



Wisconsin Department of Justice 2025 Report from Human Trafficking Council – Wis. Stat. § 165.29(1)(j)

Submitted June 2026

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Introduction

The Department of Justice (DOJ) submits this report pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 165.29(1)(j), which states:

By July 1 of each year, [the Human Trafficking Council shall] submit to the chief clerk of each house of the legislature for distribution to the legislature under s. 13.172 (2) and post on the department of administration's and department of justice's websites a report that summarizes the data collected by the council during the previous year, the activities of the council during the previous year, and any obstacles that prevented the council from successfully carrying out its duties during the previous year.

Wis. Stat. § 165.29 states the human trafficking council shall:

- Compile and maintain an inventory of human trafficking prevention programs and services in this state and develop, maintain, and keep current an online database to share information among counties, law enforcement agencies, state agencies that have responsibilities relating to sex trafficking, and organizations that provide human trafficking prevention programs and services or victim support programs and services. The database shall include an online portal that is accessible by each such entity. (Wis. Stat. § 165.29(1)(a))
- Compile data on human trafficking offenses committed in this state using metrics the council determines to be of use, including at a minimum the annual number of arrests, prosecutions, and convictions for human trafficking offenses under s. [940.302](#) or [948.051](#). (Wis. Stat. § 165.29(1)(c))
- Assess sex trafficking activities in each county, establish criteria to be used as the basis for recommendations to counties, and make recommendations to counties as to whether a human trafficking task force should be established in that county or that a law enforcement agency in that county designate a law enforcement officer to coordinate the law enforcement agency's human trafficking prevention and enforcement efforts. (Wis. Stat. § 165.29(1)(d))
- Assess the regulation and oversight of facilities that provide residential care in a congregate living environment, including community-based residential facilities, as defined in s. [50.01 \(1g\)](#), and group homes licensed under s. [48.625](#), as it relates to victims of human trafficking. (Wis. Stat. § 165.29(1)(e))
- Assess the frequency and extent to which social media platforms are used to assist, facilitate, or support human trafficking in this state; establish a process to detect such use on a consistent basis; and develop recommendations on how to stop, reduce, or prevent social media platforms from being used for human trafficking purposes. (Wis. Stat. § 165.29(1)(f))

- Develop a state strategic plan for preventing human trafficking, providing resources for law enforcement initiatives, providing resources to organizations that provide human trafficking prevention programs and services or human trafficking victim support services programs and services, and creating or providing access to relevant training programs for law enforcement or such organizations. (Wis. Stat. § 165.29(1)(g))
- The human trafficking council may request, and the department of administration and department of justice shall collaborate to provide, any data necessary to carry out the human trafficking council's duties under sub. [\(1\)](#). (Wis. Stat. § 165.29(2))

Data Collection

In the previous year, council membership was determined and the council met for the first time in December 2025. No data was collected during this time.

Council Activities

Following its formation, the council met once in the previous year, on December 11, 2025. During the meeting, the council received information about legislation relating to human trafficking, and an overview of the provisions in Wis. Stat. § 165.29. The council also received information about the formation of several subcommittees to support the council's work.

The council has since met three times in 2026 and developed subcommittees to support data collection and assessment. For a list of subcommittee assignments, see Appendix A.

Identified Obstacles

DOJ was charged with establishing and coordinating a statewide council without dedicated funding or position authority to support these responsibilities. The lack of resources has created significant challenges in fulfilling the council's statutory mandates, including data collection.

To sustain the council's ongoing work, existing DOJ staff within the Division of Criminal Investigation, the Office of Crime Victim Services, and the Division of Law Enforcement Services, Bureau of Justice Information and Analysis have assumed these responsibilities in addition to their regular duties.

Appendix A

Human Trafficking Council – Membership List (as of May 2026)

Name	Position/Title	Organization	Subcommittee
Denita Ball	Sheriff	Milwaukee COSO	County-Level Training and Development
Chad Billeb	Sheriff	Marathon COSO	Data
Ashley Billig	Research Analyst	DOJ, BJIA	
Tim Carpenter	State Senator (D)	Senate	Assessment and Strategic Planning
Lt. Harman Chahal	Executive Officer Bureau of Field Operations - Special Operations Section	DOT	Assessment and Strategic Planning
Evelyn Coker	Director, Bureau of Youth Services	DCF	County-Level Training and Development
Leanne Delsart	Manager, Children Youth and Family Section, Division of Care and Treatment Services' Bureau of Prevention Treatment and Recovery	DHS	County-Level Training and Development
Lea Denny	CEO, Clinical Director, Founder	HIR Wellness Institute	Data
Jodi Emerson	State Representative (D)	Assembly	County-Level Training and Development
Hanns Friedel	Director, HT/ICAC	DOJ, DCI	
Melissa Fus	HT Supervisor, Special Agent in Charge	DOJ, DCI	

Name	Position/Title	Organization	Subcommittee
Nora Gonzalez Carvajal	Anti-Human Trafficking Victim Advocate	Reach Counseling	County-Level Training and Development
Daniel J. Hamilton	Supervisor, Consumer Protection Investigator	DSPS	Data
Sophia Hannauer	Research Analyst	DOJ, BJIA	Data
Shannon Holsey	President, Stockbridge-Munsee Community	GLITC Board of Directors member	
Julie Incitti	School Social Work Consultant	DPI	Data
Jesse James	State Senator (R)	Senate	
Jake Jansky	Administrator <i>Human Trafficking Council Co-Chair</i>	DOJ, DCI	
Dr. Debbie Lassiter	CEO	The Convergence Resource Center	County-Level Training and Development
Chris McKinny	Government Affairs Director	DOJ, OAG	
Jan Miyasaki	Director	Project Respect	Assessment and Strategic Planning
Jerry O'Connor	State Representative (R)	Assembly	Assessment and Strategic Planning
Jim Olson	Chief of Police	DeForest PD	County-Level Training and Development
Ismael Ozanne	District Attorney	Dane County DA's Office	
Shira Phelps	Executive Director	DOJ, OCVS	

Name	Position/Title	Organization	Subcommittee
	<i>Human Trafficking Council Co-Chair</i>		
Amanda Powers	Director, DOA Office of Violence Prevention	DOA	Data
Kevin Smith	Regional Attorney Manager	Office of the Public Defender	Assessment and Strategic Planning County-Level Training and Development
Colin Stroud	Administrator, Equal Rights Division	DWD	Assessment and Strategic Planning