



Louisiana Human Trafficking Statistics

LOUISIANA HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACTS AND RESOURCES

- ❖ About 100 teenagers, mostly girls, have reported being victims of human trafficking for prostitution or pornography in the New Orleans-Baton Rouge area from 2009-2011.
- ❖ Baton Rouge is among the top 10 cities in the US for human trafficking. The age of the youngest confirmed victim of sex trafficking in Baton Rouge is 6 years old.
- ❖ There are about 200,000 homeless children in Louisiana, the highest rate of child homelessness in the US. 30% of homeless shelter youth and 70% of street youth are victims of commercial sexual exploitation. Records by the Office of Community show 35 confirmed cases in which a parent was directly involved in the prostitution of their child.
- ❖ In 2015, Louisiana received the highest score on their Shared Hope State Grade: a whopping 99.5 points.
- ❖ In 2015: the state reported 76 cases of human trafficking; 276 calls were made to the NHTRC Hotline.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM LOUISIANA

Nationwide FBI human trafficking operation nets arrests in NWLA (12 KSLA, October 28, 2015) - More than 100 people were arrested in a FBI nationwide human trafficking operation, including people from Bossier City, Bossier Parish and Shreveport. Operation Cross Country IX led to the recovery of 149 underage trafficking victims and the arrest of 153 pimps. Of the 149 victims rescued, the youngest was 12-years-old. Three were men, and 3 were transgendered.

<http://www.ksla.com/story/30260779/nationwide-fbi-human-trafficking-operation-nets-arrests-in-nwla>

Louisiana Motel Owner Pleads Guilty in Sex Trafficking Case (FBI, July 1, 2015) – A motel owner recently pleaded guilty to financially benefiting from a sex trafficking scheme operated out of the Riviera Motel in New Orleans in which multiple adult women were compelled to engage in prostitution, announced head of the Civil Rights Division Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Vanita Gupta. Kanubhai Patel, also known as Mr. Kenny and Pop, 74, of Kenner, Louisiana, pleaded guilty to one count of benefiting financially from trafficking in persons.

<https://www.fbi.gov/neworleans/press-releases/2015/louisiana-motel-owner-pleads-guilty-in-sex-trafficking-case>

Fight against human trafficking continues in Louisiana, nation's capital (WDSU 6 News, May 13, 2015) – The fight against human trafficking is front and center in Louisiana and on Capitol Hill, and now there is a movement that aims to protect victims. The Louisiana State Police reports growing numbers of human trafficking in the state. In 2014, troopers investigated nine cases, and this year 10 cases were opened. According to a recent study, 14 percent of residents at a local safe house are victims of some form of human trafficking. Eleven percent had been trafficking for sex, 5 percent for labor. Two people had been trafficked for both labor and sex.

<http://www.wdsu.com/news/local-news/new-orleans/fight-against-human-trafficking-continues-in-louisiana-nations-capital/33000450>

State Grade

A

*Shared Hope Report Cards grade each state on 6 key principles which set a national standard of protection against domestic minor sex trafficking. Graded from A-F: 'A' being most protected, 'F' being least protected.

Flash Points

13 out of 15

*Trafficking is a complex issue influenced by several underlying factors, such as transportation, entertainment, or tourism. Each state is assessed based on the 15 major factors that contribute to trafficking. These determine the influences present in each state that increase residents' risk of being trafficked. 13 of the 15 flash points are found in Louisiana.

Tier

1 of 4 (Green)

*Polaris Project rates all 50 states on a 4 tier scale based on 10 categories of laws which are critical to a basic legal framework that combats human trafficking, punishes traffickers and supports survivors. Tier 1 meets the most categories while tier 4 meets the least. Tier 1 indicates the state has made significant laws to combat human trafficking and should continue to take steps to improve and implement its laws. Louisiana meets 10 parts of the 10 categories (divided into 12 parts) of laws necessary to combat human trafficking.

www.warinternational.org - info@warinternational.org - 616-855-0796

Trafficking Tip Line: 1.877.END.SLAVERY

National Trafficking Hotline 1.888.373.7888

U.S. Dept. of Justice Trafficking and Workers' Exploitation Hotline 1.888.428.7581

