Colorado Project 2023
Greater Colorado Springs Area

Amanda Finger
Executive Director, LCHT

Programs:

Training & Education

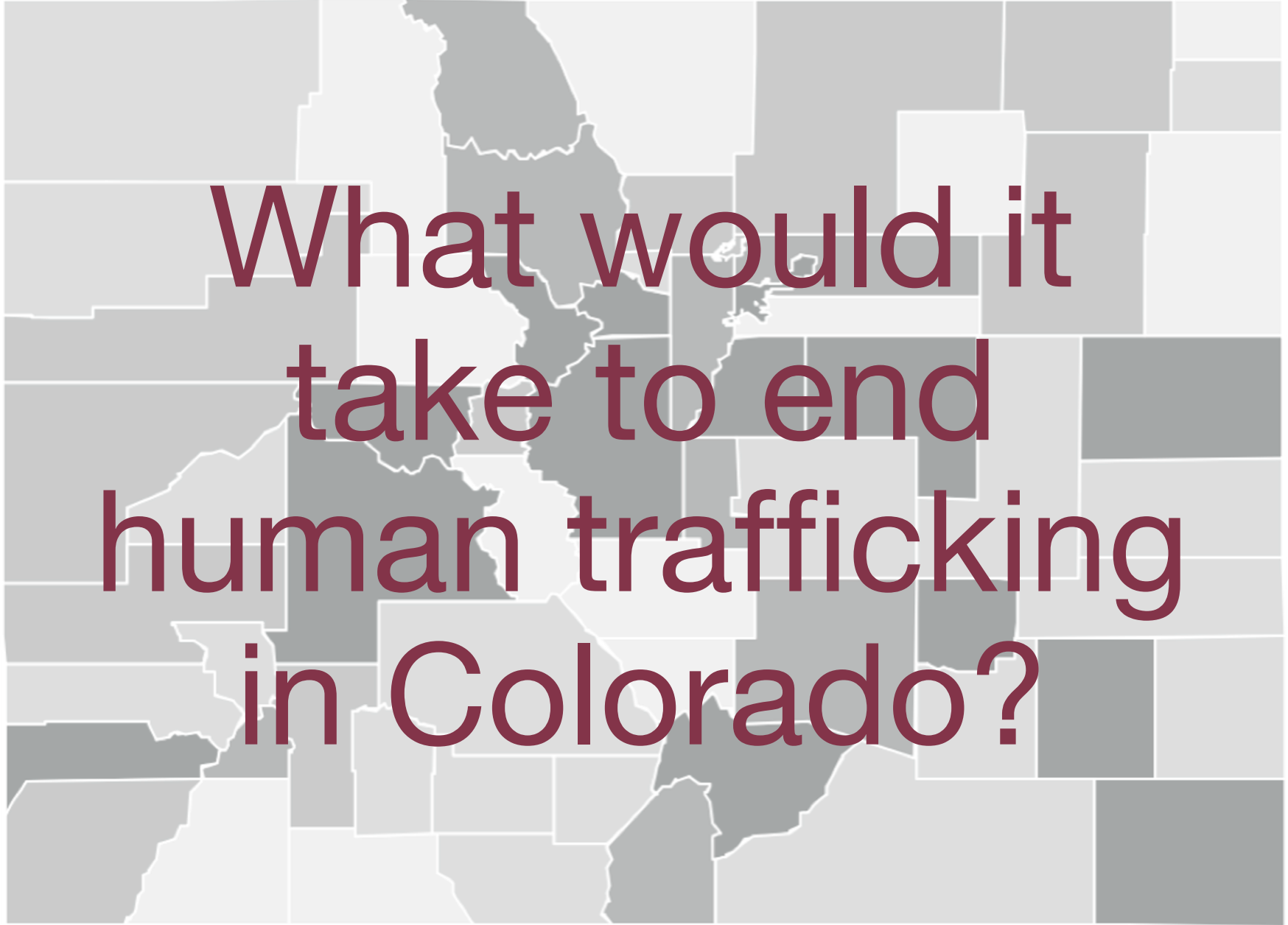**Leadership Development**

Research & Action

24 HOURS 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

What would it take to end human trafficking in Colorado?

