

ANNUAL **REPORT** 2025

DELAWARE ANTI-TRAFFICKING
ACTION COUNCIL



DATAC

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OUR MISSION:

The mission of Delaware Anti-Trafficking Action Council (DATAC) is set forth in 11 *Del. C. § 787(k)(3) and (4)*.

The Council mandates are:

- a. Develop a comprehensive plan to provide victims of human trafficking with services.
- b. Effectuate coordination between agencies, departments, and the courts with victims of human trafficking.
- c. Collect and evaluate data on human trafficking in this State.
- d. Promote public awareness about human trafficking, victim remedies and services, and trafficking prevention.
- e. Create a public-awareness sign that contains centralized human trafficking hotline information.
- f. Coordinate training on human trafficking prevention and victim services for individuals who may have recurring contact with victims or perpetrators including government employees, healthcare workers, business owners, potential victims of human trafficking, and private sector employees.
- g. Pursue funding opportunities, including federal grants, through the Criminal Justice Council.
- h. Conduct other appropriate activities.

The Council's procedures are also set by statute. These are, in relevant part:

- a. The Council shall meet at least four times per year. Ten members shall constitute a quorum.
- b. Chair and Vice Chair must be elected annually from among the members of the Council.
- c. The Council shall establish committees composed of Council members and other knowledgeable individuals, as it deems advisable, to assist in planning, policy, goal and priority recommendations, and developing implementation plans to achieve the purposes of the Council
- d. The Council shall submit an annual written report of its activities and recommendations to the Governor, General Assembly and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and the Executive Director of the Criminal Justice Council at least once every year on or before September 15.
- e. The Executive Director will serve at the pleasure of a quorum of the Council.

- f. The Executive Director of the Council shall support the Council in carrying out its duties.
- g. The Council shall approve a published list of location categories of establishments that must display a public awareness sign on an annual basis.

DATAAC CHAIR AND CO-CHAIR'S MESSAGE



Honorable Judge Jurden, Ret., DATAAC Chair



**Caroline Brittingham Esq.,
DATAAC Co-Chair**

On behalf of the Delaware Anti-Trafficking Action Council, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to each of you for your dedication, commitment, and tireless work in the fight against human trafficking. Your efforts — whether in prevention, protection, enforcement, policy, or survivor support — are making a real difference in the lives of the most vulnerable across our state.

Together, we have built momentum that is changing systems, shaping legislation, and strengthening the network of services available to survivors. None of this progress would be possible without the passion, expertise, and persistence of every agency, organization, and individual represented on this Council.

As we look ahead, we are energized by the opportunities before us. We are committed to working closely with each of you to support your efforts, amplify your impact, and continue driving meaningful change. Human trafficking is a complex, evolving challenge but with collaboration, determination, and shared purpose, Delaware can and will continue to lead the way in building a safer, more just future.

Thank you for all that you do. We are honored to serve alongside you in this vital work.

Hon. Jan R. Jurden, Ret., Chair
Caroline Brittingham, Esq., Co-Chair
Delaware Anti-Trafficking Action Council

Thank You & Honorable Mention: Caroline Brittingham, Esq.

DATAAC extends sincere thanks to Caroline Brittingham, Esq., former Deputy Attorney General, for her outstanding service as Co-Chair of DATAAC and Chair of the Legislative Committee. Her time, dedication, and legal expertise advanced survivor-centered policy and strengthened statewide collaboration. We are deeply grateful for her distinguished service and congratulate her on her appointment as a Magistrate in Chancery. We wish her continued success in this new role.

DATAAC APPOINTED MEMBERS

(Pursuant to 11 *Del. C.* § 787(k)(2))

Judicial Members

Judge Danielle Brennan
Judge Katherine Mayer
Commissioner Theresa Sedivec

Department of Justice

DATAAC Vice Chair: Caroline Brittingham, Esq.
Appointment ended due to her transition from DOJ to Court of Chancery August 2025

Office of Defense Services

Lisa Minutola, Esq.
Appointment ended due to retirement from ODS

Appointed Law Enforcement Officer

Delaware State Police

Lt. Colonel Daniel Meadows
Appointment ended due to retirement

Health Care

Dawn Culp

Department of Health and Social Services

Amanda Levering

Department of Labor

Tasha Snow-Gist

Department of Services for the Children, Youth and Their Families

Meredith Seitz

Victim Services Advocate

Vacant-Kent County

Melissa Pennachi

Nina Morales -Perez

Yolanda Montgomery

Delaware Department of Education

Rosalie Morales

Division of Professional Regulations

Megan Miller

Delaware House of Representatives

Honorable Representative Kimberly Williams

Honorable Representative Michael Smith

Delaware State Senate

Honorable Senator Nicole Poore

Honorable Senator Bryant Richardson

Department of Transportation

Stephanie Johnson

Criminal Justice Council

Christian Kervick

Victim/Survivor

Vacant

Legal Advocate for Victims

Cara Sawyer, Esq.

Retired Judicial Member

DATAAC Chair: Honorable Judge Jan R. Jurden, Retired

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE

It is my deepest honor to serve as the Executive Director of the Delaware Anti-Trafficking Action Council (DATAC). This role is more than a position—it's a calling. It allows me to stand alongside a coalition of tireless advocates, courageous survivors, law enforcement professionals, service providers, policymakers, and community members who are united in one shared mission: to end human trafficking in all its forms across our state.

This past year, DATAC has taken meaningful steps forward. From advocating for critical legislation, to coordinating survivor-centered training efforts, to expanding public awareness and interagency collaboration—our progress has been hard-earned, but undeniable. These accomplishments would not be possible without the unwavering support of our Council members and dedicated partners statewide.

Yet, we know our work is far from done. Human trafficking continues to evolve, and so must our strategies. We must remain relentless in our pursuit of justice—for the children, adults, and families impacted by this crime. That means deepening our prevention efforts, modernizing response systems, investing in long-term survivor care, and empowering those with lived experience to help shape the path forward.

As Executive Director, I am committed to ensuring that DATAC remains both a strategic leader and a collaborative partner. Together, we are building a safer, Delaware—one that refuses to turn away from exploitation, and instead confronts it with courage, compassion, and clarity.

