



## Colorado Human Trafficking Statistics

### COLORADO HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACTS AND RESOURCES

- ❖ Colorado's law for trafficked children fails to expressly identify sex trafficking. Victims who are misidentified or are deemed complicit in prostitution may face barriers to accessing protection or justice. In 2012, Colorado began improving the law protecting minors from criminal prostitution charges and seeking restitution for trafficking victims.
- ❖ The I-70/I-25 crossroad is a major intersection of highways near Denver that provides a strategic and common drop-off and pick-up gateway for trafficking victims.
- ❖ A 2009 study conducted by Metro Denver Homeless Initiative found that the Denver area has 1,135 homeless youth on any given night. According to National data, 10-30% of homeless youth are exploited in the sex industry, and 1 in 3 teens will be recruited by a pimp within 48 hours of leaving home.
- ❖ In 2015: the state reported 77 cases; 310 calls were made to the NHTRC Hotline.

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM COLORADO

#### Colorado Springs police arrest more than 20 during nationwide human trafficking crackdown (The Gazette, October 13, 2015)

Colorado Springs police arrested more than 20 people last week in human trafficking related busts that came during a week-long nationwide sting called Operation Cross Country.

Nationwide, 149 underage trafficking victims were rescued and 153 pimps were arrested in 135 participating cities. Of those cities, Denver ranked first for the second straight year, having the most children rescued from the sex trade.

<http://gazette.com/colorado-springs-police-arrest-more-than-20-during-nationwide-human-trafficking-crackdown/article/1561185>

#### Grand Junction police arrest man on suspicion of human trafficking girl (Denver Post, July 22, 2015)

A 35-year-old man is being held in Mesa County on suspicion of several charges, including human trafficking, after police say he took nude photos of a 17-year-old girl after giving her a narcotic. Investigators say he also solicited the girl to have sex with a person for money.

[http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci\\_28521221/grand-jeff-city-police-arrest-man-suspicion-human-trafficking](http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_28521221/grand-jeff-city-police-arrest-man-suspicion-human-trafficking)

#### New resources in Colorado for sex-trafficked minors (The Denver Magazine, March 10, 2015)

In December 2014, Colorado's first Judicial District Attorney's office launched the state's first human trafficking unit within the DA office. The unit's first order of business: creating a way to consistently identify high-risk individuals within the community.

<http://www.5280.com/news/digital/2015/03/update-new-resources-colorado-sex-trafficked-minors>

#### 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 **12 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. 12 of the 15 flash points are found in Colorado.

#### 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 nominal laws to combat human trafficking and should take major steps to improve and implement its laws. Colorado meets 4 parts 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 COLORADO

### Denver sex trafficking economy valued at \$40 million or more

(Colorado Public Radio, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014)

Prostitution is thriving in Denver -- but it's been hard for authorities to know exactly how active this shadowy industry is here, until now. A report out today from the nonpartisan Urban Institute says the city's underground sex economy was worth about \$40 million.

<http://www.cpr.org/news/story/denver-sex-trafficking-economy-valued-40-million-or-more#sthash.88bFsQw9.dpuf>

### Sex trafficking suspect arrested in Colorado Springs

(The Gazette, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014)

A 28-year-old man suspected of selling sex with underage girls was arrested Friday, Colorado Springs police said. Police said Kavion Lydell Powell allegedly advertised sex with underage girls, transported the girls to areas across the Front Range to complete the acts and then collected the money.

<http://gazette.com/sex-trafficking-suspect-arrested-in-colorado-springs/article/1515001#XIZUtgkSXmehzWz1.99>

### Labor and sex traffickers practice modern slavery in Colorado

(The Denver Post, December 19, 2013)

The FBI's Rocky Mountain Innocence Lost Task Force rescued 59 teen prostitutes from flesh peddlers in the state this year, up from 49 in 2012. Denver ranked fourth in the number of teens rescued, with nine juveniles, fewer than only San Francisco, Milwaukee and Detroit. Also in Denver, Trafficked workers, many of them immigrants with little command of English, can be found laboring even in health care and other legitimate jobs.

[http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci\\_24754478/labor-and-sex-traffickers-practice-modern-slavery-colorado#ixzz2zGtKJMVG](http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_24754478/labor-and-sex-traffickers-practice-modern-slavery-colorado#ixzz2zGtKJMVG)

### Authorities Cracking Down On Prostitution, Human Trafficking In Colorado (CBS4 Denver, May 8, 2013)

There has been a crackdown on crimes involving prostitution and human trafficking in Colorado. The FBI says it's making a new push because it's seeing those kinds of crimes on the increase.

CBS4 recently reported on a case in Golden where feds busted a massage business called Happy Feet. Agents say it was a storefront for prostitution and money laundering, among other crimes.

<http://denver.cbslocal.com/2013/05/08/authorities-cracking-down-on-prostitution-human-trafficking-in-colorado/>

### Human Trafficking in Southern Colorado: A Catalyst Special Report (*The Catalyst*, April 26, 2013)

When you call the Colorado Springs Police Department or the El Paso County Sheriff's office, they tell you that they either never or very rarely see human trafficking cases.

But they exist. In fact, there are potentially hundreds of victims in the Pikes Peak region alone, federal officials and activists say.

Human trafficking victims in southern Colorado are like forgotten shadows — everywhere around us, voiceless, and without the respite of the social safety nets that rescue survivors of other atrocities.

<http://catalystnewspaper.com/2013/04/26/despite-stats-feds-activists-say-region-is-suffering-from-human-trafficking/>

### Sex Trafficking in Denver (*Denver Post*, March 11, 2013)

The FBI's Dave Joly, who supervises the new Innocence Lost Task Force, a partnership between the FBI, Denver and Aurora police departments and the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office, said "Between 2006 and 2011, Denver PD identified and rescued approximately 47 children from commercially sexually exploitative environments. In 2012 alone, the Innocence Lost Task Force and our Metro Area partners identified and rescued 49 children."

[http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci\\_22742836/sex-tra-8734-cking-denver](http://www.denverpost.com/opinion/ci_22742836/sex-tra-8734-cking-denver)

### Ex-prostitute reveals her story, new healing option for sex-trafficking victims (9News, February 18, 2013)

Until Monday, Colorado didn't have a residential-treatment center that specialized in helping girls who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation. Amy's House just opened its doors and will be a home to eight girls. It's the first residential-treatment center in Colorado to specialize in girls like Starr and other domestic victims of sex-trafficking who are minors. Amy's House serves girls ages 12 to 17. The girls at the residential-treatment center will get counseling, education and support. The girls will stay there for two years.

<http://www.9news.com/rss/story.aspx?storyid=317869>