



The following Central American countries are covered in this section: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. Caribbean countries covered in this section are: Barbados, the Dominican Republic,

Haiti, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Any missing information concerning the region was either unavailable or not accessed by UNODC.

Costa Rica

Institutional framework

Costa Rica has specific provisions on trafficking in persons in its penal code. These provisions have criminalized the international trafficking in women and children for the purpose of sexual exploitation since 1970 and trafficking in minors since 1999. A national action plan against trafficking in minors was adopted in 2005, and a more comprehensive national action plan against trafficking in persons is planned for adoption in 2008.

Criminal justice response

There are three offices within the General Prosecutor's Office that may handle trafficking in persons crimes: the Office for Juvenile Crime and the Office for Attention to Victims of Crime, which cover the whole country, and the Office for Sexual Crimes and Domestic Violence, which only covers the capital of San Jose.

There is no information on convictions for trafficking in persons offences for 2003-2005, but in 2006, a total of four males and two females were convicted for trafficking in minors for the purpose of illegal adoption.

Services provided to victims

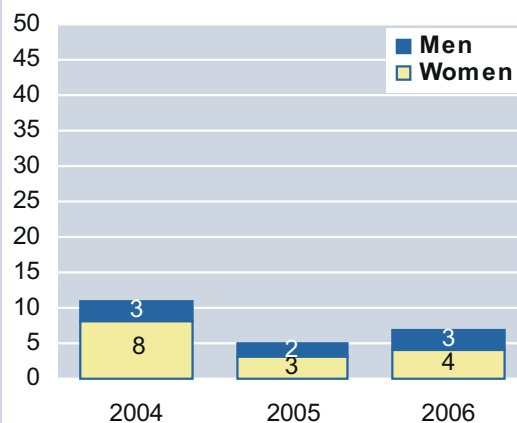
State authorities and NGOs provide legal assistance and medical and psychosocial support to victims of human trafficking. Several NGOs offer shelter to girls and women who are victims of domestic violence or commercial sexual exploitation, including victims of trafficking, but there are no specific shelters for victims of human trafficking.

Additional information

IOM adopted a protocol for the repatriation of children and adolescents into the country to support the organization's return and reintegration programmes for victims of human trafficking.

There is a national 911 hotline for victims of violence, including victims of human trafficking, and a referral mechanism for potential victims identified through the hotline.

Fig. 69: Persons prosecuted for trafficking in persons in Costa Rica, by gender (2004-2006)



Source: Specialized Unit of Sexual Crimes and Domestic Violence, Adjunct Prosecutor's Office of Juvenile Crime

Dominican Republic

Institutional framework

The specific offence of trafficking in persons was established in the Dominican Republic in 2003. A draft national action plan against trafficking in persons is planned for adoption by the end of 2008.

Criminal justice response

A Human Trafficking Division within the national police was established in January 2008 to investigate cases of human trafficking. The division had nine officers dealing with document falsification and illegal migration. In addition, the Anti-Trafficking Unit of the Attorney General's office is tasked with investigating and prosecuting human trafficking and related crimes.

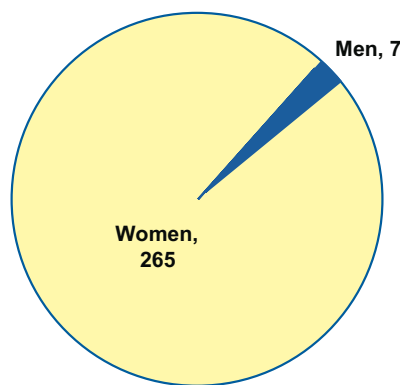
There are no systematic criminal justice statistics on human trafficking prior to 2007. Between January 2007 and April 2008, the Human Trafficking Division investigated five cases of trafficking in persons: two of these cases involved the alleged trafficking of Dominican women to Europe; one case involved allegations of the trafficking of a Dominican woman to Central America; one case involved the trafficking of two adult males to Central America for labour exploitation; and one case involved the trafficking of a man to a Europe.

Services provided to victims

State authorities, in cooperation with NGOs, provide legal assistance, medical and psychosocial support, and housing and shelter for victims of human trafficking.

