

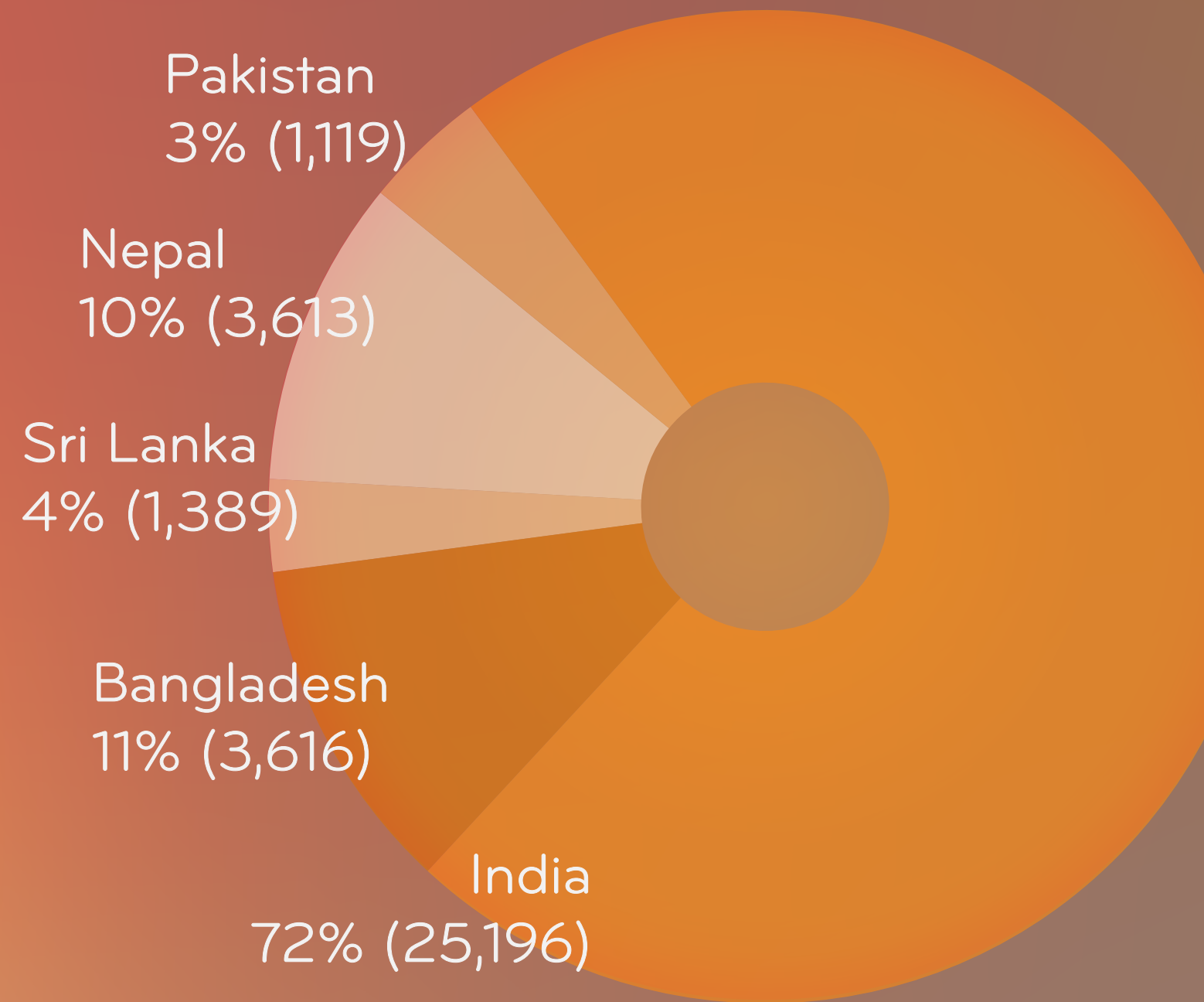
South Asian Migrants in Detention

A FACTSHEET



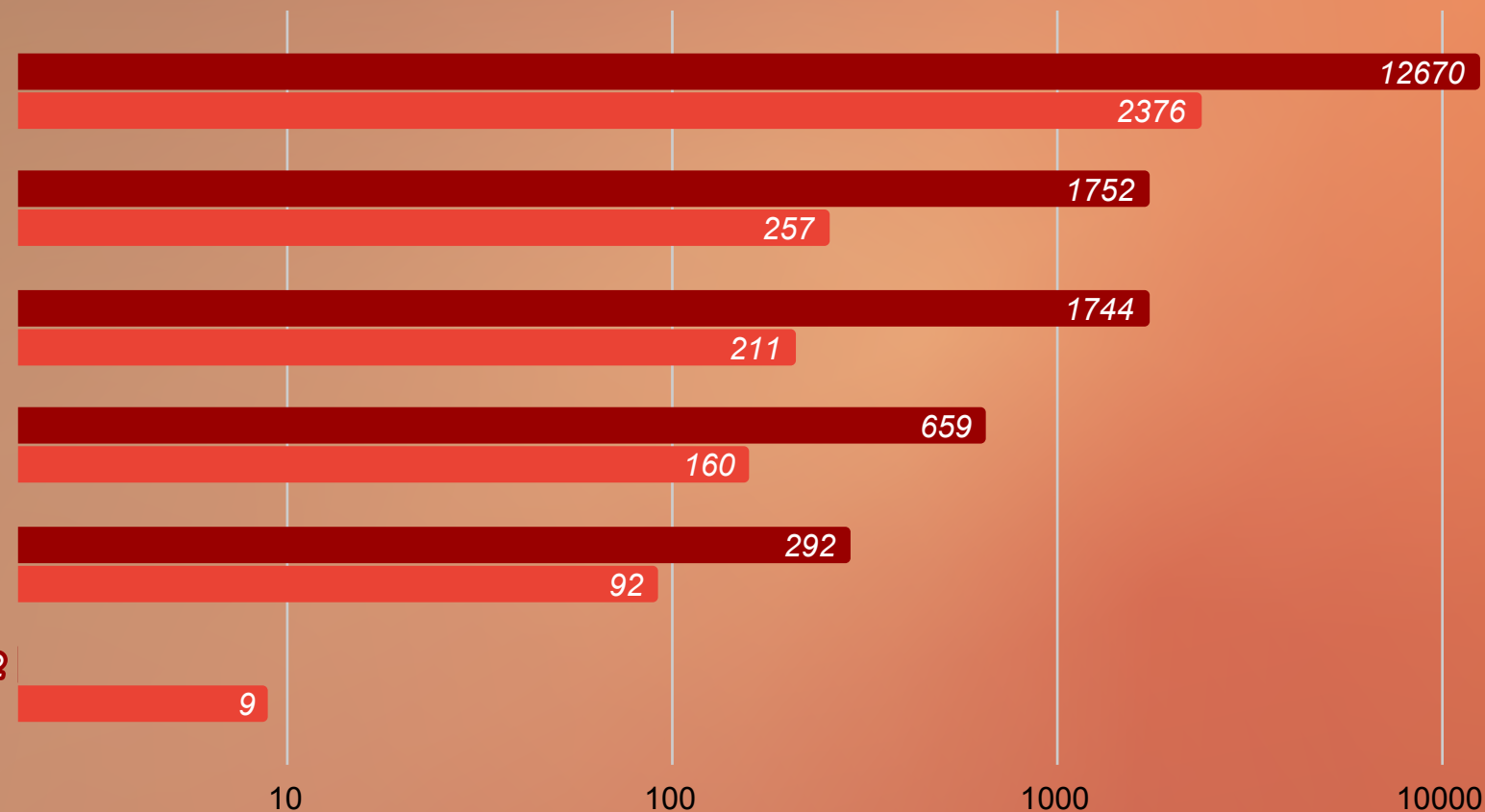
This fact sheet provides an overview of trends in South Asian migration along the U.S. Southern Border, including: details on the conditions many South Asian migrants face within U.S. detention facilities and demographic information regarding undocumented Indians.

The demographic make up of the over 34,000 migrants apprehended along U.S. borders through 2019 are as follows¹:



Between October 2014 and April 2019, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) arrested over 17,000 South Asians.

Arrested ■ Detained



As of 2017, Immigrations & Customs Enforcement (ICE) has detained at least 3,013 South Asians.

The numbers have risen sharply in the last decade²:

