



South Carolina Human Trafficking Statistics

SOUTH CAROLINA HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACTS AND RESOURCES

- ❖ In 2011, South Carolina jumped from being one of the 9 states “lagging behind” in its anti-trafficking provisions to the top tier of states. While improvement can still be made, it was among the 4 most improved states from 2011-2012.
- ❖ Received a failing grade for its failure to “expressly identify sex trafficking and [require] proof of force, fraud, or coercion used to cause the trafficking, even for minors. Penalties for human trafficking are not severe. Commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) laws may carry higher penalties, though CSEC victims are not identified as victims and may face barriers to protection and service.”
- ❖ In 2015: South Carolina reported 61 cases of human trafficking and 233 calls were made to the NHTRC Hotline.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM SOUTH CAROLINA

Lott: Six arrests made in four-county human trafficking ring involving juveniles (10 wistv, January 20, 2016) - RICHLAND COUNTY, SC (WIS) - Juveniles were being sold for sex in a four-county human trafficking ring busted up by the Richland County Sheriff's Department and the State Grand Jury. Sheriff Leon Lott and Attorney General Alan Wilson held a news conference on Wednesday to discuss the indictments of six people -- three men and three women -- in connection with this ring.
<http://www.wistv.com/story/31014148/lott-six-arrests-made-in-four-county-human-trafficking-ring-involving-juveniles>

Grammy Award winner fights against human trafficking in SC (WACH Fox 57, October 19, 2015) - The first convictions for sex trafficking in South Carolina happened last week. In a finding by the state, there is a lack of sufficient funding for, access to, and availability of resources for groups that provide services to victims of human trafficking. The finding also shows South Carolina does not have adequate shelter space to meet the needs of human trafficking victims. Monday night, a fundraiser was hosted at Northside Baptist Church to help raise money for Lighthouse, which is a local organization aiming to build a safehouse for victims. Attorney General Alan Wilson helped host the forum, along with Gospel singer Natalie Grant, discussing the problem that exists in South Carolina.
<http://wach.com/news/local/sex-trafficking-in-south-carolina>

First Human Trafficking convictions in South Carolina (News 2, October 11, 2015) - COLUMBIA – South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson announced Monday the first Human Trafficking convictions in South Carolina.
<http://counton2.com/2015/10/12/first-human-trafficking-convictions-in-south-carolina/>

State Grade C

*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 South Carolina.

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. South Carolina meets 8 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 SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina Helping train businesses about human trafficking (News 2, July 22, 2015)

South Carolina Attorney General, Alan Wilson, is working with federal officials to bring more attention to human trafficking. Wilson said he is working with the Department of Homeland Security to distribute posters and help train workers in emergency rooms, urgent care centers, hotels, airports, bus stations, adult businesses, rest areas, and truck stops about how women get forced into the sex trade.

<http://counton2.com/2015/07/22/south-carolina-helping-train-businesses-about-human-trafficking/>

Horrors of sexual trafficking (Florence News Journal, July 16, 2013)

A 2009 report by Shared Hope International indicates that more than 100,000 children under the age of 18 are currently being trafficked in the United States. Equally disturbing, the United States Department of Justice reports that approximately "293,000 American youth are at risk of becoming victims of commercial sexual exploitation."

<http://www.florencenewsjournal.com/main.asp?SectionID=5&SubSectionID=5&ArticleID=3511>

Charleston man, 65, indicted on sex trafficking charges (ABC News 4, April 11, 2013)

A Charleston man was indicted in federal court Thursday on charges he trafficked children for sex, according to a release from the U.S. Attorney's office. U.S. Attorney Bill Nettles reports that 65-year-old Booker T. Vanderhorst, of Charleston, was indicted on one count each of sex trafficking of children and using interstate commerce to promote unlawful activity. According to the indictment, between July and October of last year, Vanderhorst allegedly prostituted a girl he knew was under the age of 18. He was arrested Thursday by ICE and Homeland Security officers.

<http://www.abcnews4.com/story/21945521/us-attorney-charleston-man-65-indicted-on-sex-trafficking-charges>

Local group works with sex trafficking victims in Carolinas (March 28, 2013)

A local group is giving victims a path from slavery to freedom for women with the help of a woman who survive the sex trade and is now using her experience to help others. "There's so many avenues so many different ways girls get into it but there's very few ways to get out," Lisa Dugan said. Dugan works with Hope House as a supervisor helping girls who were sex trafficking victims. She said the average age a girl is forced into the trade is 13. Dugan was 18 when she was duped into the trade, but her victimization started long before then. "When I was young like 5, I was molested by a neighbor who abused me and gave me low self-worth and it didn't manifest itself until I became a teenager," Dugan said. Dugan said she was an angry, rebellious and insecure teen who one day met an older man at a gas station who recognized her vulnerability.

<http://www.foxcarolina.com/story/21424314/local-group-works-with-sex-trafficking-victims-in-carolinas>

Human trafficking more common in SC than you think (WISTV, February 16, 2013)

"People are being trafficked in the state of South Carolina and if you don't believe me go look on the Internet, go look on Backpage.com or Craigslist and see the advertisements out there," said South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson. The WellHouse, a non-profit fighting sex trafficking, claims I-20 and its truck stops are a hot spot for the activity. The crime is likely not what you think. "Trafficking can happen in a community," said Wilson. "It can be done not just through kidnapping and actual physical force it can be done through coercion or blackmail or threats of force and its not always for labor and it's not always for sex it can be for both or either."

<http://www.wistv.com/story/20998121/human-trafficking-more-common-in-sc-than-you-think>

S.C. official vows crackdown on human trafficking (The Post and Courier, February 1, 2013)

"We're going after everybody. Not just the johns and the pimps, but the people who have legitimate businesses as a front," Wilson said after the meeting. Wilson's office hasn't prosecuted anyone yet under the new state law, but the attorney general said the first case probably isn't too far away. Along with strengthening prosecution, Wilson also wants to raise awareness in the state about human trafficking. He said it just isn't poor women being blackmailed after being brought to the United States illegally, like a recent case involving three men who pleaded guilty in federal court to bringing women who were in the U.S. illegally from Atlanta to Aiken County for more than three years to sell sex to Aiken County farm workers.

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130201/PC16/130209855/sc-official-vows-crackdown-on-human-trafficking&source=RSS>