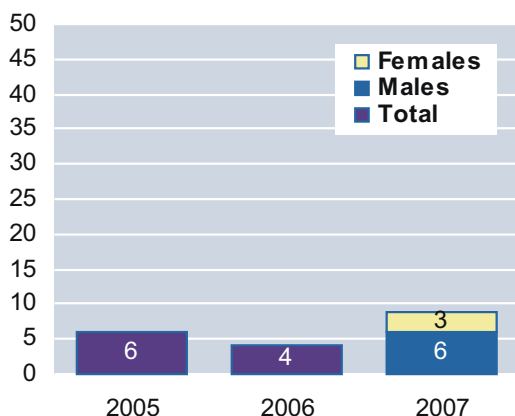


Fig. 71: Adult victims of trafficking referred to COIN in the Dominican Republic, by gender (January 2003-April 2008)



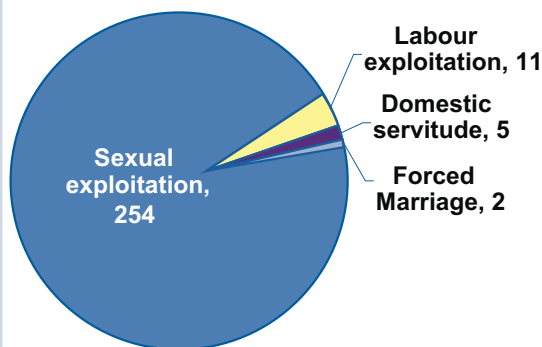
Source: Centre of Orientation and Integral Investigation (COIN)

Fig. 70: Persons convicted of trafficking in persons in the Dominican Republic, by gender (2005-2007)



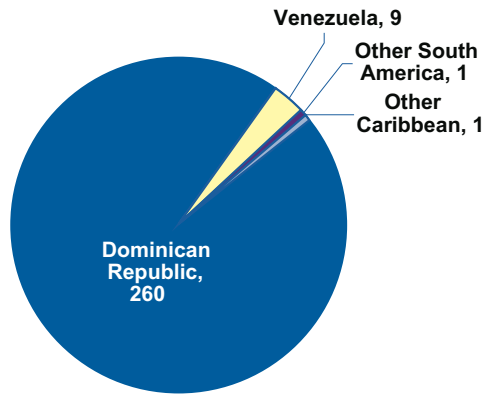
Source: Department of Judicial Statistics of the Supreme Court

Fig. 72: Adult victims of trafficking referred to COIN in the Dominican Republic, by type of exploitation (January 2003-April 2008)



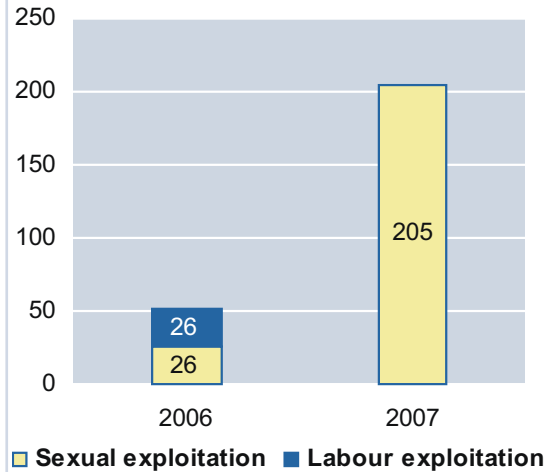
Source: Centre of Orientation and Integral Investigation (COIN)

Fig. 73: Adult victims of trafficking referred to COIN in the Dominican Republic, by country of citizenship (January 2003-April 2008)



Source: Centre of Orientation and Integral Investigation (COIN)

Fig. 74: Child victims of trafficking referred to CONANI in the Dominican Republic, by type of exploitation (2006-2007)



Source: Council for the Child and Adolescent (CONANI)

Additional information

There is no official referral system, but the police and the Prosecutor's Office refer adult victims of sexual exploitation, including victims of trafficking, to the Centre of Orientation and Integral Investigation (COIN). COIN manages a protection centre for trafficking victims providing a number of services, including reintegration and finding housing in various shelters for female victims.

Of the 260 adult Dominican victims of human trafficking identified between 2003 and April 2008, 85 were officially returned from Argentina with the help of IOM. The others were returned from a number of countries in the Caribbean, South America and Europe.

Child victims of trafficking are referred to the Council for the Child and Adolescent (CONANI), which administers seven temporary shelters for minors at risk. Minors who are victims of trafficking are registered by CONANI as victims of sexual and labour exploitation and not human trafficking, although all of these cases, according to the organization, are cases of trafficking in persons. All minors identified as victims of trafficking in persons in 2006 and 2007 were citizens of the Dominican Republic.

The nine persons convicted of trafficking in persons offences in 2007 were all citizens of the Dominican Republic.

East Caribbean

Institutional framework

This section covers information on Barbados, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. During the reporting period, none of the countries covered in this sub-region had a specific offence of trafficking in persons as part of their criminal codes. These countries might have other criminal offences, such as sexual exploitation, forced labour or slavery, that could be applied in prosecuting cases of trafficking in persons. None of these East Caribbean countries has adopted a national action plan against trafficking in persons.

