

# Fighting Human Trafficking Across the U.S.-Mexico Border

Every day, powerful criminal networks and individual traffickers on both sides of the border recruit people for labor or sexual exploitation. To stop traffickers and support survivors, it is critical that civil society, governments, and law enforcement also collaborate internationally. That's why Polaris has partnered with Consejo Ciudadano to support Mexico's first national human trafficking hotline. Between Consejo's Línea Nacional Contra la Trata de Personas and the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC), operated by Polaris, survivors on either side of the border can seek and receive help.

The following statistics are based on calls related to Mexico that both organizations received from September 30, 2015 - July 31, 2017.

## 1,189

Number of calls related to trafficking

## 727

Number of trafficking cases with a Mexico nexus and exploitation in the U.S. or Mexico

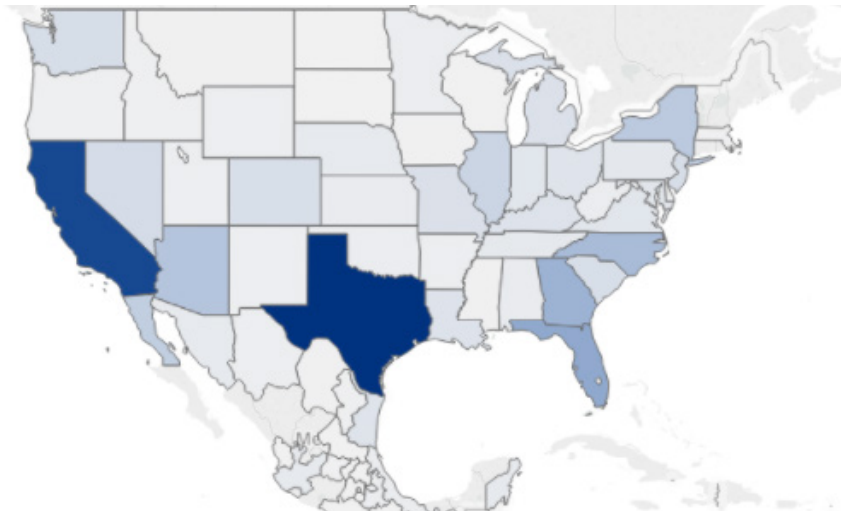
## 1,257

Total number of victims

## 982

Total number of traffickers

### State of potential trafficking (when known)\*



\*This map only reflects cases in which the state of the potential trafficking was known. Some involved exploitation in multiple locations within the same state.

### TYPE OF TRAFFICKING

- 793** (63%) Labor
- 389** (31%) Sex
- 50** (4%) Sex and labor
- 25** (2%) Other/not specified

### TOP LABOR INDUSTRIES

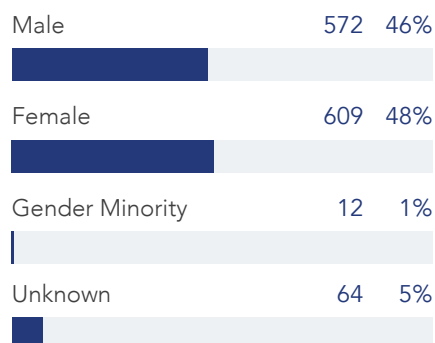
1. **329** Agriculture/Farms
2. **91** Domestic Work
3. **72** Illicit Activities

### TOP TYPES OF SEX TRAFFICKING

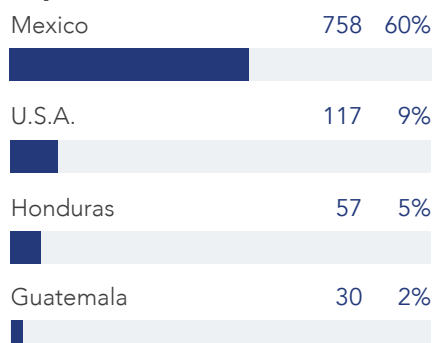
1. **78** Residence-based
2. **58** Hotel/Motel-based
3. **38** Escort Services

