



ARKANSAS HUMAN TRAFFICKING COUNCIL



QUICK FACTS

ARKANSAS' AWAKENING

- Governor Sanders
 - Executive Order
- Attorney General Tim Griffin
 - Summit – 1,500 attendees
- Grant DHS and DPS
 - 1.5 Million Dollar
- Arkansas Human Trafficking Council
 - Led by Attorney General, Arkansas State Police, and Human Services.

"I APPLAUD THE EFFORTS OF THIS COALITION OF ORGANIZATIONS, WHICH REPRESENT BOTH LAW ENFORCEMENT AND VICTIM SERVICES GROUPS. IT IS ONLY THROUGH THIS KIND OF INTENTIONAL COLLABORATION THAT WE CAN MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN ARKANSAS."

*- ATTORNEY GENERAL TIM GRIFFIN
FEBRUARY 26, 2024*



**TODAY'S
GOALS**

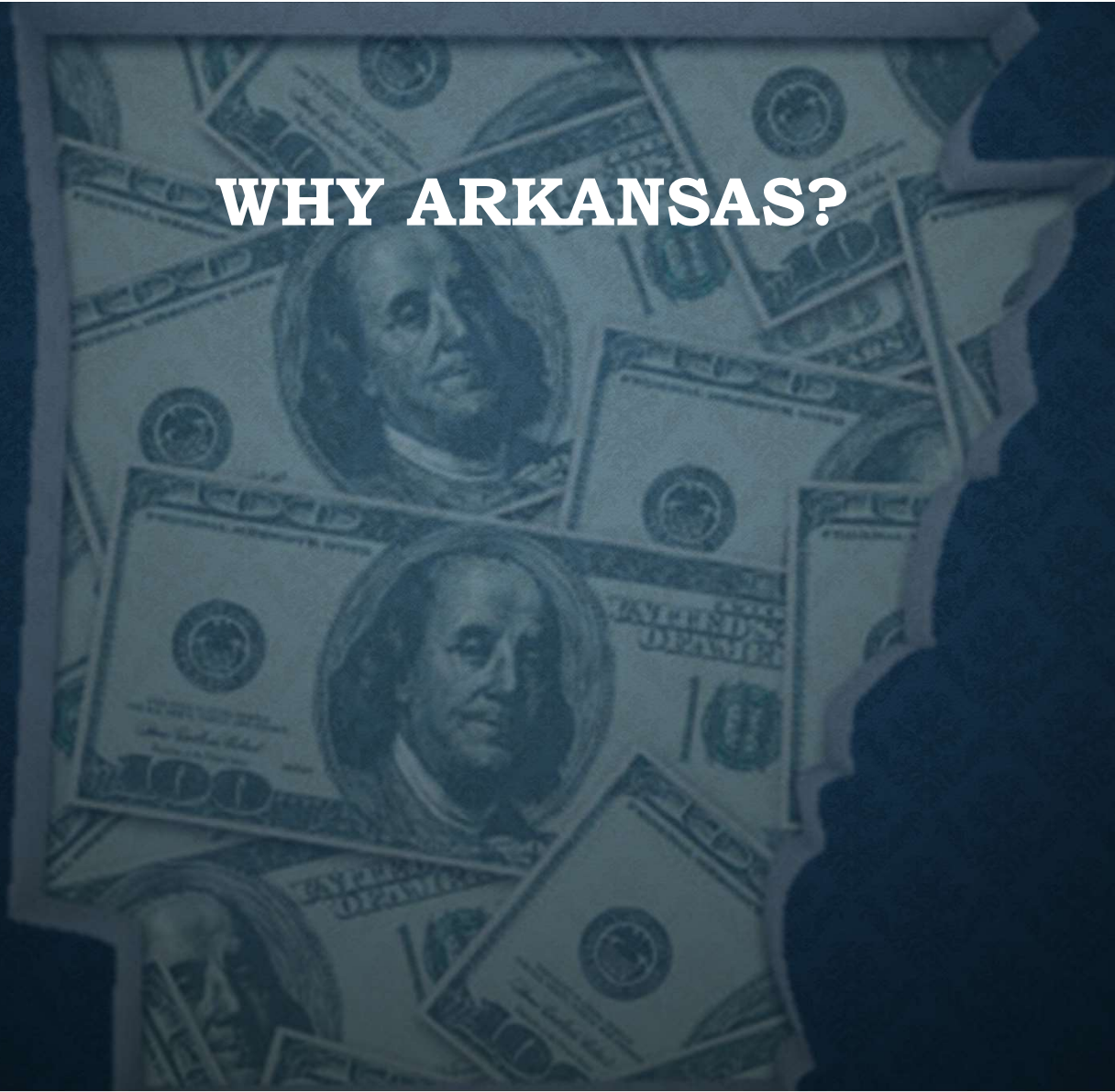
ARKANSAS

Does it exist here?

