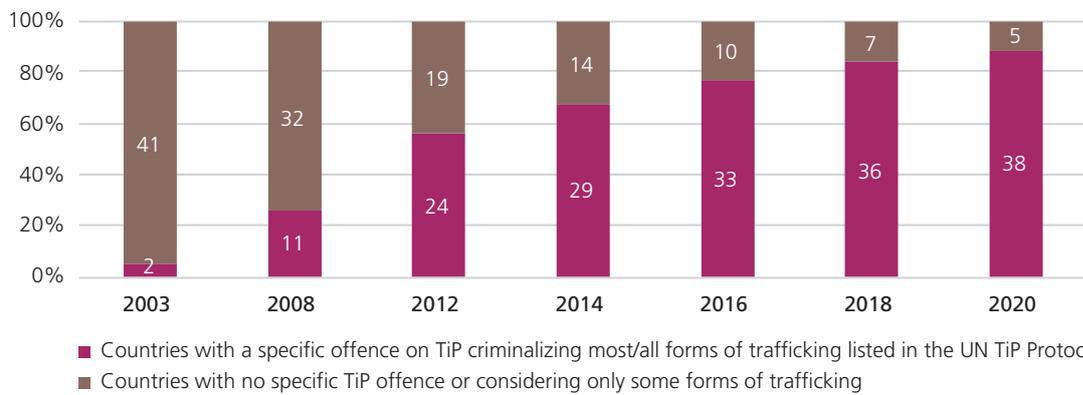
Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.
 Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

MAP. 24 Origins of trafficking victims detected in East Africa, 2018 (or most recent)



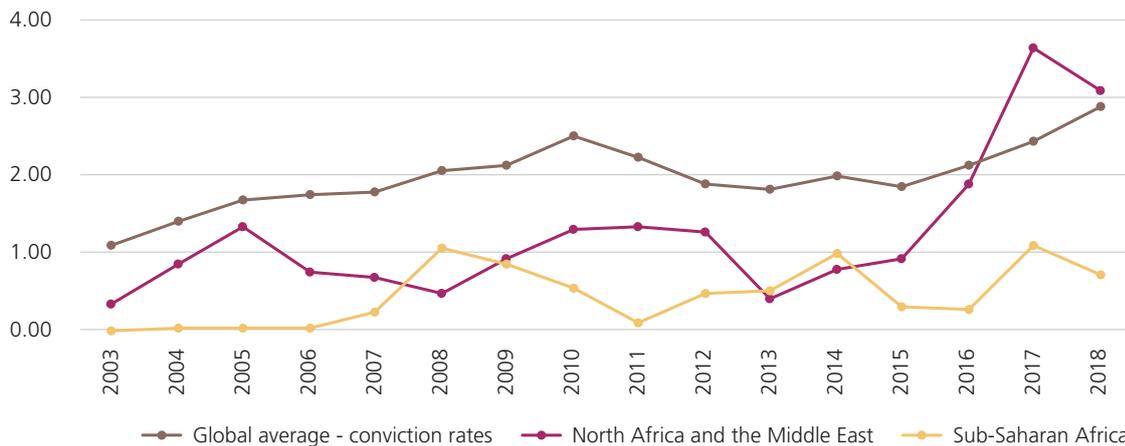
Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.
 Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

FIG. 181 Number of countries in Sub-Saharan Africa introducing a specific offence on trafficking in persons, December 2003-August 2020



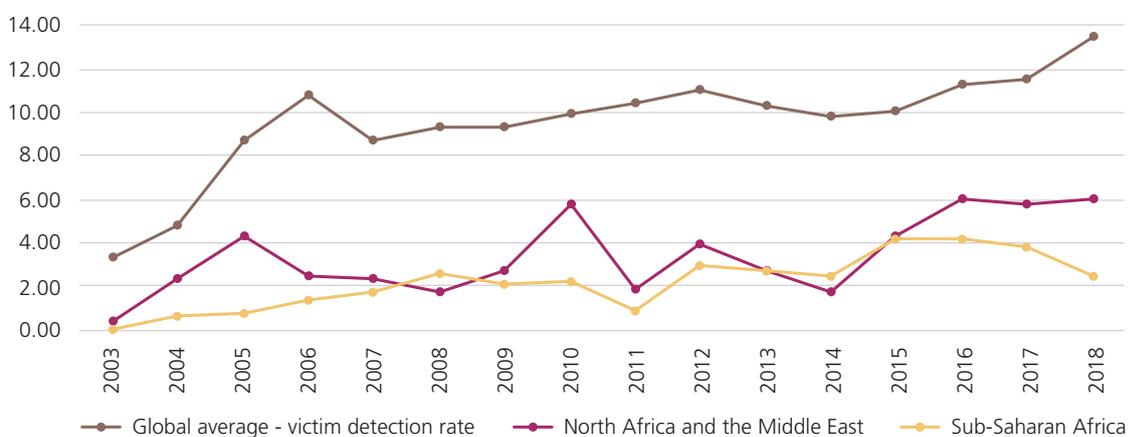
Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 182 Average conviction rates (per 1,000,000 population) globally and by subregions in Africa and the Middle East, 2003-2018