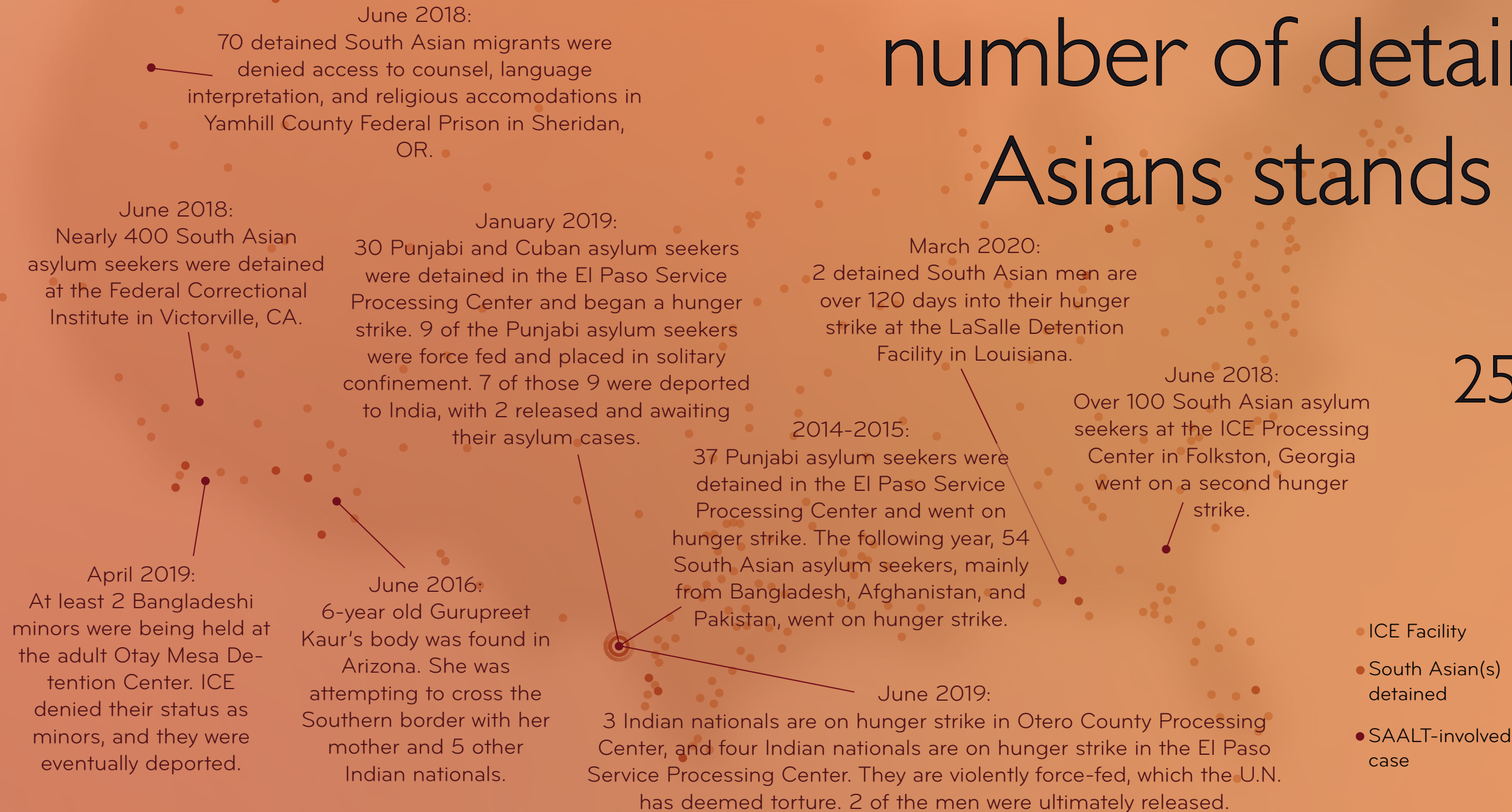
In 2008, 77 Indian nationals were apprehended at and along the border.

In 2019, nearly 10,000 Indian nationals were apprehended at and along the border.

As of September 2019, the number of detained South Asians stands as follows:

2,376 Indians*
257 Bangladeshis
211 Nepalis
160 Pakistanis

*Indian nationals had the highest level of deportations, outside of people from countries in Latin America and Central America.



SAALT and our partners have tracked a pattern of abuse toward detained South Asians, which has driven many of them to go on hunger strikes to raise awareness of their conditions.

Patterns of abuse documented in detention facilities across the U.S. since 2015 include:

- Inadequate or non-existent language access
- Denial of religious accommodations
- Use of solitary confinement as a form of retaliation
- Gross medical neglect
- High Bond amounts, up to \$20,000 in FY19

View our original research, our partners' research, and our sources here:
<https://saalt.org/detainee-support/>

As of 2017, there are at least 630,000 undocumented Indians alone in the United States, marking a 72% increase since 2010.

Much of the increase can be attributed to visa overstays with nearly 250,000 Indians overstaying their visas in 2016.

Migrants under the age of 16 who entered the country without documents are eligible for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program.

Of these "Dreamers", only 13% (2,550 individuals) of the 20,000 eligible applicants from India receive DACA.

Even though DACA offers some legal protection, it requires that applicants have financial stability, access to their legal documents, a high level of language proficiency, and trust in US legal systems, and thus leads to deportation.

Since 2017, the Trump administration has increased funding for the departments that arrest, detain, and deport migrants.

Now, CBP and ICE are actively separating migrant families, causing irreparable damage to South Asian communities and families.

SAALT is committed to fighting for immigrant justice, which includes a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants; elimination of the visa backlog; robust worker protections; and enforcement provisions that respect civil rights and due process, all of which ultimately end in the abolition of detention.

This factsheet expands on SAALT's efforts in the fight for immigration justice, and is a part of our education and outreach efforts. We invite you to print and share the pamphlet-version of this factsheet, available [here](#).