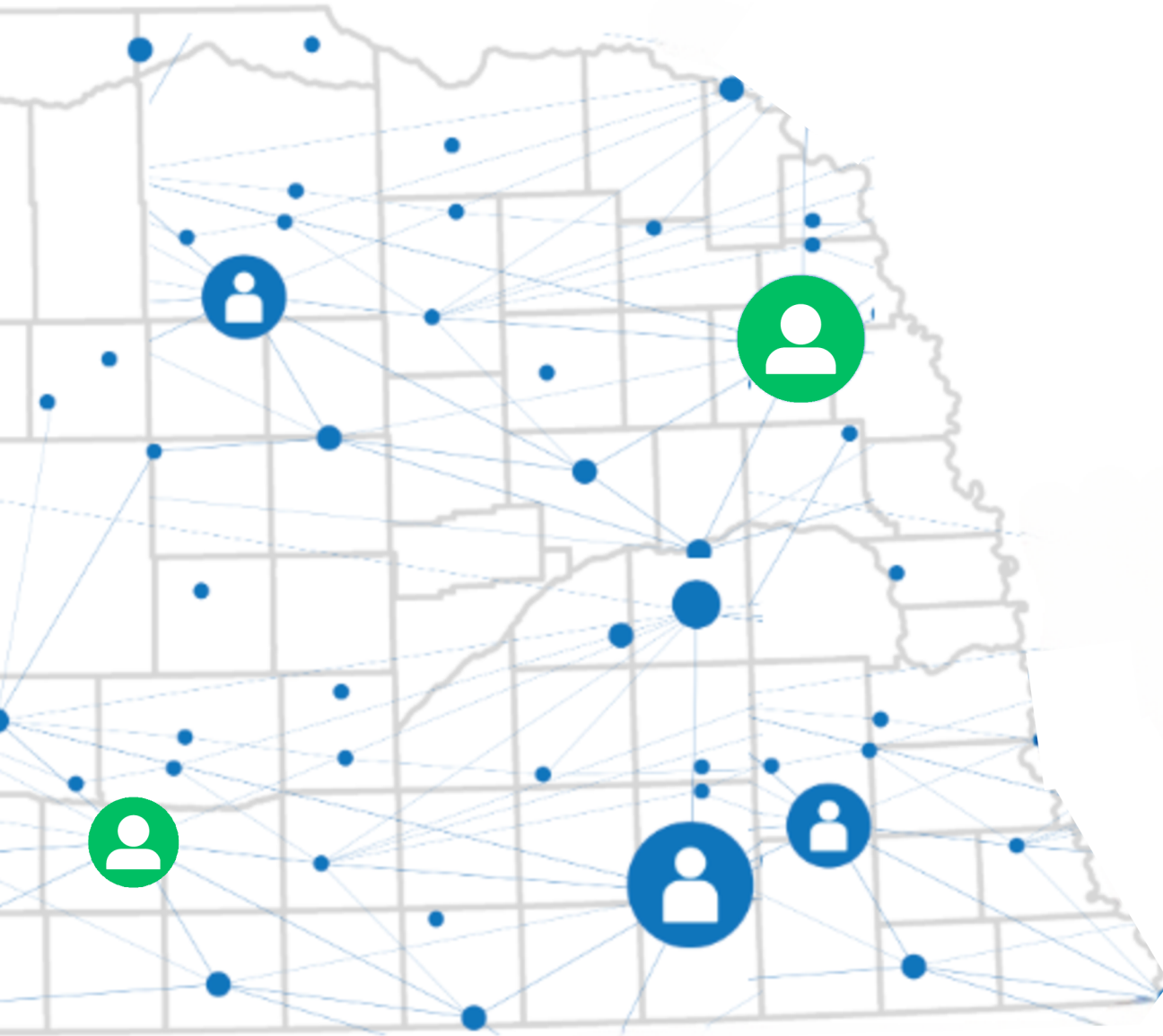




Nebraska
Human Trafficking
TASK FORCE



2025 **REPORT**



2025 Report Nebraska Human Trafficking *TASK FORCE*

Attorney General Update

The Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force continues to strengthen its impact across the State. Statewide collaboration during Regional Task Force Meetings with law enforcement, advocates, survivors, and community partners forges the foundation of our work.

