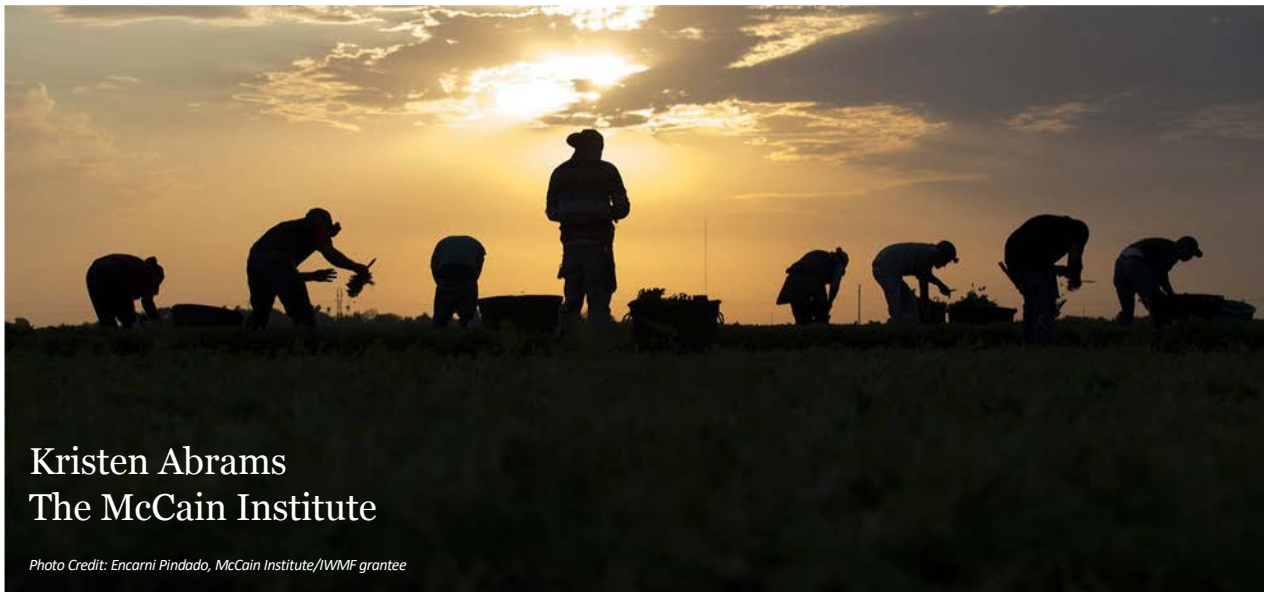


# Combatting Labor Trafficking in the Agricultural Sector



Kristen Abrams  
The McCain Institute

*Photo Credit: Encarni Pindado, McCain Institute/IWMF grantee*

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## The Buffett-McCain Institute Initiative to Combat Modern Slavery

### Vision

*End labor trafficking and severe forms of labor exploitation in the agricultural sector in the United States.*

### Strategies



**Build Capacity of Law Enforcement**  
Strengthen law enforcement's ability to identify and investigate forced labor and severe labor exploitation cases.



**Pursue Perpetrators**  
Build capacity of prosecutors to effectively conduct criminal investigations and prosecutions of human traffickers.



**Secure Justice for Victims**  
Expand legal services to victims of trafficking, including legal advice, civil litigation, or employment-related administrative advocacy.



**Increase Coordination to Amplify Resources**  
Enhance coordination of anti-trafficking efforts through multi-sectoral, sustainable partnerships.



**Empower Farm Workers**  
Support farm workers to understand, identify, and report cases of workplace violations and labor exploitation.



**Improve Employer Practices**  
Raise industry standards to protect workers' rights and prevent instances of labor trafficking and exploitation.



**Create Public Mandate**  
Create a public mandate to support fair wages and humane labor standards in the agricultural industry in Texas.

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# Texas Agricultural Sector Pilot

## Geospatial Analysis of Need and Risk:

**56,401 farms**  
 are spending  
**\$1,544,572,000**  
 to employ  
**160,392**  
**farmworkers**  
 per year



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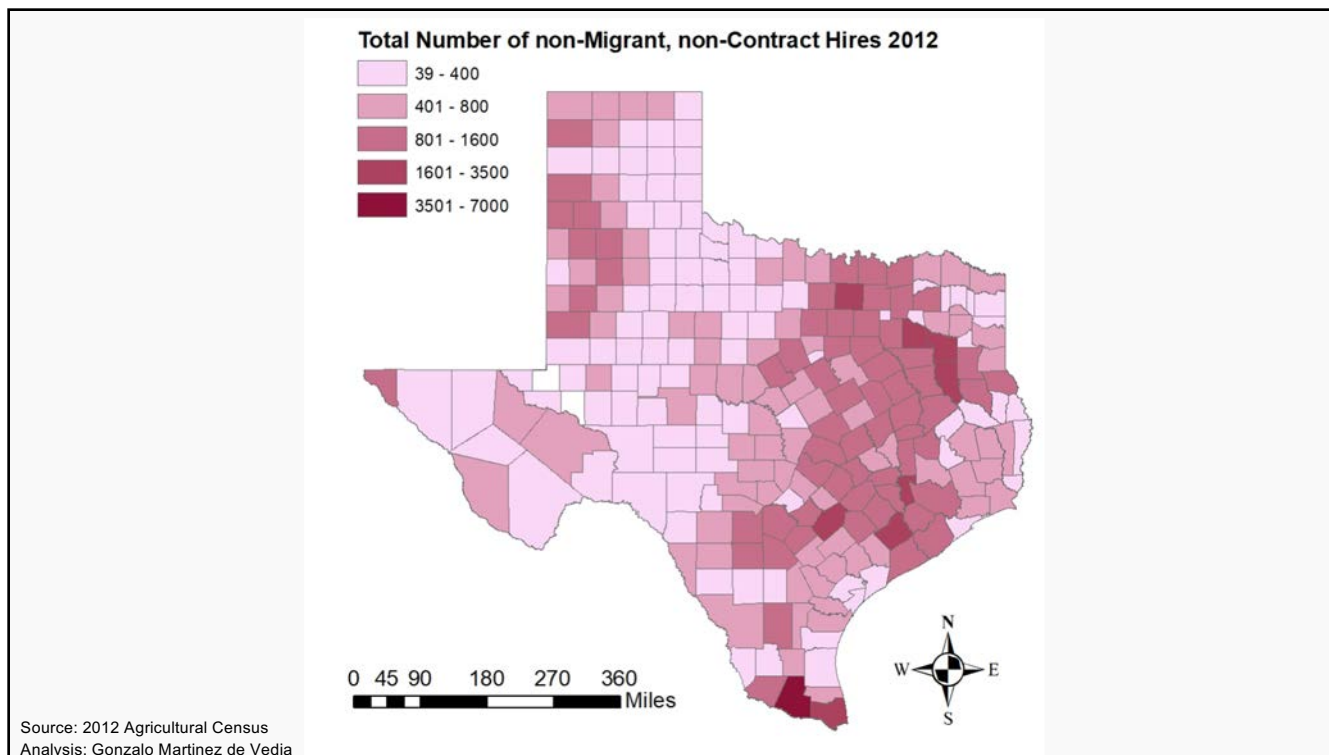
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# Public Databases