Criminal justice response

None of the East Caribbean countries in this section had a specialized unit devoted to trafficking in persons during the 2003-2007 period. The national police of Saint Lucia established a Vulnerable Persons Unit, consisting of 12 full-time officers with the mandate to investigate cases of trafficking in minors, among other things.

Due to the absence of specific laws on trafficking in persons during the reporting period, no cases were prosecuted and no convictions were recorded in these countries.

Two persons in Barbados were prosecuted for offences related to human trafficking. One person in 2005 was prosecuted and convicted under the Immigration Act and ordered to pay a fine for bringing in Indian construction workers without work permits. In 2007, one person was prosecuted under the Sexual Offences Act for bringing in two Ukrainian women and forcing them into prostitution. However, this case was dismissed for lack of evidence.

Services provided to victims

No country in the sub-region provides temporary stay permits for victims. Legal protection is provided by State authorities and NGOs in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and medical and psychosocial support is provided by authorities in Barbados and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and by NGOs in Barbados. Housing and shelter for victims of trafficking is provided by State authorities and NGOs in Barbados and by NGOs in Trinidad and Tobago. There are no specific shelters to house victims of trafficking in the sub-region, but State authorities and NGOs can provide or find short-term shelters, if necessary.

Despite the absence of specific laws on trafficking in persons, governments reported identifying and assisting suspected victims of human trafficking:

Barbados first identified two adult women from Guyana as victims of sexual exploitation in 2004; one minor girl from Guyana was found to be a victim of sexual exploitation in 2005; and in 2007, two adult females from Ukraine were registered as victims of sexual exploitation.

Between 2003 and 2007, Saint Lucia identified two cases of suspected victims trafficked for domestic servitude.

In Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, no victims of human trafficking were identified until the first half of 2008 when one Haitian man was identified as a suspected victim of trafficking.

Trinidad and Tobago identified one adult female victim in 2007 and seven more females (five adults and two minors) up until May 2008. All victims were Colombian citizens found to be victims of sexual exploitation, and all were sheltered by the NGO the Living Waters Community.



El Salvador

Institutional framework

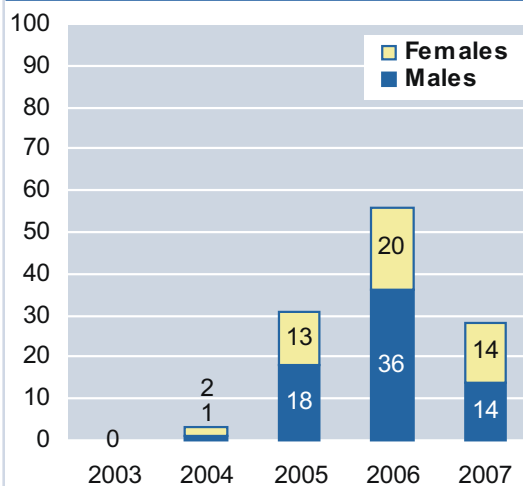
The specific offence of trafficking in persons was established in El Salvador in 2004. The law criminalizes all forms of human trafficking as listed in Article 3 of the UN Trafficking Protocol and also includes trafficking for fraudulent adoptions and forced marriages. A new law on trafficking in persons was being drafted for submission to the National Assembly. A national plan of action for 2008-2013 is expected to be adopted by the end of 2008.

Criminal justice response

The National Civil Police has had a specific Department of Trafficking in Persons within its Border Division since 2004, with 19 officers devoted full time to this department in 2007. The Unit on Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons at the Attorney General's Office was established in 2004, and in 2007, the unit was made up of four prosecutors and 10 specialized and administrative staff.

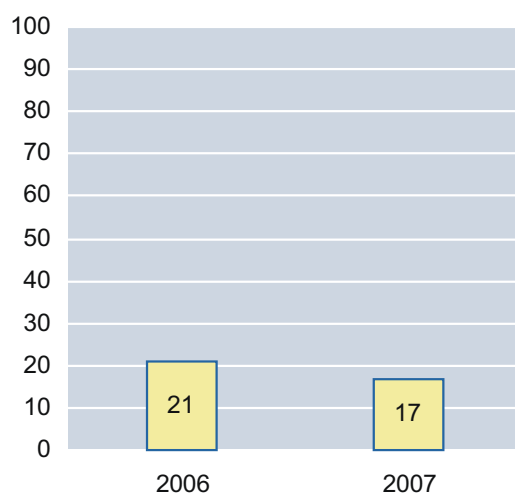
The first convictions for trafficking in persons were registered in 2006 when four citizens of El Salvador were convicted for trafficking for sexual exploitation. One adult male was convicted in 2007 for the offence of trafficking for sexual exploitation. All sentences ranged between five and 10 years in prison.

