

FAILED POLICIES, FORFEITED FUTURES

A Nationwide Scorecard
on Juvenile Records



Juvenile
Law Center advancing the rights and
well-being of children in jeopardy

Overview of Research and Results

Children, especially teenagers, make mistakes. They engage in reckless and unwise behavior that, as adults, they would never even consider. Sometimes, their actions violate the law and lead to contact with the justice system, creating juvenile court and law enforcement records. These records can erect lifelong barriers to success for youth and young adults who have outgrown their behaviors or have been rehabilitated and are working to better themselves. Juvenile records can limit opportunities long after youth have exited the juvenile justice system while maintaining records does very little to further public safety.

Notably, 95% of youth in the juvenile justice system have committed non-violent offenses, and because adolescence is a transient and volatile stage of life, the vast majority of young people naturally mature into adulthood without any additional contact with the law. Despite this reality, juvenile records will follow them into adulthood. **Juvenile records can have devastating effects.** They can limit youths' ability to secure housing, obtain jobs, join the military, pursue higher education, or receive public benefits.

Juvenile Law Center published this Scorecard to address the negative consequences that flow from the retention and dissemination of juvenile records, and to illustrate how states differ in their treatment of those records. Laws pertaining to the retention of records should reflect the recognized differences between youth and adults. Psychological and neurological research confirms what every parent already knows – teenage brains are not mature. Youth can be impulsive, make poor decisions

95% of youth in the juvenile justice system have committed non-violent offenses.

and fail to see long-term consequences. Teenagers are not adults; they lack the capacity to consistently think like adults and should not be treated like adults. But the period of adolescence is also an opportunity because youth have a distinct capacity for change and rehabilitation. Policies inconsistent with this research should be reassessed in favor of policies that promote more, not fewer, positive opportunities for youth.

States must do more to ensure protection of juvenile records. When records block a person's ability to become a productive member of society, those records reduce community protection, undermine important societal goals, and ultimately reduce the tax base by limiting employment and educational opportunities.

Laws that limit accessibility of juvenile record information during and after court proceedings ensure that neither court involvement nor an adjudication of delinquency permanently stigmatizes youth. Moreover, laws that seal (close records to public view) or expunge (physically destroy records so they are no longer accessible) juvenile records after a case has been closed allow teens to truly put their pasts behind them.

States must do more to protect juvenile records in a manner that does not negatively affect a young person's future.



This Scorecard is the first comprehensive evaluation of how juvenile records¹ are handled across the 50 states and the District of Columbia. To see how individual states fared and to better understand how each policy area was scored, visit www.jlc.org/juvenilerecords. In measuring each state's overall treatment of records, we rated performance in two key policy areas:

- **Confidentiality of records** during and after juvenile court proceedings, and;
- **The availability of and process for sealing or expungement.**

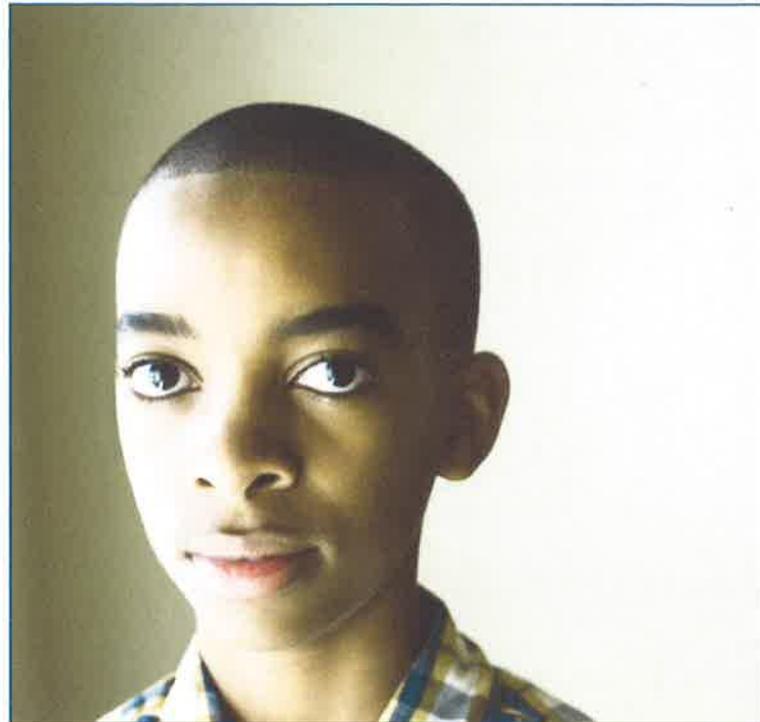
For each of the two policy areas, we identified core principles to ensure the protection of juvenile records. We then compared each state's performance with our core principles for juvenile record protection to obtain the state's overall score.²

THE RESULTS

- **No state earned an overall rating of 5 stars**
- Fewer than 16% of the states received 4 stars
- 55% of the states received 3 stars
- 25% of the states received only 2 stars

States scored lowest in responses to questions about the protection of the confidentiality of juvenile records, but slightly better in response to questions regarding their sealing and expungement policies.

Protection of juvenile records and information must be given a higher priority. Policymakers should strengthen their states' juvenile record protections to eliminate barriers and improve success.



