



## Wisconsin Human Trafficking Statistics

### WISCONSIN HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACTS AND RESOURCES

- ❖ The child sex trafficking law lists serious penalties for offenders but fails to prohibit age mistake and consent of the minor as available defenses, making prosecution more challenging.
- ❖ Wisconsin anti-trafficking policy still lacks necessary investigative tools, law enforcement training, and adequate victim protection assistance.
- ❖ A 2008 study done by the state of Wisconsin revealed that over 200 cases of victims forced into sex acts or labor services were reported in a survey of nearly 400 sexual assault and domestic violence service providers and justice system agencies.
- ❖ In 2015: The state reported 50 cases; 227 calls were made to the NHTRC Hotline.

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM WISCONSIN

**FBI Announces Results of Nationwide Human Trafficking Operation: Wisconsin Operation Tied for Third Nationwide in Numbers of Juveniles Recovered** (The Federal Bureau of Investigation, October 13, 2015) - Officials of the Milwaukee office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), along with a host of partner agencies, announced today that 149 underage trafficking victims were recovered and 153 pimps were arrested in a nationwide human trafficking operation, Operation Cross Country IX, conducted throughout the United States last week. In Wisconsin, FBI officials announced that nine underage victims were recovered and 11 pimps were arrested as part of the takedown. Wisconsin tied for third in the nation in total number of juveniles recovered (Denver—20; Detroit—19; Las Vegas—nine; Milwaukee—nine).

<https://www.fbi.gov/milwaukee/press-releases/2015/fbi-announces-results-of-nationwide-human-trafficking-operation>

**New bill raises awareness, looks to end Wisconsin human trafficking** (The Badger Herald, September 16, 2015) - Rep. Janel Brandtjen, R-Menomonee Falls, introduced a bill to help better report and respond to the problem. The bill makes three main changes to human trafficking laws. It first requires children's protection agencies to report any suspected child abuse or human trafficking to law enforcement within 12 hours of the reported abuse or neglect. Second, the release stated the bill would expand the mandatory reporting law to include probation and parole agents, as well as certain school employees who work directly with children. Finally, the bill defines child abuse as exposure to all drugs, not just methamphetamines.

<https://badgerherald.com/news/2015/09/16/new-bill-raises-awareness-looks-to-end-wisconsin-human-trafficking/>

**Wisconsin creates task force to combat human trafficking** (Milwaukee Wisconsin Journal Sentinel, September 15, 2015) - Schimel and task force co-chairwoman, Eloise Anderson, who also serves as secretary of the state Department of Children and Families, announced the new group Tuesday. They said they will be joined by others from public and private-sector organizations. Milwaukee has earned a national reputation as a hub of commercial sex exploitation after numerous high-profile prosecutions of pimps, and it has been estimated that hundreds of women and children have been trafficked in the city. Wisconsin's new task force aims to work with existing local and regional efforts to better coordinate prevention, training, data collection and services. It will also work to raise public awareness about the crime, create consistent statewide practices and improve services for trafficking victims.

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/statepolitics/wisconsin-creates-task-force-to-combat-human-trafficking-b99577170z1-327719861.html>

#### **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** **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 of the 15 flash points are found in Wisconsin.

#### **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 numerous laws to combat human trafficking and should take more steps to improve and implement its laws. Wisconsin 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 WISCONSIN

### Human trafficking is hidden in plain sight, even in Wisconsin (The Milton Courier, July 24, 2015)

A baseline assessment in 2013 found human trafficking in Wisconsin is committed against both adults and minors. According to the assessment, most of the human trafficking cases reported occur in areas of the state that are highly populated and have a significant tourist or visitor population. In the past couple of years, the Department of Justice has been working to get the word out and increase awareness.

