

The Minnesota Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force (MN-HTTF) was established by state legislation (MN Statute §299A.79) in 2006. During this time, the Task Force successfully brought together stakeholders from across the state to address human trafficking. The Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force has been instrumental in enacting strong legislation over the past few years to give law enforcement and prosecutors clearer guidance and stronger tools for addressing the problem of human trafficking. *(For further information see the Human Trafficking in Minnesota [2006-2010] reports on the Department of Public Safety’s website: <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ojp/statistical-analysis-center/Pages/human-trafficking-reports.aspx>)*

The 2006 legislation establishing the Task Force sunset in 2011. At that time, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Sexual Violence Prevention Program assumed responsibility for coordinating and convening the Task Force. A steering committee consisting of 12 Task Force members was established to provide strategic leadership and planning of the Task Force’s quarterly meetings. Task Force membership has expanded from 60 to over 300, statewide.

The purpose of the Minnesota Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force is to end human trafficking and other forms of sexual exploitation in Minnesota through a coordinated, multidisciplinary, statewide response. The MN-HTTF is comprised of governmental and non-governmental agencies, is an important resource for those working on human trafficking issues, and is an integral component to the No Wrong Door Model (<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ojp/statistical-analysis-center/Pages/human-trafficking-reports.aspx>) which is a model for serving sexually exploited youth. For more information, including information on quarterly meetings, contact: Amy Kenzie, MN Statewide Human Trafficking Task Force Coordinator, MN Department of Health, amy.kenzie@state.mn.us, 651-201-5410, or Marissa Raguette, Marissa.raguette@state.mn.us, 651-201-5424.

MN-HTTF Committees

<p>Fact Finding Committee This Committee is summarizing the best available evidence related to the occurrence of trafficking and its causes; reviewing information about best practices for prevention, services for survivors, and criminal justice system response to victims and perpetrators; and determining how MN can better coordinate its trafficking data.</p> <p>For more information and meeting dates, contact co-chairs: Beth Holger-Ambrose beth.holger-ambrose@state.mn.us Lauren Ryan lryan@iimn.org</p>	<p>Labor Committee This Committee exists to ensure focus on labor trafficking as a distinct yet intertwined issue with sex trafficking. The Team is summarizing the best available information and evidence regarding the occurrence of labor trafficking in Minnesota and identifying organizations and individuals who do work around the issue of labor trafficking.</p> <p>For more information and meeting dates, contact co-chairs: Hemlal Kafle hemlal.kafle@cctwincities.org Lauren Ryan lryan@iimn.org</p>
<p>Communications Committee This Committee is working to translate research into talking points to be used for presentations and education about the issue of trafficking. The Team is also working to create a HTTF website which will serve as an internet-based medium for conveying information about trafficking to various sectors.</p> <p>For more information and meeting dates, contact co-chairs: Heather Caillier hcaillier@breakingfree.net Mary O’Brien mobrien@advrights.org</p>	<p>Legislative and Policy Committee This Committee furthers the work of the original 2006 legislatively-mandated MN Human Trafficking Task Force- developing a public policy response to trafficking. This includes vetting and suggesting policies that address trafficking.</p> <p>For more information and meeting dates, contact co-chairs: Noelle Volin nvolin@breakingfree.net vacant</p>
<p>Health Care/Public Health Committee This new committee is designing a hospital/clinic protocol to be used as a model program across the state.</p> <p>For more information and meeting dates, contact co-chairs: Pam Dewitt-Meza Pamela.Dewitt-Meza@hcmcd.org Jen Harvey jen.harvey@state.mn.us</p>	<p>Prevention Committee This Committee is reviewing the best available evidence on the root causes of trafficking as well as the results of evaluated prevention initiatives, in order to determine a comprehensive trafficking prevention agenda.</p> <p>For more information and meeting dates, contact co-chairs: Amy Kenzie amy.kenzie@state.mn.us Rebecca Thoman rthoman123@aol.com</p>

