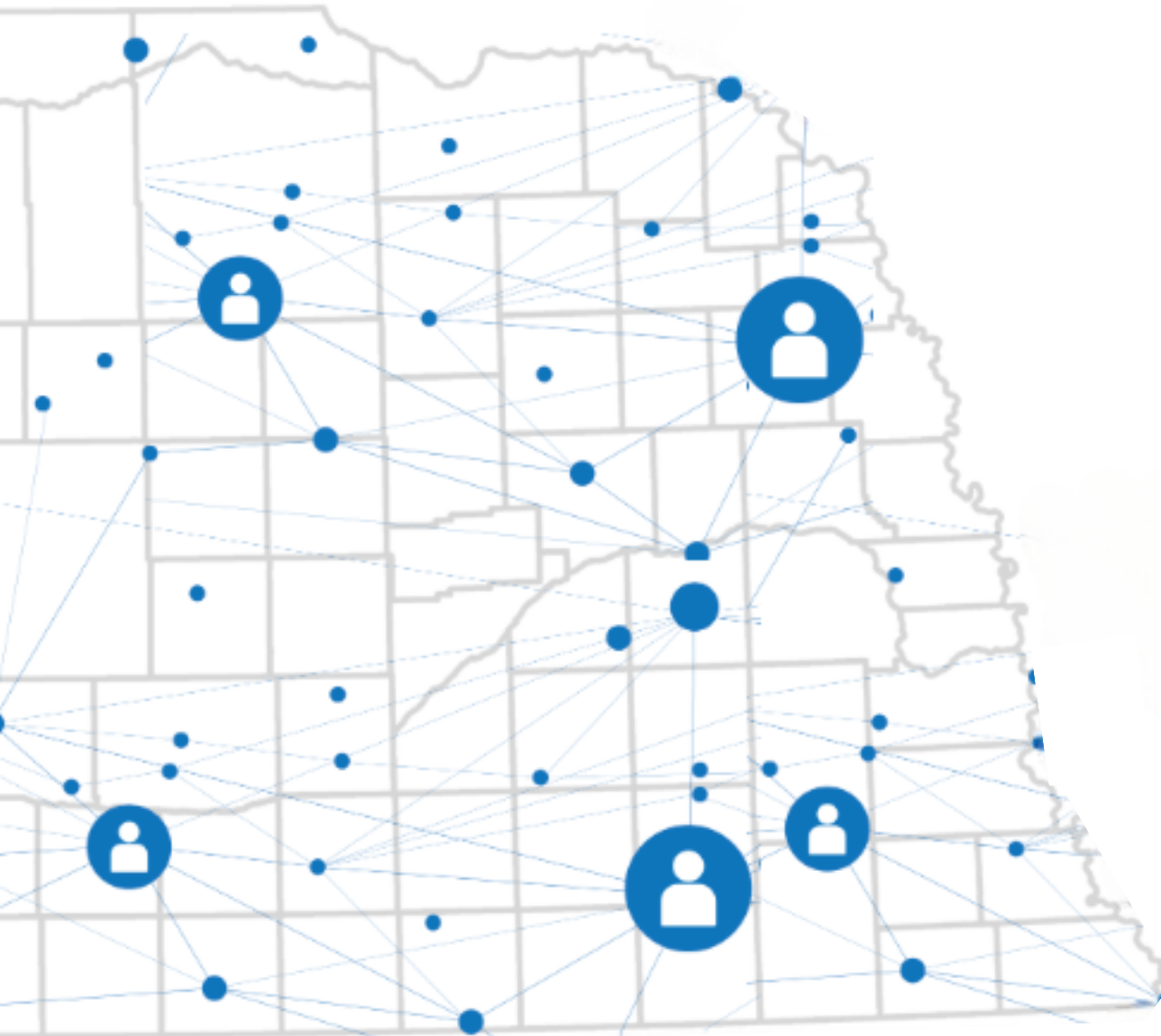




Nebraska
Human Trafficking
TASK FORCE



2023 **REPORT**



2023 Report Nebraska Human Trafficking TASK FORCE



Attorney General Update

As Attorney General, I have the privilege and responsibility to lead Nebraska's Human Trafficking Task Force.

