

# Combating Human Trafficking In Nebraska

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Nebraska  
**Human Trafficking**  
*TASK FORCE*



Task Force Update 2022

**Nebraska Attorney General's Office**



## Key Highlights:

### LEADS Database:

The task force is now using the online tool called LEADS. This database helps law enforcement avoid duplicative and dangerous cross-agency work. LEADS manages cases to join the efforts of several agencies together.

Recently, a petty crime report entered into the LEADS database led investigators to a network of 31 people including 2 traffickers and at least 6 victims. We look forward to what LEADS will bring to light in 2023.

### Boys Town:

Omaha Police and BoysTown collaborated to address the needs of young victims of sex trafficking. There is now space dedicated specifically to these victims within BoysTown's holistic system.

### Cell Phones for Victims

The Department of Corrections is creating a system that repurposes and restores confiscated phones to provide cell phones for trafficking victims.

### New Hotline:

In 2022, Nebraska launched its own law enforcement hotline for reporting human trafficking: 833-PLS-LOOK.

This directly informs task force partner agencies to follow up on tips from the hotline. The hotline has been promoted throughout Nebraska with posters.

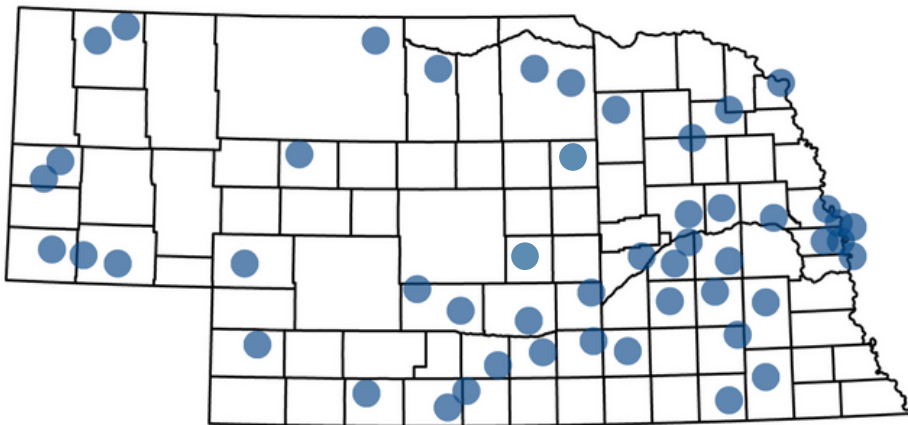
### Racing and Gaming Cooperation:

Nebraska voted recently to allow casinos in our state. History tells us that commercial sex and the risk of sex trafficking often follow the opening of casinos.

The Racing and Gaming Commission has partnered with the Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force for training and promotional materials to mitigate exploitation associated with new casinos in Nebraska.



## Where We Have Investigated Human Trafficking



It is not just in  
Omaha and Lincoln;  
it's the whole state.



## Training in 2022 Included:

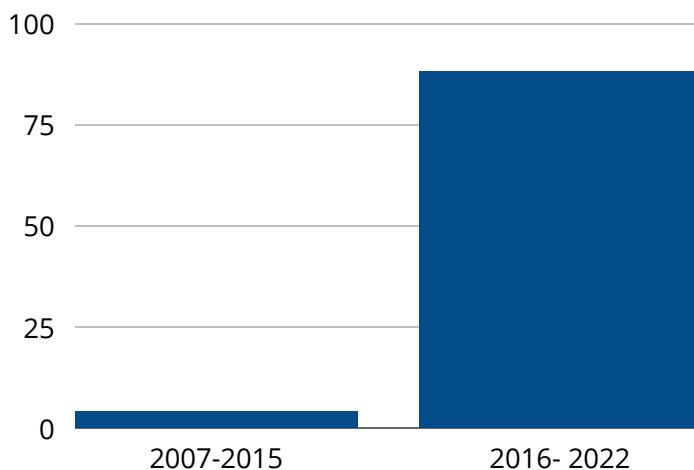
- People's City Mission
- Prosecutors
- Department of Labor
- Firefighters
- TSA
- Correctional Centers
- The Mexican Consulate
- Law enforcement
- College students
- Rural electricians
- Medical professionals
- Nonprofits
- Community groups

