Why did my state receive this grade? Illinois has elements that are friendly to prevention but should take further action to make prevention education viably accessible to youth.

Who does this exploitation and trafficking impact? Each year millions of children are victims of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, affecting communities small and large. This happens all over the world, including in your own community.

How does this happen? Children are most often exploited by an acquaintance (significant other, friend, family member, etc.). They are targeted, groomed, tricked, and manipulated.

ILLINOIS BY NUMBERS\(^1\)

- 632 calls to the human trafficking hotline.
- 193 human trafficking cases reported.
- 56 cases concerned a minor.
- 163 cases involved females, 3 involved males.

ILLINOIS LAWS AND PROVISIONS

- **Mandated Task Force?**
  - Human Trafficking Task Force
  - [https://www.illinois.gov/dcfs/aboutus/policy/Pages/HTTF.aspx](https://www.illinois.gov/dcfs/aboutus/policy/Pages/HTTF.aspx)

- **Terms included in Illinois’ Definition of Abuse:**
  - Exploitation and Trafficking

- **Prevention Education Law, Scope, and Grade Levels**
  - 105 ILCS 110/3
  - Topics: Sexual abuse and sexual assault awareness and prevention; dating abuse/violence (not including exploitation or trafficking)
  - Mandated for PK-12

- **Staff Training Requirements**
  - Neither mandated nor recommended
EXPLOITATION BY NUMBERS

- Approximately 1.6 million children run away every year in the United States.¹
- Of the nearly 27,000 runaways reported to NCMEC in 2017, one in 7 were likely victims of child sex trafficking.²
- There were 8,524 human trafficking cases reported in the United States in 2017 and 32% of those cases involved a minor.³
- In 2017, 88% of trafficked children were in the care of social services at the time the exploitation began.⁴

RECOMMENDED STEPS AND LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

TASK FORCE

- Amend state task force to include a focus on the prevention of child exploitation and trafficking.
- Direct that a seat on the task force is filled by a child exploitation prevention expert.

PREVENTION EDUCATION CURRICULUM

- Mandate child exploitation prevention curriculum in all state public schools for all grade levels.
- Identify within the curriculum the need to educate youth with age appropriate curriculum on child exploitation, child trafficking, and child abuse.

STAFF TRAINING

- Mandate all state public school staff are trained to effectively recognize and respond to the signs of child exploitation and factors that make youth vulnerable to child exploitation.

¹ Polaris Project, Human Trafficking Hotline, 2017 State Statistics: https://humantraffickinghotline.org/states. Note that not all demographics are captured by every report to the hotline.
³ National Center for Missing and Exploited Children: http://www.missingkids.com/theissues/cse/csst
⁴ National Human Trafficking Hotline Statistics: https://humantraffickinghotline.org/states
⁵ National Center for Missing and Exploited Children: http://www.missingkids.com/theissues/cse/csst

MISSION: We equip adults to empower youth to eradicate exploitation.
For more info visit: http://iempathize.org/educators/the-prevention-priority/