



Washington Human Trafficking Statistics

WASHINGTON HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACTS AND RESOURCES

- ❖ In 2013 Washington was one of 2 states with a perfect score for maintaining the 10 categories of laws critical to the basic legal framework that combats human trafficking, punishes traffickers and supports victims, according to the Polaris Project.
- ❖ A study of homeless youth in Seattle found that 41 percent had been sexually exploited in survival sex or prostitution; 47 percent of females and 37 percent of males were propositioned to sell sex.
- ❖ Trafficking is prevalent along Interstate 5, and King and Clark counties have been aggressively targeting pimps and johns. Seattle police rescued 81 young victims in 2010.
- ❖ The Seattle area ranks among the top in the world for sexual exploitations of minors, according to Robin Schildmeyer of Genesis Project, an organization dedicated to protecting young women victimized by human trafficking.
- ❖ In 2015: The state reported 111 cases; 410 calls were made to the NHTRC Hotline.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

Washington's lieutenant governor boots Pam Roach off human trafficking task force (The News Tribune, January 25, 2016) - State Sen. Pam Roach, R-Summer, has been removed from a state task force on human trafficking after allegedly making offensive comments about trafficking victims. In a letter sent Monday, Lt. Gov. Brad Owen — a Democrat whose job includes presiding over the state Senate — said he received “numerous complaints” about comments that Roach made at a task force meeting last month, including an alleged comment that sexually trafficked minors “probably spend their money on drugs.” Roach also asked whether trafficked persons were “illegals,” according to Owen’s letter, which included observations from people who were present at the December task force meeting.

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/politics-government/article56497173.html>

12 women rescued in Puget Sound human trafficking bust (King 5, January 7, 2016) - King County officials, Bellevue police, and the FBI announced Thursday they rescued 12 women, arrested 14 men, and shut down multiple brothels as part of a major human trafficking bust which was promoted through the Internet and social media. Police say the women were brought to America and forced into prostitution.

<http://www.king5.com/story/news/crime/2016/01/07/12-women-rescued-puget-sound-human-trafficking-bust/78423470/>

FBI's largest ever human trafficking sting leads to over 150 arrests, 149 kids recovered (The Washington Times, October 15, 2015) - The FBI has rescued 149 sexually exploited children and made more than 150 arrests as the result of a recent human trafficking operation that the bureau is calling its biggest ever. State and local law enforcement groups in 135 cities from coast to coast worked together with federal authorities in the first half of October to conduct Operation Cross Country XI — “the largest in the nine-year history of the initiative,” the FBI said on Wednesday. The bureau said in a statement that actions taken during this year’s installment of the annual campaign allowed authorities to get sexually exploited children as young as 12 years old off of the streets.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/oct/15/fbis-largest-ever-human-trafficking-sting-leads-ov/>

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 Washington.

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. Washington meets all 10 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 WASHINGTON

Sex Traffickers Arrested after bring women from Las Vegas to Everett (My Everett News, July 14, 2015)

In response to citizen complaints, police were conducting undercover anti-prostitution operations. After confirming prostitution activity, Everett Police uncovered an operation where two brothers, 22 and 25, brought two women directly to Everett from Las Vegas. They'd been working the two women on the streets since the beginning of July.

<http://www.komonews.com/news/local/UW-students-using-feminine-napkins-to-fight-human-trafficking-215600061.html>

UW students using feminine napkins to fight human trafficking (KOMO News, July 15, 2013)

The students worked with members of the an anti-trafficking group called WARN-Washington to find the safest, most confidential way to tell victims that help is out there. Because they're generally used in private situations and wouldn't attract attention, the group decided the pads were the best solution. Each pad contains a tear-away hotline number, and the message itself is printed on flushable paper. "They can throw it away and be completely safe in not being caught," Wang said. "If an abuser or trafficker finds the victim with that, it could lead to very violent and harsh consequences for the potential victim."

<http://www.komonews.com/news/local/UW-students-using-feminine-napkins-to-fight-human-trafficking-215600061.html>

Three Suspects Arrested in Human Trafficking Investigation (KVEW TV, July 3, 2013)

A detective interviewed the victim who stated that Samra and the 16 year of age female defendant befriended her and attempted to get her to prostitute herself, telling her that "they" could make a lot of money. The victim reported that Samra took nude photos of her with the intent to advertize her for prostitution in the Seattle area. The victim added that she did not go to Seattle with them.

<http://www.kvewtv.com/article/2013/jul/03/three-suspects-arrested-human-trafficking-investig/>

Child sex trafficking – as easy in Seattle as ordering a pizza (mynorthwest.com, April 10, 2013)

When she disappeared, Nacole's husband drove the streets of Seattle looking for their little girl. Almost two weeks later, Seattle Police called the parents saying they'd found the runaway daughter. "She looked completely different than she had 10 days before. Her hair was cut. It was colored. Her fingernails had been done. She had completely different clothes," she says. "On the way home she started telling us that she had been held captive in Everett, and that she had been raped and that she had been made to work the streets."

<http://mynorthwest.com/646/2249364/Child-sex-trafficking--as-easy-in-Seattle-as-ordering-a-pizza>

Missing Vancouver, Wash. Teen may be sex trafficking victim (KING 5, April 7, 2013)

The past 12 days have been torturous for the family of 16-year-old Isabella Castillo. The Hudson's Bay High School student disappeared while walking home from school on March 25. A few hours after her disappearance, her aunt and legal guardian, Cymany O'Brien, got a strange text message from Castillo. It read, she was safe, but was not coming home. "It wasn't to me how she would talk. It felt kind of scripted," said O'Brien. "If her aunt says things don't make sense, I'm going to trust the Aunt knows what's going on," said Michele Bart, an advocate for sex trafficking victims. Bart says it's a common tactic for sex traffickers to send scripted text messages to their victim's loved ones.

<http://www.king5.com/news/Missing-Southwest-Washington-teen-may-be-sex-trafficking-victim-201843631.html>

Senate aims to put harsher penalties on sex trafficking (*The Seattle Times*, March 5, 2013)

Senate Bill 5488 would add a \$5,000 fine to additional penalties for advertising sex with minors online. The legislation also would repeal a law passed last year requiring online classified advertising companies to verify the ages of people in sex-related advertisements. Backpage.com filed a lawsuit against Washington state, arguing the law violated the First Amendment. A federal judge ruled that the law was unconstitutional. **Senate Bill 5669**, sponsored by Sen. Mike Padden, R-Spokane, would require those convicted of trafficking minors or patronizing underage prostitutes to register as sex offenders. Traffickers would also be eligible for criminal profiteering charges.

<http://blogs.seattletimes.com/politicsnorthwest/2013/03/05/senate-aims-to-put-harsher-penalties-on-sex-trafficking/>

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