**Children are different from adults.
Laws should reflect these differences.**

LEARN MORE

To see how individual states fared and better understand how each policy area was scored, visit www.jlc.org/juvenilerecords.

¹ This Scorecard measures treatment of records for youth adjudicated delinquent in juvenile court. It does not measure the treatment of juvenile arrest records when no adjudication of delinquency occurred. Moreover, it does not evaluate records of youth who are charged in the adult criminal system.

² For more information on how states were rated refer to the Appendix.

Overall Scores

By measuring both the degree to which records are kept confidential prior to expungement eligibility and the availability of sealing or expungement in each state, we established a list of core principles. These principles ensure protections for youth both while they are in the juvenile justice system and also after the court's supervision has ended.

For youth, a juvenile record can have devastating effects: it can impede the ability to secure housing, obtain employment, join the military, pursue higher education, or receive public benefits.



0 STATES received 5 stars

8 STATES received 4 stars

28 STATES received 3 stars

14 STATES received 2 stars

1 STATE received 1 star

CORE PRINCIPLES FOR RECORD PROTECTION

Ideal systems will ensure that:

- Youths' law enforcement and court records are not widely available and are never available online
- Sealed records are completely closed to the general public
- Expungement means that records are electronically deleted and physically destroyed
- At least one designated entity or individual is responsible for informing youth about the availability of sealing or expungement, eligibility criteria, and how the process works
- Records of any offense may be eligible for expungement
- Youth are eligible for expungement at the time their cases are closed
- There are no costs or fees associated with the expungement process
- The sealing and expunging of records are automatic—i.e., youth need not do anything to initiate the process and youth are notified when the process is completed
- If sealing or expungement is not automatic, the process for obtaining expungement includes youth-friendly forms and is simple enough for youth to complete without the assistance of an attorney
- Sanctions are imposed on individuals and agencies that unlawfully share confidential or expunged juvenile record information or fail to comply with expungement orders

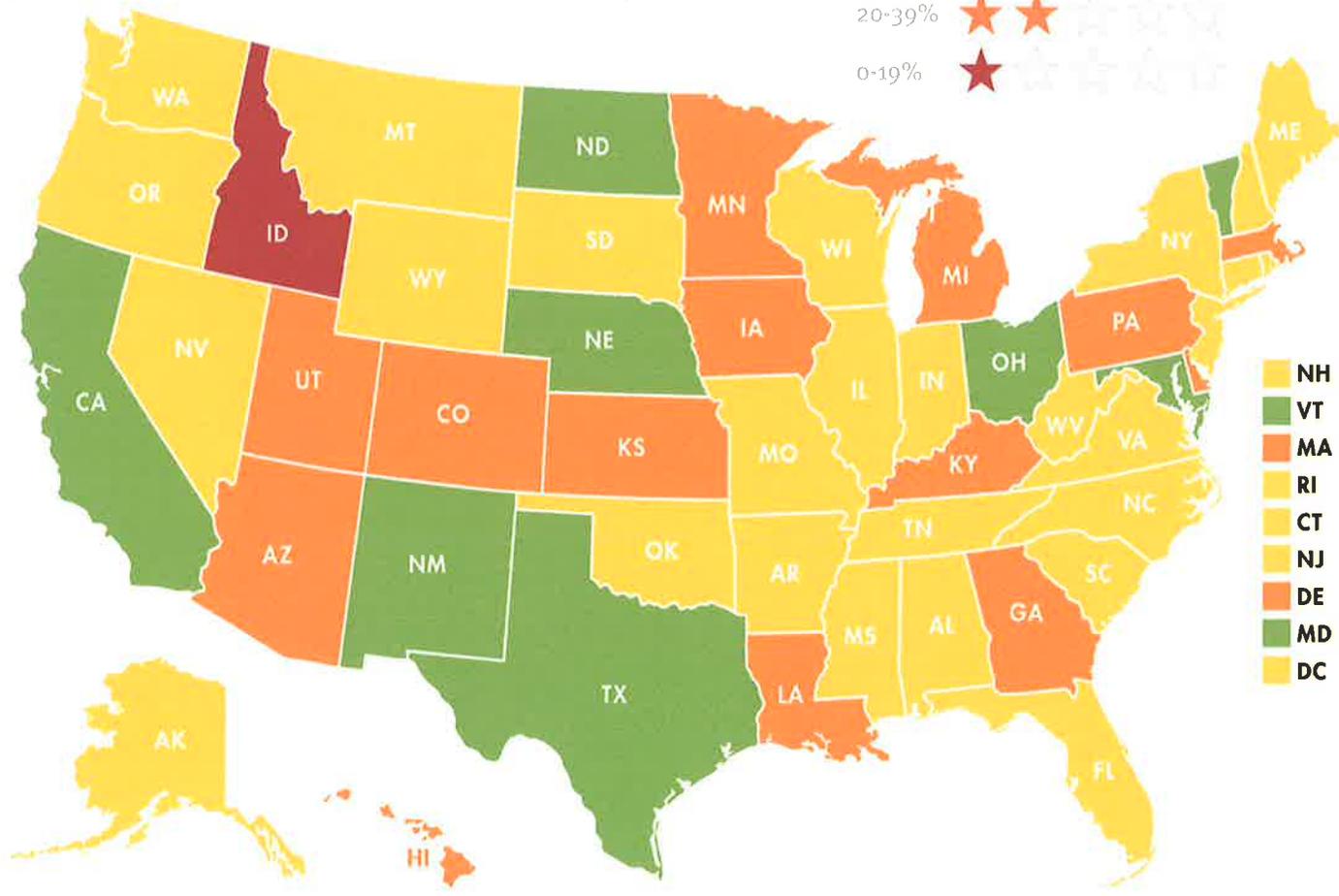
Few states come close to meeting these standards. The average rating across all 50 states and the District of Columbia was only 3 stars. ★★ ★