Fig. 75: Persons investigated and arrested for trafficking in persons in El Salvador, by gender (2003-2007)



Source: National Police

Fig. 76: Persons prosecuted for trafficking in persons in El Salvador (2006-2007)

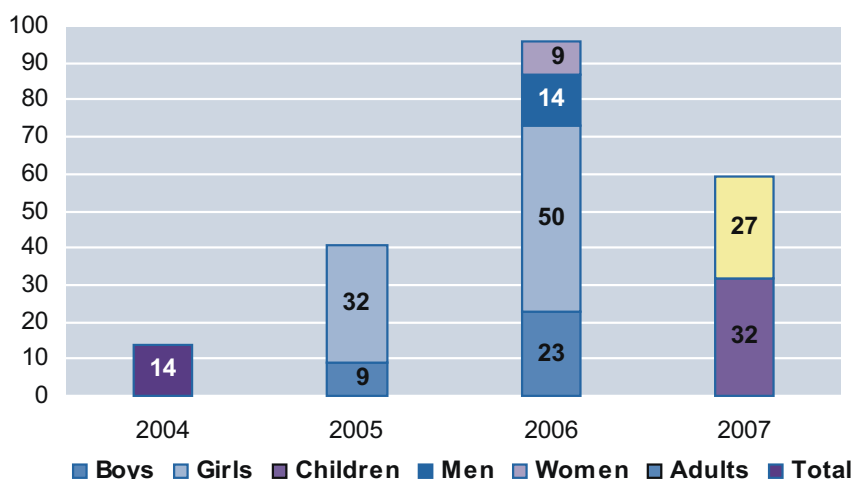


Source: National Police

Services provided to victims

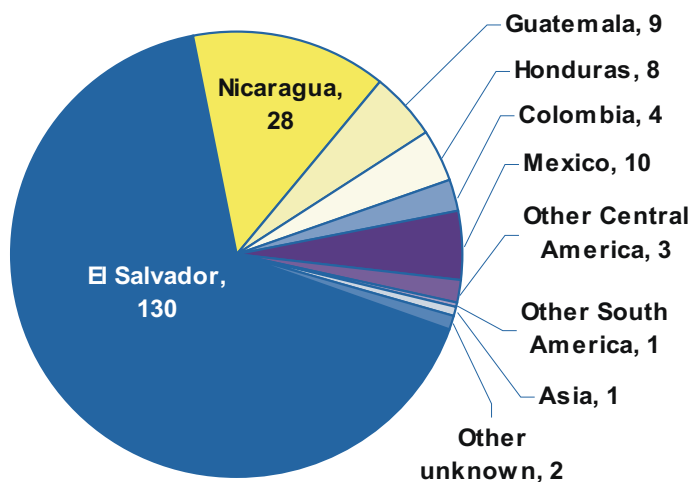
State authorities in cooperation with NGOs provide legal assistance, medical and psychosocial support, and housing and shelter to victims. IOM provides technical support and assistance for the return and reintegration of trafficking victims.

Fig. 77: Victims of trafficking identified by the national police in El Salvador, by age and gender (2004-2007)



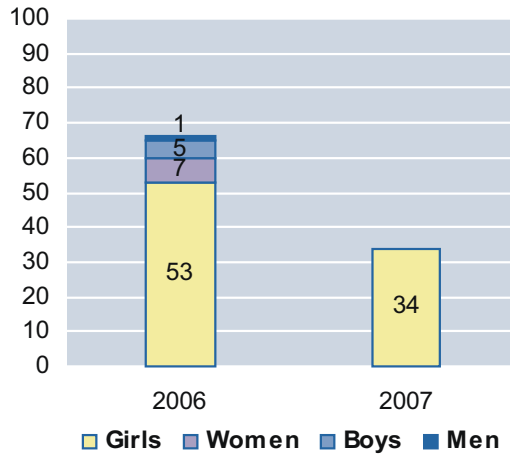
Source: National Police

Fig. 78: Victims of trafficking identified by the national police in El Salvador, by country of citizenship (2005-2007)



