

WAYNE COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT



HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASES

What is Human Trafficking?

Human Trafficking is a crime that involves exploiting a person for labor, services, or commercial sex. (Federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000* and its subsequent reauthorizations)

1. Sex trafficking is a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or without force, fraud or coercion if the person being trafficked is under 18 years of age

2. Labor Trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, using force, fraud, or coercion

People often falsely believe “human trafficking” implies victims must be moved from one place to another to qualify as a victim. Human trafficking does not require transportation to be considered a crime

Cite: <https://www.waynecounty.com/elected/prosecutor/home.aspx>

HUMAN TRAFFICKING BY THE NUMBERS

UNITED STATES

Number of trafficking situations and victims identified

Situations of trafficking identified: **10,583**

Sex	7,648
Labor	1,052
Sex & Labor	334
Other/Not Specified	1,549

Victims of trafficking identified: **16,658**

Sex	10,836
Labor	3,583
Sex & Labor	631
Other/Not Specified	1,634

Polaris Project,
2020 statistics

“Pandemic
Proof”

MICHIGAN

2020 data is current through December 31, 2020.

2020

2019

2018

2017

2016

845
CONTACTS
THIS YEAR

295
HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
CASES REPORTED
THIS YEAR

National Human
Trafficking Hotline

<https://humantraffickinghotline.org/state/michigan>

HOW MUCH TIME

- Months of investigation:
 - The police agencies spend weeks and/or months investigating human trafficking suspects
 - We are involved with these investigations because the agencies send various search warrants for our review
 - Ex: Suspect RC—About 3 months of search warrants during their investigation before a warrant request was ever sent to us (First SW 3/22/2021, warrant submission 6/16/2021)

From and including: **Monday, March 22, 2021**
To, but **not** including **Thursday, June 17, 2021**

Result: 87 days

It is **87 days** from the start date to the end date, but not including the end date.

Or 2 months, 26 days excluding the end date.

Alternative time units

87 days can be converted to one of these units:

- 7,516,800 seconds
- 125,280 minutes
- 2088 hours
- 87 days
- 12 weeks and 3 days
- 23.84% of 2021

March 2021						
10 days included						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

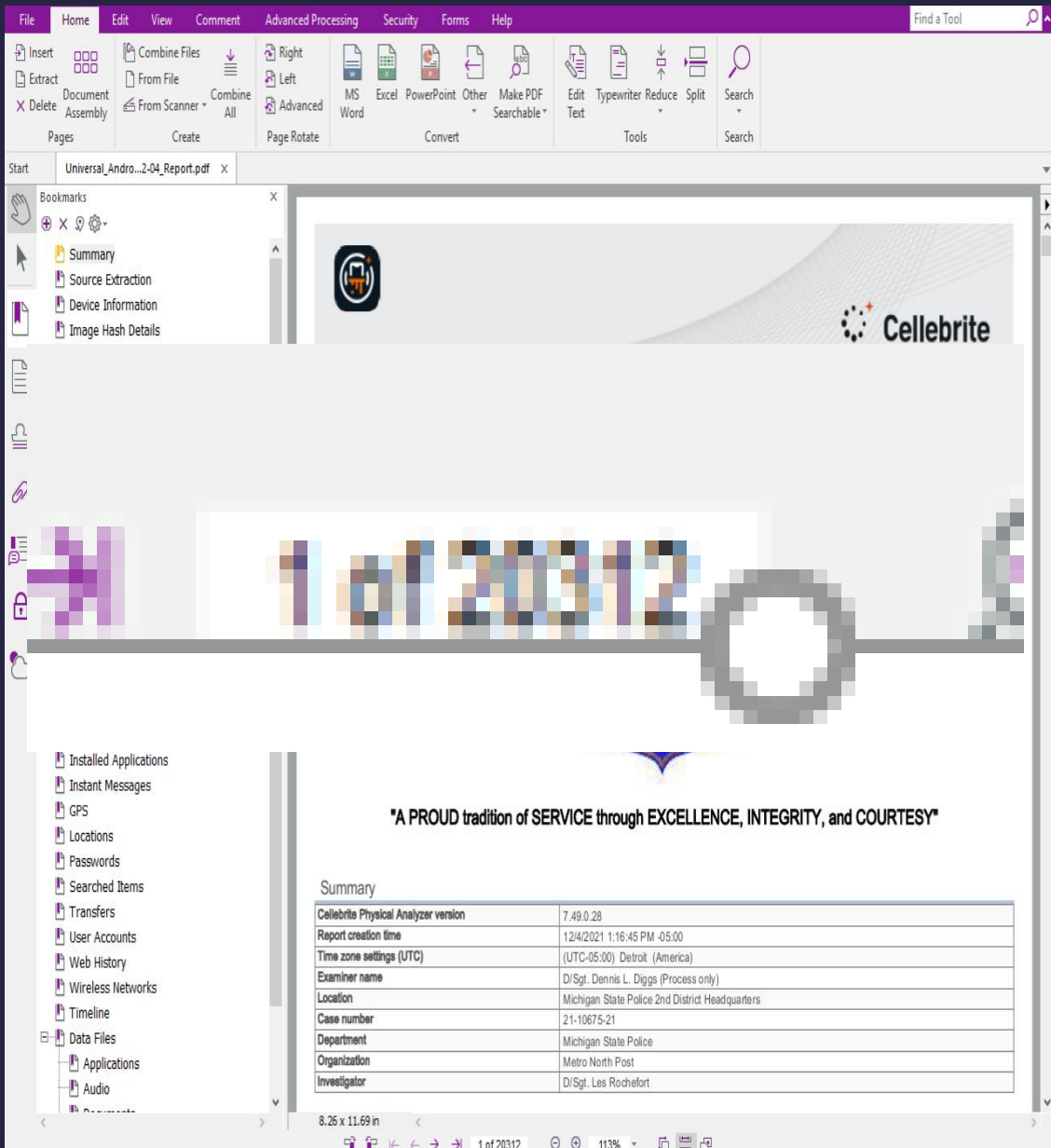
April 2021						
30 days included						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 2021						
31 days included						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June 2021						
16 days included						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