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 183 Average victim detection rates (per 1,000,000 population) globally and by subregions in Africa and the Middle East, 2003-2018



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST³⁹⁶

- Adult women and men are more frequently detected as victims of trafficking in North Africa and the Middle East. The detection of children is more frequent in North African countries than in the rest of the subregion.
- Detected victims in North Africa and the Middle East are trafficked for sexual exploitation, for forced labour and for exploitative begging in almost equal proportions.
- The majority of the victims detected in North African countries are domestically trafficked. Relevant flows into these countries originate from East and West Africa.
- Countries of the Middle East and the Gulf Cooperation Council are destinations for victims trafficked from Asia, from Sub-Saharan Africa and from Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Profile of the victims

In North Africa, the majority (69 per cent) of detected victims are adults. Among children, girls and boys were detected in equal shares. North African countries tend to detect more children than the rest of the region (31 per cent). The majority of victims in countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) were men, whereas other countries in the Middle East detected mainly women.

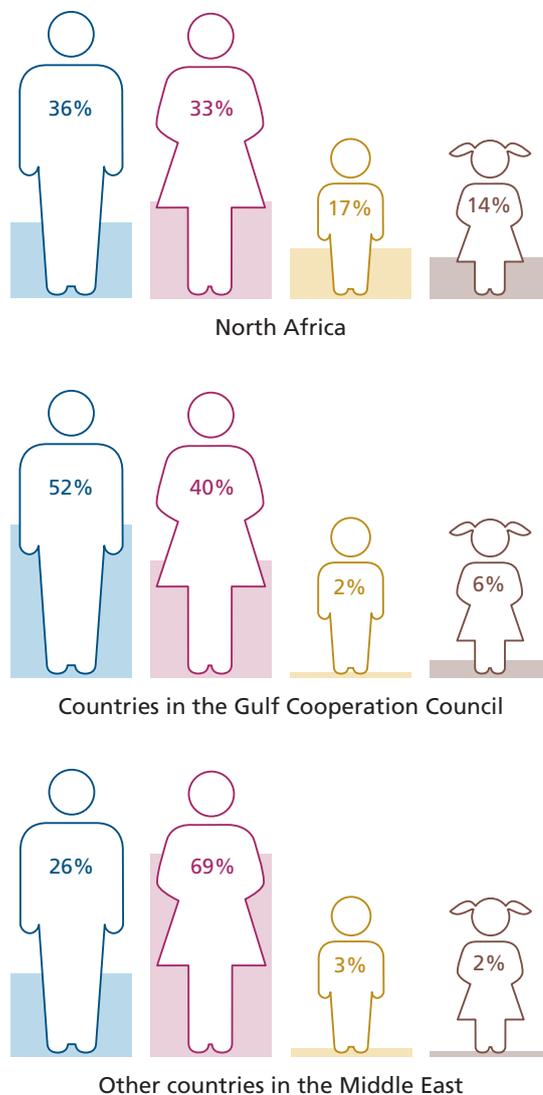
Forms of exploitation

During the reporting period, trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, forced labour and for the purpose of exploitative begging was reported in nearly equal shares. Trafficking for exploitative begging was detected in North Africa as well as in the GCC countries. Trafficking for forced criminal activity and for the removal of organs is also reported in the subregion.

Females comprise most of the victims trafficked for sexual exploitation, and two thirds of the victims trafficked

³⁹⁶ This subregion includes 16 countries and comprises North Africa (Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia), the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates) and the other countries of the Middle East (Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, and the Syrian Arab Republic).

FIG. 184 Shares of detected victims of trafficking in North Africa and the Middle East,* by age group and sex, 2018 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

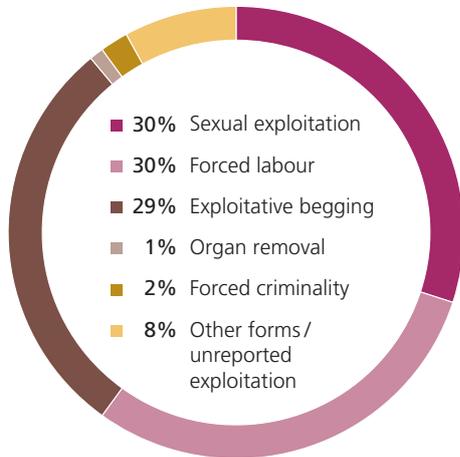
*Based on data on sex and age of 1,690 victims detected in 13 countries in North Africa and the Middle East.

for forced labour. At the same time, most of the victims trafficked for the purpose of organ removal were men.