[http://www.hngnews.com/milton\\_courier/article\\_e40f25ec-324f-11e5-b94c-e7663734fe58.html](http://www.hngnews.com/milton_courier/article_e40f25ec-324f-11e5-b94c-e7663734fe58.html)

### 10 Wisconsin children rescued, 100 suspects arrested in sex trafficking case (Journal Sentinel, July 29, 2013)

Ten children in Wisconsin were rescued from child trafficking and 100 suspects were arrested over the weekend as part of a nationwide FBI investigation. The number of children picked up here was the second highest state total, according to the FBI and the state Department of Justice. Ten juveniles also were recovered in Detroit, according to the FBI. Only San Francisco had more, with 12. During a similar operation last year, six children were recovered and 60 suspects arrested in Wisconsin. <http://www.jsonline.com/news/crime/ten-wisconsin-children-rescued-100-suspects-held-in-fbi-trafficking-case-b9964083z1-217398541.html>

### Restaurant owner charged with human trafficking (Fox 11, April 17, 2013)

The owner of a Kimberly restaurant has been charged with human trafficking. Yen Meier, 51, faces two charges in Outagamie County for human trafficking and benefiting from human trafficking. She was arrested Tuesday afternoon. The victim told police Meier paid her a total of \$50 the entire time she worked at the restaurant. Meier forced her to work six or seven days a week, for 12 to 14 hours a day. Meier had the victim live in two Kimberly apartments and gave her so little food that her body was not able to produce milk for the baby.

[http://www.fox11online.com/dpp/news/local/fox\\_cities/restaurant-owner-yen-meier-charged-with-human-trafficking](http://www.fox11online.com/dpp/news/local/fox_cities/restaurant-owner-yen-meier-charged-with-human-trafficking)

### Sheboygan man indicted on charges including sex trafficking (Fox 6, March 21, 2013)

A Sheboygan man is accused of getting women hooked on heroin and then prostituting them out. He's now indicted on 16 federal counts — including sex trafficking. For Landingham and Debbie Lassiter, it is a mission to shed light on a disturbing crime. "Human trafficking is a crime that is hidden in plain sight," said Lassiter. The women have been working to raise awareness. They're holding events, informing people of warning signs and prevention. "They are preyed on because they are either vulnerable, they're weak, their self-esteem is low and predators know how to zone right in on those avenues," said Landingham.

<http://sheboygan.fox6now.com/news/news/191851-sheboygan-man-indicted-charges-including-sex-trafficking>

### On Special Assignment: Sex trafficking (Fox 11, February 27, 2013)

When asked what the life is really like, Nicole replied, "It's disgraceful. It's not glamorous. It destroys people's hearts." Nicole was raised in the Fox Cities. After a troubled childhood, in which she tells FOX 11 On Special Assignment she was physically and sexually abused, she ran away and ended up on the streets of Milwaukee. She was just 17. "I ended up being sold by a drug dealer who at the time I thought was helping me, wanted to give me a place where I would be comfortable and stable. He ended up selling me to a pimp who took me in and taught me what it was to what he wanted me to do," she said. Nicole says what he wanted her to do was bring in \$1,000 a day as a prostitute. "He would send us to Chicago on a bus every night. The night I didn't come up with the money I decided I wasn't going to go back because I knew I was going to get severely beat," Nicole said.

[http://www.fox11online.com/dpp/news/local/on\\_assignment/on-special-assignment-sex-trafficking](http://www.fox11online.com/dpp/news/local/on_assignment/on-special-assignment-sex-trafficking)

### Child Sex Trafficking: A Parent's Worst Nightmare (WSAW, February 19, 2013)

At 11, Sarah was molested. At 15 her aunt sold her to a man for sex. "She offered him me for the drugs, for the exchange of crack cocaine," Sarah said. At 19, Sarah had no job, no home and four children to care for. She paid the bills the only way she knew how. "I lived on the streets," Sarah said. "I slept on park benches. There was a guy who owned a gas station who liked me. In order for him to get me a hotel room, I had to have sex with him." Sarah is one of very few who have ever agreed to talk to a reporter after being enslaved. But cases like hers aren't rare at all.

<http://www.wsaw.com/home/headlines/Closer-than-You-Think-Child-Sex-Trafficking-in-Wis--190791511.html>