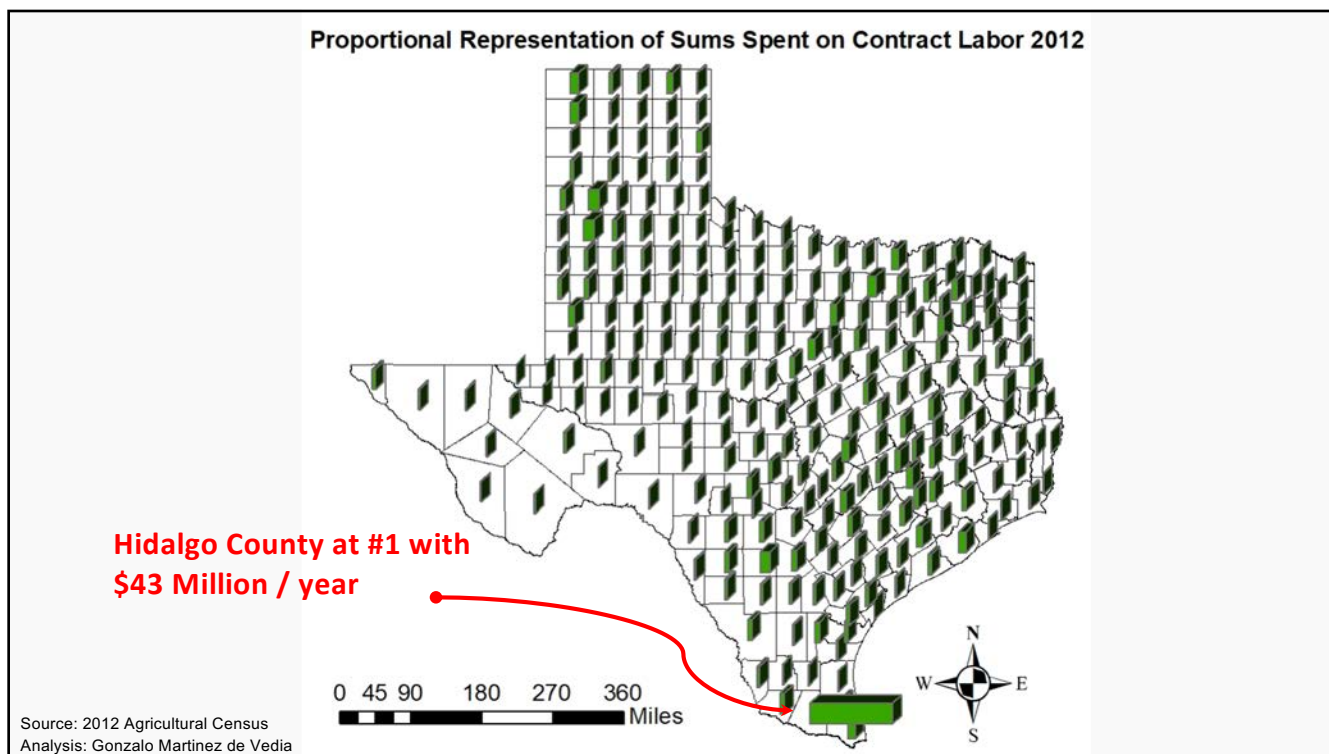
- US Census
- OSHA
- USDOL Wage and Hour Division
- Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs
- DOJ Office for Victims of Crime