To further strengthen our efforts, the Nebraska Attorney General's Office added an Operations Lead to the Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force to organize statewide initiatives, conduct training, coordinate investigations, and oversee daily activities.

In 2025, we hosted the Second Annual Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force Summit. The well-attended event demonstrates Nebraskans' unwavering commitment to this fight and provides an annual opportunity for law enforcement, prosecutors, advocates, medical professionals, and community members to strengthen our collective response.

The Summit's most powerful moment came when a Nebraska sex trafficking Survivor shared her story. Her presentation gave law enforcement direct insight into how their actions impact survivors. As we strive to be survivor-led and trauma-informed, serving survivors remains central to our mission.

Education remains our most powerful tool against human trafficking. Please join us at this year's Summit and visit AGO.Nebraska.gov to learn how to recognize the signs of trafficking and make a difference in your community.

Nebraska Attorney General
Mike Hilgers





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The Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force (NHTTF)

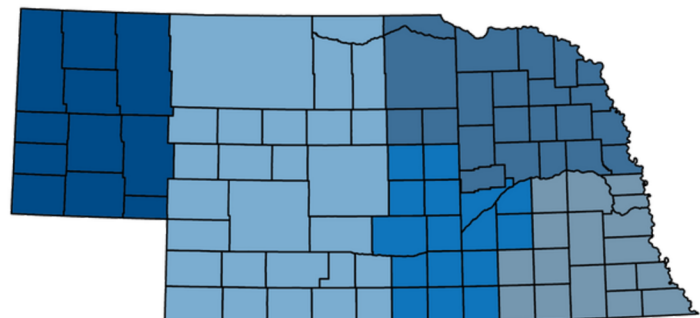


The strength of this Task Force rests in the dedication of the hundreds of members who serve within it. In 2025, the Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force reached a milestone of 10 years of combating human trafficking in Nebraska.

The Task Force brings together federal, state, and local law enforcement officers, prosecutors, advocates, service providers, medical and mental health professionals, and other community partners—uniting them in a coordinated, multidisciplinary, and highly trained approach to end human trafficking.

Nebraska is divided into five regions—the Panhandle, West, Central, Northeast, and Southeast. Each region is led by locally selected team leaders who coordinate meetings, oversee joint responsibilities, and facilitate investigations and survivor-centered responses.

Agency and organizational leaders from across Nebraska meet biannually with the Attorney General to discuss emerging trends, challenges, and priorities.



NHTTF Regions



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2025 Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force Summit

Lincoln, NE

On September 16, 2025, the Nebraska Attorney General's Office hosted the Second Annual Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force Summit at Innovation Campus in Lincoln.

This day-long event featured multiple speakers and collaborative panels from various professions, including national and local organizations working to combat trafficking.

2025 Summit Topics:

Emerging Trends in Nebraska

Labor Trafficking
Assessment

Current Threats and Trends in Online Child
Sexual Exploitation

The Power of Being Seen: A Survivor's
Journey through Trauma to Resilience

Victim-Centered, Offender-
Focused Responses to
Human Trafficking

2026 Summit Keynote Speaker: The Honorable Robert R. Lung

The Honorable Robert R. Lung will be the featured speaker for the Third Annual Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force Summit. He served as a judicial officer for over 22 years in Colorado until he retired from the bench in 2025 and began his own domestic relations mediation practice.

He also provides presentations nationally and internationally on issues such as human trafficking, childhood trauma, and resiliency to an exceptionally diverse audience base, including the military, the medical field, the educational field, judiciaries, human services, faith-based organizations, mental health professionals, and law enforcement.



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Case Spotlight: Trafficking in Doniphan, Nebraska

Sextortion happens in Nebraska, especially among younger populations. This exploitation can meet the elements of Human Trafficking when a sex act is performed in exchange for something of value (the non-release of sexually explicit images, videos, or other information) without the consent of the victim or when the victim is too young to consent to such activity.