How?

Case Reviews

WHY ARKANSAS?



WHY ARKANSAS?

Centrally located

Major interstates

Hospitality industry:

- Tourism 8 Billion in AR
- Casinos
- Hotels
- Restaurants

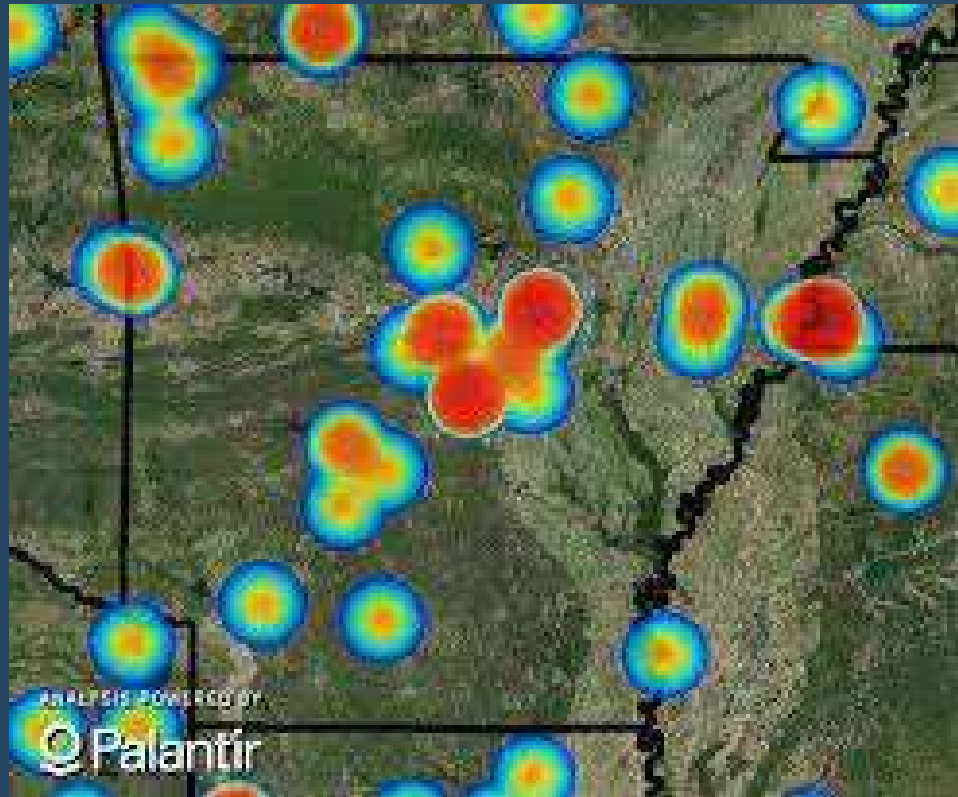
Agriculture

- 19 Billion Industry

Factories &
industries requiring
shift work

Strip clubs &
massage parlors

Poverty



ARKANSAS HOT SPOTS

Traffickers come from

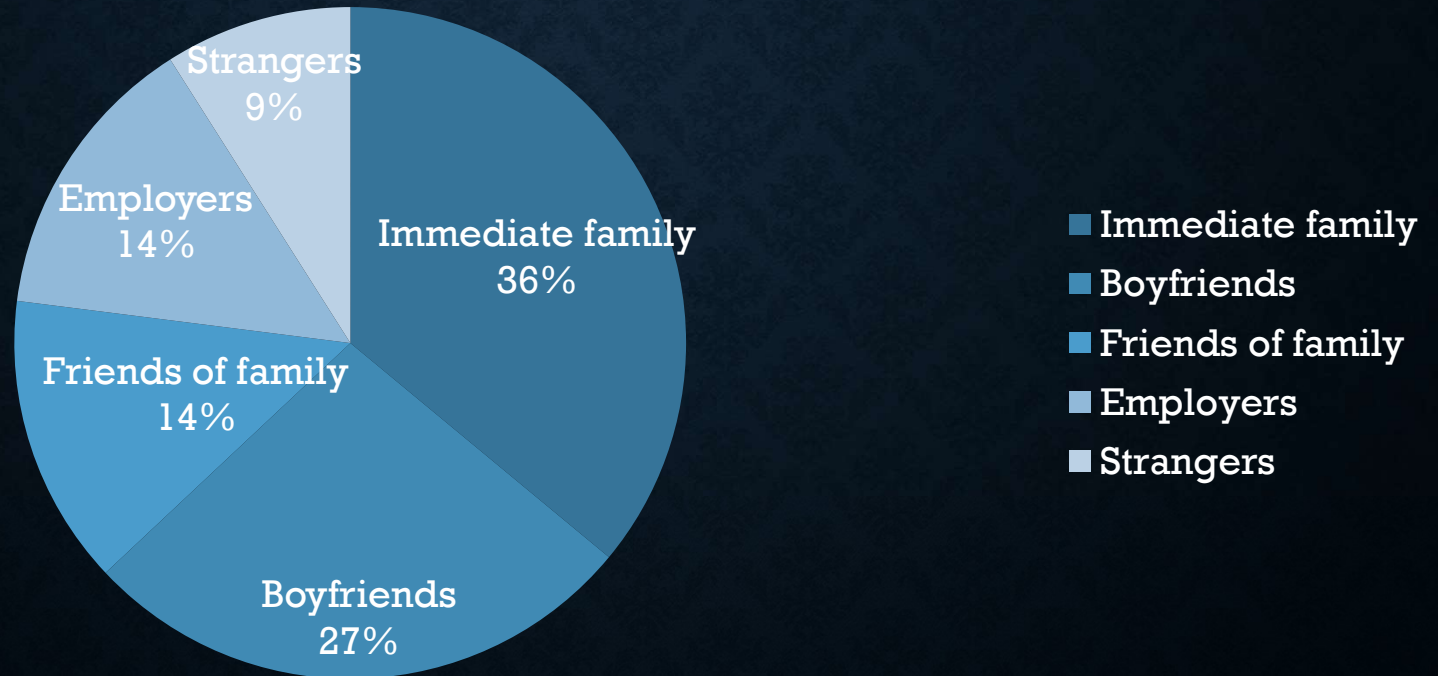
all walks

of life

and often

know the victim

THE TRAFFICKERS



CHILDREN TYPICALLY ARE ALLOWED TO WORK LEGALLY WHEN THEY ARE 14-YEARS-OLD (DEPENDING ON THE STATE)

Child labor is when a minor under the legal working age, engaged in illegal work, or work that's harmful to his/her/their health, development, or education.



Child labor exploitation is when a child is working legally but is denied basic legal rights such as fair compensation.



