



North Carolina Human Trafficking Statistics

NORTH CAROLINA HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACTS AND RESOURCES

- ❖ North Carolina lacks several important victim protections and law enforcement tools, such as mandated training on domestic minor sex trafficking and adequate protection and after care for minor victims.
- ❖ In the past three years, North Carolina has seen a 260 percent increase in the number of human trafficking victims, according to the North Carolina Coalition Against Human Trafficking. More than half are adult victims, with 38 percent forced into prostitution and an equal number forced into labor, according to statistics from agencies across the state.
- ❖ North Carolina ranks as the 8th most likely state in the United States where human trafficking takes place.
- ❖ The FBI estimates approximately 23 percent of those trafficked in the United States arrive in the Southeast.
- ❖ In 2015, NC reported 110 human trafficking cases; 463 calls were made to the NHTRC Hotline.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM NORTH CAROLINA

Proclamation calls attention to human trafficking in NC (Sun Journal, January 25, 2016) - North Carolina is one of the top 10 states for trafficking cases reported, and New Bern Mayor Dana Outlaw made sure the city remembers it by presenting a proclamation at noon Monday declaring the week of Jan. 25-31 as Human Trafficking Awareness Week. In a brief ceremony on the steps of City Hall, Outlaw spoke briefly on trafficking before introducing Sarah Tellis, CEO of True Justice International. Tellis pointed out that trafficking is a \$32 billion industry worldwide, enslaving more than 36 million people.

<http://www.newbernsj.com/article/20160125/NEWS/160129335>

NC among leaders in human trafficking (The Charlotte Post, January 4, 2016) - RALEIGH – Human rights organizations are increasingly concerned about what's happening behind closed doors in homes and businesses across North Carolina. The state ranks in the top 15 across the country with the most number of calls to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline. With January being Human Trafficking Prevention Month, Jenna Novak and other people who work with victims of the practice want everyone to know the warning signs.

"Human trafficking is a form of modern day slavery where an individual is compelled to engage either in commercial sex or some kind of labor through the means of forced fraud or coercion," she explains.

<http://www.thecharlottepost.com/news/2016/01/04/local/nc-among-leaders-in-human-trafficking/>

Loretta Lynch is passionate about stopping human trafficking in NC. (encstophumantrafficking.org Newsletter, July 8, 2015)

"Human traffickers prey on some of the most vulnerable members of our society to exploit them for labor, for sex and for servitude of all kinds...One of my top priorities as Attorney General is to bring human traffickers to justice, assist trafficking survivors and secure the rights and dignity of anyone unable to do so for themselves. ... By bringing together state and local leaders, law enforcement officials and legal and social services organizations, this coalition has made its members more effective in performing a variety of important activities – from raising awareness about trafficking to identifying and assisting victims, to obtaining convictions against those who did them harm" – Loretta E. Lynch.

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.

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 passed significant laws to combat human trafficking and should take more steps to improve and implement its laws. North Carolina meets 8 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 NORTH CAROLINA

I-Team: North Carolina attractive to sex traffickers (11ABC, July 23, 2015)

Kiricka Yarbough-Smith of the North Carolina Coalition Against Human Trafficking spoke to the I-Team about why North Carolina is so appealing to traffickers. "We have all the major highways going through North Carolina, I-40, 85, 95 all come through North Carolina," she pointed out. Arrests throughout the Triangle and Sandhills are increasing as law enforcement becomes more aware of how to identify human trafficking.

<http://abc11.com/news/i-team-north-carolina-attractive-to-sex-traffickers-/874444/>

3 arrested on human trafficking charges in Charlotte (WCNC May 29, 2014) Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police have arrested three people on human trafficking charges. They ended up arresting 42-year-old Jonathan Williams from Memphis, 20-year-old Melissa Barnes and 27-year-old Neela Arjoonsingh, both from Houston. Police say the trio forced a 20-something year old woman to travel around the country with them against her will. "It's modern day slavery, that's what it is," said Dr. Joseph Kuhns, a professor of criminal justice at UNCC. "I think it's directly comparable. The difference is you're having people work in the sex industry versus having them work in the fields or other kinds of manual labor, so human trafficking as a general rule is about slavery," he said.

<http://www.wcnc.com/news/crime/Three-arrested-on-human-trafficking-charges-in-Charlotte-261177691.html>

Zebulon man faces new charge in human trafficking case (WRAL, June 11, 2014) A man accused of holding a woman from Germany captive in a Zebulon warehouse faces a new charge in the case. He was arrested Monday on two counts of assault by strangulation and one count of sexual servitude of an adult victim after the 34-year-old woman's estranged husband contacted police about an email he received in which she asked for money and hinted that she was in trouble. Whiteside and the woman met on a dating website and that she traveled from Germany to meet him. <http://www.wral.com/zebulon-man-faces-new-charge-in-human-trafficking-case/13720609/>

Senate passes "Safe Harbor" bill, moves over to House (WECT, May 14, 2013)

By a vote of 48-0, with one "no vote", Senate Bill 683 passed second and third readings Monday and was sent to the state House. The bill, called the "Safe Harbor/Victims of Human Trafficking" bill, is sponsored by Sen. Thom Goolsby (R-New Hanover), Sen. Tamara Barringer (R-Wake) and Sen. Eleanor Kinniard (D-Orange). The bill is designed to create a "safe harbor" for victims of human trafficking and minors sold into lives of prostitution. It toughens penalties for those charged with the offense (Class "E" Felony), and provides opportunities for sex trafficking victims to petition to have their convictions overturned and their records expunged, provided they meet several criteria.

<http://www.wect.com/story/21860301/safe-harbor-bill-gets-tough-on-sex-traffickers-better-protects-victims>

A NC Human Trafficking Victim Shares Story, Local Organization Helps Victims (WFMY News, May 7, 2013) Jane was a victim of sex trafficking in Guilford County. As a teenager, she fell under the lure of an older man and she moved in with him. Jane was 16-years-old and the man she considered her boyfriend was 40-years-old. Jane's trafficker took sexual pictures of her and without her knowing, mass produced the pictures and sold them. "They became more sexual over time. During that time, I was forced to do things with animals. I was drugged. I would wake up. I didn't know where I was. He would keep a tally on the calendar of how many times we quote-unquote made love but it really was how many times I was being raped," said Jane.

<http://www.digtriad.com/crime/article/283761/386/Human-Trafficking-Victim-Speaks-Out>

How Sweet It Is: From Sex Trafficking Victim to Success Story (*Ebony Magazine*, March 25, 2013)

"I always carry this habit of having to help everybody," she says. "I had seen my mother struggle and I didn't want that for her. I wanted to do everything in my power to help." Childs got an after-school job and it was here that she met a "friend," a 38-year-old man who would come by every day to spend time with her. The work visits eventually turned into car rides home, which was a welcomed help because there was no nearby public transportation. "He would give me \$100 bills at a time. As a teenager...a hundred dollars is a lot of money. So he would give that to me and I would take it home." Childs believed that she was doing something good, being able to help her mom with the additional money. However, the reality was something much darker. The man was pulling her into a web of dependency, making her feel that she *had* to do things for him because he was helping her.

<http://www.ebony.com/life/from-sex-trafficking-victim-to-success-story-000#axzz2ObeJ2Ecc>