To those who have walked this journey with us—thank you. To those we have yet to reach—we see you, and we are coming.

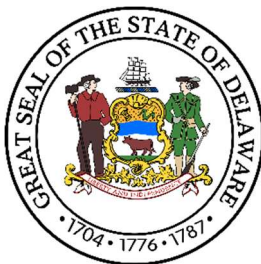
With deep gratitude and continued resolve,
Sara A. Poore
Executive Director
Delaware Anti-Trafficking Action Council

DATAAC APPOINTED MEMBER REPORTS



Appointed Judicial Member: Judge Katherine Mayer

As a judicial officer, my role has been to monitor cases throughout all three counties/statewide, to identify any cases for elements of human trafficking either as victims or predators. If a case is identified as possibly involving human trafficking, I make efforts to refer the individuals to treatment programs, housing and help lines/organizations. I also endeavor to determine if non-monetary conditions are appropriate to protect and/or ensure safety of victims.



Appointed Legislative Member: Representative Kim Williams

Has been a driving force in Delaware's fight against human trafficking since its inception and has built on the original human trafficking bill. Her dedication, tireless advocacy, and leadership in sponsoring key legislation have strengthened protections for survivors, improved coordination across agencies, and held offenders accountable.

Throughout her tenure, Rep. Williams has championed multiple human trafficking bills, including measures to enhance victim services, close legal loopholes, and align Delaware law with national best practices. Her work has elevated Delaware's anti-trafficking efforts to a national level, inspiring other states to follow suit.

As an integral member of DATAAC, Rep. Williams continues to lead with compassion, determination, and an unwavering commitment to creating a Delaware where survivors are empowered, traffickers are prosecuted, and prevention is prioritized.

Appointed Victim Service Advocate: Melissa Pennachi,

As a police-based victim advocate, we continue to expand our knowledge and training around human trafficking. Many have been through an intensive weeklong training about Human Trafficking and continue to participate in webinars. Many victims we work with do not come in identifying as HT victims, but we are trained to notice signs and do follow up to see if a victim may disclose potential trafficking (and be willing to be interviewed by a detective, or a CAC forensic interviewer) Multiple police agencies have conducted trafficking operations over the last

year and police based advocates are on the front line working connect victims with appropriate services.

DATAAC APPOINTED STATE AGENCY REPORTS



Office of Defense Services (ODS)

The Office of Defense Services (ODS) remains steadfast in its mission to zealously advocate for clients who are often victims of human trafficking. As an appointed member of the Delaware Anti-Trafficking Action Council (DATAAC), ODS plays an important role in ensuring that the voices and rights of vulnerable individuals are protected throughout the legal process. ODS's commitment to client-centered representation aligns with DATAAC's broader mission to protect victims, improve systemic responses, and promote justice. This shared dedication strengthens Delaware's coordinated efforts to address both the immediate and long-term needs of trafficking survivors.



Delaware Department of Education (DDOE)

The Delaware Department of Education DDOE plays a vital role on the Delaware Anti-Trafficking Action Council (DATAAC) by ensuring that prevention, awareness, and response efforts reach schools and educators statewide.

In the upcoming year, DDOE will assist DATAAC in connecting directly with all school districts across Delaware, strengthening our ability to provide educational resources and support to students, staff, and families. DDOE will also distribute DATAAC's contact information to all district superintendents, along with a message outlining the materials we can provide and guidance on accessing free human trafficking training opportunities.

This collaboration ensures that Delaware's education system remains an active partner in identifying trafficking indicators, supporting at-risk youth, and fostering a safe learning environment for all students.



The Division of Professional Regulation

The Division of Professional Regulations collaborates routinely with the Department of Justice and Delaware State Police in shutting down Illicit Massage Establishments. When a search warrant is conducted at an Illicit Massage Establishment, a Division of Professional Regulation Investigator accompanies law enforcement for the search warrant to document violations. Proactively our Investigators conduct random inspections of Massage Establishments noting during their inspection any signs of Human Trafficking. All information collected is shared with the appropriate agencies. To help the public know a Massage Establishment is unlicensed, a yellow placard is placed on the door. This year the Division of Professional Regulation have trained multiple investigators in our Unit to help with ongoing inspections throughout the year.



The Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT)

The Delaware Department of Transportation continues to take a comprehensive, multi-division approach to combat human trafficking. Through employee training, public outreach, and strategic awareness campaigns, DelDOT remains committed to supporting statewide prevention efforts and the mission of the Delaware Anti-Trafficking Action Council (DATAC).

DelDOT DHR

Employee Training

456 employees completed the DelDOT Human Trafficking Awareness training during FY2025, strengthening the agency's ability to recognize and respond to potential trafficking situations across all divisions.

Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and Toll Operations

Awareness Materials Distributed

Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) wallet cards distributed with every Commercial Learner's Permit and Commercial Driver License transaction.

TAT awareness cards provided to all IRP/Motor Carrier customers.

Human trafficking awareness included in the CDL manual.

Training and Internal Education

Human trafficking awareness training/videos are part of DMV's centralized program for all new front-line employees.

Public Outreach and Messaging

Monthly social media posts (15 posts since July 2024) Facebook, Instagram, and X.

Awareness messages displayed on DMV's internal TV network (MVN).

Human trafficking signage posted at DMV locations, toll plazas, and the Biden Welcome Center.

DART First State (DTC Transit Division)

Employee Training

151 new employees completed training using the *Busing on the Lookout* video during New Employee Orientation.

27 employees were trained through TSA security-sensitive presentations targeting fixed-route drivers, paratransit drivers, mechanics, and administrative staff.

Public Messaging

Human trafficking graphics displayed on bus infotainment screens and statewide LCD displays.

One agency-wide safety message this year specifically addressed trafficking awareness.

Division of Maintenance & Operations – Smyrna Rest Area

Public Awareness and Resources

High-visibility human trafficking posters placed throughout the rest area.

Flyers and rack cards available at the information center for visitors and truck drivers.

Employee Preparedness

Mandatory annual staff training on recognizing and responding to trafficking.

