



## Missouri Human Trafficking Statistics

### MISSOURI HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACTS AND RESOURCES

- ❖ Missouri is still lacking adequate investigative tools, appropriate safe harbor laws, and laws vacating convictions for sex trafficking minors.
- ❖ Each year more than 4,000 American children fall victim to commercial sexual exploitation in Missouri. Nearly 1,700 are victimized in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Since 2006, there have been 70 cases with more than 100 victims in the Western District of Missouri.
- ❖ The US District Attorney's Office in Missouri's 66 western-most counties has prosecuted more people for human trafficking than any other region of the country. Advocates say if things don't change, the problem will only get worse.
- ❖ St. Louis is ranked as one of the top 20 trafficking cities in the U.S by the F.B.I.
- ❖ In 2015, the state reported 67 human trafficking cases; 365 calls were made to the NHTRC Hotline.

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM MISSOURI

FBI: St. Louis a Top Human Trafficking City in the U.S. (CBS St. Louis, December 3, 2015) - JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (MDN) – A House committee is considering to crack down on human trafficking in Missouri. The House Trafficking Committee said human trafficking is an under addressed problem in Missouri. St. Louis is ranked as one of the top 20 trafficking cities in the U.S by the F.B.I.

<http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2015/12/03/fbi-st-louis-a-top-human-trafficking-city-in-the-u-s/>

Business owner joins fight to help human-trafficking victims (KY3, October 28, 2015) - SPRINGFIELD, Mo. - Human sex trafficking happens not only around the world but in the Ozarks as well. As one local lawmaker tries to raise awareness of the issue, a local business is working to erase a physical symbol of the pain and abuse. Brian Kent owns On Second Thought laser tattoo removal in Springfield. With a magic wand, he burns away unwanted ink.

[http://www.ky3.com/news/local/businessman-joins-fight-to-help-humantrafficking-victims/21048998\\_36105070](http://www.ky3.com/news/local/businessman-joins-fight-to-help-humantrafficking-victims/21048998_36105070)

Missouri task force takes on human trafficking (13KRCG, October 5, 2015) - SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — A Missouri task force that aims to find ways to strengthen the state's laws against human trafficking begins meeting this week. The Springfield News-Leader reports the task force meets three times this month, beginning Thursday in Kansas City. The task force is also scheduled to meet Oct. 13 in St. Louis and Oct. 28 in Springfield. Among the task force's members are state lawmakers, victim and child advocates and state and law enforcement officials. The task force plans to publish a report in January that will discuss its early findings and make recommendations to the Legislature regarding how Missouri could improve its laws. It will continue to meet throughout 2017

<http://krcgtv.com/news/local/missouri-task-force-takes-on-human-trafficking>

#### 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 Missouri.

#### 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. Missouri meets 7 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 MISSOURI

WashU sets sights on preventing human trafficking (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, July 25, 2015) - Over the next year, Washington University researchers are trying to fill in the blanks when it comes to why trafficking is growing in MO. The university's medical school and school of social work are collaborating on a research project to compile enough data to paint a better picture. They are going to use the data collected through research to create "heat maps" identifying which areas in the region people are most vulnerable. While researchers will share their data with law enforcement, another goal was to use the information for prevention.

[http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/washu-sets-sights-on-preventing-human-trafficking/article\\_d1285d89-fec9-5048-aafe-80d438f6ce89.html](http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/washu-sets-sights-on-preventing-human-trafficking/article_d1285d89-fec9-5048-aafe-80d438f6ce89.html)

Modeling website linked to disappearances, rape and human trafficking (ABC 17, May 6, 2013) - "They try to like manipulate you, like, 'We know you're a student, we know you're poor' and so they're like, 'We'll pay you \$500 for one nude photo, that's all we're asking,'" Baier told ABC 17 News. "But it only takes one nude photo for you to be completely exposed and completely all over the Internet." Model Mayhem has a dangerous history. The National Women's Coalition Against Violence and Exploitation said it can connect a dozen missing girls nationwide to the website. One of them, Kara Nichols, is from Colorado Springs, Colo. She has been missing since last October when she told a friend she was heading two hours to Denver for a modeling gig.

<http://www.abc17news.com/news/modeling-website-linked-to-disappearances-rape-and-human-trafficking/-/18421100/20037496/-/41yhc6z/-/index.html>

Missouri hotel workers enlisted in human trafficking fight (News Tribune, May 1, 2013) - From five-star boutique properties to low-rent rooms for rent along the interstate, hotel workers are trained to not pry into their guests' private lives. But with growing concern over forced prostitution and other forms of human trafficking, the hospitality industry is starting to demand that its employees get a bit nosier. "There's anonymity," said Amanda Evans, a front desk manager at the Budget Host Inn. "You can be there and not even be noticed."

<http://www.newstribune.com/news/2013/may/01/mo-hotel-workers-enlisted-human-trafficking-fight/>

Two Truck Drivers Indicted for Child Sex Trafficking (FBI Press Release, April 10, 2013)

Tammy Dickinson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that two St. Joseph, Missouri-area commercial truck drivers—one of whom is a registered sex offender—have been indicted on charges related to the commercial sex trafficking of a child. Tony Eugene Wardlow, 54, of St. Joseph, and Thomas Farrell, 48, of DeKalb, Missouri, were charged in a six-count indictment that was returned under seal by a federal grand jury on March 13, 2013.

<http://www.fbi.gov/kansascity/press-releases/2013/two-truck-drivers-indicted-for-child-sex-trafficking>

Human-trafficking survivor shares story of freedom (KRCG 13, March 26, 2013)

Skiles signed with a modeling agency in California, where she attended several events and parties with other models. It was there she met the billionaire that promised her a modeling job overseas. "I was this young, ambitious, naive model given this opportunity to go to another country for this modeling job...everything checked out that it would be legit. I looked online, researched everything, I was just really excited but I was only given a one-way ticket, and that should have been a red flag for me," Skiles, now a motivational speaker, minister and sex trafficking abolitionist, said. The billionaire she thought she'd gotten a modeling job with had actually purchased her as a gift for himself and his girlfriend's pleasure. She was an object and a prisoner at the billionaire's estate overseas, and eventually back here in the United States.

<http://www.connectmidmissouri.com/news/story.aspx?id=876648#.UVIf61vwLOU>

Siblings forced St. Louis women into sex work, plea in court says (STL Today, March 16, 2013)

The woman was naked and injured when a visitor first spotted her in October 2010, wedged below the bottom shelf of a closet in a Breckenridge Hills apartment. Police who responded to a 911 call saw "multiple circular burns" on the mentally disabled woman's arms and shoulders as well as two black eyes and burns on her back and inner thighs, according to court documents. Investigators would soon discover that the woman was one of two who had been held against their will, allegedly forced into prostitution and kept docile with drugs by a pair of siblings from Breckenridge Hills. The disabled woman was forced to sleep and go to the bathroom in the closet, one of those siblings, Carl Mathews, 32, admitted Friday in federal court in St. Louis.

[http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/siblings-forced-st-louis-women-into-sex-work-plea-in/article\\_ace8c754-b0c5-5a9e-affc-d7abb5b80475.html](http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/siblings-forced-st-louis-women-into-sex-work-plea-in/article_ace8c754-b0c5-5a9e-affc-d7abb5b80475.html)

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