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Colorado Projects to Comprehensively Combat Human Trafficking

Colorado Project 2013

Action Plan: 14 Recommendations

Colorado Project 2019

Action Plan: 10 Recommendations

Colorado Project 2023

Action Plan: 7 Recommendations

2005 → **2013** → **2019** → **2023** →

Colorado Anti-trafficking response

Legislative Changes
Governor's Council
Partnership Building

Community Based Participatory Action (CBPR) Research

CBPR is about working WITH and IN communities as opposed to working on the behalf of or for

Holds lived experience as equal (or more important) to traditional research methods

Promising Practices not Best Practices - Honors local contexts

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Colorado Projects to Comprehensively Combat Human Trafficking

Goals:

- Support evidence-based practices and decision-making and reducing uncertainty

- Enhance capacity to collaborate

- Utilize implementation science to vision the next phases of the movement

- Provide avenues for grant writing collaboration

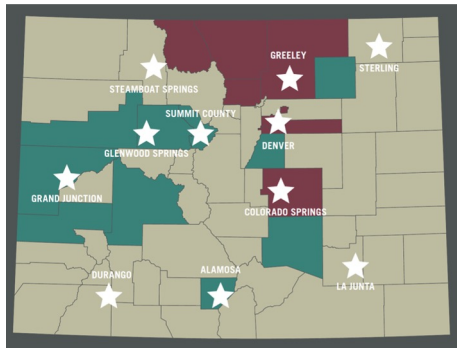- Connect efforts to reduced incidents and prevalence

Colorado Project Research Questions (by publication year)

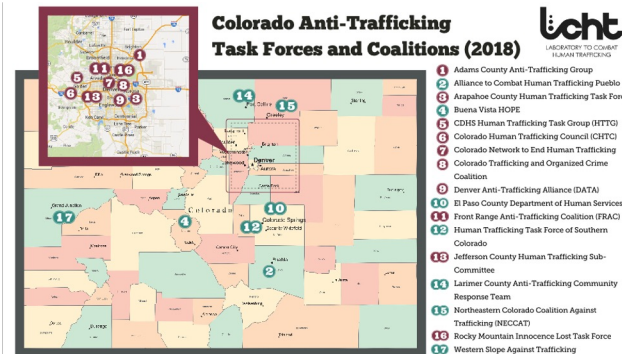| Colorado Project 2013	Colorado Project 2019	Colorado Project 2023
- What is the nature of Human Trafficking in Colorado? - What is being done to address human trafficking in Colorado? - How is the work being conducted? ****Iterative and responsive to field changes over time**	- What is the nature of Human Trafficking in CO? - What is being done to address human trafficking in CO? - How do we *work together* to comprehensively end human trafficking in Colorado?	- What is the nature of Human Trafficking in CO? - What is being done to address human trafficking in CO? - How does trust, equity, and effectiveness affect collaborative efforts to comprehensively end human trafficking in Colorado? *How do root causes factor into Colorado's anti-trafficking response efforts?*

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Colorado Projects by the numbers

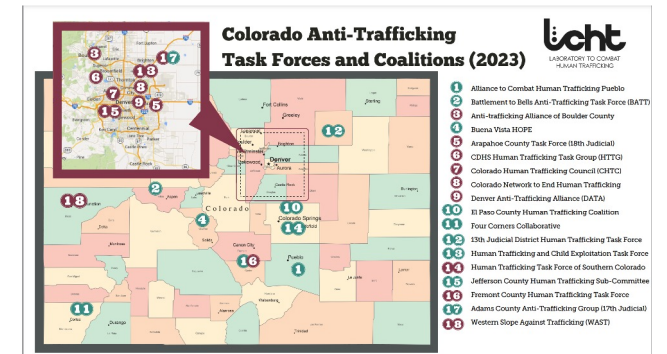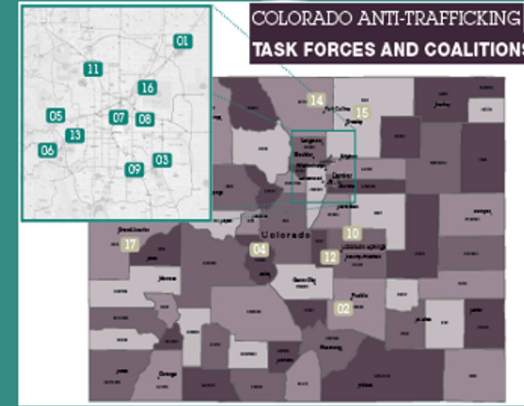| CP2013	CP2019	CP2023
• 132 surveys • 10 focus groups	• 183 surveys • 29 focus groups • 69 interviews	• 127 surveys • 27 focus groups • 59 interviews