Employees carry reference cards with emergency contacts and trafficking indicators.

Infrastructure Enhancements

Two Code Blue emergency call stations installed—one in the truck parking lot and one in the passenger lot—for direct access to emergency services. (see attached photos)

Community Relations Division

Social Media Awareness Campaigns

Statewide support of Wear Blue Day via DelDOT social channels.

Coordinated with DMV to publish monthly anti-trafficking posts.

Internal Awareness Efforts

Year-round anti-trafficking advertisements displayed on closed-circuit TV monitors in all DelDOT facilities and DMV locations.

Community Engagement

Distributed anti-human trafficking materials at a minimum of five community events attended by DelDOT Community Relations during the reporting period.

DelDOT #WearBlueDay Social Media Post Example



Department of Services for Children, Youth & Their Families

State of Delaware



Department of Services for Children, Youth, and Their Families (DSCYF) – Juvenile Trafficking Response Overview (CY 2024)

Department Structure DSCYF is comprised of four Divisions, each committed to child safety and family strengthening:

- **Division of Family Services (DFS)**
- **Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services (DPBHS)**
- **Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services (YRS)**
- **Division of Management Support Services (DMSS)**

Juvenile Trafficking Identification and Response

DSCYF has implemented a department-wide process to identify youth at risk for or experiencing juvenile trafficking. Central to this effort is the **Commercial Sexual Exploitation–Identification Tool (CSE-IT)**, which is used across all Divisions. Each Division has policy around juvenile trafficking protocols.

- **Reporting Process:** All concerns related to juvenile trafficking—including risk, suspicion, and confirmed cases—must be reported to the Child Abuse and Neglect Report Line.
- **Screening at Intake:** Intake staff in the Division of Family Services are trained to use the CSE-IT tool at the time of report. A **modified version** of the CSE-IT is used at the Report Line when a reporter identifies trafficking-related risk factors.
- **Department-Wide Training:** Staff across all Divisions, including DFS, YRS, and DPBHS, have been trained to use the CSE-IT tool with youth involved in any division.
- **Policy Enhancements:** In Calendar Year 2024, both the Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services and the Division of Family Services strengthened internal policies regarding juvenile trafficking identification and response.

CY 2024 CSE-IT Screening Data

CSE-IT Screenings (Across DSCYF Divisions):

- **Total youth screened:** 124
 - **Clear concern for trafficking:** 30
 - **Possible concern for trafficking:** 25
 - **No concern at time of screening:** 69

Report Line Intake Screenings:

- **Total youth screened:** 92
 - **Clear concern for trafficking:** 37
 - **Possible concern for trafficking:** 27
 - **No concern at time of screening:** 28

2024 ANNUAL TRAFFICKING REPORT

Delaware Juvenile Trafficking Report

REPORT OF VICTIMS OF SUSPECTED SEX AND LABOR TRAFFICKING

Screened In: Case meets the purview of the Office of the Investigation Coordinator (IC) and has been accepted to be monitored through the civil and criminal investigation of the allegations.

Screened-In Victims: **65**

Screened-In Suspects: **49**

Extra-Familial Case: The alleged perpetrator is not a caregiver or member of child's household.

Extra-Familial Victims: **40**

Extra-Familial Suspects: **15**

Intra-Familial Case: The alleged perpetrator is a caregiver or member of the child's household.

Intra-Familial Victims: **25**

Intra-Familial Suspects: **34**

Trafficking Cases: 65

Majority Cases are Sex Trafficking

Victim Breakdown: 65



Majority of Victims are Female

Average Age: 14.9 Years Old

Age Range: 4.1 - 17.9 Years Old

53 Non-Hispanics

27 Caucasians

21 African Americans

5 Other

12 Hispanics

Majority Victims are Caucasian

Suspect Breakdown: 49



Most of the Suspects are Male

Average Age: 48.6 Years Old

Age Range: 17.1 - 66.1 Years Old

38 Non-Hispanics

17 Caucasians

17 African Americans

4 Other

7 Hispanics

7 Caucasians

4 Unknown



Initial Case Indicator
40 Suspicion of Trafficking
25 Risk of Trafficking

Data Source: Office of the Child Advocate

Office of the Child Advocate Suppression Policy: If a number is less than six it will not be shown to keep the identities confidential.

Data Reflects Known Victims/Suspects



The Delaware Department of Justice Human Trafficking Unit

The Delaware Department of Justice Human Trafficking Unit: Deputy Attorney General Caroline Brittingham and Deputy Attorney General Amanda Nyman

The Delaware Department of Justice (DE DOJ) Human Trafficking Unit (HTU) was unveiled by Attorney General Kathy Jennings in January 2022. This was a first for the DE DOJ – that the anti-trafficking efforts of the office are housed full-time within a dedicated, centralized, and permanent unit. The HTU focuses on a holistic approach that emphasizes collaboration with others fighting human trafficking, raising awareness within the state, supporting survivors, engaging in community outreach, and eradicating trafficking through education, prevention, and, when appropriate, prosecution.

In Fiscal Year 2025, HTU continued to focus its efforts on the illicit massage establishment (IME) industry, which it has been able to significantly curtail over the last three years – with the 25th massage shutdown announced in January 2025. An IME is an establishment that puts on the facade of a legitimate massage business in order to facilitate commercial sex services. The establishment is also often operating without the required licensure required by our State. The HTU has worked with police agencies such as the Delaware State Police and the New Castle County Police Department, State agencies such as the Division of Professional Regulation and other partner agencies to conduct investigations and execute search warrants on IMEs statewide. The HTU also works with landlords to educate them about their tenant’s licensing practices and the reported illicit activity taking place at their business, and to hold them accountable for what is happening on their property. Through police search warrants, regulatory inspections and landlord engagement, our State has seen a significant decrease in IMEs statewide.