**2,700**

people  
trained



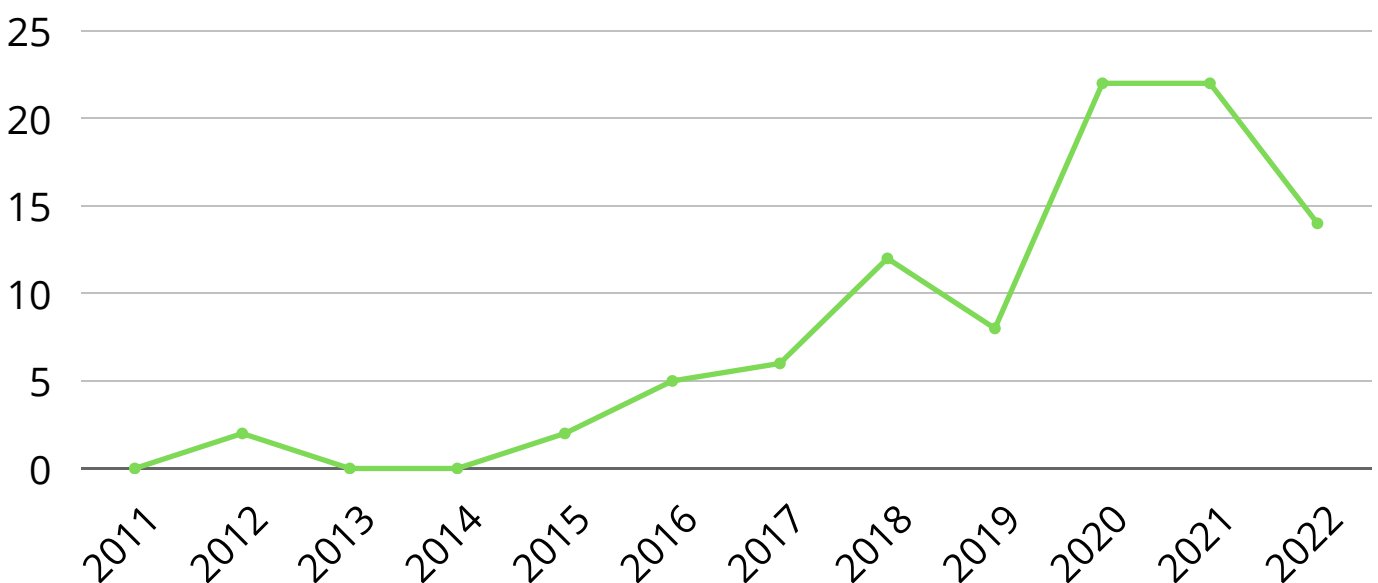
## Prosecutions Since 2007



9 years prior to the creation of the Human Trafficking Task Force, there were 4 prosecutions.

Now, there have been **88** prosecutions in state court over the last 7 years.

## Since 2020, Nebraska has filed an average of 1.5 sex trafficking prosecutions per month



### Human Trafficking Prosecutions in Nebraska

This document highlights work done in Nebraska combatting human trafficking; some but not all these efforts here are done by Task Force partners.



## Notable Prosecutions

A federal prosecution of Omaha-based sex trafficker Carney Turner resulted in a life sentence for sex trafficking 3 minors.

The buyers in the Turner case were prosecuted under state law. Kedarius Brooks, a buyer, was sentenced 10-20 years. This sentence emphasizes a high penalty for purchasing sex from minors in Nebraska.

Hassan Aden was sentenced to 20-40 years for exploiting vulnerable women in the Grand Island area.

A judge convicted him of sex trafficking, highlighting the cost of forcing even adults into these commercial acts.