Colorado Project Reports

Colorado Action Plans

Community Profiles and Tools

THE COLORADO PROJECT 2.0
TO COMPREHENSIVELY COMBAT
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
2019

COLORADO PROJECT
ACTION PLAN

COLORADO ANTI-TRAFFICKING
TASK FORCES AND COALITIONS

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Colorado Project Teams

Principal Investigators: Design Methodology

- Dr. A.J. Alejano-Steele
- Dr. Annie Miller
- Dr. Julie Laser
- Dr. Patricia Valverde

Lived Experience Consultants

- Emily Genetta
- Rebekah Layton
- Anastasia Lynge
- Robert Lung
- Jose Alfaro

Project Collaborators (Next slide)

Tactical: (Workflow+Logistics)

- Dr. A.J. Alejano-Steele
- Natcha Connot
- Nevita George

Leadership Development Program + Research Affiliates

- Alexandra Brodsky (DU)
- Molly McNiven (DU)
- Savannah Anderson (UCD)
- Maria Lewis (UCD)
- Kornrattha (Dao) Henry (UCCS)
- Chelsea Dillane (DU)

LCHT Staff

- Dr. A.J. Alejano-Steele
- Kara Napolitano
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- Kristina Wilburn

Purpose Collective

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- + Ali Nipert
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- +Amanda Finger

Colorado Project Collaborators

Visible Network Labs
UC Denver

- Dr. Danielle Varda
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- +Natcha Connot
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Longitudinal Statistics
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- Zach Combs
- Evan Shapiro
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- +Dr. Julie Laser

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- Emma Britt
- Cassie Gibbs
- Sophie Gordon
- Lucien Herzog
- Hisashi Araya-Kjeseth
- +Alexandra Brodsky

Colorado Partnership Leaders

- 20+
- +Kara Napolitano
- +A.J. Alejano-Steele

1. Alliance to Combat Human Trafficking Pueblo
2. Battlement to Bells Anti-Trafficking Task Force (BATT)
3. Anti-trafficking Alliance of Boulder County
4. Buena Vista HOPE
5. Arapahoe County Task Force (18th Judicial)
6. CDHS Human Trafficking Task Group (HTTG)
7. Colorado Human Trafficking Council (CHTC)
8. Colorado Network to End Human Trafficking
9. Denver Anti-Trafficking Alliance (DATA)
10. El Paso County Human Trafficking Coalition
11. Four Corners Anti-Trafficking Task Force
12. Front Range Anti-Trafficking Coalition (FRAC)
13. 13th Judicial District Human Trafficking Task Force
14. Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation Task Force
15. Human Trafficking Task Force of Southern Colorado
16. Jefferson County Human Trafficking Sub-Committee
17. Fremont County Human Trafficking Task Force
18. Northeastern Colorado Coalition Against Trafficking (NECCAT)
19. Adams County Anti-Trafficking Group (17th Judicial)
20. Western Slope Against Trafficking (WAST)

Action Plan Reviewers

- Jenny Footle
- Dr. Azurdee M. Garland
- Anya Samantha Eastcott
- Tris Lester Bacani
- 1 anonymous
- +A.J. Alejano-Steele

Statewide Advisory Committee

- Brian Abbrecht
- Ashley Bonham
- Brooke Byrd
- Emily Genetta
- Mona Klein
- Anastasia Lynge
- Pat Medige
- Edith Okupa
- David Shaw
- Hava Simmons
- Caleb Stewart
- Teresa Robertson
- Maria Trujillo
- +Kara Napolitano
- +Amanda Finger
- +A.J. Alejano-Steele