In Fiscal Year 2025, HTU, in conjunction with the Delaware State Police, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and municipal police agencies including the Georgetown Police Department and other assisting agencies, has charged dozens of sex buyers in a statewide campaign to address human trafficking and improve Delawarean’s quality of life. The HTU has also worked extensively with Dover Police Department to conduct these reverse prostitution operations to target sex buyers in Dover. With collaboration between Dover Police Department and Delaware State Police, an investigation into human trafficking in downtown Dover was conducted, with one arrest made for a defendant trafficking three females. The HTU and its partners have conducted reverse prostitution operations across the state, with operations taking place in Laurel, Dover, and Georgetown. The Unit and its partners also worked with victim advocates and local nonprofits to provide multiple sex workers with victim services and other resources.

In Delaware, the Office of the Child Advocate (OCA) sends an Investigation Coordinator referral (IC Referral) to alert the multi-disciplinary team (MDT) members about the risk or suspicion of juvenile trafficking. The HTU prosecutors serve as MDT members and participate in a number of meetings – with the MDT and Juvenile Trafficking Oversight Team – for these referrals. In addition to monitoring these youth’s cases, referrals, and hotlines, HTU works to spread awareness by conducting trainings on the topic of human trafficking throughout the State. Spreading awareness about human trafficking – what it looks like and how to report it - continues to be an important mission of the HTU.



The Delaware Department of Labor, Division of Industrial Affairs

The Delaware Department of Labor, Office of Wage & Hour Enforcement continues to advance the mission of the Delaware Anti-Trafficking Action Council (DATAAC) through proactive education, enforcement, and outreach. In Fiscal Year 2025, Labor Law Enforcement Officers (LLEOs) enhanced public awareness and ensured business compliance with Delaware’s “Signs of Hope Act,” focusing on industries most vulnerable to human and labor trafficking.

Key Achievements

Signage Distribution & Enforcement Summary: Human trafficking awareness posters were distributed across various industries to support education, prevention, and compliance. Although formal complaints remain limited, the Office of Wage & Hour Enforcement conducted inspections based on complaints, referrals, and internal compliance checks to enhance strategic enforcement and ensure businesses are meeting Delaware’s signage requirements. These collaborative efforts resulted in multiple warnings being issued. No monetary penalties were collected during this fiscal year.

Industry	Sites Visited	Warnings Issued	Complaints	Referrals	Compliance Checks	Penalties Collected
Hotels/Motels	86	56	0	10/Public	76	\$0.00
Restaurants with liquor licenses	17	13	0	6/Public	11	\$0.00
Liquor Stores	6	2	0	0	6	\$0.00
Casinos	2	1	0	0	2	\$0.00
Gas Stations	36	31	0	0	36	\$0.00
Massage Establishments	10	5	0	8/DATAC	2	\$0.00
Total	157	108	0	24	133	\$0.00

Note: Complaints reflect tips received directly from the public. Referrals were provided by other state agencies or stakeholders. Compliance checks were initiated by the Department through scheduled or follow-up inspections. Warnings were issued where required signage was missing or improperly posted. All violations were addressed with corrective action.

Outreach Efforts

Ten outreach events were conducted throughout the state, with a strategic focus on high-risk populations working in industries with known labor shortages and increased vulnerability to exploitation.

Events prioritized engagement with communities that may have limited English proficiency or distrust of government agencies, aiming to build trust and facilitate access to resources and legal protections.

Coordination and Referrals

The Office maintained a collaborative approach by coordinating with state and federal partners to ensure victim support and inter-agency alignment. Referrals were made to:

Delaware Department of Justice (DOJ) – DAGs and staff in the Human Trafficking Unit

Division of Health and Social Services (DHSS) – for access to housing, benefits, and social support services.

National Human Trafficking Hotline – 1-888-373-7888

Local Law Enforcement – for criminal investigation and emergency response (911)

Conclusion

The Delaware Department of Labor's Office of Wage & Hour Enforcement remains steadfast in its commitment to enforcing human trafficking laws, educating the public, and protecting vulnerable workers across the state. These FY 2025 achievements reinforce the importance of sustained collaboration and proactive intervention in the fight against human and labor trafficking.



The Delaware State Police

The Delaware State Police have demonstrated a strong commitment to tackling human trafficking through a multifaceted approach that involves proactive operations, strategic partnerships, and targeted investigations. Here's a summary of their efforts:

Proactive Operations: The Delaware State Police, in collaboration with the FBI and municipal agencies, conduct targeted operations to combat human trafficking. These operations aim to address the issue from multiple angles:

Reducing Demand: By arresting potential sex buyers, the operations seek to decrease the demand for commercial sex, with the hope that a reduction in demand may eventually reduce the need for commercial sex.

Identifying Victims: During these operations, both adults and juveniles involved in commercial sex are contacted to determine if they are being trafficked. Many victims do not come forward on their own, so these proactive measures are crucial for identifying and assisting them.

Arrests and Charges: Recent operations have resulted in the arrest of 14 potential sex buyers, some of whom face additional criminal charges.

Juvenile Trafficking Investigations: The Human Trafficking Unit has been actively investigating cases involving potential juvenile trafficking. Key elements include:

Referral Process: Through referrals from the Division of Family Services (DFS) and the Investigations Coordinator, detectives can identify juveniles at high risk of trafficking. These cases are then forwarded to the appropriate agency for further action.

Resource Allocation: The Human Trafficking Coordinator reviews all referrals and provides necessary resources to local agencies to support their investigations.

Task Force and Legal Support: The Human Trafficking Task Force, in partnership with the Delaware Department of Justice, is focusing on shutting down illegal massage establishments suspected of being involved in trafficking activities. The Attorney General's Office plays a supportive role in these operations, enhancing their effectiveness.

Overall, these efforts illustrate a comprehensive and coordinated approach to combat human trafficking in Delaware, combining law enforcement operations, victim support, and legal action to address and reduce this critical issue.



Delaware Health and Social Services (DHSS)

Delaware Health and Social Services (DHSS) remain a committed partner in the fight against human trafficking through ongoing collaboration with the Delaware Anti-Trafficking Action Council (DATAC). In Fiscal Year 2024, DHSS worked closely with DATAC to ensure that human trafficking awareness signage was installed in the State Service Centers, in alignment with Delaware’s “Signs of Hope Act.” These visible resources help inform the public and connect potential victims to critical services.

Through continued coordination with DATAC and allied agencies, DHSS plays a key role in identifying vulnerable populations, supporting trauma-informed service delivery, and promoting public awareness across the state.

