



## Montana Human Trafficking Statistics

### MONTANA HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACTS AND RESOURCES

- ❖ Montana ranked among the bottom four states in 2012 but jumped two categories to Tier 2 in 2013. It still, however, lacks sufficient anti-trafficking laws in several categories.
- ❖ National and local organizations include the Drinking Gourd, Not for Sale Campaign, Shared Hope International, and the Polaris Project.
- ❖ In 2015: the state reported 19 human trafficking cases; 66 calls were made to the NHTRC Hotline.
- ❖ In 2015, Montana went from a D to an A grade through Shared Hope

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM MONTANA

Prison Time for Men Who Attempted to Buy Sex Slaves (The Federal Bureau of Investigation, December 11, 2015) - A Montana man is in jail, arrested in a federal human trafficking sting. Federal agents say 65-year-old Steve Currence drove more than 1,200 miles to purchase two sex slaves in Arizona.. <https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2015/december/human-trafficking/human-trafficking>

Local man helping combat human trafficking at the Super Bowl (abc FOX Montana, February 5, 2016) - MISSOULA - By day, Lowell Hochhalter is lecturing to junior high and high school students about the dangers of trafficking. By night, he's helping rescue kids already being victimized. But, it will be no easy task. Among the throngs of people Hochhalter's group is trying to find 135 children. That's the number of kids listed in the booklet Hochhalter is handing out to folks all over the Bay Area. <http://www.abcfoxmontana.com/story/31147088/local-man-helping-combat-human-trafficking-at-the-super-bowl>

Human trafficking will become one of the top three crimes against Native women (Indian Country Today, July 15, 2015) - Earlier this month, the Montana Native Women's Coalition facilitated the first-ever conference within the state's Indian country on human trafficking – specifically addressing the selling of Native women for sexual exploitation. Montana has seen an increase in Native women who have been trafficked – an increase of 12 to 15 percent in the last year in their program base, which covers 20,000 square miles. MNWC's executive director, Toni Plummer-Alvernaz, said that victims generally range in age from 15 years old into their early 20s. And the coalition has even had reports of women being trafficked who were in their 50s. These women are often trafficked in exchange for drugs. <http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2015/07/15/human-trafficking-will-become-one-top-three-crimes-against-native-women-161083>

#### State Grade

**A**

\*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. 12 of the 15 flash points are found in Montana.

#### Tier

**2 of 4 (Yellow)**

\*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. Montana meets 2 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 MONTANA

Law enforcement tackles human trafficking in Montana (Great Falls Tribune, April 17, 2015) - FBI agent, Brandon Walter, said recovered victims have said they can make three times more in the commercial sex trade in Montana than Seattle. The FBI office in Billings is taking a more proactive approach to investigating human trafficking cases in Montana, which a greater focus on rescuing juvenile victims and arresting pimps responsible for operating trafficking rings.

<http://www.greatfallstribune.com/story/news/local/2015/04/17/law-enforcement-tackles-human-trafficking-montana/25951869/>

Montana lawmakers confront prostitution in Bakken boomtowns (Missoulian, March 25, 2013) - "This was not a laughing matter. It was not a barroom look of how our Wild West used to be," Arntzen said. "This is something that my colleagues took serious. And that's incredible." While some prostitution cases may hint at human trafficking, there is no actual proof that trafficking is a problem in Montana, said a second bill sponsor, Rep. Sarah Laszloffy, R-Laurel. But without the language on the books to correctly identify cases as human trafficking, victims are left without access to help and authorities without the tools needed to track it, she said.

[http://missoulian.com/news/local/montana-lawmakers-confront-prostitution-in-bakken-boomtowns/article\\_1ebc92f0-948d-11e2-a0cc-0019bb2963f4.html](http://missoulian.com/news/local/montana-lawmakers-confront-prostitution-in-bakken-boomtowns/article_1ebc92f0-948d-11e2-a0cc-0019bb2963f4.html)

Montana congregation teams up to tackle human trafficking (8 KPAX, April 7, 2013) - Patrick Klein, Founder and Director of Vision Beyond Borders, is teaming up with Billings church, Word of Life, as they wield their faith to the world's deepest darkest corners and help those enslaved recapture their lives. "We feel that it's an issue that, we know is very close to the heart of God, but we feel as God's people, we should also be very concerned about those who are oppressed and need to speak up on their behalf," said Klein.

<http://www.kpax.com/news/mt-congregation-teams-up-to-tackle-human-trafficking/#>

Let's prevent human trafficking in Montana (Billings Gazette, April 2, 2013) - "Human trafficking is happening in Montana," Rep. Sarah Laszloffy, R-Laurel, and Jenifer Gursky, D-Missoula, wrote in a guest opinion in The Gazette shortly after the 2013 Legislature convened. "In March 2011, two men involved in a prostitution ring in Missoula plead guilty to "aggravated" promotion of prostitution of three girls under the age of 18. Last summer, two adults in Kalispell were arrested for prostituting a 13-year-old girl for drug money. And with increased demand in the Bakken, we are already getting reports of underage prostitution."

[http://billingsgazette.com/news/opinion/editorial/gazette-opinion/gazette-opinion-let-s-prevent-human-trafficking-in-montana/article\\_382f8c8d-01d2-54f4-b8a4-0084f694897e.html](http://billingsgazette.com/news/opinion/editorial/gazette-opinion/gazette-opinion-let-s-prevent-human-trafficking-in-montana/article_382f8c8d-01d2-54f4-b8a4-0084f694897e.html)

Are We Protecting Our Kids? (Flathead Beacon, March 22, 2012) - In a warm room in Kalispell, two teenage girls recently told their stories of exploitation. As they described the gritty details of lost innocence, they sounded less like scared teenagers and more like determined advocates with lessons to share. The 17-year-old girl talked about parties where older men supply young girls with drugs and alcohol and later have their way with the teenagers, who are often blacked out. The 15-year-old girl nodded in acknowledgement. The man throwing the party had reached out to her one day on Facebook. She's been to the same parties. But the 17-year-old also had a more triumphant tale involving a sharp-eyed decision. Upon receiving an email to her cell phone about a potential modeling job with a professional photographer, she immediately recognized the fraudulent scheme. She had heard about this fake photographer who, claiming to be a female though really a male, had solicited photos of other young girls in the valley.

[http://www.flatheadbeacon.com/articles/article/are\\_we\\_protecting\\_our\\_kids/26725](http://www.flatheadbeacon.com/articles/article/are_we_protecting_our_kids/26725)

UM student arrested after alleged meeting for sex with 14-year-old girl (Missoulian, August 18, 2011) - A 22-year-old University of Montana psychology major who allegedly began chatting online Tuesday with someone he thought was a 14-year-old girl was arrested less than four hours later when he showed up for a meeting with a condom in his pocket. Missoula Police Detective Chris Shermer, a member of the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, said the conversation began at 3 p.m. Tuesday when he responded to an ad in Craigslist's casual encounters section. The ad "indicated a man seeking a woman for a sexual encounter," according to an affidavit filed by Deputy Missoula County Attorney Jason Marks. Shermer pretended to be a 14-year-old girl during the online conversation. "Ninety percent of the conversation was about sex," Shermer said. "After an email and text message exchange, Abe indicated that he wanted to meet. He agreed to bring a condom," the affidavit said. [http://missoulian.com/news/local/article\\_a3ce6a58-c929-11e0-98eb-001cc4c002e0.html#ixzz1Y8VaLgPA](http://missoulian.com/news/local/article_a3ce6a58-c929-11e0-98eb-001cc4c002e0.html#ixzz1Y8VaLgPA)