Human Trafficking: Informing Colorado’s Healthcare Practice

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combathumantrafficking.org
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Why are we here?

87.8% of survivors had contact with a healthcare provider while they were being trafficked. 63.3% of those were treated in an emergency room setting.

More than half (57.1%) of respondents had received treatment at some type of clinic.

A recent cross-sectional survey of 180 U.S. emergency department workers found that only 5% had ever received formal training on human trafficking.

73% believed that their patient population was not affected by trafficking.
What is Human Trafficking?
Human trafficking =

A severe form of exploitation for labor (including sex) through the use of force, fraud, or coercion.
Trafficking laws in the United States (TVPA): 
Three categories of trafficking

1. Those under 18 involved in commercial sex acts
2. Those 18 and over involved in commercial sex acts through force, fraud or coercion
3. Those forced to perform labor and/or services in conditions of involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery through force, fraud or coercion

Not limited to people who are foreign-born, youth, or females
Action
Recruit
Harbor
Transport
Provide
Obtain

Means*
Force
Fraud
Coercion

Purpose
Commercial sex acts OR Labor or Services

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The Ideal Victim

LURED BY FAIRY TALE PROMISES.
SHE LEARNED NOT EVERY PRINCE
IS CHARMING.

LOOK BENEATH
THE SURFACE

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS
MODERN-DAY SLAVERY

A victim of trafficking may look like many of the people you see everyday.

Ask the right questions and look for clues. You are not alone, you may be the
only victim with the opportunity to speak with others.

There are safe housing, health, immigration, food, finance, employment, legal
and interpretation services available to victims, but that they need to know.

If you think someone is in a state of trafficking, call 1.888.3737.888
For more information about human trafficking visit www.adfia.gov/Trafficking.
Who is missing?

“I got upset when I realized what he was doing, but I kept doing it because he made me feel like I was special.”

— Sacharay

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Red Flags and Indicators of Trafficking:
Physical Indicators

- Unexplained injuries (multiple scars, broken teeth)
- Evidence of prolonged infection or time since injury
- Signs of malnourishment or generally poor health: Malnutrition, dehydration, exhaustion
- Frequent or repeated STIs or evidence of sexual trauma
- Multiple or frequent pregnancy/abortions
- Tattoos or other types of branding
- Repeated motion injuries, chronic back pain
- Substance misuse
Red Flags and Indicators of Trafficking: Behavioral Indicators

- Individual claims to be “just visiting” an area; the individual does not know their current location
- Individual has numerous inconsistencies in their story
- Someone is claiming to speak for, or on behalf of them
- Individual does not have any type of legal documentation
- Not making eye contact
- Individual not being in control of their identification documents
- Paying with cash
Red Flags and Indicators of Trafficking:
Mental health Indicators

How a survivor responds will be affected by their own experiences, the accessibility of support, their coping and life skills and those of immediate family, and the responses of the larger community in which they live.

- Trauma can affect treatment presentation, engagement, and the outcome of behavioral health services.
- Trauma can lead to memory loss, disassociation, PTSD, paranoia, fear, anxiety, submission, tension and/or hostility.
- Individual may either be in crisis, or may downplay existing health problems or risks.
- Sleep deprivation, sometimes mixed with substances can lead to psychosis.
- Co-occurring mental and substance-related disorders.
COLORADO'S HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE

Report Tips

CALL 866-455-5075

Request Referrals

TEXT 720-999-9724

Get Help

combathumantrafficking.org/directory
THANK YOU

LABORATORY TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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Immigration Relief:

• U Visa for victims of serious crimes who have information about the criminal activity and cooperate with law enforcement in the investigation and prosecution of the crimes.

• T Visa for victims of trafficking in persons who have reported the crime against them and complied with law enforcement request, and whose presence in the US is due to their exploitation.

• Legal status
• Family reunification
• Opportunity to become legal permanent resident
• Refugee-type benefits* (T-visa only)