We are looking forward to a continued partnership with DATAC to explore training and resources throughout Delaware.

DATAC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative Committee:

The DATAC Legislative Committee met on a regular cadence—with additional ad-hoc work sessions during the General Assembly—to identify statutory gaps, evaluate policy options, and develop survivor-centered, practicable reforms for Delaware. The committee maintained an active scan of national legislation and model provisions, prepared technical redlines, and coordinated feedback from practitioners, agencies, and survivor leaders to ensure proposals were both trauma-informed and operationally feasible.

Committee activities included: tracking relevant state and federal bills; preparing issue briefs and implementation notes; reviewing fiscal and workload implications; and assisting with testimony and stakeholder outreach. Throughout, the committee emphasized clarity in statutory language, alignment with existing court and agency processes, and safeguards that minimize survivor re-traumatization.

Highlight: House Bill 201 AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 11 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

A primary focus this year was support for House Bill 201 (primary sponsor: Representative Kim Williams), a targeted update to Delaware’s anti-trafficking framework designed to improve access to vacatur and related expungement for offenses committed as a result of trafficking. The committee facilitated stakeholder roundtables (justice partners, service providers, survivor advocates) and contributed technical edits to strengthen legal clarity and implementation.

Key elements supported by the committee included:

- Updating the causation standard from “as a direct result” to “as a result,” reflecting the realities of exploitation and its collateral offenses.
- Preserving confidentiality for motions to vacate and related proceedings, absent a court’s good cause finding.
- Eliminating mandatory hearings on uncontested motions (unless the Attorney General timely objects), reducing unnecessary re-traumatization.
- Clarifying the preponderance-of-the-evidence standard under 11 Del. C. § 787(j).
- Authorizing courts to order vacatur and expungement in the same proceeding, including immediate expungement where appropriate. Establishing reasonable timelines for the Attorney General’s response while preserving due process.

Legislative Progress:

House Bill 23 AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 10 AND TITLE 11 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING. “This Act makes the following changes to human trafficking law: (1) It adds “patronizing a victim of sexual servitude” and “trafficking of persons for use of body parts” to the offenses that may serve as a predicate for forfeiture of property under the trafficking statute. (2) It removes an obsolete reference to charging a minor with delinquency for engaging in prostitution. The Criminal Code was revised in 2019 to define prostitution as a crime that may be committed only by a person who is 18 years of age or older. (3) It adds conduct constituting a human trafficking offense to the list of conduct that constitutes “abuse” for purposes of obtaining a protective order in Family Court. Primary Sponsor: Representative Kim Williams, Signed 5/7/25

House Bill 27 HA 1, AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 11 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO THE DELAWARE ANTI-TRAFFICKING ACTION COUNCIL. updates the operating requirements for the Delaware Anti-Trafficking Action Council (codified under 11 Del. C. § 787).

Key provisions

- Quorum & voting: Lowers quorum from 13 to 10 members. The Council may act by a majority of members present, except that appointment of an Executive Director requires a majority vote of all Council members.
- Executive Director authority: Confirms the ED may hire staff and contract for services within available funds.
- Financial reporting: Integrates spending transparency into the Annual Report, including state, federal, and other funding received by the Council (beyond state-funded positions); notes that currently the Council receives no state funds other than personnel positions.
- Open meetings & access: Authorizes virtual meetings with a public anchor location staffed by a DATAC employee, ensuring compliance with open-meeting rules while increasing public accessibility.

Impact. The Act strengthens DATAC's governance and operational efficiency, clarifies authority, enhances financial transparency, and expands public access to meetings. Primary Sponsor, Representative Kim Williams, Signed 5/7/25.

House Bill 42 AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 11, TITLE 16, AND TITLE 29 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN.

This Act strengthens Delaware's response to suspected human trafficking of children by:

- Formalizing information-sharing between the Child Protection Accountability Commission (CPAC) and DATAC.
- Requiring a multidisciplinary team (MDT) response—mirroring the approach used for child deaths and serious physical injury.
- Explicitly delineating child-trafficking cases across the child-abuse investigative framework to ensure consistent handling statewide.
- Codifying a CPAC review panel and oversight committee for these cases, with the same authority, subpoena power, and immunities afforded to child-death/near-death reviews.
- Designating the Office of the Child Advocate (OCA) to staff the review panel and oversight committee.

The Act aligns Delaware law with federal requirements recognizing trafficked children as victims of child abuse and neglect and requiring investigation by the state child-welfare agency (see CAPTA, 42 U.S.C. § 5101 et seq. and the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, Pub. L. 114-22). It also makes technical corrections to conform with the Delaware Legislative Drafting Manual. Primary Sponsor, Representative Kim Williams, signed 8/12/25.

Senate Bill 143 – AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 12 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO FIDUCIARY ACCESS TO DIGITAL ASSETS AND DIGITAL ACCOUNTS. Braden’s Law

This Act expedites court access to a deceased minor’s digital assets and accounts for parents or legal guardians, building on Delaware’s existing framework in 12 *Del. C.*, ch. 50 (fiduciary access to digital assets). Inspired by Ohio’s “Braden’s Law,” the bill directs the Court of Chancery to treat such petitions as expedited and to aim to resolve them within 30 days of filing.

Key changes and impact

- Expedited relief for families: When the fiduciary is a parent or legal guardian of a deceased minor, the Court must handle the application on an expedited basis with a 30-day target for resolution.
- Works within current process: Retains Delaware’s existing procedure requiring custodians to respond to valid written requests (generally within 60 days) and allows the Court to order access if a custodian fails to comply.
- Technical updates: Makes conforming edits consistent with the Delaware Legislative Drafting Manual.

The Act removes delays that have hindered grieving families from accessing critical information in cases involving online coercion or sextortion, while preserving privacy safeguards and the established fiduciary process. Primary Sponsor, Senator Pettyjohn, Signed 9/19/25

Senate Bill 142 AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 11 AND TITLE 14 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO SEXUAL EXTORTION – Gavin’s Law

Overview.