Child labor trafficking can include components of child labor and labor exploitation but is only considered labor trafficking when there are **elements of force, fraud, or coercion**.

REPORT REPORT REPORT

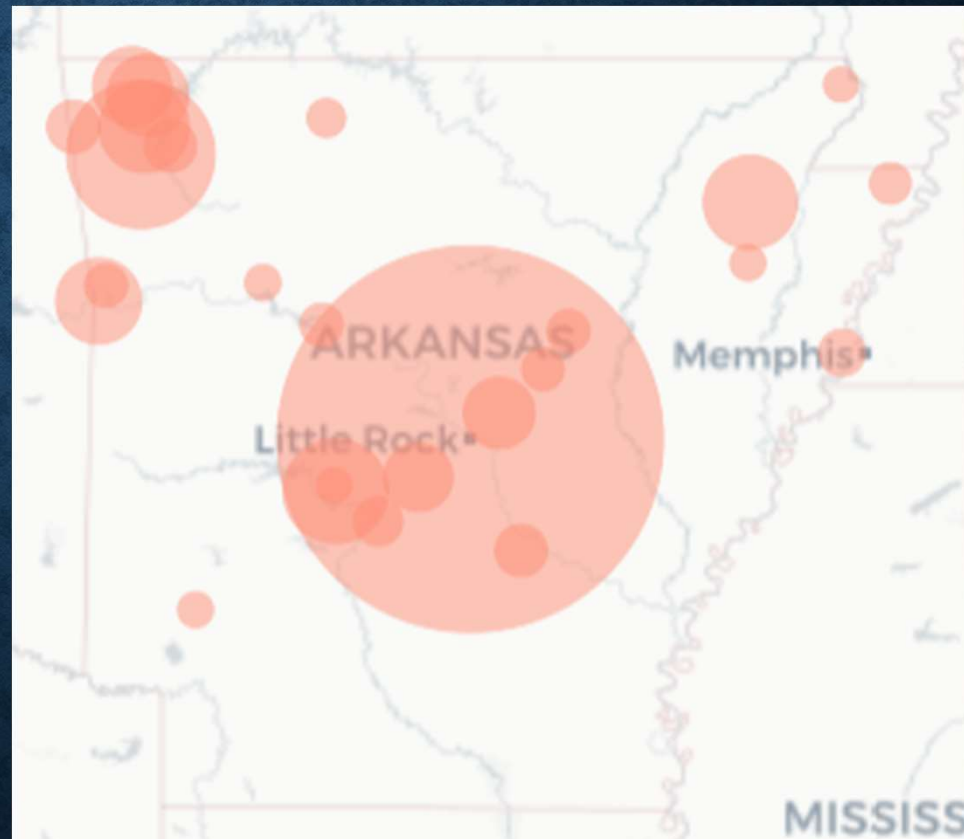
- Child Abuse Hotline (800-482-5964)
 - Online portal: <https://mandatedreporter.arkansas.gov/>
- Arkansas State Police Email
 - reportht@arkansas.gov
- Call the National Human Trafficking Hotline toll-free hotline at 1-888-373-7888: Anti-Trafficking Hotline Advocates are available 24/7 to take reports of potential human trafficking.
- Text the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 233733. Message and data rates may apply.
- Chat the National Human Trafficking Hotline via humantraffickinghotline.org/chat.
- Report missing children or child pornography to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) at 1-800-THE-LOST (843-5678) or through their Cybertipline.

