



Iowa Human Trafficking Statistics

IOWA HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACTS AND RESOURCES

- ❖ Iowa is in the second of four tiers, and as such it has passed numerous laws to combat human trafficking and should take more steps to improve and implement those laws.
- ❖ Another report released by Shared Hope, Int'l, graded Iowa according to its laws combatting sex trafficking and resources available to victims of trafficking. The state received the letter grade "D".
- ❖ In 2015: the state reported 36 cases of human trafficking; 146 calls were made to the NHTRC Hotline.
- ❖ Iowa's human trafficking laws are still lacking in the areas of proper investigative tools, a human trafficking task force, safe harbor laws for minors as well as civil remedy and vacating convictions for minors.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM IOWA

Iowa enlists truckers' help in effort to end human trafficking (Omaha.com, September 6, 2015)

The first clue may come via a knock on the door of a semitrailer cab, or the sight of a van load of frightened young women at a rest area. And the first person to notice anything may be a truck driver. An Iowa initiative seeks to enlist truckers' help, because such situations could signal human trafficking. The hope is that a trucker, or someone else, will call authorities and the incident will end with a pimp in jail and human trafficking victims getting help from social services.

http://www.omaha.com/news/iowa/iowa-enlists-truckers-help-in-effort-to-end-human-trafficking/article_ec2b07aa-972c-5e5e-bbed-bc62d7b455d3.html

Modern-day slavery in Iowa: Workshop raises awareness of human trafficking (Sioux City Journal, July 26, 2015) – A woman ended up adopting a 15 year old sex trafficking victim and the two of them now travel the country, educating others on the dangers of sex trafficking in the U.S.

http://siouxcityjournal.com/news/modern-day-slavery-in-iowa-workshop-raises-awareness-of-human/article_fc03bfe4-d183-5846-9d69-ee123ef0cc70.html

Teen working to educate peers of human trafficking (KCCI News, July 23, 2015) – Lexi O'Connor started the nonprofit group, Teens Against Human Trafficking. For the last two years, she's been talk to youth at forums and fundraisers about the issue. She is also telling her friends. She is going off to college in New York in September 2015. She hopes to raise enough money to hire someone to run her nonprofit group.

<http://www.kcci.com/news/teen-working-to-educate-peers-on-human-trafficking/34329414>

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 Iowa.

Tier

2 of 4 (Yellow)

*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.. Iowa meets 6 parts of the 10 categories of laws necessary to combat human trafficking, out of a possible score of 12.

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

Last updated: March, 2016

HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM IOWA

[The Iowa DOT Supports Truckers Against Trafficking Initiative](#) (iowa.gov, May 8, 2013)

In addition to the materials being placed at scale sites, posters will be hung and handout material available in all of Iowa's interstate rest areas. In addition, the Iowa DOT is working with the Iowa Motor Truck Association to visit with truck stop operators to have materials placed in their facilities. Nationally, four stings by the Federal Bureau of Investigation between 2003 and 2009 targeted truck stops, where more than 500 children were rescued, millions of dollars recovered and perpetrators arrested.

<http://www.news.iowadot.gov/newsandinfo/2013/05/the-iowa-dot-supports-truckers-against-trafficking-initiative.html>

[Deplore exploitation](#) (*The Gazette*, January 9, 2013)

As Iowans, we often think we are sheltered from such oppressive abuse and want to consider how far we've come since the days of our country's slave trade. In fact, Iowa is not immune and today's slaves worldwide outnumber those at the height of the slave trade. Runaways, homeless youth, undocumented workers, victims of domestic violence and sexual assault are all at risk to falling prey to traffickers and their manipulations.

<http://thegazette.com/2013/01/09/deplore-exploitation/>

[Iowa mom warns of sex trafficking](#) (*Quad-City Times*, November 15, 2012)

Ruth Buckels of rural Story County, Iowa, shared her story Thursday at St. Ambrose University. She took on a 16-year-old foster care daughter in 2008, knowing nothing about her past. Buckels' daughter, whom she identified only as Brittany, had been forced into sex trafficking in Chicago. Parenting Brittany was hard, Buckels said, because she had to get used to the teenage girl locking herself in a bathroom, staying up all night, changing her appearance almost daily and lying. As a victim of trafficking, she would lie to stay alive, Buckels said. Brittany never knew someone could love her unconditionally. "I claim you," Buckels would tell her. "I value you. I love you. You're mine."

http://qctimes.com/news/local/iowa-mom-warns-of-sex-trafficking/article_ac4f6052-2fa2-11e2-8a06-0019bb2963f4.html

[Iowa's Human Trade: Investigating and preventing human trafficking](#) (KWWL, November 8, 2012)

The main focus of the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation's Crime Against Children's Task Force is investigating digital communication between children and potential abductors. Special Agent Meyer's department is trying to discover whether abductions in Iowa are part of a bigger problem - child trafficking. "It's a business, human trafficking, sexual exploitation of women and children, men for that matter. It's the second largest money maker in the world next to illegal drugs," Nassif said.

<http://www.kwwl.com/story/20025811/special-report>

[Sting the horror of teen trafficking](#) (*The Gazette*, September 30, 2012)

Local kids are being victimized, as Johnson County Sheriff's Detective Kevin Kinney noted at a recent panel discussion on trafficking at Coe College. Two area prostitution stings have resulted in trafficking charges this year, alone. Earlier this year, a Coralville woman was accused of trafficking her 16-year-old sister. This month in Iowa City, a brother and sister were charged with trafficking three 14- and 16-year-old girls from Iowa City to Chicago.

<http://thegazette.com/2012/09/30/sting-the-horror-of-teen-trafficking/>

[Iowa-80 Truckstop joins fight against human trafficking](#) (The Trucker News Services, June 11, 2012)

"The management of Iowa 80 Truckstop has taken a very studied approach to human trafficking and has concluded Iowa 80, as a prominent organization in the trucking industry, can play a pivotal role in the fight against this crime," commented Kendis Paris, TAT national director. "We are thrilled to have them on board with TAT." Professional drivers are encouraged to pick up a TAT wallet card at Iowa 80 Truckstop, which provides red flags to look for if trafficking is suspected, specific information to note for law enforcement and the national hotline number to call with the tip.

<http://www.thetrucker.com/News/Stories/2012/6/11/Iowa80Truckstopjoinsfightagainsthumantrafficking.asp>

[X](#)