FURTHER INVESTIGATION AFTER A WARRANT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED FOR OUR REVIEW

- Additional evidence : Police reports, SANE reports, photos, body worn camera, DNA, Lab, 911 calls
- Statements from additional witnesses
- Receipts/records from hotels
- Surveillance Videos from hotels
- Specifics of force, fraud, coercion, drug use
- Records of electronic monetary transactions
- Extractions of electronic devices used to post/to set up dates . Thousands of Pages



Setting up Dates

Ss?

Status: Read

11/6/2021 3:01:55 PM(UTC-4)

80ss

Participant

Delivered

Read

Played

To: Daddy

Daddy I have 1 ~~otu~~ with 100 for duo top only about 40 away and I have a regular coming around 6 for the same thing

Permission to eat?

To: Daddy

Daddy I'm hungry can I go to the gas station and get something please daddy

Pre-Charge Time:

- Hours of review prior to charging
- Reports, written statements, body camera videos, recorded interviews, surveillance videos, maps, photos, medical records, lab reports for DNA, narcotics, and firearms
 - Ex: One case took over a week of review prior to charging

- Time in court:

- Motions
- Multiple days/hearings to complete
- Adjournments - review evidence
- Transient victims
- Defendants who know the system
- Lengthy trials—10+ days of trial, several witnesses, plethora of exhibits



CHALLENGES

- Due to the nature of these cases our team is “always on call”
- Voluminous
- Below are the binders from 1 HT case (not pictured 20+ disks) [AKA Sexy Paper cases]
- Several gigabytes of information electronically as well as thousands of documents



WHO ARE THE PARTNERS?

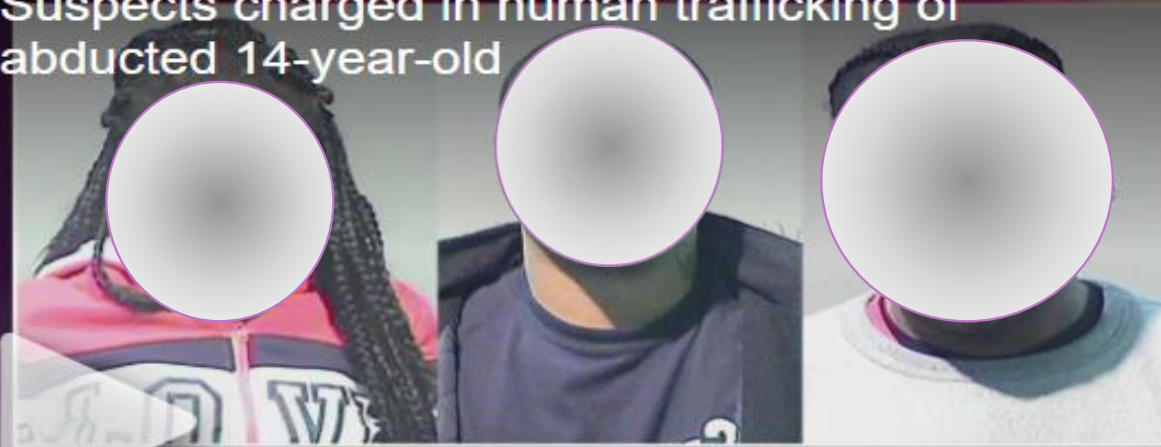
- United States Attorney's Office
- Attorney General's Office
- Detroit Police Department
- Michigan State Police
- Federal Bureau of Investigations
- Southeast Michigan Crimes Against Children Task Force
- Southeast Michigan Trafficking and Exploitation Crimes Task Force
- Non-profit Organizations (Alternative for Girls, Vista Maria, AVALON Formerly known as WC SAFE)
- Wayne County Prosecutor's Office Advocates
- Medical personnel
- DNA Experts



