

# Human Trafficking Statistics

HB 405

Over the past three years, **between 9-10 million illegal aliens have been encountered illegally crossing borders.** On top of that, **approximately 1.8 million illegal aliens have evaded Border Patrol agents.**

In FY 2022, DHS opened **1,373 human trafficking investigations.**  
The Department of Justice opened **668 human trafficking investigations** in the same year.

**Nearly 5,000** cases of human smuggling at the Southern border were reported to the U.S. Sentencing commission in 2023.

Between 2020 and 2024, **just under 500,000 unaccompanied children** were referred to the Office of Refugee Resettlement at the Southern border.



**Sophisticated transnational syndicates use children** to get single, adult males not just across the border, but **through Border Patrol processing.**

Once these men are granted a stay, they smuggle the children back across the border where **they will continue to be trafficked.**

Studies estimate that **60%** of Latin American children who set out to cross the border alone or with smugglers have been caught by the cartels and are **being abused in child pornography or drug trafficking.**



In 2020, **more than half** of all sex trafficking survivors **were in the United States illegally.**

In one study, most victims reported being recruited for both sex and labor trafficking. **75% of victims had an unknown immigration status.**



Utah had **917 known human trafficking victims** between 2019 and 2023.

In February of 2021, six people were arrested for human trafficking and prostitution in **massage parlors in Utah County**, following an undercover investigation.

Under current Utah law, sex trafficking is a second-degree felony and only results in **one to fifteen years in prison** and a maximum \$10,000 fine.

For the victim, the impacts of human trafficking are lifelong. According to one UK study, **78% of identified victims experienced symptoms of PTSD years after their rescue.**

Many other studies estimate the prevalence of PTSD among victims at **over 50%**, among a myriad of other mental health disorders associated with prolonged trauma.

# Comparing Utah Policy

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Table 2- U.S. State Minimum Prison Sentences for Child Sex Trafficking

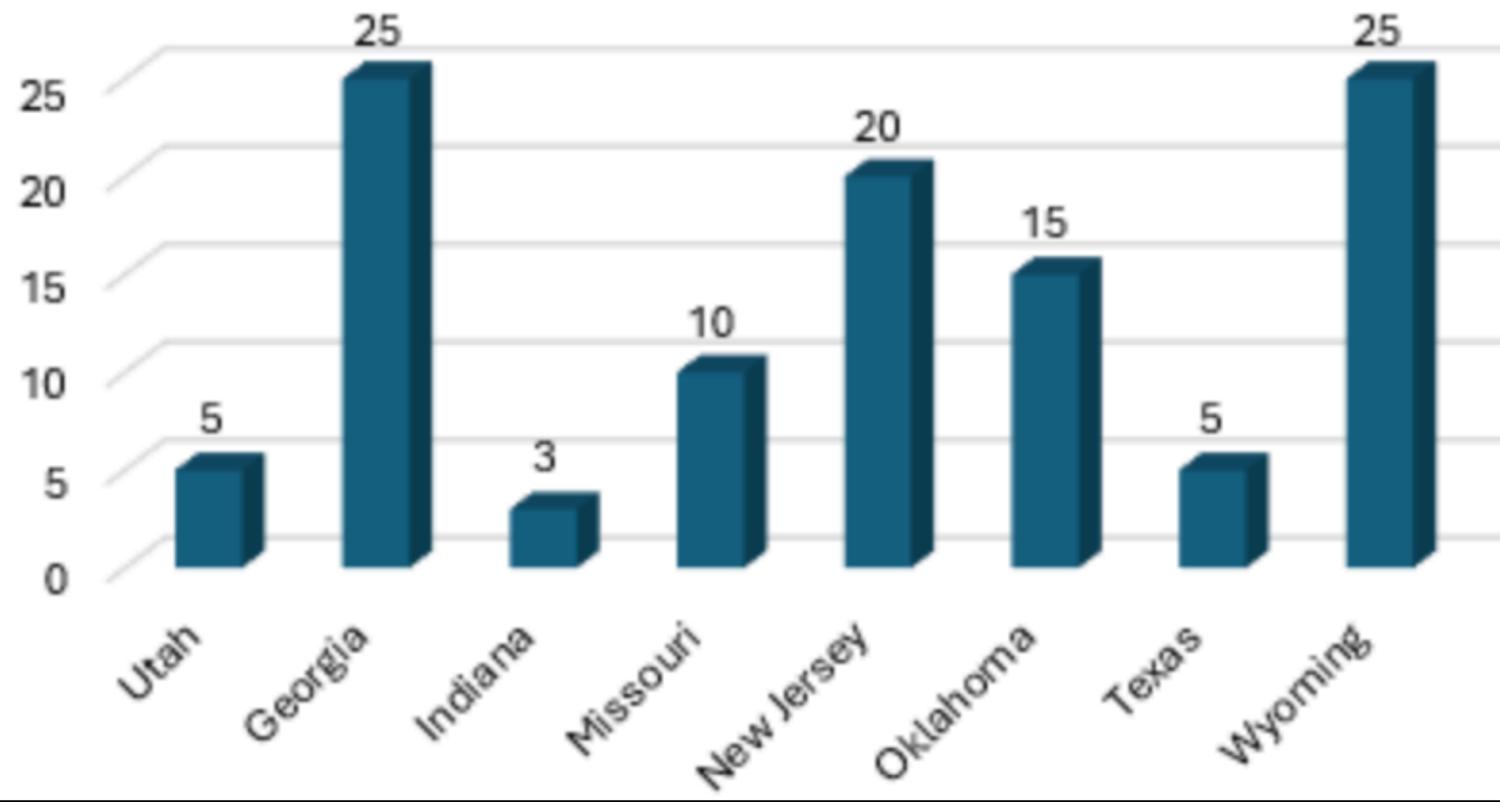


Table 3- U.S. State Minimum Prison Sentences for Labor Trafficking