THE COLORADO ACTION PLAN

- catalyst for community-owned responses

- a bridge to coordinate statewide efforts

- a guide to direct collective efforts towards a common goal

MOBILIZE THE MOVEMENT

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Partnership Membership: Focus on Inclusion

Recommendation 1
Anti-trafficking partnerships should develop a plan to engage interested survivor leaders as partnership members and advisors. Each plan will include agreed upon rules and procedures that include a section on the ways in which survivors will be included in the process, with equal voice to all other partnership members. In the interest of transparency, this plan should be shared within the partnership and to the public.

Recommendation 2
Anti-trafficking partnerships and their constituent organizations/agencies should cultivate partnerships with grassroots (community- and constituent-led) organizations reflective of underrepresented groups within the community (e.g. immigrants, sex workers, LGBTQ+, youth, people experiencing homelessness) in order to elevate prevention efforts.

Partnership and Organizational-Level Goals: Require Training

Recommendation 3
Anti-trafficking partnerships and their constituent organizations/agencies should receive mandatory and evidence-based training on human trafficking and trauma-informed practice within 90 days of joining the organization/agency in order to better identify trafficking experiences for the populations they serve.

Recommendation 4
Anti-trafficking partnerships and their constituent organizations/agencies should proactively contact regionally-specific sectors that are likely (according to existing data) to be encountering/supporting survivors of human trafficking in order to provide (or offer options for) evidence-based human trafficking training for staff and volunteers.

Partnership Activity: Set Shared Goals

Recommendation 5

Anti-trafficking partnerships should identify at least one specific goal related to their collective core mission, and plan at least two annual activities to achieve this goal. These activities should be conducted in cooperation with other organizations in their community in order to improve relationships, trust, and knowledge/resource sharing.

It is advised that Recommendation 4 be completed prior to this recommendation.

Partnership Action: Network with other Partnerships

Recommendation 6

Anti-trafficking partnerships and their constituent organizations/agencies should seek to continue and expand interactions across partnerships and facilitate opportunities for the benefit of all stakeholders to share expertise, experiences, and goals. These interactions will enable partners to share best practices, to measure progress towards prevention and protection, and to measure achievement of the goals of the broader anti-trafficking movement.

Partnership Action: Prioritize Housing

Recommendation 7
In order to increase prevention efforts inclusive of the housing sector, anti-trafficking training should be provided to: 1) staff at shelters for youth experiencing homelessness and 2) youth prevention education for street outreach and peer specialist staff, as well as unhoused youth and those at-risk of homelessness.

Quotes (housing):

