



Michigan Human Trafficking Statistics

MICHIGAN HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACTS AND RESOURCES

- ❖ Michigan's criminalization of sex trafficking of minors does not reach buyers, and the purchase of commercial sex acts with a minor is not penalized under any law. Convicted sex trafficking offenders are not required to register as sex offenders.
- ❖ Michigan internet classified websites had the highest percentage of "young" females of any states used in the study, including New York and Minnesota.
- ❖ According to the Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Michigan ranks 13th among the states for the number of sex trafficking victims.
- ❖ The number of adolescent girls trafficked monthly in Michigan is greater than the annual number of females under 25 killed in car accidents and those who have committed suicide.
- ❖ In 2015, there were 717 calls made to the National Human Trafficking Hotline number and 152 cases reported by the state.
- ❖ 2015 – The year that Lady Godiva's Showgirls closes, leaving only 2 strip clubs in Grand Rapids.
- ❖ In 2015, Michigan was ranked the "Most Improved State" by Shared Hope, going from an F in 2014 to a B in 2015.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM MICHIGAN

Two arrested at hotel on human trafficking and prostitution charges

(UpNorthLive, January 6, 2016) - Two people are in custody on prostitution and human trafficking charges after being found at a northern Michigan hotel early Wednesday morning. It all started after an East Bay Township officer received a tip of suspicious behavior. That's when Grand Traverse County deputies - and members of the new interdiction team - found and arrested a 22-year-old woman from New Baltimore who is believed to have been the prostitute and a 26-year-old Detroit man who is believed to be the trafficker. <http://upnorthlive.com/live/two-arrested-at-hotel-on-human-trafficking-and-prostitution-charges>

Michigan Named Most Improved in New Study on Child Sex Trafficking Laws

(Shared Hope Int'l, November 11, 2015) – Michigan was named the most improved state for its laws addressing child sex trafficking this year. The Protected Innocence Challenge, a report on the state of child sex trafficking laws in the U.S. found that 5 years of sweeping legislative advancements allowed 47 states to raise their grade since 2011. Michigan raised its grade from an "F" in 2014 to a "B" in 2015 after enacting new laws strengthening criminal provisions addressing buyers – the driving force of the commercial sex industry.

<http://sharedhope.org/2015/11/11/michigan-named-most-improved-in-new-study-on-child-sex-trafficking-laws/>

FBI busts ring allegedly sex-trafficking teen girls in West Michigan (MLive, October 15, 2015) - GRAND RAPIDS, MI -- The FBI has arrested a woman who allegedly sex-trafficked teenage girls at hotels in Grand Rapids and a Holland apartment.

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2015/10/fbi_busts_ring_allegedly_sex-t.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

12 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. 12 of the 15 flash points are found in Michigan.

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. Michigan meets 5 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 1.888.373.888

U.S. Dept. of Justice Trafficking and Workers' Exploitation Hotline 1.888.428.7581

Last updated: February, 2016

South Bend man found guilty of child sex trafficking (WSBT 22, July 17, 2015)

26 year old Douglas D. Jackson was found guilty by a jury on six counts of sex trafficking a minor and one count of possessing a firearm in furtherance of a crime of violence. The incident began in June 2014, officials say, as they found evidence that showed Jackson transported a minor female to Atlanta, Louisville, and Grand Rapids for purposes of prostitution. <http://www.wsbt.com/news/local/south-bend-man-found-guilty-of-child-sex-trafficking/34221500>

WCSG Radio Personality facing sexual conduct charge (WOOD TV8, June 20, 2014)

WCSG's John Balyo was arrested at a Christian music festival following an investigation by Michigan State Police. He is facing a charge of first-degree criminal sexual conduct. He allegedly paid a man identified as the subject of a separate HIS child porn investigation to arrange sexual encounters with minor victims, particularly little boys. <http://woodtv.com/2014/06/20/wcsg-radio-personality-facing-csc-charge/>

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery (*The Holland Sentinel*, June 13, 2013)

"Any time you hear 'trafficking' that's the same as slavery," said Manville, a social worker and court mediator who specializes in trafficking issues. Despite laws to the contrary, the U.S. has never been free from people who forcibly control others, he said, because the crime is nearly invisible. Human trafficking annually nets an estimated \$32 billion globally, \$9 billion in the U.S., most often by victimizing women and children, Manville said. Victims are used as general laborers or forced into sex work, from porn to prostitution.

<http://www.hollandsentinel.com/news/x373360962/Holland-panel-Human-trafficking-is-modern-day-slavery#axzz2X9NiSn2c>

Saginaw woman busted for sex trafficking a minor (WNEM, May 31, 2013)

Criminal complaint records state that 20-year-old Desiree Poole, of Saginaw, arranged sex dates for a young girl who, at the time, was only 14 years-old. The investigation began back in January when an anonymous tipster indicated that a blonde-haired woman name "Desiree" was prostituting a young girl. The tip led them to a very young looking girl advertising on a classified website called www.backpage.com.

<http://www.wnem.com/story/22472134/saginaw-woman-busted-for-sex-trafficking-a-minor>

West Michigan sex trafficking investigation (WZZM 13, May 14, 2013)

One woman is shedding light on the dark issue. Advocate Leslie King was once sold into the sex business, "They dressed me up took me on South Division." King says her abuser sold her when she was just 15, and it took more than a decade before she was able to break free. King says, "I'm steady being raped, steady being beaten, thrown out of tricks cars, raped at gun point, I'm shot I'm stabbed." She was told if she ran, her family would be killed.

<http://www.wzzm13.com/news/article/256338/2/West-Michigan-sex-trafficking-investigation->

Michigan's position on international border makes it vulnerable to human traffickers (MLive, May 1, 2013)

Michigan cannot ignore this affront to human dignity. Positioned on an international border, this state is especially susceptible to human trafficking. Each month, an estimated 150 girls under the age of eighteen are sold into trafficking. Sex and labor trafficking takes place across all industries, and can even be present in private homes. Trafficking is difficult to address because most victims do not self-identify. Every community needs assistance recognizing the signs, such as unwillingness to speak in front of others, lack of control over finances or keeping unusual hours.

http://www.mlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2013/05/guest_column_michigans_positio.html