**WHAT CITY IN ARKANSAS HAS THE MOST
ACTIVE ESCORTS?**

**UNIQUE LOCATIONS
ARKANSAS**

**LITTLE ROCK (3540 RESULTS)
FAYETTEVILLE (1146 RESULTS)
HOT SPRINGS (708 RESULTS)
JONESBORO (597 RESULTS)
SPRINGDALE (562 RESULTS)
FORT SMITH (516 RESULTS)
ROGERS (472 RESULTS)
BENTONVILLE (449 RESULTS)
JACKSONVILLE (372 RESULTS)
BENTON (347 RESULTS)
SILOAM SPRINGS (184 RESULTS)
PINE BLUFF (177 RESULTS)
GOSHEN (177 RESULTS)
MALVERN (146 RESULTS)
WEST MEMPHIS (123 RESULTS)
VAN BUREN (86 RESULTS)
RUSSELLVILLE (85 RESULTS)
SEARCY (83 RESULTS)
BEEBE (79 RESULTS)
BLYTHEVILLE (69 RESULTS)
HARRISON (40 RESULTS)
CLARKSVILLE (15 RESULTS)
HARRISBURG (11 RESULTS)
NASHVILLE (10 RESULTS)
HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK (3 RESULTS)
PIGGOTT (2 RESULTS)**

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN ARKANSAS
STATS ON SEX TRAFFICKING
FROM JANUARY 1, 2024, TO DECEMBER 31, 2024
704,572 ADS**



WHY?

HIGH RISK VICTIM RESPONSE TEAM (MISSING CHILDREN)

- ACIC provides a weekly list of missing persons.
- DHS provides list of missing Foster Children
- List is searched for high-risk children

MISSING CHILDREN LIST ON 1/21/2025

139 Total Missing Children (under 18)

76 Female

63 Male

Age at time of report:

8 Less than or equal to 12 years old

23 Ages 13 to 15

34 Ages 16 to 17

42 Over 18 now

Missing Timeframe:

28 Missing less than 30 days

65 Missing less than 6 months

83 Missing less than a year

94 Missing less than 2 years

45 Missing more than 2 years

MISSING CHILDREN AND STATISTICS

- 88 percent of children are contacted by a trafficker within 48 hours of them being missing.
- In 2022, NCMEC reported that 1 in 6 children who were reported missing and subsequently recovered were likely victims of child sex trafficking.
- In 2023, NCMEC reported nearly all (98%) of the children missing due to online enticement were recovered, they often traveled a great distance before being returned home or being located. Over a third (36%) were recovered in a different state than their missing state.

OUR RESPONSE



CURRENT STATE PLANS AND POLICIES

- Human Trafficking Council
 - Developed policies, procedures, and protocols for law enforcement.
 - Developed an AR HT Tool with a HT Screening, Identification, Documentation, and Response Protocol
 - Developed a Coordinated Rapid Response Protocol for High-Risk children that have be recovered from missing.
 - Workgroup working on reviewing laws for next session.