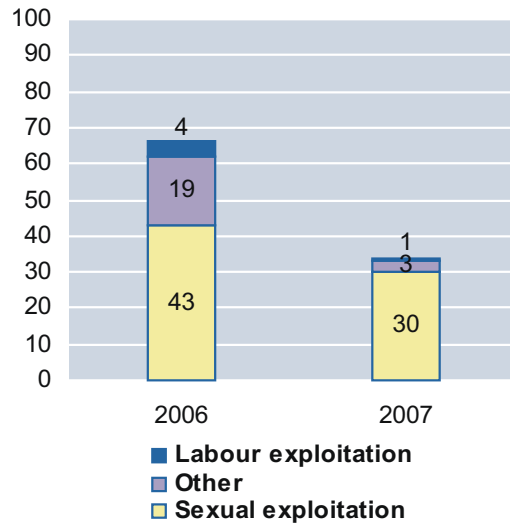
Source: National Police

Fig. 79: Victims of trafficking sheltered by relevant institutions in El Salvador, by age and gender (2006-2007)



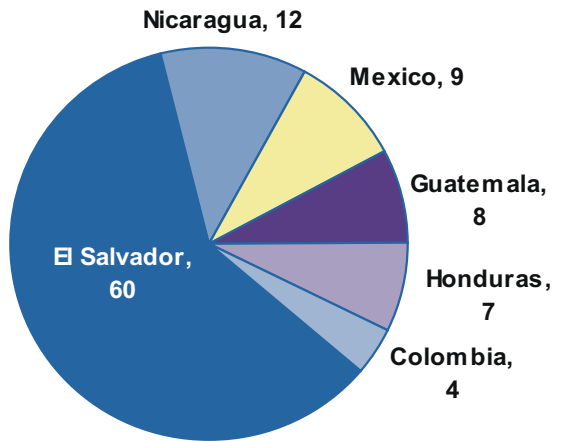
Source: Huellas Foundation

Fig. 80: Victims of trafficking sheltered by relevant institutions in El Salvador, by type of exploitation (2006-2007)



Source: Huellas Foundation

Fig. 81: Victims of trafficking sheltered by relevant institutions in El Salvador, by country of citizenship (2006-2007)



Source: Huellas Foundation

Additional information

A shelter for minor victims of trafficking was established in 2006 and is administered by the Salvadoran Institute for the Integral Attention for the Child and Adolescent (INSA) and run by the Huellas Foundation. There is no specific shelter for adult victims of trafficking.

The majority of identified victims of trafficking with Salvadoran citizenship were internally trafficked. Identified victims of other nationalities that were trafficked to El Salvador were repatriated to their countries of origin.

Guatemala

Institutional framework

The specific offence of trafficking in persons was established in Guatemala in 2005. The definition of trafficking in persons in the Guatemalan law does not cover trafficking for the purpose of organ removal. Before 2005, the offences of sexual exploitation, child abduction, corruption of a child and aggravated pimping were used to prosecute some forms of trafficking in persons. Guatemala adopted a National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons and the Integral Protection of Victims for the period 2007-2017.

Criminal justice response

The National Civil Police has had a specific Anti-trafficking Section within the Division of Criminal Investigations since 2004. In 2007, the Attorney General's office moved responsibility for trafficking in persons offences from the Prosecutor's Office of Women to the Prosecutor's Office of Organized Crime.

Three persons were prosecuted in 2007 for trafficking in persons offences. There were no convictions between 2003 and 2007, but by April 2008, two women and one man were still being prosecuted for trafficking in persons for the purpose of illegal adoption.

Services provided to victims

State authorities in cooperation with NGOs provide legal assistance to victims of human trafficking.

Additional information

A protocol was established in the country to refer victims of trafficking to NGOs and international organizations for assistance and services. The Secretary of Social Welfare has one shelter that receives Guatemalan minors returned from other countries, some of whom may be victims of trafficking. There are also shelters for migrants and for female victims of violence that may be used for victims of trafficking in persons.

In September 2007, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs established a call centre (hotline) for victims of trafficking. Between September and December 2007, the call centre attended to 42 cases of human trafficking, 14 of which were referred to the national police and other institutions.



Fig. 83: Victims of trafficking identified by State authorities in Guatemala, by age and gender (January 2006-March 2008)

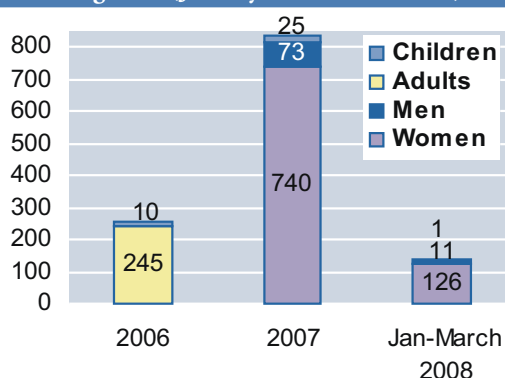
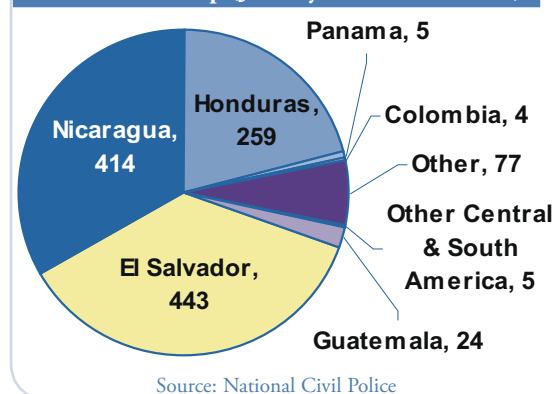


