



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Human trafficking is the crime of using force, fraud, or coercion to compel an individual to work or to engage in a commercial sex act. Prosecuting human traffickers is part of a holistic approach to combating this pervasive form of exploitation. The Human Trafficking Institute's (HTI) annual Federal

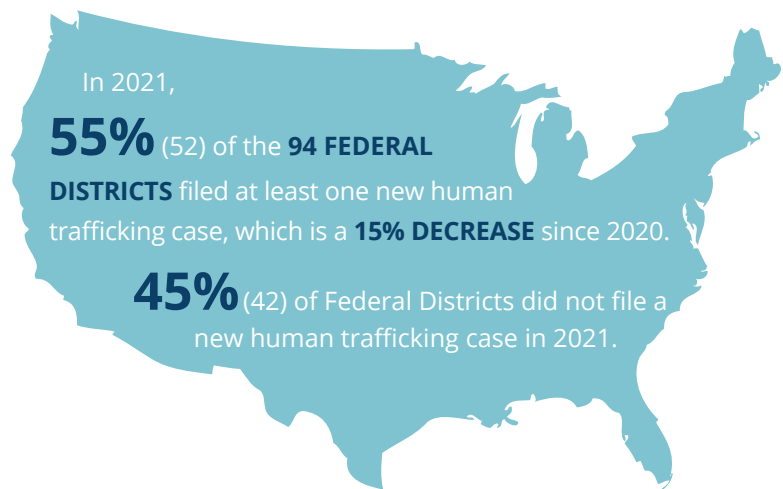
Human Trafficking Report ("the Report") provides an exhaustive review of human trafficking cases in the United States Federal Courts System. To date, this is the only review of its kind. The Report presents data from both criminal forced labor and sex trafficking prosecutions.

CRIMINAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASES IN 2021

NEW CASES

There were **140 NEW CRIMINAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASES** filed in the Federal Court System in 2021. The number of new cases filed **DECREASED BY 22%** since 2020.

Breakdown of
NEW CRIMINAL CASES
filed in 2021:



DEFENDANTS IN NEW CASES

Compared to 2020, there was a **5% DECREASE** in the number of **NEW DEFENDANTS CHARGED** in 2021. Since 2017, the number of defendants charged has **DECREASED BY 37%**.

There were **260 NEW DEFENDANTS CHARGED** with human trafficking in 2021.



In 2021, **ONE (1) ENTITY**, an **AGRICULTURAL COMPANY**, was charged with human trafficking.

VICTIMS IN NEW CASES

There were
449 VICTIMS
in new cases filed in 2021.



The total number of **VICTIMS** in new cases filed in 2021 declined **25%** from 2020.

Victims of **FORCED LABOR** were recruited by:



FORCED LABOR:

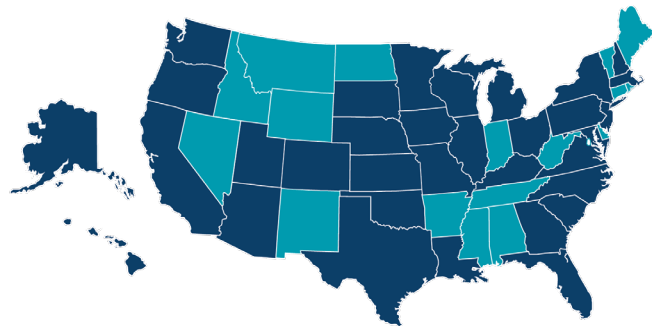
The number of criminal **FORCED LABOR CASES** filed in 2021 increased by **22%** since 2020.

- STATES THAT HAVE FILED AT LEAST ONE FORCED LABOR CASE SINCE THE TVPA WAS ENACTED IN 2000
- STATES WITH NO FEDERAL CRIMINAL FORCED LABOR CASES FILED SINCE THE TVPA WAS ENACTED IN 2000

There are many states and jurisdictions in the United States that have **NEVER** filed a criminal forced labor case.*

Since the **TVPA's** enactment, only

53%
(50) of Federal Districts have charged **AT LEAST ONE FORCED LABOR CASE** under Chapter 77.*



U.S. TERRITORIES



* Based on 94 Federal Districts in the United States.

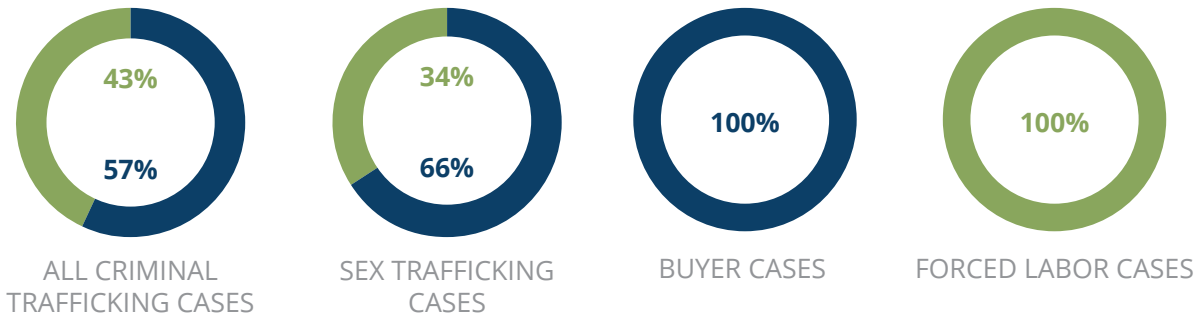
+ Based on 94 Federal Districts in the United States.

