

2021

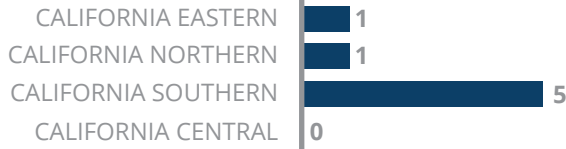
Federal

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING Report

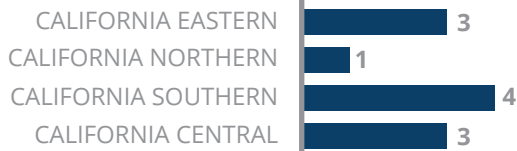
## CALIFORNIA STATE REPORT

■ SEX TRAFFICKING ■ FORCED LABOR

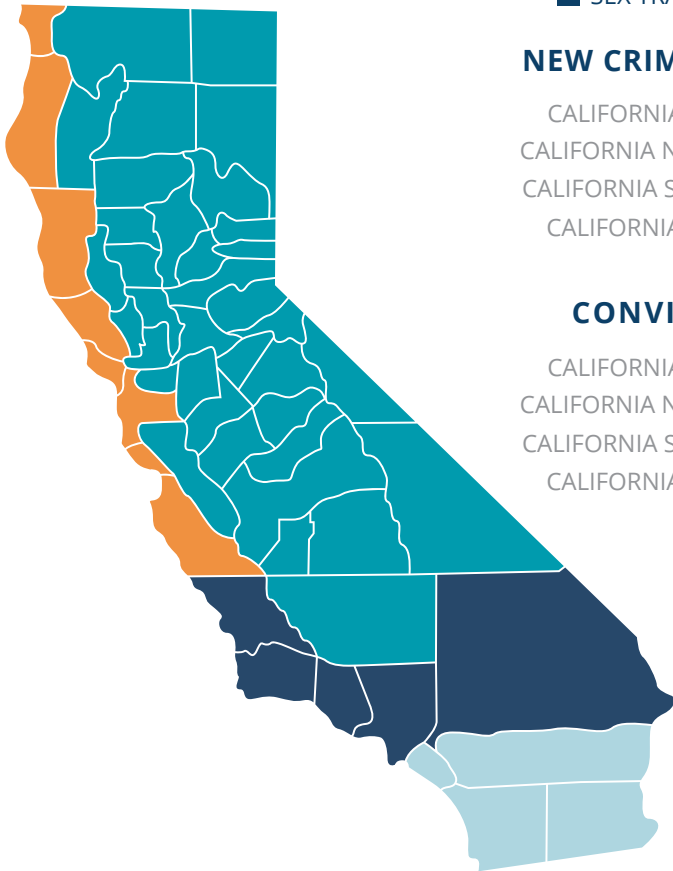
### NEW CRIMINAL CASES BY DISTRICT



### CONVICTIONS BY DISTRICT

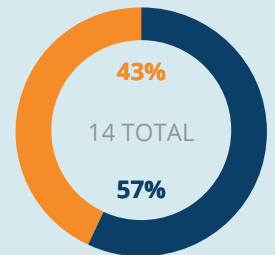


■ CALIFORNIA CENTRAL  
 ■ CALIFORNIA EASTERN  
 ■ CALIFORNIA NORTHERN  
 ■ CALIFORNIA SOUTHERN

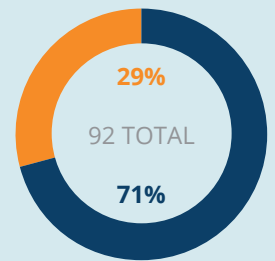


■ SEX TRAFFICKING ■ FORCED LABOR

### NEW DEFENDANTS



### ACTIVE DEFENDANTS



### CONVICTED DEFENDANTS



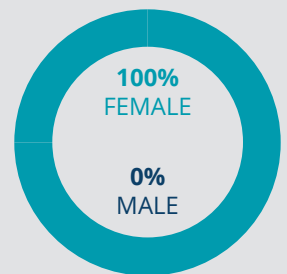
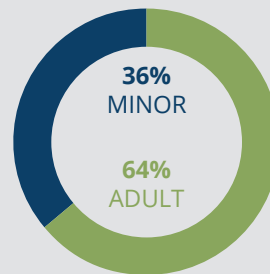
11 TOTAL

### CONVICTION RATE



0 resolved at trial court

### VICTIMS



### IMPRISONMENT

91%

defendants were sentenced to a term of imprisonment.

154

months was the average prison sentence.

### RESTITUTION

18%

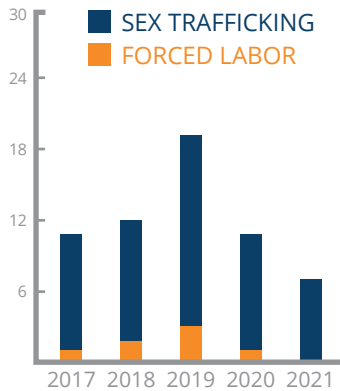
(2 of 11) of defendants (in cases w/ at least one ID'ed victim) ordered to pay restitution.