**92**

human trafficking  
prosecutions under  
state law to date

54 felony convictions

**26 for human trafficking**

7 - pending

5 - sealed

1 - acquitted

6 - misdemeanor convictions

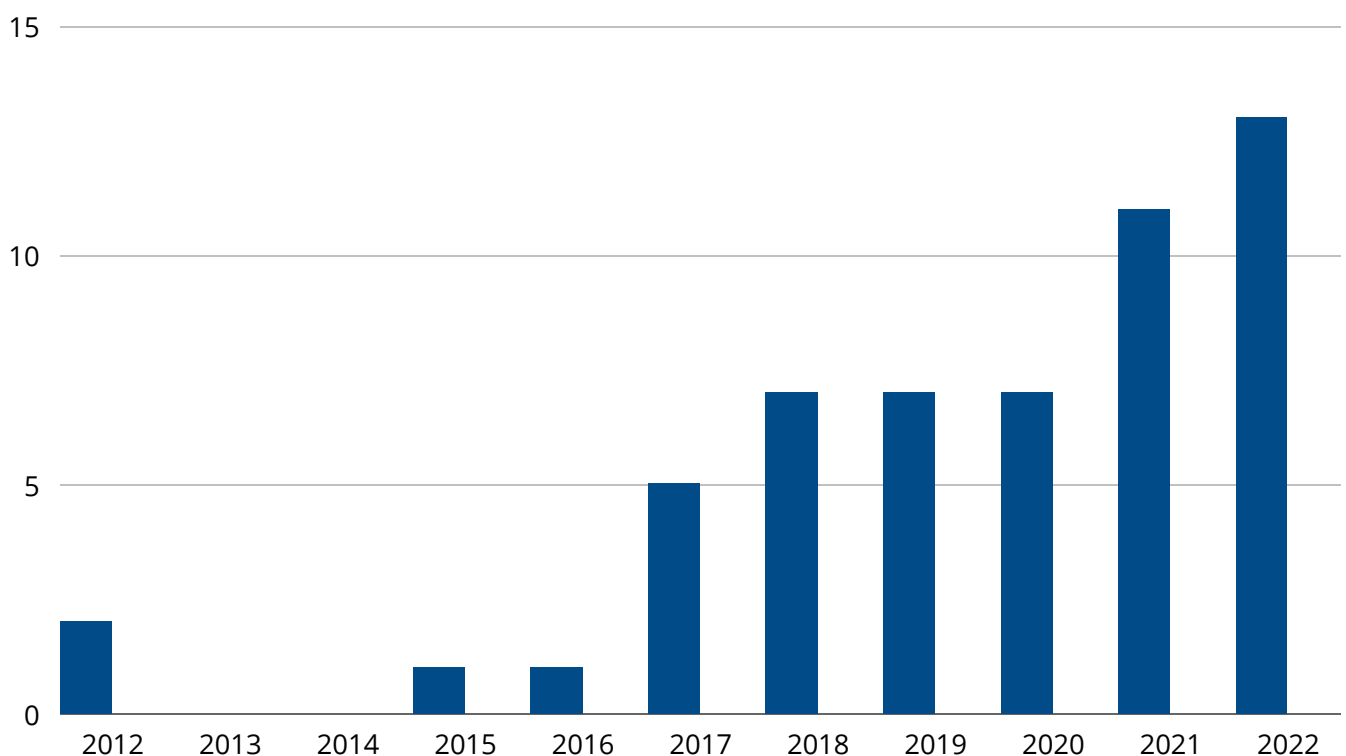
4 - moved to federal court

4 - dismissed for lack of willing/healthy  
victim-witnesses

11 - other dispositions



## Number of Sex Trafficking Defendants Convicted of Felonies by Year



In 2022, Nebraska had a record number of felony convictions of sex trafficking defendants. Sex trafficking is no longer the low-risk crime it was once thought to be, thanks to the cooperation of the public, brave victims and their advocates, law enforcement, and prosecutors.



## New Laws in 2022

In 2022, the Unicameral made two important steps forward in the fight against sex trafficking with the passage of LB 1246.

**Confidentiality:** Victims of sexual assault and sex trafficking are reluctant to file charges since those being accused could retaliate before being arrested.

Now, all law enforcement and prosecutors will keep confidential the name and identity of any such victim until the accused person is arrested.

**Sex Offender Registry:** Anyone convicted on or after January 1, 2023, of sex trafficking must register in the sex offender registry. Until now, those convicted have not had to register.

## What Can You Do?

Nebraska Human Trafficking Hotline

**1-833-PLS LOOK**

**1-833 (757-5665)**



- Learn the signs - if you see something suspicious, report it
- Call 911 in an emergency
- Get informed by viewing the human trafficking page at [ago.nebraska.gov](http://ago.nebraska.gov)