No state received 5 stars overall. Only eight states received 4 stars. 28 states received 3 stars; 14 states received 2 stars; and Idaho was the only state to receive 1 star.

Overall Scores

STATES BY RANK

New Mexico	Missouri	Illinois	Kentucky
Ohio	Rhode Island	Wisconsin	Massachusetts
North Dakota	West Virginia	New Jersey	Louisiana
Texas	North Carolina	Oregon	Colorado
Vermont	New Hampshire	Florida	Hawaii
California	Montana	Connecticut	Kansas
Maryland	Washington	Maine	Michigan
Nebraska	South Dakota	Nevada	Delaware
Wyoming	Alaska	South Carolina	Utah
New York	Arkansas	Tennessee	Minnesota
Oklahoma	Mississippi	Pennsylvania	Arizona
Indiana	District of Columbia	Georgia	Idaho
Alabama	Virginia	Iowa	



Expungement and Sealing of Juvenile Records

Once youth have had contact with the justice system, they are anxious to put the experience behind them. Unfortunately, most youth don't realize the negative consequences of their juvenile justice involvement until it interferes with their ability to obtain housing, employment, education or to pursue other interests. Most individuals who seek expungement or sealing do so after they have passed the age of majority, primarily because the law does not permit them to do so earlier. But often they do not realize the negative effect their record is having until they encounter a barrier to success.

To rate states' sealing and expungement policies, we asked eight questions:

1. IS SEALING OR EXPUNGEMENT AVAILABLE?

Sealing records alone can be ineffective because even if a record is technically sealed to everyone, it is physically still accessible and therefore can interfere with the youth's future plans. States that provide for complete sealing and expungement of juvenile records received the highest score, ensuring that kids can put their past behind them and focus on their futures.

2. WHAT RECORDS ARE SUBJECT TO SEALING OR EXPUNGEMENT?

Even where juvenile records are eligible for sealing or expungement, many jurisdictions limit the mechanisms to certain records. States where all court and law enforcement records can be sealed or expunged, without exception, are most effective and received the highest score.

3. WHAT OFFENSES ARE EXCLUDED FROM SEALING OR EXPUNGEMENT?

Many states limit sealing or expungement to records of certain offenses. States where records of all juvenile adjudications, regardless of the nature or grading of the offense, are eligible for either sealing or expungement received the highest score. (In states where both sealing and expungement are available we only reviewed which records would be eligible for expungement, because expungement ensures physical destruction with no further access.)

4. IS SEALING OR EXPUNGEMENT AUTOMATIC OR MUST THE YOUTH OR SOME OTHER INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY FILE A PETITION TO INITIATE THE PROCESS?

In many states, young people must enlist the services of an attorney to seal or expunge a record, file a petition, appear at a hearing, and wait for a ruling from the court. This can be a lengthy, costly, and arduous process. To facilitate a more streamlined process to destroy juvenile records, many states have implemented automatic expungement procedures. States that provide for automatic sealing or expungement received the highest score. Still other states provide for a third party or agency to initiate the process. These states scored higher than states that require youth themselves to initiate the sealing or expungement process.

5. HOW AND WHEN IS THE YOUTH NOTIFIED OF THE AVAILABILITY OF SEALING OR EXPUNGEMENT, THE PROCESS FOR SEALING OR EXPUNGEMENT, AND ELIGIBILITY?

Many youth are not advised that juvenile records carry long-term consequences, or that expungement or sealing of their records is not automatic but requires the youth to initiate the process (if available at all). In order for notification to be most effective, it must be timely and repeated throughout the youth's court involvement. States that provide notice about availability, eligibility and process throughout the proceeding and thereafter received the highest score.

6. WHEN MAY A YOUTH'S RECORD BE SEALED OR EXPUNGED?

In the majority of states, an individual has to demonstrate eligibility for sealing or expungement. This can be tied to the individual's age at the time of the offense or discharge from court; the nature of the offense for which the youth was adjudicated; or the amount of time that has passed since the case was closed. States that provide for expungement eligibility earlier, at discharge or case closing, regardless of the youth's age, received the highest score.

7. MUST THE YOUTH PAY A FEE FOR SEALING OR EXPUNGEMENT?

Fees can deter young people from seeking to have their records sealed or expunged. Even when a fee can be waived based upon an individual's financial status, youth may be intimidated by the waiver process or may not know that it exists, or how to apply for it. While in many states fees are assessed locally at the county or municipality level, some states impose high fees for expungement or sealing statewide. States that assess no fee received the highest score.