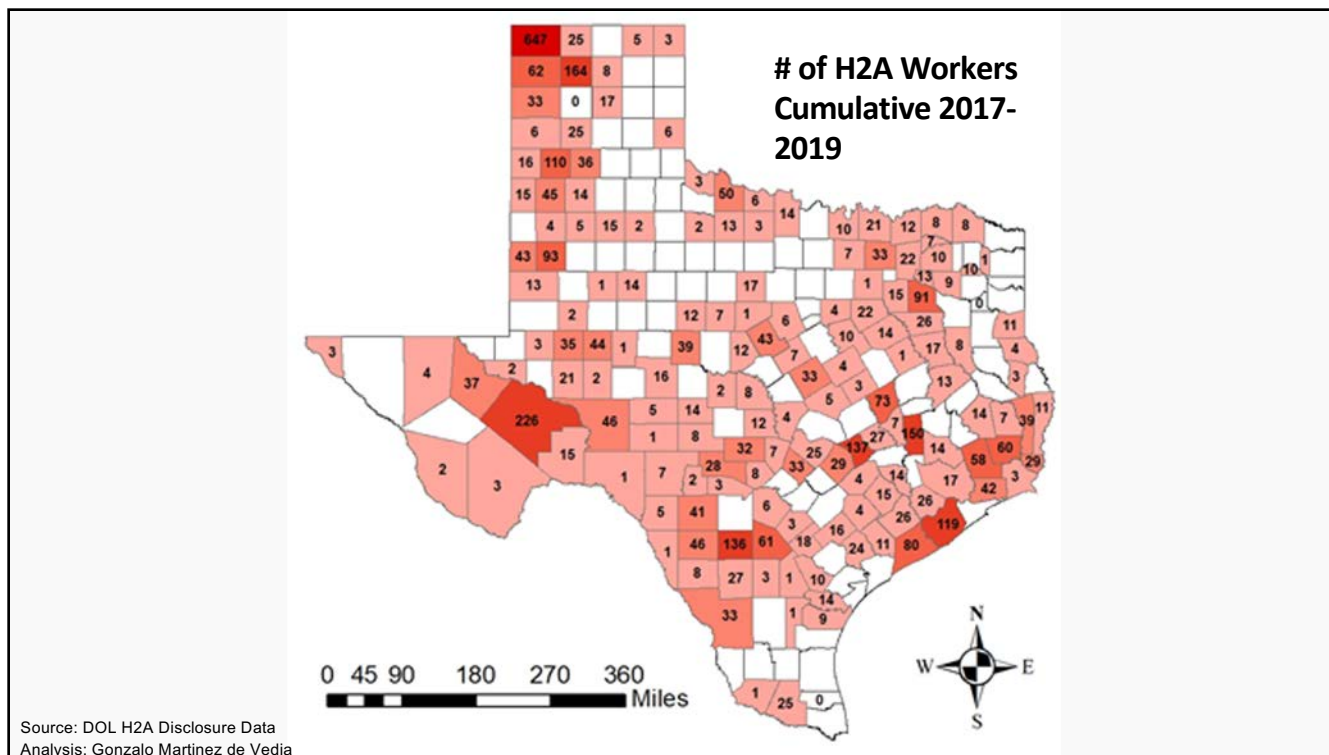
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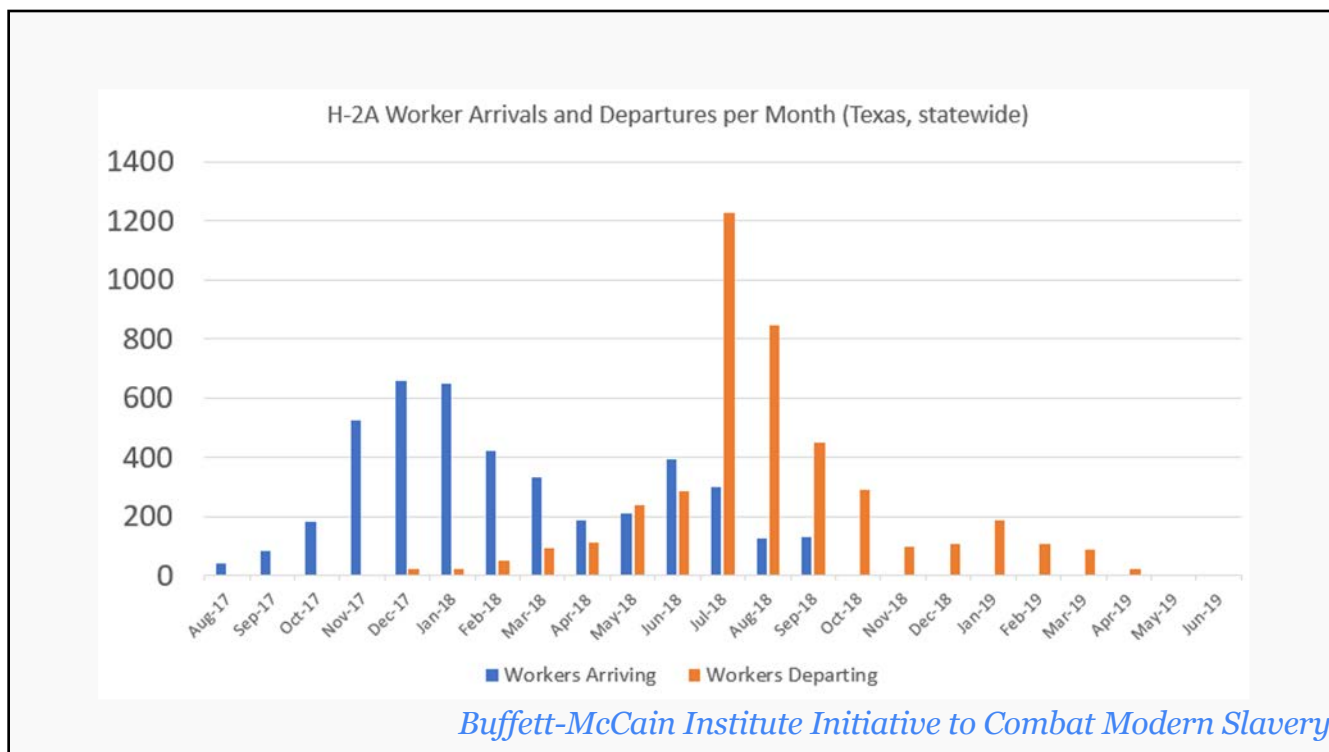
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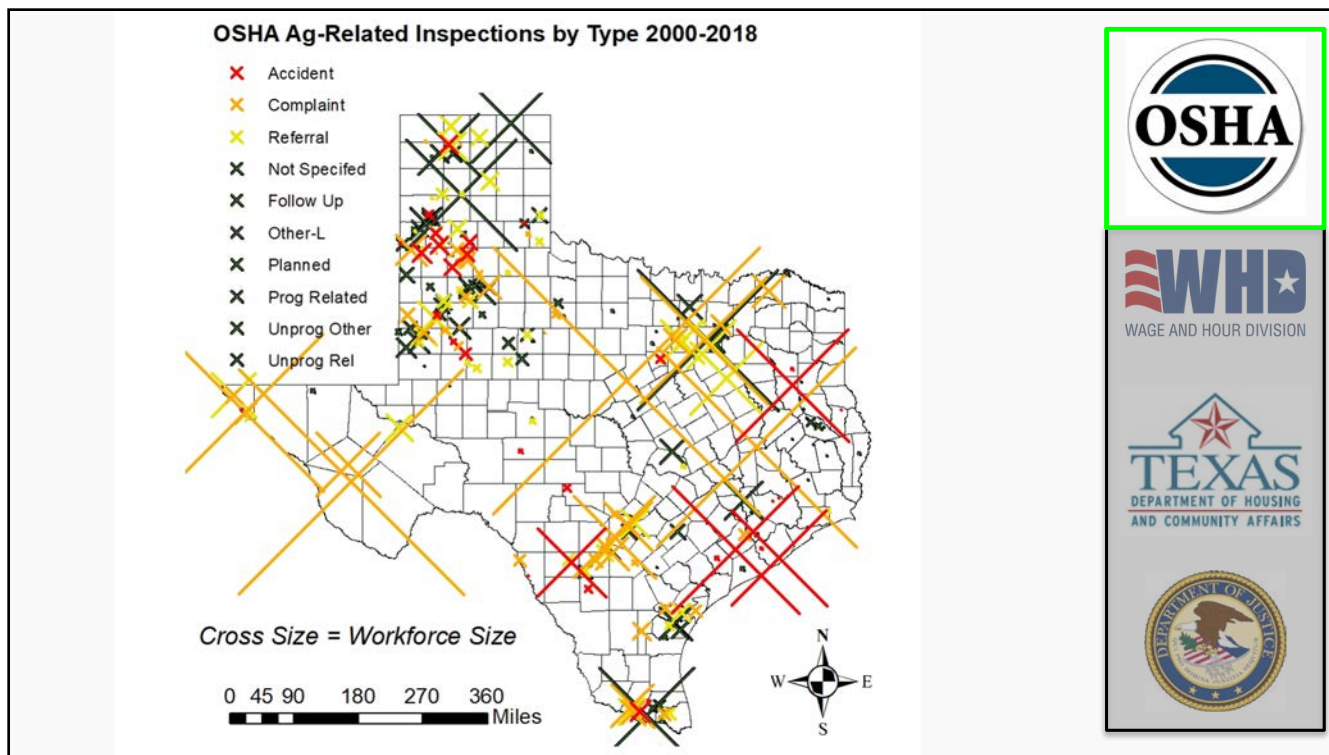
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