



Arkansas Human Trafficking Statistics

ARKANSAS HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACTS AND RESOURCES

- ❖ Arkansas has jumped from the “faltering four,” states that have little or no effort to enact the laws required to fight trafficking adequately in 2012, to tier 1 in 2013, meeting all 10 of the categories required to fight human trafficking effectively
- ❖ Arkansas still lacks adequate laws that vacate convictions of trafficking victims.
- ❖ In 2015: the state reported 36 cases of human trafficking; 109 calls were made to the NHTRC Hotline.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM ARKANSAS

Arrest made in Arkansas human trafficking operation, children rescued
(KATV7, September 10, 2015)

A 28-year-old was arrested in connection with a human trafficking operation in Arkansas. Arkansas State Troopers and civilian investigators of the State Police Crimes Against Children Division located and recovered a fifteen year old girl who had been sexually exploited while being held in a human trafficking operation.

<http://katv.com/archive/arrest-made-in-arkansas-human-trafficking-operation-four-children-rescued>

Human Trafficking operation uncovered at Little Rock hotel (THV11, May 4, 2015)

Police say that the arrest of Amber Johnson, 28, of Little Rock on April 29 has become part of a larger human trafficking investigation. According to the report, a 15-year-old who had been sexually exploited while being held in the operation was located and recovered. They said a 2 and 3 year old were also being kept in the room with her...

<http://www.thv11.com/story/news/crime/2015/05/04/human-trafficking-operation-uncovered-at-little-rock-hotel/26876477/>

Effective Arkansas laws include bans on ‘Revenge Porn,’ Voyeurism via Drone (Times Record, July 27, 2015)

The new laws include Act 304, which makes it a Class A misdemeanor for a person age 18 or older to distribute an image or a video or audio recording of a family or household member or a present or former romantic partner if the image or recording is of a sexual nature or depicts nudity and the intent is to harass, frighten, intimidate or threaten the other person – a phenomenon sometimes known as “revenge porn.”

<http://swtimes.com/legislature/newly-effective-arkansas-laws-include-bans-revenge-porn-voyeurism-drone>

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

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. __ of the 15 flash points are found in Arkansas.

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 3 indicates the state has made nominal efforts to pass laws to combat human trafficking and should take major steps to improve and implement its laws. Arkansas meets 10 parts of the 10 categories of laws necessary to combat human trafficking, for a score of 10 out of 12.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM ARKANSAS

Fayetteville Police Say Human Trafficking is a Local Issue

(The Arkansas Traveler, February 19th, 2014)

Several arrests were made within the first two months of the year, according to reports. Additionally, one man was arrested for trafficking a 17-year-old female runaway. Fayetteville police said they get leads regarding these type of crimes daily

http://www.uatrav.com/news/article_95f17ba6-98f1-11e3-b20d-001a4bcf6878.html

15 year sentence in Little Rock's first federal sex trafficking case

(Arkansas Times, December 20th, 2013)

A Little Rock pimp got a 15-year sentence in what it has described as the first sex trafficking case in the Eastern District of Arkansas. The case was investigated by the Little Rock Police Department Vice Unit in conjunction with the FBI through the Denied Innocence Task Force. They conducted a series of three undercover prostitution operations. Through these operations they learned of a pimp working in Little Rock using the name Vegas.

<http://www.arktimes.com/ArkansasBlog/archives/2013/12/20/15-year-sentence-in-little-rocks-first-federal-sex-trafficking-case>

Human Trafficking in Arkansas: A PATH to a New Life (NWA, March 7, 2013)

In the United States there are only about 1,000 beds available for sex trafficking victims which number in the tens of thousands. Without a safe place off the streets, many will return to what they know. "You can't just bring somebody in off the street who has been beaten into submission and expect them to be able to walk out in two weeks and be back to having a normal life," Chenault said. Chenault and Allison have formed the Partners Against Trafficking Humans (PATH) Initiative to rehabilitate rescued victims.

http://nwahomepage.com/fulltext-news?nxd_id=286057

Bill to toughen human trafficking laws clears Senate (Arkansas News, February 7, 2013)

Senate Bill 242 by Sen. Missy Irvin, R-Mountain View, would expand the definition of human trafficking and make it a Class Y felony, punishable by 10 to 40 years or life in prison. Human trafficking is currently a Class A felony, punishable by six to 30 years in prison and up to a \$15,000 fine.

The bill also would allow victims to collect restitution; make it a felony for a person to knowingly patronize a prostitute who is a human trafficking victim; allow a person accused of prostitution to claim as a defense that the prostitution was the result of being a victim of human trafficking; and allow the attorney general to create a task force on human trafficking.

<http://arkansasnews.com/sections/news/arkansas/bill-toughen-human-trafficking-laws-clears-senate.html>

Arkansas Women Admits Guilt in Sex Trafficking Ring (Today's THV, October 13, 2012)

Brittany Lawson, of Hot Springs, Arkansas has pleaded guilty to helping run a violent nationwide sex trafficking ring that solicited customers for prostitutes as young as age 17. Lawson admitted that she posted ads on backpage.com soliciting customers in Iowa and elsewhere, recruited prostitutes, secured rental cars and rented motel rooms. She faces a lengthy prison term when she is sentenced because the charge carries a maximum of life in prison. But prosecutors agreed any recommended sentence should be shortened because she was under the coercion of co-defendant Johnelle Bell, described as a violent New Jersey pimp and mastermind of the ring. Bell has pleaded not guilty and faces trial next month.

<http://www.todaysthv.com/news/article/230536/2/Ark-woman-admits-guilt-in-sex-trafficking-ring?odyssey=obinsite>