Suspects charged in human trafficking of 14-year-old

Published February 15, 2018 | News | FOX 2 Detroit

Suspects charged in human trafficking of abducted 14-year-old



FOX 2

5:35 46°

Latest News

President Biden bans Russian oil imports over Ukraine

Russia-Ukraine war: 2 million have fled Ukraine — half are children, UN says

\$400 auto insurance refund checks, Whitmer kidnapping trial begins, a beloved Little Rock Park security guard

US gas price average hits \$4.17, an all-time high, AAA says

4:07

5G

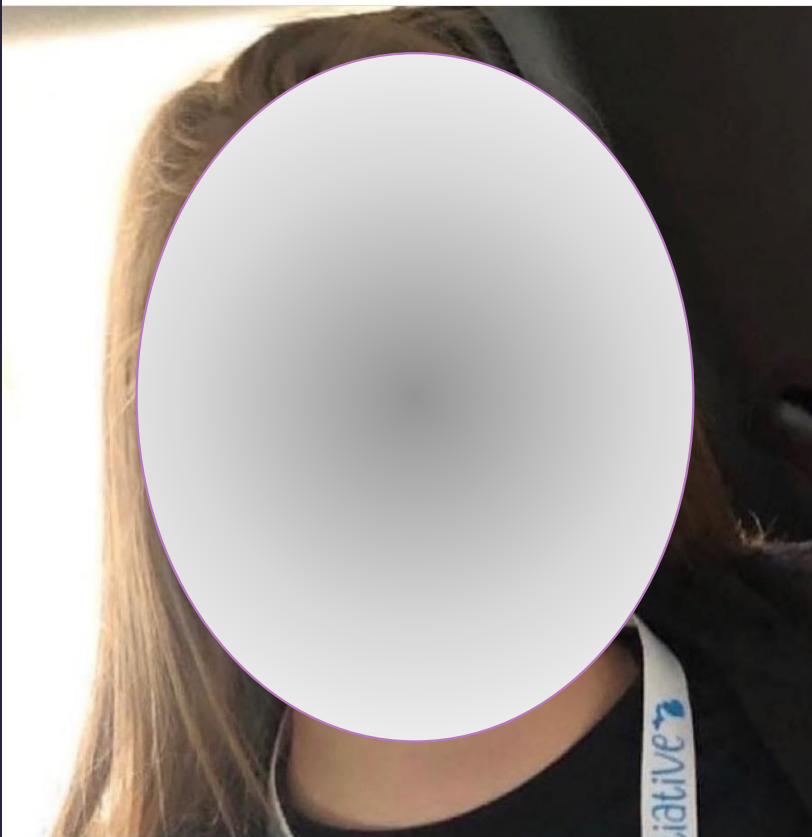
CRIMENEWSLNTHED

Posts

Follow



crimenewslnthed



3 likes

crimenewslnthed Please help us locate [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was last seen on Sunday, April 18, 2021, at approximately 6:00 a.m. in the 8 Mile and Gratiot

PEOPLE V. DOUGLAS GARDNER

- May 8, 2021, warrant request, for a missing juvenile, A.P., who was recovered from a motel
- Investigation revealed A.P. was being trafficked by the man she was with when she was recovered, Douglas Gardner.
- Charges: HT, Statutory rape, dissemination of child sexually abusive material
- A.P. taken to the west side of Michigan because she had previously taken her foster mom's car and run away to Detroit. After she testified at the PEX, A.P. returned to a juvenile facility in mid-Michigan. She seemed to be doing well but Shortly after going to her foster placement, A.P. again stole her foster parents' car, cut off her tether, and returned to Detroit.
- This case recently resolved – Guilty Plea. But...