In 2023, investigators with the Hall County Sheriff's Office began an investigation into an alleged sextortion scheme occurring in Hall County, Nebraska. The suspect was 17-year-old Cody Holum. Due to the egregious nature of the case, the judge denied transfer to juvenile court.

Through multiple fake social media accounts, Holum posed as someone the victims trusted to obtain illicit photographs. He reached out to victims through multiple fake social media accounts to make them believe their photos were already being shared and threatened to distribute the photos unless the victims sent additional explicit content.

This scheme happened numerous times to numerous victims, totaling 16 identified victims and at least six unidentified victims. Almost all victims were minors at the time of the interactions. Holum also demanded, through the fake social media account, that some of these victims perform sexual acts.

In November of 2024, Holum pleaded no-contest to four counts of First-Degree Sexual Assault and one count of Human Sex Trafficking. In February of 2025, Holum was sentenced to 80-160 years imprisonment for his convictions. This case was investigated by NHTTF partners in the Hall County Sheriff's Office and the Grand Island Police Department's Cyber Crimes Unit. The matter was prosecuted by NHTTF partners in the Hall County Attorney's Office.



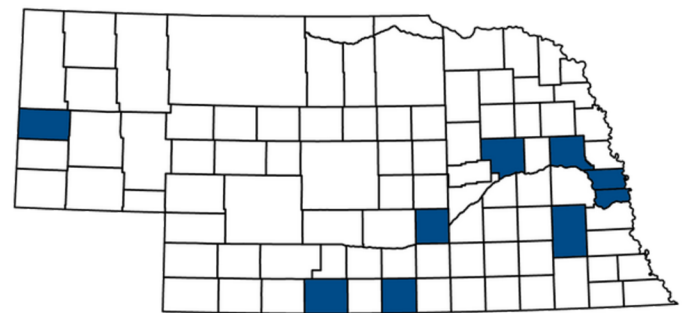
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Human Trafficking Cases in Nebraska



33 Convictions

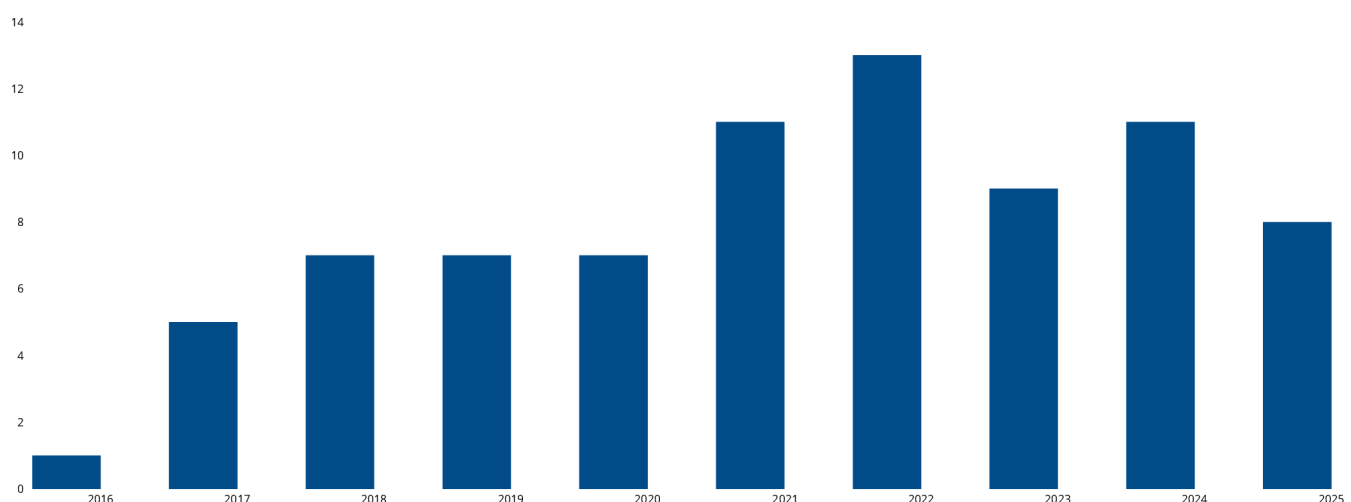
since 2013 for trafficking or attempted trafficking under Nebraska's Human Trafficking statute §28-831.