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HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM LOUISIANA

Refuge for sex trafficking victims opening soon (9WAFB, 2013)

It began as an awareness mission, but over the past six years has grown into creating Hope House, the first safehouse for trafficking victims in Baton Rouge. "People really have a heart for the hurting and they want to help in any way that they can," said Laura. "It's been incredible to see, not only the outpouring of people's support but how they're really starting to get engaged," said Trafficking Hope's other founder Lee Domingue. 9News brought you the first exclusive look at Hope House back in August when the renovation of an old camp site in South Louisiana had just begun. Now, more than six months and 60,000 volunteer hours later, Hope House is just weeks away from opening its doors. The refuge already has four victims waiting to move in.

<http://www.wafb.com/story/21476878/refuge-for-sex-trafficking-victims-opening-soon>

2 more sexual predators sentenced in massive child pornography investigation (ICE News Release, June 12, 2013)

Two men were sentenced on felony charges in federal court Tuesday after pleading guilty for their participation in an international criminal network known as Dreamboard, which produced and disseminated depictions of graphic child sexual abuse via the Internet.

Nearly 50 individuals have now pleaded guilty for their roles in Dreamboard, which is the largest child pornography bulletin board prosecution in U.S. history.

The sentences follow an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), along with dozens of other law enforcement agencies, as part of Operation Delego, an ongoing investigation launched in December 2009 targeting Dreamboard members around the world.

<http://www.ice.gov/news/releases/1306/130612shreveport.htm>

Jindal signs bill adding human trafficking, kidnapping to Louisiana racketeering laws (*The Times-Picayune*, June 10, 2013)

Gov. Bobby Jindal signed House Bill 279 by Rep. Cameron Henry, R-Metairie, Monday. Racketeering laws are utilized by prosecutors to target members of an organization engaged in criminal activities and the measure would allow tougher penalties against groups engaged in those crimes. The bill adds the following crimes to the definition of racketeering statute: female genital mutilation, aggravated kidnapping of a child younger than 13, human trafficking, trafficking of children for sexual purposes, bigamy, abetting in bigamy and the sale of minor children.

http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2013/06/jindal_signs_bill_adding_human.html

Bill considered to prevent La. human trafficking (*The Daily Reveille*, May 1, 2013)

In a recent effort to address the issue of human trafficking, the state legislature is considering a bill that would require "sexually oriented businesses" to verify the ages and work statuses of their employees.

House Bill No. 651, authored by Rep. Valarie Hodges, R-East Baton Rouge and Livingston, would create a Human Trafficking Prevention Act and require employers of sexually oriented businesses to conduct a questionnaire with potential employees to verify their ages and work statuses.

According to the legislation, a sexually oriented business includes adult arcades; adult book, novelty or video game stores; adult cabarets; gentleman's clubs, go-go clubs or strip bars; adult motel or adult hotel; adult motion picture theaters or adult theaters; escort or escort agencies; massage parlors, nude model studios and sexual encounter centers. The bill is currently awaiting approval from House Labor and Industrial Relations.

http://www.lsreveille.com/news/article_491c6840-b2b5-11e2-95dc-0019bb30f31a.html

Authorities nab 85 in effort to combat Super Bowl sex trafficking (*The Times-Picayune*, February 7, 2013)

In an effort to combat the rampant sex trafficking that authorities say has historically accompanied the Super Bowl, a multi-agency task force arrested 85 people during the week leading up to Sunday's game in New Orleans. Those arrests represented just "the tip of the iceberg" of a growing problem, State Police Superintendent Col. Mike Edmonson said at a news conference Thursday.

Operation Innocence Lost, carried out by the New Orleans Police Department, State Police, FBI and Department of Homeland Security, among others, netted arrests on charges of human trafficking, prostitution, pandering, narcotics and weapons charges, authorities said. Fifty-three people were arrested in the New Orleans area, while 32 were nabbed in the Baton Rouge area.

http://www.nola.com/crime/index.ssf/2013/02/85_sex-trafficking_arrests_in.html#/