



North Dakota Human Trafficking Statistics

NORTH DAKOTA HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACTS AND RESOURCES

- ❖ North Dakota received a “D” grade regarding state laws and law enforcement protection of victims of trafficking, lacking adequate laws to combat demand for commercial sex with minors and to protect victims. For example, no commercial exploitation of children laws include the crime of buying sex with a minor, and solicitation laws do not distinguish between buying sex with a minor versus an adult.
- ❖ In 2015: the state reported 19 human trafficking cases; 48 calls were made to the NHTRC Hotline.
- ❖ As many as 2.9 million children run away each year in the US. Within 48 hours of hitting the street, one-third of these children are lured or recruited into the underground world of prostitution and pornography.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM NORTH DAKOTA

Feds award \$1.5 million to help human trafficking victims in North Dakota (Grand Forks Herald, September 24, 2015) - WILLISTON, N.D. – A \$1.5 million federal grant announced Thursday to combat human trafficking in North Dakota will fund two new positions to help victims in a state that reports serving 150 trafficking victims in 2014. The U.S. Department of Justice grant will fund two regional “navigators,” one stationed in Fargo and one in Minot, to help human trafficking victims connect with services.
<http://www.grandforksherald.com/news/crime-and-courts/3846757-feds-award-15-million-help-human-trafficking-victims-north-dakota>

North Dakota’s oil industry fuels another boom: sex trafficking (Twin Cities Pioneer Press, October 28, 2015) - Over the past six months, Forum News Service has investigated an emerging issue in the Bakken oilfield region of western North Dakota: sex trafficking, including the trafficking of children. We reviewed hundreds of documents and conducted more than 100 interviews with law enforcement officers, victim service providers, victims rescued from the sex trade and experts who have examined the issue regionally, nationally and internationally. Our reporting took us from the Dakotas to Washington, D.C., from predators in courtrooms and prostitutes in police cars to top law enforcement agents, high elected officials and victim advocates who once were caught up in “the life” themselves.
<http://www.twincities.com/2015/01/03/north-dakotas-oil-industry-fuels-another-boom-sex-trafficking/>

Target Human Trafficking: Sex Trade comes to ND (KFYR-TV, July 15, 2015) – The sex slave trade industry has crept into the state along with the new transient population that accompanied the oil boom. Traffickers are even preying on safe houses where vulnerable survivors are living. A safe house owner, Lana Bonnet, has seen it firsthand. Human trafficking is a \$9.8 billion industry in the U.S. Statistics for North Dakota are hard to calculate because it’s difficult to separate prostitution crimes from human trafficking.
<http://www.kfyrtv.com/home/headlines/Targeting-Human-Trafficking-315482911.html>

State Grade

B

*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

10 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. 10 of the 15 flash points are found in North Dakota.

Tier

3 of 4 (Orange)

*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 made nominal laws to combat human trafficking and should take more steps to improve and implement its laws. North Dakota meets 4 of the 10 categories 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 NORTH DAKOTA

Woman charged with human trafficking in North Dakota (Missoulian, June 17, 2015) - Bismarck – A Milwaukee woman has been charged with felony human trafficking and conspiracy to commit theft of property. Both felony offenses carry a maximum of 20 years in prison if Rasheda Ross, 37, is convicted. According to the human trafficking case complaint, Ross “Benefited financially from knowing participation in sex trafficking and/or promoted, recruited, harbored or transported one or more persons, knowing they would be subject to human trafficking.”

http://missoulian.com/news/state-and-regional/woman-charged-with-human-trafficking-in-north-dakota/article_3ce1de84-24b9-556d-b48f-40084aaf8773.html

Man arrested in human trafficking case to be extradited to North Dakota (Las Vegas Review Journal, April 20, 2015) - A man wanted for his involvement in the human trafficking of two Las Vegas teenagers in North Dakota has been arrested and is expected to be extradited. Kevin Jackson Fleming, 18, was taken into custody by Las Vegas police and will face felony charges. A tip to authorities from the mother of one of the two teen girls led to a sting operation by the Minot Police Department. Police said the mother contacted them after emails led her to her daughter’s photo on a site often used to advertise prostitution.

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/crime-courts/man-arrested-human-trafficking-case-be-extradited-north-dakota>

Dickinson Press sports editor charged with human trafficking (*The Jamestown Sun*, June 13, 2013)

Bobby Abplanalp has been suspended from The Dickinson Press effective immediately. Abplanalp was one of two men arrested in Burleigh County on Wednesday night and charged with the Class A felony of attempted human trafficking and attempting to obtain a person under the age of 18 years old for sex, a criminal complaint alleges. The Class A felony carries a sentence of up to 20 years in prison. The complaint states that Abplanalp acted with the culpability required to commit the crime of human trafficking and intentionally engaged in conduct which constitutes a substantial step toward the commission of the crime of human trafficking. Abplanalp allegedly attempted to obtain another person for sex, knowing that person was under 18 years of age and would be subject to human trafficking. Another man, Aaron S. Collins, was charged with the same crime.

ND man sentenced to 45 years for human trafficking (*San Francisco Chronicle*, August 13, 2012)

A federal judge says a North Dakota man convicted of operating a drug and prostitution ring on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation must serve 45 years in prison. A jury in April found Dustin Morsette, of New Town, guilty on several charges, including sex trafficking, sexual abuse, drug trafficking and witness tampering. Morsette faced a maximum sentence of life in prison without parole. Judge Daniel Hovland says Morsette deserved a stiff sentence, but says a life sentence "is harsh for a 23-year-old man with no criminal history, a childhood spent living in 21 different foster homes, and a life plagued with dysfunction and chaos." U.S. attorneys Brendan Johnson of South Dakota and Timothy Purdon of North Dakota say the two states are seeing an increased number of human trafficking cases.

<http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/ND-man-sentenced-to-45-years-for-human-trafficking-3785254.php#ixzz29adtIiTR>

Prosecutors in ND, SD Warn About Human Trafficking (Associated Press, July 17, 2012)

Top federal prosecutors from North and South Dakota have added human trafficking to their list of crimes affecting Native Americans at an increased rate in the two states. U.S. attorneys Brendan Johnson of South Dakota and Timothy Purdon of North Dakota said during a conference on family violence Tuesday that both states are seeing more cases of girls and young women being recruited for prostitution and drug rings. "You have people who treat their victims like they're not humans," Johnson said after talking to a group that included police, social workers, prosecutors, counselors and community leaders. The operations are formed mainly in populated areas, but American Indian girls are particularly at risk, the prosecutors said. Some of them were recruited by a Sioux Falls-area man who was convicted last year of sex trafficking of a child. "These young girls were brutalized. They were humiliated," Johnson said. Brandon Thompson, 28, of Tea, S.D., was sentenced to life in prison on the sex trafficking charge.

<http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/Prosecutors-in-ND-SD-warn-about-human-trafficking-3714016.php#ixzz29amG0YGy>