

## Factsheet

# National Report on Trafficking in Persons: Data from 2017 to 2020

**First report under Law No. 13.344/2016, which expands the purposes of exploitation arising from trafficking, among other innovations.**

### Purpose and scope

The report aims to disseminate up-to-date information on human trafficking in Brazil. It provides quantitative data made available by different Brazilian public institutions, as well as interviews conducted with practitioners in the field.

The report is structured in two complementary parts:

- **Part one:** Discusses contemporary issues, including the socioeconomic impact of human trafficking and contexts of migration vulnerability.
- **Part two:** Presents data and analyzes human trafficking in the last four years. It also addresses the profile of victims, the organizational structure of trafficking and recruitment strategies, the forms of exploitation, data on the exploiters and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Methodology

Brings together quantitative data, following the methodology of the previous National Reports on Trafficking in Persons ([link here](#)), and innovates by consulting qualified professionals and informants, which enriches the reading and analysis of the material.

Methodological steps:

- Literature review
- Quantitative and qualitative data collection
- Data systematization and analysis

### Sources consulted

 **59 qualified informants** from different sectors (government, judicial and security institutions, civil society, and international organizations)

 **15 professionals** with crucial experiences and roles in combating trafficking in persons

 **12 public institutions** that presented quantitative data

## Human trafficking and vulnerability factors

Socioeconomic vulnerability is one of the main risk factors of human trafficking.

The report finds that victims, particularly in cases of trafficking for labor exploitation, are not always fully deceived. Precarious economic conditions and lack of job prospects can lead them to accept degrading offers, which later turn out to be a exploitative situations. It is often the only means of survival.

**Of the responses to the online form filled out by practitioners, 95% believe that poverty is one of the main risk factors for trafficking. Likewise, 91.5% indicated unemployment as a circumstance leading to vulnerability.**

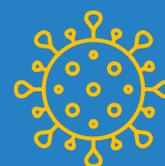
### Vulnerability and Venezuelan migration

Being part of a migrant group is a factor of vulnerability to human trafficking, as confirmed by 71% of the responses in the online survey. In this report, Venezuelan migration is analyzed in particular attention.

Migrants from Venezuela experience a series of risk factors during their displacement and on arrival in their destination countries, such as kidnapping, extortion and human trafficking.

In 2020, 265,000 Venezuelan migrants and refugees requested migratory regularization within Brazilian territory. In this regard, the Venezuelan migratory flow deserves special attention with regards to the vulnerability of migrants to human trafficking.

### The COVID-19 pandemic and human trafficking



The economic impact generated by the COVID-19 pandemic has increased vulnerability to human trafficking, making it even more difficult to detect and exposing victims to further exploitation.

The interviews point out that restrictive measures could have made inspection difficult and, thus, contributed to the increase in activities of migrant traffickers and smugglers.

Despite the closing of borders and greater control over the entry of people into the country, the pandemic has aggravated situations of abuse and violence that had already took place before it.

There is no doubt about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on human trafficking. However, it is not yet possible to measure its scale. The resulting setback in quality of life of a large part of the Brazilian population is widely recognized and will likely increase social fragmentation.

# Victims' profile

One can analyze the profile of human trafficking victims through three characteristics: gender, age and race.

## Gender

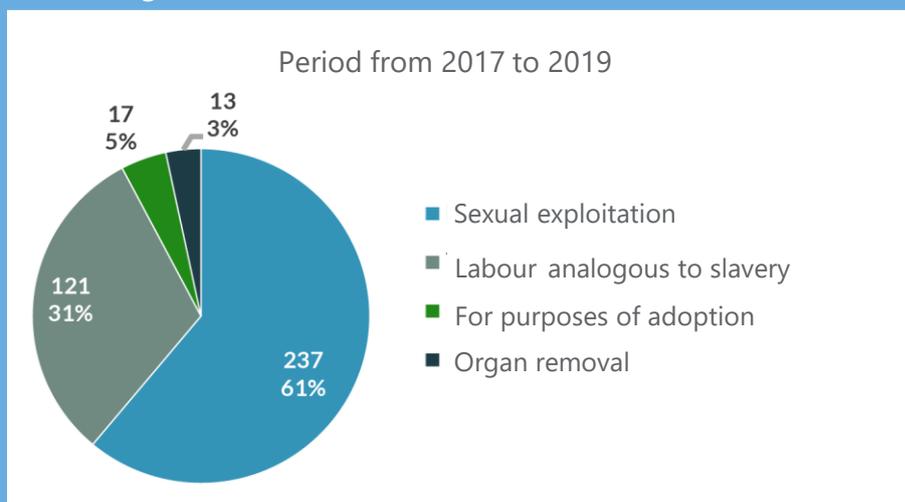
Among the victims of human trafficking rescued between 2017 and 2020, there is a predominance of men, according to the Federal Police. On the other hand, the complaints made to the hotlines dedicated to denouncing gender violence (Call 180) and human rights violations (Dial 100) indicate the prevalence of cases of trafficked women and children, mainly for sexual exploitation. Another recurring mention in the interviews was related to the trafficking of trans women, a profile that is still invisible in official data, since there is no disaggregated information regarding gender identity.

