

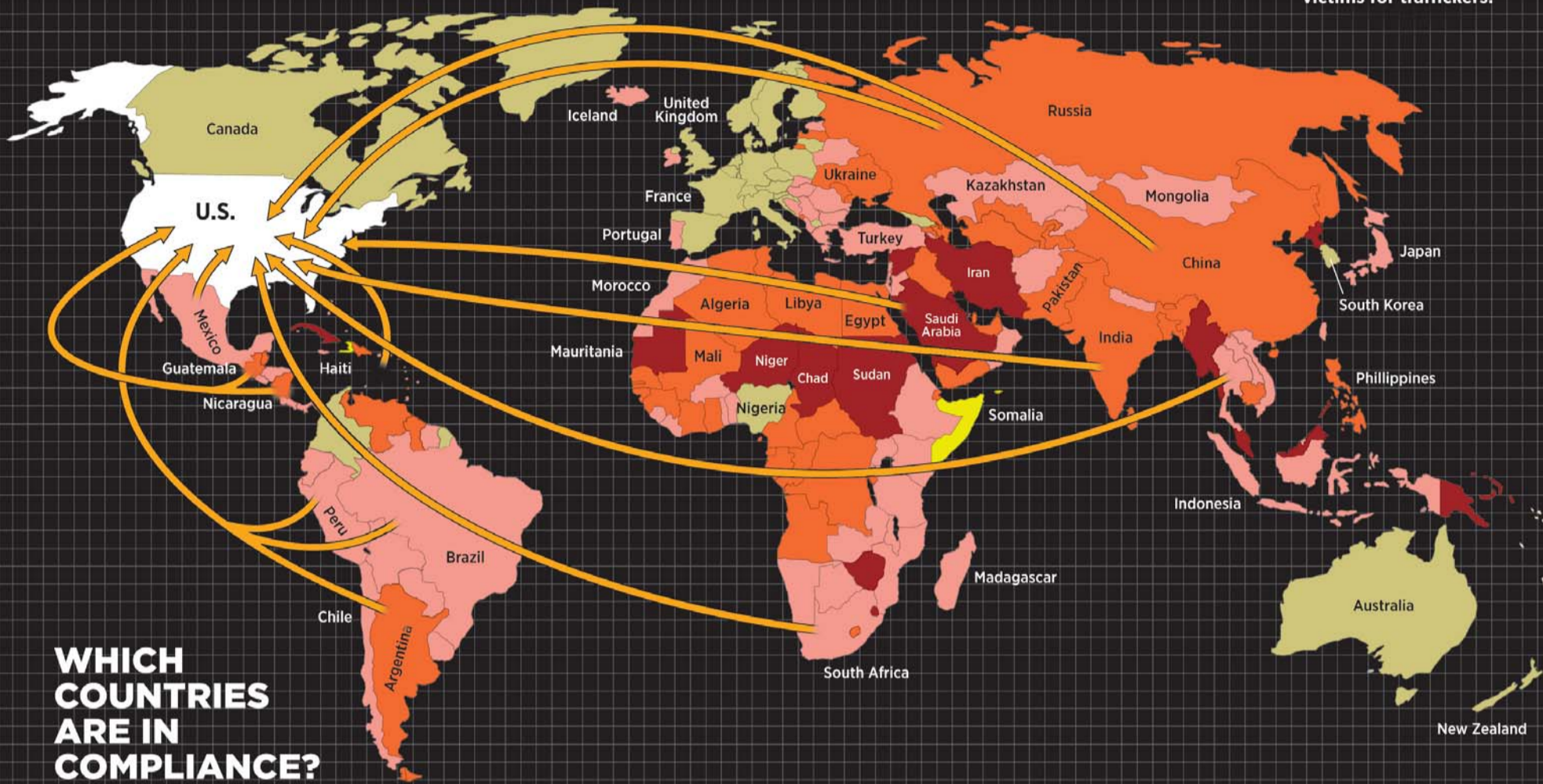
COMING TO AMERICA

Human trafficking occurs in and within all continents, save Antarctica. The U.S. began fighting it in earnest in 2000. The first decade of the fight has brought the issue here into clearer focus.

