

An aerial photograph of a lush green agricultural landscape. The image shows terraced fields, a central pond, and a dirt path. A white outline of a map of Colorado is overlaid on the image, with a white arrow pointing from the text area to the state's location. The text is overlaid on a dark semi-transparent rectangle.

Human Trafficking: Informing the Healthcare Practice

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**THE
COLORADO
ACTION
PLAN**

**THE
COLORADO
PROJECT**



**COLORADO'S
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
HOTLINE**



Report Tips



**Request
Referrals**



Get Help



CALL
866-455-5075



TEXT*
720-999-9724

* Text advocates are currently available 12PM-12AM (MDT) only

The Laboratory to Combat Human Trafficking

- Training and Education
- Research and Action
- CoNEHT hotline and resource directory
- Leadership development



Migrant Farm Worker Division

Of Colorado Legal Services

www.coloradofarmworkers.org

Legal advocacy & representation for Colorado agricultural workers regarding various employment related issues, including:

Wages

Contracts

Working Conditions - Pesticide poisoning, Work Related Injuries, Housing, Field Sanitation

Civil Rights / Discrimination

Immigration - VAWA, U visas, T visas, naturalization, and other limited cases

Labor Trafficking

And more.

Community education and training

Referrals to legal advocates for agricultural workers across the US

Why do healthcare providers need this training?

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.

(Lederer & Wetzel, 2014)

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.

(Chisolm-Straker, Richardson, & Cossio, 2012.)


Today's Agenda

Identification

- What does “human trafficking” mean?
- Who does it affect?
- Where does it happen?
- What does it look like?

Response

- What should I do if I suspect someone is a victim of human trafficking?
- What can I do to help those who have experienced human trafficking?



Human trafficking is the exploitation of someone for the purposes of compelled labor through the use of force, fraud, or coercion*.

Commercial sex acts or services involving a minor are considered human trafficking regardless of the presence of force, fraud, or coercion.

Human Trafficking

Human Smuggling

Who?

Person

Border

What?

Exploitation

Transportation

Where?

Anywhere and everywhere

At a boundary or border

When?

Often unclear

After crossing

Why?

Labor

Travel or migration

How?

Force, fraud or coercion

Often consensual

Human trafficking is the exploitation of someone for the purposes of compelled labor through the use of force, fraud, or coercion.

What vulnerabilities can you identify in yourself?

Members of your community?

What factors limit their opportunities?

Common Vulnerabilities

Biological



- Age
- Gender
- Sexuality
- Disability

Social



- Adverse Childhood experiences
 - Relationships
- Cultural expectations and perspective
 - Prejudice

Economic



- Poverty
 - Debt
- Insecure work or housing situation

Legal



- Criminal or immigration history that limits work and housing opportunities
- Immigration status tied to trafficker (employer or family member)

Other?



- What do you see in your community?

Push and Pull Factors



Abuse, neglect,
and isolation



Relationship

Homelessness



Family and home

Poverty, debts, and lack of
access to formal markets



Income, dignity of work,
and security

Marginalized identity and
Discrimination



Acceptance, Opportunity

Systemic Vulnerabilities: The H2A/B Guest Worker Programs

- Recruitment
 - Fees, competition
 - Fraud
- Travel
 - Immigration status tied to employer
 - Debt
- Work in US
 - Lack of information
 - Obligations back home
 - Fear of harm



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Agriculture



Construction



Hospitality



Domestic Work



Illicit Activity



Sex Work



Food Service



Servile Marriages



Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

Commercial sex involved trading sexual acts or services for a thing of value, not just cash.

Industries where human trafficking has been identified

Human Trafficking happens in Colorado.



“Fields of fear for Colorado illegal farm laborers”

– Denver Post, 2009



“Sean Crumpler, accused Aurora child sex trafficker, pleads guilty”

– Denver Post, 2017

*2018 – Federal jury awards \$330,000 to a family that was trafficked on a family farm in southeastern CO
- Colorado Legal Services*

Trafficker's Toolbox

Human trafficking is the exploitation of someone for the purposes of compelled labor through the use of force, fraud, or coercion.



Force

Physical violence or restrictions

- Abuse
- Limiting movement or communication
- Withholding ID, medical care, or food and water



Fraud

Misrepresentations, especially during recruitment

- Inconsistent work, hours, or pay
- Additional job responsibilities
- Nonpayment of wages (overtime)



Coercion

Psychological persuasion or intimidation

- Exaggerations about trafficker's power
- Direct or indirect threats of harm to victim or loved one

Trafficker's Toolbox

Human trafficking is the exploitation of someone for the purposes of compelled labor through the use of force, fraud, or coercion.



