



Minnesota Human Trafficking Statistics

MINNESOTA HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACTS AND RESOURCES

- ❖ A recent study commissioned by the Women's Funding Network found a 55% increase in girls trafficked over six months last year in Minnesota, many of them through ads posted on the internet.
- ❖ The US Justice Department states that the Twin Cities area is one of the 15 largest human trafficking centers in the nation.
- ❖ Researchers from Minnesota discovered at least 154 labor trafficking victims and 637 victims of sex trafficking over a three-year period.
- ❖ In 2015, Minnesota reported 47 human trafficking cases to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, and 252 calls were made
- ❖ The FBI lists Minnesota as one of 13 states with the highest rates of child prostitution.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM MINNESTOA

Crimes against Native American women raise questions about police response (The Guardian, January 19, 2016) - Local activists in Minnesota say deaths and disappearances of Native women are linked to human trafficking and that police aren't taking the issue seriously. As Duluth, Minnesota, marks trafficking awareness month, local activists say some of the disappearances and deaths are linked to this issue, and argue that the invisibility of the Native American population contributes to neglect by police, media and social services and point to the need for better data collection in order to track the number of missing and murdered women.

<http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2016/jan/19/minnesota-native-american-women-trafficking-police>

New effort to combat human trafficking coming to Minneapolis (Bring Me The News, December 18, 2015) - A federal anti-human trafficking effort is coming to Minneapolis. According to a press release from the U.S. Department of Justice, they've chosen six cities across the country to base new Anti-Trafficking Coordination Teams (ACTeams).

<http://bringmethenews.com/2015/12/18/new-effort-to-combat-human-trafficking-coming-to-minneapolis/>

More than 1,000 arrested in sting to end sex trafficking, including dozens in MN (Bring Me The News, September 6, 2015) - A summer-long sting operation that targeted men who buy sex from prostitutes led to more than 1,000 arrests nationwide, including dozens in Minnesota.

<http://bringmethenews.com/2015/09/06/more-than-1000-arrested-in-sting-to-end-sex-trafficking-including-dozens-in-mn/>

Minnesota crime report: Half of trafficking victims were minors (Duluth News Tribune, July 1, 2015) - More than half of victims in human trafficking in Minnesota last year were minors. This is the first year that human trafficking data was included in the annual report. It said there were 38 victims of human trafficking reported in Minnesota; more than half were children ages 11 to 17.

<http://www.duluthnewstribune.com/news/crime/3777956-minnesota-crime-report-half-trafficking-victims-were-minors>

State Grade

A

*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. 10 of the 15 flash points are found in Minnesota.

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. Minnesota meets 10 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 MINNESOTA

Minnesota run to raise cash against human trafficking (News 8000, June 21, 2013)

Seven students from St. Cloud State University are planning a 221-mile run across Minnesota to raise awareness in the fight against human trafficking. Each runner is raising nearly \$2,600. The money will be donated to a group that works in southeast Asia, where human trafficking of underage girls has been a growing problem. Along the run the students will stay at churches and visit community groups to rally support for the cause.

<http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:http://www.news8000.com/news/minn-run-to-raise-cash-against-human-trafficking/-/326/20663464/-/ku9u1yz/-/index.html>

Child sex trafficking is a Minnesota public health issue (Star Tribune, June 17, 2013) Advocates for the young victims of sex trafficking in Minnesota had hoped the 2013 Legislature would fully fund the much-needed program created by the 2011 “Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Youth Act.” Instead, they won what proponents are calling an “incomplete and underfunded” victory — just \$2.8 million of the \$13.5 million they requested. The \$2.8 million appropriation will fund what is believed to be the nation’s first statewide director of child sex-trafficking prevention, as well as six regional coordinator positions and up to 12 beds providing safe shelter and treatment. The \$13.5 million would have supported up to 40 beds across the state.

<http://www.startribune.com/opinion/editorials/211629221.html>

FBI Ranks Minnesota 13th Worst for Human Trafficking (ABC6 News, June 12, 2013)

Minnesota sits alarmingly high in rank when it comes to these crimes. It ranks 13th in the nation by the FBI for highest incidence in sex trafficking. By a very conservative estimate 213 women are sold for sex each month in Minnesota. Of that 50 percent of them started before they were 18.

<http://www.kaaltv.com/article/stories/s3065321.shtml>

Minnesota Cheerleader Accused of Sex Trafficking, Prostitution of 16-Year-Old Teammate (ABC News, June 5, 2013)

A high school cheerleader has been arrested for allegedly pimping out a fellow member of her Minnesota pom-pom squad. Montia Parker, 18, of Maple Grove, Minn., is due in Hennepin County District Court to face felony charges of sex trafficking and promoting prostitution on June 12. On March 5, Parker took the victim out of school and drove her, along with two other passengers, to an apartment building in Crystal, Minn., where she told the sophomore she was to go to an apartment and give oral sex to the man who was waiting inside, the court document stated. “You’re up!” Parker allegedly said to the teen.

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/minn-high-school-cheerleader-accused-prostituting-teammate/storynew?id=19332279>

The how and where of sex trafficking in Minnesota (MPR News, April 25, 2013)

“Prostitution is not the world’s oldest profession. It is the world’s oldest oppression,” says Vednita Carter, the founder and executive director of Breaking Free, a Minnesota-based nonprofit that provides services to victims and survivors of prostitution. The effort to help women and girls escape prostitution and human trafficking will be the focus of the group’s second Demand Change conference, scheduled for May 3-4 in St. Paul. A bill awaiting final passage in the Legislature would treat 16- and 17-year-olds who have been prostituted as victims rather than criminals.

<http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2013/04/25/daily-circuit-sex-trafficking>

Victims step forward to help bust St. Paul sex-trafficking ring (Star Tribune, April 10, 2013)

The family preyed on young vulnerable girls — girls diagnosed as bipolar or mentally challenged. The suspects’ checkered pasts (one was required to register as a sex offender for five years) placed them on police radar for years, but it wasn’t until recently that the scope of their alleged sex trafficking ring was exposed and dismantled by a joint effort of St. Paul police, the Ramsey County attorney’s office and the Women’s Foundation of Minnesota. But the takedown of the Washington family rested on the shoulders of 10 women and girls who stepped forward, authorities said at a news conference Wednesday morning. “I want to thank these courageous young women and girls who shared their stories with investigators,” said Ramsey County Attorney John Choi. “It saddens me for the victims that it took so long for us to get to this point.”

<http://www.startribune.com/local/east/202327981.html?page=all&prepage=1&c=y#continue>