



California Human Trafficking Statistics

CALIFORNIA HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACTS AND RESOURCES

- ❖ As of November 7, 2012, California passed Proposition 35. In a landslide victory, 81.1% of voters approved of 35, which would increase fines and prison sentences in addition to requiring convicted human traffickers to register as sex offenders and disclose internet activities and identities.
- ❖ California has passed significant laws to combat trafficking but should continue to improve and implement them.
- ❖ San Francisco is one of its largest commercial centers for the \$8 billion international sex trafficking business.
- ❖ In 2015: the state reported 979 cases of human trafficking; 3,609 calls were made to the NHTRC Hotline.
- ❖ Up to 11,700 women and girls are trafficked in San Diego County alone each year. There are only 24 beds available for survivors.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM CALIFORNIA

Super Bowl Week Puts Spotlight on Human Trafficking (KQED News, February 1, 2016)

Up to 1 million revelers are expected to flood the Bay Area this week leading up to Sunday's Super Bowl in Santa Clara. Officials have repeatedly alerted the public to looming traffic nightmares — but law enforcement officials have been issuing another alert.

They say apart from the crowds and frenzied fun, something darker will be going on: Sex traffickers will be trying to cash in on the annual bash.

<http://ww2.kqed.org/news/2016/02/01/super-bowl-week-puts-spotlight-on-increased-human-trafficking>

FBI ANNOUNCES ARRESTS FROM MAJOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING RAIDS (ABC 7 News, October 15, 2015)

Hundreds of young victims of human trafficking are safe following a nationwide operation by the FBI and local police. The sweep also landed scores of pimps and johns in jail.

<http://abc7news.com/news/fbi-announces-arrests-from-major-human-trafficking-raids/1034798/>

Attorney general Kamala D. Harris Announces 10-year sentence for defendant in Emeryville sex trafficking case (Imperial Valley News, July 16, 2015)

The attorney general announced the Jimmy Gong Lee, 55, has been sentenced to 10 years in prison and must pay restitution in the amount of \$33,861.26 for his role in an Emeryville, California-based sex trafficking ring.

<http://www.imperialvalleynews.com/index.php/news/california-news/4289-attorney-general-kamala-d-harris-announces-10-year-sentence-for-defendant-in-emeryville-sex-trafficking-case.html>

County officials, state lawmakers launch anti-sex trafficking push

(L.A. Times, April 11th, 2014)

Elected officials in Los Angeles County and the California Legislature are launching a new push to crack down on pimps who sell underage girls and boys for sex and the customers who purchase their services. County officials announced Friday that signs would go up around the region over the next few months -- on public buses and trains and at rail stations and bus stops, as well as on 20 billboards - bearing messages like, "Teens sold for sex aren't prostitutes. They're rape victims."

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-county-sex-trafficking-20140411,0,3939170.story#ixzz2yc3zkLiE>

State Grade

D

*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 California.

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. California meets 9 parts 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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HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles Area Gang Member Who Trafficked Teens as Prostitutes Sentenced to 30 Years in Federal Prison (Federal Bureau of Investigation, March 31st, 2014)

A Lynwood gang member who pleaded guilty to federal sex trafficking charges—admitting that he used force, fraud, and coercion to cause teenage girls to work as prostitutes across Southern California—was sentenced this morning to 360 months in federal prison. Paul Edward Bell, 30, a member of the Rolling 60s Crips street gang, was sentenced by United States District Judge Virginia A. Phillips. Bell “not only used his fists, a cane, a shoe, and other objects against the females, he also pepper sprayed one of the victims in her face,” prosecutors wrote in a sentencing brief filed with the court. “He also threatened the victims with physical abuse, put a gun to the head of one of the victims, and locked at least two of the victims in his apartment. <http://www.fbi.gov/losangeles/press-releases/2014/los-angeles-area-gang-member-who-trafficked-teens-as-prostitutes-sentenced-to-30-years-in-federal-prison>

Attorney General Kamala D. Harris Announces Sentencing in Transnational Human Trafficking Ring (California Department of Justice, May 24, 2013)

Attorney General Kamala D. Harris today announced the sentencing of three defendants in a human trafficking ring in which women from Mexico were used as prostitutes in five Northern California cities. The charges stemmed from an extensive FBI investigation into a human trafficking network that spanned several northern California counties. Young women, ages 21 to 30, were trafficked from Mexico and sold for sex to as many as 20 clients in a single day. The sex acts occurred in brothels identified in Chico, Stockton, Yuba City, Fairfield and Sacramento.

<http://oag.ca.gov/news/press-releases/attorney-general-kamala-d-harris-announces-sentencing-transnational-human>

Fresno-area man indicted on child sex trafficking and child pornography charges (ICE News Release, May 16, 2013)

Charles Ray Benavidez, 32, of Lemoore, was charged in a two-count indictment handed down Thursday. The case is the product of an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI); the Naval Criminal Investigative Service; and the Porterville, Lemoore, and Tulare police departments. Brian W. Enos, an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of California, is prosecuting the case. According to the indictment, in April Benavidez knowingly recruited a minor to engage in one or more commercial sex acts, and knowingly used a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing child pornography.

<http://www.ice.gov/news/releases/1305/130516fresno.htm>

Human Trafficking remains a problem in California (*Spartan Daily*, May 8, 2013)

While it may be a national problem, San Francisco is one of the major hubs for human trafficking due to its geographic location, population and commerce, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's effort to Combat Crimes Against Children report in 2009.

Currently, California’s anti-trafficking task force has initiated 2,552 investigations, discovered 1,277 victims and arrested 1,798 individuals.

<http://spartandaily.com/105270/human-trafficking-remains-a-problem-in-california>

Rep. Juan Vargas Announces “The Child Protection Act of 2013” – Hazel’s Law (Press Release from vargas.house.gov, April 22, 2013)

“It is absolutely intolerable that, because of current law, child sex traffickers can receive a lesser sentence simply by claiming they were not aware their victim was a minor,” said Rep. Vargas. “*Hazel’s Law* would ensure that child sex traffickers receive the punishment they deserve regardless of whether or not they knew their victim’s age.” “The Child Protection Act of 2013”- *Hazel’s Law*, is scheduled to be introduced to Congress on Tuesday, April 23, 2013. The bill is critical for the successful and timely prosecution of child sex trafficking cases. The bill would stop pitting children, like Hazel, against their traffickers, by no longer having to testify or work with authorities to gather evidence the trafficker knew their age.

<http://vargas.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/rep-juan-vargas-introduces-the-child-protection-act-of-2013-hazel-s-law>

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