

# Hyde County Hotline, Inc.

We are committed to promoting dignity, respect and safety at home resulting in safer communities.

March 2018

Website: [HydeCounty-Hotline.org](http://HydeCounty-Hotline.org)

Facebook: [Hyde County Hotline](https://www.facebook.com/HydeCountyHotline)



She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come

Proverbs 31:25

## NC among top 10 states for human trafficking

Posted February 8, 2017

Updated May 19, 2017

*This story was written for our sponsor, [Project NO REST](http://ProjectNOREST.org) and the University of North Carolina. Learn more about the issue of human trafficking on the Project NO REST [website](http://www.projectnorest.org/) at <http://www.projectnorest.org/>.*

Films often portray human trafficking as something that happens only to foreigners, in dark urban back alleys or dirty motels, but the reality is it actually hits much closer to home than some realize.<sup>4</sup>

Human trafficking -- both sex and labor trafficking -- is happening with alarming frequency in North Carolina.

"According to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, there were 181 human trafficking cases reported from North Carolina in 2016," said Dean Duncan, a research professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's School of Social Work. "That number includes 130 sex trafficking cases and 41 labor trafficking cases."

● [According to the NHTH](#), N.C. is among the top 10 states in the number of trafficking reports. In the past 10 years, the NHTH has identified almost 2,700 victims of human trafficking in the state.

"North Carolina is unique in that the hotline gets a much higher percentage of potential labor trafficking cases compared with the national average," said Jenna Novak, strategic engagement advisor for [Polaris Project](#), a non-profit that works to combat human trafficking.

Novak added, "That does not mean that North Carolina has more labor trafficking than the rest of the country, but North Carolina has made labor trafficking a priority."

Realistically, however, those numbers fall far short of the number of actual trafficking cases happening in North Carolina since human trafficking can be difficult to identify and many victims do not self-identify as trafficking victims.

## WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

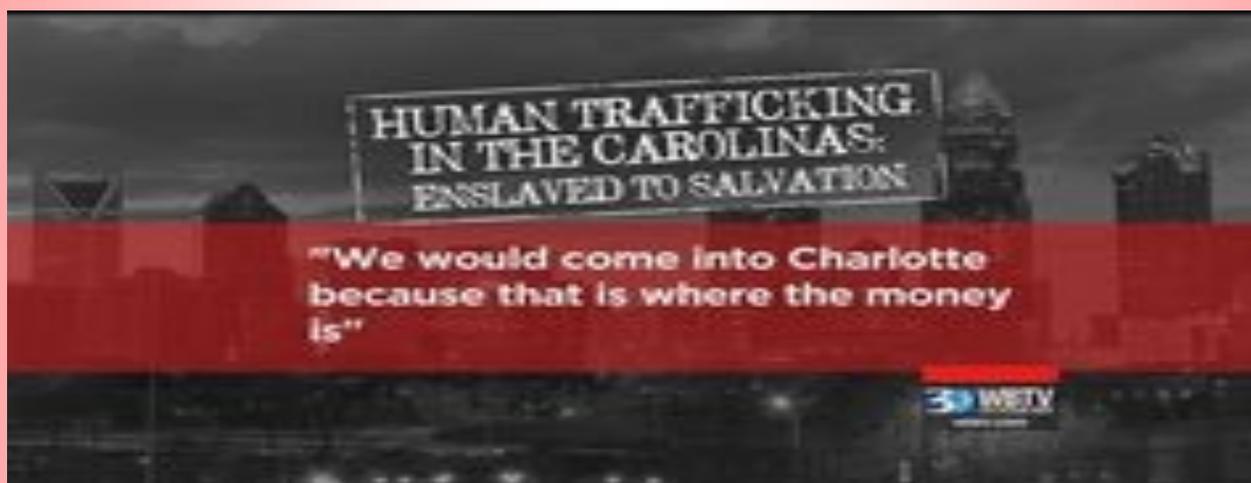
Human trafficking is the use of force fraud or coercion to compel someone to engage in commercial sex or forced labor or services. It includes all acts involving the [recruitment](#), abduction, transport, harboring, transfer, sale or receipt of a person for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, slavery or exploitation.

Trafficking does not only include the transport, transfer or procurement of an individual; it is also the ability of the trafficker to benefit, or earn goods, money or anything of value for the labor or sex act of the people being trafficked.

"Because North Carolina is one of the top 10 states in prevalence of human trafficking, collaboration among disciplines such as law enforcement, case managers, social workers, school personnel, non-profit advocates and others is critical," said Pam Strickland, founder of [Eastern N.C. Stop Human Trafficking Now](#).

"Awareness and education of the general public and of professionals who may encounter victims in the course of their [jobs](#) is also vital," Strickland explained. "The more eyes and ears we have looking for victims, the more victims can be rescued and restored."

For minors under the age of 18, trafficking also includes any case in which the minor is made to perform commercial sex acts, whether or not if force, fraud or coercion is present.



## WHY IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVALENT IN N.C.

The geographic location of N.C., in part, contributes to the high number of victims and survivors living in the state.

North Carolina lies in the center of the triangle encompassed by Washington, D.C., Charlotte and Atlanta, all of which are hubs of human trafficking.

North Carolina also lies at the crossroads of several major interstates, including Interstate 40 that crosses the state from west to east and several interstates running north to south across the state. These highways facilitate sex and labor trafficking.

"The Cumberland County Sheriff's Department, which has been very aggressive in pursuing human trafficking cases, likes to point out that the half-way point between New York City and Miami on I-95 is just north of Fayetteville," said Duncan, who directs [Project NO REST](#) at UNC.

