

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Frequently Asked Questions



WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human trafficking is a severe form of exploitation of another person involving force, fraud, or coercion for labor or commercial sexual purposes.

HOW MANY PEOPLE DOES IT AFFECT?

Due to its clandestine nature and its association with so many different industries and populations, this is a very difficult, or impossible, question to answer definitively. However, trends of increased reporting, prosecution of traffickers, and those seeking services suggest that there are significant numbers of people experiencing some sort of exploitation in the United States and around the world.

HOW DO PEOPLE GET INTO THESE SITUATIONS?

As with most other facets of the crime, this is incredibly variable. In some cases, they may be groomed to enter an exploitative situation by a stranger on the internet; or they could be coerced into participation by a close family member or domestic partner. A person may be trying to exchange services or labor for tools of survival such as shelter or food.

WHO ARE TRAFFICKERS?

A trafficker can be anyone. It might be the successful and influential business leader, the subcontractor, the gang member, or the family member or domestic partner. Just as the crime is diverse, so are its perpetrators.

HOW CAN I IDENTIFY HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Awareness of the crime is the first and most important step. As you interact with diverse members of your community, begin to think about their backgrounds and consider their relationships with others. Are there power imbalances? Is this person showing signs of desperation? Consider what sort of vulnerabilities this individual has and how another might exploit those factors.

WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT?

Be aware. Engage with individuals in a caring and non-judgmental way. Connect with others in the anti-trafficking community through the Human Trafficking Exchange or Colorado Network to End Human Trafficking. Utilize community resources like the CoNEHT Hotline.

AM I A MANDATORY REPORTER OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

If you are a mandatory reporter of child abuse, you are a mandatory reporter of human trafficking of a minor, which is legally considered child abuse. You are not a mandatory reporter of human trafficking of adults.



LABORATORY TO COMBAT
HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The Laboratory to Combat Human Trafficking (LCHT) exists to inform social change that eliminates human exploitation. Since 2005, we have trained over 27,000 professionals and community members; conducted research projects to drive action and inform policy change; administered Colorado's statewide 24/7 human trafficking hotline; and developed over 130 future human rights leaders.