



## Vermont Human Trafficking Statistics

### VERMONT HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACTS AND RESOURCES

- ❖ Vermont ranked in the top tier of states for its anti-trafficking laws, but still can make improvements. Vermont lacks critical investigative tools for law enforcement, and its lack of mandated training for law officers prevents aggressive enforcement.
- ❖ Organizations: Vermont Human Trafficking Task Force, Coalition of Vermonters Against Slavery Today
- ❖ In 2015: The state reported 5 cases; 28 calls were made to the NHTRC Hotline

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM VERMONT

Vermont launches new campaign to stop sex trafficking linked to drug trade (WCAX, November 4, 2015) - Vermont's top prosecutor is calling it an epidemic: sex trafficking tied to the drug trade. A new campaign in the Green Mountains is asking for the public's help eradicating what U.S. Attorney Eric Miller calls a problem "in the shadows" of Vermont's battle against heroin. "This PSA is designed to bring attention to one aspect of the drug trade in Vermont that to many still remains in the shadows," said Miller. Monday Miller and the Vermont Human Trafficking Task Force launched the "U Can Stop Traffick" PSA and website.  
<http://www.wcax.com/story/30415502/vermont-launches-new-campaign-to-stop-sex-trafficking-linked-to-drug-trade>

U.S. Attorney's Office Launches "U Can Stop Traffick" Campaign Against Sex and Drug Trafficking (United States Department of Justice, U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Vermont, November 2, 2015) - The campaign will kick off with the release of the "U Can Stop Traffick" public service announcement, which will begin airing on Vermont television stations today and can be viewed on the campaign's website, [www.UCanStopTraffick.org](http://www.UCanStopTraffick.org) [external link]. The website also includes the powerful stories of women who have been trafficked, recorded in their own words and voices, along with resource lists for individuals in need of help.  
<https://www.justice.gov/usao-vt/pr/us-attorney-s-office-launches-u-can-stop-traffick-campaign-against-sex-and-drug>

Vermont state senator allegedly solicited sex from women in exchange for overdue rent (NY Daily News, May 8, 2015)  
Sen. Norman McAllister, a Republican representing most of Franklin County, has been charged with sexual assault, human trafficking, and prohibited acts. He got cuffed inside the Statehouse in Montpelier by plainclothes state detectives during a break in a legislative debate. Little info has been released about the charges, and it's unclear what relationship the women had to the senator or how their arrangement worked.  
<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/vermont-senator-accused-sex-assault-human-trafficking-article-1.2214901>

#### 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 10 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. 10 out of 15 flash points are found in Vermont.

#### 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 take more steps to improve and implement its laws. Vermont meets 9 of the 10 categories of laws necessary to combat human trafficking.

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## HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM VERMONT

### Advocates provide insight on possible sex trafficking victims (WPTZ, June 13, 2013)

Police are investigating the owner of Harmony Spa in Williston for suspected prostitution and Thursday night, they ticketed the building's landlord. Investigators suspect several women were forced to work there and also perform sex acts on the clientele. Staff at HOPE Works in Burlington said they provide services to dozens of sex trafficking survivors in Vermont. "We want to think that Vermont is really a safe place, a safe haven, but unfortunately really bad things do happen, including trafficking," said Courtney Gabaree, a youth advocate at HOPE Works.

<http://www.wptz.com/news/vermont-new-york/burlington/advocates-provide-insight-on-possible-sex-trafficking-victims/-/8869880/20577954/-/s2kk8e/-/index.html>

### Inside Vermont's Asian Sex Market (7DTV, June 5, 2013)

The working conditions I witnessed, or which female employees described to me, were consistent with what law-enforcement officers say characterize businesses engaged in forced prostitution. In fact, many of the red flags for sex trafficking outlined in the Bennington police affidavits were also evident at three Chittenden County establishments: no apparent cash registers or documentation of transactions; all-male clientele; an abundant use of surveillance cameras, locked doors and buzzers to screen customers; windows covered with bars, boards or curtains. The workers were all Asian women who claimed to work seven days a week and live on the premises.

<http://www.7dvt.com/2013inside-vermonts-asian-sex-market>

### West Haven Fire Dispatcher Accused Of Sex Trafficking Found Dead In Apparent Suicide (*The Courant*, March 5, 2013)

A West Haven dispatcher and volunteer fire captain accused of keeping a young boy as a sex "slave" for years in Vermont was found dead Tuesday, apparently of suicide, Vermont state police said. The man, Frank Meyer, 39, of West Haven, had recently been charged with aggravated sexual assault and slave trafficking in Windsor County, Vt. He had been released on bail.

[http://articles.courant.com/2013-03-05/community/hc-west-haven-meyer-0306-20130305\\_1\\_volunteer-fire-windsor-county-superior-court-fire-department](http://articles.courant.com/2013-03-05/community/hc-west-haven-meyer-0306-20130305_1_volunteer-fire-windsor-county-superior-court-fire-department)

### Men Charged With Transporting Prostitutes To Vermont Farms (*Huffington Post*, June 30, 2011)

According to the criminal complaint, Young-Hernandez, also known as Alex Young, met a Mexican man in October named Jose Tomas Flores-Rocha, also 53, who prosecutors said was in the country unlawfully. Prosecutors alleged that the men began working together to arrange so-called "tricks" for Vermont farm workers at \$60 per sexual act, with Flores-Rocha bringing the handful of women from New York for that purpose. Flores-Rocha was arrested near a farm in Vermont on March 16 while traveling with a female illegal alien from Mexico who was working as a prostitute. Prosecutors said he also had a ledger with clients' and prostitutes' names, farm addresses, and dates and times of services rendered.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/06/30/men-charged-with-transporting-vermont-prostitution\\_n\\_888117.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/06/30/men-charged-with-transporting-vermont-prostitution_n_888117.html)

### Child sex slave case goes to jury (WCAX, Feb. 8, 2011)

Chittenden County Deputy Prosecutor Susan Hardin asked a jury of seven men and five women for justice for a young girl Hardin says was routinely sexually assaulted in Burlington by Shane Casey. The Marshfield man's wife was the child's former caregiver, but she allegedly allowed several men on two continents to rape the girl.

<http://www.wcax.com/Global/story.asp?S=13990964>

### Probe of missing girl now focuses on uncle (*Vermont Today*, July 1, 2008)

RANDOLPH CENTER – A man was named Monday as a "person of interest" in the disappearance of a 12-year-old Braintree girl has been linked by police to an alleged Internet ring used to lure underage girls into sex. Michael Stephen Jacques, 42, of Randolph Center, was charged Monday with sexually assaulting a young girl in an unrelated case. But police are investigating the possibility that Jacques had the intention of also targeting his niece, Brooke Bennett, who went missing Wednesday morning. In interviews with police, the victim, a relative of Jacques', said that she had been recruited into the "Breckenridge program" when she was 8 or 9 years old. Jacques, she told police, had been assigned by the program's "president" as her "trainer." Jacques allegedly forced the girl to perform sexual acts weekly over the course of several years. She said the acts, which ended only a few weeks ago, were intended to improve her rating in the "Breckenridge program." She said she received phone calls and electronic messages from figures inside the program detailing which acts she was to perform on Jacques. The victim told police that she has "met" three men from the program, and identified one of them as Jacques.

<http://vermonttoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/BT/20080701/NEWS01/807010374>

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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

Last updated: March, 2016