



Alabama Human Trafficking Statistics

ALABAMA HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACTS AND RESOURCES

- ❖ Alabama recently passed a law making trafficking a felony and is considering a new bill that would require the posting of a national hotline number in places where trafficking victims might see it.
- ❖ In 2014, Alabama established the “Alabama Human Trafficking Task Force,” to combat trafficking in Alabama.
- ❖ The Well House, Inc., the first safe house in Alabama for human trafficking victims, opened in January 2011.
- ❖ In 2015: the state reported 53 cases; 186 calls were made to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline
- ❖ As of July, 2015, there are fewer than 20 strip clubs in Alabama.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM ALABAMA

5 more suspects sought in Royal Spa human trafficking, prostitution probe (AL.com, December 3, 2015)

Authorities in Alabama and Tennessee are looking for five more people connected to a human trafficking ring that included a spa in Madison County that served as a front for prostitution.

Investigators with the Madison County Sheriff's Office on Thursday held a news conference to update the public on the investigation into the Royal Spa, located at 7619 Highway 72 in Madison. An owner and the manager of the spa were both arrested earlier this week.

http://www.al.com/news/huntsville/index.ssf/2015/12/5_additional_suspects_sought_i.html

UAB professor, survivor of human sex trafficking speaks out (WSFA 12 News, November 26, 2015)

Butler CO., AL - It all started when Tajuan McCarty ran away at age 12. By 15, she'd become a victim in one of the most insidious trades in the world. McCarty said she had been "sold" in just about every state in the country. McCarty found the courage to escape her enslavement by the time she turned 26. McCarty now holds two Master's degrees and is an Adjunct Professor for the University of Alabama in Birmingham, according to Wellhouse's website. McCarty openly credits God for rescuing her.

<http://www.wsfa.com/story/30054440/uab-professor-survivor-of-human-sex-trafficking-speaks-out>

Goose Creek man charged with sex trafficking in Alabama (The Post and Courier, May 7, 2015)

Theon Dontray Smith, 27 was arrested on two counts of first-degree human trafficking. He is being held on \$120,000 bail. Police said they found Smith in a motel room with two minor girls after one of the girls called her parents in another state. The parents asked police to check, and officers said they found her and another girl with Smith, along with evidence they were being sexually exploited.

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20150507/PC16/150509511/1177/goose-creek-man-charged-with-sex-trafficking-in-alabama>

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

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 Alabama.

Tier

1 out 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 4 indicates the state has not made minimal efforts to enact a legal framework to combat human trafficking and should take more steps to improve and implement its laws. Alabama meets 6 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

Last updated: February, 2016

HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM ALABAMA

Human Trafficking task force created for south Alabama

(Fox10TV, March 7th 2014)

According to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, south Alabama has the most significant concentration of trafficking victims in the state. U.S. Attorney Kenyon Brown said that the region has several draws, such as the beaches, Mardi Gras, and numerous festivals. The task force is being spearheaded by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and assisted by the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) as well as the U.S. Attorney's Office and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

<http://fox10tv.com/2014/03/07/human-trafficking-task-force-created-for-south-alabama/>

Online And Anonymous: New Challenges To Prosecuting Sex Trafficking (Alabama Public Radio, August 3, 2013)

John Ryan is CEO of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. "Up until about five years ago, sex trafficking of both adults and children were occurring in traditional venues, like street corners and alleys, bus stops," he tells NPR's Jacki Lyden. "The Internet has changed all that, particularly through social media platforms." Ryan says online classified spaces like Backpage are "a very convenient and inexpensive platform" for pimps to promote their business. "The most concerning feature is they do this in an anonymous fashion."

<http://www.apr.org/post/online-web-sex-trafficking-can-be-even-more-obscure>

3 juveniles recovered, 2 pimps arrested in Birmingham area as part of FBI sex trafficking operation (AL.com, July 29, 2013)

Three juveniles were rescued and two pimps were arrested in the Birmingham area as part of a massive, nationwide FBI operation targeting sex trafficking.

The three were ages 13 to 17, said Birmingham FBI spokesman Paul Daymond. Operation Cross Country recovered a total of 105 teens -- the youngest was 13 -- and led to the arrests of 150 pimps in 76 cities in the last three days. "This sheds even more light on the fact that this is a problem right here in Birmingham," McCarty said. "If we don't stand up and change something, it's going to keep happening."

http://blog.al.com/spotnews/2013/07/3_juveniles_recovered_2_pimps.html

Human trafficking task force meets to raise awareness of the issue (AL.com, January 11, 2013)

MONTGOMERY, AL – The mission of the Central Alabama Human Trafficking Task Force is "To Find and Free" victims of human trafficking. The Task Force began its work in 2009, initiated by the US Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Alabama. Now partnered with the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office, the Task Force meets bi-monthly at One Place Family Justice Center.

http://blog.al.com/montgomery/2013/01/human_trafficking_task_force_m.html

Alabama Hunt Human Trafficking Victims (*The Examiner*, January 12, 2012)

Federally funded task forces opened 2,515 suspected cases of suspected human trafficking between January 2008 and June 2010. There have been at least 144 arrests. In the last minutes of the 2010 legislative session, Alabama lawmakers passed House Bill 432, giving the state its first anti-human trafficking law. The bill provides protection for victims of labor and sex trade. The Polaris Project tracks calls to human trafficking hotlines and says in the three months from July through September 2011 there were 28 calls to hotlines reporting suspected human trafficking across Alabama.

<http://www.examiner.com/article/alabama-hunts-human-trafficking-victims>

The Well House, INV (*The Washington Times*, October 19, 2011)

WASHINGTON – Birmingham, Alabama has many factors which contribute to the proliferation of sex trafficking and prostitution in the area. Atlanta, Georgia, a hub of sex trafficking and child prostitution, is only 140 miles away from Birmingham. Pimps see Birmingham's close proximity to Atlanta as a greater market opportunity to sell women and children than other cities. In 2010, A Louisiana man was accused of sex trafficking minors after forcing two girls in the age of 16 and 17. The underage victims were transported from Atlanta to Birmingham and prostituted on several occasions between 2007 and 2009. Nine truck stops around I-20 further create demands for sexual exploitation of women and children in the area.

<http://communities.washingtontimes.com/neighborhood/rights-so-divine/2011/oct/18/sex-trafficking-survivor-opens-shelter-women-and-c/>

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