8. ARE SANCTIONS IMPOSED FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH SEALING OR EXPUNGEMENT LAWS?

To be effective, state sealing and expungement policies must be enforced. Sanctions in the form of a fine should be available when expungement or sealing policies are violated or records are unlawfully disclosed. States that impose sanctions received the highest score.

Expungement and Sealing of Juvenile Records

THE SCORES

The national average for all states' expungement and sealing laws was 3 stars. No state received 5 stars, and less than 30% of states received 4 stars – leaving 70% of states with a 3 star or less rating.

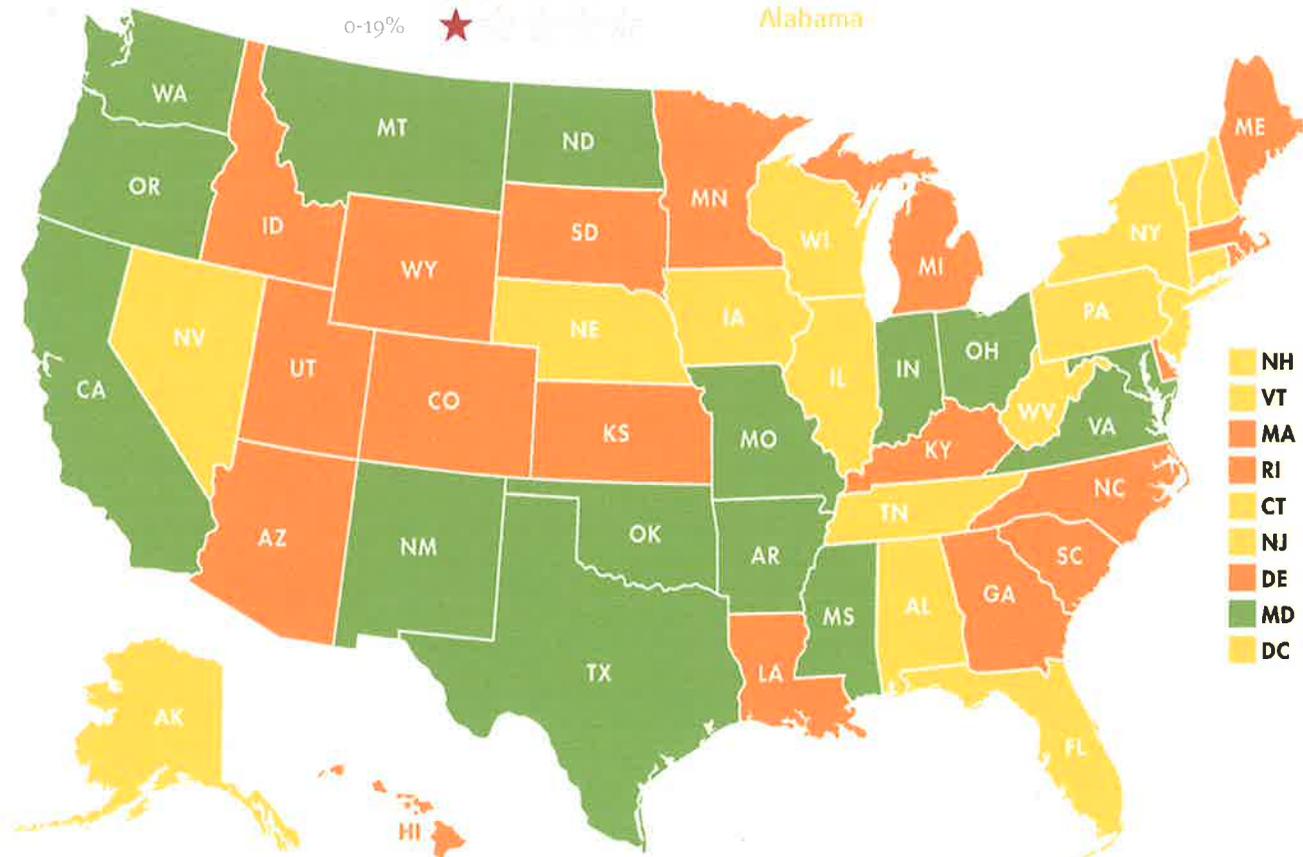
Only five states—Indiana, Maryland, Missouri, Oregon, and Wisconsin—have both complete sealing and expungement available for juvenile records. In 20 states sealing or expungement is available for any type of offense, with no exceptions. Many states received lower scores because they require youth to initiate the sealing or expungement process by filing a petition. Only five states automatically expunge juvenile records, while 24 states require the youth to file a petition. An additional 15 states provide that either the youth or another party (the prosecutor or court) can file on the youth's behalf.

States measured poorly in almost every policy area, but the majority of states scored lowest in response to the question about how youth are notified of their expungement rights and eligibility, with 34 states receiving no points at all.