VICTIMS:

OVER HALF

of the victims identified in new criminal human trafficking cases in 2021 were **MINORS**.

■ MINOR ■ ADULTS



Since 2000, traffickers have recruited

55%

of sex trafficking victims online, usually through social media platforms, web-based messaging apps, online chat rooms, dating apps, classified advertisements, or job boards.[†]

Defendants used the internet as their primary method of soliciting buyers in

85%

of the new cases filed.[^]

CONVICTIONS:

In 2021, Federal Courts **CONVICTED** **96%** of defendants in sex trafficking cases.

63% of the time, mandatory **RESTITUTION WAS NOT ORDERED** in 2021. Courts ordered **52** defendants to pay restitution out of the **141** defendants sentenced in cases where restitution was mandatory.

On average, defendants sentenced in human trafficking cases in 2021 received a **TERM OF IMPRISONMENT FOR 160 MONTHS** (13 years, 4 months), which is the highest average sentence imposed in human trafficking cases since the enactment of the TVPA.

[†] Based on 655 of 1,213 victims with at least one identified location of recruitment from 2000-2021.

[^] Based on 82 new criminal sex trafficking cases filed in 2021 where at least one means of solicitation could be identified.

INTERACTIVE DATA WEBSITE

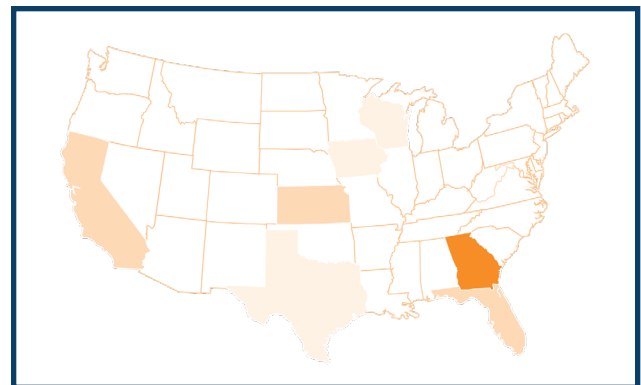
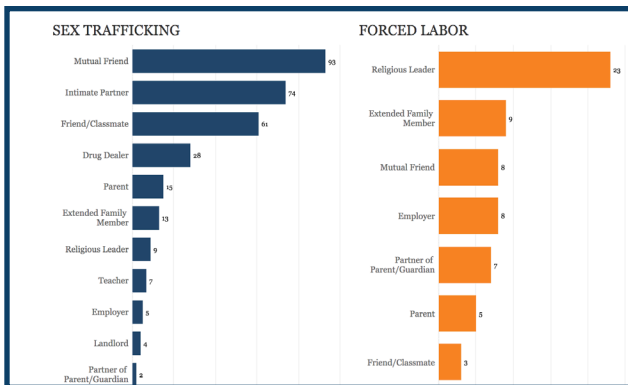
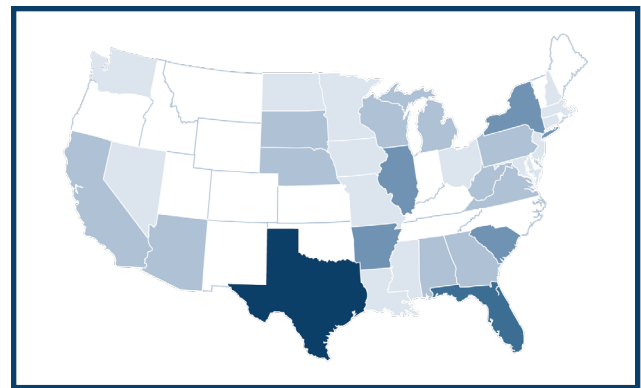
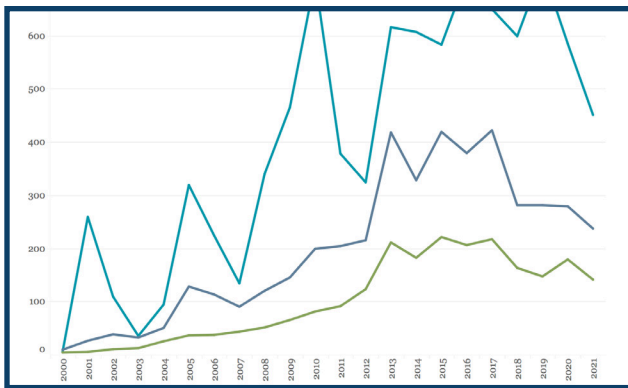
The Federal Human Trafficking Report was first published in 2017 as the only exhaustive review of every criminal human trafficking case filed in the United States Federal Courts. Since then, the Report has captured data from thousands of human trafficking cases filed since the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) was enacted in 2000. The data published in the Report each year is only a small representation of the amount of data collected from those cases and stored within the HTI database.

This year, the Report seeks to make some of those additional data points available to readers through an interactive section of our website, with the

ability to download PDFs of the data visuals. These interactive features will allow readers more hands-on access to the data held within the Report database so as to explore beyond the information provided in the published Report. Readers can now manipulate filters to review more information on:

- Prosecution of Human Trafficking Cases
- Victims in Cases by District
- Recruiters in Human Trafficking Cases
- Industries Identified in Forced Labor Cases

We hope this new interactive feature will help provide objective data that can be used to inform prosecutors, investigators, policymakers, service providers, and practitioners.



[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE INTERACTIVE DATA](#)

[DATA.TRAFFICKINGINSTITUTE.ORG](https://data.traffickinginstitute.org)