PEOPLE V. A.P.S.- TIMELINE

- A local human trafficking news article came to our attention months after AP ran away.
- We suspected this incident might involve A.P. (People v. Douglas Gardner)
- A.P. was recovered on November 16, 2021 by the Michigan State Police. This time, her trafficker, A.P.S., was more violent. He was not only trafficking A.P., he was trafficking at least 3 adult victims as well.
- We learned our victim was driving a vehicle at 2:15 am (she's 15) and her vehicle was stopped. She was picked up as a suspected missing person she disclosed she had been trafficked by 3 individuals at Woodward Inn Hotel. AP would only name 1 trafficker.
- Our office was presented with seven phone extractions, hundreds of photos, nearly 50 videos, and recorded interviews of the victims. After over a week of reviewing the evidence, A.P.S. was charged with eight trafficking offenses, three sexual assault offenses, and five prostitution related offenses. He remains in custody with his case pending.

Michigan State Police say more victims of sex trafficking found, 1 arrest made



Photo by: Jonathan Benallack

MSP

Posted at 9:37 AM, Nov 16, 2021 and last updated 9:37 AM, Nov 16, 2021

(WXYZ) — Michigan State Police say they have opened a sex trafficking investigation after they pulled over a 15-year-old girl near 8 Mile and Schoenherr on the Warren, Detroit border early Tuesday morning.

Police say the driver did not have ID and provided a false name. According to police, after an initial investigation, they discovered that the teen was a missing/runaway out of Jackson County, who was reported missing in September.

The teen then told officers that she believed she might be pregnant and was a victim of sex trafficking, police say.

An advertisement for "Action News This Morning" from 4:30-7AM. It features four news anchors: Kevin Jeanes, Alicia Smith, Keenan Smith, and Ali Noor. The text "ACTION NEWS THIS MORNING 4:30-7AM" is prominently displayed. Below the anchors, it says "Latest news, weather and traffic to start your day!".

KEVIN JEANES ALICIA SMITH KEENAN SMITH ALI NOOR

ACTION NEWS
THIS MORNING
4:30-7AM

**Latest news, weather
and traffic to start your
day!**

ADVERTISEMENT

An advertisement for Metro Detroit Chevy Dealers. It features the Chevy logo and the text "METRO DETROIT CHEVY DEALERS CHEVY SAVES THE METER CITY". The main offer is "2022 CHEVY BLAZER 2LT FWD" with a price of "\$219*" per month for 24 months. The background shows a city skyline.

METRO DETROIT CHEVY DEALERS
CHEVY SAVES THE METER CITY

**2022 CHEVY
BLAZER 2LT FWD**

\$219*
PER MONTH / 24 MONTHS

WHAT WE LEARNED FROM THESE CASES

- Victims are often trafficked repeatedly
- In this case A.P.'s traffickers became more violent
- Keeping victims safe is a challenge because they are accustomed to running (A.P. left her foster care parent's home stole their car and went back on the streets)
- Victims can present as much older than their actual age
- Significant time, effort and money is necessary to rehabilitate victims of trafficking
- Trained officers, prosecutors and advocates in human trafficking are essential

CURRENT CASE LOAD

- 2 APAS – Grace & Danielle
- 17 Active cases
- 14 Cases pending review
- Victims may have their own cases
- Several other violent cases – extortion, involving guns, torture, etc.

RESOURCES WE NEED

- We dream of expanding our team
- Create a Multiple Disciplinary Team (MDT)
 - HT Victim advocates that can help with addiction, housing, personal protective orders, legitimate employment, and mental health treatment.
 - HT investigator to help locate transient victims
 - Access to Child Advocacy Centers, KidsTalk
 - Partnership with community organizations to educate about trafficking, assist with victim needs - medical care, housing, psychological support and empowerment



CONTACTS

Grace M. Broughton

Lead Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
Sexual Assault Team | Human Trafficking Unit
Wayne County Prosecutor's Office
1441 St. Antoine St.
Detroit, MI 48226
Office: (313) 202-7120
Cell: (313) 719-9882
gbroughton@waynecounty.com

Danielle N. Shamus

Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
Wayne County Prosecutor's Office
Human Trafficking Unit | Sexual Assault Team
1440 St. Antoine St., Office 1020
Detroit, MI 48226
Cell: 313.510.9910
Office: 313.224.7346
dshamus@waynecounty.com