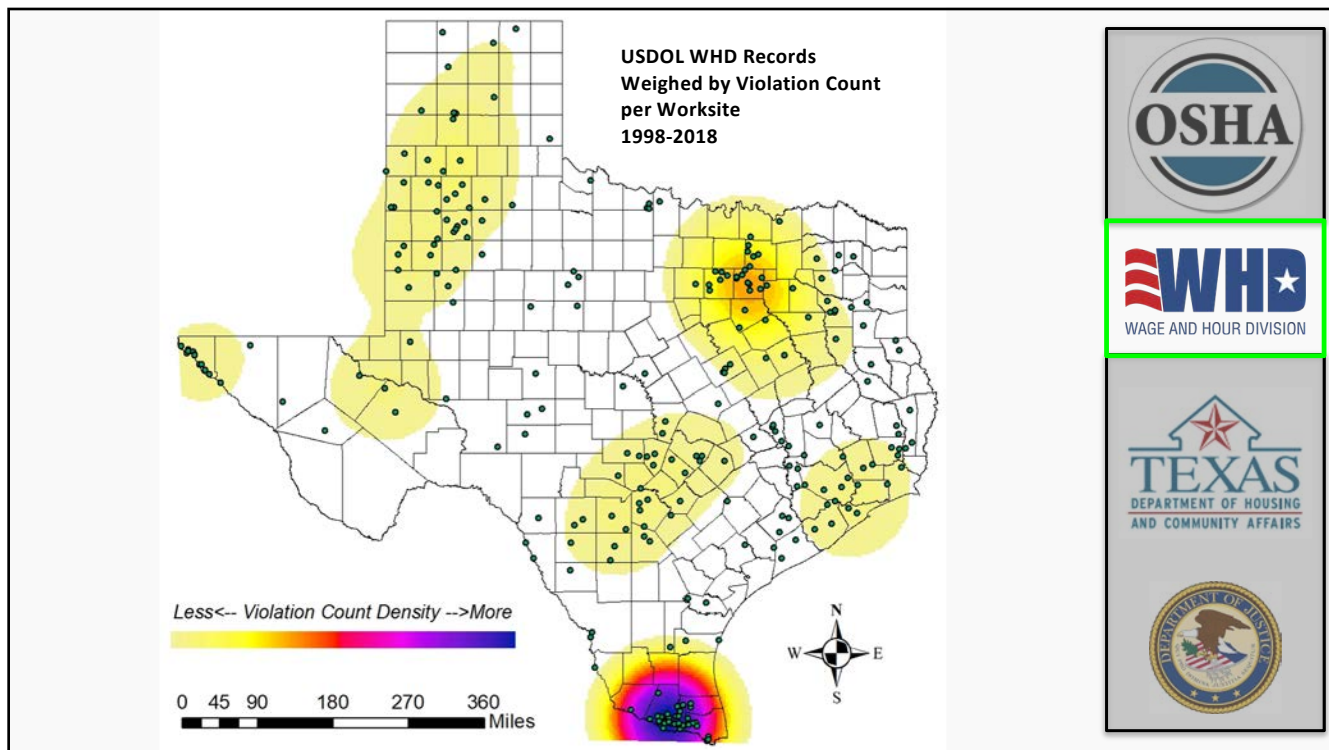
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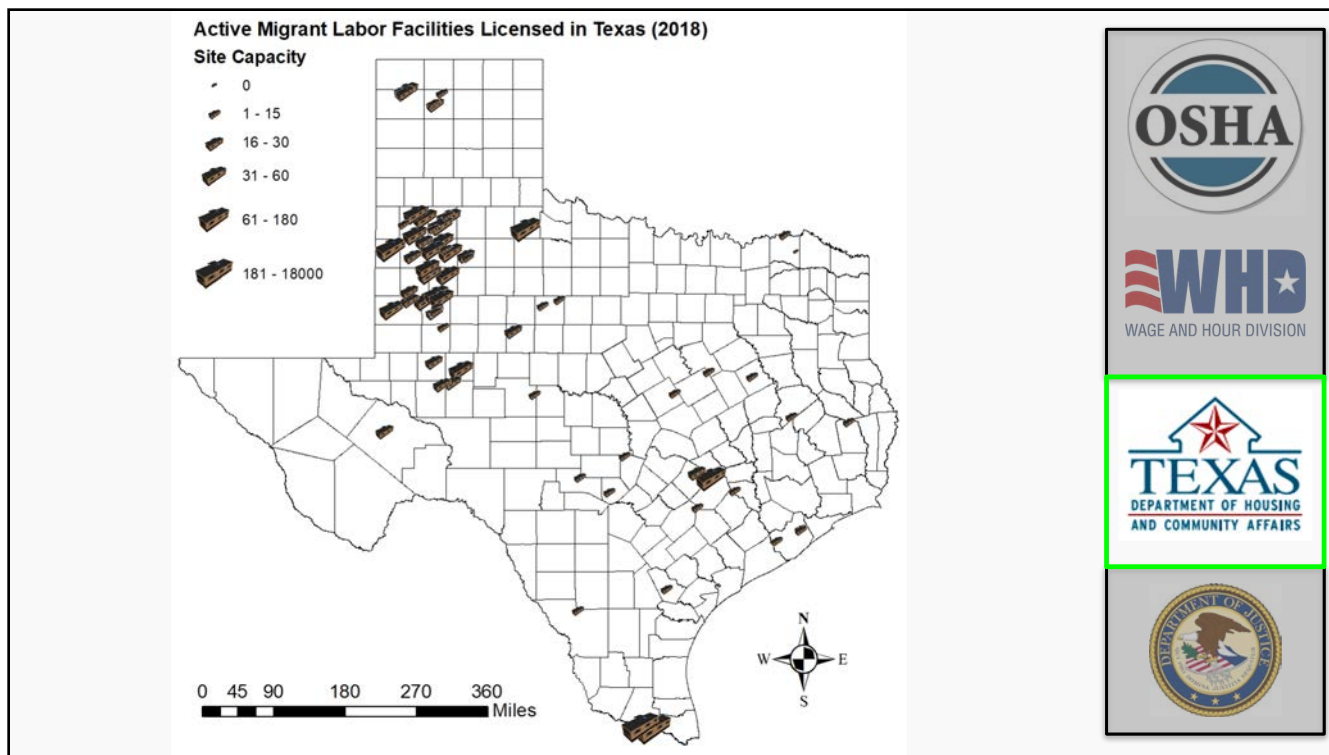
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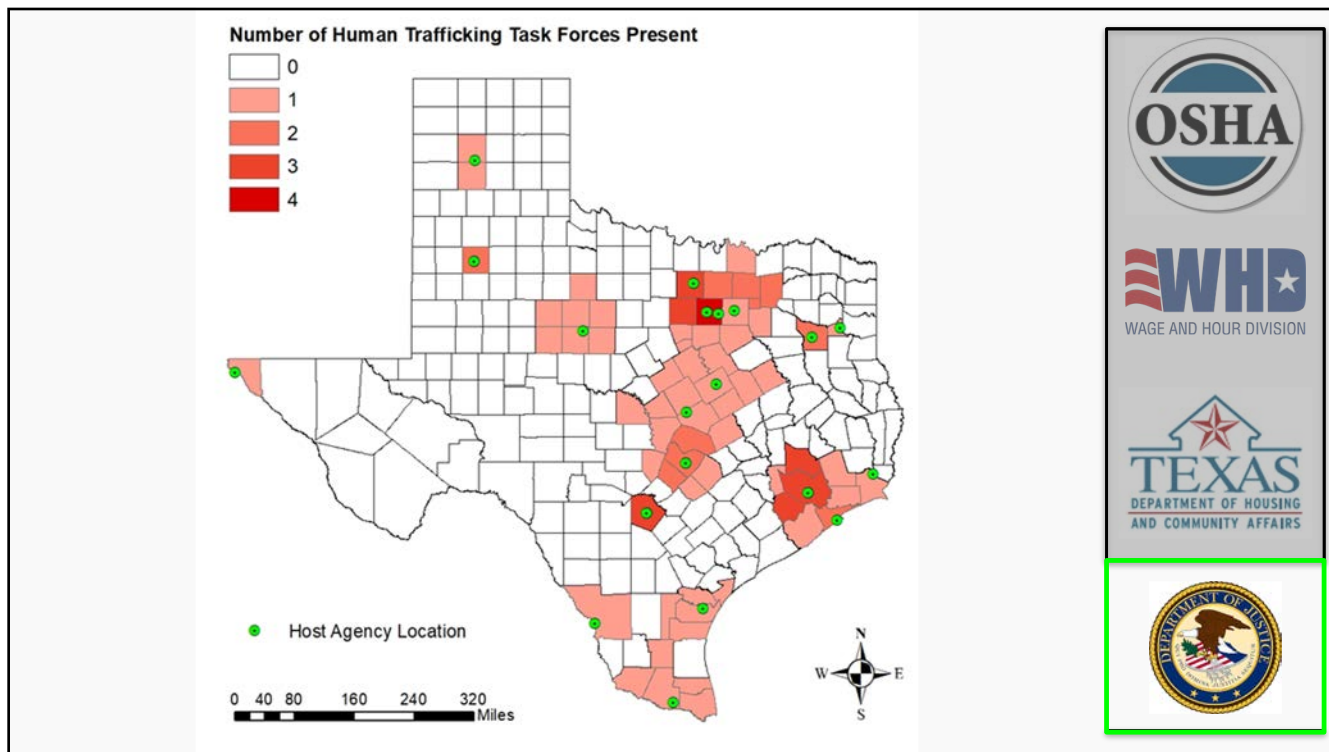