NHTTF is comprised of law enforcement, prosecutors, healthcare professionals, service providers, advocates, and other community partners working to stop traffickers through arrest, prosecution, trainings, and survivor-based services. Trafficking investigations and prosecutions have occurred in towns as small as Mullen and cities as large as Omaha.

Nebraska's five task force regions meet regularly to collaborate and share information on issues in their communities. This collaborative approach is necessary to eradicate human trafficking in our state.

We've seen success come from the Nebraska Human Trafficking Hotline. Tips called into the hotline have led to law enforcement dispatches across the state. We are also working with legislators, law enforcement, and county attorneys across the state to increase prosecution of the purchasers of trafficking.

The fight to end trafficking is ongoing, and I'm thankful to work alongside so many dedicated professionals.

Nebraska Attorney General
Mike Hilgers





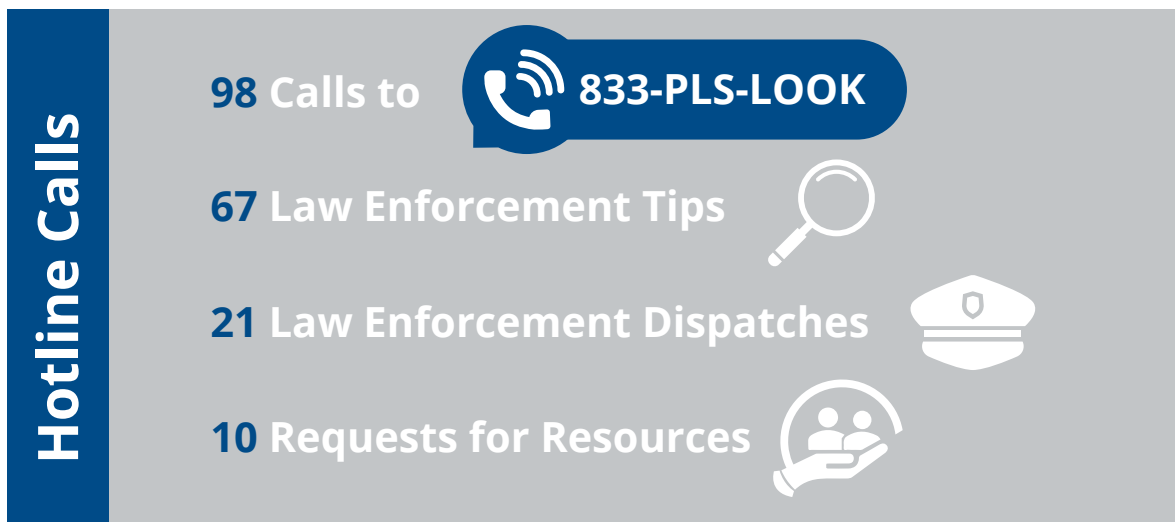
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2023 Human Trafficking **Hotline** Calls

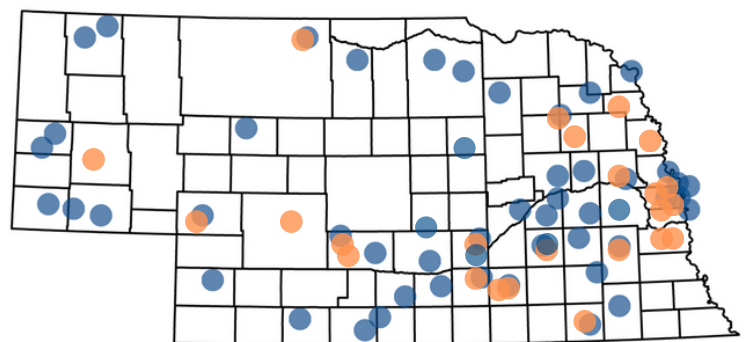
In October of 2022, the Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force launched a hotline dedicated to reporting human trafficking. The hotline, **833-PLS-LOOK**, connects concerned citizens directly with trained dispatchers at the Nebraska State Patrol.

Calls to the hotline are reviewed by a team of local, state, and federal investigators. A member of this team either responds to the reporting party directly or the tip is forwarded to another local, state, or federal investigator for follow-up.



The blue dots represent past human trafficking investigations.

In 2023, the hotline received tips from the locations in orange, some of which have already led to investigations and prosecutions.



