



Alaska Human Trafficking Statistics

ALASKA HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACTS AND RESOURCES

- ❖ Alaska is still lacking in laws making purchase of sex a serious crime. However, in 2012, Alaska made several legislative moves to improve its trafficking laws, including those that better protect trafficking minors. It is also lacking in categories of adequate investigative tools, law enforcement training, safe harbor, and victim assistance and protection.
- ❖ The Justice Department indicated that American Indian and Alaska Native women are 2.5 times more likely to be raped or sexually assaulted than women in the United States in general; more than one in three Native women will be raped in their lifetime.
- ❖ One-third of the women arrested for prostitution in Anchorage are Alaska Native, and many of them come from rural communities.
- ❖ In 2015: the state reported 8 cases of human trafficking; 37 calls were made to the NHTRC Hotline.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM ALASKA

FBI, authorities assist 9 sex trafficking victims in Anchorage sweep (Alaska Dispatch News, October 13, 2015)

Anchorage-based FBI agents offered assistance to several local victims during a nationwide sting targeting underage sex trafficking conducted over the last week. According to a Tuesday statement from the FBI's Anchorage field office on Operation Cross Country, October's action was the ninth annual sweep as part of the FBI's Innocence Lost initiative targeting offenses against children.

<http://www.adn.com/article/20151013/fbi-authorities-assist-9-sex-trafficking-victims-anchorage-sweep>

Anchorage, state to form human trafficking task force (Alaska Dispatch News, September 23, 2015)

Anchorage Mayor Ethan Berkowitz announced Wednesday morning that a joint state-city task force is being created to contend with human trafficking in Anchorage and across Alaska. According to a statement from Berkowitz's office, "enhanced civil and criminal law enforcement and regulatory efforts to reduce human trafficking" will be the focus of the task force, which the mayor is convening with Alaska State Department of Labor Commissioner Heidi Drygas.

<http://www.adn.com/article/20150923/anchorage-state-form-human-trafficking-task-force>

Man faces sex trafficking charges; not linked to other recent Alaska cases (Alaska Dispatch News, July 13, 2015)

A 36-year-old man has been charged with seven counts of sex trafficking for operating a statewide prostitution enterprise, according to a grand jury indictment filed last week in Anchorage Superior Court. Courtney Woods has been charged with three counts of second-degree sex trafficking and four counts of the same crime in the third degree. All of the charges are felonies.

<http://www.adn.com/article/20150713/man-faces-sex-trafficking-charges-not-linked-other-recent-alaska-cases>

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 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 Alaska.

Tier 1 out 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 4 indicates the state has not made minimal efforts to enact a legal framework to combat human trafficking and should take more steps to improve and implement its laws. Alaska meets 7 of the 10 categories of laws necessary to combat human trafficking.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM ALASKA

Alleged head of Alaska prostitution ring arrested in Nevada (KTUU, June 30, 2015)

Nevada police have arrested an Anchorage man who Alaska State Troopers say was the ringleader of an Alaska prostitution operation, following a six-month investigation. He was arrested in the Las Vegas area.

<http://www.ktuu.com/news/news/alleged-head-of-alaska-prostitution-ring-arrested-in-nevada/33857434>

Anchorage man busted for sex trafficking in the Mat-Su

(Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman, March 1st, 2014)

A newly formed Special Crimes Investigations Unit within the Alaska Bureau of Investigations has arrested Jeron Mason Batts, 33, of Anchorage for multiple counts of sex trafficking and tampering with physical evidence.

http://www.frontiersman.com/news/anchorage-man-busted-for-sex-trafficking-in-the-mat-su/article_caecadc2-a1b0-11e3-adb8-0019bb2963f4.html

Federal Jury Convicts Anchorage Man in the First Sex Trafficking Trial in the District of Alaska

(PR Newswire, February 6th, 2014)

A federal jury in Anchorage, Alaska, returned guilty verdicts late yesterday on 28 counts charging Don Arthur Webster Jr., 51, also known as "Jerry Starr," with sex trafficking of minors and adults, as well as drug trafficking offenses.

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/federal-jury-convicts-anchorage-man-in-the-first-sex-trafficking-trial-in-the-district-of-alaska-56826787.html>

Victims for Justice Tree Adds Ribbon for Sex Trafficking (KTUU, May 6, 2013)

ANCHORAGE – On Monday, victims of crimes, along with their family and friends, stood together and hung ribbons on a tree in the park strip in downtown Anchorage. A navy blue ribbon was introduced and it represents the victims of sex trafficking, and it wraps up the 33rd annual Alaska Crime Victims Rights week.

<http://www.ktuu.com/news/ktuu-a-new-symbol-is-added-for-victims-of-sex-trafficking-20130506.0.1831306.story>

State Task Force Examines Prevalence of Human Trafficking in Alaska (KTUU, February 21, 2013)

ANCHORAGE – The report lists factors that put people at risk for human and sex trafficking, including poverty, young age, homelessness and a drug and alcohol addiction. Covenant House Alaska says many of those factors are shared by the population it serves. The non-profit has seen a steady increase over several years in sex trafficking victims and is now providing its staff with better training to be poised to identify and respond to it. There is an average of one case a month. Half of the youth at Covenant House are Alaska Native and are targeted by traffickers because they're able to pass as different nationalities, said Rice.

<http://www.ktuu.com/news/ktuu-state-task-force-examines-prevalence-of-human-trafficking-in-alaska-20130221.0.7220617.story>

Sex Trafficking In Alaska 'Notoriously Underreported,' Targets Native Girls, Task Force Hears (Huffington Post, November 5, 2012)

Experts testifying before a new Alaska task force on sex trafficking said Monday the teenage victims often are too afraid and embarrassed, and sometimes too addicted to drugs, to come forward. The comments were made at a hearing to address sex trafficking, which authorities say is notoriously underreported. Among the most vulnerable are chronic runaways whose own parents have quit looking for them, said Detective Sgt. Kathy Lacey, who heads the Anchorage Police Department's vice unit.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/11/06/sex-trafficking-alaska-task-force_n_2081884.html