"With long-term housing, this means that everybody is in short-term housing. Then that gap is there as soon as they're ineligible for short-term housing. There is no long-term housing and so they end up back in whatever the terrible situation was, which is often just being unhoused. It's kind of the vicious cycle that happens."
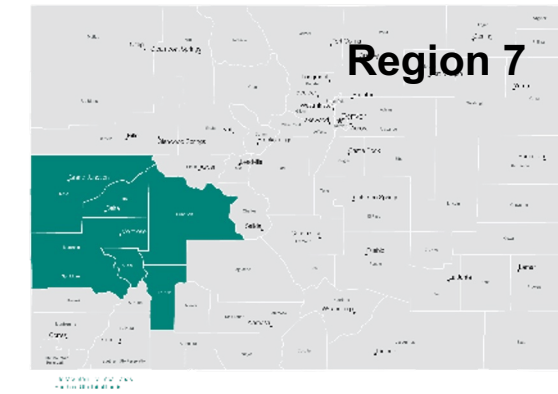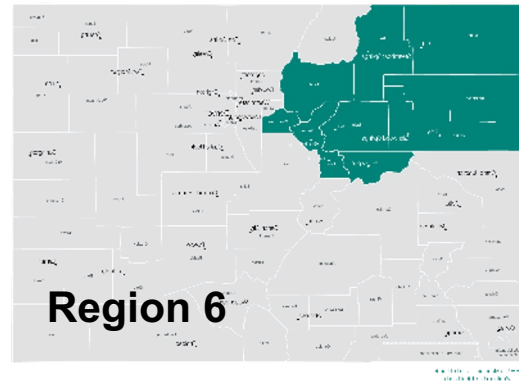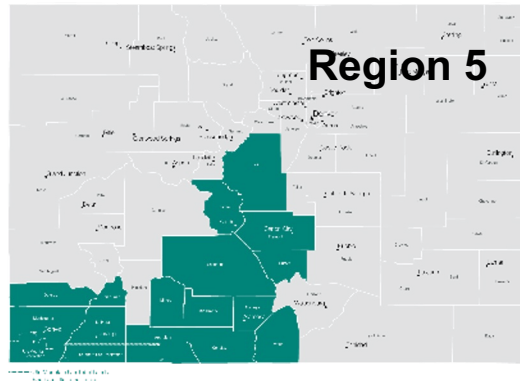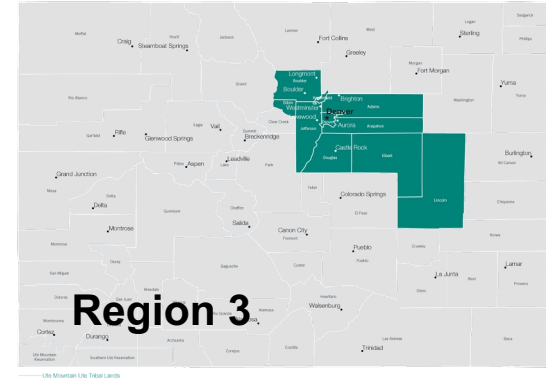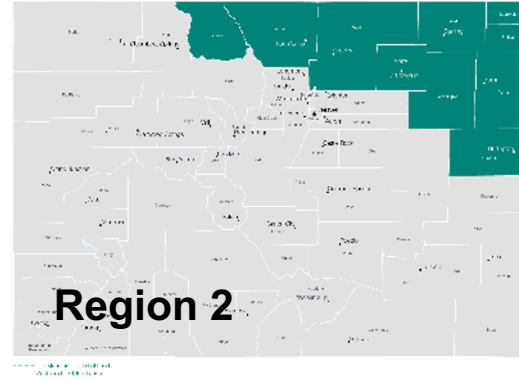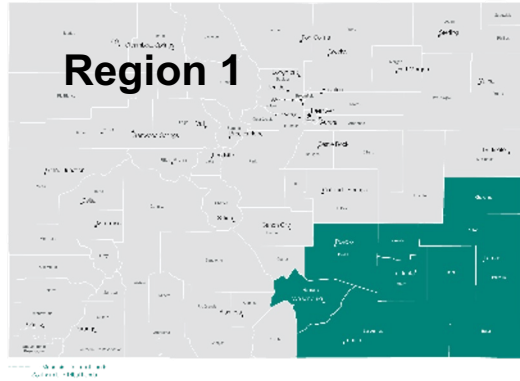
"Some kind of low-income housing opportunity that would either provide a resource for people who are just on that edge or provide housing need not just emergency but a little bit more long term housing for people recovering from human trafficking. Housing seems to be the number one issue you can usually get existing organizations take on some of the other challenges."

Action Plan Priorities for Region 4
#6, 5, 1, 2

- **6**: Network with other partnerships
- **5**: Set shared goals to support benchmarks
- **1 and 2**: Focus on membership inclusion

Colorado Project 2023 Regional Reports

Region 4 Colorado Hotline Trends

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
38	34	39	63	28	64

Region 4 Trainings between 2018 and 2023

Sector	Trainings
Child welfare and community partners serving systems-involved youth	6
Healthcare and mental health	20
Law enforcement/prosecutors/judges	11
K-12 Education: Staff and Youth	5
Interpersonal Violence/ Domestic Violence/ Sexual Assault	2
Housing & Homelessness	3

From 2006 to 2022, the State of Colorado had 619 labor trafficking and 10,813 sex trafficking counts charged across 267 criminal cases (Colorado Division of Court Services, 2022).

