

## **Nevada Maintains Coveted Spot In The Top Ten States For Sexual Abuse And Sexual Violence**

Maybe it's too much booze, drugs and openness. Maybe it's the continuous commercials which paint Las Vegas as a 'free-wheeling' city. Maybe it's history's backdrop when the mob ruled, organized crime ran the casinos and an "anything goes" attitude took root.

Or maybe it's just a case of perverts being perverts and 'Sin City' being the magnet which draws them.

Regardless of the reason and backstory, Las Vegas sees more than its share of [sexual assault](#) and [sexual abuse cases](#) each year, per capita, than any other city in the nation.

### **Brothel Owner Runs For Office As A Republican**

The GOP, which used to pride itself on being the political party of 'family values,' is now embarrassed. In a state marketed as a place where people can indulge in any number of sins is confronting its status as the only place in America where sex can be legally bought.

The state's most famous pimp is proof.

Dennis Hof, who operates six brothels, challenged incumbent legislator James Oscarson in the primary, and won.

And Hof, owner of the famed Bunny Ranch brothels and scores of strip clubs, won with the help of the state's Bible thumpers.

Hof credits Trump's popularity.

"This is the Trump movement," the 71-year-old Hof told [Reuters](#).

While there are many items blending to create a hostile environment in Las Vegas, Hof may have summed it up best.

### **Culture of Abuse**

According to a [survey published in The Las Vegas Sun](#), Nevada ranks among the worst states for sexual violence, sexual abuse and domestic violence.

When most persons think of sexual abuse and violence, they think of a young woman as the victim. The reality is different.

The abused individual could be a wealthy neighbor, a quiet husband, a celebrity or a toddler.

Las Vegas Metro Police responding to almost 60,000 calls in 2017 from persons who were assaulted by someone inside their household.

The true figure is apt to be higher as many victims are too scared or ashamed to admit they need help. For nine of the past ten-years, Nevada has ranked in the top 10 states. The Clark County District Attorney's Office receives, on average, 15 new cases each day.

### **Safe Nest**

Safe Nest, a Henderson based shelter and resource center for sexual assault and domestic violence victims and perpetrators runs 13 intervention programs in the state. Most participants are court-ordered to attend, once they're released from jail.

During each class, staff pays attention to how abusers react to discussions, but also how they interact and what they say to each other when they believe counselors aren't watching.

"If we see an attitude change to the positive, we say we have a good chance of rehabilitation," said Dennis Henson, a therapist with Safe House.

### **Where To Get Help**

NEVADA

Crisis Call Center

775.784.8090

toll-free 800.992.5757

Text support, text “answer” to 839863

For sexual assault support services: [www.crisiscenter.org/sexualassault.html](http://www.crisiscenter.org/sexualassault.html)

Suicide Prevention Hotline 800.272.8255

Nevada Sexual Violence Prevention and Education

Click [here](#) to search for a local crisis center in Nevada, visit. You can search by state and/or zip code. Volunteers and staff at these organizations are trained on issues surrounding sexual violence and can provide support and information about individual or group counseling, medical attention, reporting a crime to law enforcement as well as other services. Contact each organization to learn their full range of services offered.

#### SOUTHERN NEVADA

Family and Child Treatment

702.258.5855

Family and Child Treatment of Southern Nevada (FACT) is a non-profit agency, dedicated to helping Nevada's citizens heal from the traumas and cycle of abuse, neglect, violence, and addiction through education, prevention, and treatment services

#### Gender Justice Nevada-Queer Anti-Violence Project

The Queer Anti-Violence Project (QAVP) provides Southern Nevada with specific victim/survivor services and anti-violence services directly related to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual persons (LGBTQIA).

24 Hour Hotline: 702.425.7287

Toll free: 888.425.7287

Office: 702.425.7288

#### The Rape Crisis Center of Southern Nevada

24 Hour Hotline: 702.366.1640

Office: 702.385.2153

#### University of Nevada Las Vegas-Jean Nidetch Women's Center

24 Hour Hotline-Campus Advocacy Resource and Empowerment (CARE) Line:  
702.895.0602