



## Mississippi Human Trafficking Statistics

### MISSISSIPPI HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACTS AND RESOURCES

- ❖ Sex trafficking is not enumerated grounds for termination of parental rights under Mississippi law, leaving the children of traffickers at continuing risk through the relationship.
- ❖ Mississippi law makes it a crime to traffic a minor for sex without force, fraud or coercion and can be used to prosecute those who purchase commercial sex with minors. However, victims have few protective provisions, and law enforcement is missing critical training and investigative tools.
- ❖ Mississippi was one of the "Most Improved" states of 2013, raising their score by 8 points in the last year.
- ❖ In 2015, the state reported 26 human trafficking cases; 107 calls were made to the NHTRC Hotline.

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM MISSISSIPPI

Man wanted for human trafficking arrested in Columbus (WTVA, July 7, 2015) – A Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania man wanted for human trafficking was found and arrested in Columbus. Mario Grisom was a federal fugitive wanted by the FBI on charges of sex trafficking of a child and attempted sex trafficking of a child. Task force members made contact with Grisom, who had a fake Mississippi driver's license and gave an alias name. Authorities say he will later appear before a United States Magistrate Judge.

<http://www.wtva.com/mostpopular/story/Man-wanted-for-human-trafficking-arrested-in/5vrUsJhc3UqvQhnMENITqg.csp>

Mississippi men charged with rape, human trafficking in Jefferson Parish (BayouBuzz, July 17, 2015)

Two Mississippi men have been indicted on rape and human trafficking charges after forcing a Florida woman into prostitution. Willard Anthony, 29, and Pierre Braddy, 26, were two pimps who met the victim at a Florida hotel where she was drugged and brought to metro New Orleans. The crimes were uncovered by the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office vice squad during a prostitution sting.

<http://www.bayoubuzz.com/louisiana-news/new-orleans-news/item/938136-mississippi-men-charged-with-rape-human-trafficking-in-jefferson-parish>

Sex Trafficking: It's Not About Sex (Jackson Free Press, June 26, 2013)

The problem includes prostitution, exotic dancing, pimping, massage parlors and brothels, she said. With prostitution, you also frequently find pornography. "Victims may be forced to have the acts filmed or something of that nature," Wagner said. "It's also used as a training tool" to show the victims what's expected of them. "Unfortunately, the majority of victims are the 'girl next door,'" Wagner said. "A lot of people have misconceptions" about who gets involved. "Usually, it's a prolonged relationship" involving force, fraud or coercion," she said. "We've heard of girls who are coerced into staying in prostitution because there were threats to tell her family back home," she said, emphasizing that the force doesn't need to be physical.

<http://www.jacksonfreepress.com/news/2013/jun/26/sex-trafficking-its-not-about-sex/#h35203-p18>

#### 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 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 Mississippi.

#### 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. Mississippi meets 5 of the 10 categories of laws necessary to combat human trafficking.

[www.warinternational.org](http://www.warinternational.org) - [info@warinternational.org](mailto: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 MISSISSIPPI

Man pleads guilty to human trafficking, child porn charges (WAPT News, June 21, 2013)

A 26-year-old Massachusetts man who prosecutors said admitted to traveling to Mississippi to have sex with a little girl and videotaping it will be sentenced in federal court in September. Jemery Hodges, a Jackson native, pleaded guilty Thursday to human trafficking and the production of child pornography, according to a news release from the U.S. Department of Justice. The investigation began after a Cambridge, Mass., man told police Hodges showed him child pornography on his cellphone. The Cambridge Police Department contacted the Department of Homeland Security, which launched an investigation that resulted in the identification of the child in the videos, federal officials said.

<http://www.wapt.com/news/central-mississippi/jackson/man-pleads-guilty-to-human-trafficking-child-porn-charges/-/9156912/20666328/-/i274iaz/-/index.html?absolute=true>

Sex Trafficking: A Local Problem (*Jackson Free Press*, June 19, 2013)

In Mississippi, the geography and the interstate highways make Jackson a stopping-off point for the sex trade, which is highly portable. Midway between Memphis and New Orleans on the north-south axis, and Atlanta and Dallas on the east-west route, traffickers--pimps--shuttle their wares between sports and music events looking for buyers.

<http://www.jacksonfreepress.com/news/2013/jun/19/sex-trafficking-local-problem/>

Illegal alien pleads guilty to sex trafficking South Korean women in Mississippi (ICE News Release, March 29, 2013)

A South Korean national illegally present in the United States pleaded guilty Wednesday to transporting illegal aliens into Mississippi for financial gain in connection with a sex trafficking organization. The guilty plea follows an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and the Biloxi Police Department. According to court documents, Moonseop Kim, 54, posted an internet ad offering Korean female escort services in September 2012. Undercover officers with the Biloxi police responded to the ad and conducted a sting operation which resulted in the arrest of Kim and a Korean female. HSI investigators subsequently discovered Kim was connected to a multi-state prostitution ring operated out of Atlantic City, N.J., and that Kim and the female had both overstayed their visas and were illegally in the country.

<http://www.ice.gov/news/releases/1303/130329gulfport.htm>

Human Trafficking is on the Rise and We Examine the Impact in Mississippi (Mississippi Public Broadcasting, March 27, 2013) - Over the past two years Susie Harvill, Founder of Advocates for Freedom says her group has helped 92 victims in Mississippi escape the snares of sex trafficking. One of the victims was a young girl who was sold by her mother to a drug dealer when she was just three years old. "And he taught her what she needed to know and the rest of the day the little girl stayed in a dark closet. Soon he was bringing his friends over and charging his friends and they were using the little girl. She was never put in school so no truant officer or no school principle ever looked for this little girl 'cause they didn't know that she needed to be in school."

[http://mpbonline.org/News/article/human\\_trafficking\\_is\\_on\\_the\\_rise\\_and\\_we\\_examine\\_the\\_impact\\_in\\_mississippi](http://mpbonline.org/News/article/human_trafficking_is_on_the_rise_and_we_examine_the_impact_in_mississippi)

Series focuses on human trafficking (*Starkville Daily News*, February 24, 2013) - The secret atrocities of human trafficking are being brought to light as Mississippi State University's Holmes Cultural Diversity Center sponsors a week-long event schedule designed to bring visibility to this form of modern day slavery. HCDC Program Coordinator Brea Roth said the departments and student organizations participating had provided innumerable resources and encouragement to the cause. "It has been a tremendous encouragement to have people with the same amount of passion to expose the heinousness of this crime," she said.

<http://www.starkvilledailynews.com/node/13264>

Palm Beach County is 'perfect storm' of human trafficking (*Sun Sentinel*, September 15, 2012) - Recruited from the Philippines and other developing nations, the workers were promised jobs that paid \$7.50 an hour as servers at the Polo Club of Boca Raton. It was a lie. After arriving in the U.S. with temporary work visas, they were shipped out in a pickup truck to a grubby trailer on the edge of the woods in Purvis, Miss., where they would work 12 hours a day, six days a week picking pine straw, which is used to make mulch. At night, they slept in a filthy, unheated trailer with no potable water. It was November 2009 and there was snow on the ground.

[http://articles.sun-sentinel.com/2012-09-15/news/fl-boca-trafficking-lombardi-20120916\\_1\\_human-farm-work-carmen-pino](http://articles.sun-sentinel.com/2012-09-15/news/fl-boca-trafficking-lombardi-20120916_1_human-farm-work-carmen-pino)