STATES BY RANK

- New Mexico
- North Dakota
- Indiana
- Montana
- Oklahoma
- Washington
- Missouri
- Ohio
- Texas
- Oregon
- Virginia
- California
- Arkansas
- Maryland
- Mississippi
- New Hampshire
- Nevada
- West Virginia
- Illinois
- Wisconsin
- District of Columbia
- Nebraska
- Iowa
- Florida
- Vermont
- Alabama
- New Jersey
- Connecticut
- Alaska
- Pennsylvania
- Tennessee
- New York
- Georgia
- Wyoming
- North Carolina
- South Dakota
- Arizona
- Louisiana
- Maine
- Kentucky
- Massachusetts
- Kansas
- Michigan
- Hawaii
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- Idaho
- Utah
- Delaware
- Colorado
- Minnesota



Reasons for Changing Idaho's Juvenile Expungement Law

1. Historically, adjudications in the juvenile court system have not carried the same collateral penalties as adult criminal convictions. However, in recent years, adjudications of delinquency have increasingly resulted in extensive legal restrictions in a variety of areas, including education, employment, immigration, driving privileges, subsequent adult criminal justice system contact, military service, and housing.

Essentially, juvenile court records now have the same impact as adult court records. This is an unintentional change that has not resulted from law or policy but from a series of changes in how juvenile and adult records are made available to the public.

2. Changes in public records access

a. In the mid nineties, open record laws were passed that opened up juvenile court records to the public

b. Several years ago, courts begin making their records available in what are called in Idaho the Repository which can be accessed from the internet

c. Currently background checks are standard procedure for many business, educational, military and housing entities before hiring or acceptance

d. Aggregation of internet records, including records from the Repository, by private firms now is a standard practice and are made available for background checks

3. This insidious unintentional change doesn't match the common understanding by the public that juvenile court records are confidential.

a. Many juvenile cases are opened under Idaho Administrative Rule 32. Even if the case is closed, the public can have access to the disposition of the case upon sentencing.

b. It is not unusual for juvenile offenders to be told their case may be dismissed, however, even after dismissal the record of their case remains in the repository.

c. Even if the case is sealed the Repository still reflects that a case exists. This will change with the new case management system.

4. Business, educational, military, housing entities now frequently require disclosure of juvenile cases when considering applicants.

5. The continuing policy of the State of Idaho (and most state and federal juvenile justice systems) still reflects the idea that youth are not as culpable as adult offenders, thus are to be treated differently [See *In re Sweeney*, 492 F.3d 1189, 1191 (10th Cir. 2007) (noting how "juvenile delinquency is an adjudication of status—not a criminal conviction. This interpretation is consistent with the purpose of the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, which is to remove juveniles from the ordinary criminal process in order to avoid the stigma of a prior criminal conviction and to encourage treatment and rehabilitation.")]

NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESOURCE CENTER (NHTRC) ANNUAL REPORT
1/1/2014 - 12/31/2014

OVERVIEW OF INCOMING SIGNALS

The following information is based on incoming signals made to the NHTRC from January 1, 2014-December 31, 2014 about human trafficking cases and issues related to human trafficking in the United States and U.S. territories. **Signals** refer to incoming communications with the NHTRC and can take the form of **phone calls, online tip reports, or emails**. Signals regarding topics unrelated to human trafficking are not included in this report. In 2014, the NHTRC received a total of **24,062** signals nationwide.



21,431 Phone Calls



1,149 Emails



1,482 Online Tip Reports

SUBSTANTIVE CALL DATA

The following statistics are based solely on substantive calls about human trafficking and issues related to human trafficking made to the NHTRC from January 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014. Substantive calls exclude hang-ups, missed calls, wrong numbers, and calls in which the caller’s reason for calling is unknown.

CALLER TYPE	# OF CALLS	% OF CALLS
Community Member	5978	27.9%
Victim of Trafficking	2713	12.7%
Victim of Labor Exploitation	1889	8.8%
NGO Representative	1808	8.4%
Other	1522	7.1%
Victim of Other Crime	1158	5.4%
Family of Trafficking Victim	1109	5.2%
Student	601	2.8%
Law Enforcement	568	2.7%
Not Specified	476	2.2%
Friend of Trafficking Victim	444	2.1%
Contact from the NHTRC Referral Network	442	2.1%
Government Official	424	2.0%
Legal Professional	359	1.7%
Faith-Based Representative	354	1.7%
Medical Professional	339	1.6%
Trucker	230	1.1%
Educator/School Personnel	209	1.0%
Mental Health Professional	152	0.7%
Press/Media	151	0.7%
Business	150	0.7%
Buyer of Commercial Sex	115	0.5%
Acquaintance of Trafficker	114	0.5%

Visa Holder	58	0.3%
Airline/Airport Personnel	23	0.1%
Military Personnel	22	0.1%
Potential Trafficker	10	0.0%
Foreign Government Official	5	0.0%
Truck Stop Employee	5	0.0%
Asylee/Refugee	3	0.0%
TOTAL # OF SUBSTANTIVE CALLS	21431	100.00%