Fig. 82: Persons arrested for trafficking in persons in Guatemala (2006-2006)



Fig. 84: Victims of trafficking identified by State authorities in Guatemala, by country of citizenship (January 2006-March 2008)



Haiti

Institutional framework

The specific offence of trafficking in persons does not exist in the legislation of Haiti, although a comprehensive anti-trafficking bill was awaiting approval by Parliament in 2008. The offences of sexual exploitation and servitude could be used to prosecute some forms of human trafficking. Haiti does not have a national plan of action against trafficking in persons.

Criminal justice response

The Brigade for Child Protection within the police is in charge of child protection, including child trafficking. The brigade consists of 14 officers.

Very little information and no solid data on trafficking in persons and related crimes were recorded during the reporting period.

Services provided to victims

There is no official system in place to provide assistance services to victims of trafficking. The Group against Child Trade and Trafficking in Persons works as a coordinating mechanism to improve the national response to human trafficking and to provide services to victims of trafficking, but there are no specific shelters for human trafficking victims. International organizations provide emergency support services, legal help, medical and psychosocial assistance, shelter, counselling services, family tracking and support for the return and socio-economic reintegration of child victims of trafficking (i.e., scholarships, micro-credits).

Additional information

In August 2007, the Group against Child Trade and Trafficking in Persons worked on the case of 47 children who were given to an orphanage in Port-au-Prince without the consent of their parents for the purpose of illegal adoption.

Honduras

Institutional framework

The specific offence of trafficking in persons was established in Honduras in 2005, but the definition in this law only covers trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

Criminal justice response

Honduras has a Specialized Anti-Human Trafficking Police Unit, and four of the six divisions of the national police work on sexual exploitation and trafficking in persons cases. In 2007, a Special Police Unit on Trafficking in Persons was established under the Migratory Police of the Special Services Investigations Unit.

No prosecutions and no convictions for the offence of trafficking in persons were recorded in Honduras between 2003 and 2006. There were four convictions for the sexual exploitation of children; one took place in 2004 and the other three in 2005.

Services provided to victims

State authorities provide legal assistance to minor victims of human trafficking. NGOs provide legal assistance, medical and psychosocial support, housing and physical protection to girl victims. In 2007, 25 girls were identified as victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation and sheltered by the NGO Casa Alianza.

Additional information

An Inter-Institutional Committee against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Boys, Girls and Adolescents was established in 2002, which addresses trafficking in minors. This coalition is comprised of 54 organizations, conducts trainings on trafficking in persons and works on prevention. The government expects to pass a national action plan against trafficking in persons in 2008 to strengthen inter-institutional collaboration.

Casa Alianza has run a shelter for girl victims of human trafficking since 2003 that has the capacity to assist up to 25 girls at a time.



Nicaragua

Institutional framework

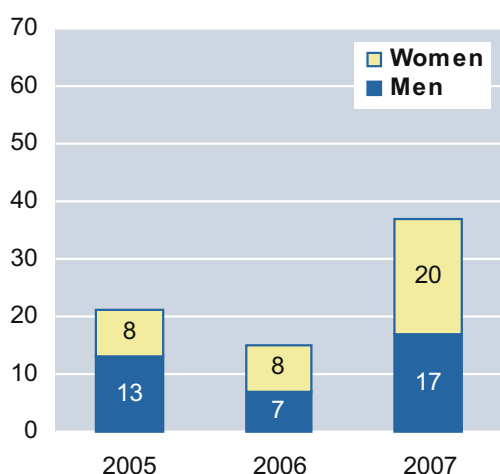
The specific offence of trafficking in persons for prostitution was established in Nicaragua in 2005. In May 2008, amendments to the criminal code expanded the definition of trafficking in persons to include the other forms of exploitation listed in Article 3 of the UN Trafficking Protocol and went even further by also criminalizing trafficking for the purpose of illegal adoption. The first national action plan against trafficking in persons is expected to be passed by the end of 2008.