**Counties with Human Trafficking
Convictions since 2013**

Victim-centered prosecution remains a top priority for prosecutors and law enforcement across the state. In certain cases, the defendant benefiting from human trafficking may be convicted of serious charges for additional crimes unrelated to trafficking. Prosecutors may prioritize charges that result in a lengthy sentence for the perpetrator without requiring the survivor to testify against their abuser in court. These cases, while not reflected in this report, still bring justice to traffickers and protect survivors.

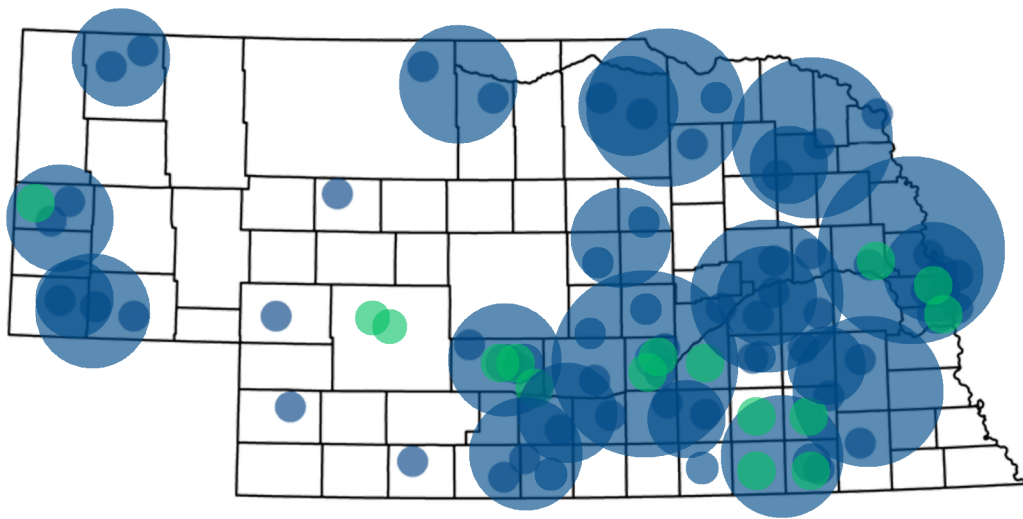
Number of Sex Trafficking Defendants Convicted of Any Felonies Per Year





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Human Trafficking Investigations and Hotline



Blue dots represent the locations of human trafficking investigations since the formation of the Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force.

Green dots represent locations of calls in 2025 to the Nebraska Human Trafficking Hotline.

2025 Nebraska Human Trafficking Hotline Calls

Hotline Calls

88 Calls to  1-833-PLS-LOOK

- 64 Law Enforcement Tips



- 20 Law Enforcement Dispatches



- 4 Requests for Resources





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Partnering in the Fight Across Nebraska

HTI Labs

HTI Labs is a research and technology organization based in Omaha that fights exploitation across the globe. HTI Labs created the LEADS platform for investigating and building intelligence on human trafficking networks. The LEADS platform is used by law enforcement in the Task Force.

Eighteen law enforcement officers and analysts currently hold active LEADS licenses to use the platform as part of their day-to-day investigative work. The HTI Platform has facilitated landmark prosecutions and has supported a growing, multi-agency response to trafficking in Nebraska, contributing to 1,544 survivors supported, 191 trafficking networks uncovered, 29 traffickers convicted, and 34 trafficking cases pending prosecution from September 2022 to December 2025.

HALT Fund

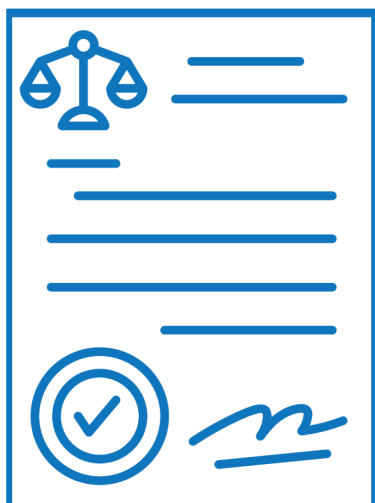
On May 8, 2024, the Nebraska Bankers Association launched the HALT Human Trafficking Fund to support the work of nonprofit and local government organizations throughout the state by providing financial support to those working to eliminate human trafficking in Nebraska.