Coercion

Psychological persuasion or intimidation

- Exaggerations about trafficker's power
 - Threatened misuse of the legal system
- Direct threats of harm to victim or loved one
 - Retaliation
- Indirect threats of harm to victim or loved one
 - Brandishing a weapon
 - "Making an example" of a worker

What does this look like in a healthcare setting?

Human trafficking is the exploitation of someone for the purposes of compelled labor through the use of force, fraud, or coercion.

- Victim may be malnourished, dehydrated, or exhausted and/or have generally poor health
- Injuries can go untreated for long periods of time
- Traffickers often accompany victims to medical visits, often serving as the “interpreter”
- Victims may miss follow-up on major medical visits
- Traumatized victims may avoid eye contact, seem anxious or nervous
- May have a vague or pre-rehearsed response to questions about their job or the circumstances of their injury
- Victims don’t have an ID
- Victim (or accompanying trafficker) may be extremely reluctant to have injuries reported to authorities

During their trafficking experience, a victim may...

- Experience trauma
 - Threat to their life or physical integrity, or someone important to them
 - Overwhelming sense of terror, helplessness, and horror
- Normalize the experience of exploitation
- Be told lies about institutions and law enforcement

Which means that, even after escape, a victim may...

- Experience fear or anxiety, remember events nonlinearly
- Fear reprisals from the trafficker
- Not understand that they were the victim of a crime
- Blame themselves, feel ashamed or guilty
- Mistrust of institutions or law enforcement

So, when interacting with providers, the victim may...

- Be reluctant to tell their story, or tell their story in pieces
- Decline to seek services or assistance
- Remain uninterested in cooperation with law enforcement or other perceived “government-associated” service providers



DISCUSSION

+ BONDING TIME!!

Discussion topics

- After seeing the presentation so far, are there clients/patients you can think back to that may have been experiencing exploitation?
- What did you do in the moment?
- What might you have done differently now that you have been to this training?