This Act strengthens Delaware’s response to sexual extortion and expands prevention education. It incorporates “Gavin’s Law”-style reforms inspired by national cases and data showing rising sextortion harms among minors.

Key provisions

- Criminal penalties (11 Del. C. § 774): Retains sexual extortion as a felony and elevates the offense to a Class B felony (2–25 years) when (1) the defendant is an adult and the victim is a child (11 Del. C. § 1100) or vulnerable adult (§ 1105), or (2) the offense causes serious physical injury or death.
- School-based education (14 Del. C. § 4163 / Erin’s Law): Requires age-appropriate instruction for students on sexual extortion, including online safety, and directs districts/charters to provide related information to parents/guardians.

- Implementation timeline: Employee training and student instruction take effect August 1, 2027.
- Technical updates: Makes conforming edits and restructures § 774 to align with the Delaware Legislative Drafting Manual.

Context. Nationally, law enforcement recorded thousands of financial sextortion reports involving minors in 2022, with numerous resulting tragedies. South Carolina’s “Gavin’s Law” (honoring Gavin Guffey) similarly elevated penalties and education; Delaware’s update aligns with this approach while integrating requirements into Erin’s Law programming. Primary Sponsor: Senator Pettyjohn.

House Bill 136 AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 24 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO MASSAGE AND BODYWORK.

This Act strengthens licensing enforcement for massage and bodywork establishments by requiring a prominent placard at any entrance of a business that lacks a valid license (new, suspended, revoked, or expired). The placard may not be removed unless the Division of Professional Regulation authorizes removal. Primary Sponsor, Representative Ross Levin.

Enforcement & Penalties

- Unlawful removal of the placard is a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to 1 year in jail and up to a \$2,300 fine.
- The Act also makes technical corrections to align with the Delaware Legislative Drafting Manual.

Impact. The measure enhances consumer protection and public safety by clearly signaling unlicensed operations and providing meaningful penalties for interference with regulatory notices.

Pending Legislation – Must be considered in the second half of the 153rd General Assembly.

House Bill 166 AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 11 AND TITLE 16 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE MATERIAL.

Replaces the term “child pornography” with “child sexual abuse material (CSAM)” throughout the Delaware Code. Aligns state law with national and international standards that more accurately describe the harm involved. Primary Sponsor, Representative Jones Giltner.

The Delaware Anti-Trafficking Action Council (DATAC) extends our sincere gratitude to our legislative champions and partners across state government for their tireless efforts to protect victims and advance justice. Special thanks to Representative Kim Williams, Senator Nicole Poore, and members of the Legislative Committee for their leadership and unwavering commitment to this work. Together, we are making meaningful progress toward a safer, more responsive Delaware.



Statement of Appreciation and Thank You: **Representative Kim Williams**

DATAAC extends its deepest appreciation to Representative Kim Williams for her years of unwavering leadership in combating human trafficking. Since January 2013, Rep. Williams has been an amazing legislative asset, championing survivor-centered policy and safeguarding Delaware's children and families. Volunteering her time as Co-Chair of DATAAC's Legislative Committee, she brings tireless dedication, strategic insight, and genuine partnership—turning ideas into meaningful, lasting protections.

We are profoundly grateful for her steadfast advocacy, coalition-building, and hands-on support. Thank you, Representative Williams, for your extraordinary service and continued leadership.

Juvenile Anti-Trafficking Action Committee (JATAC) 2024 Summary

Meeting Dates:

March 24, 2024

June 24, 2024

September 23, 2024

December 16, 2024

JATAC meets quarterly to address issues related to juvenile trafficking in Delaware. The committee includes approximately 40 members representing an array of child serving agencies and organizations, including the Division of Family Services, Youth Rehabilitative Services, Prevention and Behavioral Health, the Office of the Child Advocate, Victim Services, Family Court, community providers, medical providers, attorneys, school districts, and DATAAC. The Office of the Child Advocate shares data on juvenile trafficking for JATAC to review.

Throughout 2024, JATAC considered strengths and needs in responding to juvenile trafficking in Delaware. A key area of focus was the need to identify services available for youth experiencing trafficking in Delaware and increase the number of specialized, trauma-informed service providers who can deliver appropriate interventions and services. Presentations included:

- Dr. Alice Leonce-Stevens with Holistic Elevation: Presented on mental health services for youth experiencing trafficking and pathways for clinicians to become certified to work with these youth.
- The Office of the Child Advocate: Provided an overview of Delaware's Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) response and Delaware's juvenile trafficking protocol.
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC): Provided an overview of NCMEC, data, reporting mechanisms, support, and resources related to juvenile trafficking.

PARTNERING STATE AGENCIES



Office of The Child Advocate

The Office of the Child Advocate (OCA) continues to lead critical efforts to protect and support Delaware's most vulnerable children. From coordinating legal representation to strengthening responses to child trafficking, OCA remains deeply committed to improving outcomes for children across the state.

Responding to Juvenile Trafficking, over the past year, the Office of the Investigation Coordinator screened 65 juvenile trafficking cases, most involving concerns related to sex trafficking. Of these:

- 40 cases were classified as *Suspicion of Trafficking*
- 25 cases involved youth assessed as *At Risk of Trafficking*
- 25 cases included alleged perpetrators within the child's own family or household

To ensure a strong and coordinated response, the Investigation Coordinator completed and shared detailed referrals with multidisciplinary team (MDT) partners for all cases. Many of these cases also included MDT meetings, where professionals came together to strategize next steps and connect children with needed services.

OCA also worked closely with DATAC on several training initiatives. These included partnering with the Boys and Girls Club of Delaware and providing *Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse and*

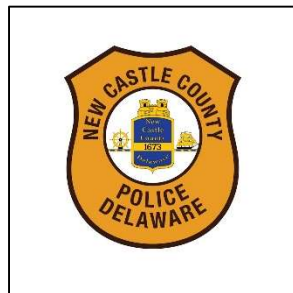
Neglect training to organizations like Delaware 211. These efforts help strengthen the child welfare system and ensure professionals and community members are equipped to recognize and report abuse.

Through DATAAC, OCA has built valuable relationships with national experts in child trafficking, helping to inform best practices and improve Delaware's statewide response.