OPERATION AWAKENING | AFTER ACTION SUMMARY

- Operation Awakening was a multidisciplinary anti-human trafficking event in the Central Arkansas region.
- The operation occurred on a one-day period in September 2023, and law enforcement officers, support personnel, and advocates from over seventeen federal, state, local, and non-government organizations.
- 4 adults were encountered and voluntarily accepted assistance.
- 2 minor children were removed from exploitative, vulnerable, and unstable situations.

Detained adult males.

Adults contacted and offered services.

Minors Removed

10

10

2



OPERATION HART | AFTER ACTION SUMMARY

- Operation HART was a multidisciplinary anti-human trafficking event in the Northeast Arkansas region. HART stands for Human Anti-Trafficking Recovery Team.
- The operation occurred on a one-day period in February 2024, and law enforcement officers, support personnel, with advocates from over 15 federal, state, local, and non-government organizations.
- Prior to and during Operation HART, Intelligence Analysts and Law Enforcement Officers identified 30 local victims.
- 4 adults voluntarily accepted assistance.

Adults contacted and offered services.

5

Detained adult males.

1

Local Victims Identified

30



OPERATION HOPE | AFTER ACTION SUMMARY

- Operation HOPE was a multidisciplinary anti-human trafficking event near the Central Arkansas region. HOPE stands for Help and Opportunity to Prevent Exploitation.
- The operation occurred on a one-day period in May 2024, and law enforcement officers, support personnel, with advocates from over 15 federal, state, local, and non-government organizations.
- Intelligence analysts and law enforcement officers identified 25 local victims.
- Prior to Operation HOPE, 3 minor children were removed from exploitative, vulnerable, and unstable situations.
- 6 adults voluntarily accepted assistance.

Adults contacted and offered services.

7

Minors (Prior)

3

Local Victims Identified

25



CASE REVIEWS

REMINDER

- **Pimp-Controlled Trafficking:** Child is trafficked by an unrelated individual, male or female, who often develops an intentional relationship with the child which is later used as leverage in the exploitation.
- **Gang-Controlled Trafficking:** Child is trafficked by a member of a gang or trafficked by the gang. Gangs leverage their organizational structure, violence, and local, national, and international networks to instill fear and loyalty in the child victim.
- **Buyer-Perpetrated Trafficking:** Child is being trafficked but does not have a trafficker. Instead, the buyer is directly exploiting the child's vulnerabilities by offering money, food, and/or shelter in exchange for the sexual exploitation.
- **Familial trafficking-** when family members allow their children to be sexually exploited in exchange for something of value i.e. money, drugs, rent, etc.

- A lonely, insecure teen dreams of a modeling career and frequently posts pictures of herself striking a pose. She is contacted by someone who claims to be a modeling agent and sends her a plane ticket to come to his studio. When she arrives, he takes her out on the town and tells her she has to “be nice” to some people in the business to get contracts and sends her out to prostitute.

- A man and a girl meet briefly at a party and afterwards, he follows her on social media. He contacts her after she posts about a breakup with her baby's father. He is everything she ever dreamed of – a great listener, very supportive. He showers her with gifts. She is deeply in love and believes she has found the person she will build her family with. One night he takes her to a party and he tells her to be “nice” to his friends – to earn jewelry. He makes it seem like it's no big deal at first, so she does it. But then it becomes more frequent.

- A teen who identifies as LGBTQ+ runs away from home in a small AR town when his stepfather beats him up for his sexual identity. He camps out in a bus station and meets other runaways who tell him about someone they know in Houston who will probably let him stay at his house – for a price.

- A young woman grows up in a neighborhood where gangs control most of the commercial activity and the streets. She joins them for protection and a sense of belonging, and because there are few other options available. The gang tells her she has to engage in prostitution and give them the proceeds to help them pay a drug debt they owe to a rival gang.

- A young woman who grew up in foster care ages out and is left without a place to live or guidance for her future. She meets a man at her job at a gas station who tells her he has connections in the entertainment industry and she should come dance at his strip club where she will meet producers who might need an assistant. After a few weeks, he tells her the reason she isn't getting noticed is that she does not perform sex acts in the club's back room after her shift ends.

- A child old meets a “friend” online and engages in a relationship with him. The “friend” wants her to have sex with his friends in order for him to get money to pay his rent.

- A child exchanges sex for free rides from a ride share driver.
- A child recruited by a community member to sell drugs and engage in sex acts with casino visitors for which the child is provided cash, phones, and clothes.

- A child is sent a cell phone from someone he meets on his gaming system in exchange for the child masturbating live on camera.
- A child runs away from her group home with peer. The friend takes pictures of child and places an ad for sexual services on an adult services website to get money to cover the cost of their hotel room and food.



CONTACT US

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