

Human Trafficking Trends in Canada (2019-2022)

In May 2019, the Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking launched the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline (“Hotline”) – a free, nationwide, confidential service that operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to connect victims/survivors with the services they need. To make these connections, The Centre maintains a National Referral Directory¹ of 900+ service providers located across the country. Staff collect data² through the Hotline to support victims/survivors³ and identify trends that are occurring.

The information presented here comes from this Hotline data. It is important to note that these figures only capture a very small subset of the total human trafficking cases that occur in Canada. While the Centre does not collect demographic data on all Hotline callers, we know that historically marginalized communities are underrepresented in the data, including Indigenous peoples, members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, Black people, and migrant workers. These and other data limitations are highlighted in the hyperlink below.

After reviewing Hotline data collected between May 2019 and December 2022⁴, three broad trends emerged.

1 Human trafficking remains a significant challenge in Canada

Between 2019 and 2022, the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline:



Year	Calls	Trafficking Cases	Victims/Survivors
2019 ⁸	1,459	251	358
2020	2,637	421	666
2021	3,679	460	628
2022	4,931	368	518

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human trafficking typically involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to exploit individuals and force them into providing labour or services, including sexual services, for the benefit of someone else.

Sex and labour trafficking were the most common forms of human trafficking⁹



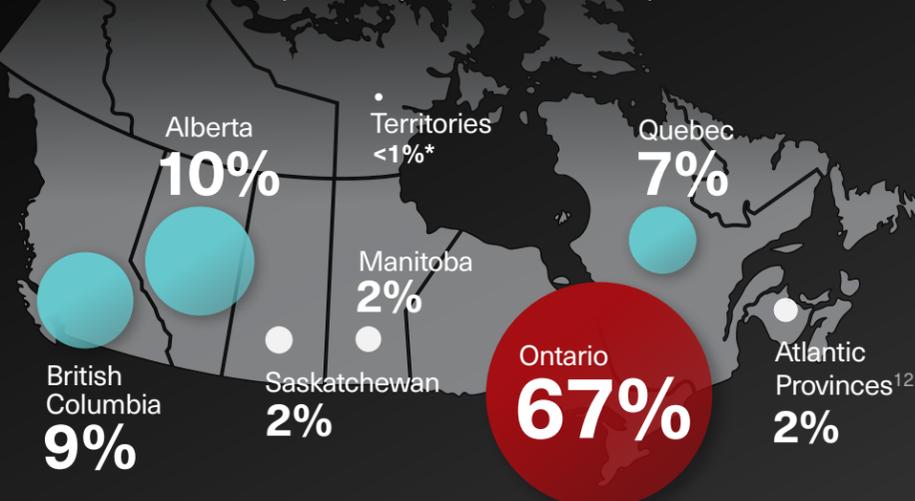
2 Human trafficking happens everywhere in Canada

Human trafficking happens in every region and community. Cases identified by the Hotline can include one or more trafficking incidents.¹⁰ Most trafficking incidents reported to the Hotline occurred in large urban centres with populations over 100,000 people.¹¹



This data is based on geographic data that callers voluntarily disclose to the Hotline. Not all callers provide this information.

The majority of trafficking incidents disclosed to the Hotline occurred in Ontario, Alberta, British Columbia, and Quebec.



* Collectively across the Territories, fewer than 10 trafficking incidents were disclosed to the Hotline. It is likely that human trafficking is significantly underreported in the Northwest Territories, Yukon, and Nunavut.

3 Victims/survivors depend on social services to heal from human trafficking and other traumas

These supports require additional funding and resources from federal, provincial and municipal governments.



Approximately **37%** of callers that contacted the Hotline about a trafficking case were victims/survivors.²²

