



## Wyoming Human Trafficking Statistics

### WYOMING HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACTS AND RESOURCES

- ❖ Until 2013 Wyoming had failed to enact a human trafficking or sex trafficking law, and commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) laws do not sufficiently deter buyers of commercial sex with minors.
- ❖ Wyoming is lacking in adequate law enforcement training, investigative tools for law enforcement, and victim assistance.
- ❖ According to the U.S. Department of Justice, human trafficking has become the second fastest growing criminal industry- just behind drug trafficking- with children accounting for roughly half of all victims.
- ❖ The national Human Trafficking Resource Center estimates it to be a \$32 billion industry, with half coming from industrialized countries.
- ❖ In 2015: The state reported 6 cases; 32 calls were made to the NHTRC Hotline.

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM WYOMING

Women rescued from human traffickers in Wyo. after one mouthed 'help me' to cops (Fox News, January 12, 2016) - Wyoming authorities say they have rescued two young women being taken to California by human traffickers. The Rawlins Times reports that Wyoming Highway Patrol Officers approached a car at a Shell station near Rawlins last week in response to a call about a disturbance. A woman in the back seat mouthed the words "help me" to one officer. Her plea led to the arrest of the 38-year-old male driver and a 27-year-old woman, both from California, on human trafficking charges. Police say the woman who asked for help and another female passenger say they left Philadelphia with the couple because they promised them jobs and a new start in California. But the women say the couple became threatening and wouldn't let them leave once they got out of Pennsylvania.

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2016/01/12/women-rescued-from-human-traffickers-in-wyo-after-one-mouthed-help-me-to-cops.html>

One-Wheeling for a Cause (Daily Inter Lake, July 29, 2015)

Adam Gianforte is unicycling across the country to raise money and awareness for human trafficking. He recently graduated from Cornell this past spring. He started his adventure in Banff, Alberta, and his plan is to unicycle the Great Divide, taking him through Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Colorado and New Mexico. He is set to finish in September. He has started a Crowdfunder campaign where he is tracking his daily progress while raising money to end sex trafficking in the United States. He is donating funds raised to IJM.

[http://www.dailyinterlake.com/members/one-wheeling-for-a-cause/article\\_81ba8c9c-365a-11e5-a38d-d37c79cc11c8.html](http://www.dailyinterlake.com/members/one-wheeling-for-a-cause/article_81ba8c9c-365a-11e5-a38d-d37c79cc11c8.html)

Nine children rescued from Wyo-Colo trafficking ring (*The Daily Ranger*, July 30, 2013)

Law enforcement officers in a region that includes Colorado and Wyoming have rescued nine children and arrested six pimps in a three-day, nationwide sweep aimed at curbing child sex trafficking and underage prostitution, the FBI said Monday. The children were among 105 recovered in 76 cities nationwide, the FBI said.

[http://dailyranger.com/story.php?story\\_id=8444&headline=Nine-children-rescued-from-Wyo.-Colo.-trafficking-ring](http://dailyranger.com/story.php?story_id=8444&headline=Nine-children-rescued-from-Wyo.-Colo.-trafficking-ring)

#### State Grade C

\*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 11 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. 11 of the 15 flash points are found in Wyoming.

#### Tier 2 out of 4 (Yellow)

\*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 2 indicates the state has efforts to enact a legal framework to combat human trafficking and should take more steps to improve and implement its laws. Wyoming meets 6 parts of the 10 categories (divided into 12 parts) of laws necessary to combat human trafficking.

[www.warinternational.org](http://www.warinternational.org) - [info@warinternational.org](mailto: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 WYOMING

Wyoming Becomes 50<sup>th</sup> State to Outlaw Human Trafficking (Polaris Project Press Release, February 27, 2013)  
Prior to today, 49 states had passed human trafficking laws. Today Wyoming joins the ranks as the last state to ban human trafficking with Governor Matt Mead signing the first anti-trafficking law in Wyoming, making it illegal to traffic individuals for commercial sex or forced labor. Wyoming officials can now respond directly to local instances of human trafficking instead of relying solely on the federal government to identify and prosecute such cases, decreasing instances of both labor and sex trafficking falling through the gaps.