Profile of the offenders

The vast majority of traffickers in North Africa and the Middle East continue to be male. More than 70 per cent of the persons prosecuted for trafficking in persons in 2018 were males, with seven countries reporting that over 80 per cent of those convicted were males.

FIG. 185 Shares of detected victims of trafficking in North Africa and the Middle East,* by forms of exploitation, 2018 (or most recent)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

*Based on data on forms of exploitation for 1,121 victims detected in 12 countries in North Africa and the Middle East.

As for the citizenship profiles of the traffickers, the data show that the majority of those convicted of trafficking in 2018 were citizens of the country of conviction, at 70 per cent. The remaining 30 per cent were mostly offenders from other countries in the subregion.

Trafficking flows affecting North Africa and the Middle East

In line with the results for the profiles of victims and the forms of exploitation, the three areas that make up this region are also dissimilar in terms of inbound trafficking flows.

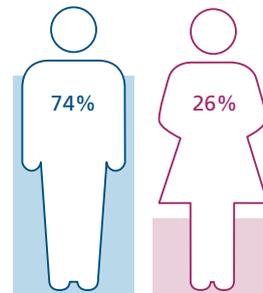
North African countries have mainly detected domestic victims, along with victims from East and West Africa. This is also confirmed by West African countries reporting their own citizens trafficked to, and then repatriated from North African countries.

Countries in the Middle East detect significant shares of victims from East Africa, Eastern Europe and South Asia. Meanwhile, GCC countries detect large numbers of Asian victims, victims from other countries of the Middle East, as well as victims from East Africa.

In terms of flows out of North Africa and the Middle East, significant flows to Western and Southern Europe were detected – 6 per cent of the victims detected in Western and Southern Europe are North African and 2 per cent are from the Middle East.

FIG. 186 Shares of persons investigated and/or arrested for trafficking in persons in North Africa and the Middle East, by sex, 2018 (or most recent)

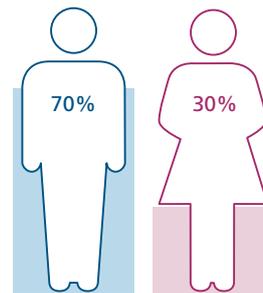
8 countries (n=850)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 187 Shares of persons prosecuted for trafficking in persons in North Africa and the Middle East, by sex, 2018 (or most recent)

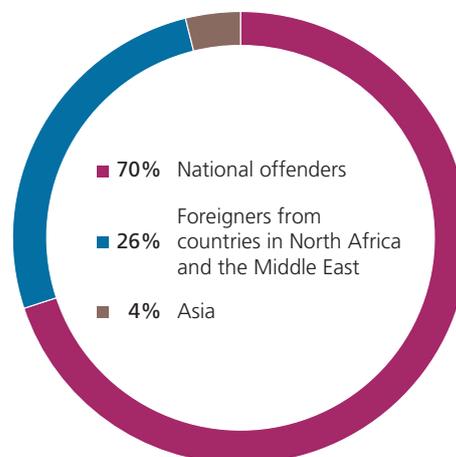
10 countries (n=901)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 188 Shares of traffickers convicted in North Africa and the Middle East, by area of citizenship, 2018 (or most recent)

7 countries (n=386)



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

Countries in the Middle East rarely reported victims of domestic trafficking. Some intraregional cross-border trafficking has been detected in the GCC countries as well as in other countries of the Middle East.

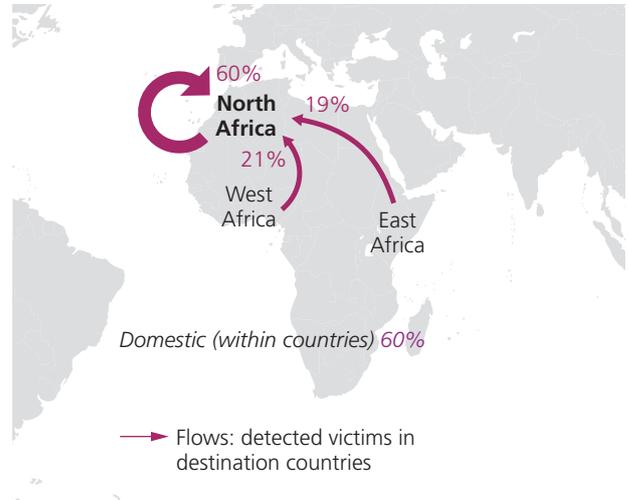
Criminalizing trafficking in persons

Most of the countries in North Africa and the Middle East introduced specific offences criminalizing trafficking in persons after the year 2009. As of August 2020, among the 17 countries assessed, only two countries lack legislation criminalizing trafficking in persons.