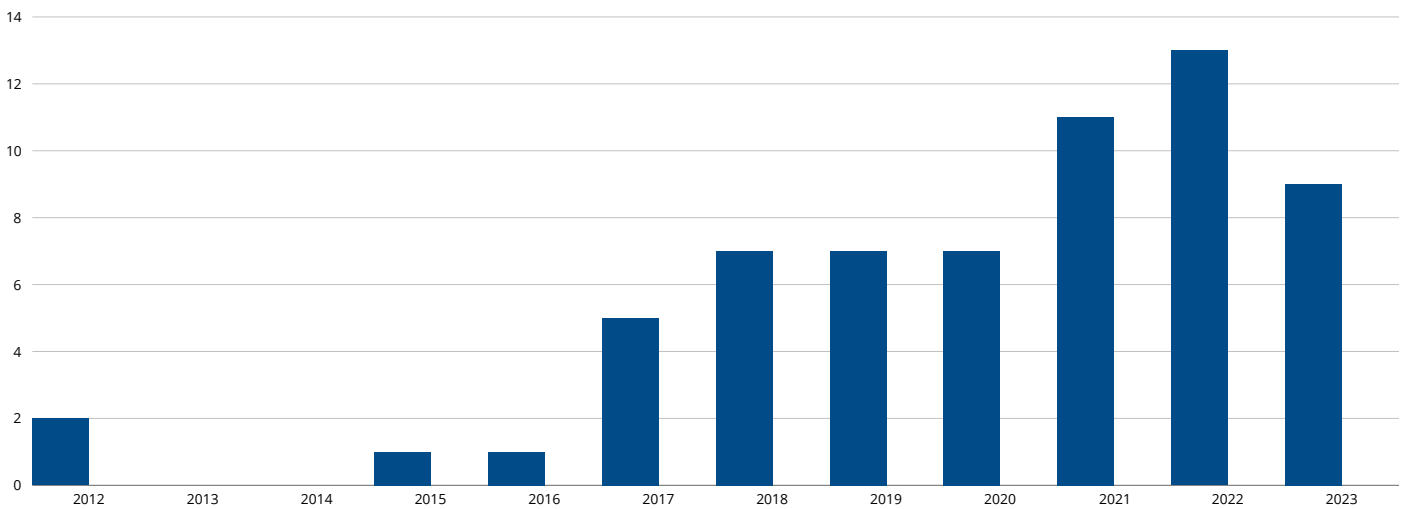


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Convictions and Prosecutions

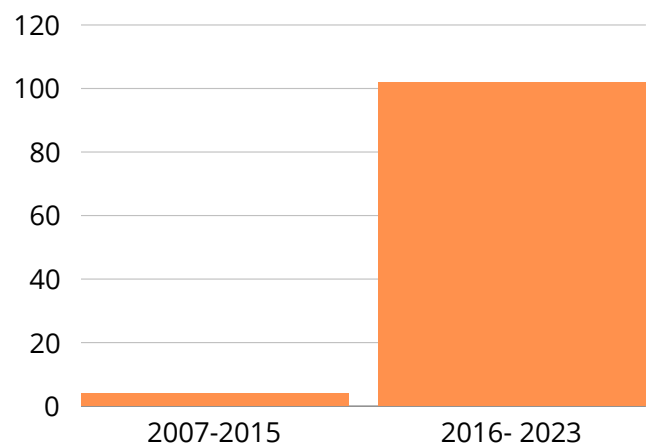
Number of Sex Trafficking Defendants Convicted of Felonies Per Year



Prosecutions Since 2007

Nine years prior to the creation of the Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force, there were four prosecutions.

Currently, there have been 102 prosecutions in state court since 2015.



Felony convictions of sex trafficking defendants remained high in 2023. Offenders were convicted from multiple counties across Nebraska, and sentences varied from probation to imprisonment.

Task force coordination, innovative statewide trainings, survivor-based services, and increased legislation will continue to hold trafficking offenders accountable in 2024 and beyond.



