



Pennsylvania Human Trafficking Statistics

PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACTS AND RESOURCES

- ❖ Pennsylvania lacks statutes addressing sex trafficking and inadequate protections of victims of trafficking. It also lacks law enforcement training and adequate victim protections and assistance.
- ❖ In 2015: Pennsylvania reported 106 cases of human trafficking and 514 calls were made to the NHTRC Hotline.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM PENNSYLVANIA

Pa. bill would give safe harbor to child victims of human trafficking (ABC 27 News, February 18, 2016) - HARRISBURG, Pa. (WHTM) – Over 100,000 children are exploited through prostitution in the United States each year. State Senator Stewart Greenleaf (R-Bucks/Montgomery) says the state needs to do a better job of protecting juvenile human trafficking victims from prosecution. Children picked up for sex crimes can be charged with crimes like prostitution, drug possession and loitering. Greenleaf's Senate Bill 851 would keep juveniles from being charged. His bill would require law enforcement to presume that juveniles accused of sex crimes are trafficking victims.

<http://abc27.com/2016/02/18/pa-bill-would-give-safe-harbor-to-child-victims-of-human-trafficking/>

Here's what Pa. is doing to fight human trafficking: Another View (PennLive, January 11, 2016) - Pennsylvania used to be one of the states least capable of holding traffickers accountable for their crimes and properly protecting their victims. Over the past four years, we, along with Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Stewart Greenleaf, R-Montgomery, have worked to reform our Commonwealth's human trafficking laws; Pennsylvania is now one of the most progressive states in terms of protecting, recovering, and rehabilitating victims of trafficking as well as targeting perpetrators. For all we have accomplished, we still need to pass one important bill. That's legislation sponsored by Sen. Daylin Leach, D-Montgomery, which would bar anyone aged 18 and younger from being arrested, criminally charged, or prosecuted for allegations of prostitution and other crimes directly related to their sexual exploitation.

http://www.pennlive.com/opinion/2016/01/heres_what_pa_is_doing_to_figh.html

PA man arrested for human trafficking after I-81 stop (ABC 27 News, February 20, 2015) - HARRISBURG, Pa. (WHTM) – A western Pennsylvania man was arrested on Interstate 81 after police said they found him with several thousand baggies of heroin and four teenage girls who claimed they'd been performing sex acts for money. Robert Middlebrook, 40, of Clairton, allegedly directed the 16- and 17-year-old girls to engage in prostitution in Ohio and Pennsylvania, particularly in the Pittsburgh area, according to a state police news release. Middlebrook was a front seat passenger in a vehicle that was stopped Tuesday for a traffic violation in Lower Paxton Township.

<http://abc27.com/2015/02/20/pa-man-arrested-for-human-trafficking-after-i-81-stop/>

State Grade

C

*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 Pennsylvania.

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 numerous laws to combat human trafficking and should take more steps to improve and implement its laws. Pennsylvania 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 1.888.373.7888

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

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HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM PENNSYLVANIA

'Happy' Hookers In Sex-Trafficking Case: Life Was Good (CBS Philly, June 6, 2013)

One photograph presented by the prosecution shows the woman with a visible black eye in 2007. At the time, she told former prosecutor David Novick that George Jr. caused the injury. "She said she deserved it, and it wasn't a big deal," Novick told the court during his testimony. For many sex-trafficking victims, their relationship with their abusers is the only source of love they've ever experienced, and they'll do anything to maintain that attention in their lives, said Bridgette Carr, director of the Human Trafficking Clinic at the University of Michigan Law School. "I think one of the questions is: Is this what love looks like?" she said.

<http://philadelphia.cbslocal.com/2013/06/06/pa-happy-hookers-in-sex-trafficking-case-life-was-good/>

Pennsylvania man sentenced to 12 years in prison for coercing and enticing a minor to perform in an online sex show (ICE News Release, May 28, 2013)

Jeffrey W. Herschell, 54, of Washington, Pa., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge David Stewart Cercone in the Western District of Pennsylvania. According to court documents, Herschell sent money to the Philippines in February 2010 for a live, online sex show that included a 12-year-old minor female engaging in sexual activity. Herschell also admitted to possessing child pornography videos at his Pennsylvania residence.

<http://www.ice.gov/news/releases/1305/130528pittsburgh.htm>

Indictment Charges Individuals with Sex Trafficking Females (FBI Press Release, May 1, 2013)

Christian Dior Womack, a/k/a "Gucci Prada," 28, of Chester, Pennsylvania, and Rashidah Brice, a/k/a "Camille," a/k/a "Milly," 23, of Chester, Pennsylvania, are charged by indictment, unsealed today, with sex trafficking females, one of whom was a minor, for prostitution, announced United States Attorney Zane David Memeger. According to the indictment, the defendants operated a prostitution venture in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and elsewhere and, as part of the operation of that business, recruited young females to work as prostitutes for them between May 25, 2012 and June 11, 2012. The indictment further alleges that the defendants engaged in acts of physical violence and threats of physical harm to maintain the participation of females in their prostitution business. They are charged with sex trafficking of a minor and sex trafficking by force.

<http://www.fbi.gov/philadelphia/press-releases/2013/indictment-charges-individuals-with-sex-trafficking-females>

Philly Sex Trafficking Ring Busted (NBC 10, February 21, 2013)

Justin Williams, 38, also known as "New York Ice" and "Pimp Juice" is accused of trafficking in minors, according to the U.S. Attorney, Zane Memeger. Between November 2011 and January 2012, Williams recruited young women to work as prostitutes according to the indictment. It also says he created internet ads showing pictures of the victims, either topless, or wearing few clothes. The ad included the price and a phone number to call.

<http://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/local/Sex-Trafficking-Philadelphia-Prostitution-Charges-192326861.html>

Human trafficking still a problem (*The Sentinel*, January 26, 2013)

The dark side of Asian massage parlors has become a standing joke in our culture, she said, but think about what these women have gone through. They are transported in from another country, maybe thinking that a legitimate job awaits them in the United States. They don't speak the language. They have no support network. They've been broken, like you'd break a wild horse, Hoffman said, her words coming fast and sharp. Then they are sent to locations along the East Coast and into the Midwest to have sex with paying customers. "If they come in contact with any law enforcement, they're thought of as perpetrators," Hoffman said. Massage parlors are just one face of the widespread crime of human trafficking claiming victims internationally and within the borders of the United States, including here in Central Pennsylvania.

http://cumberlandlink.com/news/local/human-trafficking-still-a-problem/article_7a1cdf70-680e-11e2-9489-0019bb2963f4.html