### Relationship between gender and purpose of exploitation



Women and girls predominate in cases of trafficking for sexual exploitation and men for slave labor.

### Number of complaints received by hotline Call 180 regarding trafficking in women

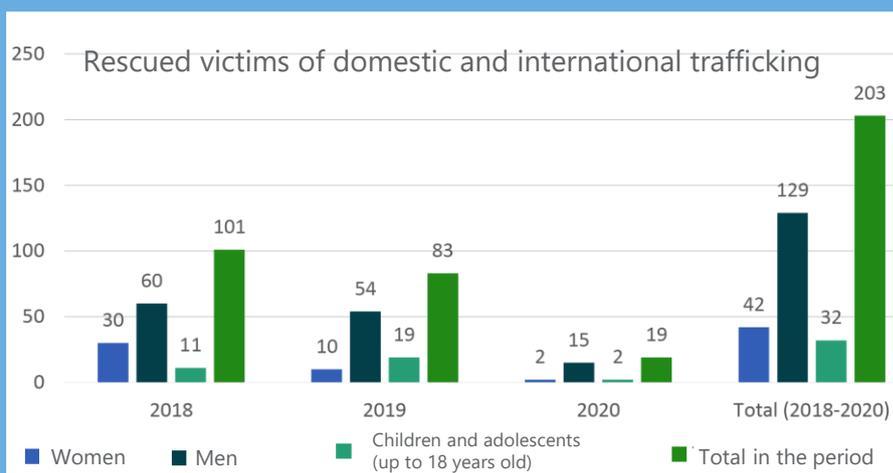


Source: Ombudsman/MMFDH

## Age

Most of the victims are of working age for the labor market (18 to 59 years), according to an analysis of the assistance provided by the Specialized Reference Centers for Social Assistance (CREAS) and data from the Ministry of Health. However, there is also data from various agencies that points to children and adolescents as victims of human trafficking.

### Gender and age of victims rescued in Federal Police operations



Source: PF/MJSP (data on victims available in the system from the year 2018)

## Race

Regarding the victims' race, the study highlights the transversality between race and vulnerability to human trafficking. According to data from the Centers for Combating Trafficking in Persons and Outposts for Humanized Assistance to Migrants, persons most likely to become victims of human trafficking were black (black and brown, 63%), followed by white (22%).

It is noted that the report does not address the reality experienced by indigenous peoples in relation to trafficking in persons. There are few official figures on the experience of exploitation on human trafficking of this specific group.

## Means of exploitation

All types of trafficking provided for in Art. 149-A of the Criminal Code, introduced by Law 13.344/16, are reported in cases during the period analyzed. The purpose of trafficking in persons most identified in Brazil is labor analogous to slavery, followed by sexual exploitation.

### Law 13.344 of October 2016



Law No. 13.344/2016 establishes five forms of exploitation pertaining to human trafficking:

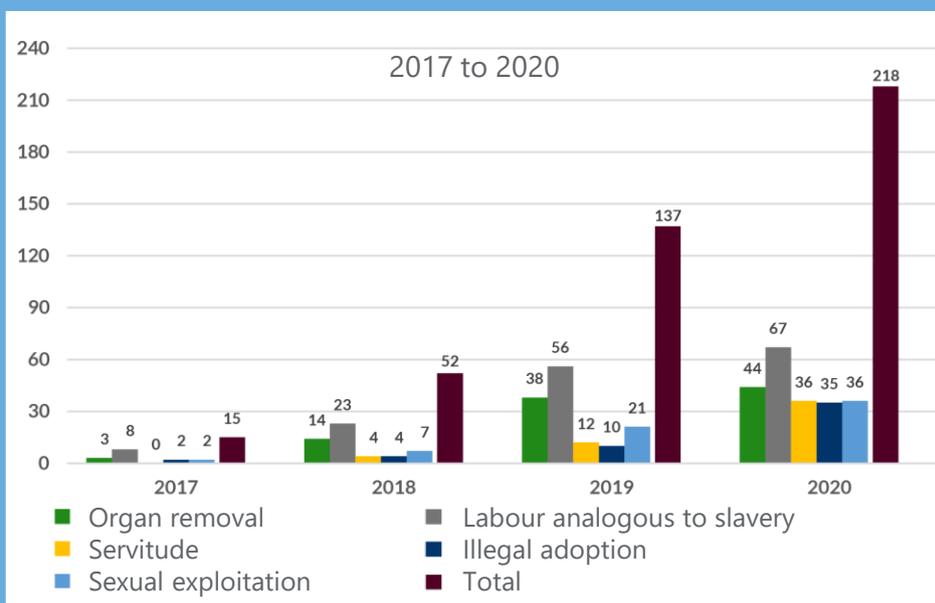
- removal of organs, tissue or body parts
- labor conditions analogous to slavery
- any type of servitude
- illegal adoption
- sexual exploitation

Before the passage of Law No. 13.344/2016, only sexual exploitation was legally considered as a purpose for trafficking in persons in Brazil.