The Department of Correction

Baylor Women's Correctional Institution (BWCI), DATAAC is proud to continue our partnership with BWCI to reach and support incarcerated survivors of sex and labor trafficking. We are able to provide trafficking awareness education and a peer-led screening tool, training certified peers to share information in a trusted, survivor-to-survivor approach.



The New Castle County Police Department

The New Castle County Police Department's Drug & Human Trafficking Investigations Team (DHIT) was formed in June 2025. One of the team's primary responsibilities is to enforce the laws of the Delaware Criminal Code: Title 11, § 787 pertaining to Trafficking of an Individual, Forced Labor and Sexual Servitude (Human Trafficking).

The newly formed Drug and Human Trafficking Investigations Team (DHIT) is proactively investigating potential human trafficking to include juvenile human trafficking in New Castle County Delaware. DHIT has established a strong working relationship with the AG's Office Human Trafficking Unit, NCCPD Victim Resources, and Division of family services.

In the last 3 months DHIT has multiple undercover operations at illicit massage establishments in New Castle County. DHIT has also investigated multiple juvenile trafficking investigations referred from the Division of Family Services and the NCCPD Special Victim's Unit. As of 09/09/25, DHIT Detectives have multiple active human trafficking investigations that should be concluded in the near future. See below for a brief summary of one of the investigations that led to a felony arrest.

NON-PROFIT & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP UPDATES

DATAAC continues to forge new partnerships with agencies, non-profit organizations, and community groups. These partnerships reflect DATAAC's ongoing commitment to building academic and community alliances that expand Delaware's collective capacity to combat human trafficking, with an on-going collaboration. Our partners are listed below:

Delaware Healthcare Association Human Trafficking Medical Committee

Delaware's Human Trafficking Medical Committee, made up of Delaware hospital and stakeholder representatives, is working closely with the Delaware Anti-Trafficking Action Council (DATAAC) on efforts to raise awareness and education on human trafficking in the healthcare field and beyond. The Committee continues to implement the recommendations adopted by the Human Trafficking medical committee in 2019 to recognize and respond to human trafficking in the hospital setting. These efforts have made an impact. Across Delaware's general acute care and pediatric hospital systems, there were approximately 100 total suspected or confirmed cases of human trafficking in 2023 alone. This committee continues to work toward creating a community human trafficking survivor resource list to assist healthcare providers with making a warm handoff to resources that can help survivors thrive.

The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Delaware

The Delaware Anti-Trafficking Action Council (DATAAC) is proud to partner with the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Delaware (GFWC Delaware), a statewide organization dedicated to community improvement through volunteer service. This collaboration has been instrumental in expanding public awareness and education on sex and labor trafficking.

Through our partnership, GFWC Delaware has provided consistent support in hosting presentations, facilitating community discussions, and promoting trafficking awareness events across the state. Their members have engaged local communities, distributed educational materials, and connected DATAAC with new audiences, ensuring that information about recognizing the signs of trafficking and available resources reaches as many Delawareans as possible.



Zoë Ministries
OF DELAWARE

2025 SUMMARY



We accepted our first resident in June after completing four weeks of residential staff training.



We are fully licensed for six female residents, between the ages of 12 and 17.



Our comprehensive care includes clinical therapy, art therapy, onsite education, music lessons if desired, life skills, equine therapy, and mentorship.



We are working with multiple states through the ICPC process.



We are a national Safe House accepting youth from anywhere in the United States.



We hired more than 12 staff to launch our residential program.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware

DATAAC is proud to serve on the Youth Safety & Support (YSS) Steering Committee of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware. Through this partnership, DATAAC is helping ensure that every Boys & Girls Club across the state offers essential trafficking awareness training and educational materials.

With over 40 club and school-based locations serving more than 30,000 children and teens annually, BGCD is one of the largest youth-serving nonprofits in the state. Leveraging its extensive reach, DATAAC and the Boys & Girls Clubs are actively raising awareness about sex and labor trafficking among youth, families, and communities statewide.



Wilmington University

The Delaware Anti-Trafficking Action Council (DATAAC) is honored to partner with Wilmington University in advancing education, research, and professional training on human trafficking. DATAAC serves on the Human Trafficking Academic Advisory Board, joining educators, law enforcement professionals, service providers, and subject matter experts dedicated to improving academic programming and community awareness.

Through this collaboration, DATAAC is proud to share Wilmington University's webinars and promote its academic programs that focus on criminal justice, social work, victim services, and related fields. These efforts expand awareness, connect community members to valuable learning opportunities, and ensure that future professionals are prepared to identify trafficking indicators, support survivors, and strengthen prevention initiatives.

Statement of Appreciation and Thank You: Dr. Johanna Bishop — Wilmington University

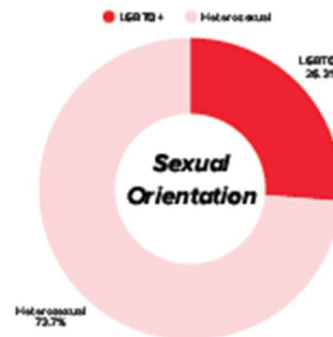
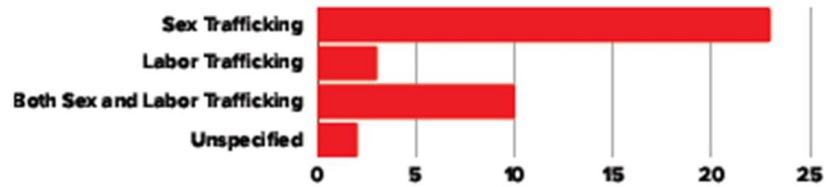
DATAAC extends heartfelt appreciation to Dr. Johanna Bishop of Wilmington University for her steadfast partnership and leadership. Through her high-quality webinar series—drawing participants from across the United States and around the world—and her annual collaboration on Wilmington University's statewide conference, Dr. Bishop has advanced interagency collaboration, elevated public awareness, and strengthened cross-disciplinary professional learning. Her work has expanded Delaware's reach globally, connecting practitioners to survivor-centered best practices. We are honored to partner with her and thank her for her amazing dedication.