HEAVY TRAFFIC

Economic opportunity in the U.S. draws human trafficking victims from all over the world. Estimates on the number of victims have varied from 17,500 a year now to 50,000 annually earlier this decade; nobody really knows. International victims are smuggled across borders or can enter legally and fall into slavery.

Orange arrows show what countries or regions are providing the most victims for traffickers.



WHICH COUNTRIES ARE IN COMPLIANCE?

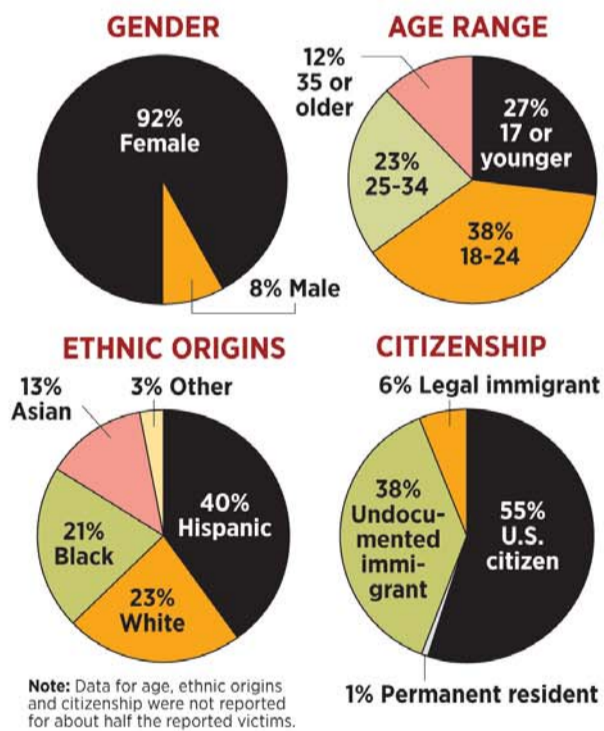
- Countries that fully comply with minimum standards set out in U.S. law.
- Countries that do not fully comply with the minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance.
- Countries that are making significant efforts, but have large numbers of trafficking victims, provided no evidence of increased anti-trafficking efforts over the last year or still need to take additional steps in the coming year to meet their commitments.
- Countries that do not fully comply with the standards and are making no efforts to do so.
- The State Department also lists Haiti and Somalia as "special cases" because those countries have weak to nonexistent central governments.

NOTE: The U.S. has not rated itself by the same standard that it uses to rate other nations. Next June, the U.S. will rate itself by that standard.

Sources: U.S. State Department, The Protection Project

Graphics by DAVE EAMES and MARK MORRIS | THE KANSAS CITY STAR

WHO ARE THE VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING?



