SOUTH CAROLINA

Total Score: **3 Points** of 8 Total Available

- **Task Force:** .5 of 1.5 total points
- **Prevention Education:** 2.5 of 4.5 total points
- **Definition of Abuse:** 0 of 1 total points
- **Staff Training:** 0 of 1 total points

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

**SOUTH CAROLINA BY NUMBERS**

- 387 calls to the human trafficking hotline.
- 118 human trafficking cases reported.
- 34 cases concerned a minor.
- 92 cases involved females, 22 involved males.

**SOUTH CAROLINA LAWS AND PROVISIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mandated Task Force?</strong></td>
<td>South Carolina Human Trafficking Task Force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Terms included in South Carolina’s Definition of Abuse:</strong></td>
<td>Neither exploitation nor trafficking included</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prevention Education Law, Scope, and Grade Levels</strong></td>
<td>S.C. Code § 59-32-30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Topics: Sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention (not including exploitation or trafficking)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mandated for K-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Staff Training Requirements</strong></td>
<td>Neither mandated nor recommended</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

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

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