

Appendices

Appendix A.

Tip Sheet for Child Welfare Workers

Identifying Child Trafficking in Kentucky

What is child trafficking?

Children can be victims of sex and/or labor trafficking. **Child labor trafficking** may include situations where youth are compelled to work in agriculture, restaurants, family business, or to sell products through traveling sales crews. **Child sex trafficking** victims may be forced to engage in sex acts by family members and/or strangers for something of value, such as money, a place to stay, drugs, or transportation.

What puts Kentucky children at risk for trafficking?

Many Kentucky youth are at high-risk for trafficking in part due to the high rates of homelessness, child maltreatment, system-involvement, and poverty that exist in the state. This high-risk nature is also due to the fact that a family member is often the perpetrator of such crimes when they trade or sell a child for drugs and/or money. Specifically, a case review⁵ of child trafficking in KY between 2013 and 2017 revealed that approximately 60% of cases of family-controlled trafficking, where family members are involved in the victims' exploitation⁸.

What risk and protective factors are associated with child trafficking?

Risk Factors:

- Parental drug use/selling^{1,6,9}
- Youth of color^{1,3}
- Young age^{6,9}
- History of DCBS involvement^{1,2,6,9}
- History of sexual, physical, and/or emotional abuse^{1-3,5,9}
- Living in a rural area⁶
- Homelessness^{1-3,5,9}
- Physical and/or emotional neglect^{1,5}
- Domestic abuse of a mother⁵
- Being LGBTQ+^{1,9}

Protective Factors:

Significant and supportive interpersonal relationships: Research^{4,7} has shown support for the impact that significant interpersonal relationships can have on positive outcomes in youth. Youth who have experienced exploitation were found to have sustaining and supportive peer relationships and relationship stability to mitigate the adverse effects of trauma surrounding exploitation.

How can CPS workers help identify and prevent child trafficking?

- Screen for trafficking among young children with a history of DCBS involvement and involving other risk factors associated with child trafficking
- Involve law enforcement in child's case using effective communication and information sharing
- Involve child advocacy center workers to conduct forensic interviews
- Evaluate for involvement of drugs (e.g. using, selling) in child's environment, suicide risk, and/or need for trauma-focused behavioral health services

For more information regarding child trafficking in Kentucky, reach out to us:

🌐 **Website:** <https://louisville.edu/kent/research-special-programs-projects/current-projects/htri>

🌐 **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/uoflhtri



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