THE WORK OF SLAVERY



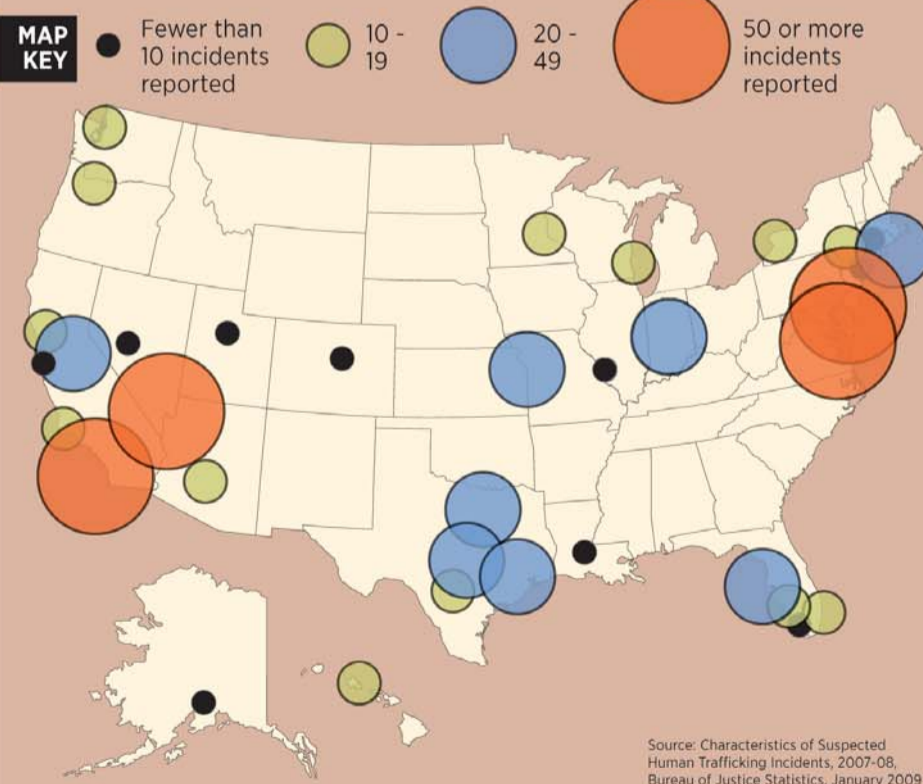
WHERE TRAFFICKING HAPPENS

Incidents of human trafficking are studied most closely around the country's 42 federally funded task forces. As this map illustrates, many are clustered in coastal or border areas, leaving large swaths of the country ill-equipped to find victims, critics note. California's Bay Area has three in close proximity. One task force in Dallas sits next to another in Fort Worth. But there are none in much of the Midwest or New Mexico, despite requests from officials there.

TASK FORCE LOCATIONS



REPORTED TRAFFICKING INCIDENTS



DEFINING ENSLAVEMENT

Human trafficking, at its root, is an economic crime. Here are some of the methods that slavers have used to keep their victims in bondage.

Contract slavery

A worker is deceived through the use of a false labor contract. The trafficker can use the contract to avoid criminal charges by "proving" that a debt is owed.

Debt bondage

The victim and his work are held as collateral against a loan. Unable to earn independently, the victim passes debt to the next generation, creating hereditary enslavement.

Indentured servitude

The worker contracts with an employer for a specified period and, in exchange, receives food, clothing, transportation and lodging.

Forced labor

Work coerced through threats, harm, restraint, abuse of the legal system or through confiscation of a worker's identification documents.

Peonage

Enforced service in which the victim is restrained of liberty and compelled to work against her will to satisfy a debt. In this situation, the slave may see no alternative because of the master's use of legal coercion.

Source: Free the Slaves, Black's Law Dictionary, U.S. Department of Justice

RED FLAGS AND WARNING SIGNS

The watchword of investigators who probe human trafficking is "look deeper." The Polaris Project, one of the largest anti-trafficking organizations in the U.S., says these indicators can suggest that someone is a human trafficking victim:

If you believe you have evidence of human trafficking or know a victim, you can report it to:

National Human Trafficking Resource Center hot line at 1-888-373-7888

AT WORK OR AT HOME

- The individual:**
- Is not free to come or go as she pleases
 - Is under 18 and is committing commercial sex acts
 - Is unpaid, paid very little, or paid only through tips
 - Works excessively long or unusual hours
 - Is not allowed breaks or works under unusual restrictions at work
 - Owes a large debt and is unable to pay it off
 - Was recruited using false promises about working conditions
 - Is subject to high security measures at work or home, such as opaque or boarded up windows, bars on windows, barbed wire, or security cameras

BEHAVIOR

- Is fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, nervous or paranoid
- Exhibits unusually fearful or anxious behavior about "law enforcement"
- Avoids eye contact

PHYSICAL HEALTH

- Lacks health care
- Appears malnourished
- Shows signs of physical and sexual abuse, confinement or torture

LACK OF CONTROL

- Has few or no personal possessions
- Is not in control of her own money - no financial records or bank account
- Is not in control of his own identification documents
- Is not allowed to speak for himself or herself. (A third party may insist on being present.)

OTHER

- Claims to be "just visiting" and unable to clarify her address or where she is staying
- Lacks knowledge of whereabouts, such as not knowing what city he is in

Source: Polaris Project

Locally, you can report it to the: **Human Trafficking Rescue Project at 816-325-7867**