The number of convictions per 1,000,000 people recorded in North Africa has been lower compared to the rest of the world. Meanwhile, countries in the Middle East tend to record more convictions than North African countries. Over the last 15 years, the registered conviction rate per 1,000,000 persons in North Africa and Middle East has generally increased.

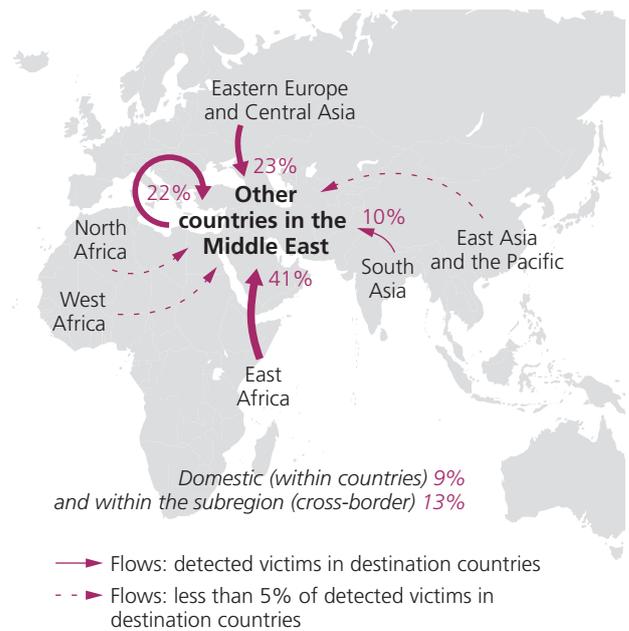
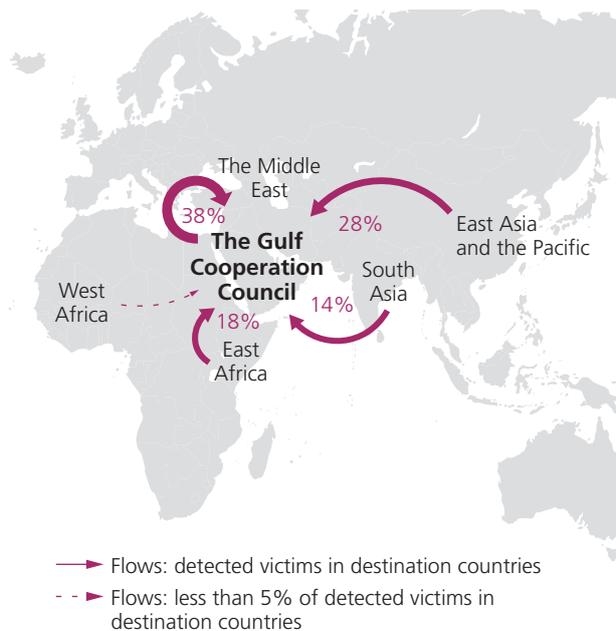
The number of victims detected per 1,000,000 in the countries of North Africa and the Middle East has been fluctuating, but generally increasing since the United Nations Trafficking in Persons Protocol entered into force. The number of detections, however, remains among the lowest compared to other regions.

MAP. 25 Origins of trafficking victims detected in North Africa, 2018 (or most recent)



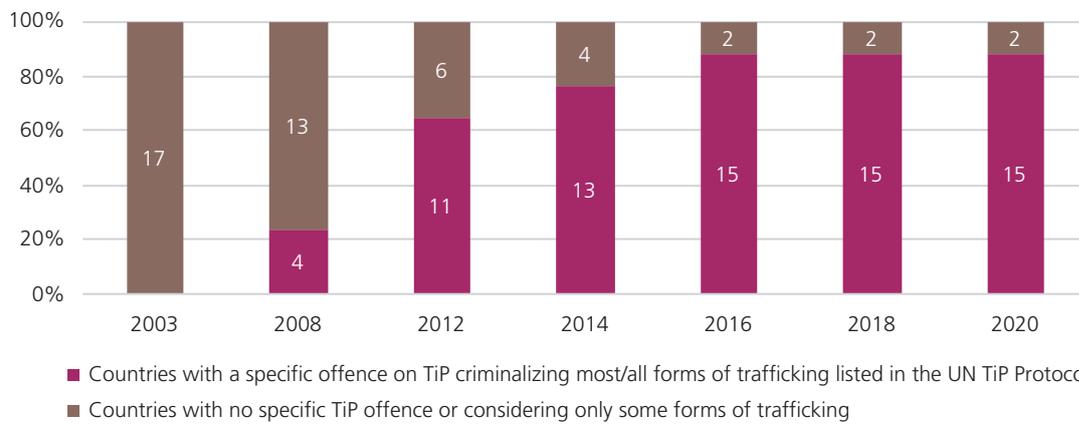
Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.
 Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