Statistics about Sex Trafficking in Minnesota and the United States

Victims/Survivors

- The exact number of Minneapolis women and children who have been sexually exploited is not known, but in 2003 the FBI identified Minneapolis as one of 13 cities with a large concentration of child prostitution enterprises.¹
- A North Minneapolis study of primarily African Americans who had traded sex in the past 5 years found that 50% had first traded sex as a minor at an average age of 13.²
- Minnesota studies have found that 14-20% of homeless youth have engaged in survival sex (providing sex in exchange for food, shelter, money, etc.), i.e. have been sexually exploited.^{3 4}
- One study that included Minneapolis youth found that 44% of homeless lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth had been approached with money, shelter, food, drugs etc., in exchange for sex (i.e. survival sex). 19% of the LGB youth surveyed had engaged in survival sex, i.e. were sexually exploited.⁵
- Evidence from various studies provides evidence that Native American women experience greater risk factors for being trafficked than other racial and ethnic groups.⁶
- In Hennepin County in 2006, Native American women were only 2.2% of the population yet 24% of people on probation for prostitution were Native women.⁷
- Various studies provide evidence that strip clubs and bars in rural MN are places where many rural Native women and girls are recruited into stripping, prostitution, and other forms of trafficking.⁸
- In a Minnesota study of Native women and girls in prostitution, 92% reported wanting to escape prostitution.⁹
- One study found that 50% of females in prostitution who were interviewed reported being physically assaulted by purchasers, with 23% experiencing broken bones, and 2% being beaten into a coma.¹⁰
- An early intervention to avoid sex trafficking of Minnesota's female youth passed a benefit-cost test with a return on investment of \$34 in benefit for every \$1 of expenditure on prevention and intervention by the state government.¹¹

Perpetrators

- A 1992 national survey of U.S. men found that 16% had sexually exploited someone through paying prostituted individuals for services.¹² (note: did not ask about other forms of sexual exploitation)
- One U.S. study found that 59% of men who had paid prostituted individuals for services described themselves as married and/or having a steady intimate partner.¹³
- Of prostitution-related arrests in District 14 of Chicago during 2002, 89% of the arrests were of the prostituted individuals, while only 10% were of the commercial sexual exploiters (i.e. the "John's") and less than 1% were of pimps.¹⁴

¹ FBI. Report no longer available online.

² Martin, L., M. Hearst and R. Windome. (2010). Meaningful Differences: Comparison of Adult Women Who First Traded Sex as a Juvenile versus as an Adult. *Violence Against Women*, 16(11) 1252-1269.

³ Overview of Youth and Young Adult Homelessness in Minnesota. Facts and Analysis of Data from the 2006 Statewide Study. Wilder Research. June 2008.

⁴ Halcon, L. & Lifson, A. (2004). Prevalence and predictors of sexual risk among homeless youth. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 33(1), 71-80.

⁵ Van Leeuwen, J., Boyle, S., Salomonsen-Sautel, S., Baker, D., Garcia, JT., Hoffman, A., & Hopfer, C. (2006). Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Homeless Youth: An Eight City Public Health Perspective. *Child Welfare*, 85, no. 2: 151-170

⁶ Pierce, A. & Koeplinger, S. (2011). New Language, Old Problem: Sex Trafficking of American Indian Women and Children. *National Online Resource Center on Violence Against Women (VAWnet.org)*

⁷ Marti, L. and Rud, J., (October 2007). Prostitution research report: Data sharing to establish best practices for women in prostitution. Minneapolis: Prostitution Project, Hennepin County Corrections and the Folwell Center.

⁸ Pierce, Sandi. (2009). Shattered Hearts: Commercial Sexual Exploitation of American Indian Women and Girls in Minnesota. *MN Indian Women's Resource Center*

⁹ Farley, M., Matthews, N., Deer, S., Lopez, G., Stark, C., & Hudon, E. (2011). Garden of Truth: The Prostitution and Trafficking of Native Women in Minnesota. *MN Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition*.

¹⁰ Parriott R, (1994). Health experiences of Twin Cities women used in prostitution. Unpublished survey initiated by WHISPER, Minneapolis MN, cited in Farley et al., 2003, Prostitution and trafficking in nine countries: An update on violence and posttraumatic stress disorder, in *Prostitution, trafficking and traumatic stress*. Binghamton NY: Haworth Maltreatment & Treatment Press.

¹¹ Martin, L., Lotspeich, R., & Stark, L. (2012). Early Intervention to Avoid Sex Trading and Trafficking of MN's Female Youth: A Benefit-Cost Analysis.

