



NORTH CAROLINA HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION

The North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission (HTC), housed in and staffed by the North Carolina Judicial Branch, is the legislatively mandated leader of anti-human trafficking efforts in North Carolina per S.L. 2013-368. The Commission is charged with:

- Examining and combating human trafficking
- Funding and facilitating research
- Creating measurement, assessment, and accountability measures
- Suggesting new policies, procedures, and legislation
- Informing and educating law enforcement personnel, social services providers, and the general public
- Developing regional response teams
- Identifying gaps in law enforcement or service provision and recommending solutions

Human trafficking is a public safety, personal liberty, and public health issue which denies the human dignity and freedom of victims regardless of race, religion, gender, age, citizenship, or socio-economic status. It is a crime of exploitation in which the trafficker takes advantage of another person for their own gain. Human trafficking is a global issue, with an estimated 24.9 million victims worldwide. The North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission leads multi-disciplinary efforts across the state to address both sex and labor trafficking.



- Minors involved in any commercial sexual activity;
- Adults induced into commercial sexual activity through force, fraud, or coercion; and
- Children and adults induced to perform labor or services through force, fraud, or coercion

... ARE VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

HTC.NCCOURTS.GOV

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina consistently ranks within the top 10 states for human trafficking.

From July 2020 to June 2021, a total of 368 human trafficking victims were served by state-funded sexual assault agencies. (NC DOA)

In 2020 North Carolina convicted 100% of the federal sex trafficking defendants. "100% (3 out of 3) defendants were sentenced to a term of imprisonment." (Human Trafficking Institute)

In the past five years, human trafficking, involuntary servitude, and sexual servitude charges trended upward, except for 2020, during the pandemic closures.

In 2022 the state Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force received a total of 18, 873 Cybertips from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children -a 48% increase from the year 2021. This is a 383% increase since 2019.

Analyzing 3 years of data exploring the impact of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children within Mecklenburg County found that 64% of identified minors since 2020 were 15 years old or younger. Ongoing research will enhance prevention programs, inform intervention, and influence legislation. (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Human Trafficking Task Force)

THE COMMISSION'S RECENT KEY SUCCESSSES

- 2022 Update to the Standards for Direct Service Providers.
- 2021 Interdiction for the Protection of Children (IPC) training to help officers identify missing, exploited, or at-risk children.
- Secured recurring, basic operating funds for the commission.
- Received five separate blocks of funding to issue grants to direct service providers in domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking organizations.
- Launched Public Awareness Campaigns.
- Publication of 8 Podcasts and Videos to be used for awareness and training.
- Conducted statewide conferences and various other training.
- Partnered to publish a Restitution Guide for courts.
- Partnered to publish a Mandatory Reporting Toolkit.

General Assembly Related Legislation:

- 2021 Passage of Senate Bill 35, which amends the lawful age of marriage to sixteen years of age or older and provides a maximum four-year age difference for a minor to marry.
- 2021 establishment of eight positions for anti-human trafficking agents at the State Bureau of Investigation
- Since 2018, G.S. 7B-101 mandates the Department of Social Services to investigate reports of human trafficking of minors regardless of whether the perpetrator is a parent or caregiver.
- Civil Cause of Action for Victims; Expansion of Expunction for Victims; and Creates Sex Tourism Law, S.L. 2019 -158
- Restorative Justice Act, S.L. 2018 -75
- Mandatory posting of Human Trafficking Awareness Posters, S.L. 2017 -57
- Since 2016, human trafficking prevention and awareness is required to be taught in every public middle school in North Carolina, G.S. 115C-81 (e1) (4a).

HELP US RAISE AWARENESS!

CONTACT THE NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE AT 1-888-373-7888
TO ASK QUESTIONS, REPORT AN INCIDENT, OR FIND HELP FOR A POTENTIAL VICTIM.



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For more information, contact Lauren Amato, Administrative Secretary,
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Please visit our Resource Directory
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