



Massachusetts Human Trafficking Statistics

MASSACHUSETTS HUMAN TRAFFICKING FACTS AND RESOURCES

- ❖ Lina Nealon, director of the Demand Abolition program, notes that men of all ages, ethnicities, income brackets, and education levels purchase sex.
- ❖ Massachusetts is among the four most improved states from 2011-2012 missing only a few of the laws that Polaris Project tracks.
- ❖ Massachusetts is lacking in laws that are in place to prosecute traffickers or pimps.
- ❖ In 2015: the state reported 62 human trafficking cases; 258 calls were made to the NHTRC Hotline

HUMAN TRAFFICKING NEWS FROM MASSACHUSETTS

New Mass. law making progress against sex trafficking (The Patriot Ledger, January 8, 2016) - "What we've seen since the passing of the legislation, really since 2002, is a sea change in understanding that girls involved in the commercial sex industry are in fact victims," said Lisa Goldblatt Grace, the co-founder and director of My Life My Choice, a Boston-based organization that helps child survivors of sexual exploitation. Advocates say more women and children are now seeking help as the stigma they face softens. Grace, the director of My Life My Choice, said the number of referrals she receives has "gone through the roof" just in the years since the state's anti-trafficking bill was adopted, jumping from 26 girls in 2012 to 140 girls, two boys and one transgender child last year.

<http://www.patriotledger.com/article/20160108/news/160107009>

Feds bust alleged human trafficking ring - 'Sinful Innocence' - run by Springfield husband and wife (Mass Live, December 17, 2015) - Milford and Tiana Lewis on Thursday were charged with human trafficking, transportation for prostitution, inducement of prostitution and other crimes. A criminal complaint filed in connection with the arrests states the couple recruited women through ads on Craigslist and Backpage. The Lewises identified themselves as the "CEO's" of "Sinful Innocence," according to a federal complaint drafted by Homeland Security Agent Timothy W. Irving. Arrests were made in the parking lot of the 5th Alarm strip club on Worthington Street on Thursday.

http://www.masslive.com/news/index.ssf/2015/12/feds_bust_alleged_human_trafficking_ring_springfield.html

Two people from Lewiston-Auburn plead guilty to prostituting 13-year-old runaway (Portland Press Herald, July 29, 2015) - Shawna Calhoun, 24, and Alvin Houston Jr., 27, pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court. Each faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine if convicted of interstate transportation of an individual with the intent to engage the person in prostitution. Officials said Calhoun and Houston drove the girl to various Boston hotels to engage in prostitution, through ads in the free online classifieds backpage.com, and officials set up a sting in a Bangor hotel. On New Year's Eve, the two drove the girl to the Bangor hotel for what they thought was a meeting with a client. They were arrested in the parking lot.

<http://www.pressherald.com/2015/07/29/two-people-from-lewiston-auburn-plead-guilty-to-prostituting-13-year-old-runaway/>

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 Massachusetts.

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. Massachusetts meets 10 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 MASSACHUSETTS

29 Face charges after police disrupt sex party at Auburn hotel (Telegram, July 16, 2015) – Two Hubbardston residents were arrested and 27 others will be summoned to court after police broke up a sex party. Jon Lowell, 45 and Courtney Nicholopoulos, 39 were charged with deriving income from prostitution. They are facing possible additional charges of human trafficking. When they got to the Holiday Inn, there were five women and 22 men in the suite. The chief said police believe the women were told they would be paid \$5,000 to \$9,000 each to have sex with the men. He said authorities have learned that in other events, the women weren't paid any money, prompting them to further investigate whether human trafficking charges are warranted.

<http://www.telegram.com/article/20150716/NEWS/150719242>

Man pleads guilty to human trafficking, child porn charges (WAPT News, June 21, 2013) - Jeremy Hodges, a Jackson native, pleaded guilty Thursday to human trafficking and the production of child pornography, according to a news release from the U.S. Department of Justice. The investigation began after a Cambridge, Mass., man told police Hodges showed him child pornography on his cellphone. The Cambridge Police Department contacted the Department of Homeland Security, which launched an investigation that resulted in the identification of the child in the videos, federal officials said.

<http://www.wapt.com/news/central-mississippi/jackson/man-pleads-guilty-to-human-trafficking-child-porn-charges/-/9156912/20666328/-/i274iaz/-/index.html>

Shuttered in Salem, a look at how the alleged sex spa moved to Lawrence (Eagle-Tribune, June 16, 2013)

In June 2011, when Lori Barron pleaded guilty to prostitution-related charges in Salem, N.H., she was barred from opening another massage parlor in Salem, N.H. for 10 years. But less than two years later, Barron had moved her alleged brothel 7 miles away over the Massachusetts line to Lawrence. Barron, 50, is now facing seven felony counts, including human trafficking, a law which went into effect in February 2012.

<http://www.eagletribune.com/latestnews/x2113330732/Shuttered-in-Salem-a-look-at-how-the-alleged-sex-spa-moved-to-Lawrence>

2 arrested in connection with extensive criminal enterprise involving human trafficking Operation spanned multiple Massachusetts communities including Bedford, Billerica, Medford, Reading, Wilmington and Woburn (ICE News Release, May 14, 2013)

Xiu J. Chen, 32, of Medford, and Ronald Keplin, 57, of Woburn, were arrested May 13 without incident by HSI special agents and the Massachusetts State Police, with assistance from various local police departments. The investigation focused on allegations of human trafficking and prostitution in multiple Massachusetts communities. Law enforcement executed search warrants at six businesses May 13.

<http://www.ice.gov/news/releases/1305/130514wilmington.htm>

Malden Man Charged for Alleged Sex Trafficking of a Minor (Malden Patch, April 10, 2013)

David Minasian, 24, of Malden and Madonna Say, 23, of Lynn, were charged with alleged sex trafficking of a child and sex trafficking by force, fraud and coercion. According to a press release from the US Attorney's office, investigators found Minasian had transported a 15-year-old girl to Florida and "caused her to engage in prostitution."

<http://malden.patch.com/articles/malden-man-charged-for-alleged-sex-trafficking-of-a-minor>

Human Trafficking: Hiding in Plain Sight (WGBH News, January 8, 2013)

On a warm October night, the small, affluent town of Wellesley has better things to think about than human trafficking: the farmer's market, a support group at the congregational church, or a Wellesley Historical Society lecture on the War of 1812. But on this night, Wellesley went from a town renowned for its colleges and highly educated residents to a place where cops busted an alleged prostitution ring that operated out of a massage parlor. "We were wicked surprised," said one resident. "You wouldn't think you'd see that in Wellesley. And right there under our noses."

<http://www.wgbhnews.org/post/human-trafficking-hiding-plain-sight>