

Intersections of Human Trafficking and Other Abuses

Among the first responders to assist with human trafficking cases in the U.S. were domestic violence, sexual assault and immigrant advocates.

You can play a vital role in identifying cases of human trafficking by being aware of the basic similarities and differences between human trafficking and other abuses.

Domestic Violence (D.V.) and Human Trafficking

Intersections

- Both trafficking and D.V. are intentional forms of power and control
- D.V. and human trafficking victims are often close to or live with their perpetrator and may suffer verbal, physical or sexual violence
- Perpetrators of both crimes may use isolation, restriction of movement and other forms of intimidation to maintain control over their victims

Differences

- Human trafficking always involves some form of forced labor while D. V. may not
- Human trafficking more frequently results in multiple victims
- Traffickers often have extended criminal networks that can pose more danger to family members of the victim

Labor Violations and Human Trafficking

Intersections

- Employers can misrepresent the terms of a job in situations of human trafficking and less serious labor violations
- Employers may violate wage, labor and civil rights laws in the commission of human trafficking or a lesser labor offense

Differences

- Traffickers intentionally scheme to exploit a person's labor for profit
- Human trafficking involves compelling a victim's labor. Traffickers use tactics such as debt owed, the withholding of identity documents, and/or the threat of deportation, financial ruin or harm to one's family to keep a person enslaved

If you suspect human trafficking, we can help

Please call the Colorado Network to End Human Trafficking, (CoNEHT) toll-free at 866-455-5075. We can help you identify human trafficking and provide critical resources to victims statewide.

Intersections of Specific Forms of Human Trafficking and Other Abuse Issues

- * **Domestic servitude.** A spouse, relative or person unrelated to a family can become a victim of domestic labor. Patterns of abuse can be synonymous with D.V., except that traffickers use such dominance to exploit an individual for childcare and other household labor.
- * **Sex trafficking.** U.S. and immigrant victims are often lured by romantic courtship or familial attachment to their trafficker, only to experience the same abuses as D.V. victims. As with domestic violence, traffickers often sexually assault victims to break their will.
- * **Child trafficking.** A child's removal from his or her parent due to abuse or neglect can result in placement with a non parental-relative. Such transfers designed to protect a child can actually result in that child's trafficking by a relative or foster parent, in schemes ranging from domestic labor to forced illegal activity.
- * **Sales scams.** The sight of youth at your door selling magazines may seem exploitative at worst, but some sales operations represent the trafficking of homeless, LGBT and at-risk youth. Traffickers use these youths' vulnerable status to exploit their labor and your sympathy.

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