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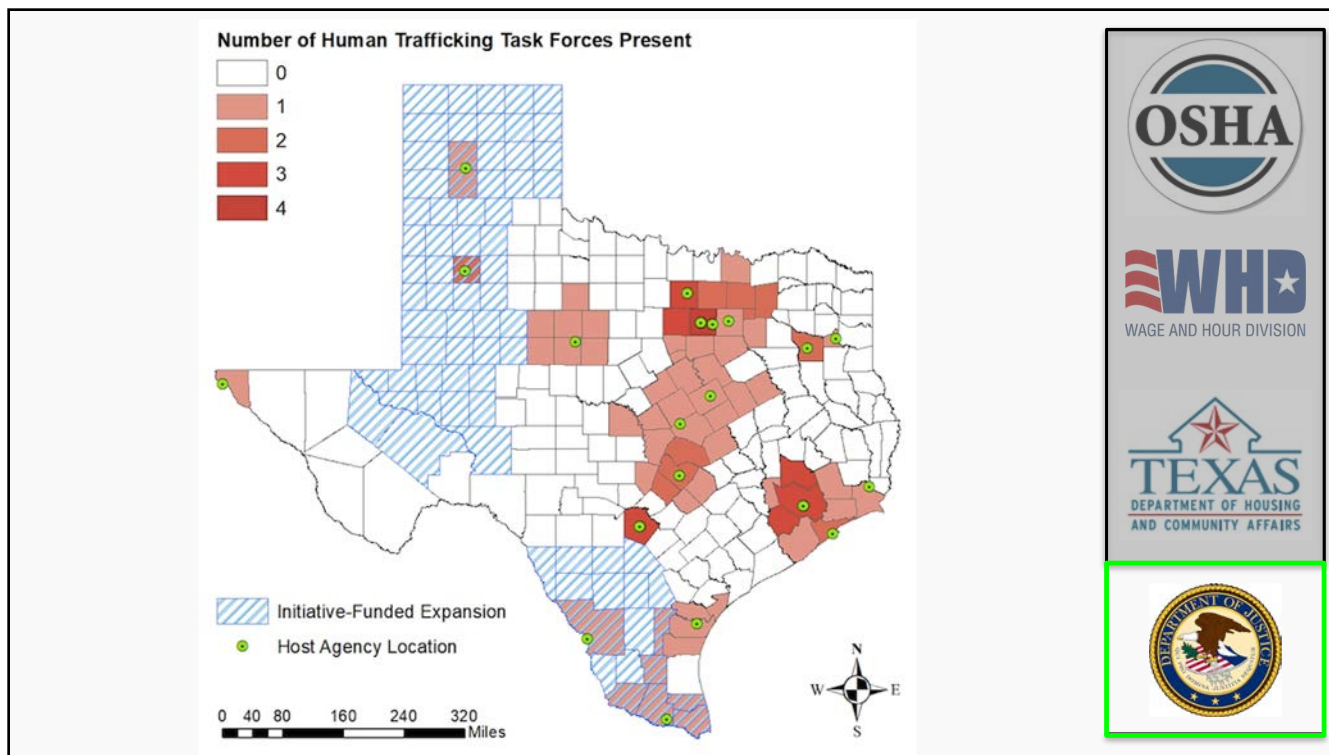
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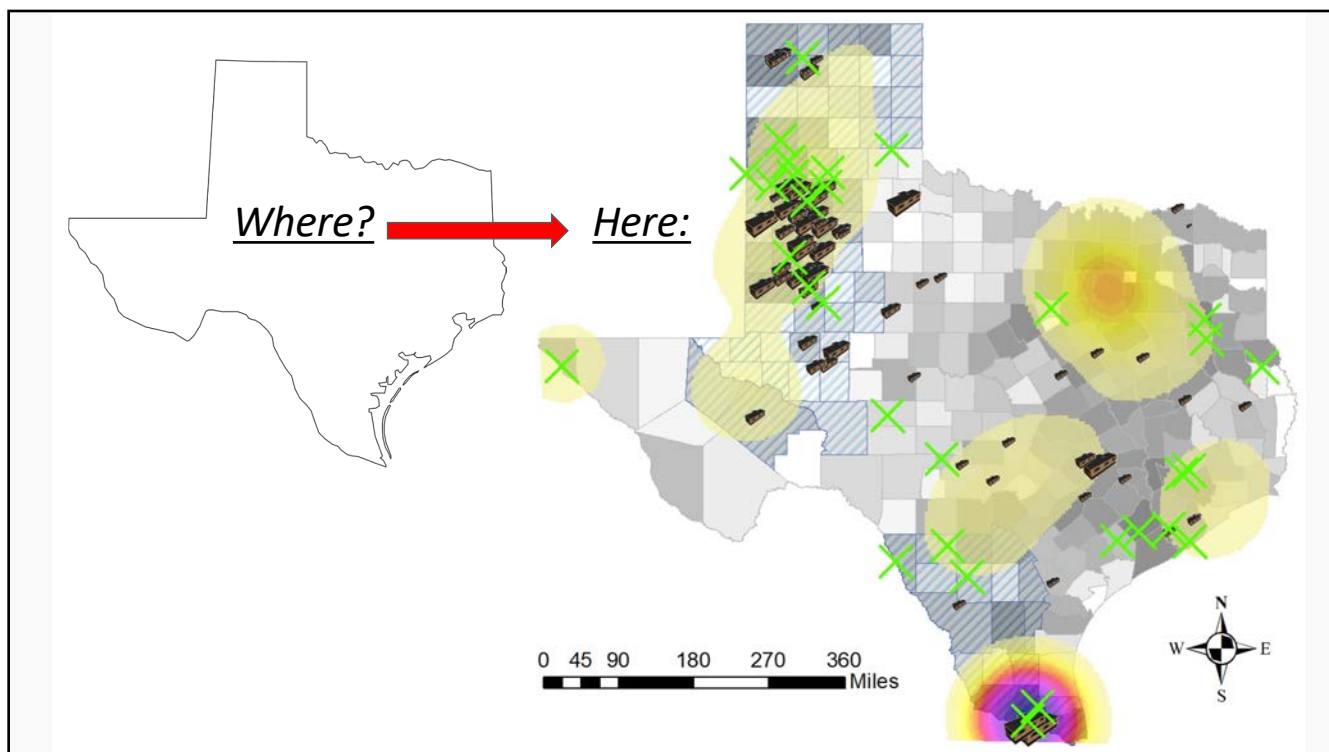
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## Build Law Enforcement Capacity to Identify and Investigate Cases

