



Florida Human Trafficking Statistics

FLORIDA HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACTS AND RESOURCES

- ❖ Individuals convicted of sex trafficking are not required to register as sex offenders. Child victims have some protection, but the state lacks consistent identification and wrap-around services.
- ❖ Florida is commonly cited along with New York and California as being one of the top three destinations for trafficking victims in the United States.
- ❖ Florida has passed significant laws to combat human trafficking and should continue to take steps to improve and implement those laws.
- ❖ In 2015: the state reported 407 cases of human trafficking; 1,518 calls were made to the NHTRC Hotline.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM FLORIDA

Human trafficking hotline signs going up in Florida (FCN, January 1, 2016)
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, Fla. -- If you look at Florida statutes for human trafficking, the first sentence describes it as "a form of modern-day slavery," and Florida ranks third in the nation for human trafficking. That's why new signs with a human trafficking hotline are now going up starting Jan. 1. The signs will be posted at the most common breeding grounds for human trafficking: strip clubs, massage studios, train stations, airports, and rest stops.
<http://legacy.firstcoastnews.com/story/news/local/florida/2016/01/01/new-signs-warning-human-trafficking-florida/78182026/>

Tattoos could lead to more human trafficking victims, authorities say (WESH, December 16, 2015)
Investigators are on the lookout for victims of human trafficking who may all be branded with the same tattoo.
<http://www.wesh.com/news/two-arrested-in-human-trafficking-operation/36977682>

Human trafficking victims turned away from shelters (WFTV 9, July 21, 2015)
Human trafficking arrests have skyrocketed in central Florida, but despite that push to stop the problem, we discovered many of those rescued fall back into the control of a pimp because they have nowhere else to go. Despite a statewide push to lock up human traffickers, resources to help victims get back on their feet are scarce.
<http://www.wftv.com/news/news/local/9-investigates-human-trafficking-victims-turned-aw/nm4Mz/>

Human trafficking adding to SWFL HIV Cases (Wink News, July 9, 2015)
There is a connection to a spike in HIV cases to human trafficking in SW Florida. A victim told WINK news that she was lured into human trafficking and sold like a product for sex. She says pimps would hold her down, inject her with drugs and force her to have sex multiple times a day not knowing who was HIV-positive. A woman who takes in trafficked girls says that Florida leads the country in HIV infections. Brand new numbers from the Florida Department of Health show Lee County as 11th in the state.
<http://winknews.com/2015/07/09/human-trafficking-adding-to-swfl-hiv-cases/>

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 **13 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. 13 of the 15 flash points are found in Florida.

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. Florida meets 9.5 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

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HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM FLORIDA

North Miami Beach Man Arrested in Sex Trafficking of High School Girls (NBC 6, April 23rd, 2014)

A North Miami Beach man has been arrested in connection with a human trafficking operation in which girls from a nearby high school were allegedly going to be sold for sex. David Llama Lopez, 46, was arrested and charged with two counts each of human trafficking, procuring a minor for prostitution, and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Lopez required a 17-year old high school student to have sex with him, even though she was hesitant. She saw a gun in his apartments and felt fearful, compelling her to not fight back. If you live in the area, a local number to call if you suspect an incident of human trafficking is 305-350-5567, the number for the Florida State Attorney Human Trafficking Hotline.

For Sex Slaves and Forced Laborers, Trafficking Trail Leads To South Florida (WLRN January 31, 2014) A day-long conference on human trafficking at Broward College on Thursday was an opportunity for experts in the field to shift the emphasis back to the bigger part of the problem. Many of the victims are girls and women who are captured and forced into prostitution but three times as many become slave laborers and many of those wind up in South Florida. Florida leads the nation in sex trafficking, say the Broward Sheriff's Office and State Attorney General, and Broward County leads the state. The tracks goes up the east coast up to New York down to Florida and then there's one that goes across from Texas to Las Vegas into California and we're kind of the tip of both tracks. <http://wlrn.org/post/sex-slaves-and-forced-laborers-trafficking-trail-leads-south-florida>

Woman Tells Her Story of Sex Trafficking and Incest (NBC 6, May 18, 2013)

Rose says her father Zenon Anastassiou began sexually molesting her when she was a toddler. She says he told her it was a cultural thing and it gradually escalated into rape by the time she was 13. She says his message was clear: "You want to live in this house? ... Well, if you tell or you stop having sex with me that's all just going to go away." That's when he allegedly began selling her to other men, using provocative and naked pictures he took of her. <http://www.nbcmiami.com/news/local/Woman-Tells-Her-Story-of-Sex-Trafficking-and-Incest-207969491.html>

HSI Tampa helps local and state law enforcement agencies dismantle human trafficking ring (ICE News Release, May 13, 2013)

Law enforcement officers arrested Peter D. Kitt, 41, and Shawn D. Franklin, 42, Friday morning for their roles in the ring. Holly Cannarelli, 55, was arrested Sunday. All the defendants face state charges of racketeering and participating in a racketeering conspiracy. The defendants are being held on \$1 million bond.

<http://www.ice.gov/news/releases/1305/130513tampa.htm>

Miami pimp forced teen to tattoo his name on her eyelids (The Miami Herald, March 28, 2013)

When a 13-year-old runaway threatened to leave a Miami pimp, police say, he forced her to a Liberty City flea market tattoo shop to ink his street name, "Suave," on her eyelids. The vicious twist to a human trafficking case surfaced this month when Miami police arrested Roman Thomas III, 26, who was already on probation after serving four years in state prison for having sex with a minor. The girl, dubbed "Sparkle," was pimped through the classified advertising website Backpage.com, police say. Thomas and a woman plied the girl with liquor, marijuana and the drug Molly as she had sex with men at the Miami Shores Motel.

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2013/03/28/3312163/police-miami-pimp-forced-teen.html#.UVTwUo3pdFU.twitter>

Feds make 13 arrests in Naples, Florida-to-North Carolina sex trafficking ring (ABC Action News, January 18, 2013)

A two-year federal investigation into a sex trafficking and prostitution ring from Naples to North Carolina culminated this week with 13 arrests and up to 11 women rescued. The trafficking operation enticed undocumented women from Mexico, Nicaragua, and other countries to the Southeastern U.S., said John Morton, director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, as he announced the results of "Operation Dark Night" during a press conference Thursday in Savannah, Ga. It was, as one person involved described to investigators, a "prostitution delivery service" where the women were given daily quotas — upward of 25 clients for at least one of the trafficking victims, according to a complaint filed in federal court against a Collier County man.

<http://www.abcactionnews.com/dpp/news/state/feds-make-13-arrests-in-naples-florida-to-north-carolina-sex-trafficking-ring>