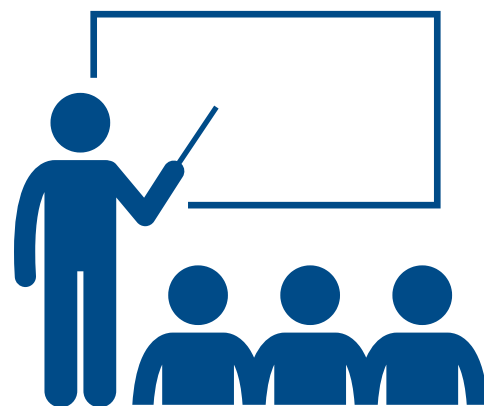
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Video Training Series

In August 2023, the Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force sent training videos to over **1,700** superintendents, principals, police chiefs, and sheriffs. These videos are designed to educate community members to better recognize and respond to human trafficking.

Any member of the public can watch training videos at AGO.Nebraska.gov.



Education Across Nebraska



In 2023, the Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force distributed posters to the Omaha Airport, truck stops, casinos, and community groups.

These posters are designed to educate the public and connect human trafficking victims to critical resources.

NHTTF also offered trainings to various groups across the state.

2,900 People Trained

- Judges
- Prosecutors
- Law enforcement
- DHHS employees
- College students
- Municipality officials
- Utility linemen
- Mental health professionals
- Advocates
- Bank employees



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Looking Forward: 2024 Statewide Training Initiative

Beginning in January of 2024, the Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force will conduct a series of trainings across the state to equip Nebraskans with the knowledge to combat human trafficking.

In response to statewide requests, our team will be able to connect face-to-face this year to deepen relationships with key professionals in Nebraska.

The following statewide trainings will be available in eight cities:

- Human Trafficking in Nebraska for Task Force Members
- Investigating and Prosecuting Cases of Human Trafficking
- Recognizing and Preventing Human Trafficking in Your Community

The first two trainings are designed for prosecutors, law enforcement officers, medical and mental health professionals, and advocates. Free registration is available at AGO.Nebraska.gov.

Community members are invited to attend the third training, Recognizing and Preventing Human Trafficking in Your Community. Registration is not required for community members, and more information is available on our website at AGO.Nebraska.gov.

2024 Statewide Training Locations

Beatrice
Columbus
Grand Island
Lexington
Lincoln
North Platte
O'Neill
Scottsbluff





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Nebraska **Laws** Combating Human Trafficking

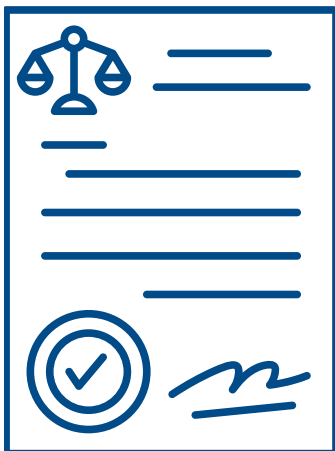
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|-------------|--|
| 2024 | New bill protects children and sex trafficking victims from online exploitation |
| 2022 | Requires convicted sex traffickers to register as a sex offender; keeps victim's names confidential until the accused person is arrested |
| 2020 | Requires law enforcement to respond promptly to T- or U-visa requests |
| 2019 | Increases statute of limitations. Allows wiretaps. Mandates DHHS use of screening tool |
| 2018 | Enacts criminal record relief for trafficked victims |
| 2017 | Raises penalties for trafficking crimes. Adds buyers as traffickers |
| 2016 | Immunizes trafficking victims from prostitution charges |
| 2015 | Raises trafficking penalties; authorizes civil forfeiture for trafficking crimes |
| 2014 | Expands definition of labor trafficking |
| 2013 | Defines sex & labor trafficking |
| 2012 | Establishes Governor's Task Force |
| 2006 | Defines trafficking victim |



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More about LB1096



This bill combats sex trafficking and child exploitation online. Federal and state law prohibit the manufacturing, distributing, and publishing of material on the internet that exploits children or depicts victims of sex trafficking. Internet content providers and platforms represent that they adhere to all such laws.

LB1096 provides that any false representation of adherence to federal and state laws designed to protect children and prevent the proliferation of sex trafficking is a deceptive trade practice under Nebraska's Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act.

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 watching our human trafficking video series at AGO.Nebraska.gov.
- Come to an in-person training from NHTTF near you. Event details and registration are available at AGO.Nebraska.gov.