



## Maine Human Trafficking Statistics

### MAINE HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACTS AND RESOURCES

- ❖ Maine does not have a specific sex trafficking law, which makes victim identification difficult. Additionally, the state has few victim protections and provides low penalties for buyers and facilitators.
- ❖ Maine lacks investigative tools, law enforcement training, and necessary victim protection and assistance.
- ❖ In 2015: the state reported 10 human trafficking cases; 59 calls were made to the NHTRC Hotline.
- ❖ 11.9% of Maine high school students (13.3% of girls, 10.4 of boys) report having been physically forced to have sexual intercourse in their lifetime. 13.6%-18.1% of girls and 9% of boys report having been forced to have sexual contact in any way in their lifetime.

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM MAINE

Maine to be part of new initiative to curb human trafficking (BDN Maine, February 4, 2016) - PORTLAND, Maine — Maine is one of six federal judicial districts designated to participate in the Anti-Trafficking Coordination Team Initiative aimed at streamlining the investigation and prosecution of federal human trafficking crimes, U.S. Attorney Thomas Delahanty announced Friday. “Maine is a relatively small and rural state, but it is not immune from human trafficking issues,” Delahanty said in a press release. <http://bangordailynews.com/2015/12/18/news/state/maine-to-be-part-of-new-initiative-to-curb-human-trafficking/>

LePage pushes for statewide effort against human trafficking (BDN Maine, November 12, 2015) - NORTHPORT, Maine — If he had his way, Gov. Paul LePage said Thursday that he would impose the death penalty on anyone convicted of human trafficking. “A pimp, in my mind, or someone who is in the business of selling heroin — I would be more than happy to pull the switch, personally,” LePage told about 200 victim advocates and law enforcement officials attending a summit on human trafficking at the Point Lookout conference center. “If this was a dictatorship, we would have capital punishment. But since it’s not, I have to go along with slapping people on the hands,” he said. <http://bangordailynews.com/2015/11/12/news/state/lepage-pushes-for-statewide-effort-against-human-trafficking/>

5 things you need to know about sex trafficking in Maine (The Point, January 25, 2016) - A new report representing perhaps the most thorough study of Maine’s shadowy human trafficking scene to date estimates that hundreds of people are victims of sex trafficking here every year. The report, produced by South Portland consultants Hornby Zeller Associates for the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault, is the culmination of months researching the extent to which sex trafficking takes place in Maine and what steps can be taken to curb it. <http://bangordailynews.com/2016/01/09/the-point/5-things-you-need-to-know-about-sex-trafficking-in-maine/>

#### 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 **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 Maine.

#### Tier **2 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 made nominal laws to combat human trafficking and should take more steps to improve and implement its laws. Maine meets 5 of the 10 categories 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 MAINE

### Local pair pleads guilty in sex trafficking case (Sun Journal, July 29, 2015)

A local man and woman pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court to hiring a 13-year-old Lisbon girl as a prostitute. Shawna Calhoun, 24 and Alvin Houston Jr., 27, admitted to the charge of transporting the girl with the intent to engage her in prostitution. Each faces 10 years in federal prison.

<http://www.sunjournal.com/news/lewiston-auburn/0001/11/30/local-pair-pleads-guilty-sex-trafficking-case/1754103>

### Maine runner continues cross country run to raise awareness about human trafficking (WGME 13, July 27, 2015)

An elite marathoner from Maine continues his cross country run to raise awareness about human trafficking. He stopped Monday in our nation's capital to be honored by Senator Susan Collins. He left Maine in June, 2015, on a cross-country run to raise awareness and to help others avoid exploitation. He'll finish his run at the Santa Barbara Veteran's Day marathon in November, where he first started running in America and currently holds the course record.

<http://www.wgme.com/news/features/top-stories/stories/maine-runner-continues-cross-country-run-raise-awareness-human-trafficking-28426.shtml#.VbpZePIVhBc>

### The lives of sex trafficking victims in Maine (Bangor Daily News, April 30, 2013).

Girls from Maine are a hot commodity in the sex trafficking marketplace. In most areas of New England, pimps pay up to \$2,500 for a girl. In Maine, it's as much as \$3,500. Pimps buy and sell their "product" — also known as prostitutes — back and forth between each other all the time. Girls from Maine have done "tours" all throughout the country, mostly along the Interstate 95 corridor (just as with drugs, and it's often the same offenders). Maine really is "open for business," and the traffickers are here.

<https://bangordailynews.com/2013/04/30/opinion/the-lives-of-sex-trafficking-victims-in-maine/>

### Maine man sentenced to over 12 years in prison for possession of child pornography (ICE News Release, March 4, 2013)

Walter Arthur Mosher Jr., 65, of Hampden, Maine, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge John A. Woodcock Jr. Mosher pleaded guilty to the charge June 11, 2012, and has been detained in federal custody since his arrest March 20, 2012. Mosher's sentence was enhanced because of prior convictions for gross sexual misconduct, unlawful sexual contact and sexual exploitation of a minor. These convictions involved numerous minors ranging in age from three to 14 for which Mosher previously received sentences of five and 18 years.

<http://www.ice.gov/news/releases/1303/130304bangor.htm>

### National human trafficking experts descend on Maine, raise awareness of sex slavery (Bangor Daily News, June 24, 2013)

Sex slavery survivor and author Theresa Flores said she was ensnared by traffickers at the age of 15 while living with her parents in an upscale Michigan community of about 20,000 people, not at a run-down bar or homeless shelter in the inner city. "I was taken in, and sometimes tied up and sometimes tortured, and waited man after man after man until they were finished with me for the night," she recalled. Flores said she would be dropped back off at home before her parents woke up, and she would try to get a few hours of sleep. "Then I went back to school for the day and did it all over again," she said.

<http://bangordailynews.com/2012/10/25/news/state/national-human-trafficking-experts-descend-on-maine-raise-awareness-of-sex-slavery/>

### More girls from Maine and Portland being forced into \$32 billion sex trade (Bangor Daily News, October 5, 2012)

"Some of the disturbing information that we're getting consistently from the girls we're talking to is that the greater Portland area is a destination for people looking for girls to traffic," said Portland Police Sgt. Tim Ferris.

"Traffickers will come up from Atlantic City, Boston and New York and essentially trick these girls into working for them. "The victims are not all on the lower socioeconomic levels, either," he said. "Some of these girls are from middle-class backgrounds and some are even from high-end families. You would be shocked at who some of these girls are. They're not who you might think."

<http://www.preblestreet.org/news/More-girls-from-Maine-and-Portland-being-forced-into-32-billion-sex-trade/407/>