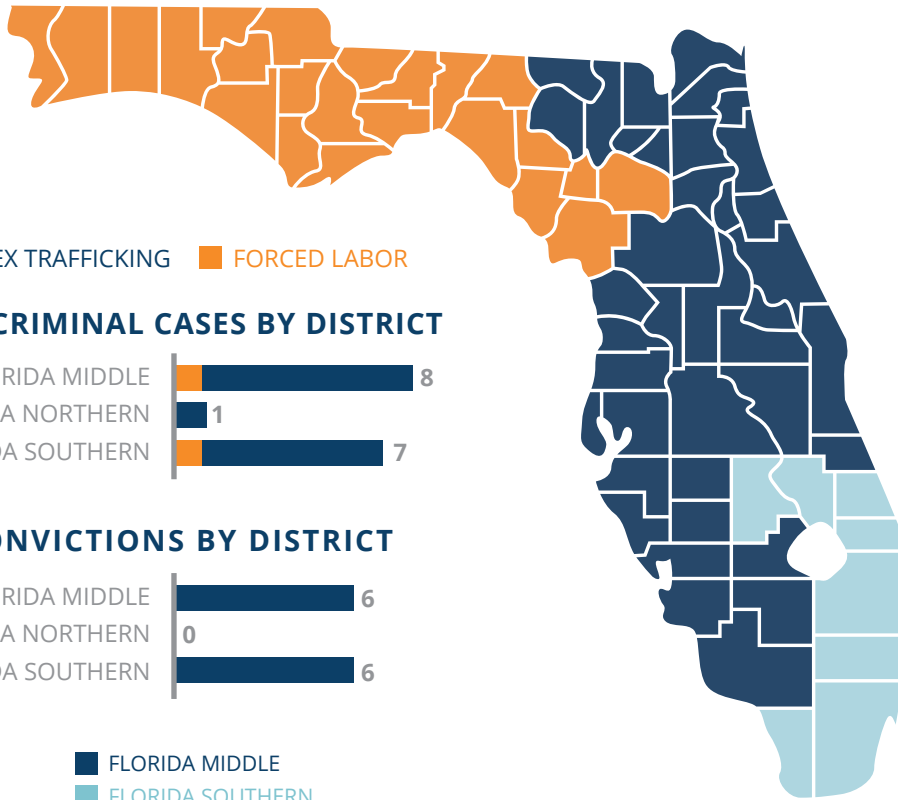


2021

Federal

HUMAN TRAFFICKING Report

FLORIDA STATE REPORT



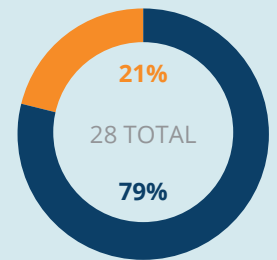
NEW CRIMINAL CASES BY DISTRICT



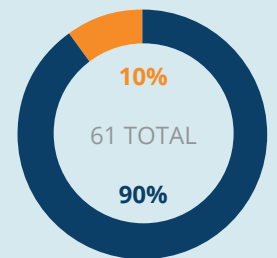
CONVICTIONS BY DISTRICT



NEW DEFENDANTS



ACTIVE DEFENDANTS



CONVICTED DEFENDANTS



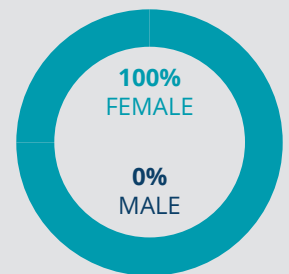
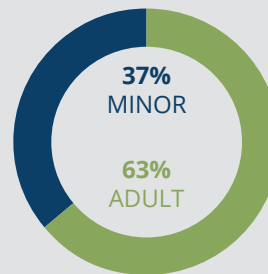
12 TOTAL

CONVICTION RATE

100%

2 resolved at trial court

VICTIMS



IMPRISONMENT

100%

defendants were sentenced to a term of imprisonment.

202

months was the average prison sentence.

RESTITUTION

78%

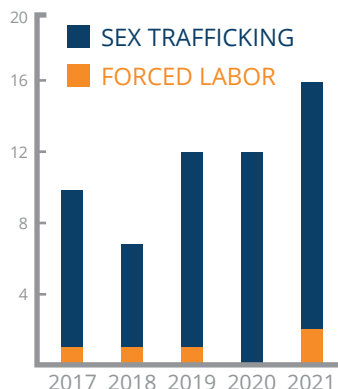
(7 of 9) of defendants (in cases w/ at least one ID'ed victim) ordered to pay restitution.

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

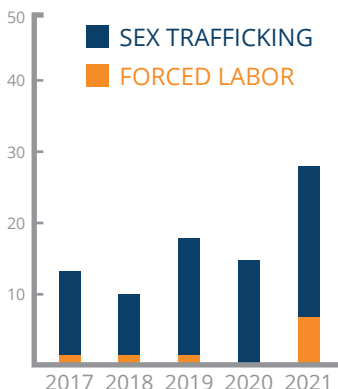
3

sex trafficking cases charged outside of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act

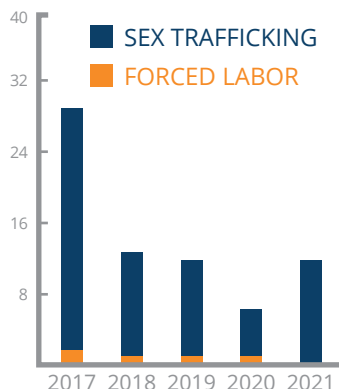
NEW CRIMINAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASES TREND



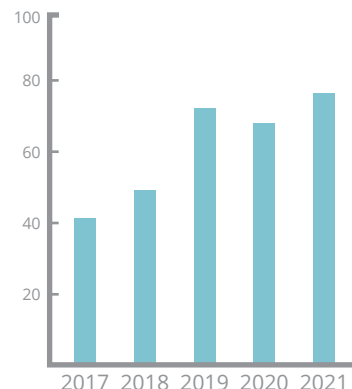
NEW CRIMINAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING DEFENDANTS TREND



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. MERSIER ET AL.

According to a criminal complaint, shortly after running away from her group home, a 16-year-old female met Defendants Mersier and Barboza at Mersier's residence. Barboza told the minor that she could make money by participating in commercial sex. Barboza then took provocative photos of the minor and posted them on a website popular for advertising commercial sex. Barboza transported the minor to various locations to meet customers for commercial sex, including hotels, residences, and a jewelry store. Customers were solicited both on the internet and through personal relationships with Mersier. Mersier kept all the proceeds the minor earned. While at a hotel after a buyer left, the minor called a family member for help who then called 911 alerting law enforcement to the victim's location.

On March 16, 2021, a grand jury indicted Frantz Mersier and Paula Barboza on Conspiracy to Commit Sex Trafficking (18 U.S.C. 1594(c)), Sex Trafficking of a Minor (18 U.S.C. 1591(a)), and Production of Child Pornography (18 U.S.C. 2251(a)). In October 2021, Barboza plead guilty to Conspiracy to Commit Sex Trafficking and Production of Child Pornography. As of the end of 2021, she was awaiting sentencing. The case against Mersier is pending disposition.

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.
To explore data beyond the information provided in the published Report, please visit HTI's interactive data website at DATA.TRAFFICKINGINSTITUTE.ORG.