Finding: Training programs were effective at increasing knowledge.

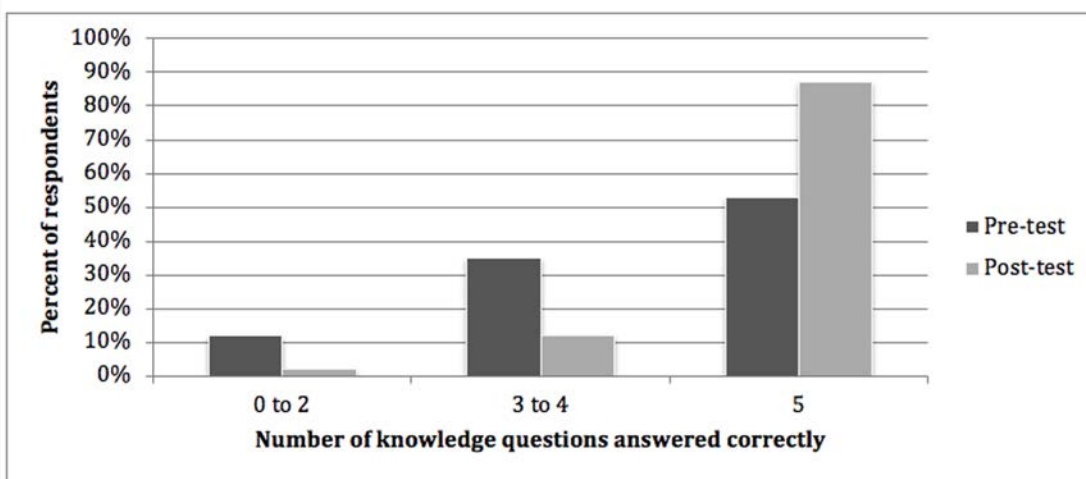


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## Law Enforcement Test

**Figure 2. Change in knowledge about human trafficking**



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## Pursue Perpetrators via the Justice System

### DA's office will create a Human Trafficking Unit to address labor exploitation

By TDB - Jan 11, 2019

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Finding: Partnerships with local organizations help reach a larger audience and have the potential to build stronger cases.



Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney Ricardo Rodriguez Jr., at the podium surrounded by farm labor activists and staff, announced the grant at the December 4, 2018 Commissioners Court.

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## Empower Farmworkers

Finding: Those who know their rights are less likely to have them violated.