\*certain defendants are excluded because defendants were convicted in cases without identified victims

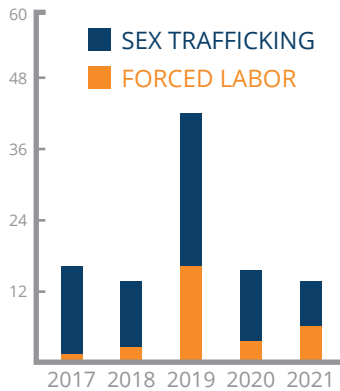
4

sex trafficking cases charged outside of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act

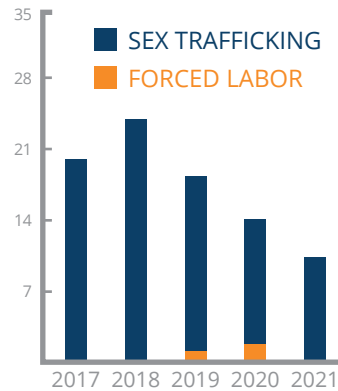
### NEW CRIMINAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASES TREND



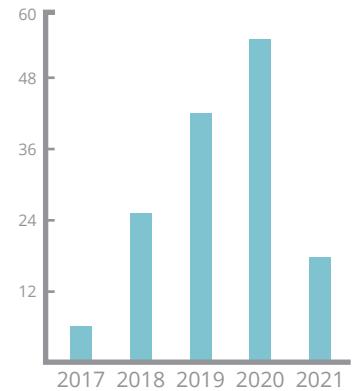
### NEW CRIMINAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING DEFENDANTS TREND



### CONVICTIONS TREND



### RESTITUTION TRENDS (% DEFS ORDERED TO PAY RESTITUTION EACH YEAR)



\*Convicted defendants that were in cases where the government did not name a trafficking victim in the charging instrument have been excluded for purposes of restitution calculations.

## UNITED STATES V. JATINBHAI BHAKTA ET AL., EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

After receiving multiple calls and making numerous arrests for suspected human trafficking and prostitution activities at the Desert Start hotel in Bakersfield, local law enforcement partnered with Homeland Security and the Federal Bureau of Investigation along with several other law enforcement agencies to conduct an in-depth investigation for human trafficking at the hotel property. Law enforcement conducted undercover surveillance to determine that 20 to 25 rooms of the hotel appeared to be used exclusively for commercial sex, some of which was conducted by suspected victims of human trafficking. Doors to the rooms often remained open, allowing women dressed in lingerie to be clearly visible to prospective buyers who parked in the parking lot. Both the owner and general manager of the hotel knowingly negotiated and rented rooms to persons known to them to be “pimps” for the purpose of conducting their commercial sex operations.

During the execution of a search warrant on the property, 15 commercial sex workers were identified and interviewed, many of whom disclosed that both the owner, Jatinbhai, and general manager, Roy Dees, were fully aware of the commercial sex and sex trafficking operations taking place at the hotel. Witness statements, corroborated by text messages from the defendants, showed both defendants’ knowledge of the illegal commercial sex in the hotel. Bhakta openly promulgated “rules” that the women had to follow, including not wearing lingerie in plain sight to avoid law enforcement detection.

While the Desert Star hotel was not charged as an entity under the Trafficking Victim’s Protection Act, the two defendants were charged under 18 U.S.C. § 1952 Racketeering for their roles in the sex trafficking operation.

**METHODOLOGY:** The 2021 Federal Human Trafficking Report includes every federal human trafficking prosecution filed within the year involving a crime within Chapter 77 of the U.S. Code, as well as human trafficking cases charged or resolved outside of Chapter 77 if there was substantial evidence of compelled or coerced labor, services, or commercial sex. HTI compiled this Report through a comprehensive examination of public court documents in federal human trafficking cases, as well as a detailed review of news stories and government press releases. Data within the State Reports are consistent with the 2021 Report’s methodology.

**SCOPE:** The Report’s findings are not a prevalence estimate of human trafficking in the United States, but instead serve as an objective summary of the federal response to combat human trafficking. The Report does not capture data from state prosecutions, state civil suits, or unreported human trafficking cases.



To access the full 2021 Federal Human Trafficking Report, please visit [WWW.TRAFFICKINGINSTITUTE.ORG](http://WWW.TRAFFICKINGINSTITUTE.ORG).

To explore data beyond the information provided in the published Report, please visit HTI’s interactive data website at [DATA.TRAFFICKINGINSTITUTE.ORG](http://DATA.TRAFFICKINGINSTITUTE.ORG).