MAP. 26 Origins of trafficking victims detected in the Middle East, 2018 (or most recent)



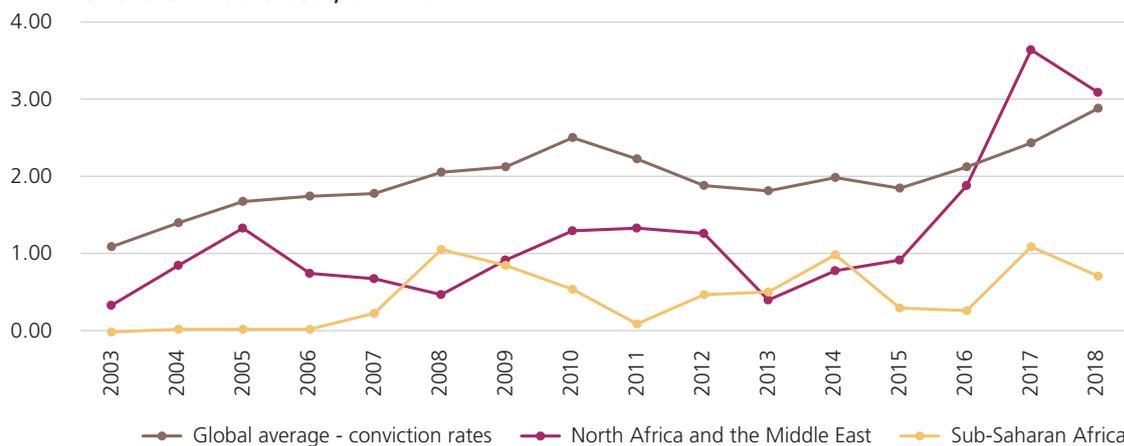
Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.
 Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

FIG. 190 Number of countries in North Africa and the Middle East introducing a specific offence on trafficking in persons, December 2003-August 2020



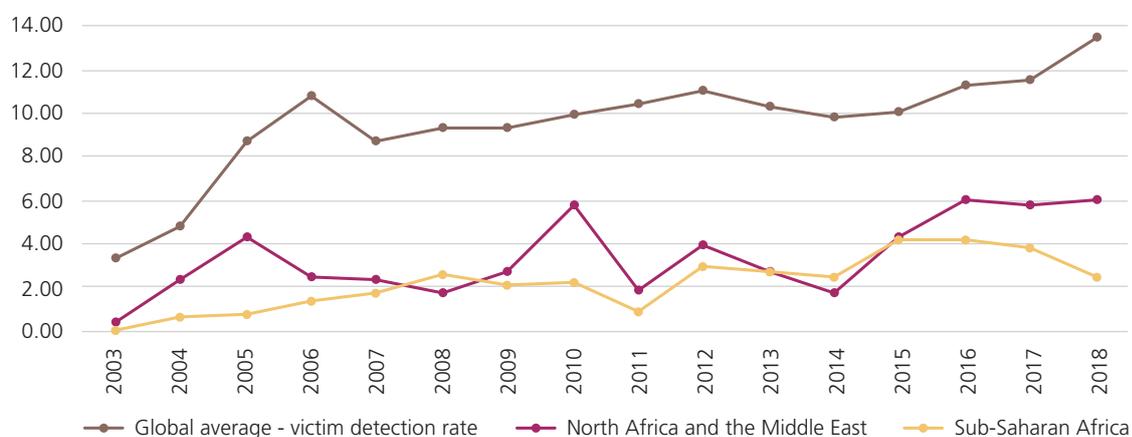
Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 191 Average conviction rates (per 1,000,000 population) globally and by subregions in Africa and the Middle East, 2003-2018



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.

FIG. 192 Average victim detection rates (per 1,000,000 population) globally and by subregions in Africa and the Middle East, 2003-2018



Source: UNODC elaboration of national data.