

FIRST LADY
Donna Hutto Edwards
STATE OF LOUISIANA



April 26, 2022

Dear School Administrator,

Each year in Louisiana, hundreds of children and youth are victims of human trafficking. Prevention and early identification are crucial to ending this heinous crime in our communities according to research and professionals in the field. Therefore, I am pleased to introduce the **Safe Schools Louisiana** app, a new safety technology app for students to report crime issues.

Crime Stoppers Greater New Orleans collaborated with the Louisiana State Police to develop a free anonymous reporting app called Safe Schools Louisiana. The app provides a safe platform for students to report bullying, suicide, drug use, sexual assault, and even human trafficking. The report will then be sent to their school administration and law enforcement. The app is live in 415 Louisiana schools across 13 parishes. Since its launch in 2019, students have sent in over 1,000 tips. The app empowers students to report suspicious activity anonymously so there is no fear of retaliation or rejection. This type of information sharing between students, school administrations, and law enforcement can make a real difference in the safety and well-being of our students both in and out of the classroom.

During the fall of 2021, the Governor's Office of Human Trafficking Prevention officially partnered with Crime Stoppers Greater New Orleans to elevate the Safe Schools Louisiana app. My office and the Louisiana First Foundation are also pleased to support and partner with this worthy cause. I encourage every school in Louisiana that does not have a safety reporting mechanism for their students to consider participating in the free Louisiana Safe Schools app. For more information or to register your school, please visit www.safeschoolsla.com/ or contact Darlene Cusanza, President and CEO, at Darlene@crimestoppersgno.org.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Donna H. Edwards".

Donna H. Edwards
First Lady of Louisiana



The Office of HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION

The Louisiana Governor's Office of Human Trafficking Prevention (OHTP) was created by statute in the 2021 Regular Legislative Session and is required to collect annual statewide data on human trafficking. The OHTP has contracted with Allies Against Slavery to aggregate and analyze statewide data through their innovative software platform, Lighthouse.

Louisiana Human Trafficking Data Report 2021

The information below is a summary of the 2021 annual human trafficking data report. In 2021, a reported total of 932 victims (592 confirmed and 309 suspected) were served in Louisiana. The full report will be published in Summer of 2022.

TOTAL VICTIMS SERVED



932 Total Served
592 (64%) Confirmed
309 (33%) Suspected
31 (3%) Unknown

GENDER



829 (89%) Female
82 (9%) Male
11 (1%) Transgender
11 (1%) Unknown

AGE



607 (65%) <18
132 (14%) 18-21
28 (3%) 22-24
145 (16%) >24
20 (2%) Unknown

RACE



416 (45%) White
380 (41%) African American
45 (5%) Multiracial
25 (3%) Hispanic
10 (1%) Asian
4 (.4%) American Indian or Alaska Native
1 (.1%) Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander
51 (5%) Other or Unknown

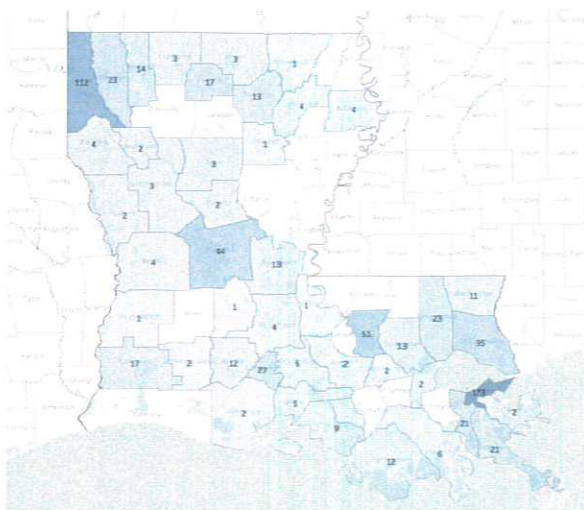
ETHNICITY



624 (67%) Non-Latino
63 (7%) Latino
245 (26%) Unknown

Trafficking Cases by Location

The majority of trafficking incidences in 2021 were concentrated in the large urban areas, led by New Orleans (173), Shreveport (112), Baton Rouge (51) and Alexandria (44). However, many rural parishes also recorded incidences of human trafficking. Note that the data includes individuals with multiple trafficking parishes, locations outside of Louisiana, and unknown locations.



CSE-IT Screenings for Trafficking

The Commercial Sexual Exploitation Identification Tool (CSE-IT) helps to identify youth at risk for exploitation by examining various indicators, such as involvement with law enforcement, juvenile justice and child welfare systems, prior history of abuse, inadequate caregiver supervision, runaway history, irregular school attendance, self destructive behaviors, and unhealthy relationships.



170 (11%) Clear Concerns out of 1500 CSE-IT Screenings

From June 2020 to December 2021, 13 trained agencies across the state conducted 1,500 CSE-IT screenings with 170 of the screenings indicating a clear concern for possible exploitation or trafficking.

For more information on human trafficking efforts in Louisiana or to find resources in your region, please visit the Human Trafficking Resource Center of Louisiana at humantrafficking.la.gov.