¹² Monto, M. (1999). Focusing on the Clients of Street Prostitutes: A Creative Approach to Reducing Violence Against Women- Summary Report.

¹³ Sawyer, S., Metz, M., Hinds, J., & Brucker, A. Attitudes Towards Prostitution Among Males: A 'Consumers' Report. *Current Psychology: Developmental, Learning, Personality, Social*, Winter 2001-02, Vol. 20, No. 4, pp 363-376.

Principle Positions

Human Trafficking

1. Human Trafficking is a public safety, public health, and human rights issue that occurs around the world and in communities throughout Minnesota. Human Trafficking includes both labor and sex trafficking, and international and domestic victims. The Minnesota Human Trafficking Task Force (MN HTTF) is working to address and prevent human trafficking in Minnesota through a coordinated, multidisciplinary, statewide response.
2. While intervention and services for victims of human trafficking are a priority, it is equally critical that strategies to prevent the harm in the first place be incorporated in our work. Prevention is an investment in ending sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking. Prevention addresses the root causes of human trafficking and the environmental factors and conditions and societal norms that support and contribute to the perpetration and victimization inherent in human trafficking. Primary prevention promotes safe, healthy environments and behaviors and will significantly reduce/prevent the occurrence of abuse and exploitation.

Labor Trafficking

1. The MN HTTF recognizes the MN legal definition of labor trafficking and has identified additional considerations. It is important to have a firm understanding of the definition of labor trafficking at all levels of response to labor trafficking in Minnesota.

<p>a. Legal definition: Minnesota law currently includes a statutory legal definition of labor trafficking in MN Stat. 609.281 which is distinct from federal law. To ensure clarity in the discussion and movement to end labor trafficking in Minnesota, we have found it critically important to have a full understanding of how labor trafficking is defined in Minnesota, specifically the ability to clearly and correctly identify what constitutes labor trafficking and similarities and differences in relation to federal and international law.</p>

<p>i. In Minnesota, an individual can be charged with labor trafficking if they recruit, transport, harbor, entice, provision, obtain or receive a person for the purpose of debt bondage, forced labor, slavery or removal of organs. As the law is written, individuals can be trafficked ‘by any means’ further acknowledging that consent or age are not factors in determining whether an individual was trafficked.</p>

<p>ii. Unlike the federal definition of labor trafficking, the elements of force, fraud, or coercion are not included in the Minnesota definition and are not required elements for prosecution of labor trafficking cases at the state level.</p>
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<p>b. Additional Considerations: The MN HTTF recognizes that other forms of labor exploitation may not fall under the definition of labor trafficking under MN law but are still violations of human rights. Such forms of labor exploitation include but are not limited to: low wages, manipulation of Minnesota labor laws by employers to restrict employee benefits, requirement of long working hours, poor and dangerous working conditions without proper safety equipment or precautions, and withholding of wages for equipment or tools.</p>
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2. Labor trafficking is a human rights violation and victims have the right to protection *regardless* of their immigration status.
3. Labor trafficking victims include minors and adults: men and women, and transgender individuals.
4. Labor Trafficking can occur in formal sector such as schools and factories or in informal sectors such as in-home services; cleaning and caretaking called domestic servitude. United States citizens, legal permanent residents, temporary workers and undocumented migrants can be victims of labor trafficking.
5. Traffickers use a variety of means and tactics to control their victims, including physical and emotional assaults. Many of these tactics cannot visually be seen on a person such as a bruise or broken bone, rather coercive methods such as threats of harm, shaming, threats of deportation, degradation, economic abuse, and intimidation are effective, well-hidden and common tactics used in labor trafficking by employers.
6. To effectively reduce labor trafficking in Minnesota, employers must acknowledge the rights of their employees, workers must learn what their rights are, and employers must be held accountable for violations of state and federal labor laws.

¹⁴ Hughes, D. (2005). Fact sheet: Domestic sex trafficking and prostitution in the U.S.