Of the 267 cases, 251 were sex trafficking, 24 were labor trafficking, and 14 had charges of *both* sex and labor. The majority were prosecuted post-2014 legislation

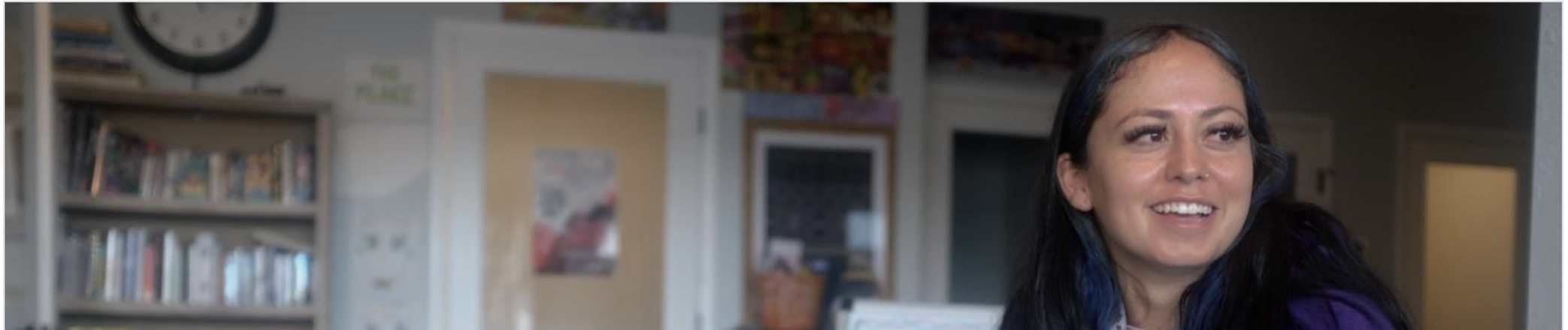| Region (JD)	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Region 7
18-3-503 Labor	2	2	16	3	0	1	0
18-3-504 Sex	1	14	184	40	3	5	4
Total filings (Cases)	3	16	206	43	3	6	4

Region 4 Challenges

- **Denial and Lack of Awareness:** A common challenge observed across all communities in Colorado, including Colorado Springs, is the denial or lack of awareness that human trafficking occurs locally. This deficit can hinder effective responses and interventions.

- **Avenues for Exploitation:** Operations in "grey legal areas" such as massage parlors, social media platforms, and dating apps were recognized as potential hubs for labor and sex trafficking among adolescents and adults. The significance of tourism and service-based employment in the region also poses a risk for human trafficking.

- **Vulnerable Populations:** Homeless individuals, immigrants, migrants, and panhandlers were perceived as being at risk of trafficking due to their transient or disconnected status within the community. The region also sees high turnovers of people in the area, partly due to the military population, which further contributes to vulnerability for trafficking.

STATEWIDE PRIORITIES

- Housing instability and homelessness remain a top challenge for survivors of human trafficking in Colorado and the systems that serve them.

- Marginalized groups including immigrant and tribal communities, individuals who hold LGBTQ+ identities, and youth experiencing homelessness continue to be more vulnerable to exploitation in Colorado.

- Anti-trafficking partnerships still lack critical representation in their coalitions necessary to be more effective. Membership must prioritize survivors, and organizations supporting underrepresented groups like immigrants, tribal communities, sex workers, youth, and LGBTQ+.

Housing innovation: The Launchpad

by **Alison Berg** • Published on August 9, 2023 • Last modified on August 21, 2023

Community resource designed to help young people (18 – mid-20's) in a supportive apartment home community to provide safe support and connection to tenants, bringing resources and solutions in a single accessible location.

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Current Efforts: Focus on Root causes

Preexisting social, cultural, and family conditions that create vulnerability for people to be trafficked

Examples: trauma in the home setting, poverty, homelessness, addiction, violence in the home or local community, lack of education, lack of citizenship status, and marginalization

Housing Insecurity

Racism/ Oppression of Native/Indigenous Peoples

Homophobia Transphobia Heterosexism

Immigration System

Questions

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