Survivor Ventures Delaware

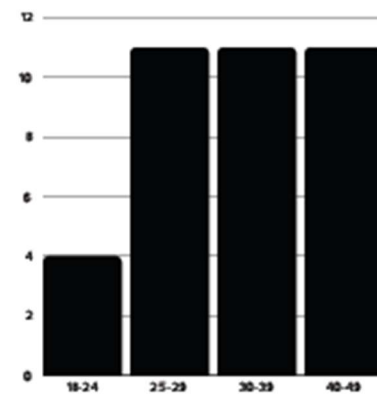
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Total Survivors
Served

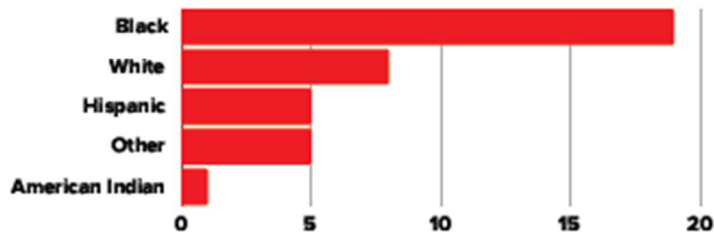
● Types of Survivors Served



Age at Referral



● Ethnicity



Celebrate our significant milestones, breakthrough projects, industry recognitions, and other achievements that have propelled our organization forward in Delaware



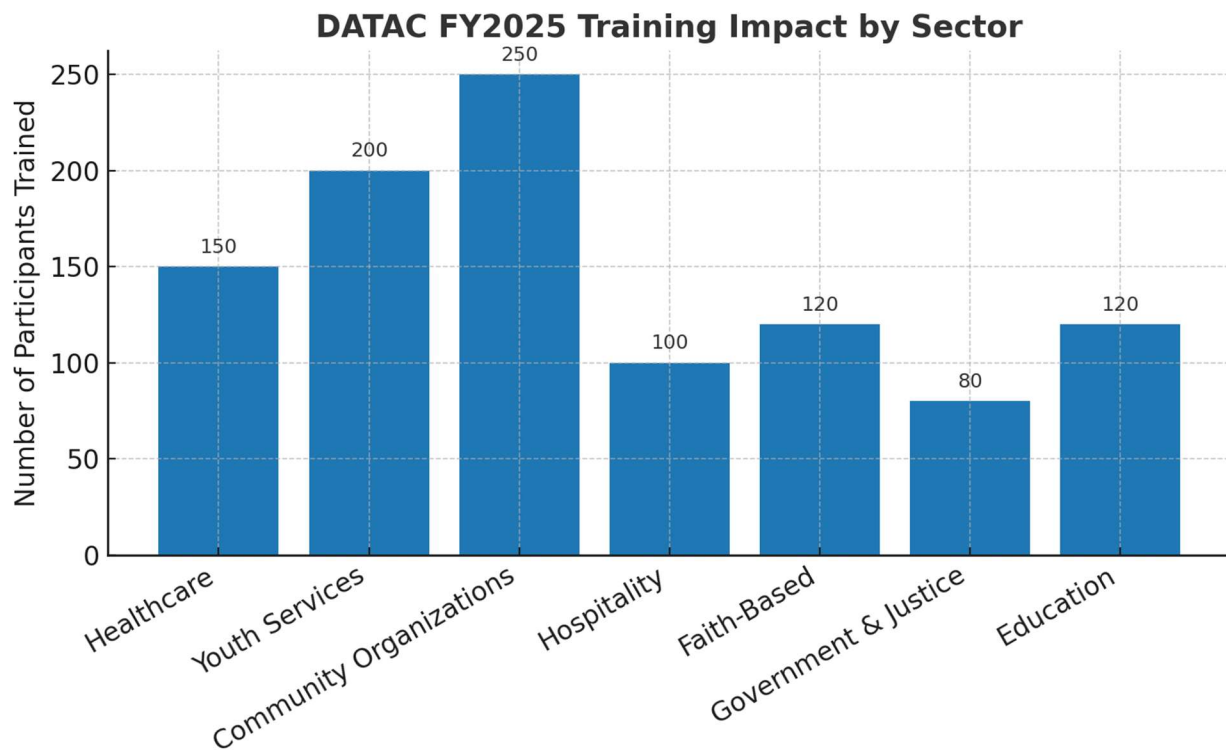
1 July 2024 - 30 June 2025

TRAININGS

Delaware Anti-Trafficking Action Council (DATAC) delivered targeted human trafficking awareness trainings to a wide range of agencies, non-profit organizations, and community groups across Delaware. These sessions educated participants on recognizing trafficking indicators, understanding reporting protocols, and connecting victims with available resources.

Organizations and groups trained includes: Christiana Care, Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware, Seaside Community, Delaware Park Casino, General Federation of Women's Clubs of Delaware (GFWC), Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Aspira High School, New Castle County Hotel Training, Love Inc., Baylor Women's Correctional Institution, League of Local Governments, Masonic Lodge, and Juneteenth community events.

Through these efforts, DATAC reached over 1,000 participants from diverse sectors and communities, strengthening statewide capacity to identify and respond to both sex and labor trafficking.



CONCLUSION

As we close this year's report, we are reminded that our work is not just about policy, programs, or data — it is about people: Survivors who deserve justice, safety, and healing; and children who deserve to grow up free from exploitation.

Delaware has made remarkable strides in combating human trafficking, but our mission is far from complete. Each piece of progress — from legislative reforms to community training, to stronger partnerships to new resources — reflects the dedication of countless individuals and agencies.

We extend our deepest gratitude to every partner, advocate, survivor leader, community member, and public servant who has given their time, expertise, and passion to this cause. Your efforts are saving lives, strengthening systems, and inspiring others to act.

Looking ahead, we know that traffickers will continue to adapt — but so will we. Together, united in purpose, we will keep building awareness, expanding services, and shaping policies that protect the vulnerable and hold perpetrators accountable. With every step forward, Delaware sends a powerful message: we will not tolerate human trafficking, and we will stand with survivors every step of the way.

With gratitude,
Sara Poore
Executive Director