Sex Trafficking

1. The MN HTTF recognizes the MN legal definition of sex trafficking and has identified additional considerations. It is important to have a firm understanding of the definitions of sex trafficking at all levels of response to sex trafficking in Minnesota

a. **Legal Definition:** Minnesota law currently includes a statutory legal definition of sex trafficking (Minn. Stat. § 609.321, subd. 7a) that is distinct from the federal law. To ensure clarity in the discussion and movement to end sexual trafficking in Minnesota, we have found that it is critically important to have a full understating of how sex trafficking is defined in Minnesota, specifically the ability to clearly and correctly identify what constitutes sex trafficking and similarities and differences in relation to federal and international law.

i. In Minnesota, sex trafficking is defined as the “receiving, recruiting, enticing, harboring, providing, or obtaining by any means an individual to aid in the prostitution of the individual; or by receiving profit or anything of value, knowing or having reason to know it is derived from [the sex trafficking of an individual].” (See: Minn. Stat. § 609.321, subd. 7a.)

ii. As the law is written, individuals can be trafficked ‘by any means’ further acknowledging that consent is not an issue in determining whether an individual was trafficked.

iii. Unlike the federal definition, the elements of force, fraud, and coercion are not included in the Minnesota definition and are not required elements for prosecution of sex trafficking cases at the state level for any age of victim. These elements are not required for prosecution of sex trafficking cases at the state level.

b. **Additional Considerations:** The MN HTTF also recognizes that other forms of prostitution and types of sexual exploitation may not fall under the definition of sex trafficking under the Minnesota law but may still be violations of human rights. Such forms of commercial sexual exploitation include but are not limited to: exotic dancing/stripping, escort services, prostitution, pornography, phone sex, survival sex, “sex work”, and any other form of trading sex.

2. Sex trafficking victims include children and adults.

3. Sex trafficking is a human rights violation and victims have the right to protection *regardless* of their immigration status.

4. While most victims are girls and women, anyone can be trafficked, including boys, men, and transgender individuals.

5. The MN HTTF recognizes the controversial issue of “choice” and the debate over the legalization of prostitution as a general misnomer adopted by much of society to further decriminalize individuals who purchase sex and dehumanize the people who are victimized by sex trafficking by viewing it as a “victimless crime”. Research informs us that the majority of women and children victimized by commercial sex are often victimized due to a lack of choices in their lives.

6. The members and member organizations of the MN HTTF operate under the belief that the way to combat trafficking is to hold traffickers and buyers accountable, as opposed to the legalization of prostitution. Prostitution/sex trafficking is modern day slavery. It is a human rights violation that causes great harm to its victims and is based on discrimination and subjugation of vulnerable individuals, primarily women and girls.

7. The MN HTTF believes that the best way to combat sex trafficking in Minnesota is to focus on traffickers and demand, as outlined above, as well as changing the conditions and environment that supports the sexual exploitation of others.

8. Sex trafficking and prostitution exist because of the demand. Demand is comprised of both a) men who buy women and girls for sex, and b) a culture that tolerates or promotes sexual exploitation. To effectively address sex trafficking in Minnesota, we must consider tougher penalties for pimps, traffickers, and the perpetrators who are driving the demand for commercial sex. We must also study the effect that commercial sex has on communities and the local economy to determine which businesses are profiting from it, including the marketing vehicles used by pimps and traffickers (e.g., backpage.com and other print and online marketing resources). The existence of businesses that profit from exploitation and the pornification of women and girls in the media and music, as well as sexism and racism all work together to create the demand for commercial sex. Communities, by way of tolerating this activity, actually contribute to continued exploitation.

MN Human Trafficking Task Force

Select Resources

State Agencies:

Minnesota Department of Health

Sexual Violence Prevention Program

- MN Human Trafficking Task Force:
<http://www.health.state.mn.us/injury/topic/svp/implement/tas/force/> (contact amy.kenzie@state.mn.us)
- MN Sex Trafficking Prevention Network listserv (MN-STPN) (contact amy.kenzie@state.mn.us)
- Sexual Violence Prevention Network
<http://www.health.state.mn.us/injury/topic/svp/implement/network/index.cfm> (contact amy.kenzie@state.mn.us)

Minnesota Department of Health

Safe Harbor/No Wrong Door

- Safe Harbor/No Wrong Door Director, Lauren Ryan
lauren.ryan@state.mn.us 651-201-5412

