# NORTH CAROLINA

**Total Score:** **4.5 Points** of 8 Total Available

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task Force</th>
<th>Prevention Education</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>.5 of 1.5 total points</td>
<td>3.5 of 4.5 total points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Why did my state receive this grade?** North Carolina 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.

### NORTH CAROLINA BY NUMBERS

- 854 calls to the human trafficking hotline.
- 221 human trafficking cases reported.
- 73 cases concerned a minor.
- 176 cases involved females, 44 involved males, <3 involved gender minorities.

### NORTH CAROLINA LAWS AND PROVISIONS

- **Mandated Task Force?**
  - North Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force

- **Terms included in North Carolina’s Definition of Abuse:**
  - Exploitation only (Trafficking not included)

- **Prevention Education Law, Scope, and Grade Levels**
  - NC Gen Stat § 115C-81 (2016)
  - Topics: sexual abuse and sexual assault; sex trafficking awareness and prevention
  - Mandated for 7th-12

- **Staff Training Requirements**
  - Neither mandated nor 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.

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](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](http://www.missingkids.com/theissues/cse/cstt)

\(^4\) National Human Trafficking Hotline Statistics: [https://humantraffickinghotline.org/states](https://humantraffickinghotline.org/states)


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