Massachusetts: Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Region III

This state profile summarizes regionally specific data to help promote collaboration and inform and enhance the response to human trafficking in Massachusetts. Information was reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline from December 2012 to December 2016.

The image above is a heat map that reflects the cases reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline in 2016. Areas in which greater numbers of cases were reported contain more red shading. Areas in northwest, central, south, and southwest Massachusetts contain red shading. This map only reflects cases in which the location of the potential trafficking was known. Some cases may involve more than one location.

For more statistics on human trafficking in Massachusetts, visit https://humantraffickinghotline.org/state/massachusetts.

TOP 5
SEX TRAFFICKING VENUES
1. Commercial-Front Brothels
2. Other Venues
3. Hotel-/Motel-Based
4. Escort Services
5. Online Ad. Venue Unknown

TOP 4
LABOR TRAFFICKING VENUES
1. Domestic Work
2. Restaurants/Food Service
3. Health and Beauty Services
4. Traveling Sales Crews

The data contained in this document are based on aggregated information learned through signals—phone calls, emails, and online tip reports—received by the National Human Trafficking Hotline. The data do not represent actual numbers of cases identified or processed, nor do they represent the entire scope of human trafficking.

For more information, visit https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/training/nhttac.
Massachusetts Human Trafficking Laws
(Sex Trafficking, Labor Trafficking, Safe Harbor, Vacating Convictions, etc.)

- An Act Relative to the Commercial Exploitation of People | H.3808
- Child Welfare Service Needs of Sexually Exploited Children | M.G.L. ch.119 §39K
- Civil Remedies for Victims of Trafficking of Persons for Sexual Servitude, Damages, Time for Actions, Representation of Victim's Rights By Others | M.G.L. ch.260 §4D
- Disclosure of Confidential Communication Regarding Human Trafficking Victim by Caseworker | M.G.L. ch.233 §20M
- Enticement of Child Under Age 18 to Engage in Prostitution, Human Trafficking, or Commercial Sexual Activity | M.G.L. ch.265 §26D
- Victim of Human Trafficking as Affirmative Defense to Charges of Common Night Walking or Common Streetwalking | M.G.L. ch.265 §57
- Victims of Human Trafficking Trust Fund | M.G.L. ch.10 §66A

Massachusetts Statewide Efforts

COLLABORATIONS (Coalitions, Task Forces, Working Groups)
- Interagency Human Trafficking Task Force
- Massachusetts Human Trafficking Task Force
- Western Massachusetts Human Trafficking Task Force
- Massachusetts Coalition to End Human Trafficking
- Worcester Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation
- Support to End Exploitation Now (SEEN) Coalition

RESOURCES (State Research, Publications, Trainings)
- Massachusetts Interagency Human Trafficking Policy Task Force: Findings and Recommendations
- Representing Victims of Human Trafficking in Massachusetts: A Guide for Attorneys

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
- Victims of Crime Act grants and funds

Human Trafficking Hotlines

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The National Hotline serves victims and survivors of human trafficking and the anti-trafficking community across the United States and its territories, 24/7, in more than 200 languages. Contact the confidential hotline to report tips, seek services, ask for help, or receive information and statistics related to human trafficking.

This document was developed by Polaris with assistance from Health, Education, Advocacy, Linkage (HEAL) Trafficking through a subcontract with the National Human Trafficking Training and Technical Assistance Center. For more information, visit https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/training/nhttac.

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