



Virginia Human Trafficking Statistics

VIRGINIA HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACTS AND RESOURCES

- ❖ Virginia received a failing grade for its lack of laws designed to protect child victims and to address demand for commercial sex.
- ❖ In 2015: The state reported 145 cases; 624 calls were made to the NHTRC Hotline.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM VIRGINIA

Herring launches online ad campaign to fight human trafficking (Richmond Times-Dispatch, December 12, 2015) - An online ad campaign will target websites in the “darker corners of the Internet” and mobile devices being used at rest areas as part of Virginia’s ongoing campaign to fight sex trafficking and forced labor, Attorney General Mark R. Herring announced Monday. The multilingual ad campaign will use geolocation technology to target mobile phones being used within a quarter-mile of rest areas on major highways. The digital push builds on the anti-trafficking awareness campaign Herring launched one year ago, which thus far has focused on highway billboards and mirror stickers in rest-stop bathrooms.

http://www.richmond.com/news/virginia/article_95e7d100-a636-5b12-ae3e-bbffa9a414b5.html

Straight Street hosts 4th annual human trafficking event in Virginia (WDBJ7, January 30, 2016) - Straight street, an organization that serves as an outreach for teenagers, is bringing awareness about human trafficking in Virginia. January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Dede Wallace with the Department of Homeland Security Investigations says it's a widespread problem. "Last year Polaris, which is a national organization for human trafficking, rated Virginia as number 5 for the states," Wallace said.

<http://www.wdbj7.com/news/local/straight-street-hosts-4th-annual-human-trafficking-event-in-virginia/37730000>

A dozen pimps arrested in Hampton Roads human trafficking operation (10 Wavy, October 13, 2015) - The FBI announced Tuesday a dozen pimps have been arrested in Hampton Roads as part of a nationwide human trafficking operation involving minors. Officials say the 12 suspects were arrested over several days as a result of a coordinated effort with the Chesapeake, Hampton, Norfolk, and Virginia Beach Police Departments. Officers also rescued three underage victims in Hampton Roads, between the ages of 16 and 17.

<http://wavy.com/2015/10/13/a-dozen-pimps-arrested-in-hampton-roads-human-trafficking-operation/>

Home for human trafficking victims opens (WAVY, July 26, 2015)

Homestead Ranch, a nonprofit organization, had a ribbon-cutting ceremony Sunday for their restoration home for victims of human trafficking.

Homestead Ranch serves girls and women who have been trafficked, aged out of foster care, or who are pregnant and in need of a home. The facility provides shelter, counseling, educational opportunities, job skills and other services. Founders Alan and Dana Steele live at Homestead Ranch and are parents of 16 adopted children.

<http://wavy.com/2015/07/26/home-for-human-trafficking-victims-opens/>

State Grade D

* 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 15 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. 15 of the 15 flash points are found in Virginia.

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 2 indicates the state has made nominal laws to combat human trafficking and should take more steps to improve and implement its laws. Virginia meets 7 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 VIRGINIA

Man Convicted of Sex Trafficking a 15-Year-Old Girl (FBI Press Release, June 25, 2013)

Ronnie Pierre Holmes, 29, also known as "King," with no fixed address, pleaded guilty today to a criminal information charging him with sex trafficking of a 15-year-old girl throughout Northern Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. In a statement of facts filed with the plea agreement, Holmes admitted that he met the 15-year-old runaway outside of her home, and that, within hours of meeting the girl, he had sex with her and started to contact other men to set up "dates" with her. Holmes admitted that he also found sex customers for the victim by posting advertisements on the Internet site www.Backpage.com. Holmes prostituted the victim in Washington, D.C., Maryland, and at various hotels in Alexandria and Fairfax County, Virginia.

<http://www.fbi.gov/washingtondc/press-releases/2013/man-convicted-of-sex-trafficking-a-15-year-old-girl>

Virginia lawmakers say we have strong human trafficking laws (WJTV, July 24, 2013)

There are no laws specifically using the words "human trafficking" in the Commonwealth but local lawmakers and the Attorney General's office say current laws are strong enough and the key is officer education. "We're well aware of human trafficking along the I-81 corridor as well as drug dealing because of what I-81 is, it's a major corridor," said Virginia State Senator John Edwards. "It's a big issue both with workers in Virginia trafficking people to Virginia and passing through Virginia," said Virginia Delegate Greg Habeeb.

<http://www.wjtv.com/story/22924281/virginia-lawmakers-say-we-have-strong-human-trafficking-laws>

7-Eleven forced labor scheme suspects in court (WVEC, June 20, 2013)

Three suspects accused of conspiring in a forced labor scheme at 7-Eleven franchises in Virginia had detention hearings in U.S. District Court Thursday. Tariq Rana was ordered to remain in jail with no bond for allegedly stealing money from illegal immigrants working at a 7-Eleven in Chesapeake. According to the U.S. Attorney's Office, Rana used fake payroll information to cash the employees' checks and only gave them a small portion of what they earned. During Thursday's hearing, prosecutors said there are at least 20 illegal immigrants who will testify about the forced labor scheme that's allegedly been going on for 13 years.

<http://www.wvec.com/news/Three-suspects--212394271.html>

Northern Virginia not immune to sex trafficking (Loudoun Times, May 8, 2013)

Detective Woolf discussed some of the nuances of trafficking. Women and girls who are trafficked are rarely kidnapped and thrown into the back of a truck, he said; rather, they are coerced, drugged into submission and made to believe the johns pimping them out are their boyfriends. "The majority are coerced. They are being told and made to believe that they want to be there," Woolf said. "Those who say these girls want to do this – that's ridiculous." With the advent of the Internet, many predators find vulnerable girls via social media. Many are coerced by gang members, including the Crips, who have a presence in Northern Virginia. The average age of induction is just 12 to 14 years old.

http://www.loudountimes.com/news/article/northern_virginia_not Immune_to_sex_trafficking

Officials investigate human trafficking claim at Virginia home of Saudi attaché (Fox News, May 4, 2013)

Officials responded to the McLean, Va., home following a tip that two workers were being held in circumstances that amounted to human trafficking. According to real estate records, the Virginia home is owned by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Armed Forces Office. MyFoxDC.com reports that the Saudi Embassy claims the compound is separate from their operation. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement says their investigation is ongoing.

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2013/05/04/officials-investigate-human-trafficking-claim-at-virginia-home-saudi-attache/>

Atlanta Man Admits His Role in Operating an Interstate Juvenile Sex Trafficking Enterprise (FBI Press Release, March 18, 2013)

Joshua Jacquis Dumas, aka "Hitman," 21, of Atlanta, Georgia, pleaded guilty to running a commercial sex business that prostituted multiple juvenile girls in Herndon, Virginia, and other locations throughout Virginia, Maryland, North and South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. The leader of the venture, Edwin Barcus, Jr., pleaded guilty one week ago to founding and leading a child exploitation enterprise.

<http://www.fbi.gov/washingtondc/press-releases/2013/atlanta-man-admits-his-role-in-operating-an-interstate-juvenile-sex-trafficking-enterprise>