In October of 2025, the HALT Fund awarded the second round of grants to three Nebraska-based organizations: The Dawson County Sheriff's Office, the Sandhills Crisis Intervention Program, and the Set Me Free Project. HALT is currently preparing an impact report in 2026. Their grants have been awarded across the four corners of the state. If your organization is interested in applying to the HALT Fund, please visit haltfund.org for more information.



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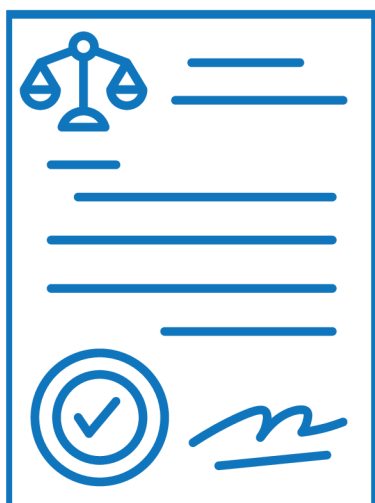
New Legislation



LB383

LB172, introduced by Senator Hardin, and one of the Attorney General's legislative priorities, was amended into Senator Storer's priority bill, LB383. LB383 prohibits AI-generated child sexual abuse material (CSAM) in Nebraska statutes.

This bill provides enhanced criminal penalties and harmonized language in statute to further protect children victimized by AI-CSAM. LB383 passed with resounding bipartisan support at a 46-3 vote.



LB78

LB78, introduced by Senator Bostar, was passed with a unanimous vote in the Unicameral. This bill created a fund administered by DHHS to provide housing assistance for survivors of domestic violence and sex trafficking.

The law permits excess funds not allocated to housing assistance to be distributed to qualified third-party organizations that support domestic violence and sex trafficking survivors. Members of the Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force testified at the hearing in support of this bill, which will help provide critical resources for survivors.



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Ongoing Education

In 2025, the Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force trained individuals across Nebraska on such topics as:

- Human Trafficking 101
- Medical Response to Human Trafficking
- Sextortion
- Financial Institution's Response to Human Trafficking
- Law Enforcement Investigation.

**1,500+
People
Trained***

*Includes Summit Attendees

Individuals trained:

- DHHS Employees
- Law Enforcement
- Law Enforcement Recruits
- Prosecution
- Firefighters
- Bankers
- Financial Industry Professionals
- College Students
- High School Students
- Medical Professionals
- Advocates
- Service Providers
- Community Members

Partnership with DHHS

In 2025, the Nebraska Attorney General's Office partnered with Nebraska's Department of Health and Human Services to provide training tailored to newly hired Child and Family Service employees. The training equipped participants with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively work with missing and/or trafficked youth. Trainees learned the essential steps to follow if a youth is missing from care, how to identify indicators of trafficking, and strategies for engaging and providing services to trafficked or at-risk youth. Further, trainees learned how to access internal and external resources to support this vulnerable population. This partnership will continue in 2026 and beyond.



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What Can You Do?

1

Learn what human trafficking is and how to identify it. Information is available by scanning the QR code below.



2

Report suspected human trafficking to the Nebraska Human Trafficking Hotline and in an emergency call 911.

Nebraska Human Trafficking Hotline

1-833-PLS LOOK

1-833 (757-5665)

3

Request a free educational presentation for your organization. Contact the Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force Operations Lead, Jennifer Retchless via email at Jennifer.Retchless@Nebraska.gov

2026 Summit | **SAVE THE DATE** | **Sept. 15, 2026**

Registration available June 15, 2026

Attend the 2026 Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force Summit. Registration is available at [AGO.Nebraska.gov](https://ago.nebraska.gov).