

ILLINOIS HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACTS AND RESOURCES

- ❖ In 2010, Illinois enacted new laws that require asset forfeiture for convicted traffickers and a racketeering law that includes human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children offenses as predicated offenses, but Illinois still lacks proper law enforcement training and a specific human trafficking task force.
- ❖ In 2012 Illinois had the 6th highest number of calls to the National Human Trafficking Hotline; 72 potential victims were referenced.
- ❖ According to TopNews, us, Chicago is one of the top ten cities for children prostitution. According to the Chicago Tribune, one recent study estimated that there could be as many as 16,000 young people involved in the sex trade in Chicago on any given day.
- ❖ In 2015: the state reported 122 cases of human trafficking; 555 calls were made to the NHTRC Hotline.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM ILLINOIS

New Illinois law aims to stop human trafficking (KWQC, January 1, 2016)

A new law in Illinois is taking effect tomorrow to try to help stop human trafficking in our area. As a major transportation thoroughfare, Illinois is a kind of epicenter for labor and sex trafficking. Here in the Quad Cities, we're surrounded by several, major highways. Experts said this make our area the "perfect place" for human trafficking. The new law aims to combat it, by requiring businesses to post public notices informing the people about trafficking and how to get help.

<http://kwqc.com/2015/12/31/new-illinois-law-aims-to-stop-human-trafficking/>

FBI: Teens saved, pimps arrested in nationwide human trafficking operation (Chicago Sun-Times, October 14, 2015)

Three underage human trafficking victims were saved and two pimps arrested in Chicago as part of a nationwide human trafficking operation conducted throughout the United States by the FBI last week. Operation Cross Country IX was a national effort targeting the criminal enterprises responsible for the commercial sex trafficking of children, according to the FBI.

<http://chicago.suntimes.com/news/7/71/1024329/fbi-underage-victims-saved-pimps-arrested-nationwide-human-trafficking-operation>

New Illinois laws target human trafficking (Quad-City Times, July 22, 2015) -

Gov. Bruce Rauner has approved two new laws targeting human trafficking in Illinois. Beginning Jan. 1, the state will begin posting signs warning about the dangers of human trafficking in high traffic areas such as truck stops, bus stations, train stations and highway rest areas across the state. The proposal comes in the wake of reports about girls in state-run residential treatment centers who ended up victims of prostitution. The victims said they often traveled through truck stops and bus stations.

http://qctimes.com/news/state-and-regional/illinois/new-illinois-laws-target-human-trafficking/article_c4b85f7c-28b2-5b9e-b2f2-44cf87f07d20.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. __ out of 15 flash points are found in Illinois.

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 1 indicates the state has passed significant laws to combat human trafficking and should continue to take steps to improve and implement its laws. Illinois meets 9 parts of the 10 categories of laws necessary to combat human trafficking, out of a possible 12

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DCFS: 'We Have Stepped Up Our Game' on Runaway Kids (WNIJ, July 30, 2015) - Illinois' child welfare agency says it's doing a better job of tracking youth who run away. That's after an audit showed the Department of Children and Family Services was failing to keep tabs on those young people. George Sheldon, head of the agency, says runaways tend to be teenagers who have low self-esteem with few relatives to turn to – and they are often victims of human trafficking.

<http://northernpublicradio.org/post/dcfs-we-have-stepped-our-game-runaway-kids>

Illinois woman arrested for conspiring with Maryland man to engage in violent sex trafficking scheme (ICE News Release, July 29, 2013)

The arrest of Brittney Creason, aka Kitty Amor, 19, of Decatur, Ill., follows an investigation being conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) [Homeland Security Investigations](#) (HSI) and the Montgomery County Police Department. As part of the conspiracy, Roy and Creason are alleged to have recruited and transported females from Illinois and North Carolina, with the intent to have those women engage in prostitution. According to the indictment, Roy forced one of the victims to engage in sex acts with him, while Creason held her down.

<http://www.ice.gov/news/releases/1307/130729greenbelt2.htm>

Illinois Senate OKs Help for Human Trafficking Victims (Niles-MortonGrove Patch, May 23, 2013)

Criminal offenders who engage in human trafficking subject their victims to horrific abuse, Madigan's office said in a statement. They frequently tattoo victims to show "ownership" of them. State senators voted 58-0 to allow victims to be reimbursed out of the Illinois Crime Victims Compensation Fund for the removal of the tattoos. The Illinois House had earlier unanimously passed the measure, and it now goes to the governor.

<http://niles.patch.com/groups/politics-and-elections/p/illinois-senate-oks-help-for-human-trafficking-victims>

Authorities close 'sex trafficking house of horrors' (*Chicago Tribune*, February 1, 2013)

Cook County prosecutors announced charges today in connection with a sex trafficking ring in suburban Schiller Park that preyed on poor or homeless women who were forced into prostitution through drug addiction and violence. At a press conference, State's Attorney Anita Alvarez referred to the operation as a "sex trafficking house of horrors" and said the half dozen women were supplied heroin and crack cocaine on "a silver platter" to keep them addicted to the narcotics and beholden to the ring's leader.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/chi-authorities-close-sex-trafficking-house-of-horrors-20130201,0,4041625.story>

Man Pleads Guilty To Forcing Girls Into Prostitution (CBS Chicago, January 11, 2013)

According to his plea agreement, Smith met the girl he later brought to Illinois in December 2010 and began contacting her via phone, text, and social media. He asked her to move to Chicago with the intention that she'd be his "girlfriend" and engage in prostitution, the release said. In February 2011, Smith drove from Chicago to her home in Wisconsin, then brought her back to his apartment in Chicago, admitting he knew she was under 18 at the time. Once in Chicago, Smith "dated" the girl for about a week before she began working as a prostitute for him, according to prosecutors. Between February and July 2011, he had her engage in prostitution while he acted as her pimp, advertising her for commercial sex on Internet sites, and instructing her to have sex with customers in his apartment and area motels.

<http://chicago.cbslocal.com/2013/01/11/man-pleads-guilty-to-forcing-girls-into-prostitution/>

Former Chicago-area massage parlor owner sentenced to life in prison for sex trafficking 4 women (ICE News Release, November 26, 2012)

The trial showed that Campbell recruited and groomed foreign women without legal status in the United States to become part of his "family," which he claimed was an international organization that would provide them with support. He offered them jobs in his massage parlor, a place to live, assistance with immigration, and lured each of them to enter into a romantic relationship with him. After gaining their trust, he forced the victims to get tattooed with his moniker, which he said made them his property and allowed him to stop paying them. At the same time, he acquired the women's passports and visas. The women were forced to work long hours every day and do as Campbell instructed them, and they were beaten and punished if they disobeyed him.

<http://www.ice.gov/news/releases/1211/121126chicago.htm>