Minnesota Department of Public Safety

- No Wrong Door Model
[https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ojp/forms-documents/Documents/!2012%20Safe%20Harbor%20Report%20\(FINAL\).pdf](https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ojp/forms-documents/Documents/!2012%20Safe%20Harbor%20Report%20(FINAL).pdf)
- Human Trafficking Reports to the Legislature
<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ojp/statistical-analysis-center/Pages/human-trafficking-reports.aspx>

Minnesota Department of Human Services

http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/idcplg?IdcService=GET_DYNAMIC_CONVERSION&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased&dDocName=id_002691

State Coalitions:

Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MNCASA)

<http://www.mncasa.org/>

- Demand the Change for Children
<http://demandthechange.wordpress.com/demand-the-change-for-children/>

Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women (MCBW)

www.mcbw.org

Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless

www.mnhomelesscoalition.org

Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition (MIWSAC)

www.miwsac.org

Local Resources:

Breaking Free

<http://www.breakingfree.net/>

contact Vednita Carter, vcarter@breakingfree.net, Noelle Volin, nvolin@breakingfree.net 612-644-7043)

PRIDE Program

The Family Partnership, www.thefamilypartnership.org

contact Artika Roller, aroller@thefamilypartnership.org

MN Indian Women's Resource Center

www.miwrc.org

Cordelia Anderson, Sensibilities, Inc.

<http://www.cordeliaanderson.com/> (contact Cordelia Anderson, Cordelia@visi.com 612-824-6217)

Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse (MNCVA)

<https://www.mincava.umn.edu/>

Minnesota Men's Action Network (MN-MAN)

- Clean Hotels Initiative
<http://www.menaspeacemakers.org/programs/mnman/hotels>

The Advocates for Human Rights

<http://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org>

- Human Sex Trafficking in Minnesota:
http://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/Human_Sex_Trafficking_in_Minnesota2.html
- Sex Trafficking Fact Sheet:
http://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/uploads/sex_trafficking_fact_sheet_2011_3.pdf

Women's Foundation of Minnesota <http://www.wfmn.org/>

- MN Girls are Not for Sale
<http://www.mngirlsnotforsale.org/about-us/what-is-mn-girls-are-not-for-sale/>

National Resources:

ACE Study

www.cestudy.org , <http://www.cdc.gov/ace/index.htm>

End Child Prostitution and Trafficking ECPAT

www.ecpatusa.org

National Human Trafficking Resource Center

<http://nhtrc.polarisproject.org/>

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

www.missingkids.com

Polaris Project

<http://www.polarisproject.org/>

-State and Federal laws

<http://www.polarisproject.org/resources/state-and-federal-laws>

Prevention Institute

<http://www.preventioninstitute.org/>

-Sexual Violence Prevention and the Spectrum of Prevention

<http://www.preventioninstitute.org/component/jlibrary/article/id-97/127.html>

-Transforming Communities to Prevention Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation

<http://www.preventioninstitute.org/component/jlibrary/article/id-31/127.html>

Prostitution Research and Education (PRE)

<http://www.prostitutionresearch.com>

Shared Hope International

www.sharedhope.org

Reports:

Early Intervention to Avoid Sex Trafficking and Trafficking of Minnesota's Female Youth: A benefit-Cost Analysis, MN Indian Women's Resource Center

<http://www.miwrc.org/>

Garden of Truth: The Prostitution and Trafficking of Native Women in Minnesota, MN Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition

<http://www.miwsac.org/images/stories/garden%20of%20truth%20final%20project%20web.pdf>

In the Neighborhood: Enforcing Child Sexual Abuse and Sexual Exploitation Statutes in Strip Clubs and Adult Bookstores, National Child Protection Training Center

<http://www.miwsac.org/images/stories/garden%20of%20truth%20final%20project%20web.pdf>

National Plan to Prevent the Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children

<http://www.preventtogether.org/Resources/Documents/NationalPlan2012FINAL.pdf>

Shattered Hearts: The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of American Indian Women and Girls, MN Indian Women's Resource Center

http://www.miwrc.org/shattered_hearts_full_report-web_version.pdf

The Impact of Pornography on Children, Youth and Culture, by Cordelia Anderson

<http://bookstore.nearipress.org/index.php/books/adolescents-children/the-impact-of-pornography-on-children-youth-and-culture.html>