



Nebraska Human Trafficking Statistics

NEBRASKA HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACTS AND RESOURCES

- ❖ Nebraska received a failing grade for its lack of protective laws which create greater risk for child victims of sex trafficking. It has also failed to require convicted traffickers to register as sex offenders.
- ❖ Nebraska has improved since 2011 but still lacks proper minor victim protection and assistance.
- ❖ Lancaster, Douglas and Sarpy counties in Nebraska received nearly 20,000 reports in 2008 of child abuse and neglect.
- ❖ In 2015: the state reported 24 human trafficking cases; 101 calls were made to the NHTRC Hotline.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM NEBRASKA

Nebraska's new anti-human-trafficking strategy: 'The criminal is the trafficker and the customer' (Omaha.com, October 21, 2015) - LINCOLN — Human trafficking victims and survivors would get help while traffickers and customers would be prosecuted under a new Nebraska anti-trafficking strategy announced Tuesday. The three-pronged approach seeks to battle human trafficking by making the business more risky for people running the rings and by reducing the demand from people seeking paid sex.

http://www.omaha.com/news/crime/nebraska-s-new-anti-human-trafficking-strategy-the-criminal-is/article_70fe8fcb-a276-5f45-82ae-ac672b0b0ca2.html

New task force will combat human trafficking in Nebraska (Omaha.com, October 2, 2015) - A newly created statewide task force aims to combat human trafficking and provide services to victims using a national grant from the U.S. Department of Justice. The \$600,000 grant will create four jobs, pay for employees' travel across the state and provide training both for workers who might encounter trafficking — including workers in hotels and gas stations — as well as law enforcement.

http://www.omaha.com/news/nebraska/new-task-force-will-combat-human-trafficking-in-nebraska/article_408180bf-23a6-5e0a-adfe-b8ca4951ce52.html

Push is on to raise awareness of human trafficking in Nebraska (Journal Star, March 11, 2015)

Early in March, several women were brought to Nebraska from Wisconsin to provide sex for people attending a concert. They were arrested for prostitution. They are currently working on educating the public, and creating a bill that would strengthen Nebraska's human trafficking laws, particularly sex trafficking of girls, by providing additional safeguards and remedies for victims.

http://journalstar.com/legislature/push-is-on-to-raise-awareness-of-human-trafficking-in/article_e9b8d1b8-aba3-5979-92b0-91a0f367e714.html

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 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 Nebraska.

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. Nebraska meets 7 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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Riding with reason (*NP Telegraph*, June 26, 2013)

Dan Haas and Dennis Knight are riding from Wisconsin to Colorado with a cause. The two are taking a 70-day bike ride to raise the public's awareness of human trafficking. It's a problem that they say persists throughout society, and people need to be more aware of it. Haas and Knight have "meandered" their way through Wisconsin and southern Minnesota before getting to eastern South Dakota and eastern Nebraska. They traveled from Norfolk to Columbus, Central City and Grand Island. From North Platte they aren't sure where they will head next - either south on Highway 83 or continue west on Highway 30.

http://www.nptelegraph.com/news/riding-with-reason/article_729ae350-a13e-5832-98f5-21761596ed07.html

Task Force tackles sex trafficking during CWS (KETV 7, June 17, 2013)

Investigators said, during the College World Series, women and girls are specifically brought into the area because major sporting events equal high demand for prostitutes. Anyone who thinks the Omaha metro doesn't have a human trafficking problem hasn't talked to members of the sex trafficking task force. "We made 31 arrests this time last year, which stemmed two major human trafficking cases," Chase said. In order to bust the rings and locate the organizers, investigators search the Internet before looking on the streets. Chase said online captions like 'home run specials' and 'batter, batter,' advertise services tailored to the baseball crowd.

<http://www.ketv.com/news/local-news/task-force-tackles-sex-trafficking-during-cws/-/9674510/20565358/-/item/0/-/4ffl4wz/-/index.html>

Heineman signs anti-sex trafficking bill into law (Omaha.com, June 5, 2013) - Lawmakers voted 47-0 on the final morning of the session to send Legislative Bill 255 to Gov. Dave Heineman. The governor quickly signed the measure before the Legislature adjourned for the year. Sponsored by Lincoln Sen. Amanda McGill, the law makes human trafficking of minors a form of child abuse. It also increases penalties against pimps and those who solicit underage prostitutes. As written, the bill would have granted immunity to juveniles engaged in prostitution. Advocates say children who sell themselves rarely, if ever, do so voluntarily, but are being forced into the sex trade by adults. Therefore, the focus should be on providing treatment to child prostitutes rather than prosecuting them.

<http://www.omaha.com/article/20130605/NEWS/706069961>

Mom pimps out 14 year-old daughter, and 7 year-old, fourth man charged. (*NJ.com*, June 3, 2012) - State Patrol say a 35-year-old mother allowed at least seven men to have sex with her teenage daughter at least 20 times, and at least three men had sex with her seven-year-old. The Nebraskan mother of three was arrested on April 26th at a Kearney, NY motel when she tried to offer herself and one of her daughters to an undercover cop for \$200. The most recent man being charged with child sexual assault is 22 year-old Logan Roepke, of McCook, Prosecutors claim he had sex with the teen twice last year. Roepke was released from a Buffalo County jail after he posted 10 percent of a \$75,000 bond. Donald Grafe, 37, of Columbus, was arrested on suspicion of sexually assaulting the 14-year-old girl between March 24 and April 11 at a truck stop in Lincoln. Troopers had already arrested Shad Chandler, 41, of Lincoln, and Alexander Rahe, 38, of Omaha, both for first-degree sexual assault of a child.

www.nj.com/parenting/index.ssf/2012/06/mom_pimps_out_14_year-old_daugh.html

Human Trafficking exists in Nebraska (FOX 42 News, 2012) - "He told me he was going to marry me. When he married me, I would become a better person," she said. "He told me that 'if you stay in this country they are going to catch you, they will find you so I am going to help you. Then I said 'ok, I'm happy'" The man, known to Jane as Mike, smuggled her out of Africa, but once the plane landed on American soil: "When we came in he totally changed. These men would come sleep with me. I didn't know how to speak the English. I would just say why why why? They would say shhh... you know? They do that then they go. It's so shameful," she explained. The man kept her locked in a basement, away from the outside world. He told her police would take her back to her country where she would be killed if she ever left. She has no idea how long she was in captivity. She doesn't know how many men there were. She didn't even know she was doing it for money.

<http://www.kptm.com/story/17802759/human-trafficking-exists-in-nebraska>

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