<http://www.polarisproject.org/media-center/news-and-press/press-releases/742-wyoming-becomes-50th-state-to-outlaw-human-trafficking>

Wyoming Human Trafficking Ban To Become Law Next Week (Huffington Post, February 23, 2013)

Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead (R) said Saturday he is planning to sign legislation that will make his state the last in the nation to ban human trafficking. Mead told The Huffington Post that he will sign the bill next week after a routine review by the state attorney general. The bill, which would make human trafficking a state crime and give local law enforcement more power to make arrests, passed the state legislature last week after a push by international anti-human trafficking advocates. A federal law already bans human trafficking in the United States, but advocates say that companion state laws are necessary to empower local law enforcement and offer social services to victims.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/02/23/wyoming-human-trafficking-ban\\_n\\_2750660.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/02/23/wyoming-human-trafficking-ban_n_2750660.html)

Wyoming court sentences human trafficker to 12 years in prison (Rapid City Journal, May 10, 2011)

CASPER, Wyo. -- An Uzbek citizen was sentenced to 12 years in prison Monday for running a human trafficking ring likened to "modern-day slavery" for hotel workers in Wyoming and 13 other states, according to the U.S. attorney's office of the Western District of Missouri. Abrorkhodja Askarkhodjaev and about a dozen other citizens of Moldova and the United States set up the scheme in the Kansas City, Mo., area to recruit foreign nationals from the Philippines, the Dominican Republic and elsewhere. Once people were recruited, Askarkhodjaev and other defendants formed corporations that contracted with hotels, casinos and other companies to offer employees for hire, according to the 45-count federal grand jury indictment filed in May 2009.

[http://rapidcityjournal.com/news/article\\_2e01d10e-7b1b-11e0-899a-001cc4c002e0.html](http://rapidcityjournal.com/news/article_2e01d10e-7b1b-11e0-899a-001cc4c002e0.html)

Human-trafficking scheme sent immigrants to Wyoming hotels (Billings Gazette, October 20, 2010)

CASPER, Wyo. — Two ringleaders of a Missouri-based alleged human-trafficking scheme are now on trial in Kansas City for hiring immigrant workers, sending them to Wyoming and 13 other states and holding them in virtual slavery. Of the more than 200 witnesses the government may call to testify, 10 are managers from central Wyoming hotels, including the Ramada Plaza Riverside in Casper and the Holiday Inn Express and Sleep Inn in Douglas, where 18 immigrants were employed. Prosecutors charged Abrorkhodja Askarkhodjaev, an Uzbekistan national, and Missouri businessman Kristin Dougherty, and 13 other individuals and companies with establishing temporary help agencies and hiring hundreds of mostly legal immigrants for work in hotels and casinos. The companies — Giant Labor Solutions, Crystal Management and Five Star Cleaning — placed the workers in overcrowded apartments or hotel rooms, withheld their wages and taxes and did not pay for overtime.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?shva=1#inbox>

Men plead to sex counts (Star Tribune, January 19, 2007)

JACKSON - Three men pleaded guilty in federal court to prostituting a teenage Mexican girl and now face up to life in prison. Armando Salas, 26 or 27, a fourth man suspected of being a "coyote" in the ring, is still considered a federal fugitive from justice. "Coyote" is slang for traffickers, usually men, who smuggle people, often women, across Mexico's border illegally. Jackson police have alleged that Chavez, a local restaurateur, was the gang's ringleader and had also smuggled other people to work as cheap laborers or prostitutes. Authorities say the girls were lured from their communities in Mexico and promised better lives in the United States. However, upon their arrival here, prosecutors say, they were told they would be "having sex with men for money." All three men reportedly charged customers \$80 to \$100 for each sex act and split the money without giving any to the girls. The coyotes charged the girls about \$2,000 for their transportation into the United States, court documents show.

[http://trib.com/news/state-and-regional/men-plead-to-sex-counts/article\\_c07ecc94-1eff-5fbb-a53c-a180a9534cb4.html](http://trib.com/news/state-and-regional/men-plead-to-sex-counts/article_c07ecc94-1eff-5fbb-a53c-a180a9534cb4.html)