Criminal justice response

The national police established a specific unit against trafficking in persons in 2005. Six officers were involved full time in this unit in 2007. The Public Prosecutor's Office created two specialized units in 2007 that also cover the crime of trafficking in persons: the Unit on Organized Crime and the Unit on Gender and Violence.

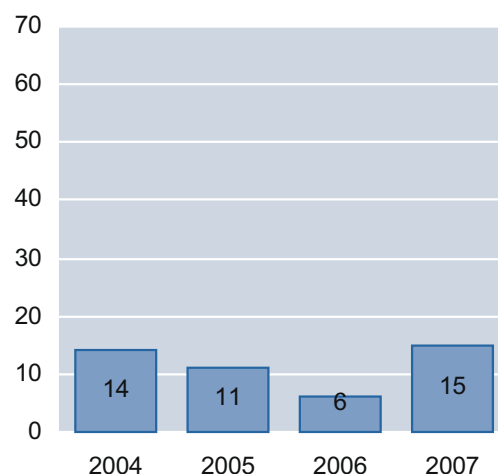
There is no information available on persons convicted for the offence of trafficking in persons.

Fig. 85: Persons arrested for trafficking in persons in Nicaragua, by gender (2005-2007)



Source: National Police

Fig. 86: Persons prosecuted for trafficking in persons in Nicaragua (2004-2007)

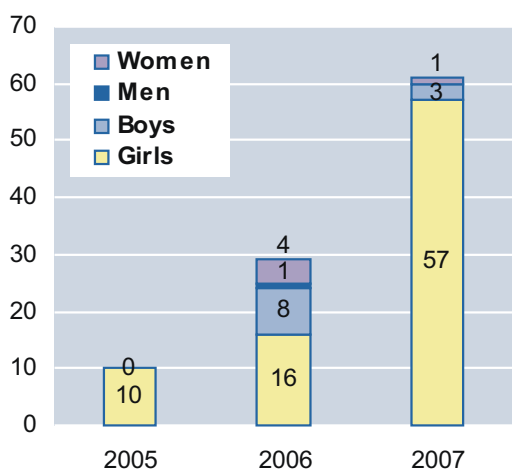


Source: Public Ministry

Services provided to victims

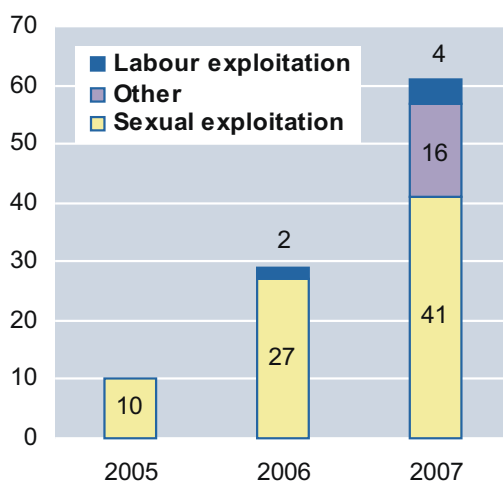
State authorities provide legal assistance, and medical and psychosocial support to victims of human trafficking. NGOs and international organizations offer medical and psychosocial support, protection and reintegration assistance, and temporary shelter for minor victims of trafficking. These groups also provide shelter, housing and repatriation assistance.

Fig. 87: Victims of trafficking identified by State authorities in Nicaragua, by age and gender (2005-2007)



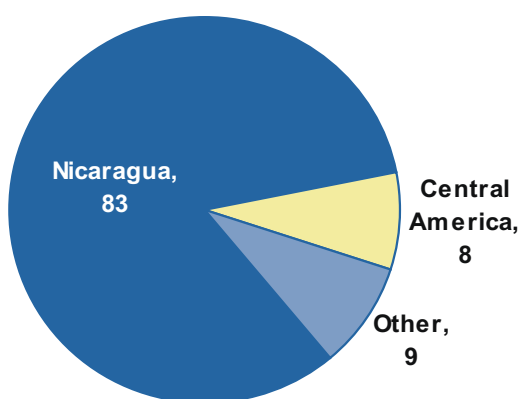
Source: National Police and Ministry of Family

Fig. 88: Victims of trafficking identified by State authorities in Nicaragua, by type of exploitation (2005-2007)



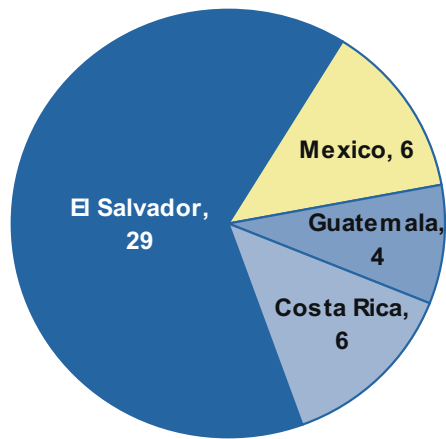
Source: National Police and Ministry of Family