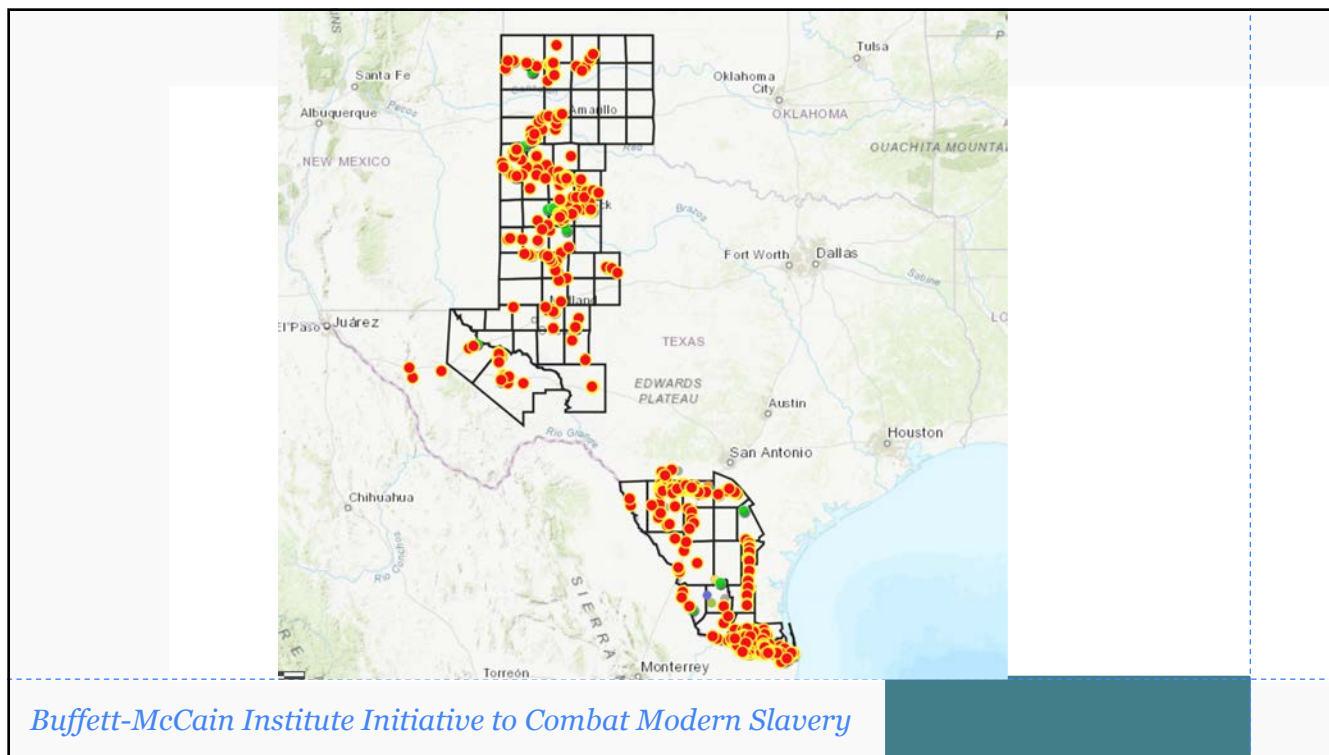


Photo Credit: Encarni Pindado



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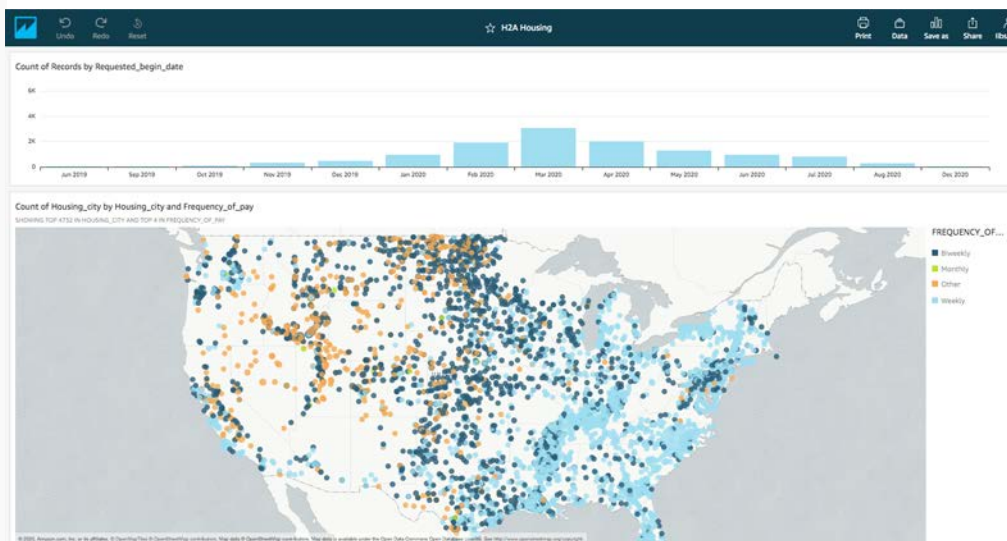
# Farmworker Survey

- 25% pay withheld
- 24% bait and switch
- 23% middleperson controls payment
- 23% made to feel scared / unsafe
- 17% coached to lie about age or work
- 13% documents withheld
- 12% pay goes to someone else
- 12% threats of violence
- 9% deductions for transportation, food, or shelter

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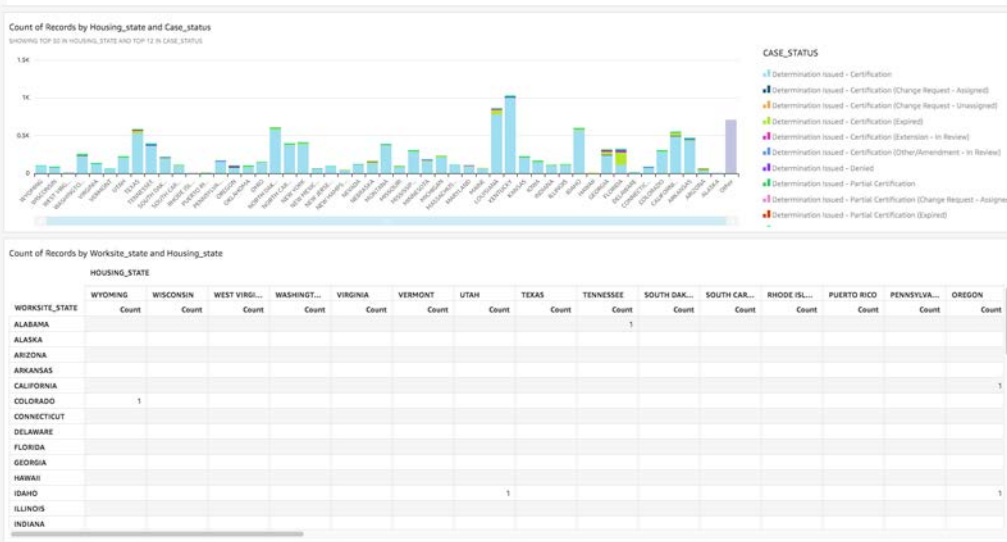
# Labor Trafficking Data Partnership



The McCain Institute

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# Labor Trafficking Data Partnership



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## Secure Justice for Victims

Finding: Supporting local organizations helped increase capacity to identify and secure justice for victims.

### Legal Aid:

- Civil litigation
- T-Visa Applications
- Financial restitution



### Comprehensive casework:

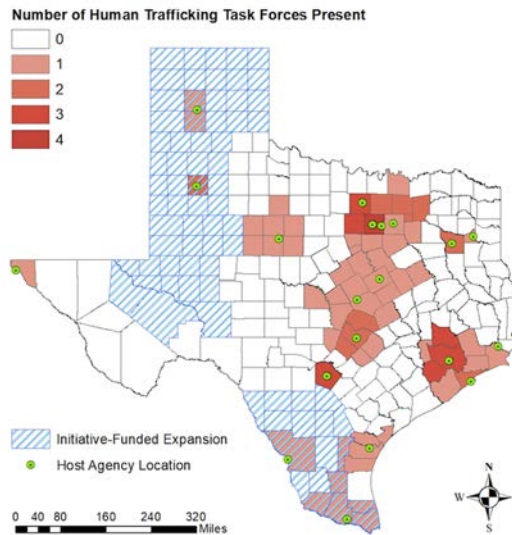
- Housing
- Food
- Physical healthcare
- Mental healthcare

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## Increase Coordination to Amplify Resources

Finding: The Initiative helped increase the reach of local task forces through patient relationship building.