## International trafficking and legal cooperation

From 2017 to 2020, the majority of international legal cooperation cases (69.5%) shared between Brazil and other countries for prosecution of international trafficking were related to sexual exploitation. The main countries with which Brazil established international cooperation were Spain, the United States, France, Paraguay and Peru.

## Number of inquiries per purposes of exploitation both on domestic and international trafficking, according to the Federal Police



Source: PF/MJSP

## Sexual exploitation and slave labor

The report points out that there is greater sophistication in the grooming and exploitation strategies in trafficking for sexual purposes when compared to slave labor.

Trafficking for sexual exploitation involves more actors and its perpetrators make use of new technologies and forms of enticing victims, which makes it difficult to identify those involved and complicates the identification of this mode of exploitation.

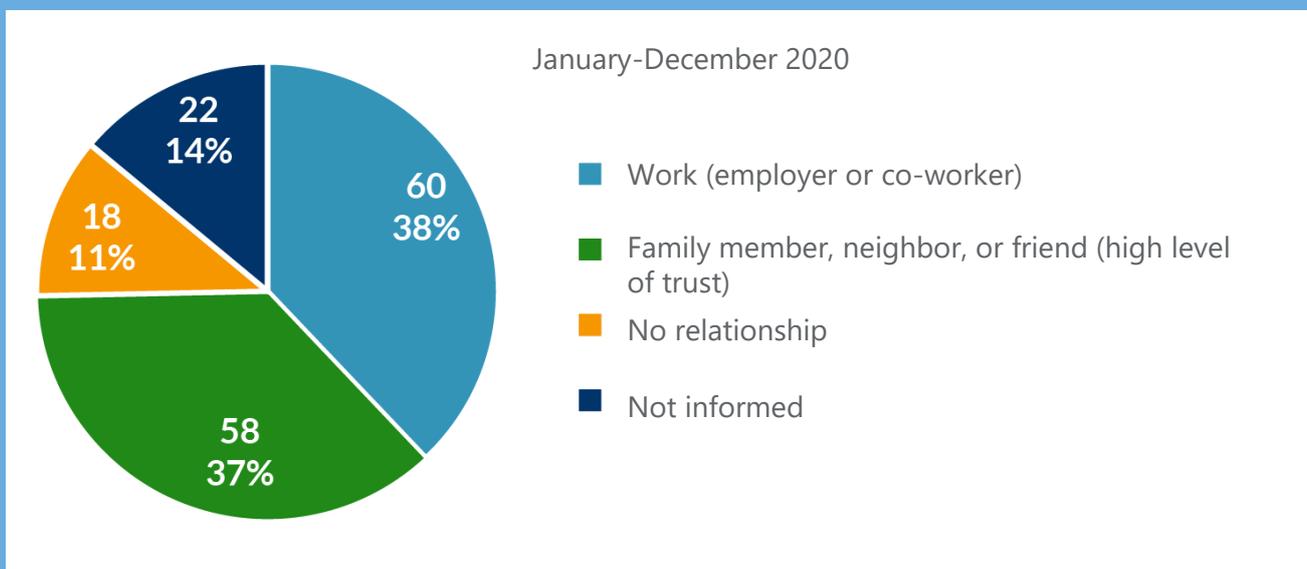
## International and domestic trafficking

When trafficking involves the crossing of international borders, criminals usually employ total or partial deception of the victims. On the other hand, in cases of domestic trafficking, deception, in general, is only partial or sometimes not necessary to achieve the victim's consent. According to the report, international trafficking is mainly related to sexual exploitation, while domestic trafficking is most often related to labor exploitation.

## Recruitment and organizational structure

Enticement to human trafficking generally occurs without the use of physical violence. The recruiter generally gets closer to the victim's daily life and the grooming can take place in everyday situations, through an invitation from someone who is trustworthy. This approach was underlined by 86.4% of the people who responded to the perception form on trafficking in persons, as well as by the majority of those interviewed.

### Cases of trafficking in persons as per trafficker/exploiter relationship with the victims who received care in the Centers and Posts



Source: MJSP/CGETP (data only available for the year 2020)

### Changes in the *modus operandi* of human trafficking

The use of technological resources such as the internet and smart phone applications was identified as the most significant change in the means of enticing. They allow the exploiter to avoid physical proximity to the victim and it is possible to exercise control from a distance. Furthermore, some reports indicate the use of these tools for exploration as well.

### Gender of the traffickers



According to the National Penitentiary Department, 78% of people convicted of trafficking in persons are men and 22% are women. It is important to highlight the prevalence of women convicted in cases of international trafficking.



This report is the result of a partnership between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the General Coordination for Combating Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants of the Migration Department of the National Secretariat of Justice of the Ministry of Justice and Public Security (CGETP/SENAJUS/MJSP).

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