HOW DID CALLER FIND NHTRC (WHERE KNOWN)	# OF CALLS	% OF CALLS
Internet-Web Search	1491	21.5%
Referral	1142	16.5%
DOS Know Your Rights Pamphlet	791	11.4%
Word of Mouth	717	10.3%
Television	376	5.4%
Polaris	334	4.8%
Conference/Training/Presentation	328	4.7%
Awareness Campaign	299	4.3%
Other	273	3.9%
Poster	247	3.6%
Pamphlet/Brochure/Leaflet	209	3.0%
Newspaper-Magazine	167	2.4%
Other Media	101	1.5%
HHS Letter for T Visa Holders	93	1.3%
Radio	70	1.0%
Rescue and Restore Campaign	63	0.9%
Billboard	55	0.8%
211/311	36	0.5%
Film	33	0.5%
FBI Website	24	0.3%
Backpage.com	24	0.3%
DOJ Trafficking Hotline	19	0.3%
DHS Blue Campaign	12	0.2%
Newsletter	10	0.1%
UNICEF	6	0.1%
Craigslist.org	5	0.1%
Directory/Phonebook	2	0.0%
Ricky Martin Hotline	1	0.0%
NCMEC Cyber Tipline	1	0.0%
TOTAL # OF CALLS WHERE HOW CALLER FOUND NHTRC IS KNOWN	6929	100.00%

CALLS BY CALLER'S LOCATION (STATE)	# OF CALLS	% OF CALLS
California	3495	17.9%
Texas	1876	9.6%
Florida	1428	7.3%
New York	904	4.6%
Ohio	809	4.1%
Virginia	663	3.4%
Georgia	626	3.2%
Maryland	572	2.9%
New Jersey	566	2.9%
North Carolina	563	2.9%
Michigan	529	2.7%
Pennsylvania	527	2.7%
Washington	500	2.6%
Illinois	492	2.5%
Louisiana	417	2.1%
District of Columbia	404	2.1%
Kansas	336	1.7%
Missouri	290	1.5%
Oregon	289	1.5%
Arizona	288	1.5%
Nevada	275	1.4%
Colorado	273	1.4%
Oklahoma	271	1.4%
Tennessee	266	1.4%
Massachusetts	242	1.2%
Kentucky	236	1.2%
South Carolina	202	1.0%
Minnesota	201	1.0%
Wisconsin	189	1.0%
Indiana	186	1.0%
Alabama	169	0.9%
International Location	135	0.7%
Iowa	128	0.7%
Utah	121	0.6%
Nebraska	115	0.6%
Mississippi	111	0.6%
Arkansas	102	0.5%
Connecticut	100	0.5%
South Dakota	83	0.4%

Montana	74	0.4%
New Mexico	70	0.4%
Hawaii	56	0.3%
Idaho	56	0.3%
New Hampshire	48	0.2%
North Dakota	47	0.2%
West Virginia	39	0.2%
Maine	37	0.2%
Vermont	37	0.2%
Rhode Island	28	0.1%
Wyoming	27	0.1%
Delaware	24	0.1%
Alaska	18	0.1%
U.S. Territories	7	0.0%
TOTAL # OF CALLS WHERE CALLER'S LOCATION IS KNOWN	19547	100.0%

HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASE DATA

Each request submitted to the hotline is evaluated for evidence of potential human trafficking. In 2014, a total of 5,042 unique cases (incidents) of potential human trafficking were reported to the hotline.

PRIMARY REASON FOR CONTACTING THE NHTRC	# OF CASES	% OF CASES
Report a Potential Human Trafficking Tip	3110	61.7%
Request for Referral for Anti-Trafficking Services	1472	29.2%
Crisis Involving a Potential Victim of Human Trafficking	284	5.6%
Request for Technical Assistance and Information* on Topics Related to Human Trafficking	176	3.5%
TOTAL # OF CASES	5042	100.00%

**In some instances, an individual who is aware of a situation of potential trafficking may contact the NHTRC for general information about human trafficking or to learn more about services available to trafficking victims. In other instances, service providers or law enforcement working with a victim of trafficking may contact the NHTRC for technical assistance.*

VENUE/INDUSTRY OF POTENTIAL TRAFFICKING	# OF CASES	% OF CASES
Sex	3598	71.4%
Hotel/Motel-Based	411	8.2%
Commercial-Front Brothel	405	8.0%
Online Ad, Venue Unknown*	298	5.9%
Street-Based	202	4.0%
Residential Brothel	184	3.6%
Other Venue	161	3.2%
Escort/Delivery Service	154	3.1%
Pornography	145	2.9%
Truck Stop-Based	106	2.1%

Hostess/Strip Club-Based	50	1.0%
Bar/Club-Based	48	1.0%
Venues Referenced in Fewer than Three Cases**	3	0.0%
Venue Not Specified	1431	28.4%
Labor	818	16.2%
Domestic Work	152	3.0%
Traveling Sales Crews	100	2.0%
Agriculture/Farms	70	1.4%
Restaurant/Food Service	57	1.1%
Health & Beauty Services	55	1.1%
Begging Ring	39	0.8%
Other Industry	35	0.7%
Retail/Other Small Business	30	0.6%
Landscaping Services	26	0.5%
Illicit Activity	23	0.5%
Hospitality	20	0.4%
Peddling Ring	19	0.4%
Construction	18	0.4%
Traveling Carnivals	11	0.2%
Elder Care	11	0.2%
Forestry/Reforestation	11	0.2%
Manufacturing/Factories	10	0.2%
Housekeeping/Cleaning Service	10	0.2%
Residential Facility	6	0.1%
Aquafarming/Fishing	5	0.1%
Arts & Entertainment	5	0.1%
Bar/Club	5	0.1%
Education	4	0.1%
Hostess/Strip Club	4	0.1%
Industries Referenced in Fewer than Three Cases**	4	0.1%
Industry Not Specified	88	1.7%
Type of Trafficking Not Specified***	454	9.0%
Sex and Labor	172	3.4%
TOTAL # OF POTENTIAL TRAFFICKING CASES	5042	100.0%

*These cases typically involve reports of sex trafficking in which an individual is advertised for commercial sex online but the venue of the sex act is unknown or not specified.

