



New Mexico Human Trafficking Statistics

NEW MEXICO HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACTS AND RESOURCES

- ❖ New Mexico lacks protective measures for victims of domestic child trafficking. It also lacks important investigative tools for asset forfeiture.
- ❖ In 2015, NM reported 28 cases; 98 calls were made to the National Human Trafficking Hotline/Resource Center

HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque City Hall now home to hotline for human trafficking victims (KRQE, January 29, 2016) - ALBUQUERQUE – It's a crime that often goes unnoticed, but people in Albuquerque might be surprised by how big the problem is. Now, a group is dedicating resources in the heart of downtown, to find and help human trafficking victims. Lynn Sanchez, Program Director for 'The Life Link,' told KRQE News 13 there's a draw to New Mexico for traffickers, as a border state with major highways. "Truck stops, the fact that I-40 runs through here and I-25, New Mexico in general overall is considered a corridor state," Sanchez added.

<http://krqe.com/2016/01/29/albuquerque-city-hall-now-home-to-hotline-for-human-trafficking-victims/>

NM gets grant to help combat human trafficking (KOAT, December 7, 2015) - ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. —Human trafficking is becoming a serious problem in New Mexico, and the state is getting help to tackle the problem. The feds are giving the state \$1.5 million in the next three years to help with human trafficking cases. Agent Maez said the first order of business is to hire two new agents, because one person currently has to handle all the cases in the state.

<http://www.koat.com/news/nm-gets-grant-to-help-combat-human-trafficking/36835990>

Human trafficking arrest made after tip (KOAT Action News, July 1, 2015) A human trafficking suspect is off the streets, thanks to one victim. She told Albuquerque police a man was forcing her to sell sex through ads on Backpage.com. After she reached out for help, detectives dug deeper and found multiple ads for women that are posted by the same man. Police said all the evidence pointed to Shane Roach. He was booked into jail. Investigators said he kept the women from leaving by beating them and threatening to kill them.

<http://www.koat.com/news/human-trafficking-arrest-made-after-tip/33909204>

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 11 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. 11 of the 15 flash points are found in New Mexico.

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. New Mexico meets 6 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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Bondage, slavery, human trafficking in New Mexico, U.S. (The Taos News, May 13, 2013)

Minh's parents started grooming her for sex at age 3, sold her for sex at 10 and maintained a hold on her until she graduated from college. Minh's parents forced her to sign a contract with them when she was only 8 years old. Unlike many trafficking victims, Minh knew that if she followed their instructions and kept their secret she would have shelter and could go to school (where she was a soccer star and honor student). After getting free, Minh severed all ties with her parents.

http://www.taosnews.com/opinion/article_a6c959d2-b81c-11e2-8f10-001a4bcf887a.html

Officials to tackle human trafficking (KRQE, January 27, 2013)

Governor Susana Martinez, Mayor R.J. Berry and two New Mexico lawmakers announced plans Sunday to crack down on human trafficking, one of the fastest growing crimes in the U.S. In New Mexico the main targets of human trafficking are young women and children. The act was not illegal in the state until 2008 and now lawmakers want tougher penalties for anyone convicted of the crime. If passed those caught for human trafficking would have to add their names to the sex offender registry and provide a DNA sample for the national database. It would also increase the crime to a second degree felony if the victim is 16-years-old or older and make it a first degree felony if the victim is 15-years-old or younger.

<http://www.krqe.com/dpp/news/crime/officials-to-tackle-human-trafficking>

Feds, strippers to talk sex trafficking in NM (Yahoo News, June 1, 2012)

Strippers and owners of topless clubs are scheduled to meet next week in New Mexico with Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials who hope to bring more awareness to sex trafficking, a growing problem some call "virtual slavery." The special conference slated for Tuesday at the Elegante Hotel in Albuquerque is aimed at educating around 125 people in the adult entertainment industry about the dangers of sex trafficking and how to report it if they see it.

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/feds-strippers-talk-sex-trafficking-nm-200310066--finance.html>

Feds nab 28 NM gang members linked to trafficking (Deseret News, April 25, 2012)

Federal agents and local police have arrested 28 suspected gang members and associates in New Mexico as part of a national roundup of gang members linked to drug and human trafficking. Authorities also seized heroin, cocaine and meth with a street value of close to \$300,000. In addition, federal agents and local authorities seized more than a dozen or so illegal firearms and two expensive vehicles. "This was a coordinated effort that resulted in the arrests of a number of high ranking gang members," said Dennis Ulrich, Homeland Security Investigations Acting Special Agent in Charge of West Texas and New Mexico. "We believe they were involved in drug trafficking and human smuggling." The roundup was part of a national operation known as "Project Nefarious" which nabbed more than 600 gang members with outstanding warrants across the country.

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/765571479/Feds-nab-28-NM-gang-members-linked-to-trafficking.html>

Tip leads to human trafficking arrest (KOSA New Mexico, July 14, 2011)

ALBUQUERQUE (KRQE) - She is not even old enough to vote, but police said she was being pimped out for sex by an Albuquerque man. It was a concerned citizen and call to a hotline that landed that man behind bars. Dante McKay, 32, is accused of pimping out a 17-year-old girl for \$180 an hour. He's now charged with human trafficking. Police caught on to Dante after a worker at an Albuquerque business called the National Human Trafficking hotline in Washington, D.C. to report a tip. That call was rerouted to Albuquerque Wednesday. The caller said Dante and the girl were at the business and that Dante was being possessive. The caller said that something just did not feel right. "And (the caller) stated there may be a female that was being used for prostitution or possible prostitution," Hoffman said. With info from the tipster, police were able to track down the girl's prostitution ad on the website backpage.com.

http://www.kasa.com/dpps/news/tip-leads-to-human-trafficking-arrest-_3881233