



Home Office

Modern Slavery

Quantifying Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery, in the Context of the UK Government's Strategy and Legislation

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The Modern Slavery Act

- The Modern Slavery Bill was introduced by Home Secretary (now Prime Minister) Theresa May in June 2014
- The Modern Slavery Strategy, including our work on quantification, was published in November 2014
- The Modern Slavery Act became law on 26 March 2015.

UK is home to 13,000 slaves: Home Office says number is four times higher than previously thought

- The shocking figures include women trafficked for prostitution or service
- Others are brought in to work in factories, fields or even fishing boats
- The Home Office confirmed it underestimated the scale of the problem
- The most common victims are from Romania, Poland, Albania and Nigeria

By MAIL ON SUNDAY REPORTER

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Up to 13,000 people in Britain are being held in conditions of slavery, four times the number previously thought, the Home Office has said.

In what is said to be the first scientific estimate of the scale of modern slavery in the UK, the Home Office has said the number of victims last year was between 10,000 and 13,000.

They include women forced into prostitution, domestic staff and workers in fields, factories and fishing boats.

Scroll down for video



Home Secretary Theresa May, pictured, described the scale of human trafficking as 'shocking'

Data from the National Crime Agency's Human Trafficking Centre had previously put the number of slavery victims in 2013 at 2,744.

The new estimate is based on a statistical analysis by the Home Office chief scientific adviser, Professor Bernard Silverman, which aims for the first time to calculate the 'dark figure' of victim numbers who are not reported to the law enforcement agencies.

'Modern slavery is very often deeply hidden and so it is a great challenge to assess its scale,' he said.

'The data collected is inevitably incomplete and, in addition, has to be very carefully handled because of its sensitivity.'

Read more:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2854601/UK-home-13-000-slaves-Home-Office-says-number-four-times-higher-previously-thought.html#ixzz3L2PU4VAD>

The National Referral Mechanism

- The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a framework for identifying victims of human trafficking and ensuring they receive the appropriate protection and support. It is run by the National Crime Agency (NCA).
- The NRM collates data from a range of sources to produce statistics on “potential victims of trafficking” and produces an annual strategic assessment.

Bernard Silverman

**Multiple Systems Estimation
to estimate the hidden figure**

The National Crime Agency (NCA) Strategic Assessment of the Nature and Scale of Human Trafficking (2013)

- In 2013, the NCA Strategic Assessment identified 2,744 unique potential victims of trafficking
- The sources of information can be grouped as follows

LA: Local Authorities	NG: Non-governmental organisations, charities
GO: Government Organisations (mostly Home Office agencies e.g. UK Border Force, Gangmasters Licensing Authority)	
PF: Police forces, National Crime Agency	GP: The general public, through various routes

The dark figure

- Despite all efforts, the Strategic Assessment can only present a partial picture of the size of human trafficking.
 - Human trafficking is a hidden crime and some victims may be controlled or still in servitude, or may not come forward because of fear or shame.
 - Some victims of human trafficking may not be identified as such by professionals who encounter them or even by themselves.
 - The NCA's coverage is not complete: not all agencies respond to the NCA's intelligence requirement
- **Multiple systems estimation (MSE)** can be used to estimate the “dark figure” of potential victims that do not come to the Strategic Assessment's attention. MSE is a generalisation of the standard capture-recapture approach to the situation where there are more than two lists.

Multiple systems estimation: more than two lists

LA	x					x	x	x								x	x	x	
NG		x				x			x	x	x					x	x	x	x
PF			x				x		x			x	x			x	x		x
GO				x				x		x		x		x	x			x	x
GP					x						x		x	x					
number	54	463	995	695	316	15	19	3	62	19	1	76	11	8	4	1	1	1	<u>???</u>

- The “dark figure” is the number in the last column—which do not appear on any list
- A lot of work went into this table!

Results: the total figure

- The estimated confidence interval for the actual population size is from 10K to 13K, so this suggests that the Strategic Assessment is aware of 20% to 25% of all the potential victims of trafficking in the UK in 2013.
- This must be regarded as a tentative conclusion, because the model is based on assumptions that (while sensible) can't be easily verified and inevitably uses data that has some limitations.
- For full details, see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/modern-slavery-an-application-of-multiple-systems-estimation>

Olivia Hesketh

Other Approaches

Nature of modern slavery: other UK data sources

- Modern slavery data is collected by different agencies, covers different units of measurement (victims, offenders or offences) over different time periods.
- We can look at these sources to provide insight about the nature of modern slavery and how it manifests in the UK.

Nature of modern slavery: other UK data sources - victims

1. National Referral Mechanism data – published quarterly

- Collects data on age, gender, exploitation type, country of origin, location of exploitation, referring agency



2. Duty to Notify data – published annually

- Data collection mandated by Modern Slavery Act 2015
- Collects anonymised data on gender, exploitation type, country of origin, referring agency



33%

Sexual Exploitation



36%

Labour Exploitation



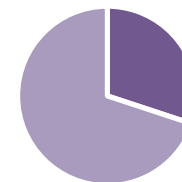
13%

Domestic Servitude



18%

Unknown exploitation type



30% of all potential victims of modern slavery are **children**



Nature of modern slavery: other UK data sources – offences and offenders

1. Crime Statistics – published quarterly

- Modern slavery crimes recorded by each police force.

2. Criminal Justice Statistics – published quarterly

- Prosecutions, convictions and sentences for modern slavery offences.
- Age and gender of offenders.

1,289

Modern slavery crimes recorded by police (year to September 2016)

Prosecutions and convictions for modern slavery offences, 2014-2015