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## Improve Employer Practices

Finding: Building consumer awareness is necessary to create pressure on growers to reform.



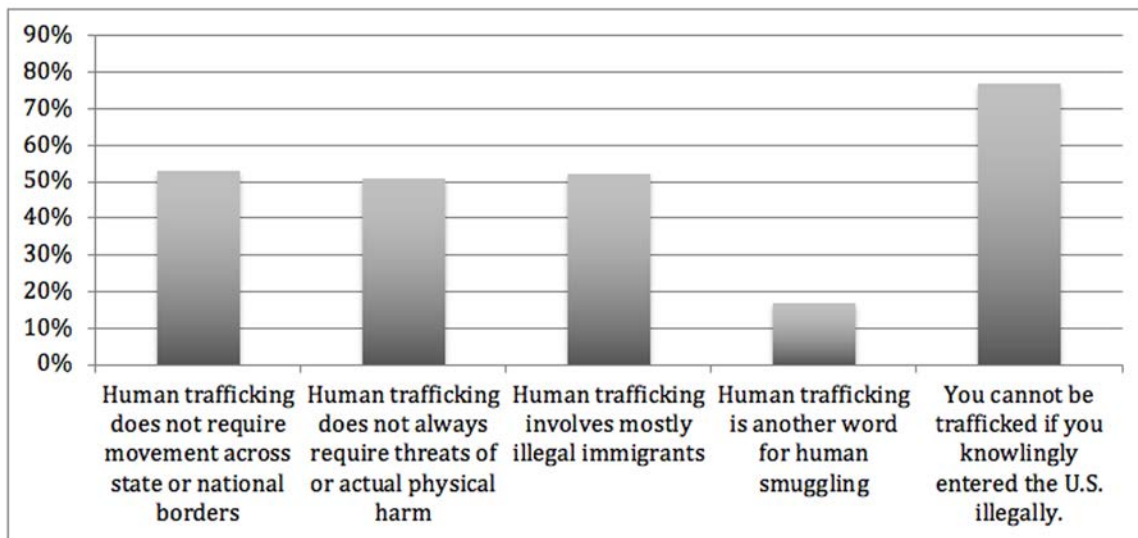
Buffett-McCain Institute Initiative to Combat Modern Slavery

fairfoodprogram.org

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## Public Opinion Survey

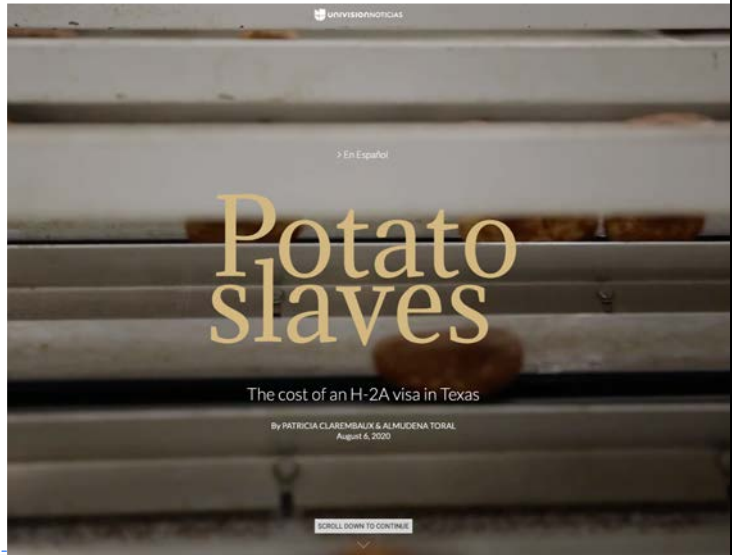
Figure 17. Percent of respondents answering each true/false question correctly



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## Create a Public Mandate

Finding: Investigative journalism has the potential to create a public mandate for fair labor standards over time.

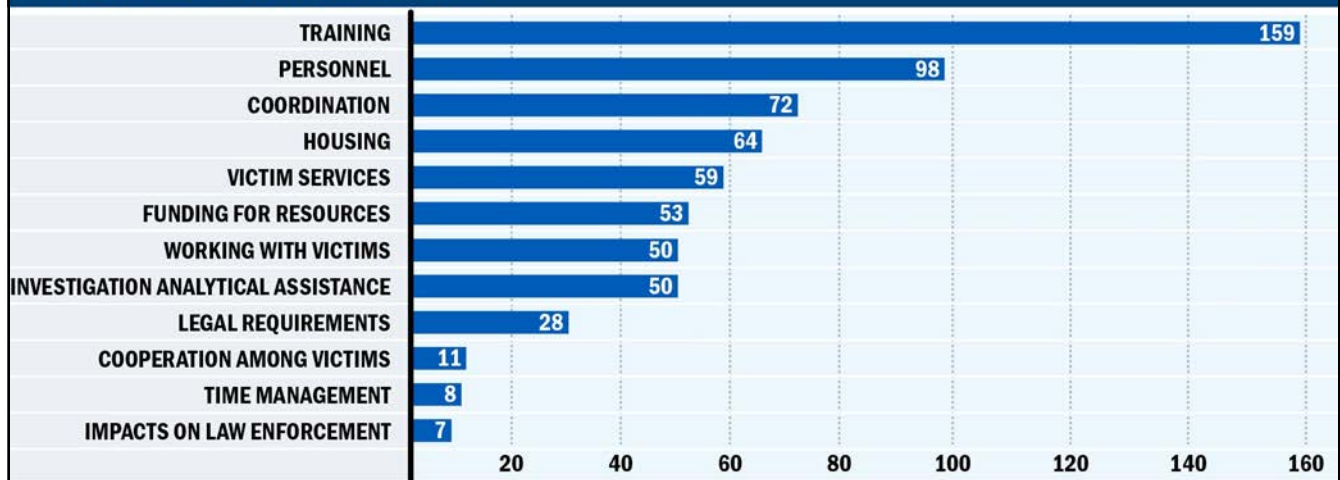


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## Nationwide Assessment: Top Challenges

TOP CHALLENGES NAMED BY 295 STAKEHOLDERS



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# Nationwide Assessment: Findings

## OUR FINDINGS AT A GLANCE



1. INCONSISTENT COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION ACROSS HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMUNITY



2. LIMITED DEDICATED AND EXPERIENCED PERSONNEL TO ADDRESS THE COMPLEXITY OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING



3. LIMITED OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADVANCED TRAINING



4. LAW ENFORCEMENT REQUIRES THE SUPPORT OF VICTIM SERVICE PROVIDERS



5. LIMITED VIEW INTO HUMAN TRAFFICKING TRENDS AND NETWORKS