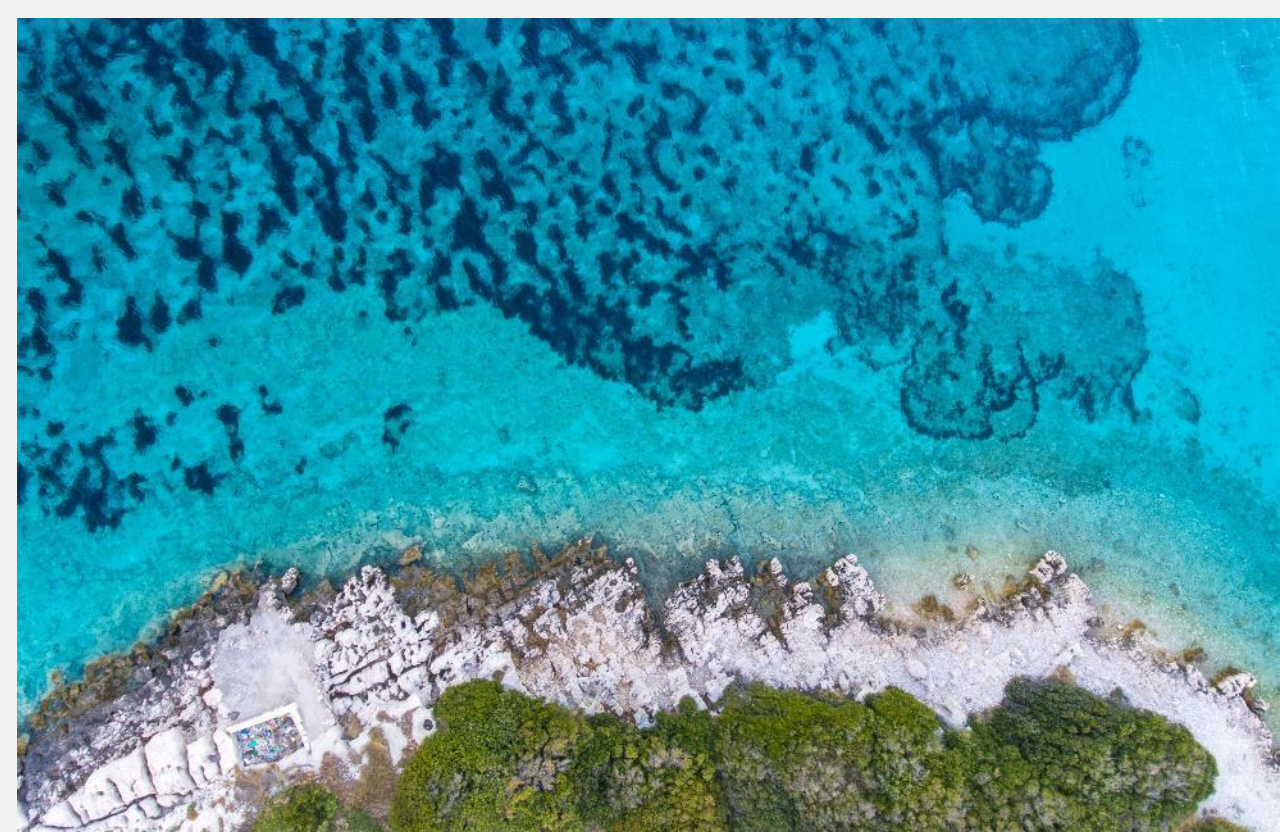
Role of Health Care Providers

Mandatory reporting requirements:

Per Colorado law, **the human trafficking of minors is child abuse** and should therefore be reported as such.

Remember, any minor participating in commercial sex is seen as a victim of human trafficking regardless of the presence of force, fraud, and coercion (and their own perception!)





Protocols

(Check out your handouts for more detailed information!)

Protocols should address:

- Training and education for all staff on human trafficking and basic indicators
- Staff responsibilities for recording and reporting
- Communication and separation policies and procedures
- Safety planning for victims
- Local resources and referral processes
- Materials and policies for communication with at-risk patients

Protocol 1: Direct Communication



Separation Policy

- Hang signs in waiting room
- Practice with staff



Language Access Policy

- Client-directed
- Document needs



Appropriate Interpretation

- Professional interpreters only
- Speak in first person
- Allot extra time



Check in

- Avoid speaking quickly or using slang
- Verify understanding



Start the Conversation

Don't wait on the patient—normalize talking about exploitation by bringing it up yourself.

Protocol 2: Universal Education

Universal education is a process that normalizes conversations about IPV and provides information to all, not just those who are suspected of or disclose experiencing IPV.

The use of a universal, trauma-informed education intervention is recommended because....

- Point of Entry
- Trauma-informed and survivor-centered
- Does not rely on direct disclosure
- Intervention, as well as primary and secondary prevention
- Feasible, affordable, and straightforward to administer

Protocol 2: Universal Education

How to talk to clients about human trafficking

1. Address medical needs



3. Educate

- Nonjudgmental manner normalizes sharing
- Use appropriate materials
- Empower client to inform others
- Connect to health outcomes!!



6. Respond

- Report if the situation requires it.
- Connect client to appropriate resources



2. Provide Privacy

- Use your separation policy!
- Explain limits of confidentiality



4. Ask

- Set aside time for discussion
- Share concerns



5. Respect

- Allow the patient to make their own decisions
- Remind the patient that they can come back in the future





Materials

For Staff

- Assessment card
- Look Beneath the Surface brochure
- PEARR Tool
- Today's packet:
<https://combathumantrafficking.org/health/>

For Patients

CoNEHT Card

24 HOURS

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→ Report Tips	CALL 866-455-5075
→ Request Referrals	TEXT* 720-999-9724
→ Get Help	<small>* Text advocates are currently available 12PM-12AM (MST) only.</small>

Welcome to Colorado Card



CLS MFWD has materials available in English and Spanish discussing:

- General services
- Human Trafficking
- H2A worker specific guidance
- Pesticide protection
- Workplace injury
- Workplace sexual harassment or assault
- Minimum wage



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Get Help 24/7

It's a free phone call or text away

National Human Trafficking Hotline
1-888-373-7888 or text 233733 (BEFREE)

National Runaway Safeline
1-800-RUNAWAY

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
1-800-273-8255

For an emergency, call 911 • It's OK to ask for help

What might Human Trafficking Victims need?



Safety

- Crisis intervention
- Transportation
- Clothing and food
- Emergency or transitional housing



Stabilization

- Protection/safety planning
- Social service advocacy
- Medical/mental health services
- Legal Services



Reintegration

- Legal services
- Employment or education assistance
- Long term housing
- Emotional support and counseling



Thank You

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