August 2026 | Edition #33

Source FOR SIOUXLAND

Empowering Our Community Through Comprehensive Strategies.

DATA FEATURE

Safety: Human Trafficking Offenses

IOWA

27

human trafficking offenses were recorded in Iowa in 2024.

- IOWA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, 2025

NEBRASKA

48

human trafficking offenses were recorded in Nebraska in 2024.

- NEBRASKA CRIME COMMISSION/NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE, 2025

SOUTH DAKOTA

9

human trafficking offenses were recorded in South Dakota in 2024.

- SOUTH DAKOTA DIVISION OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION, 2025

A GROWING PRESENCE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE TRI-STATE AREA

Background

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery where individuals are forced or tricked into labor or commercial sex through threats, fraud, or violence. A human trafficking offense represents a single human trafficking incident reported to the police, while a human trafficking arrest represents an individual person being taken into custody. Because one person can be responsible for multiple human trafficking offenses against multiple victims, the number of victims and offenses will typically be much higher than the number of arrests.

Human Trafficking Offenses in the Tri-State Area

Across the tri-state area of Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota, a total of 84 human trafficking offenses were recorded in 2024, though the individual state trajectories show significant volatility over recent years. Nebraska reported the highest volume with 48 offenses, a figure that reflects a sharp climb from just 3 cases in 2019 and a peak of 65 in 2023. Iowa followed a similar bell-curve trend, spiking from a single case in 2019 to a high of 52 in 2022, before settling at 27 offenses in 2024. In contrast, South Dakota has seen a steady, year-over-year increase; starting with only 2 offenses in 2019, the state reached a new high of 9 cases in 2024. Altogether, these shifting numbers highlight the evolving nature of the crisis across the Midwest, suggesting that while some states are seeing a recent decline from record highs, the overall regional presence of these crimes remains significantly higher than it was five years ago.

ABOUT US

Source For Siouxland is the region's central resource for trusted data, helping advance a healthy, safe, and vibrant community. We track key indicators across five focus areas—Economic Stability, Education, Health, Safety, and Quality of Life.

Through our annual Data Update and monthly Data Features, we collect and share local, regional, and national data to help community leaders, nonprofits, and funders make informed decisions.

INFORMATION BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE SFS LEADERSHIP TEAM:

Catholic Charities· Great Plains ToP· Growing Community Connections· Helios Foundation· One Siouxland· SHIP· Siouxland Community Foundation· Siouxland District Health Department· United Way of Siouxland

CCourtney@SiouxlandDistrictHealth.org
www.SourceForSiouxland.com