MISSOURI

Total Score: **2.5 Points** of 8 Total Available

| TASK FORCE: | .5 of 1.5 total points | PREVENTION EDUCATION: | 1.5 of 4.5 total points |
| DEFINITION OF ABUSE: | 0 of 1 total points | STAFF TRAINING: | .5 of 1 total points |

Why did my state receive this grade? Missouri is in the bottom tier and should actively work to improve statutes to make prevention education viable and accessible for 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.

**MISSOURI BY NUMBERS**

- 420 calls to the human trafficking hotline.
- 140 human trafficking cases reported.
- 41 cases concerned a minor.
- 114 cases involved females, 23 involved males, <3 involved gender minorities.

**MISSOURI LAWS AND PROVISIONS**

| Terms included in Missouri’s Definition of Abuse: | Neither Exploitation nor Trafficking are included |
| Prevention Education Law, Scope, and Grade Levels | • MO Rev Stat § 160.2110 (2017)  
• Topics: child abuse, child sexual abuse awareness and prevention (not including exploitation or trafficking)  
• Mandated for PK-5th |
| Staff Training Requirements | Recommended |
EXPLOITATION BY NUMBERS

- Approximately 1.6 million children run away every year in the United States.\(^2\)
- Of the nearly 27,000 runaways reported to NCMEC in 2017, one in 7 were likely victims of child sex trafficking.\(^3\)
- There were 8,524 human trafficking cases reported in the United States in 2017 and 32% of those cases involved a minor.\(^4\)
- In 2017, 88% of trafficked children were in the care of social services at the time the exploitation began.\(^5\)

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.

STATE DEFINITION OF CHILD ABUSE

- Amend state statute defining child abuse to include trafficking and exploitation.

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.

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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/cstt
4 National Human Trafficking Hotline Statistics: https://humantraffickinghotline.org/states
5 National Center for Missing and Exploited Children: http://www.missingkids.com/theissues/cse/cstt