**To protect the identity of the people we serve, the NHTRC does not disclose exact statistics related to venues, industries, victim information or caller information referenced fewer than three times.

***This typically occurs when a law enforcement agent or service provider contacts the NHTRC for resources and referrals but does not disclose details about the trafficking situation due to confidentiality. This category also includes cases in which the person reporting the information references human trafficking but does not provide further detail regarding the presence of labor or commercial sex. These cases are often submitted to the NHTRC through anonymous online tip reports.

VICTIM DEMOGRAPHICS (LABOR TRAFFICKING CASES)*	# OF CASES	% OF CASES
Adults	684	83.6%
Minors	143	17.5%
Females	466	57.0%
Males	416	50.9%
US Citizen/Legal Permanent Resident	127	15.5%
Foreign Nationals	557	68.1%
non-cumulative*		

*These statistics are non-cumulative. Cases may involve multiple victims and include females and males, foreign nationals and U.S. citizens, adults and minors. In some cases, demographic information is not reported. This table shows the number of cases referencing each demographic and not the number of individual victims.

**To protect the identity of the people we serve, the NHTRC does not disclose exact statistics related to venues, industries, victim information or caller information referenced fewer than three times.

VICTIM DEMOGRAPHICS (SEX TRAFFICKING CASES)*	# OF CASES	% OF CASES
Adults	2203	61.2%
Minors	1322	36.7%
Females	3250	90.3%
Males	173	4.8%
US Citizen/Legal Permanent Resident	1577	43.8%
Foreign Nationals	464	12.9%
non-cumulative*		

*These statistics are non-cumulative. Cases may involve multiple victims and include females and males, foreign nationals and U.S. citizens, adults and minors. In some cases, demographic information is not reported. This table shows the number of cases referencing each demographic and not the number of individual victims.

**To protect the identity of the people we serve, the NHTRC does not disclose exact statistics related to venues, industries, victim information or caller information referenced fewer than three times.

POTENTIAL VICTIM(S) COUNTRY OR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN	# OF CASES	% OF CASES
U.S.A	1846	36.6%
Mexico	153	3.0%
Multiple Nationalities Referenced**	113	2.2%
Philippines	86	1.7%
China	82	1.6%
Nationalities Referenced in Fewer than Three Cases***	63	1.2%
Vietnam	28	0.6%
South Korea	26	0.5%
Guatemala	25	0.5%
India	24	0.5%
Honduras	23	0.5%
El Salvador	20	0.4%
Thailand	17	0.3%
Russia	16	0.3%

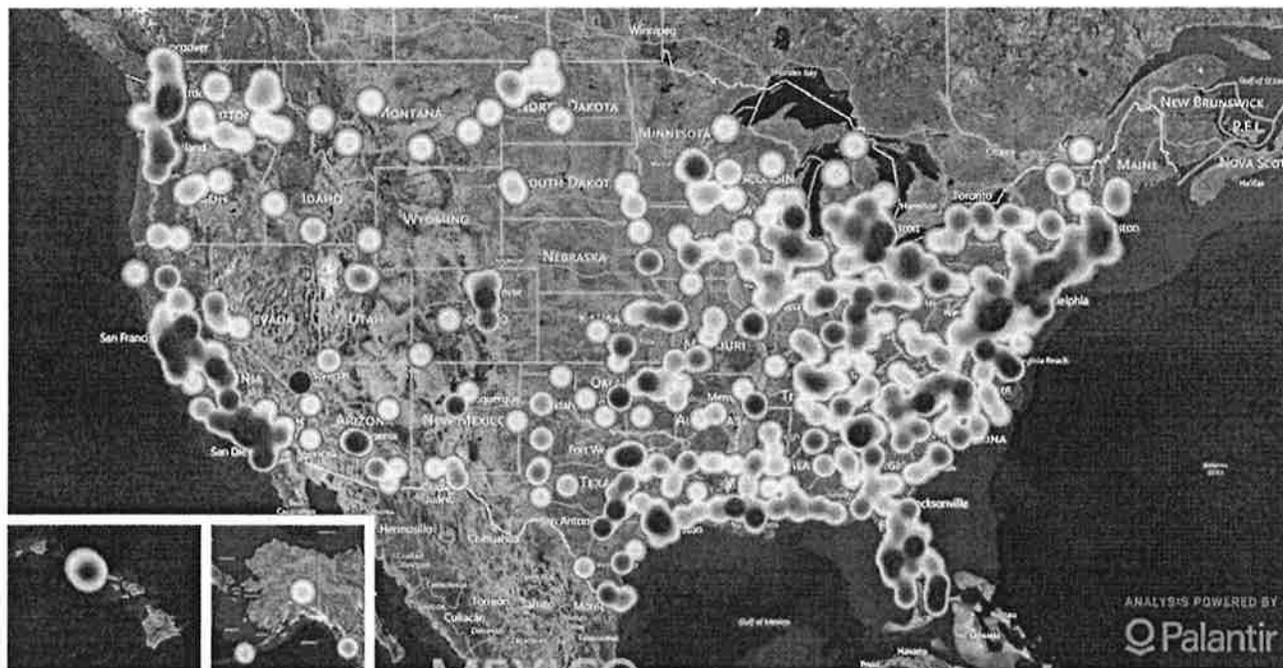
Jamaica	11	0.2%
Ethiopia	9	0.2%
South Africa	8	0.2%
Colombia	8	0.2%
Ukraine	7	0.1%
Romania	6	0.1%
Peru	6	0.1%
Dominican Republic	6	0.1%
Pakistan	6	0.1%
Japan	5	0.1%
Haiti	5	0.1%
United Kingdom	5	0.1%
Kenya	5	0.1%
Nepal	4	0.1%
Canada	4	0.1%
Indonesia	4	0.1%
Brazil	4	0.1%
Morocco	3	0.1%
Spain	3	0.1%
Bangladesh	3	0.1%
Uganda	3	0.1%
Ecuador	3	0.1%
Congo, Democratic Republic	3	0.1%
Czech Republic	3	0.1%
Nicaragua	3	0.1%
Nigeria	3	0.1%
Unknown/Not Specified*	2390	47.4%
Grand Total	5042	100.0%

