



Tennessee Human Trafficking Statistics

TENNESSEE HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACTS AND RESOURCES

- ❖ Tennessee lags behind in providing adequate law enforcement training, safe harbor protection, and vacating convictions for victims.
- ❖ Surveys of agencies across the state found that 85% of Tennessee counties have investigated at least one human trafficking case of the last 24 months. Seventy-two percent of Tennessee counties reported at least one case of human trafficking involving minors.
- ❖ Davidson County was among four counties reporting more than 100 cases that involved minors, according to a report conducted by Tennessee Bureau of Investigation.
- ❖ In 2015: The state reported 69 cases; 262 calls were made to the NHTRC Hotline.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM TENNESSEE

36 arrested in Human Trafficking Sting in North Georgia, East Tennessee (News Channel 9, February 5, 2016) - 36 people were arrested in the area over the last two days, following a human trafficking investigation in North Georgia and East Tennessee. Investigators say those people attempted to have sex illegally, many of them with children.

<http://newschannel9.com/news/local/tbigbi-joint-undercover-operation-called-watchful-guardians>

Chattanooga police arrest 20 in human trafficking operation (Times Free Press, October 16, 2015) - Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Director Mark Gwyn announced in a press conference this morning that 20 local men have been arrested in a human trafficking investigation spanning four days in September and October. Gwyn said the operation was called "Someone Like Me" is the third of its kind conducted in the state. TBI Special Agent In Charge Margie Quin said 12 women found involved in human trafficking were arrested then offered rescue services to help free them from the world of human trafficking.

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/local/story/2015/oct/16/tbi-chattanooga-police-announce-results-human-trafficking-operation/330890/>

2 Tennessee men arrested in human trafficking investigation (Birmingham Area News, July 24, 2015)

Homewood, Alabama police on Wednesday arrested two Tennessee men in connection with a human trafficking and prostitution investigation. Ray Kennemer Jr. and Elzabod Ferguson, both of Chattanooga, are each charged with one felony count of human trafficking for their alleged roles in a prostitution service at a local hotel. Both men were booked into the Jefferson County Jail on \$60,000 bonds. They have since been released.

<http://wbma.membercenter.worldnow.com/story/29627306/2-tennessee-men-arrested-in-human-trafficking-investigation-in-homewood>

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

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 Tennessee.

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 made significant laws to combat human trafficking and should continue to take steps to improve and implement its laws. Tennessee meets 9.5 parts 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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HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM TENNESSEE

Human trafficking survivors in TN need more help, report finds (*The Tennessean*, July 22, 2013)

A year in the making, the new 97-page report puts on paper what advocates have been observing for years: that Tennessee communities don't have sufficient services designed specifically for trafficking survivors. They often need housing, relocation assistance, transportation and legal aid. Officials recommend that victims receive face-to-face visits from a trained counselor within four hours of the discovery of an incident. And, for the first time, the study says specifically that two state agencies — the Department of Human Services and the Department of Children's Services — will be responsible for assigning staff members to coordinate help for adults and children, respectively.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20130722/NEWS03/307220021/Human-trafficking-survivors-TN-need-more-help-report-finds>

New human trafficking laws set to take effect in Tennessee (July 4, 2013)

In Tennessee, that wake up has come in the form of a dozen new laws set to take effect Monday. The laws zero in on what has grown to the second largest crime industry in the world - the multi-billion dollar industry of human trafficking. New laws include enhanced penalties for not only the traffickers, but the "johns." This comes after a 2011 Tennessee Bureau of Investigation report that unveiled the prevalence of the crime within state lines. Other laws include raising felony charges from the lowest class, to a Class A or B felony. The laws also give more right to victims, and provides that this crime is included in the list of gang-related offenses.

<http://www.wjhl.com/story/22708362/examining-human-trafficking-in-tennessee>

Guatemalan man sentenced for sexually abusing teen human trafficking victim (ICE News Release, May 28, 2013)

A Guatemalan man illegally present in the United States was sentenced to more than 15 years in federal prison Thursday for sexually abusing a teenage Guatemalan girl he illegally trafficked across the Mexican border. According to court documents, German Rolando Vicente-Sapon, 41, of Guatemala, accepted a \$2,000 payment to smuggle the 16-year-old victim across the border and transport her to Chattanooga. Once she arrived, Vicente-Sapon coerced the teenage victim into having sex, and she relented, believing she did not have a choice.

<http://www.ice.gov/news/releases/1305/130528chattanooga.htm>

Significant Steps Taken Against Human Trafficking In Tennessee (*The Chattanooga*, April 29, 2013)

During this legislative session, Tennessee made significant steps in becoming one of the top states in the nation with the strongest anti-human trafficking legislation. Human trafficking has become one of the fastest growing crimes in the nation. According the 2011 TBI report, eighty-five percent of the counties stated that they have investigated at least one human sex trafficking case over the last 24 months. Seventy-two percent of the total counties in the state reported at least one case of minor human sex trafficking. There were 16 entities that reported an excess of 50 cases and eight reported over 100 cases of minor cases of human sex trafficking. With the creation of the Tennessee Human Trafficking Hotline and the numerous amounts of law enforcement officers and first responders who have been trained to recognize trafficking victims, the number of trafficking cases has increased.

<http://www.chattanooga.com/2013/4/29/250098/Rep.-Watson-Significant-Steps-Taken.aspx>

Six Indicted on Federal Child Sex Trafficking Charges (FBI Press Release, March 29, 2013)

Grandberry, Lyons, Gibson, Ramsey, and Edwards are charged with conspiracy to commit child sex trafficking. Gibson is also charged with child sex trafficking, as is Briggs. Briggs is additionally charged with use of a facility of interstate commerce to promote child sex trafficking. The charges allege that on December 29, 2012, Lyons gave a 14-year-old girl to Grandberry as partial payment for Grandberry's assistance in an unrelated matter. Grandberry then paid to post an advertisement for prostitution to Backpage.com. That advertisement featured photographs of the 14-year-old and included Grandberry's phone number. Ramsey and Edwards assisted him in posting that advertisement. The charges further allege that on January 1, 2013, Grandberry and Gibson directed Edwards to change the Backpage.com advertisement to include Gibson's phone number instead of Grandberry's. According to the superseding indictment, Gibson paid to post the new advertisement.

<http://www.fbi.gov/memphis/press-releases/2013/six-indicted-on-federal-child-sex-trafficking-charges>