Duncan added, "A number of advocates have long pointed to the convenience of major highways for transportation, easy access to and from tourist areas, as well as a large military presence associated with greater mobility and a number of adult businesses in the area as factors that increase the level of trafficking."

Additionally, large sporting and entertainment arenas that host large events also attract traffickers, as does the state's busy agricultural industry and large number of agricultural and seasonal workers.

"There is a large agricultural community with high demand for [manual](#) laborers," Duncan pointed out. "These features make it easy for predators to locate, coerce or seize, move and sell vulnerable victims."

## PUTTING A STOP TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The first step to ending human trafficking in the state is to [raise awareness](#) among North Carolinians that human trafficking is a problem that affects all North Carolinians.

"All citizens can make a difference in preventing this crime once we are aware," said Patricia Witt, co-founder of [Partners Against Trafficking Humans in N.C.](#) "After learning what to observe, we are then equipped to better protect our own family and community as well as report potential situations of human trafficking."<sup>2</sup>

Witt added that "the more reporting we do, the more difficult it becomes for this crime to remain a low risk and hidden 'beneath the surface.' "

She continued, "With the reporting, law enforcement agencies can become more proactive in their protection and prosecution efforts."

To report a case of human trafficking or reach out for help today, call 1-888-373-7888 or Text HELP to: BeFree (233733).

# North Carolina reports 15,000 untested rape evidence kits; at least 1,584 in WNC

[Sam DeGrave](#), [sdegrave@citizen-times.com](mailto:sdegrave@citizen-times.com)

Published 1:10 p.m. ET Feb. 28, 2018 | Updated 4:57 p.m. ET Feb. 28, 2018

RALEIGH — North Carolina has a backlog of more than 15,000 untested rape kits, according to a report released Wednesday by the State Crime Laboratory.

"This is a major problem, and it's going to require thoughtful strategy to attack it," N.C. Attorney General Josh Stein told the Citizen Times. "We need to test all these untested kits in our inventory."

It will cost about \$10.6 million to test all of the state's 15,160 untested sexual assault evidence collection kits, at a cost of \$700 each, [the crime lab report](#) states.

The [N.C. General Assembly during its last session mandated all law enforcement agencies submit](#) to the crime lab an inventory of untested sexual assault evidence collection kits. Police agencies were to report their findings by Jan. 1; 46 of the state's 563 law enforcement agencies failed to do that.

**More:** [North Carolina unsure how many rape kits are left untested](#)

Stein said he's thankful for the mandate, without which the Department of Justice wouldn't know the extent of the backlog. Before the inventory was finished, Stein said he would've guessed that the state was sitting on about 5,000 or 6,000 untested kits, based on numbers the crime lab had received from law enforcement agencies that voluntarily reported.

"I didn't have a firm sense going in, but it's more than I thought there would be," Stein said.

The legislative mandate requiring law enforcement agencies inventory their untested rape kits asked that they sort the data into categories. Police had to report how many kits hadn't been tested for each of the following reasons:

- The victim didn't report the assault to police.
- The matter was already resolved in court.
- The suspect admitted guilt.
- The allegations were determined "unfounded."

The state logged 390 anonymous rape kits, 2,741 kits for cases resolved in court, 1,054 kits for cases in which the suspect admitted guilt, and 3,829 kits for allegations deemed "unfounded." The crime lab reported that 7,545 untested kits didn't fall into any of those categories.

The report includes an additional 862 anonymous untested rape kits from the Department of Public Safety's Law Enforcement Support Services warehouse.

In an interview with the Citizen Times earlier this month, state Rep. Billy Richardson, a Cumberland County Democrat behind the legislative mandate, said he anticipated the report would show a large backlog.

To Continue Reading:

<https://www.citizen-times.com/story/news/local/2018/02/28/rape-kit-backlog-nc-reports-15-000-unttested-sexual-assault-evidence-kits/381526002/>



**Your Support Enables Hotline To Better Serve  
Victims and Survivors of Domestic Abuse**  
*Please Consider*

**Donating to our Thrift Store  
Financial Gifts  
Asking about a Presentation**

**Thank You!**

Please call for more information at [252-925-2502](tel:252-925-2502)

**We Love VOLUNTEERS!!!**

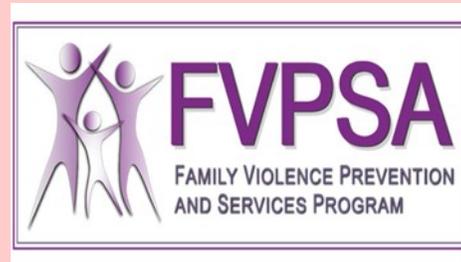
**PLEASE HELP AND CALL**

**Hyde County HotLine 252-925-2502**

Hyde County Hotline offers support groups for victims and survivors of domestic abuse and sexual victimization.

Domestic abuse support group is offered 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> weeks of

Thank you to the family Violence Prevention  
Services Program  
US DHHS, and NC Council for Women for  
financial support.



**OUR MISSION:**

**The purpose of Hyde County Hotline, Inc. is to work to eliminate domestic abuse and sexual victimization and provide safe shelter in Hyde County, North Carolina through the collaborative efforts of a compassionate community. We promote dignity, respect and safety at home resulting in safer communities.**

**HYDE COUNTY HOTLINE  
24 HOUR CRISIS LINE  
[252-925-2500](tel:252-925-2500)**