Fig. 89: Victims of trafficking identified by State authorities in Nicaragua, by country of citizenship (2005-2007)



Source: National Police and Ministry of Family

Fig. 90: Nicaraguan victims returned from other countries, by country of return (2005-2007)

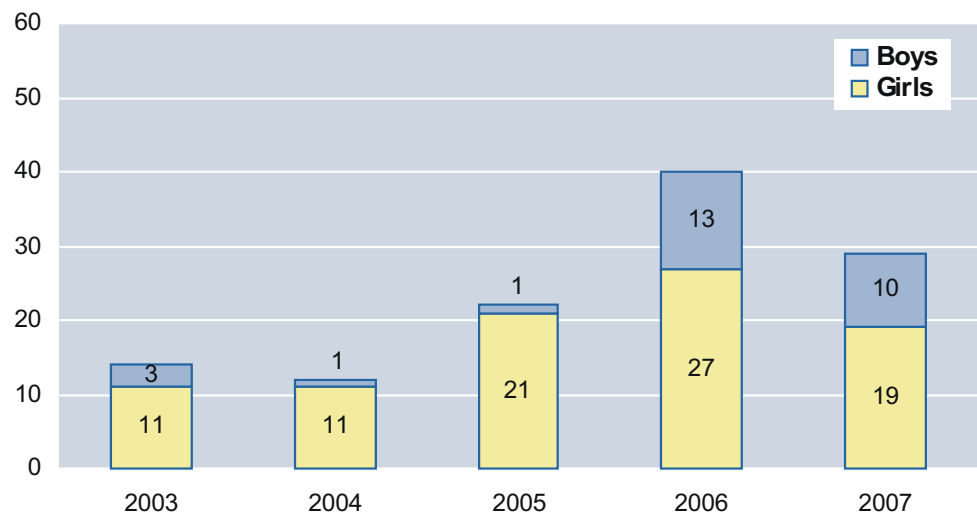


Source: Ministry of Family

Additional information

The persons arrested for trafficking in persons in 2007 were all from Nicaragua, with the exception of seven citizens from other Central American countries.

Fig. 91: Victims of trafficking sheltered in Nicaragua, by age and gender (2003-2007)



Source: Ministry of Family and Casa Alianza

Panama

Institutional framework

The specific offence of trafficking in persons was established in Panama in 2004, but this law only criminalizes trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. A National Plan of Action for the Child and Adolescent 2003-2006 that covers the sexual exploitation of minors was first adopted in 2003. A national action plan defining public policies for victims of human trafficking for the period 2008-2010 was under consideration in 2008 by the National Commission for Crime Prevention.

Criminal justice response

The Sex Crimes Division within the Technical Judicial Police was in charge of sexual crimes, including some forms of trafficking in persons, during the reporting period. The same mandate established the Sex Crimes Unit within the National Commission for Crime Prevention (CONAPREDES) in 2005 under the jurisdiction of the Attorney General's office.

There were no convictions for trafficking in persons in the period 2003-2006. In 2007, two persons were convicted for trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation.

Services provided to victims

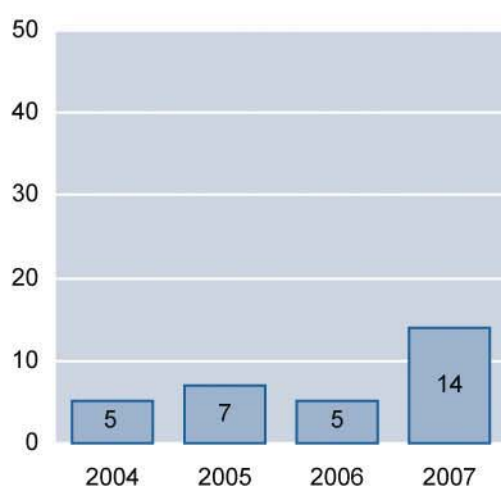
State authorities provide legal protection, temporary stay permits, medical and psychosocial support, housing and shelter for victims of human trafficking. In 2007, 66 children were identified as victims of trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation and sex tourism. No data exist on adult victims of human trafficking in Panama.

Additional information

The Ministry of Social Development (MIDES) has a programme for victims of sexual exploitation and has identified two shelters where minor victims of trafficking can be accommodated and assisted. However, through February 2008, no child victim of trafficking had received accommodation in these two shelters.



Fig. 92: Persons prosecuted for trafficking in persons in Panama (2004-2007)



Source: Attorney General's Office