### VICTIM DEMOGRAPHICS

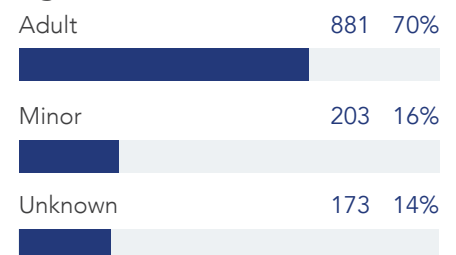
#### Gender



#### Top Nationalities\*



#### Age\*\*

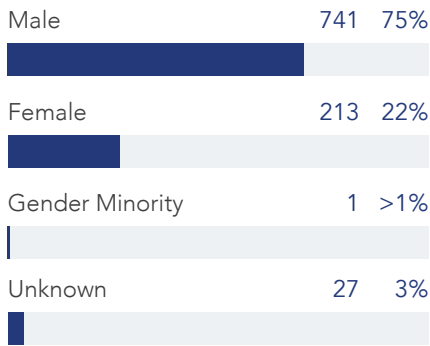


\*\*Age at time of contact with agency

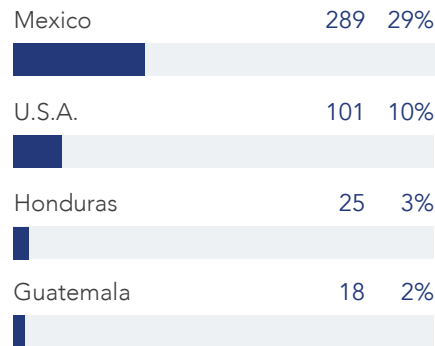
\*Some victims had multiple nationalities

## TRAFFICKER DEMOGRAPHICS

### Gender

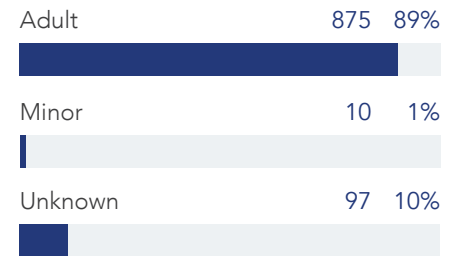


### Top Nationalities\*



\*Some traffickers had multiple nationalities

### Age\*\*



\*\*Age at time of contact with agency

## CASE STUDY FROM THE NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE

"But I was promised \$11 an hour," he protested. Manuel had been recruited in Guanajuato, Mexico to work on a potato farm in North Carolina. The recruiters charged Manuel and 40 other Mexican males \$1,200 each for their H-2A visa, despite these fees being illegal.

When Manuel and his coworkers tried to complain, their supervisors physically abused them and threatened to have them deported. By the end of the season, despite his 12-hour workdays, Manuel hadn't even earned enough money to cover his recruitment fee.

The National Human Trafficking Hotline connected him with a pro-bono lawyer who helped to obtain Manuel's back wages. Manuel is now an advocate for other survivors of human trafficking.

## OUR WORK IN MEXICO

In Mexico, Polaris is committed to fighting all forms of human trafficking using a data-driven approach to engage in strategic partnerships and invest in key areas for impact. Since 2014, Polaris has been working to:

1. build a strong safety net to prevent trafficking and identify and serve survivors,
2. strengthen political will to tackle and prevent human trafficking, and
3. increase data collection and analysis capacity to understand the diverse types of traffickers and inform criminal network disruption interventions.

In September 2015, Polaris partnered with Consejo Ciudadano to support Mexico's first national human trafficking hotline. Through a data-sharing agreement and collaboration across the border, the two organizations can coordinate the response to human trafficking in either country and exchange key insights.

The above statistics include information from the calls, emails, and webforms received by the National Human Trafficking Hotline and from texts received by Polaris's BeFree Textline. The statistics only reference those cases related to Mexico, and may include recruitment and/or exploitation in either country. The data are not intended to represent the full scope of human trafficking across the U.S.-Mexico border.