# Human Trafficking: Informing Colorado's Healthcare Practice





HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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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
- 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

#### Means\*

#### **Purpose**

Commercial

sex acts

Recruit Harbor Transport Provide Obtain

Force Fraud Coercion













The Ideal **Victim** 















Don't be afraid to say it for her!

HUMAN

### Who is missing?













## 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 truama
- 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





Request Referrals







866-455-5075



720-999-9724



SEARCH

combathumantrafficking.org/ directory











#### THANK YOU



HUMAN TRAFFICKING











### Immigration Relief:

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

- 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

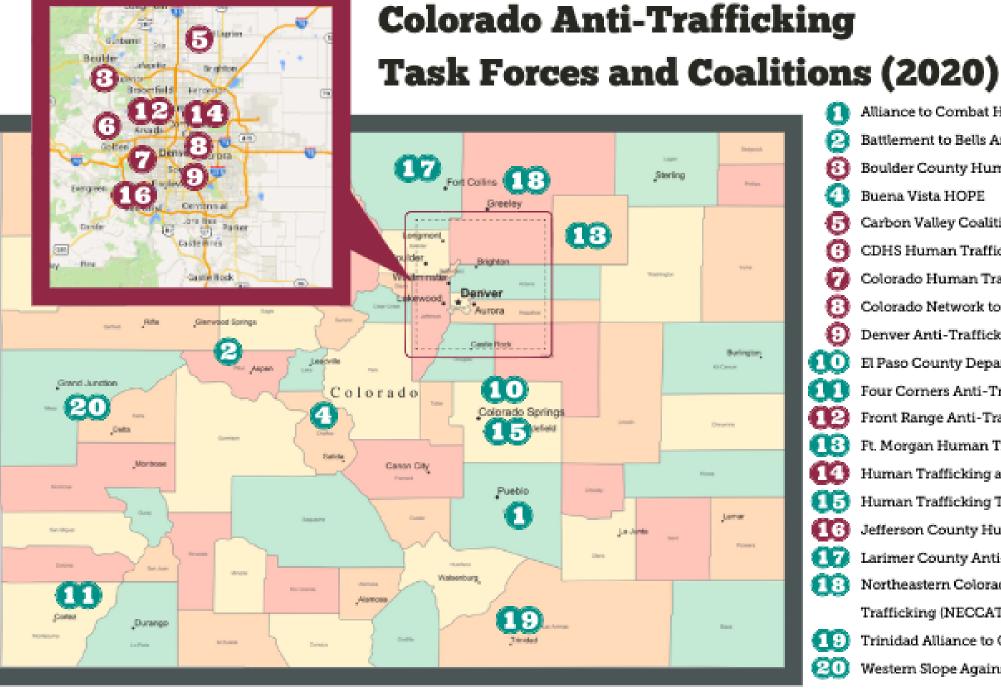














- Alliance to Combat Human Trafficking Pueblo
- Battlement to Bells Anti-Trafficking Task Force (BATT)
- Boulder County Human Trafficking Task Force
- Buena Vista HOPE
- Carbon Valley Coalition Against Trafficking
- CDHS Human Trafficking Task Group (HTTG)
- Colorado Human Trafficking Council (CHTC)
- Colorado Network to End Human Trafficking
- Denver Anti-Trafficking Alliance (DATA)
- El Paso County Department of Human Services
- Four Corners Anti-Trafficking Task Force
- Front Range Anti-Trafficking Coalition (FRAC)
- Ft. Morgan Human Trafficking Task Force
- Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation Task Force
- **0**6 Human Trafficking Task Force of Southern Colorado
- Jefferson County Human Trafficking Sub-Committee
- Larimer County Anti-Trafficking Response Team
- Northeastern Colorado Coalition Against Trafficking (NECCAT)
- (19)Trinidad Alliance to Combat Trafficking
  - Western Slope Against Trafficking (WAST)