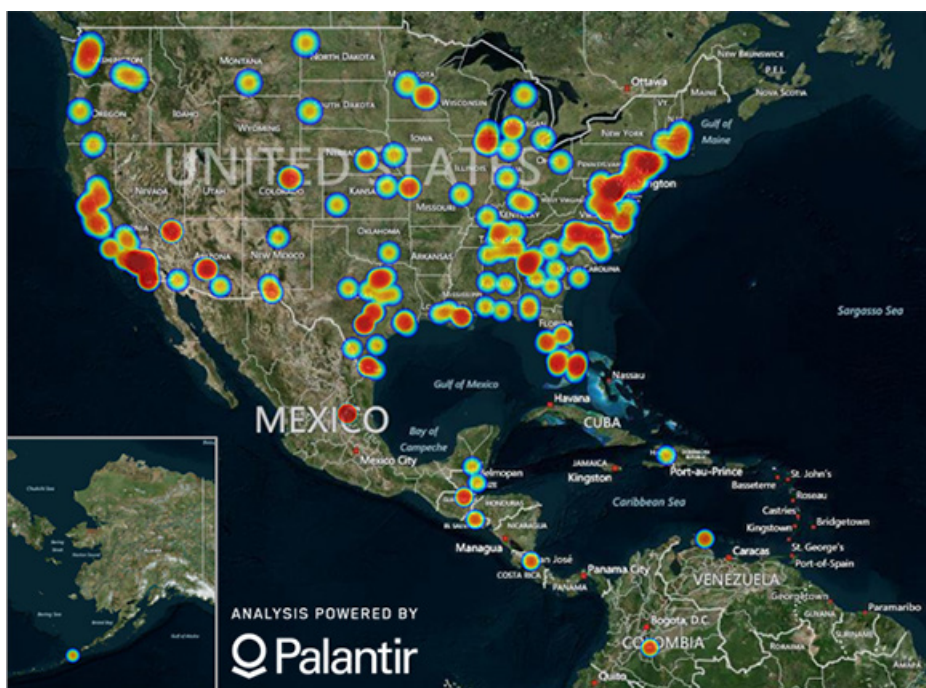


Sex Trafficking From Mexico

Thousands of women and girls from Mexico are forced into an underground sex economy in the United States. Powerful criminal networks and individual traffickers, including romantic partners, employers, and coyotes, recruit economically vulnerable women and girls and transport them to the U.S., oftentimes without legal immigration documents. Once in the United States, the victims are forced to engage in commercial sex in residential brothels, cantinas, through escort services, and in other venues. Without status, resources, or English fluency, these women and girls are trapped -- controlled by their traffickers through threats to themselves or their children and families, deception, intimidation, and debt bondage.

NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESOURCE CENTER (NHTRC) HOTLINE AND BEFREE TEXTLINE DATA, DEC. 2007 - DEC. 2015

Demographics of Potential Victims*



Number of Known Sex Trafficking Cases

386



Potential Victims Identified

~2000



TOP 3

SEX TRAFFICKING VENUES

1. Residential Brothel
2. Bar/Club/Cantina
3. Escort/Delivery Service

DEMOGRAPHICS OF POTENTIAL VICTIMS (# OF CASES)*

Gender

Female (373)

Male (52)

Age

Minors (194)

Adults (280)

* These statistics are non-cumulative. Cases may involve multiple victims and may include females and males, adults and minors. Callers do not always provide demographic information, nationality, or the location of potential trafficking.

To learn more about how Polaris is working to analyze trafficking networks that target Mexican women, while bolstering services for victims on both sides of the border, visit www.polarisproject.org/initiatives/sex-trafficking-mexico.

CHANGING THE EQUATION

If we want to eradicate these trafficking networks and prevent them from recurring, we have to change the equation for traffickers and victims, disrupt the business model, and make the crime high-risk and low-profit.

Polaris's comprehensive response to this form of sex trafficking focuses on understanding and dismantling the networks that target women and girls from Mexico while simultaneously building up effective, culturally competent services on both sides of the border. In doing so, we seek to create effective data-driven strategies for disruption, outreach, and intervention while taking into account a nuanced understanding of migration, gender norms, and cultural context.

KEY STRATEGIES

Survivor Care and Protection

Respond effectively and immediately to the unique service needs of survivors with an eye toward individual empowerment and economic sustainability.

Criminal Justice and Network Disruption

Ensure that law enforcement entities in both the United States and Mexico reinforce rule of law and hold traffickers accountable, in addition to supporting survivors throughout the prosecution process.

Prevention and Awareness Raising

Stop the crime from recurring by launching a targeted awareness campaign that identifies survivors and prevents further victimization of vulnerable women and girls in Mexico.

CROSS-BORDER SAFETY NET

Effective partnership with government, law enforcement, and civil society is critical to any effort to eradicate human trafficking. In September 2015, Polaris partnered with a Mexican civil society organization -- Consejo Ciudadano -- to build out Mexico's first national human trafficking hotline, which has expanded the cross-border safety net for victims. Polaris and Consejo Ciudadano will coordinate across the border and share actionable insights and trends about human trafficking that will allow for more effective and targeted interventions to combat the crime and support survivors. Together, the two organizations will continue to raise awareness about human trafficking to ensure that victims are easily connected to localized services when they request help, no matter where they are.

SUCCESS OF THE BILATERAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVE*

- 170** Defendants prosecuted in U.S. federal court
- 200** Victims rescued
- 30** Associated defendants prosecuted in Mexican state and federal courts
- 8** Defendants extradited from Mexico to the U.S. to face charges
- 20** Children of victims recovered from the trafficking networks' control

*Statistics as of May 2015