* In some cases, demographic information is not reported to the NHTRC.

**Cases may involve multiple victims of multiple nationalities.

***To protect the confidentiality of the potential victims involved, the NHTRC does not disclose specific nationalities referenced in fewer than three cases.

LOCATION OF POTENTIAL TRAFFICKING CASES (WHERE KNOWN)*



**This map only reflects cases in which the location of the potential trafficking was known. Some cases may involve more than one location and are not reflected in this map.*

Important Note: *The data displayed in this report was generated based on information communicated to the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline via phone, email, and online tip report. The NHTRC cannot verify the accuracy of the information reported. This is not a comprehensive report on the scale or scope of human trafficking within the state. These statistics may be subject to change as new information emerges.*

Idaho Legislature
Senate Judiciary and Rules Committee
March 4, 2015

Good afternoon, Madam Chairman (Senator Lodge), Committee Members,

My name is Merikay Jost. I live in Boise. I have been involved in creating awareness of human trafficking since 2004.

I am in favor of S 1103 for many reasons.

This bill will help victims of human trafficking pick up the pieces and build their futures. Many of these victims have lost great chunks of their lives, some beginning in their early childhood. With S1103 some of the barriers this victim faces will disappear.

As it stands today prostitution is a felony in Idaho. As it stands across the country arrests are heavily one sided. The person purchased is arrested while the perpetrators get a mild slap on the wrist and walks.

In Idaho a child can be arrested for prostitution. That child will have a record under current prostitution laws.

A person with a felony will need to declare that record when applying for employment. As you can imagine felony convictions close most doors.

School loans, grants, and scholarships sources take into consideration felony charges.

Landlords will be conducting background checks of renters. Housing loans, low income housing, government subsidized housing will take into account the status of the applicant. Those with felonies could be denied entrance to homeless shelters depending on the felony type.

The person with a felony can be denied varying assistance programs, benefits such as food stamps or child assistance may become unavailable, and if the felony is drug related their problems compound.

Statistics are showing many victims of sex trafficking are using drugs to numb their experience. One method traffickers and pimps use to control their victims is generating and supporting their drug habits.

Boise is on the 'circuit', a city among a chain of cities pimps travel, selling their goods to insatiable buyers.

One begs to wonder what is taking place, under the surface in Idaho, when Men's Health magazine lists Boise #11 in their "Smuttiest Cities in America" list. 4/14/12.

S1103 will go a long way to helping the trafficked victim become a productive community member and at this point I would like to comment on some of the wording in this bill.

The bill reads, "The person may file the petition at any time." My concern is that an "any time" request may hamper an ongoing human trafficking case. The petition to have a felony expunged before or while a human trafficking trial is in session could compromise evidence that may be crucial in the trafficking prosecution. The loss of that material could jeopardize or at the very least make a difficult prosecution more difficult.

If the expungement proceeding takes place after the human trafficking case is closed, the victim will have better opportunity at obtaining restitution due them and that would contribute greatly to her ongoing and lengthy rehabilitation.

If prosecutors do not feel the point I've brought up is of concern, I gladly step down. If they do, with some minor re-wording S1103 will make an enormous difference in helping this victim re-enter society as a productive member unencumbered by a criminal record she did not create for herself.

This is a good first step in giving the human trafficking victims a hand up, maybe the first hand up she has had in a very long time.

Vice Chr – Hagedorn,

Sen.s Davis, Tippetts, Johnson, Bayer, Souza, Borgoyne,

Secretary Carol Cornwall 322-1317, sjud@senate.idaho.gov